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Real CHANGE

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Puget Sound's Homeless Newspaper

Pete Seeger

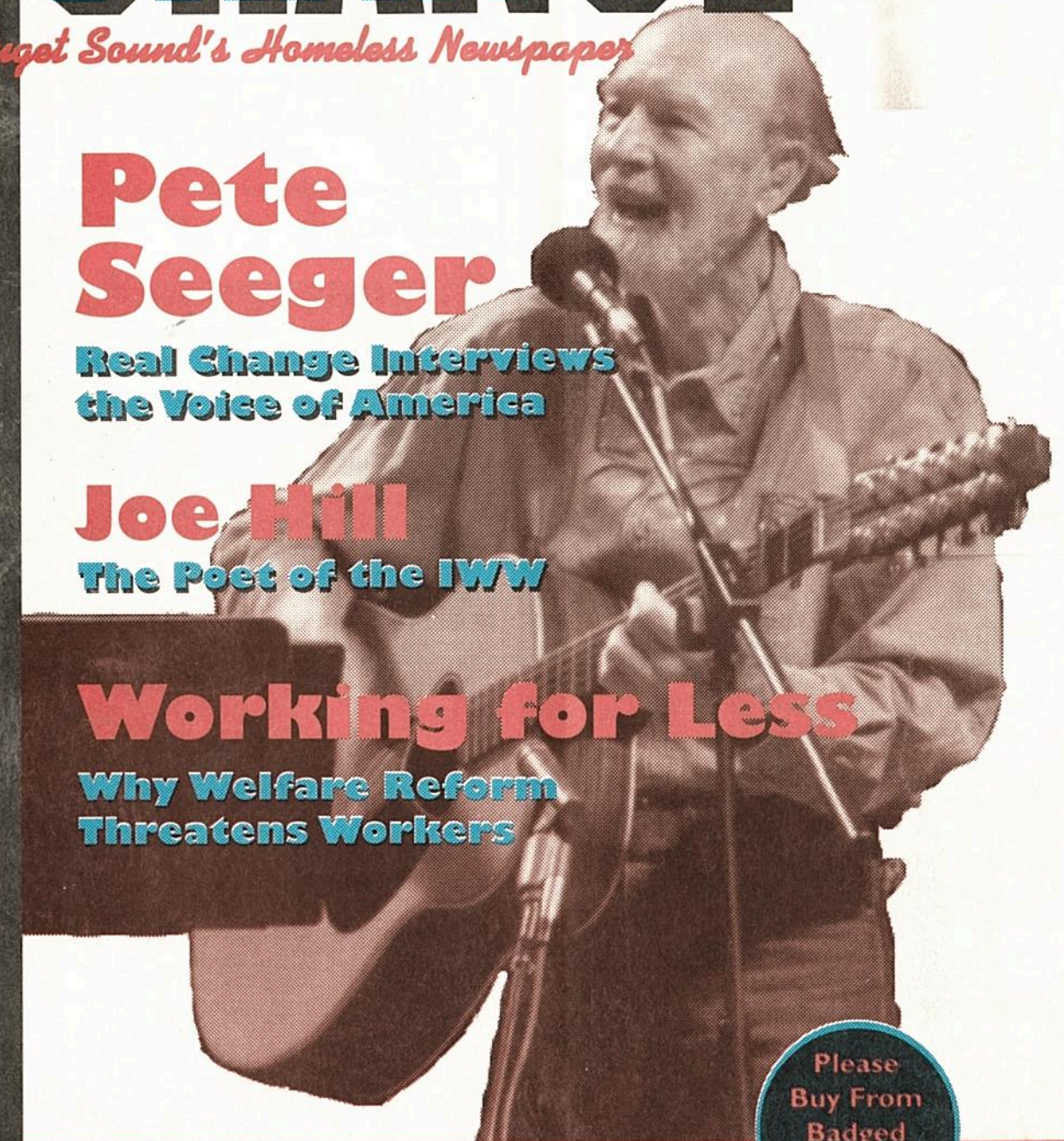
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the Voice of America

Joe Hill

The Poet of the IWW

Working for Less

Why Welfare Reform
Threatens Workers



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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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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

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Dear *Real Change*,

After reading the May 1-15 issue, here are some additions to Seattle's history of unemployed and homeless. My Dad looked for work in 1932 on Seattle's waterfront. My Dad said he was drafted into the unemployed — not his choice.

During the 1934 Maritime Strike the waterfront workers did not have the numbers to win if there had been unity with the unemployed. Dad always spoke of the power felt when hundreds of members of Seattle's Unemployed Councils came down

to the waterfront and filled the intersection at Smith Cove. This was a turning point in winning the strike. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union every July 5 closes all west coast ports from Vancouver, B.C. down to the US-Mexican border to honor workers who were shot by the police during that strike, some of them were unemployed.

W.P.A. unemployed built the Arboretum and the West Seattle Golf Course. The Unemployed Councils helped to organize to win us unemployment compensation. They were taking furniture back into apartments of tenants who were evicted in 1936.


There were unemployed Councils in many town including Port Angeles. The Unemployed Councils won rent control in

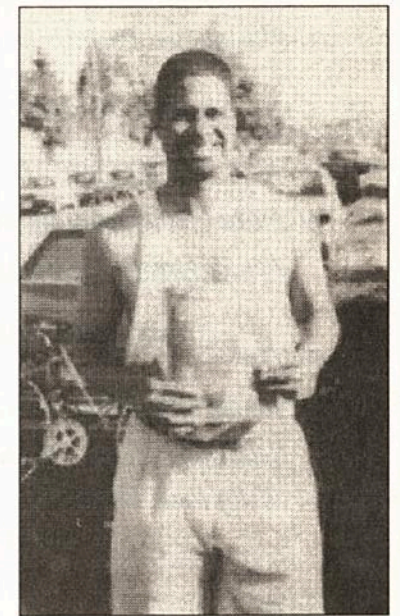
Vendor of the Month

Keith Brown, Tacoma

Originally from New York, Keith is an Army veteran who was stationed at Ft. Lewis and decided he liked the area. He had no family here and when he got out of the Army, he lost a job running a forklift and couldn't pay his rent. He was homeless for six months.

"The paper helped me eat, and eventually pay my rent. I've got a place now. Selling *Real Change* kept me going last year and now I'm working again, getting signatures for petitions and initiatives and selling the paper. Together, I'm keeping a place and eating."

As our June Tacoma vendor of the month, Keith receives a \$25 prize. Congratulations to Keith Brown. 



WANTED: A QUALITY OFFICE CHAIR

Laura, *Real Change's* production manager, needs to replace her dysfunctional office chair.

If you have a decent desk chair with intact parts (and perhaps a few tatters), give her a call at 441-8143.

New York City with the Great Rent Strike of 1932-1933.

Homeless, unemployed and union members set aside differences, organized and mobilized millions across the country.

We are all indebted to them today. I salute *Real Change* for helping to move us toward the unity needed to defend ourselves from a greedy system.

Lonnie Nelson
Born Seattle, 1932



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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. Support Real Change in any way you can.

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Plummeting Pay

Welfare 'Reform' Law Cedes Power to Corporations

Trying to divide working people is an ageless tactic that anti-worker politicians and employers have used to maximize their own profits and drive down everyone else's standard of living. The new federal and state legislation dismantling welfare is a classic case, yet again, of divide-and-conquer strategies aimed at all of us.

Jonathan Rosenblum

Since our inception in 1993, Washington State Jobs With Justice has been committed to fighting for everyone's right to a living wage job. Combating the new welfare law is an integral part of that fight. And, as with any adversity, we're faced with a choice of allowing the downward spiral to continue, or forging greater unity among people dedicated to social and economic justice.

Subsidized Poverty

There's a lot that's awful and divisive about the new law. To illustrate the point, though, let's focus on just one example: Under the bill passed by the state Legislature and signed by Gov. Locke, the state will provide a wage subsidy to employers in order to encourage them to hire people on public assistance.

