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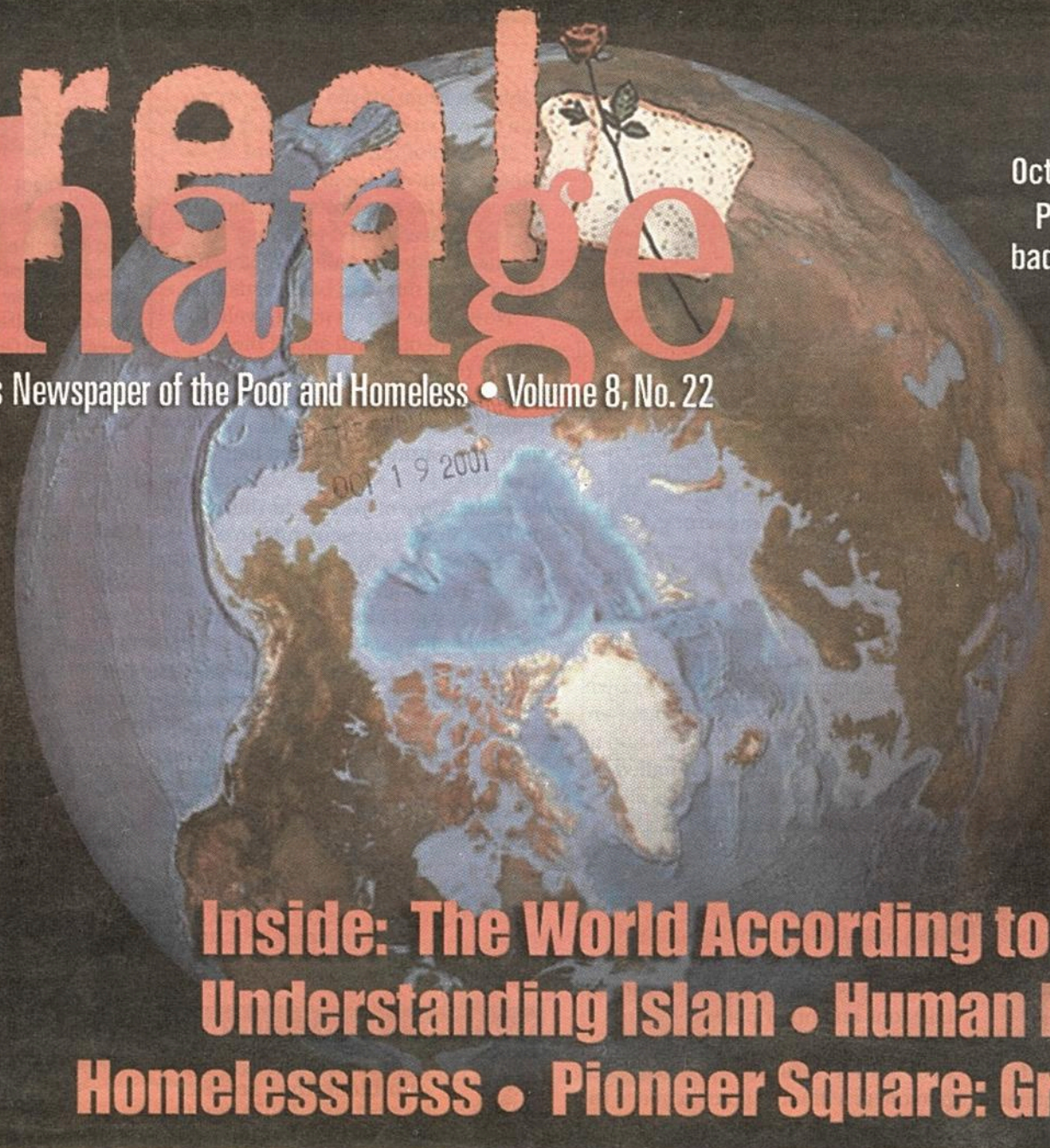
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Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 8, No. 22



**Inside: The World According to José Bové
Understanding Islam • Human Rights and
Homelessness • Pioneer Square: Ground Zero**

For Amnesty

Mexican workers seek sanctuary in movement for immigration reform

By Lydia Ruddy

Juan Monroy Mera works at CASA Latina, a day labor center in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. His appearance is neat, despite the old work clothes that he wears in case he is called on a job that requires strenuous physical labor. Not a large man, he has a wiry build that belies a 53-year-old body used to long hours of work. Although his story may not be typical, it is by no means unique.

In a past life, Mera was a professional, with a desk in the offices of the government agency where he worked as an engineer. "I was born in 1948 in Mixquiahuala, a small town in Central Mexico, and was raised in a large family, attended college, earning a degree in civil engineering," he says in Spanish, a translator at his side.

"After college I married, had four children, and worked for 22 years for the Secretary of Agriculture as an engineer in topographical research and terrain leveling. The income was enough to provide housing, clothing, and food for my family."

Like many Mexicans, Mera's hard times came on with the first major de-

valuation of the Mexican peso, in 1994. His salary was not enough to send his eldest to college while supporting the rest of the family. "My wife of many years cracked under the pressure of impending poverty and left the family," he says. "I had to depend on my mother to take care of my kids while I struggled to make an income."

Mera moved to Seattle about two years ago, leaving his mother in charge of caring for his children. Until this point he had spent almost no time outside his home state of Hidalgo. But in order to support his family he made the decision to cross the U.S.-Mexican border.

Now he shares a three-bedroom house on Beacon Hill with eight other men. He earns a bit more than \$1,200 a month from occasional day-labor jobs through CASA Latina, and from work in a restaurant, a regular position that provides a steady source of income and the majority of his meals. He rides the bus when he can afford to — otherwise, he gets around town on foot. Of his \$1,200 monthly income, Mera sends about \$800 back to his family.

Everyday, starting at 6 a.m., 50 to 90

laborers gather at the corner of Western and Bell in downtown Seattle at the site of CASA Latina. Dressed in work clothes, they stand around in small groups waiting for a chance to work for whomever comes to the organization that day. Every so often, a truck pulls into the driveway and the worker at the top of the lottery list jumps into the back to be taken to a job site. He will make \$9 to \$12 an hour.

There are an estimated three to four million Mexicans living illegally in the United States, many of whom work every day. Many pay taxes under a special IRS rule that allows undocumented workers to report their wages without giving a social security number. They are

part of a growing national and international awareness about the need for im-

migration reform. Business leaders, labor unions, and immigrant supporters argue that the United States must officially acknowledge, in concrete legal reform, that illegal immigrants help keep the economy afloat, and that they should receive the same rights afforded other people working in the United States — most notably, the minimum wage and a safe workplace.

"My wife of many years cracked under the pressure of impending poverty and left the family. I had to depend on my mother to take care of my kids while I struggled to make an income."

— Seattle day laborer
Juan Monroy Mera

Most Mexican immigrants come to the United States because the employment opportunities available to them at

Continued on Page 14



web page. I hope my small essay reaches some, and makes them realize that those who are homeless have faces and are loved — if from afar.

Sincerely,
Jack Beslanwitch

Homeless fund

Dear *Real Change*,
I sit here, at a friend's house early in the morning of October 5, 2001, listening to the news on television about the great tragedy in New York City. Now don't get me wrong, I felt bad about what happened, and my heart goes out to the victims and their families. But one thing that bothers me, there is another great tragedy and it started a long time ago and the victims are among a few of your own families and friends. It didn't happen over night, it took many years, and no bombs, guns, or bullets. It's called homelessness, a big war on us all that a few thousand are trying to fight. Now let's start by saying if we can raise \$122 billion for New York City — and still rising — why can't we raise \$122 billion here for our own victims of homeless?

Instead of giving the money to the missions and other places, set up a trust fund and have someone watch over it. Give, let's say, \$20,000 to each person, give them a home, a place to live, give them a boost so they can get

a job, get them off the streets, so we don't have victims of society.

A friend of mine told me of another tragedy, about a bus driver who was shot and drove off a bridge. No money was raised for those victims and their families. We need to take care of our own backyards first.

Now some of you might, well, the homeless people will spend the money on drugs or alcohol. Well, not all homeless people drink or use drugs. Those who do, you can put them in treatment, and then help them out.

Now, some of you might think, I donate money to rescue missions and other shelters, why should I do any more? Well think about it, where does that money go? I can tell you, not directly to homeless people.

Now if each person can give the way they did for New York victims, then we won't have any more homeless people, fewer crimes, less federal money, fewer jails and prisons. Think about it for a while, and tell me if I'm wrong.

Jimmy Moore
Homeless
and in need of a home

Love from afar

Dear *Real Change*,
I just wished to commend you on a job well done, and also to note that after the recent death of my cousin, who had been homeless for much of the last nine years, I have been energized in terms of wanting to help those who through politics, addiction, or poverty are forced onto the streets. I have posted a web page, "Putting A Face On The Homeless: Memories of A Cousin" (www.webwitch.com/bud/). He will be missed, and I hope that others who are experiencing similar circumstances can be helped. I do my small measure in that I purchase *Real Change* on a frequent basis and appreciate your well-done

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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

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

By Adam Holdorf

The persistence of homelessness in our country is an affront to dignity and social equality. If our government can't take care of it, maybe the United Nations can.

Well, why not? In 1948, the newly formed United Nations ratified a Universal Declaration of Human Rights that added economic rights — the right to work for a livable wage, to freedom from want if unable to work — to the repertoire of civil and political liberties that reaches back to the Magna Carta. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration says that “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

The Declaration has been followed by reams of studies, proposals, and non-governmental attempts to address hunger, homelessness, and despair all over the world. As part of its mission, the United Nations has struggled to make room for refugees — people fleeing evil, natural and man-made. In 1998 the United Nations assigned a special status to landless and homeless people who never cross an international border: the so-called “internally displaced.”

The United Nations' Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement don't perhaps go far enough. The document recognizes internally displaced peoples (IDPs)

when their hardship is caused “in particular” by natural disasters or civil wars. Economic reasons are given short shrift. Moreover, though the United Nations outlines the necessities (food, shelter, sanitation, medicine) that should be given, it defers to the sovereign power of individual nations to take care of its displaced people. Still, the United Nations' recognition of IDPs is one more sign that homelessness is global.

Locally, we have our own faults in the system for caring for so-called IDPs. There is the lack of shelter, hygiene services, and transi-

tional housing. And there is little official forum to address such issues. Consider the Seattle Human Rights Commission, which by its name sounds like it would follow international concepts of economic and social justice outlined in the Declaration. Its Economic Justice Committee is concerned with jobs and business for protected classes — women, people belonging to racial groups named by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and sexual minorities named by local law. Since poor people do not merit protected status, economic hardship is not an abiding issue.

A few months ago, I asked Deputy Mayor Tom Byers to respond to Tent City residents' refusal to warm to the mayor's offer of transitional housing until everyone sleeping outside has someplace to go. “The fact of the matter is that the City of Seattle will never be able to shelter the nation's homeless,” he said. So, by this logic, a lack of dignity for homeless people is highly desirable — if there's no shelter, and sleeping on the sidewalk is a crime, then they'll go darken someone else's doorway. It behooves our cities to keep a certain number of people on the run.

