

PER

VOL. 4, NO. 8, MAY 1-15

Real CHANGE

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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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MAILBAG

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

Dear Real Change,

I am a long-term manic depressive with schizophrenia and psychosis affective. Even though this sounds like a load, I might be considered one of the fortunate few in that, so far anyway, most of the time I am able to keep a roof over my head, although sometimes it is as if I'm halfway to being homeless or displaced again.

My story is a long one, so I'll keep it short. Welfare-4years. SSI-SSA-11 years. Mental Institutions and psych wards. Drugs. Group homes. Bushes. Running away. Heavy medication. Crime. Etcetera,

etcetera.

But out of all that I graduated from high school (barely), recovered, worked, watched my family self-destruct, went to college (didn't graduate) but learned a lot. And through my life's lessons, tribulations and fate, have found myself in the same old shit.

Maybe what I'm trying to say is that there is love out there, and sometimes you find it in the strangest places. When I'm down, which is usually almost 3-4 times a week, I remember all those times I tried to do myself in, the murder of my friends (spiritually or otherwise) or jail or the street.

I think, "Why do I keep on going."

May 1, 1997

Vendor of the Month

John Henry Woods

Originally from Dallas, Texas, John Henry Woods has been living in Seattle now for about eight months. Says John about his move to the Northwest, "I like the water, heard the people were friendly, and was drawn to the culture- this city's love of art, jazz, and reading."

A journeyman painter by trade, John, 54, has suffered a couple of injuries that have forced him to find other work.

Says John of his work with the paper, "Selling *Real Change* has allowed me the opportunity to exchange a gift that God gave me- sharing with people. . . I do develop relationships- there is a trust being established."

"I want to thank my customers for their compassion, friendship, and concern. I'm genuinely concerned about them also. They inspire me, they represent hope in their own small way and that is important to all of us."

As our May vendor of the month, John receives a \$25 prize and a gourmet dinner for two at Common Meals. Our heartfelt congratulations to John Henry Woods!



But I know why, because there's something greater involved out there and if I'm not doing it for myself I'm doing it for others and will never stop, because giving up is not an answer, though letting go and giving up sometimes doesn't hurt.

I read your paper on occasion. Sometimes it's depressing, but thought provoking and sound.

Anonymous

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Don't let our beautiful new format fool you into thinking we're too fat and happy to still need your help! This little paper squeaks by on a very thin margin, and your donations matter a lot.

Real Change depends upon the grassroots support of our readership to do a whole lot with very little money. Every dollar donated to this paper winds up putting about five dollars in the pockets of the homeless. Best of all, your contribution goes beyond simple charity. We help people help themselves while they work for a more just world for everyone.

This year, *Real Change* is launching a new organization to support self-expression by the poor and homeless, sponsoring such projects as the Street Life Art Gallery, the StreetWrites homeless writers group, and our Homeless Speakers Bureau. In the fall, we will host the founding conference of the North American Street Newspaper Association.

We're doing our share. Please help us out by doing yours.
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Banana Republicans

EDITORIAL

Differences in Wealth Try the Imagination

Last month, after Microsoft posted \$1.04 billion in profit for their first quarter, Paul Allen came in for some good natured razzing from his friends at the *Seattle Times* who suggested he should just buy his own damn stadium because he'd suddenly made \$969 million by virtue of owning stock.

Timothy Harris

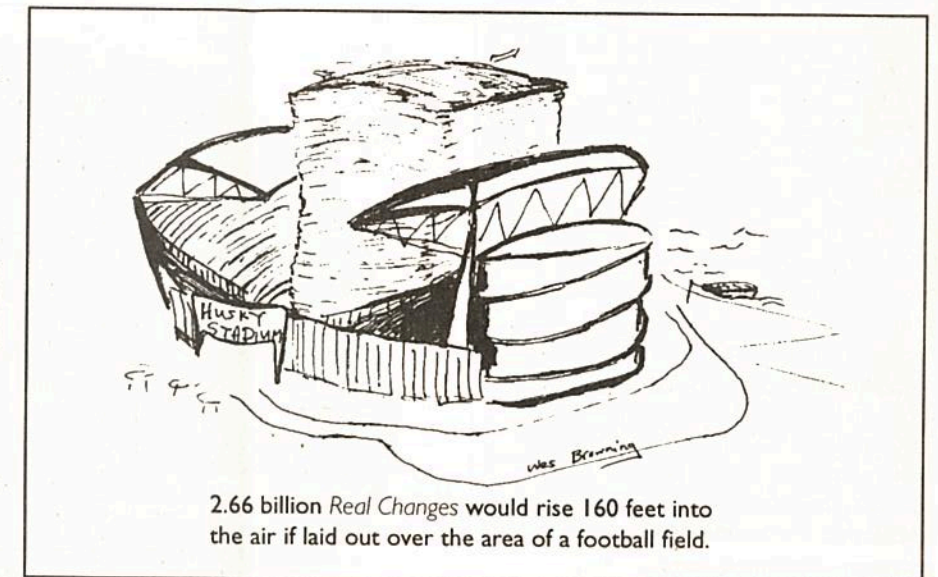
The same article mentioned that the personal wealth of Bill Gates had risen by \$2.66 billion. This struck me as a little surreal. In an attempt to get a sense of what this actually means, I asked our resident math genius, © Dr. Wes Browning, just how much a billion is.

"Well, that depends on whether it's a British or an American billion," he replied. Evidently, for the Brits it's a million million, whereas we settle for the more paltry thousand million (Wes sees the British measure as more elegant, but agreed, for the purposes of this article, to go by the American standard).

That clarified, he went on to illustrate the concept of 2,660,000,000 by devising various ways of measuring that many *Real Changes*.

For example, if one were to take a stack of 2.66 billion *Real Changes* and lay it on its side, it would reach from our Belltown office in Seattle all the way to Sherman, Texas, 2,080 miles south.

We realized this may not mean much to those who don't know or care where Sherman, TX is. So we kept trying.



If Bill Gates were to place his \$2.66 billion in a fund that bears no interest, set aside for the sole purpose of keeping our vendors employed in the manner to which they've become accustomed, faithfully buying each of our 32,000 copies every month at a dollar each, our vendors wouldn't need a single other customer for nearly seven millennia.

To give credit where it's due, we hear from a more or less reliable source that once, when cornered outside the Queen City Grill, Bill paid \$5 for a *Real Change*. While this doesn't make up for the absence of a Washington State income tax, it is, at least, a start.

Well, OK. So he's not going to set up a special fund. But if he did, he might want to keep his *Real Changes* in Husky Stadium. 2.66 billion *Real Changes*, laid out to cover

the field, would rise 160 feet into the air, or about 16 stories, dwarfing the stands. This monument to Bill's largess would be clearly visible from the living-room window of his Lake Washington Xanadu.

But that's just silly. Let's say that, instead, Bill took a portion of his \$30 billion plus personal fortune and bought Green Lake to use as a private swimming pool. He could, with 2.66 billion *Real Changes*, erect a three foot wide wall around the lake that rises a full mile into the air.

It may be easier, for those of us who labor at an hourly wage, to think in terms of what Bill's \$2.66 billion for the quarter breaks out to over a 40 hour week: \$5 million an hour, and change. Nice work if you can get it.

Not every CEO, of course, has wealth of Gatesian proportions (the average annual executive compensation package is a mere \$2.37 million), but according to Executive Paywatch, an AFL-CIO watchdog group, the trend is toward higher executive salaries and lower real wages for workers.

They say the average executive pay and bonus package rose by 18% over 1995, while wages for workers rose only 1%, lagging behind the 2.8% inflation rate. For workers without college education, wages actually fell. These trends do not appear to

Continued to page 22

It may be easier, for those of us who labor at an hourly wage, to think in terms of what Bill's \$2.66 billion for the quarter breaks out to over a 40 hour week: \$5 million an hour, and change.

Nice work if you can get it.

May 1, 1997

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Paying for What?

Local and National Organizations Protest Military Spending

By FAHED AL-SUMAIT

April 15, the infamous tax deadline, has past, leaving behind heightened public attention toward the government and how it will spend tax money.

Here in Seattle the Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia (NACC), in coordination with a number of social justice and peace groups, took advantage of this increased public awareness to hand out more than 2,000 leaflets at seven post offices in Seattle and the surrounding areas. Their groups' goal is to educate taxpayers about where their money is going. In addition, these groups offer alternatives to taxes for those who do not support the government's spending habits.

Conscientious Objections

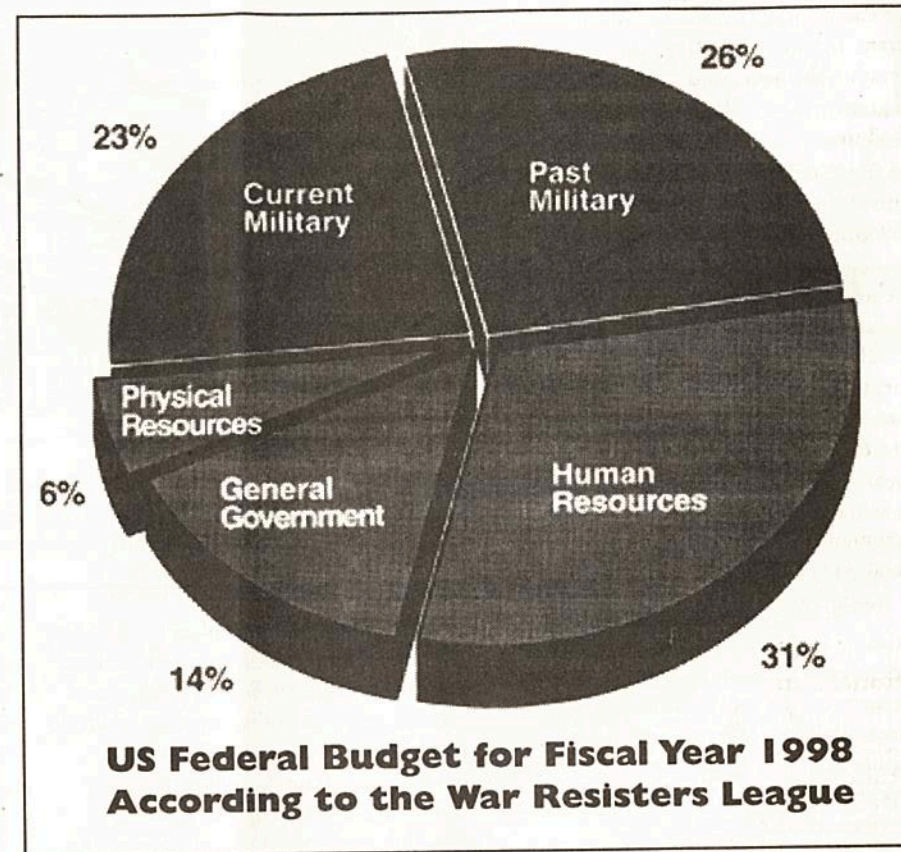
Roger Lorenz, 81, of Okanogan was one of the NACC protesters at the University District post office. Lorenz has been a conscientious objector since World War II and he has not filed a tax return in more than 20 years.

Every year the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will make out a return for him, which he responds to with a letter supporting his objective standpoint on taxation.

"They haven't been nice to me, but I don't go to jail," he stated.

According to Geov Parrish, coordinator of the NACC and editor of the group's quarterly newsletter, April 15 is a good day to spur public involvement.

Lorenz has been a conscientious objector since World War II and he has not filed a tax return in more than 20 years. Every year the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will make out a return for him, which he responds to with a letter supporting his objective standpoint on taxation.



"Virtually anyone will take a flyer with antigovernment sentiment on April 15," he said. "It's a perennial issue, a very basic issue that affects everyone."

Parrish and Lorenz are among thousands of military-spending tax-resisters across the nation who choose not to file an annual tax return because of animosity toward government spending. Instead these protesters direct a portion of their income

into alternative funds. These funds in turn, send money to various organizations or projects nationwide, which the contributors feel are more important than what they regard as military stockpiling.

