

**The
Real Change
Homeless
Newspaper**

is a
non-profit organization

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. Email rchange@speakeasy.org ISSN 1085-729X Articles should be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Annual subscriptions (12 Issues) are available for \$35, and support Real Change.

All material copyrighted to author
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.

Contents

Features

- Butter from Water 8
- Sam Blair 9
- Creepy Joe 14

Local News

- Camp Muni 4
- Rally for Working Families 5
- Visions in Conflict 6
- Real Change in Tacoma 18

Opinion

- We're Outta Here 3
- Drawing Lines 5

Etcetera

- Vendor of the Month 3
- Letters 3
- Adventures in Poetry 12
- History 12
- New on the Net 13
- SWAC 14

Poetry

- Full-Time Outdoorsman
- Creation
- Another Lonely Day
- This is Where it Begins 18

Cover Art by Wes Browning, Ken Miller, and Pablo Picasso. Layout by Joel Schoenberg

Vendor Code of Conduct

- 1.) Vendors must be sober while they represent Real Change to the public. Drug or alcohol use while selling the paper is not allowed.
 - 2.) Vendors must wear their Real Change Badge in a clearly visible manner while they sell the paper.
 - 3.) Abusive language or threatening behavior of any form is not acceptable. You represent Real Change, and reflect upon all of us while you sell the paper.
 - 4.) The real Change Badge, and the papers you buy, cannot be loaned or given to another vendor.
 - 5.) Do not fight other vendors or panhandlers over turf. Either agree to share space, or find somewhere else to go.
- Any of these actions will result in an immediate two week suspension as a vendor. Repeated suspensions will result in permanent termination of all rights to sell Real Change or be involved as a member.
- Suspensions and terminations by staff may be appealed to elected vendor representatives, but are in effect until overturned.

DON'T BE FOOLED
The only legitimate use of the Real Change Badge is to sell the Real Change newspaper. Vendors may not solicit funds or sell free papers, such as The Stranger or the Employment Paper, using this Badge. If you see this occur, please call 441-3247 with the badge number.

Director

Timothy Harris

Advertising Reps.

Madeline Lewis, Catherine Gainey, Jerry Dwaine Campise, Marion Marshall, Fawn Streeter.

Organizer

Ozula Sioux

Editorial Committee

Michele Marchand, Marion Sue Fischer, Stan Burriss, Joy Graybill, Wes Browning, Ken Miller, Anitra Freeman

Volunteers this Issue

Geoff Cole, Peter Constantini, Jennifer Domeier, Julie Eagleton, Susan Forschey, Chris French, Carole Frisell, Sylvie McGee, Domingo Martinez, Alex Mayer, Mary Mead, Machiko Momii, Tom Morton, Scott Nodland, John Prendergast, Emma Quinn, Bob Redmond, Kristina Rhode, Jean Rowlands-Tarbox, Jennifer Schwinn, Joel Schoenberg, (Special thanks to the King County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project)

Advisory Board

- Ishbel Dickens
Homestead Organizing Project
- Josephine Archuletta,
Task Force on Housing and Homelessness
- Bob Barnes
King County Rainbow Coalition
- Beverly Blomgren
Pike Market Senior Center
- David Bloom,
Seattle Church Council
- Juan Bocanegra,
Downtown Human Services Council
- Oscar Carcamo,
Arco Iris Organization
- Ken Cole,
Archdiocesan Housing Authority
- Jean Coleman,
Welfare Rights Organizing Cmte.
- Helaire Echo-Hawk,
Echo-Hawk Information Line
- John Fox,
Seattle Displacement Coalition
- Neil Fox,
National Lawyer's Guild
- Larry Gossett,
County Councilmember, Dist. 10

- Jon Gould,
Tenants Union
- James Griffin,
People of Color Against AIDS Network
- Lewis Harris
Justice for Janitors
- Bill Hobson,
Downtown Emergency Service Center
- Katy Keenan,
Homeless Art Gallery
- Scott Morrow
SHARE
- Mai Nguyen
Int'l District Housing Alliance
- Jim Rietz,
Archdiocesan Housing Authority
- Mary Robinson,
Downtown Human Services Council
- Helena Stephens,
Seattle Women's Commission
- Tamara Turner
Radical Women
- Velma Veloria
State Representative, 11th District
- Geri Ware
Seattle Women's Commission

We're Outta Here!

Homeless people are literally leaving Seattle by the busloads. In the past two months nearly four thousand have left by Greyhound, bound mainly for East Coast cities. The departures have been coordinated. They leave daily, each bus carrying away up to fifty homeless men, women, and children.

Dr. Wes Browning

Some pay their own fare, others have their fares paid for them, generally by national organizations dedicated to homeless causes. Chief among these in the American Homeless Union. Recently the Seattle head of the AHU, Phil M. Hand, explained the ongoing exodus this way: "Basically around December or January we all began to realize that we really weren't wanted here in Seattle. And we're not masochists, OK? I mean, we've been working hard for years at making this city a real haven for our folks, but if Seattle isn't into it, we can live with that."

Further details are sketchy. The rumors among street people (what's left of them) are, as always, incomplete and unreliable. What is certain is that the departures began near the end of January and coincided with a number of setbacks for the homeless in this city. There was the recent reclearing of the "Jungle" along I-5, and the so-called sweep of the Municipal Building encampment.

But worst of all was the resistance by local merchants to plans to expand

laundry and shower facilities at a few downtown service-centers. As one Belltown alley resident put it, "I always knew no one wanted me around when I was dirty and smelled like a sewer. But when I saw they didn't want me clean and smelling like a rose, either, I really got the message! It *is* personal, isn't it? So right then I spent my welfare check on a ticket to Pittsburgh. I'll be gone by tomorrow."

The repercussions of this mass exodus cannot be understated. Most of Seattle's homeless-advocacy groups have already ceased to function, even though the last busload of homeless isn't expected to depart until mid-April. These groups include SHARE, WHEEL, and Operation Homestead. Several hundred social workers formerly employed by service agencies throughout the city have already been laid off.

But in addition to the expected, there have been some perhaps unexpected consequences of the sudden scarcity of homeless. For example, at City Hall, everyone from Norm Rice to Mark Sidran is complaining about the long waits for cab rides.

It seems that as many as one-third of all Seattle taxi drivers have been homeless and are now driving elsewhere. Dishes are piling up unwashed in even the best local restaurants, houses are going unpainted, and overgrown backyards are remaining so. Non-homeless residents are experiencing more muggings and burglaries than ever, now that gangs don't have easier targets to victimize.

Gay-bashing and race-related violence is on the increase again as

generous. Yet, since I am unable to afford to pay any reasonable rent or to support myself financially, I live in the constant threat and fear that my car may be my only (and next) roof.

Everyone who hears the details of my story is shocked that such a thing could happen in this country. Yes, I remind them, homelessness is a frightening and unjust reality.

I am enclosing a poem I recently wrote and would be honored if you would consider it for publication:

*Even as the day turns into night,
We must not give up the fight.
There is not a glimmer of light
Not yet out of sight.
Do you see it?*

Cindy L. Ference
Seattle

Dear Real Change,

I was given a copy of your March '96 issue of *Real Change*. I couldn't help but notice that all the letters published in this issue were positive with regard to *Real Change*. I wonder if you will be inclined to publish this one.

In reading through this issue it quickly became clear that this was nothing more than an ultra left-wing newsletter wrapped in the thread-bear (sic) blankets of the Homeless. You are using the plight of those who have fallen on hard times to promulgate your socialist views.

Cont. on page 15

"I always knew no one wanted me around when I was dirty and smelled like a sewer. But when I saw they didn't want me clean and smelling like a rose, either, I really got the message! It *is* personal, isn't it?"

"bum-bashing" declines. Dumpsters are overflowing with recyclables throughout the city. Seattle is awash in aluminum cans, refundable bottles, repairable TV sets, and stereos.

Corner rose-vendors have vanished and with them half the street musicians. And many service-industry businesses are discovering that they can't afford to pay the higher wages demanded and required by rent-paying and home-owning citizens. To help with these and other problems, the city has established special consulting hotlines. Anyone concerned may request assistance or

further information at 684-8200.

Naturally, the *Real Change* homeless newspaper will not be unaffected. "Sure, we'll keep operating for a couple of months," said Timothy "Make My Day" Harris. I mean, we've got donations coming in, and we've got our subscribers and our advertisers. But let's face it. People are going to catch on."

"With no vendors and nothing to write about, what are we going to do? Well, I'll tell you what I'm gonna do! Get the hell out of here! That's what!"

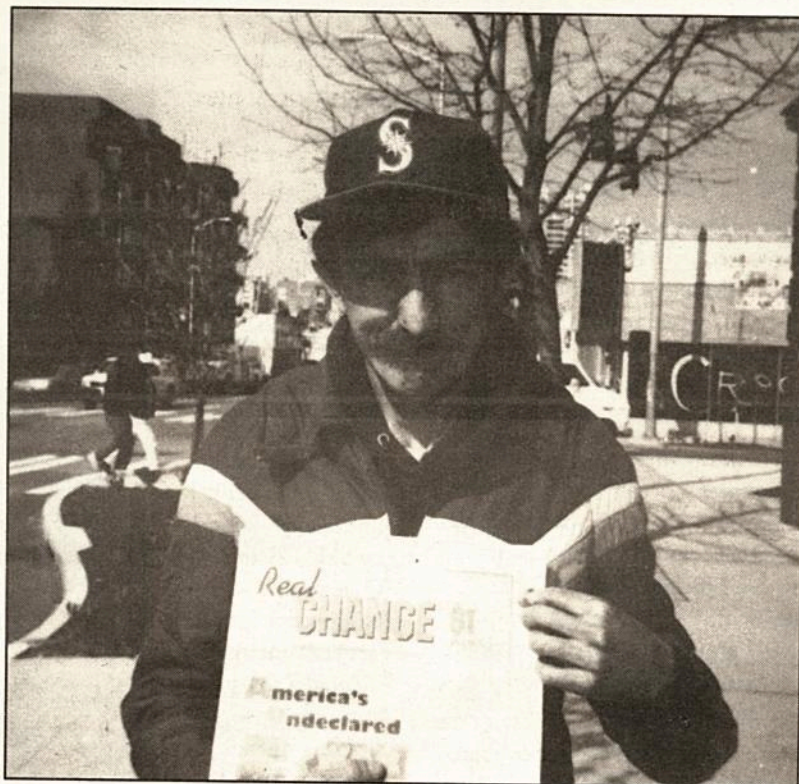
Perhaps he'll head for Pittsburg.

Vendor of the Month

Richard Smith became homeless for the third time when he was laid off from his last general laborer job nine months ago. Selling *Real Change* full-time in Wallingford and the University District has enabled him to rent a room and buy food, and, he says, has made him feel better about himself and other people.

"Selling the paper has changed my life completely," says Richard. "I had a lot of bitterness before, and now that's gone. People have been very courteous to me. It makes me feel really good."

As *Real Change* Vendor of the Month, Richard wins \$25 and a gourmet meal for two at Common Meals. Congratulations to Richard for a job well done.



**Homeless
Not Helpless**

**Real
CHANGE** *Making a Difference
Today and Tomorrow*

**Where
the Street
Meets the Web**

Features past two full issues, a subject index of our archives, and up to date legislative action info. 4 Star Magellan Site.

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

MAILBAG

2129 2nd Ave., 98121
rchange@speakeasy.org

Dear Real Change,

I have been a supporter of your paper for the past few months. I am increasingly impressed with its contents. I am moved by the poetry and informed by the articles. I also read the ads and would be inclined to patronize businesses who support *Real Change*.

From a personal standpoint, I am drawn to you paper, as I too have been homeless. As I write this letter, I am, once again, looking for a new place to stay. I have lived in eight places in the past eighteen months. I am disabled and very poor.

People really need to understand that the systems that are in place often times fail to help those who need it most. I was disabled four years ago as a result of an on the job injury. A claim was filed with Labor and Industries and supported by my physician and employer. Labor and Industries accepted my claim after a six-month deliberation (during which time I lost my housing for the first time). They subsequently closed my claim with a very small disability award and I have been fighting poverty and the system ever since.

I have been fortunate, thus far, to not have had to live in my car or on the street. I am articulate and resourceful and have friends who have been most

Adventures at "Camp Muni"

Downtown Turf War Escalates to Arrests

BY CATHERINE GAINNEY

Six activists and four homeless persons were arrested Thursday, March 14 and charged with criminal trespass and destruction of public property as they protested the city's policy of no outdoor camping in front of the Seattle Municipal Building.

The arrests occurred after demonstrators dug up the dozen or so bushes the city planted Wednesday in front of City Hall. The city spent \$4,000 as part of what special assistant Jim Hammond called an "environmental modification." The landscaping project is calculated to make City Hall grounds unfit for overnight habitation.

Until recently, the concrete slab which ran the length of Seattle's Municipal Building, located at the corner of 4th and James, was a favorite among the city's street people. The overhang protected them from the elements while the warm air passing through the vents kept away the night chill.

In mid-January, the mayor, in cooperation with the Health Department and the Department of Housing and Human Services issued a mandate that made sleeping in front of the Municipal building illegal, thus ending a long-held unofficial policy of "tolerance."

The city reportedly spent \$15,000 in the last year to remove soil they say was contaminated with human waste. Hammond says that increasing sanitary and behavioral problems led to the decision. "It escalated to a point where something had to be done," he said.

Fliers posted on the building's windows and doors advised all who sought to sleep out front of the building to move on. Specifically, these fliers warned all would-be campers that anyone violating this edict would be subject to arrest for criminal trespass.

SHARE organizer Scott Morrow and other advocates became involved when word of the city's action spread. A team effort that included Displacement Coalition, Mothers Against Police Harassment, WHEEL and other pro-homeless groups mobilized to pick up and deliver blankets, food and coffee and to lend support.

The sleep-out, which was dubbed, "Camp Muni" became the focal point for the more recent round of debates between the city and homeless rights advocates. SHARE organizer Scott Morrow denied the action was a protest. "This is an encampment," he said. "Fifteen people have been sleeping here for the last six weeks, trying to stay alive."

Demonstrators gathered in front of the Municipal building at 7 p.m. and began digging up shrubbery along a four-foot strip in the west side of the building. Once finished re-potting or moving these shrubs, demonstrators set

up bedrolls and sleeping bags to "reclaim" the site that several of the homeless men called "their home."

At about 8:15 Sgt. William Howe of the Seattle Police Department arrived and informed participants they had 15 minutes to clear out. Arrests soon followed, including the arrest of some not directly involved in the action.

The Homeless Coalition is seeking to engage the city in an on-going dialogue regarding the issue of Seattle's chronic shortage of shelter beds. The goal is to establish a tent city encampment with sanitary and safety support.

The city has systematically decimated and leveled Seattle's most visible outdoor encampments. "Camp Muni" is the latest target of Seattle's crackdown on the homeless. In August of 1994, City police and demolition crews descended upon the greenbelt at the foot of Beacon Hill that was known by many as "The Jungle." More recently, the city fenced off large areas surrounding the Public Safety Building.

The shelter's overflow and unsafe conditions drive many homeless men and women to sleep in alleys and open sidewalks. Some of the homeless say they prefer to sleep outdoors than to risk staying in shelters they claim are lousy with vermin and are unsafe.

