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VOL. 7, NO. 1, JAN., 2000

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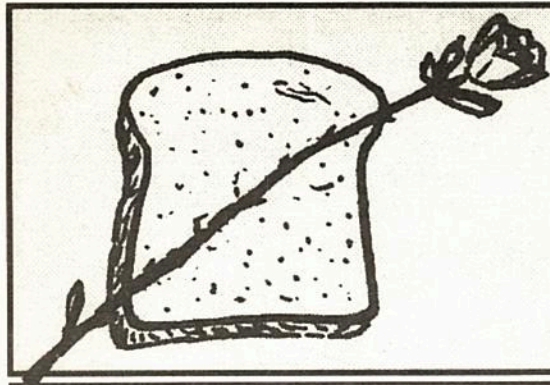
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COVER PHOTO BY ERIC CASTRO

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless



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



Life at Sea

Local artist celebrates heroism in the fishing industry

BY TODD MATTHEWS

In the early-1980s, the widow of a fisherman approached the pastor at her Lutheran church in Ballard. She missed her husband, she said, and longed for a place to visit that would memorialize him and all the other commercial fishermen lost at sea.

Pastor Malcolm Unseth liked the idea and began the Fishermen's Memorial Committee to find a local artist to build such a memorial.

Ronald Petty was the first artist Unseth approached. "I really don't remember how they got my name," says Petty. "It could be that they saw one of my other works in town."

Petty suggested the committee make a national call for entries. "I realized this was a very monumental project," he said. "I knew it would go public anyway."

The concept intrigued Petty. It also intrigued nearly 100 artists across the United States. When the committee narrowed the competition to 15, Petty was one of those selected. When the committee narrowed it down even further, to five, Petty was still in the running. Eventually, the committee selected Petty. "That my proposal won was very ironic," says Petty. "I won it on merit, for which I have always been very proud."

The Seattle artist soon began work on what is now a city and Pacific Northwest landmark. This

area is home to some of the largest commercial fishing fleets in the nation. The scope of the project was \$50,000, a relatively small amount of money to realize some very big concepts.

Though the monument was to be a memorial for lost fishermen, Petty did not want celestial symbols of death or dying. "I wanted a human figure on the work," he said, "and I wanted that figure to represent heroism."

The figure he selected was a halibut fisherman, though the fish that his figure is landing is a composite of several species — so as not to single out one fishery in particular. Petty also wanted to represent a classic realism style in the piece. That style is clearly reflected in the monument's base, column, and capital structure.

In order to capture a sense of realism in the work, the University of Washington School of Fisheries allowed Petty to view their extensive collection of fish — a "fact-checking" of sorts that Petty found extremely useful. Petty also looked to the fishing community for inspiration. "I had many friends in the fishing industry," says Petty, "and a social connection to fishermen." Petty himself has lived and worked in an Alaska fishing town.

The Fishermen's Memorial opened many doors for Petty. Shortly after the 30' bronze and cast stone sculpture was dedicated at Fishermen's Terminal

"Lots of young widows have visited that memorial ..."

**Artist
Ronald Petty**

Continued to page 7

A Capital Idea

Small business loans provide entrepreneurial opportunity

BY PETER BLOCH-GARCIA

When Felicia Roberts moved to Seattle two years ago as a single mother, she found it difficult to manage her work and family. She was faced with the additional difficulty of finding a daycare facility that fit her work schedule. After several months, Felicia decided to open her own daycare program. Making her business profitable has proved to be a different kind of challenge. "It's very hard," Felicia comments. "It made me want to go back to work. I take it one day at a time."

While the rising Northwest economy continues to bring record profits, not all people in Seattle share its bounty. People who embrace entrepreneurial ideals are faced with new challenges under ever increasing pressures of new economic conditions. But now there is hope for budding entrepreneurs — hope through "microlending."

Microloans are well known worldwide to help lift people out of poverty. The loans are given to people who don't qualify for lack of collateral or no credit history. Following the success of the Grameen Bank of India, which raised many people out of poverty, committed business leaders have tried to replicate successful microlending programs in the United States. A handful of institutions have set up shop in Seattle to serve the needs of people who want to improve their economic condition by starting their own businesses.

When Street Outreach Services, a non-profit social service program, found it difficult to establish a line of credit from traditional institutions, they saw it as a reflection of the larger economy. Executive Director Chris Nyrop believes the need for microloans is vital to our local economy. "There is a growing economic disparity in the Seattle area," says Nyrop. "It is a disparity microlending tries to alleviate."

Since 1995, Cascadia Revolving Fund (CRF) has provided microloans to many disadvantaged low-income, yet aspiring, entrepreneurs. It was CRF that helped Felicia Roberts make her small business successful. Roberts was provided a low-interest loan that enabled her to expand her business operations. In addition to the microloan, CRF helped Roberts market her business. Now Roberts runs a profitable 24-hour childcare program with 22 children enrolled.

"Never before has there been a time of greater need to reverse the economic trend of inequity of wealth. If not, we'll forever be creating a poverty ridden class."

**Jim Thomas,
CEO,
Community
Capital
Development**

Continued to page 5

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.

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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.

MAILBAG

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Back Patting

Dear *Real Change*,

I've just got to thank everyone involved with the paper for your hard work! When I found out the WTO was coming here, I turned to your paper first, then *The Stranger* and the *Seattle Weekly* to inform myself of the issues. The paper continues to get better and better. Thank you for being the voice of reason on the streets for so many people.

Shelley Dillon,
Seattle

More Self-Congratulations

Dear *Real Change*,

Before WTO week, myself and others were in Seattle working to get homeless and low-income people heard in community planning — to see that the needs of homeless during WTO were met, and dignity respected. Our main focus during WTO was to keep homeless people safe. We protested street sweeps and raised Tent Cities. Most of us are aware that the forces behind WTO are also the forces that have made us homeless and low-income. We regarded the protestors as allies working for a world where everyone has a voice in decisions that affect them, where everyone's dignity is respected, where the needs of low-in-

come people and the natural environment get met.

In the aftermath, we feel warmed by success.

Our Tent Cities were successful, and gained even wider community support. With churches, media, and neighbors speaking favorably about us, it becomes less and less believable for city officials to claim that "Tent Cities aren't publicly acceptable in Seattle." Of course, it is always difficult to get officials to admit that "they" aren't the public.

Interestingly, on Nov. 30 the issue was obscured — as one of our street-observers said, "We can't tell if homeless people are being arrested — everyone is being arrested!" But city officials publicly claimed that they don't do or approve of sweeps. Once we've put together observer accounts of the weeks before WTO, we'll see if we can give the media some juicy questions to ask.

Seattle L. Freeman,

P.S. Did anyone get, or see, a photo of the giant green condom labeled "Practice Safe Trade"? It was one of my favorite scenes of the week.

The Professor

Dear *Real Change*,

The recent death of "The Professor" came at a time when we need to be reminded of the humanity in all of us. I did not know the Professor personally, but have seen him around for years. In May of 1993, I saw him picking up litter on Capitol Hill on 15th Street, across from Group Health, and was inspired to write the enclosed poem.

J. Glenn Evans,
Seattle

A SAINTLY SOUL

A saintly soul I saw this morn
With long gray coat
And years of seventy
Plus some more

He walked with a janitor's stick
Like a pigeon plucking crumbs
He'd take a bit of this and a bite of that
Trash upon the street

A humble soul he was
He had a look that asked
Am I doing
That which I shouldn't

By his action he loved his city
By his care he loved his fellow man
With cleanliness next to godliness
This old man must have been a saint

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The Price of Progress

The question of the millennium: Surplus people. Who needs 'em?

Homelessness is not about an individual here or there who needs a handout or a hand up. Rather, homelessness is about the way we organize our neighborhood, community, and world.

Craig Rennebohm

Homelessness is the product of political, economic, and social approaches, which put varying worths on human beings and refuse to give all persons a fair and basic place in our common life.

The choice is clear as we enter the next millennium. Will we continue to run with highly individualistic, privatized, consumerist, techno-entertainment interests? Or will we walk together in a public and cooperative way with equal care and regard for all persons? We must build on the social union that has guided the best of our human efforts throughout history.

As we look ahead at the issues of homelessness, it is important to look at the past. Specifically, look back over the last century in Seattle. Homelessness was rampant in the 1930s. The "Hooverville" south of downtown Seattle was a huge encampment of folks without work. Widespread homelessness was the result of an economic system in failure. Look back even further. During the 18th century, early American "poor laws" specified in detail whom among the impoverished and the outcast were deserving of some meager assistance, and whom were not.

And when one looks at the turn of the last millennium, one finds that homelessness is the story of loss in a world where economic interest, coupled with the accumulation of wealth and power, is valued above all else. It is the story of those who do not "fit."

Homelessness is very much a function of how we structure our society. As we enter a new millennium, we must reassess such a societal structure. We must re-evaluate labor: People work, but their wages do not cover the cost of housing. We must re-evaluate public assistance: Families receive public assistance, but they must wait years for a housing voucher or placement in a public residence. Services and housing are highly rationed.

