

# STREET

MAGAZINE OF THE ENVIRONMENT



All of us  
at the  
Pratt Center  
wish you the best  
this  
Holiday Season!

Issue 8 • December 1972

The Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development

Dear Reader of STREET:



Our correspondence indicates that many consider STREET to be a rewarding (and revealing) digest of the latest news on the environmental front.

We are also cited for our reprint selection which allows you *specific* information on vital issues, as well as *general* information concerning cities and city-life in other parts of the U.S. and abroad.

More than a few requests have come in for bulk orders from schools, community groups and block associations.

It seems to make *the* difference, when you are trying to persuade key individuals and government leaders of your sincerity, if you can supply convincing documentation on your views and community decisions affecting you!

For these reasons we feel STREET fills a real need. That need? INFORMATION, plain and simple. Information you need.

Won't you help us in this effort? We are asking all readers of STREET to make a contribution of their choice to further our efforts. No amount will be considered too small (or too large)!

Please send your contributions to:

The Pratt Institute Center  
for Community & Environmental Development  
240 Hall Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Make checks payable to Pratt Institute.

All contributions are tax-deductible. All contributors will receive, at no cost, our Environmental Resource Guide Poster Series. Large 18 x 24 inch handsomely illustrated sheets filled with information concerning Tree Planting, How to Deal With Pollution, Animal Care, Gardens, Parks, Nature Trails, Legal Action and more.

We appreciate your support.

The involvement of the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development has been made possible through the generosity of the Office of Environmental Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and Citizens For A Better Environment.

The opinions expressed in STREET are not necessarily those of the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development or of Pratt Institute.

The Street Collaborative reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

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(Printed on Recycled Paper)

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## ARTICLES

There are a lot of storefronts in the Gowanus-Carroll Gardens-Boerum Hill community, but there is one that really stands out. It is the headquarters of the Union Betterment Association, a kaleidoscopic red, green, pink, blue, and orange student-painted building at the corner of Degraw and Smith Streets, where this unique community supported agency is beginning its third season of multi-purpose service to the area.

When Peter Mollo, as UBA's founder and director, calls his agency a multi-service agency, he means it. Union is an experimental after-school and Saturday day care center, funded by the Agency for Child Development. It is also an arts school and a community counseling agency dealing with every kind of problem. These include mental health, employment, school difficulties, and even refereeing teenage disputes.

Recently, for example, Union was the site of a peace meeting between two groups of teenagers who had staged a pitched battle on Union Street not long before. And every day people come in with different kinds of problems, ranging from difficulties with city bureaucracies to drug education. If Union is unable to help them directly, one of the staff makes sure that each person is referred to someone who can.

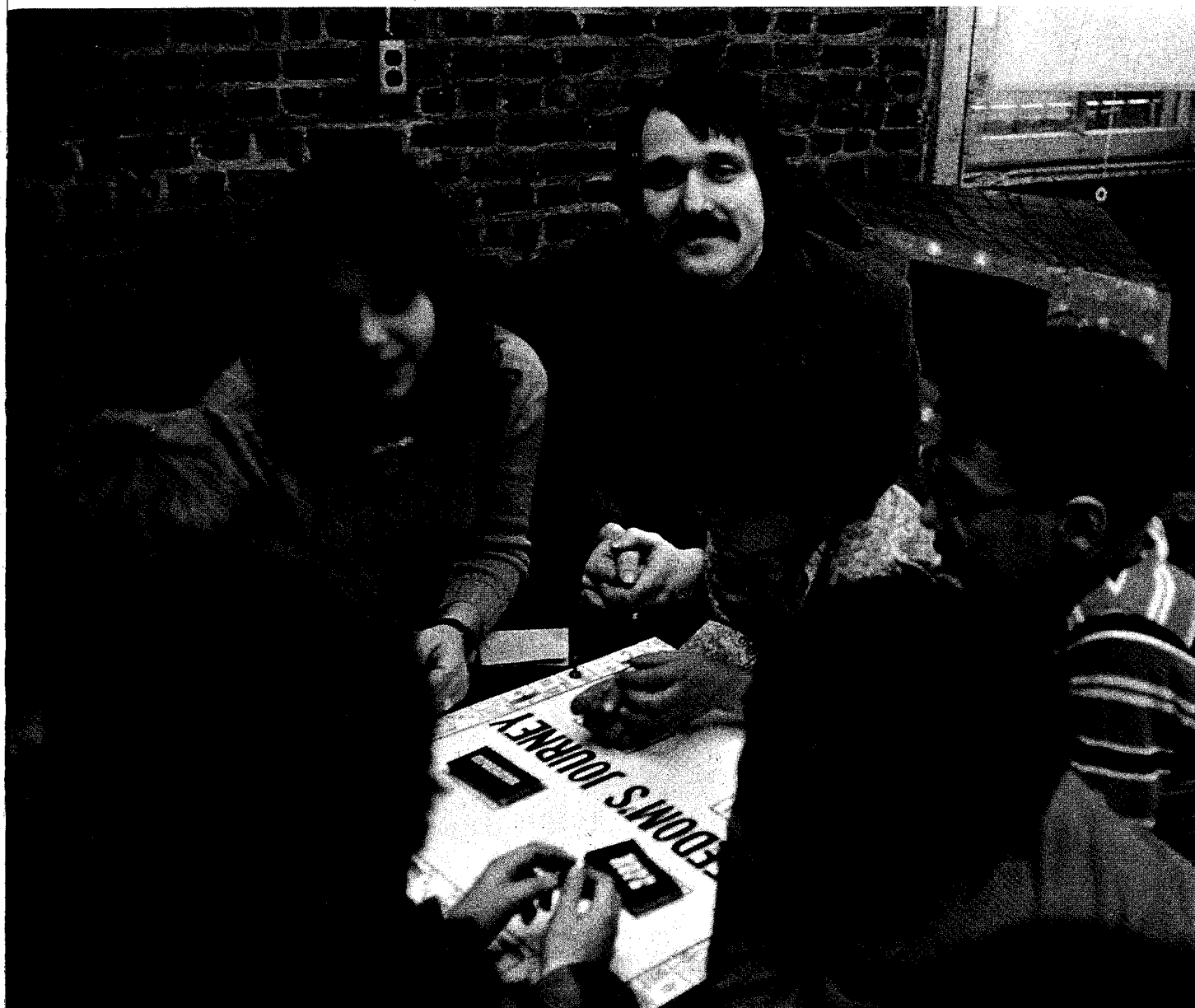
Union's goals have evolved considerably since Mollo's wife Ruth and he founded the agency in the winter of 1969-70.

# Union Betterment Association

**LAUNCHES ART, DAY CARE,  
ENVIRONMENTAL,  
AND AFTER-SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS**

The UBA began as the Union Street Betterment Association when Ruth and Peter, who are both artists, decided to try to awaken grass root interest in the arts in the community. Using their own funds and donations from families of children involved in the program, they set up a school in their home.

By the summer of 1970 the program had created a great deal of local enthusiasm. That summer they began receiving support from the Congress of Italian-American Organizations (CIAO) and Local 1814 of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA). This allowed the UBA to formally constitute itself as an independent organization and move into its current storefront. And, not the least of improvements, to begin paying its volunteer teachers and teenage aides. Painting, sculpture, dance, drama, and music classes were held. At the same time Union began sponsoring and initiating neighborhood improvement projects, such as working with local teenagers to build the small park at the corner of Union and Smith Streets. The younger students also wrote and produced a play, entitled "Christmas in Red Hook" which was presented at the ILA hall.



At present, Union is undergoing another change in direction. While continuing with the experimental day-care arts program, with the help of educational administrator James Pryor and a professional staff, Union is hoping to expand counseling services to the neighborhood by moving into larger quarters. Other plans underway are to implement a city funded drug education and rehabilitation program. A Youth Services Center will soon be opened next door to provide expanded services for teenagers (ages 13-20), who are too old for the After-School Center. In yet another area, the UBA, under the direction of Mr. Mollo, is conducting an experiment in conjunction with Columbia University's Social Psychology Department and the children at Union to determine a correlation between self-esteem and reading achievement.

No such programs, staffed and controlled by local people, exist in the area, and anyone walking the streets for an hour or so will quickly be convinced of the great need for them.

In its two years in the community, the Union Betterment Association has accomplished a good deal, within its classes and in creating a neighborhood center. It has also demonstrated that if the people of a community are offered the chance, they will enthusiastically work together in supporting such an agency. This discovery may prove to be the greatest benefit of the UBA, both for the immediate areas served by the UBA and for other Brooklyn communities who need similar services of their own.

If you're interested in Union or would like more information regarding their programs, drop in at 71 Douglass Street / Brooklyn or call 237-9576. ■

# TOYLAND TROUBLE MAKERS



Reprinted with permission from the Autumn '72 issue of  
**Everybody's Money**, the credit union magazine for consumers,  
published by Credit Union National Association, Inc.,  
Box 431, Madison, Wisconsin 53701.

If toys really were made by elves under the strict supervision of Mr. and Mrs. S. Claus, we would not be faced with the large number of injuries and deaths caused annually by unsafe toys.

But this just isn't the case; instead, many dangerous toys find their way from the manufacturer to the marketplace to the hands of children, often maiming them, sometimes killing them.

In an effort to make toys hazard-free, Congress passed the 1970 Child Protection and Toy Safety Act. A spokesman for the Bureau of Product Safety Food and Drug Administration, told **Everybody's Money** that since the act went into effect approximately 700 different types of toys, numbering in the millions, have been banned or corrected for safety in seven different classes.

(The seven different classes of toys are rattles; noisemaking toys, normally those of a squeaker type; dolls and stuffed toys; lawn darts and other sharp-pointed instruments intended for outdoor use; caps and toy guns for use without caps; clacker balls and baby walkers, bouncers and exercisers.)

The FDA spokesman said that "Although the act does not call for the mandatory recall on the part of the manufacturer, approximately one-third of those we have contacted have cooperated with us." He pointed out that there is no regulation banning the manufacture of unsafe toys; it's only illegal to distribute them through interstate commerce. A manufacturer could make unsafe toys and sell them in his own state, unless state law prohibits him.

As **Everybody's Money** went to press, the FDA was still in the midst of preparing its regulation covering the repurchase of toys and household chemicals banned as hazardous substances, a provision of the 1970 act. Under this provision, the consumer will be guaranteed the full refund for the hazardous toy and reasonable transportation reimbursement if he has saved the receipt listing the retailer, article and price. If he does not have this receipt, he would be refunded only the wholesale price.

The refund regulation is dependent on the hazardous chemical regulation which will reduce the maximum amount of lead allowed in the paint used on toys and children's furniture. The key point here is whether a retroactive cutoff date will be allowed or if the refunds will be made no matter when the item was manufactured.

Until the day comes when only safe toys are sold,

the consumer will have to remain on the lookout for toyland troublemakers. The Bureau of Product Safety says you should be especially mindful of such things as sharp cutting edges or points, small loose parts that can be swallowed or caught in your child's throat, toys that may pinch or toys that make such a loud noise that they can cause injury to a child's hearing.

If you spot a toy that is potentially dangerous for one of these or any other reason, notify the FDA's Toy Review Committee, describing the toy, its name (if any), model number (if any), and name and address of the manufacturer or distributor. Also include the name and address of the store stocking the item. Send your comments to Toy Review Committee, Bureau of Product Safety, Food and Drug Administration, 5401 Westbard Ave., Bethesda, Maryland 20016. Send a copy to your congressmen in Washington. You should also notify the store manager that you think the toy is dangerous and should be removed from the shelf.

Here are some guidelines to follow when you select toys for a child:

Never allow a child to select a toy without adult cooperation. A small child might fall in love with a seemingly safe, cuddly, stuffed kitten; he has no way of knowing that the adorable little face with the button features has sharp tacks holding on the eyes and nose.

Carefully consider the age of the child when you shop for his toy. For example, an eight-year-old will know not to swallow marbles but a three-year-old might find them tempting.

If you're buying an electrical toy, get a battery-operated one for a small child. Be sure an electrical toy for an older child carries the seal of Underwriters Laboratory.

If the toy is sealed into a package, ask the retailer to open it so that you may fully inspect it.

Never order a toy by telephone or mail if you are not thoroughly familiar with the article. Think of the child's disappointment if it arrives in the mail and is found to be unsafe.

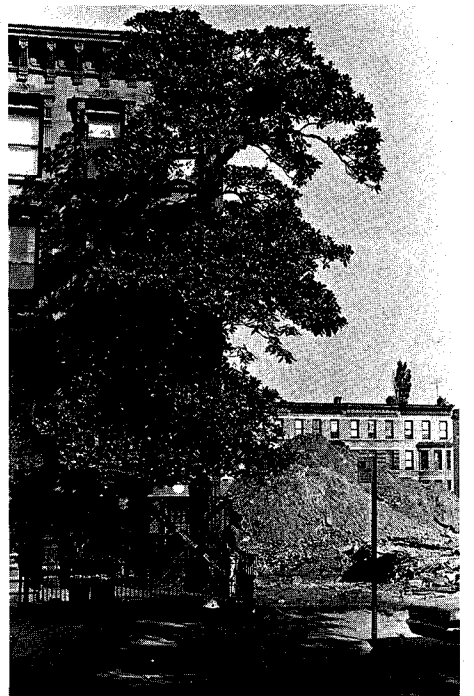
Read all labels carefully, noting any guarantees and precautions. Be sure to save your purchase receipt.

Remember that children really like toys that let them use their imagination, toys that involve them in the play situation. They'll soon be bored by a super-duper windup whiz that does everything all by itself. □

Pride is the name of the game when you're helping take care of your own neighborhood trees

# Magnolia Tree Earth Center of Bedford Stuyvesant

The Magnolia Grandiflora at 679 Lafayette Avenue, New York City's only living land mark stands adjacent to the proposed Magnolia Tree Earth Center, presently three abandoned brownstones.



The Magnolia Tree Earth Center of Bedford-Stuyvesant is the development of a living, growing, unfolding concern and grass roots effort by the citizens of this Brooklyn community to improve the neighborhood at the block level.

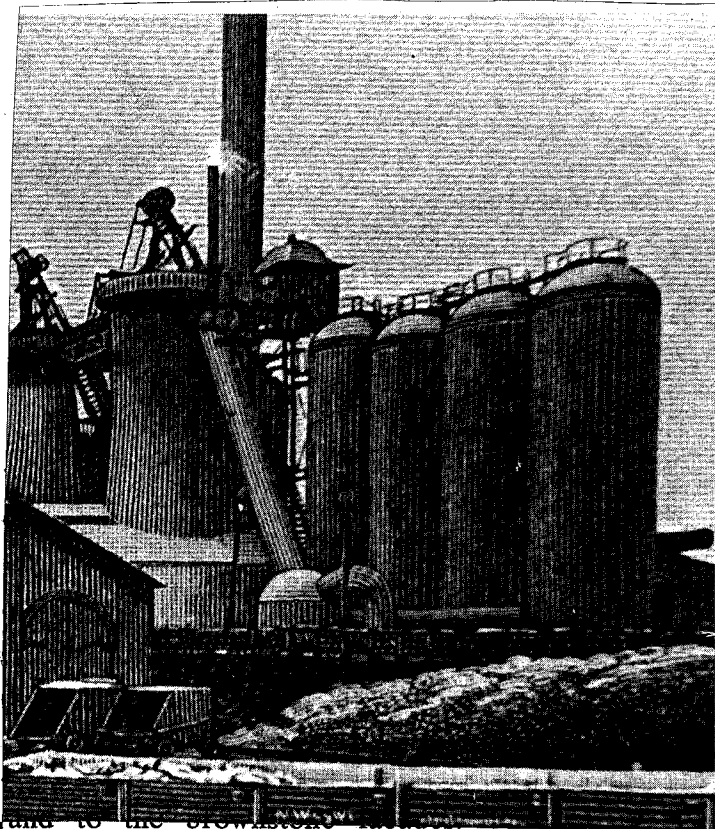
It all started in a very small way back in 1966. A few neighbors started a block association on Vernon Avenue between Tompkins and Throop and called themselves the Vernon Avenue, T & T Block Association. One of their first acts was to plant 12 trees in cooperation with the New York City Parks Department.

With that success, the Bedford-Stuyvesant Beautification Association was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Hattie Carthan, affectionately known as the "tree lady." The main idea of the association was to encourage blocks throughout the community to organize themselves into associations and to plant trees. The next year saw 20 blocks as members of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Beautification Association. By 1970, nearly 100 block associations were formed and organized for the purpose of planting trees under the matching program of the New York City Parks Department. The original planting of 12 saplings had now grown to over 1500 trees lining residential streets and shopping thoroughfares.

During this same period of time in 1969 it was discovered that a famous tree, the Magnolia Grandiflora, an unofficial neighborhood landmark, was threatened by a proposed Model Cities housing site. This great old tree was the only one of its size and grandeur north of Philadelphia.

The Magnolia Tree Committee was immediately formed to protect this rare neighborhood treasure from the destruction of the bulldozer. The rallying call was "Save a Tree, Save a Neighborhood."

