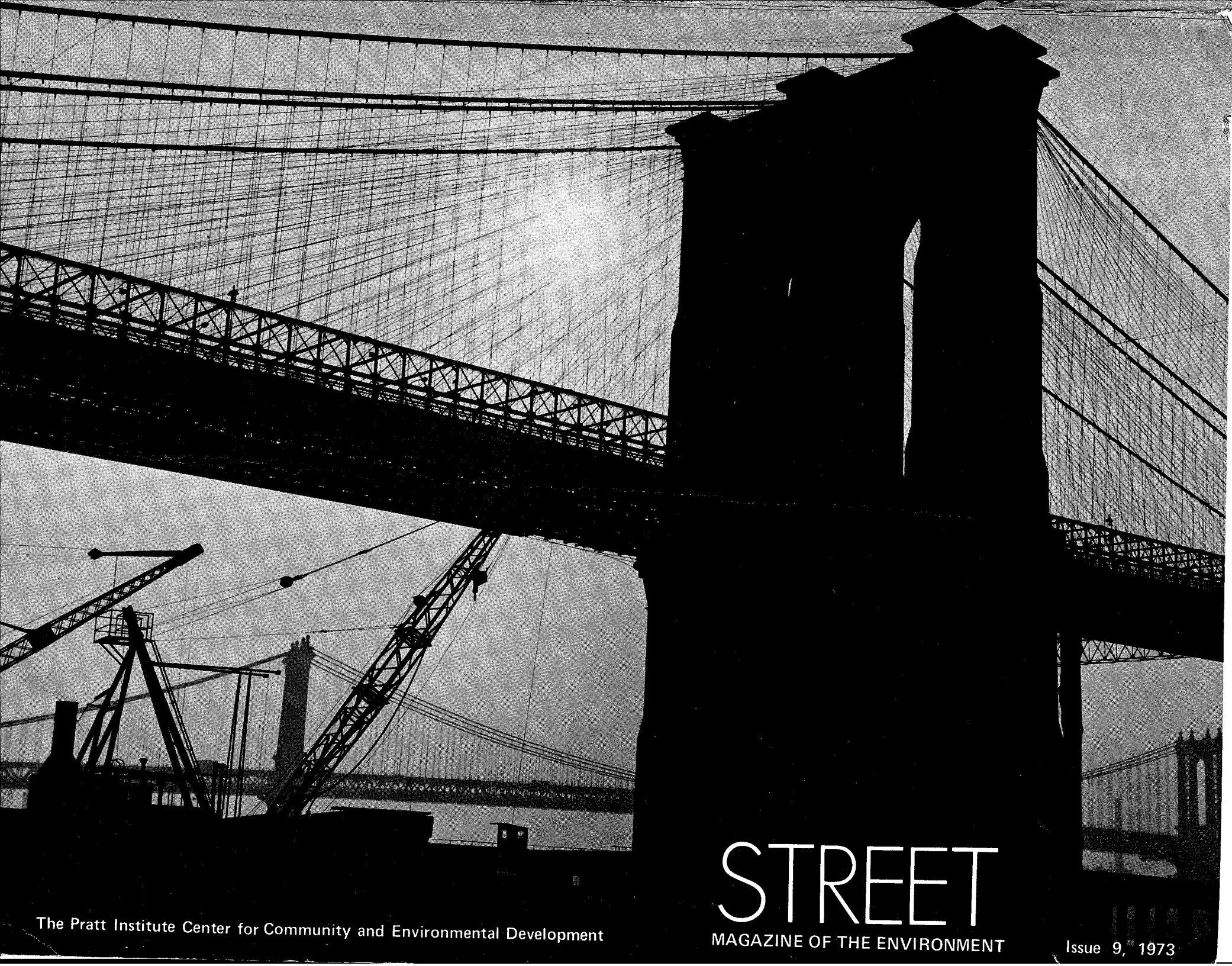


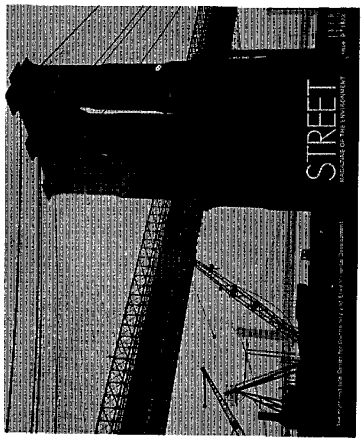
# STREET

MAGAZINE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development

Issue 9, 1973

Dear Reader of STREET:




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

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

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

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

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

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

Please send your contributions to:

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

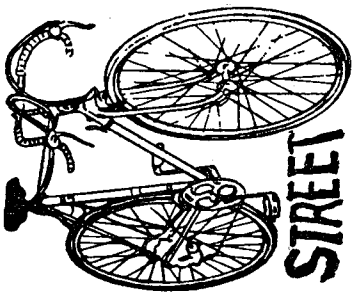
*P.S.* Make all checks payable to STREET. All contributions are tax-deductible. We appreciate your support.

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

STREET ISSUE 9, 1973

# in this issue

Ron Shiffman, Director PICCED



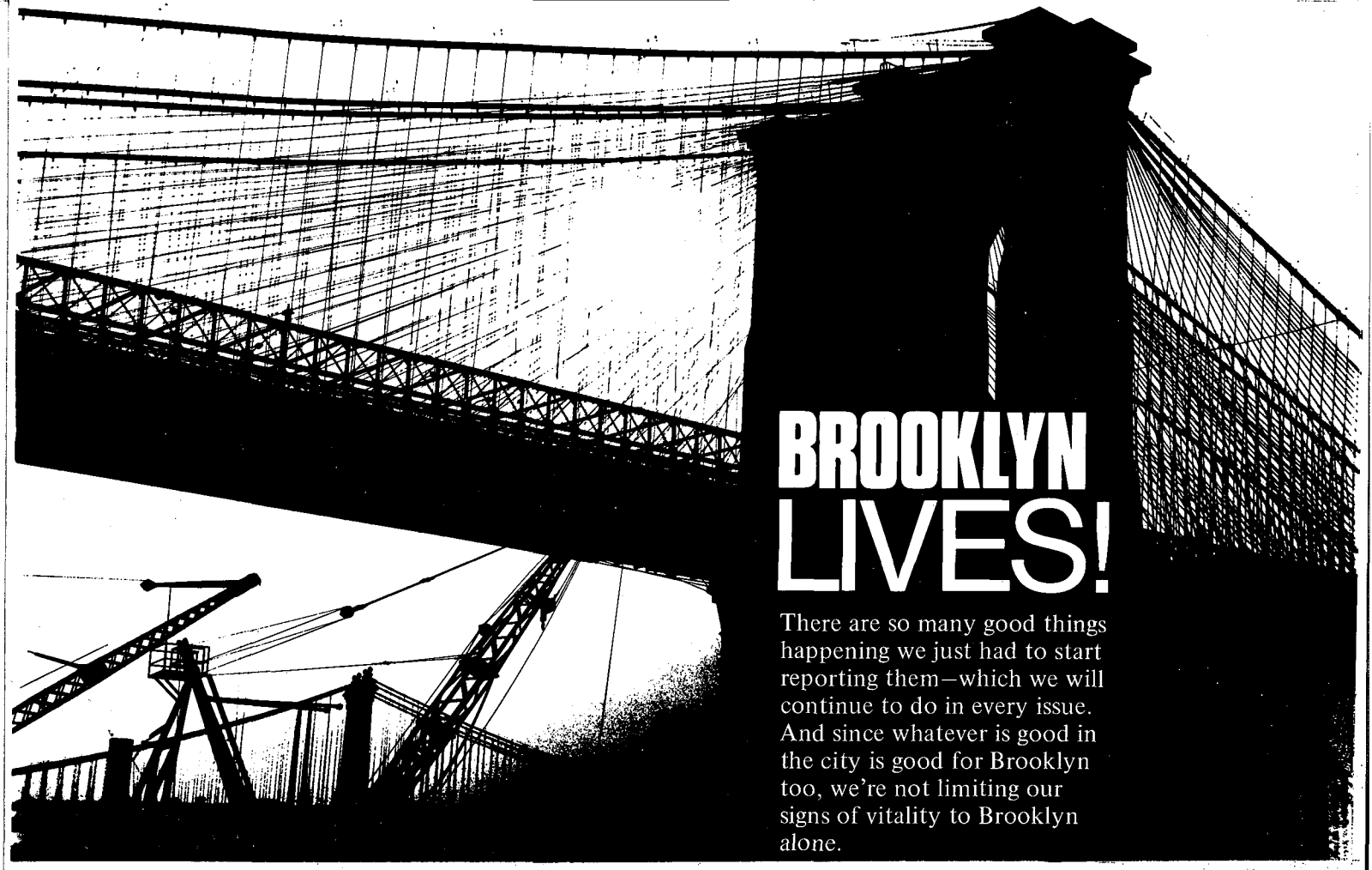

REGULAR DEPARTMENTS



SERIALS



ARTICLES



# BROOKLYN LIVES!

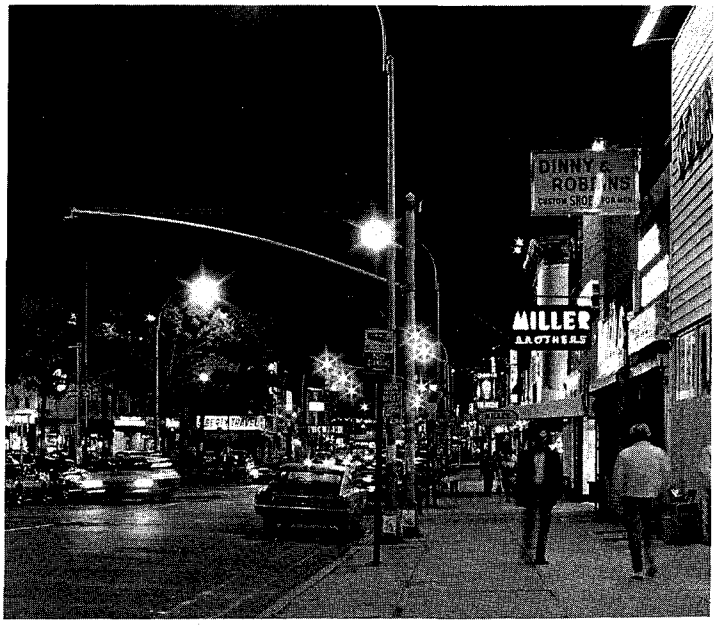
There are so many good things happening we just had to start reporting them—which we will continue to do in every issue. And since whatever is good in the city is good for Brooklyn too, we're not limiting our signs of vitality to Brooklyn alone.

## WOULD YOU BELIEVE—A DROP IN CRIME?

The F.B.I. announced that reported cases of serious crime in New York City dropped 16.7 percent in the first nine months of 1972 compared with the same period fo 1971. In downtown Brooklyn, the 84th precinct's anti-crime program paid off. Burglary was down 20 percent, robbery was down 21 percent and purse snatchings decreased by 73 percent. Sargeant Frank Romano, head of the anti-crime force attributes the '72 reductions to the precinct's unique Manpower Distribution Analysis which helped the precinct determine where and when the greatest needs were, and allowed the commanding officer to assign men to the critical points at peak times.

## HEALTH UNITS PERSONALIZE CHILD CARE SERVICES

Small local child health care facilities are beginning to make the conversion from well-baby clinics to comprehensive child care centers offering personalized, convenient services. The conversion began in Brooklyn late last year and over the next 12 months will be extended to about half of the 80 well-baby Health Department child care stations located throughout the city in district health stations, housing projects, and storefronts. In the past, these stations, with only part time physician coverage, gave primarily immunization innoculations, growth rate checks, and preventive screening. Now the stations will have full 9 a.m.-5 p.m. physician coverage enabling parents with sick children to have them seen by the same doctor or pediatric nurse-associate who will "follow" the family on a regular basis.




## SUPER BRIGHTS

The first phase of a $15-million program to improve the lighting of 1,200 miles of city streets has been completed. High intensity sodium lighting has been installed along 40 miles of city streets totaling 2,415 lights: Broadway from 42nd St. to 232nd St.,; all of Flatbush Ave. in Brooklyn; on Tremont and Westchester Aves. in the Bronx; and on Northern Blvd. and Metropolitan Ave. in Queens. Installation along major thoroughfares in all five boroughs has begun and will be completed by November at which time one-fifth of all the streets in the city will be re-lit under the program.


## BEST BETS

**For a real shopping adventure the Columbia–Union Street area along the South Brooklyn waterfront offers open air produce markets, great buys in foods and imported delicacies, dry goods, and above all, a real feeling of the area's ethnic vitality. Italian-style grocery stores such as Latticini Barese, Inc. and Mastellone Bros. (pictured left ), have been around since the 1920's providing shoppers with a wide array of both domestic and imported foods. And then there's Cioffi's and Barbaro's for pastries , the Ocean Fish Market for some of the freshest fish around, Focacceria Ferninando's for a Sicilian lunch, and many more which we'll catch in the next issue.**

**Note: The next issue of STREET will feature an article on the South Brooklyn waterfront community and its plan for the area's commercial revitalization.*

Focacceria ,
Ferninando's


## BUBBLE BUBBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE

**Recently opened, the Warlock Shop on Henry between Atlantic and State Streets is doing a bubbling business. Would-be and established warlocks can purchase crystal balls, magic kits an; such stock-in-trade for witches as bat's eyes.**

## CARE CLOSE TO HOME

**New York's Health and Hospitals Corporation has started a series of neighborhood family care centers all over the city to supplement the outpatient services of the city hospitals and provide clinical care in areas where services are otherwise short. The first, the Sydenham Center at 215 W. 125th St., opened October '71. Two more are being built in the Bronx, and others are on the board for Brooklyn and Manhattan. Each center will have over 50 people on its staff and will provide general and preventive health care as well as dental, optometric, psychiatric and other services.**

## SOHO'S GROWING

**The growth of So Ho (the area just south of Houston Street between Sixth Avenue and the Bowery) as an artists' colony continues apace. New galleries continue to open (Leo Castelli, John Weber, Andre Emmerich, and Sonnabend, to name a few) along West Broadway, Prince and Greene Streets. And artists keep moving into empty lofts in the area, following zoning changes in 1970 which legalized their use. Brooklyn too has a SoHo. The section below the Brooklyn Bridge in the old Fulton Ferry area is beginning to grow. Already a couple of dozen artists are residing in small loft buildings, and with the anticipated passage of a zoning change–similar to that of Manhattan's SoHo, the area may achieve its full creative potential. If you're in the area and it's good food, good music, and good talk you're after, try the Bank Side Boondocks and take a beautiful walk along the river, before or after.**

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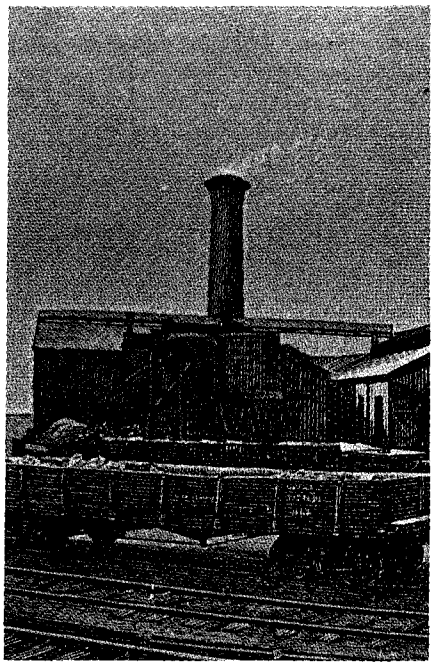

# INDUSTRIAL Pol

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, smoking chimneys have meant money in the pockets of millions of U.S. workers. Contaminated beaches, stinking air and dying rivers are but products of man's new affluence. Ours is the dirtiest country on earth because it is the richest.

Now it's time to pay the piper. We can no longer afford an expanding economy unless we cut down the industrial pollution that has always been its partner.

Experts tell us that virtually every stream, lake and estuary in the United States is polluted to some degree, and getting steadily worse, and that our industries are responsible for some 60 percent of this contamination. When it comes to air pollution, the automobile is still the biggest villain, but here too industry accounts for a large share—16 percent.

To make prospects gloomier yet, industrial production is increasing about three times as fast as our population, and there isn't a single clean major industry. Even food manufacture pollutes, mostly with organic wastes that contribute to eutrophication (aging) of our waters.

Let's look at some of our most infamous contaminators:

Steel mills belch our deadly carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides and fly ash, a combination that can be dangerous and not merely unpleasant. What's more, this industry uses about eight billion gallons of fresh water a day, mostly for cooling purposes, and sends the effluent back into nature fouled with countless tons of oil, scale, ash and acids.

The paper industry is notorious for the stench generated by its Kraft pulping process, the most common in use today. While not proven harmful in low concentrations, hydrogen sulfide, which is one of the components of this awful smell, can induce strong nausea.

The petroleum industry emits largely the same poisons as do trucks and cars: carbon monoxide, nitrogen and sulfur oxides, plus some unburned hydrocarbons (although the hydrocarbon problem is not as serious here as with vehicles). In addition, the petroleum industry spews soot into the air, and discharges nearly 5 billion gallons of waste water a day, much of it from old refineries and full of chemical residues. The industry's accidents—colliding tankers and offshore drilling spills—cover hundreds of square miles of ocean with oil slicks every year, gum up beaches and kill millions of birds and fish.

The chemical and pharmaceutical industries, besides putting out a wide variety of specific poisons, emit vast amounts of synthetic organic wastes that cannot be absorbed into the water life cycle.

Some of the most notorious toxins known to man

# lution

are involved in everyday industrial processes which we could not get along without. Cyanides, for instance, are a by-product of coke-making. Mercury is essential in the production of electrical apparatus, paints, organic pigments, many kinds of pharmaceuticals, dental preparations and mildew-proofing compounds. Chlorides are used by textiles and paper mills for bleaching, by the food industry for salting, by the steel industry for the pickling and cleaning of steel. In almost every instance, some—often a lot—of the pollutant spills over into the environment.

This much we know. The pollution is there. But in practically all but the most obvious cases, it's nearly impossible to pin down the polluters. Individual companies do not volunteer the information, and you can't exactly blame them: once a plant's effluents are known, surprising as it may seem, the competition can deduce what processes are being used and copy them. What if it turns out, then, that no pollutants are involved? It's hardly likely that society could stop the competition from adopting a similar process, and the company that bared its secrets would be unjustly handicapped.

What's the answer?

Some environmentalists are so alarmed they want to stop all economic growth. But that's patently impossible. We can't retreat into a simple agrarian past. About 24 million of our fellow citizens live on incomes below poverty level. We need economic growth if they are ever to achieve an acceptable standard of living, to say nothing of maintaining our own. We must solve the problems of our bigness, not dream of escaping them.

The fact is that most industrial pollution can be stopped or at least curtailed with current technology. The biggest reason this hasn't been done is an economic one. Cleaning up is expensive. Manufacturers worry about higher costs and consumers about higher prices. Just as in other areas of pollution, nobody seems willing to foot the bill.

Industry expenditures for pollution control totaled less than $3 billion last year. This may sound like a lot of money, but not if you compare it to our defense budget of $80 billion, and our national investment of $40 billion to put a man on the moon. Evidently something has gone wrong with our priorities.

Estimates of the cost of cleaning up industrial pollution sufficiently so that we can live with what's left range up to about $14 billion a year—some $5 billion for equipment and the rest for improved operations. That's still less than 1.5 percent of our GNP, and wouldn't break us.

Industry has to make the initial investment. All of us will have to help amortize it. That's a fact of life.

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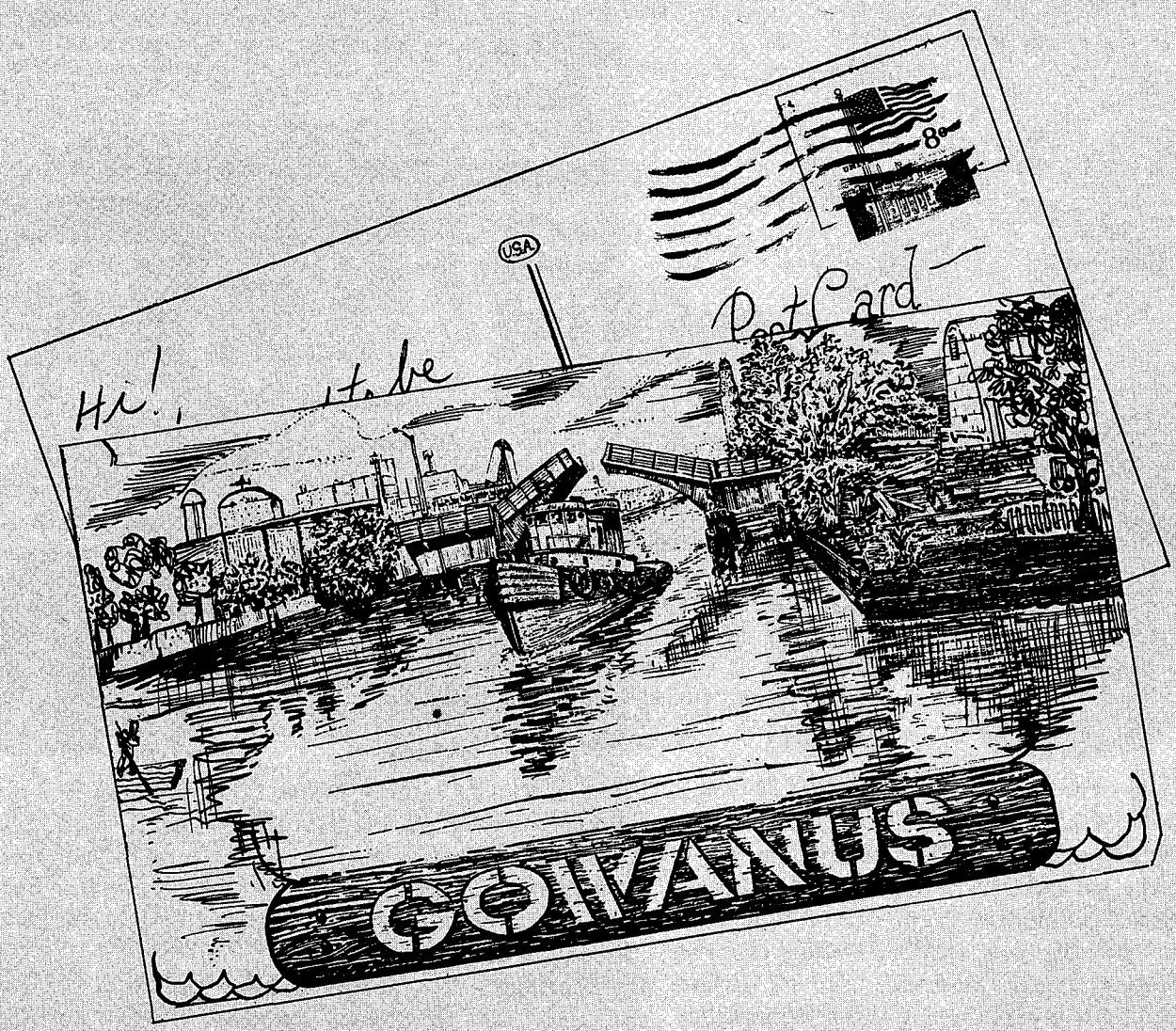


**THE GOWANUS CANAL**

The Gowanus Canal, once a sparkling, brook-fed creek, is now a stinking backwater located in the Gowanus-Red Hook area of Brooklyn. It extends from Butler Street at its northern end to the Gowanus Bay at its southern end. The Canal, 100 feet wide and 13 feet deep at high tide, cuts about one and one-half miles into South Brooklyn, crossing approximately 15 residential and industrial city blocks.

Considered by many sanitary engineers to be the top priority inland water pollution problem in the nation, the Canal is, in essence, an open cesspool—the long-time recipient of raw industrial and community sewage. It is, in fact, the only waterway in New York City without any sewage treatment at all.

About eight years ago neighborhood residents, tired of holding their noses and gagging at the stench, decided to do something to clean up the Canal. Today the issue is a vital force in community participation. Civic leaders, as they have been doing for several years, are pressuring City, State and Federal officials to clean up the Canal and improve adjacent neighborhoods. But any projected plans for reviving the area are dependent on construction of the Red Hook Sewage Treatment Plant, cited in the recently passed New York State Environmental Bond Issue.

The Gowanus is, without a doubt, one of the filthiest, most sludge-filled waterways in the country. One can imagine its idyllic early days, and if the community gets its way, the Canal will see better days again.

This is the first of two articles on the Gowanus Canal. This issue presents a brief history of the Canal, tracing its early development, its heyday of activity, and its decline after World War II.

The second article will deal with community efforts to clean up the Canal, their efforts to make political leaders aware of the problem, and the several planning issues involved in its improvement.

