My wife and I read the May/June issue from cover to cover, as usual. A good issue, and it was nice to have an update on Findhorn. I understand Peter Caddy is in California now, attempting to start another, and here in Costa Rica. Steve and Paula Friedman hope to accomplish a Findhorn-type colony, to be called Genesis II, on their 84-acre plot on the high plateau.

But I write primarily about your statement (in "Acupuncture: Balancing the Patterns") about "the intractable pain of malignancy, which neither modern Western nor traditional Chinese medicine can control." Mebbe so, if you speak of orthodox Western medicine, but there are other ways to control and even eliminate the pain. If you look at back issues of Cancer News Journal, published at Playa del Rey, California, you will acquire sufficient data in this line. A new book, *The Cancer Survivors—and How They Did It*, by Judith Glassman, 825 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10025, gives most of the "alternative" treatments for cancer and explains them in some detail.

Edwin Todd
Costa Rica

Kris Nelson's "Plugging Leaks in Local Economies" article (July/August RAIN) piqued my interest and left me wanting to know more. I am organizing the Center for Economic Development, which will be oriented around the developmental needs and efforts of the "economically depressed" region of northwest Wisconsin, and many of his points hit home.

As is true in many other areas throughout the U.S. and the world, the local economic downturn was the result of changes and events external to the area in light of the dominance of external rather than local economic linkages and scales of activity. The present situation and its genesis similarly points to the potential merit of a reorientation and revitalization of the local economy in a manner that would leave area residents less susceptible to events beyond their control.

The obvious first step would be the organization and implementation of a series of "comprehensive economic conservation audits" for the communities of the region. And this is where I would like to request your assistance. I'd appreciate sources of information on this type of endeavor and the names of communities and related contact persons/entities that have undertaken similar projects.

Jerry Hembd
University of Wisconsin
Superior, Wisconsin

RAIN Readers: If you know of any communities that have undertaken economic-conservation audits, please let us know and we'll pass on the information.

Yes, we are still here! The "same, small, knowledgeable audience" is out there waiting to read RAIN, and we deserve a good appropriate technology publication. Soft energy is still where it is "at." The earth has not gotten any bigger in size since the early 1960s. I'm in there for the long haul to offer a service that I feel good about and it ain't easy in a world that still won't put a price on clean air, water, and earth. Alternate soft technologies need a good publication and communication journal! Thanks for your work and the RAIN journal!

Doug
Whitefish, Montana
RAINDROPS

New Editor: By the time you read this, I will have left RAIN. RAIN needs a new living-lightly editor who has experience with publications and knowledge of appropriate-technology issues. For a job description, write to Rob Baird, RAIN, 3116 North Williams, Portland, OR 97227.

Circular Argument: If you tried to write to us in July or August but got no response, please try again. The post office somehow got the notion that we'd moved across the country rather than across town, and forwarded our mail to Portland, Maine. We didn't find out about it until we started getting phone calls from curious friends in Washington, DC, who'd received the suspicious address change from the post office. By early September, though, we were getting our normal amount of mail again.

Reading and Dining Salon: Finding people to write enough reviews for each issue is a perennial problem at RAIN. The best idea I've heard so far for encouraging and supporting wider participation is a reading and dining salon—a discussion group that meets regularly to talk about interesting ideas, trends, projects, books, or people. It's really an old idea, dating at least as far back as the Greek Peripatetics. Recently, though, we've heard that Eric Ute, who founded the Utne Reader, has been hosting such a salon in Minneapolis. At each salon, he distributes new periodicals and collects recommendations (of articles to excerpt or trends to watch, for example). We'd like to set up a reading and dining salon in Portland; contact us if you're interested. We'd also like to hear from you if you've had experience with a long-term salon. What works best? What doesn't work?

And we're still soliciting contributions! Join RAIN's Reviewers' Network: Tell us about your areas of expertise and interest, and we'll entertain your suggestions of books to review for RAIN.

Self-Reliance Contest: We received eight entries, most with ideas and suggestions rather than plans for making RAIN economically self-reliant. Thanks to everyone who took the time to send us ideas! We've been discussing ideas among ourselves for over a year, and we welcome further suggestions. We're including many of your ideas in our plans. And the winners are . . .

First place was a tie: Jon Naar of New York, New York, and Stephen Rappaport of New York, New York. Jon and Stephen each win a full set of RAIN back issues and a RAIN T-shirt. Third prize goes to Joyce Schowalter of Seattle, Washington (one-year sub and T-shirt).

- Jon sent a long list of suggestions. He said each RAIN reader should "be responsible for bringing in at least one more via a gift and one via persuasion"; offer a sub to anyone who joins a related peace or environmental group; affiliate with such groups; form an Advisory Board of Distinguished and Influential people; use local radio and public-access TV stations to promote RAIN; consider another RAIN poster—"we are still coloring in one of them at our local food co-op in Nyack!"

- Jon also notes, "As one of your earliest subscribers, I want to say that RAIN continues to be a most useful, important, and inspiring publication for all of us working in the fields of renewable energy, appropriate technology, ecology, for all of us working for a sustainable future, indeed for any kind of future at all."

- Stephen analyzed RAIN's strengths and weaknesses in the areas of editorial and marketing, and suggested how to build on strengths and overcome weaknesses. He was the most thorough in his comments. Stephen also included a short list of promotion ideas.

- Joyce wrote, "I think the reason you're not getting tons of replies in your 'how to make RAIN money' contest is: That's a very baffling question. It's a question many small organizations are struggling with these days. The only thing I can think of is to subscribe. Maybe my $ will go down with the ship? That's OK."

Other readers also suggested that we expand our networks and get subscribers more involved:

- James D. Skutt of Olympia, Washington, suggested that readers organize gatherings in their communities—a Rainmakers softball team that would carry out recycling projects, for example—to increase distribution of RAIN and to increase the contribution that the local community could make. He also encouraged networking among current RAIN subscribers.

- Karen Coulter of Portland, Oregon, suggested that we approach specific environmental, political, and peace groups to distribute flyers, speak at meetings, publicize activities in newsletters, and so on.

- Bill Berkowitz of Arlington, Massachusetts, suggested that we create a contest: have people send in ideas for improving their communities, then publicize the contest aggressively (nationally, with donated prizes), compile the best awards into a book or a regular feature, and use the mailing list to promote RAIN.

- Gary A. Patton of Santa Cruz, California, suggested we use mailing lists of progressive politicians and alternative organizations (sponsors) to send a sample copy and a letter of endorsement from the sponsor to prospective subscribers. He offered RAIN his mailing list, too.

Three people also suggested that we get involved in radio: Jon Naar (see above); Stephen Rappaport suggested we prepare 3- to 5-minute features on subjects discussed in RAIN via radio or possibly TV; and Deborah Stark of Albuquerque, New Mexico, suggested that we get onto a late-night talk-radio show. —TK
The Transformation as Sandbox Syndrome

by Michael Marien

Michael Marien, after four interesting years in Berkeley during the early 1960s, returned “back East” to earn a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary social science from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University (1970). He has monitored the writing of futurists, system theorists, and various other reformers and visionaries for the past 14 years. His self-published guidebook to this literature, Societal Directions and Alternatives (1976; out of print) led to the founding of Future Survey, a monthly abstract journal of books and articles on trends, forecasts, and proposals—transformational and otherwise. Future Survey and Future Survey Annual, which integrates abstracts from the monthly, have been published by the World Future Society since early 1979. In late 1979, the New World Alliance was initiated, and Michael has served as a member of the Governing Council since then, with special effort devoted to helping prepare the NWA Transformation Platform (1981), which he considers unique and promising, but very preliminary and incomplete. This essay, adapted from a presentation at the Association for Humanistic Psychology Twentieth Annual Meeting in Washington (1982), is an initial probe into the vast and vexing problem of why so little humane, transformational change actually takes place.

This piece is reprinted from the Journal of Humanistic Psychology, Winter 1983.

Summary: Belief that a social transformation is happening serves to keep it from happening. Behaviors associated with the sandbox of political impotency include: pronouncement of actual or imminent success, confusion of goals and results, an acritical stance, hubris, an incapacitating dialect, pseudoholism, egalitarian blind-
ers, and self-centeredness. Upward growth to escape the Sandbox Syndrome is a necessary ingredient of any serious social change.

At the outset, I want to emphasize three beliefs that I share with many others:

—Peace, freedom, equality, justice, community, love, truth, health, beauty, frugality, self-reliance, and self-fulfillment—despite frequent conflicts with each other—are all worthy goals, and should be pursued for all people worldwide.

—The old paradigms or ways of thought are obsolete; new and broader paradigms offer more promise for the intelligent conduct of human affairs.

—Hyperindustrialized societies are in deep trouble, as are “developing” countries seeking to follow their example; major changes will be necessary if we are to survive in any dignified fashion.

Although a transformation in values, perceptions, and institutions is desirable, it is far from inevitable. Despite an urgent need, change in a humanly desirable direction may not be taking place at all, or may be taking place at such a minuscule rate so as to be irrelevant. Indeed, I strongly suspect that the widespread belief in a transformation that is happening in fact keeps it from happening. We need reasonable hopes, of course. But making a religion out of social change—developing a body of unquestioned belief, derived from concern for the human condition and hope for a better world—only serves to deflect energies away from the hard work that must be done.

Making a religion out of social change—developing a body of unquestioned belief, derived from concern for the human condition and hope for a better world—only serves to deflect energies away from the hard work that we must do.

To illustrate, imagine that you are an agent of the FBI or CIA. You are called into the office of the Big Chief and informed that there may be a subversive movement afoot—some call it the Aquarian Conspiracy. It threatens the American way of life by seeking to disarm the U.S. and make peace with the Soviet Union, by redefining national security, by weakening the nation-state in favor of global peacekeeping, by weakening the global economy in favor of national and local self-reliance, by slackening U.S. participation in world competition for high-technology leadership, by encouraging individuals to be more self-reliant and not to consume as much, by promoting environmentalism at the expense of commerce, and by decentralizing economic and political power through wider participation in corporate and community decision making. This is clearly subversive. Your mission is to stop it. What should an effective agent do?

Being wise in the ways of the world, you realize that the 1950s strategy of fighting the Red Menace will no longer work in the sophisticated 1980s. In our age of infoglut, why give valuable publicity to the Green Menace, when the movement, at least in the United States, is largely invisible? Rather, you would exploit the widespread tendency of the movement, such as it is, to render itself politically impotent. You understand the dynamics of the sandbox: an enclosed area where children safely play, while adults carry on, undisturbed, in their usual wicked ways. Two complementary forces promote this condition: Adults place children in the sandbox to get rid of them, and children volunteer to play there because it is fun.

Write a guidebook to networking or bartering, the magic processes of the alternative culture—but don’t acknowledge the networks and barter used by the rest of the world.

To stop the potential subversion of America, all you have to do is go with the flow and promote the Sandbox Syndrome. It’s easy. Here are some tips:

(1) Encourage Belief in Success. Promote the view that cosmic change is coming, or taking place. Similar to the fundamentalist Christians, who believe that Armageddon is about to take place, to be followed by a millennium for those who are saved, preach that the Transformation, or the Third Wave, is happening now—that we have reached the turning point, and that people are now seeing that we can’t continue the old ways. Don’t attempt to offer evidence for this change, other than a one-time 1977 Harris Poll based on leading questions, or some fuzzily estimated data sanctified by association with Stanford Research Institute. Anything else would involve left-brain quantifying—an artifact of Consciousness II.

(2) Confuse Goals and Results. It feels good, and it won’t hurt anyone’s feelings, to proclaim that we are working for peace, we are changing minds, we are healing. Perhaps we are; perhaps we aren’t. The intention and the process are primary, not the outcome. Any hint of a managerial, performance-oriented approach is fascistic.

(3) Don’t Criticize. That’s related to asking embarrassing questions about results. Just let it be. Being peaceful, loving, supportive, and cooperative means treating everyone equally and saying ill of no one. After all, everyone means well. Prickly questions are hostile and best ignored, or met with a hug.

(4) Add a Dose of Hubris. Stand on the leading edge, the crest of the Third Wave, amid the New Age. You’re superior to those unliberated, linear cluckheads out
there. You know; they don’t. Write a guidebook to networking or bartering, the magic processes of the alternative culture—but don’t acknowledge the networks and barters used by the rest of the world. Your folkways, too, are superior. To enhance communication, invite Them to your saunas and hot tubs—don’t even think of visiting their bridle trails and tennis courts, or, among the masses, their corner bars and bowling alleys.

(5) **Promote Your Own Dialect.** Tired of pedantic jargon? Create your own hip language. Turn nouns to verbs such as “peacing” and “futuring.” Use adjectives such as “incredible” to describe every experience. Blows the mind, but who needs it? Use positive words such as “network,” “caring,” “holistic,” “creativity,” “synergy,” “foresight,” “cooperation,” “transcendence,” “win/win,” “human scale,” and “human values.” Don’t use negative words like “competition,” “corporations,” “communism,” or “crime.” Maybe they’ll go away.

(6) **Extol the Informal and the Nonacademic.** Your intuition is a safe guide, as is the common sense of the people. Ignore the elitist academics, with their ponderous footnotes and interminable data. Accordingly, the academic journals and commercial publishers should also be dismissed, in favor of small book publishers and honest, alternative periodicals.

(7) **Get the Holistic Picture.** You can acquire instant wisdom by taking the general systems point of view, or viewing whole systems. When you have the Big Picture of Humanity, nature, and society, you know it all, and there is no need to learn any more. A historical perspective isn’t needed because these ideas are obviously new.