Seattle isn't committing any crimes, in national or international law. I predict that United Nations aid workers won't show up here anytime soon. By many estimates, city government is doing a good job of responding to homeless people's needs. But we can do much better, as a nation and as a community. The federal government can reverse its woefully underwhelming record on the issue with a unified strategy for expanding the supply of low-income housing, raising the minimum wage, and providing treatment for chemical dependency or mental health.

One cannot undertake such things without a vision of a better world. For that, look to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Nobody will make us conform to it — there are no lawyers, police, or armies to back it up.

But Abraham Lincoln remarked that the authors of the Declaration of Independence, another unenforceable manifesto, “did not mean to assert the obvious untruth, that all were then actually enjoying that equality, nor yet, that they were about to confer it immediately.... In fact, they had no power to confer such a boon. They meant simply... to set up a standard or maxim for free society which should be familiar to all: constantly looked to, constantly labored for... constantly spreading and deepening its influence and augmenting the happiness and value of life to all people, of all colors, everywhere.” ■

“Set up a standard or maxim for free society which should be familiar to all: constantly looked to, constantly labored for.”
— Abraham Lincoln

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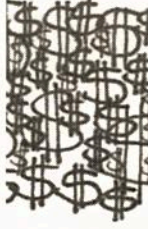
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RC Profile **S**hane Thompkins should have been ready to go back to carpentry work by last December, but a series of complications to a broken wrist have kept his hammering arm in a cast.

First, a jagged end of the fracture hadn't completely healed. A nerve slipped into the gap and got stuck, cutting off the feeling in part of his hand. Doctors bolted a metal plate to the wristbone to stabilize the arm; the bolts pulled out, requiring more surgery. Shane estimates he's missed out on thousands of dollars worth of carpentry work this summer.

Meanwhile, selling *Real Change* helps him and his wife make ends meet. On a good night in downtown Seattle, Shane has made \$70 in tips.

Now, the doctors are trying something new: For 10 hours a day, Shane wears a battery-powered machine that emits radiowaves to stimulate bone rebuilding. Though he struggles with depression, Shane sees that the fracture is finally mending. He hardly needs the doctor to tell him so. “That's one thing I've learned in this whole experience,” he says, “how to read my X-rays.” ■



PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

— Adam Holdorf

Hard times on Broadway

Teens on Broadway will have it that much harder in November, when the Capitol Hill Youth Center closes its doors. It's the only place for homeless people under the age of 23 on the hill, providing meals and a space to get away from the streets for a while. The center is closing for financial reasons, says Kris Nyrop, the director of its parent agency, Street Outreach Services.

Homeless youth aren't the only ones feeling a chill on the streets. Residents and business owners are saying that neighborhood problems they associate with homeless people are worsening.

At a September 21 City Council forum on the subject, citizens ticked off a long list of complaints: urination in doorways and alleys; panhandlers blocking the doors to businesses; unruly young people turning the lawn around the Lincoln Reservoir into (in one neighbor's words) "a lawless zone... that nobody uses." Others worried that the problems will spill out into surrounding single-family neighborhoods. And they called for more police action against such activity.

The two-hour forum, convened by City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck and attended by four other councilmembers and State Senator Pat Thibadeau, concluded with a promise to address these concerns. Are they warranted?

Two social service advocates and one formerly homeless teenager gave them credence. But they point to solutions that don't involve the police: more substance abuse treatment; more outreach to youth on the streets.

"That's all accurate, I agree with them 100 percent," says Elaine Simons, who came to the forum that afternoon as director of the homeless youth agency Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS). But she also blames a bad economy and the abandonment of the north-of-downtown route for Sound Transit.

Apart from the closure of the Youth Center, things are changing "very rapidly" on Capitol Hill, Nyrop agrees. He sees so-called chronic public inebriates coming up the hill to get the strong liquor that downtown merchants have been asked to stop selling. Downtown's prohibition just moves people to a nearby neighborhood, he says: "You're not wiping out the problem."

Kim, a boardmember of PSKS who also sat at the table but didn't give her last name, provided another picture. There are not necessarily more kids on Broadway lately — just more drugs. Two years ago, when she was homeless, her peers "weren't all addicted" to heroin and meth. Treatment hasn't risen to meet the demand, so there's less help for those who want to get clean. When Kim's friend wanted to detox off heroin, he resorted to locking himself in an abandoned building. ■

—Adam Holdorf



TOO TALENTED FOR TRASH CANS: ARTISTS AT THE STREETLIFE GALLERY, THE BELLTOWN STUDIO FOR HOMELESS AND VERY-LOW-INCOME CREATIVE TYPES, HAVE SPENT MONTHS REVAMPING THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD'S SUPPLY OF ARTSY TRASH RECEPTACLES. TRASH CANS PAINTED BY LOCAL ARTISTS HAVE LONG BEEN A HALLMARK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. ABOVE, ART COORDINATOR MONICA LIDMAN AND STREETLIFE ARTIST PAM TAYLOR POSE BY THEIR STREET CORNER MASTERPIECES. EACH OF THE 12 ARTISTS WERE PAID \$300 FOR THEIR WORK, AND THEIR UNDERTAKING WAS FUNDED BY A CITY OF SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT AND MATCHING FUNDS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES. THE STREETLIFE GALLERY IS PART OF THE REAL CHANGE HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE MEDEARIS.



Budget beefs

Homeless and housing advocates brought their beefs before budget writers in the Seattle City Council at an October 10 hearing. At issue was Mayor Paul Schell's proposal to cut \$3.4 million from a fund to build more shelter and transitional housing.

Sharon Lee, executive director of the Low Income Housing Institute, countered the mayor's proposal with her own list of budget cuts — from city departments that had seen growth during the Schell Administration, such as the Strategic Planning Office and the Department of Neighborhoods.

"It makes sense to trim certain programs, if you want to fund essential services," she told the council. "I know it's hard, but there are community programs that need your support."

Despite the call to restore the money, advocates told the council that they recognized the belt-tightening realities of the day. David Bloom, the president of Citizens for Shelter with Dignity, spoke of his group's willingness to reach a compromise with the council over Initiative 71. I-71 is the homeless shelter measure which, if passed next fall, would create an additional 400 homeless shelter beds and a 20 percent increase in city social services spending, costing the city about \$5 million extra over the next two years.

Bloom conceded that "it would be hard to image how circumstances could be more dramatically altered" since this summer, when Citizens for Shelter with Dignity collected 26,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot. The group's compromise offer includes 200 units of transitional and permanent housing for homeless people and restoration of the funds lost under Schell's budget proposal.

The council will finalize the 2002 city budget after the November election. ■

—Adam Holdorf

Seattle Housing Authority denies charges

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is in the process of investigating several allegations of mismanagement and discrimination against the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA). The housing authority says the complaints, from a former supervisor, an anonymous senior-level employee, and the Minority Executive Directors Coalition of King County (MEDC), are unfounded.

Omar Barraza, a former supervisor of the Section 8 unit, wrote his second letter of protest against SHA last month. In it, he alleged conflicts of interest, improper procedures for distributing the Section 8 housing vouchers, and discriminatory employment practices. Another complaint, filed with HUD by an anonymous employee, states that the agency has shifted its priorities away from serving Seattle's poorest residents.

MEDC has put forth a document outlining four major complaints against SHA: discriminatory employment practices, illegal procurement and contracting practices, financial mismanagement, and institutional racism.

According to SHA, Barraza's complaint comes on the heels of a bitter personnel dispute that ended with his dismissal. Management problems at SHA's new Porchlight office in Ballard prompted Barraza to go on paid administrative leave. In his first letter of protest, he claimed that he could not go back to Porchlight and asked management to take the Section 8 department out of the Ballard office, fire the current director, and put himself in charge. An investigation was conducted and no one in the office was willing to file a formal complaint. SHA management found that workers at Porchlight were unhappy, but they did not conclude that the director should be fired. When Barraza failed to return to work, SHA fired him. Barraza may appeal.

The anonymous complaint is also "without merit," says Felton. She says the housing authority is "expanding the [type of] people they serve, but not at the expense of the poor." SHA denies each of MEDC's claims as well.

All of this comes at a time of change for SHA. Due to a \$3.6 million budget shortfall SHA has decided to begin layoffs, which will eliminate 25 positions, and to implement a hiring freeze. MEDC claims that shortfalls are due to mismanagement, whereas Felton points to the dramatic rise in utility expenses and a projected lack of federal funding, creating the need to cut jobs. Employee dissatisfaction stems from changes such as these and last year's move to Porchlight.

MEDC also claims that the hardest hit by layoffs are minorities, but Felton counters that as well. Actually, she says, layoffs are disproportionately impacting the white workforce — 79 percent of the laid-off workers will be white, while the current workforce is 56 percent white.

Barraza could not be reached for comment. While HUD investigates, all parties involved in this case, including the Seattle City Council, are waiting to hear the truth. ■

—Jeanne Ryan

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

Unpublished Experiences

Stories from the World Conference Against Racism

By Romie Ponce

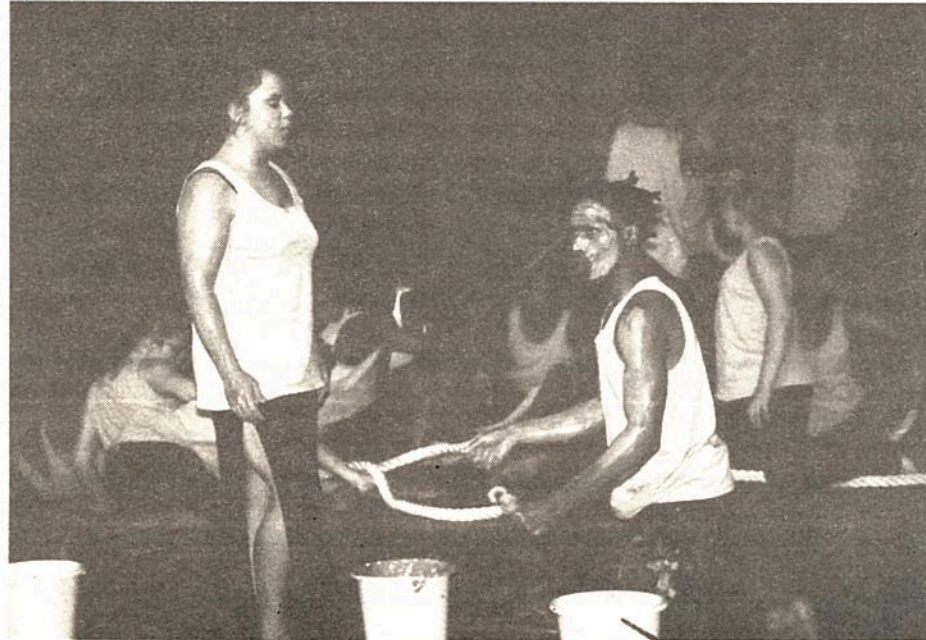
The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR) took place in the South African port of Durban from August 31 to September 7. Here in America, the biggest news story was the United States and Israeli walkout over "hateful" language equating Zionism with racism and pushing for reparations for the legacy of slavery.

Although the media saw the U.S. withdrawal as a sign of the conference's failure, delegates who traveled to Durban from the Seattle metropolitan area told a different story: one of frustrations and achievements in their struggle to break the bonds of race and nationality.

Representatives from six local non-governmental organizations concerned with social justice were in attendance for the duration of the conference. On Sunday, September 30, 10 of them gathered at a Central Area church to share their unpublished stories and experiences.