# The Gowanus Canal

PART ONE

*Hail to Gowanus Creek, peacefully slumbering*
*Girt round by forest and greensward so fair,*
*Waken! For destiny hails thee deliverer!*
*Thou must the triumph of liberty share!*
From the **"Trilogy of Gowanus Creek"**
By William Henry Hale, 1911

The name Gowanus is Indian, meaning "place where Gowane planted his corn," and applied to the whole area fronting on Gowanus Bay and Creek. Gowane is said to mean "the Sleeper." Hence, Mr. Hale's cry, "Waken!" The Indians, living in longhouses surrounded by fields, orchards, and game, navigated the Gowanus Creek and Bay in their canoes collecting shellfish and other edible water life.

In 1624 the Dutch bought their first land for the settlement of Breukelen from Chief Gowane. Twelve years later Jacques Bentyn and William Bennett bought an additional 930 acres from the Chief. More land was later purchased by the West India Company and Governor Kieft. In 1643, the Indians were angered by Kieft's insistence that they vacate the land and by Dutch theft of a wagon load of corn. Three Indians were killed during the theft and the tribe retaliated by killing some colonists and driving the rest from their destroyed homes to refuge in Manhattan. A 1645 treaty allowed the settlers to return, and the Indians remained into the late 1700's. In the same year all the land between "Gowanus" and Coney Island was purchased from the Indians by West India Company. According to Peter Blake in *New York Magazine,* the price was right—six coats, six kettles, six axes, six chisels, six mirrors, 12 knives, and 12 combs.

In their 1679 *"Journal of Our Voyage to New Netherland,"* the Labadist travelers Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, described dining at a friend's house, writing with obvious relish, of the "Gouanes oysters which are the best in the country. They are large and full, some of them not less than a foot long." These famous Gowanus oysters, known later as Brooklyn Bivalves, were perhaps the first product of the Gowanus for export, pickled in casks. The travelers also feasted on turkey, venison, and a wide assortment of natural produce from the rich farmlands bordering the Creek.

As early as 1661 a tidewater mill, called the Old Gowanus Mill and later Freeke's Mill, probably the oldest in Breukelen, was built with a public dock and a millpond formed by damming off the head of Gowanus Kill (just north of the present Union Street and west of Nevins near Bond). Adam Brower ran it as a tenant of the owner, Jan Evertsen Bout, who in 1667 gave the land, "the corn and meadows and place whereon the mill is grounded," as far as the Port Road (now First Street) to Brower's sons, Abram and Nicholas. They, in 1709, built a second mill, dock and pond, the Lower or Yellow Mill (later Denton's) by damming off a branch of Gowanaus Kill near the Port Road (midway between present Second and Third Avenues). From these mills the second Gowanus product, flour, was exported down the Creek.

In 1687 Nicholas Vechte had come to Breukelen and purchased a farm in Gowanus bordering the Creek and the Brower mills property. From the stone house that he built in 1699, Vechte dug a canal to Gowanus Creek and another to the Yellow Mill's millpond. He contracted with the Browers for a flood of water from the millpond through these canals at low tide to float his produce-laden rowboat into the Creek on its way to market. He also gained the right to grow oysters in the millpond.

Produce was carried by farmers on the tide of the creek to the Bay, then through the dangerous waters of Red Hook to Manhattan or the East River Shores of Breukelen. In 1664 a group of residents seeking to by-pass the Hook were granted permission to dredge, at their own expense, a creek running from Gowanus Cove to the East River, providing a

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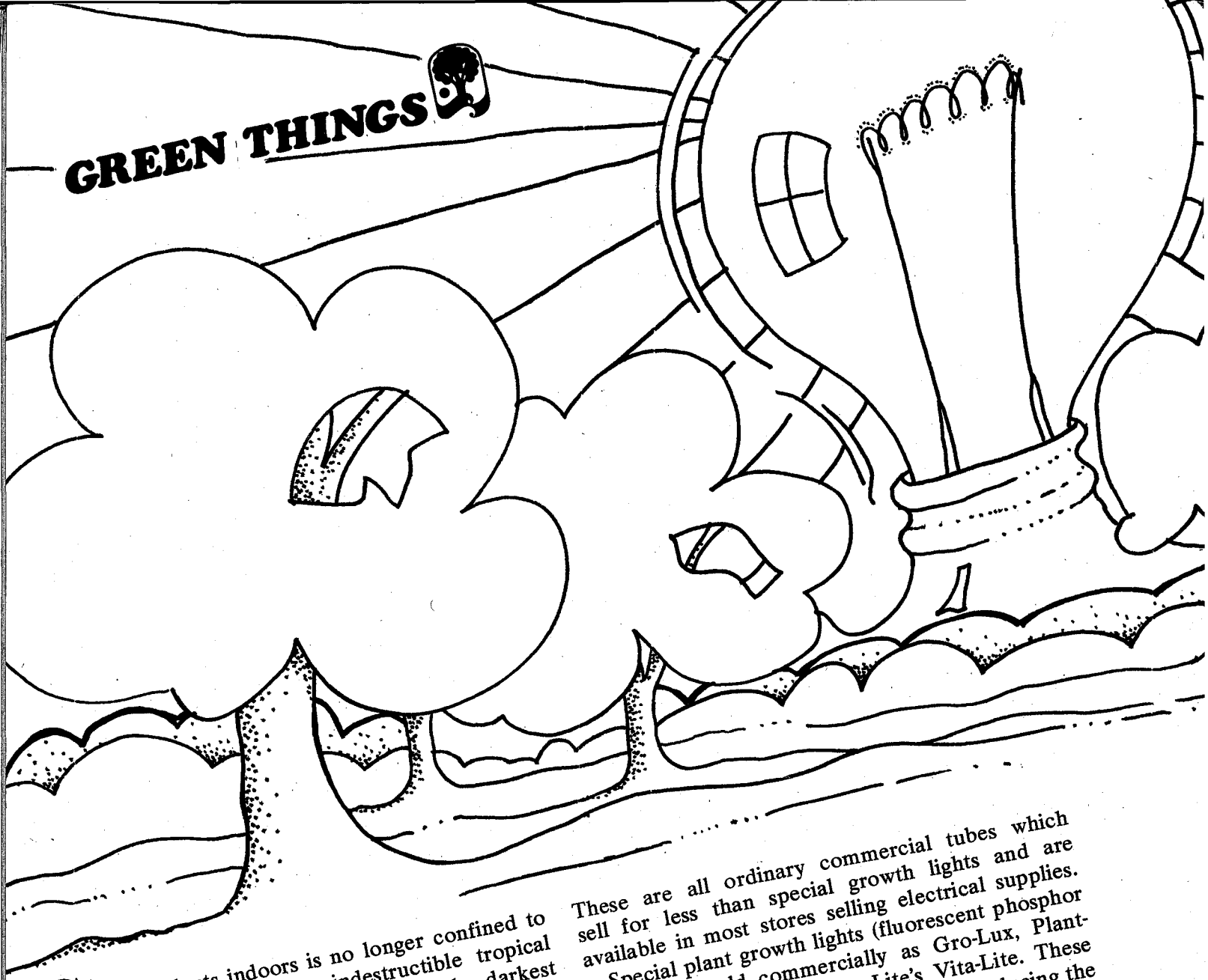
# GREEN THINGS



Growing plants indoors is no longer confined to acquiring a few relatively indestructible tropical foliage specimens. With artificial light the darkest corners of a house or apartment, such as basements, playrooms, windowless walls, unused fireplaces, or corner cupboards, can become, in many instances, superior to a sunlit windowsill.

**Lights.** *Fluorescent Tubes:* High intensity light is essential to the process of photosynthesis—the process by which plants grow—and this is supplied in abundnce by the fluorescent lamp.

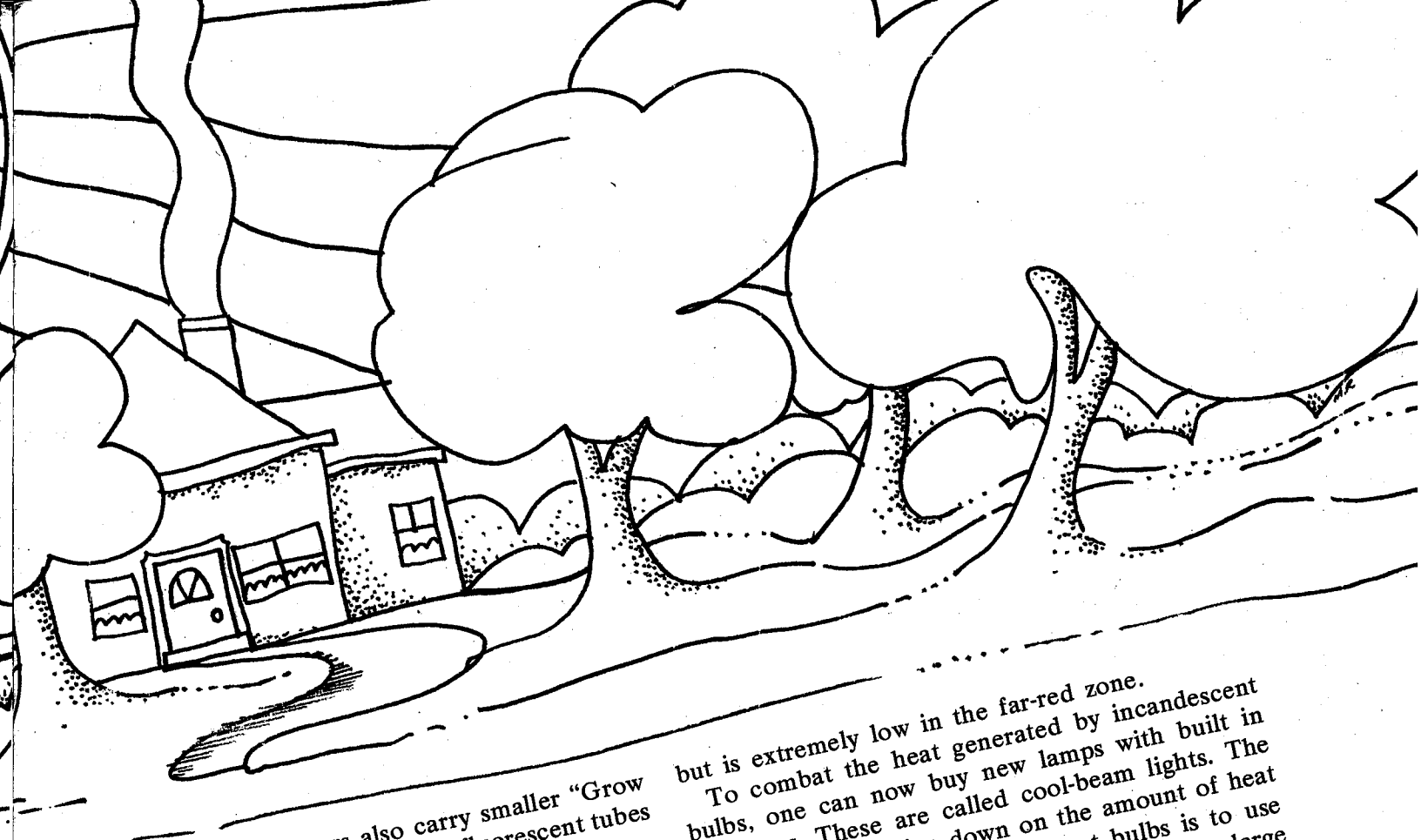
The majority of house plants and indoor bloomers are satisfied with ordinary commercial fluorescent tubes. Of these, the coolwhite tube is the traditional lamp of the indoor gardener, although the warm-white is equally effective.

A simple light setup may consist of two 48-inch, 40 watt "daylight" or "white" (natural) tubes or a combination of one daylight and one white tube plus a reflector to direct the light down on the plants. These are all ordinary commercial tubes which sell for less than special growth lights and are available in most stores selling electrical supplies.

Special plant growth lights (fluorescent phosphor lamps) are sold commercially as Gro-Lux, Plant-Light, Plant-Gro, and Duro-Lite's Vita-Lite. These lights increase red and blue rays while reducing the output of the yellow-green rays, which affect the color of the light thrown onto the plants. Gro-Lux and Plant Lite tubes cast a purplish light, while the Plant-Gro tube casts a yellowish light.

Plant physiologists and research directors do not generally favor these special tubes, having discovered that a combination of coolwhite fluorescent tubes and incandescent lamps produced far more luxuriant plants than Gro-Lux or other special tubes.

*Floodlights:* New types of floodlights are useful in keeping large foliage plants (dracenas, scheffleras, diffenbachias, etc.) in shape. They also act as supplemental light for blooming ones. General Electric's Cool Beam spot directs heat rays backward so that the light reaching the plant is relatively



# Gardening Indoors with Artificial Light

cool. Bulb manufacturers also carry smaller "Grow Bulbs" serving the same purpose as fluorescent tubes but over a smaller area.

*Incandescent Light:* This is the normal, everyday light bulb. Because it gives off so much heat and reduces humidity, many gardeners have discarded it in favor of special fluorescent lights. However, if fluorescent lights alone do not give all the light necessary, intensity can be increased by adding incandescent lighting. When combining fluorescent and incandescent lighting, the ratio should be one to three (35 watts of incandescent for every 100 watts of fluorescent).

Fluorescents and incandescents differ greatly in the proportions of red and far-red rays produced in their white light. Sunlight, although far more intense, contains about the same relative proportion of red and far-red energy as does the incandescent light. It is the far-red that is important for flowering, for germination of light-sensitive seeds, and for promoting good plant growth. Light from fluorescent tubes is high in both blue and red rays but is extremely low in the far-red zone.

To combat the heat generated by incandescent bulbs, one can now buy new lamps with built in reflectors. These are called cool-beam lights. The easiest way of cutting down on the amount of heat put out by unfiltered incandescent bulbs is to use several low-wattage bulbs instead of one or two large ones. This distributes heat over a larger area. Shields are strongly recommended also and can be made with a sheet of glass, plexiglass, or clear plastic mounted an inch or so below the lamps. Loss of light intensity is only slight.

**Length of Exposure.** As a general rule of thumb, give flowering plants 12-16 hours of artificial light each day. Foliage plants such as philodendrons and ivies grow well with 4-6 hours of artificial light per day. If the stems of flowering plants are long and spindly and the flowers few, they need more light. These plants may be raised up closer to the tubes or exposed for a longer time. If foliage plants bleach out, they are receiving too much light and should be placed farther from the light or given less exposure.

**Plants.** Many flowering plants once extremely difficult or impossible to grow indoors are now possible under lights. Among these are orchids, African violets, varieties of gesneriads (gloxinias, achimenes, columneas, etc.), begonias, and poinsettias, to name a few.

*Continued on page 50*

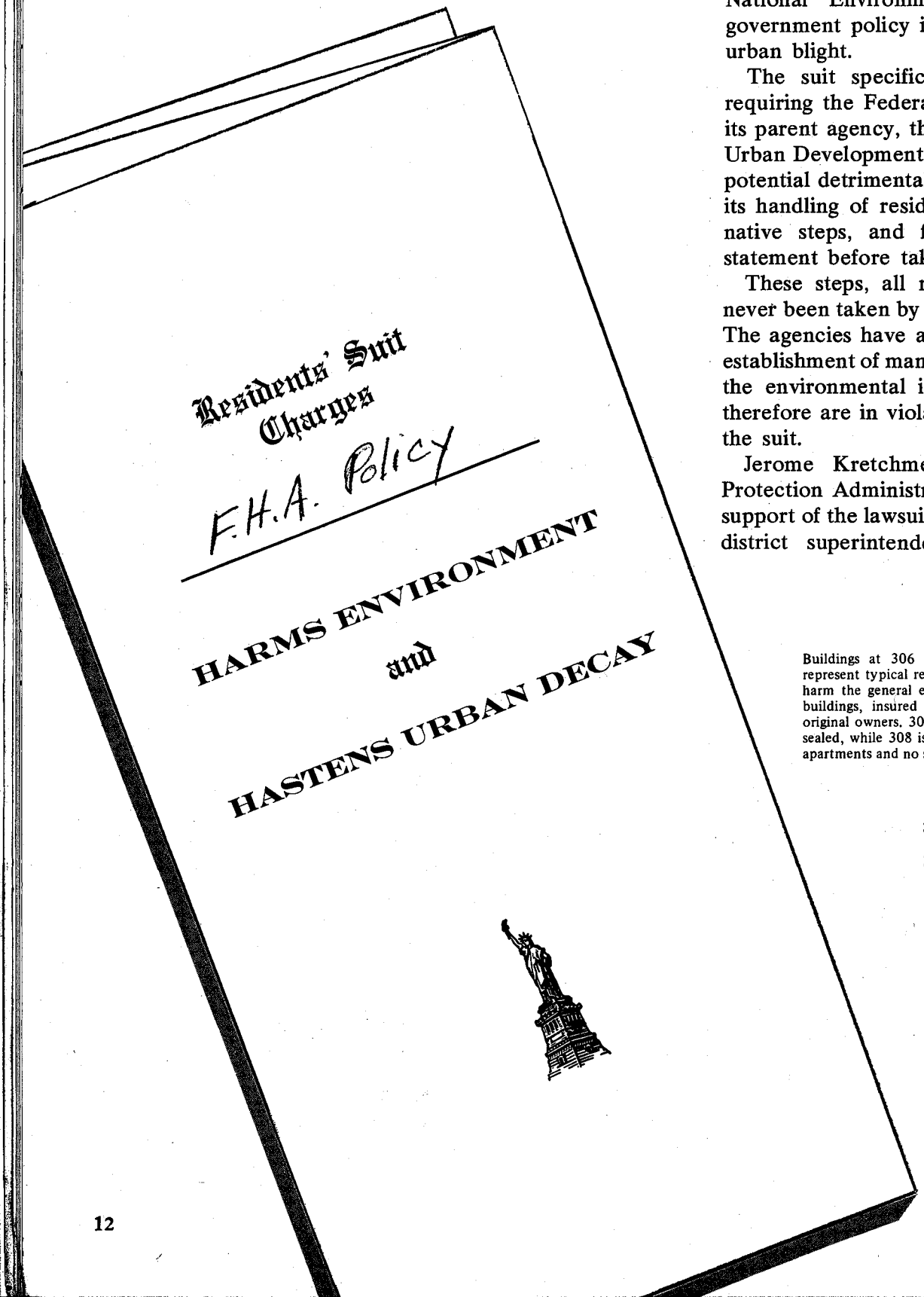
A group of block associations representing about 250,000 Brooklyn residents filed a suit today in Federal District Court to halt Federal practices and policies in tenant evictions and mortgage foreclosures because these harm the general environment and hasten urban decay.

The suit is believed to be the first action under the National Environmental Policy Act in which government policy is held directly responsible for urban blight.

The suit specifically seeks a court judgment requiring the Federal Housing Administration and its parent agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to conduct a full study of the potential detrimental effects on the environment of its handling of residential buildings; present alternative steps, and file an environmental impact statement before taking any further action.

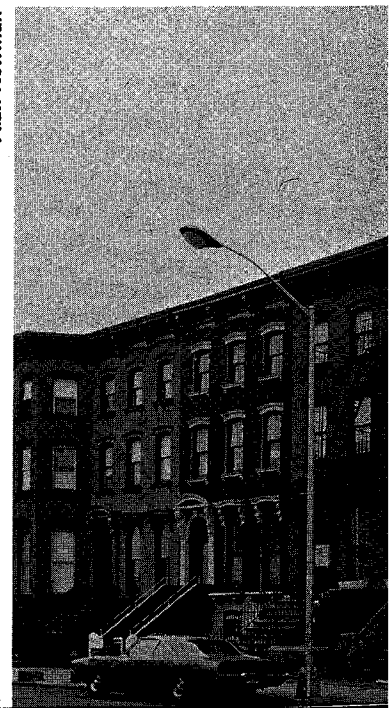
These steps, all required under the Act, have never been taken by the government, the suit states. The agencies have acted without even considering establishment of mandatory procedures for assessing the environmental impact of Federal action, and therefore are in violation of the Act, according to the suit.

Jerome Kretchmer, the city's Environmental Protection Administrator, submitted an affidavit in support of the lawsuit, as did Sanitation Department district superintendents in the areas involved.




Buildings at 306 and 308 Greene Avenue, in Ft. Greene represent typical results of Federal practices and policies that harm the general environment and hasten urban decay. Both buildings, insured by FHA, have been abandoned by their original owners. 306 Greene has been vacated and improperly sealed, while 308 is still partially occupied but contains vacant apartments and no services.

Alan Newman



Anthony Catania of District 31 and Stanley Wietrzychowski of District 38.

Professor Ronald Shiffman, Director of the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, which provides technical assistance to community groups interested in the economic, physical and social development of their communities, said in an affidavit, "In many different ways there have been problems caused by these FHA-owned buildings. Buildings formerly in good condition that were suitable for housing have been lost to the market because of vacancy and neglect. Buildings left open have become social and physical nuisances to the surrounding area and tenants. A number of buildings suitable for other community uses have been lost because of the rapid deterioration caused by the vacancy of the buildings. As a result of these problems, the community has deteriorated and the quality of life has declined."

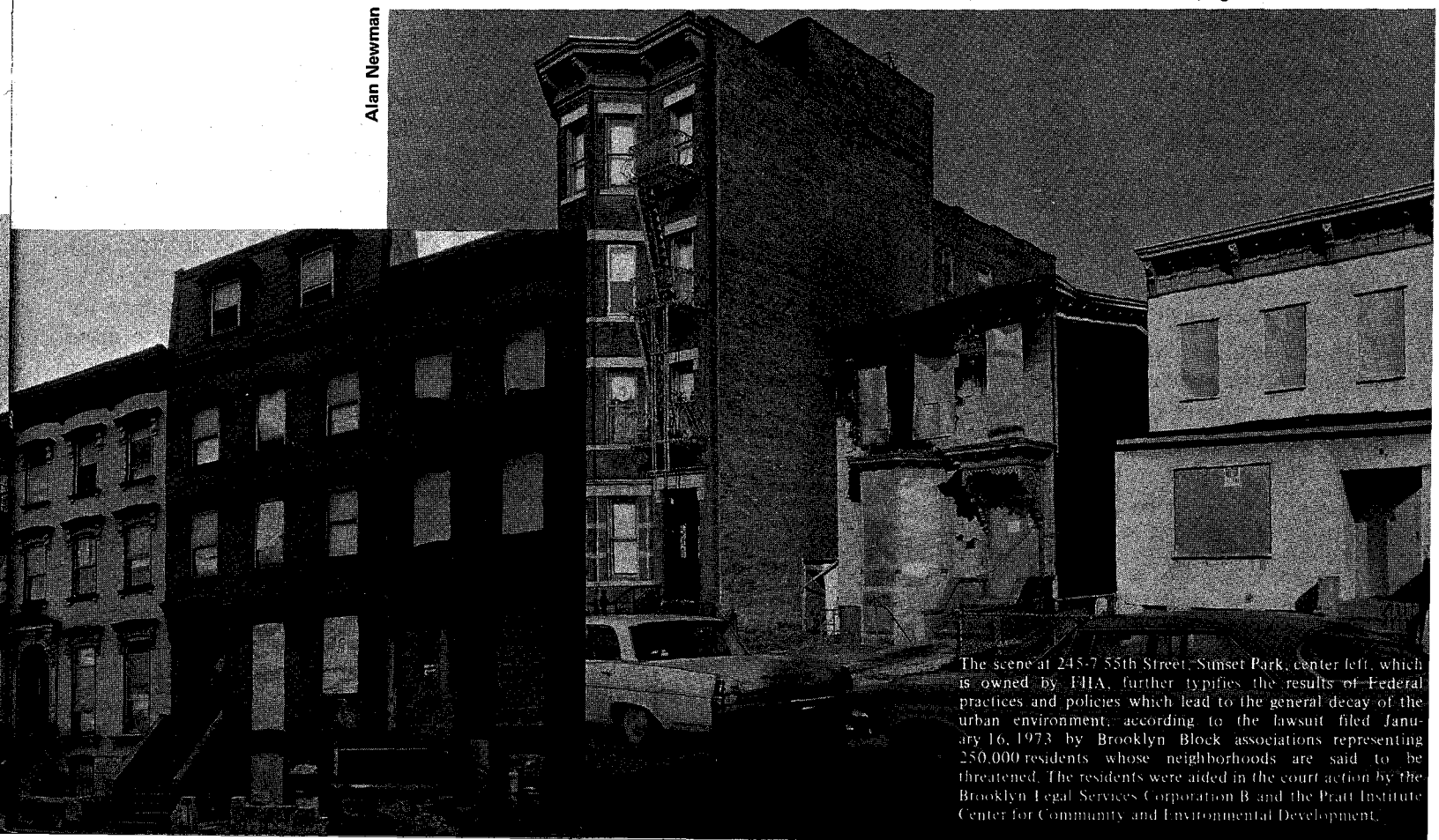
William Powers of 263 Fifty-second Street, Brooklyn, a resident there for more than 40 years, said in an affidavit supporting the suit, "The buildings located at 243, 245, and 247 Fifty-second Street and at 246 Fifty-second Street are owned by the FHA as the result of mortgage foreclosures. These are located on the same block that I live on. All of these buildings have been vacated of occupants. Large amounts of garbage and trash regularly collect around all of these buildings. Prior to these buildings becoming vacant our block was a comfortable, quiet neighborhood. Since these buildings have become vacant, this area has become a disaster area and the concern for the public safety has increased."

