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COVER ART DESIGNED BY ERIC CIMON OF JOURNAL L'ITINERAIRE IN MONTREAL.

Payback Time

Politicians are finally calling for debt relief — but Jubilee 2000 wants more

By Melissa Wall

Jubilee 2000 — the global movement to cancel the Third World debt — has often been seen as the arm of the global economic justice movement you could take home to meet your mother. Its members are folks who know to bathe before they meet with public officials. Grounded in the Bible, its main message exudes moral authority. And its public events have been marked by gentler, less confrontational gestures, like the march downtown from Capitol Hill, where demonstrators formed a human chain around the Federal Building. In one of the largest actions for debt cancellation to date,

more than 20,000 people joined hands in the human chain at the opening reception of the World Trade Organization in Seattle last year.

"Once you look at the issue, you see the debt as a system of domination and power over people. It becomes possible to undertake not only legislative action, but organizing — which is what it is going to take."

Only a few years ago, Jubilee's goal — for the IMF, World Bank and wealthy countries to cancel the debts of the world's poorest countries — was a radical idea. Today, debt cancellation is gaining mainstream favor.

"Through the Jubilee movement, we've been able to put issues facing the world's poorest countries onto the social agenda," says the Rev. Pete Strimer, Canon Missioner at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, a member of the

Jubilee 2000 Northwest Coalition. "Within our own country, it was the Jubilee 2000 movement that made debt relief a public policy issue."

Those interested in lobbying the government have, at first glance, been enormously successful. Last year at a meeting in Germany, the G-7, the world's richest countries, agreed to prioritize debt relief. Various countries introduced follow-up legislation. The U.S. House and Senate have been considering their own versions: the most ambitious is H.R. 1095, the Debt Relief for Poverty Reduction Act, which has been stuck in committee since last fall. It's doubtful that Congress will act before adjourning in mid-October. Still, Seventh District Representative Jim McDermott has been publicly supportive, meeting with Jubilee 2000 Northwest members.

Now that the issues are on the agenda, the movement faces some serious questions about its future. Will it end when the year 2000 is over? Or, since debt cancellation is on the policy agenda, should the movement take the lead with a more radical perspective? The answer depends on which country, and indeed which region or city, you ask.

More than 65 countries around the world have Jubilee 2000 organizations, which range from slow-moving bureaucracies to more nimble, grassroots groups like the Seattle-based Jubilee 2000 Northwest, a network of nearly 30 groups ranging from faith-based communities to labor to human rights advocates. Each Jubilee group tends to chart its own course concerning Third World debt.

Continued on Page 12



PHOTO BY
GEORGE
HICKEY.

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.



Spitting Politicians

Dear Real Change,

It is astonishing that reviewer Adam Holdorf could still hope for a Gore victory after reading "Al Gore: A User's Manual" by Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey S. Clair (Real Change, "Oedipus Wrecks," Sept. 15-30, 2000). Even more surprising is the fact that he makes no mention of Ralph Nader's candidacy.

Holdorf apparently buys the idea that the only choice for voters is between the Democratic and Republican corporate stooges, Tweedledum and Tweedledumber. Unfortunately, the "lesser-of-two-evils" approach has only resulted in both major parties moving further and further to the right over the past 30 years, to the point that now, in Nader's words, "The difference between Bush and Gore is the velocity with which their knees hit the floor when corporations knock on the door."

Bush is inarguably awful, but consider the record of the Clinton/Gore administration: it has vigorously supported NAFTA and the WTO; passed the Welfare Reform Act; drastically curtailed civil liberties and expanded

use of the death penalty; intensified the War on Drugs and increased incarceration of nonviolent offenders; opened up the Alaska "National Petroleum Reserve" to drilling; sent millions to murder and torture civilians in Colombia; and signed the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act into law. Moreover, less than 25 years ago Gore supported Contra aid, opposed abortion rights for women (even in cases of rape and incest), and called homosexuality "abnormal sexual behavior." We're supposed to believe this is the progressive choice?

In contrast, Ralph Nader has tirelessly fought for the environment and for consumer and worker rights for the past 37 years. He calls for a \$10-an-hour minimum wage, an end to the death penalty, universal health care, legalizing civil unions for gays and lesbians, complete public funding of elections, women's right to abortion, and a "none of the above" option on election ballots. He advocates slashing the bloated military budget and diverting those funds to education, housing and social programs. He supports repeal of the anti-worker Taft-Hartley Act, an end to all commercial logging on U.S. public lands, and has stated that his first act as president would be to free Leonard Peltier.

So if you enjoyed being tear-gassed, beaten, and seeing Seattle turned into a police state during the WTO protests, vote for Gore — he'll be sure to bring us more of the same, and then we can

all look forward to another choice between Satan and Beelzebub (only even more right-wing) in 2004. But if you want to actually cast a vote for peace, justice and civil liberties and economic democracy, keep in mind that there's a real alternative out there this election year — for once! — in the form of Ralph Nader.

Sincerely,
Jean S. Fallow
Seattle

Adam Holdorf replies:

If more liberals would get off their high horses about Nader for a couple hours, maybe they could work to build a viable alternative to the two-party duopoly.

I don't think Gore and Bush will act the same once they get into office; on a host of issues, from the environment to women's rights, Bush will be much worse. You can vote however you like; as for me, I put my desiccated hope in the lesser evil.

Remember that you are one in a hundred-million-person electorate. Washington's winner-take-all Electoral College system effectively silences your protest. If you don't like the two major candidates, make a ruckus about it. Tell your state legislators we need electoral reform that ends the majority-rule system — one of Nader's planks. Compared to your voice, your vote's just spit in the sea. ■

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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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In Too Deep

McDermott's African Growth and Opportunity Act will drive countries to debt

By Hanna Petros and Mary Davis

This August, Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* columnist Bill Virgin went to great lengths to present a bleak picture of Nigeria's economic and environmental hardships. He described Nigeria's recent history as a "long and depressing litany of coups and military rule, official plunder, corruption and oppression" which the West has abetted by "...throwing money at Nigeria with little regard to how the ruling kleptocracy spent it."

He didn't acknowledge that the billions of dollars in U.S. aid isn't "thrown into a bottomless well" — it bubbles up as hundreds of billions for western creditors. In 1996, for every dollar received in aid, Nigeria paid back \$104 in debt service. That \$2.5 billion was more than six times the country's national budget for health care or education, and only half what Nigeria was scheduled to pay. Western aid to poor countries like Nigeria is like throwing a buck at the street

musician in front of Safeco Field and then asking him to pay A-Rod's salary in exchange.

In a selection that speaks volumes about how African nations are usually dealt with by those from more developed nations, Virgin offered only one person's opinion of how to harness Nigeria's incredible wealth to end its crushing poverty. That person was not someone from Nigeria, or Africa, or even a policy advocate who has worked on African issues. It was Seattle's Seventh District Representative, Jim McDermott, the author of the "African Growth and Opportunity Act," or AGOA, the so-called NAFTA for Africa act. The bill was signed into law in May.

AGOA was presented as uncontroversial, uncontested and good for the continent — it is in

fact none of those things. In Virgin's words, McDermott's act "puts Africa on the trade policy map" — a map owned and controlled for the benefit of multinational corporations.

AGOA requires participating African countries to restructure their government spending around International Monetary Fund (IMF) dictates, in exchange for reduced U.S. tariffs on their exports. Rather than directing investment into those services most needed by debtor nations, however, IMF rules regularly mandate that developing nations increase their debt payments and slash their already meager budgets for education, environmental protection, and assistance to local farmers. The IMF has a long track record of doing little to reduce poverty while giving huge boosts to multinational corporations' profit margins. Asking African countries to get out of poverty by further submitting to IMF rules is like prescribing gasoline to put out a fire.

Dozens of grassroots African organizations, including peasant, labor, health advocacy and church groups as well as respected leaders such as Nelson Mandela strongly opposed McDermott's legislation since its introduction. Many took their protests to the streets of Washington D.C. this past April during the IMF meetings. Now that the AGOA has been passed, they are asking African countries not to sign on. In concert with these groups, U.S.-based groups have formed to find real alternatives to Africa's woes. These broad coalitions — from the TransAfrica Forum to the International Forum on Globalization to the numerous local Seattle groups involved in Jubilee 2000's debt relief work, are working here in Seattle and around the world to put forward a more socially responsible form of international trade policy.

One alternative is the Hope for Africa Act, offered by U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. Jackson's legislation would promote trade with Africa without the oversight of the IMF. It offers a crucial difference: it favors working with Africa at the grassroots level to promote sustainable development that benefits U.S. and African workers, rather than slashing standards in the race to the bottom. McDermott's main opponent, Green Party candidate Joe Szwaja, is strongly challenging McDermott's stands on free trade and is an outspoken supporter of Jackson's legislation.

We need to broaden the dialogue on trade for Africa beyond those who have visited with Bill Clinton or the U.N. to those who have actually lived there. Then, people in Seattle and around the world who are working for justice there will get the consideration they deserve. ■

Hanna Petros is Executive Director of Ustawi/African Youth In Action, educating Seattleites on Africa-related issues. With assistance from Marjorie Prince and Michael Righi of Jubilee 2000 Northwest. For more information, call Ustawi at (206) 355-7208 or Jubilee 2000 Northwest at (206)323-0300 ext.337, or check out their web site (<http://www.ustawi.org>).

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You've probably heard the phrase "hung like a horse." Well, with the advancements in xenotransplants, some men have decided to make the metaphor a reality. The operations should become available in early 2001.

Xenotransplants are already being used to give humans new lungs and hearts from genetically engineered pigs. One man, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, wants a complete head transplant, diverting his brain and spinal cortex to a hollowed area in the back of the pig's large skull. "I've loved pigs, ever since I saw *The Wizard of Oz*," said the man, who for now is anonymous.

Doctors think that with a combination of immune system suppressants and viagra, transplants of horse, bull, and even elephant "members" to the human race is not out of the question. But the gents might want to think twice. Response from several women's organizations amounted to a collective shrug, even peals of laughter.

"It's like they say in the song," says Elizabeth Borden, director of Virgo Rising on Capitol Hill. "Too much, too little, too late. We're over it."

It's enough to make a man cry in his — trough? —Bob Redmond

Scouting out a loophole

A shudder went through the gay, lesbian and bisexual community this summer when the United States Supreme Court upheld the Boy Scouts of America's right to exclude openly gay men from scoutmaster leadership positions. This is a 90-year-old American icon that has molded the character of more than 87 million American males. More than half of the members of the current United States Congress have participated in scouting activities, including five Washington state representatives, according to the Boy Scouts. A push in the House to revoke the Scouts' 84-year-old federal charter got only 12 supporters.

The United Way of King County recently announced a \$442,000 grant for the Boy Scouts' Learning for Life program, even though the charity's own charter specifically prohibits support for organizations that discriminate. Few nonprofits, even those serving the gay community, are likely to speak out against the decision; the charity provides some with as much as 50 percent of their total funding.

Both United Way and members of Learning for Life note that the program itself — described as "character and emotional intelligence education" for elementary through high school students — does not exclude openly gay teachers from participating. They say it has boosted the self-esteem and motivation of approximately 20,000 students in more than 30 schools.

However, other United Way chapters have stuck by their discrimination policy and not funded any Boy Scout programs, including ones in California, Connecticut, and Florida. Public bodies have followed suit: the Fort Lauderdale city council voted last month to rescind \$4,000 in funding for local Learning for Life programs. ■

— Molly Rhodes

Portland strikes camping ban

A Multnomah County Circuit Court judge has ruled that Portland's "Camping Ban" ordinance is unconstitutional, arguing that it punishes homeless people for being homeless, according to an Associated Press report last month. The ordinance has been on the books for 19 years in the Rose City.

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Stephen L. Gallagher Jr. ruled that the anti-camping ordinance constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and violates a homeless person's fundamental right to travel. "There are a great number of alternatives regarding housing, job training, mental health services... that should be put into place... before our city resorts to arresting individuals for sleeping and eating in the only locations available to them," Gallagher wrote in his decision.

