

JULY 1999

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# Real CHANGE

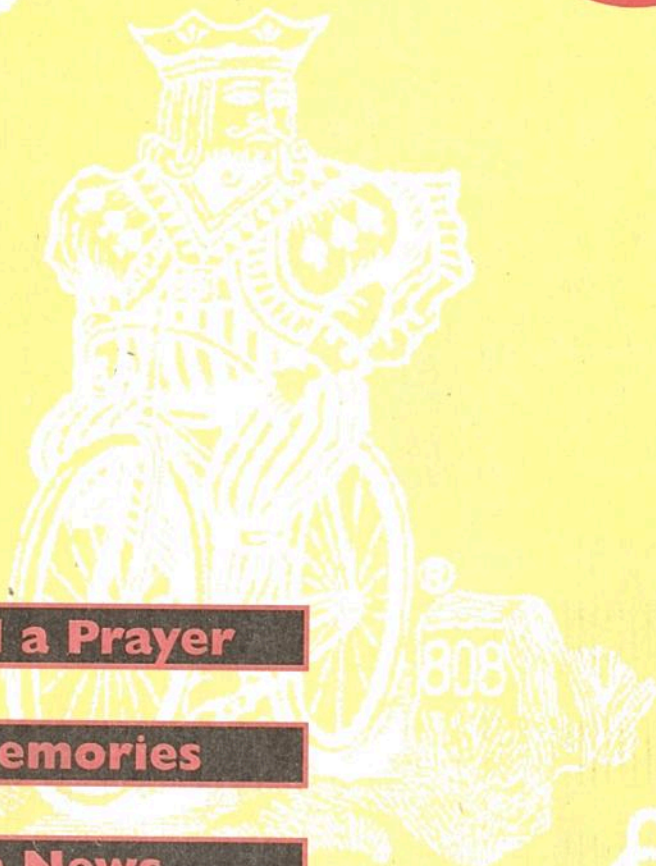
VOL. 6, NO. 13, JULY, 1999

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**A Wish and a Prayer**

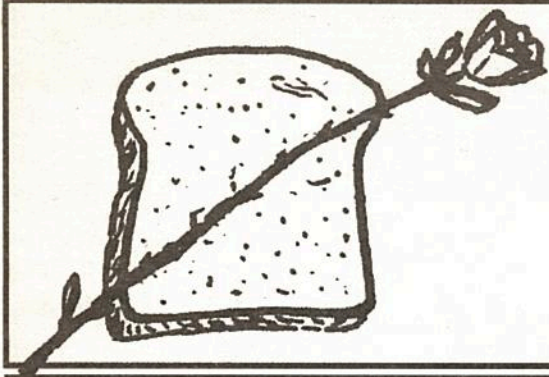
**Vietnam Memories**

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



# Real CHANGE

Puget Sound's  
Newspaper of the Poor  
and Homeless

2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121 (206) 441-3247 www.realchangenews.org rchange@speakeasy.org

## What Doesn't Kill You ...

### A Conversation with Philip H. Red Eagle

INTERVIEW BY JOAN PLIEGO

**P**hilip H. Red Eagle is the author of *Red Earth: A Vietnam Warrior's Journey* (reviewed in *Real Change*, 6/1/99). Born in Tacoma and raised in the Northwest, he also lived for a time in Alaska, where he graduated from high school in 1963. After struggling with college and roaming Alaska for four years, he enlisted in the Navy in January of 1967, and did three overseas tours between 1968 and 1973: two on Navy destroyers and one "in-country" Vietnam tour from August 1970 to January 1972.

Red Eagle finished with the Navy in 1976, eventually earning two degrees from the University of Washington. He now resides in Tacoma, where he cares for his parents and publishes the *Raven Chronicles* literary magazine.

His book *Red Earth*, now in its second printing, won Red Eagle the First Book Award for Prose from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas.

Native American scholar Craig Womack, writing in *Native Americas* (Ithaca, NY: Akwekon Press) says that Red Eagle is the first to ask this radical question: "What does it mean to cast Vietnam in the context of sacred story, sacred vision?" By doing this, says Womack, Red Eagle "moves traditional narrative beyond ethnography to contemporary relevancy."

Writer Joan Pliego talked to the author about that relevancy, for his own life and for society at large.

**REAL CHANGE:** In what ways has the publication of *Red Earth* impacted your life? Are you happy with the results?

**PHILIP RED EAGLE:** I feel grateful that the book's out and that I was even able to get published. I feel like it's on the path of developing writing in the native community and helping, in the multi-cultural community as well, to bring a new voice. I never intended to become the voice, but I did. I didn't know that I was going to break down over Vietnam. That's one of the things they never tell you about going to war. I was thinking the other day about the phrase, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." There's a whole lot left out of that. What doesn't

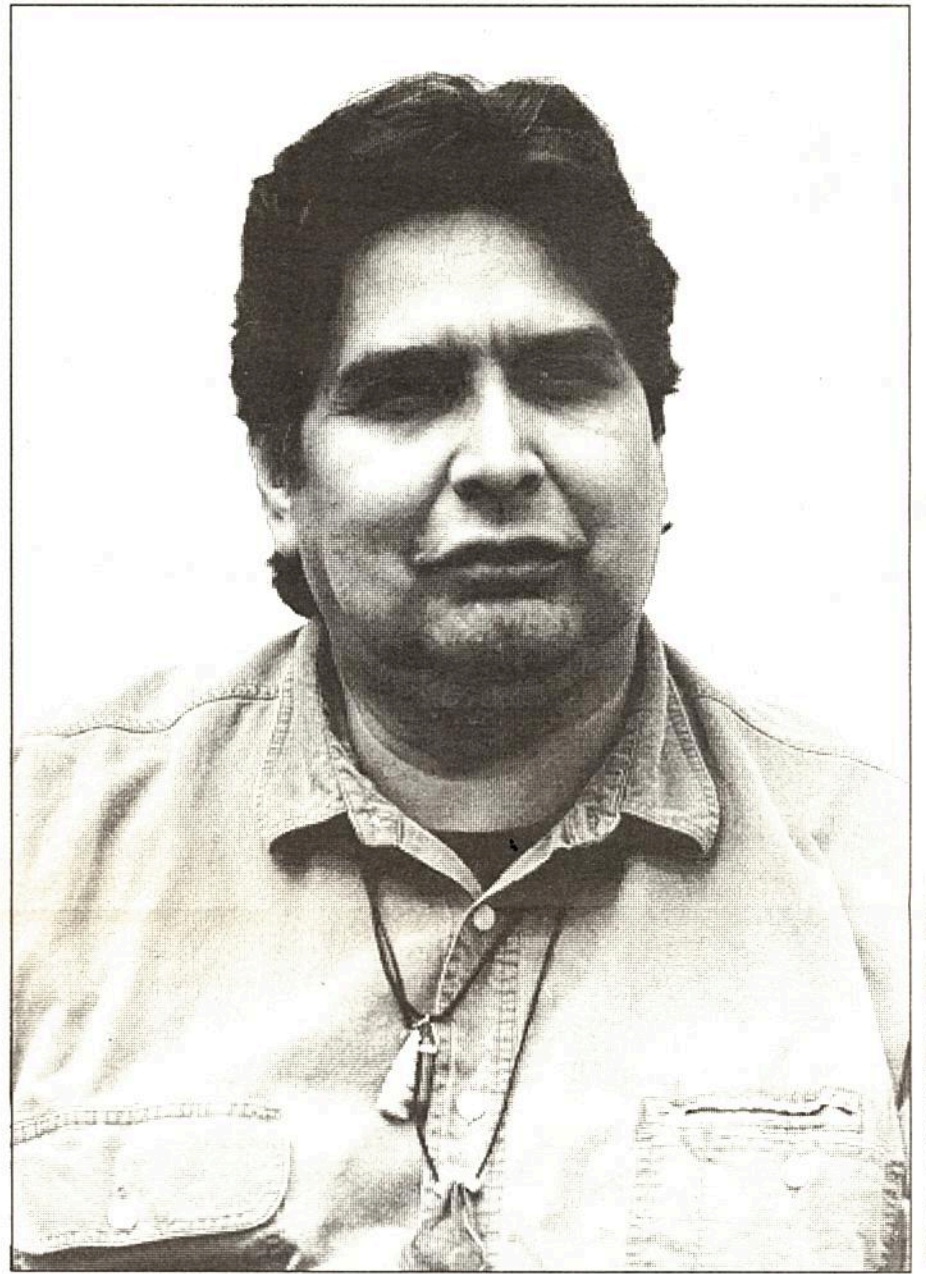


PHOTO COURTESY PHILIP RED EAGLE

kill you gives you nightmares and a miserable life for 17 or 20 years. And if you manage to figure that out and get into some kind of healing, then you get stronger.

**RC:** Do your memories of the war enter your mind daily?

**RED EAGLE:** No, they used to. And then I went through the healing process. I went back to the native culture and began exploring various ceremonies and getting involved in re-culturation, which is the work I do: to try to bring back

*Continued to page 6*

## A Wish and a Prayer

### Gambling offers false hope and regressive taxation

BY DELILAH JEAN WILLIAMS

**A** recent television commercial shows a young couple discussing their future as they stroll along. The pregnant wife asks if they are financially ready for the arrival of their child. The husband responds with something about not winning the lottery yet, but he reassures her that he is a lucky guy.

"We only have four weeks to go!" she says with alarm.

"Yeah, that gives us FOUR more chances to win!" he replies.

This dream world scenario is a common symptom of compulsive gamblers, according to Gamblers Anonymous. Gamblers, including lottery players, picture themselves making the big score that will elevate them to financial prosperity and success. For the poor and disadvantaged, gambling can be an act of desperation to escape a life of poverty. Perhaps just the dream of winning is worth risking their last dollar for the fleeting bit of comfort it might provide.

"Hope overpowers logic," says Dr. Charles Mauer of the Washington State Council on Prob-

lem Gambling. Mauer feels that when a poor person is compelled to buy a lottery ticket, with one in seven million odds, it reflects on the dream projected by advertising, the "betting on hope" image that is strategically associated with gambling.

"All forms of gambling require us to suspend reality," Mauer says. "To suspend logic makes it easier to fantasize, particularly for people who don't have much to lose. A big gambling loss would not mean the same to Michael Jordan as it would to an individual who puts up the food or mortgage money."