Antonette Critelli of 812 Fiftieth Street, a resident there for five years, said in an affidavit that due to the demolition of an FHA-owned building next to her home, the walls of her house, which shared a party wall with the demolished structure, have begun to crack. "On account of this," she said, "each time it rains water pours into my home. Debris and material from the demolished building have never been removed from the vacant lot. Prior to the building at 814 Fiftieth Street being vacated, my block was a clean, peaceful and pleasant place to live. It is no longer such a place."

In an affidavit, Gonzalo Plasencia of 43-20 Third Avenue said, "Fifty-second Street, between Second and Third Avenues is a disaster area. Having been a resident of Sunset Park for 25 years, I can remember when our community was a peaceful, pleasant place to live. Since the buildings on Fifty-second Street and on other streets in Sunset Park began to be completely abandoned and vacant during the Spring of 1970, the streets are no longer safe day or night, garbage spills over onto the sidewalk in front of these vacant buildings, and heroin addicts are attracted to the empty buildings and turn them into

*Continued on page 48*

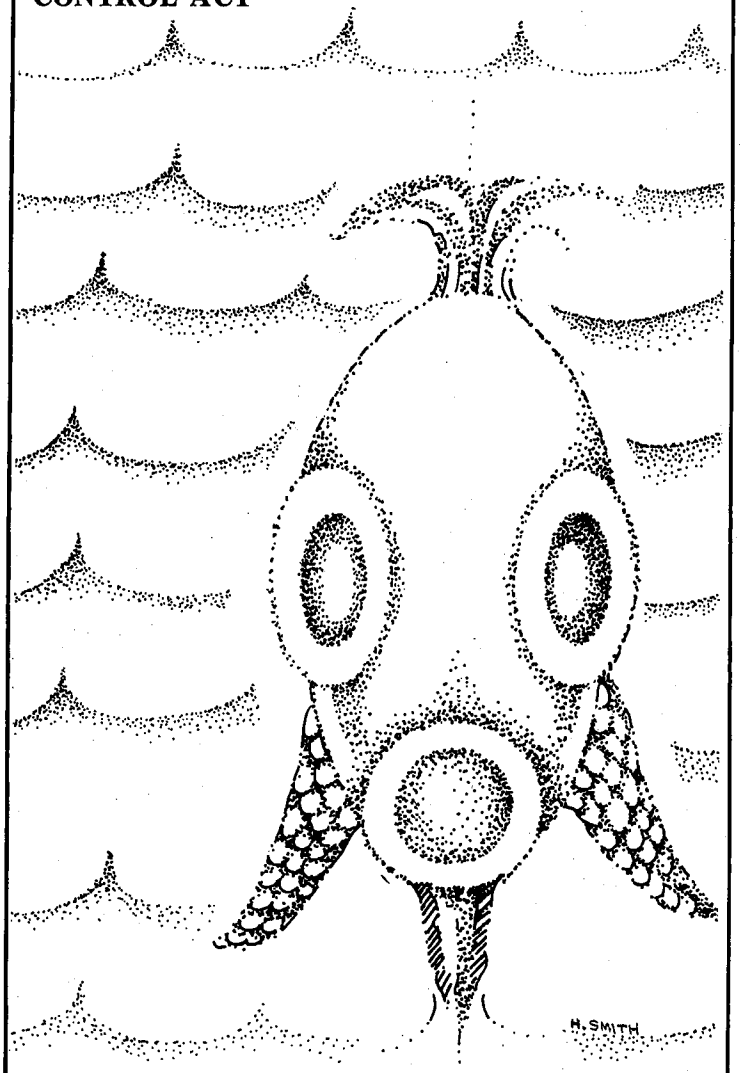
Alan Newman



The scene at 245-7 55th Street, Sunset Park, center left, which is owned by FHA, further typifies the results of Federal practices and policies which lead to the general decay of the urban environment, according to the lawsuit filed January 16, 1973 by Brooklyn Block associations representing 250,000 residents whose neighborhoods are said to be threatened. The residents were aided in the court action by the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation B and the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development.

# action alert:

## FIRST PERMITS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THE NEW WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT




On October 18, 1972, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, completely overhauling the federal-state program to control water pollution. The key to the success of the program lies with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a new permit program erected by the Act, a program designed to replace the Refuse Act Permit Program which had been languishing for over a year due to several court decisions. This new permit program is about to get off the ground. Procedures leading to the issuance of the first round of permits are now being initiated in several states.

The Project on Clean Water is concerned about the procedures and contents of these first permits. EPA has perhaps acted hastily and without proper consideration of public participation procedures in allowing certain states to begin issuing permits under the Act. We are sufficiently wary of the process now being undertaken by EPA and the states to alert you to the nature of the proposed program, urge your involvement, and stimulate your analysis of the program with a view to opposing the issuance of any permits in your state if you do not feel that sufficient public participation is provided for and if you are not satisfied with the effluent limitations imposed on industries in these permits.

These first permits are extremely important for three reasons:

(1) They are being issued to the top polluters of the country—the largest dischargers of water pollution in the states. Therefore, these permits will have a significant effect on the quality of the waters into which they discharge.

(2) In addition, the contents of these first permits (that is, the effluent limitations that are required to be met by the dischargers) will set a precedent for future permits. These first permits will determine how tough our federal and state water pollution control agencies are going to be in implementing the new Act.

(3) Most important of all, the pattern of public participation requested and allowed in the first round of permits will have a major effect on all spects of the water pollution control program. State and federal agencies will be setting patterns for dealing with the public now that they will carry over into future actions, not only in granting permits, but in planning for future enchancement of water quality and in enforcement of the new Act's requirements.

NRDC's Project on Clean Water has been

Source: **Project On Clean Water,** Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 1710 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (202) 783-5710

established to watchdog the implementation of this far-reaching Act at the federal level and to assist citizens that may wish to monitor their state and local programs. The Project is cooperating closely with other national environmental organizations. This Alert will be the first in a series of publications designed to educate the public about the implementation of the Act as it takes shape in both federal and state actions.

### The New Act

Briefly, the new Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500) requires the setting of effluent limitations for all industrial and municipal sources of pollution. The Act sets forth technological requirements for industries and municipal sewage treatment plants and deadlines for their achievement. Permits implementing these technological requirements and deadlines are to be imposed upon each polluter.

There are two important deadlines that are of concern now. First, all industrial sources of pollution must achieve "best practicable control technology currently available" by July 1, 1977. This means that each industrial category (such as cement plants, pulp and paper operations, etc.) must achieve a certain level of clean-up based on the technological state of the art in pollution control. This will be translated into discharge allowances for each pollutant produced by the industry. The permit will state what these effluent requirements are for the particular plant.

Second, all municipal sewage facilities must achieve at least secondary treatment of their wastes by July 1, 1977. Secondary treatment has variously been defined as an 85-95 percent clean-up of the pollution. Municipalities were not required to get a permit under the Refuse Act Permit Program; they are required to do so under the new Act. However, the first round of permits will concentrate almost exclusively on INDUSTRIAL sources of pollution.

In addition to these technological requirements, all sources of pollution must also meet the state water quality standards that are presently established by July 1, 1977. All states have water quality standards set for *inter*state waters (waters that flow between two or more states). Many states also have *intra*state water quality standards. If these water quality standards demand a stricter form of treatment than the technological standards outlined above, the stricter state standards must be embodied into the permits.

Therefore, for industrial sources of pollution either one of two sets of standards must appear in the permit effluent conditions: "best practicable control technology" or stricter effluent requirements designed to meet state water quality standards.

### Interim Permit Program

The basic authority to issue permits under the new Act lies with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but this authority can be "delegated" to the states. The Act provides for delegation first on an "interim" basis and then permanently if a state program meets certain standards.

The Act allows the Administrator of EPA to grant a state "interim" authority to issue permits beginning on the day of the enactment of the new law (October 18, 1972) and ending 90 days after the promulgation of the minimum requirements each state must meet in order to receive the permanent delegation to issue permits. The guidelines outlining minimum requirements for the permanent delegation were issued on December 22, 1972 and printed in the *Federal Register* at 40 C.F.R. 124, on that date. This means EPA can authorize states to issue permits on an "interim" basis from October 18, 1972 until March 22, 1973. After March 22 a state must meet the requirements for final delegation if it wants to keep the permit program.+

As a result of this process 10-15 states have been granted "interim" authority to issue permits. That authority will end on March 22, 1973. It is these states and the permits they now plan to issue that constitute the first round of permits.

It should be noted that in those states that do not have the interim authority, EPA has the authority to issue permits. Procedures will be somewhat similar to the ones described below for the state-issued permits. In those states where the interim authority has either not been requested or granted, citizens should inquire of the nearest Regional EPA Office to find out whether EPA plans to issue permits in their state (there are ten Regional EPA Offices in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle).

### Permit Procedures

So far fourteen states have been granted the interim permit authority by EPA: American Samoa, California, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington. Other applications are pending. You can contact your state water pollution control agency or your Regional

+ Although the states that are granted the first round of permit authority are not required to meet many conditions concerning their ability and authority to carry out the new law, all states must meet a set of very specific and quite restrictive requirements to receive the final delegation. The Project on Clean Water intends to publish a brochure within a month outlining these conditions in detail as a guide for citizens to monitor the development of their state permit programs. However, this Alert will focus almost exclusively on this interim authority where action is now taking place at a rapid pace.

*Continued on page 50*

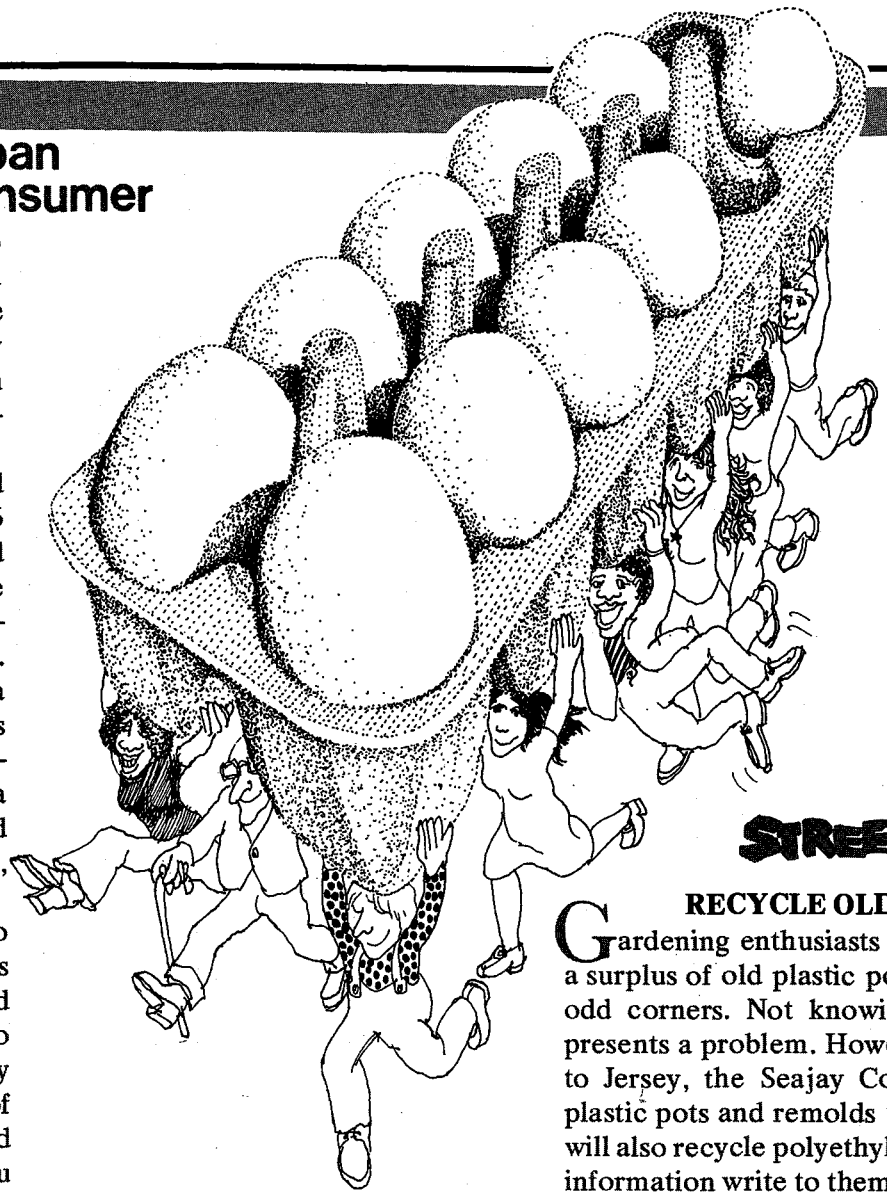
## CO-OPS: A GROWING ANSWER TO HIGH FOOD COSTS | Urban Consumer

Many inflation-weary New Yorkers are turning to co-ops and buying clubs as the answer to high food costs. Through judicious buying at wholesale markets plus a lot of leg work and penpushing by unpaid volunteers, the co-ops claim that they can deliver savings ranging from 10 percent to 50 percent.

There are several ways to get a co-op going and keep it running. Most typically, some 15 to 25 families get together (the number can vary), and each kicks in a joining fee of $15 to $25, returnable when a member leaves. This money goes into the co-op cash box for operating expenses and supplies. The next step is usually to elect officers—a secretary, treasurer, and coordinator. Assignments are given to each member on a rotating schedule—ordering, picking up, setting up the "store" (a member's house or apartment), packaging and distributing the food, getting rid of any surplus, cleaning up, etc.

Next, the co-op must decide what they want to buy. Some handle only the heavier-budget items such as meat, others supply only fresh fruit and produce (Hunts Point Market in the Bronx seems to be a favorite source for this), while others supply dairy products, bread and staples. Some co-ops of course, supply everything. There is also a trend toward natural food buying clubs, but anyway you look at it, a co-op can provide members with better quality and more varied foods.

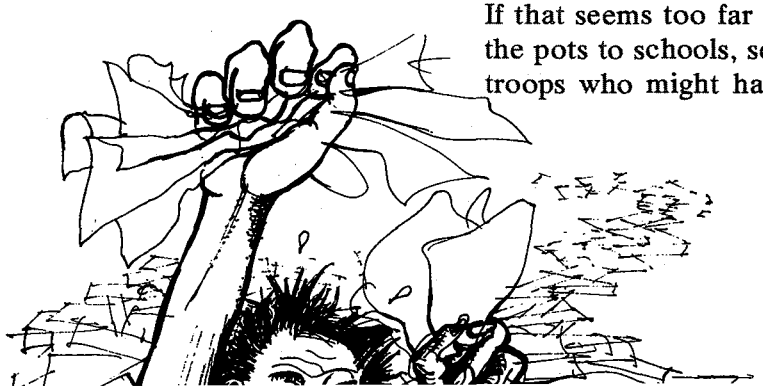
Problems of coping with individual tastes have been solved by one co-op by having occasional meetings with members, deciding what basic foods a family needs, and then leaving the final choice up to the discretion of the shoppers to buy what they think best (and can get the best bargain on). No individual orders are taken from the membership. In another co-op the coordinator surveyed her group to find out what kind of foods they liked and drew up a master




## STREET Tips

### RECYCLE OLD PLASTIC POTS

Gardening enthusiasts often find themselves with a surplus of old plastic pots piling up everywhere in odd corners. Not knowing what to do with them presents a problem. However, if you're up for a ride to Jersey, the Seajay Company, Inc. does recycle plastic pots and remolds them into other uses. They will also recycle polyethylene containers. For further information write to them in Shrewsbury, N.J. 07724. If that seems too far out of your way, try donating the pots to schools, senior citizens clubs, and Scout troops who might have uses for them.



list from which customers could order.

One fairly typical co-op takes orders and collects money from members on Monday evenings. On Fridays volunteers rent a truck and go shopping. They are at the Hunts Point market when it opens at 5 a.m., then they go to Lower Manhattan, near the old Washington Market for dairy supplies. The volunteers usually get back by midday when members come over, pick up their orders and figure out prices for the next week.

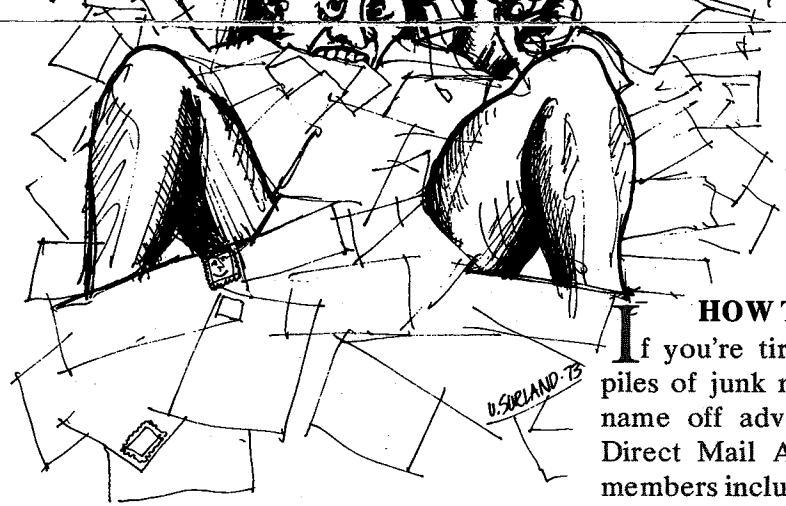
Disposing of surplus food can be done in a number of ways. Perhaps two of the most common are to donate it to neighborhood day care centers or to make it available to non-members at moderate prices to pay for the co-op's members' labor.

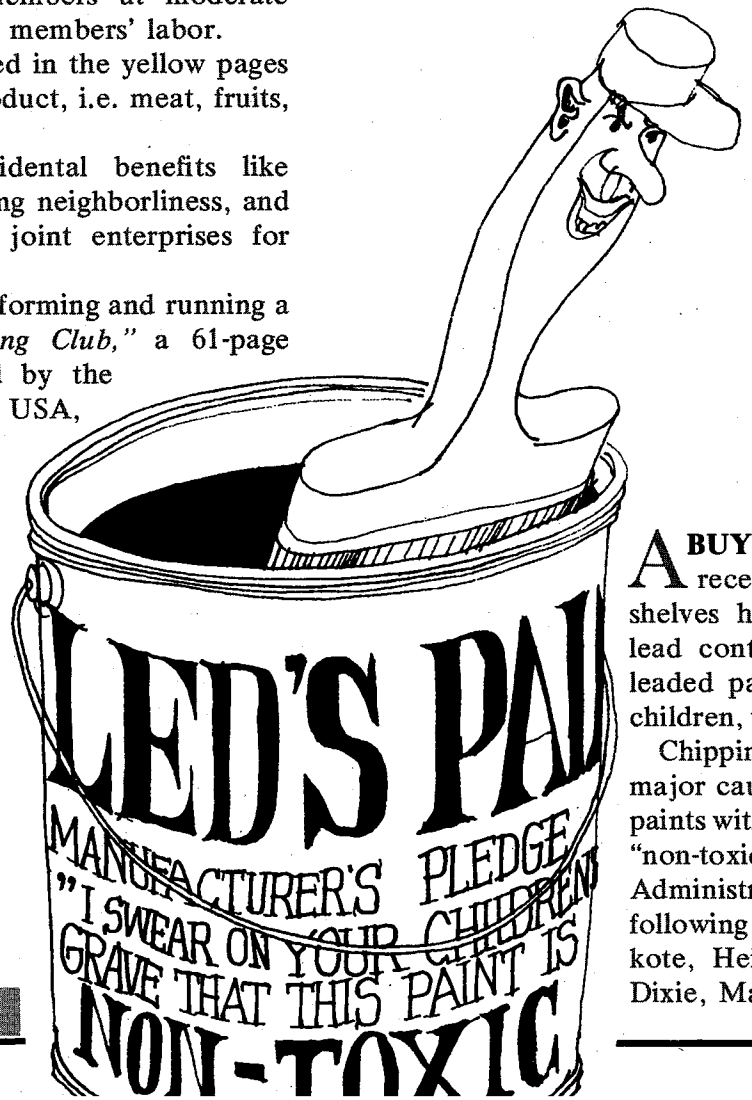
Wholesale markets are listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book by product, i.e. meat, fruits, etc.

Co-ops also provide incidental benefits like creating friendships, promoting neighborliness, and frequently leading to other joint enterprises for community-well being.

For further information on forming and running a co-op write for *"The Buying Club,"* a 61-page illustrated booklet published by the Cooperative League of the USA, 59 E. Van Buren Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

*—B.A.*






## STREET Tips

### HOW TO GET RID OF JUNK MAIL

If you're tired of stuffing your waste cans with piles of junk mail but don't know how to get your name off advertisers' mailing lists, read on. The Direct Mail Advertising Association, whose 1,600 members include the country's biggest mailers—U.S. Steel, Polaroid, Kodak, Procter & Gamble, Ford, IBM, and Humble Oil to name a few, will have your name removed from their lists. Write to the D.M.A.A., 230 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 and ask for a name-removal application. When it comes, fill it out, sign it with a witness, and return it. Then you'll be off almost all the big lists, although local mailers and nonmenbers of the D.M.A.A. will not be affected.

The association does not deal with pornography mailers, whose lists you can escape by making an application at the post office. The post office will also see that you get taken off any other mailing lists you find undesirable.

### BUYERS BEWARE—LEAD STILL IN PAINTS

A recent survey of paints on the city's store shelves has uncovered 13 brands with significant lead content that lack proper labeling. Although leaded paints are a health hazard, particularly to children, they can be sold legally if properly labeled.

Chipping and peeling lead-based paints are the major cause of lead poisoning in city children. The paints with improper labeling, some of them marked "non-toxic," were identified by Health Services Administrator Gordon Chase as some colors of the following brands: Dura, Capitol, Town House, Plasti-kote, Heirloom, Artex, Topper, Premium, South Dixie, Mansion, Vinaloid, Celolite, and Adelphi.

# ONLY ONE EARTH

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATION

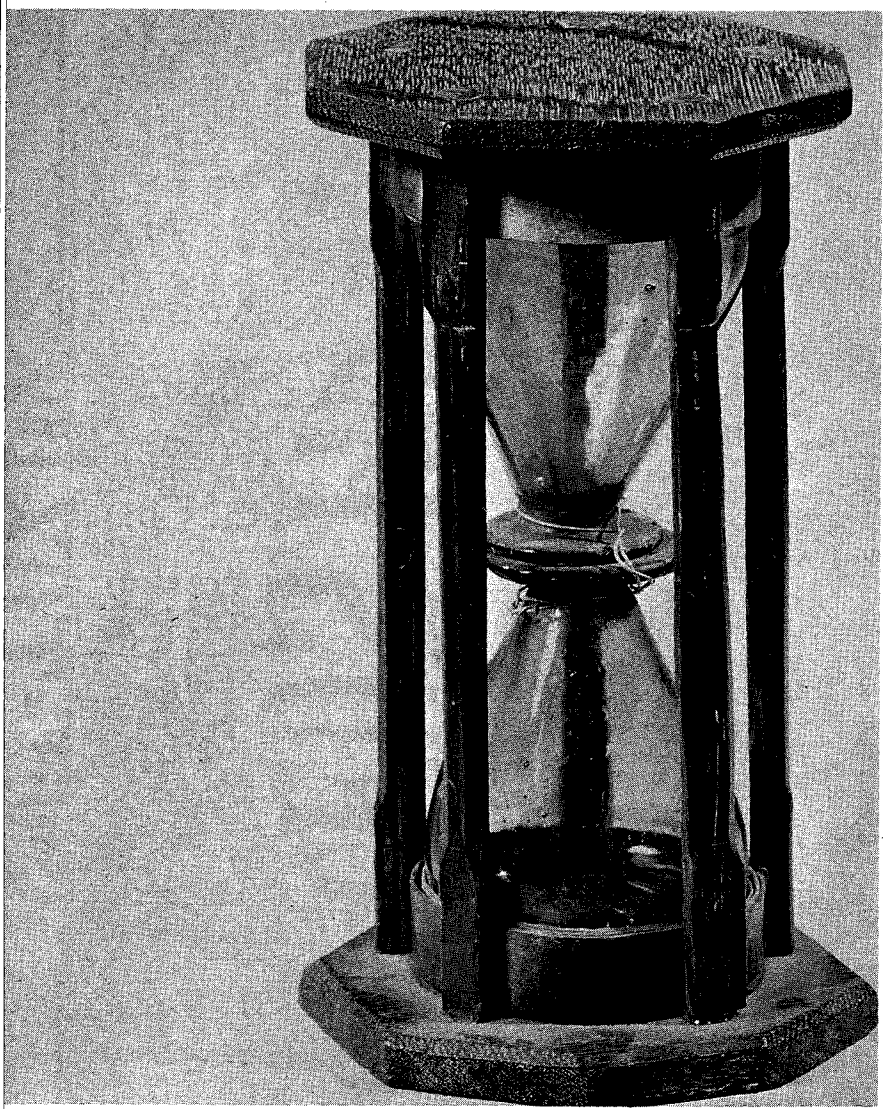


Photo courtesy of **The Brooklyn Museum**, George C. Brackett Fund.

