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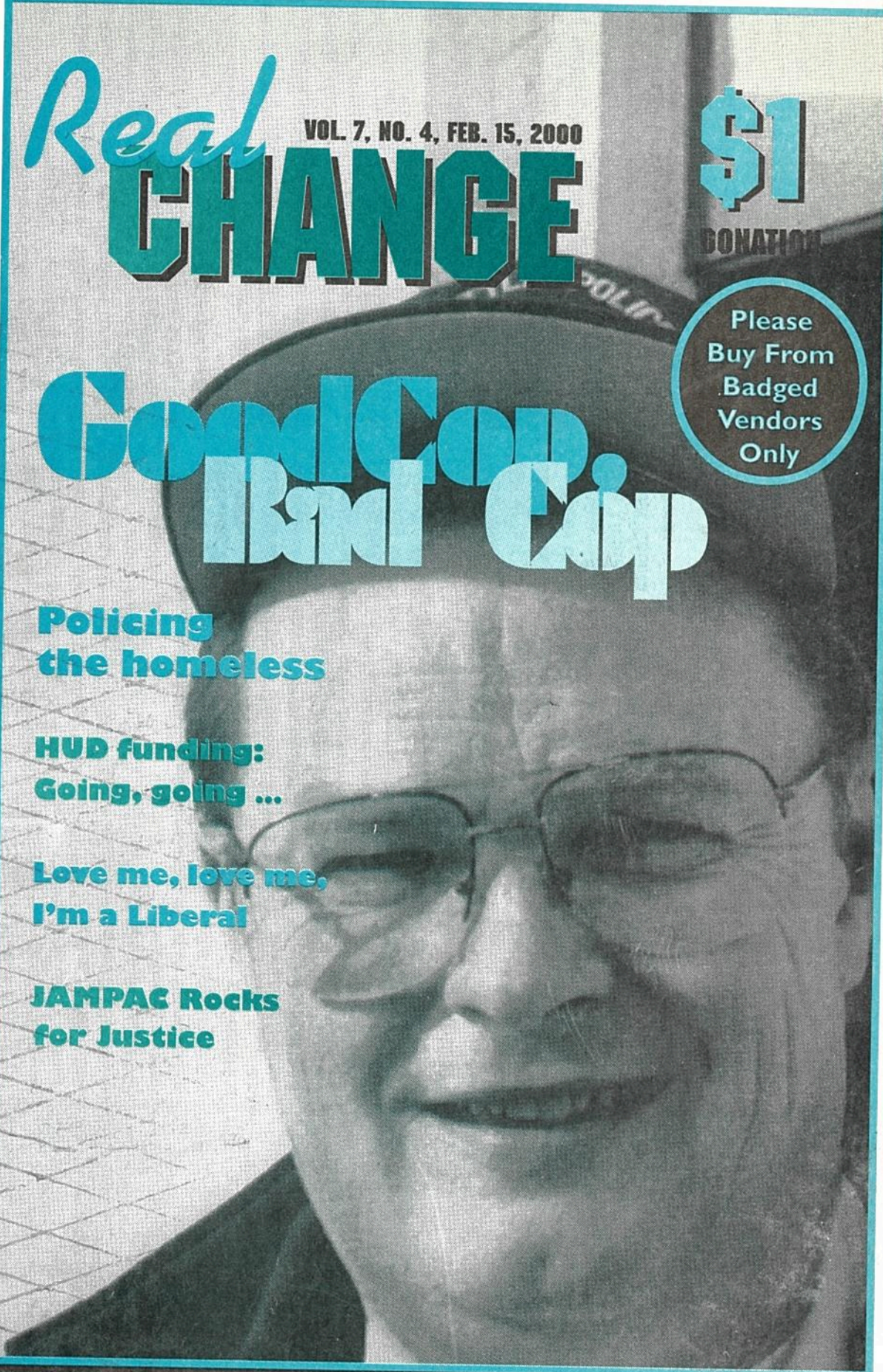
**Good Cop.
Bad Cop**

**Policing
the homeless**

**HUD funding:
Going, going ...**

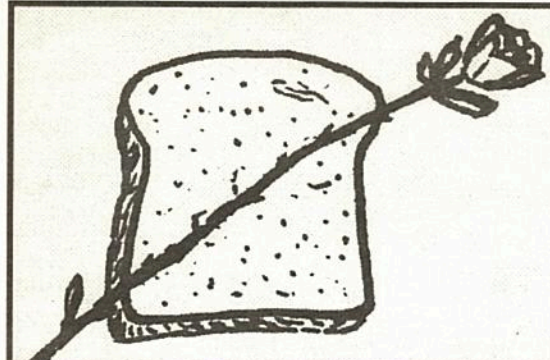
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Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless

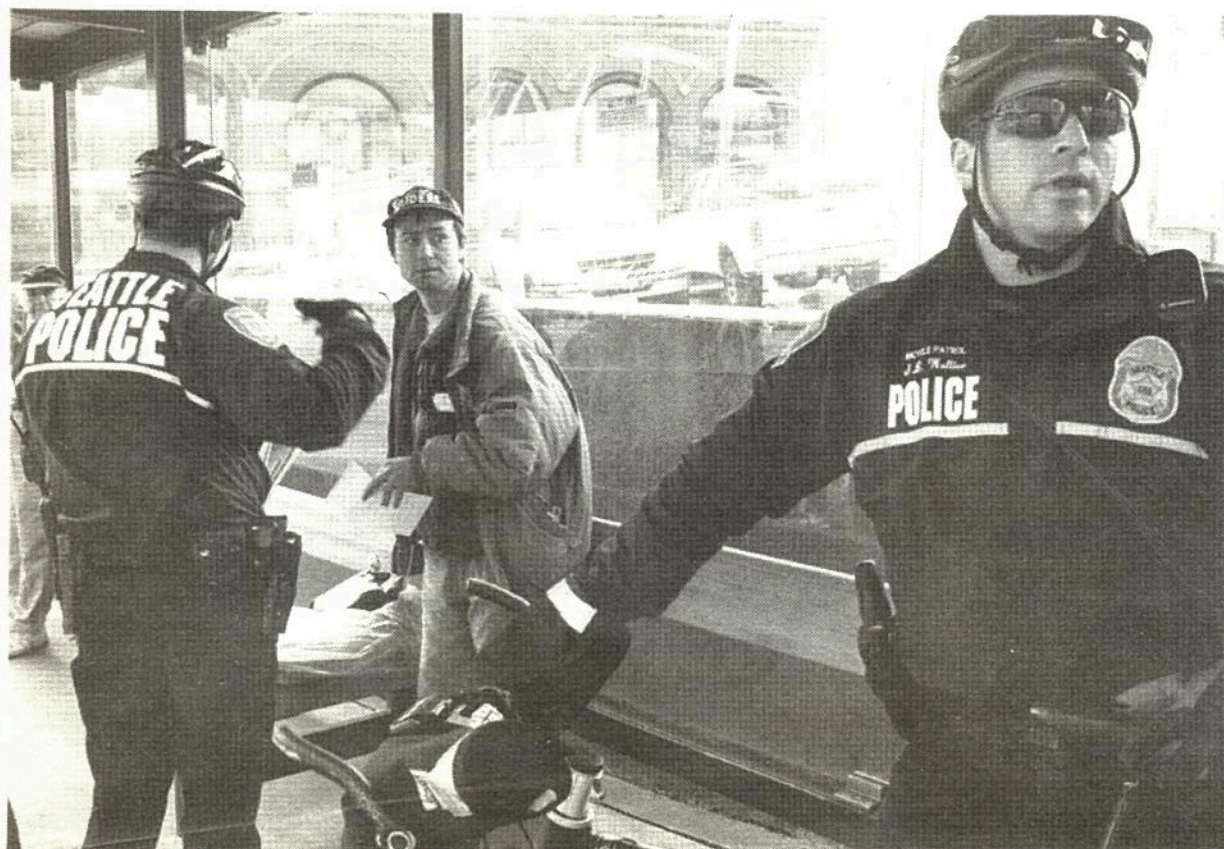
Feb. 15, 2000



CHANGE

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

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REMEMBER DEATH: DON'T EVER ANTAGONIZE THE HEAT. PHOTO BY ERIK CASTRO

Kick out the Jams

JAMPAC brings big names to fight for fun

INTERVIEW BY PETER BLOCH-GARCIA

With the help of the Joint Artists and Musicians Political Action Committee (JAMPAC), the battle against so-called civility laws is being fought onstage as well as in the street.

JAMPAC brings some hefty donors to the cause. The political action committee receives sponsorship from bands like Pearl Jam, Beck, REM, and the Beastie Boys, as well as corporations like MTV, MCA, and Warner Brothers, a division of Time-Warner.

In the political arena, JAMPAC is known for both its contributions to candidates and its political clout. Last year, the PAC helped stifle City Attorney Mark Sidran's attempts to make local clubs register under an Added Activities Ordinance. It will play a part in reforming the city's Teen Dance Ordinance, which has restricted entertainment for young people for 15 years. And every year, the PAC monitors attempts at censorship of "sexually explicit" materials in the state legislature.

Executive director Angel Combs has managed to stabilize the five-year-old organization through its uncertain years. In excerpts from an interview, she reveals how JAMPAC will use its resources to protect civil liberties.

REAL CHANGE: How did JAMPAC come to be?

ANGEL COMBS: In 1992 the legislature passed what they called the "Erotic Music Law," which would deem sound recordings harmful to minors. Therefore, if you were under 18 you couldn't purchase recordings that were stickered. Out of that in 1992 a lobbying organization called Washington Music Industry Coalition was formed to start to lobby against that. It was passed, I believe, and then vetoed by the Governor. JAMPAC was born out of WMIC in 1995. Krist Novoselic [former bassist for Nirvana] got the idea to form a PAC, with the understanding that the music industry that lives and works here makes a significant contribution to the state's economy, and, for blatant freedom of expression issues, didn't want stickers on Nirvana records — or any other records for that matter.