While there are minor disagreements on exact numbers, everyone agrees that Seattle has roughly half as many shelter beds as it does homeless. An outdoor census undertaken jointly by SHARE and Operation Nightwatch late last year documented a sharp increase in people sleeping outside nights in the downtown and waterfront areas.

While both sides disagree on a philosophical level, both claim to have the interests of the homeless at heart. "I have not reason to think Hammond is not doing his best," Morrow said. "But

the city needs to do a lot more from my perspective. The city keeps missing opportunities to work with people."

Hammond says he respects Morrow immensely but profoundly disagrees with his approach. "This kind of confrontation is counterproductive. It's allies fighting among themselves instead of taking on the Government." Hammond says that the best way of tackling such an enormous problem is to look at the big picture.

Hammond points to the number of dollars for services the city has put aside to help the homeless. The city approved an 84 percent increase in spending on programs for the homeless since 1989. \$3.5 million will go into emergency shelter and transitional housing, \$1.2 million for emergency food service and \$1.2 million for housing related social services.

Hammond says semantics are involved when it comes to reclamation

of land. "The fact is," said Hammond, "it is not their property."

Hammond worked as a volunteer at the Community for Creative Non-Violence in Washington D.C. while studying law at Georgetown University. The late homeless rights activist Mitch Snyder was the Center's director.

Morrow says the March 14 demonstration was not SHARE related, but was rather a humanitarian effort whose main goal was bring the plight of homelessness to the public consciousness. "This is not a SHARE thing," said Morrow. "I am not speaking for (them). People who sleep there every night are people that need it."

By the time this article appears, the Municipal building, which houses an emergency overflow shelter for 50 men during the winter months, will be closed for the year.



BANISHED FROM THE KINGDOM. 20TH CENTURY DIGGERS SCOTT MORROW, JERRY KING, AND BOB BENSON. PHOTO BY EMMA QUINN

Drawing Lines

Anti-Poor Legislation Based on Fear

March is the meanest month. The city of Everett, during the first week of March, passed a law that prohibits people from sleeping on public property or in their cars on public streets. After one citation, they will be arrested and jailed.

Mike Redmond

In Bellevue, on March 18, the City Council passed an ordinance that relegates certain group homes and homeless shelters to commercial and industrial zones.

In Seattle, on March 18, the anti-sidewalk sitting ordinance was upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In Seattle, on March 22, homeless advocates met with city officials to discuss the city's policy on encampments of homeless people, which currently disallows them. Nothing in the policy has been changed, and "sweeps" of the homeless who band together for safety and security will continue.

What's the common thread here? Poor people pushed out of sight and mind. Fear in the drivers seat.

The same day of the Bellevue Hearing came the court decision to

uphold Seattle's Sidewalk Ordinance. I wonder, why does someone's right to shop supersede someone's right to survive? John Fox, of the Seattle Displacement Coalition, tells me that in the last two months, two homeless people were run over by vehicles while they were asleep in alleys.

One woman, struck in the Denny Regrade, lost a leg. The other, a man, hit in the International District, was killed. What safety and security do they enjoy when they are not even allowed to find each other and sleep under a bridge, in the "Jungle," by I-5, or on the porch at the Municipal building?

While the sweeps of homeless continue and remain unresolved, The Seattle Displacement Coalition has three months to decide whether to appeal the anti-sidewalk sitting ordinance to the U.S. Supreme Court.

...

This article began simply as a report on the group homes ordinance in Bellevue. A lawsuit; an Either/Or, certainly resolvable. But as I talked to people, I felt a growing unease. Something was missing. Is it possible that these "hard choices," "tough decisions" (as the current rhetoric goes) were the only options?

The words "fear" and "protection" came so often, I almost found myself

nodding, giving in to a pervasive sense of attack. And something indeed was threatened. But in my fear was there the power to find another perspective?

Several years ago, a non-profit children's agency wanted to build a home for kids. But the neighborhood in which they wanted to put it rebelled,

plaintiffs, says with frustration, "These are the throwaway children," and "Bellevue is exporting its kids," Ms. Zumdieck is upset by this opinion. "To paint Bellevue as an uncaring community for our children...is an absolutely untrue statement." She cites a \$15 million parks budget as evidence of their

The words "fear" and "protection" came so often, I almost found myself nodding, giving in to a pervasive sense of attack. And something indeed was threatened. But in my fear was there the power to find another perspective?

and eventually the City passed an ordinance regulating this kind of facility.

The city was sued by a child, The Children's Alliance, The Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless, and the Low Income Housing Institute, who said that kids have the right to reside in a residential neighborhood and further, that moving elsewhere would be financially and clinically not feasible. After the State's Growth Management Board ruled in February, in response to this lawsuit, that the ordinance indeed violated anti-discrimination laws and other laws, the City of Bellevue passed another ordinance.

This "second alternative," passed unanimously and with much relief and glee at the March 18th Council Meeting, avoids the problems of the first by expanding it to include as well Adult Family Homes in the limits it sets.

City Attorney Dick Andrews explained the rationale for a portion of the ordinance, but one that could describe the mechanics of the entire ordinance and legal defense behind it: "If we don't exclude them de facto I think the ordinance would be defensible." This means, that as long as there is no expressed discrimination, then it does not legally exist.

Basically, the ordinance says any facility whose residents stay for less than thirty days and whose staff don't live there as they would in their own home, have to be built in commercial and industrial zones. Mayor Ron Smith explained to me, "If you're truly trying to mimic a family, then you're allowed in [the residential zones]. If you're going to mimic a light industry, then you don't belong."

City officials worked hard to understand the issues and meet the desires of its residents ("taxpayers," says Mayor Smith). City Councilwoman Georgia Zumdieck said, "we learned what these facilities are and who lives in them and we balanced that with the health and safety of the community."

While Michael Mirra, of Columbia Legal Services, and council for the

investment in children.

She says emphatically, "we're trying to protect our children." Citing the felony crimes that some youth have committed, she says "Some of our laws and institutions have not kept up with the crime and the kids. [This ordinance] is written to keep up with today's problems, with the 1990's."

Mayor Smith says that folks indeed are afraid, but it is more of the institutions than the kids. The ordinance is for "the protection of existing single family homes and neighborhoods," but if they are afraid, it is less of the kids themselves than of institutions that cannot control them.

Peter Berliner, Executive Director of the Children's Alliance, says "it remains to be seen" how the plaintiffs will pursue their case against the City of Bellevue. (A federal suit is also pending.) Counsel Mirra said after the new ordinance was passed, "[It] does not solve the non-compliance." Berliner worries that "other cities might follow suit," passing laws similar to the new Bellevue ordinance.

...

It is a compelling argument, that there are some folks are destructive and hurt others. I don't deny it. But I could not accept the solution, that I live in fear unless my neighborhood is wiped clean, that suspect persons be banished, and therefore anyone who makes me feel threatened due to my own misunderstanding or prejudice, be removed. That could not be the end to the story.

I have met kids from Bellevue who live on the streets here in Seattle and they are simply kids in need of someone to talk to, to try and understand how their lives and indeed the world is in such a state. These kids have been rejected from the very neighborhoods that are so in need of protection, it makes me wonder where the boundaries are and who draws the line.

Articulate Homeless People

Our Homeless Speakers Bureau Wants to Talk to Your Group

- Businesses
- Church Groups
- Schools (all levels)
- Civic Organizations

Help us to Destroy the Myths

A Joint Project of Real Change and the Homeless Women's Network. \$25 honorarium and one week's notice requested. Call 441-3247 for more information.

Support Real Change

Real Change depends upon the grassroots support of our readership for our survival. Every dollar donated to this paper winds up putting about four dollars in the pockets of the homeless. Best of all, your contribution goes beyond simple charity. We help people help themselves while they work for a more just world for everyone. Be a part of something important. Support Real Change in any way you can.

Real Change Matters. Here's What I Can Do.

Name _____

Address/Zip _____

Phone _____

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> Call me about |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$50 or more | volunteering my |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$35 | time and energy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | Any amount | |

If you donate \$35 or more, please indicate whether you want a subscription mailed to you Yes No

MAIL TO: REAL CHANGE, 2129 2ND AVE, SEATTLE, WA 98121

Visions in Conflict

Siting of Hygiene Centers Create Controversy

By GEOFF COLE

Hygienes Centers. Of all the services to the homeless, none causes more concern and sometimes downright NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) reactions than so-called hygiene centers. Within the last year, one has been implicated in a drug bust, and plans for another have sparked a lawsuit. The Mayor's office has even established a special committee to resolve hygiene center issues. What's going on?

To understand why hygiene centers are such a volatile subject, one needs to know *what* they are, *why* they are so important, *where* they are, and *who* is involved in the complex debate surrounding them. Hygiene centers and their issues provide a kind of microcosm of the relationships among service providers, the bureaucracy, and the business and residential communities in which they coexist.

Generally speaking, a hygiene center is less than a shelter—though they are often housed in shelters—and more than just a public toilet. Most provide toilet facilities plus showers, and ideally include clothes washing and drying facilities. One (at Compass Center) also provides free clothing.

"The term was probably used originally in grant applications," says Bill Hobson of Downtown Emergency Services Center, and has become the "quasi-official or shorthand" term for what are referred to more formally as "hygiene services."

Their importance is undisputed. A two-page Department of Housing and Human Services (DHHS) bulletin begins, "There are extremely limited public hygiene facilities available ... particularly in downtown neighborhoods," and concludes, "Lack of public toilets creates health and safety problems

for many persons that need the facilities."

Joe Martin, Pike Market Medical Clinic social worker and one of the founders of the clinic in 1978, says access to toilets, showers, and laundry facilities is "vital to the whole community's health concerns." Homeless people without access to facilities are at greater risk of having disease-carrying parasites. Doctors at PMC daily see cases of skin infections that "water and soap can alleviate," says Martin.

Martin says it is only "common sense" as well as a "humane gesture" to provide basic hygiene services to the homeless, a sentiment that is echoed by DHHS's bulletin, which says that "opinion has coalesced that the City must take the lead" in providing hygiene services to the homeless.

The business community agrees on this point. "There are people in need, and we need to help them," says Kate Joncas of the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA).

Almost everyone also agrees that hygiene services must increase to meet greatly increased need. Martin, who has worked with the homeless for more than 20 years, says there has been a "real shift" in the demographics of homelessness, largely "connected with changes in the economic system," including more working poor, victims of domestic abuse, and children.

Although DHHS's bulletin says downtown facilities include 47 toilets (including portable toilets), 23 showers, and 9 washers and dryers, it also points out that several "limit the provision of hygiene services to the people who come into their centers for a range of [other] services," reducing the number of showers to 16 and washing facilities to 5.

Of those open to non-residents of the shelter, "hours of operation and

"Homeless people without access to facilities are at greater risk of having disease-carrying parasites. Doctors daily see cases of skin infections that water and soap can alleviate."

facilities are very limited, including being closed at night." Joncas says the business community knows the numbers of homeless needing services are growing, and "we have to serve them here—they have nowhere else to go."

A Case in Point

Why, then, are hygiene centers so controversial? Because, says Jim Fergin, recently-retired director of the Lutheran Compass Center, they draw people in need—and as homeless people congregate, they become more visible. Business people "want the area to look spiffy," says Joe Martin more bluntly.

Under Fergin, the Compass Center wanted to attract homeless people, in order to help them get on their feet—including, when appropriate, getting treatment for alcohol and other addictions. While other agencies see hygiene centers as simply a necessary service, Compass Center says in its recent renovation grant application that the hygiene facility is an "entry point" for other services the agency offers, providing the "first opportunity" to help homeless people "return to productive, stable lives."

This approach is exactly what Pioneer Square business owners don't want, says Fergin. Some would like to reduce the Compass Center to a low-income "single resident occupancy hotel," in Fergin's words.

Because of the need for privacy, critics claim, hygiene centers also make drug transactions easier. This was the complaint of the Pioneer Square Community Council when the Compass Center was involved in a highly-publicized drug bust last year. Food, postal boxes, and other services can be provided in public, Fergin points out, but one needs "privacy and security" for using the toilet and bathing.

Compass Center's hygiene facilities became the focus of controversy because of a Seattle Times story, by staff reporter Linda Keane, about a Pioneer Square drug bust. The story implied that drug dealers were taking advantage of the privacy of Compass's hygiene center bathroom to make transactions. Several "facts" of the Times story were refuted by Ron Adams, Deputy Director of the Compass Center—among them that the dealer was an employee of the Compass Center, and that the bust had occurred on Compass property.

The bust and the attendant publicity led to monthly meetings among representatives of the Pioneer Square Community Council, Seattle Police, DHHS, and the Mayor's office. Fergin says at first "the attitude was, you couldn't keep the drug business out." He says members of the business community threatened to sue Compass if there was another drug bust.

Fergin still smarts over the incident. He blames the city for installing two portable toilets just west of the Center, which he says became "the most active crack houses in Seattle." Pointing from his third-story office, he says, "I could look out this window and see drug transactions taking place around the Porta-potties on a daily basis." Inevitably, the drug activity "spilled over" (Fergin's words) to the hygiene facility. The portable toilets have since been removed.

Fergin suggests the hygiene center concept may also make people uncomfortable because everyone can relate to the need to use the toilet—and to do so privately and safely. Many people just don't want to think about how the homeless must deal with this basic need, he speculates.

In keeping with his approach to providing services, Fergin feels privacy is important for dignity. After the drug bust, he says, the police wanted to put in video cameras and use drug-sniffing dogs. The message of such measures, he says, is that homeless people are automatically untrustworthy. He said "no."

Since the drug bust, Compass has hired separate men's and women's attendants and installed a window in the men's side for better monitoring of activity. Everywhere there are signs, "This is a drug-free workplace," and a large sign in the men's shower area tells users, "You are under surveillance."

Compass's recent renovation grant application cites "increased security" as one of its goals. The renovation is designed to provide "visible observation" by both the male and female attendants to their respective restroom facilities.

No further incidents have occurred. Tina Bueche, president of the PSCC, allows that Compass is "on the right track" but "not done yet," citing what she believes as the need for further supervision. The Community Council didn't oppose the grant application to upgrade Compass's hygiene center,



SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE ARE SIGNS! BELLTOWN ARMY/NAVY STORE PRINTS ANTI-HYGIENE CENTER PLACARDS FOR NEIGHBORS. PHOTO BY J. DOMEIER.

Bueche says, because the improvements are necessary for Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and because the remodeling won't increase the facility's use.

Homelessness Isn't Pretty

While business and residential groups don't dispute the need for hygiene facilities, where they are (or will be) is certainly an issue. Currently, two are at the south end of downtown, at 2nd and Jefferson (Downtown Emergency Services Center) and Pioneer Square (Compass Center); almost all other agencies that have or could have hygiene centers are concentrated north of the city core in Belltown and the Denny Regrade.

Not surprisingly, business and residential groups at both ends of downtown claim their neighborhoods are already carrying more than their share of services to the homeless. Meanwhile, the one facility planned for mid-town—in the basement of what is to become a shelter in the old Glen Hotel on Third between Union and Pike—was blocked by a lawsuit. Re-siting the hygiene center has become a thorny issue.

While the federal and local bureaucracies and public and private non-profit agencies involved in providing services to the homeless are not the most powerful players in downtown politics, these groups do represent significant money and quite a few jobs. For example, Compass Center and Downtown Emergency Services Center have budgets of over \$1 million and \$2 million respectively, according to recent grant applications. Federal Block Grants (along with private foundations, churches, and other organizations) which fund hygiene facility projects, are administered by the city's Department of Housing and Human Services (DHHS), itself one of the city's largest social service agencies.