A fund raising drive was launched to protect the tree. Publicity about the efforts of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community to save the tree was nationwide. Front page stories and photos of the tree surrounded by neighborhood children were carried in the press from New York to California. Letters, poems, and contributions poured in from all over the country. The Horticultural Society of New York joined the Bedford-Stuyvesant community through a matching fund with the sale of leaves from a uniquely designed paper Magnolia Tree. Reingold Breweries and Mobil Oil made generous donations.



Grandiflora at 679 Lafayette Avenue is an official Landmark of the City of New York.

The Committee was now determined to save the buildings and establish an Earth Center within them. The Earth Center would be a place where young people and adults from this community could learn about the basic natural elements of the environment—the air, the water, the land, and man's relationship to and dependence upon them. Further, individuals and groups could learn how to do something to create a more natural urban environment by protecting and expanding these basic resources of nature.

*Continued on page 34*



Preparing the earth, especially urban earth, is the first, most important step.

side is the name of the game when you're helping take care of your



# THOSE GREAT SOUTH BROOKLYN KIDS

This past summer two Pratt School of Architecture students, Joseph Sparacia and Rodney Stone, found themselves directing 33 community youths through a Neighborhood Beautification Program in South Brooklyn co-sponsored by the South Brooklyn Italian-American Community Council and the Pratt Center for Community and Environmental Development. At the outset, the program seemed to call for major surgery, but some minor operations proved adequate.

They began by weeding and clearing garbage and debris from the many vacant lots throughout the neighborhood. Under the guidance of Joe, the youths painted the cast iron fence around the local church and school, while Rodney had them painting the equipment that stood in the playgrounds. The paint was given to them by Volunteers in Parks, as were the brooms and garbage bags. The swings and their posts were painted a peppermint stick red and blue, the see-saws also got their share, while the ground got supersized arrows welcoming visitors and directing them to the various activities.

A free lunch program was instituted by the Catholic Parents Charities and not only eaten by the participating children (varying in age from 14-18). Each day some lunches were also taken to those community senior citizens who because of sickness or old age were unable to leave their homes; the children loved bringing them and the senior citizens loved receiving them.

Many overly-neglected streets were weeded, swept, and the garbage neatly packed in plastic bags for pickups by the Department of Sanitation, whose cooperation was always prompt and pleasant. Park benches in community sitting areas were given a face lift with just a fresh coat of red paint, while an overgrown area surrounding two small playgrounds was cleared, the earth dug up, and paved with over 1,000 bricks retrieved from demolished buildings and those vacant lots they worked so hard to clear.

It is within these playgrounds that the origins of this program lie. Both Joe and Rodney were asked by the co-sponsors to work on the design of play ground equipment for a site on Smith Street in Carroll Gardens, which had just been given a \$25,000 line in the capital budget for renovation. They accepted, and as part of their design solution decided that if the equipment were built by community members and themselves labor cost would be reduced, allowing more money to be spent on facilities. They began to propose programs

*Continued on page 34*

**B**usiness is using a steadily growing volume of recycled paper products and will accelerate this trend markedly in coming years, according to a two-year study spearheaded by the New York Chamber of Commerce to speed up the growth of markets for recycled paper.

The 64-page study, titled "Paper Recycling: A Business Perspective," underscores the "unmanageable amount" of garbage being generated by the United States—an annual total of 3.5 billion tons. New York City alone generates 29,000 tons of garbage daily—over half is paper products.

One very positive answer to this pollution, says the study, is the large scale utilization of waste paper as the raw material for a wide variety of paper products, manufactured by mills close to urban centers. "The paper industry already has the knowledge, equipment and techniques to recycle much more paper than it is currently handling. It needs the guaranteed markets and favorable economics to do this."

Thomas N. Stainbeck, executive vice president of the New York Chamber, said the solution outlined in the study is one which every businessman can clearly understand. "It's a marketing problem. At the present time, a very large proportion of paper mills are located far from urban centers and adjacent to forest land—the source of their prime raw materials. Yet, these paper companies realize full well that the demand for paper is rapidly increasing and that supplies of virgin fibers are to some extent limited. Many would like to develop paper mills in close proximity to urban centers, using waste paper as their principal raw material. But to do this, they must be assured of a market for recycled paper products."

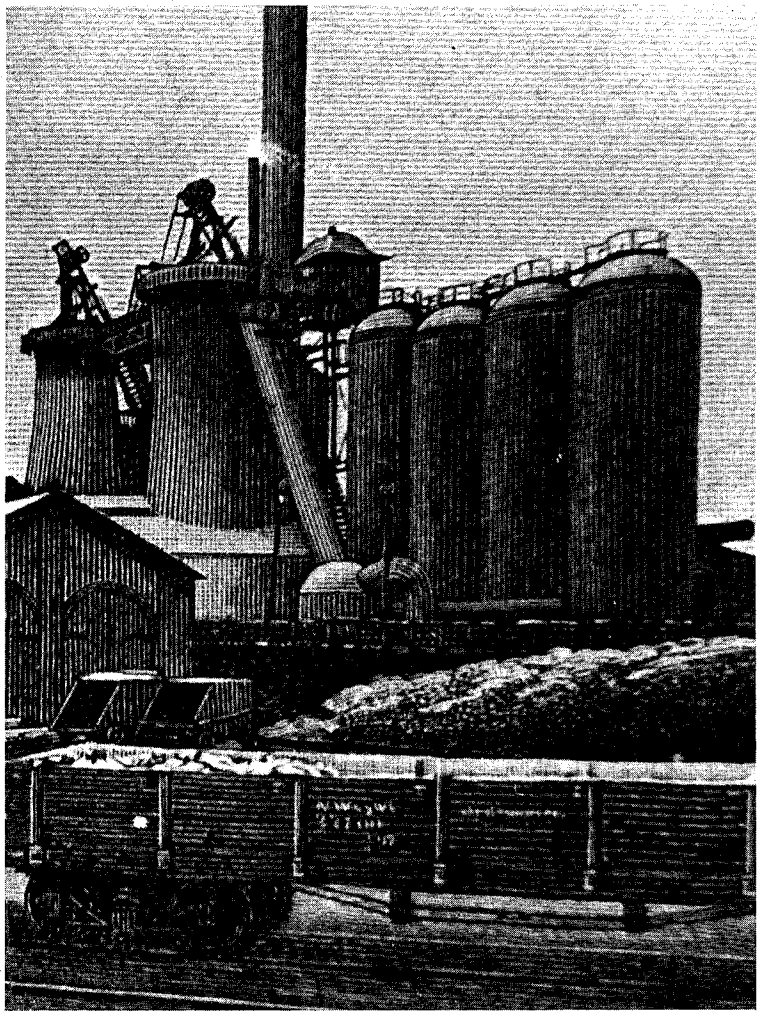
The study, authored by Michael Belknap, the former director of the Council on the Environment for New York City, interviewed a wide spectrum of national and New York-based firms. A variety of comments concerning recycling policies of their companies are quoted in the study.

#### **Principal Findings**

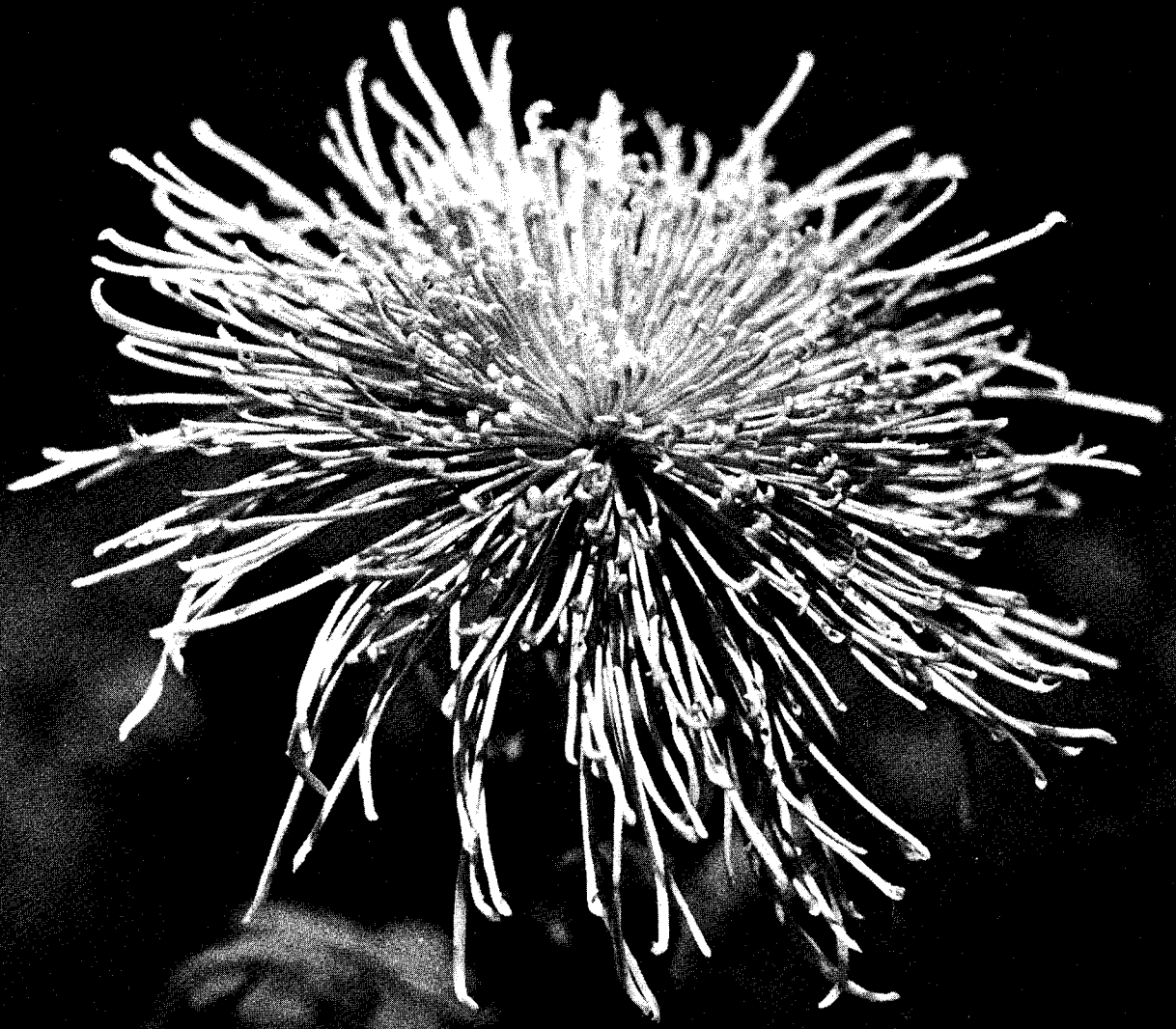
Principal findings of the study include the following:

- Products made from recycled fiber perform as well as, if not better than, virgin products.
- Recycled paper products are available to customers at comparable costs.
- Recycling of discarded waste paper is important. It reduces the amount of material to be disposed of by city garbage systems and conserves natural resources.
- Unless business leaders, purchasing agents, paper producers and

*Continued on page 34*



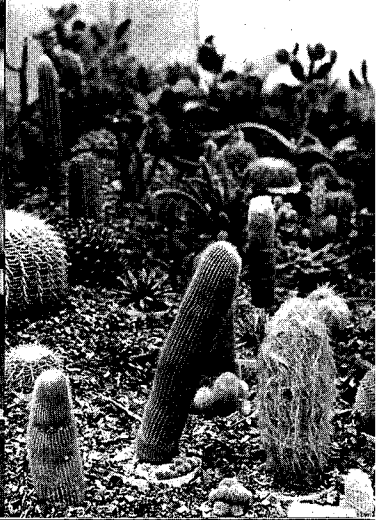
## **STUDY REVEALS GROWING USE OF RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS**



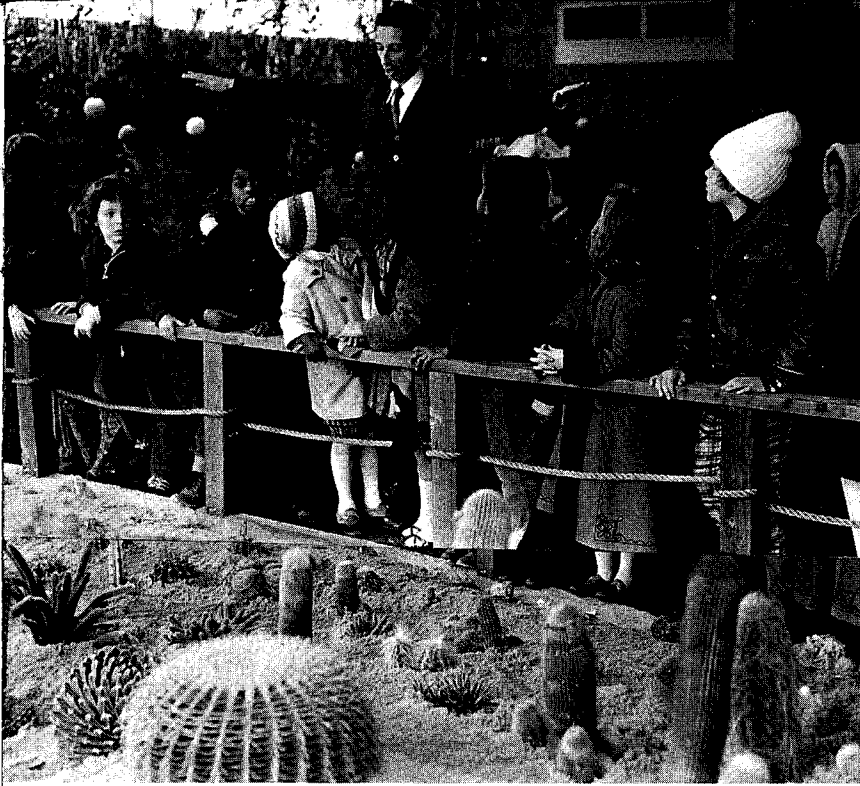
*A Spider Chrysanthemum, one of the hardy, outdoor garden plants on exhibit and for sale.*

*Among the 75,000 house plants for sale were these striped spider plants, dramatically displayed in the Tropical Gardens.*

*More than 4,000 public and private school children came and learned about plants and their important role in the environment.*



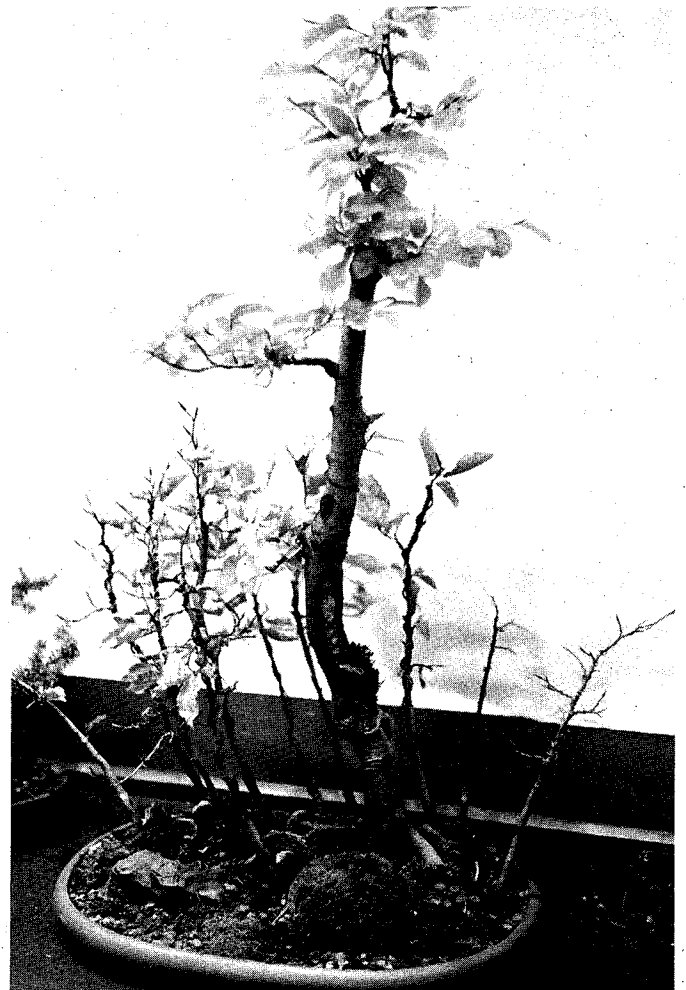
*School children listen intently to plant expert David Benjamin telling about cacti—which are in danger of being bulldozed out of their native environment by various developers in the Southwest. Each class was taken on a tour of the show and given expert and accurate information on all the exhibits and any plants they purchased.*



*Students from Borough Academy explore a new environment—a rock garden displayed by Hank Weissenberger. The garden contained 21 varieties of dwarf trees and shrubs including a unique Chinese Bonsai of the Juniper family.*

*Over 10,000 people attended the environmental show and sale*

*One of the 50 varieties of bonsai displayed by the N.Y. Bonsai Society.*



# Liveable New York

Reprinted courtesy of The New York City Parks Council.