Every year since, a tweaked version of the Erotic Music Law has been introduced in the state legislature. It was introduced again this session [as the Matter Harmful to Minors bill, HB 2826], but it was dead as of early February. JAMPAC's goal has been to elect pro-music candidates so we don't have this type of legislation.

RC: City Attorney Mark Sidran has been blamed as the source of threats to local civil rights ordinances.

Homeless Blues

New advisory board may improve police-homeless relations

BY GRETCHEN KING

Most billy club-carrying police officers don't appear friendly when they approach a homeless person to inquire why they're resting on the pavement. But it's not for the Seattle Police Department's lack of trying.

The good cop/bad cop routine starts at the police academy's Homeless Sensitivity Training class. On the beat, the police's Community Services Officers hand out blankets and shelter information to people camped outdoors. Then, when an encampment is cleared, cops take blankets away. Welcome to the two-faced policy of law enforcement.

A new panel, convened in the waning days of Chief Norm Stamper's tenure, could help brighten both faces. Last week, homeless advocates, social service professionals and police watchdogs met with Mark Howard, director of the SPD's Crime Prevention Unit. The goal: to set up a board of advisors made up of people from the homeless community to improve police-homeless relations.

Many argue over whether the new panel will just air more empty promises. But homeless people, professionals and even some police agree on one thing: there's plenty to do.

Bad cops

The police have woken me up, only to scatter my stuff and tell me to move on. I've even had blankets taken from me," says Erin, a formerly homeless young adult who withheld her last name. After these encounters, and other incidents she witnessed, Erin spent most of her time on the streets of Seattle being afraid of the cops.

"I felt really powerless in those situations," she says. "I'm still very prejudiced against them. I don't trust them. I can see myself needing some kind of class to get over it."

Like most homeless people who experience police misconduct, Erin never filed a complaint. "I don't know of any organizations I can call to complain. Besides, after they got done harassing me, mistreating me, and calling me terrible things; like I would turn around and say, 'Excuse me sir, where can I turn you in at? Because this is inappropriate behavior.'"

"Everyone has the right to move freely and be secure in their persons out there on the street," says Captain Jim Pugel of the West Precinct. He reports that SPD policy "emphasizes that everyone should be treated the same, period, regardless of status."

"I'm just as worried about an angry police officer as I'm worried about thugs that are beating up on my homeless veterans."

**Alan Castle,
Seattle Veterans
Center**

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Real CHANGE

Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless

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

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

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

Mission Statements:

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

Goals

- Provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.
- Publish the views of marginalized communities.
- Create direct economic opportunity.
- Build bridges with a broad range of allies in the struggle against poverty.

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

Editorial Policy

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



Fresh Blood

R*real Change* welcomes Adam Holdorf as our new Managing Editor. Adam works with our Editorial Committee to keep our ear to the street, assigns stories to volunteer journalists and photographers, edits copy to a state of near perfection, writes news, and performs other feats of amazing journalistic prowess to produce this paper on deadline twice a month.

Adam is a graduate of Reed College in Portland, where he edited the weekly student paper *The Quest*. In 1997, he began working in housing and homeless issues as an Americorps volunteer at the Low Income Housing Institute. There, he edited the quarterly newsletter *Housing Washington*.

During the last year, Adam has worked as a researcher for the Industrial Areas Foundation and freelanced for the *Stranger*. During the WTO demonstrations, Adam volunteered at the Independent Media Center, a clearing house for alternative media from all over the world, and organized *The Blind Spot*, the daily newsletter published during the demonstrations.

Adam started writing for *Real Change* last year, after admiring the paper for a long time. He first picked it up in 1997 from vendor Steve Martinez at weekly Farmer's Markets in the University District.

His *Real Change* story on ATM cards for welfare recipients ("*Skim City*," August 1999) has been widely reprinted by other street newspapers and other publications. His favorite assignment so far, besides editing this new issue, has been reporting on housing and development in the Rainier Valley ("*The Mauling of Rainier Valley*," October 15, 1999, and "*If it Ain't Broke...*" June 1999).

He says of the experience "I got to venture to a neighborhood I don't normally go to and acquaint myself with the people who are impacted by its changes. It was a look behind all the development hype that's going on down there. Local activist George Curtis also showed me where to get great Vietnamese food." ☐

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Acceptable risk

Accused murderers no threat to the community.
Tell it to the homeless.

The character references vouching for the three men's harmlessness vacillate from comic to wrenching.

Dozens of residents and staff of the nursing home where Michael "Vito" Caffee worked attest to his character. An older guardian wrote from Boise, where Shelton Musgrave "became real close to the cats around the house, because he felt all things needed love."

Adam Holdorf

Caffee's father, Patrick, wrote that his son is from a "solid working-class Ballard family with three generations of roots." His son "feels an incredible weight of conscience and remorse about his friend David Ballenger."

Ballenger wasn't an ordinary "friend" to Caffee, Musgrave, and Jay Stewart, the three young men who are accused of kicking and stabbing him to death under a Green Lake overpass last August. He panhandled regularly at the off-ramp dispersing afternoon traffic into the Ravenna neighborhood. He hung out with his friends in the public park that surrounds Green Lake. He was homeless. It's one reason why his killers, their loved ones and their communities reason that they have less to fear from two of them being out on bail.

Last month, King County judges reduced the bail amount for Caffee and Musgrave from \$500,000 to \$100,000. Both were promptly freed, with the conditions that they stay away from alcohol and drugs, each

other, and the park where they met Ballenger. Stewart has applied for a bail reduction, but so far it has not been accepted. The second degree murder trials for each man (ages 19, 19 and 18, respectively) begin April 10.

A judge reduces bail in a criminal case if two conditions are met: the defendant is "neither a flight risk nor a threat to the community."

In making a decision, the judge could review dozens of letters from friends, employers, family and others attesting that these were "good kids."

"My overall sense of Jay is that he is a good young man. If Jay were to be released, I would have no fear of any harm coming to our family or community," wrote the mother of Stewart's ex-girlfriend.

Wrote another friend, "When you ask if [Jay] is a danger to the society I would say no because of what I see he's always helped the society."

Whose society are they talking about? This is the kid who, according to another friend, boasted after the killing, "Let's just say there's one less bum on the face of the earth."

There are many good reasons to let these kids, two of whom are still working through high school, out on bail. In a letter requesting the bail reduction, Caffee's father wrote that he feared for his son's mental stability if he had to stay locked up. But is his homecoming worth more than the peace of mind of people who are as vulnerable to such attacks as Ballenger was?

"Deprived of shelter, food and care, homeless people find that the most affordable good on the streets is fear."

Ref Lindmark, president of the Green Lake Community Council, contributes to a Sunday dinner at Blessed Sacrament Church. He wrote to the judge that "The Green Lake community is an important part of my life and Vito is a part of our community."

It's a community that can afford to accept the threat. Some people know they're worth more than Ballenger. A letter from a Ravenna resident to Real Change last September said it best:

"If I were a child or a woman or a leader of this city who was attacked,

beaten, stabbed and whose possessions were set on fire, this neighborhood would not be sleeping as it is now."

If Shelton and Musgrave's bail reduction proves that some lives are cheap, these character references saying they are "harmless to the community" cheapen us all.

Deprived of shelter, food and care, homeless people find that the most affordable good on the streets is fear. The release of Caffee and Musgrave offers little consolation. ☞



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

CLOSE TO HOME

Smoke and mirrors

IF SEATTLE'S PRODUCTION OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING LAST YEAR is any indication, the decision to divide the Department of Housing and Human Services into a housing side and a homeless side has left the homeless to the shelters and the housing to the middle-class.

Recent numbers released by Seattle's Office of Housing offer disturbing evidence that the poorest of the poor have slipped off the new bureaucracy's radar screen.

Seattle's Consolidated Plan stipulates that "at least 50 percent of funds shall be used for housing affordable to households at or below 30 percent of median income." Over the last two years, for the first time in memory, Seattle has missed the mark.

On the surface, the numbers look good. According to the Office of Housing, 545 of the 974 units produced over 1998-99 were for those below 30 percent of median income.

The good news is that almost twice as many new units were built over 1999 as in 1998. The bad news is that the percentage of very-low income units is inflated through various tricks of accounting.

For example, 162 Section 8 units, split between Security House and El Nor, were included in this number. In the past, Section 8 units have not been counted as below 30%, since their status is relatively short-term.

Over 1999, no units were provided for homeless youth, and only 20 new units were built for homeless families.

Worse, the levy requires that accounting be done by dollars spent, not units produced. It is hard to believe that this new method of reporting does not hide a failure to live up to city policy.

We need to see that the Office of Housing is still committed to creating paths for the homeless to escape the streets. Director Cynthia Parker needs to release new numbers that account by dollars spent. If, as it appears, Seattle has fallen short, the problem must be corrected.

—Timothy Harris

The portable credit check

CITY COUNCILMEMBER NICK LICATA could make apartment-shopping a lot less expensive for Seattle renters. But the proposal would make finding a new tenant a lot less lucrative for landlords and credit agencies.

Currently, home-hunting renters shell out fees for credit checks of \$17 to \$35 every time they apply to a rental. Licata's proposed Tenant Screening Ordinance would let tenants obtain a copy of their background check from the first prospective landlord they go to, then use that copy at each subsequent rental.

Landlords buy a credit-checking service from companies who process thousands of background checks. In the Seattle housing market, background checks are big business, says Licata staffer Lisa Herbold: "The tighter the housing market, the more money [landlords] make. It's a housing supply issue."

The bill prohibits discrimination by landlords because of past legal battles that may show up on a tenant's record, or on the basis of any "no-contact orders" that protect victims of domestic violence.

Herbold says landlords shouldn't be able to turn down a tenant just because a vengeful mate is looking for them. Some landlords "think because there's someone out there after them then it'll cause trouble in their building," she said.

The Landlord/Tenant and Land Use committee discussed the proposal February 15.

HUD finds SHA wrong but not criminal

THE SEATTLE DISPLACEMENT COALITION HAS BEEN HARPING ON it for nearly a year. Now government inspectors agree: the Seattle Housing Authority ignored potential conflicts of interest when it granted contracts to three local businesses. And the punishment? Next time, read the fine print on all HUD forms.