Private non-profit organizations such as the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) apply for these grants to create shelters and hygiene centers, such as LIHI's disputed Glen Hotel project. Community residential and business organizations, such as the Downtown Seattle Association and the Denny Regrade Business Improvement Area, keep a wary eye on the agencies, while the Mayor's office acts as referee to resolve disagreements among the players.

After LIHI and the city were sued last summer by a neighboring building owner to prevent construction of the hygiene center part of LIHI's Glen Hotel shelter project, Deputy Mayor Bruce Brooks convened a Hygiene Center Task Force to resolve this and other possible disputes.

Now referred to as the Hygiene Services Committee, the advisory group includes representatives from service providers such as the Downtown Emergency Services Center, business organizations such as the DSA and Denny Regrade BIA, private non-profits such as LIHI, advocacy groups such as the Coalition for the Homeless, the Department of Housing and Human Services, the Mayor's office through Deputy Mayor Bruce Brooks and his assistant Larry Taylor, and several other city departments.

About the only people without a direct voice in this complex process are the homeless themselves. Says Ishbel Dickens, a LIHI staffer who attends Hygiene Committee meetings, "We brought that up in committee and were told [by the Mayor's office], 'This is not the time,'" she said.

Worlds Apart

Not surprisingly, communication among the diverse groups represented on the committee has been difficult. "We speak a different language," says Kate Joncas, president of the Downtown Seattle Association and a member of the committee. Joncas says both the service providers and the business community need to become more aware of the other's concerns.

A memo from Joncas to the Task Force illustrates the "understanding gap." The memo, a partial list of downtown restrooms accessible to the public—presumably including the homeless—includes upscale office buildings such as Columbia Seafirst Tower and Century Square, and hotels such as the Westin and Hilton buildings which tend to have security to keep just such people out..

Joncas says business people "tend to be suspicious" when they don't hear about projects at the early stages. A good example of this communication breakdown occurred late in 1995. When First Avenue Service Center applied to DHHS to expand their hygiene services—a grant that was ultimately turned down—the Denny

proposed expansion," the letter concluded.

Had the Denny Regrade BIA contacted the First Avenue Service Center directly to ask what their plans were? Well, no, said Shirley Bishop, Executive Director of the BIA. On the other hand, BIA concern with the agency's lack of communication may be warranted. Chris Marcell of First Avenue Service Center refused to discuss their grant application with *Real Change* at all, except to flatly deny a communication problem between the facility and the Denny Regrade BIA.

Generally, however, service providers seem eager to work with the business and residential communities. In a grant application to upgrade its hygiene facilities, Downtown Emergency Services Center pointed out, "We continue to have a strong involvement in the life and issues of the community through participation of the Executive Director and Program Manager in various community based formal and informal organizations." And its director, Bill Hobson, urged *Real Change* to contact the Downtown Seattle Association for their views for this story.

Compass Center's recent grant application to upgrade its hygiene facilities also pointed out that, to honor "our business community's request for increased monitoring and security," the agency "presented our renovation project at the September Pioneer Square Community Council meeting...even though this renovation does not require neighborhood notification under the city's Good Neighbor Policies." The application adds, "The Compass Center is committed to developing and maintaining good neighborhood relationships."

Perhaps nowhere is the "perception gap" between representatives of the business / residential community and the service providers better illustrated than in the present negotiations to find a site for the LIHI hygiene center.

Under terms of the out-of-court settlement between the city and the building owners who filed suit last summer, the Hygiene Committee must find a suitable location for the hygiene center. Several sites have been proposed—all in the Denny Regrade-Belltown area, where many social service agencies currently reside. Neighborhood objections have already been raised.

Cont. on page 12.

"Some members of the Hygiene Committee almost immediately began suggesting they look at sites as much as three blocks for showers and six blocks for laundry facilities outside the free-ride zone. Such proposals show a remarkable lack of understanding of the needs of the people to be served..."

Kelly's Pub 

 \$1.25 large glasses - \$5.00 pitchers all day
Come join us for Easter Celebration
 Open daily 6am - midnight
 2236 3rd Ave Seattle

Dave Markovich
OWNER

the Belltown Barber


tue - fri: 9 - 6
 sat: 9 - 4

2219 - 2nd
 tel. 441-4738

anti-racism psychology cards & posters

spirituality poetry

Red & Black Books
 432 15th Ave E
 Seattle WA 98112
 322-READ • open daily



gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender

literature children's books art & film politics

Regrade Business Improvement Area sent a letter to Deputy Mayor Bruce Brooks complaining that the Center had changed its plans from a one-shower expansion to an eight-shower "super center" without informing the business and residential community. "To keep the community in the dark only ensures lack of support for the

Mighty Aphrodite

Body ♦ Bath ♦ Burnables

Soaps, Salts, Perfume & Essential Oils
 Bath & Massage Oils, Candles

Goddess Images & random unusual things.
 The largest & most complete selection of classic & rare incense in Seattle.

Airs • Gonesh • Paines • Nu Essence • Nag Champa • Loving Life
 Auroshika • Incensio De Santa Fe • Mothers • Jah Way
 Devonshire Apothecary
 Stick, Cones, Resins, Powders, Charcoal & Burners.

**** 10% off with this ad ****

Open 7 days
 Wallingford Center • 45th & Wallingford
 Bus # 16, 44 & 30
634-0423

Butter from Water

Program for Haitian Street Youth Runs on Hope

BY PETER CONSTANTINI

Haiti's current president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, founded it. The president-elect, Rene Preval, became friends with Aristide while working there. But it's not a university or a big corporation: it's a home for homeless children.

On Christmas day, the courtyard of Lafanmi Se Lavi ("The Family Is Life" in Creole) is overrun with barefoot boys enjoying their presents to the blare of compas music. They've just finished a feast of fried chicken, rice and beans, and salad. Every boy gets a small gift: a miniature car, a toy dinosaur, a play radio. Teachers show kids how to throw yo-yos. Younger boys put their presents back into the bags they came in and pull them out again.

"There's a Haitian proverb, 'I churn water to make butter,'" says counselor Jean-LaBonte Delicieux. "We try to make a real home with whatever we can beg or borrow."

In 1986, Aristide, then a parish priest, joined with others to work with Haiti's street kids. "Aristide's basic philosophy is strong and alive today," says administrator Joanne Keogh. "If children's needs and values and the wisdom of their life experience could be heard and responded to by adults, the world would be a very different place."

In the intervening years of repression, the number of homeless children in Haiti has doubled, the staff estimates. The 1991 military coup that overthrew Aristide's democratically elected government killed thousands of parents or forced them into hiding or exile. Over the past eight years, Haitian life

expectancy dropped from 54 to 47 years.

Building a safe environment for these children under military dictatorships was a dangerous business. A 1988 fire forced the home to move to a new location. In 1991, five days before Aristide's inauguration as president, Lafanmi Se Lavi was firebombed, killing four boys and a staff member who tried to rescue them. Yet another fire struck in 1992. Most observers believe the arsons were the work of paramilitary death squads, who also killed many adult associates of Aristide.

Today, Keogh puts the "reality figure" of homeless children at 500,000 in a country of 7 million. With the abolition of the army and return of constitutional government, Delicieux believes the phenomenon may have peaked. Yet Haiti's economy remains a smoking ruin, with 75 percent unemployment and decimated public services.

To choose boys for the home, outreach workers spend time on the street getting to know the kids, then invite them to visit the home. Finally, the staff selects for residence the youngest kids, those with no family, and those who have spent the longest on the street.

When they asked resident boys how to handle the new kids, one told them: "Be patient; don't throw them out the first time they mess up. Remember, it took us a while to learn the rules." The staff continues to work with the remaining boys on the street, and encourages resident boys to invite them in for meals.

For its 110 residents, Lafanmi Se Lavi provides meals, medical care, education, and vocational training, says Keogh. Eight years of in-house education begin in Creole, the language of most Haitians, and transition into French, the main language of higher education.

"The type of education we do is very concrete," says education

director Lionel Etienne. "We read about something, say animals, in books that use pictures as well as words, then we take the boys out to see animals."

Lafanmi Se Lavi also offers vocational training in carpentry, cabinet-making, electronics, sewing, and cooking, useful survival skills in Haiti's largely informal economy. The home is about to reopen two enterprises that give work to kids still on the street and show society that the kids are productive members: a car wash on the road to the airport and a farm. The boys sell excess produce in poor neighborhoods at reduced prices.

The older boys, 16 to 20, go to high school outside. While they still receive support from Lafanmi Se Lavi, they have to find a place to live in their communities. Delicieux, who works with these "transitional" boys, helps those with parents move back in with them and others to find housing with relatives or friends. All 96 boys returned to the community so far have found a place to live, he says. "Three of the boys now consider me their father," says Delicieux. "It makes me very happy and it's a great blessing."

While the home has relied primarily on private support from abroad, executive director Elien Joachim now hopes to receive some backing from a broke but sympathetic government.

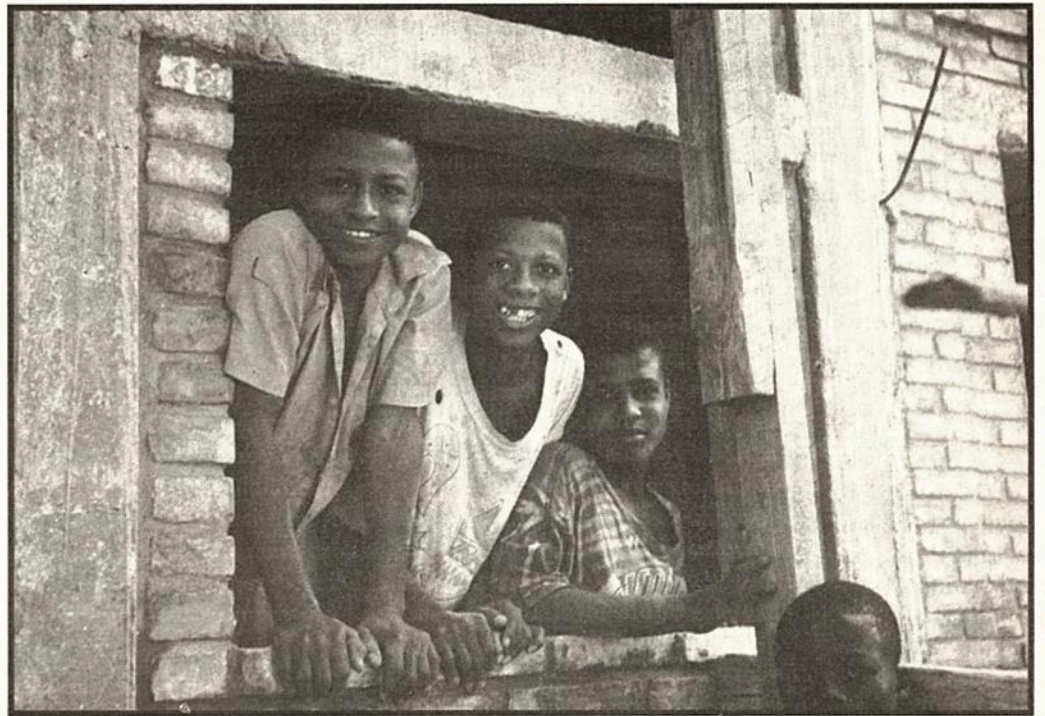
Right now, says Keogh, Lafanmi Se Lavi is trying to acquire a neighboring house, which would allow them to extend schooling and health care to homeless girls, many of whom work as domestics in wealthy homes, and to non-resident boys. Demand for similar programs is tremendous around Haiti, and Lafanmi Se Lavi plans to open another home in Jeremie in 1996.

The home is also starting a radio station, which will provide broadcasting training and amplify street kids' voices. Several boys will receive training in radio programming next summer in Berkeley, California. The home's band has toured the eastern U.S. and participated in exchange programs with U.S. schools.

Aristide remains active, often inviting boys to the National Palace, and his fiancée, lawyer Mildred Trouillot, does sessions with the boys on Haiti's constitution and on children's rights. The home's work continues to attract idealistic young Haitians.

Jean-Role Jean-Louis, a young law student, was threatened by death squads with a hand grenade for his work there. "My mother told me that we were victims of an unjust system," he says, "so we had to change the system to benefit everyone."

Peter Constantini is Seattle correspondent for Inter Press Service, and has observed elections in Haiti, Nicaragua and Mexico.



PHOTOS BY PETER CONSTANTINI



"There's a Haitian proverb, 'I churn water to make butter.' We try to make a real home with whatever we can beg or borrow." Counselor Jean-LaBonte Delicieux.

Sam Blair

Street Life Featured Artist

By JULIE EAGLETON

Ever since Sam Blair stepped foot in the Streetlife Gallery, everything has seemed to flow for him. It is for that reason, he says, that he spends most of his time trying to make it work for everyone.

"I want to make this place work for everyone," Sam says, "because this is the first time in my life that I have really loved what I was doing. It is the Streetlife Gallery that has given me that." He finds it hard to talk about his work at the Gallery on an individual level. "So much of it is US here," he says. "The sense of community at the Gallery means a great deal to him, which is why he gives so much of himself to it, he says.

Sam gives back to the Gallery by serving as their treasurer, doing computer work, and serving on five different committees, including the Outreach Committee, which he strongly advocates. "People do some great work here," says Sam, "and it deserves to be noticed."

Sam and the other members of the Outreach Committee currently have exhibits showing at several shelters downtown, and are working to get more exposure. Two possibilities Sam is excited about are Bumbershoot and the Seattle Libraries. "We are also working to get a Web Site," he says. "We want to make as many positive changes as we can for the benefit of everybody here."

The Streetlife Gallery became a part of Sam's life 14 months ago, by advice of a good friend, Boyd McLaughlin. Sam explains that he met Boyd in one of the shelters he was staying in. After High School he went right into the Navy, and worked on a sub for several years. After that he attended Olympic college to study electronics.

After about three years working for the government, he realized he just wasn't happy. "Something just changed inside of me, so I decided to go far away to Alaska." He explains. "But I never quite made it that far. I was severely depressed, and finally found help in a shelter - with counseling, and by meeting Boyd."

According to Sam, Boyd McLaughlin loved poetry, and really liked Sam's work. "It was then that I actually started to keep a book of my poems," Sam says. "And he was the one who told me about the Streetlife Gallery, and encouraged me to come here. Actually, he physically brought me down here one day, and I've been here ever since."

Sam says he feels he owes finding this space in his life to Boyd, which is why it was difficult for him, he says, when Boyd passed away recently. In his memory, Sam has written the poem, "This Is To Say."

"This poem is the only one I've never had to edit," Sam explains, "I just left it the way I wrote it right then, right after the memorial service." Usually Sam writes a poem, lets it sit for about a month, and then he re-works it, he says. "This one was different. I didn't want to change a word."

Most of Sam's poems start as pictures in his head, he says. Then he takes those pictures and describes them in words. "Sometimes they are pictures, and sometimes they are emotions," he goes on. "But I never know when one of them is going to appear and scream at me - WRITE ME DOWN!"

Although Sam is mostly a writer, he has recently started drawing in the last two months. His pictures can be found surrounding his poetry in his corner at the Gallery. The drawings have a definite Escher-like quality to them, and Sam admits he likes to experiment with perspective.

