

*Real*

# CHANGE

VOL. 3, NO. 5

**\$1**

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*Puget Sound's Homeless Newspaper*

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## Money

## Down the Sink

**Skewed Gov't Priorities a Point of Unity**

**Paying for the  
Commons**

City Priorities  
Favor Developers

**Working**

A Woman  
Going it Alone

**Big Alaska Money**

Millionair Club  
Opens to Women

**Citizen's  
Participation  
Project**

Tools for Action



**News, Poetry, Stuff that Matters**

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

Real Change is published the 1st of each month, and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Submissions are encouraged and should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247. Email rchange@speakeasy.org ISSN 1085-729X

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**Goals**

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

**Editorial Policy**

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

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*Cover photo by Ron Campbell, Black on Black Productions, Design by Timothy Harris*

**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.**

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# Joke's on Who?

As you can see, we're still here. Last month, in a fit of April whimsy, we decided to run a satirical lead editorial by © Dr. Wes Browning entitled, "We're Outta Here." Lots of people didn't get it.

## Timothy Harris

According to Dr. Wes, it had finally dawned on Seattle's 4,000 or so homeless people that no one wanted them around, and, being the sort to take a hint, they were all headed to the Greyhound terminal in a spontaneous mass exodus to Pittsburgh.

As a result, social service agencies were shutting down across the city, and it had become nearly impossible to find sub-minimum wage laborers. *Real Change*, forced to admit the jig was up, was going with the flow and contemplating a move to Pittsburgh as well.

In reference to local opposition to hygiene centers, one homeless man was quoted as saying, "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 finally got the message. It is personal, isn't it?"

As satire goes, we didn't think we were being all that subtle.

So we were a little surprised when our first victim, a political folk-singer friend who would be embarrassed to be named, came lurching through our door, demanding we not give up so easily.

Then, there was a brief wave of panic when our own vendors read the news. "I hear people say it all the time," said one. "'When I get my welfare check, I'm getting the hell out of here.' No one who doesn't have to really wants to stay."

Another vendor said he'd often thought about leaving, and that he was one of the working poor we described.

"I wash windows, rake yards, whatever," he said. "It sounded real. It sounded like you were talking about me."

I received an anxious email from my father-in-law in Florida, entitled "PITTSBURGH!!" There were numerous phone calls to check on our welfare and offer moral support. We got an angry letter, saying that maybe in Pittsburgh service providers will see the homeless as more than just a job opportunity. A U-Dub Social Work student, who bought it, said her professor read the article aloud to the class and no one blinked an eye. We don't know whether the professor got it or not.

We wonder how many people actually called the hot-line number we gave. If they did, they got City Attorney Mark Sidran's Office.

To what do we owe this onslaught of credulity? Part of it is probably that Wes, who greatly admires Jonathan Swift, does a great deadpan. There is also the danger posed by springing an April Fools joke in what is a monthly publication.

And, it must be said, there is the fact that some people are maybe a bit clueless when it comes to homeless folks, and think of them as a species of migratory animal anyway.

But the real reason the article seemed so believable is that much of it was absolutely true. We just took the facts at hand and pushed them to a logical extreme.

There is a serious shortage of shelter beds in Seattle, with a ratio of about 1 bed to every 2 homeless.

Seattle has passed laws against poor people messing up the view in certain parts of the City at certain times of day. Well, okay, that's not entirely true. It is okay to be poor, as long as you're either out of sight or on your feet.

There has been substantial opposition to the siting of new social services

is not an equivalent to communism-it is an equivalent to *community*. A very big difference.

Furthermore, Mr. Anderson's argument makes the assumption that homeless people are incapable of thinking or acting for themselves. He insults both reader and seller by stating that any effort to alleviate homelessness will "begin to pull us down" and "only delay their return to productivity." Does Mr. Anderson suppose that people enjoy selling *Real Change* so much that they will refuse to do anything else? How dumb does he think the homeless are?

It seems to me that the true intent behind *Real Change* and other similar publications around the country, is not to further any one political ideology, but rather to address a situation in which homeless individuals have the financial stability to address their problems and return to a life of not just "productivity," but also of dignity.

In his closing statement, Mr. Anderson declares, "Don't be fooled people, be free. And take responsibility for yourselves." I couldn't agree more. Thankfully, there are mechanisms like *Real Change* which can help make this

Cont. next page

in general, and to hygiene centers in particular. To a certain extent one can understand how a homeless person might take this personally.

Seattle has cracked down on homeless encampments. The City bulldozed the Jungle near the Kingdome two summers ago, and this year they landscaped the homeless away from the Municipal building, where a large and relatively safe urban encampment existed until just recently.

While the City acknowledges there is a serious shelter shortage, spokesperson Jim Hammond has also stated that further encampments will not be tolerated. It is fair to say that the options for many homeless people, as defined by the city, can be reduced to a simple phrase: "Go Greyhound."

Now that we think about it, we kind of wonder why homeless people stick around at all! It's probably because they don't have a whole lot of choice. They're homeless. *dub.*

Coincidentally, just after our last issue came out, Bruce Triggs at Tacoma *Real Change* got a letter from a Catholic Worker colleague. His friend had recently traveled the west coast to see the conditions endured by homeless people.

He was appalled by what he found. People in San Francisco beaten by police for handing out bagels in a park. Cops in Seattle arresting people for sitting on sidewalks. People arrested for sleeping in cars in Portland. Not nearly enough shelter anywhere he went.

He realized that his own city, with all its shortcomings, was a bastion of progressive enlightenment compared to anywhere in the Northwest. You'll never guess where he was from.

Pittsburgh.

**"It is fair to say that the options for many homeless people, as defined by the city, can be reduced to a simple phrase: 'Go Greyhound.'"**

## Vendor of the Month

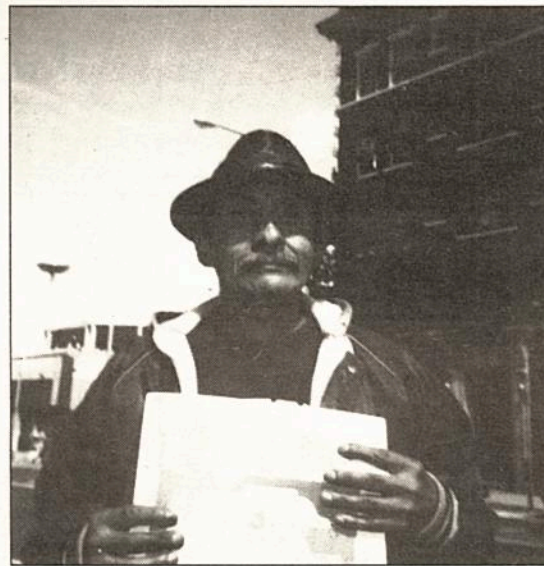
Charles Sanchez, 60, moved to Seattle from California for health reasons in 1987. Charles has always made his own way, but was unable to work regularly after a heart attack prevented him from continuing work as a gardener.

While he was able to get welfare for a short time, a bureaucratic foul-up dumped him from the rolls, and he became homeless for more than a year. While he now has a place he can usually stay, selling the paper has made the difference between stability and being on the street.

"I'm able to eat good and rent a place now and then," explains Charles. "I mostly pay a friend to stay with him. If I wasn't selling the paper, I'd definitely still be homeless."

"I feel like I'm doing something useful, and contributing something to the homeless," he said. "Eventually, maybe we can get the City to put up hotels that people who make minimum wage can afford."

As vendor of the month, Charles wins \$25, and a gourmet dinner for 2 at Common Meals. Congratulations to Charles Sanchez for a job well done.



## MAILBAG

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

Dear Real Change,

I'd like to compliment you on your April 1996 issue. As usual it was informative, entertaining, and occasionally even a little oddball. However, what caught my attention most were the comments of a Mr. Bob Anderson of Auburn. His letter referred to your publication as "nothing more than an ultra-left wing newsletter" whose sole purpose is to exploit the homeless in order to "promulgate socialist views."

It is unfortunate that people like Mr. Anderson feel it is their duty to ridicule and condemn any and all organized efforts toward improvement. In his paranoia, Mr. Anderson is incapable or recognizing the wisdom of group solutions to group problems. His insinuation that homeless newspapers are equivalent to absolutist communist societies (he mentions Cuba and the former Soviet Union) makes about as much sense as labeling anyone right of center a fascist or a Nazi. Cooperation

**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.

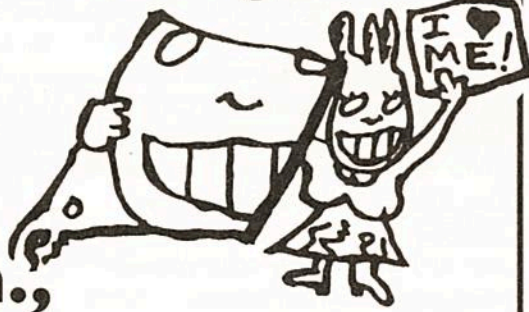
<http://www.speakeasy.org/realchange>

## 2nd Annual Bad Art Ball to Benefit Real Change

**Thurs.,  
May 30,  
7-11 p.m.,**

**at our space in Belltown, 2129 2nd Ave.  
Music by Jim Page and Allison  
Wonderland, \$6/\$5 with "Art"**

A party for *Real Change* friends and admirers. Bring bad art to donate for \$1 off admission. All art will be displayed and sold to benefit Real Change by silent auction

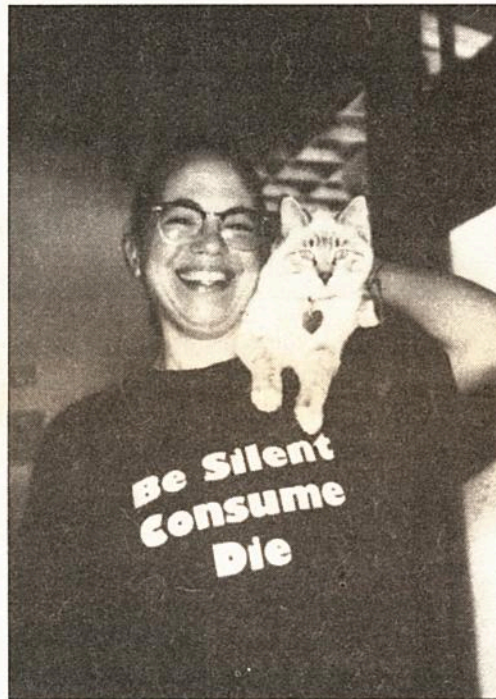


## Sid Wants You ...

**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.

### LETTERS, FROM PREV. PAGE

possible even for those unfortunate enough to find themselves homeless.

Chris Jensen  
Seattle

Dear *Real Change*,

I think the March issue of *Real Change* was excellent. I liked the whole thing, but my favorites were the articles by Jim Theofelis and Lea Higashi.

I am a U of W student, and a single mother of two teenage boys. I am also on welfare, but I try to buy *Real Change* whenever I can. I, too, was homeless about 5 years ago when I left an alcoholic husband. I was lucky enough to find an abused women's shelter, so we were never "on the streets." Being that close though, I empathize with the homeless. I try to give change to whoever I can, but it is a dilemma to figure out who to give to. I love to help people who want to help themselves.

It is difficult to raise children in this day and age. They have many needs that aren't being met—mandatory needs. 1.) love, 2.) understanding, or at least compromising, 3.) respect for their opinions and feelings as well as their rights as human beings, 4.) having someone be there when needed, 5.) remembering that they are kids, not adults. When so many parents are self-centered, abusive, have problems of their own (drug or alcohol abuse) and don't even love and respect themselves, these kids have nobody to love and respect them. SAVE OUR KIDS.

My dream is to someday be wealthy enough to fund programs and shelters for abused women and children, teenagers, addicts who really want to get clean.

Keep up the good work.