HUD's Office of the Inspector General found that, after a panel of local contractors advised SHA to contract locally to redevelop its Holly Park public housing project, their companies lined up for hundreds of thousands of dollars in new business.

The three companies were Popkin Development, which won a contract worth \$337,000; Devine and Gong, which got a \$289,000 grant; and Pinnacle Realty Management, which got a \$25,000 grant.

"These people participated for several years in crafting policy," says John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition. "Conflict of interest dictated the destruction of this housing stock."

Henry Popkin, head of Popkin Development, downplays the ruling. He points out that HUD's conflict-of-interest rules were more stringent when they gave out money for Holly Park than for later projects like Roxbury Village. SHA simply misunderstood the rules, Popkin says: "In effect, this boils down to a contractual dispute between HUD and SHA."

Fox and others have claimed that members of SHA's advisory panels had inside information that helped them bid more wisely on Holly's plums. But HUD's investigators won't go that far. They wrote that "whether the panel of experts had access to inside information is something difficult to either prove or disprove."

Fox also complained that two representatives of Lorig Associates, L.L.C., used their positions within SHA to award Popkin Development its contract so that Popkin would do business with their former partner, architectural firm Weinstein Copeland. The Inspector General declared this complaint "too speculative."

"John [Fox] made a lot of serious allegations that were slanderous, and they dismissed them," says Popkin. "When I confronted John, he said he can say anything to support his cause. That's a guerrilla tactic."

"Consummate hubris," says Fox in response. "He's being pretty arrogant to posture in the face of these charges when the Inspector General is pointing a finger at him."

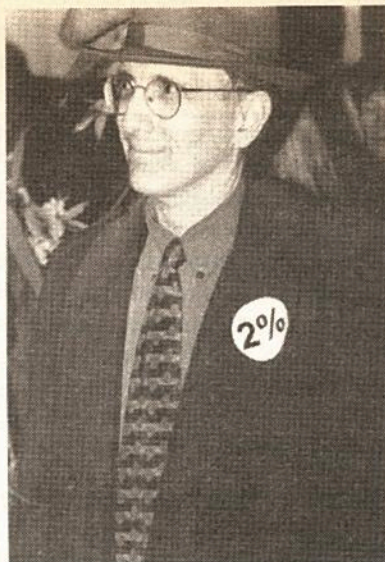
Fox is sticking to his charge that Weinstein Copeland was gifted by cronies in SHA, saying the Inspector General too narrowly defined the conflict of interest.

"All of these people are pals," he says. "They have lunch together all the time," he says. "They could not deny that Weinstein was part of this project. I'll still say there was conflict of interest on that account."

—Adam Holdorf

Allied for Arts Funding

THE SMELL OF POLITICS MIXED WITH CHANEL NUMBER 5 at this month's First Thursday art events in Pioneer Square. City councilmembers decried the loss of artist housing (too late) and promised to bring it back (good luck). But a more concrete campaign was also making the rounds, as volunteers plastered stickers reading "2%" on every black-clad chest. They were seeking support for a long-overdue increase in city spending on public art.



COUNCILMEMBER NICK LICATA GOES ALL OUT FOR 2%. PHOTO BY CHRISTINA LARSON.

In the 1970s, former activist Paul Schell lobbied for one of the first laws requiring public projects to devote one percent of their budget to public art. Other cities followed, making more generous rules. More than two decades later, "we're sort of at the bottom of the list," says Allied Arts boardmember Alex Steffen.

Allied Arts hopes to broaden the types of projects funded by the city from architectural decorations — a statue or fountain in front of a new civic monstrosity — to manuscripts, radio shows, and films who can "tell the stories about the communities they live in," says Steffen.

Citing the early publicly-funded populist art of the Works Progress Administration, Steffen envisions city support for artist collaboration in different media, including print and other media. In light of the shortage of local affordable housing, city support for artists shouldn't just pay for wall decorations, says Steffen: "Certainly, it's getting harder and harder to live as an artist in this city."

The council's Culture, Arts and Parks Committee unanimously approved the proposal on February 9, but not before council president Jan Drago intro-

Continued to page 14

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REAL CHANGE

City of God

Tents Work, but Seattle turns deaf ear to the good news

BY CHRIS GORDON OWEN

While the rest of us were getting tear-gassed on our way home from work last year, Seattle's homeless found refuge in a number of tattered, leaky tents pitched in parking lots at Crown Hill United Methodist Church and Advent Christian Church on Capitol Hill. With its inadequate tent poles and haphazard ballast of storm-felled logs, borrowed cinder blocks, and sand, the shelters were damp and musty by the end of the week.

But according to SHARE/WHEEL, the organization of homeless and formerly homeless men and women that erected them, the camps successfully provided 24-hour refuge for up to 100 people during the WTO conference. And the pastors of the host churches report positive experiences, saying the week-long encampments gave their congregations new opportunities for participation and awareness. Now SHARE/WHEEL participants want a longer-term encampment. They're not asking the city for money or land — just an exception to the zoning rules prohibiting such camps.

Health and safety codes apply to the use even of private or leased land; to change them requires time and labor. However, David Bamford, one of the architects at the nonprofit firm Environmental Works who helped research different portable temporary structures for SHARE/WHEEL, points out that dinner-theater troupe Teatro Zinzani served up food and

entertainment in their circus tent in a parking lot across the street from Seattle Center for 14 months — on a six-month permit.

Codes or not, SHARE/WHEEL participants have worked to observe health and fire regulations in various encampments and pavement sleep-outs organized since 1990. "I can't believe that the city won't let a group of people with reasonable expectations and a good track record go ahead," says Bamford.

"Do we as a community accept [the tent] option?" says Alan Painter, director of the city Department of Human Services. "If we're going to

fight for all homeless people, don't we want something better — not to accept standard housing?"

Deputy Mayor Tom Byers agrees. The administration's goal is "to figure out ways people can have four walls, light, water, not spend time on these temporary measures."

Painter says the city continues to work toward more affordable housing. This year the city added \$2 million in funding,

slated for shelter and daytime services mostly for women and children. And according to Byers, Steve Johnson, a federal lobbyist recently appointed as Mayor Paul Schell's special assistant on economic development issues, will develop outreach to help low-income people take better advantage of available resources, such as food stamps, health coverage, and earned income tax credits.

"Right now, the Seattle shelter system is inadequate. Every night people are turned away, to deal with bad weather, assault, even murder. Homeless people are competing to sleep on the floor, on mats a couple of feet from each other."

Painter acknowledges that SHARE/WHEEL have been "creative at bringing attention to the [homeless] issue," but says, "I don't think they need to use tents to do that."

"A tent city gives people a chance to see me," says SHARE/WHEEL's Stan Burris.

Some parishioners at the Crown Hill church, which hosted the smaller of the week's encampments, wanted to invite the homeless inside when Pastor Judy Schultz first asked them to consider what Jesus would have done. But, as Schultz explains, SHARE/WHEEL explicitly requested outside space: "The point is to be a public witness." Church members also wound up bringing food out to the campers, and they stayed to chat many evenings. By the end of the week, some SHARE/WHEEL people did go inside, when they were invited to participate in Sunday services.

At Advent Christian Church, where SHARE/WHEEL raised 18 tents, Pastor Paul Miller agrees the experience "changed awareness. And there was the feeling that we did the right thing." He also reports that passersby, escaping the turmoil a few blocks away, said they were proud to live in a city that provided such a haven.

Miller was particularly impressed by SHARE/WHEEL's self-management approach. "The homeless ran the camp themselves and did a good job of it," he said. He wishes there were "more opportunities for that, for their own dignity and their own control over their lives."

So while the city undertakes its long-term fixes, why not raise more tents? There's plenty of land, both private and public. The question is whether the city can be persuaded to cooperate. ☐

If you can contribute supplies, land, or money, call SHARE/WHEEL at 448-7889 or 956-0334. You can also call the mayor's office at 684-4000 to show your support for self-managed tent cities until there's adequate shelter for all.

Right now, though, the Seattle shelter system is inadequate. Every night people are turned away, to deal with bad weather, assault, even murder. Homeless people are competing to sleep on the floor, on mats a couple of feet from each other. Hours are limited, usually from evening to early morning; storage is minimal to non-existent; and few shelters accommodate couples and families.

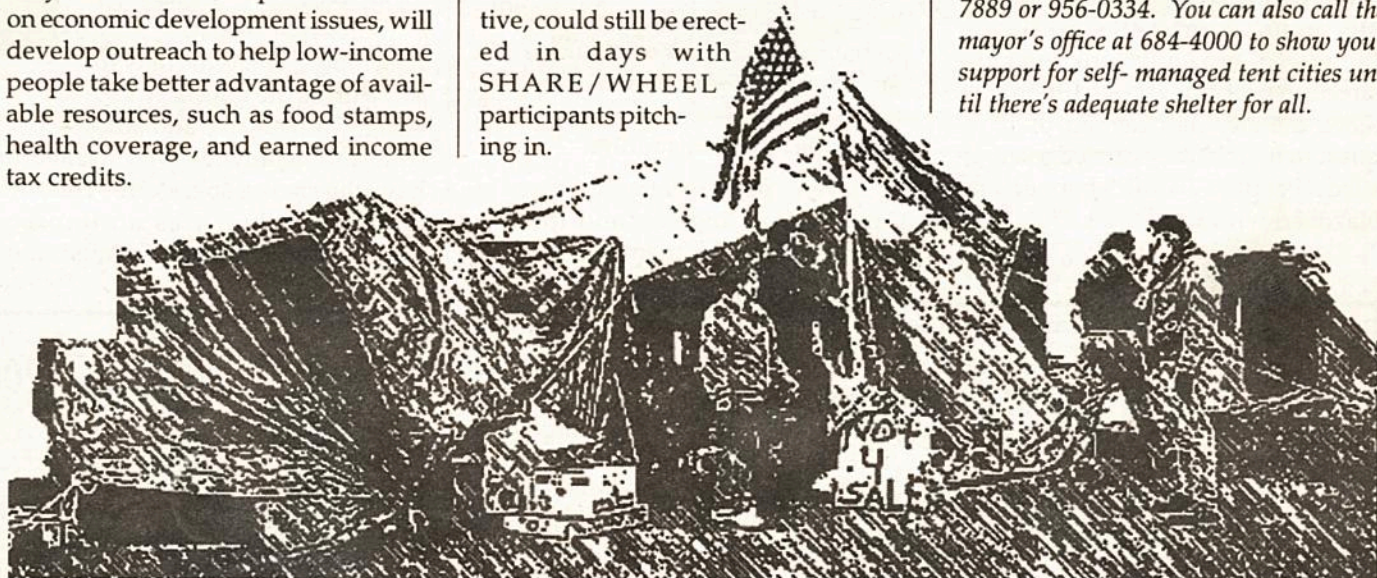
The city's response? Establish more of the traditional shelters. Painter says, "Ask SHARE/WHEEL about energy put into tent cities which could be going into setting up more longer-term shelters."

