

October 4-17, 2001

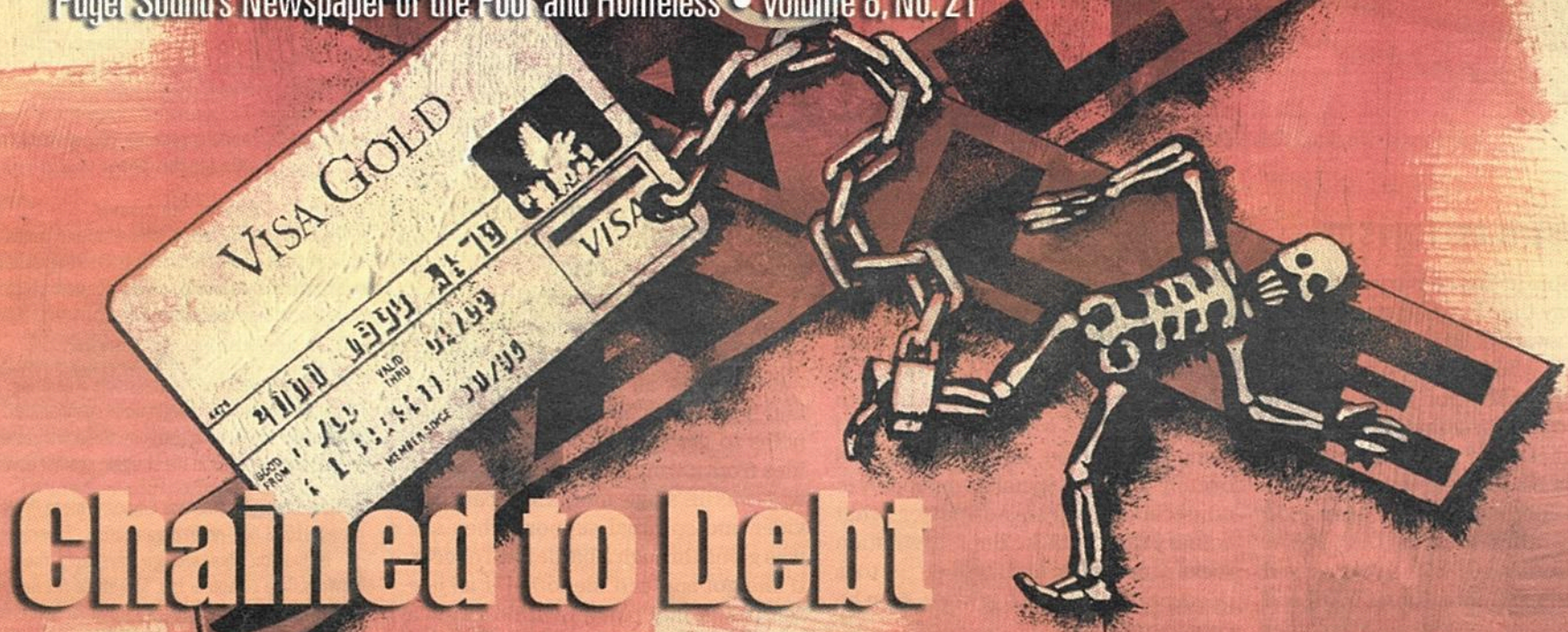
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Real Change

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Chained to Debt

Inside: Tent City Wins in Court • Roaming in Canada • Barbara Ehrenreich • The 10 Plagues of Paul Schell • Urban Rest Stop

COVER BY DANIJEL ZEZEJ.

Robert D. Manning knows the real cost of borrowing beyond our means

By Silja J.A. Talvi

Once the privileged possession of the credit-worthy and the employed, credit cards now jut out of the wallets of unemployed college students and Social Security-dependent elderly people.

No fewer than 158 million Americans now own 1.5 billion shiny pieces of embossed plastic, ranging from retail cards to gasoline cards. U.S. consumer debt is now an astonishing \$6.5 trillion, surpassing the federal debt of \$5.8 trillion, which itself tops the nation's total corporate debt of \$4.3 trillion.

But where is the stability in an economy that revolves around the acquisition of debt? And have we become so dependent on credit cards that we no longer see our national addiction to debt for what it is?

Credit cards have become the currency of our culture, argues Robert D. Manning, author of *Credit Card Nation: The Consequences of America's Addiction to Credit* (Basic Books, 2000). They help us acquire the things we might not otherwise afford, mask our financial woes, and sink us further and further into the enveloping pit of debt.

Professor Manning, who is the Caroline Werner Gannett Professor of the Humanities at the Rochester Institute of Technology, took *Real Change* on a tour of our Credit Card Nation.

"Before, you were getting credit only if you had proved yourself worthy by having a good credit history or by having a job... now the industry has allowed people to get credit without ever having a job."

—Robert Manning

Real Change: Why did you write *Credit Card Nation*?

Robert Manning: I think there's growing national and public sentiment that the [credit card/banking] industry is out of control, and I was hoping that this book would provide some guidance on why [people] should be angry and why they should be afraid.

[All of this is] happening so fast, and the [credit card] industry has presented it in a very individualistic manner. They have been pretty successful in making sure people don't see the larger picture. The whole moral underpinning of the dramatic increase in consumer credit is that it's an individual decision and individual cost, and if you pay, you play.

RC: You explain throughout your book that the transformation of America's Puritan ideal of thrift and savings toward an attitude that embraces the regular use of credit was one of the most important "cultural revolutions" of the postwar era. What factors contributed to this transformation?

Manning: The double-digit rate of inflation during the Carter administration made it economically rational to be in debt.... [A]s wages stagnated and started to fall in the late '70s, being in

debt to pay off your washing machine or your car was financially feasible.

At the same time, this is when the banks finally got deregulation, and they were not prepared for it. That's when they got clobbered by their third-world loans, their bad real estate investments, and the recession of 1981-82. It was kind of like a purging. It was a shakeout period. That's when banks realized that retail [financial] services would work, although in the past they were looked down upon.

That's where the confluence really hit: low wages, high inflation, banks desperate for new markets, and people willing to pay unprecedented high interest rates for credit cards.

Banks then shifted their resources into marketing, going after displaced middle and working class people... instead of approving only customers who will repay their loans, they now see that their prime market [is in] customers who cannot repay their loans. That's this whole, fundamental shift from installment loans to revolving credit, where the real money is in finding people who will never repay.

Continued on Page 14



Domestic terrorism

Many people in this country are changing the way they live because they are suddenly aware of how vulnerable they are. People who have been raped have been aware of that for years. Before I was raped the first time, I trusted everyone I met. I assumed the best in all the people I met, because in my rather sheltered upbringing people were good and trustworthy.

I was born in 1943. My father served in the National Guard during WWII and was home while I was small. My mother owned her own beauty shop, but gave it up to become a stay-at-home mom when she became pregnant with me. I had a pretty good childhood, and all of my sexual encounters were consensual

until I had three horrific experiences within a year and a half when I was about thirty. I changed forever. The core of my being had been violated in a way that could not be repaired.

To me terrorism is the rape of the soul of a society. I watched, helpless, on September 11, when billions of people worldwide experienced that same irrevocable sense of permanent violation. The entire global society was affected that day. But if we break our own laws in hunting down the perpetrators, we risk becoming terrorists ourselves. I know we must take some action, but each choice I hear and see discussed is disastrous to the hungry citizens over there, and puts us at risk of retaliation.

I am not sure what choices I would make if it were my responsibility to do so. I'm glad that weight is not on my shoulders. I would probably put out a mob hit on the guy with a huge cash bonus if he were brought in alive. It is better to make an example than to make a martyr. I would also try to find some way to feed, house, clothe, and occupy the disenfranchised peoples in constructive ways, no matter what country they were in. But that solution reeks of socialism and steps on the toes of corporate greed, so it won't even be considered now.

I do what I can. I write poems. I weave spells. I go to rallies. I cry. But mostly I try to be brave and carry on. That's how I continued to have a life worth living after being raped. By

choosing to live with as little fear as possible, I will do my part to remain as untortured as I can. It is a challenge.

Reneene Robertson

It's a party, you're invited

Gracious People, What's up with Anitra Freeman?

I've missed a couple of issues and was a bit upset by her "8/15 Poem" (RC Aug. 23). Is it an announcement of her expected demise? A Death Poem, preparatory to self-induced decesement? Or a meditation, as I have sometimes done, on When I Am Gone? Shall I send a card of condolence to somebody? Or should I organize balloons, cake, and paper hats for a full-blown Pity Party?

Regarding the blues, Girl, I have been there — I'm a clinical depression person myself, that means lots of lows but no highs, all glum with no fun — and sometimes, along with the Rx, it helps to get silly. I got the Pity Party idea from a wonderful pre-teenage boy who was his single mom's sole care provider and spiritual support when she was going through a battle with cancer. If she got sad and identified it as just self-pity, a pity party, then he threw a party — see cake, etc., above.

Let me know: Cake, etc., or bubble bath, or what?

Sincerely,
Janis Harrison

Ed. Replies: Contrary to the somber tone of Anitra Freeman's poem, rumors of her imminent demise are greatly exaggerated. However, this has never and will never stop Ms. Freeman from accepting any and all forms of gifts, especially cakes and bubble baths. She graciously awaits your generous offer, and hopes you can join her for the fun. ■

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Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless

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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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Go Keynesian

A proper response to the terrorists' recession

By Adam Holdorf

"It's our generation's Pearl Harbor."

That was one of the first phrases emanating from my clock radio on the morning of September 11. It's a reference that conjures up images from this summer's quasi-blockbuster movie about the attack. Then there are the dewy-eyed histories: Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, applauds those men and women who "persevered through war, and were trained by it, and then went on to create interesting and useful lives and the America we have today."

The Pearl Harbor analogy is useful for rallying people round the flag. It suggests that a new generation must answer its grandparents' legacy. It suggests war is inevitable. And it smells like team spirit — the spear-pounding patriotism that the media has refracted daily since the attack.

But the analogy makes sense on an economic level. This country's entry into World War II brought the long-awaited recovery from the Great Depression. The terrorist attacks plunged the U.S. economy resolutely into recession; the right response from Washington can bring us out again. What we need now is a recovery plan.

But many of President Bush's proposals are ineffective, if not downright dangerous.

Bush wants to give capital gains tax cuts to the wealthy individuals and businesses next in line after this summer's income tax relief. That move will eventually cost the federal government \$1.3 trillion dollars, erasing the nation's budget surplus.

We could reinvigorate the economy by meeting a host of human needs.

He may get it, too. This spring, as the economy continued to slow, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by half and consumer spending failed to prop up growth. Yet Democrats howled that further cuts would erode

the inviolable Social Security fund. That dissent disappeared with the World Trade Center towers.

The recovery package outlined so far by the White House is mostly a reconstruction bill, a financial bailout to the airline industry (after its long record of slipshod security), and a promise of stronger locks on the doors to airplane cockpits. We can do better than that. We need to go Keynesian.

As Congress and the President prepared to meet and discuss such moves October 2, the Economic Policy Institute (<http://www.epinet.org>) was promoting its own ideas. Here are some of them:

- **Soften the blow to the workforce.** Unemployment benefits keep laid-off workers stabilized while they search for new jobs. State governments should give the unemployed a raise by paying about 50 percent of lost wages, and extending the payment period.
- **Reinvest in transportation.** Rebuild rail systems not only in lower Manhattan, but throughout the country, to provide viable alternatives to flying.
- **Ensure domestic security.** We could reinvigorate the economy by meeting a host of human needs — basic necessities that would give thousands of Americans the time or the peace of mind to work, or go to school, or care for their children. Things like...
- **A tax rebate to low-income workers.** Working people who didn't earn enough to pay income taxes were bypassed by this summer's tax relief; give them a hand, too, in the form of a Social Security tax rebate.
- **Health care, child care, and education** for low-income families. As the clock ticks down on welfare, other non-cash benefit programs, like food stamps, should be enhanced.
- **Access to Housing.** The government should expand the Section 8 voucher program and other housing subsidies, with the goal of quenching the unmet need.

All of this takes an enormous amount of deficit spending — more than \$100 billion dollars a year to make a dent in our \$10 trillion economy. If it looks a little like a massive public-works project, it is. It's the sort of move Franklin D. Roosevelt used to lift the U.S. toward a recovery from the Depression. In the face of a comparatively mild recession, it should do the trick.

And quite possibly, it could achieve similar ends. In the '30s, the federal Works Progress Administration did some of this country's greatest deeds — carved Mt. Rushmore, laid the Columbia River Gorge road, transcribed the recollections of elderly ex-slaves. For the first time in American history, they enjoyed unemployment insurance, Social Security. They made the world safe for the GI Bill. These are the achievements that no private investor sponsors. That's the kind of work that would honor our dead. And that is the legacy of a great generation. ■

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RC Profile
Anybody who shops regularly at the Pike Place Market has probably seen Corine Porch selling *Real Change* on the corner of Stewart and Pike Place. She's been selling down there for almost a year, and absolutely loves the atmosphere. "The kindness and the generosity I see every day makes me appreciate all the people in the Pike Place Market for allowing me to be a part of the Market," she says in her delightful drawl.

Corine moved from Texas to Seattle 33 years ago, looking for a better life and better-paying jobs. Her parents instilled honesty and hard work in her at a very early age; she was picking cotton by the age of 2. Now she lives in a group home for homeless women and, when she's not out selling *Real Change*, loves to take walks and enjoy nature. She loves the "flowers and the trees and the grass.... I cannot look at one blade of grass blowing in the wind without being thankful for everything I've got in my life." ■

— Shawn Steen

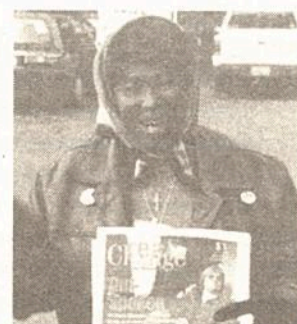


PHOTO COURTESY OF CORINE PORCH.