And then there are eligibility requirements; extensive interview processes and paperwork; the use of cards, identifiers, and increasingly elaborate management tools and procedures; lack of cooperation between services; fragmented and ever-changing systems; overwhelming caseloads. These all are barriers to assistance, even to the most able and persistent folks seeking to move from the street to stability.

Moreover, state mental hospitals are downsized, and even closed, despite a demand from those who experience serious and chronic mental illness. Simply put, homelessness has

everything to do with how we organize our community life and choose to share and distribute resources.

"Homelessness is the story of loss in a world where economic interest, coupled with the accumulation of wealth and power, is valued above all else. It is the story of those who do not 'fit.'"

Over the last decade, Seattle has promised new homes for the Mariners, the Seahawks, the Seattle Art Museum, the Symphony, the Children's Theater, the Ballet, and the Repertory. Seattle has rebuilt the downtown core, providing homes for Old Navy, Cineplex Odeon, numerous retail stores, and a host of hotels and business enterprises. Seattle is presently building new convention and civic center, and expanding research facilities and university campuses.

But all of this "progress" has been at a profound cost.

What has replaced the 25,000 units of low-cost housing that were once available to workers, elderly, and disabled folks downtown? When the government no longer has the capacity to borrow while building a "world class" metropolis, what is left to invest in creating sustainable, caring community among ordinary human beings? When everything goes to the highest bidder, what happens to those whose job or apartment or medical benefits are suddenly gone in the change of ownership, management, or policy?

Insuring shelter, health, and a respected place for all in our communities must be at the heart of our life together as a city and a region. Liveable wages, affordable housing, readily accessible medical care, and appropriate supports for those among us with special needs must be our priority as a people, everyday. The choice is clear as we enter the next millennium. Will we continue to run with highly individualistic, privatized, consumerist, techno-entertainment interests? Or will we walk together in a public and cooperative way with equal care and regard for all persons? ☐

Craig Rennebohm has been a member of the Mental Health Chaplaincy for 13 years. He has done community outreach on the streets since 1968.

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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 readers to do a 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. Donations to the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project (RCHEP) are tax deductible and support our work with StreetWrites, StreetLife Gallery, the Macworkshop computer lab, and the Homeless Speakers Bureau. Checks written to *Real Change* are not tax deductible, and support the newspaper itself.

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NCH Attacks Hate Crimes

The figures are alarming: 29 homeless people were murdered in 11 U.S. cities in 1999; six others were severely beaten; the victims are as young as 4 months and as old as 62. These are the figures of a report recently released by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH). According to NCH organizer Michael Stoops, crimes and violence against the homeless are not being taken seriously enough by public officials. The report, entitled "No More Homeless Deaths," calls for the U.S. Dept. of Justice to begin tracking hate crimes/violence against homeless.

Denver, Colorado, has seen the most horrific cases: seven homeless men have been found dead in the trendy Lower Downtown district since last April. Two were beheaded. All of the men were beaten to death, one so savagely that his skull was in pieces. In Rapid City, South Dakota, eight homeless men have been found drowned in the last 16 months in a stream near the city's core. According to the city's police chief, there are just too many drownings for the deaths to be considered coincidences. Last summer a homeless man in Chicago was doused with a flammable chemical and set aflame as he slept on a park bench. In September, three youths were charged with throwing an incendiary device through the window of a Jeffersonville, Indiana, apartment building for homeless families; three homeless people died, including a four-month-old baby. And in Portland, Oregon, three teens were sentenced to 10-year prison sentences for the beating death of a homeless man.

Seattle has also seen its share of violence against homeless men and women. Last March, a 14-year-old middle school student was convicted in the death of a 50-year-old homeless man. The youth struck the victim repeatedly with a skateboard, robbed him, then stabbed him to death. And three teenagers were charged last August with the murder of a 46-year-old homeless man as he tried to sleep beneath an interstate overpass. According to prosecutors, one of the youths charged in the case commented, "Let's just say there's one less bum on the face of the earth."

"Homeless people are vulnerable," says Rick Reynolds at Operation Nightwatch, a service agency for the homeless in Seattle. "A lot of times, in situations where I've witnessed clients being randomly beat up, it involved young people coming out of a bar and thinking that was a fun thing to do. I think it's more of an opportunistic thing, as far as I've seen, rather than any sort of vendetta."

Documenting the violence against homeless men and women is one thing; taking action to stop that violence is another thing. The NCH is taking the next step by asking Congress to consider "homeless people" as a maligned minority, or protected class, in drafting any new legislation against hate crimes. The group is championing the Protected Class Resolution for the Indigent Homeless Population.

Approved by the National Coalition for the Homeless' Civil Rights Work Group and its Board of Directors in April 1998, the resolution is the vehicle the National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project (NHCROP) will use to guarantee homeless people's civil rights in its attempts to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include the indigent homeless population. NHCROP, in coordination with other national civil rights organizations, will soon begin a national campaign to introduce this resolution as civil rights legislation to the U.S. Congress.

—Todd Matthews

LIHI Bigger, Better, More Purple

Surrounded by large madrona trees, a children's play area, and a community center for area residents, the granddaughter of the late Aki Kurose — an influential schoolteacher and peace activist — welcomed the latest addition to affordable housing in Seattle. "My Grandma Aki believed all kids deserve the feelings of warmth and security that a home provides," said 11-year-old Mika Kurose Rothman, who spoke about her memories of her grandmother at the grand opening of the Aki Kurose Village in North Seattle last month.

A crowd of residents, funders, neighbors, and other supporters turned out to tour the brightly colored, newly constructed housing — a project developed by the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI). The entire three-acre site will provide a total of 87 units of mixed-income housing for families, couples, and singles. Twenty-five condominium units will be completed in 2000. Much of

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the total development's \$4.9 million cost was financed by the City of Seattle Housing Levy and HOME funds, low-income housing tax credits from the Enterprise Social Investment Corporation and Bank of America, Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Enterprise Foundation, Key Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank, HUD, Seattle Housing Authority, and Washington Community Development Loan Fund. In addition to guest speakers and children displaying artwork, many residents described how the Aki Kurose Village will allow a transition from area homeless shelters to permanent housing in Seattle.

—Katy Carter



THE LATEST FROM THE LIHI HOUSING MILL, BRIGHT PURPLE STAIRS AND ALL. AFFORDABLE HOUSING THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO LIVE THERE. PHOTO BY KATY CARTER

Sidran Inspires Auburn

Does Seattle City Attorney Mark Sidran have an even-more-evil twin in Auburn, Washington? That seems to be the question, especially after Auburn city leaders adopted an ordinance penalizing anyone who sits or slumbers on city sidewalks. The ordinance, passed on December 15, 1999, is strikingly similar to the controversial measure passed in Seattle several years ago.

While the ordinance marks Auburn as the first city in the South Sound to penalize folks for hanging out on city sidewalks, so-called "civility laws" have become all the rage for city politicians with gentrification-on-the-brain, argue some critics. The laws set out to prevent panhandlers from getting too aggressive; prostitutes and drug dealers from loitering; and the homeless or the inebriated from sitting, according to supporters. Since 1990, a half-dozen cities in and around Puget Sound have adopted similar laws, including Federal Way, Lacey, Lakewood, Seattle, Tacoma, and now Auburn.

In 1994, Seattle passed an ordinance — championed largely by City Attorney Mark Sidran — that fined individuals for sitting or lying on sidewalks, aggressively begging, and sleeping in parks. That law has withstood several lawsuits, and ended with a state Court of Appeals decision reaffirming the law. The new law in Auburn states that an individual sitting on the sidewalk may face a \$50 fine; criminalized aggressive begging carries a price tag of up to \$5,000 and one year in jail.

"Aggressive begging in Auburn now carries a price tag of up to \$5,000 and one year in jail."

Do you have a story we should look into? Call Todd Matthews at 441-8143, and just maybe we will.



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FELICIA ROBERTS HAS HER HANDS FULL RUNNING A DAYCARE STARTED WITH A CRF MICRO-LOAN. PHOTO BY ERIK CASTRO

LOANS, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

CRF's loans range from a couple hundred dollars for a borrower to buy needed supplies for a retail business to \$20,000 to expand business operations. CRF gives loans to create local job opportunities for the traditionally disenfranchised, to aid economically distressed communities, and to support businesses with sound environmental practices. CRF has helped dry cleaners convert to ecological equipment, supported organic farmers, and helped Wilde E Volution — a company that produces and sells conversion kits for environmentally friendly electric cars. Small businesses that typically succeed with microloans include daycare programs, dry cleaners, and restaurants.

CRF's microloans are given to people who have difficulty qualifying under traditional requirements for commercial loan approval. Such difficulties include untried credit history, poor credit, or no significant assets to put up as collateral. Shaw Canale, Executive Director of CRF, says the risks in microlending are those of the borrowers who are brave enough to forge their own operation in a com-

petitive U.S. market abound with mega-corporations.

