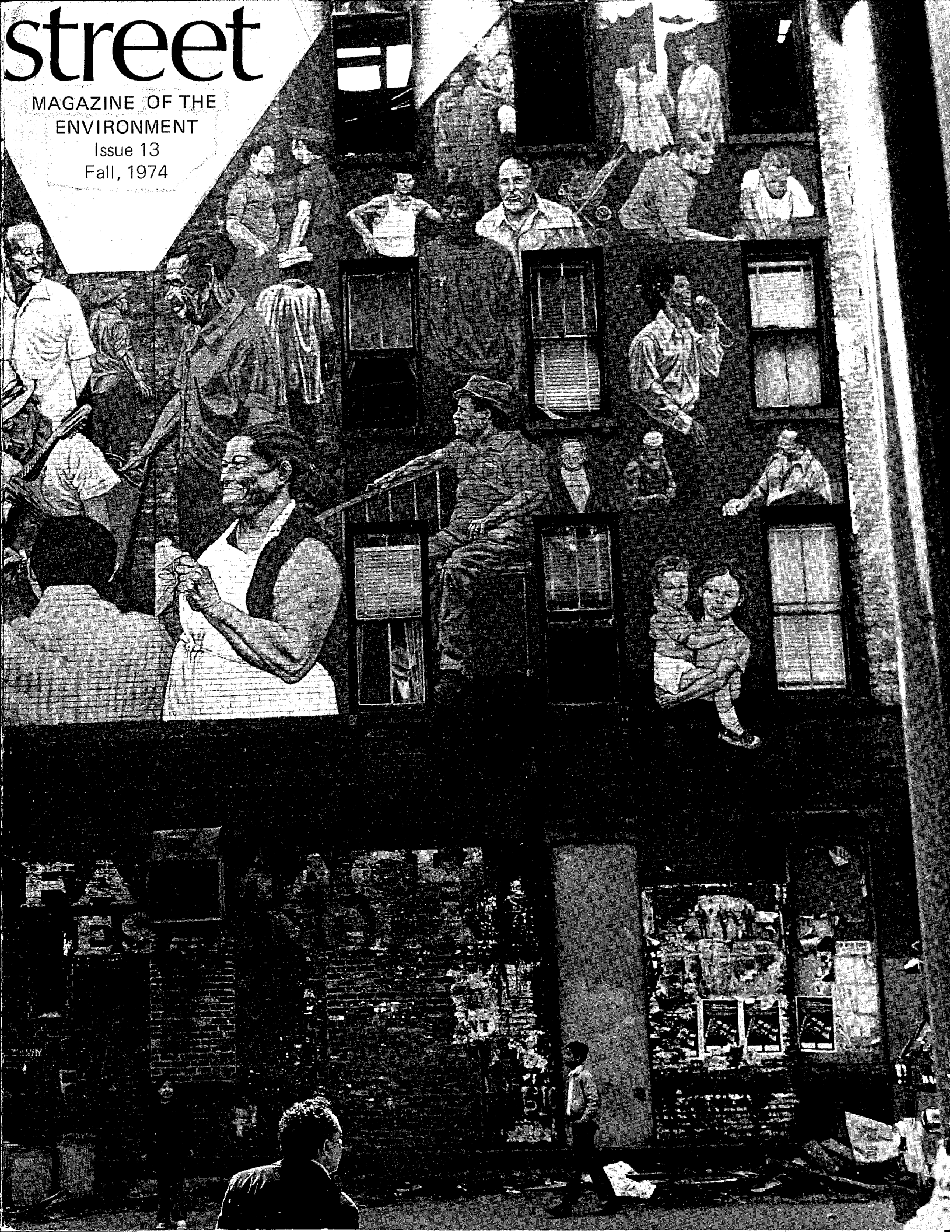


street

MAGAZINE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

Issue 13
Fall, 1974





STREET magazine is a publication devoted to the urban environment. Its aim is to provide its readers with information on basic issues relating to ways of living better in the city. With its focus on Brooklyn, **STREET** has presented, over the past two years, a variety of articles gathered from many sources on such topics as neighborhoods, innovative education, environmental legislation, urban homes and furnishings, help for the urban consumer, tips on urban survival, nutrition and health as well as environmental news from other communities and countries.

Publication of **STREET** is one of the many services offered by the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, a technical assistance and advocacy planning organization. The Center staff works with civic groups and grassroots community organizations. Through its free professional services, it acts as a bridge between communities and government agencies. It helps communities find solutions to their physical, economic, and social problems. The Center's services in the areas of housing and land use are intended to balance the relationship between government and people by giving communities the technical expertise to share in making decisions. Through its public education program, the Center seeks to provide information on current projects and developments in the fields of housing, health, and the environment.

The Pratt Center tries to help neighborhoods solve their problems. Won't you help the Center meet its commitments by giving your financial support through a contribution toward its work. No amount is too small — or too large. A voluntary contribution of \$5 or more will bring you a subscription to **STREET** and all other Center publications.

Please send your contributions to:

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HOW TO DEAL WITH HOSPITAL EXPANSION

by Dan Leahy

A common threat to many communities in Brooklyn and the city at large is that of institutional expansion. Whether the institution be a hospital, a factory, or a school, residents of the area are faced with condemnation of their houses or loss of their apartments, probable financial loss, and relocation out of a neighborhood where they may have close ties of family or friendship. This dislocation is especially

wrenching for older people who may have lived in the same neighborhood all their lives, and their parents before them.

Addressing this problem, as it particularly relates to hospital expansion, members of a Workshop on Urban Removal by the Private Sector, meeting earlier in the year in a city-wide Conference to Save our Neighborhoods, were given an action program to combat hospital expansion not justified by program needs.

Himself an old hand at fighting institutional expansion, the speaker, Dan Leahy, lived in Brooklyn's Park Slope area for five years and was active with some 14 tenant organizations throughout the city who were fighting various types of hospital expansion. Mr. Leahy is now director of the Human Affairs Program at Cornell University, a field study and community organizing program that works in a two-county area.

Hospitals on the Move?

Residents of an area may not realize until too late that a hospital is planning to expand. Some of the indicators that a nearby hospital is on the move are that owner-occupied apartment houses and/or private homes are purchased by "dummy corporations" or local real estate speculators. Dummy corporations often have a law firm address and are controlled by the hospital through an officer of the corporation.

Management firms may take over responsibility for rent collection and building maintenance, with tenants paying rent to a real estate office. Often the real estate office is that of a member of the hospital's board of trustees. When apartments become vacant in the building, they are not re-rented.

Processes of Harassment

Soon there is a marked deterioration in building services. Heat and hot water become irregular; elevators don't work. Utilities are shut off, and failure to pay notices are posted on the buildings.

Rumors are widespread that the hospital is "evicting" people. Actually, there are very few instances in which voluntary hospitals have used legal means to remove tenants. When local businesses on the block or in apartment buildings begin to close up, it's a sign that the hospital has probably purchased their leases from previous landlords.

With apartments vacant and buildings deteriorating, vandalism begins to increase alarmingly. Cinder-blocking of vacant apartment windows creates an "entombed" atmosphere for remaining tenants. Soon tenants begin to get personal visits from hospital personnel asking them to move so a "medical center"

can be built and telling them to hurry up because the apartment buildings are coming down. This is usually followed up by local real estate agents calling tenants and offering to find them apartments since "they have to move."

Hospitals Justify Actions

Reasons given by hospitals in justifying their removal of tenants include the admonition that a few tenants can't stand in the way of health needs of an entire community, though they offer no proof that expansion necessarily means better health for area residents.

The present housing is described as a slum, and the hospital promises to build new housing, not mentioning that it will probably rent for much more than the present tenants can afford. The hospital claims that it cannot attract high quality medical staff members unless it has staff housing right next to the hospital, but the truth is that doctors are attracted by high quality medical practices, not high-rise housing.

Cite Doctors' Needs

Claim is also made that the doctors need a parking lot to avoid traffic congestion in the neighborhood, though doctors who live in the city could easily use public transportation to the hospital. The argument is given that people can't get beds in the hospital; beds are in hallways — more are needed for sick people. Increased preventive medical care, however, would decrease the need for beds.

The hospital offers to relocate tenants and find them apartments, though such apartments are likely to be in decontrolled buildings at rents they can't pay. Tenants are told that the hospital owns the buildings where they are, so they must move when requested. The real question is, who owns the hospitals; most of them rely on public financing for most of their operating money, and most of the expansion is paid for by public funds.

Pressure Put on Tenants

Actual harassment has been used by hospitals to force tenants out of their buildings. Some of the techniques employed are the approach of tenants *individually* asking them to move. This is followed up by letters *suggesting* they move, constant phone calls asking when they are leaving, and approaches by local real estate agents who "want to help out."

Relocation firms, specialists in tenant harassment, are hired by the hospital to "manage" the building. There is consistent and rapid deterioration of building conditions and services. The hospital attempts to discredit tenants by calling them "obstructionists," "radicals," "people controlled by out-

side agitators and primarily concerned with ripping off money from the hospital."

"Nuisance Evictions" Used

Hospitals try to get tenants to sign "nuisance eviction" papers against other tenants. They use racism to try to divide tenants, with such remarks as, "Those black people can't keep their apartments clean, can they?" "Those Puerto Rican kids sure tear up the building, don't they?" The truth is that the hospital's policy of neglect is the real nuisance.

Tenants may be moved from building to building, all of which are owned by the hospital. This is called "on-siting." They are told that if they move out they still will have their rent control rights. They may be offered a small sum of money, such as \$500, to cover moving expenses and given a deadline to choose between the money and eviction with nothing.

Demolition Rumors Circulated

Tenants who are in rent-controlled apartments are never told by the hospital that they have a legal right to stay. Rumors are constantly circulated that the buildings are about to be demolished. Hospitals hire engineering firms to conclude, after study, that the buildings are structurally unsound and should be demolished. Or, the hospital convinces a government agency (with the help of a local ward politician) to state that the building is in bad condition and should be torn down.

There is a huge build-up in the public relations staff of the hospital, and daily press releases are sent to the local press showing the president of the hospital kissing babies in the maternity ward or announcements about staff promotions. No mention is made of the issue of housing destruction and hospital expansion.

Hospitals Manipulate People

People are manipulated in various ways — ex-tenants are brought to harassment hearings to testify as to how great a landlord the hospital was. Unsavory characters are moved into buildings, either as tenants or as supers.

The hospital may demolish vacant buildings next to those that are occupied, telling tenants that they are next, or that now their building is structurally unsound. Hospitals may hire city government-connected "health" consulting firms to justify destruction of housing for community health reasons.

Elderly Tenants Misinformed

Elderly tenants who have been hospitalized because of the hospital's own harassment are visited

in their hospital beds by the hospital and told they will be moved out of their apartments because the conditions are so bad and the hospital is concerned about their health after they leave the hospital.

Tenants are offered large amounts of money (\$20,000+) to give up their rent-control rights. Some hospitals offer this on the condition that all the tenants have to agree to move before any one tenant can get the money. The hospital will tell its workers that if the hospital does not destroy the housing and expand they will lose their jobs.

Techniques to Combat Expansion

From others' extensive past experience in dealing with institutional expansion, a series of effective techniques has been developed for combating this form of hospital expansion and housing destruction.

Organizationally, tenants should build a strong tenant association dealing with both housing and health care. The following steps should be followed:

1. Use door-to-door organizing and personal contact.
2. Keep the lines of communication between tenants open. Tenants need constant reassurance against all the rumors.
3. Have tenants keep a day-to-day calendar of harassment and lack of services.
4. Collect money regularly from tenants — it's a war of survival.
5. Deal with the hospital only in a group. Don't allow personal visits to tenants by hospital personnel.
6. If the hospital wants to talk to the group, see only the head of the board of trustees. The essential tenant position is that there is nothing to talk about. We want our homes and health care. Period.
7. Designate someone to handle maintenance complaints. The organization must produce results on this level.
8. **KEEP ACTING.**

Form "Save Our Neighborhood" Groups

A neighborhood-wide coalition focused on "Save Our Neighborhood" is of great importance and may be useful in the following ways:

1. Contact church groups and let them know they are losing their constituency and the support base for their schools.
2. Contact homeowner groups and tell them they are next — uncontrolled hospital expansion simply means more expansion in *their* direction.
3. Contact PTA groups and tell them that if the neighborhood becomes full of transitory people, there will be no self-interest in working to improve the schools.
4. Contact local business people and tell them

that small retailers will be forced out of business by chain stores interested in the new mass market.

5. Contact property tax groups and tell them that for every piece of property the hospital controls (tax-exempt) their assessments will go up and their city services will go down.

6. Contact the ambulatory care committees at hospitals (some are community-controlled; if not, take them over). Agree to fight for preventive medicine and decentralized clinics and against staff housing, parking lots, acute care wings, and the destruction of housing.

7. Contact representatives of groups that use the hospital's emergency room and outpatient clinics and tell them the same things.

8. Contact neighborhood preservation groups and tell them the hospital is controlled by people who neither live nor work in the neighborhood and couldn't care less about neighborhood preservation.

9. Contact the local planning board. Keep a watchful eye on the members. They will become important later in the struggle. They are generally controlled by the local ward district leader, so you should be able to gauge which way they will go.

10. Link up with city-wide Save Our Homes committees. Yours is not an isolated fight — it is happening all over the city. City-wide representatives can give you the benefit of their experience, press contacts, governmental and political contacts, and joint action on your local issues.

Strategy Plan Necessary

A planned strategy is essential in confronting the power and money the hospital can bring to bear against tenant groups. It's vital to hit the hospital from all aspects. Go to the hospital itself and try to establish contacts with hospital workers. Get to know the workers in the emergency room and the outpatient clinic. Any internal conflicts within the hospital on the expansion issue will make these contacts worth a few visits. Try to establish contact with Local 1199 and work together on community-worker issues.

Find out if the hospital is connected to a church group — most are. Look at the names on the board of directors. Find out what organizations this church group has in the city and embarrass them on the morality of throwing people out of their homes.

Find out how government agencies on the city, state, and Federal levels regulate and finance the hospital. On the city level, it's the Comprehensive Health & Planning Agency; on the regional level it's the Health & Hospitals Planning Council of Southern New York; and on the state level it's the Commissioner of Health.

Find Bank Connections

Find out which bank the hospital is connected with. Look on the board of directors and you'll find plenty of connections; look on the payroll checks of employees; look at which bank lends the hospital money to purchase buildings.

Find out the names of all the consultants, architects, engineers, and public relations firms the hospital uses. Make contact with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. An action around the issue of accreditation would be very frightening to any hospital.

These are all potential targets for the tenant group and/or the neighborhood coalition. It seems that the banks hold the most promise for getting to the heart of the issue, as they are financing the "redevelopment."

Tenants Must Stay in Buildings

Tactically speaking, the basic necessity is keeping the tenants in the buildings. The buildings are what the hospital wants, and the buildings are what the tenants have in their control. The hospital can't and/or won't get legal certificates of eviction against rent-controlled tenants.

Exposing Building Conditions

Conditions of hospital-owned buildings should be exposed. This has been done by "slum sleep-ins," "walking tours" for political and community leaders, "candlelight marches" around the expansion block. Hospitals dislike this type of publicity.

Tenants should build a consistent community presence through block parties, benefit dances, street fairs, etc. The tenants have humor; the hospital doesn't. Harassment hearings should be sought in landlord-tenant courts. In order to win such a hearing, however, the main ingredients seem to be well-kept, day-to-day calendars of harassment and lack of services over a long period of time and lots of community presence at the hearing itself.

Press Contacts Vital

There must be constant development of press contacts, both locally and city-wide. Members of the press should not be viewed only as newswriters but also as resource people who can sometimes stop an action from happening. The tenant group should develop a press release form and use it often.

Sometimes legal action (injunctions) based on incorrect information in the hospital's applications to a government agency has been successful. Action at the time of the Board of Estimate and City Planning Commission public hearings has not been too successful in actually changing the decisions, but it has

succeeded in postponing a decision in the hospital's favor.

Alternative Plan Helpful

Alternative plans drawn up by an academic community development group have been successful in "legitimizing" tenants' claims that expansion will not mean better health care. Exposure of the hospital's "land banking" has been successful in developing neighborhood-wide coalitions. Direct actions (sit-ins, etc.) against the hospital are the easiest to mobilize and create yet another minor irritation. Continual approaches to governmental finance agencies has stopped projects from getting funded. The prime ingredient in these tactical operations is that the tenants are still in their buildings.

It is crucial that the tenants understand what is actually going on and who is profiting from this type of expansion. This is another example of the extension of corporate control over local neighborhoods by using not-for-profit institutions (voluntary hospitals).

How Hospitals Profit

They are taking over low-profit land controlled by local landlords and homeowners and holding it for redevelopment. They are purchasing housing units they do not control, destroying them, and creating an increased demand for high-priced luxury housing which they do control.

They are rearranging the community support system of working people. They are destroying stable communities where people are aligned to local institutions, such as political clubs, schools, and civic associations, and creating a mobile and transitory worker population whose prime allegiance must be to the corporate institution.

This type of expansion through not-for-profit institutions also allows increased profit-making for corporate institutions that "service" the expansion. This type of expansion takes peoples' health dollars and funnels them to banks. For example, hospital float bonds to finance expansion; banks purchase these bonds. Approximately 45 percent of a person's bed costs in a hospital goes to the banks to pay the debt service on these bonds.

The author, Dan Leahy, is originally from Seattle, Washington. He served with the Peace Corps in Turkey and has an M.A. from New York University in public administration and social policy, with all his course work finished for a Ph.D. in social policy. When he was a Park Slope resident, he did community organizing and free-lance writing for local papers. His first experience fighting hospital expansion was in 1970. Later, he helped organize city-wide Save Our Homes committees in the same cause. He has held his present post at Cornell University since July 1973.

Brooklyn Lives

LEGAL SERVICES OFFERED BROOKLYNITES

Signs of lively legal life are abundant in Brooklyn, where Brooklyn Legal Services of 152 Court Street is publishing a monthly newsletter distributed to Brooklyn communities and offering various kinds of legal assistance to residents.

Client Advisory Committees Set

Welfare recipients may make use of Client Advisory Committees at the following Welfare Centers, according to a report from the Newsletter: Bay Ridge, Brownsville, Bushwick, Clinton, DeKalb, Euclid, Fulton, Linden, Williamsburg, Livingston, Prospect, Ft. Greene.

These advisory committees include both clients and agency representatives and meet with the director once a month — meetings announced by notices at the centers.

LEGAL EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Legal Education for Community Development is a new unit launched by Brooklyn Legal Services to provide legal rights information, seminars, and workshops to communities. Communities' interests and needs will determine the areas of concern. Workshops might be built around welfare rights, landlord and tenant rights, consumer rights, or drug laws, for example.

If you would like to have a workshop in your community, please complete the following form and send it to Jyll Herzog or John Catau, Brooklyn Legal Services, 152 Court Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., or call 855-8003, ext. 29.

Organization _____

Person to Contact _____

Address _____

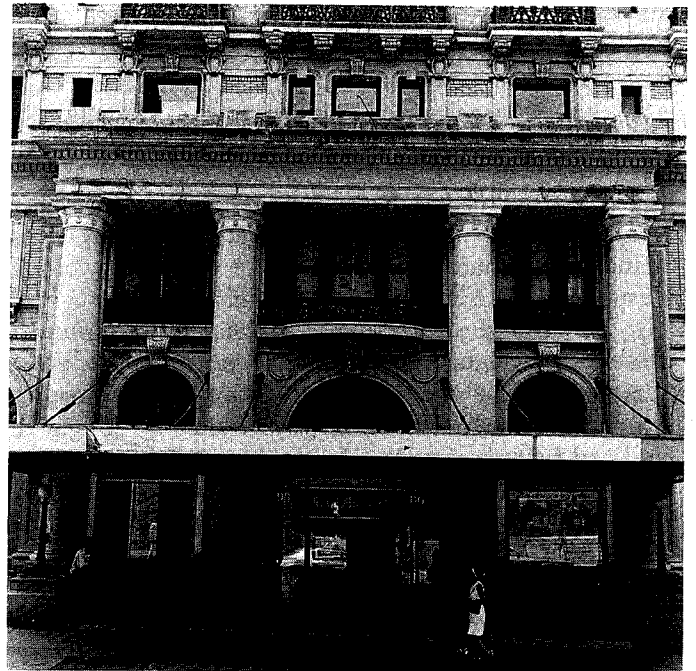
Phone _____

Workshop Topic(s) _____

Technical assistance is needed on all workshop topics, and Legal Services would welcome the skills or experiences any readers are willing to share with them.

Matrimonial

The Matrimonial Unit is accepting new names for appointments regarding annulments and divorces. Prospective clients should be Brooklyn residents with low incomes. The address is 152 Court St., 3rd Fl., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201; open at 9 a.m.



BOSSERT QUARTERS FOR ELDERLY PROPOSED

Better living for some of Brooklyn's senior citizens may be in the future of the Bossert Hotel at 98 Montague St., where David Kuppermann, the owner, has filed with the city for a permit to turn half of his Brooklyn Heights hostelry into a facility for the elderly. The City Planning Commission must approve the permit for the 240-bed facility before renovation can begin.

PREPAID HEALTH CENTER OPENS

The first new prepaid group health center in the city in more than 25 years has opened at 333 Livingston St. A joint venture of Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. and a physician corporation, the center provides a full range of services — hospitalization, psychiatric care, hospital emergency care, and emergency transportation to hospitals at a charge of \$69.75 per month for a family. The center, called Healthcare, opened in January with 102 patients and now has 10 times that number, with the expectation of an enrollment of 15,000 by the end of 1974. Some 30,000 can be accommodated there.