Carol S. Cuypers  
Seattle

Dear *Real Change*,

We don't know each other, although I feel like we do. I am a student in the

Nova Scotia Community College, studying human services, and have been working on a research paper about homeless adults.

I found your newspaper on the Net, and have been following it and have learned a lot. The poetry is wonderful, and has really helped me to understand how homeless people feel, and what their reality is.

I have been deeply affected by the research I have done, and will never be quite the same again. I mean that in a good way! Thanks, *Real Change*, for being part of my education. I wish you all the best and hope you continue to be.

Mary Dale Tyler  
Nova Scotia, CA

Dear *Real Change*,

On behalf of the Seattle King Co. Coalition for the Homeless, I write to offer clarification of the Coalition position on the "Camp Muni" events reported last month. The Coalition's concerns about the City's encampment policy dates back at least as far as July of 1994, when we issued a public statement about the removal of "the Jungle" and its larger policy implications.

Early this year, upon hearing of the City's intention to post and enforce new "behavior codes" for the Municipal Building, the Coalition wrote the Mayor's office seeking a meeting to discuss the problems and explore strategies for addressing them. Among the strategies envisioned was a regular police presence in the neighborhood and coupled with minimal hygiene facilities and enforcement of appropriate standards of civil conduct, would seem reasonable expectation for streets bordering the municipal and Public Safety Buildings. Alas, we were not heard.

We regard it as sad that the Mayor's Office felt compelled to act without consultation to force those camping under cover of the Mini to move out to find other safe/dry places. The resulting disruption is another part of the City's attempt to mitigate the inevitable results of un-sheltered, un-housed "campers." These people are thereby consigned to move into existing shelters if there is room, or move on until the next time the clean-up squad arrives.

The Coalition's goal was not "the establishment of a tent city encampment with sanitary and safety support." The goal was and is to work collaboratively with any interested parties to address shelter, health, and safety needs of homeless people. With several hundred people sleeping on the street, shelter "turnaways" the norm, and the tightening of most program budgets, we have a long way to go.

Scott Pinegar,  
Advocacy Co-Chair, SKCCH

*Ed. Note. Thank you for the clarification. We apologize for any confusion caused by what was essentially a capitalization error in our article. The "Homeless Coalition," that advocates for a legal encampment is a loose grouping of organizations including SHARE, the Seattle Displacement Coalition, Operation Homestead, and others that met with Jim Hammond last March. We did not intend to portray the Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless' position on the matter in any way at all.*



**WE'RE IN CHARGE HERE!** REAL CHANGE HAS RECENTLY INCORPORATED AS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION, AND IS NO LONGER A PROJECT OF THE PIKE MARKET SENIOR CENTER. PICTURED ABOVE IS THE REAL CHANGE BOARD, AT THEIR FIRST MEETING, HELD ON APRIL 15TH. FROM BACK LEFT, HELENA STEPHENS, MICHELE MARCHANDE, WALTER MASSEY, JON GOULD. FROM LEFT FRONT, REV. JEAN KIM, DR. WES BROWNING, KRIS RHODE, SCOTT NODLAND (TREASURER/VP), CAROLE FRISSELL (SECRETARY), JEAN ROWLANDS-TARBOX (PRESIDENT), DOMINGO MARTINEZ (NOT SHOWN). PHOTO BY EMMA QUINN

# Tax Day Blues

## Groups Find Point of Unity in Skewed Federal Priorities

By TAMARA ANNE FOWLER

**W**here were you Tax Night '96? Passed out in front of your check book and calculator, drooling onto your 1040? Or had you already posted your return to Ogden, UT and turned to passive jello in front of "Evening Magazine?" Disgusted about where your taxes are going or too hassled to care? For those of you who were too beaten down by this daily grind to actively object, here's what happened on your behalf.

April 15th, Tax Day: a National Day of Action. Demonstrations were held in 50 cities across the US. In Seattle, a number of local activist groups banded together to publicly highlight what many feel are our federal government's misguided budget priorities — the amount of your taxes that goes to the military and the amount that doesn't go to human services. Leafleting was held at 10 area post offices from Downtown Seattle to Renton to Tacoma.

Organizing the leafleting and a protest march to the downtown post office were the combined efforts of the Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia, Pacific Crest Biodiversity Project, WA State Jobs With Justice, WA State Rainbow Coalition, Western WA

Fellowship of Reconciliation, American Friends Service Committee, Gray Panthers, Seattle Alliance and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

### NVACC Builds Unity

Initially, all these groups were brought together for the huge "Boot Newt" rally this past January by Geov Parrish, member of Non-Violent Action Community of Cascadia (NVACC). On January 10, approximately 3,000 protesters met in Westlake Park and marched to the Westin Hotel where Gingrich was hosting a \$1000 a head fundraiser.

While not everyone is working for the same cause, many causes have been brought together due to the right wing agenda's devastating attack on so many different social issues. One benefit to getting diverse activist groups together is the chance to see how their various issues are related; and gets them to care more about each other's issues in the process.

This alliance will be looking for more opportunities to work together, especially during the upcoming Presidential campaign. Parrish elaborates, "In general, there is a tremendous window of opportunity that we have not had in the past and may not have in the future.

If the word doesn't get out, it's our own damned fault."

NVACC's Vivien Sharples estimated that 4000 fliers were distributed during the Day of Action. Sharples was disappointed with just one aspect of the evening rally: the lack of media coverage. While local TV crews are usually at the downtown post office on tax day around 5pm-6pm, this year, that was the time that the Antonio Terry verdict came out, luring the media to the King County Court House.

In May, NVACC will hold a retreat to discuss their main focuses for the year. They will also further their primary consideration of last year: the dangerous combination of youth and militarism.

The installation of a Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) was attempted at Rainier Beach High School, an inner-city school with a high percentage of minority and economically disadvantaged students. The RB High Principal and some faculty members were in favor of this addition, but opposing faculty members alerted community activists. An anti-JROTC coalition was formed with NVACC in attendance.

In response to the loud dissenting voices, JROTC placement plans were defeated at the School District level by the Superintendent. The conflict is not over, however. The new Seattle School District Superintendent (Stanford) comes complete with a military background. On top of that, 14 other Washington state high schools have been targeted as likely JROTC locations the school who gives the OK will be bought off with a \$400,000 grant from the Department of Defense to fund JROTC's first two years. NVACC has its work cut out for itself.

The NVACC began in 1979 as the Conscience & Military Tax Campaign. CMTC was founded by war tax resisters on the east coast who's beliefs were in direct opposition with the programs the government was funding with collected tax money. The CMTC created an escrow account which is one of the largest funds of resisted tax dollars in the US. The escrow account money is reinvested into socially responsible programs the government should fund but too often doesn't.

In 1984, CMTC moved to Seattle. By 1994 there were two powerful war tax resistance groups on the scene, so CMTC decided to change its emphasis and become more locally invested. NVACC still administrates the CMTC Escrow Account.

NVACC is always looking for people to get involved. Those

interested should call 547-0952. (At the very least get your name on their mailing list; NVACC has a great quarterly newsletter)

### Bio-Diversity Now

Another dedicated group in this alliance is the Pacific Crest Biodiversity Project (PCBP). Director, Suzanne Pardee, leafleted at the U District Post Office. She asked individuals where their taxes were going and got a number of dispirited answers: "Nowhere good," "Down a rat hole," "Only to good things — NOT!" One man stated that we are taxed less here in the United States than in Western Europe yet we are not garnering the same value for our buck. He offered that when we pay our taxes there should be an entry on our 1040's upon which we can choose which programs our money goes to support.

A watchdog of public land management agencies that log our national and state forest lands, PCBP uses current laws to hold public officials accountable. To protect forests and wildlife, PCBP members go into the forest and to "ground-truth" timber sales to make sure national and statewide regulations are being complied with. They conduct field and library research which enables them to competently petition the US Fish & Wildlife Service in an effort to get certain species listed as threatened or endangered.

PCBP has been in Seattle since 1993. Pardee has been involved with this issue in one way or another for the past 11 years: "We realize that biological necessity is not necessarily politically expedient, however, the public is paying through low cost timber sales, massive flooding, destroyed fisheries and the loss of biodiversity and the medicines derived from the forest."

PCBP holds frequent rallies; nearly every week or two. Some involve blockading logging roads (with cars or

Cont. to page 18

### 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

**R**eal 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



PHOTO BY RON CAMPBELL

# Working it Out

## Millionair Club Celebrates 75 Years of Hope

BY JULIE EAGLETON

At 6:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning, the Millionair Club is a hopping busy place. Workers are gathering outside of 2515 Western Avenue in anticipation of the start of work dispatch at 6:30 a.m. Dispatchers and order takers are buzzing about the phones and hiring hall of this busy Belltown establishment. At 8:00 a.m., a voice comes over the intercom in the hiring hall, "Everyone's going to work today." Several of the workers smile and relax - it is Spring, a time when there is a lot of work available.

By 9:00 a.m., all of the approximately 130 workers have been matched to a job depending on their skills and experience, and are on the bus to various destinations in the Puget Sound area to contribute as a part of the community. In its 75 years of existence, the Millionair Club has created a win - win situation between the community and the people who need its help most.

### Giving Hope

On its 75th anniversary, the Millionair Club has created over 540,000 jobs in the community. It is capable of such an impressive figure because of the programs that it offers, and its ability to tailor its resources to an individual's needs.

Lou Feighner, Director of Employment and Training for the Millionair Club makes sure that The Employment Program at the Millionair Club is a respectful experience for everyone.

"The employees must be good to the employers," says Lou, and that means that our employees are clean, neat, respectful, and they work hard. In return, we require that the employers are good to our employees by giving them respect, a fair wage, and safe working conditions."

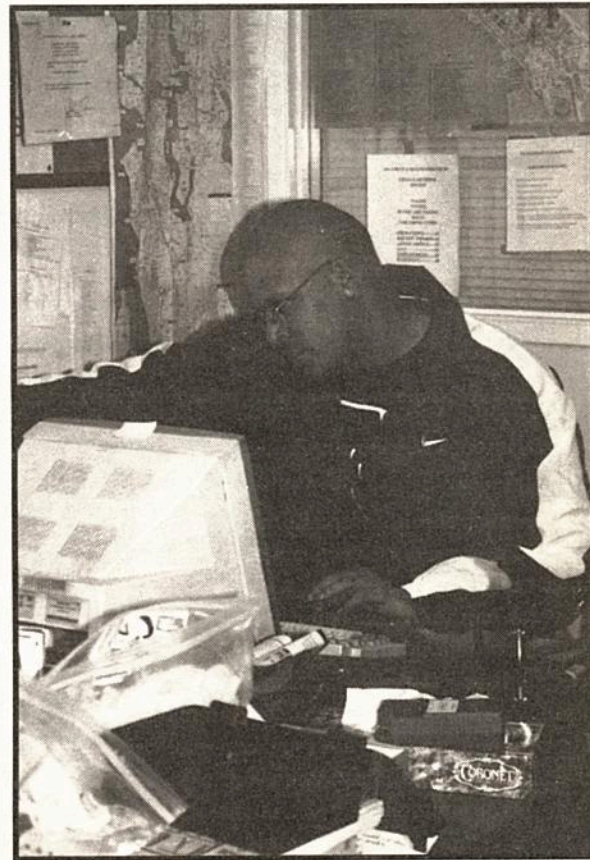
The workers at the Millionair club are first given an interview so that their skills can be determined and placed into the computer system. Then they are given a bar coded card in-order to check in by computer on the mornings they

want to be dispatched. When an employer calls in that needs their skills, their name comes up on the computer and they are on their way to work.

Finding short-term work to survive is not all that the Millionair Club is about, however. According to Betty Stevenson, Director of Program for the Millionaire Club, the main focus is to get people to move up and into the labor force permanently. "Having a marketable skill is the answer," says Betty, "and helping people to develop those skills is one of the goals of the Club."

