

Women and Environments International Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1, Spring 1979

Editorial

This issue has been designed to be mailed jointly with a special issue of the *Conservator Society Notes* on Women and the Conservator Society. Both these items are enclosed in this mailing. There are several items in this issue which are directly applicable to this topic: (1) the article on voluntarism and the environment, (2) the news item on the 1979 Women's School of Planning and Architecture Session which will address the theme, "Designing the Future as if Women Mattered", and (3) the section of Reviews of published materials related to this theme. We felt that this would be a great opportunity to network networks, i.e. to expose the readers of each publication to the other.

Our financial situation remains very uncertain. We would like to thank the participants who have responded with their subscriptions. However, the amount of money that was needed to fund this issue was over twice the amount that we received in subscriptions. Because of this, the Faculty of Environmental Studies has agreed one more time to cover the costs which we lack. The message in all this is that once again, we plead with those of you who want to see this publication continue to *please send in your subscription requests, along with the \$5.00 yearly fee*. We have gone to outside sources for funding, with no success, but would welcome any suggestions any of you readers would have as to possible sources of funding.

A special thanks to all the readers who have sent in copy for this issue. In this respect, the newsletter is really beginning to take off as a networking vehicle. Please continue to send in news items, letters, reviews, etc. We will print all that we can. Occasionally things are a bit off in terms of our publication dates, but we will try to get things out as close as we possibly can to our three times yearly target.

Volunteerism and the Environment*

by Mary DeCarlo

Two social forces have converged to accommodate women as leaders in protecting the environment. Awareness of the contamination and destruction of the natural environment systems and resources launched environmental interest groups. Concurrent with that awareness was the emergence of the women's movement. Two approaches emerged in the environmental movement. One is voluntary and the other institutional. Institutional support came in such forms as the establishment of environmental education curricula, research programs, and institutes. Voluntary action was the mode for local resistance to environmentally destructive practices.

From these forces women have emerged as leaders in the environmental movement. Beginning with Rachel Carson and her book *Silent Spring* and continuing with the recent appointment of

Ruth Clusen, who was named Assistant Energy Secretary for the Environment, women have been prominent in the articulation of issues related to the environment.

Environmental activism is also a logical transition point for many women. Volunteering in community work is a traditional sharing in the shaping and defining of community issues.

Matilda Koval watched her Baltimore neighborhood deteriorate as the older ethnic population moved out and those who moved in took little pride in caring for their homes, yards, and streets. Instead of moving out as she originally intended, Koval decided to organize her neighbors into a self-help project for block-wide improvement. For her, voluntary action was more than working for an organization. She created her own volunteer job; in a sense acting as a one-person volunteer association.

Neighborhood spirit runs high in Baltimore, and Matilda Koval, along with her newly-mobilized neighbors, joined together with other like-minded groups in Baltimore to obtain money for neighborhood projects and increased city services. Koval worked hard to improve the physical environment of her community and the city at large. She worked to stop further spread of pollution through encouraging code enforcement, restoring land and water, creating playgrounds and parks, cleaning up litter, getting rid of rats, abating noise, and operating recycling centers.

Matilda Koval through perseverance, motivation, and enthusiasm inspired others. She left behind her a testimony to women as volunteers combining traditional concerns with environmental activism.

According to the Task Force on Women and Citizen Participation Report — completed for the Alliance for Voluntarism — studies found that women tended to be better represented on boards (policy-formulating bodies) in environmental groups than among other more established agencies devoted to education, health, and social services.

The women's movement provided a new impetus for women to assert leadership in behalf of matters that affected the quality of their lives.

National organizations such as the League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Association of Women in Science, National Organization for Women, Women's Active Alliance, etc., are vital organizations drawing on the female population. In some cases, these organizations have major study or work programs in the area of energy and conservation. Some are doing contract work on environmental issues for EPA. A recent grant from the Office of Solid Waste at EPA has enabled the league of Women Voters in seven communities to inform, educate, and involve citizens in a recycling program that will continue through volunteer efforts after the grant has run out.

The League, which has an increasing number of members who are men, is active in all stages of policy formulation locally, statewide, and nationally. In addition to providing support for environmental legislation, League members have published over fifty environmentally-related pamphlets and magazines as well as information bulletins to awaken the public to the environmental issues facing this Nation.

According to Herta Loeser, author of *Women, Work, and Volunteering*, many women have developed careers in voluntarism. Viewed as a continuum, a voluntary career may progress through a hierarchy or ranking system of positions in voluntary action. For many volunteers the opportunity to participate may develop into a general volunteer equivalent of an occupational career. Often as one progresses through a volunteer career, skills are developed and reinforced that are comparable to those found in the mid- or upper-management levels in paid organizations.

In much the same way, a person moving up the volunteer ladder can have greater influence relative to organizing, directing, or leading voluntary activity. A volunteer manager may develop a certain expertise in areas such as research, finance, or public relations. The flexibility of the volunteer activity allows for the pursuit of different preferences.

Volunteers will use their volunteer experience to develop and continue to occupy before moving to other career opportunities. She started her volunteer career as an environmental preservation organization.

University Without Walls (which includes Environmental Colleges and Universities) drew the attention of the National Historical Preservation. This was a significant step in the preservation of the city.

Jean Crolus continues to serve as Vice President of Preservation Action, Inc., member of the Board of Governors of Citizens Planning and Housing Association, head of the Baltimore City Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust, and is continuing her education at Antioch University where she has developed her own individualized course of study.

The social needs of this country are beyond the capacity of public funds to meet them. The voluntary actions of individuals have served well to provide not only leadership, but direct services, and have stimulated policy alternatives, increased accountability, and public awareness.

According to the Survey of Need for Volunteers commissioned by ACTION, the need for volunteers will continue to grow. With regard to the future roles of women in the environmental movement, women's groups and environmentalists will increasingly participate together in ways that will move consciousness from protection to anticipation to prevention.

