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PHOTO OF ARTWORKS ARTISTS JESSE BROWN, RIGHT, AND DANIEL LEON, IN FRONT OF A MURAL THEY HELPED CREATE. PHOTO BY CASEY KELBAUGH.

Urban art program turns young offenders into public artists

By Peter Bloch Garcia

Just a few years ago, Jesse Brown and Daniel Leon had been getting into trouble with the law. Now they get into art. They can be found these days with brushes in hand, painting in a SODO warehouse studio, preparing pieces for their up-coming show.

With the help of ArtWorks, a program whose mission it is to empower young people through the creation of public art, Jesse and Daniel have cut their artistic teeth and are on their way to taking a bite out of the local art scene. They will debut their works as featured artists at the grand opening of Emergence, a new gallery dedicated to local talented young artists, and a branch of ArtWorks' programs.

Each boy's life story is one of transformation and achievement: transformation in its most challenging sense, in struggling with oneself to overcome youth, racism, and poverty in an Ameri-

can city.

Just two years ago, Daniel Leon was sent to ArtWorks by his probation counselor, after being arrested on assault charges. Now 18, he says ArtWorks changed his life for the better. "I wasn't a very smart person then," he reflects, describing his difficulty controlling his anger and refraining from a fight. For a short time he was involved in local gangs, which were leading him down a path he no longer wants to follow. Daniel credits the people at ArtWorks for helping him to stay out of trouble and find a new calling. He is now a mentor to younger kids who come to

the program fresh out of the juvenile justice system. Working with them, and seeing their struggles, motivates him to stay focused on using his mind for more aesthetic pursuits.

As a Native American from a combination of Tlingit, Sioux, and Tsimshian tribes, his ethnic and cultural heritage is a reservoir of artistic inspiration. Daniel incorporates traditional Native imagery that is tied to personal experiences and stories from his memory. He looks to other prominent contemporary Native artists, like Bill Reid and Susan Point, as models for his own work.

For Daniel, art is a way "to use your mind," and a pastime he is proud of, now that he is getting some recognition for it. One of his paintings was selected for a jacket cover of a published book. After recently winning a \$1,000 first-place prize in a competition for young local artists by a civil liberties organization that put his photo on billboards and in *Colors Northwest* magazine, he is now basking in his newfound reputation as an artist.

Daniel is thrilled by having his work displayed at the opening of Emergence

Gallery; he hopes it will propel his art career further. He is less confident about presenting and speaking about his pieces—what he considers the social side of being an artist.

Jesse Brown, more softspoken and modest, is less comfortable than Daniel with his artist's persona. But to other people, Jesse seems destined for critical acclaim. At times his painting style seems to harken to Latin American muralists, and at other times seems to make social statements on urban culture at the turn of the century. When asked how he feels about his first art show, Jesse admits to feeling a little trepidation. He is apprehensive about people judging his work, or dismissing it offhandedly when they learn of his roots in graffiti art.

Growing up in a family that struggled to cope with alcoholism and drugs, Jesse ventured into the realm of graffiti as his outlet. His initial urge to do graffiti art came out of his punk rock urban malaise. He used to ride a skateboard with a bag of spray paint in tow, but now uses the board as a canvas to

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Greg Palast, Muckraker • Walk for Rice • No-Confidence Vote • Love in Abandoned Buildings • Nurses Picket Harborview • Protesting Grocery "Loyalty" Cards



The Bible: handle with care

Dear *Real Change*,

Tom Morris's response ("A Bible-thumping rebuttal," May 16, 2002) to Rich Lang's April 18 editorial "Fire and Brimstone: an open letter to President Bush" was interesting, but I'm troubled by his reductionist interpretation of what "the Bible and Christ clearly teach."

The passage of Scripture cited by Morris (Paul's letter to the Romans, Chapter 13) is certainly useful in the conversation as it raises good questions about how Christians should relate to state authority. Unfortunately,

Morris uses this passage as a naive generalization of what the Bible teaches regarding the issue of state/church relations.

Even a cursory glance at the rest of Scripture (particularly Paul's letters and the Acts of the Apostles) reveals a more complex picture than that presented by Morris. As theologian Walter Wink has eloquently pointed out: "The language of power in the New Testament is extremely imprecise, liquid, interchangeable and unsystematic, yet despite all this imprecision and interchangeability, certain clear patterns of usage emerge."

The patterns of usage regarding the New Testament's general attitude toward state authority and other "Powers" is best summed up in Wink's introduction to his book "Naming the Powers." He says: "When a particular Power becomes idolatrous, placing itself above God's purposes for the good of the whole, then that Power becomes demonic. The church's task is to unmask this idolatry and recall the Powers to their created purposes in the world."

Rich Lang's letter to the President and his congregation's witness on the Tent City issue are examples of ordinary Christians unmasking the idolatry of the Powers.

Sincerely,
Tom Liddle
Seattle

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Green, poor, and running for office

Dear *Real Change*,

People have asked me why I am running against Pat Thibadeau for State Senate in Seattle's 43rd District. My answer is that I have experiences and ideas that you don't find in our current state legislature. I am a poor Native woman living at the YWCA. I know firsthand about Food Stamps, low-income housing (and waiting lists), food banks (and lines), job banks, getting clothes from the apartment free box.

I also know that many people who live lives of quiet desperation are disabled and cannot work, even if jobs were to magically materialize. I also had the pleasure of living on temporary disability a few years ago. The \$339 a month I got then is still the standard, and has not changed for 20 years. Even if someone was able to get through the two- to seven-year waiting list for low-income housing, can they afford to live on \$339 a month?

I have naturally concluded that low-income housing and health care have got to be priorities. How is it that no one, other than the poor, understands that dental and eye care are necessary to good health? These must be part of a good, universal, single-payer health plan.

No one in this state deserves to be erased, as many poor people and especially homeless folks feel they have been. Students are feeling it too, since tuition was raised 20 percent recently. How many are a year or two from graduation, and unable to afford to finish?

One of the most blatant examples [of this erasure] was the re-classification of the Duwamish tribe as nonexistent. With one stamp, a government was able to get out of treaty obligations with Chief Seattle's people. Our own governor has not even seen fit to recognize the Duwamish tribe.

We need to get this state working for everyone. By using clean, renewable fuels and tree-free paper, jobs are on the horizon. Bio-diesel, fuel alcohol, methane gas, and wind farms can be used to revitalize rural economies, stimulating the rest of the state. Tax breaks for abandoned buildings converted to low-income housing will start to solve the housing crunch, and growing tree-free paper on clear-cut land will put former loggers to work while helping the environment.

There is a lot to do, and I am willing to get us started. I am running as a Green Party candidate, and will have a nominating convention on June 29. Please check out my web site (www.simahoyo.com) volunteer, sign my petitions so I can get on the ballot, and vote for me.

Sincerely,
Linde Knighton
Seattle

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.

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A \$50 Million Dollar Hole

In budget planning, Mayor Nickels needs to take a serious look at cutting overhead — not services

By Sharon Lee

As the City of Seattle prepares to cut \$50 million in next year's budget, the cuts may again fall on our poorest citizens. Some of the city's most recent actions show a lack of commitment to these peoples' needs.

This spring, the City Council allocated \$800,000 to increase hygiene services and day centers for homeless people. Eight local agencies which could use the money sent proposals to the Human Services Department, the city agency that supports local charities. Now, the money is mired in the Human Service Department's planning process, and the issue may only come up in September, when the idea gets laid out on the chopping block. At the tail end of the budget process last year, the City Council added over \$500,000 for community agencies to provide critically-needed human services. The Human Service Department and Mayor Greg Nickels have turned around and proposed cutting these funds as well.

Mayor Nickels met with the Seattle Human Services Coalition and the Minority Executive Directors Coalition last month, and talked about making government "live within its means," and cutting overhead to balance the budget. Each city department faces a 9 to 14 percent cut. The mayor talked about protecting basic services as much as possible, and asked for help from SHSC and MEDC. "There is no one-time gimmick, and we are going to have to make tough decisions," he said.

Many of those present feel that human services has already taken a disproportionate share of cuts. Coalition members have raised the following concerns:

- Housing and human services are "basic services" and should be expanded, not cut, when more people need these services in times of economic crisis. Food banks, counseling services, and homeless shelters have seen a tremendous increase in demand.
- The Human Services Department should cut overhead and staff before services that directly benefit low-income people. Other areas of city government should also be reduced before essential housing and human services.
- A rumor was circulating that the city was going to cut "advocacy" as a category. This would be a big mistake because community coalitions and agencies are able to leverage significant state, federal, and other resources for housing and human services programs by advocating for people's needs.
- The city hired 1,000 new employees over the last four years during a time of economic expansion. Balancing the City's budget should not happen at the expense of the very poor. The City must cut staff to achieve a sustainable budget.
- Many city departments continue to use scarce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other federal anti-poverty funds to pay for city staff — instead of using these funds to support community programs.
- Cut human services ONLY as a last resort, as this will disproportionately impact people of color, homeless people and the neediest. Cutting human services will only increase long-term costs to society.

Dwight Dively, the City's Director of Finance, and Ven Knox, Director of the Human Services Department, also offered their perspectives on the budget situation. The city has a baseline budget of \$600 million for general fund expenditures. The latest April revenue forecast shows only \$524 million in tax revenues for 2003. Knox said that her department is reluctant to cut services that help people in crisis or prevent homelessness and other hardships. Approximately 72 percent of Knox's budget is contracted out to a variety of community-based organizations that serve homeless people, families, or youth. Her department only gets 31 percent of its money from the general fund — other funds come in from federal government grants like the Community Development Block Grant.

SHSC and MEDC plan to make proposals to the mayor on how to balance the City's budget for 2003-2004. The mayor's budget recommendation goes to City Council in September. The City Council has an important role to play to make sure that budget priorities are set and that the decisions are fair and equitable.

And if advocates are not aggressive in fighting for these programs, there will be significant city budget cuts that will harm the poor and homeless. ■

Sharon Lee is Executive Director of the Low Income Housing Institute.

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Rising Times: Fallen

After three issues, Spokane's street newspaper, the *Rising Times*, has stopped publication. Managing editor Leah Sottile and business manager Aaron Sanchez, full-time students at Gonzaga University, said their busy schedules collided with unexpected barriers, and put the *Times* on the skids. The last issue came out in May, but not enough people were willing to sell it.

"We had a huge vendor turnover that we weren't expecting, and we had a problem with some cops chasing vendors away," says Sanchez. He contends that the City of Spokane had stated that *Rising Times* vendors did not need a business license to hawk papers; apparently, word didn't spread to cops on the beat. After a couple confrontations with police, "word spread quickly" and dissuaded would-be vendors.

Spokane's geography also made selling a homeless paper difficult. The downtown area is designed for commuting office workers, and foot traffic is light; in the evening, the center of the city is nearly empty of both people and cars. Nevertheless, "I think it's viable in Spokane," Sanchez says.

