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# creal! Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 8, No. 10

## Zioncheck Lives.

Grant Gogswell on a Northwest Legend, p.6

**Inside: Homeless People  
on TV • State Workers Walk  
Out • Churches Step Up •  
Stopping Violence Against  
Women • Tent City Turnaround**

COVER AND INSIDE PHOTO BY RICK DAHMS.

MAY 3-16, 2001





## A mile in his shoes

*The following is an abridged letter responding to Reverend Rich Lang's position on the Tent City that his church, Trinity United Methodist, hosted in March and April. See "Leave Tent City Alone," April 19. —Ed.*

Dear Reverend Lang:

We share a common goal — ending homelessness in our community. I want to explore how we can work together to meet our goal and share my views with you regarding Tent City.

Since taking office, I have worked very hard to improve the prospects of those who are homeless in our city, particularly women and children. Together with my colleagues on the City Council, we have doubled city spend-

ing for assistance to homeless people from \$7.2 million to more than \$14 million, increased the number of shelter beds available in our community by 20 percent, [and] increased [both] the number of transitional housing units [and] the production of permanent low-income housing by 50 percent.

Our goal is simple: to provide safe shelter for people as a starting place to return to full participation in the community. Shelter offers a starting place to secure employment, housing, counseling, childcare, and the myriad of other steps needed to help people regain safe, long-term housing. So it is with great sadness and frustration that I have read recent reports that you and I now find ourselves at odds over Tent City.

I would ask that you take a moment to walk a mile in my shoes. As Mayor, I am sworn to uphold all of the laws of our city, and in so doing, to respect the needs of all people in our community. To that end, I must balance compassion for homeless individuals with my responsibility to protect the rights of the neighborhoods in which Tent City chooses to locate and with the need to uphold the basic housing codes that have been adopted over many years to protect the public health and welfare.

In trying to strike the right balance, I have been guided by three principles:

- that shelter include basic sanitary facilities, running water, heat, a roof, and four walls;

- that the surrounding neighborhood be afforded an opportunity to express legitimate concerns and have those concerns addressed by the organization responsible for operating the shelter;

- that the sponsoring organization be willing to work with local service organizations to assure that those staying in the shelter will [have] services that may help them regain a foothold in the community.

I am under no illusion that the steps I have outlined will satisfy the proponents of Tent City. Their objective is to shelter more persons in our community and, in part, to keep the issue in the public eye, and I cannot quarrel with those goals. Their strategy has helped to bring into the light an issue that has been hidden in the greenbelts and back alleys of every major city in America. But the fact remains that no community, regardless of its efforts, can eliminate homelessness unless there is a coherent national strategy to that end, with resources equal to the task. It is my conviction that the energy we are currently expending on the divisive issue of Tent City would be better expended in an effort to create that national policy change.

Very truly yours,  
Mayor Paul Schell

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# Change

## Puget Sound's Voice of the Poor and Homeless

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

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### Mission Statement:

**Real Change** organizes, educates, and builds alliances to create solutions to homelessness and poverty. We exist to provide a voice for poor people in our community.

### 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. Programs include the **Real Change** newspaper, the **MacWorkshop** computer lab, **StreetLife Art Gallery**, the **StreetWrites** peer support group for homeless writers, the **Homeless Speakers Bureau**, and the **First things First** organizing project. All donations 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. *Real Change* 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.

# 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.

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# Behind the Barrier

## South Asian victims of domestic violence must get culturally appropriate help

By Pramila Jayapal

**P**icture this: A 25-year-old woman from India is six months pregnant. She came to the U.S. because the man she married lives here. She has been in Seattle for a year, but her husband does not allow her to leave the house without him. She speaks Punjabi and Hindi but very little English, and has no friends and no community. She is completely dependent on her husband, who beats her and yells at her. He uses the threat of deportation on a regular basis, knowing that to be sent back to India would be shameful, and her family would likely not take her back. He keeps her passport and her documents, so that she cannot leave him even if she chooses to. Even when he beats her into unconsciousness, she does not call the police because her husband speaks fluent English and she is sure that he will ask the police to deport her.

One day, her husband gets angry when they are downtown and abandons her in the middle of a crowded street. She has never been alone in the city before, and she is terrified. She finally sees someone who is Indian and runs to them asking for help. Luckily, they are sympathetic and speak her language. They take her to a lawyer, who refers her to a shelter. Although the shelter workers are kind, they do not understand her and have no interpreter. The young woman is very hungry, but she cannot eat because she sees that meat is being cooked in the same pots and pans that hold vegetables. For two days in a row, she eats only bread. Finally, she cannot take it anymore. She calls her sister-in-law and asks to be taken home to her abusive husband. She stays with him for some more time

until he decides to throw her out. After much trying, she finds a job. But without daycare for her newborn, she cannot accept it.

Unless a prominent athlete or politician abuses his partner, little is said or heard about domestic violence. But every day, over 2,400 women are physically battered by their partners. These acts account for almost a quarter of all violent crimes against women, according to the National Bureau of Justice. One-third of all murders of women are a result of domestic violence.

Even if they are able to leave abusive partners, victims of domestic violence too often enter a spiral that sends them hurtling from emotional and physical violence into the hole of poverty, depression, and social stigma. And those from other cultures face even more barriers to accessing services.

The woman above finally got help from Chaya, a grassroots non-profit organization created to meet

the needs of South Asian women in crisis. Chaya is currently the only organization in King County to supply the cultural understanding, advocacy, peer counseling, and language services for South Asian victims of violence. Chaya's volunteer advocates refer them to appropriate legal and immigration services, inform them of their rights, and work to find solutions that protect their safety while respecting their cultural traditions.

In its first 18 months of operation, Chaya served 33 clients, fielded 232 calls requesting telephone counseling from clients, and provided 11 cultural sensitivity trainings to law enforcement officials and mainstream service providers. The incredible response to this grassroots effort shows the need for culturally appropriate services.

No matter where we're from, domestic violence affects us all in countless ways. Studies estimate the annual cost of domestic violence in the U.S. to be anywhere from \$5 billion in lost income and workplace productivity, to many billions more in the indirect costs of psychological trauma to women and their children. But we have women with us who are brave enough to tell their stories and to fight for their rights. Let's acknowledge their courage and give their stories a place to be heard. Let's break the silence. ■

*Pramila Jayapal is a Seattle-based writer and the board chair of Chaya.*

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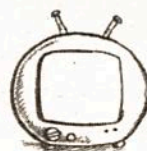
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THIS JUST IN!

In the past 100 years, the molecular integrity of the world has degraded by 70 percent, says a report released on May 1 by a team of biologists in Vienna.

What does that mean in plain English? And, as one social critic asked, what is to be done?

"It's like successive generations of a photograph," says scientist Gregor Hischak. "A copy of a copy of a copy, and so on. We started out in real time, with silver gelatin prints. Then to full vector-graphic resolution. Then we moved to a high-resolution rasterized image, so to speak, and now we have a jaggy, 72 dpi bitmap image as our raw material."

"It is not like we haven't saved the world through the years," adds Hischak. "We just saved it in the wrong format."

Our global dependence on television, genetic engineering, monoculture, and the loss of species have all contributed to the problem, says the report.

We live longer, but those lives are stretched. It's like the center of a sheet of pizza dough collapsing. Styrofoam where there used to be maple wood. Watered-down Stoli.

The answer? Well, reality emulsifiers, says the report. Human contact. A clear exploration of our chances against the leviathan of commerce. Concrete steps to organize people who don't have a prayer, or health insurance. More time off, and healthy exercise of our senses. May flowers.

For more information, check out <http://members.nbc.com/1870/>, or <http://marxists.org>. ■

— Bob Redmond



## Tent City turning point

Mayor Paul Schell has called off the dogs in his hunt for Tent City, but the legal eagles are still circling. City Attorney Mark Sidran's office is deciding whether the city can continue to fine its hosts.

On Wednesday, April 18, in response to hundreds of citizen complaints, Schell and the city Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use (DCLU) announced that the \$75-a-day fines against Trinity United Methodist Church, which hosted the Tent City in March and April, would be dropped.

DCLU director Rick Krochalis told the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* that, as Tent City moves from host to host, it would be watched on a "case-by-case" basis.

Krochalis explains that "the only thing that changed is that Trinity brought this new federal law to our attention" — the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000. "We're asking the City Attorney's office, 'Gee, should we take this into account?'"

The Congressional act prevents government from making land-use law that impedes a religious body's right to practice its beliefs. Sidran's office is expected to release its legal opinion in about six weeks.

Sidran's office is also considering the legal status of Tent City for another reason: Lawyers for SHARE/WHEEL are taking them to court for denying the camp a temporary permit to stay at El Centro de La Raza earlier this year. The first hearing for the case, in King County Superior Court, takes place May 25.

News reports of Trinity's fines began airing early last month. The response was tremendous. Calls began streaming into Trinity's office.

"The first day, we turned down over \$1,000 in pledges — people saying they wanted to give money," says Trinity Pastor Rich Lang. Church staff explained that, no matter what, the church would refuse to pay the fines. "Then we started getting checks in the mail."

In the end, 40 or 50 people donated several thousand dollars. Trinity doesn't want to keep the money, and is informing each donor of the city's decision. "We encouraged them to give money to SHARE/WHEEL," the organizers of Tent City, he says. "And we want to give them the opportunity to cancel their checks."

Lang sums up what some people have called "a turning point" in city government's attitude toward the 13-month-old Tent City. "I think the city genuinely realized that this was a mistake. You can't expect churches to host shelters on one hand and [treat them like] this on the other," he says. "The avenue for true, constructive partnership is at hand." ■

—Adam Holdorf

## With God on our side

It seemed like every homeless advocate and activist in Seattle came to St. Mark's Cathedral for the April 28 "Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness" conference. The event, organized by a coalition of religious leaders and attended by more than 300 people, signals the beginning of a new era of increased energy and activism, with Seattle's faith community playing a leading role to end homelessness.

Nine area bishops and representatives from the Church Council of Greater Seattle and the Washington Association of Churches took the stage to remind the gathering that homelessness is a moral issue that demands a response. The Bishops' Statement declared that, "Without a tradition of mutual care and responsibility, no community can long survive. Left unaddressed, the human cost of maintaining poverty over time will finally become unbearable in America, and the hope of this great nation will collapse under the weight of injustice."

"Anytime a group of religious leaders speaks collectively on a moral issue, there's a sense of moral authority that commands the community's attention," says conference organizer Rev. David Bloom. The Statement is a major step forward for Seattle's faith community. "The churches don't do this often, but when they say an issue is a priority, it's something that is taken seriously. It puts their own churches on notice, and helps involve more denominations and congregations in the work of ending homelessness."

The Bishops committed to a three-part action plan to increase church-based shelter, collaborate in executing a 10-year plan to end homelessness, and build community activism that begins with a grassroots agenda.

One outgrowth of the conference planning process is the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, a broad alliance of funders, city and county officials, service providers, and homeless activists. The group is also working on the 10-year plan to end homelessness by increasing public and private resources and streamlining service delivery. The significance of this group, says Bloom, is that it "ups the ante."

"They're not saying they just want to do a better job, or just get more funding, but end homelessness. We've lost sight of this, and need to come back to that basic goal."



Another important initiative is The Doubling Project, which challenges the religious community to double the number of shelter beds sponsored by area churches. Under this new effort, churches that offer space and volunteers for shelter will receive support from human service agencies and funds from the city and other sources.