Women dedicated to voluntary action are increasingly forming community coalitions and formulating "plans of action" to create an "environmental state of the community." This will include increased surveillance of the quality of the air and water as well as issues related to solid waste and toxic substances. And in this way, they will continue to educate themselves, and obtain an increasing awareness of the environment and the interrelationships between those various components affecting the community. This knowledge will indeed continue to be an underpinning to government-citizens dialogue about important values.

Volunteers, working together in community after community, contribute much to a more healthful environment.

Mary DeCarlo is the president of the Volunteer Development Institute, and an Associate Professor in the volunteer administration program at Antioch University, Baltimore, Md.

**Editors Note: This article, originally published in EPA Journal, November/December 1978, pgs 14-15 was submitted by the author for publication here.*

The Pauline McGibbon Cultural Centre

The Toronto Women's Cultural Centre mentioned in a previous issue, has been re-named The Pauline McGibbon Cultural Centre in honour of Ontario's first woman Lieutenant Governor. While the Centre expects to open its door to the public during the summer, the opening festivities and events will take place in September. Three days of celebrations are planned by the Opening Events Committee September 13 to September 15. Some of the events scheduled are as follows:

September 13, 1979

- 11:00 a.m. Official Dedication Ceremony and Reception
- 6:00 p.m. Wine & Cheese Reception for Members of the Centre and guests
- 8:00 p.m. Opening of the Art Gallery featuring two shows celebrating Year of the Child (Open to Public)

September 14, 1979

- 1:30 p.m. Official Opening of the Library & Reception

September 15, 1979

- 12-5 p.m. Public Reception and Open House
- 8:00 p.m. Gala Party (Open to Public)

For further information contact:
The Pauline McGibbon Cultural Centre
86 Lombard Street
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1M3

HERESIES Plans Special Issue On "Women And Architecture"

The Editorial Collective for Issue 11 is seeking written and visual material for an issue that will explore connections between architecture and feminism. *HERESIES* is an idea-oriented journal devoted to the examination of art and politics from a feminist perspective. The Collective envisions this issue addressing a broad range of topics concerning women and the built environment. We wish to extend the definition of architecture beyond the discipline itself and to encompass ideas not traditionally associated with architecture.

Suggested topics for submission may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Women as Environmental Consumers

How women use the built environment . . . dwelling place, neighbourhood, work place, public spaces . . . supporting systems of transportation, day care, health care, safety . . . physical and psychological barriers . . . how women perceive the built environment . . . images in the work of artists, writers, photographers . . . interior, psychological, poetic spaces. . .

History/Herstory

Hidden women . . . women as patrons of art and architecture . . . women as architectural ornament, as monument, as memorial . . . architecture of past matriarchies . . . origins of domesticity.

Visions Into the Future

Architectural expression of changing roles . . . social, political, economic implications . . . feminist utopias. . .

Politics, Government and Institutions

Laws, building codes, customs and traditions, housing policies, and credit discrimination that affect women . . . emergence of alternative institutions — battered women's shelters, women's buildings, childbirth centers. . .

Women as Shapers of the Built Environment Through Their Work

Environments women create or influence through their roles as activists, architects, artists, contractors, developers, educators, home economists, housewives, interior designers, journalists, preservationists, tradespeople (plumbers, carpenters. . .), urban planners . . . personal and communal work experiences.

Architecture — A Discipline, Profession, and Art

The educational system and women . . . brainwashing of the female sensibility . . . who are our role models? . . . education as a tool for change . . . the relationships of feminism to architecture . . . changes effected by women in the role of architect . . . architecture and social change . . . architecture as a cultural symbol — how it affects and portrays women . . . the autonomy of architecture . . . architecture and other arts and disciplines. . .

We request that completed manuscripts or visual material be submitted as soon as possible and no later than August 30, 1979. Please send for consideration abstracts of proposed articles or photographs no later than June 30, 1979. If your article is accepted, you will have time prior to publication to make minor editorial changes.

Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced on 8 1/2" by 11" paper and submitted in duplicate with footnotes and illustrative material, if any, fully captioned. If you are submitting visual work, please send a photograph, xerox, or description, not the original. Only manuscripts or visual material accompanied by a stamped (sufficient postage, please) self-addressed envelope will be returned.

HERESIES will pay a fee between \$5 and \$50, as our budget allows, for published material. There will be no commissioned articles and we cannot guarantee acceptance of submitted material. We will not include reviews or monographs on contemporary women. If you have a written or visual work that does not fall into one of the categories listed above but is related to the issue, please feel free to submit it. We look forward to hearing from you.

HERESIES
Issue 11
P.O. Box 766
Canal Street Station
New York, N.Y. 10013

Task Force on Women's Issues Established by Margarita P. McCoy

In the September, 1978 issue of *Calplanner*, Anne Bogush reported on a resolution passed by Calchapter members at their Monterey Conference. Members who voted for the resolution were protesting that the 1978 AIP National Conference was to be held, yet again, in a non-ERA state. Ms. Bogush's article, "A Conference In New Orleans, But Louisiana Has Not Ratified the Equal Rights Amendment" detailed the ten conditions for conduct of the New Orleans conference by which Calchapter members sought to overcome the sexist implications of the conference location. It is time now for an up-date on the Monterey Resolution, to report the bad news and the good news of its effects on the New Orleans conference and on the American Planning Association that was born there.

The Bad News

Viewed literally, the ten conditions of the Monterey Resolution were almost totally ignored at New Orleans. Of the ten, only two were partially enacted. The first condition, "That future national conferences of the AIP not be held in states which have not ratified the ERA" was honored in irony. The New Orleans conference was the last conference of the AIP and thus there will be no future national AIP conferences held in non-ERA states, for there will be no future AIP conferences. It is most discouraging to note that the first conference of the American Planning Association will be held in Miami Beach, Florida, another non-ERA state.

