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Real CHANGE

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Michael Howell

Street Artist, 1946-1997

After Apartheid

South African Paper Struggles for Change

What Crisis?

Seattle Draws a Line Against Shelter

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Real CHANGE

is a Washington State
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Real Change is published the first and fifteenth 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.

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Real Change vendors receive 70¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Goals

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

Editorial Policy

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

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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.**

MAILBAG

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

Dear Real Change,

I believe that it was in the 1960's that the Federal & State governments observed some true abuses in the State Mental Hospital systems and decided to reform it.

They mandated that the money previously made available to the State hospitals should be shifted to more local community mental health facilities.

Undoubtedly well intentioned but the good intention was not properly financed by the saved money, nor were the communities ready to receive the influx of the mentally ill.
April 1, 1997

For decades the mentally disturbed were to be observed wandering the streets, without proper care. (I understand that the situation is possibly better administered now.) In any event, I fear that the same tragic thing is going to occur again, this time with the Federal/State welfare reform.

The Feds. have observed some true abuses of the present welfare system and is turning over the responsibility of 'cut back' reforms to the states but apparently not enough money to do an adequate job.

Most folks realize that old well-meaning but short sighted welfare 'hand out' system should be reformed but do our elected officials possess the strength of character, even over the short term, to make the additional money available to make it work? I doubt whether they do.

Vendor of the Month

Van Crowder

Originally from Minneapolis, Van Crowder came to Seattle on a tip he received from someone he met back in Salt Lake City last September.

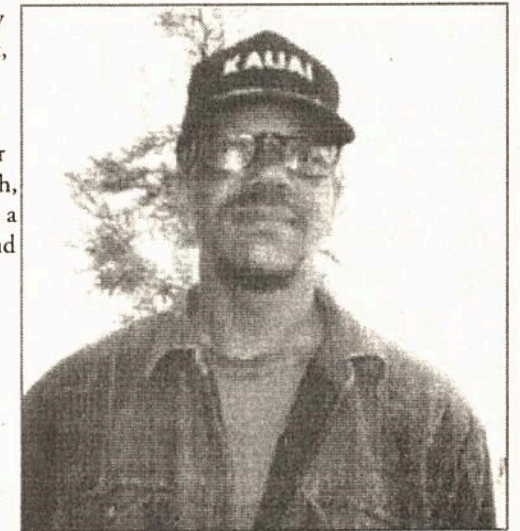
Van has been homeless and living on the streets now for about a year and a half. Selling the paper, says Van, has enabled him to more effectively get from one day to the next, while doing something that he likes.

"Selling *Real Change* is putting money in my pocket. It has allowed me to get out and talk to the public- one of my favorite things to do as far as work is concerned."

Van says that response to the paper and to his work as a vendor of *Real Change* has been good. He would like to thank all of the folks who have supported him in the past, as well as those who continue to do so.

"I really appreciate it," says Van.

As our April vendor of the month, Van receives a \$25 prize and a gourmet dinner for two at Common Meals. Our heartfelt congratulations to Van Crowder!



Some of the present welfare recipients have never really worked and some have not over a number of generations. They are not truly equipped by education or attitude to jump right into jobs that may not exist, anyway.

For a time we should spend more money for job training, WPA and CCC style job programs plus daycare than we do now under the present dole system.

I hope but doubt that our political leaders will give more than lip service to the upcoming problems of those people unequipped to find and hold down a job, otherwise we may have some very serious problems in our streets!

Martin Paup
Seattle

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Still No Apologies

Real CHANGE

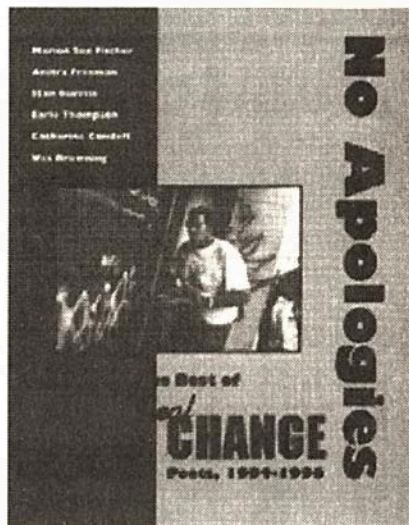
Seattle's homeless newspaper has released its first poetry anthology, entitled "No Apologies, Best of Real Change Poets 1994-1996."

The 36-page chapbook features the work of six homeless and formerly homeless poets who have been regular contributors to the paper.

"I've never claimed to be an expert on modern poetry, but this is the Real Thing with a capital RT. It's not grad students sympathizing with (or slumming among) down-and-outers, it's down-and-outers talking for themselves, with pride, anger, humor, wistfulness, nostalgia, and not a speck of malaise."

Clark Humphrey, *The Stranger*

Proceeds from the sales of "No Apologies" benefit Real Change. The chapbook is available through Real Change for \$6.95. Stop by our Belltown office or mail us a check at 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Also available at: Elliot Bay, Left Bank, Fremont Pl. Books, The Globe Cafe, Queen Anne Ave. Books, Speakeasy Cafe, Bailey Coy Books, Red & Black Books, Vandewater Books, and the Penny University.



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Boomtime in Seattle

Homeless Find our Streets a Restful Haven

SATIRE

It is spring, The rain is warming, the daffodils are blooming, and the homeless from all over North America are coming to Seattle. "I read that Seattle was the Most Liveable City," said one new arrival. "And I thought, well, if I can't get a job and all I can do is live, I might as well do it in Seattle."

Wes Browning & Anitra Freeman

Another new arrival said, "Most of my friends answered those ads about fishing jobs in Alaska, and ended up homeless in Seattle. I got to missing my friends. By now I know that fishing job stuff is a ripoff, so I just came straight to the streets in Seattle."

People are arriving even from Canada. "Sure, we have free medical care in Canada, but it's a lot easier to get coffee in Seattle. A woman's got to have her priorities. And what money you can get, like by selling the street paper, buys a lot more in Seattle."

Many of the new arrivals said their interest was first caught by the growing presence of Seattle's homeless on the Internet — including the exciting new website of the American Homeless Union, <http://www.homeless.com>.

As Phil M. Hand, local representative of the AHU, put it to me this way in a recent interview, "Hey, today's homeless are laterally mobile, you know? I mean that's what it's all about, isn't it?" The AHU, as usual, has done an excellent job of providing transportation for it's less well-off members. Members in good standing can count on at least a Greyhound bus ticket to the new city of their choice.

One of the most interesting of these neo-Seattleites was Frank L. Ueser, who first surfed Seattle's homeless web sites as part of his job doing market research for a major toy company in California. After his boss clocked him playing Hobson's Choice (on the Real Change web site) for six hours straight, Frank himself became homeless. Frank is cheerful, though. "I've exchanged thousands of email posts with homeless folks in Seattle. And I've read the Copy-

right Doctor's advice on being homeless for the first time. I'm going to land on my feet!"

Seattle's established homeless organizations — SHARE, WHEEL, the Real Change — have mobilized to greet new arrivals, get them oriented, and find them a place to sleep — mat, doorstep, parking lot, whatever. The StreetLife Gallery has opened up their floor for night-time use. "Well, it's not Winter," said Anitra 'I Am Everywhere' Freeman, "so Noel House doesn't need it for overflow."

Things are getting tight, though. Volunteers from the Seattle Displacement Coalition and the Homeless Organizing Project are staffing phone banks set up by the Real Change, working around the clock to organize bedding and sleeping spots. Folks who have been used to having a whole doorway to themselves are being asked to move over and make room for one or even two additional bedrolls.

The Union Gospel Mission, The Millionaire Club, and other meal services have scheduled additional feeding shifts and have put out requests for massive additional donations. Everyone staying in a SHARE shelter has been assigned a Greeting Shift, to go down to the Greyhound station and

greet the floods of disembarking homeless.

The only one not looking harried and panicked is Tim Harris, the Director of Real Change. He watches the new arrivals parade past the big bay windows of his spacious office and rubs his hands in glee, chortling, "More vendors! More vendors!" Current Real Change vendors are also assigned to Greeting Shifts at the Greyhound station, with orders to watch for especially attractive and likeable homeless people with good sales skills, and lead them up to the office for orientation.

But there are more homeless arriving than we have homeless here, and we are running out of volunteers. If you can help, please call 684-8200. You will be given an orientation by Dr. Wes Browning, including a packet of information on meal programs and other resources, and fact sheets on "How to Sleep in a Public Park" and "Which Pigeons Are Safe to Eat?" You may select the Greeting Shift that best fits your schedule, as the homeless are arriving around the clock.

Come do your part to make Seattle's new citizens feel as much a part of the community as her present homeless do. ☑

* none of them



NEW ARRIVALS AT GREYHOUND AWAIT THE SHUTTLEBUS TO HOURLY ORIENTATIONS HELD BY SHARE/WHEEL. ACTUAL PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

A Trust Fund for the Poor

State Housing Fund at Risk During Budget Fight

For nearly a year, many efforts to expand the supply of affordable housing in Washington State have been put on hold. Why? Because, the State's primary tool for providing low-cost housing, the Housing Trust Fund, is out of funds and needs to be renewed by the 1997 State Legislature.

Jon Gould

Since 1989, nonprofit organizations who provide affordable housing have successfully used funds from the Housing Trust Fund to provide housing opportunities for the 400,000 people in the state who cannot afford private market housing: low-income individuals and families, at-risk youth, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities and special needs.

Creating affordable housing requires a partnership between the nonprofit, public, and private sectors. The nonprofit sector in Washington State is ready and willing. The private sector, through the federal low-income housing tax credit program and bank financing, in an increasingly active partner. The public sector (particularly the federal government), however, seems to be headed in the wrong direction these days. The budget for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has gone down by 24% since 1995!

The Housing Trust Fund is the State of Washington's main contribution to the public sector's role in creating affordable housing. Funding for the Housing Trust

Fund comes from the State of Washington's biennial capital budget and was \$50 million for the last two year period. That amount was spent within 11 months. Since June of 1996, the development of hundreds of potential new housing units has been stalled.

In order to better serve the community, the Housing Trust Fund needs a dedicated source of revenue. That way, year after year, providers of affordable housing could develop a continuous supply of new housing. Until then, however, proponents of affordable housing have to advocate year after year for new housing assistance.

It is now budget-writing time in Olympia. The Washington Low Income Housing Congress, the statewide lobby for affordable housing, asked Governor Gary Locke and members of the State Legislature for \$100 million for the Housing Trust Fund for the 1997-1999 biennium. In Governor Locke's recently released budget proposal, he requested only \$50 million. The Governor was aware of the federal cuts to housing assistance and unmet needs, but recommended spending state funds in other ways.

As attention now shifts to the Legislature's budget-making process, the impact of federal housing cuts and the ongoing housing needs of low-income families

In order to better serve the community, the Housing Trust Fund needs a dedicated source of revenue. That way, year after year, providers of affordable housing could develop a continuous supply of new housing.

should be paramount in the minds of advocates and policy-makers.

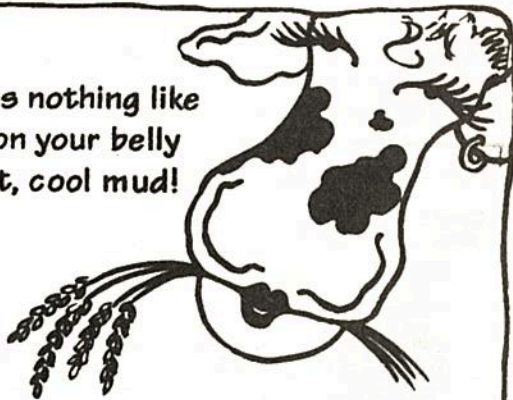
Overall, in the 1997-1999 biennium, Washington State will suffer from a \$192 million federal funding reduction for affordable housing.