Gonzaga has recruited a full-time AmeriCorps volunteer to re-launch the paper soon. Sanchez says the next person to work on building the *Rising Times* needs to "find the most reliable vendors possible — the people who want to make the paper successful." ■

— Adam Holdorf

North American Digest

June 13, 2002

Pompano Beach, Florida. Mayor Bill Griffith has requested an ordinance that would "control the proliferation of multiservices" at the new Broward County homeless shelter, which is set to open August 1. It is not yet clear how far-reaching this ordinance might be, but the mayor is concerned that the crowd at the shelter will spill out into the nearby neighborhoods.

The shelter, which will serve 200 men, women, and children, will not demand that residents be clean and sober in order to receive services, and no metal detector will be used on guests' belongings, though bags will be checked. In contrast to the Fort Lauderdale shelter, this is a fairly relaxed approach, according to the June 3 edition of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*.

Recent moves by Salt Lake City officials are leading homeless advocates to fear a repeat of the summer of 1996, when the former mayor cracked down severely on homeless people in Pioneer Park, a longtime home for many of the city's homeless. The mayor has announced plans to install memorabilia and flags from the recent Olympic Games at the site. Around the same time, police held a meeting with homeless advocates warning them that they would soon start ticketing the homeless for minor offenses, such as jaywalking and spitting.

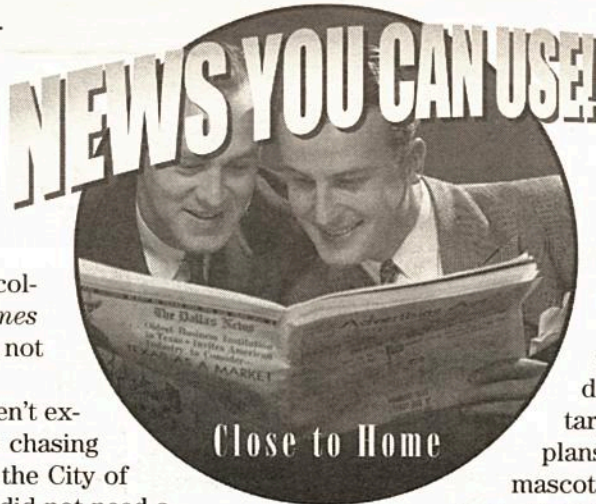
Mayor Rocky Anderson calls the comparison between his administration and the brutal policies of his predecessor "mind-blowing," and says the park can serve the interests of all those in the community. Furthermore, the *Salt Lake City Tribune* reported June 4, he knew nothing about the meeting between police and homeless advocates.

A gory new "reality video" called *Bumfights: A cause for concern* depicts images of violence and gore in the world of homelessness. Footage was taken in Las Vegas and parts of southern California. Sales of the video, which has been publicized by Howard Stern and Fox News, have made its young producers into millionaires, and conservative media groups and homeless advocates are appalled at the graphic video's success. The producers have been accused of capitalizing on the horrors of homelessness and depicting the homeless in a negative and inaccurate way. They've also been defended, from the likes of a Northwestern University sociology professor, who says *Bumfights* is merely a sign of people's "amusement at what people are willing to do or let be done to them," according to a June 5 article on *Wired.com*. ■

— Compiled by Kennedy Leavens

Students shut out of public meeting

On the afternoon of June 5, 100 protestors gathered outside the Seattle City School Board building, in lower Queen Anne, to call for the abolition of racist policies. Spokespeople of Youth Undoing Institutionalized Racism (YUIR), the group that organized the rally, presented a list of eight demands.



Speakers highlighted a few of the more pressing issues on the list: removing military recruiters from the schools, incorporating Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* into U.S. history classes, eliminating ethnically insensitive mascots, and requiring that all schools practice "undoing racism training" within the next two years.

Dustin Washington, of the American Friends Service Committee, challenged the School Board to meet the demands, and uphold its own civic responsibility: "Military recruiters unfairly target people of color. The lesson plans of the schools are entirely Eurocentric. The 'Indians' mascot at West Seattle High School is ridiculous. This is the type of racism that is imbedded in the fabric of the Seattle School system."

Jaishre Washington, a senior at Shorewood High School and a member of YUIR, says a public demonstration was necessary to catalyze a reaction from an apathetic School Board, which has essentially ignored the issues. "We have talked with the School Board about complying with our demands and they have yet to respond. The task force has been ineffective. This is one of the Board's last meetings before school is out for the summer, so we figured the time to act was now!"

As the crowd prepared to march, fervently chanting "Our Schools; Our Choice," police lined up in front of the building's main entrance. Representatives from the rally who requested access to the School Board meeting were rebuffed.

Reportedly, the School Board was reviewing the controversy over school mascots — yet the Board would not allow Kateri Joe, president of the Native Students Club at West Seattle High, to attend the meeting. At one point, 20 or so protesters entered the building through a side door. As police immediately threw them out, the crowd defiantly sang, "We'll be back."

This promise will soon be fulfilled. The Save Our Schools Coalition is planning a walkout and another demonstration on June 19, the last day of classes. ■

— Andrew Block



SIGNS OF DISGUST WITH WEST SEATTLE HIGH'S "INDIAN" MASCOT WERE PRESENT AT THE JUNE 5 RALLY OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

Consumers fight back

The Western Washington supermarket QFC probably had no idea what a maelstrom of discontent it would create when it introduced its "Advantage" shopping cards in May to, as the card promotion says, "reward good taste with lower prices." Angry local shoppers will come together in a demonstration outside the Capitol Hill QFC on Saturday, June 15, calling on the grocery store to discontinue the cards.

The beef with the cards is two-fold: shoppers believe they represent an invasion of privacy by collecting data on how much an individual spends and what they buy — information that could potentially be sold to and used against

Continued on Page 9

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

No Confidence in the Cops

Local justice group wants a change in how Seattle police do business

By Bruce Lofton

Do you have faith that the police treat all citizens equally regardless of race? Do you support systemic changes in how the Seattle police department is run with respect to Seattle's diverse population?

These two questions are what citizens of the 37th district have a chance to address over the course of the next 30 days. On June 7, 2002 the People's Coalition for Justice (PCJ) kicked off its "No Confidence Vote" campaign by conducting a "student vote" at Garfield and Franklin High Schools, and Seattle Central Community College. An astounding 90 percent of the 944 students polled voted "no confidence" in the Seattle police department. Phase two

When asked how PCJ would respond to nay-sayers who claim PCJ can't run a no-confidence referendum fairly, Washington responded, "Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion, but we're not going out encouraging people to vote either way. We're just presenting the community with the vote, with the ballot, with the question."

PCJ formed in December of 1999 after the WTO debacle as, in the words of Washington, "a group of activists that got together and saw that the issue of police brutality wasn't just segregated to communities of color ... We saw that middle class white Seattle got the chance to see how the police treat peaceful people, human beings, in a

way that's inhumane, and we felt this would be a prime time to organize.... Perhaps for the first time in Seattle's history, the opportunity presented itself to broaden the movement for police accountability, and to examine the larger question of institutional racism. Ultimately, PCJ wants to pressure city officials to put forth meaningful systemic change in relation to police brutality and racial profiling, both of which are primary components of institutional racism."

At the root of the campaign, as well as most of the work that PCJ is doing, is the attack of institutional racism. As Washington sees it, combating militarism, in all its forms, is integral. "Militarism can be defined as martial enforcement of racist and genocidal policies. We see the military as maintain racism abroad, while the police maintain racism domestically. Another way to look at militarism, and perhaps the most important way, is to evaluate the amount of money this country spends on the criminal justice system and armed forces versus how much it spends on services that people need; we're cutting welfare, we don't have healthcare for everyone, we don't have childcare for all who need it, we have 600,000 homeless people sleeping on the streets every night in this country ... but on October 4, 2002, George Bush and the U.S. congress passed a budget of 345 billion dollars for the military - that makes no sense!"

Washington dates the original rise of institutional racism and its relationship to militarism back to the time of

Steps to Change

The following are the key steps the People's Coalition for Justice would like to see implemented in Seattle to improve accountability and limit profiling in the police department:

- Formation of an independent elected civilian review board, made up of citizens accountable to communities of color, separate from the police department, with subpoena power, disciplinary power, and an independent paid investigator.
- Adoption of citywide ordinance (stronger than a mere resolution) against police brutality and racial profiling.
- Formation of anti-racism workshops, nonviolence training, and enhanced communication skills as required training for all staff of the SPD
- Documentation of every police traffic stop - including the race, ethnic origin, and gender of all drivers stopped, as well as the reason for and result of the stop
- Installation of tamper-proof video cameras in all police cars that patrol area with frequent reports of police misconduct
- Implementation of strong and publicly disclosed disciplinary measures for police officers who have been proven to have committed racial profiling or police brutality
- Creation of an economic development program that would allow the poor to pay for broken taillights and other minor violations that are frequently the justification for race-based stops.



DUSTIN WASHINGTON ON THE CAMPAIGN TO STOP RACIAL PROFILING. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

of the campaign consists of a "community vote" on July 6 and 7, which will allow adults of the 37th district to cast ballots at local churches.

The purpose of the grass-roots effort is to gauge the community's level of confidence in the practices of the police department, specifically in Seattle's 37th district, where tension is at an all-time high following recent incidents of police violence. This mistrust is reflected in a city-wide climate of questioning potentially dubious practices, or at least the judgment of law enforcement officers as a whole.

The idea, according to PCJ committee member Dustin Washington, is to "put the real spirit of democracy into action" - that is, mobilizing ordinary citizens to have a say in the actions of an institution whose practices have life and death ramifications for many people in that community. "Having done this work for the past couple of years we (PCJ) have a clear sense there's a high level of frustration in communities of color in relation to the Seattle Police Department," says Washington. "We want to give a voice to a community that is sometimes voiceless."

slavery. countered, "Militias were sanctioned by the state to hunt down slaves, and the same mentality carries on today. If we look at young men of color who are being shuffled into the prison system we see that the root cause of their behavior may be the structural inequality within the U.S., which is a direct result of 400-plus years of institutional racism. By the year 2017 there will be more African-American men incarcerated than there were enslaved at the height of slavery in 1863."

Impressive as PCJ's efforts are, the question arises as to what motivates the group. Washington offered, "I would say our work is guided by spirituality in a sense of connectiveness. PCJ has people of all religious faiths, and some of no religious faith; but all of us do have a sense of compassion, love for humanity, love for peace, and love for justice. That's what motivates us - caring for people, dealing with the suffer-

ing of other people."

From Muhatma Ghandi on the world scene, to Martin King and Malcolm X nationally, to Rev McKinney and now Rev Braxton locally, all have sought, via peaceful demonstration, justice for the oppressed and relief from inappropriate police action. With the "no-confidence" campaign in full swing PCJ is poised to make real change here in Seattle. Dustin Washington summed up PCJ activities and the No Confidence Campaign by quoting the AFSC motto, "speaking truth to power," which means bringing the message of justice to people who hold institutional power in the country. "But most importantly," concluded Washington, "all of us (who work with PCJ) have a burning love for justice, a burning love for people, and a deep trust and admiration for each other ... that keeps us a tight unit. That's it!" ■

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.

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Yes! *Real Change* Matters.

