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# CHANGE

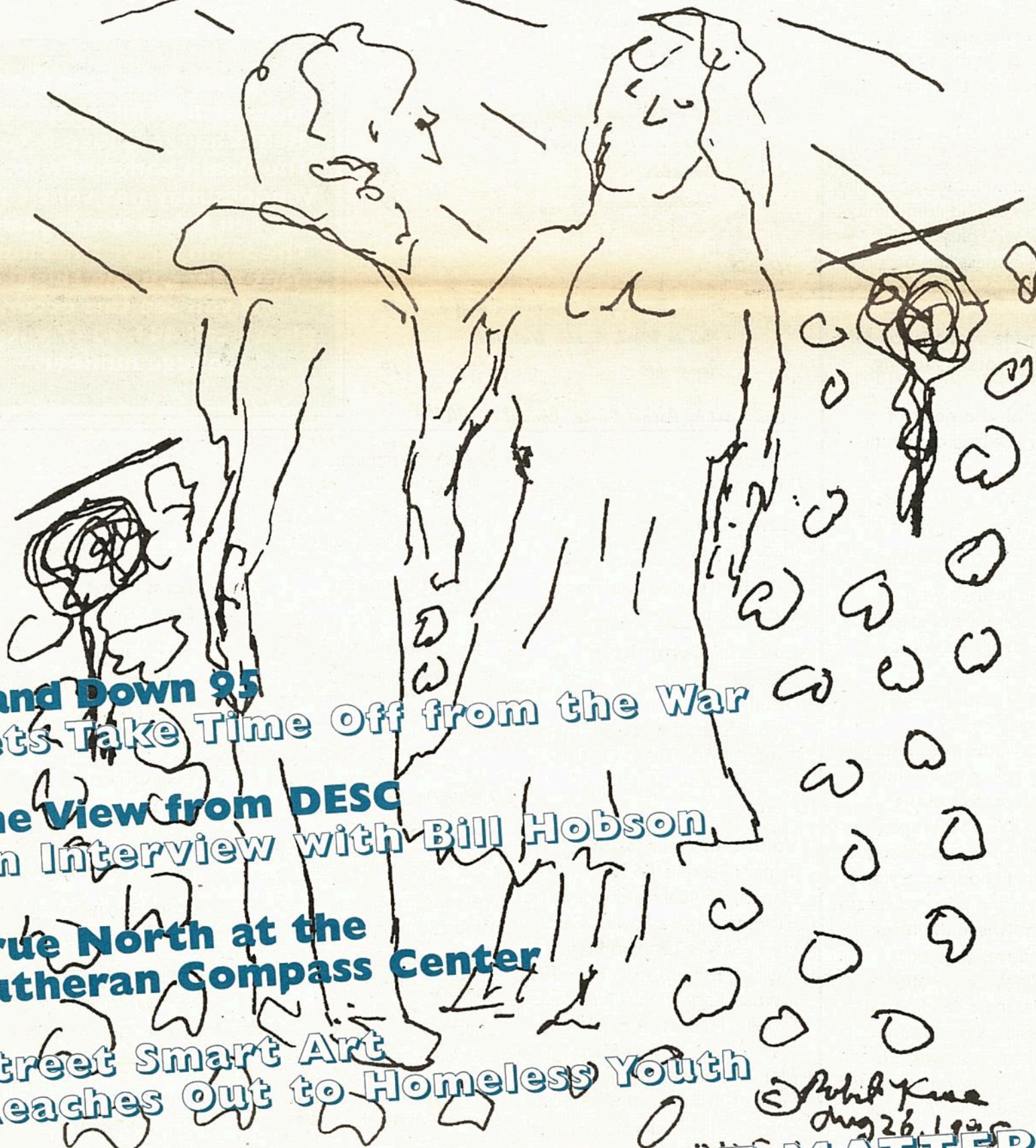
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ALAN PAINTER

*Seattle's Homeless Newspaper*

## SEATTLE COMMONS: THREAT OR MENACE?



**Stand Down 95**

Vets Take Time Off from the War

**The View from DESC**

An Interview with Bill Hobson

**True North at the  
Lutheran Compass Center**

**Street Smart Art  
Reaches Out to Homeless Youth**

**ART, POETRY, STUFF THAT MATTERS**

PURCHASE FROM BADGED VENDORS ONLY!



**Real Change**  
is a  
non-profit organization  
and  
is a project of  
**The Pike Market Senior  
Center/Downtown  
Food Bank.**

Real Change is published the 1st of each month, and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Submissions are encouraged and should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247. Fax (206) 728-9108. Email HN4921@handsnet.org.

Articles should be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Subscriptions for one year (12 issues) are available for \$35, and help to support Real Change.

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Real Change vendors receive 75¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Organize, educate, and build alliances to find community-based solutions to homelessness and poverty.

#### Goals

- 1.) provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.
- 2.) publish the views of marginalized communities.
- 3.) create direct economic opportunity.
- 4.) build bridges with a broad range of allies in the struggle against poverty.

#### Editorial Policy

Articles appearing in Real Change reflect the opinion and perspective of the author. We encourage the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction, poetry and artwork, and hope to create a forum where the many perspectives that exist regarding poverty and homelessness can find expression. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit any material for length and style. Articles considered libelous or which encourage violence, sexism, homophobia, or racism will not be considered for publication.

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**badge number.**



# Deciding on the Seattle Commons

Proposition No. 1, which asks taxpayers to support the \$312 million Seattle Commons project, is a hotly debated issue. The Sept. 19 levy would supply an immediate \$100 million to the project, with other state, federal and private contribution filling out the rest. But what does the Commons project actually include?

The Commons was first proposed in 1991, and the project was developed by the nonprofit Committee for the Seattle Commons, a group of about 50 civic leaders and 300 volunteers.

The heart of the Commons is a 61-acre park, a two-block wide green area stretching northward from Denny Way to Lake Union. The two square blocks of Denny Park, between Ninth and Dexter avenues north and Denny Way and John Street would also be included in the new park.

The "Mercer Mess," heavy slow traffic on Mercer Street between Seattle Center and Interstate 5, would be addressed with alterations to the roadways of the area. Mercer would be made three lanes wide in each direction, lowered about 7 feet and made to cross beneath the new park and other roads, eliminating traffic lights for a direct connection to and from the freeway.

The city expects to spend about \$7 million to relocate the 130 businesses in the park's path or that are affected by street improvements. Should businesses refuse to sell, the city could force them to move through its power of eminent domain.

The area surrounding the new park, which currently consists mostly of light manufacturing, warehouses and parking lots, would be a mixed-use residential and commercial "urban village." Commons supporters are

optimistic that over the next 30 years, about \$2.5 billion in private development would include enough housing for 12,700 people and the creation of 17,000 new jobs in the larger "study area" from Interstate 5 to Seattle Center and from downtown to Lake Union.

There are currently 1,700 apartments in the Commons study area. None is in the actual proposed park site, but it is expected that increased development and subsequent higher property values will force many residents to move.

Mayor Norm Rice has promised to replace and increase the amount of low-income housing around the new park. City policy calls for more than 5,000 new multi-family housing units north of Denny, situated mostly around the park. The city claims it will try to set aside 20 percent of all new housing construction for low-income families — low income being defined as those earning up to 80 percent of the median income, which is about \$40,000 annually for a family of four.

Despite the expected increase in population in the area, the Commons plan includes no requirements for parking. Rather, city officials say they hope people will be encouraged to use more public transit, car pooling and walking.

Tied to the Commons vote is \$11 million for the construction and renovation of 28 Seattle athletic fields located at parks and schools.

Should the project vote pass, backers hope to dedicate the new park on July 4, 2000, though construction would be likely to continue until 2004.

—by Jim Massey

## A Field of Schemes

What's wrong with the proposed Seattle Commons, it's just a park, isn't it? It's important to understand that there's more to this project than a park. The larger intent of this plan is to "transform" the South Lake Union Cascade neighborhood into an upscale new urban village, using the park as a front lawn for luxury apartments and condominiums.

**Matthew Fox**

Build this \$400,000,000 plus gift to the private sector, they say, and the developers will come. Truly a "field of schemes".

The Commons proposal will accelerate the ongoing devastation of Seattle's market rate affordable housing. The Cascade neighborhood is our city's last downtown residential area with reasonable rents. 80% of its housing units are currently accessible to lower income people, typically renting for \$200-\$400 a month. These are market rates, which means that anyone can come in and find reasonably priced places to live.

Commons supporters say that building the park will cause land values to double or triple. Affordable housing programs, according to the city, would follow suit and increase rents to the \$400-\$700 range. This is a recipe for gentrification, pure and simple.

The Commons scheme offers Seattle's taxpayers (and yes folks, renters pay property taxes too) a scenario in which \$100,000,000 in public subsidies would be required to maintain the "affordability" of

20% of the units proposed. Of that, \$37,000,000 would be needed to preserve 664 existing unsubsidized units.

The ballot title for Seattle's Proposition 1 states that the September 19th Commons Levy will "preserve affordable housing". Read between the lines, however, and you'll find that there's not one penny for low-income housing in this levy. It is misleading for Commons supporters to suggest otherwise.

Cont. page 14

## Managing Growth

Why am I, a below median income resident living in South Lake Union Planning Area, voting yes on the Seattle Commons?

I want increased opportunities for downtown living for all income levels and I want a public green space downtown.

Growth in the greater Seattle area

**Patty Borman**

in the coming years is inevitable, but the past practice of allowing growth to spread, vertically from the outskirts of the city, in the form of shopping malls, tract homes, and congested commuter highways is not.

I believe that the Seattle Commons is a proposal that presents a progressive solution to urban sprawl. It asks us to change our present compartmentalized way of organizing the city, separating residents, businesses and industries into different areas, to one of integration.

The Seattle Commons is not just about a park, but also about a plan for a mixed-use neighborhood. This means that the zoning will be changed to allow new residential development alongside light industrial and commercial development. The neighborhood will be retrofitted in a way that encourages people to live in the city by providing open space, lake access, green streets, and bicycle and pedestrian paths. Jobs and retail stores will be within walking distance, making it easy to get along without a car.

The success of rezoning Belltown, favoring residential development, demonstrates that people do want to live in downtown. Without a doubt, as the park takes place, there will always be nostalgia for what was once there.

For five years I lived in the Brewster, an apartment building in Cascade, a neighborhood in the South Lake Union Planning Area. The Brewster stands tall in a sea of parking lots. Staring out my

Continued page 15



"MOM, CAN YOU ASK THEM TO EXPLAIN AGAIN HOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BENEFIT FROM THIS?"



## MAILBAG

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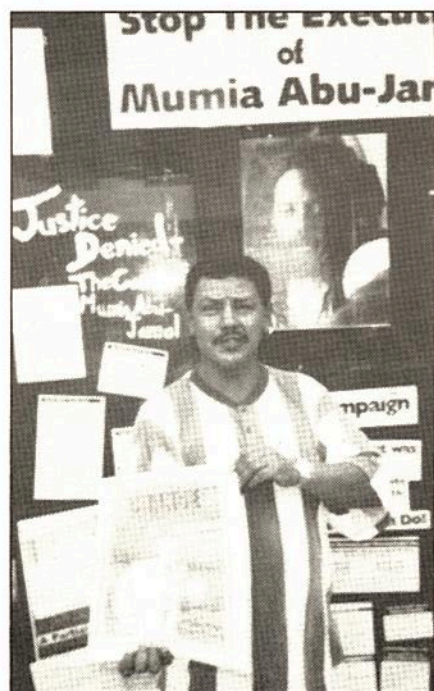
Dear Real Change,

Enclosed is a small contribution to help celebrate your birthday. It would be more, but I'm on disability; my father's death in November provided me with some money, and I am trying to spread it around a little. I just bought a copy of the August issue and wanted to say a few things about Real Change.

First of all, I buy the paper every chance I get. I've never been homeless, but I know what it's like to lose your job, and lose your ability to make ends meet. As a disabled woman, I consider myself extremely fortunate that before I stopped working, I had a long work history, so I could count on SSDI. But I've also had to rely on family and friends, and I think that often a thin line separates people like me who have a place from people who don't.

I've been a political activist for most of my adult life, and have read a lot of alternative newspapers; I remember underground papers from the 60s and 70s. I lived in Berkeley for close to 10 years, and that's a really political city, so there are a lot of folks on the street selling papers. The people I have met selling Real Change are without question the most polite, most courteous, friendliest salespeople I've met. I don't really think that buying a paper for a dollar is that big a deal, but it is clear to me that the appreciation, honestly expressed, is sincerely meant. I'm glad I can contribute a little toward the men and women who are trying to maintain in hard times.

This small contribution is made in the memory of my good friend and ex-lover Bob Sparks. Bob died in Berkeley in April. Bob was a tireless worker for peace and justice; he worked and fought for his ideals 24 hours a day. He was an anarchist, a peace activist, a believer in the beauty of the earth and a fighter for everyone's rights. He fought hard



AUGUST VENDOR OF THE MONTH  
STEVE MARTINEZ.

for the right of homeless folks in Berkeley to live in their vehicles and helped establish a community that was doing that. His contributions shouldn't be forgotten, and in writing this small check, I hope to keep him alive.

Best of luck with your continued success.