One example of federal housing cuts is less funding for public housing. This particular reduction is responsible for underfunded public housing redevelopment projects such as Holly Park. If approved, the Holly Park redevelopment will destroy existing housing without replacing lost affordable housing units.

Current federal politics threaten even further cuts in housing assistance. The

Continued to page 20

There is nothing like lying on your belly in soft, cool mud!



Graze at Mae's
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Still Waiting

Red Tape and Politics Stall Downtown Bathroom Project

As a downtown venture, the Glen Hotel Urban Reststop lacks the glamor of a Planet Hollywood, the glitzy whiz bang wow of Gameworks, or the star athlete tie-ins of a Niketown. But when you gotta go, glitz glamor and Griffey aren't the three things that immediately come to mind.

Keoki Kauanoe

The need for public hygiene facilities in populated areas has been an accepted truth for centuries. The Roman Empire was famous as much for its plumbing as for its great cities, and yet, despite centuries of advances in architecture and plumbing patrons of downtown Seattle still have to wait for a hygiene center to be built in the retail core.

For some time, the City of Seattle has known of the dire need for the most basic hygiene services in the downtown core. In 1993 the City sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to deal with "the uniform lack of facilities through the downtown corridor," the Low Income Housing Institute responded with their proposal: the Glen Hotel Urban Reststop.

The Urban Reststop is to be a model for cities nationwide who, like Seattle, have to deal with the effects of social and economic upheaval. The Urban Reststop will provide for all who are in need of its services: men, women, children, couples, families, young, elderly, disabled, the

The goal of the Urban Reststop is to provide hygiene services and to maintain health and vitality of downtown Seattle for at least the next thirty years. It is a small part of the bigger picture, not glitzy or glamorous, but just as significant and important as a symphony hall or dinner theater, and even more necessary.

employed and the disenfranchised.

Located in the basement of LIHI's own building at 2311 Third Avenue, the Urban Reststop will include restrooms, showers and laundry facilities. LIHI secured funding from a variety of sources and approval from the City. The Glen Hotel Urban Reststop is in fact listed in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Between September of 1993 and April of 1994, LIHI conducted community notification, mailing out information and holding meetings to educate and inform neighbors of LIHI's plans for its own building.

But by 1995, interests — economic rather than humanitarian — came to the Glen's little corner of Third and Union when it was announced that the Seattle Symphony would be moving in a block from the Glen. Suddenly, despite adequate community notification, LIHI was sued in August of 1995 by David Gellatly, owner of the neighboring Mann Building. Gellatly's lawsuit against the city and LIHI not only succeeded in temporarily halting the Glen project, but also cost LIHI \$45,000 in legal fees.

Gellatly claimed that he was

not informed of LIHI's Urban Reststop proposal and that the proposal threatened the sale of the Mann building to restaurateur Rick Yoder. An out of court settlement was reached in late 1995 which stipulated that alternative sites for the hygiene center would be researched, but if no other site could be found and fully funded by September 30, 1996, the Urban Reststop would return to its original site at the Glen Hotel.

As part of the settlement agreement, Mayor Rice established a Hygiene Task Force, which was mandated to seek alternative, but comparable, sites within a time-frame of ninety days. The Task Force compiled a list of 25 possible sites from which three sites were deemed viable. In the end, none of the sites conformed to the specification laid down in the settlement agreement. And so it was agreed that LIHI would work with a subcommittee of the Task Force to ensure community concerns would be adequately addressed at the Glen Hotel site.

In May 1996 the Urban Reststop Advisory Committee (URAC) was formed. The URAC is comprised of over forty members that represent a broad cross-section of the city. The array of expertise found in the URAC has led to very complete and fine-tuned management, security, and health protocols as well as refinement of the Urban Reststop's architectural design. The URAC has actively sought

Continued to page 27

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Crisis? What Crisis?

City Holds the Line Against Shelter Increase

BY TIMOTHY HARRIS

Each year, with depressing regularity, Seattle's homeless people become pawns in a miserable rite of Spring. The winter overflow shelters close, and more people are forced to take their chances in the streets, right along with the others who have been there all the while.

The City, for their part, holds the line against more shelter. In nicer weather, they say, people prefer sleeping outside, and although the shelters are at capacity, the need is more or less being met. Those closer to the problem say the numbers are going up, up, up, with no relief in sight. Each year, things become more desperate for those on the streets. This year is no different.

Rev. Rick Reynolds, the Director of Operation Nightwatch, has his finger in the proverbial dam. He's calling for help, but no one seems to be listening. The bustle and roar of downtown development is drowning him out.

Nightwatch is a late-night referral center that tries to shelter the unlucky and disorganized; those who haven't gotten it together to make reservations.

At most, Seattle has 2,189 beds for about 4,500 homeless, so reservations are important. In an attempt to deal with the overwhelming demand for services, most shelters have their lists of regulars, and all others take their chances.

Shelter intake is usually at about 5:30 pm. If you miss out, your second chance is at Nightwatch. Usually they can get about

"If you want to know whether there's a shelter shortage in Seattle, stand in the doorway of Nightwatch at around midnight, right about when they're telling people to go away. It's a miserable job, but probably not as miserable as 3 am outside alone in the rain."

25 people into the odd shelter beds that are not filled by ten or eleven pm. Another 70 go onto the floor of a drop-in center, and then another 15 onto their own small floor. After that, options narrow: a dry spot beneath a bridge or freeway viaduct, a doorway, an alley, an illegal encampment.

If you want to know whether there's a shelter shortage in Seattle, stand in the doorway of Nightwatch at around midnight, right about when they're telling people to go away. It's a miserable job, but probably not as miserable as 3 am outside alone in the rain.

It's Come To This

It's eleven pm and we're standing in the First Avenue Service Center with Marvin, a tired looking guy who looks like he too needs a better job, watching the people with tickets from Nightwatch roll in for a spot on the floor. Marvin works seven nights a week from 10 until 5:30 am, keeping watch over 70 people packed together on the Center's gray linoleum floor.

They come in wordlessly, hand Marvin a ticket, find a spot on the floor, and crash like the dead. "This floor does get hard," says Marvin. "It messes with your muscles."

Nightwatch has offered to buy the Center mats, but there's nowhere to store them. There are no blankets either, because there's no one to wash

them. This is shelter at its most minimal; shelter that barely deserves to be called shelter. This is where the dirt poor collapse in tight rows at the end of the day. For six hours every night this year it's been filled to capacity.

I think about the old days, when poor people would pay their nickle to sleep in rows in bars, suspended on their feet by a rope under their armpits. In the morning, the proprietor would cut the rope and send them on their way. I wonder where this would fit within Seattle's "Continuum of Care," a carefully crafted master plan that envisions services for all who need them.

From the floor of the First Avenue Service Center at 11 pm, Seattle's Continuum of Care, with its talk of coordinated and seamless intervention, and easily accessible appropriate services, looks like a federal grant-writers hollow fantasy. To someone sleeping on the floor without a mat or blanket, much less a social worker, it looks like a very cynical joke.

"This was supposed to be snow overflow maybe six or eight days a month," explains Reynolds. "But after winter response ended last year we turned away 90 people in one night. That felt pretty lousy, so we kept using it, and came up with the money to keep it open."

The Service Center rents its floor for \$75 nightly, and for most of the year, Nightwatch pays the tab out of funds raised through private donations. The other 16 weeks are paid by the city.

The Numbers Game

Seattle Survival Services Director Karen Dawson says the City has no plans to expand shelter beds. Nor does she seem to have any real problem with the City's breathtaking new low in service delivery over on First Ave.

"People sleep outside during the summer," she explained, adding that the numbers have held steady for more than ten years. To support this she cites Nightwatch's own streetcount as evidence. The 1982 count found 276 people sleeping outdoors, while the 1996 count found just 324, an average increase of about 1% annually.

Yet numbers from the Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless annual survey seem to refute this comfortable vision of a problem under control. The 1995 and 1996 surveys counted the number of people served vs. turnaways over the month of November.

The 1996 November survey counted 9,299 turnaways, and 3,967 served, as opposed to 7,500 turnaways and 4,000 served the year before; a 23% increase in

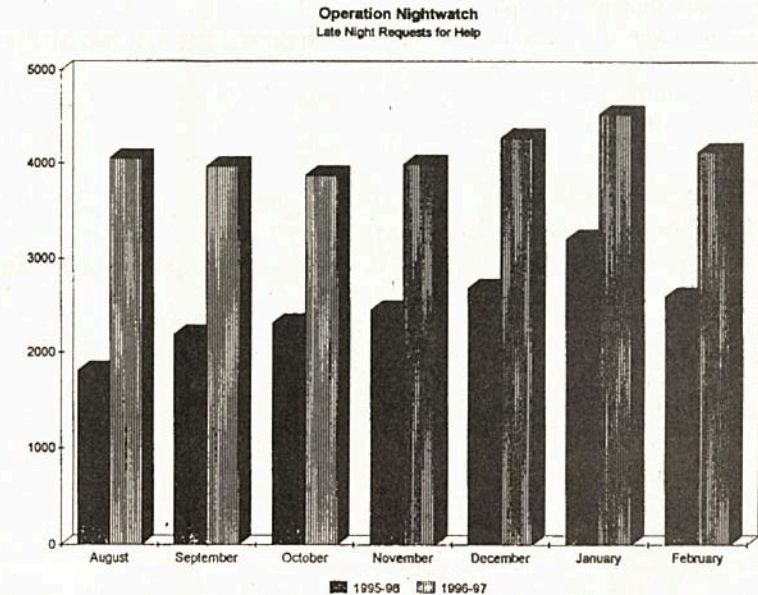
turnaways in one year. This year, the survey method changed, and instead of a month-long November survey there was a one night snapshot in October. Service providers served 2,522 people and turned away 919.

Rick Reynolds says the numbers from Nightwatch's annual streetcount don't mean much. "Karen needs to go out and do the

count with us some year to see how impossible an accurate count is. The definition of a good flop is to not be seen. If you don't want to get arrested, beat up, or pissed on, you're invisible."

Over the past year, the numbers at Nightwatch's door have risen 68% (see graph), from an average of 81 people per

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ShelterWatch

Does Seattle have enough shelter? How many men, women, and children does Operation Nightwatch turn away each night? For daily updates, see the ShelterWatch, a regular feature of the Real Change website:
www.speakeasy.org/realchange/SW.html

Seattle's Hooverville HISTORY

Depression-era Poor People's Politics Create Community

The term "Hooverville" has become a generic name for the urban shantytowns that emerged during the Great Depression. The name originated in Seattle in an encampment located in a deserted shipyard south of downtown (where the Kingdome now stands).

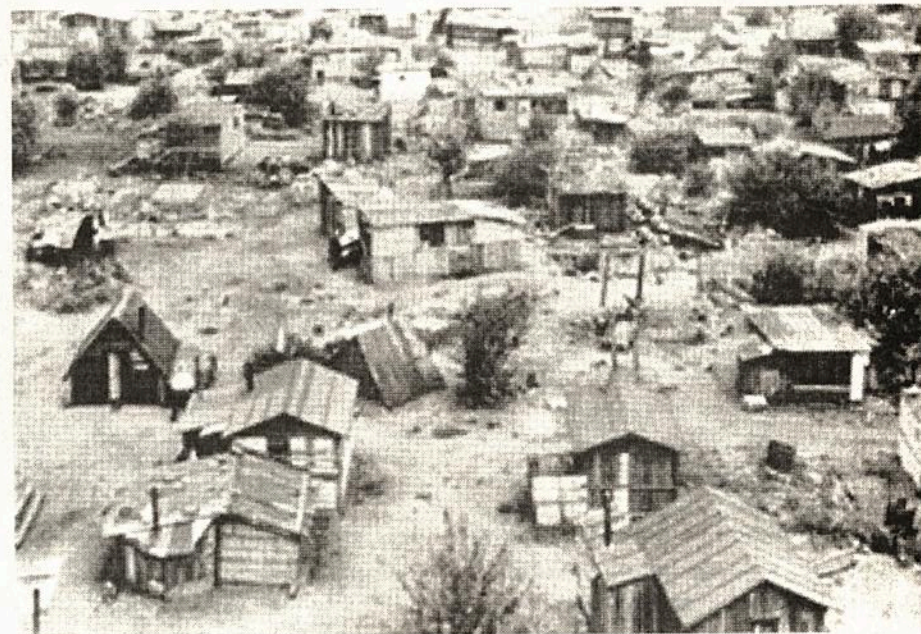
Alice Quaintance

The settlement was born of poverty and the failure of society to respond to massive unemployment. Hooverville residents made something out of nothing, surviving for ten years as a successful self-managed community.

