

WOMEN & ENVIRONMENTS

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Winter 1988

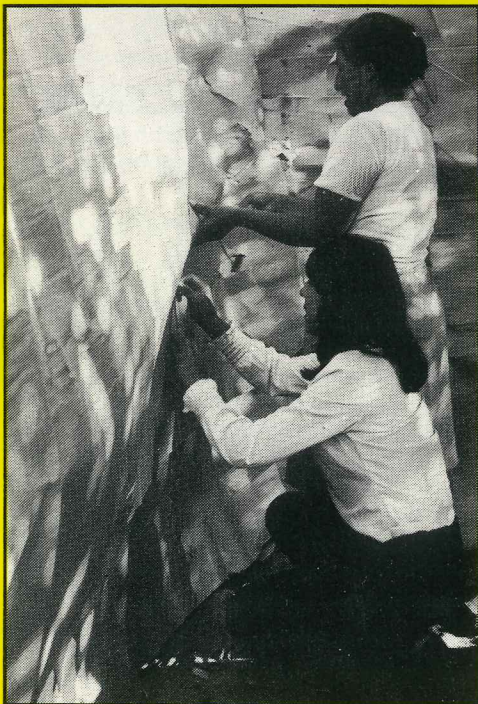


**ORGANIZING IN LIMA
SHANTY TOWNS**

WOMEN & WWII

**COPING WITH CHILDREN
AND WORK**

**THE OODI WEAVERS OF
BOTSWANA**



—EVENTS—

March 18, 1988

A Time for Action

Conference in Toronto on the contribution that women have made to environmental science and related areas. An employment equity initiative of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Contact: Barbara Malcolm, Human Resources Branch, Ministry of the Environment, 40 St. Clair West, 6th floor, Toronto M4V 1M2 (416) 323-5076

April 7-9

Women in the Year 2000: Utopian and Dystopian Visions

In Indianapolis, Indiana. Keynote speaker Marge Piercy. Sessions on: Health, Education, Spirituality, Labour Force, Images and Symbolic Life, Family and Work, Power and Global Perspective.

Contact: IUPUI Women in the Year 2000 Chair, CA 001D, 425 Agnes St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46202 (317) 274-4785/2784

April 8-10, 1988

Organisational Psychology — National Women at Work Conference

An international working conference for feminist researchers, writers, lecturers and practitioners in industry, commerce, HE/FE, consultancy and the professions.

Contact: Administrator, Faculty Office, Thames Polytechnic, Oakfield Lane, Dartford, Kent, KA1 2SZ, UK

May 6-8, 1988

National Conference on Women in Politics

Organized by Canadian Women for Political Representation, a non-partisan group working to promote and support women in politics.

Contact: Canadian Women for Political Representation, Box 2202, Station D, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5W4 or call Janie Fortier, Chair (613) 567-8739

May 12-13, 1988

Fifth Annual Women and Work Conference

at the Research and Resource Center of the University of Texas at Arlington.

Contact: LaVerne Knezek, Co-ordinator, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19129, Arlington TX 76019

June

Summer Institute on Gender and Development: Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

As part of their joint International Development Studies Program, these two universities are sponsoring a course on gender and development in developing countries and Canada. The focus is on topics such as education, work, health, and empowerment; lectures, panels, films, and meetings with international development specialists.

Contact the Program Co-ordinator, International Development Studies Program, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS B3H 3J5

The International Feminist Book Fair,

planned for June 14-21, 1988 in Montreal, is urgently in need of funds to organize the event. Contributions will help send out press releases, make the necessary international contacts and pay the xerox and phone bills. Contributors' names will be published in the official program of the Fair unless requested otherwise.

Send donations to:

3rd International Feminist Book Fair
420 est, rue Rachel
Montreal, PQ H2J 2G7

June 15-16, 1988

First Canadian Nursing History Conference

in Charlottetown PEI.

Contact: Margaret M. Allemang, RN, PhD, 320 Williard Ave., Toronto M6S 3R2

June 22-26, 1988

Leadership and Power: Women's Alliances for Social Change

National Women's Studies Association tenth annual conference, to be held at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The theme in 1988 focusses on how women of various backgrounds can work together. The conference goals include exploring coalition building by looking at culturally diverse leadership models that empower women.

Contact: NWSA '88, University of Minnesota, 217 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455

June 27-July 1, 1988

Housing, Policy and Urban Innovation

International research conference in Amsterdam, under the auspices of ISA's

Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and the Built Environment. Speakers include Ray Pahl (housing and formal/informal labour markets) and Lynn Lofland (changing neighbourhoods).

Contact: 1988 Conference, OTB/TUD, Postbus 5030, 2600 GA Delft, The Netherlands

July 4-29, 1988

Women's Studies Summer Institute

will be held at the University of London's Centre for Research and Education on Gender.

Contact: CRBC, Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL, UK

July 5-8, 1988

International Association for the Study of People and their Physical Surroundings — Conference '88 Symposium on Women and Environments

The conference will be held in Delft, Holland, and the symposium will consist of a paper session on research in progress, a session presenting reviews of research, action and policies in various countries or regions and an open forum on priorities for research and action.

Contact: Denise Piché, Ecole d'Architecture, Université Laval, Québec, PQ G1P 7P4, or Sherry Ahrentzen, Dept. of Architecture, U. of Wisconsin — Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53211

August 21-26, 1988

North American Bioregional Congress III

on the west coast of Turtle Island, at the North Vancouver Outdoor School. A cultural focus will encourage bioregional groups to express their unique identities as people and place. Strong participation by native communities is encouraged. NABC is a cooperative community, so participants should be prepared to help when necessary.

Contact: NABC III, Box 1012, Lillooet BC V0K 1V0

September 1988

National Conference on Shelters and Transition Houses, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Hosted by the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse. Date to be announced.

Contact: Ms. Joey Brazeau, Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse, 1823 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 0G4 (204) 885-3302

WOMEN & ENVIRONMENTS

Vol. 10 No. 2 Winter 1988

February/March



A WORD FROM US

On the Move: Women Organize in Lima's Shanty Towns <i>Hubert Campfens</i>	4
Oodi Weavings Symbol of New North-South Co-operation <i>Maureen Johnson</i>	8
Too Good to Last? The Social Service Innovations of Wartime Housing <i>John Bacher</i>	10
Under the Threat of Expulsion: Women were Blamed for the Housing Shortage during World War II <i>John Bacher</i>	14
Research Report	
Is there a Women's Transportation Problem? <i>Sandra Rosenbloom</i>	16
Rush Hours: How Some Parents Cope with Work and Child Care	18
California Going for Child Care in Transit	19
Departments	
Taking Sides: Free Women—Trade the Multinationals <i>Interview with Marjorie Cohen</i>	20
A Word from You	21
Conference Reports	22
Out in the Field	23
Reviews, In Print	24

The view has been expressed that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, which closed only a few weeks ago, generated more paper than it did housing. On a more positive note we can point to the high profile that it gave to housing and homelessness, to the public awareness that it stimulated, and to the coalitions that have started to form locally, nationally and internationally to push forward on the issue.

Obstructions to low cost housing loom in many directions: lack of money and land, local regulations, community objections, the expectation of profit. These can be overcome if the political will is strong enough. Governments now need to be seen to be addressing the problem, which makes this a good time to push them into action. But, as some of the articles in this issue remind us, political conditions conducive to progressive change are exceedingly fragile, although they also remind us of the strength that can be built through organizing — that is the route to follow if the IYSH is not to slide into the dustbin.

* * *

W&E can now accept advertising. Our rates are modest; we hope you will take advantage of them and also get your favourite organization to consider this way to reach our unique band of readers.

One more request: please do take a few minutes for the Reader Survey inserted in this issue. Your opinions are vital — positive, negative; short, long; considered or off-the-cuff — to the way we develop *W&E*. We noticed this remarkable letter to one magazine:

"Sirs (it wasn't a feminist magazine). Because of your magazine I am (1) less nervous, (2) think better of myself, (3) have something to talk about at all times, (4) more interesting to others so they seek me out for advice."

Could we hope for such a response? We look forward to opening our mail.

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On the Move:

Women Organize in Lima's Shanty Towns

by Hubert Campfens

February 12, 1987. Lima's daily *La Republica* reported heavily armed police had used tear gas, water hoses and guns to disperse a huge rally of mothers and children in Peru's capital. Hundreds, many of them children, were wounded. Angry mothers had organized the rally to protest the newly elected municipal government's attempt to transfer the Vaso de Leche (Glass of Milk) program from the independent local women's committees to "mother's clubs" controlled by APRA, the governing national party. Success: later that very afternoon Peru's president pressured the mayor of Lima, also a member of APRA, into leaving the program in the hands of the local women's committees.

Introduced in 1984, Vaso de Leche was an effort by a previous, more left leaning council of Metropolitan Lima to combat malnutrition by giving each child a daily glass of milk. The Vaso de Leche and the Comedores Populares Familiares (Popular Family Kitchens) are two rare examples of projects which go beyond the usual official efforts to satisfy a basic physical need of the poor. They involve women in managing projects which not only provide a basic means of survival but also build up skills, self-esteem and solidarity.¹ They have also mobilized hundreds of thousands of women into becoming active community participants.

Comedores Populares Familiares

A few years ago, women in Lima's shanty towns, or barrios, started to band together to help themselves by forming a type of kitchen operation that functions as a mutual aid system to 10 to 15 families. Many barrio women in Lima are Quechua-speaking descendants of the pre-Hispanic Incas from the Andean region, and the communal kitchen idea comes from a centuries-old Inca tradition

of the Ayllu system, an Indian form of family clan. The women pool the inadequate food money they get from their husbands, and take turns cooking, serving and cleaning up. The cooking is rotated among those families who have enough space both for the large cooking pots and for the women preparing the food.

Special fundraising activities or donations from local embassies, churches and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) raise money for utensils. As the kitchens began to mushroom across the metropolitan region, the Catholic Church and several international organizations started to add to the meager food supplies to provide more balanced meals.

Acting together to meet their families' needs . . . a process of liberation that deeply affects traditional family relations.

A lot more than meals comes out of these kitchens. Women are drawn out of the isolation of their homes and link up with other women. They talk about the way their husbands treat them and they support each other in standing up for themselves. They realize the importance of their ability to stretch the family's budget a bit further. The men, while skeptical of their wives' involvement in these communal kitchens, are hard put to resist when they themselves are unable to feed their families and the women, in their turn, are beginning to understand that

everything does not depend on men. Acting together to meet their families' needs is a confidence builder for the women; it is a process of liberation that deeply affects traditional family relations.

Women run the Comedores Familiares very democratically and independently, at the same time acquiring management skills in settings and roles in which they feel at ease. This experience helps them realize that they can affect broader social and political issues. No longer are they "objects" of their husbands' largesse. No longer do they need to depend solely on charitable handouts, government programs, services or "work-in-exchange for food" projects. They can control their own destiny.

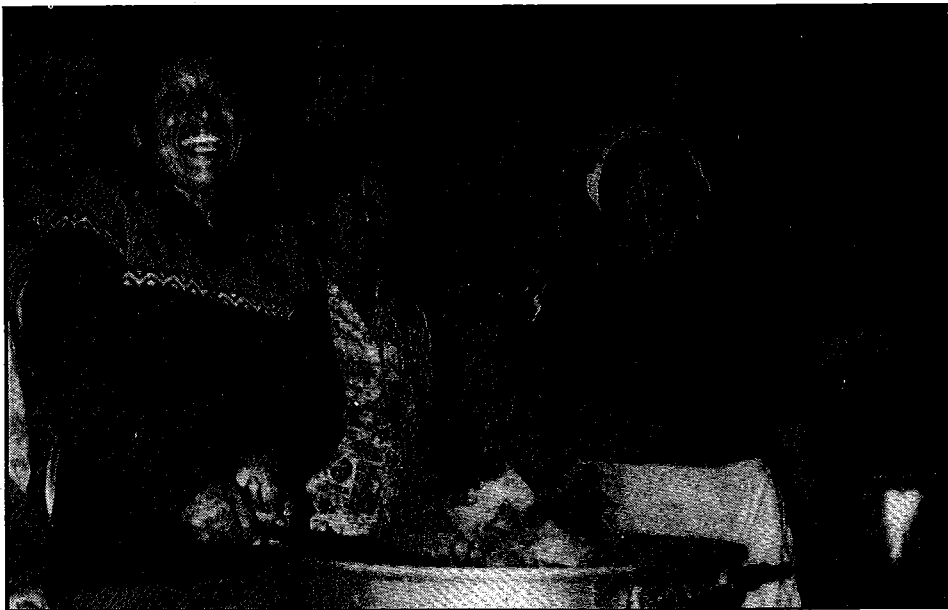
From this domestic experience the barrio women are learning how to plan, how to negotiate and present proposals to state and private agencies. NGOs help by giving them support and technical advice while for the most part — unlike state agencies — honouring the popular and autonomous nature of these small local organizations.

