

Nov. 1, 2000

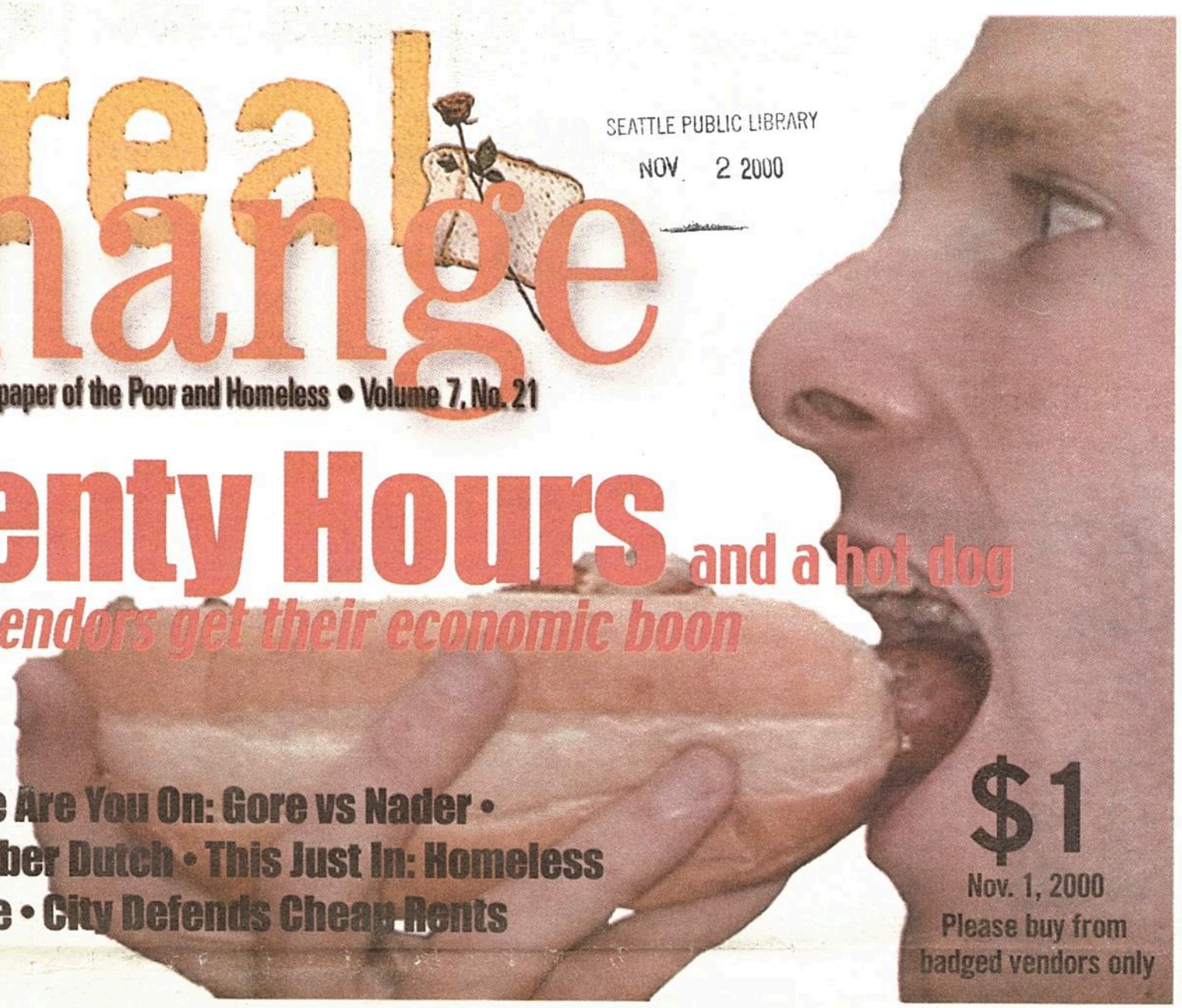
# Change

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Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 7, No. 21

## Twenty Hours and a hot dog Safeco vendors get their economic boon

**Other Stuff:**  
**Whose Side Are You On: Gore vs Nader •**  
**We Remember Dutch • This Just In: Homeless**  
**Still Outside • City Defends Cheap Rents**



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PHOTO BY MOLLY RHODES.

By Shauna Curphey

Last month, the Mariners lost to the Yankees in Game Six of the American League Championship Series, and the cries of "Sodo Mojo" are fading away. Except for the occasional event, the stadium will stand empty until next April. Food vendors are hanging up their aprons and looking for work.

The off-season leaves plenty of time to ponder what the \$372 million taxpayers contributed for stadium construction actually bought. The Mariners are threatening to sue the Public Facilities District, the public body that oversees the stadium, to help pay for the nearly \$100 million in cost overruns.

Since the state legislature approved financing for a new stadium with county tax funds, proponents have argued that a "world-class city" needs to keep its baseball team, whatever the cost. Do Safeco's economic rewards merit the public investment? Whatever the other impacts, the men and women who sold peanuts and Pyramid get part-time, seasonal work. At the end of Game Six, they got the boot.

Ask Safeco Field food vendors whether they like the work, and you might get a hung jury. For some, the jobs are attractive, compared to the other options. For those staying at homeless shelters, working as a food vendor means choosing a low-wage job over a place to sleep at night.

The stadium requires between 1,000 and 1,200 employees per event. With 81

home games per year for a season running from April through September, that works out to roughly 13 games per month, or approximately 20 hours a week. Volume Services of America Inc., the company contracted by the Mariners to run concessions, employs most of the Safeco Field workers — roughly 800 people per game.

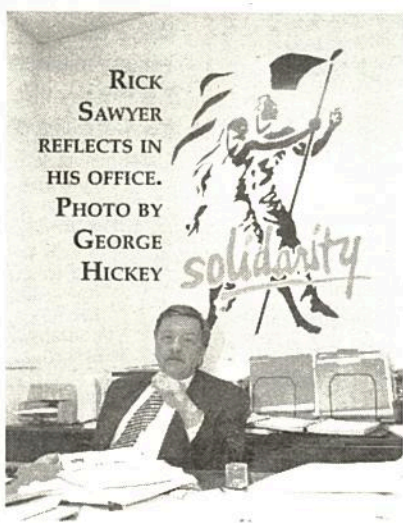
VSA contracts Labor Ready, a daily-work-daily-pay staffing company, to provide workers who fill in when the company lacks enough employees to cover shifts for a game. At the outset, VSA struggled to round up enough people to work the part-time, low-wage jobs, but were under pressure to improve services after local papers ranted about long food lines. While Labor Ready workers found regular gigs at Safeco Field last season, VSA is currently under new management. The company stabilized its

workforce and used fewer and fewer day laborers as the 2000 season wore on.

Nobody knows just how many homeless people make up the workforce at Safeco Field. Many homeless people work as day laborers for Labor Ready. And staff members at several downtown shelters and outreach services report clients who put in hours at the stadium.

"There were plenty of Safeco Field jobs and they just put a sign up, saying what time to show up. Basically, most of the time you got one," says J. Johns, a *Real Change* vendor, who worked at Safeco Field as a Labor Ready employee operating beer and condiment carts during much of the 1999 season, and again this spring.

For Johns, hawking beer at Safeco was better than other Labor Ready jobs because the work was consistent. With



RICK SAWYER REFLECTS IN HIS OFFICE. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY

**"There is a lot of public money at Safeco. It makes sense to promote a more responsible employment environment."**

**Rick Sawyer, Acting Secretary, HERE Local 8**

most daily labor, workers show up at the crack of dawn, sign a list, and wait anxiously to see if they get work. When day workers' names are called from the waiting list, they don't know what they'll be doing, or how many hours they'll put in, before being cut loose until the next day.

Besides a regular assignment, Safeco work proffered other small benefits. Johns says workers got free food, a significant perk considering he is homeless; shelling out cash for food is a daily necessity. Tips from the fans and the game itself also made the work attractive to Johns, although he explained that these bonuses were not shared by most food vendors.

"I started getting into baseball when I was running the condiment carts," says Johns. "I got to sit and watch the game, like everyone else who ran the condiment carts, but... that's only a few [of the jobs available]. The beer carts, I liked making the tips, but again that's only a very, very few."

Most concession workers toiled in food booths, without a glimpse of the game. Johns says the low wages, hard work, and part-time schedule were tough on the vendors.

"You get to a point where there's no stopping for a couple hours at the high point of the game. Those people are getting \$7 an hour, and people get paid

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# Real Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the Poor and Homeless

Real Change is published the first and fifteenth of each month and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35.

All material is copyrighted to the authors. Submissions are encouraged and should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247.

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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.



## Capitol Hill Kindness

Dear Real Change,

In one night, this newspaper has changed my life.

I just recently moved to the Capitol Hill area, and have been looking for my niche for the past few months. I had always known that helping people was my calling, and for all my 19 years, the sheltered, protected life that I had led prevented me from experiencing all that I knew I should experience. I know now, seeing the effects of homelessness, reading about current labor struggles and political issues, it is my turn to begin making a change.

I know that my supporting this newspaper is not enough. If I truly wish to help, I must begin at every level of my being, pressing forward with the conviction that if I give just that much more, or listen that much harder, I will make a small difference in the life of another.

I wish to know how I can help not only Real Change, but those in my neighborhood who stand to benefit. I already give what small dollars I have left after rent to the homeless on Broadway, and I give food from my coffee

shop, although I could do it more, to the shelter. If you have projects you'd like me to work on, articles to write, activism to wholeheartedly pursue, call me. I will do all that I can.

Sincerely,  
 Michael P. Vollbrecht

## Room to Grow

Dear Real Change,

I initially thought that Proposition 1 was another elitist upper-class ballot measure, like last year's Opera House or 1996's Benaroya Hall levy proposals. Then I attended a Greenwood and Phinney Ridge Community Council meeting and found to my surprise that funding from the parks levy would build a new Greenwood Park close to 30 units of family housing owned by my organization, the Low Income Housing Institute. The new park, once developed, would be a wonderful place for our kids.

My organization is also building three- and four-bedroom apartments for homeless families in the Meadowbrook neighborhood, where Prop. 1 would put a new teen center. Earlier this year, 96 units of housing for homeless people were opened out at Sand Point naval base, but there are few scheduled recreational activities available. The measure would fix up and operate a community center and swimming pool right next door.

