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Real Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 7, No. 16

Resisting TAG & Trak

Inside:

Bernie Whitebear • Peeing in Public •
The Billionaire and his Wife • Utah Phillips

By Adam Holdorf

Outcomes-based. Data flow. Client-level. De-identified. System gaps.

Welcome to the lexicon of Safe Harbors, a "computerized and coordinated intake, assessment, referral, and support system for homeless services and shelter" that will usher nonprofit social services into the 21st century. It could also leave the people they're supposed to serve behind.

At the minimum, when consultants unveil a draft plan and budget next month, the computer system will promise an updated, electronic directory of places to find a meal, a shower, or a bed for the night. At its very worst, by folding names, Social Security numbers, birthdates, and other information into a centralized, shared information system, it would force needy people to surrender their privacy in exchange for help.

Since last October, consultants, city staff, and representatives of more than 50 area nonprofits have spent more than seven months and \$105,000 trying to reach consensus on the proposal.

Consensus is very far away.

Many nonprofits want to know how safe their clients' privacy will remain.

How will the computer system ensure information given in confidence stays that way? Will the Immigration and Naturalization Service take an interest in people who can't provide a Social Security number? Will the Department of Corrections comb through the database, looking for people with outstanding warrants? Could the estranged partner of a domestic violence survivor follow an electronic trail to her shelter?

A group of hardliners, *Real Change* included, believes the project's priorities are misplaced. Others haven't participated, pointing out that Safe Harbors' technological fixes ignore a simpler solution. The homeless men and women

of SHARE and WHEEL have told United Way, a funder and supporter of the computer system, that the city doesn't need

**"I'm trying to keep
an open mind
about this process.
But we're largely a
rubber stamp."**

**Dini Duclos, Safe
Harbors Advisory
Committee**

more information — it needs more housing. Combined, the two groups are one of the largest providers of shelter in the city.

"With \$90,000," the amount consultants were promised for their work, "36 people could get off the streets for a year," says Sean Smith, a homeless boardmember of SHARE. "We're dead set against it. If we don't participate, how's it going to happen?"

Tag, you're it

In meetings with the Working Group and Advisory Committee, the two ad-

hoc groups charged with finding a suitable plan, the Boston-based consultants have divided the System into three "levels." At Level One, the computer system would be simply an "information and referral" system giving up-to-date shelter information about where to go for help to social workers and clients. Level Two would aggregate the data collected on individuals into a county-wide mass that would show who uses which services. Level Three would let caseworkers share information on individual clients — by listing what services a person had accessed, for example.

Level-Two technology would determine whether agencies were logging "outcomes" — the number of people sent to a waiting list, or provided with vouchers, or fed — when they report on their operations, and avoid "duplication" when they tell funders why they need money. Funders, always suspicious of how their money's spent, want to know what their beneficiaries are up to.

Paul Carlson, a Safe Harbors sup-

Continued on Page 13

COVER DESIGNED BY TIMOTHY HARRIS

Real Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless

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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.



Swinging over to Szwaja

Dear Real Change,
Go Joe Szwaja. I would like everyone to be informed of the fact that Jim McDermott is one of the four representatives from Washington who voted in favor of our Congress giving themselves their recent pay raise.

Sincerely,
Catherine Dampier
Seattle

Rhymes, not dimes

Dear Real Change,
I am a fourth grader, living in Seattle. At the beginning of this summer, my dad asked me to decide on a project to complete during my vacation. I chose a poem fundraiser for the homeless. I would like to submit these poems. I wrote to your paper in hopes that they will benefit the homeless people of Seattle.

Love

Love, the shadow
of
happiness, the door
to
JOY!

Freedom

Being protected
and sheltered
by the sun
of
LOVE,
HAPPINESS,
And
JOY!

The Bell

Dong, Bring, rring
Bong.
In a crowd
of
People.
I look at the
bell tower
And see
the bell
chiming the
golden hour.

Respectfully,
Samantha S.C.
Seattle

Reach out and touch someone

[Anonymous voicemail, left August 10]

"Hi, I'm one of your readers. I wanted to let you know, there is a cross from the Albertson's in Green Lake, near where that guy David Ballenger was killed last year. It's really quite, quite nice, it's quite sweet. It says, "In remembrance of David Ballenger and other homeless people in our community." Here is a remembrance that's, I think, pretty significant. It's tied around a tree, a large tree, in a triangular area across from Albertson's near Green Lake. I thought you should know about it, well — just so that you know about it."

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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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Informed Dissent

Tracking system gathers data at expense of human dignity

By Dan Owcarz

Two years ago I packed up my Boston apartment and headed west in an idealistic search for mountains, lattes, and liberals. In Boston, I worked for an agency that provided housing and outreach services to homeless elders. I heard that Seattle was far more progressive than Boston, and the local government was responsive to citizen input.

Two years later, I've had the blinders lifted and my vision of "liberal" Seattle has been tainted by policies such as the civility laws and the infamous car impound ordinance. Any remaining illusions I had that Seattle was different from other cities were shattered when I learned that Seattle hired a Boston-based consulting team to implement a homeless tracking system — Safe Harbors. This was the same team that implemented Boston's version of big brother for the poor, the Automated National Client-specific Homeless services Recording software (ANCHoR).

I've worked with ANCHoR; it is a huge, ugly piece of software. It records every detail of a person's life, including how much money they receive from donating blood, their country of birth, and the last four places they have stayed. The agency I used to work for signed right up to participate, fearing that if it did not jump on the technology bandwagon, it would never get the cheese at the end

of the public-funding maze. ANCHoR was met with a lot of skepticism. Up until its introduction, some of our case managers didn't even know how to point and click, never mind enter a person's life-history into the appropriate little boxes.

I left Boston just as ANCHoR was fully implemented. It sounds like my old colleagues have not transitioned well into the world of

I've seen Seattle's future; it doesn't look good for homeless people.

high technology. I recently asked one of the case managers, Jane, how the worker bees were doing adjusting to their new roles as data-entry clerks. She replied, "It's hard for the case managers to pick it up. The data entry is really tedious. And I know that the shelters [where she does outreach] find it overwhelming."

I remember my ANCHoR training well, particularly the part about the privacy rights of people looking for shelter. We were shown this legal document people would be asked to sign, surrendering their personal information to the all-knowing computer system. I could not imagine people would be willing to sign the form if they really knew where the information was going. But then again, when it is cold and raining and you're hoping to get a permanent warm and dry home, you're probably in no position to argue.

I asked Jane how the informed consent provisions were working out — after all, no information is supposed to be put into the computer system without the person's signature of approval. Her experience confirmed my suspicions: she brought up the computer system once, and a potential client never spoke to her again. Now, Jane is forced to choose between scaring people away from the housing they need, or hiding the truth from them. In her experience, informed written consent is neither informed nor written.

I've seen Seattle's future; it doesn't look good for homeless people. Perhaps I should not say the sky is falling in Seattle before Safe Harbors is even implemented. But I worry about the obvious invasions of people's privacy and confidentiality that inherently are part of a computer tracking system. I question how it would protect victims of domestic violence, ensure that information is not used against people in need, and obtain truly informed consent.

I currently work at the Aloha Inn, a transitional housing program. And I understand that funders want to know what we are doing with their money. I have no problem telling a funder that the Aloha housed 66 people and as a result 62 percent were able to move to permanent housing. I do have a problem telling a funder that we housed a guy named Rick Smith, who was born in Mexico, and that he received \$15 for donating blood.

What gives us the right to track someone because they seek shelter? To me, housing is a right. A basic aspect of being human is being sheltered, fed, and safe. Providing or receiving these basic services should not be tied to a research project. Safe Harbors is being billed as an effort to gather accurate data about the nature of homelessness. But people that are homeless are not subjects in a study. They shouldn't be treated that way. ■

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Good news today: the INS and the FDA have made a joint announcement that race is a thing of the past.

"With human gene mapping, a parent can now pre-select the racial presentation of their child without losing any of their mental and moral integrity," says Adolph Whiteman, of the University of Massachusetts.

And Americans are all ready to embrace the raceless future. A Gallup poll shows that families will choose Black and Native races as their chosen "look," especially if they can be guaranteed that their other genetic traits will remain. "With the genetic material we have gathered," says Whiteman, "we can re-create the Seminole tribe, for instance, with none of the savage bloodshed they were noted for."

The physical traits will allow people to cope better with increased ultraviolet rays, points out Whiteman. And the original races, including the few original Seminoles who remain, can always register themselves under "heritage" species — not that they would need to.

"The world is about to see the dawn of a new era," says Whiteman. "With personal racial choice, we can say goodbye to racism, racial profiling, racial prejudice. Even a name like mine," he quips, "is irrelevant." ■

— Bob Redmond

Wash away your worries

Just as it looked like the roving caravan of Tent City had a receptive host for the next six months, the city Department of Design, Construction and Land Use threatened El Centro de la Raza with fines of \$75 a day. The Beacon Hill community center is now deciding whether or not to face the fines.

Last week DCLU notified El Centro that fines for unauthorized use of its grounds will commence on August 22nd. The SHARE/WHEEL camp has provided shelter for dozens of homeless people. Tent City has an invitation to stay until at least September 1.

SHARE and WHEEL hope to raise the cash necessary for a temporary use permit on El Centro's land. So they're holding a car wash.