The national government became so disturbed by these now widespread autonomous operations that it set up its own brand of popular kitchen, called "Comedores del Pueblo." These are promoted by a new official "Program of Direct Assistance," headed by the wife of Peru's president Alan Garcia. Some three or four women loyal to the governing party are incorporated into a "mothers' club"; the government provides a place fully equipped with expensive modern kitchen facilities; the women prepare food and sell it to the barrio dwellers. The Comedores del Pueblo function more like a business, operating on the profit motive and aiming at turning the women into small entrepreneurs. The program ignores the herit-



REUTERS

November 10, 1988: police try to arrest a woman who clings desperately to her daughter after families gathered in front of the Presidential Palace in Lima to protest housing conditions.



H. CAMPFENS

Erlinda Muños, President of the Independent Federation of Comedores Populares Familiares, lends a hand.

age of the majority of Lima's barrio dwellers who prefer to work together in small independent communities.

Early in 1986 the Peruvian government decreed that the autonomous Comedores Familiares had to form and register as civil associations if they wanted to receive support from the government's "Program of Direct Assistance." Representatives of the Comedores Familiares from across the nation met during the summer. They directed a brief to President Garcia severely criticizing the new decree as an attack on their local autonomy and mutual aid system. The decree, they said, would force on the Comedores an exclusive form of organization which the government could manipulate for its own ends. It would provoke divisions and confrontations between barrio dwellers.

The communal kitchen idea comes from a centuries-old Inca tradition of the Ayllu system, an Indian form of family clan.

The representatives further suggested that a special incentive program be set up to help small farmers produce essential food items, and demanded an end to the control by multi-national companies over production of such basic items as wheat, oil and milk. Multi-nationals, the brief argued, are more interested in increasing their profits than in feeding the poor of Peru.

Independent research is now evaluating the different types of "comedores" and early results indicate that the independent Comedores Familiares, with some supplementary food donations from the state or from charities, provide more realistic, though limited, solutions to an economic problem. They fit better into the traditions of the barrio dwellers. The Comedores Familiares have a liberating effect on women by introducing them into

the life and economy of the wider community through a co-operative rather than competitive process.

Vaso de Leche

To everyone's surprise the Glass of Milk program was a resounding success, meeting all the objectives set out by the left leaning municipal government of Metropolitan Lima elected in November 1984. The program had the dual purpose of combatting widespread malnutrition among children and mobilizing local barrio women. Women were to assume full responsibility for the distribution of milk powder, preparation of the milk and the other tasks of administering the program at both regional and local levels. Until then barrio women had rarely if ever been allowed to take an active role in government programs or in community affairs.

By March 1985 no less than 100,000 women were participating fully in the program. The capital region with its six million inhabitants had 7,500 local Vaso de Leche committees. Thirteen hundred male-dominated neighbourhood organizations were involved in 33 of the 41 municipal districts, providing support to the women's committees instead of assuming control as had been customary before. One million children under 13 received their daily milk made from powder contributed by the European Community. Through Vaso de Leche mothers became aware of the importance of proper diet;



H. CAMPFENS

One million children under 13 get their daily milk from powder contributed by the European Community.

they managed their own local committees and organized preparation and distribution of this vital food product.

On several occasions, the governing national party attempted to undercut this municipally initiated community program through political manoeuvring. Through massive social mobilizations the women forced Peru's Congress to pass a law to finance and extend the program eventually to all municipalities of Peru.

From the deepest grass roots level to the top regional administrator's position, the program came to be largely controlled by women. Yet it has also had its share of internal difficulties and criticisms. A program which serves all women and children regardless of political allegiance requires complete political impartiality. This is difficult in an environment that is increasingly subject to fierce partisan politics. Barrio women are frequently jealous and distrustful of the elected committee co-ordinators who receive the milk powder and other food products from municipal distributors. This basic distrust is, of course, a natural reaction for people who face a daily struggle for survival, and who have become accustomed to seeing corruption everywhere. In addition there are critics, usually male, in the municipal bureaucracy and established local community organizations, who question women's co-ordination and management abilities.

In spite of these problems the many benefits of the program can already be seen in the family, the community and society as a whole. It has restored a recognition of children's rights; it promotes women into organized community activity where men have before tended to dominate; it has given women a needed measure of self worth, respect and liberation.

A growing number of Latin American and international researchers are calling attention to the fact that projects have to aim at more than meeting minimal physical needs.² People also need to become involved; and for that they have to have a sense that society and its institutions will respect and respond to them. Only if professionals and officials support this expectation and treat those whom they are supposed to serve as equals can such projects succeed. The principles emerging out of these two projects should apply universally, to the Third World as well as to oppressed and poor minority groups in the First.³

As for the barrio women in Lima, they are on the move. Temporarily, they may be beaten down, silenced and ignored by governments. But eventually this new creative force will thwart official and male attempts at keeping women in their place. □



H. CAMPFENS

Lining up for a glass of milk.

1 H. Campfens, *The Marginal Urban Sector: Survival and Development Initiatives in Lima, Peru*, Research Paper 161, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, 1987; see also H. Campfens, "The Forces Shaping the New Latin American Social Work," *Canadian Social Work Review*, December 1987. (A follow-up study will focus on the dynamics of emerging women's organizations in the shanty towns of Lima.)

2 See for example Y. Yeung and T. McGee, eds., *Community Participation in Delivering Urban Services In Asia*, Ottawa: International Development and Research Centre, 1986; T. Midgley, *Community Participation, Social Development and the State*, New York: Methuen, 1986; D. Palma, *La Practica de Los Profesionales: El Caso del Trabajo Social*, Lima: CELATS (Centre for Latin American Social Work), 1985; also see C. Lora, C. Barnechea and F. Santisteban, *Mujer: Victima de Opression, Portadora de Liberacion*, Lima: Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas-Rimac, 1985.

3 H. Campfens, "Issues and New Directions in Community Practice Related to Ethnicity," in *Social Development Issues*, 5(2-3) 1981.

Hubert Campfens is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. He has spent long periods in Lima and in Santiago, Chile in recent years to carry out his research.

Peruvian Government takes over operations of Nestle milk subsidiary

The Peruvian Government has taken over supervision of a local milk-processing operation owned by the Swiss-based food company Nestlé SA, which has been charged with speculative hoarding of evaporated milk.

A decree in the official gazette created a commission of five Government functionaries to supervise the affairs of the Nestlé subsidiary Perulac. The commission will also try to help local farmers become part owners of the milk company in an effort to improve its efficiency.

The company ... denied that the three million cans of evaporated milk found in its Lima warehouse amounted to speculative hoarding and said Perulac had for 10 years kept a month's worth of stock to ensure a constant supply to the market.

In a full-page advertisement in Lima newspapers, Perulac rejected accusations of speculation, made by President Alan Garcia, and denied that it was manipulating the market.

From Toronto Globe & Mail, January 7, 1988

Oodi Weavings Symbol of New North-South Co-operation

by Maureen Johnson

The Oodi weavers of Botswana literally and figuratively illustrate the dynamic mix of women, new north-south development concepts and art. Largely as a result of the UN Decade for Women which ended in 1985, women have become a focus for international development work. Accompanying this trend is an important shift away from short-term, high tech, alien megaprojects towards long term, small scale development, building on local skills and resources.

CUSO, a Canadian based international development organization, is the "north" player in this story; it has been in the forefront of Canada's work with women in the Third World for the past decade. CUSO is best known for sending Canadians to pass on skills in developing countries, but it has other important roles, in supporting Third World community development projects, and in development education in Canada.

Botswana is an arid, landlocked country on South Africa's northern border. At independence in 1966, it was one of the poorest countries in Africa. Its population was overwhelmingly rural, and 40 per cent of its workers laboured in South African mines. The country was, in effect, a cheap labour reserve. This migration to South Africa was a drain on Botswana's traditional self-sufficient rural economy. Subsistence production dropped dramatically and people were forced to depend on migrant cash income for survival. A heavy burden was placed on the women left behind, since they had to care for the family needs as well as the land. More than 40 per cent of Botswana households are headed by women.

Declining domestic production led to a flow of goods from South Africa into Botswana rendering the country dependent on the South African economy. Over the past

two decades Botswana has started to develop its own mining industry, but so far only 20 per cent of the labour force have jobs in the formal sector. Most people are still subsistence farmers, raising cattle and some crops when the arid climate allows.

In this setting Ulla Gowenius, a Swedish professional weaver, and her husband Peter, an artist and community organizer, set up the Lentswe La Oodi weaving group in 1974. They aimed to provide a source of employment in a village 25 kilometers north of Botswana's capital, Gabarone. The workshop was set up for about 50 women who in turn, with increased incomes, would provide jobs for at least 150 more people, thus improving the standard of living of the entire village.

the women . . . have become best-known for their magnificent wool tapestries, which depict scenes of village life or concerns of their community.

The Gowenius' saw worker ownership as fundamental to giving women the key to control their economic livelihood, but through the co-operative workshop the women also developed self-confidence and social awareness. Start-up capital was provided by CUSO, the Botswana Christian Council, and the Botswana Development Corporation. The loans were repaid in the first five years and when the Swedes returned home in 1978, the workers took over the operation. Oodi is now a registered co-operative with membership li-

mitted to those, predominantly women, who work in the factory.

The co-op contributes a third of its profits to the village development fund for business start-up loans to individuals and groups in the village. A carpentry workshop, a "tea and bun" service for the factory workers, a bakery, a vegetable garden, and a co-operative store all began this way. The project has also resulted in better health services, transportation, and schooling in the area.

Although the women make smaller items such as placemats, blankets and table-runners, they have become best known for their magnificent wool tapestries, which depict scenes of village life or concerns of their community. They discuss the theme for each new tapestry, and real incidents in the women's lives, current events in the newspapers or on radio, traditional stories and topics of conversation in the village or at work, turn into ideas for the designs. Often, the women depict contrasts, such as rich and poor groups of people, or the mines of South Africa and life in a Botswana village. The weavers put themselves — their history, their lives, their fears, their hopes — into the weavings. Each is an educational process: as the workers create tapestries, they also grapple with the issues depicted in them.

While the magnificence of the tapestries is undisputed, there is a limited market for them in Botswana. This has slowed the growth of the co-op; and eight years ago CUSO stepped in to help the women once again. Some of the weavings were taken on a CUSO-organized tour of the Province of Saskatchewan, where the response was good.

Recently, a second tour was organized. CUSO provided the initial \$8,000 needed to buy and ship 17 tapestries to Canada. The project has evolved into an extensive



Oodi weavers of Botswana

development education program in southern Saskatchewan. CUSO, the Regina Weavers and Spinners Guild and the Credit Union Central have organized a tour of the tapestries to 21 Saskatchewan communities. They are being shown along with Saskatchewan tapestries woven by eight local weavers including CUSO's Regina co-ordinator Susan Risk. Local arts councils are sponsoring the exhibit in conjunction with educational workshops on related topics.

The Saskatchewan weavers have used abstract designs of boats, trees and prairie scenes. The Botswana women have depicted incidents from village life.

"This year will, I expect, prove to be an eyeopener for hundreds of people in this province," says Risk. "They will be able to learn about women and development, co-operatives in developing countries, about Botswana, the effects of South Africa on its neighbours and weaving. Because one-third of the exhibit is Canadian tapes-

tries, they will be encouraged to draw conclusions about their own lifestyle as it appears beside an African way of life."

The Saskatchewan weavers have used abstract designs of boats, trees, and prairie scenes. The Botswana women have depicted incidents from village life. "Technically the weaving is very similar but the designs are such contrasts," says Risk. "The Canadians are inward-looking and not as community-oriented. Our concerns are certainly not those of the Botswana weavers — feeding and clothing their children and fetching water. Some people at the workshops on the tour initially feel some guilt about this . . ."

The South Saskatchewan Committee for World Development took on the education aspect of the tour. With funding from Partnership Africa Canada (an umbrella agency of Canadian groups involved in development in Africa), they prepared an education kit which is being used at workshops.

The tour started in January 1987 with a grand opening in Saskatoon at which 11 of the 17 Oodi tapestries were sold and orders were taken for 11 more. They sell for several hundred dollars each — equal to the average annual family income in Botswana. The steering committee was overwhelmed by the response. "Saskatchewan really wanted to hear about the stories and see the work," says

Risk. "We hope that the joint exhibition will result in a continuing relationship between the Saskatchewan and Botswana weavers. It is a benefit for the Canadian weavers to be exposed to weavers who are involved in similar kinds of work."

Once again art is releasing significant social and economic changes both north and south of the "development watershed."

Now there are tentative plans for a national tour of the tapestries. "Many people from other Canadian provinces and from other agencies have asked for the tour to come to their community," says Risk. "This particular tour must end by February, 1988. However, suggestions for other weavers' guilds or for CUSO local committees to try a similar project are being made."