For a family of three, the current cash grant under TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is \$546 a month. So the state will give an employer \$546 a month to

Quite evidently, the new law is not an end to welfare, but rather a shifting of public resources from social welfare to corporate welfare. Furthermore, the new law provides a super-exploitable workforce.

hire, let's say, former welfare recipient Melissa at 40 hours a week. Now under the minimum wage law the employer will have to pay her \$5.15 an hour (although in some states even sub-minimum wages are permitted). With the \$546 subsidy, which figures to \$3.15 an hour over the course of a month for a full-time worker, the employer only has to pay Melissa a net \$2 an hour out of its coffers.

Quite evidently, the new law is not an end to welfare, but rather a shifting of public resources from social welfare to corporate welfare.

Furthermore, the new law provides a super-exploitable workforce. It creates a tremendous incentive for employers to hire people like Melissa in place of other workers. Under the new law, a private boss now is the provider of public benefits, giving him tremendous power to enforce worker discipline and subservience — first by blackmailing people like Melissa with the removal of their public benefits, and second by whipsawing other workers with threats of replacement.

Finally, the new law will drive down standards for all working people, union and non-union, young and old, white and people of color, men and women. In Seattle today, after a few years at work, a housekeeper in a union hotel might get a \$9 an hour wage. It's not great, but enough to squeak by on. Along comes Melissa — willing to work for a wage that will cost the hotel only \$2 an hour, and required to take the first job offered to her. What do you think are the union housekeeper's long-term prospects of holding onto her job?

The new federal welfare law will flood

the labor market with one million additional welfare recipients in the next three years. There are people like Melissa, ready — indeed, compelled — to work for sub-minimum wage. Nationally, the Economic Policy Institute estimates that this will drive down wages by roughly 12 percent for the bottom 30 million workers — those earning less than \$7.19 an hour. So welfare will harm a lot more than just those directly impacted by social benefit cuts.

Moving from economic projections to reality, let's look at New York City, which already has begun to implement welfare reform. In the last couple of years, New York City has eliminated more than 22,000 full-time workers — people earning family wages through union contracts. The City now utilizes 75,000 workfare recipients to do much of the work — cleaning streets and parks, working in the subway, and performing clerical duties.

Sanctioned Discrimination

This legalized second-class status for welfare workers is not fundamentally different from other forms of discrimination.

In America today, where race discrimination technically is outlawed, the average African American worker makes 70 cents for every dollar a white worker makes. Who is harmed by this? African American workers, obviously. But white workers also lose out, because an employer's ability to find cheaper labor acts as a brake against demands that all workers make.

Discrimination holds down workers of

Continued to page 22

living wage jobs

Take 5

It only takes five minutes to make a difference! Turn to page 24 (the back page) to see how you can help the effort to create public works jobs at union wages.

Working Class Hero

HISTORY

The Legend of Joe Hill: Poet, Worker, Activist

Before television took over our evenings and our minds, working people used to hang out in beer halls and exchange ideas. One of these ideas was the IWW — Industrial Workers of the World — One Big Union. This was a militant union which admitted workers regardless of race or gender, a radical concept back then.

Elizabeth Romero

Of this union, Joe Hill, the great worker-poet, was an active member. He wrote the lyrics of many of the labor songs of the period. These were published in the IWW's *Little Red Song Book*.

What Joe Hill had was a great voice; a voice that rose up out of who and what he was. According to him he was:

"... just one of the rank and file — just a common Pacific Coast wharf-rat — that's all. I have always tried to be true to my friends and my class. What any outsider may think about me is no concern of mine."

Joe Joins the Wobblies

His dry, humorous, no-nonsense approach to class loyalty is what draws working people to him. He loved us and was one of us. He hated the greed and corruption that causes us to be exploited and undermined. Joe Hill saw people towing the company line and then getting tossed on the junk heap, their lives

and bodies broken. He fought back by joining the One Big Union — the Wobblies.

The Wobblies correctly ascertained that race and gender prejudice are the great dividers of wage workers. So these were forbidden in the One Big Union.

The establishment hated the Wobblies. They were excellent organizers and quickly won unprecedented numbers to their union. The IWW told workers what they already knew: they were working hard under dangerous conditions for not enough pay. Their lives were held in contempt by the people who controlled them.

Concepts like these get people killed. Wesley Everest, an IWW organizer, was lynched in Centralia, Washington. You can read about it in a book called *Centralia Dead March* [Curbstone Press, 1983].

Mobilization for the First World War effectively ended the Wobblies' power. It is, as you know, unpatriotic to stick up for poor people during time of war.

Arrest and Trial

Examining the mystery surrounding Joe Hill's arrest and execution is a rather good way of seeing how the chips were falling at the time. Apart from the fact that Joe Hill was not allowed counsel during his initial interrogation, there were a number of other glaring miscarriages of justice in the course of his trial.

Joe Hill was accused of murdering a



PUBLIC ENEMY?: JOE HILL'S MUG SHOT.

grocer named Morrison. He was arrested that night seven miles away and he had been shot in the chest. He said he had not received this injury at Morrison's store and indeed the trajectory of the bullet indicated

that he had his hands up when he was shot. Yet this wound was the main evidence against him. In addition a young eye witness said when he first saw Joe Hill, "that's not him at all." The child later retracted this statement and said that it was Hill he had seen.

Joe Hill was shot by the sovereign state of Utah and his body was sent to Chicago where 30,000 people turned out to mourn him. Although he was executed in 1915, Joe Hill is known as the man who never died.

One thing that is especially curious is that Joe Hill made a specific request that all records relating to his trial be sent to the Chicago headquarters of the IWW. But as

Philip Foner informs us in *The Letters of Joe Hill*:

"The records Hill arranged to have deposited at the Chicago Headquarters of

the IWW were seized in post-war raids by the federal government and have disappeared."

Ashes to Dust

Before he was executed, Joe Hill wrote to Bill Haywood, head of the IWW, saying:

"Could you arrange to have my body hauled to the state line to be buried? I don't want to be found dead in Utah."

Joe Hill was shot by the sovereign state of Utah and his body was sent to Chicago where 30,000 people turned out to mourn him. Although he was executed in 1915, Joe Hill is known as the man who never died. On the eve of his execution he wrote his last will:

My will is easy to decide,
For there is nothing to divide. My kin don't need to fuss and moan —
"Moss does not cling to a rolling stone."
My body? Ah, if I could choose,
I would to ashes it reduce,
And let the merry breezes blow
My dust to where some flowers grow.
Perhaps some fading flower then
Would come to life and bloom again.
This is my last and final will,
Good luck to all of you.

Certainly unions and the whole concept of poor people organizing and defending their rights could be seen as a fading flower. When we make it come to life and bloom again "'tis there you'll find Joe Hill."

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Words of Wisdom

INTERVIEW

Pete Seeger and Grandson Discuss Music and Activism

By RUTH FOX

Pete Seeger's always been a part of my awareness and it's indescribably delicious to finally meet and sing along with a person you've only heard on tape all your life. Although the inevitable frailty of almost-eighty years is evident, Pete's amazing strength of spirit hasn't dwindled; he radiates with warmth and joy. I think of the old mountain hymn: "What wondrous love is this, oh my soul, oh my soul."

And while his grandson and necessary companion, Tao Rodriguez, modestly disclaims any legacy, he's clearly inherited more than Pete's nose. Tao and Pete share a disarming quality that immediately puts you at ease, a clear, ringing voice and strong convictions with the gift of gab to convey them. I'll let them speak for themselves.

Ruth: Well, Pete, for the record, what is the connection between music and working people?