* * * *

COURT STREET GETS BEAUTIFUL

Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens, neighboring communities in South Brooklyn, are cooperating in a cleanup/beautification program on Court Street, the area's main business thoroughfare. They are concentrating on the stretch between Atlantic and Hamilton Avenues, their part of the street, and hope to make it a model small business street for all of South Brooklyn. With the encouragement of the

Court Street Board of Trade, plans include placement of litter baskets, trees, flowers, and awards of merit citations to cooperative merchants.

Some of the problems met by the cleanup committee were lack of trash cans in front of apartment houses, with resulting overflow of trash; illegally parked cars that prevented street cleaning; vacant shops where litter accumulated. The Police Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Sanitation Department, and Downtown Brooklyn Development Committee have lent aid to the project.

Residents and merchants agree that Court Street is well worth the effort. A delightful blend of old and new, it combines the ethnic flavors of Italian bakeries and fruit markets, Puerto Rican bodegas, Middle Eastern restaurants, Chinese laundries, and old-fashioned meat markets with sawdust on the floor. Reflecting the tastes and interests of the residents are stores featuring handmade jewelry, pottery, and house plants, as well as an animal clinic. Brownstoners generally feel that they haven't only moved into a house; they've moved into a community and a way of life that they are willing to work hard to preserve.

(Excerpted from *The Brownstoner*, April 1974)

* * * *

FINDING HOMES FOR ANIMALS

Volunteers are finding homes for animals brought to the ASPCA shelter in Brooklyn, which has begun an adoption program. Residents 18 years or over who love animals may offer their services for this project by writing Marion Duckworth, c/o ASPCA, 233 Butler St., Brooklyn 11217.

* * * *

SAFER DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN

Crime rates dropped in Downtown Brooklyn in 1973, compared to 1972 figures, according to the 84th Precinct report. Burglary was down 3%; grand larceny 3%; purse snatching 30%; and robbery 12%. An active plain clothes squad and citizen participation in Operation Identification, Block Watchers, Auxiliary Police, and Block Security programs are given credit for the reduction.

* * * *





NEW GARDEN CENTER

Filling the formerly vacant triangle tip of the Brooklyn Academy of Music parking lot on Lafayette Ave. is a new 2,000 sq. ft. greenhouse, the heart of a new Downtown Brooklyn garden center.

TREE RIGHTS PROCLAIMED

The right of Brooklyn trees to live and be beautiful has been asserted by Borough President Sebastian Leone. The Brooklyn Beep has announced a crackdown on businesses and other using trees as billboards. Saying that he was much disturbed by the use of borough trees as "nothing more than wooden posts on which to hang advertising free-of-charge," Leone reminded violators that Parks Dept. regulations mandate a fine of up to \$50 and up to 30 days in jail for such tree abuse.

LOST EAGLES RETURN

Apparently missing for eight years, four bronze eagles, which were part of the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument in Fort Greene Park, have turned up in the

monument division of the Parks Department. The three-foot tall eagles had been removed in 1966 for repair, along with a 20-foot brazier, also damaged. All have been renovated in a Long Island City foundry and were expected back in place by the summer. Considered by some the major memorial in Brooklyn, the Martyrs Monument covers the burial site of 11,550 Revolutionary War soldiers who died aboard British prison ships moored in Wallabout Bay.



NEW ARTISTS' STUDIO HOMES READIED

A Brooklyn building of Civil War vintage that looks like a war casualty is being renovated into 42 loft-type studios and living quarters for rental to professionals in the visual arts. The former Peaks Mason Mints factory at Henry and Middagh Streets will be known as the Middagh Street Studio Apartments. Applications should be made to Park Slope North Improvement Corp. To qualify, prospective tenants must be bona fide artists; earn at least 50% of their income from sale of their work, and their income must not exceed the requirements of the Mitchell-Lama formula governing its financial sponsorship.



LET THE MOVER BEWARE

Each year approximately one American family of every five moves to a new residence. Moving is expensive, whether across town or across the country. The wise consumer will carefully study alternatives to cut down on costs, damage to goods, and problems caused by delays.

“Do it yourself” moving can be satisfactory for short distances — between 10-15% of Americans who move do so, at a substantial saving over professional moving costs. Almost any size truck or trailer is available for rent, and some companies will provide, for an additional fee, special pads, packing boxes, and dollies for moving heavy furniture.

Counting the Costs

To calculate the cost of a self-move, include the cost of the truck rental and mileage charges, plus the cost of special equipment, gas and insurance. Assistance in loading and unloading heavy or bulky pieces of furniture is absolutely essential. While it is possible to save money by moving one's own furnishings, it takes considerable time, energy, and skills to do the job without damaging goods or bodies.

Friends, neighbors, and business associates who have moved recently may be the best source of information in finding a reliable carrier, if a professional mover is required. The Better Business Bureau will report complaints about specific movers. Cost, handling of claims, and prompt service are important considerations in choosing a mover.

People on public assistance can have moving expenses paid by welfare up to a maximum amount, if there has been no such grant within the past two years. An emergency such as a fire or a medical condition will set aside this two-year rule. (From *Community News Letter*, Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. B, March 1974).

FAMILY CARE SERVICES

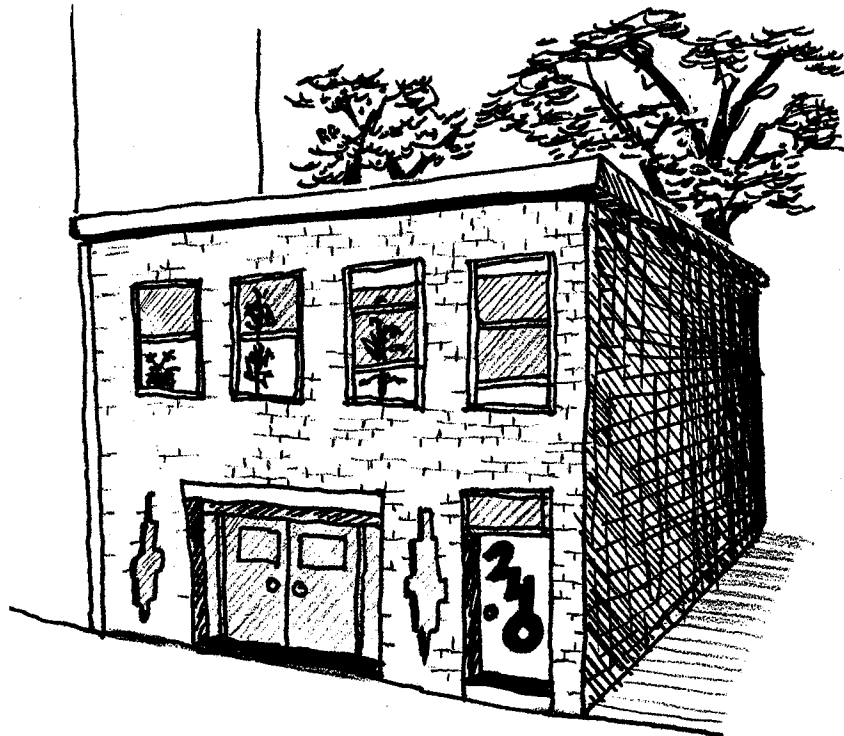
Free prenatal care, free birth control services, and free pregnancy testing can be obtained at the following Maternity & Family Planning Centers: Red Hook, 250 Baltic St., Phone 643-5819; Bedford, 485 Throop Ave., Phone 574-5311; Williamsburg, 151 Maujer St., Phone 387-9198; Bushwick, 1407 Myrtle Ave., Phone 491-1900; Brownsville, 259 Bristol St., Phone 498-6742.

* * * *

ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

Social facilities for people of 60 years or more are open at the Saint Louis Senior Center at Brooklyn and St. Marks Avenues. Sponsored by Brooklyn Catholic Charities and funded (in part) by the Dept. of Social Services of the City, the Center is non-denominational and open to all income groups. A free hot lunch is served at noon each day, and activities include hobby clubs, card and pool playing, arts and crafts, sewing, woodworking, bus trips, singing, films, social services, lectures, and exercising. Registration is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

PICCED: a history



By Bernard Friedberg

The Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development is a technical assistance and advocacy planning organization. Its staff works with civic groups and grass-roots community organizations, providing free professional services to its "clients."

The Center acts as a bridge between the community and government agencies seeking community-preferred solutions to the physical, economic, social, and environmental problems of the community. The services provided the client, whether a study of land use or a complete architectural plan, are intended to balance the relationship between government and people by giving the community the technical expertise to share in the decision-making process.

Center is Brooklyn-Minded

The Center, working primarily in Brooklyn, is currently providing planning and architectural design assistance to community groups in Northside, Coney Island, Park Slope, Red Hook and South Brooklyn. A team of environmental designers is helping a number of areas to recycle abandoned buildings for use as neighborhood day care and senior citizen facilities, and a wide-ranging public education program is offering specific information on current projects and general information on developments in the field of housing, health, education, and the environment.

How It All Began

The Center, established in 1963, is in many ways a product of housing legislation in the late 1940s and early 1950s and social legislation of the 1960s. Much of this legislation, such as the Federal Housing Act of 1954, provided for full citizen participation in all aspects of physical and social redevelopment of

deteriorating urban areas.

Until 1961, however, when a redevelopment plan for the western part of Greenwich Village in Manhattan was defeated by an informed and aroused community led by Jane Jacobs, citizen participation had not been a reality in New York City. Following the "West Village" experience, city planners became conscious of the need to consult with communities on urban renewal questions, and as a result the renewal process came to a virtual standstill.

Citizens Helped to Participate

In 1962 Pratt Institute's Department of City and Regional Planning responded to a community request to prepare a plan for rehabilitating housing in the Cobble Hill section of South Brooklyn. The plan was prepared as a student project, but though sound it was eventually rejected by the community it was intended to serve. The message was clear to the planners: citizens were participating but needed more information, as well as trained leadership to deal effectively with urgent renewal problems and opportunities.

The Center Is Born

It was in this context of urban renewal stagnation, absence of skilled leadership, and inadequate public information that Professor George M. Raymond, Chairman of the City and Regional Planning Department, submitted a proposal to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for a grant to establish an urban extension center under the auspices of Pratt Institute that would provide technical assistance, information services, advocacy planning, and leadership training to communities requesting it. In 1963 the Fund awarded a three-year grant and the Center was created. Pratt thus became one of the few educational institutions involved in the solution of community problems and

is the only one still active.

The Center's goal then as now was to provide communities with tools to fight their own battles more successfully. These tools — information, trained leadership, ability to negotiate with government agencies — are augmented by the technical expertise of the Center's full-time staff, trained students, and Pratt faculty members.

How the Center Functions

The Center-community relationship usually begins with a request from a community group for assistance in solving a critical local problem. In response the Center will then provide any appropriate combination of services within its capabilities. Often interconnected and overlapping, these services can be broken down into:

Technical Expertise — The Center furnishes skilled individuals to advise community leaders, civic organizations, and public and private agencies on their particular problems so that more rational decisions can be made. The Pratt technical assistants function as "participant educators" and work with the client group as long as necessary to develop its capabilities for independent action. Establishment of a productive working relationship between client and assistant is the key to a successful project.

Ministers Seek Help

A specific example of technical assistance offered by the Center can be found in its first major activity. In 1964 an organization of Brooklyn ministers representing a cross section of Bedford-Stuyvesant churches asked the Center to undertake a study to determine the effect of a nearby urban renewal project on the deterioration of their own area. The Center prepared and published the requested report. Its impact was significant: a series of open community meetings was held to discuss the issues raised and a second request was made for the Center to investigate alternatives to the City's renewal proposal.

The Center, in cooperation with community organizations, conducted a series of field trips to other cities with active urban renewal programs, produced a flow of informational materials, and sponsored meetings and conferences to further inform residents and community leaders. Through the Center's work, community leaders gained enough technical expertise to pursue their group's own goals, eventually resulting in the establishment of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, the nation's first community-controlled neighborhood revitalization organization.

Seeking to Save Homes

The Center's involvement with other communities follows this pattern. The staff of the Center is currently working actively with organizations in Northside and Coney Island. In Northside, an old but vital ethnic community was threatened by the ex-

pansion of a manufacturing plant. Residents were faced with destruction of their homes and with relocation. The Center was requested by community representatives to prepare an alternative plan that would be a compromise between the needs of the community and the manufacturer — allowing plant expansion with minimal displacement of residents.

The compromises reached in Northside led to important changes in the City's methods of dealing with relocation, replacement housing, tax abatement, and zoning. Area residents now have a strong voice in the redevelopment of their neighborhood and realistic options for their future.

New Regulations Applied

These new City regulations are being applied in solving a similar problem in Coney Island, where residents in an older area, with the Center's assistance, have developed arrangements with the City that will preserve the character of the neighborhood and still allow for the urban renewal process to continue.

Another example of the Center's technical assistance program is its work in the Columbia Street Containerport controversy in South Brooklyn. Large-scale demolition of a tightly knit community to make room for a new port facility was effectively prevented by the intervention of Center staff on the side of the community and the development of alternative plans for new housing, minimal relocation, expansion of port size, and increased job opportunities for local residents.

Aid to Gowanus and Brownsville

Two projects are involving Center staff in the rehabilitation of existing housing at the present time. In Gowanus, assistance is being offered in the design of low-rent cooperative apartments with attention to creative use of open space. In Brownsville, a comprehensive program for the temporary relocation of fire-displaced families includes architectural and interior design for housing and day care facilities and community spaces, as well as negotiations with City agencies and private contractors.

Communities as Partners

Community groups do more than merely invite the Center into a neighborhood: they actually serve as partners, providing community organization skills, knowledge of the area, physical space, and the day-to-day hard work of implementation. The Center has worked with such groups as the Conselyea Street Education Action Center and Northside Community Development Council in Northside, Neighborhood Improvement Organization in Coney Island, La Casa Neighborhood Service Center in the Columbia Street area, and Colony-South Brooklyn Houses in Gowanus and Brownsville.

In all these efforts the work of the Center has resulted in public policy changes that affect not only the communities involved but other communities that may be faced with such expansion planning in the future.

All Groups Have a Say

Advocacy Planning — The Center operates on the premise that all groups who will be affected by the solution of a problem are entitled to expert counsel and to influence the final decision. In most instances, this means the Center is giving community groups and whole communities that technical expertise to counter or supplement that of government. There is a definite element of advocacy planning in the Center's participation in Northside, Coney Island, and Containerport controversies, but advocacy planners often serve other functions.

For example, using data gathered in a comprehensive survey of vacant land and abandoned buildings, the Center developed a program of scatter-site housing and vest-pocket parks linked to community needs. The staff established site-selection criteria and design and construction techniques. It has been involved in the creation of more than 3,000 units of housing and two dozen vest-pocket parks.

The Story of CNBC

The design and implementation of the plan for Central Brooklyn Neighborhood College was effected by the Center working closely with area representatives and organizations to meet the needs of residents seeking a second chance at higher education. The college was community-run and had no fees or entrance requirements. It was consciously designed to alert public and private institutions to the dearth of opportunities for minority people in higher education.

By the time it disbanded in 1970, it had served more than 1,500 students; more than 100 faculty volunteers from several colleges and community agencies had participated. Development of street academies, the SEEK program, open admission at the City University, and a variety of special programs for adults eliminated the need for the college, but its existence had had a direct impact on individuals and institutions concerned with education.

Hospital Expansion Studied

In the health field, the Center is working with the Cobble Hill, Park Slope, and Fort Greene communities. In Cobble Hill and Park Slope the problem is physical expansion of area hospitals without demonstrated programmatic need. The Center is designing alternative physical development plans and analyzing the health care delivery systems as they apply to both neighborhoods. In Fort Greene, the Center is consulting in the preparation of a health facilities study to determine necessary expansion of services at Cumberland Hospital.

In the environmental field the Center assists existing and developing action groups and block and tenant associations to develop environmental activities and programs. This includes aid in the design and operation of recycling centers, preparation of environmental education materials including

school curricula, and specific data gathering on ecological problems.

How Leaders Are Trained

Leadership Training — The leadership training program of the Center has evolved from relatively formal efforts — such as lectures and seminars for community residents — to one of experiential learning in which participants receive on-the-job training with Center staff. Workshops are conducted on specific problems as they arise. The goal of the Center's training activities is to produce an informed community leadership capable of dealing with government agencies and expanding private institutions, evaluating programs, and offering alternative solutions. Many participants in this program have taken major leadership roles as staff and board members of city, state, federal, and private agencies involved in community development.

Good Reading for Communities

Information Service — A major deterrent to effective community action has been the absence of accurate, readable materials bearing on physical and social change. To meet this need the Center publishes manuals, guides, and general educational and reference materials on health, housing, neighborhood improvement, environmental protection, and education. In the past the Center has published a monthly newsletter and assisted a coalition of community groups in the production and distribution of a monthly newspaper.

The Pratt Guide to Housing and Renewal for New Yorkers, now in its second printing, is a major contribution to civic groups, neighborhood organizations, and individuals who need to find their way through the government maze to appropriate sources of information and assistance. *STREET*, a bimonthly Center publication, covers a wide range of urban environmental issues and is written to appeal to a variety of interest groups. All publications except the *Guide* are distributed free to community organizations.

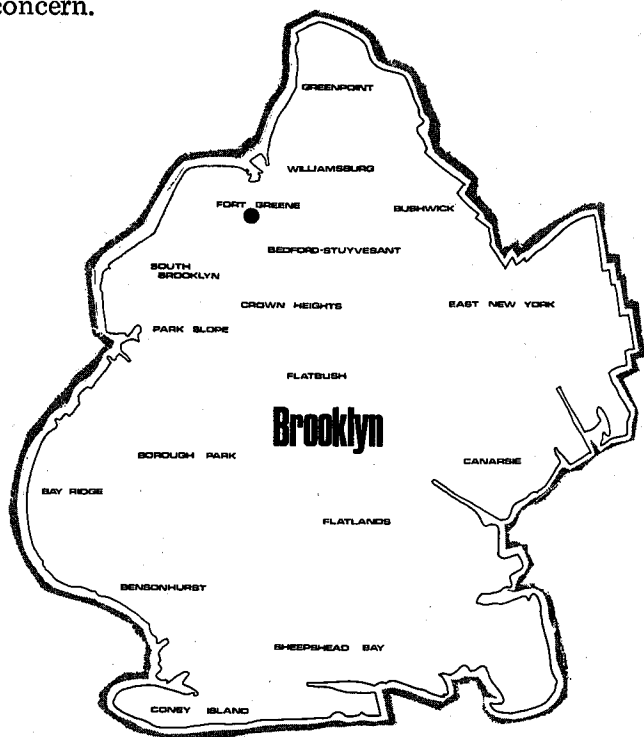
Over the years the Center has sponsored city-wide conferences on subjects of timely interest. These conferences have drawn a spectrum of speakers and participants and have had a measurable impact on public policy. Conference proceedings have been published and distributed widely.

The Center's Philosophy

In all its activities the Center has attempted to be a "third force" acting between community and government. The provision of equalizing expert counsel is essential to this function as is the formation of coalitions within and among communities over common issues. Coalition building has increasingly become a Center priority. A new ethnic awareness and the establishment of organizations advocating ethnic concerns has provided a broader base from

which to launch social action and community development programs and achieve maximum community involvement.

The Northside and Columbia Street issues are examples of the methods used by the Center in the creation or reinforcement of coalitions designed to seek real solutions to defined urban problems. These two neighborhoods represent a cross section of ethnic, racial, and economic groups whose goals — centering on improvement of the quality of urban life — are nevertheless the same. The realization that goals are shared has led to the formation of inter-community coalitions focusing on issues of common concern.



Makeup of Pratt Center

The Center Staff — The Center utilizes a unique combination of professionals and pre-professionals to staff its array of programs. These resources include a permanent staff of eight, 30-40 Pratt students each year, and Pratt faculty members. Professionally oriented students are attracted to Pratt, and those working with the Center, whether in work-study programs, social action courses, or on special class assignment, are well qualified as participant educators and capable of providing quality assistance to their assigned groups.

Volunteers from the Pratt faculty provide specific consultative assistance — short and long term — to community organizations and represent the spectrum of academic disciplines at the Institute.

Where the Money Comes From

Funding — The Center was created with a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in 1963 and has been funded by a variety of foundations, corporations, and government agencies in its ten-year history. In addition, the Center occasionally accepts contract

work for a fee, such as the current Brooklyn-Cumberland Development Plan under subcontract to a private architectural firm. Contract services are kept to a minimum, however, as they take valuable staff time otherwise available without charge to community groups.

Pratt Institute is committed to the Center and provides space, administrative expenses, the salaries of participating faculty, and deficit financing.

Where Does It Go From Here?

The Future — As government agencies assume the responsibility for day care, drug rehabilitation senior citizen activities, and educational alternatives, the role of the Center lessens in those areas. But new needs and problems continue to arise, and the need for technical assistance and information parallels these new developments. Health care, housing, revenue sharing, and environmental issues continue to warrant attention. New organizations are forming to deal with these problems, and new leadership must be trained so communities can be adequately represented in the decision-making process.

The Center will continue to provide professional expertise to minority communities and to expand services to working class ethnic communities. It will continue its community education services and its publications. It will continue to act as a third force, independent of government and committed to solutions to the problems of urban decay, substandard housing, inadequate public services, unemployment, poor transportation, chaotic land use, and limited recreational facilities.