Jim Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of Community Capital Development (CCD), is committed to microlending because it creates wealth for individuals and the inner-cities. Thomas brings 20 years of banking experience to his Seattle based microlending operation, which began in 1997 and outperformed their original projections. With loans ranging from \$500 to \$50,000, Thomas proudly reports giving out 97 loans that have created 217 local jobs.

One of CCD's success stories is a small company that needed a loan to get the patent on their skin care product manufactured with seaweed. Through

CCD's loan, that business is thriving. Most borrowers are not as quick at making their businesses profitable.

As a nonprofit, CCD's mission is to help microloan borrowers be successful. CCD provides training and counseling to its borrowers, and it is working to keep borrowers current with technology. Training and counseling specifi-

cally helps borrowers without any business background learn general management, marketing, and preparation of financial statements.

Microlending isn't just popular in Seattle. Larger lending institutions recognize the growing niche market for microloans. Banks contribute as investors in funds like CRF and CCD because they recognize that the social service component to microlending is an area in which they don't have expertise. In the last two decades 3,000 small financial institutions have developed the practice of microlending nationwide. The Small Business Administration is now funding microlending programs at 96 nonprofit agencies in 44 states and targeting poor urban neighborhoods.

With the average income in 1999 for residents in the Seattle Metropolitan area reportedly at \$62,600 per family, the economic disparity between higher and lower income residents continues to widen. Microlending is just a beginning at bridging this gap. As Jim Thomas says, "Never before has there been a time of greater need to reverse the economic trend of inequity of wealth. If not, we'll forever be creating a poverty-ridden class." ☐

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The Longest Night

New coalition asks city to recommit on ending homelessness

BY GRETCHEN KING

A newly formed coalition, aptly named "First Things First," mobilized last month to mark the "longest night of the year" and remind city officials that we are far from the goal of getting women and children in Seattle off the street. Coalition members pointed out that Seattle's unusually strong economy has not decreased homelessness, and may even have made the problem worse.

The winter solstice rally, which began at the Church of Mary Magdalene and followed with a march to City Hall, marked the anniversary of an early promise by Mayor Paul Schell that all homeless women and children would be off the streets by Christmas 1998. Progress included a new 25-bed women's shelter and additional funding for housing vouchers.

Yet most advocates saw the \$500,000 allocated toward the Mayor's goal as the beginning and not the end of the process. One year later, a one-night street count found a 30 percent increase in those without shelter.

First Things First supporters met with the Mayor's office and members of the city council to take stock and reinvigorate the promise of shelter for all. In a letter to city officials, the coalition asked the city to "renew their commitment to addressing

the root social and economic causes of homelessness, while continuing to work towards meeting the basic needs of homeless people during their time of crisis."

Coalition member Erin Katz described what the group is seeking from the city. "The city should provide enough affordable housing for all folks in our community," said Katz. "There should be economic opportunity for all citizens so that people who are working can afford to live in this city, and have access to child care and affordable health insurance. It should not be illegal to sit on the streets or fall asleep in parks because you have no other place to go," she said.

Coalition members met with Deputy Mayor Tom Byers to express concerns over aspects of the new Safe Harbors initiative, and to ask the Mayor's office to recommit to ending homelessness for women and children. Byers assured attendees that the computer database proposed by Safe Harbors is "strictly informational" and not a "snooping device."

No specific commitments were made. The coalition also met with councilmember Licata and members of McIver's and Steinbrueck's staff. A meeting is scheduled with councilmember Compton. Councilmember Conlin scheduled a meeting that he did not keep, and Councilmembers Pageler and Drago showed no interest in meeting at all.

In a meeting with Eric Parsons, the legislative assistant to council member Richard McIver, many First Things First support-

"Seattle's unusually strong economy has not decreased homelessness, and may even have made the problem worse."



SOPHIE TAKES A RIDE ON MOM'S SHOULDERS (GINGER SEGAL) ON HER WAY TO CITY HALL. PHOTO BY ERIK CASTRO.



SEATTLE'S RAGING GRANNIES SAID PAGELER AND DRAGO DESERVE A GOOD SCOLDING. PHOTO BY ERIK CASTRO

ers crowded into a small conference room to seek a commitment to work on root causes. They raised issues of homeless encampments, sustainable wages, public restrooms, safe areas, harassment of homeless by police, and certain city laws that target homeless.

The group also suggested that the city act to develop an easy way to track the low-income housing available in Seattle. Parsons encouraged the group to continue speaking out.

"If the council could see support for the things you mention," said Parsons, "then we can begin this process." The gathering pressed the city council to commit to continuing a dialogue with the group. First Things First will continue to build its coalition and is planning to meet with legislators soon.

For some, the rally was a chance to speak face to face with elected officials. One young woman, who was homeless for several years as a teen, said that the day's action was important to her. "My entire homeless experience was humiliating, and it made me angry and fearful for my safety," she said. "When I was homeless I couldn't find the help I needed because of all the stipulations and guidelines, so I'd like to see the city address making resources more accessible, and to do something about police harassment of the homeless." □

For more information about supporting First Things First, please call (206) 443-1342 or (206) 441-3247 or email rchange@speakeasy.org

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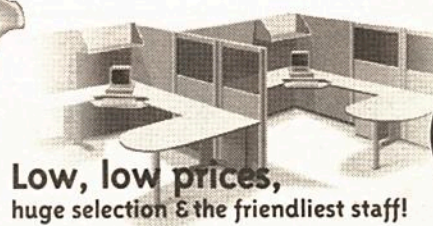
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PETTY, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

in October 1998, Petty was bombarded with projects throughout Washington state.

The city of Lynnwood commissioned "Future Track," a monument at the Lynnwood Civic Center. He also designed "Salmon Dancing," a series of four bronze and cast stone sculptures located at the entrance of One Union Square in downtown Seattle. The city of Shelton hired Petty to design a bronze structure depicting a logger — a monument that serves as a tribute to timber industry workers.

In 1991 Petty became only one of three Washington State residents accepted to the National Sculpture Society, an esteemed organization dating back to 1870.

And what do people walk away with after visiting the memorial? "Children are attracted to the fish," says Petty. "When the monument was unveiled, as soon as the wrapping fell away children rushed to climb on the fish." Indeed, the monument is extremely kid-friendly, as the fish are situated at eye-level to children and invite curious hands. "I think adults like it, too," adds Petty. "I've observed people at the memorial, and I think adults in general have a good feeling about it."

While opportunities to create monumental art are few and far between, it is a medium that Petty prefers over gallery installations. Perhaps his interest in big art stems from his background in carpentry, and a long history of family members who built houses and bridges.

It seems that the woman who had longed for a memorial for her husband lost at sea has seen her dream come true. Presently, there are more than 500 names on the monument's plaque — names that represent Seattle men and

women lost at sea. "When someone walks up to the memorial," says Petty, "it's not like he or she is walking up to a gravestone. Rather, the monument celebrates life."

And Petty has seen a number of widows around the memorial. "Lots of young widows have visited that memorial," says Petty. "The fishing industry takes many young men and women." ☐



PHOTO BY DANIEL CAPLAN

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Book Review

The Good Doctor

WAKING UP IN AMERICA
DR. PEDRO JOSE GREER JR.
SIMON & SCHUSTER, 1999
REVIEW BY TIMOTHY HARRIS

Homelessness is too easy to get used to. The banality of misery fades into a dull everydayness, and people stop existing. They become "clients." Those of us in the trenches need to keep our sense of outrage sharp, so we can turn it to our advantage. We need to remember why we do this.

It helps to recall the first time we couldn't believe our eyes. For my friend Anitra, it was sleeping on a mat in a church basement next to an elderly woman. For me, it was meeting mentally retarded homeless people and realizing they were on their own. For Dr. Pedro Jose Greer Jr., it was seeing a homeless man die of tuberculosis in the United States in 1984.

Dr. Greer is the founder of Miami's Camillus Health Concern, a poor people's clinic that began in a back office of a homeless shelter with whatever bandages and ointments and such that he could cram into his bag. His own compassion and sense of mission spread to others, and PW-GAS (People Who Give a Shit) was formed, a ragtag group of medical students and interns willing to bind the wounds of society with nothing but time and stolen medical supplies.

Over 14 years, Camillus grew into a clinic that treats 10,000 indigent men, women, and children each year. Greer's biography, *Waking Up in America*, is worth reading not just because

of his achievement, but because he has come through the experience with his sense of outrage fully intact.

Greer describes a world most people will never see. The "mudflats" where the homeless live look like a bombed-out garbage dump. Downtown after hours looks like something out of Dickens. The flipside of wealth in America is bitter, grueling poverty, and Miami is as tough a town as any. He takes us through the anti-homeless sweeps and anti-immigrant crackdowns and looks where most people avert their eyes.

We are introduced to compassionate crack hookers, literary Vietnam vet alcoholics, and families at the tragic end of the line, and shown that writing off the entire underclass as a bunch of "screw-ups" is way too convenient. "Judge the disease, not the person," says Greer.

Yet *Waking Up in America* is much more than a series of heartwarming character sketches. It is a political coming of age story, with a lot of

"Greer's Biography, *Waking Up in America*, is worth reading not because of his achievement, but because he has come through the experience with his sense of outrage fully intact."