*Continued to page 9*

**Take Action!**  
5 minutes of your time can make  
a difference. See page 16.

# Real CHANGE

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

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On the Web at  
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*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.

## Vendor of the Month

## Tina Backenstock

Tina is a much loved presence here at *Real Change*. She quietly exudes a natural kindness and generosity that lightens up the office every time she steps in. Born in Utah City, she has spent the majority of her life here in Seattle. She likes it here, and lucky for us, has no plans of leaving.

When Tina was born, her mother suffered a high fever that gave Tina brain damage. This was further complicated when she was struck with polio at a young age. Today, Tina gets along with the help of her family and friends. She is very close to her mother, who also lives in the city.

Tina first came to *Real Change* after friends encouraged her to give it a try.



"It's a pretty good job. Nobody bothers me, it's good money...enough for food and the stuff I need," she says. "*Real Change* has made a big difference for me." Tina can usually be found in the afternoons selling the paper around 15th Avenue on Capitol Hill. She plans to continue to sell the paper and eventually work her way into another job. "I get so restless. I can't just stay in one place!" Congratulations, Tina, for all your hard work. For being vendor of the month, Tina gets a free meal for two at Common Meals and 100 free papers.

—Michele Thomas

## MAILBAG

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### Dead Horse Redux

Dear *Real Change*,

I just finished reading Bob Redmond's recent opinion piece on the Parks Exclusion Ordinance, and I felt compelled to reply. He makes some excellent points, but I was disappointed with his implication that racism or fear of the homeless is the basis of the ordinances ("middle-class white people feel safer if you remove the homeless, Blacks, Indians, Hispanics, and the diseased").

I support the homeless, and yet I do not believe that turning all our public parks into campgrounds or tent cities is a viable solution. I am

sympathetic to the plight of alcoholics and other substance abusers, and yet I would be foolish to ignore the link between substance abuse and crime (violent and otherwise), and tolerate these behaviors in my neighborhood. Does that make me a racist?

Realistically, a solution to the problem of homelessness is still far off, and in the meantime people need a place to sleep. Likewise, people will drink and do drugs in public, whether we like it or not. But the fact that people do not support throwing open our parks as a "temporary" solution to these issues does not make them racist, or fearful, or even unsympathetic.

Of course, it's easier to demonize people than it is to address their very real concerns, isn't it?

Andrew Wilson

### Lines in the Sidewalk

Dear *Real Change*,

The May 15th, 1999, edition of *Real Change* featured a letter to the editor entitled "Neurotic Nordy's" by Stori (vendor #1331).

My concern is centered on the civil rights of all persons adjacent to the Nordstrom building. There are two issues that come to mind: 1) private property vs. public property and the hypocrisy of selective law enforcement by private security guards and or the Seattle Police Department.

Most sidewalks in Seattle are public property. Anyone at anytime can utilize the sidewalks and streets unless they are secured by firefighting, police, or construction activities. Private property is restricted by the

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# Declaration of Independence

Move over Thomas Jefferson, StreetWrites is here

United by need and blessed by mercy, humans serve one another and are thus assured of peaceful existence. But there are yet some who would seek to dominate and chastise those who appear to be weak. Armed with our traditions of law, the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the people of our Fifty States still have much work to do to produce the stable, living Republic of which we have dreamed since the first Fourth of July.

## StreetWrites

Our founding members declared that all human beings had certain basic rights, including the right to resist and to change any government that violated those basic conditions of human dignity. Today we find our own government repeating the very violations of which King George was accused in 1776:

*He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance. The majority of funds directed to Welfare and other homeless services end up being eaten by administrations.*

*... protecting [his Officers], by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States... Police who kill*

are given mock trials, if any. Convictions for abuse are rare.

*...For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury... Park Exclusion Ordinance. ('Nuff said.)*

The Bill of Rights, Article IV, declares: *The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated...* The only people who are given respect for their persons, papers, and effects, are those who have houses. Those who sleep outside or huddled in doorways, with no alternative, have no right of privacy — not in the pitiful few feet of their “home,” their few possessions, or their persons. A policeman can tromp through your campsite or come poking through your tent whenever he pleases. When almost any citizen is arrested, all their possessions must be returned to them on their release, and are supposed to be all present and in good condition. But the possessions

of those arrested for sleeping on public land are trashed, bulldozed, or “lost in the system.”

*The King of England was accused of abdicating government on this continent “by declaring us out of his Protection.”*

**“We do not advocate a violent revolution. But we have learned from Martin Luther King, Jr., and from Mohandas Gandhi that every human has the moral power and duty to stand before their community and say, ‘You are doing wrong. You have no right to do this thing.’”**

*The King of England was accused of dividing the country to keep it conquered, as he forced Americans to take up arms against each other. American politi-*

cians today rant about “Welfare Moms” and the crimes of the poor against the taxpayers — while American businessmen profit from their employees’ fear of becoming unemployed and homeless. As a result, employees don’t organize for a livable wage and necessary medical benefits.

We do not advocate a violent revolution. But we have learned from Martin Luther King, Jr., and from Mohandas Gandhi that every human has the moral power and duty to stand before their community and say, “You are doing wrong. You have no right to do this thing.”

We have strayed from our founding dream. Whether or not we choose the Fourth of July at the turn of the Millennium as the time to bring ourselves back, this dream is not going to die. The human spirit is the foundation of all social order, and respect for the rights of the individual is the moral basis of our ability to live with each other “in peaceful existence.” Respect for the rights of all individuals. ☐

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## 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*.

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## Nordstrom's Heart of Gold

**R**eal Change has learned that Nordstrom Vice President Bruce Nordstrom and his wife Jeannie will donate \$750,000 to Angeline's Day Center for women. The donation will go towards the construction of a brand new facility for Angeline's, a project of the YWCA.

Diane Powers, Regional Director of Homeless Services for the YWCA, said that Angeline's saw the number of women using their facility jump 300% in the past year, from 50-80 to 150-250 women per day. "I was seeing 50 to 70 brand new women we'd never seen before," said Powers. "We were scrambling just to provide lunch every day."

It was because of such need that Mayor Schell allocated \$500,000 last spring to address the problem. *Real Change* called on Nordstrom's, which had benefited from millions of dollars in controversial public subsidies, to match the Mayor's pledge.

While Nordstrom's resisted public pressure and an eventual picket during the holidays, Co-President Blake Nordstrom did admit at the time that he was talking with Rita Ryder, Director of the YWCA, "to have a game plan by spring that will have a meaningful impact on homelessness."

The Nordstrom family would not confirm or deny the donation or its amount.

The YWCA is currently seeking a site for the brand new facility, which will include an expanded space for day programs, 120 units of new low-income housing, and increased on-site services. Projected opening is in mid-2002.

**NEWS**  
**YOU CAN**  
**USE**  
**CLOSE TO HOME**

## Sidran:

### "no answer" for homeless

**R**emember Socrates? OK, how about Lieutenant Columbo? They always had "one small question." So did Operatio Nightwatch Director Rev. Rick Reynolds, who addressed his question twice in the past three months to City Attorney Mar Sidran. The question is, *where can a homeless person sleep without breaking the law?*

With the dignity that characterizes Nightwatch — a homeless person's last official hope of finding an empty shelter bed at night — Reynolds waited for his reply. Two weeks ago, it came.

Playing Cleon to Reynolds' Socrates, Sidran wrote a one and a half page letter, saying, "I do not think there is an answer to your question." Reynolds was gracious in his assessment. "[Sidran] didn't have much choice. Anything he said would have been used as fodder to force the city to allow camping." Reynolds says he'll appeal next to the city council for an opinion. "It's a public policy issue that the city council needs to deal with."

That council, however, depends on its attorney to guide their opinion, and *Real Change* isn't going to let Sidran off the hook so easily. Next issue we'll have more to say about victim-blaming in Seattle. Stay tuned. Sir.

## Parks Amendments Die

**F**ive times on June 28th the City Council had an opportunity to make substantial changes to the Parks Exclusion ordinance, and five times they voted 6-3 not to do so. The votes were identical in defeating Nick Licata's original amendments, two alternate amendments proposed by Peter Steinbrueck, and attempts by Richard McIver and Steinbrueck to amend a resolution the council eventually passed (also 6-3).

That resolution, introduced by Sue Donaldson, made due process recommendations to the Police Department, but without force of law. The resolution also diluted SPD's reporting requirements to the city, to the point that the SPD now has less responsibility to document exclusion of a person from city park than they do to impound a car. It was this new section that cost the resolution the support of three councilmembers.

In the electoral minority were Licata, Steinbrueck, and McIver, none of whom liked the ordinance in the first place, but had offered the amendments by means of compromise. The amendments would have limited parks exclusions to felony behavior and not offenses such as "trespass" or sleeping in the parks. They would also have initiated appeals and due process clauses, some of which were covered under the Donaldson resolution.

Councilmember Licata argued, as he has for two years, that the law is a misguided way to address a social problem. "It comes down to resources," he said, "and this ordinance is a short cut."

Licata said that when the city spends money on park maintenance and directed social services the quality of parks improve, while the parks exclusion ordinance has only minimal effect, except for "image." And because of its selective enforcement and lack of process, it's worse than ineffective. Under it, Licata said, poor and transient people become "less than citizens."

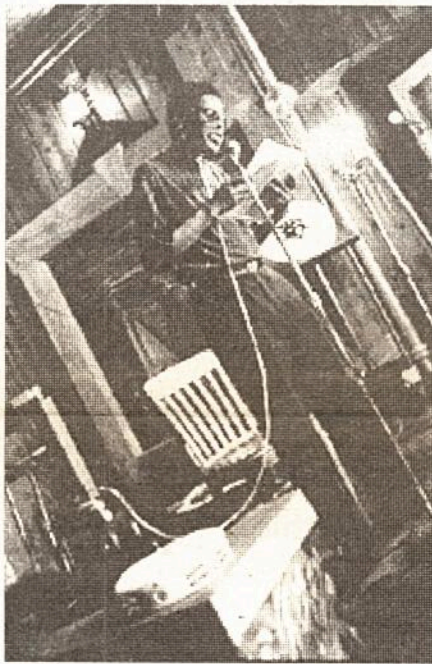
Richard Conlin, who had included in his campaign platform a commitment to challenge the ordinance, now argued to keep it, saying that amendments would actually put more homeless people in jail and "turn Seattle's parks over to drinking parties."