His goal is to eventually publish a book of his writing, and to perhaps land a cover of an illustration or art magazine. But for now, Sam says he continues his work as his poem "This Is to Say" does, "in memory of all the artists that have been given to the world, and then been taken away."

Street Life Gallery is looking for art materials to keep forty-plus artists working. 2301 2nd Avenue (and Bell) Belltown Phone 328-5637

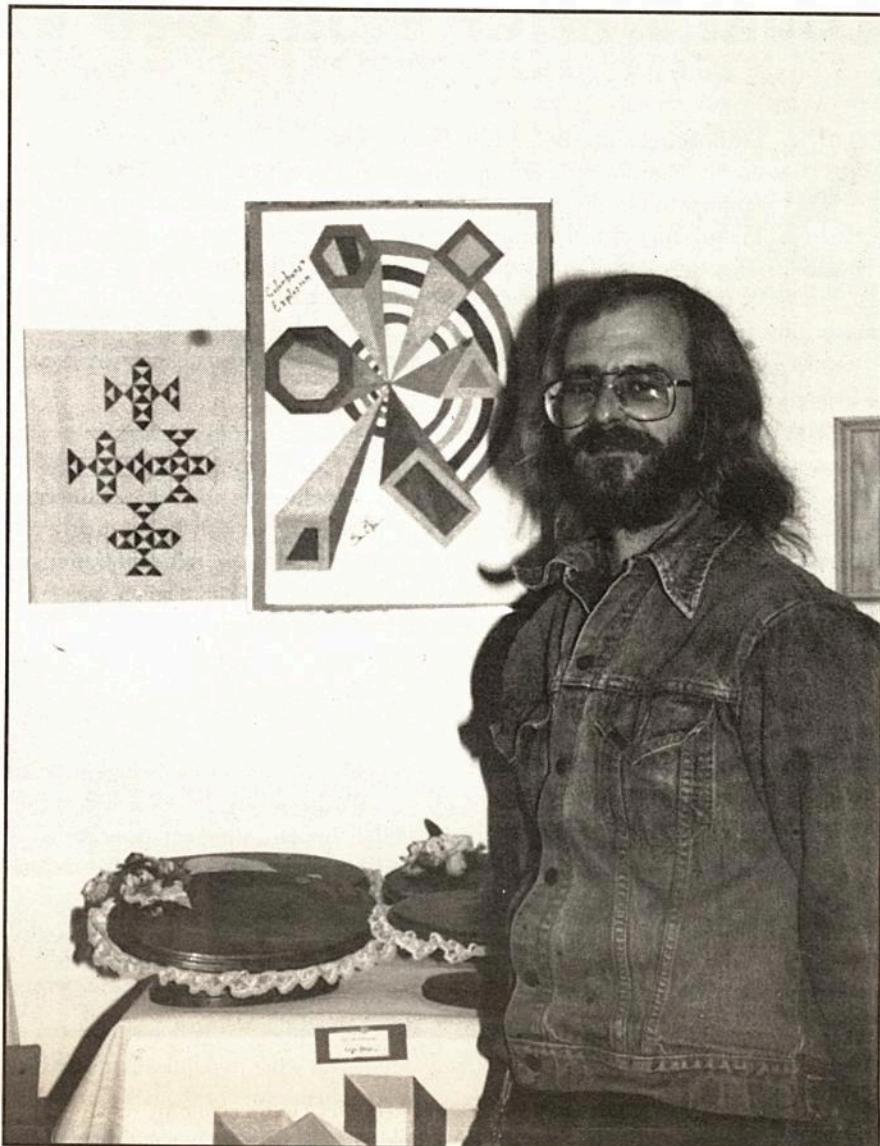


PHOTO BY JULIE EAGLETON

This is to Say

This is to say
That a very good friend of mine
Has left behind him a gap
Which will be hard to fill
And his passing will be
Felt as surely as
A stone dropped from a building
Falls toward the ground
My friend, you will be missed

This is to say
That the world has become poorer
In quality of spirit
And strength of character
For a good and honest man
Has departed this life
To join another one
More filled with peace and contentment
My friend, you will be missed

This is to say
That the art is not diminished
But, rather, strengthened
By the efforts of one man's work
And his unflagging drive
Toward his own form of expression
And perfection of himself
Through accepting his faults
My friend, you will be missed

This is to say
That I still feel his presence
Somewhere around me
Guiding, but not leading

Just like he did in life
And this gives me courage
And conviction to continue
The work that he so ably began
My friend, you will be missed.

This is to say,
That his dream hasn't died
As long as a single artist
Continues to work his trade
To the best of his ability
And strives for the excellence
That lies within his grasp
Just as my friend once did
My friend, you will be missed

This is to say
That as long as good people
Continue as he did
In an effort to help others
Achieve their potential
I will continue to have hope
That mankind will survive the mess
Into which he has gotten himself, and
My friend, you won't have lived in vain.

And you will be missed
By all who felt your touch
Upon their lives.

—Sam Blair
In memory of my
good friend Boyd McLaughlin

Generation at the Crossroads

Local Writer Paul Loeb Explores Civic Commitment

Seattle writer and lecturer Paul Loeb has spent the last twenty years examining how ordinary citizens engage in political action. He is familiar to Northwest activists as the author of *Nuclear Culture*, a study of the psychology of Hanford's nuclear weapons workers, and *Hope in Hard Times*, a study of grass-roots peace activism. His most recent book, *Generation at the Crossroads*, is a seven-year study which explores in depth the motivation and conditions of college and university students' activism, or lack thereof. This book has been newly released in paperback (Rutgers University Press, \$16.95).

Loeb's work integrates research and political commentary into a rich and provocative tapestry; it is no surprise that his books have received national attention and praise. In this interview with *Real Change*, Loeb addresses not only the forces that have created homelessness, but shares with us his insights into why so many citizens are surrendering the desire to act for the common good. His compassionate, thought-provoking approach to social issues challenges all of us to begin asking harder questions of ourselves, our communities, and our political leaders.

RC: Can you speak to the extreme social darwinism which seems to foster some of the current attitudes towards the homeless?

LOEB: One of the things that is happening today is that we have a society where wealth is getting polarized. The wealthiest slice of society has the greatest share of wealth than at any point since the eve of the Great Depression. Basically, in the past seventy years, it's never been so unequal in America as in this current period.

One way to respond to that is to say, "There's something appalling going on and that it's illegitimate for one per cent of the people to have close to half the wealth in the country. There's something wrong with that." Another response is to say, "Well, I'm going to get mine. And if it's going to be a mean society, then that's the way the rules are and I'm going to have to play by them."

Therefore, people at the bottom become reminders, discomfiting reminders, and you want them invisible, you want them gone, you want them not sitting on your streets. We pass ordinances that insure they won't be on the streets and will be out of sight. People at the bottom become a scapegoat for the very processes that dumped them out on the streets in the first place - real estate speculation, minimum wage dropping in real terms, and all the economic changes which are very much communal policy choices. The less fortunate become scapegoated.

RC: How do you respond to those who disagree with you, to those who feel they're being punished for making profits and being made to feel overly responsible for society's ills?

LOEB: There are a couple of answers to that. One is to recognize that, in fact, over this period of twenty-three years of declining real wages, profits during much of this period appear to have been at record high. The incomes of that top one percent and ten per cent have been at record high, so they are doing perfectly well. Secondly, we have slipped as a nation. We used to have the highest wages in the world; we are now, I think, twelfth. Where is the money going? It's just going to greed, it's going to the top per cent, and they're not

reinvesting.

Had the policies now being proposed worked, they would have worked in the 1980s. Instead, a huge transfer of wealth went to the most affluent sectors of society. They did not reinvest it; they just banked it, shipped it offshore, put it into further speculation, put it into corporate buyouts and takeovers. They strip-mined the country.

And now the Republicans are saying to give them more of the same, and this time they'll do it right. It's especially ironic that while their attitude towards those on the bottom is extraordinarily punitive, their attitude towards those at the top is that we need to coddle and indulge their every whim.

RC: In your book *Generation at the Crossroads* you demonstrate how a certain resignation about not being able to act for the common good has infected the students now coming of age. Do you think this merely reflects how the adults in the society feel?

LOEB: Yes, absolutely. I think the students are in some sense a mirror of the adults. Students are coming of age now and they're saying, "I'd like to care, but I can't. I can't afford to act."

People make choices about these issues in their lives, and college is one of the key periods where they can sort out how they're going to respond. The choice basically devolves on whether or not you simply go for your own private success or whether you're going to feel a responsibility for your community. It can be any kind of issue from homelessness to the environment to trying to create a just economy.

Those who choose not to get

involved respond in basically two ways. One is this notion that you make your own chances. "If you're at the top, you deserve it. If you're living on the street, you deserve it because that's the way the world works." That's one ethic.

Another way to respond, probably more common, is for students to say, "These are really hard times and I've got tons of student debt and I'm working on the outside, and it's a lot harder to go through school now, and I'm worried about the time when I come out. I would like to care, but I can't afford to." That's a much larger chunk.

The harsher perspective, however, essentially strips away a sense of history and context which allows us to ask how do people get on the street, how do people get to the top, what kind of process occurs, and are there different ways that we could set up our society that wouldn't have people living on the streets.

Which is to say, there is a choice between feeling a kind of human kinship and rejecting it out of hand and saying, basically, your kinship is with the people who drive the same nice car and live in the same nice houses, send their kids to the same

RC: Do you believe more people are becoming aware of or reacting to these severe injustices now prevalent in our society?

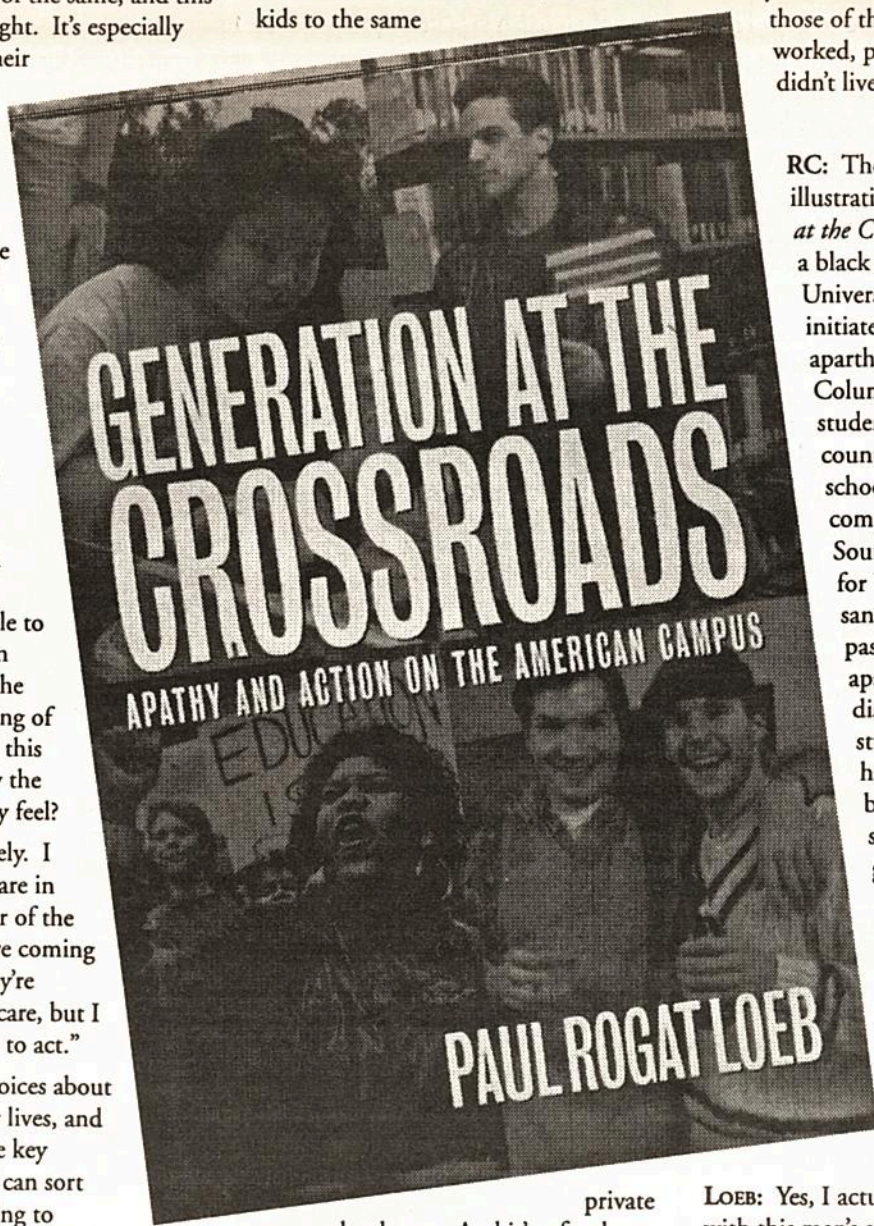
LOEB: I think people are aware of the injustices, but the major challenge is that they are demoralized and that they feel like they can't do anything. They feel like things are out of their control. And again, I saw this with many of the students.

The antidote to this is a long-term sense of history. If you look at how people have acted in very difficult contexts, you will understand what I mean. Say you're a sharecropper in the South in 1955 and you're working for desegregation, or in the women's suffrage movement or in the labor movement in the thirties - a lot of times people achieve something that doesn't look apparent in their lifetime.

I remember visiting the house of Susan B. Anthony, one of the pioneers for the women's suffrage movement. She fought for fifty, sixty years. She lived to almost ninety and she died fourteen years before the suffrage amendment passed. But retrospectively you see that clearly her efforts, and those of thousands of others who worked, produced it. She just didn't live to see it.

RC: There's a wonderful illustration of this in *Generation at the Crossroads*. You tell about a black student at Columbia University who had helped initiate the student anti-apartheid movement there. Columbia's action inspired students all across this country to pressure their schools to disinvest from companies doing business in South Africa and to press for US government sanctions. When Congress passed the sanctions and apartheid was finally dismantled, the Columbia student leader knew he had been part of history being made. But he seemed also to have gained an even greater sense of historical context, seemed to understand that his efforts were effective only to the degree to which others had gone before him. Can you continue this story?

LOEB: Yes, I actually conclude my book with this man's story. He went on to teach grade school in Harlem and then went down to get a doctorate at Emory University in Atlanta. He was talking to the black students association there and he said, "You know, Emory is very competitive, and we think we made it here on our own, by our own merits. But we've got to remember we are



private schools, etc. And it's a fundamental juncture that we have to either face or not face. Very often our society chooses to not face it. I think it's really hard to get this particular society, maybe any society, to come to grips with the realities that are going on.

“We need to involve the entire civil society, all the insitutions which are not the economic or the governmental sectors. It’s everything from bicycle clubs to soccer clubs to PTAs to churches or synagogues. This is where people congregate.”

literally here by the blood of our parents and our grandparents who fought to send us here. This was once a segregated school. Blacks couldn’t go here and even after the period when we could, our parents raised us and got the money together. It was never easy.”

Then he stopped and said something very important to overcoming, I think, the sense of powerlessness we all live with today. He said, “You know, I realize that a lot of times the things I really care about, the changes I want to see, may not occur in my lifetime, but I’m part of something larger than that. I’m part of something that began before and is going to continue afterwards, and knowing that allows me to act.”

