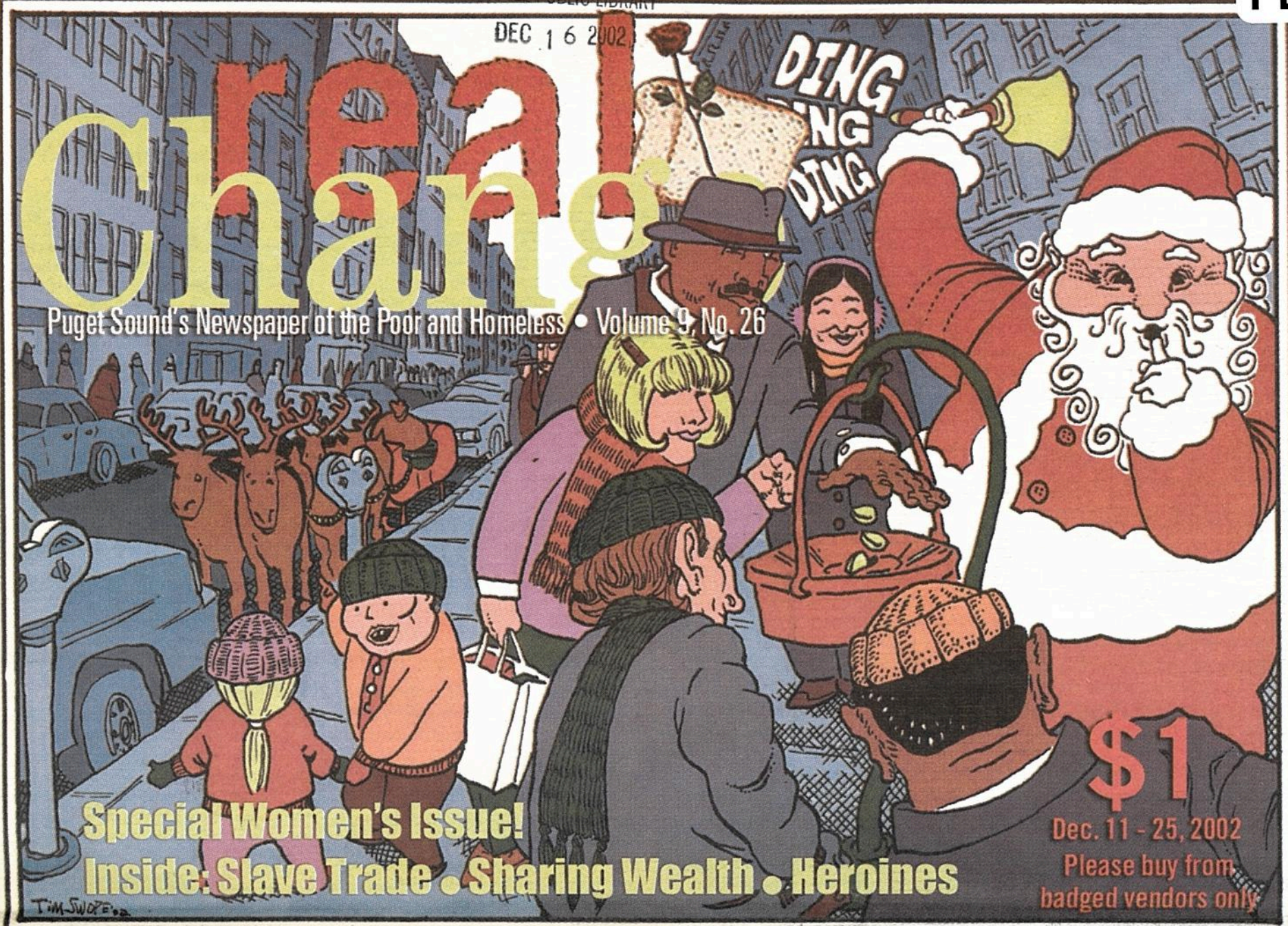


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COVER GRAPHIC BY TIM SWOPE.

Cast Away

Margaret Humphreys uncovered the truth about the Australian children who thought they were orphans

Interview by Bess Dwyer

Thousands of scared, small children took their most beloved belongings as they left the church-run homes where they lived. One by one, single file, arms filled with dolls and toys, they filled the ship. Ship after ship was loaded with children. They departed Britain thinking they were heading out for a nearby holiday.

They didn't know that the destination was Australia, halfway around the world. When they found out, they were told of fruit trees, loving families who wanted to adopt them, and kangaroos they could ride to school. But as they exited the ship onto Australian docks, siblings were torn from one another. Dolls and toys were ripped from their hands. Loving families turned out to be institutions. Blooming fruit trees became shovels. Despair and pain, not kangaroos, were their companions.

This shipping of children was not new; the British government had been sending people off for years. But the difference was encompassed in the lies. These children were told they were orphans, their parents dead. For many, this was not the case. Single mothers, poor families, and bad health were more likely reasons for the kids to be dropped off in group homes. But when parents came back for their little ones, they were gone. Supposedly, the children had been adopted, were in America, or were still in Britain. And parental visits were not allowed.

The actual conditions for the children were horrendous. The most infamous institution was Bindoon, run by the Christian Brothers. Here, boys were forced to work, erecting monumental buildings that still stand today. Numerous boys were abused, mentally, physically, and sexually, by the clergy that ran the home. Girls were sent off to work as indentured

servants, also suffering abuse at the hands of their masters.

Now fast-forward. These children have grown; some have had children of their own. One woman, born in Britain and shipped to Australia as a young girl, started a search. Her letter reached a social worker in Nottingham, England. And that was the beginning of Margaret Humphreys' search.

Humphreys' work has been shown in a three-part series on *60 Minutes II*. Books like *Empty Cradles*, her bestseller, tell the story. Above all, her work is reflected in the lives of the people she has helped. Her story is one of driven compassion.

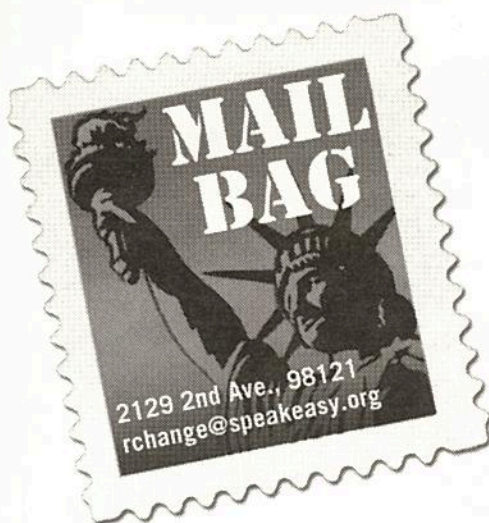
“Some parents tried to come back for their children. They were told that the children had been adopted and were in England. Some were told that they were dead. They were all lied to.”

Margaret Humphreys

Real Change: Who were these children?

Margaret Humphreys: They're now called British Child Migrants. You know that Britain migrated quite a lot

Continued on Page 9



Election 2001: let's have a recount

Dear *Real Change*,

Well, well, well: all of a sudden those that voted for Greg Nickels as being a soft-hearted sweetheart and not for Sidran as being a hard-hearted cuss are beginning to realize the error of their ways. Mark Sidran, a true liberal, was painted by knee-jerk liberals as a reactionary villain because he had the audacity to require that beggars not be allowed to lounge across downtown business district sidewalks.

As well as I know what Sidran stands for, he would not be cutting help for the City's poor as Nickels is now

["Saved by the Skin of Their Teeth," RC November 27]. I hope that he runs again; we need him more than ever.

Sincerely,
Martin Paup
Seattle

Thin skin

[The following is the author's response to ©Dr. Wes Browning's review of *Surviving on the Streets: How to Go DOWN without Going OUT in the November 27 issue.*]

Dear Wes Browning,

I liked your review. It's the first nasty one I've gotten in the year my book has been published, and nasty reviews make for much more interesting copy (see the site on amazon.com for what everybody else has been saying).

As for your contention that it doesn't mean "squat" if the "HIV equals AIDS" orthodoxy is wrong: How about BILLIONS of dollars in wasted research? Is that your idea of "squat"? Not to mention the fear and anxiety that those bullshitters projected onto millions of people over a "sexually transmitted plague" that supposedly threatened us all. But like I said in my book: Be sure to contact me 20 years from now so you can fill me in with more of your insights. And as for your conten-

tion that the majority of homeless "avoid" me... sheesh, if only it were true. I'd get a little peace when I walk down the street. In truth, I've been publishing the quite popular "TELEGRAPH STREET CALENDAR" for the last 14 years, and most of Berkeley's street population not only seek me out, but regularly pester me about including their photo in my work.

If you read my chapter on Mass Immigration a little more carefully (instead of just projecting your liberal delusions onto it), you would see that I'm not saying immigrants themselves make up a large part of the homeless population, but that there's a domino effect where the poorest and weakest members of American society are being displaced to make room for them. We're adding three million new people to the U.S. population every year, almost entirely because of Mass Immigration. Do you happen to know where the 3 million new homes we needed last year are? Or this year? Or next year? Or etc? Don't strain yer brain, Wes baby.

Love and kisses,
Ace Backwards

Ed. replies: Actually, the Census Bureau says that while the U.S. population is increasing by 2.5 million a year, almost 70 percent of the newcomers arrive here via the birth canal. There's no reason to blame homelessness on "Mass Immigration." ■

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.

On the Web at
<http://www.realchangenews.org>
Email rchange@speakeasy.org
ISSN 1085-729X

Real Change vendors receive 70¢ of the \$1.00
paid for this paper.

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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Writers, photographers,
illustrators wanted.
Call Adam at 441-3247

Help your favorite vendor take a load off

Real Change vendors spend a lot of time on their feet selling the paper. We'd like to offer them a place to sit down and rest for a few minutes when they come to our Belltown office to buy papers, but all we have are some cold, hard folding chairs. You can help us create an inviting waiting area by donating comfortable furniture.

We need:

A couch (vinyl or leather)

Comfortable chairs (vinyl or leather)

Coffee table

Large bulletin board(s)

A few large plants for the window—low maintenance please

You can also donate office supplies, like papers, pens, and notebooks. Check out the list of what *Real Change* needs at <http://www.realchangenews.org/donate/index.html>

Call Shawn, Rachael, or Lily at 441-3247 if you can help



Interested in Volunteering for *Real Change*?
Check out <http://www.realchangenews.org/volunteer/volunteer.html>.
Or Call (206) 441-3247 ext. 203

Santa Says Support *Real Change*

This holiday season, give the gift of dignity and hope to Seattle's poor and homeless. Since 1994, *Real Change* has given voice to the voiceless, built bridges of understanding and opportunity, and changed the lives of thousands.

