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RAIN

JUNE 1978

VOLUME IV, NO. 8

ONE DOLLAR



Ancil Nance

GOVERNMENT VS. A.T. p. 4

WISDOM COMES OF AGE p. 14

SMALL CHANGES/BIG CHANGES - Wendell Berry p. 18



RAIN access

SOLAR

Solar Energy: Progress and Promise, by the Council on Environmental Quality, April 1978, USGPO Stock No. 041-011-00036-0, available from:
Supt. of Documents
U.S. Gov't. Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402

Increasingly, various government agencies and congressional committees are publishing reports suggesting we can make the transition to a solar society much more rapidly than previously supposed. This one's main conclusion is "that under conditions of accelerated development and with a serious effort to conserve energy, solar technology could meet 25 percent of our energy needs by the year 2000." In addition, it's an excellent, short (52 pp.) summary of the solar-wind-biomass state-of-art especially suited to use by citizens' energy groups and anti-nuclear intervenors. Chockful of the latest references, as well. -LJ (Courtesy Dr. John Davidson, CEQ)

Children of the Sun: An Activities Guide on Solar Energy, Grades 5-12, by Janis Philbin, April 1978, 51 pp., \$1.00 from:

State Office of Environmental Education (NW Section)
Shoreline District Offices
N.E. 158th and 20th N.E.
Seattle, WA 98155

Most of the energy and environment curricula I've seen so far have been either subtly negative on the idea of using solar energy or just plain stupid . . . written by organizations greatly influenced by electric utilities due to their being funded by them, or written by theorists far removed from the practical aspects of classroom teaching. Happily, this one is neither. Running the gamut from solar plans, economics, outdoor activities and Indian legends, a more accurate, sensitive gathering of useful

ideas and materials is not yet available elsewhere. Hopefully it'll get thicker as we find more ways to teach the solar transition. -LJ

FORESTRY

More Anti-Herbicide Forestry Groups

Since last month's article concerning the use of phenoxy herbicides in the forestry industry ("Freeing Our Forests," *RAIN*, May 1978), we've come across another important organization to note: the Citizens National Forestry Coalition. A \$10 donation will put your name on their mailing list for newsletters and bulletins and will help in their campaign to promote labor- (not chemical!) intensive forestry practices. You can contact them at 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., No. 1010, Washington, DC 20036 (or in the Southwest at: Rt. 1, Box 25A, McNeal, AR 85617). The list of groups outside the Northwest in last month's article was supplied by Jeff Cox of *Organic Gardening & Farming*, Emmaus, PA 18049. If you have additions or other information, keep Jeff posted. -SA

many years, although his works have been little known beyond the readers of *Resurgence*, the British magazine which so often picks up on ideas that are ahead of their time. Much of the material in this book is nothing new—it was new when it was written but now we've gotten used to many of the ideas thanks to Schumacher and Illich (both of whom have obviously read Kohr). I did find his ideas on the appropriate size for nations intriguing—he lays out good reasons for Wales to secede from Britain (or Quebec from Canada or Maine from the U.S. of A.). After all, what do us big countries really have over Switzerland or Japan in terms of wealth, good living or influence? Where is the point when the loss of touch with subcultures and varying needs within a country mean that it has passed its optimal effective size? Good food for thought here. Thanks to Schocken for making it available in this country. -LdeM

UTILITIES

State Initiatives for Electric Utility Rate Reform, RM-632, \$2.00 from:

Council of State Governments
Box 11910
Lexington, KY 40578
(606) 252-2291

Summarizes state efforts at changing traditional utility rate structures. Topics include abolition of declining block rate structures, use of flattened rates, inverted rates, peak-load pricing, interruptible service, and lifeline rates. -LJ

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

Overdeveloped Nations, by Leopold Kohr, 1977, \$9.95 (hardback) from:
Schocken Books
200 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

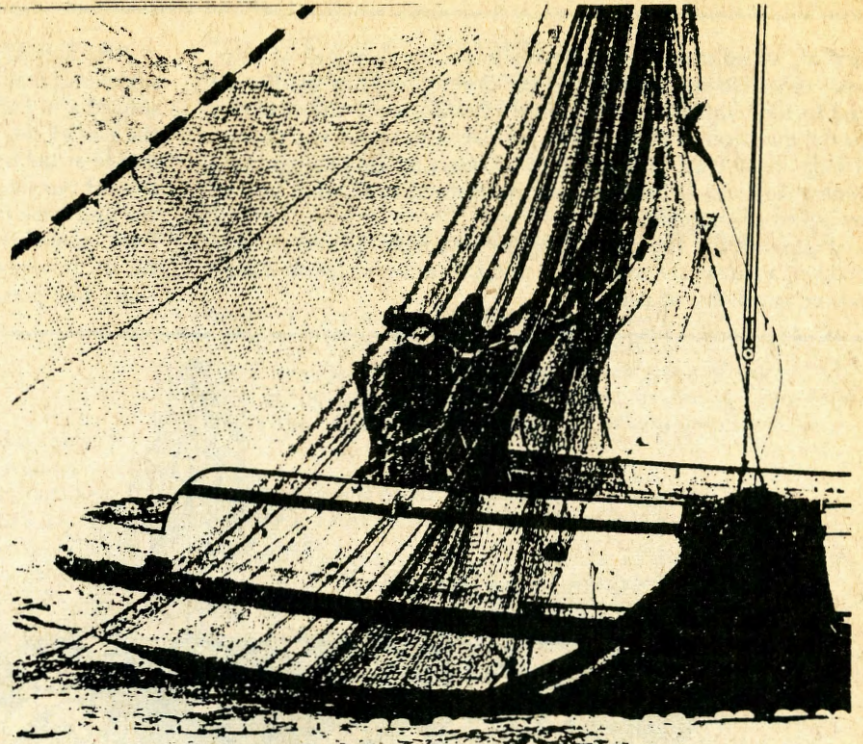
Leopold Kohr has been writing about good, sensible things like smallness for

WORK

Alaska Blues, Joe Upton, 1977, \$14.95
from:

Alaska Northwest Publishing Co.
Box 4-EEE
Anchorage, AK 99509

What is it that pulls a person into a hard and dangerous life? In part it's the reward of challenges overcome, of a life where the highs are higher as well as the lows being lower. It's a life of intensity—hair-raising blacks and ecstatic whites, instead of the drab greys of security. It's a love of living, not of avoiding the always riskfull opportunities of life. It's powerfully and directly communicated in this journal of words and pictures from a year's commercial fishing along the Inner Passage of Southeastern Alaska. It's easy to see why it gets into a person's blood. —TB



—from *Alaska Blues*

WOOD

Wood Energy Enthusiasm Picking up Speed

Efficiency has finally become *the key word* in wood stove sales outlets. Even unknowledgeable salespeople are selling efficiency ahead of "beauty or decor," because it's adding commission dollars to their paychecks.

Some of the smart industry salespeople are promoting wood stove maintenance and cleaning. Efficiency benefits of a clean, tight stove and chimney may exceed 30 percent of the stove's heating capacity. The insulating effect of 1/8 inch of soot or carbon causes a dramatic heat loss due to less radiation and conduction.

Domestic manufacturers are making serious attempts to re-enter the efficiency ball game, which they abandoned to the Scandinavians many years ago. The short-lived welded stove is finding a soft market. High quality cast iron stoves are again demonstrating their value as the two-to-four-year-old welded expediencies are developing air leaks around their warped doors and frames.

Many problems associated with wood fuel are disappearing. Increased efficiency is reducing the particulate pollution which affects a few people. Studies now indicate that wood fuel can be feasibly grown as a crop. In many areas, less than two acres of ground will heat a 1,000-square-foot house with only medium insulation. —Bill Day

WIND

The American Wind Energy Association now has a Washington office out of which federal wind energy legislation and program will be monitored and proposed and from which the AWEA Research Corporation, modeled after the American Institute of Architects' similar set-up, will do consulting work under contract to private and public organizations. Phones will have been installed by the time you read this, so check with the D.C. information operator for the:

American Wind Energy Association
1717 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 1111
Washington, DC 20036

Ben Wolff of Windworks is the Executive Director of the AWEA-RC and AWEA's Washington representative.

—LJ

DOE Small Wind-Turbine Field Evaluation Program now being planned for DOE by:

Jay Culp, Research Division
Asplundh Environmental Services
Blair Mill Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090
(215) 784-4237

Under present plans, about 200 small wind machines would be bought later in 1978 from all manufacturers who have commercially available equipment. A "Request for Proposals" will then be issued for anybody who wants to get one of these wind generators for "evaluation." One of the approaches being discussed is that all sites/projects would have to be line interfaced so that utilities could gain experience with small WECS on their grids. —LJ

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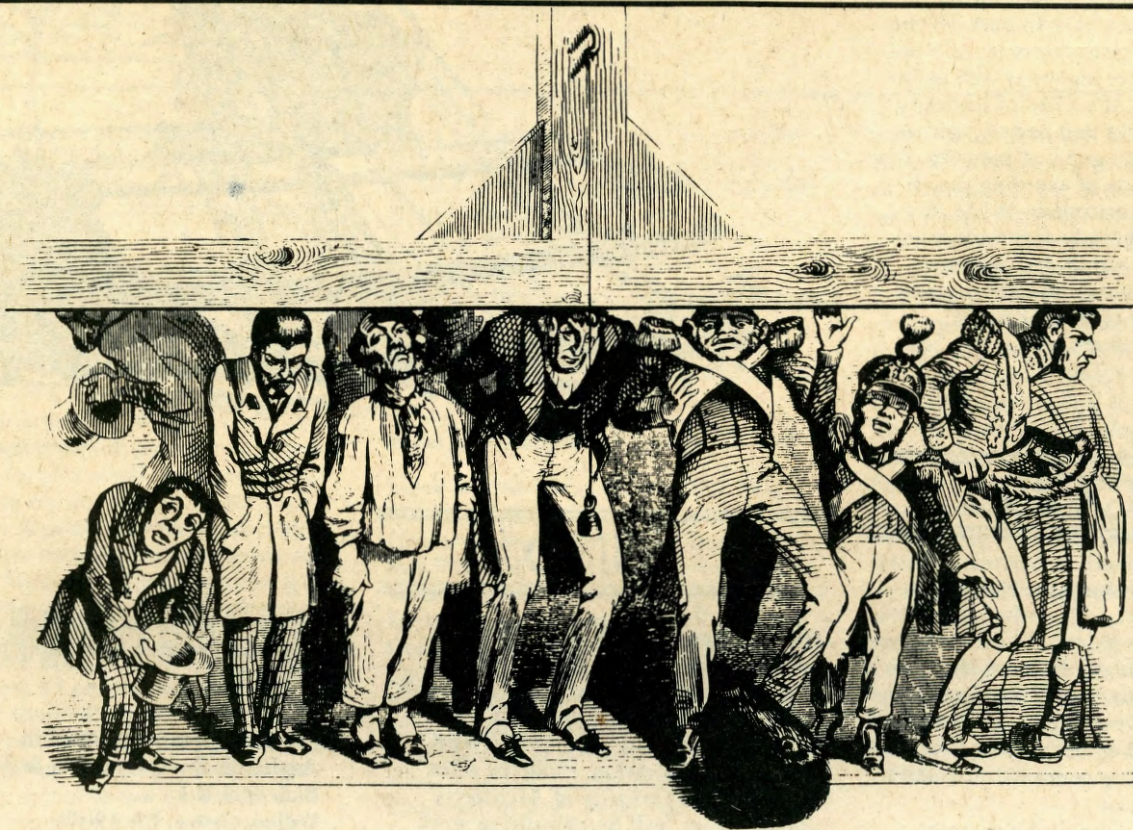
Linda Sawaya
Steven Ames

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Is there an inherent contradiction in the involvement of large and centralized government in the development of small-scale and locally controlled technology? Ideologically the answer to the question of government involvement in a.t. is a thundering "Stay Out!" Choosing to do decentralized things in a centralized way belies that you understand at all what you're trying to accomplish.

Pragmatically the question is not so simple. Universal, generalized answers are one of the things that we've learned are rather unworthy of trust.

The federal government does exist. We can't pinch ourselves and make it go away. It has some value. It also has subsidized and encouraged the exploitation of America as well as the rest of the world by our corporations, and has been the leader in the bureaucratization, regulation and institutionalization of our lives. Any real rebalancing of power between central and local institutions and individuals must involve the Feds, probably as an adversary. You can't be *given* power, for the power to give is the power to take away. And institutions, like people, don't usually like to give up power.



