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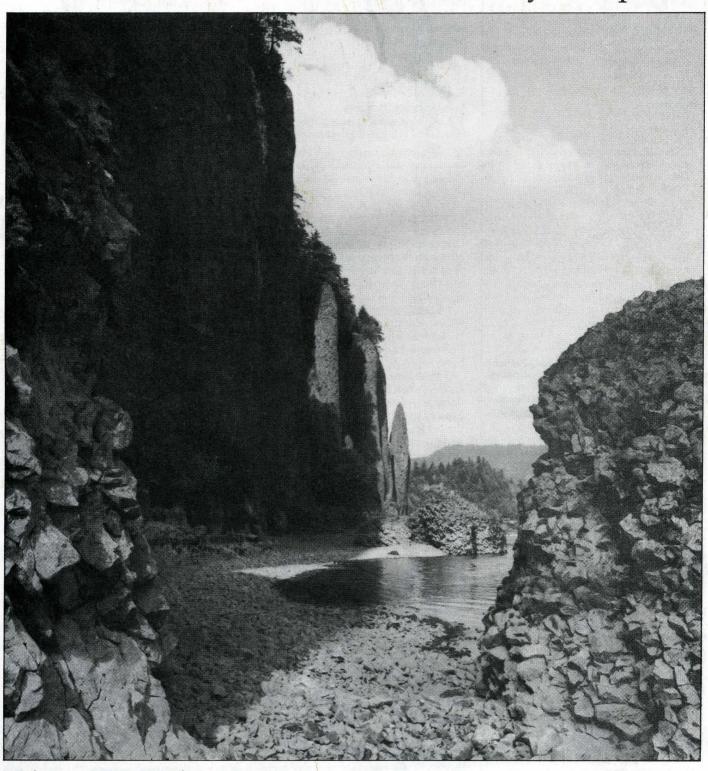
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RAIN

January/February 1985

Dead End Road?
Building a New Economy
A.T. Education Programs
Community Computers



Volume XI, Number 2

RAIN

Volume XI, Number 2 January/February 1985

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RAIN magazine publishes information that can help people lead simple and satisfying lives, make their communities and regions economically self-reliant, and build a society that is durable, just, and ecologically sound.

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Cover: Cape Horn on the Columbia River, 1984. Photo by Terry Toedtemeier

RAINDROPS

RAIN in transition again? It's true, but it feels like we have this one under control, and that we will come out of it better than ever. There are some changes under way. We will tell you more about them when thing are firmed up.

Steve Johnson, one of RAIN's founding fathers, has gotten back in the action. He helped us get this issue together, and will be filling in as editor for at least the next couple of issues. Also, Mimi Maduro, a long-time RAIN friend and member of our Board of Directors, provided editorial assistance for this issue.

Also, alert readers may notice the absence of our usual guest bioregion

report, "Voices of Reinhabitation." With the current staff and current workload we simply cannot afford the time to actively solicit these reports from around the country. However, we are still interested in this feature and will gladly accept submissions. If you are interested in providing a report on the activities in your bioregion, contact us and we will send you our guidelines.

Thanks to all the people who have sent us letters in the last two months. We have printed some of them here, but we got many more than we could publish. It's good to get feedback. It helps us stay relevant.

LETTERS

Our agency is very interested in receiving queries from prospective authors (among your readers) who have book ideas regarding the topics addressed by your newsletter.

We work with all major publishers, and we work with clients who have promising book ideas whether or not they have previously had books or articles published.

If you know of anyone who is now working on a book or who is interested in doing so, please ask him or her to send us a query letter that includes a summary of the book idea, outline, targeted readers, and the writer's background. We do not need to see a manuscript or sample chapters initially.

Rainer Luedtke Literary Agency 9417 Great Hills Trail Suite 3037 Austin, TX 78759 You can verify the numbers in the Chemical Rubber Handbook in any library, or borrow one from a chemistry major at most colleges.

Now if you want to talk about strength on a per unit weight basis, that is something else. Bamboo would rate pretty high. But for concrete reinforcement where weight is not a hindrance you had better stick with steel if you really want strength.

Now when the article speaks about 170 times less energy than the equivalent steel—take another look. What is the equivalent steel? The fictitious 24,000 pounds per square inch steel, or real steel, which at its weakest is three times stronger than bamboo? I think that you should run that 170 number down to 55 times less energy...

F. M. Walters Bethesda, MD

Take a look at RAIN September-October, page 11, second column, about 11/2 inches from the bottom of the page. The statement is made that bamboo boasts a higher tensile strength than steel. That is such a fantastic assertion that it should have sent you running for a reference book. Steel averages 23,000 pounds per square inch tensile strength? Don't believe it. Steel really ranges from 75,000 to 460,000. Even cast iron is twice as strong as bamboo. What is meant by an average tensile strength for steel? The average of the high and low? In that case about 260,000! Take the weakest steel—it is three times the strength of bamboo.

Those are fine, well researched articles on bamboo in the September/October RAIN—nice work!

Here's an ad for the bamboo bicycle produced in 1895 (copied from *King of the Road* by Andrew Ritchie, Ten Speed Press).

If Max's Pot or the Aprovecho Research Center wanted to start producing bamboo bicycle frames, I'd be happy to help with a marketing plan. I'm not sure if bamboo bikes are still produced in Asia, but a friend of mine once saw one in use—in New Hampshire!

John Dowlin Philadelphia, PA I saw your ad in Clinton Street Quarterly, and since I raise bamboo nursery stock, I had a friend pick up a copy for me the same day.

I wish you had told me! . . . in our culture we have no bamboo tradition. Consequently its rapid growth in the shooting phase is cause for alarm . . . bamboo must be harvested! My metaphor is to an old apple tree—another thicket-growth plant. If you don't prune and harvest the fruit, you get an unsightly mess. So it behooves all of us interested in bamboo to adopt a grove of untended bamboo and thin, fertilize, weed, and harvest shoots. The best article I know of on bamboo is "Bamboo for Northern Gardens" in the July '79 issue of Horticulture Magazine.

On painting bamboo, Portland's own Wing K. Leong has written *How to Paint Bamboo* (pub. Chinese Art Studio, 332 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97204). The book includes a section on bamboo in oriental culture that is one of the best I've read.

As far as tools for fine work with bamboo, the only source I know is Woodline The Japan Woodworker, 1731

Clement Avenue, Alameda CA 94501.
For horticultural interest in bamboo, the American Bamboo Society, 1101 San Leon Court, Solana Beach, CA 92075 (619) 481-9869, is a non-profit organization promoting all knowledge of bamboo. The Pacific Northwest chapter can be contacted through my partner Ned Jacquith (1507 SE Alder, Portland, OR 97214) or at 10023 14th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98177 (206) 783-2252.

Thanks for adding to the swell of the Bamboo Revival.

Rick Valley Portland, OR A friend lent a copy of the September/ October 1984 RAIN to me. I was surprised and saddened to see that your issue on art in everyday life did not contain an article on photography. If one can get past the shallow objection that photography is mechanical, one can see that it is an art generated and controlled by individuals. It is highly decentralized, and, if one has the good sense to include the common photograph, it is an art practiced by millions world-wide.

I hope your omission of photography is just an oversight, and not evidence that only the overly-romanticized, traditional crafts, street painting, and agitprop theatre count for you.

Mary Lou Marien LaFayette, NY

I think RAIN has reached a new level with the publication of Michael Marien's article on "The Transformation as Sandbox Syndrome" and Roger Pollak's article on solar power in the November/December issue. For years I've thought that RAIN was a nice journal, full of good words and gardening tips, but rather unrealistic in just the way Marien describes. It wasn't the only such periodical around, of course; lots of whole-earth books and mags spouted the same optimistic brand of bubbly that he deplores. The New Left had a lot of it, too. I call it the "Jericho Syndrome": all you have to do is march around blowing trumpets and shouting slogans and the walls will come tumbling down. Now with the election of 1984 behind us, we can finally realize that it ain't gonna be that way.

I was also delighted by the Pollak article. I've paid my dues for the Solar Lobby for years, but I'm glad to be made aware that photovoltaic cells depend on rare raw materials and that they can't be put together on a Sunday afternoon with Boy Scout carpentry equipment and skills. The alternative technology needs the main technology and feeds off it, and we aren't going to abandon the main technology and live like Andean peasants—at least not enough will volunteer to do so that will make a difference here in Ronald Reagan's America.

Congratulations on telling yourselves and your readers some hard truths. In your eleventh year, your magazine has truly come of age.

Noel Peattie Editor of SIPAPU Winters, California

Roger Pollak's article on "Solar Power" (November/December issue) paints a fairly narrow picture of our solar future. Perhaps, it should be more accurately entitled "The Politics of Active Solar." While I share Mr. Pollak's frustrations with profit-hungry entrepreneurs that proliferate the "renewable energy industry," does this detract from the value of using renewable sources of energy to provide increased local jobs and a more environmentally-sound energy alternative? It's certainly preferable to more acid rain from coal plants, strip mining the Rockies or producing larger piles of plutonium.

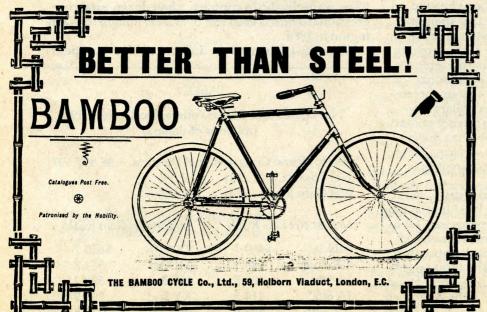
I must take issue with your belief that renewable energy developments have shifted towards "high-tech, capitalintensive" solutions. In Oregon and California, there has been a recent movement towards simpler and lower-cost alternatives, such as passive solar water and space heating. This movement is likely to accelerate as solar tax credits fade from view.

Why not applaud the virtues of passive solar design, daylighting and superinsulation? Nothing more than proper building orientation, south glazing and weatherization can greatly reduce our energy needs in the future. I believe you will do your readers greater justice by providing them new insights on how to develop conservation and renewable resources, that provide a means for moving towards a more sustainable and ecologically sound society, than you do by stressing the pitfalls of active solar businesses.

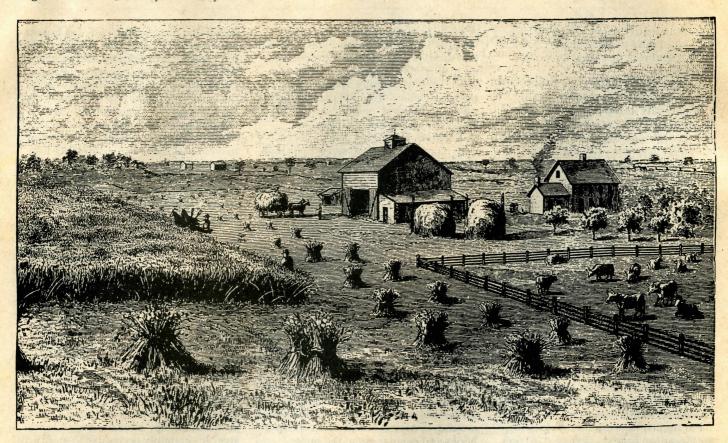
Allen L. Brown Portland, Oregon

"Ecology of Everday Life" by F. Lansing Scott in the November/December issue must be commended. There is abundant learning available from questioning what we do and how we live. Scott's questioning approach is right on.

> Larry and Marge Warning Oysterville, Washington



Ad for a bamboo bicycle produced in 1895 (sent to RAIN by a reader)



Military Spending Drains Rural Economies

by J. David Colfax

Although rural Americans have not been heavily involved in recent efforts to reduce military spending, an analysis of recent federal taxation patterns reveals that they bear a disproportionate share of the growing military tax burden. In 1983 nearly eighty percent of what are defined as "heavily rural" Congressional Districts lost tax dollars in the balance of payments to Washington. And because these lost tax dollars are spent in nonrural districts, primarily to finance military projects, rural America is being drained of tax dollars that are needed for local programs and services. Moreover, the situation has been worsening dramatically since 1980.

In 1983 America's rural congressional districts sent eight-and-a-half billion dollars *more* to Washington than they received back in programs and services (see Table 1). Only a few rural congressional districts benefitted from current federal spending, primarily because they contained large military installations. The three largest net gain rural congressional districts contain Fort Hood ("the free world's largest training base"), the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, and the Seymour-Johnson Air Force

Base, respectively. In contrast, a half dozen rural congressional districts each lost over \$400 million to Washington in 1983.

Where do these rural tax dollars go? Most are spent in

TABLE 1

Net Losses and Gains, Federal Tax Dollars, 1983 (millions of dollars)

All (65) Rural Congressional Districts -\$8,493,697
Net Loss RCDs (51) 78.5%
Net Gain RCDs (14) 21.5%

Largest Net Loss RCDs		Largest Net Gain RCDs		
MN 1st	\$460.7	TX 11th	\$658.7	
OR 2nd	443.5	MD 1st	544.2	
IA 5th	426.8	NC 3rd	539.2	
IA 6th	414.5	KY 2nd	297.7	
NY 34th	406.0	NH 2nd	277.8	

areas which contain large military-related industries and bases. For example, just five non-rural congressional districts—Newport News, Norfolk, Fort Worth, and two in St. Louis—each receive between one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half billion dollars more than their citizens and corporations pay out in federal taxes. These five districts alone absorb more than the \$8.5 billion that the rural congressional districts lost in 1983. Fifty-one rural congressional districts, many of which are poor and underdeveloped, are being drained of their resources in order to fund military contracts and programs in just four urban and suburban areas.

As Table 2 shows, rural congressional districts in the Midwest fare the worst, with 90% of them suffering net losses, compared with 70% of western districts.

Interestingly, the flow of tax dollars out of rural congressional districs is not significantly related to the party affiliations of their congressional representatives—

Democratic districts fare only slightly better than Republican (Table 3).

If current federal spending priorities continue—and there is little evidence that they will not—the fifty-one net-loss rural congressional districts will carry an even greater tax burden in the future. In just three years, 1980-83, their net losses have increased by a third, and the rate of loss is increasing.

What are the implications of this accelerating drain of rural tax dollars? First, it contributes to the decline of local health, social welfare, and education programs. When their own tax dollars are not returned to these rural congressional districts, local officials are forced to devise ways of compensating for these losses or to cut needed programs and services. In almost every instance, it is easier to cut programs than to locate alternative sources of funds.

Second, with the loss of local tax dollars to other

TABLE 2

Net Loss, Rural Congressional Districts, by Region, 1983

	Percent	No.
Northeast	75.0	6
Midwest	89.5	17
South	75.0	21
West	70.0	7
Total	78.5	51

TABLE 3

Net Loss, Rural Congressional Districts, by Party Affiliation of Representative

	Percent	No.
Republican	82.6	23
Democrat	76.2	19

congressional districts, capital is unavailable for local self-help projects, and rural economic development programs go unfunded. A detailed study of one impoverished, largely rural county revealed that less than one-half of one percent of all of its federal tax dollars came back to the county to support economic development programs.

With the loss of local tax dollars to other congressional districts, capital is unavailable for local self-help projects, and rural economic development programs go unfunded.

Third, critical rural infrastructures—bridges, roads, and highways—are inadequately maintained and left unimproved because of the lack of local funds.

Clearly, federal policies are having a severe and growing impact on the nation's rural congressional districts, and much of this is the result of economic imbalances created by military spending policies. Rural communities cannot afford to lose their limited resources, and congressional representatives who fail to recognize the profound and perhaps irreversible consequences of the tax dollar drain on their districts need to be made accountable by their constituents. \square

Notes

The methodology employed in this study was developed by James R. Anderson, in *Bankrupting America*, available from Employment Research Associates, 400 South Washington, Lansing, MI 48933, for \$3.

A detailed analysis of the effects of federal spending on one near-rural county is found in *Down the Federal Drain: The Impact of Military Spending on Mendocino County*, by Don Lipmanson and J. David Colfax, available from Save Our Local Economy, Box 246, Boonville, CA 95415, for \$2.

I am grateful to George Rucker, Research Director of Rural America, for providing me with information on "Heavily Rural Districts," which are defined as those in which a majority of the voting age population lives in nonmetropolitan areas and outside of cities of 10,000 or more. Classification is based on 1980 Census data.

J. David Colfax is a consultant and free-lance writer, and the co-author of the "Save Our Local Economy" Initiative which appeared on the Mendocino County ballot in November.