When you buy a paper from a *Real Change* vendor, you make a direct difference. This year, our vendors will sell more than 400,000 copies of *Real Change*. With tips, that's about half a million dollars going directly into the pockets of the poor.

Your donation to *Real Change* goes one step farther to ensure this work continues. Here are 10 good reasons to give generously this year to *Real Change*:

- 1 **R**ead *Change* has guts and heart. *Real Change* features hard-hitting news, with stories and poetry you won't find anywhere else. We still believe that quality journalism can change the way people see.
- 2 **R**ead *Change* builds bridges. Our vendors sell 17,000-20,000 copies of every issue. We promote understanding between the homeless and those who are more fortunate. *Real Change* is about the relationships that get built on the street.
- 3 **R**ead *Change* makes an immediate difference in the lives of the poor. Anyone who is homeless or vulnerably housed can become a vendor after attending a brief orientation. Vendors get their first 10 papers free and begin right away. We offer an alternative to begging to those who may be desperate.
- 4 **R**ead *Change* goes beyond words to taking action. Our First Things First organizing project has expanded and protected services for the poor and homeless in Seattle while working for long-term solutions to poverty.
- 5 **R**ead *Change* offers a direct voice of the poor by publishing *Out of the Margins*, a newspaper by and for homeless people in Seattle. Starting January, this new tabloid will be distributed for free in Seattle shelters and drop-in centers to help organize homeless people themselves.
- 6 **R**ead *Change*'s state-of-the-art nine-terminal MacWorkshop computer lab offers computer time, access to the internet, and hands-on skills workshops to more than 30 people a day at no charge. *Real Change* helps to close the digital divide by providing the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and welcoming space.
- 7 **R**ead *Change* is a national model. Our paper has been a leader of the North American Street Newspaper Association since NASNA was founded in 1996, and has helped similar papers begin in numerous cities. This year, we founded the Street News Service (streetnewsservice.org) to support a global voice of the poor.
- 8 **L**ast year alone, homelessness in Seattle grew by 22 percent. This shameful statistic says that we all need to be part of the solution to homelessness and poverty in Seattle. *Real Change* is an effective advocate for the poor that offers immediate help while working for long-term solutions.
- 9 **Y**our donations to RCHEP are tax deductible. *Real Change* is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization.
- 10 **W**ithout your help, we fail. We rely upon reader donations for more than a third of our income. Please support dignity, opportunity, and a voice for the poor by giving today.

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Classics Corner will now run every other issue instead of every issue. Look for the next installment December 26, 2002.

Yes! *Real Change* Matters.

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

- \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other (\$_____)
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Please contact me about volunteering my time and energy.

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12/12/02

National news digest

December 4, 2002

News from around the U.S. and Canada
compiled by the Street News Service
(www.streetnewsservice.org)

Even though the Massachusetts state Legislature has been cutting funding for homeless services, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino thinks he can convince them to pass a \$35 million bond bill to improve homeless services across the state, according to the *Boston Globe* (www.globe.com). Approximately \$25 million of the bond would provide more shelter beds, job training, and health services. Another \$5 million would specifically help Boston's homeless population. Although the state is currently feeling the fiscal pinch, Menino believes the expected increase in the number of homeless people could get the bond through. "I understand the financial picture," Menino told *Boston Globe* reporters, shortly before his own city began its annual count of homeless people. "But this is about people's lives. There's no price you can put on people's lives."

One of the most recent cases of a homeless person who commits a crime to get into a warm jail with hot meals involves a 70-year-old homeless man in San Diego, who robbed a gas station and then waited for police to escort him to his new temporary home. When the police arrived, Victor Lopez told them he wanted to go to jail because the winter shelter was not open, according to *NBC San Diego* (www.nbcsandiego.com). Lopez was booked into jail on \$20,000 bail. Because Lopez had no intention of keeping the cash, he will not be charged with a felony, though he could face misdemeanor charges.

The situation is so dire in Las Vegas that homeless people are getting killed just to find some place relatively warm to sleep. The location of choice is what's known as the Las Vegas wash, an underground drainage system that has a habit of turning into a powerful river whenever it rains. Early this month, the body of a homeless man suspected of drowning in the wash was found, according to *KLAS TV* (www.klas-tv.com). Of the 47 people who died this year on the streets of Las Vegas' Clark county, those who didn't die from drowning in the wash passed away from exposure to the sometimes extreme desert cold.

Things are much better in Canada, where northern Toronto city officials and advocates got together with local businesses to help fulfill the housing needs of 80 former tent city residents who were evicted from Home Depot property. The city of Toronto helped secure the new homes with a rent subsidy initiative, and then the businesses helped to furnish them, according to Toronto's *Town Crier* (www.towncrieronline.ca). The newly housed people got beds and tables from Executive Furniture, Furniture Bank, and Royal York Hotel, glasses, cutlery, and pots and pans from Goodwill, dishes from the National Club, and linens from the Park Hyatt, as well as drivers and trucks to move it all in. Whatever doesn't get used will be saved for people when they leave halfway houses and jails, or new immigrants to the city, before they have to become homeless in the first place. ■

— Compiled by Molly Rhodes

Boomtown expands

Boomtown Café, the Pioneer Square restaurant that serves breakfast and lunch at the cost of the food, will now serve up meals to tired thrift-store shoppers at the nation's highest-grossing Goodwill.

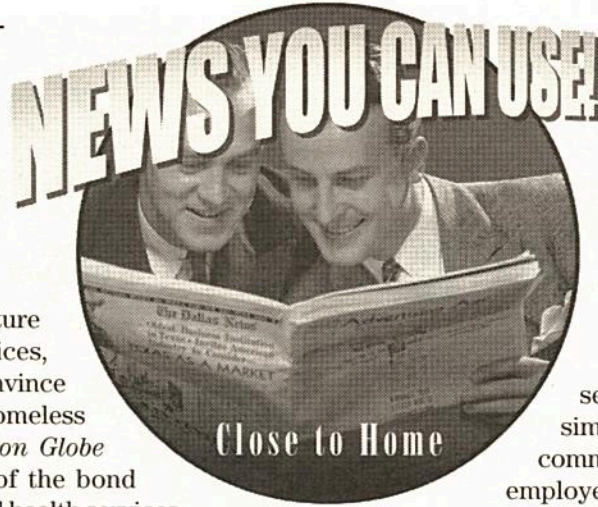
It means that tired shoppers can stop to rest and get good food, Goodwill's 350 employees have an in-house restaurant, and Boomtown can support its nonprofit work by operating a café that charges market-rate prices.

It's a sound move at a time when the future of government and public funding is questionable, says Boomtown director Bob Kubiniec. "We're going to get a positive revenue flow here. Given the funding climate, we're trying to take control of our revenue."

Boomtown's non-profit meals are served to anyone who wants them. The restaurant is located across from the King County Courthouse and downstairs from the Downtown Emergency Service Center's homeless shelter and the low-income Morrison Hotel. A full breakfast is served five days a week for \$1.25; lunch is \$1.75. Patrons can work in the kitchen if they can't pay for the meal.

While diners pay for the food itself, city, county, federal, and private grants have made up the difference, funding rent, utilities, and labor. This fall, Kubiniec was told that King County would discontinue \$46,000 in funding for the café. Though a new budget was passed in late November, he says King County staff can't figure out whether the funds were reinstated.

If the money doesn't come through, it won't be the first shortfall this year. In August, Boomtown also lost a contract to serve dinner to more than 100



homeless women at the Women's Referral Center in Belltown. The program's operator, the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, was no longer able to pay for meals of Boomtown's caliber. "I tried to work with them for other sources of revenue, but we couldn't find any," says Kubiniec. "There's budget crises all over the place, but part of our mission is to serve food in a healthy, dignified, attractive way. We'll continue to do that, the same as we do in the central café."

The Goodwill café will have counter service and serve sandwiches, soup, and pastries. Kubiniec promises similar meals as at Boomtown, with a spirit of developing community and providing nutritious food. Many of Goodwill's employees are participating in job-training programs; the low-income families that shop there will also benefit.

Boomtown is conducting a name-the-café contest, and the moniker will be unveiled Saturday, December 14, at 11 a.m. An open house continues December 14, 15, and 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ■

— Adam Holdorf

Moving on in

Homeless people and a few supporters who spent their nights outside the doors of the King County Administration Building moved inside in the last week of November, thanks to an emergency ordinance passed by the King County Council.

King County Executive Ron Sims had failed to fund the so-called "winter response" shelter in the lobby of the Administration Building this fall, anticipating that the space would be closed for seismic repairs. The local homeless shelter operator SHARE/WHEEL, which ran the shelter up until 2001, petitioned Sims to find the money.

When it was clear that appeals to Sims were unsuccessful, SHARE/WHEEL launched a volunteer-run shelter, complete with, on the inaugural night, a chorus of grandmothers who served milk and cookies and sang lullabies.

The council voted to give the Salvation Army almost \$20,000 to run the shelter until December 31. ■

— Adam Holdorf

Rainier Vista: All quiet, for now

The bulldozers fell silent at the Rainier Valley's last public housing development on Wednesday, December 5, when Federal Judge John C. Coughenour issued two injunctions ordering the housing authority to stop demolishing the empty duplexes. The court order is a result of a lawsuit filed in August by two residents of Rainier Vista, who raise fair housing and environmental challenges to the \$180 million plan for their community.

SHA says that the injunction will threaten public funding for the project and cost millions of dollars as a demolition team sits idling. It's an expensive lag time, but cheaper than canceling the construction contract and having to rebid it again, says SHA spokeswoman Virginia Felton.

SHA, the plaintiffs, and Judge Coughenour held a meeting Tuesday, December 10, the results of which weren't available before this issue of *Real Change* went to press. SHA asked the judge to lift the injunction.

"We're hoping that the judge will allow us to resume. We're paying the overhead of the demolition contractor" while work is stopped, says Felton. "Trucks, tools, equipment, trash boxes. He hired a crew, and he can't just send these guys home."

The suit is over the fairness of SHA's demolition of 410 public housing units for very poor people, and their replacement with 1,010 units of mixed-income housing. Opponents of the redevelopment have pointed out that when Rainier Vista reopens, it will contain 171 fewer units for very-low-income public housing residents. SHA has countered that those residents will have new housing built for them elsewhere in the city.

The plaintiffs charged SHA, HUD, and the City of Seattle with violations of the Fair Housing Act, an environmental review that gave short shrift to the housing needs of the poor, failure to provide displaced residents with the proper assistance, and failure to ensure that each public housing unit destroyed would be replaced with a unit for equally poor residents.