But the real work of the conference, forging a grassroots action agenda, still lies ahead. "We're beginning the work now of building a real solid action plan based on the ideas generated at the conference," says Rev. Bloom. "This conference tells us that it ain't over, and there's still a lot we can do and a lot of us who care about this." ■

—Timothy Harris

## Safe Harbors resurgent

What are the privacy rights of people facing homelessness, escaping domestic violence, or seeking a counselor? That was the topic at hand in an afternoon session of the April 19 Nonprofit Technology Forum. Over 200 representatives of social service agencies from around the region got together to peruse the latest goods of software developers, dream up their ideal website, and figure out how to get more out of their puny Excel program.

When they sat down to talk about privacy, several people in the afternoon workshop had the same thing in mind: Safe Harbors, the computerized client tracking system that will begin its development this summer. Last year, the United Way and the human service departments of Seattle and King Counties put more than \$712,000 on the table to begin building the system. Last month, the city gave the contract for its initial development to The Crisis Clinic, a county referral agency. Nonprofits participating in Safe Harbors will compile data on their clients and eventually share personal information over the Internet.

How will Safe Harbors safeguard people's privacy? "There are huge, huge questions here," said Phil Klein, a panelist who has developed online information databases for The Crisis Clinic and other nonprofits. "What are the implications of making things available electronically? What are the impacts on anonymity?"

Washington state government has already set a precedent. Users of state websites get access to privacy notices that tell them how their personal information is being collected and used, said Roselyn Marcus, a lawyer with the state Department of Information Services. But provisos don't add up to privacy. And sometimes, when the use of information goes beyond an agency's control, Klein said, the clients won't like what happens to their data.

"Law enforcement loves the notion" of a centralized, computerized data system, he says. "You could check a database and see whether a juvenile is missing school, and it would also tell you of his counselors' assessment." Such "cross-service tracking" adds up to more than the sum of its parts, says Klein: "When you pull all this information together, you know a lot more."

Klein is a supporter of the Safe Harbors system; he thinks it could cut down on redundant administrative tasks and erroneous information in the social service system. He notes that nonprofits aren't required to participate. And he thinks last year's tumultuous planning process gave the system a bad rap. But he also sees that clients' privacy must be protected.

"You need a random identification number that is impossible to trace back to a person," says Klein. And agencies have to stick up for their clients' rights. "Nonprofits have to say, 'We draw the line at identifying our clients.'"

People seeking survival services — temporary shelter, food, or benefits — will require additional safeguards. "Asking a homeless person to divulge personal information [in order to get shelter] is completely and utterly different from asking for a home address as you apply for a fishing license online. It's thoroughly less optional," says Mark Usdane, the director of Children's Alliance and a former state Department of Social and Health Services manager. The proof is in the pudding, he says: Safe Harbors should be "tested out on people for whom there's no risk, to make sure there's no bugs." ■

—Adam Holdorf



CUSTOMERS CHECK OUT GOODS AT THE NONPROFIT TECHNOLOGY FORUM. PHOTO BY CASEY KELBAUGH.

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



# Out with a Whimper

The state workers' walkout caps a nightmare budget year

By Pati Wilson

As the clock ticked down on the final days of the state legislators' regular session, state workers hit the streets in an effort to twist the figurative arm of the Legislature. The workers began a week of rolling walkouts, where the employees of pre-chosen branches of the Department of Social and Health Services offices picketed, leaving the other branches to conduct business as usual until their day to picket came around. State workers are demanding pay on par with the teacher pay raises that Initiative 732 mandated last year.

On Saturday, April 21, 4,000 state employees, mostly members of the Washington Federation of State Employees/AFSCME rolled into the Capitol campus in Olympia. Bawling out slogans and carrying signs that read, "No way to second rate state," they pledged to keep the strikes rolling one day longer than the legislative session. With 19,000 members in 77 bargaining units, the workers have a strong voice

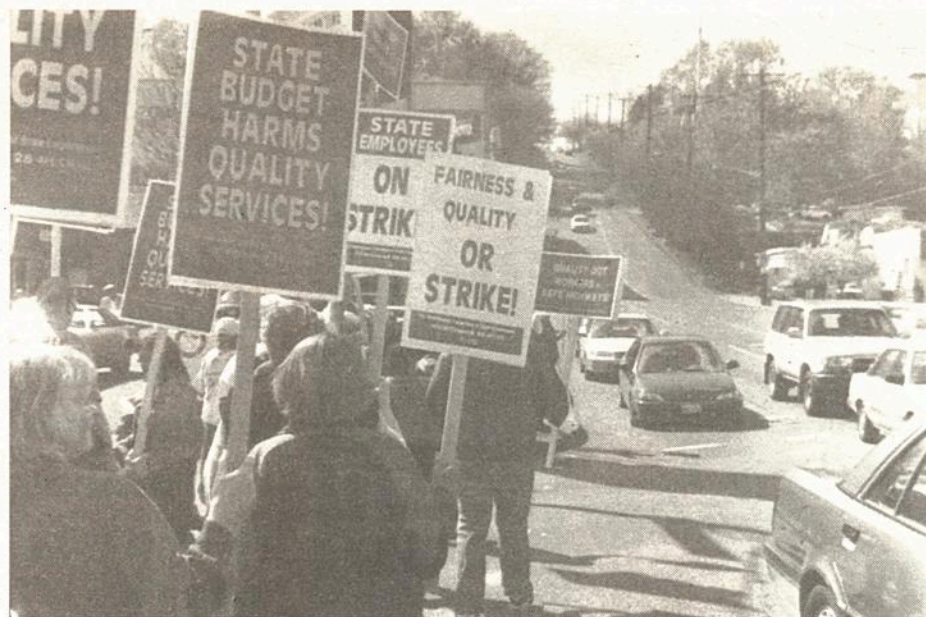
in the state, and plenty of necessary funds for continuing their efforts.

The next week, the Legislature ended its 105-day regular session and, with the budget work incomplete, returned for what should be a 30-day session. As the lawmakers end their second week of the special session, the disagreement over the budget continues.

**State voter initiatives first capped spending, then ratcheted down tax revenue, then mandated spending increases. It's no surprise that the fiscal interests of DSHS workers are at odds with the needs of the people they serve.**

Governor Locke proposed pay increases of 4.7 percent over the next two years. The Senate upped the offer to 6.8 percent, fulfilling the union's demands. The House offered a 5.6 percent increase, along with a \$23 billion spending plan. Any decision must come before July 1, the beginning of the budget year.

With a cash-strapped state budget, the workers are in a tight competition for support. While the House version doesn't meet their goals, neither does it keep up with the demand for routine dental care for low-income people. State voter initiatives first capped spending with I-601, then ratcheted down



SOCIAL WORKERS RALLIED OUTSIDE THE RAINIER COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE STATE WORKERS' STRIKE. PHOTO BY MIKE HAMRICK.

tax revenue with I-695, then mandated spending increases on transportation and education. Absent from that is a clear mandate to increase services. Now, it's no surprise that the fiscal interests of DSHS workers are at odds with the needs of the people they serve.

DSHS is a monstrous organization, supporting layers upon layers of offices and programs and task forces, and has been continually plagued with problems. Since 1995, the state has paid out more than \$50 million in legal settlements and awards to litigious plaintiffs. When he took office last year, DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock appointed Bernie Friedman, an experienced tort lawyer, as Special Assistant. Several times in past years, by several administrations, DSHS has undergone "restructuring."

On the second day of the strike, I spoke with picketers outside DSHS's Rainier Valley office about the pay raise issue. Several of them expressed compassion for their clients.

"We've always had comparable raises to the teachers, and with the initiative last year the teachers got a 3.7 percent raise. Our position is that we should still be tied to the teachers," said Ellen Carmody, a Child Protective Services supervisor. But there's a need for big-picture change, she said. The legislators "are saying it's the money crunch. You know, we have some of the wealthiest people in the country, in the world that live here, so there's something wrong with our tax structure that we

*Continued on Page 14*

## Policy Watch

By Nancy Amidei

Sunday, April 22 should have been the end of this year's 15-week state legislative session. Instead, the Legislature went into overtime, starting a 30-day special session on April 25.

The special session means that legislators will continue to be in their offices in Olympia and bills that were alive at the end of the regular session are still eligible for consideration. The focus of the special session will be on the two-year state budget, the transportation budget, and the capital budget.

**Budget:** The special session started with harsh news when, on the second day, the House released a budget proposal balanced on the backs of low-income families, people with disabilities, and seniors (see *Health Care* below). Even the legislators who wrote the much-delayed House budget did not seem proud of it. "We did a reasonably decent job," said the co-chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Barry Sehlin (R-10th district, Whidbey Island).

The budget passed a divided House on Friday, April 27. Forty-two of the House's 98 legislators voted against.

That means there's more support for the Senate's kinder, gentler budget version, a good sign for upcoming negotiations between the House, the Senate and the Governor's proposals.

**Housing:** The House capital budget proposal contains \$78 million for the Housing Trust Fund, which is the current level of funding for the state's housing fund. Also, SB 5936, a measure that would create a local source of funds for low income housing, is still alive and eligible for consideration in the special session.

**Health Care:** The House budget proposal was the worst so far in terms of drastic cuts in health care programs for low-income families, people with disabilities, and seniors. The budget cuts the dental care program for low-income and disabled adults with Medicaid by \$28 million. It removes over \$100 million from the Basic Health Plan, resulting in a loss of health insurance for an estimated 30,000 adults. The House budget also imposes a cap on enrollment of children in the Children's

Health Insurance Program. As if those cuts weren't enough to gut the state's health programs, the House budget proposes an additional \$50 million cut to health care services by imposing overly-ambitious cost containment measures on state medical programs.

**Long-Term Care:** A plan to use surplus interest from the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters pension funds to create an endowment for long-term caregiver wages was proposed by 10 lobbying groups. The House did not include this plan in its budget proposal.

**Disabilities:** HB 2230, the "Ticket to Work" bill, died. This bill would have helped individuals with disabilities to lead fully productive lives.

**Hunger:** The House budget proposal does not include \$1 million in emergency food assistance for food banks across the state. The Governor's and Senate budget have included this item to help with storing food and maintaining supplies. Anti-hunger advocates are also seeking \$1.7 million to help schools offer breakfasts for low-income children. Currently, combined state and federal reimbursement falls more than 14 cents per meal short of covering average school district costs for breakfast.



**Juveniles:** A bill to seal certain juvenile records should a child fulfill the conditions of probation and stay crime

free is also awaiting the Governor's signature. SSB 5500, to allow judges to stack time against runaways and to give protection to providers who take a youth into a HOPE Center for the first 72 hours, appears to have died. A bill to create youth courts for juvenile offenders, SB 5692, will likely die if the House cannot resolve its problems with the bill.

