

FEB 6, 2003

real Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 10, No. 4

\$1 PER

Feb. 6-19, 2003
Please buy from
badged vendors only

Burien Considers Eviction of Poor

Also: Rethinking the Draft • Stinkfoot •
Goodbye to StreetLife • Madeline DeFrees



RECEIVED

FEB 11 2003

SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

GRAPHIC BY JAKE DILLON.

Forging a Path to Oneself

Northwest poet Madeline DeFrees has earned the right to do as she pleases

Interview by Molly Rhodes and Stan Burriss

Ever since Northwest native and resident Madeline DeFrees wrote her first poem more than 70 years ago, she has been hooked on the written word. During her 38 years as a Catholic nun, she perfected her craft and began passing her love of metaphor, rhythm, and image to her students at Holy Names College in Spokane, the University of Montana, and the University of Massachusetts. She is loathe to turn down any reading or speaking engagement in the Seattle area she has called home for the past 18 years, always willing to reach out to new and evolving poetry audiences.

Now it is not just her students and her many local fans who state their appreciation for her dedication and poetic vision. In November 2002, DeFrees received the Washington State Book Award for *Blue Dusk: New and Selected Poems*, spanning more than 50 years of her published poetry collections. And as if that weren't enough to recognize all DeFrees has given and continues to give with her life, she was then awarded the 2002 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. The prestigious prize is given out by the Academy of American Poets and *The Nation* magazine for the "most outstanding book of poetry."

DeFrees recently sat down with *Real Change* to talk about her life, her poetry, and her teaching, and how the three have grown to become one.

Real Change: When did you first start writing?

Madeline DeFrees: I started writing when I was in the seventh grade. I was 11 years old, and we were assigned to do a Mother's Day poem. I wrote one which was really pretty dreadful, and it was proclaimed the best in the class. And after that I just always did it.

RC: Do you remember when you first considered yourself to be a writer?

DeFrees: Well, I must have had some fantasy about it when I did that [Mother's Day] poem, because after that I wrote, I just wrote all the time. In high school, I sent poems to the *Oregon Journal* and the *Oregonian*, and they published them. But they were still really bad poems. I think now, in many schools, students have the ability to have a real poet teach in the schools, so they have a better idea of it. If you just leave high

school students on their own, what they'll probably do is write to test experience — you know, like I'd write these grandiose things called "Facing Life." I didn't know what facing life meant at that point.

RC: When did you write your first "good" poem, then?

DeFrees: Probably after I was in the convent.

Real Change: You entered when you were 16?

DeFrees: Yes. While I was there, during what they call the canonical year, you couldn't read anything you wanted. Almost everything was theology or philosophy. It's after the first six months. And so I read Gerard Manley Hopkins' poems all that time, and I wrote imitations of him. He's a great poet, but a bad model, because he's so idiosyncratic. It would be like imitating e.e. cummings. So it was only after I kind of moved away from that, I think it was 1949 actually, I would have been... 30 years old before I had a publication that was borderline significant.

Continued on Page 14



Look for the Mockingbird Times Inside!





Give it back

Dear *Real Change*,

Thank you for your article on the repeal of the estate tax ["The Rich Get More," January 9]. This is a huge issue facing our country right now. About 85 percent of America's wealth will change hands over the next decade. If we allow that wealth to accumulate privately, we give away the power of our government to offer opportunities (such as adequate child nutrition, college, small business loans, and even the ability to defend ourselves) to all its citizens. While we may not always be pleased with the way our country is run,

the government is accountable to the public in a way that private citizens and companies are not.

The estate tax is a critical way to ensure a more equitable economy. By taxing the top 2 percent of the most wealthy estates, we create a stable government more able to resist the lobbying of wealthy interests. While many of the families and companies affected by the estate tax have worked hard to accumulate their wealth, they have also benefited from the freedom they have enjoyed as Americans. It is only fair that they give back to the country that has fostered an environment in which they could make these incredible fortunes.

Sincerely,
Tamara Caulkins
Seattle

Liberty and justice for all

Dear *Real Change*,

Thank you for your coverage of the Branch Villa Health Care Center, the local nursing home here in the Central District ["Still Going: Despite the odds, Central District nursing home survives," December 26]. The potential displacement of Branch Villa residents out of the neighborhood, with very little

warning and absolutely no choice, was a frightening and yet typical display of marginalizing the will of people with disabilities.

However, it's important to note that the good of the nursing home and the good of people with disabilities are not always one and the same. The nursing home bias within Medicare and Medicaid routinely disregards the self-determination of people with disabilities. Legally, any person who is eligible for nursing home services cannot be denied a nursing home bed if one is available, but we do not have the same right to personal attendant care based in the community.

This produces a system of forced nursing home placement of people with disabilities. A 2000 Loyola University Chicago study showed that 65 percent of nursing home residents would prefer not to live in the nursing home if the opportunity were available. Nursing home residents are often treated more like patient inmates with little choice on fundamental human activities such as what they eat, what they wear, how often they bathe, where they go, and how they spend their money. Further, 85 to 90 percent of people with disabilities are sexually assaulted in their lifetime. We must take seriously the relationship between forced institutionalization within nursing homes and the epidemic rate of abuse experienced by the disability community.

Slowly, the era of institutionalization is waning. In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that the unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities in institutions and nursing homes may constitute discrimination based on disability. The Court ruled that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires states to offer community-based services as a real option. In Washington state,

Continued on Page 18

Staff, Board & Advisers

Executive Director

Timothy Harris

Empowerment Organization

Rachael Myers

Managing Editor

Adam Holdorf

Production Manager

Molly Rhodes

Volunteer Coordinator and Officer Manager

Shawn Steen

Vendor Services Manager

Lily North

MacWorkshop Coordinator

Richard Salway

Intern

Drew Rheed, Megan Doyle, Bess Dwyer, Simon-Ward Geraghty, R.V. Murphy, Adam Matuska, Robin Mohr, Hope Solo

Board of Directors

Jon Gould (Pres.), Wes Browning (VP), Al Poole (Treas.), Bruce Wirth (Sec.), Scott Nodland, Luis Garcia, JoJo Tran, Carole Frisell, Robert Siegel, Rebecca Kavoussi, Cho Jze Yang, Faith Wilder Grothaus

Editorial Committee

Wes Browning, Stan Burris, Anitra Freeman, John Huff, Michele Marchand, Kevin Vanderhoef, Paul Von Kempf Jr.

Contributing Writers

Peter Bloch Garcia, David Bloom, Lorian Elbert, Sandra Enger, Trevor Griffey, Andrea Iglar, Jessica Kastner, Bruce Lofton, Joe Martin, Cynthia Ozimek, Neil Parekh, Susan Platt, Romie Ponce, Betsy Power, Janice Price, Emma Quinn, R.W. Reid, Liz Smith

Photographers, Graphic Artists

Ken Dean, Jake Dillon, Tom M. Douglass, Signe Drake, George Hickey, Casey Kelbaugh, Brooke Kempner, Eleanor O'Neill, Jackie Renn, Ross T. Smart, Tim Swope, Mark Sullo

Volunteers This Issue

Kevin Beals, Lorin Booth, Neal Burton, Marnie

Cockrill, Andrew Cook, John Curry, Mark Davis, Ramasree Dulam, Brit Fredrickson, Chamu Gollu, Geri Heppel, Jodie Howard, Cory Jennings, Brent Kohler, James Lentz, Michael Long, Jeff Markwardt, Holly McCaleb, Danielle McQuillan, Del Moore, Brianna Morgan, Heather Nottingham, Reed O'Neal, Curtis Pennington, Paul Rice, Kelly Robinson, Connie Smith, Tyrone Ward, and Shelley Workinger.

Advisory Board

Nancy Amidei, *U District—University Partnership for Youth*
Bob Barnes, *King County Rainbow Coalition*

David Bloom, *Community Activist*

Juan Bocanegra, *Downtown Human Services Council*
Jean Colman, *Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition*

Walt Crowley, *HistoryLink.org*

Ishbel Dickens, John Fox, *Seattle Displacement Coal.*

Curt Firestone, *Community Activist*

Matthew Fox, *Community Activist*

Neil Fox, *National Lawyer's Guild*

Larry Gossett, *County Councilmember, Dist. 10*

Bill Hallerman, *Archdiocesan Housing Authority*

Bill Hobson, *Downtown Emergency Service Center*

Erin Katz, *June Bug Media, Filmmaker*

Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, *36th Legislative District*

Mike Lowry, *The Fairness Project*

Paola Maranan, *The Children's Alliance*

Joe Martin, *Seattle Displacement Coalition*

Camille Monzon, *Seattle Indian Center*

Lonnie Nelson, *Coalition of Labor Union Women*

Trisha Ready, *The Zine Project*

Siobhan Ring, *Tenants Union*

Mary Robinson-Smith, *Denny Regrade Planning Org.*

Aiko Schaefer, *Statewide Poverty Action Network*

Silja J.A. Talvi, *Freelance Journalist*

Jim Theofelis, *The Mockingbird Society*

Tamara Turner, *Radical Women*

Velma Voloria, *State Representative, 11th District*

Harriet Walden, *Mothers for Police Accountability*

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; fax. (206) 374-2455.

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.



PorchLight

Community Services of the
Seattle Housing Authority

907 NW Ballard Way, #200
Open M-F, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
and Saturday, 9 AM to noon

- ✓ Public Housing
- ✓ Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)
- ✓ Market House at 1531 First Avenue
- ✓ Bayview Tower at 2614 Fourth Avenue

Completed applications are taken in Application Workshops held Monday through Thursday at 1 PM, and Saturday at 10 AM.

Please telephone (206) 239-1500 to have an application mailed to you before attending a workshop.

— Take Metro #15 or # 28 from downtown Seattle —

The Streetcar No One Desires

...Except some rich guy

By Adam Holdorf

It's another train to nowhere.

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels wants to run a streetcar line north from downtown along Westlake Avenue to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, a 2.5-mile, \$45 million project. The city and nearby businesses would split the cost of construction. The line would pass through the Cascade / South Lake Union neighborhood, home to warehouses, vacant lots, a Lutheran church, the REI store, and a few low-income apartments. Fifty acres of Cascade and the greater South Lake Union area are owned by billionaire Paul Allen, a man who's destroyed low-income housing in order to fulfill his own shadowy dreams.

Nickels would spend \$20 million in public dollars on a streetcar that primarily benefits major owners of the area's as-yet-undeveloped property: Allen's development company, *The Seattle Times*, and Clise Properties. This transit idea isn't about transportation. It's about moving workers quickly and efficiently into the office buildings that, for the most part, haven't been built.

Years from now, Mercer Street at rush hour will still be called the Mercer Mess. And every few minutes, a streetcar will wade through it.

One observer called the streetcar "a Paul Schell idea: intriguing, and just off the top of your head."

The mayor should take that comment as a sign that he's got some explaining to do. How will the public pay for this? What will continue to be neglected? Will the city continue to fall behind in fixing surface streets in more dense neighborhoods? And while the city pays for Paul Allen's trolley, will it find enough money to prevent people from sleeping outside at night?

Nickels' State of the City speech provided no answers. "South Lake Union will be home to thousands of new jobs in biotechnology and life sciences," he said. "The people who work there will earn good wages. They will cure disease and save lives. Cities around the world would love to have these jobs. Let's work to create them here."

Meaning: The new Monorail route will run too far west. The light rail line, if it ever goes through, is too far east. If we don't give the neighborhood's future tenants a little corporate welfare in the form of an aesthetically pleasing and convenient trolley, the miracle-workers at Zymo will go away and leave Seattle-ites crying in their tea.

Skeptics, said the mayor, still believe the earth is flat. Mentioning former Mayor Gordon Clinton, who presided over the city during the 1962 World's Fair, he said, "Some may resist this change, but Mayor Clinton can remind us that some even resisted the World's Fair."

Imagine that. Some people didn't like the idea of a big party that destroyed working-class homes to build the Seattle Center and left us with a sky-high curio and a tourist ride.

Many will resist this change, simply because it serves so few.

Nickels will just have to do better than this to communicate with a city of people working under the cloud of a busted economy. Thousands of people are sitting at home, counting the days until their unemployment runs out; thousands more are counting the hours until they line up for a shelter bed. And he says that a half-empty neighborhood deserves a \$45 million streetcar.

City councilmembers charged with vetting the streetcar idea say they haven't heard a whisper of public support. If it went north to the University District, says Councilmember Nick Licata, then you're getting people somewhere. And at one-fifth the cost of light rail.

Councilmember Richard Conlin remarked that International District businesses have long been clamoring for an extension of the waterfront trolley service through their neighborhood. It's fair to ask why Cascade gets the attention, and not the I.D. For that matter, why build a slick streetcar some place where the jobs and housing aren't, and run the pokey buses where they are? Why not a San Francisco style streetcar running up Capitol, Queen Anne, or First Hill?

And then there's the city's more pressing, less whimsical, transportation needs. In accordance with these budget-cutting times, the Seattle Department of Transportation has fallen behind schedule replacing pocked and rutted streets. A team of 10 Mayor Nickelses, scooping hot asphalt out of 10 trucks, couldn't get it back on track. Nor could they replace the Viaduct before the next earthquake rolls through. Among all the city's transit concerns, a South Lake Union streetcar doesn't bubble to the top.

And to put scarred streets in perspective, here's this: we're living in a community where homelessness has increased 23 percent in the past year.

So who matters more, Mayor Nickels: the rich guy who wants a rail line, or the poor guy who needs a lifeline? ■

Inside:

Opinion

The Streetcar No One Desires: ... except some rich guy

By Adam Holdorf 3

Regular Features

News You Can Use: Costco abroad, anti-camping at home
by Ken Dean, Adam Holdorf, R.V. Murphy, Molly Rhodes 4

Adventures in Poetry: Beware the easy "wow"
with © Dr. Wes Browning 6

Notes from the Kitchen: The enemy within
by Liz Smith 16

Street Watch
by Emma Quinn 17

Classics Corner: Sophocles in need today
by Timothy Harris 18

Calendar
compiled by Sandra Enger 19

News

Forging a Path to Oneself: Poet Madeline DeFrees
by Stan Burris, Molly Rhodes 1

Book 'Em: Burien mulls criminalizing homelessness
by Megan Doyle 5

Features

So Long, Farewell: Artists say goodbye to StreetLife Gallery
by Brooke Kempner 8

Opportunity Missed: Unequal schools
By Madeline Whyte 13

Street Talk: What do you think about reinstating the draft?
by Bess Dwyer 18

Poetry

Insights and Surprises from Crysta Casey,
Marion Sue Fischer, Anitra Freeman, Donald Sutton 6-7

Special Insert

Mockingbird Times 9-12

Activism

Citizens Participation Project 20



Yes! Real Change Matters.