RC: And you think that sense of historical context is what we need to bring to our engagement with the issues of social injustice today?

LOEB: Yes, I think that’s how people have to contextualize a time like this because it’s really hard to act. There’s a meanness out there that seems to pride itself on just sort of cutting itself off from responsibility for a fellow human being. The long-term perspective allows us to say, “Yes, it may be hard, but it was just as hard for people in all sorts of other times. They persevered and look what happened.”

RC: How in reality can individuals work against factories shutting down, landlords raising rent, a welfare system in breakdown? It’s these institutional choices that must be addressed.

LOEB: Those are the forces that have created homelessness. I think you have to demand an ethic of common responsibility and really examine what that means. We must demand this of ourselves and of our political, economic and cultural leaders.

There are certainly many times when we need to march in the streets as a way of grabbing attention. But the society is also adept at stigmatizing activists and saying, “Oh, those people always take up those causes, we don’t have to deal with them.” So I think public protest must be accompanied by a different kind of outreach.

We need to involve the entire civil society, all the insitutions which are not the economic or the governmental sectors. It’s everything from bicycle clubs to soccer clubs to PTAs to churches or synagogues. This is where people congregate.

The challenge on any of these kinds of urgent issues is to find a venue where you can actually reach people and present them with new information. That means if you go to a church or a temple more is required than just dropping off food at the Northwest

Harvest Food Bank. It’s important to do that, but also within the congregation it’s essential to really talk about what is going on and what is our responsibility and what are the forces that are leaving people on the streets or leaving people in the food lines.

It means calling the media to account both through supporting alternatives such as *Real Change* and by pressuring the mainstream daily newspapers and networks to be more accountable in their reporting.

RC: How does *Real Change* meet your criteria as an effective organization to help bring about social change in Seattle?

LOEB: Obviously, *Real Change* itself cannot carry the sole burden for social change. But I think it does a couple of things. It takes people who have been very marginalized and gives them hope. But as importantly, it gives them a voice, a way to articulate their very often harsh experience, to present it to other people who might otherwise never be confronted with it.

It’s a venue where people actually can talk about some of the real issues affecting our society which are usually swept under the rug. I think it’s important from both the vantage points of bringing together a community that normally would be demoralized, isolated and very powerless and also providing that community a medium to transmit to a broad sector of people a sense of what the issues at hand are for the underclass in this country.

When I talk with some of the vendors, I see a sense of pride that they take in the paper, and they ask if I have read a particular issue. I say, “Yeah, that was a great story on such and such.” They’re really proud of that, as they should be, because their being out there selling the paper allows that story to get out and reach people.

RC: Do you think the idea of political correctness affects how we look at the issue of homelessness?

LOEB: Yes. One of the interesting things that has grown up in the last four or five years is this notion developed in the media called political correctness. It’s kind of an all-purpose club now to bait any kind of social concern.

What it means is you’ll read these phrases in the daily papers where someone says, “Well, you know, it may be politically correct to be concerned with the homeless, but we’re not going to indulge them.” It’s a kind of notion that people like Gingrich promote which says that true compassion means tough love. But what it really means is basically telling a whole bunch of people that they are disposable.

It provides an excuse in this handy phrase to dismiss a sense of human solidarity and responsibility in a still very affluent society. I think it is a kind of club to beat social concerns down, and whenever it is used in the papers we should all have little antennae that go up and say, “Wait a moment, we’re talking about George Orwell’s *Newspeak* or maybe, *Newtspeak*. We’re talking about people defining things out so that we can’t look squarely at what’s going on in the world.”

RC: What myths around homelessness do you think need to be dispelled?

LOEB: If you consider the students I looked at in *Generation at the Crossroads*, you see that the main notion they are caught with is the myth of: “You make your own chances. So if you’re on the streets, you deserve it.” It’s complicated because we do make individual choices in this society, but there are also institutional choices that affect us and our conduct. Someone starts drinking. Why did they start? Well, they lost their job back in these circumstances and then they started drinking.

I think the way in which people get stripped of their historical context is the most important crisis, in a way, that we face. It doesn’t allow us to really see how things come to pass. If you see how somebody became homeless, then you understand that particular person’s story. And you hear another and another. Then you begin to get a context.

But the myth that’s put forth, the myth that some of these students believe is, “Well, they sort of chose it. They chose it through their own self-destructive behavior or whatever, and so they’re just out there. It’s their own fault, and they could change it if they wanted to.” It is a stripping away of the context.

RC: One of your student interviewees remarked that she thought the current issue of homelessness was as compelling in today’s American landscape as the civil rights movement was for this country in the sixties. Do you see homelessness as that critical?

LOEB: It’s like the proverbial story of the canaries in the coal mines. Coal miners had a canary in the mine. When the gas built up to a certain point, the canary would die and the miners knew they had to get the hell out of that mine because it was going to blow. They had to fix the ventilation.

I think the situation of people being homeless is like that. It’s an indication of what is going on. It’s both a direct human tragedy in itself and it’s putting people through experiences that no one should have to live through. It’s an indication of what’s happening to our society. In a society still this wealthy, there is no excuse for people having to live on the streets.

RC: Two ideas came up in your book which seem to account for why many students refuse to challenge the status quo or even to question how things could be different. One of these is the idea of the “perfect standard”; the other is the fear of being stigmatized by their peers and potential employers. I think, perhaps, these constraints apply to the adults in our society as much as to the students. Could you comment on this?

LOEB: The way the perfect standard works is people feel like they have to be

ready to debate Kissinger or Gingrich on Nightline before they can take a stand. Whatever they know about something is not enough. There’s always that sense of doubt that we’re basically trained not to think about these kinds of questions.

What I heard from the students was a kind of fatalism. “You know, it is really sad, but there’s nothing we can do about it.” In this case, the perfect standard says that whatever you need to know to act is always more than what you know so that you will never really understand the issues. Only the experts understand, or only the homeless understand, so you can’t do anything about it. You always mistrust your voice.

It’s as if you don’t have standing to act because you’re not homeless yourself, so you don’t speak out for fear of seeming hypocritical. This does not take into account, of course, the fact that we all live in some ways somewhat contradictory and compromised lives. The question is are we willing in some part of our life to fight for something that allows a world that is more humane and just.

If I look at any of the people I’ve written about in this book or in any of my other books, the one’s who are active always progressed step by step. They always started out knowing some things and not knowing many, many more. Then gradually, eventually they began to feel more confident about what their voice was and their standing on the issue. But they always started out with limited knowledge.

You don’t necessarily know what’s going to happen when you get involved

“The stereotype is that these activists are protesting because they don’t have a life. If they really had a life, then they’d be fine, they’d be doing something else, they’d be down at the mall shopping at Nordstroms. Once a student begins to work in a volunteer capacity, however, he often discovers that activists actually do have rich lives, but that the priorities are different.”

HYGIENE, CONT. FROM PAGE 7

One provision of the settlement is that the hygiene center must be within Metro's "free ride" zone. According to LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee, some members of the Hygiene Committee almost immediately began suggesting they look at sites as much as three blocks for showers and six blocks for laundry facilities outside the free-ride zone. Lee says such proposals show a remarkable lack of understanding of the needs of the people to be served, as well as breaking faith with the settlement. LIHI has refused to consider any sites outside the free-ride zone.

At one point, says LIHI's Ishbel

Dickens, homeless advocates on the committee suggested several centrally-located city buildings such as the Alaska Building and the Dexter Horton. She says these proposals mysteriously fell off the list. Larry Taylor, who represents the Mayor's Office on the committee, says city-owned sites were eliminated because they "weren't practical."

LIHI still favors the Glen Hotel site, where its shelter is under construction. But while other members of the Committee contacted by Real Change were discussing sites in the Denny Regrade and Belltown, Lee was talking

Cont. to page 15

LOEB, CONT. FROM PREV. PAGE

with social change, but you do know that if you sit back and do nothing, then things will remain the same. The system's not going to correct itself. The people that buy and sell elections are not going to go away. They're greedy, they want more power. They're getting more power.

The only way it's going to be stopped is if citizens organize against them. There was an old phrase about politics being the contest between organized people and organized money. Right now, the organized money is in the driver's seat. To change that, it's going to take organized people.

RC: You recounted many hopeful stories in *Generation at the Crossroads* of students who were politically active. How does volunteer service allow students to process their disillusionment?

LOEB: Processing the disillusionment is critical. It's not as if students feel the world is absolutely wonderful and perfect. They probably have fewer illusions than students of ten or twenty years ago. The problem is that they feel impotent to make a difference. So when they meet people who are in fact working for change and doing it with integrity and doing it with humanity, that really has an impact.

We don't often meet these activists on the TV news; sometimes we read about them in the newspaper, but not enough. It's really important to be able to come to grips with what it means to try and act to make a better world and to have a life.

The stereotype is that these activists are protesting because they don't have a life. If they really had a life, then they'd be fine, they'd be doing something else, they'd be down at the mall shopping at Nordstroms. Once a student begins to work in a volunteer capacity, however, he often discovers that activists actually do have rich lives, but that the priorities are different. You can learn that, of course, by reading about the past and you can get that by working and meeting with leaders of a community group. But you really don't get that by sitting in a room watching TV, and most of the time you

don't get it from your education. In either high school or college, there are very few teachers who take those kinds of risks.

RC: You seem most concerned about bringing pressure on entrenched institutions and articulating visions that go beyond individual caring. Could you expand on this?

LOEB: Many students get involved in community service activities because they want to care and they aren't quite sure how to deal with the larger issues. They feel they can serve soup, they can work at a shelter. It's a very important step because it gets them out into these different environments.

What I think is important, however, is that they then take what they've learned and start asking the next level of questions. They need to start asking why are people homeless, why do I see the same faces time and again, why do I see the same patterns and the same histories. They need to ask what can be done about it on the level of the responsibilities of our businesses in Seattle, our economic institutions, our political institutions, our state and local elected officials and our federal officials, and on and on. Take that knowledge and do something with it.

RC: Would you say that's the greatest reason for all the work you do, that you don't necessarily have an answer, but you wish to get as many people as possible thinking about different solutions?

LOEB: Absolutely. I don't know every answer, but I do know that we've got a great social crisis in this country. I do know that many of the shots are being called by interests, very powerful interests, that don't have the common good at heart. And I do know that the only way to really change that is for ordinary citizens to get involved. That's been true historically and that's true now.

That's the question I keep wrestling with in all my work. It was true in my book on the Hanford nuclear culture and in my peace activist book, *Hope in Hard Times*, and it's true with *Generation at the Crossroads*. It will be true with the other books I write in the future.

Interview by
Jean Rowlands-Tarbox



**Adventures
in
Poetry
with
© Dr. Wendy
Browning**

Obsessed with cut and paste techniques, my plan this month was to assemble a poem from alternating lines of prose by Henry Miller and James Joyce. Unfortunately, these two guys almost never make sense together. See for yourself:

If the sewer mains were open you held your nose
-Fretted forlorn, dreamily rose.
Round and round one walks seeking the hub
-Best value in Dub.

So instead we'll talk about pro hygiene center signs. It seems that "no hygiene center" signs are appearing at some businesses downtown and we at the *Real Change* want to encourage everyone to counter with their own hygiene center signs. In order to help people along with this, I have been asked by the management to offer some samples. Here are some of my first efforts.

Hygiene - An Idea whose time has come!

A clean street person is an invisible street person.

Help give Seattle's homeless the scrubbing they deserve!

*Would a bum by any other name
smell the same?
Not with hygiene centers!*

At this point I felt something was missing and sought consultation. My good friend Andy was unavailable, recovering from an operation. So I turned to Tim Harris, who advised, "More pith! Make them rhyme!" So pith it is.

*A dirty bum is disgusting to see
With hygiene centers they needn't be.*

*A hygiene center down the block
Means clean shiny bums 'round the clock.*

Let the homeless have showers, So they'll all smell like flowers!

*Say yes to hygiene centers
they're absolutely right
The homeless need soap and water
to make themselves look bright.*

*It would be so keen
if the homeless were clean
so please don't be mean
support centers of hygiene.*

Finally, an artistic contribution:

**Hygiene Haiku, or Opus 19,
My Second Haiku with Content**

*Morning, a clean bum.
All around hygiene centers —
Cherry blossom time.*

So. Calif Style Mexican Comida

Since 1974

2 locations in Hawaii

2234 2nd Ave
Belltown, Seattle

728-6262

New on the Net

Center for Homeless Vets Offers Classes, Job Training

The Maryland Homeless Veterans Center in Baltimore - unlike other veterans centers around the country that focus only on medical and mental problems - offers former soldiers a comprehensive range of services, including health care, psychological counseling, job training and academic classes, reports The New York Times.

The goal is to create a productive citizen with a renewed sense of self-esteem. Residents get a bed, three meals a day, the structured routine of military life and the freedom to stay as long as they want or until they get a job that pays more than \$17,000 a year.

Although federal money for social programs is becoming more scarce, the Department of Veterans Affairs still has strong support in Congress. The VA operates about 90 centers that serve homeless veterans nationwide, and spending for these veterans has grown to \$75 million from \$32 million in the last three years.

VA officials say the center represents the most effective and ambitious approach to serving homeless veterans, who make up about 30 percent of the 600,000 homeless Americans on any given night.

The Baltimore center, however, is a private, nonprofit operation that is supported by several federal agencies, the city and state governments, private donors and volunteers. It brings services together under one roof so veterans can heal their wounds without wondering where to go for what service.

"When people from other communities call and say they want to do something, I send them to Baltimore," said Marsha Martin, the coordinator for homeless veterans initiatives at the VA. "It's the best a community can do when everything comes together."

When veterans enter the Baltimore center, they are given a bunk bed in a spartan barracks-style room while they undergo a 30-day evaluation to make sure that they are free of drugs and alcohol. Charles Williams, a retired

Army colonel who serves as director of the center, said that 95 percent of the residents were former addicts.

Later, residents move into smaller rooms, where each gets a twin bed, storage locker, bookshelf and lamp. By next year, the center will have 88 single-occupancy apartments for long-term residents, bringing the capacity of the center to 400 residents. No matter where the residents live in the building, they are required to work; many work on kitchen, security or maintenance crews.

New INS Law to Help Battered Women & Children

The Immigration and Naturalization Service issued a new rule Tuesday to prevent abusive husbands or wives from using immigration laws to hold their victimized spouses and children captive in harmful relationships, reports Associated Press.

Previously, immigrant spouses or children had to rely on the spouse or parent who was a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident alien to petition the government on their behalf for authorization to live in this country.

"Too often, immigrant women living in the United States report that their

abusive spouses have threatened to have them deported if they seek help from a shelter or report domestic violence to the police," said Bonnie Campbell,

director of the Justice Department's Violence Against Women Office. "No one should have to choose between abuse and deportation."

Immigration Commissioner Doris Meissner added, "The abuser often forces family members to remain in abusive relationships by falsely promising victims they will petition on their behalf for permanent resident status in the future." The new rule applies equally to battered husbands and wives, but Meissner said the overwhelming majority of the applications are from wives.

An immigrant spouse may apply on the basis of violence or threats of violence against him or her or against their children. Children also may apply on their own, but may need help from a school or social agency to do so, Meissner said.