BETTER DEAD THAN FED?

—Tom Bender

How can we tell if the Feds are serious about a.t.?

You can tell when anyone gets serious about something—when they start looking at their own actions in relation to it. If the Feds get serious about a.t., they won't be funding solar water heaters. They'll be trying to figure out what *should* and *should not* be done locally or centrally or by people themselves. They'll be looking at what *needs* to happen at the Federal level and what *should* be done, better or worse, locally. They'll be asking how to decentralize, simplify, close down and turn over many governmental activities to state and local control. They will be dealing with anti-trust, corporate monopoly, control of corporations, elimination of advertising, and elimination of subsidies to large-scale activities. They will be examining the relative effectiveness of self-reliant and centralized technology, self-reliant and exchange economies—but as a means to decide what to keep hands off of rather than as new government program possibilities.

Sounds like these things ought to be looked at anyhow.

Yep. Our government has been operating on what we would call *Evasion Politics*—avoiding dealing with any real problems that might rock the vote-boat. It's called hiding symptoms rather than dealing with causes. The government voice is the last voice you'll hear raising real questions about equity of wealth, foreign intervention, poverty, dangers of nuclear radiation, failure in Vietnam or depletion of energy supplies. The data is there, the questions need to be dealt with, and we need to keep them clearly and squarely in front of our government.

Do you really believe they would ever support anything that radical or critical or revealing?

They? They who? Our government may be a mastodon, but it isn't a monolith. With anything that big, the left hand never knows what the right hand is doing, and it's not impossible

that there are a few good, questioning people who can make some good things happen. Getting them implemented is another story, and that involves getting the word out and the pressure back in. And you can be sure there will be problems with suppressing reports, mudslinging, and most every other kind of opposition.

What about government funding for a.t.?

What about it?

Is it necessary?

Probably not. It seems clear that appropriate technologies are being developed and applied rapidly on local and regional levels without government funding—winterization, solar heating, self-help housing, food production and distribution, community-controlled businesses and services, and neighborhood and community-controlled finance structures to mention a few. People and groups are becoming more aware of the resources they lack, and are getting the business skills, technical advice, tax knowledge, legal understanding, political acumen and cooperation and sharing needed to generate viable new projects. This is increasingly accompanied by a clear and articulate awareness that our problems must largely be resolved by local responsibility and action, and that government money is not free dollars but only our own local hard work and taxes diluted 5 to 1 with bureaucratic red tape and control.

Why does the government want to fund a.t.?

Mostly it neither knows nor cares about a.t., nor knows it's funding it. A few dauntless individuals slipped in a couple of paragraphs among the billions that roll off the congressional typewriter, and pried loose a few peanut shells for the monkeys to fight over. Mostly they were curious as to what would happen. And the government likes to fund anything that has votes or glamour or can get it off the hook. It likes panaceas, too. Paranoid people say the Feds are just trying to give a.t. enough rope to hang itself.



How much rope are they letting out?

So far about \$20 million to the AID program, maybe \$5 million to NCAT, and about \$3 million through DOE.

What's happening to it all?

Mostly the usual—it's making the rounds among the bureaucrats, consultants and academics. A little dribbles out into real projects.

What's the score so far with all that money?

The \$25 million to AID and NCAT is mostly down the tube. The \$5 million spent by DOE so far and some of the NCAT grant money has a pretty fair chance at producing some good. That's about a 2 percent success rate, if you wondered.

That's really not much money for the whole country. Shouldn't we be putting more money into a.t. things?

Maybe. Lee Johnson said, in his review of the DOE/California grants program, that there were a lot more excellent grant proposals than money allocated. But remember, there are always more good ideas for spending our tax money than there is money. And even if all the outstanding projects should be given priority, it doesn't mean that government money is the right answer. If we dealt with any of the real problems, like removing subsidies to oil companies, transportation, sewer systems and the wealthy, we'd have both the incentives and resources to develop and implement a.t. things locally.

We always get the best results with our own money, because we're more careful with it. Local money is second best, and federal money the most dangerous.

Dangerous? What's dangerous about government money?

Well, first of all, it isn't theirs—it's *ours*. That's the first danger. Secondly, it's addictive—the experience seems to indicate that projects started with government money have a real hard time getting the self-discipline to get onto a self-supporting basis. It's so much easier to go back for more F\$, and it makes the Feds feel they're performing a service and filling a real need. Thirdly, government money is expensive—the time, money and effort spent hustling it, preparing reports and more reports, dealing with delays, and meeting ever greater regulations on how, who, what and which side's up could usually do the project itself if not aimed at the government free lunch. Fourthly, there is no incentive to succeed or produce anything real. Even more important, depending on the government makes us lose our ability to do things ourselves, and lose a lot of important self-confidence along with it. We sit around and say—"Well, if I had a grant . . ." instead of going ahead and doing what we're talking.

Well, if the government subsidizes big business and has paid for development of jet airplanes, nuclear reactors and various other things, shouldn't there be an equal subsidy to a.t. to get it developed and give it a fair chance to compete?

A lot of people suggest that, and it may be easier initially. But the easiest path is not necessarily the right path to take. Subsidies lay false economies around a development, deforming it into unreal forms, while increasing the public confusion as to the real relative merits of things. Solar subsidies mean encouragement of expensive active systems rather than cheaper passive ones. Giving more and more subsidies instead of removing the existing ones only moves competition from the field of economics into that of politics—who has the power

to get the larger subsidy? Guess who would likely win? Subsidies seem to require performance standards, which seem inevitably to be based on engineering efficiency rather than cost effectiveness, which pushes things back into the hands of the corporations. Subsidy can provide encouragement, but there are other ways, such as putting solar collectors on the White House and a garden out back.

Then there's what's called the Sucked-In Hazard. It's what happened to environmentalists during Carter's campaign. All the major environmentalists were let know that they were being considered for an Important Job in the new administration. Didn't hear much criticism of Carter's nuclear position from any of them, did you? The government's big enough that it could give every critic an Important and Well Paying Job without making a dent in the government, but effectively absorbing and neutralizing any momentum for change.

Sounds like any big operation.
Yep.

Can't the government do anything effectively?

Sure. It's real good at growing. It *can* do some things well. But past experience says it doesn't very often. (Remember the 2 percent success rate on a.t. money so far?) It can also do certain things better than others. It's kind of like a steamroller—big, powerful, slow to get going, hard to change direction, unresponsive to local situations, but good when you're trying to get things done alike everywhere. Because of the scale of its effects, it hesitates (hopefully) to act until overcertain, while a more local action (like the Oregon Bottle Bill) can get out of the theoretical realm and find out whether something really works or not.

But what if we got the right people in to run the government programs?

They'd probably do some good, but probably be destroyed in the process. The amount of power and opportunity to do good (or bad) in any centralized operation makes almost everyone who gets the chance work themselves to death. It's called the executive syndrome. Marriages fall apart. People start to smoke cigarettes again. They get old fast. Egos get big enough that they start to bump into things. Things get out of balance. It's not a fair thing to do to people. We've seen it happen to enough friends to know, and it's hard enough to slow down our own lives to a good balance! We need to break that opportunity down into small enough hunks that a person can do good with it and still be able to stay human.

Besides operational effectiveness, what other drawbacks are there to Federal activities?

There are a lot of things government can't do or isn't supposed to do. It can't give good evaluation of government programs or recommend one product or group, etc., as better or worse than others unless it really covers its own tail. It's not supposed to lobby. It has great difficulty taking risks or opposing governmental domination of relationships. Governments, like any large organization, have an inherent affinity to other systems of similar scale and organization. It's easier



What other hazards are there to government assistance to a.t.?

Organizational effectiveness, for one. People like Barry Stein, in *Size, Efficiency and Community Enterprise*, have shown the great diseconomies of scale that exist in large organizations which make them less effective and desirable than smaller ones. These "diseconomies" are not limited to dollars alone. The larger scale of federal programs results in a focus on "fiscal accountability"—whether the money was actually spent, not on its results or on possible more effective alternative expenditures. It results in focus on management skills rather than ability to understand and respond to local realities. The scale of programs results in too much information to be digested by decision-makers—they can't keep up with the details necessary for successful programs. The scale of operation forces decision-makers to design programs, not select effective people. Spending deadlines, fiscal years, and refunding demands lead to strangely aberrant behaviors—such as putting *any* program together to get rid of end-of-year funds, over-revving programs to get "results" quick enough to get refunded, etc. Goals, programs, budgets, personnel, and operations all too frequently become pawns in power plays among managerial staffs of the bureaucracies.

for the Feds to solicit and administer one large contract than ten small ones, but it would be easier and cheaper for ten states to administer one small contract each.

Government programs have great difficulty making effective use of existing local resources. Thus considerable rationale exists for handling many activities from a regional rather than a national level. Many regional networks already exist, know local problems, resources and how to operate locally. It is much more difficult and expensive for a national program to deal with local problems.

Regional networks can operate several orders of magnitude more effectively—cheap transportation, housing, etc., ability to focus existing resources into new responses to problems (pulling already funded local people and organizations together to divert existing energies into a.t. work), ability to gain local support and funding. Regional networking kinds of organization can give all members a strengthened and truer sense of their ability, worth, importance and values—none are indispensable, all can initiate things, and make contacts themselves directly.

In any national organization or program set up from the top down, the tendency is for smaller scale elements (i.e., us) to exist at the pleasure of the center. Organization developed from local bases can allow the power base to remain with local groups—any regional or national activity then exists at their pleasure and can be changed or eliminated by the local groups. A top-down organization tends to centralize activities that occur at different scales while locally based structures, such as federations, tend the opposite direction. Cooperative efforts need to occur at different scales—the question is where the control lies.

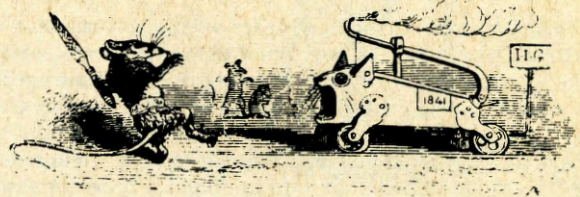
Perhaps the greatest drawback is forgetting that there are usually several ways to successfully achieve a goal—with each having secondary effects which are very different yet equally as important as the primary goal.

Government programs also suffer a particular malady of logic common to large-scale projects. There is a contagious illusion of reality and effectiveness in planning multi-million dollar programs—planning perfectly logical structures by adding or taking away hundreds of thousands of dollars without any sense of the realities behind the dollars or the situation.

Logic deals only with *internal* consistency. It gives no sense of whether the program fits or can adapt to the realities of where and when and by whom it is to be applied to what context. There seems to be an inherent assumption that if a problem exists, can be defined, and a logical governmental program developed to deal with it, that such is the desirable way to go, although the direct and indirect effects of state, local, individual or no action may frequently be preferable but unexamined.

Don't locally funded small-scale projects have any problems?

You bet they do. Lack of expertise, frequent failure to deal with problems on a *large* enough scale, local politics, lack of funds, to mention a few. But their score on all the human, economic, and effectiveness levels seems to be better overall than large-scale activities, with the exception of a few areas where national coordination is essential. And it's a lot easier for people to live with their own shortcomings than with someone else's shoved down their throat.



So what is the answer to the question we started with— Is government assistance to a.t. desirable?

There is no answer.

Many small-scale processes that will require no subsidy in their actual operation may require a vast amount of work in development, shakedown, and dealing with the politics and hassles of conversion from larger systems. Often that work benefits us all, but its effort may destroy small projects or burn out individuals who have to do it on their own. Assistance may help. Toughing it through may be better. Each case is individual. Sometimes it's justified to play Robin Hood and take some from the big rich system for the poor small ones. Depends if you're good enough not to get burned. But Robin Hoods depend on having that big rich system.

Diversity and redundancy of approaches are vitally important. Government alone has little. Local projects have a lot. The two together may have more. Or less.

It depends upon our particular situations, needs and abilities whether it's more strengthening or more debilitating to go it alone. It also depends on the trend of things. There is no single point where too much government funding or participation is too much—but there is some point where it has gone too far, destroyed too much local initiative, where too much responsibility has again been given up to the government.

