

Please buy
from badged
vendors only

\$1

Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 7, No. 5

Nightmare in Olympia: *Living and Dying With I-695*

Inside:**No Crime to be Young? Queers on the
Street. No Homeless in Cuba.**

Clean at Last! Seattle homeless get pot to piss in.

by Adam Holdorf

SEATTLE'S BEEN WAITING TO USE THIS BATHROOM FOR TEN YEARS. Way back in 1990, a city study found that public restrooms were desperately needed in Pioneer Square, Belltown, and along Pike and Stewart Streets downtown.

Ten years later, the Urban Rest Stop opens on March 13. Hundreds of people will pass through the tiny storefront space on Ninth Avenue and Virginia, coming out clean and refreshed. Men, women and children have finally got a pot to piss in.

It's a big pot, despite the cramped quarters. The Rest Stop should provide 100 loads of laundry, 200 showers and toilets for 300-400 users each day — all free of charge to anyone who walks in the door, says coordinator Ronni Gilboa of the Low Income Housing Institute.

But before the bubbly wars, the party's over. Gilboa says since there are no plans to bring in revenue, operating costs will run to \$35,000 a month. HUD money for the project will run out in January 2001. A quarter-million dollar contribution from the Downtown Seattle Association was spent on construction. Gilboa says her next task is to convince Nordstrom and other downtown businesses to help pay for soap, toothbrushes, towels, water and electricity.

They might not go along. The Rest Stop's been hindered by an image problem since it first entered the public eye in a 1990 study, in which 44 percent of downtown retailers and restaurant owners said they were against public laundry and shower facilities within three blocks of their businesses. Even those in support of public restrooms were unwilling to contribute money to build them.

Local businesses' queasiness hit a peak in 1996, when local developer David Gellatly filed suit to halt LIHI's plans for a hygiene center next to his empty Third Avenue building. The stigma continues: in a February 21 Seattle Times article, DSA president Kate Joncas referred to users of the Rest Stop as "needy and damaged people." Joncas later said her words had been taken out of context. In her view, the urban core can inflict pain on all types of people: "If you're going to talk about 'damaged' people, you can say people downtown are damaged from too much shopping," she says.

Joncas suggests that now that the Rest Stop is open, new downtown toilet efforts need public support. Mayor Paul Schell and members of the city council have supported the idea of self-cleaning high-

continued on page 14

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 MacWorkshop, 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.



Christian Condescension

Dear Dr. Wes Browning:

Upon reading your "Adventures in Poetry" column ["Stupid for Jesus," Feb. 1] I must say that you just didn't understand what "Bob" was trying to do for you.

He was trying to *help* meet your physical need so he could help you with your emotional/spiritual need. That is how someone with genuine concern for others logically goes about it.

You said you wanted to know "why people like Bob think that anyone is going to accept (insert religious figure and/or concept here) based on the bribe of food." He didn't want you to accept Jesus because he fed you, as you thought. He wanted to show the impetus for his concern for you. That is, of course, the love of Christ, which is the concern for others. He just wanted you to apprehend the glory of Jesus in hopes you might eventually comprehend the essentials of Christianity. We're praying for you.

Bob's friend Matt N.

The New Us Real Change Gets All Slick

Back in the day when I was skinny, I once edited a Boston rag called *Street Magazine*. My friends and I put it out more or less every few months, squinting at the five inch screen of a Mac Plus with our bootleg copy of Aldus PageMaker 2.0 whirring away in an 800K external floppy drive. Despite everything, it looked pretty good.

I now refer to this as the potatoes and shoplifted cheese phase of my publishing career.

Anyway, I happened to meet the editor of an important nationally distributed leftist magazine at a demonstration on the Boston Common, and mentioned to her that it was I who was behind the occasional phenomenon known as *Street Magazine*.

"Oh, *Street*," she loftily intoned. "I used to like *Street* before it got all slicky!" The conversation petered out pretty quickly from there.

She, like many well-meaning people, seemed to think a poor people's paper should look like it was banged out on a typewriter and cobbled together with nothing but Elmers glue and good old proletarian elbow grease.

We don't agree. We want people to actually read the words we take the trouble to put on paper. We will entice you with any cheap trick we can muster. We are desperate for attention.

That is why we have revamped the look of our little paper. Graphic designer Marie McCaffrey, of *Point No Point* fame and beyond, has generously volunteered about 60 hours of her time to give us a new look and patiently teach this old dog some new tricks. She is amazing.

Our next issue will look even better. We're going to solve our chronic photo quality issue by going to press on disk, something the rest of the world has apparently done for about a decade.

We hope you like our new look. You'll find that beneath the shiny facade, *Real Change* is the same voice of the poor we've always been. Only better. ■

Timothy Harris, Exec. Dir., Real Change/RCHEP

Staff, Board & Advisers

Executive Director, Real Change/RCHEP

Timothy Harris

Associate Director, RCHEP

Bob Kubiniec

Managing Editor

Adam Holdorf

Vendor/Volunteer Manager

Megan Farley

MacWorkshop Coordinator

Audrey West, Vista Volunteer

Advertising Representative

Madeline Lewis

Interns

gretchen king, Jessica Jespersion

Board of Directors

Wes Browning (VP), Susan Forshey, Carole Frisell (Sec.), Luis Garcia, Jon Gould (Pres.), Al Poole, Walter Massey, Scott Nodland, JoJo Tran, Bruce Wirth

Editorial Committee

E. O. Anthony, Wes Browning, Stan Burriss, Ruth Fox, Anitra Freeman, gretchen king, Michele Marchand

Contributing Writers

Peter Bloch-Garcia, Kristen Blum, Eric Detzer, Brian Goedde, Adam Holdorf, Matt Lynch, Jim Pennington, Shauna Curphey, Janice Price, Bob Redmond, Melissa Wall, scott winn, Koon Woon

Photographers

Daniel Caplan, Erik Castro, Chris Cummings, George Hickey, Christina Larson, Josh Root, Dana Schuerholz

Volunteers This Issue

Todd Edwards, Carole Frisell, Josh Graber, Orion Isis Gray, Brianna Morgan, Scott Shively, Bjorn Stine, Jenny Van West, Bruce Wirth

Advisory Board

Nancy Amidei, U District-University Partnership for Youth

Bob Barnes, King County Rainbow Coalition

Juan Bocanegra, Downtown Human Services Council

Jean Colman, Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

Walt Crowley, HistoryLink.org

Ishbel Dickens, John Fox

Seattle Displacement Coalition

Curt Firestone, Community Activist

Matthew Fox, Community Activist

Neil Fox, National Lawyer's Guild

Larry Gossett, County Councilmember, Dist. 10

Bill Hallerman, Archdiocesan Housing Authority

Bill Hobson, Downtown Emergency Service Center

Erin Katz, Homelessness Project

Mike Lowry, The Fairness Project

Paola Maranan, The Children's Alliance

Joe Martin, Pike Market Medical Clinic

Camille Monzon, Seattle Indian Center

Lonnie Nelson, Coalition of Labor Union Women

Trisha Ready, Words at Risk

Siobhan Ring, Tenants Union

Mary Robinson-Smith, Denny Regrade Planning Organization

Aiko Schaefer, WA Welfare Reform Coalition,

Jim Theofelis

Tamara Turner, Radical Women

Velma Voloria, State Representative, 11th

District

Harriet Walden, Mothers for Police Accountability

Beyond Charity Support justice and dignity for all

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 great deal 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 Mac-workshop computer lab, and the Homeless Speakers Bureau. Checks written to *Real Change* are not tax deductible, and support the newspaper itself.

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

Name _____

Address/Zip _____

Phone _____

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

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

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

Out on the street

by Margaret King

Here is a map of our country:
Here is the Sea of Indifference, glazed with salt
Whose children are drifting blind alleys pent
Between coils of razor wire
I promised to show you a map you say but this is a mural
Then yes let it be these are small distinctions
Where do we see it from is the question.

—ADRIENNE RICH, "ATLAS OF A DIFFICULT WORLD"

The idea of vantage point has always intrigued me: the effect of being visible or invisible, authentically oneself, or necessarily another. In a mural at Seattle Art Museum (SAM), two young painters from Lambert House have captured the complexity of queers becoming visible to ourselves and the world.

Lambert House is a dynamic community center on Capitol Hill for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth; the artists are Joe Fierke and Marc Derwediwen. Their 18' by 12' mural is painted behind the scenes, on the outer doors of the freight elevator at SAM. In the back of the building, underneath the exhibit spaces, below a labyrinth of hallways and portals of various sorts there is now an image the symbolizes a process of public and private liberation. And while the mural is neither readily viewed nor specifically about homeless youth, both its location and its images vividly capture the reality, perils and joys of being young, queer, and homeless in a culture that protects none of these traits.

In the mural, a giant dragonfly emerges from a room enclosed behind an elaborate Chinese screen. The room represents the proverbial closet from which lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people emerge en route to full and visible lives. The dragonfly emerges in a circle, an ancient symbol of the self. The dragonfly is anchored to the circle by barbed wire, symbolizing both the dangers of truth-telling and the necessity of community. The words "silence=death" evoke the turning point when one comes to express the truth of one's sexual and gender identities.

The environment surrounding the dragonfly poses infinite risks, but the dragonfly itself signifies the capacity to survive and flourish. The dragonfly itself is the magnificent center of the painting.

The dragonfly is anchored with barbed wire: From the vantage point of homeless youth, the streets present perilous dangers every day. One Lambert House youth was beaten in the University District and didn't seek medical help because she was afraid to reveal she is transgendered. Three days later she found out she had a concussion. Another transgendered young woman routinely scouts downtown construction sites in search of portable toilets so she'll be able to pee (and primp) without endangering her life in downtown clubs. Having to use Honeybuckets at construction sites late at night is equally dangerous.

There is barbed wire keeping homeless youth tethered to the closet: the dangers of the streets, homophobia and hate crimes, family rejection, hostile service providers. For GLBT homeless youth, obstacles are multiplied exponentially.

It makes sense to want visibility — to claim our rightful place at the table of community life — but daring to speak the truths about who we are, in all our complexity, can put us in grave danger. This is the sword GLBT youth traverse every day.

The dragonfly soars through a circle of self and community: Still, there are pockets of refuge in the world that help screens come down: gay and lesbian adults willing to be out and available to youth in need, SAM's willingness to commission this mural, agencies accessible and welcoming to queer youth.

Lambert House is a good example of such a welcoming space: youth from all over Seattle come to Lambert House because it is a safe and supportive place for young people to be open about their sexual and gender identities, to meet youth like themselves who are surviving and flourishing.