Once again art is releasing significant social and economic changes both north and south of the "development watershed". The very concept of the weaving workshop linked the collective traditions of Botswana's women with the re-emerging European co-operative ideology. As the women create the weavings they question their realities and relations with their environment. They evolve new ideas, skills and economic strength, not only for themselves but also for the communities around them. The technology, methodology and environment of both North and South all interact. Touring and selling the works of art in Canada has broadened the social and artistic consciousness among Canadians while challenging the women in Botswana to become familiar with the complex international trade system. As a result, every phase of the Oodi project is joining North and South in a dynamic process. □

For more on the Oodi women: "Weaving our Lives": a 30-minute slide/tape can be rented for \$25 or bought for \$100 (special price to Third World groups \$80 with carousel, \$70 without); and a booklet, "Weaving our Lives: Tapestries by the Oodi women," is \$4. Add 15 per cent shipping costs. Available from PRG, 229 College St. #309, Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4.

Maureen Johnson is information officer for CUSO. Four times a year CUSO publishes FORUM, which can be obtained free of charge from CUSO at 135 Rideau St., Ottawa K1N 9K7, Canada.

Too Good to Last?

The Social Service Innovations of Wartime Housing

by John Bacher

After four decades we continue to remember and celebrate the battles and battalions of the Second World War. But there was much that was creative on Canada's home front that we have managed to forget. One such experiment was in the community and social service aspect of public housing, which achieved levels that we can only look back on with envy today.

The creation of Wartime Housing Limited on February 24 1941, by an Order-In-Council of the federal cabinet, marked a major departure in Canadian housing policy. Canadian programs had previously been limited to providing assisted mortgage loans for new home construction and minor renovations. These suddenly expanded into an area that had long been resisted — the building of public rental shelter, albeit for a restricted group, munitions workers. In an even more radical move, this new crown corporation was also enabled to incorporate the provision of community facilities into its housing developments.

A bold experiment, Wartime Housing was not created until over 18 months after World War II started. By then, the problem of housing for munitions workers had reached crisis proportions. Munitions makers surveyed by the federal government replied that they were worried "not about tools, not about plant, but about housing." Housing shortages had even delayed the unloading of British warships engaged in convoy work during that critical period. Skilled male workers refused to move to cities where the housing shortage would mean separation from their families.

One important reason why the activities of Wartime Housing Limited were so innovative was that the corporation became the first housing program to be

placed outside the rigid ideological supervision of the federal Department of Finance, which had kept all previous programs within a narrow private market framework. Wartime Housing was placed under the jurisdiction of the pragmatic, larger than life Minister of Munitions and Supply, C.D. Howe. An executive of an engineering firm that had designed great structures such as grain elevators, Howe recruited builders who, before the war, had favoured an activist role for the federal government in such controversial areas as public housing.

... innovative features which facilitated women's participation in the workforce ...

Wartime Housing's President, Joseph M. Pigott, typified the broad vision of such large-scale commercial builders. Pigott sought out co-operation with organized labour and construction contractors, and was a bold advocate of the need to establish full employment through a comprehensive public works program of reforestation, conservation and social housing. Frustrated by conservative attitudes of government in the depression years, Pigott was able to embark on the building of model communities during World War II, to provide homes for munitions workers.

Although the size of the projects varied, on some occasions they provided the nucleus for new communities such as Ajax, in Ontario. To keep Pigott's ambitions in check, and to foster the return of this shel-

ter to the private market after the war, the rental accommodation of Wartime Housing was all built in the form of single detached homes, which could be easily sold after the war. The only exception to this rule were hostels for single workers without families, intended as temporary accommodation to be dismantled after munitions production ceased.

While Pigott attempted to expand Wartime Housing's mandate from munitions workers to the broad area of low income family housing, this proved impossible because of the hostile scrutiny the crown corporation received from real estate interests, small scale residential builders, and the Deputy Minister of Finance, W.C. Clark.

Just as Pigott believed in co-operation between labour and business in the construction industry, he pioneered co-operation between tenants and management in the running of Wartime Housing. Its Tenant Relations department, headed by social worker Lionel Scott, developed a number of innovative features which facilitated women's participation in the work force, provided a wide range of social services and built a sense of community democracy and resident control.

Scott saw his task as keeping "men and women in the production lines." To achieve this "plant-staffing" he sought to give Wartime Housing's tenants the opportunity for "normal, contented, stimulating lives," in which they would take "pride in their community." He believed that without a program of social services, Wartime Housing's projects would "provide a fertile breeding ground for discontent, juvenile delinquency and social discord." Indeed, before the establishment of the Tenant Relations department, Wartime Housing had received reports of "unrest, high labour

turnover and unco-operative tenant attitude."

Scott's strategy of seeking to "lead and guide" tenants to become more contented and productive, succeeded through the enthusiastic participation of residents in social service projects. Disavowing any "superimposed programs . . . pet projects foisted upon the people," Tenant Relations' 139 social workers stimulated resident participation in community projects. By the end of 1943, 162 active tenant groups had been established across Canada. Their activities were varied. They included "prenatal clinics, well baby centres and libraries, supervised play and young people's organizations, garden clubs, home improvement associations and community councils."

These groups were responsible for some remarkable achievements. One constructed a community hall out of aeroplane crates. Through developing community cohesion a reduction in juvenile delinquency was achieved. Cooking and sewing classes, first aid and public speaking courses were also established. Credit unions, kindergartens and nursery schools were set up, and group health insurance schemes were started. Most daring, considering how the issue had inevitable political overtones, was the establishment of post-war planning committees.

Despite its success in mobilizing tenant

enthusiasm for their communities and in stimulating labour peace and productivity, Tenant Relations' social work activity aroused the suspicion of the more conservative members of Wartime Housing's board of directors. Some viewed these activities as "very dangerous," being likely to "stir up trouble." One director wanted the service closed down.

Pigott was able to protect Tenant Relations from conservative critics during the war, but after the conflict he and similarly minded company executives left to return to their own businesses. Wartime Housing was transferred from Munitions and

Housing continued from 1945 to 1949, to house the families of returning servicemen desperate for accommodation in the severe post-war housing shortage. The design of the projects, however, changed to follow the fashion of middle class suburban developments of the period, and did not include any provision for social services, a trend which has continued to the present day.

In part, this change was common to the experience shared with Great Britain and the United States. These countries also had, and terminated, innovative programs that fostered women's partici-

With the easing of the severe labour shortage of the war, efforts to integrate the needs of employment and social services with housing soon vanished.

Supply to the newly formed Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. CMHC was heavily influenced by the very civil servants in the Department of Finance who had been responsible for the conservative pre-war approach to housing policy and who had run a continual battle with Pigott during the war to limit the scope of Wartime Housing's activities.

The building of rental units by Wartime

participation in the work force. But it also reflected the more conservative direction to Canadian housing policy given by CMHC, which during this critical post-war period was headed by David Mansur. Prior to government service, Mansur had been Inspector of Mortgages for the Sun Life Insurance Company, and a close associate of Wartime Housing's arch foe, W.C. Clark.

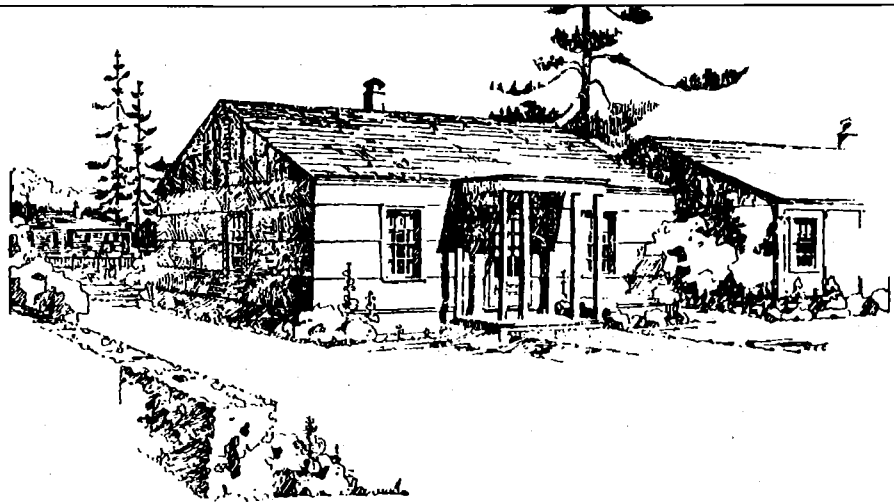
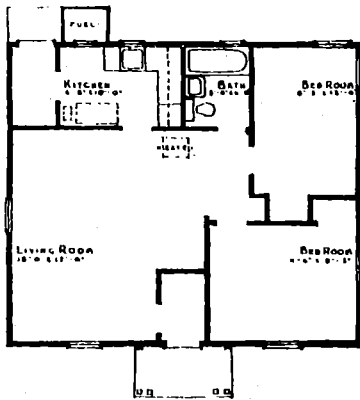
The more conservative trend in housing policy at the end of the war became dominant remarkably abruptly. In 1952, pioneering social housing advocate Albert Rose observed that the community centres of Wartime Housing were one "of the first casualties of the early post-war years." The halls frequently became schools; in some cases a centre "formerly operated by a Tenants' Council" would be "turned over to a community Recreation Association under the jurisdiction of the Municipal authority." Some centres were simply closed, and one community hall in Halifax became a regional construction office for CMHC.

The most tragic aspect of the termination of Wartime Housing's Tenant Relations program was that Canadian public housing projects, starting with Toronto's Regent Park in 1949, lost Wartime Housing's concern with tenant participation, replacing it with a far more heavy handed paternalism. This situation was recognized by Rose and another leading supporter of public housing during this period, Alison Hopwood. Together they asked in *Canadian Forum* if Regent Park had proved to be a "milestone or millstone." They observed how all the project's emphasis had been placed on building "the new houses" with little concern being shown for "the feelings of the people who will move into them." Such "author-



A Wartime Day Nursery

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO



SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING: TYPE H22

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

itarian management," they warned, would prove to "be more demoralizing than the blighted surroundings from which the people are moved."

The brief history of Wartime Housing showed not only what public intervention could achieve, but also how a conservative opposition could make such efforts only a brief flash in the history of Canadian housing policy. Ideals formulated during the great depression were finally achieved under the pressure of wartime necessity. But when the severe labour shortage of the war was eased, efforts to integrate the needs of employment and social services with housing soon vanished.

... the public housing projects that got under way in 1949 fostered passivity.

Wartime Housing continued in existence for five years after the war only to reduce the discontent of returning veterans who had widespread public sympathy in their efforts to find affordable rental housing for their families. The design of their communities was not based on any concern for community cohesion or social experimentation. In contrast to the efforts to foster tenant activism in Wartime Housing, the public housing projects that got under way in 1949 fostered passivity.

The protests of the 1960s against alienation in public housing projects where tenants had little control, fostered a concern for participation which expressed itself in the formation of tenants' asso-

ciations and the development of new forms of co-operative tenure. It is important to note that the alienation arose in response to an erosion of the ideals of the original supporters of public housing; public housing advocates wanted a democratic model of project management —

which clashed with the norms of private rental housing. Under the control of Joseph Pigott, Wartime Housing was briefly able to counter conservative objections to resident participation and build integrated communities.

The peculiar fate of Wartime Housing's



HOUSING GROUP, HALIFAX

(GRADING, SIDEWALKS, PLANTING ARE STILL TO BE COMPLETED)

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

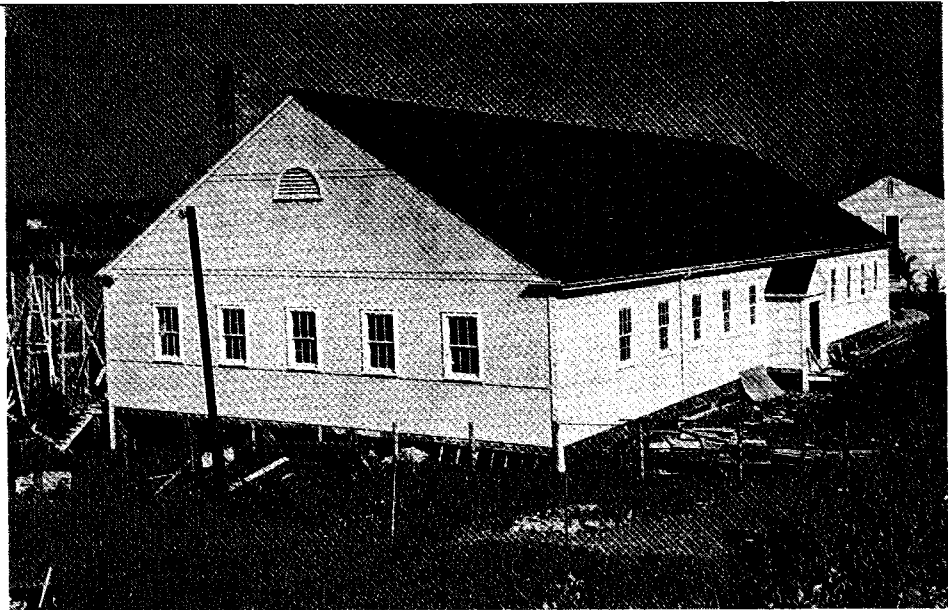
being too good to last tells much about the potential of government housing programs as well as resistance to their use. Aiming at well paid, highly skilled workers, Wartime Housing was not a "residual" operation targeted at serving

The ultimate failure of Wartime Housing tells much about current controversies in the social housing policy field.