Then, and now, the initial response of the City was to eliminate such encampments. The authorities torched Hooverville twice in its first year, 1931. After the second destruction, its inhabitants dug in — putting tin roofs over abandoned concrete machinery pits. It was a mite damp at high tide, but changed the stakes of the game.

Not that it was a game. As Jesse Jackson, the first "Mayor" of Hooverville, noted, "We were among the first to face and taste the bitter realities of a social system that would not provide employment for willing workers or a humane system to relieve their sufferings."

Through it all, Hooverville persisted, and over its ten years, the encampment sheltered 11-14,000 homeless individuals. Despite primitive circumstances, men considered living in their own shacks preferable to the conditions in the missions and the stigma of charity.



THE 1930S SHANTYTOWN KNOWN AS HOOVERVILLE PRECEDED THE KINGDOME IN THIS LOCATION. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL DORPAT.

Bitter Realities

The Depression afflicted all economic classes, but not equally. In Seattle, the middle-class residential areas north of the Ship Canal experienced half the unemployment of working class neighborhoods in the Duwamish. Most in the middle class could survive their hard times with perseverance and hard work for less pay. They could believe that the same was true for others.

In poorer neighborhoods, more than half could not find jobs. There was little help for the unemployed beyond their own families' limited savings. Government assistance did not exist. Joblessness was considered an individual's problem, not society's.

As the Depression deepened, charity resources were quickly overwhelmed. Shantytowns sprang up as thousands became homeless. Hooverville was merely the largest. On the Duwamish tideflats was "Indian Town." South of Lander, along Sixth was "Hollywood." North of Lander was "Reno." There were smaller settlements on Harbor Island, Interbay, along Western, and under the Magnolia Bridge.

The Unemployed Organize

By the end of 1931, one-third of Seattle voters were estimated to belong to the Unemployed Citizens' League. Their numbers and organization gave unemployed workers and their issues a certain allure for candidates in the municipal election and made the destruction of shantytowns a political issue. Several office-seekers campaigned in Hooverville.

In the spring of 1932, candidates supported by the Unemployed Citizens' League won most of the available positions. Seizing the day, Hooverville sent a delegation to City Hall to plead for their survival.

Self-Managed Community

In response, health, fire, and police officials came down to meet with Hooverville's representatives. They made an agreement. An elected committee would govern the community. Regular inspections by the Health and Fire Departments would ensure compliance with the City's sanitation and safety requirements. Shacks had to be above ground, with two windows, and paths and areas between the shacks kept clear of debris and firewood. Five outhouses reached by long catwalks were constructed over Elliot Bay.

The City forbade children and women residents. This policy was not absolutely adhered to, but there were rarely more than half a dozen women (wives), among the more than 1,000 residents.

Two-thirds of the residents were over 40, and many had lost hope of ever again having a real job. However, most continued to eke out a subsistence by their own efforts. Hooverville's location helped. The occasional odd job could be had downtown.

The most common entrepreneurial activities were junking and peddling, using

homemade pushcarts. Some earned their survival selling newspapers. A few fished. Fishing was illegal in those waters, but that was not strictly enforced as long as the men did not "come in with a tub-full."

The shanties themselves were an investment. When farm jobs were available east of the mountains, the shacks could be sold to provide money to go east. They brought \$3 to \$25 depending on size and condition, as well as the season.

Residents decided that their governing committee would be composed of two whites, two Negroes, and two Filipinos, the largest groups among them.

Of the 70 percent of residents who were white, many were immigrants. These Scandinavians, Finns, Russians, Hungarians, and Germans had generally been in the country for more than twenty years. Filipinos, a more recent immigrant group, represented nearly



A HOOVERVILLE RESIDENT SITS ON A MILK CRATE IN THE DOORWAY OF HIS SHANTY. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL DORPAT.

20 percent of the total Hooverville population, and African-Americans comprised five to ten percent.

Tolerance and harmony characterized race relations in the Hooverville. Filipinos and Mexicans tended to cluster together, possibly for language and cultural reasons, but otherwise, the community was fully integrated. Men of different races sometimes shared shacks. One observer noted that "Negroes showed an utter absence of feelings of resentment or inferiority."

Continued to page 28

FOURTH ANNUAL

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After Apartheid

A Firsthand Look at Homelessness in Cape Town, South Africa



"MOST TOURISTS DON'T GET OUT TO SEE THAT," RAZAAN DECLARED, POINTING OUT OUR CAR WINDOW AT THE MILE UPON MILE OF SMALL SHACKS ON THE CAPE FLATS OUTSIDE CAPE TOWN. PHOTO BY GILLIAN BURLINGHAM.

By Gillian Burlingham

In February I traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, on holiday, eager to learn as much as I could about cross-cultural mediation and community building. I visited my friend Razaan, a youth leader, mediator, and trainer, and through her was introduced to her dynamic country in transition. My journey was exhilarating, exhausting, inspiring; I am exceedingly grateful for the experience.

The good people at *Real Change* asked me to look up their counterparts in Cape Town, the vendors and publishers of *The Big Issue*, and to gather information about homelessness in South Africa. I am not a journalist; what follows is a fragmentary report of what I learned, drawn from conversation, observation, and now, memory and scribbled notes. I apologize for any factual errors and welcome corrections.

Cape Town — An Introduction

Cape Town, 25 miles north of the Cape of Good Hope at Africa's edge, is a jarring mix of first and third worlds; differences in wealth, race, and culture crash

against each other like the surf of the two oceans that meet there. It is a beautiful city, its center cupped by Table Mountain and the Atlantic, with a thriving core of shops, cafes, museums, hotels, and offices. Early in the day the city bowl is busy as vendors offer crafts, vegetables, antiques, from booths and blankets along streets where European tourists and locals mix. After 2 pm streets empty and tourists are warned away for fear of the crime that gnaws at the bones of the New South Africa.

The city stretches out east from its center into sprawling neighborhoods, each with its own character and flavor. The president's residence is in Rondebosch, a staid community of older, mostly white people; here Nelson Mandela sometimes makes his home, a short drive and ferry ride from the prison on Robben Island where he spent 18 of his 27 years of captivity.

South Africa's Street People

"Most tourists don't get out to see that," Razaan declared, pointing out our car window at the mile upon mile of small shacks on the Cape Flats outside Cape

Town. Up to a million people live in these Black townships, mostly in dwellings little bigger than Mandela's 6' by 6' Robben Island cell.

I did have the opportunity to spend time in two of the townships. One of the days it was after I had walked to the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens past mansions with razor-ribboned fences and armed guards in a white area of the city. In the afternoon I followed dirt roads past tiny shelters patched together out of any available material. The disparity in living conditions, evidence of a continuing economic apartheid, made me angry and ill.

These scenes immediately leapt to mind when Debi Diamond of Coordinated Action for Streetpeople (CASP), a lobbying and advocacy group, told me that according to a count done last July, there are 400 homeless living on Cape Town's streets, 30% of them women, 70% Black and "Coloured." When I said that we would probably consider those in the Black townships homeless in the U.S., Debi made this distinction:

"I would say they're 'houseless' versus the homeless I'm talking about. They're both vulnerably accommodated, but if you could see some of our homeless, they've forgotten how to live in houses."

Wine for Work

She went on to describe street people — those who make the streets their lives though they are not necessarily homeless — as falling into four broad categories: unemployed Xhosa; refugees from other African nations; homeless; and ex-prisoners. The "houseless" are mainly in the first category of Xhosa-speaking, generally family-oriented street people who live primarily in the Cape Flats. They are often referred to as strollers because they travel the city streets mostly by day, then return to the Cape Flats at night. Cape Town's concentration of tourists and wealth draws them with its promise of a market for their wares, or targets for begging and robbing.

The homeless are primarily Afrikaans-speaking products of the "dorp system"

whereby those working in vineyards are paid in wine rather than rands. This system has produced a group of chronic substance-abusers without money to provide for themselves. Cash payments are slowly replacing this system, though 20-50% still receive wine for their labor.

Seventy percent of street people are 30-40 years old, 20% are 16-30, the rest are children under 16. Most shelters in Cape Town accept only those over 45 or under 16. It's rare to see those over 45 on the streets; people are either dead or in shelters at this age.

Advocacy and Opportunity

To address the need for employment and economic opportunity, CASP prompted the initiation of three programs in the city center over the last year. One is selling *The Big Issue* which has 165 registered vendors, a handful of them women. Though this project was envisioned three years ago, the first run of 14,000 was published only this January, putting 9000 rand (about \$2000) into vendors' pockets. It is the second street paper in South Africa after Johannesburg's Homeless Talk.

The second project is a broom brigade to clean up city streets; third is a car watch program employing street people to monitor parking areas to prevent vandalism or break-ins. The car watch program has already led to a significant decrease in car-related crime and an increase in parking revenues. For these latter two initiatives, workers are paid R5,00 (5 rand or a little more than a dollar) per hour by the business community and city.

Olympics: Promise or Threat?

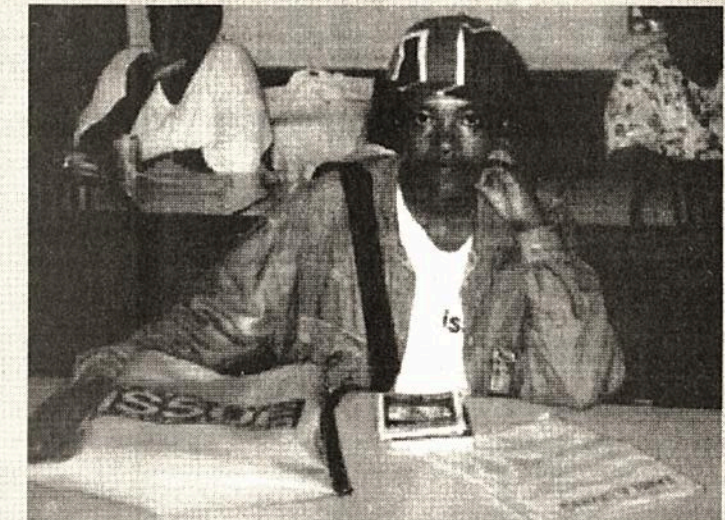
Cape Town is one of a few cities vying for the chance to host the 2008 Olympics. Billboards around town proclaim, "If Cape Town wins, we all win." Activists and street advocates are less optimistic about the benefits to poor people.

"[Government officials] will just clean up the street people — 'Out you go!' — to make it nice for tourists," said Shane, *The Big Issue's* vendor coordinator, reminding me of similar street sweeps for major tourist events in Seattle.

Through Debi Diamond's encourage-

Continued to page 27

April 1, 1997



Monica & The Big Issue

Selling Capetown's Homeless Newspaper

I met Monica on the ninth day of my visit. She was standing in the pedestrian zone on Church Street, a slender Black woman hawking a handful of newspapers.

"*Big Issue* — Cape Town's street paper!"

I promptly bought two copies and explained that I was a visiting Seattleite with a mission to report back about *The Big Issue* and homelessness in Capetown. Monica instantly became my tour guide.

