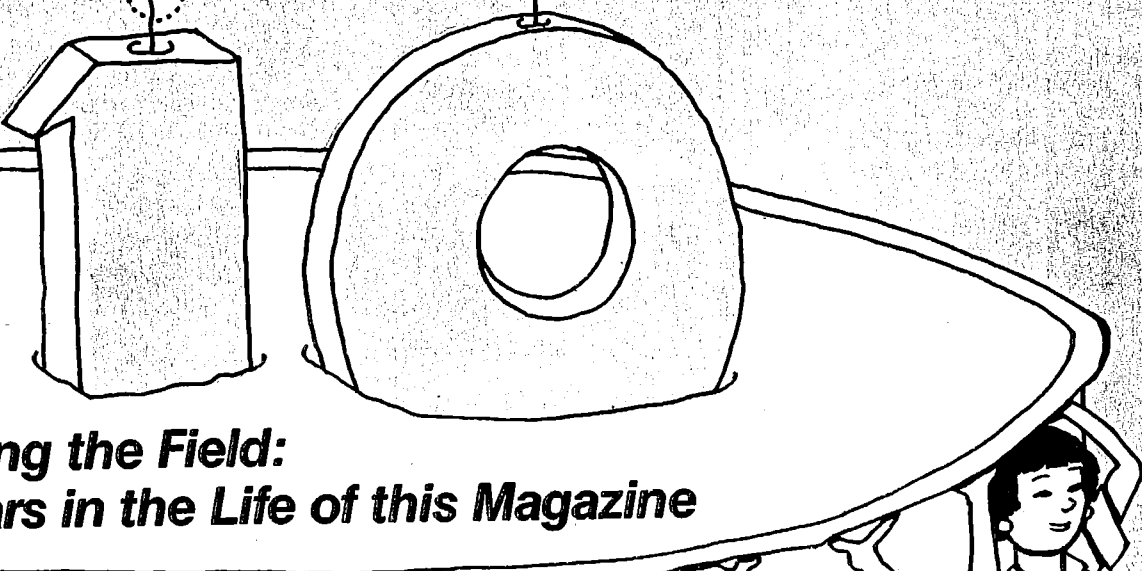


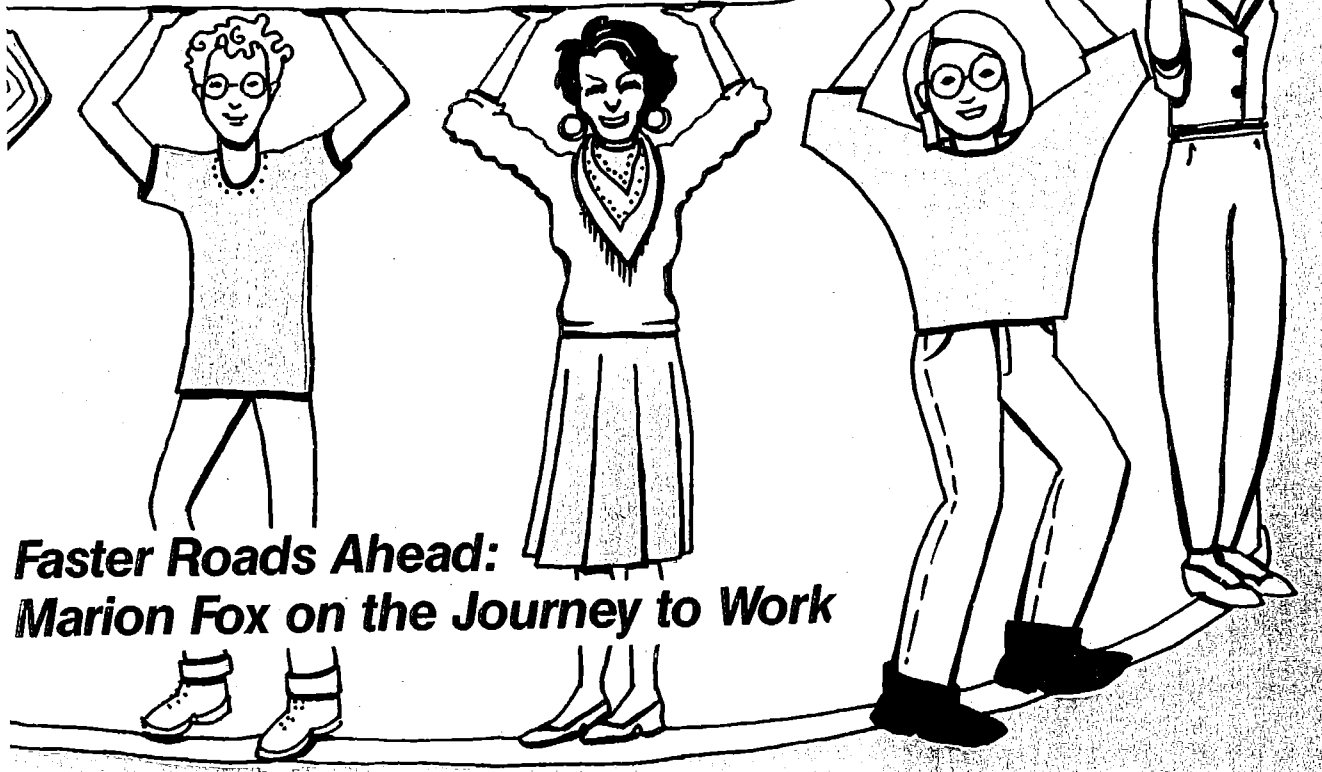
# WOMEN & ENVIRONMENTS

Special  
Anniversary Issue

Fall 1986  
\$3



**Nurturing the Field:  
Ten Years in the Life of this Magazine**



**Faster Roads Ahead:  
Marion Fox on the Journey to Work**

# EVENTS

November 13-16

## Council of Communication Organizations: A Women's Network

Women in a coalition of communications organizations, caucuses and committees are forming a national network. They will meet at the Speech Communication Association conference in Chicago to prepare a statement of their goals.

Contact: Ramona R. Rush, Dept of Communications, University of Kentucky, Lexington KY 40506 (606) 257-7809

November 14-16

## Women Living in the North

The Yukon Status of Women Council 1986 Conference focuses on northern women's issues. A festival of women's films will be held in conjunction with the conference.

Contact: Yukon Status of Women Council, 302 Steele St., Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C5 (403) 667-4637

November 27

## Household Hazards

Forum on the danger of housework with Harriet Rosenberg, author of *Through the Kitchen Window: the Politics of Home and Family*. At the South Riverdale Community Health Centre, 126 Pape Avenue, Toronto, 7:30 pm

December 8-12

## The Use of Human Rights by Disadvantaged Groups

UNESCO experts' meeting in Quebec City will focus on specific groups such as the economically disadvantaged, women, the elderly and the differently-abled

Contact: Women's Programme, Secretary of State, 15 Eddy St., Hull, Quebec K1A 0M5 (819) 994-3190

December 12-14

## National Housing and Economic Development Conference

The National Housing Institute, Planners Network and other housing organizations will sponsor the conference at the National 4H Centre, Washington DC.

Contact: Planners Network, 1901 Que Street, NW, Washington DC 20009 (202) 234-9382

1987

January 22-25

## Women and the Military System

A symposium arranged by the international Peace Bureau and the Peace Union of Finland.

Contact: "Women and the Military System", c/o Peace Union of Finland, Sakhottajankatu 6, 00520 Helsinki, Finland

March 6-8

## Women in the Director's Chair Film and Video Festival

Contact: Women in the Director's Chair, PO Box 4044, Chicago IL 60654

March 25-29

## American Culture Association 1987 meetings

Sessions on women's studies will be included in the meetings, to be held at the Queen Elizabeth and Chateau Champlain hotels in Montreal.

Contact: Molly Freier, English, Indiana University East, 2325 Chester Blvd, Richmond IN 47374.

April 2-5

## Atlantic Women and Housing Conference in St Joseph, Nova Scotia.

Rescheduled from November 1986, the Conference will bring together housing people from many backgrounds and involvements to address women's housing issues from a regional perspective. Registration for government and business, \$195; others, \$50. Subsidies may be available.

Contact: Atlantic Women and Housing Conference, 1094 Tower Rd., Halifax NS B3H 2Y5

May 23-28

## 5th International Women and Health Meeting

The main themes include: population policies and reproductive rights, environmental health hazards, drugs, and health care systems.

Contact: CEFEMINA, Centro Feminista de Informacion y Accion, Apdo. 5355, San Jose 1000, Costa Rica

May 29-June 2, 1987

## Public Environments: an International Forum on Environmental Design Research

EDRA 18 conference in Ottawa, co-sponsored by Canadian government departments. Submissions deadline, October 1, 1986

Contact: Conference Secretariat, 275 Bay St., Ottawa, Ont. K1R 5Z5

June 24-28

## Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment

The National Women's Studies Association celebrates its 10th Anniversary. The conference theme emphasizes the intersection of race and gender. Feminist scholarship of all kinds, workshops, discussions, films, and cultural events will be included.

Contact: NWSA '87, Emory University, PO Box 21223, Atlanta GA 30322 (404) 727-7845

July 6-10

## Womens' Worlds: Visions and Revisions

The Third International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women will be held at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. A variety of topics will be covered: Language, politics, the nuclear threat, relationships, sexuality, work, religion and spirituality, health, violence, education, and environmental/ecological issues.

Contact: 3rd International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, 44 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4, Ireland Tel. 688244, Telex 31098

Fall 1987

## National Congress of Neighbourhood Women

Women are planning a national/international conference emphasising successful housing strategies and models for low-income women. Co-sponsored by the Women's Division of the State of New Jersey, where it will be held, the conference will be an invitation-only event for community women and professionals involved with groups doing housing for low-income women.

Interested groups should contact: NCNW, 249 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn NY 11211 (718) 388-6666

WINTER ISSUE DEADLINES:

January 15, 1987 for Events

December 30, 1986 for all other copy

# WOMEN & ENVIRONMENTS

Vol. 8, No. 3, Fall 1986

## Issues for our Second Decade

### The Birth and Growth of *Women and Environments*

Gerda R. Wekerle

### Ten Active Years: A Review of Women and Environments Research

Rebecca Peterson

### Insider/Outsider: Susan Meiselas and her Radical Photojournalism

Shloime Perel

### Faster Journeys to Suburban Jobs

Marion B. Fox

### Women Nurture the World, Nairobi 1985

### Out in the Field

### Reviews

### In Print

### Resources

**Editor:** Judith Kjellberg

**Editorial Board:** Gay Alexander, Kate Lazier, Regula Modlich, Anella Parker Martin, Rebecca Peterson, Susan Prentice, Barbara Sanford, Adrienne Scott, Marie Truelove, Miriam Wyman.

**Book Review Editor:** Marie Truelove

**Editorial Assistants:** Barbara Carss, Kate Lazier, Susan Prentice, Adrienne Scott, Anila Sunnak

**Circulation:** Kate Lazier

**Promotion:** Gay Alexander, Kate Lazier, Regula Modlich, Miriam Wyman

**Management Advisory Committee:** Larry Bourne, Susan Eckenwalder, Lorraine Filyer, Miriam Wyman

**Layout and Design:** Barbara Sanford

**Typesetting and Assembly:** Danny Abraham, Sandra Sarnier

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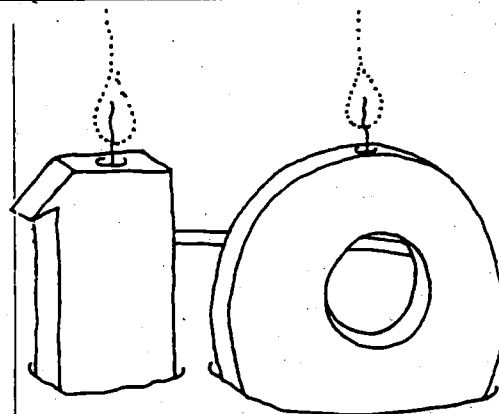
**Cover Illustration:** ©Barbara Sanford

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**Subscription Rates:** Individuals \$9/year, \$15/2 years, Institutions \$15/year. Overseas subscribers add \$3/year surface, \$5 airmail. Back copies \$3.

With grateful acknowledgement for funding assistance from the Secretary of State of Canada. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Secretary of State.

*Women and Environments* is published jointly by the Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University.



## A WORD FROM US

4 Twice a year the Editorial Board of *Women and Environments* goes away for a day of reflection and planning. It is a day to renew the magazine and to renew ourselves. 1986 is our 10th anniversary. This gave us an opportunity to celebrate how far we and the magazine have come, as well as a time to make choices for the future.

6 Thus our summer retreat this year dealt with some fundamental questions: What is the magazine about? How relevant is it to our current readership — and indeed to the issues that women face in the nearly-1990s? How and in what directions will it develop over the next 10 years?

9 Underlying our discussion was a strong awareness of the collective responsibility we have assumed in the magazine and the powerful potential of this medium of communication. A heavy agenda indeed.

12 Six keys emerged to the place that we want to see the magazine occupy:

- to continue to identify, help shape and support issues of social change, so much of which is closely related to — even defined by — women's issues;
- to develop a strong advocacy role in support of these issues;
- to be more accessible to a wider readership by adopting a less "academic" approach and by recognizing the power of personal experience to illuminate issues of social and political significance;
- to be useful to — and needed by — our readers, professionally and in their daily lives;
- to enable networks and connections to emerge;
- to be supportive and sustaining to women everywhere who are struggling to make changes in our environments.

15 We agreed to push our definition of environments beyond the physical to the organizational. Most of us now spend much of our time working away from home, making the organization of these workplaces central to the quality of life for us and for our families. Health presents another focus for change, as women search for different approaches which would emphasize choice, access, understanding and control.

22 *Continues overleaf*

There is one theme which underlies all the areas of our interest: the intertwined threads of political and economic power. Access to power at any level of society and in any lifespaces, is still denied to women.

To write successfully in our additional areas of focus requires good connections to women who are actively pursuing change within them. Our board is evolving to include such women, but we also need input from you, our readers. Please write to us, let us know what you are doing.

On these pages we look at some of the major issues facing women and environments as we start our second decade. Others may yet emerge.



Barbara Sanford

## Work Environments

For over 50 per cent of women (in industrialized nations) the workplace means not only their home, but also offices, factories and institutions. It has therefore become key to the economic and social quality of our lives and those of our families. Barriers still remain to women's access to work: education, training, domestic labour, children and the pervasive ideology which still sees women's prime role as homemakers. The workplace itself raises fundamental issues around pay equity, discrimination, health and harassment. The culture and design of organizations is reflected in these and other issues. How are women faring in these organizations? Are the experiences changing women or are women changing the workplace?

# Issues for Our Second Decade



Marie Truelove

## Housing

The International Year of Shelter for the homeless will focus great energies on issues of affordable housing and lack of shelter; we want a strong recognition from the IYSH that these are women's issues. The number of women, especially with children, searching for somewhere to live is an appalling reflection of what our society has become. Access is severely circumscribed by our lower incomes; the predominance of women and children in the rental and — especially — the social housing sector is creating patterns of housing tenure segregated by gender. With housing design and suburban locations still supposing the traditional family models, housing can become an enslaving trap.

But there are alternatives — in design, in financing, and in organization and control — which we will continue to bring forward. In the fall of 1987 we will focus on the homelessness issue.