The eight Monterey Resolution conditions which appear to have been ignored at the New Orleans conference were, taken together, an attempt to make the work of the conference more socially conscious. They sought to refocus the profession's attention not only on the issues of women as planners and as planning clients but, through those issues, to the largely unfulfilled promises of social planning and "The Social Responsibility of the Planner." By means of including more women as speakers and panelists, more speakers (both men and women) noted for their leadership in social and organizational change, and the inclusion of women's issues throughout the conference program it was hoped to rekindle the profession to addressing "widespread social change in a significant and comprehensive way."

This did not happen. Some women speakers were added to the conference schedule, but they were assigned to speak only to the issue of women as planning professionals, a topic which is seen by many social activists as the kitchen in the house of planning policy, suitable for occupancy mainly by women.

Two of the additions to the conference calendar were a panel session on "Women in Planning" and a plenary session speaker addressing the same topic. The panel session drew a full house which devoted most of its attention to the Florida location of the next APA conference. A petition proposing a boycott of that conference if it were held in Miami Beach was drafted, circulated and signed during the session. That petition was presented to the APA Board. Shortly after accepting the petition, the Board ratified the decision to hold the conference in Miami Beach, noting the expense and inconvenience of changing the location. Since only 7% of AIP membership were women, the effectiveness of the boycott seems dubious, at best.

That is the bad news from New Orleans and, taken alone, it would seem to negate all the aspirations of the Monterey Resolution as well as all the other, similar efforts made in the past. Such, happily was not the case.

The Good News

Following the panel session on "Women In Planning," a workshop was scheduled, originally intended to make preparations for a Women's Technical Division, No. 7 of the Monterey Resolution conditions. A small group of women gathered to review the feasibility of alternatives for future effective action. The evidence was not encouraging. Among the problems to be overcome were the following:

1. The likelihood of APA Board approval of a Women's Technical Division was very dim. The meeting was advised that such a Division would not fit the usual conditions and criteria for Technical Division approval.

2. A schism had developed between activists who supported strong emphasis on the professional equity issues of women in the planning profession, and a second group who insisted that a larger context was necessary to address significant professional issues related to women as planning clients in a changing social order. The first group was mainly concerned with advancing women within the planning profession, the second with advancing the planning profession to better serve the needs of all women and of society.

3. Past efforts to initiate Institute action for women in planning issues were unrecorded or, at least, not generally available to successive working groups. Not only did this mean that there was no history of past action on which to build future effort, but the work of other dedicated members at previous conferences had to be unacknowledged and unrewarded when future plans were made and tasks assigned.

The workshop was long and arduous, but from it emerged the idea for the Contemporary Issues Task Force. The Task Force was formed at the workshop, opened by noting the profound changes occurring in part as a result of the Monterey Resolution. It continued with the charge that these changes, if not met, would be a disaster. It was appointed by the APA Board.

The Task Force was charged with the task of developing a plan for the future of the profession. It was to be a working group, not a committee. It was to be a group of people who were committed to the profession and to the Monterey Resolution. It was to be a group of people who were committed to the profession and to the Monterey Resolution.

The ten conditions of the Monterey resolution are as follows:

1) that future national conferences of the American Institute of Planners not be held in states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

2) that there should be an attempt to have women comprise half of all panelists and speakers at the conference.

3) that the proposed conference theme for the 1978 Conference be expanded to "Planning Implementation for Women and Men" in order to indicate a more specific focus on issues related to the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

4) that a major focus of the Conference concern the implementation of change in organizational structures to achieve feminist humanist goals and that major presentations be given by leaders in this field such as the author of "Men and Women of the Corporation", Carl Rogers, author of "On Personal Power"; and June Baker and Carol Sanford, authors of the slide presentation "Sexual Hierarchy".

5) that the Board of Governors urge symbolic economic sanctions by all conference participants including such things as bringing personal liquor instead of purchasing locally; using NOW and other feminist groups to lead tours rather than private tour operators; bag lunches instead of banquets.

6) that AIP Conference Committee and the national AIP staff work with the national office of NOW and the Louisiana chapters of NOW to use the conference to strengthen local ERA ratification efforts.

7) that the national conference address the creation of an AIP Women's Caucus or Department to institutionalize a network to address other issues affecting women and sex roles as they arise in the future.

8) that a portion of the profits which AIP receives from the national conference be donated to assist in the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

9) that one of the major speakers be a well-known male who can address the Equal Rights Amendment and other sex-role issues from the male point of view. Suggested people are Herb Goldberg, author of *The Hazards of Being Male*, Marc Fagin-Fasteau, author of the *Male Machine*, or Warren Farrell, author of *The Liberated Man*.

10) that women's issues not be related to a single time in the conference agenda, but that they be addressed throughout the conference program.

Excerpted from *California Planner*, September, 1978.

2. "Development and maintenance of a communication network:"

A communication network will not only provide the essential linking of members interested in women's issues, but it will also provide a record of actions and actors. The loss of the history of past efforts may not be corrected but, at least, it will not be repeated.

8. "Integration of the work of the Task Force into all Divisions" This may be the most innovative of the proposal's approaches. It is a social up-dating of professional practice. The Task Force will appoint an APA member to serve as its representative to each Technical Division. Each representative will provide information

a contemporary issues perspective to the work of the Technical Division to which s(he) is assigned. These representatives will form a council which will work to coordinate its efforts into a comprehensive approach to modernizing the social aspects of planning while providing, at the same time, a comprehensive overview of the specialized work of the Divisions.