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**Two Paths to Transformation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UTOPIAN/PUERILE</th>
<th>PRAGMATIC/MATURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(The prevailing Way of the Sandbox)</td>
<td>(A possible pattern of the future)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Progress</td>
<td>Weigh both successes and failures</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Transformation is happening</td>
<td>Outcomes not necessarily in accord with goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Results</td>
<td>Constructive criticism; back winners and drop losers; evil and failure are possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals are outcomes</td>
<td>Seek to debate opponents and learn from them; invite hard questions</td>
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<td>3. Supporters</td>
<td>Use common language to communicate broadly; challenge ideas in power</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be supportive and don’t criticize; all efforts are good; no sense of evil or excellence</td>
<td>Seek the best in formal and nonformal, scholarly and popular</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Opponents</td>
<td>Holism as a learning tool and unrealized ideal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ignore or vilify; you are superior</td>
<td>Acknowledge it—and its very unequal distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Language</td>
<td>You interact with nature and society; many paths to change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create your own; ignore official definitions of reality</td>
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<td>6. Information</td>
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<td>Favor intuition and the nonacademic</td>
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<td>7. Truth</td>
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<td>Perfected wisdom through instant holism</td>
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<td>8. Power</td>
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<td>Ignore it</td>
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<td>9. Self</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are central; change self to change world</td>
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Create Instant Equality. Forget the rich and the poor. The rich have great power, which is too much to contemplate. So don’t. The poor can’t meet their basic material needs, which is also a downer, best ignored. Preach that we all have enough and that more self-help is needed. Fits nicely into the antipoverty strategy of the Reagan administration.

Be Self-Centered. You have the power of the New Age in your head; change your consciousness and you can change the world. We have met the enemy and he is us. The responsibility for health, for change, for peace, is within you.

All of the above—and more, no doubt, could be added—add up to the Sandbox Syndrome: a set of behaviors guaranteed to keep an individual or an organization in a childish state of innocence, content with building sand castles, instead of real-life structures. A good CIA agent would promote this simple-mindedness, rather than publicly fight the specter of the Green Menace.

To enhance communication, invite Them to your saunas and hot tubs—don’t even think of visiting their bridle trails and tennis courts, or their corner bars and bowling alleys.

But what if you read some books by Lester R. Brown, Willis Harman, Hazel Henderson, Ivan Illich, Amory Lovins, James Ogilvy, James Robertson, Theodore Roszak, Kirkpatrick Sale, Mark Satin, E. F. Schumacher, Robert Theobald, William Irwin Thompson, Alvin Toffler, and others, causing you to believe the Green Message? What if you see the necessity of a sustainable, decentralized, human-needs-oriented society—the Jeffersonian vision of America as the real American way of life, rather than the Hamiltonian, corporate view?

With a flush of true patriotism, you decide to be a counteragent and to work for genuine ecodecentralism. What do you do? Here are some general tips:

(1) Grow Up. All of the above-mentioned positions are simplistic. An upward growth requires a broader, more subtle, and complex view:
(a) Develop a wide range of indicators that describe both successes and failures.
(b) Don’t confuse goals and results, but insist on measures of performance and on standards.
(c) Be constructively critical: Point to good work and how it can be improved—and also to work that is useless or damaging.
(d) Be humble: We all have much to learn in an age of ignorance. Identify your opponents and their arguments, and learn from them.
(e) Use the English language correctly as a tool of thought, and to enable communication with those in need of hearing your message.
(f) Seek the best thought from both academics and nonacademics; use your intuition as one of many learning tools.
(g) Similarly, holism should also be used as a tool for learning, and recognized as an ideal to strive for ceaselessly both in space and time.
(h) Recognize that inequities in wealth and income are increasing, that the poor need help to help themselves, and that even good help will not necessarily help.
(i) Understand that there are many sources of problems in both individuals and society, that the two are interactive, and that individuals are often not at all responsible for their problems.

(2) Connect Some Disconnected Yins and Yangs. In advocating a Taoist framework for dealing with reality, Fritjof Capra notes that a dynamic balance between yin and yang is good, and imbalance is bad. Several balances are mentioned above (success and failure, academic and nonacademic, individual and society). Several additional pairings not to be found on Capra’s list are also needed:
(a) Inspiration and Perspiration. Our spirits can benefit from the uplift of preaching and cheerleading. But exhortation toward the promised land is not enough; we must work very hard to bring it about.
(b) Realism and Idealism. We need idealists with a foot on the ground of reality, as well as realists who can keep some ideal in mind. Both, in dialogue with each other, should replace the great number of utopians with no sense of reality and “realists” with no appreciation of any ideal.
(c) Cooperation and Struggle. In our age of instant gratification by video and drugs, many think that social
change should be instant, painless, and nonreversible. While seeking opportunities for cooperation, a dialectical view of struggle is also needed. Indeed, those who ostensibly share your views may not necessarily be cooperative, and your greatest struggle may be with such “movement killers.”

(d) Intellect and Spirit. In trying to escape from what is seen as too much rationality in modern society, an excuse is often provided for anti-intellectualism in the name of the neglected “right brain.” We need a more rational rationality, not less rationality.

(e) Critics and Lovers. As pointed out by John W. Gardner, we should avoid the extremes of unloving critics and uncritical lovers. Another way to consider more productive behavior is to note the traits of Abraham Maslow’s self-actualizing people, which include: fighting untruths, not needing to be loved by everyone, enjoying greater efficiency and being effective, looking at facts courageously, and avoiding illusions.

(3) Get the New Age Act Together (to Some Degree). The pervasive condition that must be faced is the fact that we live in an age of infoglut. Another book, journal, conference, or newsletter about peace, healing, or environmentalism will not necessarily help people, and might simply add to the pervasive problem of information overload and fragmentation. The transformational message must be recognized as “the world-crisis solution with a hundred names”—green revolution, human scale, person-centered society, human economy, conservator society, solar age, meta-industrial alternative, Gandhiism, and so on. As long as this message is fractured into a hundred or so labelings, The Transformation, or whatever, will continue to be stillborn.

(4) ... and Take It on the Road. Talking to the converted is sufficient for a religious organization, although even religions seek converts. If we are serious about a genuine transformation of values and perceptions, the world must know that desirable and practical alternatives exist. Despite the great volume of New Age literature, “the world-crisis solution with a hundred names” still remains invisible to mainstream culture, or is readily dismissed as “small is beautiful” romanticism. New Age literature is seldom reviewed in mainstream periodicals. It seldom enters textbooks or political campaigns. The old ways of thinking are still very much in power:

(a) One-dimensional, flat-earth politics, restricting all possibilities to “the” left-right political spectrum of liberals and conservatives, still prevails in our political analysis.

(b) One-eyed economics, ignoring the informal or household economy, continues to define “the” economy.

(c) One-directional social evolution, involving more economic growth and a service society, continues to be the only definition of progress.

(d) One-time education, assuming that an individual has completed learning upon leaving school or college, continues to inhibit adults from discovering ignorance and learning needs.

The Sandbox Syndrome is a set of behaviors guaranteed to keep an individual or an organization in a childish state of innocence, content with building sand castles, instead of real-life structures.

To improve on these paradigms in power, there must be widespread and genuine debate and discussion, rather than smug isolation and loose talk of paradigm change.

(5) Aim High and Don’t Shoot Your Foot. There is a frequent tendency to underestimate the transformational task, while overestimating the progress that has been made. This is complicated by the use of images and ideas that are intellectually laudable but politically inept: for example, a “no-growth society,” in contrast to the more attractive notion of a human-growth society. Western science is another illustration: rather than rejecting it, and creating an easy target for the charge of being antiscience, a better strategy would advocate a more scientific science—a superior world science that incorporates various scientific traditions.

This advice is for the counteragent, who would seek to promote an actual transformation. But the task is difficult. The agent, who embraces the Way of the Sandbox, follows the path of least resistance. Both the agent and the counteragent are at work. Who will win? Probably the agent. Still, the counteragent may prevail—the slender hope that prompts this essay. Whom do you want to win?
Afterword

Michael Marien's analysis of the Sandbox Syndrome prompted a brief response from Marilyn Ferguson, author of The Aquarian Conspiracy, in the same issue of the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* (Winter 1983, volume 23, number 1): "Transformation as a Rough Draft." In her article, Ferguson contends that the transformation is a good thing and that it is indeed happening.

In the Fall 1983 (volume 23, number 4) issue of the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, Michael Marien responded to Ferguson in the article "Further Thoughts on the Two Paths to Transformation: A Reply to Ferguson." In this article, Marien expands on his first article, after stating that "the Great Conspirator offers no evidence that she has actually read the essay, or, if she did, that she understands it." He challenges Ferguson's points with wit and logic, and the essay is well worth reading. In addition, Marien restates the two paths as Transformation I (the utopian/puerile path) and Transformation II (an attempt "to grow up politically, and to deal effectively with the real world"). Marien's points are convincing, unlike Ferguson's "arguments." In fact, Ferguson declined an invitation to respond to Marien's second article, and further stated that if the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* published the piece, she would resign from the journal's Board of Editors. They did and she did. —TK

NOTES

2. Green parties such as Les Verts, Die Grünen, and the UK Ecology Party are now established minor political parties in Europe. Despite characteristic disorganization, they are at or near the point of being wooed by the major parties.
3. The Sandbox Syndrome is not confined to New Age groups, but can be found in many minority political groups of both the Right, the Left, and "beyond Right and Left" (which New Age groups purport to be), as well as in established organizations. For purposes of this exploratory essay, Sandbox behaviors will be described only as they apply to "transformationalists."
4. Duane Elgin, *Voluntary Simplicity* (New York: William Morrow, 1981), p. 128. An example of the leading questions asked: "By 66 percent to 22 percent, the public chooses 'breaking up big things and getting back to more humanized living' over 'developing bigger and more efficient ways of doing things.'"
5. Ibid., p. 132. Based on work with Arnold Mitchell at SRI, Elgin estimates that, in 1980, roughly 6% of the U.S. adult population is "wholeheartedly exploring a life of voluntary simplicity," and that such a lifestyle "could well grow to be the dominant orientation for as much as a majority of the adult population of many Western developed nations by the year 2000." No justification is given for this exuberant extrapolation. Although the SRI data have been frequently and acritically cited by many New Age writers, they are not based on a rigorous survey, but on "best guesses based upon our immersion in all of the relevant data that we could find" (Elgin letter to Marien, September 7, 1979).
7. Rollo May, *Power and Innocence* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1972). May describes innocence as the virtue of not having power—a way to confront one's powerlessness by making it a seeming virtue. He distinguishes between the authentic innocence of childlike attitudes and the childishness of pseudoinnocence, often associated with utopianism and the urge to make things simple and easy.
9. This argument, still applicable today, is made in detail by Herbert Agar, *Land of the Free* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1935), who poses a choice between the true American Culture of self-government, equality, freedom, and humanity, and a debased form of the Civilization of the West (finance capitalism and ownership by the few).
10. May, *Power and Innocence*, p. 110, eloquently states that "our narcissism is forever crying out against the wounds of those who would criticize us or point out our weak spots. We forget that the critic can be doing us a considerable favor."
12. William Ryan, *Blaming the Victim* (New York: Pantheon, 1971), argues that the ideology of victim-blaming is a primary barrier to effective social change. Also see Dana Ullman, "Responsibility and Holistic Health," *Holistic Health News* (Berkeley Holistic Health Center), Spring 1980. Ullman has pointed out that "blaming the victim" (including self-blame) is another important characteristic of the Sandbox Syndrome (Ullman letter to Marien, July 30, 1982).
18. Bruce Holbrook, *The Stone Monkey: An Alternative Chinese-Scientific Reality* (New York: William Morrow, 1981). Holbrook argues that the Chinese Polar-Complete world view is clearly superior to the Absolute-Fragmental paradigm of Western science. Although he does not suggest the compromise of a synthesized world science, such a synthesis would seem to be ultimately likely and desirable. Also see Ziauddin Sardar, "Why Islam Needs Islamic Science," *New Scientist*, April 1, 1982, pp. 25-28, for a parallel argument from another scientific tradition.

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ACCESS: SOCIAL CHANGE

Connexions: A Digest of Resources and Groups for Social Change, quarterly, $10 (Canadian)/year, from: Connexions 427 Bloor Street West Toronto, Ontario, MSS 1X7 Canada

A quarterly digest of resources and groups for social change in Canada. Each issue contains summaries of publications and descriptions of groups under subject categories such as energy, militarism, media, women, and health, along with a special theme section giving more extensive coverage of a particular topic. It also contains regular summaries of alternative Canadian periodicals and an "Announcements and Appeals" section. —FLS


This is a compendium of abstracts of 1,140 books, reports, and articles that first appeared in the monthly issues of Future Survey between July 1982 and September 1983. It assembles in one place a great variety of writings about trends, forecasts, and proposals in all areas of society. Marien can be praised for the even-handed treatment he gives to a diversity of viewpoints in his attempt to bridge the communication gaps between academic, professional, and popularized writings, and between mainstream and alternative approaches. Such a comprehensive overview is useful for getting the big picture of where our society is headed and different views of where it ought to be headed. We've used it for ordering books here at RAIN. It's a must for anyone seriously interested in futures studies. —FLS

Redesigning the American Dream: The Future of Housing, Work, and Family Life, by Dolores Hayden, 1984, 270 pp., $17.95 cloth from: W. W. Norton and Company 500 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10036

I have heard from many people that putting architects and urban planners together in one room produces a most noxious combination. In this case, the blending of architect, planner, and social critic in one remarkable woman has produced a delightful, thought-provoking book.