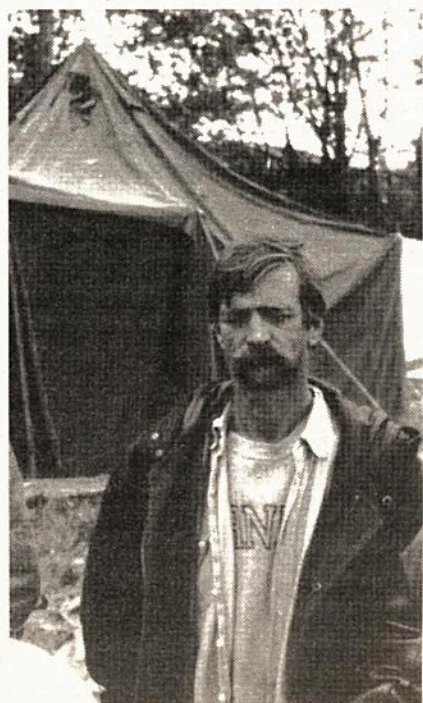


PHOTO BY DAN CAPLAN

El Centro spokesperson Regino Martinez says DCLU is threatening the fines because they never informed them of Tent City's moving date.

"We're not setting a date," he says. "We're consulting with our attorneys; if the best option is to apply for a permit, we'll do it."

Bring your dirty car by El Centro de la Raza, 2524 16th Avenue South on Beacon Hill, Saturday August 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's for a good cause.

—Adam Holdorf

Toothless recruitment

Several months after two dentists left Seattle-King County Public Health's Downtown Dental Clinic (see "Let Them Eat Cake," May 15) they haven't yet been replaced. The number of staff at the downtown Dental Clinic, which administers to the mouths of elderly low-income people, remains boosted by one part-time, interim dentist. Public Health staffer Ellen Jeffcott says ads have promoted the jobs in county and state trade papers, and two candidates have been interviewed.

"We're in the perennial recruiting mode to fill spots like these," says Jeffcott. "But dental workers have had record inflation in base pay. These aren't easy jobs to fill."

—Adam Holdorf

Tenants picket for rent relief

Residents of the Ballard apartment building where rising rents and renovation are causing health problems ("Belcourt Blues," Aug. 1), took their beefs to new owner Jim Potter last week. They formed a picket line in front of the offices of Kauri Investments. Potter is the chairman of Kauri, one of the region's major real estate developers.

Tenant Alice Moreau says that Potter offered to pay the medical bills of tenants affected by the construction work, which left copper-pipe soldering fumes in their rooms, causing asthma. The bills have averaged around \$280 a person. But he balked at the tenants' request to reduce the rent back to its original amount, at least until renovations are completed.



Tenants say they were never notified that the building would undergo major renovations, notifying them of plumbing, window, roofing and other upgrades only in stages. Under city law, major renovations would have made them eligible for relocation assistance to the tune of \$2,000. The landlord would have had to pay half of that.

"I wish they'd just told us to leave," says Moreau, who's managed to save enough to move at the end of the month. "I could have moved out awhile ago; other people are so debilitated."

She calls the Belcourt "the most deplorable, unsanitary, unsafe place I've ever lived in." As for the other residents, "I pray a lot for them. They're scrambling to get out too."

—Adam Holdorf

Loos on the avenues

Something's in the water. That's the only explanation for the recent interest in putting accessible public toilets in different locations around the city. Years in the works, attracting opposition from residents fearing prostitution and drug use, the toilets could be in place by next summer.

Maybe it's the space-age features of the new johns. The doors swing open 15 to 20 minutes after being locked, keeping hookers and junkies on a tight schedule. Water jets scrub down the interior once user exit. Extras like these don't come cheap. Five toilets would cost at least \$750,000 to install; operating each one would run over \$60,000 a year.

Seattle Public Utilities has final authority to decide where the five gilded cans would go, but groups want them in the International District, Ballard, and the Pike Place Market's Victor Steinbrueck Park. Other possible sites include Belltown, Pioneer Square, the waterfront, Fremont, Capitol Hill, or somewhere in the downtown core.

Councilmember Margaret Pageler has maintained a clear head among all the potty talk. An aide says Pageler, head of the council committee overseeing Seattle Public Utilities, believes there are adequate facilities in busy pedestrian areas, especially downtown. Utilities spokesperson J. Paul Blake says he expects Pageler to be involved in the site decision process.

—Adam Holdorf

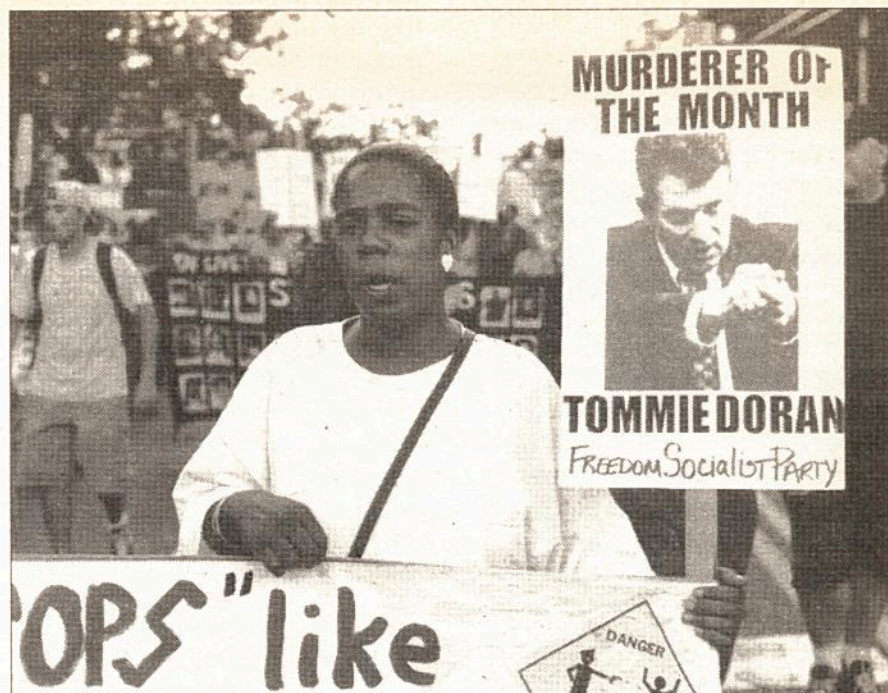


PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY

Taking it to the cops

Accompanied by more than 100 supporters, Luana Walker, the sister of David John Walker marched toward the West Precinct on Tuesday, August 8th to recognize police officer Tommie Doran as "Most Dangerous Cop of the Year." Doran shot and killed Walker, a mentally ill African-American man, and was found free of wrongdoing at an inquest last month. The Seattle Police Guild awarded Doran "Officer of the Month" for his conduct — a move that mayor Paul Schell and city councilmembers Nick Licata, Judy Nicastro and Peter Steinbrueck immediately protested.

—Adam Holdorf

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

The Gift

\$40 million buys a lot of housing. Are our worries over?

By Molly Rhodes and Adam Holdorf

After the initial euphoria of \$40 million from the Gates Foundation to help women and children in need, donors and providers are now getting down to the task of making the program and its services work.

"The Foundation is not just giving the money and walking away," says Tracey Rowland, the Public Relations Supervisor for Seattle's Office of Housing. "Now we're trying to figure out the right direction, the best way to get things done."

The grant, announced last month, will give nonprofits in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties money to provide 1,500 units of transitional housing and the support needed to prepare formerly homeless people for permanent homes.

By the end of this month, the Gates Foundation hopes to pick 11 other representatives from across regional governments and nonprofits to join the Healthy Families Program in deciding how the foundation money is distributed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The steering committee — which will act as the main governing board over both the September grants and the final grant winners over the next three years — is expected to be made up of representatives from county governments, the city of Seattle, the state

Housing Trust Fund, the University of Washington, two affordable housing developers, and two service providers, along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"Like many citizens of Seattle, we had a sense of shock, a real sense that it's so unacceptable to have this much homelessness," says the Gates Foundation's Senior Program Officer, Terry Meersman.

The Foundation was particularly concerned with women and children who were either victims of domestic violence or at risk of becoming victims. Its longtime research consultant, the University of Washington School of Social Work, said that above childcare and legal services, the greatest need for these families is housing.

Within the three-pronged housing need — shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing — the Foundation chose to focus on transitional housing. It wasn't a need either the school or the Seattle Office of Housing had recognized as greater than that for permanent housing, yet the Foundation was attracted to the combination of housing with social services that the transitional phase usually provides.

"If you provide better transitional housing, there's a much greater opportunity for success when you get into affordable, or even market-rate housing," says Meersman. "We want to cre-

ate some form of independence."

Absolute independence will not be given to the nonprofits who wish to use the money. Rather than donate the money outright to one or a handful of nonprofit housing providers, the Gates Foundation accepted the School of Social Work's recommendation to open the money up to everyone through a competitive application process.

Each interested applicant will have to demonstrate its qualifications and produce a 40-year plan to fund the rest of the project from other sources, such as the Housing Trust Fund, the city's Housing Levy, tax credits for low-income housing, or the HUD McKinney program. The Gates money would pay for about 15 to 20 percent.

These programs can bring people from homelessness to permanent housing, but their new homes need to be protected from demolition or out-of-control rents, says John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition. Other organizations — notably government responsible for providing for housing needs — need to step up to the plate on these issues.

"The city and county governments still have to address related crises, like the loss of low-income housing and high rental rates," says Fox. "Grants like these run the risk of creating the false impression that private donors can substitute for government involve-

ment."

While the Healthy Families Program aims to add another 1,500 transitional housing units within the next three years, 4,000 existing low-income units could be lost when federally subsidized Section 8 building owners face the end of their contracts and the lure of the booming real estate market. Fox has spent several years fighting to convince Seattle city officials to put money into saving these buildings, rather than banking on rents dropping when development increases the supply.

"The situation will only get

worse until the conditions are addressed that created the housing problems and homelessness in the first place," says Fox.