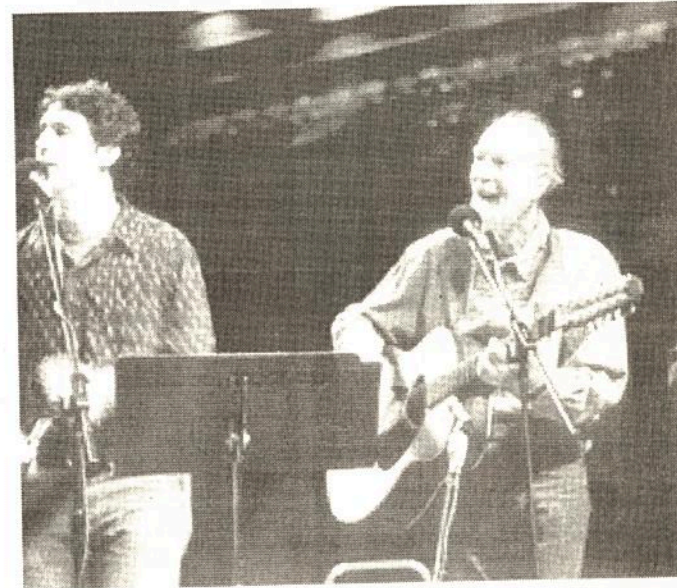
Pete: I'd say that music is to make as well as to listen to, and working people throughout the ages have been the people who make music. Kings and queens didn't make music, they had music made for them...In this modern age, we all live like kings, and we have machines to make music for us, and I look upon my main mission in life to show people its fun to make your own music. And who knows but what this music can help save this world, and make our children's life better instead of worse.

Ruth: I hope so. I know you've been making my life better since I was four years old...From your awesome octogenarian perspective here, how are today's struggles the same as in the past?

Pete: As always, you have a choice between doing what's easy in the here and now, and looking ahead a little bit. There must be old proverbs that say, you know, penny wise poundfoolish...It's easy to do the quick and dirty and a little harder to look farther ahead...Anyway, I'm really lucky to be alive and I'm really glad that I can see as I did this weekend, literally hundreds, thousands, of people coming along to realize that music and dancing is part of making the world of the future. It's interesting. It's very much something in the present...but nevertheless you feel yourself a part of a long chain of history...

Ruth: So can you see anything that's different now in people's struggles since you started your career?

Pete: Well, it's a little confusing now to many people. "Oh, if we only had one big organization we'd lay out a course; we all could travel on that beautiful highway." I don't think it'll ever be that simple again. In fact, if it was I think I'd get a little suspicious of it. There's going to be various paths...but we'll make it. I'm not in favor of trying to do it the quickest way. It's true that America's famous for wanting to get places in a hurry...I was thinking there should be a song about the value of going slowly. I heard some blues singer 60 years ago: "I like a man who takes his time"...The quickest way is not necessarily the best way.



LINKS ON THE CHAIN; PETE SEEGER AND HIS GRANDSON TAO RODRIGUEZ MAKING MUSIC AT THE FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. PHOTO BY SHELLY OBERMAN.

Ruth: No, it's not. What is the same or different for you now personally in your work than when you started out?

Pete: Oh, I don't have much voice left. Mainly, I'm standing on stage and I get the banjo or guitar getting the rhythm and then I somehow get the melody and then I speak the words out and the audience sings the song...

Ruth: Well, I can see what's the same. That's your sense of humor. Do you see any hopeful developments in the working class culture right now?

Pete: So many hopeful developments that it would take a long time to tell 'em. One...is what went on this weekend. And I hope and I expect to see other cities saying: Hey, we may not be able to do it as good as Seattle because they have a head start, but we can start...

Ruth: Yeah, so, speaking of this weekend what do you think the significance is of this Labor Arts and History Festival?

Pete: Well, it wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been a great city called Seattle, with a strong labor tradition and an extraordinary union, the International Longshoreman Warehouse Union, which was led by one of the most extraordinary people the world ever knew, Harry Bridges...and Harry's dead [so now there's] a Harry Bridges chair at the university...Corporations will have a Henry Ford chair or something like that and they endow it so now the university can...have conferences on industrial problems, but here now they have a Harry Bridges chair and they have enough money left over to afford a conference on problems in the labor movement. Maybe they'll concentrate in one particular aspect or another. I think this weekend was kind of general. What is the future of the labor movement going to be in view of the new changes in the

world...the internet and so on...When the labor movement learns how to use these new tools, who can tell what new things — think what Joe Hill would've done if he'd had email sending his songs around the world...Of course [part of learning how to use] every invention is learning how not to use it...If it's not used right it's going to do more and more damage...It's already doing a lot of damage.

Ruth: Can you comment on the role of art and activism; how those things work together?

Pete: Well, they're so closely intertwined for me that I see people who draw [and take] pictures...working alongside dancers and historians and poets and flute players and drummers. And politics in the 21st century will be so different than politics in the 20th or 19th century. It'll be almost unrecognizable. And people thinking in old-fashioned terms says "I don't dig what's going on" but the young people won't have any trouble...They mix it all up.

Ruth: In your version of Jacob's Ladder you say "struggle is long but hope is longer." Do you have any last hopeful thoughts for us wage slaves here in Seattle?

Pete: I would say that as long as you're struggling together you're luckier than most people who just struggle on their own. The happiest people I've ever known in the world are those who are struggling together. The saddest people in the world are often those who've given up the struggle. "Oh, there's no hope. Pass me another beer. Oh, there's no hope. Let me switch on the TV. Oh, there's no hope. Let me take a sleeping pill." These are the saddest people in the world. The happiest people in the world say "Hey, I don't know what's gonna happen but, by gosh, I'm not gonna give up." And "Hey, Mary, come down to the meeting with me tonight. We're gonna shake things up a little bit." OK?

Ruth: So it was really cool to see you singing with Pete. Sometimes it sounded just like one voice which was really wild to experience.

Tao: Well, that's good. That's what we try for. Neither one of us takes the lead technically. So more often than not...we both sing melody...It's hard to tell who the voice is coming from if we do our job right...It's sort-of like a revamped Milli Vanilli but it works.

Ruth: OK. And are you just doing this for now or do you plan to make this a longterm thing for yourself?

Tao: (laugh) Well, I'll play music till the day I die but whether or not I try to make a living at it is another question. The music business is such a funny business, I'd rather not even get into it...if I

"I would say that as long as you're struggling together you're luckier than most people who just struggle on their own. The happiest people I've ever known in the world are those who are struggling together. The saddest people in the world are often those who've given up."

Pete Seeger

could somehow play often enough to make a living [without getting] real wealthy and still work with good people and do festivals like Folklife which is really a truly magnificent festival. A lot of people talk about diversity in their festivals but this one really pulled it off. A lot of other festivals have a lot to learn from this [one] and not the least that it's free...It's a rare festival that has no big stars in it. That really gives it a down home in the living room kind of feeling...yet the music doesn't suffer...

Ruth: Yeah, it is. Anyway, can you comment on your generation and social activism since we've gotta swing back to our theme here?

Tao: (laugh) Good god, my generation...I think I'm a very bad spokesman for my generation...I mean, I grew up with banjos and mandolins...I was about 18 [when] I heard Led Zeppelin for the first time...While other kids were rocking out, I was remembering lullabies and sea chanties...I just figured everyone's Grandpa was like that...I will say this though about activism: more and more young people are getting active. [From working] with Clearwater on the Hudson River for the past 3 years...I got to work with a lot of people around my age [spanning 15—early 30's]. There's a lot of kids who are getting involved; a lot of inner city organizations being run by teenagers who are sick of the violence.

Now, hopefully they won't get overwhelmed. It's hard to stand up against violence and not get killed and anyone who says this country is not in a civil war is out of their mind and hasn't studied history. You define a civil war by whether or not people are getting killed by their neighbors generally, and that's exactly what's happening and that's a very scary thing...I can't imagine what that would be like to wake up and think to myself, Jesus, I could get shot in science class today...Much less think about 'am I gonna be able to get a job when I get out of high school'?

Nonetheless I think good things are happening and things like Folklife are just gonna help it out. I saw a lot of teenagers there; people in their 20's enjoying the music, each other, the food; sitting around playing music with each other. And that's really what community is all about — enjoying each others' company, enjoying each others' food, enjoying each others' music. If we can do that more I think Seattle is gonna teach the country about more than just coffee. ☺



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June 15, 1997

Celebrating Labor's Rebirth

Folklife Labor Arts Fest Explores Worker History and Future

By RUTH A. FOX

According to Scott Reed, "There's rarely a revolution that's spontaneous because if it's spontaneous, it's usually not focussed. You wind up with what happened in the L.A. riots." Reed, along with fellow social justice organizer and musician, Bob Barnes, is Rise Up! Productions.

