

JAN. 10, 2002

Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 9, No. 2

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Out Cold

Port Privatization Puts Freeze on Workers

**Inside: Chicken Love • Stolen
Teddy Bears • The Price of War •
Art for Self-Esteem • Blurring Housing Numbers**

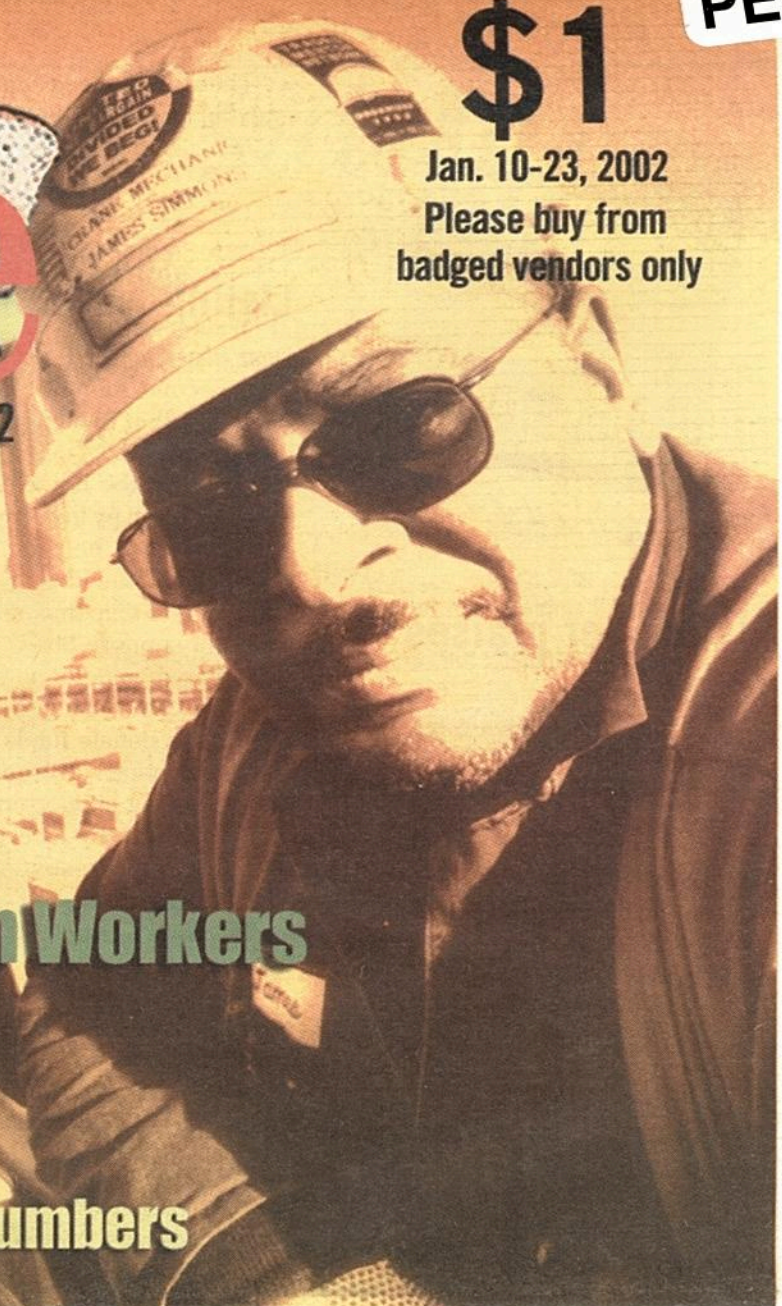


PHOTO OF PORT OF SEATTLE CRANE MECHANIC JAMES SIMMONS BY ERIK CASTRO.

by scott winn
photos by Erik Castro

“I feel like I have been betrayed by the Port of Seattle,” says James Simmons, who at 50 years old is losing the job that has supported his family for the past 14 years. He is sitting by himself in his kitchen, with pictures of his family surrounding him. His schedule at work — many weekends and evenings — means on his day off he is often alone, with his wife at work and children at school. “The Port has swept me aside like a piece of trash after they got all they could from me.”

A mechanic on the many orange cranes along Elliott Bay at the Port of Seattle, Simmons, along with around 40 other union mechanics and electricians, is losing his family wage job on January 14. Last September, the Port of Seattle Commissioners voted to privatize crane operations and maintenance at the Port, giving up public control and turning it over to The Stevedoring Services of America, a multinational corporation.

The towering four-legged orange cranes where Simmons works help define the Seattle skyline. They appear like some futuristic water insect that has crawled out of the Sound to stand guard and protect the citizens of Seattle. At the same time, they also evoke romantic ideas of a port city of the past, of laboring dockworkers keeping commerce flowing in and out of the waterfront. These cranes, once public domain, are soon to be in the hands of a private corporation.

“The Port has been constantly taunting us for 24 months, threatening us with losing our jobs. I think that if more citizens saw what was going on inside the Port of Seattle, they would be down there marching and demanding a change.”

— sooner-to-be former Port of Seattle Crane Mechanic James Simmons

Continued on Page 8



Listing her praises

Dear *Real Change*,

Just wanted to thank the good folks at *Real Change* for covering, in depth, a range of topics barely touched on by the mainstream media. A few of the articles I personally have found to be very valuable:

- front-page article on credit/credit cards ("Chained to Debt," Oct. 4, 2001)
- "Jew Boy" (July 26, 2001)
- the article on the International Racism Conference ("For Amnesty," Oct. 18, 2001)
- the article by the man describing how he got off of the streets ("How I Got Off the Streets," Oct. 18, 2001)
- Alice's false arrest article ("Alice in Wonderland Meets the King County Justice System," Nov. 15, 2001)

There have been many others — and, oh, I love your poetry pages. *Real Change* is an asset to Seattle.

Sincerely,
Maria Abdin

Listing ways to help

Dear *Real Change* Readers,

A Second Annual candlelight vigil will be held at Saint Mark's Cathedral on January 15 at 7 p.m., to remember and support the homeless. Messages will be offered by local, caring leaders, and music will be provided by Rosy Betz-Zall and the Raging Grannies.

Join us to help those among us who need our support. Share this time and you will remember it all year.

For those wishing to donate sleeping bags or donate funds to the homeless, a collection will be made available. The following supporters will accept donations prior to the event:

- University Presbyterian Church, 4540 15th Ave. NE
- The *Real Change* Office, 2129-2nd Avenue
- The Washington Advocates for the Mentally Ill, 802 NW 70th St.

Checks to the homeless may be addressed to the Mental Health Chaplaincy, and mailed to 1217 6th St, Seattle, WA 98101.

Thanks for your time,
Carolyn Hale
Raging Grannie

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Posting a challenge

To Seattle's spiritual community,

I would like to offer a challenge to the spiritual leaders and their congregations of Seattle: Let's fight hunger!

As winter is upon us and the economy worsens, the number of homeless and hungry people is likely to reach unheard-of proportions. I was recently blessed with the privilege of becoming a member of what I consider to be one of the most caring, concerned, and selfless churches in this fair city, the Bible Study Outreach Ministries, headed by the ultra-compassionate Pastor Don Tatum.

To date, this church group has some 21 outreach ministries to its credit, several of which cater to the spiritual and hunger needs of this city's disenfranchised. They perform their services to those in need on Saturday and Sunday, the two leanest days for feeding programs in existence.

On Saturday, there are 13 meal programs; two are for senior citizens only, one is for youth only. On Sundays, there are 12 meal programs, one of which is for seniors, one for youths, and one which is served once a month. The remainder of the week, there are between 20 and 22 meals served on a daily basis.

I can't help but feel there is something inherently wrong with this picture. Where are all the selfless Christian groups who should be jumping at the chance to help those in need during these days of lack? I would simply like to challenge the churches in the greater Seattle area to consult their consciences and follow the example being set by the Bible Study Outreach Ministries, to feed both the spiritual and gastronomic needs of our city's less fortunate.

Sincerely,
Barry L. Taylor

RC Profile Stan Burriss

When I interviewed *Real Change* Editorial Committee member Stan Burriss to write this little piece, I asked him when he'd been homeless. We sat across from each other at the conference table in the *Real Change* office. His hands wove as he talked, up and down above the tabletop, side to side, as the question darted out of the literal bounds I'd meant to keep it in. "I've always been homeless," he says. "Adopted, always lived in rented rooms... never at home."

Even if he feels homeless in a poetic sense, Stan is quite at home in this city. He leaves his apartment at the Morrison Hotel every morning before 11 a.m., and begins a kind of Metro-powered circuit ride. From Pioneer Square to the U District, from an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting to the Quakers circle, from a bookstore to a coffee shop: it's a route that's evolved since 1975, when he came here on a freight train. Stan landed in Seattle, liked it, decided he would stay for a while, "and a while never ended." He discovered the Quakers, where he enjoys the silent meditation; then went to his first AA meeting. Sitting in a corner listening one time, he began jotting down scraps of poetry on his empty coffee cup. Stan still writes on cups and café napkins; his poems are regularly published in *Real Change*.

The view from Stan's apartment window at the Morrison, where he's lived for the last 12 years, is partially obscured by a poster of Dr. Martin Luther King. It looks down on Third Avenue, and across the street to King County Courthouse. "I hope that people like my window. That's my reality." What does it mean? "Each man has a place, each man has a voice." ■

— Adam Holdorf

Real Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless

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

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Mission Statement:

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

Goals

Provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.
Publish the views of marginalized communities.
Create direct economic opportunity. Build bridges with a broad range of allies in the struggle against poverty.