The report began with a welcome by Father George Wauchope, a South African priest, who offered his perspective on last month's events. He asserted that "powerful countries have not admitted their liability to acts of dehumanization." A nation's refusal to accept responsibility is what prevents progress in the fight to end racism, he said. He offered this solution: "Look at our nation's past and at our history; look at all our wrongs and mistakes. Evaluate and admit to these injustices, and move forward with progressive actions of reconciliation and respect for all peoples — locally, nationally, and globally."

Collectively, the delegates verbalized their frustrations with the organization of the conference and the lack of U.S. involvement. One speaker pointed out the poor layout: "We came all this way, and we were separated into tents with people from our own nations.... Wasn't the point of the conference to meet with people from differ-



MONICA BARROGA OF THE TRIBES PROJECT PERFORMS WITH TEXMAN, OF SOWETO DRAMA SOCIETY, IN SOUTH AFRICA. BARROGA TRAVELED FROM SEATTLE TO ATTEND THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM.

PHOTO BY JANET BARRY, COURTESY OF THE TRIBES PROJECT

"Look at our nation's past and at our history; look at all our wrongs and mistakes. Evaluate and admit to these injustices, and move forward with progressive actions of reconciliation and respect for all peoples — locally, nationally, and globally."

Father George Wauchope, South African Priest

ent countries?"

But the delegates also told of relationships built with people from over 160 nations to fight discrimination and racism. Robert Yanas and Sooja Kelsey, two young people representing a local chapter of an international group called United to End Racism, pointed out the unprecedented nature of the conference itself: This was the first U.N. conference to include an official youth summit. They felt the conference was overclouded by the U.S.-Israeli walkout. Despite frustrations with the U.S. government's role and disorganization

within the conference itself, Yanas felt fortunate to be in attendance; he said he came back from the conference with valuable insight and experience. The best part of traveling to Durban was the relationships created with youth from all over the world.

Invited, then uninvited

The Tribes Project, an anti-racist performing arts group, was invited to participate in the U.N. conference by joining forces with a youth group from Durban. Together, they were to perform

before the delegates. They were not met with the reception they anticipated.

"The group was not allowed into the gates of the conference with the director from South Africa, until I showed up to escort [them]," said J. Paul Preseault, Tribes Project director, who attributed the hassle to the problem they were there about: racism. "The director from Durban was African, and I was a white American," he explained.

Once inside, Preseault was told that the group would not be allowed to perform in designated venues. Instead, they commenced guerilla theatre, performing in the streets and maintaining a captive audience.

"We were not sure how we were going to be received, especially considering where we had to perform," said Preseault. "I believe the group performed with more energy and vitality, simply because we were told that we were not allowed to. In just seven days [they] landed in South Africa, met the youth performing arts group from Durban, and orchestrated an amazing performance."

Preseault felt blessed to be working with the group from South Africa, and said the seven days in Durban for Seattle youth was incredibly unique — sharing diverse backgrounds and various opinions and capturing snapshots of life in South Africa.

Other delegates expressed their disappointment with the lack of U.S. government cooperation, and felt that it hindered people involved with non-government organizations who remained for the duration of the conference.

Despite the problems, the delegates connected with people. Shelley Macy of United to End Racism said, "If anything, Durban was about building and maintaining relationships." Her meaning was clear: Before nations can meet together to draft declarations and discuss policies, they must first form ties between each other — a step that seems initially impossible, but in the end, absolutely essential. ■

World Conference Conclusions

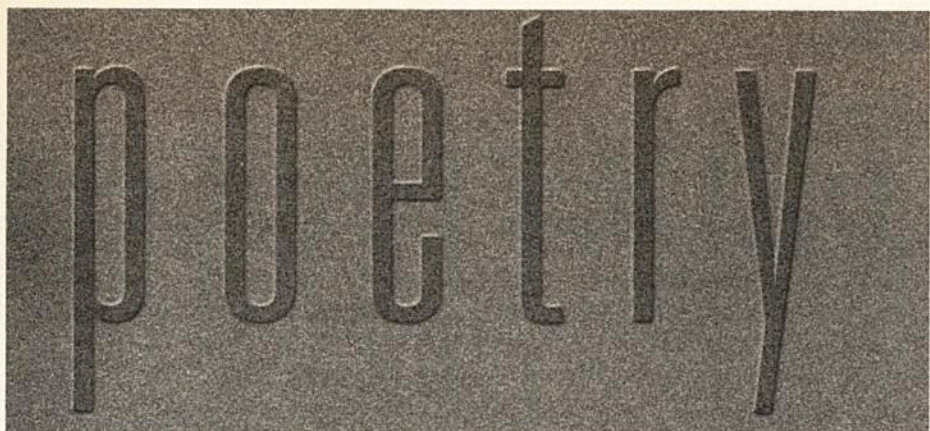
The following is a partial list of some of the solutions and conclusions for eradicating discrimination and intolerance, which came out of the United Nations' World Conference Against Racism:

- On the Middle East, the Conference called for the end of violence, respect for the principle of self-determination, and the end of all suffering, thus allowing Israel and the Palestinians to resume the peace process, and to develop and prosper in security and freedom. The Conference recognized the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state.
- On the question of slavery, the Conference agreed on text that acknowledges and profoundly regrets the massive human sufferings and the tragic plight of millions of men, women, and children as a result of slavery, slave trade, transatlantic slave trade, apartheid, colonialism, and genocide. The Confer-

ence further acknowledged that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity and should always have been so. Concerning compensation and reparations, the Conference recognized that historical injustices have undeniably contributed to poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparities, instability, and insecurity, which affect many people in different parts of the world, particularly in developing countries.

- The Conference encouraged states to develop or implement effective legislation and other measures to protect migrant workers; to ensure accountability for misconduct by law enforcement personnel motivated by racism; to eliminate racial profiling; and to protect the privacy of genetic information.

Participants in the World Conference included 2,300 representatives from 163 countries, including 16 heads of state, 58 foreign ministers, and 44 ministers, as well as 106 non-government organizations. ■



A Beautiful Garden

I walked in the wood and I found a patch of grass where I laid down. There were fragrant flowers surrounding me.
And I walked through the country and dusty roads and found fields of flowers.
Then I saw horses in the distance and pictured myself riding fast in the wind.
Then in the wood again and creek beds, tall trees and a trail that led to a cabin in the wilderness.
Cold as I was; inside I build a fire and rested.
In the morning, I hit the trail again and more fields and flowers. I painted pictures of the flowers to keep forever.
I walked further into the wilderness and saw many of God's creatures and His creation.
Along the water's edge I found moss rocks and interesting colors of landscape.
Tall trees surrounded me and I decided to approach a clearing.
More fragrant flowers.
I gathered some along the trails, and hurried by car to start them in water, to plant in dirt later at home.
Silly dreams!

—CAROL LENO

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



The latest news on the homeless front, besides the fundamental legalization of Tent City, is Anitra Freeman's turn to crime.

Anitra has been sort of sucked into sort of a life of crime by such repeat offenders as Michele "Give 'em Hell with One L" Marchand of SHARE/WHEEL and Scott "the Facilitator" Morrow of SHARE. Actually more like a minute of crime. But she still should be able to look forward to a rewarding career playing parts in John Waters films, if she can bring herself to relocate to Baltimore three months of every year.

For those of you who just boarded this train at the last station, that's Anitra Freeman, alias Anitra of Many Associations Freeman, a.k.a. The Duck on the Italian Menu, a.k.a. Net Mama, a.k.a. Wes's Main Squeeze, on Whose Kitchen Floor I Have Sometimes Slept.

It went down like this. King County Executive Ron Sims got a bug up his butt this year about SHARE. Nobody can say why, where, how, or when the bug came from or what it was doing there, but an unidentified source has reportedly said, "Maybe he doesn't get the way grassroots organizations like SHARE operate."

The upshot of Sims' dissatisfaction with SHARE was that he wouldn't let them run the Winter Response Shelter at the King County Administration Building this year, even though they ran it for something like eight years without anyone complaining about it at the time. Getting new management for the shelter took time, he said, so the shelter wouldn't open until October 15, he said, instead of the 1st of October, when it usually has been.

So SHARE said, OK, but there is (was — this is all history now) still a need for a shelter October 1 through October 14, because the cold weather won't wait for the county to get its act together, and it's not safe out there even in good weather. Therefore SHARE offered to run the shelter those days. But the bug in Ron Sims' butt made him say no to that. "Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin," he might have said, but he evidently didn't, forcing

me to make it up.

I'm not making this part up: Each night of October 2 through October 14, the county put up "No Trespassing" tape to keep people out from under the overhang at the entranceway to the administration building. SHARE then went ahead and ran a sidewalk shelter in front of the building every one of those nights, vowing to cross the tape if it should happen to be raining at the beginning of the night.

The office of Ron Sims referred to SHARE's sleep-out as a political stunt, without explaining why politics is bad for SHARE but OK for Ron Sims and his office. The unofficial SHARE position is that it was NOT a political stunt, they needed the shelter for survival, etc., but nobody at SHARE has explained to me why SHARE continues to let Ron Sims and others characterize politics as a bad thing when homeless people engage in it, but all part of a civic duty when anyone else does it. Politics are the means by which Americans set about choosing what's right, and there's nothing wrong with that.

Finally it rained on the beginning of the night of October 12.

Six people were arrested — Anitra, Michele, Scott, Claude "Cowboy" Nalls, Ted "Tex" Shirey, and Richard "No Fancy Nickname That I Know Of" West. The two women of the gang were cuffed and locked together alone for more than an hour in the Seattle Police Department holding tank. There, Michele was forced to listen as Anitra, now hyper, theorized extemporaneously on the sociological origins of warfare. Eventually bail was set at \$190 for everybody, and all but Scott got out by the next day on their personal recognizance.

I'm going to go out on a limb here, risking domestic turmoil and tumult, to say that I think both sides overreacted in this incident. But in the words of my unidentified source, "The county overreacted FIRST, so there."

Also, on a stupidity scale from 1 to 10, what the county did was a big fat 9, and what SHARE did in response was at most a 5, only slightly more than half as stupid.

To put those numbers in perspective, using scales from 1 to 10 (and how many of us haven't, be honest) is itself an 8 already. ■

Words

Your pain is not important.
You can't complain
because Mother's hands traced hourglasses
and she thrust her hips out
and made smacking noises
about your full breasted figure
when you were thirteen
and Daddy hid his magazines
but told you the jokes anyway
while his eyes traced your full breasted figure
when you were thirteen
and Mom dragged you out of bed
and took you to a neighbor's house
because Daddy was out drinking
and she expected anything of him
he was a bastard
he might kill her
he might rape you
when you were thirteen.

It was only words.

You can't complain.
Others were raped
beaten
bloody
by fathers, mothers, strangers,
cops.
You were only assaulted
with words.

You've been called crazy,
divorced, fired,
your son won't talk to his crazy Mom,
lots of friends won't talk to you again,
but you can't complain.
You haven't been
locked up, tied down, burned through with electricity,
shot up with so much thiorazine
you bled from every opening from your ears
to your cunt.

You've been lost and cold and hungry
but never for long enough.
You've never been trespassed out of the welfare office,
arrested out of the hospital,
shot for stealing a loaf of bread;
you
can't complain.

You have to heal the world
because everybody else's pain
is more important than yours
is more real than yours
yours is only words.