Andi Shechter  
Seattle

Dear Real Change,

I've been reading your paper for almost 10 months now and the August issue is probably the most meaningful I've read. First, because it was your anniversary issue. I can't believe you are a year old! Your articles are so well written and the content so organized that I thought you'd been around for years.

Second, the article on Boyd McLaughlin was fantastic. One of the works you photographed touched me so that I had to find Mr. McLaughlin to meet the artist and to see if the work was for sale. It took me several days and tons of phone calls, but I finally found the address of Streetlife Gallery and made a trip downtown (I ended up purchasing two of his gorgeous works).

Thanks to *Real Change*, I have not only been able to learn about the homeless community in Seattle, but have also gotten the opportunity to get involved. Buying the papers and helping out individual vendors brings homelessness into a reality. Homeless people are no longer just statistics to me. And now, thanks to your article on Mr. McLaughlin, I had the opportunity to do a bit more and to proudly display his drawings while telling friends about the Streetlife Gallery and *Real Change*.

Kari J. Bero  
Seattle

P.S. For future reference, the

## Vendor of the Month

Eric Anderson, 43, came to Seattle from the midwest in 1989 to look for work. For several years he was able to do construction out of the Millionair Club, but serious problems with his ankles put him in a wheelchair and out of work.

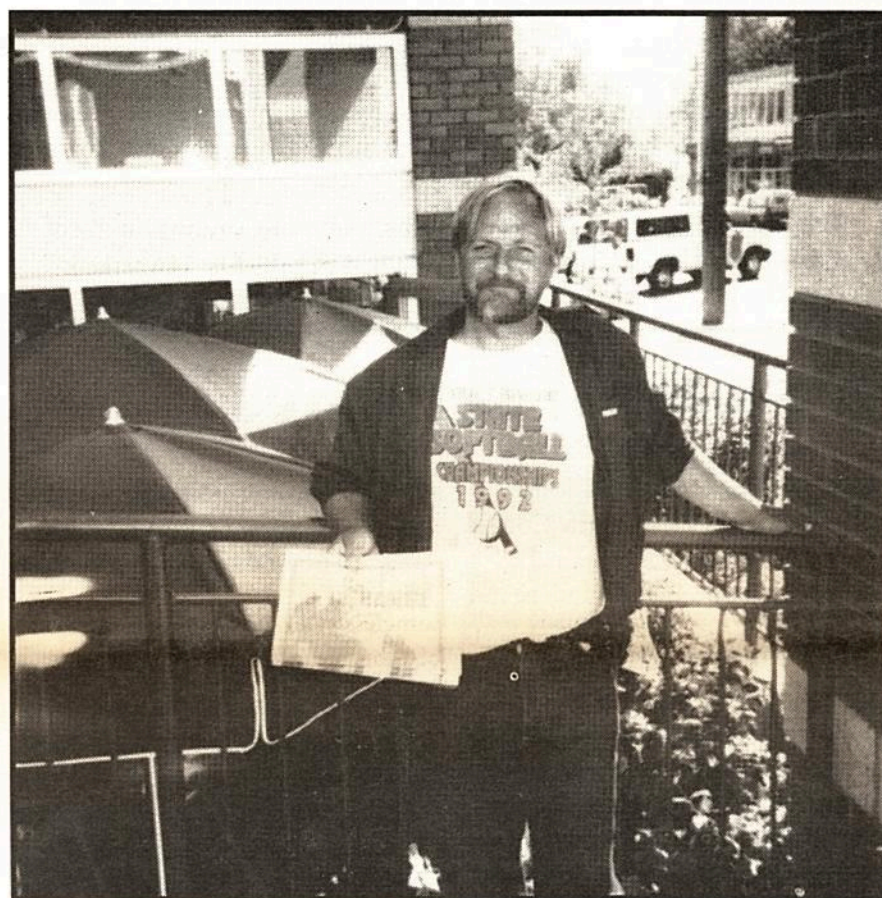
Numerous surgeries have enabled Eric to walk again, but re-entry into the construction field is out of the question. Since Eric began to sell the paper last May, he says, he's been "getting out and active, and when I do that the rest falls into place."

Eric would like to thank the businesses and people of Queen

Anne, and Larry's Market in particular, for their strong support. "People there bring me food, buy the paper, and talk to me as an equal. Selling the paper there has lifted me out of my depression."

"The main thing I get out of the paper is the people. If it was just money, I couldn't do it all day. At first it was hard, because it seemed like begging, but I don't feel that way anymore."

Eric's immediate goals are to "get myself physically and mentally prepared for the responsibilities of life. If I can take care of the basics, the rest will take care of itself."



Streetlife Gallery is located on the corner of Second and Bell. Donations (monetary or art supplies) may be taken there or can be mailed to 2301 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121.

For more information, you can call the Gallery at 328-5637.

WHEN I FOUND OUT I WAS HIV+, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.

SAME HERE. UNTIL I HEARD ABOUT SHANTI'S PLUS WORKSHOP - POSITIVE LIVING FOR US.

I'M GLAD I WENT. IT TURNED OUT TO BE A PLACE TO LEARN ABOUT FACING MY FEARS, REDUCING STRESS IN MY LIFE, COMMUNICATING MY FEELINGS, AND DEVELOPING A SUPPORT SYSTEM.

I LEARNED ABOUT TREATMENT OPTIONS AND CREATING MY OWN PLAN OF ACTION.

AND THE WEEKEND PROVIDES EMOTIONAL SUPPORT IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITH OTHERS WHO ARE LIVING WITH HIV.

DON'T MISS IT!

Seattle Shanti's PLUS weekend: OCTOBER 7-8, 1995  
To register, call 322-0279  
Childcare is available.

at SHANTI caring works!

Shanti is funded in part by a grant from the Northwest AIDS Foundation. Illustration by Neil Vora, Envy-Toons, Seattle, WA. Copyright 1995.



# Stand Down 95

## Local Vets Take Time Off from the War

BY TIMOTHY HARRIS

Cy Glover popped the top off a 22 oz. bottle of St. Ives he'd drawn from his gym bag and took a good long pull while he squinted against the bright sunlight.

The man on the sidewalk was just 19 when he returned home in 1968 from a two year tour of Viet Nam.

"Not a minute has passed without my thinking about it," he said, studying his morning beer. "Last count I killed 185 people. There's a lot more, 'cuz I was on the M-60 a lot. You fire into the jungle, you don't know if you hit 'em or not."

"I'm trying to get more proud. I still feel I did the right thing, but I'm not sure. I know I killed innocent people too and that's where I feel guilt. I think about it everyday. I been through pure hell my whole life."

We stood waiting around the corner from the entrance of the William Booth Center for a van ride to "Stand Down 95," an annual gathering of homeless veterans held this year in a park near Aurora, Washington. Cy was looking forward to being among friends and drying out a little while.

"I've talked to a lot of media and they never print what I ask them to," he complained. "It was all political. If they'd just have let us go in and annihilate them like we had the power to we could have ended that war and saved 30,000 lives."

"The bottom line is that the government doesn't care. It wants to hide what people like me know."

"I see anything related to war now, I fall apart. All of us were kids. I don't know how I made it out. It was like I was in a blackout the whole time, but always alert. I don't

think I'll ever get right."

"I been through pure hell my whole life."

With Viet Nam and two suicide attempts behind him, Glover is lucky to be alive. Luckier than many. While more than 58,000 names are on the obsidian wall in Washington, DC, the names of the more than 100,000 vets who have ended their own lives since the war are not.

"After you've been out on a mission, the standdown is a place where you can relax and recuperate in safety," explained Health Care for Homeless Veterans coordinator Alan Castle. Since the first U.S. Stand Down was held in 1989 as a means of reaching homeless vets, the encampments have become an important means of getting people who often distrust government back into the system.

Roughly 40% of Seattle's approximately 4,600 homeless are veterans. It is estimated that a full one-third of homeless veterans have full time jobs, but do not earn enough to both eat and pay rent.

Event organizer Joel Estey noted that in a tough economy, where new technologies and plant closures create high unemployment, veterans often do not have the up to date and marketable job skills that they need to compete. Substance abuse and mental health issues can make things even harder.

"A lot of homeless vets get separated from the system," explained Estey. "Maybe they see new immigrants getting welfare, and it gives the feeling their country doesn't care for them."

"If you're homeless, you concentrate on surviving. Soon, survival becomes all consuming. The spiral

continues down, and sometimes people get real good at being homeless and surviving and just drop out of society."

"We're here to help people try the system again," said Estey. "We're asking them to give it another shot."

Over the last weekend of August more than a dozen social service agencies set up shop in tents to try and reach the 350 or so vets who attended.

Sleeping bags, fatigues, new army boots, and other clothing was freely dispensed. Haircuts, hot showers, and plenty of food, catered by Common Meals, were in demand. Over 500 cots were available for round the clock, worry-free sleep.

A full-scale MASH unit provided on the spot medical and dental care. A wide range of service providers sat waiting for someone, anyone, to walk into their tent and ask a question.

If a person wanted to get back into the loop, this was indeed the place to be.

Henry Blauberg, a 51-year-old *Real Change* vendor, has been homeless since he moved to Seattle for

work last February after a divorce in New York state. "Suddenly, I realized I was older and on the street," said Blauberg.

"I needed some things and this sounded like a good thing to do," he explained. "I can get clothes, take care of some medical problems, and straighten out my drivers license."

"Guys let things go for awhile, and it's a chance to fix what's screwed up. The government owes us, and it's a chance to get something back."

The company of other vets, said Blauberg, was as much of a draw for him as the services. "It's comfortable," he said. "In Nam I made a lot of close bonds, and it feels good to be with people I have something in common with."

"It's nice to feel like someone cares about you. It's different from being on the street. Makes you feel like a human being again."

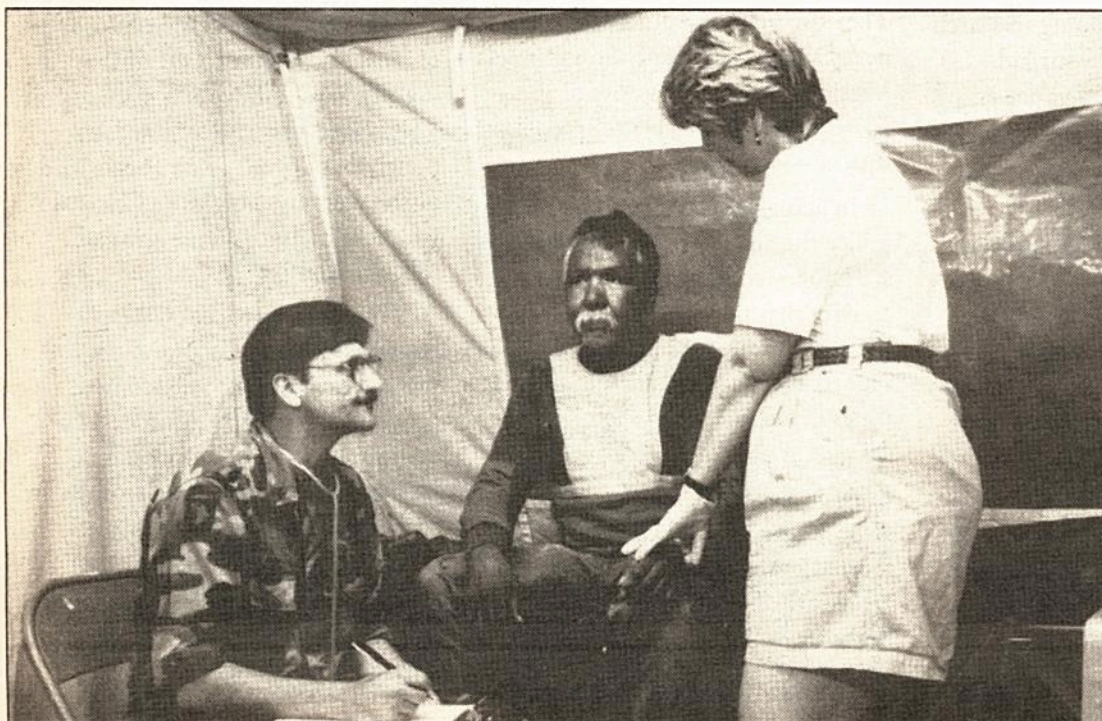
## Even Buddha Cried

[Holy Water—morphine]

He moved among us, the dead and the wounded, crying huge, rolling tears, seeming, through the merciful miasma of the morphine, a great suede Buddha, his bulk finely coated with that damn red dust except where tears and sweat had exposed his own mahogany, except where bright blood had splashed or spit or bubbled onto him. He tended and tubed, bandaged and babied and Holy Watered the rest of the wounded, and tagged and bagged the dead. And then he sat with us to wait for the helicopters which would take us all back in. As he sat, he crooned in that deep, mellow bass. Each of the dead was told, "Godspeed now, young sojah." Each of the wounded was told, "Don' you fear now, ma friend." And all of us, he included, were ignored, as well as could be, by those who were still embarrassingly whole.

The Priorities were hurriedly loaded onto the first wave of ships; the second wave approached. And still he sat, looking from the bagged to the bloodied and back, with the smoke from the still burning ville swirling magically like incense around him, his barrel chest heaving with the force of his tears. The LT touched him. "Doc, that is your flight home. You have done all you can. Go home." Buddha rose to his feet and spread those thick, black arms, encompassing the diorama of death which surrounded us, his face screwed into a grimace, his red rimmed eyes still overflowing. His heart, after a year of cleaning up or packing off too many young warriors thunderously transformed into raw meat, was too full of grief to let him stop. He choked out, "Suh, you tell me now, how am I evah, evah going to find my way home from heah?"

