

July 15, 2000

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COVER BY DANIJEL ZEDELJ

By Rahul K. Gupta

Roxi Nanto doesn't work in a cherry field, but she's been invited to dinner and treated cordially by the laborers who do. The workers she's met at the state-sponsored tent camps she organizes "are just so sweet; so appreciative that there's anything here at all."

At the end of a day, amid a field of just-harvested cherry trees, there's not much to be thankful for. Many of the 15,000 people picking cherries during Washington's three-week harvest retire to less hospitable quarters: cramped mobile homes, duplexes, trailers, the back seat of a car. Nanto, a consultant for the state, says some local communities welcome workers and their families; others want them gone.

Governor Gary Locke made farmworker housing his top housing priority in 1998. The state legislature promised to spend \$40 million over a ten-year period. But farmworkers won't find enough housing this summer, or next summer, or the summer after that. Before the state launches a real effort to solve the crisis, it has to decide: what do workers really need?

Growers say they need low-cost temporary camps, put up at the public's

expense. Unions and grassroots legal advocates say the state should fund permanent housing for workers living in the region. The church community wants improvements in work-related health care. And non-agricultural workers don't want to host immigrant workers in their communities.

"How we implement a long-term strategy depends on many different interests," says Paula Benson, of the state's Office of Community Development.

Substandard, subsidized

In the cherry industry, an average worker earns \$40 to \$80 per day, or \$4.25 per 30-pound box of cherries. That same worker will earn less than \$10,000 in a five-month harvest period. Base that against an industry that will earn between \$127 and \$180 million this year; that will double its earnings sometime in the next 10 years; that provides laborers with no medical assistance or benefits.

The Office of Community Development, through the governor's office, has been given the task of overseeing the temporary housing project. The state cannot rely on further funds, even though the legislature promised \$40 mil-

lion over the next ten years. According to state law, no legislature can allocate spending upon new legislatures down the road, so, in fact, the \$40 million is really only \$4 million for the current year.

Other subsidies support the project as well: HUD kicked in \$600,000 last year for the state's farmworker housing. And the Wenatchee-area tent camp is on public land — so there's no impact to growers' property. Growers are getting a welfare check, of sorts, to produce the food, and receiving more welfare checks to house their employees. To grassroots advocates, it looks like the biggest beneficiaries of the farmworker housing program are the growers.

The housing plan pushed by Locke's administration took account of the growers' needs to lower labor costs, and thus keep consumer goods cheap. The state opted for a mobile, temporary 'caravan' of tents, which will follow the growing seasons throughout the state.

This summer, during the cherry harvest alone, the state is spending \$800,000 to provide temporary housing. Each of the tents, complete with camp stove, refrigerator and wooden floor, costs the state just over \$150 to purchase and pitch. Growers subsidize the housing program by paying \$3 per person per day, and \$10 per day for a family. Benson says it's unclear whether growers are taking the expense out of what they would normally pay their workers.

"Eighty percent of the workers in the cherry industry are settled. They need to be able to purchase their homes."

Lupe Gamboa, United Farm Workers

"We are disappointed, appalled, by the governor's decision" to prioritize tent camps, says Lupe Gamboa of the United Farmworkers, AFL-CIO. "No other worker would be expected to live under the same conditions." Because the workforce is mostly Latino, he concluded, "it's all right somehow."

Gamboa says temporary housing provides growers with a rootless, dis-

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Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the Poor and Homeless

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

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http://www.realchangenews.org
Email rchange@speakeasy.org
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Mission Statement:
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.



Rise to the challenge

Dear *Real Change*,

How R U? You know you R a super/alternative magazine. I thank you 4 giving some people an avenue that would never be open maybe cause of police records, homelessness, etc.

I get so very very angry at the ways people can only eat on this planet if they R of money.

So you do so much eye-opening for those who are only mainstream.

I know I will have to surrender for the way I exist now, cause it's much too uncomfortable to be around an unclean nest and anger that only gets attention from enforcers and cops.

I leave Seattle knowing you and some other people who challenge the Norm will have concern for others. Maybe if I can find some other information instead of only my O PIN IONS, I will write to your super/alternative magazine again.

Paper: supplied by DESC [written on paper towel -ed].

Ink: by Disability check.

Sincerely,
Lynne S.

Homeless veterans

Today I took a chance and opened my door to a stranger, only to find that he was homeless, as well as a veteran, living on the streets.

He was someone I had met outside of the library and he had come from Virginia. He was trying to get established with housing and Social Security. As we talked for awhile he was very courteous. He was in need of a shower. As we talked I wish I could've done more for him; I offered him what I could: an extra blanket, a raincoat, and a willing ear. He was new in town and I only hope that he doesn't get treated like the others I have met over the years.

So many people I have met have gone to war, only to return to wake up to the cold harsh streets. It breaks my heart to see how they've been treated, after sacrificing so much for this state. Where are they to go?

What can we do to guarantee that they have a home, something beyond the basic requirements?!

I wish I could have done more than what I did. Maybe if more people could, or would, open their doors, they might find that there is nothing to fear. A shower and a safe place away from the streets can go a long way when there is nowhere else for them to go.

Storm

Keep up the good work

I'm writing to applaud you for your coverage of the possible closure of the Downtown Health Center's dental services for low-income adults ["*Let Them Eat Cake*," June 15, 2000].

I have been doing social work with low-income and homeless elderly for the past seven years, and the dental care needs of this population are great. I encourage you to continue covering this story to ensure that the Public health Department does right by the low-income and homeless citizens of this city.

Sincerely,
Gary Bertuccelli

Oops!

- An incorrect date crept into our story of Reneene Robertson (profile, June 15). Reneene stayed in a shelter in 1996, shortly before getting her current apartment. She says her memory progressed from solid cheddar when she was young, to holey Swiss cheese during her crisis, to something now resembling Havarti.
- Another correction: the visual and verbal artwork of Wes Browning ("Genius," July 1) can be viewed at the following address: <http://mybadartshow.tripod.com>.

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Beyond Charity

Support justice and dignity for all

You don't have to read very far into this newspaper to find some of the best poetry, photography, and journalism that you will find anywhere. All of this is brought to you by a host of volunteers and a small dedicated staff, without foundation or government grants. The StreetLife Gallery, StreetWrites, a bustling computer lab, and the Homeless Speakers Bureau, all projects of the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project (RCHEP), are supported equally through contributions and grants. Make Sid the cat happy and help ensure our future by donating time or energy. Checks written to *Real Change* are not tax-deductible, and support the newspaper itself; checks to RCHEP are tax-deductible.

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Fight the Power

Party politics a dead end for real change

by Siobhan Ring

[Ed. note: The following is a response to Michael Hood's opinion piece, "Where the Power Is: an open letter to activists under 30," July 1]

In the first paragraph of your opinion column for Real Change you stated that you had your days of rage. I'm sorry to hear that your rage has passed. I am a young activist in full possession of my rage. I divide my efforts between fighting to defeat threats to what's good in society and creating alternatives that help form the foundation for a more just society. It's a long road; I will not get to the end of it in my life. That does not mean that I take my eyes off the prize and settle for less than what is necessary for a decent, just society where everyone can do more than survive.

The centerpiece of your column is that we young activists should "take the next step" and fully participate in the two-party system. This is based on your assertion that the two-party system is a fact, a good thing, and responsive to the public. Hardly anyone thinks that! Only 45 percent of the entire U.S. population votes — primarily because most people have come to a different conclusion than yours. The two-party system is not producing dynamic candidates; it is not reducing money in politics; it is not generating solutions to poverty, homelessness, environmental injustice, racism, or global warming. The two-party system is not inspiring faith in democracy.

It is interesting that you perceive that participating in the two-party system is the "next step" for us young activists. That has been the path of many activists who then find themselves trying to put out the fires they once started. Some find

ways to be agents of change in their new roles. Too many become roadblocks. If there's anything I've learned as an activist, it is that most people have good intentions, and that good intentions are not enough in the hands of the powerful.

You lament that only the conservative kiddies vote. Sorry, but the blame is on your generation for this one.

Many of us who are in the streets are also walking the halls of power, advocating for reforms we believe in, while staying in the struggle to win larger victories.

Those right-wing youth vote so readily because the right-wing folks of your generation are doing a great job providing them with choices which reflect their values.

Contrary to your claim that young folks did not mobilize against I-200, the campaign to mobilize low-income people and people of color to oppose the initiative was led by K.L. Shannon, a young African-American woman who produced a voter turnout of 85 percent to defeat I-200 in the 37th District, a traditionally low-voter turnout district. In fact, many of us who are in the streets are also walking the halls of power, advocating for reforms we believe in, while staying in the struggle to win larger victories.

As you assert, there are differences between the two parties — primarily in domestic policy. These differences are important; they have direct impacts on peoples' lives. But the other problems you name and dismiss, like the lack of new ideas and the money influences, along with what you failed to mention, the homogeneity of their neoliberal foreign policy, outweigh for many of us the domestic policy differences. It's not enough to be less evil.