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

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.....

poetry

Open Season

When, not if, the police
Shoot their bullets
Between empty upraised hands
Straight into the devastated heart
Of an unarmed black man
And the blood flows like a moon-pulled tide
They stand together
Each nesting one careless foot on the corpse
Puffing happily on cigars
They slap each other on the back
And celebrate
Showing all their teeth.

— LIZ SMITH

Tall young trees dance from the hip.
Tall old trees simply nod their heads.
How like me – the tree.

Watching the tall trees
Waving in the wind
Looks like green lace in
A washing machine
Set on 'gentle.'

Without my glasses
Everything changes,
Everything softens.
Half is what exists
Half is mental.

— JOBI

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



We've decided that it's time that we here at Adventures in Poetry take stock of where we are, sniff the air, and then go out on some different limbs and take some hard stands on the controversial issues of the day, courageously facing any mixed metaphors that we might encounter on those limbs, staring them down the narrow ends until they lose their grips, while we miraculously keep all of ours.

For example we are opposed to homelessness, in general. But we are not completely opposed to yurts. We are reserving judgment on yurts until we have actually lived in one. We are leaning in favor of them, though, ever since we saw Julia Roberts sleep in one on TV.

We are opposed to rape. Yes, I know that may surprise some of you, because we have gone on record as being pro-sex. But we assumed at the time that everyone would understand that we meant consensual sex. I mean, we've been raped ourselves, so we know it's not nice. Rape very very bad. Consensual sex very very good.

We are opposed to unfettered capitalism. We are not communists, quite, but we think that if dogs that have once snapped at babies should have to wear muzzles in public from then on, then capitalism should be fettered. Capitalism has done a lot worse than snap at babies in its day.

However, there are good fetters and there are bad fetters. The drug war, for example, is a bad fetter on capitalism. It needs to be replaced with non-martial fetters, like drug regulation and taxation along with drug abuse treatment and education.

We are in favor of global warming only in those instances in which it can be shown necessary to counteract global cooling that might have otherwise occurred. We do not consider this to be one of those instances. There should not be icebergs the size of Rhode Island breaking off the Antarctic ice shelf every southern summer, in our considered opinion, until someone can figure out how to put them back.

As far as the environment in general is concerned, we are for it. We believe

everyone should have an environment, not just rich people. In fact, we believe that non-humans should be allowed to have environments too, and we don't just mean whatever environments are left over on the bottom shelves, but decent quality environments comparable to the ones they had before people started taking them all.

We are opposed to police practices that result in the deaths of people who wouldn't have warranted the death penalty for their crimes, if any. In saying this, we are not in any way expressing an opposition to the police themselves, only an opposition to the practices we don't like. We could not not like the police, they have guns.

We do not believe stupidity should be rooted out and lined up against the wall and slaughtered. In our experience, the slaughtering of stupidity only fertilizes the next crop.

We are opposed to stupidity. But we do not believe that stupidity should be rooted out and lined up against the wall and slaughtered. In our experience, the slaughtering of stupidity only fertilizes the next crop.

It is in fact in the nature of human beings to be stupid at all times and in all places. The object

can't therefore be to eliminate stupidity, because that would require the mass annihilation of human beings, and we are against that. The object must be instead to support universal education, to expose as much as possible of the stupidity to the light of day, so that our fellow humans will know how to walk around all of it, without any of it sticking to their feet.

Well, that wasn't our best batch of metaphors, but we feel like we are improving overall.

Speaking of metaphors, this whole India-Pakistan nuclear war scare is a real downer, isn't it? We are, by the way, opposed to nuclear wars. ■



Et Tu, Brute?

This morning
I trimmed the Poppies and Rosemary
In my side yard
that were
Growing out into the asphalt
Reaching toward the Sun

— God forbid
something LIVE and WILD
in paved-over and manicured
Southern California —

I apologized
With
each
clip

But realized I was CHOOSING to be
A good citizen of
This fuckin' too-much-asphalt
trailer park

Rather than
A Good Citizen
of God's once-green Earth

I am left with
Poppy-blood
On my hands
Pungent Rosemary resin
Under my fingernails

AND

A
conflicted
heart

— MARION SUE FISCHER

Root Cause

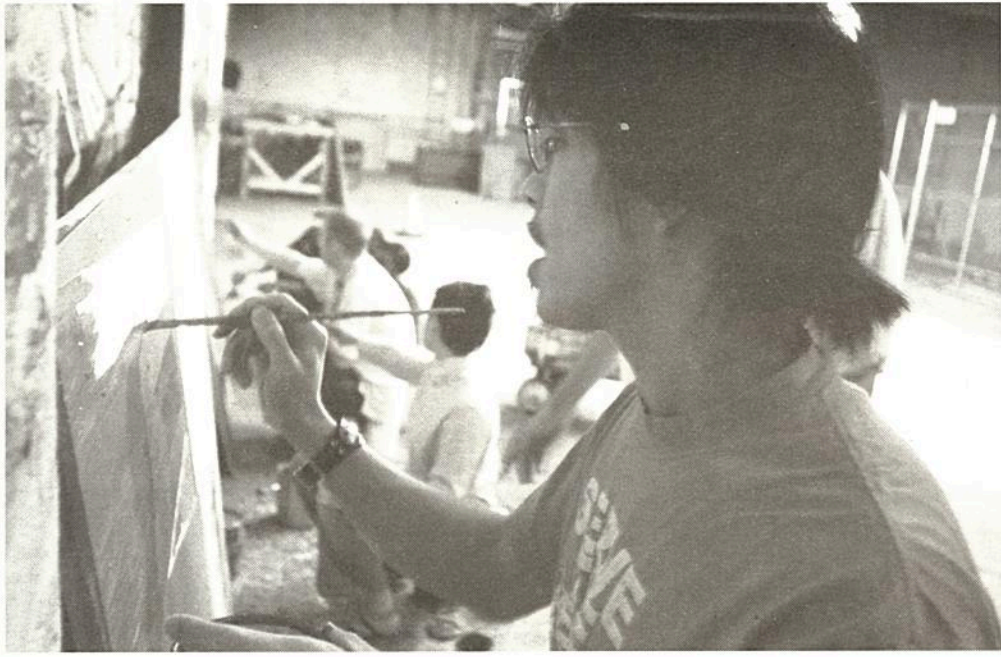
Ink on your hands,
falls
slowly. Because,
you
love mother... raise
your hands (yes!
your
own!) to the
skies
(you see them,
growing.)
There are others
In time.
They can be friends — your
own! once you
all
come
together, in circles described
at
home.
Be your own, there.

— STAN BURRISS

I am so enjoying finding these sites. I am a mental health professional and I found the *Real Change* website when I was searching for funding for a project for the severely and persistently mentally ill population I work with to have a forum for poetry music art and the like. I am sending a poem I wrote when I was working as Director of a Domestic Violence shelter. I was also Director of a Rape Crisis program. These works are powerful; thank you. Peace, Carole

Some stories are hard coming down.
I looked at her flat black eyes
And knew that's how it would be.
And so it was.
Like hot ginger-scented lava
Words slowly spilled over her lips
And down into her lap,
Joining the twisting fingers
She had trapped there.
Words and fingers entangled,
Obscene in the metaphor they held.
And still her story ruptured,
Still hard coming down.

— CAROLE G. ANDERSON.



Emergence Gallery

Grand Opening: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 20

1914 Fourth Avenue, between Virginia and Stewart Streets

Regular Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 12-5 Saturday

For more information, call Urban ArtWorks at (206) 292-4142 or check their web site: www.emergencegallery.org.

Featured artists: Jesse Brown and Daniel Leon

ARTWORKS Continued from Page 1

create more powerful images of urban culture. His paintings draw on memories from childhood, dream imagery, and vivid mood-inducing colors.

Although Jesse doesn't ever think of himself as the stereotypical "troubled youth," he was picked up and arrested a couple of times for graffiti and trespassing before arriving at ArtWorks. The timing was ripe for him to take on new responsibilities, and ArtWorks has since hired him to work with other teens as a mentor and instructor.

Emergence Gallery director Laura "Lu" Moore plans to make the gallery fiscally solvent by selling art and engaging the local community of professional, established artists, who will mentor their teens in exchange for studio space. Having recently come from the William Trevor Gallery, she possesses the knowledge and experience to make Emergence run just like other professional galleries that sell fine art. Moore has a clear vision for the gallery space. "From the moment a customer walks through the doors, I want them to know they stepped into a professional arts community," she says. More importantly, she is clear about the mission: Emergence is there to serve youth and help youth "to feel empowered."

What sets Emergence apart from other galleries in Seattle is its focus on youth. Moore wants the space to be "open" and "warm" to youth whose needs, in her opinion, are overlooked by city officials — the likes of whom continue to prohibit teen dance events. Moore says the gallery should be "a space where youth can grow on their own terms." Square footage will be partitioned to create an informal gathering space with a coffee cart and books.

ArtWorks first began as an organized effort to clean up litter and graffiti in the city, in 1996. Mike Perringer of the SODO Business Association pulled together the