The Contemporary Issues Task Force proposal, along with the support necessary for its implementation, was approved by the APA Board. On the final day of the conference a group meeting to begin action on the proposal drafted a letter of information and inquiry to be sent to all APA members. Mailing of the letter, supported by the Institute of Planning Education of the University of Southern California, was accomplished during November. As of this writing, more than 100 responses have been received, including 40 volunteers for work on the Task Force and related assignments. In the near future Dorothy Walker, President of APA, will select the nine members of the Task Force from the volunteers and the work will begin, supported by APA staff and funding.

The charge of the Task Force is challenging. They must set in place an organizational framework that is broad and flexible enough to accommodate a multitude of perspectives on contemporary social issues, yet the framework must be capable of sharp focus leading to concerted action. They must develop a communication network capable of informing and exciting general interest on women's issues, but with channels designed for the detailed and specific needs of researchers and others pursuing special interests within the field. They must envision and create a permanent structure for a continuing effort while working within a group that will disband when it has achieved its charges. The Task Force will face complex and difficult problems but, to solve them, they have an enormous resource of energy, enthusiasm and dedication among APA members all over the country.

Calchapter can be proud of the part it has played in beginning this effort. The Monterey Resolution may not have changed the course of the New Orleans conference, but it did provide direction and purpose to Calchapter members who attended the conference. Calchapter members found, and were found by, APA members from many other chapters who shared their goals. Together they were able to make a strong beginning. It is a pattern worth preserving in the work that lies ahead.

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Yukon Mini-Bus Update

The Yukon Women's Mini-Bus Society was responsible for the planning and research that led to the establishment of the Whitehorse Mini-Bus System. The system now employs fifteen drivers, each working between 4-24 hours per week, and now owns five mini-buses -- operating four of them over 750 miles of fixed routes each day. The system has always exceeded its targets for passengers carried while remaining under budget. It is presently carrying between 750-900 passengers daily. Four new 25 passenger buses are to be purchased in the near future. The new and larger equipment will enable the system to expand by providing service to the new developments and increased service to areas already served by the system. For further information, contact Wendy Nairn, Transit Manager, Yukon Women's Mini-Bus System, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

Excerpted from *The Optimist, Yukon Status of Women, Spring '79*

Women's work-trips

"Are women's work-trip patterns the result of their labor market roles, their household roles or some nebulous sex difference in travel preferences?" The question is important to transportation analysts predicting future travel demand, to planners developing a structure in the urban landscape, and to researchers explaining women's work-trip behavior and their labor market opportunities.

Janice F. Madden, assistant professor of regional science, and Michelle J. White, associate professor at New York University, on leave from the University of Pennsylvania, posed this question in a paper presented to the conference on "Women's Travel Issues: Research Needs and Priorities." The conference was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Committee on Transportation of the National Research Council. The conference was held on September 17-20, 1978, in Washington, D.C. The title of their paper was "Women's Work Trips: An Empirical and Theoretical Overview."

The paper begins with a summary of empirical studies of women's work-trip behavior. Madden states, "There are three sets of 'stylized facts' about women's work-trip behavior: women's work trips, women's jobs, and residential constraints imposed by women's household roles. The data is referred to as 'stylized facts,' because they reflect simple correlations which may disguise a more complex set of behavioral relationships. The question is why are women's work trips different?"

The paper reviews two, broadly-defined theories about women's work-trip behavior: labor-market-oriented explanations and urban-economic explanations. Madden characterizes "the labor-market analysts as treating the journey to work as a cost of employment, and the urban economists as concentrating on residential location as the main determinant of work-trip behavior." The paper documents theoretical and empirical studies of women's work-trip behavior developed from both these approaches. The paper also outlines basic research questions and suggests policy implications of alternative explanations of women's work-trip behavior.

The National Institute of Mental Health supported the research, in part, through the on-going research project "Effects of Changing Household Structure on Cities." Madden states, "Many of the research lines proposed in the paper will be considered under my NIMH grant to study the growth of female-headed and two-earner households."

Excerpted from *Transportation: The Monthly Newsletter of the Transportation Program, University of Pennsylvania, September-October, 1978, pages 1 and 3.*



WOMEN'S SCHOOL OF PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE

Reflections Of 1978 by Mary Vogel

WSPA '78 brought together a dynamic group of women from all over the U.S. and Canada to discuss our working and living environments and our ideas for changing them. It combined feminist analysis, process and long-range visions with discussion of short-range practical solutions to the social, physical and metaphysical environmental problems of our day.

How do I begin to summarize one of the most self-affirming, energy-charging, idea-generating, sanity-confirming, warm, loving, positive two weeks in my whole life? We began the two weeks with a glimpse of how the rich capitalist founders of the present economic order lived their lives. As we tramped through two Newport mansions used as "summer homes" by the Vanderbilts and the Whetmores, our questions about the lives and quarters of the servants and of the women who occupied these gilded cages seemed to leave our guides perplexed.

In a discussion on the historical/political dimensions of planning and architecture in women's lives, we looked at changes in women's status (and the greater class distinctions) caused by the Industrial Revolution. We also explored the notion of women's place in the home with a view towards women in planning and architecture designing environments that contribute to the autonomy of all women. Another part of the discussion focused on the lack of "consciousness" of many women in planning and architecture schools who would prefer to identify with the power of the male establishment than to identify with the powerless (i.e. their own sex).

In an exercise on the "ecology of sex roles", we first discussed our own environmental autobiographies to establish some criteria for evaluating the quality of an environment as it affects women before interviewing women residing in Newport. Our goal was to work with Newport residents on criteria for improving the environment for women.