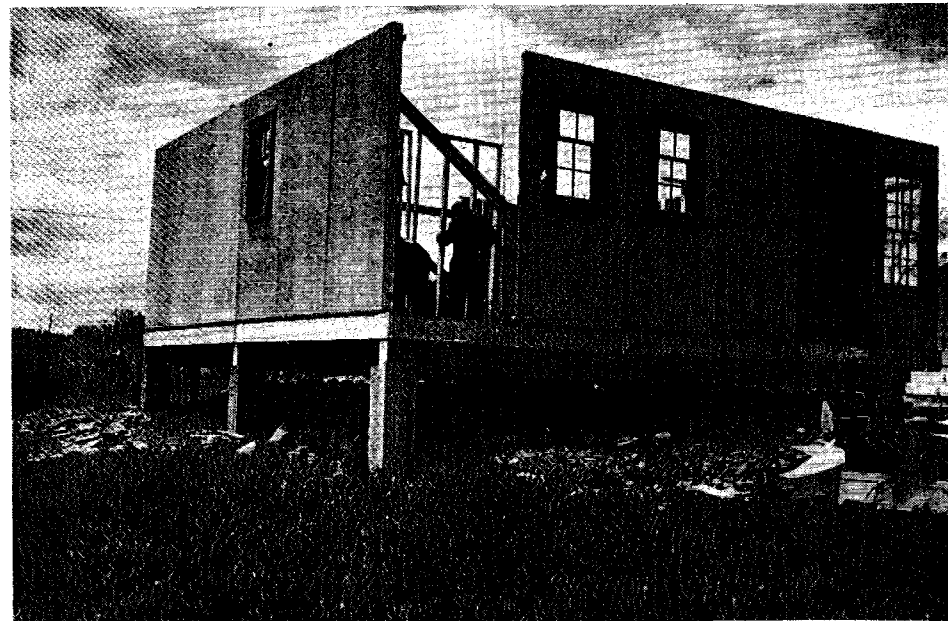
an impoverished minority. Rather, its housing was directed at an especially valued group of citizens, munitions workers, whose talents were felt necessary for national survival. Its success shows the ability of government housing programs to meet demands for better housing, build accommodation comparable or superior to the private market, and foster a strong sense of resident participation.

The ultimate failure of Wartime Housing also tells much about current controversies in the social housing policy field. After the redesigning of Canadian housing policy through the NHA amendments of 1973 that fostered the "third sector" co-operative and non-profit housing associations, social housing received attacks similar to those that blunted and finally terminated Wartime Housing's brief period of innovation.

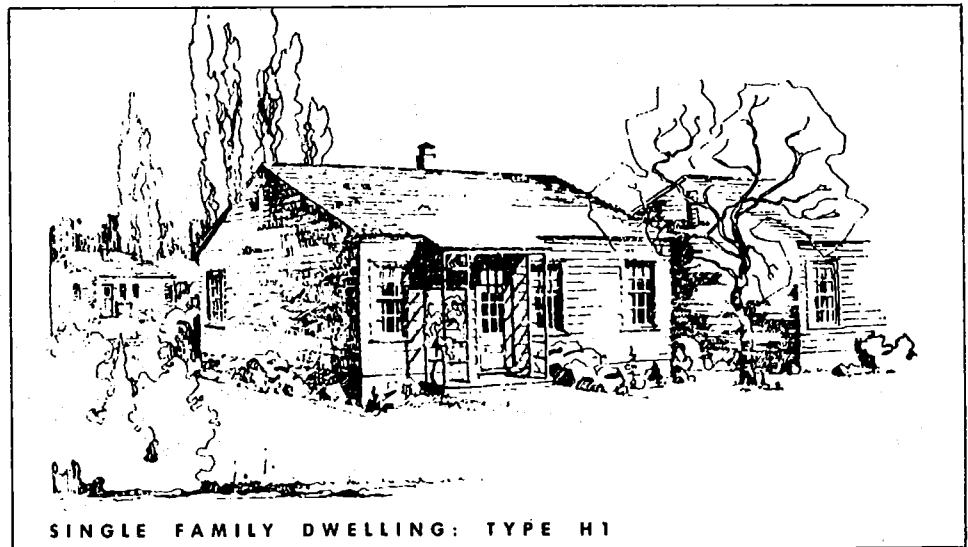
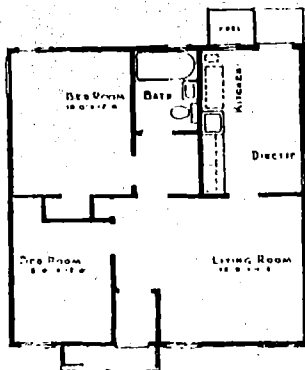
Like Wartime Housing, the post-1973 "third sector" housing projects aimed at a broad income range and were concerned with fostering resident participation. Also like Wartime Housing, these projects have drawn fire from real estate interests who have noticed their competition with the private market. To avoid a replication of the residual public housing program that replaced Wartime Housing after 1949, it is important to see the need for integrated communities rather than low income ghettos. □



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SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING: TYPE H1

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Under the Threat of Expulsion: Women Were Blamed for the Housing Shortage during World War II

by John Bacher

Imposed in response to the objections of real estate interests to the growth in social housing, the freeze on the construction of new Wartime Housing had its most vivid impact on Halifax, Nova Scotia. Halifax had the costly honour of being the most congested city in Canada during the Second World War because of its ship building and port facilities. Although its importance grew during the course of the war, new housing construction almost came to a standstill after 1943. The increasing housing hardship was permitted by public authorities convinced that it was largely caused by the presence of unnecessary women, a belief which led to serious plans for the evacuation of such "non-essentials" from the city.

The scheme was typical of official attitudes which expressed a low opinion of the work of women in traditional female roles. Although Wartime Housing built accommodation for both male and female munitions workers and their families, it was not provided to the growing number of female clerical employees who swelled overcrowded centres such as Halifax and Ottawa.

Government officials received a flood of complaints about poor wartime housing conditions in Halifax, largely about rent control evasion and illegal eviction of tenants. On December 15 1942, Prime Minister W.L.M. King received an urgent appeal which highlighted the particularly intense housing problems which faced the female clerical workers who had moved to Halifax during the war.

A stenographer to the Naval Provost Marshall, Betty Paice had an especially responsible position recording the messages of a senior military officer. Despite the importance of her work to the war effort, she experienced great difficulty in



finding accommodation. For her first three months in Halifax, the best she could secure was a large bedroom shared by six women. Her salvation by finding a room in Waverley House was now endangered by the government's intended conversion of it to a home for Air Force

women. Earlier, she noted, the residents of another residence had been similarly evicted.

Paice's plea brought no relief, as the federal government refused to devise a housing program for clerical workers, a response to the city's growing housing



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Women steelworkers, 1942. Housing priority was given to "essential" contributors to the war effort, while official attitudes to women in traditional roles meant housing hardship for "non-essentials."

problems would only come after important federal officials became convinced they were so severe as to hinder the city's contribution to the war effort.

This came about in the spring of 1943. On May 8, P.B. Carswell, Controller of Ship Repairs and Salvage, wrote to C.D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply, to inform him that the "refitting of escort vessels for convoy duty has become a serious problem in the Maritimes" . . . because "conditions in the Port of Halifax offer serious resistance to our efforts to fully man facilities." Not only was "sleeping space . . . not available to workers to rest," but "good food is difficult to procure . . . transportation facilities are inadequate and in the event of an air raid panic conditions would follow." Carswell seized on a blunt solution: the "evacuation of large numbers of new inhabitants who stay in Halifax," contributing "nothing towards winning the war."

What Carswell and other federal and civic officials had in mind when they complained of indolent persons wasting space, were the city's women who were married to servicemen. Many of these had moved to Halifax so they could be with their husbands when they were on leave. It was recommended that such "additional mili-

tary dependents and non-essentials" be barred from entry "within 50 miles of the city." Also, such "non-essentials" already in Halifax would be rounded up and "cleared out from the area."

E.L. Cousins, Administrator of Canadian Ports, was given extraordinary powers to deal with housing in the city. He took immediate action to restrict the ability of servicemen to obtain accommodation outside of barracks and issued warnings against the bringing of dependents to the city. Cousins was empowered to order evictions and initially favoured removing 4,000 persons to create "the equivalent of 1,000 houses." He hesitated, however, before ordering the extreme step of the evacuation of women deemed to be idle from Halifax. He commissioned a study to see if such action would really ease the city's housing shortage.

Cousins' special housing census of the city proved that idle women were not the source of overcrowding. It found that the war caused 19,195 arrivals to be added to the city's pre-war population of 65,000. Of these, with the exception of 501 women married to service personnel, only a "very few" were unemployed, or not "members of families whose heads are in business employed in Halifax." These 501 women

did not cause housing shortages, as all but 119 lived in rooming houses, which currently had 349 vacant rooms. Even in this select group of 119 persons "living in houses, flats or apartments," 46 were "employed on necessary war work." The 73 women eligible for eviction consequently amounted to ".890 per thousand of the population" whose deportation would provide only "negligible" relief.

After the survey's conclusions, Cousins vainly attempted to persuade the federal government to build more housing in Halifax. The failure of his efforts shows how the mirage of "non-essential" women had conveniently served as a pretext for avoiding the expansion of the city's limited supply of social housing.

Although the federal government was prepared to round up "surplus" women if some statistical justification could be found, such figures could not convince the same authorities to undertake more radical measures such as building public housing for predominantly female clerical workers. □

John Bacher is a researcher with the Archives and Records Branch of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto.

Is There a Women's Transportation Problem?

by Sandra Rosenbloom

Salaried men and women have different travel patterns: women use public transit more for their work trips, work closer to home, and spend less time commuting than men. Transit and highway systems that will serve us until the middle of the next century are today being planned using elaborate computer-based methods which largely assume that travel differences between men and women *will not* continue and that there is no long-run "women's transportation problem." But is there?

Most of the transportation planning community takes a broadly economic view to explain why sex-based travel variances will disappear: historically, travel differences between the sexes have been the result of vast differences in income, occupational status, and education. As these differences disappear, planners maintain, travel disparities will disappear.

No one argues that economic variables play *no* part in women's travel choices; the important question is whether they play the overwhelming role that transportation planners currently assign them. To reverse the issue, do social or non-economic variables like *household role* explain far more of the differences between men and women than current transportation thinking allows? If so, we would need more than economic changes for travel differences to disappear.

My research* shows that in the short term the need to pick up children or do grocery shopping on the way home from work is directly incorporated into daily travel patterns (and arguably into middle-term decisions like buying a second car). In the long run, women's accepting these household responsibilities may perpetuate the economic dilemma that also explains part of their travel behaviour — they may accept marginal

employment or lower-paying jobs closer to home for the sake of their domestic duties and their children's needs.

My data come from a low-density American city, Austin, Texas, with a population of just under one-half million. I examined travel behaviour in 81 households where both adults worked full-time (over 35 hours per week), by analyzing children's travel modes and trips made by the parents to chauffeur or accompany children.

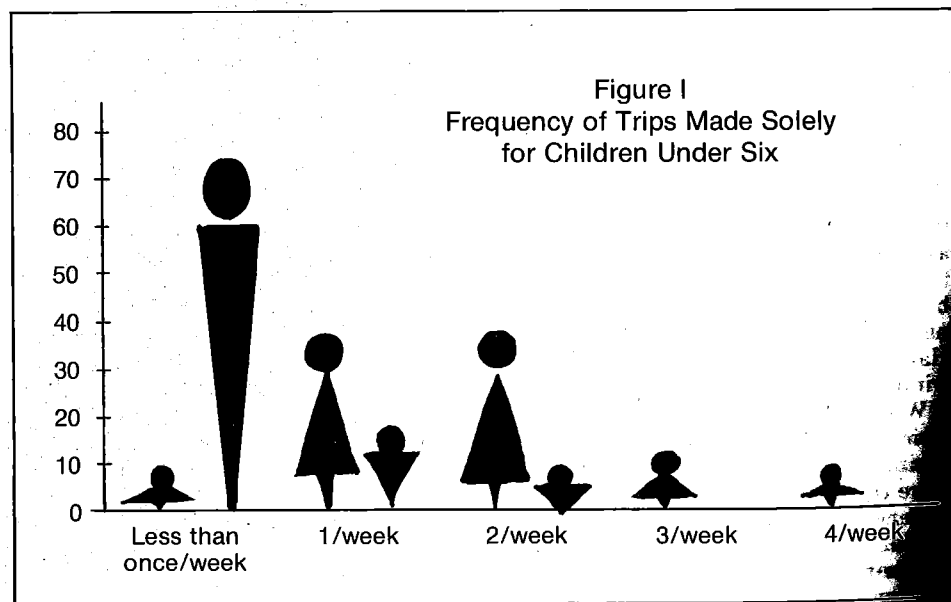
Full-time working parents were asked if they routinely made trips solely for their children and not because they, themselves, needed to be somewhere. Both men and women said yes but there were great differences between the sexes as Figures I and II show. Overall, women were far more likely to chauffeur children, although this declined as the children grew up. Women were also far more likely

to do this frequently and to make a variety of trips for their children.