Yet a \$40 million grant — approximately \$2 million more than Seattle's current entire human services budget — aimed at providing for families at a time when they're most in need is still seen by most people as an amazingly generous step in the right direction.

"We know the grant is a long way from fixing everything," says Meersman. "We know, without [the input of local service providers], the foundation money is not going to make a difference. But we wanted to give something." ■

"Like many citizens of Seattle, we had a real sense of shock at this much homelessness. We wanted to give something."

**Terry Meersman,
Gates Foundation**

Opinion

Listen to the Poor

Gates grant could encourage the teamwork needed to end homelessness

By Anitra Freeman

This July, the Gates Foundation announced a gift of \$40 million that will help women and children who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

Let me make this quite clear up front: I am tickled pink about this, and very grateful to the Gates Foundation. This is a good thing.

And I would like to point out that the Gates Foundation did not donate computers to combat homelessness. The Gates Foundation, while being understandably predisposed in favor of computer projects, is under the impression that the most critical need of homeless people is usable resources — shelter, housing, and support services.

The Healthy Families Program will increase those resources. It is not a

huge increase. The City of Seattle alone spent \$10.3 million on homeless services last year. This provides emergency shelter for half the people who need it, housing and support services to stay out of homelessness for less than half who need it. Forty million divided by five is \$8 million a year, and will be spread over three counties. This is not increasing the resources in any one area by \$40 million.

Seattle's Office of Housing estimates that 24,800 families were turned away from shelter in these three counties last year. The target of the Healthy Families Program is building 1,500 units of transitional housing and providing five years of support services. That means helping far more than 1,500 families, because there will be turnover — families will move through the transitional housing. But this is not going

to bring every woman and child in off the streets by Christmas.

Just how many will be helped depends on how the Healthy Families Program is implemented.

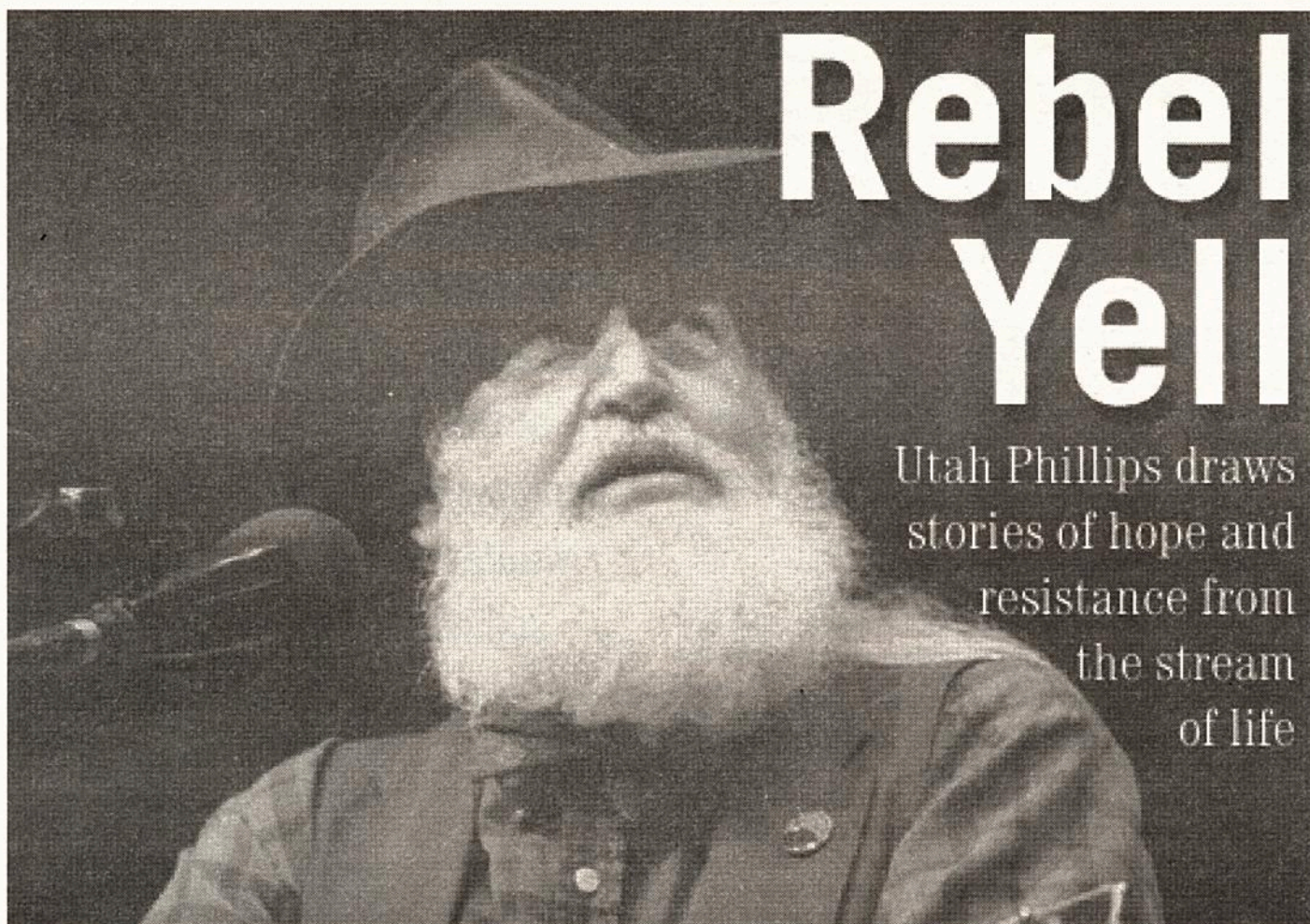
In the summer of 1998, Mayor Paul Schell pledged \$500,000 toward additional services to get homeless women and children inside. WHEEL pushed for a public process to decide the use of that money, and the result was a cooperative effort among city officials, service agencies, and homeless women themselves that led to the Women's Referral Center, Hammond House, the beginning of expansion of Angeline's, and an ongoing group project known as the Community Action for Homeless Women.

With that model to work from, a fund of \$40 million could drive a cooperative effort that could change this region like no traditional, competitive

process could.

One of the factors in the success of the Community Action for Homeless Women has been the involvement of homeless women themselves. It is much more difficult for homeless women with children, or any single parent, to participate in a drawn-out planning process. It seems essential to me, however, that these people be included in the Healthy Families steering committee. Hopefully, some funds can be used to provide daycare, meals, transportation, and other support to make it possible for them to do so.

I hope that none of us forget that the Healthy Families Program is only one step forward on a very long road. Ultimately, homelessness will not be ended by any one tycoon giving all he can. Homelessness will be ended when we each do what we can. ■



Rebel Yell

Utah Phillips draws stories of hope and resistance from the stream of life

Interview by Bob Kubiniec

Folk singer and storyteller Utah Phillips, the self-described "Golden Voice of the Great Southwest," has been called a historian, activist, archivist, philosopher, hobo, tramp, Wobbly, and just about everything in between. A true eclectic, Utah's memory contains a wide-ranging wealth of lore, which he lets us romp through by way of his shows and recordings. When not bumming, organizing, gandy-dancing or dishwashing, Phillips has been nominated for a Grammy Award for his work with Ani DiFranco. He hosts his own weekly radio show, "Loafer's Glory: The Hobo Jungle of the Mind."

He recently sat down with *Real Change* and let his romantic side — the one that can turn a freezing-cold freight boxcar rattling through Wyoming into an air-conditioned express cruising through majestic mountains — take over.

RC: How do you put one of your stories together?

Phillips: First of all, I think it's just one long story. It's like one long stream and you are in it, you are swimming through it, you bathe in it, and if you are keeping your eyes and ears open, that piece of that story will flow into you. You kind of roll it around in your head, give it your own quirk, and it flows out of you back into the stream, the great river of the people, and the people's long story.

And you know, the people I have spent time with in doorways and under railroad bridges... their stories are filled with more love and more passion and more excitement, more rare beauty and more real sorrow than any damn story I am going to glean from the rich, from the self-satisfied, from

the self-important.

RC: What do you think about a story we had here in Seattle, when a couple of kids stabbed a homeless man to death under a bridge last summer?

Phillips: I'd look at it like lynching in the South. I'd look at it like the way that powerless people respond to their own powerlessness — by aggressively asserting power over somebody else. Taking it out on somebody else rather than having the means to identify what it is that renders you powerless and then deal with it.

RC: You also have songs and stories of hopefulness.

Phillips: When you're camping, when you are doing the doorways or sleeping on the grates, there is a way that people treat each other with respect.

You see a sense of community developing on the street, between people who are just down and out. I have seen an awful lot of sharing. I have seen a lot of stealing, a lot of violence, sure — but I have seen more sharing, a common understanding of where you are.

I sometimes get a really strong nostalgia for it, and want to go back, and forget about the really cold times, the real hard times, the really hungry

times. The parts that stick out in my mind the most were the small kindnesses. One place I have been that embodies that in no uncertain terms is the Sisters of the Road Café in Portland, Oregon [a nonprofit restaurant like Boomtown Café in Pioneer Square]. That's a place where the bully in the 'hood, the big tough one, will come in, try to act it out, and be told to leave. He'll keep coming back until he realizes this is a place where he can

lay all that down and suddenly become real. He doesn't have to put up his defenses anymore. It's a completely non-threatening place.

RC: How do we secure that sense of community for ourselves?

Phillips: I think that you folks in Seattle figured that out during the WTO thing. Direct action gets the goods. You know what needs to be done, you put up the Tent

City. Only you do it with as much public attention as you can possibly get. You get every social progressive organization backing you up and you take that Tent City and you stick it right in the face of the good people of Seattle and say, "This is what the situation requires, there is no other way out of it. Give us the space and give us our tents, give us our campsites and we can take care of ourselves."