We discussed the tension between the public and private spheres of life with the relegation of the personal to the home and the feminized domestic space of the home, places with no place for women's voices and ideas.

choices and changes with implications for employment, inflation and international economics; (2) Feminist Environmental Curricula — re-examining the roles of students, teachers and teaching methods and creating strategies for working in the establishment or separatist alternatives; (3) Neighbourhood Revitalization — an exploration of the political and social conflicts and contradictions inherent in the revitalization process: class differences, racism, unemployment, regionalism, federal dollars, social commitment, and the distribution of wealth; (4) Working — if we don't embrace "the system", how can we avoid becoming volunteers and/or marginal — taking leftover jobs, having no financial security, being isolated, having little impact on the environment?; (5) Women Built Environments — the dreams, problems and realities of women creating environments by and for women.

We spent an afternoon discussing the psychological bases of women's strength in their ability to recognize feelings of weakness and helplessness and avoid the false flights from vulnerability that shut men off from avenues of growth; in their being in touch with emotions — which doesn't mean lack of analytical ability — rather ability to synthesize and be in touch with the totality; in their participation in the development of other people and enhancement of others' sense of identity. We discussed the fact that women still have very little economic or political power, yet there was concern that women not try to gain power by emulating the dominant class, rather by grounding their thinking in what all women want and need.

Women from HUD's Office of Women's Policy and Program were there to explain the functions of their office and how HUD's various programs can be utilized to help women. Recent legislation was highlighted.

A tour and discussion of a nearby solar house and a Design for Non-Traditional Living Studio were amongst the activities of the second week. For me the ultimate high point of the two weeks was the opportunity to relive my own trip to China through seeing the slides and hearing the discussion of four of the 19 women who went to China as the Women's China Study Group on Environmental Issues. In China decent housing is a right, not a luxury and rents are fixed at about 3% of income. (Rents have been going down fourfold since 1949 and there is no inflation in China.)

Attitudes and myths about money were discussed in an interactive money workshop that gave me many personal insights into my own attitudes towards money and the contradictions it causes in my life as I strive to live an ecologically sound, anti-materialist, anti-status seeking, socialist, feminist lifestyle within the present culture.

Regretably, the experience that WSPA was for each of the participants loses much in the brief summary above. Difficult to explain is the process we developed of building trust, respect and an atmosphere for sharing both the positive and negative, the joy and sorrows, the oppression and the triumphs in our lives. The emphasis of the WSPA process was that we were all students and we were all teachers — regardless of our educational level, class backgrounds or achievements. Evaluation and feedback sessions were built into the schedule. Another emphasis was that disc...

of feelings and emotions were just as valid a part of the educational process as intellectual debate.

I suppose the best way I can attempt to summarize the total experience is to tell you what it did for me. After going through a very alienated, introspective period where I didn't know which end was up or where I could or wanted to fit in to the world as it's been defined, I had begun a somewhat frenetic search for a solution to my personal pain — mainly through participation in leftist groups. My choices about what to do with my life were limited to two things: (1) what I felt I was capable of doing (which, at my low point a few months prior to WSPA, was not much) and (2) what I could get paid for doing taking into consideration the 2 1/2 years of debt I'd built up in graduate school.

I came back from WSPA truly re-energized and re-committed to the long difficult struggle ahead. My direction and focus have never been clearer and my own self-concept has never been better. In fact, the experience was so energizing that for my Master's Thesis, I decided to tackle an area in which I've had little experience, knowledge, or even interest before — i.e. housing finance and production. I made this choice because I see very few women involved in this field in Colorado — and none with a socialist feminist analysis. It was a difficult choice because it means for me long hours sitting at my desk or buried in the library rather than the gratification of more immediate activism, but it's something I now know I want to do.

Regional contacts have been set up to (1) bring more women into WSPA and (2) to identify community groups and/or projects which we might focus on during WSPA '79. The contacts are:
Massachusetts — Marie Kennedy, 71 Weld Hill St., Jamaica Plain, Ma. 02130 and Susan Aitcheson, 1536 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Ma. 02135; New York — Marjorie Hoog, Urban Deadline Architects, 2248 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10024 and Lynn Gernert, 211 W. 106th St. No. 7D, N.Y., N.Y. 10025; California — Charlotte Strem, 210 Escalona Dr., Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060 and Jill Bolker (address above); Canada — Denise Piche, Ecole D' Architecture, U. Laval, Quebec 61K704, Canada; South — Pat Smalley, 4007 Sutherland Ave., Knoxville, Tn. 37919; Jane Glanvito (address above) and Dore Rotundo, P.O. Box 596, Melrose, Fla. 32666; Rocky Mtn. States — Mary Vogel, 2805 E. 16th Ave. No. 11, Denver, Co. 80206; Midwest — Merrilee Barnett, 8930 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo. 64110. Write us with your ideas!

Mary Vogel
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Plans For 1979 Session

The Women's School of Planning and Architecture (WSPA) has chosen Regis College in Denver, Colorado for the location of their fourth session, August 9-23, 1979. WSPA was founded in the belief that both personal and professional growth can be fostered by a fuller integration of our values and identities as women and as professionals. WSPA is a personally supportive environment which enables women in the fields of architecture, planning, design, landscape architecture, environmental psychology, and other environmental design fields to gather together for an exchange of ideas, and to explore the particular qualities, concerns, and abilities which they as women bring to environmental design. It is the only school of planning and architecture to be entirely conceived, founded, financed, and run by and for women. Previous sessions have been held in Maine, California, and Rhode Island.

WSPA's strength derives from its non-traditional approach to the learning process. It differs from what is available at conventional professional schools in four important ways. First, learning is not considered a one way transfer from teacher to student. Rather, each WSPA participant is encouraged to share her knowledge, skills, and perspectives. Second, a varied and flexible curriculum is designed for modification according to the needs of the participants. Third, questioning of traditional assumptions and methods is encouraged. Fourth, sessions are planned by past participants as well as "founding mothers" which enables WSPA to evolve responsively.