Felton said that housing authority officials thought that an October 18 statement by Judge Coughenour had dismissed all aspects of the case. However, it seems that the environmental review is still up for question. She believes the sole legal question that remains is the environmental review issue. "The issue will be whether the city properly conducted an environmental assessment," she says. However, as the judge continues to weigh each side's arguments, he may decide to re-open other aspects of the legal case. ■

— Adam Holdorf

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

Lofty Goals

Gates Foundation sets out to "catalyze" the end of homelessness

By Andrea Iglar

When Tammy Martinez moved into Pacific Courtyard in Tacoma, she set a few goals. She would live a clean, sober life and work to support her three daughters. "I'm doing great," Martinez says. "If I weren't living here, I don't think I would be able to do any of this."

Martinez moved into the apartment building for transitional families six months ago. Previously, she had left an abusive husband, then lived with her children in a shelter. When she heard about Pacific Courtyard, she thought it would be a good place to start her new life because it would provide both a stable home and classes that would help her learn how to support her family.

Pacific Courtyard was one of the first transitional housing projects the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation helped fund through its \$40 million Sound Families grant program. The initiative is probably the largest non-government grant program of its kind in history. It supports projects that provide both shelter and services to homeless parents and their children.

By the end of this year, Sound Families will have allocated money to 700 living spaces, many specifically designed for single mothers and their children. This means despite its being a young program, Sound Families will have made significant progress toward its goal to add 1,560 transitional housing units to King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

The objective of Sound Families is to eliminate homelessness in the Puget Sound region by helping to provide not only housing and supportive services to homeless families, but also by creating a new level of regional cooperation on homeless-related issues. To achieve these goals, Sound Families grants up to 20 percent of the cost of building or renovating housing, and contributes \$7,500 per individual living space to pay for five years of services. These services may include childcare, job training, and case management.

Lofty goals, you ask?

"They are lofty, but I think they are doable," says Jaime Garcia, who heads regional giving for the Gates Foundation. "I think they have to be lofty because someone has to basically begin asking the question of why (there is so much homelessness)."

According to shelter counts, an estimated 65 percent of homeless people in the region belong to a family consisting of at least one adult and one child. In King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, there are more than 40,000 such families. As many as 45 percent of these family members are children, and most of these families are headed by single women.

The Sound Families program began drawing attention and money to hous-

ing for homeless families since it announced its first grants in February 2001. Since then, the foundation has been what Garcia calls "a catalytic funder," forming partnerships with governments, non-profit housing developers, and fellow foundations to stimulate a flow of support for transitional housing projects.

"Sound Families has some clout," says Nora Renz, executive director of Helping Hand House of Pierce County, a non-profit housing agency that has been awarded Sound Families money for transitional housing. "They can bring people together, and they can make people communicate who didn't normally communicate — and I think that's part of the solution."

Paul Carlson, who coordinates Sound Families for the Seattle Housing Office, says the grant program has led to unprecedented regional cooperation. One of the program's most astonishing accomplishments has been securing an agreement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that allows any project funded by Sound Families to be automatically eligible to receive project-based Section 8 vouchers. This means the owner of a transitional apartment building, for example, may receive Section 8 rent subsidies directly from HUD, rather than through residents.

"This redirects millions of dollars right to the front line of helping homeless families. And we didn't take years to do it," Carlson says. "We took six months to do it."

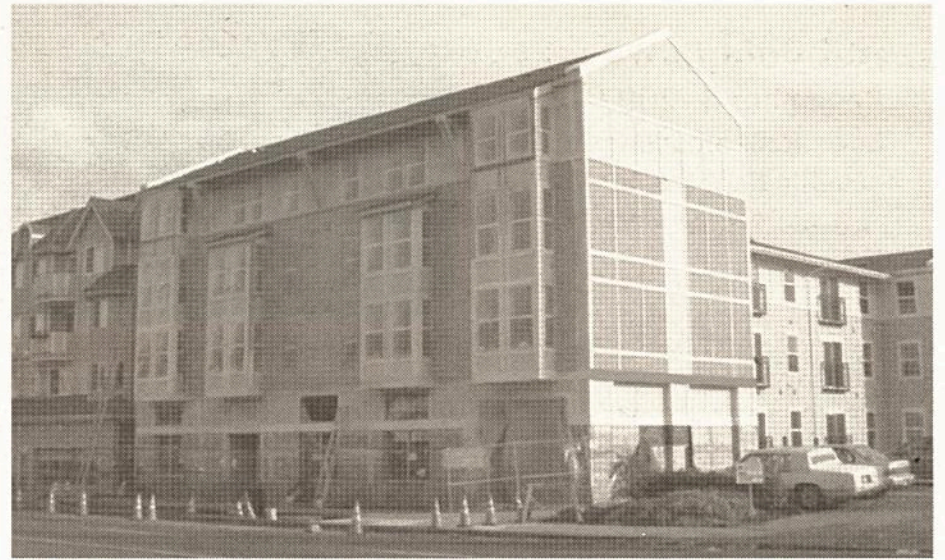
This efficiency of grant distribution, as well as the HUD agreement, the high profile of the Gates Foundation, and the enormity of the Sound Families grant, has aroused interest in housing projects that include supportive services.

"The Gates Foundation has elevated (the issue) and presented a challenge that homeless families is a high priority group, and other public and private funders need to step forward to match their funds," says Sharon Lee, executive director of Seattle's Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI). The agency is recruiting tenants for Meadowbrook View, its new Gates-funded project in North Seattle.

While Sound Families has worked as a money magnet, additional funds for services are in short supply—especially from governments dealing with massive budget shortfalls.

"Operating in the current economic situation is very difficult, so there are the usual challenges as far as that goes," Renz says. "Sound Families' money certainly helps, but we have such a hard time in general."

In places such as Seattle, where voters approved an \$86 million housing levy in September, money for housing itself is fairly dependable. Money for



FIFTEEN HOMELESS FAMILIES ARE MOVING INTO UNITS AT THE MEADOWBROOK VIEW APARTMENT BUILDING IN NORTHEAST SEATTLE. MONEY FROM THE GATES FOUNDATION HELPED BUILD THE NEW HOUSING AND WILL PAY PART OF THE OPERATING COSTS FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS. PHOTO COURTESY THE LOW INCOME HOUSING INSTITUTE.

associated services, however, can be difficult to secure.

Ed Petersen, executive director of Housing Hope in Everett, says some funding partners worry about sponsoring projects that will receive Sound Families' services money for only five years. Most service programs are meant to operate 15 to 40 years. "We are hopeful for a dedicated funding stream beyond those five years," he says.

An ongoing supply of money for services is unlikely to come from Sound Families, though, because its role is to get new efforts off the ground, not sustain them, Garcia says.

Services are vital elements of the supportive housing strategy, a tried-and-true approach to transitional housing that combines shelter with on-site services. When possible, many housing providers, including HUD, use this strategy. Services may include classes that teach mothers and fathers basic budgeting, communication, and parenting skills. They also tend to include intensive case management, goal-setting, childcare, and help with job training and education.

Missa Fleming and her four-year-old daughter have lived in Pacific Courtyard for six months. She says the services provided by the apartment building's staff are critical and will help her become a licensed cosmetologist. "They help you get on your feet and help you look toward your goals, and help you accomplish them," she says.

Mary Scott, a case manager at Pacific Courtyard, says two formerly

homeless families have graduated from the transitional program since March and become self-sufficient, thanks to the presence of both shelter and services. "When (the families) are not worrying about daily survival, they can look at what the future holds," she says.

For thousands of homeless parents in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, the future could hold a better chance of getting into transitional housing. Thanks in part to Sound Families, it could hold the opportunity to send their children to the same school for up to two years. It could mean an end to shelter-hopping, couch-crashing, or street-sleeping. It could mean a stable place to live while learning the skills necessary to keep a family afloat.

So far, so good: Informal accounts of Sound Families' progress have been largely positive. The University of Washington's Northwest Institute for Children and Families soon will begin assessing the program's effectiveness and will release some results by mid-2003, says Michael Horn, one of the evaluators.

The challenge of finding solutions for homeless individuals remains, but at least for now, the Gates Foundation has chosen to focus on an equally important group, homeless families.

"It takes folks all along the continuum to combat homelessness, and we've picked our niche," Garcia says. "Society has to begin to say homelessness is unacceptable, and we are picking our piece of what we think will have an impact." ■

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.

poetry

Untitled

Downtown,
Early morning.
Under a cool sky;
stern lines & empty streets.
A concrete desert —
furtive creatures walk
the shadow of doorless
walls —
cliffs of glass and
steel holding the hopes
of the aimless and
dispossessed
until dawn

— JERRY LUTTHLE

Life on the Streets

July 15, 2001 — a date I'll never forget, my first day of official homelessness. The first time I've ever been forced to live on the streets. My mind, body and soul has gone into shock. Culture shock.

My fellow homeless sisters ripped me off for everything during my first week, from my medication down to my false teeth. My homeless sisters pretend to befriend you in order to leech. By the time you figure it out, they're on to their next victim. They not only brag about their addictions, they brag about how they satisfy their addictions.

The flip side of the coin is how society treats us. The stereotyping depresses me. My heart cries out, "I'm not like that," but they can't hear me. If you carry a backpack or shopping cart you're not welcome in most establishments. The general public ceases to see you as a human being.

Month four is creeping up on me. I'm digging my way out of this hole. I'll never return.

— LADY X

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



I have once more volunteered to do Dr. Wes' column for him, because he's tired. Wes wants to take this opportunity to have me write about all those things that people want him to write about that he doesn't want to write about, because he's tired.

For instance, a reader would like Wes to write about the permanent adolescence of George W. Bush. This makes Wes very tired indeed.

Now other than thinking that this sounds like a very poetic title, "The Permanent Adolescence of George W. Bush," I wasn't sure that I agreed with the premise. Even when I was an adolescent female, I never despised adolescent males *that* much.

Would an adolescent male deal with his unpopularity by picking a fight with the first person who gave him an excuse? Well... But would an adolescent male be so determined to have a fight that no matter what the other person did to keep the peace he'd make up a new reason why it wasn't good enough? Well... Okay, but do you really think he's going to grow out of it in a few more years?

Michele "For God's sake, Anitra, you've known me long enough, you'd *better* be able to remember that it has only one L" Marchand would like me, or Wes, or me being Wes, or Wes being me, or somebody anyway, to write about Ruth Lilly leaving a hundred million dollars of her pharmaceutical daddy Eli Lilly's fortune to *Poetry* magazine.

There are several possible reactions here:

"Why did she leave that much money to POETRY!?"

"Why didn't she leave the money to *Real Change*? WE publish poetry."

"Why is everyone so shocked at big money being given to poetry?"

"So, is the magazine going to pass any of that on to the poets?"

Let us cut to the chase here. As the purported purpose of this column is advice to poets, I would like to advise that in my opinion the time for the

unionization of poets has at last come. Somebody who publishes poetry finally has some money. Since, under the administration of a permanently adolescent male, people who *read* poetry are soon not going to have any money at all, selling self-published chapbooks is no longer the lucrative gig that it was supposed to be. Getting paid by a rich publisher is much more dependable.

