

Nov 15 2000

Seattle Public Library  
JAN 04 2006

PER

# Creal Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 7, No. 22

## Walker Moved to Speak



# \$1

Nov. 15, 2000

Please buy from badged vendors only

**Meat and Potatoes:**  
**First Things First Comes To You •**  
**Shane in a Sling • The Anti-racist Huddle •**  
**Renters Rights • Thankful Meals**

PHOTO BY SHANNON BENINE OF UW DAILY.

Interview by scott winn

**A**lice Walker is one of the most important writers in the United States today. She is a "pagan Buddhist," a pacifist, a lover of women and men, a mother, poet, author, and activist. She has been involved in a variety of struggles, including working to abolish the practice of female genital mutilation and ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Most recently, she has worked to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a political prisoner on Pennsylvania's death row.

Walker was born to a family of sharecroppers in rural Georgia in 1944. Her first book, *Once*, a collection of poems about her time in East Africa and in the Civil Rights Movement, was written while she was still in college and published in 1968. She has since written over 20 books, including novels, short stories, children's books, essays, and poetry. She is best known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Color Purple*. Her work has been translated into 12 languages, and her books have sold millions of copies.

Walker was in Seattle in October for a benefit reading of her new collection of short stories, *The Way Forward is with a Broken Heart*, which raised \$5,000 for Books to Prisoners, a local organization sending books to inmates across the United States.

**Real Change:** In your new book, one of your characters meets a young Black woman going door to door asking for pennies. You write: "There is a bitterness that does not dissolve when I think of a black woman begging. I feel their rage and it is mine too." Can you talk a little bit about that bitterness and that rage?

**Alice Walker:** Why should any black woman be begging since she has been the foundation of changing and, really, creating this country? If they hadn't brought Black people from Africa and Black women hadn't given birth to other people to become workers — believe you me — the country would have probably gotten as far as Washington and stopped. So it is a sense of people who have given beyond their capacity,

really, and to see them begging is very hard on the spirit. It is hard to see anybody begging. Although, in some countries it is fine because there is a tradition of begging, and it means often that you have unloaded all of your possessions and you are free: to beg and to study or to travel.

**RC:** Last month, when the Chinese writer Goa Xing Jian won the Nobel prize for literature, he said, "Writing eases my suffering, it is my way of reaffirming my existence." Do you connect with his thoughts? Why do you write?

**AW:** I write because I love it as an exercise and as a practice. It is very helpful in discovering new places in my

self and new connections to other people and other realities. I find that it is a wonderful place to meet the spirit world, to engage the spirit world. Because, in a way, that is what writing is.

**RC:** What do you think the role of the artist and art is in movements for social change?

**AW:** Art is totally necessary for change in society. Even when art is provocative and people get really angry and upset, still, it reaches people at a deeper level than just slogans or propaganda or academic stuff. Art is very potent. I can't imagine having much change without it. People have to be inspired. It is hard to try and change anything, including yourself, without getting inspired. That is why we love great teachers: they inspire us. That is why we love art, because it really makes us want to feel more, to be more.

And at the same time, paradoxically, to just be more real with who we are.

**RC:** Recently, I heard you share a quote from the Gnostic Gospels in which Jesus says something like, "Learn how to suffer and you will not suffer." What is the role of suffering in our lives, and

what do you take from those words in finding happiness?

**AW:** I think that many people, because they suffer, they really think that they have done something wrong. I mean they think that if only I had not bought that car or married that person or lived in that town. But, in fact, suffering is just a part of life. It just is what is here. Suffering is here just like having fun is here. Just like being at peace is here. So, it's about accepting that and not being op-

pressed in your soul by it. I mean your body can be oppressed, but in your soul, no.

**"Many people, because they suffer, think that they have done something wrong. But, in fact, suffering is just a part of life. Suffering is here just like having fun is here."**

**Alice Walker, author and activist**

Continued on Page 10





## Street Count in Doubt

On October 20, volunteers went around the Seattle area and counted the number of people they could safely find sleeping outside. In a three-hour period from 2:30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m., they counted 909 people.

The best I can remember, this is done about the same time each year.

For what reason is this done? Nothing ever comes of it — the problem continues on. They found men, women and children. Why, in this day and age? What is wrong with this picture?

Do these people choose to live this way? Some yes, the majority no. Among the yes, some of them choose to live this way for reasons known only to themselves. I know some of them, and in strict confidence they have told me why they live this way. In some cases I can relate to them. You have

practicing alcoholics, drug addicts, or people with problems just too heavy to deal with, and they don't want to talk about them with just anybody.

At one point in my life I fell into this class myself. I was a practicing alcoholic, and had given up on life and myself. When I went to sleep at night, a lot of the time I was hoping I would not wake up and have to face another day.

Now, what about the people who do not use alcohol or drugs? A lot of them go to work, or try to, every day out of labor pools.

Some of them are by themselves, others are with families, but rent is so high they can't feed themselves and pay rent also.

At this time of year, all of the shelters and most of the low-income housing units are full.

What is the answer?

There are a lot of vacant or abandoned buildings in and around downtown. These are being torn down, and parking lots or high-rise apartments or office buildings are being put in their place. I suggest the city, county, or state buy these buildings and designate a certain amount of funds to renovate them. Let the homeless go in and do the work. I am sure there are a lot of skilled people among them. Even the unskilled can swing a hammer, a paintbrush, or a saw. Everyone can do something. When it is complete, let some of the people who worked move into it at low, reduced, or no rent, depending on the case.

### Staff, Board & Advisers

#### Executive Director

Timothy Harris

#### Associate Director, RCHEP

Jan Munger

#### Managing Editor

Adam Holdorf

#### Production Manager

Molly Rhodes

#### Vendor/Volunteer Manager

Megan Farley

#### MacWorkshop Coordinator

Matt Crichton, VISTA Volunteer

#### Intern

Kristen Alexander

#### Board of Directors

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

#### Editorial Committee

Wes Browning, Stan Burriss, Ruth Fox, Anitra Freeman, Michele Marchand

#### Contributing Writers

Peter Bloch Garcia, David Bloom, Delilah Jean Williams, George Winn, Liz Smith, Chris Gordon Owen, Kristine Wong, Shauna Curphey, Angel Djambazov, K. Peterson, Joe Martin, Rick Giombetti, Michele Marchand, Mark Gardner, Rita Peterson, Rahul Gupta, John Shaw, Anitra Freeman, Eric Detzer, Brian Goedde, Matt Lynch, Jim Pennington, Shauna Curphey, Janice Price, Bob Redmond, Melissa Wall, Scott Winn, Brenna Wolf, Emma Quinn, Susan Friedrich, Michael Hood, Pappi Tomas

#### Photographers

Daniel Caplan, George Hickey, Sabine Koschorreck, Erik Castro, Josh Root, Lisa Waldo, Chris La Roche, Adam L. Weintraub

#### Volunteers This Issue

Carole Frisell, Brianna Morgan, Jenny Jacyszyn, Brian Quinn, Jenny Van West, Bruce Wirth, Chris Gordon Owen. Special thanks to Tim, Ryan, and Brian Quinn for their work on the website.

#### Advisory Board

Nancy Amidei, *U District—University Partnership for Youth*

Bob Barnes, *King County Rainbow Coalition*

David Bloom, *Community Activist*

Juan Bocanegra, *Downtown Human Services Council*

Jean Colman, *Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition*

Walt Crowley, *HistoryLink.org*

Ishbel Dickens, John Fox, *Seattle Displacement Coal.*

Curt Firestone, *Community Activist*

Matthew Fox, *Community Activist*

Neil Fox, *National Lawyer's Guild*

Larry Gossett, *County Councilmember, Dist. 10*

Bill Hallerman, *Archdiocesan Housing Authority*

Bill Hobson, *Downtown Emergency Service Center*

Erin Katz, *Homelessness Project*

Mike Lowry, *The Fairness Project*

Paola Maranan, *The Children's Alliance*

Joe Martin, *Pike Market Medical Clinic*

Camille Monzon, *Seattle Indian Center*

Lonnie Nelson, *Coalition of Labor Union Women*

Trisha Ready, *The Zine Project*

Siobhan Ring, *Tenants Union*

Mary Robinson-Smith, *Denny Regrade Planning Org.*

Aiko Schaefer, *WA Welfare Reform Coalition*

Silja Talvi, *Freelance Journalist*

Jim Theofelis

Tamara Turner, *Radical Women*

Velma Voloria, *State Representative, 11th District*

Harriet Walden, *Mothers for Police Accountability*

This has been done with great success in other cities and states. Why can't Seattle do it?

As for the people who are still using alcohol or drugs, try to talk to them about counseling, treatment programs, or places they can go and talk to people and get help for their problems.

People are crying about all the homeless in Seattle and King County. Open these avenues to the ones who want another chance at life and are really trying — single people or families.

I am not saying this is an answer to the homeless situation, but it is a start. At the same time, it will draw people and communities together, and make more people aware of the problem.

You must remember that everyone has a purpose in life, whether it be a dishwasher, selling newspapers on the corner, or steelworker, doctor, counselor. Everyone has a skill.

At the beginning of this letter, I mentioned the annual count being made each year of the homeless sleeping outside. Who benefits from this count? Anybody? Or is it just a statistic and a news item?

Sincerely,  
Ed Fernen  
Seattle

## StreetLife Gallery

A working studio and gallery in Belltown, where the outsider is always in.

Open Daily, 11-7  
2301 2nd Ave.  
Belltown, 956-8046

## Beyond Charity

Support justice and dignity for all

You don't have to read very far into this newspaper to find some of the best poetry, photography, and journalism that you will find anywhere. All of this is brought to you by a host of volunteers and a small dedicated staff, without foundation or government grants. The StreetLife Gallery, StreetWrites, a bustling computer lab, and the Homeless Speakers Bureau, all projects of the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project (RCHEP), are supported equally through contributions and grants. Make Sid the cat happy and help ensure our future by donating time or energy. The *Real Change* newspaper is now a project of the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project, our 501c3 non-profit umbrella, so all donations are tax deductible.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Patron · \$100 or more

Member · \$35

Friend · \$50 or more

Supporter · Any amount

Call me about volunteering my time and energy.

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

Mail to: *Real Change*, 2129 2nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98121

# 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.

#### On the Web at

<http://www.realchangenews.org>

Email [rchange@speakeasy.org](mailto:rchange@speakeasy.org)

ISSN 1085-729X

Real Change vendors receive 70¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

#### 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.



# 10 Good Reasons to Support Real Change This Holiday Season

**W**e here at *Real Change* do a lot more than just sell a newspaper. We build human dignity by creating opportunities to succeed. We offer a voice to those who otherwise would not be heard. The StreetLife Art Gallery and StreetWrites peer support group give homeless and very low-income artists, writers, and poets a creative community in which lives can be healed and beauty can be found. Our MacWorkshop computer lab builds skills and offers opportunity. First things First, our grassroots organizing project, builds the power we need to end homelessness. Here are 10 good reasons to give generously this year to *Real Change*/RCHEP:

**1** **W**e do a lot with very little. People are always surprised when they see how small our office really is. We run all of our projects with just four full-time staff. Our entire budget for last year was only \$230,000. Your donations of equipment, supplies, and volunteer hours make it all possible.