Much SHARE/WHEEL energy still does go into starting new indoor shelters, though it's a time-consuming process that can take up to a year. Their shelter program is the largest in the city, with over 350 people at 12 sites, and operates at a quarter of the cost of other programs, largely because of SHARE/WHEEL's commitment to self-management.

In any case, several SHARE/WHEEL participants note that some homeless people don't want to go to shelters. "No one wants to sleep in a room with 100 people," Curt Berry offered. For some, George Olevar pointed out, work hours conflict with shelter hours. As for Paul Knott, he spent the last nine months on a housing waiting list.

Tents provide a good immediate solution, according to architect Bamford. Several other inexpensive, portable alternatives that are even more comfortable and attractive, could still be erected in days with SHARE/WHEEL participants pitching in.

PHOTO BY SINAN DEMIREL



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A Call for Justice

People's Assembly looks back on success, prepares for future

By KRISTINE WONG

The evening of January 31 was a typical chilly Seattle night, yet the people crowded into the basement room of the Unitarian Universalist Church in south Seattle's Rainier Valley were easily warmed as they settled in to relive the morning of November 30, 1999, watching a video of the People's Assembly march against the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The audience, composed of supporters and "alumni" of the People's Assembly march, were invigorated through re-experiencing the day's march via videotape. At the call of Ace Saturay, who convened of the Assembly, the group was gathered not only to give their evaluation of the Assembly's three-day gathering during the week of the WTO meeting, but to commence planning for the World Bank/International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington, D.C., this April.

"El pueblo, unido, jamás será vencido! The people, united, will never be defeated!" As these words ricocheted across Seattle's streets, the People's Assembly, made up of hundreds of people of color and community groups from Seattle and all over the world, brazenly took over the streets in peaceful yet defiant protest. Since the city had denied their request to march, they carried a self-issued "People's Permit" banner, emblazoned with signatures.

Alongside the beat of Korean drums, fists held high against the air, a sea of protesters marched by, their signs declaring globalization's assaults on the rights of women and youth of color, its direct effects on environmental racism and public health, and its responsibility for the rise of sweatshop labor. While these protesters voiced a number of reasons why they opposed free trade, the group's overall demand was clear: "Junk, Junk, WTO," they chanted, wearing red armbands and bandanas printed with the same message.

"I've been to the Philippines and seen directly the effects of globalization."

Aarne Lozano

The call for delegates to the People's Assembly came from a group called Sentenaryo ng Bayan, meaning "People's Centennial" in Tagalog. Bayan, a five-year-old Seattle-

based group, according to local coordinator (or "secretariat") Saturay, has been organizing to "expose the 100-year continuing domination" of the Philippines by the United States. Because of this domination, he says, the Philippines, are in a sort of "semi-colonial" state.

The People's Assembly represented about a year in planning, according to Saturay. At this gathering, community members from Honduras, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines, Canada, Cuba, Belgium, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, and the United States all came together to talk about the local effects of globalization on their own culture and societies, to create alliances, and to issue a unity statement that would shape the coalition's future.

Bayan's other secretariats, based in Canada, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area, brought up members of their

communities to take part.

The triumph of that three-day gathering indicated that the People's Assembly was part of a global mass movement of committed forces seeking to dismantle the WTO and corporate rule. Locally, its roots run deeper. In summer 1998, Bayan and the Unitarian Universalist Church educated and mobilized the community around multinational trade agreements like the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI), which grassroots mobilization helped defeat. Bayan also campaigned against APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) and GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), the agreement which gave rise to the WTO.

Saturay, an emigrant from the Philippines, says APEC has given rise to sweatshops and cheap labor across the country. He says 90 percent of the multinational corporations invested in the Philippines are based in the U.S.

During the evaluation, the crowd expressed their joy and inspiration in taking part in the People's Assembly, but also spoke of their disappointment and frustration at the event's invisibility to the mainstream media. They said the People's Assembly video was the only footage to show people of color playing major parts in the WTO protests.

During the week of the WTO meeting, Seattle resident Aarne Lozano says he "deliberately shut myself off from the U.S. media, because I knew that there was a lot of propaganda there. I've been to the Philippines and seen directly the effects of globalization."

Yalonda Sinde of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice said that the People's Assembly video "showed our people's soul...previous to this video, coverage has not shown that."

Participants also said the Assembly's open-mic rally format during the three-day gathering was inclusive and accessible, letting anyone who wanted to have the chance speak out. This, the observer noted, was an unprecedented and refreshing change from

most all other rallies.

Saturay is planning another meeting at the end of February to outline "next steps" at a local level. The Bayan secretariats in Los Angeles, Canada, and in the Bay Area are all conducting evaluations, and will share the results with each other. Saturay contends that talks have already begun around the world to form an International League of People's Resistance. The league, he says, has not formed yet, but hopes to be founded at the end of 2000. It will focus not just on the WTO, but on all institutions and agencies, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, that play a part in imperialist globalization. He hopes to continue to educate people about the IMF/World Bank meeting in Washington D.C. in April 2000.

Venedel Herbito, a Filipino-American woman from Olympia, was honest about her reason for taking part. "I got involved in the People's Assembly because the People's Assembly was a march that was spearheaded by people of color and community people," she said. "I hope that they can continue to educate others about these issues that affect all of us." □



ACE SATURAY HAS BEEN ORGANIZING TO EXPOSE THE "100-YEAR CONTINUING DOMINATION" OF THE PHILIPPINES BY THE U.S. PHOTO BY DANIEL CAPLAN

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No Picnic

Homeless kids lobby in Olympia; politicians occasionally get it

BY CHRIS

In early February, I went down to Olympia with about twenty homeless and street-involved people for Homeless Lobby Day 2000. We went with the intent to lobby for homeless issues related to health and rehabilitation, housing and economic development, squatters' rights, education, local issues in the 43rd district (encompassing Capitol Hill), foster care, and truancy. The event was organized by Peace For the Streets by Kids from the Streets.

Elaine Simons, co-founder of PSKS, was back for her third year. She stated that she learned that "one day in Olympia isn't sufficient enough as a continuous relationship and follow-up. It's very validating that homeless individuals feel and see that their voice can make a direct difference."

Janaea Bellows, Homeless Advocate for PSKS, had way too much to say. As this was her second year advocating in Olympia she says that "this year I came with more knowledge to help facilitate groups of young people to help them become more educated and passionate by making sure these young people were well organized and prepared to talk about their concerns."

Everybody met at Peace for the Streets' office at eight in the morning welcomed by Operation Sack Lunch, who provided breakfast and sack lunches. After everyone had their breakfast in hand, we all climbed into the vans donated by the city for the very busy day ahead of us. By the time we arrived we were psyched and ready to take on our tough issues. The first meeting of the day was with Sonia Wellington, session aid to Senator Eide. She seemed very interested in our concerns about education and training programs that don't lead to uncertifiable and dead-end jobs or careers. At the same time a group of people met with Senator Thibaudeau concerning the Medical/Mental Health issues. Most of the people I talked to thought she was disinterested. THC, a homeless youth, felt that "we were being given the runaround and being pacified from our main concerns."

Another discouraging meeting took place at 11:30 a.m., right before lunch. This meeting was with Senator Mike Hargrove, who just days before added an amendment to a senate bill that deals with alternatives to juvenile hall. His amendment stated that alternatives can only be an option if the juvenile corrections facility is

full. He wasn't taking into account the feelings and emotions the young people were displaying when they were sharing their stories about when they were incarcerated. It's not like they were in kiddy-jail for being a thief or doing anything criminal. Janaea, who sat in on this meeting, said, "they were just homeless kids whose only crime was that they ran away from an unsafe environment: home." This meeting made some people's lunch a little bit harder to swallow.

By the time lunch rolled around we were already very exhausted. We quickly ate our sandwiches and continued on our way to the next meetings. A group of eight went to a meeting with Rep. Ruth Kagi, while another group of seven went to meet with Rep. Ed Murray. Kagi was very compassionate toward the personal stories of the kids who were in foster care. Murray gave us the runaround. He did say however, that he would squat with me and my crew. A promise he didn't keep last year. We'll see if he follows through this time.

Time seemed to slip right out of my hands, but we managed to see Sen. Margarita Prentice and House Speaker Frank Chopp. Both were supportive and enthusiastic. The meeting with Margarita Prentice was about a realistic housing project and training program to help house the homeless as they remodel abandoned and run down buildings. She agreed to meet with us after the session to go into this more in depth. The meeting with Frank Chopp went so well that he promised to look into putting \$100,000 back into this year's budget for five specific shelters in the Seattle area. Woo-hoo!

Pixie, a homeless youth, said that she "enjoyed a chance to talk to these elected officials, but doesn't think that much will come of it, because of funding issues." Most of the people that I talked to seemed more encouraged than discouraged. I was encouraged by the initiative and excitement of the participants, despite the way some of the officials treated us. Next year I will try to be more prepared so I can help other homeless people know what to expect when they are being a voice to their officials. Power to the people!!!

officials treated us. Next year I will try to be more prepared so I can help other homeless people know what to expect when they are being a voice to their officials. Power to the people!!!