Stan "A Published Author" Burriss would like Wes to write about the quotations etched in the stone of the triangle at the Second Avenue Extension in Pioneer Square. He believes that Wes could say something about these quotations that would touch you, the readers, warmly.

Wes is against touching people warmly without their prior permission. And he doesn't know where you've been.

My objection is that if writing can't speak for itself, it needs to be rewritten. So next time you are at the Second Avenue Extension, look. I didn't realize the writing was there myself until Wes told me.

Then there are the standard things that Wes is asked to write about regularly.

The inside scoop on everything wrong at "fill in the blank" shelter: Folks, homeless people have been murdered on the streets of Seattle at the rate of one every three months this year. Nobody has been murdered in a homeless shelter. Like sex, as long as shelter is by consent, the worst there ever was wasn't really bad at all. Compared to the alternative.

Every rally in Seattle that ever was: Like poems, these speak for themselves. Like poetry, they could always use more attention. But for us to tell you how great they were is preaching to the choir. I have another suggestion: how about for the next rally (you can find it in the calendar section) you take along one or two friends who *aren't* convinced of the cause yet?

I don't want to write about any of those things. What I want to write about is Congrescent Singulitarians. I have just discovered that there is a website for Congrescent Singulitarians. I would like to announce that, in retaliation, I am beginning a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Words. ■



December 20, 2000

Judaic celebration of steadfastness
faith in the right
courage against all harm

David Cozad, 60 years old, homeless
has been killed, run over by a train
and Hanukkah is just a day away

A Christian celebration of redemption
"love thy neighbor as thyself"
joy to the world

Sheila's face is bruised
her cheekbones broken
and Christmas is just five days away

Islam celebrated its inspiration
each one rededicates to purity

Homeless women dressed in black
and standing silent vigil
Ramadan is in its 24th day

African community celebration
of values at the root of heritage
faith, integrity and unity

Women, housed and homeless
are standing now together
and Kwanzaa is just six days away

And our healing is how many days away?

— ANITRA L. FREEMAN

Thin Dime Blues

O.K. my skin may be darker
maybe my people were once closer to the sun
maybe it's ink from the pillow you got
under your arm there.
I'm only asking for some change
Yeah I know you don't have anything but
the thing is I've been on the street for two years
now, I can hear it clinking in your pocket
even with that hand you shoved in to keep them
quiet as you passed, your shoulders already up

What's that? Oh yeah
I know its illegal, see without a street and number
that don't roll out from under me
I can't get my good friend Ida to the Senate
and she doesn't have enough teeth for you to smile,
and I know how heavy money is in your hand
especially when pulling down that voting arm
hand cold as a politician's,
hell I used to have enough dead presidents in me
turn my blood green.

I know I look angry and got clouds all over
I haven't eaten in three days
That's true I may buy wine because it's easy
to close one's eyes (isn't it?)
just a minute out of the toilet bowl
my life's become, clogged up since
I had to pawn my heart.

What if you brought a peanut butter and jelly
on the train to work or an apple everyday
What if you didn't keep talking getting even
louder as I drown my pride
holding it under a little longer each time
what if you at least looked at me
instead of joining the yokes of stares tossed around
my shoulders after I pass. I've got them too you know
I know how you feel, I used to have money
and the city had homeless then too.

What you say Dole I think Juice but he talks
about tax cuts so the rich can get richer
and help me and you say it will never happen
since the rich are all old and white and greedy and green
but right now at this moment
how are you different
Can it be that maybe he's right
maybe without people like you hiding behind shelters
you don't volunteer at,
assuming they're enough
forgetting the five homeless people you saw
on the Two this morning
maybe then you'll feel
inclined to feed me

— MARK TRUSHKOWSKY

[Reprinted from *New York City's Street News*]

The New Slave Trade

The kidnapping and coercion of women is the world's third-largest underground industry. Washington legislators have fought back

By Janice Price

"Good jobs overseas, no experience required. Excellent pay."

If this sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Yet thousands of people, mostly poor women with dead-end lives and no experience with advertising's seduction, jump at the chance to earn good money and improve their lives.

The restaurant jobs they were promised in, say, Germany, turn out to be not jobs at all, but prostitution enforced by beatings, isolation, and rape. Their captors steal their identification papers and passports as they arrive in the new country, where they don't speak the language, and there is no escape. They are forced to have sex with dozens of men a day, six days a week. They are slaves.

Children in desperately poor countries in Central Africa are sold by their families to men promising work in richer countries such as the Ivory Coast. The parents receive roughly \$14, and the hope that their child will learn a trade. Instead, the men sell the children as laborers to coffee and cocoa plantation owners for between \$300 and \$350 each. About 15,000 Central and West African children each year, mostly teens or pre-teens, are forced to work long hours with little food and many beatings. They are slaves.

Men and women from China pay smugglers thousands of dollars to get them into the United States. They travel for over a week, jammed together in dark containers on a cargo ship, seasick, dehydrated, living in filth. Those who live through the experience are sold to sweatshops and brothels, with no passport, no one to turn to, no language skills, no hope. They are slaves.

Children as young as nine and ten, about 6,000 a year, are kidnapped from their families in Nepal and sold to brothel owners in India. Here they are forced into sex, endure beatings and rape and a poor diet. When they become too old or too sick to work, they are (if they are lucky) sent back to their families. With them they often take AIDS. They are innocent victims, their childhood and future stolen from them. They become, instead, fuel for an exploding AIDS problem in South Asia.

Slavery, also known as human trafficking, is defined by the feds as the recruitment, abduction, or transfer of a person for sale or trade into involuntary servitude. It is the third largest underground economy in the world, after guns and drugs. It generates between \$7 and \$12 billion dollars a year for smugglers, kidnappers, mail order bride businesses, Asian gangs, Russian mafia, and others.

The official number of humans trafficked each year is estimated to be

700,000, but many experts acknowledge that the figure is probably much higher, closer to 4 million people. Fifty to a hundred thousand of those people are brought to the United States each year. And because of its geography, its international ports, international airports, and what State Representative Velma Veloria calls "a strong customer base," Washington State is considered a prime market for this particular form of human misery.

Besides the moral and ethical concerns surrounding the human trafficking issue, there are some grim practical problems that have the State Department and the CIA working to put modern-day slave traders out of business. Because state-sponsored money is becoming tighter for terrorist groups, they look for funding from the transnational crime organizations that profit so highly from trafficking. Trafficking is also a huge public health issue, ready to bring an AIDS crisis of stupendous proportions to South, Central, and Southeast Asia. This will further destabilize already unstable governments and economies.

To counter this, Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, and the State Department established the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons a year later. This office publishes a yearly anti-trafficking report that assesses the efforts of 82 governments to combat trafficking, implements some 110 anti-trafficking programs in 50 countries, and publishes an educational brochure in many languages targeted at potential victims. The INS now has as a tool the T visa, to help victims of trafficking. They are authorized to issue 5,000 a year to trafficking victims who are facing deportation for entering the country illegally (no matter that the potential need is closer to 50,000 visas a year. So far only nine have been issued). Very few people, including victims rights advocates, know about them, and the fee, \$400, is prohibitively high.



The four women who introduced the mail order bride legislation received thousands of emails from angry men who said that power-hungry American women were forcing them to shop for wives outside the country.

els in Seattle, one near Seattle University and the other near SeaTac airport. Both used trafficked women.

- Not too long ago, a retired Seattle policeman kept Helen Clemente, a Filipina woman, as a domestic slave for three years.

- In 1995, Susana Blackwell, a mail-order bride, was killed by her husband outside the Washington courtroom where she was divorcing him because of his violent behavior.

- In 2000, Anastasia King was murdered in Seattle by her husband, who was searching for his third mail order bride months before he killed her.

Type "mail order bride" into a Google search and you will get 75,800 responses; but just because it's common doesn't mean it's just. As one Ukrainian woman stated in a quote to *The Seattle Times*, "American men who want a woman from the former Soviet Union are looking for slaves. A normal American man doesn't have to look for a wife in Russia." Or any other country where the woman are poor, desperate, and disadvantaged.

Earlier this year, State Representatives Velma Veloria, Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney, and State Senators Jeri Costa and Jeanne Kohl-Welles introduced legislation that would require mail order bride businesses, if asked by the prospective bride, to disclose the marital

history of their intended husband and the results of a state background check. It brought wrath down upon them. During the time Bill 2381 was before the legislature, someone posted their names on a web site. They received thousands of emails from men who wanted to have sex with them, from angry men who said mean and unprintable things, and from men who said that power-hungry American women were stepping on the rights of the American male, forcing them to shop for wives outside the country. Many of the men made the puzzling suggestion that the feminists, along with MADD mothers and workers at the Environmental Protection Agency, should all pack up and move to Cuba. Despite this printed onslaught of abuse (which was also received by the male sponsors of the bill), the legislation was passed unanimously by both House and Senate and became effective at the end of September.

Washington State is what the INS refers to as a problem state.

- In September, a trafficking ring with operations scattered in many states was broken up. The ring ran two broth-

els in Seattle, one near Seattle University and the other near SeaTac airport. Both used trafficked women.

Because the victims of trafficking are often prosecuted as criminals (e.g., for prostitution), law enforcement personnel need to know how to recognize trafficking when they see it and possess the information victims will need to get help. In addition, there are dozens of non-governmental organizations that, although underfunded and overworked, are crucial in the fight against the international slave industry.

Last year also saw the establishment of the Washington State Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons. This task force, which has been meeting regularly since June, includes members of the Washington legislature, the INS, the Refugee Women's Alliance, the UW Women's Center, the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy, the U.S. Attorney General's Office, the Department of Social and Health Services, many other NGOs and governmental departments, and, briefly, a representative of the King County Sheriff's Office. The task force will soon present their findings and recommendations.

Next legislative session Veloria, an 11th District Democrat, plans to introduce legislation that will require any assets seized in a trafficking case be used to aid the victims, and those involved with the project are optimistic of its success. The University of Washington's Women's Center held its second annual Conference on Trafficking in Women and Children. These acts are small but crucial steps in the fight against slavery. Ending slavery will take no less effort and cooperation among anti-slavery activists that it did to end the color-based slave trade more than 100 years ago. ■

To report trafficking in persons, call toll-free (888) 428-7581. A copy of the Washington State Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons report is available by calling 360-725-2886, or going to www.ocd.wa.gov. A study of the mail order bride industry is located at <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/aboutins/repstudies/Mobappa.htm>. Check out the United Nations' work on trafficking at www.undcp.org/odccp/trafficking_human_beings.html.

HUMPHREYS Continued from Page 1

of people before all this. Britain had a history of migrating children for quite a while, but the time period we're dealing with is post-World War II, from 1947 on through about 1967. They were moved all over the Empire, but mostly to Australia. Some of these poor children were as young as four years of age.