Tent City: a legal victory

The homeless tent camp that was refused a legal refuge by the City of Seattle has won out in court. The ruling sets a precedent for future property owners who want to host a temporary tent city.

On September 25, Judge Thomas J. Majhan, a Jefferson County Superior Court judge working temporarily in the King County court system, reversed the city's denial of a land use permit that would have granted the camp a right to stay at a Beacon Hill parking lot for six months.

The judge's ruling acknowledged that "tent cities can serve a useful purpose when there's not an alternative," says attorney Ted Hunter, of the law firm Driscoll and Hunter, who led four pro-bono lawyers and volunteer law students in making Tent City's case.

Hunter calls it a "strong message... you've got to have evidence for denying [the permit]."

In January, the city Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use (DCLU) turned down an application for a temporary use permit from SHARE/WHEEL and El Centro de la Raza, the non-profit Latino community center on Beacon Hill. El Centro had been hosting SHARE/WHEEL's 100-person Tent City, dubbed Tent Village, since July 2000. In its denial, DCLU said the sight of a temporary tent camp in a single-family neighborhood would be "materially detrimental to the public welfare," torpedoing property values and arousing fears of homeless people. Plus, said DCLU, the tent camp does not fit within the "spirit and purpose of the land use code." This spring, the city hearing examiner upheld DCLU's conclusion.

Judge Majhan found two problems with these arguments: First, the city had no evidence that Tent Village was damaging the public welfare or property values; second, DCLU and the Hearing Examiner made an "error of law" (i.e., they misinterpreted it) when they said Tent Village must meet the "spirit and purpose" of the land use code. With that, he ruled that the city's decision should be reversed.

The larger implication here is that private property owners can host a homeless camp without fear, says Hunter.

"This is about trying to do the right thing and being told you can't by government. It's not like Tent City is the solution, but [DCLU's decision] was almost as if the city was saying it's better to stay in the doorways." ■

— Adam Holdorf

Security vs. liberty

The Bill of Rights has often been counted among the intangible casualties in times of crisis and potential war. In the wake of the events of September 11, dozens of draconian new federal laws and revisions to existing laws — including wire-tapping authority, electronic eavesdropping, and the arrest and detention of criminal suspects — have been proposed.

It was in this atmosphere that a two-hour panel discussion on national security vs. civil liberties was held at Seattle Central Community College on September 26.

Among the four panel members who addressed the audience of about 200 people was Washington State Supreme Court Justice Faith Ireland. Justice Ireland said she was speaking on these matters out of her concern over the reports of hundreds of vigilante-style attacks being carried out against people who are Arab and/or Muslim, or might "look" like they are Arab and/or Muslim. She announced the recent release of an unprecedented resolution by Washington's Board for Judicial Administration, reaffirming the state judiciary's commitment to respecting due process of law and against the targeting or harming of others on the basis of ethnicity. Ireland also reminded the audience to report any hate crimes to local police and that these kinds of crimes will be vigorously prosecuted by King County. The county had already filed charges in three cases believed to be hate crimes perpetrated in the response to the events of September 11.

Joining the four panelists for the question and answer session was Rizwan Samad of the Northgate Mosque. Samad estimated that approximately 250 hate crimes had been reported in Washington state since September 11. He related to the audience a story of his car being stolen before September 11. After the attacks, his car was found and he was initially charged a \$175 towing fee to recover it. However, the man working at the towing company immediately increased the towing fee to \$285 once he saw Samad's skin color and perceived him to be of Middle Eastern origin (Samad is actually Pakistani).

Despite all of this, Samad said that he was encouraged by the overwhelming support the majority of Seattle-area residents have expressed for the Muslim community of approximately 50,000 people in the Puget Sound. Samad attended the panel as a replacement for another Northgate Mosque member who, out of fear, bailed out. ■

— Rick Giombetti

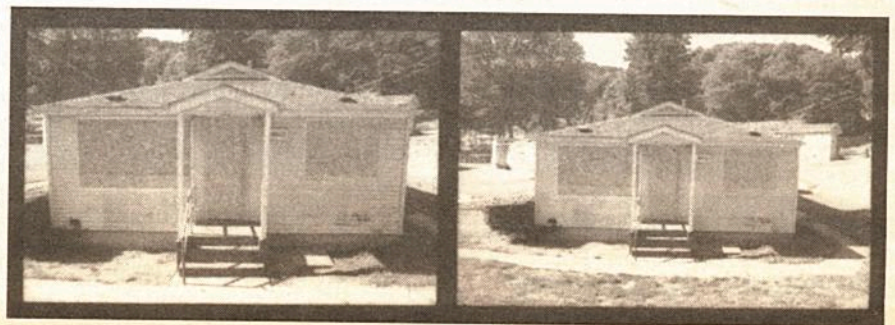


Talking diversity

At a September 26 public hearing, both supporters and opponents of the redevelopment of the Seattle Housing Authority's Rainier Vista found themselves debating not just the viability of the plan, but also the role of public housing itself.

The Seattle Housing Authority intends to use millions in federal HOPE VI funding to tear down the 481 units currently at Rainier Vista and replace them with 1,010 mixed-income units, only 310 of which will be public housing for very low-income residents. The plan has generated opposition not only from the usual housing-advocate suspects, but also from neighbors concerned about the project's density and its impact on both the environment and the character of the Rainier Valley. A proposed memorandum of agreement between the city and SHA would stifle this opposition by fast-tracking the zoning changes necessary for a development of this size.

While the neighborhood group Friends of Rainier Vista (FoRV) waved signs reading "Hopeless VI" and "Keep Diversity in the Valley," employees of Providence Health Systems described the innovative low-income elder housing planned for the new Rainier Vista. Meanwhile, current residents testified to the need to modernize their development: "I didn't expect these kinds of houses in America!" one Southeast-Asian man said. Their homes are old and subject to chronic maintenance problems like leaky roofs, residents said: "They come, they fix, it happens again and again."



OLD HOMES IN RAINIER VISTA ARE SET FOR REDEVELOPMENT. PHOTO BY BEN EVANS.

Allison Green from FoRV emphasized that opposition to the redevelopment did not imply a lack of sympathy with these complaints: "Residents deserve better housing, elders deserve services. They shouldn't be pitted against each other for crumbs."

Attorney Rick Aramburu of FoRV questioned the legality of making an agreement before the development's final environmental impact statement has been issued. "This project is probably the biggest single housing project the City of Seattle will ever see," he said. Its "significant impact on the environment" deserves the "same careful consideration given to much smaller developments."

For others, the issue was one of government responsibility to the very poor.

"The mission of public housing is not to provide housing for people who earn \$40,000 a year," said activist and former City Council aide Matthew Fox. But clearly, this is not a view universally shared.

The new Rainier Vista will certainly be more diverse — if by diverse we mean whiter and more middle-class. But middle-income people need housing too, said Steve Wayne, a real estate agent who's on the sales team for the HOPE VI-funded homes at NewHolly. "We have a crisis of housing supply at all levels of income," he said. "The Council has a responsibility to all levels."

Whether or not it's the role of public housing agencies to build homes for the middle class may be a moot point. According to SHA, it's that or no low-income housing at all.

Near the close of the hearings, Al Levine, SHA's deputy executive director, struck a pragmatic note, characterizing SHA's actions as a response to dwindling federal subsidies: "SHA has done more for low-income housing over the years than anyone. But we need to be financially viable." Everyone's in favor of one-to-one replacement, he said, "but who's paying for it?" If SHA doesn't take advantage of HOPE VI funds to revive its existing public housing, he said, it could end up like the bankrupt housing authorities of New Orleans or D.C., their units boarded up and falling apart. "Direct this to Congress," he said of the opposition in the room.

The City Council Housing Committee will vote on Bill 113811, the Memorandum of Agreement allowing the Seattle Housing Authority to proceed with Rainier Vista, on Wednesday, October 10. If it passes the committee, it will go to the council on Monday, October 15. ■

— Mary Park

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

Outside All Day

Library, city want more homeless facilities

By Trevor Griffey

Are library patrons being scared away from the downtown branch by the presence of homeless people?

Jill Jean, director of the Seattle Public Library's Central branch, thinks it's possible.

"We hear through our branch staff that people don't like to come downtown," says Jean. After working the information desk, she "at times despaired that we were serving [mainly] one type of person — rough-looking guys." She is also concerned that parents may be fearful of bringing children to the central branch. She bases this solely on a neighbor's comment made to her 15 years ago, but the worry has stayed with her.

"There's been an escalation in the last five years of the kind of person we're attracting," she adds. "It seems that there's an increase in the use of the building by people with behavior problems, mental health problems, and drug problems." As a result, library staff has had to handle issues of drug use and drug dealing, sexual lewdness and prostitution, and violence on an increasing basis. "Frankly," says Jean, "my staff isn't trained on that stuff, and we can't always help with people who have bigger issues."

The tension over homeless people's use — and some individuals' misuse — of the library is nothing new.

Revised in 1997, the Library's rules of conduct ban not just behavior that harms others, but the more overt displays of homelessness that partly come

from a lack of shelter and access to hygiene and storage facilities. The rules prohibit "sleeping, exhibiting offensive personal hygiene, or bringing in large bundles or personal possessions."

In 1999, city librarian Deborah Jacobs wrote to City Councilmember Nick Licata, complaining that "many prospective donors are reluctant to give money to support a Central Library that they perceive as a day facility for the homeless." She later acknowledged that she had gotten only one complaint, and

that was from a donor who gave money anyway.

That same year, *Seattle Weekly* columnist Eric Scigliano responded to Jacobs' letter by wondering what a downtown library without homeless people would look like:

"After parks exclusion, bans on sidewalk sitting and aggressive panhandling, and the displacement of downtown's cheap hotels and taverns, will a 'library exclusion ordinance' be the next step?"

The answer, then and now, appears to be no. Instead, the library is becoming one of the city's more outspoken advocates for the need for additional services for homeless people downtown. "This is a city problem," says Jean, "and not just our problem."

According to a recently released report for the city, over 100 homeless people per day use the Central Library, because "demand for drop-in and hygiene services appears to exceed [day centers'] capacity by several hundred people a day."

"After parks exclusion, bans on sidewalk sitting and aggressive panhandling... will a 'library exclusion ordinance' be the next step?"

Seattle Weekly columnist
Eric Scigliano

The library was an advocate for the report, and is now helping to lead the way in reviving a long-dead discussion about building a large day center for homeless and low-income people downtown. Modeled after a similar program in Vancouver, B.C., the multi-faceted day center would ideally serve as many as 1,000 people with hot meals, storage facilities, computer terminals, bathing facilities, library services, and more. The proposal for a similar center was shot down in 1994 for being too costly.

Licata is sponsoring a forum on bringing the Vancouver-style center to Seattle on Thursday, October 18. Publicity materials for the event don't describe library problems, but a library board member will be a panelist and the library went so far as to seek to co-sponsor the event.

Yet as momentum seems to build behind a renewed debate about day centers downtown, Alan Painter, director of the City's Human Services Department, is cautious. While acknowledging the benefits a new day center might have, the problem now, he says, is one of finding the money. Painter cites the current freeze on city department funding, Schell's recent proposal to take money away from reserves earmarked for homeless services [see back page], and the general gloomy views of the economy, as signs that it may not be easy to adequately address the city's overcrowded downtown day centers.

"Do you think it's gotten any cheaper since 1994?" responds Ronni Gilboa, program coordinator for one of downtown's most popular hygiene centers, the Urban Rest Stop. Both the Urban Rest Stop and Boomtown Café, a restaurant serving subsidized meals to

the low-income and homeless, were inspired by the Vancouver-style centers. "My question is: who's paying the cost [of not having one]? If we had a day center downtown that wasn't tied to a particular political or religious theology, how many people could we have assisted out of homelessness?"

Asked whether she thought city funding would materialize for any additional day centers downtown, Jean didn't even acknowledge the possibility: "We've got to look for creative financing. Does it always have to be public dollars?"

She has a point. Downtown Seattle Association president Kate Joncas will be a panelist at the October 18 forum, and could plausibly help secure private funding for

a new center.

Joncas and others in the downtown business community could also help stop the kind of not-in-my-backyard attitude that stalled the Urban Rest Stop for so long. According to Gilboa, "It took 10 years to create the Urban Rest Stop: to publish a study in 1990, to fund, to find a secure site, survive a lawsuit, build it, pass inspection, and open the doors."

Yet even if there's consensus to create a new day center, funding is found, it survives NIMBYism, and is finally built, there's still no certainty that the library will change. And why should it? Homeless people enjoy their solitude and ability to pursue entertainment at the library, just like everyone else.

"Let's be realistic," says Gilboa. "If we open up a day shelter or community center... you're still going to have a variety of people using the library. The library is going to have to cope with that." ■

For more on the Urban Rest Stop, see page 8.

Educational Forum on Day Centers

Thursday, Oct. 18, noon
Plymouth Congregational
Church, Sixth and University

A social worker will speak on
Vancouver's Evelyn Saller
Centre, used by as many as
1,000 people daily.
For more information,
call (206) 782-7486.