Hayden is already well known for her books on the history of feminist housing and urban design or that of social utopias. These earlier works, along with the landmark article "What Would a Nonsexist Society Be Like?" in the journal Signs, complement the broader social analysis and more detailed conclusions that characterize Redesigning the American Dream. Citing Thoreau—"What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"—Hayden builds the argument that at the heart of America's housing and urban crisis is our determination to force our cities and public spaces into the 19th-century ideal of private home and hearth. The environmental, social, and economic costs of such narrow privatism have been staggering, as our modes of living have not begun to meet the rapidly changing needs of the American people. What we face now is the tremendous task of rethinking our conceptions of gender, work, and public and private space, and our relationship to the natural and modified environment. Hayden is not at all gloomy on this count, and she produces several accounts of redesigned dreams around the world, describing the alternative political, economic, and social means employed in some pretty lively experiments both at the neighborhood and broader municipal/national levels.

Hayden covers just about all the technical bases in her book, from urban infrastructure to economic development and zoning. Her research in architectural and urban planning subjects is thoroughly presented. If you haven't read her other books, her latest may be overwhelming and a bit presuming of prior knowledge. One wishes for a 20-volume set of Dolores Hayden to get it all straight.

But what sets Hayden apart from the usual university crowd (she is a professor at UCLA) is her willingness to identify, if not elaborate on, the forces at work that are responsible for a nation full of unlivable cities and isolated households—the economic inequities, racism, sexism, ageism, and militarism. Her most thorough analysis is that of the sexist and narrow attitudes toward women that cripple our society. Whether or not you agree with her offend-no-one liberal sociopolitical ideas or those of the many people she quotes, you have to admire Hayden's ability to take her thesis out of the professional social engineer, designer, and planner. The theory in that one small room is getting awfully stuffy.

—Val Chambers

Val Chambers is a graduate student in environmental studies/public policy at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.


An exhaustively complete resource guide to peace, human-rights, and equal-rights organizations based in the U.S. Includes alphabetical and regional guides, a guide to federal agencies providing information for human-rights activists (yes, they still do exist), and periodical and subject indexes. Entries in the three guide sections contain addresses, phone numbers, regional or local branch offices, and a brief statement about each group, as well as information concerning periodicals published by these organizations. The last 34 pages contain useful information on existing laws and pending legislation in the field of human rights and social justice. This thorough, inexpensive reference book should prove useful for social-change activists and organizations. —SM
Wild and Wooly Vegetables

by Robert Kourik

Robert Kourik was a vegetable gardener throughout his youth in St. Louis, Missouri, and has been an avid gardener in California since then. His experience led to a career in landscape maintenance, design, and installation. Robert's work now focuses primarily on the design and construction of passive solar greenhouses, greywater systems, and edible landscapes. He founded the Edible Landscape Program at the Farallones Institute Rural Center in Occidental, California. The following excerpt is from Robert Kourik's forthcoming book, entitled Designing and Planting Your Edible Landscape (available in November from Robert Kourik, PO Box 1841, Santa Rosa, CA 95402). — TK

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Wild edibles are free. Many thrive without our care or tillage. Wild edible weeds are food for the laziest and the most adventurous of gardeners. They take some getting used to—their flavor is often more powerful than that of common vegetables. But the strong, powerful flavor betrays the superior nutritional value of "weedy" vegetables. I'm a lover of strong, spicy vegetables—but not everyone else is. If their texture or flavor is too unusual for your taste, try sneaking the wild edibles into your diet. When I have friends over who are unfamiliar with wild edibles, I dice the raw, leafy wild greens into small pieces and mix them with a larger portion of ordinary salad greens. This way, I can gently introduce these nutritionally power-packed vegetables to my friends without startling their taste buds. I also add the most strongly flavored leaves and roots in small pieces to soups. Sometimes my guests are so bold as to pick out little pieces to sample individually. If they like the flavor, I encourage them to gradually increase the proportion of the "wild and wooly" vegetables with each meal. Some wild edibles are as tasty and succulent as any lettuce.

Once you have become addicted to the superior flavor and nutrition of wild foods, you can add your favorites to patches in your edible landscape. Wild, edible-weed patches don't fit many people's idea of beauty. Indeed, the beauty in wild edibles is their taste, nutritional superiority, and ease in growing. If you like, hide these "weedy" patches; put them behind the dog pen or the garage.

The Well-Layered Garden

The secret of naturalizing wild edibles is to establish your chosen plants in such a way that other plants cannot compete. The technique I favor for starting a wild patch combines sheet composting, which is like a short version of a typical compost pile, with a biodegradable weedkiller—newspaper and cardboard. Toxic herbicides are unnecessary. The key to this system is to never disturb the soil. If you till or cultivate, especially in the upper layers, you encourage buried seeds to sprout. Well-mulched, no-till gardens eliminate most weeding. Only the seed in bird droppings and that blown in by the wind will sprout in your garden.
The Recipe

You start without tilling, right on top of whatever is there already—lawn, weeds, bare soil. First, apply a one-time application of organic fertilizers—slow-release rock powders such as colloidal phosphate and granite dust, which nourish strong growth for years. If necessary, balance the pH with lime for acid soils or sulphur for alkaline soils. Now, add layers of raw materials (leaves, clippings, manure, hair, sawdust, and so on), mixing the layers to achieve a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of between 20 and 30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen. If the ratio is less than 20, you have surplus nitrogen. Because nitrogen is less stable than other nutrients, it will leach out of the root zone or leave as a gas unless you add materials high in carbon, such as leaves. If the number is above 30, add a nitrogen-rich material such as manure to adjust the ratio. If you start on top of dense sod, the first layer should be manure, because fibrous material needs more nitrogen to decompose. Put down as many layers as you have the time or materials for. The result is like a flat, mini-compost pile, which is why this method is called sheet composting.

The beauty in wild edibles is their taste, nutritional superiority, and ease in growing. Some wild edibles are as tasty and succulent as lettuce.

Some of the raw materials you use will be full of seed. Left to sprout, these renegade seeds may out-compete the plants you’re trying to establish. To smother them, put down a layer of newspaper or cardboard. This same biodegradable weedkiller helps to make sure no noxious weeds survive that were originally present. The newspaper and cardboard are temporary barriers. In a season or two, when they’re no longer needed, they will have decomposed, and even added a small amount of organic matter and nutrients to the soil. The more vigorous the lawn or native plants below your layered garden, the thicker the sheet compost and the paper layer needs to be. Five to fifteen sheets of newspaper or one to three sheets of cardboard are usually sufficient, but you should experiment with the thickness. Be sure to greatly overlap the edges to prevent vining, runner-rooted plants from twisting up through the layered sheets. Try soaking the newspaper briefly, or soak the cardboard for an hour or so—it makes layering them easier. The safest paper to use is plain stock or paper printed only with black ink. In black ink, the color comes from carbon—fancy soot (lead-based pigment is too expensive to use for black). Other colors of ink may contain toxic elements such as lead, cadmium, and mercury, which can be absorbed by your plants. Heavy metals never degrade into harmless materials. Especially avoid the yellow and red inks, because they are more toxic than other inks. You won’t be able to use most of the pages from Mother Earth News in your garden.

Nobody wants to look at a ratty landscape littered with the Sunday paper, so be cosmetic. Cover the layer of paper with a “seed free” mulch. Compost prepared by the hot method, where temperatures of 140°F to 160°F are generated through the pile, ordinarily will have very few viable seeds. If you make your own compost, avoid adding plants that have mature seed heads and plants that have vigorous running roots, such as periwinkle, crabgrass, and ivy.

To be lazy, skip compost. Each region of the country has various seed-free materials. Some materials that could be used for the mulch layer include leaf molds, wood chips, salt hay, sand, straw, sawdust, seaweed, and lawn clippings.
Planting Your Wild Edible Weeds

Now you are ready to plant your favorite wild edibles. The easiest way is to transplant seedlings from the wild. Take a kitchen knife and cut an x through the paper layer (the layer should be moist and easy to poke through), place a pocket of loamy compost on the x, and transplant into this pocket. These captured plants easily take root in their new home, even growing through pockets of raw materials—being "weeds," they can take abuse. In fact, many wild edibles—among them lamb's quarters, stinging nettles, amaranth, and chickweed—thrive on high nitrogen. I've even seen them growing while floating on top of liquid manure! (The local dairies clean their barns with a flush of water and collect the slurry in large cisterns. A 12- to 18-inch crust forms, on which I've seen edible weeds thriving. Yet a rock tossed onto the crust makes the entire surface undulate like ocean waves, and the rock sinks.)

Experiment with wild gardens, cut loose the bindings of conventional gardening, and play. No two well-layered, wild edible gardens that I've done have turned out the same. I've used this technique for five years in a dozen gardens and each one has been a delightful surprise.

To try out a lot of varieties quickly, start from seed. You have to plan ahead, since the seed of the wild edibles will mature in a different season than you'll want to plant. Observe which wild edibles thrive in your local area in the harshest of conditions: These are the ones to collect seed from. Many wild seeds will keep for years or decades, so you need only collect each variety once in a great while. Blend the seeds collected from the wild and scatter them over the mulched surface. You needn't worry about how much seed to use; a jungle of plants grows.

Water regularly until the seeds germinate. Once the seedlings have some leaves, start thinning—and don't forget to eat the thinnings! The youngest wild edibles are the sweetest and the most succulent. Throughout the season, harvest as needed. This garden will take care of itself.

Let some of the healthiest plants of each type go to seed every season. Apply compost to cover bare areas and mildly fertilize your "wild and wooly" food garden. Be sure to put the compost down before the seeds ripen so the seeds can scatter themselves over the new mulch.

Protecting Your Borders

Wind-blown seed is a major source of unwanted plants in well-layered gardens. When you choose a spot for your wild garden, keep in mind that your house can act as a wind break, and hedgerows can filter out seeds. Remember, too, that driveways and walks can bar invasive running roots from the garden. A border of straw bales can act as a protective mulch, keeping out nearby plants. Break open the bales closest to the garden and spread the straw as a seasonal mulch. As the bales are used up, the wild edibles will expand to fill the area. (The soil under the bales will have improved by the action of worms and soil bacteria.)

The same protective borders contain the potentially rampant seed of the wild edibles garden, helping prevent their drifting to other areas of the landscape. A little bit of management in this garden will save lots of time elsewhere. Some wild edibles are so persistent and invasive that they may not be worth the risk of future maintenance nightmares. Examples are burdock (Arctium lappa), pigweed (Amaranthus spp.), French sorrel (Rumex spp.), plantain (Plantago major), and nettle (Urtica dioica).

An edible weed patch is a great conversation piece, puzzling and intriguing to visitors. If you like the flavors and enjoy laziness, you won't worry about the perplexed gape of your friends. ☺ ☺

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Golden Rules of Edible Landscaping

by Robert Kourik

Robert Kourik writes that the following rules are kernels of “truth” based on his years of experience as an edible landscaper. Post these rules on your garden wall! — TK

As simple as some of these golden rules seem, some are consistently ignored by gardeners. These guidelines evolved over the past six years as I wrestled with designs for edible landscapes that can easily fit into our busy lives.

Each rule contains a hidden “R” factor—the “Reality” coefficient. This factor combines all of Murphy’s Laws into one gigantic mathematical mess. Never underestimate the “R” factor in your garden, much less in life.

As with any “rules,” break these only if you are willing to face the consequences. Breaking rules can lead to creative breakthroughs, though. So be realistic—try to follow the rules, but if you can’t, then have fun creating your own additions and refinements.

(1) Enjoy your garden—If it’s just drudgery, you’re doing something wrong.

If your garden becomes drudgery, why bother? Do something else that is pleasurable instead. You will not starve. Plan to make it easy to relax, recline, and recreate in your edible landscape.

(2) You have a lot to do besides gardening—Don’t let your edible landscape take you over.

We all have jobs, families, friends, and other leisure pastimes. Gardening is great fun and therapy, but expect to let some areas of the edible landscape change or die. As your life changes, modify your garden to suit it.

(3) Be lazy—Let nature work for you.

Learn how to use natural, biological processes to your advantage. Nature works 24 hours a day, and there are many ways to cooperate with nature to grow our food.

(4) Turn limitations into virtues.

Unshackle the restraints of your property to make your edible landscape pull together as a productive environment. For example, a “weed” is often just a plant of whose beneficial properties we are ignorant. There is always a place where any plant is helpful. Put plants in the right places to promote their best features.

(5) Seek out the wisdom of your neighbors—Someone else might just know more than you do.

Most neighborhoods still have the living heritage of older, lifelong gardeners. They can give more good information about gardening in your locale than any book.

(6) Your edible landscape is a community—A whole made up of individuals.

The forest doesn’t mourn the death of an individual tree. The role of a single plant is to serve the group as a whole. How the pieces, bugs, animals, and plants work together is the most important aspect of a healthy edible landscape. Respect the pieces, but work toward the betterment of the whole.

(7) Time and money spent early means time and money saved later.

An extra buck spent now for a lower maintenance garden will save you many times that dollar each year, for years to come.

(8) Plan in advance—Make your mistakes on paper, not in your garden.

Paper mistakes are less costly than landscaping mistakes. Sketch out several options and take the time to consider each. Review, re-think, get second opinions, and re-do the plan. It can be costly to be impatient.

(9) Plan for the unexpected—Nature will be, in all probability, unpredictable.

The climate is getting more, not less, erratic. Plan to have options for several extremes of weather if you do not like to gamble with the food you are growing.