At least 20 percent of Lambert House's youth were homeless or had histories of homelessness last year. These are kids who are drifting blind alleys looking for maps to safe places. Art like the SAM dragonfly mural reminds us of our resilience and community, reminds us that we can transform ourselves and our communities into places of refuge, as long as we keep one another safe and dare to speak the truth. ■

Lambert House is an activity and resource center committed to empowering sexual minority youth (ages 14-22) through the development of personal, social and life skills. Located at 1815 - 15th Avenue East on Capitol Hill, Lambert House is open M-Th 4 p.m. to 10 p.m, Fri 4 p.m. to midnight, and Sat 3 p.m. to midnight. Margaret King is a supervisor at DESC's SAGE mental health program and a Lambert House Board member (emeritus).



Inside:

Opinion



Out on the Street: Young, Queer, and Homeless
by Margaret King 3

There are no homeless in Cuba
by scott winn 11

Regular Features

This Just In
by Bob Redmond 3

News You Can Use
by Adam Holdorf and Shauna Curphey 3

Tenant Talk: Lobbing ABC's
by Mark Chattin 13

Classics Corner
by Timothy Harris 14

Calender
gretchen king 15



News



Twice the Target
Is there room in the gay community for homeless queers?
by Michele Marchand and T. Britton 5

Scared Witless: Living and dying with I-695 in Olympia
By Mark Gardner 6

California Scheming: Youths organize against criminalization.
By gretchen king and Adam Holdorf 7

People



Pearl Cahall: 87 years young and old enough to know better
by Michele Marchand and gretchen king 10

Old Friends: St. Martins residents remembered
by Michele Marchand and Rita Peterson 12

Poetry

Adventures in Poetry: Not About Y2K,
by Dr. Wes Browning 8

Poems by Stan Burriss, Carol Leno, Kay Thode, Earle
Thompson, Roberto Valenza 8-9

Activism

Citizen Participation Project
by Adam Holdorf 6



The Utilities and Exchange Commission, in conjunction with NASA, the AMA and a consortium of nineteen insurance providers, have announced that by 2001, a network of satellites will be erected in outer space to shield Americans from harmful cancer rays emanating from the sun.

The satellite network, nicknamed "Shadowcatcher," uses state-of-the-art optical technology. It will, with pinpoint accuracy, block out exact portions of sunlight, placing areas as small as an automobile in temporary shadow.

"We feel it will benefit all people to be shielded from the harmful effects of sun exposure," said a government spokesperson.

If people want to reverse the effects of "Shadowcatcher," they will be able to pay a monthly fee to customize their lighting schedule.

First satellite launch is set for July 2000 at Cape Canaveral.

- Bob Redmond

Nearly too late, study says homeless kids need more help

Now that the King County Homeless Child Care Task Force knows what needs to be done for homeless kids, many agencies are without the funds to do it.

The group of formerly homeless parents, recruited by the King County Regional Homeless Child Care Program, surveyed the needs of the estimated 860 children who are homeless in the county on any given night. They found that services for homeless children in the region are disjointed and inadequate, and that their parents lack reliable information about child care providers and support agencies.

The report recommended mandating agencies to distribute resource lists and create a web site where homeless parents could learn about and apply for appropriate resources. The task force also found child care subsidy eligibility requirements and waiting lists constrict parents' ability to secure child care. Parents who find care struggle to find transportation for their children. They proposed more subsidies, on-site child care at shelters and transitional housing, expanded care hours and transportation services as solutions.

Moving into permanent housing brings increased financial pressures, making child care payments too high for some parents. The task force stressed the need to extend support services so that families have the help they need until they are able to regain financial stability.

Most policy recommendations won't withstand the cuts that are hitting regional services as the Department of Housing and Urban Development's funding for support services shrinks. As a result of a \$4.76 million shortfall over the next two years, six programs face extinction or severe cutbacks, including Regional Homeless Child Care. The program filed for an extension from HUD to keep going until they are up for funding in the next grant cycle.

Responding to requests by mayor Paul Schell and King County executive Ron Sims, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo has agreed to review the decision.

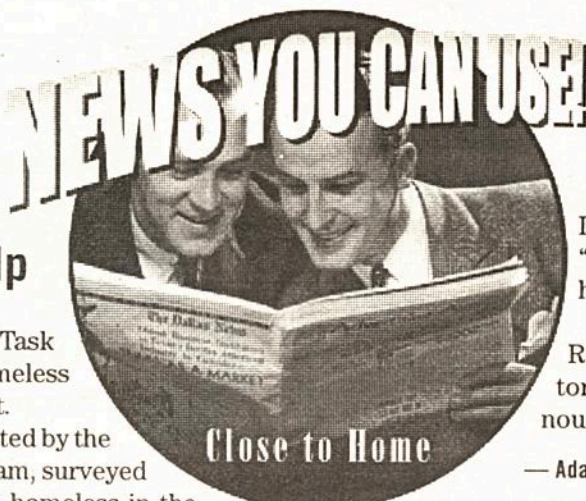
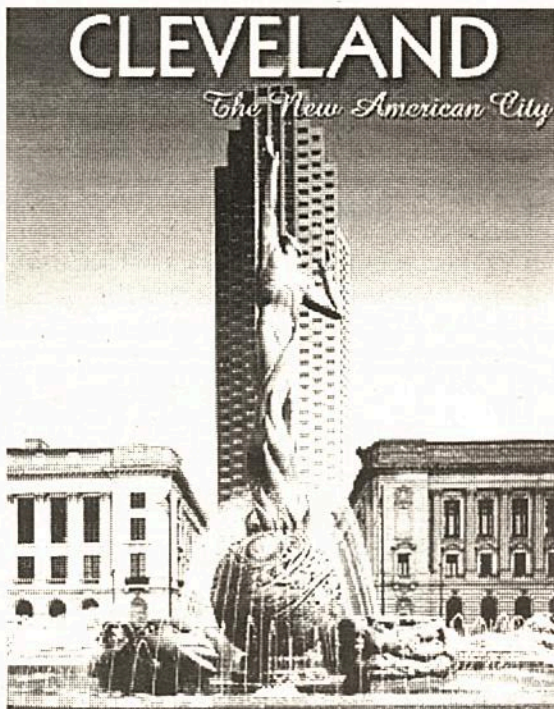
— Shauna Curphey

Victory in Cleveland

The sweeps start every year as the holiday shopping season begins, when the mayor promises to target aggressive panhandling in the downtown area. Last year, by mayoral decree, Cleveland's downtown area would also be swept of people sleeping on the street. The city's service providers went along with it, agreeing to pick up homeless people from jail. The city council objected, the cops responsible for the sweeps complained. Two months later, the crackdown was blocked by a court-supervised consent decree. Homeless people in Cleveland don't have to worry about being arrested for sleeping on the street.

The public campaign against the mayor's crackdown reached out to homeless people and professionals. Affidavits collected for the trial from homeless people described in minute detail the harassment meted out by beat cops. Social service providers also gave testimony to their fear that people were disappearing from the streets. The *Grapevine*, Cleveland's homeless paper, published a "wall of shame" naming service providers who had cooperated with the mayor's policy. And although the mayor had rejected a settlement offer by the American Civil Liberties Union in December, he relented a day before the ACLU was scheduled to begin depositions of police and city officials.

Plaintiffs expected the police depositions to verify all of the facts put forward by the ACLU in the lawsuit. It was anticipated that the police would confirm that the policy had originated in City Hall.



"We wouldn't have won without the police," said Brian Davis of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. "They didn't want to tell people to get off the street. They have better things to do."

The coalition and the NAACP of Cleveland brought in Rev. Al Sharpton of New York for a celebration of the victory. On February 10, homeless people gathered to announce that they will continue to monitor the situation.

— Adam Holdorf, with help from Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless

Pioneering prohibition

It's a bad time to get drunk downtown. Unless you stay inside. The Pioneer Square Community Council wants to deal with street drunks, or "chronic public inebriates," by seeking an end to convenience-store sales of alcohol in the neighborhood. The convenience-store ban would not only end the sale of cheap 40-ounce beers and fortified wine, but of single-serving containers of any kind, says Don Lachman, the city's consultant on the Chronic Public Inebriate Partnership program.

Lachman says a wholesale ban on these beverages shouldn't be necessary; instead, local store owners should re-commit to their promises to discontinue sales of cheap, high-alcohol beverages like white port or Night Train. Two years ago, neighborhood groups got downtown grocers and convenience store owners to sign so-called Good Neighbor Agreements. The agreements have since expired, but Lachman says he knows of no "good neighbors" that went back to selling cheap alcohol. He's confident that most will sign up for another stint.

David Bruner isn't so sure. A member of the Pioneer Square Community Council, he says those stores that don't go along will find themselves under scrutiny by the Washington State Liquor Control Board if the city designates Pioneer Square an "Alcohol Impact Area."

"If everyone stayed firm [in committing to the Good Neighbor Agreement], then we'd have some successes," says Bruner. "There's going to have to be some teeth to make it work."

Lachman says neighborhood groups in Belltown are also interested in the designation.

— Adam Holdorf



Another one bit the dust

Among the many bills that have died this legislative session was House Bill 2896, which would have allowed welfare recipients to continue receiving their benefits by check instead of the new-fangled Quest debit cards.

