Peter Staten, Urban Conservator of the City of Seattle and past president of Capital Hill Community Council, has fought long and hard for livable neighborhoods. He, along with a few other architects and lawyers, worked literally years to have ordinances adopted by the City Council that could improve zoning, in particular the process by which neighborhoods can have some control over what goes on in them.

As Director of the Office of Urban Conservation, he oversees historic preservation and landmarks designation, and is in touch with various special review district boards, but it's doubtful that he has forgotten his experience in developing goals and policies for Capital Hill, and the fight to have them ratified by the community and the city.

He is an indefatigable worker, and has a great way with words. Come hear him.

The second draft of goals and policies for Eastlake will also be presented and discussed.

Remember Earth Day, which we in Eastlake celebrated a few years back? Well, it has been transformed into something called FOOD DAY, the purpose of which is to call attention to undernourished nations, and undernourished families and individuals right here. It is also a call to people to think about where their food comes from, whether organically grown or not, and think about how as communities or individuals we can deal with food shortages. The date is sometime in April. More later.

Another aspect of Earth Day/Food Day ethos is what can be done with what we don't use. Councilman Wayne Larkin is currently working toward using the garbage that we toss out for the manufacture of ammonia gas used in industry. If you want to find out more about the plan, and how you can help, call Kathy Shreve, Acting Director of this project, at 583-5792. It isn't clear what we can do, but community support for the project certainly wouldn't hurt.

If you are looking for an inexpensive evening of great music, it is the time of year for senior student recitals at the UW Music School. They're free and usually very good.

What do you think of the streetend parks?
There was a full house at the Spaghetti Potluck thrown by the Central Seattle Community Council Federation for two national redlining experts, Mrs. Gale Cinicotta and Mr. Robert Cuttner. Mrs. Cinicotta is from Chicago and head of a national organization called Neighborhoods First. She explained that there has been no cohesive national policy on city neighborhoods, and what policies the federal government has had only promoted suburban sprawl and the subsequent deterioration of city neighborhoods. Neighborhoods First was organized to try to get a neighborhood policy on the platforms of this year's political candidates. Mr. Cuttner is Sen. Proxmire's legislative aide and was instrumental in writing the disclosure legislation on redlining which recently passed the Congress. Both were invited to Seattle to speak before the Mayor's Reinvestment Task Force.

Before the Mayor's Task Force, Mrs. Cinicotta said that redlining is a manifestation of our throw-away society, and that many people (the banks were not alone) had come to treat city neighborhoods like coca-cola bottles. For a long time, people thought it was only a local phenomenon, but it has been eating away at city neighborhoods to the point where many of our inner cities are dead or dying. Seattle, she said, is exceptionally lucky in that the deterioration has not gone too far. After taking extensive tours around the city, she said that there was probably not a single house which should not qualify for mortgage or rehabilitation loans, particularly in comparison to other cities.

She said that Neighborhoods First had been compiling a list of all the reasons given for disinvestment. The list has apparently become so long and varied, that for almost any house in any city one could go down it and find a reason for denying a mortgage loan. At the Senate hearings, bankers who looked at all the "criteria" said that, boiled right down, it was "a funny feeling in the pit of their stomach." Mrs. Cinicotta stated that this is a lack of confidence in our city neighborhoods that reinforces itself by becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. She said that her visit to Seattle had added a new criteria to the list--the practice of denying loans in "mixed-use" neighborhoods, or those which were not in purely residential zones.

Mr. Cuttner explained the disclosure legislation recently passed in Congress. This legislation requires that banks tabulate by census tract or zip code area, if no census tract is available, where they have given loans and how many applications have been made for loans. One of the difficulties of understanding disinvestment practices has been that few people are willing to stand up and say they've been denied a loan, and it is difficult to establish a pattern of disinvestment in a neighborhood. The legislation has some weaknesses, according to Mr. Cuttner. One is that it does require that banks disclose how much money it is getting from a neighborhood. The other is that applicants are frequently discouraged by the banks or real estate people before they ever apply.

A copy of a report on redlining in Seattle is available from the CSCCF office (322-7100) for $3. The Mayor's Task Force meetings are very interesting and the dates, times, and place of its meetings can be obtained by calling the Federation offices at 322-7100 or the Citizens Service Bureau at 983-2605.

Next issue: some of the creative solutions to redlining and what's happening in other cities.

FEDERATION
FEASTS

The last meeting of the Board of Directors at the Central Seattle Community Council Federation was hit with the resignation of the entire Executive Board and the Interim Staff Director. This was the latest of a series of shocks to the organization, including the withdrawal of United Way funding and the deaths of Darryl Smith and Marcus Byrd.

