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Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless • Volume 10, No. 8

An Act of State

In 1999, a jury found the U.S. Government guilty
of conspiring to kill Martin Luther King Jr.

So why doesn't anyone know?

An Interview with Attorney William Pepper

Also: McDermott on the War • Bush's Song of Vanity •
Standing in Homeless Clothes • Take That, Westlake and Metro •

Interview by Joe Martin

There's a good chance that you missed the trial of the century — the 20th century, that is. It took place in Memphis, Tennessee in 1999. It was a civil trial in which a jury comprised of six whites and six blacks heard four week's worth of testimony from 70 witnesses and concluded — after deliberating for about an hour — that elements of the government of the United States conspired to murder Martin Luther King Jr. King's family was awarded damages totaling \$100.

The earth-shaking verdict implicated federal authorities in the assassination of King, a home-grown American prophet of nonviolence and a globally revered winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. But America's mainstream media weren't interested. There was some media reaction: mostly to disparage the evidence, or to completely dismiss the trial and its disturbing conclusions. There were few, if any, comments from elected officials at any level of government. The silence, as they say, was deafening.

This extraordinary civil trial would never have happened if not for the courage and persistence of one man: William F. Pepper. An American lawyer, an expert on international human rights, and a seminar leader on that subject at Oxford University, Pepper became close to King during the last year of his life. It was the insanity of Vietnam that brought the two men together.

During the Vietnam War, Pepper journeyed to that battered Asian land, and out of his experience he rendered a powerful essay, "The Children of Vietnam." The piece appeared in the journal *Ramparts* in January, 1967. Up until that time, King and Pepper had never met. On perusing that issue of *Ramparts*, King encountered Pepper's shocking photos: Vietnamese children, horrifically scorched by napalm dropped from U.S. planes. King was sickened by what he saw. He had long been very uncomfortable with the war, and Pepper's article convinced King that the time had come for him to formally declare his opposition to the madness. Though it would anger and upset many of his closest supporters, it was a step King now felt utterly compelled to take. And King well knew that it was a step fraught with risk.

On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before his assassination, King gave his eloquent Riverside Church speech in which he came out unconditionally against the war in Vietnam. In the course of the strenuous year ahead, King would consider a run for the presidency as an alternative peace candidate to the two major parties. And he would begin laying the groundwork for his most radical and far-reaching campaign to date: the Poor People's Campaign. All would be shattered when a shot rang out on an April evening in Memphis in 1968.

That fatal shot is still echoing throughout our world — a world immersed in the cauldron of military madness while the wretched of all the earth, by the hundreds of millions, go homeless, go hungry, and die of disease and despair.

Pepper was in Seattle recently to discuss the implications of King's assassination and the civil trial he helped to bring about, all of which are examined in detail in his stunning new book *An Act of State, The Execution of Martin Luther King* (Verso, 2003).

Real Change: The official story pertaining to Martin Luther King's death is that a lone gunman — a criminal and racist named James Earl Ray — took one rifle shot at King and succeeded in killing him. Ray, the story goes, managed to flee the scene of the crime and for more than two months avoided arrest until he was apprehended in England. Eventually, he confessed to the crime and remained imprisoned until his death a few years ago. End of story. What led you to question this scenario?

William Pepper: Oh, I didn't question it right away; in fact, I pretty much accepted the tale that James was the shooter, acting on his own, and that there was little else to prove. Deeply saddened and discouraged, I'd left politics entirely after Martin's death. It wasn't until 1977 that I became aware that something was not right about the official line.

RC: What rekindled your interest?

Pepper: Martin's old friend, Ralph Abernathy, called me and said that he

Continued on Page 14



Look for the Mockingbird Times Inside!





Homophobic poetry

Dear *Real Change*,

Your editorial policy states that you do not publish articles that encourage homophobia. Yet Elizabeth Romero's poem "Thanks for the tip (found poetry)" (*RC* March 6-19), which appears to be basically a list of insults, reads, "People like you because you are bisexual.... If you are male, you are probably queer."