Chris is a homeless individual and has been advocating for homeless issues for three years. He is a boardmember at PSKS. This article represents his opinions alone, and does not represent Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets.

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COPS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He advises the homeless who experience police misconduct to report the incident.

Cristien Storm, advocate for violence prevention with Home Alive, has observed that some people can go through the complaint process and feel like they have accomplished something, "but for many it's a frustrating process that makes them feel helpless." She suggests that the homeless community set up a peer advocacy group for homeless people who are the victims of police violence. "An advocate is an amazing thing," says Storm. "Someone who knows the legal system, has experience with homeless issues, and can give them the information they need."

Erin Katz, advocate for the Homelessness Project, also sees limits to the complaint process: "It's a question of how empowered homeless people will feel to pursue that kind of stuff," she says. "It probably varies depending on the person, their situation and what their fears are," says Katz, "The more disempowered you are on the social scale, the harder it would be to go through any process."

Good cops

In the police academy, Homelessness Sensitivity Training initiates an officer's education in homeless issues. "We talk in global terms of root causes of homelessness for a wide population base," says Alan Castle, with the Seattle Veterans Center, who helps with the trainings. "It gives the cadets a sense of the issues that can propel people into homelessness."

"We always recommend that officers go into the agencies that are on their beats, just so they can get to know them before there is a problem, so they can start developing a rapport," says Erin Katz, Chair of the KCCH Education Committee.

The West Precinct attempts to foster good relations with downtown social service providers by hosting monthly gatherings of the West Precinct Human Service Providers Forum. The forum began in 1992 when Assistant Chief Clark Kimerer was West Precinct captain. He says that "by bringing the human service providers into direct communication with the management of the precinct, I hoped to start dealing with issues of homelessness and displacement from the standpoint of police operations."

The forum provides an environment in which human service providers can work jointly on projects with the police. The Community Diversion Project, which developed within the forum, seeks to divert homeless and particularly mentally ill people who have committed minor crimes into case management as opposed to jail. "We worked with the jail, the Community Psychiatric Clinic, and homeless service providers to have a system for folks with clear mental illness or chemical dependency issues," says Kimerer, "so if they're caught tres-

passing or for minor theft, they get diverted into a program on a citation as opposed to being booked."

The mode and model for the Crisis Intervention Team also came out of the forum. CIT officers are trained specialists who respond to non-criminal or questionably criminal incidents concerning homeless and particularly mentally ill populations. "CIT officers try to intervene to prevent problems," says Kimerer, "Clearly, in their bag of options is to enforce the law, but I think their major focus is to try and deal with pre-criminal behavior."

Patrick Vanzo works directly with the SPD facilitating training for CIT officers. He sees the SPD's CIT program as a "refreshing response" to homeless and particularly mentally ill or chemically dependent individuals. "We try to train them in approaches to troubled populations, and teach them about services that those populations can access."

The program is still a work in progress; only about 10 percent of officers have completed CIT training. Vanzo continues to advocate for CIT trainings to be part of the standard curriculum at the Police Academy and he would like to see an ongoing dialogue between the homeless community and Sergeant Liz Eddy, who is the new CIT Sergeant.

Some human service providers recognize the benefits of the outreach efforts by the West Precinct and the new projects sponsored by the SPD. "For a while, the homeless were seen as a categorical burden to the police department," says Rev. Rick Reynolds of Operation Nightwatch. "The police used to come into Nightwatch in a confrontational way and seemed a little bit too alarmed by the clientele, but over time the police have become more sensitive to seeing homeless people as victims."

"I'm just as worried about an angry police officer as I'm worried about thugs that are beating up on my homeless veterans," says Castle. He says cops and homeless people need to meet on neutral ground. "I hear cops are eating at Boomtown Café," he says. "Now that's a start."

"I think that the general policy in the Department and the city as a whole has become more aware of the homeless community," says Pugel, who's assigned to the West Precinct. "As anyone grows in their profession they become aware of other agencies out there."

A good idea

Howard recently coordinated an introductory meeting to set up the new advisory council. "The advisory council is a good way to go because the Department hears directly from the community," says Howard.

"We often have not had a chance to hear that voice."

But the new council's creation started off on uncertain footing, according to advocate Anitra Freeman. She attended Howard's introductory meeting, but was surprised to see only service providers there.

"Unfortunately, trying to get this done right away before Stamper's leaving meant Howard's outreach letter for the meeting gave too short notice for organized homeless groups like SHARE, WHEEL, or HOP," says Freeman. Though "experience has made me reserved" about councils, committees, and forums, she thinks that this council can be effective if the meetings are made accessible for the homeless: "It will take some effort by Howard and the SPD to convince groups like SHARE and WHEEL that their input is valued and will be acted on. I hope that it bears out exactly how it was being presented."

Stamper has created eight advisory councils during his nearly six-year tenure as chief. In an interview with *Real Change* (March 1, 1999), he said he was "convinced that it's time to create an advisory council that will have representatives of the homeless population... I'm principally looking for member who are mentally ill or developmentally disabled, as well as

families, and perhaps a sprinkling of professionals."

Kimerer, who's a prime candidate to replace Stamper, is in support of the idea, noting that new chiefs are responsible for devising their own network of consultants and advisors from the community. "Clearly, with Norm's departure, we have to look at how they can be integrated into whatever the future system of the SPD is," he said. "I'm certainly committed to the concept."

Culture clash

Just as on other issues where the community asks cops to change their behavior, it's uncertain how seriously they'll be taken. Without a citizen review panel on police conduct, accountability ends outside the headquarter's doors. "The SPD has a particular culture," says Katz. "It's not the way human services operate; it's not the way homeless people operate."

Katz, who occasionally facilitates the trainings at the police academy, says she is unsure whether the homelessness sensitivity trainings do any good. "We hope that when we facilitate a training, for the two hours that we have them, that they think about the issues and maybe it will affect what they do on the street, but it's such a short period of time and it's just the tip of the iceberg." □

"It will take some effort ... to convince groups like SHARE and WHEEL that their input is valued and will be acted on."
Anitra Freeman



GOOD-NATURED SOCIAL WORKER COP CSO LARRY JONES. PHOTO BY ERIK CASTRO.

JAMPAC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As a result, some local political groups have talked about ousting him or running a progressive candidate against him. Would that be something JAMPAC would endorse and who might be better suited?

COMBS: We're absolutely going to get involved in that fight. Absolutely. What's interesting about Mark Sidran is that he's quite a progressive individual. I used to be on the National Abortion Rights Action League state board, and I'd see him at fundraisers. He's staunchly pro-choice, a very very progressive individual. Democrat. So there's just irony with him, that he's determined to clean up the city and turn it into some sort of utopian city. But it's not until 2001, so we don't really have anybody in mind that we would approach to run. But I can guarantee you that he will have opposition. But because of his background, and his position in the political society, he has a lot of support. He'll be hard to beat.

RC: How goes the battle with the City of Seattle's teen dance ordinance?

COMBS: The teen dance ordinance has been on the books for 15 years. It was passed by Mayor Norm Rice specifically to shut down a club called the Monastery. It was a heinous place. They had terrible security, there were a lot of drugs, prostitution, really bad things going on there. There was a lot going on in the alleys, things like that. So they decided that rather than going specifically after that nightclub they just decided to draft a broad, sweeping piece of legislation.

Now teen dance clubs are virtually nonexistent. JAMPAC since 1995 hasn't really dealt with it until now because it couldn't. There was such a conservative City Council up until the 1997 elections that groups couldn't really even go there. And besides, groups advocating on behalf of youth, that cared about the teen dance ordinance, had no power, and really don't have any power now anyway.

With the election of Conlin, Steinbrueck, and Licata in 1997, you have some very progressive arts guys. And so we started talking about it in 1998, and then in 1999 Licata and Conlin started the Music and Youth Task Force. All the people that are on

the task force — musicians, club owners, promoters, law, fire, police — we've been talking about the teen dance ordinance for months. We're getting ready to actually come up with a proposal to the City Council that includes the repeal of the teen dance ordinance, and more pro-active points like a city-funded venue and a youth advisory board to help youth and young promoters and police to communicate better. We think we have the votes to get it, especially now. One thing JAMPAC wanted to do last year was stall the Music and Youth task force proposal until after the elections, because now we have Jim Compton, Judy Nicastro, and more progressive people in there.

RC: I'm surprised you include Compton in there.
COMBS: Well, he is in favor of it, but there are some stipulations. We want to throw out any kind of age restriction [for admission to clubs]. He, and even Nick Licata, would like to see some kind of age restriction conserved. It's all about the safety of young people. But he's quite open-minded about it.

Something that happened with the teen dance ordinance is that the art form changed. In 1985 people were going and listening to DJs and dancing, and that's specifically what the language in the dance ordinance addresses. But it doesn't distinguish what is a dance and what is a concert. Over the years that has become a major loophole that has allowed things like DV8 and RKCNDY because they're concert halls. So they don't have to comply with the teen dance ordinance.

RC: How does the state legislature's Harmful to Minors bill differ from other labeling efforts? Does JAMPAC support movie ratings?

COMBS: We support the ratings on movies; we also support the labeling of CDs because it is voluntary. The movies are a self-regulated industry, and that is the parameter they work within. We support the Parental Advisory labeling music because it is voluntary and up to the artist, which is the way it should be.

RC: Right-wing organizations would say that mandatory labeling is just a tool that parents use to make choices about what they want their children to listen to.



AN ANGEL TODAY KEEPS THE SIDRAN AT BAY. PHOTO BY JOSH ROOT

COMBS: It sounds good, but it doesn't mean that parents don't have work to do anyway. For one thing, you could engage your child and know what they are listening to. And there are record reviews in Rolling Stone, on the internet, in all kinds of magazines and local newspapers. You could find out what a band is all about by actually engaging your children and finding out what they're into.

"What's interesting about Mark Sidran is that he's quite a progressive individual."

RC: I think what lies at the heart of people who support bills like that one is a fear of negatively influencing our youth. I taught middle school, and it was a question I had too — how much of students' behavior is influenced from the media. What's your stand on the influence of media?