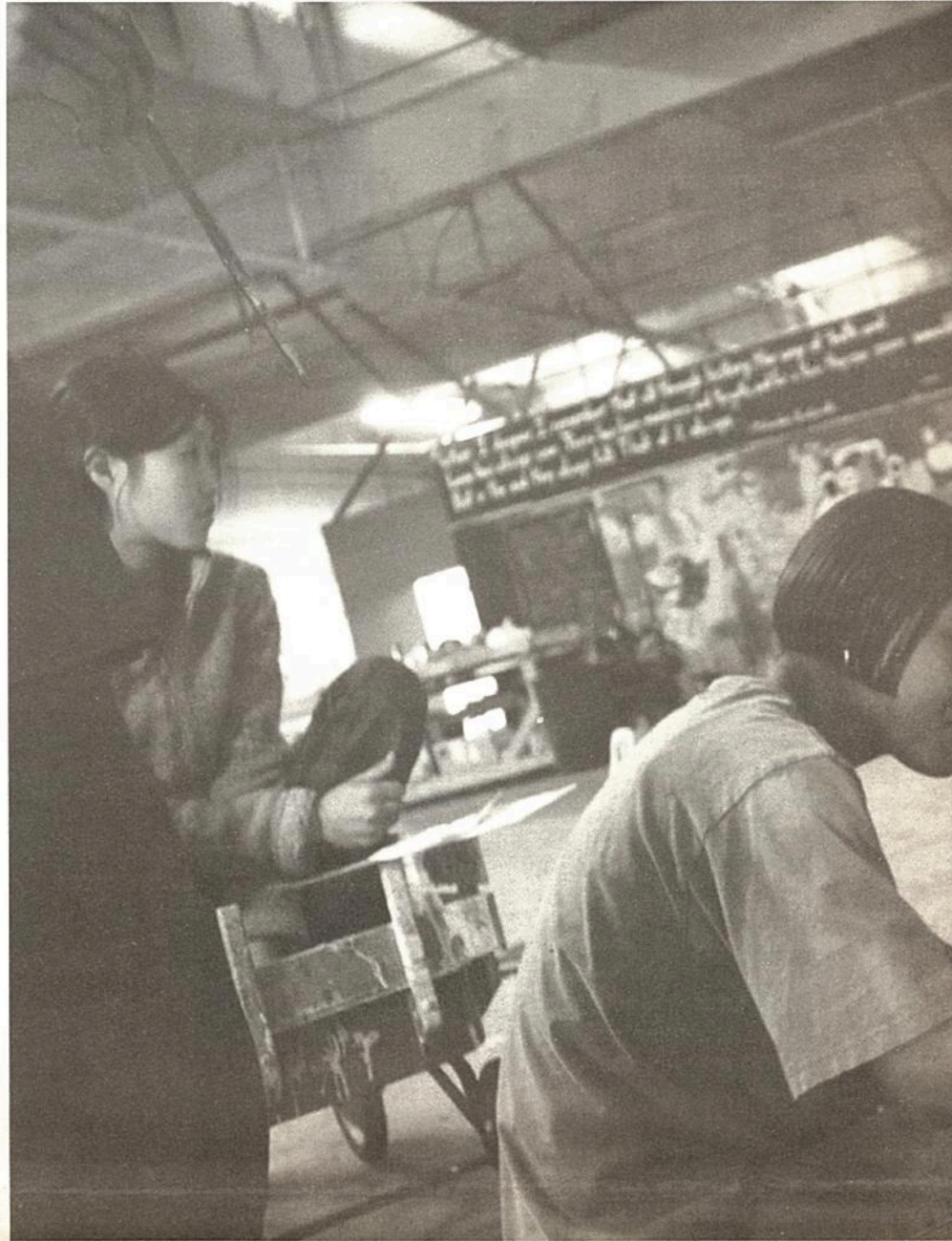
initial resources, and court-referred juvenile offenders painted the panels along the transit corridor running south from downtown past the stadiums. ArtWorks expanded geographically, painting murals around town and construction boards that help beautify work sites. Instead of just dealing with the litter issue, Artworks attempted to fill the void with productive and creative outlets for Seattle's young people. More than 300 youth have participated in ArtWorks since its inception, painting more than 150 murals. Meyer says, "We organically went from cleaning up the bus corridor to being a great model program."

It's a group that has gained respect and cooperation from local government agencies. Staff at the King County Juvenile Justice department considers them experts in working with some of the city's hardest-to-serve youth. The county is now the primary source of referrals of youth on probation. ArtWorks uses painting as an entrée to providing them with skills and good work habits, and most importantly, they find out about themselves by tapping their inner creative spirit.

Commissioned murals and sales of construction boards provides ArtWorks with 40 percent of its income to cover operating costs. Additional funds have come from a variety of local donors, and up until recent budget cutbacks, they had received some support from the City of Seattle.

Meyer says, "We can take these kids, who are otherwise not succeeding and already having problems in the juvenile justice system, and place them in our program, and they will get the kind of skills to move on to a better job and life for themselves."

The youth in the program came up with the idea for Emergence gallery. The gallery will be run by those who have come up through the ArtWorks program with well-developed skills and who want to continue growing. It will provide work opportunities and training for youth in event planning, programming, customer service, and other areas of running a business venture, and at the same time will provide youth who are



artists the opportunity to display their work in a professional manner.

Meyer attributes their success to the hard work and dedication of all of his staff; their passion for serving youth carries over to the larger community. Meyer believes having youth participate in the creation of public art helps to experience the positive feelings associated with giving back to the community. Although it didn't start out that way, Meyer says that's the major tenet of the strategy at ArtWorks.

ArtWorks measures its success by the number of youth who leave the program and go back to their old habits. Meyer regularly checks arrest information at the County Courthouse; to date, none of the kids involved with the program have reappeared on the local docket. He believes that this is due to the aspect of community engagement inherent in their work: "When someone feels connected to the community, it is less likely to be destroyed and more likely to be protected."

One key to successfully working with hard-to-serve youth is "respect," Meyer says. "Once they feel like we genuinely have their back and they feel that respect from us, they start returning that respect. That is when I see the change happen."

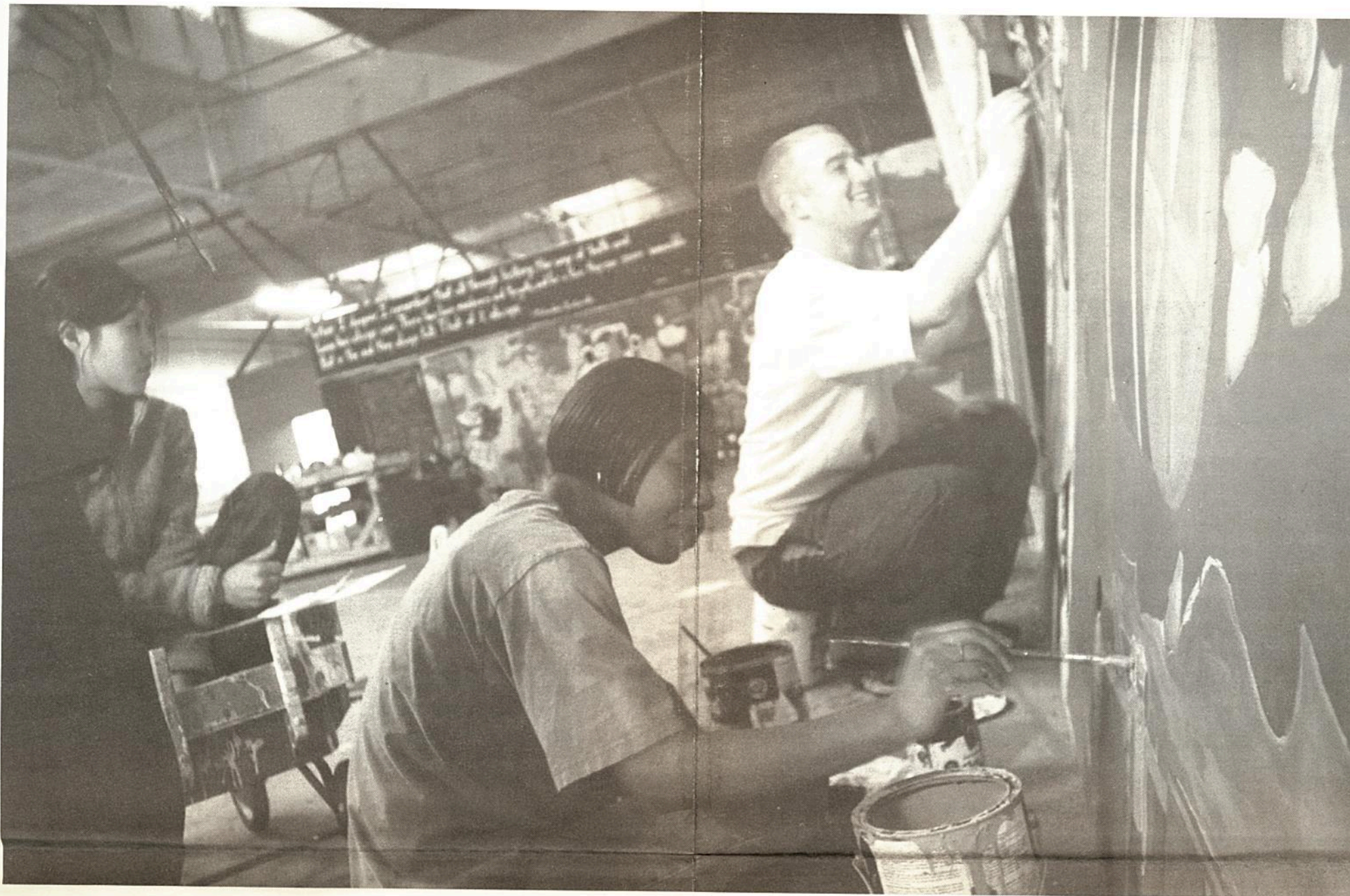
Turning around people's lives can be exhausting, but Meyer and his team are excited and motivated by their record. They count the transformation of Jesse Brown and Daniel Leon among their successes.

Neither Jesse nor Daniel graduated from high school, but they have since completed their GED. They both dropped out of schools that either didn't offer art



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ARTWORKS S COBB, RIGHT, APPLY FINISHING TOUCHES TO

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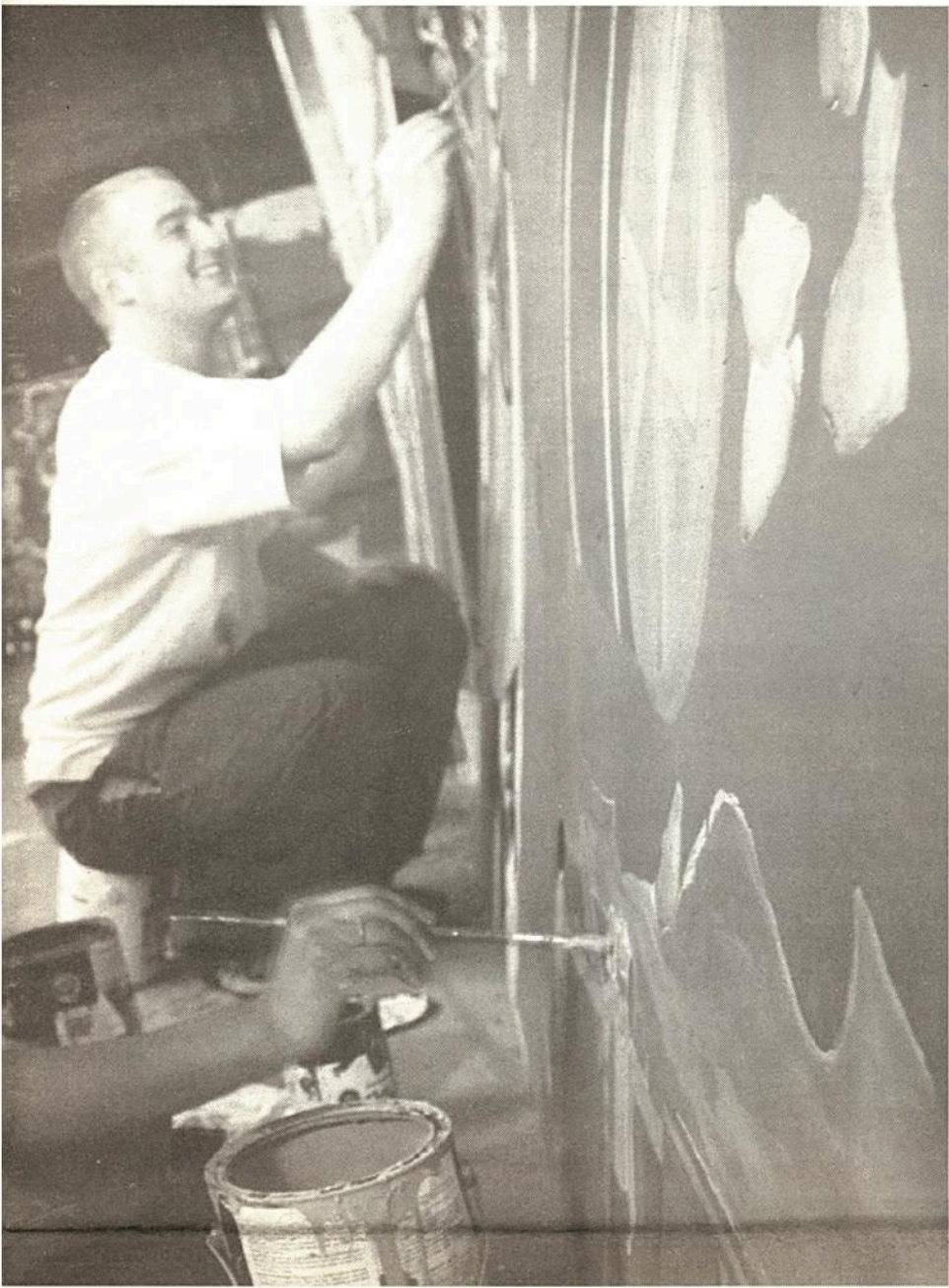


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ARTWORKS STAFF MEMBER RODNEY CAMARCE WORKS ON A PAINTING; JENNELLE LESTER, CENTER, AND LUCAS COBB, RIGHT, APPLY FINISHING TOUCHES TO THEIR PROJECT WHILE GRACE KIM, IN THE WAGON, OBSERVES; HIEU NGUYEN, STANDING ON THE LEFT, ADMIRES LESTER'S WORK. ALL PHOTOS BY CASEY KELBAUGH.

