

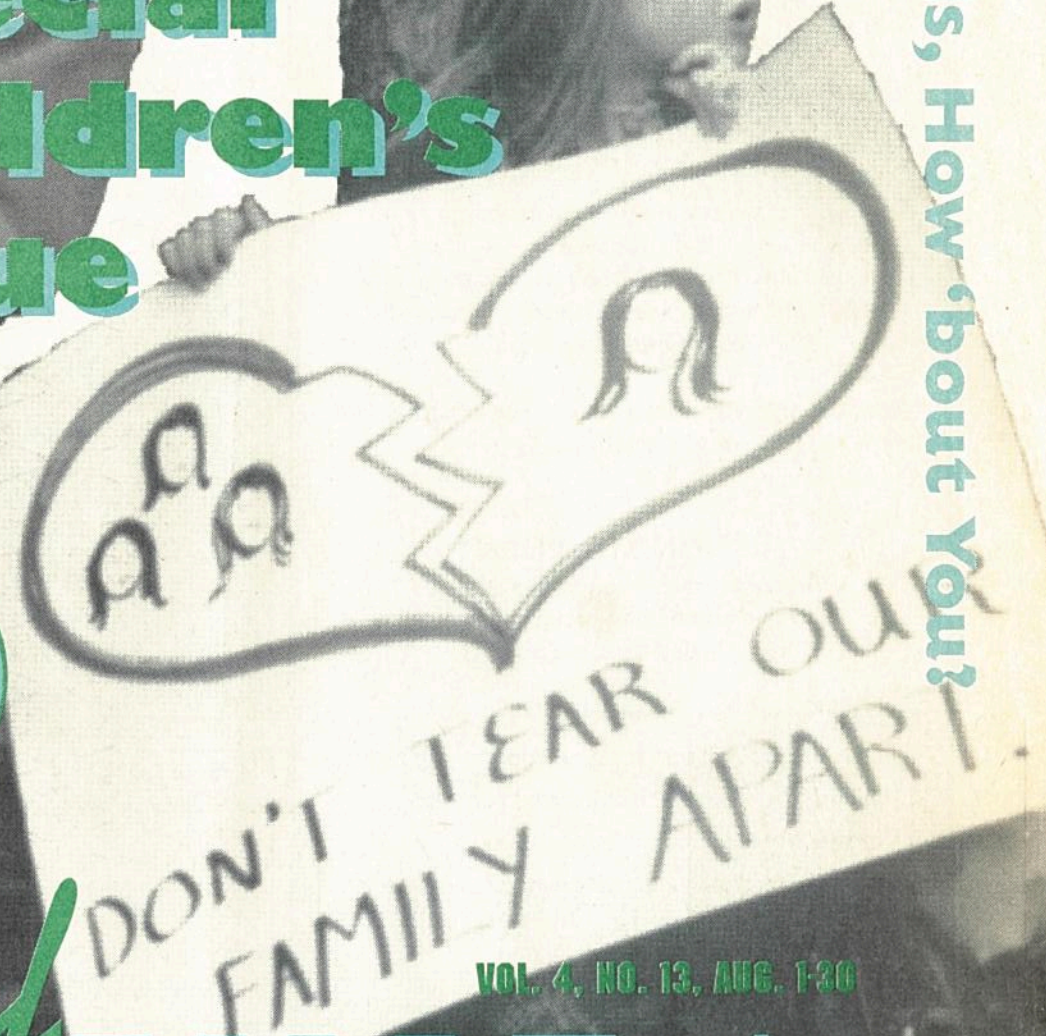
We ♥ Kids, Yes We Do.

Seattle Public Library
JUL - 1997

We ♥ Kids, How 'bout You?

Special Children's Issue

Please Buy From Badged Vendors Only



www.speakeasy.org/realchange

Real CHANGE

VOL. 4, NO. 13, AUG. 1-30

\$1

DONATION

Puget Sound's Homeless Newspaper

Real CHANGE

is a Washington State
non-profit organization

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.

Tacoma Office: 1417 S. G St., Tacoma, WA 98405, (253) 572-4247 or 572-6582

On the Web at <http://www.speakeasy.org/realchange>
Email rchange@speakeasy.org
ISSN 1085-729X

Annual subscriptions (24 Issues) are available for \$35, and support Real Change. All material copyrighted to author.

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.

Director

Timothy Harris

Advertising Rep

Madeline Lewis

Organizer

ozula sioux

Production Manager

Laura Buzard

Board of Directors

Wes Browning, Carole Frisell (Secretary), Jon Gould, Rev. Jean Kim, Michele Marchand, Domingo Martinez, Walter Massey, Scott Nodland (VP/Treasurer), Elizabeth Romero, Jean Rowlands-Tarbox (Presi-

dent), Helena Stephens

Editorial Committee

Michele Marchand, Stan Burriss, Wes Browning, Elizabeth Romero, Ruth Fox, Catherine Gainey, Anitra Freeman

Volunteers this Issue

Cecile Andrews, Heather Ayres, Wendy Bliss, Ron Campbell, Larry Chen, Frank Candor, Doug Dyer, Keri Ehle, Megan Farley, Joseph Fitzgerald, Susan Forshey, Chris French, Carole Frisell, Lin Lucas, Domingo Martinez, Elizabeth Romero, Jean Rowlands-Tarbox, Bruce Wirth

Advisory Board

Bob Barnes,
King County Rainbow Coalition

Juan Bocanegra,
Downtown Human Services Council

Ken Cole,
Archdiocesan Housing Authority

Jean Coleman,
Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

Ishbel Dickens,
Low Income Housing Institute

John Fox,
Seattle Displacement Coalition

Matthew Fox,
City Council Leg. Asst./Community Activist

Neil Fox,
National Lawyer's Guild

Larry Gossett,
County Councilmember, Dist. 10

James Griffin,
People of Color Against AIDS Network

Lewis Harris
Justice for Janitors

Bill Hobson,
Downtown Emergency Service Center

Ray Jones,
Church Council of Greater Seattle

Dan Landes,
AIDS Housing of WA

Paola Maranan,
The Children's Alliance

Joe Martin,
Pike Market Medical Clinic

Camille Monzon,
Seattle Indian Center

Scott Morrow,
SHARE

Lonnie Nelson
Coal. of Labor Union Women

Al Poole,
Operational Emergency Center

Trisha Ready,
Seattle Youth Garden Works

Jim Rietz,
Archdiocesan Housing Authority

Mary Robinson,
Downtown Human Services Council

Aiko Schaefer
WA Welfare Reform Coalition

Tamara Turner
Radical Women

Velma Veloria
State Rep, 11th District

Harriet Walden
Mother's Against Police Harassment

Geri Ware
Seattle Women's Commission

Vendor Code of Conduct

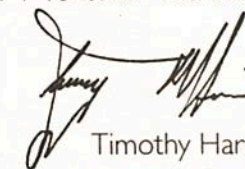
- 1.) Vendors must be sober while they represent Real Change to the public. Drug or alcohol use while selling the paper is not allowed.
 - 2.) Vendors must wear their Real Change Badge in a clearly visible manner while they sell the paper.
 - 3.) Abusive language or threatening behavior of any form is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

Suspensions and terminations by staff may be appealed to elected vendor representatives, but are in effect until overturned.

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

A note to our supporters:

Due to a decline in the number of vendors selling Real Change over the summer months and decreased revenues from circulation, Real Change has temporarily returned to a monthly publication schedule. Twice monthly publication will resume with the October 1-15 issue. We thank you for your support.



Timothy Harris,
Director, Real Change

Vendor of the Month

Maurice Swift, Tacoma



Maurice caught a plane from his hometown of Las Vegas to come up here and stay with folks. Controversy arose from having too many people in one place, and he ended up on the street.

"I met a vendor Keith Brown down here and he told me about Real Change. I'm a pretty good salesman and the paper pretty much sells itself. People say, 'Oh, I used to buy these in Seattle.'

"I'm gonna keep doing it 'till something else comes along. It's paying the rent and buying food now. You're putting out a good deal! If I know a lot of people I'd refer 'em over here. But like I say, I'm from Las Vegas."

As vendor of the month, Maurice wins \$25 in cash, congratulations!

Get a little language in your life!



Washington Academy of Languages

98 Yesler Way, Seattle, 98104
(206) 682-4463
fax (206) 224-7927
www.wal.org

Classes begin every five weeks • Custom programs
Optional college credit available

Contents

Lead Editorial

WA State of Denial 5

Features

Workfirst, Kids Last 6

Special Schools 10

Child Labor 12

Local News

Hitting The Wall 8

The Giving Walk 14

Etcetera

Vendor of the Month 3

Creepy Joe 17

New on the Net 18

Obituaries 20

Calendar 23

Citizens' Participation Project 28

Poets

Elizabeth Romero, Darcie Day, Earle

Thompson, Ruth Fox, Melanie

Webb, 22

Cover Photo taken at April 15, 1995 Tax Day

Demonstration by Ron Campbell



•Nurturing care for infants toddlers, and preschoolers

•Excellent teacher to child ratios

•Nutritious meals and snacks

•Parent involvement welcome

325-7611
1414 Spring Street
Seattle

We're Not Proud! Donations Cheerfully Accepted

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, with its two and a half paid staff, is a low-budget affair, 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.

Real Change has recently launched the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project 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 September, 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.*

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

Name _____

Address/Zip _____

Phone _____

- Patron \$100 or more
- Friend \$50 or more
- Member \$35
- Supporter Any amount
- Call me about volunteering my time and energy.

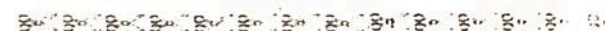
If you donate \$35 or more, please indicate whether you want a subscription mailed to you. Yes No

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

the BELLTOWN BARBER

DAVE MARKOVICH
OWNER

TUES - FRI 9:30am to 5:30pm SAT - 10am to 4pm
2219 2nd Downtown Seattle • 441-4738



WA State of Denial

EDITORIAL

Children of Working Poor Suffer as Social Services Shrink

When it comes to the well-being of our children, especially those living in poverty, Washington state is in denial. And like any classic case of denial, we as a statewide community — and, particularly, our state government — refuse to see what is painfully in sight.

Our first area of denial? "Children in a state as prosperous as Washington can't be poor."

Paola Maranan

According to the Washington Kids Count Project, one of every three children in our state lives in a family that cannot meet the basic needs (food, housing, health care and child care). One in five kids live in what Kids Count calls a "hidden poor" family—families whose incomes are above the federal poverty level (\$12,980 for a family of three), but who still cannot meet these basic needs on a regular basis.

While any level of child poverty should be unacceptable, all of the key indicators show that poverty among our children is worsening. The overall numbers of children in our state growing up in poverty increased by more than 11% during the 1980s.

Poverty is worse overall for children of color: Kids Count finds that African American and Native American children are twice as likely as white children to live in families where income is below the federal poverty line. Further, the gap between the average income of white families with children and African American, Latino and Native American families with children continues to grow.

The second area of denial comes from

Remember the statistic that one in three children lives in a family where their basic needs cannot be met? Eighty percent of all of those families have at least one parent working.

A full-time worker making the federal minimum wage will make just \$8,840 a year — an amount that won't even pull a family of three above the federal poverty level.

the perpetuation of the following myth: "families who work aren't poor and children whose parents work don't live in poverty." The truth is that they do and in increasing numbers.

