

Memo of the Month

The Population Council OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Females in PC (Park Avenue only)
(See Below)

FROM: ECM

SUBJECT: Contraception

Do you recall in Mary McCarthy's book The Group the scene where one of the girls obtains her first diaphragm, then agonizes over it while she sits on a park bench?

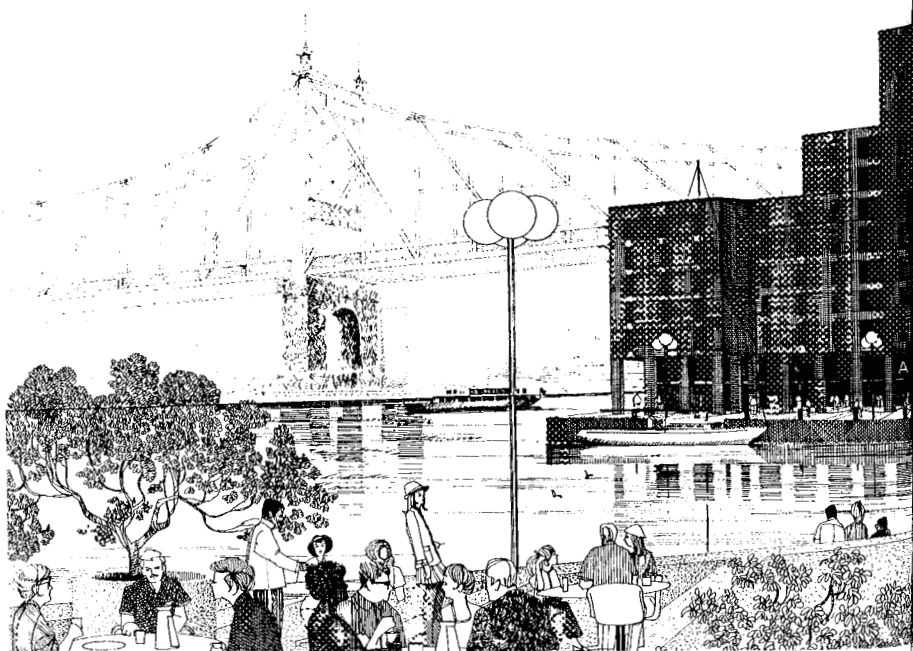
We'd like to collect anecdotes relating to contraception, and I can't imagine a better source than our own office. Send in your tidbits (signed or anonymous, as you will) about getting or using contraceptives. Have you ever found their use embarrassing? annoying? amusing? Comb your memory for a "bit" for our files, won't you?

Distribution:

AB	JG	MMINTZ	LK
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HJ	EP	NW	
SZ	MP	ER	
KC	TB		

PLEASE CROSS YOUR NAME OFF THE LIST AFTER YOU HAVE SEEN THE MEMO.

Renewal in New York: The State Tries Its Hand



by Samuel Kaplan

With our slum clearance program in Southeast Asia diverting billions from domestic needs, most urban development officials, consultants, and academics have an excellent excuse to do what they have always done best about the housing crisis—talk about it. And talk they do, at weekly, monthly, seasonal, annual, and perennial workshops, clinics, conferences, and seminars, whose fees are reasonable and within the limits of government expense account or allow-

able project development costs, or tax deductible; with courtesy cocktails and boxlunch tours by way of a super-highway (probably built at the expense of low-income housing) to the nearest new town, urban renewal project (a downtown mall), or small attractive park where “environment” has been added to the concerns; with afternoons optional for sight-seeing, hustling contracts and grants, or golf; with sign-ups taken for the popular group tours of industrialized housing projects in eastern Europe—little interest having been shown by officials in possible tours of Harlem, Watts, or Detroit.

The agendas also are predictable: fawning introductory remarks by the local mayor, governor, or dean of an urban studies diploma mill that fronts for a “non-profit” consortium of urbanologists who never know where their next grant or research contract is coming from; work sessions chaired by consultants or company representatives flaunting their expertise or pushing their product; a major after-dinner speech by a high-ranking official of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, rich in rhetoric about industry’s new role, the new federalism, and local initiative, but always somehow avoiding specifics concerning time schedules and dollar commitments by the Administration. The sessions are as real as the sketches of fantasy projects that the participants lug along and stand and smile next to for the news photographer in the lobby of the conference hotel.



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