The Millionair Club offers what is called the Job Search Program. It contains useful information such as resume building, interpersonal skills, and job resources. Several of the workers raved about the program.

"The JSP covers so much," said one worker, "it really helps you realize what mistakes you've made and why." Another worker tells his story about how JSP got him back into school, "I took the Job Skills training class, and now I have a grant to go finish school for my welding certificate. If you want permanent work, you can definitely get it here."



MC DISPATCHER EDDIE JONES PUMPS OUT THE JOBS. PHOTO BY JULIE EAGLETON

**"Finding short-term work to survive is not all that the Millionair Club is about. The program's main focus is to get people to move up and into the labor force permanently."**

### A Stepping Stone

What is unique about the Millionair Club is that it can focus on the needs of the individual. Because it is supported 100% by people and businesses in the community, it has the ability to be there to help them with all of their needs without interference from forms and regulations.

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## Meeting the Need

### Seattle's Millionair Club Branches Out

BY CATHERINE GAINAY

For three-quarters of a century, the Millionair Club has provided assistance for men facing hard times.

Opening the Women and Family Center, which addresses the needs of homeless and near-homeless women and children marks a new era of benevolence for the organization.

Perry Watkins, President of the MC Board of Directors says that seeing the project through from the initial vision to tangible reality was a major growth experience for everyone involved.

"It is very hard to describe the effort to bring this together," Watkins told assembled guests at the building's April 10 grand opening. "This was a venture of faith. They had to raise money to get the program off the ground. To fund this building took making a commitment because the need was absolutely necessary. Putting together a thing as big as this and building it on faith - it's a real thrill."

Since its inception back in 1921, the Club's mission has been to provide charity without embarrassment. While the focus has been primarily male-focused, women have played an active role in the organization, through board membership, staff employment or volunteer effort.

The actualization of the Center can be attributed to the efforts of Board Member Gail Wolf. "We had to understand the need," she told *Real Change*. "The research involved was not academic, but instead had a human touch. The number of capable women from WHEEL and SHARE and their involvement was vital to the research. They had a greater influence because of coming from a place of knowing."

While some needs were being addressed, the team discovered there were little or no programs to enable disenfranchised women to gain independent living skills, nor were there services that address basic issues like hygiene and child safety. The team also highlighted the need for employment referrals,

appropriate shelters and advocacy.

Statistics compiled by the National Coalition on the Homeless reveal that 36.5% of homeless people are families with children, 96% of these are headed by single parent women. 86% of all homeless families are on the street because of domestic violence.

In November of 1994, the Board of Trustees of the Millionair Club voted to provide an expansion of services to women and families. The following May, the Board of Directors and the Executive Staff hired Susan Rivera to

design and run a program for homeless and near-homeless women and families.

Rivera has more than 12 years of experience in administrative and program design of services for women, children and families. In July of '95, Deborah Semer was added to the staff as a Program Assistant. October 12, a three story building located at 117 1st Ave., North was purchased to house the WFC. Rivera is thrilled with the response the Center is receiving.

"So many people are knocking down our door to offer help. Professors from the University of Washington want to offer free workshops in self defense, health and nutrition, parenting and self esteem and confidence building. As far as I know this is the first building of its kind in the area."

Cont. to page 19

**"The team discovered there were little or no programs to enable disenfranchised women to gain independent living skills, nor were there services that address basic issues like hygiene and child safety."**

# Just Pies

## Robert Talley Bakes Up a Delicious Future

By KRISTEN NICHELSON

With the introduction of his sweet potato pie at a banquet hosted at the Street Life Gallery last month, Robert Talley's career as baker, entrepreneur, and owner of Emerald City Pies took off.

"His pies just melt in your mouth," assured Robert's wife, Debra.

Folks rave about his sweet potato, navy bean, apple, and lemon pies, but Robert humbly refers to them as "just pies". It all began with a sweet potato pie he baked sometime last year. The many compliments he received from friends on the pie encouraged him to consider baking as a new career. Six months later, Robert is still baking pies with big plans for the future of his business.

"I started off having fun with this and I want to continue to have fun. I am just giving it time and seeing how it goes," said Robert.

One of his goals is to establish a dependable delivery system. Robert presently delivers his pies personally via Seattle's Metro system. He fills approximately ten orders a week, including service to several delis in the Seattle area.

He would also like to have the use of another kitchen in the downtown area in which he can set his own hours and, in the future, increase his production. His current baking facility is the kitchen of a Seattle area restaurant.

"When you don't have the things you need to effectively run a business, it can be a little hard. Everything would be so much quicker if I had other things. But I'm still searching. I haven't given up."

Robert hasn't always been able to plan for and dream about the future he wants to enjoy. Several incidents of homelessness and a drug addiction forced him to focus on meeting daily basic needs.

After spending some time in a low income housing program and doing drug treatment he was able to beat both obstacles and keep them out of his life for over two years. Still, the possibility of becoming homeless again is always in his mind.

"I got tired of sleeping under a mat on the street. The thought of having to go

back out there keeps me working."

Even while he was homeless, Robert worked temporary light industrial jobs to save money for his own place. Although he knows he can return to doing other kinds of work, he enjoys his business and plans to work as hard as he can to see it succeed. He would eventually like to have a bigger business, but plans to stay behind the scenes baking pies.

One of the greatest obstacles Robert faces is the negativity he encounters in the attitudes of others and the way he is sometimes perceived when he is marketing his product.

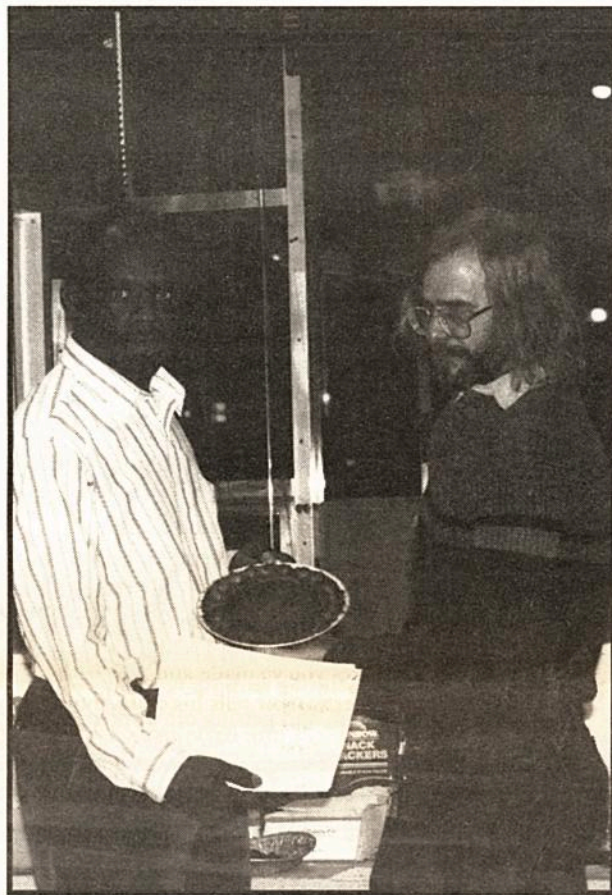
"If there is a problem, then I deal with it. But negativity doesn't work. It doesn't help at all," said Robert.

"Doing this has been about taking charge of my own life. It all goes back to that. I haven't been able to enjoy certain things in life, but perhaps with this

business, someday I will."

Robert sells his pies in two sizes, a 5" single serving pie for \$1.25 and a larger pie for \$7.00. Robert would also accept the donation of a used van or other vehicle to facilitate the delivery of his product.

Please contact him at 323-2787 for more information.



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# Getting Through

## A Survivors Story of Struggle and Loneliness

**C**atherine Henne is a working woman in Seattle who lived in her truck for over six months before finally getting into shelter. Last March, Catherine was able to relay her experience on the Oprah Show, which filmed her routine in Seattle, and flew her to Chicago to be on the show live.

"You can't show someone what it's like to be homeless," she said later. "It looks like a camping trip. People don't realize it takes all day long to be homeless. It takes thirty minutes to drive somewhere to get a shower or brush your teeth. Everything's a process."

While she says appearing on the Oprah Show and staying at Chicago's Omni Hotel was a good experience, Catherine was still homeless in Seattle when she shared her story with us in late-April. In the following, she describes the feelings of loneliness homeless people have, and the struggle imposed by keeping up appearances while working toward stability.

Catherine was just offered a reduced-rent apartment in West Seattle by a woman who saw her on the Oprah Show and had once been homeless herself.

The Oprah people told me that when I got to the Omni Hotel, I'd receive food vouchers when I registered. Now, to a homeless person, a food voucher isn't something you are proud of. So I thought I'd shove it in the toilet before I used it. I had 50 bucks there with me, my whole life savings, so if I needed food, I was ready.

So I went and picked up my food vouchers and tried to hold my head up. I was feeling very ashamed. I went to my room and looked at the vouchers, and they were printed on little cards printed in gold, entitling the bearer to spend \$50 for dinner and \$25 for breakfast.

I'm like, wow, with my money I'm not going to be able to afford to eat here. I can't tell if I'm hungry or not, my stomach is so numb. I'm numb. I haven't been in touch with my body for a long time. The homeless thing absorbs your emotions and you tend to put them aside.

So I don't know if I'm hungry or not when I get there. I just know I'm frightened and I'm alone. So I decided, well, okay dog-gonnit, I don't know if I'm hungry or not, but I'm gonna go up there and see if there is anything on that menu that I haven't eaten in a long time, and I'm going to try and eat it.

I march up there, and I'm looking okay—I'm thinking I'm good enough to go in that restaurant—and I take a look at this wonderful room with gorgeous chandeliers, and a huge archway window that overlooks the whole city. Beautiful view.

I went up there once and turned around and came back down. I had to take two runs at it to get into the restaurant. So I finally made it in through the door, and I'm terribly lonely in my hotel room anyway, so I'm going to take this adventure. A wonderful, joyous waiter sits me down in a lovely little booth in a quiet corner, and I felt

at home, and it had a view overlooking the city.

The waiter said they usually wrap their scallops in bacon, but they didn't have any bacon, so could they make me something special? I said yes, so while I was waiting for my appetizer of scallops, I saw the women at the table next to me had the food vouchers, so that's how I met the other women that did the documentary [It was a Wonderful Life, a documentary on homeless women in an affluent California suburb], and it was real exciting when we talked. But they were on dessert, so we only talked over coffee, and then they left.

So I was wolfing my mussels, and they tasted so good. I hadn't had anything like that in so long, it was heaven. I guess I was hungry, because I was really going to town. And then the waiter brought out the most beautiful salad, I don't know if I'll ever forget it.

This cook made for me sautéed scallops on a bed of spinach, with cheeses and strawberries, and a raspberry vinaigrette, it was so good. I joked around with the waiter a bit, and I'm sitting there and I'm starting to eat the salad, and I'm overlooking the city, and it dawns on me that, that I'm alone.

I can do being homeless, and I can do walking with God as my only friend when things are tough, but when things are good, I don't know how to put this ... No one should ever do joy alone. I sat there and burst into tears, and couldn't eat the food. I just started sobbing into my napkin.

The waiter came over, and he was so upset, and he didn't know what to do with me, and I had to smile and reassure him that I was just fine. That I was just remembering all the times I had taken for granted eating in restaurants like that. And how wonderful it was. And here I was again, sitting in a beautiful restaurant, and I didn't have anyone to share it with.

I would have been thrilled to go down and bring one person in off the streets to share that with. The good times are meant to be shared. I was used to doing lonely, but I couldn't deal with so much joy and not having someone to share it with.

It was excruciating, and I just cried. I'm okay as long as I'm left alone. I was used to the idea that when things aren't pretty people don't want to see it, they don't want to hear it, they don't want to be near it. But I couldn't experience that moment just for me.

