

June 1998

Real CHANGE

VOL. 5, NO. 6, JUNE

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Real CHANGE

A Washington State non-profit organization

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Mission Statements:

Real Change organizes, educates, and builds 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.

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that sponsors the StreetLife Gallery, StreetWrites, and the Homeless Speakers Bureau. The RCHEP raises the voices of the poor by supporting cultural, artistic, and literary expression to place a human face on homelessness and poverty. All donations to the RCHEP support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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

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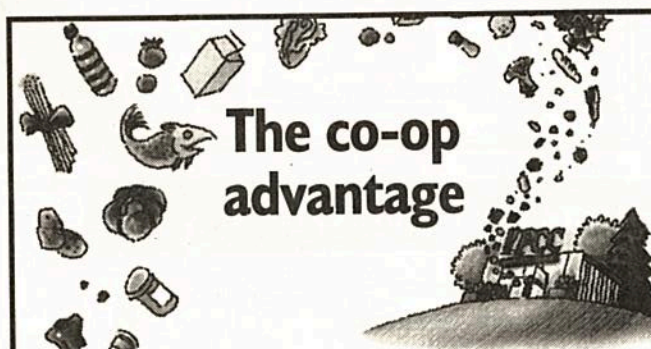
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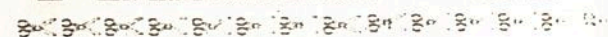
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Seattle's Choice Where Will the Homeless Stay?

"They're workin' away our spirits, tryin' to make us cringe and crawl, takin' away our decency."

—Henry Fonda, *Grapes of Wrath*, 1940

Recently, during a heated meeting with homeless advocates, Deputy Mayor Tom Byers suggested that this publication survey homeless people to find why they "prefer" sleeping outdoors to staying in shelters.

Timothy Harris While we don't need to take a survey, we also don't mind explaining the obvious one more time. It's sort of a no-brainer. People "prefer" sleeping outdoors because the shelters are full.

Every night, on average, Seattle shelters turn away hundreds of people. It's well established that Seattle has about 2,500 shelter beds for about 4,500 homeless people. The determined and lucky get a mat indoors, and, as certain laws of mathematics dictate, others sleep outside.

Our resident mathematician, Dr. Wes Browning, has helpfully provided the following elegant equation:

$$\begin{array}{r} 4,500 \\ - 2,500 \\ \hline = 2,000 \end{array}$$

There is, granted, some choice involved. Some people choose to be in line at 6 pm or so to queue up for a bed. Others do not. Yet that doesn't alter the math. Operation Nightwatch fills every last bed in Seattle every night, and turns the rest away. Some people, sensibly enough, make other arrangements.

Imagine Compassion

IT IS SOMETIMES HARD for those of us who have a place in the economy to understand how, with the lowest official unemployment rate in memory, so many people

can be on the street. It seems like it must somehow be their own fault. It is not an uncommonly held belief that homeless people "choose" this lifestyle.

The very idea of a "lifestyle" presupposes options. This is the very thing homeless people do not often have. Lifestyle choice is not a useful way to view the problem; homeless people can't afford "lifestyles."

Those of us with college educations, stable backgrounds, and good health can look around ourselves and see nothing but opportunity. For us, the economy couldn't be better. Sometimes, we can slip into the comforting illusion that almost everyone shares our privilege. This illusion can limit our compassion, and prevent us from seeking a more just economy.

There are many people who simply don't have the options that some of us take for granted. We see it here at *Real Change* everyday. What happens to the laborer after his back gives out? How many jobs exist for the border-line mentally retarded? How are those who are too depressed or confused to work to afford housing? Where is the opportunity for the uneducated, the sick, the addicted, the mentally ill?

According to a recent report by the National Coalition for the Homeless, most cities have doubled or tripled their shelter capacity over the past ten years. And still they do not meet the demand for emergency shelter. Seattle is no exception. The report cites a one-night survey taken in 1996, when Seattle shelters turned away 919 people.

Where are the FDRs?

AS WE GO TO PRESS, Seattle is again preparing to evict homeless people from the Beacon Hill greenbelt area known as the Jungle. The usual reasons have been presented: sanitation, fire hazards, crime. This year, a new twist has arisen with the arrest of a serial murderer who killed his

victims in and around the Jungle. Homeless encampments are now, it appears, considered unacceptable since they may harbor murderers.

This is sort of like closing down the nation's school systems because someone might get shot.

The Jungle debate always makes me think of one of my favorite movies, the 1940 adaptation of John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, perhaps the greatest depression-era novel ever written. Filmed in a beautiful black and white documentary style, the movie starred a very young Henry Fonda as Tom Joad.

Like most movie adaptations, this one was not terribly true to the novel. Steinbeck's book ends with a harrowing scene of desperation and hope, where the Joads, reduced to an animal-like state, cling lovingly to survival. In the movie, all ends well when the Joad family drives their jalopy into a clean, well-lit government camp, and are welcomed by a smiling administrator who strongly resembles FDR.

Still, this is a vision that, in all of its simplistic liberalism, I'd like to believe in. It's not at all clear that governments can successfully restructure economies, but I think they can, and should, at least mitigate their worst effects.

A clean, safe place to camp, where there are adequate toilet facilities, access to running water and electricity, and decent sanitation does not seem like too much to ask. The Schell administration has indicated that they might be willing to consider some sort of outdoor housing, possibly using freight containers. We strongly encourage them to explore this option.

It will not do to ignore the obvious and blame the poor for simply existing. We can shuffle homeless people around by closing encampments all we want, and they'll still exist. The question is what are we going to do about it? ☐

Bulldozer Days

Can Seattle Stop Chasing Poor People Away?

PHOTOS AND STORY BY SINAN DEMIREL

"In its annual purge of the Jungle, government seems to be making willy-nilly decisions for people's lives, without knowing what it's like for them. They're chasing people from place to place, and deeper into unsafe and solitary conditions."

FOUR YEARS AGO police and the Seattle Conservation Corps completely demolished encampments on the west side of Beacon Hill, where more than a hundred homeless men, women and families had been living—some in tents, and some in makeshift homes they'd constructed and lived in for years.

Since that time, the Jungle has never returned to what it had been. Annually, the city repeats the purge, albeit on a smaller scale, and the process of resettlement begins anew. Some things never change.

After receiving word that a new sweep of the Jungle was imminent, I started making periodic visits to warn folks of what was coming. Over the past month, I have spoken to several groups of people camping there, mostly in tents. When I escorted a journalist and members of Food Not Bombs on one of my trips to the camps, campers said, "Here's that reporter again and the Missionary." I guess I'm the Missionary.

When I visit with folks, I ask if they've heard about the sweep, if they want to do something about it. Some people are willing to make a stand when the bulldozers come. I tell them some people are working on setting up a place where they can pitch their camps and not have to move over and over again.

Making the Best of Bad Times

MOST OF THE PEOPLE at the Jungle work, and many are mistrustful of the shelters and missions. One man I met was a prisoner of war in Vietnam. Most say they'll be gone within a

couple of weeks anyway; they're just saving up to rent a place. Drugs and predators in some downtown shelters create an atmosphere that Jungle campers just don't want to go back to.

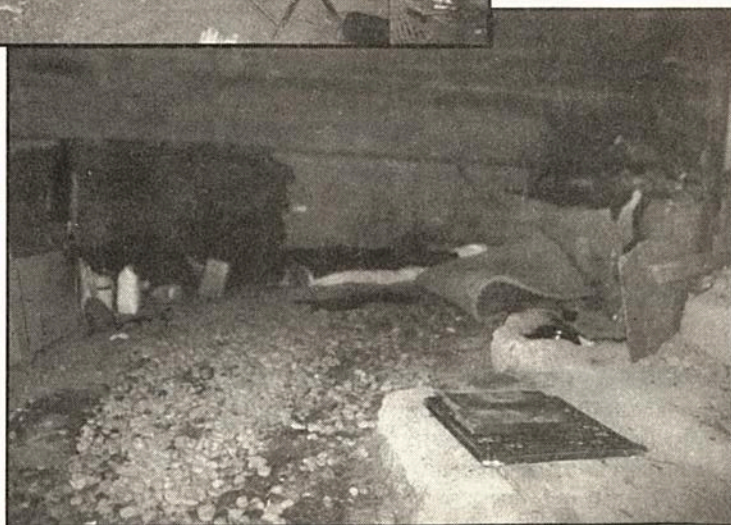
Ed and Crystal have been living in the Jungle, in a tent, for several weeks. They do their best to keep their area clean and have developed an elaborate system for carrying human waste away from their campsite. Crystal broke her leg on the muddy paths one night, and it took hours for them to slog down to the road in the industrial area to get help.

Their campsite is close to two others; folks stick close together for companionship and protection. They speak of how they watch out for each other and express a real pride of family when describing their companions. Ed tells us how their friend Don, living in the adjacent tent, gets up at 1 AM every day to get ready for work on Harbor Island. They share food, supplies, stories.



Going, Going, Gone.

TWO MUST SEE APARTMENTS IN LOVELY BEACON HILL AREA. NATURAL LIGHTING, GARDEN SPACE AND YARD. LARGE KITCHEN AREA. SHARED BATH. EXTREMELY AFFORDABLE. NEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. GRAB THESE BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!



The Jungle is a self-policing community. In the largest camp I encountered, I was told in no uncertain terms that when crackheads show up, they get chased off, told they shouldn't come back. "I told them they had to leave, NOW. We don't want any of that stuff around here. I won't put up with it," said James, who's in a camp with his girlfriend Arlene, her brother Duane, and a fellow named Will who delivers the morning paper to City staffers at the Municipal Building.

James and Duane want to pack their own garbage out. "Do you know people at the City?" they asked. "Tell them. See if they'll put a dumpster up in the park. Me and him will haul all this up on our backs. We'll do it." A few days later they were able to obtain some garbage bags and have done what they can.

Nothing New Under the Sun

BEFORE WE CALLED IT HOMELESSNESS, there were hoboes and itinerant workers. When the numbers swelled during the Great Depression, many of them settled in "Hoovervilles" around the country.

Hooverville originated in Seattle in 1931, and, after being burned out several times, finally located not too far from what is now The Jungle. It was "born of poverty and the failure of society to respond to massive unemployment," according to Alice Quaintance, who researched Hooverville for *Real Change*. Over ten years, 11,000-14,000 different people lived in Seattle's Hooverville, as many as 1,000 at a time.

Seattle's Hooverville was an example of successful self-governance—residents elected their own, integrated governing committee, and negotiated with City officials for sanitation and safety measures. The people who lived there "considered living in their own shacks preferable to the conditions in the missions and the stigma of charity. For all its shortcomings, Hooverville proved the power of homeless people to manage their own affairs, with some vacant land and minimal support, through 10 years of Hard Times," says Quaintance.

And there are more recent examples of organized outdoors self-management. SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort) set up a "Tent City" on the mudflats south of the Kingdome the day before Thanksgiving in 1990. Eventually the camp grew to 18 tents and more than 100 people; it lasted several weeks, until the City

responded by offering space for indoor shelter in the old METRO Bus Barn.

SHARE has done other outdoors shelters; most notably during its Safe Haven campaign in 1995. For seven months self-management worked at this 50 mat co-ed shelter, variously located at 2nd and Yesler, the Kingdome parking lot and finally the King County Administration Building plaza.

A Failure of Will

We're not facing a Great Depression here, but we're failing. There are about 2,500 shelter beds available in Seattle, and,

by most estimates, 4,500 homeless people on any given night. Operation Nightwatch, in its annual street count one night last fall counted more than 600 people sleeping on the streets downtown.