The Escrow Account is one such program for redirecting money. It was created by the NACC and it is said to be the largest national alternative fund of its kind. Parrish believes the account has been one of the most significant tools for change wielded by the organization.

A Giant Sucking Sound

Where does the money go that the rest of the nation is sending in? According to a line-by-line analysis of the Analytical Perspectives book of the Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1998, done by the War Resisters League (WRL) in New York, 49 percent of next year's federal budget (\$627 billion) has been set aside for

PROTEST

current and past military expenditures. (see graph)

"Current military" spending adds together money allocated for the Department of Defense plus the "defense" portion from other parts of the budget.

"Past military" spending includes veterans' benefits plus 80 percent of the interest on the national debt. The justification given by the WRL for using 80 percent is "had there been no military spending, most of the national debt would have been eliminated."

A disclaimer on the original chart states that these figures might seem different from those released by the government. The WRL attributes this difference to the removal of Trust Funds (such as Social Security), which are raised and spent separately from income taxes. The checks put in the mailbox on April 15 go only into the Federal Funds portion of the budget. The "Unified Budget" released by the government is a combination of Trust and Federal Funds, which distorts the picture of how tax dollars are really spent.

National Perspective

It is not just the NACC and the WRL that made an effort to encourage citizens' interests on tax day. There were 58 actions that took place in various U.S. cities involving numerous groups. One of the main organizations responsible for the collective protests is the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) of Maine. Formed in 1982, the NWTRCC has been orchestrating

annual protests every April 15 since.

According to Karen Marysdaughter, the head of the NWTRCC, the IRS has only used civil and not criminal prosecution toward tax protesters during the past 15 years.

"If the IRS takes action, it is a financial penalty, which in the most extreme cases might result in some property loss," she stated.

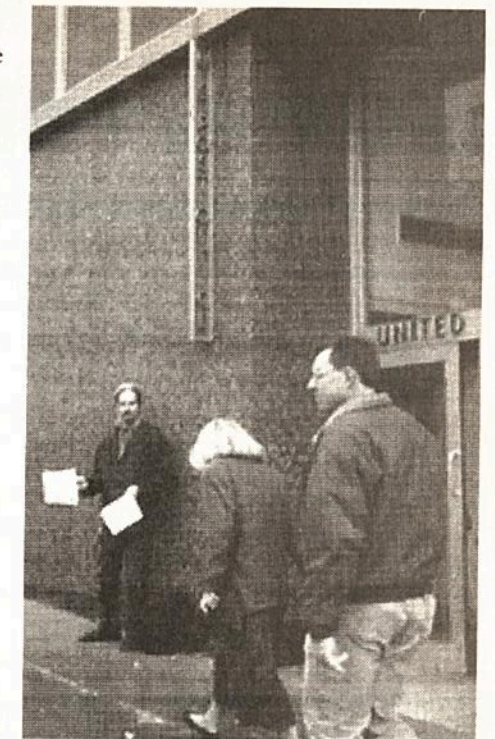
The financial penalty imposed by the IRS for not filing a tax return is 5 percent a month up to 25 percent of the unpaid tax liability. In addition there is a 9 percent interest.

Shawn George of the IRS Public Affairs Office said bank-account money can be seized, a lien can be placed on property and in severe cases property can be seized and sold to cover the debt.

George claims that before any action takes place the facts and circumstances of each case are taken into consideration. If the point of seizure on personal residence is reached, prior approval by the district director is mandatory. The IRS will not take a personal residence if it will mean the defendant is left without a place to stay.

"In April alone a number of people were indicted, prosecuted or sentenced on tax charges," she said.

George did not believe any of those who have had charges filed against them recently are conscientious objectors. She reiterated that the facts and circumstances of each case are considered and handled accordingly.



APRIL 15: A NACC MEMBER DISTRIBUTES TAX PROTEST LEAFLETS AS AT THE 3RD AND UNION POST OFFICE, WHICH IS CROWDED WITH PROCRASTINATING TAXPAYERS.

Tom Ziemba from the U.S. Attorneys office, claims the IRS does not distinguish between conscientious objectors and regular tax evasion. Not paying taxes is a violation of federal law and is treated as such.

Ziemba stated that the Tax Division organization within the Department of Justice, employs thousands of lawyers who

Continued to page 22

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May 1, 1997

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Survival Service

City Allocates Small Fund For Community Agencies

BY WENDY BLISS

With federal and state welfare reform becoming reality, Seattle must now investigate ways to help those people whose benefits are being reduced or cut altogether. One of the ideas, proposed by City Councilmember Cheryl Chow, has resulted in an allocation of \$500,000 spread out over two years called the Survival Services Partnership Fund.

The Survival Services Partnership Fund (SSPF) is intended to help community agencies address demands on basic services such as food programs, health care and emergency housing. Approximately \$60,000 of the \$250,000 available in the 1997/1998 budget is going to be used to strengthen the city's emergency food system by supporting

The City Council's main purpose is to alleviate some of the burden of welfare reform on those most severely affected by it. With \$54.5 billion in federal budget cuts over the next six years, \$250,000 seems like small potatoes. But even small potatoes can feed someone.

local food banks, developing new food resources and broadening food distribution.

The rest of the funding will be released to different community agencies through a request for proposal (RFP) process and will enable the agencies to develop new projects or enhance services to better meet the needs of those people hardest hit by reductions in federal and state benefits.

The RFP process consists of submitting a written proposal to the Department of Housing and Human Services. The project proposals, if they have met the city's requirements, will then be rated based on specific criteria, including which population is most greatly served, short-term and long-term outcomes, effectiveness of services and future sustainability of the project, and realistic time lines. In-person interviews of finalists will then be conducted, and the city expects to make five to fifteen one-time-only awards available in July. The money allocated for the 1998/1999 budget will be

awarded next year after need is assessed more thoroughly.

In order to receive funding, agencies must propose a project that will aid those people who are directly and immediately affected by welfare reform. The City Council has specifically targeted certain groups whose benefits have been either reduced or dropped as a result of state and federal changes in welfare: immigrants, refugees and non-English speaking people on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or food stamps, disabled people and chemically dependent people, young parents who have lost their Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and families and single adults on TANF, SSI or food stamps.

According to Alan Painter, Community Services Section Manager of Seattle's Department of Housing and Human Services, the City Council allocated these

funds with specific requirements in mind. Any projects that are proposed must serve members of the target population with new or enhanced services.

Ideally, these services will be linguistically and culturally appropriate and must also have short-term outcomes that address emergency needs, such as health care, food and housing. The agency must also match funding by at least 25%, either by monetary contribution or in-kind services, including volunteer and professional staffing.

Priority will be given to those projects that demonstrate new partnerships among public and social service agencies, private businesses and community organizations. It is anticipated that creating new partnerships will facilitate creative and realistic ways to improve Seattle's service delivery system.

Projects that will produce significant, lasting benefits for at least three months

after implementation will receive priority, as well. Such significant outcomes may include helping people get and keep jobs by providing job training, job placement or affordable child care, helping people qualify for state and federal benefits or meet the new guidelines for food stamps, or assisting people in finding free or lower cost services, such as low-cost housing and energy subsidies.

The City Council's main purpose is to alleviate some of the burden of welfare reform on those most severely affected by it. With \$54.5 billion in federal budget cuts over the next six years, \$250,000 seems like small potatoes. But even small potatoes can feed someone.

For more information on the Survival Services Partnership Fund, contact Alan Painter, City of Seattle DHHS, 684-0263. Proposals are due May 21, 1997.

In observance of "Random Acts of Kindness Day" on May 1, Real Change will postpone our attack on Rick Yoder until our May 15 issue.

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HOOVERVILLE, PART III

Unemployed Unite

Depression-Era Workers Form Activist League

By ALICE QUAINANCE

By 1931, no city in the country was more ravaged by the Great Depression than Seattle. That July, Hulet Wells and Carl Brannin, two long time Seattle socialists, met with unemployed workers at the Olympic Heights Clubhouse. Under their leadership, West Seattle established the first neighborhood Local of the Unemployed Citizens League.

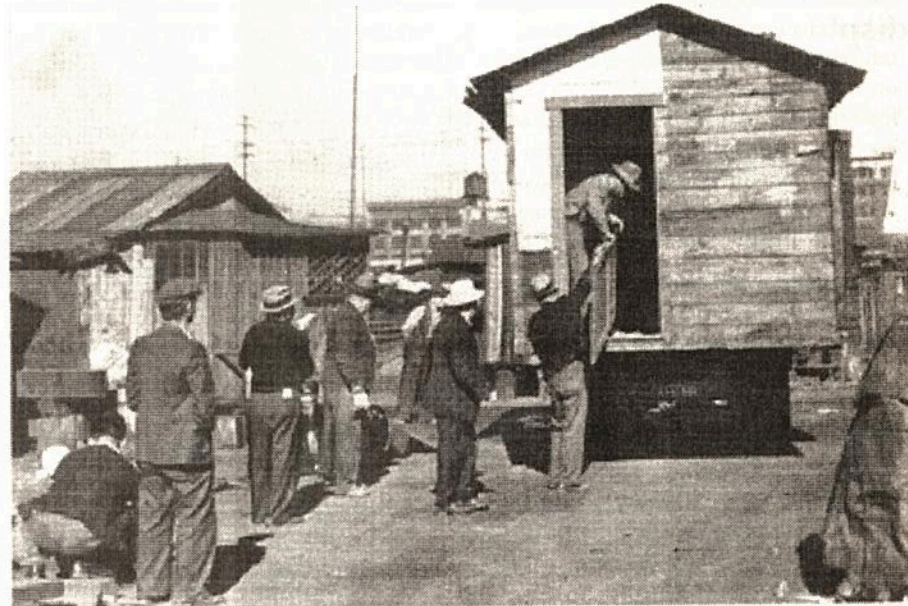
By October, twenty-one Locals functioned city-wide under the declaration that "the state owes its citizens the opportunity to earn a livelihood, and every man who stands ready to work is entitled to maintenance, as a civic right."

Over the next two years, the League filled Seattle's dispirited streets with the stampede of thousands of feet seeking the justice of a job. They forced a change in government response, rekindled a radical spirit, and created an emergency relief system which served tens of thousands of households.

Along the way, League members faced armed police and vigilantes who had instructions to remember that nothing so swiftly stalls mass defiance as "brutal, stomach-wrenching, soul-sickening force." But political betrayal, in-fighting, and success itself would prove more ruinous.

League Denounces Poor Law Mentality

At the onset of the Depression, the government still treated those in need much like criminals. The destitute were sent to workhouses and minors from indigent families apprenticed to "respectable" householders. Private



EARLY ORGANIZING: JOBLESS WORKERS Banded together to help each other build a HOOVERVILLE shack in this 1930's photograph. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL DORPAT.

charity provided most of what meager assistance was available.

The League, along with other groups all across America, denounced the government's response to mass unemployment as inadequate and degrading. Their activism helped to bring about unemployment insurance, social security, and, for a brief time, public works projects to provide jobs.

The movement in Seattle, however, pioneered something unique. Jobless people organized to help themselves. Hooverville's self government was one example, but the League developed a much more extensive "self help" economy.

Each Local had its own flavor. Ballard was radical, one of the first to turn Communist. The Capitol Hill "gang" had a wild reputation.

The Glory Year

Despite its travail, 1931 had glory, thanks to the League. "A spirit of mutual helpfulness prevailed," one observer noted, "the sort of zeal and happiness to serve that is found among people of a new faith." In helping each other, people shook off the sense of failure and isolation joblessness brought.

League Locals were very much neighborhood organizations, staging cultural events, speakers, community dances and socials. Each Local had its own flavor. Ballard was radical, one of the first to turn Communist. The Capitol Hill "gang" had a wild reputation. Some of their leaders were rumored to be Wobblies, militants from Seattle's bitter General Strike of 1919. The Madison Local caused a stir when some members were expelled for protesting having Negro officers in the Local.