One thing I want to say is I was more afraid before I become homeless than after I became homeless. I was so terrified of becoming homeless I was practically paralyzed. I didn't know what to do and I didn't want to find out what to do.

I didn't want to tell anybody what was happening. So I never found out what to do. By the time I became homeless, I was already carrying a huge burden of shame and guilt and fear.

So I walked into being homeless already emotionally full, and then I became homeless, and becoming homeless is about having to get up and finding a place to get ready to go to work, finding a place to feed yourself, getting to work and keeping an appropriate attitude without revealing your situation, and getting off work and

trying to carry on with life while looking for a place to clean your clothes, finding a place to feed yourself again, and finding a place to hide yourself at night so you can sleep, and then trying to get restful sleep so you can go do it all again the next day.

Now that's really a difficult job. I can't tell you how stressed out I was just dealing with that. But each and every time I tried to go for help it became a huge responsibility, and none of the people that I went to for help ever really let go of me again. It was as if every time I asked for help I became responsible to that group to continue to check in with them, even if they never really did help me.

The first people I asked for help was in July after I got injured on the job. I went to the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and I signed up with them so I would have a place where I could continue to look for work. And I could use their computers to send out job applications, and use their building to network from.

I signed up for a program with them and I told them that I needed some counseling, vocational counseling, to keep me motivated to choose the right jobs and to get into a job and keep that job. And they agreed to a program where I went to Seattle mental health and got both an emotional counselor

*Continued to page 14*

**"I didn't want to tell anybody what was happening. So I never found out what to do. By the time I became homeless, I was already carrying a huge burden of shame and guilt and fear."**



CATHERINE HENNE DOES MORNING COFFEE AND PAPER BEFORE WORK. PHOTO BY DANA SCHUERHOLZ



# The Silent Emergency

## Understanding What's Wrong With the Commons

Let's build a new park!" So runs the rallying cry of the Seattle Commons supporters, who have been so successful at keeping their vision in the public eye. After losing at the polls last September, the "last chance" effort was given another chance by an enthusiastic Mayor Rice, a well-funded "grass-roots" organization, and a divided City Council, which voted six to three to declare the Commons an "emergency" and put it on a special ballot this May 21. Councilmembers Choe, Manning, and Noland dissented.

### John Shaw

If you have trouble understanding how the cry, "Let's build a new park," has become an emergency, you are not alone. Local law requires that special elections occur only when there's an emergency, and a majority of the Council has declared there is an emergency, so in an emergency we must be. When our city government quietly declares an emergency, it behooves us to understand what the fuss - or lack of it - is about.

Yard sign images of little girls playing on swings would have us believe that the Commons is a park, a whole park, and nothing but a park, but things aren't that simple. The Commons is key to an ambitious, complex plan for the South Lake Union neighborhood. The plan includes detailed and confusing information about housing, information which is not widely understood, even by housing advocates.

The stark fact is that the Commons would spend \$70 million of City funds to create a high-density residential neighborhood in which individuals making \$28,000 a year wouldn't be able to afford to live, unless they got subsidized housing. In a strange, sad, and funny way the City Council is right: the Commons isn't an emergency — but it could be if it passes. There's a very real chance that, by making land more scarce and expensive, the Commons would increase homelessness.

How would the Commons create more homelessness? Don't they keep talking about housing preservation? You may have heard the claim that the Commons will preserve 600 units of presently unsubsidized affordable housing at their current rent levels.

It's an impressive claim, but it's not entirely accurate, and the part of it that is accurate is based on assumptions that are not widely understood. Even less well understood is how development projects like the Commons cause people to become homeless.

#### What is "Affordable?"

Of the 600 units of "affordable" private-market, unsubsidized housing in the Commons-affected area, 353 of them are "low-income." Forty-two of the 353 low-income units are "very-low-income." What do these terms mean?

Low-income housing is defined as housing that is affordable to people making 50 percent or less of the local median income. The median income for a single person is around \$36,000 a year; so individuals are "low-income" if they make up to about \$18,000 a year. "Very low income" includes all individuals who make between no income and 30 percent of the median; that is, up to about \$10,800 a year, or \$900 a month. The vast majority of homeless people are in the "very low income" category.

Housing is "affordable" if someone pays 30 percent or less of their income for it. For someone making \$18,000 a year, an affordable apartment would cost \$450 per month. For someone on GAU, which pays the paltry sum of \$339 per month, an apartment would be affordable at \$101.70.

In the special language of bureaucratize, "affordable" housing refers to housing for people who make up to 80 percent of the median income — up to around \$28,000 a year. Of the 600 units of unsubsidized affordable housing in the Commons-affected area that the Commons would preserve, 247 of them are affordable to people in the 50 to 80 percent of median income range.

#### Housing Scorecard

Commons supporters say that if the park is approved, 600 units of affordable housing will be preserved, 42 of which are very-low-income units, and an additional 311 of which are low-income units, for a total of 353 low-income units.

What Commons supporters don't tell you is that whether the Commons passes or not, funding already exists to preserve 202 of the 353 low-income units (57 percent of them), without using any of the money from the recently approved low-income housing levy.

The money has already been collected from a Real-Estate Excise Tax (REET), and it has been designated for housing preservation in the South Lake Union area.

They also don't tell you that none of the very-low income units will be preserved at very-low-income levels. The City Council document which describes the plan is misleading. If you read it closely, you see that the 42 very-low income units will be preserved for people making 30 percent of median exactly; people who make less than that — the majority of homeless people — will not be able to afford them.

Republicans in the other Washington campaign against raising the minimum wage. Meanwhile Seattleites will be voting on whether to approve a funding package for a park and subsidized housing. A man or a woman working full-time at minimum wage would not be able to afford to live in the cheapest apartment funded by the plan.

#### Housing Opportunity for the Moderately Well-To-Do

After you comb through the fine print of the Commons proposal, it doesn't look quite as good as supporters

**"In a strange, sad, and funny way the City Council is right: the Commons isn't an emergency, but it could be... by making land more scarce and expensive, the Commons would increase homelessness."**

claim. Money to preserve 151 units of low-income housing is a good thing, but it isn't as good as money to preserve 353 units. But Commons supporters don't say the park will preserve 353 units. They say it will preserve 600 units.

Where is the difference coming from? The difference comes from the fact that the Commons will subsidize 247 units for people making between 50 and 80 percent of the median income.

What this means in plain English is that people who make between \$18,000 and \$28,000 a year will be living in those apartments and paying from \$450 to \$700 a month for them. The Commons Plan hopes to attract hundreds of units of private-market rental housing. The planners believe that landlords in the area will not be able to afford to rent one-bedroom apartments for \$700 a month unless they get development subsidies.

If you're surprised by that number, you're not the only one. It's what we're going to be voting on, and no one knows anything about it.

#### How the Commons Could Create Homelessness

The conventional wisdom holds that the rising cost of housing has been one of the primary causes of the increase in homelessness over the last 20 years. The Seattle 1996 Consolidated Plan identifies "housing affordability" as one of the three major causes of homelessness in individuals and families. And it's true: Housing in Seattle has become much less affordable in the last 25 years.

Between 1980 and 1990 the average rent in Seattle increased by 82.4 percent, from \$233 per month to \$425 per month. That decade of rising rents came after a decade of even more remarkable rent increases. In 1970, the average monthly rent in Seattle was \$78.48 — rent rose by 196.9 percent over the next ten years. The tremendously high inflation of the 1970s accounts for much of the increase, but not all of it. During the '70s, rents rose by an annual average of 6.9 percent after inflation in Seattle.

Many factors came together to produce the tremendous rent run-ups of the '70s and '80s. For starters, many of the low-cost apartments simply disappeared. 15,622 housing units were lost between 1960 and 1980 in downtown, South Lake Union, and First Hill. Seventy percent of them were in residential hotels, and most of those were probably low-cost.

The construction of Interstate 5 took down between 3,000 and 5,000 units of housing during this period. The loss of low-income housing continued through most of the 1980s, as over 1,450 low-income units were lost downtown between 1983 and 1987.

A major cause of the loss of the low-income housing was that the price of real estate was rising very quickly. When real estate goes up in value, it becomes difficult for low-income housing to stay there. When land value goes up, owners need to make more money from their property in order to pay higher taxes. The assessed value of residential downtown real estate rose by 1,000 percent between 1973 and 1983.

Real estate rises in price when there is pressure to develop it, and government has an influence on this. Changes in the tax code and changes in banking regulations in the early '80s both favored high-rise development, which made land more valuable.

Also, the price of something goes up when the supply of it decreases and the demand for it stays the same. The construction of Interstate 5 and the construction of the Washington State Convention Center diminished the available downtown acreage, and the Convention Center took down hundreds of low-income housing units in the process.

A result of this has been an explosive increase in homelessness since the mid-70s. Because low-income units were lost, because land values went up, because rents rose at an astonishing rate (and because wages did not rise with the rents, which is another part of the story), thousands of people can no longer afford an apartment.

#### And?

If the Commons is approved, a few dozen acres of real estate near downtown will no longer be available for housing or business. That which remains will be more prime because of the new park. Land prices will rise even faster than they are rising now, and there is every chance that the real estate boom will cascade into Eastlake and Capitol Hill, causing the rising land values and rents to accelerate there as well. Historically, rising rents have increased homelessness.

But Commons supporters counter that the Commons is proposed for a neighborhood that is ripe for development anyway. In recent years three major businesses have chosen to locate in the area around South Lake Union:

*Continued on page 18*

# Citizen's Participation Project

**A**s of this month's issue, *Real Change* is introducing a new section devoted to the legislative topics important to our urban readers. This section will provide a space for organizations concerned with issues of economic and social justice to present their positions on city, state and national legislation. Although many groups publish agenda-specific newsletters, *Real Change* would like to consolidate their concerns in a format that will serve to mobilize our readership toward unified and substantive action.

## Washington Low Income Housing Network

**Legislative Concern:** A bill that would eliminate the guarantee of affordable housing for tenants of public housing holding Section 8 certificates or vouchers has recently passed in the Senate (S. 1260), and the House of Representative plans to vote on its own version (H.R. 2406) in the first week of May. The proposed bills would repeal the Brooke Amendment, which was enacted in 1969 and amended in 1981 to ensure that rental expenses do not exceed 30% of an assisted housing tenant's total income.

Consideration is also being given to a plan to abolish the federal practice of placing certain groups — the homeless, individuals paying over 50% of their incomes in rent, or those living in substandard housing — on the top of waiting lists for public housing and for Section 8 assistance.

**Position:** Without the protection of the Brooke Amendment, millions of very poor families, the elderly, and people with disabilities will face displacement and homelessness. Also, the practice of not accepting extremely-low-income individuals on a priority basis will allow the government to select tenants with

higher incomes and clear the way for rent increases.

**Recommended Action:** Join the "Keep the Cap" movement that is underway both nationally and locally. Information and specific advocacy materials for this movement, which seeks to save the Brooke Amendment, are available from the Low Income Housing Network (206) 442-9455. You can also contact your Representative and Senators, asking them to oppose H.R. 2406 and to preserve the Brooke Amendment in conference, respectively. The president should be urged to veto any housing bill that weakens the Brooke Amendment.

## Children's Defense Fund

**Legislative Concern:** When the Balanced Budget Amendment was defeated by a slim margin last year, Senator Dole, in a tactical move, changed his vote to "no." This move allows him to seek reconsideration of the vote at any time and, unlike in the past, there would be no notice or opportunity for debate. Some legislators are convinced that this may happen soon.

**Position:** While deficit reduction and balancing the budget are important, we should not tinker with the Constitution. Moreover, the Balanced Budget Amendment, if enacted, will result in massive cuts in family programs that encourage self-sufficiency and give children the support the need to grow up healthy and ready to learn.