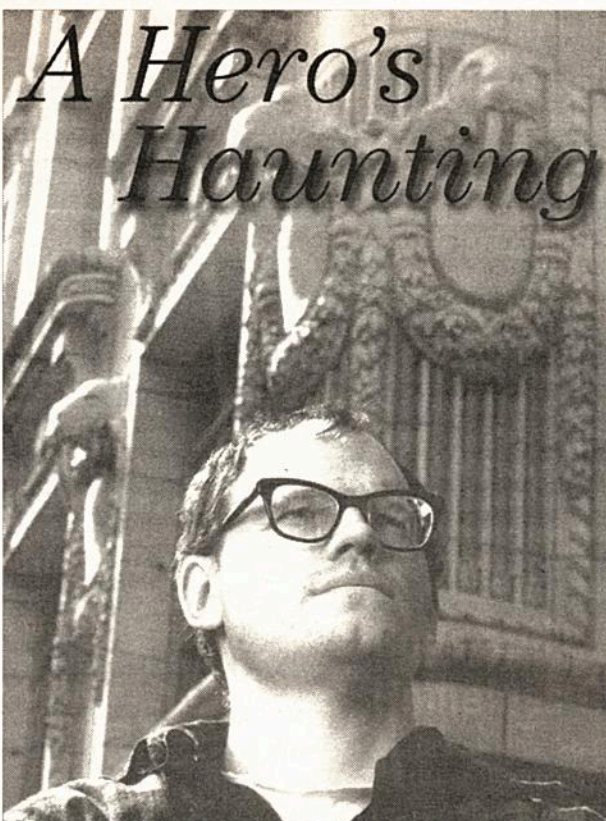


**Mental/Physical Health:** The Senate budget adds \$1.7 million for mental health treatment of youth to deal with the high number of youth assessed with mental health issues. However, the Senate budget also redistribution of mental health funding for the Regional Support Networks from urban to rural areas has advocates concerned. SB 5051, to allow involuntary chemical dependency treatment, passed both the House and Senate was signed by the Governor on April 13.

Compiled with assistance by Jon Gould. ■

To sign up for a free bulletin containing legislative news produced by the Children's Alliance, contact Liz at (206) 324-0340 ext. 14. Bills in the legislature can be tracked on <http://www.leg.wa.gov>.





**"The manifestations were kind of cute, and then they were less cute. He was committed to an asylum and he broke out on the Fourth of July. Which was, I think, a great gesture."**

**Grant Cogswell**

**Long-dead Congressman helps writer-activist soldier on**

Interview by Trevor Griffey

One sunny August day in 1936, Seattle Congressman Marion Zioncheck told his brother-in-law he was going to get his hat. His brother-in-law watched as Zioncheck turned on his heels and dove out the fifth-floor window of his downtown Seattle office. On his desk, a hasty note told the world: "My only hope in life was to improve the condition of an unfair economic system that held no promise to those that all the wealth of even a decent chance to survive let alone live." Zioncheck, elected four years earlier on a tide of poor people's populism, had been preparing to announce that he would not run for re-election. Seattle's radicals were left to ponder what might have been.

Sixty-five years later, Zioncheck stands both as an inspiration and a harsh lesson to Grant Cogswell. He's turned the dead man's story into a fable for our time. His "Ode to Congressman Marion Zioncheck" is part two of a three-part epic poem on 20th-century Seattle, *The Dream of the Cold War*. Last year, Cogswell marked Zioncheck's 100th birthday by reciting the ode from memory at a local bar. A contributing writer for *The Stranger*, Cogswell is best known as one of the two cab drivers who put together Initiative 41, the 1997 extend-the-Monorail campaign. *Real Change* asked him to share Zioncheck's story with us.

**Real Change:** Why should people in Seattle today be interested in a congressman who committed suicide over 60 years ago?

**Grant Cogswell:** I think Marion Zioncheck embodied the whole question of political activism and how much can be accomplished, and how much of the world is just immovable. For me, he was a real warning not to let the frustration that is a necessary part of political activism take me out of the game. There's a feeling of helplessness that, in his case, destroyed him. You have to give up the idea of chang-

ing the world, yet nevertheless work to change the world. I very much believe that my activism right now is a war of attrition. You're getting what you can.

**RC:** What makes Zioncheck's life important in this way?

**Cogswell:** Well, it works its way back from his suicide and his suicide note. I've got his note printed here on my gym shirt. It's quoted just partially in Murray Morgan's book *Skid Road*, where I first came across him, and that just really grabbed me. I was charmed by his divine madness that was deadly serious underneath, that nobody took seriously until it was too late.

**RC:** How would you describe his life leading up to that, before the frustration and the divine madness?

**Cogswell:** He was born in Poland, and his parents came over when he was a very small child. They ended up in the Yesler Skid Road neighborhood. They were very poor. His schooling was very intermittent and self-administered. He held 20 different shitty jobs before he was old enough to graduate from high school. He went to the University of Washington briefly, and had to drop out to support his parents. He got back in and was elected student body president and fought against the lock the fraternities and the athletic department had on the school. He challenged the use of funds that were going to build a stadium, and got that money transferred out of the hands of the athletic department. It was used about 10 years later to build the HUB. Football players dunked him in the ship canal and shaved his head for that. After becoming a lawyer, he led a successful recall vote against Frank Edwards, a mayor who was trying to sell off Seattle City Light.

**RC:** What was his career in Congress like?

**Cogswell:** He worked very hard and was very outspoken. There was some quote where he was asked, "Are you a radical?" and he said, "People talk about radical as equalizing power in this country and standing up for the poor, and if that's true I guess I've always been a radical and I always will be."

**RC:** So where does the divine madness come from?

**Cogswell:** One of the things his cousin told me is that Zioncheck called bullshit on a lot of the New Deal programs as being half-assed measures that always had a provision in them to benefit the people who ran things. There were a couple incidents like that, and the powers in the House decided "we've got to shut this guy down," and they took away all his power and orchestrated a campaign to discredit him. And then the wacky behavior started, and that kind of sealed it.

The first was New Year's day 1936. He went to this major hotel in Washington D.C. and got on the switchboard, and rang the phones in every room, and wished everyone a happy New Year.

That was kind of funny, that made the press.

Then this secretary for the WPA thought he was cute, asked him out, and within about a week they were engaged and Zioncheck held a press conference wearing a big Indian headdress and had a bow and arrow.

The manifestations were kind of cute, and then they were less cute. He was committed to an asylum in Washington D.C. and he broke out on the Fourth of July. Which was, I think, a great gesture. He got married and went on this honeymoon in Puerto Rico and Cuba, and there's this list of all the hijinks he went through....

**RC:** Dancing in fountains.

**Cogswell:** He got in some kind of trouble in Puerto Rico and demanded that the Marines be sent in.

**RC:** There was some spotlight near his office he refused to recognize the existence of. He called one of his political opponents a "Puddn'head."

**Cogswell:** He went back to Washington D.C. and got kicked out of his apartment from some dispute he got in with his landlady.

**RC:** A lot of times we isolate people by saying that they're "mentally ill," suffering from a kind of disease. Do you think his hijinks and his jumping out a window were really caused by his passion for economic justice?

**Cogswell:** Yeah, I do. It's what's in his suicide note: a surrender to the way things are run. He made sure to write something down before he went out the window, he tore out a piece of his own stationery, and said: here's why. I think the note is a very strangled and pretty successful attempt to get down the essence of what was getting to him. You can feel the panic of what he's doing, him not even able to make syntax — but you very much get the message.

**RC:** There are some comparisons in your poem between Zioncheck and Christ. You call him "my Christ," and you write later, "your death has ransomed me my life/ my life is surrounded by your death." It sounds like the resurrection and Christ dying for our sins. What was the significance of Zioncheck's death for you?

**Cogswell:** He's proof that, if you're in an all-or-nothing position about changing how things work, you're going to lose [laughs]. So you better be ready to deal. Which was a great touchstone for me in getting involved in local politics. Not so much the monorail, because we're winning, but the stadium fight, which was very ugly and very, very discouraging, and ended up with the State Supreme Court weighing in — totally illegally — on the side of people determined to pirate public money and undermine the whole notion of a public vote.

**RC:** Is this what you're talking about when you say in your poem "that you could not face this world brings me strength"?

**Cogswell:** Yeah. If you bring it down to a zero-sum thing, you're going to lose, so don't go there. Don't go there. It's the idea that if you get too swept away in this, it's going to kill you. And that's a strength.

**RC:** And yet there's a certain kind of romanticism that comes from people who do experience that, who go above and beyond, whose lives are sacrificed. Whether it's Christ or—

**Cogswell:** — Kurt Cobain —

**RC:** — Martin Luther King or whoever, when we talk about those who gave their lives for others, it's in prophetic terms. But this is a suicide, not an assassination. Or do you see Zioncheck's death as something different?

**Cogswell:** I see it as an assassination without a trigger man. What killed him was the nature of power and his inability to accept things being that way. It's the purity of his heart that kills him. That's a lesson, and it's romantic. The Christ comparison flows from the idea of a one-person symbol, a personality in your mind that you draw strength from.

**RC:** You say in your poem that you saw Zioncheck at the WTO protests, and "after that you stayed with me all year / everything you saw I see / this is where we live."

**Cogswell:** When I say "everything you saw I see," I'm talking about the world we live in, which is the world he lived in, which is the world of —

**RC:** —Starbucks?

**Cogswell:** Whatever. Burlington Northern is Boeing is Safeco Field. It's all the same process. I wrote most of the poem before WTO. During the WTO, I came down Wednesday morning after they had really laid down the law downtown and walked into this circle of about 50 people who were just standing there talking, and it was one of those mo-



ments in that week where you felt like the entire way people relate to each other had cracked open and changed, and nothing was going to be quite the same afterward. And I don't think it has. I think everyone who came through that had their awareness of the possibilities of the world and of personal action radically altered.

**RC:** You also wrote "So little remains of your fearsome God / Who is, like yourself, a ghost / That cannot remember its own name." Is Zioncheck a ghost?

**Cogswell:** Oh, yeah. Zioncheck for me is about as present in his deeds and his speeches as the Old Testament Jehovah.

**RC:** The interesting thing is that you don't give up hope; you continue with a kind of politics that's actually about as uncompromising as what Zioncheck was doing 70 years ago.

**Cogswell:** I'm about whatever is going to work. And whatever is non-coercive

and is going to allow people access to power over their own lives.

**RC:** What would Zioncheck think of the campaign to extend the Monorail?

**Cogswell:** He would love it. He would love it because it's about making public transportation available to the maximum amount of people and making it make sense in people's lives.

**RC:** What would he think of light rail?

**Cogswell:** He would think it's a terrible idea, a big pork barrel. And he'd be right. Zioncheck would have objected to light rail on the same grounds he objected to a lot of New Deal programs.

**RC:** You memorized the poem?

**Cogswell:** Yeah.

**RC:** How long does it take to recite?

**Cogswell:** About 35 minutes.

**RC:** Tell me about the first time you recited it.

**Cogswell:** Zioncheck's 100th birthday at the Breakroom. Eddie Sharp, who's a friend of mine who is 17 and a cheerleader out in Carnation, MC'd. She had such total nerve and she went up there and did these cheers in her outfit. She was super spunky. It was beautiful.

**RC:** What kind of cheers?

**Cogswell:** "It's your birthday, Marion Zioncheck, it's your birthday, your 100th birthday..." [laughs] "M-A-R-I-O-N Z-I-O-N-C-H-E-C-K." His cousin came up to me after the show, and I haven't had a chance to really sit down with him. One problem is that I have my own personal Zioncheck and I don't want to see it shattered — which is just going to be an eventuality.