As a part of the 1997 Folklife Festival, Reed and Barnes put on the Labor Arts & History Festival that should serve as a model to inspire workers, activists and artists all over the U.S. These folks previously brought us the Fifth Avenue Theater Musicians Strike. The Memorial Day weekend labor Arts festival was truly revolutionary.

How was this revolutionary? Although social revolution appears spontaneous, it isn't. It is, in fact, the effect of restructuring — new leadership tackling long-standing problems with successful results.

And this revolution and evolution is



"LINKS ON THE CHAIN" EXPLORED THE ROLE THAT MUSIC HAS PLAYED IN OVERCOMING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND BUILDING UNITY AMONG WORKING PEOPLE. PHOTO BY SHELLY OBERMAN.

Reed and Barnes saw Folklife as the perfect venue for demonstrating that labor organizing has been reborn, richer than ever in culture. What better place to gather 200,000 folks together for fun, inspiration and education?

what's happening in the U.S. labor movement. Conditions have finally gotten bad enough for working, semi-working and not-working people that it's clear everyone's in the same boat. Organize is the word right now and it's happening all over. Unions are shaking off their tired old methods and are vibrant with new visions for what can actually be accomplished.

Reed and Barnes saw Folklife as the perfect venue for demonstrating that labor organizing has been reborn, richer than ever in culture. What better place to gather 200,000 folks together for fun, inspiration and education?

Of course this didn't happen overnight. Let's backtrack. In 1994, Barnes and Reed formed Rise Up! with the vision of producing the whole gamut of cultural events for working people. That same year, Reed went to the Great Labor Arts Exchange, an annual national gathering in D.C. where all kinds of artists working for labor share their stuff with each other. He came back realizing

it was time for something like that out here.

So in 1995, he and Barnes redid the Northwest Labor Arts Festival, an event previously run by the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association. It hadn't happened in four years, so they acted, taking it a step further, with emphasis on exchanging art and learning from one another. It was very successful. People loved it and wanted to do it again.

In 1996, Reed went back to the national exchange in D.C. and connected with Pete Seeger, told him he produced Folklife's Labor Stage and asked him if he'd like to have Rise Up! bring him out to perform. Seeger had heard of Folklife and was curious. He answered, "Yes." And there you have it.

Barnes and Reed readily admit they were naive about what bringing Seeger out to Seattle would imply. They thought they'd expand the Labor Stage a bit and have a slightly bigger concert. However, they knew it would be much more when they sat down with Cathy Ragland (Folklife's program director) last October. The main theme exhibit had just canceled.

Seizing the moment, Reed and Barnes stepped in with highfaluting ideas. Then they stepped out and said: "Wait a second. Chill...Did we just commit to this?" But the time was so ripe that: "Basically," said Reed, "We just went for it." These two went all out and created the Labor Arts and History Festival. And they pulled off everything they committed to that day, so successfully that they are the first to have produced such a mass scale labor arts festival.

Events included concerts, films, a play

produced by the Group Theater, a fine art exhibit, workshops, a labor teach-in at the UW, mural painting, and puppets on parade. There was so much great stuff that we *Real Change* reporters wanted to clone ourselves and fill three issues. We did what we could.

Give credit to Scott Nagel and all the leadership that has helped Folklife evolve over the past 26 years into, as Pete Seeger put it, "the most diverse and widespread piece of culture you can imagine." There is no other festival like this in the country. Seeger said so. It's exciting to realize what we have here.

This festival went further even than hoped. To quote Barnes:

"I expected to knock a hole in the roof of Mercer Arena [during 'Links on the Chain' concert]. But we did not expect to take the whole fucking roof off." No, this event will not be topped.

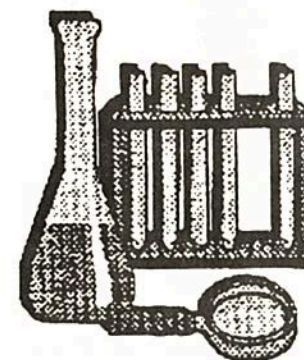
The point though is to continue such events in a sustainable way. Perhaps it's time to reclaim Seattle's radical heritage. We have the opportunity to inspire the nation. As Seeger noted, you can put up tents and do this anywhere. ☐



LABOR ART: MURAL ARTIST MIKE ALEWITZ STANDS NEXT TO A LABOR MURAL HE PAINTED DURING THE FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL IN THE MUSEUM COURTYARD. ALEWITZ RECENTLY PAINTED A COMMEMORATION AT CHERNOBYL FOR THE WORKERS WHO DIED IN THAT NUCLEAR DISASTER.

PHOTO BY SHELLY OBERMAN

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Northwest Kinetics in Tacoma needs volunteers for an investigational drug research study of a new Protease Inhibitor.

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Where are the Workers?

Local Panel Discusses Media Neglect of Organized Labor

By CATHERINE GAINAY

As an institution, the modern press had undergone intense scrutiny. The resurgence of the labor movement sparked by the proliferation of the 20 hour work week, and \$5 an hour jobs ought to make for interesting copy. Coverage of this issue, or the lack of it, has sparked a controversy among media watchers. Have the media given fair, accurate coverage of the this new trend?

On May 23, the University of Washington hosted "The Future of Labor," a day-long series of workshops and panel discussions detailing the history of organized labor and where it's going today. The public had an opportunity to meet with

From August 13 to November 29, 1936, strikers managed to shut down the stop the printing of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, an act almost unheard of in the newspaper business. The *PI*, owned by the Hearst corporation, was paralyzed throughout this period.

members of local and national unions as well as educators and organizers.

A panel discussion entitled, "Covering Labor: Workers And Unions In The Media,"

examined the portrayal of workers and the labor movement in the media. Panelists discussed the common images in mainstream labor coverage. This "Teach-In" was part of the "Labor Arts and History Festival" theme for Folklife. The discussion was moderated by Tom Berry, graduate student at the UW school of Political Science. Leading the discussion was Karen Keiser, Communications Director for the Washington State Labor Council, Stan Holmes *Seattle Times* reporter, Mike Maharry, reporter for the *Tacoma News Tribune*, and Ben Jackett of *The Stranger*.

The Press: Slow on the Uptake?

The press has lost all sense of perspective, claims Maharry. "The press is not as bright as they think they are," he said. "There is a tendency to miss out or overlook important trends." Maharry said that editors are admittedly slow to recognize working America.

Maharry said that money is the principle motivator in what gets published. Advertising and circulation directly affects the content of what you read every morning. The mainstream press tends to shy away from anything that may upset advertisers; controversial or volatile issues like organized labor frightens away potential business.

The success of the AFL-CIO sponsored "America Needs A Raise" campaign last summer was due to the attention this brought to the public consciousness. The campaign focused on the plight of workers forced to support families on jobs that pay

Continued to page 18

Artful Protest: Machinists' Statue Creates a Permanent Picket Line



Depicting a family with three children on a picket line, this life-size sculpture graces the front of the new Everett meeting hall for Boeing Machinists. The statue features a burn barrel with an actual flame that can be adjusted in times of labor conflict or negotiations.

Designed by retired Boeing inspector Ken Lonn, the statue faces the Boeing plant directly across the street. The bronze picket line commemorates the spirit of the union, which waged a 69 day strike in 1995 that succeeded in gaining the 32,000 machinists improved job security and benefits. — LB.

Holly Park Promises

HOUSING

City Council Gives Go-Ahead to Housing Project Compromise

By MARY PARK

This is a great day for the city of Seattle," Councilmember Cheryl Chow told a cheering crowd gathered in Council chambers on June 2. In the face of intense controversy, the Council had just committed 6.3 million in city funds for the redevelopment of Beacon Hill's Holly Park.

Under the auspices of HUD's HOPE VI program, Seattle Housing Authority [SHA] plans to completely demolish Holly Park's 871 units of public housing. In its place, they hope to build an attractive 1200-unit mixed-income development, complete with extensive community facilities such as housing programs, job training, and Head Start. The problem? Only 450 of these new units will be made available to the kind of very low-income tenants currently housed at Holly Park.