**St. Vincent de Paul
Thrift Stores**

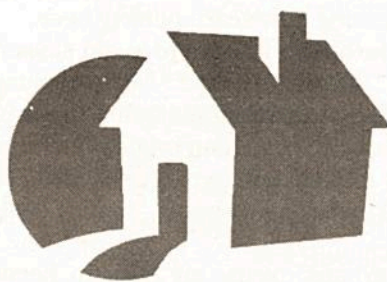
Columbus Day Sale

**Discover what Bargains
We Have in Store for You**

**Monday,
October 8
One Day Only**



• AURORA: 13555 Aurora Ave. N. • WHITE CENTER: 9835 16th Ave. SW
• RENTON: 2825 Sunset Blvd. NE • GEORGETOWN: 5950 4th Ave. S.
• CARNATION: 4501 Tolt Ave. S. • BURIEN: 13445 1st Ave. S.
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**100% of our proceeds support
our charitable work**
Call (206) 767-3835 for hours



PorchLight

**Community Services of the
Seattle Housing Authority**

907 NW Ballard Way, #200, Seattle
(near 8th Avenue NW and Leary Way)
(206) 239-1500

Come in to apply for

- ✓ public housing
 - ✓ senior housing
 - ✓ housing choice vouchers
- ("Section 8" rent subsidy program)**

New hours starting November 1:

Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon

Accessible by the Number 28 bus from downtown.

Lesson

In government school they taught us
we were from India.

My grandfather
told me how Speelyi, the Trickster,
Coyote created
the people from rocky cliffs
along the Columbia River and our story
is imbedded in the stone.
Later I learned they were called
petroglyphs. Our tribe was
born on the Pacific Rim.

Oklahoma wasn't like...
I can't really say or won't
the native people here
they, too, respect their land
it is their home

Our teacher informed us
his great-grandmother
was an Indian princess
and taught us a lesson in Arithmetic.

The school year is almost over
and the bus ride home is
four days. I can taste the salmon
and mountain's huckleberries.
I will purify myself in the Sweat Lodge
and prepare the ceremony.

Sing and pray!
To our "Shook-what," our spirit.

I will remember these lessons.

—EARLE THOMPSON



Marginal Way

Locked up in hungry concrete
muscles wrenched
stomach tight
nervous mind
can't light.

Officer Friendly
of the motorcycle drill corps
is shooting homeless black men.

I lie awake listening to 30 snores
identifying every one
sleep at the airport
where only the black men are rousted
hope for a tent community
not locked down.

—ANITRA L. FREEMAN



Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning

When I think of terror I think of Hitchcock's birds land-
ing on the jungle gym behind what's-her-name, Tippi
Hedren. Terrorism is supposed to invoke terror,
right? As I remember it, it was Mao Tse Tung himself who
once said, "Effective terror is targeted terror which uses fear
to immobilize the enemy. Boy, that Hitchcock bird movie
was scary, wasn't it? Know what else? The bourgeoisie suck."
Not that Mao Tse Tung was into that sort of thing. He was
mostly into American jazz.

So, anyway, here I am, three weeks after September 11,
looking back on it, assessing how scared I have been.

Immediately after the attack I began to avoid skyscrap-
ers. My newest insight: "Skyscrapers bad." No more Sunday
picnics at the top of the Washington Mutual Building, enjoying the bright,
idyllic scenes of falcon chicks as they happily feast upon predigested squab.
By contrast, the Space Needle suddenly looked safe to me for the first time
since 1962. Now I welcome massive 7.0 earthquakes in old "human-scaled"
four-story buildings.

I started freaking out at the sight of turbans, excuse my '60s-ism, because
Osama bin Laden wears a turban according to the only photo anyone seems
to have of him. (What's up with that? It's been three weeks and nobody can
find his high school album?) Of course, as you know, this meant I couldn't
ride cabs. If someone could please find a picture of bin Laden wearing a hom-
burg, that would improve matters a bit. I still wouldn't take cabs though (no
money).

I began running from Stans. I knew Osama bin Laden himself wasn't a
Stan, but he was friends with some Stan. I couldn't be too safe — I had to stay
away from all Stans. Fortunately Stanley isn't a very common name in the
circles I travel in, which consist primarily of communists, former elected of-
ficials, historians, streetwalkers, and circus performers, so that only meant
being afraid of one guy.

I can no longer stand to have airplanes in the house, nor can I pet them. I
used to love airplanes, but now I am afraid that the big ones will turn on me

and bite me, and that the little ones will dump messes on my head.

I am now terrified of box-cutters and razor blades, especially in the hands
of swarthy men. Strangely, I have at the same time lost all my fear of carving
knives, hatchets, bayonets, pistols, grenades, assault rifles, tanks, cruise mis-
siles, tactical nuclear weapons ca-
pable of fitting in a suitcase, and
postal carriers.

Arabic writing, or anything that
looks like Arabic writing, like two
smiley faces next to each other, one
upside-down, or a small flock of
worms escaping a hot sidewalk,
makes me scream like a little girl.

When I watch *The Flintstones*, or
even just think about *The Flintstones*,
I shudder at the very name of Barney
Rubble. CNN has the same effect. Dan
Rather makes the blood drain from
my face and my spine tingle. No
change there.

Worse than being afraid of CNN, I
can't watch disaster movies on the
VCR anymore. No more *Towering Inferno*, *Titanic*, *Earthquake*, *Twister*, *Vol-
cano*, *Dry Spell*, *Bees*, *Andromeda Strain*, *Asteroid-Hits-Earth* (any),
Backdraft, *Updraft*, *Downdraft*, *Independence Day*, *Independence Day* (worth
mentioning twice), or *Waterworld* (not really a disaster flick, but disaster
enough in itself).

OK, I'm ready to admit now that I have been lying throughout this column.
"Irony is dead," indeed. It'll take a lot more than what bin Laden's got to kill
the irony around here. I am not at all as scared as all that.

Still, I suspect that some of the above may describe a lot of Americans. If
so, then my one and only big fear may be realized: that Osama and his obedi-
ent terrorism-fodder have successfully bombed us back to the '50s. ■

I began running from
Stans. I knew Osama
bin Laden himself
wasn't a Stan, but he
was friends with some
Stan. I couldn't be too
safe — I had to stay
away from all Stans.



Why do we sleep outside?

Is it because we have no money for a room?

Is it because we have no homes to call our own?

Is it because we are tired of the implied mores of society?

Is it because we feel the call of wildness that still underlies our Humanity?

Those of us that sleep outside do so because we feel the need to be unconstrained by the rules and regulations of today, for by doing so we can be our selves and not something imposed by another.

Remember that at one time all of the famous artists were at one time homeless and have slept outside away from the impressions of the rich, and the powerful.

We keep in touch with that inside of all of us that is not only the least of us but also brings out the best of us.

For if at some time there is nobody that will sleep outside, and investigate that unknown that lurks beyond the comforting wall of society, or nobody to disrupt the conventions of the Powerful, Then we will have finally lost that which sets us apart from the animals and insects of the world.

— KEVIN VANDERHOEF

Street Singer

This morning on the corner
a man sang through bloody lips
a song of some substance.

Or maybe none at all, drunk
with the rising sun or maddened
by the beating he'd been given.
Smiling through scabs and bruises.

Just standing on the corner
of the street scat singing
to the saxophone traffic,
early morning spectacle
for bus riders looking up
from paperbacks and headlines.

He was so easy to avoid
as I crossed the street, seeing him
without looking, unable
to sing along or share his smile.

—DAVID THORNBRUGH

The Thief

Cancer has stolen my freedom
Too weak now for busses
(I never did learn to drive)
I sit here bored and lonely
Waiting for some company
To take my mind from
The never ending pain
Company comes
But the pain stays anyway
Stealing my attention
From my few remaining joys
Stealing my very thoughts
Trying to steal my remaining days
But I will not give up
I'm filing a citizen's arrest
On the thief
Cancer... you are the weakest link
Good bye

— RENEENE ROBERTSON

CLEAN MACHINE

Business is booming at the Urban Rest Stop

Fifteen minutes is all you get — 20 minutes, max. Then someone's knocking at the door, and you know it's time to go.

But maybe you're spending your nights on a mat in the Municipal Building, and your days in search of work, or Welfare, or medical attention. Those 15 minutes are golden: the only private time you get.

But things at the Denny Triangle hygiene center must continue at a gallop. Dozens of people wait to use the facilities. And the staff work hard to move them through. Early this summer, that precious time got more expensive for the Rest Stop's managers.

Since last year, water and electricity costs for the facility have gone up by 30 to 40 percent. The February 28 earthquake closed another hygiene center for the homeless, the Pioneer Square Lutheran Compass Center. That's troubling Ronni Gilboa, but it's not going to kill the Rest Stop.

"How have we compensated? We're not fully staffed right now," says Gilboa, the manager of the Rest Stop, which operates out of a storefront on Ninth Avenue and Virginia in the Denny Triangle neighborhood, a few blocks east of downtown. They've also compensated by cutting back services. In March, after consulting with the Health Department, they turned off the hot water lines to the washing machines.

—Adam Holdorf

Voices of the Rest Stop: Photos and interviews by John Caputo

Robert Sorenson

Real Change: Robert, when you were working, what were you doing?

Robert Sorenson: Carpentry.

RC: How come you are not working now?

Sorenson: I was living in an abandoned building, and I fell two stories and broke my back and haven't been able to do any heavy lifting since.

RC: When was the last time you worked?

Sorenson: It's probably been about 10 years.

RC: Where have you been living?

Sorenson: Right now I am living on the streets; I don't like the shelters.

RC: How do you feel about Seattle?

Sorenson: I really like Seattle.

RC: Have you had any bad experiences here?

Sorenson: I was arrested in Pioneer Square. I was taken to jail, and they handcuffed me and there was five or six of them on me and they started beating the holy heck out of me.

RC: Why?

Sorenson: They tried to take a chocolate shake away from me and spilled it on my favorite shirt, so I threw the rest of it on them. They broke three of my ribs and I told them I could not breathe, so they sent me to Harborview.

RC: How do you get by financially?

Sorenson: I am on Social Security.

RC: What do you do when you need to see a doctor?

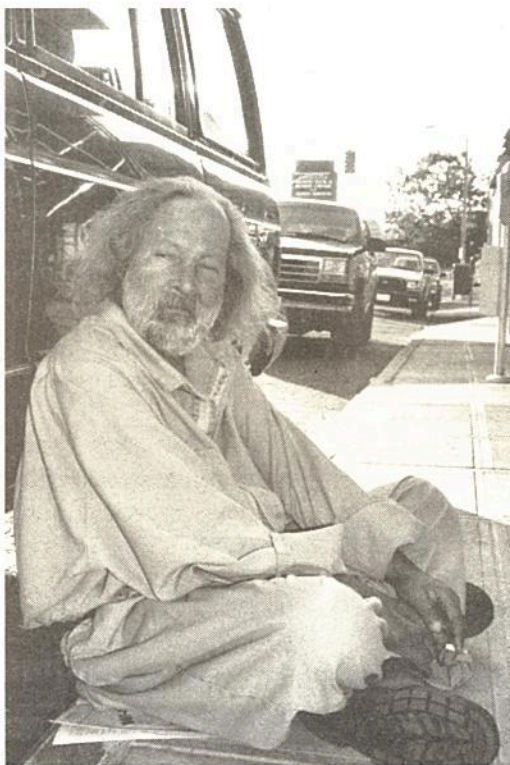
Sorenson: I used to go to Harborview all the time, lately I have been going to Swedish. They are a lot better.

RC: How so?

Sorenson: They seem to care more. Harborview is a hackhouse, they really don't have the time to take good care of everybody.

RC: I understand you have sold newspapers for Real Change.

Sorenson: Yeah, it really helped out. Welfare just doesn't pay enough. They talk about things *The Seattle Times* or *P-I* won't.



John Houston

Real Change: John, where are you staying now?

John Houston: I am staying at Tent City.

RC: What can you tell me about where you are staying?

Houston: Well, I would say most of the people staying there are trying to get somewhere. Tent City is a way to save money and find a better standard of living.

RC: Where were you staying prior to Tent City?

Houston: At the Alps hotel. I wasn't there for very long, because it was expensive.

RC: Are you employed now?

Houston: Yes, at the Millionair Club, as a cook.

RC: Have you seen anything like the Rest Stop elsewhere?

Houston: No, I think this is unique. I have



never seen anyplace with the sort of facilities the Urban Rest Stop has.

Marty Gras

Real Change: What do you think of the Urban Rest Stop?

Marty Gras: I think it's a good place, it's a place where people can go and take a shower, clean up. It's nice to have that available.

RC: What would you be doing if you didn't have the Urban Rest Stop?

Gras: I don't really know where I would be at, I guess I would check out the local shelters to see if they had any facilities.

RC: How is Seattle treating you?

Gras: I think Seattle is very friendly, it's one of those towns where you don't have to worry about going hungry.

RC: Where are you staying now?

Gras: I am staying at Tent City.

RC: Tell me about that.

Gras: Tent City is really good because it's given me a place to stay without worrying about my stuff being stolen or bothered by the cops. They have basic rules, but not as structured as the shelters. It has a sense of community, everybody helps out. It feels like you are contributing, not just staying somewhere.

RC: Where would you stay if you were not at Tent City?

Gras: If I didn't have Tent City I would probably be sleeping in the bushes, where I was sleeping before. ■

The Urban Rest Stop

Where: 1924 Ninth Avenue, about one block south of Convention Place Station, two blocks from the Greyhound station, and three blocks from the temporary Public Library.

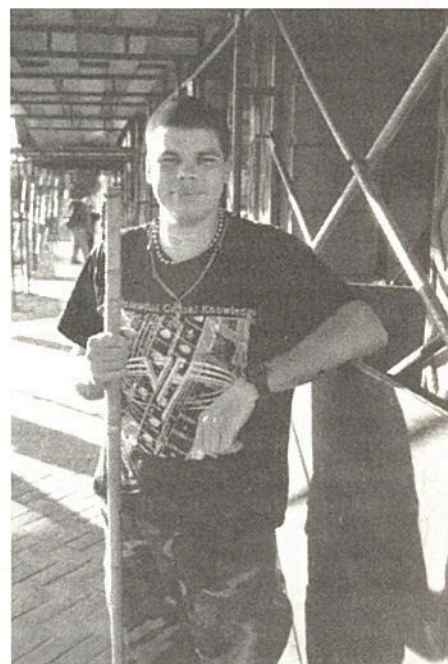
When: Open seven days a week: Monday through Friday, from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What: Free showers, laundry, and restrooms for anyone who needs them. While there are eight other similar facilities in Seattle, the Rest Stop is the only one with industrial-strength capacity: in March, it provided about 178 showers, 82 loads of laundry, and 175 trips to the restroom every day.