The Locals competed with each other to devise volunteer relief efforts. That first fall, hunger was the most pressing issue.

It is no accident that names like "Skid Road" and "Hooverville" originated as real Seattle places. The economy of the Pacific Northwest has been marked by homelessness and displacement, and the region has been famous for the activist response of those affected by its boom and bust cycles.

Several Locals set up trades with farmers, and distributed gleaned food to unemployed families. They commandeered empty freight cars and convinced the County to lend them trucks to transport produce from east of the mountains back to Seattle. They badgered donations from businesses.

The waterfront Local got the Fisherman's Union to loan them boats, and 120,000 barrels of fish were distributed to unemployed families. The Columbia City Local cut firewood from scrub timber. Ten thousand cords were distributed to unemployed households for winter fuel.

League members organized to prevent evictions. Owners were offered repairs or other labor for credit toward the unemployed tenants' rent. Angry crowds also opposed evictions with street action.

In the spring, many Locals planted food gardens. Locals also set up trade programs in which neighbors bartered services. An emergency health clinic was established (some of its members later

founded Group Health Cooperative). Tens of thousands of families and individuals were helped to survive, and to survive with dignity.

Rise and Fall of League Power

Each Local sent five representatives to the all-City Central Federation which spoke for the organization as

a whole. Executive boards acted on matters between meetings, but members insisted on voting all kinds of questions and the Central Federation had little authority over head-strong Locals.

Organizational difficulties worsened as the League became more

involved in politics. The League effectively mobilized thousands for street marches and brought a voting block of some 20,000 to the polls. League endorsements in 1932 contributed to the election of a new mayor, two new city council members, and a port commissioner.

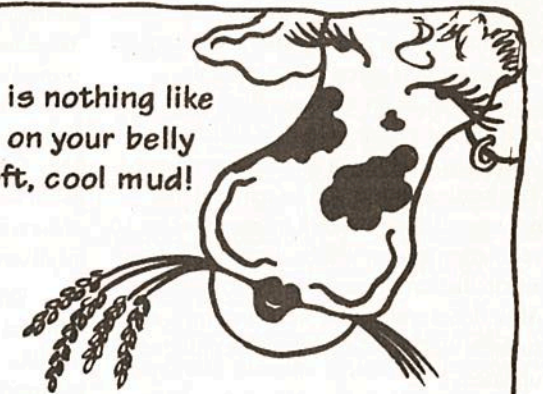
Unfortunately, the mayor they helped elect, soon earned a nickname, "Revolving Dore." During the campaign, Dore advocated "taking the huge fortunes away from those who stole them from the American workers." As mayor-elect, his line became more conservative, although he did support the continued existence of Hooverville and put on a charity inaugural ball which raised \$10,000 for the unemployed.

However, as his inauguration neared, he rejected the idea that the City should provide relief. He advocated spending less and tax relief for businesses.

The day of his inauguration, several thousands assembled at City Hall Park to get him to agree to seven demands. He

Continued on page 23

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



Graze at Mae's
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Social Security

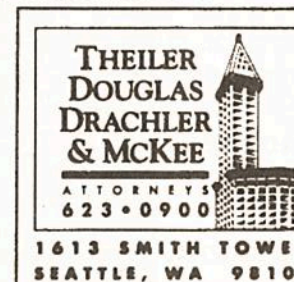
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A Roof of One's Own

Family Shelter Struggles to Find Temporary Space

By Chris French

We call it, 'the renovation,'" says Joan Clough, Program Manager at the Sacred Heart Shelter — a home that provides food, clothing, and shelter without charge for six single women and six families.

Here, a family could be anything from a grandmother and grandchild to a husband and wife with two children. Today, approximately 30 residents will stay here and the shelter serves about 200 people each year.

However, the complex is old, and many of the building's utilities haven't been updated or replaced since they were originally built. Now, the place has become less habitable and is increasingly unsafe for family residence.

So Sacred Heart will renovate its shelter, and their plan is extensive. They wish to create a wheelchair accessible bedroom space on the main floor — available for people with disabilities (currently, all sleeping quarters are upstairs). The heating system will be rehabilitated — not upgraded — to work in proper order. A ventilation system will be installed for fresh air circulation throughout the complex. Also, floors will receive new coverings, all surfaces will be painted, and the plumbing updated.

Shelter for the Shelter

Though the renovation cost will be covered by a Federal Grant, the dilemma lies in the interim — where will Sacred Heart's transitional home be, and will they find it before the shelter itself becomes homeless?

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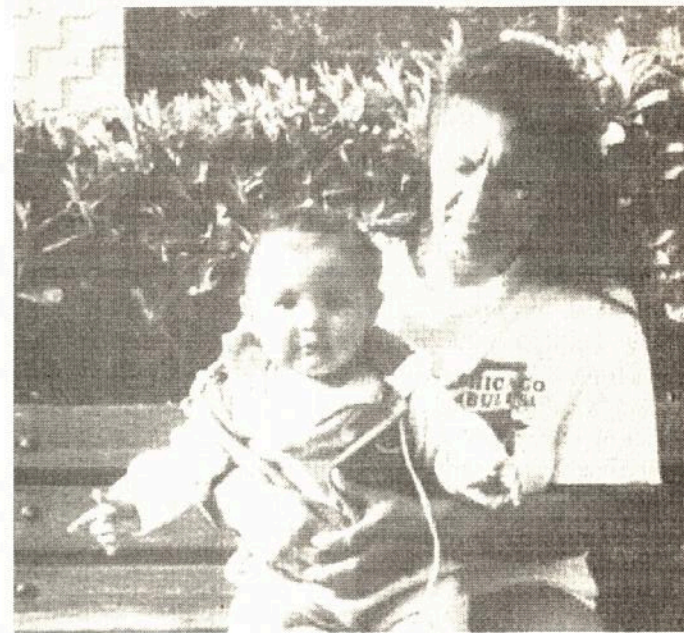
Clough estimates that it will take four months to finish the job, with work beginning in June. Staying the duration of the construction presents a danger to the residents, primarily the children, as well as possibly impeding the completion of the work.

They've been looking for a temporary place to live in since January, hoping to find another convent.

Yet, when this proved unfruitful, and, as the June date approaches, they find themselves faced with the same bleak situation that their residents are up against — the scarcity of decent, reasonable housing in Seattle.

They are in negotiation with Pioneer Human Services over a building in South Seattle. Yet the place would need minor renovation itself, and require more staffing from the SHS; suggesting that this may not be the best location for their temporary home.

Joan smiles, hopeful. She emphasizes, "we really are looking for another space — we do not want to put the people we're servicing out on the streets." The residents



SACRED HEART SHELTER PUTS A ROOF OVER THE HEADS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. PHOTO BY CHRIS FRENCH.

are already fighting just to stay on their feet — to be independent and self-sufficient. "These are people who are grateful," she says, "and will be appreciative of any place to stay."

"This is very communal living," says Joan, where the guests can find support, as well as encouragement, from other residents in the same situation. "What is key for us," she says, "is that everyone feels safe here and we can attend to their needs." If someone can't cope with this, they will typically leave within the first 30-40 days — a decision they usually make for themselves.

Serving Families

Sacred Heart began in 1979 when their first two families stayed at the Morrison Hotel. In 1984, they moved to their present facility — once a convent — at the Seattle Center, within the Sacred Heart Church grounds. In 1988, they were turned over to the Archdiocesan Housing Authority of Catholic Community Services — the largest non-government social service agency in this state —

allowing them to provide more services and pay their employees.

Able to stay only 3 months, residents work closely with one of several advocates provided by the Sacred Heart Shelter (or SHS) through a series of weekly meetings. Encouraged to support their dignity and set their own realistic goals, residents are given the tools to achieve the status of independent living through secure, permanent housing by the time they leave.

One advocate is always on duty, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide supervision and support to residents needing assistance. "There's always someone here," says Joan.

Ultimately, nine permanent employees and a handful of volunteers comprise the staffing at the Sacred Heart Shelter. A children's advocate provides a parental counseling course for parents who may not have been exposed to the proper role models as children themselves, and helps children enroll in day care school and a health care program.

Sacred Heart receives 1/3 of their operating costs from the city. They solicit



A FORMER CONVENT, THE SHELTER'S BUILDING IS IN DIRE NEED OF RENOVATION. PHOTO BY CHRIS FRENCH.

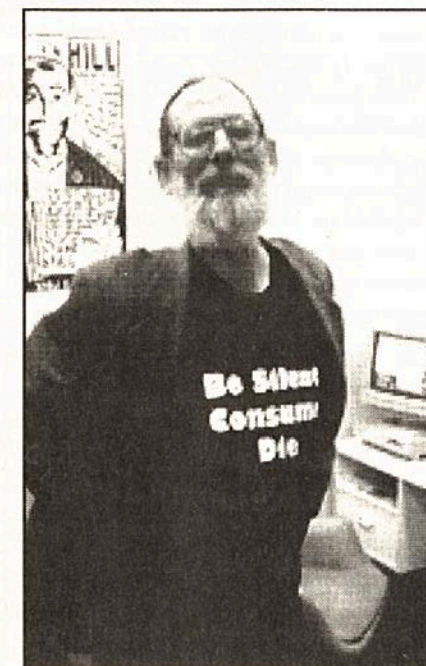
the remaining 2/3 through three annual fund-raising events and private donations from supporters of the church. Fund-raising is a continual challenge. "People would rather fund a particular project with

a definite end and move on to another project," says Joan. "It's very hard to find people willing to fund your operating budget year after year. You have to keep asking."

The shelter provides morning and afternoon meals with food donated by Food Life Line and Northwest Harvest. Most of the time, dinner is provided by groups from the community who come into the Shelter, prepare the meal, then join residents at the communal dining table to enjoy the evening feast.

"Residents appreciate the fact that people take the time to sit with them," says Joan.

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. It's 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.

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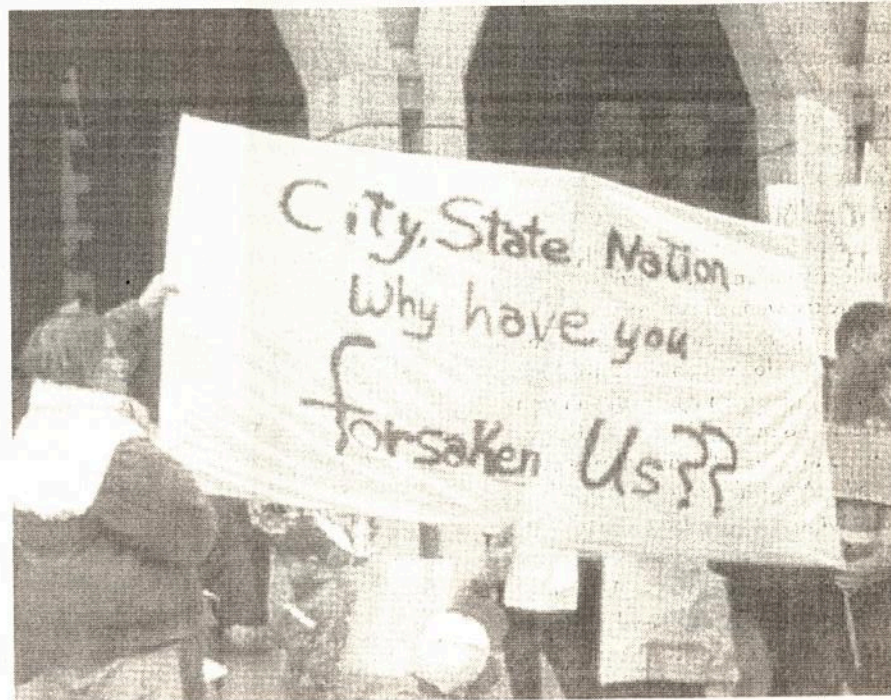
RELIGION

Activist Church Lifts Poor Women from Despair

BY SUSAN FORSHEY

HOMELESSNESS IS A TOMB from which we must rise," Rev. Jean Kim passionately intoned at the Church of Mary Magdalene Easter service. With these words, and many more, Rev. Kim called the people present to rise from their tombs. "If the homeless will cry out, they will be heard!"