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War Tax Resistance

by Bruce and Ann Borquist

Each year at this time increasing numbers of Americans come to grips with an ugly dilemma: they pray for peace, yet pay for war. Between 30% and 60% of our income tax goes to war-related activities, depending on who's counting. Low estimates leave out important sectors, like the Dept. of Energy budget for nuclear weaponry, while high estimates include interest on past wars and veterans' benefits. Pick a number.

For most people, fear (of the IRS, the Russians, and others) tips the scales between morals and expediency—and they ante up again. But war tax resistance is on the increase, and Washington (and the IRS) is taking notice. This article shares two people's experiences with the issues and methods of war tax resistance, and how our government has reacted to them.

War tax resisters are an incredibly diverse group, one that seems to have come together by need rather than choice. They span the political and moral spectrum, and often have more differences than similarities. Their common objection to the payment of war-related taxes is based on one of at least two major positions: one constitutional, the other moral.

Constitutional war tax resisters base their objections solely on constitutional, common, and case law, usually in that order. This is a comparatively small group that reflects a wide spectrum of positions. They are usually based on legal interpretations of the role of governments and of money in society.

It seems the vast majority of war tax resisters do so on moral grounds. They range in persuasion from fuzzily ethical to passionately religious. Arguments are based in some way on the feeling that war is murder and murder is wrong.

Of course, this description oversimplifies the issues and misrepresents nearly everyone. However, it does illuminate the diversity and the intensely personal nature of war tax resistance. It is not a "bandwagon" cause that sweeps people along in a groundswell of enthusiasm like the anti-Vietnam war and environmental movements of the last two decades. Most war tax resisters we know are up against a very scary machine called the IRS, and they are alone and unarmed. They are usually quiet, calculating, even hard, people as a result. The number of mass marches and organized groups is small compared to the numbers of people engaged in laying their dollars on the line in this movement.

There are as many methods of war tax resistance as there are positions on it. Thankfully, a number of manuals have been printed in the last four years that give a good overview of the options and their various risks (see Resources below). While some extend their resistance process to taxes on telephone use, tobacco, and alcohol, and the avoidance of savings bonds (remember war bonds?), most attention is spent on responses to the biggie: income tax and the 1040 form.

No-risk methods of resistance include living lightly on incomes below taxable levels and the enclosing of a letter of protest with the 1040 form. Medium risk options include "war tax" deductions, credits, or adjustments on the form that alters the amount of tax owed or the refund due. These result in civil penalties—usually fines (see "Our Case" below).

High-risk actions involve the possibility of criminal penalties. These include refusal to pay all or part of the tax due, tampering with withholding, a blank return, or no return at all. All options for avoiding or changing withholding involve possible fraud charges—a felony. Recently, federal judges in Portland agreed to award a mandatory year in jail to anyone convicted of criminal fraud in tax cases. The message: plan ahead how serious you want to be in your war tax resistance efforts, and adopt a method with acceptable risks. An hour with a sympathetic, experienced tax attorney may be money well spent planning your action, especially if it results in a registered letter addressed to you from the IRS.

It is not a "bandwagon" cause that sweeps people along in a groundswell of enthusiasm... Most war tax resisters we know are up against a very scary machine called the IRS, and they are alone and unarmed.

War tax resistance other than through protest letters is serious business. All involve potentially high costs in financial and psychological terms and the loss of some of your easy freedoms. There is a no more alone feeling than to get a penalty notice—or a personal visit—from the IRS. At that point you are sure the FBI has your back door staked out and is just waiting for a signal to break it down. This is no mistake; we are all well trained in this reaction. Why then do increasing numbers of seemingly good citizens take these risks? The motivations, the methods, and the people are diverse, but they all have in common a willingness to take action to prevent the simplicity which Jonathan Schell described as "the simplicity of nothingness. We—the human race—shall cease to be."

Our Case

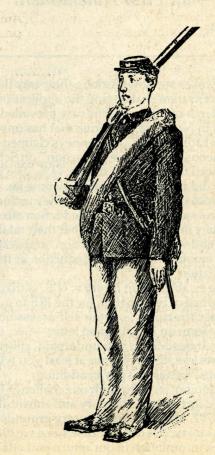
Our experiences with war tax resistance involve two different actions in the last two years. We have been forced to learn a lot about IRS procedure and the law through experiences probably similar to many other war tax resisters.

We have done war tax resistance in an attempt to be consistent with our religious faith. As Christians we try to live the "music" of the Gospel, not just the words. There are people who profess Christian ethics because they are tax resisters (i.e. because the Gospel provides a good argument for the cause); we, on the other hand, are resisters because we are Christians (i.e. this is only

one way in which we live out our faith). We would not have begun tax resistance if not for our Christian beliefs.

Of most interest now is what we did on our 1982 tax return. Following one method described in detail in several books below, we computed our total tax due accurately (no "war tax deductions" or credits), calculated 50% of that amount, and added that to the refund legitimately due us. This was done by altering line 56 to read "amount paid to an alternative fund (see attached letter)" and putting the 50% figure there. We also enclosed a copy of the check which paid 50% of our tax due to Portland Peace Investors Alternative Fund. In our attached letter we explained that we had paid 150% of our taxes (100% to the IRS, 50% to PPI) and were requesting 50% plus our "legitimate" refund back. In this way we were practicing tax resistance, not evasion, since we had actually redirected funds rather than pocketed them. Until 1982, the IRS would have considered this an error, corrected our return, and sent the refund we showed was legitimately due (though in at least one case the requested 50% refund was actually issued). Enter Internal Revenue Code Sec. 6702.

Enacted by Congress in 1982, Sec. 6702 as currently applied by the IRS is a major constraint to conscientious war tax resisters who have chosen medium-risk protest methods. Ostensibly designed to punish flagrant abuses of the 1040 form (profanity), libertarian responses ("gold standard" deduction and fifth amendment returns), and blank returns, it has been applied more rigorously. It states that if your return is either blank or obviously doesn't contain enough information to use in verifying your self-assessment, and, if you did this for frivolous



reasons or just to delay the IRS, you pay a \$500 fine. It costs you 15% (\$75) even to have your appeal heard, for

which you have 30 days to prepare.

The penalty specifically has no relationship to whether you paid your taxes in full or not, only that you took a "frivolous" position apparent on the face of the return. This would almost, if not always, apply only to religious or politicial dissidents. Most other cases, such as padding deductions or understating income, would not be apparent on the face of the return, but only after an audit. There are penalties and procedures already in place for underpayment or failing to file; what Sec. 6702 does is to radicalize war tax resisters who choose to make statements by their return in a non-criminal way.

Our case is currently being argued in federal district court on both constitutional and statutory grounds. All administrative appeals were exhausted to no avail, so legal action against the IRS to recover the penalty and argue against the standards for its application was the only recourse. Of course, we are spending many times

the penalty on this effort.

We contend that Sec. 6702 by its very nature penalizes free speech, our freedom of religion, and our right to petition our government for redress of grievances—all First Amendment guarantees.

A number of cases are now working their way through the federal court system challenging the application of Sec. 6702. In March of this year, one case prevailed (Jenney v. U.S.) in Northern California that has important lessons for future action. The Jenneys claimed a large miscellaneous "conscience deduction" on Schedule A that reduced their total tax due by 44%. The judge ruled that they did not file a "frivolous income tax return" as penalized by the IRS because they included in their letter an analysis of how the deduction affected their return. They in essence stated what their total tax was both with and without the deduction, and acknowledged that the amount without the deduction as the "proper" calculation.

The principle established in *Jenney v. U.S.* is that if you provide sufficient information for the IRS to judge the "substantial correctness" of your self-assessment—whether on the form on in a attached letter—Sec. 6702 does not apply. If in addition you underpaid, collection procedures of course still apply, but at least you will not

have a "frivolous" penalty to pay in addition.

We hope to demonstrate through our challe

We hope to demonstrate through our challenge in federal district court several statutory and constitutional errors in Sec. 6702. We argue on statutory grounds that the penalty was misapplied in our case since we did provide enough information in our return and attached

letter to judge its correctness. That is one benefit to the "alternative payment" method of tax resistance: "self assessment" has already taken place (by the IRS' own definition) on the "Total Tax Due" line above this section, whereas a war tax deduction or credit affects the amount shown as due.

More important, though, are our Constitutional challenges. We contend that Sec. 6702 by its very nature penalizes free speech, our freedom of religion, and our right to petition our government for redress of grievances—all First Amendment guarantees. Due process is denied, we argue, in the requirement of prepayment in order to appeal. Lastly, we believe that the penalty is selectively enforced and that we were denied equal protection under the law. An IRS regulation on administrative appeals specifically denies this right in cases where actions were taken on moral or religious grounds, which means that if we had filed our "frivolous" return from motives of greed we would have had many appeal options that were, in our case, denied.

This has been a long, sometimes discouraging struggle, but we have received constant encouragement from our pastor, from Senator Mark Hatfield, and from tax resistance support groups in Portland and across the nation. We hope that our actions will contribute to the passage of a law (such as the World Peace Tax Fund) that would allow conscientious objectors who ethically cannot participate in destroying life not to be forced to pay others to do it for them. Our greatest hope, however, is that our stand on war taxes might bring our nation even an inch closer to halting and reversing the madness of the nuclear arms race. \Box

Ann and Bruce Borquist were on the staff of RAIN in 1982–1983.

Note: Just before we went to press we received the following notice in the mail. "The War Tax Resistance National Ad Campaign is collecting signatures for placing in newsprint media in 1985. For sign-up sheets or information on war tax resistance/redirection and life-sharing funds contact: War Tax Resistance National Ad Campaign, 402 South Glendale, Ann Arbor, MI 48103."



Resources for War Tax Resistance

BOOKS

The following is not meant to be an exhaustive list of definitive works on war tax resistance, but a selection of those that have clarified our thinking on the subject.

— Ann and Bruce

People Pay For Peace: A Military Tax
Refusal Guide, by William Durland,
1982, 120 pp., \$4; Conscience and the
Law: A Court Guide for the Civilly
Disobedient, edited by William Durland,
1982, 120 pp., \$5. Both from:
Center on Law and Pacifism
Box 308

Box 308 Cokedale, CO 81032

Handbook on Non-Payment of War Taxes, by the Peacemakers, 1981, 64 pp., \$7.50 from:

The Peacemakers Box 627 Garberville, CA 95440

Guide to War Tax Resistances, by the War Resisters League, first edition, 1981, 120 pp., \$6 from:

War Resisters League 339 Lafayette Street New York, NY 10012 What Kind of Guns Are They Buying for Your Butter: A Beginner's Guide to Defense, Weaponry, and Military Spending, by Sheila Tobias et al, 1982, 428 pp., \$15.95 from:

William Morrow and Company 105 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10016

Nuclear Weapons and the American Churches: Ethical Positions on Modern Warfare, by Donald L. Davidson, 1983, 208 pp., \$20 from: Westview Press 5500 Central Avenue

The Fate of the Earth, by Jonathan Schell, 1982, 244 pp., \$2.50 from: Avon Books 959 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10019

Boulder, CO 80301



ORGANIZATIONS

World Peace Tax Fund 2121 Decatur Place, NW Washington, DC 20008

War Resisters League 339 Lafayette Street New York, NY 10012

Center on Law and Pacifism Box 308 Cokedale, CO 81032

Mennonite Central Committee 100 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Conscience Military Tax Campaign (U.S.) 44 Bellhaven Road Bellport, NY 11713

Peacemakers Box 627 Garberville, CA 95440

Fellowship of Reconciliation Box 271 Nyack, NY 10960

ACCESS: Peace

Creating Peace: A Positive Handbook, by Larry Langdon, 1982, 64 pp., \$3.95 from: Larry Langdon Publications 34735 Perkins Creek Road Cottage Grove, OR 97424

For people who want to help create peace between the US and USSR, but have no idea where to begin such an enormous task, this is one of the most relevant handbooks I have seen. It begins with small acts of personal empowerment, such as writing letters to our president and the Soviet premier, complete with sample letters. Also included are many concrete and positive suggestions that are within almost everyone's capabilities and budgets, if not singly then as a group, which is more fun anyway.

One of my favorite suggestions is telephoning Russia, which costs \$4.50 for three minutes and is a great group project.

The book ends with a "Feedback Form" from Mr. Langdon, who welcomes comments, critcisms, suggestions, and stories of personal peaceful experiences.

—KS

Nuclear Free Investment, by Nuclear Free America, 1984, 8 pp., inquire for price from:

Nuclear Free America 2521 Guilford Avenue Baltimore, MD 21218

War tax resistance seeks to divert government dollars from military use. Another approach to resisting military production is to divert money from corporate weapons contractors through boycotts and divestment of stock holdings. *Nuclear Free Investment* discusses both of these strategies and their respective roles in the campaign against nuclear weapons. The guide profiles the top 50 nuclear weapons contractors and lists alternative, socially responsible investment advisors and funds.—FLS



Peacemaking in Your Community: A Handbook for Local Organizers, edited by Dan R. Ebener, 1984, 48 pp., \$3.50 from:

Fellowship Publications Fellowship of Reconciliation Box 271 Nyack, NY 10960

Since the beginning of World War I in 1914, Fellowship of Reconciliation has been a leader in the work for peace, social justice, human and civil rights, and disarmament. This paperback booklet contains a number of informative and inspirational essays from American members of FOR on the establishment of local peace groups. Although primarily focused on providing information about FOR and local FOR organizing, it also features sections dealing with working in groups, organizing committees, working with volunteers, fundraising and media outreach that should be useful to anyone starting a local organization of peacemakers. A banquet of knowledge and experience available for a few bucks. -SM

A.T. Goes to Grad School

by David Biddle

In the lesser developed countries (LDCs), where capital intensive development schemes have contributed to the current foreign debt crisis, leaders are becoming more interested in developing indigenous resources through appropriate technologies. The success of winged bean technologies by the Dian Dasa group in Indonesia, the tremendous potential of palm oil manufacturing techniques brought about by "TOOLS" in Cameroon, and a great many other financially successful projects around the world are slowly giving appropriate technology (A.T.) a new-found credibility. Yet there are few professionals well trained for development planning in the Third World. Each country and region has its own set of constraints to development—cultural, environmental, and economic. Technologies must be tailormade for people. Professionals are needed who understand how to combine solutions to all these constraints without jeopardizing existing social systems and networks of economic interaction.

The first generation of planners who sought to instigate more appropriate forms of development than giant dams and state-of-the-art factories is perhaps best exemplified by E. F. Schumacher, Julia Porter and George McRobie, the founders of the International Technology Development Group (ITDG). These people took conventional economic methods and technology assessment and molded them to fit the needs of A.T. development. They also recognized that for international development to succeed and for appropriate technology transfer to become the mainstay of planning, the second generation of advocates and planners would need to learn A.T. development skills as systematically as possible before they went out into the field.

Lucy Creevey and Stephen Feldman of the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of



Pennsylvania (Penn) turned this idea into a reality. In January 1984 they launched the Appropriate Technology and Energy Management for Development (ATEMD) graduate studies program. The first graduate program of its type in the U.S., it offers four different degrees:

☐ M.S. in Appropriate Technology for Development, stressing all aspects of basic human needs—shelter, water, health, food production, and so on;

☐ M.S. in Rural Technology and Industrial Diversification, emphasizing technology choice and assessment from an engineering perspective, but considering socio-

economic issues as well;

M.S. in Energy Use and Management considers energy management in terms of conservation and cost-effectiveness.

☐ Certificates in either Appropriate Technology for Development or Energy Management for Development for non-degree candidates. This emphasis allows LDC countries to send planners to Penn for a one-year, relatively low-cost education.

George McRobie, author of Small Is Possible, has joined the staff as a visiting lecturer for spring semesters. McRobie, who is presently on the board of both A.T. International (a non-profit corporation funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development) and ITDG, is probably the leading spokesperson for the appropriate technology movement. Last year he taught two classes in ATEMD: "Technology Choice and Social Development" and "Alternative Energy and Environmental Development."

The Â.T. movement has come a long way since Schumacher and McRobie began their work on the Indian subcontinent nearly 30 years ago. Students in ATEMD are being trained to use computer models and to develop data bases for planning and program management.

Creevey teaches courses in planning methodologies and other staff members teach topics such as economies of scale, location theory and employment effects of various technologies. Feldman (also the director of Penn's Energy Center) and his staff teach courses in energy management principles for boiler efficiency, cogeneration and solar energy.