In its annual purge of the Jungle, government seems to be making willy-nilly decisions for people's lives, without knowing what it's like for them. They're chasing people from place to place, and deeper into unsafe and solitary conditions. The simple answer is providing the means to clean up on an ongoing basis.

There is so much space between the relatively few camps remaining in the Jungle

Continued on page 14

Little Boxes

In Praise of Cargo Containers

I WAS OFFERED A JOB IN MALAYSIA WORKING FOR A SMALL FACTORY. The job offer included "housing" in a container that had been converted for living spaces.

My unit was 10 by 30 feet, and had been sectioned off to include a shower and a kitchen. The shower employed an "on-demand" water heater, and was quite adequate. The kitchen area did not provide hot water, but had ample cupboards and counter space.

The remaining space was more than sufficient for a single bed, a wardrobe closet and a chest of drawers. One small window unit air conditioner was all that was required to keep the entire space cool. While toilet facilities had not been installed in this unit, there was enough space for a toilet.

A tin roof had been built above the container to minimize the effects of the tropical sun. Windows had been built in, but had later been boarded over with plywood. There were three doors, attractive paneling, and carpeting.

All in all, it was most pleasant, and very adequate for my needs.

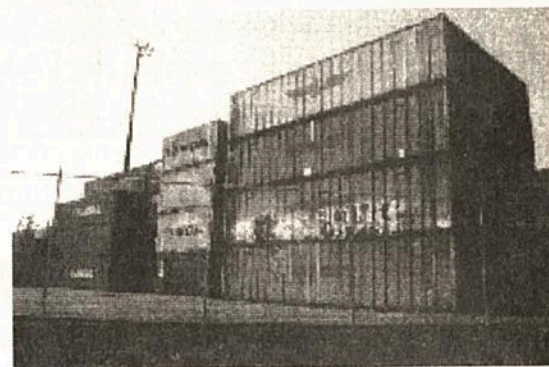
Currently, I stay at a self-managed shelter. While this shelter takes care of my immediate need to be warm, safe and dry at night, there are other issues that a cargo container home could address.

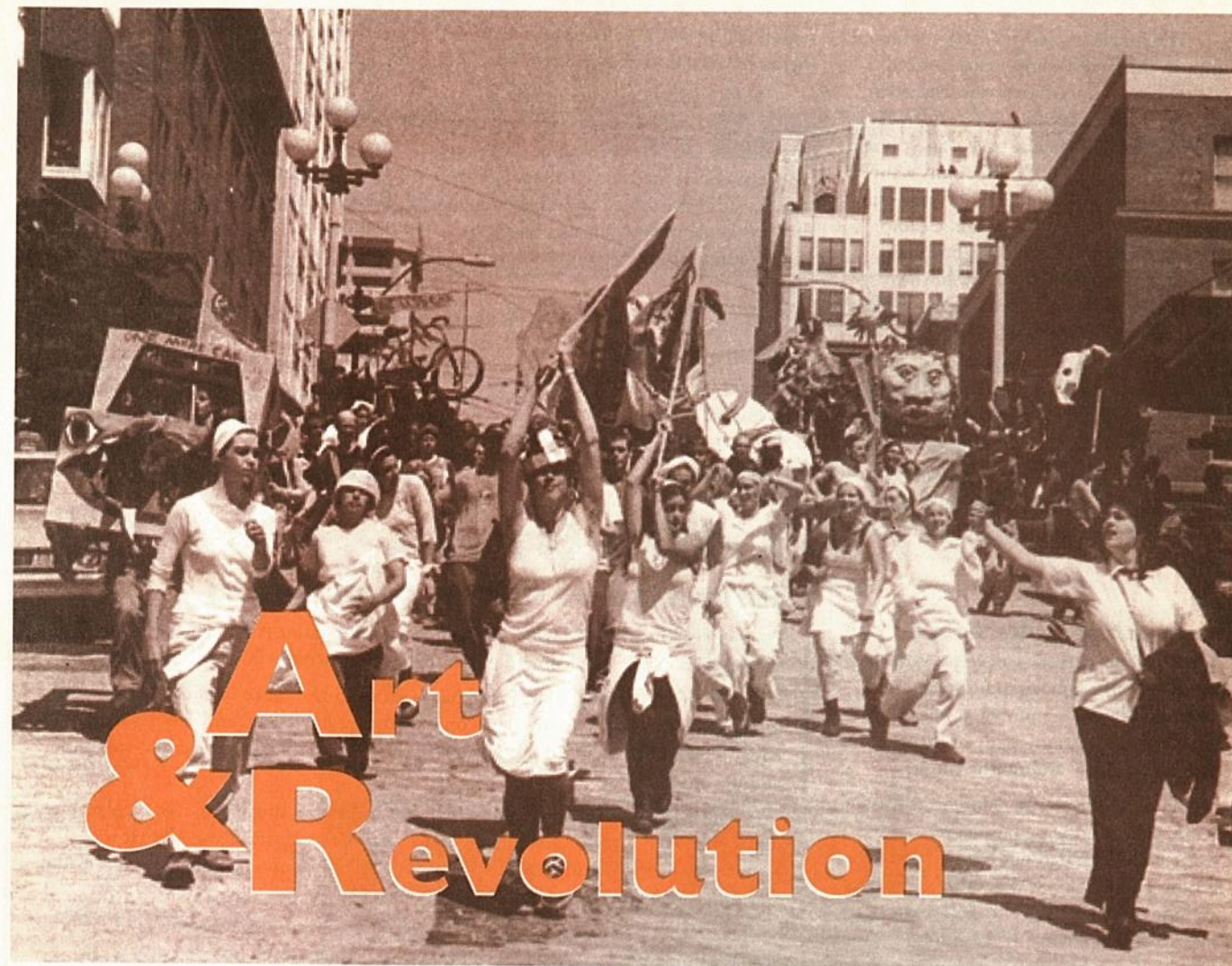
These would be the storage of personal belongings during my work hours, and a place to shower and prepare meals. I am a member of the gym at the YWCA to be able to take showers Monday through Friday and to store my work clothes, and I have to eat all meals out in restaurants.

These expenses are preventing me from saving the money I need for first and last month's rent, utilities, and other necessities.

If there is a supply of unused cargo containers in Seattle, I firmly believe they can be put into use as shelters for the homeless.

—Anonymous by author's request





BY GEORGE HICKEY AND SUSAN BURDICK

At mid-morning Monday, May 18, an old yellow school bus with flowers painted on it pulled in at Victor Steinbrueck Park near the Pike Place Market. Out of the bus, dozens of the Cascadia Art and Revolution troupe pulled drums, puppets, signs, costumes and makeup, and transformed themselves into street performers with a message.

As they began the unpublicized and unannounced performance, a large crowd (including police) gathered and heard about corporate greed and reclamation of the streets and, despite themselves, had fun. Tourists snapped photos wildly; others seemed to enjoy the spectacle and carnival atmosphere. Part rally, part party, the parade was the second event in two years to declare "Art" as a means of changing society.

By noon, dancers clad in white outfits and wearing white face paint led a proces-

sion out of the park and into the street to Pike Place Market. The parade, moving to the beats of a 15-member drumming ensemble, would sing and dance its way through the financial district to Westlake Park (where, except for busses, it blocked traffic) and, four hours after it started, back to Steinbrueck Park.

In the procession there were tall puppets wearing signs protesting corporate power, black puppet vultures of "consumption," and an altar to capitalism in which a

scary face loomed over clothes and stereos. A giant blue heron, a tree, and other positive images contrasted the "work-buy-consume-die" culture surrounding the parade.

Some costumed actors walked on stilts, others carried a giant Nike sneaker. One wore a large MasterCard around his neck and dragged a huge TV-set mockup behind him. Another, dressed in a gorilla outfit, protested for animal rights. Other actors went into the crowd grasping for dollar bills suspended in front of them; the money was always just out of their reach.

Corporations and shops specifically targeted by the rally were: Starbucks, Eddie Bauer, the Disney Store, Nike, Nordstrom's, McDonald's, Plum Creek Timber Co., The Gap, Union Bank of California, and the Wild Ginger Restaurant. Organizers cited

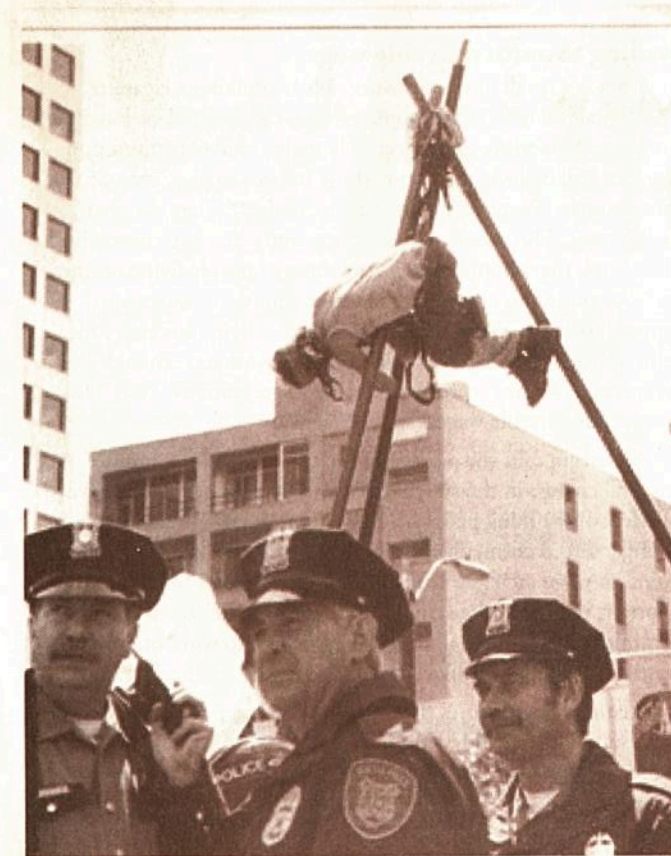
unethical practices at the businesses and the prioritization of corporate profit over human need.

At Niketown, dancers gathered near the store's entrance and, to the driving beat of the drums, performed a skit in which they depicted sweatshop labor abroad and the insidious sale of impossible dreams to inner-city youths at home. Then they toppled the giant Nike sneaker to the ground and proclaimed Nike dead. Joined by many in the impromptu crowd, the group ended the skit with a rousing chant of "Boycott Nike!"

At Westlake Park, where the crowd numbered in the hundreds, organizers re-closed Pine Street to traffic. In a speech, an elderly woman demanded that the city keep Pine Street closed and that Nordstrom's give the taxpayers back the money that was used to build their parking garage. Many in the crowd shouted their agreement.

Organizers had spent the weekend on Camano Island planning, building, and practicing for the Monday business day presentation. The action conveniently timed itself to a call made internationally by England's "Reclaim the Streets" organization for a global street party the same weekend.

For part of a day, Art and Revolution did reclaim the streets, naming a "rich" life as one that is creative, not purchased. Then as quickly as they had arrived, they disassembled, packed and loaded their gear back onto the old yellow school bus. [E]



A SUSPENSEFUL AFTERNOON: ANTI-LOGGING PROTESTER HANGS FROM A TRIPOD DURING ART & REVOLUTION DEMONSTRATION. ALL PHOTOS BY GEORGE HICKEY.

OBSOLESCENCE Is Our Friend

Have you upgraded your computer lately? Is your old equipment looking for a good home? The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project needs your old Macintosh computers, printers, Syquest drives, and modems to use for computer and writing workshops. Tax receipts gladly provided. Please call Tim Harris at 441-3247

Be a part of the Solution!