(10) Start ever so small.

A 100-square-foot vegetable garden is the largest area for a new gardener. Make this tiny plot picture perfect, then add on another 100 square feet each year until the Peter Principle is activated. That is, increase the area of the garden until you can no longer master it.

(11) Learn the multiple uses of plants to double the benefits of your garden without doubling size or work.

Many plants can serve more than one function. Some cool the house in the summer while ripening tasty fruits or nuts. Others have nutritious roots and leaves. Others kill pests and are edible. When possible, choose mostly those plants that have multiple benefits.

(12) Plant your vegetables no further from the kitchen than you can throw the kitchen sink.

There is a correlation between the distance to the kitchen and the demise of a vegetable garden. In almost literal terms, for every foot farther from the kitchen sink, the garden gets forgotten a week sooner. The most distant vegetable gardens return to weeds the soonest.

Keep it edible, keep it fun. © 1983 Robert Kourik
Solar Power: The Promise Fades

by Roger Pollak

We are often asked why RAIN does not devote as much coverage to solar and other renewable energy sources as it used to. As the following article explains, renewable-energy developments have shifted from low-tech, do-it-yourself solutions to high-tech, capital-intensive industries, which isn’t exactly what we had in mind when we spoke of “appropriate technology.”

This article raises some important questions: How realistic have A.T. advocates been about how a transition to a renewable-energy-based society might take place? What is the relationship between technology and social change? What role will solar energy play in the creation of a society that is “durable, just, and ecologically sound”?

This article originally appeared in the September 1984 issue of The Progressive. Roger Pollak has worked at the Solar Lobby and the city energy office in Berkeley, California. He is currently a correspondent for Renewable Energy News.

—FLS

Cocktails in hand, hundreds of conservatively dressed men and a few women milled about Marriott’s South Ballroom in Anaheim, California. Young salesmen clustered to discuss new products and to swap sales techniques. Off to the side, bankers from Chase Manhattan and the Bank of America cornered executives to talk about loans and investments.

In the middle of the cavernous hall, representatives of Mobil, Arco, McDonnell-Douglas, General Electric, and many smaller companies ambled past four long tables covered with exotic cheese, dainty hors d’oeuvres, and fresh fruit—courtesy of such firms as Babcock and Wilcox, Inc., designer of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

This was the Renewable Energy Technologies Symposium and International Exposition, the most important annual event for advocates of solar power. The change in atmosphere from past gatherings was palpable.

Solar energy—once the domain of political activists—has gone corporate. In the process, the vision of an alternative technological and social future powered by the sun has faded, replaced by the parochial considerations of American business. “Most people have cut their hair, and the suit and tie are in,” says Jim Cullen, an energy consultant with North Star, Inc. “This is a business movement, not a political movement.”

Today, many of renewable energy’s leading advocates are conservatives. “I tried to organize support for bringing a Democratic candidate up here, but these guys just shudder at the mere thought,” laments Paul Gipe, a former lobbyist for the Pennsylvania Sierra Club who now works for Zond Wind Company. “Most of these people in the business—who are making this thing work—have none of that idealism. They could be from IBM; they could be from Exxon.”

“The hippies and activists who started companies have either become more corporate or they’ve been
moved out and venture capital has moved in,” says Tyrone Braswell, an organizer of the original Sun Day in 1978 and one of the few remaining full-time solar activists.

A multibillion-dollar industry has solarized millions of homes in the last ten years. The new technologies—wind, photovoltaics, small-scale hydro, and geothermal—have contributed almost 3,000 megawatts, the equivalent of six medium-sized nuclear power plants, to the nation’s electricity grid. According to most projections, the renewable energy business will continue to enjoy a period of rapid expansion.

The young industry is evolving along the lines of others before it: Hundreds of small enterprises are competing for markets, and a rapid shakeout is likely to leave a few dominant companies.

In such areas as solar-panel production, where barriers to entry are relatively low, small firms might continue to enter the field, and competition could flourish. However, in such highly capital-intensive sectors as photovoltaics, the participation of small business may already be a thing of the past. In 1983, the top four concerns—three of which are owned by major oil companies—produced more than 90% of the photovoltaic generators in the United States, up from 78% just a year before.

America is going solar, but not in the way many people had dreamed about. The solar future will undoubtedly be cleaner and safer as nuclear power and fossil fuel sources are gradually displaced. But the spread of solar energy will not, it seems, bring the dawn of a new day.

But few solar activists thought much about American industry and the role it would play in bringing solar power to the people; most were, in fact, profoundly distrustful of business, holding it responsible for many of the problems that solar might remedy.

After Sun Day, a group of solar pioneers went to Washington, DC, and formed the Solar Lobby and its affiliate organization, the Center for Renewable Resources. “There was a lot of enthusiasm about worker-owned businesses and cooperatives during the first couple of years,” says Larry Shirley, an organizer for the Center from its inception. “At our national meeting in Boulder in 1979, there was as much interest in co-ops as any other single issue.”

The Center and Lobby supported a five-member networking project designed to support the development of grassroots organizations that would become effective participants in local politics. “We wanted to help groups that would raise important social issues, such as how utilities should be involved in solar and how low-income people could benefit from solar as it was developed,” Shirley recalls.

On the legislative side, the Washington lobbyists pressed successfully for the establishment of a solar bank that would provide interest subsidies and grants for energy projects in low-income areas. They also devoted much time to legislation promoting local energy planning. The idea was to encourage communities to integrate their energy planning into other economic development goals.

These emphases frustrated solar business executives, who wanted to see the industry grow as quickly as possible. “The leaders of the industry were outside initially and wanted to get in,” Shirley explains. “There were many things they needed help on, and they saw Sun Day and the politics associated with it as diverting from the real issues, from the needs of developing their industry.”

The industry did have several supporters on Solar Lobby’s board of directors, however, and they began to push for a more pro-business, less radical orientation. “From the beginning there were business representatives who wanted to make the Lobby a sort of trade association,” says Richard Munson, coordinator of the Solar Lobby from its founding until 1982.

Bitter infighting over how to allocate the group’s limited resources generated tensions. The industry representatives saw solar power as a profitable product; the activists saw it as a means to another end—social change.

Industry pressure and Washington’s climate of compromise pushed the Lobby away from its progressive roots, a process that was accelerated by the election of Ronald Reagan. “As soon as Reagan was elected, there was a switch-over to an entirely defensive strategy,” says Shirley. “We just wanted to save what we had achieved.”

So the Lobby closed ranks with the solar industry. “When we would get together to discuss legislative strategy, the Lobby was the primary representative of the citizen side at a table with 15 different industry reps,” Shirley says. “We were outnumbered, and be-

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**Few solar activists thought much about American industry and the role it would play in bringing solar power to the people; most held business responsible for problems that solar might remedy.**

Six years ago, on the original Sun Day, thousands turned out at rallies across the nation to hear about a clean, benign energy technology that would lead the transition to a “small-is-beautiful” society. Because it would be developed and controlled by consumers, renewable energy would break the power of the utilities, help democratize the economy, and alleviate poverty.

Solar advocacy attracted a broad array of reformers. Antipoverty workers saw in solar power a tool for sparking economic development in low-income communities. Radicals hoped to build cooperatives to promote the new technology. And environmentalists looked forward to a safe alternative to nuclear reactors.
cause there was a severe need to work together, it
turned us to a much more pragmatic stand, focused
primarily on industry goals."

It also led the Lobby to moderate its rhetoric in terms
that suited the new mood. Thus, advocates began to
emphasize that solar power was "good for business"
and important for "national security." Reference to
progressive programs and ideas was reduced.

At the same time, Reagan was putting energy policy
on the back burner. Solar lost the media spotlight it had
enjoyed during the Carter years, and that hurt the
Lobby financially. Pressure mounted to divert resources
divert resources from the networking project.

"When energy left the headlines, our job became a
whole lot harder," says Munson. "That forced us to
concentrate somewhat more on events and activities
that would generate media coverage and sustain interest
in us. If people don't continue to read about some im­
portant solar energy initiative in the paper every two
weeks, they are much less likely to spend $15 or $20
to become a member."

The networking project was of little help in meeting
the pressing financial needs of the Lobby, Munson says.
Ultimately he decided to close it down, laying off the
activists who had provided the most consistently pro­
gressive voice in the organization.

Reagan "realism," the growing influence of the solar
industry, and the need to produce the kind of visible
results that would build and hold membership—all
gradually diffused the Lobby's commitment to grass-
roots organizing, alternative economic development,
and low-income energy assistance. The self-described
consumer organization became more and more an
advocate for solar business. And the solar energy move­
ment lost what had been a powerful voice for social
change.

Some solar advocates believe that the hope of advanc­
ing society through renewable energy may have been
overstated from the beginning.

"The progressive community ought to come clean,"
says Scott Sklar, a director of the National Center for
Appropriate Technology from 1979 to 1981. "As a broad­
scale policy it has been a dismal failure to force politics
into solar development."

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Most renewable-energy systems need
capital-intensive production, complex
engineering, special materials. They
are ill-suited to producer coops and
worker-owned shops.

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Most Americans, Sklar says, have no interest in
worker-owned solar businesses, cooperatives, or help
for low-income people. They simply "want to wake up
in the morning and turn on a switch, and they don't
care where the hell the energy comes from."

Peter Barnes, co-founder of the San Francisco-based
Solar Center—one of the few worker-owned solar
businesses—agrees. "People are not going to get em­
powered by fighting for solar energy," he says. "Take
the Solar Center as an example. We have sold thousands
of systems and I doubt seriously whether any of the
people we sold solar to were transformed politically in
any significant way.

"Solar's not so different from your water system," he
continues. "Suppose I got water from a well in my
backyard instead of from the city water company. That
is not going to radically affect my politics."

Whatever the potential appeal of solar politics, many
activists were unrealistic about how a solar transition
would take place. They hitched their hopes to technolo­
gy, assuming that the technology itself, once wide­
spread, would make our energy system—indeed, the
nation—more egalitarian.

But renewable energy systems, it turned out, are not
as simple, inexpensive, and easily controlled as many
had supposed. Most require capital-intensive produc­
tion, complicated engineering, and specialized materi­
als. They are ill-suited to producer cooperatives and
worker-owned businesses.

Solar activists who tried to help low-income people
become energy self-sufficient by building "bread-box
The sun has set on hopes for a radical solar future.

Activists Spur Conservation

When alternative energy became a cause célèbre in the late 1970s, its advocates trumpeted the benefits of conservation as well as solar power. Both were considered as means to the same political ends: easing the burden of utility bills on the poor, decentralizing energy production, displacing environmentally destructive fuels, and challenging the power companies.

But times change and alliances shift. Today, the enormous potential of energy conservation may threaten solar’s biggest supporter—the renewable energy industry. “There will be perfectly good, attractive, cost-effective renewables that do not ultimately make it to the market because there won’t be enough demand,” says Amory Lovins, international energy consultant and author of Soft Energy Paths. “Efficiency improvements will meet it all.”

The industry thus has no incentive to encourage conservation; improved efficiency diminishes the need for solar.

Though today’s solar lobbyists—the business leaders—are loath to spur conservation, several activist organizations have established not-for-profit conservation enterprises to provide jobs and reduce energy bills in low-income communities. In Chicago, the Center for Neighborhood Technology persuaded the city government and the local gas utility to set up a $15 million conservation loan fund; the money will support energy improvements in 8,500 apartment buildings and homes.

Eight neighborhood organizations will administer the fund, which opens hundreds of jobs for local residents. “This is the first shot in the country at getting a successful, self-sustaining conservation program run by community groups,” says Scott Goldstein, the Center’s executive director.

The Jobs in Energy Project, based in the nation’s capital, has spawned similar initiatives in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and, most recently, in its own backyard. The organizers hope to provide conservation services to those most in need but least able to afford such expenses. At the same time, the operations will offer training and employment for the jobless.

“The only way people will agree to distribute the pie more equally is if they perceive there is enough to go around,” says Margaret Morgan-Hubbard, director of Jobs in Energy. “In this age of scarcity, conservation is the key to making the pie big enough.” —RP
ACCESS: PEACE


Recently I heard a lecture by a woman deeply involved in England's Greenham Common Peace Camp. Her question, "What are American women doing for peace?" echoed my own questions about global peace activities, specifically women's. This book is a wonderful chance to find out how some women's groups around the world are actively engaged in stopping the arms race. Although the focus is heavily British (the editor has worked consistently with women's peace groups in Britain), the book includes essays from women in the U.S., West Germany, the Netherlands, and Japan.

The essays and approaches are as varied as the groups themselves, which, in turn, are as different as the women involved. (America's new wave of motherhood may be particularly interested in a British group called "Babies Against the Bomb." ) Mothers, working class women, feminists, and middle-class women all offer advice (in the form of personal experience) on everything from the basics of setting up a women's peace group to planning a specific activity, which might be anything from a simple walk to a boycott of Parliament. The reports are factual and passionate; most helpful are the essays that offer an evaluation of the completed activity.

I was moved by the essay on the Shibokusa women of North Fuji. Mostly in their 50s and 60s, these women believe that there can be no peaceful coexistence between the earth and the military, and they are doing everything in their power to disrupt military exercises taking place at the foot of Mount Fuji. Among other things, they have constructed a series of tunnels—to which only they know the entrance—under the training field, and they are likely to pop up like so many rabbits in the middle of training exercises. They have successfully endured harassment by their own townspeople, death threats, and the repeated destruction of their huts. Their courage in the face of great personal jeopardy is heroic; their belief is in long-term resistance.