These statements would seem insulting only to a homophobe, so how do they belong in a list of insults?

Unless by "queer," Romero simply means "strange, odd, funny, peculiar, bizarre, quaint, curious, eccentric, unusual, unconformable, idiosyncratic,

unconventional, baroque, rococo, a fish out of water."

Aberrantly yours,
Michelle Atkinson
Seattle

Ed. replies: Romero "found" her poem, as her title states, and thus it reflects the sentiments out there in the real world — hatefulness, homophobia, etc. Hate the message, not the messenger.

Cash and care

Dear *Real Change*,

I have just finished reading your account of selling plasma, "Bleeding for Dollars," online (*RC* May 17-30, 2001). I happen to be a registered nurse and Medical Supervisor at Biolife Plasma Services, (formerly Sera-Tec Biologicals Limited Partnership).

Although most of your article was fairly accurate, I did not appreciate the tone. Yes, most people donate for the monetary gain. Is that such a bad thing?

I have the good fortune of being on both ends of the spectrum. Prior to working at a plasma center, I was a Trauma Intensive Care Unit nurse. I have given plasma products to critically ill people. I can honestly say that these products save lives. I am proud of what I do. I give my best effort that the

plasma we collect is safe. I also give my best effort to protect the health and safety of our donors.

So your plasma saves lives and you gain some extra cash. Sounds like a great deal to me. I try diligently to instill in my donor's what a wonderful gift they are giving. Believe it or not, there are people that would die without these products. Have you ever had anyone critically ill that needed a plasma product? I highly doubt it. If you had, I do believe your article would have a different slant. One error in your article: Sera-Tec was a privately owned American company.

Sincerely,
Trish Rinaldi

You can read "Bleeding for Dollars" and many other fine articles previously printed in *Real Change* by going to our web site, www.realchangenews.org, and clicking on the "search site" button.

Department of corrections:

The Lazarus Day Center, a Pioneer Square respite for 150 elderly homeless men, has closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays, not Wednesdays and Thursdays, as was earlier reported ("Out on the Street," *RC* March 20-April 2).

Also, a clarification: Construction at the Municipal Building will not cause its 50-bed men's shelter to close. It will stay open until May 1, and then move to another location while its current location is demolished.

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Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless

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Mission Statement:

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

Goals

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

The *Real Change* Homeless Empowerment Project

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

Editorial Policy

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



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Blowback

Watching the Bush v. Hussein play-by-play, we're missing the real cost of the war, right here at home

By Congressman Jim McDermott

I spend much of my time thinking about the war in Iraq and what it means for our country. Of course, the Bush Administration hopes that all of us will spend most of our time thinking about the war in Iraq — that way, we won't pay as much attention to the war it is waging against the people at home.

For while the tanks roll inexorably toward Baghdad, the budget axe is falling here at home. Bush's budget is being rushed through Congress while viewers at home are distracted by satellite views of Basra.

The Bush budget proposes still more tax cuts for the wealthy, but cuts services for the rest of us: cuts in Medicaid and Medicare, cuts in environmental programs, cuts in education, cuts in housing and services to the poor. The Bush budgeteers are even callous enough to cut veterans' benefits by \$14.6 billion. Apparently we are supposed to support our troops only when they are in combat overseas. When they come home, they should expect to fight again for their benefits.

Yet while we are reeling from the punishing costs of tax cuts and war, multimillionaires will be enjoying enormous tax savings.

While the embedded media report the news from the front in Iraq, a fiscal war has been declared on the American people at home. We, and our children, will be paying for President Bush's tax cuts and his war for many, many years.

mainly to cover the costs of the latest Bush tax cut. The enormous costs of war, humanitarian aid, and rebuilding in Iraq are not even addressed in this budget. Some estimates put those costs at around \$200 billion.