"You need to meet Shane," *The Big Issue's* vendor coordinator, she explained as she walked me down Church Street half a block to a door festooned with arts and politics notices and a small note saying, "Back at 2—Shane."

In the mean time, Monica took me in hand. When I requested a photograph, we set a course for the train station where she thought we would get the best image. On the way we ran into a fellow *Big Issue* vendor, Zibonele, who bemusedly agreed to Monica's request to pose with her.

On the way there and back, Monica spoke non-stop about *The Big Issue*, her life on the streets, and her efforts to recruit and train vendors. She came from Port Elizabeth and doesn't want her family to know what's become of her

because she's ashamed of her current situation. She's been on the streets for years; before becoming a *Big Issue* vendor, she earned her keep through "survival sex," even pointing out a past client, a postman, as we passed him. She now earns enough through selling *The Big Issue* to afford a room for herself.

She referred to her poor health a number of times, with the indication that she expects a rapid decline soon. She never named her illness outright and I didn't ask. Death seemed to be a friend whose acquaintance she was prepared, though saddened, to make. Still, her sadness and weariness were far outweighed by an appealing vigor and commitment to her work.

"There's dignity in selling, I did survival sex, it wasn't so good a life, we recruit vendors and train them to "Sell for yourself, have dignity," she said, her words cascading throughout our time together. She told me she was the only female vendor though Shane later contradicted this.

When I left her outside *The Big Issue* office, she held onto my hand in the kind of extended African handshake I became used to, smiled deep into my eyes, then went back to selling her papers amidst the sun and tourists of the pedestrian zone.

Michael H. Howell

Born 22 January 1946, Died 9 March 1997

"Life is an endless recruiting of witnesses..."

from *The Stone Diaries* by Carol Shields

BY MICHELE MARCHAND

"Our friend could SEE!"

So pronounced a poet and friend of Michael Hayes Howell at Michael's funeral last week.

Michael was a chronicler of the streets, a master of contour drawing, a founder of the Street Life Gallery. He died suddenly on March 9th — spoke of back pain, laid down on the floor and was gone. He'd had a heart attack; he was only 51 years old.

About 40 people gathered at Bonney Watson Funeral Home to pay homage to Michael before a witnessed cremation. It was an odd and indicative gathering of street poets and well-known poets, artists, stockbrokers, nuns, organizers, HUD staff and other movers and shakers. Symbolically, everyone who stood to speak of Michael shared stories of their own personal pain — Michael drew that out of people.

He was a quiet man, but spoke loudly with his art. He could SEE!...things and people others don't see or pay attention to. I asked a friend what drew him to Michael's art and he said, "the love that I saw there. He didn't trust other people, but he loved

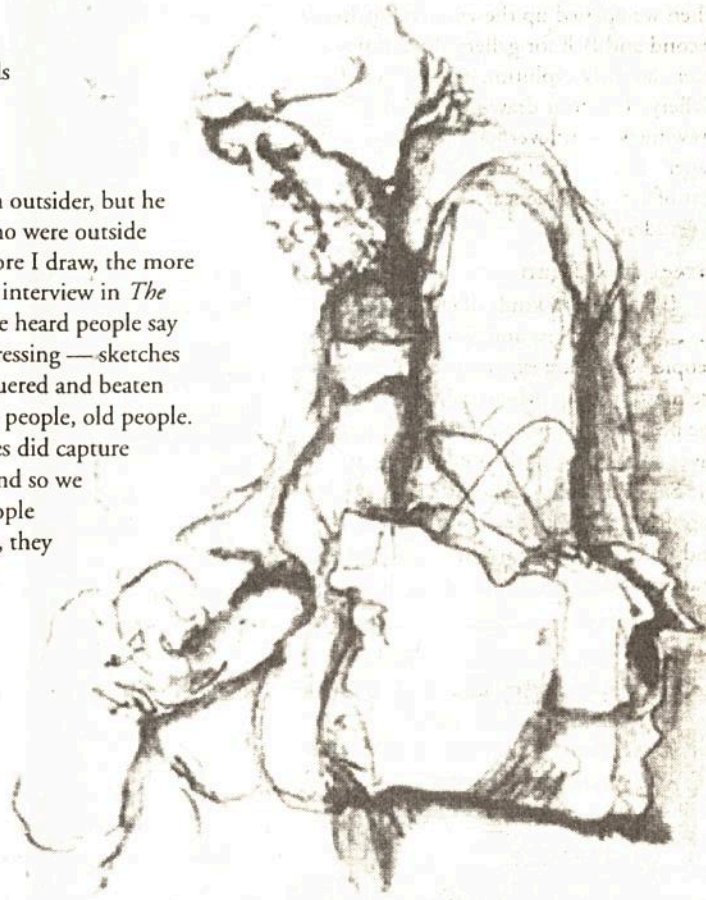
them."

Michael was an outsider, but he could SEE those who were outside with him. "The more I draw, the more I see," he said in an interview in *The Weekly* in 1988. I've heard people say Michael's art is depressing — sketches of the worn, beleaguered and beaten down faces of street people, old people. Many of his sketches did capture such worn faces. And so we must confess — people suffer, they struggle, they pay a price for pain with their physical bodies. Michael knew this...

Michael himself knew struggle, pain. "I never knew he was in pain," explained a friend. "He never complained." Although he didn't speak of the difficulty, Michael had hard times. He arrived in Seattle in 1980 and was homeless for 10 months at the Morrison shelter. He struggled through ups and downs at the Street Life Gallery and his own attempts to make a living at his art.

He'd never taken a degree in art, although he studied at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. He learned of his passion later in life: "I discovered my love of art in 1974, inspired by the works of Rembrandt, and have been drawing ever since," he said. He didn't hold much truck with critics; his stock response to those who critiqued his work was, "Oh you think so." He didn't seem to *listen* to critics, but he could SEE!

As a child, Michael moved around a



lot as an Army brat; joined the Army himself during Vietnam and left four years later, having earned the rank of captain. He traveled through the Midwest as a sign salesman thereafter.

During the Eighties Michael's work was shown in galleries throughout Seattle. He displayed art at DESC, the Josephinum, Jan Drago's campaign headquarters, the Smith Tower, the Newmark during the Homeless Coalition's "Etiquette of the Undercaste" show. He was finally achieving some notoriety...a few years ago his art was chosen for the Metro bus stop art project and he had panels on a bus stop at 7th and Olive Streets.

When he discovered his art, he also discovered the merit of practice, and made quick pencil drawings wherever he was. His legacy is simple sketches and more complex paintings and pastels, and his is an art

without judgment. I watched Michael painstakingly recopy pencil sketches and repeatedly fill them in with gouache and pastels. Practice. He was patient with his process, and an amazingly patient teacher as well — at Seattle Mental Health Institute and in the early days at the homeless art gallery.

He taught me how to sketch in 1991 when we opened up the women's shelter at Second and Bell for gallery three times a week, an early evolution of the Street Life Gallery. Contour drawing was his gift — drawing without ever looking down at the paper. It takes a lot of self-trust to do this sort of art, and Michael could give trust to his students.

Street Historian

There are all kinds of chroniclers of the streets — homeless and formerly homeless people. Some are expert storytellers, some are master poets. Michael Howell, he drew the people he knew, outsiders like he was, in dives and diners, at the Public Library, at the Service Center and on the streets. He captured the Tent City movement in 1990 and followed people to the Bus Barn shelter and beyond. He was one of our historians,



and had a briefcase and bulging binder of his art to prove it.

For a while Michael was doing nothing but pastels on cardboard. I think he was using this medium without even understanding the irony of his capturing the likenesses of street people on the very material on which they slept (for warmth). The Michael Howell displays — at the Newmark, the Smith Tower — often juxtaposed the increasing wealth of the

downtown corridor; they symbolized the disparity of downtown development while pockets of poverty remain.

Many of the places he used to haunt are gone now, lost to gentrification. A Sister of the Holy Names named Marguerite explained she'd gotten to know Michael at the coffee counter at the Athenian, back in the days when you could sit for hours, endless refills, over a 15-cent

cup of coffee. "They've changed the counter policy there now; I don't know why," she said at Michael's funeral. You can no longer sit there for hours; the coffee costs more than 15 cents. And I've heard that Michael's panels at the 7th and Olive busstop were removed for a construction project; I don't know where they went or if they were kept. The haunts are gone, and now Michael is lost to us as well.

"I don't know what I'll do," said John Howell, Michael's older brother, after the funeral. "There's a big hole for me now. Michael was the one I'd go to when I needed to get away, needed to see something different."

"He put his art around them," said Stan Burriss, poet laureate of the streets. Michael loved people with his art.

We have lost one of our witnesses, one who could SEE. "Death is that state of being where we only live on in the memory of our friends," someone quoted from *Star Trek* after Michael's death. We must witness for Michael now. Farewell, Michael Howell, seer and historian.

in words — to Michael Howell

With your hands folded, you might have been different. Having nothing to say...no words, no message.

No! You brought friends, and many others, to a ring... through the sound of it, to spaces that are alive, once we fill an image with the two hands that are more than our own, that are among all of us. Such a circle open at the ends! Then, no end for any of us. Without you, it might have been different.

— Stan Burriss, March 18, 1997
at Bonnie Watson Cremations, Funerals, Seattle



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Home Sweet Home

Will the City Help LIHI Save The Frye Hotel?

BY LAURA BUZARD

Hayden Brooks is a 67 year old activist who tells stories of his involvement in housing issues and political protests with great excitement and humor. With similar enthusiasm, Brooks talks about his home: the Frye hotel Pioneer Square.

"I've lived in the Frye since 1993 and its the first decent, clean, safe, congenial and affordable place I've lived in 30 years," he said of the privately managed building. "I've been homeless in Seattle and Oakland, I've been down and out, but the Frye was here when I needed it."

Like the other 233 tenants in the Frye, Brooks pays one third of his income in rent to the Frye, and HUD takes care of the rest through Section 8 housing. Under Section 8, the units in the Frye are reserved for low income tenants, and constitute a precious resource in a time of budget cuts and increasing homelessness. If a resident moves up and out of the Frye, that apartment is available for another low income person to move in. Most of the tenants in the Frye are elderly and/or disabled, and cannot afford market rate housing.

But the Frye is in transition, and its status as a comfortable home for low income people may be in jeopardy. The current owners of the hotel, the Frye Associates, have decided to sell the building after many years of ownership. Their decision to sell coincides with the expiration of the Section 8 housing status this October.

Transition Hopes

The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), a large nonprofit organization that owns many low income properties throughout Seattle, wants to buy the Frye, renew the Section 8 status, and retain current tenants. If they are successful, the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, which currently manages facilities such as Noel House and the Josephinum, will be the Frye's management company.

To purchase the Frye, LIHI is working to tap as many resources as possible, including the State Housing Trust Fund (see article on page 5), and the City of Seattle coffers, according to Sharon Lee, Executive Director of LIHI. In addition, LIHI must reapply to HUD for the Section 8 status of



A PIONEER SQUARE LANDMARK, THE FRYE HOUSES SENIORS AND THE DISABLED.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING INSTITUTE.

the building, or else seek huge amounts of money from outside funding to subsidize rents.

If the switch from sympathetic private housing to experienced nonprofit management goes smoothly, the Frye could become a success story that demonstrates how the private, nonprofit and public sectors can work together to sustain low income housing in Seattle. But if the Frye gets snagged in budgeting red-tape and the delicate balance of funding falls apart, the homes of 234 low-income seniors and disabled people could be in jeopardy.

"If we don't save this building, a lot of people are going to be homeless," Lee commented.

Continued on page 26

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"If we don't save this building, a lot of people are going to be homeless," Lee commented.