But
dig underneath the words
and you find
a heart knotted like a trumpet.
You can sound that heart
in words
and the other wounded hearts
echo.

These words are blood,
chips of white bone.
These words have stripped the flesh from your back,
and they can rebuild it.

You do not have to heal the world's pain.
Find your words,
your life,
and you can give the world
your joy.

It is never
only words.

—Anitra L. Freeman



reflection

You have less.
That's

why you call your-
self
"homeless"
today —
and, no one
understands.
Sees

themselves! to
stand
beside you.
Or, could ever! they
say,
here.

—STAN BURRISS

Wings of Mutual Self-Determination

The past is behind us and remains so,
if and when we leave it and our
sorrows where yesterdays belong.
The day is nearly over and deserves
only as much reflection as may be
required to move on, one flowing motion
at a time, while taking in and experiencing
each and every moment as we journey together
into tomorrow. Doing so frees us to soar
much higher and farther than our imaginations
could ever hope to carry us alone. The future,
lays ahead, waiting for us to meet and embrace
it with our hearts, minds and arms wide open.

—MORGAN W. BROWN

(REPRINTED FROM *WYOMING WINDS*, AUGUST 2001)

Ground Zero

Seattle, Pioneer Square, Autumn 2001

By Michele Marchand

October 8, 2001

It's cold enough to see your breath tonight, but not cold enough for King County Executive Ron Sims to relent and open the week-overdue county Winter Response Shelter. There are body bags down the sidewalk at 4th and James; 32 men and women wrapped in blue tarp, trying to sleep in the cold, the rain.

It's midnight in Pioneer Square, Ground Zero, Seattle. It's a disaster down here, a war zone.

Beatings, dealings, gangs: what happened during Mardi Gras was simply the extreme of violence that goes on nightly. Six years ago, when SHARE's Safe Haven shelter began with a sleepout at 2nd and Yesler, I saw a woman dragged down the sidewalk by her hair; men engaged in broken-bottle fights. It's gotten worse, not better.

In this context, it is disastrous that nearly 200 shelter beds have been lost or are at risk in Pioneer Square. In February, the Compass Center lost its 80-bed Pioneer Square location due to earthquake damage. SHARE's 40-bed co-ed Safe Haven shelter was displaced from First United Methodist Church in early September; that group started sleeping outside under I-5 at 8th and Jackson. In the first few nights of this sleepout, we watched dozens of homeless women and men heading up under the freeway to find a safe sleeping spot for the night after the 9 p.m. feed at the Public Safety Building.

SHARE's 20-bed Old Federal Building shelter faced a September 30 closure, due to heightened security concerns after the terrorist attacks.

Despite all this, King County hasn't opened its 50-bed Winter Response Shelter as it should have on October 1. And so we're here on the sidewalk, in body bags, at Ground Zero.

Collateral damage

October 11, 2001

"I ain't slept in two days," a new guy says as he explains that he can't stand a 1 a.m. security shift, but will help clean up in the morning. By now, homeless SHARE members are adept at setting up outdoor, self-managed shelters, and everyone knows the elements: security shifts, sobriety, cleanup. It's simple to set up an outdoor shelter, but how many can we support, and why?

We are collateral damage in a war with boundaries we cannot see. Before, it seemed this was a war on disorder: the answer to the proliferation of homeless people on the streets was simply to ban them from the sidewalks; they're unseemly.

Tonight, PBS televises a debate between our two mayoral candidates; a caller asks how they would end homelessness. Neither candidate talks about the profound loss of affordable housing in Seattle; each characterizes the homeless community as mostly mentally ill or addicted. The only difference between these two candidates in their stance on solving homelessness is whether the treatment homeless people should receive to be "fixed" is voluntary or involuntary.

We are collateral damage, but not damaged in the way these candidates characterize us.

Casualty lists

October 4, 2001

The homeless women of WHEEL and Church of Mary Magdalene stand a Women in Black vigil for the twelfth homeless person found dead outside in the past 16 months. This time we stand for 41-year-old Carlos Chavez, who ran from his camp under I-90 when the police arrived seeking a fugitive. Carlos, according to *The Seattle Times*, "jumped or fell" from an overpass, into oncoming traffic on I-5, where he died.

There are very few of us standing vigil this day; we're dog-tired from sleeping outside the Administration Building. We stand with a black-bordered posterboard quoting King County Executive Ron Sims' comments at the January Compass Center memorial service for 100 homeless people who died in 2000:

"If this were any other population we would've called it an epidemic a long time ago. Let's make sure the list (of the dead) is a lot shorter next year."

We have our casualty list with us, and their causes of death: Stabbed. Beaten. Run over by train. Accidental fall.

After our vigil we go to Sims' office, still in our mourning garb, to plead with Sims to make good his words and open the county shelter tonight. The receptionist tells us Sims is out of the office. Five minutes later, two representatives from the Gates Foundation arrive and are ushered in to see Sims.

Today the *Seattle Weekly* reports that Sims is refusing to work with SHARE



BUNKERING DOWN FOR THE NIGHT OUTSIDE THE KING COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

PHOTO BY PETER GOLDSTINE.

because he feels he was disrespected by our asking to sleep on the North Plaza of the Administration Building, and specifically by the arrival of our port-a-potty before permission was given to sleep outside there.

Limbo

October 10, 2001

Ten men meet prior to setting up the shelter-on-the-sidewalk, and make the choice between reusable blue tarps or disposable clear ones. We watch the sky; it's starting to sprinkle, but there aren't enough of us willing to cross the line tonight.

By now the group has determined its criteria for crossing the yellow tape barricade that's keeping us from sleeping under the sheltering overhang of the fortresslike Administration Building. We'll cross the line when it's raining, and when there are at least 10 of us willing to go to jail if the county tries to push us back onto the sidewalk in the rain.

Every night we live in this limbo. My emotional life is more tied to the weather than I thought possible: Is it raining tonight? Are we gonna spend the night in some holding cell, for trying to get protection from the rain?

We watch the sky: It's cloudy, but....

The wrong target

October 12, 2001

It's pouring down rain. The group is edgy but there aren't enough of us willing to cross the line tonight, so we start to set up on the sidewalk. Just a few minutes later, one of the men most vociferous about not risking arrest finally gets frustrated and carries his mat across the line, looking for a dry place to sleep.

What the hell, the rest of us think, and soon there are 25 of us lined up on the dry Plaza, ready to sleep. The guards are scared, and call for the sheriffs and then Seattle police. Within minutes, 10 squad cars arrive, and intimidate most homeless people back to the sidewalk. Six of us remain, adamant that we're not gonna get treated like dogs anymore. It would be simple enough for the guards and the county to make a different choice here and allow us some protection. They don't, so six of us get arrested.

By Sunday all six of us have been released from jail on personal recognizance. There's a grand reunion on the sidewalk as we set up for the last time: tomorrow night the county Winter Response Shelter will open, staffed by the Salvation Army. We consider this our victory, especially since Sims recommended cutting funding for this shelter last spring, and still plans to close it for good on January 11.

"What kind of a bird doesn't have wings?" at least three people joke when they see us. "A jailbird!" Several homeless men apologize for not coming to jail too. Too much to risk; work and other obligations to maintain. "Don't worry about it," I tell them. "Everybody does what they can."

With the county Winter Response Shelter opening and a replacement found already for the Old Federal Building shelter — friends at the federal department of Housing and Urban Development helped find a space in a privately-owned building — just the 40 beds of SHARE's Safe Haven now need to find a new home in this battle to keep from losing ground in Pioneer Square.

There's good spirit here as we make plans to go back under the freeway at 8th and Jackson tomorrow to resume the Safe Haven sleepout. We're too hard-headed, even after getting beaten back to the sidewalk, to give up now; there's too much at stake.

This is where we begin. ■

How I Got Off the Streets

By Frank Johnson

Since I was once homeless for a stretch of about four months, and part of that in the winter, I feel I have some good experience to share. I think that even if you've been homeless longer than I have, you may find some things to help you out, since what I have to say has worked for me.

What got me off the street was many things — not just one thing. Some might think that the only thing that separates a homeless person from a person with a home is money — but that's not solely it. Money can be used up crazily, and the worthiness of obtaining the money might be lost if one's behavior becomes crazy. Just because you may have money for a place one month, you may not have it the next month. The behavior that brought you the money one month may no longer be in your system the next month.

If some of the things I talk about turn you off big time, maybe they are exactly the things you need to work on to get off the streets. One of the things that helped me out was admitting to a mental illness. I got assistance, due to the fact that I chucked my paranoid ideas about the mental health industry and took their advice.

This was only one small part of the formula, but it was the most important part. So many people take psychiatric medications these days that there should not be any stigma associated with them. I think for some people, taking medications is probably not needed, and they should eventually get off them. Yes, you are probably going to be asked or told to take some kind of medication. Maybe what happens to many people that become homeless is some kind of "mental health" issue: In the eyes of our society, it is simply crazy not to do what is absolutely necessary to earn as much money as possible. Since that was not your goal, society looks at you as being crazy.

But often there are other issues that society has set up dozens of programs to help you with. The only thing you have to do is ask for the help. But when I was homeless, I didn't have the attention span or discipline to get myself to an agency to get on a program. Luckily, I had a family member who knew all about these agencies to get me the help I needed. If you don't, you have to have an inner family member, a part of yourself, develop to help you out. You might have a close friend, or maybe you really can find a way by your own efforts.

Don't be ashamed of your weakness, but ask for help if you need it. The fact that you're homeless means you need help of some kind, and in our country there are people who are telling others that they are helping you. If you can meet them halfway, you can get the help they offer. It might have to happen on the second or third try, but you have to keep going back and knocking. Fully trusting and accepting someone's offer is another one of the things that helped me out.

Another thing that helps sometimes is a called a paradigm shift, or a change in the way that we see the world. I had come from a mystical background, and I was having many delusions that were really hurting my attention span and my ability to take care of myself. Most of the time you wouldn't know I was having these delusions. In fact, most people accepted me as totally normal. Had I continued to think these experiences were real, however, I would have been stuck in my homelessness. I realized that if I could just stop believing in the reality of these thoughts, visions, and attitudes, I would be free to see the world as anyone else does. I would be free from the torment they were causing me.

Sometimes, the problem is thinking that we may not be so crazy but may in fact be something else. Maybe we are too concerned with what people think about us and have to start making that an issue to overcome. Some people spend their lives making "accounts" of what other people are saying and doing in regards to them. They go around adding up these accounts to see if they were treated properly. This is what causes a lot of anger. A lot of times that anger is really unjustified. The accounts become just what our imagination makes them.

Another thing that helped me out was a spiritual program. I don't believe that it's by a moral failure that a lot of us become homeless. But if we look at all the tools at our disposal to get us off the street, the idea of reaping what we sow might help. If we try to do good things, we may keep getting good things

in return. If we dedicate our lives to God, in exchange for an end to our homelessness, in patience we may get a good answer.

Religion was a part of the answer that I found. Other people may replace this value with something else. By accepting the message of the church, and going along with that program, I was able to have a huge body of people in our society help me out. But there is some uncanny thing usually preventing these people from helping a person who really isn't taking religion seriously. During two years I stayed at reduced rents at six different households, all associated with a church group. You can do a similar thing in Alcoholics Anonymous, if you try.