—from "Lost in America," by David Connolly, Burning Cities Press, 18 Center Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

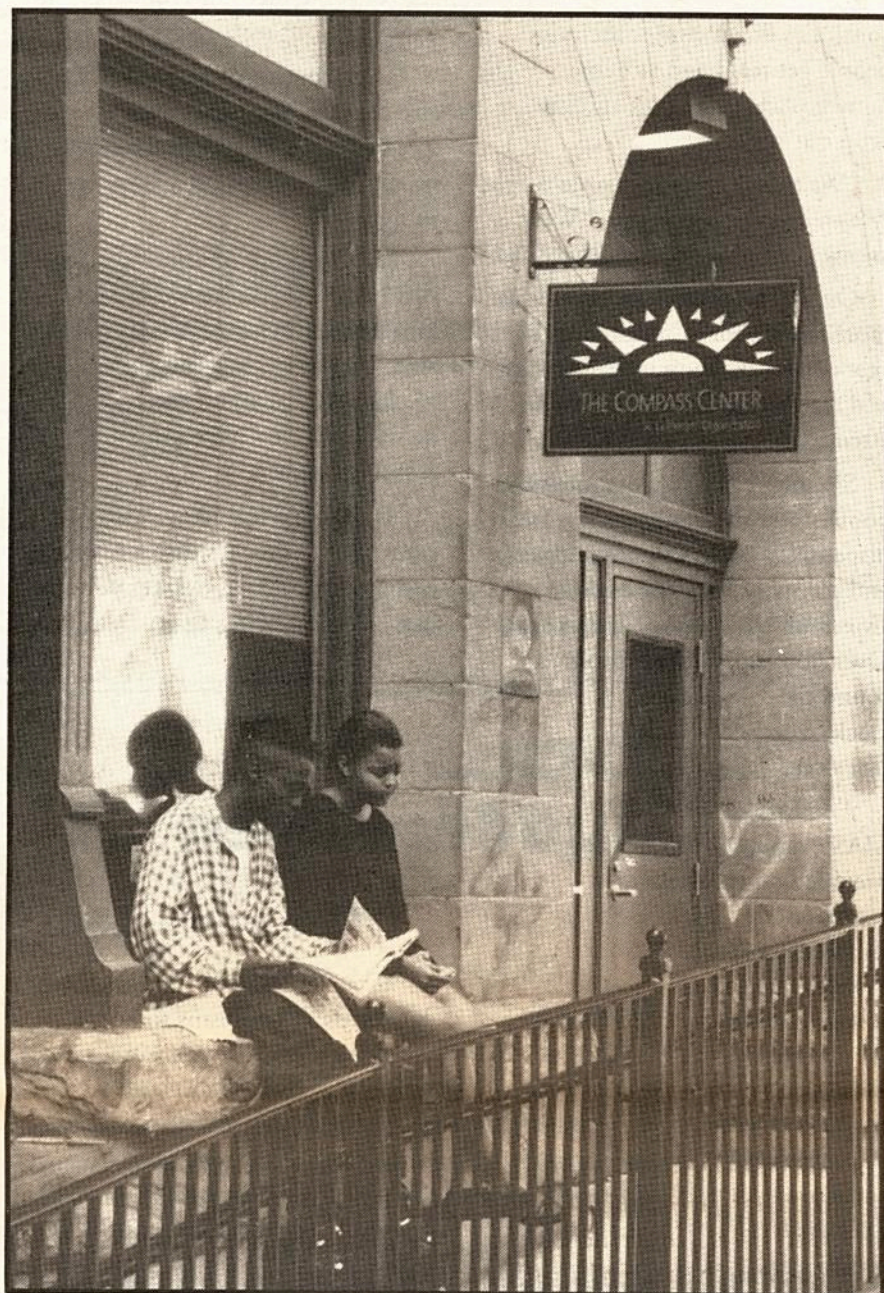


PARTNERS IN HEALTH. A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN AND A NURSE PROVIDE A FREE CHECK-UP AT THE STAND DOWN. PHOTO BY JULIE EAGLETON



# Our Backyard Too

## Lutheran Compass Center is Part of the Solution to Downtown Drug Trade



THE LUTHERAN COMPASS CENTER IS A PLACE OF CARING AND TRUST TO THOSE SEEKING TO GET THEIR LIVES ON TRACK. PHOTO BY JULIE EAGLETON

By JULIE EAGLETON

Recently, Pioneer Square's Lutheran Compass Center received some publicity that the 75-year old homeless shelter could have done without.

The *Seattle Times* ran a front-page banner headline which read, "Mission a Drug Magnet?" The article, prompted by the arrest of 2 men for dealing crack on Compass Center property, called for a get tough policy of searching all residents, and speculated that much of the area's dope traffic stems from the shelter's presence.

Shelter staff and residents say the area's drug trade has little to do with the Center, and that they are already part of the solution. They say that the initiation of punitive policies would undermine the trust that the program is built upon. Since the article was published, the shelter has been flooded with calls of support from individuals and agencies.

Kathy Nelson, a case manager for the women's program, compares LCC's residents to a family. "Let's

say," she suggests, "that you live in a house with your family, and one day, a horde of drug dealers decide that drug central is going to be your front lawn. All of the members of your family must walk through the dealers to get home."

"Does that mean you're going to search your kids and your spouse every night when they come through the front door? 'So what if you have issues with trust, I'm going to search you anyway.' Now, if your kid comes home high, then you're going to take steps...."

Paul Porter, a case manager for the men's program, thinks it's ridiculous to blame LCC's policies for area drug activity. "LCC is not just a crash pad," says Porter, "We are the only shelter here in Seattle that has a whole staff of case managers to get people out of the shelter scene."

LCC currently has 4 full-time case managers to assist residents in doing just that. "If you use drugs," said Porter, "you're evicted. If you verbally abuse the staff, you're evicted. We're doing as much as we

can to prevent and moderate without being a prison."

Richard Reel, a developer who owns several large buildings in the area, has put long campaigned for LCC to change their philosophy. According to Reel, the shelter is a catalyst for drug problems in the area. Reel says he is unable to lease much of his building space because of the surrounding drugs and homelessness.

According to Compass Center staff, Reel's campaign has included letters to the Mayor's office, police, and LCC funders complaining that the Center's guest policies are too lax. It is this campaign, says the Compass Center, that eventually led to the article in the *Times*.

Richard Reel says he is willing to work together with the community to clean up the area, but he still wants LCC to change their policies.

The Pioneer Square District, and more specifically the corner of Alaskan Way and Washington St., has become drug central. Drugs have always infiltrated Pioneer Square, but residents, property owners, and police all agree that in the last six months, drug traffic has escalated tremendously. This makes it difficult for the residents of LCC, some of whom are battling and addiction and trying to stay clean and sober.

### The Real Root of the Escalation

Approximately six months ago the City of Seattle placed two portable toilets on the corner of Alaskan Way and Washington St., right at the doorstep of LCC. Anyone who frequents the area can report that those two portable toilets are the main dealing center for crack cocaine in Seattle.

Jerry, staff security for LCC, says, "The dealers have drifted down. They used to hang out at Pike St., near DSHS, near the Union Gospel Mission, and now, because of the access to these portable toilets, they've moved here."

In actuality, the LCC does a lot to police the area. For example, it is staff policy to report any drug activity that they see or suspect in the surrounding area. Kathy herself reports that she has called in over 20 times in the past few weeks.

The *Times* article referred to a drug bust which occurred July 3, 1995 in the hygiene center of LCC, located in the basement. What the article failed to report was that the bust was initiated by LCC staff. The staff at LCC knew who the dealers were, and initiated action to remove

them from the area and away from their residents.

The hygiene center is located in the basement of LCC, and it provides toilets, showers, laundry, clothing, and supplies, such as shampoo and deodorant.

It is currently shut down and under renovation to improve the facility, as well as to put in a viewing window. The window is needed because access to the hygiene center is straight from the street to the basement, and some dealers have found the hygiene center's back corner a good place to deal. When it reopens, the visibility will be improved.

The city has posted a "Drug Free Zone" sign above the portable toilets. However, the city refuses to move the portable toilets. A police officer that regularly patrols the area admits that the portable toilets have greatly increased the drug traffic.

The officer reports that most of the activity that used to be up on 3rd and Yesler has moved down to this corner in the last six months. "Eventually there will be displacement here as well," he adds. Although the officer states that drugs have always been a problem for the entire Pioneer Square Area, he says that it certainly shouldn't be blamed on LCC.

### Shelter with a Difference

The LCC houses 91 people, with 27 in transitional housing apartments. There are two women's facilities, one for domestic violence victims, and one for those in recovery. There are two men's transitional homes as well, both for recovery. There are 34 staff total for the facility, many of whom are residents or former residents of LCC. The staff also includes case managers, who are available to residents.

The LCC has a basic philosophy of trust and dignity. Out of that dignity, says staff, comes self-esteem. "These are women that are completely bent over," Rev. Fergin said of the women's program. "How do you help them to stand up again? - through dignity."

The programs at LCC help people to stay clean, and to get their lives back on track. The women's program is set up as a home, with bedrooms, a living room, and a kitchen facility where the women are responsible for buying their own food. In the center are the case managers and counselors, which the women are required to see every four days for goal setting.

*Continued page 15*



# Tenants Rights At Risk

## Just Cause Eviction Ordinance To Be Weakened

**A**s Lead Organizer at the Tenants Union, I am often asked to compare Seattle and other cities on the topic of tenants' rights. With neither rent control nor housing court, Seattle seems to lag behind other cities with large tenant populations. Sad but true, I say, but at least we have the Seattle Just Cause Eviction Ordinance (JCEO).

### Jon Gould

A just cause law is a renter's suit of armor, providing essential protection from the abuses and biases that exist in the rental housing market. The foundation of all tenants' rights laws, a JCEO protects tenants from retaliatory or arbitrary evictions by requiring a "good cause" before a tenant can be evicted. Because fear of losing one's housing prevents many tenants from asserting their rights, all the other rights and remedies for tenants are nearly meaningless if tenants are not protected from unjust evictions.

Currently, there are eleven "good causes" that a landlord can use to terminate a tenancy in Seattle. The causes were carefully crafted to be a barrier to protect innocent tenants and to allow landlords to evict trouble makers.

This month, the Seattle City Council will vote on a proposed overhaul of the JCEO sponsored by Housing Committee Chair Sherry Harris. Hastily introduced and politically motivated, the overhaul

contains measures that will so weaken the ordinance that it will become a toothless, ineffective law. The proposal would add seven additional reasons for eviction and relax the requirements on many existing causes. No longer a suit of armor, our JCEO would allow all the abuses it sought to prevent when passed in 1980.

The motivation for the overhaul of the JCEO comes from political pressure applied by the Apartment Association of Seattle & King County (AASKC). For the past three years AASKC has lobbied the Washington State Legislature to pass a law (HB 1256) that would make the Seattle JCEO and other local tenant protections illegal. Years of progress toward fair treatment and safe conditions for tenants would be reversed if HB1256 passes.

Thwarted at the State level, AASKC now seeks to erode the law at the local level by convincing elected officials that the JCEO protects drug dealers. This erroneous claim gave rise to the proposal to allow a landlord to evict a tenant based only on the allegation of criminal activity. In truth, drug-related activity enjoys a separate status from other criminal activity and is already evictable under a three-day nuisance notice. A conviction is not required.

Another proposed change to the JCEO would add an entirely new "good cause" for eviction: sale of a single family house. Currently, Seattle owners have the right to

show a rental for sale and make improvements with the tenant still in occupancy. Allowing landlords who merely "elect to sell" the power to evict would create a massive

policy should be limited to specific solutions to proven problems. This legislation fails to match solutions to problems and carelessly offers sweeping changes that threaten the

**"No longer a suit of armor, our JCEO would allow all the abuses it sought to prevent when passed in 1980. Years of progress toward fair treatment and safe conditions for tenants would be reversed if HB1256 passes."**

loophole in the ordinance.

An owner could decide to sell as a pretext to evicting a household for a retaliatory or discriminatory reason or to circumvent a city ordinance such as the Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance. After eviction, the owner could decide to re-rent to different tenants.

Families and shared households would suffer most, as single family dwellings are often the housing most affordable for such renters. Other cities and states (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and New Jersey) with just cause laws recognize the potential for misuse and do not allow eviction for sale of a house.

Seattle's Just Cause Ordinance is good public policy. It is inexpensive, effective, and easy to understand. Changes to any effective public

intention of the ordinance to provide a fair standard for evictions.

In response to this threat to fairness and stability for Seattle's renters, the Tenants Union proposed our version of a JCEO that will protect innocent tenants and give landlords mechanisms to evict trouble makers. In addition, we propose penalties to deter landlords from violating the law and compensation for tenants who are wrongfully evicted.

A vote is expected soon, so please call your Seattle City Council members at 684-8888 and declare your support for the Tenants Union's proposals for a strong and fair JCEO. For more information, call us at 722-6848.