Men on the other hand made chauffeur-ing trips relatively infrequently; they appear to have served a back-up or emergency function. Moreover the trips they did make, particularly for school-age children, were almost entirely for recreation and social activities.

Almost 82 per cent of married women workers with young children (under age 6) report making routine trips solely for their children compared to 54 per cent of similar men. These trips declined for both fathers and mothers as children grew but almost half of all women continued to chauffeur their teenagers (compared to 18 per cent of the fathers).

Figures I and II show the frequency of the "routine" trips by both parents; almost three-quarters of men reporting chauffeur-ing duties for young children made



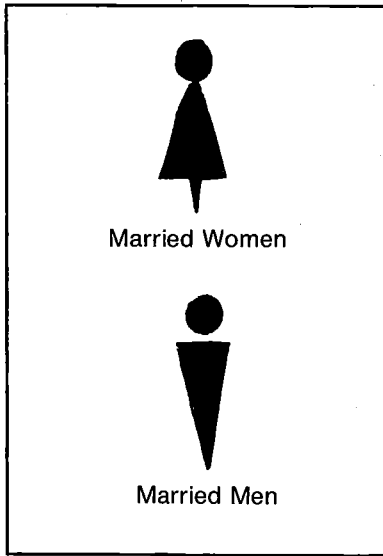
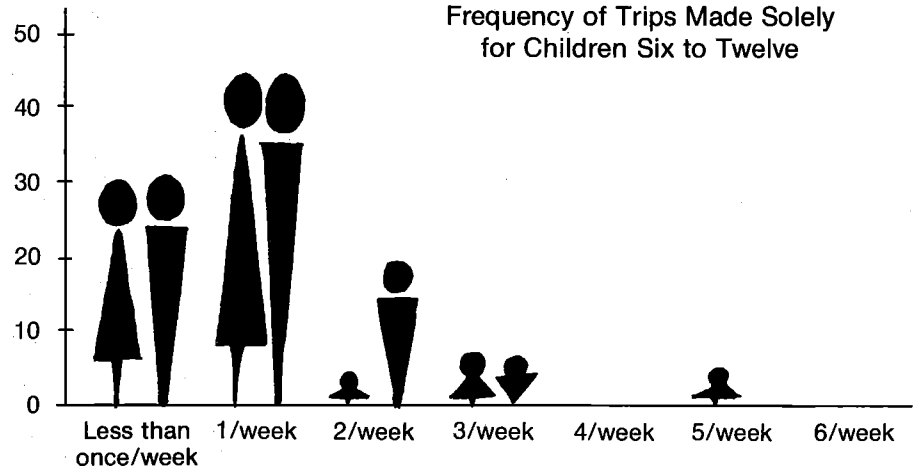


Figure II
Frequency of Trips Made Solely
for Children Six to Twelve



BARBARA SANFORD

less than one trip per week while 16 per cent of mothers made three or more trips per week. Interestingly, the frequency of chauffeuring duties dropped significantly for both parents for children 6 to 12, although mothers were still more likely to make multiple trips each week.

Frequency patterns are very different for teenagers; of the 18 per cent of fathers making trips solely for this age group, almost all did so less than once a week. Over a third of the 46 per cent of mothers who reported such chauffeuring duties made them once a week or more.

Full-time working parents were individually asked to describe their children's most frequent travel mode. There was a very high degree of agreement among parents; roughly 60 per cent of all respondents said that the *mother* provided transportation most frequently.

More parents of both sexes reported that "other adults" were the primary travel mode for their children than reported that the father was. Approximately 5 per cent of all women and 2 per cent of all men identified the father as the primary travel mode for children under 6; 7 per cent of all men but no women reported that fathers were the primary provider of travel for children 6 to 12. (Interestingly, in other study data not presented here, single mothers not living with the child's father were more likely to identify the father as the primary travel mode than were mothers *living* with the child's father!)

Equally shared chauffeuring was more likely for younger children; approximately 12 per cent of both parents reported that the younger child's most frequent travel mode was "both parents equally." However, *no* father or mother

said they shared transportation provision equally for older children.

These data, and much of my other work, show that women have travel patterns significantly different from those of comparable men — that is, men with the same transportation resources, household incomes and employment status — because they accept primary and sometimes exclusive responsibility for their children.

Of course, these analyses do not directly address longer-term questions of employment and travel choices, but they do suggest that women are under strong pressure to make major economic as well as transportation decisions based on the explicit or implicit acceptance of either domestic roles or specific family responsibilities like chauffeuring children. It is unlikely that women with primary childcare or other household responsibilities could accept longer work commutes or more demanding, if higher paid, jobs. Moreover it is hard to ignore the disturbing fact that, in spite of well-publicized gains, women have not been able to narrow appreciably the gap between their income and that of men.

Overall, this research suggests that even if women were to enjoy increased income and occupational levels, they would still have different travel patterns from comparable men — unless there were remarkable changes in parenting roles and societal support systems (child care for sick children, for example). In short, economic variables are only a subset of the factors that create differences in women's travel patterns; social variables have tremendous impact on individual travel behaviour now and give every indication that they will continue to do so.

Policy analysts and advocates need to

focus not only on alleviating women's *current* transportation problems, but also must ensure that long-run transportation systems decisions take into account the double burden most employed mothers carry, and their need for flexible and responsive transportation resources. □

*One phase of a multi-year tri-national study of family travel patterns is discussed here. The comparative study was begun in 1982 in France, The Netherlands, and the United States with support from the German Marshall Fund, the United States National Science Foundation, the Centre nationale de recherche scientifique (France), the Rockefeller Foundation, and the University of Texas.

Articles by the author for further reading:

"The Impact of Growing Children on Their Parents' Travel Behavior: A Comparative Analysis," *Transportation Research Record*, 1988 (forthcoming).

"Private Sector Provision of Services for the Elderly and Handicapped: the US Experience," *Transportation Research Record*, 1987 (in publication).

Mothers in the Work Force: The Transportation Implications of Activity Patterns of Non-Traditional Households in France, the Netherlands, and the US. Report to the German Marshall Fund of the United States, 1985, 68 pp.

Sandra Rosenbloom is Professor of Planning and David Bruton Professor of Urban Design in the Department of Community and Regional Planning, The University of Texas at Austin.

RUSH HOURS

This article is based on *Rush Hours: a New Look at Parental Employment Patterns*, a report prepared by Laura C. Johnson and Rona Abramovitch. The original is published as *Social Infopac* 6(4) October 1987 by the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, and is available from the Council, 1000-950 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2J4 for \$1.50.

How Some Parents Cope with Work and Child Care

"I started working nights about seven years ago, so we wouldn't have to pay for daycare. There was no way around it — we couldn't afford a babysitter," states this mother of two young children. She works 4 p.m. to midnight as an office cleaner. Her husband, a factory worker, is on dayshift. "I find it hard to sleep regularly," she admits, "I get home at 1 a.m., then I must prepare my husband's meal for the next day. I need to wake up early to get the children ready for school. Sometimes I get tired and irritable, and take it out on the kids and my husband. I would prefer a job where I worked 9 to 5, so I would get to spend more time with the children, and wouldn't be away in the evenings."

This Toronto mother was interviewed in a 1985 small-sample study of shift-workers. The following year, the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto and the Board of Education of Toronto's City of York undertook a survey of 785 families of eight- and nine-year-olds.¹ Two thirds of the children had working mothers, most of them full-time. While only a minority of about 20 per cent of today's children are raised in "traditional" families with a breadwinning father and a homemaking mother, relatively little is known about parents' work schedules, their effect on the individuals, family life and on child care.

The study revealed that one out of every five full-time and one out of every four part-time employed mothers work off-shifts. Fathers' work schedules both in one and two income families are quite similar; 23 per cent of full-time working fathers work off-shifts. In almost half (42 per cent) of all families which have both parents working full time, at least one parent works off-shift.²

"This arrangement is both good and bad," says one father who works regularly

3 to 10.30 p.m. while his wife works days. "It is good," he states, "because we save money on child care. But each of us feels like a single parent — having to deal with things on our own. We are like ships passing in the night. My wife and I never see each other until week-ends. She is in bed when I come home. We rarely see friends."

Two thirds of all single mothers were found to be working full-time and one out of 10 was working part-time. Only 18 per cent of these worked off-shifts. All but one of the 14 single fathers surveyed worked full-time and days.³

Such "self-sufficient" families may be able to meet all their child care needs without going outside the family. There are many jobs — fire fighting, policing and nursing are examples — that have traditionally been filled around the clock, but recent technological change has created new demands for evening and night-time work. There are stresses on the individuals involved as well as on their relationships with others. More affordable, available and versatile child-care could significantly ease some of these stresses. □

1 Conducted as part of a larger, in-depth look at employment and family life, the 1986 survey involved brief telephone interviews to collect basic descriptive information on family structure and parental employment of Grade 3 and 4 children from English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese and Spanish language groups in the City of York.

2 There are no cases in which both parents work night shifts; less than 1 per cent have both parents working afternoon/evening shifts. In only 1 per cent of the families do both parents work on rotating shifts.

3 The sample included 137 single mothers and 14 single fathers. While these numbers are small, it is possible to use the data to get a general idea of the work patterns of single parents. Over half of the single mothers (60 per cent) work full-time. An additional 10 per cent work part-time. Fifteen per cent of the single mothers report that they are homemakers; 10 per cent are unemployed; 5 per cent are students.

Among the employed single mothers daytime is the dominant work schedule, with 82 per cent reporting that they work regular days. Of the remainder, 10 per cent work rotating shifts, 5 per cent work steady nights, and only 3 per cent work regular afternoon/evening hours. For these single parents with non-day work schedules, it is not difficult to imagine the difficulties involved in arranging for the care of their young, school age children.

The sample also includes 14 single fathers, 13 of whom are employed. Eleven are employed full-time, 2 work part-time. Like the married fathers, most (n=10) work regular days. While none works a night shift, there are two single fathers on rotating shifts and one who works the afternoon/evening schedule.

A Comparison of Parental Work Schedules

	Mothers Employed Full-Time (291)	Mothers Employed Part-Time (103)	Fathers in Dual-Earner Families (394)	Fathers in "Traditional" Families (160)
	%	%	%	%
Day Time	80	73	77	78
Rotating Shifts	9	11	13	13
Afternoon/Evening	8	11	7	8
Night	3	5	3	1



SCHUSTER GINDIN

California Going for Child Care in Transit

Caltrans (Department of Transportation of California) has a demonstration project underway to set up a child care centre at the Alma Street Terminal in San José, in partnership with Santa Clara County and the City of San José.

Lee Deter, Chief of the Division of Mass Transportation for Caltrans, described the project and Caltrans' women-oriented, pro-child care transportation planning policy, in testimony on December 2, 1987 to the California Senate Select Committee on Infant and Child Care Development:

"According to a 1985 Caltrans survey, ridership on the [new] commute service was 63 per cent male and 37 per cent female. This suggests that the service may not be meeting women's needs as well as Caltrans would like. More positive

inducements may be needed to encourage women to ride the train. Caltrans thinks a child care centre in conjunction with a transportation system may be one of those positive inducements."

A 1983 study of the attitudes of solo drivers, funded by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), found that 39 per cent of respondents cited child care as a major concern. "Parents," said Mr. Deter, "must have their cars to respond to child care emergencies." So a key element in the success of the Alma Street centre may be the inclusion of a care unit for mildly ill children.

Caltrans did a survey of child care centres and participating parents. "As expected, the private car is used overwhelmingly, and mothers have the primary re-

sponsibility for taking children to the care giver. It appears that the occupation/salary level of the parent is a significant factor in the distance parents will travel to child care centres. Parents with higher incomes have and may exercise more options than parents in lower paying jobs. Also, it appears that parents rarely travel very far from most convenient path to home care providers.

"Increased community planning involvement in the location of child care facilities is essential if transportation options are to be provided for parents. Communities around the state have been identifying some of the transportation-child care issues that are parts of the problems they face. Here are some examples of community efforts in the Sacramento area to address the transportation-child care link:

- The Clean Air Partnership of Sacramento, a public-private policy development project for reducing air pollution in the Sacramento Metropolitan Area, identified several potential air quality control programs that include providing child care at job sites for reducing trips and for promoting trip consolidation and ridesharing; implementing child care at satellite work centres serving major centres through telecommunications; and using Sacramento Rideshare to develop pools for child care trips.