**2** **R**eal Change builds bridges. Our vendors move between 12,000 and 16,000 copies of every issue. We promote understanding between the homeless and those who are more fortunate. Our Speakers Bureau brings homeless and formerly homeless people to schools, churches, and civic organizations who want to hear about homelessness firsthand

**3** **R**eal Change makes an immediate difference in the lives of the poor. Anyone who is homeless or vulnerably housed can become a vendor after attending a brief orientation. We offer an alternative to begging for those who may be desperate.

**4** **R**eal Change comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. We publish quality journalism that plays hard but stays fair, and we always place the voice of the poor first.

**5** **B**eginning December 28, *Real Change* will come out every other Thursday. Our news will be more fresh and our readers will get two more issues a year.

**6** **R**eal Change supports art for everyone. StreetLife Art Gallery and StreetWrites create an environment where a creative community of homeless and low-income people can thrive. These programs of the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project have a quarterly magazine of their own, *Out of the Margins*, that is distributed for free in shelters and drop-in centers.

**7** **R**eal Change organizes to make a difference. First things First is working to put a roof over every bed by identifying and supporting new activists to build real power for poor people.

**8** **R**eal Change supports other local efforts. Our paper is able to draw attention to all the other important work in our community. By highlighting other programs we are able to generate support that goes far beyond our own project.

**9** **R**eal Change is closing the digital divide by providing access to computers and the internet through the MacWorkshop. We offer basic skills training, self-study software, and even provide donated computers to those who have found housing.

**10** **T**he *Real Change* newspaper is now a project of the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project, our 501c3 non-profit umbrella, so all donations are tax deductible.

None of this will happen unless people like you think enough of what we do to pitch in and help. We rely on holiday season donations to help us get through the whole year. This year, help us make more *Real Change*. ■



## Inside:

### Opinion

10 Good Reasons to Support Real Change ..... 3

### Regular Features

This Just In  
by Bob Redmond ..... 3

News You Can Use  
by Adam Holdorf, Molly Rhodes ..... 4

The Marginal Lifestyle  
by Sticky AI ..... 8

Tenant Talk  
with Mark Chattin ..... 11

Notes from the Kitchen: Something to Be Thankful for  
by Liz Smith ..... 12

Street Watch  
by Emma Quinn ..... 13

Seattle Timeline  
from the files of HistoryLink ..... 14

Classics Corner  
by Timothy Harris ..... 14

Calendar  
compiled by Kristen Alexander ..... 15

### News

Take a Tip from Us: Take Action..... 5

Mistaking a Mandate  
by Adam Holdorf ..... 5

### Features

Alice Walker: Moved to Speak  
by scott winn ..... 1

Scratching the City's Sore Spot  
by Adam Holdorf ..... 6

### Poetry

Insights and surprises from Patrick Bissell, Carol Leno, Jonathan Locke, Roxane Roberts, Liz Smith, Angela C. Vasquez ..... 8-9

### Activism

Citizen Participation Project ..... 16



**M**IAMI, Fla. — A lockbox was found floating off the shore of the Florida Keys late last night. Captain John Smith, who was working on a ferry boat salvage operation between Islamorda and the Everglades, was at a loss to explain what he discovered.

"Part mystery, part history, and part disaster," said the captain. His crew pulled aboard a container holding 23,000 ballots from the recent election, several stacks of confederate money, and a pair of skeleton hands.

"We came here to raise this ferry boat," said the seasoned mariner, "and now we're implicated in this whole electoral mess. It's bad enough we have to drag the boat back to Pittsburgh."

Captain Smith had no suggestions about the origins of the ballots, the money, or the meaning of the hands. He did say that the crew counted the votes, however, and they turned out a dead heat. "We counted 4,600 votes apiece for different body parts. Liver, Heart, Lungs, Thyroid, and Brain. I think it's some kind of sick joke."

Florida election officials disavow any knowledge of the lockbox. The Gore campaign is calling for a recount, and Texas Governor George W. Bush says the findings substantiate his claim to the Presidency. For now, however, the whole situation appears too close to call. ■

—Bob Redmond



## Court strikes tenants' rights

Mobile home tenants face a steeper uphill battle to save their parks after a November 9th state Supreme Court ruling, which struck down the Mobile Home Landlord-Tenant Act, RCW 59.23. The law had granted them the ability to purchase their land when the property owner decides to sell.

"This means one less tool for vulnerable people," says Ishbel Dickens, a tenant advocate who's helped mobile home owners across the state buy their parks. The court ruled that the law was an unconstitutional restriction on the rights of property owners.

Dickens believes the ruling will undercut any government assistance for mobile home owners, who face relocation costs of up to \$10,000.

"The state and cities who don't want to support mobile home owners [with financial assistance to move or purchase the land] will have an easy out," she says. If they want to try to buy their land, "They'll face a free-for-all in a very competitive market."

Advocates in the Tenants Union had hoped the court would uphold the 1993 law, and that it could be used to support broad right-of-first-refusal legislation preserving tenants' housing within the city. ■

— Adam Holdorf



plex for homeless teenage mothers expected to be completed by summer 2001. Yet the authority is wary of guaranteeing any more vouchers to transitional units that receive a Gates grant — vouchers that would then have to be offered to tenants when they leave the units for permanent housing — when other units could be shut out of their limited voucher supply, cautioned assistant director Bud Alkire.

The King County Housing Authority has so far warned to the idea of using some of the 300 vouchers it had already offered to area housing providers to help pay for the move from transitional to permanent housing to instead help pay for the new, Gates-funded transitional housing. Yet these housing providers have yet to warm to the Gates grant proposition when they don't know where the rest of the money to provide services is coming from.

Indeed, projects that are applying for a Gates Foundation grant this month, like New Century House, have concerns that even with the Section 8 vouchers, all the costs of providing services won't be met. ■

— Molly Rhodes

## Coming down like a ton of bricks

Demolition work in a Capitol Hill apartment building stood to earn vendor Shane Thompkins \$1,300. Combined with some savings, it would have paid for first month's rent, last month's, and a security deposit for himself and his pregnant girlfriend. Then a ladder gave way. He fell, cutting his head, and a brick came down on top of him, breaking his arm.

With carpentry out of the question, Shane stepped up his *Real Change* sales work outside the Broadway QFC on Capitol Hill. He says he's been battling depression since the injury, and it impacts his business.

"If I'm not in a very good mood, it just shows on my face," he says. "The other day, I went up there with 10 papers, stood outside the store for five hours, and in the end had three left over."

Shane says the most rewarding thing passersby do is manage to smile at him. "Even when they don't buy, even when they don't say anything, if they just smile, that goes a long way — further than that dollar sometimes."

QFC employees regularly show him kindness. "The night I got out of the hospital, they hadn't washed my face up," he says. "I went into QFC and asked Cal, a baker, 'Can you help me out with this?' He just said 'Certainly,' pulled out some rubber gloves, took me to the bathroom and washed off the blood."

Shane's arm is in a cast until Christmastime. He expects to get a Workers Compensation check around Thanksgiving. ■

— Adam Holdorf



PHOTO BY MEGAN FARLEY.



## Time to worry

JOTA BORGMANN PAUSES AT VICTOR STEINBRUECK PARK BY THE PIKE PLACE MARKET, HAVING MARCHED DOWN PIKE STREET FROM CAPITOL HILL IN RESPONSE TO THE HAIR'S-BREADTH ELECTION RESULTS IN FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 7TH. AFTER THE OCCASION, STREETWRITES POET RENEENE ROBERTSON PENNED THIS "LO-KU" HAIKU: "BALLOT TABULATIONS IN FLORIDA — THE ULTIMATE FUZZY MATH." PHOTO BY KYLE DOANE.

## Gates Grant may get Section 8

When the Gates Foundation announced it would give \$40 million to transitional housing for families — the largest private grant ever, which would double the supply of transitional housing in the region — the foundation, nonprofit housing providers and government agencies all recognized that other new sources of money would have to be found to make it work. One such source could be Section 8 vouchers.

The federally-apportioned vouchers were traditionally designed to help cover the rent of permanent housing — a tenant pays 30 percent of his income and the vouchers cover the rest of the market-rate rent.

Yet recent changes in the voucher guidelines no longer require a tenant to sign a year-long lease, and allow vouchers to be tied to a particular housing project rather than a person. This opens up the possibility of using the vouchers to help pay for the cost of providing services tied to transitional units, such as job training, case management and counseling.

The Gates Foundation would only provide \$1,500 for these services for each unit, or about one-quarter of the total cost. Other potential large sources of public funding — such as federal McKinney grants and the state Housing Trust Fund — are already fully used by existing housing. The 1995 Seattle housing levy is designed to cover building and operational costs, but not the cost of providing much-needed services to get people back on their feet.

In September, the Seattle Housing Authority adopted a policy allowing for up to 25 percent of its vouchers to be used for project-based housing, where vouchers are reserved for individuals or families in a particular housing complex, says SHA spokeswoman Virginia Felton. The new Gates-funded transitional housing could qualify for these vouchers, she says.

"We recognize that transitional housing is important and it's not something we do," explains Felton. "We welcome ways to expand the number of housing units that are available."

However, the six housing authorities that oversee the distribution of vouchers within the Gates Grant area — King, Pierce and Snohomish counties along with the cities of Seattle, Tacoma and Everett — have yet to officially agree on how the Section 8 vouchers should be used in the new transitional units, if at all.

The Everett Housing Authority has already set aside a handful of its vouchers to go to Housing Hope's New Century House, a mixed-use housing com-