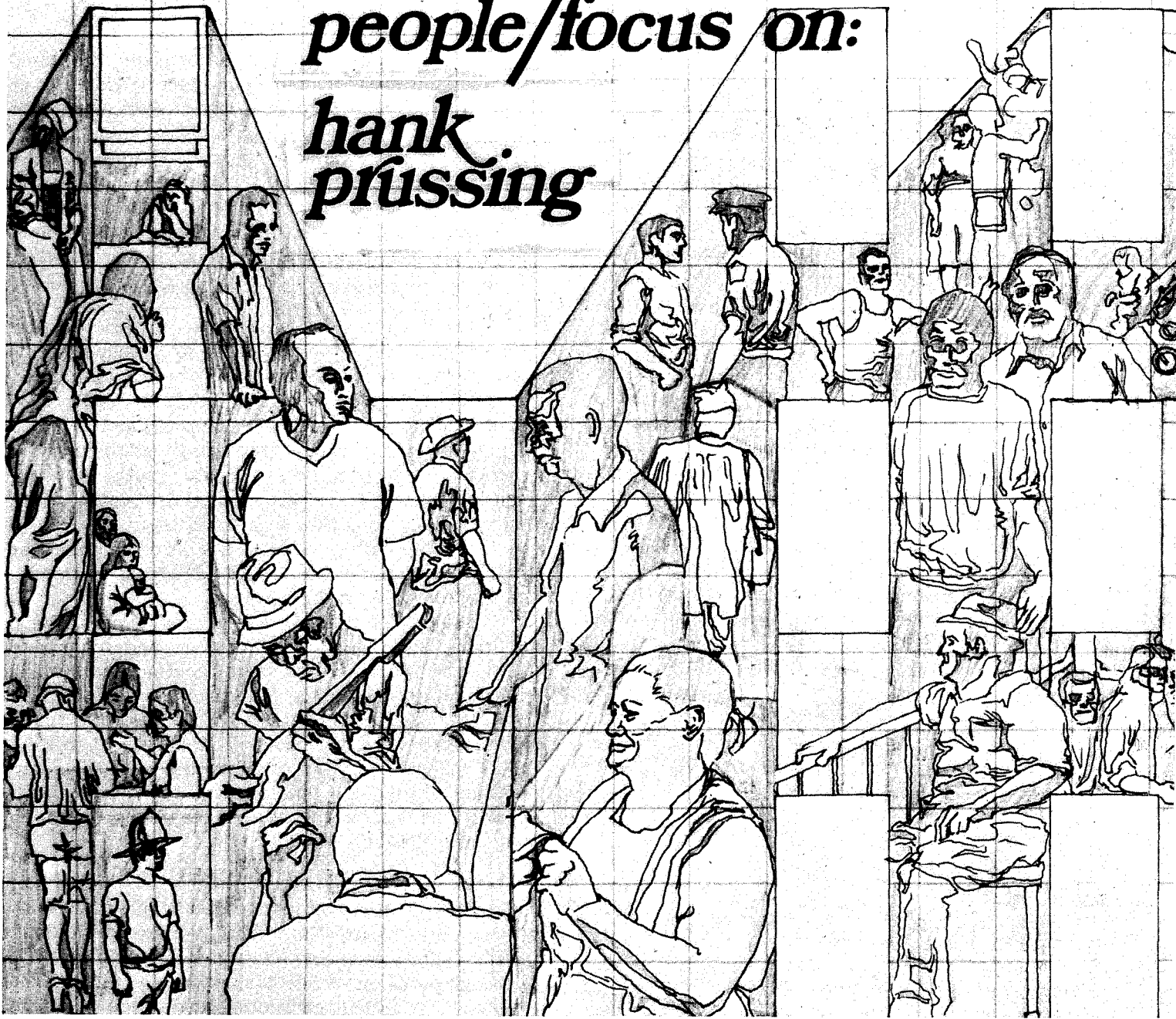
CENTER MARKS FIRST DECADE

In celebration of its first decade of service to the community, Pratt Center put on an exhibition June 11 — July 5 featuring some of its accomplishments. The show at the Pratt Manhattan Center, 46 Park Avenue, included continuous videotape and slide presentations and photo displays, notably a collection of photos of Brooklyn's Northside community taken by free-lance photographer Janie Eisenberg.

In addition to the visual offerings, the Center also sponsored three workshops at the Manhattan Center, bringing together experts in various fields and community workers who wanted to share their expertise. The first workshop was on Communities and the Press, with such media people as Peter Freiberg of the *New York Post*, Gary Gilson and Roseann Allesandro of Channel 13, and Celene Krauss and Barbara Bingham of Brooklyn Heights's *Township* newspaper, as well as members of the Pratt Center staff and community people.

Dealing with Communities and Foundations, the second workshop investigated ways in which community organizations can seek funding. Participants included Kathleen Roberts of the Fund for the City of New York, Coco Eiseman of the New York State Council on the Arts, and Nathaniel Harris of the First National City Bank.

people/focus on: hank prussing



MURAL in east harlem

Since the late 1960s, more and more city buildings have been brightened by outdoor murals, which not only improve appearances but also add to a neighborhood's sense of community pride. Just such an addition is now nearing completion in East Harlem.

Started in August 1973 by Hank Prussing, a Pratt Institute School of Architecture student who loves to paint on walls, the mural measures 35 x 60 feet. This depiction of the area's colorful street life is taking form on the broadside of a building at the southeast corner of 104th Street and Lexington

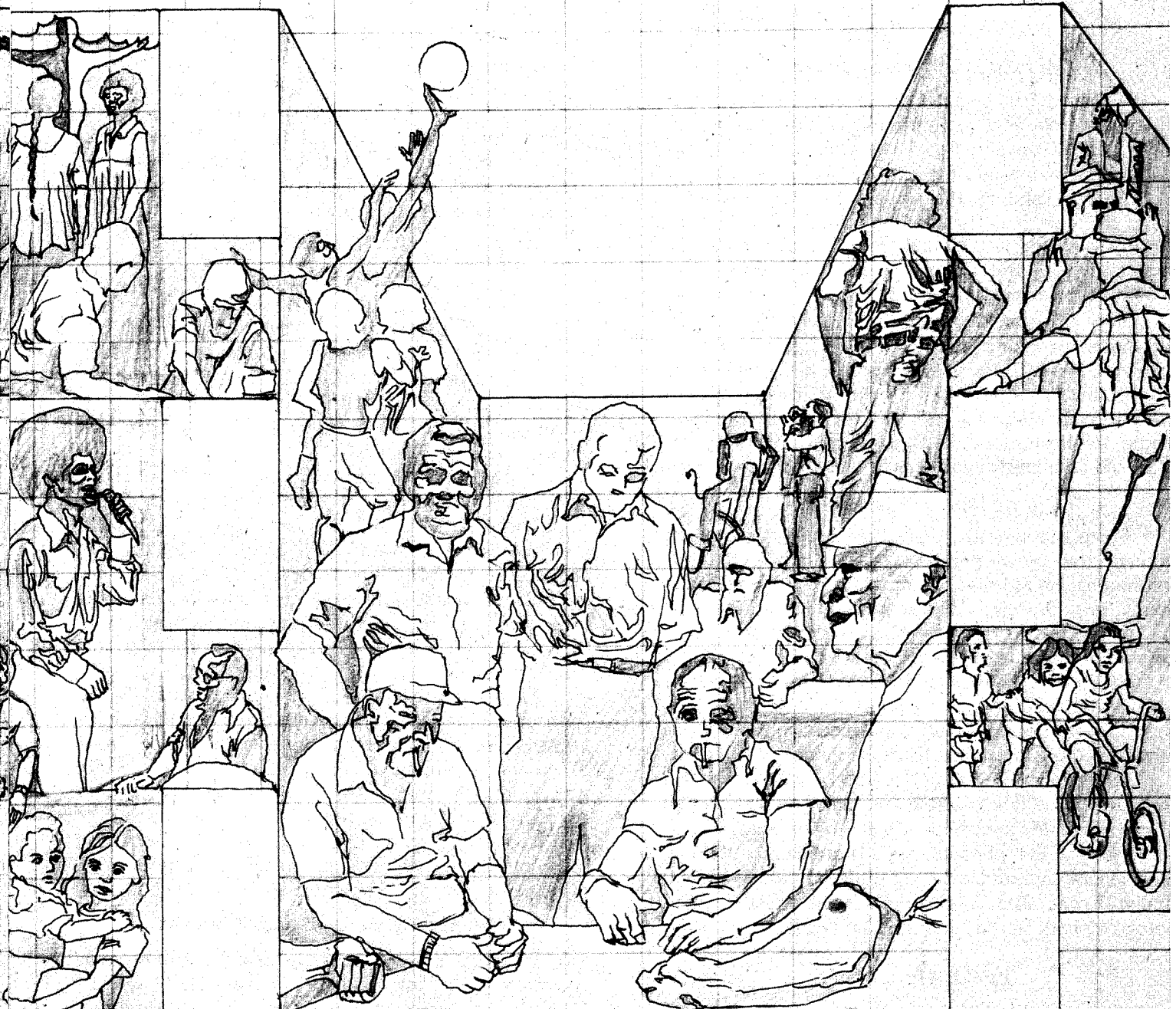
Avenue, and it includes actual portraits of neighborhood residents.

"My feeling is that the mural celebrates the way the community is right now," the artist says, "— not intending to represent its heritage or its aspirations." The neighborhood is mainly Puerto Rican, with a mixture of black and white families. Some 180,000 people live in East Harlem.

Mural is Local Focus

George E. Calvert, president of Hope Community, Inc., a non-profit community group that is buying up old buildings in East Harlem and renovating them, says the mural typifies "the spirit of East Harlem," has involved many community-minded residents, and is affecting everybody in the neighborhood.

"The effect is magnificent," Mr. Calvert continues, "full of variety and life. People gather across



the street to gaze up at it, intrigued and strengthened. It celebrates us as people engaged here in common tasks, united by our humanity. Friends and neighbors seem to emerge from the wall, familiar, yet newly significant and we all walk taller."

Hope Community is one of the sponsors of the mural-painting project, and the local community has tried to support the work alone, begging paint and the scaffolding and rigging from local merchants and persuading the landlord at 104th and Lexington to allow the mural to be painted there. Local attempts to raise funds to reimburse their muralist have not produced what the sponsors hoped for, and assistance has been sought (as yet, unsuccessfully), from foundations and other organizations interested in furthering community self-help efforts.

People Become Part of Mural

The building behind the mural has a pharmacy

on the first floor and three residential floors above. "The people have been very friendly to me," Hank says. "I wasn't sure how they'd react, as I have had to go in and out of their apartment windows to get to the rigging outside. As all their windows are included in the mural, they can be part of the painting anytime they feel like appearing at the window or exhibiting something there they'd like to have in the picture."

Work on the mural has been carried out during Hank's vacations from Pratt's School of Architecture, and the process has been lengthy and painstaking. Managing the rigging alone has required more skill, balancing ability, and daring than most people could muster. The painter does all his work standing on a narrow plank, 2½ ft. x 25 ft., suspended from the roof of the building and with only a rope stretched between the plank's end supports to keep him from falling. (It's possible to use a safety belt, but Hank gave that up as too confining.)

Muralist Has Ups and Downs

Managing his plank by a system of ropes and pulleys at either end, the muralist has had to raise and lower himself up and down the wall many times in the process of initially scraping off the old paint with a wire brush and at the same time sketching with chalk the design he had previously blocked out on paper. He has done the final work in sections 15 feet wide and has painted slowly, allowing the paint to soak in fully for maximum durability.

Now 26 years old and supporting himself with part-time work for a graphics firm doing architectural drawings, Hank Prussing was born in Plainfield, N.J., but has lived most of his life in Bethesda, Md. He started taking Saturday painting lessons at an artist's studio in Washington, D.C., when he was only six years old and continued there for six years.

A Budding Michelangelo

From the seventh to twelfth grades in school he concentrated on oil painting, learning all the classical techniques. He did his first mural, one with a religious theme, in a church in Washington and two more later in that city. At 17 he was called to do a mural in the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church at 85 S. Oxford St., a few blocks from Pratt Institute. Gene Dean, who was at that time in Pratt's Admissions Office, was a member of the church, and that was how the young artist first heard of Pratt.

He enrolled in Pratt's Art School, he says, and in four undergraduate years in graphics, "I unlearned all I had learned about painting up to that time." He also studied photography, filmmaking, etching, photoengraving, and other graphic processes. "Eventually, I was able to reconcile what I had learned before with all the techniques," he recalls.

Looking for a Wall

After graduating from Pratt in 1971, visiting museums and studying art in Europe, and working at everything from apprentice carpenter to jack-of-all-trades in a small TV studio, Hank gradually saw that his work and his general interests in art were leading him to architecture.

His inclination toward indoor/outdoor work started him thinking of mural painting again, once he was back at Pratt. All he needed was a wall — and how did he happen to find that particular wall in East Harlem? It was because his parents in Washington, D.C. knew a relative of George Calvert, the East Harlem community leader, who is now one of Hank's staunchest supporters.

Fire Spares Mural

Working only during school vacations, Hank had managed to finish about two-thirds of the painting in a total of some 25 working days. Before he could take up his brushes again, the top floor of the building was gutted by fire. Now Hank will have to wait until roof repair provides strong enough support

for his rigging.

"But I feel sure that I'll be working on it again," Hank says. "The wall seems somehow especially favored. Even when I was painting at 15° on winter days, the wind and the sun seemed to be with me. And even with such a disastrous fire the top of the mural was barely damaged."

Murals Are the Message

Community mural paintings began to be a popular form of expression about 1967, when communities started to display their need to have more power and more control at the grass roots level. Such murals were usually done by amateur painters of the local area and had strong social or political content. All major U.S. cities and many smaller ones are now brighter because of murals.

In the last two years more professional artists have joined the ranks of muralists with art-on-the-walls, both realistic and abstract, but generally with non-ideological content. This mode of making art part of the everyday life of communities, not keeping it confined inside museums and galleries, has been promoted and supported by such organizations as City Walls, Inc. of New York City and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Recently the Jamaica Art Mobilization Center sponsored a day-long session with the aim of enlivening the scene in Queens. Speakers included Doris Freedman, president of City Walls (sponsor of 32 city wall paintings) and Susan Kiok, director of the City Arts Workshop, a mural program in Lower Manhattan that recruits community artists. All the details of planning and carrying out a mural project were discussed in various workshops at the Queens session.

Community Design Group Proposed

In addition to his mural painting, Hank Prussing is seeking to organize a Lower East Harlem Community Design Group to help local community organizations enrich and rejuvenate the area. With the involvement of Pratt Institute students in architecture, graphic arts, industrial design, etc., overseen by the Pratt Center for Community and Environmental Development, the community leaders' ideas could be carried out. Such improvements are envisioned as street corner information kiosks, rooftop conversions, open air marquetas for local merchants, outdoor summer festivals on streets or in vacant lots, and street graphics to beautify commercial as well as residential fronts. Graphic artists are needed, too, to illustrate community ideas in professional form for presentation to funding bodies and governmental agencies in seeking financial aid for such improvements.

Willie Soto, who is associated with El Grito del Barrio, the Lexington Planning Coalition, and Concerned Citizens of East Harlem, is an enthusiastic backer of the effort to enlist Pratt student aid and has offered space in El Grito's office that is equipped with tables and drafting equipment.



WHY ARE NEIGHBORHOODS IMPORTANT?

A young mother and I were once discussing the joys of living in a diverse city neighborhood, as we sat comfortably at a streetside cafe that had become one of those public spaces which vital communities enjoy so well. Her toddler was not with us since he was now part of a small play group she had helped create, but as we talked about the freedom of experience we knew here as women, she saw a child pass by, was reminded of her own, and redirected our conversation. Looking somewhat surprised at her own discovery, she said, "I grew up in a small town where you knew all the eccentrics, the elders, all sorts of people, and what's more, you enjoyed them — you felt responsible for one another. Now we live in the city and my son is enjoying these same multi-dimensional, small-town encounters — right here — in this neighborhood."

On another occasion I was sitting at that same cafe, which had become a second office for me, and I was talking with a close friend who is 66 years old and proud of it. Although she is blind in one eye and has little sight left in the other, this feisty woman is busy organizing senior citizens all year round. When I asked her why the idea of neighborhood was important to her, she looked at me a little shocked, as if to say: does that question even need asking, and then said directly and quite simply, "Why? Because it's my family. Can you imagine what a burden I'd be to my children if they felt compelled to constantly amuse me? ...I love my children and my grandchildren, but here I have a separate and meaningful life of my own."

A strong, graying, Italian-American father may have put the importance of neighborhood most succinctly when he said, "Survival! I love my community; I know that when my children play on the street they will be looked after. One night my daughter was walking home alone and a man approached her, grabbed her, even tried to take her with him, but the people in this neighborhood would have none of that. They took care of that man; they brought my daughter home, safe."

Dr. Walter Krauss, a community psychiatrist who is director of Cumberland Hospital's Adult

Psychiatric Service in Fort Greene, believes that the sentiments expressed by these people are basic to mental health. "Close, stable neighborhoods are essential," he states emphatically. "They give people a sense of purpose, an identity, a place. For many people the neighborhood has become the extended family."

"I work with people who have little money, people who enjoy and have created this city's active street life. But their neighborhoods are constantly broken up; they're always being moved around. How can roots or community develop under these conditions? People suffer. Feelings of depression and isolation become common. When people feel powerless, when they feel lack of control over their environment and lives, when they feel bound in the dehumanizing, strait-jacket of welfare — it is inevitable that they will lash out. Crime is often the result."

"A psychologist on my staff once designed a poster with these words: Community Control Is Mental Health. What more can I say?"

On another level, cultural development and community are intimately bound, notes Eric Salzman, composer, musical coordinator, and director of a music-theater group called Quog. "Cultural expression grows out of a small community where people feel relatedness to one another," he says. "Here the artist can get greater feedback and, conversely, the audience has more to say about what it wants. For the most part today, our mass culture prepackages art and those for whom it is intended have nothing to say about it."

"Look at Florence. At its prime it had a population of 25,000. The Renaissance took place in Italy at a time when cities were no larger than neighborhoods are today — where cities were competing with each other in a healthy way. People felt much closer to cultural activity then."

Bonds, roots, and a wide range of creative experiences, then, are woven into a community's intricate fabric. Since they offer fulfillment on so many levels, neighborhoods are clearly important — people **do** want and need them.

Celene Krauss

NEIGHBORHOODS

BUILDING A NEIGHBORHOOD: Community Begins At Your Doorstep...

By Barbara Bingham

We all have ideas about the kind of life we wish to lead in our own neighborhoods. People also generally sense a need to have greater input into and control over the governance of their neighborhoods, but at present there is no universally accepted machinery to accomplish such an end.

Some attempts are being made at decentralizing power — community-controlled school boards and the Offices of Neighborhood Government (see *STREET* 9) spring to mind — but many problems and pitfalls continue to exist that render wide-ranging local autonomy more of a dream than a reality. An opportunity exists, however, for citizens to effect changes in the power balance between the central city government and neighborhood groups: charter revision.

New York City operates under a charter authorized by the state, which determines how the powers of the municipal government are distributed. In May 1972, the state legislature established a temporary State Charter Revision Commission for the City of New York. The Commission, which is headed by State Senator Roy Goodman, is authorized to investigate whether the charter should be revised, and, if so, how, in order to develop means to strengthen citizen participation in government and improve responsiveness of government institutions to local needs.

In order for a revised charter to take effect, it will have to be approved in a citywide referendum in November 1975. Future issues of *STREET* will feature articles explaining the process of charter revision and what role residents can play in the final formulation. Furthermore, the Pratt Center is presently planning a series of workshops on the subject to inform people about neighborhood government in general and the New York City charter revision recommendations in particular.

In the pages that follow, *STREET* contributors Barbara Bingham and Celene Krauss discuss many ideas about neighborhoods. Ms. Bingham gives some positive suggestions about steps individuals can take to increase neighborliness where they live, and Ms. Krauss advocates transferring some political and economic power from centralized bureaucracies to neighborhood groups. These are the first in a series of such articles reflecting the opinions and suggestions of residents, professional planners, and government officials.

You can't have a community without people meeting one another. This overly obvious fact deserves mention because many of us find ourselves asking: What makes a neighborhood work? How can we build neighborhoods? How can we make residential zones into communities?

I am not addressing myself to those communities which have developed and are maintaining a very evident neighborhood cohesion on an ethnic, religious, or social basis. I have in mind those neighborhoods where cohesion and neighborhood identity are problematic. Even more I am addressing myself to people of a neighborhood who haven't tuned in to their neighborhood scene, or who simply feel that their neighborhood needs more life, or verve, or social contact in order to survive over the long run.

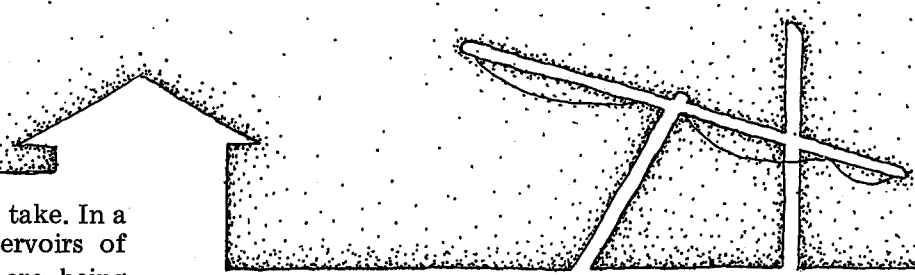
Alienation Worries

There has been a great deal of talk about the problem of "alienation." People often do feel alienated from their daily work or from the bureaucracies which provide employment or administer government functions. The neighborhood is the logical place to maintain or to build an alternative mode of life.