Gay Alexander



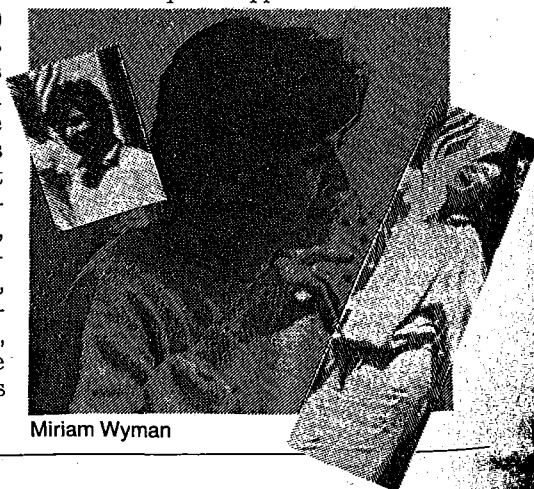
Anella Parker Martin

## Transportation

Women are the heaviest users of public transportation, but it is not attuned to our needs; our lower incomes and (if in a couple) secondary employment status mean barriers to our access to cars. Searching for jobs becomes governed by transit routes and time constraints, while opportunities are moving to the suburbs where transit is less convenient. Dependence on public transport complicates so much of our daily life: housing search, child care, visiting, shopping, recreation. Mobility also involves safety — on the streets, waiting for buses and trains, in parking garages. And it means accommodating pedestrians and bicycles, strollers, walking canes and wheelchairs. A landscape that takes account of all our needs presents a more human and lively face.

## Health

Choice, alternatives, "well-woman" care are hallmarks of health care that serves women. For *Women and Environments* the issues are access to services, the functional and philosophical design of facilities, and environmental health. Women face a particular relationship to workplace health and safety, including the specific issue of VDTs, which raises the unsettling question of protective legislation. In the home, chemicals and cleansers present health risks. In the broader community, environmental health issues impact in particular ways on women: acid rain, water, toxic waste dumps, lead, nuclear safety . . . the list goes on. We also face the mental stress associated with isolation and with pressure to fulfill all our roles without adequate support.



Miriam Wyman

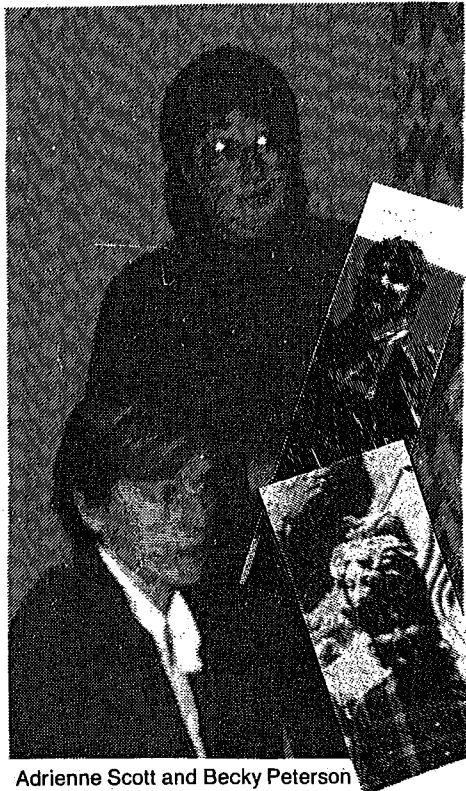
## Planning and Community Development

Communities and neighbourhoods are more than geographic and physical settings. Planning (zoning and design), housing, commercial and community space, services (both public and private) as well as networks of people and groups come together to create settings which support a diversity of needs and uses. The images which people have of "neighbourhood" strongly influences the way such settings are planned, developed and maintained. When the dominant image is based on an outdated and unrealistic view of family and community life, the results create settings which impede and frustrate many of the people who live there.

For us women, in all our roles, just as for seniors and all kinds of minority groups, the planning and design of our neighbourhoods — from the kitchen in our houses to the distance to the shops, from the convenience and safety of parks and playgrounds to the availability of daycare, health and educational services — can create daily hassles or help us cope.

Many of us need to find local employment or to work out of our homes. We need an environment that supports development of our skills, and we need services that are easily physically accessible and which are "user friendly" for parents with toddlers in tow.

We come back to the dominant image of the planner. *Women and Environments* will continue to advocate the inclusion of other realities into both the planning of neighbourhoods and the delivery of services.



Adrienne Scott and Becky Peterson



Kate Lazier

Reggie Modlich

## The Natural Environment

We are deeply committed to a world which preserves its environment: to peace and development rather than destruction and exploitation; to a conserver rather than consumer society; to mutual aid rather than competition; to sustaining and satisfying work rather than quick fix technology. We will be exploring the nature of women's relationship to the environment, the ideas of ecofeminism and the experiences of women environmental activists.

## Social Change

While we have described these issues from the perspective of city dwellers, they can be applied just as forcefully to women in rural environments, where problems are compounded by isolation; and many-fold to women in developing countries, whose struggle is frequently for survival itself.

These issues cannot be adequately addressed without changes in the way our society is organized. Some small improvements on the road to a more equitable division of power, money and work have been made, but we still have a vast distance to go. Our contribution is to continue to point out the problems but also, and more important, to point to solutions, even if these are only small incremental improvements.

We will celebrate the accomplishments of women and support the innovations they are creating. And as a board we will continue to work together to produce a successful magazine — and in a way that is cooperative, collaborative and sustaining for each one of us as individuals.



Judith Kjellberg

## An Invitation to Contributors

We are always looking for new material. Help us to keep up-to-date and in touch by sending:

- News of what you or your group are working on;
- Observations** about what is happening in your area;
- Announcements** for our events page;
- Letters:** Let us know what you think!
- References** and abstracts of books and articles to be noted "In Print";
- Reviews** (short ones) of books or shows;
- Articles** (to a maximum of 2,500 words) that you think our readers

would like or — better — an outline; we will send back comments and our guidelines.

All submissions (except letters) should be typed, double-spaced. Manuscripts are not normally returned unless specifically requested. We regret that we cannot pay authors.

**Graphics:** We welcome line drawings, and black and white photographs for illustrations (\$5-10 if we use them). We also invite ideas for cover designs; we offer \$50 for those that we use. Themes over the next year include Homelessness, History, and Work Environments.



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# The Birth and Growth of **WOMEN & ENVIRONMENTS**

By GERDA R. WEKERLE

**W**omen and Environments is unusual among feminist publications. Unusual in that it anticipated, and indeed helped create, the development of a new field of study.

From the outset, it was our ambition to bridge two large interdisciplinary fields — women's studies and planning/urban and environmental studies. Both of these areas had ignored the role of space and environments as these affected women's daily lives and opportunities. We saw the publication appealing to a diverse readership — academics, practitioners, women in the community — and tried through design and content to position it somewhere between an academic journal and a more popular feminist publication. While based at a Canadian university, *Women and Environments* has been international from the start, carrying news of organizations, projects, events and research from both Canada and the United States and, to a lesser degree, from European and Third World countries.

## Birth

*Women and Environments* was founded in 1976, in the aftermath of the UN conference on Human Settlements — Habitat. We (Gerda Wekerle, Rebecca Peterson, and David Morley) from the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University organized a workshop on women and environments. We discovered that we were not alone in our interests and concerns; the

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*Gerda Wekerle is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University and one of the founders of the magazine.*

*This is a revised version of a paper presented at a session on "Getting into Print" at the First Annual Canadian Women's Studies Conference, York University, April 19, 1985.*

session attracted almost 100 people from around the world who were either doing research on the interrelationship between environments and women's lives or working in the community to create environments more responsive to women's needs. We were exhilarated to find that others were thinking, writing, and teaching about the issues we felt required attention. We saw the need for a small informal newsletter to keep this tiny but widespread network alive.

The first indications that a new "field" was in the process of creation were the special sessions on women and space that started to appear on programs at established conferences, such as the Environmental Design Research Associates, or the American Association of Geographers. In a few cases, a whole conference was devoted to these topics — such as when women planners associated with the National Capital Commission in Ottawa organized a conference on Women in the Urban Environment. We contributed to many of these early sessions, prepared brief reports for our newsletter and begged and cajoled everyone we met to submit news or articles. We noted the creation of new courses on women and environments in university curricula, and reported on the projects, such as the Los Angeles Women's Building, where women successfully created and controlled their own environments. Ten years later, *Women and Environments* is still in business, having grown from a short typed newsletter distributed free, to a magazine with subscribers in a dozen countries.

## Growing

In the past decade, the field of women and environments has grown from a very loose-knit and small network of academics and activists (many of whom already knew one another) struggling for visibility, to a widening circle slowly gaining recognition and

acceptance — both politically and academically. The growth of *Women and Environments* has paralleled this. Starting out as an informal activity of its founders, the magazine has now evolved into a more formalized structure with its own editorial board. Lately, it has made the transition to a wider sharing of both management and editorial responsibilities.

The university has traditionally been an incubator of small publications; esoteric scholarly journals, broadsides of the left and, increasingly, feminist publications of all types. Long before electronic switchboards, newsletters linked thousands of small working groups in the academic world — as they did within communities — communicating to people engaged in similar work. Initially, we put together a brief newsletter which we sent out to a mailing list of about 100 people. After the second issue David Morley stepped down, and the newsletter became the joint responsibility of Becky Peterson and me. We had no long-term goals or any sense that we were starting a publication as such. We had no experience in publishing a newsletter, or in graphic skills.

The university provided us with several important resources which made the whole enterprise seem feasible: graduate assistants to help with the publication, a mailing address, and a small grant to cover expenses. Over the course of two years, we sent out four newsletters. We rapidly became a clearinghouse for information about on-going research and action projects, courses and bibliographies — materials which were hard to find, often unpublished, and not yet abstracted in the conventional sources. Our readers included architects and city planners, community leaders, academics and civil servants. While separate organizations of women in architecture, planning and geography were being established in the United States, Canada, the UK, Australia and various European

countries, there was no organization or publication which crossed disciplinary boundaries or national borders.

We were becoming too successful; our mailing list grew to 600 names and the cost of postage and duplicating could no longer be absorbed by the university, which had never officially decided to go into the feminist publishing business. Questions were raised about committing resources to what was seen as a "personal" project of two faculty members. The university administration was concerned about possible financial liability if the enterprise were to fail. We began to realize how fragile our support system really was.

## Shift to Formal Economy

Generating income through subscriptions seemed to be the answer to our funding problems. The key question was — could we survive a shift from unpaid newsletter to paid subscriptions? If readers paid, our approach had to become more professional — the publication would have to look better, come out on time, and compete with many other publications. We made the switch in 1978, only to find that our readership dropped to a little over 100 — too few to cover costs. We were caught in a vicious circle. Because we had so few subscribers we scarcely had money to publish an issue. Sometimes we were very late, waiting for money to accumulate in our bank account to pay the printer and post office. This erratic schedule tended to drive away all but the most loyal subscribers. We had no money left over for promotion, renewal letters, or flyers. Funding agencies like the Secretary of State Women's Program, which assisted other feminist publications, would not con-

sider us because we were so small and had no proven record.

If *Women and Environments* were to survive, we would have to treat it more like a small business and less like an academic enterprise. It was not enough to provide information — we had to learn to market the publication, to find new subscribers and, most important, keep them at renewal time. We attended workshops on magazine design, production and marketing. Through our contacts with other feminist publications and organizations we found low cost printers and typesetters; we cooperated in joint advertising campaigns and traded mailing lists.

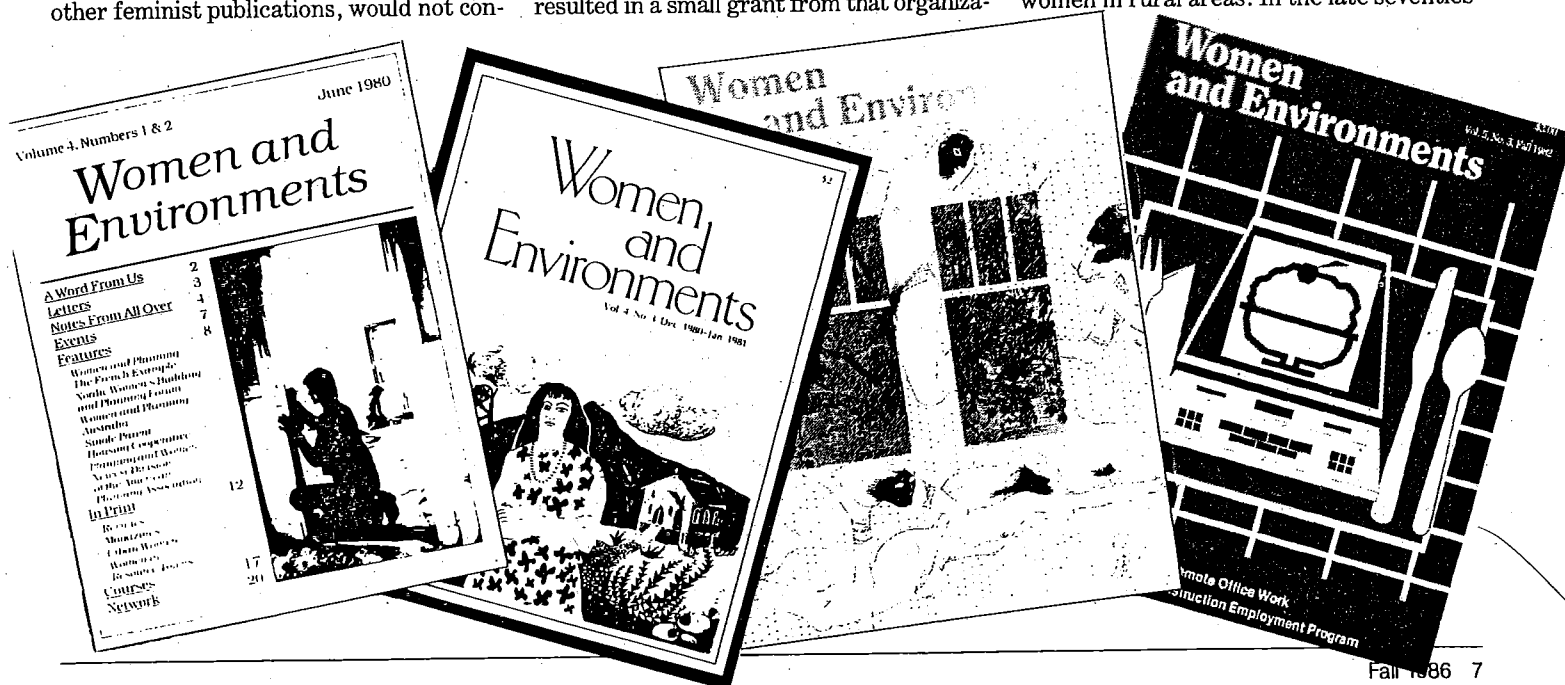
The woman power for all of these tasks remained Becky Peterson and me. We relied heavily on our graduate assistants, who spent up to ten hours a week each on circulation, editorial tasks, and mailing. To mention just a few these included Jennifer Penney (who subsequently went on to be a founder of *Healthsharing*), Susan Coen, Brenda Linington, Hester Vair (who computerized our circulation) and Jake Brooks and Mary Newton who helped us with marketing and management. However, the inevitable turnover of students strained our resources and precious time.

