

FEB 1999

MNGP

Real CHANGE

VOL. 6, NO. 4, FEBRUARY

\$1
DONATION

Please Buy From Badged Vendors Only

Mumia Abu Jamal

Mark Sidran's Secret

Free Health Insurance

The Homeless History

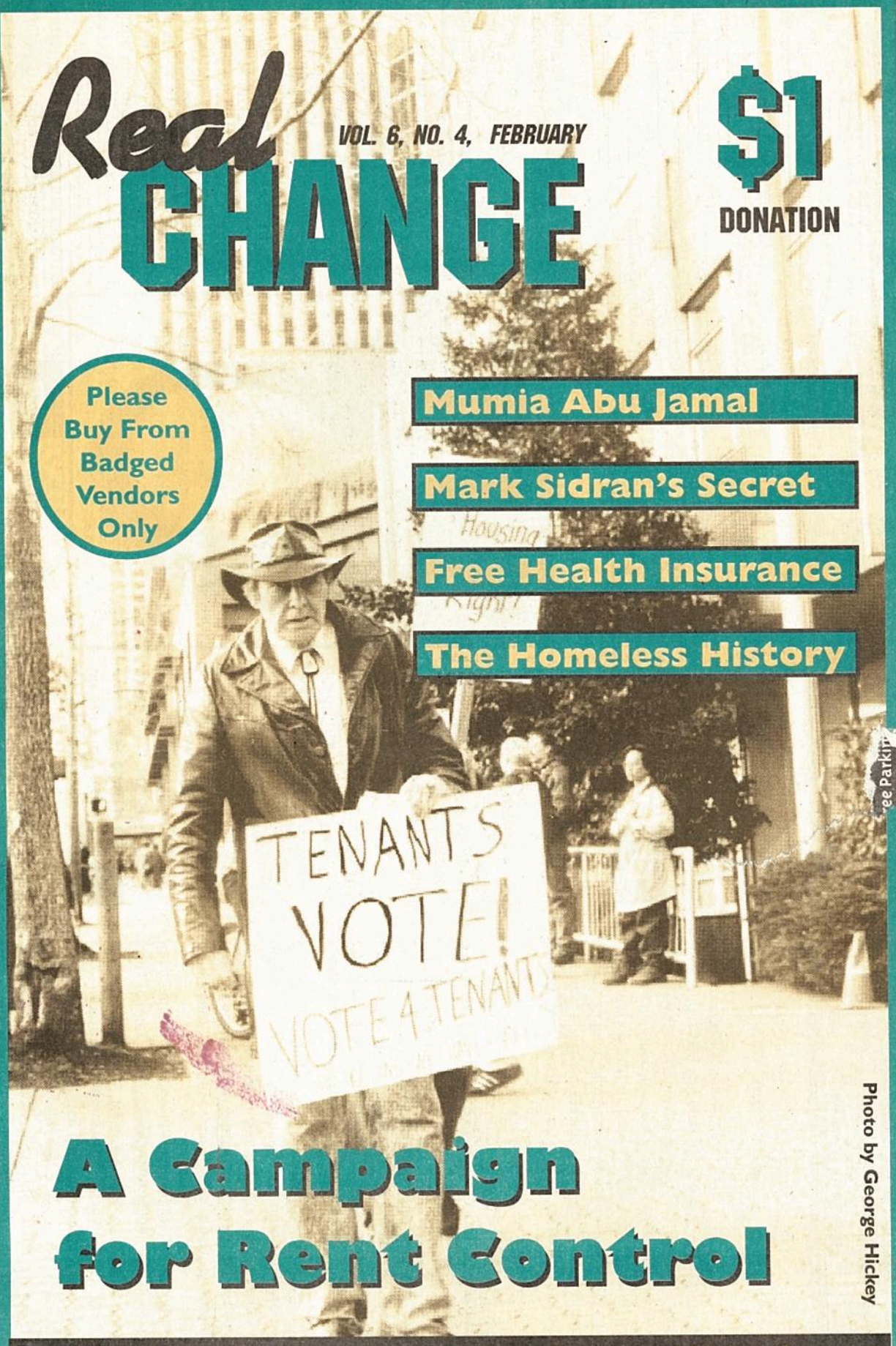
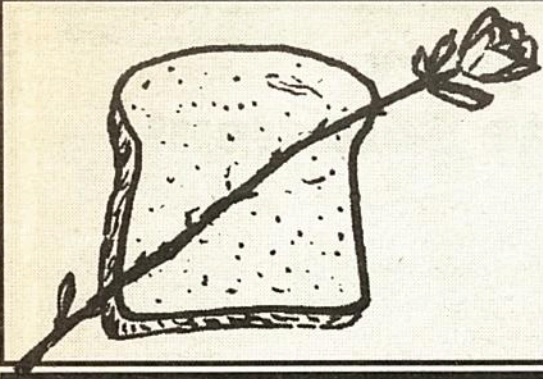


Photo by George Hickey

A Campaign for Rent Control

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless



Life and Death

An Interview with MOVE Member Ramona Africa

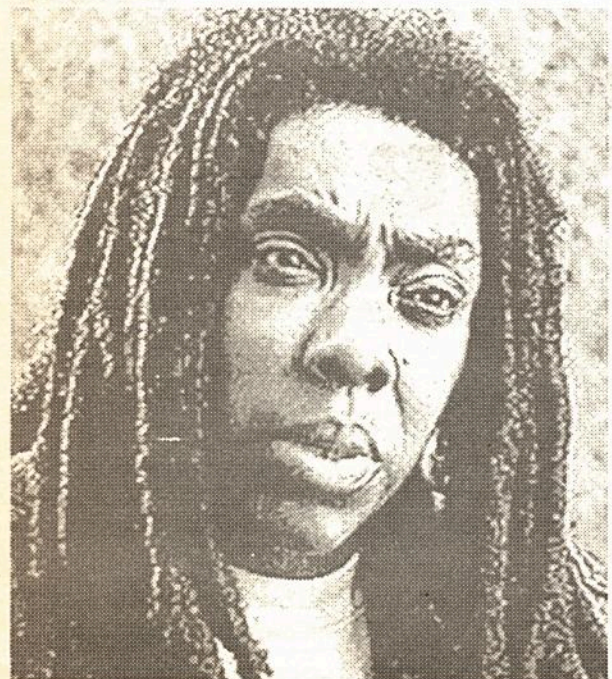
BY SCOTT WINN

On May 13, 1985, the city of Philadelphia, with federal support, dropped a bomb on a house in a Black, middle-class West Philadelphia neighborhood. The bomb and the fire that engulfed the house burned alive five children and six adults. As potential survivors ran from the home, they met with police gunfire and were forced to run back inside to their death. There were only two survivors: an eleven year-old child named Birdie Africa, and Ramona Africa who, with her body covered in burns, was taken into police custody. Even though hundreds of police and fire officials were already on hand, the fire from the bomb was allowed to spread through the evacuated neighborhood. Sixty homes over a two-block area were destroyed, leaving over 250 people homeless.

The city of Philadelphia claimed it had a "bad day" in order to distance itself from the fact that it had spent months planning the attack. Ramona Africa was tried and found guilty of riot and conspiracy to riot. Her sentence was 16 months to seven years in prison. After serving 16 months, she refused the authorities demand that she end all ties with the MOVE organization. As a result she was forced to serve the full seven years.

The house was the home of the MOVE family, a group of mostly Black radicals who took the surname Africa. They wore their hair in dreadlocks. The people of the MOVE organization, which was founded by John Africa in the early 1970s, lived a natural lifestyle, which was condemned by their neighbors and the media. In his most recent book, *Death Blossoms*, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal (see related article) wrote of MOVE's political stance. He called them "bold beyond belief, so fearless they seemed reckless."

Because of their revolutionary beliefs and complaints from neighbors, MOVE had long been a tar-



get of Philadelphia police. On August 8, 1978, the police violently ended a 90-day stand off at MOVE headquarters. At the end of the day one police officer was dead. Though no evidence was presented to find one member guilty, all nine were held accountable for the death. The MOVE 9, as they have become known, were sentenced to 30 to 90 years in prison.

Ramona Africa has emerged as an outspoken leader against the prison system and a champion of human rights. In December 1998, along with former political prisoner Angela Davis and others, she testified in front of the European Union. The testimonies led to a resolution by the EU condemning the racist death penalty in the U.S., and calling for a new and fair trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Writer Scott Winn met with Ramona Africa and fellow MOVE member Blizzard Africa last month at the offices of The International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal in West Philadel-

phia, to talk about her experiences and thoughts on the criminal justice system, Mumia Abu-Jamal, MOVE, and the prospects for real justice.

REAL CHANGE: In your own words, who is Ramona Africa? What made you decide you wanted to join the MOVE organization?

RAMONA AFRICA: Ramona Africa is a revolutionary. A person that came from a middle-class, Black family and went to Catholic school. I went to Temple University and graduated with two degrees. I didn't really have any understanding about police brutality, injustice, any of that. I thought the system worked for me. I was someone who intended to become a lawyer.

It was 1979 when I met the MOVE organization during the trial of the MOVE 9. Being a Black woman, when I went to that courtroom what I saw was a group of young Black women and men who

Continued to page 10

Death Row

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia Abu-Jamal is undoubtedly the world's most famous political prisoner. He also happens to be on death row.

On December 9, 1981, Abu-Jamal was driving a cab on a downtown Philadelphia street. He came across the police beating a young Black man. Upon a closer look he realized that the man was his brother, and got out of his car.

What happened next is the result of much controversy. For sure, a few minutes later Mumia lay on the street with a bullet in his body. A police officer was dead. Even though forensic evidence suggests otherwise, Abu-Jamal was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. While many people, including Abu-Jamal, assert his innocence, most people agree he did not receive a fair trial.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is, as many know, an award-winning journalist and past president of the Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia. His most recent assignment before prison was his work for National Public Radio. He is also a former Black Panther who has been called "the voice of the voiceless." Though imprisoned, he has published a scathing indictment of that very system, *Live from Death Row*.

Abu Jamal's outspoken political opinions made him a target for police, say many: to the point that he has been denied justice on his own behalf.

He has been called the Nelson Mandela of the United States, and his trial has been declared unfair by an amazing array of people and organizations. From Coretta Scott King (the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.) to the legislative body of Japan, people are calling for justice. His case has also garnered support locally, including from the King County Labor Council.

On October 29, 1998 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court denied Abu-Jamal's final state appeal. Governor Tom Ridge was expected to sign his death warrant. Despite silence from the media, the following Saturday worldwide protests took place. In Seattle over 200 people took to the streets in protest. Similar protests in 1995 resulted in a stay of Abu-Jamal's scheduled execution.

On April 24th, 1999, Mumia's birthday, The Millions for Mumia March will take place in Philadelphia and San Francisco. Locally, people through the Seattle Mumia Defense Committee are organizing to show a strong Seattle presence at the March. For information on how you can get involved, call (206)-728-9781.

Or you can contact The International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal: P.O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143; www.mumia.org; (215)-476-8812

—by Scott Winn



Real CHANGE

**Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless**

Real Change is published the first and fifteenth of each month and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35. All material is copyrighted to the authors. Submissions are encouraged and should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247.

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

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

Mission Statements:

Real Change organizes, educates, and builds alliances to find community-based solutions to homelessness and poverty.

Goals

- Provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.
- Publish the views of marginalized communities.
- Create direct economic opportunity.
- 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.

Editorial Policy

Articles appearing in *Real Change* reflect the opinions and perspectives of the authors. We encourage the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction, poetry, and artwork, and hope to create a forum where the many perspectives on 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.



Please support our advertisers
tell them you saw it in
REAL CHANGE

GROOVIN' ON GRITS!



MOOVELOUS!
MAE'S CAFE
65th & Phinney 782-1222
Open 7-3 Everyday



Obsolescence is still our friend.