The book ends with some step-by-step notes on networking, planning an action, and nonviolent civil disobedience, and an excellent reading list. If you have ever felt that a women's peace movement is separatist and has no place in a society truly striving for equality, this book may change your mind. I was heartened to see the book subtitled "Women's Peace Handbook 1." Hopefully there will be others. —KS

"Can't Kill the Spirit" 1985 Peace Calendar, $8.25 from: Syracuse Cultural Workers Project PO Box 6367x Syracuse, NY 13217

The Syracuse Cultural Workers Project (see RAIN X:6) or the Syracuse Peace Council have published and distributed an annual calendar for 14 years. The 1985 "Can't Kill the Spirit" calendar celebrates we, the people: our struggle, our power, our glory, our strength, our courage, and our free will. The calendar marks the birthdays of people through the ages who have made significant contributions to the cause of peace, and commemorates national and international peace activities, pointing to a longer and larger history of peaceful activism than perhaps any of us realize. (For example, there were war-tax resisters in 1779, and a peace rally that filled Madison Square Garden in 1917.) Months and days of the week are bilingual (English/Spanish) but the photos, drawings, paintings, collages, and fabric art transcend all language barriers. Especially beautiful is the cover photo of Karen Kerney's fabric art, inspired by the Naomi Littlebear song that has become an international peace anthem, "Like a Mountain."

The calendar also includes a four-page resource section, and it is available to peace groups for fund raising. Interested groups should contact the SCWP. —KS

Shibokusa women on Women's Peace Rally in Tokyo, 1981 (FROM: Keeping the Peace)

The Circle (Drawing by Jan Petersen; FROM: Can't Kill the Spirit 1985)
Framing Hexagonal Floors: A Lesson

by Richard Conviser

Not everyone has a favorite shape, and I am hard-pressed to account for mine. Perhaps it has something to do with the many hours I spent as a child staring vacantly at the floor tiles in the bathroom of my parents' house. Especially when it comes to buildings, most people seem content to inhabit rectangular rooms in rectangular structures. But from the moment I bought some land in rural southwestern Oregon, I knew that I wanted to build a hexagonal cabin.

I did not do so right away, however. My youth and early adulthood had been spent working with books at desks, and the prospect of designing any building, much less a hexagon, humbled me. My previous designing experience consisted of a single bookcase. In addition to that, my previous building experience included the assembly of a harpsichord from a kit. Period. So when it came to putting up a first cabin, I settled for a set of purchased plans. These enabled me to build a yurt—an adaptation of the traditional nomadic Mongolian structure.

With the yurt-building experience behind me, I felt ready to proceed with a hexagon. It seemed reasonable to begin with seven supports, one at each corner and one at the center. But how to frame a floor over those supports remained something of a puzzle. One way to do so would be to lay out floor girders surrounding the hexagon's perimeter, with an additional girder laid between opposite points. Joists could then be evenly spaced over the girders, parallel to one another, as shown in Figure 1. There was little question in my mind that such a pattern would work. Yet it did not sit well with me, for it seemed to be based on the pretense that a hexagon was a rectangle with its corners bent in. I was seeking a floor design that took account of the unique features of the hexagon.

I was guided in this quest by three factors: my experience in building the yurt, a background in mathematics, and—as would soon become evident—a complete lack of appreciation for what I was getting myself into. The yurt's round floor had been supported by 10 triangular wedges, which joined together like slices of a pie retractor...
ing their history. Each of these was then covered with a piece of the plywood that served as flooring. The obvious way to follow suit in designing the hexagon’s floor was to join together six triangular sections; the geometry of the hexagon dictated that the triangles should be equilateral. Such a pattern was suggested by my one source of information about the design of a “hex shed,” a sketch in Lloyd Kahn’s *Shelter*. But the sketch showed only a pattern of boards for the flooring, as depicted in Figure 2, and did not show how the floor was to be framed. Since I had decided to build a cabin 16 feet in diameter, each side of a triangular section would measure 8 feet in length (see Figure 3). Clearly, I would need some additional framing members to support the floor; I had, in fact, read that floor joists should be no farther apart than 2 feet.

I could have laid joists over the triangular girder sections in a regular pattern, such as the concentric hexagons shown in Figure 4, but it seemed more elegant to continue working with triangles. Besides, I had read that triangles were strong. So I sketched joists that would hang between the girders, connecting adjacent midpoints on the sides of the latter, as shown in Figure 5. The result was pleasing to the eye, for it created within each girder section four triangles of equal size. But each of these triangles had sides of 4 feet, and that was still twice the recommended (maximum) span. Connecting the midpoints on the sides of these smaller triangles would, however, produce yet smaller triangles, 2 feet on a side. And so the pattern for framing the cabin’s floor fell into place, as shown in Figure 6. From there, it was only a short step to imagine the floor itself, made up of triangular plywood “tiles” two feet on a side. These could be stained different colors to produce a mandala design.

As the casual sketches that accompanied my flights of imagination gave way to the more exacting drawings required for building, I began to discover some of the limitations of mathematical elegance. The sides of my imaginary triangles had intersected in points. But the pieces of lumber that would form the triangles supporting the floor were wider than a pencil line. I found myself drawing diagrams like that of Figure 7, checking on the width of the framing lumber, and filling up the pages of a notebook with geometrical computations. The mathematics that had been my imagination’s playmate became instead a laborious taskmaster; \(\sqrt{3}\) became my constant companion.

After a lot of head scratching and angle cutting, my lesson on the distinction between *smart* and *wise* drew to a close. Each of the girder triangles filled up with smaller triangles; the six girder triangles were then assembled over the supports; and the 96 plywood “tiles” were cut, stained, and nailed into place. Now the cabin had a floor, the likes of which I shall never build again. For all my pains, the floor did have an attractive design, as shown in Figure 8. After nearly a decade of use, however, the design has nearly faded. But the memory of the work it took has remained vivid.

A sensible solution to the problem of framing a hexagonal floor did not present itself to me for several more years, long after I had stopped looking for one. It was a
winter's day, and I was seated at my desk, daydreaming. Sitting atop the desk was a woven basket made of inch-wide strips of banana leaves. The strips went in three different directions, and as I stared spacially at the basket, I began to see hexagonal shapes in its weave (see Figure 9). As I focused my gaze, I noticed that each hexagonal shape was produced by three parallelogram-shaped segments of the strips.

I knew at once that I had been presented with the key to a truly elegant solution to the problem. There would be no need for the triangles of my youthful folly. More importantly, by comparison with the standard procedure shown in Figure 1, the parallelogram technique could use joists that were all of the same length. In addition, by respecting the unique structural characteristics of the hexagon, this technique would require less lumber than even the standard procedure. To refine the discovery into its simplest form, shown in Figures 10 to 12, took several tries. Once the design had been perfected, I became eager for summer’s arrival: The new design was an ideal excuse to build a hexagonal gazebo. Now the completed gazebo sits nestled against a hillside, its curved spire lofting skyward alongside the fir trees that surround it. Its floor went together quickly and with minimal effort, attesting to my progress beyond the beginner’s stage. And the gazebo’s roof, curving up among the evergreens? Ah, but that’s another story.

Richard Conviser lives in Eagle Bridge (New York), plays the violin, was trained as a sociologist, and is fascinated by hexagons.
Ecology of Everyday Life

by F. Lansing Scott

Last issue it was art in everyday life, now it's the ecology of everyday life—what's this preoccupation we Rainfolks seem to have with everyday life, anyway? Well, it's where we live, where we make most of our choices, where we have at least some control over the way of things. If we are going to change the world, perhaps a good place to start is in our own communities and in our own lives. What we say and what we think are not as important as what we do and how we live. Or so it seems to us.

The following questions are based on a class I co-taught at Fairhaven College (an alternative college in Bellingham, Washington) before coming to Rain. —FLS

Most questions can be answered in a superficial manner or in great detail—decide how much detail is important to you and why. And at each step of the way, ask yourself, "What are my choices?" and "So what difference does it make, anyway?"

WATER
Where does your water come from? Describe what happens to it from the time it falls out of the sky until it reaches your dwelling. Describe what happens to it after it leaves your dwelling.

FOOD
Choose five foods that are essential to your diet. What is involved in producing each food and bringing it to your table? What considerations are relevant to you? Where does the money go that you spend on food? How much of it stays in your community? For each dollar you spend, which people in what parts of the process get what portion of it?

SHELTER
What materials were used on the construction of your dwelling? Where did they come from? What was the land like before your dwelling was built on it? What was it like 300 years ago? Who owns your dwelling? Describe in detail what happens to the money you pay toward your dwelling.

CLOTHING
What materials are your clothes made out of? Where do these materials come from? Choose an article of clothing and describe how it is manufactured, where it is manufactured, who does the work, and under what conditions.

TRANSPORTATION
What modes of transportation do you commonly use? What materials and production processes are used in the vehicles you travel in or on? What types and amounts of energy do these vehicles use? What kinds of emissions (if any) do these vehicles put into the environment? How does the operation of each mode of transportation affect the design of your community?

Where does the money go that you pay toward transportation?

ENERGY
Identify your major uses of energy (transportation, lighting, and so on). What proportion of your total energy use does each of these uses make up? What are the sources of energy used? How much of each source is used? For each source, specify if it is renewable or non-renewable, and describe where it comes from.

WASTE
Where does your sewage go, and what happens to it? How much garbage do you generate in a month? What is it composed of? Are any of the materials recyclable? What materials do you, in fact, recycle?

MONEY
Where does your money come from? How much money do you spend on each of the items above? Do you put money into a checking account? A savings account? What does the bank do with your money? Do you put money into investments? What kinds? How is your invested money used?

WORK
What paid work do you do? What function does your job serve in regard to meeting human and social needs? In regard to your own personal fulfillment?

What unpaid work do you do? What functions does this work serve? □ □
At a conference I attended last May called "Creating a New Economy," I heard a lot of talk—from people whose opinions I respect on such matters—about Jane Jacobs' new book, Cities and the Wealth of Nations, an excerpt of which was published in the March issue of The Atlantic Monthly (see RAIN X:5, page 17). It was an important book, I was told. After the recommendations I had received, I didn’t waste much time snagging it from the review shelf once it arrived at Rain. Now that I’ve finished it I would agree, it is an important book, though not a particularly hopeful one.

Jacobs’ main thesis is that clear understanding of economic processes is obscured by focusing on national economies. In reality, Jacobs asserts, national economies are merely collections of very different regional economies, which in turn are shaped primarily by cities.

“Cities are unique in their abilities to shape and reshape the economies of other settlements, including those far removed from them geographically.” Innovation and import-replacement, the two economic processes most crucial to development, are rooted in city economies. Cities with vigorous practices of import-replacement create prosperous regional economies; regional economies without import-replacing cities become distorted and stagnant.

Jacobs’ approach to what makes economies thrive or fail is unique; in effect, she offers us a new pair of glasses that allow us to see old problems in a new way. But early on I became suspect of these new glasses. Jacobs backs up her assertions—readers must assume that each illustration or anecdote she provides is typical, rather than a special case. Jacobs’ argument would be more convincing if it were backed up by empirical statistics, or if she provided a more solid theoretical description of the dynamics of the processes she describes.

Even though her argument did not leave me totally convinced, it did offer a fresh and provocative perspective, and as I continued through the book I became less concerned with its shortcomings and more impressed with its insights. Jacobs identifies five major forces that arise from healthy import-replacing city economies: increased city markets, increased jobs, new uses of technology, transplants of city work into nonurban locations, and growth of city capital. In healthy city regions, all of these forces are present and in balance. However, regions far removed from import-replacing cities usually are affected by only one or two of these forces; the result is an unbalanced and fragile economy.

Jacobs describes in detail the deleterious effects of each of these forces, when acting by itself, on different kinds of regions. I found her discussion of “transplant regions” most interesting. In times of high unemployment, such as we are currently experiencing, many city officials are trying to lure industries to relocate in their areas, thinking that if these industries helped to create prosperity in their original locations, they would do the same when transplanted to a new location. Not so, says Jacobs. When a new industry is emerging, it stimulates the local economy by creating a demand for tools, materials, parts, skills, and so forth; the additional economic activity benefits the economy of the original location. But by the time an industry has matured and is in a position to relocate, it will have become relatively self-sufficient in meeting its needs and will consequently stimulate little additional economic activity in its new location. These transplanted industries bring little to their new locations except the jobs they provide directly; however, even these are tenuous, since an industry that has relocated once is liable to relocate again when cheaper labor or other incentives are offered by other regions. For this reason, innovative and home-grown industries are much more beneficial to a region’s economy than are transplanted industries.

Jacobs’ discussion of the faulty feedback brought to cities by a national currency was also interesting. Supposedly, a nation’s currency acts as a self-corrective mechanism for its economy. When a nation imports more than it exports, the value of its currency automatically declines. This makes its exports cheaper for customer nations, so export sales should increase; meanwhile, imports have become more expensive, which should increase domestic sales. Theoretically, this appears as an elegant feedback mechanism for national economies. However, since Jacobs believes that national economies are artificial units, she argues that the feedback brought by national currencies is inappropriate for real economic activity.