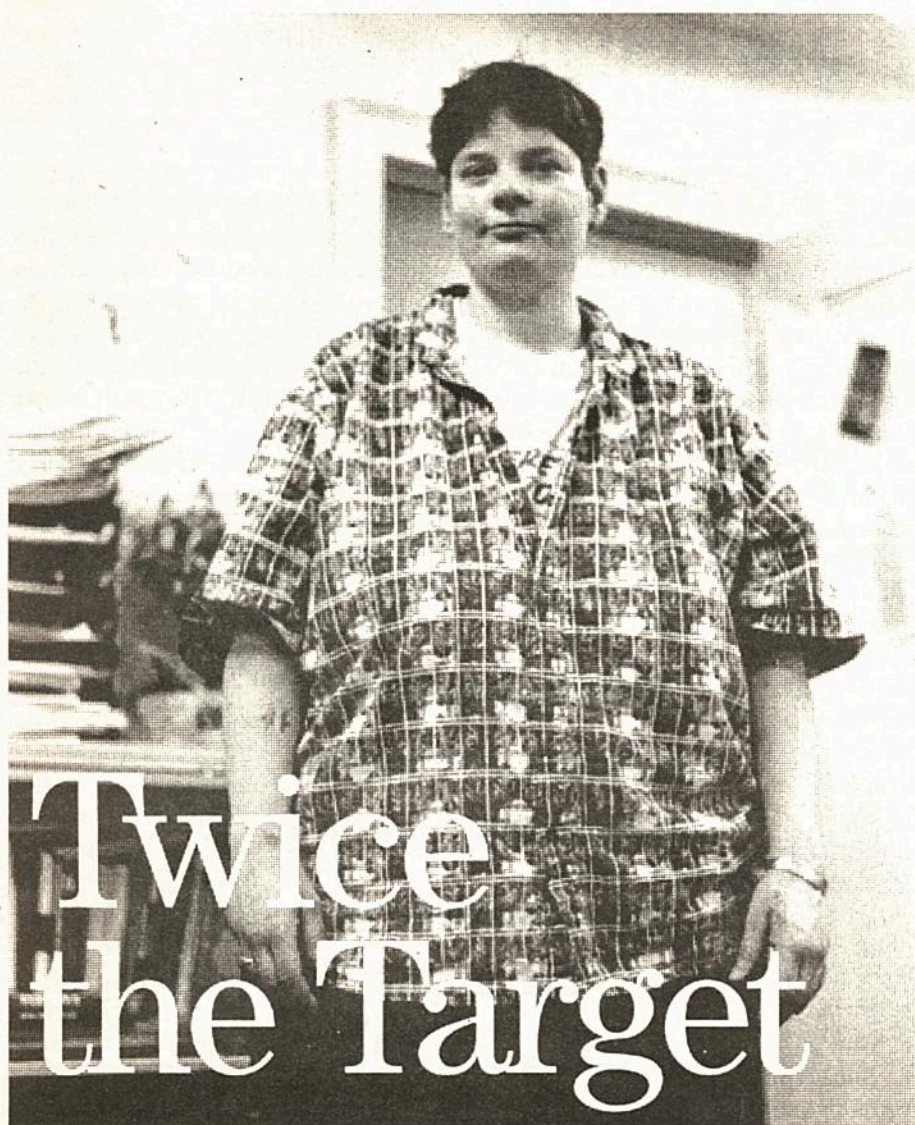
Bill sponsor Kip Tokuda (D-Seattle) believes HB 2896 would have helped people who find using a debit card difficult: people who don't speak English, can't use a bank machine or live miles from the nearest bank. But the state Department of Social and Health Services killed the measure, saying the cost of granting waivers would be too high and citing the low number of complaints about the cards.

DSHS hopes that any criticisms about the card's shortcomings will be silenced when cash benefits are deposited into users' conventional accounts, eliminating the need for the Citicorp-run Quest accounts. The direct deposit pilot project began this month in Pierce County. Over 100 recipients will participate.

Tokuda's office will see whether DSHS could enact a waiver policy through some administrative rule, instead of by force of legislation. "We're not going to try to pretend that the problem doesn't exist anymore," said Tokuda aide Anndi Kawamura.

— Adam Holdorf

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



Twice the Target

C.J. says being homeless was stressful enough. Photo by Daniel Caplan.

by Michele Marchand and T. Britton

"IF YOU'RE HOMELESS YOU'RE SEEN AS HAVING A CHARACTER DEFECT," Cynthia Lee explains matter-of-factly at Angeline's Day Center for women. "If you're gay on top of that...." Her voice trails off, but the implication is clear. Homophobia is still prevalent, support services are almost non-existent: homelessness for gay people is traumatic at best and sometimes life-threatening.

This group has been variously (but not very often) described as a subpopulation within a subpopulation; a "multiply-oppressed community" without a sense of community because people need to be closeted for survival on the streets. Over the past few years there seems to be a growing number homeless people out of the closet, but for the most part this is a default situation: because housing is scarce there's less privacy, and there are a lot more homeless people. By conservative estimates (both of the number of homeless people and the percentage of homosexuals in the general population) there are hundreds of gays and lesbians on the streets of Seattle.

Homophobia

The horror stories of homophobia at shelters and on the streets are legion. Del Moseley, who wasn't out when he stayed at a shelter, says that homophobia was "heavy in the air" there, both among staff and other shelter residents. Koolaid, who struggles to sustain her relationship with her partner C.J. while they are homeless, says, "It's stressful with C.J. I knew a lesbian couple at a shelter and man they got razed — beaten, stolen from. Staff wouldn't do anything." Neither Koolaid nor C.J. wanted their full names used.

Some shelters have sponsored trainings, there are more sexual minorities among program staff, and some programs are even enforcing the same rules for homophobic remarks as for racism. But "the comfort level around queers hasn't changed, and it shows up in assumptions made about HIV, safe sex, gender identity..." says a counselor who also asks not to be named.

According to Bill Hobson, Executive Director of the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), "There are certain organizations that are homophobic organizationally." He cites the Pioneer Square mission that forced a worker to leave four years ago after he disclosed he was gay. That same mission continues to pontificate from the pulpit against homosexuality. Chris, who briefly stayed at this shelter, sat through a service where a man said he wanted to kill his son's soccer coach for being gay. The chaplain was sympathetic, and said, "If anybody here is gay and you're found out, you'll be out in ten minutes."

Many gay homeless people, like T. Britton, feel that fighting the shelter system won't do any good. He says, "If I had filed complaints I felt it just would've made matters worse for me. For good or ill I guess I generally 'pass' as a straight person." The resulting repression multiplies the trauma and isolation people already feel when they are homeless exponentially.

Making room in the gay community for homeless queers

Lack of Services

This is compounded by a serious lack of services specifically for gay homeless people. When asked whether any support groups currently exist, counselors Marc Potter and Tiffani Sloan laugh. "There's nothing," Potter says. Potter used to run a group called Salt and Pepper, for gay and lesbian homeless people over the age of 50; it's now defunct for lack of funds. Moseley says finding Salt and Pepper while he was at a shelter was very important: "I'd been by myself for so long.... I saw a pink flyer for the group, about losing your ruby slippers in the Emerald City. I fell on the floor."

Potter is a mental health practitioner through Health Care for the Homeless; Sloan is a case manager on the HOST team at DESC. Her position is funded through Seattle Counseling Services; she specializes in sexual minorities and is contracted to provide services to gay and lesbian people who are homeless.

But although Sloan's job is "to act as a bridge between homeless people and appropriate services in the gay community," many homeless people don't even know such a position exists. Worse, most homeless people don't feel comfortable within the gay community; they feel they're ignored or even stigmatized.

Michael L. Buckner, a formerly homeless Vietnam veteran, says, "I never came across any support groups. That leaves a person feeling isolated and lonely." "I just wish there were spaces where there weren't any straight people," says Cynthia Lee in frustration.

Class Gulf in the Gay Community

"There's a huge division between homos on the hill and people downtown," says Potter. "People have very little interest in homeless people in general. A lot of the [homeless] people I talked to didn't feel part of the gay community; they had much more in common with other homeless people."

Echoed Moseley: "There's a stigma; I feel it even in the gay AA group I go to." Buckner: "There's a huge gulf in the gay community. It comes down to economics, pure and simple. There seems to be a lack of empathy, even a sense of apathy from other gays."

"It's open hostility," says Cynthia Lee. "You're supposed to pull yourself up against any odds when you're gay. You're not supposed to show your vulnerable side to the straight community."

A Chicken Soup Brigade staffperson agrees; he says he often walks down Broadway early in the morning, and sees Chicken Soup clients, homeless, pushing around shopping carts. "It's like the dirty little secret of the AIDS relief community," he says. "It's not talked about."

"It's bad enough being homeless," says one woman; "It's heartbreaking to be doubly-outcast in this way."

Safety and Shame

"When I lost my place again due to health reasons I wouldn't come here (to Angeline's)," says Lee of her second time homeless. "I felt like I'd failed. I felt such relief and shame that I was walking in the door, but there's such a sense of safety here. That odd mix of safety and shame." "I'm more comfortable at Angeline's than I am in my own family because I'm accepted here for who I am," says Koolaid.

Potter's observation that gay homeless people have more in common with other homeless people has a ringing truth. Notwithstanding organizational homophobia, the homeless community, now entrenched and institutionalized, is becoming more adept at broad acceptance and creating its own protections. It is dangerous to speculate about degrees of difficulty, but for most homeless queers homelessness is more shameful even than homosexuality. This is borne out by the widespread rejection gay homeless people feel even in the gay community.

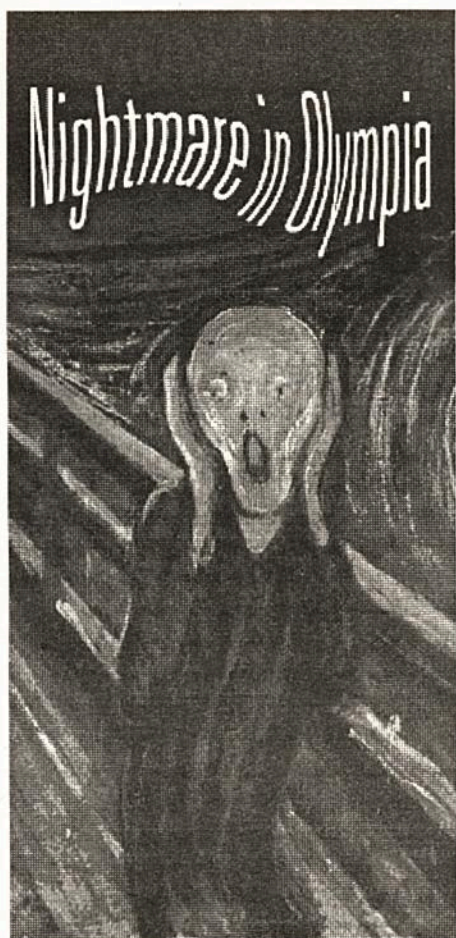
Often, homeless people are thrown together to fight a shame that cuts to the core of their existence, while they face degradation and risk of death, daily, on the streets. If you're caught up in minute-to-minute survival, as homeless people often are, you don't worry so much about society's peripheral judgments.

At the recent WTO tent cities run by SHARE/WHEEL, one of builder Michael Leavitt's hand-built houses was designated the "Honeymoon Suite" for a lesbian couple. This was widely supported by the group of 45 men and women struggling to survive the WTO and bad weather in tents. And the group there struggled to remember to identify a transgendered person as "she," as she wanted.

"There's not a lot of hope at the end of this story," says Lee, but one specific proposal was mentioned. Moseley would like to see another support group start, "in a neutral zone, between Capitol Hill and downtown." Potter and Sloan say they are willing to run such a group, and even believe they have a space for it. All they need is \$100 a month to start.

But most people say that any institutional response other than the provision of support groups and safe spaces for gay homeless people would just create more of an "us and them" dynamic, would just deepen the divide between homeless queers and others in the community. What needs to be captured, they say, is the urgency of the emergency: if we see this fundamentally to be about survival all other protections will fall away.

"It was the people who got involved in my life while I was homeless, in all its awkwardness, who made a difference," says Lee. It's that barrier-free, non-judgmental, human-to-human connection — across class and cultural divides — that will truly set us free. ■



by Mark Gardner

Conventional wisdom has it that initiatives lead to bad public policy. Leave it to the lawmakers and bureaucrats, and the give-and-take of the legislative process, and sensible laws will result. However, it doesn't seem to be working this way in Olympia this session, where legislators are attempting to outdo themselves in concocting the worst possible solutions to recent and looming initiatives that threaten to cut the state's tax revenue. It's hard to tell what's worse, the problems or the remedies.