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

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other (\$ _____)

☐ I would like to pledge a monthly amount of \$ _____

☐ Please deduct pledge amount monthly from my card.

☐ Please send me a pledge payment coupon book.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

PHONE _____

☐ Please contact me about volunteering my time and energy.

Payment Options: ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Please charge my card:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Acct. No. _____ Exp. Date _____

News Subscription: I would like to pay \$35 for a subscription to be mailed to me. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail to: Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98121

2/06/03

National news digest

January 31, 2003

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

Homelessness in Atlantic City, NJ, has reached such a level that it's even warranting coverage in places like *Gambling Magazine* (www.GamblingMagazine.com), which describes a growth of single women and female senior citizens in the city's homeless population. The notable shift in the homeless population has been attributed to a number of factors, including gambling addictions, domestic abuse, and the increased cost of maintaining a home. While single women make up about 13 percent of the nationally recorded homeless population, in Atlantic city they made up 20 percent last year, or 600 out of 3,000 people who sought shelter at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Just over 50 of those women were ages 62 or older.

Key West, FL, has become the latest in a growing list of cities that have instituted anti-homeless laws in the name of promoting tourism. Last month, city commissioners created a "no-panhandling" zone in the downtown core, so now anyone caught sleeping outside or asking for money in that area gets up to a \$500 fine and 60 days in jail, according to the *Austin American Statesman* (www.statesman.com). While homeless advocates in Key West and across the country argue that such laws are in violation of free speech and assembly rights, city officials, with a healthy push from downtown business organizations, counter that without the laws tourists don't want to visit their streets. Other cities that have recently passed similar laws include Santa Monica, CA, Providence, R.I., Fresno, Calif., Huntington, W.Va., Eugene, Ore., and Las Cruces, N.M. Key West is also the home of one of the most progressive anti-discrimination laws, including the protection of transgender people, which prompted the "One Human Family" city slogan for which it is known. Explained city commissioner Tom Oosterhoudt, who sponsored the anti-homeless law, "One Human Family" does not include criminals or people who don't want to earn their way in society."

It also doesn't include people who get free lunches, at least according to businesses in downtown Omaha, Neb., which are angling to get a local lunch program moved from a popular outdoor mall to a less visible location. Proponents of the plan point out that the indoor location would be warmer and provide access to restrooms, while homeless advocates caution that the needs of homeless people should be taken into account before the program is moved simply to get it out of sight of visitors. "It's important to remember that we will have homeless people in our community, whether or not we can see them," Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede of Dietz Methodist told the *Omaha World-Herald* (www.omaha.com). "I think Omaha looks our best when we are visibly living with and caring for our homeless people."

In the course of tackling the homeless problem in Birmingham, AL, advocates tried to record exactly who that population is made up of and what services they most need. Last month, 30 volunteers for the Metropolitan Services for the Homeless hit the city streets, armed with cigarettes, scarves, gloves, blankets, socks, muffins, pens, and paper in the hopes of enticing wary homeless people to talk to them and complete a survey, according to *The Birmingham News* (www.al.com). The volunteers visited streets, parks, bus shelters, and abandoned houses, anywhere homeless people not in emergency shelter might stay for the night. Last year, MBSH recorded 1,900 homeless people, a figure they guessed was only about half of the total population. ■

— Compiled by Molly Rhodes

Church moves homeless guests

Seattle's homeless community has lost another place to sleep. For approximately a year, a dozen tents and sleeping bags holding 20 people have been set up in the parking lot behind the Immanuel Lutheran Church located in the Cascade neighborhood at the corner of Pontius Avenue and Thomas Street. However, campers recently received a letter from the church saying they had to vacate the premises by January 31. Currently, campers have been given temporary permission to set up their tents in a grassy incline behind the church which isn't located on church property.

According to a church spokesman, a security task force was formed about a year ago comprised of six parishioners. They decided to ban the campers for insurance reasons. A middle-aged man named Mike who has been camping at the church for about a year said he was told the same thing.

"The church should be the one safe place where people can go," says Linda



Moore, who lives directly across from the parking lot. While homeless and residents have locked horns in some neighborhoods, the exact opposite appears to be true in Cascade.

"We got wind of this a few months ago and went to the church," says Moore of herself and other residents. "They were trying to turn things around and say we were complaining about them [campers]. Just the opposite is true. I know every one of them by name and if there's a problem I can go to them and talk about it."

The lot has been a convenient location, with a Labor Ready next door. The church itself offers a laundry, bathroom, and shower to the homeless, and the church is also within walking distance of the Urban Rest Stop that provides similar services.

Immanuel has a history of serving the community, as Cascade has been one of the cities' poorest neighborhoods. For years a 50-bed shelter was located in the church basement, and the church still has an indoor shelter for recovering alcoholics. Longtime pastor Bill Coffman left in August to take a similar position in Oregon and interim pastor Eldon Olson said in a welcoming letter that "we [Immanuel] have always welcomed homeless persons as our neighbors."

The area surrounding the church has seen a lot of recent changes. Back in October, the Lillian apartments, located one block south of the church, was torn down despite opposition from neighbors and housing activists. Only two weeks ago, two vacant houses on Minor Street, one block northwest of the church, were also torn down. All three dwellings were owned by Paul Allen's Vulcan Inc.

"Right now, everybody plans to stay here until they tell us we have to leave," says Mike of the campers' new home. "I'm sure they'll throw us out eventually."

When asked where he plans to go then, Mike pauses for a few seconds and then replies, "I have no idea." ■

— R.V. Murphy

A retail giant's big footprint

Costco Wholesale Corporation of Seattle isn't making many friends in Cuernavaca, Mexico, a tourist center located 50 miles south of Mexico City. Costco purchased 24 acres of downtown property at an auction for \$10 million in 2001. The land had been valued at \$63 million. Since then, Costco has been accused of destroying historical murals and green space, arousing the ire of local activists and citizens of Cuernavaca, the Sierra Club, and even some of its own shareholders.

Last week, Vera Sisniega and Juan Robert, representing an activist group called Frente Civico Pro Casina de la Selva (Civic Front for the Casino de la Selva), attended a Costco shareholders meeting in Bellevue. They demanded that Costco halt construction of a 24-acre shopping complex and parking lot on what was the Casino de la Selva. A 1930s-style casino that had been converted into a hotel, the Casino housed more than 12,000 square feet of murals by important Mexican artists. In addition, the site was the largest remaining green area in Cuernavaca with 900 trees and four endangered species of birds. The buildings and most of the trees were destroyed last August and September and only a handful remain.

"Cuernavaca is not a big city," says Sisniega. "We have nice weather and weather's our biggest attraction. But with the trees cut, the weather won't be as nice. It will just get hotter and hotter."

At last Thursday's meeting, two shareholders spoke in favor of Costco finding another site to build. Costco president Jim Sinegal then declared the matter closed. Robert, an architect, and Sisniega, an 18-year-old college student who has been protesting at the site for 18 months, were not allowed to speak despite holding proxies.

When Sisniega's microphone was turned off, she tried to address the crowd directly. Some shareholders yelled, "go back to Mexico," or "illegal alien." Those in favor of the students brought in a banner reading "Costco, don't destroy Cuernavaca."

The uproar over the site culminated August 21, 2002, in a demonstration of 3,000 people where 32 were arrested by riot police. That led to a march of 15,000 residents through the city. Currently, six protesters are fasting inside the government building.

"Rich countries think poor countries want jobs at any cost," says Sisniega. "That's not true." Robert adds, "There are already 10 mega-stores in the city."

Continued on Page 15

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

Book 'Em

South King County nearly makes camping criminal

By Megan Doyle

An ordinance that would have criminalized homelessness failed narrowly before the Burien City Council on January 27.

City Ordinance 379 would have prohibited outdoor camping, including laying down bedding, storing personal belongings, or erecting tents or tarps for shelter on public property. Sidewalks, streets, alleys, parks, and playfields owned by the city would all be off-limits, but the ordinance would not apply to private property.

Violators of the outdoor camping ordinance would have been fined up to \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for a second offense in a one-year period, and given a misdemeanor for a third offense within one year.

The ordinance was killed because of parliamentary maneuvering at the council meeting, says Burien councilmember Steven Lamphear. Parliamentary procedure on the seven-member council requires a majority vote; the camping issue had a split 3-3 vote because of the absence of one council member who, reportedly, would have voted it in.

Lamphear, a leader in opposing the proposal from the beginning, grew up on welfare and lived in public housing. He received a Master's Degree in Public Policy Management from the University of Washington and had a hand in developing the state's Landlord Tenant laws. He now serves on numerous committees that deal with issues of human services, affordable housing, and environmental conservation.

"If you think something needs to be done, you should do it," he says, in response to why he got involved in human services.

Lamphear believed that the Sheriff's Department proposed the law in response to people being accosted by unsavory characters. But he was surprised

that the proposal had gotten as far as the city council's desk. "I didn't know there was a problem at all, and I have been a councilman for five years," he says. "I was happy to see the proposal removed from consideration permanently."

Sheriff's Department Chief Bill Dickinson was unavailable for comment, due to his retirement in late January.

The 2001 One Night Count Report of homeless individuals in King County reported that, on October 19, 2002, 1,454 people were without shelter in Seattle alone. King County officials estimated an additional 1,200 to 1,300 unsheltered people throughout the rest of the county.

Burien, a southwestern King County suburb bordering Puget Sound that is home to 31,000 people, has only one small women-only shelter, with nine beds, says Lamphear. In the entire south end of the county there are 100 beds, but homeless advocates estimate that about 700 people in the area don't have a place to go at night.

Rachael Myers, empowerment organizer with First things First, the political advocacy wing of *Real Change*, believes that though this specific ordinance has been killed, it is very likely that a similar one could be brought to the Burien city council again very soon. Such a law "doesn't help homeless people, it just moves them out of the way," Myers says.

Myers, who attended the city council meeting in opposition to the ordinance, says that the councilmembers all made it clear that something needed to be done about the homeless situation in the city. Three voted to help the homeless people; three voted to move them out of the city.

If the law had been approved, Myers says she fears that a homeless person cited in violation of the law

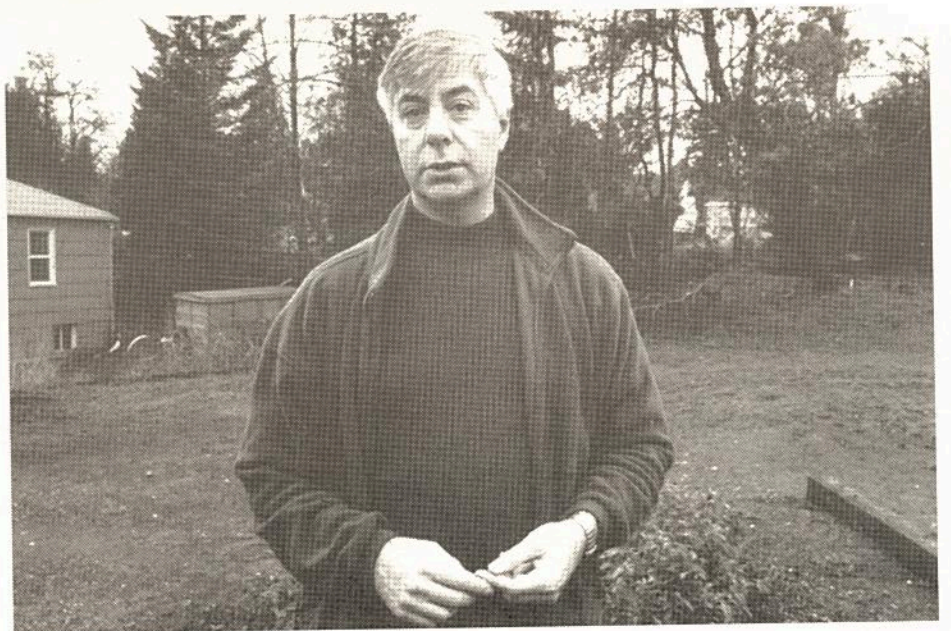


PHOTO OF BURIEN CITY COUNCILMEMBER STEVEN LAMPHEAR.
PHOTO BY MARK SULLO.

"I didn't know there was a problem at all, and I have been a councilman for five years. I was happy to see the proposal removed from consideration permanently."

— Burien city councilmember Steven Lamphear, in response to a proposed ordinance to ban outdoor camping on city property.

wouldn't be able to pay the fines, resulting in an arrest that would make it difficult to find other housing because of the new criminal record. She fears that such a law would cause a homeless individual to leave an area that they are familiar with and have a support system within.

Lamphear, a self-described veteran of the hippie generation, quoted Neil Diamond's song, "He Ain't Heavy, He's my Brother," to express how homeless people should not be viewed as an expense. He is a participant in the South King County Human Services Forum, which combines the efforts of all the cities in the south end to help poor citizens. Lamphear believes that it is important to assess the human service needs of the people in the community and decide whether the city can afford to help.

As far as Myers knows, this is an unprecedented proposal in the state of Washington, though cities in

other states have instituted similar laws.

Those cities include Santa Cruz, Calif., Austin, Texas, and Portland, Ore., according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. All three ordinances have been ruled unconstitutional by the courts. The issue in Portland required that there be a distinction between being punished for being homeless and being punished for conduct. The case in Santa Cruz resulted in the city voting to provide "safe sleeping zones" for people experiencing homelessness. In Austin, a judge determined parts of a law against sleeping in public were unconstitutional because no police officer could distinguish between a person sleeping outdoors because they had to, and a person taking an afternoon nap.

Despite these decisions, anti-homeless laws are on the books throughout the nation, banning the feeding of homeless people or barring camping. ■



Looking for work? Volunteer for Real Change and help us save the world!

Real Change needs your help! Right now we need people for the following volunteer positions: front desk/ reception, editorial support, MacWorkshop Computer Lab monitors, computer class instructors (Macintosh only), Development assistants,

and graphic designers. We need volunteers available during our office hours (9-6 weekdays), who are reliable, patient, friendly, and able to work well independently.

You can find a complete list of volunteer opportunities on our website: www.realchangenews.org or call Shawn at 441.3247 ext. 203

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

Scirocco Wind

I am Alone
with my GOD

In the dry heat

Leaching my Mind
of life-giving moisture

(Non-Life UNTOUCHED...)

Scirocco breeze
Devil Wind
Down the canyons

SCOURING the earth
Dessicated and abandoned
(seemingly...)