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

**We, who are Members of the Non-Governmental Organizations attending the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm, are honoured to address the Plenary Session of the Conference and to express to it the support and dedication of the bodies we represent. We have signed the statement which follows in our individual capacities. It does not necessarily reflect specific policies of the organizations whose representatives have signed it. But it does encompass their general areas of agreement.**

We accept the principle that our planet's resources are limited, that its life support systems are vulnerable, that the combined effect to modern technology, consumption and population growth can place our whole planetary life at risk.

We accept the need for economic systems which do not exceed renewable resources and the carrying capacity of the environment. We accept social systems which are based upon the fair and equal sharing of material goods and of services and upon the pursuit of exponential growth where it alone is possible–in the goods of the mind and the spirit. We accept political systems which see the planet itself as a center of loyalty and renounce racial and political oppression, economic exploitation and the final environmental insult of war.

We believe that the Stockholm Conference marks the beginning of a new international understanding of our planetary life. Men have thought of the planet as a place with unlimited resources to exploit, unlimited energies to manipulate, unlimited lands to develop and settle, and unlimited air and water to cleanse the world of the wastes produced by man. Now we realize that not one of these propositions is true. So great has been the technological thrust of our science and energy, so rapacious our consumption of non-renewable resources, so rapid our growth in numbers, so heavy the load we place on

our life-supporting systems, that we begin to perceive the **finite** qualities of the biosphere of soil, air and water which make up the environment of all living things in our planetary home.

This is a revolution in thought fully comparable to the Copernican revolution by which, four centuries ago, men were compelled to revise their whole sense of the earth's place in the cosmos. Today we are challenged to recognize as great a change in our concept of man's place in the biosphere. Our survival in a world that continues to be worth inhabiting depends upon translating this new perception into relevant principles and concrete action.

The following principles seem to us to flow from our new perception of the vulnerability of planet earth:

1. The main focus of the master force of the modern world—science and its applications in technology—must be shifted to a new and sensitive appreciation of the delicate interdependences between all forms of planetary existence and to scientifically sound management of the habitats and ecosystems upon which all life depends.

2. We must accept new economic perspectives. Developed economies which have tended increasingly to stress the highest production and consumption of material goods as the chief index of prosperity, must be redirected towards a more careful recycling of materials, use of energy and disposal of wastes and towards a greater emphasis on non-material satisfactions—services, recreation, art, knowledge, civic amenity, and, above all, altruism in the pursuit of the common good. At the same time the fundamental material needs of developing lands must take priority over high consumption standards in developed economies and among the elites in developing lands. Both in production and physical consumption, the world economy must come to be in balance with environmental carrying capacity. Exponential growth is possible only in the realm of mind and spirit. Equally, by means conforming to differing cultures, traditions and levels of population pressure, the world's peoples need to accept the aim of achieving levels of population which do not surpass the dependable productivity of natural resources.

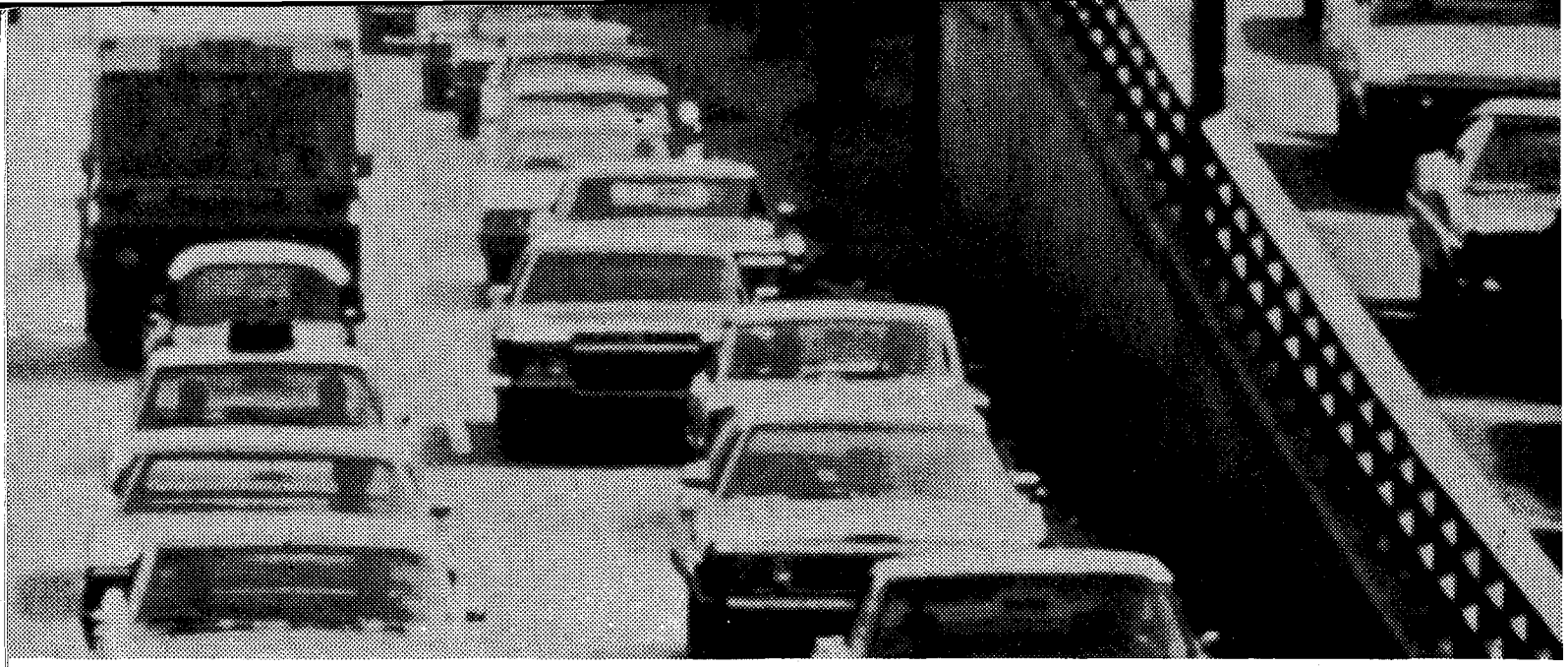
3. Such a balance can be achieved only if we face honestly the problem of social justice and redistribution. Since endless economic growth for rapidly rising populations is not conceivable, resources which are basically limited have to be submitted to some principle of sharing and equality. In the planet at large, it is unacceptable that the third of the people who are technologically developed should continue to command three-quarters of the world's wealth. It is equally unacceptable within each society that a rich minority should enjoy a very large percentage of the society's material resources.

4. In our political systems, inescapable interdependence in our shared biosphere has to be matched by a new dimension of planetary loyalty. Nations, races and cultures give the world its much-prized richness and diversity. But they can no longer be sources of aggression and destructive competition. We pledge ourselves to the support and improvement of the international institutions already established in the United Nations system. We look to further development of powerful and representative institutions to express our common political life at the regional and global levels. We reject all forms of racial oppression or political enslavement. Above all, we see in war the ultimate misuse of science, the baleful destroyer of all economic and social benefit and the final betrayal of our common humanity.

## The Stockholm Agenda: Policy and Action

1. *Planning and Management of Human Settlements*

*Continued on page 45*



# *ELSEWHERE....*

*From Passenger Transport:* **Europe**—More than 70 cities in Western Europe have barred autos from key areas amid other efforts to curb growing air pollution problems. While a summary report cites no European city which has resorted to gasoline rationing, it does cite adoption of traffic curbs going well beyond anything in the U.S. According to the summary report, prepared by the 22-nation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), there is "firm evidence" that cars can be kept out of "limited areas" without hurting retail sales downtown. However, the report urges other anti-pollution techniques also, including staggered work hours for commuters. Traffic curbs cited as examples: *Vienna*—a 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. buses-only zone was ordered in the inner city. Deliveries by truck were allowed from 7 to 10:30 a.m. Air pollution levels were reduced 61 percent in the zone during weekdays. An expanded car-free area is planned. *London*—a half-mile stretch of Oxford Street—a busy shopping street—is due to be closed to all traffic except buses and taxis. *Goteborg, Sweden* and *Bremen, W. Germany*—only tolley cars and buses are allowed to cross the downtown area. All other traffic must make use of "ring road," leaving and entering specific downtown precincts by special routes. In Goteborg, downtown levels were lowered in places by 80 percent. *Marseilles* tested a total ban on downtown parking in October, 1971, while traffic was allowed to move freely. Carbon monoxide levels dropped 40 percent, presumably because fewer cars were attracted to downtown. *Rome* intends to create five "pedestrian islands" linked by a network of vehicle-free streets, in downtown areas.

From *World Environment Newsletter*: **London**—Obnoxious odors are perhaps the least considered kind of pollution. But the stink of a sewage farm or a chemical bath in a factory can be rough on workers and downwind neighbors. Now it has been demonstrated that a single layer of hollow plastic balls floating on a noxious liquid can reduce the smell emanating from it by more than 90 percent. A double layer eliminates all odors, even if the liquid is agitated. Moreover, such ball blankets can reduce evaporation by 90 percent, lessen the fuel needed to heat the liquid by 70 percent, retard freezing, and prevent oxidation. And there are no installation or maintenance costs. The British manufacturer of the balls claims that they can resist boiling water and almost any chemical.

**Venice, Italy**—All 50,000 workers in Venice's industrial port of Marghera must be equipped with gas masks to protect them from air pollution. The recently issued order was sent by the chief inspector of labor conditions to 206 companies with establishments at the port. It follows several recent cases in which groups of men have been intoxicated by industrial gas fumes.

URBAN INSIDES

# DESIGN HINTS

FOR MORE LIVEABLE APARTMENTS, PART II

# furniture/wall system

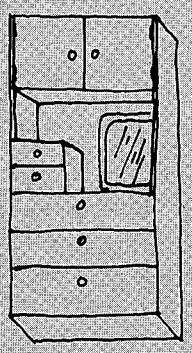
*by*
*Buz Whistler*

THIS IS A SYSTEM OF FURNITURE UNITS THAT CAN BE MADE INTO BEDS, CLOSETS, DRAWERS, DESKS, SHELVES, CABINETS, TABLES AND WALLS.

THIS SYSTEM CAN BE BUILT BY ANYONE WITH A MINIMUM OF TOOLS AND SKILL. IT IS EXPANDABLE, ADAPTABLE, COMPACT, DURABLE SIMPLE AND CAN BE FINISHED IN ANY MANNER OR STYLE. IT CAN BE MADE INTO WHOLE ROOMS, ELIMINATING THE NEED OF PERMANENT WALLS.

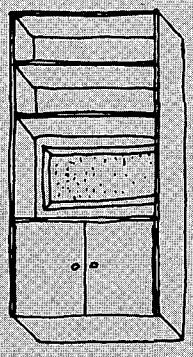
IN SHORT, THIS IS A VEHICLE FOR INDIVIDUAL AND ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR ANYONE WITH A HABITABLE SPACE.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE UNITS —

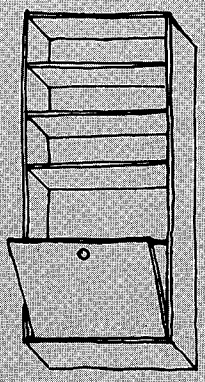


unit with:
- clothes drawers
- dressing table
- large equipment storage

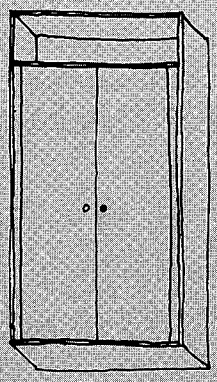
unit with:
- desk
- drawers
- shelves



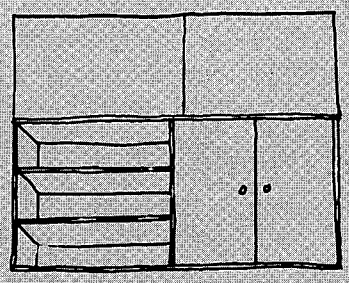
unit with:
- toy storage
- shelves
- bulletin board



unit with:
- linen shelves
- clothes hamper

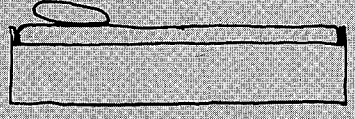


unit with:
- vertical clothes storage
- shelves



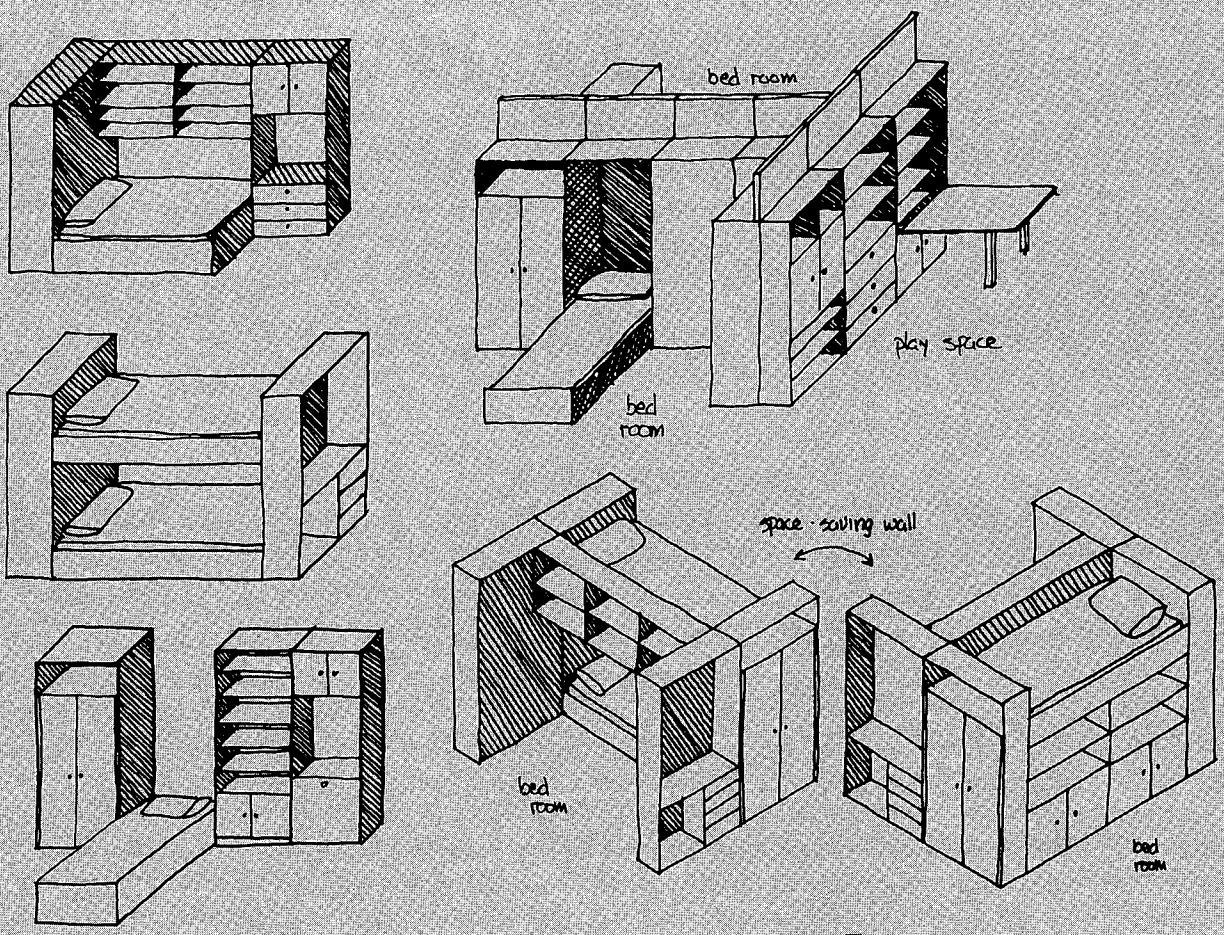
two extendable snap-on wall pieces

unit with:
- shelves
- storage



bed unit

AND SOME ROOM ARRANGEMENTS—




## MATERIALS & HARDWARE

EACH UNIT NEEDS:

2-3 SHEETS 5/8" PLYWOOD
interior grade, good both sides
WATER PUTTY
2" FINISHING NAILS

EACH WALL PIECE NEEDS:

1 SHEET 1/2" HOMASOTE
2 8 FOOT 2X9's, PINE
8 3" NO. 10 FLATHEAD WOOD SCREWS
6 1/4" TEE NUTS
6 1" LONG 1/4" FLATHEAD BOLTS
2 CABINET CATCHES
ball catch type.

EACH SHELF NEEDS:

5/8" INTERIOR PLYWOOD
4 SHELF CLIPS

## TOOLS

HAMMER

CIRCULAR SAW or SABER SAW

FRAMING SQUARE
the bigger, the better.

NAIL SET 1

WHITE GLUE

SAND PAPER
medium & fine grades

COMBINATION DRILL & COUNTERSINK BIT for 3" NO. 10 SCREWS. 1

1/4" DRILL BIT 1

3/16" DRILL BIT 1

ELECTRIC DRILL

## A FEW TIPS BEFORE STARTING:

FIRST PLAN OUT THE LARGE SHEETS OF PLYWOOD CAREFULLY TO AVOID WASTE.

ONE GOOD WAY TO DO THIS IS TO DRAW THE PLYWOOD SHEET OUT ON A PIECE OF GRAPH PAPER. LET EACH SQUARE EQUAL 1 OR 2 INCHES. THEN DRAW OUT THE PIECES OF WOOD NEEDED, IN THE SAME SCALE, ON ANOTHER

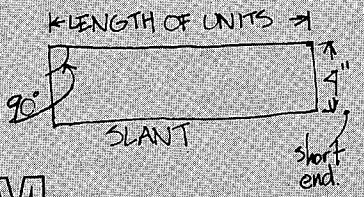
SHEET OF GRAPH PAPER. CUT OUT THE PIECES AND ARRANGE THEM IN THE LEAST WASTEFUL POSITION ON THE DRAWING OF THE PLYWOOD SHEET.

WHEN MEASURING THE WOOD, ALWAYS USE A FRAMING SQUARE TO INSURE RIGHT ANGLES. SAWING STRAIGHT IS VERY IMPORTANT. GLUE ALL ADJOINING WOOD SURFACES THAT ARE TO BE PERMANENT. BE SURE TO WIPE UP EXCESS GLUE COMPLETELY WITH A DAMP RAG, BEFORE IT DRIES. ANY RESIDUE WILL MAR THE SURFACE AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SHELLAC. WHEN SANDING, USE A SANDING BLOCK. USE MEDIUM GRADE PAPER FIRST, THEN FINE. SAND WITH GRAIN.

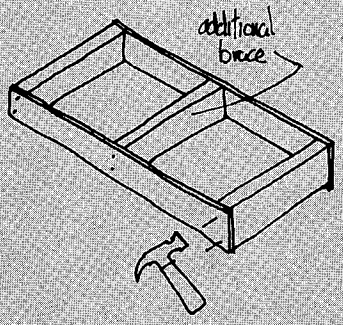
THESE UNITS WERE DESIGNED FOR LEVEL FLOORS. UNFORTUNATELY THAT'S NOT USUALLY THE CASE. AFTER DECIDING WHERE THE UNIT WILL GO, CHECK THE FLOOR WITH A CARPENTERS LEVEL. IF THE FLOOR SLANTS, YOU MAY HAVE TO USE WEDGES ON THE BOTTOM OF THE UNIT. IF THE PROBLEM IS REALLY BAD, A SMALL PLATFORM MIGHT BE MADE FOR THE UNITS —



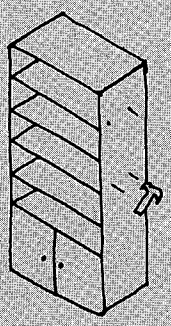
DETERMINE THE ANGLE OF THE SLANT AND CUT TWO PIECES OF PLYWOOD THIS SHAPE:




MEASURE THE OUTSIDE DEPTH OF THE UNIT TO BE LEVELED. SUBTRACT 1½" — CUT PIECES OF 2X4 THIS LENGTH. NAIL THE FOUR PIECES TOGETHER AS SHOWN. IF IT IS A LONG BASE, YOU MIGHT NEED A CENTER BRACE.




IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITS NOT BEING RIGID ENOUGH, YOU MAY WANT TO NAIL IN SEVERAL OF THE SHELVES OF THE UNIT FOR BRACING.



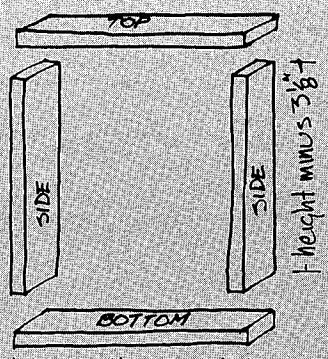
THE UNITS CAN BE BOLTED OR NAILED TOGETHER FOR GREATER STRENGTH AND PERMANENCE. TO MAKE A NEAT JOINT, BOLT THEM TOGETHER USING A 1" X ¼" FLAT HEAD BOLT AND A TEE-NUT, SIMILAR TO THE WAY THE WALL PIECES ARE JOINED TO THE UNITS.

THE WALL PIECES—
FOR EACH YOU'LL NEED

1 4'X8' SHEET ½" HOMASOTE
2 2X4 X8' COMMON PINE
8 3" no. 10 FLAT HEAD WOOD SCREWS
6 ¼" TEE-NUTS
2 CABINET CATCHES clip & screw type
6 1" LONG ¼" FLAT HEAD BOLTS

DRILL & COUNTERSINK BIT - for wood screws
¼" DRILL BIT

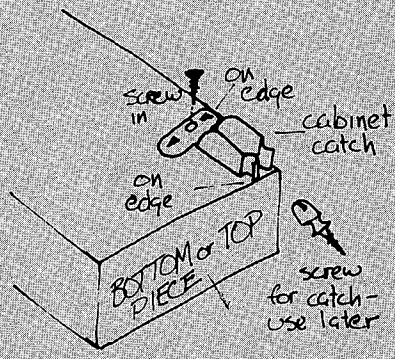
MEASURE HEIGHT FROM UNIT TOP TO CEILING. CUT TWO PIECES OF 2X4 THE WIDTH OF THE UNIT (3'1¼" or 3'7¼") AND TWO THE HEIGHT NEEDED MINUS 3⅛".




IN ONE OF THE SIDE PIECES CUT A NOTCH ½" DEEP BY ¾" WIDE IN EACH END. LIKE THIS—

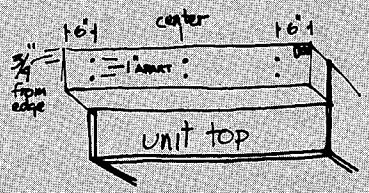

BE SURE NOTCHES ARE AT DIAGONAL CORNERS.

INSTALL ONE CABINET CATCH ON ONE END EACH OF THE TOP AND BOTTOM PIECES. BE SURE IT IS FLUSH WITH THE SIDE AND FRONT EDGES.

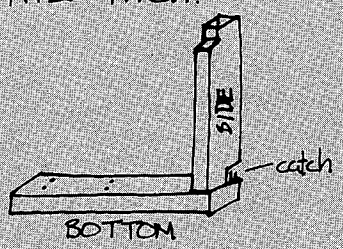



PLACE THE BOTTOM PIECE ON TOP OF THE UNIT WHERE THE WALL WILL BE.

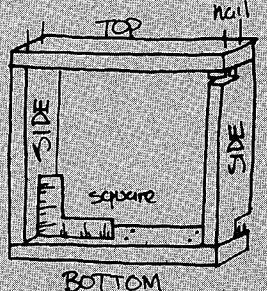
TEMPORARILY NAIL IN POSITION. DRILL SIX ¼" HOLES THRU 2X4 AND UNIT TOP. THEN REMOVE NAILS.



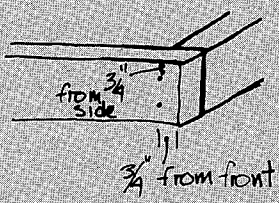

NOW TAKE THE SIDE PIECE WITH NOTCHES AND BUTT IT TOGETHER WITH THE BOTTOM, PLACING THE NOTCH OVER THE CATCH.




USE THE SQUARE, GLUE JOINING SURFACES AND TEMPORARILY NAIL. PLACE THE TOP ON SO THAT THE CATCH FITS IN THE OTHER NOTCH. PUT OTHER SIDE ON. GLUE JOINTS. USE THE SQUARE AND TEMPORARILY NAIL.

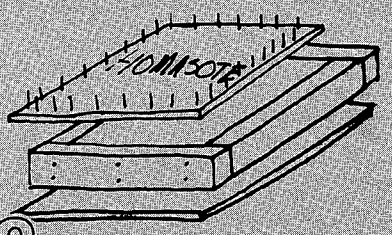



DRILL AND COUNTER-SINK HOLES IN TOP AND BOTTOM PIECES FOR THE 3" WOOD SCREWS.