Who: The average Rest Stop patron is a man in his 30s or 40s; just one in 10 customers is female. Twenty-one percent have some sort of physical or mental disability; 14 percent are veterans; most of them have held a job in the last month. The Rest Stop is owned and operated by the Low Income Housing Institute, a nonprofit housing provider.

How: City, federal, and private grants provide the money. Two employees per shift do all the work.

More info: Call (206)332-0110.



Pepsi and Flo

The highway is their home

By Rodney Graham

Each summer, Victoria's population soars by the thousands. Most visitors are well-off tourists. Pepsi and Flo are staying in a tent. They settle down in parks in the denser parts of the bushes, to remain unseen.

Pepsi is 20, Flo is 18; both are from Quebec. While Flo played her flute, Pepsi sat talking to me about their travels. They are not unlike many homeless youth; though they come from somewhere, some city or town, they now have no home, as we know it. Eventually, the highway becomes their home, each new venue is their nest, and change is comforting to them — not familiarity, nor even security, but change. Because with change, there's always hope.

"I haven't talked to my dad for so long, I consider him nonexistent," he said. "He molested one of my nieces — I hate him for that. My mom died in a car accident in New Brunswick."

Pepsi squeegeed in Montreal for a while (washing car windows at intersections for change) but hasn't done it out west. "There are too many bylaws out here," he said. He has been travelling around Canada for the past four years. They had been in Alberta for a few short days in the summer of 2000. They said the panhandling wasn't too bad in the prairie cities — like Regina, Edmonton, and Calgary — as long as you don't stick around too long. They said that Victoria wasn't too bad either, because there are always so many people on the street. Vancouver and Winnipeg were the worst of all — police and security guards harassing them constantly, merchants shooing them away in Winnipeg, sleazy drug dealers hounding them in Vancouver.

Flo's mom is a schoolteacher in Quebec, divorced. "I know she worries about me, but she knows she can't stop me too. I have no family," she said, in a way that sounded as if she'd said it often.

They had recently arrived in Victoria from Vancouver, where they had stayed only for a short time. Pepsi said life on the street there was too tough. Just before that they had hitchhiked to Alaska from Quebec, but were turned back at the border. "They said we didn't have enough money," he said. "What a bummer — to travel all that way and not even be allowed any further. We were lucky,

though, because a guy saw us leaving the border and offered us a ride. He worked in Alaska part time and lived in the states. He actually gave us a ride all the way to Vancouver. It took three days...."

A circle of roaming

As we sat talking on that sunny afternoon, they related to me how life on the street becomes, as Pepsi put it, "a circle of roaming." "I started four years ago. When My mom died and I realized I hated my own father, I had nowhere to go, really, I couldn't go to relatives, I was too shy to ask for help, and I don't know if they would help anyway.

"It becomes something you just do — roam; it's a circle of roaming, then you begin to enjoy it, it's like your home, and you're familiar with it — like home."

Our conversation soon turned to the unpleasant subjects of street life: drugs. "I don't do drugs — I used to," said Pepsi. "It is far too easy for kids to get drugs on the street. Especially in Vancouver, at least a thousand people ask you if you want to buy when you walk down the street." He said, "I think drugs are shit, it's too easy for young people to be turned to drugs on the street. There are a lot

of predators on the street — when they see someone new they say, 'Hey man! There's a sucker.' I think a lot of people think that if you're young and hanging on the street that you're a bad person — I don't think most kids on the street are bad — but they get conned by bad people though."

Nicknames are common because most kids on the street are runaways, according to Pepsi, and they don't want to be caught by

the authorities. Pepsi got his nickname when someone on the street in Montreal said, 'Hey Pepsi! Come here!'

"I learned after that it means something derogatory," he said "But it was too late by then, everyone knew me by that name." Flo doesn't remember how she got her nickname. Nicknames give people a feeling of being "someone" — because often the homeless feel unwanted, unloved, different. And a street name makes you special in a way.

Anti-panhandling laws defeated

Jackie Aquerly is president of the National Anti-Poverty Organization's



GRAPHIC BY ELEANOR O'NILL

Victoria office. We talked about the wave of laws against panhandling in cities across the country.

"Each year, around April, City Hall and the business community get together and try to sweep away any panhandlers or poor people off the street," she said. "They don't want those rich tourists seeing poverty — they may not spend money."

When an anti-panhandling bylaw was introduced in Victoria in 1999, her group filed suit. NAPO's case is bolstered by the Winnipeg city government, which had to scrub its own anti-begging law in September 2000. She's hoping that Victoria will follow Winnipeg's lead and give up on its bylaw, before the trial.

"The bylaw did not even meet Article One of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms," she said — the Canadian Constitution granting equality before the law.

Although Aquerly is happy about the bylaw repeal in Winnipeg, she's worried that something more drastic may happen to repress the poor. Ontario's Bill 8, a provincial law that passed in September 1999, outlaws leaving a used hypodermic needle or condom in a public place, or soliciting passersby in a car or on the sidewalk. Aquerly calls it "the most ruthless piece of legislation in Canada.

"It may be a harbinger of more ruthless bylaws — this time provincial," she says. "Other cities took the example of Winnipeg's anti-panhandling bylaw; other provinces may copy Ontario."

Speaking on the issue of homeless youth, Aquerly said, "We've turned our backs on our youth, or abused them — then we get mad at them because they're sitting on the sidewalks. We lock kids up five times more than the USA does, [and] politicians are running on the platform of locking up youth, even though youth crime is declining in Canada.

"We're doing it because someone's making money on it."

For Pepsi and Flo, life on the street continues. As with most runaways and kids who find themselves on the street, migration is part of their redemption process; each new venue promises a better life. But in every new city they find only rejection, hostility, harassment, and the usual predators.

"Traveling has become an addiction for us," Pepsi added. "I want to go to Europe next."

Flo says she would like to walk or hitchhike around the world. Traveling takes the place of their home, the security, the belonging. The wandering of a vagabond gives some familiarity and routine. As it is for most runaways, so it is for Pepsi and Flo — it's on to another city soon. ■



CREDIT Continued from page 1

RC: When did the aggressive credit card marketing to college students really start?

Manning: The late 1980s. That's why I argue that it is so critical in terms of the transformation of American attitudes. What they have done is turn on its head the social responsibility [previously] associated with credit and debt. Before, you were getting credit only if you had proved yourself worthy by having a good credit history or by having a job... now the industry has allowed people to get credit without ever having a job.

Banks are having a more profound influence on this generation's attitude toward debt. Now it even can precede the influence of parents... these attitudes are shaped prior to parents being able to teach what is good [debt] and what is bad debt.

Even during the slight dip in bankruptcy rates over the last two years, people 25 and under showed a sharp increase in bankruptcy.... There are people just a couple of years out of college who can't pay their bills because of credit card debt.

RC: You've made the point in your book that credit-using lower and middle classes are essentially subsidizing what you call the "free credit" of more affluent groups. How does that work?

Manning: The bottom line is that there's no real reason why people who pay off their credit cards at the end of the month should get 0 or 3 percent interest.... The cost of borrowing that money, from the credit card company's perspective, could be anywhere from 4 to 7 percent.

They think they're being frugal when they pay off their credit cards. If they charge an average of \$1,000 a month, it'll cost the company 5 percent... and that means that the people who don't pay [off their credit cards each month] have to pay triple [in interest rates]. That's the way the industry has played upon this Puritan ethos, in terms of giving credibility to the moral divide. People who get a free ride are those who need it the least, and people who have to pay exorbitant rates are those who need it the most.

That is part of the public discussion that people don't want to go into. I get angry emails on that: "How dare you say that poor people are subsidizing me?" It goes back to this issue of individual responsibility: that if you assume responsibility and pay it off, that somehow you're morally more righteous than someone who is in debt.

RC: Many people would be shocked to learn about the exorbitant rates being charged in low-income neighborhoods by pawnshops, check-cashing outlets, rent-to-own shops, and so on. You've documented the annual percentage rates of these "second-tier" financial services in the typical range of 180 to 391 percent APR, but you note that cash leasing is typically at 730 percent APR, and payday loans range from 442 to 988 percent APR. What, if anything, is done about this?

Manning: I'm basically involved in trying to affect three pieces of legislation, the College Student Credit Card Protection Act, the Bankruptcy Bill, and Predatory Lending issues which relate to these second-tier financial services, where it's very clear that there is bipartisan support.

The industry knows that those rates are not defensible. But they're so lucrative, that they're just trying to figure out how to get a piece of it.

RC: Can you explain what cash-leasing and payday loans are?

Manning: [Cash leasing is] when you take anything of value — a refrigerator, for instance — and bring it in and sell it for \$300, and then you lease it back at 30 percent interest per month. One of the outcomes of financial deregulation is that it has redefined what a loan is, so that usurious rates can be charged. Cash leasing emerges, so that they can charge 30 percent interest for a 15-day loan. Because they can say that they're not making a loan, they're simply leasing the money.

Payday loans are the fastest growing component of second-tier financial services. Essentially, you're postdating a check at anywhere from 15 - 40 percent per two-week loan. What's extraordinary about the second-tier financial services is that as long as it was poor people, nobody really cared. But now you're seeing more of the middle class heavily in debt... we're now seeing second-tier financial services becoming a normal part of the suburban landscape.

RC: You write about the people in credit card debt in this country who have no choice, because it's the only way they can afford to live, even to the point of charging their groceries to their cards.

Manning: The average American consumes based on their perception of [the] future. It's been to the politician's advantage to encourage people to consume without raising wages or making difficult decisions. The reality is that so many people can make it, even with this heavy level of debt, as long as the unexpected doesn't happen.

Now, our fastest growing occupation is temp [work]. The reason that's so important is that with job turnover increasing, the aggregate number of people unemployed at any one time is low, but the number of people coming and going between jobs means that,

instead of looking for a job every two years, [they're] looking for a job every few months. And then they're accumulating debt that they weren't accumulating a decade ago.

RC: What does the future of the credit card industry look like?

Manning: Citibank has a goal of a billion customers by the year 2012, so it's very clear that their agenda is worldwide expansion. It'll be a tweaking of the very successful marketing campaign in the U.S., [but] taking place in Europe.

What they did in the U.S. was their proving ground. And as the banking conglomerates have emerged and grown, the only way to sustain that growth is to go after the European middle class.... Citibank knows that there's not much more they're going to get out of the U.S. other than going after college students, and the working poor doesn't take long to tap out. Their market penetration is pretty much done. So that's why for the future — to keep these double-digit growth rates — they've got to get much more aggressive overseas.

RC: Is there a good mental approach that someone who is heavily in debt should take toward their situation?

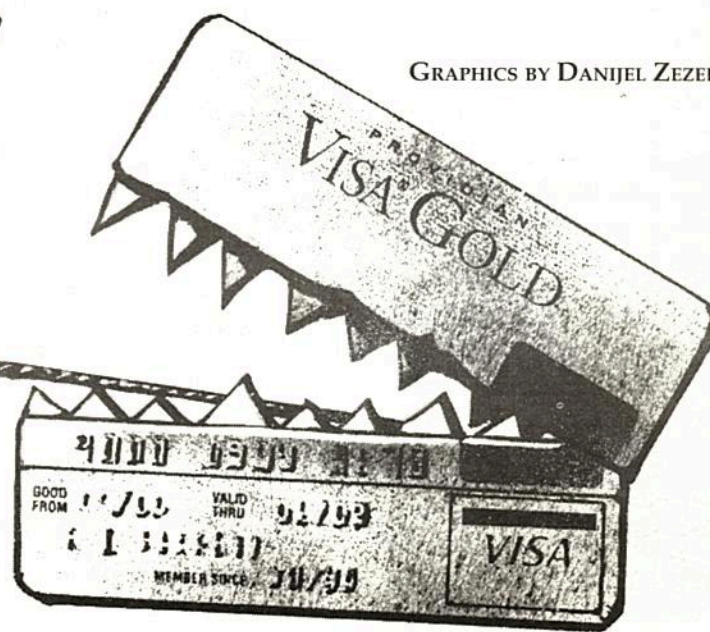
Manning: That's really a key issue because with a lot of people... it's often a manifestation of other problems. The first step is, you've got to figure out why you're in debt. Is there a personal or a social reason? Some people are overcompensating for their childhood, where they came from circumstances where their parents were too frugal. Some people are going through status anxiety, trying to fit in with a different social circle which they cannot possibly afford. There are a whole host of issues.

People always want the practical, short-term answer. They ask, "What are the things that I can change?" [instead of] talking about the attitudinal and social and psychological issues. ■

For more on the Credit Card Nation, visit <http://www.creditcardnation.com>.

"The average American consumes based on their perception of [the] future. It's been to the politician's advantage to encourage people to consume without raising wages or making difficult decisions. The reality is that so many people can make it, even with this heavy level of debt, as long as the unexpected doesn't happen."

—Robert Manning



GRAPHICS BY DANIJEL ZEDELJ

Terrible Tales of Low-Wage Work

Nickel and Dimed:
On (Not) Getting By in America
by Barbara Ehrenreich
Metropolitan Books, 2001
221 pp., \$23.00 cloth

Review by Timothy Harris

I learned early that work doesn't pay. Where I grew up, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a good job meant union benefits at the Morrels meat-packing plant. But that wasn't the kind of job I had. I wound up in a factory, making 50 mobile home rafters an hour on a two-man jig with some guy named Larry. Larry and I spent nine months together in a state of mutual loathing.