Are you high? The white majority always does the right thing? The white majority passed I-200 and repressive sentencing laws, both of which you decry in your column. The ignorance of this comment alone discredits the rest of your argument. The white majority is enormously powerful, but we should not reinforce their power by relying on them to "do the right thing" for the rest of us. Both because they won't, and because a just society requires that all people have access to power. Writer James Baldwin says it better than I could: "How can one respect, let alone adopt, the values of a people [white people] who do not, on any level whatever, live the way they say they do or say they should?"

It may be true that it's time to take the next step forward in the movement for change, but that next step is not laying down the struggle to take up the banner of party politics. This is not a simple issue. But it's insulting and sad to distill the energy we've found to push for real, powerful, dramatic change in our sinking society down to a new plank in the democratic platform.

You admonish us at the end of your column that we shun the two-party system at our political peril. Buddy, we're all at political peril. My attendance at a young Democrats meeting will not save me, or you, from that. ■

Siobhan Ring is a Tenants Union organizer and a member of the Real Change Advisory Board.

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A friendly reminder before we say good night: don't forget safety testing week begins tomorrow. Samples will be taken from block six, last names "A" through "L," from zero eight hundred to ten hundred hours tomorrow, and the rest of the sector Tuesday through Sunday. Here are a couple handy tips: eat and drink by 0700, and when you give the samples do not speak. The extra adrenaline might contaminate the specimen, and alter your diet plan for the rest of the quarter. As always, your absence will be credited directly to your employer; be sure to bring your S card for validation.

Good Night!

—Bob Redmond

Auburn Sweeps

Jerry Larson is tired of seeing the fear on homeless peoples' faces when he prepares a once-daily meal for them near Auburn's tidy, compact downtown area. He says the police are scaring Auburn's homeless people into leaving town, telling them every last homeless person in Auburn will be rounded up and shipped out in September, just before the opening of the downtown's Sound Transit rail station between Tacoma and Seattle.

Larson, director of His Ministry, a meal, blanket and rehab program administering to more than 150 homeless people in the downtown Auburn area, drafted a letter to mayor Chuck Booth relaying these fears: police are threatening to trespass homeless people from public and private property downtown; telling shopkeepers to refuse to sell beer and wine to homeless people; and planning a mid-September sweep of the downtown area.

Mayor Booth says Larson's allegations are mostly sour grapes. His Ministry campaigned to convert a vacant J.C. Penney department store into apartments and ground-floor businesses that would provide employment for people just off the street, living upstairs. Larson has abandoned the goal, saying the mayor spread smear information alleging Larson really intended to set up a needle exchange. Larson says he's forgotten the conflict, but Booth won't let it die.

Police commander Mike Herman says the laws prohibit liquor sales to intoxicated buyers — to his knowledge, cops aren't telling merchants not to sell to homeless people. And any sweep of downtown is not only impossible; "it'd be unconstitutional."

But Herman also says police routinely respond to merchants' complaints of homeless people not wanted on business property.

"Say somebody is picking up trash in the parking lot of Burger King, and the manager tells them, 'Look, you have to leave, in case you slip, for liability's sake,' and they refuse. They can be arrested for trespass." ■

—Adam Holdorf

Gotta know when to fold 'em



PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY

If you had to pick out Seattle's landmark restaurant, you could do worse than choose the McDonald's on Third and Pine (forget the Space Needle). It's the only source for a cheap meal near Westlake Park, it's right on the corner, and it's blaring country music from loudspeakers at the entrance. It will be gone as early as next year.

The sidewalk outside has been the site of many a conflict: when farmer's rights activist

Jose Bove (renowned for dumping manure in front of a new McDonald's in France) was in town during the WTO, protesters broke one of the windows. Local activists say sign-waving outside the joint turned a proposed franchise away from the International District.

Never mind the beef: the music raises hackles too. Restaurant managers were criticized recently in both the *Stranger* (Grant Cogswell's "Honky Tonkin," June 29) and *Real Change* (Wes Browning's "Adventures in Poetry," June 1) for the racial implications of blaring country tunes at nonwhite pedestrians.

Nonprofit housing developer Housing Resource Group has bought the McDonald's building from King County, and plans to demolish everything but the concrete frame as it converts the upper floors into 65 units of affordable housing. When work begins, possibly as soon as next spring, the McDonald's will close down, perhaps for good. Franchise owners haven't yet said if they'll move back in, only that they would like to renegotiate the lease at an affordable rate, then borrow money and spruce up the restaurant.

"This is not just an affordable housing project," says Torrie Lafantailor of Housing Resources Group. "This is revitalization." McDonald's is welcome to return to the ground floor once the building is finished, she says.

Tom Brzezinski, real estate assets manager in McDonald's corporate office, couldn't say whether the tactically-placed country music would resume playing to the foot traffic, if the franchise chose to return. ■

—Adam Holdorf



David Ballenger, hate crime victim?

On an August night last summer, 46-year-old David Ballenger was called a disgrace. He was taunted for being a veteran unable to live without panhandling. And then he was followed to his campsite home beneath Interstate 5 in Green Lake and stabbed 18 times.

One of the three accused assailants, Jay Stewart, called a friend after the attack, bragging, "there is one less bum on the face of the earth," according to media reports of the subsequent police investigation.

At one point it appeared the King County Prosecutors' Office had plans to try all three men together, and then accuse at least two of first-degree murder.

Yet as of July 12, Stewart has plead guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 17 years in prison, with the possibility of time off for good behavior after just over 15 years. Another assailant, Michael "Vito" Caffee, has plead guilty to first-degree manslaughter, facing a maximum eight and a half year sentence. The last, Shelton Musgrave, is currently on trial for first-degree murder, and faces 20-26 years in prison if he's found guilty.

For some, prison sentences that could allow one of the men out on the streets by his mid-20s and another by his mid-30s aren't enough. The boys' accounts suggest they were motivated by Ballenger's status.

"There are still people that are being targeted simply because they're homeless," says Michael Stoops, community organizer for the National Coalition for the Homeless. "There's a need [for new laws]."

Of the 39 reported murders of homeless people in 1999, a large percentage of the cases involved middle-aged men assaulted by teenagers, adds Stoops. Yet the hate crime laws that protect different races and religions don't protect homeless people.

No attempts have been made to lobby the Washington state legislature to add the protection of the homeless to local hate crime laws, according to the local branch of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Other states, with the help of organizations like the National Coalition for the Homeless, have sought protected status for homeless people, says Stoops. In 1994, the California legislature approved protection for homeless people under the state's hate crime laws, until then-governor Pete Wilson vetoed the bill. And advocacy groups are currently working with a Florida county to add homeless people to the groups protected under the local anti-discrimination laws.

Yet the greater fight — for protection of the homeless under the federal hate crime law — has yet to be waged, says Stoops.

"The general public doesn't really know what's going on," he says. "There's not enough support in Congress right now. It's a long way away." ■

—Molly Rhodes

Massacre at Belltown DSHS

More recipients of Food Stamps and disability checks get help at Belltown's welfare office, on Second and Lenora, than almost any other in the state. But the Department of Social and Health Services last month unveiled a plan to cut 20 percent of its workforce. According to DSHS administrators, now that welfare rolls have dropped statewide, caseworkers can go.

The cuts are ill-suited for that office, because "the people who go to Belltown aren't back-to-work material," says Joe Martin, a social worker at Pike Market Medical Clinic. Few of them stick around long enough to enter WorkFirst. Many are staying downtown in emergency shelters, waiting to move into permanent housing that will transfer them to another part of the city.

Advocate Korey Wilder notes that DSHS is choosing an across-the-board approach, disregarding "programs that have shown positive results in areas where work is available," like Seattle, and "attempting to do the impossible" in rural areas with high unemployment.

Cuts were supposed to be enacted July 1st, but are postponed while DSHS sorts out exactly which offices will take the biggest hit. So far, the draconian 20-percent cut is the only public proposal. Also on the chopping block are two caseworkers that provide almost all the services available to urban Native Americans throughout King County.

Since the plan went public, local advocates have been lobbying governor Gary Locke in an effort to preserve the staff. Wilder notes that Locke "doesn't seem to be getting the picture of how CSOs operate, and what the meaningful welfare-to-work services actually entail." It's not too late to set him straight. Tell him to save Belltown. Call (360)902-4111 or write to PO Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002.

—Adam Holdorf

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

Tunnel Visions

Fight for north-end tunnel shows south-end inequalities

By Adam Holdorf

Sound Transit wants to run light rail through a neighborhood. The proposed route would swallow property, displace residents, and irrevocably alter the community. Residents react with horror, raise a ruckus, and call for a tunnel route.

Sound familiar? This isn't the low-income, high-minority Rainier Valley. It's the whiter, more affluent Roosevelt neighborhood, where Sound Transit is planning a line from the University District to Northgate.