COMBS: I think the influence of media is paramount in young minds, and it's also paramount in adults minds, almost everywhere around us. It's a parent's responsibility to get between your children and the

television they're watching and music they're listening to, and make sure that it falls in with their value system. It's not a legislator's place to do that. They think, "Well, I'm here, I want to protect your children." You have a lot of parents who say "I don't want you protecting my children, I'm the parent. I'll decide what they get to do, what they watch, and when they watch it. You stick to education, health care, the things that we've elected you to do."

RC: JAMPAC's contributors include bands like Pearl Jam, REM, and Green Day and music industry corporations. Where is the common ground between industry corporations and musicians who want to preserve free speech?

COMBS: Well, [fighting] something like Harmful to Minors in order to preserve free speech is something that's very personal to the band. When they want to make it illegal for minors to buy the records that Pearl Jam, REM, Green Day, Nirvana [make], they're gonna get involved.

I think from the perspective of the corporations, the major record labels, they're trying to protect this massive machine, this industry, with all these different components, artists and promotion, distribution. Without the freedom for artists to express themselves, without fear of censorship from the government, then they don't have that content to promote, and to make that machine go. I mean, they make millions. [E]

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Tenant Talk
Legal Action Center
 By Mark Chattin



Buyer Beware: Each individual tenant situation involves factors that cannot be addressed and people who may react differently. My responses are based on a general application of the law to the questions raised, and it cannot be assumed that following these responses will resolve the issues in the way that the law would seem to indicate. I have gone to court on many occasions feeling that I had a sure thing and come out a loser, and I have even gone to court with a case that I thought was a dead loser and ended up winning. Hopefully the responses will give you an idea of how to proceed to protect your rights.

Dear Tenant Talk,

My landlord gave me a 10-day notice to comply with a rule or vacate. About a month ago he wrote me to say that I have to sign a new month-to-month lease at the beginning of next month. The lease says all sorts of things which seem illegal. Regardless, they are definitely wrong. He is now doubling my deposit I paid five years ago when I moved in — can he do that? The lease says the place is in good condition and that I rent it as-is. There is no way I can sign it. He also says that if I do not sign it he will evict me. Can he do this?

Squeezed

Dear Squeezed,

Sounds like you have a variety of issues with your landlord. I will try and address each one separately, but the overall context makes it sound like you are in for a contentious period.

You mentioned that you have received a 10-day notice to comply, but you have not specified what the notice is for. A landlord can require a tenant to comply with the lease and accompanying rules but there are limits to what a tenant must comply with. The Residential Landlord-Tenant Act requires a tenant to comply with reasonable rules and regulations. You must decide whether the rules you have violated are reasonable or not.

Next, your landlord is insisting that you sign a new month-to-month rental agreement. The answer depends on whether you live within Seattle city limits or in the rest of King County. In Seattle, a landlord must have just cause to terminate your tenancy even if you are on a month-to-month tenancy. The fact that you refuse to sign a new month-to-month rental agreement is not just cause. If you

live outside of Seattle, your refusal to sign the month-to-month agreement may result in your landlord attempting to evict you. However, I believe if you handle this right, you could avoid the eviction.

You mentioned that the agreement required you to accept the property "as-is." The Residential Landlord Tenant Act contains a section that prohibits a landlord from including in his rental agreements provisions that require a tenant to waive rights or remedies under the act. I believe requiring a tenant to accept premises "as is" violates this provision. It may be in your best interest to contact a legal services program, where they could assist you by drafting a letter to the landlord pointing out that there are illegal provisions in the rental agreement and that you are unwilling to sign the agreement so long as those provisions are in there. If the landlord then tries to terminate your tenancy with a 20-day notice, you should be able to defend yourself by alleging the eviction is a retaliatory act for exercising your legal rights.

The downside of this approach is that it may result in an eviction action actually being filed in court. One of the unfair aspects of the landlord-tenant relationship is that even if a tenant wins in court, the fact that there was an eviction action filed against you will be reported by tenant screening services and many landlords will not rent to you if this shows up. In short, once an eviction lawsuit is filed in court, the tenant has already been damaged, no matter the eventual outcome.

Your final issue revolves around a new deposit. The landlord can increase a deposit but he must give you written notice 30 days beforehand, and there must be a written lease or rental agreement. If the rental agreement he is proposing contains language about increasing the deposit, then the increase may be valid. Whether or not you sign the proposed rental agreement will determine the validity of the deposit increase.

Unless you are in love with this place, it might be a good time to think about moving on and finding a landlord who won't be making unreasonable demands on you.

Write to Tenant Talk!

Do you now, or have you ever had to stand up to your landlord? Got a tenant issue you'd like to raise? Have anecdotes from another country or city? We want to hear about it! Send all gripes, anecdotes, or questions to "Tenant Talk" c/o Real Change, 2129 -2nd Ave., Seattle, WA, 98121, or email rchange@speakeasy.org.

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BY PERFESS'R HARRIS

Those rubes in New Hampshire haven't said anything that Classics Corner couldn't have told you months ago. G.W. Bush has the brains and charisma of a hamster, and no chance of becoming President. He makes McCain look good, but not good enough to beat Al Gore, who will impersonate a human being for as long as it takes to win the throne.

Gore, you see, is a liberal, and liberals have an uncanny way of straddling the middle ground without splitting out their crotch and revealing far more than we want to know.

While Republicans want poor people to die unless there's some profit involved, liberals like Gore honor our diversity because they need the votes.

History's first liberal is probably Solon. Athens in 600 B.C. was about to explode into class war and everyone knew it. The poor were losing their land and being sold into slavery to pay their debts. There were dangerous grumbings. Some rich guy was about two seconds from getting a pitchfork buried in his gut.

It was time for reform.

According to Plutarch, Solon was "chosen to become an arbitrator and lawgiver; the rich consenting because he was wealthy, the poor because he was honest." In trying to please both sides, he laid the foundation for what would become the most radical democracy the world had ever known.

Solon freed the poor from their overlords and eliminated debt slavery. He broke the back of the aristocracy and opened the door to democracy by organizing political representation by wealth. He extended judicial rights, in theory, to everyone.

This was not the Bolshevik Revolution, but all in all, it wasn't a half bad start.

"In this," says Plutarch, "he pleased neither party, for the rich were angry for their money, and the poor that the land was not divided"

The teeny tiny reforms of the Clinton years leave Classics Corner feeling that the issues haven't changed all that much. Our own congress recently defeated a proposal to prevent storefront usury outfits from charging 100 percent interest on loans. This was part of a package that would raise the minimum wage to a whopping \$6.15 over three years.

For the math challenged, that's \$12,792 annually, before taxes. And some people wonder why there are so many homeless.

It seems to us that slavery is alive and well in the 21st century.

But we still believe in progress and love our liberal friends. We even would have watched Clinton's State of the Union speech to its visionary end, had our butt not fallen asleep after the first hour and a half, outlasting our brain by a good 45 minutes.

Classics Corner struggles daily with our hard earned, world weary cynicism, and will, speaking in the third person plural all the while, vote for nearly anyone who says that poor people are not just the figurative crud under their fingernails.

Solon, since no politician operates in a vacuum, practiced the art of the possible. He didn't give the Athenians the best laws he could. He gave them, says Plutarch, the "best they could receive."

Clinton and Gore would make the same claim. Maybe the rest of us need to rise to the occasion. ☐

The Northwest Society for Classical Studies seeks fellow freaks. Visit <http://members.home.com/nscs>

Cutbacks

Cashed Out

HUD allocation leaves local programs short

BY SHAUNA CURPHEY

Patrick Allesandre's troubles didn't end a year ago when he found transitional housing for his wife, two kids, and himself. The family had to save enough for first month's rent and a security deposit for their new rental. From being homeless with no place to go, they suddenly "had a whole series of bills to handle and a whole life situation to work with," he says. That's when the Allesandre family started meeting with Michael Schwartz, their case manager in the YWCA Transition into Permanent Program.

Unless the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reconsiders a funding decision it made in late December, TIPP, a program that served 100 families and 300 children last year, will be gone.

In late December, HUD announced that social service organizations in Seattle and King County would receive \$8.2 million less in federal McKinney Homeless Assistance funds than they had requested. The HUD money constitutes the lowest award this region has received since 1995.

Five homeless support services, including TIPP, did not receive the \$4.8 million they need to keep going. HUD did not fund more than \$3.4 million requested for new programs.

King County Executive Ron Sims and Seattle Mayor Paul Schell have asked HUD to reconsider the award amount. They argue that HUD's funding allocation formula was not fully disclosed when the Continuum of Care application was submitted.

Another program is facing severe funding cuts when its HUD contract expires at the end of March. The Regional Homeless Child Care Program helps homeless families secure child care for their children. The program provides subsidies to families who do not qualify for city, county, or state child care subsidy programs, as well as transportation to child care for families staying temporarily in isolated areas. Since many homeless children need special care, the program works with child care providers to address aggressive behavior or other problems. Without HUD funding, Regional Homeless Child Care will lose 60 percent of its subsidy program. Support



SCHWARTZ AND ALLESANDRE: PEOPLE ARE NOT STATISTICS. PHOTO BY SHAUNA CURPHEY. 11

services will be lost completely. The program serves 370 families, including more than 750 children, each year.

Wendy Harris, a King County Child Care program representative, said Regional Homeless Child Care filed for an extension from HUD to keep the program going until they can reapply next year. The program is seeking money from the city, the county, and private foundations to make up for the HUD losses. In the meantime, providers, clients, and other stakeholders are advocating on behalf of the program.

One of TIPP's biggest supporters is former client Allesandre. He recalls that new challenges faced his family once they found permanent housing. His case manager, Schwartz, was there for him.

"Our goals were first to have a stable financial situation, to take proper care of our children, and to progress to where we could eventually own a home," says Allesandre. Schwartz helped when there were problems with their Section 8 paperwork and later when their food stamps were missing for two weeks. He taught them how to negotiate a payment plan for their utility bills. For Allesandre, this support contributed to a secure situation for his children.

"The HUD money constitutes the lowest award this region has received since 1995."