- Yolo County is exploring the use of vouchers for subsidizing public transportation to child care providers for low income parents.

- The Sacramento City Unified School District plans to develop a "commuter school" to permit parents on their way to work to drop off their elementary school children at this school located near the central business district. [It] will provide before and after school care. Parents using public transportation will be able to travel with their children.

"Five years ago, UMTA hired Moore-Johnson to perform a study on travel patterns and transit needs of women to formulate regulations to meet anti-discrimination requirements. Those updated regulations have not yet been released, but it is expected that when they are, provisions of access to child care will be a requirement." □

Lee Deter's testimony was prepared by Joy M. Doyle, who asks W&E readers to contact her with child care/transportation information at:

*Department of Transportation
Division of Mass Transportation
Facilities, Equipment and Freight
Branch
PO Box 942874
Sacramento CA 94274-0001*

Free Women — Trade the Multinationals

An interview with Marjorie Cohen

On January 2, 1988 the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States signed a "free trade" agreement which among other things will remove tariffs and regulatory controls between the US (pop. 241 million) and Canada (pop. 25 million). For W&E, Judith Kjellberg asked Marjorie Cohen, spokesperson on free trade for the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, what the move toward trade liberalization means for women.

Cohen: The major interests behind the free trade decision were large US multinationals, the same people who have created Prime Minister Mulroney. Immediately after it got into power this government started a whole process of privatization, deregulation and free trade. I see these three things together as a move toward giving the market mechanism more absolute control of the economy. Women's groups have been very strongly against this, precisely because we recognize that when the market is left to its own devices, we don't fare very well.

W&E: How do you see the link with, for instance, the creation of export zones in Third World countries, mechanisms to keep wages cheap, facilitating the international movement of capital?

Cohen: Whenever economists talk about comparative advantage, and this is always the justification for free trade, we have to look at who benefits. Free trade creates advantages for large movements of capital. This is in the interests of those who are able to

shift production to wherever costs are cheapest. It never benefits people in the particular country the production comes to. Women are painfully aware of the tremendous exploitation that occurs in the export zones, which are established so that they can subvert any kind of progressive labour legislation within those countries.

Large US firms and other multinationals find any kind of restrictions which nations put on trade to be tremendously inconvenient for their ability to shift capital wherever they want. For Canada, the more we liberalize trade, the less we will be able to protect our own industries and require good corporate behaviour. With free trade there will be tendencies toward "level playing fields" in labour legislation. Only 15 per cent of the US labour force is unionized, nine states have no minimum wage laws, 28 states have "right-to-work" legislation. This is our competition. Canada has relatively good labour legislation, compared to the US — although most European countries are better.

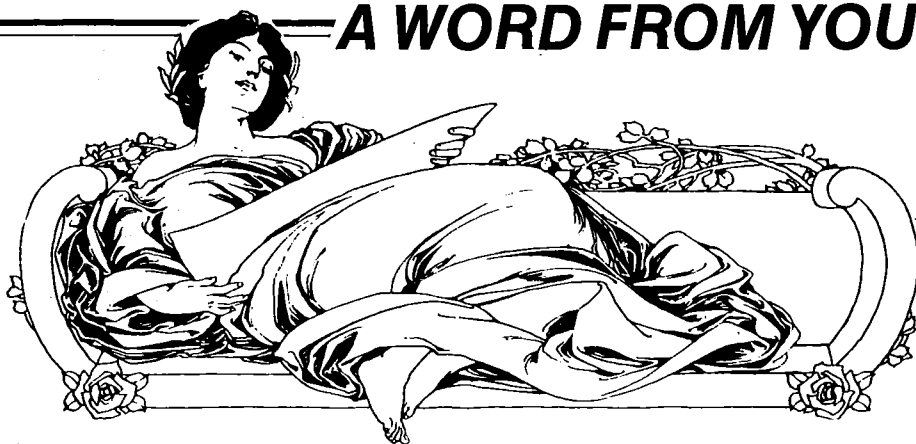
W&E: Will unions work harder for women's interests or might women get squashed not only from the business end but also from the labour union end?

Cohen: This is a critical question because while we have tended to focus on job loss, the real issues for workers are what is going to happen to wages and working conditions. Canadian firms, particularly those on the margins, will face increased competition, so when contracts come up for renewal we'll find blackmail against workers and

trade unions: "We can't afford to compete and stay in Canada, so we'll have to shift production to the US or you'll have to accept the fact that we can't give you a wage increase even though the cost of living has gone up. Or you'll have to work harder." Working conditions are definitely going to change.

There will also be increased resistance to equality legislation from employers, traditionally our major opponents when it comes to getting anything like equal pay for work of equal value, or employment equity or affirmative action. They always say they can't afford it, but in some ways this will now be true. We are already seeing examples of industries shifting production out of Canada simply because they know they'll be able to service the Canadian market without being located here once free trade arrives. They can move to areas of the US where there's no minimum wage and be in a much better position to compete internationally.

To me it's absurd that we have to rely on pure market mechanisms, meeting the interests of the biggest and most powerful businesses in the country, just on the offchance that somehow the general scramble to get rich will eventually benefit everybody else. I think this is why free trade is such a divisive issue in Canada, government and big business against everybody else — women's groups, churches, trade unions, cultural groups, immigrant groups, farmers, because our interests are not the same, and they are pursuing an economic policy which is in the interests of the big and powerful. □



Strike support needed:

You may have heard that eleven women working at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce here in Antigonish are on strike. It looks like they will have a long, difficult time through the winter, earning on average \$45 a week strike pay and keeping pickets up all day every day in all kinds of weather. They have a lot of local support but will need support from all across the country to be successful in this very important struggle for all workers and all women.

The Women's Strike Support group here would like to ask individuals and groups to:

- contribute to the strike fund and send letters of support to The Union of Bank Employees, 195 Main Street, Antigonish, telephone: 1-902-863-5046;
- write letters pressuring the Bank to R.B. Fullerton, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commerce Court, Toronto, Ontario M5L 1A2;
- withdraw any savings from the CIBC explaining why;
- picket and demonstrate at CIBC branches;
- spread the word about the strike and its importance.

Angela Miles
for the Women's Strike Support Committee
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

By the time you read this the strike may be over, but we're printing the letter anyway to draw your attention to the labour attitudes of the CIBC. We can expect the situation to worsen in the financial services sector in particular, as free trade puts downward pressure on labour costs.

We blew an attribution . . .

I was very intrigued to see an article entitled "Rough Horizons: Women in Offshore Oil" in your Winter 1987 issue. However, you attributed its authorship incorrectly. The paper was written by myself, Richard Fuchs and Gary Cake, former members of the now defunct Social Research and Assessment Division of the Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Directorate. It was based on a larger report, as yet unreleased entitled "You have to be Strong in Yourself:" *Women in the Offshore Oil Industry, Newfoundland and Labrador (1985)*.

The paper is being published as "Women on the Rigs in the Newfoundland Offshore Oil Industry" in the collected

papers of the International Conference on Women and the Offshore Oil Industry. The volume is entitled *Women, Work and Family in the British, Canadian and Norwegian Offshore Oilfields*, edited by J. Lewis, M. Porter and M. Shrimpton, and will be released this summer by Macmillan Press.

Perhaps the mistake in authorship resulted from the fact that at the 1985 conference the paper was read by Irene Baird, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Planning, of the Petroleum Directorate. Ms. Baird was not one of the authors.

Dorothy Anger
Petty Harbour, Newfoundland

. . . and a title:

HELP! I am flattered that *Women & Environments* selected my article for publication in the Special Issue on Shelter (Fall 1987). I was, however, quite surprised to discover my title changed, a sub-title added, and a car pictured. I am not one to object to an editor's right to edit, but I fear that my 4-level plan for alleviating homelessness will be misconstrued by the title, "The American Dream Comes Home to Roost" (sub-titled "One Woman's Solution to Homelessness") and the picture of a car. I just want to make it perfectly clear that living in a car is NOT my "solution to homelessness"; the car and trailer parks are only Levels 1 and 2 of immediate and innovative lodging for women who are targets for abuse and disease as street dwellers! Levels 3 and 4 (not part of the article) pertain to self-sufficient communities of homes (and business and social-time structures) built for and whenever possible by women to the specifications of particular needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify interpretation.

Marjorie Bard
Beverly Hills, California

Why stop at the car park?

My colleagues and I eagerly await each issue of *Women & Environments* and were not disappointed in the issue devoted to sheltering the homeless. Marjorie Bard's article was particularly poignant, for she apparently "came a long way" from personal homelessness to pursuing a PhD and Law School. I wonder, though, why only two stages of her planning were presented. If she had the guts to discuss removing women from the street to a car park (and then to trailer parks), I'll bet her next two stages are just as intriguing! Could we have a hint?

Suzanne Gaines
Charlotte, North Carolina

Bard's original title was "The Battered Homeless Woman: Initial and Innovative Lodging." Perhaps we can invite her to risk submitting a second article, on her longer term housing ideas.

Information wanted on US Co-ops:

I am writing to ask if you have any knowledge of American studies that discuss how co-operative developments have the potential to empower women through the management of their living environments.

Through issues of your wonderful magazine I am locating many papers, but have been unable to locate studies that touch upon this very important sociological aspect of housing and community development in the USA. I am conducting research to complete my master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, and would appreciate any and all suggestions re: possible information sources.

Edwynna Spiegel
295 E. San Fernando #12
San Jose, CA 95112
USA

Institute on Women and Work

Aware of the need to respond to the continuing disadvantages of women even as their numbers in the workforce continue to grow, the City of Toronto — through the Mayor's Office and the Equal Opportunities Division — launched an Institute on Women and Work with a conference at City Hall on November 26-28, 1987.

The Institute is a municipal attempt to develop a broadly based consensus on what the issues are and how change should be made. Designed as the first step in the Institute's deliberations, the conference, which involved politicians, people from civic administration, private and public corporations, the universities, labour unions and minority groups, discussed women and economic development, barriers to employment opportunities, employment equity, pay equity, the educational system, gender issues in transportation, and the role of labour unions. As part of the Institute's ongoing deliberations, recommendations emerging from the presentations and discussions are now being consolidated; these will be further refined later this winter by Institute participants for submission to relevant bodies.

We'll have more on how this unusual venture develops in next Fall's issue of *W&E* on Women and Work.

More than Just a Roof

Over 100 people gathered on October 29 and 30, 1987 for the YWCA of Metropolitan Toronto conference on shelter for women, which focussed on the nuts and bolts of how to use the non-profit programs in place in Ontario to lessen homelessness and underhousing.

A set of "how-to" workshops were held on funding, zoning and municipal regulation, community acceptance and "bricks and mortar." Other sessions examined different models of household and community organization in a non-profit development: shared accommodation, self-contained apartments, co-ops and types of "women's housing."

A key issue in the provision of assisted housing is community attitudes, and participants were introduced to a guide on successful community relations prepared by the Supportive Housing Coalition. However, while the solution to acceptance lies in public education and the reduction of regulatory obstacles, level of funding is a far bigger obstacle to meeting housing need: even with no regulatory or commu-

nity barriers to non-profit development, the number of units currently funded would only make a small dent in the need. Ultimately, going beyond the terms of reference of the conference, the question is whether we can manage the housing market, land use, and incomes policies so that unsubsidized housing is affordable by more women.

*Greg Suttor
Gibson Associates, Toronto*

Science and Technology — Different Things to Different People

With ceremonial flourish and high level official support seldom seen in the West, the Eighth International Congress of Women Engineers and Scientists opened on September 20, 1987 in the West African city of Abidjan, Ivory Coast. It was the first time in its twenty-year history that the Congress met in Africa. A strong contingent of women in science and technology came from across the continent to discuss socially appropriate architecture, environmental pollution, nutrition, agriculture, palaeontology and a great deal more, with their colleagues from other parts of the world. High on the list was the status of women engineers and scientists.

It became clear that science and technology mean different things to different people. Conscious of their governments' need to gain the technological skills which will transform their natural resources into locally produced commodities, the engineers from the underdeveloped countries tend to focus on the acquisition of

these skills and the spread of scientific knowledge.