Throughout, other women have gone out of their way to help us. Our first break came in 1980 when the Secretary of State Women's Program gave us a small grant for promotion. One of the program officers with an interest in women and housing phoned a week before the end of the budget year with the news that a very small amount of money was left — could we submit an application within a couple of days? I dropped everything, wrote the application, sent it by courier and received our first grant ever. A chance meeting at a women's conference with a funding officer from UNESCO resulted in a small grant from that organiza-

tion. With this money, we were able to print 5,000 copies of our first flyer and design a direct mail and regular renewal campaign. Feminist journalists Michele Landsberg at the *Toronto Star* and Penney Kome at *Homemakers*, a women's consumer magazine, were generous in their support by writing small news items which gave us much needed and free publicity. *Ms. Magazine* included us in a resource list. Within a year, we doubled the number of our subscribers, were listed by major abstracting services, and reviewed in a number of publications.

We were ambitious in our coverage: we wanted *Women and Environments* to give equal attention to urban and rural topics, to the built and natural environment; and to Canada and the United States as well as provide intelligence about activities in other parts of the world. We used our networks to find correspondents to report on women and environments activities in Australia, New Zealand, France and the Nordic countries. We were less successful in finding correspondents from the Third World. Before it became "fashionable" we carried items on single parent housing and new projects designed for this group. We searched for women's innovations in changing and shaping environments and profiled efforts such as the Women's Construction Employment Program and women's transit projects years before they were discovered by more mainstream feminist publications. Housing and planning for women became, in time, a major focus in articles, news and reports.

We were less successful in covering rural women's activities and the development of ecofeminism, although the early issues show a continuing concern with these areas. We highlighted the importance of work on women in single industry and northern communities, and published articles on battered women in rural areas. In the late seventies





and early eighties, small feminist groups concerned with the environment, nature, energy, technology and the anti-nuclear movement seemed in a state of flux. No sooner had we set up correspondents or an exchange, than the organization changed or the publication ceased. While these issues remained a continuing concern over the years, we were unable to develop the same depth as in our coverage of the built environment and women's activities in urban areas.

A major focus was networking. Our second issue included a list of readers, their interests and addresses. We hoped that this would break down some of the isolation our readers were experiencing — being the only one, for instance, in a university to teach a course on women and geography. This focus on what readers are doing continued, with one issue devoted to a network list; some of our readers become ongoing correspondents.

Initially we had to dig for our material and write most of the copy ourselves. This has changed over the years — we now have more material than we can use. The content itself has changed from reporting on people, organizations and events to original articles. Graphically, a major change was the switch in 1982 to a glossy cover with original artwork.

## Maturity

Despite this success, we were not economically self-sufficient. Like most other small feminist or alternative publications in Canada, we required (and still do) a subsidy to break even. Our greatest strength — the fact that our readers were drawn from a dozen disciplines, many countries, from urban and rural areas — was also a weakness. We could not rely on a parent organization, a single profession or discipline to subsidize the publication. Nor could we easily target our subscribers

geographically. We found, also, that the demands on us had escalated to the breaking point: in addition to our full-time jobs as professors in a graduate program responsible for teaching, research, and administration, we were also publishers, promoters, fund raisers, book-keepers, circulation managers, office managers, and more. The enterprise was getting beyond what two professors and a couple of students could manage.

Everything came to a head when both Becky and I started having babies. Possibly the lowest point in my association with *Women and Environments* occurred on May 24, 1980, the day my daughter Bryn was born. A few hours after the birth, the typesetter showed up at the doorstep of my home with 24 pages of type. Trying to proof-read, organize the layout, negotiate with a printer and mail out the magazine seemed as impossible as scaling Mount Everest that summer. The issue went out (eventually), Bryn and I survived, but it became obvious that our relationship to the magazine had to change. In 1981, Becky's first child, Eric, was born. Although Becky and I published six more issues, we started an active search for other people to take over some responsibility for the publication.

By fall of 1983 we had identified a group of local women whom we knew shared our concerns in the field and our aspirations for the magazine. An editorial board was formed, a board which took increasingly more responsibility for generating material, editing and management in general. It was, and still is, a learning experience, but one which promises to ensure the continuation of the magazine.

## After the Founders

The point at which the founders burn out is critical for a feminist publication — either it

folds or someone else takes it over. In 1984 we were fortunate to find Judith Kjellberg at the Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto to take over. When asked whether she might be interested in being the editor and publisher of *Women and Environments*, she astounded me by saying "I've always been interested in being in publishing." *Women and Environments* is now jointly sponsored by the Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. As Judith took it over our very informal arrangements became more formalized, agreements of support were drawn up and signed, a budgeting system was set up, and a management committee struck. A grant from the Secretary of State Women's Program addressed our greatest need — a part-time office manager.

In looking back on the past ten years of my association with *Women and Environments*, I'm struck by our naiveté and our chutzpah. We kept a publication going without staff, funds, or any ongoing commitment from the university or any other organization. We found our readers all over the world. We stayed independent, holding true to our original mandate to foster communication among academics, practitioners, and activists working on environmental concerns important to women. We led the field in identifying as feminist issues land use and zoning, supportive housing for single parents, and women's relation to nature. When I see citations to *Women and Environments* articles in new books on housing, planning, and environmentalism, in journals published in New Zealand, the Netherlands, England, Germany, and the United States, I am enormously proud. *Women and Environments* has not so much "covered" a new field as helped to create it. □



I have found the difficulty of reviewing ten years of development in women and environments research to be paradoxically heartening. Very little had been written when this magazine started as a newsletter in 1976; since then, the literature has burgeoned.<sup>1</sup> The number of books, journal articles and, indeed, whole journals devoted to women and environments<sup>2</sup> has steadily increased. Women and environments as a field of study has become an accepted and respected area in many disciplines. The next stage is for these topics to be included in textbooks, which is slowly occurring. The appearance of entire texts is truly worth celebrating: *Geography and Gender* and *Her Space, Her Place* are especially noteworthy examples.

Our early work on women and environments identified a number of research topics to be addressed,<sup>3</sup> reflecting concern with both the built and natural environments. Within the category of built-environment issues we included research on home design, design of neighbourhood-scale environments, wider questions of urban design, and the delivery of human services. In the area of natural environment research, our concerns included the lack of female participation in natural-environment action and decision making.

Recent research on the home has centred on the domestic work burden carried by women, and the ways in which housing design supports traditional gender roles and domesticity. Research in this area has focused on male/female differences in domestic life (values, images and work loads); some innovations in home design that would make domestic life easier; and some far-reaching changes such as kitchenless homes and other utopian images of home-city configurations that would revolutionize and communalize domestic work. Special user groups, such as single parents and elderly women have been identified as having different needs from the idealized nuclear family.<sup>4</sup>

In analyses of the city, writers have focused on the inadequacies of suburban living for women, especially the lack of opportunities in suburbs for activity outside the home. Various writers have identified problems of boredom and loneliness, lack of access to employment, public transportation inadequacies, and the special transportation deprivation of women who lack access to an automobile. In addition, urban and suburban women fall victim to restrictive zoning ordinances and the tendency toward social and functional homogeneity of the city coupled with inaccessibility and inadequacy of various public services vital to women's changing roles (such as day-care, neighbourhood-service houses, etc.)<sup>5</sup>

At the level between homes and wider

urban design issues, writers have examined women's lack of input in open space and park facilities, crime and defensible space issues for women, and the missing community services, public and commercial spaces in our immediate environment. On the more positive side, some public environments that women activists have created such as the Women's Building in Los Angeles, transitional houses and other feminist environmental innovations — have been held up as examples of the new kinds of user design.<sup>6</sup>

Much of the built-environment literature has focused on women's limited role in the planning and design professions, and in the political and economic processes through which our spaces are shaped. Some work has focused on political activism, some on self-help and ways of increasing women's participation in planning and design processes.<sup>7</sup>

With regard to the natural environment, a lively body of research on women and geography covers many of the questions of women in relationship to environments beyond that of home and city. Some writers have reviewed male and female differences in concern for environmental quality.<sup>8</sup>

Attention has also been given to the relationship of women in third world environ-

ments and different cultures to their built environments. The impact of development on women, and the strongly emerging issue of technology and its particular effect on women are also areas of increasing concern in the literature.<sup>9</sup>

Where do we go from here? Much remains to be explored. Let me suggest five emerging areas of concern:

- 1 Design for the elderly (mostly female populations);
- 2 Workplace hazards and design problems that particularly affect women;
- 3 Implementation of ideas for change in housing, neighbourhoods, and urban design which arise from grassroots participation processes and from research;
- 4 Linking European and North American analyses to problems in third world countries;
- 5 Viewing women and environments issues from the perspective of women and technology and using technological impact-assessment methods to determine the effect of new technologies on women.

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*Rebecca Peterson is a member of the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, and one of the founders of Women and Environments.*

# Ten Active Years

## A Review of Women and Environments Research

By REBECCA PETERSON

Design for the elderly has been a topic of concern in the environment and behaviour, housing, planning and gerontological literature for years. If this is the case, then why suggest that further research is necessary? The kind of new analysis required is its reframing as a women and environments issue because, as in other areas of study, the fact that women make up the primary group of users is often ignored. I would like to see special emphasis placed upon the questions of who makes the decisions about changes in planning and design processes, related to the shifting demographic patterns. Questions of control and choice by the user, and affordability are central to concerns about elderly women's environments. However one views the statistics, women still receive much lower wages than men and this has reverberations throughout the life-cycle.<sup>10</sup>

The second concern is workplace design as it relates to women. Already we know of issues that affect women: VDTs, ergonomics and health, air quality in sealed buildings, and the impact of open-plan offices on workers. As yet, analysis which focuses upon the special needs of women users in a comprehensive way has not been carried out. Of special concern to me are questions of user control over design decisions; the relation of women users to management decision making on air quality; bias in perception of women users by largely male building management specialists; possible differences in physiological response of male and female users of office environments; and the relationship of female job categories that are lower in the status hierarchy to behaviour patterns within office environments: eg, less freedom to leave the desk.

My third concern is with the implementation of participatory planning processes and other innovations which emerge from the analysis of women's needs in design and planning. Many groups are already working to implement ideas emerging from and related to these questions of women and the home, and women and the urban environment. Of particular note are the projects that include both housing and economic development undertaken by the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development in Boston, and also the cooperative housing experiments being undertaken in Canada. On the wider urban level, Women Plan Toronto, and the work of the former Women's Committee of the Greater London Council are attempts at grass roots participatory planning processes which are substantial. These initiatives are exciting but, given the need for change, more are required. In addition, an evaluation process could be built into these and future initiatives to increase understanding of what does and does not work in each case.<sup>12</sup>

## ***Emerging areas in women and environments research:***

- 1 Design for the elderly***
- 2 Hazards in the workplace***
- 3 Implementing change in housing, neighbourhoods and urban design***
- 4 Building links with the third world***
- 5 Effects of technology***

Fourth is the linking of North American women and environments concerns with those of women in developing countries. In a recent issue of *Women and Environments*, Lee Smith reported on the Women and Habitat Workshop held at the Nairobi end-of-decade conference, highlighting problems of housing for low-income women, especially single parents, as being critical worldwide. In this area the needs of women in developing countries parallels those of low-income women in North America. Some comparison of the environmental needs of women in developing and more developed countries has been initiated — by Ardener, for

example, and a special issue of *Ekistics* edited by Sakellariou and Psomopolous — but more research comparing and contrasting needs of women in different countries should be pursued. In this regard the energies of women returning from the Nairobi conference, the United Nations emphasis on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and resulting opportunities for international networking should not be underestimated. After all, this magazine is itself one example of a spin-off from the UN Conference on Human Settlements which was held in Vancouver in 1976.<sup>13</sup>

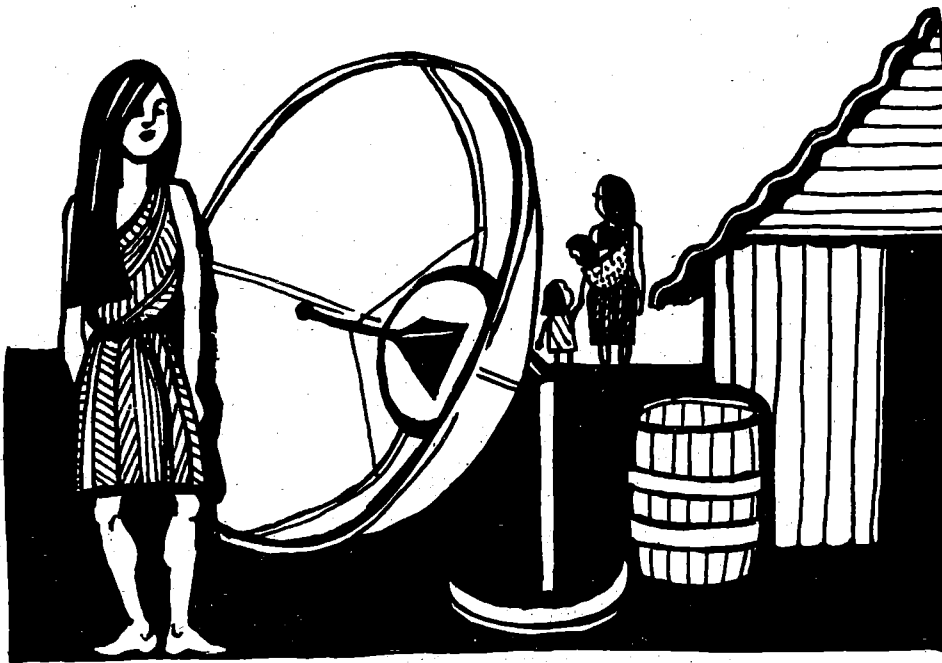
Fifth, I would like to suggest the possibility of viewing women and environments issues from the perspective of the effect of technology and involving women in assessing the potential impacts of new technologies upon them. Of interest in this regard are books by Cowan, Rothschild, and Zimmerman. We are surrounded by technologies — from the dishwasher, to video display terminals, to nuclear power — which have enormous impacts on all our environments. The lack of female input in the development of technologies raises a particular urgency to finding ways of involving women in their assessment and evaluation.<sup>14</sup>

Analysis of the women and environment field is itself changing; a new more clearly differentiated approach has emerged which separates women into major user groups and focuses upon their needs. This approach relies heavily upon life-cycle stages, marital status, employment status, and economic position to differentiate the needs of various groups of women.

It is also exciting that we are no longer



BARBARA SANFORD



talking about ideas which are only in the theoretical or research realm, but rather concerns which have become a part of the public planning process in many locations.<sup>15</sup> For example, an August 19, 1986 *Toronto Star* article described downtown office towers that provide rent-free space for daycare centres. In one case the developer will even pay for the heat, power, maintenance and property taxes for the non-profit centre which will be operated by the early childhood education program of a local community college. In exchange for this agreement, the city has allowed more floors in this development than were permitted under zoning regulations. However, since the deal was struck, the daycare centre has become an effective selling tool for them rather than a giveaway: "many developers will start seeing day-care as another convenience service which can be offered by a building, such as underground parking or a subway connection."