I want people to trash their TVs, open their mouths and talk to their family and neighbors. The world I've created for myself is made up of speakers and listeners.

Those are the kind of places we need to create. The ability is there, the compassion is there — it's in the people that have experienced the problems. This social service bureaucracy that is pressed down on top of people has to change from the bottom up.

RC: Do you see a strong movement coming forward post-WTO, post-IMF protests?

Phillips: Absolutely. It was a watershed event that brought together peace groups, environmental groups, the whole alphabet soup of the progressive movement, including American labor. That's something we have been looking for now for half a century. The WTO demonstrations also proved that direct action works.

RC: Why was there such a strong response from the police?

Phillips: I think that the police are threatened by anything they can't control. People who make a living carrying a gun, with the knowledge that under certain conditions they will use it, don't know how to respond to non-violence. They try to control it. Non-violence — peace — is very threatening to people who are willing and able to use violence to solve problems.

RC: There is an effort to counter the control of the police with a citizen review board, but that's meeting resistance.

Phillips: Every town, every city needs a civilian review board to oversee police action and at the same time where we have tried to organize them the police chiefs have quit. Look, go find another a job, we gotta have civilian review boards to monitor the police or we're gonna wind up in a police state.

RC: In these high-tech times, do you see the internet as compromising the tradition of storytelling?

Phillips: The internet is reading and writing, it engages only a portion of your mind. Fifty percent of all communication is non-verbal. I think that the internet has its uses in terms of identifying resources that help you act in the world, but it need not become a fetish. The high-tech culture is weaning us from each other, eliminating more and more human interactions. Eventually you will be able to go through a whole week without talking to anybody.

Joseph Campbell said, "All we really want is to be completely human and in each others' company." So I want people to trash their TVs, bust them up into little pieces, open their mouths and talk their family and neighbors. Share their stories and their lives. Be completely human and in each others' company. Have block parties and singers' circles where people share food and music. It's a great and holy activity. The world I've created for myself is made up of speakers and listeners. ■

Time for Dancing

A trip to the Women's Prison with the Pat Graney Company

By Richard Howard

I dream to get away. An imaginary place and moment of happiness and bliss, a place to be me and content, with no judgment or pressure. A dream to me is uncriticized, imaginative, and a dream is free, as I can only dream to be.

— Keeping the Faith 2000 Participant

On the afternoon of July 10, I jumped in a van at the corner of Pine and Broadway to carpool down to the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Gig Harbor. I was one of about 150 folks from the outside attending the Pat Graney Company's "Keeping the Faith" dance performance workshop series there that evening.

Graney's company, highly regarded in the professional dance world, has for the past six years managed to cobble together barely sufficient grants and donations to produce the "Keeping the Faith" project, a choreography workshop that brings dance instruction and choreography to female inmates throughout the United States. Groups like Graney's offer therapeutic programs staffed by skilled and dedicated professionals, at virtually no cost to the prison system.

Given this country's current prison-building mania, you might think a few crumbs would fall off the table of this booming growth industry's budgetary smorgasbord and into the hands of the few nonprofit groups eager to work with people in prison. But inmates, as a group, probably wield significantly less clout than America's homeless population. For the vast majority of the

visionary members of our U.S. Congress, prison reform means an expansion of draconian "three strikes" laws and further restriction of inmates' rights to appeal.

Like it or not, dance and performance-art have a fairly bourgeois aura about them, and particularly in an upwardly mobile culture like Seattle's, audiences tend to be white, upper-middleclass, and nominally cultured. This usually also translates to an exceedingly polite, hushed, and churchlike attitude during the performance itself. But the audience for "Keeping the Faith" was different. The seating arrangement divided the outside visitors from the "inside" art patrons who'd come to cheer on their friends, cellmates, and perhaps partners-in-crime.

I sat in the third row, immediately in front of a group of inmate audience members who were particularly enthusiastic in their verbal response to the show. Being right on the divide between the stoic reverence of the first three rows and the steady stream of catcalls, howls of enthusiasm, and aroma of cheap perfume immediately behind had

a visceral and disorienting effect on me. My standard middle-class audience-member identity was also at-

tracted to these "exotic" creatures who'd all done something transgressive enough to land themselves in this place. In place of my furtive, over-the-shoulder glances, I wanted to turn around and gaze openly at them, engage in their banter, ask them what they were in for, who they'd left behind, what their bravado was covering.

I started to feel the split as nausea and a slight buzzing in my inner ear. I'd had a similar physical reaction once before—when I was touring Elvis's birthplace in Tupelo, Mississippi, and that time it evolved into a near-out-of-body experience. What would happen next this time? An impromptu rendition of "Jailhouse Rock"?

The performance itself consisted of probably two dozen women involved in an evolving mélange of movement, spoken word, dance, and even an occasional song. Any given segment featured anywhere from one to three monologue performers, backed by the entire array of the other troupe members doing choreographed movement that, in the most loosely representational way, functioned as both backdrop and metaphor for the spoken narrative themes they were paired with.

This was not dance, per se, and technical razzle-dazzle was clearly not the point. Rather, the choreography (which had been improvised during weeks of workshops and rehears-

als) appeared intended to dovetail with the themes raised in the spoken-word element of the particular segment.

Still, the image of this rainbow coalition of women, none of whom had the classic dancer's body, moving in rough synch and harmony with each other—and in obvious emotional synch with the speaking performers—was enough to actually transform some of the audience members' cynicism into tears of identification, remorse, and empathy.

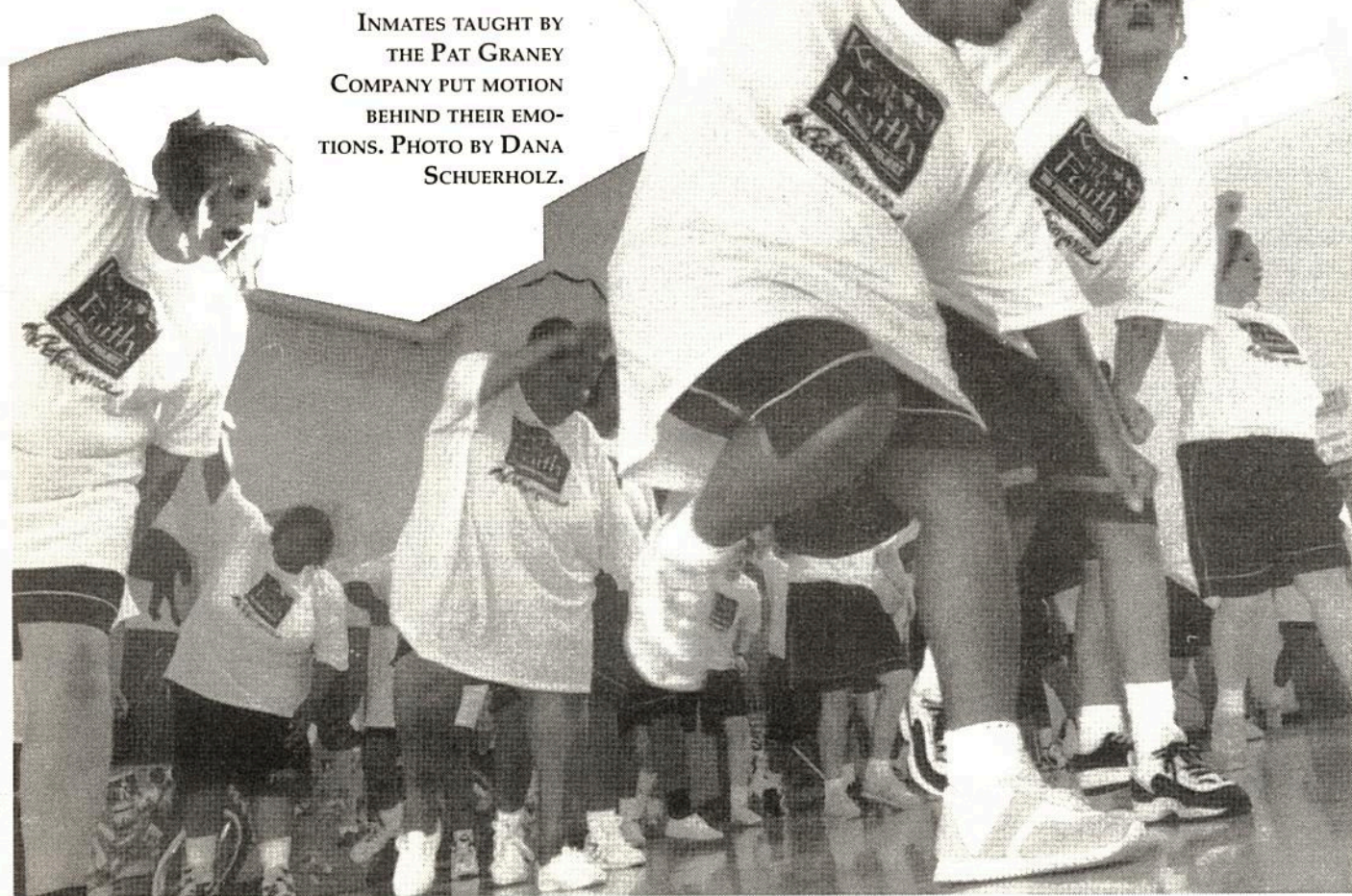
Speaking of narrative content, this was truly art as group therapy, and the most recurrent theme was remorse and longing for children (and to a lesser extent, men) left behind on the outside. I was amazed that virtually every woman in the troupe seemed to be a mother. Some of the most unlikely—those expressing the least physical grace and beauty—spoke most movingly and eloquently about their emotional pain, regret for past choices, and humility over lessons learned. I'd been wondering whether we might encounter any tones of anger or cynicism over a criminal justice system that is waging, let's face it, an essentially racist and class-based campaign to warehouse the marginal elements of society through utterly corrupt crusades like the Reagan-inspired "drug war."