During the past 15 years the success or failure of A.T. has not so much been determined by technical viability as by how technologies are integrated into existing cultures and economies. Solar stoves have failed for the most part in India because Hindus believe evil spirits will enter food cooked in the open. When the Tennessee Valley Authority implemented their massive solar hot water program they ran all other solar contractors in the region out of business. Providing students with adequate training in all aspects of technological development helps avoid these kinds of problems.

The professionalization of A.T. advocates is slowly bringing this once "marginal" field into the mainstream of international development. ATEMD graduates can

help fill the gap between conventional Western economic policy makers and direct action groups such as the Peace Corps and the United Nations. In the final analysis, ATEMD students are afforded a unique opportunity their forebears at Farallones, VITA, A.T. International, and Friends of the Earth did not get. They are receiving training without the constraints of specific program budgets, values, and technologies. Students are taught tools to make rational decisions and to plan development in such a way as to bring together notions of financial planning, microeconomics, non-formal education, and technical assistance.

During the next two decades, A.T. will not so much be dependent on technical innovation as on program development. Specialists who are sensitive to the multiple constraints of impoverishment and drastic socioeconomic change are the appropriate technology of the future. \Box

David Biddle is a graduate student in Energy Management and Policy at the University of Pennsylvania.

ACCESS: College A.T. Programs

One of the questions we get asked most frequently is, "Where can I get college training in appropriate technology?" Instead of continuing to answer all those questions one by one, we thought we'd tell all our readers at once by publishing the preceding article and the following access.

Please note: The following list of programs was adapted from a list put together by A.T. International two years ago. When we called ATI, we were told that the list had not been updated. So if you have more current information for any of these programs, or if you know of similar programs not listed here, please let us know and we will update our list. —BB

Jordan College TMEN 360 West Pine Street Cedar Springs, MI 49319

Appropriate Technology (B.A., B.S.). This program trains students in ecology, energy utilization, food production, and construction design. Christian religious classes are also offered to allow students to do mission work in conjunction with appropriate technology work in developing countries.

Warren Wilson College Swannanoa, NC 28778

International Development Program (B.A.). Course work in areas such as appropriate technology and economic development

prepare students for an eight-week practicum working on a community project in Latin America. This program can lead to a degree or be taken as a one-year study by outside students. In exchange for room and board all Warren Wilson students work 15 hours a week on college projects.

College of the Siskiyous
Siskiyou Joint Community College
District
800 College Avenue
Weed, CA 96094

Appropriate Technology (B.A., B.S.). The theme of this program is self-sufficiency in the North American environment. The campus includes a "homestead" demonstrating log construction systems, various agricultural techniques, biomass fuel production, and other appropriate technologies.

Washington University
Department of Technology and
Human Affairs
Campus Box 1106
St. Louis, MO 63130

Technology and Human Affairs (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.). This program examines technological change in the U.S. and developing countries with emphasis on the economic, management, and policy aspects. The

program is closely associated with the Center for Development Technology, which does work in energy technology, appropriate technology for international development, and other interdisciplinary areas.

Appalachian State University Boone, NC 28608

Earth Studies Program (B.S.). This program builds on six basic course concentrations: earth ethics, communications, renewable natural resources, biological agriculture, bio-regional adaptation, and shelter. Facilities include renewable energy demonstrations, woodlot management plots, and organic farming experiments. Emphasis is on those methods and technologies applicable to the North Carolina area.

World College West PO Box 3060 San Rafael, CA 94912

Applied Environmental Systems (B.A.). This degree provides the opportunity to study global ecology through one year of study in western culture, one year abroad, usually in Mexico or China, and two years of study in Applied Environmental Systems. Course work concentrates on food production, shelter, and energy systems.

ACCESS: International A.T.

Mazingira, bimonthly, \$25/year, from:
Tycooly International Publishing
Limited
6 Crofton Terrace
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin, IRELAND

Mazingira, "the international magazine for environment and development," is an excellent magazine, supported by the United Nations Environment Program. Good quality photos, clear and relevant articles, and concise synopses of current issues combine to make this magazine well worth reading from cover to cover. Here's a sample of article subjects from a recent issue: implications of the developed countries' convenience food movement for the Third World; Bangkok's population problems; the pesticide problem; and a review of Peter Taylor's book, The Smoke Ring-The Politics of Tobacco. —JS

Appropriate Technology for Health, inquire for price from:
World Health Organization
CH 1211 Geneva 27
SWITZERLAND

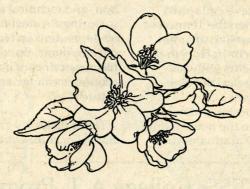
If I were still doing development work in the Third World, I can think of no other periodical I'd rather receive than this one. Published by the World Health Organization, Appropriate Technology for Health presents a wide variety of useful information and interesting discussions in the traditions of E. F. Schumacher and Rene Dubos. It mainly addresses the needs of primary health care workers, but should be fascinating reading for anyone interested in small-scale technologies, planetary/personal health, or wisdom from different cultures.

Appropriate Technology for Health reminds me of RAIN: it's conversational, easy to read, has a nice balance of graphics and text, contains pertinent access information, and is printed mostly in black and white (suitable for toilet paper and compost). Highly recommended.—JS

A.T. International 1331 H Street NW Washington, DC 20005

A.T. International is a private, non-profit, development assistance organization. In collaboration with indigenous organizations, it helps plan, manage, and finance appropriate technology programs for the rural poor in underdeveloped countries

throughout the world. The emphasis is on developing programs that will become commercially successful and soon wean themselves from the need for outside assistance. ATI receives most of its funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). —FLS



Farmers of Five Continents, by Don Paarlberg, 1984, 109 pp., \$13.50 from: University of Nebraska Press 901 North 17th Street Lincoln, NE 68588

Farming has traditionally been viewed as a simple and noble way to make a living, a livelihood that sustains human life. But now even Americans realize that there is nothing simple about it; low market rates and high interest rates are forcing U.S. farmers to file for bankruptcy and sell off family farms at an unprecedented rate. In "Farmers of Five Continents" author Don Paarlberg visits 19 farms in 12 countries to observe, question, and assess each country's farming system.

Each country has its own chapter in the book portraying the different scales of farming. There are the farm-city communes throughout mainland China, and in Java leftover estates from Dutch colonists are still maintained, though a smallholds system is also being instituted. Paarlberg notes the growth of part-time farming in Taiwan and the struggle over modernizing farming techniques in Upper Volta. Other countries covered include Bali, Brazil, El Salvador, India, Malaysia, Portugal, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

Paarlberg's standard for judging a specific farming system lies in its "economic performance, ecological soundness, and political acceptability." However, Paarlberg never really deals with the issue of ecological soundness. In El Salvador, for example, he praises the intercropping of corn and beans for its superior adaptation to the hilly countryside. In one sense it is ecologically sound.

This same system relies on regular application of pesticide also, and Paarlberg condones this. He neither mentions its repercussions nor discusses any viable alternatives to its use.

By observing the population growth in each country Paarlberg raises questions about the ability of each country to feed itself in the future. He describes the coercive family planning program in China, and the resistance to that idea in modern India. The author asks many good questions, but answers few of them. However, the author engages the reader in his project and his interviews reveal his sensitivity to other cultures. If the book had focused on half as many countries the work would have more depth and accuracy; more than one farmer per country could be interviewed and not just those in management positions. This book is a well-written, though very general overview of current international farming practices. —CarolAnn Oldershaw

Improved Cooking Stoves in Developing Countries, by Gerald Foley and Patricia Moss, 1983, 175 pp., \$20 from: Earthscan 1319 F Street NW

Washington, DC 20004

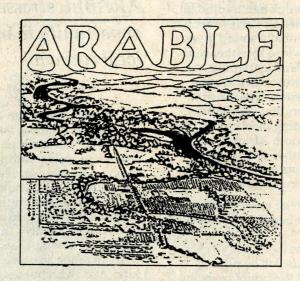
Deforestation is a serious problem in many developing countries. Hopes for improving the dismal fuel situation in much of the Third World have rested on programs promoting more energyefficient cooking stoves. This book analyzes these programs from a broad and critical perspective. Both past programs and plans for the future come under scrutiny. I was pleasantly surprised because the author's research covers more than just the technical aspects of stove design. It also carefully and thoroughly analyzes use of appropriate materials, local preferences, and effect of stove design on lifestyle. This wellillustrated publication asks many of the right questions about the secondary functions of traditional stoves such as space heating and insect repelling, which may not be fulfilled by more energyefficient versions. It even includes a history of civilization's use of wood as a fuel, which helps make this report a valuable resource for anyone interested in the prospects and pitfalls of applying appropriate technology. —Clay Dennis

Clay Dennis has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell and is presently a student at the Atkinson Graduate School of Management at Willamette University.

Building a New Economy: Three Models

They say good things come in threes. That was certainly the case when the following three articles came in the mail within the same week. One had been requested, the other two were unsolicited surprises. They cried out to be run together—each was a kind of progress report on a different system of community-wide coordination for building local economies. We had given each program brief mention before when it was just beginning (ARABLE—RAIN X:2, page 32; Earth Bank—RAIN X:2, page 31, and RAIN X:4, page 26; LETS—RAIN

X:5, page 18); each is now entering a new stage in its development and is worthy of a fuller description. Each offers us a model of how we can work to build our local economies in a manner consistent with social and ecological responsibility. Although each is still too new to be considered a "proven" model, all three seem to be on their way to success. Such success would herald a new level of maturity and sophistication in the movement for community-based, ecologically-sound social change.—FLS



The Association for Regional Agriculture Building the Local Economy (ARABLE)

by Mary Vogel

Instead of searching for means to accelerate the drift out of agriculture, we should be searching for policies to reconstruct rural culture, to open the land for gainful occupation to larger numbers of people, whether it be on a full-time basis or a part-time basis, and to orient all our actions on the land towards the three-fold idea of health, beauty, and permanence.

E. F. Schumacher Small Is Beautiful

ARABLE, the Association for Regional Agriculture Building the Local Economy, is a novel community investment program creating a rural-urban partnership in the southern Willamette Valley area of Oregon. Organized as a nonprofit membership association, ARA-BLE helps provide access to credit for member borrowers within the local agricultural economy. Beyond that, by increasing coordination among growers, marketers, processors, and consumers, ARABLE hopes to increase the market share for local agriculture, keep urban food dollars in the local economy, maintain and create jobs, and encourage a stable balance between urban and rural economies. Now being launched after 18 months in formation, it has the potential to become a national model of an important means of support for the endangered family farm.

ARABLE is not a lending institution itself, but an association of people agreeing to collateralize their assets through an existing financial institution. It has three separate funds: the Credit Fund, the Direct Loan Fund, and the Trust Fund. All are administered through a host financial institution.

Tom Forster, a landscape designer and gardener, founded ARABLE after hearing a detailed discussion of SHARE (see RAIN IX:3, pages 18-19) at a workshop sponsored by the E. F. Schumacher society. Forster persuaded the Amity Foundation of Eugene to sponsor a VISTA grant proposal to enable him to organize a similar entity, but one focused on local economic development through the food system. For his interim Board of Directors, Forster recruited people with a wide array of skills and perspectives within the local agricultural economy.

As is true in most areas throughout the country, many small farms in the area need capital for development that has not been available to them through traditional financial institutions. ARABLE's market survey identified a considerable number of potentially sound investment loans not currently being serviced by either commercial financial institutions or federal loan programs.

Urban supporters of local agriculture, on the other hand, find that their money is invested in banks that refuse to make loans to local farmers and distributors. They find these banks usually sending their money out of the state—sometimes even to South Africa. Here, ARABLE's market survey showed that savings funds can be attracted from local depositors even at conservative interest rates under the following conditions:

☐ The depositor knows that his or her money is being used for local development (which benefits the local depositor);

☐ The depositor feels that he or she has some voice in the decisions about where the funds will be placed; ☐ The depositor feels assured that the funds are being used in socially and environmentally sound ways.

ARABLE is not a lending institution itself, but an association of people agreeing to collateralize their assets through an existing financial institution.

ARABLE now enables these people to invest in what they believe in, to let their dollars work for their cause.

Moreover, ARABLE plays another valuable role for producers, distributors, and consumers alike—one of education.

For local food producers and distributors, ARABLE will provide technical assistance, enabling those with greatest experience in one area of the business—budgeting and planning, for example—to share it with others. ARABLE's intention is to provide more than just financial support to local agriculture. While access to credit for intensive, small-scale agricultural development is a critical component of ARABLE's program, other components include new market development, consumer education, technical assistance for producers, and support for favorable policies for agricultural development in local and state governments.

ARABLE is an outgrowth of the spirit of cooperation, caring, and sharing that has characterized the new wave back-to-the-land movement prevalent in much of the Pacific Northwest. It is this spirit that ARABLE is expanding upon and helping to make more accessible and concrete through its loan application and review process.

ARABLE stresses to consumers the opportunity to invest directly in the local economy.

The loan application and review process allows advice and feedback among the prospective borrower, consumer, and producer members of ARABLE to strengthen the enterprise and its ability to obtain financing. A Loan Program Director and the Loan Review Committee assess the potential borrower's need for technical assistance, perhaps requiring a contract for technical services or training before loan approval.

Through a highly visible media campaign, stressing an urban-rural partnership, ARABLE educates a larger share of food consumers about the needs of local agriculture. ARABLE stresses to these consumers the opportunity to invest directly in the local economy. Through development of a local food system, they will be investing in long-term, sustainable development of the re-

gion's natural resource base.

Depositors' satisfaction will be not only financial returns but the increase in the availability of locallyproduced, quality food products for their own consumption. ARABLE enables its depositors to take pride in knowing they have helped to increase direct and indirect employment in the local food system and that they have enhanced the long-term sustainability of local agriculture.

How the Loan Fund Works

ARABLE Credit Fund: Members or member organizations of ARABLE may apply for collateral support from the Credit Fund for loans made through the host institution. Short-term loans which are primarily self-liquidating, meet the eligibility requirements and fulfill one or more of the goals of ARABLE will be recommended for ARA-BLE Credit Fund backing. Following approval of the loan by the Loan Review Committee and the Board of Trustees, the financial institution is authorized to disburse the loan to ARABLE members.

ARABLE Direct Loan Fund: The Direct Loan Fund is a loan referral service linking individual lenders with member borrowers whose enterprises merit and require greater amounts of capital than the Credit Fund can supply. ARABLE will publish regularly a list of creditworthy enterprises to potential investors in the community. Interest and terms of payment are arranged on a case-by-case basis.

ARABLE Trust Fund: The Trust Fund is designed to accommodate the different role that accumulated or inherited wealth plays in the economic life of a community. The Trust Fund provides a vehicle for tax-deductible gift money to pass to projects supported by ARABLE that complement the placement of credit and investment money. Business recipients of ARABLE loans are encouraged to place a small percentage of their profits in the ARABLE Trust Fund.

Until the program is self-supporting, funds for ARA-BLE's administrative costs will be sought from founda-

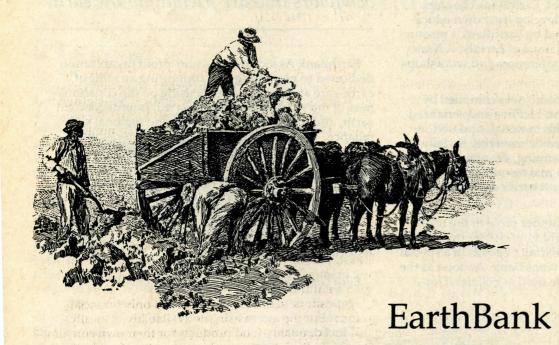
tions, individuals, and businesses in the form of grants or low-interest loans.

ARABLE is seeking to raise \$200,000 in accounts with \$100,000 as initial loanable funds and an administrative budget of \$25,000 for the first year of operation. Within three years, it hopes to have \$600,000.

General membership is open to anyone. However, no more than 25% of ARABLE's total assets may be from outside its geographic area of Lane, Linn, and Benton counties. Members must reside in this area to be eligible for ARABLE loan support.

People who are interested in helping ARABLE accomplish its goals can make a tax-deductible grant to ARABLE to assist in start-up costs or become a member/depositor of ARABLE by sending \$45 (\$20 for a lifetime membership fee and \$25 for a minimum deposit). Contact ARABLE, PO Box 5230, Eugene, OR 97405.