EACH HOLE IS ¾" FROM SIDE AND ¾" FROM FRONT EDGE. SCREW IN SCREWS.

PLACE FRAME FLAT.




CUT TWO PIECES OF HOMASOTE TO

# DEAR LANDLORD

New York's air has the highest sulfur dioxide content in the nation. Your oil burning equipment contributes heavily to this burden of poisonous air, and you are violating the law. Oil burners contribute more than 50% of the sulfur dioxide and 32% of the particulate matter in New York's air. You can help alleviate this pollution by fulfilling your obligation to upgrade as detailed in Local Law 14/66.

Perhaps your equipment is in order, yet not working well because of improper maintenance. Local Law 14/66 provides for the training of superintendent personnel. Sec. 896-1.0a states: "Every operator of fuel burning equipment using residual fuel oil or of refuse burning equipment and every person who is charged with supervision of the operation of fuel burning equipment or refuse burning equipment, shall successfully complete... a course of instruction in air pollution control techniques acceptable to the commissioner." So, if maintenance is the problem, have your superintendent register for the free training course provided by the Department of Air Resources by calling 566-8948. The courses are taught in both English and Spanish.

If your superintendent has not received air pollution training, he is subject to a violation notice, and you may receive a summons. "No person shall employ an operator of fuel burning equipment using residual fuel oil or an operator of refuse burning equipment, or a supervisor in charge of either of such operation, until he complies with subsection a of this section." (Local Law 14/66, Sec. 896-1.0b)

Whether improper maintenance or lack of upgraded equipment is the cause, the result is that your building pollutes. As such, it violates the law.

We have reported this violation to the Department of Air Resources and will continue to report violations until you start to comply. If you delay, we will work to ensure that the full consequences of the law are imposed upon you. These consequences are explained later in this letter.

Upgrading starts with the Department of Air Resources, which will provide guides for compliance, department requirements, application forms, fuel saving information, and lists of architects and engineers experienced in preparing filing plans for upgrading. To obtain these materials, call 566-5879, and Department of Air Resources personnel will send them to you.

**Loans**

As a public service Chemical Bank will loan you 100% of your upgrading cost. The loan is provided at a special, low non-profit interest rate, with the principal sum to be returned in equal monthly payments over a seven-year period. Applications for Chemical Bank's Air Quality Loan are available at all of their branches or by calling 770-1726.

**Tax Incentives**

New York City will return 75% of upgrading costs through a tax abatement for rent-controlled property. You can recover 100% of your costs through a small rent increase amortized over a nine-year period for rent-controlled property. These schedules are detailed in two pamphlets published by the Housing and Development Administration (HDA) through the Office of Rent Control, entitled *Operational Bulletin No. C-15* and *Administrator's Interpretation No. 8.*

The city will also grant a tax exemption for a period of 12 years equal to the amount of increased property assessment (should increased assessment result from upgrading). For example, if property worth $50,000 is upgraded at a cost of $3,000, and the property is reassessed at a value of $53,000, then the exemption of $3,000 will be made each year for the next 12 years.

New York State will let you write off 100% of your investment in one year. The Federal Government allows you an accelerated tax depreciation over a period of five years, with a first year maximum of $2,000. All interest costs are fully deductible from your federal, state, and city taxes.

Additional incentives are in the area of savings on fuel costs. Average savings are in the range of 15% according to the Department of Air Resources.

For a typical 10 year Cash Flow Schedule with actual costs and returns from your investment, write to Citizens for Clean Air, 502 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

**Consequences of Non-Compliances:** If you do not file plans to upgrade within four weeks time, we shall petition the Commissioner of the Department of Air Resources to use his authority under Local Law 14 to punish you "for each offense by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than sixty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment." (Sec. 892-4.20) We shall press for full judicial enforcement of the additional sanctions for failure to operate or maintain oil burning equipment in the prescribed manner so that you would be fined up to $200 for each offense and imprisoned for six months. (Local Law 14/66, Sec. 894-3.0)

We will also press for enforcement of the New York State General City Law, which states: "Section 20. Subject to the constitution and general laws of this state, every city is empowered...20.22 to regulate by ordinance any matter within the powers of the city, and to provide penalties, forfeitures and imprisonment to punish violations thereof, and to maintain an action or proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction *to compel compliance with or restrain by injunction the violation of any such ordinance,* notwithstanding, that a penalty, forfeiture and/or imprisonment may have been provided to punish violations thereof." (Emphasis added)

This would mean that a court order could be brought against you, thus imposing a timetable for compliance. We hope that imposition of these consequences will not be necessary, and that you will end the dangerous and illegal emissions from your building.

Sincerely,

Your TENANTS.

place
6¢
stamp
here

Commissioner, Department of Air Resources,
51 Astor Place, New York 10003

place
6¢
stamp
here

Citizens for Clean Air
502 Park Avenue
New York 10022

# DEAR LANDLORD

The emission of noxious fumes, smoke, and ash from your building is contributing heavily to the air pollution which damages our health and increases the risk of chronic illness and premature death.

Perhaps your equipment is in order, yet not working well because of improper maintenance. Local Law 14/66 provides for the training of superintendent personnel. Sec. 896-1.0a states: "Every operator of fuel burning equipment using residual fuel oil or of refuse burning equipment and every person who is charged with supervision of the operation of fuel burning equipment or refuse burning equipment, shall successfully complete... a course of instruction in air pollution control techniques acceptable to the commissioner." So, if maintenance is the problem, have your superintendent register for the free training course provided by the Department of Air Resources by calling 566-8948. The courses are taught in both English and Spanish.

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CITIZENS FOR CLEAN AIR INC.

502 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY 10022
212-935-1454

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Sincerely,

Your TENANTS.

**Partial List of Suppliers**

Combustion Equipment
555 Madison Avenue
New York 10022
980-3700

Hico Corporation
600 E. 132 St.
Bronx, N.Y. 10454
585-3700

Heelan & Co., Inc.
2140 E. Tremont Ave.
Bronx, N.Y. 10462
828-3629

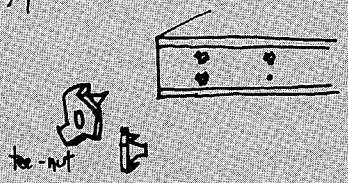
Northeast Pollution Control Corporation
77 Commerce Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11231
624-1888

Compactor Corporation
27-33 E. J. Hart Drive
Jersey City, N.J. 07305
212-285-9670

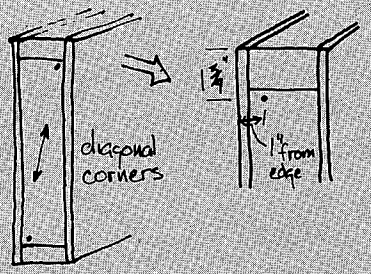
Scrubaire, Inc.
1210 30th Avenue
Long Island City, N.Y. 11102
721-7400

OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS BE CAREFUL CUTTING. USE FINE TOOTH BLADE OR RAZOR KNIFE. PUT SMOOTH SIDE UP. USE 1¼" 3d FINISHING NAILS EVERY 4" ALONG EDGES. SPACE THEM ¾" FROM EDGE. USE NAILSET. FILL IN HOLES WITH PUTTY. SAND EDGES.

IN EACH DRILLED HOLE ALONG BOTTOM PIECE, NAIL IN A ¼" TEE-NUT.

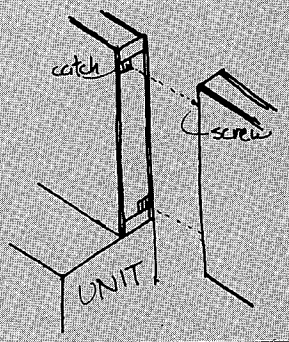



ON SIDE WITHOUT NOTCHES, INSTALL THE CATCH SCREWS.

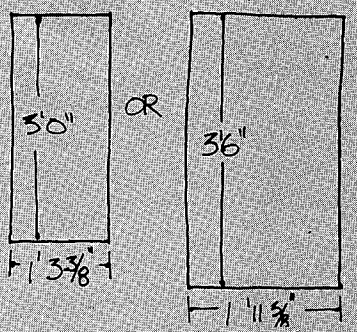



FINALLY COUNTER-SINK HOLES IN UNIT TOP COUNTER-SINK ON INSIDE ONLY.

PLACE WALL ON TOP OF UNIT BOLT TOGETHER WITH FLAT HEAD BOLTS. NEXT WALL PIECE SHOULD JUST SNAP ON AT SIDES.




TO MAKE SHELVES: SHELVES MEASURE

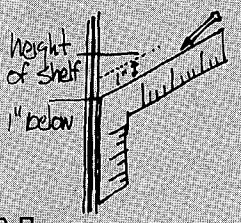



OR ANY OTHER WIDTH DESIRED.

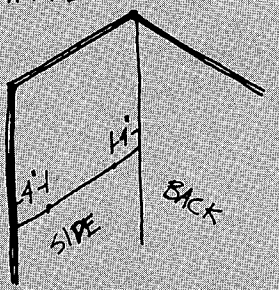
WHEN MARKING ON PLYWOOD USE FRAMING SQUARE. EVERY CUT MUST BE STRAIGHT. FINISH EDGES WITH PUTTY AND SAND LIKE UNIT.

EACH SHELF NEEDS 4 SHELF CLIPS.

BUY THEM AT A HARDWARE STORE FOR ABOUT 5¢ EACH. DETERMINE HEIGHT OF SHELF. MEASURE 1" BELOW THAT AND DRAW A LINE HORIZONTALLY ACROSS THE INNER FACE OF THE SIDE OF THE UNIT. USE SQUARE.

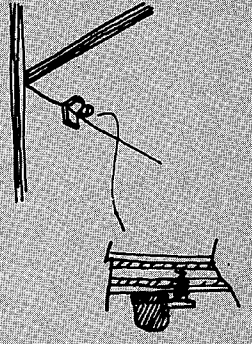



NOW MEASURE 4" IN FROM THE FRONT AND 4" IN FROM THE BACK. MARK THESE POINTS.



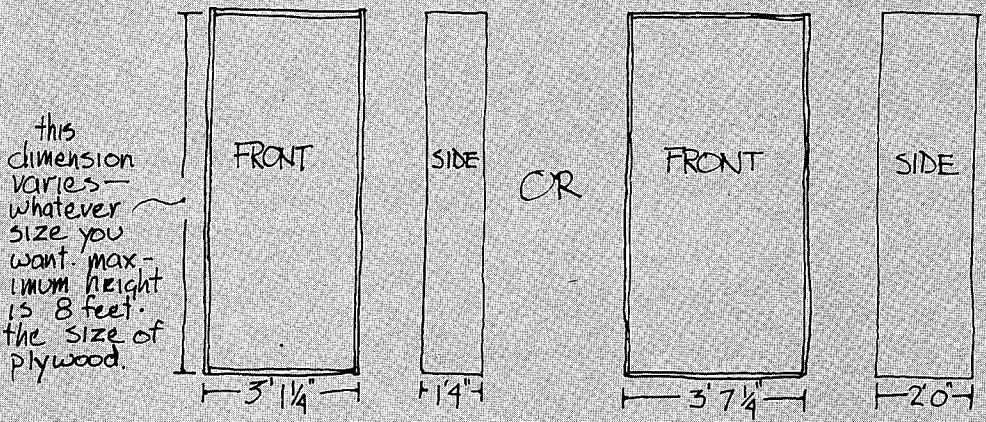

NOW DRILL A 5/16" HOLE 3/8" DEEP AT EACH MARK.

IF YOU DRILL THROUGH, IT'S O.K. - JUST FILL IN THE BACK WITH WATER PUTTY. PLACE A SHELF CLIP IN EACH HOLE. TO KEEP SHELF FROM SLIPPING, YOU MIGHT USE A ½" SHEET METAL SCREW PLACED JUST BEHIND THE FRONT CLIPS LIKE THIS:



# THE BASIC UNITS —

THE SYSTEM IS BASED ON SELF-SUPPORTING, TALL OPEN FRONT BOXES, IN TWO DIFFERENT SIZES —




THIS SIZE IS GOOD FOR —

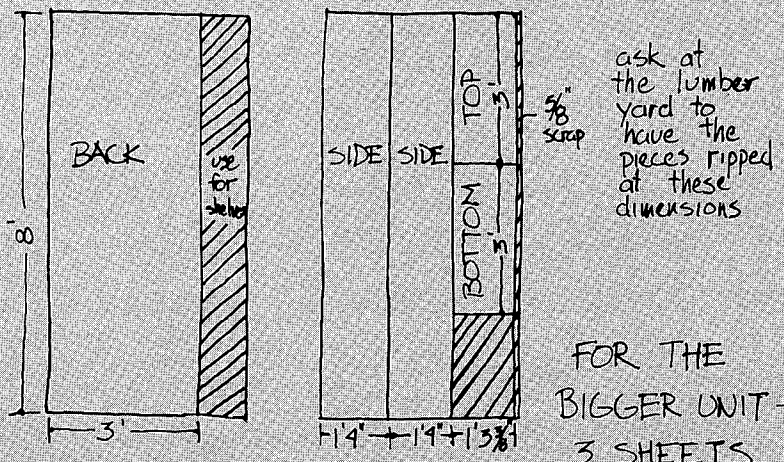
- shelves
- dressing tables
- drawers
- small item storage
- fold down tables

THIS SIZE IS GOOD FOR —

- closets
- chests
- large equipment storage
- desks
- drawers

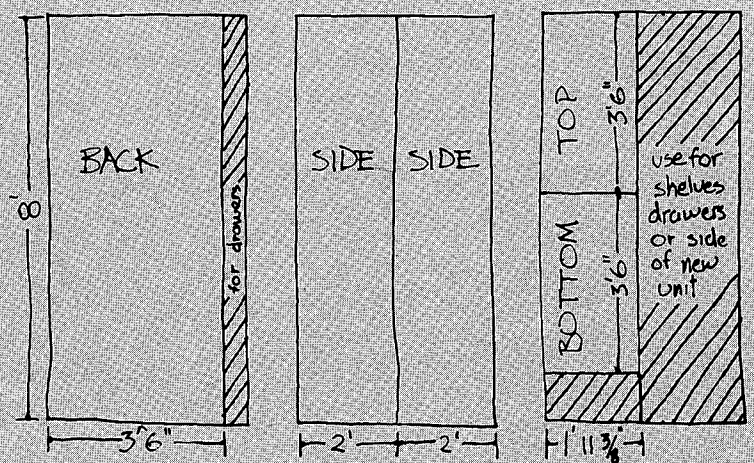
TO BUILD THEM FIRST DECIDE ON THE HEIGHT DESIRED. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THEM FLOOR TO CEILING HEIGHT AND THE DISTANCE IS UNDER 8', FINE. JUST MEASURE AND USE THAT DIMENSION. IF THE HEIGHT IS TO BE OVER 8 FEET, YOU CAN EXTEND THE UNITS WITH THE PORTABLE WALL PIECES DESCRIBED LATER IN THIS BOOK. FOR THESE EXAMPLES I'LL USE 8 FEET.

FOR THE SMALLER UNIT - USE TWO SHEETS OF 5/8" PLYWOOD. (4'X8')

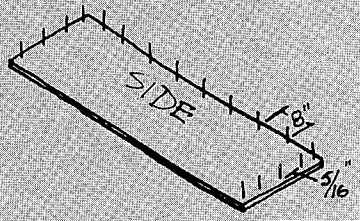



ask at the lumber yard to have the pieces ripped at these dimensions

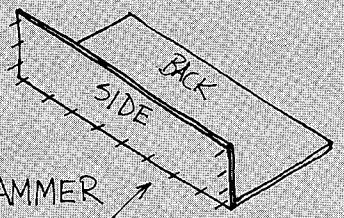
FOR THE BIGGER UNIT — 3 SHEETS.



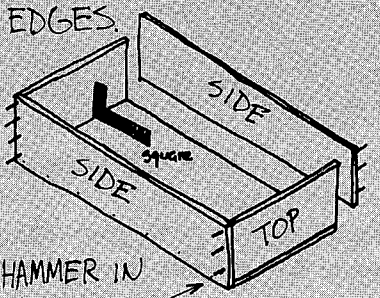
TO ASSEMBLE — PLACE THE TWO SIDES ON THE FLOOR. HAMMER A 2" FINISHING NAIL EVERY 8" OR SO ALONG ONE LONG EDGE OF EACH. MAKE EACH NAIL 5/16" FROM THE EDGE. HAMMER TILL THE NAIL JUST POKES THROUGH. NOW DO THE SAME ALONG THE TOP AND BOTTOM EDGE. YOU NOW HAVE TWO PIECES LIKE THIS—




NOW PLACE THE BACK PIECE ON THE FLOOR LIKE THIS—



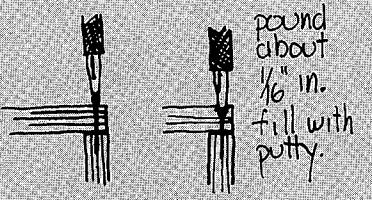

HAMMER IN THE BOTTOM ROW OF NAILS. THEN POSITION THE TOP USING THE FRAMING SQUARE. LINE UP EDGES.




HAMMER IN THESE NAILS

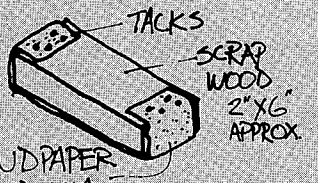
AND DO THE SAME FOR THE BOTTOM. NAIL ON THE LAST SIDE.

STAND THE UNIT UPRIGHT. HAMMER TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES IN BACK. FINISH EACH NAIL WITH A NAIL SET—



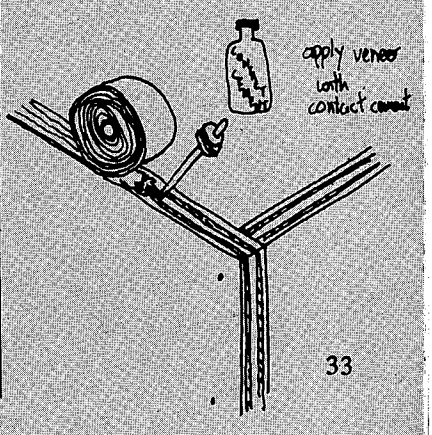

FINISH EACH EXPOSED EDGE WITH A THIN COATING OF WATER PUTTY. BE SURE TO FILL CHINKS.

SAND ENTIRE UNIT ESPECIALLY EDGES WITH A SANDING BLOCK—




THIS INSURES SQUARE EDGES.

TO FINISH— MIX DENATURED ALCOHOL AND SHELLAC ACCORDING TO LABEL ON CAN. SHELLAC TWO COATS, LIGHTLY SANDING BETWEEN COATS. THIS IS MEANT TO SEAL WOOD AND MINIMIZE CHIPPING. LEAVE AS IS OR PAINT. EDGES COULD ALSO BE COVERED WITH METAL EDGING OR VENEER STRIPS. OR MAYBE COVER UNIT WITH CONTACT PAPER.




## INTERIOR FINISHING TIPS

For best results use only top-quality materials, and follow manufacturer's instructions. The only surface preparation required is "touch sanding" to smooth any filler or spackle applied to minor openings in the panel face or to remove blemishes. "Touch sanding" should always be with the grain, using fine grade sandpaper. Do not paint over dust, spots of oil or glue.

**PAINT FINISHES**: Either water-base or oil-base paints can be used to get flat, semi-gloss or gloss finishes. When water-base paints are used, seal the plywood first with clear resin sealer or oil base primer. To apply interior paint: (1) Apply one coat of the primer recommended by the paint manufacturer. (2) Apply one or two coats of a compatible paint or enamel, allowing each coat to dry before the following coat is applied.

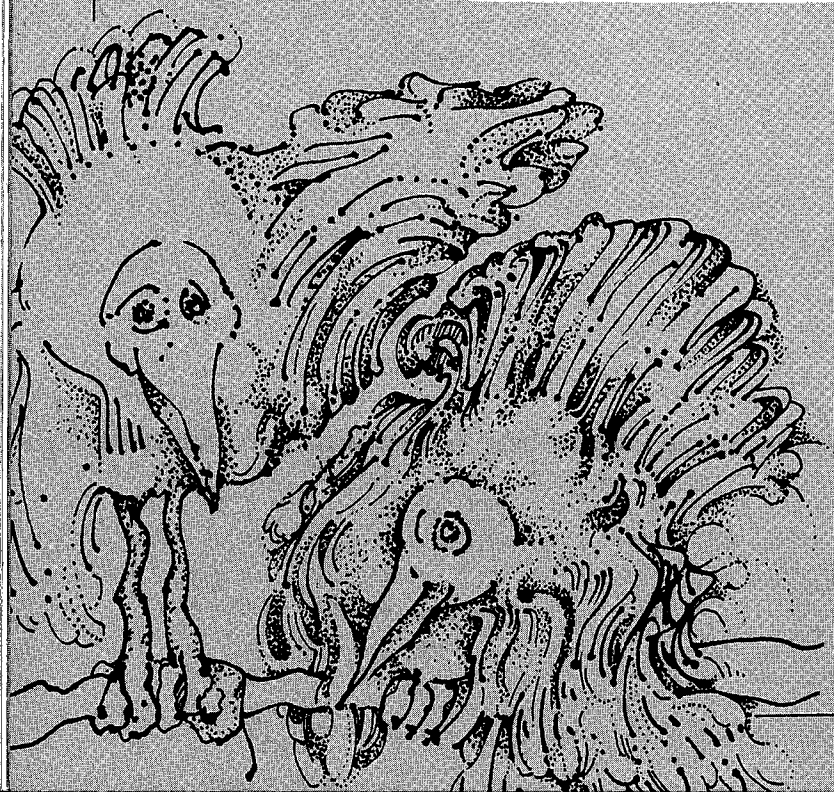
**NATURAL FINISHES**: Grain contrasts and the neatly made mechanical repairs in plywood panels can be pleasingly subdued with transparent, non-penetrating sealers and companion stains. Tones of light gray, brown or tan appear most compatible with wood colors. Companion stain-sealers can be applied as follows: (1) Tint a small amount of sealer with color stain and apply to sample. When the desired tone is obtained, mix enough stain and sealer in the same proportion to do the entire job. (The sealer may also be applied as a first coat, followed by application of the stain). (2) Apply by brush or spray to the full length of the panel to avoid laps. To avoid brush marks with darker tones, it may be desirable to apply several coats of a lighter tone finish. Allow each coat to dry and sand lightly between each coat. (3) To add luster and durability, one coat of satin varnish is suggested, although most flat, semi-gloss or gloss clear coatings are satisfactory.

Another method of applying a natural finish, which does not require special companion stains and sealers, is as follows: (1) Whiten the panel with pigmented resin sealer or white undercoat thinned one to one with turpentine or thinner. Wipe with dry cloth before it becomes tacky; sand lightly when dry. (2) Seal wood with clear resin sealer (can be omitted for greater color penetration in step 3); sand lightly when dry. (3) Add color using tinted undercoat, thin enamel, pigmented resin sealer, or light stains (with care). Apply thinly and wipe to the proper depth of color; sand lightly when dry. (4) Apply one coat of satin varnish or brushing lacquer.

These *Design Hints for More Liveable Apartments* are part II of a three part series.

The next, and final, installment will show you how to construct drawers, tables, beds and desks for the furniture system.

Please note that this series has been bound in the center of STREET for easy removal.



Have you contributed to STREET yet? If not, an envelope has been enclosed for your convenience.

## MAKE IT YOURSELF

If you like the taste of yogurt, and you know it's good for you, why not add two more elements to your pleasure—doing it yourself and saving money.

You'll probably be surprised that yogurt-making is so easy. All you need, besides the simple basic ingredients, is a way to keep your yogurt mix warm for several hours of constant temperature. There are commercial yogurt makers available for $10-$12, but that makes your yogurt-making less economical.

If you have a gas stove with a pilot light, you can set the jars of yogurt mix on it in a large covered pan of warm water, having the water up to the rim of the containers. A water temperature of 100 to 120 degrees should be maintained. The yogurt should be ready in 3-5 hours, or as soon as it is firm. At that stage, it should be refrigerated immediately. An oven with a pilot light will work the same way.

The basic recipe:

1½ cups non-instant powdered milk
(available in health food stores)
6 cups warm (not hot) water
3 tablespoons commercial yogurt
(later, 3 T. of your own-made
yogurt) 1 large can evaporated milk
(Makes 8 c. or 2 qts. yogurt.)

The evaporated milk gives it that "old country" flavor.

For convenience in mixing, put 2 cups of the water into a blender or large bowl; add the powdered milk and yogurt, and blend or beat. Add remaining water and the canned milk. Mix, pour into 8 cups, glasses, or jars and set over the soruce of heat as described above.

This plain yogurt is fine eaten with a sprinkling of raw sugar or brown sugar, honey, grated orange or lemon rind, sliced cucumbers or tomatoes, fresh or canned fruit, or topped with undiluted frozen orange juice.