The *Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project* is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Programs include the *Real Change* newspaper, the *MacWorkshop* computer lab, *StreetLife Art Gallery*, the *StreetWrites* peer support group for homeless writers, the *Homeless Speakers Bureau*, and the *First things First* organizing project. All donations support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Editorial Policy

Articles appearing in *Real Change* reflect the opinions and perspectives of the authors. We encourage the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction, poetry, and artwork, and hope to create a forum where the many perspectives on poverty and homelessness can find expression. *Real Change* reserves the right to edit any material for length and style. Articles considered libelous or which encourage violence, sexism, homophobia, or racism will not be considered for publication.



PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

Living with the Costs of War

By Jelani Jackson and Megan Wilbert

On December 21, during the height of the holiday spending season, you may have seen a group of protesters in Westlake Park, determined to spread a message of peace and equality.

From December 21 to 22, 19 people fasted together, collecting blankets for a local homeless shelter and conducting a 24-hour sleep-out in downtown Westlake Park. Our group was composed of people of many different ages, backgrounds, races, and colors, unified together in a common struggle to show support and solidarity for impoverished people everywhere. Our purpose was to express opposition to the war in Afghanistan while highlighting the poverty and oppression that exists among the homeless on our own city streets.

The priorities in the United States are obviously lopsided. Take into consideration the recent \$345 billion increase in the military budget, while social services continue to be cut and there are an increasing number of homeless people on the streets each day. The daily budget for the war in Afghanistan is a staggering \$33 million, money that could be used to fund much needed social services here in our own country. The money that is being funneled into Afghanistan is not helping the people who live there, who have faced four years of drought that has destroyed at least half of the country's

The two of us had incredibly eye-opening experiences. Little things such as getting immediate shelter from the wind, finding a bathroom, or merely keeping warm began to seem extremely important.

food supply and who have a life expectancy in the mid-forties. Neighboring South Asian countries such as Pakistan, India, and Nepal are not fairing much better, with 40 percent of their people in poverty and the world's lowest per capita income, \$309.

What's more, the number of civilian casualties in the war in Afghanistan already exceeds the number of deaths in the September 11 attacks, according to University of New Hampshire Professor Marc Herold. Herold culled his "very, very conservative" estimate of 3,767 casualties between October 7 and December 7 from news agencies and firsthand accounts. About 2,998 people are believed to have perished in the September 11 attacks, according to the BBC World News Service.

Our event at Westlake Park was sponsored by a Seattle-based group called Youth Undoing Institutionalized Racism (Y.U.I.R.), an organization that is dedicated to empowering youth to oppose all forms of oppression and racism. This action was the kickoff event for the Y.U.I.R. anti-militarism campaign headed by both of us. We are both 17 year-old high school seniors who have been involved with community organizing since last summer. The two of us had incredibly eye-opening experiences fasting and sleeping downtown for a day. Little things such as getting immediate shelter from the wind, finding a bathroom (which is, by the way, nearly impossible at night downtown), or merely keeping warm began to seem extremely important. Sleeping in the cold did give us an insightful glimpse into what life must be like living on the streets.

It froze the night of December 21, and regardless of the fact that we all had sleeping bags, hand warmers, and hot water available, overall we were pretty miserable. We were even afraid to sleep for fear of being harassed by the police. One protester was arrested for obstructing the sidewalk; however, we believe that the police singled him out due to previous actions he is accused of having taken during the 1999 WTO protests. Other than this isolated event, the night was pretty quiet, until about 3:30 in the morning when we were harassed by a police officer — presumably on his way home from a shift. This man threatened to return in 30 minutes and force us to leave, but after calling his supervisor at the East precinct, we experienced no more police intimidation.

Overall, this event was a very positive experience. It called for us to look within ourselves and truly examine what we have in terms of material possessions, especially during the holiday season when so much money is being poured into shopping malls and department stores across the country.

We hope to continue to organize around this event within the Seattle community, and work more to expose the connections between poverty and rash spending (such as the enormous amount of money this country spends on military action and consumerism as a whole). ■

If anyone has any suggestions, comments, or would like to donate time or materials for future blanket, clothing, or food drives, please contact Dustin Washington at 206-632-0500 ex. 14.

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More Than Meets the Eye

Real Change is much more than just a newspaper. We are a respected voice of the poor that reaches more than 30,000 people each month. We are a powerful grassroots organizing project that wins real gains for the homeless. We offer cultural and educational opportunity through our art gallery, writers workshops, and computer lab. Your support makes our work possible. Please give generously. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Yes! Real Change Matters.

Here's what I can do to support work, dignity, and hope.

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Mea culpa

How many units of low-income housing have been lost downtown in the past two years? Depends on who you ask.

In March 2001, the city of Seattle's answer was, almost zero. John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition disagreed. He double-checked the city's own housing list by sending volunteer surveyors door-to-door, and came up with another estimate: Downtown had actually lost more than 1,400 low-income units in just two years.

Now, six months later, the Office of Housing has admitted that the numbers it published in 2001 were erroneous—sort of. A new report by the city pegs the number of affordable units downtown at 6,355, a nearly 1,200-unit loss since 1999. But at the same time that its new data points to huge losses it had previously missed, the city has buried the finding. Its charts, graphs, and summaries all claim that there are over 6,800 affordable units downtown.

Which one is it? The city's higher and more publicly touted estimate includes buildings that don't exist, referred to as "proposed or under construction." When asked why the city counts 450 non-existent low-income units without counting rent increases and building demolitions that also haven't happened yet, Dahe Good, Manager of Housing and Development Programs with the city, was vague.

Good admits that the city's numbers published last March "were not updated" from when they were last published in 1999. Instead of doing a full inventory of downtown housing or paying someone else to do it, the Office of Housing largely carried over numbers that were at least two years old, as if nothing had changed. She denies that the new report is a response to Fox's criticism.

But Lisa Herbold, legislative aide to councilmember Nick Licata, sees things a little differently. According to her, the Office of Housing "absolutely went back and redid [their report] because of John [Fox]." If the Office of Housing had simply ignored Fox's criticism and used their old numbers, "they would have looked foolish."

The new city numbers corroborate Fox's earlier contentions: The city is falling far short of its goal of maintaining 7,311 affordable housing units downtown, and the neighborhood is losing its most affordable housing faster than nonprofit and government agencies are able to develop new units.

Despite adding weight to Fox's calls for increased protections for affordable housing, Fox calls the new report "absolutely worthless," since the city paid a real estate consultant, Dupre+Scott, to come up with some of the data.

Lacking the resources to do its own survey, the Office of Housing contracted out the job but lost access to key information in the process. It doesn't know the names, addresses, or number of units for each of the buildings Dupre+Scott queries. It also doesn't know which buildings failed to return the surveys (an estimated 5 to 10 percent), or whether Dupre+Scott really makes good on its claim to send out surveys to all downtown buildings.

Dupre+Scott's numbers are much closer to Fox's estimate. But without independently verifiable data, the kind of research Fox did to challenge the city last year is no longer possible. ■

—Trevor Griffey

The Christmas mysteries

The ugly underbelly of the holidays surfaced at the Church of Mary Magdalene this year. Over a two-week period, the ecumenical church and day ministry to homeless women and children experienced a rash of thefts that depleted their stash of gifts for what proved to be the largest group—more than 200 women, men, and children—the church has ever served on Christmas.

It all started when backpacks that had been gathered carefully by staff and volunteers started to go missing. Some were less expensive Old Navy bags purchased by the church, but most were donated, good-quality, inner-frame backpacks worth about \$200 apiece. Church of Mary Magdalene intended to distribute a backpack full of niceties and necessities to each homeless or low-income person who came to their Christmas service.

Slowly, 90 of the most expensive backpacks disappeared from storage. "It was like musical bags," says a Church of Mary Magdalene staff person. Every day of the week before the December 22 Christmas service, church staff, who were inventorying their supply in anticipation of a large holiday group, counted fewer rather than more backpacks.

Twice, the culprit was almost caught in the act. Once a church staff person witnessed a man quickly exiting the back door with a bale of backpacks and a box of totebags. A few days later, the urban minister spotted the same man running through another area of the church carrying a black trashbag stuffed with loot.



The church ended up having just enough backpacks to go round for the people who came for Christmas. But that very day, church staff caught a man who had sneaked into the church in the act of committing a teddy bear burglary. During the Christmas service, a staff person noticed someone in the downstairs bathroom, which should have been closed. "Who's there?" she called, and the merry response came back: "It's me!"

A few minutes later, a small man exited the staff bathroom wearing a backpack stuffed with teddy bears intended for homeless children who were upstairs at the service. The merry man left too quickly to be caught, and those teddy bears were never recovered.

In both the case of the backpack theft and the teddy bear burglary, staff believe it was an inside job, that the thieves were abetted by women who use the Church of Mary Magdalene. That may be the biggest heartbreak of these Christmas mysteries.

But just after the new year, the church started receiving mysterious phone calls. Three different men, who were all residents of a north end men's shelter offering restitution, left messages claiming to have recovered some of the missing backpacks. These men said: "We believe that one of our members is holding stuff for the real thief, but we're on the side of good. We just want to teach people the right way to do things."

To help the Church of Mary Magdalene replace stolen backpacks or teddy bears, which will be distributed throughout the year, please call 206-621-8474. ■

—Michele Marchand

Spokane's first homeless newspaper on The Rise

On November 30, the first 2,000 issues of *The Rising Times*, Spokane's first newspaper for the homeless, were printed. The goals of this homeless newspaper, as outlined in the first edition, are to become a voice for the voiceless, a tool for change, and a teacher, and to provide immediate income. The edition includes articles and poetry by the city's homeless, as well as a resource guide that lists basic needs and emergency resources, temporary shelters, drug and alcohol recovery and intervention programs, and food/nutrition sources. Nineteen vendors, who buy the papers for 25 cents each and sell them on the streets for a dollar each, work for *The Rising Times*.