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and Jesse will take classes at the Fine Arts Academy to expand his repertoire of techniques to draw upon for his paintings.

With a sense of awe, Meyer says of all his staff, "I think we all bring our full hearts to this job. The kids see that and bring it back to us. It is amazing." ■



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NEWSBRIEFS Continued from Page 4

an individual by such organizations as health or insurance companies — and they set up a discriminatory, tiered pricing system where those who can afford to buy more get better deals. Supermarket consumer advocates also claim that the new "sale" price is often the same or even more than the original price of the product before the card was introduced.

The national consumer group spearheading Saturday's protest, CASPIAN (Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering), has noted such price discrepancies in stores across the nation, yet convincing people that such price schemes are illegally discriminatory is harder to prove. The "buy one get one free" deal is just one common example of how rewards for people who are already willing and able to spend money is built into the capitalist retail system. And many consumers find it hard to see their local supermarket collecting information on what they buy, with the stated intention of giving the consumer further discounts on that and similar products, as a bad thing.



CASPIAN HOPES TO PROVE A POINT WITH THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST QFC'S USE OF LOYALTY CARDS.

Other Seattle-area supermarkets that have loyalty cards, as they're commonly known — such as Safeway's Club Card, which is free, and Larry's Market and PCC membership cards, which require a fee — have not been met with such a volume of critique and continue to attract new users. The particular outrage with QFC stores appears to come from the fact that QFC used to be locally owned and that its new owner, the Kroger Company — which also merged with the Portland-based Fred Meyer supermarkets in 1999 — is now the largest supermarket chain in the country, with approximately 2,200 supermarkets in 31 states.

With such a strong market presence, the fear from groups like CASPIAN — which was founded in 1999 — is that there is no protection from all of the doomsday scenarios, such as singling out people who buy a lot of sugary and fatty products for higher health care premiums. However, there is also no overwhelming and widely accepted proof that QFC has any immediate plans to do anything with the Advantage card information other than reward loyal customers with further discounts.

The rally against QFC's Advantage Card is Saturday, June 15, at the QFC on Capitol Hill, 1401 Broadway. CASPIAN's founder, Katherine Albrecht, will be on hand for the rally. For more information on CASPIAN and on the concern over loyalty cards, visit CASPIAN's website at www.nocards.org. ■

— Molly Rhodes

Negotiations get nicer

Labor seems to have the upper hand after six months of negotiations between workers and management at Harborview Medical Center. The registered nurses may walk away from a June 14 meeting with their demands met, while social workers and other health care staff continue separate talks.

"We've seen some significant progress for the nurses, but we've been bargaining a long time," says Cathy Kaufmann, chief negotiator for the Service Employees International Union Local 1199, which represents the hospital's 1,000 registered nurses, social workers, physician assistants, and other health care staff. Union representatives have said that the conflict doesn't end until each group gets what it wants.

Among the key points in the negotiations is working conditions in the emergency room, one of the most heavily used in the city. Seventy percent of Harborview's patients come in through the E.R.'s doors. When rooms are all full, patients lie on stretchers in the hallways or in a converted supply room. There, they have argued over the one phone they all share; one wielded the receiver like a club, bashing a nurse in the face. Meanwhile, management tells nurses to wash their hands between treating each patient — in a room without a sink.



UNION WORKERS OUTSIDE HARBORVIEW. PHOTO BY CASEY KELBAUGH.

That is indicative of the disconnect, says nurse Dina Burstein. "If management isn't walking the halls, they just don't know," she says. Burstein is pushing for greater worker control over conditions like these.

Whatever the outcome of the negotiations, adequate staffing remains a problem. Workers want the hospital to end the reliance on "travelers" — workers brought in, at the public's expense, to make up for their staffing shortage. ■

— Adam Holdorf

Snap out of It!

Muckraker Greg Palast wants to rouse Americans from media hypnosis

Interview by Trevor Griffey

As a journalist of international renown, Greg Palast has been praised for uncovering stories no one else has, and assailed for having the ego to brag about it. From the Florida elections to the IMF's structural adjustment programs, his stories have exposed the insidious ways in which corporate greed and political arrogance have corrupted democratic institutions the world over. Palast, an American who works for the BBC and London's *Guardian* newspaper, goes beyond the smokescreen of mere bureaucratic errors to find evidence of deliberate deceit and conspiracy, shunning the objective tone of mainstream reporters for the more caustic approach of a skeptical investigator. His book, though sometimes burdened with self-promotion, documents information and stories no one can ignore.

Real Change took the opportunity to speak with Palast in anticipation of his upcoming book tour in the Northwest.

Real Change: Your book has hit multiple bestseller lists but still hasn't been reviewed by any of the major publications in the U.S. So what's driving the sales?

Greg Palast: There's no question that a lot of the interest in America comes from my story of exactly how the Bush crowd stole the election. People are dying for information they're denied.

RC: What do you mean, they stole the election?

Palast: When I say stole the election, I mean they had a brilliant plan and they carried it out. Before the election, they knocked tens of thousands of people off [the voter rolls] on the grounds that they were criminals. But these people were innocent, and they knew it. And it was enough voters to change the election. There were only 537 votes which officially determined the presidency of the United States. These people stole tens of thousands.

RC: How was the election stolen?

Palast: Katherine Harris, who was simultaneously in charge of the vote count in Florida and in charge of George W Bush's presidential campaign in Florida, hired a Republican-connected computer firm, Database Technologies, to gin up the list of 57,700 supposed criminals who had no right to vote in Florida, and they ordered counties to remove these people from the voter rolls.

RC: So what was wrong with that?

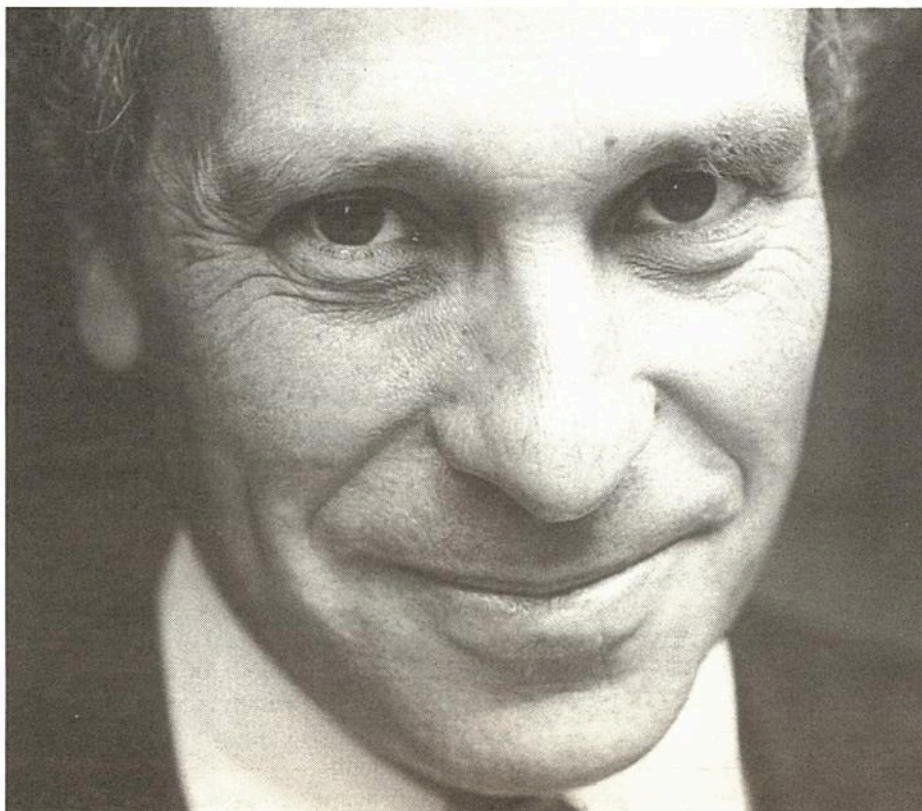


PHOTO OF GREG PALAST, BY HARRY BORDEN, COURTESY OF GREGPALAST.COM.

"America, ironically, is a very democratic nation compared to all of the others, yet we allowed an election to be stolen. But the only way it could happen is that we couldn't get the story out."

— Journalist Greg Palast

Palast: What was wrong with that is that these people didn't commit crimes! They got the wrong people.

And here's the really wrong thing about it: it wasn't a goof-up. They knew it and they did it anyway. The list was public record, and you can see the supposed conviction dates. In one case that I remember very clearly, it said "January 30, 2007" was someone's conviction date. There are hundreds of these [cases], and thousands blanked out. Blanked out conviction dates — what does that mean?

Then I go to the internal email traffic. There are clerks saying "Oh my god, we've got people convicted in the future, what do we do?" What do you

mean, what do you do? You give these people back their vote. The Republican functionaries in the elections office said, "Well, if you blank out the conviction dates no one will know."

This thing was deliberate. Database Technologies finally confessed that they had warned the state in detail that the list was bogus and contained names of people who were not felons. And the state didn't want to hear it. The state was more than happy to knock off thousands of voters because most of the people on the list, a good 75 percent or more, were Democrats. That's the key.

RC: How do you know 75 percent would have voted Democrat?

Palast: People register by parties. Half the people were black, and that's almost entirely Democratic voters, and the others were pretty much split. About 90 percent of the people on that list were innocent of any crime. But about 10 percent had committed crimes. However, almost all of those had some kind of clemency or came from another state. In most states, you serve your time and you come back as a citizen [with the right to vote]. You don't lose your vote because you move to Florida. But Jeb Bush's office sent out a letter two months before the election saying remove these legal voters.

RC: So what does this all mean?