## MEMORIAL PROGRAM:

You may have given donations to charities in memory of a family member or friend. Why not give a bench in or near a park or a piece of play equipment?

We'll have a small plaque inscribed "In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_"

attached to a bench or play equipment. A visible, important memorial to anyone who loved New York.

A minimum contribution to our Memorial Fund for the Parks of \$250 (for a bench) or \$750 (for play equipment) is required. The Memorial Fund for the Parks will be used entirely for badly needed park improvements throughout New York City.



## OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS: BIG AND SMALL:

We can do a big program or a little project. We can run a series of events—like helping a corporation sponsor a summer bus program. We can tie into existing projects that need a base of operation or an administrative arm. We can keep the books and receive funds for block associations or community groups that aren't tax exempt. We can help do a large scale planting of tulips in Central Park or lilacs in Crotona Park. We're very flexible. We want to help people help New York.

There's so much to do. Here's only a very small start for you or your group.

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1. **ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**, 171st Street and Webster Avenue in the Bronx, built by kids and constantly rebuilding, needs \$15,000 annually to sustain its much talked about program. Call us.
2. **26 FOOT HIGH SCULPTURE FOR BROOKLYN**, Albee Square, Fulton and DeKalb Avenues. A donor has already given \$20,000 for the sculpture. Needed is \$2000 to erect the sculpture at the site, or \$5000 to renovate the site for a sitting area and sculpture placement. Call us.
3. **GIANT-VAC CLEANS UP NEIGHBORHOOD**. Any neighborhood or block association group can dramatically benefit from the use of the Giant-Vac. The cost is very low and depends on the area to be cleaned. Call us.
4. **SUMMER BUS PROGRAM**. For \$85 a bus could take 40 adults or 60 children from a group like the Henry Street Settlement to a place like the Anthony Wayne Recreation Center near Bear Mountain for the day. The cost includes the permit fee and the round trip full day bus ride. For under \$1000 a dozen different groups could each have a beautiful day outside New York City. Call us.



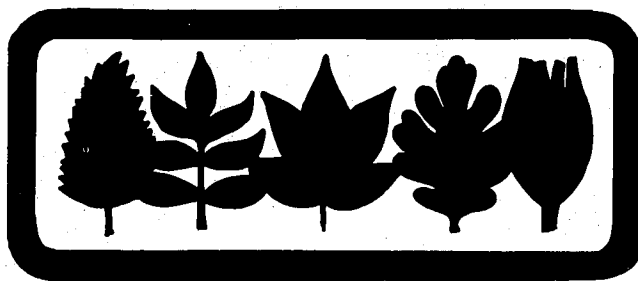
5. **46th STREET PLAYGROUND**, 46th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues, Manhattan. The Playground is budgeted at \$155,000. It would be an extremely important facility in the area in which it is located. Contributions of any size are vital. Call us.

## 6. MONUMENT REHABILITATION.

*In the Bronx*, the General Porter Memorial in Van Cortlandt Park needs a new bronze sword, \$750; the Italian Fountain in the Bronx Zoo needs to be water-proofed, \$5000;

*In Brooklyn*, 12 urns at the entrance to Prospect Park at Grand Army Plaza need to be restored, \$6000; the Lafayette Memorial in Prospect Park needs a new sword blade and two spurs, \$500;

*In Manhattan*, Cleopatra's Needle in Central Park needs new bronze railing and caps, \$3000; the Verdi Monument at 72nd



Street and Broadway needs almost total rehabilitation, \$7500;

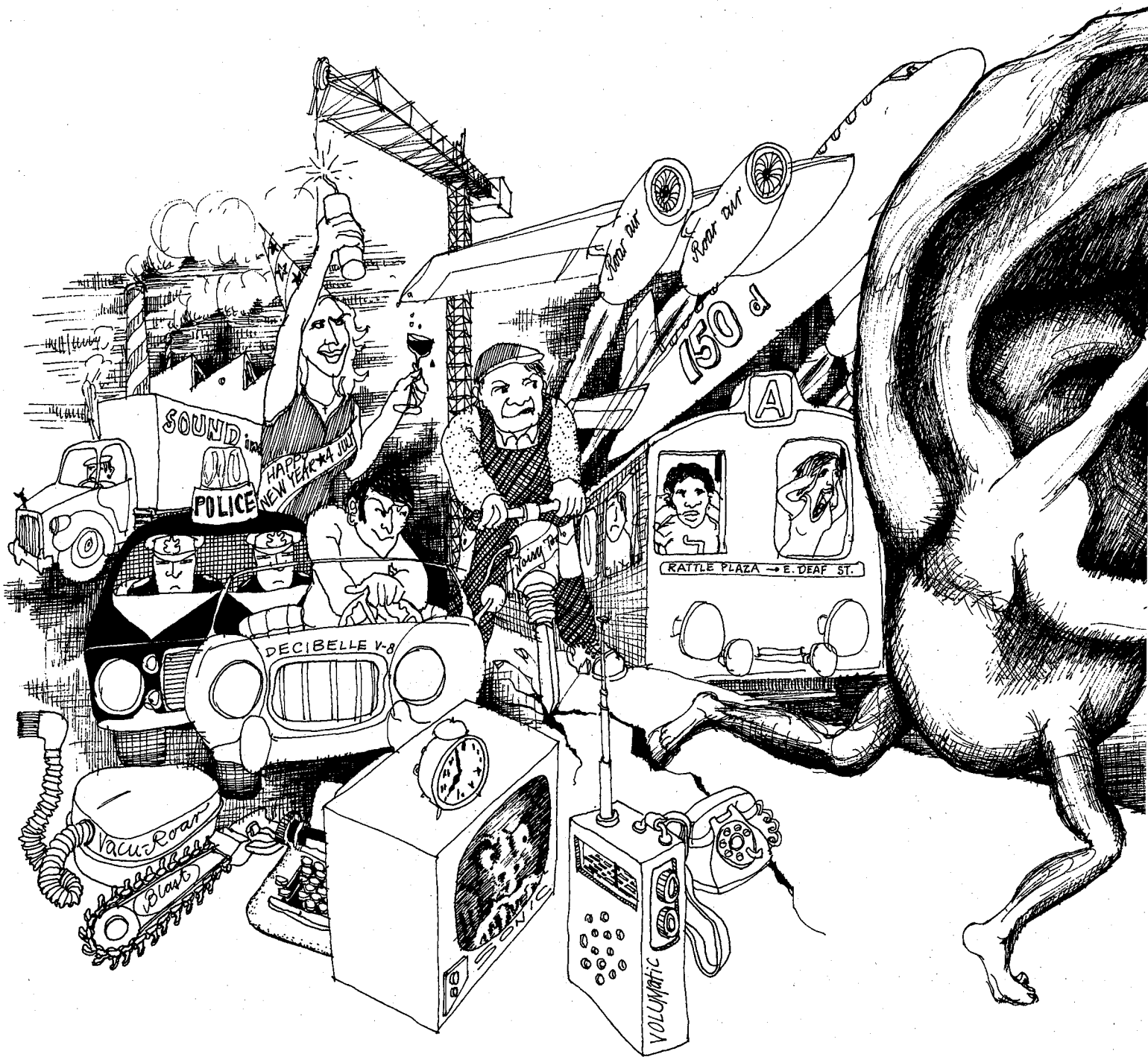
*In Queens*, the Winfield Memorial at Laurel Hill Blvd. and 65th Place needs total rehabilitation, \$4000; the Zodiac Fountain at the NYC Building in Flushing Meadow Park needs its symbols replaced, \$2500;

*In Staten Island*, the Pleasant Plains War Memorial at Amboy road and Bloomingdale Road needs total rehabilitation and a new site, \$5000. In addition there are more than 40 more projects that could use assistance. Call us.

7. **CAMPERDOWN FUND**. Help us save the trees you love in our parks. Call us.
- 

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Urban Improvements Program is grateful for the assistance it has received from the officers and board of directors of the Fund for the City of New York; the advertising agency, Foote, Cone & Belding; Marsh & McLennan, Inc., Insurance Brokers; and the numerous City officials who with immense good will have helped make this program possible.



We live in the noisiest country on earth and it's getting steadily noisier. The roar, clatter, rattle and scream of our untamed technology is driving us crazy and killing us off early. This rising tide of unwanted sound ruins our environment as surely as air and water pollution, yet little or nothing is done to stop it. Factory machines deafen workers. Hospital patients suffer unnecessarily because they can't get the rest they need for recuperation. School lessons, church services and congressional debates are drowned out by jets overhead. Apartment dwellers break their leases and move out of town in search of peace and quiet, only to find that tractors, trucks, motorcycles, snowmobiles, power mowers and portable radios make life almost as miserable in the country as it is in the city.

Urban noise is doubling every ten years, and if it keeps on at the present rate it will soon become a deadly threat to public health. But almost nobody seems to care. For one thing, audible pollution is insidious. We get used to it even while it may be doing more damage to our health than other pollutants. Four to five million Americans have had their hearing impaired by the din we live with. An estimated 13 million of us live near enough to an airport to suffer from jet engine roar. Seventeen million work in dangerously noisy occupations, and 150 million--the growing urban and suburban population--are surrounded day and night by levels of sound that degrade the quality of life and do untold mental and physical damage. Where does all this noise come from and what can



# NOISE POLLUTION:

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT ALL THAT RACKET?

This is the first article in a series of eight reprinted from **Better Homes and Gardens** magazine. © Meredith Corporation, 1971. All rights reserved.

be done about it? Measured from zero decibels the threshold of audibility, the sounds around us range from such pleasant background music as the rustle of leaves in a light breeze (20 decibels) to a close-by jet's roar on takeoff (150 decibels). Prolonged exposure to noise above 85 decibels can cause permanent damage to hearing.

Motor vehicles are our major noise producers, contributing as much as 75 percent to the decibel count in large cities. Trucks and buses are far noisier than passenger cars, and as trucks get bigger and speeds increase, so does the noise. Heavy diesel tractors often go over 90 decibels, and garbage trucks that compact trash generate 100 decibels.

Construction makes the second largest contribution to the discordant urban symphony. Putting

up housing, offices and factories, laying highways and streets and installing underground electric cables, telephone lines, gas lines and sewers all generate surplus energy in the form of sound waves. This work is done by air compressors that roar at 100 decibels, jackhammers that clatter at 105 decibels and bulldozers and paving machines that thunder at 110 decibels. In a single year New York City averages 10,000 demolitions and construction projects and 80,000 street repairs.

Noise follows us inside houses that were built without acoustical insulation. Apartment walls are so flimsy that we have to share the neighbors' battles and celebrations. We add to these unwelcome outside sounds with an orchestration of our own unmuffled appliances--washing machines that drown out conversations, blenders and garbage disposers louder than a shout in the ear, and window air conditioners that would make it impossible to sleep if they didn't mask even louder sounds from the street.

We turn up the television to drown out the air conditioner. Meanwhile our children go out dancing to rock bands that are electronically amplified to generate more sound energy than a jackhammer and can push a noise meter up to 130 decibels. This is enough to deafen both players and listeners either temporarily or permanently, depending on the length of exposure and sensitivity of the individual's ears.

Those of us who don't go deaf are exposed to enough daily noise to cause fatigue and tension--enough, according to medical authorities, to help bring on heart disease. Research has shown that even moderate amounts of noise raise blood pressure, pulse rate and blood cholesterol, cause blood vessels to constrict, adrenaline to flow and pupils to dilate. Noise brings on heart attacks and strokes in laboratory animals. Dr. Vern O. Knudsen, a pioneer of noise research, says that if the noise level in this country keeps increasing at its current rate for the next 20 years, it could become lethal.

Yet this maddening discord is largely controllable or unnecessary. Engineering techniques are available that can muffle noise from road and rail vehicles, construction machinery, industrial plants and aircraft. Appliances can be made quiet and homes and apartments soundproof. With a little common sense and consideration, we can stop inflicting our own acoustical mayhem on others. We'll also need a lot of help from scientists and engineers, government agencies, and the industries that manufacture and use all the noisemaking machines that make life miserable.

### What government can do

Transportation noise control would be a good place for government to

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# ONLY ONE EARTH



This article is the second in a series reprinted from *Only One Earth*, United Nations Conference On The Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 published by the Centre for Economic and Social Information at United Nations European Headquarters, Geneva.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

In a statement to the Conference at its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 June 1972, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Maurice F. Strong, stated that the high level of participation in the Conference was most encouraging; it was greatly to be hoped that the reasons for the absence from the Conference of some countries which had played such an important role in the preparatory process—reasons which were not related to environmental issues—would soon be resolved, and that those countries would be actively involved in dealing with the tasks presented by problems of the human environment.

The Conference was launching a new liberation movement to free men from the threat of their thralldom to environmental perils of their own making. The movement could succeed only if there was a new commitment to liberation from the destructive forces of mass poverty, racial prejudice, economic injustice, and the technologies of modern warfare. Mankind's whole work and dedication must be towards the ideal of a peaceful, habitable and just planet.

The Conference could not deal with all the ills of the world, but if it successfully accomplished the important work before it, it would establish a new and more hopeful basis for resolving the seemingly intractable problems that divided mankind. It had to be recognized that the physical interdependence of all people required new dimensions of economic, social and political interdependence. Better means would have to be devised for making knowledge available to decision-makers and to those who would be affected by decisions.

Developing countries could ill afford to put uncertain future needs ahead of their immediate needs for food, shelter, work, education and health care. The problem was how to reconcile those legitimate immediate requirements with the interests of generations yet unborn. Environmental factors must be an integral part of development strategy; one of the most encouraging outcomes of the preparatory

process had been the emergence of a new synthesis between development and environment.

The concept of "no growth" could not be a viable policy for any society, but it was necessary to rethink the traditional concepts of the basic purposes of growth.

The vast benefits which the new technological order had produced were undeniable, but man's activities had created serious imbalances. Not only each society but the world as a whole must achieve a better balance among the major elements that determined the level and quality of life it could provide for its members—population and its distribution, available resources and their exploitation, and pressures placed on the life systems that sustained it.

Conference action was required on the proposed Declaration on the Human Environment; on the proposed Action Plan for the Human Environment; on the proposed Environment Fund—which would be additional to monies which Governments made available for development programmes; and on the vitally needed organizational and financial machinery by which it would be possible to continue the work begun with the calling of the Conference.

Certain priorities that required urgent and large-scale action had emerged from the preparatory process: these included water supplies, ocean and sea pollution, and the urban crisis. In addition, there were other areas for priority action: the need for understanding and controlling the changes man produced in the major ecological systems; the need for accelerating the dissemination of environmentally sound technologies and for developing alternatives to existing harmful technologies; the need to avoid commitment to new technologies before adequately assessing their environmental consequences; the need to encourage broader international distribution of industrial capacity; and the need to assist developing countries to minimize environmental risks in their development strategies.

Looking beyond the Conference, he stressed the need for:

a) New concepts of sovereignty, based not on the surrender of national sovereignties but on better means of exercising them collectively, and with a greater sense of responsibility for the common good;

b) New codes of international law which the era of environmental concern required, and new means of dealing with environmental conflicts;

c) New international means for better management of the world's common property resources;

d) New approaches to more automatic means of financing programmes of international co-operation, which could include levies and tolls on certain forms of international transport or on the consumption of certain non-renewable resources.

The general debate covered a vast range of environmental problems confronting nations and individuals, organizations and institutions. In the course of 11 plenary meetings held from 6-12 June 1972, the Conference was addressed by representatives of Member States, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Throughout the general debate, speakers expressed their gratitude to the Government of Sweden for its initiative and hospitality, to the President for his distinguished conduct of the Conference, and to the Chairman and members of the Preparatory Committee and the Secretary-General of the Conference and his staff for their invaluable work in the preparatory process. Several speakers said that, as the problems the world was facing were universal, those problems could only be resolved by universal action. They regretted the fact that certain nations were not present at the Conference. Other delegations underlined the fact that in the convening of the Conference the fundamental principle of universality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations had not been respected. The following brief summary of a lengthy and deeply informed debate attempts to emphasize the dominant themes.

### **Development and Environment**

Considerable emphasis was placed by speakers from developing countries upon the fact that for two thirds of the world's population the human environment was dominated by poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and misery, and that the urgent task facing mankind was to solve those immediate and formidable problems. The priority of developing countries was development. Until the gap between the poor and the rich countries was substantially narrowed, little if any progress could be made in improving the human environment. Many speakers from developing countries agreed, however, that environmental considerations would have to be incorporated into national development strategies in order to avoid the mistakes made by developed countries in their development, to utilize human and natural resources more efficiently, and to enhance the quality of life of their peoples. Many speakers endorsed the statement of the Secretary-General of the Conference that there need be

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**Natural Life Styles** is a magazine which provides information on organic food and a natural healthy life style. One year subscription is \$3 for four issues. Order from Natural Life Styles, P.O. Box 150, New Paltz, New York 12561.