Small scale, localized technology can either evolve into a decentralized form of a centrally controlled society or into a decentrally controlled one. They are totally different things. The demonstrated viability and desirability of one or the other in a thousand of small situations will decide which. It's up to each of us. ■

Regulate Bureaucracies, Not the Sun

—William A. Shurcliff

It seems to me that the men who are writing government standards on solar heating equipment have been concentrating on the wrong thing. Most of the standards they draw up deal with durability and efficiency instead of with cost-effectiveness.

I remember the old golfing joke: Smith says: "Your ball went into the pond; why are you looking for it on the fairway?" Jones replies: "I am trying to be practical. Searching the pond is difficult and messy. But searching the fairway is fast and straightforward."

What the potential buyer of solar-heating equipment really wants is equipment that is cost-effective. He wants to know which system, over a 20-year period, will deliver the most heat at the smallest overall cost.

Do the standards writers prepare standards on this? In comparing the various makes of equipment, do they list values of "BTUs per buck"?

They do not.

Why not? If asked, they would reply, I believe, along these lines: "The subject is too difficult and messy. No one can predict the number of BTUs delivered, because it depends on so many factors, such as site, climate, what type and size of storage system is used, and how the residents operate the system. All of these factors are outside our control. Cost, also, is difficult and messy; suppliers keep changing their prices; installation costs are hard to predict; maintenance costs are unknown."

Then why don't the standards writers give up? If they can't answer the crucial question, why don't they remain silent (or stick to issues of safety, which everyone knows to be important)?

Here their reply might take this form: "We are trying to do our best. Trying to be helpful. So we write standards on collection efficiency and durability. We think it will be helpful to buyers to know which equipment has high collection efficiency and high durability."

But here the tragedy of standards reaches its climax. The fact is that the most efficient and most durable equipment may or may not be the most cost-effective. Conceivably it may be the *least* cost-effective—the worst buy. A Rolls Royce may be the most efficient and durable automobile; but its cost-effectiveness is far below that of a Toyota. A \$15 pen may perform superbly; but it is less cost-effective than a typical 50¢ pen.

To me it is frightening to see a government agency (for example, the agency recently set up by the State of California) set up standards on efficiency and durability, and give the public vast amounts of information on these topics, despite the fact that the correlation between these topics and cost-effectiveness is dubious and may even be negative. Is such information really helpful? Or does it distract people from what is truly important: cost-effectiveness?

And won't manufacturers, too, be distracted? Will they not be tempted to modify their designs so as to increase efficiency and durability even at the risk of decreasing cost-effectiveness? This is what I really fear. Because the crucial (and often missing) prerequisite to a healthy solar heating industry is cost-effectiveness.

Bill Shurcliff says it well—how much of our government activity is looking for golf balls where it is easy to look for them instead of where we know they are? —TB

Why is there the intense, concentrated concern that John Q. Public shall not suffer any disappointment when he buys solar heating equipment? By way of contrast, consider the following:

If he buys a second-hand car, and it turns out very badly, he has little or no recourse.

If he buys cigarettes, and gets cancer of the lung (as 100,000 persons do each year), he has no recourse.

If he buys alcoholic beverages and becomes an alcoholic (as 1,000,000 persons do each year), he has no recourse.

Why, then, this tremendous concern that he might be wasting, say, \$2,000? Is this as hard on him as buying a very defective \$4,000 car? Or as contracting cancer of the lungs? Or as becoming an alcoholic? Considering cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, boats, swimming pools, snowmobiles, etc., do not our citizens waste on the order of \$10 to \$100 billion each year? Is the Government really in the business of trying to stop people from wasting money?

To impose standards on life-and-death materials like vaccines is essential.

But on solar heating systems, NO.

Q. What gets up before you do and spends the whole day looking for work?

A. The sun. It's our most underemployed energy source.



—from the Sun Day Times

INFORMATION

U.S. Directory of Environmental Sources, 2nd edition, by U.S. International Environmental Referral Center, No. PB-274 110/6WP, available from:
 NTIS
 5285 Port Royal Rd.
 Springfield, VA 22161

A listing of 1144 U.S. environmental organizations registered with the Int'l. Referral System, the purpose of which is to encourage the global flow of environmental information and data from those who have it to those who need it. In the U.S., the Environmental Protection Agency is the designated focal point and mechanism for such info transfer on topics including: Energy Resources; Fresh Water; Land Use & Misues; Chemical and Biological Processes; Management and Planning; Monitoring and Assessment; Non-Renewable Resources; Pollution; Renewable Resources; Education; Training and Information; Socio-Economic Aspects; Technology and Industry; Wastes and Wildlife.

To use the system, one may phone, write or visit:

U.S. International Referral Center
 PM-213
 U.S.-EPA, Rm. 2902 WSM
 401 M St., S.W.
 Washington, DC 20460
 (202) 755-1836

The requestor is provided a listing of sources likely to provide the information desired and then it is up to the user to make contact with those sources. —LJ

It's significant that the Worldwatch Institute, a research group focusing on global level problems, has published *Local Responses to Global Problems*. While bureaucracies everywhere are finding themselves less effective in meeting basic human needs, a host of localized, cooperative and self-help actions are starting to emerge world-wide as more responsive models. Analyzing four areas, this report finds that increasing emphasis on consumer energy production, primary preventive health care, self-help housing and localized small-scale agriculture is having an impact on the larger systems within which they function. This development seems to thrive within completely different political and economic settings.

Common Sense Radicalism is an investigation of the same phenomena but is clearly framed in more political terms. It focuses on the potential for Americans in particular to organize themselves through more appropriately scaled economies and technologies to gain greater political control over their lives. This is a decentralist manifesto that digs back into American history and brings us full circle to the real imperatives of today. A good primer on our movement with an excellent bibliography for those seeking further reading. —SA

BUILDING



Underground Space, \$30/year from:
 American Underground Association
 Department of Civil and Mineral
 Engineering
 University of Minnesota
 Minneapolis, MN 55455

Journal of the American Underground Association. Technological research for large scale use of underground space for military and civilian use. Juicy details on dewatering coarse tunnel muck, underground storage of nuclear wastes, control of ground movement, underground sewage treatment and nuclear power plants, insurance risks, etc. Excellent source of current work. —TB

POLITICS

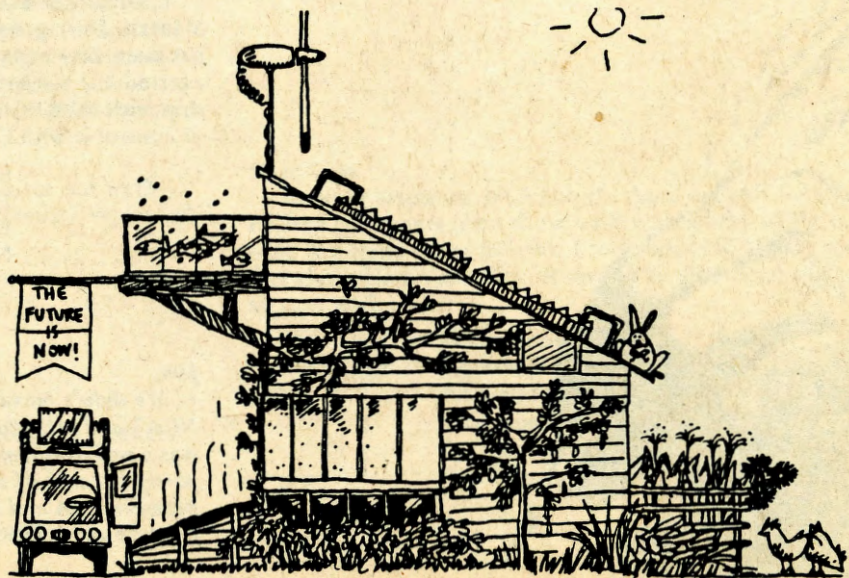
Local Responses to Global Problems: A Key to Meeting Basic Human Needs, Bruce Stokes, Worldwatch Paper 17, \$2 from:

Worldwatch Institute
 1776 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
 Washington, DC 20036

Common Sense Radicalism, Neil N. Seldman, from:

Mutualist Books
 Box 1283
 Rochester, NY 14603

Coming from two very different perspectives, these two pamphlets are describing much the same potential that is afoot. Hence the comparison:



—from *Common Sense Radicalism*

Dear Tom:

I received the most recent issue of *RAIN* and enjoyed reading "NCAT, Where Are You At?" As can be expected, I have a different analysis on certain aspects of the article.

I think it is only fair that you distinguish the two-year planning process from the year's operation of NCAT. The staff, now working in Butte, were not involved in the two-year process, were not responsible for what occurred during this period, nor in fact were responsible for the final decisions in the structural establishment of the Center.

There are two areas in which I disagree with the article. The first area is in the grant-making processes. NCAT today has received over 500 proposals and we have funded over 100 organizations totaling \$1,000,000. There was no mention of our work with people in the lower east side of New York or involvement in Crystal City, and the many programs funded both to a.t. and CAA organizations. Regarding the funding of newsletters, four of the newsletters were delayed in funding because they either did not return their signed contract, and/or they were operating within a university structure and the delay was within the university. That is not to say that we have not had problems with CSA and the Board. I agree that the requirements for small grants need to be closely scrutinized, and we must avoid requiring a great deal of people's work and people's time just to protect "the integrity of Federal dollars."

The other area is what you envision as the maximum size of the NCAT staff. For your information, the Grants and Outreach Component is handled by five people and the Information/Research Component has been operating with six people. The purpose of NCAT is not just to funnel monies to a.t.s or CAAs, nor is it just to provide information on appropriate technology.

NCAT's chief responsibility is to give a national focus to appropriate technology and to remove a.t. from the backyard tinkering arena and to put it into a more political and economical framework. A.T. must become a viable alternative to the capital-intensive and capital-concentrated economy that now exists. A.T. must become a viable alternative to low-income and minority organizations. Much of what I have witnessed today regarding a.t. is pretty middle-class and white oriented.



I certainly cannot argue with the sections dealing with CSA and the Board. I agree that the Center needs to be "turned loose," and NCAT must evolve a process that will not restrict cooperation and accessibility to the many organizations involved in appropriate technology and community development. I believe the differences between your conception of NCAT and my vision of NCAT are healthy. I would like the opportunity to have you visit the Center and to share with us your ideas and your concerns. Maybe in the future *RAIN* article, I could write an article entitled, "NCAT, What Is It and Where We Are."

My best regards to you and the staff.

Sincerely,
James F. Schmidt
Executive Coordinator
National Center for Appropriate Technology

Dear Tom:

As an addition to my last letter I thought you would be interested in knowing that the Executive Committee of the Board is recommending to the full Board that I be terminated as of Friday, April 21. It now appears that the Board will terminate me by a very narrow margin. My termination is of little significance; what is important is what will happen to the National Center. Regardless of the reasons given by Maggiore and Dick Saul, my termination is because of three basic issues. These are:

1. The Center is worker managed.
2. The Center is diversifying its funding, which means less control for Dick Saul.
3. The staff wants the Center to be a National Center for Appropriate Technology, not a CSA Weatherization Center.

Regardless of your personal feelings concerning the "appropriateness" of a National Center, there is an extremely fine staff here who are dedicated to the advancement of appropriate technology and the Center has been successful. There have been numerous problems, many related to the Board and CSA's control, but given a chance the Center could be of benefit.

Lastly, your recent article was incorrect in its attack on MERDI. During my one year with the Center, Jerry Plunkett has been extremely cooperative and supportive. He has not exerted any control or influence over the Center. Our relationship with MERDI has been extremely positive. The problem of control is with Dick Saul. My best to you.

Sincerely,
James F. Schmidt
Executive Coordinator
National Center for Appropriate Technology

Jim,

We didn't mean to imply any present problems between NCAT and MERDI. As our article stated, however, MERDI was a real problem during the planning of NCAT. This was partly because of the lack of honesty about precommitments between CSA and MERDI in regard to NCAT. It was partly because any relation between NCAT and MERDI was un-

NCAT feedback

necessary and possibly a hindrance to NCAT. But it was largely the probability, supported by past experiences of many of us, that any effective NCAT would have to cross wires with the interests of the organizations represented on MERDI's board and would likely encounter severe opposition to its activities from that board to the degree it had control over NCAT. —TB

Dear RAIN,

Got your April issue today and have already been all the way through it. Immensely pleased that you've taken the gloves off. NCAT and DOE and Carter deserve the most biting criticism that you can give them. No pussyfooting.