While the rhetoric flew, alternative solutions were dismissed.

Steinbrueck directly addressed Conlin's first concern with a proposed amendment that would have postponed criminal prosecution for those ticketed, but Conlin still voted with the majority against it.

For the time being, then, the contentious issue has been settled, although some of the hopefuls for Council election in November have already announced their desire to change the law.

Licata said if citizens want to see further action on the issue, they'll need to get involved in campaigns of people running for office. "That's why we have elections."



ON JUNE 14TH, MORE THAN 20 POETS AND MUSICIANS TOOK A STAND FOR PEACE IN KOSOVO AT THE PEARL CAFE IN THE U DISTRICT. DRAWING PARALLELS TO THE WAR ON THE POOR IN THE U.S., AND TO U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS AROUND THE GLOBE, THE ARTISTS TRIED TO LINKED THE GLOBAL AND THE LOCAL. PICTURED IS E.O. ANTHONY OF STREETWRITES, WHOSE POETRY APPEARS ON PAGE 10 OF THIS ISSUE. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

## Dorothy Day House Opens for 41 women

**R**uth Warrell moved in on June 22nd, day two of open door at the Dorothy Day House. "This is a brand new program the first of its kind, and it is very exciting," she said. "It has been interesting and fascinating to watch the process since last December." Warrell has been involved with the project since she first heard about it seven months ago.

Dorothy Day House was dreamed up by women in the low income and homeless community several years ago, after they noted the success of the Westlake Apartments for formerly homeless men, and wanted a similar project for themselves. The house named for one of the co-founders of the legendary Catholic Worker movement, is operated by the Archdiocesan Housing Authority. It will provide 41 women with a long-term alternative to living in shelters and on the streets, and is available to women who have an income of less than \$13,000 per year.

It's a far cry from the shelters where many of the women previously lived, where stress is high and amenities, scarce. By contrast, each one of the new apartments comes furnished with all new bed, dresser, table, chairs, microwave, refrigerator, sink, and toilet.

One of the greatest benefits of the project, however, goes beyond new furniture. The program is long term. New resident Warrell feels that because it is a permanent housing facility, it gives the women the time and security to develop to the point where they may no longer need the low income housing. And because the facility is self-managed, the residents will participate in committees which will decide the daily operations of the program. These operations include tasks such as setting and enforcing the rules as well as providing general maintenance.

Located in Belltown at the corner of First and Bell streets, Dorothy Day house also has three large kitchens with dining area and a recreation area with comfortable seating and television.

There is also a laundry facility as well as community baths on each floor. Director Shelly Dooley says they hope to have a resident nurse very soon.

"I wish there were more places like this; it is wonderful that we can have 41 women here," says Warrell. "This is a success story. A big success story."

—Dave Hall

## Capitol Hill Youth Center Gets New Life

**T**he Capitol Hill Youth Center will remain open under a new arrangement that keeps their facility in Pilgrim Church on Broadway, but transfers organizational sponsorship from St. Mark's Cathedral to Street Outreach Services. The Youth Center, which provides services to 125 youth every week, was threatened with closure after a contentious dispute involving the Capitol Hill Community Council, St. Mark's, and the Center itself.

Director Jan Munger said that after learning they would be terminated by St. Mark's, they approached S.O.S. S.O.S., who had already been sending out

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# Moving to What?

## Seattle Housing Authority quietly unveils some big plans

BY ADAM HOLDORF

The Seattle Housing Authority has a giant sleeping in its backyard. It's called the Moving to Work demonstration program, and no, it's not another welfare-to-work job training plan for residents. Moving to Work is a five-year experiment in which HUD lets housing authorities out of its decades-long bureaucratic bear hug, giving them greater freedom to carry out their role. But the project will go beyond the office and into the projects, to change how SHA operates as landlord to 11,000 of the city's poorest residents.

After a syrup-slow process, Moving to Work is finally getting its wake-up call. In January, well into the 1999 fiscal year, HUD approved SHA's application to begin the program. SHA needed to submit a budget and an annual plan to HUD, but the federal agency gave no instructions on these until May, when the year was already half-over. Then HUD wanted the fiscal year plan — a plan for what SHA would do in a year that was more than half over. SHA took this in stride, according to Moving to Work Coordinator Ron Atkielski: "I wrote the 1999 plan in about four days."

The 1999 plan is just a jigsaw piece for HUD's administrative puzzle that states the reforms SHA is thinking of

doing in coming years. Before summary approval, SHA observed the proper bureaucratic rituals, holding a weakly-attended public hearing. Says Atkielski: "We didn't expect any [public comment] on it because frankly, the plan doesn't say anything." In May, the SHA Board approved a yearlong plan for a fiscal year that will end in nine weeks.

"We realized this would give the impression that we were trying to rush," says Atkielski. But public comment is now being gathered on a draft plan for fiscal year 2000, which begins October 1.

To onlookers, Moving to Work looks like pretty dry stuff: there's a restructuring of how HUD gives operating money to the agency, a look at consolidating job-training programs, and a re-timing of reporting procedures to HUD. But

that's going to change. Atkielski says the Moving to Work update sent yearly to HUD will become a "strategic planning document," laying out initiatives to tear down or build new public housing, serve higher-income residents, or make other long-term changes. A reference to the proposed redevelopment of the Rainier Vista housing project, which SHA applied for federal funding to do last month, will be included in the fiscal year 2000 plan. "I want to give people in Seattle a complete picture of what SHA is doing in the coming year," says Atkielski.

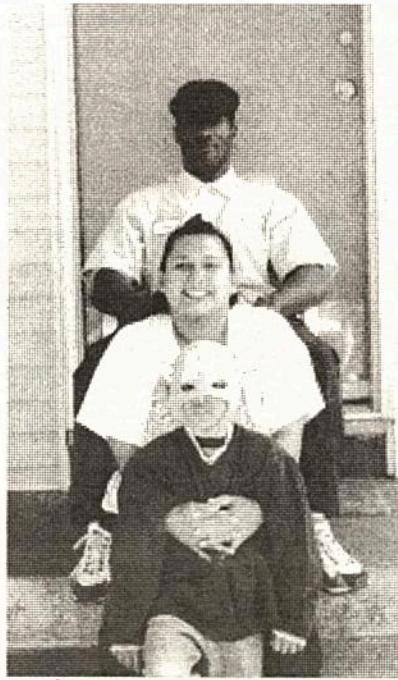
Still, any planning document will be mired in uncertainty: HOPE VI, the HUD grant program that would

pay for Rainier Vista's demolition, won't announce its funding award until this fall, after SHA has already sent the plan to HUD.

Though next year's plan has already been drafted, Moving to Work's sleeper status continues. Two weeks ago, SHA's second public hearing on the 1999 plan brought a half-dozen representatives of nonprofit agencies to the table. Many asked when SHA would get more resident input on the plan. More seemed puzzled about just what Moving to Work holds for the future of SHA. "Everyone seemed to be saying, 'We don't know what's going on,'" said Joe Easterday of Seattle Emergency Housing Services, who attended the meeting.

When SHA commits to nothing more than "further exploration and possible adoption" of a host of reforms, anything could be in store. "It's hard to comment on something that vague," Easterday says. "If we, as service providers, can't figure it out, it's going to be a long road."

The next public hearing on the Moving to Work 2000 annual plan is tentatively scheduled for August 4. SHA will likely approve the plan in late August. For more information about Moving to Work, call Ron Atkielski at (206) 615-3555. ☐



WHAT PLANS DOES SHA HAVE FOR OTIS AND MARIA RILEY, AND YOUNG OTIS III, BESIDES TEARING DOWN THEIR RAINIER VISTA HOME? PHOTO BY RON CAMPBELL.

## Election 2000

# A Progressive Majority?

## The Progressive Coalition agenda for Seattle city council

BY MATT LYNCH

It works the same everywhere. Businesses want favors, and help elect politicians who dare not bite the hand that feeds them. The owner of the Mariners wants a new stadium, no problem. Nordstrom wants a parking garage, no problem. But when more shelters are needed, the deep pockets suddenly come up short. Last November, Curt Firestone and Charlotte Carol decided they'd had enough. They began the Progressive Coalition to champion progressive politics in Seattle.

In the upcoming city elections, there is an excellent chance for a progressive majority on the Seattle City Council. Three years ago Charlie Chong made a singularly progressive presence on the nine-person council. Now, Peter Steinbrueck, Nick Licata, and Richard Conlin — the three newest members of the council — tip the balance even more away from business as usual.

The Progressive Coalition is hoping to gain the majority in November by endorsing three candidates: Steinbrueck, who's up for re-election; Curt Firestone, running against Margaret Pageler; and Dawn Mason, seeking the seat being vacated by

Council President Sue Donaldson.

Also in the running are Chong, on the rebound from his weak mayoral campaign, and Judy Nicastro, champion of renters: both running for the seat being vacated by Tina Podlodowski. Consider them along with the Coalition's endorsements, and the chances for a progressive majority do not seem farfetched.

What makes a progressive candidate? Michael Kaufman, co-facilitator of the Coalition, describes six criteria they use to assess candidates:

**Transportation:** Expanding bus zones and increasing bicycle friendly areas are a priority, as is anything that eases the crowded Seattle streets in favor of more environmentally friendly transportation.

**Reform of the criminal justice system:** The Coalition supports a civilian review board, for instance, to hold the police department more accountable. Another reform would refocus drug abatement more positively, by treating drug abusers instead of jailing them.

**Human needs:** The Progressive Coalition supports more homeless shelters and hygiene centers. They also support more affordable housing, less

high-income development, and the preservation of existing low-income housing.

**Support of the labor movement:** The city council can and should be proactive on labor negotiations, says the Coalition. They should actively support unionized contracting and pass legislation for a living wage in the city. An important facet of this is childcare. If the private sector will not create enough childcare, says the Coalition, then the city needs to step in and provide it.

**Equitable economic planning:** Government funds should be evenly dispersed across Seattle. There should be no corporate sponsorship in public schools, and corporations should pay more taxes for social services.