To add insult to injury, the Bush Administration is shifting many of the costs of social services onto the states, which nearly all are facing financial crises.

Here in Washington state, we will be especially hard hit by the double whammy of President Bush's budget and his war. Our state economy's link to commercial aviation is a prime example of difficulties soon to come. This already struggling industry may be nearly crushed by the time the Iraq war is over. And, of course, the health of the airline industry is not unrelated to the health of other aspects of our economy.

Our state's coffers are nearly empty, and our precarious fiscal condition is at least in part a result of the President's choices and policies. The message from the Administration in the "other Washington" is clear: "You deal with it."

But how? It is clear that the money to meet state obligations and to provide essential services has to come from somewhere. We don't have very long to fix this mess because our safety nets are difficult to weave but all too easy to tear apart. Unfortunately, Washington state's unstable, regressive tax structure makes it especially vulnerable to economic downturn and its painful consequences. I hope our state Legislature will take the difficult, if unpopular, actions needed to protect the educational, and health and social programs and services that have long distinguished Washington as an enlightened and progressive state.

And nationally? While the embedded media report the news from the front in Iraq, a fiscal war has been declared on the American people at home. We, and our children, will be paying for President Bush's tax cuts and his war for many, many years in the future. At least, some of us will be paying for it. The burden will fall heaviest on those among us least able to afford it. The rest will watch this war from the comfortable sidelines. ■

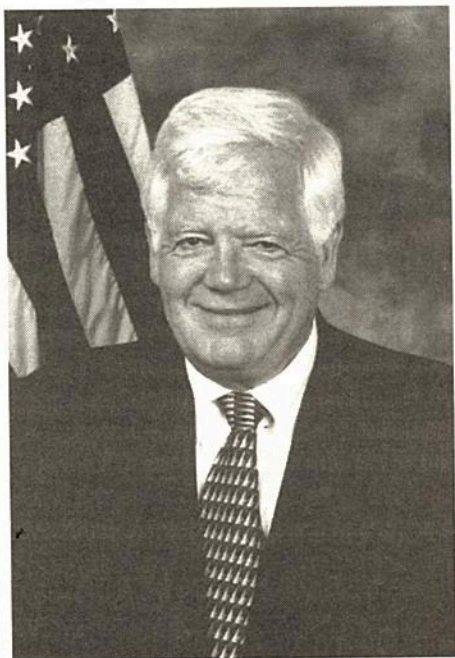


PHOTO OF CONGRESSMAN JIM MCDERMOTT, COURTESY OF MCDERMOTT'S OFFICE

And at a time when President Bush's foreign policy decisions have made us more vulnerable than ever, money for Homeland Security has been trimmed. There is no new money for port security. Feel safe?

The real shock and awe of this budget assault comes when we realize that these harsh cuts in services are

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The boot drive is over for this winter!

Thanks to everyone that brought in boots and socks. We received and gave away dozens of pairs of boots to vendors with cold feet!

Be sure to look in the paper for the start of the 2nd Annual boot drive later this year.



We greatly appreciate the support we received and look forward to seeing you in the fall!!

Divide and conquer

Seattle antiwar protests that have resulted in 43 arrests since America started bombing Iraq have also raised serious questions about police tactics and accountability. From the first night, police mounted a massive, heavy-handed, riot-gear response to the 7-day Emergency Response to War, organized by the Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War (SNOW).

Thursday night's protest made clear the police strategy of intimidation. When some of the 2-3,000 people gathered at the Federal Building overflowed the plaza onto Second Avenue, a full regalia of officers — most in riot gear — responded. About 100 protesters sat down on the street. A horse officer approached a group of people standing on the street and, pointing out the plaza side or the Starbucks side of Second Avenue, said, "You have to choose sides. Are you protesters or consumers?" An hour later, as the main body of protesters began marching to Westlake Park, the Second-Avenue-sitters, rose, gave a cheer, and marched along. There were no arrests that night, but rumors had quickly spread up Second Avenue that officers were being confrontive and were poised to use the tear gas canisters they had ready.

