

a quarterly newsletter - directory of by and for people who are participating in transformation - people who are changing the world by changing their own lives - people who are adopting alternative technologies.

no. 54 SEPT 1988

TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK FOR APPROPRIATE/ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

A.T. CONCEPTS

THE TRANSITION

ECONOMIC GROWTH IS THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS which confront industrial society say Edward Goldsmith in *The Great U-Turn: De-industrializing Society* (Green Books, Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon U.K.; £6.50). Goldsmith, long respected for his environmental writings, holds that technology can only solve problems created by technology. Technology and industry mask the symptoms of social, biological and environmental problems making them continually worse. Masses of material being ripped from the earth and processed though the industrial system all finally ends up as pollution poisoning our homes and the planet. Human needs can be met in a sustainable system which provides human satisfaction. But that means abandoning our current concept of economic wealth and recreating a social/economic system which provides *real* wealth.

THE ALTERNATIVE NOBEL PRIZE SPEECHES are now gathered together in one book *People and Planet* (Green Books, Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon EX39 6EE U.K.). Petra Kelly, Amory and Hunter Lovins, Bill Mollison, Hassan Fathy, Manfred Max-Neef, Patrick van Rensburg, and Rajni Kothari are only a scattering of the people who have been honored by the Right Livelihood Foundation. Here is a broad spectrum of ideas and actions all 28 of which show that there is hope and that you are not alone in working toward a better world.

FUTURISTS FEAR FOR THE ECONOMY even more than for the environment according to the *Future Survey Annual 1987* (World Future Society, 4916 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda MD 20814 USA). This abstract of books and articles published over the last year indicates growing concern with homelessness, hunger and poverty in the industrial countries as well as the Third World. Escalating health costs, the population explosion, neglect of children, and economic instability in almost all nations will exacerbate the current situation. Nuclear annihilation, and AIDS are still among the top four worries while coming back into 5th for concern was the pending next oil crisis.

LEST YOU BE CARRIED AWAY BY A U.F.O., be channeled by a New Age spiritualist, or were born under an unfavorable alignment of the planets the Committee for the Scientific Investigations of the Paranormal (CSICOP) has a flood of books to set you right and draw the line between fact and fancy. Many of these are listed by Prometheus Books (700 East Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14215 USA).

BIO-DYNAMIC AGRICULTURE

TRANET's A.T. Directory #55 will list organizations, apprenticeship programs, courses, communities, publishers, and products connected with Bio-Dynamic Agriculture.

MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD

It is time for you to network again. TRANET #56 will contain the 1988-89 the Members' Bulletin Board, individual's visions for the future, offers of aid, requests for assistance, or other message. Send in your 50 to 75 message for this coming issue.

GOVERNANCE

INDIAN ROOTS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (American Indian Program, 400 Caldwell Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853 USA; \$12.00) — here, at last, is an open discussion of the Iroquois Great Law of Peace which became the American Constitution. The Indian's league for peace sprang from a metaphysical understanding of the universe which recognized the unity of all life and non life within mother earth. Under this metaphysics each individual became a being only to the extent that s/he served all other beings. And tribes within the confederacy fulfilled their purpose to the extent that they served the confederacy and the confederacy served the earth mother. The American Founding Fathers recognized, at least in part, the power for peace of the Indian Constitution it may be time to revive the deeper understanding of peace inherent in the Native American culture.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF GLOBAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATES is the initiation of their most ambitious plan yet. Partners for World Order Alternatives (GEA, 475 Riverside Dr., #456, New York NY 10115 USA; tel:212-870-3290), to be formalized in the Fall of 1988, is to bring together in one transnational network all the people's initiatives in all parts of the world seeking world peace. Gerald Mische, co-founder of GEA with his wife Pat, argues that all leaders are caught in a national security straightjacket which must be dismantled if peace is to be won. Denouncing one another's role within this mesh is self defeating; PWOA will be a network to announce the alternatives. GEA envisions creating a multi cultured, multi issued, grassroots world movement.

YOUTH COOPERATE FOR A BETTER WORLD through Life-Link Foundation (c/o Uppsala UN-Association, Dag Hammarskjöld Library, POBox 644, S-751 27 Uppsala, SWEDEN). Youths of 15-16 years old all over the world will write three minute Radio/TV commentaries on the world they want to create to be read Oct 24, (U.N. Day). Other projects and international meetings for youth will be held during 1989 and 1990. To start send a postcard with your name and address and brief message to the above address in Sweden.