Do Something

THE CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES is seeking volunteers for its programs in Shoreline, University District, Ballard and Lynnwood. Tutoring, childcare, fundraising and PR positions available, as well as tutoring and mentoring opportunities at our drop-in center for homeless youth. Please call CHS at 362-7282 for more information. 3/6

THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM seeks volunteers to help low-income frail, elderly and disabled people living in North King County with household chores. Complete training and ongoing support are provided. Flexible hours. Call 273-9173. 2/15

HELP OTHERS LEARN: Seattle Goodwill seeks volunteers to teach classes in public speaking, resume writing and interviewing to adults in our job training program. Time commitment is a few hours every Friday, some flexibility on time of day. Call Brian at 329-1000 for more information. 3/7

SUNDAY NIGHT UNIVERSITY Teen Shelter is seeking dedicated, level headed volunteers to help provide a safe and pressure free place for homeless teens to sleep. For more info, call Tom at 329-7323. 3/7

VOLUNTEER DESK STAFF NEEDED! at the Wintonia, a community-oriented building which provides permanent housing to 92 homeless men and women. Volunteers are need to convert the main lobbies front desk on weekdays and weekends during the hours of 12-1pm and 5-6 pm. For more information please contact Leigh McGrath at 467-1878. 3/2

DAY CENTER FOR WOMEN who are homeless or seeking community in the downtown area needs women who make music to join us for occasional joyous celebration. For more info call Kim Tue-Fri at 461-4561. 3/2

PREVENT HOMELESSNESS by sharing your home with a single woman or family temporarily. Volunteers provide an extra bedroom, a spirit of hospitality and a stable living environment. Catholic Community services performs screening, follow-up and

support services. Guests work toward self-sufficiency. Call Marlo at 562-6858. 3/2

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE- May 10th. Volunteers at 40 local Post Stations, repacking donated food items, loading collected food onto a truck, and assisting with mid-route pickups. Time 1:00-4pm. Call Patty Hopfe at 545-FOOD or email to hunger@scn.org. 3/2

HELP BRING PRODUCE TO LOW INCOME PEOPLE! Lettuce Link makes gardening and produce accessible to low income people. Grow vegetables in food bank plots for large scale donations, volunteer for weekday deliveries to Seattle food banks, plant extra in your garden to donate. Call Kara Evans, Lettuce Link Coordinator, at 548-8344. 3/2

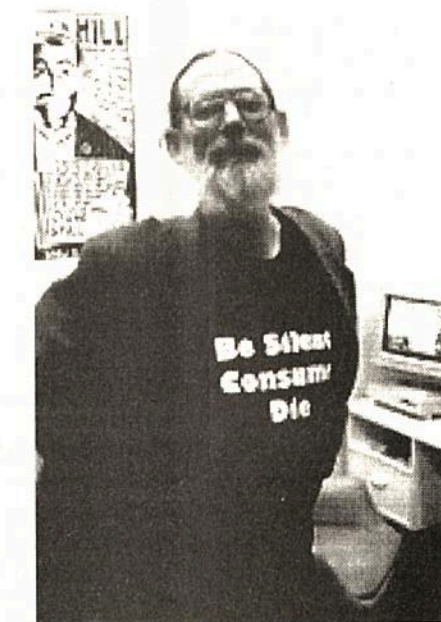
HELP THE HOMELESS Volunteer at the Downtown Emergency Service Center.

Volunteers are needed in the shelter to help with the meal program and providing clients with coffee, mail, hygiene supplies and opportunities for socialization. Also needed; hairdressers and computer trainers. Six month commitment. Call Keri at 464-1570 x 3003. 3/2

THE KING COUNTY LITERACY COALITION is looking for volunteers for office support, Macintosh tech assistance, public relations advising, fund development, and advocacy. Also seeking a book-keeper for one afternoon or morning/week. for information/application call Carolyn at 684-6648. If you would like to be a volunteer tutor for adults, call the literacy hotline at 1-800-323-2550. 3/2

SENIOR SERVICES' HOMESHARING wants you! We need a volunteer to help with quarterly informational mailings four times a year for a couple of weekdays each time. The Homesharing Program helps seniors remain independent in their own homes, matching them with compatible people looking for a place to live. Call 448-5725. 3/7

Shut Up and Buy Something!



When *Real Change* poet provocateur © Dr. Wes Browning isn't geeking it up with his writer buddies on the internet, he's buying 100% cotton consumables from his publisher of choice.

The t-shirt is cool, it's cotton, and it has a pithy anti-consumerist slogan on the front and the *Real Change* logo on the back. It's black and comes in large or extra-large. It costs \$15. Buy it now.

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

New on the Net

Handsnet News & Blues

Groups Target Corporate Welfare

The March 14 issue of the Community Nutrition Institute Newsletter reports liberal Democrats and human interest groups have formed an organization aimed at fighting corporate subsidies.

The Progressive Caucus will introduce legislation this session demanding the government "stop spending money on advertising McDonald's in Asia and start using that money to feed the hungry in the U.S." The Caucus has a 15-item corporate welfare "hit list" that includes the marketing program for U.S. food companies abroad. The group maintains that cutting funding for these 15 alone would save the government \$261 billion over the next five years.

Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) noted that 600,000 people were notified this month that their food subsidies were being cut due to budget tightening. McKinney compared the \$1 billion expenditure to keep people fed to the over \$7 billion a year the government spends to market weapons abroad.

CT Uses Welfare Windfall to Fund Tax Cut

Conn. Gov. John G. Rowland has plans to use a windfall of federal aid for welfare dependents - at least \$55 million - to replace at least \$24 million in state spending, which would help him to achieve a \$385 million income tax cut, reports The New York Times.

Rowland's move was cited Friday by a former top federal welfare official as a prime example of a little-discussed repercussion of the new law: it may encourage some states to cut state spending on welfare programs.

At a speech before several hundred social service workers and advocates for the poor, Peter Edelman, an assistant secretary in the Health and Human Services Department who quit last year to protest the new law, said that Rowland was taking advantage of two features of the new law that had always worried him.

First, Edelman said, it allows states to reduce their spending on family welfare to as little as 75 percent of 1994 expenditures. "That's an invitation to cut spending," he said. "And your governor has accepted the invitation."

And second, Edelman added, the new federal grant allows states more flexibility on how to spend the federal money. What Rowland has proposed is to use \$24 million of that money next year and \$70 million over the next two years to finance programs that had previously been paid for by state funds, he said.

That is "to supplant, not add to, and he's proposing to cut taxes at the same time," Edelman said. "What's wrong with this picture here?"

Anti-Gay Violence on Rise

According to a new study, reports of violence against gay men and lesbians rose last year despite a marked drop in violent crime around the country, reports Reuters.

The report found a 6 percent increase in anti-gay violence, based on data collected by 14 community-based programs. It was issued by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence and the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

The report documented a total of 2,529 anti-gay incidents last year. A vast majority — 95 percent — were aimed at individuals and the rest were crimes against property such as graffiti and vandalism, the report said.

The number of victims injured rose to 867 from 775 the previous year, but the number of murders dropped to 21 from 29 the year before, it said. A total of 294 incidents were motivated solely by bias against people with HIV and AIDS, the report said.

Most incidents occurred near victims' homes, on the street or in a public area, and just one in ten occurred at or near a gay bar or event, it said. In what appeared to be a pattern that anti-gay violence increases when the community is most visible, the report said, the highest number of bias attacks occurred in June, which was Lesbian and Gay Pride Month.

House: Expand Medicare Benefits

Republicans and Democrats in the House agreed Thursday to expand Medicare benefits to include preventative screening

procedures, reports Associated Press.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich made a rare appearance before a House subcommittee to support increased preventive benefits in Medicare, promising quick action on a bipartisan bill that would allow Medicare to pay for mammographies, pap smears and screenings for diabetes, colorectal cancer and prostate cancer.

Unlike other Medicare issues, this bill involves spending - not cutting - money and is unlikely to generate much opposition. It would cost an estimated \$3.5 billion over five years. President Clinton wants a similar package of preventive benefits.

Deportation Laws Protested

Thousands of Nicaraguans, many of whom fled a United States-backed war in the 1980s, demonstrated to protest new immigration rules they say threaten them with deportation, reports Associated Press.

About 150,000 Nicaraguans nationwide could be deported, said Edgar Macias, leader of *Fraternidad Nicaraguense*, which represents the large Nicaraguan community in South Florida.

About 6,000 people rallied Sunday in support of permanent residence status for Nicaraguans, many of whom fought for the U.S.-backed *Contras* in their war against the leftist *Sandinistas*.

"I defended Democratic principals that America has established," said Luis Vindell, dressed in the camouflage fatigues he wore while fighting for the *Contras* for almost 10 years.

Although some became U.S. citizens, many were allowed to live here as non-citizens. Now, however, the United States wants to return them to a Nicaragua that has been peaceful since 1990 elections.

A new law taking effect April 1 increases from seven to 10 the number of years of residence in the U.S. required for permanent resident status.

Opponents of the law plan to file a class action lawsuit this week to block any deportations.

Even though the fighting is over in their homeland, many Nicaraguans still don't want to return because of bleak economic conditions, said Nestor Nunez, who helped organize the rally.

"There are no jobs," he said.

—from *HandsNet News & Blues*

76 Years of Service

By CATHERINE GAINNEY

The Millionair Club Charities have been in the business of personal empowerment for over 76 years. In celebration of this significant public accomplishment, the Club threw a massive pancake feed as a way of thanking the public as well as giving itself a well-deserved pat on the back. Many thousands of men and women (including this reporter) have benefited from the free services offered by this organization.

The name of the game is human dignity. The Club has distinguished itself with a variety of services for the poor and disenfranchised since 1921. Its philosophy: "...to provide support and services that encourage self confidence, dignity and self reliance." On March 16, the Seattle headquarters was packed with supporters, well-wishers and recipients of the many free programs offered through the Club and the Women and Family Center.

With the help of celebrity "flippers" including Rice, King County Executive Ron Simms, KMPS-FM radio personality John "The Stunt Guy," stand-up comedian Chris Alpine, the approximately 300 donors, volunteers, clients, and staff enjoyed a fine repast that included flapjacks.

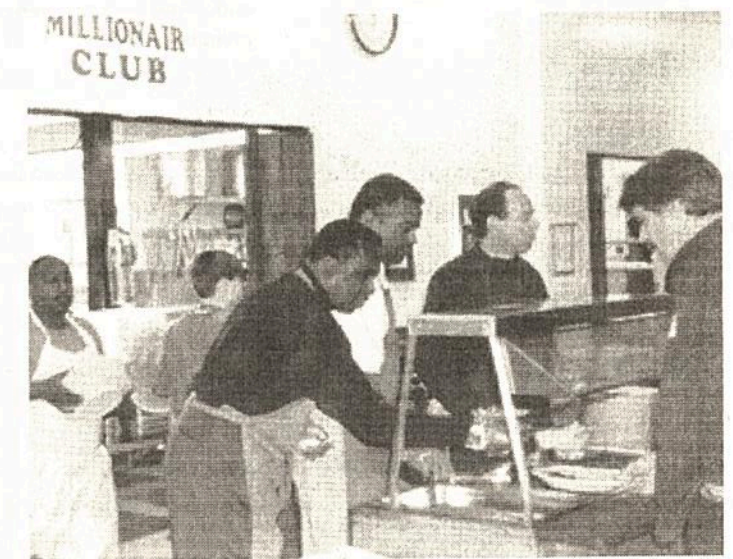
A live band entertained attendees, playing music that was popular in the era that the Club was founded. Artists from the

Street Life Gallery were on hand displaying and selling their work. Donors also had the opportunity to meet and talk with former clients who have found work through the help of the Millionair Club.

The charity was founded in 1921 by local businessman Martin J. Johanson to give the unemployed a nourishing meal, and a chance to spend the day at a paying job.

The Club is a private, non-profit organization serving the people of greater Seattle. It is supported solely by donations from people and businesses of the Puget Sound area. Wilbur Ellis, one of the former clients, shared his story at the breakfast.