Continued to page 14

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Future Shock

What now? A few psychic predictions, fond desires, and wild guesses from our friends

Perhaps one of the most memorable comments about the new millennium comes from writer Eduardo Galeano:

The millennium will come, the millennium will go, a good opportunity for orators of inflated eloquence to spout off on the destiny of humanity, and for the agents of God's ire to announce the end of the world and other assorted calamities, while time itself continues its long tightlipped march through eternity and mystery. The truth is, who can resist? On such a date, arbitrary though it is, everyone is tempted to wonder about the time to come. And just how is anyone to know? Only one thing is certain: in the 21st century, if we are still here, we'll all be people from the last century and, what's worse, we'll be from the last millennium.

Galeano, though slightly cynical, is correct. Who can resist? Certainly not *Real Change*. As a result, we have compiled a collection of comments, thoughts, predictions, parodies, and poems from writers, readers, and notable folks in Seattle. We hope you enjoy this "millennium issue," and have a meaningful new year....

Clarity, Energy, and No Rent Control

Well, folks, it's the first year of post-WTO Seattle. We are older and wiser, and still a little off balance. What does the new year hold? People who make predictions are either fools or brilliant seers. I know I'm not the latter and I hope I'm not the former. So I offer hopes rather than predictions. My hopes are:

- A re-energized political climate. Less sterile process, more town hall meetings where all voices are heard and respected, where exchange of ideas leads to good and fair results.
- Renewed attention to how to create more affordable housing in Seattle. (No rent control, please.)
- Clearer focus on issues of homelessness. Shelters, transitional housing, job placement, health care (including mental health), treatment for drug and alcohol abuse.
- Continued growth, innovation, and creativity among philanthropists and the non-profit community. Here lies the greatest hope for finding new ways to solve old problems.

—Mindy Cameron, *The Seattle Times*

Grubs and Flab Will Rock

In the new millennium, a *Star Wars* movie will be made. In it, Darth Vader will do something bad, and he will start to dress in black. His voice will improve, but Yoda still won't cut him any slack.

In the new millennium, food will be genetically altered to taste good. When people taste genetically altered American cheese, they will say, "Huh, not bad." Meanwhile, grubs will become popular eating, and new grub farming techniques will make them affordable to the masses. McDonald's will come out with a Fried McTucker Basket. Even vegetarians will eat them, because they'll say, "Come on, they're just grubs. It's not like we're eating puppies. Who cares about grubs?"

In the new millennium, there will be several strange new fads. For example, the young people who don't wear make-up to look like they are dying of ugly terminal diseases will be considered "unflab." To be "flab," you will also have to know what diseases killed what famous people, and en-

joy listening to "wheeze." For two years, kids all over the world will stock up on "wheeze" records put out by independent labels in Kent, Washington. Then, suddenly, "wheeze" will be "sleaze," and Japanese post-industrial pre-dance pop will make a come-back.

In the new millennium, Starbucks, AT&T, Disney, RJ Reynolds, Kraft Foods, and Microsoft will merge. Nobody will notice any change in any of them.

In the new millennium, computers will become so user friendly that everyone will stop caring about their human friends. When people party they will only invite their computer friends. Even 10-year-old girls will prefer a new computer over a pony. That's just how friendly computers will be.

—Dr. Wes Browning, *Real Change*

Nicastro and Licata Will Lead the Revolution

The presence of Judy Nicastro and her interest and leadership will infuse the City Council with new-found energy on housing and homeless issues. She will be joined by Nick Licata decrying a homeless tracking system and the continued demolition and loss of low income housing, including Section 8 units. The two of them will introduce a broad right-of-first-refusal law and legislation calling for an end to the Sidran anti-homeless laws. They both will push for additional emergency funding and an allocation of \$10 million in the next city budget for shelter and permanent housing — *and bring these measures up for a vote!* — forcing each councilmember out of complacency on these critical issues.

Until we have a new demolition control ordinance, Nicastro and Licata will oppose all upzones that threaten existing lower density, low income housing. They will mount an effort to block more state and local dollars going to Seattle Housing Authority as long as that agency continues to destroy our limited stock of very-low-income housing. They will seek true "citizen or civilian review" of police misconduct and seek repeal of the car impound law, teen dance hall law, and poster ban. Steinbrueck, seeing the two other councilmembers leaping out ahead of him on these issues, will hasten to follow. As public sentiment builds for these measures, McIver and Conlin or even maybe Wills will jump on board occasionally and, in a snowballing effect, most of these new initiatives will become law.

In the end I suppose what will happen depends on our ability in the community to keep the pressure on. Just who on our new City Council will be up to the task? And, just as important, are *we* up to the task?

—John Fox,
Seattle Displacement Coalition

Eyman Will Die

A group of city council members get a visit from the Virgin Guadalupe who convinces them to halt further wasting of public funds on a new city hall, demolition of the Kingdome, construction on a new football stadium, and construction on a new civic center.

The State supreme court will find I-695 to be unconstitutional. Tim Eyman will get run over by an SUV by a driver on his way to purchase newly discounted tabs. Julia Hill climbs back in the tree because Pacific Lumber Co. doesn't live up to its promise. President Clinton's initiative to ban products manufactured from child labor is found to be a barrier to trade by the WTO judicial pane. Ralph Nader will not run for President in 2000.

—Peter Bloch-Garcia,
Real Change contributing writer

Real Change polled a few of its vendors for their thoughts on the new millennium....

What sort of hope(s) do you have?

I hope not to be homeless. I also hope to be in a position to help other homeless people.

(Anonymous)

I hope to see more kindness in the world.

(Anonymous)

I hope people can learn to communicate and come to peaceful terms on our differences.

(Michael Spang)

Homeless often means no home, no hope, and much hunger. I hope that folks just like me have a safe place to stay.

(JoJo Jones, vendor #3184)

What is one change in Seattle that you hope to see?

I would hope to see less pollution.

(Anonymous)

I would like to see homeless people more recognized in Seattle. (Anonymous)

During the WTO meeting in Seattle, I saw tent city. It was really cool, well-organized, and good for homeless people. I hope tent city lasts longer. This is the hope of all homeless guys I contact.

(JoJo Jones, vendor #3184)

If you were to have only one New Year's resolution, what would it be?

Quit smoking. (Anonymous)

Have more faith in my husband.

(Anonymous)

Just do it! Take action!

(JoJo Jones, vendor #3184)

Farting: The Final Frontier

Behavior that was socially acceptable in 1850 — like throwing slops out the window into the street — wasn't socially acceptable in 1950. By 2050, it will not only be socially unacceptable to put car exhausts or tobacco smoke into the public air, it will also be extremely low-class to wear perfume, broadcast the scent of coffee and char broiled meat as advertisements, or belch. People who fart will be the last safe target of public scapegoating. Second-hand farts will be determined to cause cancer.

Stress-reaction from being subjected to farts will be a diagnosed illness and a legal defense in court. Civility laws will be passed to protect public safety and order from people who fart, without providing alternatives where they can fart in privacy. Therefore only the rich will be able to fart freely. Rich people will have portable gas-collectors to convert their emissions into a marketable commodity. Poor people will either go into expensively isolated jails (where their emissions are collected and marketed by the government) or develop new diseases as the result of chronic gas-holding. Tim Crowley III will lead a "Free Farting!" Initiative. "It's a form of free speech," he asserts.

People will never get tired of fighting their neighbors. They will, however, get pooped out over being whipped up by politicians over Them Guys Over There, Terrorists, Y3K, and other threats they can't see. Even germ theory will become slightly doubtful. Political pundits will call this "the plague of isolationism."

Grassroots groups will continue to grow. Neighborhood associations will get stronger. More individuals will get more involved with local government and increasingly disillusioned with would-be national and global policy-makers. Political pundits will call this "the Balkanization of America."

There will be another flip between rural and urban areas as the rich realize that with new technologies they no longer need to be Downtown to consume resources and wield power. They can live in the middle of the woods, teleconference with other corporations, and have goods beamed to them. There will be massive attempts to open national forests to scattered single-family dwellings. The inner cities will once more be abandoned to the poor, who can squat wherever they like.

With access to new technologies themselves, poor people will build their own culture in the inner cities and other isolated areas. In the 2200s, the rich analyze income figures and realize that they are trading only with each other. None of the inner cities or the "Third World" areas buy or sell anything to them, any more.

There will no longer be an automatic shame attached to being poor.

—Anitra Freeman, Real Change editorial committee member

Rich Richer, Etc.

I predict that more and more people are going to be forced to live together in shared housing situations as the price of housing increases in Seattle. As well, more people will be moving out of the city into the

suburban and rural areas, which are going to be increasingly devastated by sprawl. Soon there will be condominiums along I-90 all the way to Ellensburg, and people will be commuting three hours per day to avoid the high price of housing and property taxes in the city.

The canyon between rich and poor will get wider and deeper. The middle class will get closer to poverty. Being poor with a home will become a luxury.

City Council Predictions

In the next millennium...

Heidi Wills will become Jan Drago...