Despite the fact that 92% of children have at least one working parent and that 60% of mothers with young children are working, one in four kids must still rely on some assistance from the state's Department of Social and Health Services to meet their basic needs.

Remember the statistic that one in three children lives in a family where their basic needs cannot be met? Eighty percent of all of those families have at least one parent working.

These statistics get at the very heart of our national debate about our anti-poverty, safety net programs. If we believed the rhetoric being tossed about, we would believe that safety net programs would be unnecessary if the poor were simply willing to work. Work, in the view of these policymakers, prevents poverty — thus, work eliminates the need for the safety net.

The families who live the reality of shrinking incomes and dwindling resources, who may, in fact, have to shuttle between the ranks of the welfare poor and the

working poor, aren't fooled by this myth.

According to Fiscal Policy Center at the University of Washington, it takes \$2,100 per month (or \$25,200 a year) to provide the basic necessities for a family of three. In sixteen counties in our state, the average wage is less than \$20,000 a year. A full-time worker making the federal minimum wage will make just \$8,840 a year — an amount that won't even pull a family of three above the federal poverty level.

In an era of WorkFirst and forcing people off public assistance and into work, emphasis has been placed on getting a job, any job. Yet, it is clear that getting work is only one part of the story — the rest of it is in the size of the paycheck.

And wages are just part of the picture. The Fiscal Policy Center finds that Washington taxes its working families at higher rates than any other state in the nation. In an era of tax breaks and giveaways, only 10% of the value of all tax exemptions in Washington are designed to benefit working families.

The third area of denial: "We're doing all we can for kids living in poverty." The more truthful answer: we're choosing not to do enough.

Four critical areas of support for low-income families are food, housing, health care and child care. However, the state has done little to fund and enhance the programs that support low-income families and that help working people continue to work. Here's just a snapshot of these four areas:

Child Care: Low-income families are spending between 25-30% of family

Continued to page 21

Workfirst, Kids Last

Proposed Childcare Provisions Find Little Support

BY JEAN ROWLANDS-TARBOX

Federal welfare reform, known as the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, became law on August 22, 1996. On April 17, 1997 Governor Gary Locke signed the Washington "WorkFirst" Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Act into law.

WorkFirst is a work-based program that makes immediate employment the primary strategy for helping needy families. "Those who can work will immediately participate in mandatory work activities" is one of the guiding principles. If after a four-week job search work is not secured, TANF participants will be referred for further screening and training. The program aims to move families on welfare into employment as quickly as possible through upfront job search, work experience activities, and short-term education and training.

At the June 25th public hearing at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Mike Masten, division director of WorkFirst, described the preliminary plan as a common sense program that empowers people to find work and then move up to a better job that leads into a career.

With all the rhetoric about welfare reform and getting people back into the workforce, what about the children? Who will care for them?

Child care advocates and social service workers pinpoint three major considerations. First, if the state plans to have 80% of welfare recipients (most of whom are families with young children) in jobs by 2002, have the policy makers unconsciously imagined that ex-welfare moms would be the most conveniently-obtained source of inexpensive labor to provide for the flood of children who would soon need care?

Second, if the purpose of WorkFirst is to "reduce poverty, and to help people get jobs and sustain economic independence," why would the state be encouraging anyone to go into child care, a profession that pays on average poverty wages and that provides scant opportunity for career advancement?

Third, do the creators of WorkFirst actually recognize that providing safe, learning-based, and affordable child care staffed by well-trained individuals receiving a livable wage is the linchpin to the success of the entire welfare reform program?

Jobs by Default

"Without adequately-funded training, we are going to create more poor child care that will impact our children in a negative way," warns child and family advocate Joy Conley. She insists that "something like Seattle Central Community College's two-

year early childhood development program is really what is needed. Conley also suggests that refugees and immigrants who are highly motivated to work with children should receive adequate training in English as a Second Language.

"WorkFirst proponents mustn't fall into the trap of recommending child care work to women who have no other marketable skills. It is unfair to children in need of quality care and unfair to the women who might, with appropriate training, be better suited to other work."

This was apparent in late June. *Real Change* received a call alerting the paper to disturbing news. In anticipation of the August 1 implementation of WorkFirst, a few welfare case workers were encouraging immigrant and refugee women with poor language and work skills to attend training courses to become child care workers.

One trainer was troubled because her students felt pressured to take the training as part of TANF's job search requirements, even though child care was not necessarily an occupation these women would otherwise have chosen to pursue.

When questioned, these women had explained to the trainer that despite their reservations, they would at least keep their benefits if they showed a willingness to participate in the training program.

The trainer was concerned both about women being forced by default into caretaking jobs they did not want and about the potential for the very young children of the working poor ending up with child care workers whose English skills were substandard.

Nina Hourback of Child Care Resources shares these concerns. It was Hourback who developed the WorkFirst pilot project for training 250 welfare recipients as child care providers. The pilot project passed into legislation, but the original \$1.2 million budget for the training failed.

A Question of Quality

The hurdle is now with the Office of Financial Management to educate and convince them to understand that a) the child care profession is not for everyone and applicants needs to be screened carefully and b) if you are going to do the training, it needs to be adequately funded. Hourback explains, "You need comprehensiveness of training that is competency-based. You need start-up grants and loans, mentors and follow-up technical assistance if those participating are to be successful."

Child Care Resources is also lobbying for changes in the work participation

"WorkFirst proponents mustn't fall into the trap of recommending child care work to women who have no other marketable skills. It is unfair to children in need of quality care and unfair to the women who might, with appropriate training, be better suited to other work."
Joy Conley, Child Advocate

requirements. The draft plan refers individuals to a training program only after a four-week job search has proven unsuccessful. Therefore, the most unemployable people are the ones who may end up being referred to a child care training program. A better way to ensure high-quality care is to determine at the beginning of somebody's job search whether or not they are suited to child care and have an interest in becoming a child care provider. These individuals could then be screened into a training program.

One experienced child care worker says she understands the appeal for some women of creating a family child care center in their own home. However, she is ambivalent about families that have been homeless or on public assistance using the precious training moments for work in a field that pays so poorly. Lauren Tozzi, Child Care Worth Wage Task Force member, concurs. "If they're just pushing people to find a job, the people who go into child care are not going to be lifted out of poverty. They're not going to make a livable wage."

Just as child care providers have started to organize and to talk about upgrading the

Continued to page 25



If you are over 40 years old and you do not have insurance that pays for women's health care...

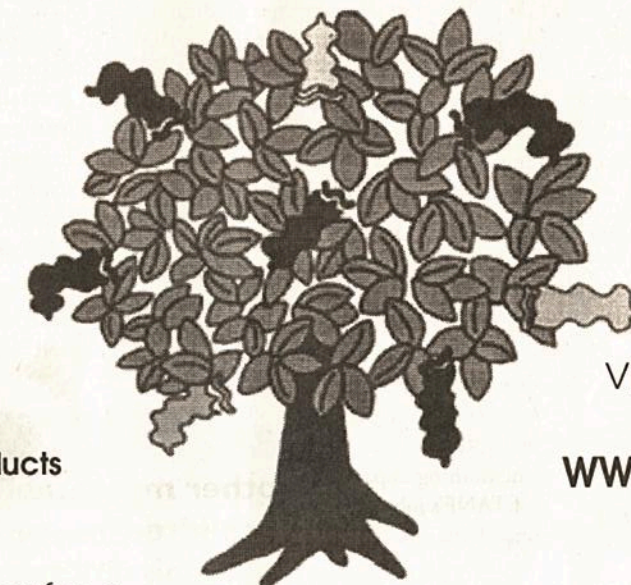
we want you to get a **free Women's Health Exam**

with Mammogram and Pap test
Call us! 1-800-756-5437 or 284-5291

King County Breast and Cervical Health program

The Rubber Tree

Your Non Profit Condom Store



- Condoms
- Lubricants
- Dental Dams
- T-Shirts
- Bumper Stickers
- Books
- Magazines
- Other Safe Sex Products

Visit Us on the WEB
At
WWW.rubbertree.org

To place an order or for a free catalog, call 1-888-792-TREE

A Project of

Zero Population Growth

1075 45th St N
Seattle, WA 98103

Hitting the Wall

Underfunded Survival Service Agencies Face the Future

BY TIMOTHY HARRIS

The economic boom that carried Bill Clinton into an easy second term and is transforming downtown Seattle into a gleaming playground for the wealthy has not, it appears, reached the poorest people in our city.

Seattle's survival services, the minimal food and shelter that for many mean the difference between life and death, are in trouble. Programs that for years have served increasing numbers of poor without receiving additional resources say they have stretched as far as possible, and are now about to break.

Many programs may be forced to reduce services in the face of escalating need. Noel House, a 40 bed shelter for single homeless women, is a case in point. Over the years, this program has also run several small volunteer-based off-site shelters, acted as a meals program, and become the referral service for almost all single women in need of shelter.

In June, this program saw 67 people they'd never seen before. "In summer you would expect a drop-off," said Program Director Wendy Dormont, "but instead we're seeing an increase." Last year, Noel's numbers more than doubled, up to 1,068 women served from the previous year's 438.

Mary Anne Buseman, a member of WHEEL, a self-advocacy group for homeless women, described taking out the trash one morning at Noel House and finding three women who didn't get in that night sleeping in the alley.

"When you don't know whether you are going to get into shelter or not, there's much greater anxiety about being homeless," said Buseman. "The vicious cycle is that the anxiety can be crippling. It makes some people freeze; they want to just curl up and hide."

WHEEL members said they were seeing more elderly women — displaced homemakers who lack marketable skills — show up on the street. "They're traumatized," said Buseman. "They've got that deer-in-the-headlights look."

"Either there need to be new resources to meet rising costs, or the city will have to decide where their priorities for funding are. This would pit struggling human services agencies against each other, and would not be pretty."

— AHA Special Ministries Co-Director Ken Cole.

Yet Noel House faces an immediate \$70,000 budget shortfall, and is considering options for service reduction. While the City has offered a stop-gap solution to get Noel House and other survival programs through the year, program managers say that without new funding, next year will be no different.

A Predictable Crisis

Noel House, a program of the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, is not alone in their predicament. AHA programs Sacred Heart shelter, the Lazarus drop-in center, and St. Martin de Porre shelter for men face serious shortages as well. In addition, the Compass Center in Pioneer Square has already made staff layoffs, and Operation Nightwatch, the chronically overwhelmed night-time shelter referral service, has switched to a ticket system that limits service to 80 people per night.

All of these programs have seen demand for their services steadily rise while funding has lagged far behind, and in some cases decreased.

"I'm amazed we've gotten this far with things allocated the way they are," said AHA Special Ministries Co-Director Ken

Cole. "Either there need to be new resources to meet rising costs, or the city will have to decide where their priorities for funding are. This would pit struggling human services agencies against each other, and would not be pretty."

According to Cole, staffing is 80% of the budget in these organizations, and escalating program costs to meet demand has not been met by increased budgets. Dormont stresses that salaries at Noel House are well below the norm for shelter workers in Seattle.

Government sources of funding have remained level or decreased in recent years. Federal Emergency Management funds have been cut by 25%. While state Emergency Shelter Assistance money has remained level, these funds are divided between a growing number of shelter programs.