Another example of change is the community development effort that was organized in the suburb of Salisbury North near Adelaide, Australia.<sup>16</sup> Salisbury North was identified by previous research as an environment devoid of services, with a lack of meeting places, inadequate transportation, and an acute problem of isolation among young mothers at home with children. The family support scheme was developed by the City of Salisbury and supported by a federal grant. Three home visitors were employed who worked on the premises that "(1) the women need each other's support to create changes that would transform their families, home and neighbourhoods; and (2) that considering transportation difficulties, accessible opportunities for developing social action had to be created within walking distance of the women's homes" (p. 123). The structure that

emerged was a network of small groups, rather than some sort of service organization. "Getting local people together to determine and reflect on 'felt needs' and solve their own problems is the basic change strategy, as opposed to the data-gathering strategy of planning, or the mass action strategies of the 'social change' approach" (p. 124).

These two examples illustrate ways in which planning processes have changed to incorporate some of the needs of women users. Other stories could be told, but many changes are required before we can be assured that a fundamental shift has occurred. In reflecting upon ten years of development of the field, and ten years of life with this magazine, it seemed appropriate to conclude with stories of things accomplished which can be celebrated by those who share a concern for women and their environments. □

1. The ideas presented in this article are based in part on ideas developed in two other articles by the same author. They are: R. Peterson, "Gender Issues in the Home and Urban Environment," in E. Zube & G. Moore, eds. *Advances in Environment, Behavior and Design*, New York: Plenum, forthcoming; and R. Peterson, "Women as a Special User Group in a Changing North American Cultural Context," *Environments*, forthcoming.

2. *Built Environment*, 10 (1) 1984; *Antipode*, 16(3) 1984; *Ekistics*, 52 (310) 1985; *Urban Resources*, 3 (2) 1986; *Sociological Focus*, 18 (2) 1985; 109-117.

3. R. Peterson, G. Wekerle, D. Morley, "Women and Environments: An Overview of an Emerging Field," *Environment and Behavior*, 10 (4) 1978: 511-534; G. Wekerle, R. Peterson, D. Morley, eds. *New Space for Women*, Boulder: Westview Press, 1980.

4. D. Hayden, *The Grand Domestic Revolution: A*

*History of Feminist Design for American Homes, Neighborhoods and Cities*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981; D. Hayden, *Redesigning the American Dream: The Future of Housing, Work and Family Life*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1984; E. Birch (ed.) *The Unsheltered Woman: Women and Housing in the 80's*. Rutgers University, Centre for Urban Policy Research, 1985.

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7. Matrix. *Making Space: Women and the Man Made Environment*. London: Pluto Press, 1984.

8. M.E. Mazey, D.R. Lee. *Her Space, Her Place: A Geography of Women*, Washington, D.C.: Association of American Geographers, 1983; W. Zelinsky, J. Monk, S. Hanson, "Women and Geography: Review and Prospectus," *Progress in Human Geography*, 6, 1982: 317-366; J. McStay, R. Dunlap, "Male-Female Differences in Concern for Environmental Quality," *International Journal of Women's Studies*, 6 (4) 1983: 291-301.

9. See footnote 13. Also see E. Moen, E. Boulding, J. Lillydahl, R. Palm, *Women and the Social Costs of Economic Development: Two Colorado Case Studies*, Boulder: Westview Press, 1981.

10. G. Wekerle, S. Mackenzie, "Reshaping the Neighbourhood of the Future as We Age in Place," *Canadian Woman Studies*, 6 (2) 1985: 69-72.

11. M. Craig. *The Office Worker's Survival Handbook: A Guide to Fighting Health Hazards in the Office*. London: BSSRS Publications, 1981; J. Makower, *Office Hazards*. Washington, D.C.: Tilden Press, 1981.

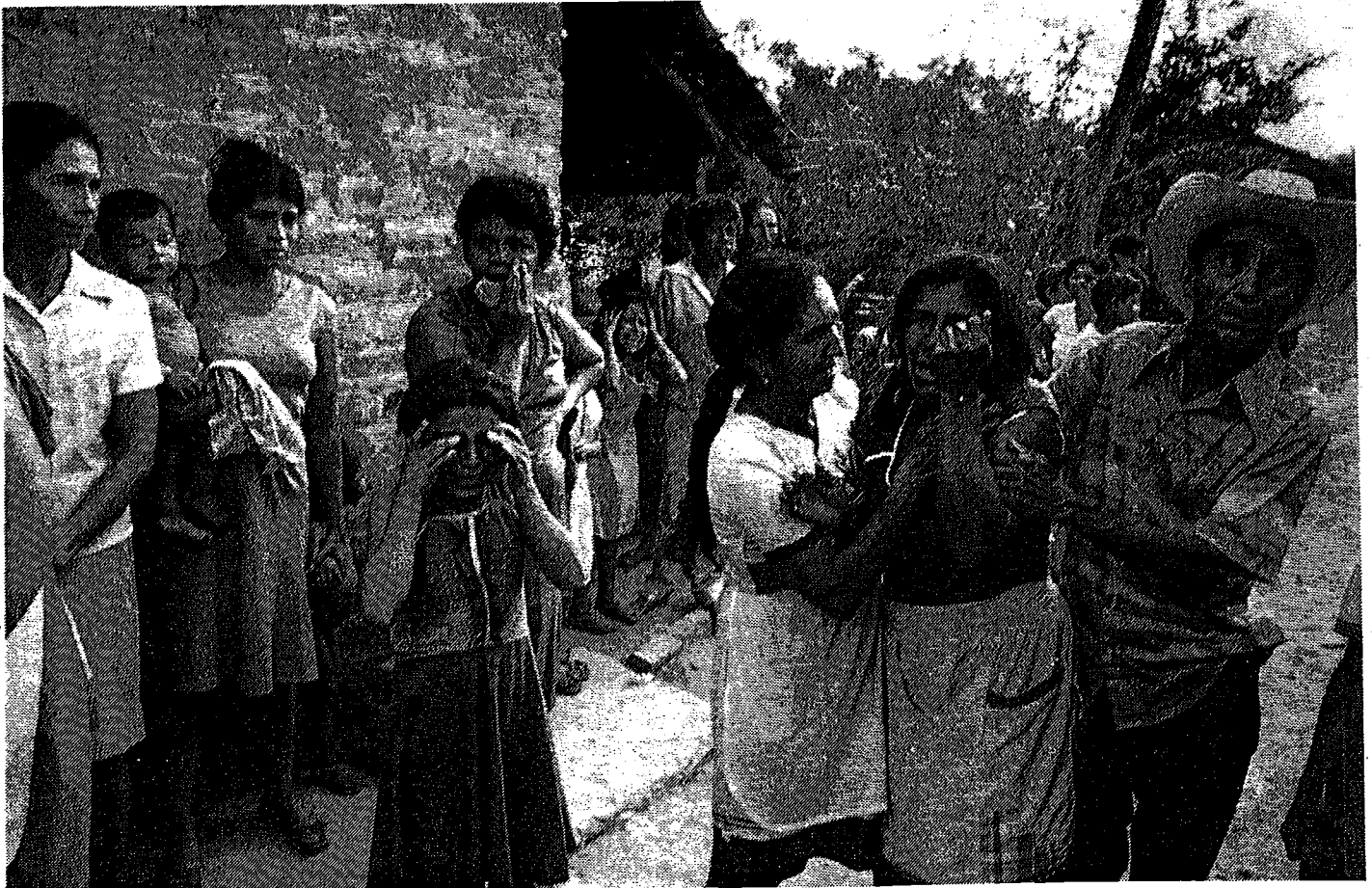
12. Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development. *A Development Primer*. Boston: WIHED, 1984; R. Modlich, "Women Plan Toronto," *Women and Environments*, 8 (1) 1986: 20.

13. D. Lee-Smith, "Nairobi 1985: Women and Habitat," *Women and Environments*, 8 (1) 1986: 7-9; S. Ardener, ed., *Women and Space: Ground Rules and Social Maps*, London: Croom Helm, 1981; B.D. Sakellariou & P. Psomopoulos, eds., "Women and Space in Human Settlements," *Ekistics*, 52 (310) 1985.

14. R.S. Cowan, *More Work for Mother: The Ironies of Household Technology From Open Hearth to the Microwave*. New York: Basic Books, 1983; J. Rothschild, ed. *Machina Ex Dea: Feminist Perspectives on Technology*. New York: Pergamon, 1983; J. Zimmerman, ed. *The Technological Woman: Interfacing with Tomorrow*. New York: Praeger, 1983.

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16. R. Egan, W. Sarkissian, D. Male, L. Hartman, "Coping with the Suburban Nightmare: Developing Community Supports in Australia," *Sociological Focus*, 18 (2) 1985: 119-126.



Mother of dead soldier receiving his coffin, Dolores.

# Insider/Outsider

## Susan Meiselas and her Radical Photojournalism

By SHLOIME PEREL

**P**icture this: Through the driver's window of a bus you see a man collecting for families of the "disappeared." San Salvador. His face sends a pleading, troubled message to the passersby. You are witnessing a moment of decision. Three people must decide whether to give for the families whose daughters or sons have been murdered or kidnapped. In the background are posters with slogans on workers' rights. The entire scene looks as though it occurs in an ongoing present.

This image was created by Susan Meiselas, a documentary photographer who

with rare intuition has portrayed the agony of day-to-day life and its related politics in El Salvador and Nicaragua, and now in the Philippines. She has published several photography books including *Carnival Strippers* (1976); an attempt to show the backstage reality and integrity of rural New England strippers, *Nicaragua* (1981) and *El Salvador* (1983).

Meiselas' work shows us that truly creative photojournalism is a matter of the "inner eye" combined with good technique and humanistic values. Her work straddles the boundaries of documentary and esthetic photography: "esthetic" in the sense of penetrating the emotional essence of human and societal situations, "documentary" in presenting an unquestionable reality. Thus, the photo on the "disappeared" expresses the heart wrenching pathos of having to

request tiny sums to help families stricken by the tragedy of political murder.

Meiselas lectured last winter at Montreal's Concordia University. She talked openly and reflectively of her interest in depicting culture in its fundamental aspects — at the grassroots — and of her strong commitment to oppose oppression through her work. Criticizing the approach generally taken by foreign correspondents which is to enter a country and exploit its people for photos, she stressed the need for sensitivity when living in and documenting another people's culture: "I don't feel myself to be like any other media person who lands in and then vultures a culture."

Her work began in the late seventies. In 1978, Meiselas read a New York Times story about the Somoza-inspired assassination of La Prensa's editor Pedro Joaquin

Chamorro. She noticed the absence of photos with the story and then with another Times story several days later. There were no foreign journalists in Nicaragua then.

"So I went, not on assignment," Meiselas says, "I went kind of with the curiosity of 'What is this place?' I also went with my own non-experience, which is growing up in the late 1960s in college. I had some notion

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***"I don't feel myself  
to be like any  
other media person who  
lands in and then  
vultures a culture."***

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of what demonstrations might be or what students would do, obviously not imagining that they might go into a full scale war.

"When I went to Nicaragua, it was before the media centred its focus on it, and I kind of evolved with the war and with the people that I faced in Nicaragua or El Salvador. And then, the media took over, and it was a kind of circus and one forgets what that's like. That's because when you're with them in the culture, you can be inside that media world but (also) kind of outside of it and looking at it. It was very problematic for me."

Meiselas elaborated extensively on the problems of photographing in another society: "I think when you find yourself in a foreign place, right from the beginning dealing with this notion of photographer/outsider, there's a constant preoccupation about what baggage you bring to a foreign land and how you get to see who they are through their own filters.

"I think there are a lot of stereotypes and if you look at the Nicaragua book, to me there's a progression through the book, from images that are stereotypes, images that are known, to discovering their vocabulary and their world in their terms, moving toward that."

Meiselas was aware of her special or "privileged" position as an American photographer in pre-revolutionary Nicaragua: "No other outside photographers were in Nicaragua at the time. Nicaraguan photographers were not allowed to cover the opening of the (government) congress. Being an American meant access, it meant being able to do things that other people couldn't do."

Yet for a great many Nicaraguans, Meiselas' photos are the only documentary record they have of the uprising against Somoza. "It was a powerful experience, you know, because it was so much my own," she says. "A lot of people know about Nicaragua because I had been there. And that emotion,

I think, is quite significant, whether it be documentary photography or something else."

Meiselas also discussed the problems of having work published by the commercial media which is usually insensitive to the author's intended meaning and commonly distorts it. With her book *Carnival Strippers*, the publishers altered the text, layout, order of the photos and the type, destroying the intended integration of text and photograph.

"The whole intent of the book," she said, "had been the care I have about these people, about their lives and their whole awareness of who they are, which is more profound than anyone on the outside might perceive." The book designers made this impossible.

In another instance, Meiselas requested Time magazine not to present a clear view of the faces of the Nicaraguan guerillas in a certain photo, lest they be put in danger. Time refused. "I'm now very aware of the power of an image to kill a person," Meiselas said. "I don't think a picture is more important than a person's life."

Her overall approach can be summed by her fight against Pantheon Books' insistence that her name appear prominently on the front cover of *Nicaragua*: "With much protest, my name remained the same size. Somehow the idea that people will look at this book and see these pictures as *my* pictures was wrong — every aspect of that was wrong. I made the book because it was *their* history."

Ironically, despite the unique importance of her Nicaraguan images, Pantheon did not permit Meiselas the editorial freedom she needed, emphasizing to her once again the problems of publishing commercially. "There was this picture removed," Meiselas said, "which I still today do not understand. It was a picture that was shot through a door. There was a jeep carrying two civilians and some military, and it was clear that it was the taking of a prisoner, which needless to say is an extraordinary thing to capture — and to this day I have never taken such a picture again. I mean, to be there at the moment — either when someone gets dragged off out of their house or gets taken away — is very difficult, not to mention being in the right place, which meant looking through this door at a woman holding her child. It has its own reality... you know, esthetically, it had that feeling of what the moment for that woman looking out of her door was like."

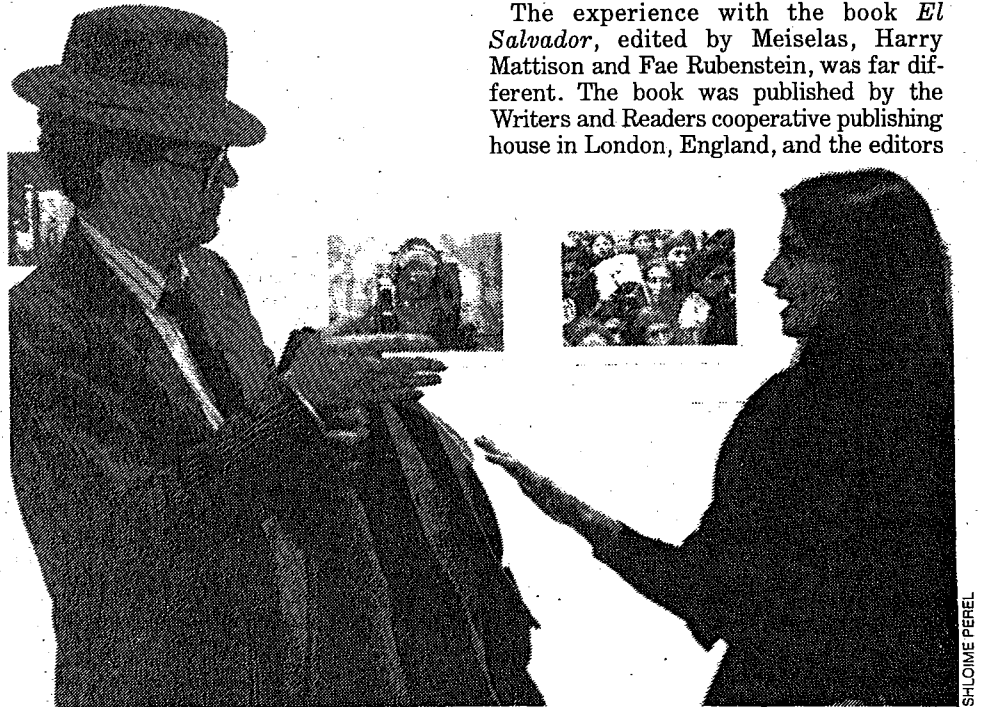
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***"I don't think a picture is  
more important than a  
person's life."***

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Meiselas was given a "take it or leave it" ultimatum by Pantheon. She felt she didn't have time to look for another publisher and that she would have to live with the imperfections. Pantheon only permitted captions and commentary at the end of the book, whereas Meiselas had wanted to integrate them with the photos.