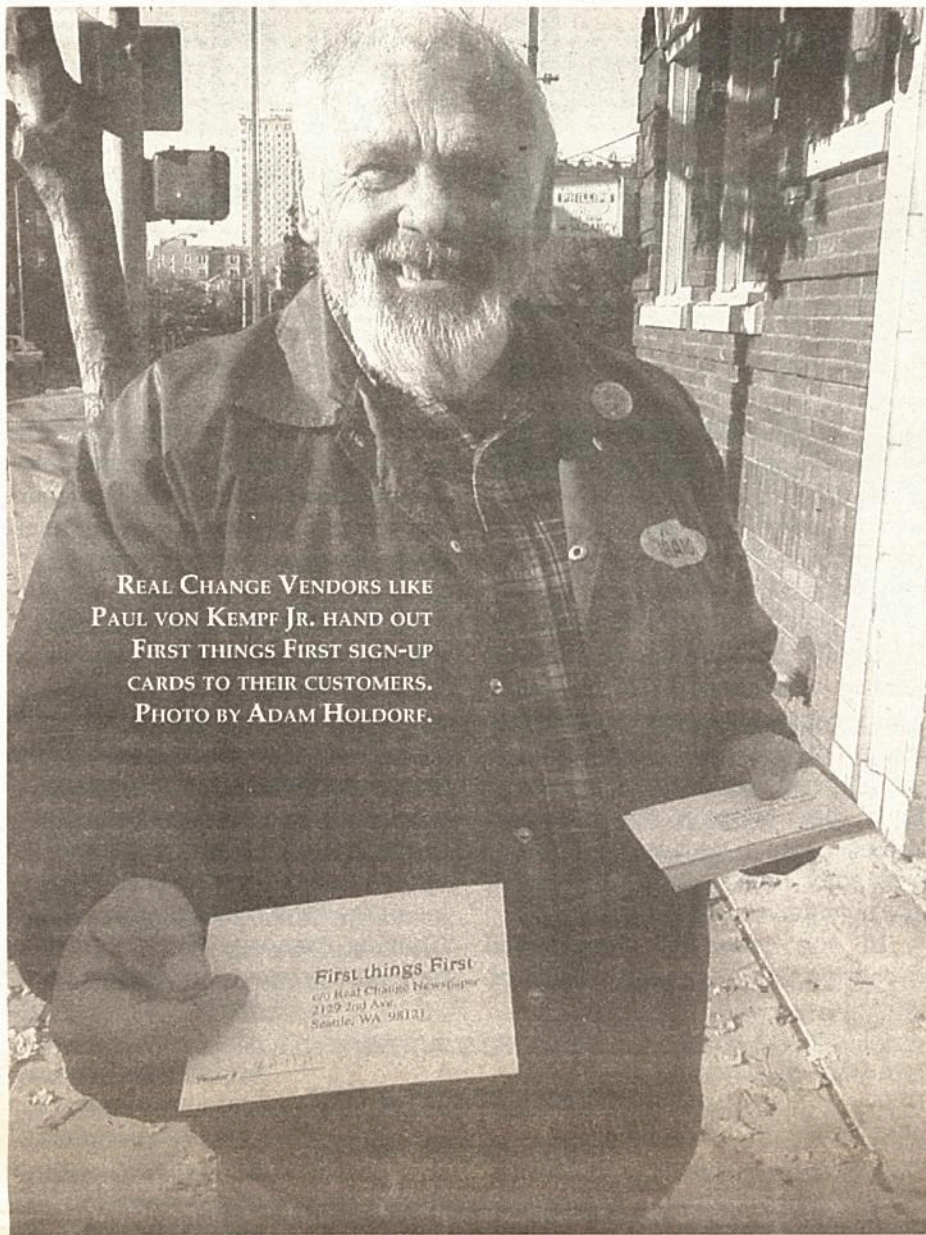
## Joe's mojo



GREEN PARTY CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE JOE SZWAJA, CENTER, ENTERS THE GREENS' ELECTION-NIGHT PARTY WITH A WINNING SWAGGER. SZWAJA UPPED HIS SEPTEMBER PRIMARY PERFORMANCE BY 6 PERCENT TO CHALK UP 19 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN THE 7TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL RACE AGAINST INCUMBENT JIM McDERMOTT, A MAN SO ENTRENCHED IN SEATTLE'S DEMOCRATIC FORTRESS THAT THE REPUBLICANS DON'T EVEN BOTHER OPPOSING HIM. LIBERTARIAN JOEL GRUS GOT 7.5 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. McDERMOTT STILL PREVAILED EASILY, WITH 150,000 VOTES AND 73 PERCENT. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

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





REAL CHANGE VENDORS LIKE PAUL VON KEMPF JR. HAND OUT FIRST THINGS FIRST SIGN-UP CARDS TO THEIR CUSTOMERS. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

## Take a Tip from Us: Take Action

**R**eal Change Vendors have something new to hawk this month: political action on their own behalf.

Real change is sponsoring a contest to see who can get the most people signed up on the First things First Action Alert list. First things First is the Real Change organizing project that lets people know how they can make a difference for the poor when critical legislation is pending. If you join our Alert list, we'll mail you a post card, give you a call, or drop you an email to let you know when you're needed.

What do the vendors get? First prize for the most postcards is \$75, and even one card returned gets the vendor 10 free papers just for trying. And while you're at it, our vendors have First things First buttons for one dollar.

Take Action for homeless people today, and take a tip from our vendors: creating real change is easier than you think. ■

# Mistaking a Mandate

Phantom tax revolt scares city into budget retreat

By Adam Holdorf

**W**hat do you get when Tim Eyman's tax-cutting antics grab more headlines than the city's budget planning process? Timid times in City Hall.

For the first time in 25 years, the mayor and city council have opted to increase property taxes by less than the maximum legal amount. Mayor Paul Schell stood down from his proposal for a six-percent increase, raising the city property tax by 4.1 percent instead.

The revisions will lower the amount of available general fund revenue, and make funding for more shelter less likely. Though *Real Change* went to press before the full council had ratified the tax on Monday, November 13th, council aides said the full council was likely to approve the modest increase.

Even a four-percent increase is in violation of Initiative 722, Tim Eyman's tax rollback measure that limits all tax increases to two percent. In exceeding the initiative's dictates, the council is banking on a court decision finding it unconstitutional. Schell hopes the court will rule before December 1st, the city's budget deadline. If I-722 is upheld, the city stands to lose \$14 million over the next two years.

Schell's revised budget proposal came up with an additional \$3 million in revenue, as corrections helped the city avoid \$1 million in interest payments and scrounged up an extra \$2 million in Business & Occupation Tax money. But his plan then applies that money to keep the property tax increase at a historic low. He also trims costs in city departments. But the biggest budget bite comes to SEATRAN, his Seattle transportation initiative, which would be reduced by \$1.5 million in 2001. If Paul's pet project takes a hit, you can guess what will happen to the city council's budget add-ons — most notably, Peter Steinbrueck's \$12 million Homelessness Response plan. The city council will vote on a final budget on November 27th.

## Relief needed?

**W**hy did Schell back off his six-percent plan? Is he fearful of a taxpayer's backlash?

In a city that voted against I-722 by a 60-40 margin, you can't call Tim Eyman's measure a tax-cutting mandate. There is even less evidence that a four-percent property tax increase is any more palatable to voters than the usual six percent.

According to participants in the city council's public hearings this fall, few people showed up to decry the city's planned six-percent increase — a fixture in the budget since Schell released it in September.

Even within City Hall, the four-percent plan is a puzzler. "At varying times, nearly all of [city council] had been for the six-percent increase" says Dan McGrady, legislative aide to council budget chair Jan Drago. "They are using the election to justify it, and it's hard for me to explain why."

Perhaps the *Seattle Times* is the council's most important constituent. *Times* editorial writer O. Casey Corr has forecasted dire consequences for a city government "awash in money."

When contact by *Real Change*, Corr said he was surprised by the council's decision not to take the maximum allowable increase.

"I don't think the public is aware of all the tax increases that the city has gotten," he says. Corr wrote an op-ed piece last month putting the city's general-revenue growth at 90 percent in the last ten years. Property owners, who financed some of this increase, were creaking under the tax burden. He says readers throughout King County regaled him with their own horror stories.

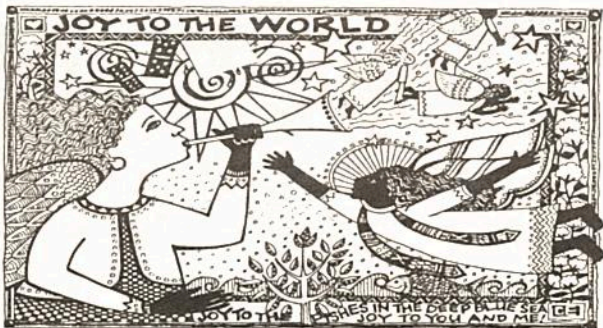
"To tell you the truth, I was astounded by the response to my budget essay," says Corr. "You think nobody pays attention to the budget process, nobody reads news about the budget process."

Corr says his opposition to the six-percent rise does not mean he is against more money for services for homeless people. "Government should be in the business of providing social services; that's one of our founding principles." Corr said. "But we're going to have backlashes if we think we can continue to raise taxes." ■

## Noel House Holiday Gift Cards

What could be better than helping someone in need this holiday season, while at the same time acknowledging a valued client, friend or relative?

For each person on your holiday card list, we will send out a hand addressed, personalized *Holiday Gift Card* with YOUR return address on the envelope. Or, if you choose to mail them yourself, you may order the cards and envelopes. These full color cards are a suggested donation of \$10 each, which covers the basic shelter costs for one woman for one night. As all of our production costs have been donated, all proceeds benefit Noel House, a safe place for homeless women.



**Sentiment Reads:**

As we celebrate this holiday season, please know that thanks to you, a homeless woman has eaten a hot meal and will sleep in a warm bed tonight. This is because a contribution has been made in your name to Noel House, a safe place for homeless women.

Noel House, 2301 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98121  
206-441-3210 FAX 206-441-0350

All contributions to Noel House are tax deductible.





## The Seattle Housing Authority would like to invite you to make The Morrison your home.

- studio & one-bedroom apartments are available immediately
- conveniently located downtown
- easy access to social services
- clean studios and one bedroom apartments

### Furnishings in Apartments include:

- wheelchair accessibility
- bathrooms
- shower or bathtubs
- bed, lamp and nightstand
- kitchenette (stove, refrigerator/freezer)
- some units with view of city

### We welcome

- people 62 or older
- people with disabilities
- formerly homeless people
- people in transition

Applications for The Morrison can be picked up from Seattle Housing Authority at 120 Sixth Avenue North, Seattle WA 98109

For directions or assistance, please call (206) 615-3340.



# Scratching the City's Sore Spot

## City employees scout out racism

By Adam Holdorf

An unusual kind of fraternization has mushroomed in the city Human Services Department. Co-workers are getting face time to discuss racism, how it crops up at work and outside, and what they can do about it.

More than a dozen department employees in the Undoing Institutional Racism workgroup, or UIR for short, brown-bag it twice monthly at noon in a city conference room. With the blessing of department director Veneria Knox, these are more than introspective encounters. Because of the members' work, things are changing, inside and outside the office.

In one case, the department tweaked its hiring process so that organizations led by people of color, like the Minority Executive Director's Coalition, met with and interviewed candidates for a management position. This spring, about \$50,000 in city social services money was awarded on the basis of an oral interview and a visit, not an application form — a process that countered the bureaucratic worship of the written word.

The Human Services Department oversees social services for poor people in the city. For an office with more than 300 staff and a \$92 million budget, these look like baby steps. But UIR members say they are just small parts of the larger work happening in and out of their workplace. They have more in store, including training employees in other branches of city government. Members of the workgroup are also moving beyond the city with an activist zeal, holding talks with Seattle School Board members about the school district's poor test scores in low-income neighborhoods in the south end. Their work is part of a broader group tackling school issues, called the Coalition to Undo Racism Everywhere.

UIR's efforts have gotten support from city councilmember Peter Steinbrueck, who invited representatives to one council committee meeting. Another report, endorsed by his committee, called Vision 2020, will highlight barriers to success for people of color that public services continue to raise. There's a precedent: the Children's Alliance and Washington Kids Count re-

leased a report earlier this year documenting the racial inequity that keeps twice as many Latino and Native-American children in the state from getting health insurance as white kids.

### The vocabulary of freedom

Part of the anti-racist energy is a result of the work of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, a New Orleans-based anti-racism consultant that has trained members of the city, the county, the school district, and nonprofit agencies.

As a result, UIR groups sprouted in the city and the county, and are growing wherever anti-racists work. Seattle Housing Authority and United Way have sent people to trainings. County

staffmember Sadikifu Akina-James, a member of an undoing-racism group in the county Department of Community and Human Services, estimates over 1,000 Seattle residents have been to the trainings since they began in the early 1990s.