**RC:** Tell me a little about you. Who are you? Where are you coming from?

**Cogswell:** I'm 33. I was born in Los Angeles. My parents and grandparents were from the midwest and worked for the aerospace industry. I grew up mostly in Europe with Seattle as my American home base, and I've lived here on and off but only for this last eight years all the time. I ran the Initiative 16 campaign that was a county initiative to stop the baseball stadium. It got

75,000 signatures in a month and a half.

**RC:** How many did it need?

**Cogswell:** Forty-seven thousand. We got on the ballot but the state Supreme Court struck it down.

**RC:** How come?

**Cogswell:** Because they're bought and paid for.

**RC:** Do you still have the email account zioncheck@libertybay.com?

**Cogswell:** No, Liberty Bay lost my whole thing.

**RC:** And you have Zioncheck t-shirts with his suicide note on them. Any other Zioncheck merchandise in the works — bumper stickers, pins?

**Cogswell:** Look out at Bumbershoot — I don't see pins, but I see a different shirt [laughs].

**RC:** Do you have a zioncheck.com kind of web site?

**Cogswell:** No, that would be pretty cool. ■

## Ode to Congressman Marion Zioncheck

(an excerpt)

I extrapolate you from solid facts,  
Marion Anthony Zioncheck,  
buried in Evergreen-Washelli,  
where the Home Depot and Public Storage

hold up their messages behind  
the green, truck-sooted peace of willows;  
Your children are not in the White Pages.  
That you found you could not face this world

and took your life, brings me some strength.  
There is a fight that cannot be won,  
that capital is a function of time,  
it says, to leave the world of things

is the natural end for the rational activist,  
to pursue his complaint to the highest authority;

coming home that year from Washington  
did you pull the door closed expecting that  
you'd never come back, so you could breathe,  
freed in the ways that the worst things free us,

after Rubye and you went down to Florida  
leaving your wake of astonishment  
onto narrow roads, the beaches, towns  
in which the two of you sought release

from the machinations of that pursuit  
which now ceased claiming to be your life;  
The road is a machine for forgetfulness,  
the road, and the simmering southward drive

of your famous wild honeymoon.  
Surrender is sweet until it settles  
into its stony permanence.  
I think you would have gone to Spain,

to the beaches of Normandy,  
surely we would have lost you sometime,  
too much of the century shadowing you  
called for your death as it did its own.

A heart so pure would never last this road,  
or retire into the desperate comfort  
of the houses north of the U-District.  
Our only choice is to elect the dead.

—GRANT COGSWELL

## Hollywood Hero

Five years after Marion Zioncheck's suicide, Frank Capra's classic movie *Meet John Doe* used Christ-crucified imagery in its story of an average American so frustrated with slimy politics and unemployment that he sees no alternative but to jump off the roof of City Hall on Christmas Eve.

In *Meet John Doe*, though, the central, Christ-like character is completely fabricated, by columnist Ann Mitchell (Barbara Stanwyk). Her newspaper has just been taken over by magnate D. B. Norton (Edward Arnold), who has his ax-men fire most of the staff in order to create "a streamlined paper for a streamlined age" that will further his political goals. When Mitchell is fired, her last column trumpets a fake suicide note, ostensibly penned by the frustrated Average American.

Community response is so intense — I'll give him a job! I'll marry him! — that Norton is forced to hire Mitchell back. She's cleverly argued that the public is hungry for protest, and that an ongoing column could boost the paper's circulation.

But they have to hire a Doe, from among the hobos who show up at the newspaper looking for work.

Enter Gary Cooper as John Willoughby. Willoughby's been riding the rails ever since he was injured while pitching a 19-inning minor league game, dashing his hope of entering the majors. He's humble, he's good-looking, he'll keep quiet in order to get enough money to fix his injured arm. He's the perfect candidate.

"I Protest," by John Doe (ghostwritten by Mitchell), is a huge hit, and after a radio speech which focuses on the little people waking up and loving their neighbors, a John Doe Movement begins, based on a very simple premise: the Golden Rule.

But Norton plans to use a national John Doe conference as a springboard for his third party bid for the Presidency. "There've been too many concessions" (with the New Deal), he says; "what the American people need is an iron hand."

By now Willoughby is John Doe, and he won't let the Movement be co-opted for fascism. Norton threatens him with exposure as a fake: "You've been paid your 30 pieces of silver.... These gentlemen (pointing to labor leaders and businessmen, who are selling their constituencies to Norton in exchange for future political favors) and I know what's best for the John Does of America, regardless of what tramps like you think!"

In Capra's trademark rainy penultimate scene, John Doe is exposed at the Conference, and the John Does turn against him. "Chalk one up for the Pontius Pilates," mutters the newspaper editor. Doe hits the rails again, but goes missing just before Christmas. Will he or won't he jump?

Capra filmed five end scenes and tested them on audiences nationwide. One ends the movie on the "Pontius Pilate" line. In three, John is saved — by John Doe Club members, or by Mitchell, who's fallen in love with him. In one, he jumps.

It was the late '30s, it was still the Depression, fascism was on the rise, and war was in the air. Which ending do you think audiences picked? Were they able to stare down our tendency to crucify our prophets? Are we able to today? ■

—Michele Marchand







**“H**e most honors my style who learns under it to destroy the teacher,” Walt Whitman said. Walter, like Emily Dickinson, had a knack for saying things in a way designed to raise eyebrows on a dead man. What teacher? I was lucky in school in that I was never assigned poetry by either Emily or Walt. So when I see that word “teacher,” I don’t think of some high school English teacher. Instead, I think of Walter himself in his own natural teachy-ness, being as Zen as he ever could be. (As in, If you meet the Buddha on the Road, kill him.)

If it weren’t for a sprinkling of quotes like that, you could definitely get the idea that Walt Whitman was deeper into himself than Donald Trump. In fact Walt was a whiz at selling himself.

“Behold I do not give lectures or a little charity, /When I give I give myself.” After reading that, don’t you feel guilty for not giving Walter more of your time?

He sang the body electric. Now you have to put that into its historical context. Back in Walt’s day, electricity wasn’t the thing more common in households than bleach. In Walt’s day, electricity was almost synonymous with juju.

**“Those homeless men  
were great! The way they  
scared off prowlers, my!  
And they were so sober,  
what a good example to  
our children. If only we  
could repay them!”**

**Cynthia R., a happy,  
smiling, independently  
wealthy housewife**

My own favorite Whitman sample: “Do I contradict myself? Very well then I contradict myself, (I am large, I contain multitudes).” Translation: “I am mass juju, I cast juju shadow.”

Speaking of selling and persuasion, experts agree that there are six basic factors that influence humans to comply with requests or give in to sales pitches. These are reciprocity, consistency, social validation, liking, authority, and scarcity. I could illustrate the use of these six factors with any successful advertising campaign, but this column isn’t about Madison Avenue. So instead I will show you how to use these factors to sell NIMBYs on Tent City.

**To the friendly, caring people of Seattle:**

- You have probably heard many appeals on behalf of Tent City [*social validation*], but have you heard of the great benefits that Tent City has to offer to your community?
- Yes, there is only one Tent City in Seattle [*scarcity*], and it can be yours! The homeless people who make up Seattle’s Tent City are the cream of the crop [*scarcity*], the hardest working 2 percent.
- Listen to what Dave, a good-looking, well-groomed, white [*liking*] policeman [*authority*] has to say about Tent City’s homeless people. “I encounter homeless people everywhere. But nowhere have I found more cheerful [*liking*] and energetic homeless people than at Tent City. And they are so clean!” [*liking*]
- Cynthia R., a happy, smiling, independently wealthy [*social validation, liking, authority*] housewife, is typical of many who have been fortunate to live next door to Tent City. She says, “Those homeless men were great! The way they scared off prowlers, my! We had almost no crime in our neighborhood the weeks they were here. And they were so sober, what a good example to our children. If only we could repay them!” [*reciprocity*]
- Seattle has so far provided Tent City with 17 sites in one year. [*consistency*] That shows just how popular Tent City has been. [*social validation*] Now isn’t it time you invited Tent City to live next door to you? ■

## in prejudice

[to: Peter Steinbrueck]

On the outside... are  
the  
sounds.  
Sounds! are strange  
especially,  
sounds of  
other  
persons! if  
theirs  
are on the  
outside.  
Are... a  
part.  
Only, on the outside.

—STAN BURRISS

## The Firefly Song

I have a firefly named iron hammer.

Cross the border to the house next door  
prying eyes have seen this before  
atheist thing we tried to drown in the lake  
gives company to the snake.  
Lights out! on Memory Lane.

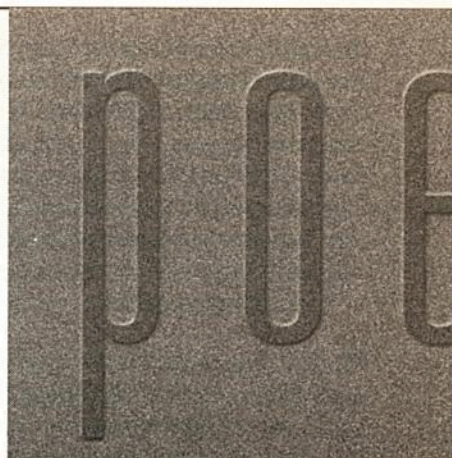
Tears fallen,  
as rosy early waters of years comes cheap.  
A man of malevolent moods  
and a woman disheveled.  
A song of the devil.  
Bury me in Osaka (bury me).

Made for the Pleasure of Man  
in a keepsake box  
on the streets of shame  
there’s been a firefly  
since time began.  
I have a firefly  
named iron hammer.

From the Soap of a City  
because I didn’t get there in time  
she sends me a sign  
that sets my soul to shine.  
I am a firefly about to die.  
Bury me in Osaka (bury me).

In the West  
we sometimes say,  
“Sayonara.”

—MAC CRARY



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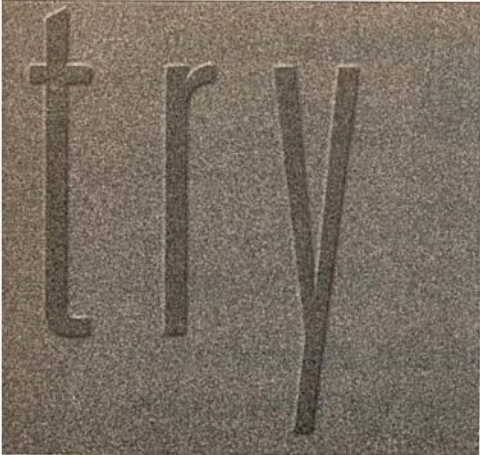
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ers like a bird  
r the bridge  
erly among shards  
green glass  
a drunken jig  
rouette falls

to the grey wall  
s an exaggerated bow.  
—EARLE THOMPSON

## Wanderer

The moon is homeless  
its clothes blacker  
every day  
never  
takes the same path

The moon  
has no regular job  
appears  
on its own schedule  
disappears  
as quickly

Its light's a trick  
masking colors  
growing shadows  
out of nothing  
—DELANEY

## DayDream

I sit on a park bench  
Looking at a building with lots of windows  
I stare at one of those windows  
As I'm staring I see something  
Something that I like  
It catches my eye  
I see a couple in the window  
They seem so very happy  
They hold each other in their arms  
They're sitting on a porch swing  
Drinking wine  
They're all bundled up in a blanket  
They're laughing  
The window open  
The fresh breeze blowing through her hair  
Then it hits me  
There's nobody there  
There's no building there  
Just an empty lot  
Just my thoughts!