The experience with the book *El Salvador*, edited by Meiselas, Harry Mattison and Fae Rubenstein, was far different. The book was published by the Writers and Readers cooperative publishing house in London, England, and the editors



Montreal, February 21, 1986: Susan Meiselas at the El Salvador exhibition.

SHLOIME PEREL



were allowed complete control over design, layout, text and selection of photos.

Meiselas found that regardless of how photos are treated in the end by publishers, they can be used by individuals in creative ways. That is, people who are not photographers can be involved with them in ways that are the opposite of the media's distorting effects.

"Pictures begin in one place with a photographer's experience," says Meiselas, "and they evolve and they become part of the world as images, as books, as films. People send me poetry (about the photos). This isn't a way to control the image. It's a way to let them live, to have their own life and to let people use them in different ways, surprising ways. Part of letting go is to trust that people will do something with the images and that this kind of thing will grow."

*With lies they tried to make us lie.  
As if they did not know  
That the mouth was made to say  
(what) the eyes see . . .*

from Nicaragua  
(Peasants speaking at a meeting,  
Matagalpa, August 1975)

*Shloime Perel works in community radio in Montreal and is writing a thesis on the history of the Canadian Jewish Socialist Movement.*

## Women Absent from Media Environments

Men define, determine, produce and control North American media, according to several recent reports: women in media are notable chiefly for their invisibility.

An unpublished "Women's Study" by the radio service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reveals a systemic absence of women from positions of authority and influence. Women are regularly outdistanced by men on an average of two to one. The problem is particularly pronounced in the high-status News department. "In News", according to the study, "women dominate only the most junior levels and occupy proportionately fewer positions at higher levels than other departments." On-air, as producers, writers, executive producers and decisions-makers, men dominate the CBC.

The situation of women in American TV is even worse, according to the *Media Report to Women*, published bi-monthly by the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press in Washington. Statistics show that, over an eight-month period in 1985, only 7 per cent of the reports on "Nightline" were done by women. On "World News Tonight" the figure was 12 per cent with "Good Morning America" leading at 20 per cent. The popular "Brinkley" program had a zero female participation rate.

A male monopoly of media seems firmly established.

Susan Crean, author of *Newsworthy: the Lives of Media Women* (Stoddart, 1985) says: "We should not forget that the power women have attained is limited. It is just as true as it ever was to state that the media are owned and operated by men. What may appear to be a dramatic change over the past 20 years only amounts to a qualifying clause on that statement: It is no longer invariable that all decision-making positions are occupied by men; now about 15 per cent of the time, they are held by women . . . moving past that mark may require a revolution far more radical than the one which brought women this far."

The implications of the omission of women from the media can only be speculated on. In a world of instant analysis, where public reliance on media for information and knowledge is encouraged to grow at an ever-expanding rate, the pervasiveness of a male perspective can only be problematic.

Combating a male elite and getting women into the institutions of media is only part of the struggle. Until a male construction and definition of "news" is successfully challenged, women can, at best, only be token participants in shaping the way the world is seen.

*Susan Prentice*

## Hazards for Health Clinics

A community-based occupational health clinic, featured in the Spring issue of *W&E*, is threatened with closure if it does not receive funds from the Ontario government. Staffed by a co-ordinator and a part-time physician, the clinic is run through the Lakeshore Area Multiservice Project (LAMP) in Etobicoke, Ontario. As the only community-based occupational health clinic currently operating in this province, it could serve as a model for service provision by community agencies that are sympathetic to workers' needs and independent of business, organized labour, or government. As such, it embodies an alternative to the dominant model of occupational health practice in Ontario, in which doctors are hired directly by, or work under contract to, employers.

The question of who provides occupational health services has been a controversial one in Ontario, largely because of government regulations that require medical surveillance. While the regulations do not specify who is to choose the examining physician, employers traditionally have sent workers to the company doctor. This tradition has been challenged by trade unions

and other worker advocates who have defended the workers' right to be examined by a physician of their choice. In a few cases, unions have been able to negotiate agreements with their employers to contract with LAMP to perform medical surveillance.

The majority of LAMP clients, however, approach the clinic on their own initiative. "Many of the people who call us don't even want to see a doctor," says Bonnie Heath, the clinic co-ordinator. "They just want information on substances like solvents, isocyanates, and lead that they think are affecting their health." Many clients have already seen their own doctors, but have found a hesitancy to link their illnesses to the work place. "Most family doctors simply don't know enough about occupational hazards to determine whether a patient's problem is caused by their working conditions," says Heath.

Lack of information about occupational health among workers, employers and health care professionals is one of the major gaps that LAMP has identified in its efforts to promote healthier work places. In an effort to close this gap, LAMP has run a

number of public educational on subjects including reproductive hazards, occupational cancer, solvents and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). LAMP staff also regularly contribute columns on occupational health to local newspapers and other publications.

Although LAMP's proposal for a three-year pilot project was submitted more than a year ago, in mid-1985, as of early October 1986 the Ontario Ministry of Health had still not decided whether to fund it. The difficulty is in part due to the originality of the proposal — the government has never received an application for a community-based occupational health clinic before, and does not know whether it should be funded through the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Labour. As the bureaucracy tries to sort out jurisdictional responsibilities, time is running out for this innovative contribution to meeting a critical public health need.

*Marianne Levitsky*

(As we go to press, LAMP has been told to carry on, but has no official word on the level or duration of new funding. — ed)

# FASTER

## Journeys to Suburban Jobs

By MARION B. FOX

The Great Valley Corporate Center in the suburb of Malvern, Pennsylvania has been termed the "Workplace of the Future" by its developer, Willard Rouse. Located about 20 miles from the centre of Philadelphia, Great Valley has low-slung ranch type buildings, 6000 employees working in 210 service, technical and office companies, and a 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. day care program for 100 preschool children which offers after-school care as well. In addition to the bank and fitness centre, Great Valley has an educational institute where most of the students taking advanced training and studying for MBA degrees are women.

While most employees drive to work from within the suburban radius, and there is some carpooling, the Corporate Center also offers a bus feeder from the Paoli commuter rail stop operated by the regional transportation authority; three outbound and two return trips are made each day. Most costs of the shuttle are paid for by the developer, by resident corporations, and by the county, so that the bus can be free for those who buy monthly train passes. Almost all of the 75 riders — more than half are women — come from the Philadelphia urban area; about one-fourth leave the bus at other company sites close to Great Valley.

The goal for the bus shuttle is to attract new riders from among urban job seekers so that the Center can fill its employment needs and that ridership is high enough to make the service viable. During the past two decades, while women have been entering the workforce in increasing numbers, employment has been spreading outward in metropolitan areas. As jobs in suburban locations grew by 15 per cent from 1970 to 1980, jobs in central city locations fell by 4.5

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*Time is a  
critical factor  
in job  
choices for women.*

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per cent. Moreover, the shift since 1980 has been from the inner to the outer suburbs and to "exurbia," currently defined as a semi-rural area 50 miles from the city centre. The implications of this change for commuting is significant — trips to suburban job locations average 10 miles longer than urban trips, with most requiring an automobile.

All commuters, women and men, living in urban or suburban locations, want to make the shortest work trip possible, both in

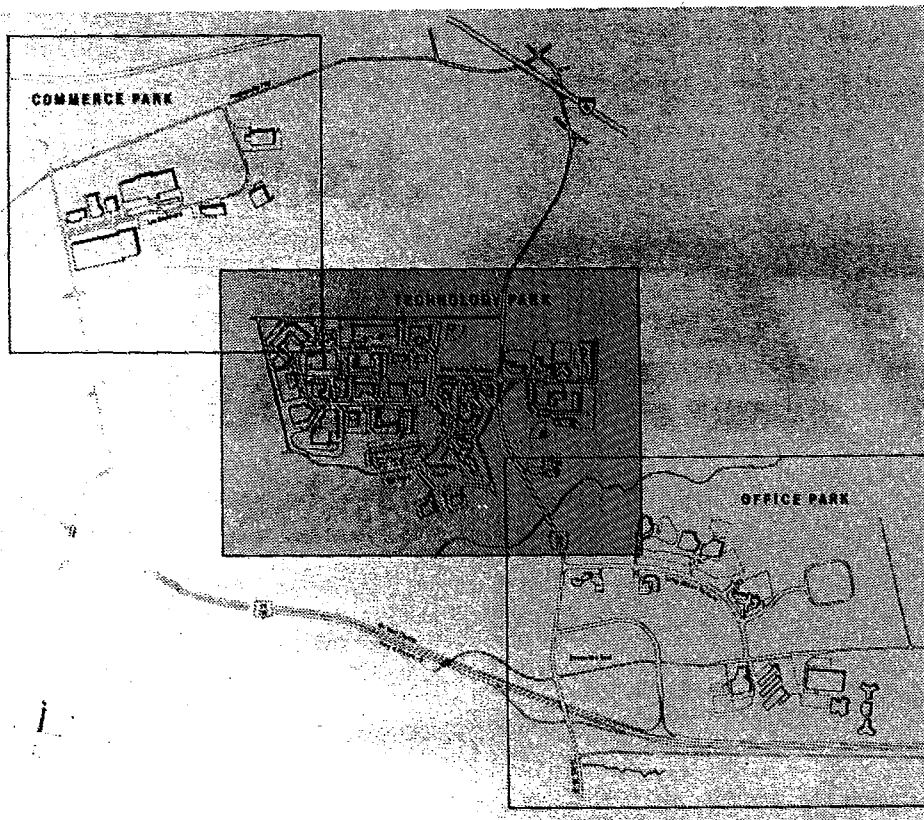
distance and time. The decision of *where* to work is usually tempered by the desire for the most advantageous employment opportunities in the region, both in salary and career advancement. Yet for working mothers it is trip time which is crucial; the result is that they have the shortest work trip of any group.

Time is a critical factor in job choice for women workers because of their heavier reliance on public transportation — vehicles that take twice as long as automobiles, which women are more likely to share and less likely to own. Also, working mothers must normally allocate a portion of their time to such household functions as shopping and child care trips.

Furthermore, residential location in relation to employment is frequently less advantageous for women. In female-headed households, initial residential location may be constrained by lack of income and, in two-earner families, choice of residence is often made according to the work needs of the male spouse.

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*Marion B. Fox has taught at Rutgers and Drexel Universities in urban employment and the labour market. A Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning, she has specialized in employment planning, coordination of physical and social systems, and environmental influences on the status of women.*



Great Valley Corporate Center: Area Site Plan

Carless, female-headed families tend to live in urban areas, advantageous for trips within cities but not for reverse commuting to the new suburban office complexes or industrial parks. Women in two-earner families tend to live in suburban residential areas, but often share a family car for the work trip; in these instances, it may be the spouse with the higher earnings who uses it.

For both urban and suburban women, while there is the need to upgrade employment, to "go where the jobs are," available public transportation may not be practicable when the vehicle covers only a portion of the suburban trip, and makes stops at each intersection across the metropolitan region. Paratransit and carpooling may not meet convenient origin and destination points in diffused suburban locations. For many women, the work trip to the job with the greatest potential for salary and advancement may never materialize and the decision may be made to "settle" for the job closest to hand.

Can access to suburban employment be better planned for women? To begin with, demand for transit services should be measured not by the short trips women may take, but by potential demand for work trips to locations at greater distance, if transit were to be fast, reliable and not too costly.

Second, services should be planned to give access to origin points as well as destinations. Some women in two-earner families

need the family car for the work trip only to travel from home to the station or transit terminal, a mile or two away. New types of public transit are necessary, as well as paratransit feeders to transit stops, and additional ride-sharing planning.

Third, the most significant change should be in density of land use, density that would make provision of new transit service cost-efficient for providers, employers and commuters to suburban workplaces. Two land use patterns are mandatory: greater density through provision for clustering of

workplaces, and greater density of residential areas through zoning regulation.

Greater density at workplaces makes possible the provision of a greater number of work trip destinations. When companies are scattered along suburban highways or located in remote exurban places isolated from other work sites, public transportation is not feasible. Moreover, service by

paratransit companies — even shared-ride taxi, carpooling and vanpooling — becomes too costly for the transit utility and the rider.

Workplaces can no longer sprawl — they must be grouped in industrial parks or office-technology centres, and where there are singly located plants, they should be adjacent to office centres or parks. This clustering pattern is becoming more prevalent in many metropolitan areas of the US.

It is interesting to note that where office density has increased most rapidly, developers have begun to be concerned about access by transit services or pooling; this is because of the traffic congestion occurring when narrow suburban roads, built for sprawl, become choked with more automobiles than these roads can hold. Suburban residents, in turn concerned with quality of life, ask for zoning regulations and for controls on suburban growth. It is clear that land patterns are needed that can offer workplaces with sufficient density to provide transit to job seekers without the sprawl and overcrowding that stimulates residents' opposition to new development.

Greater density of residents in urban and suburban areas makes for greater efficiency in the provision of transportation close to the origin of trips. When residents are spread out over large suburban lots, or tucked into diffused pockets of urban housing, transit authorities and companies providing feeder trips and taxi-van arrangements find it uneconomical to pick up riders. Nor can isolated residents be included in carpool or vanpool routes; distances are too great for carpooling and for vanpool pick-up and drop-off, and cooperative arrangements can be made only with difficulty and at high cost.

Residential zoning changes are needed to permit more suburban clustering of homes with common space for recreation, such as

***The Great Valley Corporate Center  
includes a daycare, a fitness centre  
and an educational institute  
where most of the  
students are women.***

townhouses or attached houses, and legislation is needed to permit accessory apartments or apartment conversions in older, large properties. Suburbs should allow a larger proportion of multi-family housing, regulated for off-street parking, for size and for amenities. Concurrently, cities should control development so that no neighbourhood is isolated from transit service, and no

housing development is on a site remote from any transportation connection.

Although residential clustering is not occurring with the rapidity of work place clustering, it is vital nevertheless, not only to ease trips to work but to assist the suburban transition toward new residential lifestyles, with houses in greater proximity and with some household services close to residences.

Given density change, what kinds of suburban services — vehicle and routing — should be provided? Four types of transit policy are suggested, together with a number of prototype transit programs drawn from the Philadelphia area but representative of new types of vehicle and routing change in the US generally.



ROUSE & ASSOCIATES

Entrance sign for Great Valley Corporate Center Office Park

★ **Use of express buses on suburban routes making only limited stops.**

Express buses can be used on city-to-suburb or all suburban routes to replace routes that formerly stopped at each intersection. These can be express from the city centre and city perimeters, or semi-express through use of city expressways or toll-free highways.