What exactly is "institutional racism"? Department head Veneria Knox said last year that you find it "in the way people are selected to review funding proposals, the way hiring panels focus on mainstream values in place of things like strong personal relationships or community leadership."

How does UIR work against it? In Knox's words, "through an in-depth examination of the power that we as individuals exercise in our roles as government, school, and nonprofit employees, and in our partnership with other institutions."

Some looking outside the city might ask, what's the problem? It doesn't appear that local government bars people of color from employment, since both the city and county employ a greater proportion of women and people of color than are represented in the total population. One in three city employees is nonwhite, while one in five county residents is, according to human resources data.

But this isn't just about city employment. Members of the workgroup and their supporters higher up see racism as the ever-present conflict in everyday life. With the backing of people with more status, like Knox, the UIR groups can combat racism where they can hardly avoid it: the workplace.

**"There's no one certain practice that is anti-racist. We're trying to embody the principles of undoing racism in every part of the job here.**

**Picking one model makes it sound easier than it is."**



**Beyond diversity**

**U**IR members look past arguments promoting “cultural diversity”—the “heroes and holidays” approach to talking about race, which tends to comfort people in power — that glosses over racial difference and conflict. Instead, their work is focused on interpersonal dynamics and personal reactions.

At a lunchtime meeting earlier this month, city workgroup members discussed how one employee would edit a list of issues brought up at a recent retreat before it was submitted to department heads. One key term in anti-racism applied here: that of the “gatekeeper,” the person responsible for directing the flow when those with power and those without try to talk.

The policy-level results of these meetings have been few. No money remains to continue the oral-interview pilot project, though many of the grant recipients hooked up with private funders. The community input used to hire one divisional head is not likely to become a permanent reform. Department higher-ups are still studying it. HSD’s resolution to extend anti-racism trainings to other parts of city government is “more of a strategic goal than a line item”—in other words, there’s no money for it, says HSD staffer Sylvia Watson.

But there is no silver bullet, and this does not mean that nothing’s happening, says Nelson. “There’s no one cer-



MEMBERS OF SEATTLE’S UNDOING INSTITUTIONAL RACISM WORKGROUP. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN FRIEDMAN.

tain practice that is anti-racist,” and the pilot project serves as “an example of the work we’re trying to do within undoing racism,” she says. “We’re trying to embody these principles in every part of the job here. My concern about picking one model is that makes it sound easier than it is.”

Dunn says that’s one of the core assumptions of the People’s Institute’s work. Institutions don’t change quickly. “We see this taking a long time,” she says. “It might take us 25 or 30 years.”

Another part of the workgroup’s interest involves training others to watch

for practices that marginalize people of color. While links within the community exist, from social service agencies to faith-based groups, within the city anti-racist action is strong only in the Human Services Department.

“Partially, that’s because of our mission,” she says. “We affect poverty and people in need, and it’s hard to do that if you don’t have a grounding in understanding racism and its impacts on the people we serve. It’s different if you work in City Light.” ■

*With reporting assistance from Brenna Wolf.*

**Words to live by:  
Key terms in anti-racism**

**Gatekeeper:** Anyone in a position to grant or deny access to resources or equality. By structural design, gatekeepers are accountable to the institutions they work for, not the people they serve. They act as buffers between their institutions and the community.

**Internalized racial oppression:** In order to keep an equal system of institutions functioning, people have to internalize the belief of the ideology of race.

**Internalized racial inferiority:** The “it must be us” thinking, when people of color accept inferior and subordinate images of themselves. Racial inequity becomes “normal,” and people fear challenging the institutions that have disempowered them for their own safety.

**Internalized racial superiority:** The “our way is the right way” school of thought, when white people internalize negative images of people of color. This makes racial inequity palatable enough to be ignored or superficially addressed. People who internalize their own superiority fear changes that would leave them without an advantage.

— From *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice*, by Paul Kivel.

**JAM FOR JUSTICE PRESENTS & The Independent Media Center (IMC) Present:**



**A BENEFIT FOR  
TENT CITY**

**Tent Village III**

**November 26, 3 p.m.**  
El Centro de la Raza, 2524 16th Ave. S.

**FEATURING:**  
Folk music legend Jim Page  
Joe Martin (of Clay Pipe)  
Street Poet Laureate Stan Burriss  
Diva Latina Paula Maya  
And Many More Special Guests

**Suggested Donation: \$10**  
**NO ONE TURNED AWAY**  
**All Donations Appreciated**

**Let the City know how you feel. Show your support and help keep the folks dry this winter.**

**All proceeds benefit Tent City Sponsors SHARE/WHEEL**

**For more information:**  
[www.seattle.indymedia.org](http://www.seattle.indymedia.org)  
[www.jamsforjustice.org](http://www.jamsforjustice.org)



# Keep Moving

## There but for the Grace

Let me tell you about this friend of mine I know. My friend's got a thing about things that you and I don't see, if you know what I mean. My friend walks around like you and me, and everything seems fine. He has his spells of bad weather, when the dark clouds gather upon his aforementioned forehead. He's like your average person. But so what? All you see is what he sees everyday in the mirror.

Except when he looks in the mirror, he is acutely aware that he could very easily smash his head into it and thereby sever an artery in his neck and kill himself. In the sink he mixes a soapy bath, and his fingers clutch a sharp razor. He pulls it to his neck and scrapes away the lather, knowing full well that he is but an insane movement from decapitating himself right there. As he dries his face with the warm fuzzy towel, he sees that he could so easily make a rope and hang himself in seconds but the towel rack won't hold. Once again he has pulled himself from the brink of the act.

Then he leaves the bathroom and immediately he's in the kitchen. Facing him again is a veritable arsenal of weapons, hooked or honed and very sharp. The electric toaster is right next to the sink. The gas pilot winks. All this and the poor bastard hasn't even put on his clothes yet before he goes to work. Poor sap is buck naked and his very life has been threatened three, five, six times before he even takes a leak. He's still gotta go to work as a high-rise window washer and moonlight as a cook.

Puts me in mind of my friend Putney. He had a job once where he had to tell the most boring story that he knew so that he

**Poor sap is buck naked and his very life has been threatened three, five, six times before he even takes a leak. He's still gotta go to work as a high-rise window washer and moonlight as a cook.**

could put all these rich people to sleep uncontrollably. He had a fair drawl and a literary dwaddle that'd sap you out like a hickory stick. It's O.K. to talk onwards and onwards if that is your job, but once you start bringing your job home with you then you have to charge everybody cause you're working or something. You might as well charge because it costs them. He's homeless now but not sure why.

That's why I want to talk about your sacred cow today.

Yeah, that's right. Yours. Not mine. It ain't my sacred cow that went and got all outta the mind pasture and went rampaging through the truck garden of my pleasant platitude or someother thang. Like I was saying, it wasn't my little pity-pot bad brahma bull type succoring bovine of magnanimous truth that trampled all the melons in my melodramatic conundrum. Your over-fed cow has bared the stalks of my corn rows again, and I'm just starting to wake up and take notice.

By now you've probably guessed I could go on jabbing at the aorta of truth with gnarly enjoiners. But I'm serious about what I'm doing here. I'm serious about folks who say that this is merely a vehicle for my one-liners. I'm gonna bury rotten eggs on their farm on moonless nights. This ain't no vehicle, and I ain't just riding piggyback either. This is journalism.

Life isn't so complicated, mainly because you don't have to make many choices before you'll never go back. Ask anyone who is empowered. Once you get free, you will never go back. Like the fifth chapter of Galatians. Like the old slave narratives from back before the Civil War, when we pretended to set everbubba free. Education is the enemy of slavery. So smart up! I guess if I was any smarter I'd get me a real job too.

Which is why I say I don't have to worry about my reputation. As a journalist I can see all the way to the horizon on every side; existence is like a plate of food. I see far off and close up. And I can see above me, past the garbageman, past poetry, even just above the novel, to paradise. I'm comfortable looking, guessing, chasing tidbits, and making stuff up. Nothing surprises a journalist, except when the sound bites. ■

## I Cry...

Shawn Grell's two-year-old had to feel the pain as flames melted her skin

the little one alone - burning in the desert - as her father drove away - facing forward

...and no one heard her cry...

Nigeria - poor beautiful Magazu One hundred and eighty strokes after the teenager bears her fruit

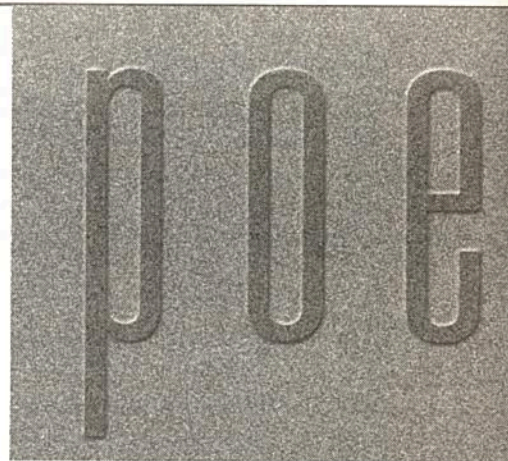
...will anyone hear her cry...

Robin murdered in an alley Friday - wee hours - Seattle the result the same - shame

...they say she cried for five...

Why do I still hear them all When will they stop Will we see or act ...before the next one cries?

—ROXANE ROBERTS



## some thing should be

there's people passing out here there's people going up and down painted around their eyes there's men pushing shopping stuff, and praising God for there's men lurking in the alley pounce on a passer by for (I take an alternate route home there's the mentally ill who tell I laugh."

there's kick downs, and break there's the silver sheen of automobiles who walk the Avenue in pairs there's talk of the conceit of a poet's words

there's the wind & the rain and the mentally insane who just said our last,

and who etch their curses on there are those who walk like then there's me, who comes (without a stitch yet written and climbs the back streets, I walking too close to others

too close, with no conversation there are those too who find who have no kindness

searching for a kind word, and if you broke your hand they'd carved out of bone

barbarians, slaves to the bitter toxic tongues dripping with truth from co-workers

in the grievous toil that no one

## Into the Park

Driving past a boggy spot beside the road, where cattails sprout with leaves blowing in the breeze...

we go onwards, past a flood prevention lake, all gray-brown and shallow, then through the little town of Elbe with its trains and Evergreen trees, growing larger as we approach the mountain.

Outside Elbe, a collapsed and rotting picnic table slouches by the road, a symbol of better times, when tourism was booming, before television became our primary means of meditation.

And finally, into the park itself with Mount Rainier, the great white schoolteacher, hunched over Western Washington giving lectures on patience.

—JONATHAN LOCKE



## I Cry...

Shawn Grell's two-year-old  
had to feel the pain  
as flames melted her skin

the little one alone – burning  
in the desert – as her father  
drove away – facing forward

...and no one heard her cry...

Nigeria – poor beautiful Magazu  
One hundred and eighty strokes  
after the teenager bears her fruit

...will anyone hear her cry...

Robin murdered in an alley  
Friday – wee hours – Seattle  
the result the same – shame

...they say she cried for five...

Why do I still hear them all  
When will they stop  
Will we see or act  
...before the next one cries?