RC: *Why did the government send them to Australia?*

Humphreys: At that time, after World War II, the Australian government feared the growing Asian population. They wanted to populate the country with what was then called "good White British stock." They called upon Britain, and Britain sent them children.

RC: *How did the children come to live in these group homes in England?*

Humphreys: Many of them were children of single mothers. At that time, being a single mother carried a certain stigma. Some of the children were not in good health, and poor families couldn't afford their children. And some were from families that just weren't able to raise their children.

RC: *How did you discover these children?*

Humphreys: I was working in child protection services in Nottingham. One day, I received a letter from a woman, Mary, in Australia. She was from Nottingham, which is also my hometown. She said that she came to Australia on a boat as a very young girl, sent there by the British government. She had no passport, no birth certificate. She said she was an orphan, and wanted to find out more information about herself and her family.

I wrote her and told her that there must have been a mistake; children did not just get on a boat and go to Australia on their own. Neither I nor my colleagues had heard of anything like it. She promptly wrote right back and said that there were others in her situation.

When I looked into it I found that she was not an orphan. Her parents were still alive. Then, it was about 15 years ago, I put an ad in an Australian newspaper. It

said that if there was anyone who was brought over as a child from Britain at that time, to contact me. At that time when I placed the ad, I didn't even know if anyone would respond, but very quickly I got hundreds of responses. Thousands of children thought that they were orphans. And into all this, some parents tried to come back for their children. They were told that the

children had been adopted and were in England. Some were told that they were dead. They were all lied to.

RC: *What was the response from the British and Australian governments?*

Humphreys: Denial. That was the response. Any time something like this is revealed, things of this scale, the governments' response is to deny it. This was exposing extreme abuse at quite formidable levels. It took 11 years for a full inquiry.

What you're doing is exposing historic things from the past. Most historic exposures bring a response of denial. Many people, especially of my generation, walk around with a sense of guilt, but not feeling anything can be done. Most exposures happen so long after the fact that people can't do anything about it.

There was resistance as well. The governments were just waiting for the clock to run out on this.

Of course, the parents are getting older, and the child migrants are too. Had this not been revealed, many of these people would have died not knowing the truth. Many of them did. And really, that's why I'm doing some work in America. I've found some of the single mothers have migrated here. There are also some of the child migrants here

too, who have moved as adults.

RC: *There is now a trust that was set up for the child migrants. How is that funded?*

Humphreys: Well, it's a trust that was started about 15 years ago to see that these child migrants could return home to meet family. It's funded by the government, but the funding is wholly inadequate. I'm now the director of the trust.

RC: *How much more work do you think is needed regarding the British Child Migrants?*

Humphreys: I would say another decade of work is ahead of us. ■

"The governments were just waiting for the clock to run out on this. Of course the parents are getting older, and the child migrants are too. Had this not been revealed, many of these people would have died not knowing the truth."

Margaret Humphreys

"I wrote her and told her that there must have been a mistake; children did not just get on a boat and go to Australia on their own. She promptly wrote right back and said that there were others in her situation."

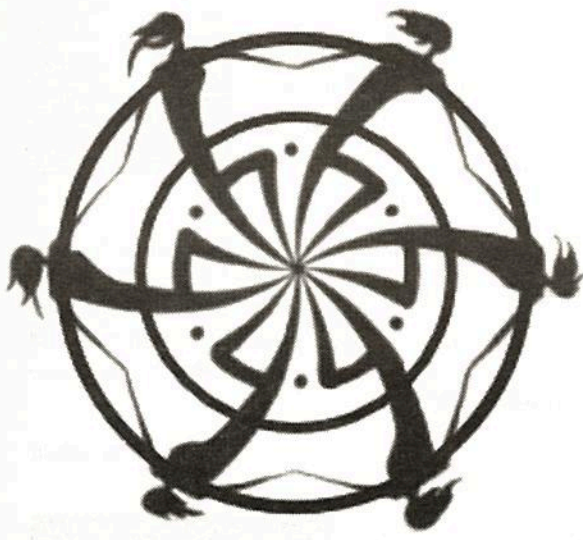
Margaret Humphreys

Now working in the U.S., Mrs. Humphreys continues to search out former British Child Migrants and their family members. She and her staff are also working to increase funding for the Trust, so families can afford to be reunited. For more

*information, please visit the Child Migrant Trust website: http://www.nottscc.gov.uk/child_migrants. Stories of these children inspired the novel *Trust Me*, by Lesley Pearce. There are also a number of non-fiction books available, including Philip Bean's *Lost Children of the Empire* and Perry Snow's *Neither Waif nor Stray: the Search for a Stolen Identity*.*

PHOTO OF MARGARET HUMPHREYS TAKEN ON NOVEMBER 15 AT THE UW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, WHERE SHE WAS GIVING A LECTURE ABOUT HER FINDINGS. PHOTO BY CASEY KELBAUGH.





On Common Ground

Homeless women gather to build trust and hope

By Melissa Brynn

The last women filter in from a Belltown alley. They are received with smiles and integrated into the casual conversation floating around the table. A few minutes after 2:30 Jenny, the facilitator, walks in, her bundled-up one-year-old child in her arms, and the sixth meeting of the Women's Justice Circle begins.

A blue cloth is stretched across the round table where the women sit; upon it rest scattered stones. With a warm smile Hilda, the co-facilitator, starts off the meeting by welcoming everyone to their sixth circle. With only two meetings left, the women are filled with excitement and are eager to be closing in on their action. "Let us all remember to be here and now," Hilda continues. "Focus on the energy of this group."

Then, with a quick gesture to the centerpiece, she introduces the theme of this week: working like a river. The meeting centers around personal reflections, stories, and then ideas relating back to a shared plan of action. **Women are here to change their world and their lives.**

For eight weeks every spring and fall, homeless women and housed volunteers come together for about two hours to address issues and barriers that low-income women commonly face. Each woman present is given time to speak without interruptions, and as the group comes to know itself, personal experiences are revealed, problems addressed, and friendship is gained. A conversation built on trust begins.

Circles "allow us women to build concrete relationships," says Hilda, one of the women present at Noel House. "Stability can grow upon that." Over time, with the help of a facilitator, they decide what sort of action to take in an attempt to assist in or resolve one of the barriers that they discussed.

On December 4, one of the circles' eight-week conversation culminated in a community meeting between 50 homeless women and social-service staff and representatives from the Seattle and King County Housing Authori-

ties — agencies charged with the public responsibility of housing the area's poor. The women asked hard questions. Why does the housing authority require that we have recent rental history? How can you make it easier to move from transitional to permanent housing? Can you set aside housing for non-elderly, non-disabled single women?

When you're homeless, finding housing can be a painfully long and frustrating process. Women's Justice Circles are an attempt to allow women who face this process to have their voices heard and to discuss points that they feel are important. By connecting women from different social and

economic backgrounds, circles can provide relief and education about an intimidating problem. Currently, there are 22 circles in the northwest. This fall, three circles met in Seattle at the Noel House, The Jubilee Women's Center, and the Compass Cascade apartment building. Each circle, she explains, is guided through the same steps, yet the

problems relating to housing differs depending upon the participants.

"It is all about social change," Hillman says. "Circles are designed to empower women with the knowledge that they do have a voice."

Women come to the Justice Circles after picking up information from a variety of places: shelters, transitional homes, universities, and churches. The common ground between the homeless and the housed participants is that they are all women and they share the desire to create change within the system. The reasons for attending are as different from one another as the women gathered throughout the circles. At a Thursday evening gathering at Jubilee House, co-facilitator Roberta Gay said she got involved because she had been homeless and depressed. "I decided that I wanted to make other homeless women's journeys easier than mine had been."

On the other side of the spectrum was Cori, who believed that "it was high time I left my cozy world and saw what life was like for others. I wanted to work with a group of women who were trying to make a difference for each other." She smiled at the circle comfortably perched upon couches and chairs at the Jubilee House. "It is not just about words. To be able to be a part of this has really meant something for me." Differences are embraced and common threads are found which weave each

woman together in their fight towards justice.

Social change takes time. When discussing difficulties related to low-income women, change at times feels impossible. Instead of trying to tackle the enormity of it all, each circle decides upon a certain aspect of housing difficulties that they would like to tackle. For the group which met this fall at Compass Cascade, this meant dealing with the availability of housing for single women. At Jubilee House, the women addressed the need for education. Women at Noel House focused their attention on creating a place for women to work while obtaining skills for the future. From these focused issues they decide upon an action, which can range from proposing rooftop gardens in Belltown, to organizing an educational event like the meeting with housing officials.

When Judy began attending the circles, she says that she "felt like these issues were overwhelming — so vast and complex that I wondered if we could make any progress in such a short period of time."

With skills gained in networking and a strong backbone of support, women can use their own voice to create change. It is a concrete way to tackle problems in one's own life, while learning about and helping others.

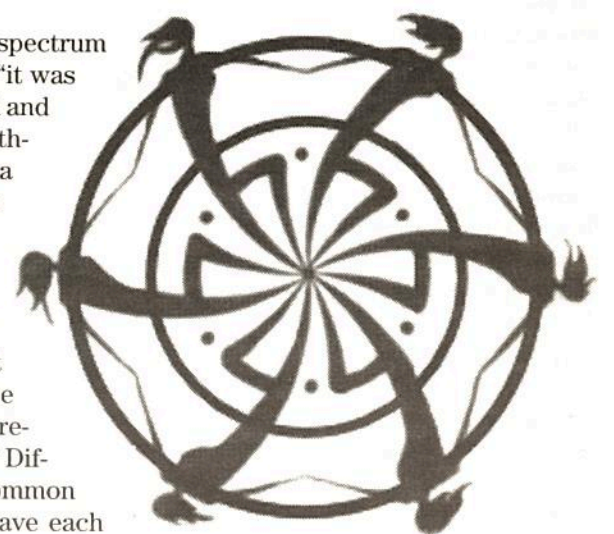
"It is not only to the homeless that the problems related to homelessness seem overwhelming," says Emily, a homeless woman who joined the circle at Noel House. "I do not think that most people are meaning to be apathetic; I just think they do not know how to deal with the issue. Now I can take the situation where I used to feel helpless and be able to take an action against that."

"Once you realize that you do make a difference, it is hard not to get involved," says Mary, part of the Jubilee women's circle. "We can now take this back to our own communities and create a ripple effect that started here." Upon completion of the circle, women leave with their own power, their own voice, and a desire to continue spreading their experience. Chris Hillman has seen it take place before.

"I really believe in this process," she says. "I think that if more women were involved that we would really start to see a difference. We would love to have hundreds of circles. I have seen that change can be created one circle at a time." ■

"Once you realize that you do make a difference, it is hard not to get involved. We can now take this back to our own communities and create a ripple effect."