**Food Programs:** Two new pamphlets available from the Food Research and Action Center are "*The New Food Stamp Bill of Rights*" and "*The New School Lunch and School Breakfast Bill of Rights*." These pamphlets are work guides and fact sheets on how to get food stamp and breakfast and lunch programs started in your community. Both publications are available in English and Spanish for FREE from the Food Research and Action Center, 423 West 118th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

## where it's at By Arnie Korotkin

**Operations Manual on Co-op Stores & Buying Clubs** is an O.E.O. training manual which provides information on the management of co-ops. The manual covers the following topics: organizational structure, membership, board of directors, advertising and publicity and general management procedures. Available FREE from Ms. Caroline Ramsay, OPD / Community Development Division, O.E.O., 1200 19th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20506.

**Mother Earth News** provides a combination of ecology, back to the land, survival and do-it-yourself information. \$1.35 / issue; \$6 / year (6 issues), from Mother Earth News, P.O. Box 38, Madison, Ohio 44057.

**The Organizers Manual** by the O.M. Collective (366 pages) provides information on small group and grass root organizing. Also a list of essential books and organizations. The book is put out by Bantam (Q6516), cost is \$1.25. Available at bookstores or from Bantam, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10019.

**Source Catalog No.1** is a 118-page resource book on communications. The book is subdivided into subject areas, i.e. mass media, community communications, film, music, periodicals, theater, etc. It is the stated purpose of the catalog "to put people in touch with projects and resources and to encourage the building of creative, new working relationships among people." The catalog provides the tool to achieve this goal through its group listings with addresses and phone numbers. To obtain a copy of SOURCE check your local bookstore or send \$1.50 to Source, P.O. Box 21066, Washington, D.C. 20009.

**War Behind Walls** is the title of a 16-page newspaper written after the Attica killings, which contains articles on Attica, the Soledad Brothers, George Jackson and the Prisoners' Rights Movement. Single copies 15 cents from the People's Press, 968 Valencia Street, San Francisco, California 94110. Bulk rates on request.

**La Raza** is a bilingual magazine by El Barrio Communications Project, and it deals with the problems of Chicanos in white America. Subscriptions are \$10 for 12 issues. Available from the Project at P.O. Box 11004, Los Angeles, Calif. 90011.

**California Prisoners Union** is an organization of inmates, ex-offenders and friends. They have set up a Prisoners Legal Defense Fund. Dues are \$4 / year. CPU, Box 2858, Sacramento, Calif. 95812.

**Free Abortion Counseling Service:** If you can't get information on abortions in your area, write to the Women's Health and Abortion Project, 36 W. 22nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010. The phone number is 691-1860.

**Everything You Need to Know about Legal Abortions** is a directory of information about abortions in the United States, with particular emphasis on New York. Available for \$3 from Guide, P.O. Box 79, Oakhurst, New Jersey.

# DESIGN HINTS

FOR MORE LIVEABLE APARTMENTS, PART I

*Buz Whistler*

When redesigning an apartment, renovating a house, or even just moving around furniture, most people either do things by guesswork or by copying something they have seen without changing it to fit their individual needs. Each apartment is different and each family is different, and that makes everyone's problems different.

This first article will present ideas for designing or rearranging your space and some tips on what could be done. The second article, in a later issue, will take some of the basic units and explain how they can be easily constructed. With a little time, some thought, and a bit of ability to do basic carpentry, it will be easy for you to redesign your home.

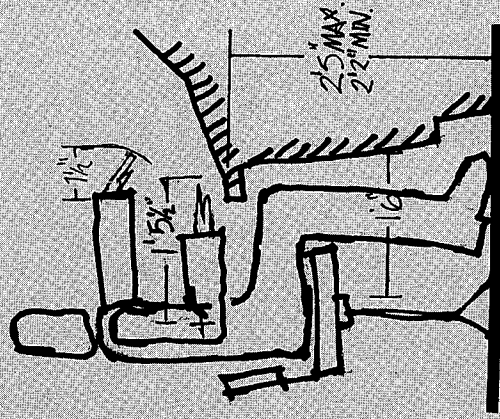
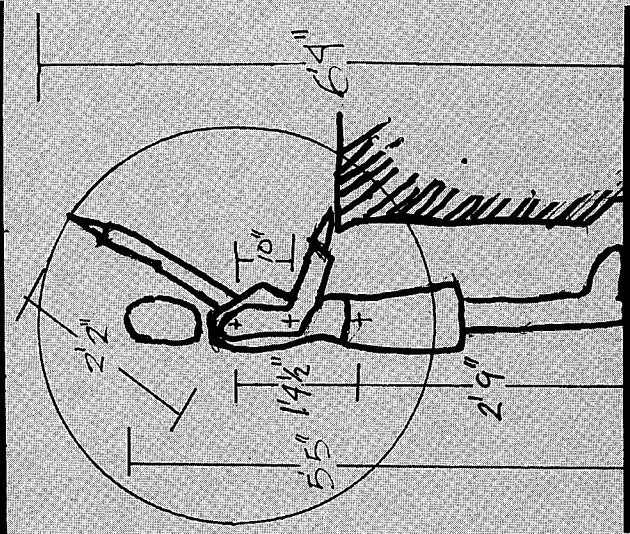
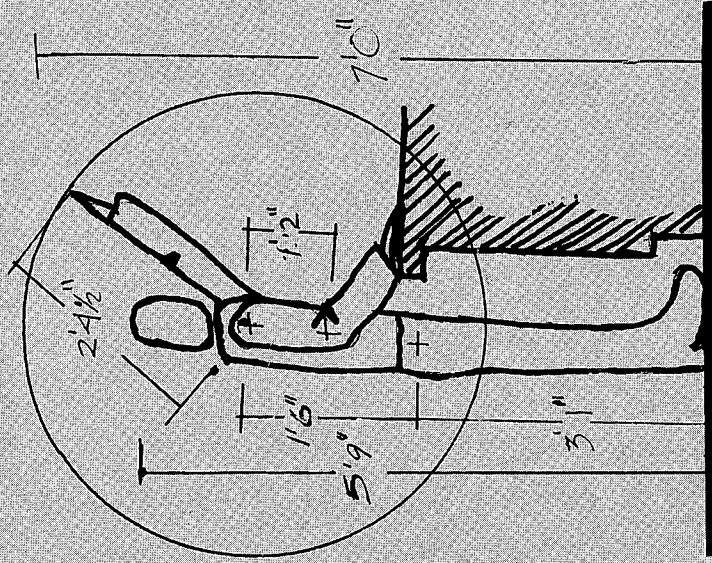
The key thing to ask when designing is how something works and, secondly, how something looks. One of the best places to start is with the human body:

How high can you reach?

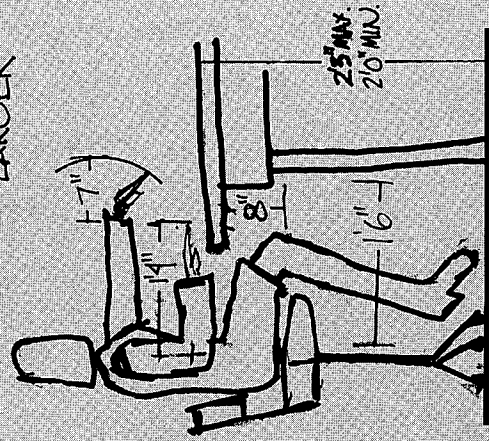
What is a good height for working? Is this for sitting or standing?

What height is good for a seat?

If you are designing for yourself, you could reach to a wall, stand, or sit and locate a surface which is convenient for working, or find a height comfortable for sitting and measure it. If you are designing for an adult, here are some common dimensions.



THESE FIGURES ARE THE AVERAGE, THAT IS 50% OF US ARE SMALLER AND 50% ARE LARGER



Don't let this stuff scare you. And don't go around cutting down furniture or moving walls to make your space fit. The figures are meant as a guide. Translating these typical sizes into dimensions for furniture and rooms gives you charts like these:



Okay, now you have some basic ideas on sizes and spaces, but there is another important element. What are the activities that occur in different areas of the house and how much of the time are the various areas used? *Hint:* If a space is used for one thing for only a few hours of the day, can it be used at other times for other things?

You might sit down and try to analyze your house. Here is a guide to the typical activity areas of the house:

### Food Preparation (Kitchen) and Dining

The kitchen is often the most difficult to rearrange because it's expensive to hire someone to move plumbing. Nevertheless, it is easy to change cabinets or add a counter or working surface, or more storage space. Think about all the things which you do in a kitchen.

preparing food:

- slicing
- beating
- mixing
- grating
- washing fruits and vegetables
- cooking

storing things:

- foods that spoil
- non-perishable items
- dishes
- utensils for cooking
- tableware

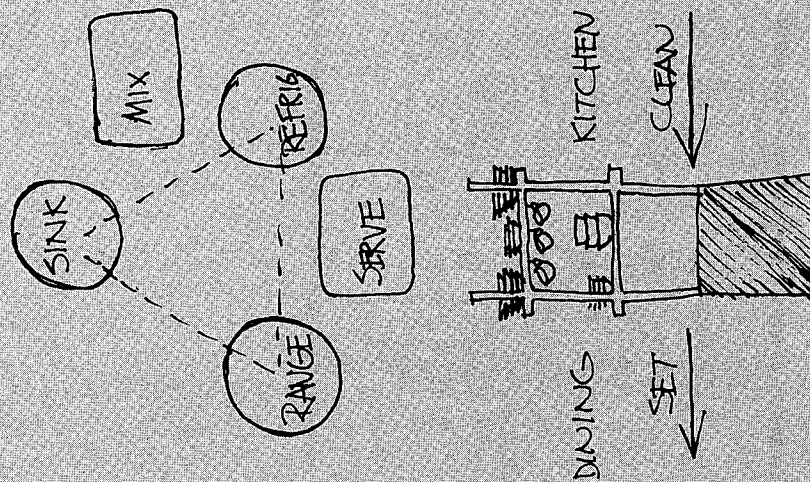
cleaning:

- washing dishes
- surfaces
- disposing of wastes

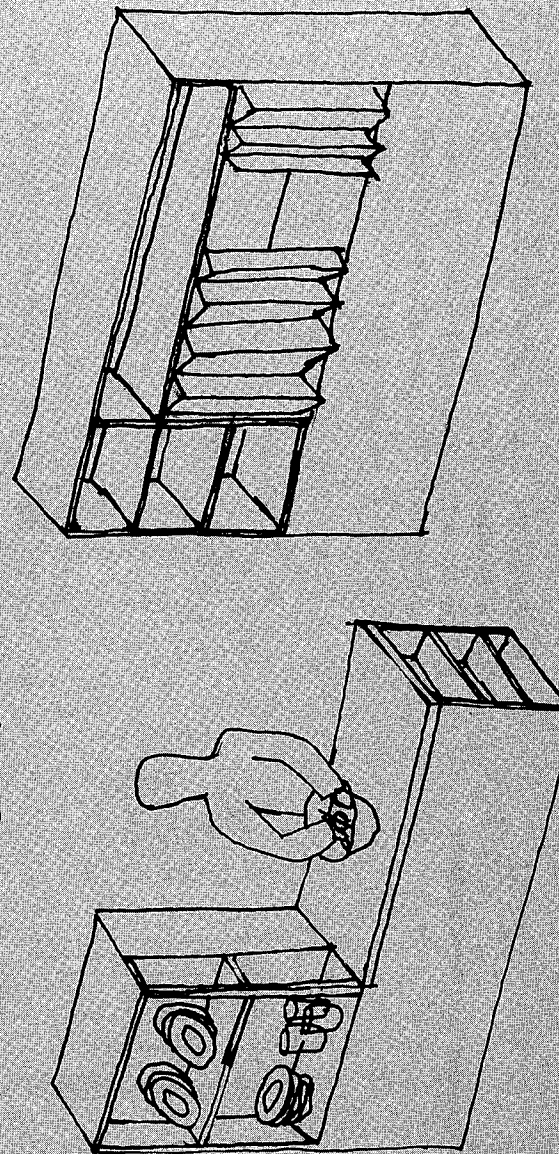
Are there any other activities in these categories? Five people eating at the same time? The table will have to be big enough, with spaces to pull the chairs out. How much space is needed for dishes?

Which activities should be close together? *Hint:* In preparing food, a person has to have easy access to the sink, range, and refrigerator. These three make up a "work triangle." The three sides of this triangle together should not be greater than 12 feet, for convenience.

Why have so many cabinets? Dishes can go out on the shelf. They look nice and you can see what you have. Try making them accessible from both sides, like this—saves many trips when setting the table or putting away clean dishes. Or make a cabinet with sliding glass doors to end fumbling around and forgotten dishes. Remember to make cabinets high (or low) enough for convenience.



Design your space so that food may be served to the dining table without having to walk around a wall, like this, or partially closed, like this:



## Living-Recreation Area

How do you use your living room? Is it noisy or quiet, formal or informal? Should you have two separate gathering spaces? Pick out which activities occur in your space:

- conversation
- relaxation
- hobbies
- concentration
- reading
- entertaining
- home movies
- television
- music and radio
- book, record, liquor storage
- child play

Analyze and decide which activities should be in the same space and when. Should you have a TV-playroom or a space for entertaining guests. Maybe both?

*Hint:* One big room can become two rooms with a folding door. Or, better yet, a wall which can also store the TV set, a record player, books, and knicknacks can divide the room. Again, you can make a plan and cut out paper furniture. Keep trying until you find the arrangement which works.

## Sleeping and Dressing Area

The traditional bedroom is a lot more than just a room to sleep in. Should these activities be in a bedroom, or should there be a division of spaces?

- dressing
- clothing storage
- blanket storage
- linen storage
- homework
- child play
- hobbies
- laundry

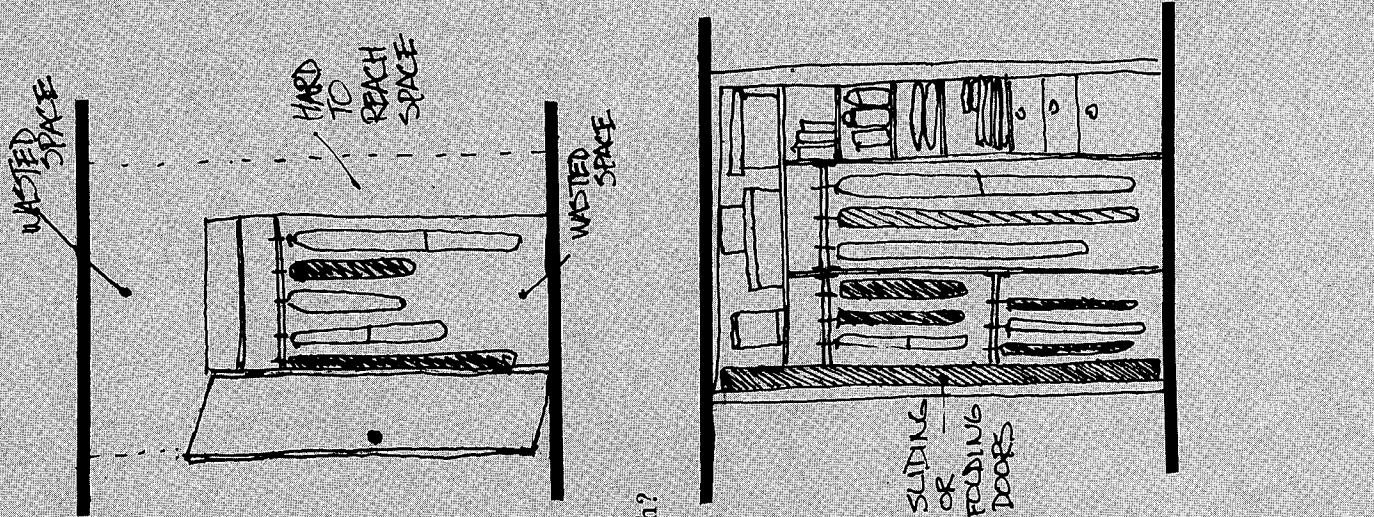
A small child spends very little of his time in bed. Sleeping rooms could be small, but make sure that you also have a larger playroom. *Hint:* Maybe you can put the bed off the floor and use the whole floor for play? Privacy and space for more individual activities are more important as the child grows older.