Alas, class-consciousness never pierced the rhetoric of personal responsibility and spirituality, which were the prevailing vehicles used here to make sense of one's sad life and incarceration. Then again, we *were* inside a prison, and displaying an overt critique of the prison system and its underlying agenda is probably not the best way to make one's stay there any more palatable or brief.

On the ride back to Seattle, I spoke at length with Ria Zazyzcki, the Pat Graney Company's grant writer and chief coordinator, about their fund-raising efforts for this project. She explained that, typically, to receive funding for prison-based projects, the grant proposal must demonstrate, and even quantify, the ways in which the project will be "therapeutic" for its participants.

As much as anything else, this is perhaps the basis for the art-as-therapy-and-redemption tone of "Keeping the Faith." As far as it goes, taking responsibility for one's life is empowering and liberating, and "Keeping the Faith" is a wholly inspiring testimony to the truth of that notion. And if it happens to steer clear of a more politicized agenda—one that talks about mandatory minimum sentences, the drug war, or the millions of people serving time for non-violent offenses—so be it. America's prison problem is one foreboding cloud, and any silver lining is cause for gratitude, if not quite optimism. ■

INMATES TAUGHT BY
THE PAT GRANEY
COMPANY PUT MOTION
BEHIND THEIR EMOTIONS. PHOTO BY DANA
SCHUERHOLZ.



Public television station KCTS will premiere a half-hour documentary on the Pat Graney Dance Company at Bumbershoot, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 1, in the Bagley-Wright Theater. It will be followed by a performance of the company's dance "Tattoo," and the awarding of the Bumbershoot Golden Umbrella Award to Pat Graney for her outstanding work.

The Welfare of Love

I tell ya, I just don't understand how everybubba can run around thinking they have an opinion when they haven't checked with me to find out if I think they have an opinion or just a stupid view of reality. Seems like people think opinions are true things that just popped into our heads. Folks'll express opinions like they was a lifetime supply. But really opinions, especially the opinions expressed here, are the product of a carefully developed synthesis of truth, honesty, integrity, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent things that pop into my head, which makes them special. What makes them important is their proximity to my head.

In other words, the stuff that pops into my head is the good stuff, and the stuff that pops into the average person's head is either flotsam or jetsam, I can't remember which. Which is why it's such a surprise to hear some schmuck talking about welfare fraud because somebody wearing nice clothes is using food stamps. Here's some

cluck putting on the funny hat of the welfare inspector, the elegant plumage of the welfare vigilante Posse Comitatus, protecting us from some faceless person who's probably running an errand for a sick friend or on their way to a job interview. This has got to stop! Why can't poor folks look and act poor?

This guy has the moral fiber to be either president or a new cereal. What a hodgepodge of ideas and facts pulled out of the air and assembled willy-nilly into some

kind of vituperous diatribe. Someone's after my job! This cabrón has a grasp of the issues what don't let in any air.

I think our welfare cop should run for Slade Gorton's job, and see if he can't turn all of Eastern Washington into a conservative graveyard.

NO SEX TIPS: So you want sweaty hairy-belly sex? Not here baby. I don't intend to slide into that depression. There's other journalists out there who're much more experienced and noisome than I, and when they're not blowing bubbles in the mud or pissing on people who know better, they'll keep you up at night with wistful Band-Aids for the cancer of your love life.

I'm not a specialist, or I could help you dabble in quaint therapies, but that's not what we're doing here. You want tongue-wrasslin' sex partners fresh out of the oven of love when you're ready, yet like puppies, able to find companionship among your worn socks when you lose interest, because your only interactive technique is soap opera smarm. Breasts, bellies, well-turned ankles, all these subjects also draw big advertisers and leering white-guy wannabes.

If huge, glistening, phallus-shaped images whop you upside, let me say while I have your attention: That's not what love is all about.

Survival, especially of the human species, is a bouncy speculation at best. I've spent so much time hiding in the bushes I've got a strong background in biology, so I know that what the religiosos call the temporal world will go on, willy-nilly. The wrench in the whole works, however, is love. Love came along and kicked the anthill of big-fish-swallerin'-little-fish existence on behalf of humanity, and it's been a long list of stabbings and murders and media events ever since.

Oh, I almost forgot to add, there's been not a little love to go around, simply and cheaply, with time and commitment, enough to fill some really good hearts with so much love, well, that'll never sell enough cookies to be interesting to our advertisers and their sniveling advert consultants. That's what I'm looking to find: things that don't sell, with no value, that we keep in our hearts, that make us warm no matter what. As for the rest, you can go swallow some little fish. Point yo' breath someplace else too. ■

Here's some cluck putting on the funny hat of the welfare inspector, protecting us from some faceless person: This has got to stop! Why can't poor folks look and act poor?

Moonrise Vignette

I duck, hiding in folds, shadows
wavering between leaves.
They hide me from the crowds
and wish to trim my heathen
mustache. She brought me
a dark ale and microwaved burrito.
She wants to braid my hair.
Through the partially opened window
I listen to the cacophony of cars
on the old highway
and digital television. She sits naked,
cups her face and leans on the table
Our liaisons are without pause
as northwest
rain. Curtains wince
with silence and savour the plum-
coloured birthmark on her
shoulder. I a pale outline
on the forwarding moving moon
compose her
an image.

—EARLE THOMPSON

M.I.A.

A pile of textile rubble
pushed to the side, overturned.
Signs of someone losing the battle
for life in the urban jungle.
Lost, wondering or dead?
No Apache helicopters will go on
a rescue mission to seek out this veteran.
Bleak, the city washes away his remains.

—M.A. PICKERT

Homeless Is Free to Have Freedom

Freedom from having to make your bed.
Free from a pillow to lay down your head.

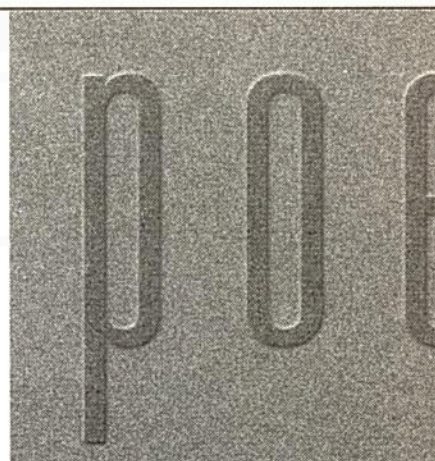
Freedom from paying those monthly bills
Free to be cold and suffer from chills.

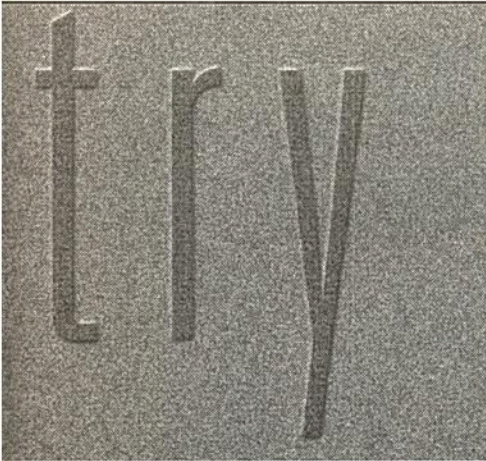
Freedom from answering supertime phone.
Free to hear, "Move along," always alone.

Freedom to not have to wash dirty dishes.
Free to hunger for unfulfilled wishes.

Free to be wretched, destitute, gaunt.
A heart-breaking freedom nobody could want.

— ELIZABETH SMITH





I “Homeless-By-Choice”

Is it a CRIME
To prefer to sleep
Under/ God’s sky
??

II Testimony

I was “homeless”
and
Committed no crime
Against God OR society

...except,

Once or twice
I feared
I might have to
Shit/ in/ the/ street

(...THAT is your crime
Against me...)

III Fears

Nothing more NOR less
than
Fear by slaves

Of the UNCHAINED
...with nothing to lose
nothing to gain

IV ENSLAVED

We are enslaved by
our HOMES
our possessions
our (superficial) comforts

our LUST for money

“position”

power OVER others

V FEAR, AGAIN...

All fear of loss
is
Fear of Death...

—MARION SUE FISCHER

in directions

You have plans, and friends,
and a bit
of what money you’ll need...
of it all.
If, at all!
What you have is a question
of your
own —

only,
then, through light! e-
verything that falls from the table
at
home. This, should be! Only...
light,
shall be called by its
own

name—
hidden

deeply, by
shadows—
shade!
profits—
approach, with numbers we
write

on
paper
(or we’ll live on
corners of the street).
Only, in shadows!

There may be no way to turn.

—STAN BURRISS

This is for all of us.

Do you know! If you don’t — will you hear me?
Are you there?
Do you know what I’m about to say? Do you look away
Do you hope I’ll leave quietly?
There was this girl the other night, they snuffed her light
they took her life!
Goodnight Debbie. Rest In Peace.
Rest in Peace!
Hell we can’t sleep!
One was taken from us — killed among us.
We need to know why. Who made Debbie die?
Who took her life came like a thief in the night and stabbed our heart with that jagged knife.
Who violates the violated
is sicker than the sick
and colder than the destitute.
Debbie Cashio died out there in the street.
And you don’t care — You say “So what I didn’t know her — she ain’t my kin”
Let me tell you something!
She could have been daughter, your sister, mother maybe your lover!
Peace and love Debbie. You’ll be missed.