The case involved a homeless man and his son ticketed the evening of February 10 while they were parked on a residential street in the truck they had been living in for the past five years. All of Portland's available shelter's were full on that evening, and the temperature had dropped to 28 degrees.

The ordinance has been upheld against every previous challenge. Portland Mayor Vera Katz wants the city to appeal the ruling. ■

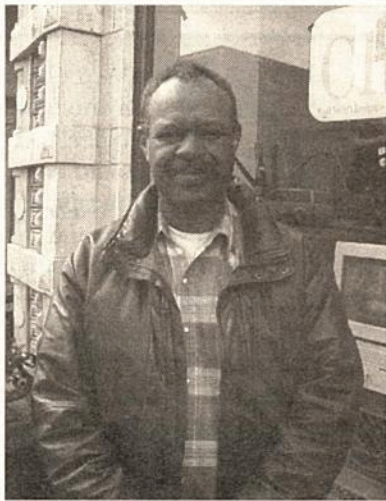
— Rick Giombetti

Mistaken identity

When *Real Change* vendor John B. Porter's bank told him he had \$42,000 in his bank account, instead of the \$5 he'd been expecting, he "had a good laugh about it" over the July 4th weekend. On the first working day of the week, he went back to the bank and got a financial statement listing his home address in Aberdeen, Washington. Porter lives at St. Martin de Porres shelter in Seattle. He waited to talk to a branch manager.

"As far as they were concerned, everything was in order. I pointed out to the assistant manager that my name, account number and address were wrong on the bank statement," says Porter. "At that point, he got mad."

"I called information, and got the number for John Porter of Aberdeen, and he



VENDOR JOHN B. PORTER OUTSIDE THE REAL CHANGE OFFICE. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.



told me he'd come up to Seattle to cancel his account. He thanked me, and gave me \$10 as a reward," he says, "which is understandable, because his wife was sick and he's paying her medical bills."

Washington Mutual was also grateful; they called Porter up and asked what they could do for him and his peers at the Lazarus Center, a day center for homeless men. "I told them I wanted a steak and lobster dinner for 300 people," he says. Whatever Lazarus couldn't finish, he wanted sent over to St. Martin's. "The president's secretary laughed, but they did it, kind of. We ate steak on Sunday."

No word on whether John Porter of Aberdeen ever canceled his account. ■

— Adam Holdorf

What they say

Virginia street newspaper *Hard Times* presented each major-party candidate with the opportunity to respond to the following questions: What are the causes of homelessness? How have you addressed them? What would you do as president? The following are their responses.



George W. Bush: "Like many Republican governors, I enacted major welfare reform before the federal government got around to it. During my tenure, there has been a 54 percent decline in families on welfare in Texas, while poverty has decreased 17 percent, outpacing the national decrease. And the role of faith-based organizations was expanded to help welfare recipients become more self-sufficient.

"As President, I will rally these organizations to help transition former welfare recipients from dependency on government into meaningful jobs. It's what I call the next bold step in welfare reform. I will also dedicate about \$8 billion — an amount equal to 10 percent of the non-Social Security surplus — to provide new tax incentives for giving, and to support charities and other private institutions.

"In our society, it is easy to be secluded in success, in gated communities and separate schools. Yet our growing nation must not be allowed to grow apart. Since Abraham Lincoln, our national task has been to build a single nation — to cross boundaries of class and race and region. We have accepted a moral obligation to bring every American into the mainstream of opportunity. It will be said of our times that we were prosperous. But let it also be said of us that we used our wealth wisely."

Al Gore: "There is a right way to attack this issue, and a wrong way. Some people have decided it is easier to impose sanctions that remove homeless people from the streets and get them out of sight rather than struggle with the hard business of developing solutions. Being poor and homeless is not a crime in America; it is a crisis.

"To end homelessness, we must combine housing and equal opportunity with support and security. Put plainly, to finish the job we need decent wages, job training, childcare, and physical and mental health care for people in need.

"In Congress, I co-sponsored the first piece of legislation mobilizing federal resources to address homelessness. As vice president, I worked with HUD to revolutionize the way communities respond to homelessness through the Continuum of Care program. We won more than \$1 billion in additional money, 60,000 new housing vouchers for low-income families, more housing assistance for the elderly and disabled, and rent subsidies for hundreds of thousands of low-income families. We have also invested in childcare, afterschool programs, children's health care, and job training and job placement services. But we still need to give millions of hardworking Americans the pay raise they deserve.

"As President, I will expand comprehensive programs to address homelessness. I will promote the Department of Veterans Affairs' Homeless Veterans Treatment Program by developing public housing. I will support programs to treat mental illness and drug addiction. And I believe we should harness the power of faith-based organizations to address these intractable social problems." ■



Thanks to L. Lynn Hafer of *Hard Times*.

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

Unsteady Labor Ready

Temp Workers want a fair deal;
unions want to help them get it

By Manny Frishberg

It's been many years since I had to do temp work — a long time since I had to get up before dawn, line up with a bunch of other guys, and watch my breath condense under the glow of the streetlamps while waiting for a chance to spend several hours at hard labor for little more than minimum wage.

A long time has passed since those days, but the impressions are still strong in my mind: the feeling in the pit of my stomach from not being sure that there would be enough work to go around that day; the realization that not getting on meant not enough cash for food that week, or not being able to pay the light bill before the electricity was turned off.

So it wasn't just because I am a reporter and there was a story to cover that I got up at 4 in the morning a couple of weeks ago to meet up with members of the AFL-CIO's local organizing arm, Seattle Union Now, and ask Labor Ready's temporary employees how they like their work.

We got to the White Center Labor Ready office just after 5 a.m., before any of the roughly two dozen workers who came in for a job before 7 a.m. turned up. In less than a half-hour the place was, if not bustling, at least reasonably active. Workers coming into the store didn't fit any single stereotype. Judging by appearances, they ranged in age from their early 20s to well past 50 or older. Some came by bus, others were dropped off by friends or came in their own cars and trucks. The men (almost all were men, at least in this location) were of every race.

Their stories were as varied as their appearances. One man who talked to me said he was working at Labor Ready as a second job. He'd come in at 5 a.m. for dispatch to construction laborer jobs after spending the night shift working on the phone lines for a local airline. "I have two kids that I have to feed," he explained, "and they eat every day." He had no problem with the wages they were paying him because he was on a "PW job," meaning that he was working under a government contract that guaranteed him the prevailing wage for the industry in this area. He said he was getting \$12.67 an hour.

Most of the other guys who answered the survey either did not know what they would be paid, or were getting around \$6.50 or \$7.00 an hour. For those that knew, the pay rate was not too much of an issue, although they indicated that they would not turn down an additional dollar or two an hour in their paycheck.

The paycheck itself was another matter. Some people complained that

instead of being given cash as promised, they were issued vouchers that had to be redeemed through the Labor Ready ATM, at a cost of \$1.50 per transaction plus whatever change is left over. The machines only dispense whole dollar amounts. If you don't have a bank account, the cash machines are the only practical way of getting money. Labor Ready spokespeople defend the system as "a convenience for their employees." This summer, the practice was upheld in a Georgia state court.

The same survey was being conducted at other Labor Ready locations around the city. Gretchen Donart, who coordinated the surveying for Seattle Union Now, says each different location has its own unique character. At one site, most of the laborers were regulars. At another, most were new in town, living out of their vehicles. Often, they indicated that this was their first day at the day-labor agency, and they did not know what to expect.

Regardless of their individual circumstances, they could expect more or less the same. For starters, their wages for the day would be roughly half what the contracting com-

pany paid Labor Ready. The starting wage for new workers was \$6.50 an hour, with raises of 50 cents to \$1 for consistent work. Men who knew said Labor Ready usually got \$13.75 an hour for their work.

Labor Ready has had its ups and downs in the ultra-fast roller-coaster economy of the last decade. Begun in Tacoma in 1989 by former Dick's Restaurant owner Glenn A. Welstad, today the company has an estimated 840 dispatch offices in North America and

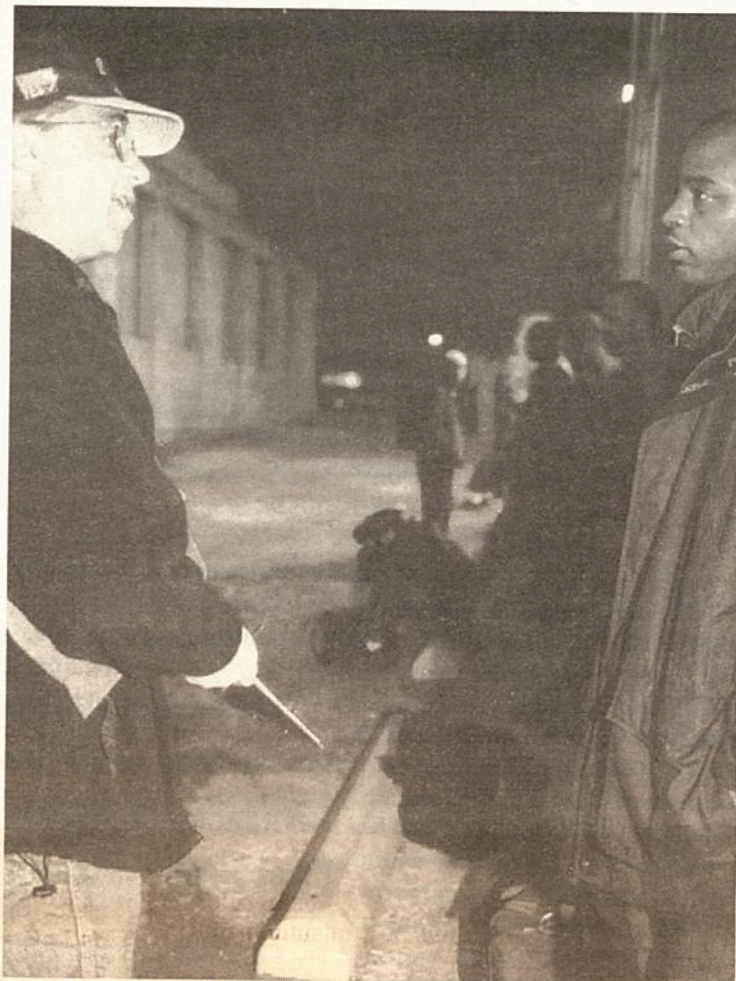
fields such as construction, landscaping, and light manufacturing, who were dispatched by Labor Ready to about 255,000 customers.

Between 1997 and 1998, Labor Ready's revenues nearly doubled, from \$335 million to \$607 million. Stock prices went through the roof, rising an explosive 1400 percent from 1995 to 1999, before dropping by 400 percent in the last year as same-store sales also took a sharp dip, as a result of cuts in the company's own office staff. Welstad, who still owns an 11 percent stake in the company, resigned as chairman earlier this year after taking an unauthorized loan of \$3.5 million from the company to cover his own stock losses.

Donart says the surveying will continue, both in Seattle and in Tacoma, along with a petition drive to get workers to sign on to demands for safer working conditions and better wages. The effort will culminate in Tacoma on October 25, where organizers hope to bring hundreds of Labor Ready's workers to deliver the petitions to the annual stockholders' meeting. The AFL-CIO, which owns over 500 shares of company stock, has the right to be heard there.

Organizing workers in a business where the employees are hired anew each day and where the vast majority see themselves as moving on in a couple of months is obviously a daunting task. But members of the building trade unions, concerned about the increasing use of

day laborers to replace their members, are hoping that by standing up for these workers now, eventually, they will all stand together. ■



SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION ORGANIZER BRAD STEPHENS SURVEYS PRE-DAWN LABOR READY EMPLOYEES ABOUT HOW THEY LIKE THEIR WORK. PHOTO BY ADAM L. WEINTRAUB.

Great Britain, including all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. In 1998, Labor Ready hired (and at the end of each day, let go of) some 533,000 workers in

A Labor Ready Day

By J. Johns, 53

It's 4:45 a.m., I'm hidden out in my sleeping bag, I look at my watch and realize it's time for another day with Labor Ready.

At 5:30, we're in the office. They serve hot coffee. We sit around; there's little talk. The pet people all go out on their jobs.