When Ellis arrived at the Club he was living in a mission. Trying to find work on his own proved to be an exercise in futility. Thanks to the help of the Job Search Program, which is designed to give workers interview skills and job leads, Ellis ultimately landed a job as an



MAYOR NORM RICE AND KING COUNTY EXEC
RON SIMMS FLIP FLAPJACKS.
PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

order selector for Associated Grocers.

"The first day on the job," he says, "I could not stop smiling. It felt so good to have a job after being out of work for so long." After four months, Ellis was able to find an apartment of his own.

"I think it's important that the donors see firsthand the success we've had in finding work for homeless and in getting them off the welfare system," says Mel Jackson, Executive Director of the Millionair Club. "With their continued support, I hope we can be around for another 76 years." [E]

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE: NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SENIOR (62 OR OLDER) LOW- INCOME HOUSING AT PIKE PLACE MARKET.

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CRISIS?, CONT FROM PAGE 9
 night to an average of 136, clearly documenting a rise in demand.

Despite the fact that some of these people just ask for a blanket or sandwich to take to their flop, Nightwatch turnaways have doubled, despite the addition of First Ave., from about five per night to eleven.

But numbers are cold measures. There are good nights and bad nights, and averages hide reality. On Friday, March 23rd, for example, Nightwatch turned away 41 single men, 7 single women, and 3 families with 8 kids.

We Want Books!

StreetWrites, a homeless writers group sponsored by *Real Change*, seeks to build a lending library. Donations are needed of fiction, poetry, and reference books. Please call 441-3247 for info.

Reynolds is very worried. Nightwatch, in the last 3 years, has seen its client base triple. With the closure of emergency overflow shelters this April 1st, at least 110 additional beds will be lost, and more pressure will be on this tiny program to bridge the gap, doing a job they were never meant to do.

Women and Children Worse

Particularly disturbing to Reynolds is the increase he has seen in women and families with children. Until recently, families were a rarity at Nightwatch.

"When we started helping families," he said, "it was just to get them through the moment of crisis, like maybe a family stuck at Greyhound. Now we're getting 6-8 calls a day. We're not set up to offer any long-term help."

In partnership with the Millionair Club, Nightwatch is sometimes able to place a family for an evening, but other

times there is nothing to do but send families off into the night.

Female turnaways from Nightwatch have become common. Wendy Dormont, Director of the Noel House women's shelter, describes a shelter response for women that is "piecemeal and precarious," dependent upon volunteers who at times do not come through.

About half the shelter beds available for women are located in volunteer-run off-site church shelters. "Sometimes people get sick, or the van doesn't run," explained Dormont. "People get turned away. It's very sparsely covered."

While a deal with HUD has uncovered funding to keep 20 "winter" beds at the Federal Building open through the next six months, one volunteer shelter site closes over May, and another through the entire summer.

"The demand is pretty steep," said Dormont. "The numbers are up, and the city can't hide its head in the sand on this."

HOUSING, CONT FROM PAGE 6

bipartisan effort to balance the federal budget by the year 2002, the lack of political leadership on low-income housing issues, and the perception among policy-makers that housing has a weak political constituency are bellwethers for further reductions in housing assistance. Furthermore, expiration of project-based Section 8 contracts and the uncertainty about renewals could threaten 22% of the State's existing stock of affordable housing and cause massive displacement.

While the \$50 million devoted to the Housing Trust Fund for each of the past three biennia has created over 10,000 affordable housing units and weatherized over 24,000 homes, the housing needs of Washington's low-income households still far exceed the available resources. Whatever the outcome of the State's welfare reform debate, former recipients of public assistance who find low paid jobs will need affordable housing in order to find stability and work toward economic security.

If our Legislators were willing to make the State of Washington the primary funder

for a \$410 million home for a baseball team, and are considering millions more for a football team, they should be willing to allocate sorely needed funds to house a few thousand of our most vulnerable citizens.

For more information, contact Jon Gould, Housing Policy Coordinator at the Low Income Housing Institute, at (206) 443-9935 x124.

<blink><HI>ATTN.WEBHEADS</HI></blink>

If you have HTML experience and want to volunteer your skills for a worthy cause, *Real Change* needs you!

Join *Real Change's* new committee that will manage our busy activist website, and build and maintain two major new sites (one for the Streetlife Art Gallery, and another for the North American Street Newspaper Association.)

To get involved with this cool project, call Tim Harris at 441-3247.

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WRITE FOR REAL CHANGE

Journalists

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If you're interested in homeless and poverty issues and want to volunteer your writing skills we need you!

Call Laura or Tim at 441-3247 for more information.



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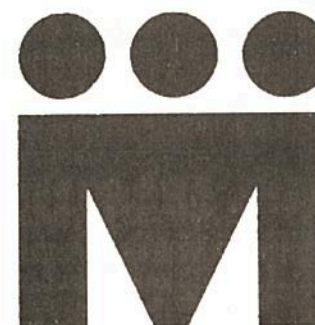
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The Millionair Club has helped the homeless of Seattle since 1921.

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Feed My Head, 'fore I'm Dead

You alert regular readers may have noted that I am now peddling *Real Change* T-shirts in an ad in this rag. And you may have also troubled yourselves to read the copy of that ad, written by Timothy "Pith Personified" Harris, our director, and wondered what was meant by my "geeking it up with my internet writer buddies."

I'll be getting to that, but first I want to talk about Maslow.

Mention Maslow to the average homeless person and he/she will probably guess you are talking about a city in Poland, or a new side dish available at KFC. He/she will not imagine that Maslow has any connection to his/her life.

Oh but he does. The theories of the psychologist Maslow as taught and *understood* by sociology students have an huge influence on how the homeless are treated by social service workers. The trouble is, they don't understand Maslow's theories. They take his ideas regarding the "hierarchy of needs" (that lower needs, such as for food and security must be met before a person can pursue higher needs) and apply them without any real comprehension. This is where the inane idea comes that all that the homeless can use are food and shelter, *they are not ready for anything more.*

So anyway, here I am, HOMELESS, geeking it up with my internet writer buddies, ACTIVELY pursuing higher needs for friendship, self-esteem and creativity. Gosh, maybe I should go back to school and learn my place in the Socio-Scientific Universe?

A Poem From Hunger (A Sarcasm In Four Verses)

I have nothing to say!
I haven't eaten all day!
Yeah, I AM a starvin' man!!!

Can't deal with stress nor feet
Till I get me somethin' to eat!
Please!! Feed the starvin' man!!!

I cannot do art
No poem can I start
Until after I'm fed, man!

And I could have nothing to say,
in any self-expressional way,
because I am a poor pathetic starving man.

So what do I do with my internet writer buddies? Well for example, recently the question came up among them, "What is poetry? How is it distinguished from prose?" Actually the question arose three different times on two email lists for writers. Each time I offered variations of this.

Poetry and Prose

by Copyright Dr. Wes
Browning

Poetry and Prose:
the oranges and yellows
in a jumbo box of crayons.

There are poetry and prose and prose poetry
and poetic prose
and prosish poetry and stranger things with
odd names like
rants and chants and marigold and corn.

Lay them all out.
Arrange them by rules
See them change gradually
from left to right.
Blend them.
Then arrange them randomly.

Then start over again,
pretending it's all new.

Visit (c) Dr. Wes Browning at
<http://www.speakeasy.org/wes>



Surfaces

It seems there is a catholic God,
done up in gold and Virgin Maryed.
And there is a Jewish God,
male and master of cool distances.
And an academic God,
of reason and longish hair.
But is there a God
for working people?
Is there a God for women?

In the night the cockroaches
defend the cupboards.
It rains.
Something big is moving
in all the houses,
waiting.

In the night the phone rings,
it is an obscene call.
I am trapped in reason
like a deer in sudden light.
No, I don't want you for my slave.
Slavery is not something to enjoy.
No, I am not horny
(how I hate that word).
He hangs up angry.
I laugh,
but then it isn't funny.

In all the houses we are
moving, trapped, waiting
behind the windows.
The night weeps and heaves.
Coffee grumbles on the stove
like judgement.

— E. Romero

In the Mountains

Huckleberry Eyes told me
she wanted to roam
in a Gorman painting.

She walks, carrying geometric,
designed basket, along the logging road;
the landscape is marred
by tire tracks, corrugated pipe
and an occasional
crushed aluminum can.

The stillness is broken
by a woodpecker tapping
a tree.

She stops
to examine dark pigmentations,
dark spots, groves imbedded
in bone-color boughs
that resemble antlers

As she continues on the road.

— Earle Thompson

The

Wingless, I float above the heavens,
Pure, bright like snow
Silently falling in the sun,
I drift

And once come to rest
Burst into brilliant light

I am my own home,
The flame that ever lives,
I am
Truth

— Mr. Frank Martin

Untitled

A little child
left alone

Taken in for short
periods of time

By strangers

Found the presence
of Christ in a guest church.

Committed verbally.
His presence kept me
thru a continuous sea of strangers.
Much older was I when
I was water baptized, and
desirous of pleasing Him
(Jesus)only

— Carol Leno

Hanging in the Parks

Many of the parks have fire places but they are for day use only. There's a way around this. You find a job working the eleven shift. You can head for the park in the morning after work, have a fire, sleep for eight hours, heat up food & coffee.

Wash out a work shirt in the sink & dry it near the fire. If your park doesn't have a shower you can heat water on your fire and put it into a new (not previously used) insecticide sprayer. Go to the bathroom (they have cement floors and drains). And you have a trigger action portable shower. Late evening, you leave the park, appearing to be a regular citizen on your way home from a pleasant day in the park. Stop for some coffee and head for work.

You can find the necessary eleven to seven shift in a 24 hour restaurant, a gas station, a truck stop, or working as a janitor. These jobs don't pay much but you're not paying rent so it will give you a chance to save up some money to get back on your feet.

If you can't work you can spend days in the park and nights in a 24 hour restaurant. Deals can be struck with tired waitresses, 2 or 3 am, to clear tables or do a little vacuuming in exchange for food and money. When the waitresses know that you can be counted on to help you won't have to pay for your coffee and when they throw out what turns into yesterday's soup or have a mistake on an order they will remember you.

Etiquette requires that you make yourself scarce about 5:30 am before the morning shift & the breakfast crew shows up.

— Sally Johnson

Thereby Am I Hung

BURDENED with a
Love for humanity
AND
a fine cowardice

I am
on/the/Wheel

and

EVERY confrontation

is

A matter of
Life and Death

— Marion Sue Fischer

**Undertow:
to a friend**

SAFE
... you thought you were

SAFE
... at LAST

until

Trouble came 'round
...AGAIN

and

There you are
...AGAIN

Losing your possessions
Losing your mind
...AGAIN

FORCED OUT
Onto the darkening
welcoming
Streets

of this Impossible City

Where you find
a Community of women
not unmixed

STRIPPED BARE

Who/ARE/your/Sisters
In Love and Faith

CHOSEN
by our Society
perhaps our God

To bear Witness
To the unforgiving cold

In Amarika
In 1996

— Marion Sue Fischer

Homeless in Seattle — 1997

My child died the first week of the month
The victim of high tech torture
So I went to a women's support group
Looking for comfort and support.

Instead the head Christian lady says
"Well, it's probably for the best,
because you're homeless right now."
I was speechless, too, for a second.
Then I left.

I thought about my ancestor, Leschi,
Who refused to sign a treaty with the U.S. Government
And our relatives, who ended up living elsewhere
While their leader was killed for wanting back his home.

I thought of the Menchus,
burned alive in Guatemala over land rights.
And I thought of the pilgrims,
and wondered if they killed their children
On the voyage over on the Mayflower,
Because they didn't have a home yet.

Then I thought of this person again, living in the United States
On land taken away from Native people without a treaty.
Then I thought of our legends, of people who were turned to
swallows
For being greedy.