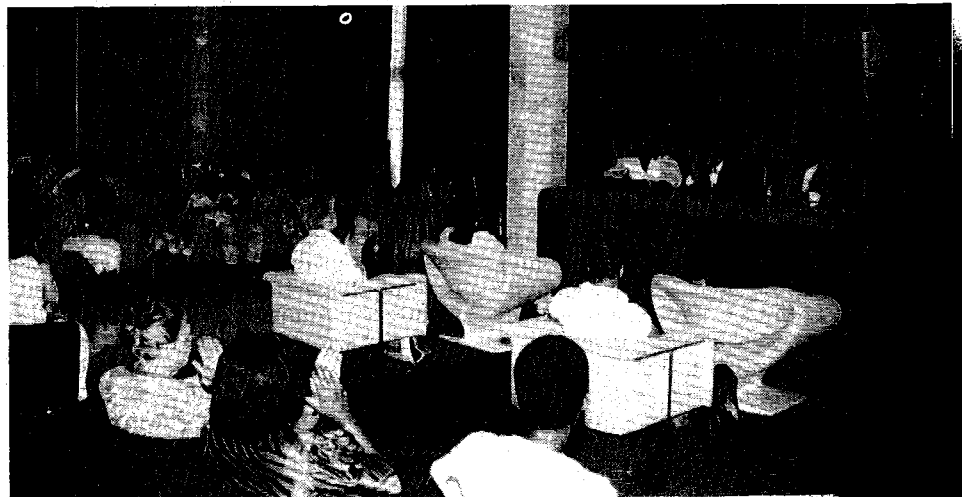
The adaptation of scientific principles to local problems, and the dissemination of information to women in agriculture and the health sciences where they play a dominant role, are serious concerns to the scientists of the Third World.

Women in the sciences must often overcome even greater obstacles than their counterparts in the developed world to gain access to male dominated fields. Strong traditional family patterns which emphasize education for boys rather than girls, lack of support facilities, a general lack of educational opportunities in many areas, and the need to go abroad for training, make it difficult for women from underdeveloped countries to acquire scientific skills.

However, they may also have some advantages. The show of support and encouragement from the President of the Ivory Coast and his senior ministers at this Congress, for example, should help to reduce the prejudice against women in these non-traditional professions. The African women engineers and scientists are also much more comfortable in their association with other women and appear less apt to confuse being a woman engineer with being like a man, unlike some women engineers in the West.

The representatives from the developed countries tend to have rather different concerns. With a superabundance of technology in their countries, they are more exposed to the effects of development on their societies. The control of science and technology largely by men, the use of technology for military and political ends, and problems ranging from environmental pollution to office automation; these are their topics of concern.

*Rosalind Cairncross
Ontario Ministry of the Environment*

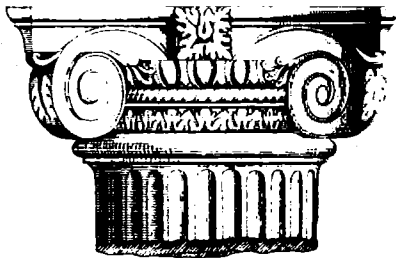


Abidjan, September 22, 1987

New Graduate Opportunities at Bristol

The Faculty of Social Sciences is offering a new Masters and Diploma in **Gender and Social Policy**, commencing October 1988. The course is full-time over one year or part-time over two and involves three seminar courses over two terms, plus a short dissertation for MSc candidates. The course will draw on staff from five departments in the Faculty. Teaching will include research methods in the social sciences and students will be encouraged to work on projects which have policy implications. Applications are especially invited from mature students with some experience of or interest in equal opportunities, women's development, training, and education, family and health policies.

Details available from Ann Warren-Cox, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Bristol, Senate House, Bristol BS8 1TH, UK.



Gender in Environmental Design

I am putting together a booklet with syllabi and descriptions of methods instructors have used to integrate gender-related issues and perspectives in design studios, special courses, special curricular events, and in courses of design theory, research methodology and environment-behaviour studies.

If you have a relevant syllabus or studio design program, or would like to write a description of the methods you have used in teaching gender-related issues, please send it to me. I hope to be able to make copies of the completed booklet available to contributors at reduced-duplication cost.

Sherry Ahrentzen
Dept. of Architecture
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
PO Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201

A Challenge to you, Analysts!

The number of copies of *Women & Environments* taken from our promotional displays at the following conferences was proportional to their attendance: Greening of the City (lowest), Environmental Design Research Associates (medium) and Canadian Institute of Planners (largest). Yet the money deposited in the honour box in return for taking the magazines was \$52, \$14 and \$4 respectively. Does this allow for any conclusions about the ethics of ecologists, environmental designers and planners?

Exhibit honors designing women

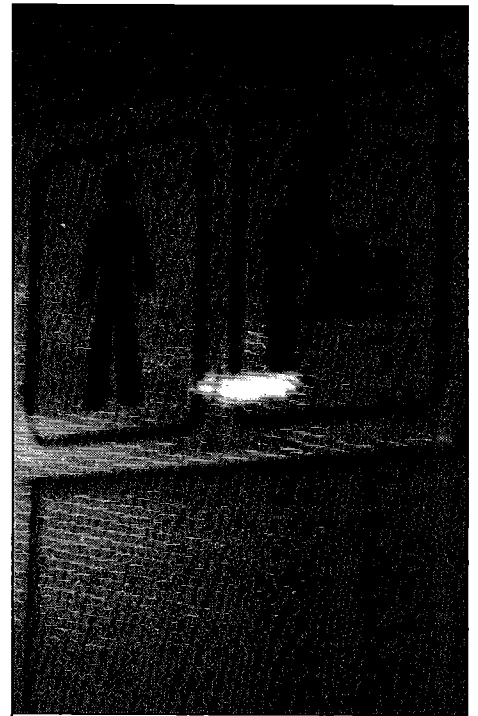
A century of contributions by women architects will be celebrated in the traveling exhibition, "That Exceptional One: Women in American Architecture, 1888-1988," opening May 15-18 at the 1988 AIA National Convention in New York City's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. It will then travel to 14 major cities during a three-year period.

Produced by the American Architectural Foundation with cooperation of the AIA Women in Architecture Committee, the four-part exhibition traces 100 years of women's achievements in architectural design, practice, and theory beginning with the election of the first woman member of the AIA — Louise Blanchard Bethune of Buffalo, NY — in 1888.

The committee invites all registered architects to submit projects for a panel exhibition illustrating the strength and diversity of current contributions of women in architecture. A call for entries is in the mail. Staff contact: Therese Ildefonso, American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC, (202) 626-7346.

Self Defence

In Lima, Peru some women have organized themselves into Women's Mutual Self Defence Groups. Each member has a whistle to summon the rest in case of emergency — particularly to defend against violence in their homes. The number of violent incidents in their neighbourhoods is reported to have decreased, according to a June 1987 story in *Outwrite*, a UK publication.



W. MICHELSON

Role Change!

William Michelson writes from Sweden: "I could not resist sending the enclosed photo. Is it a breakthrough to find a 'baby-changing equipment' sign outside a *men's* room? This was aboard a Danish State Railways ferry between Helsingör in Denmark and Helsingborg in Sweden."

Returning after Time Out

One UK organization has a useful service that might be adapted by other professions to help women returning to work after a career break (children, sickness, etc.). HERA (Housing Employment Register and Advice), supported by the independent Women in Housing Group and the Over Forty Association for Women Workers in London, operates a register of part-time and job-sharing vacancies in housing work, gives advice on training and re-training for housing workers, and promotes flexible work arrangements. It assigns people to temporary positions from its pool of experienced workers, frequently a valuable foot-in-the-door for women returning to work.

More information from HERA, Basement Office, 120/122 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4ET, UK.

Equality in Urban Areas

The Egalitarian City: Issues of Rights, Distribution, Access and Power.

Janet K. Boles, editor.

New York: Praeger, 1986, 223 and xiv pp, ISBN 0-03-000157-9. US\$34.95

Reviewed by Suzanne Mackenzie

This is a book with an ambitious aim, to discuss the question of equality in American urban areas, focussing on four aspects: equality under the law, equality in distribution of urban goods and services, equality of access to urban goods and services and an amorphous category of "equality of influence, power and control." The groups discussed in the 12 articles include visible ethnic minorities — blacks, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, white "ethnics" — children, the aged, the disabled, gays and the poor. There are also two articles on women, as urban activists in city politics and as wage earners experiencing conflicts with contemporary urban form. Gender does not appear as an important variable in most other papers, and is ignored completely in some.

While Boles' objectives are timely and her scope commendable, she has chosen simply to juxtapose a variety of independent papers, leaving them to speak in their own unaided voices. The result is something of a bewildering babble, and the reader is left at the end somewhat overwhelmed and a little confused. We learn that there is a good deal of inequality in American urban environments, but why, how, and where we go from here are questions largely left to the reader's imagination.

Despite the weakness of the book as a collection, there are some individual contributions of real value, as for instance Joyce Gelb and Marilyn Gittel's discussion of women's role in the creation of new urban services and Greta Salem's discussion of gender and urban environments. The final chapter, Clarence Stone's discussion of race, power and political change, is in many respects the strongest in the collection. It brings together questions of class and race and shows some problems of equity in urban access, using black experience in Atlanta as his case study.

Jill Norgren's study of children as a "voteless constituency" raises the issue of competition between children and the elderly for resources, a theme also raised in James Button and Walter Rosebaum's examination of a "grey peril" of elderly in Florida. David Thomas' interesting account of the gay quest for equality in San Francisco examines the possibilities and problems of organizing at the community level, and along with Roberta Johnson's discussion of campaigns by disabled people in Berkeley, would be of interest to anyone concerned with community politics. Bryan Jackson's discussion of Housing Assistance Programs for poor urban Americans is a solid overview of these programs.

The fundamental problem with this collection is the lack of a clear and workable definition of equality. The connections between the various types of equality which form the book's subsections are not articulated, nor are the social roots of inequalities examined. This lack of clarity reflects, to some extent, conflicts in the nature of the American political process as a whole: the conflict between equality and efficiency, or the conflict between equality of individuals and groups, for example. For those who see the role of social analysis as throwing light on the nature of conflict rather than simply reflecting it, this is disappointing.

... a lack of clarity reflects ... conflicts in the nature of the American political process ...

The lack of a clear definition of equality is coupled with an inadequate overall discussion of urban environments. In many articles the city is a passive backdrop rather than an active partner; the vital importance of the physical environment in impeding or facilitating equality is implicit, at best.

A tension evident in a number of articles is the relation between different levels of government in furthering or restricting urban equality. Some articles show that local or community-based politics provide more opportunities for participation by disenfranchised groups such as gays and women. They also document the greater capacity at the local scale for developing policies which are inegalitarian, in part because local governments are more susceptible to pressures from interest groups. This vital issue is raised but we are given no opportunity to analyze or understand it. Many articles accept the

definition of equality or equity as solely a "public" or "government" matter.

The groups used for the case studies are often ill-defined, and the categories used to measure access or participation — voter behaviour, levels of satisfaction, equity, exchange behaviour — are divorced from the community contexts of disadvantaged groups. We often lose any sense that these groups are composed of real, thinking human beings who can act to change their situation, because the categories employed obscure the real activities of these women and men. We also lose the sense of the complex combination of economic and political factors which in effect disenfranchise these groups.

Feminist discussion, especially feminist work on community-based politics, is notable by its absence. One has an odd feeling of déjà-vu, as if reading work of two decades ago, in the period of pre-feminist social science, where analysts could "manfully" ignore the importance of gender. While some feminist influence is evident in the two articles on women, we are left with the overall impression that feminist analysis and politics is of concern only to women per se and not, for example, to Mexican-Americans, white "ethnics" or the elderly.

An additional problem is that most articles appear to use only American literature and to base conclusions only on

American evidence. Thus they close off a rich source of relevant international experience and analysis.

Perhaps the most clearly unifying theme is a negative one, that of the often dismal and occasionally devastating impacts of the policies of the Reagan administration on a variety of groups in American cities. This gives some urgency. As the editor notes in her preface, examination of this issue is "a requisite for our survival as an urban society" (v). In this context, individual pieces may merit some careful consideration, both for Americans dealing with these problems and for others who may find some familiar chords in the struggles for alternatives. □

Suzanne Mackenzie teaches geography at Carleton University in Ottawa, and writes about the importance of gender-based politics in the process of economic and social restructuring.

Growing Old

Silver Threads: Critical Reflections on Growing Old

Doris Marshall.

Toronto: Between the Lines, 1987, 129 pp. ISBN 0-919946-81-X. \$25.95; \$9.95 paper.

Reviewed by Marie Truelove

Surprisingly few books on aging have been written for a general audience. Because Doris Marshall has a wide range of experience in the field of gerontology, her insights presented in *Silver Threads* deserve to be considered.

The book is written from a very personal perspective; Marshall's life and family is woven into the pages. It is a clearly written, easy to read narrative. Examples from Marshall's own life and friends are juxtaposed with theories regarding aging. Because she has worked with older people for many years, and is now old herself, the author can evaluate such theories in the light of real people's experiences. She tackles the issues of compulsory retirement and health and aging, and housing, while not the focus of any particular chapter, is an issue in examples throughout the book.

On retirement she says:

"I find it so distressing to hear otherwise intelligent people put forth theories about aging that ignore the existence of the unequal distribution of wealth and power in society. At best all the talk and theories are misguided. At worst they are attempting to justify continued inequality and hardship." (p. 63)

Unfortunately *Silver Threads* is depressing reading for middle-aged and older women. No real solutions are proposed to the problems most women face in old age. The book really consists of personal reflections, as the title states, and Marshall's experiences in other countries, while interesting, seem like interruptions to her themes and are not relevant to the Canadian situation.