Get a G3 or iMac lately? Got something nice that needs a good home? Your behind-the-curve Mac is probably an upgradeto us. Go ahead. Make our day. Tax receipts from the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project gladly provided. Call 441-3247 for more info.

Be a Part of the Solution!

This little paper, which now publishes twice a month, receives no foundation or government support, 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. Your contribution goes beyond simple charity. *Real Change* helps people help themselves while they work for a more just world for everyone. Please give to *Real Change*.

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

Name _____

Address/Zip _____

Phone _____

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

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

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

the BELLTOWN BARBER

DAVE MARKOVICH
OWNER

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

Executive Director, Real Change/RCHEP

Timothy Harris

Associate Director, RCHEP

Bob Kubiniac

Advertising Representative

Madeline Lewis

Managing Editor

Bob Redmond

Vendor/Volunteer Manager

Michele Thomas

Administrative Assistant

Megan Farley

Board of Directors

Wes Browning (VP), Susan Forshey, Carole Frisell (Sec.), Jon Gould (Pres.), Joseph McCarthy, Walter Massey, Scott Nodland, Jean Rowlands-Tarbox (Treas.), Kathleen Ruth, Donna Steinberg, Helena Stephens

Editorial Committee

E. O. Anthony, Wes Browning, Stan Burriss, Ruth Fox, Anitra Freeman, Mona Johnson, Michele Marchand, Koon Woon

Volunteers This Issue

Demetris Allen, Mary Ann Atkinson, Julie Dolly, Jo Ellis, Carole Frisell, George Hickey, Brianna Morgan, Scott Shively, Rachel Thorne, Wes Weddell, Bruce Wirth

Advisory Board

Bob Barnes
King County Rainbow Coalition
Juan Bocanegra
Downtown Human Services Council
Ken Cole
Archdiocesan Housing Authority
Jean Colman
Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition
Ishbel Dickens
John Fox
Seattle Displacement Coalition
Matthew Fox
Community Activist
Neil Fox
National Lawyer's Guild
Larry Gossett
County Councilmember, Dist. 10
Louis Harris
A. Philip Randolph Institute
Bill Hobson
Downtown Emergency Service Center
Ray Jones
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Erin Katz
Homelessness Project
Dan Landes

Paola Maranan
The Children's Alliance
Joe Martin
Pike Market Medical Clinic
Camille Monzon
Seattle Indian Center
Lonnie Nelson
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Al Poole
Operational Emergency Center
Trisha Ready
Words at Risk
Siobhan Ring
Tenants Union
Mary Robinson-Smith
Denny Regrade Planning Organization
Aiko Schaefer
WA Welfare Reform Coalition
Jim Theofelis
Tamara Turner
Radical Women
Velma Voloria
State Representative, 11th District
Harriet Walden
Mothers for Police Accountability

Time is Now for Rent Control

This year's Groundhog Day offered something greater than superstitious guesses at future weather patterns. On February 2, more than two hundred Seattlites packed a meeting room at Seattle Central Community College to demand that action be taken to bring to an end the long winter of skyrocketing rents. With television reporters, State Representative Velma

SAGE WILSON

Veloria, and Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata bearing witness, scores of locals testified to their personal tales of housing woe, and called for the repeal of a state law that prohibits local control of housing law.

Anybody of limited means who has ever gone apartment hunting in Seattle quickly realizes that things have gotten out of control. In some neighborhoods, "cozy" studio apartments go for upwards of \$650 a month, and in every neighborhood, affordable housing is scarce at best. Finally given a forum to express their frustration, agitated tenants filled Seattle Central with repeated stories of impossibly expensive rents and rapacious landlords.

Seattle and the greater Puget Sound area suffer under a one-sided model of rent control in which landlords have all the control when it comes to rent: such was a recurring theme of speakers who ranged from service workers to a young lawyer to a representative of the deaf-blind community. The diversity of backgrounds and experiences spoke to the enormously broad dimensions of the affordable housing crisis. The large pro-rent control audience demonstrated that housing in Seattle has become unaffordable for far too many people.

Yet, as Representative Veloria and Councilmember Licata took pains to point out, changing the legal landscape for renters will take a major fight. Real estate developers and landlord lobbyists can be counted upon to oppose any change in existing landlord-tenant law. The road is made especially difficult by RCW 35.21.830, a state law which preempts local governments from instituting rent regulation measures. And while a bill to overturn this preemption may be in the works, passage will require strong support from local legislators.

This law represents the actual target against which the forum was organized. Without a doubt the Seattle housing market differs from that of Bellingham or Spokane or even Bellevue. Logically, then, different sorts of housing policy ought be employed for each of these different sorts of places. And yet the whole of Washington is covered by a single blanket law governing every rental agreement in the entire state. This is illogical, unfair, and impedes basic principles of local self-government. Yet calls for local control have met with deep opposition. State-wide prohibition of rent control remains law because it protects landlords, who may more effectively lobby a single legislative body than bargain with multiple local governments.

Though their voices were absent at the February 2 forum, many critics charge that government regulation is undesirable and unnecessary, because the market will fix itself. And certainly, Seattle's riotously low vacancy rates suggest that there does exist an imbalance of supply and demand. This is not a problem for landlords,

however, who are assured that they can charge essentially whatever they please without much fear of having an apartment go vacant. Landlords can charge unfair rents, run roughshod over tenants' rights, and know that even if they drive renters out, they can rest assured that any vacancies can be quickly filled by an even more-desperate Seattlite looking for

some place, any place.

So in the eyes of the market, there is no housing crisis. As markets do, this one has reached an equilibrium: of maximized landlord profit. For this reason, theorized "market solutions" are untenable and unfair. The market has utterly failed to meet basic social needs. Regulation is not only a reasonable response, but a necessary one if we intend to value people over profiteering.

Rapidly escalating rents have



FORUMPHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY

already displaced countless working people and destabilized many neighborhoods. Some of these displaced renters are lucky enough to land on their feet, while others are forced to uproot their families and move away from their neighborhoods, and often out of the city entirely.

Such gentrification may be good for developers of upscale retail space, but it works also to squeeze out diversity and stifle the kind of noisy, messy density that gives cities their life. Furthermore, escalating rents also move many marginal renters closer to homelessness. A region that turns its back on affordable housing is a region that turns its back on its most vulnerable populations.

In perhaps the only disappointing note of the February 2nd forum, none of the State Representatives of the very 43rd district in which the meeting was held bothered to show. Nor did any representatives of the 37th district, though its neighborhoods are similarly threatened by rapidly rising rents and the specters of gentrification and unlivability. Clearly, then, these

representatives—including co-Speaker of the House Frank Chopp—need to feel steeply increased pressure from their constituents before they will respond. Our legislators will work for landlords unless they are forced to do otherwise by outraged constituents.

The gathering closed with a request to the audience to call the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000 and urge their representatives to work for the repeal of RCW 35.21.830 and allow local control of housing policy. Frank Chopp and the others can do much to move this important legislation. As their constituents, we need to do much to move them. February 2 was a dramatic step in the right direction, but time is short—both with respect to the legislative calendar and with respect to the disappearing housing for low and moderate income people in the Puget Sound. ☐

"A region that turns its back on affordable housing is a region that turns its back on its most vulnerable populations."

Giving the **POWER** of the Internet to **THE PEOPLE**

Warehouse turned Internet Coffeehouse

SPEAKEASY CAFE

COFFEE • COMPUTERS • PERFORMANCE

2304 2ND AVE SEATTLE 206.728.9770

Advertising gets RESULTS

CALL 441-8847 FOR RATES

Real Change to join agreement with Times, PI

In a startling development, the *Seattle Times* and *PI* have contacted *Real Change* to inquire about including the upstart paper in their Joint Operating Agreement. The JOA will begin on April 1, 1999. "I guess there aren't enough wealthy readers to go around," said Timothy Harris, Director of Real Change. While Harris says that the RC has no immediate plans to publish daily or offer a Sunday edition, it is willing to share news department resources and some of its research facilities with the larger publishing firms. "We're always willing to lend a hand to those who want to help themselves," said Harris. "Besides, it's about time they published some real news."

Help needed at SOS

Street Outreach Services, the organization that runs needle exchange programs in Seattle's Capitol Hill and University District Neighborhoods, received a \$20,000 "challenge grant" earlier this month from the George Williams fund of the San Francisco based Tides Foundation. With the grant, SOS will stabilize and expand their programming directed at HIV/AIDS prevention among injection drug users.

The catch with the grant is that SOS must raise an additional \$20,000 (in amounts larger than \$2500) from individuals or organizations. If you've got cash or information to share, call program director Kris Nyrop at (206) 625-0854.

Given the prohibition of federal funding for needle exchange programs, said Nyrop, support from individuals is critical for the survival of SOS. Ironically, federally-funded research shows that needle exchange programs do not contribute to increased drug use but are effective in preventing the spread of HIV and Hepatitis B and C. Because of SOS programs, said Nyrop, "the rates of HIV among those who inject drugs remain lower in Seattle than in almost any place in the United States."

In addition to its needle exchange program, SOS maintains a drop-in center for the homeless in downtown Seattle, conducts infant mortality outreach in south Seattle, and runs weekly meetings for high-risk women and active drug users. The drop in center sees about 300 people per day, and the combined volume of the needle exchange locations exceeded 740,000 needles exchanged in 1998.

SHA's Senior Housing goes upscale

Things are heating up again at the Seattle Housing Authority, this time in the Senior Housing Program, which serves 2000 low income senior citizens.

In general, SHA has plans to raise the income level of qualified seniors, and shift more needy persons off their waiting list altogether. Changes could be formalized any day, and spell bad news not only for seniors currently being served by SHA, but for thousands of other seniors who are also feeling the crunch of expiring Section 8 subsidized housing around the city.

The second and related change involves the Ravenna Park Apartments, home to 40 seniors, most of whom are very-low-income renters. In order to gain some immediate cash, SHA wants to enter into a limited partnership that would guarantee tax credits to them and private investors. Trouble is, by creating such a partnership, SHA would lose control of the property, as it would be subject to a new board and regulations which could, again, end the project's commitment to low-income renters.

The Senior Bond Housing Program, created in 1981, allowed for oversight by the City Council, but SHA and the Council's Housing Committee (chaired by Peter Steinbrueck) differ over their interpretation of the law. Can

NEWS YOU CAN USE

CLOSE TO HOME

the Council overrule the SHA's plans? In order to avoid a legal showdown, Steinbrueck and SHA Director Harry Thomas met last week to hammer out an agreement for the Ravenna Park Apartments, and Steinbrueck's office is also working on a plan to create an oversight committee for the entire Senior Housing Program, which may get to work in a matter of weeks.

The agreement on the table would allow SHA to turn over the Ravenna Apartments to the limited partnership, but stipulate that rents for 29 of the units go to seniors making 45% or less of median income for the region (\$22,000 for a single person). The remaining units would go to seniors making 30% or less of median income.

Since average rents right now at the Ravenna Park are around 20% of median income, however, the proposed agreement would amount to a huge rent hike for the people living there. John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition warns that the proposal puts the entire senior housing program on a slippery slope: "The whole program may change irrevocably so that it no longer serves low-income people," says Fox. "Poor people will lose out."

But the original Housing Bond law may limit the ability of the city to regulate rents. "We can't drive it much further down," said Steinbrueck's legislative assistant Andy Grow. Fox says that actually, the law gives the Council the authority to do just that, and he's talking about a possible lawsuit to settle the issue. "Peter is not being assertive enough," said Fox. "[The situation] further heightens the need for us and seniors to take stronger action." Fox is calling for a public hearing and review, and a serious consideration of options that would cause SHA to serve the "poorest of the poor."