In the time between dropping out of high school and enlisting in the Air Force, I worked as a janitor, landscaper, farm worker, and ditch digger. I did roofing, hauled garbage, and painted walls. I even drove a "Spud-nik," a combination tractor-shovel-conveyor belt designed to unload loose potatoes from semi-trailers. I worked. All the while, my housing situation deteriorated to suit my circumstances. By the time I left for Lackland AFB, I was in the rooming house above the Bow and Arrow Bar.

Later, I worked at an auto parts warehouse in Massachusetts. The wage barely covered my weekly rent for a room with a shared bathroom in the hall, groceries, and gas. I could drive my car the seven miles or so from Waltham to Cambridge before it would fatally overheat. So long as traffic moved, I was OK. When I left for college, the car was abandoned in a parking lot.

My last crap job was in 1987, after graduating from college. Noting the extreme low demand for trained social theorists, I went to work in a hospital warehouse. The job itself wasn't so bad. The problem was my invisibility. As a cart-pushing warehouse rat, I had become an untouchable.

Eventually, my experience as a student activist paid off, and I landed an organizing job at \$18,000 a year. That was the beginning of the end. I was to be "a professional."

In *Nickel and Dimed*, sociologist Barbara Ehrenreich uncovers America's dirty secret, the one that people like me already know: often

times, work isn't worth the trouble. In the inexorable conflict of wages vs. housing, we keep losing ground. And when rents go up and wages stay the same, it doesn't take an economist to predict the results.

But understanding this in principle and living the life are not the same. Professor Ehrenreich, a former biologist, sets up an experiment. Can she, a resourceful, physically fit Ph.D., earn enough money at a low-wage job to cover rent, groceries, and gas? Like any good scientist, she sets her parameters. She will find the best work she can that doesn't assume education or professional credentials. She will pay the cheapest rent available that meets minimal standards of privacy and safety. She will cheat by driving an off-budget Rent-a-Wreck.

In Florida, Ehrenreich attempts two waitress jobs at once. Despite her truly heroic efforts, she ultimately meets with failure. Next, drawn by the promise of crappy work, even for white people, she goes to Maine, where she lives the dream as a rent-a-maid and nursing home dietician. Her jobs are grueling, demeaning, and thankless, but through a combination of relentless determination, extreme thrift, and luck, she manages to keep an off-season hotel room 30 miles out of town.

Flushed with success, she then moves to Minnesota. A low unemployment rate and a housing market devoid of dot-com wealth, she figures, will make her challenge a little easier. She takes a \$7 an hour job folding clothes in the women's department at Wal-Mart, and lives in what she decides is the Worst Motel in America.

Ehrenreich finds both of her assumptions about life in Minnesota are wrong. Rents have risen right along with the general prosperity, even without the distorting effects of an overly speculative tech sector. Low-wage work, however, has been completely unaffected by the 1 percent unemployment rate. The laws of supply and demand, it seems, are suspended at the

In the inexorable conflict of wages vs. housing, we keep losing ground. And when rents go up and wages stay the same, it doesn't take an economist to predict the results.

bottom of the job market.

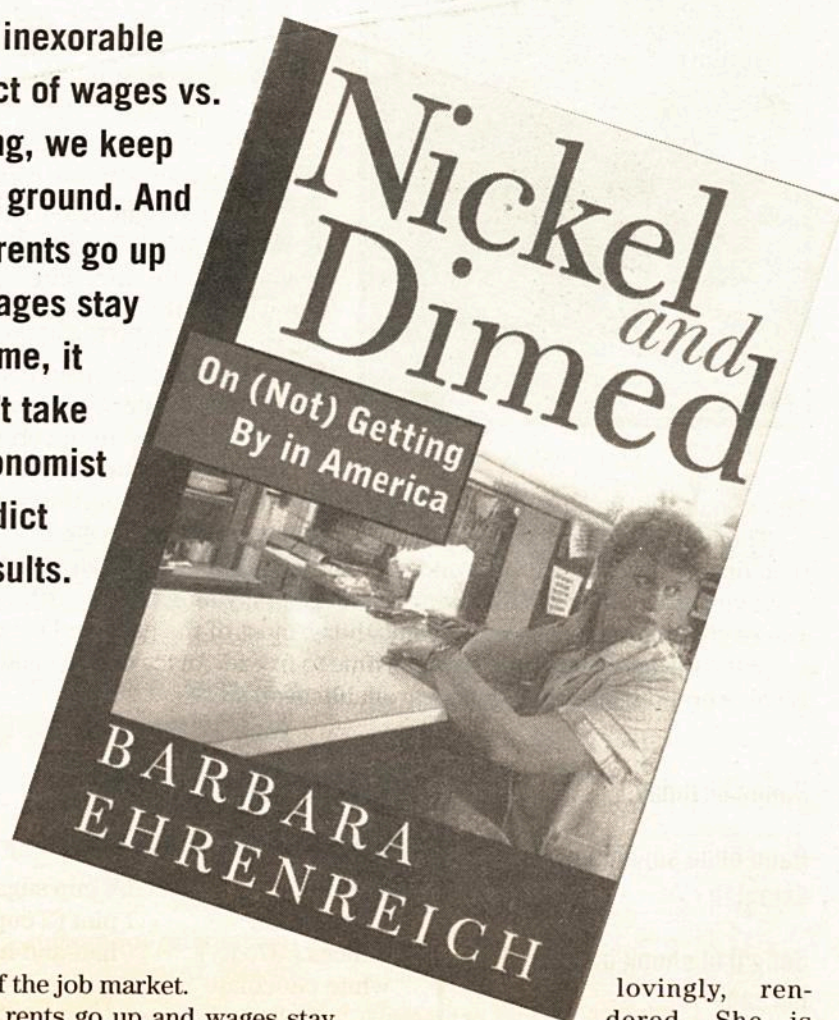
When rents go up and wages stay the same, low-wage workers have to double-up or worse to survive. As a single woman going it alone, Professor Ehrenreich fails her economics test miserably. Despite a very aggressive housing search, she never escapes the Worst Motel in America, which costs roughly everything she earns.

While this tale of tourism in the highly regulated world of low-wage work could have been annoying on many levels, Ehrenreich has the sense and the humility to keep her journey in perspective. She is merely a lens to the real experience of others. The petty hypocrisies and blind spots that exist for our emotional comfort fall away under her gaze. She finds that there is no such thing as "unskilled" work. Those that she meets, with the possible exception of management, are respectfully, even

lovingly, rendered. She is nearly in awe of the challenges that many take for granted.

And then there is that trademark style that is Barbara Ehrenreich. She is, oxymoronic, the funniest sociologist alive. But Ehrenreich isn't in this for the laughs. Her slashing wit is honed by a sense of outrage that years of academic life have yet to blunt.

Professor Ehrenreich asks us what emotion is appropriate to the relationship of the professional to the low-wage worker. Rejecting guilt, Ehrenreich opts for shame. The privileged classes, whose lives are defined by the benefits of low-wage labor but are completely removed from its reality, understand little or nothing of the sacrifices that the poor make on their behalf. Perhaps if they did, the world would be a different place. ■



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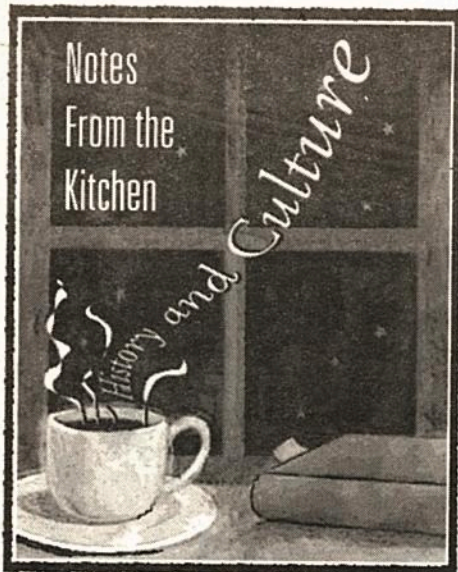
Reception at 6:15 pm; Reading at 7:30 pm

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Happy Birthday to Babies, Wherever You May Be

Readers,

I am right glad to be back here on page 16, for I have a strange tale to relate about why I have been gone. A month ago I was in the produce section looking at fruit and innocently ate two grapes, in an absentminded sort of way. The produce guy arrested me, and I was sentenced to community service in the big food factory out on the highway. So there I was. I had to work really hard, too: carving the holes in the Swiss cheese, placing raspberry seeds in the raspberry jam, twisting the bends in the elbow macaroni. Then they gave me a new task: blowing up the marshmallows. Sneaking downstairs one night, I tethered a large group of jumbo marshmallows, floated over the fence, and was wafted in a westerly direction to my house, thereby regaining my freedom.

[Editor's note: In the previous paragraph, columnist is not strictly hewing to the truth. Sigh.]

Readers, pay no attention to the man in the parentheses. I'm just being creative. There's no commandment that says Thou Shalt Not Be Creative, nor one that says Thou Shall Not Amuse or Distract People Who Are Feeling Lousy.

The idea for today's column came about when I heard on the BBC (that's the British Radio, people) that more babies around the world are born on October 5 than on any other day. It's a wonderful thing, to think of so many tiny new babies, wrapped snugly in blankets, being cuddled by their parents.

If you are making the following desserts for a young child's birthday, and your family has allergies, you may want to check with your pediatrician. Of course, if you're celebrating a one-year-old's birthday, most of the cake and ice cream may end up in your baby's hair, your hair, the high chair, and the floor.

Make the ice cream first, so it has time to freeze. An ice cream maker is not needed to make this. If you can find Callebaut white chocolate, use that brand. If not, Baker's brand white chocolate is available in all stores.

Happy birthday!

Palju õnne sunnipäevaks
Estonian

Seng il ul chook ha ham ni da
Korean

Sheng ri kuai le
Chinese

¡Feliz cumpleaños!
Spanish

'Stastne narozeniny
Czechoslovakian

Gratulera med dagen
Norwegian

Suk sun wan kurd
Thai

Boldog szülinapot
Hungarian

White Chocolate Mousse Ice Cream

6 egg yolks 1/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla 1 pint (2 cups)
6 ounces (.375 lb.) half-and-half
white chocolate 1 cup cream

1. Separate eggs. Chop chocolate into small pieces.
2. In a double boiler, over medium heat, blend together egg yolks, vanilla, chocolate, and sugar. Whisk continually for eight minutes.
3. Remove from heat and let cool for five minutes. Whisk in half-and-half and cream.
4. Put in freezer, cover with plastic wrap, and freeze overnight.
5. Not to brag, but this is the best ice cream I have ever tasted! Our staff at the *Real Change* office agreed, and they are always right.

As for the cake, it may seem a little unusual to eat food with flowers inside. You can leave them out if you like. Lavender can be found in stores with bulk herbs, and you may have them growing in your yard. Make sure they are fragrant, and thus will give a good flavor.

Lemon Lavender Pound Cake

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, cut into pieces 2 ounces fresh lemon juice
1 3/4 cup sugar 4 ounces milk
4 large eggs 1 tsp butter and 1 tablespoon flour for cake pan
2 tsp lavender flowers (optional) 6-cup capacity loaf pan
grated zest of 1 large lemon cookie sheet to put pan on
pinch of salt (to prevent burning)
2 cups cake flour piece of foil
3/4 tsp each baking soda, baking powder

1. Measure out all ingredients, put in bowls or on sheets of wax paper. Combine salt, flour, baking soda, and baking powder.
2. Grease and flour cake loaf pan. Turn oven to 350° F.
3. Cream butter, using electric mixer, for three minutes. Add sugar gradually, and continue mixing two more minutes.
4. Add eggs, one at a time, then add lavender flowers and lemon zest. Mix one more minute. All this mixing adds air, which will give your cake a light and airy texture, instead of a doorstep texture.
5. Add lemon juice and milk.
6. Fold in flour mixture by hand. This will keep the protein in the flour from becoming tough and rubbery.
7. Pour batter into cake pan, and place pan in center of cookie sheet.
8. Bake for about one hour and 20 minutes. After 30 minutes put the foil on top of the cake to prevent burning.
9. Cool on a wire rack for one hour. Remove from pan. Slice and serve. Can be frozen if well wrapped. ■

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important as
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going**
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Tuesday, Sept. 11, 11:04 a.m., E. Pike Street. An officer was dispatched to an assault call. On arrival, he made contact with the witness, a 39-year-old black male, and the victim, a 24-year-old black male, both homeless. The victim was bleeding from a laceration to the left side of his neck. The witness stated that the victim had asked the suspect for spare change. The suspect pulled out a small folding knife and swung at the victim, causing a four-inch wound to his neck. The suspect then fled on foot, heading west on Pike. The victim stated, "All I did was ask for change." He said he would be able to identify the suspect, and was transported to Harborview Medical Center for treatment of his injuries.