Jan Drago will go to law school and become Mark Sidran...

Mark Sidran will become Governor Dixy Lee Ray...

Tom Byers will become Mayor Schell...

Mayor Schell will become confused...

NOTE: One of these has already happened.

The Exquisite Corpse of StreetWrites

StreetWrites, our homeless and low-income writers peer-support group, has a few predictions of their own, and submitted a group poem. Each person wrote a line and then folded the paper over before passing the "poem" onto the next writer. None of the participants are aware of what the other is writing during the exercise. They call this process an "Exquisite Corpse."

I.
Each and every chronically homeless person will be taken in and given shelter in somebody's home. My seminars on mountain climbing will finally take off when I move them on-line. One more time around the computer. Give me yours I'll give you mine. Hello generation next.

II.
Real Change will expand 10-fold and will be the most widely-read and respected newspaper in Washington State. Real words change real folks. What's next. All of a sudden my knees buckled at the lack of choices in my head.

III.
By the time you get this crap the year of the Y2K misfits will be upon us.

Attempts by local masseuses to mail me coupons will elicit strange visits by low flying black helicopters. Where will the deposed bureaucrats go? Spit in my eye? Yuck.

IV.
Don't piss me off. I've got millennium madness. Here we go again. Surfin' the page, oh shit, it's not mine. Oh for the good old days of anonymous face to face alter egos. Hallelujah! I'm a bum.

V.
Rich people starving with edible plants in their landscaped yards. Whoa Circuit overload... I'm looking forward to tomatoes that slice themselves. All of us poor folks' ships will come in, and all the rich folks' ships will go out.

VI.
Y2K. Why not! It's only the next generation of junk. I'm gonna learn to hop rails and crank call folks on my cell phone as I roll through their suburbs. Mercer Island will be the new preferred spot for low-income folks to live.

Our only hope is accessible education, true compassion instead of rhetoric, and imagining a walk in another woman's shoes. I've come to believe that often it's the strongest-willed, most-spirited, and charismatic women who end up in a corner. If you let yourself get too short-sighted, or too spendy, or too confident, or too stubborn, or too tipsy, or too pissed off, you may be walking in her shoes sooner than you think. In the meantime, she needs a new pair.

—Joan Pliego,
Real Change contributing writer

Joe Will Start a Revolution

The time is long past for a large, well-organized army of homeless people to begin agitating day-in and day-out for constructive social change. Unlike the anti-WTO demonstration, as powerful and important as that was, the work of my hypothetical million person army of homeless people would not end after a few days, a week or two, or even after a few months.

Homelessness is one of the more egregious social manifestations of the horrific inequities and injustices that are built into the very fabric of our so-called "free market" capitalist system. Until these structural inequities and related economic maladies are understood and addressed and ultimately extirpated, we must all understand that homelessness and other afflictions will remain with us, and that these serious problems will likely grow. Bringing about these requisite changes, I believe, requires a full-time commitment, since the system causing the problem is in operation constantly, and this capitalist system is aided and abetted by powerful and monied bastions of business, government, and the military, all of which gain further strength and influence through increasingly refined technical instruments that are the fruits of the scientific establishment.

Homeless advocates around the country have proven to be caring, knowledgeable, and supportive of people on the streets. Some advocates themselves have exemplified the inordinate commitment that must be made manifest in a much broader and more clearly understood campaign. But ultimately, it is the homeless themselves who must get edu-

Continued to page 14

It will become a self-supporting community of the formerly poor.

Having scratched those pesky pests loose, Mother Nature sighed.

VII.
Y2K What's up with all this digital crap? And after about three hours a technician at Puget Power reaches over and turns the power back. The big earthquake hits and all the rich folks become homeless, too. Bill Gates becomes a Real Change vendor. Oh shit, all the Pepto Bismol is sold out, well at least there is more Budweiser at home to chase the hair of the dog. Love will be everywhere.

VIII.
All city government officials will resign, due to the increasing amount of "just plain folks" demands that they are unable to meet, and homeless people will be elected to replace them; Dr. Wes Browning will become our new mayor. Damn, I should have stocked up on cat litter. My new 2K brain's malfunctioned. Twelve years from now I will look back on these interesting times and pop my blood pressure pills.

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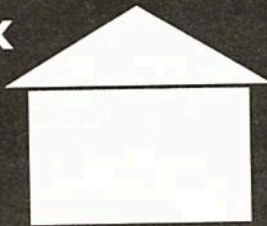


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Tenant Talk

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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.

Lobbying ABCs

Many of us as tenants have found that even when we've learned our rights and tried to enforce them, the laws don't protect us enough and are inadequate. Stronger laws to protect tenants get passed because we organize with our neighbors to find solutions to our housing problems and then advocate passing these laws to our elected officials.

For example, for almost 20 years now, tenants residing in the city of Seattle have benefited from a Just Cause Eviction Ordinance that requires landlords to provide a good reason for why they want to evict a tenant. Without this ordinance, landlords would still be allowed to arbitrarily evict someone just because they feel like it. Tenants would have no legal recourse and families would have an even harder time to find affordable housing. We're lucky in Seattle, but the fight isn't over yet.

Every year, landlords pay for high-priced lobbyists to influence legislators in Olympia to roll back all local laws that protect tenant rights. As a result, Seattle's Just Cause Eviction and Rental Assistance Relocation ordinances are in jeopardy.

We've learned at the Tenants Union that in order to effectively change the balance of power between landlords and tenants, rich and poor, oppressor and oppressed, we must foster social change and build our movement on three main levels: 1) through grassroots organizing, 2) networking and collaborating with community allies, and 3) legislative advocacy.

Legislative advocacy involves communicating your beliefs and values as a voter to your legislators, and asking them to vote for or against an important issue. As tenants, we may not have as much money as landlords, but there are many more of us than there are of them. That means we've got legislative power because we've got something legislators want and need: our votes.

Here are a few steps to advocating for decent, stable, and affordable housing. We can start with something simple. Let's use our current campaign for statewide Just Cause Eviction protection as an example for legislative advocacy.

Prepare a message. There are three main components to any message: 1) identify the problem — Families all over the state who have a month-to-month rental agreement or are at the end of their lease term become unstable and insecure when forced out of their homes with only 20-day notices for no reason at all; 2) identify a value or belief — Landlords should be required to give a good reason to evict a tenant. Statewide Just Cause Eviction Protection would help close loopholes that allow for retaliation and discrimination to occur without legal recourse; 3) identify the action to be taken — Please vote for the Just Cause Eviction Protection Bill when it comes before your committee and on the house floor.

Step 1: Overcome your fears, intimidation, and/or apathy. It's understandable that we may sometimes have feel-

ings that politics are corrupt and only for the rich and educated few. Even though sometimes those stereotypes can be true, we can't give up our opportunities to have our voices heard. If we don't speak up for decent, stable, and affordable housing for all, who will? Our silence will not protect us.

Step 2: Register to vote, reregister when you move, and actually vote. Registering to vote is getting easier through King County Records and Elections at (206) 296-VOTE. If you're homeless, all you need is a Post Office Box for your mailing address and you can use the Voter Registration Office address downtown — 500 4th Ave #553, Seattle, WA 98104 — as your permanent address. Similarly, you may also sign up with the Compass Center in downtown Seattle by using their address as your permanent address. The Compass Center may be reached at (206) 461-7837.

Step 3: Call the State Legislative Hotline 1-800-562-6000 and leave a message (takes five minutes). Don't worry, you don't need to know who your elected officials are. Just give your name and address to the operator and tell him or her the message you want your elected official to hear. You can also add any personal stories about your struggle to protect your rights as a tenant.

Step 4: Write a letter. Personal letters make a big difference to any elected official. The letter doesn't have to be typed, just make sure that it's got your name, address, date, and signature. Be sure you're clear about what you want the elected official to do, why you and want them to do it and thank him or her in advance. Again, since this year's campaign is to get statewide Just Cause Eviction Protection, be sure to ask your elected official to vote for it.

Step 5: Look them in the eye. You can meet with your legislator by participating in Housing Advocacy Day. Every year, housing rights activists, tenants, and advocates come together to meet with elected officials in Olympia to send a strong message of solidarity. This year we're asking elected officials specifically to vote for the Just Cause Eviction Protection bill when it comes before their committee and on the house floor. A Tenants Union member who attended Housing Advocacy Day recently commented, "It was a valuable experience and gave me useful tools to make my voice heard. It was extremely fun. I made new friends. It was in a beautiful setting. It was intensive and worthwhile."

You make measurable improvements in people's lives by advocating for stronger laws and participating in an integral part of shifting the balance of power between landlords and tenants. [E]

For more information on legislative advocacy strategies including direct action, contact Aline Carton, Statewide Tenant Organizer at the Tenants Union, at (206)722-6848 x114.

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BY PROFESSOR HARRIS

Last month, *Real Change* photographer George Hickey filed the first WTO-related lawsuit against the City of Seattle. Out-of-control cops doused press and protesters alike with geyers of pepper spray, and George's camera and city-issued media credentials were no salvation.