Mary Vogel is a teacher/writer on "investing for a sustainable future," a dealer for earth-sheltered dome housing, and a frequent contributor to RAIN. She lives in Eugene, Oregon.



by Ellen Ghilarducci

EarthBank Association moves into 1985 with new clarity thanks to two capable men, Bruce Dearborn, its new administrator, and David Kositsky, planning consultant. After an intensive planning period in 1984, we find ourselves drawn to the cooperative model of the Mondragon community in the Basque region of Spain (see RAIN X:4, pages 14-15).

It's not just the fact that the Mondragon experiment has successfully grown to 25,000 worker-members in 87 industrial cooperatives, and has also developed other aspects of daily commerce as cooperatives—banks, schools, and stores. Additionally, after nearly 40 years,

the Mondragon system is highly efficient and stable. It works in a way that breeds success, dignity and empowerment to people. In the words of Terry Mollner, founder of the Trusteeship Institute and an expert on the Mondragon experiment, "Capitalism and socialism don't work because both of them are based upon a materialistic set of assumptions. The new order, of which Mondragon is the first substantial representation, is not based on materialism. It's based on relationships . . . the difference between patterns of behavior that are called friendly and the patterns that are called adversarial."

EarthBank's mission is to create, communicate, and support the bits and pieces of an economy that is like Mondragon, with the inclusion of behaviors that are friendly to the earth. (Mondragon has only recently begun to take its environment into account—the essential ingredient for economic systems that can sustain life.) Here are the elements of that mission:

☐ Members are important. We want to increase from 310 to 2000 during 1985. Each member receives the quarterly newsletter, EarthBank News, a review of sustainable economics, and a membership directory. Because relationship is the key, we expect groups to grow up around the two dozen EarthBank contact people sprinkled around North America. Ideas and practices about what makes sustainable economics tick are increasingly coming our way. We will be able to make them more useful to our members as we build an information bank and focus on regular communication with the contact people.

□ Education is another link. We are planning events in Seattle and the Cascadia bioregion, and have speakers available for more distant travel. EarthBank chapters that grow up elsewhere may develop their own educational plans, which can be aided by EarthBank's resources or shared with others. Each issue of EarthBank News has a calendar of significant conferences and workshops in the U.S. and Canada.

☐ The Guide to Sustainable Economics was compiled by Catherine Burton and Geralynn McPhee and serialized in the 1984 EarthBank News. This material, updated, is for sale as a comprehensive booklet covering socially responsible investment and banning, economic democracy in the workplace, educational resources, alternative philanthropy, land trusting, and barter and regional self-financing.

☐ Cascadia Revolving Fund is another piece in the user-friendly economic mosaic. Right now charter investors are invited to make interest-bearing deposits in a special account in Seattle's Sound Savings Bank. As soon as the fund reaches \$100,000 it will be used as collateral for

loans made to co-ops and small businesses practicing EarthBank's ethics.

□ EarthBank Credit Union is another important piece that will come together during 1985. It will make available many banking services and offer a prototype that can create branches around the country. About 20% of the questionnaires needed to request a federal charter have been collected. Two things are unique about this credit union: its commitment to EarthBank's principles of sustainable economics, and the fact that it's founded by an association rather than a union or employee group.

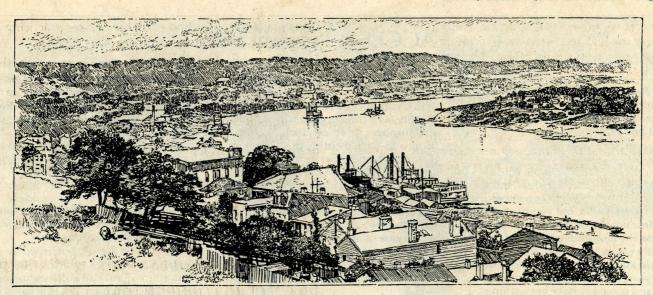
EarthBank's mission is to create, communicate, and support the bits and pieces of an economy that is like Mondragon, with the inclusion of behaviors that are friendly to the earth.

EarthBank Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting an ethic of earth-care and people-care focusing on the consciousness of the whole living, interrelated, interdependent earth, and individual, community and regional self-reliance. The association also supports cooperative enterprises and other forms of humane, just, and ecologically conscious businesses serving human needs, and the sharing of surplus resources (funds, goods, data) in a way that preserves regional sustainability while empowering others to become self reliant.

Memberships cost \$15/year. The first \$5 confirms a life membership. For more information write: EarthBank Association, P.O. Box 87, Clinton WA 98236. □ □

Ellen Ghilarducci is coordinator of EarthBank.





Local Exchange Trading System (LETS)

by Kris Nelson

In the July/August issue (page 18), we reported on the Local Exchange Trading Systems (LETS) taking root in economically crippled communities on Vancouver Island. Now LETS is starting a commercial version among retailers in one neighborhood of Vancouver.

LETS is a modified barter system. It is unique in that computer-tallied debits and credits enable one-way trading, whereas conventional barter systems can only exchange one item or service for another. The credits, or "green dollars"—equivalent to Canadian dollars—act as promissory notes, and in communities short on paid jobs, people use LETS to meet needs without cash. Monthly newsletters inform members of offers to sell or requests to buy. Members also receive monthly statements of their transactions and balance. In Courtenay, operational costs are financed from a \$15 cash membership fee, and 45¢ green is charged buyers or employers for each transaction. Individual LETSystems set their own fees.

Now that LETS is operating in 12 communities on Vancouver Island, and the bugs are worked out of its accounting software (available for \$100 Canadian), Landsman Community Services, Ltd., creator of LETS, is conducting a major publicity campaign among a group of Vancouver merchants. "They can join for 100 green dollars and \$100 Canadian, all of which is tax deductible—a free membership," explains Mary Pittman of Landsman.

Michael Linton, creator of LETS, expects retailers using LETS to attract new customers who want to trade in green dollars and thereby improve the neighborhood's economy . . . from the inside out. He expects merchants to accept green dollars on a product's percentage of mark-up above wholesale cost. Linton chose to start among retailers first and take individual mem-

berships later, so that the project would have adequate capital to meet start-up costs.

Since the system functions best among traders who know one another, the goal is to seed up to 10 self-contained LETSystems in Vancouver neighborhoods. Once knowledgeable relationships exist among retailers and individuals, the system will expand to trading across neighborhoods using the LETS "superdollar." At this stage, no trading is done between LETS systems, but once communities maintain sufficient volume of trading to be recognized by others, green dollars will be transferrable as superdollars.

LETS is unique in that computertallied debits and credits enable one-way trading, while conventional barter systems can only exchange one item or service for another.

By the rate of requests for the 40-page start-up manual (\$12) and the software—over 150 requests by the end of October 1984 from the U.S. and Canada—it appears that LETS may get started in hundreds of North American communities. For details, contact Landsman Community Services, Ltd., 479 4th Street, Courtenay, BC V9N 1G9, Canada; 604/338-0213.

Kris Nelson was formerly a member of the RAIN staff, and is now living on Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

ACCESS: Periodicals

Utne Reader: The Best of the Alternative Press, bimonthly, \$18/year, from: Utne Reader PO Box 1974 Marion, OH 43305

If you're one of those people who likes to keep tabs on a variety of ideas, movements, and activities that go unreported in the mass media, but you have neither the time nor the money to purchase and peruse the multitude of periodicals worthy of your attention, then you should know about Utne Reader. For the past year, Eric Utne (rhymes with chutney) and company have been sifting through hundreds of periodicals in an attempt to bring us "the best of the alternative press." What's "alternative"? I've been pleased to find a wide array of viewpoints represented: leftist, new age, community activist, environmentalist, peace activist, progressive Christian, and others. Perhaps such a digest will encourage readers identified with any one particular camp to consider the views of other camps. And then, if we could just get the different camps actually talking with each other and finding ways to work together . . .

During its first few months of publication, the magazine had some problems with its production schedule and its identity, as it tried to cope with editorial staff turnover, a radical change of format (from a 16-page monthly to a 128-page bimonthly), and other difficulties. But it seems to have settled down now, and will continue in its bimonthly, 128-page format. (Actually, I thought 16 pages was nice, but working at the RAIN office tends to give a person a particularly severe case of infoglut).

If you could only afford to subscribe to one magazine (besides RAIN, of course), *Utne Reader* would be a good choice.

-FLS

Fourth World Review, bimonthly, \$15/year, from:

Fourth World Review 29 Middagh Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

What is the Fourth World? "The Fourth World is the world of the human scale. It is a world in which authority for all decisions stems from the base unit of society—the village. We now know that the presumed authority of the individual

voter to exercise effective control over giant centralized governments is far too small in relation to the whole. It is the local neighborhood, whether urban or rural, which is the true focus of citizen concern and . . . citizen power. There must be some large structures in society, but these need to be controlled and ordained by village councils, otherwise the giant central government rides roughshod over the liberties of private citizens, and envelops them in an overmighty bureaucratic complex."

Fourth World Review, published in England, is largely a vehicle for the views of its editor, John Papworth, who does most of the writing. Papworth bases his critique of contemporary "mass society," and his proposals for a better society, primarily on the question of size. He seems to get a lot of his intellectual ammunition from Leopold Kohr's theories about the problems inherent in large social systems. Papworth has also convened a Fourth World Assembly in each of the last three years. The assemblies are attended by representatives from minority cultures and small communities around the world. The next Fourth World Assembly will be held in Delhi in April 1985. — FLS

RAINCHECKS

The purpose of this column is to inform readers of new developments in projects and organizations that we have reported on previously.

Nuclear Free Zones

We reported on nuclear free zones exactly a year ago in RAIN X:2. The nuclear free zone movement took another big step in last November's election with the passage of NFZ ordinances in 14 of 16 cities and counties across the nation.

Ten of the new ordinances banning nuclear waste, weapons, and weapons production were approved in Oregon. They include the largest contiguous nuclear-free landmass in the U.S.—the 23,000 square miles of Baker, Grant, Harney, Union, and Wallowa counties in Eastern Oregon, as well as the four coastal counties of Coos, Lincoln, Tillamook, and Clatsop, and the town of Bandon. Backers of these initiatives plan to meet to draw up a statewide initiative to be voted upon in the 1986 election.

Other successful campaigns took place in Napa, California; Northampton,

Massachusetts; and Whatcom and Skagit counties in Washington state. NFZs were rejected in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Santa Monica, California. Citizens for a Nuclear Free Santa Monica, backers of the NFZ ordinance in that city, plan to resubmit the issue to the voter in the 1986 election.

In addition, the New York City Council recently approved a nonbinding resolution banning nuclear weapons within the city limits. With 9 million people, this is the most populous nuclear free zone in the world. Proponents are working on a binding legal ordinance to be voted on by the city council.

At The Crossroads

At the Crossroads, the 32-page affirmation of the need for fundamental change in our society (see RAIN X:5, page 27), is meeting with success. Copies are being distributed at the rate of 1,000 per week, and 94,000 are currently in print. Other ways that the document and the ideas it embodies are gaining public attention include the following: inclusion of At the

Crossroads in a television program called "The New American Revolution," planned for broadcast over PBS in May 1985; discussion of the document on a radio show scheduled for February 10, 1985 (for details, contact Chuck Alton, U.S. Radio, Box 1899, Burbank, CA 91507; 818/843-4241); and inclusion of the text in a major exhibition, opening in 1986, along the lines of "The Family of Man." Copies of At the Crossroads are still available for \$2 each 2-20 copies from Communications Era Task Force, PO Box 3623, Spokane, WA 99220.

Errata—We forgot to mention that Richard Conviser's article in the last issue, "Framing Hexagonal Floors," first appeared in Siskiyou Country (Number 9, December/January 1983).

Also, the cost of becoming a founding member of the Committees of Correspondence should have been listed as \$15 rather than \$25.



Indiana Lieutenant Governor John Mutz is "chauffeured" downtown to promote Hike, Bike, and Bus Week.

Hike, Bike, and Bus Week

by Dorothy Mack

Indianapolis is widely known for the 500-mile (auto) race on Memorial Day, but it is also a fairly flat city that is conducive to bicycling, and it has an active bicycling community. Hike, Bike & Bus Week (HBBW) rolls around every spring in Indianapolis to remind folks that there are often better ways to get around than in a private auto. We want to encourage bicycling as transportation, and expand the notion to include walking, running, public transit, carpooling, and any other innovative means of travel that reduces pressure on individuals, society, and our earth.

"Meet people face to face instead of bumper to bumper" is the slogan of the HBBW Committee, a loosely knit group of volunteers who spend four months a year on the project.

A set of traditional events have evolved for the week. One of the most unique is the "Great Commuter Race," in which people travel from four points in Indianapolis using various forms of transportation, and meet downtown on Monument Circle. This takes place during morning rush hour, and the travel time for each person is recorded. However, we are not primarily interested in travel time. (The car driver often wins, even after parking and walking a block to the Circle.) This is a media event to draw attention to the feasibility of alternate forms of transportation.

Other featured events have included the following:

☐ *Group runs and bike commutes* from the "great commuter race" starting points to Monument Circle on Walk/Run Day and Bike Transit Day, respectively. The goal of these events is to attract public participation, unlike the great commuter race, where we try to limit participation

to avoid attracting real racers.

- ☐ "Chauffeuring" a celebrity downtown on a tandem bike during the bike ride described above. We have chauffeured the mayor, the lieutenant governor, a state senator, and a TV anchorman.
- \Box *A drawing* to give away free monthly bus passes and two round-trip Amtrak tickets to Chicago.
- □ Hike, Bike & Bus Fest, noontime, on Monument Circle. A "captive audience" of hundreds of downtown workers are invited to visit displays of groups such as Metro, Amtrak, Human-Powered Vehicle Association, Central Indiana Bicycling Association, Indianapolis Ridesharing Program, and the Indianapolis public library. Live music and helium balloons attract attention.

Our expenditures are minimal, about \$300 per year, greatly aided by in-kind contributions. Our two main contributors are Central Indiana Bicycling Association (CIBA), which provides cash, and Metro Transit, which prints materials and has provided monthly passes to give away.

The most important events of HBBW occur wherever individuals use alternative transporation in their daily lives. For this reason, it is difficult to measure our success. We receive most of our compliments on a one-to-one basis. People tell us that they started using some form of alternative transportation during HBBW, and then continued. \square

Dorothy Mack, who has been reading RAIN for 6 years, originated Hike, Bike & Bus Week (HBBW), with Linda Miller Thomas and Jim Maher, in 1978.



FROM: The Youth Gardening Book—see page 22

by Debbie Habib and Kim Knorr

And in distant times children will read in their history books how in the twentieth century many thought the world would be destroyed by war or hate or misdirected science. But everyone started gardening. They relearned some old lessons.

Pete Seeger

Whether in the classroom or at the New Alchemy farm, we approach education with the belief that we need to teach children a sense of individual responsibility, environmental awareness, and practical living skills. As educators working with children in non-traditional learning environments, we have found that our programs and workshops are creating new avenues through which we are reaching our community.

For many of us, children spark the hope for a better future. Their simplicity, curiosity, wonder and desire to explore the world reminds us of the qualities we often lose touch with in our daily lives. We find children to be a receptive audience to the often alternative concepts and ways of relating with the earth that we expose them to in our educational programs. In turn, children become the gentle but effective vehicle for spreading concepts such as organic gardening and farming, solar greenhouses for year-round food production, appropriate technologies in providing for our energy and shelter needs, conservation of our natural resources, and finally respect for an understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things. Children can remind the adults, who

Teaching Children, Reaching the Community

have more ability to create change, that there exist ecologically sound options that they can incorporate into their lives.

Our approach to education is a hands-on philosophy. We begin by creating an environment in which a child can explore, discover, and become a part of the process of unfolding and connecting their living world. One of our favorate approaches to facilitate understanding of nature's cycles begins in our nearby forest. Often the question is asked: What happens to a leaf when it falls to the ground? Through a series of observation and sensory activities, children discover that with the help of sun, wind, rain, and time, leaves break down and help make soil and food for next year's growth. We can translate this cycle into the garden, where there are no trees, hence no leaves to help build the soil. We dig in our leaf mold pile, fill our wheelbarrows, spread the leaves on our gardens, and recreate our own rendition of the cycle we uncovered in the forest. By helping children become a part of nature's cycles, they can ask questions and draw conclusions that can be incorporated into their world view in a unique and lasting way. Learning and deep understanding does not always follow any particular path or pattern and we encourage the belief that all of our thoughts and ideas are valid and important. We find our experiential, hands-on approach to be effective and rewarding. The children are excited about discovering and learning. The feedback we receive from their parents tells us they are taking it home.