And women did speak out. In March, on the day before Easter, over 40 people gathered to process through downtown Seattle to celebrate the Resurrection and rising from homelessness. Later, during the Easter service, homeless women shared from their broken hearts and spoke about depression, fear, insecurity, abandonment, and the painful separation from their children. And about hope in God. Homelessness has robbed them of their life, and Rev. Kim works tirelessly to help them find hope again — resurrection hope.



A RALLY BANNER REMINISCENT OF JESUS' WORDS, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" PHOTO BY SUSAN FORSHEY.

Mary Magdalene's Example

According to the Bible, Mary Magdalene, a woman healed by Jesus and quite grief-stricken over his death, visits Jesus' burial place three days after his crucifixion. There she finds the stone moved from the opening of an empty tomb. Her confusion and fear transforms into overwhelming joy when she turns to see Jesus standing behind her, very much alive. Mary is the first to bear the tidings of the Resurrection to rest of the his followers.

The Church of Mary Magdalene (CMM) welcomes homeless women of any or no faith tradition. It began 7 years ago under the efforts of Reverend Kim, a first generation Korean immigrant. As a social worker in the mental health system, including ten years at Harborview, Rev. Kim saw the need for a place that blended psychology and theology, a place that would allow her to bring God and spirituality into her clients' lives. She had a firm belief that finding hope in God brings healing, and that God comes to help the suffering. This faith led her to pursue seminary training and subsequent ordination at the age of 52.

Beyond her education, Rev. Kim also has "a degree in human suffering" as she calls it. Losing everything and forced to rebuild her life three times, rising from her own tombs of an abusive family, the Korean War, refugee camps, and homelessness, she has a passion for loving the poor, and a prophetic message for the churches and government of this country.

Confessing for Change

Eradicating homelessness is Rev. Kim's vision, a dream that crosses denominational, religious, racial, ethnic, and economic boundaries. Through the provocative and blunt CMM Confessional Statement, she calls for the church to live out the love for the poor that was modeled in the life of Jesus:

"We are all gathered together here today to worship God in one voice and confess the following:

The housing and welfare policy have affected the poor. There are approximately 3

million homeless people and 4-19 million more people are at risk of becoming homeless in this affluent country. 18.7 million Americans will be homeless by the year 2003 if there is no change in the national housing policy. In Seattle alone, we have more than 5000 homeless on any given night, and if will be increasing with the present welfare reform and housing policies. . . Homelessness in this affluent country is an absurd sin we commit together as a society; it is a gross human-rights abuse and violation that must end here first, before we blame the human rights abuse in other countries. . .

We make the church as a club, to meet our own needs and comfort. . .

We lock God up in heaven and leave no relationship between God and the reality of human suffering in homelessness. . .

We, the Christian churches, are facing a crisis by losing the message of Jesus Christ, therefore losing our direction, losing our responsibility and Jesus' command to love and care for the poor and needy neighbors as ourselves. . .

Functioning as Family

Most of the women in the community of CMM are from abusive backgrounds, some profoundly scared and unable to work or function in society. The emotional scars cause or deepen substance abuse problems and mental illness. Poverty is not just material, but emotional, physical and spiritual. Many women come who are ill. Many are alienated from their families. All of them come burned-out and exhausted. Many blame God for the nightmares that are their lives.

Rev. Kim, through worship services, Bible studies, and other activities, tries to restore the women's self-esteem, pride and dignity. To break down their many barriers to God, she focuses on a positive, loving God, who is not judgmental, punishing, or parental (as most women at CMM were abused by parental figures during childhood). Above all, she talks about the God who forgives and forgives — and forgives again.

The women describe CMM as "a light in a long, dark day." The Church performs the function of a family — since most of the them have been abandoned, alienated, or separated from their own families. The weekly meal after services is likened to a family dinner. Friendships develop quickly in the atmosphere of CMM: it is an intense community in transition as women come in wounded and searching spiritually. With deep feeling, one woman simply said, "People care here. You find out you're not alone."

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HUD-subsidized Studios and One Bedroom Units are currently available at two Pike Place Market Bldgs: **STEWART HOUSE, phone 441-7188 and LIVINGSTON BAKER APTS phone 441-1002.** Must be HUD-eligible. Tenant pays 30% of adjusted monthly income as rent; most utilities included in rent.



A Call to Change, A Call to Love: Excerpts from the Church of Mary Magdalene Confessional Statement

We must examine ourselves and our lifestyle and begin to simplify them and learn to share our blessings with those who are in need.

We must examine what we do with our faith in God and what we do with our blessings.

As a church we must honestly examine how thick our wall is from the outside world and also examine where our funds go. We must urge the church to share a substantial portion with the poor.

As citizens of the State we must honestly examine where our funds go and urge local government to spend more funds for the homeless rather than on the sports stadium.

As a nation we must honestly examine how welfare reform affects the needy people and urge our government to allocate a tithe (10% of the budget) for the poor and homeless.

We must develop a policy of ending homelessness, making it a major goal of local, state and federal government. We must develop a rehabilitation program to help the poor and homeless recover from poverty and homelessness, as well as disabilities.

We call upon churches to investigate the situation of homelessness and adopt ending homelessness as their major mission goal.

We call upon all the Christian churches and congregations of other faith traditions to respond to the homelessness in our own city and state, and work together to achieve our goal of ending homelessness in this country.

We call on the churches to work ecumenically to overcome the crisis we are facing in order to recover our identity and ideology as Christ's church through our courageous action of delivering all suffering people of God from their homelessness.

All the religious on earth must commit to be the healing, sharing, liberating, action, sacrificing communities that have courage to take a risk, stand up for the powerless and homeless and die for justice.

We declare that we won't tolerate this injustice of homelessness in our society any longer, and that now is the time for all churches to speak up, take responsibility and show leadership.

Throughout the CMM Confessional Statement, Rev. Kim calls the church universal to take up the cause of the poor. She sees much of the church's problem arising from incorpo-

rating the surrounding culture of materialism and apathy. In response, she is asking each house of worship to take the eradication of homelessness as their mission goal. The response has been overwhelmingly positive — local churches have given generously of time, money, and talent.

Continued to page 22



- Nurturing care for infants toddlers, and preschoolers
- Excellent teacher to child ratios
- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Parent involvement welcome

Sandy Santee

Born 23 January 1955, Died 2 March 1997

BY CHRIS HOLLINGER

My friend Sandy Santee died on March 2nd. As is so often true, life and death join hands in a dance that is finely choreographed; the simplicity of each movement woven so intricately into a complexity that is left without words, yet reaches oh so subtly into the core of one's soul.

Our last conversation was by telephone. Sandy was in good spirits, and, I believe, a knowing place, as she told me not to take it personally if she were asleep when I came to visit her in the hospital. I decided not to visit her because of this statement.

I had seen her several days before. We shared tears. She told me she wanted the pain to end. We talked about how she is walking her journey. Although it was extremely difficult for her to stand on her

own two feet, she stood up as I was to leave for our hug and "I love you."

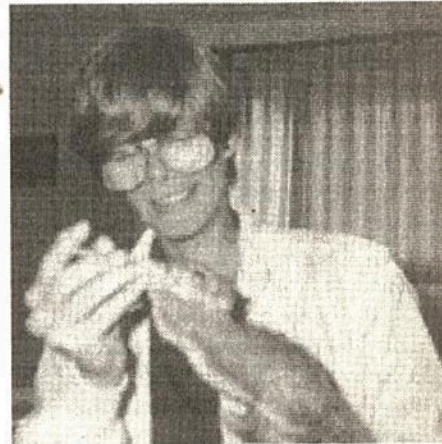
I knew she was actively dying. I knew I was saying good-bye. I believe she did too. And now...I pray she knows peacefulness that she had never known in her walk here in this world.

I am not sure what truly could or should be written about Sandy and her life. She was born in St. Albans, West Virginia, and grew up in Ohio. She had significant family problems, and became a foster child to a woman named Suzanne in her mid-teens. She went from juvenile detention to completing her AA in Criminal Studies, and was the first person in Ohio to make the change from living in juvenile hall to working in juvenile hall.

In the late seventies she and Suzanne moved to Washington. In December 1982 Sandy began working at the Downtown

Emergency Service Center (DESC) on the night shift. Back then there was only swing or night shift at DESC. She became the shift supervisor shortly thereafter, and worked this shift until 1992, I think. She left DESC to work at Northwest Mental Health in Renton.

About three weeks before her death Sandy asked me to read a poem at her memorial service. I quote from that poem, which describes how we as women survive outside of society's boat:



FEEDING A SQUIRREL:
SANDY SANTEE SOME TIME IN 1991.

Water Women

...Our bodies form a freedom fleet
our dolphin grace
is power.
We learn and teach
and as we go
each woman sings;
each woman's hands
are water wings.
Some of us have become
mermaids or Amazon whales
and are swimming for our lives.

Some of us do not know
how to swim.
We walk on water.

— Alla Bozarth-Campbell

I am not sure what to say and when this occurs I find myself respecting my own silence. For now...Peace my friend. [A]

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

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Do Something

MEAL OF FORTUNE! Volunteers are needed to help with an evening meal program for homeless and low-income women and children, provided at no cost. Volunteers needed to help greet guests, serve, and clean up. Musicians, poets and performers are encouraged to donate their talents. Call 648-2792 for information.

HELP THE HOMELESS by volunteering at Downtown Emergency Service Center, Seattle's largest multi-service center/shelter for homeless men and women. Training provided. 6 month commitment. Call Keri E. @464-1570 x3003/

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.

CO-CREATE MUTUALLY FULFILLING and meaningful experiences with individuals' who have developmental challenges and who could greatly benefit from your time, talents and energy—a living example of the interdependent web of our very existence. For details—call Louise Barone at Fircrest - 364-0300x242.

PERSONAL TRANSIT SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS: Personal Transit, which provides rides to individuals who cannot use the Metro bus system because of age, physical or mental restrictions, seeks volunteers Board members. Quarterly Board meetings, one year commitment. Expertise in vehicle maintenance or computer networks is especially needed. Call John Rochford, -860-8000.

JOIN THE HOMEWORK CLUB- The MLK Computer Learning Center in S. Seattle is recruiting volunteers to work with children in our after school Homework Club. Assist children with their schoolwork. The only prerequisite is enthusiasm and a willingness to help

children. (Hours from 3:00-6:00) Contact Ken 722-4665.

THE BABES NETWORK An organization for women living with HIV needs volunteers for childcare and transportation for our support groups and events. We also need volunteers to help with our monthly newsletter. Get involved today! Call Liz at 720-4377 M-W-F.

EXCELLENT VOLUNTEER counselor training opportunity at Eastside Mental Health. 16 month commitment includes 2 mornings, training, supervision, one on one counseling. A BA degree is preferred. Call Leah Bearwood at 889-7136 for information or an application.

FREMONT PUBLIC ASSOCIATION has been working for 21 years helping low-income and homeless people live and work with dignity and respect. Help us with food distribution, tutoring, being companions for elderly folks, advocacy and legal projects, child care, cleaning and yard work and more. Especially in need of bilingual speakers in Russian and Asian. Training and on-going support provided. Call Peg Cheng 548-8339.

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.