Palast: The election was stolen. Period. And it was stolen deliberately. And the theft was covered up. And that's what I ran at the top of the news on BBC-TV. And I ran on the front page of the *Guardian* newspaper. These are not fly-by-night outfits.

America, ironically, is a very democratic nation compared to all of the others, yet we allowed an election to be stolen. But the only way it could happen is that we couldn't get the story out [in the U.S.].

RC: You did get Salon.com to publish the first part of the story and *The Nation* magazine to publish the second part.

Palast: Take a look at that. Where's the big print? Salon is not print, you're still talking internet. E.J. Dionne of the *Washington Post* is the one who pushed this story into the U.S., but what's fascinating is that E.J. did not say, "Call my news editor right now." He said, "Call *The Nation*." The *Post* did run it eventually, but seven months after I broke the story in Britain.

RC: What had changed in those seven months?

Palast: The U.S. Civil Rights Commission said the information was correct. They then turned it over to the U.S. Justice Department with a recommendation to take action. So the *Post* finally feels we can come out of the woodwork and write this story because we have the official imprimatur, the official blessing. But imagine if there were no official blessing. There would have been nothing in the *Post*.

RC: What did the Justice Department do?

Palast: You just saw that action [in late May]: 48 hours of saying that we're going to take some action against some Florida counties, which is a joke because the Florida counties were innocent — they were ordered to mess with the voter rolls by the state.

They make that tiny maneuver, which is forced upon them by the Civil Rights Commission, then they quickly cut a deal that hasn't even been made public with the counties and say, oh, problem solved. And then they issue a statement on top of it saying that

Book Tour events

Fri, June 21, Barnes & Noble, 6 to 8 p.m., 626 - 106th Ave NE (425)451-8463, Bellevue

Sat, June 22, Independent Media Center, 4 p.m., 1415 Third Ave (206)262-0721, \$5-10 sliding scale

Town Hall, 7:30 PM
1119 8th Ave (8th & Seneca)

Tickets \$5 available now at the Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St or at the door. For more info about Palast or his tour, check out www.gregpalast.com.

Continued on Next Page

PALAST Cont. from Previous Page

they've seen no deliberate attempt to disenfranchise voters. The reason they didn't see it is because they didn't look, and because the U.S. media didn't look.

RC: *So why were you the only one writing about this story?*

Palast: Because I'm given the money, the backing, and time. I had weeks with a big budget to go into this stuff. A CBS reporter has to get something on the air within 24, longest 48 hours. There's no time to do anything there. You just get an accusation, and a denial, and decide whether that's enough of a story. I couldn't possibly do that story that way.

RC: *Are you saying it was too complicated for the American press to check and see if someone was stealing the election?*

Palast: Who's gonna do it? Who is interested in a bunch of Black voters accused of being felons? You're listening to it now, at the back end of it. But going in the front end is information about monkey business with voter registration lists and felons. This was not easy to find.

RC: *Yet the dailies did obsess over other kinds of arcane stuff about hanging*

and dimpled chads.

Palast: But that was easy to do. You go to Palm Beach and you have a bunch of rich people who are very articulate screaming about something. They're not investigating anything — they're covering a cat fight.

RC: *What kind of calls for reform has your story about Florida brought?*

Palast: They've been using the excuse of the disaster in Florida to bring the disaster to other states. Under the guise of reform, they're talking about setting up systems that will allow the theft of the next 10 elections.

There are several disasters coming. One is computerized, touchscreen voting. The safest way of voting on the planet is the paper ballot. If it happens on a touchscreen, good night man, you don't know what they're doing with that stuff. The other is centralized voter files. That was the key to the theft of the vote in Florida.

The voter theft will be worse in 2002. I have no doubt about it. No one's really watching it, no one's paying attention. The Democratic party feels completely overwhelmed.

RC: *What impact do you think the NAACP's lawsuit, which is partly based on your research, is going to have?*

Palast: Nothing. I have no doubt that they will return a lot of black voters to the rolls and that they'll keep the heat on, so I'm glad the suit is going forward. But you can't get rid of the main problem, which is that if you do steal the election, you can pretty much get away with it. You're in the embarrassing position of saying someone stole the presidency of the United States and we're asking to simply change a couple of registration procedures. Obviously, the punishment does not anywhere close fit the crime.

RC: *How does the work you did in Florida relate to your other journalism, which mainly covers issues of globalization and corporate crime?*

Palast: It's all of one piece. The reason my book is called *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* is that I got into the Florida story by getting into Bush finances. You can't disassociate the two things — that it was a firm with a lot of Republican fundraisers under its belt that did a lot of the dirty work in Florida. It's about dangerous and poisonous financial relationships (that undermine democracy). It's not the illuminati saying "How do we take over the world and ruin the little people?"

RC: *You've said New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman and James*

Wolfensohn, head of the World Bank, have refused to debate you in public.

Palast: This is why I went to Britain. If I'm here in the U.S., I'm a conspiracy nut and if I'm lucky, I get to publish in *The Nation*. Let's face it, these are journalistic ghettos. Little pods. And I didn't feel like getting sent to the ghetto. I'm not sure why I'm allowed to report what I report —

RC: *—Doesn't it play into a kind of anti-Americanism that's popular in Europe?*

Palast: There's no question that one of the reasons I'm allowed to report this stuff is that it goes to the image that America is a nation run amok.

RC: *What's the overall message you hope to get across with your book?*

Palast: I have a chapter in my book called "My mother was a hypnotist for McDonald's." That's actually true: She trained managers making a little above minimum wage to smile all day and say "Do you want fries with that?" I think that's a darn good image of what's happened to the American public with our media. They're hypnotizing and trying to keep you asleep. I want my book to be counting back to zero and then you wake up. And once you wake up, I don't know what happens. ■

Put Your Feet Where Your Mouth Is

Local Asian churches formed walk to help the hungry

By Molly Rhodes

Twelve years ago, the Chinese Baptist Church on Beacon Hill first formed a committee on missions of a half-dozen Asian churches to devise a way to help the Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) food bank. The idea that Sam Mitsui of the Blaine United Methodist Church and other committee members came up with — a sponsored walk to raise money to buy rice for the food bank — was modestly successful, attracting 45 walkers to Beacon Hill and raising \$1,800, enough for about five tons of rice. Since then, the Walk for Rice has grown tremendously — last year, 1,000 walkers and runners took to the Seward Park path and raised \$104,000, enough to provide a year's worth of rice for the 10,000 people who use the food bank every month, about 315 tons. Blaine United Methodist Church topped all other groups by bringing more than 60 members and raising about \$6,000 alone.

The walk not only provides a basic good to Asian individuals and families, it also inspired Mitsui and other members of his congregation to get involved with other programs to help the needy, such as the Lord's Table meal program at Memorial Plaza in downtown Seattle, and a plan to give 1,000 blankets away this fall to those who need them most.

Real Change sat down with Mitsui to talk about the upcoming Walk for Rice, on June 22, and how his connection to his community has changed since he first lent a hand 12 years ago.

Real Change: *Why were you selected for the committee on missions? Had you done similar types of work before.*

Sam Mitsui: No. (laughs) I've always wanted to do something to help the homeless, provide food. The church never had a program to do that. This gave a chance to provide that program and get our members involved.

RC: *How did you get the name for the event?*

Mitsui: We were discussing what to call it. Rice is one of the essential foods that was needed. Rice I think is the mainstay of the Asian diet, but Northwest Harvest doesn't provide it. We thought if we emphasized rice, that would provide what is needed at the ACRS food bank, because a majority of their clients are Asian, or pacific islanders.

RC: *Do you see a difference you make at ACRS?*

Mitsui: I go down there every once in a

12th Annual Walk for Rice
A benefit for Asian Counseling and Referral Services food bank
Saturday, June 22, 2002
Seward Park
8 a.m. to 12 noon
Walkers/ Runners can register:
through the mail by June 17
over the phone/fax by June 19
at the website www.walkforrice.com by June 20
For more information, visit the website www.walkforrice.com.

while and meet the people. Rice is the one item they all want. It becomes their basic need. When we first started the walk, we didn't make that much money. \$1,800 doesn't buy much rice, but now we can provide rice the whole year.

ACRS helps immigrants and newly arrived people from southeast Asia. Because of the language difficulty in communicating, they can transfer and interpret 23 dialects. They have mental health services, youth services, medical aid, citizenship classes. I think they do a tremendous job. This walk is just one of the areas that they cover.

RC: *Why do you think you've been so successful over the years?*

Mitsui: As a committee, we always sit down, we can't explain how we were able to raise \$100,000. The only answer we can come up with is that the good Lord is watching over us and providing

the necessary spirit. There's a certain generosity in the community that's really unexplainable, and it must be because of their compassion for the people who are hungry. We'd never ever imagined we'd reach \$100,000.

I think the Lord is really guiding us and helping us. The more people involved, the more benefit it will be to our members. I think for too many years we've been too self-indulgent. Nothing was ever done for other people in need. I felt there was a big void in our program. I think it's been the most rewarding experience I've had in this church. I think the Lord's Table gives our members an actual experience of being face to face with people in need. I think that means a lot more than a lot of sermons every Sunday. You can sit there and listen to words all your life and not do anything. I think it's more important to do something about it. ■

Love in Abandoned Buildings

By ZUG

The homeless couple who accidentally started a warehouse fire in Worcester, Massachusetts, were described as many things by the public: vagrants, drug addicts, even murderers, for six firefighters died battling the conflagration. When the papers showed pictures of the culprits, I realized they were not the usual kind of homeless couple you see in cities, bent over shopping carts with their matching coats of grime. This was a different kind of street coupling. The man, a thirty-five-year-old heroin addict, was with a 17-year-old girl who was said to be mentally challenged and on drugs. Media images showed a scraggly bearded man and a gaunt, vacant-eyed girl — not the stuff of a love story by most people's standards, but it was there anyway, like the underhanded heat of eroticism itself. They stayed inside the warehouse, in the corner room containing a makeshift bed of blankets, a candle burning in an empty soup can, and the remains of sandwiches nested in wax paper wrappers; the sound of passing sirens muffled by the brick walls and the glow of car lights that passed by. If you look, you can see their miracle, as well as their demise. I sometimes think of the girl with that man, so much older, whose body held a promise no social worker, parent, or doctor could offer. I imagine their lovemaking, the gossamer rainbows arched between unmoored bodies, and how they burrowed into each other's flesh the way you and I nestle under our bed sheets, for that's what homeless fucking feels like, when you're stripped of the details, civilities, and necessities that allow homes rather than arms to hold you. The body of the other shelters you, mirrors and connects you to a feeling that I'm sure the young girl in the warehouse called love, but is even more primal.