At 7:45, my name is called; they say it's landscaping. I'm given a map. I get on the bus and head for the job. It's a mile walk from the nearest bus stop to the job site.

There's a half dozen pallets of cottage block; each of those blocks weighs 80 pounds. We carry them up the stairs, then up the back steps into the garden. Then, lunch. We start again.

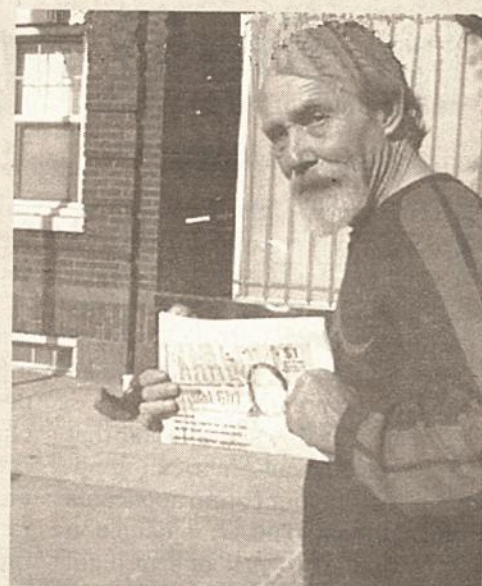
We've been on the job 5 hours and 43 minutes and there's plenty of work

left, but the man from the company says, Let's have your tickets.

We walk back to the bus stop, take the bus back to the office, and get a \$35 check. We walk to the grocery store, buy a package of generic cigarettes and the wino's drink, Olde English 800 in a 24-ounce can. We pour our beer into Coca-Cola paper cups and find an appropriate place to have a drink: the parking lot, the park.

Sometimes, we go out to eat. We decide which place to go to dinner; we eat a meal and then it's time for another 22-ouncer. Then we find a place to spend the night.

I think to myself, lying in my bag, maybe we'll get a full day tomorrow so we can pay for the weekend. By the



J. JOHNS IS A REAL CHANGE VENDOR AND LONG-TIME LABOR READY EMPLOYEE. PHOTO BY MEGAN FARLEY.

time I pay for tomorrow's lunch and cigarettes, my check from today will be gone. ■

Bitten by a Loan Shark

Patricia Nesbitt was paying off a \$47,000 loan, when fraudulent lenders tripled her debt



PATRICIA AND HER GRANDSON, KENNETH BRADLEY, STAND OUTSIDE HER HOME. PHOTO BY ERIK CASTRO.

By Adam Holdorf

Patricia Nesbitt is a 62-year-old African American woman living on disability income. Her grandmother bought her house on 20th Avenue, in the Central District, in 1969. Because of some debts her grandfather accrued through repair costs, the City of Seattle put a \$42,000 lien on her home. Patricia consolidated her debts and got a home equity loan from Beneficial Mortgage Company in January 1997. At the time, Beneficial wrongfully reported it as a refinance to the Department of Housing and Urban Development — a tactic that could help them get more federal assistance for making such loans, and so it could be sold to other financial companies.

"When that happens, you don't have \$50 to see a lawyer about those papers. Some people do, but I didn't."

When Beneficial was about to increase her monthly bills in September

1997, she refinanced and the loan was sold from Beneficial to Pacific Thrift and Loan Company. "Beneficial claimed they were getting ready to be sued, and that if I didn't pay my loan in full, then I would have to refinance because they were getting ready to sell the company — which they didn't, they lied.

These are the methods they use when they want people to involuntarily refinance. If I didn't refinance with them, they said I would have to pay the loan in full. Just like the Mafia, they made me an offer I couldn't refuse."

On October 1st, 1997, she got a phone call from a new mortgage com-

pany, Pacific Thrift, informing her they were her new lender.

"Two months later, a woman called me from Pacific Thrift. She said, 'You're in for a hard time here. I'm getting ready to quit because this company is so crooked, but I saved one page of your loan application from

the paper shredder. I'll send it to you.'" It showed information altered by the loan officer, putting Patricia's monthly income \$1,700 higher than what she really earned. Patricia says her signature had been pasted onto the page and photocopied.

Those documents had been submit-

"I believe that if you are honest, then other people will be honest too. I had no idea these people would do this."

Patricia Nesbitt

ted to Advanta Mortgage Company, who then bought the loan. To find out more, Patricia impersonated an interested customer and purchased her own financial records from Advanta.

"I called up and said 'I'm interested in acquiring a loan, my friend Patricia has one. Can I see her loan information?' and they sold me my information, Social Security Number, everything, for \$35," she says. The documents revealed that the terms of her payment had been changed after she signed it: the loan officer added tens of thousands of dollars in fees for illegal certifications that were never done. Her principal went from \$80,000 to \$109,000, and her total monthly payments climbed to \$1,000. Then her son was diagnosed with leukemia.

"I had the choice, do I help pay his medical bills, or do I pay my mortgage? My daughters and sisters pulled together with me on this, to keep from becoming homeless," she says. But when she could no longer keep up earlier this year, Advanta threatened foreclosure.

Late last month, the Association of Community Organization for Reform Now (ACORN), with the support of other community groups, marched on the law offices of Karen Gibbon to protest the foreclosure. Negotiations with Advanta have paid off: they reached a settlement, and Patricia will refinance with Cascade Bank, on good terms.

While Advanta's bad press might have helped her out, "I'm not going away. We need some laws to cover the loan company's practices.

"I'm one of those people that believes that if you are honest, then other people will be honest too," she says, "and I had no idea these people would do this.

"You talk to educated people, they say, 'Well how could they do that?' Easy! They can change your life by altering things behind your back. You can sign one agreement, and they won't show you what it really says. You tell a judge you signed one part but never saw this particular sheet. Then the next time you see that paper, it's totally different. How do you prove that?" ■

The Fight against Predatory Lending

Editorial by Doug Bloch, ACORN

Here in the Seattle area and all across the country, ACORN is waging an aggressive campaign against predatory lending. ACORN has a long history of fighting for fair access to credit and pushing banks to make loans in our communities.

A recent ACORN study found that one in three African-American applicants and one in four Latino applicants for conventional loans were denied in 1999, compared to just one in eight white applicants. Over the past few years, we have seen lenders with high rates and fees fill the gap when regular banks do not make enough good loans.

ACORN is a grassroots organization of people in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods who fight for fair and affordable housing, better schools, better city services, and living-wage jobs.

We keep hearing more and more stories from people in our neighborhoods getting ripped off.

Families are being promised one thing, and finding their payments are hundreds of dollars a month higher; people with good credit are being charged 13 or 14 percent for a loan, or even more; high fees and expensive and unnecessary products like single premium credit insurance are being added on to loans; people are being refinanced again and again, with more fees added each time; prepayment penalties trap people in loans they can't afford, or cost them thousands of dollars extra to find a fair deal. The list goes on. Too many people are losing their homes, and others are managing to hold on to them at a terrible cost.

ACORN is taking this problem on

in many ways. We are out in our communities organizing people who are getting predatory loans. We are doing direct actions against individual lenders to make them loan fairly, including recent actions at the offices of the Associates and Household Finance Corporation. We are pointing regulators at the worst abusers, and we are working on legislation at every level. Earlier this month, 10 ACORN members traveled to Olympia to demand legislation before a Senate committee hearing on predatory lending.

We need improved laws covering many more lenders that protect consumers against unfair practices. Some abusive loan terms and features just shouldn't be allowed. As a result of our meetings, the state Department of Financial Institutions will propose revisions to RCW 31.04, which licenses and regulates consumer loan companies.

As we change the laws, we also need to make sure that people in our neighborhoods are getting the information they need to protect themselves, to find better alternatives, and to sniff out a loan offer that's out to milk them. We need real grassroots community organizing, education, and counseling. ■

Washington ACORN reopened in December 1999, and now includes over 350 member families in the Rainier Valley, White Center, Kent, and throughout South King County. This year, ACORN members have done direct actions to win repairs from slumlords. For more information, contact ACORN at (206)723-5845 or go to the website (www.acorn.org).

Separate Lives

Do homeless-only schools keep students back?

By Adam Holdorf

The grade-schooler on the TV sits on a jungle-gym looking directly at the camera. "Respect and dignity" is what he gets at his school, he tells the audience in a 1995 episode of NBC's *Todays Show*. "At other schools, they'll taunt you and tease you for not having a home. First Place gives respect and dignity."

What the boy calls a haven, the federal government calls segregation. Under strengthened McKinney grant guidelines to be implemented next year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development cannot provide money to public school districts for homeless-only schools. First Place will not qualify for the McKinney money it's been receiving from Seattle Public Schools.

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) echo the government's policy, saying schools such as First Place pry homeless kids from the stability of their old schools, shunt them off into a substandard learning environment, and work to reinforce prejudice against the homeless. Public officials and social service pro-

viders "may come to regard the separate school as the appropriate place for homeless children to be educated, overlooking their right to attend public schools like all other children," says NLCHP.

"School is one part of [a homeless child's] life that can stay the same. They can't control their parents' alcoholism, they can't control where they're staying," says Linda O'Neel, who helps run a program for homeless kids in the Vancouver Public Schools. "It's unbelievable that school districts want to pull them out of their communities."

Supporters of privately run homeless-only schools say they not only offer kids respite from their peers' prejudice, but work on problems caused by family abuse or neglect.

Those goals elicit deep support. Nearly three-quarters of First Place's total revenue comes from private contributions and foundation grants. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave \$1 million to the school earlier this year. That's more than twice the amount of McKinney funding made

available to all the public schools in the entire state.

Like others, the First Place school began at a time when residency requirements for public school districts effectively barred homeless students from an education. Since 1990, First Place's first full year of operation, NLCHP estimates that the number of homeless children in the U.S. attending school has risen from 10 percent to 50 percent.

Now that public schools have their own programs, NCH and NLCHP argue that facilities like First Place should shut down the classrooms and offer referral, counseling, and other support to homeless public school students.

Over the years, homeless-only schools have gained a certain institutional momentum, making people unwilling to examine them. "Full-fledged programs with lots of resources can protect kids from ridicule, but they're still separate," says Barbara Duffield, of NCH.

This summer, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education held a hearing at the Thomas J. Pappas Elementary School, set up after social workers could find no place in the public schools for children staying at their shelters. Starting only three years ago, the school now buses in 1,000 students from all over Maricopa County. At the hearing, county school superintendent Sandra E. Dowling said "the Pappas Program does not recognize the value of mainstreaming children for the sake of political correctness.... [It] forces social engineering within our public schools."

In light of that argument, "change the word 'homeless' to 'black,'" says Duffield. When educators shield homeless kids from their peers, "all it means is we're accommodating prejudice."

The children in the classrooms at First Place don't stay long before moving on to public schools, according to Doreen Cato, executive director of First Place. Most are enrolled there for about four months. A second-grader with a spotty educational history presents a real challenge to a teacher, she says; when the children leave First Place, they should at least have been assessed for their current abilities. First Place has begun to package standardized test results into a report for the child's next teachers. Such an environment of "assessment" or "transitioning" doesn't sit well with advocates of public school programs.

"First Place sounds really good, but it's not a real school. It doesn't offer a chance to learn. It's like, 'Come on Johnny, get it together here, and we'll have fun along the way,'" says O'Neel. In 1996, O'Neel oversaw the integration of the Vancouver School District. The district closed a one-room schoolhouse for elementary school kids staying in shelters, boosted meals, clothing, and

school supplies programs, and resolved to keep kids enrolled wherever they were before homelessness interrupted their lives.

Separate school or no separate school, Cato says, "the bottom line should be, are these children getting a good education? Are they getting the skills they need to succeed down the road?"

When kids go back to the regular schools, "we must share what we do. It's like 'tag, you're it, now continue,'" she says. "We can share our methods for caring for these kids."

The Seattle School District may not be up to the challenge. This year, for the first time since the federal program's inception, the Seattle Public Schools were denied their McKinney funding request for the 2000-2001 school year. That's a \$70,000 funding hit. According to state Department of Public Instruction

staff, the school district simply turned in a sloppy grant application.