Mrs. Bernice Moreland, President of CSCCF, said that, in her opinion, members of the Federation were simply not coming to grips with the problems of the Federation and she hoped her resignation would serve as a two-by-four to get people's attention. She noted that in this time of crisis, instead of drawing together, the Federation was falling apart and decisions which had to be made were not being made. She further stated that there were racial and economic problems within the Federation that had plagued every Executive Board for years and which had come to the boiling point this year because all of the executive board was black and female.

The Federation is planning a workshop or a retreat, according to Mrs. Moreland, where it is hoped that people will bring their good will and honestly face their problems in order to find a solution. Mrs. Moreland said she hoped that this retreat could serve as a basis for the creative re-birth of the Federation as a harmonious place for people of all ages, races, and economic background to work together.

"There is something patently insane about all the typewriters sleighing with the beautiful plumbing in the beautiful office buildings—and all the people sleeping in the slums."

E. Fuller
The work of the Task Forces studying housing, economic development, human resources, and community improvements in Eastlake has been completed and the results are now in the hands of four people on the Land Use and Planning Committee—Mark Clemmens, Jim Engrissei, Beth Means, and Mark Rasmussen—who will put their heads together to coordinate the goals and policies as defined by the working committees and individuals’ input. A second draft of the goals and policies will be submitted to the membership and discussed at the next general meeting of ECC which is March 16th (Tuesday), at 7:30 p.m. at Seward School Library, and will be widely distributed in the neighborhood.

Councilman John Miller, who was a guest speaker at our last meeting, said that he was “excited” about what Eastlake is getting into in terms of land use and neighborhood planning. He was asked if the City Council and “powers that be” will pay any attention to the finished product. He replied that “what comes out of the effort will depend on what’s there.” If it is good, “the city council will respond, the mayor will respond.”

The committee is looking toward final adoption of Goals and Policies by the ECC in April or May, so there is still opportunity to make your wishes known. COME TO THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING Tuesday March 16 at 7:30 at Seward School, or CALL Mark Rasmussen 89-0228.

EVEN THE FERNS STARTED IN BOSTON...

Plant fans! My hanging Boston fern has been in and out of its deathbed now for some time. Apparently, ferns do not appreciate neglect like jades do. I have finally hit upon a regime which has resulted in fernlets and other green happenings.

First, misting. If you don’t like to do it, get a cactus, not a fern. And, use an actual plant mister, not an old windex bottle. The old windex bottles not only give you mister’s cramp, but they also burn the leaves because the drops are too big. I got a plastic (Cole’s) plant mister, set it on fine spray, and misted like crazy until water started to run off the leaves. Fern loved it.

Mist every evening, putting a few drops of fish fertilizer in the water every 2 weeks. Don’t mist much in the morning (and never with fertilized water) as you will get burned leaves. Put your fern to bed at night in a nice cool place.

Water each morning by dropping an ice cube or two in the pot. This keeps the soil evenly moist and has the added benefit with hanging pots of not dripping water all over the joint.

Fertilize monthly when the fern is putting out leaves (though not so much mid-winter when it’s resting.) Ferns like full sunshine in winter, partial sunshine in summer. And they LOVE Mozart.

Beth Means

HOW TO REPUDIATE A BURGLAR

The Community Crime Prevention Program is a federally funded project designed to reduce the incidence of residential burglary. Under the auspices of the City of Seattle, the program offers free property identification, a home security check and the services of a community organizer to assist neighborhoods in establishing a neighborhood block watch program.

Community crime prevention is based on the premise that neighbors working together can achieve a decrease in burglaries. The block watch program brings neighbors together to discuss the why’s and how’s of burglary prevention under the guidance of a trained volunteer, the block captain. The block captain accepts responsibility for developing a map with names and addresses of residents, circulating marking pens and advising neighbors on security precautions within their own homes. If residents are interested, the block captain may invite speakers on the criminal justice system or issue a newsletter.

Special engraving pens or block light pens are used to mark valuable property using a driver’s license number or Washington State identification number. The purpose of marking property is two-fold. First, fences rarely accept marked goods and secondly if police recover valuable items, the number can be traced back to the rightful owner.

A home security check advises residents on which locks, latches, doors, and windows are most effective in deterring potential burglars. The aim is to educate residents on methods to protect one’s home and possessions; the program does not sell devices or recommend brand names.