By Saturday the police response was even more heavy-handed. Apparently negotiations between the police department and organizing group Not in Our Name (NION) broke down over the planned march route. When the "snake march" — winding on the sidewalks through several downtown streets — actually started, police deliberately broke up the marchers into several small groups per sidewalk, and then penned them in, seemingly randomly picking off marchers to arrest or question.

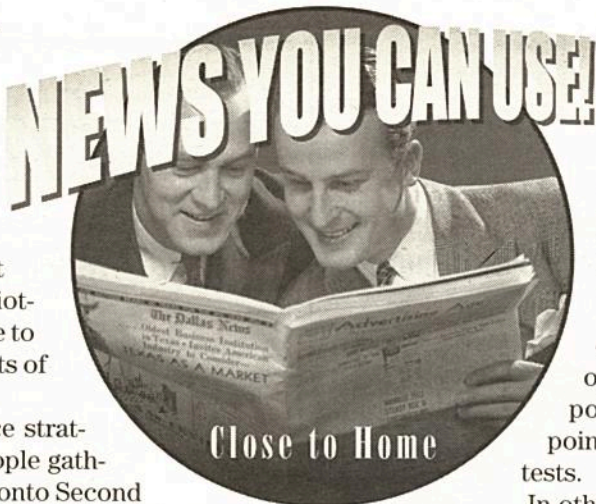
Eighty-year-old Tim Young was among those arrested. When a group of bicycle cops threw down their bikes and started shouting at marchers to get onto the sidewalk, Mr. Young apparently said, quietly, "Say please." He was grabbed by officers, slammed onto the street, and sustained a head injury that caused, in the words of one observer, "a pool of blood." He was charged with obstruction, pedestrian interference, and assault. He later said, "I think they treated me barbarically."



THE INFERNAL NOISE BRIGADE LEAD MARCHERS THROUGH DOWNTOWN SEATTLE DURING WEEKEND ANTI-WAR PROTESTS MARCH 22 AND 23. BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 PEOPLE CAME OUT IN RESPONSE TO THE U.S.'S ATTACK ON IRAQ. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

Antonia Gonzalez also attended the Saturday rally and march with two sisters and three grandchildren. Police pulled her out of a crowd of marchers for no discernable reason. During questioning, she repeatedly said she needed to be reunited with her grandchildren. After admonishing her for bringing children to a political protest, officers promised they would bring her grandchildren back to her at the Federal Building. Instead, they took the children to the West Precinct, again for no discernable reason. Antonia took a cab there, where she finally found the rest of her family.

Her 10-year-old grandson had carefully prepared for the day, drawing a poster of a tall bearded man, his arms outstretched under a cloudy sky. "What does that symbolize?" Antonia had asked. "That's God trying to keep the bombs from falling," he had said. His poster was captioned: "President Bush does not understand the meaning of the word Peace." Officers had confiscated his poster, saying, "You won't need that anymore."



Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata received so many complaints about police response that he sponsored a citizen's hearing about it last Tuesday. More than 100 people attended, most with serious complaints. Notably absent were representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Seattle Police Department, and Licata's fellow councilmembers.

According to Lisa Herbold, Licata's policy aide, the council has to find a policy angle for its continuing work on this matter. She says the council plans to target the police's lack of crowd control policies — a problem pointed out by the ACLU as far back as 1999's WTO protests.

In other news, the Murray-Cantwell 12 have been convicted and sentenced. These 12 people were arrested on September 25 for refusing to leave the Senate offices until both senators indicated how they planned to vote on the imminent War Resolution. Pastor Anne Hall of University Baptist received a 7-day sentence; at press time, Jean Buskin was still serving out her 20 days. The other 10, who did not have prior federal convictions, were sentenced to unsupervised probation. ■

— Michele Marchand

HUD's Big Freeze

Thirty live-in managers who tend to the apartment buildings of some of the city's poorest residents will be laid off this summer, because of budget cuts by the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA).