Sometimes our work brings us to areas of potential controversy. For example, in dealing with an energy issue such as finite fossil fuels, we as educators are faced with the task of presenting this within a positive, empowering context. Rather than dwell on the problems surrounding the use of non-renewable petroleum products, instead we focus on how we can conserve them, and use alternatives such as the sun, wind, and water. In an attempt to present a whole picture of an issue, we trust that given all of the options, a child will make wise and conscious choices in time to come.

The programs we run for children are based at the New Alchemy Institute in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Our twelve-acre site is a living laboratory of research and education in organic gardening, solar greenhouse design and management, energy conservation, integrated pest management, and aquaculture. The New Alchemy Institute is becoming a growing resource and openair learning place for children in the community. We currently have three major programs for children.

If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed. If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree. If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, Educate the people.

Old Chinese Proverb

The first is our summer children's workshop. Each day, local children come via bike or carpool to participate in a three-week exploration of our twelve acres and surrounding woods. On any given day, you might find children working in their gardens, baking brownies in a solar oven, making wind chimes from our bamboo plants, or writing a story in their journals.

The second program we offer throughout the school year is a series of Saturday workshops, each focusing on a different aspect of the work we do. Parents and children have been enjoying fall gardening, forest walks, and solar Saturdays. One supportive parent copied the workshop flyer and distributed it to an entire school. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly for the formula.

ingly favorable.

The third program is a combined effort between the New Alchemy Institute and the Falmouth public schools. This is a hands-on gardening addition to the existing science curriculum used in the classroom. The fourth graders design, plant, care for, and harvest their garden at New Alchemy. Through in-class activities and on-site visits, the children learn about the entire growing cycle. We encourage parents and community members to participate in this program by asking them to volunteer their time while the children are at New Alchemy.

We are finding that by opening up the New Alchemy Institute to local children, we become more accessible to their parents and the community at large. Through the network of excited parents, via their children, the response to the work being done at the New Alchemy Institute is favorable and rapidly establishing our role as an important resource in this community. We find local businesses pleased to contribute or donate materials for the children's programs and local newspapers happy to

give us publicity and coverage. We are in the process of expanding our educational programs, to include teacher training workshops in other school districts.

There's a wide variety of innovative environmental education programs throughout the country. One of the most inspirational is the Project Life Lab in Santa Cruz County, California. What began as a three-acre school parking lot has evolved into a demonstration facility where school children learn science and nutrition through gardening. It has become an integrated part of the science programs in eleven public schools, and recent funding now allows for its expansion statewide. The adopting schools use the three-volume curriculum set to begin a garden, ranging from container boxes to large plots, and integrate the hands on activities into the classroom. Students, parents, and community members provide the time, energy, and materials to make this program so successful. One school is now preparing and selling to the community vegetable soups from their garden. The Life Lab program is a flourishing example of what can happen when the community becomes involved in educational programs. (The three-volume curriculum is available for \$33 from Friends of the Harvest, Life Lab Science Programs, 809 Bay Avenue, Suite H, Capitola, CA 95010.)

Hopes for a sustainable planet lie in the choices we make today, and our children will make tomorrow.

Kim Knorr and Debbie Habib are environmental educators working at the New Alchemy Institute in Falmouth, Massachusetts (237 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536; 617/563-2655).



FROM: The Youth Gardening Book—see page 22

CIM GILBERT

ACCESS: Gardening

The Youth Gardening Book, by Lynn Ocone, 1983, 145 pp., \$6.95 plus \$2 for postage and handling, from:

Gardens For All 180 Flynn Avenue Burlington, VT 05401

Whether you are a teacher, parent, or group leader, this book will get you excited about starting a garden project involving children. As a teacher mentions in the book, too many children think the food chain is a string of supermarkets. *The Youth Gardening Book* is a complete guide to developing and enriching gardening experiences for kids.

It starts out tackling "The Six Basic Challenges" to getting started: Leadership, Land, Money, Vandalism, Continuity, and Motivation. After addressing these issues, it gets down to the nitty-gritty of "Planning for Success" by describing how to write a program plan; everything considered right down to insurance. For teachers, it even diagrams the numerous spin-offs to be included in every facet of the curriculum. Then on to "Developing Your Site": soil, crops, water, etc. "Designing The Garden" is especially exciting for those with a creative mind: paths, plots, beds, tools, signs,

etc. And with some of the work out of the way, the real fun begins in "The Fun of Gardening" which lists 28 experiments and tests to do and over 50 special activities. My favorites are "Weed Salads" and "Making a Solar Food Dryer." Also included is a chapter on indoor and container gardening.

Lastly, to let you know that you're not the only person engaging in such an endeavor, chapter seven lists other people and organizations who are behind youth gardens and gives some specific portraits.

It's a very useful book complete with excellent photos and diagrams all encouraging you to dig in. —Bev Koch

Bev Koch has been an environmental educator for a number of years in a unique experiential program in one of Portland's public schools.

The Heirloom Gardener, by Carolyn Jabs, 1984, 320 pp., \$9.95 paper, \$17.95 cloth, from:

Sierra Club Books 2034 Fillmore Street San Francisco, CA 94115

Growing and preserving the plants handed down to us can be a satisfying connection with our past. Pieces of yesterday encased in seeds, yes, but more than that. Carolyn Jabs has written a readable, well-organized argument for the preservation of older open-pollinated vegetables and fruits.

In a compelling discussion she argues for the necessity of the preservation of a germ plasma pool. Open-pollinated varieties are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. The wider a genetic base we have to draw upon, the more likely we will be able to breed new plant varieties. Nature is not static. In the event of new disease or unforeseen climatic change our very existence could depend upon the availability of a diverse gene pool.

This book covers the activities of individuals, government agencies, museums, seed companies and organizations and their effects on the remaining older varieties. In addition, the author discusses how the dedicated home gardener can discover and preserve some of our precious heritage. Sources for heirloom seeds are listed as well as organizations and further reading materials. The book is illustrated with reproductions and descriptions from early seed catalogues. —Pamela Parker

Pamela is a gardener in Portland, Oregon.

ACCESS: Ecophilosophy

We've noticed a rising tide of ecological/ philosophical/spiritual thought and values in much of the literature we've been receiving lately. The emerging movements for bioregionalism and Green politics are, of course, firmly rooted in ecological values. In other quarters, too, a new ecological ethic is being articulated. Professional philosophers, Christians, and "eco-activists" are beginning to discard utilitarian conceptions of "environmental resources" in favor of a deeper sense of the intrinsic value of all life on earth, independent of its usefulness for human purposes. Although such a conception of nature is hardly new-indeed, it may be the oldest philosophy in the world-it is beginning to manifest itself in new ways and with new constituencies. The following list of resources gives a sense of the variety of arenas in which this sense of ecological morality is emerging -FLS

Note: We have been waiting anxiously to receive the book Deep Ecology by George Sessions and Bill Devall. We were told by the publisher that it would be available by Novem-

ber 15, which is just past our copy deadline. From what we've heard about the book, and from what we've seen of other writings by Sessions and Devall, we expect it to be a kind of manifesto of the deep ecology movement. We'll tell you more next issue, but for those who don't want to wait for the review, the book is available for \$15.95 from Peregrine Smith Books, PO Box 667, Layton, UT 84041.

Synthesis: A Newsletter and Journal for Social Ecology, published irregularly, \$6.50/10 issues, from:

League for Ecological Democracy PO Box 1858 San Pedro, CA 90733

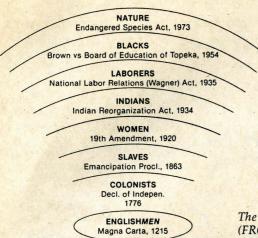
Nothing fancy here, just 22 photocopied pages of single-column type, but *Synthesis* serves as an important forum for a variety of emerging streams of thought going by such names as ecological anarchism, deep ecology, social ecology, bioregionalism, and green politics. The

League for Ecological Democracy is more rooted in radical political analysis, especially anarchism, than are most green/bioregional/environmental organizations. Contents include essays, book reviews, and commentaries on national and international movements and organizations such as the German Greens, Solidarity in Poland, the emerging American Green movement, and various peace groups. Reader participation is high, with several letters in each issue creating a continuing debate on various points of philosophy and political strategy.

Synthesis seems to be publishing about four times a year now. —FLS

The Institute for Ecosophical Studies Moravian College Bethlehem, PA 18018

This institute is devoted to developing, publishing, and promoting philosophies of ecological harmony, and providing opportunities for scientists, artists,



philosophers, and environmentalists to share approaches to resolving ecological problems. The directors of the institute, who are professors at Moravian College, believe that, in an age when human choices will determine the fate of the planet, "the great cosmological questions—which in our age are ecological questions—again become crucial for the wise ordering of social and individual existence." —FLS

Deep Ecology, edited by Michael Tobias, 1984, 296 pp., \$12.95 from: Avant Books 3719 Sixth Avenue San Diego, CA 92103

"Deep Ecology concerns those personal moods, values, aesthetic and philosophical convictions which serve no necessarily utilitarian, nor rational end. By definition their sole justification rests upon the goodness, balance, truth, and beauty of the natural world, and of a human being's biological and psychological need to be fully integrated within it." So says Michael Tobias in the introduction to this book, an anthology of mostly original essays by a variety of writers, including Arne Naess, George Sessions, Murray Bookchin, Paul Shepard, Herman Daly, Garrett Hardin, and Dolores LaChapelle. Complementing the essays are poems and other intuitive explorations and ecological sacredness, beauty, and mystery. A fine collection of material for deepening one's ecological sensibilities. -FLS

Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal, published eight times yearly, \$10/year, from: PO Box 235

Ely, NV 89301

The expanding American conception of rights (FROM: Deep Ecology)

Earth!" This is the rallying cry of Earth First!, a movement of radical environmentalists committed to putting ecophilosophy into action. The movement is most strongly rooted in the western states, but has affiliates throughout the country. Earth First! has no official membership nor national office, as it eschews centralized organizational structure in favor of a networking approach. The people in the Earth First! movement are linked together by adherence to the principles of deep ecology and commitment to direct action and civil disobedience to defend those principles. The newspaper, Earth First!, includes reports from groups nationwide and ruminations on ecological philosophy. Actions in the last year include participation in the Middle Santiam blockades (see the Northwest reports in RAIN X:6 and XI:1) and a nationwide protest against Burger King for importing beef from newly cleared rainforests in Central America. —FLS

Shifting Paradigms: From Technocrat to Planetary Person, by Alan Drengson, 1983, 168 pp., \$7.95 (US), \$8.95 (Canadian), plus 75c for postage and handling, from:

Lightstar Press 1138 Richardson Street Victoria, B.C. V8V 3C8 CANADA

This book describes and contrasts two philosophical paradigms and the implications of each for technological design, sense of self, and behavior toward nature. The technocratic paradigm is anthropocentric and utilitarian—it allows for environmental concern, but only insofar as environmental preservation is necessary for the continuation of business as usual. The "pernetarian" (combines person and planet) paradigm values the total ecology of life for its own sake, and seeks harmony with, rather than control over, natural processes.

Many of the insights are familiar, but the emphasis here is on framing them in a manner consistent with formal philosophy. The book is also metaphilosophical in the sense that it inquires into the manner in which paradigm shifts occur, and discusses the art of self-consciously creating one's own philosophical system. Although not intended strictly for professional philosophers and other academics, Shifting Paradigms will be appreciated most by those who enjoy abstract and intellectual inquiries into the nature of their world. —FLS

The Trumpeter: Voices from the Canadian Ecophilosophy Network, quarterly, \$4 (Canadian)/year, from:

Lightstar Press 1138 Richardson Street Victoria, B.C. V8V 3C8 CANADA

For the last year and a half, Alan Drengson (author of *Shifting Paradigms*, listed above) has been publishing *Trumpeter* in an attempt to "promote exchange of information and discussion on the (interdisciplinary) philosophical dimensions of environmental issues, policy, and debate." So far, the format of each issue has consisted of one long essay and a few short items such as book reviews. The text is somewhat academic in tone without being arcane. —FLS

The Eleventh Commandment Fellowship PO Box 14727 San Francisco, CA 94114

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; thou shall not despoil the earth nor destroy the life thereon." This is the Eleventh Commandment as formulated by Vincent Rossi in an article published in 1979 called "The Eleventh Commandment: Toward an Ethic of Ecology." (Reprints of this article are available for \$1 each from the above address.) The Eleventh Commandment Fellowship was formed in response to the call set forth in the article. The Fellowship seeks to educate people about the dangers inherent in today's ecological crisis, and to develop a response to this crisis that is firmly rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition. For those who associate Christian environmental ethics with the policies of James Watt, ECF's work will be a pleasant surprise. An introductory brochure and placement on the mailing list for the Eleventh Commandment Newsletter are available for free upon request. Donations, of course, are also welcomed. -FLS

[&]quot;No compromise in defense of Mother

Should We Pave Our Dead End Road?

by Kim R. Stafford

When a burst of May rain brings us to the window to watch the stunned grapevine sag, the battered blossoms of the bing tree scatter aside, the blackbery haylot sway and topple flat under a good ton of water, we think about the dead-end road we seventeen share—how a torrent is gouging its twin ruts deeper, deeper again before spilling off into that canyon possums own. This gulley-washer stops and we step outside to track the damage. It's heavy. Down our hill-road the rain pools and runs and swirls to carve out the same old potholes we tried to heal two weeks ago with a pair of rakes and a load of gravel. We'll be at it again. As we follow the muddy road-hump home, I think of summer.

About once a year—usually on a dusty August afternoon—my neighbor Frank saunters up the hill to stand by the garden and watch me work awhile, then to snap a grin and ease into the perennial neighborhood topic of The Road.

"Say, I was thinking about our road here," he says. "Someday we're going to have to pave it. All the gravel in the world won't keep it from washing down into the canyon. Every time, our fresh gravel just spits out from under the tires and it's gone. We'd be better off getting something permanent done—that's just my opinion.

I offer him a blackberry, along wiht my ritual response: "Nothing works forever, Frank. But how about trying another load of gravel? You want me to call Lyle this time?" (Lyle drives a truck filled with Wonder bread and Twinkies by day, and runs gravel evenings in his own pet dumptruck.) "I'd be free to rake it out any night but Wednesday."

Frank's face sags. His vision of paving paradise is fading again. The simmering blacktop road with its curbs, sidewalks, gutters, and storm drains that had unfurled gloriously in his mind is being reeled back onto its spool.

"You don't want to spend a few bucks and have it done for good?"

"A few bucks? The city rate is around ninety dollars per running foot for hill-road. I figured it up since we talked last, and my share would come in over eight thousand dollars. That would drive us out of here." I lean on my shovel while he figures in his head. "And that's without sidewalks and drains."

"But I bet we could bond it and pay on time. These contractors really need the work." Frank is rebounding, glancing hopefully toward the blackberry hedge. I pick a handful and hold them out.

"I just can't afford that, Frank. Besides, the more I think about it, the more I like what we have."

"You do? Why?" Frank has blackberry juice on his fingers and is looking around for a place to wipe it off. His work pants are always spotless. His distraction gives me an advantage, and I forge ahead to take it.

"This may sound strange, but I like easing off the pavement onto something different when I get home. I can drive across the continent on pavement, but when I get back here I like to know it by the feel of the car. You know I go for things kind of private and primitive."

Frank glances at the bathtub propped upside down in the back yard—the clawfoot horse-trough I bought from a farmer. (We'll install it for use inside, once we can afford it.) "I know you like it primitive," he says, "but you haven't convinced me about the road. I like a smooth ride right to my door. We'll shake the tune out of our cars with these potholes. And with Vera pregnant again, I have to take that last hundred feet at about two miles an hour."

"Just take it slow until we get another load of gravel down." I can only find two more blackberries, and one of them doesn't look quite ripe. I hand them over anyway. "Have you ever noticed how few strangers wander down our little dead-end road? We've got a privacy we'd lose with a better surface. No salesmen, teenagers, or thieves out for a drive. The mouth of the road up there just doesn't look that inviting."

Frank winces from the sour berry, and stoops to wipe his fingers on a clump of dandelion, then cocks his head to chew reflectively on a seed. "I haven't had that many salesmen come by; but then, I have that gate over my driveway, and the stop sign facing out. You really think it's the road?"