**Electoral reform:** The Coalition wants to see the current "winner take all" elections replaced with a system that allows minority opinions and equal representation from Seattle's neighborhoods.

There is a lot more work to be done before the upcoming elections. If you would like to help, you can contact Charlotte Carol at (206) 324-2679 or Sarah Luthens at (206) 322-4926. ☐

**RED EAGLE, CONT. FROM P. 1**  
 culture in full light of where we're really at. You could not really have a Native American culture because the effort to wipe it out was so strong, they did a pretty good job and now there are all these people here eating up resources. It's pretty complex, the re-culturation process... I should say that I am not the "father" of re-culturation. There are many people and Nations who are way ahead of me. I have merely chosen a philosophical stance, and that is what I work on.

**RC:** Do you see a comparison between what Milosovic is doing to the Kosovo Albanians and what the whites did to the Native Americans?

**RED EAGLE:** It's an ongoing process, going on all the time because they haven't learned not to do it.

**RC:** The whites?

**RED EAGLE:** Anybody, around the world, because they're not wanting to elevate to a place where they don't do that. If you look for a definition of peace and an actual road to peace, you don't find it because nobody knows how to do it [peace]. Various religions have tried over the years, but none have really succeeded.

**RC:** Do you feel you've found it in yourself?

**RED EAGLE:** I'm not sure that I'm all that peaceful myself even, because I know that if I ever get called into action, I know what I will do. That's one of the things you have to do: you have to know who you are and live with that. That's what peace is, knowing who you are and what you've done and what you can do.

**RC:** There's a particularly jolting passage that seems almost out of place in your book. It reads: "He had come home with a cold and grisly temper... Most of the time he only came out at night. He learned how to elude the public. If he was caught out in the public, like riding the bus, or train, he would 'trip' on them; little scenarios... He stayed drunk and stayed

out of their way to avoid killing 'them' for their stupidity... It became the awful truth he carried with him every moment."

There are a lot of poor, a lot of homeless people who don't have public support today. Do you think that it's up to these individuals to try to find their peace, their stability?

**RED EAGLE:** You can't narrow it down to an individual. It has to do with a culture and a community. There shouldn't be homeless people. How do we not have drop-outs? How do we not have Littleton? Those problems shouldn't be there to begin with. We should have a pre-knowledge of

what is going to happen. We had a pre-knowledge, in my generation at least, but it was not given to us when we went to Vietnam. All the stuff that had been learned out of World War II and Korea was not handed to us. It was eliminated, became secret. We didn't know about code-talkers for forty years.

**RC:** What are code talkers?

**RED EAGLE:** During World War Two they had Native Americans enlisted... they focused mostly on the Navajos but there were other tribes as well [whose language they coded], then brought in Native language speakers and the Japanese could not crack the code. The irony is that the Navajo language is very similar to the Tibetan language. At the same time that they were struggling to break the code they were busy over in China and other parts of Asia wiping these people out, so whatever access they might have had to the language was not there. Plus there were Navajos that were not in this corps who were captured and they were

torturing them and trying to break down these captured Navajos to translate, but those Navajos didn't know because the language had been altered to be cryptic, so it was triple-cryptified.

**RC:** So the U.S. has used the Native Americans in war.

**RED EAGLE:** Well, no, it's a mixture. We wanted to serve.

**RC:** I gather from *Red Earth* that the reason Native Americans wanted to serve was for the warrior aspect of it.

**RED EAGLE:** Right, they had traditions of warriors serving the people. "Warrior" is not a Native American word and neither is "brave." The words for that quality were totally different in content. The word for somebody who did that job in Native culture meant "one who serves the people." It had nothing to do with war.

**RC:** Do you think that's why there is such a large per capita population of Native Americans who serve in the armed forces?

**RED EAGLE:** I think it's a variety of things. I think it's kind of a reinterpretation and changing of Native American values. It's taking a value which is

deemed positive, re-evaluating it, and spitting it out in another language and making it look like another thing that we had to buy because we had lost contact with our original culture. We're discovering that now because finally the older people are talking out to people now. But they had been squelched in Indian school, which was a very terrible place. My dad

speaks of being beaten and strapped with hoses for speaking his language rather than English.

**RC:** Would you like to see fewer Native Americans in the armed force?

**RED EAGLE:** I'd like to see none because it's too much to sacrifice, because it has a damaging level. I have a lot of Native women who do not marry Indian men because of the damage, because [the women] were beaten. Unless you have a way exorcising that violence you're going to bring it home. You have to honor it, honor the violence, or it's going to destroy it, the culture.

That's what's happening. On top of the Indian schools, on top of the manipulation of treaties, we also have this undertow of warriors who've gone to war and bring violence home with them and have no way to moderate it. We're trying to do that now. I work with some people where we go to sweat and do healing, in the New Ager are borrowing the... It's a series of steps to moderate the violence and bring it into perspective and to demand that these warriors begin to speak for peace.

So the peace clans are made up of people who have been to war and understand thoroughly what it's done, what it will do.

**RC:** I'm still unclear why there would be such a large population of Native Americans in the armed forces.

**RED EAGLE:** A lot of people don't understand that. It comes from previous culture. The previous culture has been wiped out in most Native American society. They understand this notion of PTSD, what we call Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. They understood it, so they held their people out when they went on war part for four days and they purified themselves as they came in. And immediately upon coming into the village they would tell what happened to them and they would verbalize.

**RC:** Like debriefing.

**RED EAGLE:** Exactly, debriefing, never got debriefed coming back from Vietnam.



**"That's what peace is, knowing who you are and what you've done and what you can do."**  
 Philip Red Eagle



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RC: Are you in contact with many vets now?

RED EAGLE: Pretty much. I'm busy so I don't really hang out with a lot of vets, but I have in the past.

RC: Do you think many are at the point you're at, or do you think Native American vets have an advantage in that they can go back to their faith and their spirituality?

RED EAGLE: Well, I have the advantage of living in the country of my mother's people where some of that stuff is still intact. A lot of the language of the healing process comes from the Plains and Lakota, Dakota. But it was still intact in many other cultures, like the Salish. They had all of these processes. There are common strains of "mythicisim" in all of the Native cultures. This is absent in Western culture.

RC: So you think it may be true that white vets and black vets may still be having a harder time.

RED EAGLE: I know they are. We try and treat them all the time, and then with the Gulf War and Panama and Grenada the same thing is happening. We're having to deal with it over and over again.

RC: And the government response to Gulf War syndrome is not really there, there is no response.

RED EAGLE: Well, it's denial. To them it's money. They don't figure they owe it to their veterans to help them, to heal them from what has become obvious. We live in a culture of violence. The culture of violence comes out of our participation in all of the wars. That's why it's there. We have people who have gone to war generation after generation and who bring the culture of violence without moderation back. So they're ignoring its existence, the effects of war, and trying not to put money or resources into it. They began to do that with the Vietnam vets with the vet centers because the veterans would not come into the veterans hospitals because they were being abused. People were being "dissed," disrespected and dishonored.

RC: You said there seems to be a stigma on war stories... that [some assume] *Red Earth* is "just another Vietnam book."

RED EAGLE: Or another "Indian book." There are people who really won't read Native Lit; the only time we deal with "other" literature outside of Western literature is in a study or when we try to deal with it intellectually. These are arguments I have all the time with people, when we're looking at poetry I say, "Oh, that speaks to a certain thing." And they say, "I don't see it... because it doesn't rhyme, it doesn't do this or that." Well that's a Western evaluation of that poem, not an emotional evaluation of reality for that person.

RC: Did *Red Earth* sell well?

RED EAGLE: It has OK sales. The subject has been worn, but the knowledge that I'm trying to convey has not been worn. People don't want to deal with it.

RC: The style of writing is so unusual and wonderful. People really need to give it a try.

RED EAGLE: The style of writing comes from "story," which is a Native American strength. Most of the writers that I know and that I have learned from come from "story," the idea of oral tradition that we call "story," which is the mythical aspects of culture. But they're there for a reason

because this is how we interpret emotional quotient, what people now call EQ.

It's all they could come up with in the last 10 years, officially looking at the emotional content of a human being mostly because they have to, because we're having school shootings, all this violence. They're trying to get at it intellectually; they have no solution because it's not an intellectual problem, it's an emotional problem.

If we have a culture that does not deal with these

emotional qualities, then we're not going to be able to reach it. That's our problem. We can't reach it as a culture, as a society. I hate to even use the word culture in regard to this society; it doesn't have a culture. We have sociologists and psychologists, but all of that leaves out the spiritual qualities of the human being. [E]

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# Real Courage

## How I became homeless and overcame

By DONNA J. STOUT

**M**y husband came home from work in the middle of the day. He asked me if I would like to have sex with him. I told him no, but it seemed like he would not leave me alone. So I slapped him in the face. I then went to the bedroom and laid down on the bed to get away from him. Then he came into the bedroom and picked me up by my shirt collar and hit me. He then dragged me through the apartment and to the parking lot. He then turned me upside down and slammed me into the pavement head first. This is where he parked his van.

I woke up a week and a half later in the hospital. I did not know why or how I got there. I looked in the mirror and I could see the left side of my brain. I had four operations, and I still have one more to go through. I could not even walk. They had to teach me how to walk again like a baby. I lost my eyesight in my left eye. I can't see anything with my left eye at all. I will never

see out of my left eye ever again. I had to take four units of blood. My balance still is not the way it should be. I keep stumbling over my feet.

When I get excited I stutter with my words. I never had this problem before this happened to me. I also have a cracked pelvic bone and a crack in my lower lumbar in my lower back. They had to put me into a body brace. I have to wear this body brace all the time. This all happened to me on March 26, 1998.

I will never forget this nor forgive it. I had just gotten out of the hospital and then they evicted me from my apartment. I had medication being delivered there once a week. I was still taking IVs and other prescription

medication. I had to have a friend stay with me for about a week. I needed help to get things done the right way. I even had a home nurse come to the apartment once a week to make sure I was doing things the way I was supposed to. The rehabilitation was very hard for me. Trying to put things into perspective is very hard with just one eye. When things like this happen to you, you get a different look at life.

### Shelters work

With what I have been through, I feel that no human deserves to go through that kind of pain for anything. This type of thing happening to you gives you the thought of "Why go on?" In these types of situations our women's shelters work for us very well.