—ROXANE ROBERTS



## some thing should bl be done about this

there's people passing out hot hot dogs with chips & juice  
there's people going up and død down the Avenue with stars  
painted around their eyes es  
there's men pushing shoppinging carts full of unrecognizable  
stuff, and praising God for lfor hand-outs  
there's men lurking in the alle alley ways and waiting to  
pounce on a passer by for cor change  
(I take an alternate route honhome)  
there's the mentally ill who teo tell me, "It only hurts when  
I laugh."  
there's kick downs, and breakreak downs  
there's the silver sheen of abs absent eyes of troubled boys  
who walk the Avenue in pai pairs  
there's talk of the conceit of liof living vicariously through  
a poet's words  
there's the wind & the rain a  
and the mentally insane wh who make us aware that we've  
just said our last,  
and who etch their curses on on our grave stones of our future  
there are those who walk likelike mountains, if mountains could walk  
then there's me, who comes des down out of his house  
without a stitch yet written ten  
and climbs the back streets, lts, legs aching  
walking too close to others rs  
too close, with no conversaersation  
there are those too who find ind it necessary to be cruel  
who have no kindness  
searching for a kind word, an, and it is just not there  
if you broke your hand they'dey'd land on it with a hammer  
carved out of bone  
barbarians, slaves to the bitteitterness every where  
toxic tongues dripping with tth the venoms they've picked up  
from co-workers  
in the grievous toil that no on) one enjoys

—PATRICK BISSELL

## Into the Park

Driving past a boggy spot beside the road,  
where cattails sprout with leaves blowing in the breeze...

we go onwards, past a flood prevention lake, all gray-brown and shallow,  
then through the little town of Elbe with its trains and Evergreen trees,  
growing larger as we approach the mountain.

Outside Elbe, a collapsed and rotting picnic table slouches by the road,  
a symbol of better times, when tourism was booming,  
before television became our primary means of meditation.

And finally , into the park itself with Mount Rainier,  
the great white schoolteacher,  
hunched over Western Washington  
giving lectures on patience.

—JONATHAN LOCKE

## Too Dead to

Second and Blar  
under the freeway:

They were all yo  
poor. They all h

On the news all y

The reality of it i  
all, much less ke

And not many of  
will run you off t

No one plans to  
conscience.

"Take care of yo

Safety is about a

JESUS GAVE HIS

## No

It's a

It's a

the g

I we

Brin

"Go

They

The

Hell

## Living in the

I was driving home  
checking off my lo  
working for a red-  
who didn't give me  
sky high divorce d  
a car on its last leg  
no money for rainy  
when I spied paus  
an indigenous cou  
drinking from a ra  
between 12<sup>th</sup> and J  
dressed in long rec  
on this rare Seattle  
the man let the wo  
she drank long and  
then she too held i  
they filled a red po  
with the cold clear  
before walking off  
plastic Safeway ba  
backpacks like cro



try

## Too Dead to Tell

Second and Blanchard, up on Yesler — close to downtown; is where they died. And under the freeway —my look-a-like was suddenly parted from this world forever.

They were all young women with something in common with me—they were all also poor. They all had a hope, a dream for a future.

On the news all you hear is stories of people asking for more money for shelter programs.

The reality of it is that it gets cold at night and there are few places to “camp” outside at all, much less keep warm, fed and alive.

And not many of us can stay awake 24 hours. Daylight sleeping is impossible. Security will run you off till you drop of exhaustion.

No one plans to die from an attacker; a thief; or a rapist. People; people without a conscience.

“Take care of yourself” is all you will hear.

Safety is about all I have asked requestors to pray for.

JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR SINNERS LIKE US THAT NEED TO FIND HIM...

—CAROL LENO

## November 8 Wednesday

It's all over  
It's all over but the shouting, the wailing,  
the gnashing of teeth, the rending of garments.  
I went down to join the crowd  
Bringing my voice, wearing my old clothes.  
“Go home” said the police.  
They don't understand the language of grief.

The cause never understands the effect.  
Hello D.C.

—LIZ SMITH

## Living in the Jungle

I was driving home  
checking off my long list of failures:  
working for a red-haired man  
who didn't give me enough play,  
sky high divorce debt to this day,  
a car on its last leg,  
no money for rainy nights,  
when I spied paused at a red light  
an indigenous couple  
drinking from a rarely scene public bubbler,  
between 12<sup>th</sup> and Jackson,  
dressed in long red flannel sleeves and blue jeans  
on this rare Seattle summer day,  
the man let the woman drink first  
she drank long and lusty while he held the spout,  
then she too held it for him to satisfy his thirst;  
they filled a red pop can to the brim  
with the cold clear clean life liquid we all are  
before walking off hand in hand  
plastic Safeway bags in the other  
backpacks like crosses upon their backs.

—ANGELA C. VASQUEZ

## What's done about this

Hot dogs with chips & juice  
down the Avenue with stars

Big carts full of unrecognizable  
hand-outs  
Bicycle ways and waiting to  
change  
me)  
Tell me, “It only hurts when

It  
kicks down  
Sent eyes of troubled boys  
airs  
living vicariously through

How  
to make us aware that we've

On  
our grave stones of our future  
The mountains, if mountains could walk  
down out of his house  
n  
legs aching

ation  
is it necessary to be cruel

and  
it is just not there  
d land on it with a hammer

erness every where  
the venoms they've picked up

ne enjoys

—PATRICK BISSELL



**WALKER Continued from Page 1**

**RC:** In your new book, *The Way Forward is with a Broken Heart*, you write a lot about falling in and out of love and that feeling that overcomes us when we meet someone. One character, Little Sister, even calls it "the fever." What is it about that feeling that has a way of taking over our minds, and how do you carry that feeling?

**AW:** Well, sometimes you feel like it is an affliction. It is extremely powerful. It is often rather delicious in its affliction, so you don't wish it away exactly. I think it is just a part of the way we are constructed as human beings. We are made to fall in love and we are meant to have broken hearts. And not just about falling in love, but broken hearts about so many things that pierce us deeply. I think that I am all for people loving. It is a very wonderful way to connect with this magical immense mystery that we are in. If you can imagine living all your life and never falling in love, which I can't — it would be like trying to live in a box and never connecting to anything outside the box. Love connects us to the cosmos.

**RC:** You have written and talked about how hearts are meant to be broken. What do you mean by that? What is the value of a broken heart?

**AW:** The value of a broken heart is that it gets bigger. It opens, it gets bigger, and it is really an honorable condition. I stress that because many people fear it; they think, "Oops, pain! Let me run away from here!" But pain, actually, is unavoidable anyway. To have your heart break over a genuine emotion and a genuine belief or passion is very good for you, in the sense that you become different, and bigger in your capacity to deal with life and other people.

**RC:** In your introduction to the latest writings by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, you write that if he is freed from prison or killed by the state, our response should be: "Let us observe silence." That may seem quite an impossible idea for many of us who have been

involved in struggling to stop the state from killing him. Why do you think observing silence would be important at that moment?

**AW:** Well, what I am trying to do is to talk to the youth who generally and traditionally in their grief almost always end up being hurt themselves. It is really dumb. I have watched for over 30 years people respond to the assassinations of people they love. They immediately hit the streets and make a lot of noise. They are very provocative. Usually, at least half a dozen are badly wounded or sometimes killed. Many others are targeted instantly by the police. It is very self-defeating and there is no point, really. It is much simpler and much more restorative of our feelings about the actual event, a person's life, to observe the silence in which we can really hold that life close to our hearts. Sit together and think about what to do that will mean we do not lose even more of our people. I am so sick of losing our people just because they are so hurt they do not know what to do with themselves. Really it is no fun. So, for people who have a lot of passion and have a lot of heart, I know it is a difficult thing to say, you can be silent for a day or two and plan. And I personally would look forward to sitting around a table with my family and other people just calmly thinking about the next step. Do we march? We

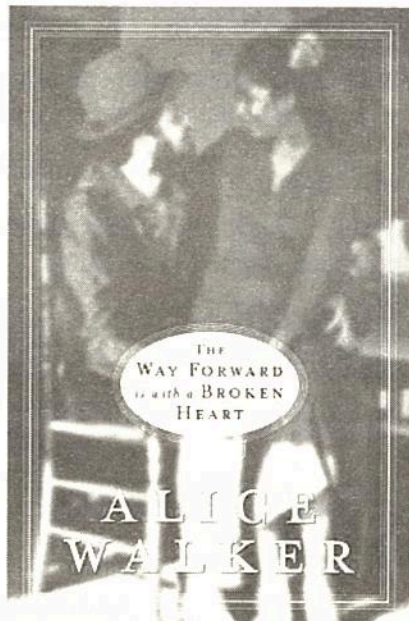
can do that. Are we going to be noisy? We can do that. But it should be something we decide. It shouldn't be that something erupts, and we are left with bleeding children.

**RC:** Speaking of children, I love how in the same introduction you write that we should sit and answer every child's question. It is such a wonderful thing to write.

**AW:** Yeah, because look at it from their point of view. It must be such a puzzle. Why is this happening? You say that this man was innocent. Why did they kill him? We are the only way they will learn, and believe me, they will not learn any of this in school. So, we are it. And we have to really take the time and be patient with them and also teach them the history of this behavior, because it has a long history. And that is what we can do on that date when we are being very quiet. We can just be very reflective. It will be very good for us. I don't doubt it for a minute.

**RC:** I have heard you speak about forgiveness on an interpersonal level a lot. What are your thoughts about forgiveness on a larger level? I am thinking of movements for reparations for African Americans and South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**AW:** It is extremely difficult and yet, what else is there? The alternative is just to churn along in the same old



**"The value of a broken heart is that it gets bigger. To have your heart break over a genuine passion is very good for you, in the sense that you become different, and bigger in your capacity to deal with life and other people."**

Alice Walker

**love is not concerned**

love is not concerned  
with whom you pray  
or where you slept  
the night you ran away  
from home  
love is concerned  
that the beating of your heart  
should harm no one.

—ALICE WALKER

grind, hating each other's guts and hoping that we die. So, I think of people who teach us how to forgive, like the Buddhists. They have taken seriously for centuries, for a millennia, the possibility that people can grow or change or move beyond their hatred and their greed. You know, things that we think of as just human nature, are gonna be with us forever, and are just causing these same problems. Well, maybe not. And not just the Buddhists, there are all kinds of people in the world who have that vision. I think what is different about this time that we live in is that the whole planet can see that we must change. We must if we want to be here at all. We must. And I think that's new.

**RC:** Also in the introduction to Mumia's new book, on the new millennium, you write that the next 1,000 years, "I personally feel are going to be great." Why do you think that, especially when you look at what has happened?

**AW:** I have so much faith in people. I just think they can not all be stupid. This is a time when the entire planet can see we have to change. I think that really matters. I think it makes a difference. I was just in the Amazon, in the rain forest, and there we are in the deep mother forest sitting in a circle with people who live there and they are very aware. And I think this is happening all over the world. I think that's our hope. Because I remember when I was growing up in Georgia that we were not that aware of many things. I mean, we were cut off in a sense by our class and by the system. And that was even more true of indigenous people, people they put on reservations and tucked away into other places. But now people are very conscious. We, as a human race, really want to live. ■

For a complete transcript of the interview, email scott.winn@scn.org

**Are You Seeking Affordable Housing?**

Clean Community Living Available in Seattle for Single Adult Households Centrally Located, Close to Downtown, Great Metro Connections

If you are female, your monthly income is at or below \$1,095 per month and you have no permanent residence, we may have housing for you.