"Sure it's the road. And you know we have more kids in the neighborhood all the time. With you and Vera's second pretty soon, there will be seven. The potholes slow us down now. With pavement we'd have to add speed bumps and then we'd be right back where we started. Instead of easing into a free pothole you'd be climbing over a hundred-dollar bump."

"Speaking of Vera," Frank says, "I'd better get back.

You want to call Lyle?"

"OK, if you want to go that route again."

"Let's go with gravel this time." Frank's frown ripples. "But someday we're going to have to get her paved." □ □

Illustration by Barbara Stafford



Community Information Technology

The French have a word for it, "infomatics," the merging of information and communication technology. Of course, the French have also set the lofty goal of distributing several million videotex computer terminals throughout the country by the end of the decade. Since its beginning, RAIN has followed developments in "infomatics." With this new section, we hope to draw more attention to the area. This first time round, it is merely a sampler of what's to come. In future issues we will review software that can be used by nonprofit

organizations; describe online services such as those briefly noted in this issue; provide a review of computer literature with an eye toward community innovation; follow the emergence of new technologies that blend information management and communications; watch for uses of the technology that increase networking and cooperation among organizations; and finally, raise policy issues and values questions related to acceptance of information/communication technology. —SJ

NEWS BRIEFS

Computerized Community Calendar

The simple days are past when a community could be kept posted on public events by a town crier. Today even sophisticated mass media can barely keep track of education, cultural and political events in medium-to-large-sized communities.

Most often the responsibility falls on the organizations that sponsor an event to figure out their own, often cumbersome, method to "get the word out." In today's information-concentrated urban environment, it is sometimes difficult to shout loud enough, or with enough finesse to draw out the right individuals to make the right audience.

An agency in Minneapolis is addressing these problems by using a minicomputer to organize and disseminate information about educational, cultural, and civic events in the twin cities, St. Paul and Minneapolis. Metronet was established in 1979 by the Minnesota legislature to help public, private, academic, and special libraries in the seven-county twin cities area to develop region-wide programs.

In the fall of 1983 Metronet received a grant from the Northwest Area Foundation to develop an information and communication system that would aid organizations in planning events and would benefit the general public by providing more timely information about community events. Using a minicomputer, Metronet staff, headed by Mary Birmingham, have developed a database that provides information about many primary organizations in the twin cities areas and the type of events they sponsor.

While the technology facilitates the rapid organization and retrieval of the information, Mary Birmingham points out the project is more a social process

than a technical feat. In order to bring the information together it has been necessary to create a network of "builders"—the primary public events coordinators in the area. It has been important to establish trust among the builders, especially to induce them to share information about events planned for the mid-to-distant future.

The database includes basic information about organizations and descriptions of events, including subjects, speakers, costs, and even bus routes. The information is built around the organizations and not the events. Cataloging the organizations rather than the events puts the focus in the right place. The events will come and go, but the organizations (hopefully) remain. The database might become, to use an older metaphor, a part of the communities' memory.

Computer Learning Centers

Apple Computer has initiated a plan to help establish computer learning centers throughout the U.S. where nonprofit organizations can obtain ongoing technical assistance, including an assessment of their computer needs, hands-on computer training, and access to computer equipment.

The program requires a collaborative effort on the part of computer-related vendors to supply the hardware and software, local funding sources to contribute funds for the staff and facilities, and nonprofit organizations to administer the lab.

According to Mark Vermilion, manager of Apple Corporate Grants, "While nonprofit organizations supply much needed services to our society, they are frequently not in an economic position to invest in information tools such as computers, even if these tools hold great

promise for their work. With the establishment of centralized computer labs for community groups to use, these groups can benefit from the cumulative body of computer knowledge and experience generated at the lab, which can be readily shared."

The first such computer lab that has received Apple's help through this program is the Information Technology Resource Center (ITRC) at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois. Funded by a \$135,000 grant from the Chicago Community Trust, as well as contributions from various other foundations and corporations, the center occupies a 3,800-foot space provided by the museum for free.

Negotiations are currently underway to establish similar computer labs in San Francisco, California, Portland, Oregon, and Washington, DC.

Computer Grants Partnership

Apple has signed partnership agreements with United Way of America, VOLUNTEER—The National Center, and Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT) that allow these non-profit organizations to award microcomputer grants to their constituencies.

Under the terms of the partnerships, Apple and the partner groups have agreed on program objectives and guidelines. The partners evaluate proposals within their respective programs and make final selections with Apple's approval. Apple donates the computers and software, instructs the partners' trainers and provides follow-up support information to the partners for dissemination to the receiving organizations.

"This partnership concept is a uniquely cooperative effort between a corporation and nonprofit entities," said Vermilion.

"United Way, VOLUNTEER and PACT are in a better position than Apple to make grants to their constituencies. We selected these particular partnerships because of our common interests in serving human service agencies, volunteer programs and international development activities."

To date this year, the fair market value of the grants for which Apple has commitments under these partnership agreements is over \$590,000.

Microcomputer Network Grants

Apple has announced that since June of 1984, 216 community groups have received equipment grants through Apple Community Affairs that will link them via computer with similar nonprofit organizations to share information and resources.

The grants, valued at more than \$795,000, were awarded to 48 networks whose interests include legal services for the poor and elderly, environmental conservation, assistance for the mentally disabled, adoption services, transportation for the elderly, arts services, historical research, and humanities outreach. Connected by computer through telephone lines, the networks allow three to five organizations to share information resources and to send mail electronically to each other.

Since Apple Community Affairs began in November, 1982, Apple and other computer-related sponsors have donated products valued at over \$2,225,000, which serve 491 community groups across the U.S.

Apple provides each group with an Apple IIe system that includes a display monitor and two floppy disk drives, an Apple Imagewriter printer and an Apple 1200-baud modem, as well as extensive training and support. In addition, the grants include Access II, Apple's data

communications software package, and AppleWorks, a software program that integrates a word processor, financial spreadsheet and data base manager.

Apple also has enlisted the help of cocontributing companies which provide additional products and services. Cocontributors in this year's grants include Verbatim (20 blank diskettes per system), Tymshare, Inc. (100 hours of free electronic message time per network), and Dilithium Press (computer books).

Under its Community Affairs program, Apple reviews proposals for networks and awards grants three times a year. Grants are made to nonprofit organizations in six different categories: citizen action, research and development, support for the handicapped, the arts, foundation partnerships, international and innovative challenge. A proposed network is evaluated on the benefits it would provide to the community, demonstrated need of the network organizations, its suitability for microcomputers, and its sustainability. Community Affairs is a program of Apple Corporate Grants.

Copies of Apple Community Affairs guidelines can be obtained by writing to Community Affairs, Apple Computer, Inc., 20525 Mariani Avenue, M/S 23-L, Cupertino, CA 95014

Community Videotex and Parataxi Systems

Traditionally, videotex (the word is only about five years old), refers to interactive public information services distributed over cable TV systems. However, services such as The Source and CompuServe that use telephone lines and data communication lines to distribute information services to personal computer users are sometimes also referred to as videotex services. Any way you slice it, the business is growing.

The videotex industry is expected to

reach \$25 billion per year within the decade. Most of the pioneering work in videotex has been done outside the United States. In 1981, there were over 15,000 videotex terminals in the United Kingdom, and it led the world. Since that time, France has taken the lead and now has over 250,000 videotex terminals in operation. France is in the first stages of a long-term development project that will result in the installation of 30 million terminals throughout the country during the next decade.

While many are watching the potential of videotex systems, only a few are eyeing the developments from a transportation point of view.

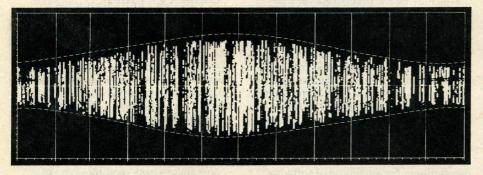
In January, 1984, the U.S. Department of Energy and the State of Hawaii sponsored a conference on "Videotex, Transportation and Energy Conservation." A team of international experts in transportation, personal computers, and telecommunications critically reviewed the "auto-ride" parataxi concept.

In the early 1970s transportation professionals began using the term paratransit to describe a variety of techniques to solve urban transportation problems. The term referred to solutions such as carpooling, dial-a-bus, subscription bus and even hitchhiking. Fancy phrases such as "demand-responsive general service with no advance reservation" are used in describing these parasolutions.

At the heart of the thinking is the realization that the usual combinations being offered in most cities of buses, lightrail, or subways delivering service on pre-arranged schedules may not be appealing to a sufficient percentage of the population because the consumer is unwilling to adjust his or her schedule to that of the public transportation.

It has been suggested that it might be possible to develop an on-demand transportation system. The system would use a videotex system to link up homes and businesses to a central computer facility where transportation routes of public vehicles would be designed around the daily demands of the riders.

Several areas are considering experimental videotex parataxi systems. The Urban Mass Transportation Administration, the City of Rafael (Marion County, California), and the San Francisco Foundation are sponsoring research on the use of community videotex-transportation information systems to organize transit, paratransit and ridesharing resources into an integrated public transportation system. The State of Hawaii has asked the U.S. Department of Transportation for assistance in establishing a publicprivate partnership to develop and test a videotex-based parataxi system in a suburb of Honolulu.



A graph of annual sunshine (not in Portland, Oregon). The light areas indicate the times when the sun shines. (FROM: The Visual Display of Quantitative Information—see page 28)

PUBLICATIONS

Nonprofits Enter the Computer Age, by Marc Rotenberg and Iris Rothman, 1984, \$4 from:

Community Careers Resource Center 1520 16th St., NW Washington, DC 20036

Several guides for nonprofits entering the computer age have been published recently, including the extensive work of the Public Management Institute, Computer Resource Guide for Nonprofits (600 pages and \$175.00). We are reviewing this more informal work because for its price it is a good resource. It is not a comprehensive guide to computerizing a nonprofit organization, but provides a basic background for nonprofit managers and workers about small computer applications in the nonprofit organization.

How to Buy Software, by Alfred Glossbrenner, 1984, 684 pp., \$14.95 from: St. Martins Press 175 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10010

Glossbrenner's other book, Personal Computer Communications, is the book we recommend for people wanting to grasp the online world of the personal computer. Now he's put together what almost seems impossible to do, a sensible introduction to buying software. Many kinds: database management, integrated, graphics, business and personal finance, educational, games, word processing. Along the way are descriptions of operating software, and programming languages. Each type of software has a very good "Software Buyer's Quick Reference Checklist"—nearly worth the price of the book by itself. It is a fat book (the size of a world almanac), and may seem like a lot to digest, but it will surely make all the product literature easier to read.

Whole Earth Software Catalog, edited by Steward Brand, 1984, 200 pp., \$17.50 from:

Quantum Press/Doubleday Garden City, New York

John Berry starts his review of the Software Catalog in Infoworld with "Is it worth it? After all the hype and hoopla, is the Whole Earth Software Catalog worth it?" Although Berry's review is positive, he spends as much time discussing the market potential as the actual content. It's there, it's good. But the question rises to



The familiar cover image of the earth as seen from the moon (FROM: Whole Earth Software Catalog)

the surface—has the whole earth audience grown into software along with the Sausalito crowd? It is obvious that many things have changed. Just take for example the fact that this is a 200-page catalog, not about the world, but about one small tiny bit of it, something we call software. Marketing questions immediately come to mind. Is the Whole Earth Catalog market really into computers so much that they will plunk down \$17.50 for descriptions of software most of which they will never see or use? One of the nice things about the original Whole Earth Catalog was that you could learn a lot by just window shopping. It remains to be seen if readers will feel the same about looking at software. Or is there a new audience for this book?

So how does one divide this little microscopic world of software? The Software Catalog includes: playing, writing, analyzing, organizing, accounting, managing, drawing, telecommunicating, programming, learning.

This may be the first book ever that reflects the electronic communication era in its own format. Some of the editorial work was done by Whole Earth staff using electronic communications systems, especially EIES, the Electronic Information Exchange System, and Compuserve. The reviews seem like short comments by several people listening in. The reviews may not even lead you to a direct answer, as one person's comments sometimes contradict another's.

The catalog does clearly make recommendations. For each type of software reviewed (and for a very short, rather underdone section on hardware) there is a high-to-low recommendation list.

Recommending the book is easy, but with one caution. If you are looking for one book to help you choose software, this might not be it. Sometimes the reviews are too short to cover all the questions one might need to ask. The reviews are often only recommendations. Choosing software to meet a specific need can be a complicated process, and more detailed product comparisons may be necessary.

It is good to remember that the catalog is supplemented by the quarterly Whole Earth Review (PO Box 27956, San Diego, CA 92128, \$18/yr). This supplement will hopefully fill in some of the catalog's reviews and update software developments.

Visual Display of Quantitative Information, by Edward R. Tufte, 1984, 198 pp., \$34 from:

Graphics Press PO Box 430 Cheshire, CN 06410

In this book, Tufte traces the history of graphic display design, provides plentiful and wonderful examples of graphic displays, analyzes how graphs can be misused (intentionally and unintentionally), and lays out qualifications for appropriate uses of different types of graphs.

The book is a chart-browser's paradise. Displays of the same information in different format show how influential a graphic representation can be.

Not always easy reading—you may have to second guess the meaning of some jargon, but the graphs alone are worth pondering.

ASSISTANCE

Computer Use in Social Services Network (CUSSN)

CUSSN is a nonprofit association of professionals interested in exchanging information and experiences with using computers in human services. The CUSSN newsletter's subtitle spells out the basic intention of the network, "Networking: The Linking of People, Resources and Ideas." Members contribute to the lively newsletter descriptions of their computer research development projects, applications, and experiences working with small computers. The contributions range from well-written articles (one recently on wholistic information systems) to simple classified ads.

It is a dense journal, but laid out well, accommodating nicely the amount of information conveyed.

Regular features in the newsletter include descriptions of useful databases, periodicals, periodical articles, and descriptions of federal programs in information system evaluation.

Sometimes it contains heavy specialistonly conversations, but most of all it includes some of the hottest news for those wanting to understand community applications of computer technology.

CUSSN also maintains a skills bank of its membership, supports special interest groups, and a software clearinghouse (see description in this section). A very strong network, coming together at the right time.

Network dues are \$5 for students and the poor, \$10 for individuals, and \$10+ for those willing to provide additional support. Those interested in joining the network should wite to Dick Schoech, CUSSN Coordinator/Editor, the University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19129, Arlington, Texas 76019.

Support for Information and Communication Projects

The Benton Foundation is a private grant-making institution committed to enhancing public understanding and use of both traditional and emerging media of communications.

The foundation supports projects that explore short- and long-term effects of communications policy options, and facilitate the implementation of policies that promote the goals of access and diversity.

Within its public affairs and media program, the Foundation supports projects designed to increase understanding of the role and effects of the communi-

cations media in the political process.

The Foundation also seeks projects that strive to raise public awareness of the nature and uses of communications and information technologies, and ensure that their benefits will be available to all. It has particular interest in projects that develop or distribute information about the innovative use of communication and information technologies by nonprofit organizations.

For more information write to the Benton Foundation, 1776 K Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006; 202/ 857-1768.

Computer Education for Nonprofits

Volunteer: National Center for Citizen Involvement has received support since 1983 from the Gannett Foundation to produce and disseminate a training package for volunteer and other nonprofit organizations on basic computer literacy.

The material was prepared over a

several-month period by a team of consultants and a national advisory group, using the electronic mail facilities of the Telecommunications Cooperative Network.

The training package includes a 200-page manual, 60-page trainer's manual, and several slide/tape presentations on computer concepts, selecting a computer, word processing, database management, spread sheets, and telecommunications.

Local organizations interested in sponsoring computer education events for volunteer and nonprofit organizations may purchase a review package of the training material that includes a student manual, teacher manual, and script of the slide/tape shows for \$25. The training package is prepared for local sponsors at the rate of \$15 per person attending the workshop.

For more information, contact Patrick Saccomandi, Volunteer, 111 N 19th Street, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22209; 703/276-0542.

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A graphical pun: the chart shows how states paint lane stripes on roads. The actual physical pattern is shown, ordered from short dashes to solid stripes (FROM: The Visual Display of Quantitative Information—see page 28)

ONLINE SERVICE REVIEWS

In this section we will be reviewing new information and communication services, and relating news about existing services. For this time round, here is a brief listing of just some of the online services we will be spending more time on in the future.