The resident managers, who get free rent and \$10 to \$12 an hour for their full-time work, have been important to the health of Seattle's public housing. They respond to tenants' complaints, move people in or out, and are likely to take notice of a tenant's declining health or illegal behavior. Each manager will be replaced by part-time janitorial staff who don't live on the premises; their apartments will be rented out to new tenants.

The layoffs are dictated by a reduction in the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's operating fund for 2003 — a cut which is hitting at housing authorities across the nation. This year, SHA got 10 percent less from HUD than expected; many of its peers across the nation got 30 percent less.

Despite suffering the same financial straits, housing authorities that rent out to the poor in Everett and King County have not chosen the same path.

Bud Alkire of the Everett Housing Authority says his organization can stave off cuts by making use of a \$1.2 million reserve account. Then, he says, "The question is, what are they going to do in next year's budget? If it's going to be a long-term problem, we'd have to consider other options." ■

— Adam Holdorf

Convention center safety

John Christiansen, President of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, has a difficult task at hand: Balance multi-millions of dollars in potential revenue with the habits of homeless individuals who seek out his vast downtown Seattle complex.

Lately, along with managers of most every other accessible public area, Christiansen has had to tighten security. What does that mean? The hundreds of homeless people who use the center's public restrooms, or pass their time in the public areas, will have to move on more quickly.

Unlike convention centers in other major cities like Las Vegas, Orlando, Portland, and Chicago, the Convention Center opens at 6 a.m. Christiansen says that many people come in early in the morning to shave, change clothes, and use the toilet.

In a never ending competition with the convention sites of other major cities, the affable Christiansen says he's more than willing to cut the homeless a break. "Basically, if we don't have a major convention going on, those [homeless] visitors on the first level sitting down at the tables might utilize the facility for an hour," he says. But when scouts come through Seattle looking at a potential convention site, things must look prim and proper.

Prior to 9/11, no one thought much of people entering the Center with multiple backpacks and loaded plastic bags. Now, Christiansen says, "We have to be concerned with the types of bags that enter our facility. We really don't have a change in policy, but we are definitely more 'vigilant.' We offer no apologies for that now and in the days ahead. We're not alone in this battle, and hopefully Seattle residents will respond accordingly." ■

— Ed Cain

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



NORTH AMERICAN NEWSBRIEFS

WWW.STREETNEWSERVICE.ORG

While services for homeless and poor people are being cut back across the nation, Portland, Oregon's only street newspaper, *Street Roots* (www.streetroots.org), is expanding this month from a monthly paper to a bimonthly. The volunteer-run, four year old paper had looked to double its publication schedule for at least a couple years; it has only recently amassed the volunteer base needed to increase production. Sadly, the decision to expand is also a response to the need for the true voice of homeless people to be heard. Said the paper's creative director, Israel Bayer, "With the current economic crisis, and dramatic growth in numbers of homeless, it only makes sense to make that move now."

Homeless day laborers in Salt Lake City fear they will feel the aftershocks from the discovery that Elizabeth Smart's kidnapper was a homeless man hired to work in the Smarts' home. Jobs that are already scarce could become scarcer, as city residents shy away from hiring anyone with a similar homeless background, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune* (www.sltrib.com). Yet there have been no noticeable drops in day laborer employment in the city since Elizabeth was recovered, and homeless advocates in the area and nationally think most people who would have been interested in hiring day laborers would realize that not all of them are like Elizabeth's kidnapper. In addition, Brian David Mitchell was not offered the job at the Smart home through an established day laborer organization, but picked up while panhandling downtown — a relationship that has few protections for either the employer or the homeless person should anything go wrong.