Federal homeless dollars provided by the McKinney Act will grow more scarce as well. As older contracts come up for

renewal, programs originally funded under McKinney will receive priority for limited dollars over new programs formed to meet growing demand.

Private funding has also declined. St. Martin de Porre shelter for homeless men is struggling with a \$40,000 budget deficit this year after losing two major corporate funders. The shelter sleeps 212 men each night with just three staff per shift. Director Bob Goetschius predicts that unless City funding is increased for 1998, the shelter may close its doors on Monday nights beginning January.

Seattle's Compass Center, which relies upon private donors for about 80% of its \$1.3 million annual budget, was recently forced to reduce staffing. The program has made its cuts from the top, eliminating their Deputy Director position and requiring staff supervisors to work 3 floor shifts per week on top of their administrative duties.

Compass Center Director Rick Friedhoff says that while client services have not suffered, the speed-up places "incredible stress" on staff, and is not a sustainable solution. "It's like being a distance runner and always having to sprint," said Friedhoff. The Compass Center has joined with a coalition of service providers to target the City for increased funding.

Money from the City of Seattle, which is by far the largest partner in funding survival services, has stayed about the same for the last 4 years, with roughly 2% annual cost of living increases. According to Cole, the City offers the most likely solution to the present crisis.

"It's been awhile since we made a push," said Cole. "This crisis took agencies by surprise. We've been whistling in the dark and were in denial about how far we could stretch. We just hit our wall."

Revolution Books

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

1833 Nagle Place
(206) 325-7415

Now located on Capitol Hill
(Near Denny & Broadway)

Help Wanted: Volunteer Coordinator

Boomtown Cafe is seeking
an individual to manage service
of its free meal program downtown
at Angeline's Women's Center.

Please be personable and self-directed.
Experience with homeless a plus. Approx. 12
hours/week, M-F, 5-7 pm. \$9 an hour. Call 443-6025.

A Band-Aid on a Band-Aid

Thus far, the city has been responsive to the recent funding emergency, although many questions remain regarding the longer-term solution to survival service funding in Seattle.

In late June, about 35 homeless people and service providers paid a visit to City Hall after repeated requests for a meeting with the Mayor were ignored. The result was a \$200,000 Emergency Stabilization Fund that will be distributed in early September, after agencies submit to a simplified application process.

City of Seattle Housing and Human Services Director Martha Dilts said the emergency fund was drawn from unspent dollars allocated in 1997 for a women's hygiene center in Belltown, as well as a smaller pool of unallocated federal money.

While the stabilization fund offers the prospect of immediate relief, service providers say a longer-term solution is needed. "We're operating day to day," explained Cole. "The stabilization fund bought us some time, but there's no clear assurances. Unless new money is found through the budget process, nothing is going to change."

Service providers agree that if next year's budget allocation is not increased by at least the amount disbursed through the stabilization fund, in another year they will find themselves right back where they began.

Dilts described the current budget crisis as a "harbinger of things to come," and a symptom of broader funding problems for homeless people. "It's a tight

time for funding for homeless services in general."

Yet Dilts was unable to offer assurances for increased funding in 1998. "The stabilization fund is money for '97," said Dilts. "The Mayor will be making his recommendations in August for 1998, and the City Council will respond."

Cole, as well, understands that in politics there are few sure bets. "The only thing we're ever sure of is the next 12 months," said Cole. "A new Mayor and City Council could drastically change things fast. We all take a lot for granted, but there's no guarantee."

A Matter of Process

Human Service advocates such as AHA Director Ken Cole say a deeper issue of how money is allocated underlies the present crisis. For the past four years, the City Council has simply allocated a blanket amount for human service funding, leaving the divvying of those funds to City agencies like the Department of Housing and Human Services.

"What this means," explained Cole, "is that there are no longer hearings where poor people go and say, 'I'm out here on the street and dying.' We haven't had those hearings for four years. The Council used to get a lot of heat, and now they've set up this defensive system that keeps them politically safe." Cole asserts that this

Continued to page 25

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.

(206) 521-9176
<http://www/homealive.org>

A School Bus Stops Here

Homeless Children Benefit from Special School Programs

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY HEATHER AYRES

Whether it's Mary Amu's 5th and 6th graders at First Place, or Mrs. Park's 1st graders at Bailey Gatzert, homeless Seattle children aren't the faceless, abandoned statistics of the education system they once were. Today you will find hundreds of them scattered among the Seattle School District's "homeless sites," as well as at First Place, a private, nonprofit organization providing education and advocacy for homeless children and their families.

The passage of the McKinney Act in 1987, (allowing kids without a permanent address to enroll in public school), has given homeless and transitional children a greater chance of not falling through the system without an education. Educators realized that homeless and transitional families are forced to move every other month, week, or even day—making a student's attendance at the same school nearly impossible.

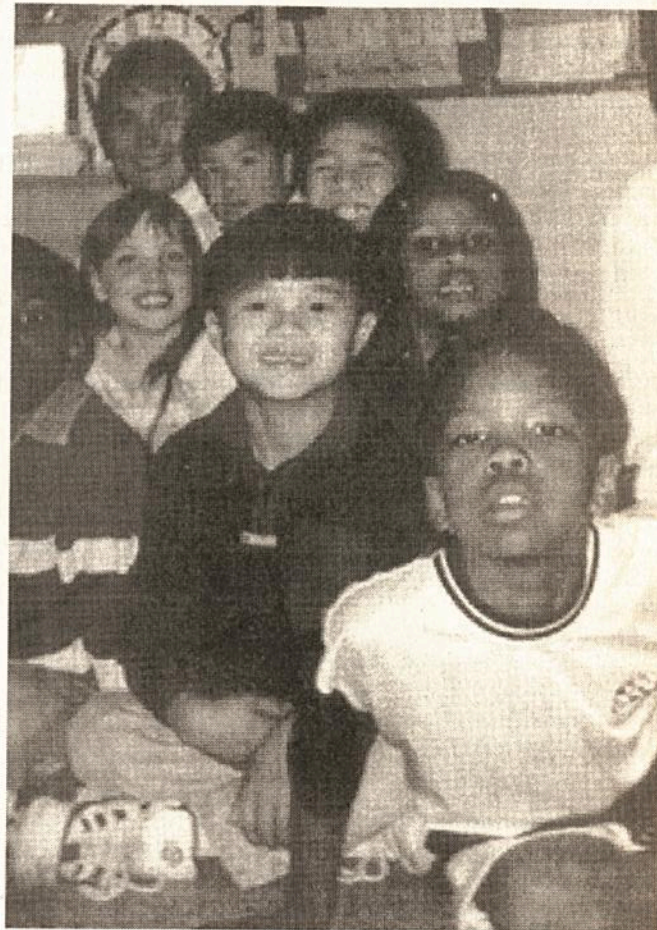
Perhaps Seattle has decided it's not impossible. The establishment of "homeless sites" at six schools is offering homeless Seattle children a consistent path to continue their education. Each child is important enough to have his or her own yellow school bus; in extreme cases, a taxi cab.

Part of the District's plan, according to Pat Sander, Principal of Bailey Gatzert, is that once a child has been assigned to one of the schools, the District provides transportation for that child to and from school anywhere within the Seattle city limits.

A typical scenario: a child comes to Bailey Gatzert or First Place from downtown's emergency housing. The child's family stays there for a month, six weeks at the longest. The next move puts them in a shelter on Aurora Avenue. The District continues to ensure that child has a ride to and from school until the school's social services gives the OK that the family has stabilized, or found permanent housing, and can now enroll in their neighborhood school.

"We'll find out that a child has moved, a parent will bring them in because they had to move the night before, and we can always get [the District] to make sure there is a bus ride home. If there isn't a bus route going to and from our school, [the District] will provide taxi service until we can get something set up," said Ms. Sander.

While taxis are rare, and a huge



THE FACES OF FIRST GRADE

transportation expense both the schools and the District try to avoid, the message is clear: Each homeless child deserves an education, at any cost.

Hidden Faces Emerge

Volunteering at First Place, I found the hidden faces of homelessness. I read their dream lists, and now know how difficult it is for them to truly dream. They are the faces often hidden in the struggle of poverty and homelessness. We don't find them

on downtown street corners asking for food, clothing, and a place to live. Until recently, we didn't find them in schools either.

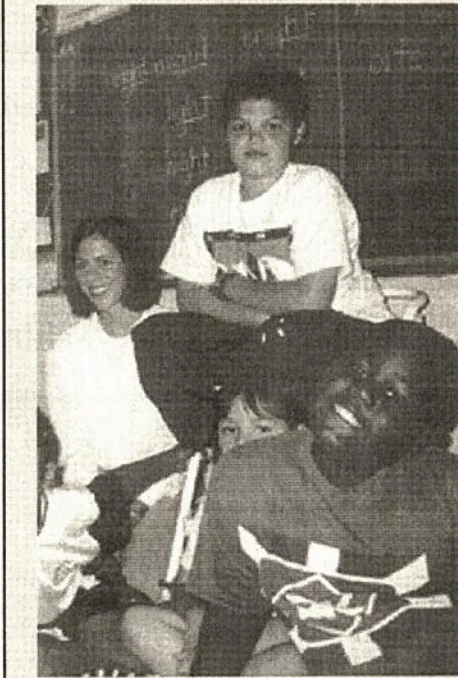
So what's it like to walk into a modest school house lined at the curb with five or six big yellow buses delivering 48 homeless children? What's it like to tour a school, and find a clothing bank, a play-therapy room, an office for case managers and family counselors?

I watch young faces piling in for a quick breakfast, then off to one of four classrooms with a student to teacher ratio of 12 to one. They spend the next few hours completing various writing and math exercises; they are encouraged to use deductive reasoning; they are asked to use their creative power.

How are they chosen for First Place? According to Michael Siptroth, Head Teacher, the organization coordinates with 25 Seattle-area shelters and the Seattle School District for placement in the program.

The children and parents of First Place come from a variety of situations. Mr. Siptroth explained, the most frequent scenarios are abuse and violence, 60 percent have been exposed to domestic violence; death of the family matriarch, such as a grandma passing away that provided the financial resources to hold the family unit together; fire, as very temporary housing and financial assistance is offered to victims of fire disasters; a major illness and no health insurance; unaffordable housing, such as rent increases that devastate the working poor; and lack of permanent low-income housing, validated by the overflow-

Profile: Students at Bailey Gatzert



86% are children of color

28% are from families who are homeless or in transitional housing

20% have recently stabilized their living situation

88% participate in the free and reduced lunch program

25% are enrolled in the bilingual program

ing Section 8 waiting lists. Others are refugee families.

In 1995, First Place served 142 students. The average stay is 12 to 14 weeks, up from four and a half weeks at the start of the program in 1989. Mr. Siptroth contributes the continued rise in the length of attendance to the lift on 30-day maximum stays in many Seattle shelters, and ongoing efforts by area shelters to aid First Place in providing social services and housing assistance to families of the students.

One such service is the weekly parent meetings. Parents of the students are invited

to discuss relevant issues regarding their homelessness over dinner while volunteers entertain the children. First Place receives one-fourth of its funding from the Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle; private donations constitute the rest.