What is neighborhood? All of us are familiar with the welter of local community organizations which are vital for giving direction to community life: schools, churches, synagogues, recreation groups, service agencies, political clubs, block associations. Often these groups have the stature to represent the community to the "outside" world of city and state government. But what makes for an internal sense of neighborhood, a sense of soul, a sense of home turf? Underlying the formal, structured organizations are small, loose confederations of neighbors with similar interests and concerns: rap groups, babysitting groups, food co-ops, block patrols.

Energy from Groups

As transitory as these small groups may often be, and despite the fact that they may be made up largely of people who are next-door neighbors, they are vital to the health of a community and to



fostering democracy via neighborly give and take. In a time of crisis, these groups are small reservoirs of human energy. For example, when you are being mugged on your doorstep, if you are fortunate, a block patrol or other concerned neighbors will come running out with a hue and cry to drive off your attacker. Where there is less social cohesion, your concerned neighbors, who may be afraid and few in number, may content themselves with a call to the police. The degree of response depends upon the delicate social fabric and the expectations that are subtly woven between you and your neighbors.

The neighborly small group cannot replace one's family, nor can it serve as a cushion in a community crisis which calls for political savvy and action. But it can serve as a social support, a kind of extended family, a reservoir for cooperative behavior.

Community Means Neighbors

Community is born with the most elementary social contact: getting to know your neighbors and learning to take an interest in their welfare. This is not as easy as it sounds; if you want community you may have to take risks without getting any brownie points. You may have to take the initiative of being friendly in a situation where other people are sitting as tight as clams.

Especially where a vital issue is at stake, such as self-protection on your block, someone has to take the responsibility of helping neighbors out of their shells. This may be particularly true of the elderly who are often isolated from each other and from other age-segments of their community.

A community, and a small group within a community, needs to have hope that small, seemingly trivial acts can have the power to change community life. Where people are afraid to walk the streets at night, neighbors need to learn that street watchers and block patrollers — and, for that matter, stoop-sitters and dog-walkers — are an easily available form of local protection against street crime.

How can people meet each other? First, they may have to break down social conventions about "not getting involved"; someone, a trend-setter, an innovator, has to be willing to break out of the clamshell. Secondly, physical environment plays a big role. In many neighborhoods, places to meet other people are all too few; if you want to build neighborly cohesion, you will have to think of many alternatives.

You can look for opportunities to get to know your neighbor in the hallway or on the stoop of your house. Stoop-sitting may or may not be accepted social practice in your environs; if you want a little more formality in your encounters with others, you can always stand or lean against a utility pole.

Street corners in front of stores are often excellent locations to catch a neighborly conversation; in some locales, neighborhood organizations may put up card tables or dispense literature from a shopping cart, while allowing the curious to congregate and talk a blue streak. The result is often an atmosphere superior to that you might find in many coffee houses. Small vest-pocket parks are useful for bumping into neighbors and acquaintances.

The next step is to start frequenting meetings of community groups that have some promise of being interesting. You may even be moved to join a group and work on some project. In the process some nodding acquaintance you see in the street may become a co-worker.

Basic to the notions of neighborliness and community is the assumption: "Ain't nobody else going to do it for you." It would in most cases be futile to wait for government action originating outside the community. We must give ourselves and our communities an alternative to relying heavily on resources outside our communities.

Lest all of this sound hideously isolationist, it is well to keep in mind that true community is the exact opposite of isolationism. Indeed, what must be overcome is the isolation between neighbor and neighbor who do not have the motivation to try to work out their common problems, who are not willing to stand up to government and other forces which may be inimical to cohesive and viable neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods need to be able to view themselves not as isolated communities within the city, but as small units which are forced to compete for limited resources proffered by centralized governing agencies. Neighbors and neighborhoods who are fighting bureaucracies quite simply need each other's support against manipulative, centralized authorities.

In promoting neighborliness and neighborhoods, we are promoting our sense of home, family, extended family — roots. We are rarely successful as members of the "human race in general." We learn and re-learn our basic humanity in the positive and nurturing experiences which arise in small groups. These experiences in no way guarantee the formation and maintenance of community, but they provide the basis of social ties which project us responsibly beyond ourselves and into the fabric of community.

Barbara Bingham is a resident of Brooklyn Heights, a free-lance writer, and contributing editor of *Township* community newspaper.

NEIGHBORHOODS:

Survival, Significance, Self-rule...

By Celene Krauss

We watched dispassionately, the way we typically watch the 11 o'clock news, a program not designed to startle, certainly not intended to jar us from our slumberous mood. Suddenly there were children crying, parents with desperate looks and weary faces, troubled seniors appearing somewhat out of place, wandering about the piles of rubble that had once been their homes. "I don't want to leave my home," sobbed a neatly braided girl as she clutched at her mother's heavy arm. "They gave us one hour to get out. Then they did this," said the mother, measuring her words. "Bulldozers. What do we do now?"

Even the usually detached reporter seemed to betray a trace of emotion. We were now quite awake, jolted. A New York neighborhood was being destroyed, and it could have been our own. But, for the moment, most of us were safe in our beds and soon fast asleep.

This scene took place last August in Northside, a working class Polish-American neighborhood in the multi-ethnic Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Northside is a tightly knit community; generations of families had grown up together. But now part of their neighborhood was severed; the city had condemned the homes of 90 families so that a nearby factory could expand.

Government in Action

On Wednesday, the day the bulldozers finally moved in, Northsiders caught a rare glimpse of their city government at work. Only one day earlier, Lindsay's housing representative had told them not to worry — Wednesday would be a day of negotiation. It wasn't. Early Wednesday morning a *New York Post* reporter unwittingly revealed the city's real plans when he asked an unsuspecting Northsider this question: "Do you know that you're being evicted in an hour?"

One community activist was moved to say, "Neighborhoods never die a natural death. They are killed." That is to say: starved, urban renewed, demolished, paved over, ignored. Neighborhoods have always seemed easy marks for city administrations — we had witnessed similar plans to condemn part of Corona's Italian-American community and Columbia Street's Puerto Rican waterfront. Northside was simply one more episode.

But the Northsides, the Coronas, and the Columbia Streets did resist. They resisted just as Bedford-Stuyvesant and Harlem had resisted before them and just as the West Side and Chelsea-Clinton were to resist after them. The mood had been set: communities would no longer accept government decisions which threatened their survival. They might not always win, but they would fight.

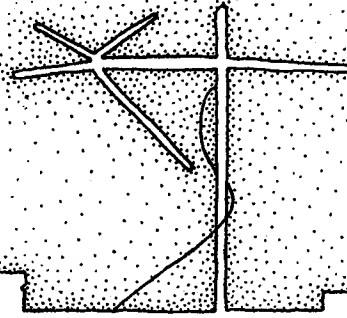
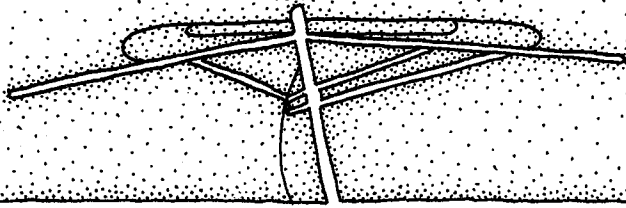
Local Self-Rule and Neighborhood Survival

"It's not that we are always opposed to these city projects," says Ramon Regueira, director of La Casa, an anti-poverty office on Columbia Street's Puerto Rican waterfront. "It's just that we *are* opposed to our neighborhoods being considered expendable — we are opposed to their neglect. Community and industry could negotiate their own compromise if neighborhoods had local powers; it makes more sense — we know our needs and our priorities better."

These sentiments, voicing neighborhoods' right to self-rule, have been echoed by the Polish-Americans of Northside, the blacks of Harlem, the Puerto Ricans of Columbia Street, and the Italian-Americans of Corona. In fact, they have been echoed by neighborhoods throughout the United States — from Columbus, Ohio, to Boston, Massachusetts. "It's not Puerto Ricans against blacks or Italians," adds Regueira impatiently, "but people with common neighborhood problems. The trouble is that we control so few resources of our own that we end up fighting each other for the few crumbs government hands out. In the end, neighborhoods are really fighting for the same goal: our survival."

But neighborhood survival is an arduous struggle today and community leaders are quick to declare their frustrations. "If your neighborhood isn't killed off by condemnation," says one weary local, "then it will die slowly through neglect; resources are hard to come by, especially when someone else is controlling the reins of power — and your tax money."

An important study by the Institute for Policy Studies revealed this disturbing fact about the misuse of local taxes: Shaw Cardoza, a primarily black, low-income neighborhood in Washington, D.C., put out \$50 million in taxes but only received \$45.7 million back — and this was in the form of government subsidies for services such as welfare. In other words, the community could have been self-sufficient without the government's "welfare favors" if it had retained its own tax base. In fact, it could have had an additional \$5 million to use for itself. Incredibly, this low-income community was subsidizing the government.



The results of this study, and others like it, help one better understand community people's bitterness as well as their desire for self-rule. Articles in the local press expound on the use of local tax monies for more polluting highways which tear neighborhoods apart; more energy-consuming and wasteful World Trade Centers which strain city services and thereby contribute to higher taxes; more luxury towers which receive tax abatements. And haven't urbanists long recoiled from the inequity of urban renewal where developers raze sound low-rent housing, disperse its residents, and then use the public monies to build housing for the rich?

Community People Speak on Neighborhood Government

In May of 1971, community people in New York City finally had an opportunity to make their feelings known about neighborhood self-rule. An all-day conference called Neighborhood in Action was sponsored by the Lindsay Administration and one of the workshops, Future Neighborhood Government, proved to be especially well-attended and lively. The heated debate that lasted for the better part of the day proved one point: neighborhood government had become an issue of serious concern.

Lorna Salzman, the workshop's chairwoman and a vocal advocate for neighborhood survival, raised this introductory question: "Why should we have to spend our time, money, and energy fighting agencies and plans which are supported by our taxes? Might it not be more to the point to assume control of those agencies and functions in order to avoid future battles?"

For the most part, the sentiments implicit in her question were well-received. Many people felt that government could never be a reliable neighborhood advocate; too often, community interests have conflicted with government ambitions. More to the point — as long as the city controls the resources, its advocacy role can be nothing more than one of a benevolent colonial power. The only alternative to self-rule, however, is government by pressure groups and, as many participants commented, most people do not have the patience or the desire to be constantly on guard; most people prefer to work through legitimately empowered governments.

But although the responses to the question were essentially affirmative, there were a few who came to

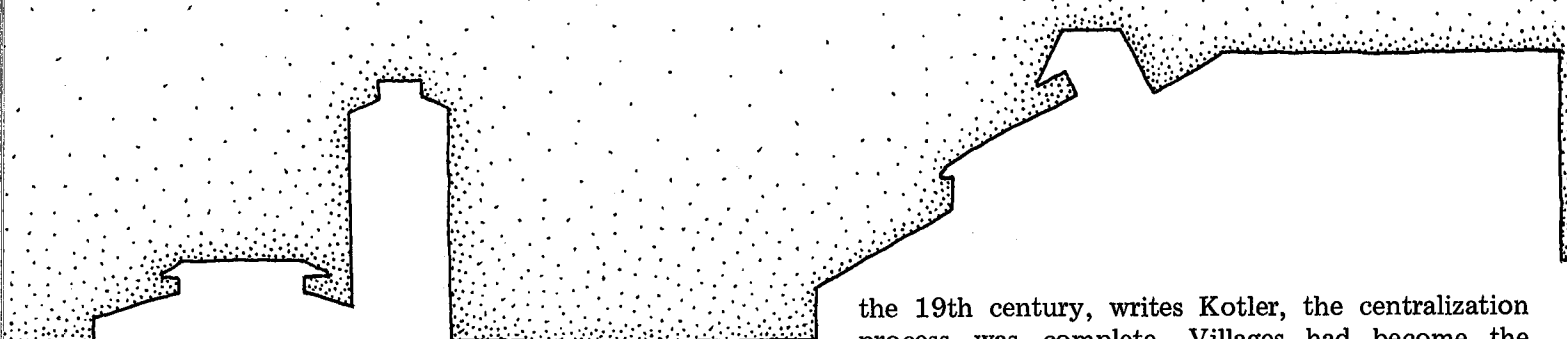
heckle. "Who needs neighborhood government?" yelled one young man. "Communities are racist; we'll get nothing more than power struggles — inefficiency. . . ." He could not continue. A cool black woman had interrupted, "And what do you think we have today, young man?" She had silenced him.

"Look," added a stockily built Italian-American whose bitterness had been freshly aroused by the city's condemnation of his home, "we are tired of being told that government knows best, while it goes ahead with plans to raze our neighborhoods and ruin our lives."

The debate continued and, after some time, a resolution was proposed calling for the full political autonomy of neighborhoods. But one disgruntled observer was not satisfied with what he called vague rhetoric. "What's the difference between the city and an unaccountable local board?" he demanded. "Haven't we already seen the inequities of over-sized district school boards and suburban councils which ignore neighborhood needs? And how many times have our supposedly representative local planning boards gone against neighborhood sentiments?"

He had made his point. Most politicians of late had proposed any number of neighborhood government plans which had little to do with the neighborhood, let alone with neighborhood power; more often they focused on a district- or borough-wide body. And how could these boards be held accountable? Would the formation of local boards result in nothing more than a change in personnel, a change in the level of patronage?

At this point, Milton Kotler, an invited speaker who had gained importance over the years with his book *Neighborhood Government* and his community organizing through the Institute for Neighborhood Studies in Washington, D.C., suggested a model based on New England's town meetings. Kotler had once written that "... once we elect our representatives our voice in day-to-day political decisions is lost." But he believes this would not have to be so in a neighborhood. "An elected council can be held accountable," he told the group, "if community people hold town meetings which bind this council to representing and administering the assembly's vote. "But," he stressed, "this is only practical in a neighborhood, since it is the neighborhood with which people can identify."



“If larger bodies are needed to coordinate neighborhoods, district- and city-wide federations can be created, but they must build on, rather than replace, local autonomies.” The model was debated and in the end it received enthusiastic support.

The sentiments of this group were best expressed by Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, sponsor of the Neighborhood Government Act of 1973, when he said: “In the most humanly possible ways, people function as members of neighborhoods, rather than of cities or states. But the public life and needs of neighborhoods carry no self-governing authority and responsibility. It is essential,” he added, “that we develop a concerted policy of restoring political power to neighborhoods and their residents.”

How Neighborhoods Lost Power

The Plan: to crush the village’s political power and eliminate local economies which hinder efficient commercial expansion; to annex them to downtown.

The Method: to support the candidacies of sympathetic politicians who would vote in favor of annexation when they were in office.

Though this plan is not unfamiliar today, it was the *modus operandi* for centralization, 19th-century style. And lest some of us believe that the movement for neighborhood self-rule is new, Milton Kotler assures us that it is not. Villagers were very much the populists of their day when they fought against losing their autonomy, much in the same way that neighborhood people today are fighting to regain it.

In his well-researched book *Neighborhood Government* Kotler writes about familiar Brooklyn neighborhoods. Bushwick, Flatbush, and Williamsburg were once self-governing towns with independent zoning and taxing powers, as well as thriving commercial centers. But this did not last, for the city of Brooklyn was itself annexing towns such as Bushwick, a technique where the strongest political region deprived towns, villages, and cities of their autonomy. Brooklyn had become the fifth largest city in the United States when, in 1898, its own independent government was abolished by New York State and its territory and people given to New York City.

The commercial motives for annexation were not very different from those of today: the tolls and political power of the autonomous villages had impeded easy commercial expansion. By the close of

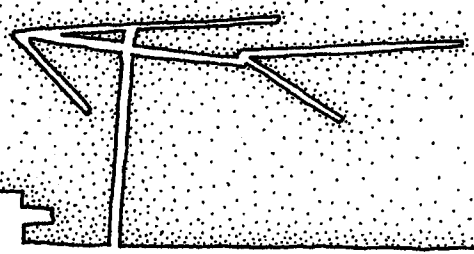
the 19th century, writes Kotler, the centralization process was complete. Villages had become the dependent wards of downtown; they were controlled by the political machine of the day. Without local powers their future was clear — neighborhoods would decline.



The Ecologists’ View

The days of Brooklyn’s farms, valleys, hills, and shady terrains ended as developers won a free rein to level the land and make their dollar. One century later, ecologists present a chilling indictment of this destructive process, which characterizes our wasteful, over-centralized, mass industrial society and leads to considerable community and environmental deterioration.

In 1972 this view of man’s ecological demise was expounded by an interdisciplinary team of biologists and social scientists in “A Blueprint for Survival,” a highly controversial issue of the renowned British magazine *The Ecologist*. But, while many of their conclusions have received widespread attention, their position on decentralization and community self-rule remains largely unnoticed. They wrote: “Possibly the most radical change we propose in the creation of a new social system is decentralization. . . . It is only through decentralization we can increase [the possibility of] self-sufficient and self-regulating communities; this is vital if we are to minimize the burden of social systems on the ecosystems that support them. [This is so because] the urban superstructure required per inhabitant goes up radically as the size of the town increases beyond a certain point. Thus, if everyone lived in villages, the need for sewage treatment plants would be reduced — in an urban society they are essential, and the cost of treatment is high.”



The "Blueprint" team warns: self-regulating communities and their ever-so-subtle internal controls can never be effectively replaced. As neighborhoods have deteriorated, man has attempted to replace these internal controls with an increasing number of external ones, such as more police, bureaucrats, and more laws, but they conclude that this only succeeds in further reducing our society's capacity for self-regulation.

What happens when one external control, such as the police force, is absent? Results of urban police strikes throughout the nation reveal a marked increase in rapes, lootings, and burglaries. Without the subtle bonds of community, the "us-them" dichotomy becomes increasingly prevalent. The job of the unsympathetic bureaucrat, the slumlord, and the mugger are simplified: it is much easier to commit a wrong against an anonymous "them." One study cited by the "Blueprint" reveals that violent crime in America appears to be about six times greater per capita in cities of one million people than in cities of ten thousand people.

"Nothing better illustrates," they write, "what can happen when the self-regulating mechanisms which normally ensure orderly behavior in a stable society break down and are replaced by a precarious set of external controls."

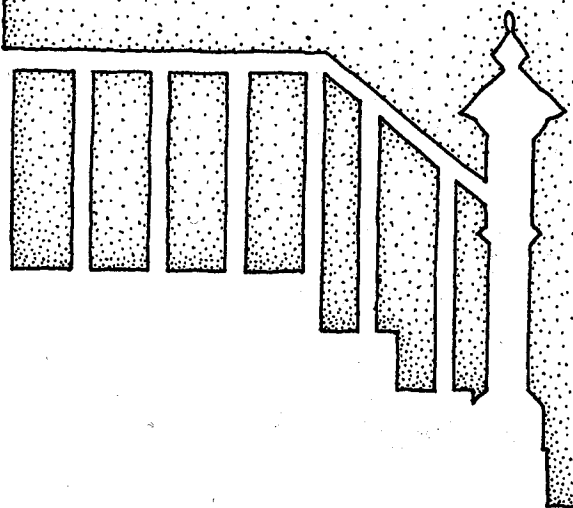
The Neighborhood Revolution

Today, the neighborhood movement can be seen as nothing less than a revolution. It may be a surprising one, for it questions our very belief as to what revolution is about, but it is a revolution nonetheless.

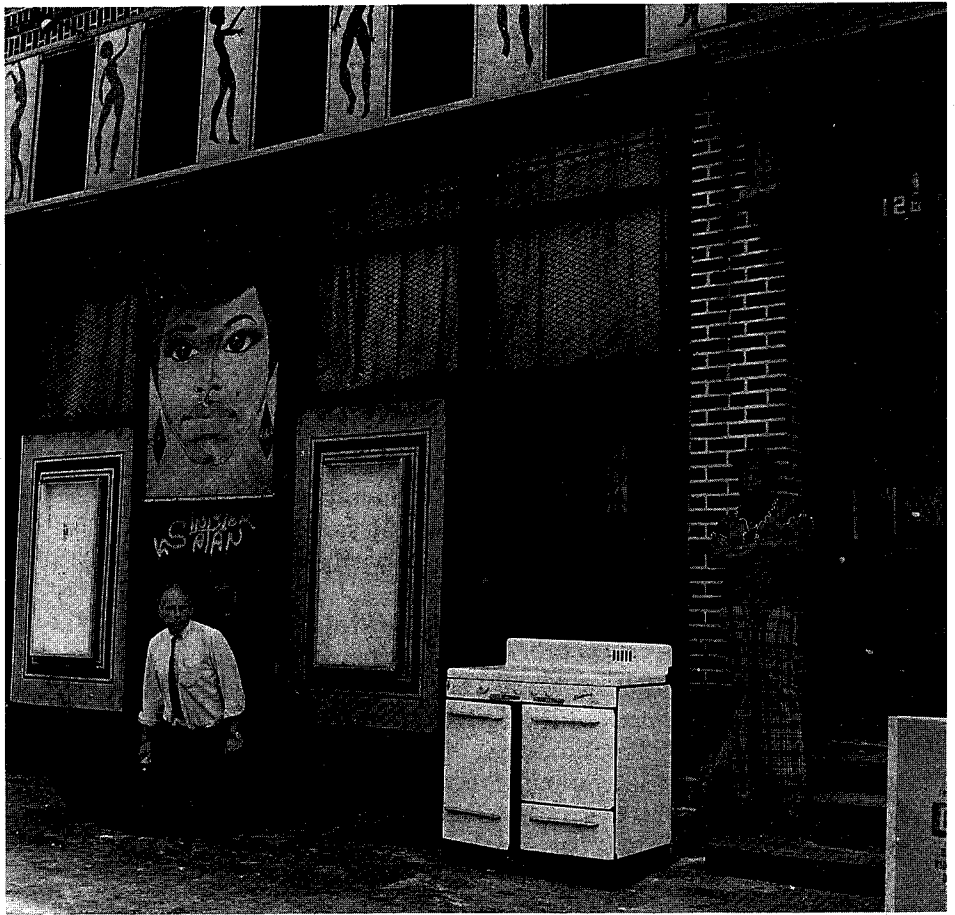
Its members may never call for mass marches; they have yet to hold mass meetings, and there are certainly no mass leaders. In fact, its supporters may never encounter one another unless they happen to meet on the streets or public spaces of their neighborhoods.