Sincerely,  
 Sharon Lee

## Correction:

"Unsteady Labor Ready" (October 15) reported that an Atlanta court had upheld the company's practice of charging workers to get their pay from cash machines. According to Norman Slawsky, the Atlanta prosecuting attorney, there's been no ruling, and the case may be remanded from federal to state court. ■

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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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# The Left Wing in Flames

## Nader or Gore? A debate

Timothy Harris, Real Change executive director, and Green Party member and anti-WTO organizer Sally Soriano weighed in on the presidential choices for progressives at a forum last month sponsored by the Gray Panthers. Below are expanded versions of their comments. Real Change does not endorse any candidate for public office, and the opinions stated here are not those of this publication

### Al Gore: The Thinking Voter's Choice

By Timothy Harris

One gray morning last month I stood on a platform at Westlake Center and chanted "Vote Al Gore," right along with Judy Nicastro, Velma Veloria, Dawn Mason, and various other progressives who have consistently represented the best interests of the poor. It was one of my more surreal moments, but I meant every syllable.

There is no question that a movement for economic justice is building in America. No one who stood in Westlake Center November 30 could say otherwise. The Battle of Seattle showed the world what is possible when people put aside their differences and come together.

That was then. This is now. We may be about to show the world what happens when progressives can't agree.

There is no question that Nader is the most visible truth-teller in our new movement for justice. Here in the Northwest, however, where 18 critical electoral points may make the difference between a Republican and a Democratic presidency, we need to be sure that our principles don't defeat us.

History shows us that movements happen when expectations are raised and people believe change is possible. The most progressive legislation to come out of the '60s occurred under Johnson and Nixon, one a law-and-order Republican and the other a conservative Southern Democrat. What makes the difference is the quality and quantity of the pressure from below. When movements exist, the leaders follow. A Gore presidency is the best choice for movement-building that we have.

One of Nader's applause lines is that the only difference between Republicans and Democrats is the velocity at which they drop to their knees before their corporate masters. It's an elegant piece of rhetoric, but it's not true. There are other differences, and the answer to corporate control of politics is campaign finance reform, not a Bush presidency.

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### Ralph Nader: The Politics of Joy and Justice

By Sally Soriano and Adriene Sere

Why is it that when people hear Ralph Nader speak just once, they are mesmerized? For months, the airwaves have been filled with designer political commercials and superficial media coverage of the two major candidates. Yet with just a glimpse of a progressive alternative, people become solid supporters of Nader.

Nader understands the real interests of people. He aims to take back our government from corporate control. He advocates a living minimum wage of \$10 an hour, public investment in alternative energy and a foreign policy of waging peace. He points out that the two-party system has meant stagnant wages for most U.S. workers, increased poverty for women and children, eroding health care facilities, neglected public schools and a bloated military budget.

The corporate media have given almost no coverage to Nader's presidential campaign. The Democrats and Republicans aggressively excluded Nader from the debates. His campaign has been run on a shoestring and financed entirely by citizens.

Yet Nader is still getting close to five percent of the vote. He has filled arenas in major cities across the country with up to 15,000 supporters who pay \$10-\$20 to hear him speak — unprecedented for a political candidate.

As we near election day, the Democrats are desperately attacking Nader, orchestrating a scare-mongering campaign to convince Nader supporters to vote for Vice President Gore.

Why are the Democrats going after Nader's hard-won five percent? Why aren't they instead trying to attract the 52 percent of the people who don't vote, and undecided voters? Is it because there is so little about Gore, other than the fear of George Bush, that would ever motivate anybody to vote for him?

Those who are telling us that a vote for Nader is a vote for Bush obviously have no memory of recent voting history. Eight years ago, so many progressives voted for Clinton over George Bush, Sr. because Clinton was the "lesser of two evils." We couldn't have imagined at the time the evil that the "lesser" would deliver.

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**THIS JUST IN!** As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into the Kalakala. With 18-gauge steel sides, dozens of portholes, a rusty bilge, and listing severely to starboard, Gregor wondered what had happened to him. A half flock of pigeons circled and settled along a rail. A fireman nailed a list of 95 violations to a wooden patch on the hull, and the pigeons scattered.

Gregor closed his eyes and dreamed, dreamed of the Straits of Juan de Fuca in '48, dreamed of Orca whales keeping pace, of men in logging trucks and a dozen bolts of sunlight off a sturdy silver frame.

The hammering persisted, and Gregor's dream split. He saw himself in two visions: in one, a ratty ship sinking off the pier into the Sound. In the other one, he saw inside: nine hundred homeless people huddled in the old bathroom. Mad doctors performing spinal taps and limb transplants in the cabins. The cargo bay, full of dirt, where genetic mutant plants growled and lunged at each other.

"Take this boat away," decreed a pope in the wheelhouse. "Take it to Pittsburgh!" Gregor felt half the boat tearing to the east, half sinking westward, and passed out from the pain. He awoke months later off Green Lake, a steady hammering in his head, and hungry. ■

—Bob Redmond

## Grand stand

City councilmember Peter Steinbrueck has the most ambitious single addition to the mayor's proposed biennial budget. Now, as Tim Eyman's tax-slashing ballot initiatives loom large, he's got to win over eight other city councilmembers.

The Strategic Response Plan aims to provide up to \$12 million for shelter, transitional housing, services, and public education around homelessness. But tax-cutting ballot initiatives are casting a pall over this and other new spending proposals. If Initiative 722 passes, city staff estimate a \$14 million loss in revenue to the city's General Fund.

More than half of the \$12 million would come from another source: council-issued debt, which normally contributes to bricks-and-mortar projects like the Opera House. The Council can decide to issue capital for such projects at will, and the money doesn't leach out of the general fund. Steinbrueck aide Neil Powers estimates that for each dollar of the \$8 million they want for transitional housing, another four dollars will come from other sources. He estimates that \$8 million would spur about 240 units of housing over two years.

The Safe Harbors budget proposal is a separate budget item, and housing advocates are worried that Safe Harbors will get funded, at around \$700,000, while the Strategic Response proposal is shot down. The city is scheduled to finalize its budget on November 20th.

Meanwhile, the Mayor and Seattle's establishment tabloid, the *Seattle Times*, are exchanging barbed words over spending. *Times* journalist O. Casey Corr wrote an op-ed in the Sunday, October 22 edition charting the rising tax burden on Seattle property owners. Initiatives like the Parks For All levy, Corr wrote, will only add to the burden.

Corr calls Schell an old-fashioned liberal: spending initiatives have done everything from establish new city offices to (gasp!) provide more shelters for homeless people. Schell responded with a press release the next day, defending the Parks levy and claiming that city services have been expanding without ballooning the number of people on the payroll.

Corr's argument mirrors that of Citizens Working for a Better Tomorrow, a political action committee funded by the Apartment Owners Association of Seattle-King County. They argue that the levy would transfer the burden of paying for maintenance and parks programs from the General Fund to property owners, and putting essential services up to a popular vote only works when taxpayers are willing to pay.

"This amounts to saving money in the general fund, and transferring the burden to property owners," says Jim Nell of the landlords association. Citizens Working for a Better Tomorrow has launched a \$55,000 radio ad campaign against Prop. 1.

It's not too late to weigh in on Steinbrueck's proposal. Call City Council at (206)684-8888 or send them email ([budget@ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:budget@ci.seattle.wa.us)). ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Survey says: still on the street

Volunteers fanned out across Seattle for the annual One Night Count the morning of October 20th, and they turned up just over 900 people on the streets. The event also brought up a perennial dilemma: how do you chalk up a hard number without being taken too literally?

The numbers of homeless people counted went down from 983 last year to 909 this year, and the *Seattle Times*' headline trumpeted a "slight decline" in the numbers. As usual, the numbers are off. Some places that shelter homeless people, like Harborview, the sobering center, the jail, or the airport, are intentionally bypassed year after year. This year, the results may be more off than usual: the homeless tent camp at El Centro de la Raza housed 111 men, women, and children that night. Many would have been on the streets, but because El Centro is outside the survey area, they didn't make it into the official numbers.

"We try to make it clear, that this is just one measure, and it's going to be more or less equally inaccurate year after year," says count organizer Rick Reynolds. As the *Times* headline shows, it's easy to tally figures, but harder to get information. ■

— Adam Holdorf

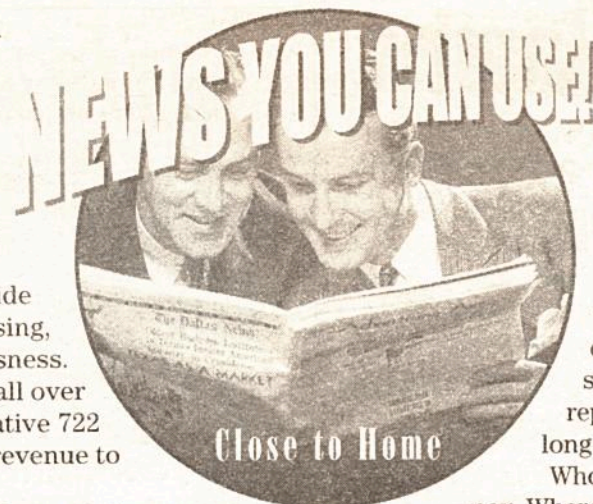
## Plastic is the future

Just swipe the card, wait one hour for an internet service to confirm your eligibility, then see a doctor.

That's the new technology the state Department of Social and Health Services wants to bring to people on Medicaid.

It's a combination of the Quest benefits card and something like the Safe Harbors technology. Just like they said the Quest card would eliminate the stigma of carrying Food Stamps, the state says the new swipe card will give poor patients a new card to brandish.

DSHS promises that this "web-based eligibility verification system" will be avail-



able at all doctors' offices, and it should speed up the process of verifying a patients' benefits from 48 hours to one. But it could also cut into the total amount of money available for health care.

The agency estimates the state will save over \$600,000 a year. But there are other costs.

Verifying medical eligibility over the web requires a third-party service, which will charge 25 to 40 cents for every verification. Under the old-fashioned, paper-based system, there's no charge. DSHS says two trade groups representing doctors and HMOs are willing to go along, so long as they don't have to pay for the verification.

Who's paying? Under one version of the plan, the state would pay. Where's the money to come from? The DSHS proposal didn't say, and its architects couldn't be reached. Governor Gary Locke is looking over the proposal and could add it to the state's 2001-2002 budget. ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Struck down

When the state Supreme Court ruled Initiative 695 unconstitutional last week, the bus drivers' union hardly had time to glow over its court victory. Rank-and-file union member Marc Auerbach was hard at work getting out the vote against Tim Eyman's so-called "Sons of 695," I-722 and I-745.

Auerbach says the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587, which challenged the case in court, is "very pleased" with the ruling. "As representatives of working people, we understand that the tax system in this state is messed up, but I-695 was a bad way, an unconstitutional way, to solve the problem," he says.

