

THE ALMANAC

by Derek Shearer

Although American Documentary Films—once the Movement's largest distributor of political films—folded recently, there are still a number of organizations which distribute films of interest to people concerned with social change.

- **Tricontinental Film Center**, 244 West 27th St. New York, N.Y. 10001, (212) 989-3330. Films about the Third World—features as well as documentaries. Obtaining additional films from American Documentary. Free catalogue.

- **New Day Films**, 267 W. 25th St., New York, N.Y. 10001, (212) 675-5330. Building up a selection of feminist films. Free catalogue.

- **Impact Films**, 144 Bleecker St. New York, N.Y. 10012, (212) 674-3375. List includes the Felix Greene and Edgar Snow films on China. Free catalogue.

- **Films for Social Change**, 5122 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63108. Films on black liberation, the counter-culture, and corporate irresponsibility. Free catalogue.

- **Newsreel**, 322 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001, (212) 564-4930. Films on women's liberation, the Movement, the Third World. Free catalogue.

- **American Freedom from Hunger Foundation**, 1717 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, (202) 382-6772. Publishes a 44-page catalogue listing over 100 films and their distributors. About half deal with poverty and development in the U.S., and the other half with the Third World. Catalogue costs \$1.50.

- **Association-Sterling Films**, 866 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 935-4210. Clearinghouse for corporate and other educational films. Lists and distributes hundreds of films. Has regional distribution offices in 11 State. Ask for free catalogue of "Free Loan Films."

- The **DC III Film Library** has a

News of political work, including publications, films, slide shows, etc., should be addressed to Derek Shearer, RAMPARTS magazine, 2054 University Ave., Berkeley, California 94704.

film called DC III made with **Vietnam Veterans Against the War**. The film is a 25 minute documentary on the Vietnam Vets' "limited incursion" into Washington, D.C. in Spring 1971—one of the high points of the antiwar movement. (Write: DC III Film Library, 267 West 25th Street, New York, N.Y. 10001, (212) 675-5330.)

The current issue of **Cinéaste**, a political film quarterly, is devoted to **radical American film**. In addition to feature articles, this excellent publication has film and book reviews and regular listings of important film festivals, symposiums, etc. Subscription rates: \$3 per year; single copy, 75 cents. (Write: Cinéaste, 244 West 27th St., New York, N.Y. 10001. (212) 989-3330.)

Another new important film publication is **Women & Film**, published by a group of radical women who "are taking up the struggle with women's image in film and women's roles in the film industry." Published tri-annually. Subscriptions cost \$2 a year; single copy, 75 cents. (Write: Women & Film, 2802 Arizona Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404.)

Radio Free People, another Movement media group, sells radio tapes and cassettes. Their wide selection of recordings includes readings by radical poets, on-the-spot news reports, and important speeches and interviews. (For their free catalogue, write: Radio Free People, 133 Mercer St., New York, N.Y. 10012, (212) 966-6729.)

The **Source Collective**, mentioned in a previous column, last year produced a still-useful guide to "Communications," which includes detailed listings of publications and organizations in the areas of film, TV-video-radio, periodicals, and community communications. Copies are available at \$1.75 each. (Write: Source, P.O. Box 21066, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 387-1145.)