Opposition to the plan first surfaced this spring, when it became clear that almost 180 million dollars were being spent for a project that would actually decrease Seattle's low-income housing stock. By that time, HUD had rescinded their funding for building replacement housing elsewhere in the city. Even though SHA came up with some creative definitions for the term "low-income housing unit," it was clear they hadn't designated the necessary resources to make up for the loss of federal funding.

The timing couldn't be worse. With over 5000 people sleeping in shelters or on the streets every night, Seattle's homeless

The compromise doesn't address some of the opponents' key concerns, such as the high cost of rebuilding Holly Park's infrastructure from scratch. But the City Council's amendments do go a long way towards holding SHA accountable for replacing what it tears down.

problem is growing at an alarming rate. Given the long waiting list for public housing, spending scarce housing dollars to destroy existing units is, to say the least, counter-intuitive.

Concerned, homeless advocates banded together with local architects and planners to create an alternate plan. Their plan saved the project millions of dollars, money that could then be used to create off-site replacement housing. Though the alternate plan was never adopted, this vocal opposition forced the Council to take a long hard look at SHA's numbers. In the end, the Council's Central Staff hammered out a compromise of sorts.

On Paper: No Net Loss

The compromise doesn't address some of the opponents' key concerns, such as the high cost of rebuilding Holly Park's infrastructure from scratch. But the City Council's amendments do go a long way towards holding SHA accountable for replacing what it tears down.

On its part, SHA has already cut 2.5 million from the project's budget. Combining this money with Federal Home Loan Bank grant funds, SHA will "buy down" 221 units of local nonprofit housing (financed by city dollars), making the nonprofit housing affordable to those earning 30% of median income. Using a combination of Section 8 certificates and operating subsidies transferred from the demolished Holly Park units, they'll further buy down the same housing until it's affordable to those earning less than 30% of median.

Other replacement housing sources include 98 bond-financed units in mixed-income projects, as well as 40 scattered-site units paid for with low-income housing funds once designated for post-Commons South Lake Union. SHA will also be required to produce 62 additional units in Phases 2 and 3 of construction, producing a grand total of 392 new units of very-low income housing. In other words, no net loss.

On paper, this compromise looks pretty good, and it occasioned a fair amount of self-congratulation at City Hall. Cheryl Chow commended the "spirited, civil, courteous, and respectful" discussion at the

Continued to page 20

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PUBLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S & WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION, \$5.00

REVIEW BY ANITRA FREEMAN

At the opening night of the Labor Teach-In over Memorial Day Weekend, the hall at the Hec-Ed Pavilion out by the UW Stadium was lined with tables full of handouts and information. One of the items I picked up there was a book hot off the presses — a large, 8 1/2" by 11" glossy booklet, 90 pages with 80 black-and-white photos (including back cover).

This is a history of the ILWU — the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union — and, being composed by the ILWU itself, it has some of the enthusiastic boosterism of corporate history booklets.

It is, however, much more interesting than any corporate history I have ever read, and I gladly overlooked the rah-rah in return for historic photos of the 1934 strikes, pictures of the life of the boats like "container operations in Seattle, 1984," compared with "break bulk operations, circa 1958," and more — as I said, there are 80 of them. And Oral History inserts, quotes from men and women who lived this history, eyewitness accounts of life on the waterfront from before 1934 to the present.

My grandfather did some waterfront work in his early days in the Northwest, but I never thought to ask him for details about it until long after he was gone. So I was doubly interested to read a history that extended from 1902 to the present, with a focus on the Pacific Coast.

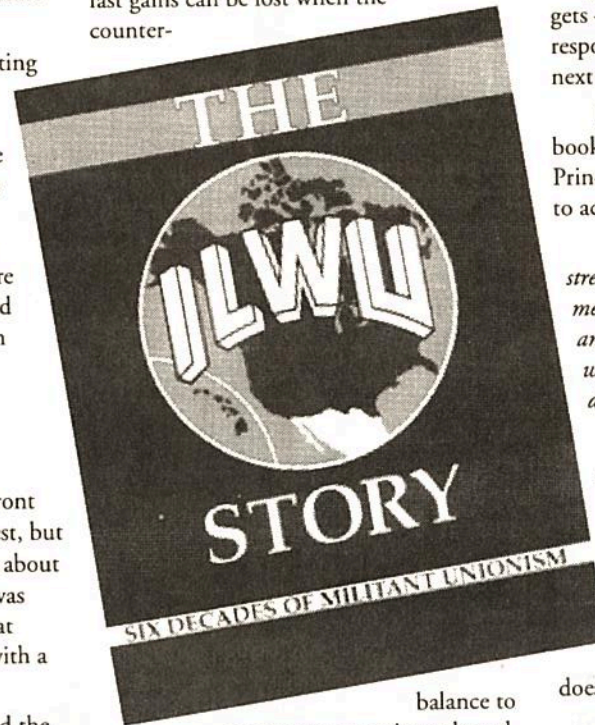
Besides historical interest, I found the book to have relevance today. It is easy, in light of many improvements in most working conditions, and some union abuses, to forget the terrible conditions that unions came into being to oppose. It is easy to forget how much we all owe, in occupational health and safety, pensions, unem-



ILWU MEMBERS ON MARITIME PICKET LINE IN PORTLAND DURING THE 1948 STRIKE.

ployment insurance, and much more, to union action.

It is easy to forget how strong the force of short-sighted human greed is, and how fast gains can be lost when the counter-



balance to corporate power is weakened. And it is easy to forget the lessons that the early unions had to learn, over and over, about what could weaken them — like racial or other discrimination, allowing the corporation to pit workers against workers.

I am personally convinced that unions,

grassroots activism, cooperative worker-owned businesses, the growth of interactive theater and other arts that engage the viewer in personal creativity, the whole concept of "empowerment" — overused as the word gets — are related. That the rise in personal responsibility and political control is the next step in democracy.

I was reading the last page of the booklet, a listing of The Ten Guiding Principles of the ILWU, and relating them to activism:

1) *A union is built on its members. The strength, understanding and unity of the membership can determine the union's course and its advancements. The members who work, who make up the union and pay its dues can best determine their own destiny.*

Arion Court, in which the tenants participated in management from the very beginning, is in excellent shape compared to low-income housing projects designed and administered by middle-class bureaucrats and pointed to when they are falling down as examples that "low-income housing doesn't work."

2) *Labor unity is at all times the key for a successful economic advancement. Anything that detracts from labor unity hurts all labor.*

3) *Workers are indivisible. There can be no discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, religious or political belief. Any division among the workers can help no*

one but the employer. Discrimination of worker against worker is suicide.

The early attempts at organizing were undercut by territorial loyalties, which employers were able to capitalize on by pitting local against local, like diverting cargo from a striking port to a non-striking port. They also imported African-Americans as strike-breakers against white unionists. When the longshoremen rebuilt their union in 1933, they stated as open policy that any discrimination weakens a union organization.

Activists have been learning the same lesson — "An injury to one is an injury to all!" And for society as a whole, an inclusiveness that celebrates diversity is strong. We want no Sarajevo in Seattle — do we?

4) *"To help any worker in distress" must be a daily guide in the life of every trade union and its individual members.*

Have we begun to get the idea, in society, that no one's suffering really "doesn't have anything to do with us"? Ignoring child abuse and neglect raises a generation of difficulties that fall on our legal and welfare systems and impact all our lives. Our neglect of the mentally ill has begun to crowd our sidewalks — and fosters an atmosphere in which we are afraid to voice our own emotional difficulties for fear of being stigmatized.

5) *Any union, if it is to fulfill its appointed task, must put aside all internal differences and issues to combine for the common cause of advancing the welfare of its membership.*

It is easy to forget how much we all owe, in occupational health and safety, pensions, unemployment insurance, and much more, to union action.

"Purpose equals patience," as I say about teaching computer skills. When you feel frustrated by a personal conflict, focus on the goal.

6) *The days are long-gone when a union can consider dealing with single employers. The powerful financial interests of the country are bound together in every conceivable type of united organization to promote their own welfare and resist the demands of labor.*

And of private citizens and even of public government. The corporations are out of control. A pile of money can be counter-balanced, but only by a pile of people.