Southern California
IRONICALLY
Home/to/me

Happy/at/last

GOD LIVES
EVEN/in/the/desert

— MARION SUE FISCHER

My Favorite Part of the Day

He lies there,
Wrapped in his ducky blanket.

His breathing
Long and steady.

Slowly
He stirs,
Sleep looses its grip on his mind.

I sit waiting,
Full of hope.
Wondering when he will wake.

Waiting.
Not wanting to wait.
I want to speed it up,
But it wouldn't be the same.

His eyes open slowly.
He looks around,
His eyes taking in the world around him.

His eyes settle upon me.
Then it happens.

He smiles.

— DONALD SUTTON

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



This is going to be one of those columns that isn't about anything. All the conditions point to it. For one thing, all the news is too depressing to write about here. You can only make fun of North Korea so much, and then people start to whimper. Iraq isn't at all funny anymore. The economy is only good for about 10 lines and then I remember that my rent is due. Then Anitra "on whose kitchen floor I used to sleep" Freeman insists that I pick up malted milk balls for her at the store. A dollar eighty-nine. For a stinking bag of malted milk balls.

The good news: I'm back on my meds. The bad news: I'm back on my meds. No more interestingly bizarre perspectives. No more am I able to write pages and pages extolling

the virtues of experiencing paper cuts and surviving.

It's times like this that being scattered is all I have. It's my anti-foundation, a non-solid core to wrap myself around. All my security emanates from my liquid centerlessness. Without it, I would have to settle down and be something, which would surely result in doom. If that doesn't make sense to you, then you understand more than you know.

Mr. Stephens taught me that you could be scattered and still collect a paycheck. Mr. Stephens was my 8th grade math teacher. He was stark raving scattered. He would spend the first minute of every class going over the answers to the homework due that day. Like this: "The answers were 5, 17, 16.3, and 1." Then he would spend 50 minutes telling us about his house on Mercer Island, and about the patio he just built over his carport, and how he built part of the patio around a tree, and about how we should all respect how cool that was. Then Mr. Stephens would spend the last four minutes giving us the next day's homework.

At the same time I was taking "business principles" from Mrs. Wilson (these are not the real names.) "Business principles" was all about how to write out a check, mostly. I don't know how the schools got away with wasting kids' time like that in those days. I hope they do better now. But Mrs. Wilson wasn't

satisfied with just wasting our time with the syllabus. She felt it was necessary to spend at least 30 minutes of each class telling us how her daughter was a swimmer for the U.S. Olympic team, and she won a silver medal for something. I learned that Mrs. Wilson's daughter got the silver approximately 60 times. That is roughly equal to the number of spitwads that I personally landed on Mrs. Wilson when her back was turned, during that term.

The good news: I'm back on my meds. The bad news: I'm back on my meds.

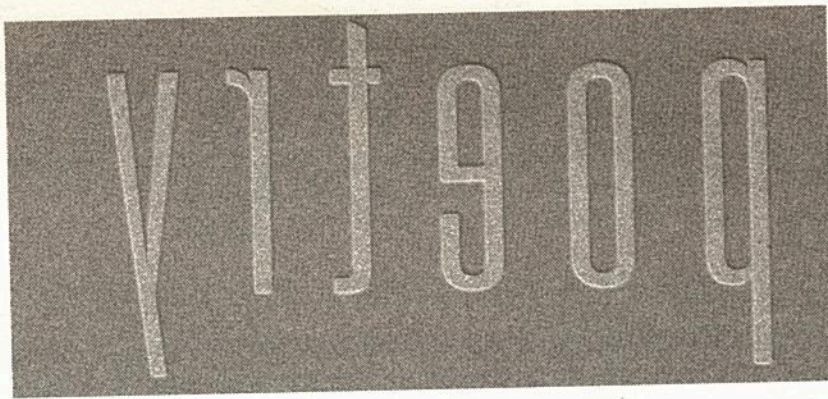
Why am I telling you this? I just want you all to know things could be worse. In addition to being scattered, I could be a broken record, like my unbelievably neurotic middle-school teachers. But at least when I scatter, I scatter in a different direction every time.

Speaking of broken records, Groundhog Day just passed. No I'm not thinking about the Bill Murray movie, although that was good. Instead I'm thinking about a green singing finch I adopted on Groundhog's day 1990. I called him Zino, after the violinist Zino Francescatti, and he was a fantastic broken record. Apparently, birds are the ultimate broken records. They do not know the concept of "enough."

Zino had this trick where he would jump off his perch and attach himself upside-down to the top of his cage. Then he would drop back to his perch, doing a back flip in the process. All this would be done to elicit a "wow" from me. Then he would do it again, to get another "wow." Then again, for another "wow." And again and again. Until finally I couldn't take it anymore. When I couldn't say "wow" anymore, Zino might quit after one or two more times. But he never quit as long as the "wows" came.

I want to believe there is a lesson in all this for all humanity. From a back flip obsessed bird to a patio obsessed neurotic math teacher to a silver medal obsessed neurotic business principles teacher, I want to draw a moral for all of us to live by.

How's this? — Everybody be careful what you say "wow" to. ■



Something to Eat

The sky was gray as an old
Army blanket and threatened rain.
I pulled my broken cart
down Blanchard Street,
toward Western and Virginia.
“Do you know where the food bank is?”
I asked a man who sold the homeless paper
outside a restaurant. “Down
that street, to the right,” he said, pointing.
A group of people who swore
and swayed as they walked,
surrounded me on the sidewalk.
One woman got right in my face.
I looked hard into her eyes.
I had a mission.
“Don’t give me no evil eye!”
she said, and they all backed off,
heckling behind me, “Look at her
pulling her little red wagon...”

I rode an elevator down, down
below the street (like in H.G. Wells’ *Time Machine*)
walked through a dark,
narrow hallway. I signed my name,
zip-code and number of people in my household.
A man pointed to my bag
of groceries on the counter.
The other men carried backpacks,
their lives on their backs,
sorted through their paper-bags
on a table and left bags
of rice. I picked out potatoes, onions
and carrots from large wooden bins
that sat in the middle of the floor.

I was clumsy with my cart, pulled it
through Pike Place Market, up Pine
Street, past men and women in business
suits. People carried bags
marked “Nordstrom.” Women with short skirts
and high-heeled boots stood in doorways.
People with signs
Asked for “change.” Men looked at you
out of the corners of their eyes
to see if you wanted to buy,
and an old woman tried to hand out
“The Watchtower.” On Third Avenue, I caught
a #3 bus with my wobbly cart.
The bus was crowded, but I found
A seat. I lifted my cart off at Vine.
Rain misted my cheeks. In my studio kitchen,
I unpacked a frozen chicken, eggs, cereal, juice,
Noodles, rice, spaghetti sauce,
pork and beans.

— CRYSTA CASEY

Six Degrees

I want to write you a poem.
I’ve never met you.
I may know your name
Or maybe not.
I don’t know if you love chocolate,
hotel parking garages,
enjoy the rain,
or even — exactly —
where you live.

Yesterday you smiled at a neighbor.
Today my office lit up
when someone walked in with a smile.
Yesterday you hugged your son
daughter
friend
a visitor at church.
Today that hug was passed to me.
Shopping for oranges
you and a stranger reached out at the same time.
Your hand jerked aside and hit the pile.
The cascade of oranges
knocked over his cart.
Milk flooded the aisle.
A young man carrying maple syrup slipped.
So did a woman
carrying that blue fabric conditioner.
It was a spectacle
and after one moment of horror
you all started laughing hysterically.

Six degrees later
I get to work with people
who can laugh at themselves.
Life is so much easier.

I want to write you a poem.
To hold a mirror up
and peek around
a six-degree corner
to reflect a smile
back to you.

— ANITRA FREEMAN

So Long, Farewell

Low-income artists say goodbye to StreetLife Gallery

Interviews and photos by Brooke Kempner

Artists who have spent thousands of hours in a haven just for them are watching the StreetLife Gallery close down. *Real Change* recorded the gallery's last moments and asked several artists what would happen next as they prepared to leave February 7.

Kenneth McBee (below) has worked with acrylic paints at the gallery since last May, two months after the motorcycle he was riding was rear-ended.

RC: What has the Gallery meant to you?

McBee: It's given me a real opportunity to paint while healing from my accident.

RC: What next?

McBee: I'm hoping to go back to work. I worked in a warehouse before my accident.

RC: Where else can you do go to paint?

McBee: There's a place where I went before, The Lazarus Center [a day center for homeless men], but it's not nearly as nice as this environment. Here, even on dark days you get a lot of light. I really wish that it wasn't closing.

RC: Are there other places to display your work?

McBee: There might be galleries that people here were told they could show work. Farestart wants to put up some of my work, but I'm not much of a get-out-and-run-around sort of person.

RC: Where will you move your paintings?

McBee: I have a little storage where I'm staying at St. Martin's [St. Martin de



Porres Shelter].
Jay Anderson, gallery artist since July 1998.

RC: What next?

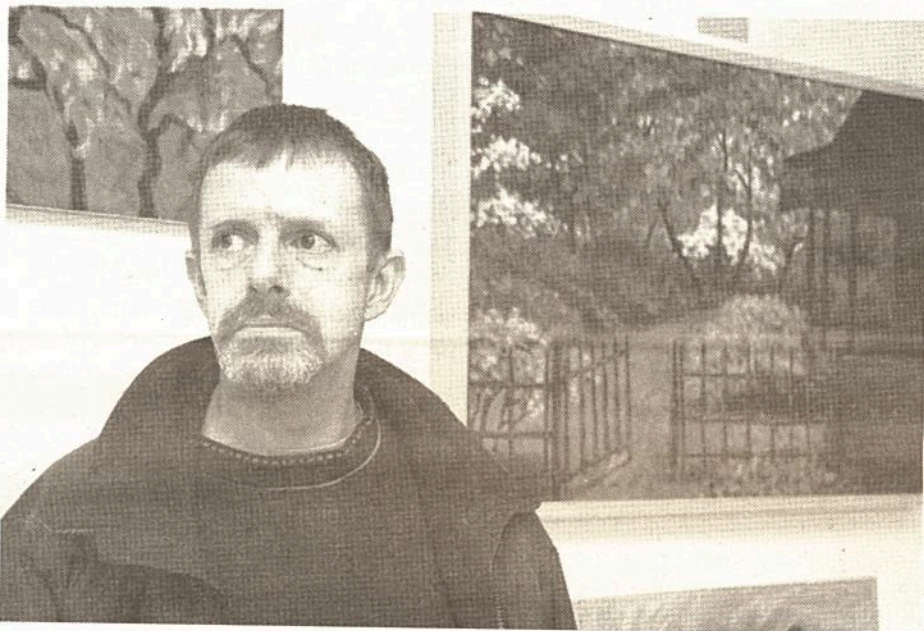
Anderson: I've got a portfolio together and I'm hoping to hit up coffee shops to try and get my work shown.

RC: What have you enjoyed about being part of StreetLife?

Anderson: I like this place because of the environment and being around creative people.

RC: Does the gallery shutting down pose a problem for you?

Anderson: No problem for me. I'm taken care of, but a lot of these people aren't. I have a place to live and can paint at home.



Eddie Herold (above)

RC: How long have you been with the gallery?

Herold: About four months this time. I was here about a year ago before I moved away.

RC: What has the Gallery done for you?

Herold: I hadn't painted for years. This inspired me to get back into painting. It's been a place to work comfortably whenever I want, without paying an arm and a leg. It's definitely sad that it's closing. It's been nice to have a place to go to paint.

RC: What next?

Herold: I'm going to Nevada. I have a place to live there. I think I'm going to travel around the country and find inspiration. I'm stronger on landscapes and they're kind of a record of sorts. I'd like to leave some sort of legacy with my art. I plan on painting while traveling and trying to stay motivated.

RC: Where are you leaving all your paintings?

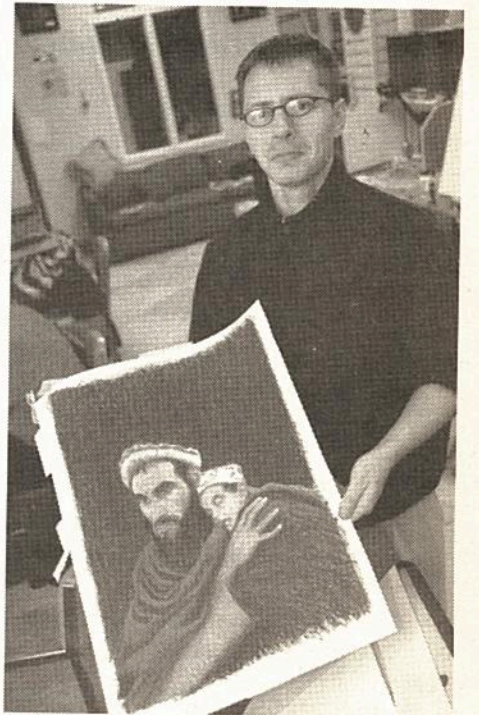
Herold: I'm leaving them at my brother's.

John Travena (right), who paints in mainly oil pastels, has been painting oil pastels at the gallery since April.

RC: How did you find out about the gallery?

Travena: I walked by and saw this place, but I thought you had to have a portfolio. I came by later and one of the members was out front. They explained that I didn't need a portfolio and I started coming.

RC: What have you liked about coming here?



Travena: sold anything?

Travena: I haven't sold my work, but I had only hung up one painting. I've sold some cards.

Chan (below) has done acrylics paintings and pencil sketches at the gallery for four years.

RC: How long have you been painting?

Chan: Forty years.

RC: Where did you learn to paint?

Chan: In South Korea in high school and college, two years. I was a portrait painter 30 years.

RC: Where will you go to paint?

Chan: Sometimes at the Pike Place Market, I paint demonstration two days a week.

RC: Where will you keep your art?

Chan: I take it home. I have a low-income apartment. I paint at home. I don't like the close of the gallery. ■

Travena: It's really encouraging. Some of the artist are really good. I could ask them questions. It was a fun place to come. I'm going to miss the people. It's like a ritual in my day: come here, have a cup of coffee and a cigarette, and then go to work.

RC: Where else can you paint?

Travena: I can paint at home, but it kind of drives me crazy. I'll hang the pictures on the wall and I end up thinking about them all the time: when I eat dinner, when I go to bed. Also, my walls are bright colors and it's not really good light to paint in.

RC: Are there other places you can paint?

Travena: Not yet. Some of the other people have looked into it, though.