Women Get Ready

WHEEL, the grassroots homeless women's group, is working to create a Women's Empowerment Center; an organizing and education center for homeless and formerly homeless women. A pilot program of Thursday morning classes for homeless women, in partnership with Antioch University and the Sisters Project, is running successfully. The center would build on that success, and following the empowerment building model of WHEEL, will be managed by the women using the program.

WHEEL has already gathered \$7,000 in funding toward the new center, and numerous donated computers. They are also talking with a local church group that may be able to provide the space for the Empowerment Center. Whenever the space is arranged, WHEEL expects to be able to start activities immediately; even though \$7000 is far short of the estimated \$28,000 yearly budget for the Center. But "money," as one WHEEL member is fond of saying, "follows good work." WHEEL is hoping that space does too. For more information, please call 956-0334.

—Anitra Freeman

Storm's troll song

Across this town I roamed,
just to make this bridge my home,
Watching busses roll by
and I'll watch em roll by again,
just logging my mind.

Waiting for the morning to come,
and this feeling won't leave me alone,
I'll be sleeping by morning time,
trying not to lose my mind.

—Storm, vendor # 1775

Bar Hopping in Minnesota

it's funny
how long you find yourself
staying in bars
in the middle of winter
how
"just one more drink"
turns into
"how about another"
again and again
while the snow falls outside
and the sun goes down
and disappears
for hours
and the bartender's
"last call"
never seems
to come

—Holly Day



SOS STREET OUTREACH TABLE, PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY

Stay tuned for updates about the Church of Mary Magdalene and *Real Change*, which will expand our own programming into the vacated space. For immediate inquiries about CMM, call the Rev. Pat Simpson at (206) 621-8474.

Red and Black Books negotiating sale

The good news is that Red and Black Books, the 25-year old progressive bookstore on 15th Ave, may not close its doors, as was feared earlier this year. The bad news is that even in the best case scenario, it appears that the "collective," the alternative ownership mechanism that has operated the store since its inception, will cease to be.

Nancy Shawn, collective member, confirmed that Red and Black was negotiating with a prospective buyer, but could not say for certain that the deal would close. If it does, said Shawn, the store would remain Red and Black, stay progressive, and many of the same employees would continue working there.

One of a number of collectives that sprung up in the 70's in Seattle, Red and Black has also been one of the longest-running, most of the others long since succumbing to pressures of personality or corporate culture. Is the collective model viable any longer? "I don't want to be the doomsayer and say that collectives can't function," said Shawn. "But collectives need to change with the times and it's hard to do that quickly."

The need for quick change has increased with the simultaneous expansion of the Internet and mega-bookstores all around the area. "We have a lot of forces to contend with," said Shawn. "The big chain stores, the Internet stores, the city giving parking garages to large chain malls and not looking to smaller retail areas in neighborhoods that are just as important (as the downtown malls)."

People are catching on, however, to their potential losses. "What's important is the access to information issue," said Shawn. "Independent bookstores have an important voice in the market place and people are starting to realize that. And it's up to us (as consumers) to make these things work." Shawn encouraged the public not only to complain but to mobilize: shop at the small stores and talk to the decision makers, she said. For the meantime, it looks like Red and Black Books will remain a vital part of the discussion.

—newsbriefs by Bob Redmond

If you have a news item that you would like *Real Change* to look into, please let us know. Call Bob at 441-8143.

It wasn't meant to be

She wondered what would have happened if she hadn't met that woman that day. Would she still have lost her home, child, possessions, life?

She had been driving a taxi for only a few months when the woman hailed her for a ride. She took the woman to the port and watched her walk up the gangway of a big ship. She thought the woman must have a husband on board or maybe she was a crew member. She shrugged her shoulders, put the money away (no tip), and drove to the next call.

The next night was ordinary in every respect. She carried the usual number of fares and earned the normal amount of tips. She cleaned out the cab and washed its outside as a common courtesy for the shift change driver. It was her last night.

Although she never discovered all the facts, she understood she lost her job because she allegedly left the taxi while on duty and prostituted at the ship the previous evening.

The boss knew the woman who told him the story, and believed she wouldn't lie to him. Apparently the woman was well-known as a ship prostitute who often flirted with the male cabbies.

When she returned to her home early that morning with a red nose and puffy eyes, her stepfather had already packed her bags and thrown them on the porch. He wanted to yell names at her loudly so the neighbors would know he disapproved of her.

Her mother restrained her four year old son at the doorway while he cried and screamed "Don't leave me, Mommy. Come back, Mommy. I'm a good boy, Mommy. Please, Mommy, don't leave me."

She blindly drove around town until she ran out of gas. Driving always helped her think better. It was why she loved the taxi job even though it didn't pay much.

She spent the night in her car sleeping fitfully and crying.

After spending all of her tips on gas, she went to her best friend's apartment. Her stepfather had called earlier. She lost her best friend.

She went to her boyfriend's house. He couldn't let her stay because it would cramp his style.

In a daze she drove to the dock and parked haphazardly. She stumbled to the end of the pier, tears blinding her.

Her thoughts of jumping into the high tide to drown were so loud in her ears she didn't hear the tow truck taking her car.

She lost her job, home, family, child, money, best friend, boyfriend and worldly possessions in only twenty four hours.

She calmly tied her shoelaces together in case she accidentally tried to swim after jumping.

October 26th is the tenth anniversary of meeting three Filipino merchant marines who saved her life.

April 24th was the sixth anniversary of living in a house with solid walls a roof and electricity.

She thanks God every day for her home, her 14 year old son and six and a half year old daughter and for those strangers who cared for a stranger in a foreign port.

She saw the woman on a few occasions but did nothing and said nothing to her.

Cheaper than therapy.



Does resilience in the face of an uncertain world appeal to you? Character development is an essential aspect of traditional karate, and a training session really puts a hard day into perspective. Come train with FKU--and discover your strongest self!

...Seattle's non-profit 501(c)3 community resource for martial arts education and self-defense awareness since 1971.

call today! 206-325-3878

(206) 467-8545 Open 7 days

604 alaskan way (in pioneer square) since 1990

snow, skate, surf snocon.com

You want to be safe... but you want to be smart too. That's why you won't pay high prices for the crappy selection at the drug store when you can choose from:

70 kinds of Condoms 30 kinds of Personal Lubricants
Safer Sex Supplies Emergency Contraception Info.

The best prices and selection in town!

Three ways to shop:
Our Store: Wallingford 4426 Burke Ave N. 633-4750
By Phone: 1-888-792-8733
Online: www.rubbertree.org

The Rubber Tree
A Project of Zero Population Growth-Seattle Chapter

Steve's News

more newspapers
more magazines
great service

204 Broadway East 324-7323
3416 Fremont Ave N 633-0731

Revolution Books

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

1833 Nagle Place
(206) 325-7415
Now located on Capitol Hill
(Near Denny & Broadway)

WANTED:

writers
photographers
illustrators

Join up with the Real Change Gang. Fame. Glory. Purpose. Call Bob at 441-8143.

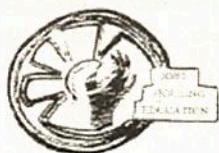
gloria anzaldua phil red eagle

Good books for a change.



Red & Black Books
432 15th E. Seattle
322-READ

jonathan kozol audre lorde



WHEEL (Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League)

WHEEL, a grassroots organizing effort of homeless and formerly homeless women, is looking for a home for our **Women's Empowerment Center**. We need a **very reasonable or donated space** for our self-managed day center for women, which will offer classes, workshops and organizing meetings. Ideally the space would be in or very near the downtown ride free zone. If you have information that might help us in our site search,

please call 956-0334

Hot MAMA'S PIZZA
FREE DELIVERY 322-6444
New York Style Pizza
700 E Pine
Capitol Hill, Seattle
We Deliver Downtown!
FAX NUMBER - 322-7884
PIZZA • CALZONES • SALADS
STIX • SODAS
\$2 OFF any pizza with this ad

DONATE YOUR USED CAR, Boat, RV, Truck or Van to non-profit

EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA

RECEIVE A TAX BREAK AND FREE TOWING. We may want it even if it doesn't run! Your support will help children, youth, seniors and families.

(206) 329-2024/(206) 329-9442

2524 16th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98144

e-mail dev@cartero.elcentrodelaraza.com

www.elcentrodelaraza.com

LOMA

Center for Renewal A Place Apart...

- Meeting Space for Workshops, Retreats, Conferences, Banquets
- Meal Service & Guest Rooms
- Convenient Location
- Beautiful Setting

3607 - 228th Ave SE Issaquah, WA 98029
425-392-1871 FAX: 425/391-7451

ANALYSIS

The Deluge

The Growth of Homelessness in Seattle and King County

BY THE REV. DAVID C. BLOOM
PART ONE OF A TWO-PART SERIES

The decade of the 80s—the decade of Reaganomics—was heralded as a decade of unprecedented economic growth in America. Yet the reemergence of soup kitchens and emergency shelters that had not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s became a painful reminder that many Americans were being left behind.

National estimates of the number of persons who became homeless annually in the 80s ranged from a few hundred thousand to as many as two million. By the end of the decade, the Bush Administration estimated that 700,000 persons were homeless on a given night. Advocates, however, believed that the true number was far higher. Many more Americans were living on the brink of homelessness.

In 1980, there was little public awareness of what is now commonly known as homelessness. By 1990, our nation was awash in thousands of studies, task forces, media reports, homeless advocacy groups, public initiatives, and billions of public and private dollars directed to a growing system of emergency and transitional shelter. And what did all of this attention get us? A nation in denial about a deep social pathology and no reliable evidence that the existence of homelessness in America will be resolved even within our lifetimes. What has gone wrong?

In the mid-1970s, you could buy a single-family house in Seattle for \$30,000. Today, that same house sells for \$300,000—an increase of 1000% in just 20 years.

Two decades ago, you could rent a decent 2-bedroom apartment in King County for less than \$200 per month. Today, two-bedroom apartments rent for \$600, \$700, \$800 and more.

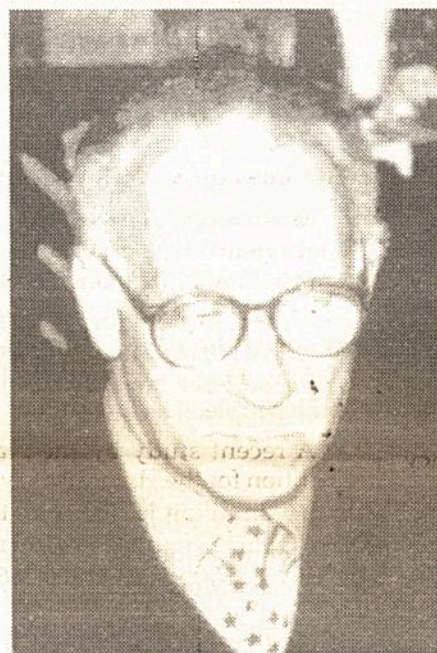
In the early 1970s, persons with serious mental illness were often housed in large state mental institutions where they received shelter, food, and some semblance of care. Today, following deinstitutionalization, many mentally ill people populate our streets and our shelters.

In the 1970s, an alcoholic

could find an occasional job and rent a room in a single room occupancy hotel. Today, there are few day labor jobs and the SRO hotels are mostly gone.

In the 1970s, persons with limited skills and education could get a good-paying manufacturing job to afford a house and raise a family. Today, minimum wage jobs in the service sector are not enough to buy a house or raise a family.

In the 1970s, a family on public assistance could afford to rent an apartment in King County. Today, they cannot.



The Mentally Ill

The emergence of homeless mentally ill people on Seattle's old Skid Road in the 1970s was one of the first indicators of what was to become the growing problem of homelessness.

Joe Martin, who now works as a social worker at the Pike Market Clinic, began his work in downtown at the First Avenue Service Center in 1977:

"When I arrived, I learned from First Avenue veterans that things had been changing in the last couple of years. There was an increasing number of mentally ill people on the streets. While that seems commonplace in 1998, it was unusual in 1977.