In the same mail I received a letter from Hiram Shaw of NCAT telling me that a proposal that I worked on for the Clamshell Alliance would not be accepted. It was a classic case that I will not go into as it probably mirrors many stories you have already heard. It did give me a chance to go out to Butte and see what was going on there in January and to renew my acquaintance with Ellyn Murphy, an intern there (and previously with NWES).

The only justification for an NCAT I can see is if it were doing real work, developing devices which would be cheap, easily understood and put together and all that other alternative, appropriate, soft, low, intermediate technology bullshit criteria. I would like to see some concerted, organized work on working machines that would start from urban tenant solar (windowboxes for space heat and hot water) and work up through household systems to neighborhood systems. A test center for such an idea might do some good.

But then maybe not.

You should know that the Clamshell Alliance is putting an energy van on the road before the end of the month and that the van can be contacted through myself or Steve Crowley at 507 R Franklin St., Cambridge, MA 02139. We are looking for posters, displays and literature to carry and disseminate and working models to demonstrate and do workshops on.

Wish us well. I wish you well, but that's because you consistently do good work.

Yours,
George Mokray

P.S. I was like Elijah the unknown guest at one of the planning meetings for NCAT three years ago up at Goddard. Sat through at least three of the most boring meetings I have ever sat through and watched the progress get stranger and stranger over the hours (now years). I lean toward scrapping it and most of the other government thingies down the line. Steve Baer sounds better and better every day.

P.P.S. Did you see that the FY '79 budget has cut out both community gardening and direct marketing monies? Please tell people to write to:

Rep. Jamie L. Whitten, House Subcommittee on
Agricultural Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Rupert Cutler, Asst. Secretary, USDA
Washington, DC 20250

Joseph Crapa, House Subcommittee on Domestic Markets
1336 Longworth HOB,
Washington, DC 20515

as well as your reps and senators. It is important.

Dear Rain Gang:

I have a suggestion for you all. I think it would be wise that before anyone at RAIN put pen to paper in the future it be required that they read Steve Baer's thoughts on government and free enterprise on p. 17, April 1978 RAIN.

IT'S NICE TO HAVE A LITTLE SANITY WITH MY RAIN.

It seems to me that your publication is going the same route that many other similar pubs have gone: 1. Bitching about how other people are spending the government's money. 2. Telling everyone how it SHOULD be spent. 3. Trying to teach people how to get in line for their fair share of this free money.

That money is MY MONEY that the tax man took at the point of a gun. TO HELL WITH NCAT.

Stuart B. Wahlberg

Stuart,

Hope this issue gives some balance. Although we've had and have openly expressed strong reservations in both cases, we've tried to do our best to help both the DOE and NCAT a.t. efforts get going in the most positive way possible. Experience has confirmed our doubts, but without pitching in ourselves we would know much less about why these rocks can't fly. Without actually trying out such options (and local a.t. as well), it's our beliefs against theirs, with no real experience to draw upon. It's all coming clean in the wash now. —TB

Dear Tom:

Re your article on NCAT in the April issue of RAIN, you elicited comments from those on the periphery of the situation. My views are as follows: I feel about NCAT the way I feel about New York City. It should be detonated and started all over again.

Best regards,
Richard Katzenberg
Natural Power, Inc.
New Boston, NH
(past president, Amer.
Wind Energy Assoc.)

While economic pressures are squeezing family farmers out, corporations are becoming increasingly involved in every phase of food production and distribution. At the same time, consumers face steadily climbing food prices and a serious decline in the nutritional quality of food. The American diet now yearly contains over 126 lbs. of sugar and an estimated nine lbs. of additives.

The federal government has been unwilling, or unable, to provide solutions to these problems. In fact, federal policies have actually created many of the inequities which citizens' groups would now like government to address—for example, tax laws that subsidize corporate farming; research grants that encourage large-scale capital- and energy-intensive farming; and price supports that aid large-scale farmers at the expense of small- and medium-sized operations.

We've been more and more impressed with the work being done by the folks at the Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies. If only they'd simplify their name! They've established an active network of people doing innovative things in state and local government, and connected those folks up with information on legislation elsewhere that can act as precedence and inspiration for their own efforts. They support a yearly national conference (July 13-16 in Minneapolis this year), special topic conferences, a clearinghouse to assist public officials and community activists in developing appropriate legislation, public policy and tax reform readers, sample legislation, technical assistance, a host of other good publications, and an excellent bimonthly newsletter, just renamed Ways and Means (\$10/year for individuals), from which we've excerpted the following appetizer. Get in touch with them at 1901 Que St. N.W., Washington, DC 20009. —TB



LOCAL EFFORTS BEAR FRUIT

—Lee Webb and Cynthia Guyer

State legislatures, county and town governments, and city councils, on the other hand, being smaller and more accessible to farmers and consumer groups, have been much more receptive to new ideas and innovative approaches.

State and local governments have enormous legal authority through jurisdiction over land-use decisions. In addition, agricultural programs are primarily administered by state and local institutions such as state Land Grant Colleges, the county extension service, Farmers Home Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service. And agribusiness and special commodity interests do not have the enormous political power at state and local levels that they do nationally. For these reasons, some of the most progressive action on agricultural, land, and food policies has come, and will continue to come, at the state and local level:

- Eight Midwestern and Great Plains states—Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin—have passed anti-corporate farm laws. These vary in scope and strength, but all represent substantial progress. One law simply requires disclosure of corporate ownership of farmland; North Dakota's bars corporations from owning or operating farms.
- Minnesota's Family Farm Security Act of 1976 has established an agency to guarantee up to 90 percent of a farmer's loan to purchase land.

- Taxes on farmland are too high when compared to farm income, due to increased land speculation. But through revision of the property tax system, 31 states have enacted laws to provide incentives for maintaining land in agricultural production. Maryland's Preferential Assessment Act, for example, taxes agricultural and open lands according to use value, not market value. Hawaii and Oregon protect agricultural land through comprehensive state land-use plans.
- New York allows farmers to form "agricultural districts" that are protected from development. New York farmers also receive a low tax assessment based on the land's agricultural rather than commercial market value. In addition, New York's Suffolk County passed an initiative in 1977 that authorizes the county to purchase the development rights to farmland. In a similar move, Massachusetts has voted to appropriate money to experiment with the purchase of development rights. Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin are also considering legislation to protect threatened farmland.
- Missouri's Small Farm Program has demonstrated how an extension department of a State Land Grant College can effectively work with low-income farmers. Missouri's program, initiated in 1971, assisted over 900 farm families in six counties last year. Other states with extension services

for low-income and small-scale growers are Alabama, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

- California is evaluating the research priorities and budget allocations of its Land Grant College. The state's new Office of Appropriate Technology gives information to farmers and gardeners about environmentally sound farm techniques such as methane production and biological pest control. In addition, California's Small Farm Viability Project has recommended that the state establish a non-profit rural development corporation to assist family farmers and rural communities.
- Pennsylvania and West Virginia have established Direct Marketing Programs. They provide new markets for farmers while reducing consumers' food costs. California, Hawaii, and New York have also helped link food producers and consumers more closely through direct marketing and by promoting locally produced farm products. Going one step farther, New York is considering two bills that would encourage state institutions to buy locally grown produce.
- California, Hawaii, and Pennsylvania have initiated programs to assist consumer food-buying co-ops.
- State Food and Agriculture Plans of Massachusetts and Vermont have recommended construction of state and regional processing and storage facilities, and increasing soil conservation programs.
- California and Massachusetts have turned over idle state-owned land to local communities for farming and gardening.
- Many communities are experimenting with fertilizer made from waste. For example, Boston converts 80,000 tons of sewage into marketable fertilizer annually; and Massachusetts State Representative Mel King has introduced a bill that would establish a State Compost Authority.
- Finally, Iowa's State Energy Research Fund finances windmill and solar-pond demonstration projects.

Past agricultural, land, and food policies have encouraged agribusiness at the expense of family-sized farms, the environment, and consumers. America needs policies that will encourage ecologically sound farming methods; preserve threatened agricultural land; stimulate rural and small-town economic development; ensure sound nutrition; and keep food prices low.

The farmer, consumer, and public-interest groups who focus on state and local policy have been criticized by those who think they should mobilize to change federal policy. But innovative alternatives and strong initiatives at the state and local level will create political pressure that could help force the necessary changes in America's national agricultural, land, and food policies in the coming years.



Dear Tom and all,

Was just reading the new *RAIN* and was pleased to see your blurb on Suburban Renewal. That "saving prime agricultural land" can be a real bandwagon slogan used to beat a lot of people over the head. It's characterized by a lot of fuzzy thinking so common these days in us all. Here in Idaho, especially around Moscow, where we all just moved from, that argument is used consciously or un to keep available land prices sky high, to exclude "hippies" from their country spreads (1 to 10 acres), to keep people in the town renting at horrible prices, and to keep the land in the hands of a small number of big farmers.

I had a roaring argument just before we left at a neighborhood coffee for city council elections. The young liberals were promoting the saving agricultural land stuff and talking about the "waste" of land sitting in 5-acre or 3-acre plots where the owners let it "just go up in weeds." Grrr. I growled and leaped. "Do you really believe if you are interested in *saving* land that the land is better off being farmed, i.e. ruined with crop after crop of wheat, fertilized, pesticides, herbicides to death, and finally allowed to sit naked all winter and blow away, then wash away in the spring? It's a thousand times better off with a nice cover crop of weeds."

Agriculture in America is a killer. And of course if those acres were put in an organic garden, all the better. Water is the big factor in these small acreages or suburban settings. Like you said, conservation methods can make all the difference—I suggested suburban developments with laws about all systems being as waterless as possible—dry toilets. They have developments around here now, with laws that none of the buildings can be metal—why not something more crucial?

OK. I live now in a ghost town with a bunch of other families and one big rancher. Most people have about 10 acres, are Catholic—hardworking, lots of kids. Shit, I like it. Don't mind neighbors. We're so dumb we need lots of help. Really, it's the first community (even if accidental) I've really lived in. Communes don't count 'cause we were all too much alike.

What I'd like to know—if you have time—is, well, I'd like to have a little teach-in on nuclear power and beyond into alternatives here in the near town of about 1,500 people on a teeny-weeny budget. Is this nuts? Do you know sources I can get materials from—nearby "experts," movie renters that have reasonable films I could rent? Anything like that. It's just for fun. Yes, yes. If you have any ideas and have the time, drop me a line. We need information too back here in the boonies.

OK. Thanks a lot for everything. Best of luck for a good spring.

Judy Gordon
Box 65
Mesa, ID 83643

Dear Rain,

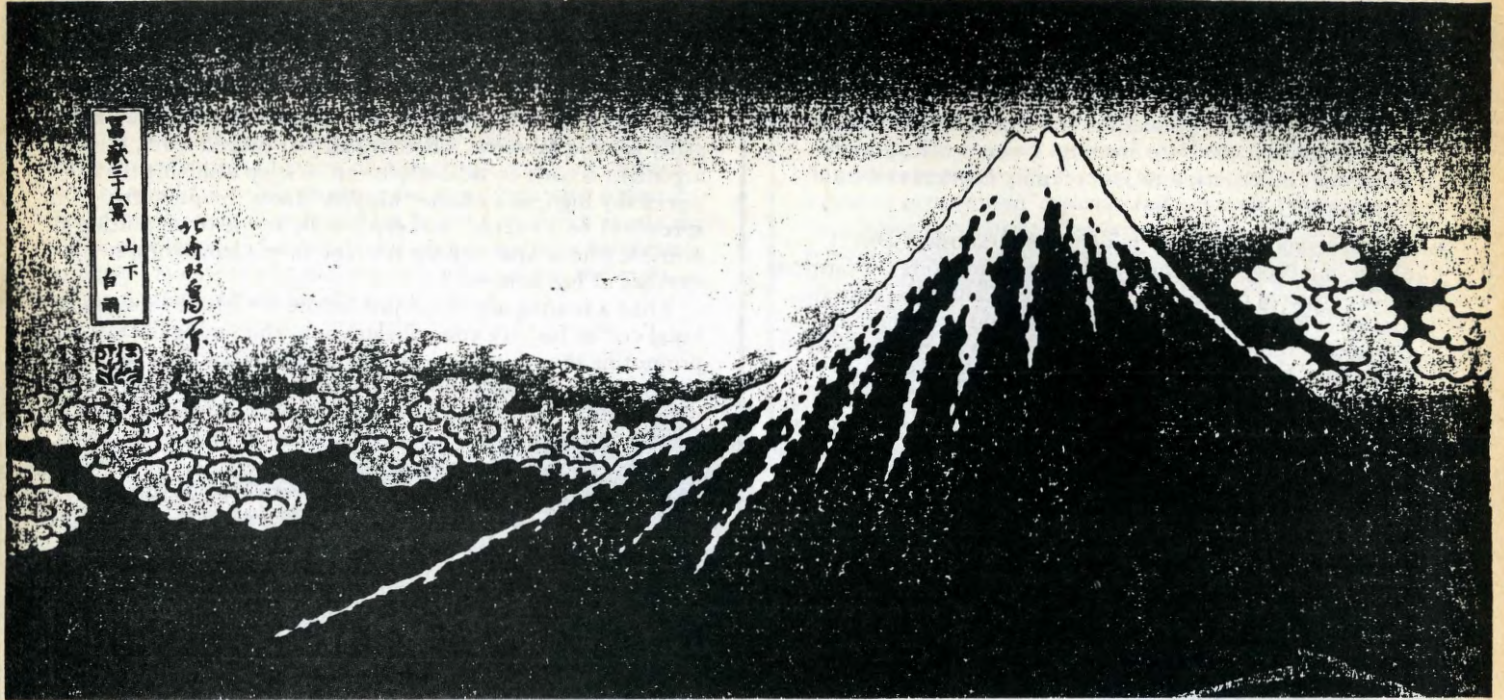
A day after I'd read John Coffin's letter on folding bikes (April *RAIN*), I chanced upon a white-haired couple outside the Grants Pass Library. I told them of Coffin's letter and asked them whether their bikes—Columbia brand—were collapsible. No, they replied, but they came apart: the front wheels and seats came off, leaving the frames small enough to fit in the back seat of a car with ease. They said that Grants Pass has changed a lot since Coffin visited it in 1936, but "it's a good bicycle town. Come on out!"