The immediate cause of all this is Tim Eyman and his Initiative 695. But Eyman is also gathering signatures for an initiative to squelch property taxes, and for another that would further enshrine the automobile at the top of the transportation heap by cutting mass transit and eliminating bus and carpool lanes. Eyman's transportation initiative would also eliminate 90 percent of the funding for the voter-approved Sound Transit rail system.

I-695 is just the beginning

Eyman's nutty proposals are setting the political agenda as legislators and agencies concoct would-be solutions to present or future problems created by these initiatives, or dust off old proposals given new life by some imagined voter revolt. The Democrats took the lead in escalating the tax-cut arms race. Senate Majority Leader Sid Snyder and chief Senate budget writer Valoria Loveland, both of whom represent low-income districts in rural southwest and southeast Washington, seem convinced that Bill Gates and other superrich Washingtonians need a tax cut. Early in the session, they proposed to first reduce and then eliminate the state portion of the property tax.

Think about this. Bill Gates was recently given a bill for almost \$1.1 million for the property tax on his Medina mega-mansion. The state portion of the tax would be over \$250,000 — enough to keep four or five teachers working for a year, or to build a house for a low-income family somewhere in the state. Adjust this figure for thousands of other billionaires and millionaires, add in the rest of the home-owning public, and we are talking serious money.

Instead of taking Loveland's and Snyder's bait, Senate Republicans signed on to a slightly less irresponsible version of the Democratic proposal, still alive as this goes to press, that would provide a \$200 property tax cut immediately, with larger cuts to come. House Republicans initially took up the Democrats' tax elimination gauntlet, threatening to withhold support from any proposals that didn't completely eliminate the property tax for businesses as well as homeowners — but now propose a 10 percent across-the-board cut.

This is election year politics, pure and simple. These legislators know, for example, that public colleges and universities need to accommodate at least 50,000 more students by the end of this decade. Currently, Washington is among the five worst states in the nation in providing its high school gradu-

ates with a higher education. Its elementary schools are among the most crowded. Add to these deficiencies the yawning funding gap just created by I-695 for the state ferries, transportation projects, and public health, and it's clear we can't afford this sort of tax cut. Yet too many of our elected officials are willing to join Eyman in exploiting the state's temporary surplus to slash taxes — a surplus that will evaporate in the next economic slowdown.

Locke's response to Eymanism embodies two slices of good sense and half a loaf of pander. Locke proposed a property tax cut that would average about \$44 a year per homeowner, and also offered voters a "prosperity dividend" of \$30 a year — if the surplus continues to grow. These proposals strike observers all across the political spectrum as tokenism. Buried in this proposal are sensible measures to soften the impact of property taxes by phasing-in any increases, and another proposal to broaden relief for low- and moderate-income retirees.

A similar mania has taken hold on the transportation side. Eyman appears to have been appointed Secretary of Transportation, as that department suddenly began to support the elimination of car pool lanes — a move that its own studies show will make congestion worse. Bills to "solve" I-695 funding shortfalls by privatizing the ferries are flying fast from Republicans in the legislature, providing an opportunity to fulfill an old agenda of selling off government services.

While Eyman is the proximate cause, the deeper cause of this lowest common denominator politics is the

absence of a political culture in Olympia capable of supporting sensible reform. The loose coalition of progressive Democrats and moderate Republicans that was occasionally successful in creating good law has been dismantled by the unrelenting rise of anti-tax, anti-government politics. The result is that neither party has much to offer the average voter. Most notably, neither party has been willing to take head-on the problems created by a state tax system that puts the largest burden on those least able to pay.

In this vacuum, voters' sense of fairness has been hijacked by proposals such as I-695 and its successors that cut taxes mostly for the wealthy. Current across-the-board property tax cut proposals, by blasting another hole in the budget, would lead to pressure for a higher sales tax, further sapping the wealth of the poorest 20 percent of the state's households.

There is no support for such measures — no polls indicating a looming property tax revolt, nor evidence that voters support proposals giving a property tax cut to the wealthiest families who have benefited most from the real estate boom.

Our legislators ought to enact I-695 fixes that limit damages rather than make them worse. Legislators ought to use the budget surplus to restore funding for ferries, mass transit, and local governments, knowing full well that the fix will only be temporary. For the longer term, we've got to start talking about how we can fix a tax system that leaves the least well off burdened and alienated, while barely touching the legions of superwealthy riding high on the high-tech boom. ■

"The deeper cause of this lowest common denominator politics is the absence of a political culture in Olympia capable of supporting sensible reform."

Save money on your insurance.

Auto • Life • Fire
Truck • Commercial

Monthly Payments



Healy Insurance Agency
4000 Aurora Ave. N. Suite 112
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 633-4790



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

Warehouse turned Internet Coffeehouse

SPEAKEASY CAFE

COFFEE • COMPUTERS • PERFORMANCE

2304 2ND AVE SEATTLE

206.728.9770

DONATE YOUR USED CAR, VAN, TRUCK, OR BOAT

(RUNNING OR NOT) to SEATTLE EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICE. RECEIVE FREE TOWING AND A TAX BREAK.

Your donation will help non profit SEHS provide short term emergency shelter and longer term transitional housing to homeless families with children.



CALL (206) 461-3660
905 Spruce St. Suite 111 Seattle, WA 98104
sehs@emergencyhousing.org
www.emergencyhousing.org
A member of United Way of King County

Support our Advertisers.

**Tell them you saw it in
Real Change.**

No Crime to be Young?

Youths organize against crime measure. Could it happen here?

by gretchen king and Adam Holdorf

If you're under 18 in Washington and accused of a crime, you may be tried in adult court and sent to an adult jail, with few chances to get the counseling and education you need. On March 7, California may upstage Washington's law by passing Proposition 21, the Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act.

Across the state, young people have launched grassroots efforts to stop the measure. In the process, they've caught the attention of youth advocates in Seattle. These grown-ups are hoping to learn how to bolster their own efforts up north.

In the past few years, Washington and almost every other state in the country has changed their laws to allow juveniles to be tried as adults. Prop 21 would take this trend a step further, sending people as young as 14 to the adult court system rather than to juvenile court, expanding the "three strikes" laws to make sentences much longer for youth, and requiring that young people register with the police for associating with a "gang" — defined as an informal group of three or more people.

Graffiti taggers that inflict more than \$400 in damage would be imprisoned for at least a year. Members of so-called gangs caught drinking in public would face a six-month minimum jail term.

The California fight has a David-and-Goliath overtone. The Prop 21 campaign is spearheaded by ex-governor Pete Wilson and backed by the District Attorneys Association, the California State Sheriffs Association, and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), a trade association of prison guards. In the last fifteen years, as the state has built 21 new prisons, CCPOA has more than doubled its membership. The association gave Wilson more than \$2 million for his 1998 campaign for governor. Corporations like Chevron, who contract with the

state prison system for cheap labor, are also supporting the measure.

In response, youth, parent, teacher, faith, labor, and law enforcement organizations have dubbed Prop 21 the "Juvenile Injustice Initiative." Youth groups are calling for more funds for education, not incarceration. Groups with names like Critical Resistance Youth Task Force, the Third Eye Movement, and Underground Railroad held demonstrations, news conferences, and candlelight vigils during a February "Week of Rage" to rally support for the No on Prop 21 campaign.

R.J. Magayanes, 15, is one leader in the youth group Sandigang Kabataan (Tagalog for "We depend on the younger generation"), which draws membership from San Francisco's Filipino neighborhoods. Sandigang Kabataan's work is designed and led by young people, not on their behalf. Says Magayanes, "Everything we do, we do ourselves."

The group has conducted neighborhood teach-ins to raise awareness of the impact of the initiative. Magayanes sees Prop 21 as another chance for cops who already target him and his friends "to put us in jail for writing on textbooks or walls, or just stealing a bag of chips."

"I've seen the police do some really bad stuff," he says. "With this initiative, these crooked cops have more reason to harass us."

"We're all over that," says Thomas Goldstein, activities director for the Seattle Youth Involvement Network, of anti-Prop 21 organizing. SYIN and the Seattle Young People's Project took young people and their advocates to Olympia on February 21 for a day of lobbying on young people's issues. Goldstein and others from SYIN are going down to the Bay Area this summer to study the work of the Third Eye Movement.

Elaine Simons, director for Peace for the Streets by

Kids from the Streets, is going to use a spring trip to Sacramento to connect with youth groups. She's glad to hear about the efforts of youth groups in California. "I think we're ready for a youth movement," she says.

Paola Maranan says Prop 21 smacks of déjà vu. Her work with the Children's Alliance on legislative issues has addressed juveniles in adult courts. When the Washington state legislature passed HB 3900 in 1997, more young people were funneled into the adult courts. The law also took away some alternatives to detention, like counseling or community service. Suddenly, kids on the eastern side of the state were sent to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration's detention centers on the west side, distancing them from their families. Maranan says that parents suffer from this new measure too: "Suddenly, your ability to take part in your kid's rehab is seriously limited."

"One of the major distinctions between juvenile court and adult court, that for us is really important to maintain, is that in juvenile court the emphasis is supposed to be on rehabilitation," Maranan says.

"Youth, parent, teacher, faith, labor, and law enforcement organizations have dubbed Prop 21 the 'Juvenile Injustice Initiative.' Graffiti taggers that inflict more than \$400 in damage would be imprisoned for at least a year. Members of so-called gangs caught drinking in public would face a six-month minimum jail term."

As the Children's Alliance and other local youth advocacy groups have tried to "get back some of what we lost in 1997," Maranan says legislators have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. There is a proposed study for 2001 on the effects of the bill.

"I know that a lot of the propositions from California float up here and we end up with these 'tax revolt' issues, like our Initiative 695," says Maranan. "It will be interesting if anybody bites this. What we hear as we try to implement changes to the system is you have to give it time to work. I'll be curious to see that position hold, if they get wind of Prop 21 passing in California."

If a version of Prop 21 does become a political issue in Washington, Maranan says it will be a tough campaign. She says opposition to HB 3900, or other juvenile justice issues, doesn't come naturally, even for politically aware young people. While teens may be conscious of the criminal justice system's undue impact on people of color and poor people, but she says more direct testimony to the mistreatment of youth is needed.