It all seems so out of character. That's why many of us need to "process" this. We have "scars" that need to "heal." White people in Seattle aren't used to this. How did our spring-water-drinking, bicycle-pedaling, consensus-building, Seattle cops suddenly become the LAPD on steroids?

We've heard the theories. The police were under-prepared and over-reacted. Cops brought in from Deliverance-land had the rare opportunity to kick liberal butt. SWAT team members, drilled in brutal force, were assigned to crowd control. And then, my own favorite explanation, discussion about trade tariffs brings out the worst in everyone.

But the real reason emerged over breakfast last Sunday, when my wife and I were discussing this very topic for about the fifth time. We had been batting around a pheromone-based Theory of Generalized Testosterone, but decided we lacked evidence. We were perplexed. Why do normally decent people suddenly act like thugs?

"Their self-control is external," she observed. "Maybe they felt like they had permission. If everyone does it, no one sees."

"The Ring of Gyges," I countered.

She gave me that annoyed look.

Talking fast, I explained that Plato had hit upon this very idea in *The Republic*. Is morality internal, he asked, or is it more about what others think?

Gyges was a shepherd in the service of the King of Lydia. One day, the earth split open and revealed a hollow bronze horse with doors. Gyges looked inside and found a corpse wearing a ring, which he naturally stole and placed upon his own hand.

Through careful experimentation, Gyges discovered that when the ring was worn backwards he became invisible. Taking full advantage, he went on to seduce the queen, slay the king, and assume the throne. He lived happily ever after.

Plato asks whether anyone in a similar situation should do the same? The assumption is that crime, under the proper cover of virtue, pays very well indeed. Appearance is more important than substance. The moral of the story is "just don't get caught."

It is easy to imagine the Darth Vader garb, which Mayor Schell more respectfully referred to as "that RoboCop stuff," as conveying a certain sense of anonymity. All cops in riot gear look pretty much the same. They're hard to identify. They could *feel invisible*.

And maybe once, before everyone and his mother started walking around with a video camera, they more or less were. But times have changed.

You'd think the Rodney King thing would have made more of an impression.

Plato, after many digressions, finally gets to the point and says the interests of the soul and doing justice are identical. If we know what's good for us, he says, we honor justice for its own sake.

So, according to Plato, it's justice, not crime, that pays. According to George's lawyer, it will probably pay very well indeed. ☐

Be an armchair classicist. The Northwest Society for Classical Studies seeks fellow freaks. Call 325-1787 or email NSCS@home.com for informatiopl. Or visit members.home.com/nscs

Film Review

The Golf War

Land, golf, and revolution in the Philippines

BY BRIAN GOEDDE

Golf, though the most docile of sports, is disrespected on many fronts. It translates terribly to TV with its glacial pace: when there's action you can't see it, as the ball flies through the air, largely muted by the sky. And golf is largely designed for those with the privilege of expensive equipment and country club memberships. "Have fun. Golf is a game, it's not life or death," Tiger Woods's father tells a group of Filipinos learning to play in the film *The Golf War*. But for them, golf is life or death; not the game itself, but the class system it requires.

Jen Schradie and Matt DeVries took their small budget and big agenda to the Philippines to chronicle the events surrounding the small fishing town Hacienda Looc as the government and land developers are trying to build a monolithic country club in its place. The villagers oppose the plan and stand up against it, not anticipating the level of persecution they would consequently be subjected to. Many have been physically harassed by the police assigned there for "security reasons," and three have been killed.

The Golf War effectively unmask the process of foreign land development and the conflict it causes, which is nothing short of civil war. Since the killings, The New Peoples Army have set up camp at the village to help with the resistance. Although they have halted the development of their land, they are up against the national government, the wealthy developers, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and (surprise!) WTO representatives. As far as these groups are concerned, there's gold in them thar hills — gold in the form of tourism and golfing.

The U.S. involvement may seem out of place, but the documentary reminds us of our long involvement on Filipino lands. In 1898 the United States bought the Philippines from Spain, and although they have since been granted their independence, leaders like Ferdinand Marcos have been propped up by the U.S. Furthermore, whenever there is unrest the U.S. is quick to send in "peacekeeping troops." In the specific story of Hacienda Looc, the interweaving is just as alarming: the head of the development company is the son of the Philippines' US ambassador, and the U.S. Agency for International Development has been instrumental in the persuasion of local officials.

What's more, Tiger Woods is in the mix — wooing the locals with his impressive swing.

What may be the most impressive aspect of *The Golf War* is its 40-minute length. The documentary is tight and in-

cisive; never is there a yawning interview or a narrative redundancy that can drag the viewer into disinterest. The unveiling of this elaborate, internationally conceived plan to displace villagers to build a tourism resort is packed with information and insight into how the big guys don't play fair.

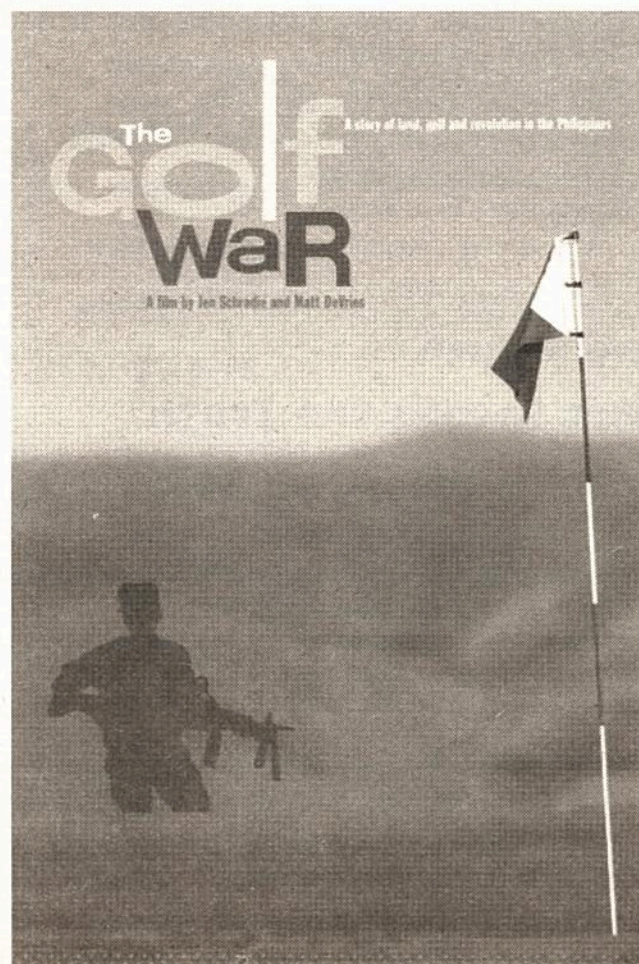
With scalding irony, Schradie and DeVries also visit a golf course 100 miles away that is being shown off by the luminous Tiger Woods and his father. As they instruct the locals in the pleasures of golf, interviews with employees show the fantasy logic that they have been force-fed: a few youth express happiness regarding the new development, saying it will boost the economy and teach the poor about golf. But when asked if they will play golf, the answer is unanimously no, because of their lack of money. In the press conference with Woods, Schradie asks him how he feels about the 7,500 villagers who will be displaced by the new development in Hacienda Looc.

"To be honest with you, I really didn't know about that until now."

Tiger Woods

"To be honest with you, I really didn't know about that until now," Woods replies. The story of Hacienda Looc is one of such tightly woven corruption that even the figurehead doesn't know about it. ☐

To order a copy of *Golf War*, or obtain more information about the film, send queries to Anthill Productions / 71 Sharon st / San Francisco, CA 94114 / schradie@hotmail.com / www.golfwar.org



Untitled

Groping in a
 bottomless pit
 can't find the way
 sanity is lost
 craziness has taken over
 life is meaningless
 going through the motions
 of what seem
 like empty eyes

Waiting to hear
 the words
 to bring an end
 to the curse
 reeling and going round
 through days
 of nothingness

The black hole swallows
 me up and takes
 away the light
 that once seemed so bright
 darkness
 seems eternal

Shame washes over me
 claims my being
 and disposes me in the dirt

Can I dust myself off
 once again
 and rise to the surface
 to face yet another day
 will there be someone
 to show me the way
 all I can do is pray

The mountains I seem
 destined to climb
 loom large in the moment
 only to be
 a molehill once conquered
 and the beast once again
 is put to rest
 in the black
 bottomless pit of nothingness

—Madeline Lewis

Do You See Me?

Do you know what it feels like
 To stand on a corner
 Baring your poverty,
 Knowing others view you with contempt,
 Or look right through you
 As if you don't exist,
 Bearing your shame out of desperation
 Because you are broke,
 Homeless, cold, hungry,
 Unemployed and unemployable
 In your worn out rags,
 Not daring to smile
 Because it would expose
 Your rotted teeth,
 Knowing you are seen
 As a failure, an outsider,
 To blame for your condition,
 One of "those people"
 Who brought it on yourself.

Have you ever imagined
 Where I came from,
 What past brought me
 To this corner?
 Or is it too frightening to
 Even contemplate
 You might have
 Ended up here too?