**Recommended Action:** Please call the Senators that voted "no" on the amendment last year, one of whom is Washington's Patty Murray, and thank them for their previous vote and urge them to continue to vote "no" on the Balanced Budget Amendment.

## Catholic Community Services of Western Washington

**Legislative Concern:** The illegal/undocumented immigration bill (S. 269), is expected to be taken up soon by the Senate. The bill requires, among other things, the sponsors of immigrants to pay for all their needs, including health care, for ten years, and prohibits any educational or social services to the children of illegal immigrants.

Meanwhile, the Senate bill dealing with legal immigration (S. 1394), which would narrow the definition of "family members" to only minor children and spouses, is moving forward. The bill would exclude any preference given to adult children, siblings, and parents

under 65 years old looking to reunite with their families.

**Position:** A just immigration policy would affirm the following principles: family reunification remains an appropriate basis for immigration; persons fleeing persecution require special consideration; immigrants should not be barred from assistance; and charitable organizations should not be required to verify immigration status before offering help.

**Action:** Call and urge your members of Congress to support a just immigration policy.

*This page is in its formative stage, and we welcome submissions from those groups interested in making their legislative priorities known. To participate, please include Real Change as part of your regular mailing list (your submissions will be subject to editing for content and brevity).*

## General Information

Updates posted regularly at <http://www.speakeasy.org/realchange/CPP.html>

Please use the following information to take action and fight for real change:

### Congressional Members from Washington State

	Phone	Fax
Sen. Slade Gordon, R	(202) 224-3441	(202) 224-9393
Sen. Patty Murray, D	(202) 224-2621	(202) 224-0238
Rep. Rick White, R	(202) 225-6311	(202) 225-3524
Rep. Jack Metcalf, R	(202) 225-2605	(202) 225-2605
Rep. Linda Smith, R	(202) 225-3536	(202) 225-3478
Rep. "Doc" Hastings, R	(202) 225-5816	(202) 225-3251
Rep. Geo. Nethercutt, R	(202) 225-2006	(202) 225-3392
Rep. Norm Dicks, D	(202) 225-5916	(202) 226-1176
Rep. Jim McDermott	(202) 225-3106	(202) 225-6197
Rep. Jennifer Dunn	(202) 225-7761	(202) 225-8673
Rep. Randy Tate	(202) 225-8901	(202) 225-3524
The White House	(202) 456-1414	(202) 456-288

# Homeless Women's Network Update

**T**he Homeless Women's Network has a home. Within a few days HWN will be moving into offices at 3010 First Avenue (one block south of Denny). This is a 3,000 s.f. building that has been made available as the nucleus of the Women's Building. Other organizations will be moving in during the summer and the building will be fully operational by September.

The Women's Building is embarking on major fundraising and organizational development as they plan their future home, a mixed-use site that will include office and meeting space, studios, a communications center, a gymnasium, housing, and a performance center.

The Homeless Women's Network, by being in on the "ground floor" of the project, has an advantageous position to grow with and become a favored partner of the Women's Building. HWN will also be a kind of incubator for development of the sophisticated communications center that is planned, with Internet access and training,

desktop publishing, PR expertise, and broadcast fax capabilities. First priority will be to develop on-line resources for homeless and low-income women, and to ensure that individuals have access to this information. Access is not a simple matter. It involves designing a database that is intuitive and easy to use, dispersing terminals and modems in locations such as shelters and transitional housing, developing a cadre of volunteer tutors sensitive to the needs of low-income women, and demonstrating that a homeless woman is capable of using the technology to help herself.

Future projects include a database that links homeless and at-risk women regionally and even nationally through the World Wide Web and a classroom for women not yet ready to enter existing training programs.

The Homeless Women's Network does not have 501(c)3 status at this time, but will function as a project of the Women's Building. HWN is taking its first steps using loaned equipment, but they hope to receive donations of computers, printers, a scanner and a copier. At least one Pentium is needed

for the database work. Older computers can be used as off-site terminals, but those capable of running Windows will be easier for individuals to use.

HWN is providing e-mail accounts through Seattle Community Network. Their database will be accessible through the City of Seattle's Public Access Network (PAN). A Web page is under development, with generous assistance from the Speakeasy Cafe in Belltown. The URL is <http://www.speakeasy.org/hwn>.

HWN's plans are ambitious, but the organization has received incredible expressions of support from the

community and they are confident that their vision will become reality. Already, there are formerly homeless women contributing to the writers' and political forums on Seattle Community Network, using e-mail to discuss agenda items, and searching the World Wide Web for potential funding sources. They will publish a chapbook of poetry, essays and short fiction to be sold at Bumbershoot (see ad in this issue) as part of their outreach and fundraising effort.

The Homeless Women's Network can be reached at their new phone number, 233-8466.

**"HWN's plans are ambitious, but the organization has received incredible expressions of support from the community and they are confident that their vision will become reality."**

## Belltown Persephone

Leaving the darkened doorway,  
she coughs  
spitting ruby-colored seed  
on the grey cement,  
she waits for April to end  
and the First.  
She hesitates, takes another bite  
of the pomegranate  
he gave her.

Long-hair, bearded man preaches  
on the street corner:  
"...beware of antediluvian  
litter  
and rain."

She scrutinizes an opaque reflection  
on the rectangular window  
this reminds her of a photograph  
she had taken in the country  
as a girl. With her fingers  
she combs dark hair  
from her face

She searches her pockets  
fingering crumpled food stamps  
and change.  
Entering Wally's grocery store  
she buys candy  
and carries out  
a brown paper bag.

"I play hard, make faces,  
and dance in the rain..."

She drinks from the pint bottle  
the remaining wine  
glistens  
red.

—Earle Thompson

## I Give Up!

For THOSE of us

Who have OUTLIVED  
their Partners,

God opens up  
A rich world  
of Freedom  
and Solitude

...to please *ourselves*  
...and God

I pray for GRATITUDE

—Marion Sue Fischer

## View

Fish and bread—  
Look out the window.  
We can feed—them all.  
I couldn't wait to tell you.  
I—just couldn't wait...

—Nancy Craig

## He Stands With His Hands Behind

him ... beside

me! Such a future of cars in  
this jungle, headlights  
swarming

around my head  
tonight, in  
this place where I rest, if  
I rest—

the future again, in my  
night's sleep.  
I'll remember the years of tramping, of  
sleeping without my day's work

through each night at home, that led  
me to this jungle  
of nerves, of  
more or

less than I deserve after  
years ... everything

I might tell you, today.  
We might tell you!

—Stan Burriss

## Sculptured Souls

Today i woke up  
in black foam

i still have heavy  
vapors from a dream ...

people were jumping  
on electric wires—  
Their hearts singed  
to the core;  
clouds of decay were  
forming over the  
countries to let  
their acid rain pour  
forth

Society and Me...  
we walk in life's chasm  
of severed glass  
we Create what  
we Are.

—Melanie Webb

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

Occasionally I visit the Real Change office and annoy the paid staff. On such a recent mission I happened to learn that our beloved Ozula Sioux is actually ozula sioux. She calls this an "e.e.cummings thing."

That got me wondering - what WAS e.e.'s thing, anyway? (I mean regarding caps). And how would I know? I would have to research the matter scientifically, the way I learned in college. So I got the beer, read two or three of mr. cummings' poems, and at the appropriate moment, about 3 AM, appealed to my Poetic Muse for the Answer. Well, Answers. I'm sure e.e. must have had days like this:

as  
mostpeople are stupidugly  
creeps do i want  
to be likethem no  
do i want  
to capitalizelikethem no  
do i want  
to spacelikethem no  
inotlikethem  
even do i period no  
sroom sroomall

But that's not all. We haven't expressed his profound disgust for modern life, it's artificial complexities, it's unnecessary conventions with their distracting demands upon our attentions. Capitalizers aren't just conformists, they're foolish people who turn their backs on the good life. "besimple" must be his motto.

**besimple**

besimpledontpunctuatedontspacenocapsnoli  
nereturnospellchexnnnogobackeditnochew  
gumchewfoodfreeyourselffromconventionsco  
nveningconcomingcomingwithtogethercoming  
togetherwithmostpeoplethenyoucantbeherec  
ausetheyretheredontletithappentoyousimpl

But that's not all. We haven't expressed the fact that he was a poet - and what do poets make?

Here I feel I can safely speak with the authority of experience!

**poor eddie's lament  
or opus nothing - i'm so poor**

i'm so poor i only own a half-pair of socks  
" " " i have to wipe myself w/. rocks  
" " " my bank is by the river  
" " " i've had to hock my liver  
" " " no woman will give me any time  
" " " all i got's words that rhyme  
" " " i owe five bucks to my fleas  
" " " i can't afford new shift keys

**Contact Dr. Wes at [wes@speakeasy.org](mailto:wes@speakeasy.org), or visit his webpage at <http://www.speakeasy.org/~wes>.**

# New on the Net

## Social Service Ban

The Hartford, CT, City Council has voted to impose a six-month moratorium on all new homeless shelters, groups homes and other treatment and social service centers, the *New York Times* reported March 25th.

Local leaders worry that an excess of social service programs in Hartford are breeding dependency and attracting poor people to the city, which has been victimized by middle-class flight in recent years. Mayor Mike Peters says Hartford has become the dumping ground for every project for the needy.

The moratorium is slated for renewal, and is being criticized by local social service providers. "I agree that it's time for other communities to step up to the plate, but that doesn't make it right for Hartford to erect barriers to people who need to be served," said Legal Aid Society lawyer Nancy Hronek.

At least 30 other cities have used zoning ordinances and building codes to exclude social service agencies, according to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

## Crash, Beatings Fuel Immigration Furor

A deadly truck crash and a chase leading to a nationally televised billy-clubbing within one week have raised concerns that illegal immigrants are using more risky methods to cross the border in California, reports the *Chicago Tribune*.

Immigrants-rights advocates argue that the nation's get-tough climate has led more illegal immigrants to try back-road dashes and other dangerous methods to enter the country, while critics contend only tougher policies will prevent the kind of tragedy and confrontation seen along the border last week.

While a debate rages over the deputies' behavior, the two cases also have focused attention on the activities of immigrant smugglers, the "coyotes" who guide illegal immigrants clandestinely into the country with little regard for the safety of their customers or others.

"You can't get through the mountains without a guide, and these guides are ruthless," said Ron Henley, a Border Patrol supervisor. "There was no reason for that truck driver on Saturday to do what he did. This was callous disregard for human life."

More than 6,000 people marched near Los Angeles City Hall Saturday to show support for the two illegal immigrants beaten by the deputies. Some labeled as hypocritical and inhumane the nation's unfriendly climate toward illegal immigrants.

"As long as our California economy is built on sweatshop labor and the exploitation of farm labor in the field, we will continue to see the kind of human desperation that makes people leave their homelands and risk their lives to work for little pay and less dignity," said Democratic state Sen. Tom Hayden, addressing the crowd.

Across town, a smaller group of anti-immigration activists marched near the Federal Building. They called for stricter enforcement, including the construction of a border fence and more official deportations.

## Report: Hunger & Homelessness Rises

The U.S. Conference of Mayors annual report shows hunger and homelessness in America's cities increased during 1995.

Twenty-nine cities were surveyed to compile the status report, containing information including demand for emergency services, the capacity of the cities to respond, unmet needs for services, and funding sources.

The report's findings include:

- Requests for emergency food assistance increased by an average of nine percent, with 72 percent of cities registering an increase.
- On average, 18 percent of the requests for emergency food assistance are estimated to have gone unmet during the past year.
- Sixty-three percent of those requesting emergency food assistance were members of families - children and their parents. One-third of the adults requesting food assistance were employed.
- Requests for emergency shelter increased by an average of 11 percent, with 63 percent of the cities registering an increase.
- An average of 19 percent of the requests for emergency shelter went unmet last year.