DEVELOPMENT

SMALL MAY BE BEAUTIFUL but in 20 years of appropriate technology development few small scale technologies have been used beyond the center that developed them. But there are notable successes which can tell us what's been missing from other attempts at local self-reliant development schemes. Among the success stories are: forestry in Swaziland, stoves in Kenya, micro-hydro in Nepal, fishing boats in South India, cement plants in India, small industries in Ghana, and small grain production in Botswana and Zimbabwe. These seven case studies make up the latest book edited by Marilyn Carr Sustainable Industrial Development (ITDG Publications, 103/105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH U.K. or ITDG/NA, 777 U.N. Plaza NYC 10017 USA). The studies all show that the design of the technology is a small part of its introduction into a social system. Too often government efforts favor the expansion of medium or large scale technologies over local developments. Bilateral donor agencies often tie their aid to purchases from the donor country. Even "appropriate" technologies developed in one country are inappropriate to another. And, cultural characteristics sometimes prohibit the spread of a technology which does not fit with the communal life of the society. This book, along with Frances Stewart's Macro-Policies for A.T. in Developing Countries (Westview Press. 1987), does much to initiate a new phase of A.T. development and show that small is possible.

The massacre of 14 Tikuna Indians by lumbermen in the state of Amazonas, BRAZIL has brought an action alert from the Union of Indigenous Nations (UNI, Rual Ministro Godoi, 1484 S/57 Perdizes Sao Paulo Brasilia DF BRAZIL). The killings were over the rights to harvest timber, and destroy the homelands of these tribal people, and incidentally to destroy further the rainforests vitally needed by all life on Earth to clean carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. UNI urges your letter to Exmo. Sr. Jose Sarney (Presidente da Republica, Palacio do Planalto, 70000 Brasilia DF BRAZIL) to protest the killing of the Tikuna people and to urge the arrest and punishment of the murderers and the protection of the forest from exploitation by the lumber companies.

The Pope's travels to various countries can, at times, serve to sanction and fortify repressive governments. However, during a trip to CHILE, neither the Pope nor the foreign media could ignore how the reality in the streets contradicted the official government propaganda. According to the May issue of *RED de recursos de communicación alternativa* (cimca, Apartado 5828, La Paz BOLIVIA), the young people shouted their opposition to the dictator Pinochet at the top of their lungs: "Brother Pope, carry off this tyrant!"

EUROPE

What's ahead for GREAT BRITAIN? Edward Goldsmith and Nicholas Hildyard have asked 35 green thinkers to answer the question in essays produced as *Green Britain or Industrial Wasteland?* (Polity Press, Dales Brewery, Gwydir St., Cambridge CBV1 2LJ U.K.). While there is much to be pessimistic about as indicated by the titles of most of the essays e.g., "The Loss of Productive Land," "Soil Erosion in Britain," "Food Additives," "Asbestos," "Dirty Beaches," Radiation and Health," "Down in the Dumps," and "Dirty Water Under the Bridge," many of the writers have a hopeful side showing what can be and is being done both within the Green Party (formerly the Ecology Party) and through growing concern within the mainstream.

Local Economic Developers in **GREAT BRITAIN** keep in touch with one another and new ideas through the Local Economic Development Information Servis from the Planning Exchange (186 Bath St., Glasgow G2 4HG U.K.). 750 members benefit from the research and consulting service as well as the monthly digests and weekly bulletins of new ideas and publications.

Fur farming in FINLAND produces environmental problems discussed in *Yaihtoehto Ydinvoimalle* (EVY, Pursimiehenkatu 29 A, FL-00150 Helsinki, FINLAND). It seems that the concentration of wastes, manure, urine and animal carcasses, is more than the environment can absorb. Nitrogen runoffs pollute the streams, ground water is endangered, evaporation of nitrogen threatens thousand of acres of coniferous trees, and fur farmers poison birds attracted to the wastes. Other articles in this environmental newsletter (in Finish) tell of the struggles to keep the area nuclear free; describe unique recycling fairs where people leave unwanted items and pick up items they can use with no exchange of money; and urge a limit on consumerism.

A correspondence course from **GREECE** is offered by Emmanuel Petrakis (POBox 23104, Athens 11210 GREECE). He is now searching for a publisher for, *The Key to Cosmic Connection*, the book he has written to help bring on a life enhancing world community.