Rainier Valley residents fought surface rail and lost; they're now taking Sound Transit to court. In the north end, the neighbors' tunnel proposal has the backing of the entire City Council, plus Sound Transit boardmembers Rob McKenna, Cynthia Sullivan, and vice-chair Doug Southerland. Residents have lobbied their local grocery store, which will lose its land if a tunnel goes through, into agreeing with them. Despite the fact that Sound Transit has little idea where to get the money for a \$65 million tunnel, the locals have a fighting chance.

Taking the Twelfth

Up until June 20, Roosevelt residents had been told that four possible routes were being considered for their neighborhood. Three weeks ago, Sound Transit unveiled a "fifth option" that would take out approximately 30 homes along 8th Avenue Northeast. There, the train would rise out of its tunnel, soar over Ravenna Boulevard, and run up I-5. At \$355 million, the fifth option would cost the cash-strapped transit agency about \$65 million less to reach Northgate than the residents' preference, a tunnel under 12th Avenue.

Nick DiMartino and Steve Wirbilowicz didn't know about Sound Transit's plans when they bought their 8th Avenue home a year and a half ago. They consider themselves fortunate for paying less than \$300,000 for a place in the Roosevelt-Ravenna-Green Lake area. If Sound Transit opts for the cheapest route, their property would remain unscathed, but further up the street, about 30

houses would be condemned. Instead of a maple-tree thicket muffling the hum of the interstate, the view from their front yard would open onto the train tunnel's mouth. A freeway off-ramp would dump cars onto their residential sidestreet.

"We're all for this train," says Wirbilowicz outside his house. "But now, they're rerouting the off-ramp into our neighborhood." Under the fifth option, "We're not only losing homes; we're getting highway traffic."

Sound Transit's fifth option pitted one not-in-my-backyard reaction against another. The agency proposed the new route in response to supporters of the University Heights Farmer's Market, which occupies the vacant lot on 50th and University Way from May through October. Market supporters began circulating a petition calling for any other alternative besides taking the lot for a construction base. "They had no idea that saving the market would take out these homes," says DiMartino. With the Roosevelt neighborhood groups' urging, the petition's wording was changed.

Now, both 8th Avenue residents and market boosters favor the 12th Avenue tunnel option. The University Heights' lot would remain open and the Farmer's Market preserved; DiMartino's block would be unchanged. At a June 20 meeting, more than 200 area residents told light-rail planners they preferred this option.

Matt Fox, a member of the University District Community Council, says this is exactly what the

neighborhood deserves. "People in north Seattle supported the second RTA plan [the funding proposal in 1996] with the understanding that a tunnel would go through," he says. "This is what we voted for."

The only major property loss, under the 12th Avenue plan, would be to the Roosevelt QFC, on 66th and Roosevelt just north of the bustling commercial area. Sound Transit would use the store's land as a construction base for about three years. Early this month QFC began urging shoppers to sign its own petition, calling for Sound Transit to reject the 12th Avenue route.

But then QFC backed down, ending the petition drive when local residents threatened a boycott. "They said, 'We want to be good neighbors to you,' and they destroyed all the signatures," says DiMartino. DiMartino says the store wants to move back in once construction is over.

In a neighborhood like Roosevelt, a compact shopping district surrounded by quiet blocks of craftsman-style cottages, QFC has fierce competition. The gourmet grocery Whole Foods opened just down the block earlier this year; two other food stores operate within a half-mile. It's surprising that a group of neighbors could force QFC to lay down its arms.

Wirbilowicz says ramming a rail line through any part of his neighborhood, where land is a hot commodity, must be nearly impossible:

"There's one undeveloped lot in the whole area, and that's University Heights' lot. Houses sell within a

week in this neighborhood, for astronomical prices."

In a fight against a major public-works project, that's the kind of arsenal you want. Last year, it wasn't there to help Save Our Valley.

The Valley So Low

Down in southeast Seattle, the pro-tunnel neighborhood group Save Our Valley will go to court against Sound Transit's surface rail plans next spring. Its lawsuit says a 4.5-mile surface rail line through the neighborhood would violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the National Environmental Protection Act, and President Clinton's executive order barring discrimination based on a neighborhood's median income level. It says the light rail line would disproportionately impact the high-minority, low-income Rainier Valley, where trains would thunder along the street, creating noise, cleaving the neighborhood down the middle, and threatening the lives of the pedestrians.

SOV activist George Curtis reiterates the group's case: "Sound Transit is claiming that the benefits to this community outweigh the negatives. I fail to see what benefits [the Rainier Valley] is getting that the rest of the city isn't. And the impact on this end of town is worse."

"I'm really sympathetic with the plight of the south end," says Fox. But the Roosevelt neighbors' wishes are less ambitious than SOV's: a Rainier Valley tunnel would have cost \$300 million; the 12th Avenue tunnel would cost about one-fifth of that. Fox believes Roosevelt has a 50-50 chance of getting the tunnel. At \$65 million, he says, "I don't think that's a deal-breaker."

"If all of a sudden they're going to get \$65 million to put a tunnel up there, it would just strengthen our case," he says. He acknowledges the north end's greater advantages. "They have the lawyers. It's amazing what you can get when you're wealthy and white." ■



NEW ROOSEVELT HOMEOWNERS NICK DIMARTINO AND STEVE WIRBILOWICZ BELIEVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD HAS A FIGHTING CHANCE AGAINST SOUND TRANSIT'S RAIL PLANS. PHOTO BY DAN CAPLAN



THE REMAINS OF THE SUNSET HOTEL WEEKS AFTER THE APRIL 5TH FIRE. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

Sun Sets on Affordable Apartments

After fire, Ballard tenants find shelter outside the neighborhood

By Susan Friedrich

The third floor is gone. The first floor is boarded up like remnants of a war zone. From across the street and behind the barricade, the view through the arched glassless windows makes you feel like you're watching a puppet show in an adult dollhouse.

Clothes still hang in closets. Dishes washed and left to dry still wait to be put away. A vase with wilted flowers sits on top of a cabinet. There are refrigerators, furniture, wall hangings, and bookcases filled with books and knickknacks, complete with the American flag.

It looks so inviting. These spaces used to be people's homes until a fire lit by a sleeping smoker left more than 35 people homeless in early April. Along with the 33 apartments above, the butcher shop down below and two art shops were closed. While the street will re-open and the stores will return, nearly all the residents have left the neighborhood.

The Sunset Hotel was built in 1905 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Situated in the heart of old Ballard near Leary Way, it has housed a post office, a café, and a public market. Its upper floors have been a popular hotel for fishermen and mill workers working on the waterfront. After the fire, the *Seattle Press* described the upper floors as "a warren of single rooms with bathrooms down the hall."

Flophouse

Owned by the same family since 1945, the Sunset Hotel offered what Rob Mattson of the city's Ballard Neighborhood Service Center calls "a human-level opportunity to get into housing." Mr. Mattson credits the long-time owners for giving people an affordable place to live in a time when rents are climbing.

"It truly was a flophouse," says Mattson. A flophouse where plumbers, electricians, fishermen, nurses, restaurant staff, and a myriad of other workers lived, paying between \$500 and \$600 a month for rent. Five years ago the average rent was \$200.

"In this tight rental market, at least at the Sunset you could get in without perfect credit and the first and last

month's rent plus damage deposit that most places require now," says Mattson.

What happened to these former tenants? One declined to be interviewed; the whereabouts of others, placed in housing by the Red Cross and the property management agency, are confidential. But those who helped them, including Pat Frost, the director of the Ballard Family Center, remember the night well. Frost's office is a block down the street from the hotel.

She was just closing shop at 7 p.m. the night of April 5 as she heard sirens

and saw the smoke. She then watched the Sunset Hotel explode into flames and quickly called the Red Cross and Swedish Hospital for help. That night the Family Center became the Red Cross Disaster Relief Center for the tenants of the Sunset Hotel. With the help of Clay Shupe, executive director of the North End Emergency Fund, they organized a community effort that makes Frost beam with pride.

For eight days the Red Cross operated out of the Family Center. People from the neighborhood donated food, clothing, temporary housing, vouchers, and money. "It's a week I'll probably never forget for the rest of my life," says Frost, who has worked as a nurse and counselor and has a career that spans over 30 years. Though the Red Cross cannot release any information on the tenants, Frost says that the North End Emergency Fund is tracking everyone and making sure that every tenant has found a place to live.

Except for one tenant, they are certainly not living in their old neighborhood. It's highly unlikely that any of the tenants will live in the Sunset Hotel again. In June, Jim Jones sold the building to Art Olsen, who owns Olsen Furniture next door to the hotel. There had been talk that Historic Seattle might acquire the building and rent a mix of income-restricted and market-rate studio apartments. Under Olsen, the rooms will most likely be market-rate.