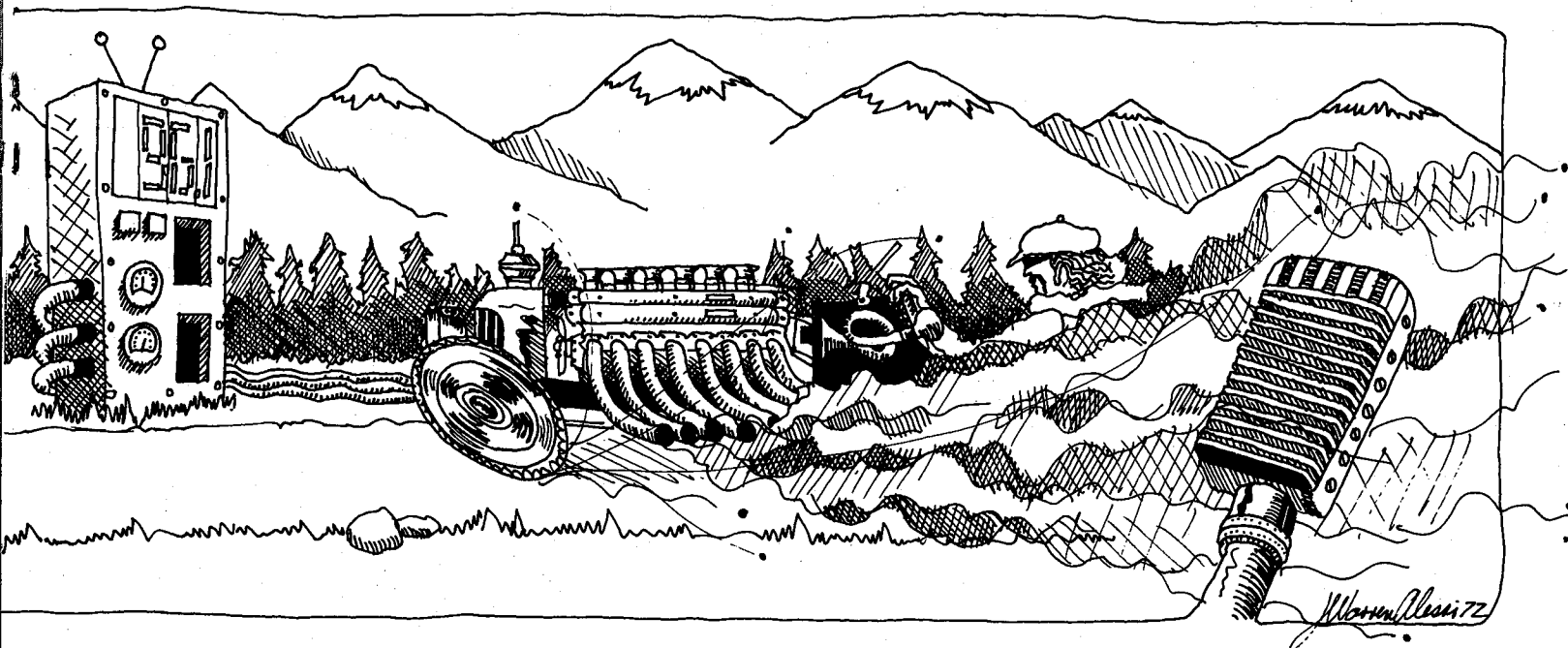
Probably the biggest problem in the bedroom is that of storage.

Typical closets look like this. The door does not go to the ceiling. The space above the door is hard to reach. There is only one bar for hangers.

Here is one way of making better use of the closet:

Another storage problem has to do with the changing height of the children. Some solutions:





## *ELSEWHERE....*

From *World Environment Newsletter*: **Edmonton, Alberta**—Motorists here can now see how noisy their vehicles are. In an experiment conducted here by the National Research Council of Canada, a roadside microphone picks up the sound of a passing vehicle, then transmits its A-scale decibel measurement to an eight-foot-high visual scale farther ahead. Each motorist can thus see how noisy he is and whether he is within the legal limit for his type of vehicle. The hope is that such education may be more effective in combating noise pollution than handing out occasional tickets.....**Stockholm**—Every chemical product imported or distributed in Sweden may soon be required to have a license from the National Environment Protection Board. A national committee recently proposed legislation that would require the producer or importer of any compound to assess the hazard the chemical may present in handling, and provide information about normal use and disposal to the government and the consumer.

From *HUD International*: **The United Kingdom**—The formation in 1970 of a single government Department, the Department of the Environment, from the separate Ministries which dealt with housing, town planning, local government, water, construction and roads, has made it possible for the U.K. Government to establish a more effective and concerted control over the environmental factors which affect the physical, administrative and financial aspects of planning, housing and construction. The British Government therefore is currently appraising and analyzing most of the activities which contribute to or affect the quality of the urban and rural environment. The objective is to see how the approach and implementation can be made more effective at all levels. Some of the appraisals are based on experiments already begun, such as new systems of management in local government, schemes for conservation and improvement, and methods of reducing the impact of noise and atmospheric pollution, to see how far these can be more generally adopted or improved upon. Others are concerned with linking together certain activities, making good deficiencies in the system, simplifying statutory procedures and encouraging and enabling the less progressive organizations or authorities to improve their level of performance.

From *The New York Times*: **Japan**—Physicians in Tokyo disclosed the results of a seven-month examination of Shoichi Yokoi, the former Japanese Army sergeant who lived isolated in the jungles of Guam for 28 years after the end of World War II. The doctors said the 57-year old Mr. Yokoi was fit to marry, and discovered something else:—since he returned to Japan's pollution-plagued civilization in January, the mercury content in the ex-soldier's hair had quadrupled.

In the Fifties, my third grade teacher taught us to eat wholesome breakfasts from the four basic food groups. She hung U.S. Department of Agriculture posters on the walls, featuring oversized pictures of fruits, grains, eggs, meat and milk.

Now USDA is singing another tune. For growing numbers of poor school children in its School Breakfast Program, breakfast is nothing but a carton of milk and a sugary, creamfilled fortified Hostess Twinkie. It is a boon for the snack industry which plans to cash in on the nutrition-consumer movement with bigger and bigger diets of cakes, soft drinks, puddings and other junk foods—all fortified with synthetic vitamins, minerals and protein.

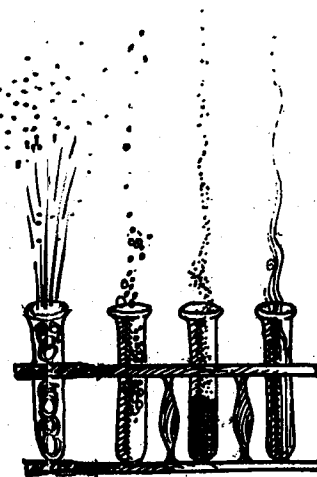
At USDA, giving children junk food for breakfast makes good economic sense. Ever since the breakfast program was started by Congress six years ago, it has bogged down in skimpy funds, bad administration and local politics. Every poor child in the U.S. is supposed to get fruit or fruit juice, milk and cereal—plus eggs and meat when schools can afford them. But only 943,000 children received breakfasts last year, even though USDA estimates that 9.3 million kids are eligible.

One problem is that inner city and rural schools with large numbers of poor children do not have kitchen equipment. The Milwaukee school system manages to cart breakfasts all over the city by truck, but USDA has offered schools an easier way out: let kids eat cake. No muss, no fuss.

"A truck can back up to the school door, dump hundreds of cartons of milk (and cakes) in the hallway if need be, the kids can grab them and eat," says Edward Koenig, deputy director of USDA's Nutrition and Technical Service, which helps administer breakfast programs. "None of this bowls and glasses of juice spilling over."

It was two years ago when the first seeds of the cake program were sown. ITT's Continental Bakery sent its vice president for research, Robert Cotton, to Washington. President Nixon had urged industry and government to work together to end hunger and malnutrition "for all time."

As Koenig remembers it, Cotton asked, "What can I do? I want to do something to help."



## LET THEM EAT JUNK!

by Daniel Zwerdling

Reprinted from *Sundance* in *Northwest Passage*, October 9-23, 1972, Bellingham, Washington.

"We got a brainstorm," says Koenig. Kids just love ITT's Hostess Twinkies (not to mention Ding Dong's, Ho-Ho's and Suzy Q's). "We figured if we make something as appealing as a Twinkie yet as nutritious as fruit and cereal. . ."

The answer: Super Twinkie. Called Astrofood, it is laced with enough nutrients, according to ITT Continental, to make orange juice, two strips of bacon, one egg and bread and butter obsolete.

USDA, which must approve any new foods in the breakfast program, redefined "breakfast" in October 1970, so schools could scrap the fruit and cereal and substitute "Fortified Baked Product with Cream Filling" instead.

No one knows how many children are munching sweet snacks for breakfast each morning (USDA does not keep those kinds of figures), but the baking companies are ecstatic. Since Tasty Baking Company joined the Breakfast Program market last fall, its pie and cake sales have soared 70% according to its annual report. Fifty thousand Philadelphia school-age children munch Tasty fortified cakes every morning. ITT supplies schools in St. Louis, Memphis, Little Rock and Atlanta and is opening markets in Seattle, Los Angeles, Massachusetts and New York. Both companies have sent teams of salesmen scouring the country for more business.

Nutritionists—including USDA's staff—think that sugary cake for breakfast is not the best way to fulfill Nixon's dream of "an end to hunger and malnutrition for all time." The Food Research and Action Center, a government funded community consulting firm in New York, worries that creamy cakes may have "a harmful effect on developing teeth due to their high sugar content and adhesive properties."

Plus, cake for breakfast is bad nutrition education. Children are learning that the same kind of stuff which gives them pimples, makes them fat and kills their appetites for real food, is suddenly good for them. The staff nutritionists for USDA's breakfast program thought the U.S. could dream up some way to feed real food to children for breakfast. After all, the U.S. exports \$8 billion worth of food every year, and the government pays farmers another \$3 billion to keep fertile land idle. But the policy makers could

not be moved.

"The gut issue is getting nutrition into the kids' bellies," Koenig said. "Here were these millions of hungry kids. We needed something fast, and ITT had a product ready to go. True, the cakes aren't bacon and eggs. But they're eating it. Kids like the cakes. We don't care if the food is made out of whipped cream as long as it has the required nutrients."

There is only one real drawback to the cakes, as Koenig sees it and that is that the children get bored eating them. So USDA is working diligently to promote interesting, wholesome varieties. It keeps a Rutgers University laboratory going full time testing new fortified goodies for the snack industry, at government expense.

Any new breakfast snack must first pass a panel of nutritionists. Then college students munch it. If they give the okay, Rutgers sends the food to some guinea-pig children in local schools. Then comes the garbage test: weigh the trash and see how much breakfast the children throw out. Finally, Rutgers feeds its product to 1,000 children once a day for five months.

Rutgers is preparing a report on the popular breakfast foods of tomorrow. Soon, they say six-year-olds in the school breakfast programs will be selecting pop tarts, fruit pies, fig bars, doughnuts, cup cakes, brownies, wafers, puddings and soft drinks—made with artificial flavors, colors, and textures, but fortified (artificially), of course.

The bias seems to be toward junk foods. "Well, that's what the kids like," says Program Director H. Winauer, who used to work for General Foods Jello and Pudding Division, the M&M-Mars candy bar company and National Licorice.

But Winauer's contention is not accepted by everyone. "Kids like sweets because that's what we teach them to like," says Marcella Katz, a New York Public Health Department nutritionist. You can't pass a TV set or a supermarket without seeing sugar. Winauer's reasoning is like the old southern maxim: "Blacks would rather eat pigs knuckles than sirloin steak any day."

As a matter of fact, this kind of thinking propelled Memphis school lunch director

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Will comic books be the school readers of the future?

The question is not really outrageous, for in a sense they already are; school-age Americans read far more comic books than school readers of any kind. School-age youth read more than 250,000,000 comic books a year—a fact that is even more compelling when you realize they do so because they want to, not because they have to.

Once damned by parents, reviled by psychologists, denounced by school professionals, and nearly borne away on a riptide of criticism in the mid-50's, comic books are in the throes of dramatic change. Today their focus is sharper, giving a more precise picture of the real world. Those who turned away from the unreal world of comic books a decade ago may well be surprised at their new look and relevance. Looking at comic books through today's cultural perspective, you will find one of the country's most original and purest forms of modern mythology and Americana.

Some, though, might object: "What do comic books have to do with schools? We have our own problems and don't need any more negative influences." This view while not nearly as universal among school administrators and teachers as before, is still held by too many school professionals who themselves were once comic book readers.

Whether or not the negative view towards comic books can be substantiated (and it can't), the fact is that for millions of students, generation after generation, comic books have been the staple of supplementary reading. An early study by Paul Witty, when he was Professor of Education at Northwestern University, indicated that "over 90 percent of boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 13 read comic books regularly. Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders appeared to be the most avid readers. Many of them read six or more comic magazines each week, as well as 10 or more others from time to time." This aspect of student reading preferences has been confirmed in many subsequent studies as well, including one in 1970 by Mark Clements Research, Inc., for the comic book industry. In that study of 100,000 comic book readers, respondents indicated they purchased an average of 6.7 comic books a month and spent more than three hours each week reading them.

I became interested in the comic book medium several years ago while working in the New York City schools. Though many students had severe reading handicaps, they constantly read comic books in and out of class, in the halls, and almost everywhere. After a preliminary study of the comic book technique, I realized that when used in a properly defined language arts program, comic



## Writagraphics And Readagraphics

books could be instrumental in making enthusiastic and thoughtful readers of students who had heretofore turned to books reluctantly, if at all.

At the beginning, when I started to think seriously about the medium, I was under the impression that only slower kids read comic books. The evidence, though, does not support this. For example, Nancy Larrick, former president of the International Reading Association, points out in her book **A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading**: "Almost any youngster will tell you, 'Everybody I know reads the comics.' The readers include very bright children who make excellent grades and slow children who have poor records in school. There seems to be little



### **IN OTHER WORDS, COMIC BOOKS; THE WRITERS OF READERS PROJECT**

relation between comic books and scholastic standing." In addition, all of the major studies on student reading preferences indicate that children who are heavy comic book readers are no lower in scholastic achievement than those who read few comic books.

The basic attractions of the comic book are probably the ease with which they can be read and understood and their immediate appeal to more senses than books. Although content is highly varied, common to all are action, suspense, mystery, and adventure.

One of the more classical and authoritative research efforts into the educational implications of

combining comic book technologies with standard learning theories was done by Robert L. Thorndike of Teachers College, Columbia University. In the concluding section of this landmark study, Thorndike state:

**That these books are widely read, and widely read by children of limited reading ability, is common knowledge. We have here an education resource which (1) provides many thousands of words of reading experience; (2) introduces the child to a wide range of vocabulary, including many useful words which stand in need of additional practice by the typical child in grades four to eight; (3) provides interest appeal and picture context to make reading and vocabulary experience of a fairly advanced level attractive even to the retarded reader.**

Comic books had been used in school settings for some time, usually as a kind of reward or bribe for completing the more traditional forms of curriculum. This approach definitely was not for me. There was too much going for comic books to use them simply as rewards. With some rudimentary redesign efforts, I reasoned, they could be combined with an academic school program for development of cognitive skills.

The philosophy underlying this approach is simple. There should be harmony between a child's ongoing life activities and his experiences in school. New learning always is a continuation or expansion of knowledge already possessed. Normal activities of children involve the same subject material that constitutes school curriculum. Geography, history, science, language, and other academic subjects are present in unorganized form in day-to-day activities of children. Reading comics is an almost universal out-of-school activity. Instead of being rejected and divorced from school experience, might they not profitably be accepted and related to teaching and learning?

Throughout this early period of my experimentation, I used comic books primarily in the language arts field, in lessons on the short story, and in understanding word meanings and tenses. The more familiar I became with this approach to teaching, however, the more I realized that it was the technology inherent in comic books that I was using, rather than the comic book as literature. I realized their potential as instructional aids was enormous. This potential was hampered, however, by some of the very qualities that made regular newsstand comic books at first seem so appealing. Lack of a controlled vocabulary, for example, made it difficult to combine newsstand comic books in a programmed reading approach.

*Continued on page 38*

# Myths exploded

**MAJORITY  
INCLUDING ROMAN CATHOLICS,  
OVERWHELMINGLY FAVOR  
ABORTION RIGHTS  
AND  
TEENAGE  
BIRTH CONTROL**

Startling changes in public opinion concerning abortion rights and teenage birth control have been revealed in the most recent surveys.

A Gallup survey, conducted in June, shows that 64 percent of Americans believe abortion is a matter for decision between a woman and her physician. 56 percent of Catholics in the same nationwide survey also favor that position.

## **New CBS Poll Shows More New Yorkers Approve Abortion Rights**

The latest WCBS-TV News Poll, conducted statewide this month, reveals that 71 percent of New York State residents agree that "a woman should be able to get a legal abortion in New York State." This compares with 62 percent opinion in favor in a similar CBS survey taken in May.

## **Catholic Opinion Changing Even More Rapidly**

The same CBS poll shows a marked movement toward approving abortion among Roman Catholics in New York State . . . from 45 percent in favor in May to 60 percent in favor in September.

## **Teenage Birth Control Approved by 73 percent**

73 percent of Americans believe that professional birth control information, services and counseling should be made available to unmarried, sexually active teenagers, the Gallup survey reports. According to this survey, 68 percent of Catholics in a national sample agree that "Professional birth control information, services and counseling should be made available to unmarried teenagers who are sexually-active."

Reprinted courtesy of *The New York Family Planner*, a newsletter of the New York State Coalition for Family Planning, Vol. 1, No. 1, September, 1972.



## **DOCTORS LOW-RATE LOW-INCOME WOMEN**

*World Environment Newsletter* (8/15/72) reports that the results of two separate demographic studies in New York seem to reveal that low-income women can be relied on better than most to take the pill regularly, but that doctors don't believe it and generally prescribe the loop for public patients.

A five-year study of 2,000-oral contraceptive patients showed that after one year, 83.2 per cent of the low-income women were still taking the pill, compared to 79 per cent of middle-income women. After three years the difference between the low- and middle-income women was twelve per hundred.