Officials say the gap in services created by cuts in welfare, Medicaid, housing assistance, the Earned Income Tax Credit and other social services cannot be filled by private charitable organizations.

## Public Housing Ordered in Dallas

In the latest twist in an 11-year-old public housing desegregation suit, a federal judge has issued an order intended to force the mostly white suburbs of Dallas to accept public housing, reports *The New York Times*.

Should the suburbs resist, the ruling would require the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to investigate whether the refusals violated civil rights laws.

The order, issued last Tuesday, is the latest attempt to remove inequities in public housing in response to a federal lawsuit filed in 1985 by poor black residents of such housing in Dallas. The order, by Judge Jerry Buchmeyer of Federal District Court, calls for the federal housing department to make it possible to place 3,200 public housing units in "predominantly white areas" of Dallas and its suburbs.

Buchmeyer noted that 92 percent of the black families in public housing lived in "predominantly black or minority" housing projects in "predominantly black or minority-concentrated areas where the poverty rate exceeds 40 percent."

## L.A. Homeless Asked to Leave City Hall Encampment

A team from the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authorities descended upon an encampment in downtown Los Angeles, promising alternative housing and urging residents to vacate their impromptu town across from the City Hall, reports *The Los Angeles Times*.

"I'm confident that whatever can be done...will be done," said Henry

Knowls, the agency's interim executive director. It was not clear what, if any, long-term plans agency officials had in mind.

Advocates for the poor say the compelling example of homeless people living and shooting up drugs across the street from City Hall illustrated an intractable urban problem that has been compounded by shortages of rehabilitation and housing services for the destitute.

"Drug addiction is a major problem and yet there are very few programs," said Alice Callaghan, director of Las Familias del Pueblo. "If you don't have private insurance, there's very little available."

When people come to Callaghan, saying that they are ready to kick their habit and to enter rehabilitation programs, she said she often cannot provide timely help. It can take three to eight months to get into a program, she said. There are no easy solutions, say city and county officials.

Deirdre Hill, president of the Los Angeles Police Commission, said Monday that even if officers cleared the camp, the problems that created it—drug abuse and homelessness—would persist. Moving the blight away from the view of city and county decision makers, she said, will not eliminate it.

## Voice-Mail Offered to Homeless & Phoneless

US West Communications is now offering over 10,000 voice-mail boxes to people who want to find a job, but don't have a callback number to leave with the prospective employer, reports *Newsbytes*.

The Project Hope Box service represents a \$1.6 million investment in the region's needy, says US West. Using the same technology that other voice-mail services offer, the "Hope Boxes" allow each needy client to have a personal phone number and be able to access their own private mail box.

Jim Smith, US West vice president for local markets, joined Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and a group of volunteers to enroll several dozen Hope Box clients in the program. Smith said that the use of the mail boxes will rotate among clients as they find work.

US West is providing 2,000 phone cards worth \$5.00 each that can be used at specially marked pay phones, so that clients may retrieve their calls.

Nortel, a US West supplier, has contributed 200 single-line telephone sets that can be used by Hope Box clients once they are housed.

US West is offering the service through participating shelters and non-profit organizations throughout their service area. Each state in the company's service area will get about 7,500 Hope Boxes.

## Police, Educators Criticize Immigration Bill

Education and law enforcement groups are asking Congress to reject GOP legislation that would give states the option of barring undocumented alien children from public schools, reports Associated Press.

Critics believe denying free public education to such children would do nothing to slow illegal immigration but could increase crime and hurt children.

"Putting hundreds of thousands of additional children on some of the toughest streets in our country translates into a windfall of potential new victims for the predators who work those streets," the Fraternal Order of Police said in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

The Senate is expected to discuss the plan next week after it begins debating a bill overhauling the nation's immigration laws. Republicans could propose adding it to the bill through an amendment.

The House voted 257-163 to include the idea in an immigration bill that was passed last month after House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., made an unusual trip to the House floor to argue for it.

Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., who proposed the amendment to let states decide whether to educate undocumented alien children, said California is one of several states that is being overwhelmed by illegal immigration. Voters should be asked whether they want to support these immigrants, he said.

## More States Trying Youth Offenders as Adults

Responding to a steep escalation in youth crime, politicians in every state are trying to enact laws that make it easier to try young people as adults, reports the *Boston Globe*.

But by doing so, child advocates say a century-old principle of U.S. jurisprudence is being undermined: that juveniles are so moldable that all but the exception can be rehabilitated.

New Hampshire reformed its statutes only a few months ago, and already a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old face life sentences if they are convicted as adults on murder charges. And the Massachusetts House approved a bill last month that would require criminal trials for youths 14 and older who are charged with first- or second-degree murder. Four states have also lowered the age for capital punishment to 17, and at least 21 states allow 16-year-olds to be executed.

Almost every state has signed on to some version of the get-tough approach for first-degree murder. Most give judges discretion on which route to take, but a growing number of states are making adult trials automatic or empowering prosecutors to choose - a controversial policy because judicial decisions are being placed in the hands of elected officials.

Critics say there is no evidence to demonstrate that trying teenagers as adults deters or cuts the crime rate.

Dan Macallair, associate director of the San Francisco-based Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, argued that a more productive and cheaper long-term solution - given the high cost of adult jury trials and long incarcerations - would be for states to channel resources into prevention and intensive rehabilitation.

"A 14-year-old is not an adult, and there's still a period of significant development yet to occur," Macallair said. "I think it's awful, awful that we're collectively deciding to give up on them."

Articles excerpted from the *April News & Blues on Handsnet*. Specialized searches are available. Contact [sylvie@eskimo.com](mailto:sylvie@eskimo.com)

**HENNE, CONT FROM P. 8**  
and a vocational therapist.

Now I went into crisis in the middle of the winter. I became homeless and my vocational therapist felt that she could no longer help me, because I wasn't in full-time work, so I concentrated on getting the emotional support in therapy that I needed to get through the period of being homeless.

So I was responsible to my DVR counselor. I was responsible to my vocational therapist, and to my therapist. My therapist wanted me to see a housing specialist, so I became responsible to this housing specialist, even though after I saw her the first time she never responded to me again. I still continued to contact her as I spent more time in my truck and became suicidal

I was seeing all these people and working, and trying to help myself and trying to get showers and such, and going to 12-step meetings throughout all this. I had become suicidal at that time, so they had me see a nurse practitioner, so that's 5 or 6 people right there.

Then in my search for housing I met the Women from the Homeless Women's Network, and they told me about transitional housing, so while I'm seeing all these people and keeping my work, I began interviewing with people from different housing units and that was Sojourner House, Jubilee, Seattle Housing Authority, the YWCA Center, and Plymouth Housing Authority.

So that's 5 other agencies I'm going to interviews with while I'm working. I'm doing this stuff on my lunch hour or in the evenings or whenever I can get away, and I'm interviewing with these people, checking back with them and being responsible to them, trying to figure out if they are going to take me or not. Staying in contact with them adds 5 more groups to the process.

When I applied to DSHS for food stamps, I'd made about \$500 that month, and I'd paid \$225 to a woman who was letting me sleep on her floor. Plus, I'd paid her heat bill, which was another \$50. That didn't last, and she still thought I owed her another \$100.

So when I went to DSHS, they said I'd earned too much money, and because I didn't have an address, I couldn't prove I paid rent. So I couldn't be helped by them because they wouldn't recognize I paid rent, even though I'd paid rent directly to this woman's landlord. So I couldn't get help from them.

And then, when they sent me the letter denying benefits, there was a little note on the bottom saying I could get work if I'd just go to the Unemployment Security office, not recognizing that I already was working as many hours as I possibly could. And that was why I wasn't getting food stamps.

I'm sure he thought he was being

helpful, but you know what? I didn't take it that way.

So that's ten people I was in touch with, Okay? Now I'm not positive that's all, because the last person I had lived with still felt I owed her money, I continuously stayed in contact with her. I owed her \$100, so I went over to her house twice, once with \$40 and once with \$60.

And I gave my cat up for adoption and I was working with these people in taking my cat. And I was doing other various things trying to keep my life in order, and get to my storage unit.

Oh, and in the meantime I am also being turned over to collections by several agencies, and I'm trying to work with each person and give them some money so they don't turn me over to collections and ruin my credit. So you struggle and struggle, and work to survive, and all these agencies are set up and designed to help people who are homeless, and the result is that none of these people were able to help me.

Actually, I did get into the YWCA shelter, they were able to help me. And if it wasn't for my temp agency at the University of Washington, I do not know what I would have done. They continued to work with me throughout this period of time and get me jobs.

They knew I was homeless, and they knew I did not have a phone, and they allowed me to call them personally, which is not done. They tried to set up work for me in advance whenever possible, so I would have steady employment. They never said they were trying to help me, but I know they did things against their own policy. They went way above and beyond the call of duty.

The YWCA opened its doors to me, and they've been very good to me, but the other institutions that are supposed to have helped me, haven't really. Even to this day... I'm sitting here, still homeless, today.

I called SHA, still waiting to hear about my process, and she said she would look at my file one of these days and write me a letter. So I still have no idea of whether my application is approved or disapproved. Its been a month.

I've been homeless for 8 months, And I have been working every process I can for at least 2 months.

—Transcribed from an interview by Joy Graybill

**“So you struggle and struggle, and work to survive, and all these agencies are set up and designed to help people who are homeless, and the result is that none of these people were able to help me.”**



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# Big Alaska Money!

## Waiting for that Ship to Come In

By JOHN HOFFMAN

**M**Y BROTHER "SLASH" breezed into town aboard a Greyhound bus, a mode of transportation I've always found to be something akin to a psyche ward on wheels. Greyhound is cheap, but it takes a long time to go anywhere, so it's perfect if you have little money, lots of time, and you can speak word salad.

Slash had a dream of making big money in Alaska. This dream had simmered upon the back burner of his mind since that long ago, faraway time when — as a lad in Minnesota — Slash first heard the persistent rumors, the widespread article of faith that *you can make big money in Alaska cleaning fish!*

There's a company in Seattle called Student Employment Services which more or less economically preys upon working class people with this dream. The company runs non-stop ads for their "employment program" which costs fifty bucks, give or take, and if you follow the program exactly you will ABSOLUTELY get yourself that job in Alaska.

The "program," however, consists of little more than an oversized soft cover book which would be more reasonable at a price of \$12.95. The book tells you about lots of places where you can apply for Alaska jobs, and contains specific details about gutting fish.

In order to make the book —er, PROGRAM stretch more pages, I suppose, the text is packed sardine-cantight with such insightful features as A Day Aboard A Fish Processing Ship, hour by hour. Last year I found no less than 500 of these books - I MEAN PROGRAMS - in a dumpster of the University area, covers ripped and pages mostly gutted.

Mixed in the catch were "programs" about employment in Asia, employment aboard cruise ships, and best of all a guide to obtaining MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS!

At fifty bucks a pop, there must have been ten thousand dollars worth of various "programs" in that dumpster. My research led me to conclude the books had been discarded because the

company changed addresses. I wonder how often they have to do that?

One of the books wasn't too badly damaged, so I sent it home to Slash. Next thing I know he's aboard a bus, counting upon me to feed him and keep a roof over his head until he can land the big money job.

He's lucky, I suppose. Slash didn't spend his last fifty bucks on some bloodsucking "employment program" and he won't have to sleep in the park. He spent a couple weeks "stomping the docks" down at Fisherman's Terminal, until somebody gave him work stripping the insulation from a boat. Slash would come home at night covered in grime and hunks of insulation.

"I asked some guy for the time," Slash told me. "And he looked at me like I was a space alien or something. Then I figured out he thought I was homeless."

My brother encountered many other economic adventurers, scores of them clutching copies of their expensive "employment program." Each and every one of these people expressed disappointment with the "program," feeling they had paid for more than they actually received. For most, that fifty bucks was a hard hit. Some of these folks slept in cars or under bridges, desperate for any kind of work in Alaska.