There is no question that the community response to the Sunset Hotel fire was absolutely tremendous. Clay Shupe says "The tenants went through a real tough time. People found places

for them all over the city. But they lost their neighborhood."

Like Belltown and Capitol Hill, Ballard is becoming increasingly "hip." Tony Brouner of the Ballard *News-Tribune* aptly interprets "hip" to mean "expensive."

While the new owners want to keep the historic identity of the Sunset Hotel intact, the people who lived there are gone. And as Mike at the Bit Tavern, The Place for Working Folks a couple blocks away, says: "If it's not there, you can't find it." ■

"At least at the Sunset you could get in without perfect credit."

Rob Mattson

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WALLINGFORD

Continued from Page 1

enfranchised underclass of migrant workers — cheap labor. But most of the people harvesting cherries don't need tents. They're residents; they need permanent, affordable housing.

"Eighty percent of the workers in the cherry industry are settled," says Gamboa. "The state has prioritized temporary housing, but these workers need to purchase their homes."

More than state policy stands in the way of home ownership, says David Silva of the Yakima Valley People's Legal Defense Committee. He says the growing number of workers settling in the region has not increased home ownership. "The banks [in the Yakima Valley] do not treat [workers] equal regarding the laws," he says. "It is hard to get a loan."

Instead, settled workers are living "up to 15 to a trailer," apartment or house, states Gamboa. While the migrants come for harvest and then leave, he likens the settled workers to indentured servants. "It is this 80 percent of the worker population that lives in the worst conditions," says Gamboa. Growers "do not want workers becoming a part of the community."

Divided by design?

Workers face problems over and above the housing shortage. The weather, pesticides, potable water and sanitary facilities are all concerns as well. Michael Ramos, of the Washington Association of Churches, helps provide emergency services to migrant

communities. The association is one of several organizations involved in finding a solution to the housing problem. "We are interested in the farmworkers themselves, struggling under intense conditions," says Ramos.

Several cherry pickers are quoted in a report on the effects of lowered health standards in tent camps in 1995:

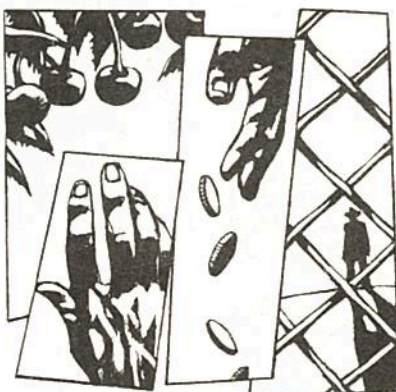
"When they sprayed the orchards, we had no place to go. We would put the children in the car, at least until they quit spraying. Afterwards they played outside again in the dirt, but the whole camp smelled like pesticides," says farm worker Fernando Valles.

Other workers recounted stories of storing and preparing food in unclean circumstances. Some workers said they left Washington, finding better conditions in other states.

Many believe the farmworker housing crisis began only after the industry grew. But in agricultural communities, it's been a fact of life since the post-war Bracero program, which was designed to limit immigrants' power.

Growers depend on the language and cultural barriers between Latino workers and so-called American workers to stymie attempts at labor organizing. The Bracero programs are now called guestworker programs — but nothing has changed.

Latino workers are still caught in the middle of a fight between new faces in the same old parties. Meanwhile, they live in substandard conditions, picking the food that we put on our tables. ■



Growers are getting a welfare check to produce the food, and receiving more welfare checks to house their employees. To advocates, it looks like the biggest beneficiaries of the farmworker housing program are the growers.



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Chief Concerns

The Seattle Police Department, Mayor Paul Schell, and the sick-to-death citizens are all scrabbling to find some kind of common ground where they can all air the issues, set up fact-finding groups, assign staff to tangents, meanwhile nothing changes. The police are like doctors and attorneys. Beyond the reach of Mr. and Ms. Polloi. They consider themselves above the citizens, and independent of review. Citizen groups have no bizness monitoring these professionals. What do you know, living in the real world. The citizens groups are so dizzy from hearing the same yam-yam over and over from government verbmeisters.

These folks say the same thing so many ways quick as lightning it works like a hypnotic brain catheter, and before you know it you just can't wait to agree so they'll shut up. They grow these bureaucrats over behind the okra. Since WTO went up community policing is out the window with the chief. Any police chief so uniformly reviled by the rank

Any police chief so uniformly reviled by the rank and filed can't be all bad.

and filed can't be all bad. There has to be some reason why the Seattle Police are so damn nice. Community policing is a great thing, and Seattle has benefited.

every description, and he's gotta keep it on or he don't get the money. Pam is nice also. They care about the poor but the problem is they're rich. Never the twain shall twang, thank goodness. If yuppies started coming around to the jungles it would crimp my sense of bilities.

MORE LINES ABOUT THE BOTTOM LINE: But wait a minute. Wait just a minute, stop everything. I just got word from my bookkeeper that the books are a little behind. It seems like you all ain't doing that love gift thang the way you would if you really loved me and wanted me to have fame and fortune. If everybody put just 25 cents in an envelope and sent it to me for 33 cents postage, the post office would be rich and I'd have about a buck seventy-five.

Casting about for new sources of revenue. I thought of my old cast-off beloved fans. It seems that once again my charitable activities have set me back again this month. My nickel psychiatrist tells me you've failed me as an audience, and you don't deserve me. She said I should say, "How could you do this to someone you love in the same twisted way you love your mother."

Think about it. Without your grease this wheel can't sing, or something like that. You did it for the S & L's! Think of me as a failed bank. See, all the money disappeared into the gray-money market. If you haven't heard about the gray-money market, it's where they put money that's gotten too green. The money has been so busy that it got too green, so they have to kind of let the money rest because when it's too green it weighs too much and stuff like that. The money gets all petulant and lazy. So they pay all the bank managers to secretly go in the vault and talk to the money.

It's gray money that is always going every-which-a-way, so if some of it just disappears every once in a while there's so damn much of it what can you say but: "Oh well, what's a few million dollars of worthless valuables?" You're going to bail them out again so while you're at it why not throw some of the water in my boat. I'll share my lifesaver. ■

Sticky Al will return after the new chief is chosen.

Kapitalist Klan Kops

Kapitalist Klan Kops
Cluster in fear
Drawing lines in the air
To dare
Peaceful Citizens
To speak Truth

Outside Anarchist Vandals
On an hour long
Spree of destruction
Peaceful demonstrators
Begging 911 operators
To spare some officers
To stop the True Offenders
None brave enough
To volunteer
Millions in damages
Hundreds of shock troops
Afraid to apprehend
Two dozen vandals
Shame
Shame
Shame

Black Klad
Jack Boot
Lock Step
Storm Troopers
Indiscriminately assaulting
All in their path
Their paths shifting and changing
Pepper spraying
Shoppers
Workers
Any and all who are
Not them

"Unarmed" Guardsmen
Beating intimidating tattoos
With their "Non-weapons"
As they steal
Our Streets
From Law-abiding citizens

At least now
They have had to show
Who they really work for
Even though we citizens
Pay their wages
They are actually
Korporate Klan Kops.

— RENEENE ROBERTSON



Prayers and

She kneels, prayin
tries to remove th
from my skin.

As a boy when I c
and perspiration

I readied the Swe
and dove into the
water eddied on t
shore; I prayed, s
now I don't believ

"Leave...heal him,
I write with her
touch.

"Do you love me,
I like you..."

With those words
channel to a natu
program and the
"Sussanah and th
her name
I like.

Gotta Work, Gotta Eat

I quit Panhandling over a month ago, bec
acknowledged.

It takes a week at least to raise \$20 or so

The census paid me \$40. For helping the

At the Safeco meeting, door slamming ar
concessions during baseball season. A
location to check it all out myself.

Because my maintenance work is all free
newspapers (*Real Change*); I get to ge
as "that bum." I'll just keep holding up

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From Law-abiding citizens

At least now
They have had to show
Who they really work for
Even though we citizens
Pay their wages
They are actually
Korporate Klan Kops.

— RENEENE ROBERTSON



Prayers and Other Likes

She kneels, praying over my naked body,
tries to remove the dark ash
from my skin.

As a boy when I chopped the fire wood
and perspiration covered me.

I readied the Sweat Lodge
and dove into the cold stream
water eddied on the earthen
shore; I prayed, sang,
now I don't believe in religion.

"Leave...heal him," being a romantic
I write with her
touch.

"Do you love me,
I like you...."

With those words I change the television
channel to a nature
program and the bible story,
"Sussanah and the Elders,"
her name
I like.

—EARLE THOMPSON

Alone

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

Gotta Work, Gotta Eat

I quit Panhandling over a month ago, because the "bum" that does volunteer maintenance work is no longer acknowledged.