—Kay Thode

Alone

We come into this world alone, what does it mean?
 Alone is separate from friends I have no knowledge of
 The folks I know I don't know at all
 The secrets I keep, kept from family,
 from God and from you
 Do I really know someone?
 If I did, wouldn't I have a friend?
 We come into this world alone
 Is anything new under the sun?
 Do I just close the door of my life?
 My world is my life!
 Reaching out over and over, not igniting the spark,
 is there just not enough fuel for the spark to pass start.
 We leave this world alone
 Was there ever anyone else there, really?
 Or was it just a dream made up in my head
 to keep me from feeling
 ALONE

—JaySong

(Untitled)

what can be said?
 a bird on a tree, a homeless man,
 a quiet moment, a burst of passion
 vision of the connectedness of all things

love and evolution
 whatever occupies the mind or heart
 unfulfilled past
 dream-filled future

what i wish were true
 what i wish were not true

paint, paint, paint
 no point, no point, no point

not for myself, i say, and surely not
 for all of you, who may or may not care,
 according to your need

for the gods, i say, for the
 tasting eyes of all the angels,
 for the onlie begetter

whose touch makes us yearn
 to be worthy
 for that, i say, for that i fashion

for the air itself, a breeze

i say, i say
 touched by the hand
 i hasten with joy

untouched, i try
 what can only be pointless
 for the angels, for all of us

only pointless
 only saying

—margareta waterman

The Mouth

That Speaks the Truth

The mouth that speaks the truth
 is closed, silent, for the mouth
 knows the truth changes. To speak
 of the changeable known and unknown
 is like a griot, storyteller, and under
 the worst description a lie.

The mouth that speaks can only describe
 details of perception, imaginations, beliefs
 ideals the color of feelings, and one desire
 to communicate with another.

—Ruanda Morrison

City Lights

City lights glitter like synapses.
What does it mean to be exalted?
Do the stars exult in their distance
from each other?
The abandoned baby becomes front page news.
A man steps onto his front porch
thinking of missed opportunities.
Purple berries dangle over the
Japanese garden fence.
Stones at the bottom of the pond grow colder.
A daughter describes the TV drama
villain to her mother.
A dog tied to a bike rack
outside a coffee shop waits patiently.
Strong winds blow bird shapes
across a flat sky.
Shoppers carrying heavy bags
dash across an intersection.
An old man cups his hand to his ear.
Even atheists say bless you
to a sneeze.

—David Thornbrugh

Heroic Efforts

Heroism increases
In direct relation to proximity:
Hence: to attract an audience
Of avid appreciations
A hero from 1000 miles away
Must enter the burning fuselage
Of a jetliner downed by enemy missiles
Rescuing diplomats
And a popular television personality.
From 100 miles away
A burning apartment will do
And just one family (with children).
From just 10 miles,
People will come out with praise
For saving Mittens, a stray cat
From two rowdy teenagers
With a book of matches.
Within a mile of home
I get a nod of approval
For bringing my empty garbage cans
Up from the curb.

—Brett Axel

(untitled)

From ancient dreaming I awoke at two
I wandered aching into street-baked
night
to hang between the walls of man
and mind

uncertain in my very form
not knowing if I loomed among the
towers
or tumbled with the wind through
hollow streets

the earth inherited beneath my feet
wept away in sandy trickles to the sea
the only certainty remaining
in black unblinking planes
the walls
always
the walls

—Anitra Freeman

ADVENTURES IN POETRY

by © Dr Wes Browning

Not About Y2K

Recently a satisfied reader plied me with questions about the year almost ended. These are my answers.

Q. What did you do with your life this year?

I abused it, as usual.

Q. What was the biggest mistake you made this year?

Waking up.

Q. Did you meet any of your goals this year? Which one(s)?

I said to myself on 1/1/99, let's see if I can't be flat broke by the end of the year, so that while everyone else is stocking up for Y2K, I can look forward to dying of thirst and starvation the first week of 2000! And it's happened!

Q. Are you further towards some of your goals this year than you were at this time last year?

I am exactly one year closer to my goal of dying of extreme old age.

Q. What were your successes and failures?

I survived a trip to Cleveland.

Q. What did you learn?

I learned that I am allergic to Cleveland.

Q. What do you have still to learn?

Why did you take so long to ask? I have so much left to learn I will need another millennium to find all the answers:

What are the names of the Brady Bunch? Why was it called the "Rocky Squirrel & Bullwinkle Moose Show," when Bullwinkle was clearly the star? How may I withdraw \$200 at a time from an ATM, even though I have no bank account and no credit cards, without being caught? Suggested by my ex-wife: could I be any more stupid? How many barking dogs does it take to change a light bulb?

How may I hotwire a 747? What day(s) is(are) garbage pickup? What is the song "Louie, Louie" about? Instead of making two-ply toilet paper, why don't they just make toilet paper that's twice as thick? Who actually watches Regis Philbin and Kathie Lee? Is there really a two-pack-a-day Barbie? Is that two packs of beer or two packs of cigs? Why? What does "Jedi" mean?

Compare and contrast: the production of maple syrup in Vermont,

and the times you've been kissed by your aunt. How many words rhyme with "purple"? What does "mean" mean? Why were there four musketeers? What does cat toe-jam look like? Why don't cats want you to look between their toes? What do they have to hide? Are anarchists out of control or what?

Will English ever be spelled fonetikly? Iph naught, waigh naught? How many eyebrows does Brook Shields have? Did Monty Python have legs? How auld _was_ auld lang syne? Who was the first guy who ever said "I shall fear no evil, for I am the meanest, baddest, m*f* in this whole valley of the shadow of death"? Why doesn't everyone just shoot "char-treuse" in the head?

Can you tell me the way to San Jose? What does chicken taste like? What is a dash of pepper? A dash of hippopotami? How many smidgeons make a pinch? Did Whitey really respect the Beave? How Tricky was Dick? Was it really easy to dance to, or were they just joshin'? Whose brilliant idea was poodles? Dachshunds? Irish red setters?

Compare and contrast: Brazilian hand-puppets, and a performance of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*.

What was Paraguay's finest hour? "I fought the law and the law won." What, exactly, did the law win? What would Palladin have done for a living if he ever lost his gun? Quick, what do you get when you cross Captain Kirk with a female alien elephant? Too late...

What happened to 001 through 006? Were their licenses revoked? If I were a little tea kettle, that wouldn't be my spout, would it? What was the strangest thing Mick Jagger ever did with his lips? Was Keith Richards involved?

Was there a chihuahua in the room? Were lawyers for Taco Bell alerted?

Q. Why couldn't you have written this column entirely about Y2K?

I could have, but it wouldn't have made any sense. ☹



2000, CONT. FROM PAGE 9

cated and organized, not the advocates; because most advocates will simply never enter into the revolutionary realm that must be contemplated. The homeless, on the other hand, have little to lose, and may therefore be more likely to take the extra steps necessary to confront the system of exploitation and indifference head on, and accept more readily all the risks to life and limb of so doing.

Can the bulk of homeless people ever be expected to take such a step? The population of homeless people, sadly, is not going to decrease any time soon. It is more likely to increase, maybe even explode, over the next decade. Perhaps such an eventuality might make for a more politically conscious and revolutionarily oriented homeless population, one more ready to work in concert with itself and its allies to end homelessness and maybe address other social ills. Will this great hypothetical army of the homeless embrace the principals of one or more strands of the anarchist tradition? Will they embrace nonviolence? That will be for them to decide.

GREER, CONT. FROM PAGE 7

learning curve and a long history condensed into a few pages of war stories. He remembers the days of Reagan, when the deluge became a flood. He describes the growth of HMOs and the commodification of health for the enrichment of the few, and the early but failed promise of the Clinton administration and his own ill-fated dalliance with the Presidential Task Force for Health Care Reform. The story is one of hope, disillusion, and return to the essential conviction that caring about people is the right thing to do, even if it is only the person in front of you right here right now.

When the Doctor describes the opening of the

In the meantime, all of us, activists with or without homes, and advocates must keep on into the millenium and work and hope for a more just and truly democratic order than anything we have now.

—Joe Martin, Pike Street Clinic

What's So Funny About Peace, Love, and Understanding?

Someone once told me that each of us makes his or her own reality: what we think will happen, happens. I haven't a clue if this is true or not, but the notion appeals greatly to my sense of justice. What harm would it do to believe such a thing? What do I have to lose but my remaining dust motes of sanity?

All people everywhere will lay down whatever they call a weapon — be it psychological or solid — raise their open palms to the sky, and swear "I will not dishonor my soul with hatred, but will honor all life." They will mean it.

new three-story clinic, the culmination of years of work with Camillus Health Concern, his only sense of victory is that poor people now have healthcare with dignity. The clinic itself, he says, is "a monument to our shortcomings. How can one have pride in a shiny new homeless clinic?"

While Dr. Greer is a long way from abandoning politics, his message seems to be don't wait for the cavalry because they're not coming. What we can do, he says, is what we control ourselves. Meanwhile, we need to listen to the poor, because only then will we ask the right questions.