Sincerely,
Richard Conviser

P.S. I think you'd enjoy Wolf Storl's new book, *Culture and Horticulture: A Philosophy of Gardening*, \$1.75 from the author at 2508 Jerome Prairie Rd., Grants Pass, OR 97526. Check with Wolf as to how he prefers to sell the book.



UE News/cpf



Nothing about our culture seems so deliberately destructive as what we say and do about age. At a time when a conscious emphasis has been placed upon youth, too many people have grown to view old age as total decline and defeat in life. This sort of attitude has fed a host of stereotypes revolving around feeble-minded old timers who've somehow outlived their usefulness. Is it any wonder with this sort of degradation that old people get pushed out of their jobs and families and channelled into menial tasks or "homes" where they are supposed to sit and wait?

More than we might willingly admit, our attitudes about aging are a sign of how we view our world and ourselves; recognizing the way we treat our elders is to acknowledge the cultural distortion of a system that replaces personal attention with television sets and spawns unresponsive institutions like so many surrogate authority figures.

Without some wisdom passed down in our daily lives by old people in our midst, our culture risks the danger of becoming disconnected from its own past and hopelessly fragmented. This makes a believable future that much more uncertain. At the bottom line, fear of the future is nothing more than fear of age.

My own attitudes about age have changed quite a bit in the last few years as a mix of my social concerns and personal experiences have interacted with each other. The opportunity to be among the people of the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana three summers ago helped to spark my consciousness about the wisdom of age and its importance to our survival. Since that time I've somewhat abandoned the belief that all that is progressive must necessarily be a denial of traditions and the past. Ecological wisdom seems to argue that it isn't that simple.

It seems that traditional, non-Western societies, inasmuch as they survive and endure today's high-speed change, still observe and respect the connectedness of all things and view the Whole as something quite sacred. It's not surprising that in such a setting knowledge and wisdom—rather than data and information—are highly valued, and that elders as the keepers of history are honored for their wisdom. With such stature the elder is placed at the center of the community, rather than on the periphery.

Many things flow from this source: as a link with the past, the elder represents the continuity of his/her people through time and across generations—the fact that life precedes and survives the limit of one's own birth and death. This connectedness is seen in space as well as time: as a symbol of wisdom the elder is often known as grandparent to the entire community, whether directly related or not. In such extended patterns of caring, the welfare of the whole society is reinforced and strengthened. Beyond this is the general trust that the community will place in the elder's wisdom to know what can be believed or sustained.

E. F. Schumacher said that the central concept of wisdom is permanence. In this sense the strong link between wisdom and age helps the community to equip itself morally for ecological survival. In fact, it may well be that the cultures which retain a wholistic worldview and a respect for the wisdom of age will be instrumental in the survival of us all. Time will tell.

Permanence, on the other hand, is hardly a strong point of the industrial culture that predominates, despite its overpowering dimensions. In fact it is having great difficulty projecting its hard-edged expectations onto the future. Our data banks may be stuffed with information and literacy may be close to universal, but that sense of continuity seems ever

I think it's probably ingrained in me that respect for age is important. It's one reason why I like talking to older folks and am interested in my familial roots. But I also find that it plays a role in my perceptions on how we go about changing our world for the better. This essay lays out some of those connections. . . . There is a group you should contact if you are interested in tuning in on age and social change. It's the Gray Panthers and they are open to people of all ages—a good sign. You can contact them at 3700 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19127. Ask for their nearest local affiliate. —SA

WISDOM COMES OF AGE

more elusive. We are fearful of the future. No doubt our predicament stems from a whole set of misguided values which demonstrate a real scarcity of wisdom.

I wouldn't suggest that we can suddenly change this culture to its polar opposite, nor that we need to. But doesn't it seem reasonable that in attempting to weave a new social fabric that we might begin picking up threads from the past? Everywhere in this country there exist rich and diverse resources in our elders that are waiting to be tapped.

In searching out wisdom we can help to bring old folks out of their isolation and in doing so begin to re-activate an age-old process, pulling together the social bonds that have been weakened by so much rootlessness, age segregation and paternalistic welfare. Regardless of the knowledge we seek, we would start to architecture some sense of permanence back into our culture. But there is more:

Traditionally, the passing down of skills, crafts and customs have played a vital role in the regeneration of folk societies. Today, while important in its own right, this process could be recycled as something central to social change itself, figuring into our various strategies for building a more ecologically sound, socially equitable world. For example:

- As we search for the ways to increase self-reliance and strengthen local economies, we are finding that many old folks have been doing these things all along. Organic farmers with decades of experience. Organizers and activists from way back when. Herbalists and midwives. Folk artists and craftspeople. We can learn from these folks.
- While more people turn to extended family/communal living situations with their economic advantages and personal fulfillment, elders may again find settings in which their presence is valued and their free time finds good uses. A diversity of age is important to any small community, whether or not there are blood ties to build on. (In less intentional settings, neighborhoods for example, there is no shortage of old folks to share with in community work, holidays and the like.)

- As minority/regional cultures everywhere seek to re-assert their primacy—whether Appalachia, Pine Ridge or even Ecotopia—local elders can be the vital link to the traditions, languages and folklores that are essential to cultural sovereignty. We need to learn our local histories.

This is not to suggest that old people must be as role-bound as they have been in the past. Rather, their knowledge and skills can be put to work in unique and creative ways. They will find in the coming era of transition opportunities to explore and fulfill their human potential that did not exist before. This can be achieved while still meeting a basic need of old people that never seems to change: to be fully integrated into the community rather than isolated from it. Striving for this one goal would help to affect a range of problems facing our elders, from the need to assert their individuality on the one hand, to the day-to-day hassles of being left totally to fend for themselves on the other.

It's been forecast that after the year 2000 or so older people will begin to account for increasingly larger percentages of the population in this country. On top of that fact, a whole generation that has grown up involved in changing society and themselves—from ending the war to starting co-ops to pushing solar energy—will be among those swelling the ranks of elders at that time. I wouldn't be surprised if the roles and activities of older folks take a quantum leap. The cultural and political possibilities are exciting to imagine!

It is still an alien thought to look forward to advanced age. Yet, why not? If approached positively, there is much to anticipate. Freedom from youth's ambitions and middle age's responsibilities. Time to explore new personal directions. An accumulation of understanding. This is not to paint some hopelessly rosy picture or to demean the real survival problems faced by old folks right now, but rather to underscore the fact that old age is only another stage of living, and potentially a very high one. We need to see the life cycle as more than mere entropy; that growing older can mean growing stronger and wiser and that our strength and our wisdom will survive us. If we can respect the possibilities in growing old, we are that much closer to respecting age itself. And that can be a very good thing. —Steven Ames

ECONOMICS

Starting Your Own Energy Business, by Avrom Bendavid-Val, with Victor Habib and Virginia Drewry, 1978, \$4.00 plus 25¢ postage from:

Institute for Local Self-Reliance
1717 18th Street
Washington, DC 20009

This book, the first in a series on community economic development from the good folks at ILSR, will be extremely helpful to those who want to stop talking and start doing. Combining the twin goals of energy self-reliance and local economic development, *Starting Your Own Energy Business* provides hard facts on how community-based enterprises can enter the growing markets for:

- home energy audits (retrofit analysis)
- storm doors and windows
- cellulose insulation
- solar hot water heating.

Even so, the reasons for starting one of these energy-related businesses are good and plenty: It can be established on a small-scale, serving a limited marketing area; its capital requirements are relatively moderate; it can be staffed by people without extensive technical backgrounds; it can provide a much needed service to the community, particularly low-income groups; and it can promote energy conservation and self-reliance.

Linking up such an enterprise with some form of community ownership or control also has several distinct advantages: Business promotion can be channeled through well-established and trusted networks; particular energy-related services (cellulose insulation supplies) can be integrated into already existing community projects (newsprint recycling); and, of course, money spent within the community will tend to strengthen the community and its cohesiveness.

permits. *Starting Your Energy Business* will make success less elusive; it is an important starting point with lots of references and good advice. —SA

Outline of Efforts to Establish a Hubbard Company Worker Cooperative (\$1.50) and Memorandum on Economic Development: Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (\$2.50) from:

Community Ownership Organizing Project
6529 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609

Write for list of other publications. Two good recent reports by COOP. The Tennessee-Tombigbee Memorandum gives a good overview of economic development powers that exist at the local level of government that are traditionally used to generate income for people who already have power but which *can* be used to obtain greater economic equity. The ability to borrow money, to invest public funds, to levy taxes, to own land and enterprises, to regulate land use and other economic activity and to provide services are some of these local powers, while local governments are also avenues for citizens to gain access to many state and federal economic development programs.

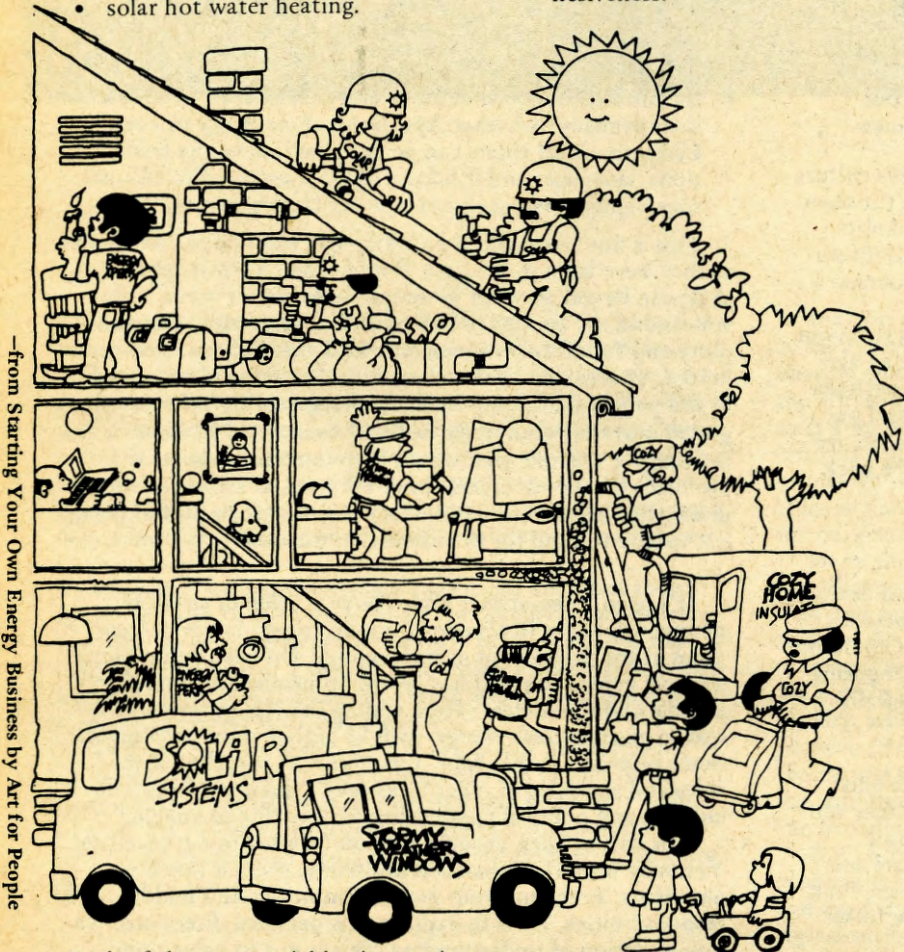
The Hubbard Co-op Study is worth examining by any groups preparing to plunge headlong into worker-ownership of abandoned enterprises. Their analysis of co-op ownership of the Hubbard Company showed that a long record of mismanagement, shrinking and lost markets, lack of costing information, inadequate capital, high union wage contracts, outdated equipment and new pollution and safety requirements would make profitable operation highly unlikely even with the advantages of worker ownership. Good to know when not to flog a dead horse! —TB