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

Still No Apologies Real CHANGE

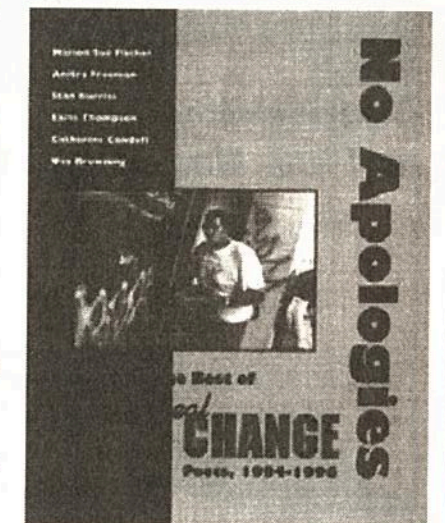
Seattle's homeless newspaper has released its first poetry anthology, entitled "No Apologies, Best of Real Change Poets 1994-1996."

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.



On Losing It, Again

There is a side of homelessness that is rarely talked about. Social service workers almost never mention it. The homeless themselves will often look away when the subject is broached, unwilling to contemplate the pain that lies within. Even we here at the *Real Change* have avoided discussing it, for it is such a sensitive issue, one which could easily lead to misunderstanding in our readers if not addressed carefully.

Homelessness, as we all know by now, is generally a symptom of poverty, and thus is experienced in conjunction with poverty's other symptoms. And one of the worst, besides not being able to afford a place to live, is no money to... well... you know... have... f-u-n.

As I sit here in the *Real Change* office typing these words into this computer, I am thinking about all the fun things I could be doing with my life savings of three dollars. Ha! — no I'm not, I'm lying, I'm staring at the screen in a vegetative state, barely tapping each letter out with one finger of my right hand, my chin resting in my left, thinking over and over of chopsticks.

Chopsticks, or How Bored Am I?...

I want the radio
to play "Blue Suede Shoes"
so I can sing along to it

I consider eating the flowers
on the desk in front of me
just to see if it makes any

difference in my life

in twelve hours or so.

Meanwhile I plan to
go through the thesaurus
looking for all the words
close to meaning "bored"
write them down and then
hide the paper from myself
go look for it find it hide
it go look for it find
it hide it go look for it

until I finally lose it

then I'm going to
write down all the words
I can remember
then I am going to
go back to the thesaurus
and for every one
I missed I am going to punish myself
— bad wes! bad wes! —

Then I am going to feel sorry for myself
— poor wes! poor wes! —
and offer me a piece of pie to make up.

And I'll scream
where have I been
keeping that pie
why haven't I told me about it.

Then I'll start over
but this time I'll use chopsticks.

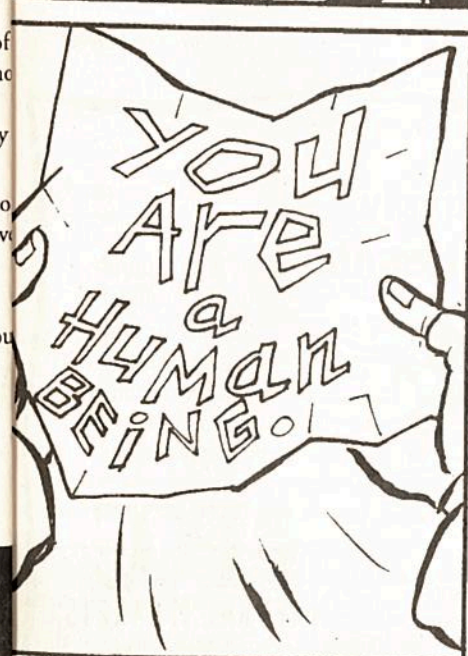
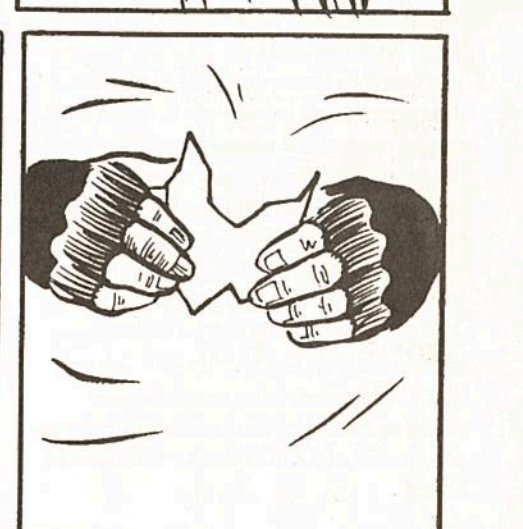
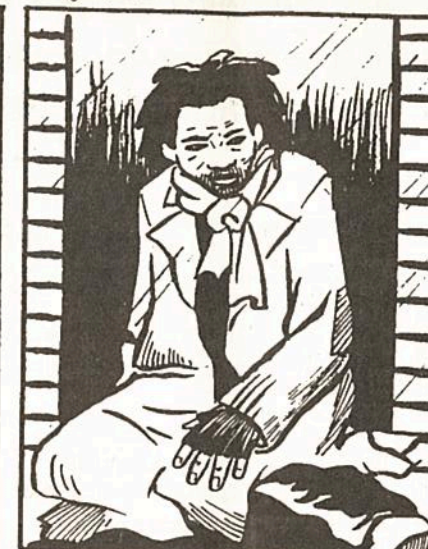
All of which then calls to mind a conversation with another of our *Real Change* editors the other day, I'll call her Ruth-A-Fox, who spoke to me of Poetic License. Immediately I had to remind her that I have one. Thus I may steal her ideas with impunity, as I may steal from any and all who cross my path...

No but really what *is* this Poetic License business? Where do I go to get registered? Is it only good during poetry season? If I have one can I claim anything I write as poetry, including the above? Can I write poems in prose zones, without being ticketed?

Taking a guess I'll say yes to that last, and vice versa. Once you are registered (see your local soul) it's always poetry season, wherever you go.

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

EASY to Forget...



NEW ON THE NET

News & Blues
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Business Cashes In On Poverty

In one of its "1996 Top Ten Censored Stories," the San Francisco Bay *Guardian* reports a new subculture of "bottom-feeding" financial institutions have emerged to profit from the misfortune of low-income people.

In an article in *Nation* magazine (5/20/96), writer Michael Hudson says "pawnshops, check cashing outlets, rent-to-own stores, finance companies, high-interest mortgage lenders, and many others are raking in big money by targeting people on the low rung of the economic ladder — perhaps 60 million consumers who are virtually shut out by banks and conventional merchants."

"An affluent credit-card holder can shop around and pay as little as 6 or 8% annual interest," Hudson writes, "but [someone] with a dubious credit record pays as much as 240 percent for a loan from a pawnbroker; 300 percent for a finance-company loan; 20 percent for a second mortgage; even 2000 percent for a quick 'pay day' loan from a check-cashing outlet."

Hudson concludes that businesses profiting from the "fringe economy" add up to a market of \$200 billion to \$300 billion a year.

Impact of Minimum Wage Raise Barely Felt

Senator Edward M. Kennedy called an increase in the \$4.25 minimum hourly wage "the overarching issue of our time and the election." The Republican

"The new welfare reform policy places us in a revolving door where we continually switch places with one another at low-wage jobs."

Paul Booth, AFSCME

House Majority Leader, Richard K. Armey, a former professor of economics, said, "Study after study demonstrates" that hikes in the minimum wage shut out the neediest job seekers.

He vowed to fight an increase "with every fiber of my being." And Republican Sen. Hank Brown of Colorado warned that the resulting jobless teen-agers would trigger "a crime problem and a juvenile problem of epic proportions."

The increase kicked in Oct. 1. Now, six months later, the government's employment report suggests that the fulminations were mostly hot air. Last month's 5.2 percent unemployment rate was the lowest in five months. The new wage is a boon to some working poor. But the wage increase has had little effect elsewhere.

Most people's pay is rising by a barely perceptible clip, suggesting that the increase in the minimum wage has little ripple effect. Last month they averaged \$12.15 an hour, 24 cents more than in September and 47 cents more than a year ago.

As for looming unemployment, finding a job has rarely been easier. Since September, a robustly growing economy has pulled nearly two million more people into jobs,

including 124,000 more of those dreaded jobless teen-agers.

None of this surprises most economists, who say that the law of supply and demand still works, that employers will hire fewer workers when the minimum wage rises a lot as it has sometimes in the past.

But most say this latest relatively small increase in a very low minimum wage has a minimal impact on jobs or the economy. At most, a higher minimum might discourage employers from hiring an additional 200,000 workers while they raise the pay of many more.

So why the big debate? One reason was business as usual: Congress responds to pressure groups like labor unions, which favor higher wages, and groups like fast-food chains, which hire most minimum-wage workers and want to hold down wages. This time a political skirmish became a brawl over ideological fundamentalism.

In setting a minimum wage, Wilson of the Heritage Foundation explained, government intrudes upon the freedom of employers and workers to negotiate the

Continued to page 27

THE KING COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL CIO,
PROMOTES SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE BY
ORGANIZING IN THE COMMUNITY ...
"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL."



VIEW RIDGE
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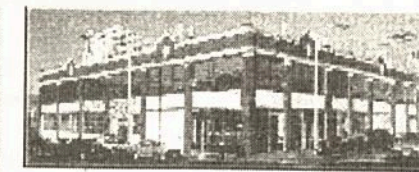
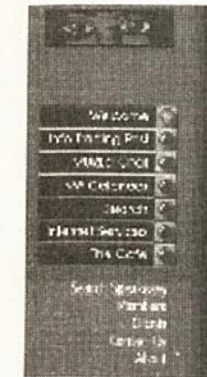
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NATURAL MARKETS

Anitra Talks Internet

Community Web Pages Keep Communication Public



About the Speakeasy Cafe

ABOUT THE SPEAKEASY CAFE

Speakeasy Cafe in the Press

Mission Statement

January 1, 1995

BY ANITRA FREEMAN

Last issue I defined six aspects of public control of the Internet: 1) You can use it. (Get access to it.) 2) You can get what you ask for from it. 3) You can have your say on it. 4) What you say is listened to. 5) You have an effect on it, or create an effect with it. 6) You control the plug — nobody else can bring the system down on you.

(I doubt even Bill Gates feels he has full control of #6.)

I described how the Homeless Women's Network and Seattle Community Network were increasing access and use. This week I want to start out by giving credit to two other major forces in community access and control on the Internet — the American Library Association, and cyber-cafes.

Libraries

The libraries of America have been one of the major forces — along with the community networks, which they have supported — in keeping the Internet a public resource.

The ALA is not the only library association to have taken leadership in the field of public access to the Internet. It seems wherever I turn, whether it is a community network or a national conference, one of the library associations is involved. I picked the ALA site to stand for the rest.

The American Library Association, founded in 1876, is the world's oldest and

largest national library association. Its mission statement includes "to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services..." The Association works closely with more than 70 other library organizations as well as with other organizations concerned with education, research, cultural development, recreation, and public service.

Speakeasy, <http://www.speakeasy.org>

The Speakeasy is a business, but also has a nonprofit side, the Speakeasy Foundation, and hosts the Real Change website, the Homeless Women's Network website, and the upcoming StreetLife Gallery website as well as a number of other websites of community value and interest. The Speakeasy provides all members up to an hour a day of free Internet access time in a pleasant environment with art on the walls, music in the air, and whatever you can afford to eat or drink right beside you. It's even better than the library. (And has books, too.)

The Speakeasy's own mission statement says it intends, "... to provide the general public access to the methods of communication and volumes of information now available on the Internet, at a cost they can afford and in such a way that they aren't socially, economically, or politically isolated. The goal is to provide a service that is not simply entertaining, but educational, enlightening, and most of all empowering.

"The Speakeasy Cafe in Downtown Seattle is the first step in a network of cafes in the Puget Sound Region and around the world which will bring new definitions to our idea of community."

There are a growing number of great

websites on the Speakeasy server; art & music sites, personal web pages, commercial web pages, and community interest web pages. And, the entire owner / staff being computer geeks, the Speakeasy main pages are constantly being updated to improve your ability to find what interests you.

Increasing what you can get from the net:

This is also a focus of HWN, which since its beginning has been a two-pronged effort: to increase access to the Internet on the part of homeless and low-income women, and to increase resource information out there on the Internet for them to access. The HWN database, and its access interface, was designed by homeless and formerly homeless women themselves, to make it easy to search for the kind of information most likely to be needed.