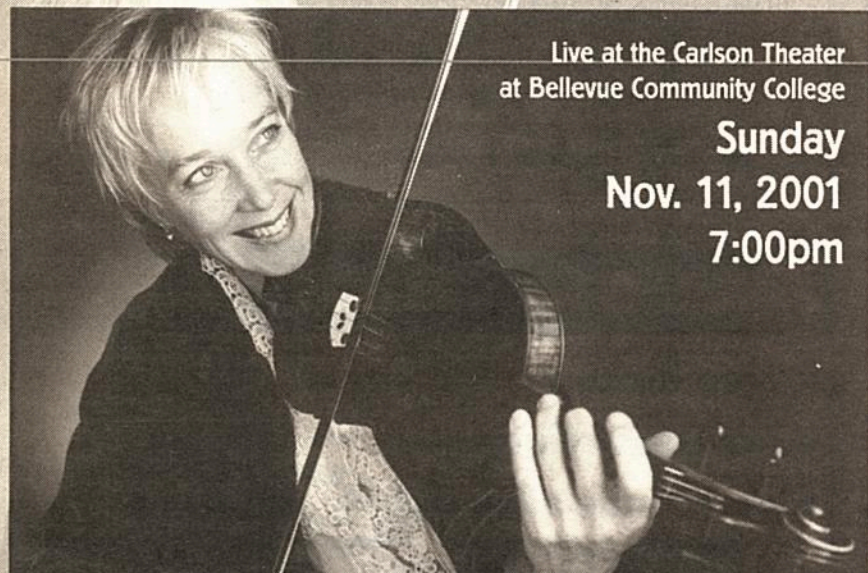
Tuesday, Sept. 11, 5:13 p.m., 100 block, Broadway. The victim, a 26-year-old homeless white male, stated that a man tried to rob him, saying, "Give me what's in your pockets." The suspect then punched him in the mouth, causing a lacerated lip. He stated that the same man had held him up at knifepoint earlier in the day. Police were unable to locate the suspect. The victim was transported to Harborview, where he was treated for his injuries and released.

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 3:19 p.m., E. Pine Street. An officer observed a man enter a store and present a 24 oz. can of Steel Reserve beer to the clerk for purchase. The transaction was completed, and the suspect, a 42-year-old homeless male, left the store. The officer contacted the suspect and noted his unsteady movement and the strong smell of alcohol about his person. He appeared intoxicated. The officer recovered the beer from his person, and escorted him back into the store. He asked the sole clerk if he had sold liquor to this man, and the clerk said he had, stating that he didn't think the man was drunk. He added that he had refused alcohol to the suspect "many, many times," but that this was his first time in the store today; he said he has a right to sell beer if he wants to. The suspect, a "known chronic public inebriate," was released at the scene. The officer is requesting that the Washington Liquor Control Board consider pressing charges against the store for providing alcohol to intoxicated persons.

Thursday, Sept. 13, 11:46 a.m., 1700 block Summit Ave. A 911 call was received, reporting that two suspects were selling narcotics. They were described as thin, young white males, one with no shirt. Officers located the individuals at the scene. Another officer arrived and recognized one of the men — a 31-year-old transient — from a previous shoplifting incident, when he had talked to the officer about his methamphetamine problem. When asked if he was carrying meth today, the suspect hung his head, and handed over a small bag. It tested positive for about \$50 worth of meth, and the suspect was placed into custody. ■

Streetwatch is compiled from Seattle Police Department incident reports by Emma Quinn.

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The Ten Plagues of Paul Schell

By Anitra Freeman

The son of a minister, our outgoing mayor has a wry sense of humor that is often grounded in religious metaphor. Just after the Ash Wednesday earthquake, upon being told of Boeing's intent to move its headquarters from Seattle, Paul Schell quipped, "I'm waiting for the locusts!"

The locusts have arrived. Yea, even as the Pharaoh of Egypt was plagued because he would not let the children of Israel go, so the Mayor of Seattle has been plagued because... (fill in the blank according to your political persuasion, we have our own opinion.)

Here, then, are the *Real Change* Editorial Committee's opinions about the 10 Plagues of Paul Schell:

The Water Turned to Blood: The waters of Mardi Gras turned to blood and became corrupted, so that our children were sickened and died.



The Plague of Frogs: The Ash Wednesday earthquake caused millions of dollars of damage, and caused the people to jump with fear that more earthly unrest could come.

The Plague of Gnats: Members of the homeless community and social service providers have pestered him like a swarm of gnats ever since his impulsive and unkept promise in the summer of 1998 to get all homeless women and children off the streets by Christmas of that year.



The Plague of Flies: First Boeing's main offices flew off to another city, now thousands more jobs fly away.



The Murrain of Beasts: Cattle have represented wealth in many societies. Schell dreamed of many kinds of wealth for Seattle: economic, architectural, cultural, and in reputation as a "world class city." He eagerly invited the World Trade Organization to hold a conference here. But massive peaceful protests, a few acts of violence and the ensuing City mismanagement, police misconduct, tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets turned his dreams of wealth into a curse.

The Plague of the Boils: The perennial boil of most of his administration, SHARE/WHEEL's Tent City, not only survives him but triumphs. On September 27, 2001, the King County Superior Court decreed that the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use ruled in error when they denied the permit application filed for Tent City at El Centro de la Raza last July, and should have granted it.



The Plague of Hail: He was harangued on all sides after the shooting death of Aaron Roberts. The Roberts shooting by Seattle police officers occurred after many community members complained of widespread racial profiling within the police department, and after last year's shooting death of a knife-wielding African-American man with obvious mental health issues who was skipping down the street in Queen Anne.

The Plague of Locusts: The Locusts of public opinion descended to

chew on him after his impulsive \$35,000 purchase of an historic maple tree and later idea to have schoolchildren pay for his tree-purchase by sending in their nickels and dimes.



The Plague of Darkness: Darkness has fallen upon his dreams of Sound Transit Light Rail.

The Death of the Firstborn: His first term has now died without issue.



The Pharaoh of Egypt brought his plagues upon himself. The end result of the plagues was a blessing, at least for the Israelites. To what extent has Paul Schell created his own misfortunes? And will any good come of them, in the long run? ■

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

W e at Classics Corner just can't let poor Prometheus alone. As you no doubt recall, our hero was pinned to a mountain for the sin of helping mankind, but has a secret that will set him free. Zeus, who wants what he has, tortures him mercilessly, but to no avail. As the play ends, Prometheus stands firm, inspiring others to rebellion. The Chorus, warned away by Hermes, spits back that they "have learned to hate all traitors" and "will bear along with him" what they must bear.

Prometheus speaks to us because he is reason pitted against force. He is the rebel who opposes tyranny. He is the spirit of necessity, doing what must be done in the face of perfect knowledge. He is the long-suffering underdog, standing firm on principle, inspiring others to act. He is

Christ himself, who comes to wretched, pitiful humanity bringing salvation, becoming vulnerable, suffering, and finally returning victorious.

**In dark times,
says Shelley,
Hope is everything.**

As *Prometheus Bound* draws to a conclusion, he and Hermes trade insults for a few pages before the mountain covers him in lava for the

next 13 generations. Actually, the details are a bit unclear. At some point, Prometheus stops being encased in rock only to have his liver torn out and eaten daily by an eagle. Sucks to be Prometheus.

Since only the first play survives, we can't know how the trilogy ends. This bothers us. We are bothered so much, in fact, that we have been reduced to reading the English poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley, whose *Prometheus Unbound*, published in 1818, offers us the closure that we crave.

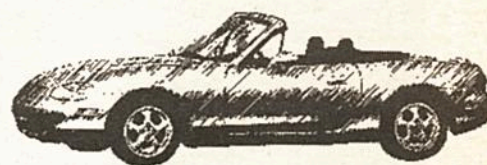
While Aeschylus' drama, with its tyrant vs. rebel theme, mirrored the politics of his time, Shelley publishes his ending during the Age of Revolution. His long, tedious poem is a strange mix of scientific socialism and mystical nature poetry. Despite our best efforts, we found Shelley's work to be mostly impenetrable, and well deserved of its now-obscure status. But he does offer an ending, and a hopeful one at that.

In Shelley's treatment, part of Prometheus' torment is his long separation from Asia, who represents the creative power of Love itself. Her sisters Hope and Faith keep company with the suffering Prometheus, and loyally await an end to his tortures. Finally, Love, along with Faith, sets out on a revolutionary journey. They descend into the cave of Demogorgon, a dark and shadowy figure who represents Reason alone. On its own, Reason is a powerless spirit of negation, but teamed with Love and Faith, Reason becomes an irresistible force of nature that sweeps the old order aside in the space of a moment. The world is transformed. In dark times, says Shelley, Hope is everything. The fate of humanity is:

*To suffer woes which hope thinks infinite;
To forgive wrongs darker than death or night;
To defy Power, which seems omnipotent;
To love, and bear; to hope 'til Hope creates
From its own wreck the thing it contemplates... ■*

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October

Notables

Thursday, 10/4

Women organize against war and anti-Arab racism! Presentation on the U.S. government's war buildup and a discussion of the its effects on women globally. 7:30pm. Dinner, with vegetarian option, available at 6:30 p.m. for a \$6.50 donation. New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle. For more information, rides or childcare, call 206-722-6057. Everyone welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

The missing peace: truth & justice in the Middle East (or what's happening with the \$30 every American pays to Israel each year), film *The People and the Land*, with Linda Bevis and Edward Mast, just back from non-violence resistance work in the West Bank, 7 - 9 p.m., Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave., \$5 donation (no one turned away).

Seattle tour of "Program on corporations, law, and democracy," instigating democratic conversations and actions that contest the authority of corporations to govern, through October 10, info Jess Grant esuadm@gzinc.com or 206-721-2063.

"Globalizing justice and peace: visions and strategies," an international conference

co-sponsored by the Consortium on Peace Research, Education & Development (COPRED) and the Peace Studies Association, with keynote speaker Amy Goodman, host of Pacifica Radio's "Democracy Now"; through October 7 at Evergreen State College, Olympia; info copred@evergreen.edu or <http://www.evergreen.edu/user/copred/TEESC2001.html>.

Saturday, 10/6

Keepers of the Fire, a film celebrating native warrior women of the Mohawk, Haida, Ojibwe, and Maliseet tribes and their work for justice for aboriginal people in Canada, presented by Dyke Community Activists and the Lesbian Resource Center, 7 p.m., 911 Media Arts Center, 117 Yale Ave. N., \$5-\$15, sliding scale. Benefit for the Four Winds Club, the Native women's group at FCIW, the federal prison in California. For more info, call 206-325-4061.

Regular meeting of the Interfaith Network of Concern for the People of Iraq with major focus on joining others nationwide in **challenging the U.S. embargo against Iraq**, 4 p.m., this and subsequent 1st Saturdays, at the Keystone Congregational Church, 5019 Keystone Place

N, just north of N 50th and Sunnyside N; info co-chairs Dick Blakney 206-522-4934 or Randall Mullins 206-329-2115 or <http://www.endiraqsanctions.org>.

Monday, 10/8

Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta of East Timor will speak on "Human rights: democracy and the rule of law in the Asian Pacific Region." Mr. Ramos-Horta shared the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to restore independence to his homeland of East Timor, which was invaded and occupied by Indonesian troops in 1975; 7 p.m., at University of Washington, 210 Kane Hall, both the lecture and the reception are free and open to the public, info Lin Ying 206-543-2780.

Tuesday, 10/9

Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas presents "Which Way Seattle? Charting Our Course"; former Mayor Norm Rice will moderate a dialogue with the iconic Mayor of San Francisco, Willie Brown, they will discuss our pending mayoral election, and compare strategies for absorbing growth and diversity. How does Seattle compare to San Francisco and is this a model for us to emulate? 7 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 811 Fifth Ave.; \$10 general admission, \$5 students info info@cdforum.org or 206-323-4032.

Wednesday, 10/10

Speak out against war, a panel of local community activists will discuss their opposition to the Bush administration's answer to terrorism, 7 p.m., Seattle Central Community College, Room BE1110, 1701 Broadway Ave., free, sponsored by the Freedom Socialist Party, info call 206-722-2453.

Homestead Community Land Trust general meeting, **creating permanently affordable homeownership opportunities**; this and subsequent 2nd Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., at Homestead's office, 1309 13th Ave. S; info 206-323-1227 or homesteadclt@yahoo.com.

Friday, 10/12

Annual Love of Violence Conference with topic domestic violence, through October 14, at Seattle University in Champion Hall, info at 206-232-2994 or nelgee@u.washington.edu or <http://www.ernestbecker.org>.

Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center in conjunction with the Frye Art Museum present "Teaching the Holocaust Through Art"; this one-day workshop will address the historical framework of the Holocaust, Nazi propaganda, and Art and Memory; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Frye Art Museum, info Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center info@wsherc.org or 206-441-5747 or <http://www.wsherc.org>

Tuesday, 10/16

Seattle Raging Grannies, an irreverent and energetic band of wise elders, sing po-

litical satire, 11:30 a.m., at Westlake Park, near 4th and Pine.

Thursday, 10/18

Special video showing *Jerusalem: An Occupation Set in Stone?* produced by the Palestine Housing Rights movement, this documentary is a moving portrayal of the issues at the heart of the Israeli/Palestine conflict. 7:30 p.m. Dinner, with vegetarian option, available at 6:30 p.m. for a \$6.50 donation. New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle. Hosted by Radical Women. For more information, rides, or childcare, call 206-722-6057 or 722-2453. Everyone welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

Friday, 10/19

Promoting peace in the Bush II era, brought to you by the Northwest Disarmament Coalition, 7 - 10 p.m., at Seattle Art Museum, 1st and University, downtown Seattle, with screening of *Thirteen Days*, about the Cuban Missile Crisis, and post-film discussion with co-producer, Peter Almond.

Saturday, 10/20

Promoting peace in the Bush II era conference with Mary-Wynne Ashford, M.D., Co-president of the Nobel Prize-winning *International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War*; and David Krieger, Ph.D., president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bloedel Hall, St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E, on Capitol Hill, registration and coffee at 9 a.m., advance registration by October 17; \$30, Friday only, \$10; Saturday only, \$25. More information or to register: Rachel Steele, 206-547-2630 or wpsr@wpsr.org.

Sunday, 10/21

Hope against breast cancer 10K/5K walk and 5K run, Marymoor Park in Redmond, 9 a.m., sponsored by City of Hope, pre-register with \$25 at www.coh.org or day-of-event register for \$30, info at 1-800-934-9196.