Real Cotton Sheets

Having been forced recently into some unavoidable forays into the strange land of cash registers and plastic-wrapped plastic, I can happily report that, contrary to appearances, it is possible to buy real 100 percent cotton sheets. (High-priced percale, of course, rather than muslin—but you can't be too picky). After total failure in store after store, a whispered tip from a friend sent us again to that old outhouse standby, the Sears Catalog. They were sold out on some of the cotton sheets, but we did get a couple of these rare, endangered items. Of note also, in this age of sleazy deals, Sears still has its "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back" deal—still the best sales gimmick going. All is not roses in the

Each of these potential businesses is examined for its projected start-up costs, equipment needs, employment opportunities, markets and operating costs. The book frankly alerts us to the fact that more than good intentions are required in creating a successful endeavor, and that particular attention has to be given to capable management and adequate seed money.

Community-based energy-related businesses may offer us the same springboard for local economic development as the cooperative food movement has done. For example, local groups can begin with simpler undertakings (energy audits: storefronts) and move toward the more complex ones (solar collector assembly: bakeries and mills) as success



—from *Starting Your Own Energy Business* by Art for People

Rose City Sears, however. Some pretty sleazy high-pressure tactics to push people into their friendly 18 percent/year credit buying were enough to bring out the famous Bender fury. More reports will follow. —TB

Industrial Exodus, Edward Kelly, \$2.50 from:

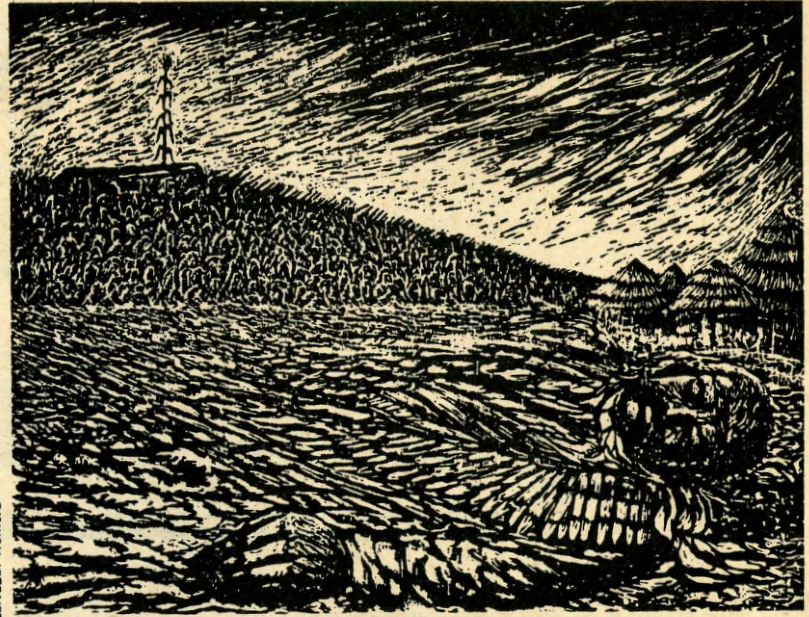
Alternative State and Local Public Policies
1901 Que Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Plant closures and subsequent unemployment have dealt crippling blows to an increasing number of cities and states and have underlined the true costs of loss of local control of local economies. Many closings have nothing to do with profitable operation of the plant—the parent company merely has opportunity for higher return on their capital in some other industry, in real estate or something else. Such closings provide excellent opportunity to regain local control and reopen the plants. But the majority of plant closings are “run-aways”—moving from the Northeast, where unionization has partially balanced out inequitable returns to labor vs. capital, to the Southern States or overseas where lack of unionization and repressive labor laws provide cheap and docile labor and higher profits. Overseas locations also provide excellent tax dodges for the corporations. We, of course, have the honor to make up the difference—unemployment, lost state and local tax revenues, lost federal corporate taxes, widening income gaps between working people and corporate owner's share of national income, and “gifts” or economic incentives given corporations by state and local competition for replacement employment. Kelly lays out an excellent range of federal, state and local regulatory actions that can and ought to be taken. —TB

Your Money and Your Life, \$2.50 from:
Institute for Policy Studies
1901 Que Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Summaries and excerpts from a lengthier and more detailed analysis of the Federal budget (*The Federal Budget and National Reconstruction*, \$5.95). A remarkably candid and fresh look at the process of divvying up our tax monies—the Blind Man's Bluff game of trying to do good by it, and the Rich Man's Bluff game of ripping off as much as possible into the pockets of the wealthy. Most of the articles are refreshingly free of the usual proposals for greater government expen-

ditures to solve problem X or Y, and contain valuable insights and suggestions for specific changes. Good to see for a change something you can more often agree with than disagree with! —TB



Salvador Romera

from NACLA

Memorandum on Loisaída, \$3.00 from:
Community Ownership Organizing Project
6529 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609

The sweat-equity rehabilitation in New York's Lower East Side that you've been hearing about in reports on 519 E. 11th Street are happening because of a lucky anomaly—there's such a glut of abandoned buildings that the city hasn't bothered to try to auction them off in spite of high land values, so community groups could get them practically free, making renovation affordable. But once neighborhood rehabilitation gets underway, it becomes a target for speculators and rich professionals looking for a new “chic” neighborhood. Prices, rents and taxes skyrocket, and the original neighborhood gets pushed out again. Society Hill in Philly, Adams-Morgan and Georgetown in D.C., Northwest Portland. It's an old pattern. This memorandum lays out possible options for the community to retain control of its land and homes. Some realistic economic development strategies are discussed, along with detailed coverage of pros and cons of different kinds of ownership (co-ops reduce housing costs by an average of \$47 per month by minimizing refinancing interest charges), external sources of capital, and community development corporations. One of the clearest, right-to-the-point summaries of options for neighborhood control we've seen. —TB

NACLA—North American Congress on Latin America:

NACLA-East
P.O. Box 57, Cathedral Stn.
New York, NY 10025

NACLA-West
P.O. Box 226
Berkeley, CA 94701

NACLA Report, bimonthly, \$11/year for individuals

For the last dozen years, these folks have been researching and publishing detailed studies on activities of the U.S. government agencies, corporations, banks, labor, foundations, the church, and military that shape and profit from our policies towards Latin America. Detailed documentation of U.S. training programs for foreign military personnel. Importation of agricultural stoop labor by U.S. agribusiness to keep from paying minimum U.S. wages. Impacts of U.S. agribusiness expansion in N.W. Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala and other countries. Real depressing stuff—you really feel the bludgeoning of people's lives and liberties that our “leaders” are causing. But the patient and frustrating documentation that people like NACLA are doing is laying the groundwork for the next confrontation for power in this country. Vietnam and nuclear power revisited—closer to the heart of things, and with an increasingly experienced, sophisticated and believable people working to make humanity safe for the world. We'll see if it can be done! —TB

small changes are big changes

—Wendell Berry



—reprinted from *The Gift of America* (\$9.95), copyright 1977
by Wendell Berry, by permission from Sierra Club Books, 530 Bush
Street, San Francisco, CA 94108.

... The only real, practical, hope-giving way to remedy the fragmentation that is the disease of the modern spirit is a small and humble way—a way that a government or agency or organization or institution will never think of, though a *person* may think of it: one must begin in one's own life the private solutions that can only *in turn* become public solutions.

If, for instance, one is aware of the abuses and extortions to which one is subjected as a modern consumer, then one may join an organization of consumers to lobby for consumer-protection legislation. But in joining a consumer organization, one defines oneself as a consumer *merely*, and a mere consumer is by definition a dependent, at the mercy of the manufacturer and the salesman. If the organization secures the desired legislation, then the consumer becomes the dependent not only of the manufacturer and salesman, but of the agency that enforces the law, and is at its mercy as well. The law enacted may be a good one, and the enforcers all honest and effective; even so, the consumer will understand that one result of his effort has been to increase the number of people of whom he must beware.

The consumer may proceed to organization and even to legislation by considering only his "rights." And most of the recent talk about consumer protection has had to do with the consumer's rights. Very little indeed has been said about the consumer's responsibilities. It may be that whereas one's rights may be advocated and even "served" by an organization, one's responsibilities cannot. It may be that when one hands one's responsibilities to an organization, one becomes by that divestiture irresponsible. It may be that responsibility is intransigently a personal matter—that a responsibility can be fulfilled or failed, but cannot be got rid of.

If a consumer begins to think and act in consideration of his responsibilities, then he vastly increases his capacities as a person. And he begins to be effective in a different way—a way that is smaller perhaps, and certainly less dramatic, but sounder, and able sooner or later to assume the force of example.

A responsible consumer would be a critical consumer, would refuse to purchase the less good. And he would be a moderate consumer; he would know his needs and would not purchase what he did not need; he would sort among his needs and study to reduce them. These things, of course, have

been often said, though in our time they have not been said very loudly and have not been much heeded. In our time the rule among consumers has been to spend money recklessly. People whose governing habit is the relinquishment of power, competence, and responsibility, and whose characteristic suffering is the anxiety of futility, make excellent spenders. They are the ideal consumers. By inducing in them little panics of boredom, powerlessness, sexual failure, mortality, paranoia, they can be made to buy (or vote for) virtually anything that is "attractively packaged." The advertising industry is founded upon this principle.

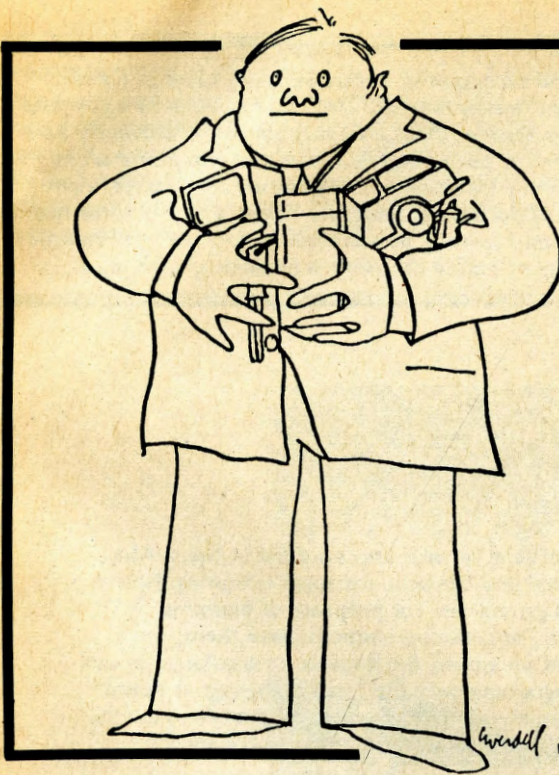
What has not been often said, because it did not need to be said until fairly recent times, is that the responsible consumer must also be in some way a producer. Out of his own resources and skills, he must be equal to some of his own needs. The household that prepares its own meals in its own kitchen with some intelligent regard for nutritional value, and thus depends on the grocer only for selected raw materials, exercises an influence on the food industry that reaches from the store all the way back to the seedsman. The household that produces some or all of its own food will have a proportionately greater influence. The household that can provide some of its own pleasures will not be helplessly dependent on the entertainment industry, will influence it by not being helplessly dependent on it, and will not support it thoughtlessly out of boredom.