Nation Service is an online information network offering electronic mail, participation in users groups, and purchasing of discount goods. It operates 24 hours per day, with a flat rate of \$10 per year, and no monthly charge. Demonstration on computer is available at 618/847-2291, or write to Nation Service, PO Box 391, Fairfield, IL 62837; 618/847-2381.

The Community Information Exchange, started by the National Urban Coalition, is a computerized service for information on housing and economic development strategies for low-income neighborhoods. To date most clients use the exchange by mail and telephone, but a growing number are networking with their personal computers. The exchange's system uses microcomputers and an integrated software program called MIST, which supports electronic mail, bulletin boards,

and computer conferencing. For more information, contact The Community Information Exchange, National Urban Coalition, 1120 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; 202/628-2981.

Timeplace is an educational events database which lists more than 120,000 scheduled presentations of seminars, conferences, and workshops nationally and internationally. For more information write to Timeplace, 460 Totten Pond Rd., Waltham, MA 02154; 617/890-4636.

Partnerships Data Net is a new organization resulting from the merger of Partnerships Dataline U.S.A. and DATA/NET. The two organizations have been working along common paths for some time. Partnerships Dataline U.S.A. developed the CIVITEX database containing profiles of over 2,000 examples of successful private and public partnerships around the country. DATA/NET has been developing an electronic information/communication system aimed at nonprofit community groups. With a new arrangement with CompuServe, the Partnerships Data Net is available remotely. The

service includes the Private Sector Initiatives Database, Electronic Mail, and several general databases. For more information, contact Partnerships Data Net, 1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036; 202/293-8280.

The Telecommunications Network (TCN) has been steadfastly improving its communication and information management offerings. Interlink, the news service featuring news from Third World countries, is available through the TCN/Dialcom communication system. The Investor Responsibility Research Center provides information for socially responsible investors, and a new service called GRANTS will provide information for nonprofits from the Foundation Center—online searches of Grants Index, Updates on Grant Makers, and the Library Shelf.

It is well worth a look. TCN is also a primary source of information on discount long distance phone and other telecommunications services. For more information, contact Telecommunications Network Service, 270 Lexington Avenue, Suite 715, New York, NY 10017; 212/689-1321.



MOVING?

If you're moving, please let us know. With a month's notice we can make sure you get each issue of RAIN. But if you don't let us know, you may miss out. *The U.S. Postal Service doesn't usually forward RAIN's class of mail.*

Attach your address label here (or copy it carefully):	New address:
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ADDRESS	ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP	CITY STATE ZIP
EFFECTIVE DATE	Mail to: RAIN, 3116 North Williams, Portland, OR 97227

Pacific Northwest Bioregion Report

Tilth Marks Ten Years

What do you get when you combine a barter fair and agricultural exhibition, a bioregional organizing extravaganza, a healthy list of workshops, lots of sunshine, and some 300 beaming Earth lovers in a celebration of the tenyear anniversary of Tilth, Northwest's sustainable agriculture association? The Tilth Jamboree! (See also "From the Ground Up," RAIN IX:6/X:1, page 51.)

The Jamboree was held in a field 15 miles east of Snoqualmie Pass in central Washington, September 29 to October 1. Ambitious volunteers erected a stage, workshop shelters, yurts, and a children's play area. Participants from B.C. to California formed two long rows of wares and produce displays. Barter fair wizard and veteran Tilth member Michael "Skeeter" Pilarski graciously steered all these festive activities and bankrolled the whole operation.

The 20 or so networking groups ranged from sustainable forestry to beekeeping to alternative economic systems, and the workshops ran the gamut from super-efficient wood burning to Rainiac Jeff Strang's "Unusual Edibles: Lessons from the Mien people of Laos."

As the Jamboree wound down Sunday evening, an unexpected belly dancing trio entertained a yurt-full of folks. The finale came when, at the dancers' requests for volunteers, three anonymous males rolled up their shirts, swung their hips, waved their arms, and drew whoops and calls unequalled in belly dancing history. Watch out for Tilth's 20th anniversary!

—Kris Nelson

Bioregional Initiatives Sparked

North American Bioregional Congress coordinator David Haenke, an Ozarks native (see "Voices of Reinhabitation: The Ozarks," RAIN, X:5, p. 28), was invited as a special guest to the Tilth Jamboree. David outlined the development of the planet-wide Green movement and its connections to the bioregional movement (see "Weaving Green Threads," RAIN, X:5, p. 12). He presented the following steps that the Ozark Area Community Congress took in forming their bioregional representative body: recognize

On a rare day of partial clearing clouds separate to reveal the Maritime Northwest. On the east, the Cascade Range protects it from the thirsty Plateau. On the west is the Pacific. Southward the Siskiyous and Trinity Alps palisade the Maritime Northwest against the bare brown hills and burning plains of California. Northward, though maritime climate persists, agriculture ceases, turned back by mountains that rise from the surf.

nature's borders and determine where the constituency lies; invite representatives of sympathetic groups, including indigenous people to the Congress; meet in interest group committees where goals and resolutions are formulated; and by meeting in a plenary where the body hears and eventually ratifies goals and resolutions that form a bioregional platform. The interest group committees and their resolutions parallel state and national government committees and can be used in communicating with

BOB BENSON

governmental bodies and the media.

The group requested a reading of the goals that were brainstormed at an April 7 meeting in Portland and published in the July/August Pacific Northwest Bioregion Report. Poet Gary Snyder suggested that these goals be added to this list-for-discussion: 1) Give aid and recognize rights of indigenous peoples, asking permission to carry on with Earth-based organizing and asking what their problems and concerns are, so that these can be incorporated in bioregional initiatives; 2) Make plans for habitat rehabilitation, i.e. restore salmon-spawning streams; 3) Strive to enable all species to live in the Northwest that inhabitated the watersheds originally, including the grizzly bear.

The group split into "wet side" (west of the Cascades) and "dry side" inhabitants and discussed ways to educate and organize themselves and others about bioregionalism in the Northwest. Here's a run-down of

those discussions:

The Dry Side or Interior Northwest group adopted the bioregional goals published in RAIN with Snyder's additions. They hope to convene an interior Northwest congress next summer and planned further meetings at several barter fairs this fall. They will use the Okanagan Natural News and the Tilth Journal for communication. Questions and proposals should be addressed to Kindler (Blueberry) Stout, 499 Annie Place, Cheney, WA 99004.

The Wet Side or Maritime Northwest group subdivided into several groups. The Olympic Peninsula and South Sound Islands group hopes to hold a conference among environmental and economically concerned organizations this fall. For details, contact Greg Braden, 825 Filmore, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

The Northwest Washington, San Juan Islands, and B.C. group is putting together a slide-tape show to convey the spirit and beauty of the maritime Northwest. The premier showing is scheduled for Valentine's Day, February 14, 1985; the site is undetermined. Slide images and sounds, eerie and mundane, are being sent to Karl Meyer, 2015 Valley Parkway, Bellingham, WA 98225. A composite map of each recording and photo site is being compiled by Gray Robinson, 9779 15th Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98117. The slide-tape show will eventually be available for educational and organizing purposes.

The Siskiyou Mountains group, it was

reported, held a watershed conference this fall. For details, contact *Siskiyou Country*, 10394 Takilma Road, Cave Junction, OR 97523.

This flurry of activity and information called for a coordinator. Dave Hunt, director of his "Hemisphere Bridging Corporation" in Salem, Oregon, stepped forward. The group agreed to send him postcards and announcements of what they are doing. Likewise, information on wet and dry side developments can be obtained from Dave at 894 Highland NE, Salem, OR 97303; 503/364-1736, or specifically from the contacts above.

—Kris Nelson

Seattle Transfer Stations Renamed

Reflecting the city's increased emphasis on recycling, Seattle's two transfer stations have been renamed Transfer Stations and Recycling Centers. The City plans to increase recycling at the sites by ten percent in 1985 through staff training, citizen education, and recycling promotion to commercial accounts.

In 1983 citizens recycled 2,021 tons of material at the transfer stations. Materials received have included 1,773 tons of ferrous metal, 246 tons of newspaper, 182 tons of glass, 14.5 tons of tin cans, and 5.5 tons of aluminum cans.

Renewable Resources Center

The Northwest Renewable Resources Center has recently been formed in Seattle as an "independent problemsolving forum dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of our renewable resources," and will provide a "forum, opportunity, and tools for corporations, tribes, conservationists, and managers to help themselves." The NRRC is "dedicated to assisting those concerned with fisheries, timber, agricultural land, and hydropower to create new solutions to old problems." The chairman of the NRRC is James C. Waldo. For more information, contact Mark Reis, Executive Director, NRRC, 1700 Tower Building, Seattle, WA 98101; 206/543-7361.

Puget Sound Alliance

The Puget Sound Alliance announced its formation in August as a "union of citizen, commercial, scientific, and recreational interests dedicated to protecting and preserving Puget Sound." PSA plans to "encourage educational and research activities which will enable citizens and public officials to better understand the nature of the Sound," thus enabling the PSA, other organizations, businesses, and individuals to be advocates for Puget Sound. Membership is open to organizations, businesses, and individuals. For more information, contact Jim Abernathy, Puget Sound Alliance, PO Box 30843, Seattle, WA 98103; 206/543-1812 or 206/363-5098.

Green Party Oregon

The Greens Oregon is affiliated with the International Green Party Alliance and Die Grünen in West Germany, and is similarly founded on the principles of ecology, social responsibility, grassroots democracy, and nonviolence. Established in March 1983, and currently based in the Portland area, the organization is now seeking to increase participation and expand throughout the state. It hopes to build coalitions among pre-existing groups.

Although creating a formal political party and running candidates is seen as a possibility for the future, for the time being the organization plans to work through the established parties and governmental bodies. It will support those programs that are in line with its goals and develop and lobby for alternative proposals when necessary. It has recently begun publishing a newsletter, The White Rose. You can receive the newsletter and be placed on the mailing list by sending a donation of at least \$5. Contact The Greens Oregon, c/o 1517 SW Columbia, Portland, OR 97201; message phone, 223-8223.

Model for Urban-Rural Cooperation

Students and faculty from The Evergreen State College (TESC) in Olympia, Washington, have joined forces with the Eastside Community Church in Tacoma, Washington, in a project that preserves productive farmland and gives urban church members and students an opportunity to learn rural skills.

The Eastside Community Church purchased Majestic Aires Ranch in nearby Yelm, Washington. The ranch is 155 acres of pasture, woodlot, farmhouse, and outbuildings. Through its ownership of the ranch, the church is working to meet several goals, which include providing food and clothing for the needy, teaching discipline and responsibility to youth, and promoting the mental, physical, and spiritual development of all participants.

To help realize its goals, the church contacted the Center for Community Development at TESC for assistance in developing a land use plan for the ranch. Senior students in the yearlong Advanced Environmental Studies Program were given the opportunity to work on the project. During the fall of 1983, the church and a student/faculty team drafted a work plan and contract that responded to the needs of the church as well as the capabilities and educational goals of the project

team. The plan included recommendations in six areas: energy systems, woodlot management, market gardening, orchard management, animal husbandry, and housing construction. For further information about this project, contact the Center for Community Development, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98502.

Peace Resources in Bellingham

Western Washington University's Peace Resource Center, located on its campus in Bellingham, Washington, is designed to educate students and the local community about peace, justice, and human rights. Established last

spring, the PRC shows films, presents lecturers, schedules activities, and develops news programs and bulletins related to the cause of peace. The center also maintains a library of materials on individuals, organizations, services, and other peace resources. Staff members are available throughout the day to answer questions and to discuss issues. One of the long-term goals of the Peace Resource Center is the development of a program of peace studies that would be offered either through Western or through another nearby educational facility. For more information, contact the Peace Resource Center, Viking Union, Room 223, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225 or call 206/676-3460.

N.W. PUBLICATIONS

Tacoma?) mark these posters as wasted opportunities for a good education in regional history. —SM

The Alert!, monthly, membership of \$25/year or living lightly of \$10/year from:

Washington Environmental Council 80 South Jackson #308 Seattle, WA 98104

For some 15 years, the Washington Environmental Council has been actively working to protect wilderness, wildlife habitat and natural resources, including drawing up and lobbying for legislation affecting these issues. The Alert reflects the wide scope of WEC, covering the crucial environmental concerns of Washington State and the Pacific Northwest, including forestry policy, endangered species, fisheries, shoreline management, and wild and scenic area protection. This eight-page newspaper also features a monthly calendar of events and Smoke Signals, a page of newsbriefs from around the Northwest. -SM

Pacific Northwest Trail Guide, by Ronald Strickland, 1984, 272 pp., \$12.95 from:

The Writing Works PO Box 24947 Seattle, WA 98124

From sub-arctic tundra to arid sage country, to alpine meadows, rural towns, dripping rainforests and ocean beaches, route descriptions in this guide are precise and vivid. The

narrative is enhanced by measured anecdotes on history, lore, geology, wildlife, lifestyle, vegetation, and other notes of local color. Strickland's easy writing style brings the richness of this diverse cross-section of the continents to life, creating one of the most interesting trail guides I've seen.

The guide presents four themes: 1) introducing the history and evolution of the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNWT), 2) promoting a philosophy of long-distance hiking, 3) inspiring the public to help with the unfinished work on the trail, and 4) to provide a guide for those who want to trek from Waterton, Alberta to Cape Alava, Washington.

As a guide it is impeccable. Strickland's decade of work to locate and establish the trail and collecting oral histories in the corridor shows through in his familiarity with the entire region. Not only does he describe in detail the thousand-plus miles of route and include over 100 topographic maps, but because the trail is currently a patchwork of trails, roads, crosscountry routes and beaches, the guide describes both ideal routes and practical routes, as well as other alternatives, spurs and loops within the corridor.

For those up to the challenge, the trail offers the most varied climate, topography and conditions of any of the U.S.'s long-distance trails. Volunteers who want to do trail work need only contact the local coordinator for the area in which they would like to work—there is no waiting list. Write to: PNWT Association, Box 1048, Seattle, WA 98111. —David Mozer

David Mozer is a Northwest native and bicycle transportation consultant in Africa.

The North Central Cascades, map (24"x32"), 1984 by Richard A. Pargeter, \$4.95;

Pargeter's Picture Guide Map to the Olympic Mountains, map (24"x32"), 1983, by Richard A. Pargeter, \$4.95; The Puget Sound Country, Pictoral overview with Historical Notes (24"x32"), 1981, by Richard A. Pargeter, \$5.95;

Washington's Northwest Passages, Pictoral Overview with Historical Notes (24"x32"), 1984, by Richard A. Pargeter, \$5.95 from:

Pargeter Company PO Box 844 Kent, WA 98031

Map junkies as well as outdoor people and travelers will enjoy the first two pictoral maps. Both include useful information on road and trail mileage; road, bridge and trail conditions; natural features and landmarks (such as world-record trees); and the location of stores, gas stations, and restaurants. Although too bulky and not detailed enough to take on a hiking or climbing trip, they're useful for pre-trip planning or for just covering the bare spots on the walls.

The last two posters are much less useful. While they do provide a unique and valuable perspective on the shape and contour of the land, various minor factual errors are irritating and indicate carelessness and a lack of familiarity with the region. The total neglect of native and minority history, and the trivial nature of most of the historical information (when was the first load of logs shipped from

ADVERTISING

Worthy Work

RAIN INTERN PROGRAM: RAIN's intern program enables staff interns to gain a thorough knowledge of magazine publication and resource center operation. The work is a mix of activities, including promotion, library and office maintenance, information requests, publicity, and local education or organizing efforts. Applicants must be self-motivated and able to work with minimum supervision; technical skills are appreciated, but not necessary. A three-month commitment is required. Benefits include a stipend of \$40 a week and the excitement of being in touch with the latest information from around the country. Send resume to Rob Baird, RAIN, 3116 North Williams, Portland, OR 97227.

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SUBSCRIBER MARY VOGEL is a regular columnist for Catalyst: Investing in Social Change, an investment newsletter that goes to subscribers with over \$66 million to invest in social change oriented businesses needing investment capital. If your business fits that category, she would love to hear from you. Write or call her at 254 W. 19th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401; 503/343-5696.

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For information on display ads and a rate sheet, contact: RAIN Advertising Dept., 3116 North Williams, Portland, OR 97227; 503/249-7218.