Gonzaga University senior Aaron Sanchez and junior Leah Sottile are the originators of this paper. Sottile, a journalism major acts as editor-in-chief, while Sanchez, a marketing major, acts as the managing editor and business advisor.

Sottile states that she first realized the need for such a newspaper after meeting Sanchez this past year. They had both worked for the Center for Community Action and Service-Learning as work-study students, but had never before known each other. When working on the Gonzaga orientation, the two realized their mutual interest in homelessness issues, and decided to make the newspaper a mutual project. Sottile says, "We felt that this was exactly what Spokane needed: a dignified project that would allow the homeless to get their issues out on the streets and empower them to speak freely."

Before the first issue was published, the homeless community of Spokane was apprehensive of these two college students' abilities to create such a paper, and few contributions were made. Yet, when the first issue hit the streets, it was greeted with great enthusiasm from the community. "Our office was suddenly flooded with phone messages from the shelters and homeless people that wanted to help on the next issue," says Sottile. ■

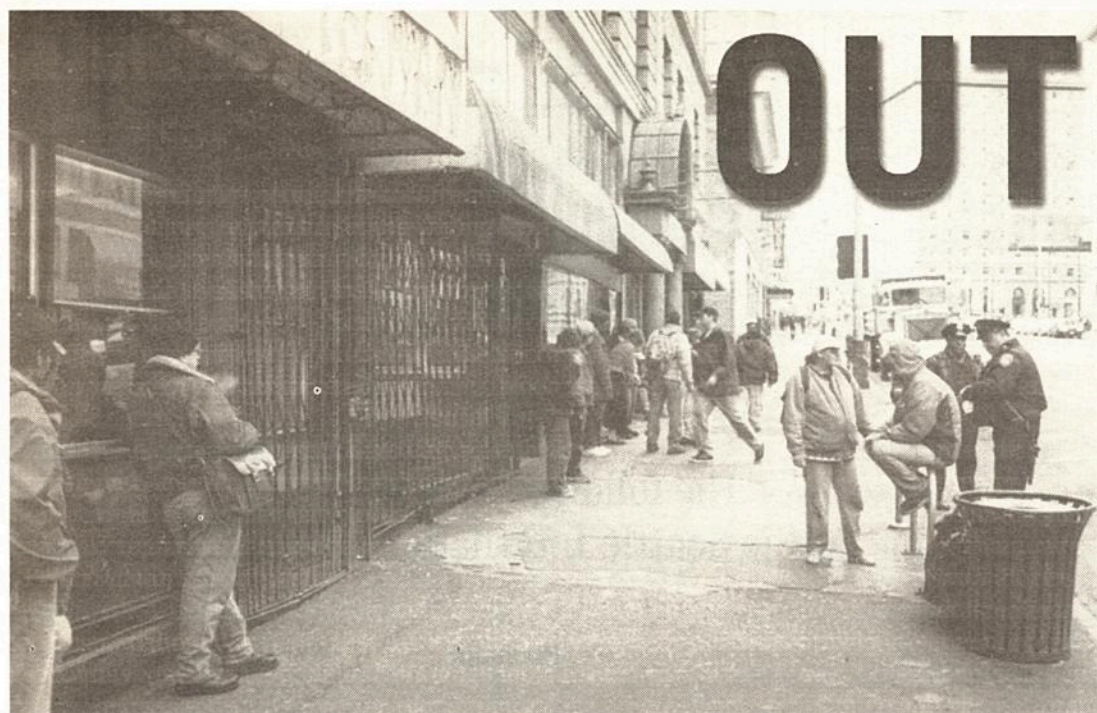
—Jeanne Ryan

A light for each life

AT AN ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD JANUARY 4, A CANDLE WAS LIT FOR EACH OF THE 85 HOMELESS OR FORMERLY-HOMELESS MEN AND WOMEN WHO DIED LAST YEAR. AID WORKERS LIT THE CANDLES AS EACH PERSON'S NAME WAS CALLED. THE SERVICE WAS HELD AT THE LUTHERAN COMPASS CENTER. PHOTO BY MIKE HAMRICK.



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



Street Outreach Services slated for eviction

THE WHOLE BUILDING AT 2ND AVE. AND PIKE WILL BE CONVERTED TO AN OFFICE-RETAIL COMPLEX. PHOTO BY MIKE HAMRICK.

By Adam Holdorf

One of downtown's most-frequented drop-in centers, Street Outreach Services (SOS), will lose its home on January 31. The building's owner plans to evict the rest of the ground-floor tenants, including the County Public Health department's needle exchange, as he converts the building to an office-retail complex.

SOS is a resource center for intravenous drug users, many of them homeless. Every day, about 300 people come in to get off the streets for a while, sit and chat quietly, watch movies (interspersed with educational films about safe needle use), or meet with an outreach worker to look for housing or treatment. Every month, the needle exchange takes in at least 60,000 used needles for sterile ones. By equipping addicts with clean needles and information, the agencies curb the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C among King County's 15,000 injection drug users.

The corner SOS inhabits, Second Avenue and Pike Street, is the last vestige of a much grittier downtown. Director Chris Nyrop remembers when the nearby T-shirt shops and fancy boutiques were all-day bars, cheap hotels, and pool halls. Old-timers say Second and Pike has always been a place to buy and sell drugs. When SOS and Public Health set up shop in 1989, that corner was the natural choice. Even so, recalls needle exchange manager Michael Hanrahan, "It took us two years of diligent searching to find a landlord who would take us in."

Now, the sidewalk outside their building is just an interruption in the commercial Broadway stretching from the white arches of the Convention Center to tourist-friendly Pike Place Market.

"Even though the physical look of the neighborhood has changed, the people who were active have not gone

away," says Nyrop. "In fact, they've become more visible, as the other places that served them have disappeared."

In the fall of 1999, city officials, fed up with the building's decrepitude, began condemnation proceedings. Deputy Mayor Tom Byers said it would be sold and the empty upstairs units converted into low-income apartments, helping with the shortage of affordable housing. Mayor Paul Schell told supporters of the nonprofit that SOS and the needle exchange would get help relocating.

But building owner Richard Nimmer stopped the city's process by coming up with a redevelopment plan of his own. He hired William Justen's real estate development firm to turn the place into an office building.

The Justen Company manages development for the Samis Land Co., which owns property adjacent to Nimmer's building. The redevelopment of Pioneer Square's Washington Shoe Building in 1999, which resulted in the eviction of about 80 low-income artists, was a Justen-Samis collaboration. Justen is also the managing director of real estate for Samis.

Last summer, Nimmer notified the building's four retail tenants that they would be evicted at the end of the year. He later changed his mind; only SOS had to leave. The rest continue to rent month-to-month. Nimmer told Nyrop that SOS's space is needed for office staff working on the redevelopment.

One thing has hung up Justen and Nimmer's schedule: finding tenants to fill the new building. While the Depart-

ment of Design, Construction and Land Use has given a green light to the project, the permits haven't even been paid for yet. Staff at Hewitt Architects, the design firm he's contracted, say Nimmer is still looking for tenants to sign the lease.

The relocation help Schell promised SOS never materialized. When Nyrop first got wind of the eviction, last summer, he began scouting for a new place. But he never really believed it was going to happen. This fall, his doubts were deepened by news reports on the regional economy's declining demand for office space. "I'm reading that whole construction projects are stalling. And I'm being told that a new building is going to get started at Second and Pike?" he says. "I don't believe it."

But on January 31, SOS's office equipment will go into storage and the phone line will be transferred to Nyrop's home. Nyrop says he doesn't know what to do with the agency's 18 staff.

"We will continue to do street-based outreach — going under the Viaduct, distributing condoms and hygiene supplies," he says. "But the real problem will be the lack of a place to bring clients."

SOS has been in the building 11 years this month. The digs are not cushy. On certain days, when the wind is high, barbecue smoke from the teriyaki restaurant downstairs permeates the second-floor office. The building's hundred-year-old plumbing system plugs up if the toilet is used too frequently, so the drop-in center's patrons go elsewhere to relieve themselves. But at 80 cents a square foot, SOS has probably enjoyed the cheapest office space in the city.

Nyrop knows he's only got a few weeks. Now, he's hoping that Mayor Greg Nickels's office will take action — to either fulfill the former mayor's promise, or use moral persuasion to buy SOS some time.

"Services like these are critical," he says. "Moving them around is not good policy." ■

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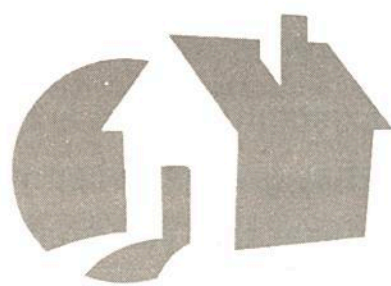
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poetry

Wild Horses for all bipolar children

I had a strawberry mare with birthmarks,
a pitch-black horse with a temper,
wise white stallions, bright-eyed palominos
blue winged unicorns with silver hooves.

Sometimes they ran in daylight.
All my friends could see them.
We pranced and played.

But whenever the fog rolled in they ran away.
Friends and horses both left me alone
in the cave where I stayed lost
two steps from the door.

It was always the palomino who came back first,
sun leading me out to run the green meadows again.
Palomino with the white mane, coat glowing gold
over her night-dark skin.

—ANITRA L. FREEMAN

The following was written at the Seattle International Fountain

A
Fountain
of
Flowers
Pouring out
Bottomless
LOVE
Watering
The seeds
of
PEACE
Releasing
the
Scent of
HEALING
Making
us
ONE
PEOPLE

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



Let's talk about existential angst!
Existential angst is my favorite kind of angst. It is much preferable to being-bombed angst or starvation angst or any of the other kind of normal everyday angsts that leap to mind.