The responsible consumer thus escapes the limits of his own dissatisfaction. He can choose, and exert the influence of his choosing, because he has given himself choices. He is not confined to the negativity of his complaint. He influences the market by his freedom. This is no specialized act, but an act that is substantial and complex, both practically and morally. By making himself responsibly free, a person changes both his life and his surroundings.

It is possible, then, to perceive a critical difference between responsible consumers and consumers who are merely organized. The responsible consumer slips out of the consumer category altogether. He is a responsible consumer incidentally, almost inadvertently; he is a responsible consumer because he lives a responsible life.

you get what you give

—Tom Bender



The whole consumer movement has always seemed off base—at best a bandaid action trying to patch up effects inherent in the irresponsibility and power we've granted to our institutions and corporations alike. And the way out that Wendell Berry suggests has more going for it than the fact that it works. It feels good.

Lane calls it a weaning process—giving up things bit by bit as you get comfortable with simpler and better ways. Many of them take more effort. Heating with a wood stove takes more of your time and energy, and is more messy. But it smells better, is a dryer, radiant heat, and gives you a fire to watch as well as a place to keep a teapot or pot of soup hot, to dry rain-soaked clothes, and to soak up a burst of heat coming in out of the weather.

Often the advantages are uncovered only with making the changes—getting away from surroundings filled with humming motors, paraphernalia that is always breaking down, and unspoken fears about what the untested contents of products are doing to your body. A TV survey finally called to ask what program we were watching and had to lower the TV audience statistics and thus advertising revenues by one more household. One by one, malingering brand names are vanishing as we track down local products that are better. We finally found a shampoo recently that both worked and didn't feel like either lye or herbal goo. Scratch one more Standard Brand Product. Aerosol shaving lather long ago joined the electric razor on the dusty pile of forgotten history, soon to be joined by my shaving brush when our Japanese bath finally happens and its hot soaks soften whiskers for shaving.

One look at what is being sold as new cars (not to mention their prices) convinced us that our truck's terminal illness maybe could be patched up and give it a run for a second hundred thousand miles. Even our contributions to recycling centers are decreasing as bulk-bought food staples cut down our bottles, cans and packaging.

A desperation-bought box of Wheaties plunged me over the line last week from the Standard American Dry Cereal Breakfast (even granola) and into homemade bread (Ya, now I remember Scandinavian breakfasts!), fruit, nuts and yogurt, and other non-habit breakfasts. Now I can avoid that horrid aisle in the grocery store—trying to figure if 15-1/2 oz. of Nature's

Own Sugar Hit is more lethal to my health and pocketbook than 435 grams of vitamin-sprayed, sugar-disguised Organ-o-Sweet.

We all have different things we hang onto and things we're glad to be rid of, and all our real changes happen slowly and stumblingly. But we definitely feel a momentum now of leaving the marketplace behind and very simply and happily taking more control and responsibility for our lives. At one time we may have done these things because of some ideology, but it's past that now. It's simple economics. It's escape from the frustrating choices among a hundred things—all alike and none of which are worth buying or having. It's a rediscovery of what really good food is. It's finding that whether it's food or shelter or friends, you get back in proportion to the amount of yourself you put in. It's having to relearn every time we head off in other directions the old maxim—*Keep It Simple*.

But more, we discover, these changes are not just to simplicity and economy. They're changes from living in a one-dimensional economic world to a multi-dimensional world. The gains in quality as well as quantity and the expansion in the breadth and depth of emotional and spiritual satisfaction give reward dimensionally greater than the time invested. Fire-lighting is a life-renewing ritual that keeps us closely and deeply aware of our capabilities our comprehension of the sources upon which we lean for our lives, and our demands upon them. A full woodshed gives greater comfort than a full bank account. And a bank account is never full. With a woodshed, you know when you have enough.

Each step we draw back from the tooth and claw of the marketplace gives a sense of space, of freedom, of peacefulness. The price of freedom is responsibility. It's also the path, and a joyful one.

Arrival and Garb City, Books I & II of *Daily Lives in Nghsi-Altai*, Robert Nichols, \$1.95, \$3.95 respectively, from:
New Directions Books
333 Sixth Ave.
New York, NY 10014

go naked

walk with the leopard

carry a transistor radio

—Robert Nichols

Patterns of Nghsi-Altai

See the three biomes, its distinct landscapes of Rift, Great Plains, and Drune forest: a triad. And superimposed upon this another triad dividing it again, at right angles. Thus three autonomous regions are formed, each with the whole landscape. Each one having also the whole people, the Six Tribes.

Thus the pattern of Altai: a double triad. One superimposed over the other. A hexagram.

The areas are linked together by a transportation grid. Running from west to east through the brown fields are the irrigation canals. A barge is being pulled by a water buffalo led by a ragged child. It is carrying a load of sugar cane. Forty feet overhead, and rushing away at right angles to it in the direction of the Rift, the steel track of the monorail.

□

A County Machine Bank

The machine banks (general-purpose machinery pools), a regular feature of the plains counties, are protected by windbreaks of cottonwood, in front of which are several windmills. Beyond are buildings surrounded by huge piles of manure, some of them up to thirty feet high, of alternating dark and light bands, the tops sprouting weeds.

"Where does all this manure come from?" inquires Blake in astonishment.

They are informed by the guide that it is collected each night in the city, by a brigade known as the honey bucket men, and transported here where it is stockpiled. The manure is contracted for by the Farmers' Co-operative, which buys it from the city brigades at the exchange rate of one cubic yard manure to five sers of grain. The stockpiled material is analyzed by the laboratory, and chemical fertilizers and other nutrients added in accordance with local soil requirements.

Beside the manure piles is a large pond. It is rectangular and appears to have been dug artificially. Alvarez inquires if it is for recreation.

There was some difficulty in the translation of this word. "But what is recreation?" When it was finally understood, our guides roared with laughter.

"No. It is a solar pond."

"What do you mean, a solar pond?"

Incredulity that the discoverers do not know what these are. It is explained that the ponds are for the purpose of trapping solar radiation and are dug shallow and sealed with a black polyethylene liner. From the soil layer below this, heat is conducted through a series of exchangers to the bank's industrial plant, where it provides steam to the electric turbines. This is in the summer, the dry monsoon season. During the rest of the year, the energy comes from the wind mills.

□

A cross-cultural successor to Ecotopia, Daily Lives in Nghsi-Altai is utopian fiction that will stretch your mind in a few new directions. The setting for its visionary society is distinctly non-Western, where the use of highly advanced appropriate technologies exists within a traditional Asian culture that utilizes communal modes of decision-making. Its "discovery" by three real-world literary and cultural personalities borrowed by the author for the purpose of telling the story is his way of offering a

Their Language

This is how the official records are compiled in Nghsi-Altai. Writing is outlawed and has been for some centuries. However, computers are in general use for purposes of planning. All village panchayats, or common councils, have them, small consoles being set up among the hookah, or smoking, groups. In computer programing only the "stiff" language is permitted, composed largely of archaicisms and algebraic symbols; the common or "fresh" language is reserved for speech.

□

Naming of Produce

There are three categories of grains and vegetables in Nghsi-Altai, depending on use. Thus with tomatoes: those consumed by the commune for food, and also used for ceremonial and festival purposes are called frooz—a fresh speech word signifying sacred. Tomatoes allocated to the State Buying Co-operatives are called kijh—meaning tax tomatoes. The third category is kumbaj, meaning market tomato. Only the market tomatoes may be priced and sold.

The grading and sorting of produce is called naming. It is done by one of the village men's societies, the Squirrels. This operation is a privilege of the society, and appropriate regalia is worn. The Squirrels also serve as a special police force and give out fines to those caught selling sacred or tax vegetables. This is black marketeering and the crime is: mixing up names.

□

Entry Into Garb City

At the invitation of the Planning Ministry we have come to visit Garh. After a short trip across the plains, we arrived last night at the transportation node. Descending by skip (electric cable car) into the Rift canyon, we were plunged at once into the excitement and fervor of the big city.

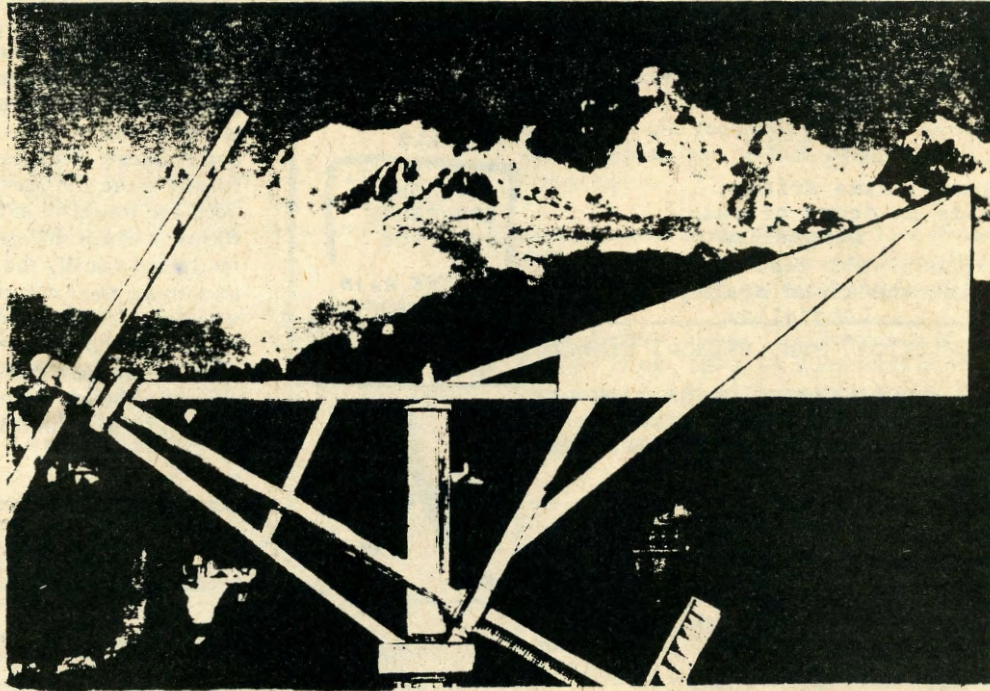
The glare. A barrage of noise. Buildings of unexpected structure and function crowding the narrow area between the cliffs, connected by raised passageways. Everything compact, enormously compressed, "miniaturized." Yet they say this is a city of three million. An expanse of water in a canal is illuminated under a neon sign, lights flash on and off, the metabolism of urban movement, traffic. As the skip glided over the submerged rooftops, a tower loomed on our right. Within the steel frame was a cylinder of shifting, multicolored light, like a giant cathode tube.

Our guide informed us it was a "synerg" or public art object. "It registers the energy state of the city at a given moment—traffic flow, heat, number of telephone calls, air composition index, even demographic information. The data comes in from the stations, is absorbed cybernetically, and emitted as light signals."

□

composite view of this hybrid society while having some literary fun. Their descriptions, some of which are excerpted here, run from Marxist treatises to ritual peasant songs. No so immediate to our own conditions as William Weston's adventures, *Daily Lives* is nonetheless imaginative, believable and poetic. If you get booked on these two volumes, take heart, because two more are on their way. —SA

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—from *Daily Lives in Nghsi-Altai*

Blake's Story Continued: The Lights Festival

Egwegnu is the largest of the great Drune ecological universities. The period of study, initiated by what is called the "insect pilgrimage," lasts for six months. Tuition is subsidized by the confederacy, and couples come from all over the country of Nghsi-Altai. As the pilgrimage is made traditionally on the tenth year of marriage, the age range of the students is from about twenty-three to thirty years. . . .

Thus during this interval the young couples are free of cares, much as the university students in the West. No hard labor in the fields. No child-rearing duties. Solitude, quiet. The university means a break in the lives of these individual couples, a resting period and a relaxation from the pressures of tight communal living. As a matter of fact there is even a clinic in the dormitory where psychiatric counseling is offered to individuals suffering from the stresses of "overcommunalization." An interesting idea.

The lecturers are the Deodars, the great "blue" shamans of Nghsi-Altai. It is said that they were the original people when the land was covered by forests, and that they invented the first musical and scientific instruments—in particular the sensor devices used in the weather and soils laboratories. . . .

Sun slants into the clearing. There is a slight rise toward the back (where the projector is located). The students sit at the lecturer's feet on the ground covered with pine needles.