Brother Slash weaseled his way into an office which, supposedly, was handling all its interviews through an employment agency. Somehow he finagled a job aboard a boat.

I paid almost thirty bucks for some herbal junk at a head shop so Slash could pass his piss test, but I have to say that this particular product manufactured by New Vision Concepts, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona —worked splendidly. Unlike, for example, Student Employment Services, those fine people at New Vision Concepts are selling a good product at a fair price, keeping up our nation's productivity.

In a final act of brotherly charity, I gave Slash all my old army gear. Duffel bags, cammie pants, brown government issue thermal underwear, the works. Sure, the crap had sentimental value, but I have a lot more sentimental value invested in my brother than my old uniforms. Objects, I believe, should be

**"Ponder, if you will, people sleeping under bridges because some bloodsucker swiped their last fifty bucks. There are people who can afford to part with fifty bucks, and people who can't."**

used, not stored in a closet until they rot away.

In a few months Slash returned with a few thousand bucks. He didn't make as much money as he hoped, but certainly enough to make the venture worthwhile. One of my brother's shipmates was from Russia, a veteran of the Afghan War. Using my deck of U.S. Army issue "aircraft identification cards," the Russian and another seaman competed viciously to name the most planes. The ship had a VCR, but only a limited number of movies, so the fish processing crew watched *Coming to America* over and over until they knew it by heart.

It's amazing to me, really, how a kind of miniature civilization evolves using whatever bits and pieces are available. I saw it happen, for example, during the Broadway Encampment following the September 10 Police Riot. Some guy at the Chevron station across the street was really cool and kicked down free fountain drinks for the young radicals. A group of artists dropped off a freestanding piece of steel, and people painted upon it. What random hand of destiny decides these matters, the tiny objects and actions which become so damned important?

The Russian guy said that an officer told him to shoot a little Afghan girl, but he wouldn't do it, so the officer killed the little girl himself. Later, somebody shot the officer in the back.

"I was happy when he died," hissed the Russian, flipping absently through the aircraft identification cards.

Slash cleaned out most of his shipmates in poker, because he can bluff like you wouldn't believe. One of the shirts my brother brought back was a graphic masterpiece, created by an artist named Gonzalez. The shirt had a title, just like a painting, and it was called HOMIES, NOT MOVIES. The illustration shows dozens of Hispanic individuals outside a movie theater, each of the cartoon people obviously an attempt to portray somebody who actually lives and exists in a Hispanic neighborhood somewhere near Los Angeles. I don't know any of the people, and my brother can't remember the stories because he was too drunk when the guy from L.A. tearfully parted with the shirt.

This much Slash remembers.

"He told me he used to sell crack. Me and the Russian wouldn't talk to him for days. We said, hey, how could you do that? How could you sell crack to your own people? If it was pot I

could understand, but CRACK!"

I told my brother he should put his money in the bank instead of carrying it around in his big rubber boots. Besides, I added, if he would just bring this here little from right here — which I would be glad to fill out — Seafirst Bank would give me a fifty dollar savings bond. FIFTY BUCKS—! Admittedly, I won't get the fifty bucks for seven years, but it beats a poke in the eye with a frozen salmon.

So Slash did exactly as I asked, and in a short while I received a letter in the mail which promised me the savings bond in question if I would just bring this very letter right into the bank. Meanwhile, my brother had pulled him money out of the account and returned to Minnesota, heavily weighted down with my precious Kevlar helmet and state-of-the-art flak jacket. The best part of the flak jacket is the frightening little form in a special pocket which instructs "the wearer" to record any "hits" and "the result."

WAS WEARER KILLED? asks the form. CHECK YES OR NO.

The \$50 Seafirst bonds aren't very impressive, really. I was expecting something with seals and eagles, watermarks and green serial numbers. What I received looked more like oversized Monopoly money. I couldn't help thinking how EVERYBODY should have their friends open up a savings account at Seafirst with one dollar, collecting piles of these fifty dollar bonds as a result.

Ponder, if you will, people sleeping under bridges because some bloodsucker swiped their last fifty bucks. There are people who can afford to part with fifty bucks, and people who can't. Besides, you might like banking at Seafirst. I've always been very impressed with the big shiny NO SITTING sign in the front window of their University branch.

In the spring, as surely as the salmon will return, my brother will join the hordes of people seeking big money in Alaska. And I'll let him crash on my couch until he lands that job, because he's my brother, damn it. But some people don't have a brother like me, so they might sell *Real Change* for a few months.

Let's hope *Real Change* will continue to be there to give these hard working people a hand up. When you buy *Real Change*, that's the best buck you ever spent.

—John Hoffman is the author of *The Art and Science of Dumpster Diving*, published by Loompanics Press.

**The dream of Alaska had simmered upon the back burner of his mind since that long ago, faraway time when — as a lad in Minnesota — Slash first heard the persistent rumors, the widespread article of faith that you can make big money in Alaska cleaning fish!"**

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**TAX DAY, CONT FROM P. 5**

with bodies) and tree sits. Pardee recommends Civil Disobedience Training for volunteers and says, "It is up to each person what they are willing to do." If you are willing, call 545-3734.

**Why do you think they call it "organized" labor?**

Manning the Downtown post office were members of Jobs With Justice (JWJ). Rosemary LeVasseur, a two year JWJ member, was "...inspired by the courage of the many participants in the tax day rally who are active war tax resisters. They've put themselves at risk of imprisonment by refusing to pay war taxes. It was a very positive experience to reconnect with these brave people."

JWJ was formed in mid 1993 out of concern for Flight Attendants at Alaska Airlines who were not getting a fair contract at renegotiation time. JWJ organized sit-ins, rallies and leafleting; drawing the attention of the public to the injustice of this matter. By early 1994, a decent contract settlement was produced.

Most recently, JWJ was very active during the machinists strike at Boeing (which was settled in December). They established a world wide web site so people could write in and complain to Boeing. JWJ organized a demonstration of 6000 people in Everett and coordinated an interdenominational prayer service outside Boeing headquarters. They instituted community petitioning to get the message to Boeing that Boeing is not just taking on the machinists, they are taking on the entire community.

JWJ is an alliance of 105 different labor, religious and community groups. They work with member organizations and have a roster of 4,000 around the state. Jonathan Rosenblum, JWJ Organizer, expresses the groups's basic mission: "Everyone is entitled to some basic human rights. They deserve decent jobs, affordable housing, accessible health care. We need to emphasize that the money is here in America for a living wage and we'll use every option we get to articulate." To find out how you can lend JWJ a helping hand call 448-7348.

**The Peace People**

The Seattle Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) posted most members at the Greenwood post office. Nan McMurray, FOR's Western Washington Coordinator, was on hand to educate her community: "I'm always glad when they stop and talk. It's important for people to know where their taxes go — it's amazing how unjust it is!" FOR is a multi-issue group spotlighting peace and justice issues, particularly disarmament.

Formed in 1914 by two European ministers who vowed to work for reconciliation, Seattle has been gifted with FOR's good works for the past 50 years. FOR's strong opposition to violence and healthy promotion of nonviolence have given birth to regular local events: an annual "Boycott War Toys" event at Seattle Center the Saturday after Thanksgiving, monthly vigils at the Federal Building against US intervention in other countries (April 22's vigil was in protest of the Israeli shelling of Lebanon).

FOR deploys education, lobbying, demonstrations and nonviolent direct

action in their quest for justice. FOR's Annual Summer Conference will be held this upcoming 4th of July Weekend on Hood Canal at Seabeck. To obtain a conference brochure or other information, call 789-5565.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom ("It will be a Great Day when our schools get all the money they need, and the air force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber") has been involved with tax day demonstrations for the past 10 years. Their Great Day will truly hit Seattle Sunday May 5 when the Great Day Peace Train pulls out of King Station and treks southward. Originating in Seattle, the Peace Train will make 12 stops along the west coast with a relevant agenda at each stop to highlight national topics and local issues. Last stop: San Diego on May 20.

The Peace Trains are chugging through the midwest and down the west coast following in the tracks of the successful Beijing and East Coast Peace Trains. Locally, this is in objection to nuclear waste from submarines being transported north by train through Washington State to Hanford. Which leads WILPF member Caroline Canafax to ask, "Nuclear Waste Train or Peace Train — which would you rather ride?"

For more information on the Great Day Peace Train and the send off rally, dinner and musical performances in

**COMMONS, CONT. FROM P. 9**

Zymogenetics, Fred Hutchinson, and REI. It seems likely that many other businesses will follow them over the next 20 years.

The neighborhood is close to downtown, close to the University of Washington, close to Interstate 5, and close to the 520 Bridge to the East Side. And as the old saying goes, the three most important things to remember when starting a business are location, location, and location. Because of these factors, there is a good chance that the unsubsidized low-income and moderate-income housing in the area will eventually be lost.

In the end, no one knows for sure what will happen. Some housing advocates say that the chance to preserve 151 units of low-income housing, which the Commons would do, is an opportunity that we must seize no matter what.

I wonder what it means to spend around \$70 million of limited City funds (over \$23 million would be from non-voter-approved bonds) to create a neighborhood where landlords won't be able to afford to rent one-bedrooms for \$700. What does it mean for us as a community to say that the marketplace won't provide new housing for people who earn a moderate income? Just how bad is the housing situation getting?

There is an emergency in our community: thousands of people are homeless in Seattle every night. The Commons would exacerbate a situation that is already kicking people to the curb, and there's a good chance that it would do more damage than the preservation of 151 low-income and 247 moderate-income apartments would do good.

Spending \$70 million is an awfully expensive way to find out.

*-John Shaw is a staff member of the Aloha Inn, resident-managed transitional housing for homeless adults.*

Pioneer Square on Saturday May 4, call 329-3666.

Informing taxpayers on the eastside were members of the American Friends Service Committee. AFSC crusaded at the Bellevue post office. Emily Stanton, Peace Education Intern, found that leafleting was the time people felt most comfortable asking questions. In these one on one situations more information could be communicated.

A Quaker-based peace and social justice organization, AFSC is a national concern founded in 1917. A chapter was started here in 1942 centering on the Japanese American internment. Today, it's a busy office with several types of programs going on at once; among them the Regional Indian Program, Cross Cultural Youth Leadership Development Program and the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Program.

Stanton is currently working on the "Justice For All project. Justice For All is being set up to respond to the current right wing trend of dismantling social services. Needy groups (immigrants, welfare mothers) are being publicly pitted against each other for the same funds

yet are stuck in the same sinking boat.

People must be made aware of this; their bond of commonality suggests talking to everyone in your family and your neighborhood. Make the issues a subject of every day conversation. "That's really the hope — to keep the word out there and change things around in November. We need to keep people aware." To add to AFSC's voice, call 632-0500 to volunteer.

Get off your couch, get on your soap box. Make a difference.

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—Nancy Leson, *Seattle Weekly*



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**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.

**WORK, CONT. FROM PAGE 6**

For example, says Betty, "one worker came to us after we got him a job working with cement. After time on the job, the employer insisted he get new boots for safety reasons. It was either the boots or the rent. We're in a position to be able to get him those boots so that he can continue working and keep a roof over his head."

The Club also provides such things as bus passes and clothes when necessary. The Millionair Club Annex Store, located on second avenue in Belltown host all sorts of clothes and hygiene items that workers can get vouchers for in order to be clean and neat for interviews and work.

The Club also has an Emergency Assistance Program, an English as a Second Language Program, serves three meals a day during the week, and operates the Annex thrift store. The store is currently working to set up a display window, where people can sell consignment items that they have crafted for extra income.

This program the Club hopes to have operating around the holiday season. "The goal of all these programs is to get people out of here," says Betty, "and into the Labor Force. We will do whatever we have to do to help someone who is serious about turning their life around."