"They could live a normal child's life during all that was happening. I suppose there is nothing more meaningful to me than that. Because of [TIPP's] backup, today we are handling all that ourselves," he says. "We know the resources to access and

we are in a position to begin to put together a down payment on a house."

In a report issued in early December, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo registered his enthusiasm for programs like TIPP, saying, "Assistance programs can replace the nightmare of homelessness with the American dream of a better future." Yet HUD cut funding for a number of other critical assistance programs in King County. Programs that provide medical care in temporary respite housing, medical case management, and employment services also received funding cuts. The HUD funds run out in November.

HUD has not yet responded to public calls for a reconsideration of the funding decision.

What's going to happen to homeless families when TIPP is gone? "That's the part that really upsets me the most," said Schwartz. "I would like to take the bureaucrats to a home with me to see these people are not statistics." ☐

Ever the Sympathetic

I was convinced he was a vampire, growing more and more vibrant through the years as she began needing longer afternoon naps, her legs swollen with arthritic knots, disintegrating beneath her as the marrow inside the bones dried up and disappeared. He was

ever the sympathetic husband, strong for her when she needed an arm to lean on, shopped with her when she bought the aluminum walker surprised her with wheelchairs on anniversaries, birthdays—electric for when she wanted to go out alone, manual for when she wanted to be pushed.

- Holly Day

Letter to a Grandfather

A movie is on.
Mom is in the kitchen washing dishes.
I'm lying on the floor,
my head propped on my arms.
You sit beside me,
reach for my foot, try tickling,
but I've outgrown it.
You pick up my foot.
I hope that it's clean,
and rub it like a tiny back.

*Look at this foot,
It's so soft.
You'd think no one walked on it.*

Your face is always red now.
The blood vessels rush to your skin
like flies at a window,
trying to get out.

*You're a good girl.
You are smiling,
looking at me with too much attention.
I've always liked girls
more than boys,
you whisper.*

I smile at the ceiling
glad that my mother
is in the next room
as you search
for my other foot.

—Shira Richman

Epiphany

She beckons me with a rounded vowel
and, as in origami, I neatly fold
our desires into a heron
so it will take wing.

We pledge allegiance to our union
and I bleach the sheets
to make notebook
paper.

She tenderly feeds me blue seaweed,
I digest a thesaurus
and compose her
a vignette.

She counts the syllables, the alliterations,
waltzing across the room
and I ask her: "Which came first,
dance or song?"

She moves and I kiss her.

—Earle Thompson

Panama Eight

She lay there on the bed
Naked, legs spread open
Labia lobster red
Her eyes those of a prisoner
Serving a life sentence
We never said a word
It was like a mechanic working
On a used car
Trying to put life back into it
Failing to get a response
Her eyes two headlights
Burned into the ceiling
As if she were taking inventory
Of all those there before me
A never ending long line
Of raw sausages moving down
An assembly line
In a butcher factory

—A.D. Winans

drawn

This luckless town . . . its center! Then,
its sides (the streets you drive)—
seems to need police on every
corner. "We're alive! [the

feeling comes to be] because
we need no place to hide—
new cops on every corner (with no
pistols to the side).

—Stan Burriss

Returning Home from Panama, 1958

They had this bar at Ocean Beach
Called the Chalet
It used to be a hangout for vets
The American Legion boys
Most of them fat and balding
Middle-aged
One so old that
He claimed he was gassed in
W.W.I.

You never knew whether
To believe him or not
He just sat there staring
Talking into his beer
Humming that song
OVER HERE OVER THERE
And using terms like
Dough boy and pill box
And you just somehow knew
That he had to have been there
Was still there would
Always be there

—A.D. Winans

Another Legend

His eye-yet, woman, heard
His co-worker said:
"We'll wet our lips..."
She meant "whistles" and after work,
they could have a drink.
That is what started the ball rolling;
she took the tipi, rifle, fishing net
and she would have taken
the modern-day brave's horse
since the title of the pick-up truck
was in her name
she didn't have to.
That would have been the end
of story and this domestic
misunderstanding
but Speelyi heard
of this breakup; Coyote intervened
and told him of his plight; he jokingly
told Elk Woman to peel him a huckleberry.
That is all it took to tear the tule
wedding mat. After that he watched
his words because they are powerful
beings. Speelyi smiled
and they all laughed.

—Earle Thompson

WTO//TENT CITY//SHARE

In space

Parking lots
beside churches (with
lights inside
windows). They shelter the
churches,
are seen from
outside.

Light is needed.
Homes on these streets, beside churches, know their own

places in
light.

On the way

—Stan Burriss

ADVENTURES IN POETRY

by © Dr Wes Browning

Sweet Valentine

This is Anitra, Upon Whose Kitchen Floor Wes Has Sometimes Slept. Wes has a bad cold right now, which he says is my fault (because he's sleeping closer to me than the kitchen floor these days), and therefore I have to write his column for him.

Wes says I am starting out very well, staring at a blank white computer screen. He then gave me a tip to get started:

[insert column here]

Wes has just left the room, leaving me clear to talk about him with Cindy, Muse of Few Words. I ask Cindy, "I want to structure this column like Wes does, in the form that I have called a Wessitur: an apparent sequence of non-sequiturs that sneaks up behind a political subject and bonks it on the head. How do you suggest I start?"

Cindy says, "Say something about Wes now."

Wes was skinnier when I first met him (he also says that this is my fault, in spite of the fact that he does most of the cooking). We were both homeless at that time, in October 1995. Wes attempted to teach me the use of acrylics, at StreetLife Art Gallery.

He still attempts to teach me math. I retaliate by singing sea chanteys.

Soon after I started going to StreetLife Gallery, Wes drafted me for the *Real Change* Editorial Committee. I retaliated by starting StreetWrites, to help more homeless and low-income writers develop material for publication. Wes said, "Okay, I'll attend, but you have to do the work."

How am I doing, Cindy? "At about this point, Wes says something else."

Speaking of something else, last week I attended the Seattle Police Department's first organizational meeting attempting to put together a Homeless Advisory Council. I was unhappy to see that I was the only person there who was a "community member" (still counted as low-income and formerly homeless) instead of a service provider or public official—and I was only there because Timothy "Editor-God" Harris, Director of *Real Change*, was in production crunch

on the paper.

Tim made me feel a bit better by explaining that invitations did go out to SHARE, WHEEL, & HOP—but they went out very recently. Membership-driven grassroots organizations need more lead time to make decisions than top-down structured organizations. Adding in that the

strongest memory most homeless groups have of such advisory councils is the sensation of having one's butt turned to rubber with the raised words "Whatever You've Already Decided" lettered on them, then pounded up and down—and caution lengthens the lead time.

Speaking of caution, caution lengthened the lead time in the relationship between Wes and me. Within weeks of meeting each other we were spending large amounts of time together—we were both officers of StreetLife Gallery, both writing for and editing *Real Change*, and we just hung out, because we made each other laugh, we sparked ideas for each other, I could say one sentence and he instantly knew what I meant, cutting my tendency to discourse at length and earning the undying gratitude of thousands.

But first, I was staying in shelters and he was Camping Out on Fern Hill (the exact location of which he still keeps secret in case he might have to use it again). Then I got housing but Wes didn't; he could only visit me three nights a week at The Union Hotel, where he really did sleep on my kitchen floor, and we talked for several hours each night like kids at a slumber party.

It was July 21st, 1997, at 4 p.m. (I got the date and time from Wes) that Wes walked into the *Real Change* office and handed his last pack of ciga-

rettes ever to Tim Harris because I had mentioned that I wouldn't get intimate with a smoker's mouth. Then he didn't sleep on my kitchen floor any longer.

Speaking of lengthening, we were both divorced. Wes had a history of severe child abuse and suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I had a history of relationships disrupted by my bipolar disorder (manic depression). We were both used to being prejudged, misjudged, and making bad judgments about others. A lot of reasons for caution on both sides. We're now regarded as the happiest couple in the Union Hotel, mainly because we come in about 3 a.m. each morning, after we tear ourselves from the *Real Change* computers, laughing manically over the application of the policy of Harm Reduction to late-night transit.

How did I do, Cindy? "You left out poetry."

Haiku for Wes

He sleeps on my kitchen floor
while I check my email.
I need no Valentines.



BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

duced an amendment exempting one of the largest city projects, the \$62 million Civic Center, from the new law. Drago was concerned that that extra percentage would cut too deep into the center's budget. The exemption means a reduction of \$620,000 in extra funding over the next two years.

With Drago's support, the full council is likely to approve the new law Feb. 22.

— Adam Holdorf

Renter's Forum to air grievances

SO, YOUR RENT JUST WENT UP AND YOU'RE TICKED OFF? Turns out, your building was just sold to a couple of "techie" millionaires who you'd swear are barely out of puberty. They've cashed out some of their stock options for real estate and think your place could be converted into loft space for artists. In the meantime, to help finance the deal, they've jacked up your rent by 300 dollars.

Hey! Don't get mad! Get organized!

At 7 p.m. Wednesday March 1st, Seattle City Councilmembers, including Nick Licata, Judy Nicastro, and others will hear what citizens have to say about Seattle's housing crisis. The public is invited to bring their concerns about out-of-control rents, tenant issues, housing demolitions, and homelessness. The event is sponsored by the Seattle Displacement Coalition, *Real Change*, the Tenants Union, and the Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens.

According to the event's organizers, the sponsoring groups will begin by asking each councilmember to explain where they stand on several key housing issues. Each councilmember will not be put on the spot, but asked to make broad comments about the housing crisis.

Organizers would also like councilmembers to say where they stand on matters such as the need for a right of first refusal law, repeal of the state restrictions on rent control, a homeless tracking system, and more accountability at the Seattle Housing Authority. There will be considerable time for comments and questions from the audience.

The event takes place at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 509 10th Ave. E., located on the north end of Broadway next to the Safeway store. The Seattle Displacement Coalition states that "this is the public's chance to highlight how important this issue is, relate their own horror stories and experiences, and secure commitments from the people who have the power to do something about it." For more information, call the Displacement Coalition at 632-0668.

Real Change is hiring. Join our team!