Wes, what is this thing called existential angst? Where does it come from? How will I know it when I have it? Will it help me to write easier poems? What else is existential angst good for? What should I wear when I'm having existential angst? How old should my children be before I teach them the facts about existential angst? These are just a few of the existential angst-related questions that can

be asked.

Existential angst is that feeling you get when you discover that you aren't a drill bit or a box of white-board markers or an anti-fungal cream or any such similar thing. You weren't made for any evident purpose. This makes you feel left out. All the other things have meaning to their existence. You don't. Why oh why couldn't I have been born as a socket tool kit?

You have to wonder how this ever got to be important to anyone. The answer to that is easy. Two words: chronic underemployment. Existential angst is the whine that societies generate whenever a critical mass of its people are over-qualified for everything they can do. Look out, Seattle!

Let's say you have a degree in philology and the guy interviewing you for McDonalds doesn't know philology from stamp collecting. You may have existential angst. Are you 52% brain in a 20% brain world, assigned to push-

Existential angst is that feeling you get when you discover that you aren't a drill bit or a box of white-board markers or an anti-fungal cream.

ing a broom for a 9% brain employer? If you don't have existential angst yet, just you wait, Bunky.

Existential angst is great for writing poems. If you get stuck you have lots of cool words to fall back on, like "abyss" and "nausea." Always wear lots of black. The following illustration has been graciously supplied by one of our avid readers who wouldn't be caught dead wearing white.

Life Stinks Somewhat

BY POETRY LEGEND AND EXCELLENT RODEO CLOWN
MELISSA "MISSY" SCHMERTZGARTEN

No one can relieve this churning dread
that's fastened itself inside my head.
Not that I would ever sincerely complain—
since without my dread I would go insane.
A little dread is such a happy thing!
I feel just like a harried king.

Questions & Aids for Further Discussion:

- Do you think socket tool kits have their own kind of angst? What would that be called?
- Which of the following famous people do you think have experienced significant amounts of existential angst: George W. Bush, Pat Robertson, Rush Limbaugh? Which of them do you think could use some? What does "use" mean in this context? If existential angst can have a purpose, can Carrot Top be far behind?
- Everyone set down your pencils and take five minutes to fret over the meaning of life. Then, compare your reflections with those of your neighbors. Did you all see the same gaping abyss? Did any of you see down a garbage disposal? Because that would be weird. Give yourself five extra points if you felt fear, and another five if you experienced loathing. ■



Canned Boned Chicken

I got one pack of bugler
And a twelve pack of beer
I'm gonna sit down
And make me a meal
I'll have to get me this box
Just my lucky day
Canned boned chicken, USDA
Twelve cans in the box
Packed in water
I don't know,—
Do you think a oughta?

It fell down by the tracks
and it fell my way
Canned boned chicken, USDA
It's my lucky day
It fell right here
Gonna pop me a can
And drink me a beer
Gonna roll me a bugler
And open up the box of —
Canned boned chicken, USDA

Gettin' down to picken with my P38
Picken around with my P38
Canned boned chicken, USDA
Canned boned chicken, USDA
I'm gonna do some smokin'
And get down to drinkin'
I'm gonna do some finger pickin'
I'm gonna do some finger lickin'
I'm gonna sit down and make me a meal
Canned boned chicken and a can of beer
Canned boned chicken, USDA
Fell off the tracks
It's my luck today
Doin' some smokin', drinkin' and chicken picken'
12 cans-canned boned chicken
Fell to me feet, this lucky day
Canned boned chicken, USDA
Canned boned chicken, USDA
Canned boned chicken, USDA
Chicken Pickin!

— GRACE BALDWIN THOMSON

Plus or Minus Teeth

[March 23, 2000]

And at night I sing my heart out for the world (by force and due to threats on my person).

They all just love my old voice.

There's just a few difficulties about it all.

All the earnings are squashed.

Due to all of force injuring and threatening me in transit.

And the world will identify me for all of my earnings.

There are just a few problems about that.

Will my teeth (what few are left) still be there in the morning?

Will I still be walking from "Boots the Cat" planting his foot on my ruptured and fractured spine?

JESUS WAS BEAT TO A PULP, BEFORE HE FINALLY WAS HUNG ON A CROSS TO DIE
FOR ALL MANKIND.

In this world, there aren't thankyou's for the holy.

—CAROL ADELLE LENO

The Cut

Unintentional explanation toltec statue or
Totem-endemic reverse of atherosclerian pollutants

Understanding relation of cold and chill to clean of limb,
Sound of body, insane unthinking prophet
Startled, freezing currents will purify the epidermis

Numb and thermal layers cramp the muscles, make
Gasping for survival, shudders in the cold
Rumble deeper than

Inboard motor's screws, steel pedal dragging
Dead water blearing, slower-speed sounds
Bounce off rocks and ears beneath the, surface

Appearances cannot refuse to see your ragged denim shorts
Naked, creature flesh speaks of poverty and emptiness, you
Did not make the cut in a deeper creeping hope of truth.

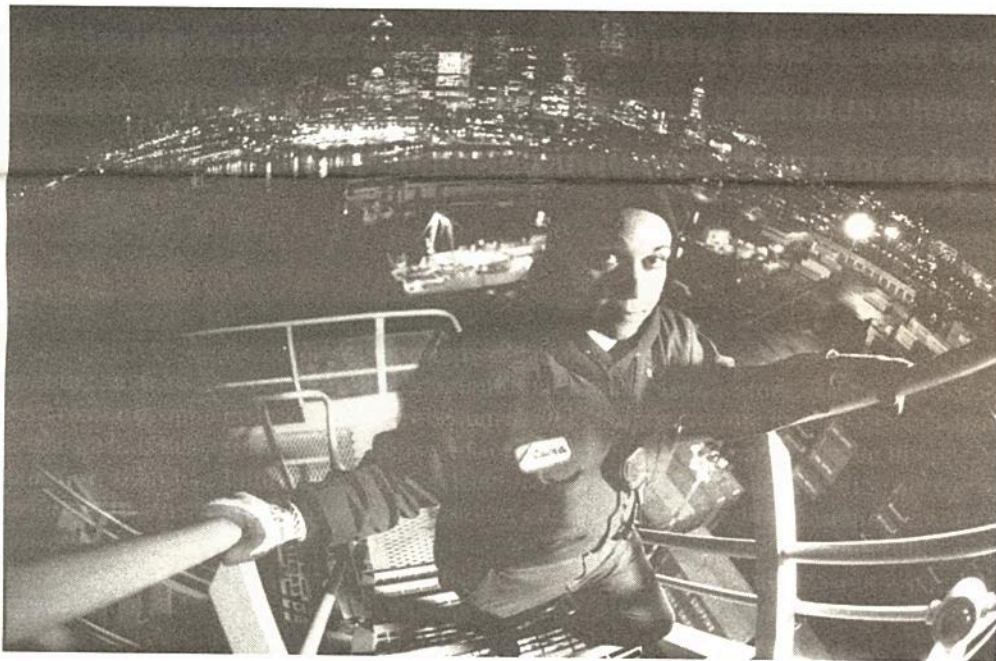
— HANS LILLEGARD



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM
THE STAIRS HIGH ABOVE
ATTLE; BELL AT THE HELM OF
PORT OF SEATTLE CRANE M
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tax payers have
future revenue th
private company
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need the money
Services of Amer**

— Port of Seattle



**“When I look around Terminal 18, that Stev
Black face among the mechanics and electric
corporation, we as citizens lose any control c**

PORT Continued from Page 1

“Our hands are tied. Our union tells us not to picket, not to have any type of job action to protest what is happening to us by the Port,” says Simmons. The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302, which represents the crane mechanics, has not fought the privatization. The union had originally guaranteed the workers jobs until retirement, in lieu of pay reduction and weekend work without overtime. Simmons and others thought their jobs were secure, and thinking ahead they took many personal sacrifices.

“When I graduated in 1984 as a journeyman in my trade there were only eight Blacks out of 5,000 in my local” says Simmons, who is African American. “These family wages jobs are crucial to our communities. When I look around Terminal 18, that Stevedoring Services of America runs now, I have only ever seen

one Black face among the mechanics and electricians. With the Port turning over control of these jobs to a private corporation, we as citizens lose any control of maintaining and creating family wage jobs for people of color.

“The Port has been constantly taunting us for 24 months, threatening us with losing our jobs,” continues Simmons. “This pressure has made our already dangerous jobs unsafe. Now at least that has come to an end. I think that if more citizens saw what was going on inside the Port of Seattle they would be down there marching and demanding a change.”

The Port of Seattle: Politics on the waterfront

“Of course I have a view as a crane worker at the Port of Seattle who is losing her job,” says Dawna Bell. A single mother, Bell is one of only two women, and the only woman of color, who is being laid off. She struggled on welfare until she was

able to get a family wage job as a crane mechanic, which allowed her to become a homeowner and support herself and her daughter.

“But I am actually offended as a tax paying citizen,” continues Bell. “The Port of Seattle is giving these cranes that the tax payers have bought and maintained and the future revenue that these cranes will generate to a private company. And I really have a problem with that. There are a lot of social service programs that need the money a lot more than Stevedoring Services of America.”

The Port of Seattle, run by elected commissioners representing the people of King County, is in charge of controlling publicly owned properties from the airport to the docks in the best interest of the public. It was founded in 1919 to stop the exact practice the Port Commissioners are now pushing: corporate monopolies taking control of the Port and its harbors.