- SEPTA, the regional transportation authority in the Philadelphia region, runs the Fort Washington Express for a once-a-day, 45 minute trip from the northern rapid transit terminal of the city to Fort Washington Industrial Park, about 25 miles from the city centre. The Park, with 200 companies and 15,000 employees, is the third largest industrial park in the region, spreading over 11,000 acres. Two vehicles are used for the round trip that serves 85 riders from adjacent urban neighbourhoods and from nearby connecting transit. The largest proportion of express riders are women.

- A semi-express service, the SEPTA #45 bus carries 800 riders per day — many of them women boarding in the central city or at limited stops throughout the city — on the run to the 17,000 acre King of Prussia, the largest industrial and shopping park in the region. The bus leaves every 20 minutes during rush hour and makes no stops after it leaves the city limits, traveling over an inter-county expressway directly to the Park.

★ **Feeder buses/vans: Transit to workplaces**

Paratransit buses or vans can take passengers from transit terminals directly to industrial or office parks; this service is

for riders who would otherwise be “stuck” at terminals with no means of reaching suburban workplaces. In certain instances, employers will seek to make cooperative arrangements for feeders, usually where there is a high degree of job vacancies, such as in the Great Valley Center.

- The Montgomery County Paratransit Association comprises 40 taxicab companies primarily engaged in paratransit for the elderly and handicapped in this suburban, 640,000-person county. The Association runs three roundtrips daily from the Radnor Commuter Rail Station to the Radnor Corporate Center, a suburban office complex of 25 corporations and 1850 employees. This shuttle service carries 500 Center employees per week, making access possible for many women workers from Philadelphia neighbourhoods and from the inner suburbs.

- In a new program funded for a six month test period by the federal government, MCPA will run two shuttles each day, one from the Stratford Rail Station to King of Prussia Office Park, and one to Route 202, the Devon Park Corridor, an area with a heavy concentration of high technology industries.

★ **Feeder buses/vans: Transit from residences**

Paratransit companies can also take riders from residences to transit terminals or commuter rail stations. In urban neighbourhoods, feeders tend to be informally arranged, “gypsy”-type cabs with users paying a weekly fee; in suburban areas, feeders are more apt to be shared-ride taxis or a form of paratransit that charges fees high enough to be attractive to the transit

provider. The few suburban municipalities with bus or paratransit may give limited access to commuter rail or transit stops for resident commuters living sufficiently close to the fixed-route bus line.

Residential forms of feeder service are provided less often than feeder trips to workplaces. This is because there has been little public awareness of possibilities for residential services and fewer opportunities for economies of scale.

**Greater density through clustering of suburban work places has begun . . .**

- The Montgomery County Paratransit Association provides shared-ride taxis or “Commute and Ride” individual transit service from residences to rail station in the more densely settled areas of the country. While not widely used, these feeders provide an alternative for suburban commuters — including women — to reach the railroad terminal.

- Access to railroad transit by minibus is offered by suburban Cheltenham Township, a municipality of over 35,000 residents. Designed primarily for the elderly, the minibus is also available to commuters for a small fee based on distance. However, for those living more than a few streets from pick-up points, the fixed route offers less easy access. Were the township able to extend routes to a greater number of streets, the minibus would have greater utility as a feeder service.

### ★ Ride-sharing arrangements

Where there is no public or paratransit service and where a car is necessary to reach destinations, ride-sharing arrangements may be most feasible. Data from the US National Ridesharing Demonstration Program, a workplace survey conducted in five cities, showed ride-sharers were more likely to be women, to have a long trip to work, and to have more than zero but less than one auto per household. One important factor in the decision to share was cost saving over single use of the car; another was convenience, and less stressful trips.

Two prevailing forms of ride-sharing are: carpooling or alternate use of one's own car, organized informally or through public or private employer assistance; or vanpooling, usually a more formal arrangement where services are contracted from a vanpool operator. In the US, 12,000 vanpools have been established by employer sponsorship. A newer form of sponsorship in the US has been that by TMA, Transportation Management Association. In these arrangements, a group of employers, usually from traffic-congested industrial parks or shopping centres, set up vanpools, paying fares of employees who could not otherwise reach employment sites. TMAs have been organized in such areas of employment concentration as Fairfax, Virginia; Orange County, California; and Hartford, Connecticut.

• In the Philadelphia area, a principal source of ridesharing has been through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Association. Under DVRPC, employees pay contractors of vanpool services, and the agency computer matches riders with employment locations over the region. The same agency organizes carpools by computer

*matching; more than half of the riders are women while the principal portion of pooling is to centre city employment, DVRPC also organizes trips to areas on the city's perimeter and to industrial parks in suburban locations.*

To evaluate the effects of these forms of transit on women's journey to work, further research should be funded on the comparative stress, time and timing, costs and efficacy of long distance trips in metropolitan areas.

There must be an on-going process of review of commuting to suburban locations in relation to land density and in relation to employment. This should be done by public

### ... clustering of suburban residences is also vitally needed.

transportation and paratransit authorities, by suburban municipalities, and by employers and developers of corporate parks and centres.

New decisions must be made on which routes and services are no longer serving major population needs and which might be improved to bring faster access to new sources of employment. In this process, women as commuters from city and suburb, and as users of all transit and pooling services, should be consulted.

It is women who stand to gain the most from suburban transit and pooling programs, since women, particularly those with low incomes, require opportunities for higher paid employment and career advancement at a variety of work locations.

The services now being provided for access from residential clusters to workplace clusters represent only the beginning of such needed change. □

For further reading:

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## Reforms are Good, but . . .

We welcome reforms that improve the conditions of working life for women. Better access to jobs is especially important and we applaud the efforts of the more enlightened employers whose innovations make women's journey to work faster and more convenient. Daycare and educational opportunities at work are also sorely needed and companies with the foresight to include them among their facilities provide valuable service to working women. However, while we support reforms that allow women greater access to jobs, we must be conscious of the even greater benefits to employers, and we must not allow our efforts to improve women's working and living conditions to end here.

A brief comparison will illustrate this point. In the 19th century, Toronto street cars introduced a "workingman's fare" which reduced the cost of rush hour travel from suburban homes to jobs in the city's still industrial core. This reform was supported by business and real estate interests, and for good reason: firms in the city core would have access to a larger labour pool without having to pay the cost of transportation in higher wages; and cheaper transportation would increase demand for suburban housing, allowing developers to reap substantial profits.

The situation for working women today is not entirely different. On one hand, we support reforms that make our

working life more convenient. On the other, we must ask ourselves if the quality of our working life has actually improved . . . or have we simply made our own exploitation less painful.

Women continue to have relatively little choice about the type of jobs available to them. Office, technical and industrial jobs for women are typically menial, repetitive, poorly paid and offer few opportunities for advancement. The nature of work within these job settings continues to be controlled by the profit-making criteria of continual growth and expansion, without thought to the needs of either workers or consumers.

While structural reforms in the nature of work may seem a long way off, we lose sight of these longer-term objectives at the risk of our own future well being.

Barbara Sanford



# Women Nurture the World

## *Presentations from the Women, Environment and Development workshops, Nairobi 1985*

*Compiled and introduced by Adrienne Scott*

**T**he strong linkages between women's problems and the state of the environment and development in Third World countries were explored during the 1985 NGO Forum in Nairobi, at the conclusion of the UN Decade for Women. It was the first time that these connections have been discussed in such depth at a major international conference. The topics of sustainable agriculture, deforestation/afforestation, energy and water management, all of which are so closely related to women's lives, were addressed in a series of workshops organized by the Environment Liaison Centre (ELC) in Nairobi. And, another first, specific paragraphs dealing with the environment were included in the key Forum document, Forward Looking Strategies.

The connection between women's quality of life and the quality of the environment which is its base has seldom been made. In the Third World, the importance of women's roles as food producers, drawers of water and hewers of wood is now being acknowledged, but as Wangari Maathai, a member of the ELC executive, points out, "we completely miss the point that none of these could be satisfactorily carried out in a hostile, degraded environment such as we see in tropical countries."

Another clear message which emerged from the workshops was the notion that development initiatives undertaken without women's concerns in mind have had, and will continue to have, devastating effects on the natural environment. Strategies linking women, environment and development are urgently needed.

Third World women represented a majority of the participants at the NGO Forum. They were also the key organizers, resource people and speakers during the Women, Environment and Development workshops. In these pages, they explain not only how environmental degradation has seriously affected their lives and homelands, but also what steps they are taking at the grassroots level to protect the environment and conserve energy and resources.

The presentations are excerpted from *Women and the Environmental Crisis, a report of the proceedings of the workshops on Women, Environment and Development, July 1985, Nairobi*. A copy of the 109-page report, which includes a list of participants and the ELC Programme of Activities to 1988, may be obtained from the Environment Liaison Centre, PO Box 72461, Nairobi, Kenya.

## **With Culture in Mind: Improved Cookstoves**

**By Monica Opole**

The role of women in science and technology development in the last decade, and especially their role in appropriate technology, has been minimal. Tools developed over the last five years have not been socio-culturally acceptable to women. External, rather than internal factors, have played a key role in research and development of appropriate technology tools. Appropriate technology should use existing available resources, taking into account socio-cultural needs of the target group.

The Kenya Ceramic Jiko (KCJ cookstove), a piece of renewable energy technology, is a good example of acceptable and sustainable appropriate technology. Women were involved at all stages of research and development of the KCJ, and as a result, the technology is currently spreading at the rate of adaptation of 40 per cent in Nairobi's informal sector.

The woman's energy crisis calls for more than just an "efficient" tool. It calls for a multi-purpose tool, which will fulfil the same functions as the tool it is intended to replace.

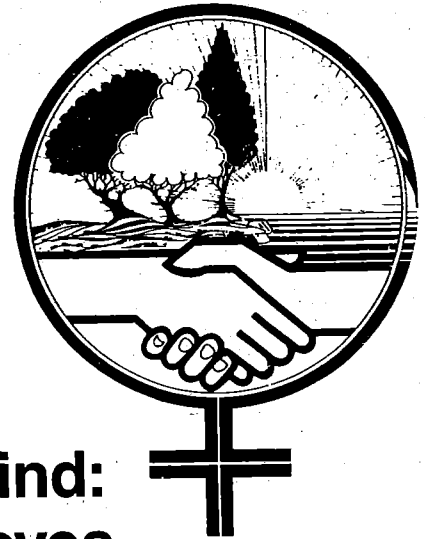
Health considerations, which lead to the development of efficient cookstoves, that remove smoke from the kitchens, fail to recognise that smoke also serves as a source

of energy to preserve foods such as fish and to keep roofs dry and free of harmful insects. A solution to the African woman's energy crisis should take into account these and other cultural factors such as the use of the fireplace for space-heating in the cold season, and providing a focal point of socialisation at day's end.

All this was taken into consideration during field tests of the KCJ. There was direct user-feedback to the main manufacturer about the tool being developed. Laboratory testing and heat efficiency were among the last points to be considered during the prototype development of the KCJ.

The KCJ, however, needs to be developed further. It should be able to use charcoal waste, for instance. The ultimate solution should incorporate proper sealing of pots, saving left-over embers, using food additives and shortening cooking time and the use of fast-cooking indigenous vegetation to cook traditional meals.

*Monica Opole was the coordinator, Women in Energy sub-committee of the Kenya NGO Organising Committee.*



# Africa's Food Crisis: Price of Ignoring Village Women?

By Sithembiso Nyoni

I am not a very important woman in international terms, but I am very important in that I am directly involved in my struggle. I am very interested in women and sustainable agriculture for one reason: that my community and I are in a food crisis. Because of this crisis, we are interested in sustainable agriculture not for luxury, not for economic reasons, but first and foremost for our survival.

We are very aware even at village level that the main causes of our food crisis are economic and political. They are a direct result of governments and multinationals taking over the control and the means of production from us, the people, who should have the right to feed themselves. The food crisis is not our problem as before at the village level. It is a national problem and we are just the victims of that national crisis. We are also aware that this crisis is directly related not only to our politics and to our economic situation, but it is also directly related to our environmental crisis in Africa.

Sustainable agriculture, which is controlled by and directly benefits the poor, is a very important component of national stability and also of national security. It is also directly relevant to our environment. As a rural woman, I am directly involved in agriculture and the bush. My environment is the basis of my economy and my total survival. It is from the land where I get my food. It is from the land around me where I get my fuelwood and my water. Therefore, if this land around me declines, my basic survival also declines, and I cannot sustain my life.

As a woman, it means that I have to walk long miles to fetch firewood and water, I have very little time, therefore, to grow vegetables and other food.

And because the environment has deteriorated, my soils have also deteriorated. So, even if I have seven children and some go miles to fetch water, others miles to fetch firewood and I take another group to the land, we still will not produce as much as my grandmother used to produce. Therefore, if my agriculture has to be sustainable, my environment also has to be sustainable. We have to have a sustainable environment, a sustainable economy, something that will help my total surrounding, my total way of life.

Now, I said that this crisis is not my crisis

as a village woman, nor is it a crisis for the rural families, it is a national crisis. From my experience coming from Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, I have also discovered that it is a regional crisis.

If I was one of those African Third World rulers, do you know what I would do?



*From the Globe  
outside the Peace Tent,  
Forum 85 Nairobi,  
Kenya, 1985*

I would go back to my people, to the village. I would be aware of the global connections that are acting upon me and my people. But in order for me to be realistic and equip my nation to stand up and deal with those crises, I would go back to my people and strengthen them first. After all, my power should be their power.

But our rulers today — our ministers of agriculture today — are busy interlinking with the multinationals, with international markets, and forgetting that we are the basis of their power. If we are starving, they should be ashamed. While we are starving, they have the power to ask for more and more aid over our poverty.

I would go back to my people because as a village woman, I know what it means to be without a seed. I know what it was in the good old days when I used to go and harvest and come back and select the seed for the

following year. And I know that because of the hybrid seed, I can no longer do that.

But I can tell you, when one day I was in a meeting in Harare and I stood up to say that kind of thing the then minister of agriculture stood up to say, "Here is a woman who wants to take people back to the 18th century. That is no longer possible." And yet I know that before, I had control over my seed. I could select the seed for the following year. But because today I am using the hybrid seed, I cannot re-use it. I have to go back to the one who controls the seed.

I know also that my well is in my field so that when I come from my agricultural chores, I can take a bucket of water back home. But where I have used lots of fertiliser around my well, my water has been contaminated by that fertiliser.

I know that if you intercrop, some crops during drought will survive, others will die. But my agricultural experts tell me not to do that because it is primitive.

And I know what roots from the bush I can dig up and mix with what I grow at home in order to make a nutritious meal for my children. But the nutritionists in town think I should feed my children on Pro-Nutro and other breads whose names I don't know.

If I was one of those rulers, I would go back to my people because now it is no longer a question of keeping up with the Joneses. It is a question of survival for the village woman in Africa. I would go back and help those women to survive.

My crisis is not mine alone, I am just a victim. It is our crisis. Therefore let us leave this room and strive for sustainable systems of agriculture beginning from our environment and then moving on to the political and economic systems that are acting upon me and dominating me in such a way that I no longer think of making a contribution to my own destiny.

If I do not control food, there is nothing else I can control in this world because food is also used as a political weapon on me and my children.