"While homelessness has always been a problem for those who suffer from alcohol and drug addiction, it is different today for the mentally ill. While the mentally ill have never been treated properly, at least in hospitals like Western State there was some semblance of care and protection. But with deinstitutionalization, for many, all they had was the street."

Ken Cole also began working downtown in the 1970s as an outreach worker with Seattle Mental Health Institute:

"The plan was always that the Community Mental Health Centers in the neighborhoods would take up the care, but they were never adequately funded and in some cases never built, and the housing piece was left out of the equation altogether."

"By 1990, our nation was awash in thousands of studies, task forces, media reports, homeless advocacy groups, public initiatives and billions of public and private dollars directed to a growing system of emergency and transitional shelter. And what did all of this attention get us? A nation in denial about a deep social pathology and no reliable evidence that the existence of homelessness in America will be resolved even within our lifetimes. What has gone wrong?"

Rev. David Bloom

In the mid-1980s the Municipal League conducted a yearlong study of homelessness and mental illness. The committee's findings provided an indictment of the mental health system at the time.

While motives of deinstitutionalization were humanitarian, the committee said the execution left much to be desired. Too few of the dollar savings that were achieved through reduced institutional care were passed on to local communities. As a result, even the combined resources of numerous local agencies and programs simply were not adequate to the needs.

Worse, the study said the multiple community organizations did not act together in an integrated fashion. "They operate more or less independently of one another, although they may have contact with, or serve, the same client," the report concluded.

"Little wonder," reported the *Seattle Times* in a December 1985 editorial, "that many patients drop through the cracks of a malfunctioning management system. Meantime, city, county, and state officials have been too slow to move on various opportunities to develop additional emergency shelter for all the homeless, including the mentally ill."

Today, mentally ill people remain a significant portion of Seattle's homeless population. In spite of several reorganizations of the mental health system and excellent programs like the El Rey and ACCESS and the efforts of the Downtown Emergency Service Center to focus services upon the mentally ill, the lack of adequate treatment and housing remains the biggest obstacle to getting mentally ill people off the street.

Alcohol and Drug Addictions

The culture of Skid Road was changing in the 1970s. Three factors changed things, according to David Newcomer, who worked for years with the Downtown Human Services Council: deinstitutionalization, the changing policies toward public drunkenness, and the loss of very low income housing that even the poorest people could afford. Alcoholics who had always habituated Skid Road could no longer just go rent a room.

"That's where modern homelessness comes from. Until the 70s, in most places drunks were picked up and put in the drunk tank and held for awhile. There was no sense that this was treatment, but it was a social control mechanism. Furthermore, there was low-income housing. Now what we've done is push the drunks—who were in their apartments—out on the street, and they're drinking in public again. It wasn't that there were suddenly more alcoholics, but that they had lost the little Skid Road taverns and apartments, and they had no place else to go. We destroyed that subculture that basically hid them, and pushed them out into the public. There was a system to con-

tain it, and that system fell apart. And as happened with community mental health, you took the containment system away, but the treatment system was never really built. Also, the introduction of drugs has made a big difference. You go back to the old Skid Road, and it was mostly alcohol. The effect of crack-cocaine vis-à-vis alcohol in terms of the destructiveness in a short time was dramatic."

Ken Cole joins Newcomer in indicting the system:

"The 12-step programs do not help crack cocaine addicts, and we can't get them treatment beds when they are screaming for them. We got people out there abusing crack, and they're getting permanent brain damage. So even if they beat the drug, they will be disabled. We don't have treatment on demand, which could help these people. There is nobody standing up for addicts or chronic alcoholics. Just look at the streets. Effectively what's going on is euthanasia, except the alcoholic is going to take 30 years to die. He's going to take 30 years of dying in public, because we're not going to get him what he needs."

The Loss of Affordable Housing

Most advocates agree that the single greatest cause in the growth of homelessness in America and in Seattle and King County since the 1970s has been the devastating losses in housing that is affordable to low-income people.

A recent study by the National Coalition for the Homeless says more than 2.2 million low-rent units have disappeared from the private market since 1973, falling to a total of 6.5 million units. During the same period, the number of low-income renters increased by 4.7 million to a total of 11.2 million. The resulting shortage of 4.7 million affordable housing units is the largest shortage on record and has created a housing crisis for poor people. This housing crisis has resulted in high rent burdens, overcrowding, and substandard housing. These phenomena, in turn, have not only forced many to become homeless; they have put a large and growing number of people at risk of becoming homeless.

A housing trend with a particularly severe impact on homelessness has been the loss of single room occupancy

(SRO) housing. In the past, SRO housing had served to house poor individuals, including those suffering from mental illness or substance abuse. However, from 1970 to the mid-1980s, an estimated one million SRO units were demolished nationwide.

David Newcomer describes the situation in Seattle:

"In Seattle in the early 60s there were 24,000 SRO units in downtown. Seattle was a working man's town. There were loggers, railroad men, and seamen, and there was this huge supply of low-income hotels.

"When I worked at the First Avenue Service Center, the Seven Seas was right above us. Rooms up there were \$60/month back in the 70s. That would be typical, lots of rooms at \$60/month. If somebody doubles up, you're at \$30/month. That was the market rate housing that completely got destroyed.

"But in those days there still was low-income housing, and most poor people were not homeless. They could still manage to find enough temporary work and somebody to help them in such a way so they had a roof over their head."

But it wasn't just SRO housing that disappeared in Seattle. In the late 70s, a downtown development boom

commenced that laid waste to thousands of low-cost rental units, especially in the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. John Fox, longtime director of the Seattle Displacement Coalition, recalls the dramatic changes:

"There was an explosion of growth in Seattle from 1976-80, as we came out of the Boeing bust. This included 10 million square feet of new office space, an influx of new residents with higher disposable income to take those downtown jobs and an increasing demand for housing. Rents went up significantly. Housing prices doubled in a short period. As many as 1,500 low-income

rental units were demolished. 3,000 units were converted to condominiums. The City's displacement study in 1980 showed that one in five existing households were forced to move because of those development forces.

"During the 80s, most of the old SRO stock was removed to make way for office, commercial and condominium development, convention center construction and parking lots. A portion of it was replaced because of community organizing efforts, but over time what wasn't saved was lost.

Continued on page 11

"Most advocates agree that the single greatest cause in the growth of homelessness in America and in Seattle and King County since the 1970's has been the devastating losses in housing that is affordable to low-income people."

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Help at-risk youth succeed in school by volunteering with Catholic Community Service's Youth Tutoring Program. Tutor elementary, middle and high school youth living in low-income public housing communities. Help with skill building, assist with homework/computer activities, play educational games and encourage students to succeed. 6 tutoring centers located in northeast, central, southeast and southwest Seattle. Centers are managed by qualified teaching staff and are equipped with lots of learning resources. Tutor 2 hours a week for 6 months. (This is a non-religious program). Initial orientation/training will be provided. For more info, call Anna at 328-5659

StreetWrites

Where Writers on the Street Meet and Eat when the weather turns to sleet

Workshops on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6:30 pm
Open mic and brunch on Sundays at 11 am
All workshops held at 2129 2nd Ave., Belltown



GOOD MORNING HEALING EARTH VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT
901 NE 55th Street
One block west of Roosevelt in the "U"-District
523-8025

All Vegan Mostly Organic

The Host Home Program
A temporary solution to today's housing crisis
Extra space in your home? Share it with someone who needs it.

- Flexible time commitment
- Training support services
- Applicants screened
- Weekly contacts by staff
- Guests provide own food

For more info. Call the **Host Home Program** (425) 562-6858



a program of Catholic Community Services of East King County

www.reachangenews.org • February 15, 1999 Real Change

STREETLIFE GALLERY
WHERE THE PAVEMENT MEETS THE CANVAS

Celebrate Creativity
Seeing is Believing. Drop in Anytime.

A working gallery where the outsider is always at home.

Open daily from 11-8 pm., 2301 2nd Ave., Belltown 98121 (206) 956-8046

- Carpets dry in 60 minutes
- Virtually residue free
- Non-toxic
- Deodorizing
- Stain protection
- Prevacuuming and pretreatment included
- Pet stain removal
- Furniture is carefully moved
- No hidden costs
- Satisfaction guaranteed

Service Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners
(206) 933-1525



BECOME A PART OF REAL CHANGE
Volunteer and Internship positions are avail. Be a part of a small grassroots org. that is making a significant difference in our community.
Vendor Desk: Light admin. support and vendor support. Req. a min of 2 hrs wk w/a 3 mo. commit. Flex Hrs
StreetWrites: Driver needed to pick up food donations for StreetWrites OpenMic every Sun. morn.
Internship: Computer Lab Instr. Feb-Mar., 12 hrs wk. Call Michele for more info. 206-441-3247

Admn. Assistant/Fund Developer

The Matt Talbot Ctr, a downtown day time drop-in ctr provides servs that meet the material & spiritual needs of the homeless, incl. drug/alcohol counseling, seeking a dedicated indiv. for our team. The position provides admn./fund raising support to program mgr. Req. min. 2yrs SS/admin support exp. w/specific homeless exp., a +; exp/ability in public relations, grant writing, knowledge of fund raising, finance recd. keeping & special events coord. Exc. written/verbal skills. BA in SS or related field/or equiv. exp FT 37.5 hrs/wk + ben. Res & Cov Ltr to: **AHA. JS-MTAA, 1902 2nd Ave Seattle, WA 98101 closes 2/19/99 EOE**

Woodland Park Presbyterian Church
A church with a social conscience, a caring congregation, and a warm, traditional worship.
Everyone Welcome!
10:30 AM Sunday Service.
70th and Greenwood N. 782-3776

DONATE YOUR USED CAR, VAN, TRUCK, OR BOAT
(RUNNING OR NOT) to SEATTLE EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICE. RECEIVE FREE TOWING AND A TAX BREAK.
Your donation will help non profit SEHS provide short term emergency shelter and longer term transitional housing to homeless families with children.
905 Spruce St. Suite 111 Seattle, WA 98104
CALL (206) 461-3660
peterseh@cm2.com
A member of United Way of King County

Real Change February 15, 1999 www.realchange.org

Helping Hands

First Place School

Holistic Health Care for Homeless and Low-Income Children

BY MATT HALL

"I was so upset," began one homeless mother. "I mean, it's just like everything piled up on everything and then that smothered me." This woman, along with sixty-four others, participated in a 1995 study by Victoria Baynard of homeless single mothers. Collectively, these mothers ranked "Housing Problems" and "Children" as their top two concerns during their time of homelessness. "Medical/Health Problems," however, ranked number eight.

"I was a runaway at sixteen," explained Doreen Cato. "The last thing you think about is health." Cato is the Executive Director of First Place, a private, non-profit agency that serves elementary school-aged children and their families during periods of homelessness and transition. "First Place is a therapeutic model that emphasizes a holistic approach," Cato said, emphasizing the school's pursuit of both the physical and emotional well-being of its students.

"Our goal is to get the family stable," said Lynn Coker, Case Management Coordinator for First Place. "The school itself is often the place of stability in family life." The children and their families may move from one shelter to another to temporary housing to a motel, but no matter how often they move, the school, with the help of the Seattle School district, provides transportation to get the students, wherever they are, to and from First Place.

"Each family gets a Case Manager," said Coker, who works with twenty-five Seattle-area shelters getting homeless children enrolled at the school. First Place case managers help stabilize families further, offering parents an array of services including housing referrals, medical referrals, weekly parent support groups, referrals for family and individual therapy, and employment and/or WorkFirst counseling.