When I went to the shelter I was scared. I did not know what was going to happen. First I stayed pretty much to myself. I did not want to talk about what had happened to me. After about a week, I started to talk to the other ladies at the shelter. I was ready to start looking for resource information to help me start bringing my life back together as "Donna."

The shelters made me feel right at home. They gave me the space that I needed to get my life back together, the best I could at the time. They gave me the resources that really helped me out a lot. They gave me support. The support they gave me helped tremendously. I was able to start making my new foundation, and it is a strong foundation.

Angeline's Day Center and Noel House Shelter gave me female resources, along with other help. They gave me food, they gave me other people to talk to, and this was very helpful to me. They have a nurse that I could see if I felt I needed to talk with her. They let me get my mail there. My foundation is strong enough to let me go back to school. Now I have two months to go and I will graduate with my Bachelor's Degree in Computer Programming. I am very proud of this. I have the determination and the willpower and the desire to go on with my life. They have shown me that I am never alone.

The doctors are asking me, "How are you walking?" I told them I have the determination and desire to do this. When I got to the point where I could read well enough to read my school books, I took right off with it. I know that I can do it.

Due to the help that I have received from the shelters, the staff, and experiences with other homeless people, who knows, maybe I will be able to help other people somehow. I feel that I have a lot to share with them.

### Staying Positive

Just recently they started Women's Empowerment classes. They are made to try to work on getting women better paying jobs, and with getting women's self-esteem and confidence back. With a clear head and a better paying job, you might be able to get your children back with you.

Being homeless is not easy. We have a lot of fear out here. We sit down and think about what we hear is going on. It becomes very fearful out here for us all. Many of us out here have died. How many of us have to die before you all know how dangerous and fearful it is out here for us all?

If it wasn't for my son, Harborview, and our women's shelters, I would have been dead right now myself. They all have given me another chance at life, and I've worked to make good on that chance. I am very proud of getting this far.

A lot of us are out here due to domestic violence, and we all fight this every day of the human race. We could really make this a more relaxed environment for us all. Stress can kill you if we do not do anything about it.

"Our Father" has put things here on earth for us to enjoy, not destroy. We were put here on earth as sisters and brothers and we should help each other as much as we can. We can try to be more considerate of each other.

I pull together with the homeless people and we reach our goals together. We really help each other out.

**"With what I have been through, I feel that no human deserves to go through that kind of pain for anything. This type of thing happening to you gives you the thought of 'Why go on?'"**



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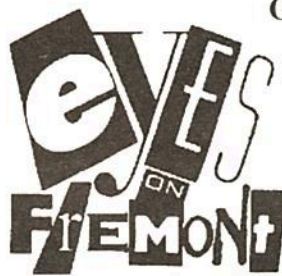
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## GAMBLING, CONT. FROM P. 1 Dangerous Illusions

Sweepstakes can be especially alluring to the elderly, who may live alone and consider mail delivery the highlight of their day. Many sweepstakes entries arrive in official-looking envelopes, stamped with large letters making such claims as "YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY WON!!" These envelopes contain pages of cleverly-worded enticements, with disclaimers written in excruciatingly small print.

The Washington State Council on Problem Gambling receives regular calls from adults concerned about their elderly parents, who are frequently writing numerous checks per day to enter sweepstakes. These elderly often believe that their chances of winning will be enhanced if they purchase a case of screwdrivers or a magazine subscription.

In extreme cases, individuals have been known to go to the airport with their last bit of cash. They're ready to book a flight to the sweepstakes destination, so they can claim their prize. Pete Tetlow, a passenger service agent for a major airline at Sea-Tac, remembers a particularly moving incident. An elderly woman wanted to buy a one-way ticket. She was convinced, said Tetlow, based on the mail she had received, each letter being more persuasive than the last, that she was soon to be rich, and all her troubles would be over.

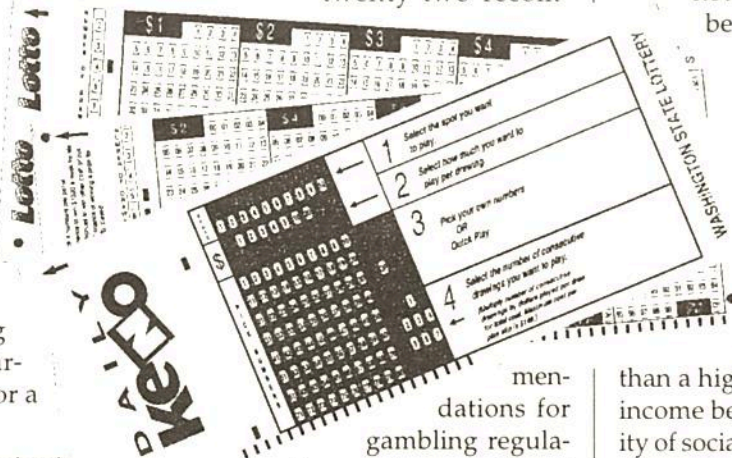
"This poor woman lived on public assistance and she had no one I could call," he said. "She wanted to spend her rent money to make the trip. Even when I showed her the fine print on her sweepstakes material, she did not want to be dissuaded." Ultimately, the port police provided the woman with a ride home, and a county agency was contacted to meet with her.

## New Study Documents the Obvious

Gamblers Anonymous describes compulsive gambling as "an illness, progressive in nature, which can never be cured, but can be arrested." Many doctors now believe the trouble may be as much about biology as behavior. A study reviewed in the *Seattle Times* (5/20/99) indicated the possibility that low levels of a neurotransmitter called serotonin may contribute to all kinds of compulsive behavior. Studies are being conducted to test serotonin-boosting antidepressants for ways to help people manage overpowering impulses.

Until recently, most legislation has been focused primarily on creating awareness that problem gambling is a legitimate public health issue. Two weeks ago, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission released its final report after a two-year study. The commission was quick to establish the need for more research and listed over twenty suggestions for Congressional support in the "future research" category.

In brief, the Commission made twenty-two recom-



mendations for gambling regulations to be considered on the state, federal and tribal levels. This included their request that "all relevant governmental gambling regulatory agencies should ban aggressive advertising strategies, especially those that target people in impoverished neighborhoods and youth anywhere."

The NGISC report also made recommendations in five other areas: Problem and pathological gambling; Internet gambling; Native American tribal gambling; gambling's impact on people and places; and future research. The future studies would, in part, help establish instruments to measure nonmonetary costs to society associated with legal gambling, including related effects of divorce, domestic violence, child abuse, and suicide, and the secondary effects of bankruptcy, crime, and homelessness.

"This is a report of a national commission to the President, Congress, State Governors, and Tribal Leaders," wrote Chairman Kay C. James, in the report's introduction. "Although the growth of gambling is a national phenomenon, gambling itself is of greatest concern to the individual communities in which it operates or is proposed to operate. It is at that level that its impact is felt most keenly and where the debates surrounding this issue are most energetically contested. Those communities form no common front: one community may welcome gambling as an economic salvation, while its neighbor may regard it as anathema. As such, there are few areas in which a single national, one-size-fits-all ap-

proach can be recommended."

Sweepstakes reform is just coming to the legislative forefront, with several federal bills and amendments regarding sweepstakes in the works, including the Honesty in Sweepstakes Act of 1999, sponsored by Representative Frank LoBiondo. This act would require stronger disclaimers, written in larger letters, to be used on the top of the opening page, and odds of winning to be clearly stated. Also, a notice to the effect that someone has not automatically won would be posted.

## Washington State's Problem

Washington state statistics show that problem gamblers tend to be male, under 30, non-white, unmarried, with less than a high school education, and an income below \$25,000. Still, a majority of social gamblers are not problematic and see the activity as recreation, rather than an all-consuming desire.

Currently, King County imposes a gambling tax of 11% of the gross receipts from its casinos. According to the King County Executives office, some cities have reported annual revenue of over a million dollars from casinos in their jurisdictions. However, the concern regarding a possible increase in crime and other negative effects related to gambling prompted the King County Council to pass an ordinance in February limiting new card rooms in unincorporated King County.

Since its inception, the Washington State Lottery has contributed more than \$1.5 billion to Washington's General Fund. In 1998, 24.3% of lottery revenues went into the fund, which is used for many state programs, primarily education.

All states with lottery games have similar programs, but only 28 states put gambling revenues into problem or pathological gambling help organizations. The Washington State Lottery supports the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling, which has made it mandatory for all retail outlets to post warning disclaimers.

## Recreation or Exploitation?

Americans spend a lot of money on gambling. In 1995, legal gambling revenues for the country

reached \$485 billion, with a net profit of \$39.9 billion. The profit from gambling is higher than durable goods, toys, and compact discs.

Increased access to games of chance has no doubt perpetuated gambling's rise to its all-time high. Sweepstakes entries arrive in our mailboxes; lottery tickets can be purchased at almost any grocery store, gas station, and 7-11 store. And for the first time, Americans can gamble in cyberspace. The Internet offers thousands of gaming sites and web pages. The click of a mouse may not be as exciting as a roll of the dice, but with a credit card, users can access online casinos and play their favorite game right from the comfort of their own home or office.

The challenge seems to be finding ways to keep honesty and fairness in a recreational industry that is booming. How will government regulate responsibly a business that generates state and federal revenues for education, social programs, and employment opportunities that might not otherwise exist? How will individuals deal with the temptation for indulgence?

Most importantly, how will we as a society protect our increasing number of exploited poor and disadvantaged citizens, young and old, who succumb to the illusion of instant salvation and take risks born from the desperate hope of escaping their impoverished existence?

It seems that finally, awareness of the issue is growing. Government officials and our surrounding communities are promoting awareness of public health issues as they relate to problem and pathological gambling. With this understanding, we can

all begin to accept the reality that for some individuals, living day to day in the eclipse of chance can lead to devastating social and economic results. [E]



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## Resources:

- Washington State Council on Problem Gambling, 1-800-547-6133
- National Council on Problem Gambling, 1-800-522-4700
- Seattle Chapter of Gamblers Anonymous, 206-361-8413
- National Gambling Impact Study Commission report: [www.ngisc.gov](http://www.ngisc.gov)

# E.O. Anthony

E.O. Anthony, painter, photographer, and writer, is beloved around the local literary community for his dogged support of others and his uncompromising commitment to social issues. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Anthony originally moved to Seattle to study architecture. "I reconstruct a different life [now]," he says, "writing."