7) *Just as water flows to its lowest level, so do wages if the bulk of the workers are left unorganized.*

The unions have come to understand that for one person to enjoy good wages and benefits, she must ensure them for all — "raise the wage floor." It is time for all of us to realize that increasing the welfare of the marginalized does not take away from our own, but increases it — and makes it a lot more stable.

8) *The basic aspirations and desires of the workers throughout*

the world are the same.

Corporations have gone multi-national. The globalization of capital threatens cultural diversity, ecology, and human values all over the world. Big business is not automatically evil — but it can be, without checks and balances. Again, to balance the dollars we need a pile of people — across all nations.

9) *A new type of unionism is called for which does not confine its ambitions and demands only to wages.*

We also need to start working into our profit-and-loss analyses things like effect on the environment and on society. The "union of consumers" can affect businesses that abuse social and environmental values by "dollar strikes" — boycotts.

10) *Jurisdictional warfare and jurisdictional raiding must be outlawed by labor itself.*

Most activist organizations that I know in Seattle deal with each other amicably, with a couple of history-making exceptions. I would dearly like never to see that sort of history made again.

Continued to page 18

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Herman "Sonny" Jones

Born July 21, 1948 — Died May 18, 1997

By ANITRA FREEMAN

Herman "Sonny" Jones seemed to me like a fixture at the Union Hotel — the subsidized apartment building in Pioneer Square administered by DESC — where I live. His health problems were obvious — he went everywhere with "the damn machine" as he called it, an oxygen bottle hooked up to tubes he wore in his nose.

He spoke in a gentle, breathless voice. As I learned, he had only one lung, the other lost to some form of "black lung" disease, which had damaged the remaining lung also.

Still, it was still a shock when I heard that Sonny had died, on Sunday, May 18th. It always is a shock, even when you have come to expect it.

We had our own memorial for Sonny, at the Union Hotel. Elements that were often repeated included dignity: Sonny never did cave in to his disease or his circumstances, but maintained a quiet human dignity to the last. He was famous at the Union for his house-robbers; when he came downstairs to the common rooms he would most likely be "attired" in a silken-looking lounging robe.

Everyone could remember Sonny

playing chess. Almost anytime, night or day, you wanted a game of chess you could get one with Sonny. Many times I came home when others were long asleep, and found Sonny sitting up playing chess on the computer.

According to one of the staff members, Sonny could be impatient, feeling that he did not have time to waste in waiting. But personally I found Sonny always kind, encouraging, and cheerful.

I mentioned to a friend the irony that many people who suffer much less than Sonny did become bitter and take it out on the world. My friend said that people who have gone through major suffering have more perspective on life — they aren't going to waste time on pettiness.



HERMAN "SONNY" JONES.

That was Sonny — he had no time for waiting to use the phone, but he had no time for pettiness either.

I attended Sonny's funeral. He had a large family present, and also members of the Union Hotel. From the numbers of his people there, and the level of emotion, I could tell Sonny had been a well-loved man who made a strong impression on all the lives he touched.

The minister said, "However you react to death, that's how you react. If you can be happy that your loved one is in heaven, be happy; and if you have to cry, cry."

My own reaction was to be reminded of perspective. As I swear all over again at every funeral, I swore to pay more attention to the people around me, and not take them for granted as I dash about in my activities. And I swore, if I ever get caught up in bitterness or resentment, to remember Sonny.

None of us has any time for the small stuff. ☐

Do Something

HELP PREVENT HOMELESSNESS Provide information and referral to low-income clients in an interesting and fun environment. Great training and support. Call Kathleen at Legal Action Center: 328-5934. Volunteer or work-study. Daytime hours.

HELP CHILDREN IN NEED Treehouse has rewarding volunteer positions including responding to children's requests, being a personal shopper for a child, or assisting in our office. Treehouse is a non-profit that provides self-esteem building opportunities for children who have suffered abuse and neglect. To find out how you can become involved, call the volunteer coordinator: 767-7000.

THE SHAREHOUSE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS As formerly homeless individuals and families move into permanent housing, the Sharehouse provides basic household furnishings to make the transition easier. We're looking for warehouse and front desk

help. Contact Kate Stannard for more info: 527-5956.

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 languages. 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. Enthusias-

tic and dedicated volunteers are needed to staff the main lobby's front desk on weekdays and weekends during the hours of 12-1pm and 5-6pm. For more information, please contact Leigh McGrath at 467-1878.

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

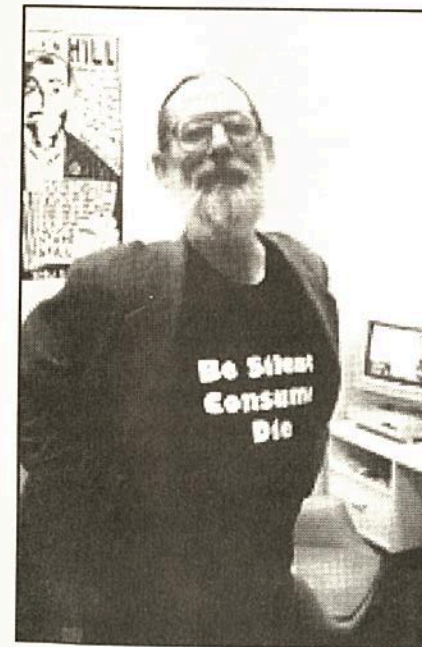
HELP THE HOMELESS Volunteer at the Downtown Emergency Service Center. Volunteers are needed in the shelter to help with the meal program and providing clients with coffee, mail, hygiene supplies and opportunities for socialization. Also needed: hairdressers and computer trainers. Six month commitment.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

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR TENANTS RIGHTS! The Tenants Union needs volunteers to work on our newsletter, do legislative work, organizing, fund raising, outreach and office work. Fun, committed staff and flexible schedules. Call Rich at 722-6848, ext. 111.

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MEDIA, CONT FROM PAGE 12

forced to support families on jobs that pay substandard wages, with no benefits. Muharry was quick to say that publishers have become alienated from the working public. "CEO's are not sympathetic to the labor movement," he said.

Meanwhile alternative publications like *The Stranger* have built its reputation and readership on controversy. Jacklet agreed with Maharry's observation that the Fourth Estate is out of touch. "Newspapers need to catch up."

Jacklet went on to say the editors of *The Stranger* are not afraid to embrace risk — as long as the data and the facts jibe with reality.

"The stories that shake things up are the red-hot stories that bring down corporate America."

The Stranger's advertising base allows them to take on stories that other papers would not be inclined to publish. "Our advertisers tend to be on a liberal political groove," he said.

"Body piercing salons, alternative personals and clothing stores are not at all concerned with conservative appearances, so we can get away with more," he said.

Jacklet said that ideas presented to his paper need to be focused and based on real and verifiable facts.

Karen Kaiser feels the explanation for the lack of coverage can be found in how the media perceives organized labor.

Dia Pierce of the Detroit Newspaper Guild claims that publishers and editors do manipulate the truth to make the news more "digestible." She is currently spearheading mass boycotting of media giants like USA Today, The Miami Herald, and the Knight/Ridder empire.

"Labor is considered out of date, a relic, a victim of skepticism about institutions," she said. "No individual has a picture of the entire scene."

Struggle From Within: Newspaper Workers Rights

Sunday the 25th, a forum entitled, "The Media and Labor: The Oregonian Strike of 1961" brought together representatives of newspaper guilds, journalists and organizers to discuss present struggles that are going on in each respective paper.

Roger Simpson, associate professor of communications at the UW presented some historical perspective to the media's subjective experience with management and unions.

From August 13 to November 29, 1936, strikers managed to shut down and stop the printing of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, an act almost unheard of in the newspaper business. The *PI*, owned by the Hearst corporation, was paralyzed throughout this period.

In those days the labor movement had solid support politically. Both the mayor and chief of police refused to interfere with the pickets. The strike was even supported by lawmakers in Olympia. According to Simpson, Hearst's unstable finances led to this walkout. Hearst brought in students from the UW to get the paper back on line.

Dennis Mosgofian, President of the San Francisco Web Pressment and Prepress Worker's Union, #4 says that the 1994 San Francisco strike definitely had elements of violence to it.