— Mary, part of the Jubilee women's circle



Street Talk

Interviews and photos by Signe Drake

Each issue, *Real Change* hits the streets and makes some inquiries. This time we went to the Pike Place Market and asked, "Who are the three greatest women in the world and why?"

"I knew a woman who had brain cancer. When she found out that it was inoperable and she was terminal, her doctor told her when it happened she was going to go very quickly. It was just a few months ago that she said that, and the way she told me, she said 'I have accepted it, I am at peace with it.' She was one of my regular customers. I don't see her anymore."

— Brenda Moore



"The women who are brave every day, the women who take a stand in really intolerable situations, who care for their kids, who care for other people's kids, who stand up and say no way. Barbara Jordan was a hero for me when I was a kid because she was so articulate and so honorable and so strong. I can think of a lot of environmentalists, in particular Hazel Wolf. She was wonderful because she never stopped. The women who are working: social workers; teachers; strong, brave women. Barbara Lee, the congresswoman from Oakland who was the one person to

vote no on giving absolute power to President Bush and the military. I mean, she's like way out there — brave and honorable."

— Suz Babayan



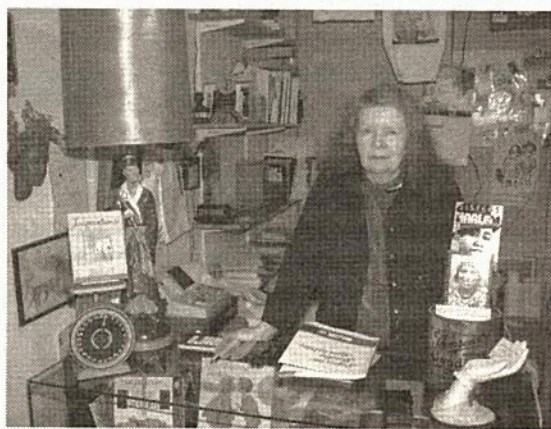
"I think Eleanor Roosevelt did a lot for our country. She was an instigator of change for women's rights and rights for everybody. She did a lot to change this country. My mom's young life was during the Depression, so she had a lot of struggles. She raised four children and did a very good job. It was always her dream to go on to college, and in that era she couldn't go. She had two brothers and another sister, and the boys were the ones who got to go to college, the girls didn't. I think she was just born at the wrong time. I appreciate her for what she did and what she gave

up. I have always held Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in high regard, just for her grace. She really held herself with such dignity and had such a hard time and she handled it very well. She was such a good mother and focused on her family. Her family came first, and I just respected that."

— Deborah Puvogel

"I don't know that I could especially single out three particular women. Certainly my mother, because of her humanist values, her work in the struggle for civil and equal rights. And Shirley Chisholm, who ran for president in the seventies. They said that Jesse Jackson was the first African-American to run for president, but that is not true, Shirley Chisholm was, to my knowledge. Charlotte Perkins Gilman would be another one, because of her book *The Yellow Wallpaper*, which really gave a depiction, for the first time for the popular culture, of a woman's journey into madness because of the strictures placed on her by society. *The Yellow Wallpaper* first came out in ghost story anthologies, but it wasn't a ghost story. I would think of her as one of the great contributors to the study of how society affects women mentally and physically. Another one would be Virginia Woolf, because she wrote *A Room of One's Own*, which was really the first critical examination of a woman's right to do with her life as she wished. I would say those women would be at the top of my list, but among a great many others."

— Adrian DeCoster, owner of the Women's Hall of Fame store in Pike Place Market



"Oprah, because she is inspirational and positive. Princess Diana, because she was inspirational and positive. Barbara Streisand, because of her intelligence. She is kind of politically outspoken, she stands up for what she believes in."

— Marieta Davis

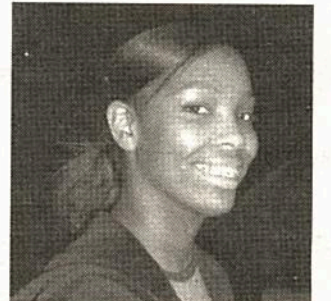


"My grandmother, because she helped raise me. Eleanor Roosevelt, because she was one of the great first ladies. Gwen Stefani: She is a singer [with No Doubt, an all-male punk band]. She's not really overtly feminine. I don't know, there's just something about her. She is very comfortable with herself."

— Akemi Yamaguchi

"Maya Angelou, because she was a great poet and she is a very strong Black woman. Zora Neale Hurston, because she writes very good books. They are fiction but they could also be true. Aaliyah: she was very beautiful and she always said you can do anything that you put your mind to. Her lyrics were always real, you know. She was true to herself."

— Ashlee



"Oprah, because I have seen her interviewed and she has very interesting and strong conflicts. She does these really great health and get-well programs that really motivate you, where it touches deep down to inspire you to want to do better for yourself and the ones around you. Through her I have learned how to become a giving tree; it has made my world a little bit better. I have learned to stop and smell the roses and start giving to my sister or my friends or my girlfriends, doing the things we need to do to nurture one another as females."

— Carla Humphrey

"For me, Rosa Parks is one of my greatest women because of her activism and standing up for civil rights, and that's for everyone, the right to have the opportunity to be treated with decency."

— Irene Dixon



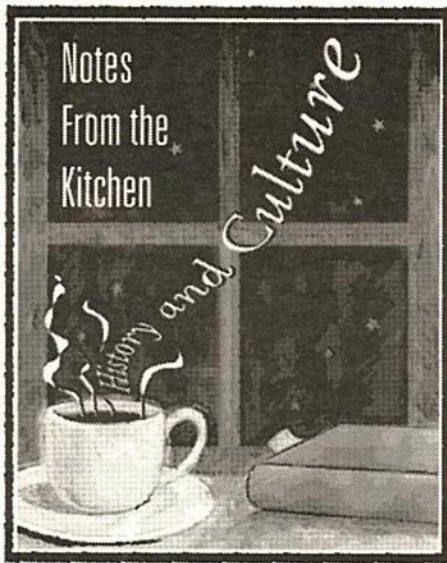
"Cleopatra. She was a very intelligent woman. Her father was training her to become the pharaoh. She spoke all kinds of languages. She was a great woman. I know people are going to frown on this one: Madonna. She is an intelligent woman too. I believe she really has her head on straight."

— Frances Mullen

"My mother, because she raised me and I am who I am today because of her. She was my mother and my father and she is a wonderful, great, strong, independent, funny, attractive, intelligent woman that I would like to be like. I see her at least once a week; she is not only my mom but she is a great, great friend. I respect her opinion more than anybody's. My sister, because she is so wonderful. She is so funny and smart and beautiful and she's a great mother and great friend. She helped a lot with making me the person I am, and I admire her and love her more than anything. Madonna, just because I really respect what she is about. I think she is beautiful and intelligent, a real go-getter, and has come from nothing to have everything. She is still beautiful in her forties, and I think she's a great role model for women even though she made mistakes. We all have, and she learned a lot of lessons and I think she has taught women a lot of things, that they can make mistakes and still be wonderful." ■

— Shana Howerton





Wolf at the Door for Christmas

By Liz Smith

It's the Christmas season, and I would like to dedicate this particular column to everyone in Seattle who is out of work, poor, or just plain broke. I know how it feels, believe me, and it's extra hard this time of year. Back when my child was little, we lived in an apartment about as big as a good-sized igloo. We slept on the floor because we didn't have a bed. Our big excursions for the week were to the library and the food bank. When it rained we stayed home because of the holes in our shoes.

Being poor does not improve your character (that's a myth invented by guilty congressmen), but it does force you to become creative and resourceful, especially when you have a young child. You don't want your kid to feel deprived, so you become expert at finding things to do for Christmas which cost very little money. That's what I'll tell you about in today's column; these are all places we've gone and things we've done for Christmases gone by. When you make the Figgy Pudding, buy your ingredients at a store where things are sold in bulk, so you won't be paying eight dollars just to get your cinnamon.

A Christmas season custom in some families is to have 12 days of Christmas, from December 25 to January 5. This gives more emphasis on the reason for Christmas — the birth of the Baby Jesus — and less on the presents, that is, if you're lucky enough to have presents. That way, there isn't an overload on Christmas Day, followed by a letdown where everyone is ordered to their room to write those excruciating thank-you letters. This also gives parents an extra 12 days of good behavior from the children. Think of the possibilities. You won't have to lift a finger, at least until January 6.

I want to mention a few things to read. First, the *Seattle Times* publishes a thoroughly complete guide to seasonal events each year on the third Tuesday of November. You can find it online at www.seattletimes.com. It's useful, but depressing, as it also tells you about \$25 Santa Breakfasts and \$80 Messiah concerts. Second, there is a short story by John Cheever, called "Christmas Is a Sad Season for the Poor." It's a good story to read when you are moping around on Christmas Day, eating Chinese food with the shades drawn. Third, if you can find it, James Stevenson wrote a great kid's book called *The Worst Person's Christmas*, about a cranky person named "The Worst" and how he came to like Christmas. I don't usually put want-ads in my column, but I would pay good American money to get my hands on a copy of this book — call our office if you have one to sell.

Now for the events — a few of these have already happened, but I list them so you can put them on your calendar for next year.

On the second Saturday in December you can breeze up to Greenlake after nightfall to walk the lake and see the luminarias glowing all along the bordering path. My child and I went early one year and filled up hundreds of paper bags with sand and small candles. Very jolly. We drank our hot chocolate to warm up and then after sundown joined the crowds flowing along the path. The only thing was, people walked with maniacal speed, and several times we were almost run over by Mad Max moms pushing baby strollers. It was like they were all thinking about how much good this walk was doing for their cardiovascular system, rather than enjoying a peaceful Christmas ritual. So be warned: it is quite pretty, but you better be in good shape and have good dodging skills.

So, that's a place to go. A place not to go, unless you can pass the credit check at the palace gates, is University Village, which has been tarted up to within an inch of its life. They will have lots of beautiful things to look at. They will have a Santa Claus, but for your child to have a visit with him, you must first pay an extortion fee. To give them credit, they are contributing to charities and have a Giving Tree, but real actual poor people are most definitely not welcome. To wit, they don't allow our *Real Change* vendors to sell their papers there. Now, I love money grubbing capitalists as much as the next person, but if you're low on cash, there really isn't very much to do and you will just feel bored and desolate if you go there.

An event unique to Seattle is the Christmas Ship Festival, produced by Argosy Cruises. Throughout December, a parade of beautifully lit ships departs from different docks, such as Shilshole Marina, Pier 55 downtown, or Kirkland City Dock. The flotilla of ships travels to more than 45 different waterfront sites where they anchor for 20-30 minutes while choirs on board sing Christmas songs. You can buy a ticket to be on one of the boats, eat dinner, and talk to Santa. A portion of the ticket sales benefits the Seattle Times Fund for the Needy. The nice thing about these floating vessels of good cheer is that at many of the places where they drop anchor, you can stand around a roaring bonfire on the beach and be serenaded by the choirs while reveling in the beauty of the ships. For this there is no charge. Here are a few of the viewing dates and places that are easy to get to by bus: Ballard Locks, December 15, 7:45 – 8:15 p.m.; Madison Park, December 19, 7:35 – 8:05 p.m.; Gasworks Park, December 23, 8:30 – 9 p.m. For more information call 623-1445 or go online at www.argosycruises.com.