Each child's face carries a harsh reality. As I wave good-bye to their buses each day, I wonder if I'll see all of them in class tomorrow. They are homeless. Their lives are that of any homeless person — the night will come when there isn't a place for them to sleep. For some without even a family, I know this school gives them hope. It is their school, filled with a family of teachers, volunteers, counselors, case managers, and people like Mr. Mason. Nearly 50 children

Continued to page 16

Why are These Kids Homeless?

- Abuse/Violence (60% of kids served at First Place have been exposed to domestic violence)
- Death of Family Matriarch (such as a grandma that held the family together)
- Unaffordable Housing (rent increases devastate the working poor)
- Lack of Permanent Low-Income Housing (overflowing Section 8 waiting lists)
- Fire (very temporary housing/financial assistance offered to victims of fire disasters)
- Major Illness/Lack of Insurance
- Refugee Families



SEATTLE'S MOST COMPLETE ART SUPPLY

IN THE U DISTRICT
4350 8TH AVENUE N.E.
SEATTLE, WA 98105
545-0091

DONATE YOUR OLD CAR

Boat, RV, Truck or Van to non-profit
EL CENTRO de la RAZA. RECEIVE A TAX BREAK AND FREE TOWING. We want it even if it doesn't run! Your support will help children, youth, seniors and families.

EL CENTRO de la RAZA
329-2024/329-9442
e-mail development@cyberspace.com
<http://www.cyberspace.com/~elcentro>

Children at Work

HISTORY

Washington State's Legacy of Child Labor Abuse and Reform

By WENDY BLISS

It is a sign of intellectual progress that a law has been placed upon our statute books prohibiting child labor, that is, they are not to be hired out to labor in any factory, mill, workshop or store. This evil cannot have gained much of a foothold in the West, as yet, but it is well to get into the field ahead of it with the required prohibition."

This excerpt from a 1903 *Seattle Mail & Herald* article proclaims that the city is ahead of its time (or at least ahead of other major cities in the west) when it comes to child labor.

In fact, with the exception of some compulsory education laws set in place by 1895 stating that children below a certain age should be required to attend school at least part of the year, Washington State has a record of lagging a bit behind.

Even up to the early 1980s, underage and overworked children were found picking strawberries — hard work for anybody — in Washington State.

The Whole of the Law

While it is true that by 1903 Washington had some comprehensive child labor laws, there was no limit on the number of hours a child could be required to work during the day, and the state did not require documentary proof of age before issuing an employment certificate.

In 1910, the only requirement to obtain such a certificate was a parent's affidavit as to the age of the child. This was in part due to the fact that the US Census Bureau didn't have a method by which to register births until 1915, but for the most part, if a parent wanted a child to bring home a paycheck instead of a report card, it was no problem.

As long as it wasn't brought to the state's attention, industry didn't have a problem with hiring children to work in its factories, shops and stores, either. They worked for next to nothing and were easily swayed to continue working long after a regular shift was over.

By 1910, Washington had set the minimum working age at fourteen, but exceptions were commonly made in cases where the child's employment was deemed necessary — the mother is widowed or the father unable to work — and a maximum limit of eight working hours per day applied only to girls.

As in the South, where children were employed in great numbers to pick cotton and work in the fields, the agriculture industry in Washington was somehow able to escape many child labor laws. State inspectors were not likely to investigate ranches and farms, which were often family-owned and run, so it was common practice to employ children under the age of fourteen. Even up to the early 1980s, underage and overworked children were found picking strawberries — hard work for anybody — in Washington State.

In 1915, Washington did address the problem of child working in hazardous jobs and operating dangerous equipment. Following the lead of several other states, Washington provided lists to its industrial commissions of specific occupations, machines and processes that were prohibited to children under the age of eighteen. This was a promising step for the state, which until that time was one of two (the other was Oregon) that didn't have any lists in place at all.

Aggravated Evil

As one of the major western cities, Seattle certainly had its share of illegal child labor in the early 1900s. Unlike Massachusetts and Illinois, the laws in Washington were fairly lax, and Seattle, unsurprisingly, followed suit.

Children were often employed as public messengers, a job that sometimes required night work.

The *Seattle Mail* and *Herald* referred to this practice as "an aggravated evil" specifying a local company that "made it a feature of its service to employ girls to send out with its messages," an action that "brought out a feeling of almost universal condemnation on the part of thoughtful citizens." The main problem in Seattle was that the "thoughtful citizens" weren't necessarily those who decided whether or not to employ children.

Once the labor movement reached Seattle, more people became aware of the problem of illegal child labor. Labor unions worked readily with the city council to reveal violators and used their collective power to enforce the laws or, at least, imply to business owners that complying with them would be more profitable than not.

In 1918, the Seattle North Pacific Shipyard was found to be one of several shipyards that employed children in hazardous positions. As a result, the Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers announced that the union would take a stand, and its members would refuse to work where boys were employed.

The City of Seattle, of its own accord,

set ordinances in place that were directly related to children employed in street trades in 1928. Newspaper selling was the primary target, and although a little late in the game compared to cities like New York, Boston and Chicago, Seattle was moving toward a positive future in the area of child labor.

Current Ignorance and Abuse

Since the first part of the twentieth century, the entire country has made great progress in regulating child labor, but violations are still not uncommon.

In 1990, six Western Washington employers were assessed more than \$10,000 in fines by the US Department of Labor, contributing to a national total of \$3.6 million. In 1992, twenty-nine Washington state companies were fined a total of \$113,673, mostly restaurants and grocery stores.

In Washington alone: a thirteen year old girl was injured deburring metal in a machine shop. A fourteen-year-old boy broke his ankle when a heavy piece of golf equipment rolled over on him as he was working at night, past legal hours. Another boy, sixteen, was injured by an air-compressed staple gun while building furniture in a factory. In July of 1991, a seventeen-year-old employee of a Bellevue trucking

firm was killed while driving heavy machinery, a clear violation of federal and state labor laws.

Most violators admit that they are unaware of statutes concerning child labor. While the vast majority of violations are considered minor, many of them result in injury and in extreme cases, death. Perhaps the threat of heavy fines will make employers think twice about hiring underage employees, working them late into the night or having them operate heavy machinery.

Perhaps what is really needed is some kind of assurance that all potential employers and employees are required to understand the law.

To report violators, contact the Department of Labor and Industries, Employment Standards Section, 406 Legion Way, Olympia, WA 98504. Include the name and location of the employer, address and phone number, if possible, and a brief description of the possible violation. You may submit a complaint anonymously.

THANK YOU

to the following businesses who generously contributed to our fundraising Raffle Mania this year for Real Change.

Manifesto Posters Terra Bongo
Seattle Mariners Skin Art

Mama's Mexican Kitchen
Belltown Hempery
Mae's Phinney Ridge Cafe
Bathhouse Theatre

Union Bay Cafe Zobrist Music
Counter Culture Cafe The Massage Shop
Good Morning Healing Earth Cafe

While the vast majority of [child labor] violations are considered minor, many of them result in injury and in extreme cases, death.

Welcome to
Cow Country
(Watch your Step!)



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

Social Security

Disabled?

Unable to work for a year or more?
Free initial consultation
30 years experience

James A. Douglas

Peter H. D. McKee

**THEILER
DOUGLAS
DRACHLER
& MCKEE**
ATTORNEYS
623-0900

1613 SMITH TOWER
SEATTLE, WA 98104

OUT OF THE MAINSTREAM
NEW & USED RECORDS, TAPES, CDs
MODERN ECLECTIC & WORLD MUSIC
**WALLOF
SOUND**
2237 SECOND AVE (AT BELL) 441-9880
OPEN 7 DAYS • LISTEN BEFORE YOU BUY

The Giving Walk

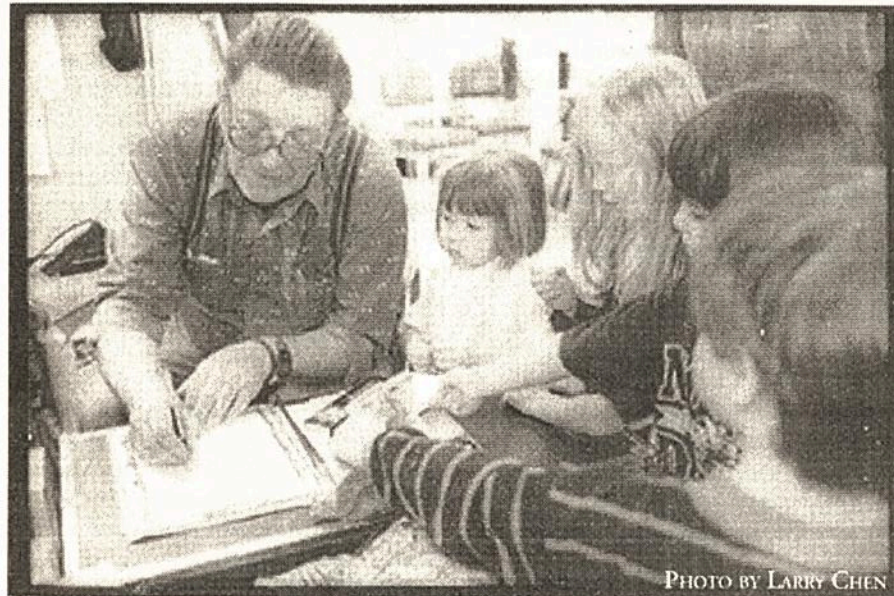


PHOTO BY LARRY CHEN

The children got to have the immediacy of giving, there at the Gallery. They each carried items to Bruce, the artist in charge of inventory, and he wrote them down as fast as he could.

Hilltop Four-Year-Olds Visit Local Homeless Organizations

BY ANITRA FREEMAN

Last October, at Hilltop school, a class of eight four-year-olds gathered in the Starlight Room for their "candle circle," a time of sharing. The first to speak, Julia, said, "Yesterday, my Mom and me, we saw a homeless person, a boy, and he had no food ... I feel sad about homeless people."

The others had stories to share about homeless people. Their teacher, Ann, made a list of what the children knew about homeless people, what they thought homeless people might need and how their group could help.

This launched a project that extended over eight months. It may extend over lifetimes.

The children wrote a letter to all the families at Hilltop. "We want to help homeless grown-ups and homeless children. Every family should put a can in their kitchen and put money in the can, like pennies, the brown money, and the silver monies too. Even some of the paper money."

Jenny said, "If we talk to homeless people, we'll learn even more about them and we can help them more." Ann began calling homeless centers and activist groups for more information.

In the meantime, the children were coming up with ideas. Tennessee's mom had written an article about the homeless children at Our Place Child Care Center, and he was struck by the mention of homeless people who can't buy groceries. He came into class and said, "We could save money to help buy them groceries."

Ann brought a "persona doll" to class, to portray a 5 year old girl named Francine who lives with her family in a homeless shelter. The second time she visited, Tennessee asked why she was wearing the same clothes. It was Ann's opportunity to share some of the things that she had learned from Terri Yaffe, director of Our Place Child Care Center. Francine explained that when her family moved, they could each take only a few clothes. It was summer, and she took only a few summer clothes. Now it was November. She felt cold.

The Field Trips

Adrienne, Carl, Jeffrey and the others immediately began talking about collecting their old clothes to give to homeless shelters.