The abused spouse or child must have a lawful relationship with a U.S. citizen or resident alien, be of good moral character, show that deportation would cause extreme hardship to the immigrant or a child and offer evidence of the abuse through health or police records or affidavits from people who knew about it.

'96 Appropriations for Homeless Programs

On Thursday March 7, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3019, a FY96 omnibus appropriations bill. This bill funds homeless programs at the following levels:

- FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter program — \$100 million, a 23% cut from the FY95 level of \$130 million.
- HUD Homeless Assistance Programs (Emergency Shelter Grants, Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, Section 8 SRO Moderate Rehabilitation) — \$823 million, a 27% cut from the FY95 level of \$1.12 billion.
- The PATH program, an outreach program for homeless people who suffer from mental illness — \$20 million, a 33% cut from the FY95 level of \$30 million.
- Adult Education for the Homeless program — eliminated - 100% cut from the FY95 level of \$9 million.
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth program — \$23 million, a 20% cut from the FY95 of \$28.8 million.

This week, the Senate will vote on its FY96 omnibus appropriations bill, S. 1594. The Senate bill contains the same cuts to homeless programs as does the House bill.

After the Senate votes on its FY96 omnibus appropriations bill, the House and Senate will iron out differences in their respective bills and send the compromise bill to the President. According to the Administration, neither

the House nor the Senate FY96 appropriation bills adequately fund the President's priority programs; another

budget stalemate therefore appears imminent. The

Continuing Resolution which currently funds homeless programs expires on March 15, 1996.

The Istook Nonprofit Advocacy Amendment

Representative Istook (R-OK) succeeded in attaching his controversial amendment concerning advocacy by nonprofits to H.R. 3019, the FY96 omnibus appropriations bill passed by the House. The latest Istook amendment would require nonprofits that receive federal grants to file a report every year that discloses all their lobbying activities and expenses. Information from this report would be put on the Internet. Nonprofits would have to

keep two sets of records (for the IRS definition of lobbying and for the new Lobbying Disclosure Act definition). This amendment would impose these new reporting and disclosure requirements only on entities receiving grants (mostly nonprofits) not those receiving contracts (mostly for-profit businesses).

The House omnibus appropriations bill includes a second Istook-related provision, found in Section 507. It would require "all grantees receiving federal funds" (including state and local governments) to disclose certain information in every document it issues—statements, press releases, requests for proposals, etc.—if that document describes a federally funded project or program. This information would include the percentage of a project's cost financed with federal money, the total amount of federal funds for the project, and the total cost of the project paid for by nongovernmental sources.

Lobbying with federal money is already strictly prohibited, and no government investigative agency has uncovered a pattern of abuse. Therefore, the Istook amendment would only add significantly to nonprofits' paperwork and record-keeping burden at the same time that Congress is asking charities to do more to help people in need.

Public Housing Reform

A bill to reform public housing, H.R. 2406 ("The U.S. Housing Act of 1996"), currently awaits floor action in the House. The bill is likely to be voted on in the next few weeks. H.R. 2406 repeals the Brooke Amendment, which limits the amount of rent paid by residents of public housing to 30% of family income. Repeal of the Brooke Amendment would enable housing authorities to raise rents for persons who can least afford it, ultimately leading to increased rent burden and the eviction of hundreds of thousands of low-income families.

H.R. 2406 also permanently repeals federal preferences for public and Section 8 housing; these preferences often enable homeless individuals and families to move up to the top of the waiting list for assistance. Permanently repealing federal preferences would prolong the length of time people who are homeless or precariously housed must wait for housing assistance. In

addition, the bill eliminates tenant protections, deregulates public housing, and provides inadequate opportunity for resident input in PHA decisions.

(This information provided by the National Coalition for the Homeless.)

King County WA Announces Housing Awards

The King County Housing and Community Development Program awarded \$2.7 million from its Housing Finance Program to develop and preserve approximately 359 affordable housing units throughout the county.

The projects receiving funding are:

Archdiocesan Housing Authority: \$375,000 to construct 18 townhouses in Renton for very low income and homeless families; Canterbury Crier's Association: \$130,000 to preserve a 118-pad mobile home park in Woodinville for low income families and seniors; Community Psychiatric Clinic: \$100,000 to construct an 8-bed emergency/transitional housing facility in Seattle for adults who are homeless, mentally ill and/or disabled by substance abuse; Downtown Emergency Service Center: \$300,000 to construct a 40-bed transitional housing facility in Seattle for adults who are homeless and mentally ill; King County Housing Authority: \$150,000 to rehabilitate and preserve a 31-unit apartment complex in Kent for homeless families and seniors who are mentally ill; Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing: \$390,000 to acquire 14 units in Bellevue for homeless and at-risk families and individuals; Manufactured Housing Community Preservationists: \$250,000 to preserve a 39-pad mobile home park in Kent for very low income families and adults with special housing needs; United Cerebral Palsy: \$375,000 to acquire and construct 4 single family homes (15 beds) in North and South King County for adults with developmental disabilities; Vashon Household: \$154,000 to preserve and rehabilitate nine apartments in Vashon Island for low income seniors; and YWCA of Seattle/King County: \$500,000 to acquire 20 units in Bellevue, Auburn and Kent for homeless families.

This article is taken from "Housing Washington" (March 1996) published by the Low Income Housing Institute.

Unless otherwise noted, these articles are excerpted from News and Blues on Handsnet, an online service targeted to advocates in human service and community building work. The articles appeared in the past month. Specialized searches are available—just ask! Contact sylvie@eskimo.com

False Charity

"False charity constrains the fearful and the subdued, the 'rejects of life,' to extend their trembling hands. True generosity lies in striving so that these hands—whether of individuals or entire people's—need be extended less and less in supplication, so that more and more they become human hands which work and, working, transform the world."

Paulo Friere, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

SWAC Seattle Women's Action Network

I have been working downtown with homeless and low-income women for over four years and in that time have met many outstanding people. Today I would like to pay tribute to the dedicated staff who work in the shelters, transitional housing programs, and day centers.

It takes a truly special person to work as a "line staff" because the hours are long, the pay is modest, the future (in terms of program funding) may be uncertain and the needs of the people served are so great. Line staff are the human beings that greet you at the door, keep the coffee pots full, find you that phone number, serve you a meal, and care (really) where you were last night and how you are right now.

They are faced with the challenge of building trust with people who may have very little reason to trust anyone. They are the rule-enforcers but not necessarily the rule-makers. They set limits, endure criticism, resolve conflicts, celebrate victories and struggle with their won sense of helplessness while trying to make things a little bit better (kinder, cleaner, safer).

I'm often terribly impressed with the wisdom and valuable life experience that line staff bring to their jobs. Many staff have had first-hand experience with hardship and great loss. They know what suffering and loneliness is all about. Some have been homeless, have recovered from addictions, have survived abuse, and have overcome grief. And they know the importance of giving and receiving help, of being taken seriously, of being encouraged to take that next step up.

The very nature of the job often limits the opportunity to participate in positive and validating circumstances such as being a part of task force or a committee. Most of us (who have the luxury to set our own schedules) try to avoid more meetings, but line staff must stay on the job. The isolation and lack of external support can really take its toll. And their ideas, visions and opinions are often unheard. It is exciting when supervisors and managers recognize the importance of "getting out of the office" and make it possible for their staff to participate in training, workshops, and committee meetings. Thank you.

SWAC, the Seattle Women's Action Coalition, has long been appreciative of the hard work, skill, and dedication of all line staff. We will be hosting a celebration for line staff in early May. The details are still being worked out but information can be obtained by calling the SWAC Info line at 727-5567.

—Lisa Cunningham Roberst, Healthcare for the Homeless

Our Seattle Heritage

Outcasts in Hooverville, 1941

On the morning of April 10, 1941, a caterpillar tractor representing the Seattle Port Commission leveled and set fire to the homes of Hooverville - a community erected in the 1930's by unemployed and homeless men in Seattle during the Great Depression.

The Seattle P.I. reported that the community was "conquered by prosperity." Yet for some, this meant a new bout with homelessness. "Driving me out on the end of a dock," said one resident. "Goin' to be sleepin' on a dock. Looka that rig bustin' down George's house. Just like nuthin'!"

Seattle's Hooverville was once a haven for more than a thousand men and women. Occupying the site of the Skinner and Eddy Shipyards just south of the present-day Kingdome, it was a city within a city, functioning as a recognized integrated residential neighborhood with distinct composition and character.

The camp had developed its own political organization, economic techniques, family customs, recreational patterns, and social attitudes. By 1934, there were 639 residents occupying 500 houses located within twelve districts, each with a separate address.

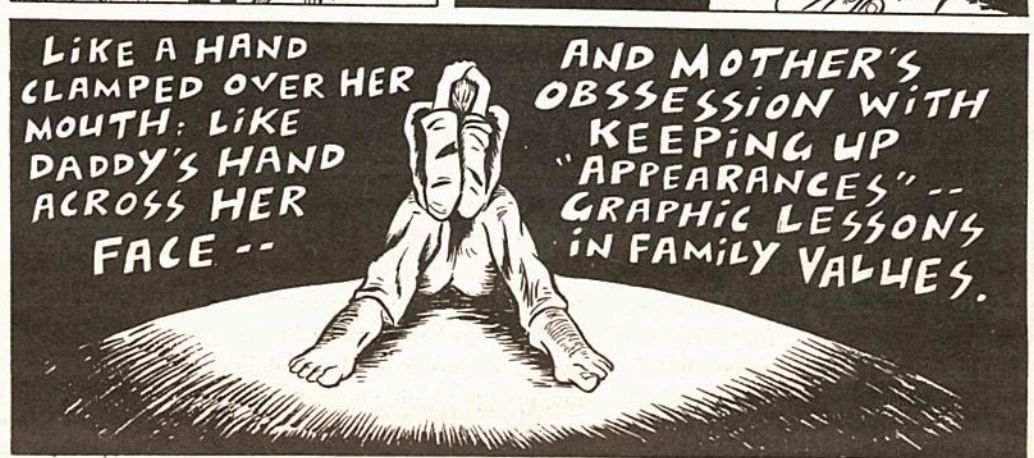
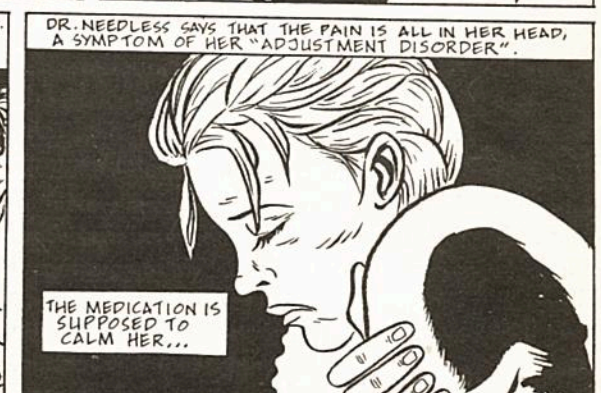
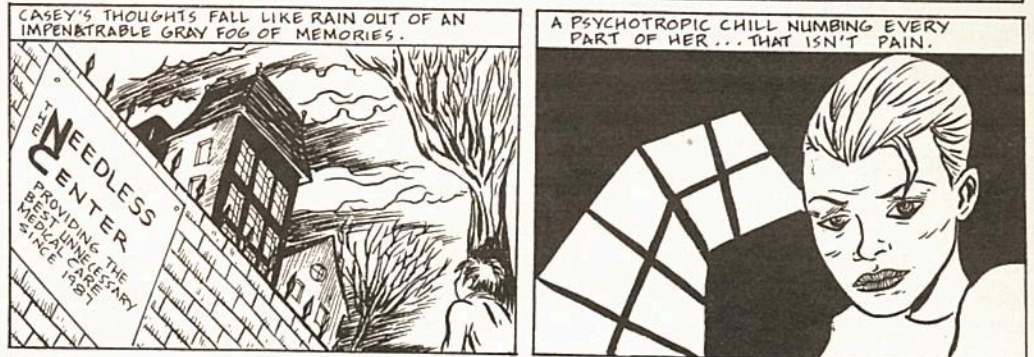
The average resident was 45 years old and of European decent. Yet nearly every age and nationality was represented. Unable to find regular work and without land, family, and savings, they came to Hooverville to make a home and adjust to an oppressive social situation.

Many received public charity through donations, hand-outs, and soup-kitchen meals. Yet several petitioned the streets for relief: scouring for food and scraping for money, often through self-employed means of work such as fishing, gardening, and recycling.

Donald Roy, a U.W. Master's student living in Hooverville, observed a "persecution complex" among the residents. They lived in paranoia and depression, often feeling repressed by local and national authorities and fearing police raids and burning of their homes, or worse, deportation to work camps.

Yet, residents were able to avoid the idleness of life upon the streets by maintaining their own quarters. "We've got to do something," said a resident. "Either that or go nuts." Many noticed

CREEPY JOE in The Silenced WIVES



Cont. next month

By LIN LUCAS

health improvements and enjoyed the benefits of work performed upon their own inclinations. On-going home improvements illustrated a sense of pride, stability, and permanence.

There was organization in the community. An acting mayor presided over its affairs and an elected vigilante committee, composed of 2 whites, 2 blacks, and 2 Filipinos, maintained civil order.

Roy noticed an "unaffected friendliness and kindness toward fellow men (where) mutual adversity has brought animosity to a minimum."

Overall, he observed that they were survivors with nowhere to go. "Ruthlessly rejected by the industrial chameleon that once wooed their services," he said, "these men have no way of obtaining money to pay their way in modern society."

Victims of vicious circumstance, they expressed a lack of hope and despondency about the future. Pioneers of a city, they forged a way of life through a jungle of survival, exemplified the human need for shelter, and staked a home in homelessness.

—Christopher French

"Ruthlessly rejected by the industrial chameleon that once wooed their services, these men have no way of obtaining money to pay their way in modern society."

LETTERS, CONT. FROM PAGE 3

How ironic, the people who swear they are the only ones who really care about the homeless are using them as political pawns. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

You should tell the homeless the truth - that the only way to escape their poverty is through honest hard work. Not through reliance on others. The rest of us can give them a hand up and a shoulder to cry on, but if they lean too hard on that shoulder they may begin to pull us down and will only delay their return to productivity.

I give you credit, at least, for choosing the proper name for your paper. If we were to adopt your philosophies it would be a real change. The problem is, it's been tried ... in Cuba and the Soviet Union. Cuba is teetering on the brink of some *real* change. And the former Soviet states are going through some real changes of their own.

Don't be fooled people, be free. And take responsibility for yourselves.

Bob Anderson
Auburn, WA

Dear Real Change,

The March 1996 issue of *Real Change* included an article entitled *Chipping Away at the Morrison*. While we at the Seattle Housing Authority appreciate the interest of the community in the future of The Morrison, there were a number of inaccuracies in the information as printed.

The Morrison, a historical landmark, was built between 1907 and 1909 as the Alaska Club. In 1984, the facility was renovated using roughly \$4 million of the local Seattle Senior Housing Bond Issue. *All units have windows* and some boast admirable views of the city. Tubs are available on corner hallways for those who need to use a tub instead of a shower.

To diversify the services provided at The Morrison, there are both *transitional units* and *standard lease units*. The transitional units are leased to agencies specializing in treatment and case management. The housing arrangement then takes on the form of a guest-host relationship. Nineteen of the studio units are leased to three local mental health providers who use the units for homeless clients in transition.