The current decision to privatize the container crane maintenance is only the latest installment in a 15-year history of decisions by Port Commissioners to turn over control of Port operations to private corporations. Since 1986, the Port of Seattle has spent more than a half a billion tax dollars in infrastructure upgrades and improvements to Terminals 5 and 18. After completing the upgrades at the public's expense, Port Commissioners have turned around and awarded 30-year leases to private companies to manage operations at both

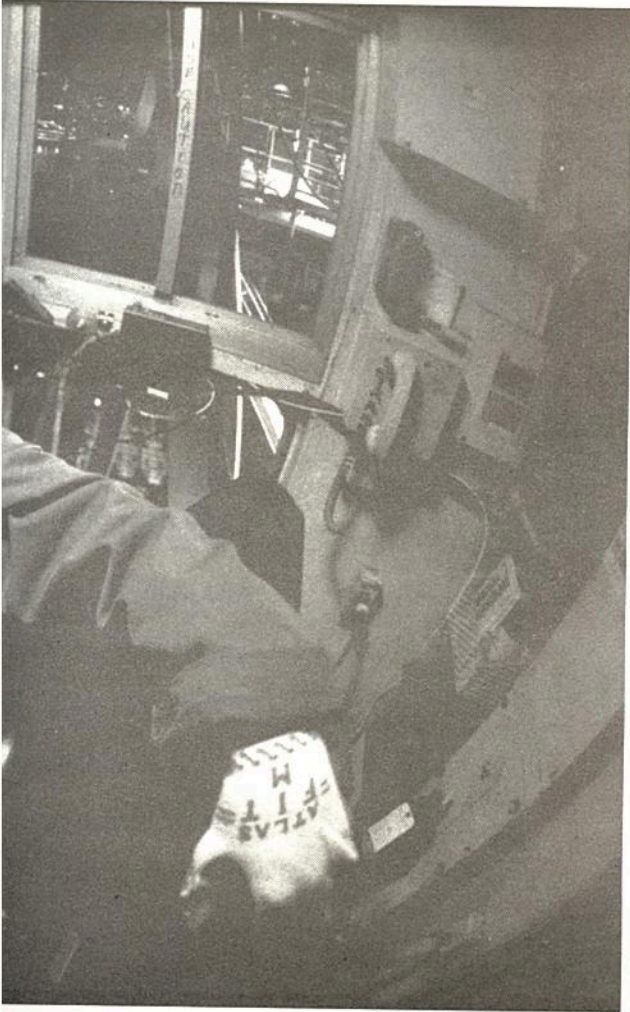
terminals.

“Most people can figure a 30-year lease is in effect a sale of property to private enterprise. Using a billion dollars of taxpayers' money to buy up the Port's infrastructure and then sell it off amounts to corporate greed at its worst,” remarks Tyree Scott, a crane electrician and a member of the Port Profits for Human Need Campaign. “The issue of contracting out maintenance of the container cranes is a labor dispute, but the real issue is the privatization of public property for the rich.”

A community-based s Returning port profits to real people

In August 2001, the Port of Seattle Human Needs Campaign v

**Please call the I
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Employment I**



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: PORT OF SEATTLE CRANE MECHANIC DAWNA BELL TAKES THE STAIRS HIGH ABOVE SEATTLE'S SKYLINE ON A TOWERING CRANE AT THE PORT OF SEATTLE; BELL AT THE HELM OF A CRANE BOOTH HANGING 150 FEET ABOVE THE PUGET SOUND; PORT OF SEATTLE CRANE MECHANIC JAMES SIMMONS MAKES HIS WAY UP THE PRECARIOUS LADDERS THAT HANG SOME 250 FEET ABOVE THE DOCKS; SIMMONS LOOKS DOWN OVER THE VIEW HE HAS ADMIRER FOR THE LAST 14 YEARS.

ALL PHOTOS BY ERIK CASTRO.



"The Port of Seattle is giving these cranes that the tax payers have bought and maintained and the future revenue that these cranes will generate to a private company. And I really have a problem with that. There are a lot of social service programs that need the money a lot more than Stevedoring Services of America."

— Port of Seattle Crane Mechanic Dawna Bell

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A community-based solution: Returning port profits to real people

In August 2001, the Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign was founded

by community activists, human services providers and recipients, and crane mechanics and electricians. The Campaign formed out of concern for cuts in basic human services at King County coupled with privatization and lay-offs at the Port of Seattle.

The Port of Seattle receives \$35.6 million levied from King County taxpayers each year. In 2000, the Port budget showed \$67 million profit, and the 2001 budget projects an increase in that amount. At the same time, a decrease in tax revenue due in part to anti-tax initiatives resulted in the current King County budget crisis. The budget cuts led to the slashing of millions of dollars in basic human services as part of an overall \$44 million budget deficit.

Adding a fresh voice to the debate over tightening government budgets, the Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign

asserts that the profits from the since they belong to the public, should be used to provide basic services to most in need in our community. The campaign looks to the State of California which in the early 1990s was facing budget shortfalls, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach turned over \$1 billion in revenue to the cities for their needs.

"It is crucial that we look at the budget here," says Michael Woo, an organizer with the Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign. "We have one public entity, the Port of Seattle, which receives more than \$35 million in taxpayer's money a year and is profiting at over \$67 million each year. At the same time another public entity, King County, is showing a deficit of \$44 million and cutting basic human services. Profits from the Port should be used to stop those human service cuts at the Port. It is that simple."

Some of the organizations involved in the campaign include the Northwest Labor Employment Law Office (LELO), the Minority Executive Directors Coalition, the Committee to Save King County Childcare Program, the Out Front Labor Coalition/Pride At Work (AFL-CIO), and the Seattle Human Services Coalition. The campaign has gained the support of elected officials, including King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and State Representatives Sharon Tomiko Sakuma and Velma Veloria.

"It is just really sad that the people

Please call the Port of Seattle at 206-728-3034 and demand they "Stop the Lay-offs of Crane Maintenance Workers!" You can reach The Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign by calling Michael Woo at The Northwest Labor Employment Law Office at 206-568-1781.

mechanics and electricians are being laid off over the control of these jobs to a private corporation. We as citizens lose any control of maintaining and creating family wage jobs for people of color. A crane mechanic who is a single parent, and being laid off, she was

SEATTLE CRANE MECHANIC DAWNA BELL TAKES ONE ON A TOWERING CRANE AT THE PORT OF SEATTLE, HANGING 150 FEET ABOVE THE PUGET SOUND; JAMES SIMMONS MAKES HIS WAY UP THE PRECARIOUS LADDERS OF THE DOCKS; SIMMONS LOOKS DOWN OVER THE VIEW HE HAS ADMIRER FOR THE LAST 14 YEARS.

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Adding a fresh voice to the debate over tightening government budgets, the Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign

asserts that the profits from the Port, since they belong to the public, should be used to provide basic services to those most in need in our community. The Campaign looks to the State of California, which in the early 1990s was facing huge budget shortfalls, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach turned over \$44 million in revenue to the cities for human needs.

“It is crucial that we look at the big picture here,” says Michael Woo, an organizer with the Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign. “We have one public entity, the Port of Seattle, which receives more than \$35 millions in taxpayer’s money and is profiting at over \$67 million each year. At the same time another public entity, King County, is showing a deficit of \$44 million and cutting basic human services. The profits from the Port should be used to stop those human service cuts at King County. It is that simple.”

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“It is just really sad that the people of

this county can’t make the connection between what we pay in taxes and the hurtful effect budget cuts have on real people who are their neighbors,” remarks Alaric Bien, Executive Director of the Chinese Information and Service Center and a supporter of the Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign.

The situation at Bien’s organization is just one example of the devastating effects of human service cuts from King County. Everything from necessary childcare subsidies for low-income families to support for the homeless and seniors is being cut. The Chinese Information and Service Center lost \$80,000, an amount the Center has counted on for years to maintain its core services.

The Center, located in the International District, provides the basic services of translation and holistic case management by bilingual and bicultural staff. This crucial support to the community, primarily to people who have emigrated from China, cannot be found else-

where. The cuts resulted in the lay-off of two full-time workers at the Center, and a reduction from five to two days a week when they provide basic services to the community.

“People get real focused on car tabs and property taxes and do not see the effect it has on their community,” comments Bien, “It is up to us to educate the public to know how important funding human services are and what responsibility we all have to help our neighbors.”

“Through this Campaign we have been amazed at how little we, and the public, know about the Port of Seattle,” agrees Woo. “The Port Commissioners are giving away millions of dollars in public property and profits, and the public doesn’t know it. We are working to hold the Port of Seattle Commissioners accountable for not looking out for the public’s best interest.” ■

Reporter Scott Winn is a member of the Port Profits for Human Needs Campaign.

Seattle at 206-728-3034
 Stop the Lay-offs of Crane
 You can reach The Port
 Profits Campaign by calling
 the Northwest Labor
 Office at 206-568-1781.

Arts Corps:

A phenomenal success story



ABOVE LEFT: DORA OLIVEIRA AND HER BRAZILIAN DANCE STUDENTS AT THE HIGH POINT YMCA.

ABOVE RIGHT: JAH BREEZE TEACHES AFRICAN DRUMMING TO ONE OF HIS STUDENTS AT THE RAINIER BEACH COMPLEX.

By Susan Platt
Photos by Susie Fitzhugh

The excitement and energy is everywhere at the Intiman Theater. On the stage you can hear drumming, bells, vocalized rhythms, spoken word poetry, solo singers, dancers, and original instrumental music. In the lobby you can see collaborative murals, prints made with squid dipped in colored ink, paintings based on dreams, masks, original ceramic sculptures with brilliant glazes, digitized photographs, video clips, and computer programs. Just off stage, children mill around with drums almost as big as they are, as even smaller children dressed in white shirts wait for their turn to dance. They seem like a flock of birds fluttering before they begin to soar. On stage, they are

accomplished and serious dancers performing choreography of their own creation, no matter what their age or size.