These three on-staff counselors also offer various types of therapy for students, helping the children understand and cope with this period of homelessness or transition as well as other adverse trauma they may have experienced. Eighty percent of the children at First Place have witnessed domestic violence and many have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse. They are at high risk for educational failure and drug and alcohol abuse. A 1997 study by Daniel B. Herman published in The American Journal of Public Health concluded, "Adverse child-

hood experiences are [also] powerful risk factors for adult homelessness."

"Kids get so confused," said Cato. "What did I do?" they'll ask. "If I had done this, would things have been better?" They haven't talked about these things. Many can't voice these things they've felt, seen, heard." At First Place, children get a chance to find words for their emotions during Play Therapy sessions.

Play Therapy is a forty-five minute, once a week, one-to-one session with a counselor. Children direct the play. "The toys," Coker explained, "lend themselves to a theme." There is a doll house, for instance, with family members. Often children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse will reenact the abuse during play. Coker said a study conducted at First Place showed a direct relationship between the

children's experiences and the play they engaged in. The counselor will ask the child how these various types of "play" feel and help the child find words for these feelings. The goal is for children to learn to understand what has happened to them, that it was not their fault, and that they can speak up for themselves. Empowerment for children comes from knowing what is and is not appropriate, being able to say, "Hey! I don't like it when you do that," to have control, some say in what happens in their lives.

In an Art Therapy session, Coker explained, usually two to three children participate. The

counselor lets the children decide what they are going to do so they will need to cooperate. Children who are referred to this type of therapy are usually having trouble bonding; they show traits of distancing. In Art Therapy, these students are given a chance to connect and work with others under the close supervision of a trained professional.

If the emotional well being of its students is one focus of First Place's holistic health model, another is physical well being. "Good nutrition is an important part of good health," said Susan Kline, a Pediatric Health Care Nurse, who conducts weekly visits at First Place. Students at First Place receive healthy breakfasts, lunches, and nourishing snacks when they go home. (Parents can get food vouchers as well—if funding and/or food stamps run low.)

"We'd love to have a laundry and a hygiene center here," said Kline, mentioning First Place's wish list concerning hygiene. The school does, however, offer clean, new clothes, in abundance. There is a large "clothes closet," a room lined with shelves and shelves of donated shirts, pants, coats, skirts, socks, underwear, etc., for both boys and girls.

"Empowerment for children comes from knowing what is and is not appropriate, being able to say, 'Hey! I don't like it when you do that,' to have control, some say in what happens in their lives."

"Exercise, physical activity is part of the students' routine," said Kline. During the week, students swim, play tennis, run, and play games in a neighborhood gym. There's even an after-school dance program that "the boys initially did not want to go to, but now they love it."

In addition to a healthy diet and exercise, First Place offers on-site health care. Kline, whose position is funded by Health Care for the Homeless, provides a number of weekly services and treats children's acute care needs such as ear infections or skin problems. She also gives "well child care," works on prevention, and coordinates health services with parents and outside clinics and physicians.

Other physical health care providers visit First Place throughout the year. A dental hygienist recently came and gave each student sealant for their teeth for protection against cavities. Heather Barr, a Public Health Nurse with both Public Health and Health Care for the Homeless Network, has given workshops at First Place for both staff and children on "Air Borne Pathogens" and the importance of hand washing. "And it

caught on too," said Cato, laughing. "The children will ask me or the teachers, did you sing the song?" Barr explained, "To make sure your hands are clean, you need to scrub them under warm water with soap for as long as it would take you to sing Happy Birthday. And not too quickly."

Beyond maintaining their emotional and physical health, First Place offers students an innovative learning environment. In Michael Sitra's first grade and kindergarten class, children learned archaeology, digging, and dusting through dirt. The other half of the class, also invested in a three-week unit on Africa, worked with cardboard in the nearby Art room, making models of traditional African-style houses. Upstairs, children's masks lined the wall, part of their South African Mask Project.

Children at First Place seem very happy to be there. One student said, "This isn't a school. It's a house. It's a family." [A]

FEMINIST
WOMEN'S
HEALTH
CENTER



PRO-CHOICE HEALTH CARE

- abortion •well-women •birth control
- emergency contraception
- now offering general anesthesia
- men and women doctors
- medical coupons and most insurance

CEDAR RIVER CLINIC

- 4300 Talbot Rd S #403, Renton
 - local phone (425) 255-0471
 - 25 minutes south of downtown Seattle
- www.fwhc.org

DISCRIMINATION STILL EXISTS. SO DO THE LAWS THAT PROTECT YOU.

We All Belong!
STOP DISCRIMINATION

CALL US.

Seattle Office for Civil Rights
(206)684-4500 voice (206)684-4503 tty

Wellness
in
Pioneer Square

Massage Therapy
Counseling
Hypnotherapy

Mari-Claire Uccello LMP, CHT
(206) 340-6121 ext. 2

Free Health Insurance for Children And Teens!!

Free health insurance covering doctor and nurse visits, dental visits, hospital care, eyeglasses, prescriptions, and counseling as well as physical and speech therapy is available for children up to the age of nineteen through the state of Washington's Medicaid program, Healthy Options. But many parents and teens do not know that they or their children qualify for these benefits.

Peter Berliner, Executive Director of the Children's Alliance, estimates that there are an estimated 90,000 children in the state of Washington who are eligible for free Medicaid insurance but are not enrolled. To find out if you or your child qualify for these benefits call "Kids Health 2001," a completely free service (contact numbers below). At Kids Health, part of Community Health Access Program, trained professionals will help answer any questions about qualification issues and how to receive and fill out the relatively simple Medicaid application form as well as give information on other health options.

What does it take to qualify? Ron Iverson, Healthy Kids Coordinator with the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, says that the adjusted monthly income of the parent, parents, or teen must be below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The adjusted monthly income is calculated by making deductions from the gross monthly income, such as work expenses for each employed member

of the family as well as for child care. If, for example, a single mom with a six year old makes \$2,200 a month, gross income, it will look at first that she cannot not qualify because the 200% of the FPL for a 2-person household is \$1,809 a month. However, if her income is adjusted, deductions made for her work expenses (\$90) and child care (\$380), her adjusted monthly income will be \$1,730 in which case her six year old can be enrolled and receive free health care.

Many teens living on their own or with other family or friends who are not their legal guardians often qualify. Iverson gave the following fictitious example: a teen, up to the age of nineteen, leaves his or her parents' custody and is staying with Bill Gates. But if Bill Gates is not the legal guardian and that teen makes less than \$1342 for his or her adjusted monthly income, he or she should still qualify for Medicaid.

Beyond Medicaid, for low-income children who do not meet the requirements for Medicaid, the state offers the "Categorically Needy Program" and the "Children's Health Program." The Children's Health Program is designed especially for "undocumented children/illegal aliens"; to be eligible for this program, U. S. citizenship is not a requirement.

For information call Kids Health 2001 at (206) 284-0331 or 1-800-756-5437. [A]

—Matt Hall

Isn't it time your courier moved as fast as your business?

MERCURY
COURIER
CORPORATION

206 448 3379

mercurycourier@worldnet.att.net



Program Mgr.

The New Dorothy Day House, seeks Prog. Mgr.

opening July '99, prov. perm. housing for previously homeless women in a self-governed set. Pos. start app. 4/1. Be resp. for fac. mgmt, supv. of res/staff, budget, A/P & salary acts. Req. BA/BS in revelant field w/min. 2 yrs supv exp/strong skills in team leadership concepts. 2yrs in dir. SS that supports advocating for women, low-inc. /special needs pop. Knowledge/demonis. skills in prob. solving/crisis interven. /understanding of alcohol/drug abuse/mental illness/DV issues. Exc. comm. skills written/verbal w/ability to carry out the mission of the prog. FT sal. DOE + ben. Res & Cov Ltr to: **AHA. DDPM, 1902 2nd Ave Seattle, WA 98101 closes 2/26/99 EOE**

3 Self Service Full Color Copiers

Full Color Copies
Canon 500
59¢
8 1/2 X 11

Great for
Designers and
Artists!!

2445 4th Ave. So.
Suite 100
Seattle, WA. 98134
Phone (206) 467-0332
Fax (206) 467-0275

PRINT KING & COPY Inc.
Your Complete Business Service Center

3 Blocks
South of the Kingdome

AFRICA, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

were not intimidated by the system at all. They spoke out forcefully and seriously in defense of themselves. What was going on in that courtroom was nothing like my professors said it was supposed to be like. I was shocked. I decided that I did not want to be like the judge, the prosecuting attorney, or even the so-called defense attorney. I made the decision that I did not want to go to law school. I do not regret it because with the teachings of John Africa, I am equipped, as are all MOVE people, to represent myself in court or any other situation.

RC: Can you summarize the teachings of John Africa?

AFRICA: Very simply: Life. To be respectful, revere and be protective of all that is life. John Africa teaches us that there are just two things: life system and this man-made system. Everything that comes from life is necessary and natural. It will not hurt you. But everything coming from man's system does hurt you. This system is invented by man, who is not perfect, so cannot create anything that is perfect. That is why we do not believe in this system. We believe in Life.

John Africa teaches that people worldwide must understand the need for revolution, and what true revolution is. People talk about freedom. Freedom is not going from a cell block to a street block. John Africa teaches that this system is the root of all of our problems. So the only way to truly be free is to free yourself from the system.

RC: There are almost two million people in prison in the United States today. What kind of strategies can we use to stop the expanding prison population?

AFRICA: MOVE's position is we go to the heart of the system because we are talking about eliminating it completely. Eliminating the mentality that causes prisons. At this point what people really need to understand is that people are not sent to prison because of crime. The criminals are the ones that build prisons and keep them going. The real criminals are those

who would put innocent people in prison.

A very crystallized example of this is I've got nine sisters and brothers in prison serving a total of 900 years for a murder that they did not commit. We have our brother Mumia Abu-Jamal sitting on death row for the accusation of a murder he did not commit. But these same officials sent hundreds of cops out to my house, to MOVE's home, and dropped a bomb on us. How is it that not one single official is sitting on death row next to Mumia for the murder of our family?

So what the people have to start doing is learning how to think correctly and not be relegated to zombies and robots of this system and just swallow everything this system feeds you. We know that prisons are not the solution to the problem of people. People will look at somebody that robs a bank and say that person is a criminal. But they are blind to the conditions that made that person desperate enough to rob a bank. You're going to have a problem as long as you have people who have a hundred times more than they need, while having other people who don't have one iota of what they need. You're going to have a problem because of that imbalance.

MOVE looks at resisters, at revolutionaries and the actions that people who resist and revolt against the system take. The system will label such people as criminals, but we know better. Resisting oppression is not a crime. It is an obligation. Not simply because I say so but that is what the Declaration of Independence tells people.

In the Declaration of Independence, it says that when the government proves to be a despot government operating against the interest of the people that it is not only your right but your duty to confront and, if necessary, abolish that government.

Obviously the prisons and justice systems have nothing to do with justice and righteousness and correction. Correction does not happen in prison. At this point officials come right out and tell people, "Look, we are not interested in correcting people, we're just trying to get them off the street." For what? John Africa teaches that if

you don't have a solution to people's problems then leave them alone. Leave 'em alone cause you can only make the problem worse.

RC: MOVE is obviously committed to stopping the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Who is Mumia and why does MOVE support his freedom?

AFRICA: Mumia is an innocent man, first and foremost. Secondly, we support Mumia the way we do because he was loyal to MOVE. Mumia was the only journalist who consistently and accurately reported on what was happening to MOVE. Mumia did something that other journalists did not do and that very simply is Mumia would come and interview MOVE. He would quote MOVE.

And that is why Mumia is such a threat to this system. That is why former Philadelphia mayor Frank Rizzo, at a press conference in 1978, after the first confrontation between MOVE and this system, pointed right at Mumia and told him he was going to be held accountable for his reporting against the police and all that. So Mumia put his future, his life on the line. Mumia gave his loyalty to MOVE and we can only be loyal to him.