And I thought this woman should fly away as well, for being
so greedy to want her way of life to continue at my child's
expense, while she walked on the land of my children's
ancestors, not hers. I was afraid for the lives for my family
members who
Are still left here.

Our people were criticized for our way of life by Christians,
as being heathens.
But how could that be, when we value life,
and they think it is best for our people to be dead,
In violation of their own ten commandments?
Who is the real heathen in this case?

— Carol Olden Stewart, Tsi Sladey

Will Rice Help?

While the City has funds to preserve threatened housing projects from a housing levy that voters passed recently, there simply isn't enough money to rescue every project. According to Jim Hammond, special assistant to Mayor Rice, the city's housing budget of five to six million dollars will not be able to support the number of applications he expects to receive by the deadline in mid-April. Based on preliminary applications, Hammond guesses that the mayor's office might see requests for more than ten million dollars in housing funds.

"We value the Frye as an important building. We don't see this building as just a statistic," said Hammond. "We want to do what we can, within reason. We can't do it at any price."

Hammond believes that the Frye is important to the community and lends stability and comfort to the lives of its vulnerable tenants. But sympathy cannot outweigh budgetary constraints. It's up to LIHI to prove that the Frye is a viable low income facility and a good use of tax dollars. After the Mayor's office receives the applications in mid-April, the decisions on funding allocations will be released in six to eight weeks, Hammond projected. LIHI hopes to buy the Frye by this autumn.

Will Congress Come Through?

The Frye problem is not an isolated incident, but is a symptom of much larger issues that threaten low income housing in a time of expanded need. While Section 8 housing, either in its portable voucher form or in its project-based program like the Frye, is an essential part of low-income housing and homeless

prevention, it has also been the target of a Congress eager to make budget cuts in a bipartisan effort to balance the budget.

In the past, buildings such as the Frye have been granted Section 8 status for five years, ten years or longer terms, according to Jon Gould, Housing Policy Coordinator for LIHI. Thus, tenants could rest assured that they would be able to maintain a stable home at a predictable price.

However, recently Congress has only renewed Section 8's in one year increments, leaving tenants nationwide wondering from one year to the next if they will be forced out of their homes.

While Section 8 residents are given vouchers if the Frye or other buildings lose their status, often moving entails emotional and physical distress for disabled people. For some residents, the Frye has provided a home that has given them the stability to the fight mental illness or addiction that left them homeless or vulnerable before. In addition, even with vouchers, affordable housing can be difficult to find.

The Frye's Section 8 status expires in October of 1997 and must be renewed for the 1988 fiscal year. LIHI is at work on their reapplication, and hopes that Congress will recognize that buildings such as the Frye are worth refunding.

LIHI's plan to take over the Frye includes scenarios for survival should HUD funding not come through. But the current federal contributions are so large that Gould worries that finding alternative sources of rent subsidy would be a struggle. Even if LIHI could find money from the city and state, it would be close to impossible to keep rents low enough for the poorest tenants of the Frye.

Neighborhood Support

Frye tenant Brooks will be sad to say good-bye to the current management of the Frye, who treat him and his fellow tenants with kindness and dignity. But he's also happy about the prospect of LIHI and the AHA managing the building. Brooks has attended the meetings of the Frye Community Advisory Group where he, along with other tenants, Pioneer Square neighbors, and LIHI representatives have given input on the changes, and learned about LIHI's plans to improve the building.

According to Lee, LIHI would like to expand the commercial space on the first floor of the Frye, improve the apartments, increase wheelchair accessibility, and provide more community space for tenants to gather.

"It's a beautiful building, we want to fix it up to preserve its historic character," Lee said.

Neighbor Michael Fajins, who has lived in the Pioneer Square community for over 17 years, has attended some of the meetings, and supports LIHI's effort to buy the Frye.

"[Pioneer Square residents] want the Frye hotel to continue to serve the population it currently serves," said Fajins. "I'm proud of this community's support of low income housing." Fajins looks forward to the improvements to the Frye that LIHI promises, and hopes that the building can have an increased sense of community among its residents.

And Hayden Brooks hopes that he and his Frye neighbors will be able to continue sharing in the Pioneer Square neighborhood — shopping at Elliott Bay books, and staying active in neighborhood politics.

I sought out Sister Margo of Catholic Welfare and Development (CWD) who works with the poorest street people, those living in clusters in places like the train station, St. George's Mall, and Napier Street. One such cluster I saw in an early morning venture through Cape Town was composed of about 25 people sleeping in the center of a grassy lot, body pressed to body, in a tight, safe circle. The largest such cluster is under the Napier Street Bridge in what Sr. Margo called a "more mature group" with its own emerging self-governance. Most community members there have no shelter options.

Vibrancy and Courage

Sister Margo has just begun reaching out to mothers, pregnant women, and women with babies in this and a few other similar communities to form Women in Need (WIN). She said that its work, direction, and leadership are "up to the women;" when I described WHEEL and self-management in Seattle, she eagerly asked for more information about her sister organization. She had just visited a similar program in Delhi, India, and wondered if a link amongst organizations run by poor and homeless women worldwide might be possible.

As I return to a country wracked by such similar struggles, I'm heartened by the courage of my new friends and colleagues in Cape Town. The mediators, activists, and others I met opened up their public and private worlds to me willingly and with a trust that still moves me.

community input and suggestions in regard to the Urban Reststop project and has attempted to accommodate as many needs as possible.

LIHI has secured funding for the project from eight different sources, followed the public process to the letter, attended/hosted public meetings, garnered public support for the Urban Reststop, met with law enforcement and Department of Health officials, refined and improved management, safety, and health protocols, and responded to feedback from all interested parties. In short, LIHI has done all it can possibly do to make the Glen Hotel Urban Reststop a success. Yet the settlement deadline came and went over five months ago and construction is still halted.

The causes for many setbacks endured by the Urban Reststop Project can be reduced to two elements: 1) A slow-moving political process, and 2) Desperate opposition from a small group of business interests adamantly opposing the hygiene project on the grounds that showers and washing machines in a basement will somehow frighten people away from attending the symphony or dining at a dinner theater. Currently the fate of the Urban Reststop is in the hands of the Seattle City Council

Torn as it is by crime, poverty, and continuing racism, there is a vibrancy about the New South Africa that seems likely to carry it through the pain of its emergence as a multi-cultural democracy. I feel privileged to have seen a small piece of the process and I honor those whose work has made it possible.

who, in trying to satisfy as many different interests as possible, has yet to vote on a decision that will move the project forward.

Council member Cheryl Chow proposes a women's hygiene center at the Josephinum, toilets for men at the Glen, and a full hygiene center at the United Methodist Church. However, to date the Josephinum does not have the capital funding needed to make that scenario a reality, and the United Methodist Church is willing to be an additional resource but not an alternative to the Glen Hotel Urban Reststop. Once again, the only remaining option is the original Glen Hotel site, the only site that is fully funded, controlled, permitted, and waiting to be put into operation.

The goal of the Urban Reststop is to provide hygiene services and to maintain health and vitality of downtown Seattle for at least the next thirty years. It is a small part of the bigger picture, not glitzy or glamorous, but just as significant and important as a symphony hall or dinner theater and even more necessary.

And yet it has been left by the wayside thanks to ineffectual political process and an increasingly hostile environment perpetuated by the few at the expense of the many. The Urban Reststop needs the support of all the citizens of Seattle. Calls or letters to the City Council will let the members know that Seattle is big enough for all of its residents. Please contact members of the City Council (their telephone numbers are at the front of the white pages) and urge them to support the Urban Reststop at the Glen Hotel.

Michael Schuster
 Born Jewish with pastlife memories of being a French Freedom fighter during World War II, Michael was killed in a car wreck & was dead for 15 minutes. During that time, he says this soul left and the soul of a Nazi officer 'walked-in.' Michael authored *Forgiveness in Our Time* about his channeled conversations with Hitler, and *Continuous Energy & Upcoming Earth Changes*.
 April 16 - Psychic Forum, Charleston Cafe - 7 pm, \$3
 April 18 - Potluck & Free Lecture - W. Seattle - 6 pm
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Plagues and Politics

In addition to such social problems, bathing and laundry facilities were nonexistent. There was one water tap on site, and another available on a nearby dock. Paths and the areas between the shacks were used as urinals. The five outhouses were difficult to get to and, in any event, were too few. Outhouse effluent and garbage were sometimes washed ashore and left by the retreating tide. The smell must have been more than significant.

In 1933 a plague killed thousands of local felines. Cat carcasses littered Hooverville, and soon rodents proliferated.

Through it all, Hooverville persisted, and over its ten years, the encampment sheltered 11-14,000 homeless individuals. Despite primitive circumstances, men considered living in their own shacks preferable to the conditions in the missions and the stigma of charity.

Political struggle was necessary for the ongoing survival of the shacktowns. In 1938, as stormy City Council meeting brought 300 shacktown residents to oppose demands by Beacon Hill neighborhood organizations that settlements there be torn down. Squatters from all over the city, including Hooverville, came to stand up for those living in shanties on Beacon Hill.

The emphasized their right to bare survival, but also their numbers (citing their

own survey of over 22,000 shacks in Seattle) and solidarity, and noted that two-thirds of shacktown residents were registered voters. The City Council responded by setting up a committee including shanty and housed residents to work out agreements, but by 1941 Seattle Housing Authority joined the lobby to tear the shacktowns down.

The Fire Again

For all its shortcomings, Hooverville proved the power of homeless people to manage their own affairs, with some vacant land and minimal support, through ten years of Hard Times. Most accounts say Hooverville ended when employment picked up as the United States entered World War II. But Hooverville still had residents when the City torched it for the last time to make way for redevelopment of the site for war production.

The City was glad to close the chapter and to believe it would not see its like again. But today, blue tarps and blanket tents under trees along the freeway are evidence that for many, home

is not a house.

This article is the first of a three-part series on the Seattle Hooverville.

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APRIL

APRIL 1

Meeting of Citizens Against Covert Action, each first Tuesday, 7 p.m., educating the public about the threat to democracy here and abroad by covert action, told us about the CIA-Crack connection a decade before the San Jose Mercury report came out, upstairs at 4759 15th Ave NE, info 547-7735

Introductory Class on Theatre of the Oppressed (Theatre of Liberation) 7-10 p.m., Attention: Theatre Artists, Activists, Educators, and others, Change the world as you play! explore the arsenal of these playful and dynamic interactive theatre techniques with approaches to political and social activism, conflict resolution, community building, and therapy. Through May 8, \$150, Seattle Public Theater, 915 E. Pine St, 328-4848

APRIL 2

Jobs with Justice, Seattle Organizing Committee, Labor Temple, Each first Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. 2800 1st Ave, info Hilary Diamond 448-7348 ext 309

Public Budget Hearing on U.S. Dept. of Energy plan to Divert Hanford Cleanup Funds and restart production of Tritium for Nuclear Weapons, Head Off Pentagon and Department of Energy proposals to restart nuclear weapon production at Washington state's Hanford Nuclear Reservation and possibly store all of North America's plutonium waste at Hanford as fuel for the new weapon production, this may be the only opportunity for formal public input of plans to restart of the Fast Flux Test Reactor (FFTF) producing tritium for weapons and diverting clean-up money, and MOX (mixed-oxide) waste disposal, being pushed forward without environmental impact statements, public input needed to call for Clean-up, Not Bombs, Lopez Room, conference rooms on northwest side of Seattle Center, (note changed location) Wednesdays, 6 - 9 p.m., Heart of America Northwest 382-1014, updated info 1-800-24-CLEAN

April 1, 1997

APRIL 3

Human Services Rally Day, Plan to be there: Bring a carload! Hire a bus (and fill it)! State Legislature, Olympia

Nadine Strossen, National President of the American Civil Liberties Union will debate with Gail Dines on Pornography, Edmonds Community College, 11 a.m., info 206-624-2184

First hour broadcast live on KBCS-FM 91.3, 7 p.m., Concert by Rebel Voices, and Tom Rawson, songs of Labor Unions, Feminism, Peace, Justice, etc., Occasional Cafe, Center for Wooden Boats boathouse, 1010 Valley St, southern tip of Lake Union, \$6 - 8, info 328-3630

Presentation by Prof. Lou Beres of Purdue University, author of "Terrorism and Global Security: The Nuclear Threat" speaking on Nuclear Terrorism, University of Washington Kane Hall, 7:30 p.m., room 120, admission \$5 - 7.50, info Tom Coad 526-7950

APRIL 4

Feminist Round Table Discussion of "Herland" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 7 p.m., call for location, Melissa Devnich 726-8109

Reading — Marth Gies, Adrienne Ross, An Intricate Weave: Women Write about Girls and Girlhood. Writers read their own work and the work of others in the anthology — full of stories which challenge assumptions and show how much can be learned from the lives of girls. 7:30 pm, Red & Black Books, 432 15th Ave. East. No admission charge, but donations are accepted. Info, 322-READ.