RC: Have you



Opportunity Missed

Abolishing affirmative action only makes schools more unequal

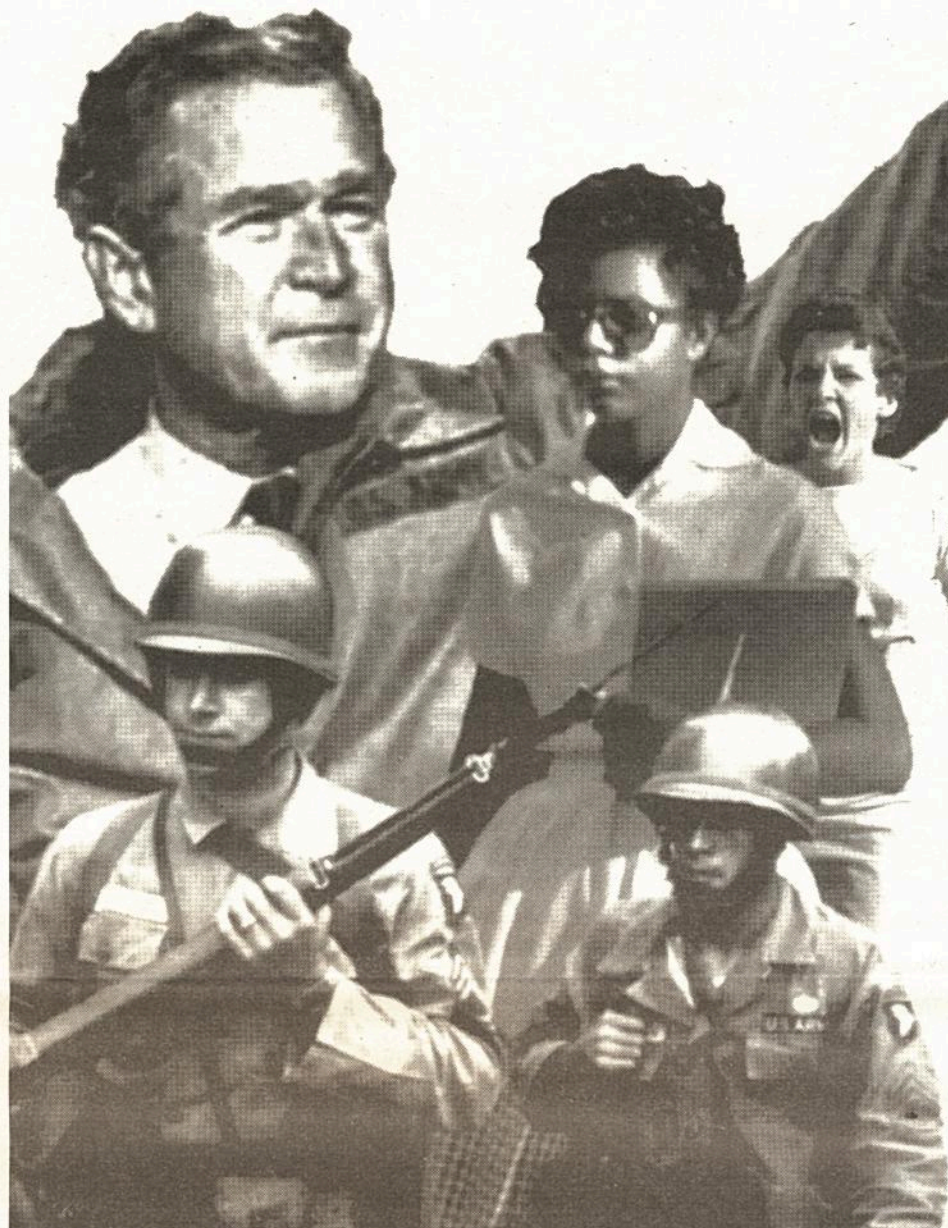
By Madeline Whyte

Here we go again. The Bush administration is preparing to oppose the University of Michigan law school's program giving so-called "preferences" to minority students. This is no way for a conservative administration which the majority of Black Americans did not even vote for to position itself. It sends a dismal message to colleges seeking to promote diversity through their enrollment policies. The upcoming decision by the Supreme Court in this landmark case could stifle future opportunities for minorities in higher education.

In light of the President's record in Texas, it is not surprising that this administration will fight the University of Michigan law school's policy of encouraging equal access to higher education for minorities. Back in March 2000, the former Texas governor's administration was forced to negotiate with the U.S. Department of Education to comply with federal anti-discrimination requirements after years of neglect and failure. The average state payment for students at Black colleges was \$11,000, compared with \$14,000 per student at historically White institutions. A ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ended affirmative action in admissions and financial aid for colleges in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi; the effect of the ruling kept minority students out of colleges and graduate schools, and minority representation at Texas' top colleges and graduate schools declined. It seems that Mr. Bush and his political allies are continuing their opposition to minorities in higher education on a national level.

Our nation has had a rather dubious record in regard to equal opportunities in education for Blacks and other minorities. Africans arriving in America to work as slaves were legally prohibited from learning to read or write. Black schools were segregated, and the quality of education for Black students was significantly below the standard set for White schools. In several decisions between 1948 and 1951, the court ruled that separate higher education facilities for Blacks must be equal to those for Whites. The landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, argued successfully before the Supreme Court by future Justice Thurgood Marshall, held that segregation according to race in education was unconstitutional, a violation of civil rights. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made segregation in public schools and colleges illegal. We have made progress, but there's still a long way to go. A Miami University report shows that although racism is less obvious, it is still very present on college campuses.

The President and his political allies are calling the University of Michigan law school's programs "racial pref-



GRAPHIC BY TOM M. DOUGLASS.

erences." In fact, a recent Sixth Circuit Court decision in May 2002 ruled, in *Gutter v. Bollinger*, that the University of Michigan's admissions policy is constitutional, and that the law school's consideration of race and ethnicity does not operate to insulate any prospective student from competition with any other applicant. The court also held, in the majority opinion, that the admissions program at University of Michigan does not function as a "quota" system, an ongoing bone of contention among those doggedly opposed to equal opportunity in higher education, affirmative action, and civil rights.

The administration is awaiting recommendations from the Justice Depart-

ment and White House lawyers prior to officially opposing the University of Michigan Law School's diversity program. But speaking of preferences, the Homeland Security law recently enacted contained a provision to create a Homeland Security research center at, yep, you guessed it, colleges and universities in Texas. The provision — ahem, *preference* — will be broadened to allow all universities and colleges to compete, thanks to opposition from legislators to the new law's special-interest provisions.

Before coming out against the program, those against inclusive enrollment policies should know that students of different social classes get an unequal education, too. Students from better-

educated and more affluent families are more likely to enroll in highly selective colleges than are those from poorer and less-educated families.

The reality for college students of all races and ethnicities is that a college degree is not a luxury or privilege, but a necessity to achieve career goals in today's society. The demand for skilled, qualified employees is rising among corporate employers, and graduates have the opportunity to earn starting salaries of \$23,000 to \$47,000 annually. The unemployment rate for the nation rose from 4.8 percent to 5.6 percent in 2001, making a college education all the more valuable to job seekers. Unemployment rates for Whites are 5.1 percent, Hispanics 7.8 percent, and Blacks 9.8 percent.

Another tragic reality is the number of African Americans behind bars — now more than one million. Thirty percent of African American men aged 20 to 29 are under some sort of correctional supervision. Seven percent of African American children have an incarcerated parent. Yet, according to *Mother Jones* magazine, the amount each state resident spends on prisons has shot up in every state, while the amount spent on higher education barely budged or even declined in eleven states. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency statistics published in 2000 indicated that the number of minorities in the prison system is greater than the number in higher education, and the dollars spent by state governments to support corrections and education show parallel trends.

I am a student majoring in accounting and computer applications while homeless. Without financial aid and civil rights laws assuring me the right to equal education opportunities, I might remain homeless and jobless indefinitely. I believe every American, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, orientation, disability, or religion, should have equal access to education. And college enrollment policies that encourage and promote diversity in the learning environment should be continued, not ended. ■

AHAC Alternative Healthcare Access Campaign

www.ahacseattle.org

Non-profit organization providing free healthcare to homeless & low-income folks in Seattle seeks new steering committee members.

Please send letter of interest to: AHAC, PO Box 45364, Seattle, WA 98145-0364 (email mariposa13@ivillage.com (Pam)) by March 1, 2003

Buying or selling a home in Seattle?

MICHAEL GROSS donates 50% of his commissions to the nonprofits his clients choose to support.

Work with an experienced, personable real estate agent — and integrate your transaction with your social, cultural and political ideals. Over the last seventeen years, Michael has donated more than \$500,000 to a variety of organizations, including **REAL CHANGE!**

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate Trust, Inc.

He's also a great real estate agent!
So call. 206-999-9969 DIRECT
425-455-9800x233 MESSAGE



DEFREES Continued from Page 1

RC: Do you remember what your first successful poems were about? Were they about convent life?

DeFrees: Uh... yes, in a kind of marginal way. Our reading was so restricted that the only really good novels that I read were in French Lit class. Even that, when I look at the poems now, I don't think they were very good, because I was so determined not to write pious, sentimental stuff that I went overboard in the opposite direction.

RC: Your first book of published poetry was *From the Darkroom*, in 1964?

DeFrees: Right, and I was 45 by that time. I had written *Springs of Silence*, which is kind of an autobiographical account of convent life, and Prentice Hall published that. So the editor who had written me well over 100 letters in the course of me writing that book left Prentice Hall and went to Bobs-Merrill. He asked me if I had another book and I said, well, I have a book of poems, but you don't do those, and he said, well, we might. So I sent it there and they did *From the Darkroom*.

But, you know, it didn't even earn back its \$500 advance. It had a picture of a cross on the front of the dust jacket and a picture of me in full habit on the back. And they shelved it in with religion in Spokane.

RC: Do you think that you would have been less of a writer if you hadn't entered the convent?

DeFrees: No, I think I would have written — in fact, I think I would have started publishing a lot faster because I wouldn't have had the guilt I always felt in the convent about writing.

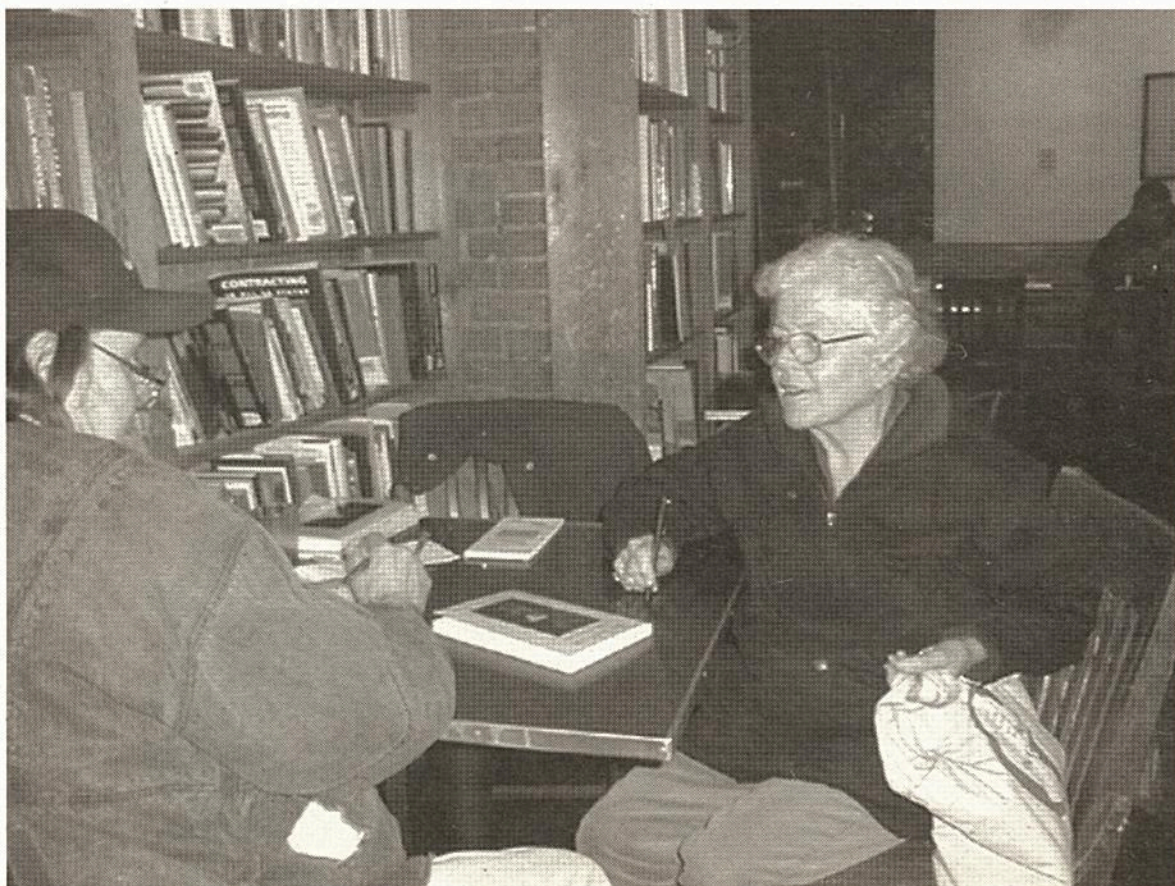
Even before I went into the convent, I took a class in high school that used for our textbook Donnelly's *Model En-*

wished that I could find that book again, but I've never been able to relocate it. It was one of the best things that ever happened to me.

The other thing that was good in that book is that it had a lot of exercises where it would give you a general verb like walk, and then it would have

DeFrees: Well, I think most of us then did it the way the workshops we had audited or sat in on operated, when you bring in an established piece of work. Frances McCue at Hugo House is one of the few people I know who has insisted on breaking out of that pattern, on having students do writing right in class for part of the time. Because what happens, in a lot of these courses, maybe a student will have five strong poems that have gotten a good response in workshops, and will just keep handing in those same things with every new instructor. Of course, that's shortchanging yourself, too.

But there are certain sort of standard rules, like one of the first is that during the first phase of the discussion, the student is not allowed to speak, because there's no sense in a poet defending his own work, or explaining it. Once they explain it, then you'll never know whether people would have gotten it or not. When we read books of poems by people we've never met, we don't have the author there to explain it. If you don't get it in the text, you just don't get it.



STAN BURRISS AND MADELINE DEFREES IN CONVERSATION. PHOTO BY MOLLY RHODES.

glish, so you would learn to pattern a sentence on great writers, phrase for phrase, noun for noun, and verb for verb, you know. And I loved doing that.

RC: Is that a technique you used for your students to when you started teaching?