"Lots of young people are animated about disproportionality in the system," she says. "But we need to connect with the people who have already been impacted, or the people who will be impacted: people who will get up and say 'I was in juvenile detention, I want to organize around these issues.' There's a lot of shame attached to this. It's a hard group to reach." ■



Executive Director Sought



Statewide non-profit housing policy organization seeks Director to coordinate grassroots advocacy, raise funds, oversee fiscal mgmt, supervise small staff, recruit members, and monitor housing programs and issues. Excellent communication and computer skills and experience in non-profit mgmt req'd. Call for app/job desc, 206-442-9455. Closes 3/17. \$38 - \$45 K + benes. EOE

WANTED:

writers
photographers
illustrators

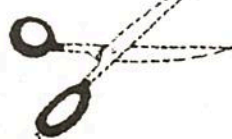
Join up with the Real Change Gang. Fame. Glory. Purpose. Call Todd at 441-8143.

Belltown Barber

Men's Styling

Clipper Cut's

Now offering for Men/Women
Manicures and Pedicures



2219 2nd Ave (206) 441-4738

Tues- Fri 9:30-5:30

Sat 10-4



Hide Your Shame

I want to tell you all to stop controlling my mind. I tell you dirt is nutritious. You are trying to stop me from knowing that, by focusing contrary brain waves on my truth receptors. You are wrong to do that. Smart people like me, who read, know eating dirt is good for you. Ask any smart person like me who reads, like Jesus or Moses. (Moses used to read stuff on rocks.)

Did you know that rocks are hard dirt? Yes, it's true. It shows you how much God loves dirt, that He wrote the Ten Commandments on a hard form of it. Praise dirt. (It is also highly nutritious.)

I don't know if this has anything to do with dirt (?), but this week the Seattle Times reported that Kate Joncas, a human, said that establishing two hygiene centers downtown was "right." She said that it can't be good for a neighborhood "to concentrate that many needy and damaged people in one place."

I agree totally with that, which is exactly why I steer clear of neighborhoods where I see too many television antennas on the roofs.

So I was very sorry to hear that Kate Joncas, also Downtown Seattle Association President, said she was sorry to have said what she was misquoted saying. Because it was so true. Homeless people and people like me who have been homeless are damaged. By homelessness! That's why we don't like it! "Duh!"

Speaking of duh, I'm reminded of the Third Man Theme by Anton Karas, which has no words, and was originally performed on a zither, which has a sound that is extremely difficult to reproduce vocally.

So when I "sing" the Third Man Theme, it sounds like this: "DUH duh duh DUH, duh duh, *dum dum*, DUH duh duh duh DUH, duh duh, *dum dum*, etc. What a great movie theme! It rocks!

So what does this have to do with dirt, you ask? Well long ago, between the first time I was homeless, and the second time, I spent four cool days in Vienna, or as I like to call it, the Third Man Theme Park. (The Third Man was a movie that was made in 1949.)

I went there precisely to see all the sights from the movie. I wanted to see the street (Stiftgasse) where Harry Lime (Orson Welles) was run over by a car according to the porter in the movie. I wanted to see where the porter lived. I wanted to see the Mozart Cafe, I wanted to see the Bahnhof (train station), I wanted to see rubble left over from World War II. I wanted to see a small scary man holding a puny dog.

And I did! It was great. It was all there, and I got to see it, all the while thinking to myself, "DUH duh duh duh DUH, duh duh..."

Well almost everything was there. There were no underground tours of the Vienna sewer system where Harry Lime (Orson Welles) took that fatal bullet from Holly Martins (Joseph Cotten). I really missed that, and I'm hoping that Vienna's city council or whatever they're called will eventually get with it and offer tours of the sewers, preferably with zither music piped in.

But all the best stuff was there. The high point of my trip was my visit to the Prater, where, on the ferris wheel, Harry Lime (Orson Welles) almost shoots Holly Martins (Joseph Cotten), before he finds out that Holly Martins (Joseph Cotten) has already told the police about him. While I was in the Prater (<http://www.wiener-prater.at>) it was very crowded, not like the movie, but at one point I passed a man with one leg who looked like the balloon salesman in the film. I thought, "Cool! The Balloon salesman! DUH duh duh..." and then an old woman started shrieking at him in German.

She screamed how dare he appear in public where so many tourists could see him. She shrieked that he was disgracing Vienna and Austria by exposing his shame (his missing leg) for all the world to see.

At first I thought, "COOL! Anna Shmidt's (Alida Valli's) landlady!" Then I thought, "How wonderful it is that I live in a country where we don't hide our damaged and disabled, where we actually do what we can to help our most injured to live full healthy public lives, where we care about people themselves and not about how they appear."

That thought made my trip to Vienna the perfect fantasy! Thank you Vienna! Thank you America! ■

Want more? Visit <http://www.speakeasy.org/~wes>

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

Vote Count

Whatever your name is, write it
slowly, slowly in this
way.

You've forgotten—
that is, not in
any
place—

anyway, that you had,
yourself, learned in circles at home.

In fact, now you think for
yourself.

Think again!
There, it may be a decision.

—STAN BURRISS

My Thief

Each day I start with something missing from my pile. Rattle, rattle, rattle in the night.

I'm sure that between missing items and false identifications, all I ever win is that fever causing shot. Numerous times I wake up in the night sweating and nauseated.

I keep stuffing with snacks for the severe nausea due to weight loss.

And after force haul-throughs with the "real attorney" — pain is my only reward.

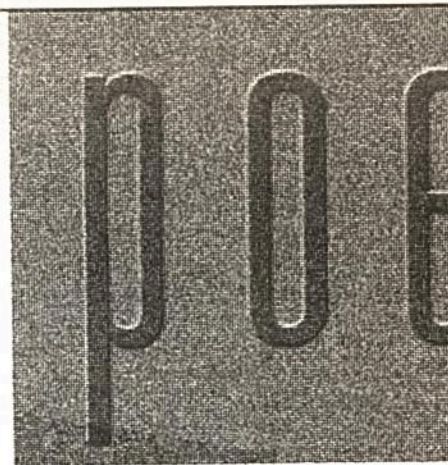
My death angel has left me, but life offers other close calls.

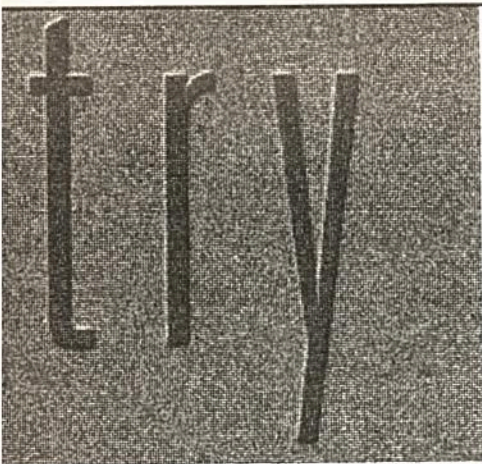
Paid employment eludes me due to forced haulings.

I've learned to be a good "slave" to everyone.

JESUS TAUGHT THAT WE SHOULD LEARN TO BE SERVANTS TO ALL—HE DIDN'T
SAY IT WOULD BE EASY.

—CAROL LENO, BADGE #1769





The Church Down The Street

The church down the street stinks
of peace.
Silent prayers hang out the broken
window in the basement trying to
escape.
Slime grows fast in the holy water
bowl for next Sunday, oh so fast
its spore is there awaiting the
worshippers to place their fingers
in after Saturday's confession.
You can see if you really look hard who's
confessed their sins by the off-green
cross on the foreheads.
It appears only a few arrive here for the
Sabbath.
The priest looks dazed.
His collar slightly askew and tinged with
a light fetid dust.
There are no nuns.
Flowers are plastic on the altar.
I've knelt and smelled wine on
the priest's breath and it was cheap stuff
symbolizing the blood of a lost weekend.
I've not witnessed a marriage there in all
my 2 yrs and 6 months I've lived down the
street from this place.
There's been some laughter but that was
in the back on a Friday or Saturday night.
The church down the street
stinks of peace.

—ROBERTO VALENZA

Vignette

In the doorway
he lay in a fetal position
on cardboard
reality.

She felt the January mist
she turned back, shivering,
to the bay
and continued with her route;
Seeing the man, she asked him:
"Are you all right?"

"Yes, can you help..."

She said:
"...there is something
I learned from a television
program last
night.
In a legend of Moon woman
and Sun
they stay together
in darkness and
light..."

The man awkwardly
rose
thanking her
and walking
in the other direction.

A Real Change vendor
hawks his wares
she listens to the siren
searching her valise
to write this
down
and the traffic signs
change.

—EARLE THOMPSON

Seizure Holiday

I heard a clunk
and coming through the door
connecting our hotel rooms
saw him naked
in electric bathroom glare
jammed between toilet and sink
like a piece of firewood
propped quivering
teeth chattering
eyes making boiled eggs
at the ceiling
seizure in the D.C. Holiday Inn
synapses snapping and spitting
like hot bacon grease
inside his skull
not the flu he'd complained of
night before over orzo at Greek restaurant
flight from San Francisco
without a smoke
queasy shaky handed
trembling without a drink
unable to say alcoholic
in DTs for four days
hospital bed smoking cigarettes
and picking walnuts that weren't there
the next time
I told him
keep drinking
and ruin the holiday
in a way
both of us
are used to

—DAVID THORNBRUGH, SEATTLE, WA

in stir

[for Ralph Nader]
A city
curfew, is in the air . . .
their answer (our
police
say) to our
own
passion (it's
said, while we soften our
coffee) with sugar and
steam.

It's confusing.
It's answered! It even
appears... our
lives, with these cities
around them.

—STAN BURRISS [ELLIOTT BAY BOOKS, SEATTLE]
NOVEMBER 30TH, 1999

Local Heroes

Pearl Cahall

by Michele Marchand
and gretchen king
photo by Alan Berner,
courtesy *Seattle Times*



On a sunny mid-March day in 1991, 78-year-old Pearl Cahall wheeled her shopping cart up to the Bus Barn Shelter, near Seattle Center, to attend a SHARE-sponsored rally. Two shelters that had sprung up three months earlier, after SHARE built its first Tent City, were in danger of closing. Pearl refused to take the shelter van to the rally with the rest of her group, preferring to make her own way. That is the essence of Pearl.

When the designated speaker choked up and couldn't continue, Pearl surprised everyone by saying she wanted to speak. The shelter group gathered around and lifted her onto a rickety podium made of pallets. Pearl grasped the microphone and said, "There's enough land in this country for all of us to live. We've got to live together!" Her words brought down the house, and her image on the front page of the newspaper the next day made a difference in the survival of her shelter, now Noel House, and of the Bus Barn, now the Aloha Inn.

Pearl was born and raised in Seattle, and spent many years living in her cars, with her cats, and later in shelters. Now 87, Pearl lives at Downtown Emergency Service Center's Kerner-Scott House. *Real Change* interviewed her to kick off our "Local Heroes" feature; we wanted to ask her what moved her to speak at the rally all those years ago. Of course, that's not what Pearl wanted to talk about, but her insights prove her fierce pride and self-reliance are still intact, as is her willingness to fight not for herself alone.