She states that the book was written over a period of several years. Although it was published in 1987, it does not discuss the 1985 lobbying against pension reform (when the Canadian federal government announced its intention to end the indexing of basic government pensions to inflation) by senior citizen groups. This is an

important success that may illustrate one strategy — joining together with others in lobby groups — for addressing the problems of older women.

Silver Threads is much shorter than Leah Cohen's *Small Expectations: Society's Betrayal of Older Women* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1984; reviewed in *W&E* Fall, 1985). It does not contain many interviews with women (as Cohen's book does), nor the same level of anger. Rather, Marshall's book is a quiet discussion of older women's problems that tries to refute the stereotypes that our society attaches to growing old. □



Call for Papers

Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies welcomes contributions to a special issue on **Women and Worth**. Articles, reviews, fiction, poetry, photography are invited on: The value of women's activities; women and economic theory, power, social and legal issues, unpaid labour, wealth; institutional devaluations of women, and the worth of older women. Articles should be original and follow the Chicago Manual of Style; send two copies with stamped addressed envelope by March 15 1988 to Editor, Frontiers, Women's Studies Program, CB 325, University of Colorado, Boulder CO 80309-0325.

Sustainability and Equality: Women in Development in Canada. Articles are requested for the Winter 1989 issue of *Alternatives*, for example on the role of women in the environmental movement; equity-related issues in sustainable development; ideas of women and nature; feminist visions of sustainable communities. *Alternatives* is a refereed journal. Articles should be no longer than 5,000 words, typed, in three copies. Submission deadline is July 15.

For information and guidelines, contact Susan Wismer, Frances Shamley, guest editors, c/o Development Initiatives, PO Box 1204, Guelph, Ont. N1H 6N6 (519) 836-9885.

Women's Initiatives in Local Government: Tokenism or Power?

Susan Halford

Working paper 58, Urban and Regional Studies, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN, UK, July 1984, 44 pp £3

An examination, using surveys of UK local councils, of some of the questions surrounding women's committees at the local level: Their establishment, powers and effectiveness. The committees are exclusively a large-urban phenomenon associated with the "new left," and Halford presents an interesting discussion of the different ways they are situated within local political structures, and their relationships to their communities.

WEB Newsletter #6 July 1987

An eclectic range of news and views on "women and the built environment" put together by a London collective. Much of this issue is devoted to a recounting of their January '87 conference "Women's Realm" which addressed issues as diverse as racism and sexism in architectural teaching, designing for disabled children and class conflict between female builders and architects. WEB's orientation is local, grass-roots and personal in tone. Copies through: The Women's Design Service, Interchange, 15 Wilkin St., London NW5 3N5 UK (01) 267-4585.

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Espaces et femmes

Anne Gilbert and Damaris Rose, Editors
Special issue of *Cahiers de géographie du Québec* 31, no. 83, September 1987.

Gilbert and Rose have given us a doubly unique contribution to the "geography and gender" body of literature; this is the first such French-language collection to be published and is also notable for its alliance of research from France, and from both French and English Canada, as well as contributions from Spain and Brazil. Gilbert and Rose included articles by Jacqueline Coutras, *Hommes et femmes dans l'espace public français*; Andrée Fortin, *Les lieux de la sociabilité et de la solidarité féminines*; Lyse Pelletier, *Au sujet des espaces féminisés*; Anne-Marie Séguin et Paul Villeneuve, *Du Rapport hommes-femmes au centre de la Haute-Ville de Québec*.

Damaris Rose herself writes on her Montréal work, *Un aperçu féministe sur la restructuration de l'emploi et sur la gentrification*; Jeanne Fagnani on the Paris region, *Organisation de l'espace et activité professionnelle des mères*; Chantal Balley reports on French regional variations (*Activité féminine et localisation de l'emploi*); Suzanne Mackenzie on BC (*Homeworkers and the creation of a new economic centre*). On the Third World experience, Maria José Carneiro et Lena Lavinas write on women's participation in agricultural reform in Brazil; and Fiona Mackenzie on local organization in a smallholding district of Kenya.

The volume includes a number of related book notes and reviews. It is available for \$10 from L'administrateur, *Cahiers de géographie du Québec*, Département de géographie, Université Laval, Québec G1K 7P4 (418) 656-5392.

Gender-sensitive Theory and the Housing Needs of Mother-led Families: Some Concepts and Some Buildings

Fran Klodawsky and Suzanne Mackenzie
Feminist Perspectives no. 9, Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, 1987. 39 pp. \$2.50 from CRIAW, 151 Slater St., #408, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3

Women's changing roles and activities give rise to new environmental needs, which in turn lead to the creation of new environments. The paper explores the development of feminist analysis and empirical work in this area, and uses housing for mother-led families in Canada as a case study of new environments which accommodate women's needs and at the same time help to breach the confines of traditional gender roles and therefore of "public" and "private" spheres and of "economic" and "social" divisions in society.



The Feminization of Poverty: Only in America?

Gertrude S. Goldberg and Eleanor Kremen
Social Policy 17(4) Spring 1987

A solid statistical overview of the varying degrees and features of female poverty in seven industrialized nations (US, Canada, France, Sweden, Poland and USSR). Variables such as wage labour availability, government benefits and policies promoting economic equality and demographic factors are worked out in such a way that they might be used to predict as well as monitor persistent female impoverishment. In comparing the socialist and capitalist cases, the different approaches of state and private organizations in promoting equality appear to shape profoundly the politicization and subsequent mobilization of the population.

Know Your Rights!

INTERCEDE

An Ontario domestic workers' self-help manual, which describes the laws and policies which offer protection. Includes a section of "helpful hints" for dealing with government officials and employers. Lists community-based services offering free assistance for common needs.

Available from: INTERCEDE, 58 Cecil St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1N6 (416) 591-6351. \$5 each for one to five copies; \$2 each for more.

ISIS International: Women's Health Journal 2

Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network

This second edition of the Journal includes coverage of the 5th International Women and Health Meeting in Costa Rica, May 1987; descriptions of some of the groups in the Health Network; and an annotated bibliography on works from around the world, ranging from *Adverse Effects: Women and the Pharmaceutical Industry* (from the International Organization of Consumers' Unions Regional

Office for Asia and the Pacific in Malaysia), to "El Asedio Sexual en el Trabajo," (Sexual Harassment in the Workplace) from Peru.

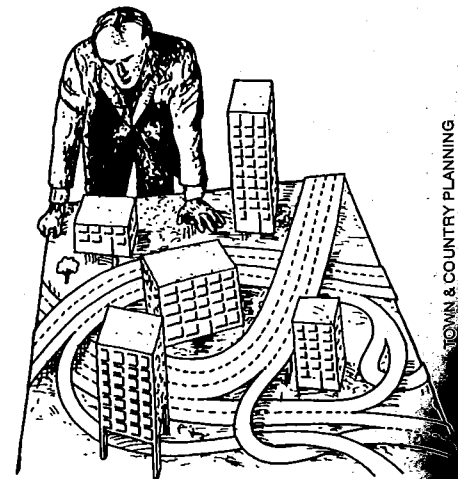
There's No Place Like Home is a video by Janine Fuller in which single mothers, Native women, Black women, and low-income women describe their personal collisions with the so-called "housing crisis," and tell stories of racism, abuse and slum landlords. Together with housing activists, they analyze the real estate market and government, and outline the ways in which women's rights and lives are eroded by poor or non-existent access to affordable housing. Footage from rallies, marches, and protest actions illustrate organizing being done by labour, the women's movement and low-income groups.

Contact: Emma Productions, 183 Bathurst St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 2R7 (416) 368-3783.

A Place for Women in Planning Special Issue of *Town and Country Planning* 56(9) 1987

A solid overview of the achievements and issues faced by British women working with, and around, the built environment. Short and long-range practical solutions are proposed by writers ranging from professional planners to volunteers from within women's groups including Sophie Bowlby's call for assessing the negative impact of planned suburban malls on the existing urban facilities frequented by low income families and the elderly; Josephine van Wijk's report on the positive results of Amsterdam's 'safe streets' policies; and Beverley Taylor's recounting of the early days of women in the planning profession.

"There are no implications for women in this scheme"



TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING



Women and Agroforestry: Four Myths and Three Case Studies

Louise Fortmann, Dianne Rocheleau

Women in Natural Resources 9(2):33-44, 46, 51.

Failure to include women in agroforestry projects results in the exclusion of the increasing proportion of rural households which are headed by women from project benefits, the prevention of project designers from benefitting from women's special knowledge, and the exclusion of activities and projects which are part of women's economic sphere, such as fuelwood, basket making, and minor forest products. The article identifies changes necessary to include women, and carries an extensive reference section.

Women and Work Selected Papers

1984 and 1985 volumes are available. Each is a compilation of papers from an annual symposium, a forum for exchange of information, knowledge and research on women and work. Available for US \$12.50 each from: Women and Work Research and Resource Center, University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19129, Arlington, TX 76019 (817) 273-3973.

Watch for **Room of One's Own** special issue on "Working for a Living" coming up in the Summer 1988.

Meeting the Housing Needs of Women
Housing Review 36(4) July-August 1987: 139-144

The results of four London Housing Centre Trust seminars are summarized here with the accent falling on practical policy implementation including Marion Brion on the specificities of the current housing problems women face; Anette Ward's candid report on her two years as a resettlement officer in a hostel for homeless women; Harpal Pollard's listing of the

compounded housing problems facing racial minorities; and Judy Wayne's straightforward guide to overcoming women's housing disadvantages.

A previous issue of *Housing Review* (35(6) 1986) reports on the July 1986 HCT seminar, with contributors Sheila Button, on why women have housing difficulties; Ellen Kelly, safety; Jill Turner, violence; Lorna Reith, single women and homelessness; Ann Glithero, lending; and Magdalen Page, on design for women and children.

Employed Women in the Suburbs: Transportation Disadvantage in a Car-Centered Environment

Gerda R. Wekerle and Brent M. Rutherford

Alternatives 14(3) 1987: 49-54

Transportation time, cost and access play an important role in the way women plan their daily lives. This article examines the relationship between family composition, economics and dependence on transit, arguing that the increasingly heterogeneous suburban population (elderly, single parents and working women) bear the brunt of a socially as well as economically cost-intensive public transport system in the form of a greater number of trips and time and money spent.

Home Interiors: A European Perspective Environment and Behavior 19(2) March 1987

Owing largely to the conspicuous absence of any discussion of women's specific relationship to the home environment, it is hard to take these essays seriously. Penned almost entirely by writers of the psychoanalytic school, their findings are often without grounding in social reality, for example, the allegation that Sicilians choose their home interiors according to social aspirations rather than financial dictates.

Special Groups and the Environment
Issue of *Environments* 18(3) 1986

This issue explores uses and experiences of the environment unique to groups within society. Most notably, Rebecca Peterson's paper which defends the "special user" category as applied to women based on their changing family form and work roles. Peterson outlines the lively feminist critique of the built environment and its proposed and tested alternatives such as domestic work reorganization, co-op housing, neighbourhood and urban planning and regeneration and so on. Other highlights include Stephen Gol-

ant's policy implications for housing the elderly; Susan Knasko's review of issues of safety, social relations, play behaviour and school performance in children's environments; and Patrick West's comparison of Canada and the US treatment of environment issues concerning the handicapped.

Feminist Theories and Practical Policies: Shifting the Agenda in the 1980s

Frankie Ashton and Gill Whitting, editors
Bristol: University of Bristol School for Advanced Urban Studies, 1987

A timely collection of essays aimed at narrowing the gap between feminist thought and deed. Notable for their balanced approach, the papers address the connectedness of race and class in the social application of feminist theories. Topics include radical feminism, socialist feminism, local women's groups, European equality and feminism's progress.

Available from SAUS, Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Bristol BS8 4EA, UK.

Lone Parenthood: Characteristics and Determinants

Ian Poole and Maureen Moore

Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 1986. 59 pp. Cat. CS99-961. \$20

Enough charts, graphs and numbers to make any bureaucrat sit up straight! Using the 1984 Family History Survey, Poole and Moore examine lone parenthood from a longitudinal perspective, shedding light on the timing of events including child birth, divorce, entry into the labour force, and work interruptions.

Patriarchy: Towards a Reconceptualization

Jo Foord and Nicky Gregson

Antipode 18(2) 1986: 186-211

More support for the argument that patriarchal gender relations, as opposed to class relations, are the wellspring of female subordination. Seeks to unify feminist geographers under a redefined concept of patriarchy. Despite stressing social relations over economic structures in determining inequality, these writers tend only to obscure the inseparable collusion of the two systems.

Linda McDowell's reply (*Antipode* 18(3) 1986:311-21) argues the opposite by rooting female oppression in the relations of production and reproduction within class society. McDowell acknowledges the central role that child-bearing plays in determining female subordination without proposing a universal female experience across classes and cultures.



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