All of these creative children and youth, all of this excitement, is part of the quarterly public celebration of Arts Corps, Seattle's unique after-school arts program. Arts Corps' slogan, "Make Art Anyway," is a wonderful pun on their mission, which is to empower children to be creative and imaginative in a society that considers the arts to be a marginal frill. Arts Corps hires professional artists to teach children in after-school programs. They collectively make art anyway they can and in spite of the lack of support for arts in our public sector spending priorities.

Only a year ago last fall, Arts Corps held its first classes with 11 teaching artists at six facilities. This fall they had 200 students; the program has already reached a total of 700 children with a budget of only \$275,000. This spring they will have 27 classes in 17 facilities. The program has exploded into a success beyond anything its founders could have imagined.

But it is no accident, and a lot of hard work by a tiny staff is what is making it all happen. Executive director Lisa Fitzhugh is the only full time staff, along with three part-timers. They operate out of a small house in Madrona and when I was there, between terms, it was one phone call after another, a question to answer, a fire to put out. These people are dedicated.

One of the secrets to Arts Corps' success is the teachers whom they have hired. They are professionals in their fields who give not only their time, but also their dedication to teaching and who bring their own equipment to support the program. For example, Bill Moyer, a percussionist and sound designer, teaches drumming. He carries his own conga drums around in his Honda civic. (Q.: How many drums fit in a Honda Civic? A.: Eight). He is teaching children the technique of vocalizing rhythms, an art form he learned in Northern India. His young students at

Bailey Gatzert Elementary School are only in the third and fifth grades, but they went on stage with the calm presence of real professionals.

Another creative teacher is Matt Marshall, a filmmaker trained at Montana State University. He provided a short animated film of a birthday cake that went through various amusing transformations. The students developed music for it as well as captions, calling it "Flags on the Castle." Marshall used his own editing software to assemble the final project. The result was a witty, musical animation that stunned the children when they saw and heard their own creativity.

Sonya Boothroyd is artistic director of Turf, a break dance theater, as well as a multimedia artist. She taught "urban dance" this fall at Yesler Community Center and the Seattle Girls School through Arts Corps. Her technique is to combine hip hop and modern as well as some ballet. The children at Yesler were highly motivated, she said, to create dances together.

Boothroyd provides her many personal talents, music, and energy, but in her classes she encourages the students to connect with dance from the heart, to create movement that speaks of their

In the 1930s, artists became part of the life of people. But continual cuts in art education for children led to too many public officials who did not understand the arts as a fundamental and necessary part of human experience.

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Continued on Page 14

"Flyer for Peace?"

A view of the war from Westlake

By Michele Marchand

At the start of the third month of anti-war Women in Black vigils, women continued to stand in silence as a *Real Change* vendor exploded before our eyes. Apparently bumped by a passerby at Westlake Park, he started waving his walking stick around and screaming, "You faggot! I'm gonna kick your ass! Come back here so I can take you out!" His epithets continued as the object of his anger fled the park. Then, the *Real Change* vendor turned to one of our Women in Black leafletters and conspiratorially confided, "I would never do it, really. Really I'm a pacifist."

This vigil, held every Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. at Westlake Park, is Seattle's most recent use of the international peace movement called Women in Black. Standing in silent mourning every week at Westlake, in the midst of astonishing wealth and grinding poverty, we have witnessed the gamut of responses. This vigil is full of situational paradoxes which, from our perspective, reflect the biggest paradox: America choosing to bomb one of the poorest countries in the world in order to end terrorism.

Started by a group of three friends, the current anti-war Women in Black vigils have grown from the first vigil in late September, where just three of us stood silently for an hour, to a high of 50 participants—women of all ages, from all walks of life. In addition to making our position for peace clear, these vigils have served as a pulse-taking of the American response to the war.

The pulse at the park

Elise, one of the Women in Black organizers, is often a leafletter for the group. In the early days she would happily offer passersby, "Flyer for peace?" Often, the response would be "Fuck that!" A few people crumpled the flyer up and tossed it to the ground; once a man threw his crumpled flyer at us.

Flyer for peace? "No thanks, I believe in war." Or, "I don't believe in peace." Or, "I'm not interested."

Flyer for peace? "What kind of peace?"

One man said, "We can either fight back or die quietly. It's good to know where you people stand." This man passed by every Thursday for weeks,

muttering, "Die quietly!" under his breath. We started calling him the Die Quietly guy. He's on a par with the men who call us "Fucking bitches."

"We don't know what kind of seeds we're planting here, what the long-term response might be... I decided a long time ago that I could never witness a war in my lifetime, at American hands, without doing something."

— woman in black
Michele Marchand

But an almost-equal number of passersby have had a much different response, leading us to believe the polls (Who takes them? What are the questions?) are wrong about the slim 10% minority who oppose the American bombing. Many passersby, mostly women, have stopped to thank us. A man dropped to his knees in front of us to pray. Bus drivers have honked their horns in approval. Tourists have stopped to have their photo taken with us. Sometimes a male-female couple passed by, the man shaking his head in disgust. More than once, the woman partner turned around, grabbed a flyer and thanked us.

The Veteran and the vigil

One evening in late October, a man rode his bike around us twice, then stopped and sat at the end of the Arch. An American flag was prominently affixed to the end of his bike. After awhile, he sidled over to the center of the group of us peace vigilers and sat there, flag waving.

A buzz started in the back row of Women in Black. Should someone break the silence and ask him to leave? Eventually a woman leaned down to ask him to move out of our group. This didn't work, so another woman leaned down and said something, at which point our friend with the flag started yelling at us and calling us names.

I leapt down from the back row, faced the group and said, "Hey, I think his being here is a free speech issue, and I think we should let it ride!" We passed the rest of the hour in peaceful silence. The man in the middle crossed his arms over his chest and quietly grimaced, but stayed.

After our closing circle, almost every one of the 20 Women in Black stopped to say goodnight to our flag-waving friend, who still sat at the Arch. We learned later, from the *Seattle Times* photographer who was there that day, that this man was a Vietnam War veteran still carrying the weight of that trauma. I think his staying in the center of our group, even after his explosion, was a sign that he felt safe with us.



MORE THAN 20 WOMEN IN BLACK STOOD IN SILENT VIGIL AROUND A VIETNAM WAR VETERAN AT WESTLAKE PARK IN LATE OCTOBER. PHOTO BY BETTY UDESEN/ THE SEATTLE TIMES.

Planting seeds

In late November, 50 Women in Black stood in front of the Christmas carousel, silently staring at the Westlake Christmas tree bedecked this year in patriotic red, white, and blue minilights. A woman stopped and asked, "Are you the Figgy Pudding carolers?" Well, no, we're here to stand for peace. She waved goodbye, merrily calling out, "Okay then, have a nice day!"

Elise was feeling no hope on this day: the we try, we fail, we die kind of hopelessness. "Look," I said. "I know this is really New Age-y. But we don't know what kind of seeds we're planting here, what the long-term response might be. All we have to do is be faithful. I decided a long time ago that I could never witness a war in my lifetime, at American hands, without doing something." She started to cry.

When we began these vigils in late September we knew it wouldn't be easy. We found out a couple of weeks into our efforts that the New York City Women in Black group also had started anti-war vigils in late September. How courageous is that?

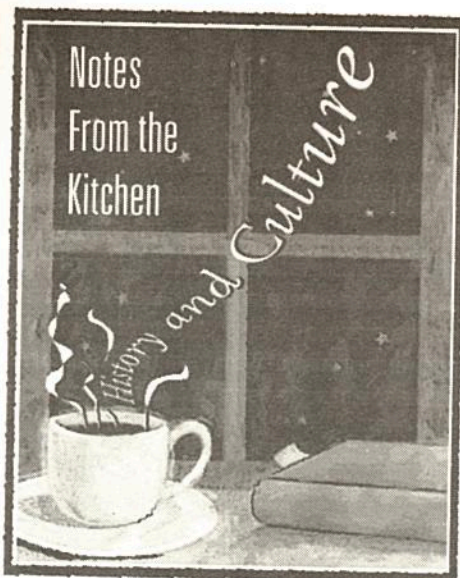
Recently, one of the women in black held a small cardboard sign with civilian casualty counts. From September 11: 3,012 (according to The Associated Press). In Afghanistan, from October 7 through early December: 3,767. At the bottom of her small cardboard sign the simple question: Why?

This sign generated more passerby conversation than anything else about our vigils.

My friend Betsy, in trying to discern her own opinion about the course America should've taken after September 11, had this vision: What if, she thought, those people who died in the World Trade towers died for something much bigger than they ever could've accomplished in their lives? What if, at Ground Zero, we could put up some kind of memorial that says, "These people died to bring us peace on earth"?

It's not too late. We have to believe it's not too late even now. ■

For supporting data on Afghan casualty count, visit http://www.cursor.org/stories/civilian_deaths.html.



Chicken, Symbol of Eternal Love

By Liz Smith

It is five o'clock in the afternoon, a number of years ago, and I am eight years old. My father is reading the paper, and my brother and sister are in the living room playing with the dog. I am helping my mother by setting the table, and I have a feeling of dread in my stomach. My mother is making hamburger steak, mashed potatoes, and squash. She knows we hate squash, but she still makes it. Rather, she maltreats it, so that it lays on the plate still bearing the imprint of the spoon that delivered it, like a squash of Gibraltar in a puddle of squash juice.

She finishes putting the food in the serving dishes, and we put everything on the table. It's time to eat. We each stand by our chair and say grace. My dad is served first, and then us kids. My brother and sister and I trade glances. In spite of the praying, the squash is still there.

Our parents, children of the Depression, eat everything on their plates. They will never forget their hungry childhoods. When my mom and her 16 brothers and sisters were little, they ate syrup sandwiches, and oranges for Christmas were a rare treat. My parents have open-minded taste buds, but when it comes to us kids and our stomachs, that open-mindedness narrows to a hard-edged point. They insist on us cleaning our plates, no matter what loathsome object gets in the way. We don't get dessert that night, and are sent to bed early. They don't understand why we are so ungrateful.