And going into its fifth year of service to Seattle is the Seattle Crisis Directory created by Peace Heathens and made available on-line by the Seattle Community Network. The Crisis Directory was referred to Dr. Wes Browning in his famous "Guide to Being Homeless", and has since returned the favor by quoting him.

OneWorld, <http://www.oneworld.org>

Increasing the information you have available on organizations working for change, and making networking easier.

Terry Waite, in support of OneWorld Online, has said, "I feel particularly keenly the need for improved communications, because of having had an experience that deprived me of all forms of human communication for almost four years [referring to being held hostage by the Lebanese Islamic Jihad] ... except that one small postcard came through, from a woman I didn't know, bringing me a message of hope. I see an analogy between that and Internet."

OneWorld Online is the internet arm of the One World Broadcasting Trust, a nonprofit organization set up in Britain in 1987 to promote global understanding through broadcasting, by establishing a

Continued to page 22

BANANA, CONT FROM PAGE 5

1995, the 20 corporations with the largest number of layoffs saw their executive's salaries rise by an average of 25%.

While in 1965 the average CEO made 44 times the pay of the average worker, today, they say, the ratio is more like 212-1. By way of comparison, Germany's average ratio is 21-1, and Japan's is 16-1.

The ratio, by the way, between Bill's \$5,038,000 an hour for last quarter's stock earnings and the minimum wage is 959,619 to one.

Worse, inequality is still increasing. According to the *New York Times*, executive compensation rose over 1996 by 20% and is still headed skyward.

Nor is this trend limited to executive salaries. The U.S. Census Bureau recently reported that the income gap between the richest Americans and everyone else is now wider than at any time since World War II, with the richest 20% of the population owning 46.9% of the wealth, up from 40.5% since the gap began to widen in 1968.

Commonly cited reasons for this increased disparity include the broad shift from a manufacturing to a service-based economy, the overall decline in unionization, and the increased number of part-time and temporary workers.

The two-tiered U.S. economy has been with us for quite awhile, but now seems to be hitting high gear on the road to Mexico City. To many of us, this is not news. "All you have to do is walk into the Banana Republic," notes my astute wife. "\$125 for pants! Who buys this stuff?"

I took an informal poll in our office, and we don't know. I wonder whether these Banana Republicans ever read *Real Change*, if we are as strange to them as they are to us. Different species from different planets. We of the Walmart and Salvation Army tribes, they of the Planet Hollywood. One day, they might declare war. Maybe they already have.

Related Websites:

AFL-CIO Executive Paywatch: <http://aflcio.paywatch.org/ceopay/front.html>
United for a Fair Economy
<http://www.stw.org/>
Bill Gates Personal Wealth Clock
<http://www.webho.com/WealthClock>

TAXES, CONT FROM PAGE 7

work in coordination with the U.S. Attorney. These lawyers work year-round to find those who do not pay their taxes and then deal with them according to federal stipulations.

Changing the Channel

Most Americans such as Carlos Sousa of Seattle, believe taxes are necessary so that the government can provide certain services for the public.

"How much should go where? That's what the problem is," Sousa said. "What I'm worried about is my daily life. I don't strongly care for all the details on where the money is going, just as long as the majority is being put into the right channels."

"If the money is being misappropriated I don't know how to change it. By voting? Look what happened with the [new baseball] stadium. Didn't the people vote against it?"

So how are the right channels selected? One technique used by the protesters to sample the public attitude about government spending, was a nation-wide penny poll. The polls are conducted by labeling jars with different categories that mirror government expenses.

Each person who participates is given ten pennies to distribute into the jars which represent priorities they would like to see

funded, such as education or military. The results for this year have been tabulated and can be found on the NWTRCC home page at www.natprior.org.

A poll conducted in Kitsap County by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action indicates taxpayers' federal-spending priorities are as follows: Human resources topped off the list with 36 percent, followed by physical resources at 20 percent, both past military and general government at 15 percent and current military with 14 percent.

Kitsap County is dependent on military spending, with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, the Keyport Underwater Warfare Center and the Banger-trident Submarine base.

The national meetings of the NWTRCC will take place in Seattle from May 2 to 4 with a regional conference on May 3. The conference will include workshops about basic war-tax resistance, counseling updates and political discussions. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University Friends Meeting, 40th Street and 9th Avenue Northeast in the University District, and it is open to the public.

For more information about war-tax resistance, contact the NACC at 547-0952, the NWTRCC at 1-800-269-7464 or the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action at (360) 377-2586.

INTERNET, CONT FROM PAGE 21

"community of global justice organizations under one roof" within the internet.

OneWorld calls itself a supersite, but I would call it a *network* of related websites of participating organizations, 124 for now, that points the way to one possible direction the internet can be expected to take in the future. It was launched in January 1995. Within six months it offered the largest multimedia collection of data on sustainable development and human rights in the world. It currently averages approximately 70,000 hits per day, and the organization estimates (probably conservatively) that it has a quarter of a million readers during any month. The "site" offers, each week, more than two *gigabytes* of up-to-date information concerning human rights and economic and social development issues around the world.

Participating organizations include well known human rights and developments organizations such as Amnesty International and Oxfam, and research and policy making institutions in Europe and the US, but also grassroots Third World organizations, like Casa Alianza (Central America), which works with street children, and Katha (India) which works with child laborers.

Besides being a single gateway to websites of its member groups, OneWorld also channels the information that these groups collect throughout the world. So OneWorld is an outstanding alternative source of global news that maintains a sharp focus on human rights and needs.

An interesting feature of the site that I wasn't able to check out is the on-line audio broadcast of Belgrade's Radio B92. At one time, Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic

Continued to page 23

CHURCH, CONT FROM PAGE 15

One such example is the Presbytery of Seattle, Presbyterian Church (USA). In addition to helping Rev. Kim with CMM, they have passed an initiative to make ending homelessness one of the PC(USA)'s mission goals. The initiative will be submitted to the General Assembly, the national governing body, for further voting.

In the future, Rev. Kim hopes to expand the church to women who can identify with the pain of homeless women — to bring them alongside in solidarity. One such effort is Women's Day. Mother's Day reminds many homeless women of abusive families and grief from losing their children due to an inability to raise them emotionally or financially. CMM will instead celebrate Women's Day on May 10th. With an open invitation to the women of Seattle, Rev. Kim wants to make it a day of comfort, celebration, and a chance to build solidarity with the homeless. Everyone attending will eat lunch together. More information about the event is available by calling CMM.

Rev. Kim's dreams also include finding a larger space where church services and programs can be held together, recruiting experienced volunteers, and enlisting financial sponsors to back key aspects of the ministry.

"The homeless cannot rise out of the tomb without help," reflects Rev. Kim. She continues to pray and dream, knowing that God will provide through people what is needed.

In a society where apathy and social inaction is rampant, Rev. Kim is a breath of fresh air — or more precisely — a whirlwind of passion and compassion. The Church of Mary Magdalene is certainly fulfilling its namesake's commission to tell about the Resurrection hope.

The women who are at CMM have found a place to begin to remove the stone sealing their tomb, to find hope — and for many — rise to a new life. Our churches, places of worship, and nation need more people like Rev. Kim, sounding the call to love the poor and to put an end to the horror of homelessness.

For more information about CMM and/or the Women's Day event, please call 621-8474.

UNEMPLOYED, CONT FROM PAGE 11

granted two, free water and electricity to unemployed families, and was heckled when he refused to address the rest, including the issue of unemployment insurance. Once in office, Dore laid off thousands of city workers and slashed the wages of others. Light and water shut-offs grew in number.

His betrayal left many disillusioned and radicalized. Political in-fighting began to take its toll. When the League marched on the state capital to support relief measures for the unemployed, in July of 1932, a fist fight broke out between the Communists and other League members as they assembled on the capitol steps. Shortly thereafter, Wells and Brannin, League founders, were ousted, and the Communists took over Locals in Ballard and West Seattle. In the ensuing months, charges of fraud and racketeering, though never proven, eroded the spirit of "all for one, and one for all."

As dissension weakened the League, political hostility increased. That fall, Dore prevented Locals from distributing fruit gathered in the summer. It wasn't until November that a Judge ordered release of the food. The League got the County to provide work relief jobs, but the County paid in vouchers that could not be redeemed in stores that advertised in the League's newspaper.

INTERNET, CONT FROM PAGE 22

Radio B92, expecting that it would die. But the radio station soon reappeared on the internet. Once it had hit the net, this local station - normally only available to the people of Belgrade - had millions of potential new listeners.

Several Web sites soon offered to host B92's reports in internet audio format. One of these was OneWorld Online, which also is establishing a radio new service to allow broadcasters to take audio off the net and rebroadcast it on their local stations, as well as adding broadcasts of other radio stations, and selected programs.

Some areas of the site are still in need of extensive construction, the "Think Tank" for instance, an archive of position papers. And I found a schedule of world radio programs dealing with human rights that needed to be updated. But given the magnitude of the project and the fact that it has only been in existence for two years I'd say that it is realizing the potential of the supersite concept well.

Homeless at CSF, <http://csf.colorado.edu/homeless>

Created by Communications for a Sustainable Future (gopher://csf.colorado.edu). CSF "was founded on the idea that computer networking should be used to enhance communications with the objective of working through disparate views and ideologies to secure a more promising future."

CSF maintains a discussion list, homeless@csf.colorado.edu. (The subscription address for the list is listproc@csf.colorado.edu.) The web page, Homeless at CSF, is a compilation of information from that list, including Shelters and Programs, Health and Medical Services, and a giant list of links.

More next month.

The League was fast loosing their leadership role among the unemployed. The strength of the organization lay in supplying its members with needed services, not in abstract political change. In a sense, their political power came out of a barrel of apples. As they got government to respond, their role was eclipsed.

These factors affect most poor people's movements. The more they get the "system" to respond, the more resistance they generate. At the same time, their membership base declines when that system begins to provide enough services to take the edge off the crisis. Administrative problems and in-fighting are often endemic.

Legacy of Activism

It is no accident that names like "Skid Road" and "Hooverville" originated as real Seattle places. The economy of the Pacific Northwest has been marked by homelessness and displacement, and the region has been famous for the activist response of those affected by its boom and bust cycles.

Many decades may elapse between periods of radical activity, but certain qualities persist. Whether it is called "self management" in the 1990s or "self help" in the 1930s, Seattle's poor people have not only demanded change, but created solutions that involve their talents and energies.

Services

We are Served food today
What we refused as kids.
They say "It's good for you."
Since now — we're on the skids.

Machines make more food now.
Yet meals aren't three-a-day.
Seldom hot, often warm
Not Served a waiter's way.

As night falls upon us
We need—places for our heads
Concrete does not Service
Nor Cement as our beds.

The way we look for jobs—
"Do Not Be In a Mess."
 To do office Services
 We watch our "Code of Dress."

Too cold for the "Jungle"
A tent roof overhead
Paper plates to Serve on
And some branches for a bed.
No way to make some bread.

For some—a vacation
For us — a needed space.
Others — serve as a park
Or just a parking place.

They forget their first job
Right after the big war
Open arms, were hired back
War service was no more.

Not so with Viet Nam
It's all based on My Lai
We served there for nothing
Now — *Spat on! Wished to Die!*

Treated as Jesus was
Serving them-not their way
They're rich-sales due to war
We slogged through mud and clay.

Our home jobs were not saved
"This was not a World War."
Bombs, bullets were as real
Service draft as before

I served in the 'Nam War
On the rivers. Fired at
from a "Friendly Village"
No returns-that was that.

Thirty years later -
And *that* money still talks
Serving the Stock Market
Ask for jobs — "Take a walk"

Skills — "over" or "under"
No money to retrain
All basic computers
Serves man's memory brain.