For an application or more information, contact the Low Income Housing Institute office, located at 2407 First Ave., Seattle, WA 98121 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday

**VOLUNTEER TUTORS**

Help at-risk youth succeed in school by volunteering with Catholic Community Service's Youth Tutoring Program.

Tutor elementary, middle or high school youth living in low-income public housing.

Help with skill building in reading & math, assist with homework/computer activities, play educational games, and encourage children to succeed. 6 tutoring centers located in NE, central, SE and SW Seattle. Centers are managed by qualified teaching staff & are equipped with lots of learning resources. Tutor 2 hours a week for 6 months. Initial orientation/training provided. (This is a non-religious program). For more info., call Karen at (206) 328-5659. Visit our website at www.ytpseattle.org



**The CoHo Team**  
of Windermere Real Estate Agents  
www.cohorealty.

Working Assets is your phone company.  
Ben and Jerry created your ice cream.  
You read Real Change.



**Who is your real estate agent?**

For an agent who will donate 1/3 of his commission to the Seattle Foundation call 234-7009.  
We are licensed Windermere R.E. NW. Inc. agents.



*Buyer Beware: Each individual tenant situation involves factors that cannot be addressed and people who may react differently. My responses are based on a general application of the law to the questions raised, and it cannot be assumed that following these responses will resolve the issues in the way that the law would seem to indicate. I have gone to court on many occasions feeling that I had a sure thing and come out a loser, and I have even gone to court with a case that I thought was a dead loser and ended up winning. Hopefully the responses will give you an idea of how to proceed to protect your rights.*



## Tenant Talk Educate Agitate Organize

### Rehab or Ruse

Dear Tenant Talk,

My landlord sent me and the other tenants in my apartment building letters giving us until the end of the month to move, saying they were about to begin renovations. The landlords keep seeing us in the hall, asking us "When are you going to move?" — many of the tenants don't speak English. Since many of us have leases until the end of the year, it would seem that the landlord is evicting us without cause. Do we have a right to stay? What can happen if we don't move?

#### Fixed Out

Dear Fixed Out,

The first issue is whether or not you live in the Seattle City limits. Seattle has special protections for tenants that do not exist anywhere else in Washington State. In Washington, if you have a lease, your landlord cannot terminate your tenancy unless you have violated your lease. If you are on a month-to-month tenancy, the landlord can terminate your tenancy and does not have to state a reason. The only defenses to a "no cause" termination is that the termination is based upon retaliation or discrimination.

Seattle residents are protected from terminations if the landlord does not have "just cause." One of the legitimate reasons for terminating a tenancy is if

the landlord is going to substantially rehabilitate the building. But all is not lost. Before a landlord can claim "just cause," he must obtain a tenant relocation license and at least one building permit necessary for the rehabilitation. Substantial rehabilitation is defined as extensive structural repair or remodeling which requires a permit and which cannot be done with the tenant in occupancy.

If the landlord is actually going to go through with substantial rehabilitation, you would be entitled to 90 days notice before the work begins. A tenant should also receive notice that they have the right of first refusal once the building is ready to be occupied again. Finally, if the tenants being forced to relocate are low-income, they should be entitled to relocation assistance.

If you are in Seattle, your landlord is not following the proper procedure and you should contact the Department of Construction and Land Use. They will notify the landlord that his previous written notices do not satisfy the Just Cause ordinance, and they will require him to rescind the notices. Those tenants who are still under a lease will not be subject to a termination until their lease expires. For those who don't have a lease and the landlord intends to proceed with the rehabilitation, he will have to fulfill the requirements of the relocation assistance ordinance.

### Water Metered

Dear Tenant Talk,

The landlord told us tenants that we would begin paying for our own water. The bills have begun arriving, and they are totally inconsistent: a single person in a small apartment gets charged more than a family of four in a larger unit. Some tenants have asked for an explanation of how the building's water is being sub-metered to each unit. The only response to some of them was 20-day notices to vacate. Why is the landlord charging us individually? Is he doing it legally? How can we figure out what we are paying for here?

#### Sogged Down

Dear Sogged Down

The first thing that jumps out at me is that the landlord is responding to legitimate questions with the issuance of 20-day termination notices. This is the classic retaliation scenario wherein a tenant exercises a legal right and the landlord responds with a 20-day notice. Tenants who have received a 20-day notice should contact an attorney immediately. If the building is in Seattle, they can also contact the Department of Construction and Land Use, which enforces the Just Cause ordinance.

As for the water metering, this appears to be a trend in Seattle and the surrounding area. A recent *Seattle Times* article, September 10, 2000, re-

ports on this trend and the different allocation formulas. The formulas are controversial, but if they are reasonable then they will likely be held up as valid and legal.

The purpose behind sub-metering, or allocating the costs of water and sewer to the tenants, is twofold. First of all, it saves the landlord money. He is no longer responsible for paying the water bills. Secondly, with the allocation of the costs, tenants are motivated to conserve water so long as they have faith in the allocation system. To answer your questions about how the charges are determined, you may need to organize the tenants to put some collective pressure on the landlord to reveal who is handling the allocation of the costs. A court challenge to the system could be expensive and may involve a great deal of effort and time; however, it may be the only solution if the landlord is gouging the tenants. ■

### You can't beat a woman



**...especially when she can block and counter a punch!** Training in karate develops your commitment to self-defense and confidence in your ability to respond to an attack, be it verbal or physical. Come train with FKU--and discover your strongest self!

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

**call today! 206-325-3878**

### Attention Benevolent Bon Vivants!

#### Put Your Wine to Work for Us

A *Real Change* supporter recently won a high-class prize package: a six-month lease on a wine storage cellar at Esquin Wine Merchants, and four Riedel crystal chardonnay glasses.

#### We're auctioning it off!

Bidding will start at a measly \$300 for a package worth \$630. What a deal!



To place your bid, call (206)441-8143 before 6 p.m. Friday, December 15, or email [adamh@speakeasy.org](mailto:adamh@speakeasy.org)

## Create Real Change in your ample spare time.

Help around the office, sell papers to vendors, answer the phone, etc. Make art with homeless and low-income artists at StreetLife Gallery. Help people use computers and the internet.

Perform glorious activist data entry and phone calling.

We offer a fun environment, pastries, good music, flexibility, and more!

Positions currently available M-F,  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,  
weekly commitment preferred.  
Call Jan @ 956-9472

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



# NOTES FROM THE KITCHEN

## Something to Be Thankful for

By Liz Smith

**C**ranky old Puritans. They gave their children names such as Devotion, Remember, and Humility, and started our wonderful custom of Thanksgiving. Our country is the only one with a legal holiday dedicated to a moral virtue — that of being grateful to the Creator.

President Lincoln made it official in 1863, after the Union victory at Gettysburg. Not the best timing, perhaps; it wasn't celebrated in the Confederate states. They all hated Lincoln anyway, and it's hard to feel properly thankful over a bowl of cornmeal mush. Once the war was over it gradually became a more acceptable holiday.

Now here we are, 135 years later and a world apart. If Mr. Lincoln were around today, he would have liked the country but hated the politicians. Such a gentleman. If some citizen were to bring him home for Thanksgiving dinner, he wouldn't lose his temper if something burnt.

If you're doing the cooking — I cannot stress this enough — keep your menu simple. If your food looks great, but your nerves are a wreck, you won't feel anything but resentful. There's no right or wrong way to have Thanksgiving.



**DON'T STRESS IF YOUR MEAL DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THIS.**

eight pounds of edible meat.

At the PCC stores, Madison Market, and Whole Foods, you can find Shelton and Diestal brands. These are free-range, organic, contain no growth hormones, and range in price from \$1.79 to \$2.69 a pound. They are frozen or fresh — the fresh ones are ice-chilled to a depth of two inches and will need 1-2 days to defrost in the refrigerator. Whole Foods also has kosher turkeys, free-range duck, and fresh geese. These need to be special-ordered.

As for me, all I care about is whether my turkey got a last meal, a blindfold, and a final cigarette.

The PCC stores, Rainbow Grocery, Madison Market, and Whole Foods have the Tofurky and Un-Turkey meatless entrees. The Tofurky is a stuffed tofu roast, tempeh drumsticks, vegetarian gravy, and two "wishstix." It all comes frozen in a nicely packaged box with complete cooking instructions. Order these in advance.

For the vegetarian sophisticate, Café Flora offers a prix fixe Thanksgiving feast on November 23, Tuesday. Call 325-9100 for reservations. Call right away, as this event is quite popular.

For the convivial vegetarian who doesn't like to be alone, choose the Earth Save Turkey-Free Thanksgiving Potluck in Capitol Hill on November 19 at 5:30 p.m. Expect music, door prizes, children's events, a bookstore, about 300 diners, and sly remarks about carnivores. The cost is \$6.00; bring a dish that will serve eight people. If it has any dairy products put a label on it. For more information, call (206)443-1615.

Right up the street from the *Real Change* office is Seattle Cellars, a wine store. Dave Woods, the owner, says the following wines are particularly suitable for the Thanksgiving meal:

Beaujolais Nouveau 2000

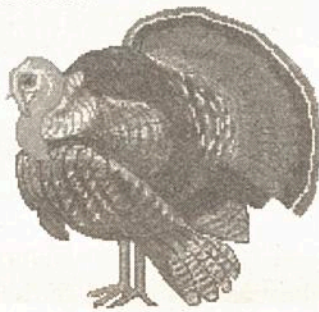
Broglia Gavi

Gundlach Bundschu Gewurtzraminer

**T**o close, here is a recipe that is basically a pumpkin pie but is much faster and simpler. It's more like a custard, and with the cornstarch, it holds together like one. It's good hot or cold, especially with whipped cream mixed with a little maple syrup on top.

Pumpkin Custard	1 tsp ginger
4 egg yolks	pinch cloves
1 cup sugar	pinch salt
2 TB cornstarch	8 oz milk
4 tsp cold coffee	8 oz evaporated milk
2 tsp cinnamon	15-ounce can of pumpkin puree

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Lay out eight five-ounce-capacity heatproof custard cups on a baking sheet.
3. Mix cornstarch, cinnamon, ginger and cloves thoroughly with the cold coffee. Mix in the remaining ingredients.
4. Divide custard into cups.
5. Bake for about 45 minutes. Custard is done when color is golden to dark brown.
6. Let cool 20 minutes, then serve. ■



## Artist Live/Work Space or Commercial Space for Rent

Corner of Eastlake and Mercer  
Great Location in Cascade Neighborhood  
1116 Sq Ft \$883 rent + heat & lights  
For Information Call (206) 292-5577

## radical chic made simple.

It's basic.  
It's black.  
Our Real Change logo's on the back.  
It beats a burlap sack.

100% cotton. Available in M, L, XL.  
Send \$15 to 2129 2nd Ave., 98121



UNIQUE imported eyewear  
GREAT vintage glasses!

eVES  
ON  
FREMONT

MODERATE prices!