—John Gould is Lead Organizer at the Seattle Tenants' Union

## Hope Restored

### Pacific Hotel Scheduled to Open in October

**A**bout three years ago a building stood vacant, a building that at one time was bustling with activity, a building that housed over one hundred people in downtown Seattle. After sitting empty with no apparent plans for restoring it to housing,

### Todd Filer

Operation Homestead, a local advocacy group, brought light to the dark hallways.

They were able to gain access and occupy the building this started the negotiations that eventually enabled Plymouth Housing Group to purchase the building with plans to

completely renovate it and ensure the 100+ units of housing were dedicated for Seattle's homeless and low-income people.

As plans grew closer to reality Plymouth was able to work with SHARE to use the building as a temporary shelter until construction began. SHARE not only used the building as shelter but also assisted Plymouth in cleaning the building and salvaging items for other buildings. SHARE was able to use the building for eight months until construction was underway, now, almost a year later, Plymouth Housing Group is preparing to re-open the Pacific Hotel.

The Pacific Hotel is a 112 unit

building dedicated for low-income persons. 75 of the units are Single Room Occupancy rooms (SRO). These rooms are specifically for persons who are homeless or in transitional housing. Rent on the 75 SROs is based on a person income, a tenant pays 30% of their income towards rent. The remaining units are mainly studio apartments and will rent out for around \$375 per month. The construction is currently on schedule and should meet the deadline of opening in early October.

Plymouth Housing Group started taking applications on August 28th, they may be picked up and turned in at the Gatewood Hotel on 1st and

Pine until the Pacific Hotel opens. Plymouth expects to begin interviewing people around mid September with the plan of moving people in early in the month of October. Each SRO comes furnished with a bed, dresser and small table as well as a microwave and small refrigerator.

It is exciting to see a new project that specifically provides housing for Seattle's Homeless people, as well as preserves housing in downtown Seattle that is so desperately needed. Plymouth Housing Group would like to thank all of the persons and organizations that have made this project possible.



# About This!

## Sitting Ordinance Inspires Satanic Piles of Bureaucratic Nonsense

The satanically inspired "no sitting" ordinance was on the receiving end of another legalistic jack hammering as members of the Displacement Coalition, their supporters, and one very sharp attorney from the Lawyer's Guild chipped away at Mark Sidran's anti-homeless law.

### John Hoff

As you probably recall with delicious glee, the Displacement Coalition has swamped the city of Seattle with hundreds of "applications to sit on the sidewalk."

Seattle's city government in general and City Attorney Mark Sidran in particular have become a laughingstock as the Displacement Coalition wages a relentless "paper assault," demanding and obtaining costly hearings about the right to sit, forcing hundreds of applications to be processed by city employees who have been described as "overwhelmed" by the paperwork.

Naturally, these constitutionally ignorant concubines of Lucifer have rejected all our applications, though Street Use director, Kirk Jones, has publicly admitted to "misplacing" some of the applications between his frequent and extended taxpayer-funded vacations. The city's rejection and mishandling of our applications only serves to create new opportunities to exploit the routine appeals process the evil sitting law back into court.

Some months back, a benevolent and wise Superior Court judge ordered the city to establish clear written standards for granting of city permits. Prior to this ruling, city officials acted in an arbitrary fashion and would only grant permits for First Amendment activities if they felt like it and agreed with the point of view.

On August 18, the Displacement Coalition discovered the city was still brazenly defying the order of the Superior Court. Instead of written standards, the city could only vomit up an ambiguous and confusing draft of proposed rules. The draft was never forwarded to the Displacement Coalition prior to our hearing, despite the fact the Superior Court made it quite clear that the Displacement Coalition was to be informed of the rules of the game so the Coalition could submit applications

which had a snowball's chance in hell of being approved.

(Despite the appalling negligence of Kirk Jones, some copies of an early draft did make their way to the Coalition through our extensive network of spies in the city government, and members of the Coalition even managed to submit commentary within the irregular and brief 48 hour time frame. Displacement Coalition member and yours truly John Hoffman submitted two and a half pages of remarks with a 300 page appendix, including a photocopy of an extended middle finger.)

The hearing of August 18 was held at the Arctic Building, a bizarre structure adorned with marble walrus busts and tacky stone coats-of-arms. Its the perfect place for a kangaroo committee to meet and concoct some new excuse to subvert the will of the Superior Court.

Displacement Coalition member John Fox stated that the future of freedom of assembly was at stake while the bored board yawned, passed notes, and sipped coffee. The only moment any of the beings inside the finely pressed pin-striped suits appeared human was when their faces filled with abject fear while our lawyer informed them they were, in our opinion, wallowing in filthy contempt of the Superior Court order to establish some kind of standards.

One highlight of the proceeding was when Kirk Jones grasped his head as though suffering from an acute migraine while yours truly slipped on a pair of Groucho Marx glasses and gestured with a banana.

Erecting *ex post facto* legal rationalizations like terrified police cowering behind smoldering remnants of their shattered vehicles, the Board simpered something about University Way being "too narrow for sitting," about the applications for Broadway being "too broad," and about all the applications having "no input from abutting property owners."

The Board seriously expects that radicals planning a sit-in will go and ask "abutting property owners" how they feel about such social events. The Board expects that people planning a protest should be willing to spend many hours researching property titles to determine who owns a particular building. In the case of a parade or march, every

single building along the route will need will need to be researched unless, of course, the board wants, er, to grant a waiver for some group they particularly like.

"About this!" I shouted, and hurled the ripped-up remnants of my application in the general direction of their Chairman.

So back we go to court to explain to the nice judge that the city has no

3,000. Perhaps we could bring as many as two-hundred individuals into the appeals board room and other unguarded portions of the "Walrus Building," utilizing pay phones to urge even more individuals to "come join the fun."

The battle now consists of paper flying back and forth and exchanges of impassioned speech. For now, a few judges in the

**"One highlight of the proceeding was when Kirk Jones grasped his head as though suffering from an acute migraine while yours truly slipped on a pair of Groucho Marx glasses and gestured with a banana."**

intention of granting any sitting permit, no matter how we might word such a permit, and furthermore they probably won't cough up copies the so-called "proper" forms.

It may appear we are losing, but we are, in fact, winning. The substance of our victory, however, is almost too dreary to explain. Imagine fighting for months to obtain a handful of gristle like this:

1) The city now recognizes that sitting on the sidewalk constitutes "use" as defined by title blah blah, Section etcetera. This is a dramatic reversal of their previous position, which in effect stated that sitting on the sidewalk didn't count as using it.

2) The city recognizes that it will have to pretend it has some kind of rules regarding First Amendment activities instead of tossing forms up in the air and seeing which papers land face-up. Can Hempfest-on-the-Commons be far behind?

3) Kirk Jones is coming to understand that Mark Sidran is using him as a meat puppet in a bizarre psycho-sexual game which revolves around controlling the buttocks of homeless people during business hours.

Personally, I think we should "filibuster" the Board and force days of hearings to consider each and every individual application, the total number hopefully exceeding

superior court are wise enough to protect the interests of the poor people against the whims of the rich and powerful.

For now, there are no burning barricades erected upon the very sidewalk where 15 year old homeless youth are being told by the police, "we're paid by the Broadway merchants to get rid of trash like you."

But for how long? Consider September 10, 1994, when the tear gas filled Broadway, the batons swung wildly, and a video camera in the hands of Mike Crow recorded bands of youth shouting "SITTING DOWN IS NOT A CRIME!"

Imagine what happens if we lose. Imagine if these laws spread to every city. Imagine Broadway on September 10, 1994 happening a hundred times, a thousand times. These are the stakes in this pathetic paper battle, fought by activists that aren't paid and don't sleep enough.

And only the newspaper *Real Change* is telling the story.

—John Hoff is a member of the Seattle Displacement Coalition and is the author of "The Art and Science of Dumpster Diving," available on Loompanics Press.



# Art Attack

## Street Smart Art Reaches Out to Homeless Youth



A STREET SMART ART WALKWAY. PHOTOS BY NADIA SHAMSUDDIN

BY TAMARA ANNE FOWLER

**F**ELON. A felon is what 12 year old Andy would find himself were he to engage publicly in his favorite form of expression. His offending weapon of choice is a drawing pen. And if he opted to create graffiti piecings on a public wall, he could serve hard time for it.

Andy is an artist. And finding a place to practice one's art has become a dangerous thing.

Andy desperately needed a safe place where he could get involved. An organization in which Andy could contribute in public art projects, learn art history, explore different creative mediums, be taught anger management, conflict resolution and communication skills, and develop a respect for his community.

Enter Street Smart Art. Saundra Valencia's brain child was 76 members strong and had a waiting list 50 young deep. However, she felt so strongly about where Andy might be headed she took him right in.

Saundra got the idea for Street Smart Art two years ago while watching the local news on TV. "I saw yet another kid picked up for tagging. What really got me was he said, 'Well, I don't have anywhere to do this legally.' And I thought, 'Where would I go if my art were illegal?'"

Street Smart Art reaches out to "at risk" kids who are only at risk because they have no where to do their art safely and lawfully. Saundra gets them invested in a program, thereby less invested in the streets. Street Smart Art gives them a choice. It gives young artists projects to do and places to do them — without fear of hassle or arrest.

Andy's passion has consisted mostly of sketching cartoon characters and lettering, but he now has the opportunity to explore painting, sculpture, photography. First on his agenda is learning to paint with oils graffiti style and to paint with aerosol.

One of SSA's most recent community projects was the painting of the mural at the north entrance to Woodland Park Zoo. By inviting members of the neighborhood to assist in the painting, a common understanding and feeling of community is attained. Saundra is pleased with these experiences: "All of a sudden it's not just a kid with a spray can but a kid with a name and a face. And the kids discover that this is not just a wall, but a wall someone owns."

After determining the location and obtaining financial backing for a project, the SSA artists must submit drawings to the community for their comments and suggestions. The artists then meet with the community members and discuss what the residents want to see combined with what the artists have in mind. An agreement is reached and another public art project is launched.

One of the ultimate goals of SSA is to lessen tagging in Seattle. This is done by offering the kids choices (designated legal walls to paint) and talking to them clearly about the consequences of illegal activity. Lawyers, community activists and other speakers have come to SSA meetings (held in Saundra's Ballard studio) to meet with the group.

Street Smart Art is complete with a 12 member Board of Directors. A ratio of one to two youngsters serves for each adult on the Board. 21-year-old Jennevie is the Board's Acting Chair. She has been involved with SSA since January. Jennevie

works with acrylic paints but currently her fondness for jewelry design is taking priority. She hopes people recognize the importance of a youth arts program: "SSA is a positive backing force and {through its use of older artists mentoring the younger ones} an important vehicle for people to learn how to survive as artists."

The group has been given the go-ahead to paint the fence behind the 7th & Union bus shelter and talks are in the works between SSA and the Denny Place Youth

Shelter to get some of the young homeless artists involved. 7th & Union is a symbolic location as the shelter itself was recently decorated with poetry, paintings and sketches by three formerly homeless artists [Real Change June, 1995]. [Drawings and ideas for this area are currently being accepted by SSA. Deadline for submissions is Saturday, Sept 30. Please call 784-2974 for more information.]

What Saundra is working extremely hard on is getting SSA a "legal wall." The wall would be directed by and worked on by SSA artists. SSA would make sure that the wall worked with all skill levels. The group agreed that this wall does

not have to be in the public face and it doesn't matter if the work is not so good "this time" — since it will be painted over and over it can only get better and better.

Saundra believes this dream is close to reality. "For two years we've been trying to get a wall. At the same time, the Board and I keep ourselves extremely busy keeping young artists active in positive projects."

Long range goals for SSA is to be seen as a broad umbrella aiding youth: from the furthering of education to being a part of a group working in all mediums, including aerosol.

Ultimately legitimizing aerosol as an art form is another top SSA ambition.

Josh, 20, heard about SSA through a friend two years ago when the group was just forming. He primarily draws with pens and pencils though he wants to experience every art form under the sun.

This past summer Josh secured a part time job with the King County Parks Department thanks to his connection with SSA. He has been teaching sketching at a Teen Program Drop-In Center.

Josh sites this as a critical outlet for kids. "Art classes in school are great — but when school is out there is nothing. We just need the chance."





# The View from DESC

## Downtown Shelter Director Bill Hobson Has His Say

**B**ill Hobson, Director of the Downtown Emergency Service Center, heads up one of the largest homeless programs in Seattle. The 300-bed shelter, situated in Pioneer Square directly across 3rd Avenue from the King County Courthouse, was founded in 1979 to provide an alternative to the evangelical missions who, at that time, did little to serve the City's mentally ill and chemically dependent homeless.

Hobson joined DESC as a swingshift counselor in 1984. By 1985 he was a program manager, and in 1988, he became Executive Director. During his tenure the agency has greatly expanded its outreach services to the mentally ill, and has also created "service-enriched" affordable housing to help transition people out of homelessness.

A refugee from academia who spent two years in revolutionary Nicaragua shortly before beginning his work in homelessness, Hobson is very much a pragmatist who keeps his lefty tendencies more or less to himself. His political independence has sometimes left him at odds with the local advocacy community, and has made him a controversial figure within these circles.

**RC:** As I understand it DESC's mission is to serve the most vulnerable of the homeless population. How come that sort of prioritization is necessary?

**HOBSON:** Well, we live in a community that has, according to the City's official estimate, which is conservative, on any given night between 4,000 and 4,500 homeless men, women, and children within the City limits, and on any given night there are 2,800 emergency shelter, voucher, and transitional housing beds to serve that population, so right away you see that demand for shelter far outstrips supply.