Most of the money paid for three full-time case managers for homeless kids at six designated public schools, many clustered in the Central Area. The McKinney money paid for one-third of the program, according to David Okimoto, executive director of the Atlantic Street Center, which runs the program. He plans to tap into the state's Medicaid fund for needy children to pay for the program — something Atlantic Street has never tried before.

The school district continues to provide First Place with more than \$100,000 in federal assistance, mostly to bus students to and from wherever they're staying. The public schools also pay for breakfast and lunch. In 1999, the school district provided 18 percent of First Place's total revenue. Cato says without McKinney money, that proportion will undoubtedly drop. First Place students are also never far from their old classrooms: nearly a quarter of them last attended a Seattle public school.

If these kids had a stable school within the city before becoming homeless, Duffield argues, why not keep them there? From free meals to counseling, separate schools offer nothing that mainstream schools don't, or can't, provide. She puts the argument in the context of the Supreme Court's ruling desegregating public schools across the south. "Brown v. Board of Education didn't rule that separate schools were unequal because they had substandard facilities; it ruled that these schools were *inherently* unequal, because children in minority groups lacked the opportunity to interact with the children of the majority."

Cato, Duffield and other educators and advocates will begin a statewide dialogue about education for homeless children in a special meeting Olympia on October 26th. ■



SHIELDED, SERVED OR SEGREGATED? STUDENTS AT FIRST PLACE, A SCHOOL FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.



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Soldier On

Vietnam vet Father Roy Bourgeois has spent a decade fighting Latin American military violence

Interview by Debra Hannula

Father Roy Bourgeois won the Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam before he put himself on the line for peace. For the last decade, he's led the assault on the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA), a combat training school for Latin American soldiers in Fort Benning, Georgia.

During its 54-year history, the SOA has readied over 60,000 Latin American troops in commando tactics, military intelligence, psychological operations, and advanced combat skills. SOA graduates have been responsible for massacres, torture, and assassinations throughout Latin America. According to the Pentagon, the SOA costs U.S. taxpayers \$20 million annually. Though Congress closed down the SOA last year, its training continues under a different name.

Father Bourgeois first came to this issue after volunteering for shore duty in Vietnam. He went to war believing in the need to stop communism, but changed his mind after losing friends in combat and coming close to death himself. Assisting a Catholic priest running an orphanage for Vietnamese children inspired him to commit his life to alleviating the suffering of others. He returned from Vietnam and entered the Maryknoll order, becoming a priest in 1972. He spent five years in Bolivia under the dictatorship of SOA-trained Hugo Banzer, where eventually he was arrested, beaten, and forced to leave the country because of his work with the poor. *Real Change* caught up with Father Bourgeois before a talk in Seattle later this month.

Real Change: When did you first become involved in the effort to close the SOA?

Roy Bourgeois: November 16, 1989, when six Jesuit priests, a young mother and her teenage daughter were killed at the university in San Salvador. House Representative Joe Moakley responded with a task force to investigate. They discovered that those responsible were soldiers trained at the SOA located at Fort Benning, Georgia. I read their report, published in 1990.

Having lived and worked in Latin America, I knew firsthand the military's brutality. I rented a tiny apartment just outside the main gate to Fort Benning and began calling friends to join me. Several priests and a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Charlie Liteky, came. Charlie is currently serving one year in prison for trespass at Fort Benning.

Initially, this was a faith-based movement. Our first effort, in 1990, consisted of a water-only fast for 35 days outside the main gate of Fort Benning. We wanted to place our bodies on the line, and fasting goes back to early faith traditions. We each lost 40 pounds.

On November 16, 1990, the first anniversary of the Jesuits' slayings, three of us poured vials of blood mixed with the soil of El Salvador on photographs of SOA graduates. We were convicted and sent to prison. Charlie and Patrick received six months each. I was sentenced to 14 months. These were the early days, when we

did not have a movement organized. We were just individuals.

RC: You have spent altogether four years in prison for acts of civil disobedience directed at the SOA. How do you view your time there?

RB: Prison is a very lonely place, a very hard place to be. In the early days there was not much support, but I knew early on it was important. We learned from Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. that acts of civil disobedience are a way to stop the violence. I knew like in any movement, some would have to pay a price and go to jail to expose the greater injustice. From my experiences in El Salvador and Bolivia, I knew I had to do more than just give a nice sermon or college lecture. We learned early on that they could send us to prison, but could not silence us. We also found that sending us to prison only energizes the movement.

RC: How have you seen Catholics responding on the basis of faith? How have others joined the movement, and how do you inspire others?

Father Roy Bourgeois, Vietnam hero, peace activist and founder of the School of the Americas Watch, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 27 at St. Joseph's Church, 732 18th Avenue East.

RB: We began as priests and nuns connecting to the martyrdom of the priests and nuns in El Salvador. We soon realized through our research that not only were church leaders being killed, but all those working in defense of the poor, including labor leaders, health care workers and those calling for land reform. When I was released from prison, I took our information to the churches, to colleges and to the media.

Then in 1993 something significant happened. The U.N. Truth Commission's report on El Salvador's civil war was made public. This report gave the names of those responsible for the high profile cases: the Jesuits, the four churchwomen, Archbishop Romero and the El Mozote massacre. 73 percent of those who did the killings first trained and graduated at the SOA. Congress then came on board through Representatives Joseph Kennedy and Joe Moakley. Newsweek came out with a two-page article entitled "Running a School for Dictators" in August 1993, listing such graduates as Manuel Noriega, Banzer, and death squad leaders like Roberto D'Aubisson.

At that time I was traveling around the country asking people to call for the closure of the school. The Presbyterian Church U.S.A., seven million members, passed a resolution to close the SOA. This influenced others to do

"Having lived and worked in Latin America, I knew firsthand the military's brutality. I rented a tiny apartment just outside the main gate to the School of the Americas and began calling friends to join me."

the same. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious representing over 70,000 Catholic nuns passed the resolution. That poked the bee hive. Others joined, including Veterans for Peace, the NAACP, the AFL-CIO, and chapters of Amnesty International.

This is not a church issue. It's an



FATHER BOURGEOIS STAKES HIS CLAIM OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS. PHOTO COURTESY DEBRA HANNULA.

issue of justice. It's an issue of violence. It's about men with guns. This is what brings in students by the thousands. It transcends any particular faith or religion. Though it began with priests and nuns, it has grown and diversified and is made up of people from all walks of life.

RG: The 1980's appeared to be the high point for Americans against U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. Has this been true for you?

RB: This idea that this ended in the '80s is B.S. The people of El Salvador continue to live in poverty. Life is the same. The poverty is the same. There has been no accountability. Most of the killings committed by the military have gone unpunished. They have granted themselves amnesty, though we are sent to prison for peaceful protest. In 1998 Bishop Gerardi was killed two days after he released his report on the atrocities committed during the Guatemalan Civil War.

The training at the SOA continues. Right now the majority of the SOA students are Colombian.

We are on a very dangerous course here — the \$1.3 billion U.S. military aid package to Colombia is setting the stage. Placing the biggest chunk of that money in the hands of the military, knowing that the military and paramilitary are violators of human rights, can only weaken the civilian government and harm the people of Colombia. We have not learned anything from Vietnam or El Salvador. We must be a voice for the voiceless and continue to stand with the poor of Latin America. ■

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you climb a ladder and paint
a 20 foot cement wall.

It's a Labor Ready Day.

Another day at the bottom
of the American work force.

And as an added bonus,
you have an eighty percent chance
of standing in the rain or the hot sun.

It's a Labor Ready Day

A day's work for half a day's pay.

It's a Labor Ready Day.

— by J. Johns

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The Marginal Lifestyle by Sticky Al

Assassination: two asses in one word

I'm sneaking up on a subject here which just kind of spoke to me from a bush, passed on by a little bird. O.K., I made it up, but still, you have to admit that whatever it is is damned interesting. It's about the political assassination business. Folks who go in for conspiracy theories usually get their information through their implants, or straight from the mothership, but not me! I promise you, dear reader, I will only pass on firsthand delusions, unencumbered by mere hallucination and gibberish. For those, call my 900 number.

But what I'm trying to foist off on the sanitary public is a conspiracy theory that doesn't fit into movies or newspapers. I'm talking about dull, boring assassinations, the stuff of which no movie is ever made.

Let's see just how dull and boring this assassination theory is, using our dull-o-meter. The dull-o-meter is a small handy device that pops up when something's interesting. If it isn't interesting, nothing pops up and the dull-o-meter immediately wants

to go surf for porn. So wave your dull-o-meter at this idea and let's see if we can't all get real uncomfortable together.

Seems like everybody knows where they were when J.F.K. died. (I'd been hustling pops for the carpenters working near my home, and must have lost 65 cents that day. I've hated J.F.K. ever since.) Now, when-

ever someone talks about assassinations, it's all grassy knolls, textbook warehouses, bummy barkeeps, etc. etc. The pace of assassinations hasn't slacked since J.F.K., they've just become more subtle. Everyone is looking for the grassy knoll and a coterie of gunmen. Meanwhile, assassinations continue apace!

For instance, the assassination of Jimmy Carter! Slip into a diaper more comfortable, friend, because Jimmy Carter was assassinated by the U.S. Military! You think maybe ol' Sticky been smokin that corn hair again, but I'm here to tell you that the U.S. Military assassinated Jimmy Carter just as surely as Cain killed Abel. It's hard to rave over the gales of laughter, but you must have noticed I ain't exactly into comedy.

When this dastardly deed got done, who done it, and a few thousand ideas about *why* they done it should be available in my new book, but I ain't got a book, so I'm just going to blurt it out here and then make even wilder accusations before I break down completely and beg you to believe I just made it up.

The assassination of Jimmy Carter took place in a lonely spot in the Iranian desert in 1980! That's right! Jimmy Carter was no where near Iran in 1980! Right again! Eight American soldiers died in the Iranian desert during a hostage rescue attempt, and you are absolutely correct in assuming that not one of those soldiers was named Jimmy Carter either. In those days at that time, Jimmy Carter was soft on Vietnam draft dodgers and military spending. So, bullet to the head.

Now I'd like to grab our hallucinatory spy camera and swing wildly like a photographer with Parkinson's over to Seattle. Yes! And point our spy cam at the assassination of Chief Stamper! Who actually took the bullet for Mayor Schell. You see, dear reader, there is no limit to which the paranoid mind cannot flail to understand.

Now, Seattle has good cops. They at least acknowledge your existence. Try the cops in Portland, or anywhere in California and you find bitter, alienated people with the authority to reinforce their own bad attitude. The point I'm trying to make, without becoming an apologist for the Seattle Police Department, is that we have a fine force, one of the finest in the United States, even if they did fake a bad landing during WTO. Anybody who believes for a minute that the police didn't have a fair grasp of the situation is doomed to discover that familiarity breeds contempt. Your attitude will buy you time, if you know what I mean. Anyway, I'm not trying to imply that we live in a military dictatorship or a police state or anything. Not me, I may be paranoid, but I know where the line is drawn. I won't cross it. Look what happened to the Chief. ■

Los Angeles Enfermos

In this saintless city
we amputate our dreams
and fragment our days
into small morose pieces
of manageable madness.

In this city besieged
the conquered fight bitterly
for keys of gold
to empires of dust: a woman
shrieks
in schizophrenic terror
as a black man hobbles
his broken body down 10th Street,
begging
for someone to give him 35¢
for a fucking bag of potato chips.

Here in this vomitorium
of earthly delights
we all starve like Lazarus
wailing at the gates
of the Holy City.

We diligently scrape
beneath the peasant kings
who lord over so little, reigning
over the thankless rabble
of an imaginary kingdom
that scorns the weak assertions
and admonishments
of the so-called "superiors,"
the crowned clowns
who position and posture,
hitching themselves up
like baggy britches
stretching their necks to be noticed
from among the rest of us,
scanning the milling crowd to find
the ones whom they think
they are better than.

And we sense the impotent uncertainty;
the smiling, chuckling weakness
of the pretenders.

In this
profane
city of desecration
hope is the passage
of time,
silken words of woven poetry
in the sunlit smog, and
anonymous death
in our own
rented
gardens.