Yogurt can also be made with whole milk, but since cows are frequently given penicillin which would destroy the bacteria which causes yogurt to thicken; powdered + evaporated milk is a better bet.

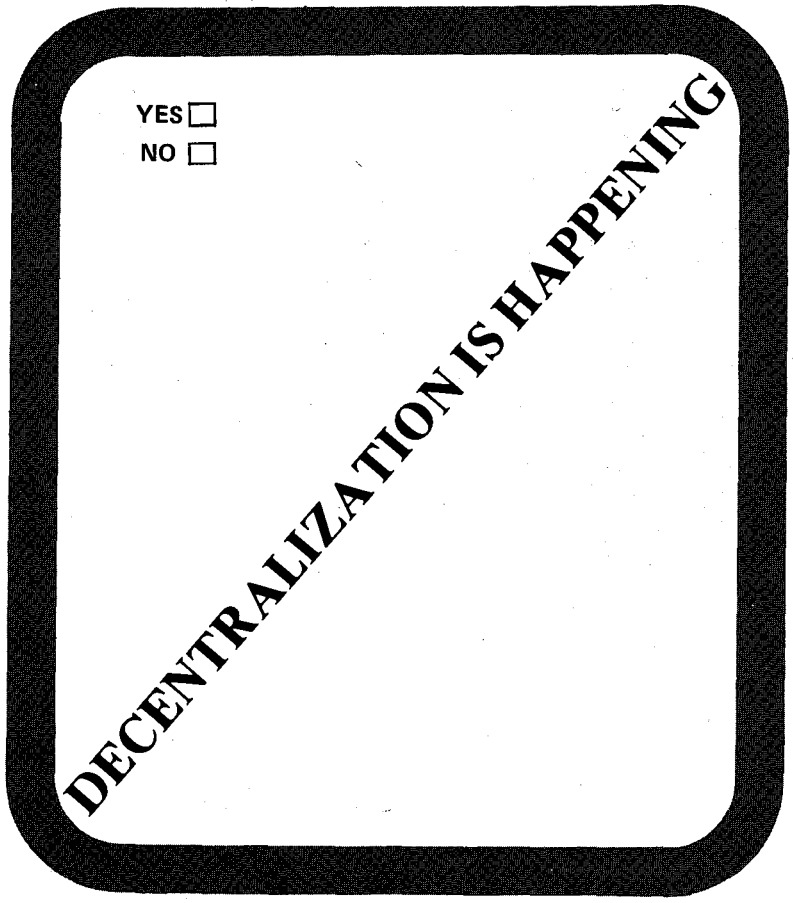
The cost of making 2 qts. of yogurt with non-instant milk ($1 a lb.) and evaporated milk (18 cents per can) is 93 cents, or about 11½ cents a cup. (Compare that with the cost of commercial yogurt—about 30 cents a cup!)

Yogurt can, of course, be made with instant milk, but it takes 3 cups of instant to equal the 1½ cups of non-instant (because instant incorporates a lot of air). The cost of a 2 qt.-batch of yogurt made with instant is $1.07, or 13½ cents a cup.

Another surprise, of the do-it-yourself variety is that excellent cranberry juice cocktail can be made at home. It costs a lot less money and has much more flavor, body, and nutritional value than the commercial type that sells for 79 cents for a quart and a half.

You'll need 1 box of fresh cranberries (39 cents), 6 cups of water, 1 lemon, 1 cup (or less) of sugar, and 1½ cups of apple juice. Cook the cranberries in the water until soft. Put through a food mill, or press through a sieve. Add sugar to taste; heat until it is dissolved; add juice of the lemon and the apple juice. This makes about 2 qts. and is also good mixed with orange juice, on ice with club soda or quinine water.

*—P.W.*



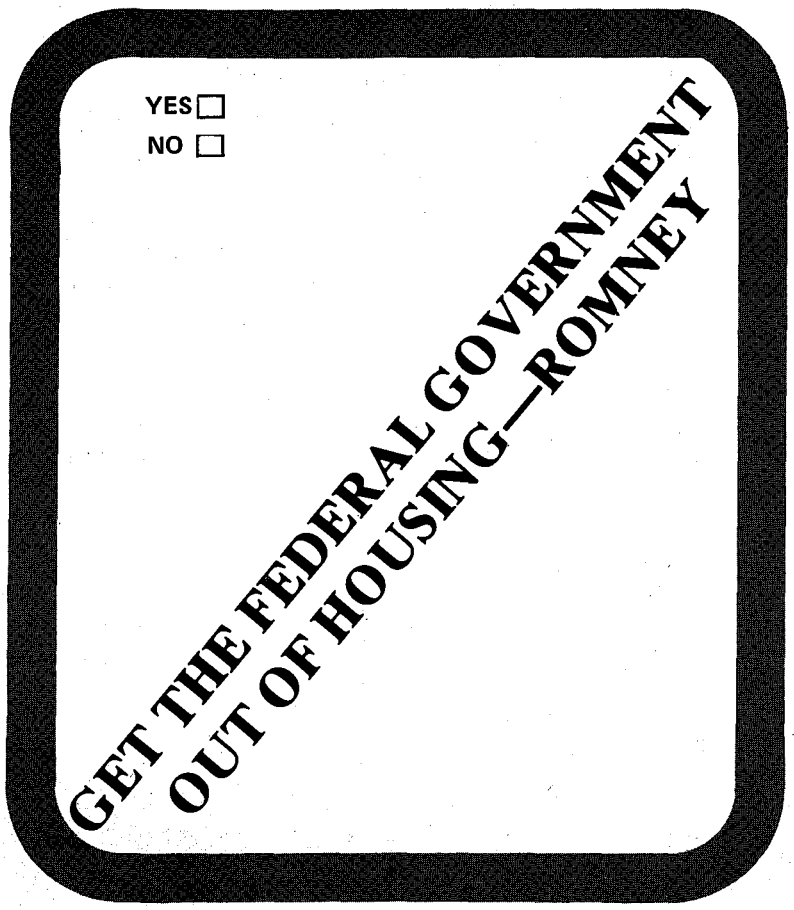

The State Commission to revise New York City's Charter has just completed weeks of public hearings on how to change New York City government. In the near future, New York City voters probably will be asked to vote on a referendum for or against an initial decentralization proposal. It is every voter's responsiblity to understand the complexities of the decentralization process.

The city Administration has spent seven years developing alternative forms of neighborhood government and has, to varying degrees, looked at different models of political and administrative decentralization. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Government (ONG) now runs three separate programs designed to improve the responsiveness of city government to New York City neighborhoods and coordinate municipal services at the local level.

These Programs are:

**The Decentralization Experiment**

Under an annual $350,000 U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare grant, eight community planning districts participate in an administrative decentralization program in which city services are coordinated and integrated through a District Cabinet of city officers at the local level.




When outgoing Secretary George Romney of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the Nixon Administration's 18-month moratorium on new Federal commitments to aid the construction of subsidized housing, he added, "In my judgment the time has come to pause, re-evaluate and to seek out better ways"

One of his ideas for a better way is to make the subsidization of housing a state responsibility with the Federal government getting out of it as quickly as possible without disrupting the process.

These and other personal views were expressed by Mr. Romney in an informal session with newsmen who had covered his four years in office. A summary of the points he made follows:

With the states assuming responsibility for subsidized housing, greater innovation would be shown and better results obtained than under the Federal government. Romney cited on-going programs in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Illinois to prove his point. He added that, "Individuals and organizations are inclined to be backward without responsibility. State governments are not going to deal responsibly with housing needs as long as the Federal government continues to bail them out."

**The Neighborhood Action Program**

A total of $10.5 million of Capital Budget funds has been allocated over three years to six areas in the city to be used as seed money to initiate programs and maintain the community's confidence in the neighborhood. In each area, local advisory boards made up of community leaders set priorities for the community, allocate the funds and monitor the programs.

**The Urban Action Task Force**

More than 30 high level city officials serve as Task Force Chairmen in individual communities throughout the city in a program designed to open up channels of communication between the neighborhoods and City Hall and improve the delivery of city services.

The joint effort of several cabinet members often results in a program which is more effective than the agencies operating alone. This is called the *integration of services.*

In Crown Heights, the Police Department alone was ineffective in closing illegal bottle clubs, because the club owners simply paid the minimal fine and reopened. Joint inspections with the Housing and Development Administration, however, resulted in enough pressure to force clubs to close.

The multi-agency representation on the cabinet enables ONG to provide a *multi-faceted approach* to a single issue.

In the Rockaways, where the senior citizen population has increased by 123 percent in the past ten years, the Health Services Administration in conjunction with PRCA opened a weekly clinic, the first specifically for elderly, with nutrition and physical fitness programs as well as medical,

Felix Rivera

Above, senior citizens line up to register for a complete physical examination at the new weekly health clinic.

*Continued on page 38*

As it is now, public housing doesn't have much of a future. It must eventually be reshaped, but there will be Federal aid to keep the program afloat until the long-range solutions can be worked out.

Identifying the concentration of "problem families" as one of public housing's biggest problems, Romney said that there is not a suitable income mix and suggested copying Britain's example of removing upper income limits. Not all poor people are problem people—it is the concentration of poor people that results in a greater ratio of problems.

Romney went on to say that the basic question is whether to meet housing needs by subsidies to those who provide the housing or by income supplement for needy families. While expressing his preference for the income maintainence approach, he conceded a need for some kind of program to balance the supply end of housing.

On the Model Cities program—Romney feels that is has been successful in some cities, but that the program, as well as urban renewal, should be ended as separate programs by folding them into urban community development special revenue sharing. He said that the Model Cities concept contributed to the "new Federalism" and that wide-ranging discussions of it played a key part in the Administration's decisions on revenue sharing.

Romney noted that fragmentation of local government is perpetuated by the Federal government's going to their rescue. But he has noticed a pattern of development of consolidated government or an area-wide approach in areas such as Hartford, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Indianapolis and Nashville. As part of this trend, he cited the President's executive order of a year ago for closer cooperation and coordination in the Regional Councils and predicted that there will be more of this sort of thing in the next four years.

Lamenting that in government it doesn't necessarily pay to run an efficient, productive operation, Romney explained that during economy drives a lean staff is cut just as much as an over-sized one and he blamed a shortage of employees for part of the problems in the housing programs.

When asked of his greatest frustration of the past four years, Romney replied that it was the failure of HUD's programs to work in the central cities and the fact that this overshadowed their record-setting accomplishments outside the central cities.

The biggest lesson he learned in the past four years was that, "You don't get basic reform in this

*Continued on page 50*

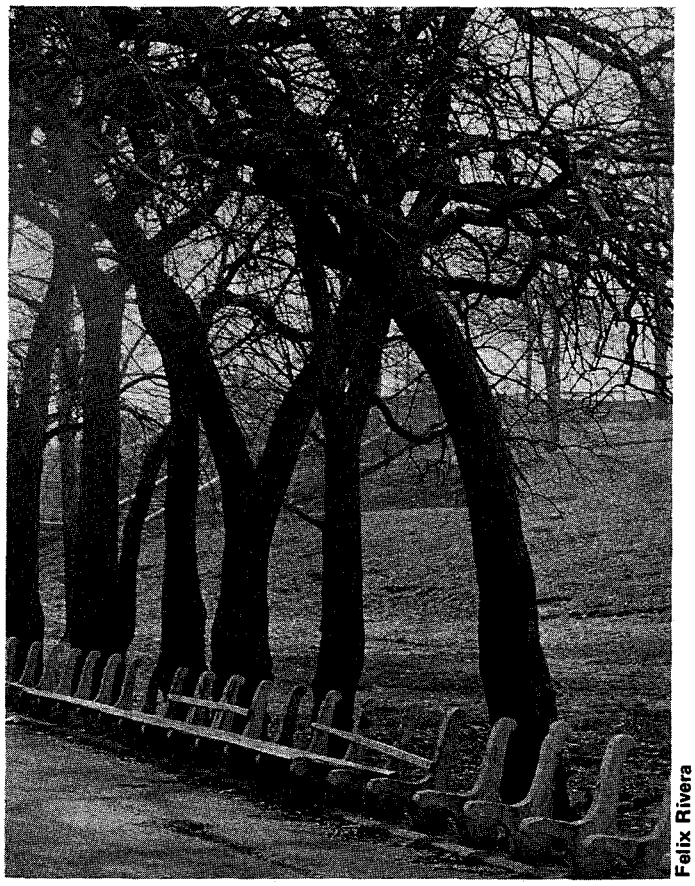
podiatric and opthalmologic services. At the same time, ONG has proposed improvements such as escalators and curb cuts for wheel chairs to the Transportation Administration and worked with the City Planning Commission to alter zoning regulations governing nursing homes to assure adequate ancillary facilities.

**How The Decentralization Experiment Works**

District Cabinets made up of city agency district officers work together in each of the eight participating areas under a District Manager, a professional administrator experienced in the workings of city government. The program operates in Bushwick, Crown Heights, Bay Ridge, Maspeth-Ridgewood, South Bronx, Wakefield-Edenwald, the Rockaways and Washington Heights.

For the first time, district level officers meet on a regular basis to plan joint solutions to local problems and *coordinate resources* to solve those problems more effectively. In a sense this establishes at the local level a Cabinet comparable to the Mayor's city-wide Cabinet.

In the South Bronx, ONG is planning a $500,000 program to rehabilitate St. Mary's Park, drawing on Model Cities and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Administration funds, coordinating equipment and staff and evaluating private as well as city recreation programs.

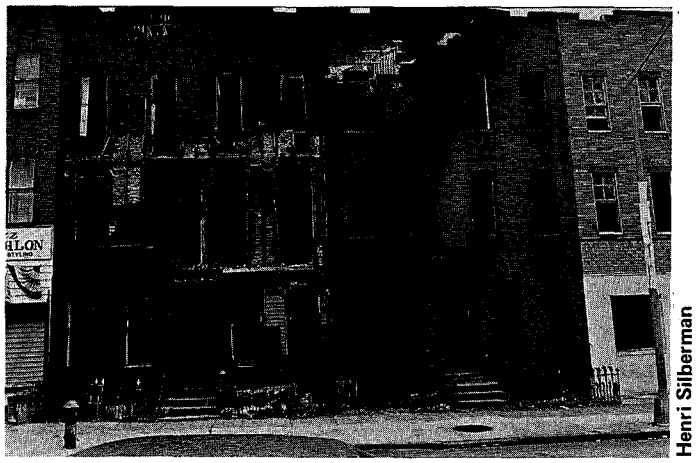


Felix Rivera

Broken benches will be repaired and fences torn down as part of a major rehaul of St. Mary's Park in the Bronx.

The combined resources of the cabinet agencies enables ONG to *identify local problems* and target solutions unique to the neighborhoods.

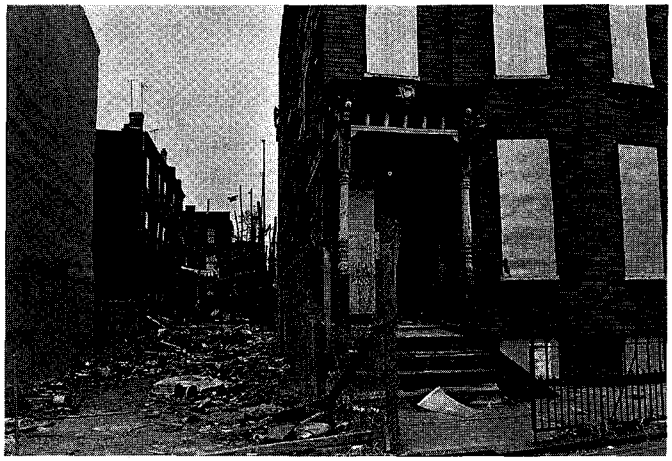
In Bushwick, where 200 housing units are lost every year as fires run through the open cocklofts (or common attics) of the wood frame houses, a fire retardation program is planned to devise techniques to prevent and control those fires.



Henri Silberman

Vacant buildings destroyed by fire blight entire blocks in Bushwick.

The *decentralization of line authority* enables the ONG cabinet to attack a problem more effectively and implement a solution more quickly at the district level.



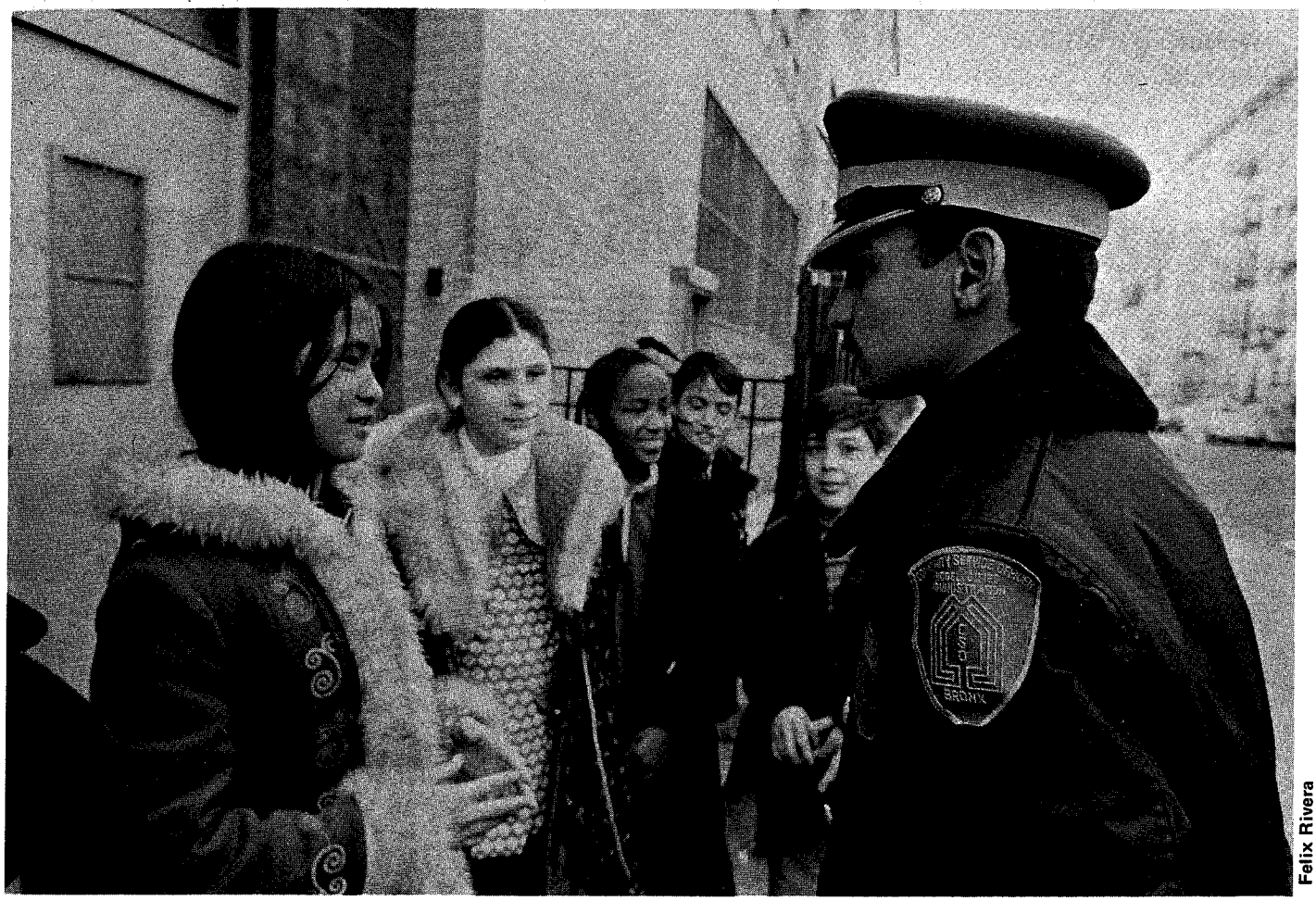
Henri Silberman

After HSA decentralized the authority to issue health summonses to the district level, Bushwick moved ahead, targeting the worst lots in the community, issuing health summonses and cleaning over 50 lots in a record period of time.

The mechanism of the cabinet enables the District Services officers to *develop innovative solutions* which can later be implemented in neighborhoods throughout the city.

In a pilot treatment diversion program, a drug arrest team in Washington Heights made up of specially trained Police and Addiction Service Agency divert addicts to treatment before the court and sentencing process.

About 25 Model Cities Community Service Of-



Felix Rivera

A model Cities Community Service Officer raps with South Bronx students.

ficers patrol schools in the South Bronx, relieving the regular police for other work and greatly reducing violence and vandalism in the schools.

In Crown Heights, the city has proposed a comprehensive building maintenance and social service program, to be funded through a HUD grant of up to $2 million, to develop a model for rehabilitating delapidated buildings and preventing the common cycle of abandonment and decay from occuring in the Crown Heights community.

**Decentralization Is No Panacea**

Administrative decentralization means a fundamental overhaul of city government. This process is slow, expensive, and in some instances, not feasible.

For instance, if city agencies are to work together at a local level, service districts of the different agencies should be the same size and have the same boundaries - be *coterminous*. Changing boundaries is often expensive. In Bushwick and Crown Heights, the cost to change the alternate side of the street parking signs in order to alter the Sanitation District lines was approximately $120,000. In other cases, because of the locations of capital facilities—garages, precinct houses etc., it is all but impossible to alter those lines in the near future.

The Rockaways District Cabinet.

HOWEVER,

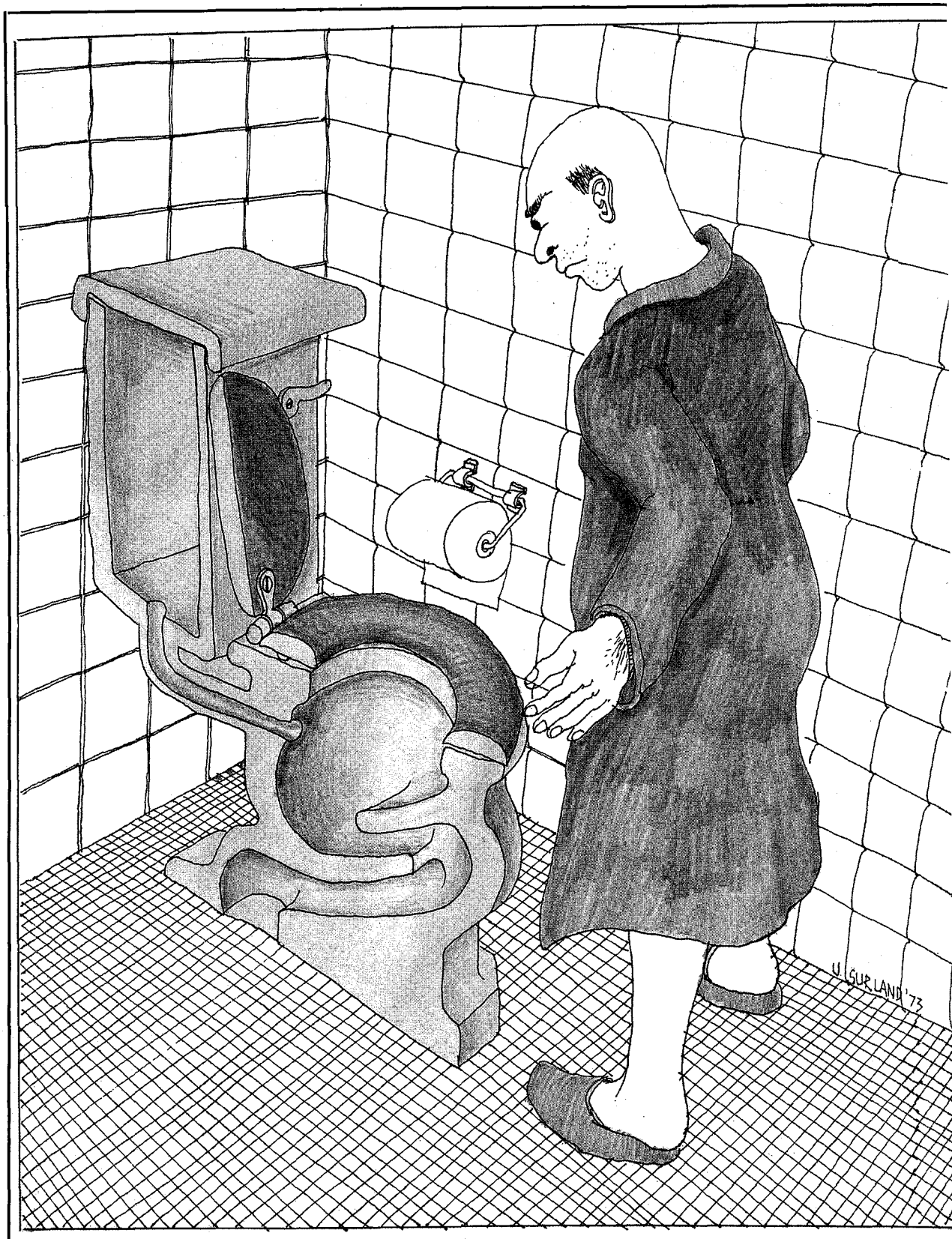
The ONG Decentralization Experiment has proven that a decentralization in a carefully controlled situation can greatly increase the productivity of city services and the responsiveness of city government to the communities it serves.