DeFrees: No. You know, all my life, I've

maybe 25 ways of walking. And then it would have sentences with a blank in it instead of walk and you would have to pick the one that fit best. So that was a very good exercise in precision of language.

RC: When you started teaching poetry in 1950, did you know how you wanted to teach?

RC: Have you found models of poets for newer poets to read to get a sense of how a poem should be put together?

DeFrees: Yes. I would always do that. Hopkins and Dickinson are my two strongest influences, yet what's left of Hopkins in my writing is not slavish imitation now. One of the characteristics is I have a fondness for hard "Cs" and "Ks" and he has a lot of things like that.



Listen
To
You!

THAT'S WHAT WE WANT TO DO.
REAL CHANGE IS LOOKING FOR A FEW
HONEST SOULS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK
ABOUT THIS NEWSPAPER. TO VOLUNTEER FOR A
FOCUS GROUP PLEASE CALL 441-3247 x202 OR
EMAIL RCHANGE@SPEAKEASY.ORG

1ST ANNUAL REAL CHANGE BOOT DRIVE

For many Real Change Vendors the closest thing they have to a home is their coat and shoes!

Donate new or used boots to Real Change to help keep our vendors warm, dry and frostbite-free through the winter months.

Donate new or used boots to Real Change to help keep our vendors warm, dry and frostbite-free through the winter months.

Real Change - 2129 Second Avenue - Seattle, 98121
For more information call Lily at 441-3247 x203

I also like juxtaposed stresses next to each other. So then, another thing I do occasionally that Hopkins did is divide a word at the end of the line. He would sometimes carry the "s" down to the next line so the line would be a full rhyme. I don't usually have end rhymes anymore, unless I'm writing in form, and then I use slant rhyme or vowel rhyme. I do like rhymes, I just don't want the old hackneyed ones.

RC: How do you approach your own writing?

DeFrees: For years, I had a terrible time rewriting. I just didn't know how to go about it. Then I started relining my poems, so I could see what the emphasis had to be or what I had to cut. I had to follow my ear; my ear is the most important tool I have, I rely on that a lot.

I also do quite a bit of research, and have a collection of reference books, including the *Oxford English Dictionary*, *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, a book of quotations, a rhyming dictionary, *Roget's Thesaurus*, the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. If I'm stuck on a poem, on say, cataracts, I might read, say, the *Britannica* entry on cataracts, and would write words down that I think are interesting. It's like filling a fridge to make a meal. Already I know I'm going to write two cataracts poems at least, one just on the language of cataracts. Did you know

cataracts are classified by size, shape, and location? They have names like sunflower, snowflake, snow storm, spindle, and glassblowers. Hear that? Sunflower, glass blower. I like the symmetry already.

RC: Is it okay if I ask you about Arnold, whom you mentioned in three of your poems? I don't want to —

DeFrees: Oh, I don't mind. You see, I idolized him. He lived with us for a year when he was going to Pacific University in Forest Grove, and he used to write me postcards when he was away. They were just perfect. I would carry them around in my pockets for weeks. So when that woman said you might grow up and marry Arnold [referred to in the poem "Through a Silver Screen"], that had never even occurred to me. When I started doing those three poems, I found all of a sudden I was really angry, because I was so close to him and the regulations limited how often we could visit [at the convent] and all of that, I completely lost touch with him.

"Poetry has no obligation to be faithful to facts. You just hold you head up, read it as if you believed in it, and let it go."

Madeline DeFrees

And I had to ask my sister, and she sent me a copy of his obituary. She sent me a Xerox of a picture of him and his wife, and he had two sons I never met. I just thought, there's something's wrong — now it's not like that — but that's the way it was. You could only visit your family 45 minutes a month. You couldn't go home at all unless somebody was dying. And if they didn't die in three days, you couldn't go back for the funeral.

RC: Do you think your poetry has grown since you started writing?

DeFrees: It's much clearer now than it used to be. I think for a long

time I deliberately tried to make it so that only people who were really serious about poetry would get it. (laughs) Sort of the cult obscurity. Because in order to write you need freedom to write about whatever really appeals to you, and if it's a subject or a metaphor or a series of images that are not acceptable to your peers, then you're really limited. I think that lots of times students, just ordinary students, will be worried about the self-disclosure that's

involved in writing poems about things that would really be good topics for them. And so one of the things I used to do in a workshop is I used to say, "Once we start the discussion phase, you can ask the poet questions but they have to be just points of information, like 'what is some term you don't understand.' But it's off limits to say, 'Well, you brought in this rape poem, were you raped?' You can't ask that kind of question."

You know, I write lots of things where I know what the obvious meaning of them would be, the surface meaning, and they aren't that. An example, like in the poem "Driving Home," in the last stanza it says: "I think/ one more time/ of your black luggage/ on the bed. I know/ it may not carry me much longer." Well that's literal: we had black luggage. But there's another meaning you could read into that, and if I were worried that somebody was going to wonder whether I had a relationship with someone, then I wouldn't have been able to write that.

Since poetry has no obligation to be faithful to facts, you can write about anything you want to write about. So you just hold you head up and read it as if you believed in it, and let it go. ■

Madeline DeFrees' latest poetry book Blue Dusk: New & Selected Poems, 1951-2001, is published by Copper Canyon Press and is available through the Elliott Bay Book Company.

NEWSBRIEFS Continued from Page 4

This mall will put the small, local vendors out of business."

In their objections to the Costco project, Cuernavaca groups have been joined by the Sierra club and groups organizing boycotts on the Internet. Those who support the boycott are asked to contact Costco CEO James D. Sinegal (425-313-8100 or fax 425-313-6592) and demand that Costco make a public call to drop charges against all protesters and stop construction on the Cuernavaca store immediately (the trees can still be re-grown on the topsoil).

For more information see websites <http://procasino.org/> or www.mexicosolidarity.org or call Jeremy Simer, Community Alliance for Global Justice at (206)405-4600. ■

— R.V. Murphy

MLK, anti-war icon



THOUSANDS MARCHED IN THE STREETS OF SEATTLE ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, JANUARY 20, SOME CARRYING SIGNS DENOUNCING THE MILITARY PREPARATIONS FOR WAR IN IRAQ. KING DENOUNCED THE VIETNAM WAR IN 1967, TELLING A HARLEM CHURCH THAT "A TIME COMES WHEN SILENCE IS BETRAYAL."

PHOTO BY KEN DEAN.



MAMA'S PIZZA
FREE DELIVERY
322-6444

700 E Pine
Capitol Hill, Seattle

We Deliver Downtown
Fax # - 322-7884

Homemade hand tossed
We can cater to your downtown business order
\$2 OFF any pizza with this ad



FARESTART
Job Training and Placement in
the Food Services Industry


1902 Second Ave
Seattle WA 98101
between Stewart & Virginia St.'s
Phone (206) 443-1233

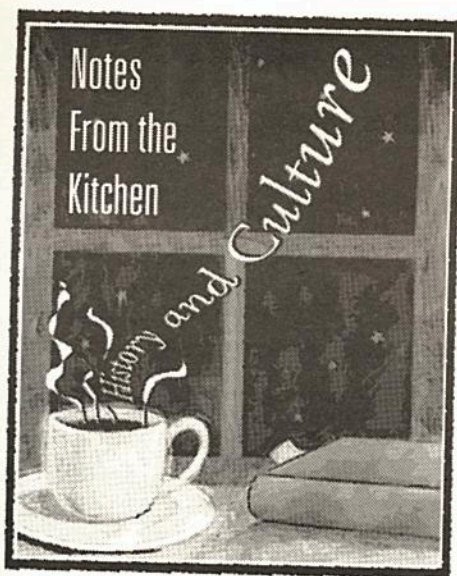
**Because where
you come from
isn't as
important as
where you are
going**

**Join us for orientation
on Tuesdays at 9.30am**

UNIQUE imported eyewear
GREAT vintage glasses!
MODERATE prices!

206-634-3375
4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
eye exams available





The Enemy Within

By Liz Smith

Your head hurts. Your whole body aches. You are coughing, which brings sharp pain to your chest. Your face is hot. You are shivering. You start to droop and all your vitality drains away. It's what you feared. You have the flu, and you are not alone.

Ninety million people get sideswiped by the flu each winter. It is the universal miserable experience. Understanding what's going on in your body won't help you get well any faster, but will give you something to think about during your hours of undesired suffering.

It was back in the year 1510 that influenza was first named by the Italians, who thought it was caused by the influence (*influenza*) of heavenly bodies. Since that time, 82 pandemics have killed people the world over. The worst occurred in 1918, when the Great War was winding down. An estimated 20 to 40 million people died. Physicians were helpless against this disease, the cause of which they would not directly see until the 1930s.

Influenza, along with other diseases such as yellow fever, rabies, and smallpox, is caused by a virus. The flu virus is called pneumotropic, because it attacks the respiratory tract, and is also classified as a myxovirus. Until the invention of the electron microscope in the 1930s, no one had ever seen a virus, although their existence was suspected. They are so

small that one million would make a half-inch line:]——[

Viruses are very different from bacteria or protozoa, which can reproduce outside of a host cell. A virus is a nucleic acid, either ribonucleic (RNA), or deoxyribonucleic (DNA), wrapped in a covering of protein. On its own, it is a piece of chemical information. Once it finds a living organism — you — it finds the type of cell it likes and begins the invasion.

This is how it makes you sick: Someone with the flu, in your airspace, coughs or sneezes, and you breathe in the virus; or a clerk hands you back your change and then you rub your eyes or your nose. Once in your bloodstream the virus makes its way to your respiratory tract and starts to work. This is the incubation period, before you know you are sick. When viruses attack, they do not shout, "Lafayette, we are here!" They sneak up on you, until suddenly you are whammed and have to go to bed. The flu virus, which is shaped like a helix, drills its way into a cell. The nucleic acid tells the cell to make more viruses. In a few hours, one cell can produce 100 viruses. They then break out of the cell, destroying it, and start spreading and reproducing in an exponential manner.

While all this death and invasion is going on, your body's immune system fights back with the white blood cells, or lymphocytes. These are the T-cells and the B-cells, and they are manufactured in the lymph glands, the spleen, and the bone marrow. The T-cells are the patrols, constantly traveling through the bloodstream. The T-cells rush to where the viruses are and fight with them in hand-to-hand combat. Other T-cells scurry to enlist the help of the B-cells and display the pattern of the viruses to them. The B-cells follow the T-cells back to where the viruses are. The B-cells produce antibodies which stick to proteins on the outside of invaded cells. Then the garbage-collector cells recognize these antibodies and chew up and destroy the invaded cells. It's probably a good thing that there are no sound effects to all this violence, or you might be so alarmed you would have a relapse. It takes a few days for the lymphocytes to kill off a critical mass of flu viruses. It all depends on how strong your immune system is, and which variant strain you have caught.

"Now, wait a minute," you may be thinking. "I'm lying here sick as a dog. Why didn't my flu shot keep me healthy?" The thing about the flu is, not only are there three types — A, B, and C — there are subtypes — A1, B2, C3, and so forth — and there are various strains, which descend from who knows where. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta are responsible for culturing and growing the flu vaccine — this winter — in preparation for the flu the next winter. The flu virus mutates, sometimes overnight, and this leaves your immune cells unprepared if you get a new shifty-eyed mutant virus. That's why it's so hard to fight the flu: It won't hold still.

There are a few other things to do, besides getting a flu shot, that may help you avoid getting sick. Without going into a lot of details that only a doctor would find interesting, regard your nose as a citadel of defense. Keep your feet warm, as this helps your nose. Breathe through your nose, as opposed to your mouth. Wash your hands before touching any part of your face. There are also a couple of medicines which may help shorten and lessen a case of flu: amantadine and oseltamivir. Amantadine is available by prescription and oseltamivir is sold at pharmacies and some grocery stores.

Once you have taken to your sickbed, here are some suggestions. Keep warm, and wear an extra pair of socks to keep your feet warm. Sick or well, your body loses fluids in a process called insensible losses. When you're sick, your body needs extra fluids to keep everything in the highway of your bloodstream running smoothly. So, increase your liquids, especially plain water and juice. You may also have stomach flu, or gastroenteritis. Once you are able to eat, doctors usually prescribe the B.R.A.T. diet. This is bananas, rice, applesauce, and dry toast — all light and easily digestible. Yogurt is also good, as it is nourishing and replaces the good bacteria in your digestive system.

It also helps to have someone to wait on you hand and foot, as it is important to rest while your body recuperates. Order them to make the following soup for you. It is full of healthy vegetables and protein, and it tastes delicious.



**Interested in
Volunteering
for Real Change?**

Check out [http://
www.realchangenews.org/
volunteer/
volunteer.html](http://www.realchangenews.org/volunteer/volunteer.html).

Or Call
(206) 441-3247 ext. 203

STOP DISCRIMINATION



**Seattle Office
for Civil Rights**

Housing
Contracting
Employment
Public
Accommodations

(206) 684-4500

(TTY) (206) 684-4503

www.seattle.gov/civilrights

Free, fair, and impartial services



City of Seattle

Greg Nickels, Mayor

DONATE YOUR USED CAR, VAN, TRUCK, OR BOAT

**to SEATTLE EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICE.
RECEIVE FREE TOWING AND A TAX BREAK**

Your donation will help non profit SEHS provide short term
emergency shelter and longer term transitional housing to
homeless families with children.

CALL (206) 461-3660

905 Spruce St., Suite 111, Seattle, WA 98104

sehs@emergencyhousing.org www.emergencyhousing.org

A member of United Way of King County



Callaloo

yield: 5 cups

This soup comes from Barbados, a little island that is the farthest east in the string of Caribbean islands. Strictly speaking, Callaloo is made of callaloo leaves, okra, chiles, yams, and coconut milk. Callaloo leaves grow from taro root, which is used to make the Hawaiian staple, poi. The plant also is called dasheen when grown in the United States. Since it's not a commonly available vegetable, I substituted Swiss chard, which has a very mild flavor in spite of its rugged appearance. I left out the okra, as I have never met anyone who likes it except my aunt Patricia. Some versions include fish, or crab, but crab is \$20 a pound. Who can afford that in these hard economic times? Anyway, we've got a war to pay for, maybe even two or three, so we need to save our pennies.