A great place to go in December is the Seattle Center Winterfest. There is something for everyone. The Fisher Pavilion has an ice skating rink, which costs \$6 for adults, \$4 for children. For little children, there is a carousel outside which is only a dollar. For those who enjoy standing out in the cold, the fountain will be playing Christmas carols. When you are sick to death of seasonal music, you can find relief in the main building, where they have an elaborate model train layout which is pretty impressive. You can buy a cheap bad meal at one of the fast food restaurants, and then when you're ready to go back to your hut, there are 10 or so different bus routes to take you there.

The first Friday in December (this is one of those for next year) sees the Great Figgy Pudding Contest, from 6 – 9 p.m. Groups entering to sing get pledges similar to walk-a-thons, with the money going to Pike Market Senior Center and the Downtown Food Banks. The groups of singers dress up and also make up their own words, so you might hear something like, "God rest ye merry Congressmen, you didn't extend unemployment benefits." Spectators vote for the group they like best. Want to enter next year? Call 728-2773.

There are just a few places left that I want to tell you about. Although none of these places have a dress code, it's probably better if you don't look like you're heading out the door to change the oil in your car. That is, if you have a car, but you know what I mean. I'm not saying this is to be a nag, but because it's not fun to go out someplace and be glared at because you look like a slob.

Do you have a little one who wants to see Santa? Try the Bon Marché or Nordstrom's downtown. The Bon has their traditional model train layout in the window at Fourth and Stewart; Nordstrom's doesn't have any trains, but they do have live piano music. The closer it gets to Christmas, the longer the lines of parents and children. Be prepared with survival gear — you know, bags of Cheerios, library books, favorite stuffed animals, all that paraphernalia that smart parents don't leave home without. Neither of these stores are crass enough to demand a cover charge for visiting Santa. Pictures are available for a fee, but I believe this year there are very many people who aren't able to afford those kinds of luxuries. When we used to go there to see Santa, I would pretend I was a rich yet eccentric person who declined pictures as a matter of choice—and if I

Continued on Page 14

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Friday, Nov. 8, 7:50 a.m., 300 Block Harvard Avenue. Police received a call about a 25-year-old male transient who was lying in a pool of water on complainant's property. Complainant stated that the man was periodically yelling to himself and had his eyes closed. He was also saying that somebody was chasing him. Officer approached the man, who then stated that somebody was forcing him to lie on the ground. He said he was also hearing voices, and suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome and depression. He explained he was out of medication, and asked to go to Harborview. He was transported to HMC for a mental evaluation.

Friday, Nov. 22, 11:30 a.m., Second Avenue and South Washington St. Officer observed suspect engaged in apparent narcotics activity. The man, a transient black male aged 35, was found to be on active supervision with the Department of Corrections. A search of his vehicle revealed his sleeping bag in the locked trunk of the car, along with 2 crack pipes and drug paraphernalia. He was found to be in violation with the D.o.C. for using cocaine, and was booked into King County Jail.

Friday, Nov. 22, 5:35 p.m., Seventh and Blanchard St. Officers observed the suspect, a transient white male aged 31, walking in the 600 block of Blanchard. He was known to be on active supervision with the D.o.C. He was stopped and questioned, and admitted to using heroin. This was a violation of his parole, and he was booked into King County Jail.

Friday, Nov. 22, 8:15 p.m., 400 Block Second Ave. A witness flagged down a police car and stated that she had just seen an assault occur. The suspect, a transient black male aged 43, had punched the victim, a transient Native American female aged 36, in the face. The male fled the scene, and the victim entered a nearby shelter. Officers contacted the victim, and she stated that her boyfriend of one year had just punched her in the face. She had confronted him about an alleged infidelity and he became enraged, punching her and tearing up some documents belonging to her. She explained it was the third time he had assaulted her, but that she had only made one report to the police. The officer mentioned that the suspect could be arrested for this, and the victim became uncooperative. She said she was alone on the streets, and did not need to aggravate the man further. She stated she planned to leave the city soon. An area check for the suspect was unsuccessful. Victim suffered a bruised eye and cheek, but declined medical attention. ■

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

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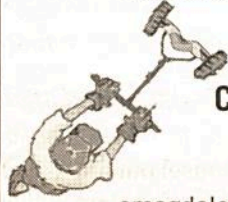


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WOLF Continued from Page 12

did want them, would employ the services of our own personal live-in Santa. Poor people have so many more opportunities to use their imaginations.

One year, in a spirit of daring, we tiptoed into the Four Seasons Olympic Hotel on a cold December day. My child and I wandered around the lobby, listening to the choir singing, and we sank gratefully onto one of their deep, comfortable sofas to listen. That is, one of us sat, and one of us was bouncing up and down testing the springs. There is something about gracious serenity which brings out the restlessness in a four year old, so we went upstairs to the Teddy Bear Suite. It is a charming room, especially set up for very young children, full of rocking chairs, books about Christmas, plates of cookies, and

teddy bears perched everywhere. Very endearing. The choirs are in the lobby on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m., December 3 - 19. It's a nice way to spend a peaceful hour.

In the lobby of the Sheraton Crest they have the most fantastic gingerbread — not houses, but palatial mansions, castles with moats, four-story Victorian structures with tiny lights inside. These architectural wonders are created by local chefs and are on display until December 26, after which they are auctioned off, and the money goes to the United Way. What I'd like to see is a gingerbread maximum security prison, but no one ever seems to make one of those. Anyway, it's worth the trip and we never miss it.

I would like to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas, and also to my friend Bernadette and her family down there in La Serena, Chile.

Warm and spicy figgy pudding

Although this is called a pudding, it comes out as a very moist cake. You can bake it in a soufflé dish, or a six-cup capacity tube pan, which will yield better results, but a soufflé dish will work okay. Serve after cooling for a little while, or your whipped cream will melt.

10 ounces dried calmyrna or other figs
1 3/4 cup cold water
2 ounces (1/2 stick) unsalted butter,
room temperature
1 extra large egg
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup mild flavor molasses
1/2 teaspoon finely grated lemon peel
(yellow part only)
1/2 cup buttermilk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup chopped walnuts

1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon finely grated nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon cardamom
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ginger
1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

Garnish

8 ounces heavy cream
3 tablespoons sugar

1. Cut the stems from the figs. Slice lengthwise. Discard any that are black inside. In a small stainless steel pot (not aluminum), cover with the cold water. Simmer the figs for two hours, with the lid partly covering the pot. Then remove the lid and simmer 15 - 20 more minutes to evaporate the liquid. You should end up with no more than one tablespoon liquid remaining. Remove from heat. Mash well and let cool completely.

2. Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour your baking dish and set aside.

3. With an electric mixer, cream butter until fluffy. Add the egg and cooled fig puree. Mix in the honey, molasses, lemon peel, buttermilk, vanilla, and walnuts. Scrape down the sides of the bowl from time to time.

4. In a separate bowl, stir together the baking soda, baking powder, salt, and spices. Blend into the fig pudding mixture.

5. Stir the flour in by hand to avoid toughening your pudding. Pour into prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes; lower heat to 325 degrees and bake for 50 minutes, or until a butter knife inserted into the middle comes out clean. Let cool for about one hour.

6. When serving, whip the cream with the sugar in a chilled bowl until it forms soft peaks. Spoon on top of each slice of pudding as a garnish. ■

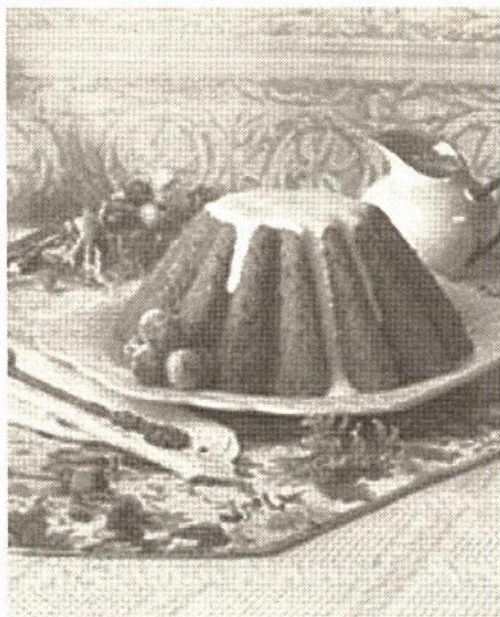
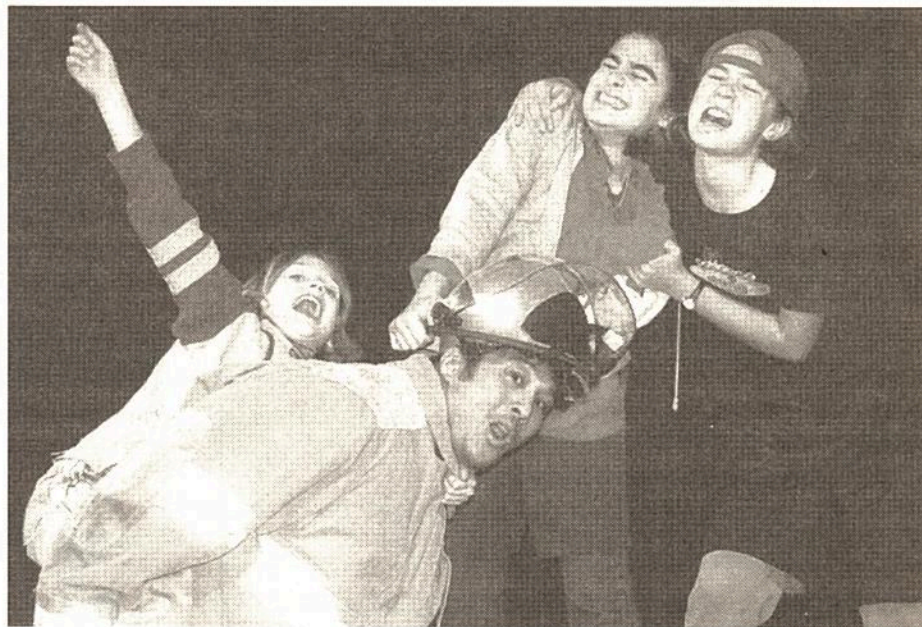
**Sweet Holiday Gusto**

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAYNELESS PROMOTIONS.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, by Barbara Robinson

Through December 29

Seattle Public Theatre

Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.