Currently, 15 units are leased to individual Section 8 certificate holders who either choose to live at The Morrison or come under the auspices of the Shelter Plus Care program. These tenants follow the standard leasing procedure and portion of their rent is subsidized. The remaining units provide a critical low-income housing resource to the immediate downtown Seattle community.

A limited number of persons who are advocated for by professionally recognized service providers may move into The Morrison via the Morrison Access Program (MAP). There are ten to fifteen of these individuals at any given time who pay a security deposit and \$150/mo. rent during their first three months. At the end of this trial period, if the client has successfully completed the formal application process and complied with the rules and regulations of the Morrison Access Program, an opportunity to sign a standard lease is presented.

SHA also actively promotes the involvement of each resident in the community's resident leadership group. We believe that constructive resident participation and partnership with the Housing Authority is a key element to successful management of the building.

Separate from the residential portion of the building and situated in the Mezzanine is The Downtown Emergency Service Center which provides on-site emergency shelter for 235 adult men and women in separate dormitories. The DESC also provides case management and therapeutic support to one thousand clients each year.

A wide variety of people live at The Morrison. Some remain for years, many see it as a stepping stone via the Incentive Transfer Program, and others may stay in the shelter for only a few nights. For years this facility has met the broadest range of needs imaginable for no less than 400 persons a day in a housing capacity, and has provided case management and referral for countless others.

The Seattle Housing Authority remains committed to meeting the needs of the homeless, elderly and disabled people we serve through quality housing and support services at The Morrison.

The Morrison is nearing a financial crisis. Unlike public housing communities, The Morrison receives no subsidy from the federal government. The Seattle Senior Housing Bond issue provide funds only for the rehabilitation, not for ongoing operations and there is no other source of funding available to help subsidize the operating costs. Due to the age of the building and the special, very low income population served, the rents paid by the tenants are not adequate to fund management and maintenance of the building.

The Seattle Housing Authority is pursuing funding conduits which will provide for the operational expenses of the facility. One of those options is to introduce project-based Section 8 subsidy from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Essentially this would permit us to continue serving homeless and low-income persons while receiving a subsidy which can make up the difference between what it costs to run The Morrison, and what we receive in monthly rents. The average rent payment for The Morrison residents is \$198.00/month and not sufficient to meet the support service, maintenance, administrative and utility consumption expenses.

Changing to project-based Section 8 would not affect current residents of The Morrison. The subsidy will simply apply to those currently living in the units and no one will be displaced by this change. Because rents are calculated differently on Section 8 and because the minimum rent would change to the federally mandated \$25, rents for some current residents would likely be reduced.

Future residents may or may not be required to apply through the Section 8 office. We may be able to create a preference or a site-based waiting list for The Morrison. The screening process would not significantly differ from the current process for standard lease tenants. SHA currently checks references and police records to ensure that we are not compromising the safety and

security of the other residents.

The purpose of The Morrison is to help the Seattle Housing Authority fulfill its mission. That mission is to provide, within a financially sound framework, decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income persons in an environment that enables a resident to live with dignity.

In order to continue to meet all aspects of this mission, we must solve the financial problems of The Morrison. Without additional funds from and ongoing subsidy such as Section 8, the future of The Morrison as a housing resource in Seattle is in jeopardy. Your support in helping us keep The Morrison as a vital housing resource for the future will be greatly appreciated.

Harry Thomas
Executive Director
Seattle Housing Authority

The author replies: First, the SHA noted that many of the Morrison's units have windows, some which have sweeping views of the city. When I was working on my article, I visited the Morrison to get a look at a typical apartment. The Morrison's desk monitor could not grant me permission to enter the building and take pictures, so I was unable to verify whether the units were as austere as two of my sources noted.

I am sorry if I underestimated the views that some of the units provide. However, it was not my intent to evaluate the quality of view one gets with an apartment at the Morrison. It was my intent to question whether the financially-driven decisions being made by the SHA should close doors of opportunity on potential residents of the Morrison.

Next, the SHA underscored the fact that there is no federal money coming into the Morrison. My article quoted an SHA officer saying that no federal money is used to subsidize the building. However, the SHA notes (in their recent letter) that 15 units in the Morrison are currently used for Section 8 housing, and those rents are subsidized. It would seem that the SHA is receiving a subsidy from some agency, either city, county, state or otherwise, from this arrangement. So even though they note that they are receiving no federal money, the SHA is receiving a subsidy for these units from some organization.

The SHA also notes that proposed changes in the number of Section 8 units will not affect current tenants. They state that if some of the units become project-based Section 8 units, some future tenants' rents may actually be reduced. However, they don't know whether future Morrison residents would have to apply through the Section 8 process to get housing. They are unsure whether there will be a site-preference waiting list or some way to bypass the normal wait for housing of this type, which can stretch to a year. They are unspecific on how the screening process for qualifying for housing would differ in the future, but say it would not differ significantly. In short, they say that current tenants will not be affected, but they make no promises about future tenants.

The SHA admits that the reason changes to the structure of the Morrison are being considered is economic. However, they have yet to state how much additional income would be realized by changing 100 of the building's units for Section 8 housing. They have not demonstrated that changing 100 of the building's units would

solve the building's current financial difficulties. Possibility most importantly, they have not qualified what level of financial crisis would mandate decreasing the opportunity of someone to get housing, and receive it in a timely fashion so that it helps them.

If the SHA believes that my piece was inconsistent, I invite them to show me a new perspective, and compellingly demonstrate why the proposed changes should be now, if at all. I do not believe their recent letter addresses the important issues. I stand by my piece, and my sources.

—John Prendergast

Dear Real Change,

Seems so sad walking through Pioneer Square with all the "Closed" signs in the windows of most of the restaurants. So many of the waiters and waitresses, busboys and dishwashers are on buses to Pittsburgh. Even William "Bob" Wheatly, close friend and homeless Vice-President of MicroSoft, left last night on a late bus just after telling me that the last of Seattle's homeless were staying in the Kingdome. It seems the Kingdome has been abandoned lately—now that the boat show is over, and the Seahawks don't want it.

So we homeless are moving in. The thousand or so of us left have no need for tents this time, we have a roof over our heads—such as it is. The food's not bad. Peanuts and stale pretzels. Can't get to the mustard, still locked up.

The local AHU representative, Phil M. Hand, is here today to help celebrate the successful occupation of the Kingdome by card-carrying members of the American Homeless Union. Phil, ever resourceful, has just managed to pick the lock to the mustard room—maybe the pretzels will taste better.

I'm really looking forward to Pittsburgh. What more could you ask for—you get a free bus ride, all the day old bread you can eat, I hear they give away vouchers for three packs of condoms in the Three Rivers Area and they don't last three days, the babes are so hot. So long, Seattle!

Ken Miller

HYGIENE, CONT. FROM P.12

about the Glen Hotel as a "when" rather than an "if." Clearly, there is an unresolved difference in expectations here.

This difference may be what inspired Deputy Mayor Bruce Brooks to include in a memo to the Committee dated January 29, the warning that "it would be unfortunate to let speculation, rumors, or misinformation undermine our subsequent efforts to move...in a collaborative and cooperative way."

In the same memo, Brooks identifies three potential sites which received "the overwhelming, if not unanimous, endorsement of the Committee." All are north of the downtown core.

Downtown Seattle Association's Joncas, nevertheless, expresses cautious optimism about the Hygiene Committee's ability to work together "in a logical way." She would like to see the Committee develop a long-term plan—she speaks of five to ten years. "Now," she says, "it's just one service at a time."

To succeed, all parties to such a long-range plan, it seems, will need a crash-course in the language and culture of their neighbors.

Supporters

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE:

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SENIOR(62 OR OLDER) LOW-INCOME HOUSING AT PIKE PLACE MARKET. HUD-Subsidized Studios and One Bedroom Units are currently available at two Pike Place Market Bldgs: STEWART HOUSE, PHONE # 441-7188 and LIVINGSTON BAKER APARTMENTS, PHONE # 441-1002. Must be HUD-eligible. Tenant pays 30% of adjusted monthly income as rent; most utilities included in rent.



LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME?

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

\$155 to \$350 per month.

Lewiston Hotel
2201 1/2 First Ave.

William Tell Hotel
2327 Second Ave.

St. Charles Hotel
619 Third Ave.

Scargo Hotel
2205 1/2 First Ave.

The Gatewood
107 Pine St.

The Pacific
317 Marion

Please call 343-7838 for application information.



"Delicious, creative pizza.
The best in town"

—Steve Dickinson

205 Lenora Street, Seattle 728-2664

Common Meals trains and places homeless, unemployed men and women in the food service industry and provides low-cost, nutritious meals to the homeless shelters and other programs that serve low-income and disadvantaged people.

COMMON MEALS

JOB TRAINING TO END HOMELESSNESS
SUPPORTED BY THE PREMIER NORTHWEST CHEFS

1902 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101
Phone 443-1233 Fax 441-7543



2304 Second Avenue
Same entrance as 211 Pool Hall!

Coffee
Espresso
Eats
Internet

get a little language in your life



Washington Academy of Languages

206-682-4463

Fax 206-224-7927

Internet: 73512.375@Compuserve.com

Social Security

Disabled?

Unable to work for
a year or more?

Free initial consultation
30 years experience

JAMES A. DOUGLAS
PETER H.D. MCKEE
JULIE ZUVER ELLICKSON



1613 SMITH TOWER
SEATTLE, WA 98104

DOWNSIZED??

Intn'l. Corp. expanding
in the Puget Sound.
Seeks motivated
individuals with positive
attitude for
various positions.
For more info. Call Steve
522-5428

DONATE

YOUR OLD CAR,

boat, RV, truck or van to non-profit
El Centro de la Raza.
FREE TOWING! We want it
even if it doesn't run! Your support
will help children, youth, seniors
and families. Deduct the fair
market value of your donation
if you itemize your taxes.

EL CENTRO de LA RAZA
329-2024/329-9442



...Is It For You?

Homeowners:

- Do you have a home in Seattle with extra space to share?
- Would you like some companionship, some extra income, or could you use some household help?
- Can you be somewhat flexible in your living arrangements?
- Would you feel safer with another person in your home?
- Are you willing to undergo a Police background check?

Homeseekers...

- Can you pay rent or offer household services to a homeowner in exchange for a place to live?
- Are you a responsible and trustworthy person?
- Have you been sober and drug free for 1+ years?
- Can you provide 3 long-term character references?
- Are you willing to undergo a Police background check?

Homesharing for Seniors carefully screens applicants and conducts a thorough background check to make mutually beneficial and compatible matches. To find out more, call us at:

448-5725



Homemade Cinnamon Rolls
Old Fashioned Shakes
Breakfast A-L-L Day

OPEN 7-3 EVERYDAY


Mae's Phinney Ridge Cafe
65th & Phinney 782-1222

Advertise in Real Change
Call 441-3247 for Rates

Supporters

Brandon's Deli & Spice
 Fresh Made Deli Sandwiches
 Exotic Herbs & Spices
 We make fresh salads
 Present Ad and get free can of Coke with purchase of Deli sandwich \$3.95 and up

623-5415
1719 N. 45th Seattle



Seattle Housing Authority

Job Hotline
206/615-3535
TDD 206/615-3401

Employment Office - First Floor
 120 Sixth Avenue North
 Seattle, WA 98109 Office Hours: Weekdays 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

We take pride in our diverse workforce and are committed to Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action

On Call Workers Needed
at Women's Shelter.
Apply Immediately.
Call Mary at 441-3210

Evening and Overnight shifts
 Training and support provided
 Human services experience required

FEMINIST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER

Our Bodies, Our Choice.

- Abortion, Birth Control, Reproductive Health Care for Women
- Emergency Contraception (Morning After Pill)
- Feminist Environment

Cedar River Clinic, Renton - 206-255-0471
 A Woman's Choice Clinic, Yakima
 509-575-6422/800-572-4223

Join veterans of independent NW publications (*Helix, Sun, Weekly, Stranger, etc.*) in a celebration of **30** years of alternative media in the Puget Sound area, and the **THIRD** birthday for the

MUSIC! **Free Press** **BUFFET!**

SATURDAY APRIL 20
7:00 - 11:00 PM
746 16th Avenue East, Seattle

- Video presentation by Vagrom Video
- Speakers to include Shari Herndon (KCMU News), Doug Underwood (author, *When MBAs Run the Newsroom*), Walt Crowley (author, *Rites of Passage*), and Sandy Nelson (outspoken *Tacoma News Tribune* reporter)
- For more information contact the *Free Press*: 233-1780 • freepres@scn.org

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$15

Zobrist
M * U * S * I * C

NEW, USED & VINTAGE ACOUSTIC, ELECTRIC & CLASSICAL GUITARS
AMPLIFIERS, EFFECTS, PA SYSTEMS & PRO AUDIO
D J SYSTEMS, MIXERS & LIGHTING
SALES & RENTALS
BUY * TRADE * CONSIGN

1214 FIRST AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, SEATTLE
BETWEEN UNIVERSITY & SENECA 206 624 2424
THE LAST NAME IN MUSIC

Revolution BOOKS

Marxist - Leninist - Maoist classics, progressive literature, posters, t-shirts & more!

1833 Nagle Place
(206) 325-7415
 Now located on Capitol Hill (Near Denny & Broadway)

Need a '96 Tax Break?

Donate your old car to Senior Services for Meals on Wheels and take a '96 tax deduction. Doesn't run? We'll tow it. Trucks, RV's vans, boats wanted, too. Cash donations welcome and deductible. Help needy seniors. Senior Services 727-6205 or 727-6209

Give Yourself The Gift of a Good Night's Sleep and a Knowing You Saved Big Bucks!

St. Vincent de Paul manufactures its own line of high-quality new beds, made with the same materials as the big brand names. But you don't pay for the middle man or high-commission sales people. Brighten your life and home with a good night's sleep on a new bed that **won't break your bank.**

Starting at \$140 — Twin Set
 Includes free delivery, no minimum purchase required.



ST. VINCENT de PAUL

WHITE CENTER
 9835 16th Ave S.W.

BURIEN
 13445 1st Ave S.

NORTH SEATTLE
 17712 15TH Ave. N.E.

GEORGETOWN
 5950 4th Ave S.

RENTON
 2825 Sunset Blvd

Today Tacoma, Tomorrow... Everett! Real Change Expands Distribution

Starting this April, the *Real Change* homeless newspaper will begin distribution in Tacoma, an initiative we hope will boost circulation from the present 25,000 per month to over 40,000 by fall of this year.

The opening is marked by a change on the paper's cover, which now reads "Puget Sound's Homeless Newspaper." Future editions will feature news from Tacoma in addition to other local coverage of poor people's issues.

A precedent for regional homeless newspapers has been set by Scotland's *Big Issue*, which has numerous distribution centers, and Ohio's *Grapevine*, which distributes in Cleveland and Cincinnati. If Tacoma distribution proves successful, *Real Change* hopes to eventually distribute in Everett as well.

The expansion to Tacoma has been made possible through the efforts of Bruce Triggs, a staff member of Guadalupe House, a Catholic Worker mission, and Brian Kehoe, who is a staff member at the Nativity House drop-in center.

"I'm interested in the idea of the paper because it employs people and does outreach to the community," said Triggs. "We were offered the chance to expand the Seattle program, rather than start from scratch. It seemed possible to do, and I thought I could take it on until we can hire staff. It's a great opportunity to bring something good to Tacoma."