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 StreetLife Art Gallery, the StreetWrites homeless writers group, and our Homeless Speakers Bureau. We are also promoting self-help and grassroots journalism internationally through our leadership in the North American Street Newspaper Association. *We're doing our share. Please help us out by doing yours. Support Real Change in any way you can.*

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Money to Live On

Initiative 688 Needs Final Push

BY SCOTT WINN

People making minimum wage are getting screwed," says Justin, a ticket taker at the Broadway Market Cinemas. "They are working just as hard as anyone else and not getting paid for it." Justin Macias makes \$5.25 per hour, a mere ten cents above the Federal minimum wage of \$5.15. Each ticket he rips in half more than pays for an hour's wage. He gladly signed the petition for Initiative 688, which would give him and 300,000 minimum wage workers in Washington State a deserved and needed raise.

Supported by the usual list of labor and justice groups and Democrats across the state, Initiative 688, the Paycheck Protection Act, will raise the minimum wage for all workers over 18 in Washington State. Those working in the service industry and in agriculture are likely to benefit the most. The minimum wage would rise to \$5.70 per hour on January 1, 1999 and to \$6.50 per hour the following year. Beginning in 2001, it would be linked to the Consumer Price Index, which means the minimum wage would keep pace with the rising cost of living. Washington State's \$4.90 per hour is the lowest minimum wage on the West Coast trailing behind California's \$5.75 and Oregon's soon to be \$6.50, recent increases overwhelmingly passed by citizen initiatives.

Three out of four people earning minimum wage in the state of Washington are women. One out of three are the primary wage earners for their families. There is no statistic for the number of people of color who earn minimum wage-

but as Juan Bocanegra of the Downtown Human Services Council, a member of the campaign coalition, points out, "it is not hard to assess. Look at the service industry, look at who is serving you and it is not hard to tell that many low wage workers are people of color." Few minimum wage workers receive benefits, with only 1 in 5 having health care coverage. Most minimum wage workers in Washington State make the Federal wage of \$5.15 per hour, which still falls significantly below the federal poverty level (\$13,552 for a family of three).



Labor Donated

On July 2nd 180,000 valid signatures of registered voters must be delivered to the Secretary of State to put the initiative on the ballot this November. The campaign's goal is to collect 250,000 signatures. The extras are to ensure enough valid signatures needed to put the initiative on the ballot and to show the opposition the overwhelming popular support for giving the lowest paid workers in our state a raise. As of May 20th volunteer signature gatherers across the state have collected over 119,000 signatures.

It has been years since an initiative that did not pay signature gatherers collected enough signatures to enable it to be placed on the ballot. Getting this initiative on the ballot and passed is "essential so we can prove that people have power," says Bridget Geraghty, the King County Field Coordinator for Initiative 688. Initiatives in the past have relied on lots of money, often from outside the state, to pay signature gatherers. Initiatives got on the ballot not necessarily because they represented the priorities of working people in the state, but rather the desires of people with money.

Heading towards a livable wage

Mark is a small business owner. He is smoking a cigarette outside a local store from a grocery chain where he has a part time job to help make ends meet. He makes above the minimum wage, but still believes that "something has got to give, even \$5.70 is not enough. People can't support themselves. They pay that much in rent. The people who set the poverty line have never lived at that level, they should walk in the shoes of people living on the line." According to campaign literature, minimum wages are supposed to assure the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well being of workers. Though the new increases do not represent a livable wage. Initiative 688 "is a step towards a livable wage," says Geraghty.

Bocanegra calls the passage of the Initiative 688 "a minute structural change in the system" that will be permanent and have a real effect on working people. He went on to explain that we can no longer afford cosmetic changes to the system. Insuring that the minimum wage increases with the cost of living is a small but important change in the system. Resolving the debate of changing the minimum wage will allow working people to work on other essential survival issues, like affordable housing and healthcare.

"Gathering signatures for Initiative 688 is a political act with pure results," asserts Judy Krebs, Campaign Director for the Paycheck Protection Coalition. "It has the ability to make real change." ☐

To get involved in helping to gather signatures and raise the minimum wage call the Paycheck Protection Coalition at 206-256-6391.

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Mayor Schell, Rent Controller?

In a letter to the Seattle-King County Apartment Association in early May, Mayor Schell asked apartment owners to limit annual rent increases below 10%. Unlikely bedfellows questioning the proposal are the Seattle Displacement Coalition and the Seattle-King County Apartment Owners Association.

The Association plans to release a formal response soon, according to Board President Chris Benis. But Benis himself thinks the proposal is unnecessary, since the average rent for a one bedroom in Seattle only went up 8% this year (from \$601 to \$709 a month), and since individual landlords may be justified in raising rents 30% or more.

The proposal would "scapegoat" those landlords, said Benis, and improvements to housing stock would be discouraged.

John Fox, of the Displacement Coalition, calls the proposal "a joke." If the Mayor were really interested in controlling rents, says Fox, he would enforce the anti-abandonment law and extend it city-wide, tie rent increases with health and safety code compliance, support right of first refusal for renters, and use the city's receiver-ship provisions for abandoned properties. "Politely asking landlords to be responsible for controlling rents in just pissing in the wind," concluded Fox.

The Mayor has come under fire for not including renters in his plan to address the housing crisis. 51% of city residents are renters.

Nightwatch Couchsurfs to MC

Evicted from the building that houses Belltown's Peniel Mission with barely a month's notice, Nightwatch was scrambling to find a home for its program, which refers homeless to the last empty shelter beds in the city. If there are none, Nightwatch offers at least a dry place and a cup of coffee or a blanket.

Nightwatch itself found refuge for the next ten months at the Millionair Club, which provides day labor dispatch and other services to the homeless.

Mel Jackson, Director of the Millionair Club, views the arrangement a perfect fit. "Here we are with an empty building at night and they need a space. It makes sense."

Anyone seeking shelter after registration hours (usually about 5pm) must now go to 2515 Western Ave (corner of Western and Vine), just a few blocks from Nightwatch's old home. Nightwatch is open from 10pm to 12:30am.

Homeless Women React to Murder Arrest

Last month, Real Change reported on the killings of three women, all who died in the vicinity of the I-5 and I-90 interchange. On May 20th, DeWayne Lee Harris, 35, was charged with the slayings. He is also being considered as a possible suspect in other unsolved homicides throughout the state, the P-I reported.

A sense of relief and anger has swept through the local

NEWS
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homeless community in the wake of the charges: relief that the killer may be behind bars, and anger that homeless women have been on their own to learn the facts for the past seven months, when the first bodies were found.

The manner of killing suggested a pattern, but officials did nothing to alert the homeless community, according to local shelter providers and activists. Furthermore, the Times and P-I have relegated the

story to the local news section and downplayed the fact that the women were vulnerable because they were homeless.

The man, originally held on a robbery charge, volunteered information about the killings. Charging papers said that the man, if turned loose, plans to kill again. Also, according to court documents, there may have been an accomplice.

Homeless women involved with WHEEL are calling for accurate and complete reports from the Police Department and from the media, and are developing their own proposals for safety for women on the street.

Licata Holds Parks Hearing

Culture, Art and Parks Committee Chairman Nick Licata apparently is testing community support for repeal or amendment of the city law that allows police to ban people from specified areas in the city.

The law, which has been in effect since last September, has been a bone of contention between the homeless and businesses and residents especially in Pioneer Square and on Capitol Hill.

The Committee will hold a public hearing on the issue June 16th at Council Chambers, 6:30pm. For information or to register an opinion, call Councilman Licata's office at (206) 684-8803.

City and Homeless Meet

In a situation made more urgent by the news of a serial killer operating in the area, members of the homeless community met with city officials on May 21st to talk about the homeless encampment known as "the Jungle," and about the need for immediate, safe shelter.

Many homeless feel the Jungle is their best option for safe shelter, since there is a sense of community and protocol there already, but the city plans to tear it down (see related article).

SHARE and WHEEL asked for the city to leave the Jungle and other encampments alone, and to sanction a self-managed encampment there or somewhere else. They also asked for a commitment to make 1,000 new shelter beds, and increase transitional and permanent low-income housing.

City officials were noncommittal on all the ideas, and promised to kick the homeless out of the Jungle. Deputy Mayor Tom Byers said officials would at least notify them first. Byers also said the Mayor's office would "take a good hard look" at any plans for a self-managed encampment, and wants to continue to meet every couple of months.

The number of homeless exceeds shelter capacity by 2000.

Continued to page 23

Service With a Smile

Boomtown Cafe Offers Food With Dignity

INTERVIEW BY RUTH FOX

Starting from the premise that homeless and poor folks deserve a better shake, four people involved in homeless advocacy sat down one day and started to talk. They discussed the shortfalls of their jobs, as well as the shortfalls of what homeless folks are expected to eat, and decided to put their feet down as one and start something. So the seed for Boomtown Cafe was planted.

Currently, Boomtown is a Low Income Housing Initiative project, run by a small board of directors and three staff members: Julie Lange, fund developer; Peter Donahue, food chef; and Annie LaGanga, volunteer coordinator; plus one VISTA volunteer, Jill Curtis. This small collectively run business (and many volunteers) is gearing up to open a non-profit restaurant for those on low incomes in May, 1999.

Their pilot project is Meal of Fortune, an ongoing free nightly meal for women and children, in relationship with Angeline's Day Center. At this meal, nobody is made to stand in line. Instead, you sit at a cheerfully covered table while a solid plate piled high with yummy home-cooked-style food is served. You eat with a stainless steel knife and fork.

Staff and volunteers mosey around offering seconds or sit and chat with you, eating their own dinner. I can attest that every time I dine there, I leave with more than a full belly. I walk out feeling content, cared-for, and energized. I rarely feel so good coming out

of a restaurant.

Although they accept donations and are seeking grants, Boomtown's goal is to be self-supporting. They do cut-rate catering for non-profits, as well as market-rate catering for anyone that wants to spend their money in a socially responsible way. To hire them for catering, or to donate time, equipment or money, call 206-675-2313.

Boomtown collective members are some very busy people who are very hard to get together in one place, but I managed to catch Bob Kubiniec (a board member and one of the original members) and Jill Curtis over, what else, lunch. We talked about their vision for the soon-to-be cafe as soup spoons clinked against bowls.

RC: Why did you choose the name Boomtown Cafe?

BOB: Homelessness is a byproduct of the boomtown atmosphere. In The Grapes of Wrath, people were drawn across the country to create a huge labor market so that wages would go down. We used the name with a little bit of irony.

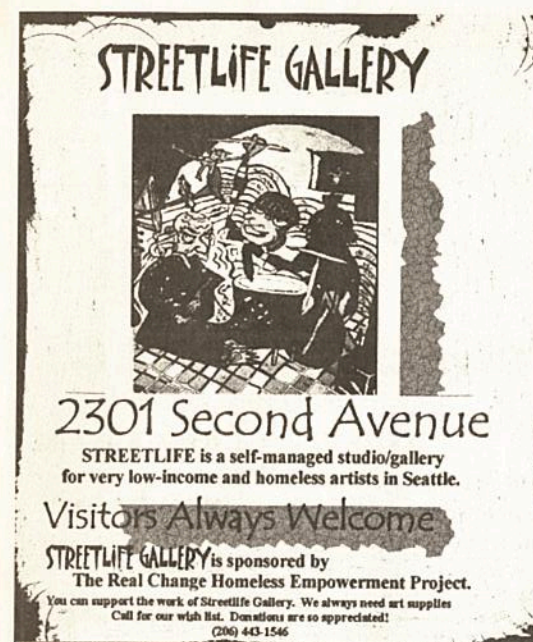
RC: To say the least. You described shelter food you sampled as "gray matter." Can you elaborate on that?

BOB: Well, mashed potatoes that pick up the color of something they've been sitting in a pan next to for hours, or beans that are cooked until they take on this drab color that's closer to gray than green.