National currencies . . . are potent feedback but impotent at triggering appropriate responses. To picture how such a thing can be, imagine a group of people who are all properly equipped with diaphragms and lungs but who share only one single brainstem breathing center. In this goofy arrangement, the breathing center would receive consolidated feedback on the carbon dioxide level of the whole group without discriminating among the individuals producing it. Everybody’s diaphragm would be triggered to contract at the same time. But suppose some of those people were sleeping, while others were playing tennis . . . Some would have to halt what they were doing and subside into a lesser common denominator of activity . . . In such an arrangement, feedback control would be working perfectly on its own terms but the results would be devastating because of a flaw designed right into the system . . . Nations are flawed in this way because they are not discrete economic units, although intellectually we pretend they are and compile statistics about them based on that goofy premise. Nations include, among other things in their economic grab bags, differing city economies that need different corrections at given times, and yet all share a currency that gives all of them the same information at a given time. The consolidated information is bad specific information for them even in respect to their foreign trade, and it is no information at all with respect to their trade with one another.

Jacobs asserts that the only remedy for this problem is to break up nations into
Corns growing sweeter. The procedure is simple. While the silk is still green, drive a round toothpick through the base of the ear stem and into the main stalk just above the joint. When the second flush of ears is showing silk, repeat the whole procedure. The logic is also simple. In essence, you are creating a wound in the plant, which forces it to send healing sugars to the area affected. By acupuncturing the ear stem, the sugars are forced into the ear. The result: sweeter corn. (From: The Smaller Holder)

Silver-haired cyclists for conservation! Georges Krassovsky, a Frenchman and a seasoned "eco-cyclist," has organized competitive bicycle rides since 1975 for senior citizens concerned with the damage inflicted on the planet by the technical and industrial revolution. The only entry requirements: an interest in conservation and a minimum age of 55. During their ride around the perimeter of France this summer, the cyclists hoped to focus media attention on "the destruction of nature, on pollution, and on the proliferation of weapons which could bring an end to all life on earth." Krassovsky, at BP 16, Paris 75664, would be happy to provide additional information. (From: World Development Forum)

Goldwater sees the light: "We have the sun up there and are still doing far too little with solar energy," was the comment from Senator Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) on August 9. During a Senate debate over the fate of the Synthetic Fuels Corporation, Goldwater argued that more needs to be done with solar energy and alternate fuel sources. (FROM: Solar Energy Intelligence Report)

Spider egg sac silk stockings? A French inventor in the early 18th century made some gloves and stockings out of spider egg-sac silk. The Academy of Sciences of Paris considered the technique and concluded it would take 663,522 spiders to produce a pound of silk and thus was infeasible. (From: Science News)
During winter 1983, Nancy Cosper and I worked on "The Women's Movement" special issue of RAIN (volume IX, number 4). In the issue, we discussed feminist concerns involving politics, spirituality, international development, health, and technology. The articles and access that stirred the most queries from readers and from other publications were the ones on women and technology.

So what about women and technology? A group of women in Portland (myself included) have been meeting to discuss the underpinnings and fabric of this subject. Research into the implications of the future of women and technology—access to, education about, and employment in—is new, and what exists tends to be scant and nonconclusive. There are many ways to approach this sometimes unwieldy topic, ranging from examination of the past (how women have contributed to the development of technology) to an exploration of the future (how women can influence the design and direction of technology). A parallel avenue for us to consider is how different technologies affect us: reproductive technologies (birth control, birthing methods, genetic engineering); workplace technologies (video-display terminals, computers, telecommunications); and domestic technologies (microwave ovens, chemical detergents, food additives).

Technology presents us with decisions, roles, and options, but it also forces us to consider time, health, and safety factors. The following reviews highlight some of the current literature that can help us to develop our own feminist humanist assessment of technology and consider how technology affects our day-to-day lives and values. —Mimi Maduro

Maxwell House
Fairview Park
Elmsford, NY 10523

This collection of essays by many critical thinkers presents a broad range of thought-provoking ideas concerning women and technology. The beginning essays delve into the politics, history, and future implications of narrowly defined topics such as the mathematization of engineering, the effects of office automation, and a theoretical analysis of housework. Three essays in the middle of the book sketch the far-reaching connections between values and technology. Carolyn Merchant's "Mining the Earth's Womb" traces the history and allegory of mining, posing parallels of this practice to nature, our Mother Earth. Ynestra King charts the path and evolution of the ecofeminist movement, and Evelyn Fox Keller unravels the popular mythologies surrounding women and science. This all leads to a set of essays at the end of the book exploring the edges of feminist assessment of technology, examining the questions we need to ask to change the future.

Although this is a scholarly collection, it is approachable, and it provides a framework for making our own assessment of the role of women in both social and technological change. —Mimi Maduro

The Technological Woman: Interfacing with Tomorrow, edited by Jan Zimmerman, 1983, 296 pp., $21.50 cloth from:
Praeger Publishers
CBS Educational and Professional Publishing
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10175

In March 1981, a conference on Future, Technology, and Women was held at San Diego State University. The conference proceedings from this event were the seed for this book. Several of the authors cited in Machina Ex Dea are also contributors to this collection of essays. The issues covered in this volume include women and appropriate technology, women and transportation, word processing, surrogate motherhood, abortion, and blue-collar jobs. Some pieces paint a gloomy picture for women; others point to the opportunities we have to influence and fully participate in the technological change. The section on workplace technology themes, A Living Wage, includes several sobering perspectives, including: "Paths to Power in High Technology Organizations," "Bambi Meets Godzilla: Life in the Corporate Jungle," and "New Jobs in New Technologies: Experienced Only Need Apply."

There are many vantage points from which to explore women and technology issues: workplace health, reproductive rights, housework, computers. This book can help you sort out the perspectives. —Mimi Maduro

Dynamos and Virgins Revisited: Women and Technological Change in History, edited by Martha Moore Trescott, 1979, 280 pp., $16.50 cloth from:
The Scarecrow Press
52 Liberty Street
Metuchen, NJ 08840

This set of essays differs from The Technological Woman and Machina Ex Dea in that it uncovers much "found" history (herstory). Selections include portraits of women inventors, scientists, and entrepreneurs as role models and leaders. The book also gives insights into the participation of women in the carpet and paper industries. —Mimi Maduro
This newsletter, written by Mark Satin, author of New Age Politics, attempts to give voice to what Satin calls "decentralist/globally responsible" politics (or sometimes "green," "transformational," or "postliberal" politics). Satin is a leading spokesperson for this kind of politics, and his board of advisors reads like a Who's Who of the alternative movement, including such notables as Fritjof Capra, Hazel Henderson, Petra Kelly, John Naisbitt, Kirkpatrick Sale, and Robert Theobald. His coverage of the developments within this movement is informative and provocative. He reviews books and organizations with a critical eye, and he is not afraid to take controversial positions, which seem to provoke a substantial and spirited response from his readers. Although I often disagree with his perspective, I appreciate that he makes his perspective clear so I know exactly what I'm disagreeing with. The willingness to take a clear stance from which to evaluate other viewpoints and activities promotes thoughtful dialogue. In the interest of participating in such dialogue, I would like to present some criticisms of the political perspective presented in New Options.

I'm concerned by Satin's outspoken anti-Marxism and eagerness to dissociate himself from any part of the traditional left. For all its shortcomings (and I would agree that it does have many shortcomings), Marxism teaches us to look at the concrete realities of people's lives, and not just what they think or say. We cannot ignore the structures of power or patterns of wealth distribution in society if we want to bring about real social change. New Age social commentators (Satin included) too often fall into the trap of claiming that people's attitudes, values, and thoughts are all that matters, that our use of technology and form of social organization are simply products of our "cultural paradigm." That's not holism, that's psychological reductionism—and bad social theory. Let us seek to develop a social philosophy that takes into account both the spiritual/psychological and the material/structural aspects of our world, and let us develop a political practice that seeks to transcend traditional approaches to social change, not by ignoring or denouncing them, but by taking what is valid and useful from them, adding new insights, and arriving at a new synthesis. —FLS

A group of more than 60 activists from all around the U.S. came together during the second weekend of August to lay the groundwork for a broad-based U.S. Green movement. The meeting originated with Charlene Spretnak, co-author of Green Politics (see RAIN X:5, pages 12-13), who formed an "inviting committee" with four other Green-oriented activists: Harry Boyte, Christian-populist author; Catherine Burton, co-founder of Earth Bank (see RAIN X:2, page 31); Gloria Goldberg, coordinator of the Institute for Social Ecology; and David Haenke, convenor of the North American Bioregional Congress (see RAIN X:6, page 31). By the end of three days the groups had arrived at some decisions regarding near-term plans:

- Grassroots organizing and coalition-building would be emphasized over electoral politics.
- The interim name for the various local and regional groups would be "Committees of Correspondence," after the Committees of Correspondence set up prior to the American Revolution, rather than "U.S. Green Party" or something similar. Many attendees felt that the word green would not invite participation from a broad enough constituency.
- An interim Interregional Committee was formed to encourage "multi-leveled movement building."
- An interim national office is being set up in Minneapolis.

For more information, write to Interregional Committee of Correspondence, PO Box 14748, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Send $5 if you wish to be placed on the mailing list and to receive the committee's "statement of values and principles," or send $25 to become a charter supporter. —FLS
Voices of Reinhabitation

The Delaware River Watershed

People on the West Coast tend to be chauvinistic about their environmentalism. After all, Love Canal, Three Mile Island, and New York City are all Back East. Well, the fact is that New Jersey, of all places, has something like the second most stringent environmental regulations in the nation. New Jersey is the state known for crowded suburbs and highways, smelly refineries, and toxic waste dumps that make headlines. But New Jersey also has pockets of the most beautiful scenery I’ve seen anywhere, widely varied geology, and wild bears! There are native cacti growing along the banks of the Delaware. There are forests of three-foot-high trees. There are, in other words, things worth saving, besides the basic needs for clean air and water. Furthermore, many people are actively protecting the natural resources of the area. The group working to save the Delaware River watershed is Del-AWARE Unlimited (6 Stockton Avenue, New Hope, PA 18938; 215 862-9862). Terri Gabriell is the Executive Director of Del-AWARE.

by Terri Gabriell

The Delaware River Watershed is defined by the river and all the lands that drain into it. It begins at the borders of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and extends south to Delaware Bay. The watershed includes the Lehigh and Schuylkill Rivers, and from east to west, extends from an area west of Allentown, Pennsylvania, to New Jersey's coastal plain.

Our river and valley face serious threats both in terms of water depletion and pollution. The Delaware, the last free-flowing river east of the Mississippi, is managed by a compact arrangement of the four states that share its shores and a representative from the U.S. Department of the Interior. They allocate the waters to ensure that New York City can withdraw an enormous 800 million gallons daily (MGD), granted by the Supreme Court in 1954, while maintaining minimum flow objectives downstream.

This type of compact arrangement has resulted in the demise of the mighty Colorado River, which ends in a ditch without reaching the sea, and we at Del-AWARE Unlimited, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to saving the Delaware, are working to see that this never happens here.

Our organization began as a grassroots effort to stop construction of the Point Pleasant pumping station, a proposed diversion to pump 95 MGD out of the river. Half of it would provide municipal water, for which no need has been proven; the other half would be pumped across two counties and evaporate at the Limerick nuclear power plant outside Philadelphia.

Early on, we asked for a public referendum on the pump, and were denied. As bulldozers prepared to
clear the site in January 1983, over 1,000 people blocked the way. During the next three days, 187 people were arrested for civil disobedience in blocking the site.

Within the next few days, the released arrestees and members and supporters of Del-AWARE Unlimited occupied the Bucks County Courthouse and refused to leave. Since the local sheriffs wanted to avoid national news that would be caused by the arrest of Abbie Hoffman, one of the demonstrators, they allowed us to stay in the courthouse. We maintained a constant presence for the next three months, even sleeping in the courthouse, and collected more than 30,000 petition signatures for a referendum. In March, a referendum was granted.

In May, the voters voted, by a wide majority, to cancel the project, but the county commissioners, who had pledged to abide by the vote, said it couldn’t be done. Over the summer, another 110 people were arrested at the site. Some went to jail. Later that summer, people linked hands across the Delaware to demonstrate its low flow and made news as far away as Mexico City and Peking.

In summer 1983, people linked hands across the Delaware to demonstrate its low flow and made news as far away as Mexico City and Peking.

In the November 1983 election, new commissioners were elected on a platform that included a pledge to Dump the Pump. They changed the makeup of the water authority—the owner of the project—to a majority of antipump members. The Executive Director of Del-AWARE, Tracy Carluccio, took a job as executive secretary of the authority, to stop the pump from within the system.

Del-AWARE has continued to work with the commissioners and the authority, both of whom are being sued by the Philadelphia Electric Company to build the project. All parties in the suit rested their cases in August 1984, and both promised to appeal. Meanwhile, no pump construction has gone on at the site since January 1984 and the pump, which they said would be completed by now, is nothing more than a large hole in the ground.

Del-AWARE is now working to oppose a project on the New Jersey side of the river. It would be a 650-acre reservoir, owned by seven utility companies. It would skim and impound the river’s spring flows to serve as replacement water for the river water that utilities withdraw and evaporate, and it would destroy the habitats of 14 endangered or threatened species of plants and animals. In this fight, we are challenging the basin commission on the concepts on which it bases its allocations.

Del-AWARE did win a legal battle this spring. We filed a suit before the appeals board of the state Department of Environmental Resources asking the board to require national pollution permits to transfer Delaware River water into two Bucks County streams. The board upheld our contentions that the river is already too polluted to discharge into two pristine streams without treatment, and that the plan would cause excessive erosion to those streams.

We won, but the action cost us $90,000 and is being appealed by the electric company. We continue to work to pay off the river’s debt in legal costs, to protect and preserve our river and watershed, and to work for education, good water management, and water conservation throughout the region.