Of the details of his life, Anthony says, "Because facts are relative and open to interpretive spin, I would prefer to eliminate personal biography. I'm on an oxygen machine and can still praise God by taking a photograph, work at writing a play or poem... I'm just trying to be something other than a consumer, satisfied if I can kick out a good poem and see the impact of that."

Anthony participates regularly in StreetWrites writing group and reads at Red Sky Poetry Theatre and other open mikes. He is currently working on a second novel, *May Ling's Shopping Cart*.

## Postscript to Witch's Pit 2 With Alternates

A hundred thousand ate acid like manna-hungry Jews  
in wilderness rain and me straight, black eyed  
with Christ  
at Woodstock,

By day Hendrick's guitar  
torque converting notes of  
Star Spangled  
Banner took us  
by mimicking

MI-34 helicopter where the bombs dropped;  
by campfires  
drums and flute purged the slug among pickled foetus,  
sharks teeth, and neo Nietzschean T.V.  
body counts;  
burning Buddhist monks forced us  
awakefully  
beyond borders to the enemy's heart.

"If we are our brothers  
keepers then..."

Heather shocked theta waves till  
Chaplainesque nights  
were floodgates of laughter where sinesimilla  
scenarios  
forever altered  
geometrically

my epistemic roots.  
As i kindly refused hippie Thetis  
of shining breasts  
devoutly murmuring  
susurrus that

my beloved at Rouen grave site would sing hosannas,  
blazing wild lights of azure sky for eyes  
dripping Revlon  
on hospital gown, enraptured  
like a Chagall character  
fighting gravity with Holy Spirit, my beloved buried  
the placenta.  
My beloved's "Ave Maria"  
helium bound with our child's soul was floating  
beyond the Impressionist  
museum.

Above us at Woodstock the night flight of  
migratory birds recalled lean and craggy

strength of  
cranes rustling  
gecko leaves

We are like cranes  
suffering  
to gambol  
in the moon's  
penumbance.

II.  
It's a sin to kill an elephant  
that's why I want to do it.  
It's the only sin you can  
go out and buy a license for  
before committing.

Through binoculars from the jeep  
so majestic in tall savannah grass  
above its knees the African  
elephant makes one believe in  
human insignificance as compared  
to God's glory.

It's a sin to kill an elephant;  
the drums always start with White  
hunter Black heart.

Incidentally, had i told the truth  
i would now be a cake of soap.

III.  
The eye of Hurricane Georges  
passes over Key West  
giant Burger King signs clutter  
streets near the sea wall where  
houseboats  
are smashed to worthless scraps  
chance shocks  
to hubris in the game of life.  
On the charter Purple Haze  
4 days deep sea searching for swordfish  
off the Florida Keys..  
today September 26th, 1998  
from the cabin of Purple Haze  
i dream my wife J.A.  
and aborted child daughter with bronze afro  
are spirit leaping  
kicking up sand  
from the whispering mouths  
of perfumed hyacinths  
along the River of Life  
swollen  
glowing  
with Buckfullerance  
molecules  
in New Jerusalem.  
No sun. No moon. No stars.  
The New Physics:  
there are no shadows:  
God is center stage  
all light, all love only without  
baseball,  
homeless stealing home.  
Outside the gates  
reprobates and whores,  
lovers of lies  
snarl and snap  
endlessly  
slathering like rabid dogs.

**Civil Progress:**

**Life in Black America via Greg Kucera Gallery Where 8th Generation Ibo-American With 1/4 Indigenous Genes Considers Cuban and Haitian Refugees**

Twilight this is:  
this creeping dimness...

Painted and shimmering  
carnival gold imbilicus  
at stellar gate leaps  
ocular rods as if  
viewer, painter, and God's  
spirit would follow that  
golden mean twisting along  
the way where the wow of center

canvas and joyful poise of  
Black counterpoints ghostly figures  
of repressed civil society.

Piercing the veil with Gothic  
arabesques four Black Beauties  
float

thalasa cumi  
in carnival boat, free and opposite fun dome  
with its spooks

like jelly fish  
floating amidst  
a tunnel of  
horrors:

next to Red Cross flag are white abstractionist  
marks which express a window or surreal dripping  
aquamarine sky churning clouds into sea.

The viewer  
is remained  
of the Book

Of the Dead,  
the passage of souls beyond  
the veil; here, Kerry Marshall's Great America  
is so much more than  
iconic symbols pointing to eternity.

One could  
imagine vocal cords of  
glass and steel for the Blacks  
in the gondola  
as the bell tolls  
at exponential increase  
amidst the storms turned calming sea.

The viewer checks out four  
Black Beauties an amusement park ride  
like venus occultated from God's head  
gliding through sky that is sea. The fifth Black,  
head above water, is about  
to be translated from clouds  
and waves, one hopes, in this soulescape.

Money can not shield us.  
These Ibo, like ourselves, these Black Jews  
know the blood that decays angels.

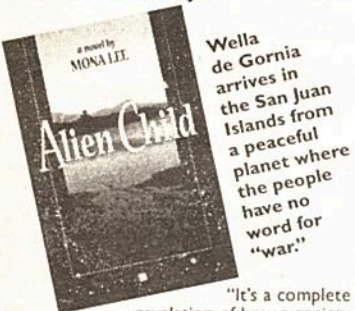
Broken,  
the question is: will you accept the cure?

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**Immigration  
Laws, California**

Inside the green government van  
that's slowing me down  
I spy several young heads  
filling it front to back.  
Students on field trip,  
slowing for notes  
and teacher's fingerpointed  
quotes on agriculture?  
In the crisscrossing black  
metal mesh separating  
passengers from driver  
I get my answer.  
As the vehicle turns  
I see on its door  
the emblem of its office:  
Border Patrol.  
In the brown skin  
and smiling eyes  
of the man looking  
down at me looking back  
I see the tiny inked-in  
lines of maps,  
of densely worded treaties  
and migratory quotas,  
of voices hushed beneath  
desert stars as bodies  
tense to snip a pattern  
for their future  
from the steel wire  
of the fence before them.  
At the stop sign  
I turn for home,  
the bus for jail  
and miles to Mexico.  
geometry is alive  
luggage has an agenda  
how do you know what to think  
unless I tell you

—David Thornbrugh

**Votes Counted**

We have our leaders. In  
our pockets —  
in our dreams, behind  
them —  
we stand in their line.  
Nothing changes, with a few  
firm  
exceptions.  
But, that can change.

—Stan Burriss

**(untitled)**

we all know what you are doing  
you are standing out in the street fooling with our money  
it is our money, I say, because we have it,  
and maybe, just maybe we will give it to you  
give us a good reason  
or just make us think that you are too fool enough  
to have any money of your own  
some times we like to tease you, and flash our  
sweet wad, or dip inside our purse,  
fidget, make you think we are going to let you have a  
slice  
maybe we should all have tickets  
isn't that what the lush will have it be?  
tickets for money, tickets for food  
tickets for rent, tickets for sex  
abolish money!  
let the State dole out the vouchers  
Twelve beers a day for every man, woman, and child over  
the age of eighteen  
Three pipin' hot meals of good roast beef or turkey, or  
chicken with vegetables, mashed potatoes and gravy with  
lots of green beans  
A Good soft bed, and if you have a yearning for it,  
Sex with some sweet member of the gender of your choice  
So, this it is, and nothing more  
A model society, where everybody wins!

—Patrick Bissell

**Jasper**

i was disturbed by the news, that day  
particularly the story of a black man  
tied to a truck in texas  
and dragged three miles  
three miles  
pavement unforgiving, skin  
an entirely different story  
death too gruesome to imagine  
but i try, try to imagine  
my feet chained  
am i dead when my feet are chained?  
no, i am sure i am not  
unconscious then? knocked out by a merciful  
piece of debris in the road?  
i do not know enough about the physics of  
pavement  
to even imagine what the first ten feet would  
do to me  
my curves and juts and cavities  
soft stomach and hard skull  
at what point did my head wear away?  
shreds of scalp trailing tufts of hair  
the smear of blood—did it ever stop  
after exhausting every bursting source?  
was my face down, the whole world  
my grinding wheel  
turning beneath, making my body mere meat?

consciousness lived here  
46 years of learning about life  
i do not know if the heart loved  
before dragged into atrocity  
what things left undone, unsaid  
that made consciousness cry for life  
as it lost its battle against gravity,  
gravel and miles-per-hour  
see now, look  
hang me on a hook and stare  
the men who did this should be such  
headless, half-armed carcasses  
while i sit, laughing  
somewhere far away  
oblivious  
having a drink with my girl

—Noel Franklin

**Call for Submissions:**

*Real Change* is currently accepting poetry submissions for our fifth anniversary issue. We'll pick the top 5-10 and publish them on September 1. Theme is (what else) the fifth year anniversary of *Real Change* and whatever related themes that occasion inspires in you. Winners receive nice prizes. Send or bring up to three pieces to:

2129 - 2nd Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98121

Include SASE if possible, or inquire in late August about your submission. Thanks!

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## Tenant Talk

Educate  
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 By TU Staff



Tenant Talk now comes to you in every issue! We'll still feature the letters column, in which attorney Mark Chattin responds to tenants by telling them their rights under the law. In the alternating issue, organizers from the Tenants Union will write about organizing, education, and empowerment opportunities for tenants. As always, if you have a question or comment, anecdote, or issue to raise, write to Tenant Talk, c/o Real Change, 2129-2nd Ave., Seattle 98121, or email [rchange@speakeasy.org](mailto:rchange@speakeasy.org).

Last month's tenant organizing column focused on how tenants at the Frye apartments worked together to challenge unfair and possibly illegal guest policies. An essential first step for these tenants was to decide together on different guest policies. But how do tenants get together in the first place to set common goals? Tenants must reach out to their neighbors to get people interested, show people that they can make a difference, and get help to pull together a tenant meeting. This is called outreach.

After you decide to work with your neighbors, where do you begin? Face-to-face contact is the most effective way to bring people out of their homes and get them involved in addressing a common concern. Contrary to what your landlord might say, you do have the right to talk to your neighbors door to door. Don't worry that some people won't want to talk to you. Doing outreach to your neighbors is a political act because you break down the barriers and isolation that keep people from taking action together. You don't have to get everyone involved on the issue. A small but organized tenant group can accomplish a lot. Think of outreach as finding people who already want to do something but don't know where to begin.