4 oz. bacon, salt pork, or good quality dry salami, cut into small pieces.
 1 large onion, peeled, finely chopped
 salt and pepper
 2 pork chops, cut into small pieces
 32-oz. container chicken stock
 1 large yam or sweet potato, peeled, cut into 1/4-inch dice
 2 sprigs fresh thyme or 1 teaspoon dried thyme
 2 garlic cloves, finely minced
 1 serrano chile, cut in half with seeds removed
 6 leaves swiss chard, rinsed, rolled tightly, and thinly sliced
 6 ounces coconut milk

1. Cook bacon (or pork or salami) for 5 minutes, or until almost crisp. Pour off all but 2 teaspoons of the fat.
2. Add onion and salt and pepper. Cook 10 minutes on medium-low heat. Add pork chops and cook five minutes.
3. Stir in chicken stock, sweet potatoes, thyme, garlic, and serrano chile. Simmer 20 minutes.
4. Remove thyme sprigs and chile, add swiss chard and coconut milk. Simmer five minutes, then serve.

Note: My column in the December 12 issue of *Real Change*, "Wolf at the Door for Christmas," prompted one nice reader to deliver a sack of goodies to our office. My thanks to the kind lady for the book and other things; they were most appreciated.



Friday, Jan. 10, 10:19 p.m. Occidental Ave South. Two men were sleeping on the same loading dock area when the other man took out a 6-inch knife and began stabbing holes in victim's backpack. The victim was drunk and was hard to understand. The suspect was contacted and was also drunk and denied the charges. The backpack also had puncture holes. Officer told the men to find another place to sleep, away from each other.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 5:42 a.m. Yesler Way. Officer responded to a fight in the 500 block of Yesler and contacted the victim, a 42-year-old black male transient, who pointed out suspect, a 55-year-old black male, and stated he had been punched by him twice in the face. The suspect said his bag had been at the bus stop on 3rd Ave. when the victim came over and started going through it. The suspect had been drinking while this happened, and a friend came over and told him the victim had admitted taking the bag. The suspect had outstanding warrants and was booked into King County Jail.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 4:35 p.m. Victor Steinbrueck Park. Suspect, a 30-year-old white male transient who had an initial 90-day trespassing violation against him, was observed in park and then arrested and booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 11:39 p.m. Second Ave. An officer saw a female sitting on the ground crying. She kept saying that she was beaten. She stated she and her roommate had been out walking, and he had accused her of messing with other people. He then slapped her, grabbed her by the hair, threw her to the ground, and kicked her and walked away from her. She stated to the suspect that she was going to call 911 and he shouted that he did not care. As officer was talking to her, the suspect walked up to them but refused to talk about it. He put his hands behind his back and turned to the wall and was arrested and transported to West Precinct. The victim stated they have been staying in Georgetown and had been seeing suspect for six months, and that they had no domestic violence history but had both been drinking. Support personnel arrived, gave her a ride to a shelter, and the suspect was booked into King County Jail.

Sunday, Jan. 12, 12:39 a.m. Occidental Block. The suspect, a 43-year-old black male transient, was contacted for trespass. During a routine name check, a warrant came up and was verified and the suspect was booked into King County Jail. ■

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.



Listener-Supported Non-commercial
 Radio from Bellevue Community College

Studio (425) 564-2424 • Office (425) 564-2427
 email: kbcsc@ctc.edu • http://kbcsc.fm

Alternative News on KBCS • 6-8pm Weekdays

Democracy Now!

weekdays 6:30 - 7:30pm

*Hosted by the dynamic Amy Goodman,
 this award-winning national news program
 is committed to bringing the voices of the
 marginalized to the airwaves on issues
 ranging from the global to the local.*

**Free Speech
 Radio News**

☛ weekdays at 6:00pm

**Voices of Diversity,
 Counterspin, This Way Out, 51%,
 Radio High Country News,
 Making Contact, Teen Talk**

☛ weekdays 7:30 - 8:00pm

Street Talk

Photos and interviews by Bess Dwyer

Congress is currently reviewing a proposal to resume a service draft in the event of a war. This proposal would draft men and women, ages 18-26, for two years of national service, either military or civil. Street Talk went to Westlake and the U District to ask: What would your response be if the military draft were reinstated?

"I don't believe in shooting guns myself. I would definitely be a conscientious objector. If they're the ones deciding all this war business, leave me out of it. It's not like I really have a chance to vote on it. They're not going say: 'OK, next thing on the ballot, go to war or not go to war.' They're really deciding this, so they can leave me out of it."

— Lisa Porter



"I actually am for the draft being reinstated. [Citizens] should be willing to send their sons and daughters to enter such a conflict rather than a

paid mercenary class of minorities and the poor. They're going to sacrifice this class to go out and fight for the cause of the elite politicians and businessmen who have these international goals but aren't willing to fight for them themselves."

— Jonathan Galin



"Well, I would be draftable. If they send me a draft card I won't be burning it and I won't be running up to Canada suddenly. I guess my only reaction would be, well, I would pray and join up, then pray more."

— Thomas Carlson

"I would be incredibly sad. The draft disproportionately affects people who are uneducated and don't have money. It's not a fair thing. And it would also indicate that we are involved in a war that doesn't have a lot of support among the population — otherwise, people would enlist."



— Sarah Rosenblum



"I mean, if I have to go (to war) then I'd have to, but it's not what I want to do right now. If this [proposal] is an anti-war thing, then yeah, I'd feel differently about it. I don't really understand how it'd be an anti-war thing if it were to pass."

— Kari Zwiefelhofer

LETTERS Continued from Page 2

people are still on the waiting list to leave nursing homes and receive alternative community-based support. Given the devastating rate of health care and human services funding cuts, they may be waiting for a while.

Disappearing revenue for services for poor people and people with disabilities are often used as a justification for nursing home bias. However, studies have revealed that nursing homes are actually more expensive than community-based care. If our state divested funds from state institutions and nursing homes and made those funds available for people to choose the kind of assistance they wanted, we may even save money.

Besides, even if choice was more expensive, that should never scare progressives away from a good fight for the rights and freedom of oppressed communities. Poor people and people with disabilities should not have to settle into a life without liberation because our government chooses to waste public funding on wars and prisons. We must demand that our public funding be used not only for necessary housing and assistance, but also in a way that ensures the fundamental human right to self-determination for all people.

Sincerely,
Alisa Bierria
Communities Against Rape and Abuse (CARA)
Seattle

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

Lately, we at Classics Corner have been newly obsessed by *Philoctetes*, Sophocles' timeless tale of a smelly man and his search for justice.

The story goes like this. On the way to Troy, Philoctetes blunders into a sacred grove and is bitten on the foot by an irate snake god. The wound festers and Odysseus and the Atridae, repulsed by the smell, strand him on Lemnos where he subsists on grass and whatever pigeons he can shoot with his magical bow. He becomes understandably bitter.

Meanwhile, his erstwhile comrades spend the next 10 years camped in the mud outside Troy. They learn through a seer that only Philoctetes and his bow can break the stalemate. This presents a dilemma.

Since Odysseus knows that Philoctetes will happily shoot him on sight, he recruits Neoptolemus, the fresh-faced son of Achilles, to tell stinkfoot a pack of lies. This, he argues, is justifiable. "When one does something for gain," says Odysseus, "he need not blush."

The Sophists would spend their days in the agora, taking bribes, distinguishing between blowjobs and sex, and conflating the just and the justifiable.

Neoptolemus reluctantly goes along with his commander's plan and gains the wounded man's trust. As stinkfoot and the boy begin to bond, however, Neoptolemus reconsiders. He says it is better to be just than clever and, against his own self-interest, finally tells Philoctetes the truth.

Despite the fact that he is offered a healer for his foot, a ticket off the island, and a heroic future,

Philoctetes feels betrayed and can't bring himself to accept his good fortune. The agony he knows seems preferable to the uncertainty of change and cooperation with his enemies. Sophocles gives the tragedy a rare happy ending when Hercules pops up to convince Philoctetes it's all for the best. Stinkfoot finally accepts his destiny as the hero of Troy.

Apparently, the *Philoctetes* story was a well-known bit of Homeric apocrypha, and Aeschylus and Euripides wrote now-lost *Philoctetes* plays as well. This one, however, was a commentary on the new breed of Athenian politician who always won his way through craft and guile.

Once upon a time, when you wanted something, there were just two ways to get it: force and persuasion. This was a code of ethics that was simple to keep straight. Then came the Sophists, the proto-lawyers of 5th century Athens, who, as Aristophanes memorably put it in *The Clouds*, could always make "the worse argument the better." The Sophists became the politicians of Athens. They would spend their days in the agora, taking bribes, distinguishing between blowjobs and sex, and conflating the just and the justifiable.

Sophocles' *Philoctetes* is thought to have been produced in 409 BC, only a few years after the reign of the Thirty Tyrants, a dictatorial coup that left thousands dead or exiled. As Athenian political life became increasingly brutal and dishonest, Sophocles seemed to long for a simpler, more ancient ethic that preferred truth to the merely expedient.

The poet rejected the degraded discourse of his day to call us to something better. Were Sophocles alive today, he'd be posting to poetsagainsthewar.org, standing up to the lies of our time. Sophocles is dead, but truth lives on. See for yourself. ■

Writers,
photo-
graphers,
illustrators
wanted.
Call Adam
at 441-3247

Hire a Senior
Put Wisdom and Skill to work for you!

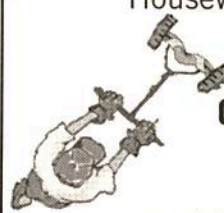


Housework, Gutter Cleaning, Odd Jobs,
Yard Work, Lawn Mowing etc.
\$8.50/hr, 4-hr. minimum

Call us today! 728-2773 X 227

Pike Market Senior Employment
1931 First Avenue Seattle 98101

cmagdalenanetos.com, www.figgypudding.org



Valentine

Notables

Thursday 2/6

Social Work and Immigration, a two-part series presented by the International Social Work Committee and the Latino Student Group, Poder. 6-8:30 p.m., at University of Washington, Social Work Commons, Room 305, 4101 15th Ave. NE. Info Caterina cmjg@u.washington.edu.

"Peace on Earth: How?" a Thursday night series with a presentation by Women from WHEEL (Women's Housing, Equality and Enhancement League) and Women in Black. Co-sponsored by the Center for Contemplation and Non-violence and Keystone Church, free. 7:30-9 p.m., at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. All are welcome. Info Eric Carlberg 206-632-6021.

Saturday 2/8

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

Benefit Concert for WA State **Jobs with Justice**, with Anne Feeney, poet-singer Chris Chandler, and Tacoma "Longshore Troubadour" Vance Lelli. Reception 6:30 p.m., Performance 7 p.m., at ILWU Longshore Local 23 Hall, 1306 Alexander Ave. E., Fife (just west of Route 99, between I-5 exits 136 & 137), \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Info Washington State Jobs with Justice 206-441-4969 or <http://www.wsjwj.org>.

Fiesta Cubana, a benefit for 2003 EveryWoman's Delegation to Cuba, a night of live performances of Cuban music and dance. 6 - 10 p.m., at Benham Gallery, 1216 1st Ave. Suggested donation \$20 at the door. Info Benham Gallery 206-622-2480.

Sunday 2/9

Music of remembrance of the Holocaust. 2

p.m., at ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery, 4711 SW California Ave., West Seattle. Info ArtsWest Box Office 206-938-0339 or <http://www.ArtsWest.org>.

"Singing for Peace" concert to honor the Seattle Twelve civil disobedience peace activists and raise money for a "War Resistance Defense Fund," with singer/songwriter Mike Stern. 7 p.m., at University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave. NE at NE 47th in the University District. Info 206-632-5188.

Monday 2/10

The Poet's Theater **"Awake in Spain,"** by Frank O'Hara, a reading of plays. 7:30 p.m., at Above Open Books, 2414 N. 45th St. in Wallingford. Info 206-335-5132 or jamalieh@thepoetstheater.org.

Wednesday 2/12

"Harassment Workshop: Practical Issues & Concerns for Schools" by Washington State Assn. For Multicultural Education (WSAME). Designed for K-12 administrators, principals, teachers, and staff. Cost is \$100, registration must be accompanied by check. 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., at Antioch University Seattle, 2326 6th Ave. Info WSAME 206-522-5438.

Under Siege: Health in Palestine, a presentation by Palestinian-American Amineh Ayyad, who traveled to the occupied Palestinian territories twice in 2002 to document human rights violations and many of the challenges health care personnel face daily. 7 p.m., at the UW Health Sciences Building, K069, potluck dinner at 6:15 p.m., sponsored by Northwest International Health Action Coalition. Info or directions Mary Anne Mercer mamercer@u.washington.edu or map at <http://www.washington.edu/home/maps/southcentral.html>

Thursday 2/13

Social work and immigration, 2nd of a two-

part series presented by the International Social Work Committee and the Latino Student Group, Poder. Part 2 is "Know Your Rights," immigration training presented by Northwest Immigrant Rights Project of Seattle. 5:30 - 7 p.m., at University of Washington, Social Work Commons, Room 305, 4101 15th Ave. NE. Info Caterina cmjg@u.washington.edu.

Timothy Harris, founder of **Real Change Homeless Newspaper**, will speak in the Thursday night series **"Peace on Earth: How?"**. Co-sponsored by the Center for Contemplation and Nonviolence and Keystone Church, free, donations invited for the presenter. 7:30 - 9 p.m., at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. All are welcome. Info Eric Carlberg 206-632-6021.

It's About Time Writers Reading Series, for beginning and experienced writers, this and every 2nd Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., with an open mike following the scheduled readers. Ravenna's Third Place Books, 6504 20th Ave. N.E. More info at 206-527-8875, or www.itsabouttimewriters.homestead.com.

Saturday 2/15

Ten million people are expected to join a worldwide protest against war on Iraq.

Sunday 2/16

Home Alive Boundary Setting Class; participants will gain skills in negotiation, limit setting, verbal and physical boundary setting, self care, and building support systems. Sliding scale \$10-\$50 or 0 for those who need it. Registration 206-720-0606, Box 2. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Please leave your name and phone number/email. 1 - 4 p.m., at 1400 18th Ave. at the corner of Union on Capitol Hill.

Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation program with Dr. Lois Price-Spratlen, author of a book on **African American Nurses**, a special Black History Month event. Potluck 5 p.m., program 6:30 p.m., at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N. 70th. Info 206-789-5565.

Monday 2/17

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition will hold Legislative Briefing, in Olympia. Info Jean@wroc.org.

Tuesday 2/18

Introduction to News Reporting for Community Radio. Are you interested in producing alternative news and public affairs programs? Learn the basics of public radio news production at Bellevue Community College's own radio station KBCS. This and subsequent Tuesdays. Maximum number of students 8, info <http://www.KBCS.fm> or 425-564-2263.

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.