When I was 17, I was also arrested in connection with an abandoned building and a man. Usually I spent my nights in the park, for it was spring and a lot of young people seemed to have the same ideas I did about home and school. We spread blue tarps under the trees in Cambridge Common and slept with our heads inside the damp polyester sleeping bags—I stole mine from my mother when no one was home. My homelessness, though possible to revoke at any time should I decide to return home and face the music, left me no less hungry than the mumbling, unwashed men who stood in line when the "Food Not Bombs" people came to the park with steaming canteens of beans and rice. I stood in line, yet always felt the twinge of self-consciousness when I took my plate of food. Compared to the "street people" (many of whom still stumble through these streets more than a decade later), I was a questionable example of displacement—educated, girlish, and from the large quantities of hallucinogens I'd been ingesting, oblivious. One afternoon I met an attractive man named Featherback. As his name suggested, he was Native American—lean with long, deep features and black hair that shone in a thick ponytail. Six hours after our introduction, he suggested we bunk for the night at a place he knew with running water and electricity: an abandoned building somewhere in Central Square. I quickly agreed, imagining our possible privacy, which was more rare than caviar in such a crowd (such unions, though easy to initiate on the street, were less easily executed). I was eager to have a body to rest

against, since my boyfriend Sean had been put in jail a number of months back for possession of drugs. I'd met Sean during my initial flight from home to California. He and I became a couple one night in Berkeley when he led me through the back fence of an abandoned garden where his sleeping bag and foam pad awaited. We had to strip naked so that the sleeping bag could be zipped around us in a tight embrace. There, his arm became my pillow, and his breathing measured the course of my breaths. As we lay at night in that small garden with the wooden fence and the concrete outcrop of a veranda sheltering us, I believed I could sense his thoughts as they passed into me from his brow which lay against mine. I awoke from a dream and discovered his eyes open, staring at me with surprise, as we'd both awoken at the same moment, with the taste of a shared and distant country between our skin. Then, because of the heroin leaving his system, Sean began to itch, his feet and knees especially, and I was no longer dreamy or lost in the smells of us, but jerked one way and then another, elbowed and kneed. Nowhere to go, I'd allowed his body to invade me.

With Sean in jail, I returned to Harvard Square, womb of my adolescence, place of drug deals at the Pit, coffee at the Pain, sun soaked afternoons on the Brattle Street concrete rise; of ducks and naps by the Charles. That is, I went home, if being homeless anyplace can be called this much.

That spring evening I followed Featherback and a few other men to the abandoned building in Central Square. At the back entrance, we climbed through a gauntlet of nailed boards and chained padlocks and emerged into a kitchen bright with lamplight and linoleum though empty of furniture. Featherback and I strolled the premises and chose "our" room, a cozy space that probably served as a child's room, given the decorative animal theme of the wallpaper. Under the grin of a dancing panda bear, we unrolled our sleeping bags and placed one on top of the other. Since it was only going to be a one-night visit, I'd left my backpack high up on the branch of a flowering tree on the Cambridge Commons. Many people placed their possessions during the daytime hours in the high branches of the trees, and unless one stood directly under the tree and looked high above, you'd never know what odd fruit it bore. I did bring my toothbrush, however. Everyone took turns using the bathroom, preparing to

go to sleep, when a loud booming on the door startled us. "Open up! Police!" Since the front door was barricaded, we couldn't open it

up. I looked around to see what I should do — my heart was beginning to jump and my mouth turned dry and rubbery. Everyone, including Featherback, was hurriedly redressing and running in the other direction. I did the same. When I reached the back door, the police had broken down the front door and were storming the apartment with theatrical aggression. Outside, I discovered we'd escaped into an enclosed backyard, muddy from the mix of rainwater with the mulched piles of last year's fallen leaves. I hid in a pile of leaves in the far corner of the fence. With my brown poncho pulled over my face, I could al-

Compared to the "street people" (many of whom still stumble through these streets more than a decade later), I was a questionable example of displacement: educated, girlish, and (from the large quantities of hallucinogens I'd been ingesting) oblivious. One afternoon I met an attractive man named Featherback. He suggested we bunk for the night, at a place he knew with running water and electricity.



GRAPHIC BY
DANIJEL ZELEJ

Continued on Page 14

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Wednesday, May 22, 7:45 p.m., 2801 Elliott Ave. A transient white male aged 45 was in the parking lot of the Spaghetti Factory holding a sign that stated he was deaf, and asking for money. He was asked by the manager to stop interfering with customers and leave the area. He refused to leave, and after an hour or so police were called. Officers arrived and wrote on a notepad that he had to leave the property. He appeared to understand, and picked up his belongings. He walked to the west end of the lot, and sat down again. He was then taken into custody and transported to the precinct. As he was being transported he attempted to bash his head on the security screen, and had to be restrained by the seatbelt. He was taken to the precinct, and then on to King County Jail. While at the jail he was asked by staff (in writing) if he was suicidal. He had numerous medications, and had recently been released from West Seattle Mental Health. He affirmed he was suicidal, and was taken to Harborview for a mental health evaluation.

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Wednesday, May 22, 11:30 p.m., South Royal Brougham Way. An officer was dispatched to the Downtown Emergency Service Center to investigate an attempted rape. The victim, a white female aged 44, stated that she had been with the suspect, a white male aged 49, and two other individuals staying overnight in a camper parked under the viaduct on South Royal Brougham. While she was sleeping the suspect removed his clothes and climbed into her bed. He told her to remove her clothes, and threatened to hit her in the face if she did not comply. He then began to sexually assault her, and she resisted, saying, "Don't do it." Suspect eventually grew tired and went to sleep, and the victim went to the DESC and reported the assault. The suspect was located in the lobby of a nearby hotel, and was arrested and transported to King County Jail.

Thursday, May 23, 1:45 p.m., 2302 Fourth Avenue, Franklin Hotel Apts. Police, joined by a Department of Corrections officer, were conducting a "knock and talk" at the above address. During this investigation, the owner of the hotel approached an officer and explained that he had a part-time helper living in his basement. He stated that this helper, a transient Hispanic male aged 31, was allowing people to smoke crack in the basement, and allowing drug users to sleep there. He asked the officer to tell the man to leave. He then let the officer into the basement, where the suspect admitted that he had let his girlfriend stay there without the owner's permission, and that she was a crack user. The subject was found to be in the U.S. illegally, and was arrested and transported to the INS holding facility. ■

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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LOVE Continued from Page 12

most be mistaken for rock, if I lay still and quiet, if I didn't breath.

A time of quiet followed. One of the officers shone a flashlight over my corner. He stepped closer and dragged his wooden stick over the ground and through the piles of leaves.

"There's still one out there!" another man called out. I held my breath. None of this seemed real to me; being chased by cops, hiding in a pile of mud and leaves. The officer's feet crunched twigs very near my head. I imagined him stepping on my head accidentally. If that happened, I resolved not to make a sound. The hard end of the officer's stick landed on my leg. He felt the soft resistance of flesh, and struck again, now my stomach. I sat up indignantly, the way a child would stop a game of cops and robbers when the older kids get too rough. The policeman fished me out of the leaves and held his flashlight to my face.

"What is this?" he declared. I must have looked like a gnome, dressed in the garb of my most recent identity—brown leather moccasins, a brown ankle-length woven poncho, and a black and brown "tam" (a beret of a more ethnic design) with my long unruly hair stuffed inside it. The other officers had come to see the leaf creature. A few more flashlights fell on my face.

The woman whose cell I shared took one look at me and declared, hands on hips, "Girl, you better call your parents!"

"I'm a girl," I cried out, hoping they wouldn't get any rougher. The officers laughed. "Some girl!" one of them guffawed. I pulled the hat off and let my hair fall over my shoulders. It was long, curly hair, the kind that caused people to stop you in streets and ask, "Is it natural?" I knew that the hair transfigured my face and that I was, as the only female of the group just herded up, entitled to some kind of exemption. At least, I thought as much. They stared for a few seconds and then the closest one, who'd first hit me, grunted. "Get her in the wagon." Handcuffs clicked my arms in place. The Cambridge City Police Station was the last place I saw Featherback. He, and the other men, had been

placed in a separate holding cell.

"I love you, Kiera!" He called out to me. "I love you Featherback!" I replied. And I did. I had, in a short amount of time, transferred to Featherback my deep, capricious longing for a lover, a caretaker, a partner and best friend. Yet I never found out what life with Featherback would be like. Would we have hitchhiked to Arizona and lived in a commune set in a hidden valley with hot springs and natural mud baths? Would he have renamed me Little Leaf and given me bronze babies to sling round my widened hips with handwoven strips of cloth? In certain frames of mind, and I was certainly in one then, a person grows rarefied with so much expectation, not just his body, but the routes he might have opened. But I wasn't let out with the others. Being seventeen and without any form of identification and too proud to call my mother and stepfather, I went, instead, to Framingham Women's House of Correction. That is, I went to prison.

The woman whose cell I shared took one look at me and declared, hands on hips, "Girl, you better call your parents!" I looked about as criminal as Shirley Temple. Never had she or her friends encountered a girl so white, so well off, and so unwilling to milk the teat of parental intervention. Her name for me was "Crazy." "Hey, Sharisha, meet my new girl, Crazy." By the fifth day, my mind had cleared enough to notice that the rest of the prison population didn't fully appreciate me. It was as though a dazed rabbit accidentally hopped into a nest of vipers. I stood in the cafeteria line while my now savior-like cellmate and her best friend stood on either side of me in body shield formation while tall, brutish girls shoved each other for a domino effect aimed at my head. In the cafeteria, street talk charged the air — furious, slippery voltage of power crackling between lips, epic and dangerous. With the cobwebby remains of drugs in my eyes, I could just trace the shape of a problem. Up till that moment, my homelessness seemed precious, chosen, a rare freedom I saw others unable to acquire, tied as they were to convention and oppressive expectations. At that moment in the cafeteria line, with the raw outlines of my future dipped in regret, I realized I'd made a mistake. To my cellmate's relief, I made the call home.

In story telling, this is the place of dénouement — the resolution, the ending, which can be happy or tragic, so long as we leave with a sense of completion. I did call home. I did leave prison. For me, the fire in the warehouse is a cautionary tale. And also a metaphor: If you think that in calling my family and being bailed from jail I was restored, reinstated to the life of home and hearth, then the nature of my displacement hasn't been explained. I know why the girl lived in the warehouse, why she made love to the man. For us, the arms of a lover bind like glue the many sharp fragments of a broken self. In empty rooms, his eyes promise to mirror a new mosaic. A Prometheus, he revives an essential nature. Few moments live so bright. ■

Reprinted from the May 2, 2002 issue of Spare Change, Cambridge, MA.

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

Perfess'r Harris is on vacation, and we bring you another leisure-time rumination from September, 2000.

From time to time, each of us needs to stand back, look ourselves in the eye, and ask, "What has the Protestant work ethic done for us lately?"

We at Classics Corner hid out at a mountain resort last week to do just this. For fun, we brought along Hesiod, a seventh or eighth century B.C. farmer-poet from the backwaters of Greece. As it turns out, Hesiod is one of history's first workaholics, but even he says to rest in August, when work is done, the sun is hot, and "women's lust knows no bounds."

"Then," he says, "ah then, I wish you a shady ledge and your choice wine." He also recommends thick goat's milk, freshly baked bread, the meat of a free-range heifer, and sparkling wine mixed with three parts water. Having none of these essentials on hand, we substituted scotch and tried to avoid fried foods.