— SEAN SMITH

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July 30, 21:18: Five individuals, all homeless, were detained when an officer on routine patrol observed the suspects walking away from Occidental Park after closing hours. The suspects claimed to have been walking by the park and stated that they had not entered it at any time. The officer made a routine search for drugs and weapons of each suspect and let them go. No arrests were made.

July 31, 12:30: Officers question a homeless woman after reports were telephoned in to 911 claiming that a woman was harassing customers outside of a grocery store on 15 Avenue NE. The woman stated that she hadn't harassed anyone, but that she did approach an elderly woman leaving the store and offered to assist her to her car. An identification check on the suspect revealed an outstanding warrant for drug possession. The suspect was taken into custody and later booked into King County Jail.

August 1, 13:20: Officers were called to a private residence on 3 Avenue after reports of two men fighting in the street. The suspects, stating that they were homeless, said that the fight broke out after an argument over money that each of the men claimed was theirs. While each of the men stated that they had taken part in assaulting the other, only one was taken into custody and later booked into King County Jail. The money issue was never resolved.

August 1, 14:03: An elderly homeless man was taken to a local hospital after he collapsed outside of a restaurant on Pike Street. Patrons of the restaurant noticed the man fall, spilling his possessions held in plastic grocery bags, into the street. The man struggled to gather his belongings together, but failed to do so and was helped to the side of the curb by citizens coming to his aid. According to witnesses, the man seemed to be suffering from both exhaustion and malnourishment.

August 1, 20:20: Police took two intoxicated women into custody for assaulting a homeless man. For no apparent reason, the two women repeatedly punched the victim in the abdomen, head, and chest. The victim received superficial cuts on his face from the beating, but was adamant that he did not want them arrested, for fear of retaliation. The police arrested the two women on assault charges based on witness reports. ■

Compiled by Kristen Alexander

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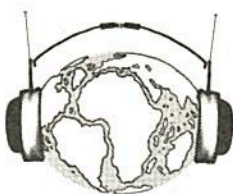
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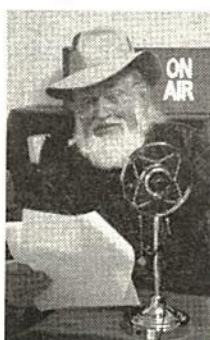
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Bernie Whitebear

Elegy for a gone-but-never-forgotten activist



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED TRIBES

By Jamie Garner and Dorry Elias

For those of you fortunate enough to have known Bernie Whitebear, a.k.a. "Bernie-Bear," you share our overwhelming sense of loss and sadness. Bernie passed away on July 16. He was 62 years old when he finally decided to allow his physical body to take a rest — a concept he *never* mastered during his lifetime.

Up until his very last day, Bernie was doing what he always did best — cracking jokes and making everyone around him laugh. Not necessarily because the jokes were funny, but just because it was our Bernie-Bear telling them. His humor and love for life were contagious.

Born and raised on the Colville Reservation, Bernie-Bear was an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes. He was proud to have served in the U.S. Army Green Berets, and was honorably discharged in 1963. He also was a manufacturing engineer for Boeing for several years. While he was very successful in his career, he was more devoted to strengthening the cultural and social well-being of Native American peoples — a passion he pursued with all that was in him. Bernie never did anything halfway. He always poured out his heart and soul into everything.

In the mid-1960s, he joined the fight for Native American fishing rights led by Billy Frank, Sr. and Bob Satiacum on the Nisqually and Puyallup Rivers. In 1970, he led hundreds of Indian people in the occupation of the Fort Lawton Military Reservation in Seattle. The Indian "invaders" called for the return of the surplus military land to the present-day ancestors of the original inhabitants, so that urban Indian people could have a land base, community center, and educational and cultural programs run by Native Americans. After confrontations with the

military police, nights in the stockade, and teepee encampments, Bernie led the negotiations with the city of Seattle that established the 19-acre Indian Cultural Center at Discovery Park, where the beautiful Daybreak Star Center was built in 1977.

The Indian Cultural Center is managed by the organization Bernie led for the past 30 years, the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. Today, United Indians employs 110 people serving several thousand Indian and non-Indian people each year in educational, employment, social-assistance, and cultural programs.

Bernie also led the Seattle Indian Health Board, which is now the largest Native American nonprofit organization in Seattle. Bernie's negotiations with the city in 1971 for the Indian Cultural Center led to the formation of the Seattle Indian Services Commission, which is a Public Development Authority composed of United Indians, the Health Board, the Seattle Indian Center, and the Seattle Indian Women's Service League. The Commission oversees property worth several million dollars that is devoted to the Seattle Indian community.

Bernie was also a founding member of the Minority Executive Directors Coalition of King County (MEDC), along with Larry Gossett, Roberto Maestas, and Bob Santos, commonly referred to as the "Gang of Four" or the "Four Amigos." The four formed the MEDC in 1981 on the heels of the Fort Lawton and El Centro "takeovers," in order to present a united front of Native American, Chicano-Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and African-American community leaders.

Up until Bernie's death, he remained a committed and loyal supporter of MEDC, serving in a leadership role on the Executive Committee until a year ago. Bernie was as passionate about justice and dignity for all people as he was for sovereignty and self-determination for Native Americans. He was a tireless, charismatic fighter, known and loved by all who knew him. While his physical presence may be gone, his spirit continues to live within each and every one of us.

Bernie, we miss your humor, wisdom, vision, leadership, and compassion. But mostly Bernie, we miss your friendship, your love — and yes Bernie, we even miss your corny jokes. Gone, but never forgotten, Bernie-Bear lives on. ■

Jamie Garner works for the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. Dorry Elias is with the Minority Executive Directors Coalition of King County. The MEDC will honor Bernie's memory at its Annual Awards Reception on Friday, September 22, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Daybreak Star Cultural Arts Center — "The house that Bernie built." This event is open to the general public.



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NOTES FROM THE KITCHEN

A Texan Barbecue

By Elizabeth Smith

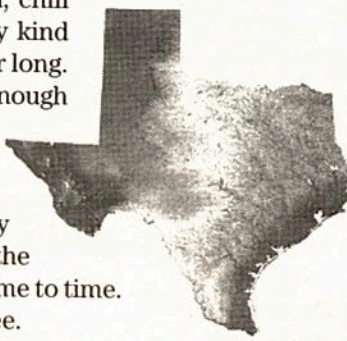
Like a lot of people here in Seattle, I am not native born. I'm from Texas, ya'll, where it rained the other day and cooled all the way down to 98 degrees. Everything in Texas is fierce and strong. Mesquite trees have sharp thorns. Scorpions lurk in baby carriages. Even the ferociously ugly armadillos wear suits of armor.

The citizens of Texas may be overheated and suffering, but they eat good. A long tradition of eating beef began when the Spanish conquistadores brought their longhorn cattle here in 1519. From their Mexican wives, Texans learned how to prepare tomatoes, corn, chili peppers, and tortillas. Down in the Rio Grande valley, crops of every kind grow year-round. The climate is suitable for barbecuing almost all year long. And since mesquite covers about 50 million acres of Texas land, there's enough wood to barbecue everything.

The barbecue joints in Texas use brick pits lined with stones. To cook they use hardwoods such as hickory, pecan, or mesquite. The fire is in one half of the pit and the meat is in the other half. When they close the heavy metal doors, the meat is perfumed and cooked by the fragrant hot woodsmoke. The sauce is administered with mops from time to time. If the ingredients are "secret," then the mystery item is probably coffee.

For home barbecuing, it's more practical to use charcoal and wood chips. Use tightly rolled and twisted sheets of newspaper to avoid the taste of lighter fluid. Soak the wood chips in water for 30 minutes and add right before cooking. If you have a gas grill, use a chip pan or wrap the soaked chips in foil and poke holes in the top.

To avoid accidents, keep your sleeves rolled up and use a long set of tongs. Put your grill where nobody can accidentally bump into it, and caution your kids so they don't get burned.



Fajitas

1/3 cup fresh lime juice	2 garlic cloves, peeled and quartered
1 tbsp chili powder	2 tsp cumin
2 tsp dried oregano	1 tbsp sugar
1 tsp salt	1 tsp pepper
1/3 cup sunflower or other oil	2 lb. flank steak
1 package flour tortillas	

1. Mix marinade ingredients and put into doubled plastic bags. Add meat. Refrigerate 2-8 hours. Turn over once or twice.
2. To cook: pat dry. Cook 3-5 minutes per side, over high heat, until nicely browned. This is best cooked medium-rare.
3. Let meat rest five minutes. Slice across the grain in thin slices. Serve in tortillas with pico de gallo salsa. To heat tortillas, bundle them in foil and place over the cooler part of the coals.

Pico de Gallo Salsa

The name means "rooster's beak" in Spanish. This must be made no more than one or two hours in advance or it won't be good. It must be cut up by hand, not machine, which will just give you a mushy salsa.

1 jalapeño pepper	1 tsp salt
1 peeled red onion	1 tbsp fresh lime juice
1 bunch cilantro	3 ripe tomatoes

1. Using a big bowl, dunk the cilantro in several changes of cold water to wash off all the sand. Lay out on a towel to dry.
2. Wear gloves, or use a knife and fork, to cut the jalapeño in half and remove the seeds. Mince with the salt, very finely. Rinse your cutting board and knife.
3. Chop the onion in one-quarter-inch dice. Add lime juice and mix with minced pepper.
4. Finely chop the cilantro. Use leaves, and stems also, if you like. Mix gently to distribute evenly.
5. Core and dice the tomatoes. Mix them into the other ingredients.
6. Serve within two hours.