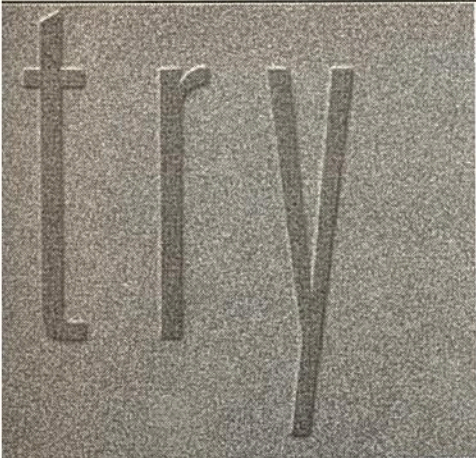
It takes a week at least to raise \$20 or so selling papers (*Real Change*).

The census paid me \$40. For helping them two different days. That's it until next year.

At the Safeco meeting, door slamming and rude comments, made me leave. They need people to work the concessions during baseball season. And around Mary's Place Day Center I roll trying to find their correct location to check it all out myself.

Because my maintenance work is all free (which is solely to keep my outdoor campsite); when I am selling the newspapers (*Real Change*); I get to get drowned in Panhandlers that don't work at all and who are referred to as "that bum." I'll just keep holding up my papers, until they are all sold.

— CAROL LENO



er Likes

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apers, until they are all sold.

— CAROL LENO

Canice and Columba

Animals are starving to death in my basement.
I can hear them screaming through the bottoms
of my feet, but I won’t go down to look.

Someone is killing the children next door.
They call my name out in long, wet gasps
lips pressed to drywall in hopes of me hearing —
I do nothing.

Cannibals offer to sell me my family
diced up and wrapped in skillet-sized sections.
I tell them I have no cash, would they
take a check? They leave my porch, angry
pockets overflowing with kidney stones and fava beans.

I cut my finger on the serrated blade of a steak knife
this morning, dotting jelly toast with
dime-sized red splotches. I carefully ate around the blood
and penicillin — needless to say,
I ended up eating more
than two slices.

—HOLLY DAY

Alone

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

—JAYSONG

In Prejudice

You might be seen. Simple breathing,
never slows your hand...
it only closes eyes. The difference
closes your! You stand

(you understand!) either on your
feet, or in the way
chosen for your children. In the
past. If not, today.

—STAN BURRISS
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June 29, 23:04: Officers responded to a report of a theft against a homeless man residing at a shelter. The victim was intoxicated and stated that while he was helping two unidentified men, his wallet disappeared out of his back pocket. The suspects had left the area and no arrests were made.

June 30, 12:47: A camp built in the middle of Denny Park was discovered by police on routine patrol. Officers approached the site to talk to the individuals residing there. A routine identification check found that one of the suspects was a runaway juvenile and had a \$500 misdemeanor warrant from Everett. Officers transported the youth to the West Precinct and later booked him.

June 30, 08:10: A domestic disturbance was received from a family residence. The occupant, the victim, was screaming at the suspect when officers arrived on the scene. Although her friend and friend's child had nowhere else to go, the victim was afraid of losing her lease if she allowed the suspect to remain there. When the victim asked her to leave, her friend became irate and started a verbal altercation. Officials at Ravenna House agreed to provide emergency housing for the woman and her child until permanent housing was available. Officers transported the suspect and her infant daughter to Ravenna House and no arrests were made.

July 5, 17:30: A woman residing at a shelter stated that an unknown female had approached her while she was sleeping and tried to restrict her movement by pressing her knees into her back. The victim told officers that she kicked the suspect off of her mat and went back to sleep. The suspect remains unknown.

July 6, 09:50: A homeless man residing in his car reported a theft. The victim stated that the rear window of his automobile was shattered and his wallet, along with \$405 in cash, was taken. The suspect remains unknown.

July 6, 14:47: Officers responded to a 911 call by a transient man stating he wanted to kill himself. The man said he was tired of being homeless, was at the end of his rope, and wanted to find the highest bridge to jump off of. The man was held for a 72-hour mental evaluation. ■

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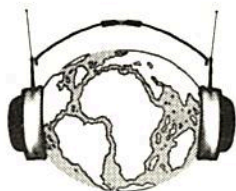
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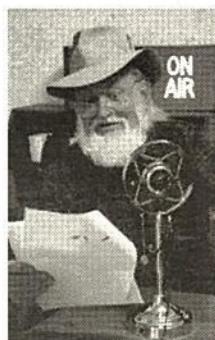
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A patchwork of tall tales, labor songs and stories, tramping and railroad lore, and a general and often comic assessment of the passing parade.

Pearl Beatrice Cahall:

July 9, 1912 — June 20, 2000

By Michele Marchand

"I used to sleep in the bed next to Pearl's. I watched as the procession of nurses and social workers came through trying to move Pearl into another place. They would argue with her and argue with her and leave, one by one. Pearl was an inspiration to all of us homeless women not to accept what people were trying to get us to do if it wasn't right for us."

— G., at a July 9 Memorial Service at Noel House

Pearl Cahall befriended me 10 years ago at the Winter Women's "Shelter that became Noel House. She was brought to the shelter and for the first few weeks was silent, watchful, impassive. She was a mystery, but nothing escaped her.

I'd been working weeks straight with little sleep, and was in the shelter dining room early one morning when Pearl got up to go to the bathroom. She saw me sitting there and said, "Oh, it's you," shuffled back to her mat, lifted it up, and pulled out a McDonald's bag that she came back to present to me. "Here, you've been working too much. You need to eat." It was a cheeseburger and a very drippy chocolate shake.

Pearl died at Harborview on June 20, after a struggle with congestive heart problems. She was 87, an icon in the community. There is not enough space here for the hundreds of Pearl stories; no way to explain how much she will be missed, how much we loved and admired her.

She was born in Seattle in 1912, the only child of her beloved father's second marriage. Pearl was precocious, an early reader who read the daily papers throughout her life. She married twice, spent time on the East Coast, and had three sons: Thomas, Carleton, and Forest. Pearl's two youngest children were taken from her when they were quite young, a source of deep and lasting grief and the reason she so tenaciously held onto things in her later life. She returned to Seattle in the 1950s and had various low-cost apartments through the 1980s. Eventually she lived in her van, with her



PEARL CAHALL REVEALS A KIND SPIRIT IN ONE OF HER RARE SMILES.

PHOTO BY BOBBI TAYLOR

cat Elizabeth and man-friend Wilford, although she continued to frequent her favorite haunts — Angeline's, the Bon, and McDonald's. In 1990 she moved to Noel House just after it opened, spoke out for its continuance, and lived there until she moved to Kerner-Scott House in 1997.

After a long search, Pearl reunited with her two younger sons a few years ago. She was a family person and had always wanted to find them. She was known for thriftily buying post-holiday decorations and presents for her friends and for the grandchildren she never met. She was

a community-builder, and even at age 87 dreamed of buying a piece of land and starting a car camp for herself and others who needed housing. "If you

"If you were friends with Pearl you were lucky, because she was devoted to you."

Janna Pekkar

were friends with Pearl you were lucky, because she was devoted to you," says her friend, Janna (the Nurse) Pekkar.

Several near-death stories seem most symbolic of Pearl, her indomitable spirit, and big heart. This spring she was very sick, close to death, and I rushed up to the hospital to see her, having been told she was very disoriented and wouldn't recognize me. She was sleeping and struggling to

breathe, hooked up to dozens of IVs with doctors and nurses standing over her. I held her hand, and she opened her eyes.

Her heart doctor asked her if she knew who I was, and she looked at him for a long time and then said, "Of course I know. It's Michele. But why do you need to know?" He then asked, "Pearl, do you know why you're here?" This one seemed to stump her. She looked at him a long time, chewing her lips. Then she said, "Well, I'm here to get better. But if you don't know why I'm here I'm in real trouble, 'cause you're my doctor, right?"

After a while the doctors and nurses left, and Pearl started worrying about her fanny packs. I found them on the shelf next to her bed, and Pearl insisted, vehemently, that I put them on her. She even played the death card — "Look, I know I'm dying and you need to do whatever I say" sort of thing. I was trying to convince her that reattaching her three fanny packs around those dozens of IVs could mess up the doctor's work. Finally, completely frustrated by my stupidity, Pearl said "Look, if the nurses come back and wonder how this happened I'll just pretend to be really confused."

How could you not love such a woman?

Just before I left her that night, Pearl surprised me by asking to pray. We had never done such a thing together before, but I took her hand again as she closed her eyes and concentrated very hard. "Dear God," she said, "I want you to protect this woman who's doing what she thinks is right. We're both homeless in a way. I know I haven't always been faithful to You; that's why I'm still hanging on."

In my own prayer on Pearl's passing, I want to tell God that Pearl was faithful — to her friends, to the fight, to her own integrity. Her humor, feistiness, and ability to ask for what she wanted were a source of profound inspiration for all of us. I am a different and better person because of Pearl; she was absolutely one of my protectors. ■

The homeless and provider community will take responsibility for Pearl's burial if her family is not found. Burial donations might be needed. For more information contact Michele Marchand c/o Real Change.