The children made a field trip to Real Change, where they were most impressed by Sid the cat, Zino the bird, and Stellaluna the toy bat. They bought papers from a

vendor, Misty, and had their picture taken with her. They wrote us a letter afterward that we still have posted in the office.

There was a field trip to the Baby Boutique, a clothing shop run by the Homeless Children's Network where, by appointment, parents may choose what they need for their children. The children brought clothes and toys, and helped to sort them and put them on the shelves.

The children had by now collected several hundred dollars. They wanted to walk up to homeless people and give them food, and clothes, and money. Ann researched ways for the children to have that immediacy of giving, along with dignity and safety for everyone involved.

Eventually she contacted the Real Change Speaker's Bureau — and Dr. Wes Browning and me. February 7 we met with some of the Starlight kids for the first time. Jenny, Tennessee, Julia, Adrienne and Catherine were there that day.

They offered their initial ideas about what foods to give away: "sandwiches" "drinks" "cupcakes and cookies and candy." Tennessee said, "I don't think homeless people need so much sweets," and I thanked him. The things people seem to give away most often are starches and sweets. After awhile, in the shelters, you



PHOTO BY JOSEPH FITZGERALD

ABOVE, MIGUEL, A CERAMICS ARTIST AT THE STREETLIFE GALLERY SHARES HIS WORK WITH THE VISITING CHILDREN. LEFT, BRUCE TALLIES THE CHILDREN'S DONATIONS OF ART SUPPLIES AS THE CHILDREN WATCH PROUDLY.

get sick and headachy just from all the starches and sweets. Things we get a craving for are fruits, vegetables, cheese, protein. Milk.

Afterward, we played together. Wes built a house out of legos. We were also invited to lunch, where Tennessee advised Wes to move his milk more toward the center of the table, where it was less likely to spill — as Tennessee had just had his milk spill the day before. We all shared wild fancies of what would happen if the ocean flooded into the school.

Apples and Oranges

We suggested places the children might want to go on their giving walk. They wanted to go everywhere. When I told Ann on the day of the trip that we would be visiting just one shelter, she was worried that the

children might be disappointed. But at the Women and Family Shelter, in the common room where three children staying at the shelter were playing, most of the kids never made it past that point.

Rosa Benton explained the workings of the shelter then invited the kids to bring their gifts of food to the kitchen. It was a triumphant parade: the children had hand-packed over a hundred lunches, and also had bags of oranges and apples. One of the boys at play immediately grabbed a large apple.

The Hilltop children then began playing with the shelter children. After awhile, some of us were ready for a tour of the shelter — but half the children weren't. They wanted to stay and play. I was tickled pink. I think the experience of playing with other children just like themselves, who are homeless, will stay with them a lot longer than facts about programs and capacity.

Back at the common room, the children talked to Rosa about what the shelter could use monies for. She said

that the shelter's kids would like a trip out to McDonald's. That was something the Hilltop kids easily understood. They each picked up \$5 from the fund and brought it to Rosa, for a trip to McDonald's. They then discussed the shortage of toys, compared to their own playroom at Hilltop.

So in April, the children brought toys from home and also shopped for the shelter, at Magic Mouse Toy Store. They even had cookies one of the Mom's had baked for the shelter. However, construction was going on at the shelter, and the kids didn't get to have the immediate gratification of seeing the children playing with their gifts. Tennessee's mom, Gail, helped lead the Starlight kids in imagining those reactions.

An Overflowing Fridge

In June, the children visited the StreetLife Gallery. They poured out the last of the money they had collected in art supplies and food — and they gave us the last few dollars in unsorted change, in a jar.

They got to have the immediacy of giving, there at the Gallery. They each carried items to Bruce, the artist in charge of inventory, and he wrote them down as fast as he could — pastels, charcoals, brushes, good art paper, and more.

Then they each carried bags of food back to our small refrigerator — which quickly overflowed to a nearby table. There was fruit, carrots, cheese, peanut butter —

Continued to page 21

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

COMMON MEALS
JOB TRAINING TO END HOMELESSNESS
SUPPORTED BY THE PREMIER NORTHWEST CHEFS

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

JOIN TODAY
\$10 EMAIL!

YOU DON'T NEED
A COMPUTER
AND YOU DON'T NEED
TO BE AN EXPERT

SPEAKEASY
CAFÉ

2304 2ND AVE
728.9770

flood his miniature cafeteria — he has a smile and name for each of them. You'll find Mr. Mason baking chocolate chip cookies on some mornings. He knows what the smell can do for a child.

Homeless Sites at Area Schools

The picture is different at a public school, although the intention remains: empower children with hope, dreams, and knowledge. The Seattle School District is incorporating education into the struggle of homelessness.

The original plan, according to Ms. Sander, called for 40 children at each "homeless site," including four elementary schools (Bailey Gatzert, B.F. Day, Cooper, and Whittier), Washington Middle School, and Garfield High School. Bailey Gatzert took that original plan, and went further, pulling together the funding to offer a social service team made up of: a family support worker (from the City's levy); a case manager from Atlantic Street Center; a full-time counselor (combining some of their building funds with the City's levy funds); and a parent-assistant Specialist (to network families into counseling, opportunities for children and families, as well as food, clothing, and shelter needs).

Ms. Sander said that Bailey Gatzert is trying to become more of a "community service school" for both kids, and their families. School days are extended until 5:30 p.m. with volunteers and tutors. The

doors are open Saturday mornings for enrichment and family time. At breakfast, instructional assistants who speak different native languages make themselves available to the children, and their parents. Once a month, grant money funds a sit-down dinner to the students and their families.

"Just the baggage and the aura these children bring [requires] a whole different set of skills, and a whole different set of job resources for the people that work at that site. That is the crux of it. We don't treat the children any differently in the educational setting," explains Ms. Sander.

A social service team provides for family needs so that the kids can focus on their learning. "The children don't have to worry about food requirements, or that their family is worrying about food, or shelter, or clothing," Sander explains. "We have adults that can take that worry off the children's backs, so they can focus on academics."

The transitory nature of the school, and the academic challenges the children face, and family situations like parental illiteracy all create a unique environment for students and staff alike. "When you bring adults in with children to a school like this, you've got to have an adult staff at the school that is very forgiving," Sander comments. "For every two steps forward that a family makes, they may take one step back, or two steps back, and you have to be able to say: 'OK, tomorrow is another day. So let's get up, get on our feet, and figure out what we are going to do.'"

It is unrealistic to view the homelessness surrounding these children and their families as temporary. Mr. Siptroth said, "We ourselves thought when we started [First Place] that this would be a temporary phenomenon."

It hasn't been. Each year First Place turns away children. Bailey Gatzert has surpassed the original 40-student plan with 110 to 130 genuinely homeless and transitional children. That is just one Seattle school. According to Ms. Sander, nearly 90 percent of Bailey Gatzert's students have free and reduced lunches, up from 77 percent in 1993. The poverty base is built in.

Who Still Slips Through the System?

Seattle has paved a beginning. Several hundred elementary children can build their education while they search for a home. There is currently only one middle school and one high school designated as "homeless sites."

The concern from teaching professionals at Bailey Gatzert and First Place is: What will happen to homeless children in middle school? The same level of support services are not in place to handle the dynamics of homelessness at this grade level, nor in high school.

Each of Mary Amu's 6th graders, appropriately named the "Dream Catchers," answer questions about their hopes, dreams, and fears, as part of a *Rights of Passage* to middle school. She asks herself: "Will their new teachers see their gifts? Will they help the dreams come true?"

According to Scott Pinegar, a co-chair of the Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless, a study on one winter night last October found 2,522 individuals and families in 42 Seattle shelters and programs for the homeless; approximately 26% were children—leaving 659 children under the age of 17 without a place to sleep, of which 303 were under the age of five. In addition, 919 requests for shelter were unable to be met on that night — 40% were children.

The answers will come from whether the City has plans to address housing needs for the increasing number of homeless families in Seattle, and whether the District has plans to increase the number of middle school and high school "homeless sites."

**Three Days at First Place...
Written by the Students**

Tuesday: We went to see a mural at Boren and Howell about different kinds of homes. The mural was beautiful — about never being homeless, always having a home. We drew pictures of the homes. We had to keep a log for seven days, about lunch and munch, dressing, and pets. The bus was late today, and Rob and Joe had to walk over two miles to school. Tammy got lost, ran out of gas, and was very sad. One of her kids is two years old, and the baby is two months old. It was "read aloud" day and two other guests read biographies about Columbus and Eleanor Roosevelt. The ladies gave us a poster "10 Ways to be Better Readers."

Thursday: Tom and Sue went to the Seattle Center to get their eyes checked, but they didn't need glasses. We watched a movie about sign language and started learning a song called "Everyone's Differently Able." We finally had hot chocolate and marshmallows and boiled eggs.

Friday: We edited our papers titled "Every Child Deserves a Home." Then we read them to the class and recorded them. We practiced our ASL song again and saw a video about First Place that was on TV last year.



News & Blues
from HandsnetGOP Poll: Tax Plans
Favor Wealthy

Republican polls show that about half of Americans believe GOP tax-cut plans are stacked in favor of the wealthy, reports Associated Press. Nearly half of those surveyed, 48 percent, said they believed GOP tax cuts in general were biased toward the rich. As a result, party leaders are pledging an all-out effort to knock down what they see as a damaging stereotype.

GOP leaders have advised their troops to concentrate on promoting elements of the party's tax-cut proposal that benefit the most people, such as the \$500-per-child tax credit and tax relief for education.

However, one of the most intense political arguments over the \$135 billion tax-cut bill involves whether low-income working families qualify for the \$500-per-child tax credit, reports Associated Press.

House Republicans would deny many low-income families this break — since their taxable incomes generally are so small that they owe no income taxes — leading Democrats to charge the bill is unfair to the poor.

Now, the House GOP faces the task of defending its position, a reversal from the original "Contract With America," which would have given the new child credit to many working poor families. Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, said the House GOP made the change in order to free money for capital gains tax cuts for the wealthy.

The Democrats have a different approach — they argue that the working poor generally face a bigger tax bite from payroll and excise taxes than from income taxes. Clinton criticized the House and Senate plans this

week for favoring the rich. He did signal flexibility on reducing capital gains and estate taxes and made no veto threat.

All of this while the GOP struggles to change its image in the face of less-than-encouraging polls. Among recent surveys, a Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll found last week that Americans preferred Democratic ingredients for a tax cut to the Republican plans by almost a 2-1 ratio.

That approximately matched the findings of recent independent polls including a USA Today-CNN-Gallop Poll this week in which 52 percent of those surveyed said GOP tax-cut plans favor the rich. Of those surveyed by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, HN6722@handsnet.org, 41 percent said Clinton and Democrats had better ideas on taxes and the budget, while 30 percent said Republicans.

Pew polling director Andrew Kohut said a possibly more striking finding was that 90 percent of those surveyed still said they believed their taxes would go up, not down, in four years.

NAFTA Created
Deficit in Jobs,
Trade

Although a Clinton administration report contends the North American Free Trade Agreement has been a positive contributor to America's current prosperity, U.S. trade deficits with Mexico and Canada have grown fourfold during that time, reports Associated Press.