Perhaps Milton Kotler best expresses this view when he writes, "We had been taught that revolution springs from causes larger than men — from historic forces — when it springs, in fact, from matters which cause anger and fear and contempt in the basic situations of people's lives, such as their schools, jobs, welfare, health and so on"

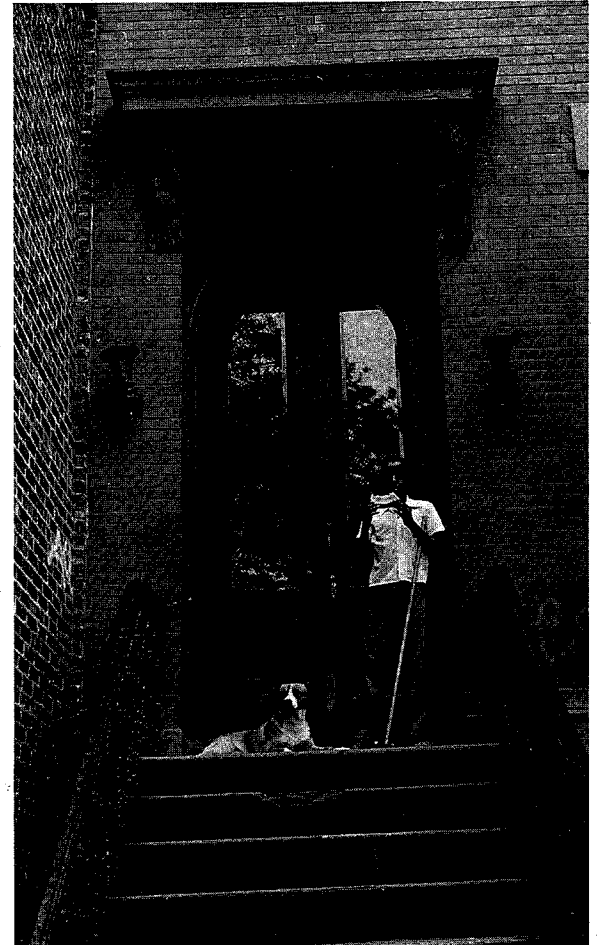
"It is in the neighborhood, not across the world or even in the nation that people talk together and amplify their feelings. . . . They move toward objects that neighborhoods understand and share — namely, the community and its self-rule."

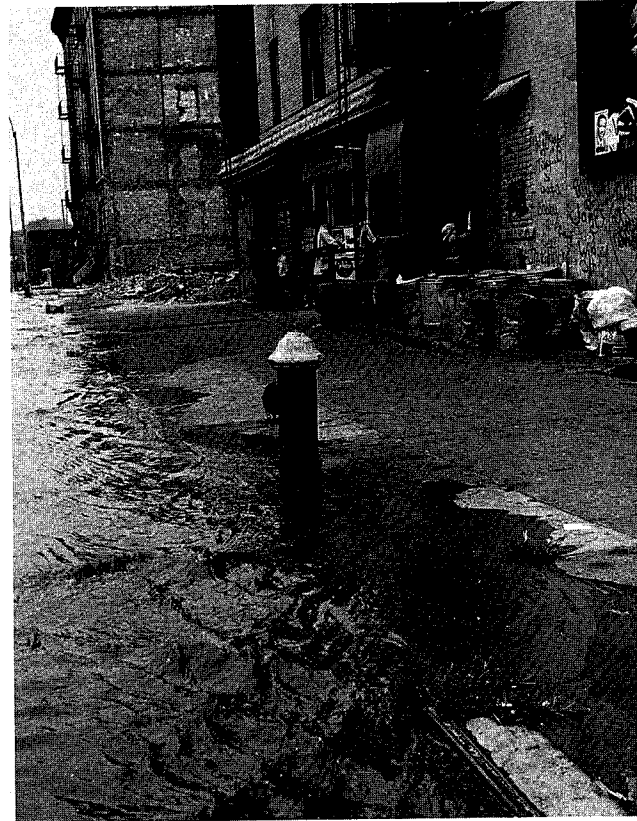


Celene Krauss is a free-lance writer and co-editor of *The Township*, a community newspaper serving Brooklyn Heights and South Brooklyn. She has also lectured on such subjects as community and the media and neighborhood government.



BEDFORD AVENUE:



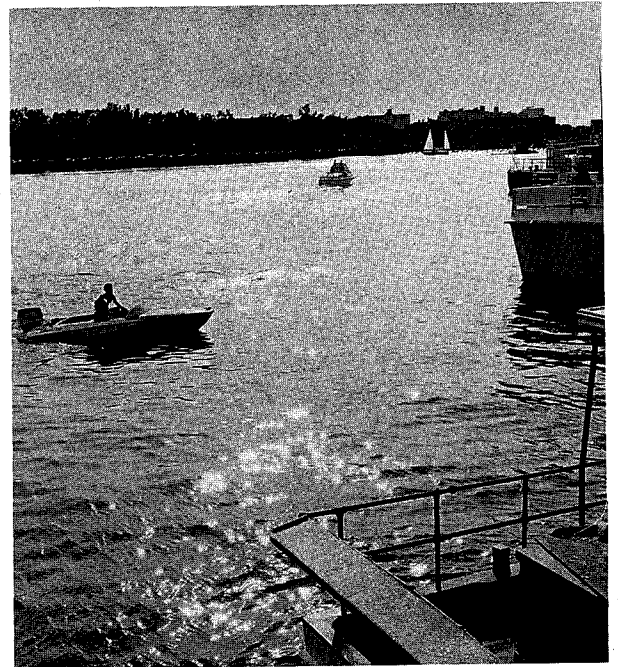


a photo essay

PHOTOS BY HENRI SILBERMAN

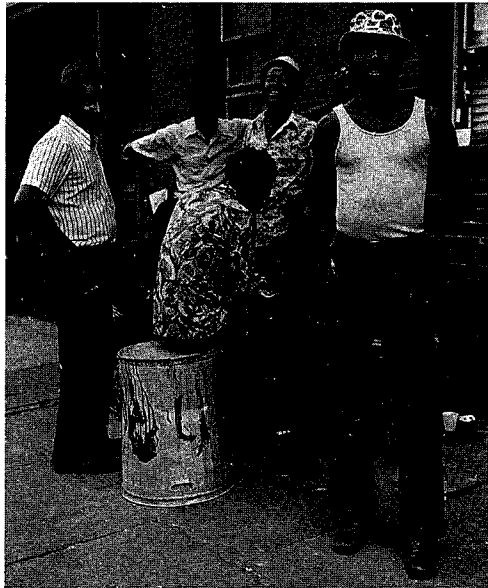
Last spring Cathy Herman of the Pratt Center for Community and Environmental Development suggested I do a photo essay on a well-known street in Brooklyn. We decided on Bedford Avenue, since it is the longest street in the borough, extending from one end of Brooklyn to the other — beginning at Sheepshead Bay, ending at Greenpoint.

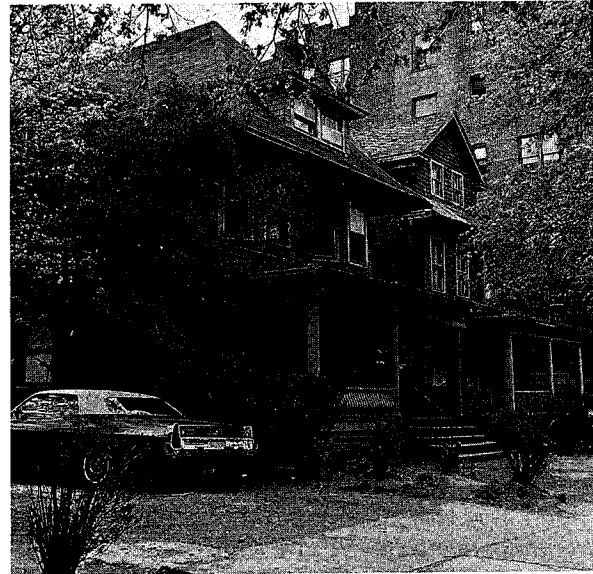
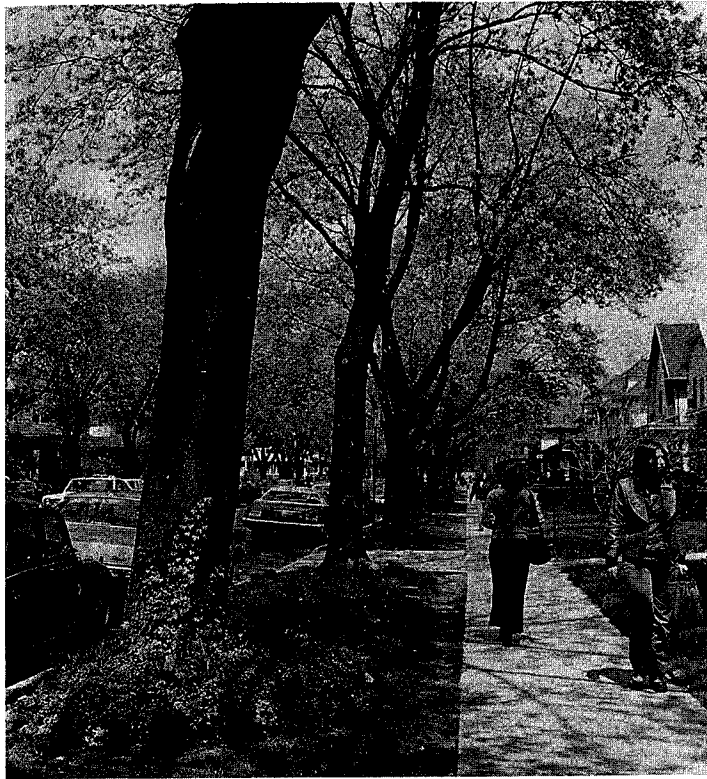
With no preconceptions as to the type of photo essay it should be, I went with open eyes to let the camera discover and record objectively. I was initially concerned just with exteriors, being naturally drawn to significant architecture and the cityscape, which showed so many different faces along the avenue's great length.





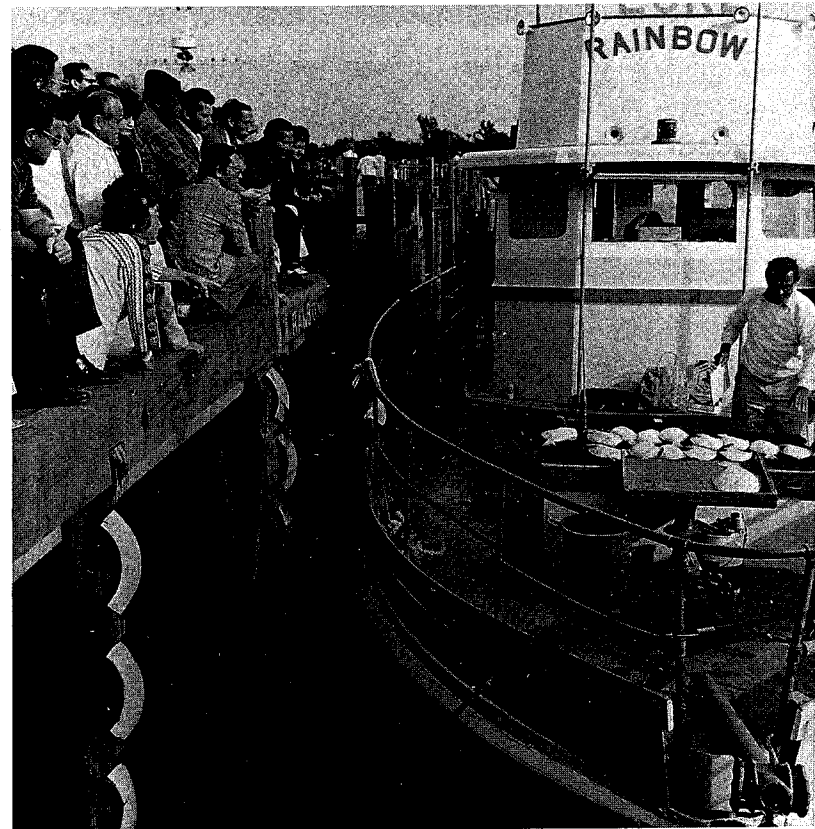
Among the dwellings I saw that needed renovation or demolition were many of historical or architectural importance. Public buildings, on the other hand, have tended to be well-maintained, regardless of their architectural value. One of the most striking buildings on Bedford Avenue, which is visible from Grant Square, is an armory that looks like a medieval castle. Here Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders trained for military operations. The many commercial establishments beyond Foster Avenue, such as in the Lefferts section, make the neighborhood look like a scene from the Midwest, with the numerous gas stations and old movie theaters.



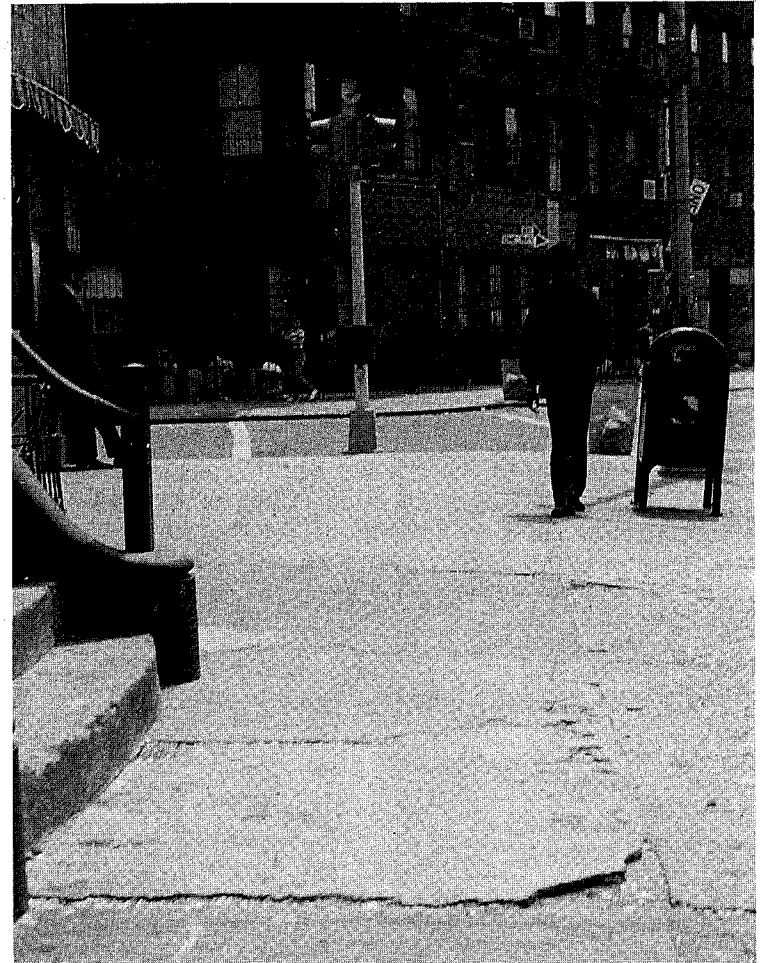
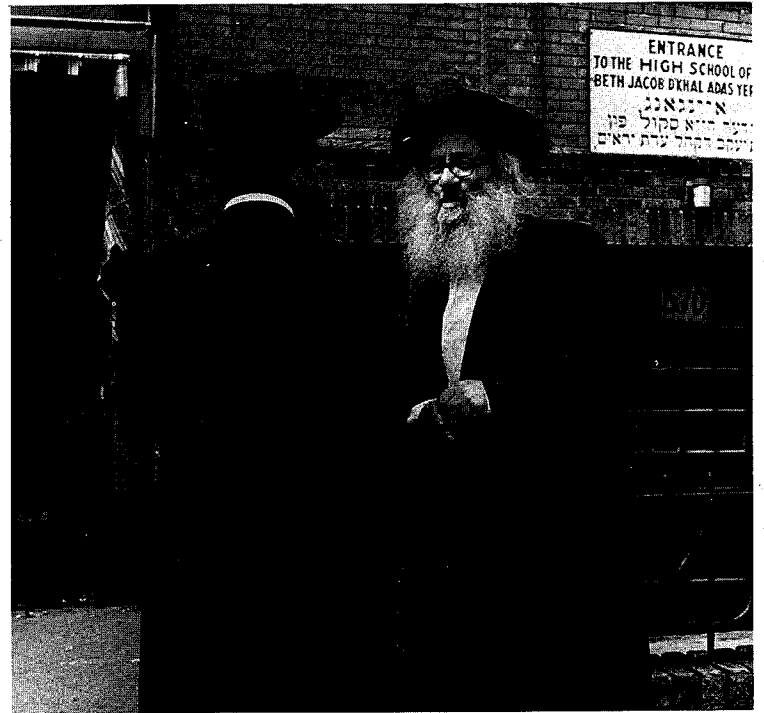


After spending much time in the area, however, I noticed that there seemed to be as vast differences among people as among buildings and that changes in one usually corresponded with changes in the other. For instance, from the beginning at Sheepshead Bay to Foster Avenue (Brooklyn College area), one-family houses with garages and front lawns predominate. There are no commercial establishments of any sort in this heavily tree-lined neighborhood; residents for the most part are middle class and white. People seemed to make little use of the street, despite the inviting greenery and the energy they had put into making their physical surroundings attractive.

In contrast, between Foster Avenue and the end of Bedford-stuyvesant, the dwellings are primarily multi-family brownstones, sandstones, and apartment buildings, inhabited by middle and working class blacks, who make constant use of the street. Children here play on the stoops, teenagers "Hang out," and "grownups" patronize numerous local businesses and socialize with their neighbors and with passersby.



The relationship between culture and architecture manifests itself quite differently in Williamsburg and the Northside. In Williamsburg the Buildings are very homogeneous, while the people are not. Puerto Ricans, Hassidic Jews, and blacks inhabit this area. In the Northside, whose residents are mostly working class whites, the buildings are an unusual mixture of factories and residential dwellings. As in the neighborhoods beyond Foster Avenue, the residents of Williamsburg and the Northside actively incorporate the street into their living space. The variety that one finds on Bedford Avenue shows a good cross section of the people and places in Brooklyn and it may typify the borough as a whole.



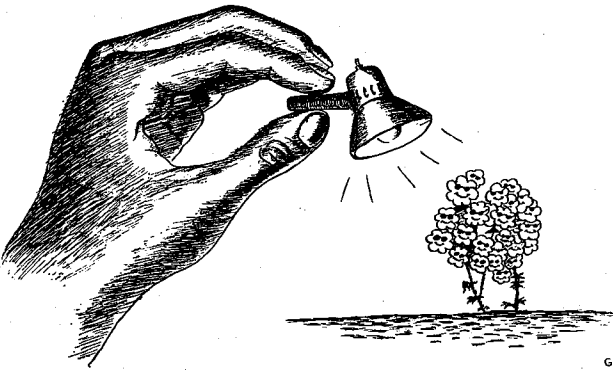


GREEN THINGS

MAKING THE MOST OF GARBAGE

If you didn't get around to planting a family or community garden this year, at least you can start building up some soil now for next year's crops. All that good stuff you usually throw into the garbage can well go into a compost heap, and at the end of a year, you'll have a considerable quantity of organic material to dig into your garden.

If no backyard is available, a corner of a roof, terrace, or fire escape will do fine. Put down two or more layers of heavy plastic, and close in the corner with wire screened frames four feet high, forming a bin. Keep the bin no more than four feet long on each side to allow aeration of the center of the pile. Putting hinges on the frames so they can open like gates will make the compost accessible when you want to take it out.



Any kind of left over food, including eggshells, bones, coffee grounds, and all your fruit and vegetable peelings will make fine compost, even old newspapers, although they must be torn into strips to hasten their decomposition. Old leaves in the fall, prunings and trimmings from gardens, etc. can also be recycled.

At the bottom of the pile spread a six-inch layer of real soil, then a layer of leaves and organic garbage. Next sprinkle a layer of granite dust, finely ground limestone, or phosphate rock. Nitrogen is helpful in breaking down the material, so a layer of manure should be next. You may substitute blood meal, bone meal, or tankage, which are more easily obtainable in the city.