RC: Could you tell us how your perfect shelter would work?

Pearl Cahall: *Well it's not perfect. What makes it perfect depends on the circumstances and the kind of people you have. If you really like your place and your circumstances then you maybe try harder to please people and have an appreciation of the place. But if you don't like the circumstances . . . just like if you don't like someone you're not going to bend over backwards trying to please them as you would a friend, would you?*

RC: So you're saying the perfect shelter would be based more on friendship, relationship. Remember when you were living in your van with the cats? Can you tell us about that and your time at Noel House?

Cahall: *No, all that stuff is bad, bad. Noel House, they made me put my stuff outdoors and all the time there's people going through your stuff. That wasn't fair. I don't like being put down because more or less I'm poor. I don't think anybody appreciates being treated like a patient. If you're going to ask people all kinds of questions you can always find fault with them. You can turn things around and find some kind of fault.*

RC: What would home look like?

Cahall: *Well, home could be anything as long you call it that. You don't worry about what it looks like. In other words, home is where you come from. I almost want to be back at Noel House in a way because I never paid any rent and they still gave me a place and something to eat anyway. But they don't work with you, do they?*

RC: How have things changed in Seattle?

Cahall: *What's that got to do with anything?*

RC: Well, it would be interesting for our readers.

Cahall: *No, it's not interesting. I think it's real bad. Anyone with any sense can see it's changed. That's what they call progress, but it's mostly been for the well-to-do. Like they said to the farmer, "Get big or get out." Basically, I'm a kind of a working person, trying to see some progress and to have something, that's all. I don't have any education. I don't know where I get my ideas, really. I guess from the man upstairs.*

So anyway, you could buy a quart a milk for a quarter and a newspaper for five, ten, fifteen cents, but then you didn't get much of a welfare check when you needed it. The way the president has done it now, trying to get people off welfare . . . I don't think anyone was getting rich off welfare. I think they should see what your circumstances are.

RC: It's pushing people to get jobs instead of being on welfare. What do you think about that?

Cahall: *They've had jobs, physical jobs, right? Now, they can force people to get any kind of job. But given their circumstances, people shouldn't have to take some old kind of job. Would you ever take a job where you could never be advanced? Well you might, but at least you have a choice.*

RC: With all the change or progress that's happened in Seattle, how were poor people affected?

Cahall: *They weren't as bad off then as they are now because people used to help each other. I think they're a little rougher out here now. The thing of it is, if you hung around a little bit, maybe they'd think you were hungry. It used to be people would ask you to stay for supper or give you some of the canned food they had put*

Continued to page 14

No Homeless in Cuba

Cuba holds up a mirror to the U.S., reflecting badly on us all

"But one thing is clear: Whatever its imperfections, in Cuba the poor have not been held in contempt; they have been empowered. Which is different from being made wealthy in a capitalist sense, and more lasting."

— ALICE WALKER, WRITER/ACTIVIST

by scott winn

"Ah! You must be de la gente," the taxi driver joked to my friend. She had just negotiated a price for a taxi for our group of four. She was dubbed "of the people" for her leadership. In revolutionary Cuba, "the people" threw a United States-backed dictator off their backs in 1959. The working people of the island took over. Being a leader or an official in the Cuban government gives you the automatic title of being of the people. Now, in what seemed both a sign of respect and a sarcastic jab at the government, the taxi driver had begged the question: what happens when "the people" take over?

That the lives of Cuban people have been bettered by the 1959 revolution is without a doubt. The people of Cuba have created almost universal literacy, and have provided themselves with free or largely subsidized necessities. For them, this means not only education, health care and housing, but books, films, and ballet. In a testament to what the revolution has created, there is no homelessness in Cuba. The country has stood against racism and imperialism, both in its borders and the world. It was the only country to send troops to fight apartheid when South Africa invaded Angola in the 1980s. Cuba has given hope and possibility to many in the struggle for justice.

But the most amazing aspect of the country is its perspective on poverty. In the US, poverty is framed as an indi-

vidual issue. A poor person has a problem and must come up with a solution. In Cuba, poverty is a societal problem requiring a societal solution. The fruits of the land, the water, the industry — all of it — has been nationalized and shared by members of society. Material wealth, as well as the responsibility for ending poverty, has been collectivized.

There are many critiques of Cuba, and with my hopes for the planet I have created a list of my own. However, over my travels and studies, it has become apparent that the US government actively promotes if not causes so many of Cuba's problems. The US government then turns around and acts as the almighty critic. To stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba, the best I can offer is to give them room to be human. Which, to me, means to be imperfect. Cubans have proven to me that a revolution is not solely an event, but a process of transformation. I have faith that the Cuban people take responsibility for their triumphs, as well as their mistakes. Besides, there are clearly enough imperfections in the US that need my attention.

Cuba is one example of how things might change. It is this example that the US government has tried to extinguish through the economic blockade of the island since the early 1960s. The blockade makes my simple trip a violation of federal law. More importantly, it virtually stops all trade between the US and Cuba, including life-saving medicines. The US government's blockade of Cuba lessens us, making us all complicit with the harming and suffering of our neighbors.

A revolutionary in exile

"Now is not the time for armed struggle, but it is always the time for self-defense," remarks Nehanda Abiodun, a twinkle of determination in her eye, assessing the political climate in the US. I am visiting Nehanda in her home in Havana, sharing a bottle of rum, discussing racism and political struggle in the US. Her seriousness has a wonderful light edge, sprinkled with laughter.

Her home, a typical Cuban apartment, is decorated with African art, pictures of her children and granddaughter who live in the US, and images of Malcolm X and political prisoners. Abiodun is a "revolutionary nationalist" committed to the development of the Republic of New Afrika, an independent self-governed nation that would exist in what is now the Southern United States.

Abiodun is a US citizen wanted by the FBI on 32 counts under the RICO conspiracy statutes. She was allegedly involved in the Black Liberation Army (BLA) in the late '70s and early '80s. Among other things, she was allegedly part of the liberation of BLA member Assata Shakur from a New Jersey prison in 1979. Shakur lives in political exile in Cuba as well. Abiodun was forced underground in the United States in 1982 and has been in Cuba since 1990, as an official guest of the Cuban people.

"It is crucial that those in struggle support US political prisoners," declares Abiodun. "If we do not honor them for their sacrifices and commitment, what faith do we have in our own commitment to justice?" Abiodun is talking to a group of college students from the United States. She frequently meets with groups to share the reality that people, due to their political beliefs and actions, are in prison in the US, and forced to live in exile. Many of

her former comrades are behind bars, adding to the near 100 US political prisoners. She is still a fighter in Cuba, devoting herself as co-founder of Black August, a collective working to raise awareness of US political prisoners and the US blockade of Cuba. They hold hip hop shows in New York and Havana every August to raise money for US political prisoners and to build a recording studio for Cuban hip-hop artists.

"Of course I think I am going home someday," Abiodun remarks, a distant hope in her eyes, when asked about the prospects of her returning to the United States. "If I didn't it would mean that I didn't think we would win. We will win — we have to. Too much is at stake." ■

scott winn traveled to Cuba this past January. He has been twice before with Pastors for Peace and the Venceremos Brigade. He is the city organizer for the Tenants Union and a regular contributor to Real Change.

"To stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba, the best I can offer is to give them room to be human. Which, to me, means to be imperfect."



THE MILLIONAIR CLUB CHARITY

Need an extra hand?

Movers • Painters • Housekeepers
Landscapers • General Laborers
for hire

Call (206) 728-JOBS



(206) **623-7777**

All Major Brands: NEW, USED & CLOSEOUTS

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

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



Ducky's Office Furniture


Open 6 Days a Week • 1111 Mercer Street • Easy Freeway Access • Free Parking

UNIQUE imported eyewear
GREAT vintage glasses!
MODERATE prices!
206-634-3375
4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
eye exams available




Tuesday & Thursday 7PM-10PM
StreetWrites
Sunday Noon-3PM, with Brunch
Being poor doesn't mean you can't write, get published, hang out with literary friends or enjoy brunch on Sunday.
Who's marginalized? We're StreetWrites!

STREETLIFE GALLERY
WHERE THE PAVEMENT MEETS THE CANVAS
Find the Perfect Gift.
Seeing is Believing. Drop in Anytime.
A working gallery where the outsider is always at home.
Open daily from 11-8 pm., 2301 2nd Ave., Belltown 98121 (206) 956-8046


FARESTART
Job Training and Placement in the Food Services Industry
1902 Second Ave
Seattle WA 98101
between Stewart & Virginia St.'s
Phone (206) 443-1233
Because where you come from isn't as important as where you are going
Join us for orientation on Tuesdays at 9.30am

OLYMPIA FOOD CO-OP
Natural Foods Member-Owned
Now! Ask about our NEW Low-Income membership!
Eastside:
3111 Pacific - Olympia (360) 956-3870
Westside:
921 N. Rogers - Olympia (360) 754-7666



Articulate Homeless People
Our Homeless Speakers Bureau Wants to Talk to Your Group
Help Us to Destroy the Myths
• Businesses
• Church Groups
• Schools (all levels)
• Civic Organizations
A project of the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project. \$25 honorarium and one week's notice requested. Call 441-3247 for more information.

Old Friends

Memorial service honors former residents of St. Martin's

by Michele Marchand and Rita Peterson



"Spirit of life, as we prepare to call out the names of our departed friends we hold out our hearts in thankfulness for the lives of these men who have struggled as we have struggled, men who have hoped and laughed and loved, men who have many times led us back to ourselves.

In the coming moments may we touch into the timelessness of all-encompassing love and solidarity with all our loved ones and all who have gone before us, confident of the reunion dance to come."

— FROM RITA PETERSON'S MEMORIAL BLESSING

"These men have gifted us with so many vignettes that my life is forever changed," said Sacred Heart Shelter Director Joan Clough at a February memorial service held at St. Martin de Porres Shelter, a 212-bed shelter for homeless men over 50. Before the final blessing, those who attended the service — shelter staff, volunteers and other friends — shared

many life-changing stories of the 20 homeless and formerly homeless residents of St. Martin de Porres who died in 1999.

Chaplain Rich Gamble eulogized the men, telling the parable of the lost sheep. He explained that like any good shepherd our concern should be "for the one sheep that is cut off and in danger." It was not a simple analogy. Who is the shepherd? For those present at the memorial, shelter has been a fertile common ground for meeting and gifts, where our personalities, stories and hearts have been woven together.

Some of our shepherds:

Roy Fuller, who lived at St. Martin's for a while and then moved to the Westlake building. There, he shepherded others through toy-building; he became a sort of house papa. He never had a bad word for anyone; he just made everyone feel at home all the time.