DESC, prior to 1991, had gone through a period of turning away people every night, and we were conducting our registration on the basis of a lottery, and we were seeing pretty vulnerable people not winning lottery tickets, and being forced out on the street, and we felt very uncomfortable about that. So we developed a policy to prioritize people according to our perception of their vulnerability, not according to disability, which is what most people think.

If we believe someone, for whatever reason, would be at risk being on the street, we prioritize them. Based on our experience, we define vulnerability based on membership in sub-groups: women, mentally ill, medically compromised, elderly people, developmentally disabled people.

We also prioritize chemically dependent people, if they are connected with us or some other provider, and are working on some kind of plan to get off the streets and out of shelters. The latter group is really trying to stabilize their lives, and during that fragile process they're vulnerable and need support.

**RC:** I've heard it said by homeless people that the worst position to be in is to be an able-bodied guy under

55 on the street, because if that describes you, it's really hard to get a shelter bed, and you have to shift for yourself. What do you think about that?

**Hobson:** I think it's true. There's not enough shelter beds, and most shelter providers do tend to focus on certain subsets, and they generally tend to develop those subsets based on their perception of vulnerability.

That is why, in my opinion, SHARE is such a critical entity in this community, because SHARE has programming and 250 plus shelter beds designed to assist able-bodied people turn their lives around.

**RC:** Over the last decade what kinds of trends have you seen in terms of homelessness in Seattle?

**HOBSON:** I think a growth of

mentally ill people on the street, a growth in women on the street, a growth of mono-lingual Latinos.

Also, more providers have come to the party. There has been significantly expanded shelter capacity over the past decade. That has to be acknowledged. From the mid-80's, there have been quite a few hundred units of low-income permanent housing created by service providers. And they're all in that game because we've all known that shelter is not the answer to this issue.

The answer to this issue starts with housing and employment opportunity. For people who are not there quite yet because of a disability, it's housing and supportive services.

I don't know of any shelter provider that believes shelter is the solution to homelessness. We're fearful of institutionalizing shelter as "the" solution to homelessness, and I think we all should struggle against that very mightily.

**RC:** Sometimes you tend to be a fairly controversial guy, because you don't really care about party lines and sometimes that gets you in trouble with other advocates.

**HOBSON:** Gee, I'm sorry.

**RC:** You don't mean that

**HOBSON:** Of course I do. I love the advocates.

**RC:** A couple of issues in particular. There's a lot of conflict around the SIDRAN Ordinance that's still going on, and also the issue of siting additional services in Pioneer

Square. What are your positions on those issues?

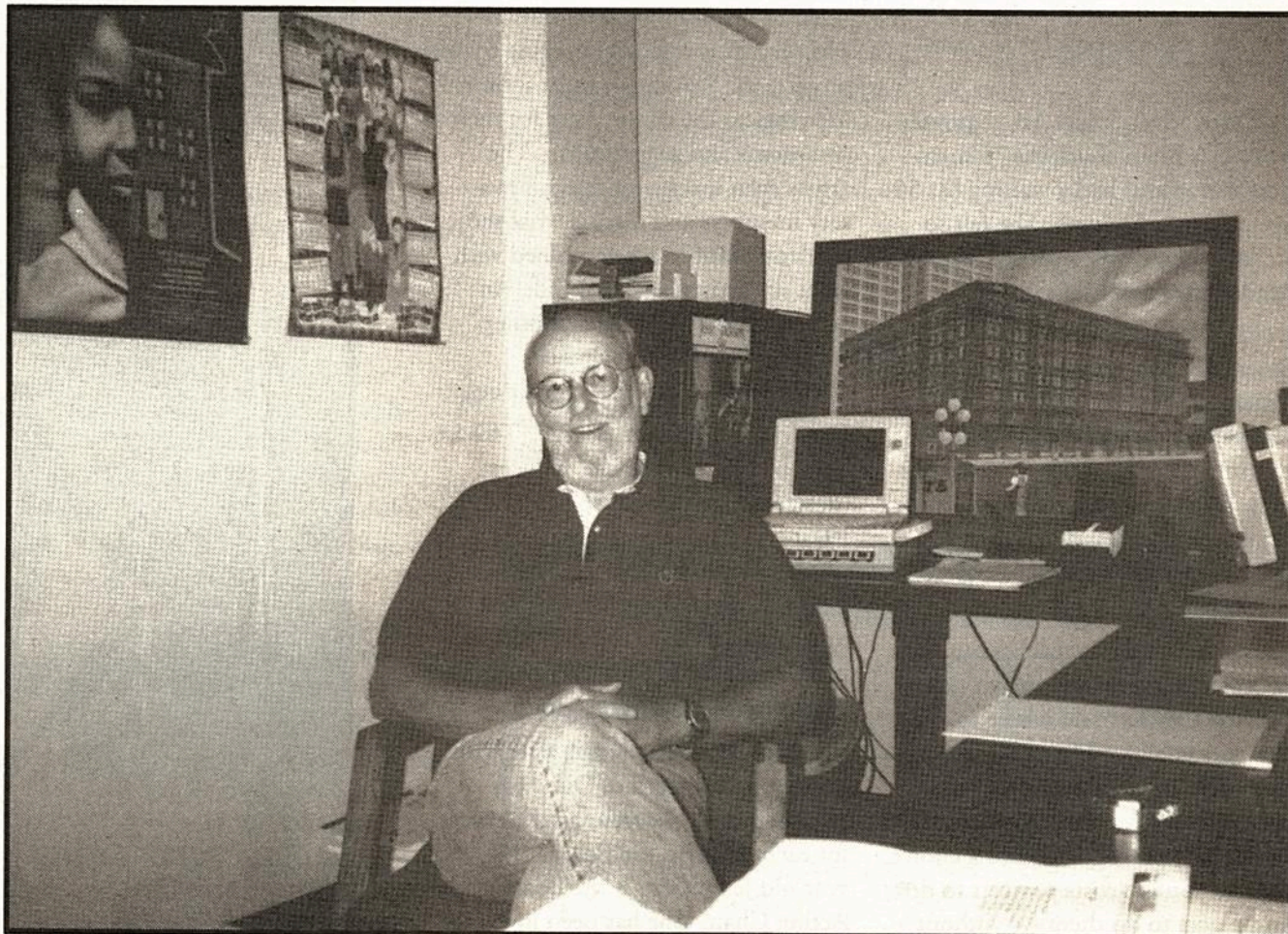
**HOBSON:** Before getting to those specific issues, let me say something. If service providers and advocates for the homeless become so at odds they can't work with one another, we do a tremendous dis-service to the people we claim to be working with and for.

I think the efforts of the advocates benefit those of the service provider community, and that they keep before the public the need for services and housing. I don't agree with some of the shrillness of the advocates' methods. If that's controversial, I'm sorry.

And I don't agree with some advocates' complete acceptance of all homeless people as pure victims with no warts or problems. I think that we do the community a disservice if we don't discuss homelessness forthrightly in all of its contradictions and conundrums.

I consider myself an advocate. I go about advocating for this community in an entirely different way. I advocate through funding mechanisms to provide housing programs, and health programs, and chemical dependency programs. I think what advocates do is legitimate and that what service providers like myself do is legitimate.

On the SIDRAN Ordinances, I was not opposed to what the advocates did, and happen to agree with most of the advocates' analysis. I really truly believe that the SIDRAN Ordinances were symbolic, a kind of non-event.



DESC DIRECTOR BILL HOBSON. PHOTO BY MARIAH SUTHERLAND



## Interview

**"I really truly believe that the SIDRAN Ordinances were symbolic, a kind of non-event....I think what we did was spend a tremendous amount of intelligence and creativity debating this in public forums, rather than being focused on meaningful solutions to this issue..."**

I don't think the SIDRAN ordinances have driven one homeless person out of Seattle. I don't think they promoted the safety of one single middle-class individual walking downtown. I think what we did was spend a tremendous amount of intelligence and creativity debating this in public forums, rather than being focused on meaningful solutions to this issue, which for me are treatment service programs, creating employment opportunities, and building decent, affordable housing.

We didn't do any of that, and we spent an awful lot of community resources debating something that was a symbol. Symbols are very powerful things, and people get energized by them, but I have to say that I'm not convinced that the SIDRAN Ordinances and the debate around them have had any significant impact.

RC: I agree that the ordinances are largely symbolic, and that it's probably true that they haven't really changed anything, but what about the argument that this is part of a larger nationwide trend of criminalizing homelessness and poor people, and criminalizing behaviors that they are forced into by living their lives in public?

HOBSON: I'm unaware of any legislation that criminalizes homelessness, *per se*. I'm aware there's a lot of legislation that criminalizes certain types of behaviors. I, for the life of me, do not understand encouraging or supporting panhandling.

Begging? I find that to be a very demeaning kind of existence. I'm saying that as a person who has never been homeless, and I've never been forced to confront that, and I realize you have to do what you need to survive, so maybe I'm myopic on that issue.

As a service provider who's been working in Seattle for a number of years, I'm aware that a majority of the fruit of panhandling goes to the consumption of drugs and alcohol. We're not doing ourselves any favors if we are not honest about that as an advocate community. We need to provide resources for people to cope with problems in their lives in ways

that are functional, not dysfunctional.

I don't think anybody is forced to behave in any way. Your premise, is that we are criminalizing homeless people by default because of behaviors they are "forced" to do. I'm unaware of what they are "forced" to do.

RC: Well, for example, sleeping in public. I can understand why someone would sleep in public. You're out on the street at six in the morning after getting a lousy night's sleep in a shelter. Day centers are uniformly extremely depressing smoky places with no air. Why not sleep outside? But, when you're sleeping outside, it's against the law.

HOBSON: I don't know what to say. I think you're right.

RC: There's been a line drawn around siting additional services in Pioneer Square. The argument against runs more or less that "There's already a whole gang of services sited here. We have to put up with a whole lot of stuff in this area as a result. For God's sake why don't you put it somewhere else for a change."

The other side runs something to the effect of "Pioneer Square is people's home. They should be able to stay in their neighborhood. By not siting services here you are keeping people out of their own community." Where do you fall in this?

HOBSON: If we're calling the street a home, I think we're being very loose with the concept, if home is wherever gravity causes me to stick, as opposed to a place I can retire to that's mine, where I can go for replenishment, nourishment. Pioneer Square is not a home.

I'm not about preserving Pioneer Square for the business community. That's not my issue. I come to some of the same conclusions as the Pioneer Square Community Council, but for different reasons.

Pioneer square already has over half Seattle's shelter beds. There are neighborhoods in this community that are far safer, and would make far better neighborhoods for homeless people to live in, that are exclusionary and have political clout far

greater than Pioneer Square does to keep organizations out. I think these neighborhoods should be focused on, as opposed to Pioneer Square.

I don't want to ghettoize impoverished people. I don't understand it. I don't think this is a good neighborhood for people to replenish and get on with their lives. There's drug dealing and street predation. Homeless people themselves are most frequently the victims of that, not me, or suits going into the Courthouse, or the merchants, or people who live here. Street predators don't mess with the middle-class in Pioneer Square. For the most part, the people they prey upon are homeless people.

It doesn't make any sense to me to try to build more shelters down here. I would far rather that organizations interested in expanding their programs choose other neighborhoods that are safer, where the quality of life can be of a bit more affirming nature.

RC: But those neighborhoods don't want the shelters either.

HOBSON: Those neighborhoods don't have a right to prevent them. I can iterate six or seven instances where this community has taken an affirmative vote for homeless programs. Pioneer Square has been unfairly criticized by the advocate community as being racist and exclusionary when it isn't.

This community supported DESC creating a Day Center and expanding to 24-hour service. It's supported our converting the Union Hotel to 50 units of permanent housing. It's supported Catholic Community Services in creating what ultimately became Noel House in the Cherry Street Deli. It has supported the St. Martins bus line. The Community has supported the Lazarus Day Center. The Community has supported the meal program at Lutheran Compass Center.

The community has taken some real affirmative actions to support homeless programming. I think they're saying we want to work with those homeless programs that are already here. We feel that we've accepted more than our fair share as

a community, and we want other communities to take on their responsibility.

I don't find that to be an unreasonable position. I'm actually sort of disappointed that members of the advocate community seem to feel it's motivated by racism or exclusionism. I don't think it is.

My position is let's house people in safe areas. Let's create programs, whether they be empowerment model programs such as SHARE and WHEEL, or service-oriented programs like DESC. Let's create those in communities that are calmer and safer and more in accord with normal life. Pioneer Square is a very abnormal kind of situation down here.

RC: What would you say to the people who have been struck by "compassion fatigue," and say "I'm sick of homelessness. I'm sick of homeless people. We've been throwing money at this problem for a decade, and there's just more of them all the time. I just wish it would all go away."

HOBSON: Well, What I really want to say is "piss on ya." What I really have to say as the operator of a homeless program, is please don't conclude that, because it's inaccurate.

We've learned an awful lot about homelessness over the last ten years. We've learned an awful lot about the solutions. We need those resources. This problem is not going to go away. It will become worse if you give up now and stop putting resources into the issue.

SHARE knows how to do empowerment programs. DESC knows how to do supportive service-enriched housing programs. We know how to assist people in reintegrating into the community as effective neighbors and good participants in the life of the community.