In another study, 132 doctors were asked which contraceptive methods they preferred for their private and public patients. Seventy per cent of the responding doctors indicated the pill as their first choice for private patients, 15 per cent the IUD, and only 6 per cent recommended sterilization.

For public patients the preference was almost reversed: 58 per cent picked the IUD as their first choice, 25 per cent thought the poor could be trusted to take the pill, and 14 per cent choice sterilization as their first choice for public patients.

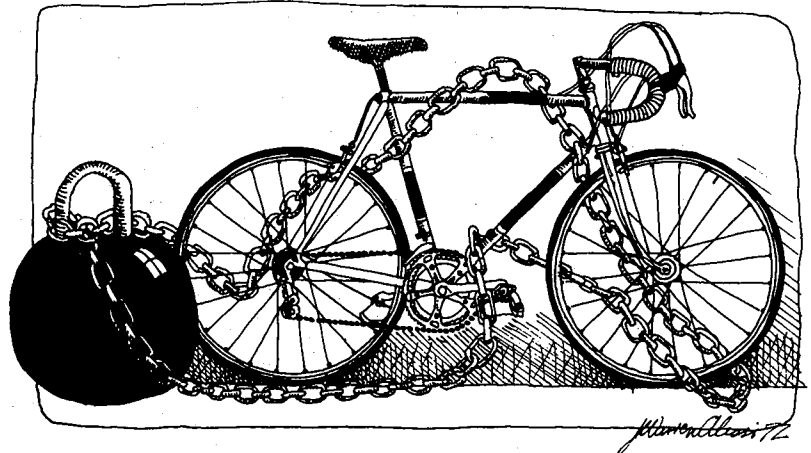
## PROGRAM INITIATED TO CUT BICYCLE THEFTS

In an effort to reduce bicycle thefts, the Police Department has announced that it is supplying all station houses with metal die stamps for use in a new bicycle-identification program.

Under the program each precinct will establish registration times when owners may bring their bicycles in to have a serial number affixed to the bottom of the pedal crank housing.

Two registration cards will be issued listing information about the owner, the bicycle, and its serial number. The owner will keep one card; the other will be filed in the station house.

Guidelines issued by the Police Department have instructed each precinct to work out its own method of implementing the program for residents of its area.



## GREEN THINGS INDOOR WINTER VEGETABLES

Don't despair! Winter doesn't mean the end of your garden. With a little special care fresh vegetables can be grown indoors all season long to supplement your salads and soups. You won't get a bumper crop, but you can expect a modest yield.

Lettuce is easy to grow indoors. Simply plant some garden lettuce in large pots in a compost of rich soil. Cut off all but three or four young shoots. Water the plants daily and keep the leaves moist. In a few weeks you'll have fresh lettuce for your salads.

Chives and dandelions can be grown on a sunny windowsill. Bean sprouts don't even need soil—you can grow them in jars or on a shallow plate (STREET, June 1972). Even parsley can be grown indoors. Just cut off all the leaves from several plants and pot the roots, placing them in a sunny spot.

These vegetables will do best at a temperature of 50 or 60 degrees. Keep the soil moist and mist leaves frequently to prevent dehydration.



## FEDERAL AID ASKED FOR PARKS IN CITIES

A 10-year, \$15-billion program of federal grants for the establishment and maintenance of parks in urban areas will be proposed to the next Congress.

Senator Harrison A. Williams (D., N.J.), author of the Open Spaces Act of 1961, said that he will call his new bill the Parkland Heritage Act of 1973.

The measure would authorize up to \$1.25 billion a year for grants to states and local governments on a 75 per cent federal, 25 per cent local matching basis. In addition, local governments could borrow proceeding with as little as 10 per cent local cash to acquire new parklands.

The Parkland Heritage program would replace the Open Spaces program under which \$1 billion has been distributed on a 50-50 matching basis. It would be administered by a new government corporation.





# Environmental Legislation

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IMPORTANT MEASURES SIGNED, SOME VETOED

The 1972 legislative session and the subsequent 30-day bill signing period saw the enactment of a series of environmental measures of special significance to the department and the people of the state. A summary of these measures follows.

Reprinted courtesy of **New York State Environment**, July 1, 1972, Vol. 2, No. 1, a publication of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

### Summary

#### **S9511A11630**

Provides for a \$1.15 billion Environmental Quality Bond Act for the preservation, enhancement, restoration and improvement of the quality of the state's environment; provides state grants to municipalities and other governmental agencies for such purposes and to match federal funds which may from time to time be made available by Congress for such purposes, and provides specific statutory guidelines for allocation and expenditure of bond moneys. B.C. Smith and Lane. **Chapters 658,659.**

#### **A10689**

Repeals that provision of the Environmental Conservation Law which authorizes the adoption of environmental standards and criteria by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation only until March 31, 1972. The law now contains no such time limitation. Lane. **Chapter 83.**

#### **S9800-B**

Creates a State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment to be the final administrative arbiter with respect to siting major power plants. Consists of Chairman of Public Service Commission, Commissioners of Environmental Conservation, Commerce and Health, and an appointed member residing in the area slated for plant siting. McGowan. **Chapter 385.**

#### **S10369-A**

Creates a Legislative Commission on Energy Policy for the state to make an interim report to the Governor and Legislature by May 1, 1973, and file its recommendations for a comprehensive, rational energy policy and environmental action plan by Sept. 1, 1974. Rules. **Chapter 386.**

Enacts a codified Environmental Conservation Law which contains all portions of the statutory law of New York State transferred to DEC by Chapter 140 of the Laws of 1970, and all subsequent amendments to those provisions, without substantive changes. The bill continues DEC and all laws, rules, regulations, orders, proceedings and other matters administered thereby. Lane. **Chapter 664.**

#### **A9655-A**

Expands the Adirondack Park on the east to the center of Lake Champlain also including some upland areas in the Towns of Willsboro, Essex and Westport; on the northeast to include Valcour Island and additional area in the Towns of Peru, Saranac, Dannemora, Altona, Ellenburg, and Belmont; and on the west and south to include several small parcels of Forest Preserve adjacent to the present Park boundary. Harris. **Chapter 666.**

#### **S10327**

Creates a Temporary State Commission on Youth Education in Environmental Conservation to make a study of the current environmental conservation teaching program in the state, and make recommendations for the extension and development of such educational programs, reporting to the Governor and Legislature on its work not later than March 31, 1973. Rules. **Chapter 667.**

#### **A9656-A**

Designates certain portions of selected rivers in the Adirondack Park for immediate inclusion in a new Wild, Scenic and Recreational River System and provides a procedure for subsequent inclusion of other rivers possessing comparable attributes. DEC will be responsible for administering the System for all rivers outside the Park, sharing responsibility within the Park with the Adirondack Park Agency. Harris. **Chapter 869.**

Provides that within not less than one year from its effective date, DEC, in cooperation with industry, shall promulgate a list of substances hazardous to the environment. The department is also authorized to declare rules and regulations pertaining to

storage and discharge of such substances. Harris. **Chapter 997.**

#### Summary

**S5697-B**  
Amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law and the Environmental Conservation Law to provide that five cents from each motor vehicle registration fee shall be appropriated and used for inspection, regulation and research in the control of motor vehicle exhaust emissions under the direction of DEC. Anderson. **Chapter 1000.**

**A11976**  
Provides that any person in possession or control of 1,500 or more gallons of any liquid which, if released, would be likely to pollute the waters of the state shall, as soon as he has knowledge of such release, immediately notify the department. Failure to do so could result in a fine of up to \$2,500 or imprisonment for one year, or both. Rules. **Chapter**

**A11975**  
Provides that any person in control of 1,000 or more gallons of liquid where all or a part of such liquid has been released or discharged into the waters of the state shall have the burden of proving that such discharge or release was caused by an act of God, an act of war, negligence upon the part of the United States or New York State government or an act or omission of a third party. Failure to overcome such burden of proof may result in a penalty of \$2,500 plus liability for costs incurred by the state for removal or neutralization of the discharged liquid. Rules. **Chapter 1002.**

**S7806**  
Amends ss1153 and 1153a of the Public Health Law to prohibit the discharge of sewage, treated or otherwise, into Skaneateles Lake and its tributaries. These sections presently apply only to Lake George. Lombardi. **Chapter 60.**

**A7780**  
Prohibits the pursuing, taking, killing, purchase, sale or transportation of harbor seals. Rules. **Chapter 69.**

**A8842**  
Extends until December 31, 1975, the authority of the Department of Environmental Conservation to regulate seasons, size and catch limits, manner of taking, possession, transportation and sale of coho, chinook and sockeye salmon. Hardt. **Chapter 100.**

**A8006**  
Authorizes Sunday hunting for pheasants in Montgomery County. Rules **Chapter 104.**

**A8737**  
Amends the General Obligations Law to limit the liability of landowners toward one who uses his property for bicycling. F.A. Carroll. **Chapter 106.**

**S8019**  
Authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation, until March 31, 1975, to fix seasons, size and catch limits for trout in certain waters. B.C. Smith. **Chapter 137.**

**S8008**  
Continues until December 31, 1975 the authority of the Department of Environmental Conservation to regulate open seasons, size and catch limits, and manner of taking for fish in any section of a trout stream. B.C. Smith. **Chapter 150.**

**S8009**  
Makes unlawful the taking of game birds with the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area. B.C. Smith. **Chapter 164.**

**S8179**  
Provides that sturgeon of legal size may be taken in Chaumont Bay from September 15 through May 15 rather than May 28, as presently provided. Barclay. **Chapter 168.**

**S8121**  
Eliminates the need to endorse the bow-hunting stamp. B.C. Smith. **Chapter 199.**

**S8369**  
Provides that the Commissioner of Commerce shall be the permanent chairman of the Atomic Energy Council. Schermerhorn. **Chapter 200.**

**S8120**  
Provides that a person who discovers wildlife in distress shall immediately notify a Conservation Officer by telephone. B.C. Smith. **Chapter 214.**

**A8957**  
Authorizes fishing for whitefish in Brantingham Lake from January 1 through October 31. Taylor. **Chapter 239.**

#### Summary

**A9847**  
Continues the authority of the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue party permits for the taking of deer of either sex. Such continuation of authority would not apply in the northern zone nor in Albany County until December 31, 1972; in Columbia County until December 31, 1972; in Greene County until December 31, 1974; in Ulster County until December 31, 1974 and in the southern zone of Washington County until December 31, 1972. Harris. **Chapter 306.**

**A10307**  
Empowers the Commissioner of Transportation to use Federal highway funds for, among other things, the construction, reconstruction, alteration or repair of bicycle and pedestrian paths and for appropriate facilities appurtenant thereto. Hardt. **Chapter 319.**

**A11700**  
Changes the name of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University to the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Rules. **Chapter 387.**

**A12384**  
Provides that the cost of research pertaining to electric power and the environment shall be apportioned solely among electric corporations and shall be excluded from any general assessment. Rules. **Chapter 448.**

**A9483-B**  
Excludes an electric or fuel gas transmission facility located wholly underground within a city for purposes of certificate of environmental compatibility and public need. Kelly. **Chapter 461.**

**A1899**  
Provides a remedy for the owner of a parcel of an unapproved realty subdivision where the owner acquired the parcel by devise or interstate succession or the parcel was not a part of a subdivision when acquired by the owner. Lane. **Chapter 470.**

**A9326**  
Provides that a member of a Fish and Wildlife Management Board may succeed himself three times rather than twice, as presently allowed. Harris. **Chapter 483.**

**A11596**  
Permits the Power Authority of New York to construct base load generating facilities in the southeastern part of the State to supply power to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, its subsidiaries and the New York City Transit Authority. Kelly. **Chapter 489.**

**A3298-A**  
Provides for the collection and maintenance of records pertinent to oil and gas wells in all pools or fields throughout the State, rather than just those discovered after October 1, 1963. Walkley. **Chapter 557.**

**A9069**  
Increases the penalties for illegally taking deer to one thousand dollars for a first conviction, fifteen hundred dollars for a second conviction and two thousand dollars for a third. Mason. **Chapter 562.**

**A12127**  
Provides that the Temporary State Commission of

the Water Supply Needs of Southeastern New York shall make its final report not later than December 15, 1973 and shall continue to exist until March 31, 1974. Rules. **Chapter 572.**

**A12241**  
Authorizes members absent from a meeting of the Environmental Board to cast written votes and establishes an eight member quorum for transaction of all business. Rules. **Chapter 613.**

**A11971**  
Establishes penalties and injunctive relief for violations of the provisions of summary orders issued by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and for rules and regulations relating to air pollution emergencies. Rules. **Chapter 643.**

**A12112**  
Codification of the Parks and Recreation Law. Rules. **Chapter 660.**

**S10305**  
Transfers the Hudson River Valley Commission from the Office of Planning Services to the Office of Parks and Recreation. Rules. **Chapter 663.**

**S10212**  
Extends the time when the Temporary State Commission to Study the Catskills shall make its final report from March 31, 1972 to March 31, 1973. Rules. **Chapter 665.**

#### Summary

**A3300**  
Provides for the posting of a well plugging performance bond or acceptable substitute for all newly drilled oil or gas wells regardless of the date of discovery of the pool or field in which they are located. Hardt. **Chapter 688.**

**A9860**  
Amends the Conservation Law to prohibit the use of a firearm or longbow for the hunting of migratory game birds in a portion of Larchmont Harbor. Violations of the prohibition would be punishable under existing provisions of the Conservation Law. Pisani. **Chapter 713.**

**S5127-B**  
Amends the New York City Criminal Court Act to authorize issuance of appearance tickets for violation of the provisions of the Administrative Code of the City of New York pertaining to noise control. Marchi. **Chapter 763.**

**A10790-A**  
Provides that planning for construction of solid waste disposal facilities shall take into account solid waste management and new technology for processing and recycling of solid wastes. Harris. **Chapter 796.**

**A10310**  
Authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation to provide and recommend methods for recovery, recycling, and reuse of solid wastes. Harris. **Chapter 797.**

**A12238**  
Extends the date for submission of the Statewide Environmental Plan from September 1, 1972 to July 1, 1973. Rules. **Chapter 865.**

**S10072**  
Defines "actual resident" for purpose of obtaining a permit to take lobsters, makes certain changes regarding taking of lobsters by non-residents in Long Island Sound and makes unlawful dumping into the water any lobster, pail or bag by a person who has been requested or signalled to stop by an enforcement officer. Rules. **Chapter 820.**

**A11973**  
Amends the Conservation Law to redefine the boundaries of the Lake George Park to include all lands lying within the Lake George Watershed. Rules. **Chapter 837.**

*Continued on page 42 & 43*

## Recycled Paper Products

*Continued from page 9* government concentrate on increasing the recycling of waste paper, urban solid waste will not diminish.

Copies of the study may be obtained by mailing a check to the Publications Division, New York Chamber of Commerce, 65 Liberty Street, New York, N.Y. 10005. One to nine copies are \$3 each; 10 to 99 copies, \$2.50 each, and 100 or more copies \$2 each. Add sales tax where applicable.

Reprinted courtesy of **New York State Environment**, a publication of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Vol. 2, No. 5, October 25, 1972. ■

## Let Them Eat Junk

*Continued from page 27* Ted MacLoud to feed 20,000 poor blacks each morning with Astrofood.

"If you drive through the black neighborhood—which I have to, to get to work every day—you can see they're all coming out of the corner drugstore with a cake and a bottle of pop," he explained. "They don't eat eggs and fruit in their homes. The cakes are more like what they're used to eating," MacLoud said. "Why, if we let them, they'd want to eat chocolate every day." ■

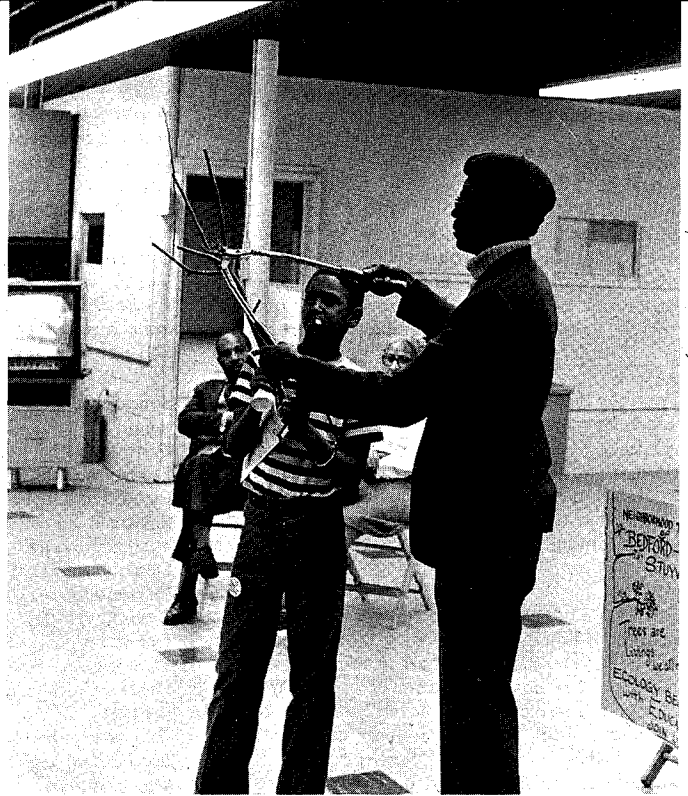
## South Brooklyn Kids

*Continued from page 8* for labor to be done by the Army Reserve Corps of Engineers (at no cost), for materials and paint to be donated by neighborhood manufacturing plants, and the procurement of 33 Neighborhood Youth Corps member to help in the construction. But even the best laid plans can often go astray, and Rodney and Joe failed to complete their plans in time for summer of '72 construction, and now had 33 Youth Corps workers—so a Neighborhood Beautification Program was born.