RC: So where in the courts is his case right now?

AFRICA: Well, MOVE doesn't share the same faith in the courts that lawyers do. I especially don't share that because it was the federal district courts that told me during my federal suit about the bombing that no excessive force was used (laughs). It was the United States Supreme Court who ruled a few years ago in a case in Texas called the Herrera case that it is not illegal or unconstitutional to execute an innocent person. The Court ruled that as long as the person had a "fair trial," has exhausted their appeals, that at the point that person is about to be executed that innocence is not the issue. The Court said innocence

"Obviously the prisons and justice systems have nothing to do with justice and righteousness and correction. Correction does not happen in prison. At this point officials come right out and tell people, "Look, we are not interested in correcting people, we're just trying to get them off the street." For what?"

is irrelevant and proceeded to execute this person. So this is the federal courts that we are supposed to look to do right by Mumia?

It has always been the position of MOVE that Mumia's life is not in the court's hands, in the District Attorney's hand, in Governor Ridge's hand. Mumia's life is in our hands, in the hands of the people. It is up to us to decide what happens to Mumia.

We have the power to command and demand Mumia's release and the power to force these officials to do it. We just have to use that power we have—to flex the muscle that we have. But you know people have been so apathetic for so long that that muscle is weak and we have to build it up quick. If you do not use your arm, if you let it hang loose, what is going to happen to that muscle? Pretty soon you ain't even going to be able to raise your arm. Well, that is what is happening with the power of the people. If we don't use it then we lose it, you know. And we cannot afford to allow apathy to cost us the life of another freedom fighter.

If we sit back and allow Ridge to sign a death warrant for Mumia, we have signed our own death warrant. And MOVE understands that and we are trying to make other people understand that. ☐

Contact MOVE and the campaign to free the MOVE 9: PO Box 19709, Philadelphia PA 19143; <http://www.movellja.org>, www.movellja.org; (215)-476-9405

BILLINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

A small school community focusing on the education and development of middle school children, grades 6 to 8.

High School Preparation - American Sign Language
Professional Artists - Outdoor Program
Computer Skills - Environmental Responsibility

4273 Woodland Park Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington

(206) 547-4614

A night among friends

Join the Real Change crew and friends each third Friday for dinner and music in a warm and intimate setting. Children are free. Suggested donation, \$20. All proceeds benefit Real Change. Call 441-3247 for more information.

Friday, February 19

An unforgettable evening with glass harmonium player William Zeitler and then, as if that weren't cool enough, genius visual musician and juggler Thomas Arthur. Bring your kids.

Write On!

StreetWrites Is Good and Getting Better

BY RUTH A. FOX

Nineteen ninety eight was a year of great success for StreetWrites, the homeless writers' organization that operates through the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project (RCHEP). Co-facilitator Anitra Freeman and I are excited to report that workshop visions have become vibrant realities. And 1999 promises to bring more of the same, as well as opening up opportunities to expand.

Over the past year, we were able to provide three weekly workshops here at the *Real Change*, as well as one at Angeline's Day Center. We have also sold out of three printings of our first chapbook, "Bedless Bards," and have published the first issue of our quarterly zine, "Out of the Margins." All 1,000 copies have been distributed.

We performed at the Seattle Poetry Festival and at artsEdge, and shared the stage with Sherman Alexie. We gave readings for the homeless community several times, including on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our on-line group continues to be active and many more members have posted on our webpage. Our site is at <http://www.realchangenews.org/streetwrites>

Our most popular workshop is our Sunday performance workshop. Free brunch is provided courtesy of Noah's Bagels, Touchstone Bakery, and Kalani Organica Coffee. We all get a chance to strut our stuff, giving and getting feedback on what works and what doesn't. And once a month

we have an all-community open mike, featuring well-known local poets, open to everyone. (Hey, we'll even let Rod McKuen read.)

To celebrate six months of successful Sundays, we hosted a special holiday performance on December 6, featuring Jim Page, the folksinger who saved the streets for buskers, and Paul Nelson, co-founder of the Spokenword Lab (SPLAB) in Auburn, another community-building poetry organization.

Mr. Nelson also donated scholarships so StreetWrites members can attend workshops at SPLAB. This has been a wonderful experience and is in line with our goal to integrate with the larger writers' community. The more we can demonstrate our presence, the more we can work to break down stereotypes.

We kicked the new year off by performing in Tacoma as part of the Distinguished Writers Series, receiving not only payment but a standing ovation for our efforts. We are already booked for more such performances, and have applied to read again at the Poetry Festival and artsEdge, as well as at new venues.

Equally important to joining the larger community is reaching out to build community among ourselves. Creative expression is one of the most powerful means of human connection. Lack of connection is the root of homelessness. The primary purpose of StreetWrites is to share our skills and provide support for one another.

Our space here at *Real Change* is expanding to include room for our

growing library and publishing resources, more computer lab space, and a classroom. We want to provide more workshops, both on and off site, and be able to offer outlets for musical and dramatic performance. Also, we want to offer more in the way of utilizing writing to heal.

However, as always, our major need (other than money and supplies—donations are always gratefully accepted) is for people with facilitator capabilities willing to donate time and talents. Given our egalitarian nature, it is crucial that we find other folks who have had experience with poverty.

I know you're out there. Even if you've only couchsurfing or been on foodstamps or unemployment, you know what it's like. It's quite possible that you are homeless in denial. Deny it no longer! Come be part of a growing community of artists that will cheer your ups and comfort your downs, no matter what.

The hell with politics. I'm here for the real friendship and the gut-level honesty of experience and art. Just give us a call here at *Real Change* for more information. We're always happy to welcome you. ☺

"Creative expression is one of the most powerful means of human connection. Lack of connection is the root of homelessness. The primary purpose of StreetWrites is to share our skills and provide support for one another."

BLOOM, CONT. FROM PAGE 7

Coinciding with the loss of over 4,000 units in the 80s, we saw an explosion in the amount of homelessness, particularly concentrated in downtown. People who formerly could access an SRO for the night for a few bucks or \$40/week no longer could find those units.

"The effects of that redevelopment and growth and change weighed heavily on the downtown housing stock and the people who lived in those units, particularly seniors, older retirees, and people with alcohol and mental health disabilities, as the problem of homelessness became ever more acute. We also saw the lines go up for public housing as the waiting lists increased. More and more people were living on the margins, paying more than they could afford, living in substandard housing. As the problem began to permeate the larger community, it began to affect families. As more demolitions occurred citywide, as rents went up citywide, as housing prices went up, an increasing number of people dependent on a stock of low-income housing were affected."

At the beginning of his third term as Mayor of Seattle in 1985, Charles Royer said that the downtown building boom that had characterized

his earlier terms would continue unabated. These would come to include the transit tunnel, the convention center, the Westlake Park project, and more high-rise office construction. Remarkably, he also predicted that Seattle would be the first American city to solve its homelessness problem.

Shelter providers at the time said that it was the very downtown building boom that Royer celebrated that was causing the continuing loss of low-cost housing downtown and increasing the numbers of people who were homeless. We are still waiting for Royer's prediction about solving homelessness to pan out. ☹

David Bloom is the former Associate Director for Urban Ministry of the Church Council of Greater Seattle and a long-time local housing advocate. He originally delivered this address at the Community Conference on Homelessness, held last October at Antioch University. Rev. Bloom may be reached for speaking engagements or consultations with non-profit groups at 206-782-4151.


Next issue: Part two of Bloom's speech, which covers the role of the federal government and looks at specific populations of the homeless. Bloom also describes a glimmer of hope.

OLYMPIA FOOD CO-OP

Natural Foods Member-Owned
Now! Ask about our NEW Low-Income membership!


Eastside:
3111 Pacific - Olympia (360) 956-3870

Westside:
921 N. Rogers - Olympia (360) 754-7666



UNIQUE imported eyewear
GREAT vintage glasses!
MODERATE prices!

206-634-3375
4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
eye exams available




Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

Julia's OF WALLINGFORD

4401 Wallingford Ave N • Seattle, WA 98103
206-633-1175

Food with Thought • Groups Welcome • Wine & Microbrews



Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

CANDESS HODGES, MA

COUNSELING THROUGH LIFE'S TRANSITIONS

Relationships • Trauma
Loss/Grief • Identity
Lesbian & Gay Issues
SLIDING FEE SCALE
Capitol Hill... 206-325-7380

(Untitled)

I've been knocked down
knocked up
beat up
cheated and squeezed

I've cussed, been cussed
held up, held down
robbed and mugged

I've shot and been shot at
kicked on, kicked out
lied to and burned

Asked to help the AIDS funds
heart fund
children's relief
to join the Red Cross
Blue Cross
Purple Cross
Green Peace
Church

Been spit out, spit on
hated and booed

The only reason I'm sticking around now
is to see what in the hell is next.

—Anonymous

Remember

I remember the days
When i was not
SLAVE

to the tyranny
of Time...

When I slept when
I was tired,
Awakened
Refreshed,

When i was
Where i was
Supposed to be,
WHEN it was right,

When my daughter
Was peaceful
In the next room,

When the Machinery
Of the Universe

Was WITH me,

In love with Life...

TIME has
Settled my hand
Taking me prisoner,

Going On Forever...

I eat
(pretty much)
When i am hungry,

BUT ALWAYS
Within the framework
Not of my own
MAKING...

The World of Man
Has robbed me
Of my
Natural Cycles,

Leaving me an outcast
Of
My
Own
Life,

Estranged from my TRUTH.

(...Wondering if i can LIVE
in this city
Of brick and cement...)

"People make the
Earth EVIL,"
Says the Stranger...

—Marion Sue Fischer

One Lonely Old Man

One lonely old man
A widower
Kids long gone
Spending his sunset years
stands nondescript
at a supermarket exit.
I carry a bag out.
"Excuse me are you walking?"
"Yes"
"Can I give you a ride?"
"Sure"
"I just do this to help.
It's OK with the manager."
"Well you're certainly a big help"
but he was helping himself more.
It's a hard job
having nothing to do
and no one to care for.
It's not easy
playing the role
of invisible man
in the on-going soap opera
"Our Throwaway Society."
There's a need to be useful
There's a need to be noticed
There's a need
to fill up the day!
"Excuse me, are you walking.
Can I give you a ride?"

—Percy Hilo

The Paper Boy

BILLY WAS THE MORNING PAPER BOY. Every day he would get out of bed on his own in the quiet, empty darkness, throw his saddle bags over his head and silently slip out into the chilly, empty streets.

From blocks away Billy always felt a moth-like attraction to the dim glow of the bare bulb and the boys' muffled laughter hanging in the paperboy shack. He could always count on the other boys being there on those empty, birdless mornings. The one adult there was no more than a muffled shadow along the wall, a reminder that there was business to be done.

Billy didn't have a dad. He was making his own way, his own money. And his mother was quietly proud of her thirteen-year-old.

Billy was good at his job. He would deliver and collect on time. Everybody paid on time and he got a lot of tips on collection days. He liked everybody and everybody liked him. And Billy was

featured in the newspaper when he won an award from the city for paperboy of the year. Nat King Cole himself presented the award to him.

Boy, that was the day. The morning one of the boys at the shack shrieked out, "Billy's picture is in the paper!" That day 13-year-old Billy was the man.

Billy proudly served years of dark, empty mornings in the jungles of Vietnam. He kept that paper photo of him and Nat King Cole in his backpack. He made it back and got a job as an elevator repairman.

Billy lost his wife and children to empty, dark mornings in search of crack cocaine. Later he was found with his head caved-in from the blow of a baseball bat. He lived in a dark, empty coma for six months. Billy died early one chilly morning, probably delivering the paper to Nat King Cole.

This is a true story.