The report represented the opening salvo in an administration campaign to persuade Congress to grant the president negotiat-

ing authority to expand NAFTA to other countries in Latin America and achieve his goal of a hemisphere-wide free trade area by 2005.

But NAFTA opponents, including such traditional Democratic constituencies as organized labor and environmentalists, were not impressed with the report's findings.

Jeff Faux, president of the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute, said the contrast between what the administration promised and the actual results was startling.

"We were promised a trade surplus that would create 200,000 jobs and instead we got a trade deficit that cost 250,000 jobs," he said.

America's trade balance with Mexico has gone from a surplus of \$1.7 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to a record deficit of \$16.2 billion last year. The imbalance with Canada went from \$10.8 billion in 1993 to \$22.8 billion last year.

Rural Poor Fear
Falling Through
the Cracks

As the nation enters a new era of get-tough welfare — telling recipients to find jobs or be cut off — the rural poor confront challenges all their own. With traditional mainstays like timber collapsing, unemployment runs in the double digits. What jobs do exist may be many miles away, and public transit is almost unheard of.

"We're not seeing any family-wage jobs coming in," said Melinda Brown, executive director of People of Progress, a Redding-based nonprofit organization that helps the hungry and homeless. "Unless a job pays \$8 an hour, it's not helping (support a family), and about the only places paying that are the schools, the government and the two local hospitals."

When jobs are available, they're often concentrated in cities, rather than in the smaller towns. Although California Governor Pete Wilson has said recipients must be prepared to go where the jobs are, local officials are reluctant to tell people to pick up and move — or to hand them one-way bus tickets to the big city.

"When people move out from where their roots are, they lose the relatives and connections that may have provided them with low-cost child care and other help," said Doug Latimer, Shasta County's top administrator. "While there may be jobs in the city, the housing is more expensive there, too."

For those who prefer to stay up north, finding work is a continual struggle.

Jobs are not all that are missing. While urban centers have far greater numbers of people on welfare, they also have more community groups dedicated to providing nongovernment aid to the needy and helping them through the public assistance bureaucracy. In rural counties, community help often is limited to a few churches and service clubs.

The new federal law requires that each state have 20 percent of its caseload working or in work-related activities this year, rising to 50 percent by 2002. Rural counties say that with their woebegone economies, it would be unfair to apply those formulas uniformly to every county.

"We can't expect Imperial County, with 30 percent unemployment, to meet the same goals as the Silicon Valley," said Frank Mecca, head of the County Welfare Directors Association.

US Labor Force
Growing at 2x
Normal Rate

For 18 months now, the U.S. labor force, which is everyone working or actively seeking work, has been growing at nearly twice its normal rate and

more than double the growth rate of the working-age population, reports The New York Times.

That has fed about 4 million more people into a growing economy. Hispanic people are the biggest contingent, but younger women and men over 55 also figure prominently among the new entrants.

Many are being pulled into the work force by employers who are offering better pay than the minimum wage and — with the unemployment rate hovering at 5 percent or below — are less choosy than they once were about whom they hire. Mostly the new people are entering at relatively low pay.

Companies are recruiting among those ignored in the past: mothers at home with their children, older men who had retired or been laid off, students, immigrants, people with criminal records. And tens of thousands of welfare recipients are being pushed off the rolls and into work by changes in the federal welfare system.

One of the big national economic issues is how long the U.S. labor force, now numbering 129.4 million workers and 6.8 million people actively seeking work, can continue growing at this faster rate of 2 percent a year.

For the nation as a whole, the Labor Department counts 67 million working-age people — 16 and older — neither holding jobs nor seeking them. Most are out of the work force willingly — as students, retired people, mothers with young children and older women who rarely worked outside the home. Many are now being drawn in, while others find themselves forced to enter.

Men over 55 are also entering, or more precisely reentering, the labor force in unusual numbers. Jobs are now easier for older people to find, particularly in such physically less demanding work as security guards, clerks, stadium ushers and cashiers.

Study: US Wastes
Vast Amounts
of Food

The U.S. Agriculture Department said Americans routinely toss away uneaten vegetables, day-old bread and other pantry items, wasting one-fourth of the nation's total food supply, reports Reuters.

If just 5 percent of the wasted food that is nutritious and safe was recovered from restaurants, grocery stores and pantry shelves, it could feed an estimated 4 million poor and homeless U.S. citizens, the new USDA study said.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, who released the study at a hunger relief conference in San Diego, said he would hold a national meeting on food recovery efforts Sept. 17-18. The meeting in Washington will bring together leaders from state and local governments, religious groups, large corporations and other groups to share ideas on how to get unused food to the hungry.

An estimated 96 billion pounds of food — or 27 percent of the 356 billion pounds of edible food available in the United States — was wasted in 1995, according to the USDA study.

The vast majority of the waste came from consumers who threw away uneaten vegetables, bread, milk and other dairy products more than a day or two old. Many consumers also threw out food because they had trouble interpreting package-dating information, such as "sell by" dates or expiration codes, the study said. Smaller amounts of blemished food, perishable items and dented cans of food were discarded by grocery stores, restaurants and food processors and farmers, the study said.

Anti-hunger activists said they would like to see more financial incentives created for restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses to donate food.

Glickman launched a food "gleaning" or recovery program last year to encourage federal agencies, private cafeterias and others to donate leftover food to local soup kitchens and food banks. As part of the USDA campaign against hunger, the agency created a toll-free number for food recovery: (1-800-GLEAN-IT).

Last year Congress also tried to encourage more donations by adopting a "Good Samaritan" law that limits the legal liability if someone were to become ill from eating

The USDA, which also runs the nation's food stamp program, spent almost \$38 billion last year to provide food aid to 45 million hungry Americans.

Hunger groups say that a month's worth of food stamps typically provides families with only about three weeks' worth of food. [E]

Paying Respect

Three Lives that Lit Up the World

It's been a tough year for losing the old-timers, diverse in their personalities and gifts. Some of the old haunts seem emptier without them.

In late spring three friends of the Lazarus Day Center, St. Martin de Porres Shelter and the Morrison passed away from illness. They are and will be missed.

Charles "Charlie" Davlin b. 9 July 1940 — d. 17 May 1997

Charlie Davlin died in his home at the Morrison on May 17th. He is survived by his sister, Patsy Navarro of Nevada, and by his many friends here in Seattle.

Everyone remembers Charlie as a caring man who tried really hard to please.

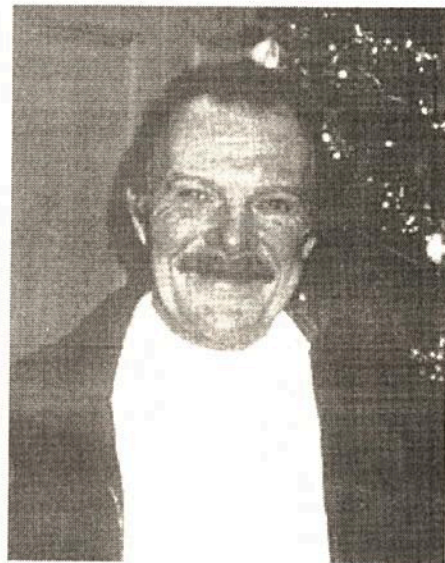
"He was one of the funniest people I'd ever known," said Mary Clausnitzer of the Morrison, where Charlie'd lived for a year and a half. "He was a caregiver; cared for folks in the building." He *loved* to talk to people.

"Oh, Charlie," Annie Green of the Lazarus Day Center said with a laugh, "he was a chronic whiner, but he didn't mean to. He was *happily* whining. I'll miss his hugs. He always had a big hug for everyone he saw."

Rita Peterson commented that he had a "childlike spirit. I don't think he could hurt anybody. And whenever I would run into him he would make me feel like a million bucks."

According to his friends, Charlie loved to dance. He and his sister grew up dancing, and Charlie carried on the tradition by going up to the Seattle Center on weekdays for the Senior Dances. He was an artist as well; he painted, did crafts and macrame. Clausnitzer has one of his paintings in her office at the Morrison.

Charlie's dream was to buy a Harley and ride off into the sunset. Perhaps he's there now. A memorial service was held for him at St. Martin de Porres Shelter.



Patrick "Pat" Clabby b. 2 October 1936 — d. Spring 1997

Pat Clabby was the resident John Wayne of the Lazarus Day Center, and Annie Green, Program Manager there said, "I'll miss that swagger, that John Wayne walk."

He stood 6'4" or 6'5", and "you just stepped a little bit lightly around old John Wayne (Pat), said Rita Peterson. "I never wanted to make him mad. But there was a mutual respect, even though he never said much."

"He cleared the way when he walked," said Marge Barrett of St. Martin's. "But I always felt like when I was in trouble I could go to Pat and he'd come through." He volunteered to cook for the men on respite at the shelter, and "was really good with pork and beans out of a can and hot dogs," according to Marge.

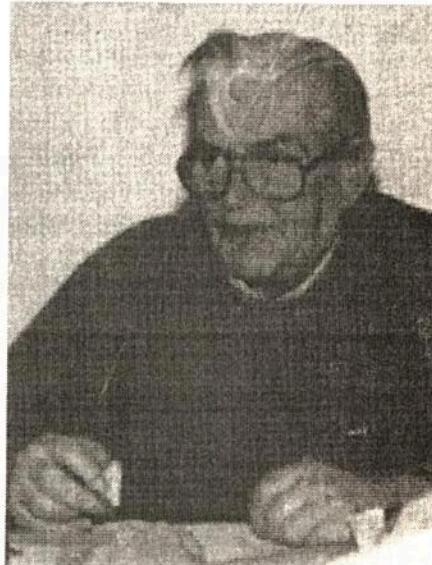
"He was an interesting soul," said Annie. He used to come into the Laze to play cards — he and a few friends had a running game. He didn't talk to very many people, but the ones he talked to he liked. He'd moved in with his girlfriend just before he died, and seemed happy. They were planning a June wedding. Before that he'd stayed at St. Martin's.

Lyman Geis, chaplain at St. Martin's, presided at the June memorial service held for Pat.

Annie said, "I'll miss him sauntering through the room with that dignity of knowing where he wanted to go without someone having to tell him."

Julius Flowers b. 9 July 1934 — d. Spring 1997

Julius Flowers will be remembered as a gentleman no matter what. Sally Kopelson, nurse at the Lazarus Day Center and St. Martin's, remembers Julius as "very sweet and pleasant." He was a



hort, slight, African-American man who was always polite and miling. Sally said, "He sort of kept within himself, kept to himself. It seemed to me he was a very smart man."

Julius was soft-spoken, but had a quiet dignity. Rita Peterson remembers he used to like to go fishing in the Maple Valley area, close to where his family lived.

He had been on respite at St. Martin's for a while, and died of a heart attack at Harborview. Rita Peterson presided over Julius's memorial service, held at St. Martin de Porres on June 11th.

"The beauty of these programs (St. Martin's, the Laze, the Morrison) is that you don't have to explain yourself to be here," said Annie Green. "You never know just how sick people are — their quiet dignity, quiet suffering. Just getting up is a struggle for some. But the resiliency of these folks is just amazing to me."

We may not have known a lot about these men's lives, but they were a part of the fabric of our existence. There's a little bit less of the fabric without them. Godspeed, Julius, Pat and Charlie.