If you withdraw monetary support, we are going to be back to solving this with jails and hospital emergency rooms, and courts and shelters, with a lot of people living their lives in public spaces, and I don't think anyone wants that.

—Interview by Timothy Harris

**"Pioneer Square has been unfairly criticized as being racist and exclusionary when it isn't. I think they're saying 'We want to work with those homeless programs that are already here. We've accepted more than our fair share, and we want other communities to take on their responsibility.' I don't find that to be unreasonable."**



# NEW on the NET

## Matrix Homeless Measure Upheld

The San Francisco Chronicle reports a federal judge has thrown out a major class-action lawsuit that challenged S.F.'s Matrix Program as an unconstitutional attack on the homeless.

U.S. District Judge D. Lowell Jensen dismissed the suit without a hearing, writing that: "The city has submitted uncontradicted evidence that homeless encampments can lead to drug sales, vandalism, public elimination of body wastes and other unhealthful conditions, as well as facilitation of a host of other crimes by and against homeless individuals."

S.F. Mayor Frank Jordan, who launched the Matrix Program as an anti-crime measure in 1993, hailed the decision as a victory. The suit was filed on behalf of the homeless by the American Civil Liberties Union and others, saying the program punishes the status of homelessness. Lawyers for the plaintiffs said an appeal is likely.

Marcia Rosen of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights said that similar cases in Dallas, Miami and Alabama are awaiting resolution. A study by the National Center on Homelessness and Poverty, found 42 cities have adopted similar programs and laws that criminalize homelessness, said Rosen.

## Minimum Wage Debate Rebuffed

The Associated Press reports that the Senate rejected an attempt to require a vote this year on raising the minimum wage.

Legislators voted 49-48 to kill a measure by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) that would have put the Senate on record as pledging to debate and vote on a minimum wage raise before the end of the session. Bob Kerrey (D-NE) joined 48 Republicans in voting to table the measure. Four Republicans - Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, James Jeffords of Vermont, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and John Warner of Virginia - supported Kennedy.

Kennedy argued that the minimum wage has declined 30 percent in value since 1979 and that a full-time, year-round worker who is paid the minimum wage earns \$8,500 a year, less than a poverty level income for a family of two. He said that at a time when corporate profits are soaring to record highs, it is wrong for wages and working families to be left behind.

In a related report, The New York Times said that wage stagnation is emerging as an economic issue in the 1996 election campaign.

Wage stagnation means that the wage of the typical, or median, American worker has basically stayed unchanged, once a discount is made for inflation. According to Labor Department data that has been the case whatever the measure: indi-

vidual hourly wages, weekly wages, or family income.

The Clinton administration is convinced that recognizing the problem will help the Democrats win back votes lost to Republicans in last November's congressional election.

The problem with wage stagnation as a campaign issue is that there is no ready solution. Campaign issues without ready solutions do not easily sway voters, says James Carville, Clinton's chief strategist in the 1992 election.

## Voters Views on Presidential Election

A poll by the national Times Mirror Center for the People & The Press found voters that favor an alternative choice for president are more liberal, and more Democratic, than in 1992.

The survey also found:

- 23 percent of Americans favor an independent presidential bid in 1996.
  - 32 percent favor a Republican for president in 1996.
  - 29 percent would like President Clinton reelected.
  - 45 percent disapprove of the GOP Congress' policies.
  - 54 percent have a negative view of the Newt Gingrich.
- If the election in their districts was today:
- 50 percent would vote Republican.
  - 43 percent would vote Democrat.
  - 7 percent are undecided.

An ABC poll found that nearly half the voters want a third alternative in a 1996 presidential race between President Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

The poll found that Clinton would narrowly win a three-way race involving Texas billionaire Ross Perot, Gulf War hero Gen. Colin Powell or New Jersey Democrat Sen. Bill Bradley.

## Middle Class is Falling into Poverty

The Chicago Tribune reports that the sign of the times is people who were once settled into the middle class are barely scraping by.

The Tribune says that if the middle class means households earning between \$25,000 and \$75,000 per year, it has shrunk from seventy-five to 71 percent of the population, since 1973 according to the Census Bureau.

The percentage of households earning the equivalent of more than \$75,000 has gone up since 1973 from 8.2 to 12.5 percent. Those earning the equivalent of \$100,000 or more also have risen, from 3.2 to 5.8 percent. However, some have fallen out of the middle class—40.3 percent earning less than the equivalent of \$25,000, compared with 39 percent in 1973.

The bureau says 18.5 percent of all American families with

children are living in poverty, up from 11.4 percent in 1973.

The Clinton administration zeroed in on higher education as the key to good jobs in the information society. However, even college degrees are no guarantee of entry to secure white-collar jobs. According to the Census Bureau, 87,000 college graduates, including 7,000 with master's degrees, are employed in the nation's mailrooms and another 97,000 college graduates are janitors or cleaners.

## Budget Cuts Will Hurt Cities and Counties

Reuters reports that surveys by the National Association of Counties and the Conference of Mayors found that cities and counties will have to cut services and raise taxes if budget cuts take effect.

The groups said the proposed budget cuts would cripple programs such as health care, mass transit, welfare, law enforcement and economic development.

Michael Hightower, president-elect of the National Association of Counties said, "County officials support the goal of a balanced federal budget. But to reach that goal we believe each portion of the budget should share in making contributions through cuts and that a disproportionate cut to domestic programs must be avoided."

The Association of Counties found that if the cuts take effect:

- 92 percent would cut services
- 25 percent would raise taxes.

The Conference of Mayors found that if the cuts take effect:

- 85 percent would reduce services.
- 42 percent would raise taxes.
- 66 percent would cut employees.

The two organizations have designated Sept. 7 as Federal Budget Awareness Day and plan events across the country to inform the public of the effects of the cuts.

## U.S. Children Among World's Poorest

A new study by the Luxembourg Income Study, a nonprofit group based in Walferdange, Luxembourg, shows that poor children in the United States are poorer than the

children in most other Western industrialized nations.

The United States has the second highest level of economic output per person of the countries examined and has the most prosperous affluent children of any of the 18 nations. According to the study, only poor children in Israel and Ireland are worse off than poor American youths.

Timothy M. Smeeding, one of the study's authors said the American lead in overall prosperity has dwindled since the 1960s, income inequality has risen briskly in the United States and child poverty spread in the 1970s and 1980s, although it may have leveled off in the early part of this decade.

Some conservative economists question the validity of studies that attempt to compare levels of income and distribution of wealth among nations with different economic systems and societies. However, there is general acceptance of the idea that the United States has proportionately more of its children in poverty than other affluent countries.

Smeeding said there appeared to be several reasons why the United States had such extreme poverty among children.

- The United States has the widest gap between rich and poor.
- The United States also has fewer generous social programs than the other seventeen countries in the study, which are Australia, Canada, Israel, and 14 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.
- American mothers are less likely than European mothers to return to work quickly after childbirth, partly because inexpensive, high-quality child care is more widely available in Europe.

The Luxembourg Income Study was financed by the National Science Foundation in Washington and similar agencies from 18 other governments. Its staff has been working for the last decade to develop ways to make reliable international comparisons. The group is a repository for computerized data on income distribution from twenty-five countries around the world, which it makes available free to social researchers.

—from *News & Blues, HandsNet*

## Homeless Netspots

Real Change: <http://www.speakeasy.org/realchange>

UK Homeless Homepage: <http://sl.cwms.ac.uk/Academic/AGPU/staffpag/robinson/interest/homeless/homepage.html>

National Coalition for the Homeless: <http://nch.ari.net/>

Homelessness in America: <http://www.teleport.com/~cool/homeless.html>

Streetlife Gallery: <http://internetcafe.allyn.com/slgl/slgl.html>



## DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FOOD STAMPS?

You and your family may qualify for food stamps and you don't even know it! Many households and individuals are eligible for food stamps, even if you:

- Are working
- Are enrolled in trade school or college
- Are homeless, elderly or disabled
- Own your own home
- Own an automobile

For more information on eligibility for the Food Stamp Program, call the Food Stamp Hotline at:  
(206) 634-2297 in Seattle, or 1 (800) 882-5333 toll free

## On Call Workers Needed at Women's Shelter.

Call Mary at  
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Evening and Overnight shifts.  
Rewarding work.  
Training and support provided.  
Human services experience required.

## SWAC Seattle Women's Action Coalition

## SWAC Supports the Lutheran Compass Center

A recent front-page *Seattle Times* article attacked the Compass Center, a 75-year old program providing much-needed services to the homeless people of Pioneer Square. SWAC (the Seattle Women's Action Network) works with and for homeless women in various agencies downtown, primarily in Pioneer Square. We want to address some of the negative and unfair impressions created in this article and by the media in general over the past few months.

The *Times* article, based on a drug bust in the Compass Center and without further foundation, described the Center as a "drug magnet". The article went on to attribute everything from low vacancy rates to widespread drug dealing in Pioneer Square to this one long-standing and well-run program.

We know the Compass Center is doing its best, under difficult circumstances, to empower people to get beyond the burden of their homelessness. No mention was made in the *Times* article of dealers who roam various areas of Pioneer Square—like Prefontaine—or of the rampant weekend drinking and related behavior problems around clubs in Pioneer Square.

Other newspaper articles have created the impression that drinking and drug use are problems that characterize the whole homeless community. This is not our experience at all. Drinking and drug use are issues for some homeless people, not all. Neither is this issue unique to homeless people—drugs are a huge problem for all of us.

There seems to be a threefold effort to push homeless people out of sight so the wider community doesn't have to think about them. Business owners, quick to point fingers and mistakenly linking homeless people with crime and decline in business, are attempting

to prevent social services from siting new programs in Pioneer Square.

The City gives business councils veto power over new social service programs, and has passed ordinances preventing people sitting or lying down on public sidewalks in business districts during the day. The media supports this attack and provides ammunition for the war on the homeless by reporting unfair and biased accounts of homeless people and programs.

Where are people supposed to go? There has been a serious decline in housing stock. Especially in Pioneer Square, there used to be cheap housing. Due to gentrification, affordable housing has now been replaced by shelters—too few shelters which are underfunded and the focus of gentrifiers' anger.

Imagine all these shelters disappeared. On holidays you get a glimpse of what this might be like—most shelters and businesses are closed, and homeless people own the town. On Christmas morning there are older homeless women sitting in downtown parks in the early morning, carefully applying makeup in order to look "presentable;" older homeless men, displaced from their shelters for the day, trying to stay warm near any available heat grate.

Everyone has seen folks avail themselves of the nearest bush because there aren't enough public restrooms. Everyone has been panhandled by people who don't have jobs, treatment, entitlements readily available to them. Everyone passes by public buildings, where there are sanctioned encampments of as many as 50 homeless people who have no other place to sleep because all shelters are full, every night.

Homeless people are already forced to meet their private needs in public places. Imagine if the 2,000 people nightly sheltered in Seattle

were suddenly displaced because the public is tired of dealing with them. Imagine they are all, therefore, forced to meet their most private needs before our eyes. We would be confronted with our shame.

It is widely understood in the homeless community, but seldom reported, that homeless people are getting bashed much more frequently on the streets. Homeless people are already preyed upon in our increasingly dangerous neighborhoods. Without the support and safety of existing social service programs and shelters, people (more people, that is) would die on the streets. It's that simple.

The stigma homeless people feel adds to the burdens they are already

rehabilitation of buildings."

Programs like the Compass Center attempt that human renewal. With open arms the Compass Center welcomes homeless people into *their* neighborhood, Pioneer Square. The Compass Center and all Pioneer Square human service programs are the boulder-pushers—desperately trying to build hope and community among the disenfranchised of our City, who have always been with us on Skid Road.

But the poor need not always be with us in this way. We are one community, homeless or housed. We need to find ways to renew each other. As we approach the September elections—for the Commons, a new baseball stadium—think about Victor Steinbrueck's plea for human renewal. Educate yourself. Volunteer at the Compass Center or programs like it. Most important, take the time to talk to people who are stuck on the streets, and call the media into accountability for fairer representation of the needs and dreams of homeless people.

**"Imagine if the 2,000 people nightly sheltered in Seattle were suddenly displaced because the public is tired of dealing with them. Imagine they are all, therefore, forced to meet their most private needs before our eyes. We would be confronted with our shame."**

trying to overcome. The media has the power to add to this stigma if it creates unfairly negative impressions.

What is the answer? A *Seattle Times* reporter—the same reporter who later slammed the Compass Center—knew the answer when she wrote a balanced article about the changing character of Pioneer Square back in December.

In it she quoted developer Victor Steinbrueck, who in the 1970's said, "Urban renewal is a fine kind of thought, but the rehabilitation of people is the answer. Human renewal is first, and then comes the

—Michele Marchand and Greta Hassakis for SWAC

Note: This was adapted from an op-ed piece SWAC is trying to get published in the *Seattle Times*. Look for it—and know that of 30 or more letters of support for the Compass Center responding to the *Times* article, only 2 were published.

Greta is leaving her job as manager of the Gatewood. She says goodbye and good luck to all.



**SCHEMES, CONT. FROM 3**

Our city government is also not being entirely forthright about how much of the Housing Levy, slated for the ballot this November, is designated for the proposed Commons. Why? To disguise the costs. Project boosters include low-income housing in the plan when it paints a concerned and caring picture of this scheme, and then they remove it when they want to low-ball the project's overall cost in order to sell it to the voters. City development policies such as these have destroyed thousands of affordable units downtown, and this plan offers more of the same.