JILL: Lots of mystery meat, too, which for any vegetarian is really frightening.

BOB: Right. Generally there's no options for vegetarians or any special dietary needs. There's rarely any fresh fruit or milk available either. Also, everything was served with an ice cream scoop or, you know, plopped

"Often you hear people providing food saying stuff like 'beggars can't be choosers.' That's just not an attitude that fosters dignity."



down. Often you hear people providing food saying stuff like "beggars can't be choosers." That's just not an attitude that fosters dignity. In our nightly women's meal we provide a vegetarian option and serve fruit for dessert.

RC: We say at Real Change that beggars *should* be choosers.

BOB: That's why we're designing a restaurant that will provide food at an affordable rate, so people can say: I paid for this and it's not up to my level of satisfaction. You can reject something if you're in a business exchange as opposed to receiving a handout.

RC: You want a nonviolent atmosphere. Could you comment on that?

BOB: Physical violence happens all the time, not just in shelters and soup kitchens but on the streets; homeless people being hassled by the cops as well as by each other...

JILL: Homeless women are incredibly vulnerable. Boomtown needs to be a place where they feel comfortable with their children.

BOB: Yeah, we'll set aside a specific corner in the restaurant where children can play in a safe, quiet environment, that's their space. And give the parents a stress reliever which diffuses potential violence...It's not just people beating on each other though, it's people's essences being crushed. When a person is backed into a corner and degraded, violence flourishes. We want a setting that nourishes people on a lot of

levels. Inherent in nonviolence is dignity. When you give people an opportunity to use their voice, they can demand respect.

JILL: We're approaching Boomtown as a business so the people coming in are making a purchase. They should expect to get a product they feel good about and we should expect to have to satisfy them. They're paying money to have a meal.

BOB: We're charging only the price of the food that goes into the meals, so they'll be priced at \$1.50 or \$1.25.

JILL: And we hope to be able to accept food stamps at the restaurant.

BOB: We're also excited right now because we've identified a building to rent for the restaurant space. It's in Pioneer Square—the Frye apartment building—it's wonderful because the low-income residents can benefit. And it's near a bunch of shelters. But we aim to welcome whoever walks in the door. We won't ask anyone to prove a need. We want to help build community in the Pioneer Square area. Also, we're going to have a work experience component that customers who've been jobless can plug into. They can build up job skills and get references—ease back into the job market.

RC: So by being a business, you can meet folks on the same level?

BOB: That's how we're approaching it. We benefit from having a respectful exchange, as well. I think food's magic and being part of a place that prepares and provides good food is really satisfying.

RC: Boomtown is clearly a contrast to something called charitable that's really disabling. When you give to get something yourself, you nourish

and empower people...

BOB: Including yourself. We're not looking down from a saintly perch. We're doing this because it's interesting and exciting and there's a need that's not being met. Any of us would be happy to work our way out of work, too. We're not looking for a niche in a poverty industry.

Our mission statement says "to make healthful affordable food available in a safe and dignified atmosphere while creating a community of openness and respect." We're on equal footing. When you serve an indistinct lump of food to an indistinct lump of people that's different from saying: ya know, here's something I'm proud to put on a table for someone I hope will be thrilled.

RC: Is there anything else you want to say about what you need?

JILL: We really need the community to support us and understand we're not a social service.

BOB: We're turning our attention now to getting the restaurant started. So over this year we'll be gathering funds and renovating the space. We definitely would love any volunteer help...

JILL: And equipment. Anyone who has restaurant equipment they want to sell really cheaply or donate. We need almost everything.

Bob: Did we say we do catering? ☺

JUNGLE, CONT. FROM PAGE 7
that it makes me wonder whether there could be the threat to public sanitation that city officials are leading us to believe. I wonder if any city officials have been there to see for themselves. There certainly isn't such a sanitation problem to justify a sweep, in light of the serious lack of shelter and housing, and the extreme violence on the streets.

Other cities have responded in more humane ways to the need for people to have a safe place to stay while waiting for housing or shelter. Ft. Lauderdale, Santa Cruz, Phoenix, and San Diego have experimented with organized encampments.

San Francisco is in the process of looking into developing a car camp on one of its piers—the Deputy Mayor there has been assigned this thankless task.

Mayor Schell commented at a recent meeting that unused cargo containers might be suitable for outdoor shelter. His aides are looking into it. The people I talk to think this might work (see related article, this issue), and they definitely want a safe outdoors spot where they can continue to camp together.

What's needed could be provided for much less money than what the City spends chasing people away, and the great chase doesn't solve anything. A man I saw several times at the Jungle, whom I began to


call the Prophet, said "You young people are the hope for the future. Tell them to go to their homes. We all need to go to our homes." ☯

☯  ☯

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How to Make Your Food Stamps Pay Without Committing Fraud

BY ANITRA FREEMAN, WITH RUTH FOX, STORM, KATHRYN, MARION SUE FISCHER, AND BOB REDMOND

It is difficult to make your food budget stretch the whole month no matter what you do. We've collected a few tips to make it a bit easier, whether you receive food stamps or not.

If you're going to use food stamps, first, you have to get them. The basics are the same as any time you deal with the bureaucracy. Stay calm and speak clearly and be patient with the rather slow (this is a pun) people behind the desks. Keep it simple; don't feel you need to explain your circumstances or describe your plans, just answer the questions asked. Don't be embarrassed about being poor or being homeless or needing help; hold your head up and keep your dignity. If you have any problems at all understanding the forms or the language, ask for help or even bring someone to help you.

There are several areas where it is going to be very difficult not to lie. It is against the rules, for instance, to share coupons or food. Pooling resources to buy in bulk, even cooking pots of soup and sharing them, obvious strategies to make everyone better fed at a lower cost, are not allowed! You're also not allowed to live with your family. But don't try to make the person behind the desk at the service office understand that these rules don't make sense. Just tell them what they want to know.

Furthermore, to be eligible, you have to earn less than \$550 a month (single person). If you're a student, you have to be working at least 20 hours a week. So, you pretty much have to be starving and utterly destitute to qualify—but again, don't let this discourage you! The whole set up is surreal. You are not crazy to think it's weird. If you qualify, go apply!

Once you get approved and pick up your stamps, here are some things to keep in mind:

Where to shop:

Anywhere that sells stuff for cheap. When you checkout, tell the clerk right away that you're using food stamps so you get the lowest retail price.

If you have a car and a kitchen (or access to them), go to a bulk place, or buy in quantities.

Go grocery shopping together with friends—the company can be fun. They'll also remind you that you're not a free-loading waste to society—rather that you are a valuable citizen trying to make impossible ends meet.

Check out the food co-ops for staples like rice and beans: they're cheaper than at most grocery stores, and you don't have to buy a large quantity to get the low price.

Produce is cheapest at farmer's markets, like Pike Place Market and roadside produce stands. Pike Place Market takes foodstamps; most produce stands do too.

There is also a day-old bread store in the Pike Place Market. You can get a tasty twelve-grain loaf for the price of the fluffed cardboard in the regular store.

Discount stores are usually a long bus ride, but you can save a lot by buying there, especially your canned goods. Consider it worth the dollar bus fare to save five or ten dollars on your groceries.

The food stores in the free-ride zone all have convenience-store prices—but there is a twenty-four hour store right on the edge of the zone, at 8th and Madison, that is more affordable and has some good sale items most of the time.

For stuff that food stamps don't cover (see below), your local dollar store always has a good deal. And with the money

you've pinched you can afford the other essentials.

Things to buy:

On stamps you are permitted to buy all food items except for hot food or prepared food (frozen is OK). Also not allowed are cigarettes, alcohol, and personal products including soap, deodorant, toilet paper, sanitary napkins, antihistamines, bus fare. (Remember: it doesn't make sense! You are not crazy.)

Use store coupons with food stamps—you're allowed! Also, buy what's on sale.

Chicken livers and eggs provide calcium and iron at very low cost.

Cheap soup meat still on the bone: for the added price of a few veggies, and if you have a huge pot, you can make a great soup. Freeze what you don't eat in quart yogurt containers.

Speaking of veggies, frozen ones are sometimes very cheap and taste almost as good as fresh, especially in soup. (James Beard says this too!)

Miso the wonder broth is a great deal. Miso is a paste made from soybeans; it comes in different flavors. An asian food, you'll find it in the International District or health food stores. All you have to do is add hot water but *don't* boil the water or you'll lose the nutrition.

Keep one or more of the following in your backpack, and avoid having to fill up on the bready, carbohydrate laden foods at shelters: packaged baby carrots, nuts, mixed bean sprouts, raw oatmeal (tastes much better than it sounds), cheese.

It is possible to prepare some grains without cooking. Soak barley in water overnight and it is very nutritious. It is also an acquired taste.

"Sun tea" doesn't even require sun, just

Continued to page 22

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Choosy Beggars Review

Local Dumpster Diva Rates Seattle Soup kitchens

BY ANITRA FREEMAN

In last year's Food Issue, Dr. Wes did a Homeless Gourmet's review of free meals in Seattle. He established a rating system of one to four Dumpsters—"How many dumpsters would you go through to avoid eating at this place?" This year, it was my turn to do the review. I could not follow in Dr. Wes's footsteps, however, both because his legs are longer than mine are and because I was sick most of the month. So instead of writing my own reviews, I asked for reviews from my homeless friends at SHARE, WHEEL, Real Change and the StreetLife Gallery.

Unanimous vote for the top-ranking places (that would be, on the scale established by Dr. Wes Browning, Zero Dumpsters):

St. James Family Kitchen

803 Terry (& Columbia); Monday-Friday 4:30PM-5:00PM

Good food, healthy, low-fat, well-seasoned—and as one woman said, "There is so much respect, love and dignity the food almost doesn't matter."

Meal of Fortune

Dorothy Day House, 1st & Bell; Monday-Friday 5 PM-6:30PM. Women and children only.

You sit down at a brightly-covered table in an attractive room and are served on real plates with real knives and forks, by cheerful friendly people who will also sit down and eat with you. The sense of community is as important as the food—which is excellent. The food is prepared by Boomtown Cafe, who also catered the WHEEL Mother's Day Brunch, which I attended and hereby rate at Minus One Dumpster.

Blessed Sacrament

5041 9th NE, Seattle 98105; Sunday, noon-2

June, 1998

PM at Parish Hall on 8th Avenue side of building.

Other Good Ones:

Pike Place Market

Senior Service Center

You sit down at table and are served. Some people enjoy this; others would prefer to serve themselves. I was told "the food is fairly wholesome, and the people are sweet."

Food Not Bombs

Vegetarian dinner served Sunday, approximately 5:30PM, in Occidental Park. Good food, good people, good artwork.

The Wall

4th & James; M-F 3PM; another group serves from 4:30PM-5:30PM

Sack lunches:

Several churches take turns distributing sack lunches at 3rd and James, in front of DESC, Monday through Friday at about noon. There are also sack lunches distributed at St. Mary's at 611 20th Ave S, 8:30AM-11AM. Both groups make a real effort to pack a balanced meal, including fresh fruit or juice, and some protein.

Desperation City:

A note before I rank these folks: as Greg at the StreetLife Gallery said, "I am grateful for everything I get." Not everyone with a generous heart is also a born cook, but if I'm hungry I'll eat stewed sardines on burnt toast and love it. In other words, we don't mean to disparage the generosity of these people, or the service they are doing.

It's just that, you only go here if other folks have already picked over all the dumpsters.