—MOLLY FARRINGTON

## In the West End

In the West End of Vancouver there is dancing  
at the Dover Arms on Denman Street  
where a man hops out of his socks,  
and another with a pigeon breast dances close  
with the tall, sensuous woman in shorts.

Another shakes his booty to the hornpipe,  
his hands rocking behind his back, he dances  
around our table, and we rise to join in  
“The Nookie Polka” pumping arms and legs to the  
syncopation of the Bodrum in its Celtic Envy.

Dimple-cheeked Clare who came in utero all the way  
from Liverpool fills our pockets with her pulse,  
until all of us leave our inhibitions behind  
at the table, but we are just beginning to find  
our sea legs spinning around the room.

Like a captain's wheel, we turn to who ever we  
are with; sail into the night like ghost ships out to  
English Bay, we walk across the water, the moon  
lights our way home, we follow in our footsteps  
slippery as kelp into the phosphorescent deep-sea night.

We are turning green, unsteady enough to collapse,  
falling flat as plankton and breathing as hard-up  
as divers coming out of the bends, we find the course  
at last into bed, tying ourselves into knots,  
doing in our tipsy memory the Bowline on a Bight.

—MICHAEL MAGEE



in prejudice

[to: Peter Steinbrueck]

On the outside... are  
the  
sounds.  
Sounds! are strange  
especially,  
sounds of  
other  
persons! if  
theirs  
are on the  
outside.  
Are... a  
part.  
Only, on the outside.  
—STAN BURRISS



Ballet

Wino skitters like a bird  
from under the bridge  
  
steps gingerly among shards  
of broken green glass  
  
he dances a drunken jig  
trying to pirouette falls  
  
he swears to the grey wall  
rising takes an exaggerated bow.  
—EARLE THOMPSON

The Firefly Song

I have a firefly named iron hammer.

Cross the border to the house next door  
prying eyes have seen this before  
atheist thing we tried to drown in the lake  
gives company to the snake.  
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that sets my soul to shine.  
I am a firefly about to die.  
Bury me in Osaka (bury me).

In the West  
we sometimes say,  
“Sayonara.”

—MAC CRARY

DayDream

I sit on a park be  
Looking at a bui  
I stare at one of  
As I’m staring I s  
Something that l  
It catches my ey  
I see a couple in  
They seem so ve  
They hold each o  
They’re sitting o  
Drinking wine  
They’re all bund  
They’re laughing  
The window ope  
The fresh breeze  
Then it hits me  
There’s nobody t  
There’s no buildi  
Just an empty lo  
Just my thought

Wanderer

The moon is homeless  
  
its clothes blacker  
every day  
  
never  
takes the same path

The moon  
has no regular job  
  
appears  
on its own schedule  
  
disappears  
as quickly

Its light’s a trick  
  
masking colors  
  
growing shadows  
out of nothing  
—DELANEY

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# On Air and Outside

Television's treatment of homelessness occasionally rises from its fallow bed of stereotypes

By Michele Marchand  
TV graphics by Tom Davis



One of my housemates comes downstairs sometimes and catches me watching one of "my shows." "What're you doing?" she asked one Monday night as I was slapping my forehead in frustration with an episode of *Ally McBeal*. "Why do you watch these shows if they're so frustrat-

ing and stupid?"

"You've got to know your enemy," I told her. "And if your enemy is popular culture...."

"Well, better that than Presidential politics," she replied. "Because if you paid attention to that you'd just have to slit your wrists!"

As the appearance of homeless characters on mainstream television shows has increased, I've been sorely tempted

to slit my wrists. I've been even more tempted while researching television shows on the Internet:

the amount of TV material posted on the World Wide Web is horrifying. Need last week's *Ally McBeal* transcript? Next week's *NYPD Blue* episode synopsis? A chatroom for *West Wing* nuts? All these and so much more can be accessed easily at official and/or fan-created websites.

The dramatic rise in homeless characters on TV comes after years of shows like *ER*, *NYPD Blue*, and *Law and Order* which have featured them solely as part of a gritty atmosphere: the great unwashed, men and women who are psychotic, raving, filthy; who arrive at the emergency room or police station to get a bath, a change of clothes, a meal ticket, or some meds to feed their addictions.

Like the mystery novel genre, television shows have started to portray homeless characters with more prominence and more complexity, but this trend is not without its problems.

## David E. Kelley on Homelessness

Both the problem and prominence of homeless characters on TV were made clear on recent back-to-back nights of dramas from gifted writer-producer David E. Kelley. *The Practice*, Kelley's high-powered Sunday night legal drama, repeated an episode entitled "Trees in the Forest," in which a homeless pedestrian is killed in a hit-and-run accident. Another homeless man is the sole witness, and identifies the responsible Mercedes—and its wealthy driver.

Mr. Snow, the homeless witness, has the requisite serious mental health issues. When asked whether he knew the victim, Snow replies, "Nope, he's a homeless man, bigger bum than me." Then he reports there was actually a second witness—his penis, with its big pink eye. Assistant District Attorney Helen Gamble is not amused, and we

watch her first frustratedly dismiss Mr. Snow when he arrives at her office to apologize for blowing his statement, then pointedly avoid eye contact with another homeless man who's cleaning her windshield at a stoplight.

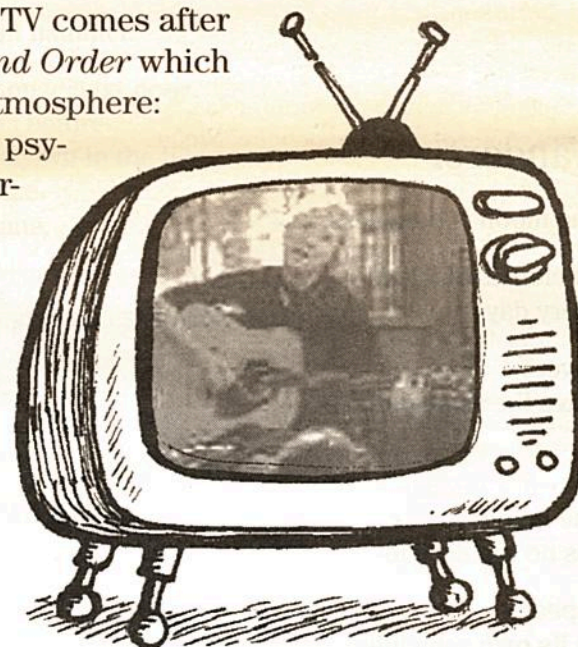
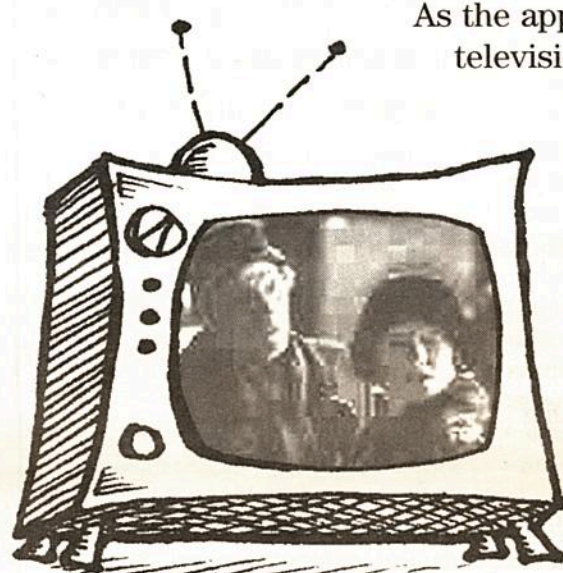
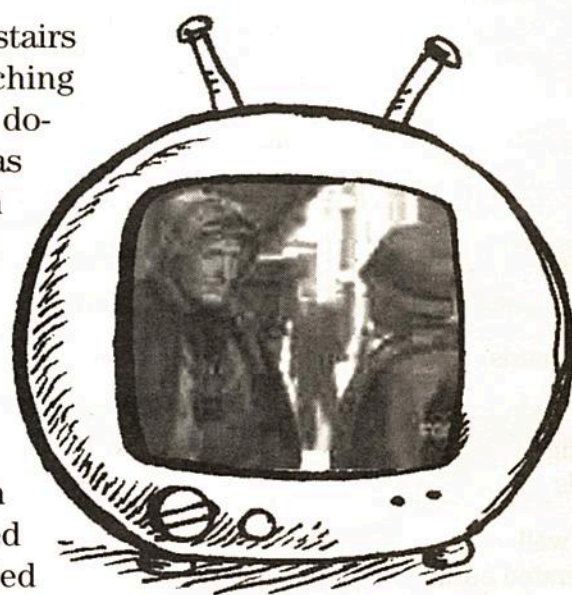
Of course, then there's the equally requisite faith transformation for ADA Helen. Just before she has to make her closing statement in this case, Helen learns Mr. Snow has had his throat slit in "a beef with another homeless guy. They both wanted to sleep on the same heating vent. He lost." Obviously moved, Helen makes her closing statement to an impassive jury:

"If a man dies in a forest and nobody hears him cry...then he doesn't make a sound, does he? The other day I was stopped at a traffic light and some bum came up asking to wash my windshield. I couldn't tell you what he looked like 'cause I never looked at him. I never look at 'em. Do you? Easier

not to. But when you run one of these bums over...maybe we should stop the car. Take a look. I guess that's the question for you to go back and decide...is there any intrinsic value to human life? Or does he have to be somebody? I don't know. It's your call."

The wealthy, fearful Mercedes driver is acquitted. Behind the end credits we see Helen walking pensively down the cold, mean streets of Boston past homeless men huddled around burn barrels, strategically placed on every streetcorner.

Cut to the next night's Kelley show, *Ally McBeal*. This season Ally has already found herself attracted to a homeless man who panhandles her and then makes prescient comments about her psyche. Mercifully, that homeless character was actually just an under-



ALLY McBEAL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY.

cover cop. In the more recent episode, a homeless man known as "Mr. Bo" is eventually revealed to be the father of Melanie, a day care teacher who was fired because she has Tourette's syndrome. (Melanie is played by Anne Heche in a recurring part this season.)

Ablly defended by *Ally McBeal*'s colleague John Cage, Melanie resumes her job, and occasionally takes her class to visit a mentally ill homeless man nicknamed Mr. Bo. When John accompanies Melanie to Mr. Bo's streetcorner, Melanie engages in the following exchange with her father:



Melanie: "Oh, you don't smell good. Last shower?"

Mr. Bo: "Christmas."

When Mr. Bo learns of Melanie's relationship with John, he starts to stalk John, wanting a good wrestling match with his daughter's paramour to test his mettle. John has Mr. Bo jailed, then drops charges and achieves an uneasy peace with his lover's father.

Mr. Bo: "Hey, you got supper plans? I got a piece of salmon for the hibachi."

John: "Homeless people eat salmon now?"

After dining al fresco, John departs with Melanie, and they both agree that Mr. Bo is probably happy with his chosen lifestyle.

## Cops and Homeless Characters

A few weeks later, in an episode entitled "Writing Wrongs," *NYPD Blue* featured a homicide adjacent to a homeless camp on the Hudson River. The witness to this throat-slashing is Nicholas, a homeless man with the requisite serious mental health issues, whose pallet-constructed camp includes a TV (which he's wired for cable) and a microwave, in which he prepares his ramen noodles.