While we did not find Hesiod's remarks upon the habits of women to be particularly accurate, we were still obsessively drawn to *Works and Days*, his 829-line poem on how to work hard, marry well, lead an honest life, have good crops, and avoid drowning at sea or blaspheming the gods.

Life is struggle, says Hesiod. Get used to it.

Hesiod's poem is addressed to his lazy brother Perses, who bribed the local "gift-devouring kings" to lawyer the poet out of his inheritance. Perses is exhorted to end his scheming, get off his butt, and "Work!"

Ever since Prometheus egged the gods into hiding the "means of livelihood" in the earth, most of us poor humans have had to scratch out our precarious existence with constant toil. This, says Hesiod, is the way of the world. Life is struggle, he says. Get used to it.

From the perspective of our lakeside adirondack chair, we found all of this quite bracing indeed.

But we were drawn most to Hesiod's obsession with justice. Having recently survived the prayer-soaked public coronations of Bush and Gore, we found the poet's idea of a people's god immensely appealing.

Belief in justice, says Hesiod, transcends the individual to concern the entire community. In an immoral world where might makes right, "grief and pain will find us defenseless," and "evildoers and scoundrels will be honored."

Hesiod believes there are spirits who function as the ethics police, invisibly roaming the earth and seeing that justice is served. When corruption is allowed to spread, he says, the entire community is punished, so everyone has an immediate interest in behaving morally.

Even Hesiod, however, has his moments of bitterness and doubt. "As matters stand," he says, "may neither I nor my son be just men in this world, because it is a bad thing to be just if wrongdoers win the court decisions."

In Hesiod's world, god looks out for the little guy, and his faith in this keeps him an honest man. Hesiod's practical mind would see a god of the rich, powerful, and corrupt as worse than no god at all. His is a useful belief, and 2,800 years later, with god half-dead, it still rings true. ■

Learn about homelessness through the Real Change Speaker's Bureau and Bedless Bards

Are you involved with a church, school, or community group that would benefit from learning about homelessness from those who understand it best — homeless and formerly homeless individuals?

Our Speaker's Bureau is available for small or large group presentations about the homeless experience. Sponsoring organizations pay speakers a \$35 honorarium.



Weaving together stories from the homeless community, our homeless writer's performance group — **Bedless Bards**—can bring their street poet medley to your organization.

To schedule a speaker or a performance, call 441-3247 ext. 201 and speak to Rachael, or e-mail organizer@realchangenews.org.

Mid June Notables

Thursday 6/13

Global Economy Working Group of the Church Council of Greater Seattle meeting. 7 p.m., this and subsequent 2nd Thursdays, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E.; info 206-382-3785.

lunch or money for pizza; info 206-721-5672 or <http://globalpeoples.cjb.net>.

Children will sing, dance and invite audience participation at a **peace-oriented** concert that will be videotaped and sent to the children of Afghanistan. 2 p.m., at the Seattle Center Amphitheater.

Friday 6/14

Music and Labor Unions mix: Charlie King and Karen Brandow concert, share an evening of humor and singing. Rebel Voices also appear. 7 p.m., at Café Luna, 9924 SW Bank Road, Vashon Island, \$10; info 206-463-0777 or <http://www.charlieking.org>.

The Erin Hart show features investigative reporter for the *BBC*, the *Guardian*, and the *Observer*, Greg Palast, author of *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: An Investigative Reporter Exposes the Truth About Globalization, Corporate Cons, and High Finance*, 710 AM radio, 10 p.m., listener calls at 1-877-710-KIRO.

Support Union Stagehands & Projectionists Local 15, an action supporting fair contracts. Noon, at Meridian Theatre, 7th & Pike; info Verlene Wilder, King County Labor Council 206-441-7102.

Theatre of the Oppressed facilitator's training; a **six-day workshop** through Saturday on Capitol Hill, June 22, for people interested in the Augusto Boal technique; will include a public performance component. For beginners as well as experiences practitioners, \$330, some scholarships available, no one turned away for lack of funds, info www.mandalaforchange.com or (206) 715-3500.

Saturday 6/15

Seattle **Local Peoples Assembly**, partnered with Global Peoples Assembly, meet to discuss questions on creating a broader and wiser democracy. 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Antioch University, Room 201, 2326 6th Ave., \$5 - \$10 suggested donation (no one turned away), bring a

Interfaith Vigil for Peace in the Middle East,

Thursday 6/20

The Northwest Environmental Education Council presents an **Environmental Film Series**, view "Green Plans," a film by John de Graaf and Jack Hamann, a look at the Green Plan developed at the Rio Earth Summit. Group discussion will follow. 7 p.m., at the Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N.; info 206-762-1976 or <http://nwveec.org>.

Friday 6/21

Wing Luke Asian Museum presents the premiere screening of the film documentary "If Tired Hands Could Talk," about the legacy of first-generation women immigrants. 7-9:30 p.m., at 911 Media Arts Center, 117 Yale Ave. N., \$6; info 206-623-5124.

An educator training session by REACH Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to **helping people understand and value diversity**; \$300, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Hampton Inn and Suites near the Seattle Center, info and registration at reach@nwlink.com.

Saturday 6/22

Come enjoy the **Fremont Fair**, which raises money for the Fremont Public

Association, with crafts, entertainment and food. Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Sunday, June 23rd, 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., info 206-726-2623 or <http://www.fremontfair.com>.

An appearance by Greg Palast, **Investigative Reporter** for the BBC and author of "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: An Investigative Reporter Exposes the Truth About Globalization, Corporate Cons and High Finance." 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 8th & Seneca, \$5 tickets available at Elliott Bay Books; info Ed Mays 206-782-7605 or <http://www.seattlevotermarch.com>.

Sunday 6/23

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

Humanists of Washington and University Unitarian Humanists **Summer Solstice Picnic**. Bring a dish or dessert to share (remember serving utensils). Plates, glasses, eating utensils, napkins and beverages will be provided. 1 - 4 p.m., at Shelter #4 in Woodland Park.

Community reception to welcome Kip Tokuda, new director of Seattle Division of **Family and Youth Services**, Human Services Department. 2 - 4 p.m., at New Holly Gathering Center, 7054 32nd Ave. S., free; driving directions 206-615-3369 or info 206-293-4725.

Wednesday 6/26

Working with the Media workshop with a panel of local reporters discussing how non-profits and community organizations can generate publicity. A question and answer period will conclude the event. Noon - 1:30 p.m., at Bellevue City Hall, 11511 Main St., Bellevue, free and refreshments served; info City of Bellevue Cultural Diversity Program 425-452-2835 or khenry@ci.bellevue.org.

Thursday 6/27

Carol Wagner, author of the book *Soul Survivors - Stories of Women and Children in Cambodia*, will talk and present a slide show of how the people of Cambodia have rebuilt their lives after the genocide and civil war. Noon, at University of Washington, Thompson Hall, Room 215; info 206-543-9606.

Ongoing

The **Young Adult Shelter** has an immediate need for caring volunteers, especially those willing to sleep overnight in the shelter. For more information, contact Sinan Demirel 206-979-5621.

Peace Vigil and leafletting to **stop the war in Israel and Palestine**, by Women in Black. Women wear black; men welcome to stand on the side or leaflet, every Thursday at Westlake Park near 4th and Pine, 5 - 6 p.m., info at (206) 208-9715. ■

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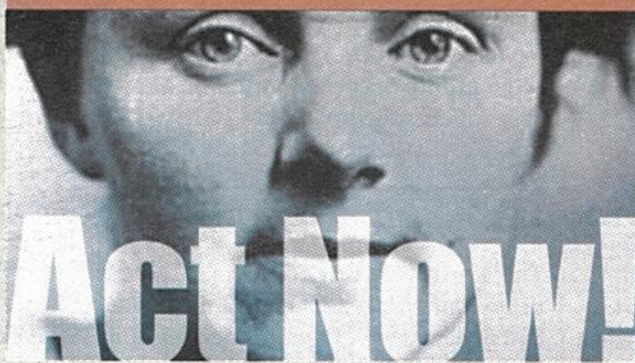
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Immigration Proposal Pits Local Police Against Immigrants

Issue: The Justice Department recently proposed using state and local police to help enforce immigration laws, a policy which both immigrant activists and police officers alike believe could undermine cooperation between the police and immigrant communities.

Background: In the post September 11 world, the Justice Department is looking for ways to help the Immigration and Naturalization Services enforce new immigration laws that are designed to crack down on would-be terrorists entering the country. Under the current proposal, spearheaded by Attorney General John Ashcroft, local police would be able to request immigration papers during the course of their regular duties, including routine traffic stops and investigations of domestic violence. If the person couldn't produce papers, he or she could be held until an immigration agent arrives to take custody.

If this proposal were to go through, it would have a devastating effect on public safety in communities around the nation, eroding trust built up between immigrant communities — one-fifth of Seattle's residents — and the peace officers charged with protecting them and their native-born neighbors. State and local police from around the nation, including the Northwest, have voiced their concern that the proposal would make their job impossible to perform.

If a victim thinks they're going to be a suspect in an immigration violation, they're not going to call the police, and that's just going to separate the two groups even further — crimes will go unreported and information vital to solving known crimes might never be passed on to the police.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association has voiced several fears about the proposal, including:

- Local law enforcement agencies lack the experience and training to enforce federal immigration law — federal immigration law is a complicated body of law that requires extensive training and expertise to properly enforce. Local law enforcement officials do not have the training and expertise that is required to determine who is allowed to be in the United States and who is not.
- Relying on local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law will undermine important community relationships. Community-based policing is one of the most powerful law enforcement tools available. By developing strong ties with local communities, police departments are able to obtain valuable information that helps them fight crime. The development of community-based policing has been widely recognized as an effective tool for keeping kids off drugs, combating gang violence, and reducing crime rates in neighborhoods around the country.
- Asking local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law will drain these agencies of scarce dollars and limited resources and lead to problems in enforcement. — Communities around the country struggle every year to provide enough money and resources to meet their law enforcement needs. Law enforcement officials in these communities need to spend more time enforcing laws that only they can enforce, and need more resources to protect the neighborhoods in which they live and work.

Action: Contact your local federal representatives and senators, and the Justice Department directly, to let them know that the proposed changes will only harm law enforcement and community building efforts in the area. You can find out who your representatives are at www.house.gov, and your senators at www.senate.gov. The Justice Department can be contacted via the website www.usdoj.gov/. ■

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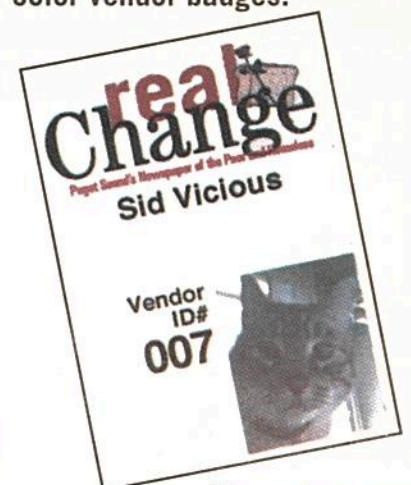
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