*Sithembiso Nyoni is executive officer, programme coordination and development at ORAP — Organisation for Rural Associations for Progress, Zimbabwe.*

# Indian Women in Defence of Forests

By Malini Chand Sheth

The Hill District of Uttar Pradesh is the birth place of the famous Chipko Movement — the world renowned grassroot ecodevelopment movement. The main problem in Uttar Pradesh is that women, who are the main users of forests, have been denied access or control in the management of forests. The Chipko Movement has succeeded in articulating this need.

Chamoli District of Garhwal is one of the five hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. Many of the menfolk, whose livelihood depends on trees, have fled to the cities due to deforestation. The entire responsibility of running households rests on the strength of women. Tending the home, looking after cattle, producing the crops, collecting firewood and water all fall on women, whose life depends on the availability of natural resources. Their entire existence revolves around the patterns of nature, and its destruction spontaneously brings about harsh problems.

Can women shouldering the burden of collecting firewood, cultivating, looking after the house and children find time for conservation? Experience in ecodevelopment camps revealed that women in these parts, despite a long and rigorous working schedule, had a great interest in restoring the ecosystem. In fact, the role of women in preventing deforestation has been outstanding.

In 1978, for instance, women organised a movement in the Bhyudiyar village area that leads on to the famous valley of flowers. They faced their people who were going to cut trees to meet the fuel demands of the 250,000 pilgrims who visit the Badrinath Temple annually. In spite of 40 cms of snow, the women went into the forest and did not retreat till they had gathered the implements from the labourers who had come to fell the trees.

In Duagar-Paitoli, the battle was even more bitter and set wife against husband and mother against son. In 1978, the government's horticulture department negotiated with the male dominated panchayat for the acquisition of a nearby community forest for a potato farm. The men believed they would get employment in the farm, and with its construction, the village would get a road, electricity, a health centre, and the upgrading of its primary school to a high school. The women protested strongly on learning that the forest had been sold. By refusing to let the forest be destroyed, they avoided a daily extra 5 km walk to fetch fuel and fodder. In spite of strong opposition and threat, from their men and the district administration, they won.

In another protest, involving the cutting down of 2,500 trees in Reni village, women, whose men had been lured away from home, clung to the trees and told the cutters that they would have to cut off their heads before cutting the trees. The men withdrew and the forest was saved.

*Malini Chand Sheth is a consultant at the Institute of Social Studies Trust in New Delhi, India.*



## A Call for Action

A sustainable model of forests, water and energy management, agriculture and livestock exploitation, implies a technology that preserves the environment, turns the peasant agriculture economically viable, increases the absorption of low-qualified labour force, uses locally adapted crops and animal species, produces most of its inputs locally or regionally, turns the food production independent from international trends and, consequently, assures the national sovereignty of each country.

The growth of women power and the sustainability of development are ecologically tied. It is therefore imperative that their participation and the

incorporation of the specific planning for their own involvement within development projects be assumed as a priority for governments, NGOs and community-based groups throughout the industrialized and developing worlds.

We, as women concerned with the issues that affect humanity, the environment and our gender, encourage the United Nations system to find the best ways to make these suggestions viable as an urgent task.

*Final statement from the Women and Environment workshops to the UN Decade for Women Conference.*

## Expanding Opportunities for Single Parents through Housing

A new project/program has been funded by the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Family Housing Fund to identify strategies for providing appropriate housing and neighbourhood settings for single parent families. The \$25,000 award to the Minnesota Association of Women in Housing (MAWH) and the Center of Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) will involve community expertise to produce guidelines for new construction and retrofitting existing housing and neighbourhoods for single parent families. The expectation is to produce the groundwork for a new housing program for this target population.

Coordinating the guideline and program criteria development will be a cross-disciplinary team involving Christine Cook (University of Minnesota), Barbara Lukermann (Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and CURA), Mary Vogel-Heffernan (School of Architecture) and Esther Wattenberg (School of Social Work and CURA).

## New York State Hearings on Women's Housing Needs

Last May the Assembly of the State of New York's Standing Committee on Housing, Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues and Legislative Caucus held the first State-sponsored public hearings on the special housing needs of women. Held in New York

City and Syracuse, the hearings sought a wide range of testimony from women's groups, community organizations, and local and state officials. Witnesses directed testimony to four major areas of concern: housing affordability and adequacy; discrimination against women; the problems of special needs groups (disabled and battered women); and the potential for new state funding programs.

There was a good turnout in each location; over 60 people testified and close to 100 were in attendance. Issues addressed in Syracuse were alternative housing for the homeless and battered women, supports for women who want to buy modest priced homes, the adequacy of local planning and problems of exclusionary zoning, paternalistic attitudes and lack of security of tenure for women.

The final report from the hearings should be released in January 1987. For information contact Assemblyman Pete Grannis' Office, Room 522, Legislative Office Building, Albany NY 12248. (518) 455-5676

*Jan McClain*

## Community Economic Development for Women: Alive and Well in Canada!

*W&E* readers Susan Wismer and David Pell have written a very good summary of women's economic position in Canada, and of community-based reform initiatives, for the British Journal *Initiatives* (June 1986).

In the face of ingrained patriarchal structures that perpetuate the economic oppression of women as a group, innovative efforts

such as the Economic Research Centre in Vancouver provide a vehicle to document and present women's plight to government bodies such as the Macdonald Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Future. The Centre's brief calls for an integration of the household/domestic economy into the male dominated mainstream.

Also Vancouver-based, the Women's Skill Development Society assists women's access to economic alternatives, including third sector community-based cooperatives whose non-traditional structures provide opportunities for women's equal participation.

In London, Ontario, Women's Community Enterprises has established a resource centre and computerized information bank giving women access to community businesses, co-operatives and "micro-businesses."

Wismer and Pell conclude from their own research and survey of available literature that, while community-based economic development efforts offer women opportunities for equitable participation in non-sexist work settings, we are still a long way from making fundamental structural changes in the traditional male-dominated Canadian economy.

So what's new! On goes the struggle!

*Gay Alexander*

## Transit for Mobility-Handicapped

The Pacific Transit Cooperative in Vancouver was initiated and is still managed almost entirely by women. A non-profit cooperative of disabled users of custom transit, it was incorporated in 1981 and is now the only provincially funded agency serving the Greater Vancouver Regional District. It operates over 50 vehicles and employs almost 100 unionized full and part time employees.

More information from Pacific Transit Coop, 3147 Kingsway, Vancouver BC V5R 5K2. (604) 430-2742.

It was mostly women also who managed and operated the 27-month Winnipeg Special Transit Service demonstration project, which provided custom transit for the elderly in an area where nearly one quarter of the population is over 60. During its short life the project provided 26,000 trips at a cost of just under \$12 per trip. Early in 1986 it merged with a similar Department of Transport-funded project operated by the Royal Canadian Legion, Fort Garry Branch, in suburban neighbourhoods; the joint operation has been funded for one further year.

More information from Lynda Newman, Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Man. R3B 2E9



BARBARA SANFORD

**A Woman's Touch: Women in Design from 1860 to the Present Day**

Isabelle Anscombe

New York: Elizabeth Sifton Books — Viking, 1984. 216 pp. \$20.00

**Making Space: Women and the Man-made Environment**

Matrix

London: Pluto Press, 1984. 148 pp. \$8.95

**Reviewed by ADRIENNE SCOTT**

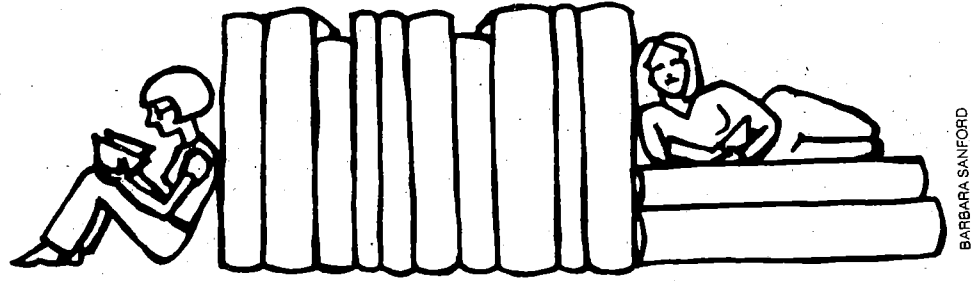
Published works extolling the artistic and design achievements of women are rare items, so when an exceptionally well-written book on the subject does come along, it is a cause for celebration. One such work is art historian Isabelle Anscombe's *A Woman's Touch*.

Anscombe is the first to chronicle the contribution that women on both sides of the Atlantic have made to the function and adornment of the modern-day house, for despite the traditional belief that a woman's touch transforms a house into a home, art historians have largely ignored their achievements within this design realm.

The book concentrates on the contributions of prominent women involved in the British Arts and Crafts Movement, the Glasgow School of Art, the Russian Constructivists, the Bauhaus, the Wiener Werkstätte, as well as the heyday of interior decoration during the 1920s and 1930s.

The scope of their accomplishments was impressive. Designers such as Candace Wheeler, Margaret MacDonald, Elsie de Wolfe, Syrie Maugham, and Sonia Delaunay wove textiles and rugs, created jewellery, clothing, furniture and tableware designs, conceived the designs of interiors and gardens, and performed remarkable works of embroidery design.

The story of their involvement begins in 1860. Before that time, women had little or no place in the workshops and manufactories which produced these items, nor did they have much direct control over the choice and purchase of such items for the home. Their participation began in a small way with the emergence of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain. John Ruskin and William Morris, the founders of the movement, strongly believed that a nation's design and architecture reflected its social and political health, and within limits they encouraged women to contribute to the "beautiful adornment of the state." Their activity was largely restricted to decorative embroidery projects at home, tasks which



BARBARA SANFORD

were thought to be particularly suited to female talents during the Victorian era. Attempts to reap individual prestige and commercial rewards for their work generally failed, because most of these women lacked professional training and marketing know-how. Nevertheless, as Anscombe points out, they opened the door for others by establishing design as an acceptable career for women.

Women's entry into design education and practice in a big way occurred at the turn of the century. This coincided with their emergence as patrons, clients and customers, for at that time, the appearance of one's home became a barometer of social status, yet "another yardstick by which in addition to a woman's clothes, hairstyles and behaviour, she could be judged by others" (p. 68). As Elsie de Wolfe, an American who is regarded as the first lady of interior decoration remarked:

"A house is a dead-give-away . . . We are sure to judge a woman in whose house we find ourselves for the first time, by her surroundings. We judge her temperament, her habits, her inclinations, by the interior of her home. We may talk of the weather, but we are looking at the furniture" (p. 68).

This phenomenon spawned a market for interior decorators, especially among the upper circles of society, and a number of remarkable women such as de Wolfe, Syrie Maugham and Sybil Colefax grasped the opportunities that this new profession offered.

By the end of the First World War, women's status in the design world had risen to the point that in many areas, particularly textile, furniture and houseware design, they were working on an equal footing with men. During the years leading up to World War Two, women were at the forefront of domestic design in Britain, Russia and Germany. They worked to incorporate new home technologies, as well as the new lifestyle and needs of working women; into their concepts for appliances, housewares and home furnishing. As Anscombe asserts, "it was women who incorporated a practical knowledge of the needs of the housewife or servant in designs for rugs, furniture, curtain and upholstery fabrics or tablewares. . ." (p. 15). They also successfully integrated their artistic work with industrial production techniques, and

thus had a profound influence. "The general public may not know their names, but they live with the results of their pioneering work and take for granted the curtains, carpets, upholstery on buses and tube trains, tableware, or even wrapping papers which surround them" (p. 185).

While Anscombe's vivid descriptions of the lives of individual women and their artistic achievements make for enjoyable and enlightening reading, it is her analysis of the reasons behind our virtual ignorance of their accomplishments which makes *A Woman's Touch* a significant piece of historical and social scholarship.

She points out that design literature has focussed more on the theoretical writings of these movements than on the actual objects which have been produced by individual designers and, though women did not contribute in a significant way to the theoretical literature of modern design, "their practical influence was enormous."

Anscombe also asserts that women's achievements have been largely ignored by design historians because of the commonly held belief that it is natural for a woman to demonstrate good taste, to be interested in the home, and to express her personality through it. This in turn has led to the idea that in decorating the home, women are professional designers by default.

It is clear that the extent of women's influence in the field of design has been severely restricted by that and other beliefs which perpetuate the notion that a woman's place is in the home. For while the expression of woman's taste is seen as appropriate within the home environment, it is not viewed in the same light with respect to architectural and urban design.

This conclusion is also expressed in *Making Space: Women and the Man-Made Environment*. Its authors, a collective of British feminist designers known as Matrix, assert that the home is probably the only place where women can impose some of their own individuality on their environment — that women's influence on the design of the built environment has been negligible. "The home is also a retreat," they point out in their introduction, "a place removed from outside pressures, where we can relax and be ourselves. It makes a physical boundary between the environment we can control

Adrienne Scott is a journalist, and a graduate student in environmental studies and environmental law.



and the seemingly uncontrolled world" (p. 1).

Matrix raises serious questions about the way in which buildings and cities work for, and act upon, women. Individual chapters have been written by different collective members and they cover topics such as "Women, Architects and Feminism," "House Design and Women's Roles," and "Women and Public Space."

People who read this book may never look upon their home, workplace or urban setting in the same way again, for Matrix describes at length the ways in which the man-designed and man-planned environment disempowers women.

Housing design guidelines in Britain at least reflect a stereo-typical view of the male-supported nuclear family. Roles within

women tend to be less mobile than men because they rely more heavily on public transit and are less likely to have the use of a private car. This difference reinforces a division of labour by gender both inside and outside the home.

In cities geared for mass transportation by car, urban transit services may not adequately serve the needs of users. In many cases, the least mobile — women and children and the elderly — also find that city transport systems seldom cater to their particular requirements.

One of Matrix's central arguments is that behaviour, travel and other activities of women in cities are mediated by its layout and design. In many cases, women exclude themselves from certain areas of the city out of fear for their safety.

value women's involvement in all stages of the process. Ideas are being re-evaluated. The most positive aspect of this re-learning process is face-to-face involvement with other women. "We have learnt from working with women who have not been trained as architects," writes Frances Bradshaw. "They have questioned conventional assumptions about design and have been excited about the possibility of creating buildings that suit their needs" (p. 89).

The authors admit that the development and practice of a truly feminist architecture is problematic insofar as the concept itself has not been clearly defined. They assert, and I agree with them on this, that it is not just a matter of looking at the way men design, and then doing it in a different manner. "Some people have imagined that women design round, curving buildings," they write, "while men build phallic towers. We have come to see this as a caricature of what feminist design might be."

Another problem which must be grappled with is that many women architects are still being trained in professional institutes by and with men, where women's concerns about design are barely acknowledged.

Tremendous challenges are presented to the readers of both *Making Space* and *A Woman's Touch*. Anscombe calls for a radical reassessment of the history of 20th century design, while Matrix asserts that buildings reflect the dominant values of our society as well as "political and architectural views, people's demands and the constraints of finance," and that we need to modify them and live in them in ways different from those originally intended. This latter task will be much more difficult, for while history can be rewritten and reinterpreted, entire buildings and cities cannot be torn down and simply begun again from scratch. □

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## *Women who read this book may never look upon their home, workplace or urban setting in the same way again.*

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the home are assumed to be distinct and the idea of women as housekeepers is emphasized. "People and activities," Sue Francis of Matrix writes, "are packaged in a standardized format where they bear little resemblance to human beings. Mr and Mrs Average have become mere emblems in plans and elevations" (p.84).