The compost heap does not need to develop a noisy smell. To prevent that, keep sprinkling ground limestone on top as needed. A few earthworms from a fishing tackle shop will love to live in your compost and keep it loose. They can't live if the compost dries out, and neither can your soil bank.

LACKING LANDS, MAKE MINI-GARDENS GROW!

If you're envying your neighbors the fine fresh vegetables they're growing, and it's too late for you to start a garden, or you don't have any land available, why not grow a mini-garden?

Even if all you have is a windowsill, balcony, doorstep, fire escape, or a corner under a fluorescent bulb, you can still grow some vegetables and herbs.

Plants can be started year round under 40-watt fluorescent tubes, which should be 6-8 inches above the seedlings. Soil pellets, available from garden supply and mail order stores, are the easiest starters.

Home Herbs Prosper

Six-inch clay pots are fine for chives on the windowsill. Dill, resemay, tarragon, and basil will grow well in a bright window. Use 10-inch clay pots for parsley, radishes, onions, and cherry tomatoes (variety Tiny Tim is most often recommended).

Plastic buckets and trash cans make good planters. Drill four or more quarter-inch holes, evenly spaced, near the bottom (not *in* the bottom, where they are likely to get clogged). To help drainage, put a half inch of coarse gravel on the bottom.

Wooden half-bushel and bushel baskets are also usable. Paint them inside and out with a safe wood preservative to last a few years.

"Fake" Soil Fine

Synthetic soil is convenient for mini-gardeners. It is free of plant disease organisms and weed seeds, holds moisture well, and is lightweight to carry home. It is a mixture of horticultural vermiculite, peat moss, and fertilizer.

Planning New Plants

Modern plant breeders are working to make vegetable plants more compact, easier to grow, and more productive. The Patio-Pak cucumber is a good example: many cucumbers are produced on a dwarf plant especially suited for containers. A short trellis will support it. Another new compact vegetable is romano 14 bean, the first bush-type Romano, which grows only 18 inches high and bears well.

A new carrot called Little Finger can be sown in a container; it ripens two weeks earlier than other carrots and should be eaten when it is 3½ inches long — so there's plenty of room for this carrot in most pots. (Reprinted with permission from First National City Bank *Consumer Views*, Vol. V, No. 4, April 1974.)

PRATT WOMEN IN

by Fran Huppert

More and more women are being encouraged to channel their artistic, creative, and technical abilities into the profession of architecture. The effort to increase the number of women architects is nationwide, and a host of events sponsored by schools of architecture and affiliated groups is underway in the active search for female students and faculty members. In the last two years organizations have sprung up all over the country to recognize the needs, problems, abilities, and contributions of women in architecture.

In New York these organizations are: AWA (Alliance of Women in Architecture), 41 E. 65 St., N.Y.C., 10021, 628-4500; AIA (American Institute of Architects) Task Force on Women, c/o Judith Edelman, 434 Sixth Ave., N.Y.C., 10011, WA-4-4818.

The number of women architects promises to rise markedly in the next few years, according to a report in the *New York Times* (5/18/74). Figures from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture show a rise in enrollment of women from 815 (less than 4% of total enrollment) in 1964, to 2,398 (8.3%) in 1972-73, with percentages expected to be considerably greater for the current academic year.

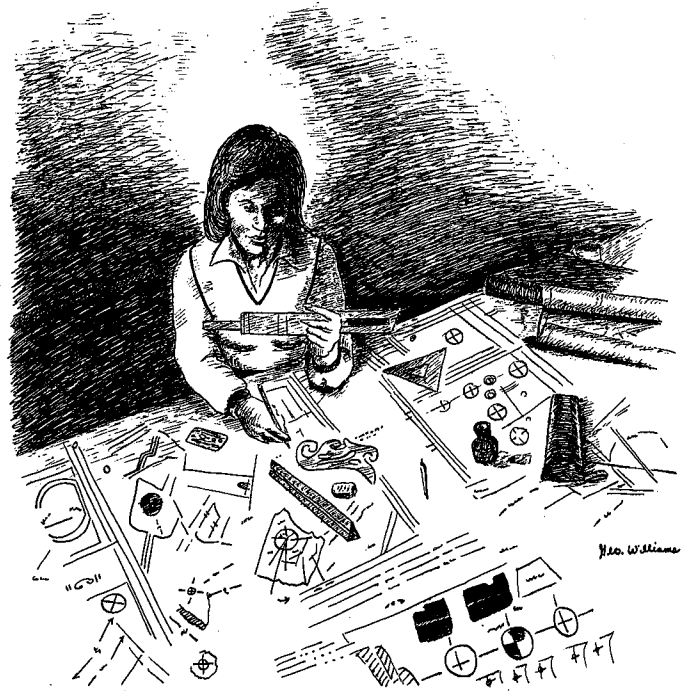
Women Win Jobs in NYC

Employment statistics are more favorable in New York City than elsewhere. One hundred three, or 4.7%, of the registered architects are female (vs. 1.2% of 35,000 nationally), and women make up almost 5% of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The chapter mounted a spring show of work by women architects, and the buildings displayed indicated that neither imagination nor the lack of it could be considered a sexual characteristic.

At the present time there is a general decline in work for architects of both sexes because of the uncertain future of building construction throughout the country. As in many fields, pay scales for men and women are currently far from equal.

Women at Pratt

Although the percentage of women in the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute is already greater than the average (over ten percent), the women are striving to increase their numbers from



the present 59 out of 510. This number represents a gradual increase in the 66 years since the first woman architect was graduated from Pratt in 1908. The current class is international in its makeup. Graduates receive an accredited architecture degree on completion of either a five-year undergraduate program or a three-year course for transfer students.

A number of women enter Pratt directly from high school, but the greater majority transfer here from other colleges. Many women who have been at Pratt for the full five years complain that they were never adequately trained or made aware of the extent of educational commitment required; a number of them have dropped out over the years. The transfer students, on the other hand, have already studied toward a degree (or received it) and are willing to make a stronger commitment to architecture.

These women have usually explored another related field (art, art history, sociology, anthropology, and others) and have then turned their interest to architecture. It seems to be the transfer student who infuses into the school a greater diversity of interest and a more mature understanding of the educational experience. An interweaving of many cultural elements results. (The architectural curriculum has recently been reevaluated and will

ARCHITECTURE

become increasingly relevant to the transfer student's particular needs.)

Most women in architecture at Pratt work part-time. Some are lucky enough to receive financial aid. Many squeeze their working hours into the evenings after classes so that they can support themselves through school. Some are married, and a handful are mothers, who sometimes can be seen with their children in class.

At Pratt the women in architecture have formed their own group and are working on the following:

1. A new recruiting campaign to seek out women high school students in the New York area and encourage them to come to Pratt. Groups of Pratt women have been invited to various schools to answer questions and relate their experiences to other non-professional women.

2. A procedure, in which any woman applicant (student or faculty) is interviewed by student and faculty members, involves a woman student who lends support and answers any specific questions relating to women.

3. A scholarship proposal is being written by the women, seeking to raise funds for a program to provide financial assistance for women in architecture starting in the fall of 1974.

4. Women instructors and students have participated in conventions throughout the country. Spring meetings included: St. Louis in March, Mimi Lobell, instructor; Oregon in April, Tonya Ramos, student; and Washington, D.C. in May, Fran Huppert, student.

The Pratt architecture design studios provide students with a variety of experiences, from the philosophical side of architecture to the professional design, where formal presentation drawings are required. There is a minimal atmosphere of competitiveness in the studios because no grades other than pass/fail are given. Students work in studios of 15 or less so that each student is encouraged by his/her design critic to express personal abilities, with no discrimination toward either sex. The educational process is geared toward changing the environment, not only through building design but also through research, journalism and criticism, new town planning, and social action.

Involvement in Social Action

This year several of the women are directly

involved in community action projects directed by the staff of the Pratt Center for Community and Environmental Development.

Ginny Yang is helping in the redesign of McCarren Park in Williamsburg-Greenpoint in Brooklyn, working with the communities in the area. Through a series of meetings, she has been able to translate their ideas into practical form. Community participation is the key, and a variety of programs are planned, such as festivals, performances, and a farm garden started this spring. More extensive redevelopment depends on funds.

Kathy Hutman, together with Ginny, is developing a scheme for reutilization of the waterfront on Grand Street in the Northside area of Brooklyn. Their first step is programmatic, arranging street festivals and bringing mobile units to the area to accustom residents to using it again. Later they expect to develop facilities along the pier with the hope of revitalizing the commercial area along that strip. They are also working on a proposal — under contract from the Parks and Recreation Department — for the design of Brower Park, adjacent to the new Brooklyn Children's Museum. They will be considering the site and adjacent street connections.

Marie Watkins is working with a co-op group seeking to renovate a building on West 11th St. in the East Village — not only on renovation plans but in the physical work of renovating with virtually no money. She is also helping the group in its efforts to find funds from government sources to continue the work.

Is Women's Role Unique?

Some women architects strive for greater involvement in the profession as it is now structured; others claim that women have a unique perspective (being more "people-oriented") and should establish a new field of architectural design. Still others fear that a "special women's approach" would lead to the attitude that "women should be designing kitchens."

Considering architecture as an art, a science, a service, and a way of life, Pratt women see no reason why they cannot contribute their share, along with men, in working to create a more human environment. Whether they will make a unique contribution to architectural design beyond this remains a question for the future.



HOW TO AVOID RAPE

Telephone Numbers to Help You

Police Emergency	911
Rape Report Line, Police Sex Crimes Unit	233-3000
New York Women Against Rape, Rape Crisis Counseling, legal and medical information (Mon.-Fri., 6-10 p.m.)	675-7720
Brooklyn Sex Crimes Unit, 67th Precinct	469-0800 469-0622
National Black Feminist Organization Rape Committee	685-2344
Manhattan Women's Political Caucus, information on rape, speakers bureau on rape	877-4937
Free VD test information	269-5300
Bedford-Stuyvesant	574-5300
Brownsville	HY8-6742
Ft. Greene	643-8355
Free VD test information in Spanish	691-8733
Free pregnancy tests and abortion information	677-3040

TASK FORCE HOLDS FORUM

To avoid becoming victims of rape, women must at all times be AWARE, ALERT, AWAKE, advised Police Officer Sheila Edwards, one of seven speakers at a community forum on the crimes of rape and sexual assault sponsored by the Rape Task Force of Greenpoint Hospital. All the panelists discussed the response and assistance their agencies offered in dealing with these crimes.

The audience at the Billie Holiday Theater in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn in May heard Officer Edwards, a member of the Police Department's Sex Crimes Analysis Unit, give the following warnings: never open the door to any strangers; do not buy from door-to-door salesmen; don't talk to strangers in the street — even if they admire your dog or your baby; beware of members of unfamiliar religious groups; train your children be careful and know where they are at all times; be understanding so that your children will feel able to talk to you if they

are ever threatened by a sex criminal.

Rape Reporting Essential

Above all, Officer Edwards stressed that any person who has been victim of a rape should report the crime so that the perpetrator may be caught before he attacks someone else. "The Police Department wants to help you, in spite of anything else you may have heard," she declared. "We need you to be our eyes and ears in the streets."

Because of the alarming increase in crimes of rape and sexual assault, the Department set up special Rape Squads in December of 1972. Now these squads, with both male and female members, are operating in all five boroughs, with the Sex Crimes Analysis Unit housed at Police Headquarters.

New Law Aids D.A.

The prosecution of crimes of rape and sexual abuse falls to the Office of the District Attorney in each of the boroughs. Representing the Brooklyn D.A.'s Office was Assistant D.A. Edward Rapaport, who is in charge of its Investigation Bureau and Homicide Bureau. He also maintains liaison with city, state, and Federal courts in sex crimes cases.

Prior to March 1974 the prosecution of major sex crimes was difficult because the law required a high degree of corroboration in dealing with rape, sodomy, and sexual abuse," Mr. Rapaport explained. "Under the new law passed on March 22, rape is now prosecuted in the same way as such other forcible crimes as murder, robbery, and burglary, and the District Attorney's Office hopes for much greater prevention of this crime," he added.

Punishment to Fit Crime

"Why can't the rapist of a child be punished by castration?" a member of the audience asked. "That punishment would have to be legislated by the state," Mr. Rapaport replied. "The basis of our law is to rehabilitate criminals, and according to the Constitution, castration might be considered a cruel and inhuman punishment."

Psychologist Catherine Ellison of the panel remarked that Pennsylvania had tried a more severe punishment for rapists and found that juries are less likely to convict if the punishment is extremely severe. She pointed out, also, that rapist of children often use instruments, and castration would not prevent that.

Jury Must Believe Victims

Answering a query on what elements are necessary for a rape case to go from arraignment, to grand jury, to trial, Mr. Rapaport said that at the grand jury the same evidence is needed as at the trial. All that is needed now is that the testimony of the victim be believed. The Health and Hospitals Corporation and the Police Department are now of great backup assistance in providing forms to be filled out

by the police and hospital personnel.

An explanation of the psychology of rape was offered by Catherine Ellison, candidate for the Ph.D. in psychology in the City University, who is working with the Sex Crimes Analysis unit.

Psychology of Rape

"From the psychological point of view, rape is a matter of degree," she said. "Little rapes are the feelings one has when unwelcome sexual advances are made." Rape takes away a person's control of the body's most controlled parts — the mouth and the sexual area. After a rape some victims become hysterical; others seem very controlled but are covering up a state of shock. In a second stage, a period of depression often follows after a period of feeling somewhat better. Rape is always psychologically damaging, even if no physical damage is done.

Rape victims may become afraid to go out of the house, not want to be touched, feel sick all the time, and completely turn away from their former sex life.

Victims Need Support

A victim must have sympathy, support, and understanding, especially from her family and from police officers and hospital personnel. Just as it is after a death or other great emotional shock, the greatest need is to talk about the whole experience. Though it is often very hard for a wife to tell her husband about a rape experience, or for a child to tell parents, victims gain great psychological strength from being able to confide in family members without fear of being judged or shamed, she said.

Ms. Ellison strongly recommended that every person have a "buddy" or confidant, whether a wife, husband, or best friend — someone who can be counted on in an emergency — in this case, someone who can go with a rape victim to deal with what needs to be done. The victim is usually in no fit state to do that alone.

She remarked that not enough psychologists as yet are trained to deal with victims of rape or other emotional crises — at present they are largely accustomed to dealing with patients who have long-standing problems. Now that the Police Department is giving intensive unit service training in sensitivity to the needs and rights of rape victims, many police officers are becoming more skilled in handling these people than some psychologists, in her opinion.

Social Services Support for Victims

Reviewing the history of the Rape Detection Unit in the Emergency Department of Greenpoint Hospital (functioning for nearly three years) and the formation of the community-based Rape Task Force in October 1973, Eileen Howell, assistant director of the hospital's Social Services Department, stressed the need for additional funding to make the staff of her department available to rape victims 24 hours a day.

At present, her department operates only on

weekdays between 9 and 5. Unfortunately, most rapes occur at night and on weekends, and consequently the important support social services personnel can give is frequently lacking.

The psychological damage to the victim, so severe that it often lasts for years, might be averted if the first person the victim had contact with in the hospital was a female social worker, from whom she would have continued counseling and support in the period following the attack.

How Greenpoint Hospital Helps

Ms. Howell detailed the present routine of the Social Service Department's treatment in Greenpoint's Rape Detection Center.

All cases of children under 16 are reported to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and, if neglect is evident, also to the Bureau of Child Welfare.

The social worker encourages the victim to talk about her feelings. "Talking is very cathartic and emotionally strengthening, just to have someone listen and understand and share the pain," Ms. Howell explained. "Family and friends may try to keep the victim from talking, thinking that it will make her feel worse. In fact, being urged *not* to talk makes her feel guilty and ashamed."

Ms. Howell warned parents of rape victims not to use words like "violated," "ruined," "dirty," etc., as they are very damaging and have strong negative effects.

Victims Helped to Cope

During the period after the rape, the victim is helped to cope with later stages of her adjustment. The social worker counsels the victim on initiating legal action against the alleged perpetrator, if he is found.

The victim is advised on whom to tell about her experiences beyond her family, helped with money, if needed, and may be referred to the hospital staff psychiatrist. She is always encouraged to return to the hospital if she needs further assistance.

Ms. Howell urged the audience to report any known sex crimes and to impress upon others the importance of making such information available to the police and hospitals, so that victims may be helped and perpetrators brought to trial. She also asked the audience to work through their community organizations and government representatives to press for greater funds for social and psychiatric services to victims of rape.

Rape Victims Often Children

Protective services for children furnished by the Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children were described by its director, Horace Tyler. The SPCC, which is quasi-public and privately funded, has as its primary client the child victim of any crime perpetrated by an adult.

"About one-third of all Brooklyn crimes reported in the last year have been sexual in nature." Mr. Tyler said, adding that not only dark alleys or secluded places are sites of sex crimes. Very often children are raped or abused in their own homes by a family member or a person known to the family. Small residences or group homes with supervisory parent substitutes may be a way to handle such cases of child molestation.

The SPCC cooperates with all the other agencies involved in rape cases, gives support to the child and its family, and helps prepare for court appearances. Mr. Tyler considers that the city now has more services for perpetrators of crimes than for the child victims and is unduly concerned about child offenders, when it should give as much or more attention and help to child victims.

Clergy Promotes Understanding

Calling rape the "most heinous crime against a person — an attack on the victim's body, dignity, and humanity — one's very personhood," the Rev. Clarence Norman of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights represented the clergy's role. The clergy's involvement is often long after the fact, he said, and it can offer the greatest help by combatting old church principles that led victims to feel shamed and guilty. Through counseling of families and educating church members, the clergy can lead in changing traditional attitudes toward victims of rape.

Herself the object of an attempted rape, a young urban planner who lives in the Fort Greene-Clinton Hill area counseled potential victims to keep their heads and try to remember every possible detail about the perpetrator to help the police apprehend him later.

Victim Acts as Decoy

She was able to talk her attacker out of the actual rape by pretending she would like to have a date with him at a later time "in a proper way." Acting as a decoy, she made it possible for the police

to arrest the perpetrator. Although she went through the psychological states described earlier and was afraid to stay in her apartment for a period of time (she stayed with friends or had friends with her), she found that getting vindication, through assisting the police to track down her assailant, gave her a great deal of psychological reinforcement.

Future Forums Planned

The first forum of the Rape Task Force was held in October 1973, and the third was scheduled for June 11 in Greenpoint at headquarters of the Winthrop Civic Association, representing 25 organizations in that area. Future forums are planned for each community in Greenpoint's catchment area so that as many residents as possible may learn of the hospital's commitment to aid rape victims and curb the crime of rape.



Urban Consumer

Yard Goods. When you buy yard goods, you are supposed to get three things — the material itself, the receipt of your purchase, and a care label. The care label gives instructions for washing, bleaching, ironing, or dry cleaning the fabric — just like care labels in ready-made clothes. Be sure you get such a label with your yard goods purchase, and be sure it matches the information on the bolt label. If you have any problem about care labels, write to Care Labels, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580.

Price per Half Gallon. If you see some gasoline pumps with a sign: "Price per Half Gallon," the National Bureau of Standards explains that some service stations have pumps whose price dials cannot be set above 49.9¢. Since gas now costs more than that everywhere, station operators are setting the price dials on old pumps (usually made before 1960) to show the price per half gallon.

Consumers Get Back \$2.4 Million. The State Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection reported that it recovered \$2,465,390 last year in refunds for consumers in the metropolitan area. The refunds represented cash returned to consumers as well as restitution of property and services for which they had contracted or paid during 1973.

Volunteers Check Poison Prevention Packaging. Consumer volunteers across the U.S. are checking supermarkets, drug stores, hardware stores, and other retail outlets for compliance with mandatory poison prevention packaging regulations for aspirin and certain liquid furniture polishes.

Aspirin is the item most often swallowed by children under five. It has been a leading cause of deaths and hospitalizations of children. Since April 14, 1972, products containing aspirin — with the exception of effervescent tablets containing less than 10% aspirin and unflavored powdered aspirin in unit doses — are required by law to be packaged with child-resistant closures. (The law permits manufacturers to make an easy to open container for the elderly and the handicapped, but it must be labeled "This package for households without young children.")

Fatal Furniture Polish

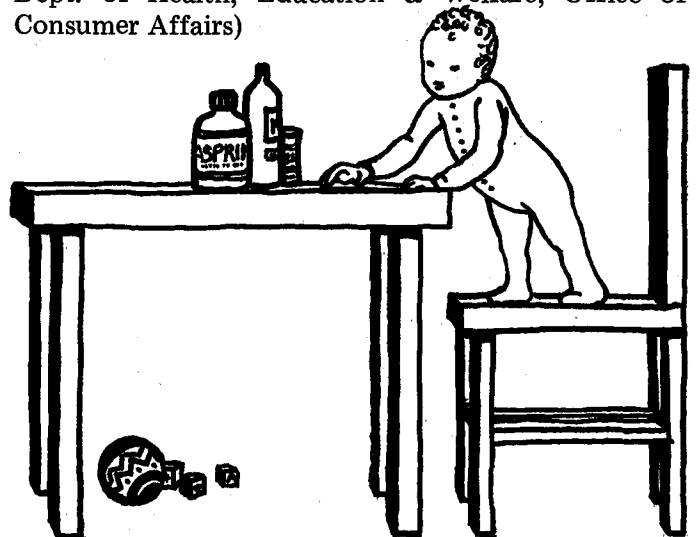
Clear liquid furniture polishes — containing 10% or more of mineral seal oil and petroleum distillate or both — must be sold in special protective packaging with a warning label "Danger — Harmful or Fatal if Swallowed." Getting even one teaspoonful of such polish into the lungs can be fatal.

Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 also requires child-resistant packaging for other products, including sedatives, barbiturates, amphetamines, certain kinds of windshield wiper antifreeze, liniments, paste and aerosol oven cleaners, caustic drain openers, liquid kindling, lighting fluids (including charcoal lighter fluids). Most prescription drugs are also now required to have such closures.

Additional information about protecting children from accidental poisoning is available by calling Consumer Product Safety Commission toll-free (800)638-2666.

Comic Book Teaches Poison Prevention

"Dennis the Menace Takes a Poke at Poison" is a colorful comic book aimed at teaching children to avoid accidental poisonings at home. Dennis shows how easily children may get hurt when medicines and toxic household substances are not properly safeguarded. For a free copy, write to Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bureau of Information and Education, Washington, D.C. 20207, (*Consumer News*, Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare, Office of Consumer Affairs)



FAMILY PLANNING PROPOSALS

The Legislative Review published by the New York State Coalition for Family Planning details some of the wide range of bills that were introduced in the New York State Legislature this year relative to family planning and affecting the lives and welfare of families at all income levels.

Many of the bills were introduced to remove restrictions on the sale of contraceptives and to deal with the venereal disease problem, as well as bills improving access to medical services for contraception and V.D. treatment. Some concern has been expressed about genetic screening and about legitimacy of children conceived by artificial insemination. Bills relating to abortion are still being introduced.

\$500,000 for Family Planning

Governor Wilson recommended, and the Legislature approved, a budget appropriation of \$500,000 for family planning contracts. In his annual message the Governor said: "The State expects to have no trouble complying with the new Federal requirements for local family planning services. The department now has 35 contractual agreements with local units to provide such services and has assigned family planning staff to each regional office to help with local programs."

Variety of Bills Offered

Among bills proposed were:

Contraceptive Sale — S.7211 sought to repeal a law which allows sales of contraceptives by pharmacists only, prohibits sale or distribution to minors under 16, and prohibits advertisement or display.

S.7249 would amend a law, striking out provisions making it a misdemeanor for a pharmacist to sell or distribute contraceptive material to a minor under 16.

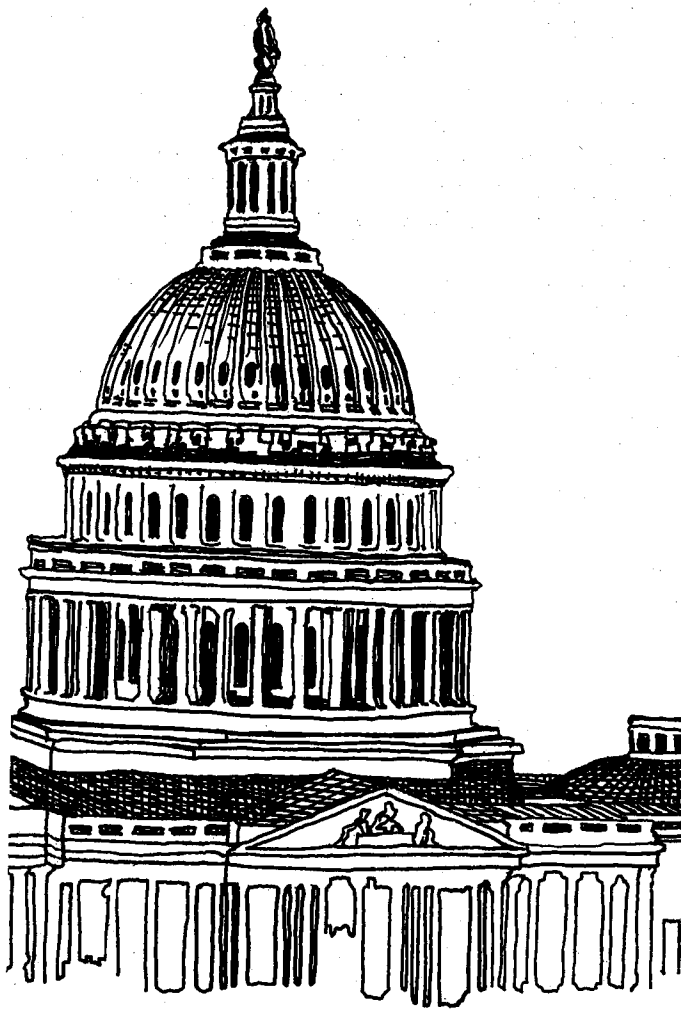
Genetic Screening

Genetic Screening — S. 7037 would provide for 50% state reimbursement to a county or municipal agency to conduct genetic screening and counseling programs. The supporting memorandum notes: "Many people today may unknowingly carry the genetic trait necessary to the transmittal of a genetic disease, and they should have the chance to know the consequences of an inheritable disease."

This act does not compel individuals to be screened and does not mandate the establishment of screening centers. The memorandum adds: "Professional counseling accompanying this program should serve to protect individual rights and preserve family privacy."

General Family Planning — A986-B inserted in the Domestic Relations Law a new section to provide for the legitimacy of children born by artificial insemination.

S.3113-B added a new section to the Public Health Law to require the city or town clerk to make



Legislative Action

available to the public a list of county or neighboring family planning clinics and venereal disease clinics. Complete information on all medically accepted forms of contraception shall also be distributed to marriage license applicants. All of the above information is to be printed in both English and Spanish.

Contraceptive Services

A.4545 required governing body of county or New York City to provide contraceptive services without charge and to provide 100% state aid.

A.9982 would make it a misdemeanor for a person to own or operate a human semen bank without a permit; make provision for issuance of such permit by the Health Department, and require the Commissioner to adopt rules and regulations relating to standards of practice, etc.

A.10067 provided that in the case of an operation for the purpose of sterilization there must be written consent stating that the person has been advised by a physician of the purpose of the operation and its consequences.

Venereal Disease

Venereal Disease—S.3066 would require tests for syphilis and gonorrhea on applying for marriage license.

S.3069-A provided that no person shall manufacture, sell, or distribute at wholesale any instrument, article, recipe, drug, or medicine for prevention of conception to any persons unless such is accompanied by statement supported by current scientific knowledge describing its effectiveness or ineffectiveness when used properly in preventing venereal disease.

S.3080 provided that any person under 21 treated for V.D. without parental knowledge or consent is to be held personally liable for costs and prohibits rendering of bill to any person other than the recipient unless the bill is not paid within three months.

Population and Environment

Population—S.9135 created a Temporary State Commission on Population and the Environment with appropriation of \$100,000. It would study and evaluate future population trends in the state and the effect thereof on environmental quality, including problems of air and water pollution, depletion of open space and natural resources, rising demands for electrical power and other types of energy, and disposal of solid wastes; also would examine the capacity of current governmental and social processes and policies to meet needs generated thereby, including problems of public transportation, education, recreation, health, housing, and employment opportunities.

Abortion—S.8744 would prohibit the use of any live human fetus for scientific research or study except to preserve the life of said fetus.

A.9572 provided that hospitals not be required to participate in justifiable abortifacient acts nor be

liable for refusal, as long as hospital notifies patients of its decision.

Abortion Regulations

A.10743 provided that participation of a prospective mother in the act of induced abortion shall be construed as a surrender of her legal rights to the disposition of the aborted fetus in cases where it is born alive; provided that the state shall become legal guardian, provided for medical records and disposal of dead fetus; requires abortions after first trimester to be performed in hospitals with doctor attending to give medical care for any live births resulting from abortion.

S.9540 required any institution, hospital, health center, clinic, individual, or group funded by state moneys, which engages in abortion counseling, to distribute at the time of giving such counseling, information regarding alternatives to abortion and the physical and psychological risks inherent in abortion.

UPDATE: Passed by the Legislature at the end of its session in May was a measure restricting the state's four-year-old abortion law, requiring that an abortion of a fetus after the twelfth week take place in a hospital and that a second physician be in attendance at abortion after twentieth week to help insure the survival of any living fetuses.

The Legislature killed a bill permitting the open display of contraceptives in pharmacies.

HEALTH MAINTENANCE SUPPORT ENACTED

Potentially of great importance to community health care, the Health Maintenance Organization act, signed by President Nixon on December 29, 1973, commits the Federal government to a limited, trial-period support of the development of health maintenance organizations (HMO's). Prototypes of HMO's have been operating for many years: the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan on the West Coast and the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York are among the better-known of these plans; at the end of 1972, about 7 million people were enrolled in them.

In return for a fixed monthly or annual payment, periodically determined and paid in advance, HMO's are expected to provide a comprehensive range of medical or health-care services. To aid the development of HMO's, the legislation authorizes a total appropriation of \$375 million for a 5-year period. Employers of 25 or more workers who receive health benefits are required to give them an HMO option to health insurance, if there is an HMO in their area that satisfies the provisions of the new law. A study and report to Congress evaluating HMO operations are to be made not later than 36 months after enactment of the legislation. (New York State Labor News Memorandum, April 1974)

FOOD

VEGETABLE POPULARITY SURVEY

Family feelings about vegetables were revealed in an Agriculture Department survey of 2600 homemakers using a list of 26 vegetables. Sweet potatoes were considered too high in calories, eggplant too difficult to prepare, and asparagus and cauliflower too expensive. Of the 14 unpopular vegetables, others ranking low were beets, black-eyed peas, broccoli, brussels sprouts, lima beans, okra, radishes, spinach, squash, and turnips. Family dislike of the taste of these vegetables was the main reason given for not using them.

Top favorites were tomatoes, lettuce, white potatoes, and white onions, followed by green beans, corn, and green peas. Runners-up were celery, cucumbers, carrots, cabbage, and green peppers. The 12 favorites were considered easy to prepare in many ways, as well as being tasty. Homemakers who'd like to make some of those "ugh" vegetables more tasty and add variety to meals will find recipes and buying tips in an Agriculture Department booklet: *Vegetables in Family Meals* (20¢), available from Consumer Information, Pueblo, CO 81009. (From *Consumer News*, Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare, Office of Consumer Affairs)

WHERE ARE FOOD PRICES HEADED?

Bread — The tightening of the wheat supply has alarmed the baking industry to the point that bakers are predicting retail bread prices of \$1.00 per loaf. Predictions of the wheat stocks for July 1 (when the crop year officially begins) were less than 200 million bushels.

While this sounds like a lot of wheat, it is about the amount needed to keep the pipelines filled so that the industry can keep working. But this July 1 estimate does not consider the fact that the major kind of wheat used for bread is harvested beginning in May in Texas and that much of the crop in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado is harvested by July 1.

Wheat for Bread Planted in Fall

Most of the wheat which is used for bread is planted in the fall, and the acreage available this year is larger than last. No estimate of yield and production is available yet, but the weather has been favorable so far for the crop. A harvest of 200 to 300 million bushels before July 1 could be reasonably expected.

If exports are not excessive, the milling and baking industry should have enough wheat available. The customer should remember that the farm cost of wheat used in a loaf of bread represents 15% or less of the retail cost. For this reason, a loaf of bread costing \$1.00 hardly seems justified.

* * * *

Food Costs — Though eating costs more than it did a year ago, some foods are more reasonable and should be considered in order to hold down costs. If grocery bills seem extremely high, it might be helpful to figure out how much is being spent for various items — your grocery bill may include non-food items as well.



Hunt for Best Nutrition

Consider the proportion of money that is spent for high cost cuts of meat, rather than less expensive protein alternatives, or for sweets and empty high caloric snacks instead of more nourishing foods. Compare the additional cost of many convenience food with the cost of preparing the same dish yourself.

A recent study in the Midwest showed that shoppers with the best diets and those who saved the most on their food bills included more milk and dairy products and more fruits and vegetables in their menus than did those who spent a great deal more. Buying food for a nutritious diet is one good investment you can make.

Fruits and Vegetables — During the winter months when fresh fruits and vegetables are not so plentiful, canned and frozen ones play an important role. Unfortunately, the total supply of processed fruits and vegetables for the coming year is tight. Demand is high, and prices are expected to rise.

Fewer French Fries

Supplies of some processed vegetables are down considerably. Expect canned peas, canned tomatoes, and frozen french fried potatoes to be less abundant this year than last. But anticipate that frozen green beans, peas, carrots, and corn will be in good supply.

Among fruits, frozen peaches, strawberries and orange juice concentrate are more plentiful than last year. However, canned pineapple is in short supply and may become difficult to find.

OTHER FOOD NEWS

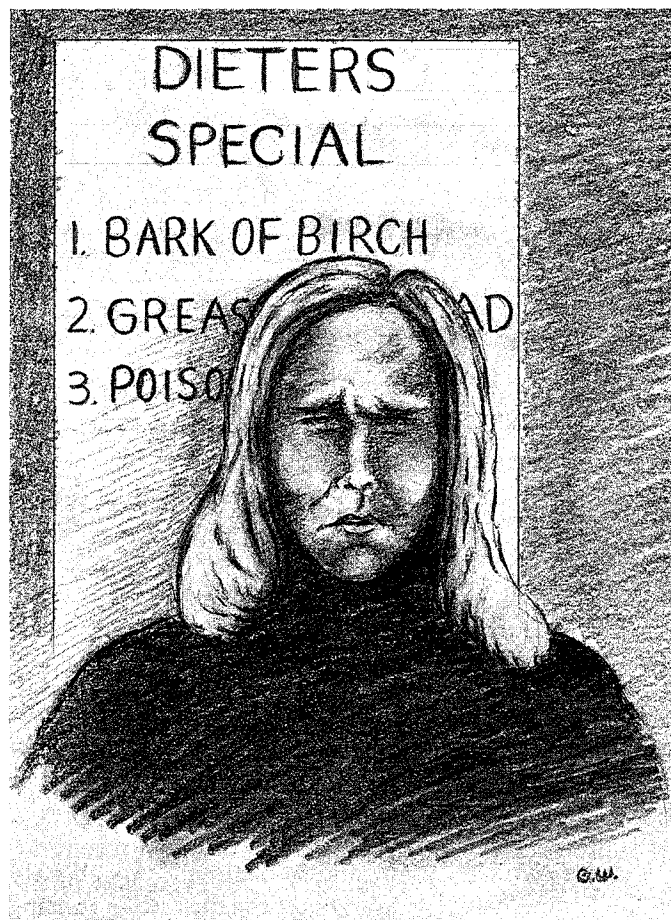
NEW RULES FOR FLAVORINGS

If you find it difficult to know whether you are buying artificial or natural flavoring, you will find it increasingly easier to know in the future. The Food and Drug Administration has issued new regulations that clarify the labellings of flavorings. All labels that manufacturers use for food shipped interstate after the end of this year must meet the new rules. And labels ordered from now until the end of the year must also comply.

Natural vs. Artificial

A product that has a natural flavor added must carry a label that says, for example, "vanilla flavor" or "natural vanilla flavor." If a product contains artificial flavor instead of natural, the label must say, for example, "artificial strawberry flavor."

In cases where the flavoring is both natural and artificial and the artificial predominates, the product label must say, "artificially flavored." Natural flavorings are often more expensive than artificial. The new rules will help shoppers know better the kind of ingredients they are getting for their money. (*Consumer Education*, Cornell University, New York).



IN DIRE NEED OF A DIET?

What, you still haven't taken off those pounds that don't look so good in a bathing suit or on the tennis court? Here's a diet that's guaranteed to take it off, but fast!

Low Calorie Reducing Diet (no substitutions) B, L, D, = breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Monday: B — weak tea, L — 1 bullion cube in ½ c. diluted water, D — 1 pigeon thigh, 3 oz. prune juice (gargle only); Tuesday: B — scraped crumbs of burned toast, L — 1 doughnut hole (without sugar), D — bee's knees and mosquito knuckles sauteed in vinegar; Wednesday: B — boiled out stains of tablecloth, L — ½ doz. poppy seeds, D — jelly fish skins (2), 1 glass dehydrated water; Thursday: B — 2 lobster antennae, L — 1 belly button from navel orange, D — jelly fish vertebrae a la mode; Friday: B — shredded eggshell skins, L — 1 guppy fish, D — 3 eyes from an Irish potato (diced); Saturday: B — 4 chopped banana seeds, L — boiled butterfly liver, D — filet of soft shell crab; Sunday: B — pickled hummingbird tongue, L — prime ribs of tadpole, aroma of empty custard pie pan, D — Tossed paprika and cloverleaf salad. Note: All meals to be eaten under a microscope to avoid extra portions.



pollution

NYC AIR QUALITY NEAR 1972 LEVELS

New York City air quality dropped only slightly in 1973 over 1972's high standards despite mounting energy problems, according to the Department of Air Resources. There were no dramatic increases or drops in air pollution levels, except at certain monitoring stations, and those changes observed were small enough to fall within the expected variations caused by normally shifting meteorological conditions. Briefly, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide levels increased only a little over the city; suspended particulate levels remained the same.

Pollutant Levels Detailed

Sulfur dioxide levels at 77% of the city's monitoring sites met the Federal clean air standards. Whether the city can maintain this state of affairs during the current oil shortages depends on the sulfur content of oil available to the city's suppliers.

Levels of suspended particulates at 66% of the monitoring sites met the annual Federal primary standard. For dustfall, or settleable particulates (grit on windowsills) there was a 7% improvement in 1973 compared with 1972. In 1972 the improvement was 11% compared with 1971.

Carbon monoxide in high traffic areas — produced chiefly by cars and trucks — showed only a slight increase from previous years. There is not enough data on high traffic areas in the city to give consistent trends, but new equipment is on order to

increase the number of monitoring sites. Background stations, or those not in high traffic areas, showed no change in concentrations of carbon monoxide in 1973. Since this is a street level pollutant, it is difficult to measure because concentrations are subject to such variables as wind conditions, traffic flow, street patterns, and building configurations.

Vows Fight for Air Standards

Environmental Protection Administrator Robert A. Low is dedicated to holding the line on air pollution levels in New York. "For the city to fall back to the highly polluted days of 1968 and 1969 would be undesirable and unhealthy. We are under intense pressures now to go back to those days because of the energy crisis, but I believe we can cope with the crisis without sacrificing the cleaner air we've already achieved."

Air Quality Ratings

	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Good	48	58	61	0	0
Acceptable	229	252	198	86	38
Unsatisfactory	65	48	80	196	209
Unhealthy	23	7	26	79	114

“. . .the voice of your brother's blood. . . .”

There are three material things not only useful but essential to life. No one “knows how to live” till he has got them.

These are pure air, water, and earth. . . .

Heaven gives you the main elements of these. You can destroy them at your pleasure, or increase, almost without limit, the available quantities of them.

You can vitiate the air by your manner of life and of death to any extent. You might easily vitiate it so as to bring such a pestilence on the globe as would end all of you. . . . Everywhere, and all day long, you are vitiating it with foul chemical exhalations; and the horrible nests, which you call towns, are little more than laboratories for the distillation into heaven of venomous smokes and smells, mixed with effluvia from decaying animal matter and infectious miasmata from purulent disease. On the other hand, your power of purifying the air, by dealing properly and swiftly with all substances in corruption, by absolutely forbidding noxious manufacturers, and by planting in all soils the trees which cleanse and invigorate earth and atmosphere, is literally infinite. You might make every breath of air you draw, food.

Secondly, your power over the rain and river waters of the earth is infinite. You can bring rain where you will, by planting wisely and tending carefully; drought where you will, by ravage of woods and neglect of the soil. You might have the rivers as pure as the crystal of the rock; beautiful in falls, in lakes, in living pools; so full of fish that you might take them out with your hands instead of nets. Or you may do always as you have done now — turn every river into a common sewer, so that you cannot so much as baptize a baby but with filth, unless you hold its face out in the rain; and even that falls dirty.

Then for the third, earth, meant to be nourishing for you and blossoming. You have learned about it that there is no such thing as a flower; and as far as your scientific hands and scientific brains, inventive of explosive and deathful instead of blossoming and life-giving dust, can contrive, you have turned the Mother Earth, Demeter, into the Avenger-Earth, Tisiphone — with the voice of your brother's blood crying out of it in one wild harmony round all its murderous sphere. (John Ruskin, ca. 1879)

“EYESORE” REMEDY PROPOSED

Dealing with the blight of abandoned cars in New York City (73,000 in 1973 alone), an imaginative solution has been proposed in the State Legislature. Bill S-584, A-695 requires that a disposal bond of \$50 be paid to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles when a car is purchased. When the owner wants to dispose of the car, he passes the cost of the bond to the new owner; or if the car is only to be junked, he can turn it in to an authorized auto disposal center which will refund his \$50.

Non-Abandonment Pays

The bill thus provides a financial incentive for owners to dispose of cars properly. If the car is, nevertheless, abandoned, the city or town towing it to a disposal center would receive the \$50. At the present time, state and municipal governments bear the total cost of towing vehicles away.

OCEAN DUMPING RESTRICTED

Ocean dumping of wastes off the New York and New Jersey coasts by June 1975 has been prohibited to 12 companies in an order of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Another 27 companies may continue ocean dumping for another year but must undertake detailed studies on alternative methods of disposal. If such studies are inconclusive, the companies may submit engineering reports on their efforts and reapply for an ocean dumping permit.

The change in EPA's attitude toward ocean dumping was brought about by a new bio-assay technique which made it easier to calculate the impact of such dumping on the environment and because of intense public concern about the matter.