206-634-3375  
4254 Fremont Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98103

eye exams available

- Carpets dry in 60 minutes
- Virtually residue free
- Non-toxic
- Deodorizing
- Stain protection
- Prevacuuming and pretreatment included
- Pet stain removal
- Furniture is carefully moved
- No hidden costs
- Satisfaction guaranteed

Service Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners  
(206) 841-9021



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

**We All Belong!**  
STOP DISCRIMINATION

**CALL US.**

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





**Julia's**  
of  
**WALLINGFORD**  
is proud to  
present  
**local Jazz  
Piano Artists**  
every Thursday - Saturday  
7-10pm  
no cover, patio seating  
4401 Wallingford Ave. N  
for reservation call 206-633-1175



**MAMA'S PIZZA**  
FREE DELIVERY  
322-6444  
700 E Pine  
Capitol Hill, Seattle  
We Deliver Downtown  
Fax # - 322-7884  
Homemade hand tossed  
We can cater to your downtown business order  
\$2 OFF any pizza with this ad



**Thursday November 2, First Ave. and Jackson. 12:54 p.m.** Several citizens contacted police, concerned about a man in his early 40s who was standing in the street attempting to direct traffic. Upon approaching First and Jackson, the police spotted the suspect, who was barefoot and wearing a tank top, standing in traffic trying to direct cars. The officers removed the man from the street. The man claimed he was looking for an alleyway so he could walk on glass, and informed police that he had lost his medication. He was taken to Harborview Medical Center on a 72-hour hold.

**Thursday Nov. 2, 50 block Main St., 2:35 a.m.** An officer contacted a 40-year-old white woman who was sitting in a private stairwell in the 50 block of Main St. The stairwell had a "No Trespassing, No Loitering" sign posted. The female was holding what the officer suspected was a crack pipe, and as the officer approached she attempted to conceal it behind her back. The officer recovered the suspected crack pipe from the subject, and found a white substance he assumed to be crack in the end of the pipe. The woman was arrested, and later booked into King County Jail. The suspected crack cocaine could not be field-tested, due to lack of field testers at the West Precinct.

**Friday Nov. 3, Third Ave. and Yesler, 12:20 a.m.** On the previous day a 47-year-old homeless man received a citation excluding him from downtown parks for 90 days. The man had apparently been drinking constantly and making contact with known narcotics dealers. On November 3 at 10 p.m., the man was observed sitting on a brick wall at the south end of the park. The officer asked him to leave, and he replied "Fuck that! I can come into this park any time I want. You can't stop me, the judge can't stop me, and I can be here anytime I want." He was then booked and advised of his Miranda rights. He refused to say any more to the officer, and was taken to King County Jail.


**Friday Nov. 3, 200 block Sixth Ave. N., 1:33 a.m.** An 18-year-old homeless female was seen loitering along with several other women in an area known for a high volume of prostitution. The officer had heard several radio calls broadcast that night about vice activity. A routine record check revealed the woman had an outstanding warrant for driving without a license, and the woman was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

**Friday Nov. 3, 500 block Eastlake Ave. E., 3:00 a.m.** Two officers were dispatched to the following "hazard call": a homeless white male in his 20s, wearing a white tank top, was standing in the middle of the street taking off his clothes and throwing stuff on the ground, then laying in the middle of Eastlake Avenue. En route, the call was updated: the man had put his jacket back on and was walking northbound with another white male, and they were going through a pickup truck parked on the side of the road. Upon arrival, the officers located the man and a name check showed he had several previous arrest warrants, but there were no signs of any car prowling. The man was booked for his previous warrants. ■

Compiled by Emma Quinn




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



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


**DONATE YOUR USED CAR, VAN, TRUCK, OR BOAT**  
to SEATTLE EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICE.  
RECEIVE FREE TOWING AND A TAX BREAK  
Your donation will help non profit SEHS provide short term  
emergency shelter and longer term transitional housing to  
homeless families with children.  
CALL (206) 461-3660  
905 Spruce St., Suite 111, Seattle, WA 98104  
sehs@emergencyhousing.org www.emergencyhousing.org  
A member of United Way of King County

To advertise in Real Change,  
call 441-8847



**PACIFICA NETWORK NEWS**  
Every Weekday, 6 pm  
The nation's first listener-supported, community-based radio network, bringing you a 1/2 hour of daily news and issues not represented in the mainstream media.

**CounterSpin**  
Tuesdays, 6:30 pm  
A weekly radio critique of the news by the media watchdog group, FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting).



**Making Contact**  
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm  
A weekly program committed to investigative journalism and in-depth critical analysis, focusing on the human realities of politics, and the possibilities for hopeful democratic change.

**KBCS 91.3 fm**  
is listener-supported, public radio for the Seattle area. We bring you the best variety of locally programmed Folk and Jazz music from around the World and around the corner.  
For a complete program guide, call or check our website: 425-564-2427 or kbc91.3fm.org

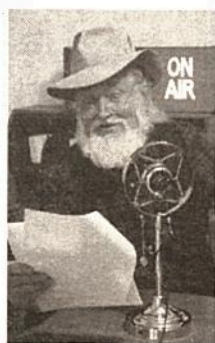
**Your local source for alternative news and public affairs—and great music.**  
kbc91.3fm.org

**COMMON GROUND**  
RADIO'S WEEKLY PROGRAM ON WORLD AFFAIRS

Thursdays, 6:30 pm  
World affairs, featuring the voices of world leaders, thoughtful observers and ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things.

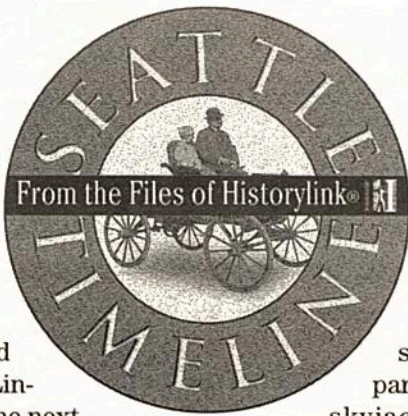
**Oyate Ta Olowan**

Songs of the People  
Fridays, 6:30 pm  
A rare and authentic collection of Native American music.



**U. UTAH PHILLIPS**  
*Loafer's Glory:*  
*Hobo Jungle of the Mind*  
Sundays, Midnight  
A patchwork of tall tales, labor songs and stories, tramping and railroad lore, and a general and often comic assessment of the passing parade.





It took 17 to 21 days for the November 1860 election news to reach King County via telegraph, horseback, and steamer. Abraham Lincoln was said to be the next



1860'S PRESIDENT-ELECT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

president. Voters in the Territory of Washington could not vote for the president, but only for members of the Territorial Legislature, county and city governments, and for a non-voting delegate to the U.S. congress.

Newspaper vendors formed the Seattle Newsboys' Union in November 1892. By 1902, 80 newsboys were members. They were paid per newspaper sold, some earning \$2.50 per day. By 1918 there were 402 members including two females.

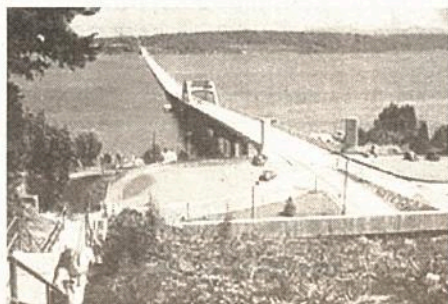
Voters launched a "revolution" on the Seattle city council by electing the body's first African American member, State Senator Sam Smith (1922-1995), and reformers Phyllis Lamphere and Tim Hill, in the city election of November 1967. The latter two candidates were sponsored by CHECC (Committee to Choose an Effective City Council) and the election of all three represented a rebuke against the city's conservative, business-dominated leadership.



SEATTLE'S FIRST BLACK COUNCILMEMBER.

On the dark and stormy night of November 24, 1971, a daring skyjacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" com-

mandeered a Northwest Airlines 727 shortly after it took off from Portland for Seattle. After collecting a ransom of \$200,000 and four parachutes in Seattle, the skyjacker (erroneously dubbed "D. B. Cooper" by the press) directed the crew to fly to Mexico. Somewhere over southwest Washington, he lowered the plane's tail stairway and leapt into the rainy night. Fragments of the ransom money were found on a Columbia River bank in 1980, but D.B. Cooper left no other trace.



SEATTLEITES GOT THE CHANCE TO OGLE THE BRIDGE'S 1990 POST-THANKSGIVING DEMISE ON TELEVISION.

On November 25, 1990, after a week of high winds and rain, the 50-year old Lake Washington floating bridge broke apart and sank into the lake's murky depths. Since it took some time for the bridge to sag and finally crack apart, news cameras were poised and ready to show post-Thanksgiving TV viewers once-in-a-lifetime footage of the historic I-90 span's demise. It was later discovered that hatchways into the concrete pontoon air pockets had been left open, allowing water to enter, while the bridge was undergoing a \$35.6 million renovation. ■

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

Last week, we at Classics Corner sat on a panel discussion entitled "Covering the Homeless: Is it Just a Holiday Pastime?" This is the sort of honest, probing question journalists like to ask themselves, even if the answer does turn out to be "yes."

One of the panelists, the director of a homeless shelter, seemed to value poor people mostly for their fundraising potential. His program, he said, offered the screwed up poor everything they need. By an amazing alchemy of Christ's Love and Direct Mail, the wretched would be saved. Money makes all things possible.

Another panelist, a blow-dried TV anchor, reflected that if he could work hard and be a success, so could anyone else.

We were deep in enemy territory.

Our thoughts turned to the day that Odysseus kicked Iros the beggar's ass. In this strange story, Homer offers evidence that the poor have been judged and abused for at least 2,800 years and probably longer.

Most of you are familiar with the Odyssey. Our hero, who left home to sack Troy twenty years prior, finally returns to find Penelope and Telemachus, his wife and son, beset by bad houseguests. Posing as a beggar, he allows his rage to build until he kills virtually everything in sight.

We enjoy the Odyssey most for its charming insistence that "all beggars come from Zeus." The idea is part superstition and part recognition that in a world where everyone is vulnerable, some small amount of compassion can't hurt. Then, as now, the idea was honored mostly in the breach.

But to get back to the story, Iros was a well-known local beggar who had staked out some good turf on Odysseus' doorsill. When Odysseus, disguised as a beggar himself, crowds Iros, he rudely challenges Odysseus to a fight. Iros, who begs and delivers messages for a living, is apparently fair game for whatever violence comes his way.

The suitors are amused, and offer a goat belly stuffed with blood and fat, the ancient equivalent to a double cheeseburger with bacon on a toasted buttered bun, as prize to the victor. To make things even more interesting, one of the suitors promises to ship the loser off to Echetos, the bloodthirsty king across the way. Echetos' idea of a good time is to slice off someone's nose, ears, and genitals for use as dog food.

The two square off, and Odysseus crushes Iros' jaw with one punch. He drags him off to a trash pile while the "haughty suitors held up their hands and died with laughing." Odysseus, whose disguise has done little to change his point of view, despise Iros right along with them.

And so, even in ancient times, the well-off see the "undeserving" poor as completely different. They are tossed into the trash and left for dog food. The deserving poor, on the other hand, are more like us. Those who have temporarily fallen upon hard times are worthy of respect.