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This Land Is Your Land

No Trespassing: Squatting, Rent Strikes, and Land Struggles Worldwide

by Anders Corr

South End Press, 1999

244 pages, \$17.00

Review by scott winn

"Genuine peace is the fruit of justice, as the Bible says," declared a peasant woman involved in a struggle for land in the Philippines. "And true peace is not a dead kind of peace, like [when] the tenants surrender to the landlord. It is a living, dynamic one which can often be accompanied by struggle and conflict."

This woman gives voice to the essence of *No Trespassing: Squatting, Rent Strikes, and Land Struggles Worldwide*, in which tales of the resistance of farmers, the indigenous, tenants, and the homeless reinforce the meaning of the standard rallying cry: where there is no justice, there can be no peace. Since the consolidation of property into the hands of the few, the world has not known peace.

Examples of this injustice abound in *No Trespassing*. In the United States, according to Congress, the wealthiest 10 percent own just over three-quarters of the land. In 1978, 80 percent of the US population owned no land at all. Black land ownership shrunk from 16 million acres in 1910 to 3.5 million in 1981. Finally, according to the 1990 Census of Housing, just under a third of white folks rented their homes, while over half of people of color were tenants.

Corr reminds us that it was "not hard work by the rich, but wars, conquest, and fraud that have determined most of this maldistribution of property." Efforts to challenge the injustices of land distribution are global and varied. Regardless, the goals of these efforts have always included "an equitable distribution of land and housing, security of tenure, cultural sovereignty, self-determination, and an end to environmental racism and degradation."

Corr leads us through important land and housing struggles of the past few decades. Domestically, he recounts the largest rent strike in U.S. history. New York City's Co-op City was home to 60,000 residents (60 percent Jewish and 25 percent African American and Latino). From 1975 to 1976 the residents sustained a 13-month rent strike. The strike reached an incredible 85 percent participation; \$27 million in unpaid rent was held in escrow.

Although the Co-op City rent strike did not achieve its overall goal of stopping upcoming rent increases, it had a lasting effect. The strike stabilized rents for its duration, improved services and maintenance, and increased the number of tenants on the board of the managing

agent. The greatest effect was on the strikers themselves. "Ten years ago, I was a real flag-waver" proclaimed one resident, "Before, whatever the government said was OK with me. Now I can understand the views of people who oppose it."

Corr dissects the strategies and successes of U.S.- and European-based urban squatting movements in which vacant housing was occupied. In this setting, squatting "revolves around political or social counterculture and the destitution of individual homeless persons in the midst of opulence." Corr includes a chapter on U.S. activism in the early '90s involving building takeovers to house the homeless and create and preserve affordable housing. Included is Seattle's Operation Homestead, which was successful in reclaiming 300 units of affordable housing from 1988 to 1993.

Corr compares U.S. urban squatting with Third World squatting, better termed land occupations, where shantytowns are set up on agricultural land, often on the outskirts of cities. These land occupations are "a logical reaction of whole classes of people to the concentration of land in the hands of a few."

A dramatic example is the retaking of land "owned" by Chiquita Brands International, Inc., in Tacamiche, Honduras, in 1994. Originally a labor action for fired banana plantation workers, the people of Tacamiche took over portions of the abandoned plantation. Out of necessity, over a hundred families forged a new community.

After two years and with government support, "an onslaught of 500 troops, a 'field judge,' and over 400 workers hired by Chiquita especially for the task, made 100 arrests," and "bulldozed everything: subsistence crops, homes, the health post, and three churches." After several years of continued resistance and international outcry, the people of Tacamiche were victorious. The efforts had spread to actions throughout Honduras, and these obtained government funding for self-help industries. Chiquita was forced to completely rebuild the town.

In the final analysis, "No Trespassing" recognizes that even the smallest efforts of tenants and other landless peoples throughout the world are a demand for larger change. As we fight retaliation from landlords, for rent control, to keep family farmers on their land, and for sovereignty of indigenous people worldwide, it is crucial that these efforts be seen as tools moving us towards fundamental change. "Owner-occupied housing and land-to-the-tiller reforms are the long-term answer," Corr reminds us, "Long-term solutions to the land and housing crisis require a more permanent redistribution of wealth." ■



NOTES FROM THE KITCHEN

Community Supported Agriculture: a thoughtful approach to living, farming, and supper

By Liz Smith

Back when I was a kid, my mother shopped at the A&P Grocery Store. She would bring home bags full of bologna, iceberg lettuce, TV dinners, and powdered fake O.J. (the astronauts drank it!). The idea of questioning who grew our food or if local farmers produced it never occurred to us.

Things have changed, and a quiet green revolution has taken place in food shopping. Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a healthy, positive, and interesting way to get your groceries. It works like this: you buy a "share," and each week throughout the growing season — roughly June to October — you receive a box of resplendent, just-harvested produce for 30 to 40 percent less than supermarket prices.

You can visit "your" farm and observe how the crops are grown. You can talk to the farmer about agricultural concerns such as price controls, water usage, soil conservation, and pest management. It's generally understood what produce to expect throughout the season, but it will be a small, pleasant surprise to see what you've gotten each week. Since farming is affected by so many variables, your share may vary also. Either way, the farmer you buy from will make sure you get your money's worth.

Becoming a CSA member has a lot of impact. The farmer gets needed cash at the time of greatest expenditure—the growing season. Having a predetermined customer base helps them plan what to grow. Most CSA farms use no synthetic pesticides or herbicides. The soil has more micronutrients, which in turn results in more nutritious crops. Healthy soil filters our water supply and plays a role in flood control. Even small farms are havens for beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife. Unlike CSA farms, corporate "monoculture" farms have short-term profits rather than long-term sustainability as their unwritten mission statement. A farm with 1,000 rows of tomatoes bred to fit well in a cardboard box welcomes nobody.

There are more than 1,000 CSAs in the U.S., and over 30 here in the Puget Sound area. The four featured here are pretty diverse:

Island Meadow Farm

A "Certified Organic" farm, which means that no synthetic chemicals have been applied for at least three years prior to harvest, it grows kiwifruit, hazelnuts, winter squash (that's the December share), herbs, flowers, salad greens, rainbow chard, and three kinds of beets, including a variety called Chioggia which has a white and lavender interior. Three-foot-wide rows of flowers and native vegetation called "friend strips" are home to predatory and beneficial insects. The farmers wrote a book called *Rebirth of the Small Family Farm* which is recommended by Seattle Tilth.

Vashon Island
(206) 463-9065
Season: mid-May to mid-October,
December
Share price is \$450
Pick-up site is at the farm

The Root Connection

One of the first CSAs in Washington state, the farm uses organic methods such as "trap plants" and beneficial insects. Root Connection subscribers receive seasonal vegetables, salad greens, and herbs.

Woodinville-Redmond Road
(425) 774-8844
Season: June 1 - October 31
Full share is \$625; half share is \$400
Pick-up sites on farm and in
Lynnwood and Seattle

Pike Place Market CSA

This is a CSA cooperative, combining fruits, vegetables, and herbs from several contributing farmers. Most is Certified Organic.

(206) 682-7453
Season: June 19 - November 2
Share Price is \$475
Pick-up site is at Pike Place Market;
also has delivery sites downtown

Rainier Vista Sunrise Garden CSA Holly Park Most Abundant Garden CSA

A weekly box might include lettuces, peas, leafy greens, beets, carrots, onions, and several kinds of potatoes. Most of the gardeners are East Africans and Southeast Asians who have found a healing refuge in the gardens, after fleeing difficult situations in their home countries. ■

(206) 978-6372
Season: May 23 - October 24
Share price is \$350
Pick up site on farm; also delivery
to north end

Law and Order

Cop talk with community policing expert Ed Reed

Interview by Adam Holdorf

With mayor Paul Schell about to select a new Seattle Police chief, ink drying on a new contract between the mayor and the Police Guild, and debate simmering over racial profiling and the death of David John Walker, there's no better time to talk to Ed Reed, who's spent more than ten years watching the Seattle Police Department.

Reed is the author of the book *The Politics of Community Policing: the Case of Seattle*, published by Garland Publishers in 1999. The file cabinets in his office, where he works as an aide to county councilmember Larry Gossett, are stacked with books on police ethics and social policy; part of his job is to pore over such books for Gossett. He spoke to *Real Change* just after Schell had released the names of the final candidates.

Real Change: Out of the three finalists to replace police chief Norm Stamper, who do you think the mayor will choose?

Reed: As of today, I'm thinking the person that's going to win the job is William McManus, out of D.C. He did a

pretty good job of managing the IMF demonstrators. This is a big-city assistant chief; his background, coming up through the ranks, will sell well with the Police Guild here in Seattle. He was on a violent crime and gang task force and the like; I just think it will sell well here in Seattle.