**"This is a recipe for gentrification, pure and simple.... City development policies such as these have destroyed thousands of affordable units downtown, and this plan offers more of the same."**

The fact that our Mayor and our City Council chose to put the Commons Levy on the September ballot and place Housing Levy before the voters in November also indicates where their priorities are. They clearly intended on having the Commons vote in the primary election, where the lower turnout would benefit the incredibly well-financed and politically adept Committee for the Commons. Our city government, however, can only ask the taxpayers for just so much. If Proposition 1 passes on September 19th, it could well kill the Housing Levy in November.

If passed, the Commons will also dislocate at least 130 businesses, employing over 1,700 people. Further rezoning and redevelopment could displace up to another 600 employers, with over 9,000 additional jobs. Area businesses offer mostly family-wage vocations, light manufacturing and industrial, many of which have been in the South Lake Union area for several genera-

tions. These jobs will largely be replaced by lower-paying work in the retail and service industries- latte, anyone?

Additionally, the Commons plan will divert substantial public money from other existing neighborhoods and real city needs. This half-a-billion dollar project isn't expected to break even on basic upkeep for 20 years under the rosier of scenarios, and the initial costs will never be recovered. Commons supporters talk about "expanding our tax base," but the city would actually realize greater net tax revenue without this project.

This "green space" could very well turn into a black hole, sucking precious and limited public funds into the Commons project for decades to come. This proposition, if passed, would effectively max-out Seattle's available levying capacity. Here's how. There are two methods of collecting moneys from voters: levies and moneys. Levies only need a 50% yes vote to be approved, bonds need 60%. The difference is that with levies, money is collected year by year, while bonds get all of the approved money up front.

The problem is that the city is only allowed to accumulate so much levied debt per year, any other city needs after that- a new 9-1-1 Center, neighborhood parks, new libraries- must face the 60% bond hurdle. Investing so many resources to benefit private speculative development is unacceptable public policy.

The widely touted "grass-roots" campaign supporting the Commons proposal is in reality a smoke screen for their "astro-turf" lobbying efforts. While many individuals have volunteered, the people calling their shots are high-powered land use attorneys, former politicians, political consultants, developers, and other downtown insiders. Just ask their leaders how much money they make organizing this "citizen led" movement, you'd be amazed.

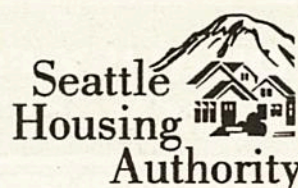
We need to send a message to these people that top-down planning and tear-it-down urban renewal are an unacceptable way for the city to conduct the public's business. Help us save a hard-working neighborhood, fight corporate welfare, and end the needless and short-sighted destruction of Seattle's affordable housing. Vote NO on the Commons Levy, Proposition 1, this September 19th.

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## Adventures in Poetry

with © Dr. Wes Browning

Speaking of Haiku:  
The Consumate po-et al-  
Ways has one or two.

If you don't recall what a haiku is, check out my first:

### Check It Out or Opus 3, My First Haiku

First: Five syl-la-bles.

Se-ond: Se-ven Syl-la-bles.

Last: Five Syl-la-bles.

Cool, huh? O.K., here's one more haiku to whet haiku-appetites, one which I'm sure will be well-received by all your "poetry-cognoscenti." Like many great poems it seeks the Universal in the Particular. It is after all that only by staring unflinchingly at each "pixel" of our reality in this world that we can create a gestalt of our other-than-realities. in this world, such as the Universal Objective. So have some gestalt on me!

### The Beer Drinker's Haiku or Opus 5, My First Haiku with Content

H! A! !! K! U!!

Don't be drinking all the brew!

Or you WILL upchuck.

Having surmised my views on the Seattle Commons plan, Peter Bowers, a local building contractor, writes:

Dear Selfish Ex-homeless Jerk-

Let me explain something to you and your kind about the Seattle Commons. We are not trying to "make people homeless." For every apartment we lay waste, we will build a new "low income" apartment to replace it. So you see, our goal is not to increase the total number of homeless but to pass the experience of homelessness to people who haven't already had it. You've had your chance to be homeless; now let's see some other deadbeats and losers hit the streets!

But—just to show you I'm a nice guy—here's a poem you can stick in your "column":

I'm not a bad person you know,  
I'm just a guy seeking to grow.  
But messing up lives  
By leveling dives.  
Fulfills all my needs to get dough.

I believe you, Peter. But next time could you please keep to a hundred words or less? THANKS!! I have needs, too!

And THANKS!! to you, Reader, for reading. Read next month, and learn something about the poets craft.



**GROWTH, CONT, FROM 3**  
 windows, I looked to the future and saw Cascade as an ecovillage. I imagined filling in the lots with needed neighborhood amenities and with new residential buildings with tons of window boxes and rooftop gardens, greening the streets with trees and edible planting strips, and collecting solar energy along Denny.

So when I went to the first community meeting held to introduce the goals of the Seattle Commons, my mind was open to change. I thought it was an exiting offer to help shape a plan for South Lake Union that would bring public green space and access to Lake Union, mixed-use zoning, and improved transit links to adjacent neighborhoods. Many others in the room were skeptical of the plan, suspicious of a hidden agenda. They also felt that the character and concerns of the existing population were overlooked.

That meeting was over three years ago. Since that time, I joined the board of the Seattle Commons and became involved in Cascade's neighborhood planning.

The initial draft presented to the neighborhood, after countless meetings with local businesses and residents, for profit and non-profit developers and human service providers was developed into the

Commons Draft 2 Plan. In 1993 the city council adopted the broad objectives of the Draft 2 Plan to be used as the framework for the city's plan for South Lake Union. The city's plan went through three revisions, with input from an Environmental Impact Study, public hearings, meetings, and submitted written comments.

The final plan for South Lake Union adopted by the city council in July of this year reflects the many voices of those who were active in the planning process. Concerns brought up at the initial community meeting and also by a resident action group and the Cascade Neighborhood Council have served as important forces in directing the content of the final plan.

The plan calls for mixed-use, high-density, pedestrian oriented zoning that will create over 20,000 jobs and 8,000 new homes. An increase in the number of residents and employees will bring to the area needed amenities such as a grocery store, retail stores, library, and community center. The growth will support the vitality of downtown and add to the health of the city's overall tax revenue.

A non-profit entity will be established to assure that 3,000 of the homes, including the preservation of the current 1,200 units, will be affordable to those earning less than 80% of the median income. This entity will also coordinate the inclusion of human services such as senior day care, homeless shelters and youth programs, and will work with businesses displaced by the park. Buildings of historical and architectural significance will be preserved and new development will be encouraged to reinforce principles of sustainable design. Fifteen percent of labor hours for construction will be performed by workers in an apprenticeship program.

Voting "yes" on Proposition "1" would create a city that is less resource consumptive and automobile dependent, and that is more people oriented and compact. This would be a city that manages growth with a long term view point. It is saying "yes" to policies that promote low-income housing, human services, and job training.

## Are You a Jailbird?

Were you ever held in the King County Jail? Were you denied a grievance form? Or afraid to ask? Send a self-addressed, postage paid envelope for a copy of the Official King County Jail grievance form. Write to: Community for Creative Chaos, c/o Jail Form, 4505 University Way NE. #600, Seattle, WA 98105

## COMPASS, CONT. FROM 6

Each woman has a chore in the home as well, so that everyone shares in the effort to create a home atmosphere, while also learning the skills necessary to run a household. LCC's women's program is a safe haven for victims of domestic violence, rape, and women in recovery.

The program case manager reports that about 1/3 of the residents are victims of domestic abuse, 1/3 have mental disabilities, and about 1/3 are in recovery. Only a small percentage come for financial

reasons.

Residents of LCC are required to be out looking for either employment or permanent housing every day. They are responsible for their own banking and mail, services which LCC provides to its residents.

The Compass Center works. Almost 80% of the LCC's residents find their way to a real home. They find it because LCC is helping people to get themselves back. The high success rate can be attributed to trust. Along with trust comes responsibility.

## The Wrecking Ball Blues

E A E  
 I used to live in the city, an apartment on the second floor  
 E A E  
 I used to live in the city, an apartment on the second floor  
 E B A E  
 Till the man with the money said I couldn't live there no more

they brought in a wreckin' ball and beat it to a hole in the ground (X2)  
 put me outside walkin' homeless in my hometown

now tell me who loves a wreckin' ball, sure aint no friend of mine (X2)  
 they built a bank to put their money in and I ain't got a dime

I served my country and loved it like a long lost friend (X2)  
 now they treat me like a criminal 'cause I ain't got the money to spend.

My shoes are worn from walkin' and my head is spinnin' around (X2)  
 and there's a cop with a ticket book tellin' me I can't sit down

I'm tappin on your shoulder, I'm whisperin' in your ear (X2)  
 I'm only tryin' to warn you, but you seem to be so hard to hear

I'm thinkin' dangerous thoughts and I know I aint the only one (X2)  
 thinkin' 'bout that wreckin' ball and how I'd like to get me one.

If I had a wreckin' ball I'd turn it on to City Hall (X2)  
 So they'd know how it feels when that wreckin' ball comes to call.

—Jim Page

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 Unable to work for  
 a year or more?

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 30 years experience

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Are you experiencing:

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We are studying investigational medication for the treatment of panic and anxiety. Participants must be between 18 and 65 years of age and medically stable. All research care is provided at no cost to those who qualify. If you are interested in participating, please call our 24-hr message line:

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 624-2078

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**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME?**

Plymouth Housing Group provides permanent housing for single adults in downtown Seattle. Rents range from

Lewiston Hotel 2201 1/2 First Ave.	\$155 to \$350 per month.	William Tell Hotel 2327 Second Ave.
St. Charles Hotel 619 Third Ave.	Scargo Hotel 2205 1/2 First Ave.	The Gatewood 107 Pine St.

Please call 343-7838 for application information.



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Labor Council, AFL-CIO,  
promotes social justice  
for all people by organizing  
in the community ...**



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is an injury to all."**

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## Catch the Light in a Rented Room....

Catch the glint off a cockroach wing  
By the light of a rented room,

Where the four corners speak softly, modal logically,  
And comradeship oscillates among the pyre of dishes,

Friends that scraped the last of the tomato paste,  
Hardened by the room's coldness into clumps of blood...

And among borogroves and nimble toads of the seasoning shakers  
Is a mathematician looking for his toothpick...

Come now, what is the maximum heat a toaster can give?  
And among the cold water pipes are the fluids needed to live...

Catch me here Eileen, catch the tea brewed in the cooking pot,  
And we drink it fast and roll around while it still hot...

Have you known me in my opulence of sugar and cream?  
That two pillows on my bed would this way dream?

Now you know me as lean and keen on kissing your lips,  
Oh pardon me my hand quite absent-mindedly slipped around your hips!

But love me, love me, by the light of a rented room,  
As your wedding gown can be fashioned on the simplest of looms!

*For Eileen Hada Locke (Ai Lian)  
By Koon Woon, Morrison Hotel, Seattle*

## Friends

Through passion's escalating rise  
and love's unfailing strength  
We find to words with which to show  
Emotion's breadth and length

When times grow quickly troubled  
We've friends who will be there  
The matter what the cost to them  
They've caring yet to spare

We look for grace up heavenward  
To quench our yearning thirst  
We turn to find our truest friends  
Are there to help us first

The matter how it grieves them  
No matter when or why  
Our friends are those we know upon  
Whom we can truly rely

We try to choose them carefully  
And hope we've chosen true  
So when we find we've made mistakes  
Our friends will see us through

So let us all remember now  
The meanings and the ends  
And give our fondest wishes  
To those we call our friends

—Sam Blair

## Set of 3

### Introduction

My name is Marion,  
and I am "Collateral Damage"  
in this WAR  
we wage on  
ourselves,  
Each Other,  
the Earth, our home  
and GOD, our All/Source.

### A. IT'S ABOUT TIME!

(in the NAME of my friend, John, who went through the  
White Man's prison"like a breeze going thru (his) HAIR..."

NOW,  
the White Amerikan Male  
is "uncomfortable"  
...in "His Own Land!"

FOUNDED on Genocide  
and Slavery,  
Compounded by  
Disrespect and ABUSE  
of the Land, *itself*...

Now,  
he is Afraid.  
I say,  
"It's About Time!  
He has MADE  
his Enemies;  
NOW,  
Let him LIE  
Beneath them!"

### B. ME, A WOMAN

Comes with the Sun,  
Moves with the Wind,  
talks to the BROOK,  
dances to the Moon,

has NO-thing  
to  
DO  
in the City.

She wants to  
Sing at the Tides  
and Bathe in the Rain  
once again...

She is WAITING....to Live,  
.....once AGAIN.

(She wonders at your Indifference,  
...is hurt by your Fear...)

### C. Marion Sue Fischer

For ALL my BITCHIN',  
I'll be here  
When they CLOSE AMARIKA:

Sleeping in  
the flowerbeds,  
DRINKING IN  
the sky  
and  
Eating Nasturtiums...