—David Bash

Depression

I. Descending

When simple chores do not get done
the laundry heaped for weeks unwashed
when the empty beer cans pile up
when the phone rings but you don't answer
and when never-finished poems...
because you can't complete a thought
and where the hell are your shoes?
Where the hell'd you leave
the Goddamn shoes?

Or maybe you find yourself
at the bottom of the stairs
but can't recall descending them
or why you'd have wanted to
so maybe you'll climb back up
but why?

The beer cans pile up
with simple chores
and unwashed laundry
heaped atop the phone
ringing unfinished poems
of how you found yourself
at the bottom of the stairs
without your shoes

and can't recall why
but maybe you'll climb back up
maybe you'll climb back up
maybe
but why?

II. Ascending

Why? Why should you climb back up?
Because you are alive and the living must *live!*
You can't stay down there
at the bottom of the stairs
among the dead and the soon to be dead
among the should be dead, the living dead
and those waiting to die

Because you are alive and the living must *live!*
You can't stay down there
at the bottom of the stairs
snoring in front of the TV set
in your dirty socks and jockey shorts
as the plans you had for your life
run off with another man

Because you are alive and the living must *live!*
You can't stay down there
at the bottom of the stairs
asleep at the wheel in a parking lot
your life up on cinder blocks, tires stolen
and you don't even realize it

Because you are alive and the living must *live!*
You can't stay down there
waiting for the end of striving to live
waiting for the flesh to fall from your bones
waiting for the worms to nest in your skull

Because you are alive and the living must *live!*
You can't stay down there
at the bottom of the stairs
among the dead and soon to be dead
among the should be dead, the living dead
and those waiting to die

You can't stay down there
so quit the baby-talk and climb back up!

—Steve Potter

ADVENTURES IN POETRY with © Dr. Wes Browning

Pissin' in the Wind

This issue I want to talk about plumbinglessness. I don't want to talk about individual plumbinglessness but since I can't spend an entire "column" talking about collective plumbinglessness, because I don't know that much about it, I will talk about something closely related to individual plumbinglessness. Namely, the subject of Mark Sidran having relieved himself inappropriately.

Now I don't really want to single Sidran out for this sort of discussion. I want to include prosecutors, and lawyers who have been prosecutors, like oh, I don't know, maybe Henry Hyde, Asa Hutchinson, or that Hamilton Ham-Burger creep that was always sneering at Perry Mason. But on my way to including them I'd like to make an example of Sidran, in obedience to the Silver Rule (Do Unto Others As They Do.)

Let's look at the record. Mark Sidran is a lawyer. Therefore he has a college degree. Therefore the facts indicate that Mark Sidran has been a college freshman.

At this point, Mr. Sidran might, *if he were honorable*, immediately confess that he has relieved himself inappropriately.

Or, he might not. But I ask you, the reader, to use your common sense!

Not only are talking here about a lawyer who has been a college freshman, but one who has a clear motivation to lie, until now, about having relieved himself inappropriately, *because he prosecutes other people for doing so.*

But let me suppose that you are not ready yet to accept that Mr. Sidran relieved himself inappropriately during the time that he was a college fresh-

man, in spite of the overwhelming proof based on circumstantial evidence, guilt by association, logical surmise, and that fact that over and over again I have been talking about Sidran relieving himself inappropriately.

In that case, let me remind you that we do not have to establish any one instance of inappropriate relief on Sidran's part in order to prove our case. It is enough to convince you that he has committed this act on at least one occasion, without actually having to specify that occasion.

I'd like to continue this discussion until you have all agreed with me in order to make me stop, but my space is up. Therefore I simply will remind you, my reader, of your wisdom, and encourage you to look deeply into this matter as you have always done in the past. And having looked deeply, come to know, deep in your hearts, that Mr. Sidran has relieved himself inappropriately.

So let's talk about collective plumbinglessness. The first thing that I learned about this when I started studying it last night is that at one time all of Peoplekind were plumbingless.

In fact, the word 'plumbing' is Latin for 'Lead-Pipes-R-Us', and there was no plumbing at all until the Dawn of the Lead Age, which in turn had to wait until about twelve hours after the Twilight of the Get the Lead Out Age. So there was a long time, before that, that people had to relieve themselves inappropriately, *for eons.*

Even after there was plumbing it might have been better if there weren't. Science now knows that the widespread use of lead pipes causes guys to wear dresses, have sex with their sisters, sleep with horses, and, eventu-

ally, to allow their cities to be overrun by Swedes, Norwegians, Finns, and Canadians. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

In fact Swedes and Norwegians *did* overrun the main city of the Latins whom I mentioned above, but unlike certain patronymic precursors of Henry Hyde, who had previously overrun it, they stayed (and he has had the gaul to complain about that?)

Well, anyway, one thing lead to another (Get it? Ha, ha: 'lead to!') and pretty soon no-one trusted plumbing anymore. So even though there was still plenty of lead to go around, everybody went back to doing it in the river for about a thousand years.

Why did they stop? Was it because some prosecutor stepped in and said, look here, these Dark Ages must end or you are all going to jail!? Or was it because people started to get the idea that plumbing was a good public investment after all?

Yes, it was. And there are still other good public investments that may yet be made. ☐





WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT FARESTART

- Daily Lunch Buffet at our Cafe
Second and Virginia
206-443-1233
- Guest Chef Night every Thursday
featuring Seattle's finest Chefs
- Visit the new FareStart Cafe
at Antioch University
Sixth and Battery • 206-374-8897

For information on our program or reservations call 206-443-1233

SAME GREAT FOOD • SAME GREAT PROGRAM

www.realchange.org • February 15, 1999 Real Change

Seattle Volunteer

www.speakeasy.org/~seavol

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS resolve everyday conflicts by volunteering at the Dispute Resolution Center. Basic conflict resolution training provided free in return for 9-month service commitment. Day and evening slots available. Training class now forming. Call 206-443-9603 for information packet.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS WITH HEART. Volunteers are needed 1-2 hours a week to deliver food to elderly and disabled clients at or below the poverty level. Volunteers are responsible for delivering to approximately 10 families in close proximity to one another. Please call the Food Bank at St. Mary's at 206-324-7100, x23.

BOOKS TO PRISONERS. Our all-volunteer collective sends books to men and women in prisons nationwide. We need you to simply open letters and choose books from our library to match. Promote literacy, education, empowerment, and social justice. Mon at 10 PM, Wed at 5 PM-midnight. 1404 18th (and Union), Seattle. 320-0618 or jargon@uwashington.edu 11/5/98

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED. Multi-Service Centers in desperate need of volunteers to pick-up and deliver donations from local grocery stores on a weekly basis. Five different locations available on the Eastside. Volunteer hours range between 1-3 hours per week. For more info call Oanh at (425) 869-6066.

CASA LATINA, a non-profit organization serving the homeless and immigrant population in Downtown Seattle, is in need of enthusiastic volunteer English teachers for our daytime ESL classes. Training provided. One year commitment required. Knowledge of Spanish helpful. Please call 382-1919 for more info.

FEMALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Rose of Lima Transitional Housing for homeless women. We are looking for committed women to sleep over or coordinate activities. For more information, call 328-5730.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FOUNDATION TAF's mission is to bring computers to communities of color. TAF's Technical Teens program needs volunteers to write and teach curriculum in 5 areas: web design, web programming, networking, hardware, and

advanced MS Office. Call Sarah Reynolds, 725-9095.

FIRST PLACE IS A MODEL SCHOOL and Therapeutic Center for low-income and homeless children and their families that fosters hope, promotes stability, and provides resources for self-sufficiency. Volunteers support First Place in a plethora of ways. Contact Robin F. Counts for details 223-6715. 11/5/98

THE COMMON CENTS CAMPAIGN is a combination coin drive/educational campaign to benefit homeless children in Seattle. We need responsible people to help with material delivery and classroom workshops. There are many opportunities to volunteer from March through May. Call 461-3883.

REAL CHANGE/RCHP needs volunteers for a wide variety of tasks. Front desk volunteers serve vendors 2 hrs a week. StreetWrites needs a driver to pick up food donations Sunday AM. We are also looking for Computer Center Interns for 10 hours per week. Minimum commitment of 3 months for all positions. Call Michele at 441-3247 for more info.

THE SHAREHOUSE collects quality furniture and household items to give to homeless families moving into permanent housing. The Sharehouse needs volunteers at its University District office to help with warehouse and donation pickup scheduling. Time commitment is 3 hrs/week. If interested, please call Young Kim at 527-5956 or 525-1213.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA GREENWOOD FOOD BANK needs volunteers to deliver groceries to home-bound clients and pick up food from grocery stores. Must be friendly, reliable, and have your own truck or van. Regular (once per week) and substitute drivers needed, Monday and Wednesday mornings. Call 782-6731.

HELP "ADDRESS" THE HOUSING CRISIS. Fun office needs help updating rolodexes, other small tasks. Seattle-King County Housing Development Consortium (SHDC) is the association of non-profit housing developers working to increase the quality and supply of decent, safe, affordable housing in King County. Call 682-9541 to make a difference. 9/3/98

HELP THE HOMELESS by volunteering at Downtown Emergency Service Center, Seattle's largest multi-service center/shelter for homeless men and women. Community volunteer drivers are needed to pick up donations for our shelter, mental health and housing programs. Training provided. 6-month commitment. Call David Strong at 464-1570 x3003

RELIABLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Seattle Children's Home's Street Links outreach program. Go out on our van between 8:00 pm to 2:00 am., assist driver and other professionals in providing basic needs (such as food, clothing, and hygiene supplies) for Seattle's homeless teens. Carol Fleagle, 206-298-9600, voice mail box 9838.

FOOD NOT BOMBS is a hunger relief volunteer collective that serves vegetarian meals to those in need every Sunday evening in downtown Seattle. To join us or to donate food or cooking equipment, call Jenny at 402-1857, or Chris at 860-3922, or Marsha at 789-9800. Meetings at Green Tortoise Hostel Sundays at 1:30.

HELP ADULT IMMIGRANTS LEARN ENGLISH or help native English-speaking adults improve their basic skills and prepare for the GED test. Volunteers work in classrooms under the direction of our teachers. Classes are large and your help will really be appreciated. Call Arlene Springer at North Seattle Community College- 528-4558.

UNIVERSITY YOUTH SHELTER Volunteers are needed to help maintain a safe and welcoming environment for youth ages 13 - 20. Kind, committed, outgoing

individuals needed for overnight and evening shifts Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Call Rachael Myers, 525-1213 x4204.

ATLANTIC STREET CENTER Tutor: Provide homework assistance or in-class tutoring to elementary, middle school or high school students. Locations in north, central, and west Seattle, Federal Way, and Highline. Times and days vary. Call Ginger Seybold, 329-2050.

FIRST PLACE is a model School and Therapeutic Center for low income and homeless children and their families that fosters hope, promotes stability, and provides resources for self-sufficiency. Consider being a Teacher's Assistant, Lunchroom Assistant, Receptionist, Mentor, or Activities Leader. Call Robin F. Counts at 323-6715.

SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION seeks applicants for a commitment of 15-20 hours per month for work on issues of economic justice, police-community relations, and youth and schools. Call Paula Harris-White at 684-4540

Beautifully illustrated 36" x 24" botanical prints: NW Woodland Wildflowers, Garden Herbs, Hummingbird Garden and NW Native Trees Series

"Horticultural Fine Art!"
- Sunset Magazine

\$16.99
\$30 laminated

free catalog...
1-800-631-3086

GOOD NATURE PUBLISHING COMPANY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Art for your inner master gardener

www.goodnaturepublishing.com

Lesbian Health Matters

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR YEARLY HEALTH EXAM & PAP TEST

Lesbian women need yearly pap tests and breast exams. Early detection can catch problems when they're most treatable.

You deserve good health care. And there are many lesbian-friendly health care providers in this area. If cost is a problem, there are free or low-cost services available.