Regarding Richard Williams [from Madison, Wisconsin], I don't think we're ready for an African American police chief. I don't think the Police Guild will have it. They won't come out and say publicly, "We don't want a black police chief," but by the mere example that we probably had the opportunity before Stamper to bring in a black police chief and we didn't, why would we do so in 2000? I don't think Seattle is ready for that either.

This other guy, Gil Kerlikowske, is from the federal Office of Community Oriented Policing, but Seattle has no problem pulling down federal money already. McManus will sell well. He's the strongest candidate.

RC: How does community policing work?

Reed: In Seattle, it was and is highly symbolic and highly political. Only about 50 officers of 1200 are actually

involved in CP. On average five to ten officers per precinct are involved in these community policing teams. We have one specialty unit that does community policing.

But ideally, community policing involves training from top to bottom; it involves a value change. The most important thing is that you're not just chasing 911 calls. You establish meaningful relationships with people. It's more than just public relations.

Stamper made some changes in this traditional bureaucratic structure that was really top-down, a pyramid. He came in and flattened the organization a bit. The idea was to make it user-friendly. But he was out trying to do it by himself. He needed a squad of 500 to say we're all into this, we want to establish those community advisory groups, we want to establish these relationships.

Here, there was a small community group with a vested interest in getting this community policing thing going. And the department wanted to be perceived as doing something about crime. It made the neighborhood group look good, it made the police department look good. They both got something out of it. It's how you survive — you pleasing me and me pleasing you.

RC: Is it anything like the federal anti-crime program Weed and Seed?

Reed: Community policing is a bridge to Weed and Seed — weeding out the criminal element, seeding in the community-based organizations. What happened [when Weed and Seed was proposed] is that Seattle, unlike 35 or 40 other cities where Weed and Seed took hold, resisted it for nine months. Because people got ahold of it and said "Woah, we don't need this, we want good law enforcement."

RC: Do you see a growing civil rights movement in this city?

Reed: There's a lot of controversy about police profiling, pulling someone over for driving while black. I think Seattle is one of the places where we are seeing an emerging movement.

The [shooting of David John Walker] has shown that we need more mental health training; the person that did the

shooting was not trained in mental health. Cops are human, they can slip, they can get scared, they can overreact — that's what happened in the Walker case. No matter what [officer] Tommie Doran says, he overreacted. There was nothing in the guy's left hand, and the knife was not a threat to anybody. The guy was really reaching out for help.

I think the key thing to understand about community policing is it doesn't reach out to all social classes. Police can't solve all the social inequality. They're placed in a situation where they're dealing with all these social contradictions, called upon to be social workers and role models. I understand why cops are frustrated by that, because they made a conscious decision to be cops.

RC: How do cops fall down on the job?

Reed: Cops can mistreat people. If I've got a job and a salary, paid to police people that aren't in my community, that are homeless and poor, how do I respond? Cops don't understand why a person with a PhD would be on the corner. And the people walking down the street say "Oh, you're a scumbag!" Well, that's somebody's mother, or father, or a person that needs help. They need a civil society to reach out a hand, not to kick them on the sidewalk. ■



"Ideally, community policing involves training from top to bottom; it involves a value change. It's more than just public relations."



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		Carnation		Georgetown		
		Tues., August 22	Weds., August 23	Thurs., August 24	Fri., August 25	Sat., August 26
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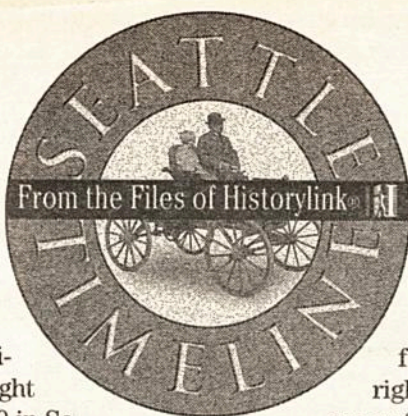
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For 10 days starting July 21, 1871, Philo Remington (1816-1889) and his associate Philo Osgood bought up more than \$50,000 in Seattle and King County real estate from 13 different owners. Remington, from Illion, New York, was the head of gun manufacturer E. Remington & Sons. These were the first capitalists from the East Coast that invested heavily around Seattle.

POSTER
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POTLATCH IN 1911

The first Golden Potlatch Festival took place in Seattle on July 17, 1911. The city-wide celebration commemorated the 1897 arrival of the first boatload of Klondike gold from Alaska. Over the next five days, approximately 300,000 people visited Seattle to attend parades, concerts, and demonstrations

by "automobilists" and an aviator. Potlatch (a word from Chinook Jargon, patlac, originally from a Nootka word) describes a North Coast Native American ceremony (not a significant part of the Puget Sound tribal culture) involving a celebration and gift-giving.

Along with every other major West Coast port, Seattle's harbor was paralyzed from May 9 to July 31, 1934, by one of the most important and bitter labor strikes of the twentieth century. The struggle pitted the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) against the police. Confrontations cost seven strikers, including Seattle ILA leader Shelvy Daffron, their lives. A King County sheriff's

deputy was also killed in a downtown Seattle melee. The arbitrated settlement firmly established the rights of waterfront workers nationwide.

A SEATTLE TIMES
HEADLINE CAPTURES
THE RIOT

Seattle's Civic Unity Committee, called together for the first time on February 14, 1944, was formed to quell rising concerns about potential racial violence in Seattle. On July 24, a race riot broke out in Seattle's Fort Lawton, due to the unequal treatment of black soldiers.

On July 1, 1968, Judge James Dore sentenced Aaron Dixon, Larry Gossett, and Carl Miller to six months in jail each for unlawful assembly during a March 29 sit-in at Franklin High School. The sentences triggered riots in the Central Area.

After protests against discriminatory policies at Seattle Community College, and the lack of African American representation on its board, Washington Governor Daniel J. Evans appointed African American Marvin E. Glass to the Board of Trustees of Seattle Community College on July 24, 1969. Six civil rights organizations supported the appointment, but the radical Black Students Union (BSU) and Black United Front objected. ■

To learn more about these and other events and benchmarks in Seattle and King County history, visit www.historylink.org. All photos are courtesy of historylink. Copyright ©2000 History Ink. HistoryLink is a registered trademark of History Ink.

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

When Classics Corner last month watched fatass rich guy Paul Allen smash a Chihuly guitar to celebrate his latest acquisition, we were reminded of nothing so much as Solon's legendary advice to Croesus, that no one should consider themselves lucky until after they're dead.

As Herodotus tells the story, which, like many of his instructive tales, probably never happened, Croesus, King of Sardis, was honored with a visit from Solon, the originator of Athenian democracy. Croesus, then the richest man in Asia, instructed his minions to show Solon about his various storerooms and treasuries. He then asked the wise man who was "most blessed of all."

The unimpressed Solon answered, "Sir, Tellus the Athenian."

This Tellus apparently died bravely in battle after having sired devoted sons in a well-run city. Croesus, a bit taken aback by this strange value system, asked who, then, was second most blessed.

"Cleobis and Biton," said Solon. These men, when oxen were unavailable for their mother's ride to the temple, yoked themselves to a wagon and pulled her the six miles themselves, and then, in an apparent paroxysm of filial piety, died. Their fellow countrymen were so impressed that statues in their likeness were erected at a holy shrine

Croesus was unamused. Solon, who numbered a man's days at 26,250, reminded him that each of these was different from the last, and that while Croesus was rich and a King, he may or may not be blessed, depending on how his days went to the end.

That was pretty much the end of the King's hospitality, and Croesus sent Solon away, "thinking him most assuredly a stupid man."

Later, with his mighty empire in ruins and his mind concentrated by the prospect of being burned alive by King Cyrus of Persia, Croesus saw the wisdom in Solon's little homily. As the flames kindled, he cried out "Solon! Solon! Solon!", each utterance bringing the flames a little closer to his feet.

The Persian King, always up for a good conversation, asked who this Solon was, and Croesus told the whole story in perilous detail.

Cyrus, who like most ancient rulers was subject to wild mood swings, reflected on "how nothing of all that is in the world of men can be secure," and gave orders to let Croesus go.

By then, however, the flames would not be doused, and the fire was out of control. Fortunately for Croesus, Apollo heard his prayers and sent a rainstorm. The Sardinian ruler became the slave of Cyrus, but at least he wasn't roasted alive. In those days, this passed for a happy ending.

And so it goes. Today, WSU dropout Paul Allen owns a couple of sports teams, some cable companies, an entertainment empire, Janis Joplin's feather boa, the Hendrix legacy, Mick Jagger's ex-wife, and various other effluvia and ephemera too numerous to mention.