One of the workers tells a story about how the Millionair Club really helped out one of his friends, "he got injured, and the Club helped him to find an apartment he could afford, find a job he could do, and paid to bring his wife out to help him. The Millionair Club is the best place to go if you want to get back on your feet again."

The Millionair Club not only helps individuals get back on their feet, but performs skilled services for employers in the community. "Employers should

know," says Betty, "that they are contributing double. They are not only helping a person to find work, but they are making that person a part of the economy. It's a win-win situation here."

Employers can be anyone from someone who needs a little yardwork to someone who needs very skilled labor such as carpentry or forklift operation. "The club is always looking for more employers," says Lou, especially in the Fall and Winter months when the weather is poor and there isn't as much outdoor work available."

Volunteers are always needed at the club as well, says Lou, whether they are working in the employment department taking orders, helping to serve meals, or teaching job search skills. The Millionair Club depends on investments of time, money and respect, and in return promises to give back the same to the community.

Eddie, one of the employment staff, explains why he gives himself to the Millionair club as he stands at the front window of the hiring hall, and hands an older woman a pair of glasses that the Millionair Club has provided her after a free eye exam.

A few minutes later, she comes back to the window wearing her new glasses with tears in her eyes and says, "Thank you. Thank you so much." Eddie turns around to the rest of the staff and volunteers and says, "that's why I work here. Right there."

Ken, the supervisor for the Saturday morning crew explains that he gives his time to the Millionair Club because its about giving people hope. "No matter how hard it is," he explains, "hope is always better. When you give people hope, you give them a better day."

The Millionair Club is located at 2515 Western Avenue in Belltown and can be reached at 728-JOBS.

**The Months Peel Away**

There's a woman, a cream color of light brown,  
In a faint smile, in a light gaze casted down;  
She overlooks my simple room chilled by January,  
And yet warmly lifts me above my temporary penury.

There's a different woman in February, wee older,  
Well versed in the coming and going of marketplace.  
Good with chores, and stretching the ends to meet, With the  
snow retreating, she makes me complete.

In March with winter gone, a young thing shows  
Up spritely, when through the sun-cleared window,  
Pink and white cherry blossoms light up the hills.  
How necessary being here to see and write this thrill!

On and on the months would progress, a pretty girl  
Appears monthly to light my room; How I love the world!

But month after month I feel the ice when I rip them down;  
Faint smiles, light gazes, and cream color of light brown...

—Koon Woon

**WOMEN, CONT. FROM PAGE 6**

The Center will take a holistic approach in meeting the needs of its clientele, by providing a "healing and peaceful environment. Rivera stressed that services provided through WFC will not replace services but will support existing ones.

Staff will be hired from the client population, and will receive 25 hours of wages plus rent subsidies. The remaining 15 hours will be applied toward educational expenses. The MC will also consider providing financial aid to employees who are seeking to complete a degree providing the degree will result in gainful employment.

The Public Defender's office will provide comprehensive case management for women seeking to regain or maintain parental rights and with women who are CPS-involved.

An information and resource room will feature fliers on parenting, housing and job opportunities. A message board and telephone relay service will enable clients to establish lines of communication. The Center may also be used as a mailing address. A computer and typewriter will also be available for in-house use. Shower and laundry facilities will be provided. Plans are also underway to establish an on-site emergency food bank.

**Our Seattle Heritage****Scapegoated Immigrants: An Old Story**

In 1860, Chin Chun Hock settled near the tide flats of Seattle. An entrepreneur, he opened the Wah Chong trading company and was the first Chinese settler in Seattle. Hundreds followed. Chinese immigrants left a home of famine, death, and war to seek refuge and opportunity. American companies advertised construction jobs on the transcontinental railroads - jobs unwanted by local whites during these times of prosperity.

Soon, thousands of Chinese on contracted employment were welcomed in the Northwest Territory. Chinese communities formed. Local papers boasted of "John": the industrious hard-working China man who would do nearly anything for \$1/day. Technicians of survival, they employed techniques often unfamiliar to the prevalent middle-class Seattle residents.

By 1880, jobs were scarce. The railroads were completed and a national depression strengthened its hold in the area. Unemployed and restless, local residents projected frustrations onto the Chinese. Citizens felt threatened and blamed the Chinese for stealing their jobs.

Suddenly, the Chinese were the enemy. Newspapers aroused suspicion

and set notions of conspiracy and sentiments of hate. "The Chinese must go," they wrote. "They are here in defiance of our laws." The *Seattle Daily Call* wrote: "the two bit conscience of the scurvy opium fiend...chattering round-mouthed lepers...those yellow rascals who have infested our Western Country, the rat-eating China man."

People soon pressed legislation to take action. On May 6, 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Law. Once open to free immigration, the Chinese were now taxed and burdened with proof of residency, or faced with deportation. Permits were needed to stay. Citizenship was withheld. Chinese

immigration was halted and the population was concentrated to primarily males working menial servile jobs.

Yet legislation seemed inadequate. Locals wanted them to leave immediately. Labor organizers stepped in and agitated hate. The media created a scare. Committees were formed recruiting citizens. They took action. Out-breaks of violence spread throughout the community. In Puyallup, three Chinese hop-pickers were murdered in their tents. Chinese miners were burned out of their quarters.

The first major event, however, occurred in Tacoma. On the morning

of November 3, 1885, when all seemed calm, a whistle mysteriously sounded and set the streets alive with bands of armed vigilantes. Three-thousand men stormed the Chinese shanties and forcefully evicted 150 residents, escorted them onto boxcars, and sent them to Portland.

Similarly, three months later in Seattle, an angry mob violently herded 350 Chinese onto the piers and forced them onto steamships sailing for San Francisco.

Further Congressional Acts were passed to enforce immigration restrictions - at one point disallowing 20,000 Chinese to re-enter the U.S. Only a few Chinese remained in out-lining communities, still performing work undesirable to whites. Yet Seattle and Tacoma had expelled its Chinese population.

Based on misconceptions and fears, fueled by the media, Seattle residents blamed the Chinese for the economic situation. Victims of propaganda, the Chinese were defenseless targets for a frustrated community who failed to recognize them as an integral part in the construction of an international city.

By Christopher French. Thank you to Laura Shipiro of the Wing Luke Asian Museum for her assistance.

**"Based on misconceptions and fears, fueled by the media, Seattle residents blamed the Chinese for the economic situation. Victims of propaganda, the Chinese were defenseless targets for a frustrated community..."**

# May

## 2

8 p.m., Samuel & Althea Stroum Lectureship in Jewish Studies presents Alan Mintz on "The Americanization of the Holocaust; The Holocaust on Film: Three Hollywood Movies", discussion of The Pawnbroker, Judgment at Nuremberg, and Schindler's List (recommended to view beforehand), first in a series of 3 held during the week, U.W. Kane Hall 220, free, disability accommodations, info 543-6811, 543-6450 voice or 543-6452 TDD

## 3

Friday, 7-11:30 p.m., Foundation for International Understanding Through Students annual awards celebration, meet UW international students, honor those members of the UW and Seattle community that have contributed to international understanding, and enjoy an evening of socializing, dessert, and dancing, University of Washington Faculty Club, \$10 (\$8 for students), info 543-0735 or fiuts@u.washington.edu

## 4

Saturday, 9 am-5 pm, Spring Fundraiser benefiting Tacoma Metropolitan Development Council's Homeless and Youth Violence Prevention Programs. The "Nearly New Sale" takes place at the Al Davies Boy's and Girls Club of Tacoma, 1620 S. 17th St., Call 627-5445 for more info or to donate.

3 p.m. rally, 6 p.m. musical fundraiser, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom presents Peace Train with theme "What Would Be a Great Day for You?" (from the people who say "It Will Be a Great Day when the Schools Get All the Money They Need and the Air Force Has to Hold a Bake Sale to Buy a Bomber"), speakers include Marie Hasagawa, 75 year old peace activist on her way to Japan to receive a peace prize and music by the Raging Grannies, Union Street Train Station, info Jules Larson 632-3755

## 5

Sunday, 2-4 pm, Washington CURE, A National Faith-based Effort to Reduce Crime Through Criminal Justice Reform." First State-wide Meeting, Charlie Sullivan, recently celebrated as "Washington's Most Impoverished Lobbyist," Will explain CURE and present a national overview. Matthew House, 16207 177th Ave., SE, Seattle. More info: Rosaleen Wilcox at (360) 794-8720

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6:30 p.m., Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation film and discussion series showing "Cabin in the Sky" with focus on the African-American presence in Hollywood films, Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 North 70th at Greenwood, popcorn, beverages, refreshments, donation, info 789-5565

7:30 p.m., fundraising concert "Many Voices, One Song" to benefit Multifaith AIDS Project, Scottish Rite Center, 1155 Broadway E, \$10-12, info and tickets 324-1520

## 6

Monday, 7:30 p.m., public lecture by Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights activist Elie Wiesel "Building a Moral Society", University of Washington, HUB Ballroom, free but advance tickets required, disability accommodations, info Ms. Jones 616-1825, 543-6450 voice or 543-6452 TDD

## 7

Tuesday, 2 p.m., meeting of the Coalition for a Liveable Wage, planning educational programs as a prelude for a campaign to increase the Minimum Wage, Washington State Labor Council AFL-CIO office, 314 1st Ave West, info Labor Council 281-8901

10 p.m., E Queeribus Unum, bringing differing points of view in the local queer communities, roundtable discussion with viewpoints on bisexuality/biphobia, panelists include gay conservatives, liberals and libertarians, King County Public Access Cable channel 29, info 322-8546

## 9

Thursday, 6:30p.m., Earth Save monthly vegetarian potluck and educational

program, organization works to educate about the effects of our food choices on the environment and our health, bring your own dishes and utensils and

label potluck dish ingredients, call for location, info 781-6602

## 11

Saturday, 5:30 p.m., University Friends Meeting, fun and fundraising auction to benefit 80 year old pacifist organization, Fellowship of Reconciliation silent and live auctions, international potluck dinner, 4001 9th Ave NE, \$3 F.O.R. members, free to non-members, info 789-5565

## 11 & 12

Saturday and Sunday, Mother's Day Drive to help homeless women by shopping in Denny Regrade Neighborhood businesses with the drive poster, portion of proceeds to Noel House and Rose of Lima House which provide shelter and transitional housing, info Ashley 328-5730

## 19

Sunday 11 a.m., renowned activist Jim Douglass recently returned from Iraq presents a guest sermon on "Reportback from the Voices in the Wilderness Humanitarian Mission to Iraq", Pilgrim Church, Broadway at Republican, Capitol Hill, info 324-3900

5 p.m. potluck, 6:00 business meeting and announcements, 6:30 program, Seattle Chapter Fellow-

ship of Reconciliation program meeting with renowned activist Jim Douglass recently returned from Iraq presents a guest sermon on "Reportback from the Voices in the Wilderness Humanitarian Mission to Iraq", Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 North 70th at Greenwood, info 789-5565

13th Annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization, info Daniel Bernstein 233-1145

## 21

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., general meeting of Seattle CISPES, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, includes El Salvador update, WROC office, 2212 Jackson St, childcare upon request, info 325-5494

## 24-26

Thursday- Sunday, Pacific Northwest Labor History Association 28th Annual Conference, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, info 604-540-0245

## Ongoing

Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee meetings, work to end the U.S. embargo, a project of the Latin American Task Force of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, Parish House, 1710 11th, info 725-5434 or 932-1152 or 527-7055

Boycott Gallo and Mondavi Wines to support the United Farm Workers Union, local info 443-7645

KCMU 90.3 FM Radio, Mind Over Matter, progressive political programs, Sat & Sun, 6-9 a.m., info 543-KCMU

Special Thanks to Jean  
at  
[buskin@u.washington.edu](mailto: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.