Auerbach says I-722, which rolls back and restricts property taxes, and I-745, which dedicates tax money to road construction, fall prey to the same flaws as I-695. "I think Eyman and the asphalt pavers [which bankroll I-745] know the new initiatives are unconstitutional, but that's how much they care. This is only going to delay any real solutions to our traffic mess."

Auerbach says Eyman's court defeat shouldn't elevate him to the status of a people's hero. "He'll try to portray the court ruling as elites ignoring the will of the people," he says, "but all they want to do is create chaos. He can sound like a populist sometimes, but it's a bunch of crap." ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Fuzzy math

*Real Change* is always thrilled when groups we had considered to be out solely for a profit take our concerns to heart. The current case is the Building Industry Association of Washington, which took out a full page ad in mid-October in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* lamenting the lack of affordable housing.

The ad — headlined by a picture of someone holding up a cardboard sign by the side of the road reading "Work for Rent" — quoted such sources as the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the state's Affordable Housing Advisory Board to show that housing prices are way beyond the reach of the low- or even moderate-wage earner. Yet when it comes to pointing out why prices are so high, the BIAW turns down heavily discussed theories like the impact of the building-limiting Growth Management Act and the influx of new, well-paid residents — the basic laws of supply and demand — in favor of a theory of its own: the direct and indirect costs of government regulations.

Specifically, "out-of-control government regulations [that] now add 22 percent to the cost of building a house," a cost that will then be passed on to the home-buyer, according to the ad.

However, a quick visit to the website of the footnoted source — the Washington Institute Foundation — revealed that this was only the increased cost for building one house in the city of Vancouver, Washington.

BIAW did not return *Real Change's* call by press time. ■

— Molly Rhodes

## Silver lining

The number of low-income families (four-person households making less than \$34,100 a year) in Washington state dropped by 17 percent from 1997 to 1999. Fewer children are living in poverty, and more have two parents taking care of them.

That's according to a survey of 2,700 state residents released last month by the Urban Institute, a Washington, D.C. think-tank. But it contains some disturbing data as well. More than one in four adults had trouble paying rent, mortgage, or utilities month to month, an increase of 30 percent from 1997 and 1999.

The state has badly served families in another way: the survey says that the number of adults with no health insurance increased. What's more, there's a big bucket of money for these adults that the state hasn't dipped into: Congress made parents eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program, which this year allocated \$46.7 million in federal money to the state. The state just skimmed off the top of that, spending only \$2.2 million. ■

— Adam Holdorf

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

# Fight for the Right

**City wants to preserve tax-exempt, affordable apartments. Will landlords go along?**

By Adam Holdorf

It's probably the best new law for low-income tenants since the Renter's Summit this spring. City councilmember Peter Steinbrueck has been working on it nearly since taking office. On October 23, the City Council approved it unanimously.

It's called the Right of First Offer, a new law that means the city gets first dibs on buildings for sale by owners providing cheap housing in return for no property tax. But nobody can forecast whether, as passed, it will offer enough incentive to landlords to participate.

Here's how it works: under current municipal law, landlords who build or rehab apartments in 11 Seattle neighborhoods can qualify for a 10-year property tax exemption, so long as they keep rents affordable to some low- and moderate-income tenants. Now they will be required to inform the city Office of Housing of any intent to sell their property. The city, or another body designated by the city (like a tenants asso-

ciation or nonprofit housing provider), has 20 days to make a fair-market offer on the building. The owner has to accept, and the new purchaser has to keep the rents affordable.

The same bill also added Capitol Hill and Rainier Beach to the neighborhoods where apartment buildings are eligible for the exemption.

The bill's passage pleased neither tenant advocates nor apartment owners. Tenants Union organizer Scott Winn says renters need to get first dibs on all buildings, tax-exempt or not. Councilmember Judy Nicastro called the bill "the first step" in passing such a law.

Former mayor Wes Uhlman, a member of the Apartment Association of Seattle-King County (AASK), says laws like these will stifle the real estate market, because no buyer will go through the first motions of a purchase when the city could intervene.

"Buyers are not going to make an offer, spend money on due diligence,

commit to buying at a certain price, and then all of a sudden get the city bouncing in saying, 'Sounds like a good deal, I'll take the building at that price,'" says Uhlman.

Prior to the bill's passage, Randy Bannecker, a lobbyist with AASK, wrote to a city council aide saying the law "may make investors think twice before taking advantage of the tax exemption program."

"The city wants to do something about affordability," says Bannecker, "so it puts out these incentive programs. But when you begin to treat them like a Christmas tree and hang up new conditions, you narrow the pool of [interested] applicants. It's a slippery slope."

Since the city council passed the original property tax exemption in December 1998, 15 developers have applied and 14 have qualified, according to the city Office of Housing. Of those, three developments are now under construction.

The number of developers impacted by the law is small. Non-profit housing agencies already get an exemption from state and local property taxes un-

der a different process, says Carla Okigwe of the Housing Development Consortium. So the law applies to for-profit landlords who voluntarily participate. To be eligible in most neighborhoods, the city requires that at least one-

quarter of the owner's units be affordable to renters making at or below 80 percent of median income.

Bannecker says the bill, as amended in the final version, eliminated AASK's biggest concern: that the city would hold on to its rights indefinitely, creating long delays in real estate deal-making while bureaucrats

put together their own offers. The bill puts a 20-day window on the city's right to an offer — an "extremely tight" timeframe, according to Okigwe. It's an open question whether the Office of Housing can move that quickly.

City staff have yet to figure out how the first-offer process will be implemented, but they say they have some time: most real estate sales won't begin before the properties' 10-year exemption expires. ■

**"Buyers are not going to make an offer and then all of a sudden get the city bouncing in saying, 'Sounds like a good deal, I'll take the building at that price.'"**

**Former Seattle Mayor  
Wes Uhlman**

# Putting on a Pound of Cure

**County slashes social services, ups criminal justice spending**

By Molly Rhodes

A proposed King County budget could end up cutting \$1 million in community and human services if approved by the county council later this year.

Programs affected would include a childcare wage pilot project, senior centers, domestic violence training, sexual assault provider training, and two Seattle-based youth shelters.

The budget also includes a 25-cent increase in all county-run transportation programs, to make up for the state legislature's repeal of the vehicle excise tax by the state legislature this year.

Rather than continue the same level of funding for the human services programs, King County Executive Ron Sims' \$2.45 billion budget instead focuses attention on improving criminal justice services. Of the \$488 million portion of the budget the county can put where it wishes, \$328 million, or 67 percent, is going to fund courts, jails, sheriffs, detention programs, and the like.

Such proposed increases in criminal justice funding — a nine-percent jump from this year — and decreases in community, health, and human services funding follow a trend that has eroded King County's financial support of these services for years.

The county and cities already provide only 20 percent of the \$200 million Department of Community and Human Services budget. The remaining

80 percent of the funding comes largely from state and federal dollars, as well as private and public grants.

Public Health-Seattle & King County and the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse, and Dependency Services Division receive closer to seven percent of their current funding from the county and local resources.

While the county as a whole sees its primary functions as providing law enforcement, community, human, and health services are funded if they meet one of the three criteria adopted by the county last year. These services must serve those in unincorporated King County, serve those in greatest need, or reduce the costs associated with law enforcement through prevention and alternative treatment programs.

Of those services that were cut because they don't meet the criteria, some are already being picked up by other government agencies.

The childcare wage pilot project will likely be funded through the state, as part of its welfare-to-work program, with no expected changes in services, says Sims' spokeswoman Elaine Kraft. The master gardener program, which was originally funded in part through the county's Department of Community and Human Services, will now be funded through the county's Department of Natural Resources.

With other programs, it is less clear who will step in to replace the lost funding. Two homeless youth shelters are expected to lose more than \$36,000 between them. In his budget, Sims cites the fact that the shelters are serving 70 percent fewer youths than their original county contracts said they would.

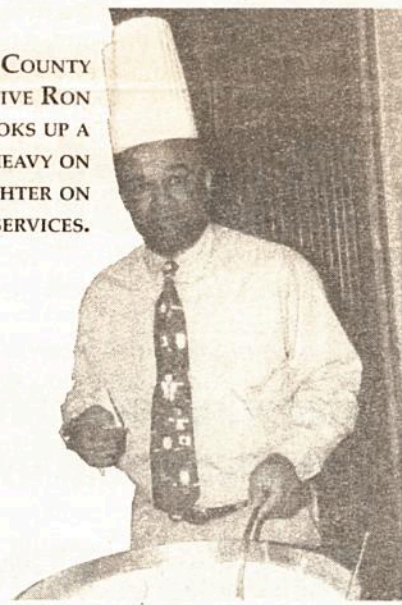
A community food gardens program, which reached 5,500 low-income families in 1999, could have its funding eliminated. A program designed to help students learn through gardening, which reached 4,000 students in 1999, could also lose financial support.

A training program for youth service providers through the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center could lose 50 percent of its county funding.

"We train approximately 200 providers a year, who each in turn reach 70 youth," says the center's executive director Mary Ellen Stone, noting that the \$50,000 from the county has been vital to leverage the remaining two-thirds of the cost of running the program. "That's 12,000 to 14,000 children. If you put money into prevention now, you reduce the need for victims' services later. Yet there's no way we can provide this training service without this county funding."

Even those services that do not currently rely heavily on county funding are not guaranteed in the coming year, as the outcome of contested initiatives and

**KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE RON SIMS COOKS UP A BUDGET HEAVY ON CRIME, LIGHTER ON SOCIAL SERVICES.**



both state and federal legislative seats in the upcoming election could also change the amount of available funding.

A recent state Supreme Court decision that found Initiative 695 unconstitutional could conceivably increase the amount of money the state government has at its disposal. Yet upcoming initiatives, like the county's .2 percent sales tax increase to cover lost transportation funding, could severely limit transportation programs if it does not pass.

However, without knowing what the voters, the state, or the federal government will do in the future, the current proposed budget is the best to fit the needs of the county, says Department of Community and Human Services assistant director Terry Mark.

"The goal was to preserve essential services, which we feel has occurred," she says. "We don't want to cut anything, but we support this budget. It's a strong budget." ■

# Skim and Scam

Union says Labor Ready unfairly charges workers, cheats on compensation

By Mike Blain

Nearly 1,000 union members, former day labor workers, and community activists marched on Labor Ready's shareholders meeting in Tacoma on October 25th to denounce the company's employment practices, including its alleged violation of state laws regarding wages and workers compensation insurance.