We're asking for money
For food, coat, or a hat
But not to serve "druggers"
We'd be stupidly "flat."

We just need employment
In each one's special skill
We can buy *diner* food
They'll serve until we're filled.

With solid roof above
Serves to fill one big care
Maybe *later* — a car
And drive it anywhere.

Taxes from employment
Contributes to the goal
City spending serves all
Each one part of the whole.

Honest tax deductions
Would also be in line
Helps serve city coffers
Near empty all the time.

Close up money loopholes
"Big Business" uses now
Served all the country
So they can't self-endow.

Scriptures seem different
Applied to each "God's Will"
If right inside and out
"A disappearing hill."

— Ron Henson

Message to Me

WALK, unhurriedly
Through/your/Life

As you would
A rich and Ancient forest

DESPITE the Machines belching stench

DESPITE the Spiralling Karma

DESPITE the quickening Timespace

DESPITE
the hot Dragons' breath

upon
your
back

and
Your Mother's bitter eyes
Your Father's angry bellow
Your Sister's isolation

PACE/YOUR/STEPS
to suit your Days
...your Heart

and KNOW
that
You are loved

(...in Love there is time...)

— Marion Sue Fischer

Appearances

People stare
with their peripheral vision
My hair is disheveled.
I still feel the film
of perspiration
from sleeping on the plastic
shelter mat, the lingering odor
of feet, snoring
and farting permeated the room.
One thing they don't realize,
no, they don't.
But on the street
I know Elvis, Popeye
One-eyed Willie, Mutt
and Jeff.
Fuck the stars!
Maybe tomorrow
I will get myself
a new ha.

— Earle Thompson

Emerald City

I feel broken
yellow-green glass
under my feet

watch a wino
bumming change

"got 39 cents for a quart?"

I put the newspaper
under my arm
boarding the bus
as change
jingles in my pocket.

— Earle Thompson

Lonesome Hour

Drunkard dreams, far fetched reality
we speak of blissful lies
to attract each others company.
Your poison I swallow
the heart, could flesh-so hallow.

Take another drink my friend
I wish you luck all the way to the end.

Squeeze my hand, the gentleman's fee
the enemy betrayed, keenly rattled and empty.
I fondled your ghost in my sleep
my sinister soul arose to catch a peek.
Chilly streets-peace frozen
I stand alone-identity withdrawn.

Take another drink my friend
I wish you luck all the way to the end.

A kiss, soft and exaggerated
broke into this deviled dream-crippled kid.

Come, sip delicately on your inner faith
close your eyes and ride the hate.
Silent cries fall against the curb
I'm alone with a ghost-selfishly disturbed.

Take another drink of death my friend
a unison journey, see you in the end.

— Jason Ross Surendranath

First Person

To be alone... you grow. The real
dichotomy, is wide:
whatever you can value, will
repeat itself. To hide

the child you remember being,
watching while - today -
you live alone, revives your own
(the skills you've thrown away).

— Stan Burriss

Heat Wave

There is a touch of cool
now
In the breeze
this afternoon
Signalling relief
From this Summer
heat wave

Unusual/in/Seattle

— Marion Sue Fischer

Piasa

As I dance within the circle.
My moccasins beating a soft rhythm
Upon mother earth,
My Mind and Spirit,
calls the great Piasa,
whose image awaits
on the cliffs of the
wide Missouri...;
Painted there for eternity
by my forefathers,
with the power
of natural dyes.

Hear me, oh Piasa!

I am in need,
of the strength of your wings,
And the Truth of your vision
during ascension,
into the realms above.

Oh Piasa! - hear me now,
And lift me swiftly,
into the skies.

— Janette Moening

NEW/NET CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20
terms of a job. "Slowly but surely," he said,
"they're taking away your liberty to mutu-
ally make employment decisions. I dare say
that's socialism. It's government paternalism
at its worst."

To lend credibility to their ideology,
both sides drew on distinguished econo-
mists. Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich
seized upon the work of two Princeton
professors, Alan Krueger and David Card.

Both economists had looked at
employment in fast-food shops in New
Jersey and Pennsylvania before and after
New Jersey raised its minimum wage above
Pennsylvania's. Employment in Pennsylva-
nia didn't change, they found, and it even
grew slightly in the New Jersey shops.

Welfare versus Working Poor as Jobs Stay Scarce

The evidence continues to mount that
welfare "reform" throws recipients into
brutal conflict with the working poor,
reports the *Boston Globe*.

The Jersey City Medical Center has cut
full-time staff while hiring welfare recipients
as temporary "volunteers." New York City
has cut its full-time municipal work force
for street and park maintenance and put
welfare recipients into those jobs. Baltimore
is paying welfare recipients \$1.50 an hour to
train as school janitors, eliminating workers
at some schools who made \$6 an hour. It is
also training school bus aides at \$1.50 an
hour, striking fear into the hearts of current
aides who make \$6.60 an hour.

"I went to the office and asked what
were they trying to do, take my job?"
Veronica Jiggetts, one of the \$6.60 an hour
aides, told *The New York Times*.

"They said, 'No, Miss Jiggetts, we are
not trying to take you off your job.' But the
way it looks to me, I might not be invited
back for September."

None of this is surprising, since neither
President Clinton, Congress, nor state
governments truly planned to produce
enough jobs to put welfare recipients to
work. Massachusetts and New York City
have already admitted they do not know
what has happened to the majority of
people they have thrown off welfare.

The growing replacement of full-time
workers with welfare workers bears out the
worst fears of the Economic Policy Institute,

which estimated in 1995 that adding welfare
recipients to the labor pool could drop
wages 12 percent for the bottom 30 percent
of American workers by the year 2000.

A worker making \$7 an hour will drop
close to \$6. The institute says that the
working poor would lose \$36 billion in
earnings, \$8.5 billion more than the entire
federal and state spending on Aid to
Families with Dependent Children.

In California, more than 1 million
people have to be moved off welfare into a
state job market where there are already 2
million people not on welfare looking for
work and another half-million part-time
workers who want more work. But the
economy is growing by only 300,000 jobs a
year. Los Angeles, for instance has 359,000
people already unemployed, with 255,000
welfare recipients who have been told they
must seek permanent jobs.

Even the most successful job placement
programs for welfare recipients in the Los
Angeles area have admitted that the best that
many recipients can do is \$5.60 an hour, or
\$11,648 a year. The federal poverty level for
an adult with two children is \$12,500 a year.
Researchers at Northern Illinois

University estimate that a family of
three needs \$23,424 a year, after taxes, for
the basic necessities of housing, food,
transportation, health care, child care,
utilities and clothing.

That assumes that welfare recipients
will find full-time work. So much of it will
be part-time that one study by the Depart-
ment of Health and Human

Services estimates that the actual
earnings for the average recipient who is
forced to work would be only \$8,000 a
year. Sheldon Danzinger, a University of
Michigan poverty policy analyst, said, "It is
simply not the case that most of today's

welfare recipients could obtain stable
employment that would lift them and their
children out of poverty if only they would
try harder."

As it is, recipients will only add
pressure to the nation's 38 million working
poor, who, at \$7.50 an hour and less, often
have no health insurance and are losing
what few subsidies they had for housing and
child care. In Baltimore, 1,000 advocates for
the working poor staged a rally last month,
protesting their being dislodged from jobs
by welfare recipients. "The new welfare
reform policy places us in a revolving door
where we continually switch places with one
another at low-wage jobs," said Paul Booth
of the American Federation of State, City
and Municipal Employees.

In Jersey City, the Times found one
situation where a welfare recipient took
hospital work from a woman who had her
hours cut back from 40 to 20 and her pay
from \$22,000, nearly a livable wage, to
\$11,000. When the nation enacted welfare
reform, it did so in a blind anger over
assumed laziness. It is becoming clear that
reform is so bad for the working poor, it is
plunging some of them right back into
poverty. [E]

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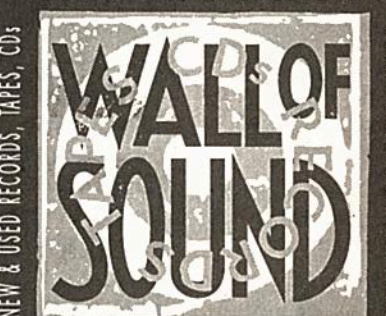
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OUT OF THE MAINSTREAM



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THURS, MAY 1

Rally with songs and speakers & speak-out on inadequacies of the child care system, 10:30 a.m., Victor Steinbrueck Park, just north of Pike Place Market.

"The Changing Face of Affirmative Action," talk by Robbi Ferron, J.D., Senior Policy Coordinator for Affirmative Action for the Governor, \$20 includes lunch. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Washington Athletic Club. Info from UW Women's Center 685-1090.

Celebrate International Workers Day at Revolution Books, 5-9 p.m. Festivities will include food, music and speakers. Location: 1833 Nagle Place. Info and directions, 325-7415.

Free showing of Documentary on notable pacifist Dorothy Day "Entertaining Angels." Panel discussion follows. Seattle University, 7 p.m., Piggott Auditorium.

FRI, MAY 2

"From Istanbul to Isfahan: An Evening of Middle Eastern Music" to benefit Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, tickets \$10-12, 526-2757 or 781-2805. 8 p.m., Back Stage Theater, 2208 NW Market, Ballard.

SAT, MAY 3

Pre-Mother's day Brunch and Auction to benefit Women's shelters Noel House and Rose of Lima, call for details, info 441-3210.

Rally to Celebrate May 1, International Workers Day, 1-4 p.m. at the corner of 1st and Pike (near the Market newsstand).

Pacific Northwest regional war tax resistance organizing conference, with info on war tax resistance, counselling, media training, etc. Free but donations accepted. Part of a weekend-long National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee biannual meeting that Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia is hosting, info NACC 547-0952. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Univ. Friends Meeting, 4009 9th Ave.

Kentucky author, Michael Fogler will lead a workshop based on his acclaimed book, "Un-Jobbing: The Adult Liberation Handbook" on "voluntary simplicity," a practical program to incorporate conscience, personal values, freedom of time, and joyful, meaningful activities while maintaining economic security; \$10 - \$25 sliding scale, preregistration recommended, info PCC 547-1222. 1 - 5 p.m., West Seattle PCC Natural Market, 2749 California Ave. SW.

1997 Seattle AIDS Memorial Vigil, speakers, performers, art, reading of names, etc. Seattle Central Community College, 4 p.m., 4 p.m. Through Sunday May 5, corner of Broadway & Pine.

2nd Annual Auction to benefit Western Washington Fellowship Of Reconciliation. Potluck dinner, silent and live auction with fantastic items; brief presentation by Jo Becker, Executive Director of national F.O.R., on "Nonviolence in Action: the Work of the International F.O.R.". Suggested \$3 members, free to nonmembers, info Kathy 632-4619 or FOR 789-5565. 5 p.m., Univ. Temple United Methodist Church, Crowther Hall on lower level, 1415 NE 43rd.

SUN, MAY 4

Benefit concert and silent auction to benefit the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital in India to purchase a heart/lung machine. Kathy Zavada, exquisite voice and melodic piano, performing Songs of the Divine Mother. Tickets \$10 from Ellen Lamb 641-8924.

Celebrate the ongoing fight for free speech at the Freedom Socialist Party's annual May Day commemoration. Speakers include Vivian McPeak, Amber Holmes, John Fox, and Sandy Nelson. 2 pm, New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Avenue S. Door donation \$2.00. Dinner will be served at 5 pm for an \$8.95 donation (work exchanges and sliding scale available for low income). For childcare or rides, call in advance: 722-2453 or 722-6057. Wheelchair accessible.

9th Annual Farm Worker Solidarity March from Maiben Park, Burlington to Skagit Valley College in Mt. Vernon. 11 am march, 2 pm gathering at end with food, music, and theater; bring labor banners, celebrate generations of Mexicano workers in the Skagit Valley, info 360-299-4598.