In her article on women and public space, Jos Boys goes even further by delving into the implications of the ideal home as physically distinct from the workplace. This ideal has been realized in the design of Western cities where access to a private car is assumed to be the norm. Boys asserts that

Non-gender specific architecture and urban design appears to be the long-term goal of Matrix members, yet few suggestions are offered as to how this is to be realized. While the goal of the collective seems to be educative — "... we are describing a problem, so as to help women understand their own relationship to the built environment and to help architects understand how the environment is a problem for women" (p. 8), which is admirable, a focus on ways to create change would have been more constructive.

However, members of the collective are exploring ways of designing buildings which

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## **British Architecture: Women Still Low on the Ladder**

The Royal Institute of British Architects allowed a woman to join for the first time in 1898; by 1933 women represented .66 per cent of the membership. During the 1930s and again in the 1970s attempts were made to find ways of furthering opportunities for women; but by 1982, the number of women in the profession had climbed only to 6.1 per cent, and the Women in Architecture Sub-Group was set up by the RIBA to review the situation.

The Sub-Group's report was released in January 1985. It identified major problem areas in the advancement of women's entry and status in the profession: heavy use of male language has helped to create and sustain a male image and structure of the pro-

fession; poor career guidance in schools reinforces the notion of architecture as a career for boys, not for girls; the isolation of women in architecture schools is not only because of inferior numbers but also a result of teaching staffs which are overwhelmingly male.

And the situation in architectural practice? Women still tend to be at the bottom of the profession by any measure: concentrated in lower grades, with lower median earnings, and more likely to be unemployed or engaged in part-time work.

"Although employers generally perceive their role in this [situation] in terms of economic necessity, it reflects the underlying trend to marginalise women within the

profession, which is aggravated at a time of economic crisis ... [W]omen predominated in agency work — an area of employment that is notoriously inferior in terms of security, pay and status" (Report p.5).

In addition to the career disadvantages always associated with women's family responsibilities, promotion prospects for part-timers are restricted, and women working in the private sector are penalized for being less able to put in extra (unpaid) hours.

In spite of all these problems, women responding to the Sub-Group's survey overwhelmingly expressed the enjoyment that they experience as practicing architects.

The report develops a number of proposals to improve the situation in each of the areas mentioned above, recommending adoption by the Institute as a "matter of urgency."

## Women in the City

### Creating a New Toronto Neighbourhood: the Planning Process and Residents' Experience

Joan Simon and Gerda Wekerle  
Report prepared for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, May 1985, 168 pp., Appx.

The report explores the planning assumptions and innovations employed by the City of Toronto in creating its second major residential development, the Frankel/Lambert Neighbourhood. Particular attention is given to the perspective of the city and the existing community on what constitutes a good neighbourhood; this is compared with the reaction and satisfaction of the new residents with their neighbourhood. Residents would like to see improvements in soundproofing, lower housing costs, access to daycare, children's playspace, a teen gathering place, and in public transit service.

Available free from Canadian Housing Information Centre, CMHC, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0P7.

### Women Plan Toronto: Shared Experiences and Dreams

Women Plan Toronto  
1986, 67 pp.

This informal, non-traditional and lively interim report presents the results of group discussions with a wide range of women on their ideas and experiences of their communities. It represents an attempt to give lay women a chance to evaluate traditional urban planning, design and services, and to develop guidelines which reflect their needs as they themselves see them.

The report was prepared as a basis for an all-day workshop designed to develop a plan of action, held on June 14. For copies of the report and information, contact Regular Modlich, c/o City of Toronto Planning and Development Dept., East Toronto Site Office, 795 Gerrard St. E., Toronto M4M 1Y5 (416) 463-4413.

### Urban Planning and the Everyday Life of Women

Danish Building Research Institute, News Sheet 1986-1

This short English version of the study report by the Urban and Regional Planning Division of the DBRI indicates that women consistently mentioned those planning problems first which relate to their family and care functions; men gave first priority to



traffic problems, although very few reported an active interest in problems of public transportation. The study also found differences in ways of arguing the same points of view: women mostly gave higher priority to human needs while men argued considerations of technology, rationality, economics and efficiency.

Contact: Danish Building Research Institute, SBI, Postboks 119, DK-2970 Horsholm, Denmark.

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

Janet K. Boles, editor

New York: Praeger, 1986. 226 pp. \$34.95

This collection of original essays from American political scientists contains several papers of interest to *W & E* readers:

"The Voteless Constituency: Children and Child Care," by Jill Norgren (City University of New York (CUNY)); "Seeking Equality: the Role of Activist Women in Cities," by Joyce Gelb (City College of NY) and Marilyn Gittel (CUNY); "Gender Equity and the Urban Environment," by Greta Salem (Alverno College).

### Women in the City.

Special issue of *Urban Resources* 3(2), Winter 1986.

*Women in the City* was the theme of a conference sponsored in 1984-85 by the Women's Studies Program at the University of Cincinnati; papers delivered there formed the basis for this well presented collection.

The articles document the way in which

gender discrimination is built into the urban setting: "While feminists might be offended by the term 'man-made,' in referring to cities it is all too accurate. Men were the principal architects, both literally and figuratively, of our cities. They tailored them to their own needs, with little attention to the well-being or safety of women whose roles have changed much more rapidly than have the settings in which they must be played out" (Melanie Garner, assistant editor).

Topics include new housing approaches; the need for changes in zoning policy; the squeezing out of low-income single parent families from neighbourhoods convenient to jobs and services; non-traditional jobs in municipal work forces, and women as mayors in US cities; and efforts to develop child care in New Orleans, which in 1983 was the leading US city in number of working mothers of pre-schoolers.

The issue also includes reviews of some recent books on women and the urban environment, as well as a selected bibliography.

*Urban Resources* provides a bonus to readers through its mechanism of using "local interest inserts," short articles on a variety of issues compiled by contributors in various cities: topics such as Central American women refugees in Los Angeles; economic segregation in Atlanta; child care in Cincinnati, etc.

Single copies of the *Women in the City* issue are \$15 for the master edition containing all eleven local inserts, or \$10 for any one of the local editions.

Order from: *Urban Resources*, Division of Continuing Education, University of Cincinnati, Mail Location 175, Cincinnati OH 45221-0175 (513)475-4115

## Women on the Move: GLC Survey on Women's Transport Needs

Women's Committee of the Greater London Council  
Report series, 1985

Transport studies do not analyze information by gender, and no research in London has looked specifically at women's travel patterns and demands. Without such basic information how could policy-makers and operators assess the impact of their policies on women?

This series of booklets is the result of the GLC Women's Committee's attempt to fill the gap. It presents the findings of research based on a major survey carried out in 1984 of women's movements around the city, giving detailed information on women's attitudes to and use of all forms of transport and locomotion, both public and private, and the problems that they perceive.

The first three reports were published in 1985:

1. Initial Research: Women's Group Discussions;
2. Survey Results: The Overall Findings;
3. Survey Results: Safety, Harassment and Violence.

Three further reports were planned: on Black Women; Survey Methodology; and Ideas for Action.

Now that the GLC has been abolished and its various functions and activities dispersed or terminated, for more information on the reports contact: Women's Policy Group, LSPU, Middlesex House, Vauxhall Bridge Rd., London, England.

## The Changing Family

The Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto has produced three reports on employment and the family:

**Between Jobs: Paternal Unemployment and Family Life** (1986; \$7) documents through interviews the major changes that occur in relationships and responsibilities within the family when the husband/father loses his job; apart from the emotional impacts, a sharply lower standard of living brings social deprivation and reduced personal care — in particular children's dental care. The men identified child care programs as potentially the most useful support service for families in their situation.



**Workplace Supports for Families** (1986; \$6) describes the prevalence in 500 workplaces of alternative work arrangements such as job-sharing, flex-time, work-at-home, parental leave, and day care.

**Sourcebook on Work-Related Day Care in Canada** (1985: \$5) inventories programs and provides information contacts.

Available from the Council, 1000-950 Yonge St., Toronto M4W 2J4.

## Divergent Convergence: the Daily Routines of Employed Spouses as a Public Affairs Agenda

William Michelson

*Public Affairs Report* 26(4) 1985, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley (re-released May 1986)

Michelson deals with ways in which the daily experience of employed mothers is the same as and different from that of their husbands. He describes how public policies and practices, especially those concerning urban organization, infrastructure and transportation, compound the difficulties of employed mothers, whose entry into the labour force reflects far more than individual preference.

## Working Wives, Working Husbands

Joseph H. Pleck

Beverly Hills: Sage, 1985. 168 pp. \$28 (\$14 paper)

This timely and provocative study sheds some light on the changing roles of working men and women in the home as more and more wives go out to work. Pleck concludes that, although overload remains for women, it is declining because "men's time in the family is increasing while women's is decreasing." This is also true of men whose wives do not work. A trend certainly to be applauded.

## Rural Women

### Loosening the Bonds: Mid-Atlantic Farm Women 1750-1780

Joan Jensen

New Haven; Yale University Press, 1986. 271 pp. \$25

Described as a major contribution to women's history by the Southwest Institute for Research on Women, this book is the first publication to investigate the rich and complex lives of farm women living in the Philadelphia hinterland during the period surrounding the American Revolution.

Jensen describes how the work of these women was central to the country's developing economy and society, how they became active shapers of the process of commercialization and economic development, decreased patriarchal power within the family, and carved out new roles for themselves in public life. According to her, their activities provided the base for the development of the feminist movement of the antebellum era.

### Farm Women: Work, Farm, and Family in the United States

Rachel Ann Rosenfeld

Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1985, 354 pp. \$26.

Rosenfeld's book is based on the first national survey of farm women in the United States. She argues that women are not seen as farm workers, just as mothers and wives. Women are involved in housework, child care, farm work, off-farm employment and farm organizations. In demonstrating the importance of women as productive farm workers, Rosenfeld redefines their work on the farm and raises questions about government policy toward farm women.

### The Enclosed Garden: Women and Community in the Evangelical South

Jean E. Friedman

Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1985, 180 pp. \$19.95

Why did the Southern women's reform movement emerge only gradually in the late 19th century? This was the motivating question for Friedman's book, which explores the relationship between 19th century social structure and the lives of Southern women. She suggests that the structure of the evangelical community had a profound effect on the role and identity of Southern women, both black and white, and bound them powerfully to traditional roles.

## National Council for Research on Women Thesaurus/DataBase Project

The NCRW began in 1982 a major collaborative project to develop a women's thesaurus, lists of language that will be used to improve the indexing, cataloguing, filing and retrieval of information about women's lives, work and roles in society. This is currently being prepared for publication, expected in early 1987.

The Council is also making progress with an ambitious database project which has as its goal an international on-line information bank on women's resources. As a base for this, the Council is developing a directory of international information resources on women, a mailing list directory (a "list of lists"), and a work-in-progress index of research projects and policy issues.

For more information: contact Mary Ellen S. Capek, Executive Secretary, National Council for Research on Women, Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House, 47-49 East 65th Street, New York NY 10021 (212) 570-5001.

## Canadian Women's Indexing Project

A three-year grant has been awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to develop a retrospective index to Canadian feminist periodicals, 1971-85. The project, which will be run through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, was developed by an ad hoc committee in Toronto. It will start in January, with most of the first year being spent in developing a Canadian thesaurus.

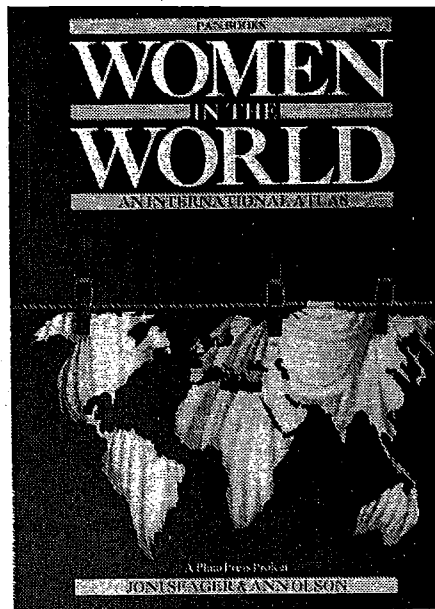
For more information, contact Frances Rooney, Resources for Feminist Research, OISE, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto M5S 1A1 (416) 923-6641.

## Canadian Directory of Women's Research

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIA/W) has compiled a draft directory listing women's groups across Canada who are actively engaged in research. The directory is now being evaluated by women's groups before publication plans are set.

A new booklet — *Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace: Some Cases* — has been produced by the Employment/Economy and Health committees of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. Particularly designed as a training manual for unions and other groups, it contains model contract language as well as case studies.

Contact: NAC Office, #505, 344 Bloor St. West, Toronto M5S 1W9. Enclose \$1.50/copy.



Just released! **Women in the World** presents the geography of women's social, economic and personal lives with colour and clarity. An imaginative and important addition to our study of the world of women.

**Women in the World: an International Atlas**, by Joni Seager and Ann Olson, is published in England by PAN in paperback (£7.95) and by Pluto Press in hardback (£14.95), October 1986.

## Anyone Working on Home Work?

Margaret Oldfield is interviewing women who do clerical work at home while caring for their children, as part of her Master's Degree project at the University of Calgary. She wants to find out how the women experience this form of home work, how they juggle work for pay with child raising and housework, and how their paid work interacts with their home environment. She would like to compare notes with anyone else researching this topic, or any parents doing clerical work for pay at home. Margaret can be contacted at: Faculty of Environmental Design 1002 Earth Sciences Building University of Calgary 2500 University Drive N.W. Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4

## Women and Safe Shelter: a Resource Directory for Women Seeking Safe and Affordable Shelter/Housing

Contains a directory of agencies and city services providing shelter and assistance to women in the Chicago area. Five of the agencies are presented in detail as case studies of the kinds of shelter/housing activities in Chicago. Also contains a bibliography of further local and national sources.

Available from Women United for a Better Chicago, Box 578141, Chicago IL 60657. \$6 including postage.

## Women's Organizations: a National Directory

A 300-page listing of women's organizations includes networking groups, governmental agencies and commissions for women, community and college women's centres, research centres specializing in women's issues.

Available from Garrett Park Press, PO Box 190F, Garrett Park MD 20896. \$22.50 prepaid.

## Services for Battered Women

Studio D of the National Film Board of Canada has launched a new film series entitled *The Next Step*, which examines the urgent need for services for battered women.

The films dispel many of the myths that still prevail about battering, and show clearly that it crosses all socio-economic lines, affects all age groups and occurs in small farming communities as well as big cities: One in six Canadian women are battered by their partners each year. The series is designed to encourage communities to provide co-ordinated services to help the situation.

*Sylvie's Story* is the true account of how one woman broke out of a violent marriage. It was filmed at Auberge Transition, a shelter in Montreal. *A Safe Distance* looks at the special problems of women on isolated farms, in northern towns, rural communities and on reserves, for whom there is often a complete lack of services.

The third film, *Moving On*, examines one community's successful, integrated approach to service provision.

Contact your nearest NFB office for information on rentals.

## Women in Co-operatives

Susan Dean

Rome, Italy: COPAC (Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives), 1985, 137 pp.

Susan Dean acts as a guide to the literature on women in co-operatives by summarizing what has been written and accomplished. The scope of her book is global with sections on organizing women in co-ops, what women's co-ops exist around the world, and the role of women in co-ops historically and at present. An annotated (and lengthy) bibliography organized by country provides assistance for anyone doing research on women and co-operatives.



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