Wednesday 2/19

Community Alliance for Global Justice presents a workshop on the **Free Trade Area of the Americas**, "FTAA: The Basics." They will discuss what the FTAA is, how it will affect people locally and overseas, and what people are doing to stop it. The FTAA will hand over more authority than ever before to the biggest corporations without any real safeguards. Now is the time to act. 6:30 - 9 p.m., at 606 Maynard Ave. S. in Seattle's International District. Free, donation requested to cover costs, RSVP appreciated. Info and RSVP 206-405-4600 or caggj@riseup.net.

Thursday 2/20

Jim Wall, Senior Contributing Editor of *Christian Sentry* magazine, will speak on "Lifting the Veil of Ignorance Within the American Churches about the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict." Sponsored by Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, Olympia Committee for Justice & Peace in Israel/Palestine, and Palestinian Concerns Group of St. Mark's Cathedral. 7 p.m., at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Bloedel Hall. Info 206-523-7476. ■

Computer Corner

Sign up for Classes NOW!

The Mac Workshop has five FREE classes open to all:

Introduction to Computers: Focused on basic computer skills, email, and the Internet. Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m.

Resume Building: Get that job you want. Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m.

Desktop Publishing: Learn Photoshop and Pagemaker. Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.

Microsoft Office: Hone skills in Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m.

Web Design: An advanced class to build your own website using JAVA, HTML, and other web scripting languages. Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.

All classes will be on Macintosh computers and will be held at 2129 Second Avenue, Seattle. Classes fill up, so sign up as early as you can.

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



Need help around the house?



- Rates from \$8 per hour
- Skilled workers available
- No service charges
- Helps the homeless

CALL (206) 728-JOBS

The Millionair Club Charity
Over 81 years of changing lives through jobs
www.millionairclub.org

citizens participation project



Help create a budget that supports those in need

Issue: After Governor Gary Locke issued his budget proposal in December, it is now up to the state legislature to modify it and bring in their own suggestions to meet all of the state's pressing needs and take care of a \$2.4 billion deficit.

Background: Governor Locke created his budget under the looming threat of a \$2.4 billion deficit. This figure will be updated — and could possibly get worse — when a new revenues forecast is issued in mid-March, shortly after which both the House Appropriations Committee and its Senate counterpart will come up with budget proposals of their own. By late April, the Legislature must agree on one budget that deals with a \$2.4 billion deficit in a \$23 billion general fund budget. Writing this biennial budget for the years 2003-2005 is the chief task of the session; the large budget deficit is dominating everything.

While the Governor's proposal did not contain any new revenues, the House and Senate version will have to if the state is to continue to provide vital services to those in need and also balance the budget, as law requires. However, there are also laws governing what can be cut from a state budget, so only about \$9.2 billion of Washington state's total \$23 billion budget is open to cuts. And the lion's share of that \$9.2 billion pays for health and human services — primarily for people with severe physical or mental illness, for child victims of abuse and neglect, for senior citizens suffering from dementia, or people with disabilities so severe they cannot possibly support themselves.

In Governor Locke's budget — which only cut programs and services without adding new revenues — the proposed cuts included:

- Suspend next steps in education initiatives — \$450 million
- Health coverage for 60,000 low-wage workers — \$328 million
- Total health care cuts — approximately \$1 billion
- Social services — \$215 million
- Higher education — \$94 million
- Community mental health — \$60 million
- Children's Services \$60 million
- End General Assistance for Unemployable Adults — \$40 million

Many programs would be eliminated entirely, state employees would see their co-pays raised while vendors who carry out state contracts would get slight (or no) cost-of-living increases. Hundreds of state activities would be reduced. With our help, the Legislature now must decide which elements of the Governor's plan it wishes to accept, which to reject, or whether to start over from scratch. Those decisions will dominate the next 14 weeks.

Action: Citizens who wish to influence the budget need to start contacting their legislators now. By the time the House budget appears, many members will have decided which budget items they intend to fight for and which are less important to them — based on what they are hearing from constituents. Once the alternative budgets appear in print it is still possible to influence them, but the task is a whole lot harder.

By contacting our one senator and two representatives, we get to influence everything about the budget: what is funded, what is cut, and whether the deficit will be resolved just by cuts or by a combination of revenues and cuts. With our help, the Legislature must decide which elements of the Governor's plan it wishes to accept, which to reject, or whether to start over from scratch.

Find out who your one state senator and two state representatives are at www.leg.wa.gov. You can also get more information on the Governor's proposals at the Office of Financial Management website, www.ofm.wa.gov/. ■

The Ashtanga Yoga School

- Beginner Intensives
- Mysore & Led Classes
- Beginner Teacher Trainings

David & Catherine Garrigues, Directors
(Certified by K. Pattabhi Jois)

1412 12th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122
206-261-1711 ashtangayoga@earthlink.net
www.yogaspirals.com also in Tacoma

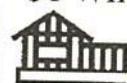
The website at the end of Western Civilization

classicscorner.org



The CoHo Team

Of Windermere Agents



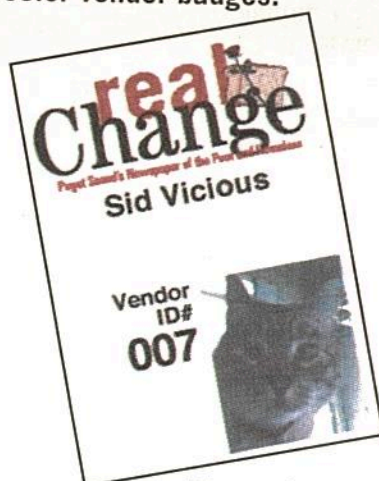
Donating 33%

The CoHo Team ... Full service real estate agents donating 1/3 of their commissions to community and housing nonprofits.

www.cohorealty.com

Contact Will Kemper: 206-234-7009, wk@cohorealty.com
Windermere Real Estate NW Inc.

Check out our spiffy, new, color vendor badges!



Please buy your paper only from someone wearing a badge like this

Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project
2129 2nd Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121



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

Mockingbird Times



Building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth



FEBRUARY 2003

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

VOLUME III, ISSUE 2

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG

Cuts in Services Hurt Kids in Need

SHAY DENEY



EVER SINCE I WAS 14, I've depended fully on the help of homeless services around the Seattle area. I went to feeds when I was hungry, shelters when I was cold and tired, and drop-in centers when I just wanted to get off the street, away from the drugs, the drama, and the finger-pointing cops. By the time I was 16, I felt that every adult I ran into was against me. This was the lowest point of my life so far. I was completely alone because I wouldn't let anyone help me even when they begged for me to let them in.

That is when I decided to give yet another drop-in center a go. At first, it was like any other drop-in center, and I still carried the attitude of, "Thanks, but no thanks — I don't need your help." I did really like the place though, and I was growing very fond of the staff there. I kept going back and soon began feeling comfortable among them, convincing myself finally that, no, they were not out to get me.

They offered me counseling, which I did not do at the time but am currently participating in now. They hooked me up with a case manager who helped me with my case at the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), not to mention a load of other stuff yet to come. Having dropped out of high school half way through my freshman year, I enrolled in the public school that was run out of the top floor of the drop-in building. Finally, it was a school I could deal with, with teachers that I actually got along with. I'm still participating in that program today.

When I turned 18, they told me about a group home

that they thought I would do well in. They helped me fill out the application and within two months, I had a place to live. This drop-in center was really helping me get somewhere and my life had completely turned around. While I lived in this group home, I continued to use the drop-in center's services, still went to school there, and kept meeting with my case manager.

In May of 2002, my case manager came up to me and asked if I wanted my own apartment. Of course I wanted my own apartment! By then, I was ready to move on from the group home and live my own life. My case manager handed me an application to get into section 8 housing, a federally funded program that helps people out by paying a portion of their monthly rent. Within three months, I was living on my own in my own apartment.

Then I heard about the budget cuts. At first, I didn't realize that it would be so drastic, but within a month I started seeing the difference. The drop-in center that I am associated with used to have "chores" (i.e., cleaning the kitchen, sweeping the floors) with which the homeless kids could get paid \$3-\$5 a day for one chore a day. It wasn't much, but it would get you a sandwich and a soda at the local 7-Eleven or a cup of coffee and a muffin at the many little coffee shops that litter Seattle. When the budget cuts started happening, the drop-in center had to stop paying the kids, and instead started giving them bus tokens.

The next thing I noticed was that the staff was disappearing... fast. Although one or two of them left the job for personal reasons, others got laid off due to the budget cuts. Both of the case managers at the center left, along with three other important staff members. This especially affected the youth because we really got to know the staff and especially our case managers.

We felt comfortable talking with them and they got to know us well in return. I personally adored my case manager. She was always smiling, in a good mood, and gave me anything that I could possibly ever ask for. She worked her hardest to help me out in any way she could. The other case manager was the same way. They went out of their way to help the street kids.

When they left, a lot of the kids were sad and confused. For a while, I was lost without my case manager. I didn't have someone I could go to to help me with the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) paperwork, or someone to aid me on an important phone call. Almost everything I had to do dealing with DSHS or any other program I was in, I always went to my case manager. I didn't really know how to deal with that stuff yet on my own. Well, I learned

quickly, but a lot of the other street kids didn't.

Another result of the budget cuts was that the center had to go from being open four days a week to only three days a week. This means that kids have more time to hang out on the street, get into trouble, and get harassed by the cops.

These budget cuts have been and still are affecting not only the drop-in center I am associated with, but also other very important services and programs in Washington State, including Teen Feed, shelters, and other drop-in centers. The programs provide a warm, safe place for the kids to hang out with their peers and mentors and, most importantly, keep them out of trouble. Hopefully in the future the state can work out the money issue and give back to the programs they have taken away from. Until then, these programs are going to have to work around the problem and figure out different ways for them to cope. 🐦



INSIDE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR 2
by Jim Theofelis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 2

QUOTE 2

POSITIVE POWER 3
So you want to go to college?

THE REEL ANTWONE FISHER 3
Movie Review
by Jessica Gunning

MOCKINGBIRD PHOTO 3
compiled by Kevin Griffin

GODSPEED YOU TO THE RECORD STORE 4
Music Review
by Dennis Fisher

POETRY CORNER 4
Wonderful Day, Foster Care
by Matt Hicks, Nicole O'Shaughnessy
Founded in Seattle, Washington, 2001

Dumping You Outside with the Rest of the Garbage

WILLIAM NELSON



I LEFT FOSTER CARE in October of 2001 at age 18. I was homeless and felt that I had no housing options. A case manager told me that there were transitional/independent housing options for young adults aging out of the foster care system. She told me of a certain program that she thought that I was really "good material" for. Her boss and everyone I had talked to, including friends who were in this housing program, all seemed to agree that this was the program for me. I told everyone that I was very nervous and I really wanted to get into this program. Every single person that I talked to gave me the same advice. They told me to "keep calling," to show them how much I really

wanted to be in the program.

The housing program I applied for provides residents with a small studio-sized apartment where their rent is based on monthly income. I went to a few interviews where we discussed my background, my current situation, and my goals. At one of the meetings I attended, the professional did not even show up. At the last intake meeting that I went to, I was told that they would call me the next day after their staff meeting.

I could see that things were disorganized. When I didn't receive a call back, I took the advice of my friends, case manager, her supervisor, and other employees of this organization, and called the program back. They never really seemed to answer their phone, but when I finally got a hold of the supervisor of the program, she was very rude. She commented on their disorganization and told me that she would call me

OUTSIDE CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Letter from the Editor

IT SEEMS there is no debate that these are indeed some very uncertain times, not only for Americans but for all citizens of the world. The threat of war looms overhead, spreading anxiety and fear to young and old alike. Beyond the political crisis we face, there is the weak economy, resulting in states having their worst fiscal crisis since WWII. States face budget deficits ranging from several hundred million dollars to California, which faces an overwhelming projected shortfall of \$35 billion (*now that's a lot of bottle caps*).

Given that most state constitutions demand balanced budgets and do not allow for deficit spending, the focus of the discussion seems to be on deep budget cuts versus increasing revenues. It reminds me of the Chinese symbol for *crisis*, which is *danger* and *opportunity*. Because the "danger" is so clear and obvious, the "opportunity" seems a bit more elusive.

During my early years of being a counselor, I had the remarkable opportunity to work with a school that was designed primarily for Native American youth. I

learned so much during that experience and one of those lessons comes to mind. We were in the process of strategic planning for the future of the school and an Elder from the community was invited in to offer some direction and guidance. He told us a story in which a Chief was faced with major decisions that would impact his people in serious ways. In the end, the Chief made his decision based on the impact his decision would have on the children.

Too often major decisions from leaders are measured more in terms of what increases the chances for re-election rather than, "How will this impact a third grader who has just been removed from her family home because of sexual abuse? How will my decision create opportunities for this child to heal and grow and thrive?" This is an important time for all of us who care about the most marginalized children and adolescents to get involved and ensure that public policy is putting the needs of children — all children — as a true priority. This, my friends, is the "opportunity" for us and for our leaders across the nation, the opportunity to ensure that slogans regarding caring and valuing children during good times are put into practice during uncertain and difficult times.



Jim Theofelis

jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

Letters to the Editor

Authentic focus and need

Dear Mockingbird Staff,

I saw your insert in *Real Change* and want to thank you for the time and energy you're putting into your publication. Your focus on youth, especially those in foster care and those on the street, is so badly needed. The fact that you speak from your own experiences gives authenticity to your opinions and ideas.

IN APPRECIATION,
JEAN ROBERTS

Fighting for our son

Dear Jim and the Mockingbird Times,

I wanted to touch base with you to let you know how very impressed I am by the front page article, "Helping Kids Before They Lash Out," in the most recent edition of the *Mockingbird Times*, written by Brittany V. Lucas. Ms. Lucas did an eloquent job summarizing how the practices of our current foster system can profoundly damage our children in care and subsequently negatively impact our society. I was particularly affected by her presentation of the survey done by The Child Welfare League of America, which found in 1999 that a 12 year old in foster care was 67 times more likely to be arrested than another youth of the same age. In my position as Lead RN for the Juvenile Detention Clinic for King County, that has certainly been my experience. I see a hugely

LETTER CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



"When one door of happiness closes, another one opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

— Helen Keller

Meet Our Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jim Theofelis

STAFF ADVISOR

Shannon Barelo

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Molly Rhodes

STAFF WRITERS

Shay Deney, Dennis Fisher, Kevin Griffin, Jessica Gunning, William Nelson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Matt Hicks, Nicole O'Shaughnessy

VOLUNTEERS

Valerie Douglas, Siri Throm Saxe

THANK YOUS

Real Change, Ann Fortun, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Peter Berger at Preston, Gates, and Ellis, Washington Women's Foundation, Rose Saporito, Washington Education Foundation, Patricia's grant tip, Whitney Walker, Godspeed photo

The Mockingbird Times
3302 Fuhrman Ave. E., Suite 107
Seattle, WA 98102
(206) 323-KIDS (5437); Fax (206) 323-1003
www.mockingbirdsociety.org

ABOUT US:

The Mockingbird Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to building a world class foster care system and improving the other systems that serve children and adolescents in foster care. The *Mockingbird Times* is a monthly newspaper that is written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of Mockingbird Society are paid between \$7 and \$8.50 an hour. Additionally, youth from across the country submit articles, art work, poetry and are compensated up to \$25 per published piece. The *Mockingbird Times* has a monthly circulation of 26,500 copies being distributed across Washington and the U.S.A. Youth involvement is key to the philosophy, values and success of The Mockingbird Society and as such youth are involved in all aspects of organizational development and decision-making. All donations to The Mockingbird Society are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. No part of the *Mockingbird Times* may be reproduced without the written permission of The Mockingbird Society. All contents copyright 2003 The Mockingbird Society.