Corn on the cob

When you purchase corn, ask your produce person when it was picked. The closer it's harvested to when it's cooked the better it will be. The sweet corn is coming from Eastern Washington; currently the organic corn is coming from California. Around the third week of August, locally grown corn will be available.

After cleaning, either grill corn uncovered for 10-12 minutes, turning frequently, or butter, salt, and wrap it in foil, then cook 15 to 18 minutes. ■

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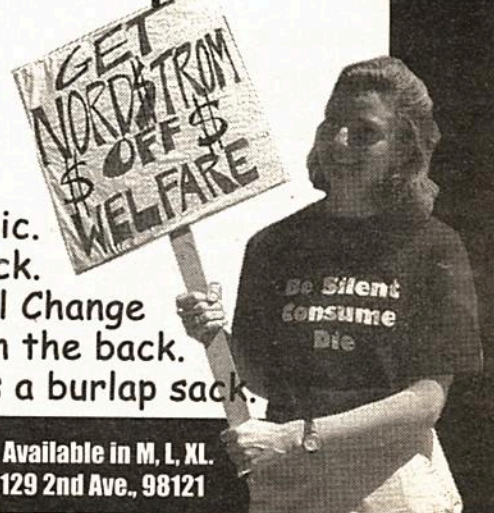
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HARBOR Continued from Page 1

porter who finds housing for Harborview psychiatric patients, says the current data available about homelessness is pretty thin. The annual One Night Count through downtown and the University District "has too many unreliable variables. It's a snapshot; it doesn't show trends. From a funder's point of view, it's all very unscientific, very inaccurate.

"We call four domestic violence shelters every day," he says. "If each was to count the number of requests for housing they got, report them to the city, and the city added them

up, it would have a highly exaggerated estimate. That's no way to count."

If agencies aren't initially attracted by techno-fetishism, they may feel compelled. Organizations in Massachusetts, where the consultants set up a similar program, get bonus points for participating in the system. In Boston, they either participate or lose federal McKinney funding.

Supporters of Safe Harbors point to other sectors of the human services, which have been churning out sophisticated data for more than a decade. Health Care for the Homeless, a county body which staffs community health clinics around the city, gathers information into a database that identifies patients by name and birthdate, then logs information about medical history, referrals to other clinics, and whether or not they're homeless.

The system was started with the prompting of a major donor, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Medical workers can get access to their clients' files, and the data's aggregated to the funders' satisfaction. Administrators say breaches in confidentiality are rare.

"Systems like these are old news in the health services industry," says Joan Haynes of Seattle-King County Public Health, where "it's incredibly important

to us to protect clients. When we hear of someone breaking client confidentiality, we terminate people."

But gathering personal information won't work for everyone. "What if a smaller agency decides a tracking system doesn't fit in with its mission?" says Elaine Simons, co-director of youth aid agency Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets. "When we help people, we're not asking, 'How old are you? Are you high?' We provide barrier-free services. We can't give up the identity of our people, that's one of our core values."

There would be other costs to amassing that information:

changes in the way nonprofits operate. One consultant quoted in a report held by the city says that when Boston agencies began reporting to the tracking system, people who didn't get housed were counted as drop-outs — the agency's failures. Nonprofits face a stark choice: either report your outreach work, and hope everyone gets into housing (in Seattle, with waiting-lists numbering in the thousands, good luck) or don't, and hope the consequences aren't dire.

Dini Duclos, a member of the Advisory Committee who runs the South King County Multi-Service Center, a \$6-million agency, wonders if the benefits of Safe Harbors really outweigh the costs. "You're talking about bringing in a whole new system," she says. "My staff are trained and certified specialists. I wouldn't want to give up my method in favor of someone else's."

Slouching toward consensus

"I'm trying to keep an open mind about this process. But we're largely a rubber stamp," says Duclos. "We raised issues about confidentiality since day one. If that was something [the consultants] really wanted to respond to, it would have been addressed."

"We're dead set against it. If we don't participate, how's it going to happen?"

Sean Smith, SHARE

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The Advisory Committee is made up of executive directors of a variety of local organizations; the working group is supposed to figure out how to implement their wishes. Their communication is mediated by facilitators hired by the consultants, who take notes and filter them out to each groups' meeting to the other. Working Group participants say the consultants running the meetings fail to convey their objections accurately. And from the perspective of many people on the Advisory Committee, says Duclos, "the advice doesn't seem to be going anywhere."

"I've always felt like they had their minds made up from the get-go," says Simons. "It gives us two choices: either we drop out, or we keep going until the outcome's announced, and then wonder why we bothered."

Simons hears the arguments for the tracking system at the Working Group meetings, but feels like no dissenting voices are acknowledged. She has tried to bring some of the people this will really impact, the homeless youths who belong to PSKS, but consultant-speak makes them run for cover.

"They come in from out of town with this plan already in their heads. They're paid good money to work with us. If we're slowing it down, it's because we live here and we want to make sure it's a good system for all of us."

Some defenders of tracking homeless people say they're not giving up anything that shoppers at Safeway or Amazon.com aren't asked to surrender: their personal information, buying habits, perhaps something like a credit card number. Councilmember Richard Conlin echoed this opinion at a public forum in March; others in the Working Group have repeated it.

"But you also have a choice not to go to that web site, or go back to Safeway," says Simons. "A lot of homeless people don't have any choice."

Ultimately, she says, Safe Harbors could put those who are trying to protect homeless folks in a position of exposing them. "If I get a homeless kid who chooses to tell me things about their life, after I've built up a trusting relationship with them over time, you're telling me I have to report this information to the city?" ■

What's in a name?

Safety to Surveillance: follow the money

Starting as a plan to protect residents of a tent city by establishing safety zones around where homeless people and neighbors could co-exist without fear, the legislation package sponsored by councilmember Peter Steinbrueck last October morphed into the computerized-and-coordinated tracking system consultants are now drafting.

As *Real Change* reported then ("In Loco Parentis," Oct. 15), the final version simply promised to study crimes against homeless people, "acknowledging that a safe environment and access to services is essential to address and reduce homelessness." Safe Harbors became shorthand for tracking people through the system.

Also in the Safe Harbors package was the annual "Winter Response" plan to get people in from the cold, pumped up by a \$601,000 one-time-only HUD award. The HUD money is keeping the Municipal Building shelter, which houses 50 single men, open all summer. HUD's gift to the city was also meant to pay the consultants' bill.

Steinbrueck continues to set the city's agenda on homelessness. As he told *Real Change* last month, he'll push to revise the Consolidated Plan to affirm the city's commitment to provide shelter for everyone who needs it. Then he'll ask the city to put its money where its mouth is: during this fall's biennial budget planning process, he wants to allocate all the revenue from a six-percent property tax increase to shelter and other human needs. That would amount to an additional \$14 or \$15 million beyond the \$10 million the city currently spends.

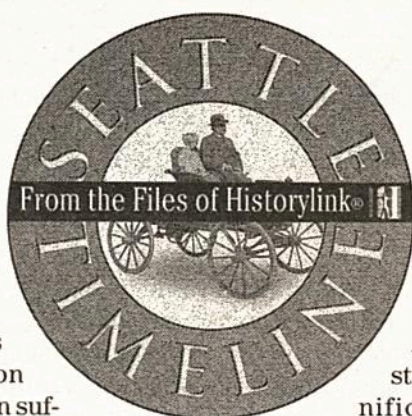
A Safe Harbors pilot project would probably be funded out of this new money, says Steinbrueck aide Tiffany Stilwell. Steinbrueck has echoed advocates' opposition to spending money on a computer system that previously went to beds and blankets.

The United Way, the privately-funded charity that distributes \$8 to \$10 million a year in King County, could also chip in for a computer system, says Vince Matulionis of the agency's Homelessness Initiative — especially to help pay for a system covering areas outside Seattle.

Matulionis says United Way doesn't want to pull money from already-existing programs either. "It's our absolute priority not to pit the two [direct services and Safe Harbors] against each other," he says. "You can't eat a computer; you can't sleep under a laptop."

United Way is looking to attract a different kind of sponsor — someone who would prefer to pay for technology. "There's a whole range of donors out there who might find this attractive, who aren't interested in donating to services," says Matulionis. "I was talking to a guy the other day, an old '60s community organizer who now works at a tech firm. When I told him of [Safe Harbors], he said 'Now that's something I'd be interested in.'" ■

— Adam Holdorf



From the Files of Historylink®

In August 1889, delegates to the Washington State Constitutional Convention tacked two amendments onto the ratification ballot, one for woman suffrage and the other for prohibition. A powerful businessmen's lobby maintained that female suffrage might prejudice Congress against granting Washington statehood. The majority of the delegates voted "nay" when Representative Edwin Eldridge of Whatcom County proposed striking the word "male" before "citizens."

At the general election in November, the territory's male citizens ratified the proposed constitution by a margin of four to one. They defeated both the prohibition and suffrage amendments, the latter by a vote of 35,527 to 16,613.

On August 17, 1907, about eight farmers sold their produce from wagons and carts to large crowds at Pike Place, just west of 1st Avenue in downtown Seattle. The first market immediately sold out, and marked the beginning of the Pike Place Market.

The market began in response to the dishonest behavior of many middle-men commission houses concentrated along Western Avenue between Yesler Way and Seneca Street. Farmers claimed that commission buyers would offer a high price and then, when farmers delivered the produce the next day, pay a much lower price. And consumers complained that commission houses would discard surplus produce so that they could charge artificially high prices.

From August 19 to November 29, 1936, 35 newspaper writers employed by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* went on strike, one of the first significant and successful strikes by white-collar workers in the United States.