"In May of 1993, publishers of the *Examiner* consulted the law firm of King and Bellew, noted union-busting experts," he said. They saw that management could do serious damage. They reportedly were hired to wage war on the union, and at gun point, ordered pressmen off the presses. They cut down on the number of employees to do more work.

Dia Pierce of the Detroit Newspaper Guild claims that publishers and editors do manipulate the truth to make the news more "digestible." She is currently spearheading mass boycotting of media giants like *USA Today*, *The Miami Herald*, and *the Knight/Ridder* empire.

Pierce says that approximately 2,000 workers went on strike against the *Detroit*

News and Free Press protesting against unfair pay and unsafe working conditions. Management of this paper locked picketers out, hiring so-called scabs to take their place. Twenty months later of the original 2,000, 164 have returned to work.

Pierce has worked as an editorial assistant for this paper for 20 years. In that time she has been fired five times. She said that what we read about is not the whole truth.

"People don't realize how manipulated the news is."

She claims that if an editor does not like what the reporter has written about, they simply find a more conducive source and redirect the entire angle of the story to fit editorial and perhaps political standards.

Pierce was at Folklife to generate support for the striking workers. She said that more than 1500 advertisers have dropped their ads in support of the strike.

Demonstrations are planned in Detroit and Seattle on June 20-21 of this year to bring these issues to public attention. The AFL-CIO has called for a national demonstration to take place on Saturday, June 20 in support of the worker's demand that they be allowed to resume their jobs. A simultaneous demonstration is scheduled in Seattle at 7 pm at the IBEW Hall, 2700 1st Ave. [A]

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Next Issue: Augusto Boal Chats about the Theater of Oppression

BOOK REVIEW, CONT FROM PAGE 15

Repeatedly, over Memorial Day weekend, we were told that the unions were allying with the poor, immigrants, minorities, and all the marginalized. I certainly hope so.

We need such an alliance — it is only in the strength of numbers that we will overcome the very big money that is currently gaining control of political institutions around the world.

Let's make it happen. [A]

Are You a Frequent Flyer?

Real Change is hosting the founding conference of the North American Street Newspaper Association in Seattle this September 11-14.



Help poor and homeless people from other cities attend the historic conference in Seattle by contributing your frequent flyer miles. Please call Timothy Harris at 441-3247.

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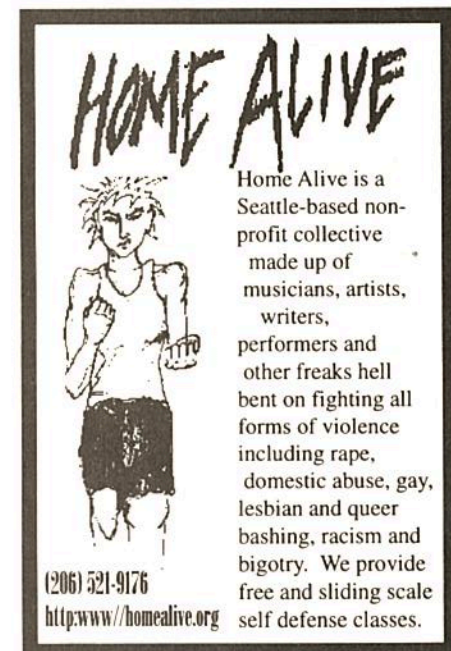
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May 22 public hearing, and assured everyone concerned that the debate "has made this a better plan." It just goes to show what a wonderful city we live in, she said, when the community and City Council can work together to identify issues and devise solutions.

Richard McIver agreed. "We are at a historic moment," he said. He anticipated that the new Holly Park would become a "national, even global model for intergenerational, multi-cultural, and economically mixed communities." "I'm proud today to support this plan," he concluded, "and proud to be a member of the Seattle community."



HOME ALIVE
Home Alive is a Seattle-based non-profit collective made up of musicians, artists, writers, performers and other freaks hell bent on fighting all forms of violence including rape, domestic abuse, gay, lesbian and queer bashing, racism and bigotry. We provide free and sliding scale self defense classes.
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A Word from the Opposition

Plan opponents aren't wearing McIver and Chow's rose-colored glasses. There's no doubt that the compromise is an improvement over the previous version, says John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition. It does require SHA to ante up some 4.5 million dollars in Phase I of construction, for instance, and it includes a stipulation that all on-site and off-site public housing units must rent at very low-income rates for at least 40 years. (An earlier provision allowed SHA to raise rents.)

Nonetheless, Fox says, the city's compromise still allows the use of funds like those once designated for South Lake Union. That's money which could be used to expand the housing supply rather than just maintain the status quo. What's more, the city has authorized non-profits to use up to 4 million dollars in city funds just to build the 221 affordable units SHA will "buy down" to very low-income levels. Again, that's 4 million dollars that isn't going towards housing Seattle's homeless.

Fox also disputes the 221-unit figure. Local non-profits believe that money is only sufficient for 129 units at most, he says. As for the bond-financed units in mixed-income developments, Fox points out that to produce 98 units of low-income housing, SHA would have to build some 500 units of market-rate housing to pay for their operation. "That's just not going to happen in my lifetime," he says.

To illustrate what he calls the "hypocrisy" of the City Council's happy-family, gee-isn't-Seattle-great rhetoric, Fox points to

a puzzling moment that occurred during the City Council meeting. The context: the compromise involves redirecting almost a million in city funds previously designated to help mobile home residents buy their own parks. Residents of the Crestview mobile home park recently organized to apply for these funds. During the June 2 meeting, Councilmember Charlie Chong raised a motion to defer approving the plan until the Crestview application could be reviewed.

Noone seconded the motion. There wasn't even any discussion. Evidently the city isn't quite as wonderful for the residents of Crestview as it is for those of Holly Park.

SDC's job still isn't done. To enforce its compromise, the city will draft a Memorandum of Agreement with SHA, slated to be completed July 31. City Council has set excellent goals for this MOA, including holding SHA responsible for meeting its replacement housing targets and forcing SHA to provide periodic reports.

But given the Council's short memory (think mobile home park money), it remains to be seen just how binding the MOA's wording will be once the issue has left the limelight of public concern. SHA will certainly lobby to dilute the MOA's wording, and it will be up to the Seattle Displacement Coalition and other homeless advocates to make sure SHA lives up to its promises.

"It's a partial victory," Fox says. "But it wouldn't have happened without community groups like us around to kick and scream."

Untitled

Dead air
Filled with words
Time folding in on itself
A child's laughter
The only honest noise
You always told me some day I'd go too far
This time there is no bread crumb trail
Leading home

— Sally Johnson

Traditions

Small hands and faces hidden,
underneath the masses, unseen.

Treasures buried underneath
the deforming weight of Greed.

Unbalanced powers veer and
miss, the target of progress.

Patriarchal orders from a
religious catalogue; dominations
blessed.

Hierarchy preserved, traditions
distorted, embellished, for control.

Undiscovered (profits) in the
eyes of small faces,
undernourished souls.

— D.S. Kent

Tired

My very HAIR
Is tired, today

...and it is no wonder

In this Summer
heat wave

— Marion Sue Fischer

Untitled

It doesn't help knowing
that others have had it worse
right now. It increases the horror:
Hope is pretty handy, without it
I'd go to a bar and hustle drinks
until I was too drunk to think.
And then I'd let some gun-collector
take me home.

I'd prescribe for this
resigned and local pain
a temporary anesthetic,
and learn one more thing
I can't look back at
without that one more step
away from forever.

Strikes, layoffs, unemployment,
welfare vouchers, loans.
Crack the code for me,
Give me a spell,
Give me some money,
I'll buy us some drinks
and bring back all the change.