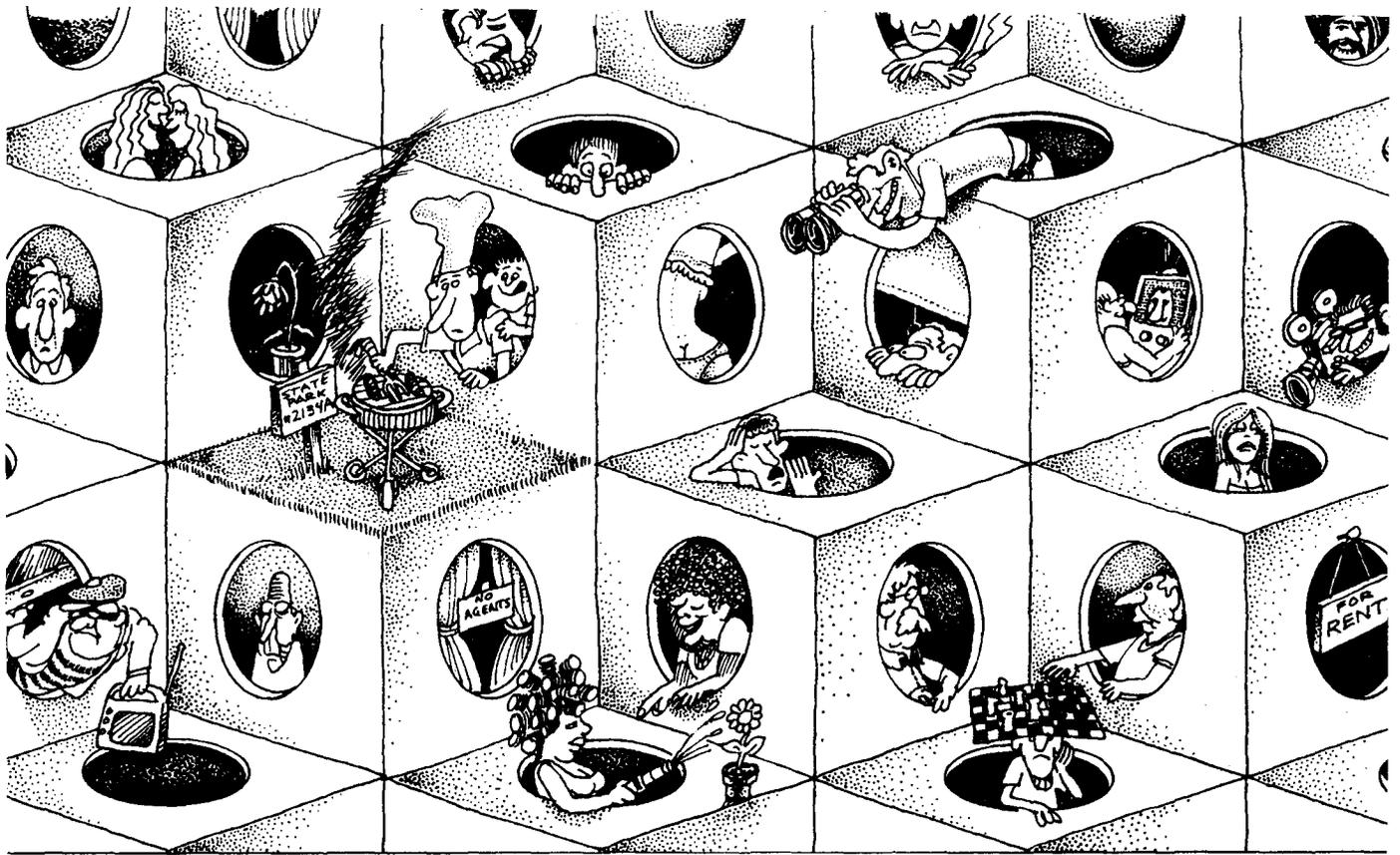
Many changes are occurring in the field of education, but it's sometimes difficult to make sense out of apparent chaos. If after having read such critics as John Holt, Paul Goodman or Jon Kozol, you still feel bewildered about what to do, read **School is Dead—Alternatives in Education** by Everett

Reimer. Now available as a \$1.95 Doubleday Anchor paperback, it is the clearest statement I've read about the sort of educational set-up we should strive to build.