Hundreds of people joined in on anti-Labor Ready chants and employed shrieking plastic whistles to loudly "blow the whistle" on the company's exploitation of its workers.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney told the crowd that Labor Ready "nickels and dimes" its workers by charging them for safety equipment and check-cashing fees, while offering near minimum wage pay and no benefits. "All workers have a right to earn a decent living and be treated with dignity and respect," Sweeney told the crowd.

The Building, Construction, and Trades Department of the AFL-CIO is

leading a nationwide campaign against Labor Ready that involves legal and legislative action, as well as workplace organizing and community outreach. The practice of charging workers fees of \$1-\$2 to get their pay from cash machines is being challenged via class-action suits in California, Georgia, and New York.

Union leaders also assert that company offices in Washington state have misclassified many manual day laborers as clerical workers, in order to pay lower workers compensation premiums. A report prepared by the AFL-CIO notes that in 1998, Labor Ready classified 47 percent of its workforce as "office services" workers, even though the company publicly advertises its emphasis on manual labor, and makes no mention of providing clerical temp workers in public filings.

Union leaders estimate that Labor Ready has underpaid workers' comp insurance to the tune of \$2 to \$5 million in this state alone. They presented their report to the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries in October and called on the

state agency to initiate an audit of the company's records.

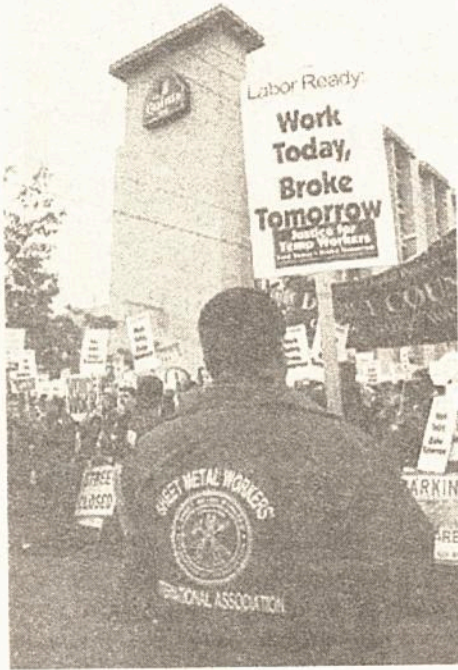
Labor & Industries spokesperson Roland Lund confirms that, based on the AFL-CIO research, the state agency planned to conduct an audit of Labor Ready's workers' comp records. "We believe there is sufficient reason to audit them," says Lund. He says that if Labor Ready is found to have intentionally or unintentionally underpaid its workers' comp insurance, the state could order back payment, penalties, and fines.

Labor Ready CEO Dick King has said any shortfalls in the company's workers' compensation payments were unintentional. "We have no intention of being dishonest," he told *The New York Times* in October.

Union activists say such blanket denials ring hollow, and that many company managers and executives were likely aware of the practice.

"It's hard to make a mistake of this magnitude," says David Groves of the Washington State Labor Council. "We don't think this is a mistake. We think it's fraud." ■

Union leaders estimate that Labor Ready has underpaid workers' comp insurance to the tune of \$2 to \$5 million in this state alone.



MEMBERS OF THE AFL-CIO COME TOGETHER IN A TACOMA RALLY FOR BETTER LABOR READY WORKING CONDITIONS. PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE BLAIN AT POWERUP MEDIA.

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# For Dutch Shisler

## July 23, 1931—October 16, 2000

By Joe Martin

**A** jovial, tough, and street-wise presence among Seattle's hard-core Skid Road alcoholics, Dutch Shisler must have helped literally tens of thousands of inebriated individuals. During his long tenure as a driver for King County's detox van, Dutch physically picked up unconscious and barely conscious toppers, and transported them safely to the detox center.

Dutch was good at his job. He was firm when the situation called for him to be, but his kindness never faltered. The most disheveled and dissolute were treated with care and respect by Dutch, no matter how many times he had encountered them before. People of Skid Road came to know and trust him; in all his years of street work, never once was he assaulted. More often than not, Dutch was a welcome sight to many a drunk who was sad, sick, and sore from too much booze.

His intimate knowledge of street life and alcoholism came as a result of personal experience. At eight years of age, Dutch began his drinking life. After a number of attempts to quit, he left al-

cohol behind at age 39. He never went back to the booze, but he came back again and again to the drunks, whether they were on the street or in three-piece suits. Always making himself available to struggling alcoholics, Dutch guided numerous destructive drinkers to lives of hope and sobriety.

The love and care he generated welled up on the evening of October 20, when an overflow crowd of family and friends crammed into Christ the King Church where Dutch was a devoted parishioner, playing Santa Claus for parish children and presiding over the weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meeting held there. On the night of Dutch's memorial service, someone said that it had to be the biggest AA meeting held anywhere that night. By the size of the crowd, they weren't kidding.

Dutch is survived by his wife of 27 years, Janice Rudnitski, his daughter Jennifer Hayden of Tacoma, his son Joseph of Seattle, and his sister Darlene McRae of McMinnville, Oregon. Thanks, Dutch, a lot of folks are going to miss you around here. ■

### Dutch

Perhaps it's magnetism like the poles at the ends of the earth that always attracted me to this common man  
For twenty years I knew him to be strong and gentle serving the community hauling drunks to their feet over and over and over and over again  
and then again and again and again  
This common man was once a derelict too

Started drinking at 8 years of age never stopped till he was in his 40s after a dozen or more major attempts  
Then it was every day that tempted him and every day that kept him away from drinkin' again

Perhaps it's magnetism like the poles at the ends of the earth that always attracted me to this common man  
One friend at a time  
One smile at a time  
in good time  
he could gather those dimes that set wheels in motion taking the neglected and unbefriended to a place of restitution instead of leaving them in destitution

How'd he do it?  
He was just a common man  
No wealth  
No talent you could see  
No money to blow  
he even carried a girth but he did the thing he always wanted to do brought joy to many and life to a few who might've wasted away before they ever came to

You shoulda been at his funeral maybe you were

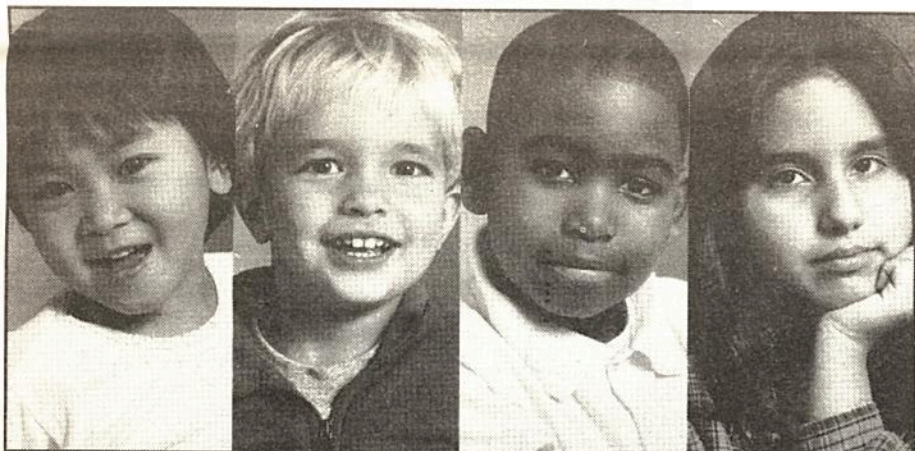


DUTCH SHISLER AND KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE RON SIMS CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF A SOBERING CENTER NAMED AFTER SHISLER IN JUNE 1998. PHOTO BY DONNA STEINBERG.

every walk was there every strut, swagger and hop but nobody crawled and nobody scoffed we laughed and cried and sent him well off members of society from sidewalks to blocks we all gathered for Dutch and the common human  
Ourselves  
as he would've asked and did from his bed before passing

Perhaps it's magnetism like the poles at the ends of the earth that always attracted me to this common man  
For twenty years I knew him to be strong and gentle serving the community hauling drunks to their feet over and over and over and over again  
and then again and again and again  
This common man was once a derelict too

— ARTIS



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



This is one promise from me to you, my reader: I won't ever claim to understand politics better than you do. I will never claim to understand politics at all. OK, I might, but when I do it, I'll be lying. You have my word.

Take the Safe Harbors idea. It makes absolutely no sense to me. Since I don't understand Safe Harbors, or Tag-'n-Trak as we call it here at *Real Change*, it would be absurd of me to discuss it here. Therefore I will, because that's what I do.

Let me start by saying that the fundamental premise, that we don't know enough about the homeless, their movements, what they do with their time, where they eat, and where they sleep, is an awesome, thought-provoking premise. It makes me wonder what planet our city council weekends on.

But then I think, yes, there are clear advantages to our government in knowing where each individual homeless person reports two or more times per day. And instead of resisting this improvement in the way we govern our citizens, I should welcome it.

**The idea that we don't know enough about the homeless makes me wonder what planet our city council weekends on.**

Therefore I have decided to go beyond embracing Tag-'n-Trak for the homeless. I am ready to embrace this concept for *all* of Seattle, and promote the adoption of Safe Harbors-style programs for all Americans.

Let's say you need to use something our government currently provides. Freeways, for example. Let's say you want to use a freeway.

The way it is now, people use freeways willy-nilly. Oh sure, we are able to know how many cars are on the freeways at any given time. But who's in those cars? Do they really need to be there? What entrances and exits are they using? The fact is, we don't know. Information like that is vital when our government allocates funds to improve our freeways, or determines when and where new freeways should be built.

My proposal would make that information available. Each time you enter a freeway, you would be required to stop at the beginning of the ramp and supply your name and ID, the names and IDs of all your passengers, and the name of all of your destinations. When you left the freeway at an exit you would provide your names and IDs again. Any passengers lacking ID would be required to leave the vehicle and obtain the necessary ID before continuing on.

The information so obtained would be kept strictly confidential. It would be used, anonymously, to create a file of your complete travels on the interstate freeways, which would never be used by unscrupulous individuals, corporations, renegade politicians, or Tim Eyman. The only way the information would be used is in the aggregate. That's the "Safe" in Safe Harbors: if you can't trust the government, who can you trust?

That's just the beginning. We need to clear up the Mercer Street mess. There are traffic jams on Rainier Avenue, 45th Street, gosh, even Third Avenue. Eventually, you won't be able to pull out of your driveway with your aunt Zelda in the back seat, your Irish red setter Big Stupid riding shotgun, and your two sons in the trunk, without all five of you being registered and tracked electronically. You won't even be aware of it. Won't that be great? Think of the boon to the surveillance industry! Seattle could be number one in yet another high-tech field, and we will have more billionaires!