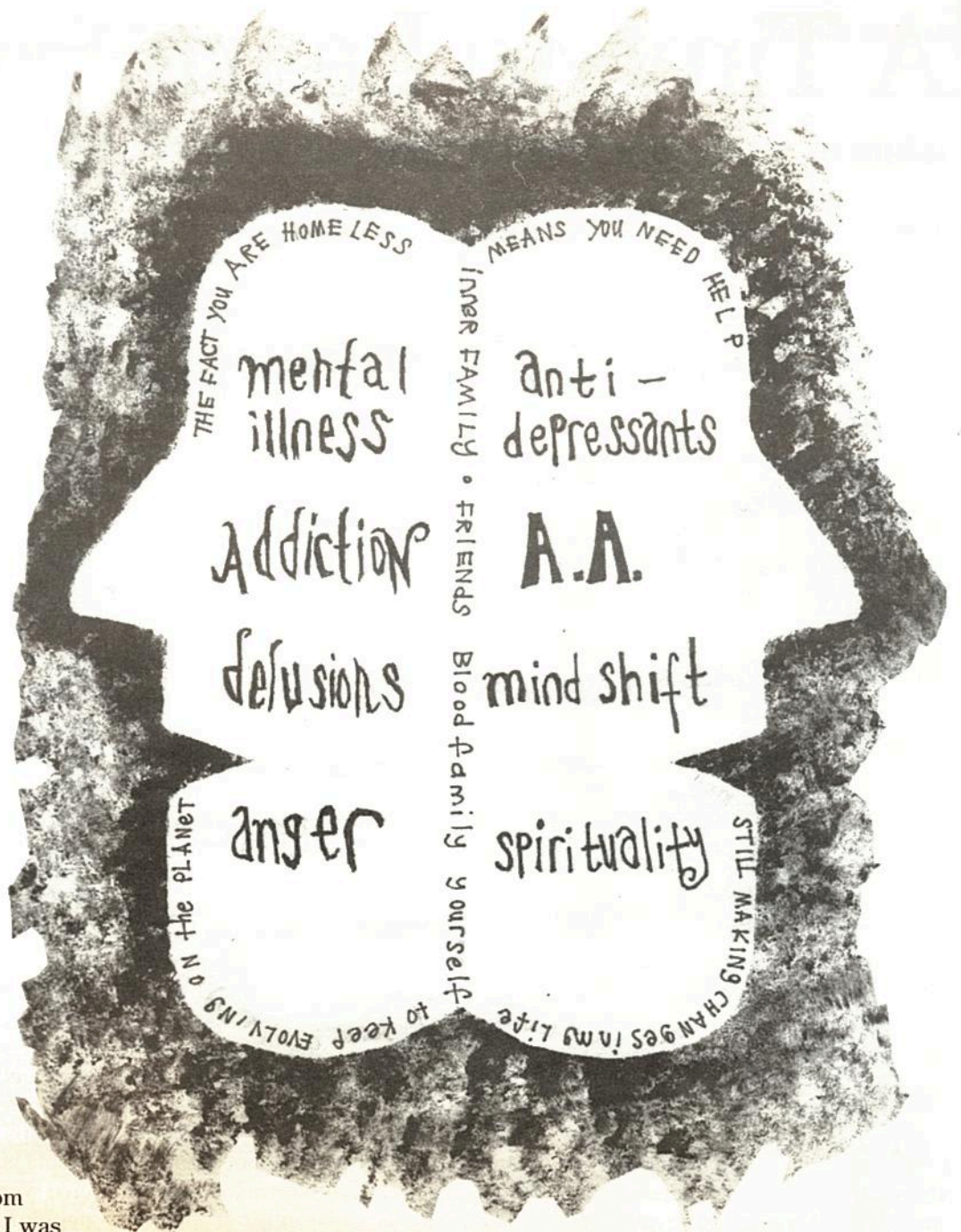
So, in a matter of months, I went from being homeless and at times fairly crazy to having my own room in a house. In a few years, that turned into my own apartment. I think a lot of things had to work together for me. I think the first major change was that I started taking an anti-depressant. I had already stopped smoking pot and drinking; I'm not sure for how long that would have worked, because I had tried many, many times to stop before. The medication helped calm me down enough to where I could renounce some of my old beliefs, ones that were making my life a living hell. I then was

able to socialize more, and get myself involved with a group of people with similar problems who were actually pretty cool.

Once things calmed down for me, I had the ethic of always wanting to learn more about practical things. Where before, I had spent a lot of time reading things in philosophy and the arts, now I learned about business, about computers — things that could help me find a job.

Twelve years later I still have the same spiritual beliefs I did, the same standard of ethics, although some things have been modified, the things that helped me to go crazy. I don't do drugs or drink now, but I still have "high experiences" from meditation and music. I don't take medications but I realize that they produced a good transition state for my brain due to all the drugs and alcohol I had done.

Being on the street for me meant seeing myself as better than society. Part of my time as a homeless person involved a silent, inner attack on the values of everyone who had it better than I. But as the pain grew from the cold winters, I realized that I could make a change. I am still making changes in my life, and that's a part of what we all have to go through to keep evolving on the planet. ■



GRAPHIC BY ELEANOR O'NEILL.

A Time to Learn

Islam may be more familiar than you think

By Nazeer Ahmed Basheer

"It's like a ghost town!" said a friend of mine about Jersey City, New Jersey, the weekend after September 11. My friend was not talking about the absence of people on the streets.

Muslims were the pioneers of some of the mainstays of Western culture: Arabic numerals (i.e., 0,1,2,3...); forks and spoons when eating; the use of a graduation cap and gown

Rather, he was referring to the absence of Muslim women wearing headscarves, who are normally very prominent in downtown Jersey. This city — along with New York, L.A., and Chicago — has among the heaviest concentrations of Muslims in the U.S.

According to Islam, God prescribes three different types of modesty for men and women, depending on who is

present: spouses, family members, or non-family members. Muslim women follow the same modesty standards in public as Mary, mother of Jesus, is always portrayed in pictures and movies: wearing a headscarf that covers her hair and a loose-fitting dress when among non-family members. This is an act of public modesty pleasing to Allah (God).

Before September 11, it would be difficult to wander through downtown New Jersey without encountering Muslim women and their nun-like appearance in modest, loose fitting dresses topped with a headscarf.

But after September 11, Muslim organizations nationwide advised Muslim women to be especially careful since this modesty made them prominent targets for attack. And attacks did come.

In West Seattle, a Somali woman — especially prominent because of their flowing outfits — was stabbed while leaving a grocery store. A few Muslim women — Caucasian Americans wearing headscarves — were told to "go back home."

While the national count of anti-Muslim incidents has reached 700 — instances of death, stabbing, vandalism, verbal abuse, etc. — the Muslim community nationwide has been happily surprised by the public's reaction. Most Americans have recognized that the

hijackers were not practicing Muslims. News stories of the perpetrators' visits to topless clubs, their alcohol consumption, and their cavalier disregard for Qur'anic injunctions against killing innocents made that clear!

For every negative incident faced by a Muslim institution or individual, the non-Muslim public has been showering them with kindness. The mosque in Northgate that a man tried to burn down now has a 24-hour neighborhood watch organized by a church.

Moreover, thousands (yes, thousands!) of cards of comfort have flooded into the mosque's mailbox. Even governor Gary Locke visited. Book sellers such as Amazon.com and Dalton's are reporting that books on Islam are their current bestsellers. Classes at the University of Washington on the Middle East are packed full.

The ABCs of Islam

Demographically, Muslims comprise 20 percent of the world's population; Islam is the fastest growing religion in the U.S. and around the world. Religiously, Islam teaches there were 124,000 prophets beginning with Adam. Moses, Jesus, and the last of the prophets, Muhammad, are among the most well-known. Even though the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Qur'an refer primarily to Middle Eastern prophets, there were prophets sent to Africans, Indians, and Chinese.

However, we are not aware of them. Perhaps Buddha or Confucius were prophets, but the scriptures they delivered were gradually adulterated by the people? Subsequently, prophets like

Jesus were sent to correct and add to previous scriptures. Islam is what Christianity was to Judaism 2000 years ago: namely, it accepts previous scriptures but states that they cannot be found in the original language and were gradually manipulated by unscrupulous people, resulting in very different religions. Which is also why it is not surprising to find Muslim traditions containing far more stories of Jesus and his mother than can be read in the New Testament.

Moreover, during their 800 years in Spain, Muslims were the pioneers of some of the mainstays of Western culture: Arabic numerals (i.e., 0,1,2,3...); forks and spoons when eating; the use of a graduation cap and gown (which represent the turban and cloak that students received from their teacher). And there are still more beneficial ideas to share — but that would require a regular column on Islam's perspective: on modesty, on the marital duties of spouses, on the science of guarding one's tongue in conversation, on purification of the heart, on social security.

The next time you hear someone's views on health care, marriage, pornography, etc., try asking if there is an Islamic opinion on that issue. You don't have to believe it. But you may be pleasantly surprised by its pragmatic nature. And who knows? Maybe that solution may prove as pervasive as the Arabic numerals we use. ■

Nazeer Ahmed Basheer currently works as a consultant in the wireless industry. In his spare time, he volunteers at the Islamic Journal, a Seattle-based bimonthly newspaper that serves the 60,000 Muslims of Washington.

AMNESTY Continued from Page 1

home barely support a single person, let alone a family. In Mexico, according to World Bank estimates, the 1999 per capita income was \$4,410, compared to \$30,600 in the United States. They meet a significant portion of the demand for relatively cheap manual labor in this country's construction industry. For the most part, the U.S. government has been uninterested in dis-

couraging this situation. As long as the undocumented worker doesn't get caught, he is welcome to do hard labor for minimal wages. Aside from places like CASA Latina, undocumented workers have few to no rights and often are exploited and abused.

Recently, though, there is a growing awareness of the significant political

Continued on Page 18



ON THE STREET BEHIND JUAN MONROY MERA, IMMIGRANT LABORERS OFTEN SPEND THEIR MORNINGS WAITING FOR WORK. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

The Proposals

The opinions regarding what should be done about the "immigrant problem" run the gamut from a general amnesty, to limited workers' visa programs, to a complete crackdown on illegal immigrants with the goal of deporting as many as possible.

Mexican President Vicente Fox has proposed a general amnesty for all Mexicans living illegally in the United States, similar to an amnesty that occurred in 1986. Another amnesty proposal was put forth in a bill introduced by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Illinois, earlier this year.

President Bush seems likely to counter with a program he calls "earned adjustment," whereby undocumented workers who can show that they have worked here can earn temporary and eventually permanent status. He is considering proposals to allow some to earn legal status through the grant of work permits and eventually Green Cards, symbolizing permanent residency under specified conditions. Thus far, the administration has been silent about how many workers would be granted such status.

Also under discussion is the expansion of the Guest Worker program, which allows Mexicans to migrate legally for specified periods. This proposal is supported by Senator Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who has also said that residency legislation would have to pass "over my cold, dead, political body." Guest worker programs are widely criticized by immigrant advocates for giving employers far too much control over workers' wages and working conditions while depriving guest workers of legal recourse in cases of abuse.

Under proposals Presidents Bush and Fox discussed in early August, an expanded pool of new migrants employed in service jobs like hotels and restaurants could apply for temporary work permits, with the possibility of earning permanent residency over time.