He thinks he's so smart. We'd gleefully like to remind Paul that he has 10,058 days left, and as any ancient Greek knows, excessive happiness is a very dangerous thing. ■

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July Notables

Sunday, 7/16

Seattle Peace Concert, noon - 6 p.m., at Gas Works Park, free, collection of canned food for Northwest Harvest, info <http://www.seapeace.org>

Tuesday, 7/18

The United Nations International Day of Peace, evening of information and inspiration regarding a historical Northwest Peace Day Event on September 19, 2000, celebrations are scheduled all over the world, this is an opportunity to participate and assist, 7 - 9 p.m., at Central Lutheran Church, 1710 - 11th Ave, info Kiomi Mount 206-525-7818 or peaceday2000@yahoo.com or Sandy Fox 206-322-9899 or fox@angelfire.com

Saturday, 7/22

Benefit performance for Community Voice Mail, featuring musician Ken Boynton. CVM provides homeless people with free, 24-hour voicemail, helping them communicate with potential landlords, employers, case managers and loved ones. 8 p.m., Benaroya Hall, 200 University St. \$15 admission includes copy of Boynton's new CD. Info: Barbara Travers at (206)528-8008.

Sunday, 7/23

Special guest Jewish-identified songwriter, satirist, and music historian Mark Levy speaking on "The Role of Music in Peace and Social Justice Movements," 5 p.m., at 4620 S. Findlay St; Rainier Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, info 206-722-4880 or 425-747-3780.

Tuesday, 7/25

Meeting of Foundation for Global Community, which contributes to a transformation of cultural values, a transformation from the dominant culture of growth, of more, of materialism, to a culture of enough, of quality and excellence, of spirit, a culture which works for the

diversity of life, meet to support one another in pursuit of this goal, all interested individuals welcome, this and subsequent 4th Tuesdays, various locations, info on local events Jerry Martin 425-746-7304 or martins@televar.com, info on national organization <http://www.globalcommunity.org>

Friday, 7/28

Crossroads Cultural Arts Series presents local actors, actresses, poets, and singer/musicians in performances and presentations focusing on pro-diversity themes, this and subsequent last Fridays, 7 - 8:30 p.m., at Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Crossroads Shopping Center, corner of NE 8th and 156th, Bellevue info Gail Paul 206-517-4107 or Kevin Henry 425-452-7886.

Sunday 7/30

Seattle Peace Concert, free, collection of canned food for Northwest Harvest noon - 6 p.m., at Golden Gardens Park, info <http://www.seapeace.org>

Ongoing Mondays

Books To Prisoners, a 100% not-for-profit, 100% volunteer effort, has sent tens of thousands of books to people in prison since 1979, could use your help answering letters & sending books to incarcerated individuals, help wrap packages or choose the books, books also needed, 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://btp.tao.ca/>

Freedom Socialist Party Public Discussion Group on Revolutionary Integration, 7 - 9 p.m., at Seattle Central Community College, Broadway & Pine, room 2115, coordinated by Val Carlson, free, 206-725-2104.

Ongoing Wednesdays

Meetings of Resist the List, working to prevent mandatory reporting of HIV positive people, 7:30 p.m., at the community room, Cal Anderson House, 400

Broadway, 2 blocks south of Swedish Hospital, info 206-517-2617 or jackman@drizzle.com or <http://www.speakeasy.org/~rtl>

Ongoing Saturdays

Progressive "Alternative Radio" with David Barsamian each week presenting a different voice from the left on a variety of justice and peace issues including racial and economic justice, first amendment issues, etc., hear information and opinions not available in the mainstream media, 3 p.m. and SUN 11 p.m., KUOW 94.9 FM Radio, info www.freespeech.org/alternative.radio/

Seattle Food Not Bombs re-distributes free produce to the members of the Yesler Terrace Community Center, 10:45 a.m., sort vegetable, noon - 1 p.m., Free Market, at the Yesler Terrace Community Center, 835 E Yesler Way, info 206-985-2247 or fnb@scn.org or <http://www.scn.org/activism/foodnotbombs>

Meeting of October 22 Coalition to stop police brutality, repression, and the criminalization of a generation, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 3 p.m., 1st Saturday at the Speakeasy, 2304 2nd Ave, 3rd Saturday at the Douglass-Truth Library, 23rd & Yesler, info 206-264-5527 or toll-free national line 1-888-NOBRUTALITY or <http://www.unstoppable.com/22>

Ongoing Sundays

Seattle Food Not Bombs collects food and serves free vegetarian meals to the homeless each & every Sunday, noon - 4 p.m., cook, call for summer location, 5:30 p.m. share dinner at Occidental Park, info 206-985-2247 or fnb@scn.org or <http://www.scn.org/activism/foodnotbombs>

Citizen Vagrom's Micro-Media monthly offerings, a video magazine highlighting independent, micro-media from Seattle and beyond, 8 p.m., Community TV Channel 29, info 206-344-6434 or citizen@speakeasy.org

Ongoing Daily

Support the Joe Szwaja for Congress Campaign, collecting signatures on Joe Szwaja's filing petition and donations to start the

"peace chest" to elect Joe to the House of Representatives, U.S. Congress 7th District, Green Party candidate, renew our democracy, restructure our global economy, redirect resources to meet human and environmental needs, contributions to Joe Szwaja for Congress, PO Box 30929, Seattle, WA 98103-0929, info 206-633-2464 or <http://www.joeforcongress.com> or votejoe@hotmail.com

Peace Action of Washington's Peace Café, join us for espresso, pastries, and politics, all profits go to the Peace Action and the Freeze Education Fund, working toward reducing community violence, protecting our children through the safe use of handguns, limiting nuclear proliferation, reducing military spending in favor of needed social programs, support for the Arms Trade Code of Conduct, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., at 5828 Roosevelt Way NE, info 206-527-8050 or www.peaceaction.gen.wa

Signature gathering campaign for I-725, petitions now available for an initiative creating **Universal Health Care** in Washington state, donations and signature gatherers needed, info Health Care 2000 206-903-9723 or 1-877-903-9723 <http://www.healthcare2k.org> or info@healthcare2k.org

Call the City Council at 206-684-8888 and tell them to fund **Services for Homeless People**, not lights on bridges, not studies, or tracking systems. When shelters don't turn people away there will be enough of them!

Studio X, a new community facility broadcasting to the world on topics such as politics, homeless issues, local news, youth issues, experimental audio, global issues, police brutality, from downtown Seattle between 4 p.m. - 2 a.m. (West Coast time) on the Internet at <http://www.microradio.net>, connecting you to 'unmediated' voices from Seattle's social movements including October 22 Coalition, Voices in the Wilderness, The Hemp Coalition, Street Writes/Real Change, and more; please attend our monthly time slot giveaways held monthly on second Sundays at 1 p.m. in the Speakeasy Cafe, backroom, 2304 - 2nd Ave 4 p.m.-2 a.m., info 206-736-1400. ■

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citizens participation project



Support renewal of violence against women act funding

Issue: Make sure Congress's 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has its funding renewed by October so vital efforts to understand and prevent crimes against women do not wither through lack of financial backing.

Background: The VAWA marks a groundbreaking combined effort between federal, state and local crime-fighting and community groups, all working together to protect women and prosecute crimes committed against them. Since its passage in 1994, the VAWA has done the following, according to Bonnie J. Campbell, the director of the federal Violence Against Women Office:

- Helped pay for forensic rape exams in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Made judges weigh domestic violence records in custody decisions in 42 states.
- Awarded nearly \$800 million in federal grants to local communities battling violence against women, including funding for victim service programs, advocates, and health care. This also included \$549 million in STOP grants (Service, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) to create statewide programs designed to increase awareness of the needs of sexual assault victims.
- Made crossing state or tribal lines to commit domestic violence or assault, possessing a firearm while subject to a protection order, or having a gun if convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor a federal crime.
- Enabled battered spouses of legal U.S. residents to file for residency through a self-petitioning process, without depending on the help of their abusers.

However, all of these programs could be in jeopardy if funding for VAWA is not approved by October, when the current five-year funding runs out. Vital resources such as the National Domestic Violence Hotline and local shelters for battered women could not exist without the VAWA.

In addition, the work of the VAWA is far from over. According to the American Psychological Association, nearly one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner. National Crime Victimization Survey statistics between 1992 and 1996 reveal that, on average, females were subject to 960,000 incidents annually of rape, assault, and murder at the hands of a current or former spouse or intimate partner.

A bill calling for the VAWA's authorization, H.R. 1248, was introduced in the winter of 1999 and already has 206 co-sponsors, enough to bring the bill before a full House hearing. Yet so far the bill has only been heard in subcommittees and no major action to move it forward to beat the October deadline has been taken.

Action: Seattle Representative Jim McDermott has already co-sponsored the reauthorization bill, but he can still be encouraged to help bring the bill to the House floor for approval as quickly as possible. Call Senator Slade Gorton; tell him to support the bill in the Senate once it has passed the house.

Send your letters or make your phone calls to the following locations:

Jim McDermott
1809 Seventh Avenue, #1212
Seattle, WA 98101-1399
(206) 553-7170
www.house.gov/mcdermott

Slade Gorton
10900 NE 4th Ste. 2110
Bellevue, WA 98004-5841
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