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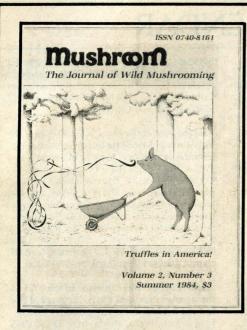
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CALENDAR

The Association of Energy Engineers, a nonprofit society of renewable energy professionals, will hold their 1985 West Coast Energy Management Congress in Los Angeles, CA, February 18-20, 1985. The congress is sponsored by Southern California Gas and Southern California Edison, and will feature many exhibits and booths, as well as a technical program examining energy management systems, creative financing, and microcomputers. Contact West Coast Energy management Congress, 4025 Pleasantdale Road, Suite 340, Atlanta, GA 30340; 404/447-5083.

The Steering Committee for Sustainable Agriculture is sponsoring its Fifth annual Ecological Farming Conference, to be held in La Honda, CA, on January 25 through 27, 1985. The theme of this year's conference is "Agriculture: The Challenge of Change," and its purpose is to gather growers, researchers, consumers, and concerned citizens together to share their experiences and their knowledge about sustainable food production. The more than 40 speakers will address a multitude of topics, including pest management, soil fertility, aquaculture, farm energy, animal husbandry, marketing, economics and home gardening. Cost of registration is \$60 before January 1, and \$75 after that date. Contact the Steering Committee for Sustainable Agriculture, PO Box 1394, Davis, CA 95617, or call 916/753-1054.

"Progress toward a Sustainable Future" will be the theme of the 14th Annual Conference of the North American Association for Environmental Education, scheduled for September 27 through October 2, 1985 at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Proposals for presentation will be accepted until March 15, 1985. Information concerning the conference may be obtained from Joan C. Heidelberg, Executive Vice President, North American Association for Environmental Education, PO Box 400, Troy, OH 45373, or call 513/698-6493.

"Building Bridges Through Partnerships" will be the theme of the Oregon Community Education Association's 1985 convention to be held in the Eugene Hilton Conference Center from February 28 to March 1. This convention will cover a number of varied topics, including trends in health education, stress management, and education opportunities through business groups. Workshops will be offered for community school coordinators, superintendents, school nurses, and other educators. Contact OCEA, 1724 Moss Street, Eugene, OR 97403, or call 503/686-3996.

"Taking Aim at the Sun" is the theme of the third annual Interstate Solar Coordination Council conference, to be held January 15-18, 1985 at the Florida Solar Energy Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida. The conference will cover photovoltaics, solar DHW systems, and state solar issues. Before January 9 cost of registration is \$165 for members and \$185 for nonmembers and after January 9 \$185 for members and \$205 for nonmembers. Contact Carolyn Burby or Ken Sheinkopf, ISCC, 300 State Road 401, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920, 305/783-0300.

"Solar Energy: The Diverse Solution," will be the theme of Intersol 1985: Congress of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), held in Montreal, Canada, June 23-29, 1985. The congress is intended to provide a forum for interdisciplinary communication between experts in solar and wind energy, biomass, photovoltaics, and energy conservation. In addition, examination of the combines potential of renewable-energy resources will be the basis of several problem-solving workshops. Intersol 85 will include displays, demonstrations, and slide shows emphasizing the viability of solar energy. Scientists, engineers, renewable-energy practitioners, government officials, and interested laypeople are encouraged to participate. Write to Intersol 85, 491 Viger West, Room 102, PO Box 1427, Desjardins Station, Montreal, Quebec, H5B 1H3,

A Barren Breitenbush? Breitenbush Community has recently learned that 29 timber sales, encompassing approximately 6,000 acres, are planned in the surrounding hills in the near future. Breitenbush is an intentional community and hot springs, retreat, and conference center near Detroit, Oregon. Community members plan to appeal the sales, and will hold a demonstration at noon on January 22 in Eugene at the Willamette National Forest Headquarters in the Federal Building. People who wish to write letters opposing the timber sales to present to the Forest Service should send them to Breitenbush Community, PO Box 578, Detroit, OR 97342.



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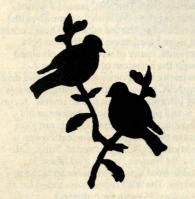
Is the Earth a Living Organism?—The Gaia Hypothesis will be examined at a conference sponsored by the Audubon Society Expedition Institute to be held on the campus of the University of Massachusetts August 2-6, 1985. Research papers are being requested to advance the living earth concept across the spectrum of discipline. Presentations should focus on new research, synthesize what has been done to date, or propose new areas of research. Whenever possible, cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary analysis should be included. Space will also be provided for a limited number of artistic presentations. The program proceedings will be subsequently published as a state-of-art review of our understanding of the Gaia Hypothesis, especially as it relates to science. Proposals should be an abstract of no more than three pages, typewritten and double spaced, with a cover letter describing the overall focus. Proposal deadline is April 15, 1985. Please include SASE with your proposal. For papers, proposals and questions contact Dr. Jim Swan, Symposium Coordinator, National Audubon Society Expedition Institute, Box 637, Mill Valley, CA 94941. For inquiries regarding the "Is Earth Alive?" Symposium contact the Institute for Expedition Education, National Audubon Society, NE Regional Office, R.R. 1, Box 171, Sharon, CT 06069.

Big Trouble at Big Mountain—April 1986 is the official deadline for the voluntary relocation of the traditional peoples of the Navajo-Hopi Joint Use Area in Northeastern Arizona. Forced relocation is expected by July of that year. Under the facade of a land dispute between the Hopi and Navajo people, progressive tribal councils and the federal government are attempting to ease native residents from the land, freeing it for coal and uranium mining. In early 1985, the Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee is planning to draw up an initiative repealing Public Law 93-531, the mandate for relocation authored by Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. In the meantime, traditional Hopi leaders are denouncing the tactics of harrassment and psychological warfare the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs is using to speed the relocation process. The stress caused by the harrassment and relocation is responsible for an increase in illness and suicide, and is contributing to the deterioration of the morale and the traditional lifestyle of the native people of the area. This is not an isolated battle, but another round in the war between the nuclear cowboys and Native American peoples for control of their land and destiny. For more information, contact Northwest Big Mountain Support Group, PO Box 10234, Olympia, WA 98501.

Bike Shelters—Architects, designers, students, and anyone with imagination and know-how are invited to submit designs for overnight bicycle shelters that are sturdy, attractive, and adaptable to the variety of useable spaces on neighborhood blocks. The competition is being sponsored by Stryker's Bay Neighborhood Council, a nonprofit,

community-based housing and social service organization in New York City. Designs will be judged by professionals from the fields of architecture, industrial design, bicycle planning and crime prevention. The deadline to register is March 15, and registration and kit fees are \$15. Designs should be submitted by April 22, 1985. Contact Gail Boorstein, Project Director, SBNC Bike Project, 561 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10024, or call 212/874-7272.

Trusting the Land in Vermont—The Lincoln Community Land Trust is a nonprofit, community-based project in a small valley of 800 people adjacent to the Green Mountains of central Vermont. The purpose of this community land trust is to protect and encourage the rural lifestyle, to inhibit speculative buying through holding property and development rights, and to provide a functioning role model for other land stewarding ventures in Vermont. Pilot projects include a library-reference center, community construction assistance program, credit union, cooperative woodlot management program and soft tech consultation. If you are interested in supporting or joining the Lincoln Community contact Lincoln Community Land Trust, Inc., RFD Box 19, Rochester, VT 05767, or call 802/767-4750.



Renewable Energy News Renewed—Renewable Energy News, a monthly tabloid newspaper covering all aspects of renewable energy technologies, was recently acquired by SolarVision, Inc., publisher of Solar Age magazine. The first issue of the new magazine will be published in January of 1985. Title and format will remain the same, but the newspaper will focus more on the new developments in use of renewable energy technologies on a commercial and industrial scale. For more information, contact Deborah Napior, Associate Publisher, SolarVision, Inc., Church Hill, Harrisville, NH 03450, or call 603/827-3347.

Free Newsletter Available—The Consumer Product Safety Network is a national grassroots outreach program that provides information on a wide range of product safety issues, such as toy safety, food and drug safety, indoor air pollution, and automobile safety. The CSPN Newsletter provides information on many of these issues, tells you whom to write, where to send your comments, and how to follow up on

contacts. CSPN is a nonprofit public-interest coalition, and publishes the newsletter as a free public service. To receive the newsletter or find out more about CSPN, contact Consumer Product Safety Network, 1424 16th Street NW, 6th floor, Washington, DC 20036.

Alternative Nobel Prize—Four women from Asia and Africa will share the 1984 Right Livelihood Award of 350,000 Swedish Kronor (approximately \$50,000). The prize was introduced four years ago by Jacob von Uexkull, an alternate to the European parliament who sold part of a valuable postage stamp collection to fund it. The Right Livelihood Award is presented on December 9th, the day before the Nobel prize ceremony, to "honor and support those working on practical solutions to the real problems facing us." The winners of this year's award are Winefreda Geonzon (Philippines), lawyer and founder of the Free Legal Aid Volunteers Association in Cebu City; Professor Wangari Maathai (Kenya), biologist and women's leader who pioneered the 'Green Belt' reforestation movement; Mrs. Ela Bhatt, founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association in Ahmedabad (India) that assists home-based producers in organizing trade unions and support services; and Iman Khalifeh (Lebanon), who inspired and organized the Beirut peace movement and will receive a special honorary award. For more information, contact Carola Wilder, 38 Babcock Street, Brookline, MA 02146, or call 617/731-

Sunpaper Sets—After being published on an irregular schedule throughout 1983-84, Sunpaper, Bulletin of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association, published its last issue in May 1984. The NMSEA remains solvent, but lacks the funding and volunteer labor to continue to publish the magazine. Reductions in membership have also had an impact on the ability of the Association to put on programs and publish information. If you have any suggestions, comments or ideas regarding solutions to these difficult problems, please send them to Harry S. Zwibel, Box 3SOL, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

A piece of the rock—The Clinton Community Garden in New York City was a rubble-strewn vacant lot for 28 years, until it was transformed by neighborhood residents into an urban garden in 1976. Recently, the city of New York attracted wide attention when it announced its intention to sell the now valuable property to the highest bidder. A Save The Garden committee was formed to fight and halt the sale of the land. After investigating the options available, it was agreed that the only alternative was to purchase the garden outright. To raise enough money, the committee is offering square inch plots for \$5. However, contributions of \$500 per square foot and \$5000 per square yard are also acceptable. All checks should be made payable to The Trust for Public Land. Contact Sally Freidman, Clinton Community Garden, c/o Trust for Public Land, 254 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001.

Irradiated Food-The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently proposed a rule that would allow food processors to use irradiation, in place of pesticides such as ethylene dibromide (EDB), to destroy insects and extend the shelf life of fresh fruits and vegetables. The FDA's proposal would not require labeling of irradiated food products sold in grocery stores. Although the agency already permits irradiation of spices, the new rules would allow radiation of up to three times the current acceptable level (1 megarad) in spices. For more information, contact Clyde Takeguchi, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, 200 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20204; 202/ 472-5690.

Alternative Village—Ponderosa Village is a planned community emphasizing individual responsibility, self-reliance, cooperation, and increased security from possible economic and social deterioration. Current villagers participate in a way of life and a community that can be sustained over the long run. Villagers also share knowledge and skills for the enhancement of self-reliance, cooperation, community and personal growth. Located four miles from Goldendale, Washington, Ponderosa Village has a community library, self-serve workshop equipped with tools, and is developing a school of self-reliant living. If you are interested in beginning a life at Ponderosa Village, contact Meg and Larry Letterman, Route 1, lot 17, Goldendale, WA 98620, or call 509/773-

International Youth Year-In 1979, the United Nations declared 1985 to be International Youth Year. The main objective of International Youth Year is to increase awareness of the problems and aspirations of young people. The program suggests an analysis of the conditions affecting youth in each nation, and that measures be adopted to bring about solutions to youth problems such as unemployment and underemployment, inadequate education, poor health services, crime and drug abuse, and the erosion of cultural and family values. Along with the evaluation of these problems the United Nations suggests the celebration of youth's contributions and potential. For more information, contact

Information Officer, International Youth Year, DESI/DPI, Room S1061, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

Communication Costs—The Portland-based Center for Urban Education is sponsoring a workshop titled The Costs of Communication: Telephone Deregulation and the Non-Profit Organization, to be held on January 16, 1985 in Portland, Oregon. The Program will present an overview of deregulation, measured service proposals, and the effect of these policies and proposals on non-profits. The workshop will end with a panel discussion on these and other related topics. Contact Workshops, Center for Urban Education, 0245 SW Bancroft, Portland, OR 97201, or call 503/221-0984.

Nuclear Mishaps in 1983—There were 5,060 mishaps at nuclear power plants in 1983, 11% more than in 1982, according to a study released by Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, a research organization founded by Ralph Nader. Of the total mishaps, 247 were considered particularly significant by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the report says. U.S. reactors performed dismally, once again, generating electricity only 56% of the time. The NRC said this was primarily due to "personnel goofs." Radiation exposure jumped 8% over 1982, and 1,324 more workers were exposed than in 1982. Security threats continue to plague nuclear facilities. There were 63 security threats at reactors in 1983. The NRC issued a record number of fines (49), with Commonwealth Edison heading the list with 10. These conclusions were based upon hundreds of NRC documents, many of which were obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. Perhaps the worst news is the concerted drive by the NRC to withhold increasing amounts of safety information from public review. A court case is still pending to see whether or not Public Citizen's Litigation Group can gain access to the Institute on Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) documents. Public Citizen's 1984 Nuclear Power Safety Report is available from Critical Mass for \$5 (\$15 for industry). The 1983 report is included for an extra dollar (\$5 extra for industry).

A.T. in Spanish—CODEL/VITA has recently published *Proyectos Hidricos de Pequena Escala Ambientalmente Seguros*, a Spanish translation of the booklet *Environmentally Sound Small-Scale Water Projects* by Gus Tillman. The book was translated by the Organization of American States and was printed in Peru by CEPIS, the regional office of the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. Contact CODEL; Coordination in Development, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016; 212/685-2030.

NCAT New Books Series—The National Center for Appropriate Technology has introduced a series of 13 books on appropriate technology, published by the Department of Energy. The DOE A.T. Grant projects have also published four energy briefs regarding questions dealing with appropriate and alternative energy. Information on the titles and subjects of the books in the two series can be obtained from John Sesso, Deputy Executive Director, NCAT, PO Box 3838, Butte, MT 59702, or call 406/494-4572.

Central American Hotline—For up-to-date information on developments in U.S. Central American Policy and events on the ground, call either one of these recorded messages: Coalition for a New Foreign and Militarry Policy, 202/483-3391, or Witness for Peace at 202/332-9230. If you have a computer with a modem, you can "log into" Newsbase at 415/842-8767.

Send bikes not bombs to Nicaragua!-The Bikes Not Bombs campaign began September 1984 in several U.S. cities. The goal is to send at least 100 bicycles with a supply of spare parts to Nicaraguan community and labor organizations, for transportation and for bicycle mechanic training programs. Officials of the Central Sandinista de Trabajadores (CST), the national labor federation, say that bikes are badly needed to transport mail, packages, supplies and people. If you want to help you can make contributions to Bikes Not Bombs, organize a bikes not bombs campaign in your community, and contact local bicycle groups and peace organizations to help raise cash for bikes. Bikes Not Bombs is also seeking organization cosponsors and endorsements. Contact Michael Replogle, Bikes Not Bombs, c/o Washington Area Bicyclist's Association Government Affairs Committee, 1332 Eye Street NW, Room 441, Washington, DC 20005, 202/965-2786.

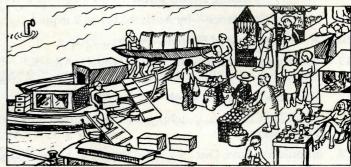
Aspartame Warning—Aspartame, an artificial sweetener, is used in place of sugar in dry foods and soft drinks. Although all of its ingredients are found separately in natural foods, consumers of products containing aspartame reported dizziness, severe headaches, blurred vision, grand-mal seizures, depression and menstrual problems after use of those products. Despite complaints and pressure from the public and consumer groups, the Federal Food and Drug Administration has chosen to leave the sugar substitute on the market. The Community Nutrition Institute has set up an Aspartame Resource Center to gather information and research the effects of Aspartame. For more information, contact Community Nutrition Institute, 2001 S Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.



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A bird feeder made from a milk carton (FROM: The Youth Gardening Book—see page 22)

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