But it doesn't end with roads. When you've walked down the sidewalks downtown have you ever tossed trash into a public waste receptacle? Of course you have, because tossing it anywhere else is illegal. Well now, with my proposal, you will have to give your name and ID every time you use a public garbage can. Your waste will be weighed. That way, our city will be able to determine just how many public waste receptacles are really needed, and where.

I am looking forward to the day when we apply the Safe Harbors idea to everyone, including city council members and the computer geeks who are eagerly awaiting work. I'm sure we can all agree, that will be a brave new world. ■

## Homeless not Harmful

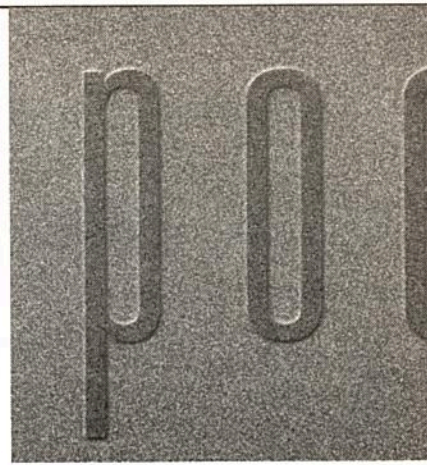
Homeless not Harmful  
Jobless but Hopeful  
Penniless not hurtful

won't steal, will work  
won't hurt, will work  
won't scare, will work

looking for compassion not violence  
seeking employment not nonsense  
gaining hope not property

I am Homeless not Harmful

—TWISTA JAYE



## Slept in Seattle

Last night in Seattle was good.  
Found an old mattress in a 1st Hill alley  
& a clean cardboard box for a blanket.  
The sleep was well earned.  
The night not too cold  
and the sky full-starred.  
Awakening was the abrupt crunch  
of a big white diesel  
trying to park on top me.

—RICHARD MONTINO

## To Margáret of Goldengrove: 1993

It is in  
the Rightness  
of Leaves

...to fall;

Man's things  
HAVE  
No Rightness:

They are  
Ruled  
by the  
Spirit of Evil.

You are  
Young,

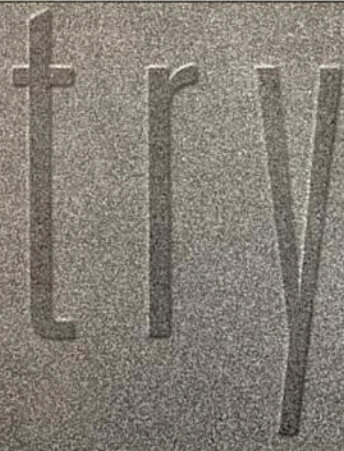
With a  
Tender  
Heart...

You MAY  
Grow  
Up.

(sorry...)

—MARION SUE FISCHER





## Crying in the Darkness

In the darkness alone and frightened.  
My jacket rolled for a pillow — an old worn  
Blanket my only protection from the cold night air.  
I hovel down on my cardboard bed that is as hard as the  
manmade stone beneath it. Concealed in the darkness within an  
alley, even my hiding place doesn't spare me the terror of the  
night. The drunks pissing on dumpsters then speeding down the  
alleyway, the crackheads smoking their slow white death and  
hiding away from the world — pimps beating the dole out of their  
tricks, rats patrolling for scraps of food. The smells are worse  
piss, vomit, and my own putrid sweat — filling my nostrils with  
their own sick symphony. I lie awake unable to move due to  
pain. Pain in my hips, pain in the back, pain deep in my soul.  
Stiff from days of walking and carrying my home on my back,  
living the life of a turtle a life that holds no rewards — I can't even  
hide in my shell when things get bad. I lay here paralyzed to the  
heart fearful of the night terrified of this abyss. Hope they say is  
the cure for my present condition — I say hard work and self-  
denial are. If I could sleep, I would gladly start tomorrow.  
Crying inside too grim to let it out. Dying the slow miserable  
death of an existence one that nibbles away at the mind and soul  
exposing the heart to the darkness. I would gladly die for a  
painkiller for the soul. Anything must be better than the hell in  
which I've come. My hands raked with sorrow, my mind  
withering from pain. These nights hold no peace for me only  
memories of a life since gone a time in the past. A life not over a  
purgatory just began. Street living is as hard as running the  
Iditarod without the dogs and as bitter as eating the white of an  
orange. I can't wait for daybreak when I'll be able to sleep. These  
nights will be an end to me as I walk through the abyss. Alone  
and scared.

—SEAN SMITH

## Civility

Civility's getting shoved around.  
Wolf boys spit on it.  
Fresh young girls take their vows of rudeness.  
Men in the rough whack it with nine irons.  
Cloth of gold women fire harpoons of impatience.  
Little kids kick it in the shins.  
Launch it skyward.  
Civility orbits the earth.  
Emitting chirps of sorrow.

—LIZ SMITH

we are thrown in an assortment of toy people  
people who don't know their own emotions  
people who completely forget that they are people  
people who don't know the first thing about being human  
we are like them, and they are like us  
we are together in this toy reality  
we play amongst each other like children who do know better  
knowing better becomes our way of breaking out of this universe  
the stars are our toys, as we gaze upon them  
and dream toy dreams of an illusive toy future  
it's the ball rolling into the street  
where exist toy dangers  
toy motorists drive toy automobiles straight into a toy accident  
and the toy parents come running out of their toy houses  
exhibiting toy hysteria  
as our toy bodies roll and curl from the toy pains, and toy injuries  
toy motorists become toyly hysterical  
insisting they never saw the toy child  
he just followed his toy into the toy street

- PATRICK BISSELL

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**Call to Artists:** Mary Vitold Gallery is seeking visual and performance artists whose work makes a social critique or commentary on the issue of homelessness for a December 2000 exhibition. All media are welcome. The deadline for submissions is November 14. Please send slides or photos, artist statement and SASE to: 110 South Washington St., Seattle, WA 98104. For more information or questions, please call 206-624-9336 or e-mail hogan@endssound.com.



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## SAFECO Continued from Page 1

that at McDonalds too," he says. "But Jiminy Christmas, McDonalds isn't charging five bucks for a hot dog. Plus the fact that you're only working basically 13 games a month."

**R**ick Sawyer, acting secretary of the Hotel Employee Restaurant Employees (HERE) Local 8, said VSA paid from \$11.50 to \$14.50 and \$17 an hour to Labor Ready, while the workers received \$6.50 or \$7.00 per hour. Labor Ready would not confirm the amount workers were paid or how much the company received for supplying them. VSA employees at the stadium start at \$8.00 per hour and can receive up to \$12 per hour at the supervisory level. HERE Local 8 represents 250 to 300 food and beverage workers at Safeco Field.

"Because they have a different employer, we aren't able to represent day laborers when they work at Safeco Field," says Sawyer, "We try to get them covered and eligible for union wages and benefits by attempting to get them in the permanent bargaining unit."

Sawyer explained that organizing efforts at public facilities are different than other efforts, because public ventures involve a broader set of goals and interests.

"There is a lot of public money at Safeco, and there is a general consensus that if the public is going to support the construction of the facility, then it makes sense to promote a more responsible employment environment," says Sawyer.

While work at the stadium provides an income, stadium employment alone is not enough to lift homeless people out of poverty. A director of a large employment program reported that work at the stadium helps homeless people seek better jobs because the hours permit them to pur-

sue occupational training during the day while earning money at Safeco Field in the evenings and on weekends.

For other homeless workers, the hours at Safeco can mean a choice between earning a small income or having a place to sleep. Marty Hartman, director of Mary's Place, a drop-in center for homeless women, says it is very difficult for homeless women to work concessions since they get off work after shelters close their doors.

Across the country, cities kick down huge amounts of money in public funds for new sports facilities to keep teams from leaving for more profitable venues. Nationwide, more than \$7 billion will be spent on new sports facilities by 2006, according to "Sports, Jobs and Taxes," a study conducted for the Brookings Institute. Critics of stadium subsidies say that these projects divert funds from more important public services and are unfair to other businesses that compete with stadiums for labor, materials, and customers.

So why do the subsidies continue?

The Brookings study says that stadiums provide more "consumer satisfaction" than shopping centers or other publicly subsidized economic development, and the teams "capture public attention far out of proportion to their economic significance." Just reflect on the mood that seized the city during the American League playoffs. Local radio announcers voiced breathless enthusiasm. The *Seattle Times* and The *P-I* ran front-page photos. Across the city, people were talking about the games. Sports unite a community with hope and enthusiasm. It is this — more than any considerations of economic gain — that fuels stadium subsidies. Unfortunately, taxpayers don't get so excited when their public funds help homeless people find living-wage jobs and come in from the cold.

Picture it: in the semifinals of the battle to end homelessness, J. Johns finds stable housing and the crowd goes wild. Until getting people off the street generates the same fanfare as A-Rod's home runs, fans will continue to root for the home team while homeless food vendors scrape by on part-time work and free hot dogs. ■

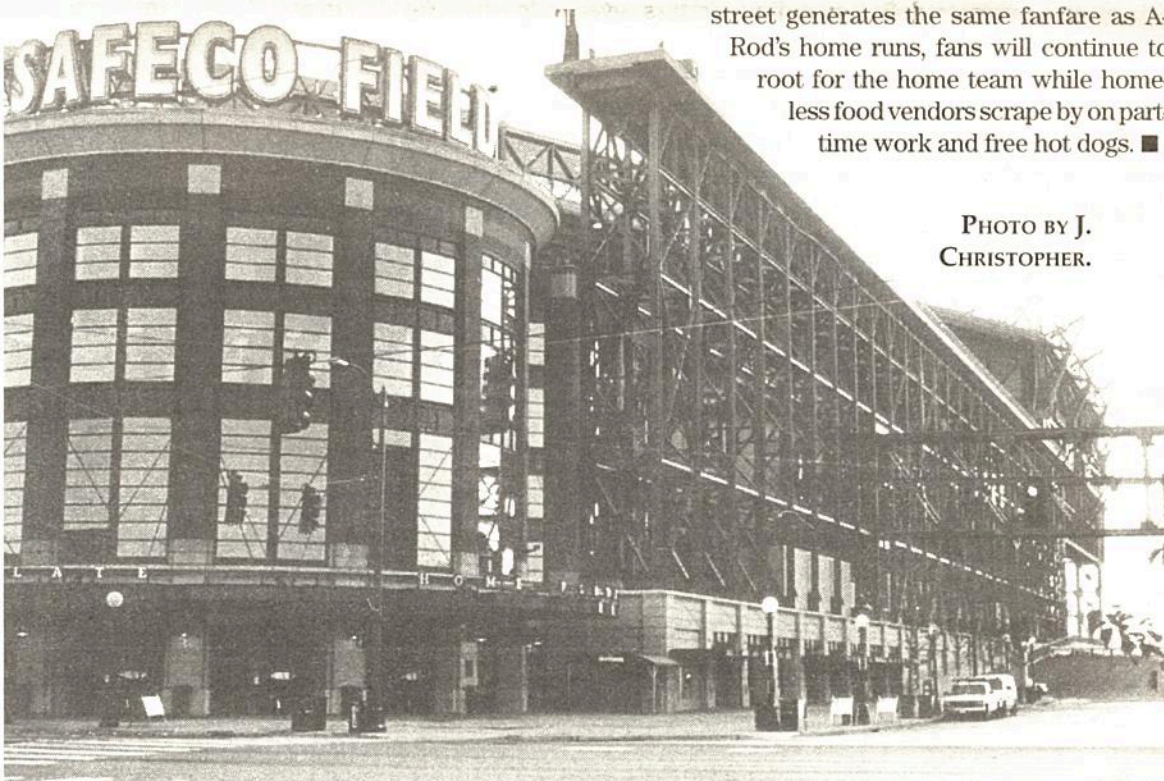


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**GORE Continued from Page 3**