Not wanting to miss the boat, in August congressional Democrats released their "immigration principles," which go a few steps further than the White House proposal by granting workers the right to unionize and change jobs, and allowing them to travel freely between the United States and their home countries. Immigrants would be eligible for earned legalization if they could show work history, ties to the community, and no criminal record. They would also have to take U.S. civics courses and English classes. ■

The World in Your Hands

The World Is Not for Sale

Interview of José Bové and François Dufour,
by Gilles Luneau

Translated by Anna de Casparis

Verso Books, 2001

Hardback, 206 pages

\$25

By Molly Rhodes

Prior to reading this book, my image of José Bové existed solely as a charismatic French farmer who bulldozed his way into a French McDonald's, his arresting statement of disgust at American bad taste and dominance. I thought it was the ravings — even the well-tuned ravings — of one man. His subsequent rise to prominence at the anti-World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, I believed, was based more on the useful recognition of his image than on any leadership ability he himself possessed.

However, the image Bové paints of himself in his interviews in *The World Is Not for Sale* is not of a rabble-rouser brought in merely to provoke. His controlled dismantling — not gleeful destruction — of the French McDonald's was not an impulsive act of colorful recklessness, but the strong plea from a Roquefort cheese farmer who was being driven out of business by impossibly high tariffs on exports to America.

Yet the protest was not just about a high-quality cheese, but about all the social and economic consequences of how food is made and distributed. The complete subversion of farming, as Bové and his fellow farmer, François Dufour, see it, is mirrored in the subversion of whole countries of people who no longer control their own land and lives.

"We discovered that our struggle had moved beyond a mere farming issue," said Bové. "The stakes had shifted to encompass opposition to the WTO, union repression, junk food — in short, globalization — and had succeeded in bringing together thousands of different voices."

The book is a series of interviews with Bové and Dufour divided into three sections. The bookends — the farmers' own stories at the beginning and questions about what can be done to change things at the end — surround the meat of the book, which links the damaging effects of the new, intensive, industrial-based farming to the power and money-driven desires of global corporations.

The farming Bové and Dufour saw

rising at an alarming rate was one based not on food but on making money, with increased "efficiency" through specialization and industrialization, lacking any concern for the land or the people who work it.

"Agriculture has adopted a production-line organization involving segmentation," says Dufour. "It may not be the conveyor belt, but it has a lot in common with it.... A farmer [has become] a 'producer,' scrupulously applying new techniques under the guidance and control of technicians."

Adds Bové, "Young [farmers] soon found themselves in a spiral of debt. Farmers were turned into consumers, like everyone else."

Like all other consumers, farmers became victims of "junk food," as Dufour describes it, not simply foods lacking taste and inspiration but "the result of the intensive exploitation of the land to maximize yield and profit."

Explains Bové, "Our comrades became aware of the economic and ecological

madness of a system which consists of separating the calf from its mother, only to give it milk which has been collected by lorry, taken to the factory, pasteurized, creamed off, dried, reconstituted, packed, and then returned to the specialist calf-breeder to feed the calves.

Heavy subsidies from Europe to the dairy industries ensured that the reconstituted milk was less expensive than the natural stuff. Such crazy methods led us to examine the real pur-

pose of our work, and prompted us, in 1992, to develop the concept of 'sustainable agriculture.'"

This concept, as ironed out by Bové and Dufour in the French Farmers Confederation, is based on "an agriculture that respects the soil and the environment, which is in harmony with the land, mindful of its crops and livestock, and creates decently paid jobs. An agriculture which takes the needs of citizens into account."

The perfect forum for bringing these citizens together was the anti-WTO movement in Seattle in 1999.

"We were concentrating on the issues of food — everyone holds their freedom of choice in this matter dear, and expects effective food safety controls — but public concern also extends to health, education, and culture," says Dufour. "The protests at the WTO Seattle conference brought a lot of these concerns together."

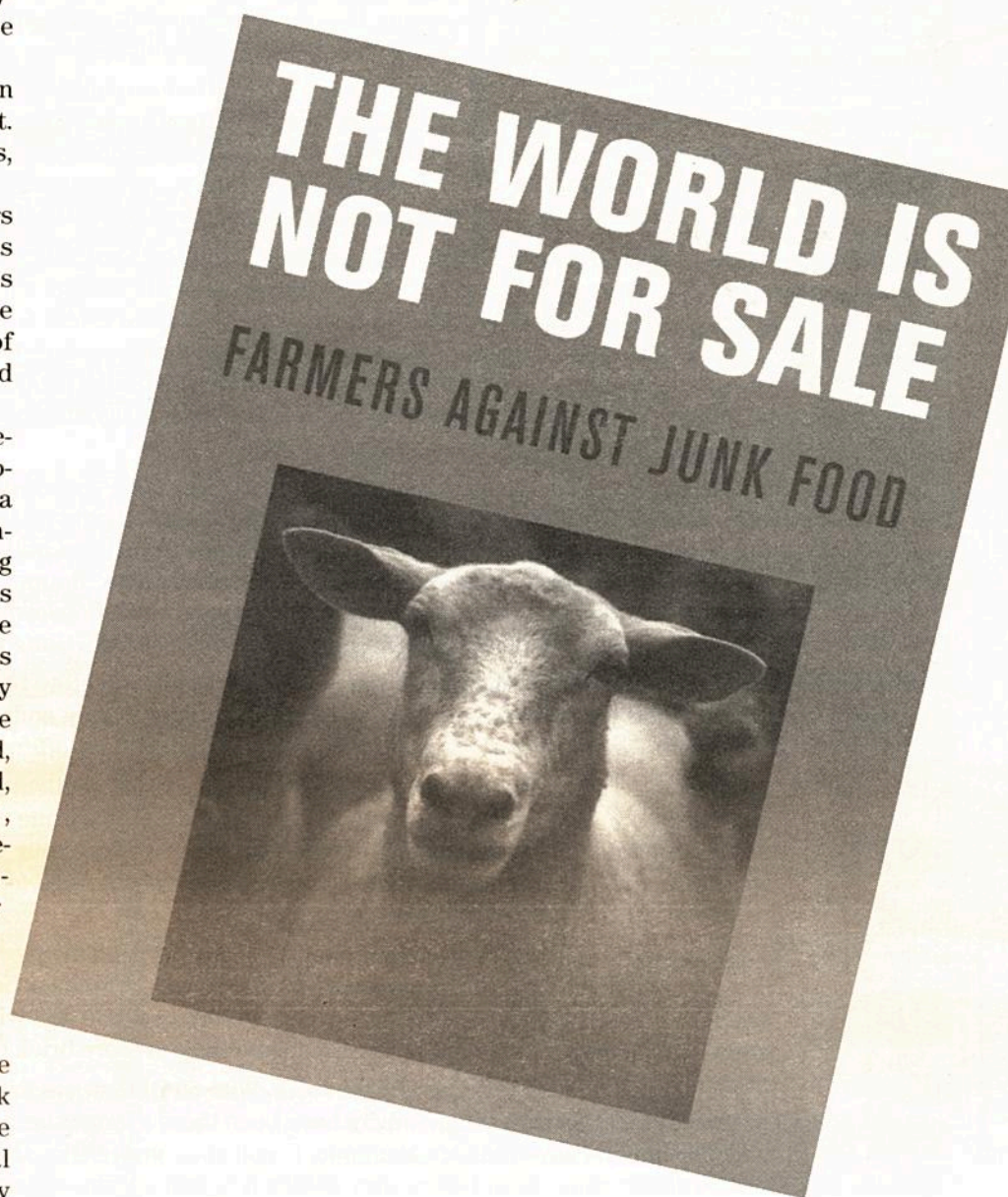
Agrees Bové, "Health, education,

culture, food — these are all issues close to everyone's heart. Today they are in danger of becoming commodities.... The regulation of international trade is a good thing, so long as it's based on equality of rights, not on the dominance of the economically strong. ... Why should the global market escape the rule of international law or

human rights conventions passed by the United Nations?"

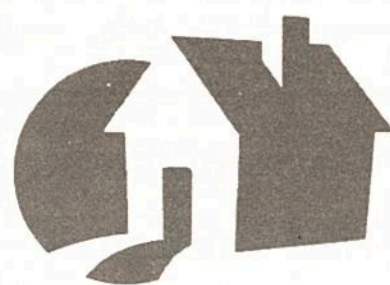
Unlike some of the anti-WTO protesters, Bové and Dufour don't want to eliminate the WTO, but retool it to put more control in the hands of citizens.

"The market has abolished frontiers," says Dufour, "and seeks to impose uniformity on the planet. It's up to us, as citizens of the world, to raise the question of rights for everyone. Human rights don't stop at frontiers; we must globalize them." ■



"We discovered that our struggle had moved beyond a mere farming issue. The stakes had shifted to encompass opposition to the WTO, union repression, junk food — in short, globalization — and had succeeded in bringing together thousands of different voices."

— José Bové



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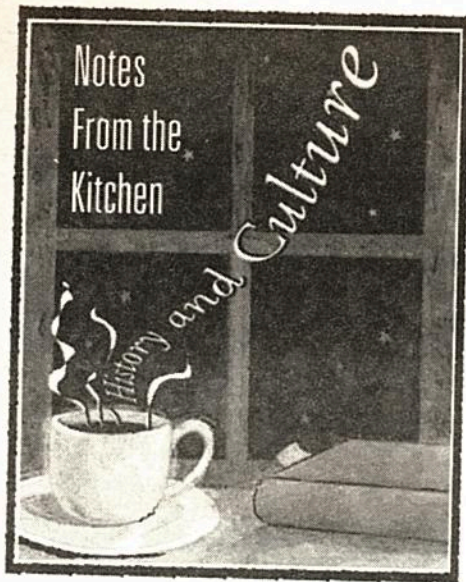
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Grocery Stores I Have Known

By Liz Smith

Now that HomeGrocer.com has driven off to the steps of bankruptcy court, and we all have to do our own shopping again, I think it's a timely idea to go on a cook's tour of some grocery stores, compare prices, and tell what each store specializes in. For the most part, this assignment was enjoyable, except for the belligerent drunk at the 15th and Market bus stop who tried to borrow \$5 from me and then made insulting remarks about my umbrella.

Some of the stores I visited were like Mata Hari — beautiful, seductive, and dangerous to the state of your budget. I think they employ design psychologists to make the premises as inviting as possible. That's why there are a minimum of windows and no clocks, so you'll lose track of time and be lulled into a false sense of security. A grocery store is like a wonderful friend who wants to separate you from as much of your money as possible. That being said, however, I found the employees of all the stores to be friendly and eager to help. It's a tough job, waiting on a demanding public, yet they remain cheerful and professional.




GRAPHIC BY ELEANOR O'NEILL.