I guess that's what happens when deprivation sits down with abundance. Plus, my mother was not skilled in cooking. As long as the food gave off steam, that was good enough for her. My poor sister fared worst. She grew positively phobic, and ate only hamburgers, sugary cereal, and peanut butter sandwiches. As we grew older, we got used to dinners ending in anger, each side mad at the other. We would somehow get through our meal, and my sister was sternly ordered to sit there until she ate everything on her plate. My parents stomped in a huff to the living room to watch TV, and my brother escaped to do his homework.

I was in charge of the dishes. My sister, sitting all forlorn facing her plate, gave me such desperate looks. I would feel a great wave of pity wash over me. "Is Dad looking?" I'd whisper. "No," she'd answer, and I would tiptoe back to the table, scoop the offending substance into a bowl, and tip it into the abyss of the disposal. It felt very nerve-racking, defying our parents like that, and I'd motion for her to wait, wait, while I washed a few more dishes. Then she'd call to our father, "I'm all done," and the prisoner was free to go. The warden never suspected our conspiracy.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the attorney for the defense suggests that forcing children to eat things they don't like is cruel and unusual punishment. That is the perfect way to make them hate food forever. Give them something nice to eat, like the chicken and dumplings in today's column. Then when you're old they will still love you, and you won't have to ask them why they never call.

Chicken and Dumplings (Makes 10 cups stew and 20-25 dumplings)

Chicken Stew:

- A 3-quart capacity soup pot
- 1 32-oz container chicken broth
- 1 32-oz container vegetable broth
- A three-and-a-half-pound chicken
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 carrots, cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced
- 3 celery stalks, sliced thin
- 6 large crimini mushrooms, sliced

To make chicken stew:

1. Pour broth into pot and heat on medium.
2. Remove skin and fat from chicken and cut into parts: legs, wings, backs, thighs, and breasts.
3. Simmer for one hour on medium heat.
4. Remove chicken from pot. Do not turn off heat. Lay out to cool on a long strip of aluminum foil. Pull the meat off the bones and cut into pieces.
5. Add the vegetables to the pot, then the meat. Bring to a medium-low simmer. Add spoonfuls of dough to broth. Cover with wax paper. Simmer fifteen minutes, then serve.
6. Plan on about four dumplings per person. Leftover stew freezes well. When serving leftovers, reheat stew and use up the rest of the dumpling dough.



Dumplings:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 Tbsp dried parsley
- 1/2 tsp dried sage
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 4 Tbsp butter
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup milk

To make dumplings:

1. Mix flour with spices.
2. Cut in butter with pastry blender or two butter knives.
3. Blend egg with milk, then stir into flour mixture until well mixed. Dough will be quite stiff. Put in refrigerator until it's time to cook. ■

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BEST OF 2001

Friday, July 6, Harrison Street, 5:20 p.m.
 The complainant, a 19-year-old homeless man, and his two brothers were playing music for donations on the Seattle Center grounds. He reported that after having finished playing, they counted their tips, which amounted to around \$100. They noticed a young male approaching them, who then grabbed the money from the homeless man's hand and fled the Space Needle vicinity. The thief was not found.

Monday, July 16, 1300 block of University Street, 12.30 p.m. While police officers were investigating a robbery, a 35-year-old black male approached them and said he wanted the state to euthanise him. The officer spoke with the man, who explained that he was sick of his life and he wanted to die. He had no money, was homeless, and had just lost his car. He said he had attempted to commit suicide a few days ago with a gun, but could not as his hands were shaking too badly. He was transported to Harborview Medical Center for a mental evaluation.

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 11:45 a.m., Western Avenue, Cutter's Bay House. Dispatch informed officers of a 50-year-old, homeless man who walked into Cutter's and attempted to use the restroom. After being told that the restroom was for customers only, the man urinated on the hallway floor. An officer in the area noticed a man fitting the description climbing over a fence on the Lenora Bridge. The officer contacted the subject, and another officer arrived at the scene with the waitress who had witnessed the incident. The suspect was identified as the urinator. The witness stated that when she told the man he could not use the restroom, he cursed at her and said "Fuck you, I have to pee," and began to urinate on the floor. As the suspect was being cuffed, he stated, "I had to piss." He was transported to King County Jail.

Thursday, Aug. 2, 5:57 p.m. 200 Block Virginia Street, city alley. A 40-year-old homeless black woman reported being grabbed by an unknown male assailant, who broke her eyeglasses. He told the woman, "You're gonna work for me... you're gonna be my bitch." The woman managed to free herself, and reported to the police that she was afraid for her life. The suspect is still at large.

Sat., Sept. 23, 10 p.m., 1800 Block Broadway. An officer approached a black male in his 30s, who was sleeping on the sidewalk, and attempted to move him along. The male appeared disoriented, and when the officer asked if he was under mental health treatment, the man answered "yes." The officer then asked the man to pick up his belongings, which confused the man, who began throwing his belongings about. He threw a plastic bag containing his papers at the officer, narrowly missing the officer's head. The man was placed in restraints and transported to Harborview. ■

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

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THE LEAD PERFORMER IN TINA LAPADULA'S PLAY, PERFORMED BY CHILDREN AT THE BAILEY GATZERT ELEMENTARY YMCA.

ARTS Continued from Page 10

own experiences of the world. She believes that dance is a way of encouraging positive group dynamics and self-expression.

The visual artists are equally compelling and dedicated. Tomas Oliva Jr and Lauren Atkinson helped their classes design murals on the theme of "Seeking Safety." Lauren's class made a Mandala Tree, Oliva's class made a large jigsaw puzzle, part of a collaborative program with Cape Town, South Africa. The mural will travel there next year to join murals that children there have been making on the same subject. All of the murals will also be on display at the Seattle Art Museum this May.

One of the themes of Arts Corps is that the art classes are only the beginning or only part of their mission. Arts Corps is part of the community, not just an after school program. They are now talking with officials at King County Department of Community and Human Services, the Chemical Abuse and Dependency Youth Treatment Providers, and the Public Defender's office, who are eager to get their kids into Art Corps programs because they recognize how central artistic expression is to lifting a child's self-esteem.

This idea of the arts is not new. Think of the government funding for community art centers in the 1930s. The arts then were seen as a means to help people through difficult times. Artists were sent all over the country to teach photography, printmaking, painting, sculpture, music, writing, theater. They became part of the life of people, on the model of John Dewey, who wrote a book called *Art as Experience*. Holger Cahill, the head of the Government Arts Programs and a devout disciple of Dewey's, spoke of moving "art into life." He wanted to democratize the arts and not confine them to an experience available only to the educated elite. Between the 1930s and now, continual cuts in art education for children led to too many public officials who did not understand the arts as a fundamental and necessary part of human experience.

Happily, Arts Corps is making it possible for youths in Seattle to once again enjoy the power of art to transform lives, communities, and society. ■

Susan Platt has written the book Art and Politics in the 1930s (Midmarch Arts Press, 1999) available at Elliott Bay Books. It discusses the government art programs of the 1930s as well as other aspects of community-based art expressions in those years.

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Rogue States: The Rule of Force in World Affairs, by Noam Chomsky

Wednesdays February 6 - March 27:

Becoming a Peace Maker

Text Book: *Faith Works*, by Jim Wallis

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CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

When we at Classics Corner contemplate the vastness of what we don't know, we often think of white-armed Helen. As you no doubt recall, Helen of Troy ditches her loser husband Menelaus for the smooth charms of Paris. This, in 1200 BC, was considered a major breach of state protocol, and a thousand ships were assembled to storm Troy and bring Helen home.

But the story on Helen is far from clear. To some, she is a pawn, a plaything of the gods with no will of her own. To others, she is plainly a "bitch." Still others, taking a more materialist view of history, have suggested that the war against Troy was just a typical Greek land grab, and Helen wasn't even there.

Homer, who tends toward forgiveness, has the King of Troy console Helen. "I don't blame you," he says. "I hold the Gods to blame." Yet Euripides has Hecuba, Priam's own wife, rebut this notion. The "barbaric splendor" of her son Paris, she says, made Helen's "senses itch," and the house of Menelaus would no longer do for Helen's "spoiled luxurious appetites."

Herodotus, in his *History*, says he knows what really happened. Paris was blown off course on his return to Troy, and wound up at the mouth of the Nile. Once the King heard about Helen's abduction, he confiscated the woman and sent Paris packing. When the Greeks got to Troy, they didn't believe that Helen wasn't there, and sacked the town anyway. Herodotus says he believes this version because no people would have allowed themselves to be destroyed over a woman. Had Helen been there, they'd have given her up.

The thing about Helen is that she becomes pretty much what anybody needs her to be. To Herodotus, she is an example of how the Gods punish wrongs, utterly and completely. For Homer, she is just a tiny piece of a much bigger problem. In Euripides, in plays like *Hecuba* and the *Trojan Women*, Helen is offered as further proof of the craven nature of humanity. But in his *Helen*, Euripides finds her blameless, and offers yet another version of the Herodotus story.

This happens to be our favorite because Helen is presented as what she is: an illusion. In *Helen*, our heroine is taken to the King of Egypt by Hera, and a fake Helen, made of air and clouds, goes off with Paris to Troy. The Trojan War rages for 10 years over fake Helen. Menelaus is lost at sea with fake Helen for another seven years, until he finally lands in Egypt and runs into the real thing. Real Helen declares the Trojan War a stupid adventure. "Mindless all of you, who in the strength of spears and the tearing edge win your valors by war."