A lease has been signed to rent office space at Tacoma's Homeless Employment Program (HEP), a casual labor pool similar to Seattle's Millionair Club. HEP has agreed to accept only nominal rent for the first six months of the program's operation.

"Everyone I've talked to so far in the service community has been really supportive," said Triggs, "so I hope that when people hear about it, the paper will take off. I know of homeless people interested in selling it. I think it's just a matter of offering people the chance to be involved."

Triggs hopes the project can generate sufficient income to pay staff within the first few months of operation, so he can return to his primary focus on prison reform work.

Tacoma *Real Change* needs volunteers for the office to sign up vendors and sell them their papers. The office also needs writers, photographers, and artists who can put together articles from Tacoma. All funds raised from circulation, advertising, donations and subscriptions in the Tacoma area will go to support that office. Seattle-area donors may also earmark contributions "Tacoma" to help kickstart *Real Change's* expanded distribution.

For more information, please call Bruce Triggs at (206) 572-6582. Checks should be made payable to "*Real Change*," and mailed to *Real Change*, 919 S. 9th St., Tacoma, WA 98405

—Timothy Harris

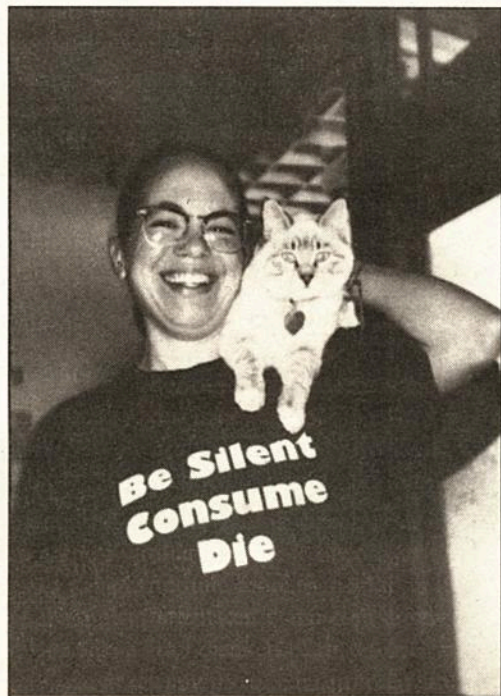
"Everyone I've talked to so far in the service community has been really supportive. I think it's just a matter of offering people the chance to be involved."
Bruce Triggs, Tacoma *Real Change*

Sid Wants You ...

to buy a
**Real Change
T-Shirt**

Yep, we printed a T-Shirt, and we're using a cute kitty to market it. Shameless? You bet!
100% cotton black T with a pithy anti-consumerist slogan on the front and the *Real Change* logo on the back. \$15 each. Extra-large only.

Make check to "*Real Change*" and mail to *Real Change*, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121



REAL CHANGE STAFFER OZULA SIOUX SPORTING A CAT AND A FETCHING T-SHIRT, AVAILABLE ONLY FROM US.

Anne Margaret Ekeland

Anne Margaret Ekeland entered this world March 3, 1965 in Contra Costa California and left March 5, 1965 from Seattle, Washington.

Anne will be one of the few remembered for her strength. Anne had an extremely rough life and when faced with some of these barriers, she took the new challenge head on, stared her Goliath in the eye, and gave it her best. Whether it was taking the 5:00 a.m. bus to get to her Microsoft job, or pulling security at 2:00 a.m. while staying at the outdoor Safe Haven, she gave it her all, always

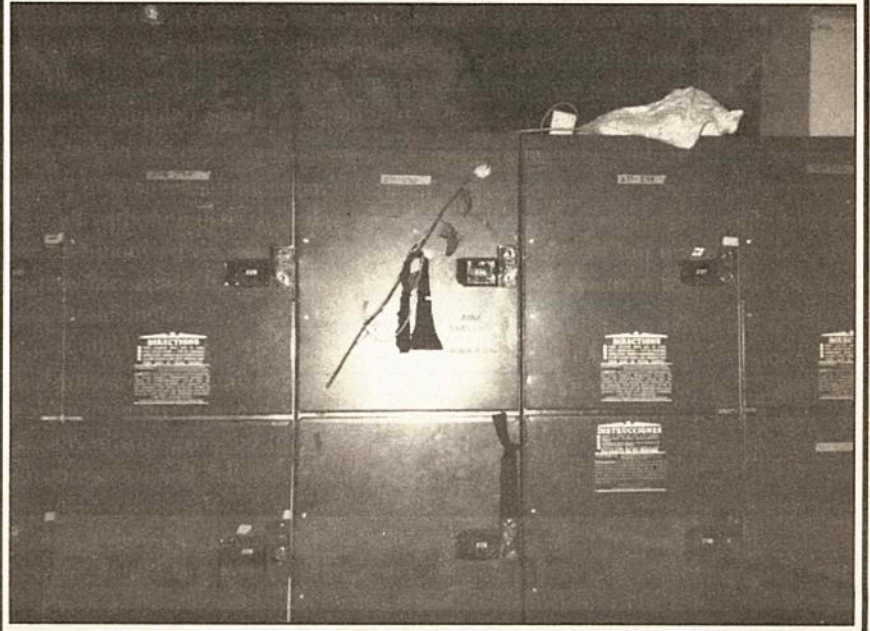
with good intentions. She was also always willing to share, which is a lot more than most people can say.

A small candle light vigil was held at the SHARE storage lockers the evening we received the news. Her locker was decorated with candles, incense, and several memories.

Anne is survived by her six beautiful children and her mother, all currently residing in the Bay Area.

We'll see you next time around Anne, but until then, rest in peace.

—Vieto Moretti



The Homeless Women's Network Anthology (as yet untitled) requests submissions from homeless and formerly homeless women:

Cover art, drawings, graphics, photos of art, sculptures, homeless women, etc.

Poetry, prose, short essays

Submissions will not be returned so, please, photocopies only. Include name and address (if any) on each page. A short bio (50 words or less) is appreciated.

Please give to Madeline Lewis at the *Real Change* office, 2129 2nd Ave. (and Blanchard) or mail to Judith G., 8022 10th Ave., NW., Seattle, WA 98117

This anthology of homeless women's writings will be showcased at the '96 Bumbershoot Bookfair.

Now OPEN till MIDNIGHT

PROFESSIONAL COPY 'N' PRINT
132 Broadway East Seattle, WA 98102 • 325-4733

Full-time Outdoorsmen

(from the collective works of Angel Polyeidus,

Dedicated to Don Francisco, 1995)

staying warm and dry
hunting down the next free meal
one day at a time

sharing the blankets
with some new homeless strangers
safety in numbers

looking for shelter
where the cops won't harass us
sleeping in doorways

some do get rowdy
striking back at a cold world
pass me the forty

living like street rats
civilization skipped up
there's always tomorrow

some are dope users
some are just plain loony toons
or alcoholics

some are just losers
but we're all human beings
hoping for better

most of us do try
we're working or panhandling
just give us a chance

we're the downtrodden
but we're treated like vermin
we're people like you

it could be you next
on a long stretch of bad luck
we would welcome you

your parents are here
your grandma in her wheelchair
even your children

war vets without limbs
just like you but with no homes
brothers and sisters

we didn't plan this
in the real world shit happens
life's all ups and downs

we are survivors
made the best of a raw deal
full-time outdoorsmen

Creation

Coyote brushes sage-covered foothills
tumbleweeds the color of bone spiral
on his retinae.

I listen to morning chirpings,
spring rain bruising cottonwood
and burnishing dusty milkweed.

I rest
at pond's edge and heron dances;
I shiver, combing dark hair
with my fingers.

I sing,
my words become prints
in snow

lingering between fenceposts.

I smell the soil on my hands
and feel the coarse lines
of the chopped wood.

Coyote begins,
to paint the landscapes
and I kneel
touching the damp
earth.

—Earle Thompson

Another Lonely Day

Another lonely day goes by
Without another soul around
To help me with my problems
And keep me out of trouble
I am truly on my own

Another lonely day has come and gone
Just like the days before it
And answers to my questions fade
With undeniable uncertainty
To the misty shadowed dreamscapes within

Another lonely I've found
With deep internal strife
Has caused me to view my world anew
And re-evaluate the things I've done
And explore my darker other self

This other self has taken hold within
And shown up faults that I possess
Until I find myself in search of
Some means by which I can avoid
Another lonely day coming to pass.

—Sam Blair

This is where it begins...

When you call me YELLOW, WIMP, FINK
(this feels like abuse)
I will forgive you

When you call me SNAKE, SLIME, WORM
(this feels like abuse)
I will forgive

When you call me CLOD, CLOWN, CUNT
(this feels like abuse)
I will turn

When you call me PIG, SLOB, SLUT
(this feels like abuse)
I will turn away

When you call me WHORE
(this feels like (IS) abuse)
I will turn away from you

Is this how you treat your women, children, people
surely I'm not the first, nor will I be the last
will the next issue become physical
or perhaps someone will die
I can not change the world
do I even want to try
maybe someday we can stop the lie

Change will come when that is your CHOICE
I only have a VOICE
Remember to look in the mirror
and see the images of yourself
in the labels you put on others

When your words are used in haste
you take the warm loving feelings I had
and turned them cold
you wonder why there is no response
I turn in disbelief for it is of no use
I did not deserve your ABUSE

It has nothing to do with forgiveness but of ABUSE

—Madeline Lewis

April

2

Tuesday 10 p.m., E Queeribus Unum debut, bringing differing points of view in the local queer communities, roundtable discussion with viewpoints on marriage for same-sex couples, panelists include gay conservatives, liberals and libertarians. King County Public Access cable Channel 29, info 322-8408

4

Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Radical Women monthly meeting, dinner at 6:30, New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave S, rides, \$6 donation, childcare or info 722-6957 or 722-2453

7:30 p.m., U.W. Women's Center and Puget Sound Group Health Co-op present 3rd Annual Woman's Conference, keynote speaker Winona LaDuke, "Building Sustainable Communities and Workplace," University of Washington Kane Hall, \$7-10 (\$22-42 with Apr 5 registration), registration info 685-1090

6

Saturday, 11:30 a.m., Clinic Defense Project volunteer escort training to deal with anti-abortion harassment as needed, monthly training sessions are planned. Seattle Central Community College, Room 3200, info 233-1139

8

Monday, 6-8 p.m., Dept. of Housing and Human Services hosts a Public Review of Proposed Strategies on subsidized housing and emergency shelters, introduction by City Councilmember Jan Drago. Klondike Goldrush Museum, basement conference room, 117 S Main St., info Julie Nelson 684-0510

9

Tuesday, 10 a.m., Boeing Retirees on the Line, protect what you worked for, IAM 751 District Headquarters, 9125 15th Pl S., info Henry Noble 524-9353 or hnoble@eskimo.com

10

3 p.m., Industrial Workers of the World, monthly meeting of IWW, 90 year old voice of revolutionary unionism, with activism around environmental and other progressive causes, 5280 44th Ave SW, busline 22 or 54, info Mark 935-9012 or maj22561@halcyon.com

13

Saturday, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., The Global Economy Workshop, learn about the destructive nature of structural adjustment policy and your role in the new global economy, St Therese Church, 3416 E. Marion, info CISPES 325-5494

15

Monday, Taxes for Human Needs, Not for Corporations, a day of outrage against misdirected budget priorities. March, protest and leafleting at Main Post Office 3rd & Union, candlelight vigil follows, also leafleting and bake sales at Post Offices around Seattle/Tacoma area, gather 5 p.m. Westlake Mall, 4th & Pine, info 547-0952 or 789-5565

17

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Meeting of African American/Jewish Coalition for Justice featuring a panel of experts discussing "How Big a Problem is Hate Crime? How Can We Prevent It?", with UW Prof. Thad Spratlen and Bill Wassmuth, Director of Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, short business meeting, note time change! Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1620 E. Union, all welcome, info 323-0534

18

Thursday, 5-7 p.m., Raise the Roof! Partners in Housing for Washington, premiere at the Seattle Art Museum. Benefit for the WA Low Income Housing Network. Video on the positive impact low-income housing has on people's lives and communities as a whole. Awards ceremony to follow. Suggested donation \$25. More info: 442-9455.

7:30 a.m., Hands Off Washington/Washington Citizens for Fairness annual breakfast, be a part of fighting dis-

crimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons in Washington State, Westin Hotel, info or to be a table captain call Cindy Laws @ 325-7466, or email HandsOff_Washington@eor.com

19

Friday-Sunday, Peace Between People presents the Basic Alternatives to Violence Workshop, an experiential workshop in non-violent conflict resolution, info and registration 323-3082

20

Saturday 7:30-11 p.m., 747 16th Street E, Capitol Hill, Third Year Anniversary Fundraiser for the Washington Free Press, and a Celebration of Thirty Years of Independent Journalism in the Northwest, Music, food, speakers, and a great party! info 233-1780 or e-mail freepres@scn.org

21

4 p.m., Pacific NW Newspaper Guild, 2900 Eastlake Ave E, Suite 220, Sandy Nelson Defense Committee Meeting, help return veteran, award-winning journalist Sandy Nelson to her reporting job at The News Tribune in Tacoma after her demotion for off-duty leadership on behalf of a Tacoma gay-right initiative; Nelson's ACLU-backed suit in support of employee's rights to be politically active will be heard by the Washington Supreme Court on June 11, info 756-9971 (Tacoma) or hnoble@eskimo.com

22

Monday, 7:30 p.m., Seattle Unity Church, 200 8th Ave N, Peace Trees Vietnam and Earthstewards Network present Earth Day Concert with Eric Tingstad & Nancy Rumbel, Danny Deardorff, plus Jerilyn Brusseau and Danaan Parry on "Creating the New Story", planting trees where landmines used to be, benefit for continued Removal of Landmines, Vietnamese food will be served, tickets \$12 advance \$14 door 622-8475

27

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Strategic Questioning Basic workshop with Fran Peavey

and Rova Green, exploring this vital tool for personal and social transformation, include theory, practical exercises, group discussion, and comedy, coordinated by Puget Sound Area Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Rainier Valley Cultural Center Rainier Ave. S. and South Alaska St, \$35-\$55, with Apr 28 workshop \$55-\$75, no one will be turned away for lack of funds, beverages and materials provided, \$10 deposit by Apr 15, info 283-7981 or 322-1163 or emailjeanbndx@aol.com

Ongoing

Rocky Brook road closure, Olympic Peninsula, Pacific Crest Biodiversity Project and others protest the "salvage" logging rider and the clearcutting of old growth in the Rocky timber sale, Seattle info 545-3734

Boycott Gallo and Monday Wines to support the United Farm Workers union, local information 443-7645

Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle Nineteenth Annual Minority Art Exhibition, Through Mar 26, 7a.m.-10 p.m. daily, Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Level 2 Galleria, 8th Avenue and Pike Street, Downtown Seattle, free, info 461-3792 or 447-5000

Thursdays, International Women's Day Committee planning meetings, 7:30A.M., Elliott Bay Bookstore Cafe, 1st South at Main, info Lexie 587-3854 or Louise 632-8547

ONGOING FRIDAYS, 6 p.m., Cable TV Channel 29, Network X, a Progressive Talk Show

ONGOING SAT & SUN, 6-9 a.m., KCMU 90.3 FM Radio, Mind Over Matter Progressive Political Programs, info 543-KCMU

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.