This year's theme is: "*Transitions: Designing For The Future As If Women Mattered*". Participants may attend the full two week session, August 9-23, or the four day weekend session, August 9-12. The weekend session will focus on the future — from both a global and a personal perspective. What life style changes will be necessary due to limited resources? How can women in environmental design fields respond to these changes?

The two week session will expand on these and other issues through core courses, mini courses, and field trips, as well as participant initiated sessions. Offerings range from the analytical/conceptual, such as problem assessment and vision sharing, to concrete exchanges of technical information, such as alternative building methodologies, and opportunities for synthesis and integration — how does all this information apply to me? How can I use it? How does it all fit together?

Some topics to be explored are: planning — how does land use affect women? Post Construction evaluation — how do buildings work or fail once they're built? Women's environments — what types of special facilities are needed for birth centers, women's centers, battered women's shelters, rape crisis centers?

Women of all ages and stages of their professional development are encouraged to attend. There are no academic credentials required, only a committed interest in the built environment, and environmental design field. Child care will be provided, and the college is wheelchair accessible. See enclosed application form for further details. For more information either write to the address on the form or call Charlotte Strem (408) 423-8428 or Sue Aitcheson (617) 731-0957.



EDITORS NOTE: Although the deadlines for registration may have passed, interested individuals are encouraged to call Charlotte Strem or Sue Aitcheson at the number listed for further information.

Mothers' Network Study

The Mothers' Network Study is focused on understanding how mothers develop contacts within and beyond the community to influence local public school decisions. We are especially interested in networks which support programs or policies that would improve educational services for children whose interests are not represented, or are overlooked, by local educational authorities. The study is sponsored by the National Institute of Education and conducted by the National Opinion Research Center.

By informal network we mean a group of mothers who got to know each other through shared activities or mutual friends and who use these contacts, rather than membership in a formal organization (such as the PTA) to influence the school program.

The networks included in the study are located in two communities, a northeast suburb and a midwest city. We will interview members of seven networks, other citizens active in school affairs, and school administrators affected by the networks. We will also tour neighborhoods and observe school activities to see how community and school factors affect mothers' opportunities to form informal networks. The findings will be applied to a comparative analysis of similar community-school factors in five different communities in a third city.

Some of the questions we will try to answer are:

- How did the mothers develop the networks?
- Under what conditions can a network operate effectively?
- Are networks affected by neighborhood characteristics?

Data will be collected by network members and community residents who will also serve as consultants to the project. A summary of the findings will be prepared especially for these participants. The project director is a former resident of the northeast suburb.

Study Products

1. A summary of the findings for community participants.
2. A report for the National Institute of Education.
3. Research methods for studying grass roots networks.

More Information

For additional information on the Mothers' Network Study, contact: Lois Steinberg, NORC, 6030 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60637. Area Code 312 — 753-1300 or 312 — 871-8784, or 312 — 947-2589.

organizations

UIFA Congress

The Union Internationale Des Femmes Architects will hold its Fifth International Congress in Seattle Washington, October 1-4, 1979. The theme of the Conference is "New Design Concepts from Changing Resources," i.e. what changes do you foresee, suggest or are reflected in your work as a result of resources such as: people, capital, land, technology, energy, materials? The primary objective is to exchange theories, ideas, examples, by whatever means of communication appropriate to the material. This will be a multilingual conference conducted in French, English and German or Spanish. Anyone wishing further information should write:

Jean Young A.I.A.
Secretary-General, U.I.F.A.
5601 N.E. 77th Street
Seattle, Washington
98115 U.S.A.

Bolton Institute

The Co-directors of the Bolton Institute, Elizabeth and David Dodson Gray, describe their base as a Mom-and-Pop think tank struggling to relate value questions to the limits-to-growth issues. In the past they have published a number of papers which are of relevance to the topic of women and the conserver society. Included below are a short list of the relevant publications, along with their costs. They can be obtained from the address listed here.

Publications by Elizabeth Dodson Gray:

- Masculine Consciousness and the Problem of Limiting Growth 19 pp. \$1.14 plus 30% postage.
- Psychosexual Roots of Our Ecological Crisis, 1974, 45 pp. \$2.70 plus 30% postage.
- The Story of a Woman: Or, Whatever Happened to My Faith in Technology? 1 p. reprint of Christian Century article — send self-addressed envelope.
- Women as Oppressor-and-Oppressed in an Energy-Intensive Life, 1978, 7 pp. \$.42 plus 30% postage.
- Masculine/Feminine Dimensions of Technology, 1979, 9 pp. \$.54 plus 30% postage.
- Masculine/Feminine Dimensions of Risk Assessment, 1979, 10 pp. \$.60 plus 30% postage.

In addition, Elizabeth Dodson Gray will be publishing a new book on feminine cosmology entitled *Why the Green Nigger?* which will be available in summer 1979 from Roundtable Press, 4 Linden Square, Wellesley, Mass. 02181. The cost is \$5.95 paperback and \$10.95 hardbound.

The Bolton Institute
4 Linden Square
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181



NOW Plans Conference

The NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund is planning a Fall, 1979 event under the tentative title "Assembly on the Future of the Family." Anyone wishing further information on this event should contact

Gene Boyer
218 Front Street
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin 53916
(414) 887-1078.

Women in Scientific Research

Women in Scientific Research, a summary of a report on the participation of women in scientific research submitted to the National Science Foundation, is available from the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science. The study sample consisted of 60 women and 60 men who had received doctoral degrees in the physical, biological, and social sciences since June 1971, with occasional insights from other scientists just starting their careers. The summary covers childhood and high school experiences relating to the decision to pursue a career in science; college and graduate training in science; career experiences in universities and colleges, government and national laboratories, and the private sector; and special aspects of professional life in science such as postdoctoral awards and publishing. To request a copy of the summary report, write to AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Know of Programs in Science for Women and Girls?