— ROBERT N. STEVENS

by count

You've lost! That's not t
reas
for yours, today—th
that causes you to disag
things most pers
if they'll oppose your ow
you've taken, and
away from—are the ones
today, are best for



Los Angeles Enfermos

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in the sunlit smog, and
anonymous death
in our own
rented
gardens.

— ROBERT N. STEVENS

by count

You've lost! That's not the
reason
for yours, today—the greed
that causes you to disagree with
things most persons need,
if they'll oppose your own. The stands
you've taken, and will fall
away from—are the ones you'll claim
today, are best for all.

—STAN BURRISS

It Becomes You to Be a Monster

it becomes you to be a monster
thrash your tongue and spit your wood
if i only could, if i only could
i'm driving you down i-90
the only thing that stops me from driving you to
spokane is i have another appointment at 2
you are through, you are through
you won't get a jack burger in this town!
i kicked you out once, and i'll kick you out again
the other employees say you smell
The only way you'll get your check is to bring in your
uniform washed and clean
\$3.75 an hour for this powder
i gun the engine and head for higher ground
\$50 will buy you an eighth
and a brief swing by the liquor store
i'm only nineteen, but i got the johnnie walker
in my hand as i walk out the door
it becomes you to be a monster

— PATRICK BISSELL

Take these

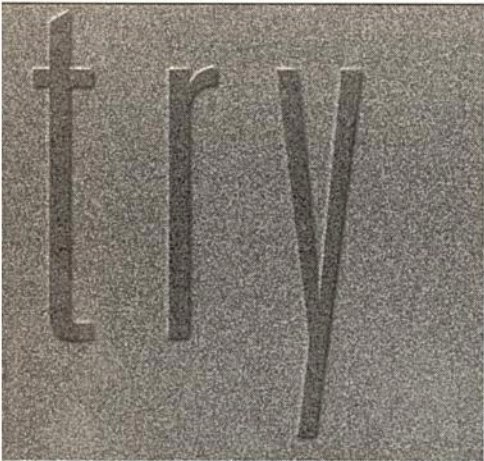
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"Take these w
but not too m
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Rainbow arcs
of memory an
of tarnished r

And I, sleeping
dark understa
listen to our b



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s need,
The stands
ll fall
ou'll claim
l.
—STAN BURRISS

Becomes You to Be a Monster

ecomes you to be a monster
ash your tongue and spit your wood
only could, if i only could
driving you down i-90
only thing that stops me from driving you to
okane is i have another appointment at 2
i are through, you are through
i won't get a jack burger in this town!
cked you out once, and i'll kick you out again
other employees say you smell
e only way you'll get your check is to bring in your
form washed and clean
75 an hour for this powder
in the engine and head for higher ground
l will buy you an eighth
l a brief swing by the liquor store
only nineteen, but i got the johnnie walker
ny hand as i walk out the door
ecomes you to be a monster

— PATRICK BISSELL

Take these Words

She lay in a circle of pale light.
Calligraphy of September leaves thrash
like butterfly wings on her amber skin.

She loosens the dark rope,
freeing her hair,
and recites a poem:

“Take these words,
but not too much
of the world...”

Rainbow arcs, lighting up the sky
of memory and cleansing my eyes
of tarnished rain.

And I, sleeping with her
dark understanding
listen to our breathing.

— EARLE THOMPSON

Fencepost

You've had nothing. In
your hand...
falling
into....
through —
others close to you.
You have these.
others (beyond
you) listen, only if you
will. This is
hard! if you are
alone.
And
you are, if you will be.
— STAN BURRISS

End of Conversation

She laid her beaded necklace
on the antique table
and told me beautiful lies.
She held me, told me not to go with other women
and put her red hair
against my shoulder.
When she told me, please
She asked me if I remembered how to pray
No...

—EARLE THOMSPON

Taking Back the Stage

By Pappi Tomas

On a Saturday night when Ralph Nader drew roughly 10,000 people into KeyArena, an audience of about 30 gathered in the gymnasium of a youth center on east Capitol Hill. Taking their seats among bare white walls and a plain propless stage, they greeted each other one by one, so that no two people, actors included, went un-introduced. "Say hello," they were urged. "Get to know your neighbor. We're one big happy family." They were about to engage in *The Color of Justice*, a participatory theatrical production put on by the Seattle Public Theater as part of its Theater of Liberation series.

The audience intimacy was unusual. But then how else can a group of mostly strangers be persuaded to shout "Stop!" in the middle of a scene, walk up onto the stage, replace one of the actors, and nudge the story in a new, and hopefully more positive, direction?

This is a hugely interactive, intensely personal, and overtly political form of theater called Theater of Liberation, also known as Theater of the Oppressed. It was developed in Brazil by scholar and dramatist Augusto Boal. Boal wanted a theater that would begin, not within the centers of culture, but rather out in the neighborhoods where people were ignored. He wanted the property of theater — the characters, the plotlines — to be wrested from the hands of privileged actors and given back to the spectators. People could then enact their own stories before an empathetic audience. Boal wanted this theater to serve as a forum, an occasion for discussion, and a laboratory for discovering solutions and effecting change.

Saturday evening's performance achieved all of the above. The actors, 10 of them, each an activist, each a member of a minority group in Seattle, were not your typical repertory troupe. And the events they dramatized — incidents of police brutality, institutional discrimination, everyday racism — were taken from their own lives, events that some in the audience knew well and others knew only secondhand.

They spent only one week preparing for the event. For two or three hours a night, they gathered to share their stories. They explored the expressive capacity of their bodies and voices, they loosened up their natural ability to act. And from all this raw material, they created scenes, composed poetry and lyrical prose, invented gestures and vocalizations when words were not enough. They learned how to improvise.

The audience, too, had to improvise that evening. "What do you want from this experience?" one of the facilitators asked them. "Love," someone said. "Peace," said another. "Unity, freedom, activism, respect." No sooner had these wishes been expressed than up on the stage the actors were manifesting them.

They shouted, groaned, waved, and crouched in response. Then the audience was encouraged to join in — to represent, in similar fashion, whatever quality had yet to be accounted for. This was the model for the rest of the evening: the people said what they wanted, and the people were responsible for making it happen.

Later, from three narrative scenes presented, the audience was asked to choose just one. In this, as in all the scenes, one character is being oppressed. It is this character that one audience member after another — a white 30ish fellow, a young black man, a younger black girl, a middle-aged white man — replaces on the stage. Each spectator turned "spectator" then confronts the oppressor and, using whatever strategy comes to mind — belligerence, sympathy, reason, humor — tries to even the score.

The point, however, is not necessarily to find a solution. Participants should leave Theater of Liberation feeling, at best, as though solutions are possible, that they are free to pursue them, and that they'll find support if they do.

The results, as one might expect, were mixed. "What do you feel now?" the audience was asked at the end. "Awakened," said one. "Saddened," replied another. Some were "proud" and "happy." Others were "frustrated" and "angry." All in all, though, these spectators seemed mobilized.

John Sullivan hopes that this example of "forum theater" will encourage diverse people to share a single effort. "White activists need to be allies of activists of color," he says. "They need to be resources for those who are often held back at the gate." Yet he understands that for many white activists, these stories of injustice against people of color are "not *their* stories." During the WTO, brutality came as much to whites as to anyone else, he says, but such an incident was an "anomaly," not a matter of daily survival.

It is, however, a matter of survival for people like Mrs. Ophelia Ealy, one of the actors that evening, whose son, Michael Randall Ealy, was killed two years ago under questionable circumstances at the hands of Seattle police officers and American Medical Response attendants. It was her passion in response to her son's death that had attracted John Sullivan's attention and inspired him to plan this performance around the themes of police brutality and racial injustice.

Even so, Mrs. Ealy herself, at the close of the forum, spoke in terms that included everyone. "You don't have to be guilty to be murdered," she said. "You just have to be there."

She urged audience members to do what they had been doing all evening: stand up in public and talk about this kind of injustice. "It exists," she said. "It's everywhere. And as long as we sit back and do nothing, it's going to continue." ■

For more information regarding future Theater of Liberation performances, or how to develop an event in your own community, call Seattle Public Theater at (206) 328-4848.

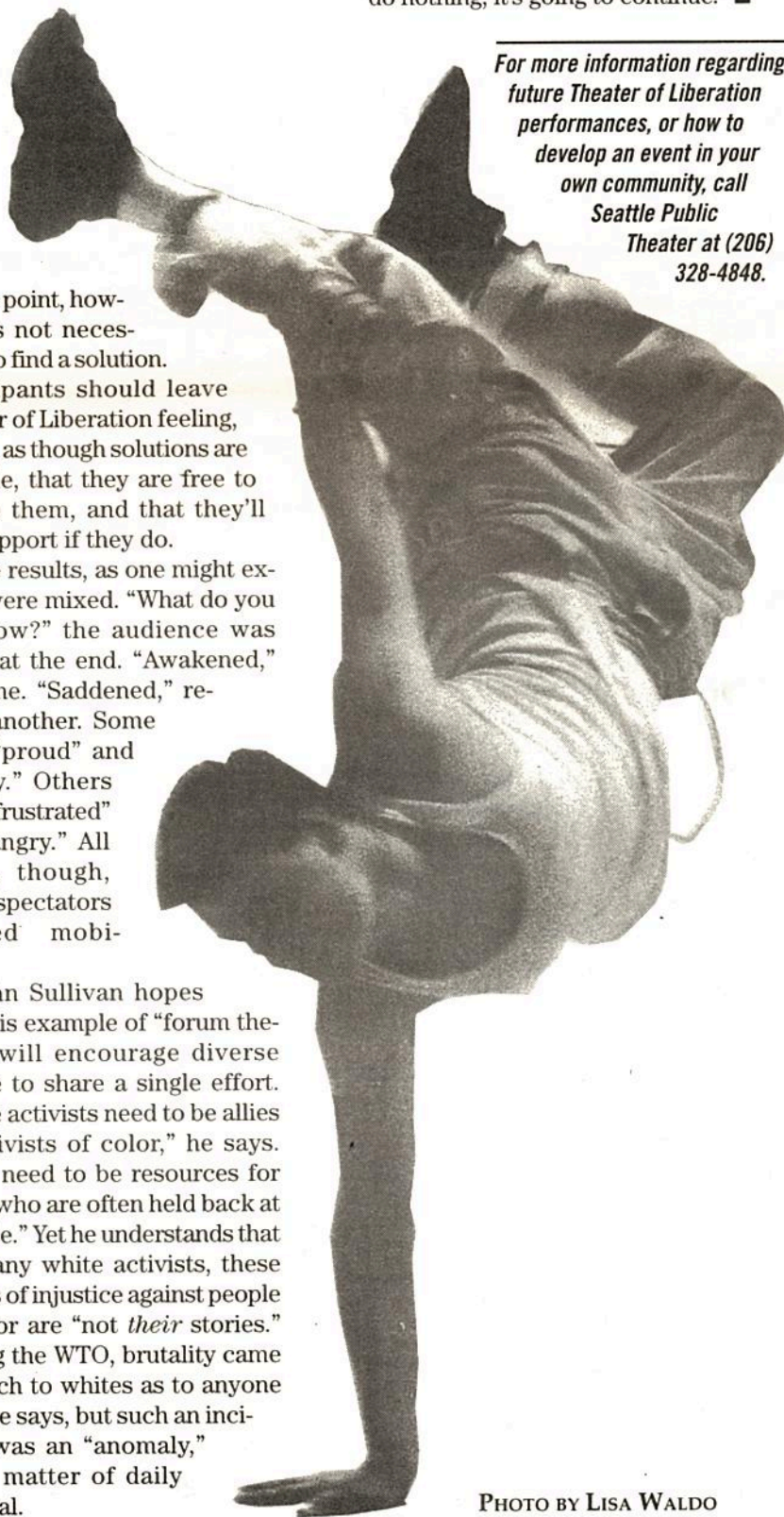


PHOTO BY LISA WALDO

JUBILEE Continued from Page 1

For the local coalition, the answer to whether the movement should close up shop come the year 2001 is an easy one: No, says Michael Ramos, program associate for church and economic justice for the Washington Association of Churches. "The countries in the South — with whom we sympathize quite a bit here — are saying, 'We're building a movement here, and there's a lot of energy in the grassroots. We have to continue on.'"