Union Gospel Mission

622-5177, 318 Second Ave. Ext. S, Seattle 98104

\$1 meal at 12:15-1:00 PM, 5:00-6:00 PM No 5-6PM meal last Thursday of the month. Free breakfast at 7-8:30 AM Free meal after chapel at 11 AM, 7 PM

Millionair Club

726-5600, 2515 Western Ave., Seattle 98121; Receive meal ticket at 8AM, 11AM, 3PM in exchange for chores. Meals served: Mon-Fri 7-7:45 AM, Sat. 7-7:30 AM; Mon-Sat 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM; Mon-Sat 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM

(A note from Anita: I've eaten here, lunch when I was on a jobs program, and one holiday meal. I liked the holiday meal very much, which was served with a real plate and fork, and the lunch was edible and filling. I personally think the Millionair Club not as good as eating at my mother's, but it definitely beats eating at my grandmother's.)

Peniel Mission

441-7700, 2421 First Ave., Seattle 98121
Dinner 6:30 PM. Tue-Sat; 3 PM Sun; chapel required (must be there on time).

There are many more places which I got no reviews on. I found that the Seattle Crisis Directory, the Millionair Club, and other references never listed all of the meals available, although they each fill in some of the gaps.

The final note in one of my interviews was from Levi: "For sheer atmosphere, clientele, and entertainment, you can't beat the SHARE Power Lunch. It's Dinner Theater." Every Saturday at Noon; call 448-7889 for the current week's location. ☐

Cops Smarten Up About Homeless

The city of Atlanta agreed to train police on how to deal with the homeless and pay \$3,000 each to five homeless people who sued the city for harassment, according to the Associated Press.

Under a settlement announced Tuesday, veteran officers as well as new recruits will receive the training, and the Task Force for the Homeless, an advocacy group, will monitor arrests of the homeless and allegations of abuse by police.

"The monitoring that's required now gives us an authentic and entitled role in terms of noticing the treatment of homeless people on the streets," said task force co-director Anita Beaty.

The five homeless plaintiffs alleged they were arrested and harassed by police under ordinances adopted in 1991 and 1996 aimed at cutting loitering and aggressive panhandling.

The suit claimed that the ordinances were adopted to make downtown Atlanta attractive to 1996 Olympic Games visitors, a charge the city denied.

A recent study estimated there are 11,000 homeless people on Atlanta streets on any given night.

CA Initiative Threatens Unions Nationwide

Proposition 226, California's June 2nd ballot initiative, would require unions to get members' permission, renewed every year, before spending part of their dues on political activities, according to the Associated Press.

The initiative, backed by Republicans and conservative Eastern business interests, could crush the influence of traditionally Democratic unions nationwide.

"It's Armageddon for labor," said political analyst Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, at Claremont Graduate University's school of politics. "The initiative cuts at the heart of labor's political clout. Money is one of the things that made unions a powerful, Democratic constituency."

"California is again the testing ground for a new political movement. If it passes here, it will give impetus nationally and in other states."

Unions acknowledge the initiative doesn't shut off political donations altogether. But they say that by requiring workers to complete a check-off form, the result is essentially the same.

"They want to knock us off the political playing field," said Naomi Walker, a spokeswoman for the AFL-CIO, which represents 13 million members nationwide.

Backers are trying to get similar initiatives on ballots in Oregon, Florida and Nevada. Bills limiting union donations have been introduced in the legislatures of numerous other states. Congress has been holding hearings on similar bills.

The effort to rein in donations from unions was helped onto the California ballot by generous donations from two out-of-state conservatives close to Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

NEW ON THE NET

THE BIG PICTURE

Washington lobbyist Grover Norquist's group, Americans for Tax Reform, contributed \$449,000; J. Patrick Rooney, an Indianapolis insurance executive, gave \$49,000.

The latest campaign spending disclosures show conservative Eastern business interests continue to be primary contributors to the pro-226 campaign. Carl Lindner of Cincinnati, chief executive of Chiquita Brands International Inc., gave \$100,000; publisher

Richard Mellon Scaife of the Tribune-Review Publishing Co. in Greensburg, Pa., contributed \$50,000.

Detroit Needs Homeless for Census

Detroit is relying on its homeless people to keep its official population above 1 million in the 2000 census. The benchmark is crucial to the amount of federal and state money the city receives, according to the Associated Press.

Falling below 1 million could mean a loss of \$170 million in federal and state money for Detroit. State law allows cities over 1 million to levy higher taxes. The city is compiling a list of places where street people gather — highway overpasses, abandoned buildings and soup kitchens, for example — so census takers can find them.

Detroit's population was put at just 272 people over the 1 million mark in 1996. The city is estimated to have 7,000 to 10,000 people living on the streets.

"This population could be the population that brings us over 1 million," Gregory Murray, an administrator in the Detroit Senior Citizens and Homeless Coordination Department.

Strong Economy Bypasses Many Kids

The percentage of Southern children living in poverty is about the same as it was in 1969, even though most states in the region have robust economies and budget surpluses, the Children's Defense Fund said Monday.

"Equally disturbing is the fact that the rest of the nation is catching up with the South," said Marian Wright Edelman, president of the defense fund, a Washington-based nonprofit child advocacy group.

In 1996, the West matched the South in the percentage of poor children — 22.9 percent — the first time another region equaled the South in child poverty, the group said in a report issued at the beginning of a two-day strategy meeting. The defense fund placed the poverty line at \$12,516 for a family of three and \$16,036 for a family of four.

The organization said that in 1996, 5.5 million children living in the 16-state South, including Washington, D.C., were poor and 2.6 million lived in extreme poverty, with incomes of about \$120 a week for a family of three.

In 1969, 22.3 percent of children in families in the South were poor. In 1996, 22.9 percent of all Southern children — including those in foster care, living on their own, or with a non-relative adult

— were living in poverty.

The Midwest had the lowest percentage of impoverished children among the four regions, 11.5 percent, followed by the Northeast with 19.2 percent.

Since 1969, the South has seen a slight rise in the percentage of poor white children — 13 percent to 16 percent — and a decline in the percentage of poor black children from 49 percent to 40 percent.

Nationally, 20.5 percent of children, or almost 14.5 million, were classified as poor in 1996. That's up from 14 percent in 1969.

The defense fund and other child advocacy groups are gearing up for a new push for more federal and state help to reduce child poverty. They want a commitment from Congress for \$20 billion in the next five years for early childhood education, child care and other such programs.

"The majority of these children live in working families, so ending welfare as we know it, which has been the political cry in this country, will not help them," Edelman said.

The children can be helped, she said, if their families can get decent jobs, health care and child care.

CA County Tries Car Loans for Welfare Recipients

California's Ventura County is testing an innovative welfare-to-work program that uses county money to guarantee car loans, according to the Los Angeles Times.

With a four-year loan through the Ventura County Federal Credit Union, Wendy Phillips will pay \$63 a month to buy and insure her 1986 Chevy Cavalier, a donated county fleet car with a low "Blue Book" value of \$1,850.

She will use the car to get to a computer class that she plans to complete in June. Her dream is to run a five-star hotel, but for now she will settle for a data-entry job and an income that can support her and her children.

That's exactly what the Ventura County Board of Supervisors had in mind in December when it approved the pilot program designed to help usher welfare recipients off the dole and into self-sufficiency.

So far, the county has set aside \$7,000 to guarantee the three car loans, an amount that officials admit is just a drop in the bucket.

Transportation often is the biggest obstacle that welfare recipients face as they try to comply with state and federal welfare reform legislation, which in most cases limits public aid to two years, experts say.

In many cases, welfare recipients live far from available jobs. Night and weekend shifts often do not jibe with county bus schedules, especially when a stop at a child-care provider is also required on the way to and from work.

In Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties, 25% of those receiving public aid own cars, according to the Southern California Assn. of Governments. And only about three in 10 can rely on public transportation, carpools or vanpools.

Though in effect almost nowhere else in California, arrangements like Ventura County's new welfare-to-work program are not unheard of nationally.

Anne Arundel County in Maryland began a "Wheels to Work" program several years ago. Recipients there are issued lump-sum welfare grants to repair, register and insure cars donated to local charities as tax write-offs.

Democrats Push Minimum Wage Rise

Armed with a report concluding that the last minimum wage increase helped low-income workers without hurting the economy, Democrats pledged to push a new increase through Congress this year, according to the Associated Press.

They face strong opposition from Republican leaders, who contend that a higher minimum wage forces small businesses to lay off workers and put off hiring teen-age workers.

"We will fight very hard on this," said Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., said Wednesday, promising "an all-out effort to bring this to the floor and have as many votes as we need to pass it."

That was the strategy in 1996 when Democrats held up action on other legislation until Republicans agreed to vote on raising the minimum wage, then \$4.25 an hour, to \$5.15 by last September.

Wellstone, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. David Bonior, D-Mich., are now leading efforts to raise the minimum wage to \$6.15 in 2000. They sought to bolster their argument with a study by the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute that found no discernible job losses among entry-level workers, including teenagers, from the 1996-97 raise.

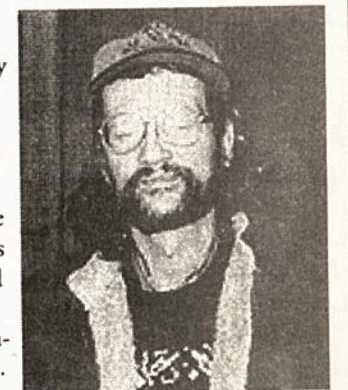
The study found that the last raise boosted wages for almost 10 million workers, of whom 71 percent were adults and 58 percent were women. It added that the average minimum wage worker, who at the current rate earns \$10,700 annually, \$2,900 below the poverty level for a family of three, is responsible for providing 54 percent of his or her family's earnings.

—All items from HandsNet News & Blues

George Searles

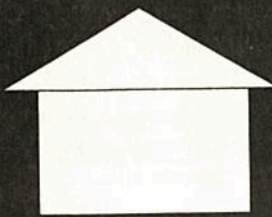
Born — —; Died April 20, 1998

George was a resident of the Union Hotel subsidized apartments in Pioneer Square, where Wes and I live. Like all the rest of us, George had many struggles in his life, and he didn't win all of them. But I and everyone I have talked to remember him as an invariably kind and considerate and almost always cheerful man. He had advanced liver disease when he moved into the Union, yet his death still came as a shock. His family still has not been located, but we held our own memorial service for him. He had found a community, one that will mourn him.



Tenant Talk

Legal
Action
Center



Dear Tenant Talk,

Yesterday, I received a note from my landlord telling me that I have to be out of my apartment by June 30th, 1998. I am a single mother with three kids. I don't have time to look for a new home, let alone to pay first, last and a security deposit. What can I do?

Desperate Mom

Dear Mom,

The notice you received is called a notice to terminate tenancy, or a 20 day notice. The first thing to do is to identify whether the notice is valid under Washington State law. A 20 day notice can be complicated, so please forgive the long-winded answer.

If you live in King County there are two main guidelines the notice you received must follow in order to be valid.

- 1) Your landlord must serve the notice a minimum of 20 days before the move out date stated in the notice. For example, to terminate your lease on June 30th, your landlord must have delivered the notice to you no later than June 10th. Often, in public or subsidized housing, the landlord must provide 30 days notice. Refer to your lease for details.
- 2) The move out date set by your landlord in the notice must coincide with the end of your lease. If you are on a month-to-month lease, your landlord can give you a notice to terminate your tenancy on the last day of any month. If you are on a six month lease, your landlord cannot use a 20 day notice to terminate your tenancy in the middle of that lease. He can only issue a 20 day notice to terminate on the last day of the tenancy.