As the playground plans and construction now moves along, both students are attempting to extend the summer youth program into a winter program so they can begin to organize a Neighborhood Tree Corps of South Brooklyn based on the one already in existence in Bed-Stuy. A recycling center is also in the works and will soon be a reality.

Much of the sweeping and cleaning done over the summer has been covered and cluttered by new garbage, some of the paint has been worn and washed away, the brick paving is slowly vanishing, but the memory remains. The sight of the adult residents of the community coming onto the street to help clean or teach the kids how to set bricks into the earth for paving is fresh in the community memory. They were 33 reasons to GIVE A DAMN.... ■

*Joseph Sparacia*



Frank Bowman, in one of the workshops, shows how pruning is correctly applied to shaping a healthy tree

## Magnolia Tree Earth Center

*Continued from page 7*

Even while the Earth Center was still just an idea, the Magnolia Tree Committee was interested in demonstrating what programs this Center might eventually initiate. A proposal was submitted in 1971 to the New York State Council on the Arts for a Bedford-Stuyvesant Neighborhood Tree Corps. The Neighborhood Tree Corps was to be made up of youngsters aged 9 through 16, who would learn how to care for the many street trees that had been planted by the community. They would attend regular classes and receive a modest stipend for this community service.

The Council on the Arts funded the proposal, and this program is now successfully instructing nearly 30 youngsters. They, in turn, are serving the community by caring for its many newly planted trees.

Over the past three years, the Magnolia Tree Committee has been negotiating with Brooklyn Model Cities and the New York City Housing Development Agency to prevent the demolition of the brownstones at the site of the Magnolia Tree and to let that particular area form the setting for an Earth Center. Agreement has now been reached with these agencies to preserve the buildings, and through the friendly cooperation of Pratt Institute and the Restoration Corporation of Bedford-Stuyvesant, scale models of such a Center are in the design process. The New York City Board of Education, Local School Board 13, is also playing an active role in educational programs that will be an essential part of the Center.

*more*



Frank Bowman, plant specialist and long time friend of the Tree Corps is on the right with a neighborhood resident. Hundreds of trees were cared for, loved, and helped along by young members of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center

### Long Range Purposes

The members of the Magnolia Tree Committee envision the Earth Center as a unique urban laboratory for study and action to improve the environment of the community. Whether it be turning empty lots into small tree farms, or the recycling of waste matter, or the maintenance of pure air standards, the Earth Center would be a focal point of action where citizens of all ages could learn how to improve the neighborhood environment. Also, the educational efforts and actions of the Earth Center might be a positive force in encouraging young people of the community to enter the fields of environmental protection, botany, horticulture, and landscaping, so that their neighborhoods and their city could become natural gardens. The Earth Center could thus serve as a model and example for other communities throughout the country.

### Need for Planning Grant

The Magnolia Tree Earth Center has now been donated legal services. The Earth Center is presently working with the Pratt Center for Community and Environmental Development in developing design and program proposals for funding. From the beginning, all its efforts have been on a strictly volunteer non-salaried basis. It is now apparent that the magnitude and importance of such an effort as the Earth Center and the urgent time factors and coordination require full time attention. All persons interested in lending their time, ideas, and / or



Hattie Carthan, far right, founder of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center, laughs with her favorite growing things, children.

support should contact Hattie Carthan at 186 Vernon Ave., Brooklyn 11206 or Rex Curry, PICCED, 622-5026.

...The genus **Magnolia** was named after Pierre Magnol (1638-1715), professor of medicine and director of the botanical gardens at Montpellier in the south of France. Some 20 species are distributed in Japan, China, the Himalayas, and the southeastern United States. The most beautiful of the North American species is **Magnolia grandiflora**, the "laurel magnolia," an evergreen tree which grows with a straight trunk to a height of over 70 feet. The specific name "grandiflora" refers to its large white, lemon-scented flowers which are the official state flowers of both Louisiana and Mississippi. **Magnolia grandiflora** was one of the earliest exotic plants to have been introduced to Europe from this continent; it was brought to England in 1734. While the species rarely flourishes here much north of Philadelphia, there is a specimen in the Bronx Botanical Garden which has been carefully maintained out of doors in a very sheltered location.

It is all the more remarkable, therefore, that the seedling which Mr. William Lemken sent up from North Carolina some 85 years ago, to plant in the front yard of his house at 679 Lafayette Avenue should have survived so long. It is thus both for its inherent beauty as well as for its rare hardiness that this particular **Magnolia grandiflora** has become a neighborhood symbol and a focus of community pride. ■



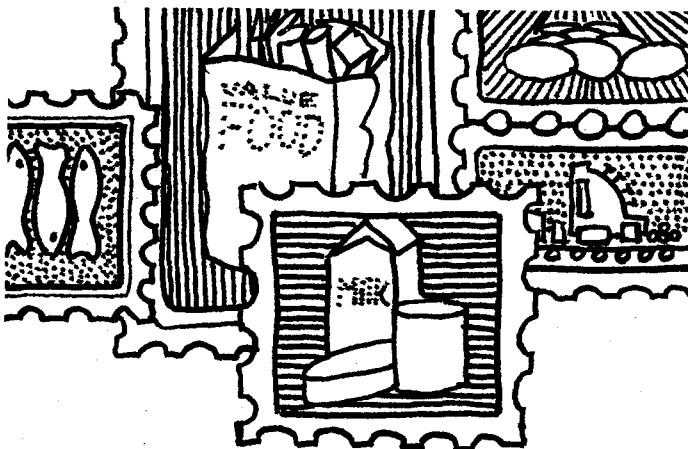
# Oops! Department

## Correction

An error was called to our attention in the October 1972 STREET article on *Unemployment Insurance Benefits*. The article stated that benefits were paid in New York for an additional 13 weeks, making a total of 52 weeks, or one year. These extended benefits ended July 31, 1972. Benefits now may be collected for up to 39 weeks.



# Urban Consumer



## FOOD STAMPS CHART

### NET MONTHLY INCOME FOR FAMILY OF

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| 1 Person   | \$185.00 |
| 2 Persons  | 245.00   |
| 3 Persons  | 307.00   |
| 4 Persons  | 370.00   |
| 5 Persons  | 427.00   |
| 6 Persons  | 493.00   |
| 7 Persons  | 547.00   |
| 8 Persons  | 600.00   |
| 9 Persons  | 660.00   |
| 10 Persons | 713.00   |

Over 10 add 53 Monthly per person.

Revised income figures for persons who wish to apply for food stamps; if your income does not exceed the numbers listed on the chart then you are eligible. For further information and help in computing your budget, phone 691-8210, Ext. 758.

Source: *Urban Rights*, Vol. 2, No. 7, October 1972, a publication of the New York Urban Coalition.

## Noise Pollution

*Continued from page 17*

begin, because it is an enormous problem that is going to involve every level from Washington down to the policeman on the beat. We could start, for example, to enforce anti-noise laws that are already on the books, such as ordinances against unnecessary horn honking. In most cities that have such laws, no one pays any attention to them because judges don't take them seriously and refuse to convict on a policeman's testimony. Memphis, Tennessee, where the courts are strict, is one of the quietest cities in the country. It also enforces the law to curb badly muffled buses and trucks, which should be regulated under the federal government's interstate commerce powers. The Environmental Protection Agency is just now beginning to look into noise pollution problems. At the very least it should develop model standards that state and local agencies could follow in vehicle noise control and other critical areas. For example, most states have motor vehicle statutes that require muffling of automobile and truck engines, but the statutes don't specify, in decibels, what the legal sound limit is. Until they do, and until policemen are on the streets with noise meters in their hands, we'll continue listening to the music of 90- and 100-decibel truck engines.

And it looks as if we'll go on for years suffering from the roar of jet planes overhead and on the ground. Obviously this is an area in which the Federal government rightly has the major responsibility, because it's an enormous task. At some of our bigger airports planes take off and land at rates of better than one a minute, spraying sound waves over about eight square miles of surrounding land.

As air traffic continues to increase through the 1970s and 1980s and as more jetports are built, the government must make certain of two things: that aircraft engines are designed and operated to be as quiet as possible, and that airports are placed where the fewest numbers of people will be disturbed. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is currently developing a jet engine that should have more power than today's models and yet reduce ground noise by 20 decibels. It should be pushed ahead full speed so we won't have to wait out the ten years now estimated for commercial introduction.

NASA also completed a design study that shows how all turbofan airplane engines in operation today can be muffled significantly at a cost that could be met with a one percent fare increase. We'd like to know when this will be done. We'd also like to make sure that before construction of an American SST is resumed--as it may be in this decade--further research is carried out to eliminate the danger of sonic booms.

*Continued on the next page*

We also suggest that it's time our lawmakers took seriously the need to safeguard the hearing and nervous stability of workers operating noisy machinery in industrial plants. According to the World Health Organization, industrial noise is costing the U.S. \$4 billion a year in accidents, absenteeism, lowered efficiency and compensation claims for hearing loss. Obviously, noise is dangerous. No one can hear a warning shout directed at him at 77 decibels volume when the surrounding noise level is 90 decibels.

In states and cities, too, there is a crying need for anti-noise regulations and enforcement. Only two states, California and New York, have motor vehicle noise laws that spell out a decibel limit, and without such a yardstick these laws can't be made to stick.

Every state legislature should get to work immediately plugging these holes in its environmental defenses. Every state needs a full-time noise abatement agency and up-to-date statutes dealing with factory noise, construction noise and new sources of sound pollution such as off-the-road vehicles. State enforcement powers must be called on to keep wilderness and vacation areas from being violated by summertime invasions of 95-decibel outboard motors and the winter plague of equally noisy snowmobiles. Dune buggies, motorcycles and all other powered vehicles must also be regulated.

City governments can use their building codes as effective weapons against noise. When properly written, these ordinances can specify acoustic materials that make walls, ceilings, doors and windows relatively soundproof. Such codes have been in effect in Europe for many years, but New York is the only city in the U.S. with similar provisions and its standards are too low. New York is also alone in having a Noise Abatement Bureau with specific responsibility for noise control. Every city needs such a department. Every city must also use its zoning powers, its licensing requirements and its public nuisance ordinances to regulate noise and make life bearable for its citizens.

Because industry is a major noise polluter, and because industry produces the machines that blanket us with surplus sound, it is reasonable to look to industry for relief. There is no doubt that manufacturers design and make quieter airplanes, trucks, construction machinery, office equipment and home appliances, and can turn them out in quieter factories. Why isn't all this being done? The answer, as you might expect, is a matter of dollars and cents. The economic incentive for silence just hasn't existed. It has always been more profitable for industry to produce noisy goods in noisy plants than to engineer acoustically acceptable processes and products.

Or at least it always seemed that way. Today industry is learning that money spent on noise abatement in a plant or office can pay dividends in worker efficiency and safety. A quiet plant is also a better neighbor. This was demonstrated by an oil company that recently built a refinery in California and invested \$700,000 in noise-control equipment. It is getting back its money because the company has fewer complaints and lawsuits to handle. It is also earning good will that cannot be measured in dollars.

Some of our leading industrial companies are cooperating with labor unions, trade associations and government to find ways to protect personnel and reduce noise from their products. General Motors muffles heavy machinery with vibration-absorbing mounts and acoustical enclosures. Gillette Corporation uses sheet lead to silence high-decibel plastic grinders in its plants. Bethlehem Steel provides manufacturers who use its sheet metal stock with technical advice on noise control. And Owens-Corning does the same for fiber glass customers.

But there is still a long way to go. To prove that the construction industry can be easier to live with, a New York-based group called the Citizens for a Quieter City imported a silenced jackhammer for demonstration that cost \$175 less than the unmuffled variety used today. Since then Hughes Tool Company has brought out a rotary pavement cutter that operates without the jackhammer's racket. Other makers have developed muffled compressors for construction jobs, including electric-powered machines that produce no exhaust fumes. Even the noisiest of today's poorly designed, obsolete construction machines can be effectively muffled, but few contractors are likely to go to this expense unless all are forced to do so.

The same thing can be said of the transportation industry. Automobile engines have been effectively muffled for many years, first because they made horses bolt and more recently because car buyers insisted on quiet operation. Heavy trucks that contribute the most to street and highway din could be effectively muffled too if manufacturers cared enough to try. The industry has set its own standard of 86 decibels at 50 feet, but even this excessively permissive level is exceeded by some new trucks and by many old and poorly maintained ones. There is no excuse for all this roar and rattle. Quieter performance can be effectively designed into even the biggest and most powerful trucks because they have plenty of room for heavy-duty mufflers, thicker engine walls, more insulation and better gears.

Airplane manufacturers and operators have a similar obligation to the public. A lot of the jets that are flying today generate

*Continued on the next page*

*Continued from page 37* noise that exceeds the limits prescribed by the FAA for new aircraft. Yet the aviation industry deserves credit for what it has accomplished since the jet age came booming along in 1958. Some \$200 million was spent by airlines to develop and install sound suppressors on the first-jets, even though this meant reduced power and increased fuel costs. Hundreds of millions more were invested in fanjet engines that reduced noise by 50 percent. Even so, today's four-engine planes produce as much as 108 decibels on the ground when 1,000 feet overhead on takeoff. Preferential runway systems are used to direct planes away from residential areas around airports whenever possible, but complaints about aircraft noise have become a big business for lawyers, leading to lawsuits in the billions of dollars. Most of these cases are lost by the plaintiffs whose evidence is unconvincing in court.

Yet aircraft noise is a real problem and one that is shared unequally by that segment of the population living near airports. One answer is to build new airports away from settled areas and then to zone the surrounding land for nonresidential uses.

#### **What you can do**

We are drowning in noise because neither government nor industry can solve the problem without intelligent help from the public. A number of European countries have more effective anti-noise laws than the U.S. simply because popular pressure forced their governments to act. England has had strong regulation since 1960, a year after the privately organized Noise Abatement Society petitioned the Queen for relief. Germany has had statutes setting decibel limits on motor vehicles for years, and they are enforced because public opinion is behind them. In this country, militant and well-informed citizens got New York City to buy garbage trucks that helped make the dawn less thunderous.

Acting purely as individuals, we can do a lot to reduce noise pollution and make life pleasanter for others. We can leave the portable radios and tape players at home when we go to the beach--unless we use earplug speakers--recognizing that our favorite sounds be an invasion of privacy to those around us. We can control our tempers in traffic jams and keep the thumb off the horn. We can influence our children not to mistake noise-making for acceptable social behavior, whether they are addicted to unmuffled motorcycles and sports cars, high-volume hi-fi and TV, or all-night song and guitar sessions. To underline the message, it's a good idea to make sure that teen-agers have hearing tests as a routine part of their physical examinations, particularly if they listen often to electronic music.

We can also update our thinking about the appliances we buy, and make our noise-consciousness felt in the marketplace. Vacuum cleaners don't have to be loud, but one leading manufacturer found his super-efficient, super-silent model rejected by shoppers because they couldn't believe it would clean carpets without the 80-decibel roar. The noisiest model in the line was the best seller. An air conditioner with a nearly inaudible hum and a slightly higher price tag also registered low sales.

We can't have peace and quiet without paying a slight premium. Chain saws can be muffled by ten decibels for a two percent increase in cost to the manufacturer. Electric typewriters can be silenced effectively for 60 cents. A quiet toilet retails for about \$5 more than a noisy one. New dishwashers have been muffled for a price increase of \$10. They could be almost noiseless for about \$20 more, but appliance designers aren't sure buyers are willing to pay the difference. Yet the average dishwasher in use today generates almost 70 decibels, which is well beyond the generally accepted threshold of annoyance and about equal to normal TV volume. Manufacturers' associations have discussed the possibility of labeling consumer appliances with noise ratings, a proposal that has met with resistance among highly competitive companies. There are bills before Congress that would authorize the Environmental Protection Agency to put noise ratings on the machines we use, set standards and limit vehicular noise. This will happen only if enough of us get behind such legislation. It will never happen if we go on turning up the volume to drown out the din. ■

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*Continued from page 29* And while all essential elements of middle-grades language arts curriculum are found in comic books, their arrangement and presentation is not in any sequential order.

Thus it was difficult to organize courses of individualized instruction without spending considerable time scanning warehouses of comic book distributors for the right combination of stories. In addition, interest level of newsstand comic books varies tremendously, so what might appeal to boys would not necessarily appeal to girls, nor would sixth-graders necessarily respond to the same books as ninth-graders would. This disparity became especially important when I wanted to concentrate on a particular skill--let's say word recognition for eighth-graders--but could find that skill illustrated in comic books only on a fifth-grader's level.