There will be no war, famine, rape, theft. Profit will bow before quality of life — all life. People will realize that each will sometime be called upon to compromise individual advantage for the greater good of their community. They will feel expanded by this process, not diminished. Human beings will become responsible stewards of this planet, and perhaps others. All sentient forces will regain their connection to each other.

All these wishes taken together will save the world and everything in it. If desires guide reality, one must wish very hard for the best reality possible. Predict your own truth and never lose sight of it.

—Janice Price, Real Change contributing writer

United States Census 2000

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These jobs are full and part time work, with flexible scheduling. Positions last 2 weeks to 4 months.

Field jobs relate to helping all neighborhood residents complete their Year 2000 Census Questionnaire. Bilingual speakers are encouraged to apply.



would like to recognize our community partners for their outstanding work and for their commitment to our residents.

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- ARC of King County
- Asian Counseling and Referral Services
- Catholic Community Services
- Central Seattle Recovery Center
- Community Psychiatric Clinic
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- Evergreen Community Tenant Support
- Harborview Mental Health
- King County Department of Health
- Northwest Aids Foundation
- Robert Woods Johnson
- Tri Arm
- United Cerebral Palsy
- YWCA

Thank you all for the tremendous work that you do.

Planning meeting of Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee, planning January 17 events commemorating Dr. King and furthering civil rights; 7 - 8:30 p.m., at CAMP, 18th Ave at Columbia (additional meeting on Thursday, January 6, 11, and 13, 7 - 8:30 p.m., also at CAMP); Info. K.L. 206-461-3865 or pager 206-645-7224 **1/14**

Volunteer Opportunity; Seattle Audubon Society invites you to bring your garden gloves and make a difference! Be a part of the Promontory Point Restoration Project, a hands-on urban habitat restoration project; many native plants that need to go into the ground plus pulling invasives, making signs, and restoring trails, Tools are provided; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Magnuson Park, Sand Point Way and 65th Ave NE; Info. and directions Lauren Braden, Seattle Audubon, 206-523-8243 x14 or lauren@seattleaudubon.org **1/19**

Church Council of Greater Seattle Commission on Racial Justice sponsors its **Fourth Annual "Youth Dialogue On Race;"** Refreshments 1:30, meeting 2 - 6 p.m., at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E; Info. 206-525-1213 x 4502

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; RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL campaign strategy, snacks and socializing too; 6 - 8 p.m., at the Pike Market Senior Center, 1931 1st Ave, enter on the side door on Virginia St (Additional meetings held on subsequent 2nd Mondays); For special needs (interpretation, kids etc.) please call ahead 206-722-6848 ext. 102 **1/10**

Potluck meeting of Out Front Labor Coalition / Gay Pride at Work, AFL-CIO, which works to promote social justice, especially in the context of the Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual / Transgender and Labor communities; everyone who is pro-union and pro-GLBT is welcome and encouraged to join OFLC and come to meetings (You don't need to be a union member); 6:30 p.m., at Labor Temple, Room 208, 2800 1st Ave at Broad St., Room 208; Info. co-chairs Ed Hunt or Sarah Luthens at voicemail 206-903-9488 or oflcpride@aol.com or Out Front Labor Coalition, PO Box 23215, Seattle 98102



Nuclear Risks in the 21st Century; Nuclear weapons proliferation has been called the most serious threat to U.S. security. How serious is it? Why was U.S. Senate rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty so damaging to the nonproliferation regime? What can be done to minimize nuclear risks? Retired aerospace engineer Donald C. Whitmore will address these questions in a discussion series to help unravel the complex issues around nuclear arsenals, ballistic missile defenses, arms control treaties, and international politics, for people 55 years and older; Registration \$40, 1 - 2:30 p.m. at the Lifetime Learning Center, 160 John St just west of Pacific Science Center near buslines 1; 2; 8; 13; 15; 18; 19; 24; 33; Info. Don Whitmore 253-833-2941 or LLC 206-283-5523 **1/11-2/29**

A lecture by Jim Douglass "Martin Luther King, Jr., and Humanitarian Wars;" The speaker is a theologian and activist who has made peacemaking trips to the Middle East, Iraq, Sarajevo, Rome and Belgrade; 7:30 p.m., at Seattle University, Lemieux Auditorium **1/12**

The University of Washington Health Sciences Center's Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a celebration honoring his birthday and acknowledging UW students and staff members and community members who are engaged in community service and volunteerism **1/13**

Sojourner Truth Unity Fellowship Church presents a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration breakfast with entertainment, featuring guest speaker Larry Gossett, \$5 donation benefits AMEN, AIDS Ministry Ecumenical Network; 9 a.m. - noon, at First Christian Church, 1632 Broadway across from SCCC **1/15**

Martin Luther King Youth Committee Hip-Hop Show "Wake Up 2000" especially planned for youth 16 to 24, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, organizing for youth participation in Jan 17 events, \$3 or \$2 with can of food; 8 p.m. - midnight, at Nu Black Theatre, 14th 7 Fir; Info. Seattle Young People's Project 206-860-9606

All day, everywhere, **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday** **1/17**

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with Workshops, Rally and March, theme Changing the County Logo from an Imperial Crown to the likeness of Rev. King, march to the King County Administration Building downtown; 9:30 a.m. workshops, 11 a.m. rally, noon march, Garfield High School, 23rd Avenue at E Jefferson; Info. K.L. 206-461-3865 or pager 206-645-7224

Benham Gallery would like to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day and Black History Month with works by Dan Budnick, a free-lance photographer very much concerned with social issues; Exhibit at 1216 First Ave, Monday through Friday 10am - 5pm and Saturday 12pm - 5pm, will continue through February 26 with an Artist's reception on February 3, 6pm - 8pm; Info. Marita Holdaway or Erin Spencer at 206-622-2480

JANUARY

NOTABLES

Section 8 Briefing for State Legislators, to maintain low income housing; Noon - 1:15 p.m., in House Rules Committee Room, Leg. Bldg, Olympia; Info. TU 206-722-6848 **1/18**

Ongoing

Mondays: Books to Prisoners. Visit our new space. Ongoing volunteer project could use your help answering letters & sending books to incarcerated individuals; 6 - 10 p.m., at 1004 Turner Way East on 23rd Ave, 2 blocks north of Aloha, Bus lines 43 & 48; Info. 206-322-2868 or <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~jargon>

Sundays: Seattle Food Not Bombs collects food and serves free vegetarian meals to the homeless each & every Sunday, 2 p.m., cook, Green Tortoise Hostel, 1525 2nd Ave; 5 p.m. share dinner at Occidental Park, Info. 206-346-0335 or <http://www.scn.org/activism/foodnotbombs>

Continue to call the City Council 206-684-8888 and tell them to fund Services for Homeless People, not studies and tracking systems; when shelters don't turn people away they will know they have enough of them!

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, healthcare, call 202-783-3566 for an information packet, Info. Ann McLaughlin 360-779-4774

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

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CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PROJECT

ACT NOW!

Organize for Rights

Support the Just Cause Eviction Bill

ISSUE: In order to protect and ensure fair treatment for tenants in Washington State, legislators must pass the Just Cause Eviction Bill.

BACKGROUND: Currently, landlords in Washington State can force a tenant in good standing out of their home with only a 20-day notice when the tenant is at the end of his or her lease term. The landlord does not need to give a good reason, or a "just cause," when vacating a tenant's residence.

Communities and families across the state suffer greatly when they lose their homes on such short notice. Tenants deserve fair treatment. Landlords should not be allowed to force a tenant in good standing out of his or her home with out at least a good reason or just cause.

The issue of just cause is an issue of basic fairness for tenants, and is a statewide problem that needs statewide legislation. Many tenant advocates have called for the creation of the Just Cause Eviction Bill.

According to the Tenants Union — a non-profit, membership-based organization that has been providing information to Washington State tenants and fighting for stronger tenants' rights since 1976 — the Just Cause Eviction Bill has many advantages, including: it is a relatively inexpensive piece of legislation;

it already works on local levels; it closes a loophole which allows retaliation and discrimination to occur without recourse; and it builds statewide tenant mobilization for a stronger movement to fight for affordable decent homes for all.

ACTION NEEDED: The Washington state legislature must pass a statewide Just Cause Eviction Bill. In order to do so, support is needed on many levels. Call the toll free legislative hotline and send a message to your legislators that you support the Just Cause Eviction Bill: 1-800 562-6000. Write a letter to the editor in your local paper about why you support the Just Cause Eviction Bill. (Please send a copy of it to the Tenants Union). Write a letter to your legislators. If you don't know who your legislators are, call the hotline number above and they'll give you your legislators' address. Testify at a legislative meeting about your experience of suffering from being forced out of your home without the landlord giving a just cause. Attend Housing Advocacy Day in Olympia in Thursday, February 17, 2000.

For more information about the Just Cause Eviction Bill, contact Aline Carton, Tenants Union Statewide Tenant Organizer, 3902 S. Ferdinand St, Seattle, WA 98148, (206) 722-

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

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