APRIL 5

Seminar "Faith, Investment, Risk and Reward" with Rev. David Teeter, Hillside Community Church, 10 a.m. - noon, 2508 S 39th, Tacoma, info 206-475-2388

APRIL 7

KSER 90.7 FM Radio, Diversity Business Connection, sponsored by KSER-FM, the City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department Cultural Diversity Program, and the Snohomish County Diversity Coalition, 4 - 5:30 p.m., info Heather Thompson at 637-7922

C.I.A. Crack Reparations Video Series, benefit for C.I.A. Crack Reparations Initiative, videos on covert operations including drug deals, drug experimentation, assassination, torture, S & L looting, FEMA plans for suspending the Constitution, and more, 6 p.m. - midnight, Speakeasy Cafe, 2304 2nd Ave at Bell, info 782-7605

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APRIL 7

Seattle University Presentation by Professor Erik Olsen, From Subjects to Democratic Citizens, Seattle University campus, 7 p.m., room TBA, free but please RSVP Bob Howard at cel@halcyon.com or 328-3020

APRIL 8

Breakfast, with topic "The Civil Society," Center for Ethical Leadership, info Pat Hughes 328-3020 or cel@halcyon.com

Hispanic Career Fair, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Seattle Center Northwest Room.

C.I.A. Crack Reparations Video Series, benefit for C.I.A. Crack Reparations Initiative, videos on covert operations including drug deals, drug experimentation, assassination, torture, S&L looting, FEMA plans for suspending the Constitution, and more, 6 p.m. - midnight, Speakeasy Cafe, 2304 2nd Ave at Bell, info 782-7605

Reading — Laurel Holliday, Children of the Troubles: Our Lives in the Crossfire — Northern Ireland. Local editor Laurel Holliday presents her new anthology of children writing about growing up in war-torn Northern Ireland. 7:30 pm, Red & Black Books, 432 15th Ave. East. No admission charge, but donations are accepted. Info, 322-READ.

APRIL 9

Boeing Retirees on the Line Seattle, Boeing Hourly, General Office and Salaried Retirees: Protect what you worked for! Plan how Retirees Can Obtain COLA at Last, (an interpreter for the hearing impaired will attend), 10 a.m., (and subsequent second Wednesdays), IAM 751 District Headquarters, 9125 15th Pl S. info hnable@eskimo.com or Jackie Terrell 938-0163

APRIL 10

Series Libraries of the Future: The New Space of Information by Space.City, an Independent, Not-For-Profit

Organization dedicated to stimulating spirited public discussion of art, architecture, urbanism, and cultural issues, "Infinite Realities" Panel with Susan Jones, Anthony Pellecchia, Vikram Prakash, Josiah McElheny, 6 p.m., \$5, downtown branch Seattle Art Museum, info space.city@wrenchwrench.com or 623-5108

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, 2nd Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., info 781-6602

Reading — Local contributors to Calyx's Present Tense: Writing and Art by Young Women. Showcases literature of young women that is not merely read, but spoken, performed, sung, and slammed. Readers include Laui Conner, Sonia Gomez, Kristen King, Cathy Malia Lowenberg, Laura McFarland, Zola Mumford and Mira Shimabukuro. 7:30 pm, Red & Black Books, 432 15th Ave. East. No admission charge, but donations are accepted. Info, 322-READ.

APRIL 11

Body and Soul, Seattle Conference, performers include Cris Williamson and peace activist flutist Esther "Little Dove" John, Westin Hotel, info 1-800-937-8728

University of Washington Spring Powwow, April 11-13, Host drums are Red Bull and Yellow Jacket, world champion drum groups, info Pauline pali@u.washington.edu or First Nations at UW 543-4635 x12 or 543-9082

Jessie and John Danz lecture featuring Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University, on "Race and Class in America," free, University of Washington, Meany Hall, lecture at 7:30 p.m., tickets available Mon March 10 8 a.m. at The Graduate School, 200 Gerberding Hall, limit 2 per person.

APRIL 12

7th Annual Women in Science and Engineering Conference: "Navigating the Future," students encouraged to attend. Keynote speakers include Dr. Denise Denton, Dean, College of Engineering; Dr. Suzanne Lebsack, MacArthur Fellow & Professor of History; Dr. Angela Ginorio, Director of the NW Center for Research on Women and Assistant Professor Women Studies, a variety of workshops, \$25 for students including continental breakfast, luncheon, and a closing reception, scholarships available, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., HUB East Ballroom, University of Washington, info 543-4810 or wie@u.washington.edu

APRIL 13

Rally to Support the Strawberry Workers, speakers will include AFL-CIO heads John Sweeney, Linda Chavez-Thompson, and Richard Trumpka, Watsonville, California, info (Seattle) Ann Acheson. info. 443-7645

APRIL 14

2nd Mondays, general meeting of the Welfare Reform Coalition, CAMP, 722 18th near Cherry, info 273-9120

APRIL 15

Tax Day Actions, suggest ways you want your tax money spent!, including noon leafleting at post offices, info Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia 547-0952

Seattle Midwifery School presents, "Mother-Friendly Maternity Care: Changing Birth in America," a lecture and reception with Ina May Gaskin, author of the groundbreaking book *Spiritual Midwifery*. Ina May will discuss the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative. Tuesday, April 15, 1997 from 7:09:30 pm, Demaray Hall Auditorium, Seattle Pacific University Campus. \$12 preregistered/\$15 at the door. Info, 322-8834 or 800-747-9433

APRIL 16

"They Painted from their Hearts: Pioneer Asian American Artists," opening reception Sat April 19, with talk by Mayumi Tsutakawa, Independent Art Curator, 4 p.m., University of Washington, Cunningham Gallery, info UW Women's Center 685-1090

Seattle City Council Welfare Ad-Hoc Committee, matters concerning City's response to federal and State changes to welfare system including employment and training opportunities, immigration and naturalization, basic survival services, prioritization of human service allocations, 12 - 2 p.m., 3rd Wednesdays, info Phillip Fujii or Junko Whitaker 684-8804

University of Washington, Hall Health, UW Women's center presents "Women and HIV," a workshop on risks, testing, preventing infection, 6:30 - 8 p.m., free, reservations 685-1090

GET INVOLVED

Stop Discrimination: Petitions for Initiative 677 to Prohibit Discrimination in Employment based on Sexual Orientation are available from Hands Off Washington 20 signature lines per petition, request some or volunteer for events at 323-5191 or HandsOffWa@aol.com

Newsletter: Sign Up for "Urban Politics" a weekly e-mail bulletin focusing on how citizens can impact City and County Politics around current issues by sending a message to Seattle activist Nick Licata, co-founder of Citizens for More Important Things, at NickELT@aol.com

Westlake Park: Call Seattle City Council member Jan Drago, 684-8801, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, tell her you oppose the privatization of our downtown park (Westlake Park at 4th & Pine) and you want a public hearing; a private group, the Westlake Park Management Company formed by the Downtown Business Association wants to take over, this could restrict public access for demonstrations, socializing, and just sitting on benches. Info, Diane 726-0864

ONGOING

Seattle-Cuba Friendshipment 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

Radical Women hosts a Weekly Roundtable Discussion based on book by Gloria Martin "Socialist Feminism: The First Decade 1966-76," everyone welcome, Mondays, 7 - 8:30 p.m., 1903 NE 82nd info 524-9353

Everyone can be a lobbyist! Briefing, followed by Advocacy Training for those new to Olympia. Through the state legislative session, John L. O'Brien Bldg - Hearing Room C or D, Olympia, Thursdays, 10 a.m., Sponsored by Children's Budget Coalition and Catholic Community Services.

Hygiene Center: Call the City Council Health Committee members Cheryl Chow (684-8804), Tina Podlodowski (684-8808), Charlie Chong (684-8805), ask them to resume supporting the plan for Toilets, Sinks, Showers and Laundry for Homeless People and all members of the public at the Glen Hotel! Call the rest of the council 684-8888 and ask them to add their support!

Tenants' Rights: Call your state Legislators at Legislative hotline 1-800-562-6000 (they can leave the messages even if you don't know your Legislators' names), and tell your Representatives to vote against HB1043 and your Senator to vote against SB5091, which would repeal and prevent Tenants Rights Laws by cities and counties throughout the state!, info Lisa Herbold, Tenants Union, 722-6848 x103

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

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Proposed Budget Jeopardizes Housing Fund

The Citizen's Participation Project seeks to provide you with the views and concerns that homeless, poor, and working people's advocacy organizations have about pending legislation, both local and national, in a clear, concise and meaningful way.

Our hope is that the information provided here will help make participating in the legislative process a good thing for you. Indeed, something that you want to do.

Legislative Issue

The Housing Trust Fund is Washington State's primary means of providing low-cost housing for those who cannot otherwise afford housing in the private market. Currently, there are approximately 400,000 people in need of affordable housing, including lower-income working families, seniors, veterans, at-risk youth, and folks with disabilities and special needs.

Money allocated to the Housing Trust Fund from the state capital budget for the last two year period was \$50 million- an amount that was spent in full within 11 months.

To prevent another premature dry-up of funding over the next two year period, lobbyists for affordable housing asked Governor Locke and members of the legislature to increase the Trust Fund to \$100 million. The recently released proposed budget for 1997-99 not only did not meet that request, but cut the Housing Trust Fund down to \$45 million.

Some Concerns

- If the Housing Trust Fund is not renewed, there will be no future funding for low-income and affordable housing.
- The development of hundreds of potential affordable new housing units have already been at a stand still since June of 1996- a stand still that could remain indefinite if the Trust Fund is not increased.
- Within the next two years, an overall total of \$192 million in federal funding for affordable housing will be cut for Washington State, having a severe impact on hundreds of thousands of our most vulnerable citizens.

Take 5 minutes to Make A Difference

Each key action featured here in the Citizen's Participation Project takes 5 minutes or less — really. Making your voice heard these days is pretty simple.

Call your legislators toll-free at 1-800-562-6000 and tell 'em what you think.

The legislative hotline runs Monday through Friday from 8 am-8 pm, and Saturday from 9 am-1 pm. You can leave messages for one or all of your legislators at the same time, as well as for Gov. Locke, by using this number.

Remember, whether or not we voted these folks in, it's their job to represent us — all of us. Our phone calls do count. Our participation does make a difference.

Action Needed

Please call your Senator and Representatives at the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000 and urge them to support an increase for the Housing Trust Fund to \$100 million.

Recommended Message

"Failure to increase the Housing Trust Fund to \$100 million means that there will be no funding available to house the over 400,000 people of our state that are most in need. Please support this increase in order to prevent a dry-up of funding and allow for continued development of affordable housing."

Advocating Organization

Washington State Housing Justice Campaign, special thanks to Jon Gould of the Low Income Housing Institute.

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2129 2nd Avenue