**Other ONG Programs**

In addition, Playlots Project, sponsored by the Office of Neighborhood Government in conjunction with Highways Department, enables community groups to convert vacant city-owned lots into

*Continued on page 48*

# Freeze Kills Applications for



# Community Development, Housing

The Nixon Administration's freeze, announced in January, on all new applications for subsidized housing assistance also applied immediately to applications for new commitments for water and sewer grants, open space grants and public facility loans—all major community development programs.

According to outgoing Housing and Urban Development secretary George Romney, the moratorium on all the community development grants will remain in effect until these activities are folded into the special revenue-sharing program. Congress refused to enact the program last session, and even if the legislators act speedily this session, which is unlikely, the administration looks to July 1, 1974 as the earliest date possible for special revenue sharing to be in effect.

Current unexpended obligations under community development programs are more than $5.5 billion and will reach $7.3 billion by June 30, 1973. Romney assured that these obligations would be carried out.

**"Clean Waters" Drained**

Last October state and local governments throughout the country were given renewed hope for the future of their inland waters. Congress overrode the President's veto and passed into law the most sweeping and costly clean waters program ever voted by any nation. It authorized the spending of $18 billion over a three-year period for the construction of waste treatment plants and systems to remove pollutants poisoning our lakes, streams, and rivers. (Five-billion was allocated for fiscal 1973, $6-billion for fiscal 1974, and $7-billion for fiscal 1975).

This shot-in-the-arm of Federal aid was designed, according to the standards of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to eliminate entirely all dumping of raw sewage by 1985.

States and municipalities, having completed plans to cleanse their waterways, as required by the Act, sat back and waited for the new Federal money to pour in.

Then came the bitter blow. Late in November the President ordered the Congressional authorization slashed by $6 billion, meaning that for the first two years only $5-billion would be allocated to the states as against the $11 billion authorized by the statute.

The cut meant simply that the money just won't be there—despite the hard provision in the bill that mayors and county executives themselves may be fined up to $25,000 and spend a year in jail if, after 1985, their sewage systems are dumping an ounce of untreated waste into their waterways. Ruckelshaus had testified before Congress last year that the criteria under the Federal act, even with full funding of the $11 billion, could be met by only 60 percent of the nation's municipalities.

As the states and municipalities were just beginning to recover from that blow and were in the process of trying to set up priorities for what was left of the funding, the Administration announced the freeze on all new applications for commitments for water and sewer grants.

**Waste Treatment Halved**

The setback will be a great hardship for New York State. It will now be necessary to pick and choose among the projects, all of which are considered of great importance and were thought to be secured when the bond issue was voted in. Secondary treatment plants might have to be deferred in favor of preliminary treatment plants. However, State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Henry Diamond has been meeting since December with Federal Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus on ways the state could best apply the reduced Federal aid for construction of municipal sewage treatment facilities. DEC would like to see the Federal government spread the available monies across all approved projects in order to keep the state's pure water program moving at full speed and to use its authority to commit Federal funds authorized by Congress for fiscal 1975. This would permit, at a minimum, a program to be started, with the hope that it could somehow be completed in the future when and if the Administration relaxes its budgetary attitude.

The state would have received $1.2 billion in Federal aid over the next two years, but the amount was cut by over 50 percent to $552.9 million as a result of the slash. The result is that 188 waste water treatment projects are being held up state-wide.

*Continued on page 49*

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Single copies are free from Public Inquiries, Office of Public Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460. Multiple copies are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 at prices given:

*Don't Leave It All to the Experts*—A handbook on citizen action: how to get involved, what you can do. (55 cents)

*Highlights*—The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972

*The Future of the Automobile*—A speech by EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus.

*Citizen Suits Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970*—How Congress intended citizens to implement and enforce the Clean Air Act of 1970. (Multiple copies available from EPA).

*The Environmental Issue is Here to Stay*—A reprint of an interview with EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus published in **Catalyst** magazine. (Multiple copies available from EPA).

**POLLUTION** *Continued from page 7*

### What Industry Can Do

Antipollution research is vital, not so much because we don't know how to combat industrial contaminants but to find more economical ways of doing it. In the long run that will be extremely important if our goods are to compete in the international marketplace against the lower priced products of other, less pollution-conscious countries. Meanwhile, our industry can—and must—put current technology to work even if it isn't always cheap. In short, pollution control must be accepted as part of the cost of doing business, just as labor and materials are.

Modern methods of waster water treatment can remove or neutralize practically all contaminants. Even mercury can be removed from plant effluents by means of advanced filtration systems and chemical treatment, or by settling it out and burning or burying the sludge residue.

Hydrochloric acids pickle liquors, discharged by the steel industry, can be diverted for use in sewer systems, as they are in Detroit and Milwaukee, where they neutralize phosphates at low cost—in effect killing two pollutants with one action.

Precipitators in smoke stacks and other soot-screening devices, such as "bag houses" in steel mills, can reduce the output of particles by 95 percent. Several new processes, including the use of super-cooling (cryogenics), have gone beyond the laboratory into commercial development to remove sulfur from sulfur oxide fumes.

Indeed, practically every industrial pollution problem has a technical solution. Some of this is being done—but not enough. For instance, of the 2.3 billion gallons of water used by our 24 biggest papermakers every day, more than one-third is released entirely untreated, loaded with chemicals from pulping and bleaching. Another third is treated but still fails to meet federal standards.

It is clear that in any industry there are leaders and foot draggers. In Charleston, West Virginia, for example, Union Carbide Co. joined with the city in financing a treatment plant to handle both city sewage and the plant's chemical wastes. The total load of pollution discharged in the Kanawha River was cut by more than 80 percent. Republic Steel has built an $18 million waste-water treatment system on a five-acre site in Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley. U.S. Steel pioneered the use of electrostatic precipitators to eliminate smoke from open-hearth furnaces almost twenty years ago, and has since invested more than $235 million in air and water pollution controls. Bethlehem Steel is cleaning up the water it pours into Lake Erie at its Lackawanna, Pennsylvania mill and its giant new plant at Burns Harbor on the Indiana dunes is considered a modle of cleanliness. Armco Steel has put some $74 million into air and water treatment facilities at its plants in Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky and Texas. It cost Inland Steel $10 million to construct a terminal waste treatment facility.

On the other hand, the Justice Department recently had to sue three steel producers and a chemical company for polluting the Ohio and Monogahela Rivers in the Pittsburgh area, charging the concerns with 73 violations of Federal law. And a recent civil suit filed against Jones and Laughlin Steel accused that company of dumping cyanides and other contaminants into the Cuyahoga River near Cleveland.

Coke-oven operations have given the chemical industry one of its tougher environmental problems. Now, Allied Chemical Corporation has come up with a new pipeline-charging system that can reduce smoke and gases from by-product cokes by as much as 70 percent. It uses closed pipelines to move preheated coal into ovens. In all, the chemical industry is spending $1 billion annually on antipollution measures. A big chunk of that is accounted for by Du Pont, which has budgeted more than $300 million over the next three years.

Even the pulp and paper industry has its shining examples. Georgia-Pacific, which is on a big antipollution push, was recently commended by the Council for Economic Priorities for its clean pulp mill at Samoa, California. At that plant, the odor has

been reduced sharply and the output of particulate matter has been cut by more than 99 percent. Kimberly-Clark's new paper mill on Beech Island, South Carolina, built in 1968, is an industry showpiece for its technology which cut the output of polluting organic and chemical solids by more than 85 percent. And this isn't just a best-foot-forward proposition. Between 1949 and 1969, while this company's production increased threefold, its total output of oxygen-demanding eutrophication agents was reduced by more than half. By 1974, the hydrogen sulfide emissions of its two pulping operations, in California and Alabama, will be down to less than ten percent of what they used to be.

Owens-Illinois, too, has followed a policy for many years of adopting new pollution-abatement systems as they are developed. Since 1953, the company has installed control equipment at each of its 102 manufacturing plants. Another big papermaker, Weyerhaeuser, has invested $300 million in cleanup equipment over the last two years.

In the oil industry, older refineries are heavy polluters because they were built before technology was developed to clean stack gases and water discharges. New refineries with closed processing systems and smokeless flares on top of their chimneys do not dirty the air, except when occasional operating upsets occur. They use much smaller amounts of water in cooling, and some have shifted to air cooling. In general, a new refinery is a clean refinery. If one of these giant plants cost $100 million to build, $10 million of that probably represents investment for air and water control. But it is high time for the oil industry also to get its old refineries cleaned up, and it has at least begun to do so.

It's also time for the oil industry to more closely supervise its drilling-platform managers and tanker skippers. Some offshore drilling spills are no more necessary than collisions. Storm chokes can cut off oil flow when accidents occur, and their installation is required by law, but as federal spot checks have shown, the chokes are sometimes removed because they slow output.

Oil tanker collisions, too, are often the result of too much management pressure on line executives—true also in other industries—to excel in profit performance. Coast Guard investigations of two such recent collisions, one on the West Coast and one on the East, showed that in both cases, the tankers were running in weather when they should have dropped anchor—but the skippers were trying to make speed to meet their schedules. While no one denies the necessity for profits, a little less such pressure all around might go a long way toward reducing unnecessary environmental damage and material waste.

**What Government Can Do**

Just as current technology could clean up most industrial pollution, so could laws now on the books safeguard a liveable environment. The trouble is that these laws have not been enforced.

As far back as 1899, the Rivers and Harbors Act prohibited dumping of waste into rivers. Under William D. Ruckelshaus, the head of the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this law has been revived after 72 years, and now for the first time a number of manufacturing plants have been sued under its provisions.

The Clean Air Act of 1963 lay dormant for five years before the federal government went to court for the first time—and then against a small chicken-rendering plant in Bishop, Maryland.

The 1970 National Air Quality Standards Act is potentially the strongest anti-pollution measure ever enacted. It requires all new factories to use the latest pollution-control techniques, and gives EPA the authority to set nationwide air-quality standards for ten major pollutants, ranging from soot to sulfur dioxide. The agency can sue a violator directly. Beyond that, any citizen may sue the agency for failing to act on the alleged violator. Penalties of convicted violators range up to a $25,000-a-day fine or a year in jail.

Using all these tools, the government is getting a little tougher. In addition to its actions against steel companies, the Justice Department recently indicted two textile dye companies for polluting the Hudson River. Most other crackdowns so far have been settled out of court after offending companies agreed to correct abuses.

Still, no matter how tough the federal government may get, it can't do the job alone. Without the cooperation of state pollution boards, the federal standards cannot really be enforced. In most cases, the states must challenge the polluter—and they won't unless he violates state laws.

So far, only 17 states have even submitted their proposed air-quality standards to Washington, and of these only ten qualified under the federal legislation. As for clean water, only about half the states have yet adopted regulations that meet federal requirements.

The Galveston Bay scandal of last summer serves as a case in point. The Texas Water Quality Board, a state agency, had given permits for industries to discharge thousands of pounds of oil, grease and toxic wastes into the bay. As one of the results, about half the bay is now closed to shellfishing. When the federal government tried to force a showdown over this pollution, the Texas board blandly conceded the contamination but insisted that it should be left

*Continued on page 44*

## Innovative Education

### AIR POLLUTION EXPERIMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Thirty-eight practical, tested and stimulating experiments in air pollution control are described in a new manual being made available to junior and senior high school students with the cooperation of state's Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Air Resources.

*Air Pollution Experiments for Junior and Senior High School Science Classes* is published by the Air Pollution Control Association and is edited by Donald C. Hunter, chief of the air monitoring section of DEC's Division of Air Resources and Henry C. Wohlers, professor of environmental sciences at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Seven other members of the air resources division also contributed experiments to the manual.

The first experiment outlines how to test the effect of air pollution on nylon. Other experiments relate to the effect of air pollution on rubber and vegetation, and the use of solar energy for heat.

Hunter explained the department's hopes that these experiments will help stimulate young people's concern for a healthy environment and will interest some in careers in air pollution control. Inquiries concerning the manual may be directed to the Division of Air Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y. 12201.

New York State Environment, December 1, 1972, Vol. 2, No. 6, Department of Environmental Conservation.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION *Continued from page 43*

alone to deal with the situation according to its own standards and its own pace.

The core of the federal-versus-state problem is that the pollution control boards of more than 30 states include members drawn from affected industries. There is nothing illegal about this. Statutes often call for representation from vested interests. Ruckelshaus recently appealed to the governors to correct this situation. Whether his appeal will work is another matter. Logic certainly suggests that while a defendant must have his day in court, he shouldn't sit on his own jury.

The government has a weapon it has not yet used—taxes. It could impose, as suggested by some legislators, a penalty tax on polluters. It could also offer tax incentives for installing pollution-control equipment. Most enlightened businessmen, however, are against this approach. Tax incentives would mean shifting the cost of abatement from industries and their specific customers to the general taxpayer. Since consumers will have to pay much of the cost of antipollution equipment through higher prices anyway, this would mean in effect that they'll be paying for it twice.

**What You Can Do**

Most important in the fight against industrial pollution is your support for those political candidates in your state whose platforms call for state compliance with federal antipollution standards.

At best, however, such actions will take many months, if not years. Meanwhile, you can personally fight polluters in your own area. The first step is to check with your state's pollution agency (usually in the capital) if they are aware of the situation: they may well be, and have the problem on the back burner. If so, keep after them and recruit your friends to do the same.

If the state refuses to move, go to the U.S. Attorney for your area. He probably won't be of much help with an air-pollution problem—the laws are not this far advanced yet—but he has the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Act to back him against water polluters. If you have a good cause, chances are he'll make it his cause.

Assuming that all this fails, you can undertake action on your own, either alone or, better yet, by getting together with a group of interested citizens. But don't go off half cocked. You've got to be sure of your facts—scientifically sure—or you'll just be another of the hysterical agitators who don't help anyone and only bring disrepute down on the ecological movement.

Such a private campaign isn't easy, and it isn't cheap. Apart from a costly factual investigation, involving all sorts of laboratory tests, you'll have to hire a lawyer to handle your cases. Such complicated legal actions as environmental suits are apt to run on for many months. Your bill may run to many thousands of dollars. Before undertaking any such action, you'd be well advised to contact the National Environmental Law Society, Stanford Law School, Stanford, California 94305. They will help you find a qualified environmental lawyer in your particular area.

As a stockholder in a company which you know pollutes, you have a perfect right—and obligation—to make your voice heard as a part-owner.

Individual and group pressure can also help fight impending pollution threats. However, this does not mean that you should indiscriminately oppose every industry that tries to move into your area. Remember that unemployment is a form of social pollution, and you don't want to encourage that either. The only sound criteria to go by are the federal clean air and clean water standards. If the

applying industry meets those, don't fight it—the plant will be an asset to your area, not a detriment.

As an example of constructive community action, take the recent Florida Case when a major paper company announced plans to dump its waste two and a half miles out in the ocean from the Florida coast. In that instance, individuals got together with state and federal agencies and managed to block the scheme.

On the other hand, environmental enthusiasm sometimes goes perhaps too far, as happened last year when the construction of an oil refinery was proposed for Machiasport, on the coast of Maine. The purpose of this plant was to provide cheaper fuel oil to New England consumers who have to pay a premium price because of transportation costs. The refinery would have been virtually pollution-free—not only to protect the environment but because the new, clean refining methods actually lower production costs in the oil business: there is less waste of energy and raw materials.

In most industries, however, pollution controls will increase prices, though probably not as much as most people, and even industry, seem to fear.

As an individual you'll simply have to get used to this idea. The extra money spent will be well worth it.

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**ONLY ONE EARTH** *Continued from page 19*

We wish to place special emphasis on the need for new research and action under the following headings:

a) General land use policies should secure the rational development and allocation of a scarce resource—the land itself—between a variety of different human needs—work, settlement and recreation—and preserve and maintain outstanding architectural monuments, archeological sites and areas of open space and natural beauty.

b) Urban and rural planning should secure public control of urban land uses and abolish the disparities between rural and urban settlements. It should create or restore true neighborhoods and reduce or circumvent urban sprawls. It should also bring the use of the automobile under control by devising orderly transport systems.

c) Policies should be introduced to reduce the human stress and physical deterioration which occur as a result of inadequate diets (particularly in infancy), the lack of decent housing, intolerable noise and the absence of any adequate assistance for responsible parenthood.

2. *Environment Aspects of Natural Resource Management*

National land use planning should account responsibly for the regional and global impacts of national actions and should conform to the following principles and procedures:

a) Renewable natural resources must be subjected to ecologically sound sustained-yield management.

b) Rare or endangered animal and plant species, as well as unique natural sites and habitats, should be given complete protection.

c) The mining of fresh water, minerals and petroleum must be regulated. The recycling of materials should become standard practice. Those who extract must be responsible for the restoration of mined and scarred landscapes to acceptable environmental standards.

d) Decisions on natural resource development should be preceded by examination of their environmental and social impacts. Where technical resources are not yet available for such evaluations, they should be developed as speedily as possible. The findings of such examinations should be made public prior to conclusive decision-making.

e) Nations should pool substantial funds and capabilities in research in a major international effort to develop clean and abundant energy sources as rapidly as possible.

f) Increased financial, technical and educational assistance should be made available to less developed nations to enable them to manage natural resources for sustained productivity.

3. *Identification and Control of Pollutants of Broad International Character*

a) Governments must accept responsibility for any international pollution caused by the activities of their nations.

b) A United Nations world-wide *Earth-watch* to monitor the distribution, movement and disposal of pollutants will enable governments to regulate pollution and enforce compliance to the regulations. The United Nations must also accept responsibilities for enforcement.

c) Appropriate control and inducements must be introduced to secure industry's cooperation in the invention and introduction of non-pollutive technologies.

d) Since radioactive substances are the most dangerous and long-lasting pollutants, all testing of nuclear weapons should cease at once. The development of nuclear energy should proceed with the utmost caution and safeguards.

e) The use of biocides in war should be prohibited by international regulation.

f) The phasing out of such long-lasting pest control substances as the chlorinated hydrocarbons should be achieved with all possible speed on a world-wide basis. The process should be accompanied by in-

*Continued on page 46*

## ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFS

**On Autos**—*Chemical and Engineering News* reports that the development of non-polluting automobile engines has progressed slowly. In fact, there are only two large-scale programs of this nature—the Environmental Protection Agency's Advanced Automotive Power Systems Development Program and the Army's program testing multi-fueled vehicles. EPA's Advanced Automobile Power Systems Development Program was established to demonstrate the feasibility of employing one or more alternatives to the internal combustion engine to meed emission control standards.

*Scientific American* reports that in judging alternative power plans, the automobile industry will give weight to the following major considerations besides exhaust emissions: thermal efficiency, use of critical materials, manufacture-ability, cost, size, weight, reliability, servicability, noise level, safety, and driveability. An analysis of the Wankel engine indicates that it will be selected to fill the future needs of the engine industry.

**On Transportation**—Alvin L. Spivack writes in *Environmental Quality,* that an alternative to the use of automobiles in an urban environment would be a personal rapid transit, otherwise known as a horizontal elevator system. The principle is the same as the familiar service used between floors of a building. The desired goal is to provide an attractive, properly priced replacement to prove that there is nothing magical about the motor car.

ONLY ONE EARTH *Continued from page 45*

tensive research into and production of effective and acceptable alternatives. Where their use is more expensive, developing lands should receive additional funds to cover the cost of abandoning cheaper but more damaging substances.

g) Since eroding soil is still mankind's most common pollutant, the greatest emphasis must be placed on sound practices of soil conservation. New efforts are also needed to return human and animal wastes to the soil.

h) Regional institutions should begin at once to supervise the health or the recovery of surface and underground water systems. Where such agencies exist, regular progress reports should be made available to governments and citizens.

4. *Educational, Informational and Cultural Aspects of the Environment*

a) The United Nations should be responsible for a centralized exchange of environmental information. In planning such exchanges, account should be taken of existing collections and services and the advice of librarians and information specialists should be sought.

b) The United Nations should encourage the training and use of scientists in environmental sciences in all countries. It has a particular responsibility to assist their training and use in developing countries so that they can effectively participate in monitoring and managing the changing environment.

c) The essentially interdisciplinary, humanistic and ethical aspects of environmental education—the science of ecology, planetary loyalty, respect for life, care for others and a lack of all rapacity—should be stressed at every level of education and mass communication so that all people develop a primary love for their fellow human beings and for their native planet.

5. *Environment and Development*

a) We recognize that many of the worst environmental problems of the world—in particular the most dangerous impacts of disease and premature mortality—have their roots in destitution.

b) We affirm the over-riding necessity of moving at once to a significant redistribution of the world's resources in favour of the developing countries. The 0.7 per cent of GNP in grants and low-interest long term loans for concessionary assistance proposed in the Pearson Report should be seen as the beginning of a planetary tax system.

c) Environmental regulations introduced in developed lands should be so designed as to place no unjustifiable barriers to the exports of developing countries.

d) Extra costs incurred by developing lands in order to protect or enhance environmental quality should be covered by **additional** flows of capital assistance from the developed states. The introduction of non-polluting technology is one aspect of a wider effort to see that developing nations avoid the environmental mistakes made by the already developed states. This need is particularly clear in the siting and planning of human settlements.

6. *International Organizational Implications of Action Proposals*

a) We affirm our support for the proposal of a separate United Nations Secretariat for the Human Environment under an intergovernmental governing council.

b) We support the proposal for a special fund for the environment but regard the provision of $100 million over five years as quite inadequate in relation

to the magnitude and complexity of the task.

c) We request close cooperation between the Secretariat and the Non-Governmental Organizations, between citizen bodies and commercial and industrial interests concerned with quality of the environment. In order to secure a better balance of world representation, we request finances and other facilities for developing nations to enable them to take a more effective part in the proposed United Nations Secretariat for the Human Environment. The means of providing this support should be discussed by the Non-Governmental Organizations.

**The Role of the NGO**

a) We reaffirm the concept of organized citizen support for the work of the United Nations and believe that the Stockholm conference and the ongoing work of the United Nations in the area of the environment can encourage all those who have long worked in this field and draw on the enthusiasm of new recruits. We therefore intend to urge our organization to mobilize and expand their membership in support of the work of the United Nations in general and the Environmental Secretariat in particular.

b) In consultation with the existing conference Secretariat, we will seek the most appropriate ways in which our separate bodies can mobilize citizen support for the Stockholm decisions during the months between the Stockholm conference and this year's General Assembly. Thereafter we wish to establish permanent forms of liaison with the Secretariat, with each other and other interested bodies.

c) We will consult with each other to work out the most appropriate means of strengthening our various efforts, mobilizing joint pressure for environmental change and avoiding where possible, overlapping activities. We will also seek to secure the support of various organizations for special fund-raising for specific environmental problems.

d) At the national level, all environmental organizations should seek to participate in governmental decisions affecting the environment and insist on advance information concerning projects of environmental impact.

e) A particular year for reassessment, say, "The Planet in 1980," should be made the focus for official non-governmental and citizen programs and action in understanding and protecting the planetary environment.

**We pledge ourselves, in our work, our loyalties, our contacts and our own styles of life, to try to live as citizens of a loved yet endangered planet and to share our common heritage with respect for all living things and in justice and amity with the people of planet Earth.**

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*Continued from page 9*

channel to Atlantic Basin. Improvement of this supplementary canal was picked up again in 1751 when Vechte's grandson, Jerry Brower, and others purchased additional land for its widening and for a footpath from which boats could be towed through the twelve and a half foot wide channel. In 1774 residents were empowered by the Colonial Assembly of the State to widen the canal, maintain it, and tax those who used it. The Gowanus remained a toll canal into the mid-1800's.

The Gowanus was involved not only in Brooklyn commerce but in the American Revolution, in the Battle of Brooklyn in August, 1776. When Lord Stirling, American commander on the western flank, found himself trapped between British General Grant, advancing up the Gowanus Road, and Cornwallis, entrenched in Vechte's stone house, with the two mills set afire by the British and the causeway blocked to the Heights, he ordered all of his battalions except one-half of the 400 Marylanders to escape across the Gowanus marshes and Creek to the American lines. This they accomplished with very few casualties, dragging captured British marines with them.

In 1849, Gowanus Creek was converted by law into the Gownaus Canal for the purpose of draining that area of the city. Gates were placed in the upper Canal to cleanse the sewers with each high tide.

The first major development of the commercial potential of the Canal came with the determination and foresight of Edwin Clark Litchfield, characterized by the *Brooklyn Eagle* as a "sanguine and indomitable believer in the future greatness of Brooklyn." In 1852 he purchased the Vechte (then the Cortelyou) estate as a start toward his square mile of Park Slope, from the Gowanus up to Tenth Avenue. The Civil War, a financial panic, and the difficulties presented by the marshy lowlands along the Gowanus delayed him. He proceeded at his own expense with extending streets toward the Canal and the docks he intended to build. For the costliest improvement, that of Third Street, he secured financial aid from a commission of the State Legislature.