Although, in convoluted language, Nicholas explains to Detectives Sipowicz and Sorenson that the victim had a beef with another homeless man named Diego, their investigation isn't conclusive. Sorenson, who's obviously moved by Nicholas, arranges for him to be taken into protective custody while the detectives continue to search for Diego. Sorenson ends his shift by bringing Nicholas a pizza and soda pop. "You're one of the good people," Nicholas tells him. "You are too, Nicholas; you hang in there as best you can," Sorenson replies.

The next episode begins with a body found in an alley — Nicholas. Sorenson returns to the station house and demands to know why he was released. The desk sergeant explains that "the homeless guy left in the middle of the night. Letting a bum sleep it off — what do you think this is, Mayberry RFD?"

The detectives continue to search for Diego, but then Nicholas's parents come into the station. They explain their son was a stellar student, comes from a wealthy family, and probably could be living on Park Avenue. They had written him numerous unanswered letters offering help; he contacted them to let them know he was OK the day before he was murdered.

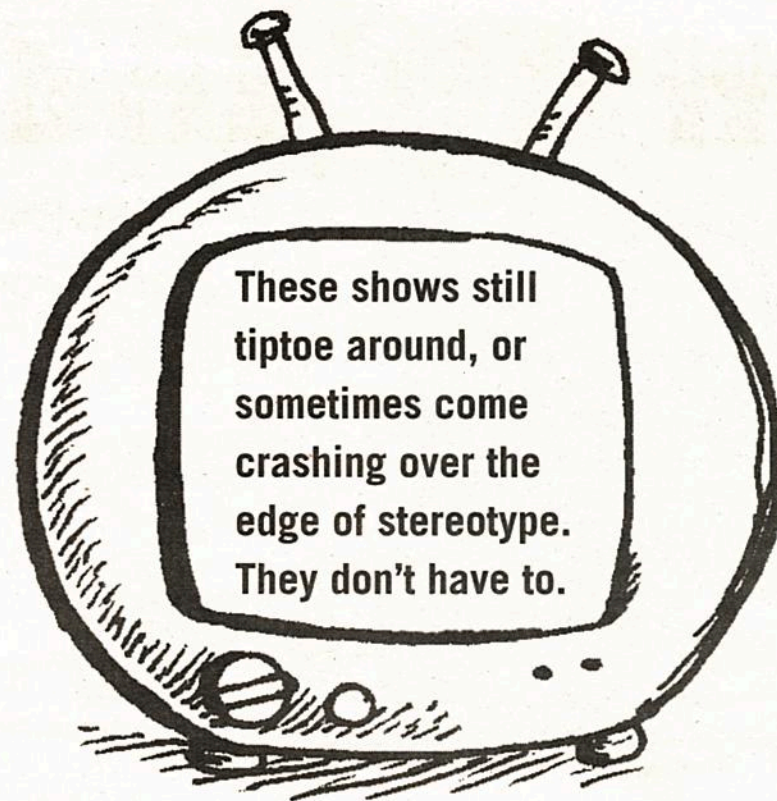
After Diego is arrested in the murder of the first homeless man but refuses to confess to Nicholas's murder, Nicholas's father comes in again to share his suspicions about his gambler son-in-law. The son-in-law is brought in and eventually confesses to killing Nicholas, hoping his wife would inherit enough money to cover his gambling debt. He picked Nicholas to murder because he was sure the police wouldn't be so tenacious about solving the murder of a crazy homeless man.

## ER and Sally Field

*ER* is the show I most often slap my forehead about for its stereotypical and reductive portrayals of homeless characters. On *ER* those characters are always crazy or chronic public inebriates. They're usually violent (e.g., the mad genius student who stabbed Dr. Carter and Lucy the intern) or smelly.

But this year *ER* has sponsored the glorious return of Sally Field to episodic TV, and it's been quite a star turn for Field. Playing intern Abbie's mother, Field arrived at the *ER* unexpectedly last fall, having been evicted from her apartment and burnt the bridge of connection to her son. Although she charms the other residents, it doesn't take long to figure out she has bipolar disorder.

We watch helplessly, as Abbie does, while Field goes through her cycles. Abbie is alternately seduced and frustrated by her mother's energy, and finally says, "I just can't do this any more," refusing to let her continue staying at her apartment. Then Abbie relents, and we watch her hold her sobbing mother at an ER station. Next episode we hear the mom has had a brainstorm and returned to Florida. (Field is returning to this role starting in May, sweeps month.)



## Mixed Enemy

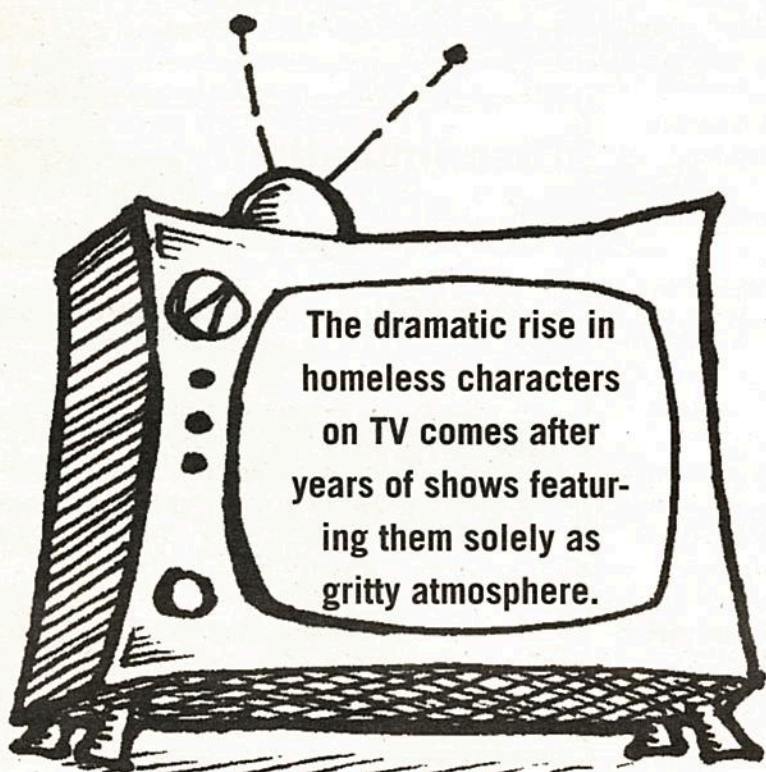
Homeless women who've heard I was writing this analysis have reacted strongly: the reductive portrayal of homeless characters on television hurts them. "Yeah, they're never working; they're always mentally ill," one woman said. "Or if they're sympathetic the characters are helpless victims of society."

Notable in its "helpless victim" portrayal is *The West Wing*, a show I find too saccharine to watch. In the episode viewers voted most popular, "In Excelsis Deo," Presidential aide Toby becomes involved in planning a formal military funeral for a homeless veteran who's found dead on the street with Toby's card in his coat. The final scene, with its 10-gun salute and audio overlay of "The Little Drummer Boy," made most of my friends cry, and then call me to tell me I *have* to start watching this show. *The West Wing* fan-created website declares, "If this final scene doesn't make you tear up, you're simply not an American."

Recent portrayals, in addition to being more prominent, have also been more nuanced: with Mr. Bo and Sally Field's characters particularly, we get to see all the aspects of complex characters. My friend Pat, who watches the same shows, said, "They are increasingly showing delight in the eccentricities of people we love."

And we have gotten to see context—family relationships, sometimes heartbreakingly estranged, sometimes oddly close. We get to see homeless and mentally ill characters acting ridiculously, lovingly protective of their children. All these characteristics are closer to the people we know and love.

But TV is a mixed, insidious enemy. These shows still tiptoe around, or sometimes come crashing over the edge of stereotype. They don't have to. If we're sophisticated enough to navigate personal relationships in our lives and our work, surely we're sophisticated enough not to need stereotype to make us outraged about or empathetic to homeless people. ■



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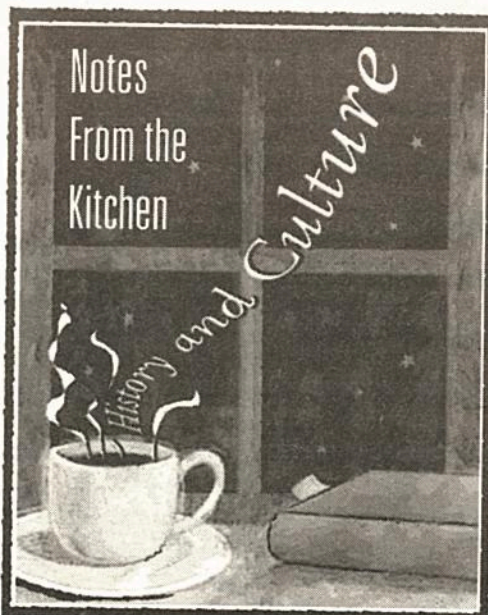
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# A Mother's Day Tale



By Liz Smith

The second Sunday of this month is Mother's Day. It's an agreeable custom to set aside one day to honor one's mother, but it's not enough. Our country would disintegrate if not for the self-sacrificing and unrewarded efforts of its mothers. In my imagination I see, in every neighborhood, a Mother's Park. In every park there would be a statue of a woman, titled "The Unappreciated Mom." It would have a staff of attendants who would lead the children off, while others bring coffee and cakes, pat the moms on the back, and murmur fortifying statements. "Why, everybody gives their children Spaghetti-Os for dinner!" they would say. Or, "Most people change their sheets every six months! No, you're not the only one! You're doing a good job!" After an hour or two (during which time the kids would be fed, washed, and given a guilt-inducing lecture), the mom would be sent home, mentally refreshed and feeling better about life in general.

My own mother could have used a place like that.

She raised three kids, kept a beautiful home, grew flowers, sang to us, cooked dinner every night, and was a good wife to our dad. She never got to go to college or be the opera singer she wanted to be. She only got to have a Ph.T. — that's a "Putting Hubby Through." She supported him while he was getting his degree in Architectural Engineering. Dad never changed a diaper. That's the way things were. As we were growing up, mother did all the drudgery, while my father designed buildings and traveled. And every year for Mother's Day, we would ride our bikes to the Skillern's Drug Store and buy glamorous exciting gifts for her. "Oh look," she would exhale. "Another set of salt and pepper shakers."

Well, one year my enterprising 9-year-old brother Brien decided he would get her something extra special for Mother's Day. Something she really wanted — a new refrigerator. All on his own, he sneaked into our dad's wallet the night before and extracted his Sears charge card. The next morning, he excused himself from the table and made his surreptitious phone call to the catalog ordering center. Then he came back and finished his cereal. Our mother shooed us out the door for school and she then left for work.

Brien and my sister, Marilyn, were waiting for me that afternoon. "Hey, don't eat all the cookies or we'll get in trouble," I warned. My brother took a sip of milk. "We won't get in trouble today. Mom's getting a refrigerator. I bought it for her," and he grinned, as we became co-conspirators. We were going to make our mother and ourselves happy, something we rarely did.

We got busy, scampering like little mice in a midnight kitchen, now looking out the window, now emptying our old icebox. We were noble Peace Corps mice, joining together in solidarity to make our mom feel special. My brother saw the Sears truck, and dashed out to show the burly delivery guys the way to our kitchen. One guy wheeled our discard out to the garage and the other uncrated the beautiful new refrigerator. "Mama is going to be so happy," we said to each other, giggling. My brother plugged in the cord and it began to purr. We put our old food into our pristine treasure. The guys left, saying goodbye to a household of manic children. It must have been puzzling to them: Where were the grownups?