We’d like to hear from people involved in similar work to save any aspect of life on this planet.
Pacific Northwest Bioregion Report

Peace Community Planned
A working group of writers, educators, and peacemakers from all walks of life have formulated plans to establish a Peace Community in the Pacific Northwest to serve as a model for other such communities to be established in Hawaii, Europe, South America, and other locations around the world.

Spearheaded by A. D. Lehmann, author of Tomorrow's World (DOVES Publishing, Newport, Oregon, 1983), the group just released the initial draft of its manifesto. Its constitution and by-laws will be formulated in spring 1985. Groundbreaking for the first Peace Community is scheduled for 1986.

For more information about the Peace Community project, send $1 to cover copying costs and 54¢ in stamps to A. Lehmann, c/o PEACE, Box 110, Yachats, OR 97498.

Direct Action Network
Forms
A meeting to establish the Northwest Direct Action Network was held in Portland on August 18. Approximately 70 people attended, representing more than 30 environmental, peace, and women's organizations from Ashland, Oregon, to Vancouver, B.C. The goals of the network are as follows: to coordinate major regional civil-disobedience actions that bring together many kinds of issues and organizations; to establish an emergency-response network for immediate, widespread response to sudden events such as a U.S. military invasion of a foreign country; and to coordinate simultaneous actions throughout the region. The network has planned its first major regional action at Ft. Lewis for October 25, the first anniversary of the invasion of Grenada, to protest U.S. militarism.

For further information about the network, contact Northwest Action for Disarmament (a member group of the network), 408 SW 2nd Avenue, Room 428, Portland, OR 97204; 503-295-2101.

Blockades Continue in Middle Santiam
Speaking of direct action, the Cathedral Forest Action Group continued its campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience throughout the summer to stop logging in 80,000 acres of old-growth forest in the Middle Santiam region of the Willamette National Forest in Oregon. In addition to blockades in the forest itself, the group also organized rallies at the U.S. Forest Service offices in Portland and Eugene in late August to draw public attention to the issue, and an Old Growth Gathering was held in late September, with Gary Snyder as one of the featured speakers.

Snyder has tried to put the significance of these old growth stands into perspective. "Even people in the Northwest might not realize what an extraordinary planetary treasure the old growth forests of the Pacific Slope are. . . . These are the most amazing temperate rainforests in the world. There's more biomass in the temperate rain forests of the Northwest than there is even in the tropical rain forests. It is an absolute planetary treasure, and an extraordinary piece of ecological history to see the patches of these forests still standing."

The Cathedral Forest Action Group is doing everything it can to defend these ancient, precious forests. Group members consider such areas to be our sacred places—hence the name "Cathedral Forest." They say they will not quit until the Santiam forest is legally protected. If you would like to help, write or call the Cathedral Forest Action Group at 824 SW 10th, Corvallis, OR 97333; 503-754-9151, or call Thelma Perry, 503-342-3250 (Eugene).
or Gary Stallings, 503/239-4991 (Portland).

**Globescope National Assembly**

Globescope, a project of the Global Tomorrow Coalition (1525 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC), has scheduled a national assembly for April 17-21, 1985, in Portland, Oregon. Globescope is a continuing process of education, information-sharing, and networking in the U.S., with three major purposes: to increase public understanding of the challenges posed by long-term global trends in environment, resources, population, and development; to encourage and facilitate positive involvement and action on these issues by nongovernmental organizations and individuals at the local level; and to highlight the role and responsibility of the U.S. in finding cooperative means to respond to these challenges.

The Globescope National Assembly will "provide Americans with the necessary framework—information, strategies, models, and networks—with which to develop effective local initiatives that support sustainable development in a healthy world environment." Participants will include local and national citizen leaders, issue experts, educators, concerned citizens, public officials, conservationists, and corporate planners. If you wish to get involved in the planning process for this event, or wish more information, contact Diane Lowrie, National Coordinator, Globescope, PO Box 15264, Portland, OR 97215; 503/232-3995.

**Seattle Resource Center**

The Resource Center in Seattle, established last fall by Mike Bell, coordinator of the Resource Network, says that human intelligence and intuition usually make the most interesting and relevant connections. An account with the Resource Network costs $25 for 6 months or $40 for 12 months. Once you have opened an account, you can call or write as often as you wish. Rose Campbell is available to take calls for the network between 6 and 7 pm, Monday through Thursday, or people can write or leave messages on her answering machine anytime. To become a user, send name, address, and phone number with a check or money order to Network Resources, 628 11th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98102. Include three to five questions of immediate interest, and the network will respond as soon as possible with the information or contacts requested.

The Resource Center also sponsors another activity called the Thursday Night Connection, a monthly gathering that includes a networking game or activity, brief reports from Resource Center committees, and open networking. Gatherings are scheduled for November 15, and the first Thursday of the month starting in 1985. They will be from 7 to 10 pm. Call Rose Campbell at 206/323-4959 for location or other information about the Thursday Night Connection or the Resource Network, or write to her c/o Network Resources, listed above.

**Washington Arbitration**

Washington Arbitration Services, founded in 1981, offers an alternative method of dispute resolution outside of the courtroom. The arbitration process allows disputing parties to present the dispute to an impartial third party, the arbitrator, for a legally binding decision. Such a procedure is less complicated, less time-consuming, and less costly than court action.

The services offered by Washington Arbitration include providing arbitrators for disputes, helping disputing parties reach voluntary settlements, administering specialized dispute-settlement programs, and conducting educational seminars and workshops. Services are available state-wide through offices located in Seattle, Spokane, Bellingham, Tacoma, Olympia, and Vancouver. For more information, contact the state headquarters of Washington Arbitration Services at 202 Pioneer Building, Seattle, WA 98104; 206/467-0793.

Additionally, Michael Gillie, founder of Washington Arbitration Services, has published a booklet called *Practical Arbitration—A Basic Guide for Non-Attorneys*. The booklet has 22 pages of text and a 22-page appendix including sample arbitration forms, an example arbitration case from start to finish, and sample problems for the reader to work out. It is available for $7.50, postpaid, from Dispute-Settlement Press, 202 Pioneer Building, Seattle, WA 98104.

**Cetaceans Poster**

*Cetaceans of the Inland Coastal Waters of Washington and British Columbia* is a 16- by 22-inch black-and-white poster prepared by Ed Newbold and Rich Osborne of the Whale Museum, Friday Harbor, Washington. It gives illustrations and descriptions of ten different species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises that can be found in Northwest waters. It is available for $4 from Newbold Wildlife Prints, PO Box 22344, Seattle, WA 98122.
NW PUBLICATIONS

Oregon Style: Architecture 1840 to 1950s, by Rosalind L. Clark, 1983, 232 pp., $19.95 (add $2 for shipping) from:
Professional Book Center
5211 NE Sandy Boulevard
Portland, OR 97213

This valuable sourcebook documents Oregon’s architectural heritage. The book is organized chronologically, by style, beginning with Log Buildings and concluding with the Northwest Regional Style. For each style, the author lists six characteristic elements—roof, roof details, shape and mass, windows and doors, construction materials, and decorative elements—and briefly describes the way the style was adapted in Oregon. The bulk of the book is photos of each style, with long captions delineating details of the style and giving anecdotes here and there. This is not a guidebook; the locations of the buildings are given by town (“Portland”), not address. Portland residents, in particular, will recognize many of the stately downtown buildings that they’ve glanced at but never examined closely. —TK

Oregon Solar Energy Directory, compiled by the Oregon Department of Energy, 1984, 26 pp., free from:
Oregon Department of Energy Room 102, Labor and Industries Building
Salem, OR 97310

This directory begins with a few pages of consumer advice for buying and installing solar systems, and then goes on to list alternative-energy information centers and referral services, citizen energy groups, and solar designers, builders, distributors, and manufacturers throughout the state. The directory is current through July 1984 (it even lists Rain at our new address). —FLS

Oregon Coast Range Wilderness, edited by Sherry Wellborn, 1982, 90 pp., $4.95 from:
Siuslaw Task Force
PO Box 863
Corvallis, OR 97339

Even after more than a century of frenzied logging, and several devastating forest fires, the Oregon Coast Range still retains areas, albeit small ones, that remain in their original wild state. The Siuslaw Task Force, a group of concerned coastal residents and wilderness activists, has published a booklet that both showcases these potential wilderness areas and offers detailed information on geology, climate, flora, and fauna of one of the more abused and neglected areas in the Pacific Northwest. Six wilderness areas are covered, with maps showing access roads, trails, boundaries, streams, and natural features and landmarks. You’ll probably want to purchase a topographic map from the U.S. Geological Survey for any hiking, though. The booklet also includes sections on the 1477 offshore islands and rocks found along the coast, and a chapter on the several long-distance trails that are either proposed or under construction, such as the nearly complete, 380-mile Oregon Coast Trail. Sprinkled throughout the booklet are a series of detailed and delightful line drawings depicting the region’s wildlife and plant life. Let’s hope more people see this excellent resource guide to Oregon’s most neglected wildlands. —SM

Design Tools for Energy Efficient Homes, by Ken Eklund and David Baylon, second edition, 1983, about 150 pp., $14.95 from:
Ecotope
2812 East Madison
Seattle, WA 98112

Easy-to-use handbook for builders, designers, and students who want to understand, analyze, and build energy-efficient homes. Replete with worksheets and tables (more than half the book comprises appendices, which include load curves and a solar-system checklist), this well-designed book provides clear information on choosing materials and technologies for energy efficiency. Construction diagrams show caulking, vapor-barrier, and insulation details.

The Northwest Power Planning Council spurred the development of cost-efficient residential building standards for the region, and this book tells how to design and build to these standards. As such, it’s geared to a Pacific Northwest audience, but it also provides a splendid model for other regions. —TK

The Andrew J. Sherwood House in Coquille, an example of the Queen Anne Style (FROM: Oregon Style)
China Doctor of John Day, by Jeffrey Barlow and Christine Richardson, 1979, 118 pp., $5.95 from: Binford and Mort, Publishers 2636 SE 11th Portland, OR 97202

This story of Lung On, the businessman, and Ing Hay, the Chinese herbalist, reveals an interesting facet of western history. Many Chinese migrated to the U.S. in the mid-1800s because they heard of the Gold Mountain (the 1860 gold strikes in Oregon and Idaho). The Chinese in central Oregon, who had originally come to work in mining and railroad building, were resented by white men. In fact, racial and social prejudice against the Chinese led to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prevented all but intellectuals (men only) from entering the U.S.; it wasn’t repealed until the mid-1900s.

The authors recount the career of Ing Hay, the “China Doctor” of John Day, Oregon. He used pulse diagnosis to diagnose his patients, then prescribed herbal brews and often effected cures. Patients whose condition had been worsened by western medical practitioners would come to Doc Hay, and he would use traditional Chinese herbs to cure blood poison, meningitis, flu, and other conditions. (The appendix to the book includes descriptions of 62 herbs.)

In addition, the authors discuss Lung On, who served as translator for Ing Hay and as leader of the John Day Chinatown. Lung On was a businessman who was financially successful—an anomaly for a Chinese at the time. He had been an intellectual in China, and many people he met said he was “the smartest man I ever knew.”

The authors do not provide an in-depth study in this short volume, and the account should certainly have been edited (and written) better, but the information is valuable. —TK

Oregon Indians: Culture, History, and Current Affairs, by Jeff Zucker, Kay Himmel, and Bob Hogfoss, 1983, 230 pp., $15.95 from: Western Imprints Oregon Historical Society 1230 SW Park Portland, OR 97205

This is probably the most comprehensive and authoritative book on Oregon Indians currently available. The book is divided into three parts: traditional, historical, and contemporary. Part One describes the traditional Indian cultures of Oregon before contact with white people. Part Two describes the period of transition after Euro-American settlers arrived, outlining the many changes and conflicts that occurred. Part Three examines the current situation of Indian people in Oregon, including recent federal policy and the controversy over Indian fishing rights.

The book is useful to both the serious researcher and the general reader who simply wishes a general overview of the indigenous peoples of this region. Extensive resource notes accompany each page of text in a way that allows the researcher to pursue any particular topic in greater depth, but doesn’t detract from the readability of the basic text. A generous amount of charts, maps, and illustrations also accompanies the text. A bibliography of over 60 titles is included, and a special booklet profiling 22 Indian organizations currently active in Oregon is attached in the back of the book. —FLS
ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE Portland townhouse for sale. 2 BR, 1.5 baths, patio, yard, city view. Woodstove, vid, full garage/ basement, lots of extras. Owner relocated, needs to sell. Asking $65,000. Nancy Waddell, PO Box 10, Clinton, WA 98236; 206/321-5781.

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.

A RAINBOW FROM ASSISI: striving towards simplicity, beauty and synthesis, very unusual family-based center runs a small publishing house and “politico-spiritual” initiatives for inner growth and social improvement as well.

GLOBESCOPE INTERNSHIP: Globescope, a project to increase public understanding of and action on global environmental concerns, seeks an intern to work on publicity for the Globescope National Assembly, to be held in Portland, Oregon, April 17-21, 1985. The internship will begin in early January and will continue through the Assembly. Work includes preparing press releases, compiling short newsletters, creating information materials, and basic typing and filing. The intern will be paid a stipend of $40 per week. The Assembly will provide an exciting opportunity for making contacts for future work on global environmental issues. If interested, contact Diane Lowrie at Globescope, PO Box 15264, Portland, OR 97215; 503/232-3495.

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RAIN Advertising Policy

RAIN accepts both classified and display advertising. Classified ads cost 30¢ per word. As a special service during these times of high unemployment, work-related ads (see "Worthy Work") are only 15¢ per word. Prepayment required.