Everyone is aware that the composition of the Supreme Court is at stake. To knowingly vote Bush into office is to betray women, people of color, gays and lesbians, and everyone else whose civil rights are riding on this election. The position that a Bush presidency is an acceptable outcome can only be made from a position of privilege.

There will also be a world of difference in cabinet appointments. Bush has already raised the specter of Slade Gorton as Secretary of the Interior. Aside from being an environmental train wreck, this would, incredibly, place Slade "Indian Killer" Gorton over the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GORE 2000.

**Our choice is this: raised expectations and relatively inclusive economics, or warmed-over Reaganism and a movement on the defensive.**

But perhaps the most important difference between Gore and Bush lies in their approach to the federal deficit.

During the Reagan revolution, there was government deregulation, massive tax cuts for the wealthy, military Keynesianism, and cuts in social programs. Between the tax cuts and the military spending we soon had the biggest budget deficit in history. Little was left for social programs. This was, of course, quite intentional.

These policies brought recession, which is always hardest on the poor since they bear the greatest burden of unemployment. But unemployment also drives wages down and places organized labor on the defensive. In the end, the rich got richer, and the poor got poorer.

George Bush wants to return to the economic policies of the past. He will increase military spending, give huge tax cuts to the rich, and minimize social spending. He seems unconcerned with the deficit.

Some economists argue that the Bush tax cuts will stimulate consumption and lead to inflation. Alan Greenspan is likely to respond by raising interest rates, which would slow the

economy. This would reduce federal revenues, which, given the tax cuts, would likely mean a return to deficit spending and less revenue for meeting human and environmental needs.

The Gore strategy, on the other hand, of limited tax cuts, paying down the deficit, and increased social spending, is much more likely to result in a continued strong economy. The Gore plan, as the deficit shrinks and domestic capital looks for new opportunity, is likely to result in increased investment in private sector initiatives.

We need to consider all of this as we decide the way forward. I am very concerned that some of us have reduced this presidential election to a referendum on fair trade and campaign finance reform. This approach misunderstands the moment.

The difference between the Republicans and Democrats is that the Republicans are perfectly willing to use the economy as a weapon against poor and working people. The Democrats, on the other hand, even with all their flaws, are raising expectations. And raised expectations, along with the hard work of movement building, creates the environment that makes social change possible.

Our choice is this: raised expectations and relatively inclusive economic policies, or warmed-over Reaganism and a movement on the defensive. This is no small difference, and a lot is at stake. ■

**NADER Continued from Page 3**

In the first year of the Clinton Administration, new legislation that would have protected striking workers from being permanently replaced was defeated. Although this was of crucial importance to their labor supporters, Clinton and Gore did nothing to assure its passage in the Democratic-controlled Congress.

By contrast, they did everything they could to push for the North American Free Trade Agreement — at the expense of workers, the environment, and the democratic process itself. They set up a war room in the basement of the White House to assure its passage. Yet their promise to oppose NAFTA was one of the cornerstones of their 1992 campaign.

Today we can thank Clinton and Gore for twelve multi-million dollar NAFTA lawsuits against Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. NAFTA allows corporations to sue these governments if a protective law results in corporate loss of profit. For example, a Canadian corporation is now suing our federal government for a billion dollars because the California legislature banned the fuel additive MTBE which causes nerve damage to humans and makes drinking water carcinogenic.

Because of such betrayals by Clinton-Gore, millions of liberal voters stayed home in the 1994 elections. The Republicans were able to win control of both the House and the Senate. In Washington state alone, we lost five Democratic Congressional seats. It was Clinton and Gore who opened the door to Newt Gingrich's Contract on America.

In 1995, Vice President Gore pushed the establishment of the WTO through Congress. Ralph Nader was the only well-known public person still opposing the WTO on the day of the vote.

The following year, Clinton and Gore abandoned their 1992 campaign promise to improve the welfare system. They demolished the safety net, demonized single mothers, and jeopardized the health and safety of millions of children. During the last eight years, they have facilitated the right-wing agenda over and over again.

We respect everyone's right to vote for Gore. We don't respect the Democratic Party's attempt to whip up hysteria against Nader. In a real democracy, people vote for the candidate that best represents their values and community interests.

A vote for Ralph Nader is a vote for the beginning of genuine democracy. It is a rejection of the "inevitability" of right-wing politics, whether these politics carry the label of "Democrat" or "Republican." A vote for Nader is a vote for ending the cycle of destruction perpetrated by the two-party monopoly. It is a vote that matters: if Ralph Nader wins five percent of the vote, the Green Party will receive millions of dollars in federal funds which will put power and money behind progressive candidates in the next election. Ralph Nader's presidential candidacy in this election offers us the chance of a lifetime to begin the creation of a viable, progressive alternative.

Sally Soriano is a Washington State Green Party member and an organizer for People for Fair Trade. Adriene Sere is also a WA State Green Party member and editor of Said It, a radical feminist publication. ■

**In a real democracy, people vote for the candidate that best represents their values and community interests.**

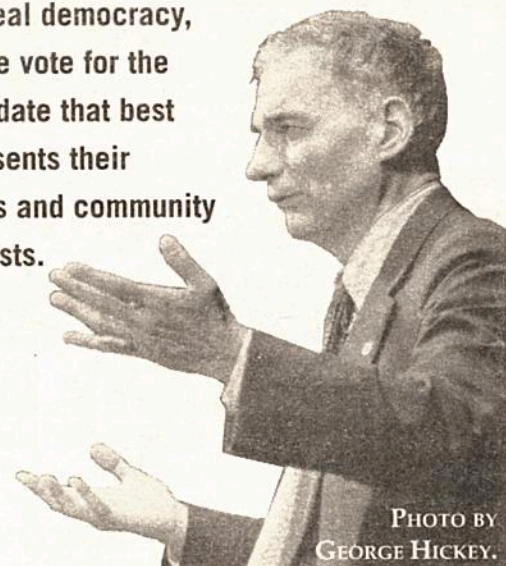


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# NOTES FROM THE KITCHEN

By Liz Smith

I was looking through an old French cookbook the other day and came across the following recipe for salmon, called *Darne Valois*:

"Poach; garnish with *moisettes* potatoes cooked *à l'anglais*, poached soft roes, trussed crayfish, coat with sauce *Valois*."

"I could do that," I thought. "I just don't want to."

The following menu features a much simpler salmon dish. The ingredients were bought at Pike Place Market. This too was easy, as the usual hordes of people were somewhere else. The clerks were not frazzled and had time to discuss nuances of flavors in the menu I was planning.

Do look over your produce carefully because sometimes the quality can be poor — but when it's good, it's superlative, especially the fruit and mushrooms. I recommend City Fish, toward the north end of the market stalls, for your salmon-shopping. The Coho was very fresh and sweet, and the texture was good. Plus, they do not throw their fish around. Fish is delicate and easily damaged. Would you play baseball with your tomatoes and then put them in your salad? Skip the fish throwers.



## The menu, to serve two people:

Salmon with Lemon, Garlic, and Parsley  
Oven Roasted New Potatoes  
Mixed Greens with Toasted Walnuts  
Sliced Pears with Chocolate Cookies

## The dessert:

Pears go well with chocolate, and the crispiness of whatever cookies you choose makes a good contrast to the texture of the pears. The little Comice pears are delicious right now; pair them with a Bosc or Bartlett for contrast.

For this dessert you need two pears and one package of chocolate cookies. Rinse pears, pat dry, and put on a plate in the refrigerator.

## The salad:

1/4 cup walnuts  
1 head butter lettuce  
1 head red or green leaf lettuce  
salad dressing

1. Toast walnuts at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.
2. Rub between paper towels to remove skins.
3. Chop to 1/4-inch size and set aside.
4. Rinse lettuce leaves, gently pat dry. Tear into bite-size pieces and put in a salad bowl in the refrigerator, cover with a damp paper towel.
5. Just before serving, toss with salad dressing, place on chilled plates, and garnish with walnuts.

## The fish:

3 cloves garlic, peeled  
1 small lemon  
1 bunch Italian parsley  
1-2 TB extra virgin olive oil  
1 pound Coho salmon, skins removed  
Salt, pepper, 2 squares of aluminum foil

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
2. To prepare garlic, smash with the flat of your knife, then chop finely. Put in a bowl. Rinse cutting board and knife.
3. Juice lemon, strain seeds, add to garlic.
4. Rinse and dry parsley, remove the stalks, and chop the leaves finely. Add about two tablespoons to garlic-lemon mix. Divide fish into two equal parts. Coho salmon does have bones, but they are large, few, and easy to avoid — just leave them in.
5. Into your herb mixture stir in 1 or 2 TBS extra-virgin olive oil, a little salt and some pepper. Place fish on foil. Coat both side of fish with herb mix. Close up foil. Set fish aside to marinate while you prepare the potatoes.

## The potatoes:

1 pound small red potatoes  
1 TB extra virgin olive oil  
Salt, pepper

1. Peel potatoes. Cook in boiling water 15 minutes. (Peel all the skin. I pared away the eyes only and the finished product did not have an appetizing appearance. They look like potatoes in shrouds.)
2. Drain water. Pour in 1 TB oil, stir gently. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

## The finish:

Place the potatoes and the foil parcels of fish on a baking sheet. Put into a pre-heated oven (400 degrees) and bake 13-15 minutes. Place dinner plates on top of oven to warm.