— Elizabeth Romero

New Prostitute

"I would like to," she
said... and, turned
away. Not
far
enough to be considered a
threat by
other

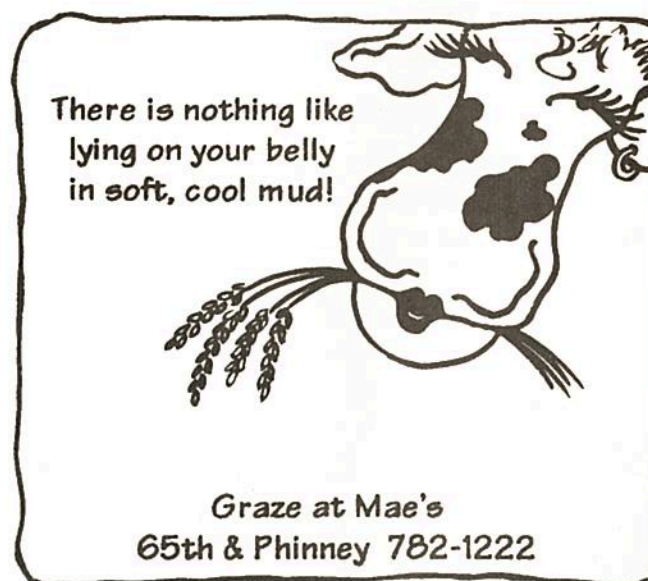
sources...
while she wears cloths from
the top up.

— Stan Burriss
(at: Jazz Club, Olympia, WA)



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color — and holds back white workers. By the same token, legalized discrimination under the new welfare law will keep welfare recipients economically down, while giving employers a powerful lever to force lower standards on all other workers, union and non-union.

That's why it's in every worker's interest to fight the divide-and-conquer strategy of the new welfare law, with the same fervor that we fight the divide-and-conquer strategy those who perpetuate race and sex discrimination.

As with civil rights, we're in a long-term battle - not just to repeal the new welfare law, but to replace it with a true social safety net and public policy that establishes the right to a living wage job. Only with true equality under a just social welfare system will any of us win secure, lasting economic justice. Here are two ways to get started:

Get involved in Jobs With Justice (448-7348, x. 309) and the Washington Welfare Reform Coalition (273-9120). Both groups will let you know about upcoming events, and can provide materials and information

to distribute. Jobs With Justice volunteers are available to make welfare fight-back presentations to community groups.

Help build local support for the Martinez Jobs Bill (HR 950), proposed federal legislation that would invest \$250 Billion in the next five years in training and public works jobs at union wages. U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Seattle) is one of more than 40 cosponsors, but support from local politicians can give the bill a boost. For more information or to help out, call the Puget Sound Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women at 937-9948.

Through letters and public forums, demand that local and state elected officials support living wage jobs and a rollback of the new welfare legislation. Upcoming political races are an ideal opportunity to call on candidates to support the Martinez Jobs Bill and to explain what they will do on a local level to rebuild the social safety net.

Jonathan Rosenblum is co-chair of Washington State Jobs with Justice.

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Dai Scott, instructor 559-6776

JUNE

JUNE 16

Women and Family Center presents Humor Heals, a workshop with self-esteem instructor Carla Keyes at the Millionair Club, 113 First Ave N (at Denny). Info 301-0833.

JUNE 17

Women's Coffee Circle at the Women and Family Center of the Millionair Club, Enjoy a hot cup and start your day with a fresh perspective. Also June 25. 113 First Ave N (at Denny). Info 301-0833.

JUNE 18

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

JUNE 21

Fremont Street Fair, just north of the Fremont Bridge, look for Fellowship of Reconciliation plants for peace booth and other non-profits, part of proceeds of fair to Fremont Public Association

Tenant's Union Benefit "Uncle Bob's Neighborhood," a hilarious monologue by the International District's unofficial mayor Bob Santos, now Region X HUD director, true tales of growing up in Seattle's neighborhoods, to benefit the Tenants Union and the Northwest Asian American theater, 8 p.m., June 22, 4 pm. Nippon Kan Theatre, info Lisa 772-6848 x103

JUNE 23

June 23 Women and Family Center presents Class for Men, a workshop with self-esteem instructor Carla Keyes at the Millionair Club, part of a series entitled "Healing the Emotional Pain that Binds You," 113 First Ave N (at Denny). Info 301-0833.

JUNE 29

Gay Pride Day, March down Broadway from Pine St., and Rally in Volunteer Park being organized by the Freedom Day Committee, starts around 11 a.m. or noon, info 346-0189

ONGOING

Books to Prisoners: Drop by the weekly mailing of this all-volunteer collective and help send books to men and women in prisons all across the USA. Mondays 6-10 pm, Wednesdays 8 pm-Midnight, info 320-0618

Hygiene Center: Funding for Hygiene Center at the Glen Hotel call the City Council Health Committee members Cheryl Chow (684-8804), Tina Podlodowski (684-8808), Charlie Chong (684-8805), Richard McIver (684-8800), Margaret Pageler (684-8807), and the rest of the council 684-8888; ask them to reverse their April 14 decision.

Westlake Park: Oppose privatization of the Westlake park, at 4th & Pine. Call Seattle City Council member, Jan Drago 684-8801, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, tell her 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 and related social activities. info Diane 726-0864

Radical Women hosts a Weekly Roundtable Discussion based on book by Gloria Martin. Mondays, 7 - 8:30 p.m., 1903 NE 82nd, "Socialist Feminism, The First Decade 1966-7 Mondays, 9 p.m. 6", info 524-9353

Food Not Bombs cooks & serves vegetarian meals to the homeless each week, Sundays. Cook in various locations at 2 p.m.; serve dinner at Occidental Park at 6 p.m., 10:30 p.m., Mecca Cafe, 1150 23rd info Steve 547-8559, Marcia 789-9800, or Ilyse 366-0917

American Friends Service Committee and Council for the National Interest Vigil to protest the Har Homa settlements by Israel in East Jerusalem, Fridays, (except June 6, see special event June 5) 5 - 6 p.m., Westlake Park, near 4th & Pine downtown, info AFSC 632-0500

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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Martinez Jobs Bill: Projects For a Living Wage

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

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

Legislative Issue

Rep. Matthew Martinez of California has introduced into Congress HR 950, the Jobs Creation and Infrastructure Act of 1997. Known as the Martinez Jobs Bill, HR 950 will provide \$250 billion over the next five years for union-wage jobs in construction, renovation, and repair of public works.

Included in this bill are community-specific improvement projects dedicated to the restoration and rebuilding of hospitals, libraries, parks, and child care centers; highways, roads and water systems; environmental clean-up and protection; the expansion of mass transit; and other nation-wide projects.

The Martinez Bill is a real-life answer to welfare "reform." Over the next three years the new federal welfare law will push 75,000 of our state's welfare recipients into the workforce and into low-paying jobs. Nationally, a total of one million additional workers will be flooding the labor market by the year 2000.

The Martinez Bill Agenda

- **Prioritize jobs to those who need them the most** — welfare recipients; the long-term unemployed; workers who have lost their jobs due to plant closures, base closures, or downsizing; and at-risk youth who live in communities with the highest levels of youth unemployment.
- **Help us rebuild our schools.** In Seattle alone, 63 out of the 94 public schools currently in use are considered to be in "fair" or "poor" condition. Under HR 950, \$16.4 million will be specifically

allocated to the prolonged and much-needed repair and maintenance of our public schools nation-wide.

- **Help rebuild our infrastructure** and create affordable housing for all.

The movement to pass The Martinez Jobs Bill is being led by the National Labor Coalition for Public Works Jobs. Over 48 members of Congress, including Jim McDermott (D-Seattle), are co-sponsors of HR 950. And support continues to grow. Over 170 labor unions, central labor councils, community organizations, and elected government bodies around the country have endorsed this bill.

Action Needed

Call one or all of your city councilmembers and ask them to approve a resolution urging Congress to pass the Martinez Jobs Bill, HR 950.

Recommended Message

"Please support the right of all to a living wage job, and pass a resolution urging Congress to approve the Martinez Public Works Jobs Bill, HR 950. City councils around the country like Los Angeles, St. Louis, and Detroit have already endorsed this bill."

Advocating Organizations: Coalition of Labor Union Women, Puget Sound Chapter, Washington Federation of State Employees, Local 843. Special thanks to Lonnie Nelson.

Call Your City Councilmembers!

Martha Choe	684-8802	Richard McIver	684-8800
Charlie Chong	684-8805	Jane Nodland	684-8803
Cheryl Chow	684-8804	Margaret Pageler	684-8807
Sue Donaldson	684-8806	Tina Podlodowski	684-8808
Jan Drago	684-8801		

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