Despite the likes of union hater William Randolph Hearst telling them they were too professional for unionism, the writers figured that a union would actually protect that professionalism.



CARTOON OF THE QUANDRY FACING THE P-I, THE SEATTLE TIMES AND THE STAR

So-called efficiency changes by management had resulted in the dismissal of experienced workers who were then replaced by inexperienced, but cheaper, workers. Wage rates varied among equally skilled reporters, reflecting discrimination based on politics or on age.



PIKE PLACE MARKET OPENS TO SUCCESS

The *Post-Intelligencer* strike involved lots of union solidarity when longshore workers, lumber workers, metal workers, and teamsters joined the picket lines. There were enough picketers to completely surround the P-I building in downtown Seattle.

After Franklin D. Roosevelt was reelected in early November 1936, and seeing no help coming from any direction, Hearst and his labor relations man sat down and made a deal with the American Newspaper Guild, the first time the guild had forced Hearst to grant union recognition. ■

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

Ever since the property markers showed up in our front yard, we at Classics Corner have wanted to lynch our asshole landlord.

The trouble started last fall, when the crackhouse across the alley got torn down. Being the hopelessly confused liberals we are, we felt bad about celebrating. Crackhead squatters need housing too, but that doesn't make them good neighbors.

But things went from bad to worse. A three-story, six-unit box grew in its place, and herds of SUVs began grazing in the driveway. Soon after, big ugly condos sprouted like dandelions, and you couldn't swing a dead cat north of 85th and Aurora without hitting a damn yuppie.

That's when we found the property markers in the front yard.

Our landlord, let's call him "Harry," said we "probably" didn't need to worry "at the moment," but our lease "might" not be renewed in four months. We at Classics Corner were good as gone.

Incredibly, "Harry" looked to us for sympathy. Being a landlord, he said, had "taken him places" he never thought he'd go. The logic of capitalism overpowered his will. He became as a leaf, floating lazily downstream. He looked forlorn, like the weight of the world rested on his shoulders. The natural process of our displacement occurred just slightly outside his comfort zone.

But he soon recovered sufficiently to screw us on the security deposit, which brings us finally to Herodotus.

It seems there was a certain Spartan named Glaucus, who was known far and wide as a just man. A stranger from Miletus traveled to him and said, "I want to profit from your justice."

The Milesian proposed that Glaucus accept half his fortune for safekeeping. His own land in Ionia was subject to all sorts of disruptive activity, but Sparta, known for its stability, and Glaucus, known for his justice, offered the perfect solution. Glaucus could do him a great service by holding half his fortune until he again came to call. Glaucus agreed.

When the Milesian's sons came back later on with receipts for the fortune, Glaucus lost his memory. He probably said something lawyerly, something like, "I have no recollection of that transaction at this time."

He bid the sons to return in four months, when his memory might be restored. They unhappily left. Meanwhile Glaucus' conscience reasserted itself, and he was off to the oracle at Delphi to ask whether cheating was fair.

The oracle inscrutably predicted all sorts of dire consequences to Glaucus' ill-gotten gain. Glaucus asked forgiveness, but the oracle replied that "to tempt the God and commit the sin are the same thing."

In other words, "Harry" earns major bad karma for *even thinking* about screwing us, with or without follow-through!

Glaucus sends after the sons and gives back the money, but the damage is done. No trace of Glaucus' family is left on the earth.

"So good a thing it is," says Herodotus, "not even to form a thought about a deposit, save only the giving of it back when people ask for it."

Sounds like good advice. ■



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August Notables

Saturday, 8/19

ENCUENTRO ZAPATISTA ! Share an evening of food, a video screening, an update of the situation in Chiapas and Mexico, and a discussion. ZAPATISTA! video director Rick Rowley will be in attendance. Discussion: "After the WTO: Fighting corporate globalization in Seattle, Chiapas and beyond." Food and drink will be served. Requested donation \$5-20 (no one turned away for lack of funds). All funds generated at this event will directly support the Zapatistas. 7-10 p.m. at the Downtown Human Services Council, 115 Prefontaine Place S. between 3rd and Yesler. Info 206-860-1400, ext. 3 or kanek10@hotmail.com.

Sunday, 8/20

Seattle Hempfest, The largest one-day cannabis/hemp policy reform event in the world! With 42 bands, featuring Keynote Speaker Thomas Jefferson as portrayed by humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson. Political Activism with dozens of educational and political organizations, drug war information, petitions, voter registration, legal action, and a global call to end the drug war. Over 200 vendors, a Hemp Fashion Show, six police officers and as always, Seattle Hempfest is free. Please bring a can of food to support local food banks, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., at Myrtle Edwards Park, Pier 70, Seattle waterfront, info <http://www.seattlehempfest.com> or hempfest@hemp.net or 206-781-5734 or 206-522-0846.

Thursday, 8/24

Work Party for the Joe Szwaja For Congress Campaign, come help in the effort to elect Joe to the U.S. House of Representatives, 7th District (Seattle & Vashon), Green Party candidate, renew our democracy; restructure our global economy, redirect resources to meet human and environmental needs, this and ongoing 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 8 p.m., at Downtown Human Services, 115 Prefontaine Place S, near 3rd & Yesler, info <http://www.joeforcongress.org>, votejoe@hotmail.com, or 206-633-2464.

Friday, 8/25

Capoeira Angola Conference with the International Capoeira Angola Foundation (FICA). Capoeira comprises elements of dance, music, theatre, comedy, psychology, martial art, ritual, spirituality, positive youth and community development, as well as grassroots resistance against repression. Conference includes classes and lectures. All events at Happy Medium School, 620 20th Ave. S. in Seattle through 8/27. For more information call Caxambu (206) 937-5849 e-mail: caxambu@aol.com or <http://www.angelfire.com/on/capoeiraangola>

Sunday, 8/27

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

Ongoing Daily

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!

Studio X, a new Community Netcasting 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, 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 get your own show 206-736-1400. Please attend our monthly time slot giveaways held on second Sundays at 1 p.m. in the Speakeasy Cafe, Backroom, 2304 2nd Ave.

Through 8/21, support Richard Conlin's City Council Resolution to ask the Navy and Seafair to **never again send a Trident sub to Seafair.** Since Steinbrueck, Licata, and Nicastro are already on board, only one more vote is needed. Lobby these councilmembers for their support: Heidi Wills (684-8808), Jim Compton (684-8802), Jan Drago (684-8801), Margaret Pageler (684-8807), and Richard McIver (684-8800).

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>

Books To Prisoners, ongoing volunteer project could use your help answering letters & sending books to incarcerated individuals, 100% not-for-profit, 100% volunteer, collective, has sent tens of thousands of books to people in prison since 1979, help wrap packages or choose the books that a prisoner will receive, books also needed, 8 - 12 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/>

Ongoing Saturdays

Seattle Food Not Bombs re-distributes free produce to the members of the Yesler Terrace Community Center, Produce to the People, Right On! 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 fmb@scn.org or <http://www.scn.org/activism/foodnotbombs>

Meeting of October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, & the Criminalization of a Generation, 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 3 p.m., 1st Sat at the Speakeasy, 2304 2nd Ave; & 3rd Sat at the Douglass-Truth Library, 23rd & Yesler, info 206-264-5527 or toll-free national line 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 fmb@scn.org or <http://www.scn.org/activism/foodnotbombs> ■

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Your Letter Needed to Help "Save the Morrison!"

Help save the Morrison Hotel by strongly urging the city to step in and provide money in the 2001 budget to back the promise of safe, decent, and dignified housing for its low-income residents.

Background: The 210-unit Morrison Hotel, located at the city's core at 509 3rd Ave, is a crucial resource for formerly homeless people with disabilities, former convictions, and other problems which make it difficult for them to find housing. On at least two occasions in the last 20 years, the city has intervened to save this building from mismanagement. Despite nine months of work on the part of the Coalition to Save the Morrison, and some response by Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) to address the concern, conditions in the building are in an intolerable state. More active city intervention is needed now.

In particular city council members should be strongly encouraged to allocate city funds to support the needed staffing. An agency should be found to manage the building that is capable of serving this seriously disabled population.

This is an immediate concern, and a real threat to Morrison residents that still exists today even if a task force, formed last month, hopes to come up with a better management strategy in nine months. Between January and June of this year, police have responded to calls for three rapes, two DOAs, two suicides, and numerous theft, narcotics, assaults, and burglary complaints, according to the Seattle Police Department Public Information Office. In all there were 159 visits to the Morrison by police during this period. The situation is serious.

The city needs to dedicate at least \$200,000 in its 2001 budget as an emergency allotment to stabilize conditions at the Morrison in the interim while the city-SHA task force completes its work over the coming year. This is the minimum necessary to guarantee adequate staffing levels at the Morrison right now. There are outstanding examples of such a building doing well and serving similar populations in similar areas once services are implemented: the Frye, the Union Hotel, and the Lyon Building.

The Morrison isn't just another building. It is critical to the delivery of services and housing for a seriously disabled and low-income population coming out of treatment and struggling to get their feet back on solid ground. SHA's inability to provide adequate staffing for security and case management places these residents at serious risk every time they enter their building.

Given proper management with adequate staffing, the Morrison has tremendous potential to work as a vital part of the larger social service system serving this population.

Action: Send letters to the city council voicing your support for city funding to help get the Morrison to a level of decent and safe care for those who need it most. Letters can be sent to:

Seattle City Council
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104
206.684.8803

Copies of the letters should also be sent to Mayor Paul Schell, Alan Painter (city Human Services Department), SHA and Cynthia Parker (Director of the Office of Housing). ■

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