To continue doing what is a complicated question. Because Jubilee North-

To make poor countries continue to service their debt is "economically irrational and morally unacceptable," says the international development agency OXFAM.

west has successfully attracted a range of supporters, Strimer says it also has a spectrum of opinions about the debt issue and the movement's position. Some members look beyond government to see the debt as the "entry to the entire globalization and neocolonialist issue," says Strimer. And so far, despite signs of hope, the IMF, the World Bank and Congress have fallen short of the movement's goals.

For some in the movement, waiting for politicians to act is fraught with too many compromises. For example, McDermott's support for debt cancellation is tempered by his sponsorship of a controversial new law, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or what its critics call NAFTA for Africa.

"I wouldn't call him a foe, but he has a neoliberal approach to development," says Strimer, who wishes McDermott was as outspoken on debt as he has been on trade.

Other members of the coalition believe economic development and debt cancellation are incompatible. "McDermott is pushing trade, and we're asking for a new beginning. I think these are two different things," says Hanna Petros, executive director of coalition member Ustawi, a local nonprofit that educates the Northwest about Africa-related issues. Petros, a native of Ethiopia, has stopped counting on U.S. politicians. The strength of any social movement is in its grassroots, she says; Jubilee 2000 must back up the agenda of its members in the poor countries.

These days, they're asking for more than mere debt cancellation. For example, Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of South Africa has said the Third World countries have waited long enough for action, they have met their lending institution's ever-changing requirements for debt relief. They have privatized their economies and cut social services to the bone, and still no relief has come.

Asking these countries to continue servicing their debts when they are already so poor is "economically irrational and morally unacceptable," according to the development agency OXFAM. More than half of the people

living in the world's poorest countries survive on a dollar a day, one in six children dies before the age of 5 from poverty-related diseases, and almost 50 million children are not in school. Ndungane calls on all poor countries to simply stop making debt payments to wealthy countries. Locally, Petros is studying the legal and economic ramifications of Ndungane's call.

Meanwhile, the Jubilee 2000 South movement, made up of the Third World countries, has declared debt cancellation too timid a course of action. Such debts are illegitimate, Jubilee South argues, and in return for all the violence, economic and environmental devastation which the Northern countries have created, the Third World should in fact receive reparations. In other places, the movement has be-

come a call for democracy and the means to eliminate poverty.

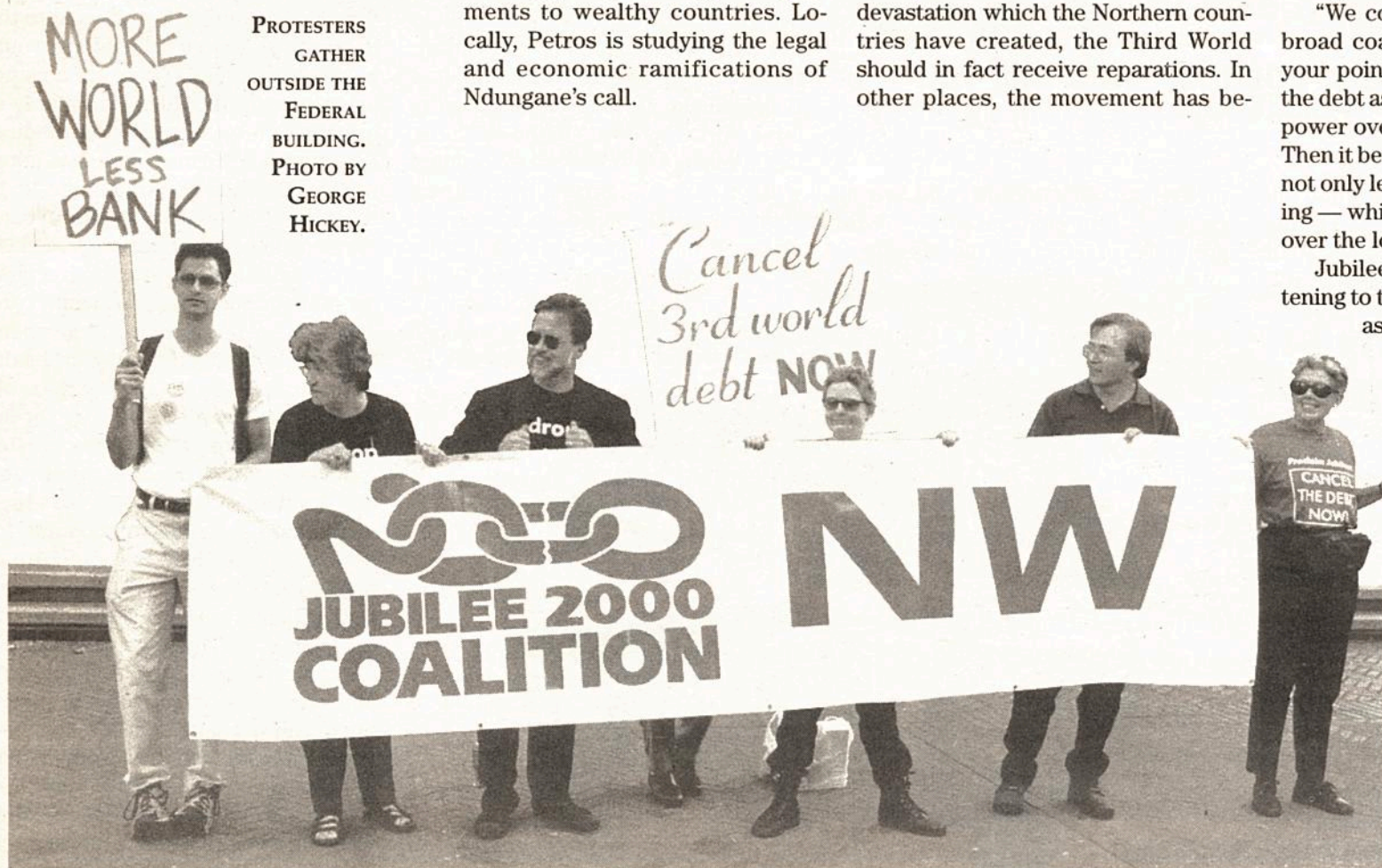
Strimer believes that, at least locally, these diverse points of view can be accommodated. He says the range of opinions members raise is the very strength of Jubilee Northwest.

"We couldn't do it unless it was a broad coalition," he says. No matter your point of view, "you begin to see the debt as a system of domination and power over people in many countries. Then it becomes possible to undertake not only legislative action, but organizing — which is what it is going to take, over the long haul."

Jubilee Northwest believes that listening to the South is just as important as charting its own actions. So, while sending out alerts for members to contact Congress about debt cancellation legislation, the coalition has also endorsed the archbishop's statement. They have called on local and national affiliates to do the same.

For Petros, connecting with people in the poor countries is where change really begins. "I hope that Jubilee Northwest continues working with and trying to hear the voices of the South," says Petros. "In that way, we can make a difference." ■

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Sick of it All

Economic equality: good for what ails you

By Stephen Bezruchka

Most of us hear that we don't do enough to stay healthy. The doctor is always on our backs to quit smoking. We leave the clinic or E.R. hearing their advice: give up the pleasure of a smoke. Is smoking all that bad anyway?

Suppose there was a mythical place, Smoke-utopia, where people puffing away enjoyed good health. Not possible, you say? It happens that the world's healthiest country has the most smokers per capita. It's not the United States, since we don't have that many smokers. Smoke-Utopia is Japan.

Three times as many men smoke in Japan as in America, yet more than twice as many American men die of lung cancer. Yes, smokers in Japan have worse health than non-smokers, but not that much worse.

Despite being the most powerful and wealthiest country in history, the U.S. isn't such a healthy place to live.

To understand why, let's define the health of a country as its life expectancy: born today, at the mortality rates today, how long can you expect to live? If we rank countries this way, it may be no surprise that Japan has the highest life-expectancy of any country in the world, and we've fallen from 13th among all nations in 1960 to 25th by 1997 — behind all the other rich countries, and a few poor ones as well.

How could we be so unhealthy? We have the most expensive and sophisticated health care system in the world; it costs us one-seventh of our total economy. Could it be that our health care system doesn't buy us health? Can any health care system make a population healthy? The answer to both questions is, apparently not.

To understand that, ask the question: what makes a population healthy? The answer is clear. Countries with healthy citizens enjoy a relatively small gap between rich and poor.

This has been carefully studied on many different populations, including in the U.S. If you live in Louisiana or Mississippi, your chances of dying early are 50 percent higher than if you live in Utah or New Hampshire. That is because the healthier states are those in which income is better shared than the worst states. The healthier states have a smaller gap between the rich and the poor — people share more equally in the pie. Those states spend less money on health care, have a greater focus on primary care, and spend less on specialty care.

Another study of U.S. cities shows that among rich cities, as well as cities in the middle, and those that are poor, the health of their populations depends

on the gap between high and low incomes within rich, middle or poor groupings of cities. So the gap affects all of us, not just the poor.

What kind of a society will have a smaller gap between the

rich and the poor?

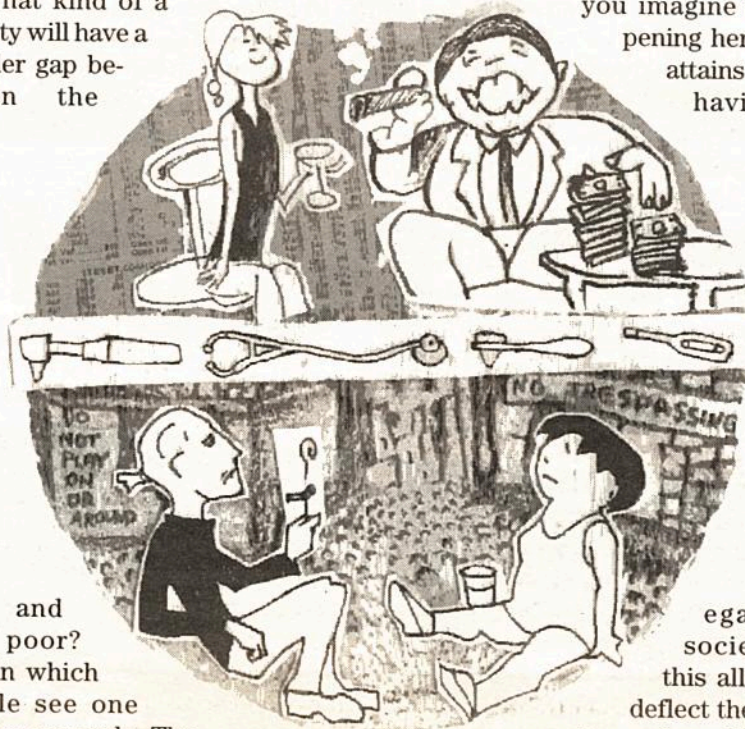
One in which people see one another as equals. The norms of behavior are those of friendship, support, cooperation, trust, sociability, and community. Those are healthy-sounding words.

In societies where there is a big gap between the rich and poor, the way to get things done is through power, coercion and domination. People with no power feel resignation, submission and resentment. These aren't healthy feel-

ings. The quality of the psychosocial environment determines a population's health.

Japan's lung cancer death rates are so low because Japan has the most equal society of any rich country. Japan restructured its society after the Second World War to be more egalitarian. The Prime Minister makes four times what an average worker makes. Bosses make 10 times what an entry level worker makes. (In the U.S. now, CEOs make 475 times what a factory worker makes). During their recent economic crisis, Japanese bosses and managers have taken cuts in pay, rather than lay off workers. Could

you imagine that happening here? Japan attains health by having an



egalitarian society, and this allows it to deflect the (pardon the pun) smoking gun.


The income gap in the U.S. has increased immensely, beginning in the 1970s, when there were few homeless people on the streets. Our gap, while always higher than most rich countries, has now become extreme. The richest one percent of the U.S. now controls 42 percent of the wealth in the country. Seattle houses three of the four richest people in the world! Such

a situation has come about because the rich have not had to face "market discipline." There have been no reforms in the system that produces the rich. Reforms are necessary for the poor, but apparently not for the rich.