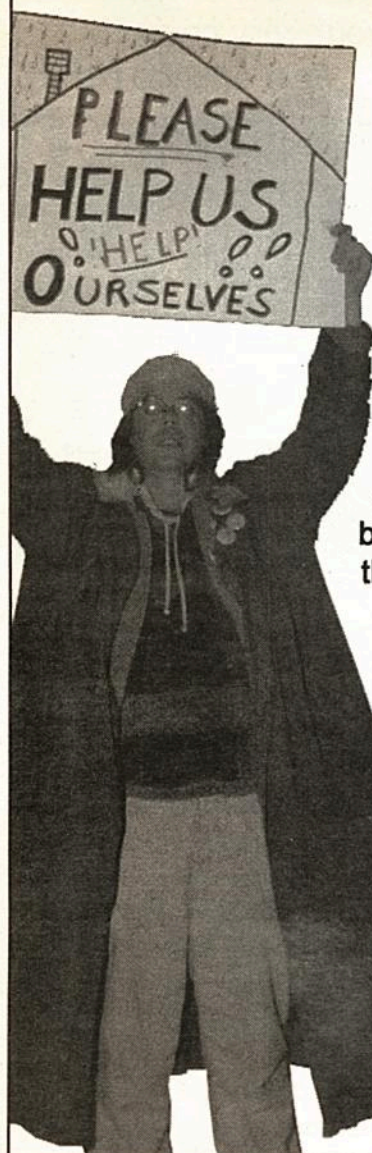
Monday, 10/22

Sixth national day of protest to **stop police brutality, repression, and the criminalization of a generation**, sponsored by the October 22 Coalition, rally and march from Central Area to Westlake, call 206-264-5527, call 206-264-5527 or www.october22.org for exact time and location or to volunteer.

Ongoing Mondays

A Radical Women study group will **explore the multi-faceted realities of women in the Arab world** as presented in the writings of Egyptian feminist Nawal El Saadawi. Her essays discuss family, sexuality, the impact of religious fundamentalism, and women's role in national liberation struggles. 7 - 8:30 p.m. through Dec. 17, University of Washington, Ethnic Cultural Center, 3931 Brooklyn Ave. NE. Free. Everyone welcome. For more information, call 206-722-6057. ■

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.

citizens participation project



Don't Let City Cut Homeless Funding

Issue: The revised Seattle city budget for 2002 cuts out \$3.4 million in funding for homeless shelters, new transitional housing, and those on the brink of homelessness. These cuts must be put back in before winter sets in.

Background: Less than a year after the city of Seattle promised \$3.4 million to help homeless people get into new shelters and find new housing, Mayor Paul Schell has announced that the money is needed elsewhere in the wake of a wavering economy.

The money was first promised in December last year, when city councilmember Peter Steinbrueck pushed for \$12 million in city funds and managed to secure \$3.4 million. Over the ensuing months, requests for proposals for new shelter and transitional housing programs were put out and responded to. The city said the only thing stopping it from distributing the money was the court battle over Initiative 722, a tax-restricting initiative that passed at last November's election. If the initiative was overturned, the money would immediately go to pay for the vital services for which it had been allocated.

Yet on the heels of the Initiative being thrown out by the state Supreme Court last month, Schell announced a 2002 budget that took that money away.

The city and the mayor said the projects were being set aside only until the economic outlook—including a new tax initiative on this coming November's ballot—improved. Cuts could even get worse, Schell warned, as the proposed budget did not factor in Boeing's recent layoffs announcement. Yet the thousands of people who are living on the streets, unable to get out of shelter into housing, or are poised to end up on the street because they cannot pay their bills, cannot wait.

In addition, existing shelter in the Pioneer Square area has already suffered major blows over the last several months. The earthquake closed down the 80-bed Compass Center men's shelter, SHARE lost its indoor space for the 40-bed co-ed Safe Haven shelter, and the terrorist attacks have jeopardized 20 beds in the Old Federal Building. Now, as winter fast approaches and indoor shelter becomes crucial to survival, King County is considering not opening the 50-bed winter response shelter in the King County administration building.

Action: Contact your Seattle city councilmembers and King County Executive Ron Sims to let them know that promised future and existing shelters and services should be provided. The councilmembers will decide a city budget by late November. Ask them not to approve Schell's proposed budget or King County cutbacks until they have found a way to provide for basic and necessary homeless programs.

City council mailing address:
600 4th Avenue, 11th floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Richard Conlin: richard.conlin@ci.seattle.wa.us, (206) 684-8805
Peter Steinbrueck: peter.steinbrueck@ci.seattle.wa.us, (206) 684-8804
Heidi Wills: heidi.wills@ci.seattle.wa.us, (206) 684-8808
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Margaret Pageler: margaret.pageler@ci.seattle.wa.us, (206) 684-8807
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Jan Drago: jan.drago@ci.seattle.wa.us, (206) 684-8801
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King County
Executive Ron Sims:
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 400
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 296-4040
Fax: (206) 296-0194
Exec.sims@metrokc.gov

Thrift Store

University Temple United
Methodist Church
Fridays, 2-5 p.m.
15th N.E. and N.E. 43rd in U-District
please use alley entrance

Great Bargains

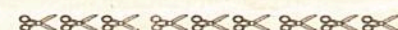
Clothing, housewares, linens,
games, books, etc.

The website at the end
of Western Civilization
classicscorner.org



the BeLLtown BARBER and Manicure

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



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2129 2nd Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121



Seattle Public Library, Serials Unit
800 Pike St.
Seattle, WA 98101

Mockingbird Times

Washington State Foster Care
and Homeless Youth Speak Out

OCTOBER 4, 2001

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG

VOLUME I, ISSUE 3

Are you 14-22? Share your creativity and get paid! Look for details below

Youth Reflect on Attack

AFTER THE EVENTS of September 11, *Mockingbird* decided to dedicate part of this issue to our own reactions. Here, staff reporter J.W. confronts some of the feelings facing young people across Washington state.

What would be an effective response from the U.S. for these attacks?

I don't know if anything will work. The damage has already been done. I don't think a war is going to make any difference. People talk about America like it's immortal, like nothing can happen to us.

I haven't ever shot nobody and I don't want to. If they bring me to war, they might as well shoot me right there because I'm not going to fight. People I know were in Vietnam, and they're on drugs now, their minds will never be right again. War is the worst thing ever.

What would you say to President Bush if you had the chance?

The Mayor of New York is doing a better job than he is. Colin Powell, at least he isn't giving away ideas. I'm not saying I would go to war, but if we did, then catch them by surprise, like they caught us. But two wrongs don't make a right.

What would you say to the families who have lost loved ones?

I really don't know what I would say. People are going to tell you, it's time to move on. No, when you feel like it. It's not that easy. Lives are changed forever. It's going to take months. Years.

How have you been affected by these events?

I'm not going to be scared every day. That's not how

I want to live. But I'm afraid. I'm thinking about changing my middle name, a common Muslim name. My sisters just thought it was a nice name, but I'm not Muslim.

I don't get people saying, "There's going to be a lot of racism." They're just now talking about racism. Well, yeah, there has been racism for years, for decades, for thousands of years. What do you think happened during slavery? During the election in Florida just last year? To Native Americans? People celebrate Christopher Columbus Day! What about the Japanese at internment camps? What about Jews in concentration camps?

People say to me, "You have to go back to Africa." Well, you're not from here, either. If I sit on a bus, people sit away from me. I want to say, "You can sit near me, I won't harm you. I don't know you." Racial profiling, it's in the mind. And it's been going on for years. I've been tailed by cops, asking me where I was going. I say, "Why are you following me? Look at all these other people around, why don't you follow them?" And they say, "We just want to know."

It's like what they say in the Bible. You reap what you sow. Now you know what it's like to be hated. Now people know how it feels, and it doesn't feel so good. It happens. It happens every day.

It takes something like this to get everyone together. Does this have to happen all the time? America is finally awake. It's like when the alarm goes off in the morning, people just hit the snooze button and go right on back



A fireman's boot overflows at a Seattle Center memorial.
Photo by *Mockingbird Times* staff.

to sleep. But now, it's really loud, and people are saying, maybe I should get out of bed. Yes, you should. 🐦

The Mockingbird Times would like to hear what you think!

We want to know how current events have impacted your life. The first 10 people to answer the four questions we asked in this article will get a coupon from Blockbuster Video. We will also pay if we publish your answers.

You can submit your answers by email to Valerie@mockingbirdsociety.org or you can write us at *Mockingbird Times*, Submissions Dept. 1820 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122.

We are also interested in any other contributions you may have; artwork, poetry, essays, photography, reviews or even article ideas. If we decide to use your work, we will pay up to \$25. Please email or write us with any questions regarding submissions. We look forward to hearing from all over Washington state.

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

By J.W.

LIFE. It's not fair for anyone. Racism, violence, and death seem more of topics today than they were before and it takes its toll on human existence.

Live life to its fullest everyday, because you never know what's going to happen out there. Say "I love you" to your friends, family, or just anyone you come across. Hate breeds evil and greed, and love breeds unity and forgiveness. Love is stronger than greed and hate, and if you waste time hating, you're going to lose more than you gain. Let people right now know you care even though it sounds weird. Tell them anyway because either you or I could be here today, gone tomorrow. In the long run, it's better said and done than never. Our lives are running on the sands of time and we have a certain amount of it while on this earth before our time is up and gone for good. Don't wait until it's too late, do it now, while you still have the chance.

"United we stand, Divided we fall" 🐦



Mementos of New York covered streets around the Seattle Center. Photo by *Mockingbird Times* staff.

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Letter from the Editor

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a month makes. The recent events in New York and Washington, D.C., have impacted the entire American family, indeed the entire human family. Pictures and stories of grief, courage, and resiliency have engulfed us since that historical day of September 11. Few of us will ever forget where we were or who we were with when we heard the shocking and traumatic news that the United States had been attacked, leaving thousands of innocent American and world citizens dead.

As a therapist trained in acute and post-traumatic reactions, my working definition of trauma is "any event or stimuli that is overwhelming to one's coping mechanisms." Certainly seeing a plane fly into a building for the sole purpose of killing thousands of unsuspecting people meets this definition. The threat of war and all that implies results in ongoing stress and anxiety. For any parent it can be confusing about how best to support children through this type of crisis. For the foster parent who may have known the youngster in their home for several years or a few hours it is especially daunting. Likewise, kids seeing their caretakers express fear and anxiety often results in additional confusion about basic safety. Some suggestions that I hope prove helpful during very difficult times.

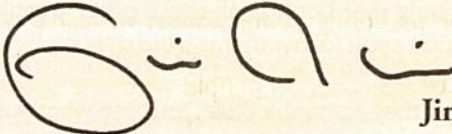
● **New trauma triggers old trauma:** When we experience something that is overwhelming and traumatic we are frequently reminded, consciously and unconsciously, of old wounds. This often results in regressing to "old behavior," which can be frustrating and confusing to kids and caretakers. Be patient with

this as it is normal behavior to regress during periods of high stress, as well as an opportunity for deeper understanding, healing, and relationship building.


● **The best way to reduce anxiety is to increase predictability:** The terrorist actions and America's impending response has all of us holding and managing more anxiety than usual. Look for the little ways to communicate a sense of consistency and predictability throughout the household. This could be as simple as having a dinner schedule established at the beginning of the week identifying who is cooking what on which night. Predictable, safe structure can convey a foundation of organization and safety.

● **Listening is not the same as fixing:** Make time to listen to each other. This could be about the current events but it may also be about other issues that are of concern. One sixteen year old told me that he feels guilty because he finds himself more concerned about how his soccer team is doing than world events. After listening to him for a bit about the difficulties of his team he spontaneously moved the conversation to his concerns about world war, whether he will be drafted, and wondering how is birth mom is doing. Quite a lot for a young man who first reported he "didn't really care" about the world events. At the conclusion of our conversation I thanked him for talking and giving his gift to me.

● **Balance:** It's critical to take care of self in order to take care of others. Having connection and fun gives a needed respite from the stress of worldly events. For adults one of the ways we attempt to gain some mastery over this type of anxiety is to embark on a compulsive search for more information in order to convince ourselves that more information provides us with more control. As one seven year old recently scolded his father: "There's more to life than CNN," and then promptly changed the channel to *Rugrats*.

 Jim Theofelis

If there's an issue you want to see *Mockingbird Times* cover, we want to know about it. Contact the *Times* with your ideas and suggestions at www.mockingbirdsociety.org



Quirky Bird Quote

"Racism is not Patriotism"

— As seen on a United States flag flying outside a home in Bothell

Meet Our Staff

- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jim Theofelis
- OPERATIONS MANAGER
Siri Throm Saxe
- STAFF ADVISORS
Valerie Douglas, Molly Rhodes
- STAFF WRITERS
Julia Higuera, Eli Wilson, J.W.
- THANK YOUS
Richard Hugo House, *Real Change*,
Children's Home Society, YWCA,
Casey Family Program, Conrad, Lisa Stewart
and the YMCA Transitions program,
everyone who took part in the
Seattle Center memorial, Youth Advocates,
Seattle Foundation, Blockbuster Video

The Mockingbird Times
1820 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 322-0438
www.mockingbirdsociety.org

Positive Power



Being a kid who doesn't live with your biological parents is not a sentence ending the rest of your life. Here's a partial list of adoptees and adoptive parents.