The National Science Foundation has asked the AAAS to survey programs in science for women and girls. The results will appear in a publication that describes all efforts made between 1966 and the present to improve the science, mathematics, and engineering education of girls and women in the United States and to increase their participation in science-related careers.

Programs directed at any age level will be eligible for inclusion, as will work conducted by any type of organization or agency. Projects of direct benefit to women and girls and research on the topic will be surveyed.

If you know of projects that might be within the scope of this inventory, please contact Michele L. Aldrich, AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Call for Minority Women Scientists

A communication network for minority women scientists is being organized as an outgrowth of a special conference held during the 1978 AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The 77 participants in that conference met to review progress on recommendations made during a similar 1975 meeting and to identify problems and solutions in science professions and science education for minority women. The Washington conferees invite Native American, Asian American, Black, Chicana, and Puerto Rican women professionals trained in natural or social sciences, mathematics, or engineering to become part of the communication network by identifying themselves to Yolanda George, P.O. Box 5507, L-452, Livermore, California 94550, or to Paula Quick Hall, AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Previous 3 items Excerpted from Science Education News, Summer 1978, published by American Association for the Advancement of Science.

letters

Dear Women:

In 1980 I will be attending the Olympics in Moscow. During that time, I hope to meet with Russian Women Architects and to discuss with them their work and opportunities in Russia. Do you have suggestions on how I might arrange these meetings? Also, could you suggest other subjects which would be beneficial to discuss with them?

I am also very interested in public places, particularly public plazas and how they are lighted, both naturally and artificially. I am doing research on Italian Plazas at this time.

Are you aware of any grants which are available in either of these areas? Also, would the Newsletter have any way of helping me locate Russian women Architects & Behaviourlists? Would the Newsletter be interested in an article following the trip?

My main interests of study on this trip include:

- Public Plazas
- Women Architects
- Lighting — Natural & Artificial
- Historic Buildings
- Buildings by Women Architects
- Interior & Exterior Public Places
- Interaction of People in Public Places
- Built Forms — Sensitive to the Elements

Professor Sandra Davis Lakeman
College of Architecture
The University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Dear Editors:

I am a student in the physical & health education course at University of Toronto. I am seeking literature that is relevant to the topic of women in sport. If you could be of any assistance in this area, please contact me or send the information to this address.

Deborah Kitchener
104 Boulton Drive
Toronto, Ontario

Women and Environments International Newsletter

Published by Becky Peterson, Gerda Wekerle, and David Morley. Issue Editor: Becky Peterson; Assistant Editor, Sylvia Haines.

Financial assistance by the Faculty of Environmental Studies of York University is gratefully acknowledged.

We are interested in hearing more from you, and in widening the Women and Environments Network. If you are interested in participating in our information-sharing network, please send us your name, address, and a note outlining the nature of your interest.

Subscription Rate: \$5.00/year.

reviews

Reviewed by Becky Peterson

Susan Griffin, *Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her*. Harper and Row, New York, 1978.

In this recent book, Susan Griffin brings together prose and poetry in an exploration of the intricate connection between feminism and ecology. In her book she "begins by tracing the attitudes of the patriarchy toward both women and the natural world as these attitudes have developed throughout the history of Western culture; from Plato to Freud, through the development of science, from the burning of witches to the arrival of gynecology and strip mining . . . i.e. the actual sources of the entire concept of controlling women and nature through seeing them as *matter*, inert and passive." The power of this book is such that the reader may only be able to take it in small doses, since the complete picture when confronted all at once, is almost too painful to comprehend. However, the author attempts to move beyond the pain into a new way of seeing which she entitles "Her Vision." In this way the author has tried to create a new space which will lead to the creation of new connections between woman and nature which are outside the patriarchal consciousness.

Judy Smith, *Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Due: Women and Appropriate Technology*, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Butte, Montana, 1978.

"The NCAT Brief on women and appropriate technology focuses on the relationship of a particular population group to the development and implementation of appropriate technology. . . . To implement any technology without considering its impact on women or guaranteeing their participation in its development would condone sexist practices of existing patterns of technological development. . . . Noting that women historically created appropriate technologies without receiving social validation for their efforts, the paper explores the role of women in the creation of alternative technological futures. Although pessimistic in her assessment of the limited participation of women at this time, the author notes that the background and goals of both the women's and the AT movements have points of convergence for the creation of non-sexist, ecologically-sound futures." This quote taken from the introduction describes the focus of the monograph which also includes a resource list of organizations and publications, films, and a directory of women in an attempt to begin a new network of women in the field. This publication can be obtained by sending \$.75 to the National Center for Appropriate Technology, P.O. Box 600, Butte, Montana 59701.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, *New Woman New Earth: Sexist Ideologies and Human Liberation*. Seabury Press, New York, 1975.

The jacket of this book states that the author studies "the relationships between sexism, racism and capitalism and how these ideologies and structures have developed our ideas on women. But in this unusual study, she also probes the ideological images of women as created through religion, particularly in the Judeo-Christian tradition. This volume discusses separately, then combines, all these concepts to lead ultimately to an analysis of the formation of our images of contemporary women." Of special interest to those individuals who are trying to bring together the feminist and ecological analyses, chapter 8 addresses the topic of women, ecology and social revolution. This is one of the earlier books to address this topic, and it should be of interest to a broad audience.

Center for Science in the Public Interest, *The Household Pollutants Guide*, Anchor/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1978.

The authors state in the introduction that about 55 per cent of the average American's time is spent in a household environment. They go on to point out that for some, (the sick, the elderly, and infants), most of their time is spent in the home environment. In addition, 1/5 of the population are housewives who spend much of their working day in the home. They indicate that in spite of this fact, the home still remains beyond the consideration of many environmentalists. They cite the lack of current awareness and assembled data on household pollutants as the reason for this book. The book catalogues household pollutants including: aerosol sprays, building materials, clothing and fabric care products, dust, emissions from heating and cooling devices, furniture and floor polishes, garbage and solid wastes, etc. The issues are explored in 300 pages of print.