\$10-18; tickets at 325-6500

Review by Molly Rhodes

Of all the Christmas- or holiday-themed shows on offer around Seattle right now, Barbara Robinson's *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the Seattle Public Theatre certainly isn't the most traditional or irreverent or edgy or politically sly. Yet what it does offer — a 90-minute tale of the making of a community church's Christmas Pageant and how we learn to accept others who aren't like us — is done with such gusto and sweetness that you can't but like the final results. At the heart of the tale are the Herdmans, five mischievous welfare kids who prefer to intimidate their fellow Pageant cast members rather than bow to the traditional Pageant story. Around these five, director Shana Bestock weaves a constant flow of giggles and shrieks, packing the stage with a variety of small people and a smattering of adults and always keeping the action going.

There are several standouts in the cast. Gladys may be the smallest Herdman, but what she lacks in size actress Emma Sinai-Yunker more than makes up for in lung power. She's cute as a button, and beware the fool who tells her as much. As her eldest sister Imogene, Bryony Thompson commands the stage whenever she is on it, either with a withering look from behind black-lined eyes or with her affecting transformation into the mother of baby Jesus.

To complement the show's theme of inclusiveness and understanding, there is also an art exhibit in the Public Theatre's lobby from artists who haven't always had the luxury of making art. The paintings come from the Sanctuary Art Center, an arts center for homeless teens in the University District, and StreetLife Gallery, Real Change's gallery for homeless and low-income artists in Belltown. ■

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Mid-December Notables

Thursday 12/12

Global Economy Working Group of the Church Council of Greater Seattle meeting. 7 p.m., at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Conference Room, 1245 10th Ave. E. Info Mary Margaret Pruitt 206-382-3785.

Saturday 12/14

Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist will be doing anti-war tabling, Noon - 3 p.m., Saturdays, at Westlake Park, near 4th & Pine downtown. All are welcome to help. Info vwvawai@oz.net.

Antioch University Seattle Center for Creative Change offers a series of free educational classes, **Incubating Social Enterprises**, 1 - 4 p.m., at Antioch University, Room 201-B, 2326 6th Ave., at Battery. Info 206-268-4707 or habib@thegarden.net.

Seattle International Human Rights Coalition presents "Local Cops, Global Cops: Militarization, Privilege, and Human Rights," on the links between human rights at home and abroad. Speakers include Dustin Washington, from the Peoples Coalition for Justice, and Geri Haynes, from Physicians for Social Responsibility. 1 - 5 p.m., at Miller Community Center, 330 9th Ave. E. between Republican and John. Info Frank Zucker 206-547-7735.

Fundraising dinner for the Orphans of AIDS Victims of Ethiopia. AIDS is devastating Ethiopia, and children orphaned by this epidemic are in dire need. Organized and sponsored by the Seattle branch of the Ethiopian Organization for Social Services for AIDS; suggested donation including dinner catered by local Ethiopian restaurants \$50. 6 - 11 p.m., at Ingraham High School, 1819 N. 135th. Info and ticket reservations Yodit Wongelemengist yodit@u.washington

[.edu](mailto:juliwallace@u.washington.edu) or Julie Wallace juliwallace@u.washington.edu.

Sunday 12/15

Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Holiday Party with festive potluck dinner. FOR is an international pacifist organization, all are welcome. 5 - 8 p.m., at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N. 70th. Info 206-789-5565.

Tuesday 12/17

"Civil Society in Everyday Life," a discussion with Stephanie Ellis-Smith, Founder and Executive Director of the Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas. The format is informal and participatory. 8 - 9:30 a.m., at Seattle University, 900 Broadway, in Room 330 at the south end of the campus. Free, drop-ins are welcome. Info Put Barber 206-329-5640 or pbarber@tess.org.

Learn more about Iraq. Bert Sacks, a Seattle activist, will speak about his recent trip to Iraq and how the Treasury Department has fined him \$10,000 for admitting that he took medicine to Iraq to help sick and dying children. Sponsored by Interfaith Network of Concern for the People of Iraq and others. 7 - 8:30 p.m., at Redmond Regional Library, 15990 NE 85th, Redmond. Info 206-632-6021 or <http://www.endiraqsanctions.org>.

One Big Union, 2nd in a series of four half-hour documentaries exploring the colorful history of the Industrial Workers of the World, the Wobblies, a **Radical Labor Movement** seeking to organize all workers into a single union. The program highlights the Wobbly concept of direct action, the Lawrence textile strike of 1912, free speech fights and repression by employers and government. 9:30 p.m., on KUOW 94.9 FM radio. Info Jeff Hansen 206-221-2731 or jwhansen@kuow.org.

Wednesday 12/18

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

Thursday 12/19

Radical Women hosts **Women in War Zones: Eyewitness Accounts** from the Middle East. Two local travelers to global hotspots will give a first-hand view of how women and children are being impacted by military aggression and economic sanctions. Ginny NiCarthy participated in a recent brigade to Iraq, Nuha Mousa has just returned from visiting her family in Palestine. 7:30 p.m., at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S. Middle Eastern supper with vegetarian option at 6:30 p.m., for \$6.50 donation. Info 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453.

Saturday 12/21

Interfaith Network of Concern for the People of Iraq/Citizens Concerned for the People of Iraq meeting, working to end the **U.S./U.N. Sanctions Against Iraq** which are killing thousands of children monthly. 3 p.m., at University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave. NE. Info Andrew Fung 206-568-8178 or Rev. Rich Gamble 206-632-6021 or <http://www.endiraqsanctions.org>.

Sunday 12/22

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

"**Palestine: It's Hell**," a slide show and presentation by John Reese, who has been in Palestine for seven months working with the International Solidarity Move-

ment and the Palestinian Hydrology Group. 5 - 7 p.m., at the Seattle Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave. Donate what you can to help John return to Palestine. Info 206-262-0721.

Tuesday 12/24

One Big Union, 3rd in a series of four half-hour documentaries exploring the colorful history of the Industrial Workers of the World, the Wobblies, a **Radical Labor Movement**. The series looks at the ideas and actions of the union in its heyday, produced in KUOW studios and funded by a grant from the University of Washington Commission for the Humanities. 9:30 p.m., on KUOW 94.9 FM radio. Info Jeff Hansen 206-221-2731 or jwhansen@kuow.org.

Tuesday 12/31

Radical Women's Annual New Year Celebration, the red hot spot for rebel movers and shakers. Festivities include a tantalizing buffet, dancing, comedy spoofs, and a no-host bar. Door donation \$5, buffet donation \$14.95. Sliding scale and work exchanges available for low income. 8:30 p.m., at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., 4 blocks south of Alaska St. Info 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453.

Ongoing

Peace Vigil and leafleting to protest **U.S. policy in Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, and Iraq** by Women in Black. Women wear black, men welcome to stand on the side or leaflet. 5 - 6 p.m., every Thursday at Westlake Park, near 4th and Pine. Info 206-208-9715 or <http://www.scn.org/~wibnw>.

Peace Vigil, demonstrate your commitment to peace. Please join us in our **non-violent witness**. All peaceful people invited, bring signs, leaflets, and your friends. 2 - 3 p.m., every Sunday at Greenlake, near the intersection of 63rd and E. Greenlake Way N. Info greenlakepeacevigil@hotmail.com or <http://www.greenlakepeacevigil.org>. ■

Computer Corner



Sign up for Classes NOW!

The Mac Workshop has two FREE classes open to all:

Introduction to Macintosh: Learn or brush up on your word processing and writing skills while using Microsoft Word and Internet-based tools like email and online search engines. Students are encouraged to bring in specific projects or areas they need help with. Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30.

Introduction to Photoshop: Receive basic training on Photoshop application, an ideal program for artists and others who are interested in graphic design and publication. Clients have used Photoshop to create greeting cards and have work published in the Real Change newspaper. Saturdays, 1:30-2:30.

All classes will be on Macintosh computers and will be held at 2129 Second Avenue, Seattle.

For more information, contact Sal at (206) 441-3247 ext. 205, or macworkshop@realchangenews.org.

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citizens participation project



Tell Governor Locke: Kids Not Cuts!

Issue: Governor Gary Locke releases his proposed supplemental budget for next year on December 17. This new budget will be designed to handle an expected \$2.5 billion deficit, much of which was revealed and exacerbated in the last six months. Governor Locke should not be allowed to cut off children, families, and disadvantaged people in his quest to balance the budget.

Background: The state government is facing its biggest fiscal crisis in more than 20 years. Unless state lawmakers are willing to raise revenue to make up for the budget shortfall, massive cuts will occur. Cuts to services to children and families will not only be inevitable, but will likely be deeper than cuts to other areas of the state budget. Entire programs that keep kids safe and healthy could be eliminated.

The Governor has not made any definite statements about cuts to programs for children and families, yet advocacy groups like Children's Alliance believe there is still cause for alarm. Consider this example: Despite years of progress in children's health care, state officials continue to describe the children's health insurance caseload as a "problem." One state official has even suggested that cutting 150,000 children off of health insurance might be an acceptable solution.

Possible cuts that could be proposed in Governor Locke's budget include:

- 15 percent reduction in Medicaid payments to pharmacies
- Elimination of interpreter services for Medicaid recipients
- Elimination of state supplemental payments to SSI recipients
- Closing of 60 additional beds at Western State Hospital
- Elimination of 66 secure residences for adolescents
- Freezing of hiring additional DSHS developmental disabilities case managers and reducing staff at residential habilitation centers.
- 10 percent reduction in funding to community AIDS networks.

Action: The Governor's budget is the first step in the state's budget making process. It is also a great opportunity to use your voice to speak up for kids. When the legislature convenes on January 13, 2003, the Governor's budget will be the starting point for the debate.

Contact Governor Locke with the message below. You can leave messages for the Governor via the Legislative Hotline, (800) 562-6000, or email him via his webpage. You can also call his office directly at (360) 902-4111.

Message: When you develop your budget proposal, please protect programs for children, families, and other vulnerable citizens. This includes child care, health care, food assistance, public health services, and child abuse and juvenile crime prevention programs.

I urge you to propose new revenue. Without revenue solutions, children and families in Washington will lose supports that keep kids healthy and provide families with tools and opportunities for success. Many children are already suffering from past budget cuts. The budget should not be balanced on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens. ■

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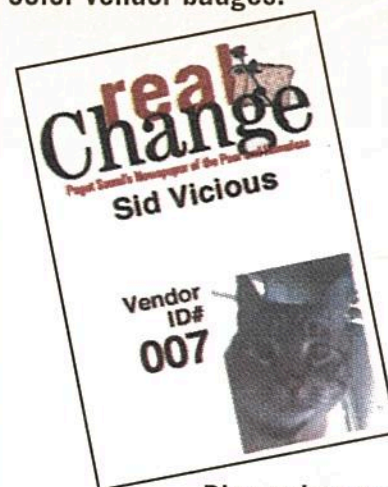
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