Dene Bell, who also lived at the Westlake. Dene got a job as security guard at Sacred Heart Church. He was very proud of his job; its symbol was an enormous flashlight he carried around. He was baptized Catholic just before he died, but always stayed at the back of the church because he didn't feel worthy. "His spirit is still there in the Sacred Heart parking lot," said Joan Clough.

Joe Gallin, who was adept at putting together jigsaw puzzles. He had a touch of dementia but always made you feel at home. What a great teacher he was!

Jerry Dearing, who died on the winter solstice in 1998. He left St. Martin's and became a cook and a gardener. He was a guy who had everything against him and still managed to find the beauty in all things.

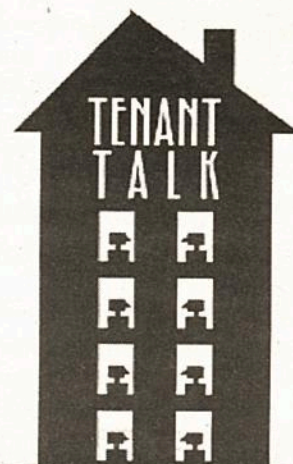
Claude McGill, who still showed his love of others even as he deteriorated with Alzheimer's. "I know you're good to me," he would say to shelter staff. "I just don't know who you are."

J.C. Edwards, about whom the St. Martin's clothing room volunteer said, "If you gave him a chance, he'd pull out all these photos of his family from the 70s. He was so proud of them, but so few people were willing to listen."

John Edwards, who was one of the original St. Martin's residents when the shelter opened in 1985. He, too, moved to the Westlake and was able to die there after a long, quiet battle with cancer. He was an extremely private person, and would listen to classical music in his room. All the guys at the Westlake would visit him, bring him ice and take care of him. "He let me be with him when he died," said Westlake staffperson David Dewine. "It was a gift for him to let us in in that way. Just before he died he bought a digital camera through the mail. He took a picture of his sister, his nurse, and me. It was his way of thanking me."

"I hope they know we remember them, if only just in that flash of memory you have when you see someone with a familiar face and things come back to you," said St. Martin's staffperson Bess Whitaker at the end of the service. "It happens all the time." In those flashes of memory and shared stories along the road, we shepherd together with faith and hope for that joyful reunion dance. ■

Tenant Talk alternates between attorney Mark Chattin's question and answer column, in which he responds to specific tenant concerns, and a general column by the Tenants Union staff, in which they 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, WA 98121, or email rchange@speakeasy.org.



Tenant Talk Educate Agitate Organize

Landlord. Landlord.

Who the hell's my landlord?

If tenants have problems in their home, they need to know who is responsible for fixing them. One of the ways that many landlords maintain their power over tenants is through their absence and anonymity. Landlords who separate themselves from the abuses happening on their property make it difficult for their tenants to find solutions.

Most state and city laws require that tenants enforce the law. At times tenants are forced to sue landlords in small claims court or to deliver written notice regarding a problem. The most effective person to contact is the landlord, not the property manager. Your manager or the company hired to manage your building is not the owner. The owner pays property taxes, and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that laws are followed.

According to state law, all landlords must provide the name and address of an agent who lives in the county of the property. An agent is someone who can accept letters and can be served court documents. This agent is not necessarily a person who can be held accountable for violation of tenant's rights.

Unfortunately, there is no guaranteed way to find out who your landlord

is. Records of land ownership are confusing and allow for hidden identities. What follows are steps that have been successful in finding landlords. Don't forget simpler forms. Use the phonebook, ask tenants in the building, and talk with neighbors of the property.

One place to begin looking for the name of your landlord is your county's tax assessor's office. At The King County Department of the Assessor (County Administration Building, 500 - 4th Ave., downtown Seattle; phone 206-296-7300) you can access the name and address of the person who pays property taxes on your property. That person will likely be the owner. When calling or going into the office, give the physical address of the property and ask for the name and address of the taxpayer. You can also look up other properties owned by the landlord, the value of each, the amount of property taxes (paid or unpaid), excise numbers (helpful in later research), and sale histories.

Some landlords further hide themselves by only giving offices of public records only a post office box for an address. With only a P.O. box it is hard to personally contact landlords to serve papers. Deceitful landlords can refuse to

pick up certified mail from the P.O. box.

If the tax assessor gives a P.O. box, ask what other properties the landlord owns. Often landlords may own several buildings and only one or two houses. A landlord is most likely to live in the most expensive home and rent out the other houses of lesser value. You may find an address of an expensive home, often on the waterfront or the eastside, owned by the landlord. More than likely, that's the landlord's home.

Sometimes, the owner of the property will be a corporation, often a limited liability corporation (LLC). When a group of investors purchase a property they often form an LLC. To find information about an LLC, contact the Washington Secretary of State by phone (360-753-7115) or on the web (www.secstate.wa.gov/corps). The Secretary of State can tell you the partners of an LLC, the officers and directors of a corporation, and the agents for process and service for the corporation. The partners and officers are usually owners, though this is not guaranteed. Regardless, they can be political targets — they're responsible for their investments.

You can verify the owner of the property at the King County Office of

Records and Deeds (County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave., Seattle; phone 206-296-1844). You may get more contact information about your landlord as well as mortgage and lending information. You will need the name of the landlord, or the excise or parcel number. Someone must sign the deed when property is purchased. One person signs on behalf of the corporation, so you'll likely learn the name of at least one owner. If your building changed owners in the past year you will need to make the request in person or in writing. You can look up a title company in the yellow pages that can help you access recent information as well, but the company may charge you a fee.

Many tenants live in public housing that is either owned by a housing authority or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), has a loan guaranteed by HUD, or has a project-based Section 8 contract. By completing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information about your building through the local office of HUD, you can access valuable information. To get information write a letter with the name of your building and what information you would like to see. You can find out who owns the building and the sources of funding, copies of inspection reports, copies of communication between tenants and owners, and the original regulatory agreement. If you want specific information you can request it be sent to you. If you want to review the file you can request that HUD contact you to set up an appointment. You can contact the FOIA Liaison Officer in Seattle by calling 206-220-5101 ext. 3500. You can visit the office or mail your request to 909 - 1st Ave, Seattle, WA 98104.

Researching landlords can be frustrating and overwhelming. Do your best, and don't let it stop you from getting the justice you deserve. For more information, contact the Tenants Union at 206-723-0500. ■

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

We All Belong!
STOP DISCRIMINATION

CALL US.

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

BILLINGS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

4273 Woodland Park Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington
(206) 547-4614 billingsms@uswest.net

Cahall: Continued from page 10

up. But now when dinner time comes they expect you to go home. "I think I hear your mother calling," is what they say now.

RC: I remember so clearly that day in 1991 that you stood up in front of a hundred people and talked about keeping the shelter open.

Cahall: I wasn't talking specifically about the shelter. I was just talking general circumstances.

RC: Well, what you said helped keep the shelter open.

Cahall: Nah. Some people were getting by, but a lot of people died in that place.

RC: A lot of people died on the streets. There are a lot of women dying on the streets now.

Cahall: But that's not the point.

RC: Well, what's the point?

Cahall: The point is that they set it up to help people and all their rules and things almost made you want to go out in the streets. They're too strict for what they offer. That's the point.

RC: Do you have anything hopeful to say?

Cahall: Well, that's hopeful isn't it? When I tell anything how it is, it's hopeful because it's the truth. I'm too good for this place, too good all the way 'round.

RC: It seems like a lot of people in the homeless community identify with you. Why do you think that is?

Cahall: Because I complained, I guess (laughs).

RC: Do you speak out a lot?

Cahall: Well of course; I'm my own woman. I'm nobody's pappy. I'm no slave. I understand that Lincoln freed the slaves a long time ago.

RC: How have people reacted to you?

Cahall: I don't care. I don't care if they listen or not. I think they're nuts, all of them. I don't need a psychiatrist. I think that psychiatrist is nuts too. He shouldn't have been asking, "Do you hear voices?" I said, "I hear yours."

RC: What do you want?

Cahall: I want a decent life. If I had some land, I'd have a car shelter with outside toilets. I want a membership deposit so I can keep track of the people, what they want and what they think. I'm just trying to find myself a place where I can live, that's all. It's just a stepping stone. Later, I'd take some of these people and have them help build little houses. Why should I have to pay rent to someone when I can build my own house? Just a shack, in other words, with ten windows (laughs).

RC: Is there anything else you want people who read *Real Change* to know?

Cahall: That's all I know. I don't exactly have a plan. I just need a good man friend.

RC: Two things you want: a personal ad to find you a good man friend and a car camp. How do you want us to describe you to the readers?

Cahall: Well, I'm kind of an ambitious person and serious. That's what the psychiatrist said. ■

Rest Stop: Continued from page 1

tech toilets in high-traffic places like Pike Place Market and Westlake Center. She says it's time for the Rest Stop to seek contributions from businesses in the Denny Triangle neighborhood.

The storefront and nearby street may also get some beautification. Gilboa has requested a bike rack, trees and benches from the city's Green Streets fund, which designs such amenities up and down selected downtown streets.

Interest is brewing as passersby take note. Gilboa says that Metro bus drivers who park across the street from the have begun wandering in, wanting to know when the facilities will open.

Gilboa says the Rest Stop's universal appeal will be its greatest strength, creating a sense of ownership in users of all backgrounds. She believes that downtown businesses will realize their employees also need a quick, public place to shower: "What I want the city and people to ask is, 'Why there aren't more of these?'" ■

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

To the dismay of some and probable relief of many, we've decided to take a short rest from the political diatribe you've come to expect from Classics Corner to briefly reflect on the obvious similarities between Homer and bop saxophonist Charlie the Birdman Parker.

Bird, one of the great jazz players of all time, knew thousands of songs and could drop bits of blues, tin pan alley, hillbilly or classical music into any tune at just the right place and time to create something perfectly of the moment. He played games with harmonics and rhythm and pitch to create a completely distinctive style that was either pure genius or pure crap, depending upon one's taste.

Homer, another improviser of note, had a similar method. He took bits and pieces of a vast repertoire of styles and riffs and created a thing of amazing beauty, versatility and genius.

Centuries of bards had come before him, and their vovelly songs of Achilles and Briseus, Odysseus and Penelope, Helen and Paris were the Top 40 Hit Parade of Greece. They didn't recite. Their audiences wouldn't have stood for it. That was dead. They improvised on the spot, using formulas like rosy-fingered dawn and white-armed Hera and strong-greaved Achilles to mesmerize their audiences with perfectly metered poetry that riffed on familiar storylines like Parker blowing White Christmas.

Homer, in all probability, learned his licks within the brotherhood of bards, and, like Bird, transcended. While classicists agree on few things about Homer, most doubt he was a writer in the sense we would think. He was an oral poet, taking the pieces of his culture, and arranging them in ways we still recognize as perfect 2,800 years later.