The Human Resources Committee is working on getting a speaker from the Program for one of our meetings soon, so you will be hearing more about it. Joanne Fullen
In January I went on a nature-oriented expedition to the Pacific coast of Baja California. My son pushed me into it: he'd heard on the radio that the Science Center was sponsoring a trip to observe the California Gray Whale, and knowing my passion for whales, he said, "Ma, this is your trip."

Our little band numbered 32, all but four from Seattle. We were flown to San Diego, where we embarked on a 105-foot charter vessel, QUALIFIER 105. We had four "leaders" who would lecture us nightly on the flora and fauna of the places we would visit the next day, and the captain and crew made three more.

No luxury cruise, this. There were only a few dolts, like myself, who came out of simple love and curiosity for the mammals we were to see. There were very serious bird people, serious flower and tree people, and serious biology people; I mean, by serious that they knew that they were doing and how to photograph and record it, and being Northwest out-of-door people, they knew enough to bring proper clothing such as boots for climbing. They also knew how to pack and stow their equipment. I couldn't believe that Baja could be cold, or that its terrain could be stony and rock-bound. There wasn't a day that I got on shore with all the needed equipment—something was always missing—my camera, or my tape recorder, or my sun glasses, or my windbreaker. Anyway, I know better now.

We went to San Benitos Isle. You come into a cove on this nearly deserted island, and the first thing you hear is a pile driver. The developers, then, are already here. The Mexican government is putting up a luxury hotel?

No. The pile driver is a lone bull Elephant Seal, thocking away, his ridiculous, immense, huge nose smacking up and down on his teeth and lower jaw to make this noise. He is angry because he doesn't have a harem.

In each little cove, open to the front, closed off by rocks at the back, live a harem of fat seal ladies with their one lucky father-figure, and all their newborn black little pups. When Dad is beating off an invader who freelance have at his harem, he will roll over any pups in his way and crush them to death. There is a lot of carnage in each little cove, and you wouldn't want to get downhill of Dad, for he can go very fast. Picture taking is difficult for this reason. But, at least nature is in charge here and not terrible men with spears.

San Ignacio Lagoon is the next stop; we anchor fairly near shore (it is really more of an inland sea than a lagoon, for the whales must have depth.) There are spouts everywhere; the place is alive with the California Gray. This is thrilling to me, who lived on Nantucket for ten years and never saw even of the good-hearted beasts which have made it a famous island. There are, here, many mothers with many beautiful babies and they are very busy getting about their work, for the babies must grow and get good layers of blubber and be able to swim strongly for the trip to the Bering Sea in late February. They will be electric-harpooned by Japanese and Russian whalers, most of them, so that the sight of them now is doubly beautiful, and heart-rending. In the small boats, we do not get between a mother and child; the mother would be unjustifiably ferocious. They are all too busy with their exercises for us to be bothering them, and I am embarrassed as we dash among them in the noisy skiffs.

Cedros Island, our next stop, has thousands of sea lions. These people enjoy our coming; we have made our day for them. Approaching the first long, sandy cove in our small boats, we think the world's largest cocktail party is in progress. The seals sight us: what! Funny live things out there! And rush into the water for us and all around the skiffs, flitting, splashing, up, down, under, shrieking, barking, and as we progress slowly up the shore, enchanted, we pick up the next cove, and the next, so that we are literally in a sea of the quickest, most graceful bow # of all imaginable.

The last stop is San Martin Isle, which harbors Harbor Seals. This is such an extremely shy group that we had to approach colonies on hands and knees so as to see them at all. A mere sniff of a human and they're into the water, where they feel safer. Hundreds of heads then bob offshore, like great bowling balls with velvety, watchful eyes.

An outfit called Nature Expeditions International organizes trips like mine for those who like education along with great vacations. Prices are reasonable, and the organization itself is faultless. More can be learned about NEI from the Pacific Science Center. As for the Baja trip, the Mexican government has already cut off several islands and Scammon's Lagoon from foreign visitation, and, I understand, will cut off more. This is all to the good; we shouldn't, even in friendliness, be bothering these already harassed creatures. There may not be other such trips to Baja, but the NEI bulletin lists many other fascinating ports of call.

Nelly Cake

(NE is a freelance writer who lives in Eastlake, and thanks to the fact that she is not content to stay in her houseboat at the end of a dock, yet, we’re treated to a glimpse of an unusual trip and some fascinating sea creatures.)
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

New membership________________________ Renewal________________________
If you live, work, or own property in the Eastlake area,
and agree with the purposes of the council, please join us.
$200 individual, $300 family or business.
Name:________________________________________
Address:_____________________________________
Phone:_______________________________________
I would like to work ON _______________________

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