Environmental protection has become a new priority for foreign aid from GERMANY. *D&C*(Hans-Böckler-Strasse 5, D-5300 Bonn 3, W GERMANY) reports the growing population is putting a disastrous stress on the global environment and for the good of all must be put in check. But concentration on population control alone cannot reverse the misuse of our resources. Efforts must concentrate on better magagment of soils, groundwater, forests, and grazingland world wide to make it possible for any of us to exist in the future.

NORTH AMERICA

Abortion is decriminalized in CANADA by a February supreme court ruling that guarantees women the right of safe and legal abortions reports *Open Road* (POBox 6135m Stn G, Vancouver BC V6R 4G5 CANADA). Other Canadian news reported includes the stay of execution of several

hundred wolves in British Columbia, and the introduction of fine art in the Laundromats of Vancouver.

BIOREGIONS

ANCIENT EARTH WISDOM AND MODERN SCIENCE will meet Sept. 8-II in Davis California at the Spirit of Place symposium (The Institute for the Study of Natural Systems, POBox 637, Mill Valley, CA 94941; tel:415-383-5064). Jointly sponsored by the University of California Extension Service and the Institute, the symposium will bring together speakers from Polynesia, Asia, and Africa with Native Americans and attorneys, scientists and environmental activists to examine the modern relevance of an ancient concept.

Esperanto

This column is provided by intertalk: 3610 W. 6th St. *537, Los Angeles CA 90020 USA. Founded in 1985 by Bernice Garrett and Max Brande, Intertalk has set a goal that the world shall adopt a world language by the year 2000. An information packed and a free 10-lesson postal course are available from Intertalk.

ESPERANTO EXHIBIT is planned for the annual meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, (ACTFL, POBox 408, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706 USA) November 17-23 1988, in Monterey, California, USA. It will feature more than 200 sessions and workshops; many special events, including a computer Software Fair and New Products Showcase, and over 100 exhibit booths displaying all the latest foreign-language materials and products.

AUTOMOBILOJ: La Internacia Esperanto-Klubo Automobilista (IEKA) celas plivastigi sian agadon helpi voja^gantajn esperantistojn; samtempe ^gi prilaboras automobilistan terminaron. Pliajn informojn donos la sekretario, Julia Guillaume (66 Village de Grasse, F-78810 Feucherolles, FRANCIO).

"LANGUAGE POLICY AND A JUST WORLD ORDER", Alternatives Vol. XIII, No. 3, July 1988, discusses an issue, central to the development of a just world order. This issue is, "What Language is to be used in the rapidly developing global community?" Available from Ronald J. Glossop, (8894 Berkauy Ave., Jennings MO 63136 USA)

ALL-PACIFIC ESPERANTO CONFERENCE AND AUSTRALIAN ESPERANTO CONGRESS in Brisbane, Sep. 11-20, during the time of EXPO 88. Tours to visit the Great B arrier Reef, Sydney, and New Zealand as well as Brisbane —from Sep. 9 to Oct. 2 have been arranged. Call Esperanto Travel Service (587 Grand Ave., Oakland CA 94610 USA; (415)836-1710)

INTERMOUNTAIN ESPERANTO GROUP annual congress will be held in Tempe Oct. 7-9. Contact Diano Giannini (461 N. Orlando Circle. Mesa, AZ 85205 USA).

ESPERANTO-BIBLIOTEKO "Ramon Molera Pedrals", Palau, 17; E-08180 Moia (Barcelona) Hispanio. Kolektas ^ciajn malnovajn Esperanto-revuojn, kaj gazetojn. Kiu povas helpi min per vendado au inter^san^gado de mankantaj numeroj?

ALL-ESPERANTO WEEKEND, Oct. 7-9 in Westminster Woods (Russian River Area) Write the Berkeley Esperanto League, (POBox 324 Berkeley CA 94701-0324).

WORLD CONGRESSES: the 74th World Congress of Esperanto, Aug., 1989, will be hel in Brighton England. The 75th-a World Congress of Esperanto, Aug., 1990, will be in Havana Cuba.

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION annual meeting, Dec. 27-30, in New Orleans will include Esperanto sessions about "Esperanto Literature: A Question of Culture?", led by Dr. Ian Richmond, President of the American Association of Teachers of Esperanto, (66 Naomee Crs., London, Ont. N6H 3T5 CANADA).