—Marion Sue Fischer



## For to Work Again

Again down the way I go,  
waiting for work training.  
Waiting in my cubicle  
for work training,  
or re-training if you like.  
Many years have passed  
since I worked steadily.  
The men pass by,  
eyeing me,  
Oh, what will the future bring?  
Children go to class  
to learn and I, too, will  
soon be in the absorption  
stream, waiting for love  
to come inviting me;  
I am a fortunate man.  
Oh, for the many who are out  
there in the elements!  
Let us say a prayer for them.  
May the cheery flowers and plants  
grow, with good gardening  
the weeds will die.

—Thomas H. Lewis

## Untitled

we go through life holding our heads up to some higher  
point of view for what sociological B.S. that we can do  
without, life is hard enough without some jerk calling us all  
losers in life when the tables get turned, you see the truth  
to make it in life some of us had to fight a lot harder for  
what we've gained and that we had already lost to say that  
anyone is better then the next is a crock that we can do  
without, for you're no better then us and we are just as  
good as you.

the grass can be green on both sides of the streets and  
what you have you can't take with you and some are  
thankful just to be alive as they roll out from under that  
tree in the morning, just going to work so that they might  
be able to eat that night, so the next time you look down  
look up and thank God for what you have then look down  
and say a kind word instead of walking on.

—storm

### Real Change needs the following items:

<b>Folding chairs</b>	<b>Couch</b>
<b>Conference table</b>	<b>End tables</b>
<b>Fax machine</b>	<b>Lamps</b>
<b>Stereo speakers</b>	<b>Bookshelves</b>
<b>Stereo amplifier</b>	

**Please call 441-3247 to arrange donations.**

### Looking for Space?

Our 2129 2nd. Ave.  
Community Center is expecting vacancies soon.  
Progressive organizations in search of inexpensive  
office or occasional meeting space to rent may call  
441-3247 for more information.

## Remember

I remember the days  
When i was not  
SLAVE

to the tyranny  
of Time...

When I slept when  
I was tired,  
Awakened  
Refreshed,

When i was  
Where i was  
Supposed to be,  
WHEN it was right,

When my daughter  
Was peaceful  
In the next room,

When the Machinery  
Of the Universe

Was WITH me,

In love with Life...

TIME has  
Settled my hand  
Taking me prisoner,

Going On Forever...

I eat  
(pretty much)  
When i am hungry,

BUT ALWAYS  
Within the framework  
Not of my own  
MAKING...

The World of Man  
Has robbed me  
Of my  
Natural Cycles,

Leaving me an outcast  
Of  
My  
Own  
Life,

Estranged from my TRUTH.

(...Wondering if i can LIVE  
in this city  
Of brick and cement...)

"People make the  
Earth EVIL,"  
Says the Stranger...

—Marion Sue Fischer



# CALENDAR

## September

### 1-2

**Friday & Saturday, Play, "A Fine Line"** by Jeffrey Kagan-McCann, comedy-drama on CROSS-RACIAL BOUNDARIES at an inner-city high school, Northwest actors Studio, 1100 E Pike, info 324-6328

### 3

**Sunday, noon - 6 p.m., Seattle Peace Concert** - Nicole Fournier Band, Variables, EZ Money Band, Grin and Barrett, The Authentics, The Late Punctuals, Volunteer Park, Please Bring Food Bank Donations (Non-perishable Food Items)

### 9

**Saturday, 1-5 p.m., Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets**, A concert with Critters Buggin and other bands, organized by homeless and runaway youth from Orion Center, Mural Amphitheater at Seattle Center. More info call Mary Malone at 870-8914.

### 10

**Sunday, noon - 6 p.m., Seattle Peace Concert** - Rockinghams, Katya Chorover, Sugarfoot, Salamander, Prose & Concepts, Magnusson Park, Please Bring Food Bank Donations (Non-perishable Food Items)

### 11

**Monday, 7 p.m., Meeting of Church Council of Greater Seattle Latin America Task Force** with video and discussion on World Bank and International Monetary Fund, upstairs at 4759 15th Ave NE, info 525-1213

### 17

**Sunday, noon - 6 p.m., Gasworks Park, Seattle Peace Concert** - Valhalla, China Rose, Chimestone, Sam Andrew Band (formerly Big Brother & the Holding Co.), Please Bring Food Bank Donations (Non-perishable Food Items)

**5 - 8 p.m., Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation Party to Celebrate FOR'S**

**80th Birthday** and to honor long time and older FOR members, Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 North 70th, info 789-5565

### 21

**Thursday, and subsequent 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 A.M., International Women's Day Committee** informal community building and networking meetings, Elliott Bay Bookstore Cafe, 1st South at Main, info Lexie 587-3854 or Louise 632-8547

### 23

**Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia sponsors a training session** for their upcoming listening project on Youth and Militarism, University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave NE, info 547-0952

**Noon - 4 p.m., Second Annual Rainbow Kite Festival**, Pride in the Sky celebrating the diversity that families are, volunteers needed, Magnuson Park Kite Hill, info Carol Landis 720-1076

### 24

**Sunday, sign-in 8:30 a.m., Northwest AIDS Walk**, a 10K fundraising Walkathon benefiting AIDS prevention and care services, Memorial Stadium, Seattle Center, info 323-WALK(9255)

**Noon - 6 p.m., Seattle Peace Concert** - Kuli Loach, Harvest Home, Quo Ad Hoc, Aunt Betsey. Please Bring Food Bank Donations (Non-perishable Food Items), Woodland Park.

### 26

**Tuesday, 7 p.m., Meet & Greet, Seattle NOW** (National Organization for Women) Action Meeting, 7:30 meeting, Seattle Central Community College room 1110, info 632-

## TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwords ©1993



8547

### 27

**Wednesday, 8 a.m. - noon, Church Council of Greater Seattle presents a community wide Summit on Affirmative Action**, info 525-1213

### 28

**Thursday, 6:30 p.m., SHARE/CCS Community Potluck**. Randolph Carter Center, 100 23rd S., More info: 328-5739 or 328-5739

## October

### 1

**Sunday, Noon - 6 p.m., Seattle Peace Concert** - Deep Seed, Shamaniacs, Raised by Wolves, Boogie Brown Band, Volunteer Park, Please Bring Food Bank Donations (Non-perishable Food Items)

### 6-7

**Friday, Saturday, 6:30 - 10 p.m. Panel Session, Sat, 8 a.m. - noon Workshops, "Plutonium Roundtable"**, A Public Education Project on Policy Choices for Nuclear Weapons Disposal, Sponsored by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and the League of Women Voters of Washington, Mountaineer's Building, 300 3rd Ave W, info 547-2630

### 8

**Sunday, noon - 6 p.m., Seattle Peace Concert** - Columbus Got Lost Concert, Don Glenn & the Wombats with special guest Issac Scott, Crosseyed Cat, Drums! (Bring a drum or other rhythm instrument), Gasworks Park, Please Bring Food Bank Donations (Non-perishable Food Items)

**7 p.m., Seattle Branch Women's International**

**League for Peace and Freedom, 80th Anniversary Celebration**, presenting the historical play "Most Dangerous Women", Museum of History and Industry, info 329-3666

## Ongoing

**Through Dec., Bigot Busters** (Decline to Sign Discriminatory Petitions 166 or 167), Hotline number to report Signature Gathering 767-2457 (SOS-2457) - put this number in your wallet!

**Through August, exhibit "Long Road to Freedom"**, history of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Movement, Broadway Market, 425 E Broadway, info Pride Foundation 323-3318

**Through August, Childrens Peace Writing and Drawing Exhibit "From Hiroshima to Hope: The World I Want to Live In"**, Downtown Seattle Public Library, 3rd floor, 5th Avenue between Madison & Spring, info 386-4150 or 386-4101

**Through Sept. 5, "Tulalip Boarding School: Between Two Worlds"**, Museum of History and Industry, 2700 24th Ave E, info 324-1126

**Sat., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., KIRO 100.7 FM Radio**, Progressive talk show host Jim Hightower

**Special Thanks to Jean**  
at  
**buskin@u.washington.edu**.  
Please send notices regarding homeless, housing, poverty related, or other progressive events to Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave., 948121, 441-3247.  
Confirmation of listed events is advised.



# REAL CHANGE TAKES MORE THAN SPARE CHANGE.

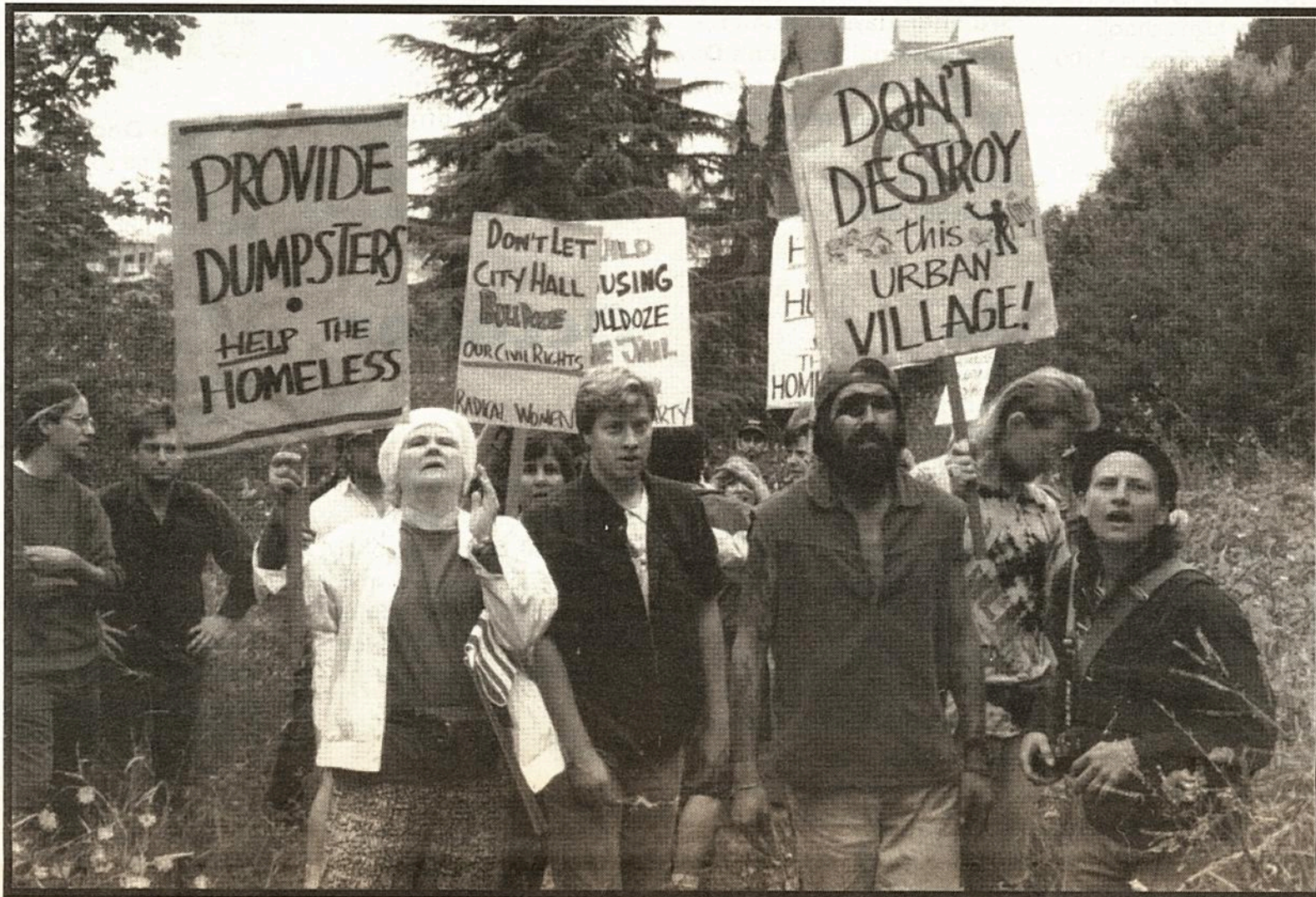


PHOTO BY GUERRY HODDERSON

## JUSTICE IS MORE THAN CHARITY

**O**ur newspaper is based upon some pretty simple ideas. We should listen to the poor. We should all have meaningful work. We should all work for justice.

*Real Change* publishes the views of homeless people and their advocates so that we may have a direct voice of our own. We provide honest, immediate work to those who are interested in helping themselves.

For us, *Real Change* is more than just words. It's creating economic opportunity, changing public perceptions, and ultimately building the sort of informed pressure that makes social change happen.

None of this can happen without you. By purchasing *Real Change* from a homeless vendor, you make the project work. We do, however, depend upon other sorts of support as well.

Your subscription contribution helps us cover the expenses involved in staffing and producing a monthly paper. Your volunteer hours help keep our expenses to a minimum, so we can focus our resources on what matters: creating jobs and a voice for the homeless.

You can help the homeless to help themselves. When we work together, real change is possible. For more information, call 441-3247.

### COUNT ME IN!

**I want more than just words!**

**Let's work together to make Real Change Happen.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks should be made payable to  
"Real Change," 2129 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98121**

- ☐ Enclosed is \$35 for a 1 year subscription
- ☐ Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Send me info about ad rates
- ☐ I can volunteer the following:
  - ☐ Typing Skills
  - ☐ Desktop Publishing Skills
  - ☐ Photography
  - ☐ Proofreading skills
  - ☐ Journalism Skills
  - ☐ Time and Energy
  - ☐ Other