If you live within the Seattle city limits, your landlord must follow the Just Cause Eviction Ordinance (JCEO) in addition to following the two guidelines listed above. The JCEO states that a landlord cannot evict a tenant without just cause. The JCEO outlines the reasons that are considered just cause. If your landlord has not stated "just cause" in your 20 day notice, then the notice is invalid. The Department of Construction and Land Use is responsible for enforcing the JCEO, so if you have further questions you can contact the DCLU at 684-7867.

As for the financial hardships and time limitations involved in moving...the Community Information Line (800-621-4636) has information about rental assistance and the International District Housing Alliance publishes a weekly list of available apartments (623-5132).

Dear Tenant Talk,

My landlord is threatening to give me a 20 day notice to terminate my tenancy. My lease states that I am on a month-to-month tenancy, but there is a clause that says if I move out of the apartment before 6 months have passed, I will have to forfeit my security deposit. Am I on a month-to-month lease or a 6 month lease? Should I start packing?

Dazed and Confused

Dear Dazed,

You are on an "ambiguous lease". Although ambiguous leases are illegal in Seattle, they are sometimes used in other parts of King County. Ambiguity is construed against the drafter; since your landlord made this lease vague, your interpretation of it is the one your landlord should follow. For example, if Desperate mom (above) were on an ambiguous lease beginning on February 1, the six month period would end in July. Her landlord gave her a 20 day notice to terminate her tenancy on June 30th. Mom could argue that since she is on a 6 month lease, the notice is not valid because it does not terminate her tenancy at the end of the term of the lease, which would be July 31st.

Dear Tenant Talk,

I cannot find an apartment. I have been turned down for housing at every apartment complex between Federal Way and Bothell because I have an eviction on my record from 1994. How can I get the eviction off my record?

Ousted in Auburn
(and still paying for it)

Dear Ousted,

You cannot remove the eviction from your record. Whenever a potential landlord runs a credit check or consults a renter research company, he will discover your past eviction. Blatant honesty, however, is an approach to finding housing that may help. This approach requires that you tell all potential landlords (before you pay for the credit check-no need to throw money away) that you have been evicted in the past. Briefly explain the nature of the eviction and why you believe you will never have problems with eviction again. (As much as you would like to, try not to verbally disparage your past landlord, it will not impress potential landlords.) If the eviction case has been dismissed, show the landlord the Order of Dismissal or the agreement that was made to resolve the problem. Where can you get this paperwork? The court house (either in Kent or Seattle depending on where you live) will have the file under the names of the parties or the cause number of the case. Good Luck. ☺

Got a Tenant Problem? Get Help

Seattle Community Service Officers (police matters only)	684-4790
Legal Action Center (low income tenants only)	324-6890
Lawyer Referral Service	623-2551
Northwest Justice Project (Section 8 or HUD housing only)	464-1519
Tenants' Union 723-0500 or TTY (hearing impaired)	723-0523

www.reachangenews.org

Gardening with At-Risk Children



Teach and play in the garden with homeless children. Seattle Tilth needs volunteers for Teaching Peace through Gardening, our summer program with elementary age children in transitional housing.

CALL BECKA
(206) 633-0451

VOLUNTEER READING TUTORS

Be a reading tutor and help at-risk youth discover that reading and learning can be fun! Volunteer with Catholic Community Service's Youth Tutoring Program's 1998 Summer Reading Incentive Program at 7 tutoring centers in northeast, central, southeast and southwest Seattle. Tutor 2 hours a week for 7 weeks. Orientation/training will be provided. (This is a non-religious program).

For more info, call Anna at 328-5659

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June, 1998

Work Downtown?

Two hours after work is all it takes to end your day with meaning...

Join a team of dedicated Chicken Soup Brigade volunteers in serving meals to residents of the Lyon Building, a downtown residential facility for people living with HIV/AIDS who have multiple-service needs.

Call Natalie at 320-0245
to find out more!



Chicken Soup Brigade provides practical support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in King County.

Bellevue Mel's Market

Looking for Full-time Sandwich makers, Barista, & Dishwasher. Applicants must enjoy working in a fast paced environment with the public. Applicants must be mature and reliable.

Work at new Bellevue location.

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jonathan kozol audre lorde

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SHOPPING, CONT. FROM P. 16
a large sealable container. Put in two cups cold water to one teabag and let it sit overnight. If you don't have either ice or sugar it's going to take some getting used to—but it's a good alternative to water.

Especially if you're packing stuff around, pitas and tortillas are a great idea. You can stuff anything in them: peanut butter, tunafish, canned chili, garbanzo beans and alfalfa sprouts, even chocolate.

Marion Sue Fischer writes from California: "This is your mother: It's very important to eat greens when you're homeless. There are no foodstamps here, but they give you more money. Here is my recipe for "Electric Frypan Chicken Cacciatore." Get ahold of an electric frypan at the thrift store. You can do wonders....almost anything. Buy a few chicken wings; they're cheap, and then use the vegetables you get from the foodbank. Canned tomatoes, any kind of greens. Use a little oil if you need to, and sauté the meat and greens. Add the tomatoes and let it simmer. Viola!"

You might want to divide your food stamps into a weekly allotment and do frequent shopping. You'll be able to keep fresh vegetables, cheaper and better for you, around longer in the month. And it won't go bad in your fridge.

If you don't have a kitchen

If you're on the street, you can't exactly carry five pounds of rice around with you. (Eating raw rice isn't any good for you anyway.) You end up buying individual cans of tomato juice, small cups of cottage cheese, and prepared sandwiches. Money runs out pretty fast. Here are some essentials and ideas to keep a "portable kitchen." Martha Stewart only wishes she were this ingenious:

P-38 military style can openers are a must. They are 40 cents apiece, attach to a keychain and are lighter than a key.

DO NOT store food in plastic grocery bags. Store them in paper bags; in the plastic bags, food will sweat faster and spoil faster.

A small investment in a one-burner camper's stove is the best bet, because you can cook anywhere, be completely hidden if you only had one bush to crawl behind, and it fits in the smallest of backpacks or bags. Campers' equipment is simply a

must. If you don't have cookware you can always mount your tin can on the burner.

Health food stores have tons of dehydrated meals, just add water. They are more nutritious than regular stores carry, even regular stores are starting to carry these in their "health food" sections. "Fantastic Foods" is a great brand.

Speaking of camping, getting to know the edible plants in your area, you can make a salad practically anywhere.

Last Words

Getting Food Stamps has always been hard—but pretty soon using them is going to become a challenge too. A new computerized system is being implemented nationwide, which will track food stamp allotments electronically. You give the grocery clerk a card, like an ATM card, and your purchases are debited from your account. No change. Obviously an assumption is that people will use the few pennies change for "unauthorized" transactions, like tampons or bus fare to an

affordable grocery.

Some fear the new system will require people to have bank accounts, or will discriminate against non-English speaking people, people who can't read or operate sophisticated equipment. At any rate, the change may come to Washington as early as July or August.

In the meantime, good luck! ☐

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ALL I REALLY
NEED TO KNOW I
LEARNED IN
KINDERGARTEN

Plays June 9 - July 19

The hit musical revue based on the hugely popular writings of Seattle's own Robert Fulghum who suggests that if we paid more attention to the simple lessons of kindergarten, the world would be a better place. Stories from his first four books and original songs present a funny and heart-warming look at the profound occurrences of everyday life.

Special Pay-What-You-Can Performance
Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30pm

At The Bathhouse Theatre on Green Lake

Tickets regularly \$15 - \$28
Call: (206) 524-9108

LOCAL NEWS, CONT FROM PAGE 11

SHARE Shelters Face Eviction

One hundred SHARE self-managed shelter beds in two downtown neighborhoods could be lost within the next few months.

SHARE's Safe Haven Shelter, a 50-bed co-ed shelter at 2nd and Columbia, and Bethel Shelter, a 50-bed men's shelter at 2nd and Lenora, are both in spaces slated to be redeveloped soon.

No long-term substitute sites have been found in either Denny Regrade or Pioneer Square—both neighborhood homes to these shelters for the past several years.

Loss of these shelter beds would be devastating to the already overburdened shelter network, and would leave open the possibility of either or both Safe Haven and Bethel Shelters moving outside.

Women Receive Shelter Through Summer

Thanks to the efforts of Bob Santos and HUD, the 22-bed women's shelter in the Federal Building will remain open again this summer. The shelter is funded October through May by the City of Seattle's Winter Response Fund; the summer continuance was funded by HUD and the City of Seattle.

This women's shelter is the only shelter in the nation that uses Federal Building space. It is managed by the Archdiocesan Housing Authority. The fight to keep the shelter going through summer months happens every year; the program still seeks a stable year-round source of funding.

UGM Breaks Shelter Barrier

Fifty homeless men will find a place to stay in October, when the Union Gospel Mission opens a new facility at 3020 S. 128th in south King County. The building will be the first major King County shelter not in the city of Seattle.

UGM held 12 community meetings to make sure the neighborhood could feel good about the shelter's placement there, and helped form a citizens advisory board. It is the first major placing of a shelter in the suburbs, said Bill Wippel, of the UGM. "Downtown Seattle has sheltered the homeless for 100 years and it's time that the suburbs shoulder some of the responsibility," he added.

A former nursing home, the shelter is directed to serve recovering substance abusers and homeless men from the South County itself.

Julia's in Wallingford Supports D.A.W.N.

If you purchase a meal at Julia's restaurant at Wallingford during the rest of this year, a nickel goes to the Domestic Abuse Women's Network. "Small Change Makes a Difference" is the name of the benefit, which was kicked off by a reception last month and the unveiling of the world's largest cinnamon roll (three feet square!).

DAWN is a multi-service agency in South King County, for women and their children who are the victims of domestic abuse. Services include a confidential shelter, counseling, and community outreach. For more information on DAWN, call (425) 656-4305. For 24-hour help, call (425) 656-7867.

Dorothy Day Site Opens Early

In late April a SHARE self-managed shelter for 12 women opened quietly at 2300 First Avenue, site of the soon-to-be developed Dorothy Day House (permanent low-cost housing for older women).

Boomtown Cafe's "Meal of Fortune," an evening meal for women and children also uses this space Mondays through Fridays, 5 to 6:30 PM. The Archdiocesan Housing Authority gave permission for this temporary use of their building.

Both the shelter and "Meal of Fortune" will be displaced in mid-July, when construction starts on the building, and both are looking for other downtown sites. ☐

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Tasteless Ideas



Let's chuck grammar in the bin, why not? Speech parts of? Needs them who?! And while we are thinking about that, we'll give a thought to writing a poem that expresses the thought we're thinking.

Whoa, wait a sec! We weren't thinking a thought, actually, were we? Well, OK, let's think of something, and then color it, so to speak, with the *sentiment* previously touched upon (eeeww).

What I'm thinking about is the plight of Eastside Earl (not his real name). This is a guy you can see daytimes in the U District, even at the U itself, reading books. Say you see him reading a book, and you walk up to him, and you say, "Hi, what are you reading?" If he looks up and says "a book" and then goes back to his reading, it's a fairly good sign that it's him.

An even better indication would be no answer at all. Earl is at home with books but can barely relate to human society at all. That's why, although he's clearly mentally ill, he's never checked into the welfare system, because that would entail talking to people. That's also why every evening, instead of checking into a downtown shelter, Earl rides a bus to the Eastside. To a patch of not-yet-developed land not yet as crowded with homeless as Seattle's "jungle" and therefore not nearly as likely to be bulldozed, or even visited.

Of course like all people who "work" in Seattle while residing in Bellevue or Redmond or Kirkland or whatnot, Earl pays a price. Prior to June 1, Earl's price was \$2.20 per day. He's been paying for that and his food and other expenses with money obtained from clearing the alleys and sidewalks of the U District of littered aluminum cans. But "rent" has gone up for Earl. Thirteen percent.

This poem is inspired by Earl, and I am sure that it is one that he would particularly despise.