We were waiting for them. At last we saw our parents out the window, home from work. They were surprised — in shock, even. "We got you a refrigerator for Mother's Day!" Kisses all around from our beaming mother. Silence from our father (it was his charge card and his nickel). Then he spoke. "It'll have to go back," quite sternly. He called Sears to ask why they had sold his 9-year-old son a refrigerator and to come fetch it back. Usually he did not use such coarse, vulgar language. My brother got his share of an unpleasant lecture, but as he did the right thing for the wrong reason, it was considerably milder than the blistering speech administered into our telephone.

Eventually our mother got the refrigerator she so longed for, but as you might guess, that particular Mother's Day was not very fun for her. A woman nowadays wouldn't put up with that kind of mean-spirited stinginess, but that was the way things were back then.

Here is a delicious recipe to make for a Mother's Day brunch that our mom used to make when we complained about the horrible fried eggs.

## June O'Brien's French Toast

- 4 eggs
- 4 egg yolks
- big pinch of salt
- butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla, almond, or orange extract
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 8 slices of bread — white or raisin

1. Mix liquid ingredients, plus salt and cinnamon. Lay out bread on a tray and pour egg mixture over.
2. Cook on low heat in a well-buttered pan to cook thoroughly and develop a crispy exterior. Keep cooked French toast in a 150 degree oven until all are done.
3. Serve with maple syrup, honey, or jelly. ■



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For more information, call Jan Munger at 206-956-9472



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**Wednesday, April 11, 11:31 p.m., Volunteer Park.** When an officer responded to a 911 call, he found a homeless 21-year-old white male waiting for him by the phone. The man had called the police from the same phone two weeks earlier to say he was feeling suicidal. He explained to the officer that his grandmother had kicked him out of the house after a big fight; he had recently moved back in, but they had fought again, and he left. He then moved in with his boyfriend, but had argued with him and his mother, and had left there. Finally today he had an argument with his boss, and was feeling overwhelmed. He asked to be taken to Harborview so he could talk to someone. One of the Crisis Intervention Unit staff at Harborview recognized the homeless man, and told the officer that she believed he was "abusing the system" by checking himself into Harborview "every time he gets hungry or tired of being on the streets."

**Thursday, April 12, 3:44 p.m., 400 block of Broadway Avenue.** An officer on routine patrol noticed a parked truck, which appeared to have one man in the driver's seat, and two men standing in the road talking to him. All three men appeared disheveled, as though they were homeless. The officer observed the two men get into the back seat of the truck, and sit there for a few minutes. He drove closer to the truck to get a better look at the driver, and noticed that his eyes were droopy and bloodshot, as though he may have been intoxicated. The truck began to move, and the officer stopped them. He began to question the driver, and noted that his speech was slightly slurred. After obtaining IDs from the men, the officer found that the driver of the truck, a 26-year-old homeless man, had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant from Lynnwood. The two other men were released, and the driver was taken in for questioning. He explained that the warrant was for his twin brother [a police spokesman says suspects sometimes pose as their sibling in order to avoid warrants]. Police checked and found that the man did indeed have a twin. Unable to determine which of the twins had the outstanding warrant, the man was released.

**Thursday, April 12, 11:45 p.m., Operation Nightwatch at 14th Avenue NW.** A 20-year-old black homeless male entered Operation Nightwatch looking for shelter. He told several of the other men sleeping there that he was considering jumping from a bridge. An officer contacted the man, who said he would like to go to the hospital to talk to someone. He was transported to Harborview for a medical evaluation. ■

*Streetwatch is compiled from Seattle Police Department incident reports by Emma Quinn. Do you have your own story to tell? Call Real Change, (206)441-8143, and we'll get the scoop.*

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**Alternative News and Views weekdays at 6-7pm**

Pacifica Network News, Counterspin, Making Contact, Common Ground and Free Speech Radio News.

**BBC Overnight News 3-6 am**

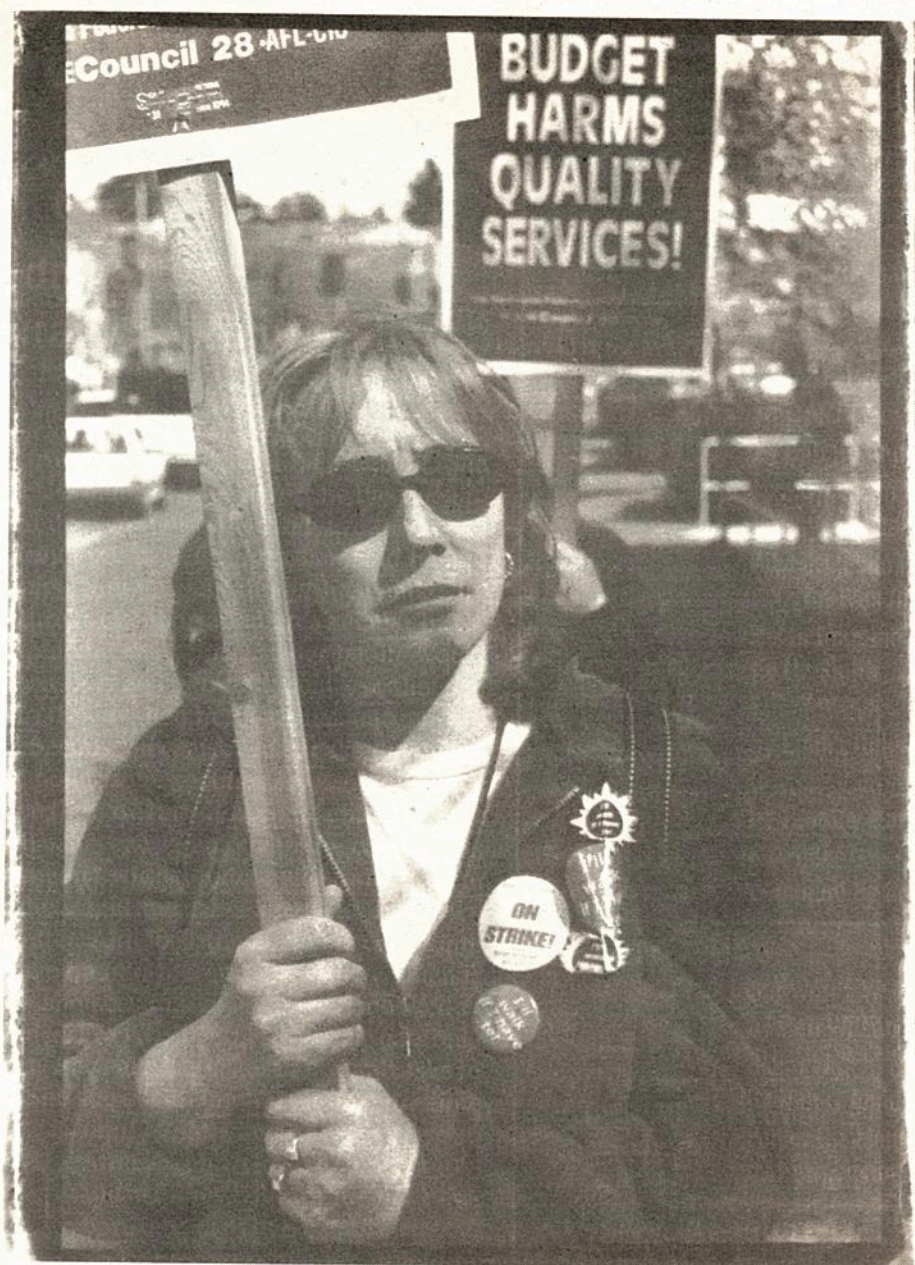
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STRIKING STATE WORKER BECKA ASHBY. PHOTO BY MIKE HAMRICK.

## STRIKE Continued from Page 5

can't share the wealth."

Dee Hilton, another supervisor said, "We start out a \$10.50 an hour. The social workers can almost qualify for food stamps."

The average state worker makes \$39,600 a year — that's well above the Seattle-area median income. Until a few years ago these same employees paid nothing for health-care coverage, but

now pay \$28 a month for health care. A switchboard operator at Western State Hospital pays \$70 a month for herself and four children.

With the House and Senate divided over the pay issue, it may take the rest of the special session for a compromise to be reached. Although AFSCME Union president Duwane Huffaker was quoted as saying, "We have not yet begun to fight," let's hope compromise is also in his vocabulary. ■

## Follow the Money

The *Seattle Times* recently reported that state salaries trail private-sector pay in a host of occupations, from accountant to nurse, and that a social worker's average annual salary is about \$9,000 less than what the private sector pays. But here's what I know: I have worked for the city for two and a half years with no benefits, and I recently applied for Basic Health and found I will have to pay \$70 a month, just for myself. Do these people really have reason to complain?

On one of the very few occasions I have had to enter a DSHS office, I watched one of these purportedly overworked individuals behind the counter for a while who had "doing nothing" down to an art; I never did see her do anything resembling work. She slowly dragged herself first to one end of the counter where she found something on the wall to stare at for a very long time; then, being very careful not to make any eye contact with the atrophying hordes in the waiting room, she ambled back the other way again and, picking up a pen, she examined it as if it were a tiny alien that she was thinking about eating. This carefully executed dance-of-the-dead went on for 25 mind-numbing minutes, when suddenly my heart and nerve-endings exploded, throwing me out of my chair as my accompanying friend's name was screamed over a high-voltage microphone. Trembling, I picked myself up off the dirty floor and got out of there. For as long as I can remember, the work habits of low-level state employees have been a subject of eye-rolling, snickering debate. ■

—Pati Wilson

## CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

Classics Corner recently reached new heights of pretension when we decided to compose an epic trilogy based upon the *Oresteia*, the Aeschylean masterpiece that rhymes with wouldn't wanna be ya. As you no doubt recall, we noted that one person's senseless slaughter is another's moral triumph, and that we all think we're pretty damned smart until fate slaps us upside the head.

As *Agamemnon* draws to a close, the king is dead, Clytemnestra is secure in her power, Aegisthus thinks he's the cat's meow, and the people of Argos are less than loyal to their new leadership. They await the return of Orestes, the prince who will avenge Agamemnon and restore justice to their fair city.

In act two, known as *The Libation Bearers*, the people now murmur only in private. As Aeschylus puts it, "They are afraid. Success, they bow to success, more god than god himself." It's been several years since Agamemnon was murdered, and Clytemnestra and Aegisthus have defined right and wrong in the self-serving way that those in power often do.

But there's trouble in paradise. The ruling couple has children who want to see them dead. Worse, their servants agree. The Queen has not been sleeping well. She sends offerings to the grave of Agamemnon, but the plan misfires. Her daughter Electra runs into Orestes at the tomb and prays for bloody revenge.

**"Success, they bow to success, more god than god himself."**

### Aeschylus' Libation Bearers

As Menelaus tells the story in *The Odyssey*, Orestes is simply the loyal son who avenges his father's wrongful death, but in the hands of Aeschylus, Orestes becomes much more. He is the revolutionary hero who must "suffer into truth." Justice is no easy matter of right and wrong. It is an existential ordeal of being and becoming. Right conflicts with right and nothing is simple. Orestes must kill his mother to avenge his father. This is less than an ideal situation, but

"the rough work of the world" seldom is. Hard choices must be made, and these choices define who we are.