In addition, a subscription to **Ed Centric**, a journal of **radical educational change**, will serve you well. Recent issues have included reports on Campus Free College, Los Angeles' Open Space Program, Communitas College, and other alternative approaches to education. Edcentric regularly lists new books, films, tapes, pamphlets, conferences and bibliographies. Recent contributors include China expert **William Hinton**, child psychologist **Robert Coles**, and **Jose Angel Gutierrez**, founder of **La Raza Unida Party**. Subscriptions cost \$5 a year (8 issues); a sample copy, 60 cents. Recent special issues on "Women in Education," "Drugs in Education," and "Chicano Education" are available for \$1 each. (Write: Ed-Centric, P.O. Box 1802, Eugene, Oregon 97401, (503) 343-0810.)

There is a growing movement to make science serve the public interest rather than the priorities of corporations and the military. Recently a small group of scientists established the **Center for Science in the Public Interest** in Washington, D.C. This non-profit, tax-exempt organization publishes a regular **newsletter** (a donation of \$5 or more gives you a year's subscription) and **special reports** on such topics as the food industry, gasoline additives, and the highway lobby. The center also locates scientists for groups needing expert advice. (For more information write: CSPI, 1779 Church St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 332-6000.)

The largest and most active organization of politically oriented technical people is **SESPA—Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action**. SESPA has over 50 chapters in the U.S. and abroad, and publishes an informative magazine titled **Science for the People**. Regular membership in SESPA costs \$10 a year or more, or less—according to what you can afford—and includes a subscription to the magazine. (Write: SESPA, 9 Walden Street, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130, (617) 427-0642.) ■



BRAVE, NEW CITIES

by Thomas Morton

Man and His Urban Environment: A Manual of Specific Considerations for the Seventies and Beyond, by Fred Smith and others. (64 pages, Nov., 1972)

Although the name Fred Smith seems lackluster enough, Laurence S. Rockefeller does not, and he is the one who sponsored the 150-man project behind this "manual" and wrote an introduction for it. It's the word Rockefeller, discretely placed, that strikes the eye. Actually, this is not a manual at all, as manual suggests "hands" and therefore something that most of us can use. The lowly earth dweller may purchase it for \$2.00, but it is really the voice of corporate academia directed to federal compatriots from the high reaches of skyscraperdom. The message is most likely for Nixon and his bicentennial reign.

This manual (the result of nearly three years of selective brain picking in several countries) does not set out to solve major urban problems.

This beginning is disingenuous. One hundred and fifty international advisers and no solutions proffered? Are we to believe that in 1972 social analysts have become so irresolute? No, there actually is a game plan to solve the ugly ills of urban life. The task "calls for congruent planning, a growing together and a coordination of planning on all the major fronts that touch on human needs." The plan: create a city, a New Town pilot project, a total "management system . . . to work out the bugs" before going on to more totally conceived and engineered cities and finally "rescuing existing cities."

The apparent models for the pilot project are New Towns in Europe, and especially Britain, although the report does not analyze the strengths and weaknesses of such models. Nor do we see any consideration of what cities in the past approach the "liveable" conditions and criteria these planners seek. Consequently one has the sense of men striking out in frontier fashion with contemporary projections but little sense of history, and naturally

one wonders this time around who stands to lose in such technological and social pioneering. The answer is probably all of us.

The American version of the New Town would, roughly outlined, 1) Set up a non-profit Public Corporation (in the report's Madisonese, "We might go down the Public Corporation route") having the power to condemn and acquire land, issue bonds and finance construction of a New Town. Its initial Board of Directors (the "we" above) would include friendly appointees by Nixon and the planners, technocrats, lawyers and appropriate big businessmen close to the drawing board. Once the town is stocked with about 150,000 franchised citizens (which will take more than a decade), the Board will become the town's permanent "Management Group" presumably controlled by local government. 2) With \$75 million federal seed money, purchase 21,500 acres (about \$3500/acre) around a rapidly growing host city, like Atlanta. Sixty-five hundred acres would be set aside as greenbelt open space with the remaining 15,000 acres revalued at \$20,000/acre and leased for residential purposes in economically stratified neighborhoods and for industrial and commercial use. A fundamental position