Production Manager

Put your Pagemaker and Photoshop skills to work helping the homeless help themselves. Writing and journalism skills a big plus. Pagemaker and Photoshop experience required. You won't get rich, but you'll have a great time. \$220 a week for 1/2 time. Benefits.

Ad Sales and Marketing Director

Make your mark. Help us take this paper to the next level. If you have sales experience, lots of energy and creativity, and a desire to do work that matters, you need to apply for this full-time position. Salary plus commission. Flexible hours. Great environment.

Mail resume and cover letter to Timothy Harris at Real Change by 2/25. 2129 2nd Ave. 98121

rent = theft
talk = cheap
action = priceless

Join other tenants in a discussion with Seattle city councilmembers about high rent, harrassment, and solutions to the rental housing crisis.

the Renter's Forum

7 p.m. Wednesday, March 1st

Pilgrim Congregational Church

509 10th Ave. E

Sponsored by the Seattle Displacement Coalition, Real Change, the Tenants Union, and the Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens. For more information call the Displacement Coalition: 632-0668.

A paid advertisement by the Seattle Housing Authority

A View of Our Mission from a Church Van

One of the most important services that SHA offers is extending the vision and horizon for Seattle's homeless and marginalized poor.

For the past few months, I have been driving up to 10 homeless women from a shelter in the Maple Leaf area to downtown Seattle on my way to work. These morning rides have been a major opportunity to get to know some of our future clients and their stories. While daily stories about struggles for custody, with the criminal justice system, and of street life are eye-opening, I have been particularly struck by the prayers of the women.

When I started driving in early fall, they wanted me to pray before we depart Maple Leaf. However, in the last few weeks, I have asked them to volunteer to pray. All those who have volunteered usually pray for the same things, and not a single one of them has prayed for permanent housing, which was very curious.

What they usually include in their prayers are:

- Thanks for a warm bed.
- Thanks for the food they had the night before, if any.
- Thanks for a safe night's sleep.
- Prayer for safety during the day.
- Prayer for a friendly smile on the streets.
- Prayer for people they encounter during the day to be open-minded.

What I have realized from their prayers is that more than any other people I know, they are concerned mainly about the day ahead of them. All they want for the day that lies ahead is safety, a smile, and not to be judged based on their homeless status.

Another lesson that I learned by volunteering at the shelter is their perception that they are invisible on the streets because they carry their bags with them. Those who view them as opportunities for crime notice them. However, many of the rest judge them by the bag they carry, don't acknowledge that they exist, and don't offer the smile they seek. In other words, their homeless status militates against the very things they hope for.

One of the things I offer to them on a regular basis is an application for SHA housing. For brief moments in our morning rides, the application form offers a sense of hope and opportunity to look beyond today. It allows them to lift their heads from their feet to look ahead. However, their overwhelming concern is for their spirits to be lifted by a smile, for their safety, and for a lack of prejudice.

What SHA offers for many of the folks that we see on the streets and in our admissions office, therefore, is an extension of their vision beyond today. Our long waiting list is an almost insurmountable barrier. However, some of them do make it in, about 250 homeless households in 1999. We have extended their horizons and provided them with an opportunity to look toward the next week, some the next month or year, some to get their children back, some to get a job and provide for themselves, and others the opportunity to grow old with dignity.

February is Black History Month **2/00**

Candlelight Vigil as the incarceration rate in the United States of America reaches 2 million people, most involving non-violent illegal drug users, this madness must end now! 5 - 8 p.m., rain or shine at King County Jail, 5th and James, downtown; A peaceful and non-violent action sponsored by The November Coalition & The Hemp Coalition, info 509-684-1550 or 206-781-5734 or <http://www.november.org> or <http://www.thehempcoalition.org>

Candlelight Vigil against military aid to Colombia: Oppose Clinton's \$1.6 billion aid package, 80% of this package is assistance to the Colombian army, widely recognized as the most abusive military in the Western hemisphere; We won't tolerate another El Salvador! Candles will be provided; 6 p.m., across from Westlake Mall, near 4th and Pine, downtown

Housing Advocacy Day, join the Tenants Union, Low-Income Housing Network, and others, meet with your Legislators, lobby in Olympia for decent affordable stable housing for all; free transportation and lunch but donations welcome; Register or Info. Aline 206-722-6848 x114 or alinebc@hotmail.com

Black History Month Celebration, special video showing "Fundi: The Story of Ella Baker," an organizer for over 50 years; All welcome, dinner 6:30 p.m. for \$6.50 donation, 7:30 p.m., 5018 Rainier Ave S, Radical Women Meeting; Info. 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453

Campaign to End the Death Penalty presents "Live from Death Row" with Update on Mumia; 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., at Garfield Community Center, 23rd and E Cherry; info 206-378-0989 or cedp@hotmail.com

October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation presents a video showing in honor of Black History Month, with selected footage of recent People's Demonstrations, 3 p.m., at Douglass Truth Library, 23rd & Yesler; info 206-264-5527 or seattleoctober22nd@hotmail.com

Festival Sundiata, a celebration of African American art, culture and history featuring art exhibits, writing workshops, hands-on crafts tables, a film festival, entertainment, and resource booths; 11:30 a.m. - 11 p.m., noon - 9 p.m., and noon - 6 p.m., at Seattle Center House and Flag Pavilion; Info. 206-329-8086

Want to produce your own media? **Studio X, a new community broadcasting facility, will be assigning time slots for the month of March**; Join us for Tea and Cookies at 1:00pm in the Speakeasy Cafe - Backroom (2304 - 2nd Ave.) to sign up yourself or your organization for airtime; Studio X is broadcasting on the web at www.microradio.net between 4 - 10pm, for more information call the Studio X Hotline at (206) 736-1400



Talk by noted feminist historian Bettina Aptheker on the occasion of the 25th anniversary reprint of her book on Angela Davis's trial, entitled: "The Morning Breaks: The Trial of Angela Davis." 7 p.m. at University of Washington, Kane Hall, Room 120

Peace Between People will hold a basic level Alternatives to Violence Project workshop on Nonviolent Conflict Resolution; 2 1/2 days of experiential exercises in communication, community building, affirmation of self and others, techniques for conflict resolution, and fun; registration \$20, plus sliding scale workshop donation suggested \$20 to \$200, fee may be waived in cases of financial hardship, class in Seattle; Info. 206-517-4047

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

Benefit for North Seattle Grassroots Radio (NSGR); Doors open 9 p.m., at Gibsons Bar, 2nd & Stewart, downtown; cover \$5, music by Shit List; Consume; Ointment; info <http://www.scn.org/activism/nsgr> or bp637@scn.org

The Family Kitchen celebrates 25 years; Join the celebration: 6 p.m. Pizza and Ice Cream Social, 7 p.m. Program and our stories, 8 - 11 p.m. Dance with The Rondos; St. James Cathedral Hall on Columbia, between Ninth and Terry

Seattle Progressive Coalition meets 7PM at CAMP

StreetWrites Open Mic: public poetry reading, free admission, coffee & snacks, Community through creativity; creativity through community. Noon-3 p.m. at Real Change, 2129 Second Avenue. Info 206-256-0368 or anitra@speakeasy.org

Housing Forum and "Speak Out" with City Councilmembers including Licata, Nicastro, and others. Come express your concerns about out-of-control rents, housing demolitions, tenant, and homeless issues. It's time for the Council to act! We are seeking commitments from them for a housing and tenant agenda, and there will be an open mike and lots of time for your comments. 7:00 PM, Pilgrim Congregational Church on Northend of Broadway, 509 10th Ave. E. (enter off 10th behind Safeway). All Invited! Sponsored by the Seattle Displacement Coalition, Tenants Union, and Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens

FEBRUARY

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>

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

Special Thanks to Jean Buskin at bb369@scn.org
For complete listing with meeting times for local advocacy and peace groups, see her fine calendar at
<http://www.scn.org/activism/PJ-cal.txt>



Help wanted

Organize for housing justice

The Tenants Union seeks two full-time VISTA volunteers to organize tenants in HUD-subsized Section 8 housing. Get hands-on organizing experience along with training and support.

Position begins in March. Send cover letter and resume to: Siobhan Ring, Tenants Union, 3902 S. Ferdinand Street, Seattle, WA 98118. Questions? Call 722-6848 x108.

ACT NOW!

Roll back HUD's Cutbacks

ISSUE: Call on public officials to replace funding to existing programs that help homeless people find and keep permanent housing.

BACKGROUND: On Christmas Day 1999, service providers learned that their applications to the HUD McKinney Continuum of Care program had received an amount far short of what even current programs need to keep going. The award levels have declined from a high in 1995 of \$17.3 million to today's low of \$10.1 million.

According to the McKinney Group, a joint city-county committee of service providers that studies the annual awards, grant applications "were developed in response to local continuum of care planning.... Unfortunately, the reductions have been so severe that even within this family of strong projects, [in the next application] our community must make choices and set difficult priorities."

Among the hardest-hit agencies this time were the Regional Homeless Child Care program and the Transition Into Permanent Program (see article, page 11). Funding for both operations runs out at the end of March.

When the McKinney Group convened last year it found that HUD tended to give less money to supportive services that were not

linked with a particular housing program. Even so, supportive services are still needed, they wrote:

"Without appropriate services, we might have housing programs but people would simply cycle through them, without the adequate levels of support to make real progress... homeless people need housing, as well as ... job training, child care, drug treatment, mental health services, and domestic violence counseling."

The group concludes that local governments and service providers need to embark on a "major policy push" to reverse the declines.

ACTION NEEDED: Don't wait for bureaucrats to act; you get the message out first. Call or write the following public officials and tell them that:

1. HUD must find some way to fund these essential programs;
2. The state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) should allocate unspent welfare funds for these programs.

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo
phone: (202) 708-0417
email: andrew_cuomo@hud.gov

Sen. Patty Murray
phone: (206) 553-5545
email: senator_murray@murray.senate.gov

Rep. Jennifer Dunn
phone: (206) 275-3438
email: dunwa08@mail.hous.gov

Secretary of DSHS Lyle Quasim
phone: (360) 902-7800

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

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