It is difficult to abandon the notion that if, as a country, we all went to the doctor and did what she said, we would be much healthier. There are no studies to support that idea, and plenty of information to suggest that medical care may in fact cause harm than good. In the U.S. alone, perhaps one in 10 deaths may be related to medical care. We have all heard of mistakes made in hospitals, but that is less than a quarter of the harm caused by health care. Japan is no better here. They spend about half as much money on health care, and probably do comparable amounts of harm. At surgery for appendicitis, a normal appendix is often removed, about six times more frequently than in the U.S. It isn't their health care system that accounts for "Smoke-utopia" it is the structure of their society.

To change our dismal standing will take structural medicine, the kind a doctor can't give you. It will only happen when the poorer people in society organize for changes in the economy that require the rich to conform to market discipline, not just the poor. Everyone should have their share. Then we will all benefit from America's economic growth, not just the rich. Everyone's health will improve. We must work to close the gap. ■

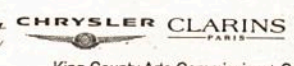
Stephen Bezruchka is a doctor who works in the emergency departments of Group Health and Virginia Mason Hospitals and teaches at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine. For more information, check out his web site (<http://depts.washington.edu/eqhlth>), where the scientific studies underlying these assertions are available. Illustration by Tom Davis.



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Tenant Talk alternates between attorney Mark Chattin's question and answer column, in which he responds to specific tenant concerns, and a general column by the Tenants Union staff and members, in which they write about organizing, education, and empowerment opportunities for tenants. As always, if you have a question or comment, anecdote or issue to raise, write to Tenant Talk, c/o Real Change, 2129 - 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121, or email rchange@speakeasy.org.



Tenant Talk Educate Agitate Organize

From a Tenant's View

Ed. note: Francisco is a resident and tenant leader at the Belcourt Apartments in Ballard, a building where low-income seniors and people with disabilities live (see "Belcourt Blues," RC Aug. 1). This summer, the Belcourt tenants called for relocation assistance, protesting the renovations that were making some of them ill. Tenants who want to stay have demanded that rent increases be rolled back. Four months after the tenants began organizing, the building manager says repair work has been stopped because of tenant concerns.

By Francisco Lim

Several meetings brought most of us tenants together. At our first few meetings, it could be seen rather clearly what each tenant would contribute: who were the leaders, who were the followers, who would be "flash-in-the-pan" members. It's not meant to exalt or put down anyone, but only make a cursory "look at your team" kind of thing. There were those that tended to talk all the time; others would not talk at all. It takes a skillful

facilitator to redirect attention and keep the discussion on track. At the outset, it was clear that it would be a big task to make decisions together, much less get a majority consensus on what to do.

I compare this strategizing process to building a fire from scratch. After igniting a starter fire, throw on some kindling to keep it going. Then put in heavier combustible material. Place increasingly heavier fuel on the fire. Finally there is a conflagration, and the negotiation process may begin.

At the Belcourt, negotiations were started with the building's owner, but our best negotiator was treated badly. It was as if the owner treated that person as a mere tenant. I'll note here that the owner should be held in contempt by others for the immature way he conducted himself during the negotiation. The designated tenant negotiator should be congratulated for her heroic stand before a physical giant but a mental midget.

We then began organizing tenants to start a protest — a formidable task. First there is the difficult and unenviable chore of deciding who does what. You've got to knock on doors, talk with the occupants, explain the purpose of the action, and tell them what such action would produce. They should be asked for a commitment of some sort, "for the cause," so to speak.

There are small successes that tenants can savor. At the Belcourt, for example, we tenants had organized so well that the work that was making us sick stopped suddenly and the on-site manager quit in the middle of the workweek. We also staged a picket in front of Kauri Investments, which prompted the owner and management company to sit down and negotiate. We filed several complaints against the owner and the management company with the Seattle Office of Civil Rights.

It is my belief that these actions re-

sulted directly or indirectly in the sudden work stoppage and the disappearance of that management tool, the on-site manager. In addition, the management company decided to negotiate with each individual tenant, after it maintained that there would be no negotiations of any kind.

At times, I question my own commitment to this fight, but being a part of a larger tenants' movement has made it easier for me to keep my work in proper perspective. ■

The owner should be held in contempt for the immature way he conducted himself during the negotiation. The designated tenant negotiator should be congratulated for her heroic stand before a physical giant but a mental midget.

For more information on the Belcourt struggle, call Aline Carton at the Tenants Union at (206)722-6848 ext. 114.

Write to Tenant Talk!

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NOTES FROM THE KITCHEN

All Hallow's Eve

by Liz Smith

Death, or the threat of an impending death, isn't easy. That's probably one reason why in secular America, Halloween most often means buying a costume and going door-to-door asking for candy, or getting good and drunk at a masquerade party. As fun as these things might be, they are not very spiritually comforting or fulfilling.

People in Mexico and south Texas extend the Halloween season into the fiesta of *el Día de los Muertos*, from October 31 to November 2. These three days are given over to remembrance of family members and friends who have died. An altar is made and on it are placed *calaveras de dulce* (sugar skulls), *pan de muertos* (bread of the dead), *velas* (candles), *cempasúchil* (marigolds), cups of *chocolate*, special foods that the deceased enjoyed during their life, and pictures of the departed. On the first day, the *angelitos*, the spirits of children who have died, pay a visit. The next day is marked by the departure of the *angelitos*, and the adult spirits come to visit.

On the last day, All Souls' Day, the living gather at the cemetery to clean and decorate the graves and to say goodbye to the adult spirits. As darkness falls, candles are placed on the graves and lit. Families walk in starlight to their homes, and their annual celebration comes to an end.

Every year in our house we make an altar in memory of my dad. There are bright marigolds, candles, a picture of him in front of his twin-engine plane during World War II, and little bowls of food. What he liked best was liver and onions, but I hate liver, so I put out Planter's dry-roasted peanuts and Doritos instead. That way we're both happy.

Then we get ready to go trick-or-treating.

When the streetlights come on, my son blows out the flickering candles and we go into the dark night. He is a ferocious pirate. I am there to carry things, sort of like a donkey with bus fare and a map. Due to my utter incompetence with Halloween makeup, he looks like an accident victim who happens to be carrying a plastic sword and a large paper sack from QFC. He does not want to go to the community center carnival or their haunted house. He doesn't want to go to any mall either, even though I have suggested how much fun he would have. What he wants is candy.

So, energized by greed and delight, he charges up our big hill, stopping at each lit-up house. At the crest of the hill we pause for a minute. Down below is the valley of our neighborhood—where all the stores are—and further on, another hillside covered with gleaming houses. Beautiful houses, with plump lawns and splashing musical fountains and the best Halloween decoration in the whole city.

We move along sidewalks filled with parents and children. It is wall-to-wall children, and no one is crying. Everyone is happy and cheerful—those who give and those who receive—and it is a real pleasure to see these normally quiet streets so full of energy and color and community spirit.

Up another hill and we are here, and we begin. Children dart by like bats, dressed as bumblebees, princesses, tramps. We stop at many, many houses. Groups of children join together at doorways, then break apart at corners, only to form new groups for the next blocks of houses.

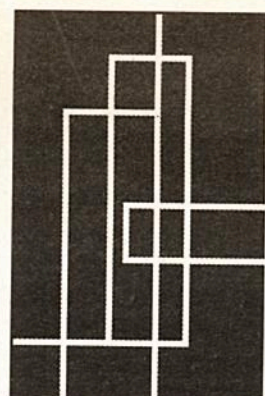
Off in the distance ferries make their stately passage through the water. Houses wear necklaces of pumpkin lights. Every porch has its carved jack-o'-lantern. Ghosts dangle by their necks and skeletons grin bony smiles. We get to our favorite street, one we visit every year. Our first stop—a haunted house, complete with ax-wielding maniacs that spring to life and make us jump and a very realistic fortune-telling witch with green skin and a big black hat. Our second—a front yard cemetery full of tombstones and cobwebs.

Halloween is fading away and it is time to take the pirate home. We have been walking four hours, and he has run up and down stairs all night. We wait for our bus. All the sensible parents have tucked their children into bed long ago.

Midnight. The candy has been piled up on the kitchen table and admired. My son is asleep. Overhead, a twin engine C-46 with a solitary pilot banks left, and ascends to navigate the universe. ■



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Monday October 2nd, Victor Steinbrueck Park. A Hispanic male in his 40s was observed drinking from a 12-oz. can of Budweiser beer. The officer gave him a warning, made him sign the Park Exclusion forms which barred him for seven days, and escorted him out of the park. Later that afternoon, the officer returned to the park to investigate a disturbance. Upon arriving he found the same man sitting on a bench. The officer arrested him for trespassing, and he was booked into King County Jail.

Monday October 2nd, Occidental Park, 8:42 p.m. As an officer was responding to another call, he saw an Asian male, age 54, in the park after being placed on Park Exclusion four days earlier. The man was taken into custody, charged with trespassing, and booked into King County Jail.

Monday October 2nd, Regrade Park, Third Avenue and Bell St., 8:45 p.m. A homeless black woman, age 40, was observed sitting in Regrade Park with an open can of beer by her side. Upon questioning her, the officer determined she had several outstanding warrants and booked her at the West Precinct.


Monday October 2nd, South Myrtle St., 7:30 p.m. An Asian male, age 57, was found on the street, disoriented and intoxicated. The officer attempted to find out this "found person's" address or names of friends or family. Despite the aid of Language Line, the language barrier prevented this. The officer found a card on the man for a case manager at Good Samaritan Hospital in Tacoma, and left a message there. Shelter was arranged for him at St. Martin de Porres for the night. ■

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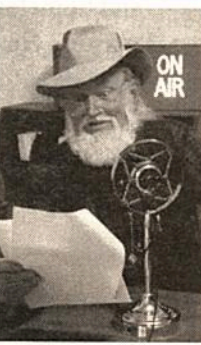
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The first Seattle Post Office was established on October 12, 1852. Arthur A. Denny was appointed postmaster. The post office was located at the northeast corner



THE FIRST POST OFFICE

On October 20, 1852, the Olympia newspaper *The Columbian* reported that "a new steam mill is in process of erection by Mr. Henry L. Yesler at Seattle." The region's first steam-powered saw mill began operation in the following spring and quickly established Seattle as the economic capital of Puget Sound.

of Front Street (renamed 1st Avenue) and Marion Street. It was the first post office to open in King County.



SEATTLE'S FIRST STEAM-POWERED SAW MILL.

A 60-foot totem pole from Fort Tongass, Alaska, was unveiled in Pioneer Square, "greeted by cheers of a multitude of people," on October 18, 1899. The totem had been stolen from a Tlingit village several weeks before and was presented to the City of Seattle by the Chamber of Commerce "Committee of Fifteen" — the group of Seattle vandals (who were prominent citizens) that had taken the totem.

The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* had sponsored a "Good Will Committee" of "leading Seattle citizens" on a tour of Southeast Alaska ports aboard the

steamer *City of Seattle*. When the ship stopped at Fort Tongass, third mate R. D. McGillvery went ashore and, as he later described, "The Indians were all away fishing, except for one who stayed in his house and looked scared to death. We picked out the best looking totem pole... I took a couple of sailors ash-



PROPERTY TAKEN FROM TLINGIT VILLAGE ARRIVES IN SEATTLE.

ore and we chopped it down — just like you'd chop down a tree. It was too big to roll down the beach, so we sawed it in two." Members of the

Committee of Fifteen paid McGillvery \$2.50 for his effort and the pieces were hoisted aboard the ship.

Soon after, a federal grand jury in Alaska indicted eight of Seattle's most prominent citizens for theft of government property. When the newly appointed U.S. District Court Judge for Alaska stopped in Seattle en route to his new posting, he was entertained at the Rainier Club and the incident was explained to him. He later dismissed all charges. The Tlingit Tribe demanded \$20,000 for the stolen totem, but settled for \$500. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* paid the tribe.