All ads are accepted at RAIN's discretion. The advertising of products and services in RAIN should not be considered an endorsement. RAIN is not responsible for product or service claims and representations.

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

CALENDAR

The Computer Fair will be presented for the first time by Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon, on November 9-10 at the campus. This event is designed to let everyone discover the many uses of the computer, with exhibits, robots, demonstrations, theater, and games. Presentations, workshops, films and demonstrations will be scheduled to provide understanding of how computers are being used for learning, in communications and the arts. Topics will range from artificial intelligence to computer benefits and the dangers to society. For more information, contact John Stapp at 667-7299. MHCC, 26000 SE Stark, Gresham, OR 97030.

Making a Difference is the theme of the first conference of the returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon, to be held in Portland on November 10. The general public is invited to participate in this event, focusing on ways to educate Americans on Third World conditions and issues. For more information, contact Jeff Strang at RAIN, 3116 North Williams, Portland, OR 97227.

On November 9-10, the Iowa-Illinois World Food Conference will be held at the Blackhawk Hotel in Davenport, Iowa. The subject of the conference is Third World Development: From Food Deficiency to Food Sufficiency. The purpose of the project is to provide greater public awareness of problems leading to hunger and poverty around the world and a better knowledge of the organizations and agencies that are combatting these problems. The conference will also feature a Resources Fair. Contact Continuing Education in International Affairs, 205 Arcade Building, 725 South Wright Street, Champaign, IL 61820; 217/333-1465.

A one-day workshop, Managing the Solar Business, will be held December 4 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Sponsored by the New England Solar Energy Association, the seminar will provide business-planning information. Included will be discussion of cash flow, collections, inventory control, reading and using financial statements, and dealing with financial sources. The leader will be Alan Johnson of Country Business Services in Brattleboro, Vermont, an expert in the financial management of small businesses. Contact Larry Sherwood, NESEA, PO Box 541, Brattleboro, VT 05301. 802/254-2386.

The Grantsmanship Center is offering a variety of three-day intensive workshops on business ventures for nonprofit agencies. The workshops cover the following areas: selecting the right venture for your agency, coping with internal questions and concerns, exploring the tax implications of a business venture, analyzing the feasibility of your potential business, developing a business plan, and financing the venture. The workshops will be held through November and December in: San Diego, CA; Winston-Salem, NC; Seattle, WA; Tallahassee, FL; Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN; Philadelphia, PA; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; New Orleans, LA; San Francisco, CA; Detroit, MI; Phoenix, AZ; Los Angeles, CA; and Washington, DC. Contact the Grantsmanship Center, 1031 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90015; 800/421-9512 or 213/479-4721 in California, Alaska or Hawaii.

The Energy Bureau is having its first national conference on Investing in Cogeneration, November 8-9. The conference will be held at Stoффer's Concours Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The program is designed for cogeneration developers and investors and their advisors involved in investment analysis. The speakers will cover the cogeneration investment market and key considerations in investment decision-making, including economic, regulatory, operational, construction, and technological risk, as well as power sales and fuel-supply agreements. Contact Jeanne Van de Merlen, Planning Director, the Energy Bureau, Inc., 41 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017; 212/687-3177.

Solar Vision is offering two workshops:

- Photovoltaics: Fundamentals and Applications takes you from a beginning understanding of PV Concepts through system design, sizing, and application. Selling Solar Successfully focuses on how you can improve your bottom line in the fast-changing solar and energy-efficient building market. Photovoltaics is on November 1-2 in Chicago at the O'Hare Airport Howard Johnson's and November 13-14 in Boston at the John Hancock Institute. Selling Solar is on October 30-31 in Chicago and November 15-16 in Boston. The cost of each workshop is $575. Contact Solar Vision, Inc., Church Hill, Harrisville, NH 03450.

A three-day regional workshop on Composting and Land Application will be held November 14-16 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Experts from all over the nation will discuss the latest systems and research on converting sludge into resources. Topics will include evaluation and procurement of compost systems, post-
construction evaluation, what public officials can do to start a compost program, solving the landfill crisis, improving the economics of composting, odor control, building markets for sludge compost, and wastewater recycling in southeast Florida. The $195 registration fee includes field trips to a sewage-sludge composting facility, research center, and wastewater treatment plants. The workshop is sponsored by Biocycle magazine and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. Contact Biocycle, Box 351, Emmaus, PA 18049; 215/967-4135.

The Columbia Willamette Futures Forum (CWFF) is presenting its second annual Critical Choices '84 conference on November 16-17 at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. This year, the conference will focus on the future of regional services in the areas of libraries, parks, and transportation. Contact Carol Kelsey, Conference Coordinator, CWFF; CUE, 0245 SW Bancroft, Portland, OR 97201; 503-221-0984.

Interested in nutrition? Learn more at a conference on The Ecology of Nutrition on November 3 at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene, Oregon. The conference will present an exciting, innovative, and multidisciplinary look at nutrition, offering physiological, environmental, and cultural perspectives on what we eat and why we eat it. Registration fees are $15 (full-time students) and $20 (community professionals). Contact Paul Katz, Continuation Center, University of Oregon, 333 Oregon Hall, Eugene, OR 97403.

Environmental Consultants in Asia—The conclusions reached at the international conference Environment and Development: The Future for Consulting Firms in Asia, held February 14-17, 1984, in Singapore, are now available from the World Environment Center. The market for consulting engineers is changing in Asia. There will be fewer big contracts and many more smaller ones. One of the fastest growing areas for consulting firms to expand is in the area of integrated environmental planning and training. The current need for new environmental skills, and the nature of those needs and skills, is shown in several case histories, and is thoroughly discussed in the 40 pages and panel and workshop reports in the 345-page conference proceedings. The proceedings are available for $85 plus postage and handling ($5, North America; $15, elsewhere). World Environment Center, Department E, 605 Third Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10158; 212/986-7200 (Libby Bassett).

Software for Nutrition—The Center for Science in the Public Interest is the only publisher of educational software that takes on the controversies of nutrition and the environment from a consumer's point of view. The two programs, Nutri-Bytes and Eco-Paradise, entertain as well as inform. They each portray researched facts in the political and economic context of current events. Both programs are designed for ages 12 and older. Contact D'Anne DuBois, Assistant Marketing Director, CSPI, 1501 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Superinsulation—The Superinsulation Information Service offers numerous services, including: a twice-monthly newsletter of superinsulated construction techniques, products, policy issues and events; a publication distribution service; various seminars; design and construction consulting and a professional-services listing. For more information, contact Superinsulation Service, 56 JFK Street, Suite 7, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617/497-1453.

Free Science Resources—The U.S. Library of Congress offers a series of free bibliographies on various scientific subjects, including several on horticultural topics, such as herbs, edible wild plants, and organic gardening. These "LC Science Tracer Bullets" direct novices to readily available materials, including texts, bibliographies, abstracting services, and organizations. For a list of the subjects covered by the LC Science Tracer Bullets, contact the Science Reference Section, Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, 10 First Street, SE, Washington, DC 20540.

Illich Network—Ivan Illich—author of Deschooling Society, Medical Nemesis, Energy and Equity, Tools for Conviviality, and other books—visited Maine this summer to participate in the Institute on Democratic Alternatives. At the institute, he asked TRANET, a quarterly newsletter, to introduce a new page dedicated to drawing attention to trends of thought that question the assumptions common to large and small technologies: "We should question the assumption that information should be managed, be it for control or enablement. We should question the assumption that the world constitutes a resource to be managed, whether by the people themselves or by elites that dominate them." The items listed on the Illich page will be new publications, republications, or new studies or biographies that view the
historical foundations of the present critically. Susan Hunt of Maine, a close colleague of Illich, will edit this section. Contributors will include Wolfgang Sachs (Italy), Jean Robert (Mexico), John Ohlinger (Wisconsin), and Ivan Illich (West Germany). TRANET’s winter newsletter will contain the first Illich page, which will focus on publications analyzing paradigms that shape our daily lives and our futures. TRANET, a quarterly newsletter and directory, is available for $40/night from TRANET, PO Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970.

Quinua, Staple Food in the Andes—Quinua is becoming a prospect for a human food staple. It is, according to agricultural development specialist David F. Cusack, a grain that has been grown and eaten by people in the Andes since the days of the Incas. Quinua remains the mainstay for over 10 million farmers in South America. It can grow under harsh ecological conditions—high altitudes, relatively poor soil, low rainfall and cold temperatures—unlike other major cereal grains. Quinua is being studied and tested in Colorado by Sierra Blanca Associates, a nonprofit research and educational organization. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, with funding from Canada’s International Development Research Center, is trying to revive quinua in the Andes as the main crop rather than encourage the farmers to bring in new crops. It is also working to develop new markets, as quinua is a popular food among wealthy South Americans. The new market target is the U.S. Quinua has a good taste, it is easy to prepare, and it is versatile. A Bolivian woman has put together a recipe book entitled A Thousand Delicates of Quinua. Contact David F. Cusack, Sierra Blanca Associates, 75 Manhattan Drive, Suite 4, Boulder, CO 80303.

Native Calendar—Akwesasne Notes is celebrating its 16th Anniversary as a journal for native and natural people with its 1985 calendar. The calendar contains black-and-white plates by four well-known artists who represent different parts of this country. The artists are Linda Lomabaffe-wa, Hopi Nation; Kahionhés John Fadden, Mohawk Nation; Jaune Quick-to-see Smith, Flathead Nation; and Harry Fonseca, Maidu Nation. The proceeds, after production costs, will go into the newly established Akwesasne Notes Building Fund. The calendars are $8.50 each. Akwesasne Notes Calendar 1985, Akwesasne Notes, Mohawk Nation via Roosevelttown, NY 13683.

Seed Search Internships—Students interested in a 3- to 4-week intensive work-study internship in Tucson, Arizona, are invited to send a letter and resume indicating their period of availability; long-term interests and scholastic major; skills in gardening, marketing, agriculture or plant ecology; data inventory; or journalism; and living requirements. Activities include propagation of desert-adapted crops and their wild relatives, rare wild-plant population monitoring and seed collection and documentation, seed storage in gene banks, and newsletter and display development. Arrangements for college credit will be made. Native Seeds/SEARCH is a nonprofit, exempt conservation, education, and research organization devoted to useful plant diversity in the Southwest U.S. and Northwest Mexico. Contact Karen Reichhardt, Native Seeds/ SEARCH, 2901 W. New York Drive, Tucson, AZ 85745; 602/268-1425.

‘Deeds Not Words’—Service Civil International (SCI) was founded in 1920 by Swiss engineer Pierre Ceresole, whose original work camp brought together former enemies from World War I to recreate the devastated village of Verdun. Through “deeds not words,” Ceresole envisioned a way to replace compulsory military service with constructive voluntary service. For the past 60 years, SCI has been a nonprofit, self-sustaining group promoting peace and international understanding through voluntary work. SCI has no government, political, or religious affiliation. Each year, the SCI network encompasses about 350 work camps. In 1983 more than 10,000 volunteers were active in projects in over 50 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. SCI supports local work groups, educational activities, and long-term projects as well as the work camps. Contact SCI/USA, PO Box 3333, New York, NY 10185.

Bishops for A.T.—In Canada recently, a committee of Catholic bishops published two reports advocating the decentralization of industry and the use of appropriate "human" technology. A copy of the second report can be obtained for approximately $3 U.S. from the Chancery Office, Catholic Charities Building, 150 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 2A7, Canada; 604/683-0281.

Long Island Cooperatives—The Human Link, in the New York City area, is a new group of people researching cooperative working and living options. Its goals are to inform the people in the Long Island area about the cooperative movement and workplace democracy. Human Link plans to exchange views on and organize one or more economically viable small cooperative businesses and to possibly establish a self-sufficient living community. Members of the group are welcome to share in either project. Future activities will be based on worker ownership, worker safety, appropriate technology, and networking. Contact Lloyd Schwartz, 1192 Flower Lane, Wantagh, NY 11793; 516/781-6973 (Lloyd) or 212/347-8057 (Paul or Cynthia).

Gardening Catalog—The National Association for Gardening has its first publications catalog available now. It has listed various types of information, from Gardens For All, The Gardener’s News Magazine, to its new book series for the garden-project organizer, to the National Gardening Survey. Contact Gardens For All, the National Association for Gardening, 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401; 802/863-1308.

Ecological Horticulture—The Agroecology Program/U.C. Extension offers a six-month Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture, April 3 to September 27, 1985, at the Farm & Garden, Santa Cruz. Emphasis is on hands-on learning, with instruction in horticultural methods (sowing, cultivation, composting, propagation, irrigation), cultivar requirements (vegetables, herbs, flowers, fruits), and pest and disease identification and control. For further information, please write: Apprenticeship, Farm & Garden, Agroecology Program, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064; 408/429-4140.

Third World Computer Grants—Kaypro Corporation of Solana Beach, California, has sent out 300 computers to 30 different developing countries as part of its International Grants Program. The program was originally set up to develop toxic chemical data bases so that Third World countries would know what they were getting into when buying drugs, pesticides, and other chemicals that had been banned in developed countries. However, the program soon expanded to promote a variety of uses of computers in developing nations, such as forecasting food shortages, monitoring elections in El Salvador, and coordinating research on the destruction of tropical ecosystems. Appropriate technology? Time will tell.

Erratum_—The correct phone number for the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems in Austin, Texas, is 512/928-4786. We cited Max’s Pot in an article on bamboo as a building material in the September/October issue of RAIN.
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