There were structural aspects of comic books that if changed would have increased their effectiveness as teaching materials even more. For example, comic book text is hand-lettered and not typeset,

giving the work a warm, personalized feeling. While superior to regular typeset from a classroom point of view, hand-lettering is, however, all upper case, which could cause some confusion in subsequent lessons using regular texts. A more serious problem, in an educational sense, was the haphazard balance between complexity of graphics and text. A fourth-grade text, for example, might be accompanied by graphics better suited for seventh or eighth-graders.

All of the problems, however, were overshadowed by the overwhelmingly positive motivational and content features. As the school year came to a close, I was determined that eventually I would seek to consolidate my knowledge of classroom uses of comic books and start developing the necessary changes to make them more compatible with standard curriculum practices.

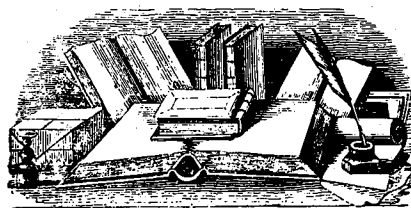
It was not until the fall of 1970, as a doctoral candidate in the Administrative Career Program, that I was able to renew my quest. During the years since my first experiences using comic book technology in teaching cognitive skills, I had become interested in the growing drug abuse education movement within the schools. For the most part, major efforts of drug abuse education were and still are directed toward the health area of school curriculum. My interests, though, were more global since I viewed the problem as more than just another passing social dilemma to be dealt with in the traditional manner. With this view in mind, I organized the Writers of Readers Project in the fall of 1970 in the South Bronx section of New York.

Writers of Readers, encompassing one elementary and three junior high schools, was basically an interdisciplinary language arts program that concentrated on drug abuse themes. The two major components of the language arts curriculum—reading and writing—have such basic factors of commonality that one could be taught by teaching the other, especially to slow and average learners. This was true, however, only if teachers and students were given a highly motivating set of materials and a topic of immediate concern that could be sustained. Aside from any other benefits to students, the combination of specially designed comic book materials and the drug abuse theme within language arts enabled us to solve most of the original design and structure problems.

By combining some of the more advanced thoughts of the comic book publishing establishment with requirements of cognitive development and accepted teaching practices, we were able to develop a series of instructional devices that enables teachers to use the students' own chosen medium while still maintaining the highest degree of curriculum integrity. The benefits of these devices,

which we call READAGRAPHS and WRITAGRAPHS, can also be applied to the broad range of curriculum—including science, history, health, and foreign language.

As for language art skills—which cause an acute problem in many schools—some instructional consideration and methods developed in connection with the use of comic book technology include vocabulary building, mechanics of sentence structure, the elements of a short story, reading comprehension, word identification and interpretation, and finding word meaning from context and a dictionary.



WRITAGRAPHS was used to develop writing skills through the simple comic book style of separation of text by balloons and boxes. Balloons contain only dialogue, speech, and character thoughts. Boxes, on the other hand, contain all narration of time, place, situation, and explanation. Using these standard devices, we designed comic book pages on a reading proficiency level basis that omitted all or most text. By having the opportunity to write their own comic books about their favorite characters, students not only practice and improve writing skills, but write more.

The excitement of being able to apply comic book technology to classroom instructional tasks is one of the reasons a number of teachers from the Writers of Readers Project worked with me this past summer in developing the technology further. Through mutual interest in the project we were able to work closely not only with top comic book writers, artists, and editors, but also with language arts specialists from HGSE. What we did last summer has enabled us to advance our body of knowledge to a point where schools will soon be able to use such teaching materials in regular learning programs.

This year's Writers of Readers Project in the Bronx, which is to involve almost 2,000 students, will lead us, we hope, toward an expanded use of the materials that will include areas of curriculum other than language arts. Our immediate target is the science curriculum.

Can't you just imagine Superman explaining the force of gravity? Up, up, and away!

© —Daniel Dobin

no clash between the concern for development and the concern for the environment, that support for environmental action must not be an excuse for reducing development, and that there must be a substantial increase in development assistance with due consideration for environmental factors. There was also general agreement that a philosophy of "no growth" was absolutely unacceptable.

Many speakers from developing countries stated that there was exploitation of their natural resources by developed countries for their own purposes; some protested against the activities of certain multinational corporations. Many representatives also stressed that there was exploitation of international marine resources by developed countries, which had a direct effect upon developing countries.

The need for more effective and less wasteful utilization of natural resources was underlined by several speakers.

In the opinion of many speakers, the only criterion of the success of environmental programmes was the substantial improvement of the conditions of life of the vast majority of mankind. To achieve this, there must be an entirely new attitude on the part of the developed countries towards their responsibilities. Many speakers from developing countries urged the relaxation of protectionist trade barriers against their products, and several warned against the danger that developed countries might raise the price of their goods to meet costs incurred in environmental reforms; it would be intolerable if the nations which had created the world's environmental problems should expect others to meet the cost.

Many speakers, from both developing and developed countries, agreed that the ruthless pursuit of gross national product, without consideration for other factors, produced conditions of life that were an affront to the dignity of man. The requirements of clean air, water, shelter and health were undeniable needs and rights of man.

The need for regional co-operation among developing countries was mentioned by many speakers. Some said that it was only through national initiatives and work that the problems of developing countries could be solved; others added that such initiatives and work should be undertaken with regional and global co-operation. The need for technical and scientific assistance for the developing countries was emphasized by many speakers, as was the importance of effective international dissemination of information.

Several speakers expressed concern at the inadequacy of existing knowledge concerning environmental problems, and stressed the urgent need

to initiate international research programmes the results of which would be freely available to all. Some speakers considered that the establishment of such programmes would be the most important single contribution that the proposed body, which would be charged with the work that the Conference had initiated, could make in its formative stage. Several speakers considered however that that would not be sufficient, and that the basic need was for a major programme of education in the poorer countries, as it was only through the eradication of illiteracy and ignorance in all sectors of society that mankind could hope to improve its opportunities and conditions of life.

### **Draft Declaration on the Human Environment**

Many speakers stressed the importance which they attached to the proposed Declaration on the Human Environment. Several expressed the hope that the draft Declaration set out in document A/CONF. 48/4 would not be amended, and that the carefully constructed consensus achieved in pre-Conference consultations would not be imperilled. Others, while expressing dissatisfaction with parts of the Declaration—particularly in regard to what they considered to be its inadequate appreciation of the needs of developing countries—accepted the Declaration. Still others, however, took the view that the Declaration was of such importance that those countries which had not had the opportunity of expressing their opinions in the course of the preparatory process should be entitled to express them during the Conference and propose alterations.

### **Environment Fund**

The proposed Environment Fund was supported by many speakers. Several delegations announced their intention of making contributions to the Fund. Concern was expressed by some representatives of developing countries that the Fund might be regarded by some developed countries as an alternative to development assistance. Some speakers emphasized the need to use the Fund to help developing countries meet the additional environmental costs incurred in their development programmes. Several speakers endorsed the argument that "the polluter must pay".

In addition to discussing the Fund, several speakers agreed with the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the provision of levies as a source of finance for the Fund. It was also proposed that a world housing programme should be established to extend technical assistance to developing countries in the many-faceted aspects of human settlements.

*Continued on the next page*

## **Population**

Several speakers expressed regret that population problems took so minor a place in the agenda of the Conference. They argued that all strategies for development and environment would be fatally damaged unless the rate of population increase was reduced. Other speakers said that the population increase was not the problem; the real challenge was the fact that so large a number of the people of the world had such a small expectation for a fruitful, happy and long life. In the opinion of certain delegations there was no incompatibility between population growth and preservation of the environment.

## **Conservation**

It was emphasized by several speakers that conservation of natural resources must be an integral part of sound development and environmental programmes, and that this was not a luxury but an absolute necessity. Many speakers described actions taken in their countries to protect areas of land and its wildlife. The preservation of all forms of life on the planet was described by many speakers as being a crucial part of the strategy to enhance and protect the human environment now and in the future.

## **Marine Pollution**

The problem of marine pollution was stressed by many speakers. Contamination of the oceans had global consequences, affecting peoples many thousands of miles away from the source of pollution. Mention was made of natural disasters at sea, oil discharges, excessive use of pesticides, and atmospheric pollution, which eventually contaminated the sea. Several speakers welcomed recent international action to curtail ocean-dumping. Particular reference was also made to the problems of certain seas, which could be solved only by regional co-operation and action.

## **Institutional Arrangements**

The proposal for the establishment of an intergovernmental body on the human environment was generally welcomed. Some speakers considered that it should be a body of the General Assembly, while others argued that it should be a commission of the Economic and Social Council. Some speakers were in favour of a body composed of 27 members; others considered that number too small. Emphasis was placed by many speakers on the need for effective regional co-operation, since many en-

vironmental problems were capable of solution only by regional collaborative action. Several speakers pointed to the danger of duplication of effort inherent in the creation of too many organizations. Representatives of the specialized agencies drew attention to their existing programmes.

The proposal for a small permanent secretariat unit for the new intergovernmental body was also generally supported. In the debate, some speakers mentioned United Nations locations in New York and Geneva; speakers from Austria, India, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland invited such a secretariat to establish itself in their countries.

## **Other issues**

A considerable number of important matters affecting the human environment—both immediately and in the future—were raised in the general debate. Many speakers described actions which their countries or organizations had taken or proposed to take in order to solve particular national, regional and international environmental problems. The environmental effects of pesticides and fertilizers were mentioned by several speakers, some of whom urged the development of safe and cheap alternatives to those pesticides and fertilizers that had been found to be harmful. Some speakers were highly critical of the development of supersonic aircraft, which, they claimed, could have harmful global effects. Others pointed to the ever present problem of natural disasters, and put forward suggestions for improved advance warning and for steps to limit damage. The difficulties of agricultural countries were described and analysed, as were those of nations with substantial urban problems. Many speakers stressed the importance of preventive action and the necessity of taking early steps to discover and prevent serious environmental hazards. To that end, the importance of the exchange of scientific and technological information and experience, through the proposed referral system, was mentioned by several representatives. There were also suggestions for annual reminders to the public, by means of named dates or a week, of the importance of preventing environmental hazards.

The representative of Iran announced that his country had selected an area of 130,000 hectares constituting an ecosystem of global importance, which it was prepared to place in joint trust with an appropriate international agency to conserve and administer for the benefit of all mankind. He further announced the establishment by Iran of an annual prize of \$20,000, for the most outstanding con-

tribution in the field of the human environment, to be awarded through the good offices of the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Some delegations emphasized that any discussion of the problems of the human environment could not exclude international conflicts, the suppression of human rights, *apartheid*, nuclear testing, the offensive presence of foreign naval forces in seas near their countries, and the proliferation of armaments. References were made to the situations in Indo-China, the Middle East, and in southern Africa. Other representatives argued that such matters, although of substantial importance, should be discussed in other organs of the United Nations and were not appropriate to the Conference. Several representatives expressed strong criticism of the decision of certain nations participating in the Conference which proposed to continue nuclear testing. Others said that the armaments race and stockpiling of arms of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and conventional weapons—should be condemned since they represented a menace to the environment and to humanity itself.

With reference to the proposal for the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Canada and Mexico offered to act as host.

The view was often expressed that man possessed the skills to foresee and avert ecological misfortunes and to create a much happier and richer world, but that no positive advances could be made without the political will. It was repeatedly emphasized that it was only by means of global co-operation, understanding, sympathy and assistance that mankind could achieve the results that his talents could provide. ■

#### Environmental Legislation

Continued from page 33

#### LEGISLATION VETOED

**S5364-B by B.C. Smith, et al., A9046 by Costigan, et al.,**

**A12358 by Rules Committee, A12359 by Rules Committee**

These bills would enact a Tidal Wetlands Act and require the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation to make an inventory of such wetlands, impose a moratorium upon development thereof if necessary, and prohibit alteration of wetlands without permit. Veto Memos Nos. 265, 266, 267, 268.

**A9245-A by Lane, et al.**

This measure would require all state agencies to

develop methods and procedures which would insure that environmental values would be given appropriate consideration in decision making. The bill would also require state agencies to file environmental impact statements with DEC with respect to each program or project to be carried on with the license or permission of such agency. Veto Memo No. 11.

**A8564-A by Harris, et al.**

**A8564-B by Harris, et al.**

These bills would amend the Navigation Law to provide that every two-cycle outboard motor, manufactured, sold or offered for sale in this state after January 1, 1973, or used on the navigable waters of the state after January 1, 1975, shall be equipped with a crankcase drainage and exhaust system of a type approved by the Office of Parks and Recreation. The bills would also authorize the Office of Parks and Recreation to require applicants for boats registration certificates to disclose whether such vessel was propelled by an outboard motor and if so to certify certain data referring to the motor. Finally, both bills would empower the Office of Parks and Recreation to withhold registration of a vessel on the ground that an outboard motor has not been certified as being equipped with the proper crankcase drainage and exhaust system. Veto Memos Nos. 217 and 218.



**A12062 by Rules Committee.**

This bill would amend the Environmental Conservation Law to authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation to adopt rules and regulations for the protection of marine fisheries resources within a distance of two hundred miles from the New York coastline or to a depth of one hundred fathoms, whichever is the greater. Veto Memo No. 176.

**A838 by Reilly, et al.**

This bill would amend the Conservation Law to prohibit the development and drilling of oil or gas wells in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean off the shores of Long Island or in the waters of Long Island Sound. Veto Memo No. 241.

## Measures Signed

### A10581 *Continued from page 33*

Provides that sworn officers in the Division of Law Enforcement in the Department of Environmental Conservation shall be police officers. Lane. **Chapter 858.**

**A11955**  
Authorizes forest rangers to issue appearance tickets to persons committing a misdemeanor under provisions of the Conservation Law relating to lands and forests. Rules. **Chapter 862.**

**A12376**  
Appropriates one million five hundred thousand dollars to the Department of Environmental Conservation for state aid to municipalities pursuant to the Environmental Conservation and Public Health Laws. Rules. **Chapter 872.**

**A12198-B**  
Permits County Environmental Management Council to advise on all matters affecting preservation, conservation and ecologically suitable use of natural resources of the county and make other related changes. Rules. **Chapter 904.**

**S10316**  
Provides that Conservation Advisory Councils shall keep an inventory and map of all open marsh lands, swamp and wetlands, may accept by gift, grant, bequest or otherwise, money or property and provides for payment of the expenses of members thereof. Rules. **Chapter 905.**

### S9396

Provides that members of the Shinnecock tribe, Poospatuck tribe, or members of the six nations, residing on any reservation, are entitled to receive a fishing license, big game license, trapping license and bowhunting stamp free of charge. Marino. **Chapter 916.**

### S10398

Authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation to contract with federally-funded non-profit organizations that are organized for the purpose of beautification of highways, parks and recreation areas and employ persons sixty years of age or older whose net annual income does not exceed one thousand dollars to carry out such activities. Rules. **Chapter 929.**

### Summary

### A6816-B

Amends Article 12 of the Public Health Law to provide that any construction, operating or discharge permit issued pursuant thereto may be revoked or modified after hearing thereon, provided, however, that the right to such hearing may be waived. Steinfeldt. **Chapter 959.**

### A10541

Creates the Temporary Commission to Study Tug Hill in Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego Counties. Crawford. **Chapter 972.**

### S-10396

Extends for an additional ten years the authority to provide state aid for municipal planning for the future collection, treatment and disposal of sewage. Rules. **Chapter 998.**

### Summary

### A-10791

Authorizes the Environmental Facilities Corporation to enter into one or more contracts with any company or firm designated by the corporation to be a responsible agent for the planning, design, construction and operation of one or more solid waste processing pilot projects. Harris. **Chapter 999.**

### A-8962

This measure provides that in ascertaining the power of a municipality to contract indebtedness, there shall be excluded indebtedness contracted on or after January 1, 1962 and before January 1, 1983 for construction of facilities for conveyance, treatment and disposal of sewage. (This measure, if acted upon favorably by the 1973 Legislative Session, will be offered to the voters at the general election in November, 1973.)



Jack Kofoed, columnist of the **The Miami Herald** says that you may think pollution is a brand new problem, but it isn't. Consider New York before the Revolution. In the neighborhood of what is now Chambers Street there was a beautiful big fresh water lake called the Collect.

In 1740 Andrew Rutgers bought land on either side of the outlet stream, drained it and people began building homes. They were cheap, shoddy houses because the newcomers were of the lower class, and within a few years the once beautiful Collect became a reeking, open sewer.

It grew so objectionable that authorities filled it and drained adjacent marshlands. This was the beginning of pollution control, but humans learn so slowly that more than two centuries later we are faced with pollution of both air and water. Elimination will cost billions of dollars and years of time. We could have learned from the Collect more than two centuries ago, but we didn't. (10 / 13 / 72)

**POLLUTION CONTROL  
IS 2 CENTURIES OLD**

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