To serve, snip off top of foil parcels and place on warm dinner plate. Dish out potatoes. Finish preparing salad and serve on chilled plates.

This is a great meal — it's very healthy, the colors harmonize, and despite what seems like a lot of garlic, the herb mixture cooks into a mild savory accent for the fish.

When it's time for dessert, divide pears in half on chilled plates. Serve with cookies. ■

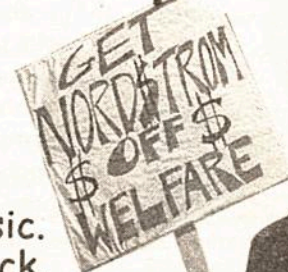
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**Friday October 20th, 5:52 a.m. Second and Virginia St.** A 35-year-old man called 911 from a payphone and reported he wanted to turn himself in, claiming he was a threat to others and might shoot himself. The police contacted him at Second and Virginia St., patted him down for weapons, and found none. He then said he wanted to turn himself in for robbing "The Great American Bank of Everett" in March 1991 with a .38 handgun. He could not provide the location of the bank, but claimed he stole \$1,000 in cash and made his getaway in a Mercedes. He also admitted that he felt suicidal, and could not guarantee the safety of those around him. After contacting the Everett/Snohomish County PD, police advised him that he was not a suspect in any robbery, nor could the police confirm that any such robbery took place. Subject voluntarily admitted himself to Harborview Medical Center.

**Saturday October 21st, 11:30 p.m. Seattle-area homeless shelter.** A homeless female, aged 59, sleeping at a shelter for the night, awoke to find that the fanny pack she was wearing had been opened and a checkbook and her ID had been stolen.

**Monday October 23rd, 4:09 p.m. 300 Block Broadway.** An SPD mountain bike unit cited a male transient for a violation of SMC code 15.48.040 — the no-sitting and -lying ordinance. Suspect was asked to provide ID, and was found to have a felony warrant out for his arrest. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

**Tuesday October 24th, 12:30 a.m. Broadway QFC.** An off-duty police officer observed a homeless man, aged 27, picking cigarette butts out of the ashtray in front of the QFC store. QFC management asked the police not to allow transients to remove items from the ashtray. The off-duty officer asked the man to stop removing the butts, but the man ignored him. The policeman then loudly stated, "Stop going through the ashtray!" and the suspect replied "I was putting one out!" When asked to leave again, he became belligerent, and used several profane words. The officer called for another unit, and the two continued to argue. The suspect shook a finger in the off-duty officer's face, and after a short struggle was brought into custody. He was arrested for criminal trespass and obstructing an officer.


**Tuesday October 24th, 7:55 a.m. First and Pike St.** During an undercover drug bust, narcotics officers posing as traffickers were spotted by a 44-year-old transient male who was familiar with the police in the area. When he was approached by a policeman, he proceeded to tell the officer that he knew they were cops, and was going to tell everyone in the area. He was arrested for obstruction and booked into King County Jail. The undercover operation was relocated for officer-safety reasons. ■

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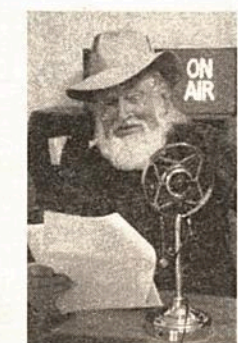
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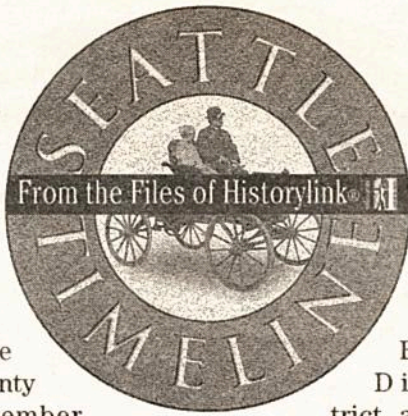
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*Hobo Jungle of the Mind*  
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The Hudson's Bay Company ship *Beaver*, the first steamship to travel Puget Sound, passed by the future location of King County sometime in November 1836. The ship carried two 35-horsepower wood-fueled steam engines, and consumed 40 cords of wood per day to travel an average of 30 miles.

On November 13, 1851, the Denny Party landed at Alki Beach. This event marked the "birth" of what would become Seattle. The Denny Party had traveled over the Oregon Trail from Indiana to Portland, but found the Willamette Valley already too crowded for their tastes. David Denny and John Low were sent to scout Puget Sound, and met Lee Terry on the way. They arrived at the mouth of the Duwamish River on September 25, 1851, and Low and Terry staked claims along Alki Beach three days later. Low returned to Portland with a note from David Denny urging his older brother Arthur to "come at once."

Arthur Denny, Low, eight other adults, and 12 children set sail aboard the schooner *Exact* and arrived on November 13 (a pylon at Alki Beach marks the event today). Most of the Denny Party relocated to the site of present-day Pioneer Square the following spring. Charles Terry stayed behind and dubbed his claim in today's West Seattle as "New York Alki," or New York "by and by" in Chinook jargon.

The first bicycle ever seen in Washington Territory arrived aboard a steamer from San Francisco via Portland on November 14, 1879. Seattle Merchant William H. Pumphrey displayed the two-wheeler in front of his store at 617 Front Street (later 1st Avenue). On November 18, 1879, Jules Lipsky bought the bicycle for his son.

Washington became the 42nd State of the United States of America on November 11, 1889, nine months after the United States Congress passed an act enabling the territories of Washington, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana to seek statehood. This was the first enabling act passed by Congress since Colorado became the 38th state in 1876.

After decades of rancorous debate, construction of a Ship Canal to link Lake Washington and Puget Sound finally began on November 10, 1911. Following the failure of several private canal schemes, the project was advanced by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gen. Hiram M. Chittenden, whose name was later given to the Government Locks linking the Sound and Salmon Bay at Ballard. The canal required digging cuts between Salmon Bay and Lake Union at Fremont, and

between Lake Union and Lake Washington at Montlake. Four bascule bridges were built at Fremont, Ballard, the University

District, and Montlake. The Locks officially opened on July 4, 1917, but the canal was not declared complete until 1934.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), the great civil rights leader, made his only visit to Seattle in November 1961. He spoke at the University of Washington and at Temple de Hirsch on Thursday, November 9, and at Garfield High School and the Eagles Auditorium on Friday, November 10. A reception followed at Plymouth Congregational Church.

King was invited by Reverend Samuel B. McKinney to be part of a lecture series sponsored by the Brotherhood of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

McKinney was pastor of the church and a friend and classmate of King at Morehouse College in Atlanta.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DURING HIS ONLY TRIP TO SEATTLE.

In the 1970 election, Washington voters approved Referendum 20, which legalized abortion in the early months of pregnancy. Fifteen other states had liberalized their abortion laws by that time, but Washington was the first — and so far the only — state to do so through a vote of the people. During the late 1960s, medical providers supplied the initial direction in the movement to decriminalize abortion in Washington. Their focus was on the rights of doctors to practice medicine as they saw fit, free from the restraints of laws and hospital committees. Eventually, feminists recast the debate to emphasize women's rights to control their own bodies. ■

To learn more about these and other events and benchmarks in Seattle and King County history, visit [www.historylink.org](http://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

After watching all three Presidential debates and most of the painfully shallow post-debate commentary, we at Classics Corner have just one question: What the hell was that? BORING! And that's coming from a guy who reads Thucydides for fun.

Let's face it. Focus groups couldn't script a decent debate if their moderate suburban voter asses depended on it. It's obvious these guys hate each other, so let's see some eye gouging. We demand entertainment.

If the debates are going to be scripted, let's have them composed by Aristophanes, the Athenian comic playwright who produced the South Park of 5th Century BC. They might then go something like this:

**BUSHIPPIAS** : Should the people elect me, I will abolish taxes, reinstate slavery, and declare April 15 to be "Government Is Very Very Bad Day."

**AGOREABORUS** : Should the people elect me, I'll surgically attach a computer to every middle-class kid in America, and I'll build enough prisons to house the others. This will grow the economy by creating another 40,000 good paying guard jobs by the year 2004.

**BUSHIPPIAS** : Fuzzy Math! Fuzzy Math!

**AGOREABORUS** : Blow it out your ass, Monkeyboy!

**BUSHIPPIAS** : At least I have one.

**AGOREABORUS** : I can see you do, and the money you got from Big Oil is hanging out of your hole.

**BUSHIPPIAS** : Suck my cigar, you Clintonesque crapmonger.

**DEMOS** : Tweedledee and Tweedledum. We go ho and we go hum. We yawn and then we scratch our bum. We pat our heads and chew our gum. We love TV and we are dumb.

**BUSHIPPIAS** : I believe the death penalty is a deterrent, so once a year I'll use my cheap hand gun to shoot a random Washington Insider.

**AGOREABORUS** : I like the death penalty even more, but I believe in gun control and a clean environment, so twice a year I'll personally garrote a Litterbug with piano wire.

**BUSHIPPIAS** : As a Compassionate Conservative, I'll see that all Homeless People get turkey dinner on Thanksgiving.

**AGOREABORUS** : Well, here's another area where there's a big difference between us. I'd empower them to work for their dinners, and teach them twentieth century skills, like biotechnology and aerospace engineering.

**THIRD PARTY CANDIDATE (OFFST AGE)** : Both of you are so far up the ass of Corporate America I can barely see your ankles. I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down.

**BUSHIPPIAS** : Did you hear anything?

**AGOREABORUS** : Uh-uh, not a thing.

**CHORUS** : How many words will fall from their mouths, before they say something real. Yes and how many times will we believe lies, like a clubbed and dazed baby seal? The answer, my friend, is it will never end, unless there is campaign finance reform. It doesn't even rhyme, and it will take some time. But what we need is campaign finance reform. ■

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# November Notables

## Wednesday, 11/1

**Jobs With Justice Seattle Organizing Committee Meeting**, 5:30 p.m. at Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave., this and subsequent First Wednesdays, info 206-441-4969.

## Thursday, 11/2

Activists for justice get a chance to hear from veteran organizers at "A Night with the Elders." Present will be Cindy Domingo, who led a national campaign for justice for her assassinated brother, a Filipino factory worker; Tyree Scott, who has led efforts to racially integrate the building trades industry; and Aaron Dixon, founder of Seattle's Black Panther Party. 7:00 p.m., Seattle Central Community College, Corner of Broadway and Pine, Room 1110. Sponsored by the People's Coalition for Justice, 206-632-0662 ext. 86.