Bus Burdened Eastside Earl by copyright Dr. Wes Browning

Thank Earl's bent back no cans out back
blackberry ladens, they're laden less since him
His peace vines fruit quiet, daily
But busses burden Eastside Earl.
Oh, sure we all zone twice or twice again
— Earl's got nothing we otherwise lack
Hell, Earl's got nothing.
But come June the first,
he'll be bus burdened Eastside Earl,
by thirteen percent the worst.

This being the 1998 *Real Change* Food Issue, allow me to waste valuable space and time by discussing some of my own favorite culinary tips for the street-weary.

The last time we did this I got honorable mention for my limburger-burger suggestion. That was a utilitarian repast, designed less to be eaten than to seize territory. Whole parks could be claimed just by making one limburger-burger.

Here is another helpful hint from the Homeless Gourmet, and one that is not at all original to me: always, *always*, carry a bottle of hot sauce with you to those soup kitchens. Earl carries one. You need one, too. You want to be able to eat the food without necessarily having to taste it. With sufficiently many repeated applications of this suggestion you might even spare yourself from having to taste anything ever again. This greatly simplifies cooking all around and makes coming up with new satisfying recipes a cinch.

Earl reminds me of one more way to improve an otherwise lack-luster meal. Everywhere you go you can find "empty" beer cans. This is even more true than ever thanks to the drive to eliminate 40-ouncers from the shelves of downtown stores.

Now a nice thing about aluminum, as opposed to glass, besides being worth more per pound, is that aluminum is opaque. As a consequence, upon close inspection you will discover that these cans almost never get completely emptied by their original owners. Their contents can be saved in a jar to provide an interesting and enjoyable addition to sauces and gravies and even soups.

I especially recommend stale beer & sardines. Add a half dozen shakes of hot sauce, a little bit of ketchup, and sop it up with bread. It's got your grains, your carbohydrates, your vegetables and your protein. And thank you Seattle for making it so much easier to round the ingredients up! ☺

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



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What the Wino Told Me

Wandering through the weary streets
Nicky Bones and I, on a mission
Lyle dead last week, 31 years
used to say
we be having things
we be having things
and laugh

The wind whistles, the sun edges up
we're on a mission to the store
you see
breath in clouds, tears of cold
we do not speak, yet
but where is everyone
we think, they vanish
the brethren of the grape
vanish like Gabe Montana
last month, he knew it was
coming, sighed and left us
looking

Walking up a hill now
under the trees, the birds spiraling
the birds, the bus stop
the serious people waiting
as we the jokers
Nicky and me, Danny Boy
hiking like foot cavalry
magical jaywalkers
nobody slows, nobody gets hit
on a mision yes, to the store
in the present moment, 6 a.m.
there are certainties for everyone
ours is this: I found
a crumpled twenty dollar bill
on a sidewalk last night
just there, a ticket
to continued wineglow
jokes and stories for us
worry later, or never
our luck is still good
I guess
and I will buy a gallon
I say, Nicky smiles
as if he's going to
a wedding

And I will remember
Little Andy
and Tony who always
had good clothes on
and Dan Graybull smiling
I will remember everyone
who has shared
and drink the water
of life and death
and read today's newspaper
to see who's in there
who won yesterday
and who might win tomorrow
and tomorrow
the endless pages
and a thirst like gravity
as many moments
as motes of dust

—Robert Demalvilain, vendor #2260

Apple

So many, bend low
when you ask them. In giving mine, then
taking it back -
the difference

is an
end, should you ask. If you ask them,
in order: .. they could ask you,

first.
Are you waiting? For
that, or for close

friends?
Both are coming.

—Stan Burris

Slow Erosions

It is October now;
the sky is lemon yellow
and it is cold enough
to keep the doors closed.
The leaves are falling faster
and something inside me rushes forward
when I watch them.
They flash downward like signals.

There have been so many partings,
so many slow erosions;
it all goes so fast.
Night falls, the leaves
sweep through
the neighborhood streets.

I miss
you.
I love you. I never loved
you enough.

I wanted to be unafraid
like the leaves,
flutter my flutter
flash my flash
plummet downward
seized by the wind
make room
for the night
and the cold.

—Elizabeth Romero

Pigeons

Away from the
crowd—off the street

Is a hiding place
to take a rest.

I thought I was
safely alone.

The rustle of feathers
and cooing sounds like
doves.

Tells me these
birds found a place
to pause too.

Sometimes I watch
their flight patterns

most creative:
heaven has wings.

—Carol Leno, vendor #1769

Swimmers Shake Hands

No need to ask
passage, third question
notebooks say a word
no one on those, hush
may be unspeakable
doubtful splendor peeling
hiding nobody, inches
mixed quotations
breezy curtains
bouncing confessions
you look again, don't you?
tangible fellows yawning
naturally no eyes
didn't you hear?
they all lived alone
move it, surrender
forward inevitable
the way it goes
O wondrous merchandise
O marble analysis
naturally swimmers
shake hands

—Robert Demalvilain, vendor #2260

Labels

NOWADAYS

When
our cars
our shoes
our clothes
are PROMINENTLY labeled

making/of/us/ALL
UNPAID ADVERTISEMENTS
whether/we/WILL/or/not

When
calves are branded
-man's numbers, letters
BURNED
into/their/HOLY/flesh-

When
we band birds
with numbered leg-irons

and

tag wild creatures
for/our/convenience
after ASSAULTING them with
pharmaceuticals

When
even the fruit
from God's soil
comes to us
LABELED
-brand names, numbers
pasted
on/their/living/skin-

When
whole GROUPS of people
SUFFER/as/labeled
CAPTURED
categorized
ostracized
stigmatized
STEREOTYPED

IT IS GOOD/TO/KNOW

There are YET
No Labels
on/our/souls

and

God, Truth, and Beauty
ARE
STILL
UNNAMABLE

—Marion Sue Fischer

Carrots

Carrots
Orange
missiles unburdening the taste
for people they've met.
Such a trusting gardener for healthy
flesh people beginning to wake up
to their redoing.

Silently the races control their need
for territory by becoming healthy,
caring for themselves.
Injecting blessings behind sleeping
primal intelligence awaking in a
flood of carrot rain.

Carrots
blasting the habit of not caring for
one's self.
Carrots roll into our bellies with a
big grand orange
smile.

—Roberto Valenza

Epistle to Paul

Anacrostic

		1	H	2	C	3	J	4	F	5	H	6	K	7	D		8	I	9	I		10	J	11	E		12	F	13	G	14	I			
15	B			16	L	17	H	18	G			19	B	20	H	21	L	22	D	23	A		24	J	25	D	26	G		27	C	28	E	29	I
30	A	31	C	32	C			33	F	34	G			35	I	36	J	37	B	38	I	39	B	40	C		41	C	42	H		43	F	44	E
	45	B	46	E	47	B	48	F	49	E	50	A	51	I	52	E		53	J	54	H	55	M		56	K	57	D	58	G	59	I	60	A	
61	G			62	G	63	D	64	A			65	K	66	J		67	B	68	E			69	C	70	D	71	H	72	E					

- A. 30 64 50 23 60
Gin berry
- B. 44 37 45 67 15 39 47 19
The West
- C. 31 2 69 27 32 41 40
Presently
- D. 63 7 25 70 22 57
Shocked
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German candy
- F. 4 33 43 48 12
Snag
- G. 13 34 62 58 26 18 61
Set these aweigh

- H. 71 17 54 1 5 42 20
Lunchtime
- I. 9 38 8 51 59 35
Tremble
- J. 24 53 36 10 3 66
He had a mother
- K. 6 65 56
Innate
- L. 16 21 29
Lear's Confidante
- M. 55
Gemini

Place the first letter of each answer on the blank below to spell out info about the quotation.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

What's an Anacrostic?

As you find the answers to the above questions, place the letters that have a numeric value in the grid above to spell out an illuminating quote. The first letters of each clue will spell out additional information about the quote.

Last Month's Answer:

"I hate as I hate hell's own gate that weakness that makes a poor man into a flatterer:"

—The Odyssey

Do Puzzles! Win Inexpensive Prizes!

Send us your completed anacrostic, and get a chance at winning a *Real Change* "Be Silent, Consume, Die" T-shirt. One drawing will be held per month. *Real Change* employees and volunteers, and their relatives, pets, and plants, are not eligible. Mail your completed anacrostic to Puzzle Person, *Real Change*, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121

www.realchangenews.org

JUNE 1

Stand for Children Day, focus this year on quality child care, info 1-800-233-1200 or <http://www.stand.org>

JUNE 2

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

Meeting of Citizens for Covert 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, 7 p.m., (also on subsequent first Tuesdays), upstairs at 4759 15th Ave NE, info 206-547-7735

JUNE 3

Jobs with Justice Seattle Organizing Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., (also on subsequent first Wednesdays), Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave, info 206-441-4969

JUNE 4-6

Center for Progressive Christianity Conference "On the Road: Honoring Those Who Search", goals include "being a constructive force for justice and peace in the world", at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E, info Rev. Peter Strimer 206-323-0300 or pstrimer@aol.com

From Conflict to Connection, "Cut-Off, Cast-Out: The Experience of Estrangement," examine the reasons why people cut off connections, investigate the wounding and trace some paths to healing, 6 - 9 p.m., at Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th; a workshop by Joy Helmer of \$30, preregistration requested, info 206-706-8894

JUNE 6

Native America Walk "SpiritWalk - Taking Steps to be Substance Free," a five mile walk through Myrtle Edwards Park plus music, performances, food and information, Check-in 7:30 a.m., Walk 9 a.m., Entertainment 11 to 3 pm, at Seattle Center; info Steve Gallian 206-324-9360 ext. 2801 and Jilaine Callison ext. 2802

Riot Grrrl Seattle Chapter Meetings, "you'll never be a radical until you can see how the system affects you", a new Youth Feminist organization; now is a great time to join! hoping to get involved in volunteer work at local shelters, put on benefit shows and educate the community!, noon - 1 p.m. and subsequent 1st and 3rd Saturdays, at University Heights Community Center, 5031 University Way N.E., info RxGSeattle@aol.com or Shannon 253-630-6885

JUNE 7

American Friends Service Committee / Seattle Independent Media Coalition Activist/Media Forum focusing on Hanford, housing and a "shorts festival" of independent media addressing social justice and peace issues, watch for details, info Arlis 206-632-0500, ext 112

Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue. Produced in alliance with Conversations on Race Relations; program features guest speakers, art and music, 6 - 8 :30 p.m., info 425-454-3322

JUNE 8

Tenant Union Monthly Meeting for tenants to get together to work for stronger protection and better living conditions. 6-8 pm, Pike Market Senior Center, 1931 1st Ave., (entrance on Virginia St., more info: Siobhan, 722-6848 x108

March to Convention Center; "Global Days against The Drug War", Monthly March To End Prohibition! Prohibition has failed; it is time for a new approach. Join us for a series of educational protests aimed at hastening an end to prohibition; 6 p.m., meet at Westlake Park, 4th & Pine, info Tim Crowley 389-6520 or music@hemp.net or <http://seattlemusicweb.com/protest/>

JUNE 9

Series "Civil Society in Everyday Life" looking at issues and how- to's of civility in the 1990's in Seattle and beyond, co- sponsored by the Center for Ethical Leadership, The Evergreen State Society, and Seattle University's Institute of Public Service, 7:30 - 9 a.m., (also on subsequent 2nd Tuesdays), at Casey Commons, 5th Floor, Seattle University; \$8 advance; \$10 at door; payment to Center for Ethical Leadership, 464 12th Ave. Suite 320, Seattle WA 98122, info and RSVP Pat Hughes cel@halcyon.com or 206-328-3020

JUNE 10

Monthly Meeting of the Labor Party, info on Independent Progressive Politics Network which includes the Labor Party, 7 p.m., (also on subsequent second Wednesdays), at Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave; Curt 206-329-1048, info on Labor Party 206-382-5712

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"Meet, Greet, & Eat" meeting of African American/Jewish Coalition for Justice, elections, future plans, socializing, dinner, 6:30 p.m., at Temple DeHirsch Sinai, 16th & Union, annual membership info 206-781-6654

Oct. 22nd Coalition National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality Meeting. Contribute to the National Stolen Lives Project documenting police killings, 7 pm, 2129 2nd Ave.