One is human; the other is not. This media script is old as time itself. Unless poor people write their own stories, that's the way it will always be. ■

## The "haughty suitors held up their hands and died with laughing."



(206) 623-7777

All Major Brands: NEW, USED & CLOSEOUTS

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

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



Ducky's Office Furniture

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

## Donate Your Vehicle

- Free Pickup
- Tax Deduction
- We Handle All The Paperwork
- Donation Benefits Seattle's Homeless

(206) 728-JOBS

Ask about our vehicle donation program



MILLIONAIR CLUB CHARITY

Changing lives through jobs since 1921



# November Notables

Saturday, 11/18

**Homestead Community Land Trust Annual Pancake Breakfast**, an opportunity for people interested in preserving permanently affordable housing to get together, talk, and eat flapjacks. We'll hear about Homestead's successes in the past year and help decide what next year holds. Free, 10 a.m.-12 noon, El Centro de la Raza, 2524 - 16th Ave. S. Info 206-323-1227.

Sunday, 11/19

**Annual Meeting of Health Care 2000**, working to achieve universal health care in Washington State, including election of officers and determination of goals and a work plan for the next six months. 2 p.m., at 1120 8th Ave at Stewart St., info [hc2k@wolfenet.com](mailto:hc2k@wolfenet.com)

Monday, 11/20

Readings from the new issue of non-profit literary journal **The Raven Chronicles**, "The Future: Shelter and Sustainance." Guest readers include Streetwrites founders Anitra Freeman and Ruth Fox. Free potluck, please bring food to share. 6:30-10 p.m., Richard Hugo House, 1634 - 11th Avenue. Info 206-323-4316.

Friday, 11/24

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

Monday, 11/27

**Celebrity Guest Barista**, Seattle city councilmember Richard Conlin, at **Peace Action of Washington's Peace Café**. All profits go to the Peace Action and the Freeze Education Fund, this and subsequent last Mondays, 7:30 to 9 p.m., at the Peace Cafe, 5828 Roosevelt NE just South of Ravenna Blvd; info 206-529-8081 or [www.peaceaction.gen.wa](http://www.peaceaction.gen.wa)

Tuesday, 11/28

**Meeting of Foundation for Global Community**, which contributes to a transformation of cultural values, meet to support one another in pursuit of this goal, all interested individuals welcome, this and subsequent 4th Tuesdays, various locations, info on local events Jerry Martin, 425-

746-7304 or [martins@televar.com](mailto:martins@televar.com), info on national organization <http://www.globalcommunity.org>

Wednesday, 11/29

**WTO Protest Anniversary Event**, The People's Assembly and Jubilee 2000 are planning a night of solidarity, photo exhibits, film showing, featuring speakers from Africa, Asia, Central and South America, 6-10 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 811 5th Ave at Columbia, info <http://www.scn.org/wtocal>

Thursday, 11/30

King County Labor Council **WTO Protest Anniversary Event**, march will encompass all groups opposed to the WTO and interested in social justice, KCLC is looking for input on the march and the movement, around 5 p.m., at Westlake Center, info Verlene Wilder 206-441-8510.

Ongoing Mondays

**A Freedom Socialist Party Public Study Group on "Crisis and Leadership"** by Clara Fraser and Dick Fraser, 7 - 9 p.m., 900 Hiawatha Pl. S, info Su Docekal 206-722-3812.

Ongoing Wednesdays

"**Spirit of the Times**" a live half-hour program featuring interviews with local activists, 2 p.m., on TV Channel 29, info J.M. Black-Ferguson 206-282-4776.

**Dances of Universal Peace**, 7:30 p.m., at Keystone Church, on Keystone N just north of 50th in Wallingford, info <http://www.teleport.com/~indup/>

**Books to Prisoners**, ongoing volunteer project could use your help answering letters & sending books to incarcerated individuals. Books to Prisoners has sent tens of thousands of books to people in prison since 1979, books also needed, 8 - 12 p.m., at 1004 Turner Way East on 23rd Ave, Bus lines 43 & 48, info 206-322-2868 or <http://btp.tao.ca/>

Ongoing Saturdays

**Seattle Food Not Bombs** re-distributes free produce to the members of the Yesler

Terrace Community Center, produce to the people, right on! 10:45 a.m., sort 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, see info above.

**Water Women Swim**, a private swim for large and/or differently-abled women, wheelchair-accessible pool, \$3, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., at Fircrest School Activity Building, 15230 15th Ave. N.E., Shoreline, info <http://www.seafattle.org/waterwomen.html> or [Leebrd@aol.com](mailto:Leebrd@aol.com) or 206-522-6505 or 206-789-1267.

Ongoing Daily

**Applications being taken through December 8 for the Reel Girls Program** for young women ages 14 - 18, a free after-school & weekend program occurring Feb - June 2001, request application from Lucia Ramirez, Metro Center YMCA, 206-382-5332 or [bramirez@mc.seattleyymca.org](mailto:bramirez@mc.seattleyymca.org) or download from <http://www.911media.org/ypp/reelgirls>; info [fiona@911media.org](mailto:fiona@911media.org) or 206-682-6552 ext 18.

**FareStart** assists people who are homeless through training in the culinary arts, job placement, lunch daily and dinner on Thursdays only, with guest chefs from area restaurants, 3 or 4 course dinner is only \$14.50 plus tax and tip, with all of the proceeds going to FareStart, 1902-2nd Ave., between Stewart and Virginia, please consider logging on to <http://www.farestart.org> and making a donation.

**The Sharehouse**, Seattle's only free furniture bank serving King County's formerly homeless population, is presenting the first ever Virtual Blanket Drive. People can log on to [www.blankets.com](http://www.blankets.com) and donate a brand new blanket for \$11.00. Forty percent of the clients served are under the age of eight. ■



## Your children may qualify for FREE & EASY health care!

Medicaid's free health insurance opens doors to healthy futures with:

- Doctor and nurse visits
- Dental care
- Hospital care
- Prescriptions
- Eyeglasses, physical therapy, counseling, and more!

The insurance covers children under 19, no matter if they're living with:

- Single parents
- Two parents
- Working parents
- Other family or friends

or alone, as long as their household income meets Medicaid's guidelines.

For more information on free children's health insurance, call CHAP\* at **1-800-756-5437**.

\*Community Health Access Program (CHAP) is a private, non-profit program.

**kids.health.2001.**

ALL our children deserve health care.





### Christmas Sale

## St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores

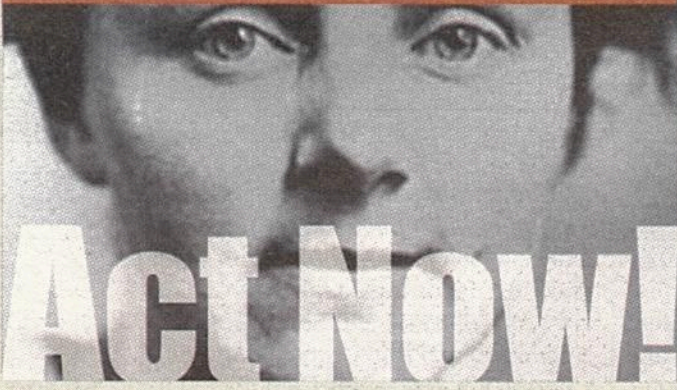
**Sat.- Sun. 50-90% off all used merchandise**  
**Dec. 2 - 3 10% off new beds, new frames, & reupholstered items**

- AURORA: 13555 Aurora Ave. N. • WHITE CENTER: 9835 16th Ave. SW
- RENTON: 2825 Sunset Blvd. NE • GEORGETOWN: 5950 4th Ave. S.
- CARNATION: 4501 Tolt Ave. S. • BURIEN: 13445 1st Ave. S.
- KENMORE: 7304 NE Bothel Way

**Call (206) 767-3835 for hours**



citizens participation project



## Tell County to Keep Access to Justice

**Issue:** Ron Sims' proposed King County budget would limit the legal resources for poor people.

**Background:** The proposed King County budget makes it more difficult for low-income people to get access to justice and housing, and makes it easier to land in jail. King County Executive Ron Sims has proposed budget cuts for legal help to low-income people and increased funding for jails, prosecutors, and the police.

Sims' proposal cuts over \$765,000 from the budgets of programs that provide assistance and representation to low-income people with legal problems. It would reduce funding to the Tenants Union, which helps low-income tenants organize to defend themselves against landlord abuses, the Legal Action Center, a provider of free legal assistance to low-income tenants facing eviction, and to King County's five public defender associations.

Without the assistance provided by the Tenants Union, tenants risk the loss of their housing and abuse by retaliatory landlords. Without the free representation supplied by the Legal Action Center, renters risk unjust eviction and homelessness. Once homeless, people cannot camp under a bridge, sleep in a park, or even sit and rest on the sidewalk without risking arrest.

Reduced funding to public defenders means people accused of crimes risk losing their freedom and their constitutional rights. Cutting these services will result in higher costs in other areas, as people turn to already strained services for the homeless, and more low-income people spend more time in overcrowded jails.

The Tenants Union provides clear information and strategies for renters to use to stay out of eviction court. When tenants must prepare to represent themselves in eviction court, the Tenants Union educates renters about the process and their rights. The Tenants Union is also an important source of referrals to attorneys who defend low-income renters against unwarranted evictions.

The county council will be debating the final budget on November 15, 16 and 17. Your comments are welcome until they vote on the final draft, on November 20.

**Action Needed:** Call the Metropolitan King County Council at 296-1000 and leave a message for all King County Councilmembers before Monday, November 20. Tell them: "Maintain funding for the Tenants Union, and don't cut the Legal Action Center and Public Defenders. We need more justice for low-income people, not more jails."

Here are numbers and emails for King County councilmembers:

Maggi Fimia (D)	296-1001	maggi.fimia@metrokc.gov
Cynthia Sullivan (D)	296-1002	cynthia.sullivan@metrokc.gov
Louise Miller (R)	296-1003	louise.miller@metrokc.gov
Larry Phillips (D)	296-1004	larry.phillips@metrokc.gov
Dwight Pelz (D)	296-1006	dwight.pelz@metrokc.gov
Rob McKenna (R)	296-1007	rob.mckenna@metrokc.gov
Pete von Reichbauer (R)	296-1008	pete.vonreichbauer@metrokc.gov
Greg Nickels (D)	296-1009	greg.nickels@metrokc.gov
Kent Pullen (R)	296-1010	kent.pullen@metrokc.gov
Larry Gossett (D)	296-1011	larry.gossett@metrokc.gov
Jane Hague (R)	296-1011	jane.hague@metrokc.gov
David Irons (R)	296-1012	cynthia.sullivan@metrokc.gov
Chris Vance (R)	296-1013	chris.vance@metrokc.gov

### Steve's News

more newspapers  
more magazines  
great service

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

### the BELLTOWN BARBER and Manicure

Tues.-Fri., 9:30 am to 5:30 pm  
Sat., 10 am to 4 pm  
2219 2nd, Downtown Seattle  
441-4738

### LEFT BANK BOOKS

92 PIKE ST.

SUPPORT INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES

New and Used Books—

Scholarly, Radical,  
Hard-to-find,  
Magazines, T-shirts,  
Bumperstickers,  
Pamphlets, Comics,  
Postcards & Buttons  
Records, Tapes & CDs

622-0195

Collectively Owned and Operated



### Save money on your insurance.

Auto • Life • Fire  
Truck • Commercial

Monthly Payments



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

Real Change  
2129 2nd Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98121

Seattle Public Library, Serials Unit  
1000 Fourth Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98104