The UW School of Social Work invites you to a candidate forum with each of the District 7 Congressional candidates, Jim McDermott (Democrat), Joe Szwaja, (Green) and Joel Grus (Libertarian). 5:00-6:30 p.m. UW School of Social Work Commons, 3rd Floor. Candidates will answer questions related to social work for the first hour; the final half-hour will be open to audience questions.

## Saturday, 11/4

**Friends of Sinn Fein** welcomes Rita O'Hare, Sinn Fein's representative to the United States, to discuss current issues of concern to the **Irish Peace Process**. 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 address, El Centro de la Raza, 2524 - 16th Ave. S. \$10.00 suggested donation.

## Wednesday, 11/8

The Urban Action School presents a "Drop-In Tech-Help" by Red Cursor Collective, come on down to the tech salon for computer help of any kind, from turning on a computer to writing your own web applications. May include computer hardware and repair, web page design, desktop publishing, databases, programming, work/server administration, or general help on a Mac, Windows, or Linux computer. 7 p.m., at Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave at Pike St, downtown, info <http://www.urbanaction.org>

[www.urbanaction.org](http://www.urbanaction.org), sliding \$0-\$15 donation, course info <http://www.urbanaction.org> or 206-464-9129

## Thursday, 11/9

The Society of Professional Journalists hosts a roundtable discussion with representatives from Seattle media and social service agencies on "Covering the Homeless: is it more than just a holiday pastime?" Why is homelessness only a topic of interest for most media during the holidays? With Rev. Herbert Pfiffner of Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, KING-TV News reporter Darin Watkins, Operation Nightwatch Executive Director Rev. Rick Reynolds, and *Real Change* Executive Director Timothy Harris. Free. 7:30 p.m. in the Pinnacle Room of the Mountaineers Building, 300 - 3rd Ave. W. Free food.

## Saturday, 11/11

**Tenants Union Convention 2000**: Building by Building & Annual Membership Meeting, lunch, workshops, donations accepted, child-care provided, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Seattle Vocational Institute, 2120 S Jackson St., info and registration Aline or Scott 206-772-6848.

## Monday, 11/13

**Seattle Seniors Internet Group (SSIG)**, this and subsequent 2nd Mondays, 1 p.m., at Greenwood Senior Center, 525 N 85th St. with off street parking, info Ralph Pfister [seniors@transport.com](mailto:seniors@transport.com) or <http://www.nw-seniorsonline.org> or 206-361-0369.

## Tuesday, 11/14

The Urban Action School presents a class: "Personal Story & the Power of Poetry" by Qwo-Li Driskill. We will look at the ways personal stories can be told thru poetry; in addition, we'll focus on listening to poetry and the revision process using contemporary radical poets as examples, sliding \$5-\$20-\$35, 7-9 p.m., at Community Action Network, 115 Prefontaine near 3rd & Yesler, info <http://www.urbanaction.org> or 206-464-9129

## Ongoing Mondays

Radical Women sponsors a weekly discussion series on "Making Waves," an

anthology by Asian American Women with historical articles, poetry and autobiographical essays that portray the experiences of immigrants, activists, youth and elders, free, everyone welcome, through Dec 11, 7 - 8:30 p.m., at Native American Room, University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Center, 3931 Brooklyn Ave. NE, info 206-722-6057 or 206-524-9353.

## Ongoing Tuesdays

Production work party for **Eat the State!** a free, independent weekly, we want an end to poverty, imperialism, militarism, racism, sexism, heterosexism, environmental destruction, television, and large ugly buildings, alternate Tuesdays 7 p.m., at Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave. between Pike and Union downtown, info [ets@scn.org](mailto:ets@scn.org)

**Campaign to End the Death Penalty** meeting, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m., at Seattle Central Community College, room 4144, Broadway just north of Pine, info 206-368-9196 or [cedp@hotmail.com](mailto:cedp@hotmail.com) or Ann 206-378-0989.

## Ongoing Wednesdays

Meetings of "Resist the List" working to prevent mandatory reporting of HIV-positive people, 7:30 p.m., at the community room, Cal Anderson House, 400 Broadway, 2 blocks south of Swedish Hospital, info 206-517-2617 or [jackman@drizzle.com](mailto:jackman@drizzle.com) or <http://www.speakeasy.org/~rtl>

## Ongoing Thursdays

"Deface the Nation" TV show with host Jeff Pearson, an alternate view on corporate media along with environmental information, topics such as New Weird Odor, Surreality Check, Rights Erosion Watch. Hot topic of the week covers main corporate headline, dissected as it is ... not how the corporations would like us to think it is, 11 p.m., TV channel 29, info [defacination@hotmail.com](mailto:defacination@hotmail.com)

## Ongoing Saturdays

**Progressive "Alternative Radio"** with David Barsamian, each week presenting a different voice from the left on justice and

peace issues, hear information otherwise not available in the mainstream media, 3 p.m. and SUN 11 p.m., KUOW 94.9 FM Radio, (also 6 a.m. Sat on KCMU), info [www.freespeech.org/alternative.radio](http://www.freespeech.org/alternative.radio)

**Seattle Food Not Bombs** re-distributes free produce to the members of the Yesler Terrace Community Center, 10:45 a.m., sort 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](mailto: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 location, 5:30 p.m. share dinner at Occidental Park, info 206-985-2247 or [fnb@scn.org](mailto:fnb@scn.org) or <http://www.scn.org/activism/foodnotbombs>

## Ongoing Daily

**FareStart** assists people who are homeless through training in life skills, food service, and the culinary arts. 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, at 1902-2nd Ave., between Stewart and Virginia, 3 or 4 course dinner only \$14.50 plus tax and tip, with all of the proceeds going to FareStart, please log on to <http://www.farestart.org> and make a donation.

**Studio X**, a new community netcasting facility broadcasting to the world on topics such as politics, homeless issues, global issues, police brutality from downtown Seattle between 4 p.m. - 2 a.m. on the Internet at <http://www.microradio.net> connecting you to 'unmediated' voices from Seattle's social movements including October 22 Coalition, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, The Hemp Coalition, Street Writes/*Real Change*, Red Bandanna, info at 206-736-1400, monthly time slot giveaways held second Sundays at 1 p.m. in the Speakeasy Cafe, Backroom, 2304 - 2nd Ave. ■

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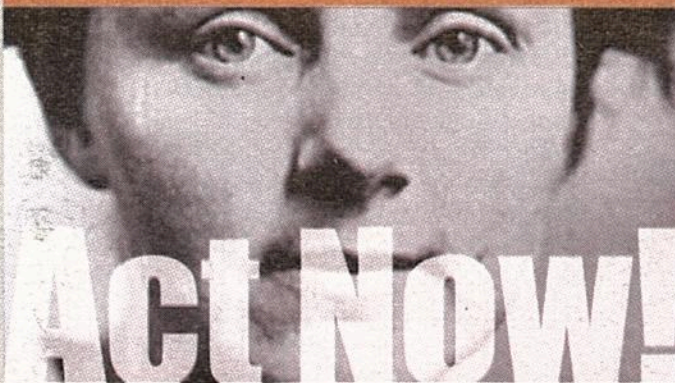
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citizens participation project



## Pioneer Square needs Urban Rest Stop

**Issue:** The first Urban Rest Stop in the Denny Triangle is doing great. Other locations are needed. Call the City Council now to support a new Urban Rest Stop at the Frye Hotel in Pioneer Square.

**Background:** The Urban Rest Stop at the Julie Apartments, located at 1924 - 9th Avenue in the Denny Triangle neighborhood, offers bathrooms, showers, and laundry facilities to anyone who wants them. It opened in March 2000, and is now serving 200 to 300 people per day.

A recent survey of Urban Rest Stop patrons show that 50 percent of them work full- or part-time, at one or more jobs. Comments from patrons included: "I couldn't keep my job without being clean and presentable," and "I really need the early morning hours you're open to get clean in. Thank you." The Urban Rest Stop is very helpful to homeless and low-income people trying to secure or maintain employment.

Recently, it was recognized with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development "Best Practices Award" and an Innovative Program Award from the Seattle Human Services Coalition. Since opening, many people have gotten clean! There have been 23,800 showers, 12,000 loads of laundry and 26,300 trips to the toilet.

LIHI has space for a second Urban Rest Stop at the Frye Hotel, located at Third and Yesler, near the King County Courthouse, where public urination has been a serious problem. We need city funds to renovate the space. The Urban Rest Stop at the Frye will provide restrooms for men and women, showers, and laundry facilities, and will serve the needs of the Pioneer Square community. The facility will be handicapped-accessible, fully staffed, and available to everyone.

Councilmembers Jan Drago and Nick Licata have championed the need for another Rest Stop. They have proposed \$250,000 in the 2001 budget and \$250,000 in the 2002 budget for capital costs to build it.

LIHI has been meeting with neighborhood residents to gain their support. Key community leaders, including county councilman Larry Gossett and Seattle Police Capt. Jim Pugel, as well as business owners and neighbors, are behind it; however, some feel differently. Outreach continues. The 1998 Pioneer Square draft Neighborhood Plan identifies the need for permanent, safe, and accessible restrooms as a high priority. A public laundromat and hygiene services for residents were also mentioned.

**Action:** If you think that people, regardless of their income and social status, need to have access to showers, toilets, and laundry facilities, call or email city council members and ask them to support the budget proposal for an Urban Rest Stop at the Frye Hotel.

Seattle City Council	(206)684-8888	council@ci.seattle.wa.us
Jim Compton	(206)684-8802	jim.compton@ci.seattle.wa.us
Richard Conlin	(206)684-8805	richard.conlin@ci.seattle.wa.us
Jan Drago	(206)684-8801	jan.drago@ci.seattle.wa.us
Nick Licata	(206)684-8803	nick.licata@ci.seattle.wa.us
Richard McIver	(206)684-8800	richard.mciver@ci.seattle.wa.us
Judy Nicastro	(206)684-8806	judy.nicastro@ci.seattle.wa.us
Margaret Pageler	(206)684-8807	margaret.pageler@ci.seattle.wa.us
Peter Steinbrueck	(206)684-8804	peter.steinbrueck@ci.seattle.wa.us
Heidi Wills	(206)684-8808	heidi.wills@ci.seattle.wa.us

For more information, call Sharon Lee or Ronni Gilboa at LIHI at (206) 443-9935, or email [ronnig@lihi.org](mailto:ronnig@lihi.org). If you email a letter of support for the Urban Rest Stop, please send a copy to [ronnig@lihi.org](mailto:ronnig@lihi.org). ■

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