Orestes poses as a traveler with news of his own death, and prevails upon the royal family for hospitality. The servants join in the plot. Everyone but the king and queen seem to know what's going on. Too much power, it seems, has made them a little slow. The unheroic Aegisthus is easily dispatched. Clytemnestra, however, is another matter.

Agamemnon, she reminds Orestes, killed her daughter. He abandoned her for 10 years while he plundered Troy, and then had the poor taste to come home with another woman. He was a no good bastard who deserved to die. Besides, she says, "I gave you life."

These are all good points, and Orestes wavers, but his friend Pylades reminds him that Apollo has taken sides. He has just one line in the entire play, but it's a good one: "Make all mankind your enemy, not the gods." Clytemnestra is killed, but her avenging Furies waste no time. Orestes descends into madness.

As the chorus says, "No man can go through life and reach the end unharmed. Aye, trouble is now, and trouble is still to come." Join us next time for *Trouble*, Part III. ■

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# May Notables

Friday, 5/4

**Fair Trade Changes Lives:** Two videos about fair trade coffee, *Santiago's Story* and *The Strength of the Indigenous People of Mut Vitz*, and a presentation by the Seattle Sustainable Coffee Campaign, info Independent Media Center 206-262-0721, or <http://www.songbird.org>.

Saturday, 5/5

**"From Violence to Wholeness: the Creative Power of Nonviolence,"** with Ken Butigan, Ph.D., and Genevieve Hicks, a workshop in active nonviolence. Sponsored by Still Point Center for Spirituality and the Washington Association of Churches, sliding scale, pre-registration required, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., info Michael Ramos 206-625-9790, ext. 12.

**Green Party of South King County Membership Meeting,** all welcome; 3-5 p.m. at Kent Regional Library, Meeting Room, 212 Second Avenue N., Kent, info <http://communities.msn.com/GreenPartyofSouthKingCounty> or 253-941-9364.

Sunday, 5/6

**Tear Down the Walls: A May Day celebration** for political prisoners, afternoon of music,

poetry, and dramatic readings from prison writings, sponsored by Radical Women and Freedom Socialist Party, 2:30 p.m. at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Avenue S., \$2 door donation, \$9.95 seafood pasta bar at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 5/8

**The Campaign 5000/African American Community Endowment Fund** invites you work on its **Walk-A-Thon 2000**, we need team captains, jazz bands, food, arts and craft vendors, sponsors, donations, and any other ways of help you would like to provide, sponsored by Black Dollar Days Task Force, 6:30 p.m., at New Hope Church, 124-21st Avenue, info and pledge forms 206-684-1744 or 206-324-3114.

Saturday, 5/12

**Welfare Rights Organization Coalition (WROC) 4th Annual Mother's Day Auction,** "Weeding out poverty, blooming healthy families." Bring the whole family for dining, drinking, live R&B music, and fun Silent and Live Auctions. All auction sales will benefit WROC's work to move families not just off welfare, but out of poverty. 6 - 9 p.m. at Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave at Broad St in Belltown. Tickets \$30, kids under 12 free. Reser-

vations and info Alex at WROC 206-324-3063 or [wroc@earthlink.net](mailto:wroc@earthlink.net)

**International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)** celebrates and supports migratory bird conservation, this year IMBD will focus on shade-grown coffee, with events in Tukwila, Seattle, and Kirkland, info <http://www.BirdDay.org>

Sunday, 5/13

**WHEEL/Boomtown's free Mother's Day brunch** for women and children, 9 a.m. to noon at Boomtown Cafe, 513 3rd Avenue, volunteers needed, 956-0334.

Monday, 5/14

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

Tuesday, 5/15

**Civil Society in Everyday Life Breakfast**, no charge, this and subsequent 3rd Tuesdays, 8 - 9:30 a.m., at 1891 Room, Bellarmine Residence Hall, Seattle University, immediately south of the new law school building on 12th Avenue & Columbia, participants invited to come early and bring breakfast, info Put Barber 206 329-5640 or [pbarber@tess.org](mailto:pbarber@tess.org)

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

Ongoing Wednesdays

**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/>

Ongoing Thursdays

**Deface the Nation**, TV show with host Jeff Pearson, an alternate view on corporate media, along with environmental information. Hot topic of the week usually covers the main corporate headline, dissected as it is ... not how the

corporations would like us to think it is, 11 p.m., channel 29, info [defacenation@hotmail.com](mailto:defacenation@hotmail.com)

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 - 1:00 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 and every Sunday, noon - 4 p.m., cook, call for location, 5:30 p.m. share dinner at Occidental Park, for info see above.

Ongoing Daily

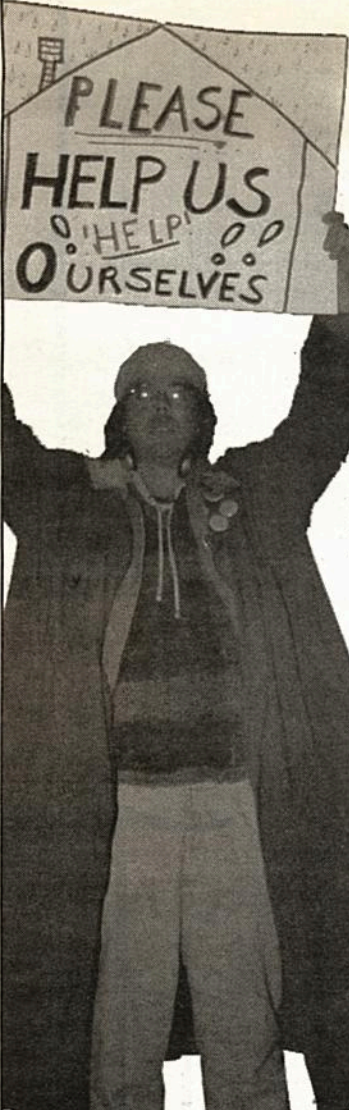
**Free HIV Testing** for people ages 14-24, using the Orasure method (no blood), Mondays 6 - 7 p.m., Tuesdays 5 - 8 p.m., Thursdays 7 - 8:30 p.m., Saturdays 6 - 8 p.m., and Sundays (by appointment only) 3 - 5:30 p.m. at Lambert House, for Sunday testing leave a message at 206-322-2515 ext. 30 with time, anonymous, info Becca Hutcheson 206-322-2515 ext. 13.

**Free Earthquake Preparedness training course**, "Surviving an Earthquake," can be accessed at <http://www.regionxoti.org> by clicking on the course icon.

**FareStart** assists people who are homeless through training in life skills, food service, and the culinary arts, and runs their own restaurant, lunch daily and dinner on Thursdays only, with guest chefs. A three- or four-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 log on to <http://www.farestart.org> to make a donation.

**Aradia Women's Health Center**, the Northwest's pioneer feminist women's health center, has openings available for Community Outreach volunteers! Come speak about feminist health care while staffing our information table at events like International Women's Day 2001 and many others! Call Amie Newman, 323-9467 or [aradiadev@juno.com](mailto:aradiadev@juno.com). ■

## Do Something!



**First things First** is the organizing project of *Real Change* that works to preserve low-income housing and put a roof over every bed. **You can help by pledging to take action when First things First alerts you to critical decisions affecting the poor and homeless.** When you join our action alert list we will contact you by your preferred method when your voice needs to be heard. **You will not get a lot of junk mail. You will be part of creating real change for the poor and homeless.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Real Change  
2129 2nd Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98121.  
Call (206) 441-3247 for more info.



## Give us your huddled computer masses!

Is your business looking to upgrade your Macintosh computers? Then *Real Change* could be the perfect place to donate your old machines. The Mac Workshop is looking for Power Macs and better to use for a new program teaching people how to refurbish computers. All donations are tax deductible.

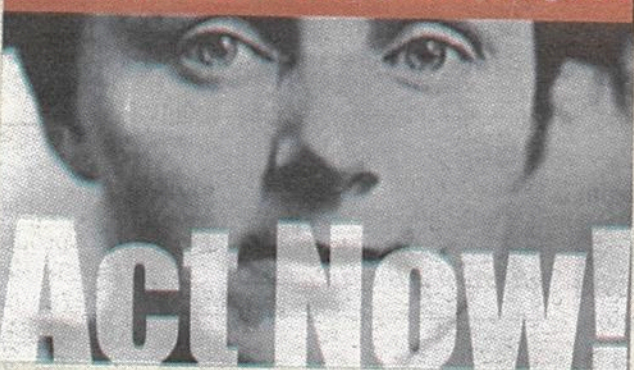
### Use your computer skills to help others!

The Mac Workshop is also looking for volunteer instructors to double the number of classes for teaching people Mac basics.

**If you're interested in either opportunity, call Real Change at 206-441-3247 and ask for Matt**



citizens participation project



## Tell Your Senator: Keep the Estate Tax

**Issue:** Get your Senators to resist following the House and supporting the phaseout of the estate tax, which will only benefit the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans.

**Background:** Last month, HR 8, the Death Tax Elimination Act, passed the House by 274 to 154. In 2012, when the tax is fully repealed, the Joint Tax Committee estimates that more than \$662 billion will be lost in tax revenue, and is likely to have a direct effect on social spending.

The repeal of the estate tax, called the "death tax" by some Republicans, would provide a cash windfall to descendants of the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans with estates valued over \$675,000. Under current law, estates worth less than \$675,000 — or \$1,000,000 by 2003 — are exempt from the tax. Likewise, the appreciated value of some stock, property, and other holdings is not taxed if passed on to heirs and therefore may escape taxation altogether.

The repeal of the estate tax would provide 46 percent of the overall tax benefit to the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, while costing the federal government more than \$662 billion over 10 years. Individual states with similar taxes would also lose tax revenue. The repeal would also decrease charitable giving. Many wealthy Americans avoid estate taxes by setting up private foundations and leaving charitable bequests. The repeal of the estate tax would have considerable effect on charities, including social service agencies and religious organizations that help low-income Americans. Grants to nonprofits through private foundations will be severely reduced.

**Action:** The Senate will take up the estate tax bill in the coming weeks. Contact and write your senators, urging them to oppose efforts to repeal this progressive tax because it benefits the wealthiest Americans and will severely undercut charitable giving and government spending on social services for the poor.

The following is a sample letter:

Dear Senator:

We urge Congress not to repeal the estate tax. The estate tax is an integral part of our overall tax system. It is an important source of federal and state revenue. It is an incentive for charitable giving.

Repeal of the estate tax will cut federal revenue by an estimated \$294 billion over the next ten years. Once fully repealed, the loss of revenue would be more than \$60 billion a year, far in excess of most discretionary programs serving low-income and vulnerable individuals.

Since property or money left to a charitable organization is entirely exempt from the estate tax, it acts as a powerful incentive for charitable giving. According to the Treasury Department, repeal will reduce charitable bequests by \$5 to \$6 billion a year. Other estimates range from a decline of 12 percent to almost 80 percent.

Send the letter to each of the two Washington state Senators:

Senator Patty Murray  
2988 Jackson Federal Building  
915 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98174-1001  
(206) 553-5545  
senator\_murray@murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell  
512 Jackson Federal Building  
915 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98174-1001  
(206) 220-6400  
maria@cantwell.senate.gov

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