Material for these obituaries was provided by Mary Clausnitzer, Program Manager of Morrison Human Services, Annie Green, Program Manager of the Lazarus Day Center, Marge Barrett and Bob Goetschius of St. Martin de Porres Shelter, Sally Kopelson, nurse at St. Martin's and the Lazarus and Rita Peterson.

GIVING WALK, CONT FROM PAGE 15 and three gallons of milk.

We took the children on a tour of the Gallery. They were intrigued by Meng's junk-art assemblies, especially the masks, and by Jim Bentz's whimsical clay creatures. They also admired the vivid colors of the ceramics created by our Hispanic artists. Miguel made them a gift of one of his large painted ceramic plates.

Some of the children began visiting with Bruce, who showed them his beadwork. Darcie visited with another group of children, showing them hand-puppets and her Native American craftwork.

After I saw the children off to their van, at the end of the visit, I came back to find Bruce with tears on his cheeks.

They touched us all, these Starlight children, with the directness of their caring, their certainty that they really can "do something about it."

They give us hope.

MAMA'S PIZZA

New York Style Pizza
700 E Pine
Capital Hill, Seattle

PIZZA • CALZONES • SALADS
STIX • SODAS

\$2 OFF any pizza with this ad

FREE DELIVERY 322-6444

We Deliver Downtown! FAX NUMBER - 322-7884

August, 1997

DENIAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

income on child care. Yet the state will not adequately increase the reimbursement rate that it pays to child care providers who care for children from low-income families. Without adequate reimbursements, child care providers cannot afford to offer subsidized care.

Health Care: Over 100,000 low-income adults are waiting to be enrolled in the state's Basic Health Plan, designed to be part of the medical safety net for the working poor. However, the Legislature and the Governor chose to provide funding to cover only 8,000 new enrollees. Without health insurance, a health crisis for a parent can endanger the economic stability of the entire family.

Food Assistance: Federal cuts and changes to the food stamp program mean that the poorest of families experienced a cut of \$30-60 a month from their food stamp allotment, leading to a greater reliance on food banks to make it through the month. The state's response? Refuse to allocate any additional funds to help food banks operate their programs. Ironically, \$1.4 million was set aside to feed wintering deer and elk so that they would not damage orchards.

Housing: Federal cuts mean a loss of \$82 million in funding for state housing and homelessness prevention programs over the next two years. Housing advocates anticipate additional cuts of up to \$100 million. The state did little to anticipate or help alleviate the brunt of the cuts. While the state added an increase of \$4.7 million to Washington's Housing Trust Fund, it is not nearly enough.

The tragedy is that the state could do more in each of these areas. Initiative 601, the state spending cap that was narrowly approved by voters in 1993 sets a limit that — even in a "good" economy — makes it difficult to respond to the tough times that many people experience.

Add to that the fact that the state legislature and the Governor chose to spend \$150 million *under* the I-601 limit — this money could have been made available to support our children, but it wasn't. Our denial is wreaking havoc on the lives of children and their families in Washington. But we can do something about it.

We can and must support the programs and resources that help fill in the gaps for poor families who are now working or will soon be forced to work in order to receive public assistance. We can and must demand that our elected officials take leadership, pull off the blinders, and see what is in front of them: too many children growing up in poverty, too many families who work hard and still can't make ends meet, too few resources going to support those who need it most.

What children and families living in poverty need is for the rest of us, community members and policymakers alike, to stop fooling ourselves.

Despite efforts to disgrace the poor, the disgrace of child poverty is for all of us to share. It is time to move out of our denial and inject a little more honesty into the debate about poverty. It is time to set aside myth and rhetoric, to jump out of our collective public denial, and to step up to the task of improving the lives of our children who daily confront life in poverty.

They deserve no less.

Paola Maranan is Public Policy Coordinator at The Children's Alliance, a statewide child advocacy organization. You can reach the Children's Alliance at 206-324-0340.

The Train

I have tried
to understand death
because no music
should be silent
even the music of enemies.


It might be something
like a ride in the subway.
The damp dark walls
speed by so fast.
You arrive at your stop,
collect your things
and step off the train.

— E. Romero

The Best of Everything

There is food at hand and I am safe
and warm in a cold and unsafe world
and plants climb gaily as usual and the

CAROLE d'INVERNO
Paintings



NOT FINAL GALLERY

2045 Westlake Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121
(206) 223-0680

Aug. 9—Sept. 4, 1997
Opening Reception
Sat., August 9
7-9:30 PM

SPS
CUSTOM TEE SHIRTS & DESIGN

SEATTLE PRINT SHOP
(206) 378-0611



heater whirs but everything seems
quite uncomfortably still and speaks of
nothing
so much as absence, failure, uselessness

At times like this perhaps it is best
to limit the vision to the most minute things
such as this kitten content in his sleek
orangeness knowing himself to be what he
is,
not knowing himself
to be vulnerable nor the state of our affairs

Everything stands closed, forbidden
all that I must do dies constantly
before my eyes and I think I will make
a will and leave these things
to someone who could give them life
The baskets and woven things
to the weavers

The kittens
to someone who appreciates their light
quickness
their sanity and tenacity to life

The plants
to someone who understands their silent
green language

The bed
to a woman who must sleep alone

The seashells
to the sea of course
she reclaims her own

The pictures
to someone who fears blank walls

And all the doodads and odds and ends
should be placed at random on the streets
of poor neighborhoods
so children can find them and feel lucky
for that moment as it is better than nothing

That is all. I wish you
the very best of everything.

— Unknown

Monday

Monday stands ahead
like a white government building
stretching down the block a long
walk to a coffee shop with a
parking lot beyond that enclosed
by a chain-link fence, an empty
parking lot with newspapers
and food wrappers blowing and empty
bottles lying on thier sides
waiting to be broken and no
rest, no place to stop
as far as you can see

— Unknown

Lost Souls

I want to hear the voices
of our forgotten elders of long ago.
Some of us shed tears of our forgotten
language, traditions, basically our
heritage. We have been living in the
white man's world too long, we have
forgotten where we come from. So much
has to be learned but so much
has been forgotten. I feel sorry for
the ones who never got a chance
of knowing of thier heiratage they're
the ones who are the lost souls

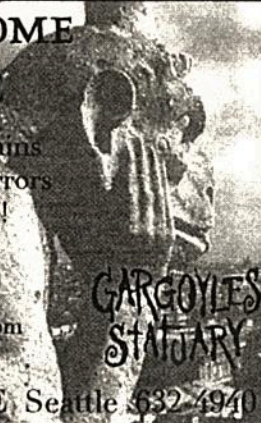
— Darcie Day

**MAKE YOUR HOME
YOUR CASTLE**

medieval replicas * fountains
columns * bookends * mirrors
candlesticks...and more!

Free Catalog Available
<http://www.gargoylestatuary.com>

4550 University Way NE, Seattle 206-494-4550



**GARGOYLES
STATUARY**

Bearing Witness

Rocks bear witness to ice and rivers,
I kneel, tracing the course edges
of stone, it feels like first light
and protruding veins.
Water over pebbles.
I cross the wash
and rocks
move...

Yesterday the sun burnished autumn's
tableau and the bug-laden windshield.

Fallen trees become white
contour drawings against yellow grass,
pine cones accent the rust-
colored needles.

Approaching the town
limits faded, flattened
and crushed aluminum cans;
wind-blown and torn cellophane wrappers,
they litter the factory parking lots
as I light a filtered cigarette
turning off the ignition.

— Earle Thompson

We Masses Don't Want Tofu

We masses don't want tofu, thank you,
We prefer pork chops and hearty beef stew,
Carrots cut thick will nourish the brew,
But solo, those tubers and sprouts
just won't do.

Iron-poor bodies need more than legumes,
When there's one meal a day
And that day's work ain't through.
Hey, poultry or seafood's okay by us, too,
But no more tofu, please, thank you.

— Ruth A. Fox

Empty Currents

i am a fish out of water —
the chords of tension and restlessness
rivitate on a transformation:

my property sold without
my permission

i am still looking for a familiar place to reside

things i hate:

i hate spending cold, mysterious nights trying
to shake my shadow of misery
that seems to think that i need
an escort EVERYWHERE i go

i hate spending time in journals of some sentimental meaning,
trying to sort the questions whizzing by,
as does one trying not to be caught
checking out that blue mohawk or lip ring

i hate the fact of God not putting the answers in the back of
my "How to Understand the Legitimacy of Creation" book

i hate dreams that paralyze me both mentally and emotionally

i hate the style of your clothes
and not being able to tell you

i hate staring at unmarked walls ...
wondering where my guardian angel might be

i hate being fragile through fear's gripe

i hate that i am a puzzle

i hate that i am uncomplete
beyond a doubt

— Melanie Webb

Untitled

This is a very important person
being carried to rest
in a stretch limo hearse
on a busy street of shops
in cold winter rain.

This is a very important corpse
say the motorcycle cops
blocking traffic with red lights
flashing.

Yellow rain slickers
like daffodils laid on a grave
stand beside Hondas.

The funeral cortage of German
luxury cars turns the corner
against traffic
behind a screen
of respectful authority.

This is a very important body
rolling through the street
of living faces.

We know our lives are worth
interrrupting for very important
people
even dead ones.

There is no way telling if
behind smoked window glass
very important eyes
are wet or dry.

On the street in the cold rain
every face is wet
looking upon
the very important dead.

—Unknown

KIDS LAST, CONT. FROM PAGE 7
status, wages, and working conditions of
people in early childhood education, the
state proposes inadequately-funded child
care training and inadequate child care
subsidies. Conley's reaction to this strategy
is unequivocal. "This goes against every-
thing that we've been fighting for — quality
for providers and teachers, and quality for
families and children. To me it's like they're
just writing off the children and the workers
and saying anything will do."

Child Care Resources is equally
concerned about inadequate child care
subsidies. Until recently, the federal
government guaranteed child care subsidy
payments for up to 75 per cent of the
market rate of child care costs. Although
child care subsidies are not yet set for this
state, it is clear there is not sufficient
funding to support demand.

In fact, there is every indication that
the state is unwilling to pay much more

than 50 per cent. "When subsidy rates
drop, fewer providers can afford to care for
children of welfare recipients. The availabil-
ity of care and the access of quality licensed
care for these families is going to be
significantly decreased."

"If the goal of WorkFirst is to get
people to work,"
says Loni Johns-
Brown with NOW,
"and their 'good
cause exemption' for
not working is not
being able to find
child care, then the
program is set up for
failure."

Implicit in any
discussion of welfare
reform is the issue of
child care itself —
what children need,
who is trained for it,

how we pay for it, what kind of child care
systems best meet the needs of low-income
workers, and how sustained economic self-
sufficiency requires appropriate and
affordable childcare. WorkFirst has work to
do. [E]

SERVICES, CONT FROM PAGE 9

process, or lack thereof, was set up "deliberately to save the
Council time and energy."

The City Council hearings that are held for human service
funding, he said, "are huge hearings with no focus. Many human
service agencies don't even bother to go." Cole questions whether
advocates can effectively lobby for an increased funding with such
limited access to decision-makers at the Council level.

WHEEL member Anitra Freeman says her organization
would also like to see more Council hearings. "In the present
atmosphere it's easy for them to just stonewall us," she said. "We
want to make a fuss and talk about the process."