He sought to develop the commercial possibilities of the Gowanus with new facilities. To this end he formed the Brooklyn Improvement Company (BIC) in 1866 for "construction and maintenance of docks, bulkheads, piers, and basins along the Canal; and to erect warehouses and other buildings." The first new

*Continued on page 48*

**DECENTRALIZATION** *Continued from page 39*

basketball courts, playgrounds and sitting areas.

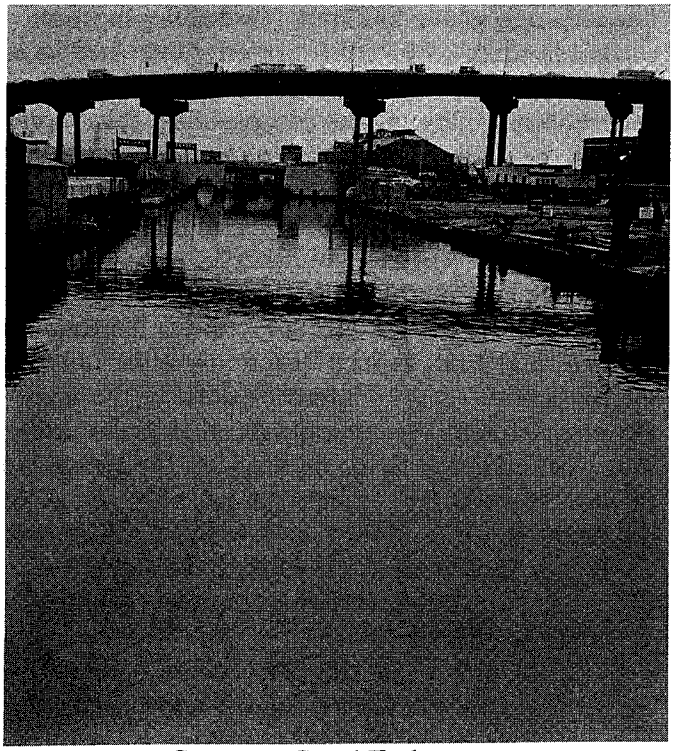
And Operation Better Block provides technical assistance to block organization as well as information on how to run a variety of neighborhood improvement programs including street clean-ups, street fairs, tree plantings, high intensity lighting programs, tutorial and recreation programs and recycling centers.

**GOWANUS** *Continued from page 47*

basins were formed at Fourth and Fifth Streets, extending almost to Third Avenue which was 100 feet wide, with almost 1500 feet of waterfront where a dozen canal boats could discharge cargo at once. Two more basins oc comparable size and capacity were opened at Sixth and Seventh Streets. Adjacent land was filled and graded, his whole extensive improvement of this area costing millions but, as the *Brooklyn Eagle* of January 29, 1869, said, "converting (it) into a thriving commercial locality, adding immensely to the wealth and trade of the city." A partial rundown of business along the Canal in those days includes coal and brick yards, machine shops, a rope company, asphalt concerns, and a chemical company. A Litchfield nephew maintained there one of the largest lumber yards in the country. The BIC's first headquarters, built specifically for them, still stands at the corner of Third Avenue and Third Street. The Company now has its offices in Manhattan.

In the same year that Litchfield formed the BIC, the State Legislature authroized the City of Brooklyn to enlarge the Canal to its present width of 100 feet and to provide a channel 16 feet deep at high tide, 12 feet at low tide. In 1867, the Gowanus Canal Improvement Commissioners set out to dock and dredge the Canal throughout its length, "making it navigable for all boats needing it and providing solid ground on either side for commercial and manufacturing use." This commission also took charge of the bridges over the Canal and a plan for changing the Canal's water through a tunnel to the East River was proposed. In 1897 a W.G. Creamer sent a barrage of indignant letters to the *Brooklyn Eagle* about the "vile, unsightly ditch." What would he have said had he know that 70 years later a pipe emptying raw sewage into the Canal would run under a street bearing his name?

By 1896 Canal tonnage was over two millions and went to a high of six millions in the late 1920's and into the 1930's. The Depression failed to crack the booming industry on the waterway. During war years the figure reached three million tons, but slumped to one million by 1945. Relatively busy in the early 1950's, by the middle of the decade the long decline to today's meager activity had begun At present there are only a handful of firms operating on the Canal. The Gowanus Trading Company, in its hundredth year of service on the Canal once used to deal with scores of companies. Today it does business with only three. In the 1930's the Canal was



Gowanus Canal Today

jammed to the banks. That was before trucking, containers and self-propelled tankers took all the business. Now the Gowanus is a rather desolate and little-used outlet to the harbor. It appears that with the demise of industrial activity on its shores, the Canal has outlived its usefullness with respect to heavy commerce. New uses for the Canal are called for and the surrounding community is calling loud and clear for them.

Excerpted in part from an article by Robert Fontana in Civic News, Vol. XXXIII, No. 8, August 1970, a publication of the Park Slope Civic Council.

**RESIDENTS' SUIT** *Continued from page 13*

shooting galleries."

More than 299 vacant buildings in various conditions of disrepair are owned by the FHA in the plaintiffs' neighborhoods. An estimated 3,000 abandoned homes are government-owned in New York City.

The suit involves the Sunset Park, Fort Greene, and Park Slope sections of Brooklyn and encompasses diverse ethnic and racial groups. The estimated average annual income in the areas is $12,000. Thus the Federal action, in its adverse impact on the environment, cuts across most ethnic,

racial, economic and religious lines, although blacks and Puerto Ricans are predominant in the areas.

The plaintiffs are Brotherhood Blocks Association of Sunset Park, Inc.; Pratt Area Community Council; Bergen Street Block Association (Vanderbilt-Sixth Avenue); Classon-Franklin-Greene Avenue Block Association; Pedro Crescente of 251 Fiftieth Street, John Antonio of 298 Greene Avenue, and Lydia Aguayo of 5416 Second Avenue.

The plaintiffs received legal assistance in their court action from the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation B, 152 Court Street.

**FREEZE KILLS** *Continued from page 41*

**City Sewage Suffers**

When the news hit New York City, planning had already been completed on five sewage treatment projects estimated at $562 million. All are being held up until Federal money becomes available. Those held up by the action are Red Hook, Coney Island, and Newton Creek in Brooklyn, Owls Head in Queens, and Oakwood Beach on Staten Island.

Mayor Lindsay said that this and other cities desperately need every little dollar which Congress authorized if we are to meet water quality standards the Federal government itself has set and protect the integrity of a precious natural resource. The Mayor pointed out that it was ironic that last July the Federal government sued the city for not moving fast enough to clean up its surrounding waters. That suit is still pending.

When the $6 billion slash in funding was announced New York City filed suit against Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus, charging that the cut is unconstitutional. The suit is demanding that the money be restored.

The action, filed in Federal District Court in Washington, D.C., contends that no provision of the Congressional act setting up the anti-pollution fund "or any other law affords the administrator discretion to reduce these allotments, whether by discretion of the President or otherwise."

New York City Corporation Counsel Norman Redlich contends that the suit presents a fundamental constitutional issue, aside from its practical importance to New York and other cities. He says that it was clearly the intent of Congress to have the money it allotted spent to reduce pollution. Congress, he said, felt that even if the money was not spent in the required fiscal year, it should remain available for the states for that purpose. The President's refusal to allot the sums authorized permanently withdraws from availability in New York large portions (60 percent fiscal 1973 and 50 percent fiscal 1974) of the obligational authority conferred upon him by Congress. New York City must necessarily reduce the number of treatment works projects for which it can apply to the Administrator for Federal grant assistance.

*B.A.*

## BULLETIN:

Washington, MARCH **2**, 1973
**THE** Federal Environmental Protection Administration **has** approved $11,035,500 allocation **to** start construction **of** *the* **long** planned Red Hook **water** pollution control plant •

## BULLETIN: HOPE FOR THE RED HOOK PLANT

When President Nixon nearly halved the amount allotted for water purification projects, the state realized it could fund only 25 of the proposed projects. Red Hook was twenty-eighth on the list, with Coney Island, Owls Head, and the Newton Creek projects, all in Brooklyn and others in other parts of the state ahead of it.

However, in what appears to be a major victory for city water resources officials, the Red Hook water pollution control plant has been advanced to top priority. The news is being treated with both elation and skepticism by South Brooklyn and Carroll Gardens residents, who are directly affected by the festering Gowanus Canal running through their community—elation because it could mean the beginning of a clean-up that should have started at least 30 years ago when the Canal became polluted, and skepticism because such promises have been made before and never fulfilled. No one is quite ready to believe it until they see the money, and the state won't put up money any longer without a firm Federal commitment, since it was never reimbursed by Washington for its outlays under the previous bond issue.

Red Hook was by far the most ambitious facility for which $233.8 million was asked. Over the years—planning started 10 years ago—estimates of construction costs have escalated, and it is now estimated that the entire project, including a series of interceptors, will cost close to $300-million.

In order to ensure action on the project members of city, state, and Federal environmental protection agencies met on January 25 with the Ad Hoc Committee to Clean the Gowanus Canal. Discussion centered on the first-priority



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Red Hook Sewage Treatment Plant needed in order to remove the primary source of pollution in the Canal.

Government representatives advised the community group that no one agency controlled the Canal—responsibility was divided among city, state, and Federal agencies. Further appeal to the Commissioner for the Federal EPA was recommended.



Newly-elected State Senator Carol Bellamy and State Assemblyman Mike Pesce, who campaigned on the Gowanus Canal issue, warned that continued and intensified community support is vital to secure action on the project. Not only Carroll Gardens residents but also those in Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Park Slope, and Boerum Hill are urged to add their weight to the protest.

Overall rehabilitation of the area would naturally follow the cleaning of the Canal, dredging being the next necessary step after sewage treatment is established. The area has been allowed to deteriorate for years and has become underutilized. Schools, parks, theaters, and industry could be brought into the plan and, most importantly, they would provide impetus for new housing and rehabilitation of present housing in the area.

Eileen Dugan, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, anticipates that a group of local residents will go to Washington to lobby, notifying Congressman John Rooney that they expect him to meet them, to present their requests to Congress.

## GARDENING INDOORS *Continued from page 11*

Foliage plants are less demanding than flowering ones. Most common houseplants flourish under artificial lights—coleus, ferns, ivies and vines, prayer plants, piggy-backs, peperomias, Chinese and African evergreens, holly, wandering Jews—the list is almost endless.

Herbs, too, grow well under artificial light. Small leaf basil, chervil, winter savory, marjoram, and rosemary are a few possibilities. These may be grown in the kitchen, but beware of gas ranges—the fumes tend to kill not only herbs, but most house plants.

*Recommended reading:* **Gardening Indoors Under Lights** by Frederick H. and Jacqueline L. Kranz, The Viking Press 1971; **House Plants** and **Gardening Under Artificial Light**, both booklets available through the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn 11225. Order by name and number—numbers 40 ($1.00) and 62 ($1.50), respectively.

—*B.A.*

## ACTION ALERT *Continued from page 15*

EPA Office to determine whether your state has applied or anticipates applying for this authority.

Those permits chosen for first attention by these states and EPA will be selected from a list of the worst polluters in the country, a list totalling about 2700 dischargers nationally. EPA estimates that about 6-10 permits per state will be issued during this interim period.

The state and the Regional EPA Office will work closely to determine the conditions of each permit. "Tentative determinations" or draft permits will then be drawn up by the states for each discharger. A public notice will be sent out by the state water pollution control agency of the intent to issue a permit, describing the name and location of the discharger. You then have 30 days in which to comment on the conditions of the permit, the effluent limitations proposed, the schedule of compliance and the monitoring requirements imposed on the industry. Most of the first round of permits will also announce a public hearing to be held within 30 days of the issuance of the public notice. EPA has determined that the permit program will have better potential if this first round of permits are all accompanied by a public hearing.

All public notice should therefore state the intent to issue a permit and the date, time and place of the public hearing. It should also contain the phone number and address where all permit documents can be examined and reproduced. In addition fact sheets outlining the tentative effluent determinations, schedule of compliance, and monitoring requirements should be available upon request by phone before any public hearing. This fact sheet will give you a summary of the permit conditions and will allow you to make a judgment on the adequacy of the proposed permit. This document will be absolutely vital to any layman's analysis of the permit and should be required of any permit the state proposes to issue.

Many states intend to issue a notice of public hearing for several permits at once. This means that citizens may be faced with thirty days to prepare analysis for 6-10 permits for the same public hearing. You should request that the state hold a separate hearing for each permit to allow citizens to adequately prepare for putting forth their views. In addition, Section 402(b) (3) of the Act requires a state permit program (in the final delegation by EPA) to include a public hearing provision before

## ROMNEY *Continued from page 37*

country without a crisis. The American people have not learned the honest limitation of the political process in solving problems."

"ruling on *each* such application." (emphasis supplied.)

The state will hold the public hearing and after taking into consideration comments made at that hearing, will issue the permit. Most states will try to issue their permits before the mid-March deadline. Public hearings will be conducted according to the rule for each individual state. Often the hearings will be joint state-EPA events to allow close cooperation and supervision by EPA.

In the event that EPA does not approve any state's intentions concerning any individual permit, the agency has the right to veto the permit and, thus, prevent its issuance.

**Conditions Of The Permit**

Great controversy has arisen over the conditions of the first round of permits. The confusion has arisen in part because of some murky language in the new Act and in part due to confusing directives from EPA. Although EPA is clearly granted the authority to issue permits itself now and to grant the authority to the states to issue permits now, the Act does not require the final promulgation of the effluent requirements defining "best practicable control technology" until October, 1973. Other effluent requirements required by the Act for new sources of pollution, toxic pollutants, municipal waste treatment plants, etc. are also not required to be defined until well into 1973. The Act does state that until these effluent requirements are published, the permits must be designed to carry out the purposes of the Act.

In light of the above potential for confusion it would seem most consistent with the intent of the Act to issue permits for a short term basis and revise them once the final effluent guidelines are developed. However, EPA has stated that these permits will be issued for the full five-year term and will not be revised during that period. In order to carry out the purposes of the Act the permits must either provide for the achievement of "best practicable control technology" or state water quality standards, whichever is stricter, by mid-1977. The definition of "best practicable control technology" has yet to appear and the states and EPA are presently undergoing a revision of state water quality standards to upgrade them to the requirements of the new Act. Thus, neither set of baselines for the issuance of permits is available to the public in a rational, clearcut set of documents.

How are we to know whether the permits the state proposes to now issue indeed require "best practicable control technology" if there are no numbers promulgated as to what this means for each industrial category? How are we to know whether the permit conforms with state water quality standards if these standards are often not sufficiently detailed to allow citizens analysis and are undergoing revision by EPA? As usual, the bureaucrats are asking us to trust them to issue permits that are tough enough to achieve this level of treatment.

The Project has suggested that EPA either (1) issue no permits until final effluent limitations are promulgated; or (2) issue permits for a short term whose revision would depend on the final promulgation of these guidelines. EPA has apparently rejected this view. We now find ourselves faced with several hundred permit notices being sent out around the country with no logical explanation readily available to the public as to where the numbers in these permits came from.

There do exist some documents to guide EPA and the states. EPA has prepared draft determinations of "best practicable control technology" for many industrial categories. However, the effluent limitations outlined in these draft documents have not had enough rigorous analysis to be considered final determinations. Although they are available to the public, they are not published in any official way. You should request a copy of these Effluent Guidance Documents from your Regional EPA Office.

EPA policy has been stated as follows in a memorandum to the Regional EPA Offices by John R. Quarles, Jr., Assistant Administrator of EPA on December 27, 1972: ". . . you should select dischargers (for permits) where receiving water conditions will require more stringent abatement than the best practicable technology standard and sufficient data is available to indicate the degree of abatement necessary to be consistent with the achievement of water quality standards. You may also, on a limited basis and with Headquarters approval, select other dischargers where the best practicable control technology standard is expected to govern and our interim effluent guidance is sufficiently thorough and solid to give a high degree of confidence that a permit can be written that will not be materially inconsistent with effluent guidelines subsequently issued."

**What Can The Public Do?**

Given the somewhat confusing situation outlined above there are a number of things that concerned citizens can do that will insure the proper implementation of this program. As usual it will be up to the public to hold our state and federal officials accountable to the intent of the Act. +

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+ Public participation is strongly emphasized in the Act. Section 101(e) states:

"(e) Public participation in the development, revision, and enforcement of any regulation, standard, effluent limitation, plan, or program established by the Administrator or any State

## ACTION ALERT

*Continued from page 51*

First, call your Regional EPA Office and your state water pollution control agency and request to get on a mailing list to receive all public notices concerning permit issuance. Also request a copy of the Effluent Guidance Documents from EPA. Find out whether your state (under the "interim" authority) or the Regional EPA Office will be issuing permits in the next few months.

Second, make sure that whoever issues the public notice provides for ready access to a fact sheet by telephone describing the proposed permit and provides for a separate public hearing for each permit application.

Third, analyze the proposed permit from the following point of view:

A. If the permit is based on the achievement of state water quality standards, the effluent limitations should be more strict than those outlined in the draft Effluent Guidance Documents (allow less pollution).

B. If the permit is based on the achievement of the best practicable control technology standard, the effluent limitations in the permit should approximate the Guidance numbers.

Fourth, at the public hearing you may want to satisfy yourself as to the basis for the numbers in the permit. If you are dissatisfied with the explanation of where the numbers came from, you may wish to oppose the issuance of the permit altogether on the basis that not enough data is available to insure that the discharger will conform to the requirements of the Act. You should request that any permit issued require the discharger to comply with any stricter limitations subsequently published by EPA.

Fifth, you may be sufficiently concerned about the state's procedures in issuing these permits and the proposed effluent limitations of the permits to oppose the issuance of *any* permits in your state under the "interim" delegation. If you would like further information concerning such a stance, please do not hesitate to contact the Project on Clean Water.

Sixth, contact the press and other environmental organizations in your community and state and alert them to what is happening. Generate as much public concern about the issuance of these permits as you possibly can. This will hopefully force the state and federal agencies to comply with the provisions of the Act.

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under this Act shall be provided for, encouraged, and assisted by the Administrator and the States. The Administrator, in cooperation with the States, shall develop and publish regulations specifying minimum guidelines for public participation in such processes."

## NEW EXPERIMENTAL HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

The FHA office in Hempstead, N.Y. has undertaken a new experimental program designed to provide FHA with a market for its foreclosed buildings, help stop the abandonment and foreclosure of more buildings, and aid low-income people in buying their own homes. Mr. Mazzocci of the Property Management Department said that the program had been underway for approximately two months and about 30 buildings had already been sold. This program, the only one of its kind at present, is specifically limited to owner occupancy of purchased buildings. FHA-owned buildings within the boroughs of Brooklyn, the Bronx, and some areas of Staten Island are eligible for sale under the program.

The mechanics are as follows: Anyone interested in buying an FHA-owned building located in the areas described above should send a letter to the Hempstead office with:

1) the complete address of the building,
2) a statement guaranteeing that the interested party would buy the building *as is*,
3) a statement guaranteeing that the interested party would make *full* repairs of the building to the satisfaction of the local governing body,
4) a statement guaranteeing that, upon completion of the repairs, the purchaser would *occupy* the premises.

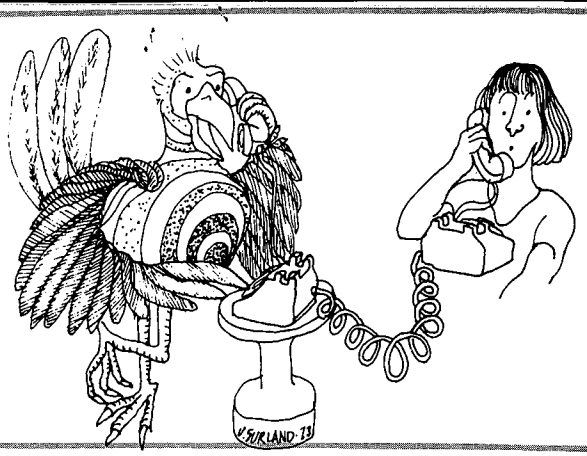
Upon receipt of the letter, FHA will inspect the building to determine the cost of repairs and arrive at the residual value of the building. (This is the appraised value of the structure in repaired condition, minus the costs of repairs, broker's commission, closing costs, etc.) The residual value is the non-negotiable sales price. These buildings are ineligible for FHA reinsurance. At the signing of the contract there must be a $200 earnest money deposit, with 30 days to close. Non-profit groups can participate in the program if they buy in bulk (more than one building) and guarantee owner occupancy.

Mr. Mazzocci pointed out that he was not in charge of this program and therefore did not know all the details. Any further inquiries should be made *by mail* to:

Mr. Shady
Federal Housing Administrator
175 Fulton Ave.
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

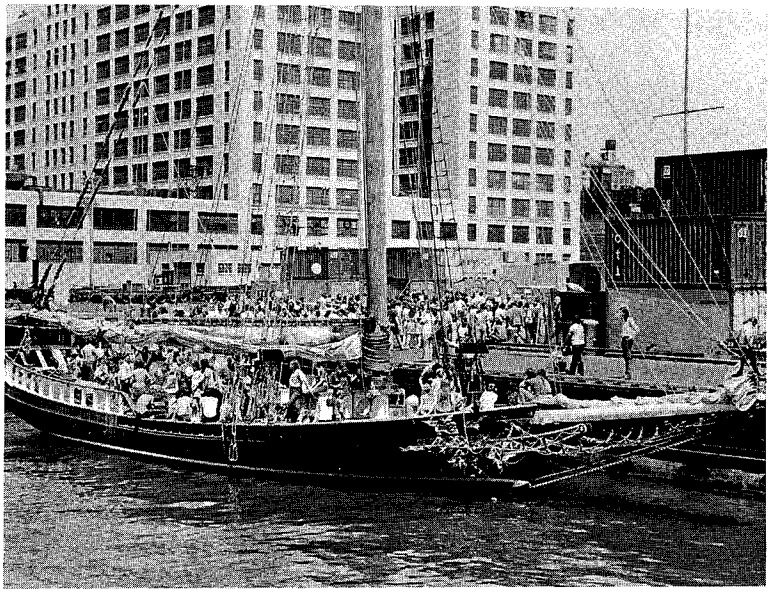
## DIAL-A-BIRD

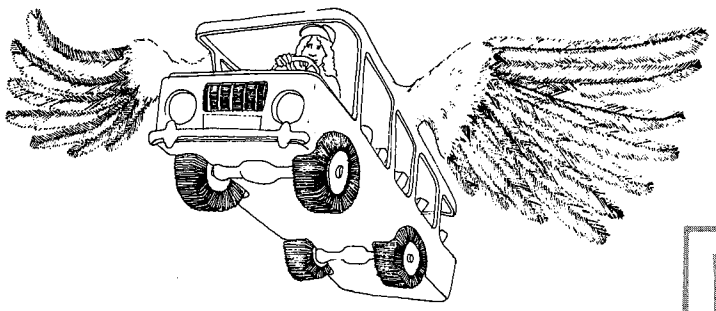
New Yorkers can now dial 832-6523 and learn what unusual birds have recently been spotted in the NYC metropolitan area. One recent report described sightings of boreal chickadees, northern shrikes and two snowy owls. Any amateur bird watcher can phone in a report. In NYC call Tom Davis 847-0860. Even non-bird watchers can get a lift by dialing the report. It's comforting to know that somewhere among or beyond the skyscrapers there are birds on the wing.




## WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

South Brooklyn, a waterfront community without a waterfront area, showed what it could do if it had one. Last spring the Ad Hoc Committee to Save the Waterfront and the Pratt Center sponsored a waterfront festival on the loading area of Pier 6 at the foot of Atlantic Avenue. The area assumed a bazaar-like atmosphere with smoke from roasting Near Eastern and Puerto Rican specialities drifting across the hot asphalt jammed with children, and escaped balloons flying high above the shipping machinery. There were stalls selling shish-kebabs, chuchifritos, health foods, plants, macramé and candlemaking material, environmental causes and politics. Bluegrass and rock music kept things swinging while the ecological sloop Clearwater docked at the pier highlighting the day-long fete. The sloop, a sailing lobbyist for reclamation of the Hudson River Valley, operates as a floating classroom. A sign said "Don't Wait to be Asked Aboard," and no one did. Children and adults overflowed on the decks asking all sorts of questions about the sloop and learning about the environment.






## BUSES TO LINK AIRPORTS

By next June you can stop fuming and raging every time you and your luggage have to transfer between the terminals and parking lots at Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark airports. Twenty-four special intra-airport buses with extra wide entrances and exits, extensive baggage capacity and seats all around the perimeters will be ready to serve you. The new vehicles will accomodate 25 seated passengers and 25 standees.

## NORTH BROOKLYN RESIDENTS TO GET MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

A community mental health program designed to provide continuity of care from hospital admission to community return has been launched in North Brooklyn (Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Bushwick, and Cumberland) for its residents through a federal grant awarded to Kings Park State Hospital. Members of the community service will investigate and aid particular case problems, provide assistance and information in emergencies, and follow up patients by house visits. Working primarily with adults, the service aides are responsible for providing families with information or the available medical, social and housing facilities in the North Brooklyn communities. The project is designed to provide follow-up care of patients which could allow for early release, thus decreasing the work load and freeing the hospital staff for regular programs.

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