- 1. Madison Market** — Used to be a small store on 12th — the customers contributed to the building fund and the store at 16th and Madison was built as a labor of love. Product lines feature natural, organic, and vegetarian items, specialty flours, dried fruits, and vegetables; good deli and in-house espresso drinks. Puget Sound Fresh participant, which means they buy as much local produce as possible. Their produce department looks superb, by the way. This is a member-owned cooperative business. For a \$60 investment, you receive a membership card and a monthly newsletter telling about the store and detailing what's on sale for the month. Ten percent storewide discount on their once a month Member Appreciation Day. **\$114.02**
- 2. PCC stores** — Began in 1953 as a food-buying club among 15 families. First official store opened in Madrona, now have seven stores throughout the Seattle area. This is a member owned cooperative business; for a \$60 investment you receive a membership card, which can also be used at Madison Market. They have a great monthly newsletter, detailing sale items and easy recipes. Puget Sound Fresh participant; divinely fresh produce, local, organic; Fair Trade coffee; bulk spices, flours, nuts, fruits, cereals, pet food, health, and beauty. Good line of PCC brand vitamins and herbal products. Widely acclaimed deli, with vegan entrees and desserts; Fran's and Callebaut chocolates (in bulk). In my unscientific opinion, they have the best in-house espresso in Seattle, and it's entirely organic. **\$110.29**
- 3. Ballard Market Thriftway** — All the Thriftway stores are privately owned and opened in different years, yet they all are fun stores to shop in. Ballard Thriftway has its mission statement printed right on the front door. They have a good mix of organic and traditional offerings. Good smoked fish and bulk frozen seafood selection. Variety of entree sausages. Nice bulk selection — pastas, nuts, flours, candy, grains, legumes. Here is where to buy any kind of chili peppers. Baked goods, small housewares, lots of teas; videos; good wine selection, and more than 600 different beers from all around the world, including one called Old Engine Oil and a Double Chocolate Stout. **\$108.93**
- 4. Trader Joe, U District** — Seven stores in Seattle; for the best prices, their own store brand is a very good value. They don't have very much in the way of meat or fresh produce. Good prices on energy bars, nuts, chips, cookies, candy, sodas, frozen entrees; nice selection of dips and hummus; good prices on milk, eggs, goat cheeses, fresh mozzarella, shampoo; tofu selections. Store offers a mix of organic and traditional products. Good soups and exotic condiments. **\$90.48**
- 5. Larry's Markets, Queen Anne** — This store reminds me of an elegantly dressed gentlemen who has had half a glass too much of champagne. They were out of cinnamon, the carts were not clean, and the grocery clerk said that if anyone wanted to work at Larry's, I should tell them to run the other way. Yet, they are doing something right, having been voted best grocery store four years in a row. Here's the right stuff: sauces, condiments, relishes, marinades, wonderful fall mushrooms and apples, fancy cookies, candy, teas, good meat selection, wide array of prepared entrees, extensive bulk items, baking mixes, good wine department, Puget Sound Fresh participant. **\$111.46**
- 6. Whole Foods, 64th and Roosevelt** — Before they opened, they went around to all the stores on a raiding party for produce guys. Consequently, their produce department is the best in town and certainly the most lavish. To wit: 20 kinds of heirloom tomatoes. This store has everything! Twenty-two kinds of sausages, 300 kinds of cheeses, paté from France, truffles, a really creative deli with hot and cold selections, La Brea bakery items, an amazing bulk item department, delicious sandwiches and hot pizza from their in-store brick oven. **\$114.76**
- 7. QFC Ballard** — A very good all-around store. With 60 QFC stores in the Puget Sound area, it's the one more people shop at. I personally shop at this particular QFC; all the staff members have been there a long time, and it's always a pleasant place to shop. The produce department is high quality, and they buy locally when it's available. If you shop at the QFC on Dravus, and notice tired, haggard-looking men sitting on the bench there, it's likely they are fueling up before they go down to hop a train, on a restless search for work in another part of our country. **\$114.38**
- 8. Ballard Safeway** — This is the company that officially ordered its employees to smile. Fifty-seven stores in the Seattle area. Safeway always has a lot of things on sale, especially if you use their Club Card. They have a frequent bread-buying setup; Starbucks in-house espresso stand; pharmacy. Staff is very pleasant and anxious to be of help. Pretty good produce department; videos; hot & cold deli items. Usually have good buys on meat, cleaning products, health and beauty items. If only it weren't so vast and drafty. I wonder if they would consider putting Global Positioning System receivers on the carts? **\$111.88**

For the price comparison, I drew up a list of 32 commonly purchased items, including pantry basics like sugar and flour and standard weekly purchases for two like vegetables and meat.

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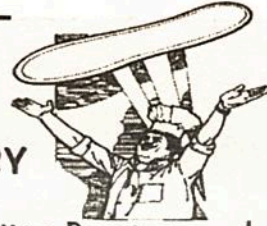
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Tuesday, Sept. 18, 5 p.m., Broadway QFC. A 53-year-old homeless Indian female entered QFC and selected a bottle of champagne valued at \$9.99 from the shelf, and concealed it under her coat. She left the store without paying, and was detained outside by store personnel. Police arrived and read the woman her rights. She said she understood - she had taken the wine, and had no way of paying for it. After running her name through police computers, it was discovered she had been previously barred from the store. She was arrested and transported to King County Jail.

Friday, Sept. 21, 11:49 p.m., Deano's Café, E. Madison St. Police responded to a report of a man down. The victim, a homeless Hispanic male, was conscious and alert, lying in the parking lot of the café. He had a small contusion to the back of his head, which was bleeding slightly. He stated that he had been sleeping in the parking lot when an unknown suspect approached him from behind and hit him with an unknown object. He was transported to Harborview for a medical evaluation. The suspect is still at large.

Thursday Sept. 27, 3:30 p.m., Western Ave. and Virginia St. Officers were advised of a group of men drinking alcohol in Victor Steinbrueck Park. They stopped one suspect, a homeless white male aged 28, who smelled strongly of alcohol, and had a bottle of liquor in his pocket. This man was interviewed, and was found to be in the United States illegally. He was turned over to the INS officer who happened to be at the scene, and was transported to the INS holding facility.

Friday, Sept. 28, 7:36 p.m., Third Ave. and Pine St. A 16-year-old black male called 911 and reported himself as a runaway. Police contacted the boy, and he explained he had been assaulted at his family home and had to leave. He also stated he had run away from home six times before, because he had been beaten with a belt by a family member. He stated he had left this time because of an argument, and had spent all night wandering around downtown and sleeping on buses. Subject asked to be taken to S.C.R.C., and the officer transported him there. The counselors at S.C.R.C. were familiar with the boy, and stated to the officer that the allegations of abuse made by him had been investigated, and were unfounded. Staff stated that if he wanted to stay at S.C.R.C., he would have to stay four days. Subject declined, and asked to be taken home. The officer escorted him home, and suggested to his guardian that the family seek help with a counselor or community safety officer. ■

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

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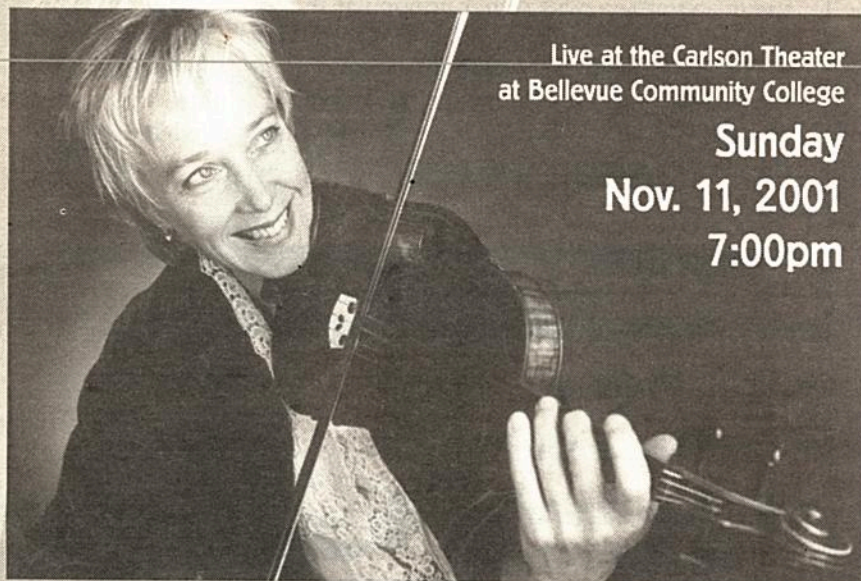
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JUAN MONROY MERA STANDS ABOVE THE CASE LATINA DAY LABOR CENTER, WHERE HE WAITS SOME MORNINGS IN HOPE OF WORK. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

AMNESTY Continued from Page 14

power of Hispanic populations. The 2000 Census showed that the Hispanic population in the United States has surpassed the African-American population in number — and more than half the Hispanics identified themselves as having Mexican origins. Recent revelations, like the discovery of 14 dead would-be immigrants in Arizona this past May and repeated reports of illegal sweatshops operating in the U.S., have lent more urgency to several reform proposals circulating around Washington, D.C.

Both President George Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox have engaged in the political debate on possible solutions to the issue of illegal immigrants.

A broad new coalition that includes groups that once opposed immigration is gaining momentum to hasten the reform agenda. The American Federation of Labor, for decades a vocal critic of immigration as a threat to American workers, now argues that “immigrant workers should have full workplace rights, including the right to unionize and protections for whistle-blowers.” On September 6, President Fox came to Washington to discuss, among other issues, his concern for the welfare of Mexicans living illegally in the United States.

David Ayala, of CASA Latina and the Committee for General Amnesty and Social Justice, a local immigration rights organization, stresses the need for a general amnesty that would grant permanent, legal residency to undocumented workers.

“Only amnesty will protect Mexican workers from workplace abuse and exploitation,” says Ayala. His organization believes that, short of general amnesty, any system whereby undocumented workers earn permanent residency would have to include both a path that would eventually lead to citizenship, and a process of legal recourse with remedies in cases of abuse.

Other components of immigration reform that are necessary to ensure the welfare of Mexican workers include the issues of unaccompanied minors who are illegally in the United States, per-

mission for immigrants to find a substitute sponsor if the original sponsor dies, extension of student visas for children of illegal immigrants, and measures to ensure family reunification.

Mera will probably stay in the United States for about seven more years, until his youngest child is through college. He has returned home only once in two years because it costs too much. Using the language of a politician skilled in advocating for his cause, Mera describes his desire to see a reform along the lines of the general amnesty proposed by groups like the Committee for General Amnesty and Social Justice.

“For us, it is really good — and it benefits both governments. There are a lot of workers who are qualified to work more skilled jobs, but they need the green card. More stable jobs mean more stable lifestyles, not sleeping on streets and walking around without a place to go. Mexicans could come freely to the United States and return home when they wanted. American companies could use workers, as they are really needed.”

The events of September 11 have shifted the focus from improving immigrants’ situation to defending their most basic Constitutional rights. A general amnesty, or at least broader human rights, for undocumented Mexican workers is today out of the question. The Committee for General Amnesty and Social Justice canceled an upcoming forum on the issue, in order to redirect their energies to fending off the prospect of illegal detentions brought by the president’s anti-terrorism bill. However, although the discussion has been moved to the back burner, it is still an important issue as it affects nearly three million people in the United States, people who work everyday doing backbreaking labor usually for very little pay.

As Ayala puts it: “It is true that the war has taken the most imminent place in the news, but people can’t forget about amnesty. The people in the press are saying that the problem is with immigration, but the immigrant community hasn’t changed — only the perception of it has.” ■

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess’r Harris

When Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer warned that Americans should “watch what they say,” we at Classics Corner suddenly contracted political Tourette’s. Maybe it’s our Libra nature, but we see Bin Laden’s point when he accuses the United States of a double standard. U.S. sanctions against Iraq, says the turbaned terrorist, have led to the deaths of “a million children.” This is, of course, propaganda. More credible sources place the number closer to a half-million. But thankfully, none of us have to think about that. The major networks will no longer air his statements.