This is a contribution to thinking about women and the consumer society because it breaks down the assumption that the home is a place that is safe from the hazards that we are more likely to associate with public environments such as highways and the workplace. As such it is taking the home as a workplace seriously, and it demonstrates that housewives are exposed to work-related hazards of which we should be aware.

James Robertson, *Power Money and Sex: Towards a New Social Balance*. Marion Boyars, London, 1976.

Robertson summarizes the basic point in this book when he states that the traditional ideas that we have developed about power and wealth, together with our traditional sex roles, were developed at a time when humans could exploit the resources provided by the environment without thought of replenishing them. He asserts that as more and more people come to see that conventionally accepted ideas about power, money and sex have a negative performance value, in the sense that they do not enable us to go forward as a species into the future cohesively and with confidence in our survival, the pressures to replace them with ideas better fitted to the new environment will grow stronger and stronger. This book is different from some of the others which have been reviewed in this section, in that it expresses the views of an author who is not only male, but who has also had considerable experience in both British government and financial circles. This makes the book worth reading as a statement of the problem from an informed vantage point.

Newsletter Subscribers

Bernstein, Judith
28A Woodland Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94117

Involved in housing for the elderly — planning and evaluation; since so many of the tenants are women and so many of the architects are men, there is often a lack of understanding of the daily needs and activities of female tenants.

Blum, Dena
690 S. Burlington Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Un-related group living situations (design of space), colour and light as aspects of nurturing design environments, public centres for women public arts facilities/ centers.

Boston Women's Health
Book Collective,
Box 192,
West Somerville, MA 02144

Nuclear Power, 2,4 D and 2, 4 5 — T, Teratogens etc.

Boyer, Gene
218 Front Street,
Beaver Dam, Wis. 53916

Interior designer.

Burton, Lydia
8 Admiral Road
Toronto M54 2L5

Attitudes toward women's changing roles and towards women's physical environments; women's perception of these and responses to them, especially as reflected in fiction; and women as developers of a counterculture.

Carroll, B.
16 Robinson St. S.
Grimsby, Ontario L3M 3C4

Women and environmental issues in the European economic community. Women in hostile environments.

Cropper, Ann
Chisell House
Marsh Green, Edenbridge,
Kent TN8 5PR, England

De Carlo, Mary C.
Volunteer Development Institute
2611 Bowling Green Drive
Vienna, VA. 22180

Publish a newsletter entitled "Options". Interested in the impact of volunteering on the career aspirations of women.

Dresser, Madge
Humanities Department
Bristol Polytechnic
St. Mathias Site,
Fishponds, Bristol, England

Urban history Britain/U.S.A. 19-20 century import of urbanization on role of women.

Haines, Sylvia
79 Fern Ave.
Toronto

Planning for special needs of women, children and elderly.

Hayden, Delores
School of Architecture &
Urban Planning
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024

History of housing and history of women's campaigns as feminists and as socialist feminists, to reorganize housing and community facilities to suit their interests.

Holcomb, Briavel
Rutgers,
Livingston College,
Department of
Community Development
New Brunswick, N.J. 08903

Geographer, interested in environmental design for and by women.

Hopkins, Arlene
138 Downey Street,
San Francisco, CA 94117

Gernet, Lynn
211 W 106 Street,
No. 7D, New York, NY 10025

Economics of housing; mixed use women's spaces.

Klessen, Kathleen
329 Alvarado No. C
Redlands, CA 92373

Women and poverty. Women taking economic control of their lives.

Lakeman, Sandra Davis
College of Architecture
University of Arizona
Tucson Arizona 85712

Leavitt, Jacqueline
Columbia University
Division of Urban Planning
410 Ha Avery
New York, NY 10027

Career patterns and employment, housing and community development.

Library,
Department of Planning &
Urban Development
403 Municipal Building,
166 S. High Street,
Akron, Ohio 44308

Planning, environment, housing, employment recreation, education.

Lindover, Sally
535 Commercial Street,
Provincetown, Mass. 02657

Health issues, single middle aged women in communal housing (urban).

McClain, Janet
163 Frank Street, No. 2,
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0X4

Institutional environments. Access to better environments and community service facilities for low income women. Women and housing.

McCoy, Margarita
1625 Kashlan Road
La Habra Heights, CA 90631

Urban environments for people in the groups to which they are currently committed.

Oaksen, Heather Dew
110 E Denny Way,
Seattle, WA 98122

Low income women and minority women. Their distinct needs and environments.

Pemberton, Dixie Ann
UNCEES/HPEL Box 775
Cambridge, MD 21613

New understanding from cross cultural studies professionals: who they are and what they do environmental hazards of/for women in management.

Redding, Lynn
311 Washington Ave.
Apartment E-1,
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Communication networks, their possibilities and affects within the environment, especially information exchanges to create a more cybernetic environment.

Rubbo, Anna
1128 Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104

Women in architectural practice: women and housing in developing countries.

Schiff, Myra
Apartment 304,
375 Brunswick Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2Z3

Sussman, Nancy Louise
Route 1, Box 2150
Davis California 95616

Women involved in carpentry, construction jobs, restoration, architecture, dealing with non-traditional work environments.

Sweet, Marnie
41 Corson Avenue,
Akron Ohio 44302

Planning for women; female headed households.

Synge, Jane
Sociology Department
McMaster University,
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4M4

History of family.

Tognoli, Jerome
Psychology Department
C.W. Post Center of
Long Island University,
Greenvale, NY 11548

The relationship between sex roles and domestic space with emphasis on men and boys analysis of sex bias in the media regarding the home.