Snobs that we are, Classics Corner is always amazed by how people can listen to, oh, say, Parker's Ornithology, and all they hear is a bunch of annoying repetition which they will go great lengths to flee.

"Homer, in all probability, learned his licks within the brotherhood of bards, and, like Bird, transcended."

Repetition is where improvisation breathes. You hear the small differences. You focus on the rhythms. It's a break from the intensity of creation where you relax for a moment and drift happily into the familiar.

Homer's audience got this. When Agamemnon gives the delegation to Achilles his incredible list of gifts, ranging from golden tripods to daughters in marriage, many find it annoying that Odysseus, like some kind of ancient transcription device, repeats the list verbatim only pages later. Yet this was how poet and audience alike got a break from the concentration demanded by spontaneous performance. It was a welcome island of familiarity, like Parker riffing out on a phrase of Jingle bells when he's off wandering God knows where.

No one really knows when Homer was frozen into the written word, and we'll never know what it was to hear Homer sing. The bard was replaced by the rhapsodist, who, instead of creating in the moment, recited from memory. Imagine never being able to hear Bird do Ornithology, and the best we could do was to hear Kenny G play the notes. And then the rhapsodist over time became the hack. Imagine a muzak version of Kenny G ripping off Bird.

You can still hear him blow: "Sing, Goddess, the anger of Peleus' son ..." That Homer cat must really have been something. ■

The Northwest Society for Classical Studies seeks fellow freaks. Be an armchair classicist. Visit members.home.com/nscs

Steve's News

more newspapers
more magazines
great service

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

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

\$16.99
\$30 laminated

free catalog...

1-800-631-3086

GOOD NATURE PUBLISHING COMPANY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

www.goodnaturepublishing.com

"Horticultural Fine Art!"
— Sunset Magazine



March Notables

March is Women's History Month

3/1

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.

UW Women's Center presents Cecile Andrews, Ph.D., in "Women Building Celebratory Communities: Changing Ourselves, Changing the World, Coming Together for Social Change and Fun," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., at University of Washington Faculty Club, downstairs; \$13 includes lunch, registration at least 4 days in advance; info 206-685-1090.

3/2

Seattle Repertory Theater presents the play "Stop Kiss," which includes a hate crime against a lesbian; student matinee followed by panel discussion, info 206-443-2202 ext.1043.

"Jubilee Justice; An Eco-Feminist's Perspective from Living with Poor Women in Brazil" with Ivone Gerbera, SND, one of Latin America's leading theologians, free will offering, sponsored by Intercommunity Peace & justice Center, SU Dept of Theology, 7 - 8:30 p.m., at Seattle University Schafer Auditorium; info 206-223-1138.

Poet Marilyn Hacker in a free public reading; reception follows in the Walker-Ames Room; her new book, Squares and Courtyards, celebrates the community and courage of people living with HIV and cancer, and other topics; 7:30 p.m., at University of Washington, 130 Kane Hall.

3/3 - 4

Forum, Panels and Workshops: "What's Next and How Do We Get There?" Labor's program after the WTO, offering a range of positions and challenges for labor's program from within the AFL-CIO and by allies in the coalition that created the historic march on November 30; Fri speakers include George Becker, Steelworkers President; Ron Judd, King County Labor Council; Tyree Scott, Labor and Employment Law Office; David Solnit, Direct Action Network; Patti Goldman, Earth Justice Defense Fund; Sponsored by the University of Washington Center for Labor Studies; 7 - 9:30 p.m.

& 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., University of Washington, Fri at Kane 120, Sat in Savery Hall; info 206-543-7946 or <http://depts.washington.edu/pcls/orpcls@u.washington.edu>

3/3

Short film, "Ecce Homo," and talk on Sarajevo by Vesna Ljubic who walked around Sarajevo filming for 2 years from 1992 to 1994, during the siege during the war in Bosnia; without narrative or dialogue, it is very human and moving; & talk on Sarajevo by Peter Lippman, who will tell some stories about the city and the people he knows there: What they told him, what they saw, what he saw; free or cheap, 7:30 p.m., at University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave NE; info 206-285-2154

Esther Mumford, noted local writer and researcher will speak on "Black Women In Washington State"; 11 a.m., at San Juan Room, University House, 4400 Stone Way N; info 206-325-6622

3/5

International Women's Day Celebration, this year's theme "Reaching for Change," reflecting the theme of the Beijing +5 events that will occur Feb 11 - 12; "Listening to Women for a Change", noon - 5 p.m., at Seattle Center House; Info. Carol Hoyt 206.328.9637; Seattle NOW 206.632.8547; Rosalinda Aguirre, Jobs With Justice, 206.441.4969 or wsjwj@igc.org or <http://www.scn.org/basecamp> or femme2@scn.org

3/8

The Women's Global Strike, called almost a year ago by the National Women's Council of Ireland, and made global by the International Wages for Housework Campaign and the International Women Count Network which Wages for Housework coordinates recognizing that most of the work women do is unwaged, unrecognized and unvalued to focus on women's enormous contribution to every society and every economy, info <http://womenstrike8m.server101.com> or 323-292-7405 or 70742.3012@compuserve.com

3/8

Celebrate International Women's Month at the Lesbian Resource Center; see Dana Schuerholz's Slide Show on Women

Activists; hear Morgan Ahern on revolutionary women in American History; speak with a panel of homeless women; 7 p.m., at the LRC, 2214 South Jackson; info 206-322-3953

3/11

"Globalization And Marginalization: How do our spiritual values compel us to respond?" A Day of Reflection and Strategizing with Sean Gonsalves, syndicated columnist and non-violent freedom advocate; Mr. Gonsalves will lead off a participatory process by drawing connections between global economic injustice and the daily injustice faced in the Puget Sound region; together we will strategize and build relationships around key issues that offer hope for creative solutions; Sponsored by Washington Association of Churches, Global Economy Working Group of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, Earth Ministry, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, St. Therese Church, University Congregational Church, Washington State Jobs with Justice, Jubilee 2000: Northwest Coalition, Working Group on Preaching and Teaching for Change; \$10 includes lunch, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 124 21st Ave; info Michael Ramos 206-625-9790

3/12

Radical Women International Women's Day Celebration; 2 p.m., at 5018 Rainier Ave S; Info, rides, or childcare 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453

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>

Daily

Studio X, a new community broadcasting facility is now broadcasting on topics such as politics, homeless issues, local news,

youth issues, experimental audio, global issues, police brutality from downtown Seattle between 4:00 pm - midnight (west coast time) on the internet at <http://www.microradio.net> and on the local FM dial at 87.9; Connecting you to 'unmediated' voices from Seattle's social movements including October 22 Coalition, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Voices in the Wilderness, The Hemp Coalition, Street Writes/ Real Change, Red Bandanna, People's Assembly, and more; plus music, poetry, and plenty of weird sounds; Info. and to find out how to singup yourself or your community organization 206-736-1400.

Continue to call the City Council 206-684-8888 and tell them to fund Services for Homeless People, not lights on bridges; 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

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>

Donate Your Car

...Boat, RV or Truck to non-profit Senior Services and get a tax deduction. Your gift will help support Meals on Wheels and other vital programs. We handle pick-up and DOL/IRS details. **SENIOR SERVICES**
A non-profit agency serving seniors in our community
206-727-6205

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

Julia's
OF
WALLINGFORD

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

Food with Thought • Groups Welcome • Wine & Microbrews

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

MAMA'S PIZZA

FREE DELIVERY 322-6444

New York Style Pizza
700 E Pine
Capitol Hill, Seattle

PIZZA • CALZONES • SALADS
STIX • SODAS

\$2 OFF any pizza with this ad

We Deliver Downtown! FAX NUMBER - 322-7884

citizens participation project



Save our Homes

ISSUE: Your legislators are considering a new law that will help protect Section 8 tenants and save Section 8 housing.

SB 6663 would put some teeth in the one-year notice requirement for Section 8 housing by fining landlords who ignore it. It would also require that the notices provide clear and useful information that tenants and local government need to protect the tenants and preserve the housing.

The bill has been amended to reduce the penalties faced by an owner for failure to give notice from \$1000 per unit to \$50 a unit. The penalties should be strong enough to ensure that the law will be taken seriously.

Background:

18,000 seniors, disabled people, and families in Washington state rely on project-based Section 8 housing for an affordable place to live. Project-based Section 8 housing is privately owned, but subsidized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Now, with these subsidies expiring, thousands of tenants are at risk of losing their homes. More than 1,400 subsidized homes have been lost already in this state alone.

The Tenants Union seeks to save this housing by organizing tenants in specific at-risk buildings and building a strong movement of Section 8 tenants to influence decision-makers. Its Section 8 Tenants Organizing Project (STOP) organizes to save Section 8 housing locally and collaborates with other groups around the country to make housing a federal priority.

Although current state law requires owners to give one year's notice prior to expiration of a federal housing subsidy, tenants and local government officials often receive no notice. When they do arrive in a tenant's mailbox, notices can be confusing and cause fear and insecurity.

Without adequate notice, tenants and local governments are left in the dark. Tenants can't work to save their housing or plan for their future without adequate time or information. These are homes that tenants can't live without and local government can't afford to replace.

Property owners have already ignored the law, with no consequences to themselves. Tenants at Commencement Terrace Apartments in Tacoma only received a few months' notice that the owner of their building would not renew the Section 8 subsidy and their rent would go up almost \$200. The owners were notified that they were not following the law, but that didn't change their plans.

Tenants deserve time to plan for their future and organize to save their homes. Local governments need an opportunity to pull together resources to preserve this irreplaceable housing.

Action Needed:

Call the Legislative Hotline toll-free (1-800-562-6000). Tell them your name, address, and legislative district if you know it. Leave a message for your legislators. Tell them seniors and families deserve to know what will happen to their homes, and that SB 6663 will include effective penalties to make the law work. ■

Cheaper than therapy.



Feminist
Karate
Union

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

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

call today! 206-325-3878

Steve's
News

more newspapers
more magazines
great service

204 Broadway East 324-7323

3416 Fremont Ave N 633-0731

MAE'S CAFE SERVES SUPPER!



Key Lime CALAMARI

CATFISH & Fritters

Tender Smoked RIBS

Jerk CHICKEN

MAE'S PHINNEY RIDGE CAFE
65th & Phinney 782-4222

KUNG FU CLASSES
TAUGHT BY
AND FOR WOMEN

Established 1981

Call for class times.

SEVEN STAR
WOMEN'S
KUNG FU

(206) 720-1046

1426 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98144

Advertise in Real
Change. It's a great
deal for a great cause.

Call 441-8847

Real Change

2129 2nd Ave.

Seattle, WA 98121