Ocean dumping has been going on for at least 45 years off the coasts of New York and New Jersey; EPA's jurisdiction over it dates back only to April 1973. It has approved six sites since then and issued temporary permits to 42 companies. Some 22 of the latter now have only interim permits for one year.

The dumping site closest to land is eight miles out, where inert construction rubble is consigned. At 12 miles is the so-called “dead sea” of sewage sludge. The acid dumping grounds are 15 miles offshore, and the chemical dumping site, which gets the bulk of toxic wastes, is 106 miles out, off the continental shelf.

GARBAGE BAN DENIED

Less than three months after the New Jersey Legislature passed a law banning the dumping of out-of-state garbage there, the law was declared unconstitutional by the State Superior Court on grounds that it interfered with interstate commerce.

New Jersey could become “the garbage capital of the world,” a state official said. Continued dumping from out-of-state sources — about 30,000 tons a week — constitutes a major threat to New Jersey's survival, according to Richard D. Goodenough, director of the N.J. Division of Environmental Quality. State landfills are required to absorb more than 100,000 tons of New Jersey garbage a week. The decision is expected to be appealed. (*New Jersey Environmental Commission Newsletter*)

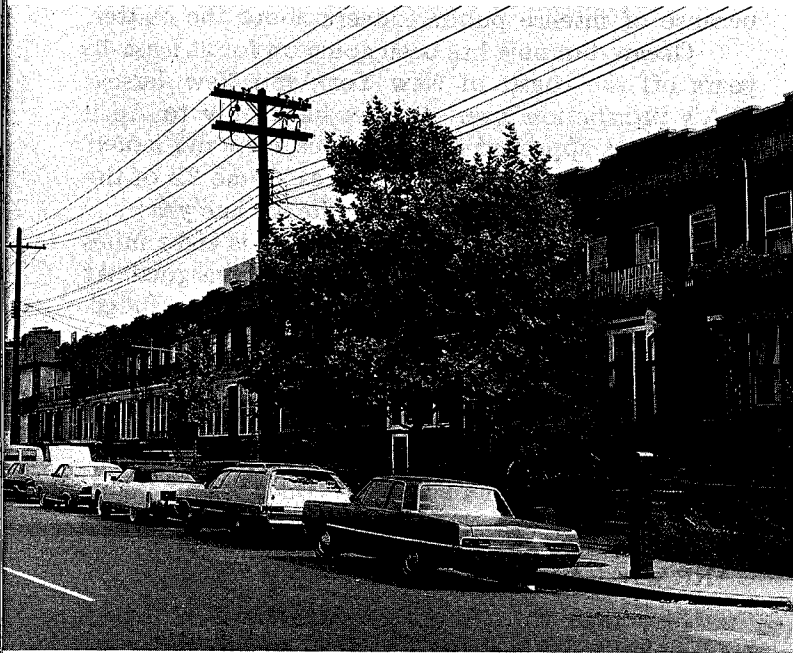


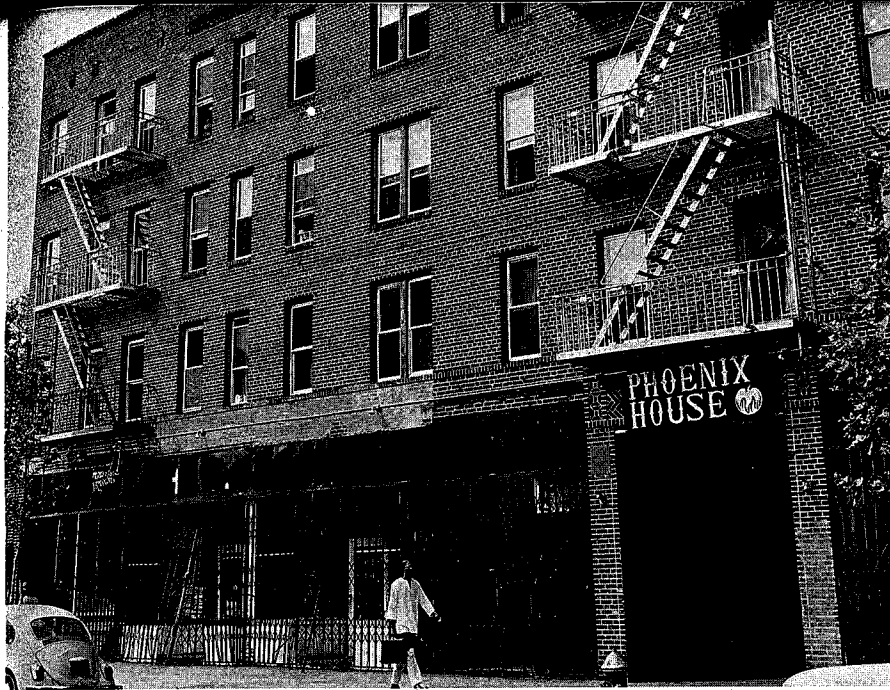
save coney island

Photos by Henri Silberman

In Brooklyn's Coney Island section, as in other parts of the borough, homeowners are banding together to save their residences from urban renewal sought by the city. Excluded from condemnation, for the time being, are a number of houses on West 31st Street, whose owners fought to save their properties. Still going on is a neighborhood struggle to save other homes on West 31st, West 32nd, and Neptune Avenue. The post-World War II decline of some Coney Island areas is attributed to uncoordinated urban renewal and loss of owner-occupied homes.

- 1) A street scene on West 31st Street.
- 2) This block on Neptune Avenue is among those slated for demolition. It is one of the "middle-class" streets, where homeowners, chiefly black and Puerto Rican, have used "sweat equity" — their own money and labor — to rehabilitate their dwellings.
- 3) Residents of the drug-free "human renewal" project of Phoenix House on Mermaid Avenue renovated half of this building with their own hands, but it may have been for nothing, if the bulldozers cannot be stopped.
- 4) Once a splendid home in Coney Island, this house on West 32nd Street could be restored to its former fine appearance with a small amount of financial help to its present owners. Instead, it is doomed to destruction if the city carries out its proposed plans.





NEW YORK STATE CONTINUES WAR AGAINST SOLID WASTES

Solid waste in New York State, once "out of sight, out of mind," has increasingly become, in the last decade, a very real environmental problem for the citizen, the state, and local governments.

Most people are not aware of the full complexity of the solid waste problem, as long as their refuse is collected at the doorstep, but solid waste continues to be a major environmental challenge. The current high consumption, throw-away life style produces a fast-rising rate of solid waste, already more than a ton per person yearly, an average of five pounds per person each day in municipal wastes alone. This does not include wastes from agriculture, industry, construction, and demolition.

Space limitations and existing standards for solid waste disposal limit the useful lives of many existing disposal sites. Only half of the more than 800 disposal areas in the state meet current regulations. Almost all of the municipal incinerators are inadequate in either performance or capacity. Local officials seeking new disposal sites often find their choices extremely limited by environmental and social constraints. Yet the garbage does not wait for solutions to be found and implemented. Day in and day out, it must be collected and distributed.

Chief responsibility for waste management lies with municipal governments, which currently spend more than \$400 million yearly for this service — still

an insufficient amount in many cases. New environmental requirements to clean up the air and water will mean more solid waste. The residue from air pollution control devices, limits on burning, and solids resulting from higher degrees of waste water treatment all add to the volume and complexity of the solid waste problem.

Growing demands for resources are reaching the point where it is no longer practical for items to be used once before disposal. The curbing of social and economic practices which are needlessly wasteful of resources is of prime importance.

The solid waste problem is both urban and rural and affects every citizen and municipality in the state. Solutions involve institutional changes for local government, greater financial investment in processing and disposal facilities, management planning and research, and, most essentially, wider citizen understanding and support.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has estimated that a reasonable target for the next decade is 60 percent recovery of usable materials from the statewide solid waste stream. This recovery would involve some 12 to 15 major areas served by resource recovery facilities, with about 70 regional sanitary landfills serving rural areas.

Many different types of technology are under development which will lead to materials recovery, energy recovery, or both, depending on the composition of the locality's waste stream, the availability of markets for materials and energy, and the costs of the program.

Analysis of markets for the recovered products, whether energy or materials, is the key to selection of a particular type of recovery facility for a regional system. The regional diversity of New York's industry will require recovered energy in such forms as oil, gas, or steam, and materials such as paper, glass, and metal. Municipalities are determining the most effective processes for their communities, with the assistance of 100 percent state-funded comprehensive solid waste studies.

The cost of establishing regional resource recovery facilities to reach the goal of 60 percent recovery may run as high as \$1.4 billion. The

war against

Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972 provides \$175 million to bridge the dollar gap between current disposal methods and recovery system. It provides 50 percent grants to local governments to construct recovery and recycling facilities and 25 percent grants for the purchase of essential disposal equipment while recycling is being phased in.

The division of solid waste management of the DEC has the responsibility of planning and implementing programs to meet current and future solid waste management needs of the state. The division has identified three basic long-term objectives in its planning: optimum utilization of resources, efficient management of the solid waste stream, and environmentally acceptable disposal of the remaining solid wastes.

Optimum utilization of resources requires maximum reduction of waste production, as well as recovery of all available materials from solid wastes. The present high-convenience, throw-away life style prevalent in the U.S. places even more severe stresses on solid waste management systems. Without institutionalized resource recovery systems, increasing amounts of vital natural resources are being burned or buried every day. It is necessary to develop means of cutting down unnecessary waste in product design and packaging and for these designs to include conscious plans for recycling.

- Research by industry and the Federal government should be conducted to find the most efficient and economical uses of target materials for successive recyclings.

- National guidelines for product design, packaging, and promotion should be developed by the Federal government in cooperation with industry to emphasize the lasting qualities of products and materials, rather than promoting single-purpose, throwaway uses.

If resource recovery is ever to be realized on a large scale, the economic climate must be favorable for it. At present, national economic policies, outmoded laws, and public attitudes are often biased against recycled materials. Depletion allowances favor the use of virgin pulpwood and ore deposits. Freight rates are often higher for recycled materials than for comparable virgin materials.

To insure the success of resource recovery systems, there must be an active pursuit of appropriate uses for recovered materials on a widespread basis.

- Federal tax policies should be modified to at least equalize incentives for reuse of materials, as against exploitation of new sources.

- Federal agencies should review their transportation rate regulations for environmental impact and eliminate bias against recycled materials.

- Governmental purchasing policies should be reviewed to determine whether positive incentives can be offered to emphasize use of recovered materials, particularly those in short supply or imported.

- The state must assume an active role in working with industry to identify and utilize potential markets for recovered materials.

In recent years, many public-spirited citizens have been active in recycling newspapers, aluminum cans, bottles, etc. While these efforts are commendable, in the absence of municipal resource recovery systems, they are not a long-term solution to the recovery problem. Local government action to establish resource recovery systems is necessary if a substantial portion of the total solid waste load is to be recycled. State and Federal governments must share the responsibilities in this area — with the Federal role chiefly in support of research and development and the state role in technical and financial aid to localities. (From **New York State Environment**, published by the State Department of Environmental Conservation, October 1974.)

solid waste

transportation news...

SUBWAY NOISE RELIEF

Relief from the subway's oppressive din is in earshot at last for its long-suffering riders. The Transit Authority recently announced that it has included \$15 million for a subway noise abatement program in its 1974-75 capital budget proposal. The proposal establishes a timetable for noise reduction over a 10-year period and includes such remedies as acoustic treatment of stations and cars, track lubrication, brake shoes, rail grinding, and wheel rounding.

The city's Department of Air Resources, which has pressed for subway noise abatement through a series of recommendations to the Transit Authority and the City Council, views the budget proposal as its first success in this area. M.T.A. Chairman David Yunich also recently obtained \$5 million in Federal funds to deal with noise abatement, to be used for acoustic improvement of 20 stations.

City Stalls on Noise

Studies of subway noise have been made periodically since 1930, each time with specific recommendations for correcting the problem, but it has taken the city 44 years to begin alleviating this serious health hazard.

In recent years, scientists and medical experts have discovered that noise is far more hazardous to health than previously believed. Exposure to excessive noise levels can cause temporary or permanent loss of hearing, tension, high blood pressure, heart disease, stomach ulcers, chronic headache, and a variety of nervous disorders, as well as aggravation of any of these conditions previously existing.

Commissioner of Air Resources Ethan C. Eldon is seeking City Council legislation to establish allowable noise levels throughout the subway system.



TRANSPORTATION

In Eugene, Oregon, a young couple are employing an ancient means of transportation to meet a modern problem — that is, the pedicab. They have bought five of these vehicles, a bicycle version of the rickshaw, once common in the Orient. The cabs are equipped to haul two persons between the University of Oregon and downtown Eugene.

Using public transit instead of private cars to get to work can save up to 15 cents per miles on each trip, according to a report in **Passenger Transport**, published by the American Transit Assn. The public transit user in the U.S., on the average, spends less than 3.4 cents per mile to get to work. Owning and operating a standard-size 1974 car during its anticipated 10-year life will total an average of \$15,892.36, or 15.9 cents per mile. The compact car owner will spend 12.9 cents per mile, and the subcompact owner will spend 11.2 cents per mile. The average transit fare in the country is 31.5 cents, and the average one-way work trip is 9.2 miles, giving an average cost of 3.4 cents per mile.

"Dial-a-Ride" bus systems are now in effect in some 45 cities across the U.S. with customers calling a dispatcher, who contacts the bus which will arrive at the point requested and discharge the rider at his chosen destination.

Various operating schemes have been used in the cities trying this system. Customers can be picked up at many points and discharged at one; picked up at one point and discharged at many; or any combination of the two methods. Chief users of dial-ride buses are morning and evening commuters, college students, the elderly, handicapped, and shoppers. (From **Passenger Transport**, June 1974)

A detailed technical document describing this service has been prepared under the sponsorship of the U.S. Transportation Dept. Individuals or community groups interested in setting up such a system may write for a free copy to Technology Sharing Program Office (TSC-151), Transportation Systems Center, 55 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02142; ask for "Demand-Responsive Transportation." (**Consumer News**, Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare)

COMPUTERS COPE WITH CARPOOLING

One way to cut down on excess gas consumption by automobiles — the use of carpools — has been approached through a computer program designed to provide lists of potential fellow-riders who would participate in a large carpool operation. The program was developed in the Census Use Study of the Census Bureau, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the Southern California Regional Information Study of Los Angeles County.

The purpose of the lists is to provide each carpool candidate with a wide choice of potential fellow-riders, from which a congenial carpool could be formed. Each candidate receives an individualized list of commuters who meet common criteria for participation in a pool.

There are geographic criteria such as: 1) the search radius for candidates expressed in miles, 2) the search radius for candidates expressed as a percentage of the distance to work, 3) the minimum number of candidates on the list.

Other criteria are: 1) common workdays, 2) common work-hours, 3) candidates' choices of participation as either riders or drivers.

A computer printout with names, department designations, and work telephone numbers of fellow employees who work similar hours and live "nearby" is received by each potential candidate. CARPOL has been used to create lists of potential carpools employed by the County of Los Angeles and working in the Civic Center.

Further information about CARPOL may be obtained from Ron Crellin, Census Use Study, Data User Service Office, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. (Labor News Memorandum, Vol. XXIX Nos. 9-10, March 6, 1974.)

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THREE WASTES, THREE BENEFITS

China — Everywhere in China these characters appear. Their literal meaning — Three Wastes, Three Benefits — alludes to the natural triumvirate of land, water, and air. To a Chinese, they are an admonition to recover the wastes in gas, liquid and residue, thereby turning them into benefits to the environment and, even more, to the economy.

The *Peking Review* reports that “Last year Shanghai’s industrial departments got 1.4 million tons of different chemical materials out of waste liquid, the percentage of industrial residue used reached 70, and 20 to 30 kinds of valuable and rare metals were obtained from the three wastes.”

As another example the *Review* reports, “Dozens of small chemical works have been set up in Tientsin making scores of chemicals by utilizing the ‘three wastes’ of the big plants. The muddy water from the Tientsin Soda Works was used by a small factory to produce calcium chloride; the waste produced in that operation was used to make salt for industrial purposes; and the residue was utilized by a middle school-run factory to produce sodium chloride, used as a reagent.”

* * * *

CARELESS NATURE

Conservation and environment buffs need to be reminded occasionally that nature also can get out of hand and that man is not the only polluter, for example:

Kenya — Drought combined with surging elephant populations has led to tragedy in Kenya. Hundreds of elephants have died but not before they destroyed thousands of acres of vegetation, including trees. Officials were faced with a difficult decision — whether a proportion should be shot to relieve their misery and enhance the chances of survival for the rest.

Vegetation Pollutes

Argonne Labs — The assumption that carbon monoxide is largely manmade is now found to be false. Scientists at the Argonne National Laboratory have found that chlorophyll in decaying vegetation produces nearly 100 million tons of carbon monoxide annually. In familiar terms, decaying cuttings from an acre of mowed lawn produce about the same amount of carbon monoxide as driving a mile in a large car without emission controls.

Holland — An otherwise harmless creature, the muskrat, is endangering one of the finest ecological works of man. Proliferating muskrats are burrowing into the dikes of Holland with such abandon that these ancient bulwarks against the sea are seriously endangered.

Water Too Fresh

Chesapeake Bay — Shellfish in Chesapeake Bay were threatened in a recent summer as never before — not by manmade pollution but by an excess of fresh water pouring into the bay during a heavy tropical storm. For mussels, clams, and the famous bay oysters the sudden decline in salinity may have been fatal, even for those not smothered by silt stirred up by the storm. The effects were felt nearly 100 miles out into the Atlantic. (Nature items excerpted from *World Environment Newsletter*)

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Japan — In Atsugi, Japan four Holstein cows were digesting old newspapers at the rate of about 4½ lbs. a day and still yielding good milk. Mixed with molasses, the old papers make up a sixth of the feed. Government officials conducting the experiment said newspaper feed is cheaper than hay but since it contains little protein further studies are required.

* * * *

C.W. Post College, L.I. — Arthur, a talking trashcan, is saying, “Thank you,” “Do it again,” and uttering other appropriate remarks to students at the college who drop their trash into his big black mouth, where the word “push” is lettered in red and yellow teeth. The deposit of trash activates a cassette tape under the lid, and appreciative comments (recorded by psychology students and various faculty members at the college) are repeated at one-minute intervals. The \$40 device was invented by a graduate student and a professor of psychology to study its effect on students’ littering habits.

* * * *

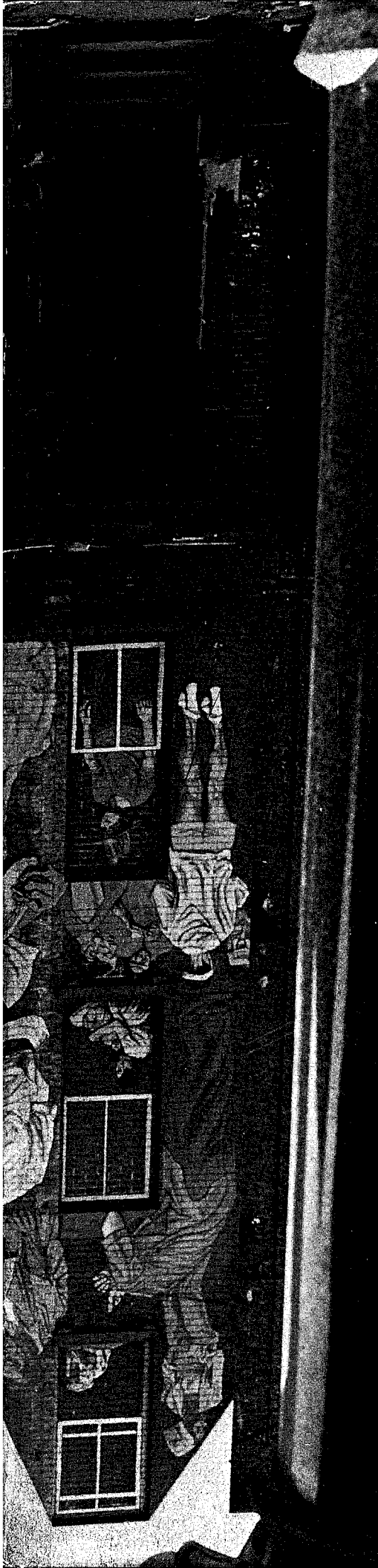
Washington, D.C. — Sen. Mark Hatfield (R. — Ore.) is pushing the Senate for legislation that would keep names off mailing lists unless a person consents. Hatfield says the average American is on some 50 lists. One company alone has 22,000 lists for sale, and most lists bring between \$25 and \$45 per 1,000 names. Some high-powered political donor lists cost up to \$100 per 1,000.

University of Oregon Medical School — A new radiography technique to help save the lives of patients with artery clots has been developed by a team of U. of Oregon Med. School doctors. The present treatment, injecting anticoagulants into blood vessels, breaks down clots but can also cause hemorrhaging. The new method uses an X-ray guided catheter, inserted through the artery to a point just above the clot. Low doses of an anti-coagulating enzyme are released — less than 1/1000th of the usual amount, so risk of hemorrhaging is greatly reduced.

* * * *

San Francisco — A new birth control product for dogs is being tested in eight American cities this summer, according to a report to veterinarians and animal hospital operators at a spring meeting in San Francisco. Volunteer pet owners in cities selected will feed the experimental product combined in a canned pet food to female dogs, and vets will be testing a capsule or liquid birth control product. Two years of testing have shown the product to be safe and effective. The American Veterinary Medical Assn. has declared this type of control the only practical way to solve overbreeding, which results in thousands of animals being destroyed each month.

WHERE



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