Join the Mockingbird Society: make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable youth

All donations are tax deductible and all donors receive the *Mockingbird Times*.

I want to support The Mockingbird Society

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

\$1,000 + Protector \$ _____ \$500 - \$999 Care Taker \$ _____
\$250 - \$499 Organizations \$ _____ \$50 Supporter \$ _____
\$25 Foster Parent \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ Please bill me for the amount indicated above.
☐ My employer will match my gift, enclosed is my matching gift form.
☐ I am interested in receiving information on the advantages of planned giving.

☐ Yes, you may use my name on published donor lists.

To donate by mail: Please fill out and mail this form with a check or money order payable to The Mockingbird Society, 3302 Fuhrman Ave E Suite 107, Seattle, WA 98102



Positive Power: Planning on Attending College?

HEY WASHINGTON YOUTH! Are you in foster/group/kinship care? Are you planning to go to college in the next couple of years? Here is an opportunity for you! Applications for the Washington State Governor's Scholarship Program are now available.

Governor Gary Locke began this program in 2001 to assist Washington youth in state-recognized care enroll in and complete college programs in the state of Washington. If you're interested, you must be graduating from high school in the 2002-2003 academic year. If you plan to attend college after 2003, don't worry — these scholarships are available to you in the future.

If you would like more information, you can visit the Washington Education Foundation website at:

www.waedfoundation.org.

This website includes:

- application criteria
- selection criteria
- list of available Washington State colleges and universities
- more information about other scholarship programs

Applications can be downloaded from the website, or you can request an application by calling 1-877-655-4097. Applications must be postmarked by March 3, 2003.

We hope that you find this information useful and wish you the best of luck in the future. 🐦

The Reel Antwone Fisher

JESSICA GUNNING



NO, THAT ISN'T A TYPO, it's reel as in a movie reel. That's right; I'm talking about the movie *Antwone Fisher*. As someone involved in a transitional housing program and the Casey Family Program, I was invited to a special showing of *Antwone Fisher*. After the movie, we got a chance to meet the real Antwone Fisher and ask him questions. And now, here is my review of the movie.

On the edge of being discharged from the Navy for numerous fights, Petty Officer Antwone Fisher (Derek Luke) finds himself in the grasp of Dr. Jerome Davenport (Denzel Washington), Commander and Naval Psychiatrist. Fisher, having been abused most of his young life, was everything but eager to talk to a psychiatrist. After numerous sessions in silence with Dr. Davenport, Fisher breaks and finally tells his story. Dr. Davenport takes Fisher in and helps him to find the courage to go looking for the family that he never knew.

The movie is based on the true story of Antwone Fisher, as he told it in his book, entitled *Finding Fish*. The movie is rated PG-13 for violence, language, and mature thematic material involving child abuse. It's a great movie to go see, but only if you can handle the violence and child abuse. My suggestion is that if you have to second guess yourself as to if you think you could handle it or not, you're probably right in telling yourself that you can't.

This is an excellent portrayal of one man's struggles in life as he goes through what so many of us have. It's breath taking and captivating. Not only is it a touching story, it's a reminder to us all that no matter what the circumstances, we do have the will power to change ourselves if change is needed, overcome our personal struggles, and be the best person we can be.

For those of you who don't know who Antwone Fisher is, he is a survivor of the foster care world. Born in a state penitentiary, he was taken away from his mother when he was two months old. He was to be placed in an orphanage until his mother came and got him, but she never came for him. At the tender age of two, he was placed in an abusive foster home in Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived for 12 years. Finally, having had enough of the mental, physical, and sexual abuse he was subjected to for so many years, Antwone

stood up to his foster mother and got himself kicked out of her house. After he lived on the streets for awhile, Antwone found himself in a men's shelter, but his time there ended when he joined the U.S. Navy, just two days later.

During his time in the Navy, Officer Fisher got in trouble for fighting, was ordered to see a psychiatrist, found himself a girlfriend, went to jail, and almost got kicked out of the Navy because he went to jail. With the support of his girlfriend, he found the courage to go looking for his family as Dr. Davenport had told him he needed to do. He eventually overcomes the feelings of rejection, and found his family as well as a sense of satisfaction.

Antwone Fisher is currently working as a screenwriter. He is married and has two children of his own. 🐦

Antwone Fisher
Starring Derek Luke,
Denzel Washington



13-year-old Rose Saporito from Eckstein Middle School, in Seattle, donated money she earned by playing her violin a half hour a day for four days during the holidays. Rose has been playing violin for five years and is learning to play double bass to start a guitar trio. On behalf of *Mockingbird Times*, we would like to thank Rose for donating her time and money. Photo courtesy of Rose's mom and Mockingbird friend, Ruth Wilson. — Kevin Griffin

LETTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

disproportionate number of young people, who are involved with the foster system, locked up in this facility.

I am the adoptive mother of a 14-year-old son who was born into the foster care system. His birth mother was a 16-year-old foster child herself. She had been in a total of 14 foster homes in 12 years after being removed from her family home due to issues of sexual abuse. At the time that I met her (shortly after the birth of our son), she lived on the street and did the best she knew how. I do not blame her for the fact that my son was born drug addicted, but impart all of the responsibility to the foster system that essentially raised her.

I can tell you that my son came to live with me at one day old. He was assigned four different case workers in his first year of life. In the beginning of my experience with the foster system, I took my son to the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) office weekly to visit with his birth mom. As that was such a cold and artificial environment, I suggested that visits with her son be moved to my home. Over a period of time, we got to know and like each other very much.

When our son was approximately 8 months old, his birth mom was arrested and feared that she would be going to jail for an extended period of time. She asked if I would adopt her son as she did not want him to be raised through the foster system as she was. I said that I would. She signed papers to relinquish her rights to him and then was told that she could not designate an adoptive family for him, that it would be the responsibility of the "Department" to do that.

What happened over the course of the next year or so was traumatic for all persons involved. Our son's case was assigned to the Adoption Unit and yet another case worker assigned. It was her opinion and the official stance of the "Department" that children be placed in a culturally relevant home. Our son's adoptive father and I are white. His birth mother is white and his birth father is Mexican. It was planned by the caseworker that our son, now 17 months old (nothing works very fast in the system), be adopted by a culturally relevant family in Bellingham. I secured an attorney and, with my son's birth mother's help, was able to obtain a court order disallowing our son to be moved from his first and only home until our case was heard in court.

To make a long story short, it took many months and several thousands of dollars to combat the plans of the "Department." Subsequently, the case worker quit her job and our son's case was assigned to yet another case worker. This case worker saw the value and necessity of keeping a child in a stable and loving placement, and so at almost 3 years old our son was finally allowed to be adopted by the only family that he had ever known.

I understand and agree that children should be placed in a culturally relevant home but not at the risk of disrupting a stable and loving placement. I challenge the foster system to humanize and individualize their policies and practices for the well being of the child entrusted in their care. We see the damage that multiple placements can do. This damage needs to be prevented at all costs.

I am sorry to say that I had such a horrible experience working with DSHS that I no longer am a foster parent. I have had three children placed with me as a foster parent and I must say that the most difficult issues I faced had not to do with the care of the children, their disabilities, or families of origin, but with the inconsistency and inhumanity of the foster care system. I applaud your efforts to make public, through the voices of those most profoundly affected by the failings of the foster care system, the necessity of immediate reform of a critical but damaging system.

Thanks again for the very important and difficult work that you do. This world would be a much better place if we had more people like you.

BONI R.

Godspeed You to the Record Store to Buy this Album

DENNIS FISHER



GODSPEED YOU BLACK EMPEROR! has recently become one of my favorite bands, and has really turned me on to the indie rock genre. GSYBE! is a band that I would never have been able to classify without the help of the Internet; half orchestra, half rock (sans vocals). The Montreal-based band has been around since 1994, and has eight releases, although not all of them are still available (their first release, for example, was only 33 copies of a cassette). Their trademark “feature” (or so I’m assuming, based on what I’ve heard so far) is starting with a base of a really mellow song, and building it up and up to a really intense crescendo, then bringing it back down again, usually only to build it up again.

Even though it seems as though all of their songs follow this formula (changing only when the crescendos occur, and how many of them occur per

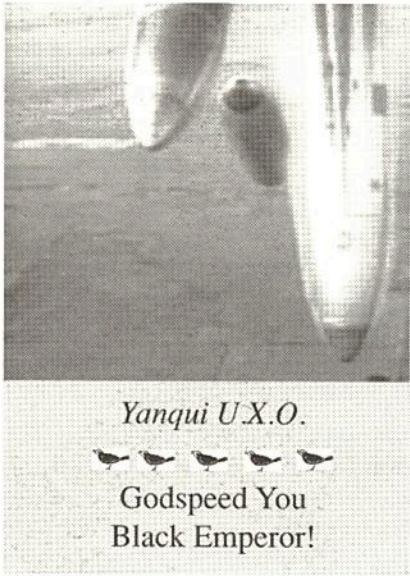
song), the band keeps pumping out original songs, using different styles and instrumentation to keep things fresh. One album (*Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven*) features a glockenspiel duet, for example.

Their latest album came out on November 11, 2002, and was titled *Yanqui U.X.O.* On this album, they have changed their name just slightly to “Godspeed You! Black Emperor” and have also slightly changed their sound. On every other album that I’ve heard so far there have been samples of people talking, which provided the transitions between tracks (and given that their tracks average out to about 15-20 minutes long, the transition really helped). This album scrapped that.

This album is set out as five tracks and three songs. Tracks one and two are one song, track three is its own song, and tracks four and five

play as one song. In past albums the band has put one song per track, then on the insert they would give sub-song titles. For this album however, it seems they have just decided to split the sub-songs into separate tracks.

The sound of the album is mixed; the music is slightly depressing, yet full of hope. It’s not a CD that you can take lightly, and it’s not just something you can put on for five minutes and then turn off again. This is something that you need to sit down and listen to uninterrupted. Even without samples to provide narration, this album tells some kind of story or carries a message. I haven’t figured out what the message or story is yet, but that’s because every time I listen to this album, the music draws me in too deeply to care. 🐦



OUTSIDE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

back. An hour later she called me back and told me that I was not accepted into the program. When I asked why, I was told that her staff would not be able to support my needs. I told her that the support that I was requesting was no different than the support that they were providing for their other clients. She told me that she disagreed and that it was obvious that I was a very “needy” person due to my repetitive calling. For the same persistence that had helped get other young adults accepted into this program, I was rejected.

A year later, I still was not able to totally support myself financially, and was living with friends. I wanted to give living independently another try, so I went back to this same organization but to a different, supposedly better program that had just opened. This was basically my last option, at the time.

This “better” program would help pay my bills and rent until I was more stable. They had expectations that the young adults in their program would have a certain number of productive hours, i.e., job, school, community service, counseling, and so on. Clients would also have to go to weekly and/or monthly meetings and stay in close contact with their case manager. During the intake process, I saw the caseworker of this program and the supervisor of the other program that I had tried to get into a year earlier talking in a hallway. I knew something weird was going on, but I never found out exactly what, because no one would return my phone calls.

This time I was not accepted due to “emotional issues.” They told me that their program did not assist people with any emotional or psychological problems even though I had a couple of friends who were in this program who had more serious issues than me. When I found out that the program was paying for them to do therapy, I became very angry and realized that I was being lied to once again. These are social workers... and they want to turn down people with emotional issues? They work with people with issues; if people didn’t have issues then they wouldn’t need a case manager.

One person’s garbage is another’s treasure, but in this case I guess it was the other way around. Why did I go from being such “good material” to “bad material” so quickly?

I really don’t understand what young adults are supposed to do when they are rejected for services

they qualify for, especially when those services are operated by adults who are capable of helping them put their lives back together, but are choosing not to. Where or who are you supposed to turn to in a situation like this? I didn’t know who to turn to, so I stayed with my friends until I was able to qualify for a different housing program.

I think that what happened here is not appropriate. Helping adults shouldn’t be acting on their own separate expectations of an individual if they are significantly different from the actual program expectations. Why would you turn someone away who is trying to learn and change?

I think organizations such as this one should have clear expectations and should act upon the program’s rules and guidelines instead of their own personal agenda and beliefs. I should have been provided with more information on why I was turned away from not one, but two different housing programs where I had met the qualifications, but was told that I didn’t.

Mixed messages and disorganization were what made my experience very difficult. The most difficult thing is when someone is not being honest with you. I felt like they were dumping me outside with the rest of the garbage. 🐦

Poetry Corner

Foster care

Foster care isn’t easy, but it’s not hard either.
Foster care is home for some kids like me.
Foster care is a way of life for most people.
For me it’s a family that’s paid to allow me to live in their home.
Foster care is not therapeutic for me or you.
Foster care is more stress added to our crazy lives.
Foster care is even crafted for those of you who don’t need a fake family.
Foster care is not the way for you or me...

— NICOLE O’SHAUGHNESSY

A wonderful day

A wonderful day seems to be a rarity on this earth,
But when you have one you realize how much they’re worth,
you wake up in the morning feeling kind of sad,
Then you see the sun and realize you day might not be so bad,
you open your window to hear the leaves blowing in the breeze,
You wonder if the weather will last or if maybe it’s just a tease,
You go outside to feel the sun as it glows,
Then all of a sudden you hear the soft chanting of some nearby crows,
Now that you’re standing in the sun you get kind of hot,
But then from the north comes a cooling breeze so now you’re not,
Your brother comes out and asks if you want to play
Then you think to yourself man this is a wonderful day.

— MATT HICKS