For more information, please call the Seattle-King County Dept. of Public Health at 1-800-756-5437.

This message is brought to you by:
Seattle-King County Dept. of Public Health
The Seattle City Council
The Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities

Shop the Millionair Club Thrift Store
"Hip clothes at hip prices in a hip neighborhood"

Corner of Second and Blanchard
in Belltown

Store Hours
Tues-Sat
10am - 4pm

Open during construction

THE MILLIONAIR CLUB

Cheap, Not Quack! (206) 623-7777

All Major Brands: NEW, USED & CLOSEOUTS

- Office Systems
- Chairs
- Bookcases
- Computer Furniture
- Desks
- Files

Low, low prices, huge selection & the friendliest staff!

Save 10% THE DUCK CLUB JOIN FOR FREE

Ducky's Office Furniture
Open 6 Days a Week • 1111 Mercer Street • Easy Freeway Access • Free Parking

FEBRUARY

NOTABLES

Former assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Dennis Halliday and recent Iraq returnee Phyllis Bennis will speak about the devastating and murderous effects of UN imposed **sanctions on the people of Iraq**; 7 pm, at Kane Hall, UW; info 206-789-5565 **2/15**

Coordinating committee meeting for **International Women's Day** event on Sun March 7 at Seattle Center House, planning 8 to 12 issue workshops; all interested people are invited; (also subsequent Thursdays until March 4); 7:30 am, at Jobs with Justice office, 3rd and Cedar, Musician's Union Bldg; info Carol 206-328-9637, femme2@scn.org, or http://www.scn.org/basecamp **2/18**

Video screening and Black History Month Celebration: two films of America's trailblazing, multi-racial, all-women jazz band of the 1940's: *International Sweethearts of Rhythm* and *Tiny & Ruby: Hell Divin' Women* Dinner, with vegetarian option, available at 6:30 pm for a \$6.50 donation, followed by films at 7:30 pm; New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S; wheelchair accessible; info Radical Women 206-722-6057 or 722-2453

Seattle Musicians Assoc. Local 76- 493, AFM and labor Party Seattle Chapter present the **Labor Video Series "Struggles in Steel,"** the story of black workers struggle against racism in the steel industry, 7 pm, at Seattle Musicians' Union Hall, 2620 - 3rd Ave at Cedar; info 206-382-5712 **2/19**

Educational meeting with Nancy Amidei on "Human Needs and Legislative Issues in Washington State," presented by Seattle Women Act for Peace and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; 11 am, at 3842 NE 90th St. near 35th Ave NE; RSVP 206-523-1127 **2/21**

Meeting of Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation, with local activist and alternative media pundit **Geov Parrish** on "International Arms Trade: Local and International Consequences;" 5 pm, at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N 70th near Greenwood; info 206-789-5565

Monthly meeting of **Citizens for Proportional Representation**; discuss the idea that much more fair election systems exist in most of the rest of the democratic world; 6:30 pm, at University District Public Library, NE 50th & Roosevelt Way; info Janet Anderson 206-285-2460, cpr-info@eskimo.com, http://www.eskimo.com/~robla/cpr, or http://www.fairvote.org **2/22**

Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia general monthly action planning meeting (also subsequent third Mondays); 7 pm, at University Baptist Church, 4554 - 12th Ave NE; info 206-547-0952

Meeting to plan local responses to the impending execution of African American activist and journalist **Mumia Abu-Jamal**, whose appeal was denied in Pennsylvania's Supreme Court; 7 pm, (or come early at 6 pm to help make posters, etc) at 2222 - 2nd Ave, 2nd floor, between Blanchard & Bell in Belltown; (also every other Tuesday); info on the case http://www.mumia.org, local Seattle Mumia Defense Committee info 206-728-9781, dante@halcyon.com, or http://www.speakeasy.org/~smdc **2/23**

Green Party of Seattle monthly general meeting, come, become a part of Seattle's progressive political option. 7 pm (and subsequent last Tuesdays), at NE 50th & University Way NE, U Heights Center district. For info about the Greens 206-215-1158 or sgreens@boutell.com or PO Box 95515, Seattle WA 98145- 2515, or http://boutell.com/seagreens

National Students and Youth Day of Action to defend affirmative action; info Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) at bamn1@hotmail.com or 510-895-3068 or http://www.bamn.com **2/24**

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project Anniversary Celebration, dance to live band music by Yerba Buena among the schools of fish; hors d'oeuvres, suggested donation \$35, 6 - 9 pm at Seattle Aquarium; info Shari Iretton 206-587-4009 x104

International Women's Day planning meeting for local events (see details 2/18) **2/25**

Tenants Union Annual Membership Meeting, all members and prospective members encouraged to show up for lively review of year's ups and downs, plan for 1999, hear a keynote speaker (TBA) and special guest poet Koon Woon, reading from his book *The Truth in Rented Rooms*. 10 am - noon, CAMP, 722 - 18th Ave off Cherry; info Sara, 722-6848 x104 **2/27**

Seattle Progressive Coalition meeting, a group coming together for the purpose of placing progressives onto the Seattle City Council in the 1999 election; 1:30 pm (note changed time), at CAMP, Central Area Motivation Program, 722 - 18th at Columbia; info Curt Firestone 206-329-1048 or Charlotte Carroll 206-324-9712

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Author Marnie Mueller reading from her new book *The Climate of the Country* (1999, Curbstone): "A compelling novel of sorrow, idealism and loyalty documenting how Japanese Americans were driven from their American homes into American concentration camps and how they struggled honorably to preserve their dignity in the face of insult and exile." — Grace Paley. 7:30 pm, free, Elliott Bay Books, 1st and Main in Pioneer Square, info 624-6600 **3/1**

Nonviolence Dialog Group, informative discussions on all issues concerning nonviolence, 7 - 8:30 pm (and subsequent 1st Mondays), at Christ Episcopal Church, 47th & Brooklyn Ave. NE, Wilson Hall, enter on 47th; info Andrea Franklin 206-236-9536

Meeting of **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 (also subsequent first Tuesdays) 6 pm, locations vary, Seattle, info 206-824-8229 **3/2**

Eat The State! monthly business meeting for independent print and electronic weekly. Come opine, meet, volunteer. "How do we do it every week? People like you!" 7 pm (also subsequent first Tuesdays), info 206-215-1156

Jobs With Justice Seattle organizing committee meeting, 5:30 pm Labor Temple, 2800 - 1st Ave (also subsequent first Wednesdays) info 206-441-4969 **3/3**

Meeting of Latino workers to discuss activism to achieve better wages, medical insurance, pensions; in Spanish with translation to English available (also subsequent first Wednesdays); 7 pm, at Labor Temple, Hall 8, 2800 - 1st Ave; info Jose 800-202-1433 or Jimmy 800-202-9748

"Diversity in High Tech: Organizing to Increase Access After I-200," forum co-sponsored by SBOVS, Small Business Owners of WA. Issues include: How can high tech workers expand opportunities for women and people of color in the high-tech industry? How can we as parents secure better access for our children? Come discuss these issues with a panel of people engaged in education, community outreach, and high-tech organizing; sponsors include Washington Women United, WashTech (Washington Alliance of Technology Workers), 7:30 pm, at Garfield Community Center, 2323 E. Cherry; info Andrea de Majewski, WashTech, 206-726-8580 or demajewski@worldnet.att.net, Washington Women United 360-754-9880, or Office@washingtonwomenunited.org

Daily picket to **support striking musicians** at the Civic Light Opera theater. Ironically, CLO is now performing "Rags," a pro-union musical, but refuses to recognize and bargain with the musicians' union, chosen by employees. 11051 - 34th Ave. NE in Lake City, two miles east of Northgate Mall; info AFM Local 76- 493, 206-441-7600 or ssaraht@aol.com **ONGOING**

Call state representatives to request that they sponsor a bill to repeal the state law that restricts cities from having any **rent control ordinances** (RCW 35.21.830). Rep. Frank Chopp (co-speaker of the House) 206-389-2410, chopp_fr@leg.wa.gov; Rep. Velma Veloria (Housing committee) 206-762-7855, veloria_ve@leg.wa.gov; Sen. Margareta Prentice (Housing committee) 360-786-7450, prentice_ma@leg.wa.gov; Sen. Jeanne Kohl (supportive, needs to hear from us) 206-281-5493 or kohl_je@leg.wa.gov; Sen. Adam Kline 206-625-0800 or kline_ad@leg.wa.gov; info Judy Nicastro 206-595-4939

Emergency response plan if **US bombs anywhere**, meet at Seattle Federal Building, 2nd Ave. between Madison and Marion, at 5 pm, day after such action is announced (up to midnight Seattle time), info Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia 206-547-0952

Censure and Move On campaign, sign on to get country back to its business by electronic petition at http://www.moveon.org, also "Enough" campaign has buttons and bumper stickers, info 206-443-1990 or cconnects@aol.com

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

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 pm), at Rain City Video, Fremont, Ballard, Sunset Hill; Video Vertigo, 913 East Pike; Broadway Video, Broadway Market; Scarecrow Video, 5030 Roosevelt Way; also Sundays on Channel 29 at 8 pm info 206-344-6434 or citizen@speakeasy.org

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



Mar. 1, Marni Mueller at Elliott Bay

Stop the Clock!

Support a Kinder, Gentler Welfare Law

The CPP seeks to provide you with the views and concerns that homeless, poor, and working peoples' 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 your participation in the legislative process a good experience. Indeed, something that you want to do.

ISSUE: The Welfare Reform Law passed a year ago put a cumulative five-year lifetime limit on how long individuals in Washington State can receive TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families).

This limit is imposed on every Washington parent regardless of the family's circumstances. That means all parents face the possibility of losing federal assistance, including parents who have permanent disabilities or are caring for disabled children, grandparents who are the primary caregivers of their grandchildren, parents or students who are employed, but due to other laws and unfair wages, still live in poverty and qualify for minimal TANF grants.

One solution for relief is for the state legislature to "stop the clock" for these groups, extending their eligibility for TANF and giving them more support to break the cycles of poverty.

BACKGROUND: The five year limit was instituted as an incentive to get people engaged with work, treatment, or other activities that get them off welfare. But the laws do not reward people who do participate, allow understanding for families in violent situations or medical emergencies, or have enough flexibility to handle other special cases.

The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition reports that about 20,000 parents statewide earn wages but earn so little that they still receive a welfare grant. Every month they receive that grant (often a small one) they use up one month of their 60 month limit.

Parents who participate in the WorkFirst program or in drug

or alcohol counseling, job search or job training programs receive no exemption from time limits. (The State of Oregon, on the other hand, does "stop the clock" for participants in their programs.)

Parents of children with disabilities are not easily deferred from the work requirement even if they have proper medical documentation. Many suffer unfair penalties for non-compliance with the system.

Welfare advocates recommends that the State Legislature allow for exemptions or deferments for the five year limit on benefits for the following groups: parents who are caring for a disabled child or relative; disabled persons; grandparents of other non-parent caretakers 55 years of age or older; parents with children under 12 months; persons unable to find childcare; victims of domestic violence; and persons working at least 20 hours a week but still receiving a welfare grant.

These proposals, say advocates, are permitted under federal law. They will take no new funds, and actually would not cost the state anything until some families reach their five year limit. Then the state can use some of the savings from welfare reform. Legislators will have hearings soon on the issues, and can use your input now.

ACTION NEEDED/ RECOMMENDED MESSAGE: Call your state legislators and tell them you support fair and flexible time limits to meet the needs of Washington's families. The welfare reform law needing amendment is RCW.74.08A.010, and the Legislative Hotline number is 1-800-562-6000.

Real Change/RCHEP
2129 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121



Seattle Public Library, Serials Unit
1000 Fourth Ave.
Seattle WA 98104