Adoptees

- Edward Albee (playwright)
- Shari Belafonte-Harper (actress)
- Halle Berry (actress)
- Senator Robert Byrd (D-West Virginia)
- President Bill Clinton
- Nat King Cole (singer)
- Christina Crawford (author)
- Ted Danson (actor)
- Eric Dickerson (football player)
- President Gerald Ford
- Melissa Gilbert (actress)
- Scott Hamilton (skater)
- Debbie Harry (singer)
- Jesse Jackson (political activist)
- Steve Jobs (co-founder Apple Computers)
- Ray Liotta (actor)
- Greg Louganis (diver)
- Marilyn Monroe (actress)

Adoptive Parents

- Loni Anderson/ Burt Reynolds (actors)
- Julie Andrews (actress)
- Charles Bronson/ Jill Ireland (actors)
- Joan Crawford (actress)
- Tom Cruise/ Nicole Kidman (actors)
- Jamie Lee Curtis (actress)
- Ted Danson (actor)
- Bette Davis (actress)
- Mia Farrow (actress)
- Magic Johnson (basketball player)
- Patti LaBelle (singer)
- Willie Mays (baseball player)
- Rosie O'Donnell (TV personality)
- Michelle Pfeiffer (actress)
- Steven Spielberg/ Kate Capshaw (director/ actress)

What they should ask you at an intake:

Is there anything you need for your daily routine?

Join the Mockingbird Society: make a difference in the lives of Washington's most vulnerable youth

THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY is an independent, non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving the safety, quality of life and future of the children and adolescents living in the Washington State foster care/group home system. The *Mockingbird Times* is a job-training program sponsored by the Mockingbird Society.

All members of the Mockingbird Society will receive the *Mockingbird Times* monthly.

I want to support The Mockingbird Society

Enclosed, please find my check made payable to Mockingbird Society in the amount of:

- \$1,000 + Protector \$ _____

\$250 - \$499 Organizations \$ _____

\$25 Foster Parent \$ _____
- \$500 - \$999 Care Taker \$ _____

\$50 Supporter \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____
Email _____

- ☐ Please bill me for the amount indicated above
- ☐ My employer will match my gift, enclosed is my matching gift form.
- ☐ I am interested in receiving information on the advantages of planned giving
- ☐ Please do not include my name on published donor lists

To donate by mail: Please fill out and mail this form with a check or money order payable to The Mockingbird Society, to The Mockingbird Society, 1820 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

Finding a Post-Foster Home

The latest living program for foster care graduates gets a once over

By ELI WILSON

ONE OF THE NEWEST PROGRAM FOR KIDS growing out of the foster care system, Transitions, started in August. The *Mockingbird Times* sat down with Transitions' intake manager, Lisa Stewart, to talk about new housing.

What does your program contribute to kids today?

Well, we offer an opportunity for young adults who are 18-24 year-olds who slip through the cracks. Coming out of the foster care system, we offer them housing, a lot of independent life skills, and educational and vocational support to help make their dreams and ideas they have for their lives come true.

What are the housing options?

In terms of a lease a young adult can find an apartment

To apply to or find out more about the Transitions living program for people who have been through the foster care system, contact Lisa Stewart at the downtown Seattle YMCA at (206) 344-3184.

that they were interested in living in and independent living (IL) specialists would try to work out a way they could move into that apartment. The YMCA would sign the lease on the apartments, put down the security deposit, help furnish it, and help get the young adult set up. Then the young adults would have to pay 30 percent of their income as part of the program. And eventually they slowly take over all of their own bills and rent, and they get to leave with a signed lease and good credit.

Another option is shared houses — the program is buying three houses around Seattle right now.

Another option is to be a border in a house or rent a room in a house. Another option would be to be in extended foster care which might be for young adults who need a little more guidance and assistance and they would get more hands-on life skills stuff with the foster home.

Who qualifies for the program?

The program is open to young adults who have spent some time in foster care, out-of-home placement for at least 30 days, sometime after their 15th birthday. And right now we have some other requirements from our funders. We can't take any convicted felons or pregnant or parenting young adults, we can't take anyone who has some pretty serious behavioral issues, or history of violence, or people who are actively psychotic. But over time we will try to work with as many people as we can. I'll try to open the program to as many people as we can.

Do you offer job training?

Life coaches will work with the young adults in the program to help determine what sort of work they want to do and help get vocational training or help the participant get into a job that he or she is really interested in.

How does one apply to the program?

To apply to the program, you can contact me at the downtown Seattle YMCA (see *info above*). The process is to fill out a two-page application that lets me know if you meet the program criteria. I would then call and set up a time for an intake assessment. Those usually take a couple of hours, and involve me sort of getting to know you and asking a lot of questions about your hopes and dreams and your experiences in your life and your background and where you want to go from there. Then we make a decision based on if you would be a good fit for the program.

Is the program reaching out to youth of color?

Absolutely. We are trying to make the information about the program available to everyone in the community that could use the services, regardless of what area they are in over all of King County. And by trying very hard to involve strong members of the African-American community and other ethnic communities in cultural competency trainings and to really respect and understand the needs of all the different people that might be a part of this program, we make sure that all the people in this program get the support and services that they need.

What are the requirements to stay in the program?

We are working on defining those rules right now,

Double Fun



By J.W.

DOUBLETAKE is an action-packed comedy that is truly hilarious. This movie is about an investment banker named Daryl Chase (Orlando Jones) who is under surveillance by the CIA because some crooked organization has a hit out on him, due to the fact that the bank he works for laundered money. He meets Fred Tiffany (Eddie Griffin), whom he thinks is a street hustler. But it turns out that Fred is an undercover FBI agent. So Daryl, fearing for his life, convinces Fred to switch places with him by changing their looks. Daryl changes out of his business clothes into Fred's street gear and Fred changes out of his street gear into Daryl's business clothes.

Double Take



Starring Orlando Jones, Eddie Griffin

There is one scene when they are on a train and Fred tries to talk to the waiter with this proper, uppity accent to sound like Daryl. Daryl tries to talk with some jive-talkin' slang, which is funny to see because neither talks like the other very well.

As this unfolds, the crooked organization that wants to kill Daryl is actually — but I can't tell you what the rest of the movie is about because that would spoil the fun. I like this movie because it has a good plot that keeps you wanting to know more. It is a bowl of laughs. 🐦

but I would say that a young adult would need to be motivated to follow through on the goals and commitments that he or she has made in conjunction with their IL person, be responsibly working towards learning their IL skills, and participating in the IL skills group, as well as responsibly working towards school or job. I think those are the really important things.

We would look at a case-by-case basis why someone might not be able to stay in the program, like participating in illegal activities or not following through on commitments. But we would try to give the young adult every opportunity to be successful and if that meant moving them back into a situation in our housing continuum that was more supportive, like shared housing instead of an apartment, we would try to do that if we could.

In what ways are you helping kids in transition?

I think we're helping young adults from slipping through the cracks when they get spit out from the foster care system. They don't have anything and we are trying to help by giving them a stable living situation. They can leave with a furnished apartment, a bank account, some education, and the means to pay their bills and be successful. Everybody deserves that opportunity. 🐦

Reality of the System

By ELI WILSON

TOXICITY is a very good CD. The band covers such issues as drug problems, mostly talking about how the government is so-called trying to stop all the drugs coming in to our great country, or so I've heard. The government is not treating people for their drug problems, they're just throwing them in jail.

Because of this, the percentage of Americans incarcerated in the prison system has doubled since 1983. System of a Down sings about these statistics with the emotion of bands like Rage Against the Machine, but with a more complex variety of issues.

For example, there are songs talking about how we spend so much time on the computer that we don't ever take time to poke up our head and look around to see what we're doing to the world. We don't really pay attention to the havoc on our Mother Earth and see how much we all pollute by dumping stuff everywhere.

This CD has the metal sound I'm in to and the lyrics are great. It makes you think about how much we could help the world if we all helped each other. 🐦



Toxicity



System of a Down

Ways to Participate in Relief/ Rescue Efforts

COMPILED BY JULIA HIGUERA

MANY PEOPLE have felt the impact of the tragic events that have taken place September 11th 2001.

For those of us who can not be in New York to help those who are grieving and have suffered great loss, there are many ways that we can contribute donations to the Rescue/Relief effort, locally.

It is very important that you help young children, by playing a game, reading them a book, or just spending time with them. Many children are trying to understand and cope with this tragedy as well as we are. It is very important that the children get to be children.

The following is a list of some of the ways you can help:

● Donate Blood

To found out how to donate blood you can contact the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or the Puget Sound Blood Center at www.psbcc.org or 1-800-398-7888.

● Volunteer

To find out how to volunteer, you can go through the Red Cross at www.redcross.volunteermatch.org.

● Donate Money

Organizations that would benefit from money donations include:

- fireman funds
- animal shelters
- homeless shelters

Or you can donate to banks' disaster relief funds in Seattle:

- Washington Mutual, account # 179-198417-3
- Wells Fargo, Victims of World Trade Center, account # 1352543159.

● Donate to Red Cross

You can make donations such as food, clothing, or money. You can find out more about how to donate by: — going to www.redcross.org or www.Seattleredcross.org — calling 1-800-HELP-NOW or (206) 323-2345 — mailing donations to American Red Cross, Seattle King County Chapter, 1900 25 Ave. S., Seattle, 98144-4708.

● Talk to People About How You Feel

For people to talk to about your feelings and effects of the World Trade Center disaster, you can call:

- Seattle Crisis Clinic, (206) 461-3222
- Aircraft Causality Emotional Support, 1 (877) 227-6435
- Trauma Intervention for Shoreline, Bothell, and Northshore, (206) 314-2890
- Grief Works, (253) 333-9420
- Family Services for Renton, Bellevue, (425) 461-3883

● Pray ☸

Ways to Educate Yourself

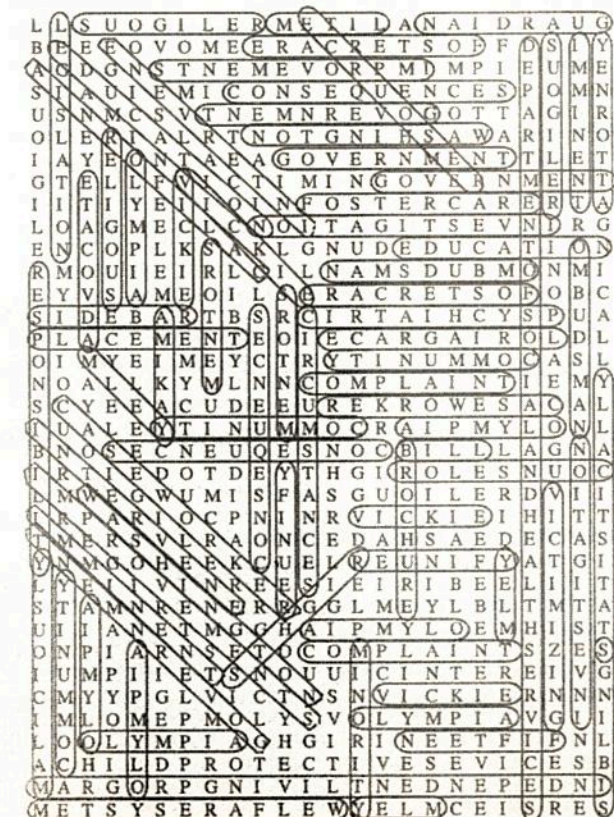
There are lots of ways to educate yourself on the issues surrounding the terrorist attack on the United States. It can be confusing, but we think it is really helpful to get information from lots of different sources. The more views you get, the better equipped you are to make your own decision. Here are some places to start:

Word Search Answer:

Whoops! In *Mockingbird's* September 6, 2001 puzzle, religious was not listed five times as promised, but three times each as "religious" and "religous." *Mockingbird* apologizes for the brain-frustrating mistake, but kudos to everyone who found all six.

Other words that appear more than once are:

Caseworker, Complaint, Imminent, Improvements, Intervene, Investigation, Mentors, Ombudsman, Reunify, Washington (twice); Community, Consequences, Foster care, Yelm (three times); Government, Vickie (four times); Olympia (seven times).



- Newspapers
- Television
- Get as many perspectives as possible
- Talk to older people about their views
- Internet news sites/ message boards
- news: <http://washpost.com/index.shtml>
- <http://www.newyorktimes.com/>
- <http://www.metimes.com/2K11/>
- info on middle east history and culture:
- <http://link.lanix.utexas.edu/menic/>
- <http://www.merip.org> ☸

- Radio
- Library

Ways to Take Care of Yourself

WITH ALL THE EVENTS that have taken place recently, it is a good thing to make sure that you take care of yourself. Take care of yourself emotionally, physically, and psychologically. Make sure you feel secure with yourself and the emotions that you may be feeling due to the tragedy that has taken place.

Here is a list of things that may help:

- Meditate
- Listen to music
- Pray
- Garden
- Take a long tubbie w/bubbles
- Go for a walk
- Get a massage
- Sing
- Keep a journal of your thoughts
- Exercise
- Play a game
- Read a book
- Watch a movie that inspires you
- Talk with friends and family
- Take a nap

Why you should try these things:

- Relieves stress
- So you can take care of people you care about
- Helps you not dwell on these stressful events. ☸

Poetry Corner

Losing the Children

Where are they?
I can't find them.
Or maybe,

I just don't want to see;
See what they've become
these silent children of the night,
These scarred, unwanted children of the streets.
Torn clothing, ragged souls,
not looking for hand-outs,
just helping hands.
A way out of the hole
they've found themselves in.

Nowhere to turn,
Nowhere to go,
Squats are hard to come by now.
Where to go now
that they are homeless,
shunned as beggars,
insulted and spit upon?
Not knowing
where their next meal
is coming from.
Never knowing
whether death lay
just around the corner:
Rape, Beatings, or Worse.
Gangs, Serial Killers
People looking for easy prey,
those forgotten and uncounted.

My brothers, My sisters,
I was once where you are now.
How could I forget
the cold, hungry nights
crowded in dark doorways?
The terror in seeing
someone following us
down the dark alleyways?
The code of silence,
the one we followed in every way,
just to protect our own?
The never-ceasing rain,
the cold, Seattle rain
that soaked through
the thin, holey blankets and jackets
te used for warmth?

How could I forget?
I could.
I have.

Where are you my brother?
Why can't I find you my sister?
Now I remember.
I got out.

AMANDA SHAMAN

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