Before you just start knocking on your neighbors' doors, sit down and think about what you want to say. One way to organize your thoughts is first to introduce yourself and the issue; ask questions and then listen; next describe why things should be different; and finally ask your neighbor to join you to help solve the problem. Plan on spending no more than ten minutes talking to each tenant.

Tenants at an apartment building in White Center recently confronted the problem of how to get their neighbors organized to help convince the landlord to follow the law and exterminate roaches. Tenants decided do outreach by going door to door. They decided to introduce themselves to their neighbors by talking about how long they had lived in the apartments and briefly describing what

repair problems they had in their own apartments.

This kind of information showed the other tenants that the tenant leaders knew what they were talking about because they had seen that the manager didn't make repairs. It also gave the other tenants an opportunity to talk about the repairs needed in their apartments. This gave the tenant leaders the chance to listen to their neighbors. When doing outreach, it's important to give your neighbors a chance to talk about the issues that affect them. Ask questions that will make people think, such as, "what would you like to see changed in these apartments," or "what would you do differently?" Your neighbors will be less likely to get involved if they think you are only there to get help solving your own problem.

The tenants at the White Center building learned that everyone in the building had roaches and that some people had tried to get the manager to spray but he never would. The tenants also asked their neighbors if they had received a rent increase recently, and whether they thought the apartments were worth what the landlord was charging. This part of the conversation allowed the tenants to show their neighbors just how unfair the situation was for them and everyone else in the building and to agitate for action.

The landlord at the White Center apartments had convinced many of the tenants that the building never had roaches before they moved in. This made each tenant think individually they didn't have a right to complain and wonder if they had indeed caused the roach problem. But when people were told by their neighbors that everyone had roaches, and that it had been a problem for years, they became outraged.

When the tenants shared with their neighbors that the landlord had raised the rent on some units recently so that

he could buy a big new house on the shores of Lake Washington, folks were really steamed. When you share this kind of information it's called agitation. Agitation is when you show the bigger picture, beyond a tenants' front door, to break down the way people see their situation as either their fault or the how it will always be. The White Center tenants learned that when their neighbors heard how the landlord had lied to them and profited by skimping on repairs, they wanted to take action.

The next step in door-to-door outreach is asking your neighbor to help solve the problem. It is important to have a few specific things for people to do. There should be easy stuff for people to do, as well as stuff that will take a little more time. The tenants in White Center first asked their neighbors to sign a petition. Next, people were invited to a tenant meeting where everyone would decide the next steps of how to get the building sprayed for roaches. Finally tenants were asked if they would help get the word out about the next meeting by passing out flyers the day before.

Before you leave each person's apartment, make sure to write down their name, apartment number, and phone number. Remind them of what they agreed to do, the date of the next meeting, or when you will drop off fliers for the next event. If you follow these simple steps, you will find that you won't be alone when you deliver your petition to the landlord's door in his fancy neighborhood on a sunny afternoon. You will make an impression that your landlord won't soon forget.

If you want to organize with your neighbors, call the Tenants Union at (206) 723-0500.

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**NEWSBRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

reach workers to the Center, has experience with high-risk populations and is active in the direct-service network. "We're excited about it... [working with S.O.S.] will increase our capacity to train staff and stay in touch with a whole community of providers," said Munger.

The Youth Center provides meals 4 days a week, information and referral, clothing and hygiene supplies, and "a place to get off the street for a few hours and have a sense of community." The new arrangement has a trial period of two months, but Munger is already planning long-term to step up services such as HIV prevention, health care, and engage more of the street youth.

She says they're looking for volunteers and donations (PC computers, couches, and "socks!"). For more information or to make a donation, call (206) 329-7912.

**Millennial Madness**

Someone has finally uttered the ultimate deconstructivist phrase. The new movie *Run Lola Run*, according to *New York Times* critic Janet Maslin, is "Hot, fast, and post-human." Maslin's unusually sensational description begs plenty of questions: First, what the heck does it mean? Are humans already obsolete? Are we (they?) simply unnecessary, or just some of us (them)? Are homeless shelters, for instance, inhumane, or merely "post-human"? Having not seen the movie (apparently an impressionistic action film), we can't necessarily recommend it — but you might want to sit down and have a chat with your dog.

**Seattle Tea Party Brewing?**

We never wanted the thing in the first place. "We" is the majority of King County voters, who voted down the stadium in 1995, after which legislators cut their own deal. Now county residents are screaming not only "taxation without representation," but outright theft: If the Mariners have their way, the citizens will pay \$60 million more, apparently because we have it to spend.

Here is the bitter truth on the stadium funding:

Public money:	\$372 million
Naming rights:	\$40 million
Mariner money:	\$5 million
cost overrun:	<u>\$100 million</u>
total	\$517 million

Since the Mariners themselves paid barely 1% for the original project, no doubt they felt they could promise to pay all cost overruns. Though Mariners executive and spokesman John Ellis made this promise loud and clear numerous times, now he wags his finger at the public, saying he did no such thing. It's a Machiavellian move that politicians are scrambling to denounce, even as they look over their shoulders to gauge their electoral chances.

Whether or not the public will keep screaming "foul," or whether they'll just cheer Ken Griffey's next home run will be determined in the coming month. The new stadium opens on July 15th. Opening weekend is — to put it ominously — sold out.

—Newsbriefs by Bob Redmond unless noted otherwise.

**LETTERS, CONT. FROM PAGE 2**

owner(s) of said property. A property line or boundary may in fact extend into the sidewalk. Apparently Nordstrom owns part of the sidewalk. How much does it own? According to Jeff Greer, a manager at Nordstrom, the store owns that part of the sidewalk directly below the canopy. Give Mr. Greer a call at (206) 628-1200 for clarification.

But I personally did not see any posting to this effect by Nordstrom. In other words, from a political standpoint, Nordstrom's seems to be staying quiet about this to some people, and squawking about it to others, mainly the homeless and vendors like Storm.

Mark G. Luehrs

**Hobson's Choices**

Dear *Real Change*:

Shafting the homeless people who are camping out when there are also hundreds of housed people who can't afford the privilege of shopping, eating, or of simply having a place to put their food does not sound very charitable to me. When you don't give

people funds for housing, you aid in countless people losing their housing, plus giving them the added inconvenience of being placed in jail for sleeping in the parks.

Here are the options for us homeless and low income folks: a bed in Harbor Zoo (a.k.a. Harborview), since we've lost our sanity trying to find a peaceful solution to the problems at hand; housing; sleeping in a park.

Besides these the option is jail, a real threat for anyone on the streets who is worried about losing a job. Is there even room for the real criminals in jail?

How long are we going to be run around corners, chased off sidewalks, and driven into a state of exhaustion from this double-edged sword, this sword that must be filed down if we are to survive this paradox that inflates the already inflated levels of people living outside!?

Can we now ask: What are we going to do? We've been squeezed through the cracks that have been paved over until we've been forced into screaming "WE NEED TENTS!" because the low-income can't afford

the high rates on low income apartments and the homeless are stuck in the middle of this paradox not knowing where to turn.

If it's not a garage going up then it's a shelter being closed down. And the people that live or shop downtown have the nerve to scream that they're being abused. Again the two-sided sword of discrimination has been sharpened, leaving a one-sided opinion that has a dysfunctional outcome in most cases. That opinion is that all of the homeless are criminal or must have somehow placed themselves where they are. Not true.

If you have actually listened to any of the stories that have been brought out, then you should already know that there are several reasons which only continue. If you have not listened at all, you've only ignored the truth.

Every good idea that we have sent up has been shot down, creating another paradox of Illusions about the homeless. In this case, it's Tent City — the only hope left for those being forced out of the parks. From me to you, one park is as good as the other, so what's the problem?

People discriminated against Tent City because of their mistaken belief as to who the drunk and disorderly people really are. Can we now see the ethical problems that this ongoing discrimination has caused us all?

If we can't sit in a park, let alone sleep in one or open tent cities, then you will continue to have people screaming in your ears. We need somewhere to go other than the sidewalks that are supposed to be free to the public anyway. If you keep screaming that you want the homeless out of your hair then give us some place to go. Practice what you preach to us all — yes, us, the low income, the underpaid workers, the homeless. We already know that it's a vicious circle. Now it's time to find some common ground for a change.

We all know that having to pay the first and last month's rent, plus a deposit, for a new apartment is outrageous, not to mention the added security checks most landlords charge is what holds most people down at street level, especially if their credit is bad. I'm tired of repeating myself. Wake up, America. Can we go along....

B. Springer.

Real Change July 1, 1999 www.realchangenews.org

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**National conference of National Organization for Women, \$75 - \$110, at the Beverly Hilton, Los Angeles registration fax 202-785-8576 or <http://www.now.org/conference.html>** **7/2-4**

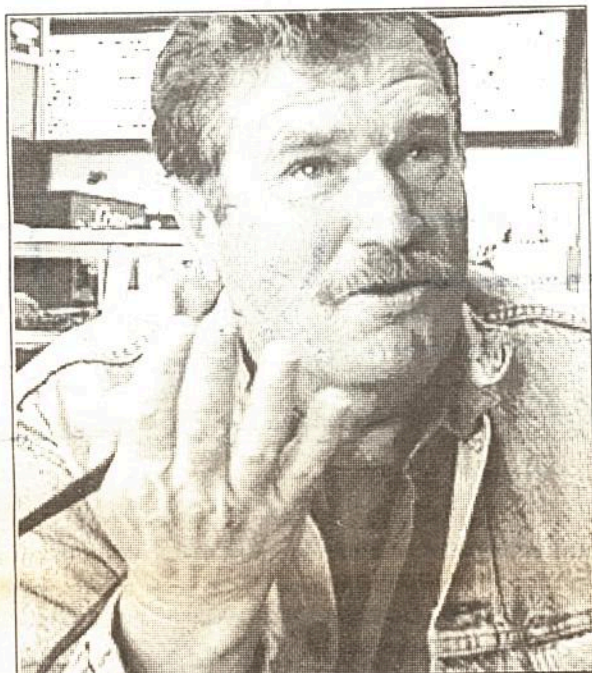
**Fellowship of Reconciliation annual regional conference, theme "Inclusion: Creating a World for Everyone," keynote speakers John Dear, national director of F.O.R., and Rosalinda Aguirre, head of Washington State Jobs With Justice; at Seabeck, WA, on Hood Canal; info 206-789-5565** **7/2-5**

**Non-Violence Training to Resist the List.** On Wednesday, July 14, the Washington State Board of Health plans to approve HIV names reporting. If they do, a centralized list of the names of every HIV-positive person in Washington will become a reality in September. How do YOU plan to express your outrage? Will you sit at home, impotently shouting at the television news anchor? Will you feel powerless as you fear for the future of your loved ones and yourself?