Helen tricks the King of Egypt into giving her and Menelaus a ship, and they both escape and live happily ever after. As the Egyptian King's servant breaks the bad news, he offers an observation that rings through the ages. "Man's most valuable trait," he says, "is a judicious sense of what not to believe." ■

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Notables

Thursday 1/10

A documentary film by John Pilger, *New Rulers of the World*, exposes the effects of World Bank and IMF policies on the third world countries. Discussion will follow movie. 7 p.m. at University of Washington, Johnson Hall, Room #006; info Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies 206-543-7946 and LeftTurn.org 206-524-2207.

Women in Black are sponsoring a Peace Vigil and leafleting to stop the war on Afghanistan, this and subsequent Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. at Westlake Park arch at 4th and Pine.

Friday 1/11

International Socialist Organization presents a public forum, "The Global Struggle for Women's Liberation: Understanding the Source of Women's Oppression." 7 p.m. at Seattle Central Community College, Student Activities Ctr, 1718 Broadway, across from SCCC main building; info 206-292-8809.

Saturday 1/12

Antioch University Seattle Center for Creative Change offers a series of free

educational forums, *Incubating Social Enterprises*, 1 - 4 p.m., this and subsequent 2nd Saturdays at Antioch University Seattle, Room 201-B, 2326 6th Ave. at Battery; info 206-268-4707.

Northwest Student Anti-War Conference, speakers and workshops will address campaigning against the war, racism and the clamp-down on civil liberties. Saturday and Sunday at the University of Washington, rooms TBA, \$1-10 sliding scale donation, no one will be turned away; info Dan 206-725-9327 or www.students.washington.edu/~mallen22.

Sunday 1/13

Temple Beth Am Social Action Committee presents Constitutional Law Expert attorney Len Schroeder on **civil liberties in this time of the Afghan War**. 11 a.m. at Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th, Seattle; info 206-525-0915.

Wednesday 1/16

Interfaith Prayer Service marking the 11th anniversary of the **Outbreak of the Gulf War**, with Gerri Haynes, President of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, who has traveled to Iraq.

7 p.m. at Christ The King Church, 405 N. 117th St., Seattle; info 206-362-1545.

Thursday 1/17

Eight distinguished UW African American Faculty discuss their **paths toward university level teaching**, sponsored by The Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas. 6:30 - 8 p.m. at The Royal Esquire Club, 5016 Rainier Ave. S., free; info Millie Russell 206-685-0774 or <http://www.cdforum.org/home.html>.

The King County Civil Rights Commission will sponsor a **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance** with anti-racist activist and lecturer Tim Wise speaking on **Combating Racism**. 7 p.m., at North Bellevue Senior Community Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE, Bellevue, ASL interpreted and free; info Paula Harris-White 206-296-8610 or TTY 1-800-833-6388.

Friday 1/18

Interfaith Vigil for **Peace in the Middle East**, pray for the end of the violence; 8 a.m.-8 p.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.

African American/Jewish Coalition for Justice **annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast**. 7:30 - 9 a.m., at Catholic Community Services, 23rd and Yesler Way; info Deborah Jones 206-365-0710, reservations 206-781-6654.

Women's Wellness Center second anniversary open house. Massage therapists and chiropractors to offer their services. 2 - 5 p.m., 1900 Second Avenue. Call 206-256-0665 for more information.

Saturday 1/19

Citizens Concerned for the People of Iraq meeting, working to **end the U.S./U.N. Sanctions Against Iraq**. 3 p.m. this and subsequent 3rd Saturdays, at University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave. NE.; info Fellowship of Reconciliation 206-789-5565.

Blacks in Government: 20th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Banquet Celebration; keynote speaker, Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., 7 p.m., in the Main Ballroom at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport Doubletree Hotel. Reservations 206-624-4870.

Sunday 1/20

Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation potluck and **meeting on Drug Law Reform**, with Andy Ko of American Civil Liberties Union and Roger Goodman of the Drug Policy Project, King County Bar Association. 6 p.m., at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N. 70th near Greenwood; info 206-789-5565.

Monday 1/21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, theme "**Jobs, Justice, Peace: in the Aftermath of 9/11**," with music and speakers. 9:30 a.m. workshops, 11 a.m. rally, 12:15 p.m. march, starting at Garfield High School, 23rd Ave. at E. Jefferson; destination of the march will be the Federal Building, 2nd and Marion, downtown; info K.L. 206-559-7420 or CAMP 206-812-4940.

Tuesday 1/22

The Black Dollar Days Task Force annual African American Business Reception with guest speaker David Korten, author of *The Post-Corporate World: Life After Capitalism*. 7 p.m., at the Royal Esquire Club, 5016 Rainier Ave. S., tickets \$25; info 206-324-3114.

Opening reception for **Gaman: Pacific Northwest Japanese-American Artists**; exhibit in conjunction with remembrance of 60th anniversary of the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II; through April 14 at M. Rosetta Hunter Art Gallery at Seattle Central Community College, free, more info at 206-344-4379.

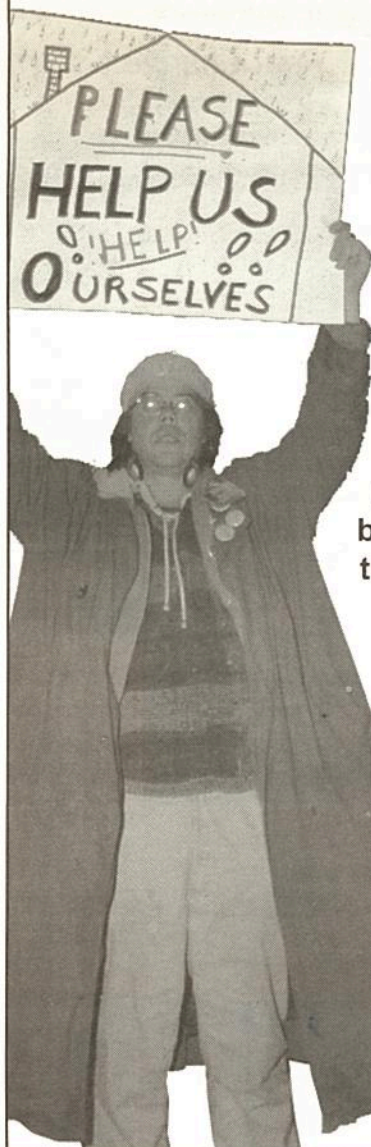
Ongoing

Art exhibit "**Witness and Legacy: Contemporary Art about the Holocaust**," featuring 24 pieces created by Holocaust survivors. Free, through January 13 at Frye Art Museum; info 206-441-5747.

Exhibit of work from photographers Alan Pogue, who has been documenting conditions in Iraq and Palestine, and Phil Borges, who has **documented conditions for Afghan refugees**, through January 12 at Benham Studio, 1216 First Ave; info 206-622-2480.

Free Reading, Writing, Math, and ESL classes for adults at the People's Learning Center. Classes meet in the Central District. Call 206-325-8308 for more information. ■

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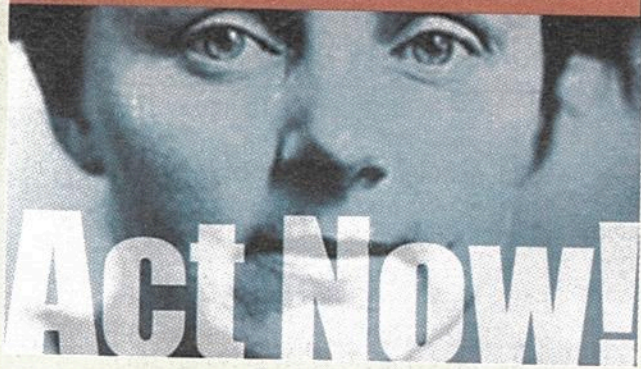
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Be Part of Homeless Youth Lobby Day

Issue: On February 8, homeless youth and service providers from around the state will be meeting in Olympia to talk to legislators about the importance of programs to support youth in their transition from the streets.

Background: Initial budget proposals submitted by the state Department of Social and Health Services outlined the complete elimination of adolescent services. The Governor's budget isn't quite that bad, but he is prepared to cut funding to Family Reconciliation Services, prevention services in the Children's Administration, some mental health services, and state support for youth shelters.

It is imperative to let our legislators know how these services help youth and families.

Action: Come join us and help these young people make an unforgettable impression on our leaders.

The homeless youth lobby day — "Where is our future going? People need a place to start" — will take place on the campus of the Washington state capitol in Olympia, in the John A. Cherberg Building, Conference Rooms ABC.

The agenda for the day includes:

9:30 – 10 a.m.: Check in/ Breakfast

10 – 11 a.m.: Welcome from legislators and youth

Update on session/ practice writing notes to legislators

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Meet with legislators

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.: Theater in the Rotunda — Interactive Theater Forum presented by Marc Weinblatt and Youth team.

1:30 p.m.: Youth share stories/poetry reading under the dome

2:00 p.m.: Continue to meet with legislators

If you can't make it down to Olympia in person, we would love to get your story and ask the youth to pass it on to legislators. Send us your stories about being young and homeless, or about how using services helped. Also what kind of services could you have used to help in the transition from the street? These stories can be anonymous and short, just half a page. We'll give them to legislators to show them how cutting services hurts real people, and how youth need all the help they can get to survive life on the street.

Send your stories to Homeless Youth Task Force, c/o Children's Alliance, 2017 E. Spruce St, Seattle, WA 98122 or kristen@childrensalliance.org. For more info contact Kristen Rogers (206) 324-0340 x22, kristen@childrensalliance.org, or Paul Barry (206) 324-0340 x15, paul@childrensalliance.org. ■



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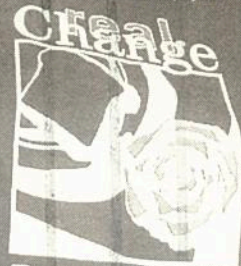
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