After an arsonist seriously damaged it in 1938, the totem was removed and replaced with a replica, carved by the descendants of the owners of the original.

Seattle resident Leong Sheng died of bubonic plague in October, one of three victims of the plague during 1907. Thousands of rats living on ships carried the bubonic plague from Asia to San Francisco to Seattle. Seattleites held a public meeting and urged the Governor to petition the U.S. Public Health Service to take charge of the outbreak. The Public Health Service sent officers to Seattle. They inspected 15,475 trapped rats for plague, and they policed sanitation mainly in the 218 blocks along and behind the city's waterfront.

The Seattle Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded on October 23, 1913, and became the first of the national civil rights organizations to be established in the city. The national association was created in New York in 1910. The Seattle branch was one of the earliest branches formed west of the Mississippi River.

President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) was scheduled to attend the final day of the Seattle World's Fair on October 21, 1962. He bowed out with a "cold," interrupting a nationwide tour to return to Washington D.C. for "bed rest." This was entirely a ruse. What was actually unfolding was the Cuban Missile Crisis, the closest the United States and the Soviet Union ever came to nuclear war. ■

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

We at Classics Corner do not know everything. We are human, and have most of the same limitations as other mortals. Sadly, our lack of absolute knowledge sometimes extends into the political realm, where tough choices must be made based upon imperfect evidence.

For example, our wife recently told us to vote Cantwell, despite our preferences for Senn, because Cantwell could beat Gorton and Gorton must be defeated. "*Slade Gorton is pure evil*," she said.

We wondered whether this was possible. We became obsessed by the ratio of Gorton's goodness to evil. We were beyond politics and into pure metaphysics. The real question, we decided, is essentially this: Does Slade Gorton have a soul? Naturally, we turned to Plato for our answer.

Many of us have been forced to read *The Phaedo* at some point or another in our wretched lives, and may remember it as the dialogue in which Socrates offers three proofs for the existence of the soul before serenely sipping his post-prandial hemlock and finally shutting up.

We at Classics Corner thought it might be illuminating to apply these general proofs to the particular case of Slade Gorton.

Our first proof is the Heraclitean doctrine of opposites. Heraclitus, one of the first philosophers to appear in Greece, said the world is change and is based upon opposing tensions. Day turns into night, sleep into wakefulness, life into death, and so forth, in continuous cycles. This insight was extended substantially by Hegel and transformed into the basis for communism by Marx, so it would be very ironic if we proved the existence of Gorton's soul through the logic of communism. We at Classics Corner love irony, so we'll chalk one up for Slade's soul.

The next proof offered by Socrates is the doctrine of reminiscence. The notion is that we understand ideal concepts even though we've never actually seen one; therefore, we must have experienced the ideal prior to our births. Ironically, the example Socrates offers is equality.

We went to the candidate's website, at www.slade2000.com, and the Dump Slade 2000 site at www.whopaidslade.org, and found little to no evidence that Slade Gorton understands the principle of equality, whether approximate or absolute. We are sorry to report that the doctrine of reminiscence, in the case of Slade, offers insubstantial proof.

The third, last, and lamest proof is that of constancy. Socrates argues that if the soul embodies ideal qualities, then those qualities are not subject to change and must be eternal. But constancy does not seem to be Slade's strong point. His campaign website, for example, says we "need to support our natural resources as a precious gift." Yet the League of Conservation Voters says Gorton only voted the right way on the environment 11 percent of the time last year. His score the previous year was zero percent.

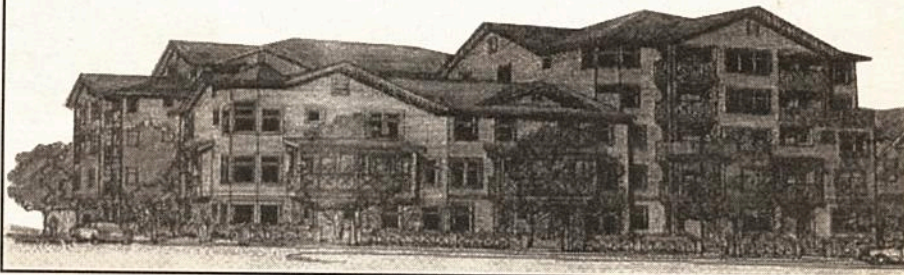
This lack of constancy does not make a good case for the existence of Slade's soul.

So there we have it. We at Classics Corner, despite our best efforts, remain perplexed. Does Slade Gorton have a soul? We still don't know. You'll have to decide for yourselves. ■

Low Income Housing Institute

Affordable housing for low income families, seniors, singles, disabled and homeless people. Building located in downtown Seattle, 1170 Harrison. New studios, one and two bedroom apartments are available this fall at the Lakeview Apartments in the Cascade Neighborhood.

For an application, see our website at www.lihi.org, call (206) 443-9935 x127, or stop by the office at 2407 1st Ave, in the Belltown neighborhood of Seattle.



October Notables

Monday, 10/16

Introduction to **Non-Violent Communication for Social Change** with international peacemaker Marshall Rosenberg, 7-9:30 p.m., at Seattle Unity Church, 200 8th Ave N, near Denny Park, free, info 206-382-8576 or <http://www.psncc.org> or psncc@juno.com

Tuesday, 10/17

Monthly Business Meeting for **Independent Print and Electronic Weekly Eat The State!** Come opine, meet, volunteer, how do we do it every other week? People like you! Come be one of them! This and subsequent 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m., at the Eat The State! office, Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave at Pike St, downtown, info 206-215-1156.

Wednesday, 10/18

Screenings of the feature film "Around The Fire" with Writer /Producer John Comerford and a very special guest, presented by Paradigm Studio, suggested donation, \$10, benefit for Joe Szewajka for Congress Campaign, 7 & 9:30 p.m., at the Little Theater on Capitol Hill, 608 - 19th Avenue E, info <http://www.joeforcongress.org>, joeforcongress.org, or 206-633-2464.

Thursday, 10/19

Radical Women Public Meeting: "Witches, Harlots and Other rebels: The True Story of the Matriarchy" a lively feminist report about the vibrant lives and bold contribution of our foremothers, dinner with vegetarian option at 6:30 p.m. for \$6.50 donation, all welcome, 7:30 p.m., at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave S, 4 blocks south of S Alaska St. on the #7 bus line, info 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453.

Saturday, 10/21

Just Health Care Coalition of Washington Workshop Class: **Learn to Change the Health Care System**, includes history, economics, principles of universal coverage, organizing, \$8, scholarships available, 9 a.m.-noon, at Inland Boatmen's Union, 1711 W Nickerson, Suite D, info 206-784-9695.

The Gray Panthers of Seattle present a **Presidential Election Forum**: a panel discussion on how progressives have decided to vote in the next election. With panelists Shulamit Decktor, Sally Soriano, Margaret Tuthill, and *Real Change* wonk Timothy Harris. Free, with a free catered lunch to boot. 10:30 a.m. to noon, Good Shepherd Center in Wallingford, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N. Info 206-675-8859.

Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project offers free or reduced price health screenings, get your mammogram, pap test and breast exam, free for low income women, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Lesbian Resource Center, call for appointments, info 206-323-6540.

Sunday, 10/22

Fifth Annual National Day to "Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation." For everyone shocked by the killing of David Walker, Michael Randall Ealy and other victims of police brutality, join those who experience harassment and violence every day in a Rally and March. 2 p.m., Ebenezer A.M.E. Zion Church, 1716 - 23rd St. Please wear black in memory of those killed by police. Info 206-264-5527.

Friday, 10/27

Benefit for Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project, "Women in Song" a musical evening for folks who enjoy innovative musical performances, \$8- \$12, sliding scale, raffle and door prizes! There will be a dance after the event, tickets must be purchased in advance due to limited space, ASL interpretation provided, smoke-free event, doors open 7:30 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m., at Northwest Actors Studio, 1100 E. Pike, info 206-568-8545.

Saturday, 10/28

The Urban Action School presents a class "Justice Organizing for Tenants" by Scott Winn & Michele Lyn Thomas, an experiential workshop on organizing in your neighborhood for renters' justice, learn the skills of door knocking with your neighbors to talk about ongoing campaigns for affordable housing, we will have a discussion of the principles of direct action organizing, sliding \$10-\$40- \$70, 11 a.m.-3

p.m., at Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave at Pike St, downtown, info <http://www.urbanaction.org> or 206-464-9129.

Monday, 10/31

Monthly meeting of the **Washington Hemp Education Network**, a community of Hemp Activists providing verifiable information about hemp (marijuana) to counteract the misinformation, and to work to change the laws affecting hemp use, this and subsequent last Mondays, 6-8:30 p.m., at Queen Anne Library, 400 W Garfield; info J.M. Black- Ferguson 206-282-4776.

Ongoing Mondays

Books to Prisoners could use your help answering letters & sending books to incarcerated individuals. Volunteer collective has sent tens of thousands of books to people in prison since 1979. Books also needed: paperbacks, especially need dictionaries, thesauruses, Black/Chicano/ Native American books. 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/>

Ongoing Saturdays

Seattle Food Not Bombs redistributes free produce to the members of the Yesler Terrace Community Center. Produce to the People, right on! 10:45 a.m., sort vegetables; 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>

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>

Ongoing Daily

Tell the Commission on Presidential Debates to Let Ralph Nader Debate! Online petition has reached 77,500 signatures! <http://votener.org/debates/>

FareStart assists people who are homeless through training in life skills, food service, the culinary arts, and job placement. Runs their own restaurant, lunch daily and dinner on Thursdays only, with guest chefs from area restaurants. Upcoming chefs include Ludger Szmania from Szmania's and Daniel Braun from Carmelita's. A 3 or 4 course dinner is only 14.50 plus tax and tip, with all of the proceeds going to FareStart, at 1902 - 2nd Ave. between Stewart and Virginia, please consider logging on to <http://www.farestart.org> and making a donation.

Support I-245, the Universal Health Care initiative, call to find out about volunteer opportunities, info 206-323-3393 or toll-free 877-903-9723 or info@healthcare2k.org ■



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Tent Village3 needs your help

Keep SHARE/WHEEL's Tent Village3 alive! Help them get a six-month Temporary Use Permit. Help winterize the camp and keep the Sani Cans pumped.

Background: One hundred men, women, and families who would otherwise be sleeping alone and isolated, colder and wetter, under bridges and doorways throughout Seattle, are safe each night at Tent Village3. But winter is coming on. The number of homeless people in Seattle keeps increasing faster than the number of new shelter beds opening. Twice recently, homeless people have met violent deaths downtown. Seattle's streets are no place to live.

Tents — and a community to watch out for you — beat the streets during winter. Tent Village3's accommodations could be made warmer and dryer with extra blankets, additional tarps, and more waterproof tents.

Equally important is maintaining what we have: a well-run food service area, frequently cleaned Sani Cans, timely trash pickups, and basic handwashing stations. The generous donations that have been received to cover these operating costs are exhausted.

Meanwhile, the mayor and city attorney Mark Sidran have not withdrawn the threat to fine SHARE/WHEEL's host, El Centro de la Raza, \$75.00 a day. The assessed fines will soon total over \$4,000. A Temporary Use Permit would stop the fines, and set a great precedent. Other property owners would face less risk hosting Tent Village3 in the future. Broad community support would make it harder to turn our application down.

Action: Help winterize Tent Village3 by donating tents, tarps, and blankets. Hot soup or food in the evening is always good. Help defray our daily operating expenses by sending a donation to SHARE/WHEEL, P.O. Box 2548, Seattle, WA, 98111. Pumping five Sani Cans three times a week isn't as cheap as you might think!

Write a letter to DCLU telling them you feel Tent Village3 meets the standards for a Temporary Use Permit. Send a copy of the letter to:

Scott Kemp, Permit Specialist
Department of Construction and Land Use
710 - 2nd Avenue, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104-1703

Or email the letter to scott.kemp@ci.seattle.wa.us. Please refer to Tent Village3 at El Centro de la Raza, File #2006644. No matter how you send the letter to the city, please send a copy to the SHARE/WHEEL address above.

If you have questions or think of other ways to help, call SHARE/WHEEL at (206)956-0334. ■

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