Or will you join "Resist the List" in making a loud, clear, coordinated, and peaceful statement that will send political shock waves throughout the state and the nation? If so, you will want to attend one of Resist the List's two civil disobedience trainings.

Civil Disobedience Training 1: Saturday, July 3, 2 - 6 p.m.; Cal Anderson House, 400 Broadway (South of Swedish Hospital). (See 7/11 for 2nd training session info).

Reserve your place now! You must contact us in advance to attend either CD training. Please call (206) 517-2617 or email [jackman@drizzle.com](mailto:jackman@drizzle.com). Include a phone number in your message.



**Taylor's Campaign, July 9@911**

threaten their existence, a penniless, disabled trucker named Ron Taylor runs for a seat on the Santa Monica city council as a voice for tolerance. Directed by Richard Cohen, produced by Amy Zieringhofman, and narrated by Martin Sheen, "Taylor's Campaign" approaches the subject of homelessness with humor, grace, and compassion. Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*, said it is "the best film treatment of homelessness I've seen...moving, troubling, fascinating." The screening will also be a benefit for *Real Change*. \$4 general admission, \$2 for 911 members. 8 p.m. at the 911 Media Arts Center, 117 Yale Ave North (near Denny and Stewart), info 206-682-6552

The Black Dollar Task Force and the Urban Enterprise Center of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce invites you to participate in the **Campaign 5000/African American Community Endowment Fund Walk for Community Economic Development**; benefits the African American Endowment Fund that supports African Americans and inner-city micro-enterprise development and sustainability. Walkers may participate individually or form teams who will gather sponsors. Jazz music and great food along the route. \$20 registration fee, whoever gets \$200 in pledges becomes a stakeholder, 2 p.m., beginning at the Promenade, 23rd & S Jackson St.; info [LCross2781@aol.com](mailto:LCross2781@aol.com) or Lottie 206-324-3114

**Resist the List Civil Disobedience Training in response to HIV names reporting; 2 - 6 p.m., 1000 - 8th Ave. (at Madison in First Hill); with Potluck Dinner! (See 7/3 for registration info and other details.)** **7/11**

**Tenant Organizing Meeting** sponsored by the Tenants Union, come plan actions to further tenants rights and support the struggle of tenants to save their housing; snacks and socializing too, for special needs (interpretation, kids, etc.) July 12 and subsequent 2nd Mondays, 6 - 8 p.m., at the Pike Market Senior Center, 1931 - 1st Ave, enter on the side door on Virginia St.; please call ahead 206-722-6848 ext. 102

**Tibetan Freedom Rock Concert**, to raise awareness of human rights violations in Tibet; bands include Massive Habit, Bench Grinder, Nevermore, proceeds benefit Tibetan Rights Campaign, Amnesty International, Tibet Education Network, Students for Free Tibet, UW; \$8 all ages, 7 p.m., at Pine Lake Community Club, 21333 SE 20th, Issaquah; tickets Tenzing MoMo, Pike Place Market 206-623-9837

**Denver-based choral director Eric T. Dozier brings his "One Human Family" Music Workshop**, with its message of unity in diversity, and focus on presenting gospel music performed by a culturally diverse choir of 100 people. Singers invited to participate, workshops in vocal harmony, begins Friday evening, rehearsals and workshops all day Saturday, Sunday morning teaser at a local church followed by two full concerts for the public at the Meydenbauer Center, \$15 includes workshops and lunch on Saturday, registration by July 5, sponsored by the Baha'is of the Puget Sound, Eastshore Unitarian Church, the City of Bellevue Cultural Diversity pro-

**Community Assets Sale**, a rummage/auction benefits the African American Endowment Fund that supports African Americans and inner-city micro-enterprise development and sustainability, donations being accepted, info [LCross2781@aol.com](mailto:LCross2781@aol.com) or Lottie 206-324-3114 or Liz Wills 206-323-9534

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

**Campaign Kickoff for Judy Nicastro for City Council.** The candidate led the fight to repeal anti-rent control law last fall, and succeeded in placing the issue on the State's Legislative agenda. Target issues for her City Council Campaign are Housing, Open Spaces, and Transportation, with an emphasis on the particulars of low-income housing, park development and maintenance, and the monorail. 6 - 8 p.m., Speakeasy Cafe; info 206-632-4272

**911 and Real Change present: Taylor's Campaign** If you missed it in May, here's another chance for you to see this excellent documentary feature about unforgettable hardworking people living in cardboard boxes in luxurious Santa Monica, California. When new laws

**J U L Y**

**NOTABLES**

gram, and Minuteman Press in Redmond; at the Eastshore Unitarian Church, Bellevue; info PO Box 982, Renton WA 98057 or 206-609-9086 or [headswa@aol.com](mailto:headswa@aol.com)

**19th Annual Seattle Peace Concerts' Free Summer Park Concert Series Taste of Soul Festival:** Celebrate the many soulful flavors of our human spirit with music, food, arts and crafts! Bands include Grasshopper, Variables, Sunshine Generation, Children's Performing Group, Omar Torrez Band; proceeds benefit Childhaven; please bring food bank donations for Northwest Harvest; admission free, noon - 6 p.m., at Gas Works Park; info <http://www.seapeace.org> or 206-729-5232

**Upward Bound "Job Shadow Day"** Upward Bound, a program that encourages low-income high school students to go to college, is offering volunteers the chance to spend around 2 or 3 hours with very motivated and diverse students. The students have requested work in every field from the Arts to Zoology, including yours. To volunteer call Martin Friedman 206-386-1183 or email [Martin.Friedman@ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:Martin.Friedman@ci.seattle.wa.us)

**Education for Activists, organizers, workers, and the community:** series of Urban Action School courses offered frequently; sliding scale fees, space limited, early registration recommended, checks to Public Information Network, PO Box 95316, Seattle WA 98145-2316, info 206-464-9129

**Continue to phone President Clinton 202-456-1111** to urge No Military Action against Iraq; End the economic sanctions killing thousands each month right now. The crisis is not over!

**Join in the efforts of Jubilee 2000**, press Congress to cancel the debts in the 41 most heavily indebted poor countries; Structural Adjustment Programs, conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund, cause hardship and desperation all over the world; payments on international debts eat up half the national budget of these nations, with nothing left over for education or healthcare; call 202-783-3566 for an information packet, info Ann McLaughlin 360-779-4774

**Emergency response plan if U.S. bombs anywhere**, meet at Seattle Federal Building, 2nd between Madison and Marion, at 5 p.m. day after such action is announced (up to midnight Seattle time); info Non-violent Action Community of Cascadia 206-547-0952

**Special Thanks to Jean Buskin at [bb369@scn.org](mailto:bb369@scn.org)**  
**For complete listings with meeting times for local advocacy & peace groups, see her fine calendar at <http://www.scn.org/activism/PJ-cal.txt>**



# Fix the Roof

## Adjust federal budget priorities

The CPP seeks to provide you with the views and concerns that homeless, poor, and working people's 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:** It's budget time at the Federal Government. While the process is slightly more arcane than, say, balancing your checkbook, there are literally hundreds of billions of dollars at stake. It's well worth it, say advocates, to learn about what's happening and speak up to affect it.

The need is most urgent now. First of all, the need is severe. Second, because of a robust economy, the money is there. The Invest in America campaign, an effort of 200 national organizations (and growing), is calling for Congress to increase domestic investment, including priorities such as housing, food, and education.

**BACKGROUND:** Like Washington State, the Federal Government has spending caps on the amount of money they can spend. While Washington State passed Initiatives 601 and 602 in 1993, the Federal Government passed the Budget Enforcement Act of 1997. That law severely caps their "discretionary budget," which includes 13 separate appropriations they will consider this summer.

Discretionary spending doesn't include things like social security or welfare, which are entitlements mandated by law and available to anyone who's eligible. It does include most everything else, from social services to highway spending to the Pentagon.

There used to be a "firewall" between defense and non-defense spending, so that an increase in defense would not necessarily mean a decrease in social service funding. In other words, the discretionary defense budget was not linked with the other 12 appropriations bills. In 1999, for the first time, it is. That's bad news for social services because Congress is recommending billions more in defense spending, and concurrent cuts for programs like housing and food.

No matter what, the spending caps for the next fiscal year will necessitate cuts of \$26 - \$28 billion from the entire discretionary budget. Many advocates are calling for a raise to the spending limit. Consider this:

43 million people nationwide have no health insurance.

One in five children in America lives in poverty, compared to one in seven in 1974.

Three out of four of our nation's third graders read below grade level.

34 million people nationwide are moderately or severely hungry, or in families so economically marginal that parents are taking steps like skipping meals so children can eat.

More than 5 million families pay over half their incomes for housing, leaving little or no income for other basic needs like food and health care.

The money being spent on domestic programs is near a 35-year low.

As the Statement of Principles of the Invest in America Campaign says, "Sharing our nation's strength and good fortune through investments that work is far wiser and will pay far greater dividends than spending the surplus on spiraling tax breaks for the most affluent Americans."

**ACTION NEEDED/ RECOMMENDED:**

**MESSAGE:** Call your state legislators. Tell them to "raise spending caps for the discretionary budget and decreasing defense spending." To find out who your legislators are call the League of Women Voters at (206) 329-4848, or visit <http://www.vote-smart.org/>

Special thanks to Ellen Taylor at the Invest in America Campaign. For more information, contact them at (202) 234-8494 or <http://www.ombwatch.org/>

**Note: Thanks to everyone who has given us feedback about this column (last issue's recommended action). We're still taking comments; call us at 441-8143. We'll publish the results on July 15th.**

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