All of this, of course, brings to mind the *Trojan Women*, the tragic masterpiece produced by Euripides in 415 BC. This play, performed in wartime, is one of history’s more stunning examples of free speech. As the story begins, Poseidon and Athena discuss how the Greeks, who have gone too far in their unholy destruction of Troy, will be decimated at sea on their way home. Euripides then dwells in heartbreaking detail on the enslaved women and children, who are left over once the men have been massacred.

In what is thought to be the most tragic scene in all of Greek literature, Hector’s infant son Astynax is torn from his mother’s arms and thrown off a battlement. To the Greeks, the boy’s death is simply a logical choice, demanded by political necessity. As Andromache relinquishes the child forever she screams, “Greeks! Your Greek cleverness is simple barbarity.”

The *Trojan Women* was produced mere months after the Athenian massacre of Melos, and must have made many an audience member very uncomfortable.

Fellow Thucydides fans will recall that the taciturn historian spent a full 26 chapters on this strategically insignificant detail of the Peloponnesian War. Melos was a neutral island that refused to side with Athens or Sparta during their long, fruitless superpower conflict. The Athenian empire offered Melos a simple choice: surrender to our authority or die. When the islanders refused, Thucydides records that the Athenians “put to death all the grown men that they took, and sold the women and children for slaves, and subsequently sent out five hundred colonists and settled the place themselves.” Nothing personal, they said. It’s just politics.

Events would soon prove Euripides more prophet than poet. Mere weeks after his play debuted, the Sicilian Expedition to colonize Italy was launched. The military adventure was a complete disaster. The entire Athenian fleet was wiped out, and the city would never recover. “They were destroyed,” says Thucydides, “with total destruction, their fleet, their army—everything was destroyed, and few out of many returned home.”

Euripides, who was always more interested in challenging than pleasing his audience, was rather unpopular in his own time. In the words of the great historian Gilbert Murray, Euripides “accepts the Athenian ideals of free thought, free speech, democracy, and patriotism. He arraigns his country because she is false to them.” Euripides was a truth-teller when the truth was not in demand, saying what needed to be said, bearing his own witness. It’s all anyone can do. ■

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Early Autumn Notables

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 Free-way 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.

University of Washington Jackson School of International Studies offers free classes on Islam and the Middle East. This session is on **Afghanistan**. 7-9:20 p.m. at University of Washington Kane Hall, rm 210. For more information, call 206-543-6450.

Interfaith Vigil for Peace in the Middle East, pray for the end of the violence; 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. in McCaw Chapel, 8 p.m. - 8 a.m. in Thomsen Chapel, this and subsequent 18th of each month, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E; info 206-270-9170 or 425-641-9247.

Saturday 10/20

Free workshop designed to show renters how they can afford to buy a home. 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, 105 14th Ave., Seattle. Registration is required, call Devin Stubblefield at 206-461-3792.

Native-American Career Fair, Unions & labor organizations will provide information on apprenticeship and training programs; Workshops will include how to decide on a career, apprenticeship preparation, chain of command on the job, pitfalls to watch for on the construction site, benefits of going to the union meeting. Sponsored by The Native American Coalition, Noon - 7 p.m., at Daybreak Star Cultural Center; info 206-542-4266 or nativecoalition@hotmail.com.

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 for \$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, stand with the families who have lost loved ones to police brutality, sponsored by the October 22 Coalition, rally and march from Central Area to Westlake, call 206-264-5527 or www.october22.org for exact time and location or to volunteer.

Tuesday 10/23

The Bon Marche and the Black Dollar Days Task Force are co-sponsoring the annual Campaign 5000 Stakeholders' Dinner. The speaker is Mr. Carl Mack 6:30 p.m. at the New Hope Baptist Church, 124-21st Ave., \$25, reservations, call 206-324-3114.

Wednesday 10/24

Realism & Realism, Representations of Arabs in Popular Media, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Casey Atrium, Seattle University.

Free screenings for Attention Deficiency Disorder, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Developmental Movement and Educational Center, CAPO Building, 12351 Lake City Way NE, appointment required, call 206-525-8083.

Thursday 10/25

Discussion on **South Africa and the Pacific Northwest, Partnerships and Perspectives**. Reception with music by Dr. William Nyaho of Ghana, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at Mount Zion Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1634 19 Ave. Free. Information, Dawn Mason, africanevent@msn.com.

University of Washington Jackson School of International Studies offers free classes on Islam and the Middle East, this session on "Do They Really Hate Us?" 7-9:20 p.m. at University of Washington Kane Hall, rm 210, info, 206-543-6450.

Friday 10/26

Jobs with Justice Seattle presents first honoree dinner, honoring those in our community who made progress for us all this past year, including Ron Judd, Western Regional Director AFL-CIO; Rev. Harriett Walden and Mothers for Police Accountability; *The Seattle*

Times and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* strikers; 6-10 p.m. at Machinists (IAM) 751 Hall, 9135 14th Place S. Single dinner \$35, table of 8 \$250, call for low-income prices, no one turned away for lack of funds. Information, JWJ 206-441-4969 or wsjuj@igc.org.

Saturday 10/27

Overlake Hospital Medical Center and the Community Health Centers of King County (CHCKC)/Eastside Community Health Center have teamed up to provide **free breast exams and mammograms to low-income women** ages 40-64, appointment required, at the Women's Clinic, 1051-116th Ave NE, Suite 200, Bellevue, info and appointments call Elena Romanoff (English/Russian) 425-861-3858 or Shannon Avila (English/Spanish) 425-881-1618.

Low Income Housing Institute brunch and celebration of 10 years of commitment, 11 a.m., at Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave.

Sunday 10/28

Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO) monthly radio program, "Speaking for Ourselves, To Each Other," with Bev Sims, host, this and subsequent 4th Sundays, 8:30 a.m., on KEXP Radio 90.3 FM.

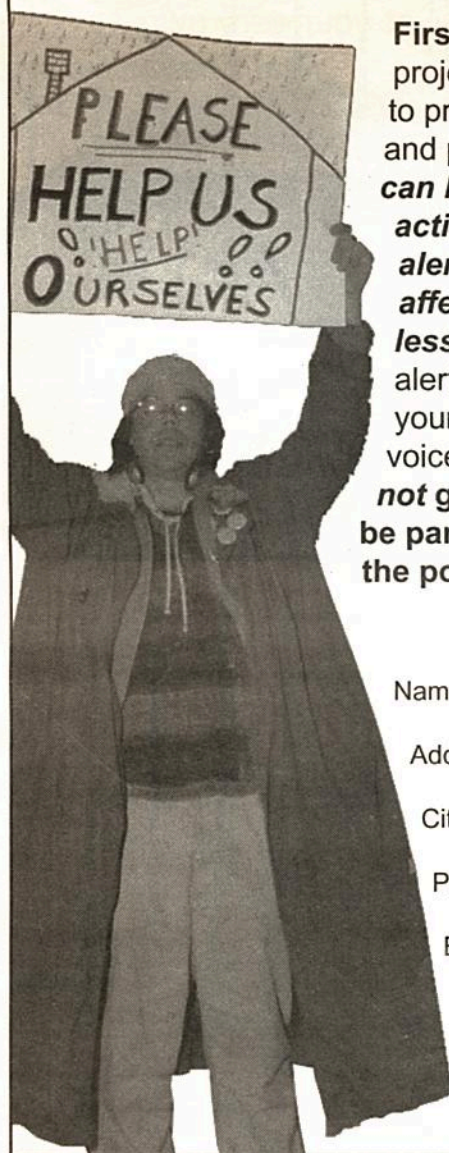
Monday 10/29

Department of Neighborhoods Community Power Series workshop, "Virtual Neighbors: Using the Internet and email to build community." 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., at Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th Ave S. Free and open to all. Info: Randy Wiger 206-684-0719 x1.

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, health, sexuality and work, 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. Information, 206-722-6057. ■

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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.**

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Sat, Oct. 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Come find fabulous objects and support Streetlife's Belltown beautification trashcan painting project



The StreetLife Gallery is a self-managed working gallery for low-income and homeless artists, sponsored by the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project.

2301 2nd Ave., Belltown (206) 956-8046 open daily from 11-8 p.m. Conveniently located on the corner of Bell and Second

citizens participation project



Oppose Extreme Expansions of Government Authority

Issue: In the wake of the September 11 attacks, both branches of Congress rushed through anti-terrorism legislation that expands police powers to undermine fundamental civil liberties without any bearing on preventing future terrorist activity.

Background: On September 11, 2001, thousands of people lost their lives in a brutal assault on the American people. This tragedy requires all Americans to examine carefully the steps our country may now take to reduce the risk of future terrorist attacks. Despite the call for restraint made by our national leaders, the Senate and House passed legislation without adequate evaluation.

Both of the pieces of legislation — H.R. 2975, the "Provide Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (PATRIOT) Act of 2001" and S.B. 1510, "Uniting and Strengthening America (USA) Act" — pose fundamental threats to basic civil liberties. These threats include:

1. The ability of United States prosecutors to use information collected by a foreign government against American citizens, even if the collection would have violated the Fourth Amendment. U.S. protections against unreasonable search and seizure won't matter. In addition, the provision is not limited to information related to terrorism or national security interests, does not require a showing of necessity, provides for no oversight, and does not limit the purposes for which this information can be shared, used, or redisclosed.
2. The expanded use of Carnivore, an electronic tap that provides the FBI with access to the communications of all subscribers of a monitored Internet Service Provider (and not just those of the court-designated target). It raises substantial privacy issues for millions of law-abiding American citizens.
3. The ability of the government to obtain a wiretap or trace device "for any investigation to gather foreign intelligence information," without a showing that the device has, is, or will be used by a foreign agent or by an individual engaged in international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities.
4. An expansion of the DNA database, with no provisions for destroying DNA samples once they are no longer needed, which means that the government will have access to highly personal information that is unrelated to criminal investigations.
5. An expansion to the already-broad definition of terrorism, which would include people involved in the demonstrations at the World Bank or protesting the bombing missions near Vieques Island. An organization like the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals could be investigated as a terrorist group because one of its members hits the Secretary of Agriculture with a pie. An amendment should be added that the act apply only to those who intended to cause death or acted with reckless disregard for human life.

The current administration would do well to remember its predecessors' breaches of the public trust. The FBI's Counter Intelligence Program harassed and spied on a vast number of peaceful social protest groups. Few members of any of the groups targeted were ever charged with a crime. One of the most prominent public figures investigated was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Action: Contact your Senators, Representatives, and President George W. Bush. Their contact information can be found at www.senate.gov, www.house.gov, and www.whitehouse.gov.

Before Congress passes a bill through a joint conference — which could be as early as this week — it is imperative to contact your legislators and ask them to make necessary amendments before the bill is signed into law. We can, as we have in the past, in times of war and of peace, reconcile the requirements of security with the demands of liberty. As American Civil Liberties Union legislative counsel Rachel King said before the House Judiciary Committee, she recalled a friend telling her, "I do not fear what will happen to us as much as I fear what we will become." ■



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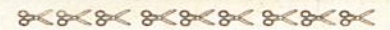
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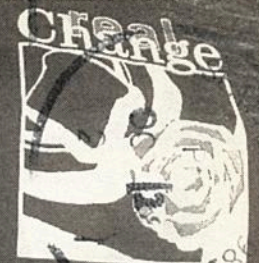
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