The Deodar shows the slides. In one hand he holds a South Asian oboe which he uses as a pointer. From time to time—

at the end of some difficult passage—he will blow on it, a long drawn-out dreamy single note, or several staccato jabs of varying pitches. This is to "dispel logical thought sequences" and "to concentrate the spirit" of the listener.

The following are some of Totuola's "thought sparks" (or koans) jotted down by one of the listeners at random. . . .

Don't ask the atom smasher to recycle life.




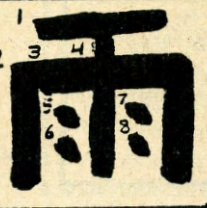






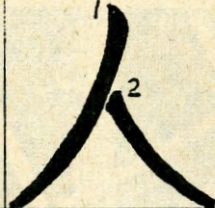

The earth is 5 billion years old: inhabit it. Life is 1 billion years old: revere it. A strong sneeze will blow away 40,000 years of topsoil.

Four carbon bonds allow infinite complexity.

Go naked / walk with the leopard / carry a transistor radio.

A sweet soil is the result of many cataclysms.

At the end of each term period there is what is called the Lights Festival. Students take samples of whatever they have been working on in the lab—leaves, grains, soils, etc.—plus strands of their own hair and photographs of themselves. This is mixed with clay and formed into pots. Broken old pottery of former students, found on the shore, is also used. On the evening of the Lights Festival, these vessels are launched. When the moon rises, each couple places its boat on the lake and floats it out, with a paper lantern burning in it. The lights drift over the surface. And the children are allowed to throw stones at them and sink them. This is called: chrysalis-breaking. It is the end of the first life phase . . .

<p>U; AME, RAIN.</p> <p>RAIN 雨 IS DROPS :: OF WATER FALLING IN THE ENCLOSURE OR SPACE 冂 UNDER HEAVEN</p> <p>THE RAIN KANJI 雨 IS A TOP COMPONENT IN THE KANJI FOR SNOW, FROST, HAIL, THUNDER, CLOUD, ETC.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>CLOUD JME 47</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>SNOW JME 100</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RAIN</p> </div> </div> <p>"The hooded clouds, like friars, Tell their beads in drops of rain. Longfellow</p> <p>"The mist and cloud will turn to rain, The rain to mist and cloud again, Longfellow</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>RAD</th> <th>STROKE</th> <th>JME</th> </tr> <tr> <td>173</td> <td>8</td> <td>42</td> </tr> </table>  <p>FROM HEAVEN</p> <p>FALLS</p> <p>INTO THE ENCLOSURE OR SPACE</p> <p>THE RAIN, RAINDROPS</p>	RAD	STROKE	JME	173	8	42
RAD	STROKE	JME					
173	8	42					
<p>NIN, JIN; HITO, (BITO), MAN, PERSON, MANKIND.</p> <p>MAN, PERSON 人 STANDS FACING US OR WITH HIS BACK TO US, OR PRESENTING A SIDE VIEW AND WALKING IN THE OLD WAY WITHOUT SWINGING HIS ARMS.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MAN AS TWO LEGS (COMPONENT)</p> </div> </div> <p>THESE TWO STROKES FOR MAN, PERSON DRAWN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY MAY BECOME A TOP 冫 OR A LEFT 亻 COMPONENT IN KANJI. (THE MAN HOLDS UP ONE LEG).</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>MAN</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p>LIFTS ONE LEG, LIFTS OTHER LEG</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>RAD</th> <th>STROKE</th> <th>JME</th> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>2</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </table>  <p>THE TOP COMPONENT MAN</p>  <p>MAN AS LEFT COMPONENT</p>	RAD	STROKE	JME	9	2	30
RAD	STROKE	JME					
9	2	30					

-from the Kanji ABC

GOOD THINGS

The Kanji ABC, Andrew Dykstra, 1977, \$6.95 from:
William Kaufmann, Inc.
One First Street
Los Altos, CA 94022

This is one of those delightful perceptual tools you realize you'd been hoping for a long time to bump into. A frankly experimental edition—rough in execution and sometimes farfetched in explanation, but a fine tool for learning to read and write the characters by which a third of the world's people communicate. More important personally is the glimpse into a language of deep and powerful imagery, where the forms of words themselves convey directly and visually the relationships underlying their meaning. Ancient is written as ten generations of mouths, trouble as two women under the same roof, evening as a crescent moon half-concealed below the horizon, east as the sun rising behind a tree. —TB

WATER

Water Atlas of the United States, Geraghty, Miller, van der Leeden and Troise, 1973, \$40 from:
Water Information Center
7 High Street
Huntington, NY 11743

Maps are such amazing things! It's only when you start crystal-ball gazing into them and asking new questions that you realize the incredible density of information that they contain and the ease with which you can draw new patterns and understanding out of that information. This is a library book—too expensive for the direct use most people would have for it, but well worth a few hours absorbing. You leave it with a new perspective on the condition of the "blood" of our country stored up in some obscure corner of your mind which you know is going to be useful. Write for publications list covering water-related topics. —TB



AGRICULTURE

California Agriculture—Special Issue: Integrated Pest Management, February 1978, free from:
Publication
Univ. of California
Div. of Agricultural Sciences
1422 Harbour Way South
Richmond, CA 94804

Contains a number of reports on integrated pest management, ranging from an overview of IPM practices/projects across the nation to specifics for individual crops. Recommended. —LJ

Small Farmer Newsletter, monthly, 6 pp., free from:

Allen Bjergo, Small Farm Specialist
Cooperative Extension Service,
Room 200
818 Burlington
Missoula, MT 5901
(406) 329-3251

Lots of info on food co-ops, publications of special interest, requests for suggestions on what to cover, animal shelter designs and plans, recipes, make this a useful attempt to fill gaps in extension agent programs and a model that should be widely copied. —LJ

RAIN PUBLICATIONS

- RAINBOOK: Resources for Appropriate Technology**, 256 pp., April 1977, \$7.95. Resources for changing our dreams and communities. Compilation of the best of RAIN through Spring 1977, with much new material on economics, communications, health, energy, community building and other areas. Fully indexed. **Note: RAINBOOK incorporates A.T. Sourcelists and Coming Around.**
- Urban Ecotopia Poster**, by Diane Schatz, 22"x33", \$3. A reprint of the "Visions of Ecotopia" line drawing that appeared in the April '76 poster issue. Great for coloring.
- Suburban Ecotopia Poster**, by Diane Schatz, 22"x30", \$3. Available for the first time in full size, this finely executed drawing illustrates Small-Is-Beautiful and self-reliance principles applied in a happy suburb of the very near future. Also great for kids' (and grown-up kids'!) coloring. (See cover of April '76 poster issue)
- Emerging Energy Policy Principles**, by Tom Bender, August 1974, \$1.
- Cosmic Economics**, by Joel Schatz and Tom Bender, revised March 1974, \$1.
- Consumer Guide to Woodstoves**, revised Sept. 1977, \$1. Compiled reprints of Bill Day's article on selection, installation, repair of woodstoves, wood cookstoves and wood furnaces of all kinds.
- Sharing Smaller Pies**, by Tom Bender, January 1975, 38 pp., \$2. Discussion of the need for institutional change tied in with energy and economic realities. Begins to lay out new operating principles, including some criteria for appropriate technology.
- Environmental Design Primer**, by Tom Bender, 206 pp., 1973, \$5.95. Meditations on an ecological consciousness. Essays about moving our heads and spaces into the right places.
- Living Lightly: Energy Conservation in Housing**, by Tom Bender, 38 pp., 1973, \$2. Early ideas on the need for change in building and lifestyle; compost privies, Ouroboros Project (self-sufficient experimental house in Minnesota) and the "problem of bricks in your toilet."
- Employment Impact Statement**, October 1976, 2 pp., 50¢. A simple, step-by-step way to figure the employment impacts of a new industry and consider the benefits of different options.

Principles to be carefully remembered in wending our way through this transition, and outlines for the simplest and most effective economic mechanism we've seen for guiding that transition.

Back Issues Available, \$1 each. List those desired: Vol. I, Nos. 7, 8, 9; Vol. II, all 9 issues (Vol. II, No. 6 was a poster issue; Vol. II, No. 9 was a special issue on Northwest Habitat.) Vol. III, all 10 issues; Vol. IV, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Vol. IV, No. 2 was a special issue guest edited by the California Office of Appropriate Technology).



RAIN
2270 N.W. Irving
Portland, OR 97210

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- Living Lightly: \$5/year - 10 issues (income less than \$5,000 . . . ?) \$ _____
- Add \$2.80/year for Canada and Mexico (payable in U.S. Dollars). \$ _____
Inquire for other foreign rates
- Publications (listed above) \$ _____
- Donation \$ _____
- Add \$5 billing fee if payment is not enclosed \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Zip _____

The Post Office won't deliver magazines without zip codes.

EVENTS

High Valley, a cooperative community on the Columbia River Gorge, will have a series of weekend seminars to develop skills for small scale farming and community living beginning in early July. Registration is \$40/adult/weekend and includes food. For more information write: High Valley MP 1.54 Smith Cripe Rd., Washougal, WA 98671. Phone (206) 837-3298, or (503) 235-9672 in Portland.

A series of short workshops at the Rural Center of the Farallones Institute will be held through the summer in solar building construction, intensive horticulture, greywater recycling, and forestry. Information on these workshops is available from them for 25¢ and additional information on their residential workshops and apprenticeship program is available for \$1. Write to 15290 Coleman Valley Rd., Occidental, CA 95465.

develop herbal blends, and to educate on the use of herbs. Pay is \$3/hour. Interested persons should write to them prior to June 15 for these July 1 openings at 831 W. Fir, San Diego, CA 92101 or phone (714) 239-1206.

The Nuclear Information & Resource Service needs two researchers who are familiar with nuclear energy issues, experienced in grass-roots organization and having basic research skills. These \$12,000/year positions are available immediately. For details call Peggy Davies, 202/547-1606, or write NIRS, 225 4th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

Free information on energy in New York is available by calling: *New York State Energy Hot Line*, (516) 686-7744, (212) 895-9813 or (914) 664-2868. Call 10 am to 4 pm weekdays for information ranging from energy policy and legislation background to home and business conservation and management methods.

The Plan
209 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

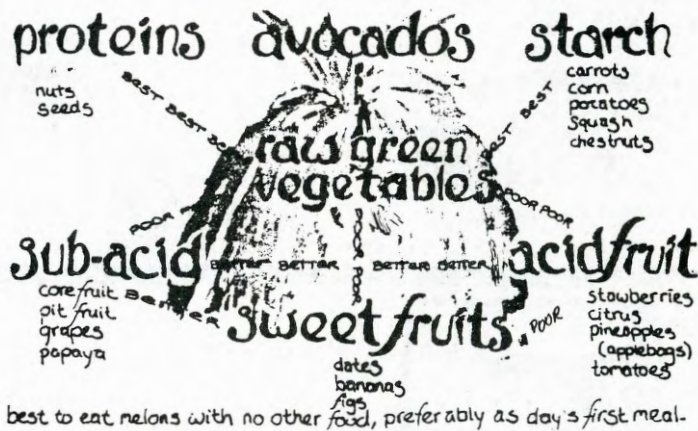
The people of Santa Cruz County are being presented with "the Plan" for avocado, olive, date palm, persimmon, fig, pine nut, pomegranate trees to be planted in public access areas throughout the county in a land use that puts food first, providing the community with fresh, free, indigenous and healthful food.

Treelings propagated in a county nursery will be transplanted along riverbanks, school yards, parks, for people of the community to harvest and eat. "The Plan" is perhaps a unique model, incorporating ideas of complementary food combinations (see illustration), in an urban forestry plan that feeds and educates its community as well. If you know of any other communities doing an urban forestry plan that's food-producing, let us know. Letters of support for implementation of the Santa Cruz plan can be sent to the Board of Supervisors, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. For more information about "the Plan," contact its prime mover, Clay Olsen. -LS

JOBS

The Center for Local Self-Reliance in Minneapolis is seeking an executive director, salary \$10,000. Send resume by June 15 to CLSR, 3302 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55407.

The Medicine Wheel Herb & Healing Collective in San Diego is seeking two people who have a commitment to voluntary simplicity for the positions of: business systems person—to be responsible for accounting, bookkeeping systems, with an awareness of ecological/political/spiritual cost-accounting; and herbalist/buyer—to procure herbs, to



Food Combination Chart from "The Plan"

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