Dilts is hopeful that some sort of change is on the way, and
cites a process begun by Councilmember Cheryl Chow to review
the City's human service funding in response to anticipated need
stemming from welfare reform.

"There are plans for both the Mayor and City Council to look
at the funding mix, and look at what we fund and how," said Dilts.
She added that "few other cities that are being as responsive, and
making the financial commitment that Seattle is to respond to
TANF (AFDC's replacement) and Workfirst."

Seattle budgeted \$7.7 million for homeless services in 1997, a
number that is almost twice the 1989 allocation of \$4 million.
The total City budget for human services is in excess of \$27
million.

One thing that is clear is that if programs are forced to cut
back due to lack of funding, one way or another, the City will hear
all about it.

"The City is being responsive," said Cole. "We feel like they
are really trying. But if we need to make cuts in the fall, it won't be
done quietly. We're going to stand with the people who are
affected." [E]

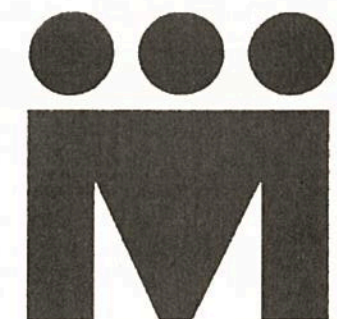


*A full service
financial cooperative
dedicated to improving
the financial health
of our members.*

206-298-9394 or 800-562-5515

The Millionair Club

UPGRADING YOUR COMPUTER?
Consider donating your old one to the
Millionair Club Charity. We need five
486 computers for our **Job Search
Skills Program**, a program designed to
help the homeless find permanent
employment. We also need pentium
processors and software.
To donate, please call **728-5600**.
Your gift is tax-deductible.



Since 1921

AUGUST 2

Ground Zero near Bangor, a weekend of education, reflection and planning "Moving Toward the New Millennium" - building a world without Trident and a nuclear free world, Ground Zero 2000, celebrating 21 years of Nonviolent Action, updates on Trident and Bangor, FFTF, discussion of coalition building for abolition of nuclear weapons, good food, good company, ending with the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration, info 360-377-2586

AUGUST 3

"One Song, Many Voices" to benefit AIDS projects, Mission for music and healing, etc, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle Central Community College Campus, Broadway near Pine, advance tickets \$12, \$15 at door, refreshments, info 206-324-1520 or 206-455-0706

University Friends Meeting, fighting human rights abuses in Guatemala and U.S. complicity in the same, 7 p.m., 4001 9th NE, Jennifer Harbury Support Group, info Raki Bauer 783-8481

AUGUST 5

Get involved in solidarity work around Filipina and Asian women's issues globally and domestically GABRIELA Network-NW, a US Solidarity Group with GABRIELA-Philippines (Alliance of over 105 women's organizations in the Philippines), first Tuesdays, 6 p.m., locations vary, Seattle, info 206-824-8229

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

AUGUST 6

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

From Hiroshima to Hope Commemoration and Lantern Floating Ceremony at dusk, Commemorating the victims of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and other victims of violence, 7 - 9:30 p.m., Greenlake just South of the Bathhouse Theatre, info Charlene 206-623-5124

AUGUST 7

Music, Healing and Community workshop with Esther "Little Dove" John and Brenda McFerrin (sister of Bobby McFerrin), presented by the Association of Humanistic Psychology at Bastyr University in Bothell, WA; For musicians and "non-musicians," health professionals and lay people. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Carries CECs; \$55. info Katy 206-870-1759

Hands-on Workshop For Uppity Workers; Center For Urban Ecology 5619 University Way, Fire Your Boss workshop, a learn how to get a little more from your employer using ten easy direct action tactics with your co-workers, sponsored by the Puget Sound

IWW, International Workers of the World, the "Wobblies" with a long history of Labor Activism in the Pacific Northwest, info 516-0483, PO Box 4814, Seattle WA 98104

AUGUST 8

Australian National University Conference "Indigenous, Political Theory and the Reshaping of Institution", keynote by Michael Dodson, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, speakers include Russel Barsh on "Indigenous Rights and [the] International Order;" Samuel Makinda on "Indigenous Peoples' Rights and State Sovereignty", info The Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200 (ph) 06 249 2700, email Duncan Ivison <dmi1@mail.york.ac.uk> or web http://yarra.vicnet.net.au/vicnet/COUNTRY/papers.htm

AUGUST 9

Tibet Fest '97 Seattle Center

AUGUST 10

The Prisoners' Justice Day, Vancouver, BC, towards building community awareness of the conditions that exist for prisoners in Canada and supporting Prisoners' Justice, part of a national demonstration in memory of the women and men who have died in custody, info PJD Committee fax (604) 253-3073 or e-mail hrybko@sfu.ca

HOST HOME PROGRAM

IS HOME SHARING FOR YOU?

Can you provide a caring, and safe environment for a single woman or single parent family?

- Flexible time commitment
- Training/support services
- Applicants screened
- Weekly contacts by staff
- Guest provides own food

For more information, Call Host Home Program at

(206) 562-6858

A program of Catholic Community Services of East King County

AUGUST 13

Monthly meeting of the Labor Party, info on Independent Progressive Politics Network which includes the Labor Party, 7 p.m., Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave, Curt 206-329-1048, info on Labor Party 206-382-5712

AUGUST 14

Earth Save monthly vegetarian potluck and educational program, organization works to educate about the effects of our food choices on the environment and our health, bring your own dishes and utensils and label potluck dish ingredients, 6:30 p.m., call for location, info 781-6602

Ride for a Reason, Bike Ride to Benefit AIDS Services, Portland to Seattle or Vancouver BC to Seattle, riders to collect at least \$1500 in donations, meals, relief vans, transportation of personal belongings, etc. provided, sponsored by Northwest AIDS Foundation, Chicken Soup Brigade, POCAAN, and others, info 322-BIKE or toll free 1- 888-89BIKES, to volunteer call Michele 860-6331

AUGUST 15

"Toxic Towers: the Impact of Higher Education on Women," The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, conference examine the experiences of women in all aspects of higher education, e.g. experiences of women as office staff, full and part-time faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and administrators, info Kelley Hall 330-972-5802 or kjhall@uakron.edu

AUGUST 17

Seattle Peace Concert, Noon to 6 p.m., Volunteer Park, busline 7 or 10, hosted by Paul Benoit of Crosseyed, featuring Haymaker, Sunfur, Mark Olsen, Toadstool, free, please bring food bank donations for Northwest Harvest, info 206-789-5651 or http://www.seapeace.org/

Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation Annual Picnic, potluck meal at 5 p.m., Woodland Park, shelter #4, just East of Aurora and South of 63rd, Sjust fun and good company, no agenda! info 206-789-5565

"Bridging the Gap: Moving from Ideas to Action," Seattle, GLSTN (GAY, LESBIAN, STRAIGHTTEACHERS' Network) International Conference, The first annual northwest/international conference on gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender issues in education, queer and other multicultural issues in education, keynote speakers include Kelly Peterson, the lesbian student who battled a school board ban of lesbian and gay youth groups at public high schools in Salt Lake City, Utah; Scott Nakagawa, a Fight the Right Organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Co-sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Educators of British Columbia, The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network of Oregon, The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network/Washington State; Early Registration

August, 1997

(Before May 15,) \$10 - \$50, later \$15 - 65, scholarships available, info 343-8387 or GLSTNWASH@aol.comor; to help with planning kevans@u.washington.edu

AUGUST 22

Anniversary of signing of Welfare "Reform" Law, planning for event to mark this occasion by Jobs With Justice, info 448-7348 ext 309

AUGUST 24

Annual Hempfest, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Myrtle Edwards Park, Pier 70, produced by Washington Citizens For Hemp Reform, info 206-782-5734

Seattle Peace Concert, Noon to 6 p.m., Magnuson Park, busline 74 or 75, featuring "Blues on the Beach"- The Authentics, Annville Blues, Mark Defrense Blues Band, Nick Vigerino & special guests, Sound provided by Motor Bark Sound and Lighting, free, please bring food bank donations for Northwest Harvest, info 206-789-5651 or http://www.seapeace.org/

"Women Who Write Too Much" 1 - 3 p.m., Bryant Building Room 111 on Boat St just west of Brooklyn, University of Washington Women's Center presents a Sunday Showcase co-directed by Nikki Nojima Louis, musicians, singers, dancers, poets, actors and others, free, reservations 685- 1090

AUGUST 26

The Green Party monthly meeting, 7 p.m., University Heights Center, NE 50th & the Ave (Univ Way NE), info on Independent Progressive Politics Network which includes the Greens, Curt 206-329-1048

ONGOING

Food Not Bombs cooks and serves vegetarian meals to the homeless Sundays each week! 2 p.m., cook in various locations; 5 p.m. serve dinner at 4th & Cherry, info Steve 547-8559.

LIVE A MORE THRILLING LIFE

at

Left Bank Books
92 Pike St
Seattle WA 98101

206 622-0195



Bouncing Babies

Children May Be Penalized for Parents' Actions

The Citizens 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.

Sanctioning Children Under WorkFirst

One of the primary stated goals of our new welfare program, WorkFirst, is to protect our state's children in need. In the past, one of the ways that this was done was by ensuring that children were not punished for the actions of their parents.

If a parent chooses not to cooperate with their particular welfare program and not do what is required of them, then they can be "sanctioned." One of the ways to sanction is very simply through the denial of cash assistance— meaning that the state has the option to no longer provide them with a welfare check. So, if either by choice or circumstance, a parent "blows it," then they alone are penalized through sanction. Their child would continue to receive the assistance they need for food and housing, while they as the parent would not.

A Blanket Termination of Benefits?

Because WorkFirst is still in the developmental stages (but will take effect on Friday, August 1st anyway), some of the stated goals have not yet been fleshed out. Indeed, WorkFirst is NOT a set proposal. There are many aspects still to be decided, one of which is this concept of "sanctioning."

Currently, there is strong discussion in favor of a sanction which can ultimately include the blanket termination of benefits to an *entire household* under WorkFirst, meaning that children could

be unfairly punished for the actions of their parents, leaving them hungry and/or homeless. Placing an unconditional sanction over an entire family violates the principles and integrity of the WorkFirst program, which is to protect and provide for our state's most vulnerable residents, our children in need.

Action Needed

Please continue to flood the Governor's office with your calls, letters, and e-mail in support of maintaining state assistance to the children of penalized parents, as well as requesting him to oppose the practice of placing unconditional sanctions over an entire household.

Again, you can reach the Governor's office directly at (360) 753-6780, or leave a message for him by calling the Legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Letters to the Governor need to be mailed to the Legislative Bldg., PO Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002. His e-mail address is governor.locke@governor.wa.gov.

Recommended Message

"The practice of sanctioning entire families means that children could be unfairly punished for the actions of their parents, leaving them hungry and/or homeless. Placing a blanket sanction over an entire family violates the principles and integrity of the WorkFirst program, which is to protect and provide for our state's most vulnerable residents— our children in need. The WorkFirst plan must continue the current practice of providing assistance to the children of penalized parents."

Advocating Organizations: The Children's Alliance, WA Welfare Reform Coalition; special thanks to George Manalo-LeClair.

Real
CHANGE
2129 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121