JUNE 11

General Meeting of the Welfare Reform Coalition, learn about new welfare law and get involved in a project, childcare available if arranged in advance, 6:30 p.m., (also on subsequent 2nd Thursdays), at CAMP, 722 18th near Cherry; info 206-273-9120

JUNE 12

Philippine Independence Day

JUNE 12-14

In Oakland, CA, the Independent Progressive Politics Network, calling for alternatives to the 2 big parties, Summit 1998, "For Our Survival: Who Will Have Power in the 21st Century?", info 718-624-7807 or ippn@people-link.com or <http://www.ippn.org>

JUNE 13-14

Annual Planning Retreat of Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia. At Ground Zero in Bangor, WA info 206-547-0952

JUNE 13

Race Unity Day 1998 Celebration, "The Oneness of the Human Family", program features dance, theater, music, exhibits, crafts, cultural exhibits, community resource tables, and activities for youth, event promotes racial unity and diversity; Race Unity Day was established in 1957 to raise awareness and to stimulate dialogue on the importance of race unity; 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Factoria Mall, Bellevue, sponsored by the Baha'is, City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services Diversity program and Factoria Mall; info 206-621-1170 or Dale Eng 425-519-2108

Community Meeting with Congressman Jim McDermott, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Meadowbrook Recreation Complex, 10517 35th Ave NE, info 206-553-7170

Lesbian Poetry Showcase, including Jody Alieson, Jan Brooks, June Bluespruce, Chrystos, and Beth Coyote, sponsored by Red dot Girls, 3 - 5 p.m., Red & Black Books, 15th Ave E & Republican, info 206-632-0662 x 210 or RedDotGirl@aol.com

JUNE 14

Jewish Family Service 1998 7th Annual Benefit Gala "Summer Harvest Celebration - Sharing the Bounty", gourmet dinner and mini-auction to benefit FOOD BANK and Emergency Assistance programs, 5 - 9 p.m., at Westin Hotel; \$125 and up, RSVP by June 9,

Seattle Symphony Concert to Benefit the Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing, 3 pm, Seattle Center Opera House, \$15. Call 789-1536 for more information

JUNE 18

First Planning meeting for 1999 International Women's Day, newcomers welcome, 7:30 A.M., (also on subsequent 3rd Thursdays), at Fours Angels Cafe, 14th and Union, info Carol 206-328-9637 or femme2@scn.org

JUNE 20-21

Fremont Street Fair, Look for Fellowship of Reconciliation's Plants for Peace booth and other justice and peace organizations just north of Fremont Bridge.

JUNE 20

Meeting of Citizens Concerned for the People of Iraq, working to end the inhumane economic sanctions which have killed over one million Iraqi civilians, 3 p.m., (also on subsequent 3rd Saturdays), at University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave NE; info Fellowship of Reconciliation 206-789-5565

JUNE 22

Non-Violence Dialogue Group, informative discussions on all issues concerning non-violence, 7 - 8:30 p.m., (also on subsequent 4th Mondays), at Christ Episcopal Church, 47th & Brooklyn Ave. NE, Wilson Hall, enter on 47th; info Andrea Franklin 206-236-9536

JUNE 24

Washington NARAL, National Abortion Rights Action League, PAC Annual Reception, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., at Carpenters Hall, 2nd & Wall; \$35 or \$50 to be a sponsor; info Ann Jacobus, 624-1990 or wanaral@earthlink.net

JUNE 26

Critical Mass, an organized coincidence of bicyclists who ride around the streets of Seattle en masse. It happens when a lot of cyclists happen to be in the same place at the same time and decide to cycle the same way together for a while. Come join the fun! 5:30 p.m., (also on subsequent last Fridays), at Westlake Park, downtown, 4th & Pine. More info <http://www.oz.net/~nic/cm.html>

JUNE 27

Filipino American Day

Annual Walk for Rice, benefit for Asian Counseling and Referral Service Food Bank, 2nd largest food bank in King County, participants include Moderator Lori Matsukawa, Co-Chairs Mayor Paul Schell, King County Exec. Ron Sims, Seattle City Councilmembers Martha Choe & Tina Podlowdoski, Franklin Principal Cheryl Chow, and KC Councilmember Larry Gossett, a fun event for a good cause, awards, prizes, food, music, exercise and fun; to register or for info Elisa Del Rosario 206-720-5302

Philippine Centennial Conference, "Understanding Our Roots, Re-affirming Our Identities," all welcome, info 206-998-4105

JUNE 27

In Ellensburg, Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Annual Meeting, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., info 206-622-8952

JUNE 28

Gay Pride Day, 1998 Lesbian / Gay / Bi-sexual / Transgender Pride Parade and Rally

JUNE 30

Green Party of Seattle monthly general meeting, Come check out, learn about, and become a part of Seattle's progressive political option. To get involved, become a member, or for info about the Greens, 7 p.m., (also on subsequent last Tuesdays), at University Heights Center, NE 50th & University Way NE; 206-215-1158 or sgreens@boutell.com or P.O. Box 95515, Seattle WA 98145-2515, or <http://boutell.com/seagreens>

JULY 2-5

Fellowship of Reconciliation's 40th Annual Northwest Regional Conference, theme "Nonviolence in a Violent World," keynote speakers include Leah Green of Earthstewards Network and Fellowship Magazine Editor Richard Deats, at Seabeck Conference Center, Seabeck WA on the Hood Canal; info (Salem OR) 503-585-5436 or (Seattle) 206-789-5565

JULY 6

March Down Harbor Steps; "Independence from Prohibition", Monthly March To End Prohibition! Prohibition has failed; it is time for a new approach. Join us for a series of educational protests aimed at hastening an end to prohibition; 6 p.m., meet at Hammering Man, outside Seattle Art Museum, 1st & University; info Tim Crowley 206-389-6520 or music@hemp.net or <http://seattlemusicweb.com/protest/>

ONGOING

Free Video Rentals of Citizen Vagrom's Micro-Media Offerings, a video magazine highlighting independent, micro-media from Seattle and beyond, (also on TV Channel 29 Sundays 8 p.m.), at Rain City Video, Fremont, Ballard, Sunset Hill; Video Vertigo, 913 East Pike; Broadway Video, Broadway Market; Scarecrow Video, 5030 Roosevelt Way; info 206-344-6434 or citizen@speakeasy.org

Boycott Gallo of Sonoma Wines to support the United Farm Workers union, (Mondavi dispute is settled), local info 206-443-7645

Weekdays, 6:30 p.m., KBCS Radio 91.3 FM, Pacifica News, get another side of many stories, news from a more Progressive Viewpoint than NPR and the networks!

Mondays, Production work party for Eat the State!, a free, independent print and electronic weekly, "a shamelessly biased political journal. We want an end to poverty, exploitation, imperialism, militarism, racism, sexism, heterosexism, environmental destruction, television, and large ugly buildings, and we want it f---g now." [censored by calendar compiler], 7 p.m., 3rd floor Univ. Baptist Church (4554 12th Ave. NE in Seattle), info

ets@scn.org

Mondays, 9 - 10 p.m., KTZS-AM 1360, "Voices of Diversity", covers a range of issues, from social and economic, to environmental, indigenous issues, youth issues, includes portions of "Making Contact" produced by The National Radio Project, an independent media organization, info 425-452-2835

Tuesdays, The Coalition for the Preservation of Affirmative Action regular meetings, a campus group working against Initiative 200, 7:30 p.m., University of WA, HUB 200C, info clhoon@u.washington.edu

Sundays, Green Tortoise Hostel, 1525 2nd Ave; 5 p.m. share dinner at Occidental Park, Seattle Food Not Bombs collects food and serves free vegetarian meals to the homeless each & every Sunday, 2 p.m., cook, info 206-346-0335

Special Thanks to Jean Buskin at bb369@scn.org for her fine calendar at <http://www.scn.org/activism/PJ-CAL.txt>

THE MILLIONAIRE CLUB needs your jar of coins to help the homeless!

Next time you visit your local supermarket, stop by the green and yellow Coinstar machine and donate your coins to the Millionair Club. Coinstar® machines:

- Quickly sort and count your coins
- Print a tax-deductible receipt for your coins
- Are available at QFC, Stock Market Foods & Larry's Market



Coins that Count™

Enter #1,000

Food for Kids

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 experience for you. Indeed, something that you want to do.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE: Food programs for the hungry, obviously a basic response to a simple problem, have been used as tools for political ends and in the nation's increasingly mean-spirited social reforms. For instance, Food Stamps nationwide were cut 3% wholesale in the Fall of '96.

On the State level, eligibility was limited for single adults, and further cutbacks were placed on parents who are on welfare. The specifics of those cuts are disheartening, but what hurts even more is that now food programs for children are being eliminated too.

BACKGROUND: The Child Care Food Program (CCFP) is a federal program that provides nutritious meals to children in child care settings. The CCFP gives young children the food they need to grow, and helps support small, little-to-no profit child care facilities.

Cutbacks to the CCFP, combined with increased paperwork and regulations imposed, did not make it financially possible for many child care facilities to continue in the program. If they are still providing childcare, says Cassie Sauer of the Children's Alliance, they have less resources with which to make meals, and no standards for them. "(Kids) could get Kool Aid and chocolate cake for breakfast, mac and cheese for lunch, and ramen noodles for dinner."

For child care businesses to maintain standards and stay viable, therefore, they have to charge more money. But the child care continuum is a delicate one. The businesses are small, located in a single, often low-income neighborhood, and generally affordable. By charging more money they would price themselves out of business, and therefore close.

Their loss means that childcare itself will be harder to find and more expensive, and in fact no longer an option for people who have no option but to leave their children to find work to support them.

Here are a few facts:

- The cutbacks to the CCFP

mean that the cost for providers is between \$45 and \$60 *per child*.

- 10% of Washington State's family day care homes have stopped participating in the CCFP; many of those have quit providing daycare altogether.

- One third of the children in the nation are in families that do not earn enough to meet their basic needs (200% of poverty level), according to the Children's Alliance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Children's Alliance recommends three actions, all on the state level. The goal is to get the state to replace money the federal government removed, at least in low-income areas. It would take between \$1.5 and \$2 million per year to do this (the feds cut \$3 million per year from the CCFP).

1) Call the Governor and ask him to work with the legislature and Terry Bergeson (see below) on the issue. You can call the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000, the Governor's office directly 360-753-6780, or email "governor.locke@governor.wa.gov".

2) Call your state representative and senators at the legislative hotline.

3) Call Terry Bergeson, Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction, out of whose budget the funds will come. 360-753-6738.

RECOMMENDED MESSAGE: "Replace money the state lost from the federally funded Child Care Food Program, at least in low-income neighborhoods statewide." You could also remind them all that the supplemental budget of last year had \$60 surplus but did not budget any extra dollars for children.

ADVOCATING ORGANIZATION: *The Children's Alliance, Special thanks to Cassie Sauer.*

**Real
CHANGE**
2129 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121

Seattle Public Library
Special Unit
1000 Fourth Ave.
Seattle WA 98104