All Community Concert by Seattle Symphony Orchestra to benefit 8 organizations including U District Food Bank, Childhaven's Crisis Nursery, Plymouth Housing Group, etc., 3 p.m. tickets \$15. 523-7060 or 443-4747. Seattle Center Opera House.

THURS, MAY 8

Double Exposure, an auction featuring work from select national and local photographers, to benefit Youth in Focus, the nationally-renowned photographic program for disadvantaged youth. 6 pm, Group Health Atrium in Belltown. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Info, the Double Exposure Hotline 269-1660.

FRI, MAY 9

"From The Ground Up" conference on organizing and activism skills, organized to further the goals of fundamental social change, liberation, and ending all forms of oppression including white supremacy, patriarchy, capitalism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, ageism, animal exploitation, and ecological destruction; cosponsored by Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia, info NACC (Seattle) 547-0952 or 360-866-6000 x6144 or dixonchr@elwha.evergreen.edu Friday through Sunday. Conference in Olympia.

SAT, MAY 10

Young Women's Political Caucus invites you to a progressive feminist learning series "Talk Shop," topic "Young Women in Politics Today, How to Move and Shake in Seattle." 10 a.m. - noon, 906 14th Ave. E.

Meeting of Citizens Concerned for the People of Iraq, coalition of individuals and organizations working to end the inhumane sanctions against the people of Iraq. Info 789-5565. 3 p.m., Univ. Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave. NE.

Denny Regrade businesses will contribute a percentage of their sales to Rose of Lima and Noel House on Saturday and Sunday, May 10-11. Bring your mother, your sister, or yourself and help homeless women through organizations that provide safe shelter and transitional housing.

SUN, MAY 11

Impact Forum presents Bert Sacks speaking on "Justice for the People of Iraq: Time to End the Sanctions," 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., info 548-9566. Univ. Unitarian Church, 6556 35th Ave. NE.

WED, MAY 14

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, 10 a.m., and subsequent second Wednesdays (An interpreter for the hearing impaired will attend) info hnoble@eskimo.com or Jackie Terrell 938-0163. IAM 751 District Headquarters, 9125 15th Pl. S.

GET INVOLVED

Handgun Safety — Move Washington Forward: Petitions for Initiative 676 to promote handgun safety are available. Be a part of a progressive initiative campaign to get a handgun safety bill on the ballot this fall. Call 583-8113 to request petitions or to volunteer at the campaign. Several projects are available.

Human Rights: 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

Hygiene Center: Call the City Council Health Committee members Cheryl Chow (684-8804), Tina Podlowski (684-8808), Charlie Chong (684-8805), Richard McIver (684-8800), Margaret Pageler (684-8807), ask them to continue or resume supporting the plan for toilets, sinks, showers, and laundry for the homeless and all members

of the public at the Glen Hotel! Call the rest of the council at 684-8888 and ask them to add their support!

Tenants' Right: 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 Senator to vote against SHB 1043 and your Representatives to vote against SSB5091 (both have passed in originating house and sent to 2nd houses) and in the same phone call ask the Governor to veto these Landlord Tenant Preemption Bills if they pass; these would repeal and prevent Tenant's Rights laws by cities and counties throughout the state!, info Lisa Herbold, Tenants Union, 722-6848 x103.

Westlake Park: Call Seattle City Council member, Jan Drago 684-8801, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, tell her you oppose 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. They even want to take away the benches! Info Diane 726-0864.

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

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The Real Change Calendar publishes information about events, workshops, performances and meetings that are open to the public at large. Send info to:

Real Change Calendar
2129 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121

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We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and relevance.

ONGOING

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

General meeting of the Welfare Reform Coalition, 2nd Mondays, 6:30 p.m. info 273-9120. CAMP, 722 18th near Cherry.

"Family, Friends and Neighbors" — Photo Exhibit of more than 50 Gay and Lesbian families and individuals. Through third week in May. UW School of Social Work Gallery, near the espresso cart.

Created by an Oregon State University professor in 1994 to counter the distorted images that characterized debate over Oregon's Measure 9, an anti-gay initiative, these stories reveal the richness and diversity not only of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, but of the larger civic communities, sponsored by the School of Social Work's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Organization, info Nancy Hooyman 685-1662 or hooy@u.washington.edu

Food Not Bombs cooks & serves vegetarian meals to the homeless each week. Ongoing Sundays, cook in various locations at 2 p.m.; serve dinner at Occidental Park at 6 p.m. Info Steve 547-8559, Marcia 789-9800, or Ilyse 366-0917.

KCMU 90.3 FM Radio, Mind Over Matter Progressive Political Programs, info 543-KCMU, includes Saturday 6:00 a.m. Alternative Radio, 7:00 Sustainability Segment with Diane Horn, 7:30 Com-

munity Forum, 8:00 Counterspin, 8:30 Eat The State!, political commentary by Geov Parrish, coordinator of Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia, Sunday 6:00 Radio Nation, 7:00 Democracy Now or We The People, 8:00 One-on-One with Daniel Brecker, Ongoing Sat & Sun, 6 - 9 a.m.,

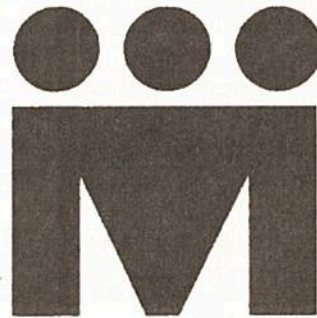
Lesbian Resource Center, 1808 Bellevue Ave #204, Youth Night, hang out, chat and watch episodes of "Xena: Warrior Princess", Ongoing Saturdays, 6 - 11 p.m., info 322-3953

Panelmaking workshops for the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, ongoing second and fourth Sundays, until May 14 - 18 exhibit, noon - 5 p.m., Northwest Sewing Center, 6414 Roosevelt Way NE, info on how to make a panel 285-9665, info about exhibit or Quilt 285-9665

Freedom Socialist Party public study groups on Marxist classics, "Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism", by V.I. Lenin, Sundays, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 602 43rd Ave S, a info Chris Smith 723-2549

The Millionair Club

Do you need extra help around the house or at the office? The **Women & Family Center** of the Millionair Club Charity dispatches temporary workers Monday thru Friday, 7am to 10am. If you have a job to fill, please call **301-0837**



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▶ Intuitive Counselor, Past Lives
Bruce Grumbles
▶ Herkimer diamonds
Canya
▶ Psychic, tarot readings
Carol Mikel
▶ Intuitive Reader,
Charae's Crystals
▶ Fine Quartz Crystal Jewelry, Rare Stones
Copalis Beach Book Barn
▶ Books and other fine merchandise
Debra Lajmodiere
▶ Shamanic Counselor, Healer
Denis Wilson
▶ Psychic Extrordinaire
Diane Simmons
▶ Cascadia Creations catalyst beads
Dolly Mae
▶ Psychic, Dream Interpretations
Donald Mecham
▶ Life coach & counselor

Frank Souza
▶ Healer
Dr. Fred Threlfall
▶ Doctor of Metaphysics, Numerology
Gordon Allen
▶ Near-death experiences
Guiding Star, Dee & Mike Riley
▶ The best of books, incense, unique items
Heidi Shively
▶ Herbal Healing
Herb Ernst
▶ Musician, Composer "Dreamflight"
Irene McNabb
▶ Psychic, Tarot
Jeanette Cozart
▶ Teacher, healer, artist
Jo'h
▶ Water in the Spirit (Water Readings)
Jonathon Davis
▶ Tarot, Soul Assistance
Karen Parker
▶ Psychic & astrologer
Lauriellen Kuhns
▶ Celtic Poterie
Leah Mueller
▶ Psychic, tarot reader
Leandra Murray
▶ Psychic - Symbolism
Linda & John Calabrese
▶ Elite Orange 100% natural cleaner

Lino Alelyunas
▶ Psychic
Linda Richards
▶ Massage Therapist
Lois Wolfson
▶ Soul Logos
Mani Pureheart
▶ Spiritual Healer & Counselor
Margie Nelson
▶ Psychic Reader
Marianne McGlaun
▶ Color therapy
Mary Davis (A&D Interiors)
▶ Upscale clothing & jewelry
Menalee Adams
▶ Intuitive Tarot Reader, Spiritual Healer
Monetta Reed
▶ Candles, incense, oils, psychic
Naomi
▶ Reiki Master, Healer
Nick Williams
▶ Psychic Reader
Paula Waite
▶ Miracle Pac Herbal Bags
Ralph Gardner
▶ Counselor, Reiki
Real Change Newspaper
▶ Voice of the Homeless
Religious Organizations
▶ Various Non-Profit Organizations

Rev. Rick Jelusich
▶ Spiritual Accelerator & Activator
Rev. Ruth Ann
▶ Counselor
Rita Louise
▶ Clairvoyant
Russ & Anita
▶ Aura Photos
Russell Charnell, LMP
▶ Reiki
Sandra Lee
▶ Psychic Reader, Spiritual Healer
Sandra Longmore
▶ Handpainted clothing - always a big hit
Sandy Jay
▶ Intuitive Reader
Shani
▶ Psychic Readings
Susan Dudley
▶ Reader
StreetLife Gallery
▶ Art by the Homeless in Seattle
Sylvia Rose-Johnson
▶ Crystals, Minerals, Jewelry
Trudy Rainbow
▶ Graphology
Wendy DaKara
▶ Flower essences, vibrational healing
William A. Courtney
▶ Motivational Speaker

Our Welfare Reform Law: The Best of the Worst- but Still Pretty Bad

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.

EHB 3901: Our New Welfare Law

On April 17, Governor Locke signed our state's new welfare reform bill, EHB 3901 and its companion SB 6098, into law.

Vetoing about 20 sections of the bill, Governor Locke took out some of the most harmful provisions enacted by our Legislature, and is to be commended for his leadership and commitment to these issues. The following is an overview of our state's new welfare law.

TANF: Cash welfare under our new law is now called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or WorkFirst, replacing our former AFDC program. State entitlements to cash welfare are no longer. Our law also imposes a 60 month time limit on the receipt of welfare. The 60 month clock will probably begin ticking away this July, when the state begins amending our TANF plan.

Recipients of TANF who are recent WA state residents- i.e., those who have lived here for less than 12 months prior to their application- will receive the TANF benefit level of their former state, if lower. This provision is very likely unconstitutional.

WORKFIRST: The welfare-to-work provisions under our state's new law place a heavy emphasis on immediate employment. By law, all welfare applicants will now be required to engage in four weeks of job search. If after this four week period a job has not yet been found, the "client" will then be assessed and a plan of action developed. The emphasis here being immediate job placement- i.e.,

whatever in God's name happens to come up.

Under our new law, there will be no exemptions from the job search and work requirements for those with a disability, those caring for a disabled child, or for those living in situations of domestic/family violence. The law recognizes "good cause" for not participating only when child care is not available for children under the age of six, and for the parents of a child under one year old (shortened to three months old in 1999).

Portions of this law will begin in July, though much detail still has yet to be ironed out. At this point, it looks as though WorkFirst will be in full swing by this November.

IMMIGRANT PROVISIONS: At the last minute, the Legislature partly yielded to the Governor Locke's demand for fair and equitable treatment for all legal immigrants, creating a state-funded food assistance program for legal immigrants, regardless of their date of entry.

Aged and disabled immigrants losing SSI will be eligible for General Assistance-Unemployable (GAU), provided that they meet the GAU income and resource levels. In addition, the new law will require the department to facilitate the naturalization process.

Action Needed

Now that our state's Welfare Reform Bill is law, our work as participating citizens has only just begun. On all levels, we must continue to organize, inform, and advocate for more education, training, and exemptions.

Under EHB 3901, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has flexibility in how it administers our new welfare reform law. It is our collective responsibility and challenge- advocates and average folks alike- to pressure DSHS to implement welfare reform in a human and compassionate manner.

*Advocating Organization: Washington Welfare Reform Coalition,
special thanks to Aiko Schaefer.*

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