It may not look like much to the untrained eye, but Dr. Randy Christensen's roving camper can be a literal lifesaver for homeless teens in Arizona. Inside the camper, known as the Crews'n Healthmobile Mobile Medical Unit, is equipped like a doctor's office, with all the basics from prescription medicine and antidepressants to anti-fungal sprays and even room for minor surgery, according to the *Arizona Republic* (www.azcentral.com). The biggest disease Dr. Christensen is unable to treat is mental illness. A study conducted among his patients reveals that 40 percent admit to feeling depressed, while only half of those took some kind of medication for this condition. More than 78 percent of homeless teens receive no counseling at all, even though it is available to them. Dr. Christensen makes screening for mental health issues part of his first treatment for any new patient. Yet neither he nor any of the other Arizona homeless advocates can force teens to seek the care they need to survive.

A small but important victory has been won by San Francisco's homeless advocates in San Francisco, who along with Supervisor Chris Daly managed to convince social service officials not to require every person seeking shelter in the city to be fingerprinted. The fingerprint plan was part of Proposition N, which stopped the flow of money directly to homeless people and instead will funnel that money into new social service programs, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle* (www.sfgate.com). The fingerprinting was designed to be a way to track who uses the new services, particularly new shelter beds and food sources, to make sure the people who need the services are getting them. Yet such an invasion into privacy would only scare off homeless people who are illegal immigrants or do not want to be so closely tracked. Those who had been receiving checks from the city will continue to be tracked — about 2,500 people out of the city's estimate of anywhere from 8,500 to 15,000 homeless people. ■

— Compiled by Molly Rhodes

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4/03/03

Westlake cracks down

Westlake Center officials, fresh off their successful suppression of a woman carrying an anti-war sign through their hallowed halls on her way to the Monorail, have started clamping down on the dubious designs of some of the very stores that are supposed to be providing a care-free shopping experience.

"It's amazing what we found," said Sella Bunch, vice president of recruitment and Westlake-land security, who wasted no time in disciplining obvious offenders like The Soap Box and that "hawker of international coalition-building," World Wrapps.

"Teriyaki Temple couldn't get their religious biases past us," says Bunch. "Cingular Wireless was using our very website to claim they were 'dedicated to self-expression' and 'determined to promote the individual to a new level.' Clearly, an anarchist thing."

Once Bunch started her hunt, there was no stopping her.

"Did you check out the discreet tagline for A Pea in the Pod?" steams Bunch, as she flips through her files. "Maternity Redefined." What are we, a feminist collective? I don't think so. Then we have Godiva, selling chocolates that are black on the outside and white on the inside. Did they really think they would get away with this?"

Numerous attempts to elicit direct comments from the teenage employees of the targeted stores were stonewalled with blank stares, rolled eyes, and the cleverly diverting, "Uhhh, are you gonna buy something?" Any store accused of having political leanings has until the end of April to shape up or look for a new lease somewhere else.

However, not all of Westlake Center's tenants have been found to have politics on the brain. When asked whether the recently announced plans of Starbucks — which has both a store and a kiosk in Westlake — to have 10,000 stores worldwide by 2005 smacked of possible political ambitions, Bunch was quick to reassure.

"They just want to make a lot of money," she says. "Why should we have a problem with that? I mean, we're a mall. Duh."

Taking back the buses

In an attempt to curb the use of King County Metro buses as de facto day shelters by the area's homeless population, Metro has cancelled all future service of the 174 and 358 routes.

"These buses took their sweet time getting anywhere, and so people with nothing better to do with their day could spend hours on them without having to get off," says Metro spokesperson Duana

Ryder. "We tried training bus drivers to be surly with them, but it just didn't work. We talked to our lawyers, and it turns out the homeless have a right to ride the bus as long as they pay the fare. So we took the only next step we could."

As of today, the two services along Aurora Avenue and between downtown Seattle, Sea-Tac, and Federal Way will be broken up into the 174a through 174rr and the 358a through 358ccc. These shorter routes will go

only a couple of blocks and run every couple of hours in groups of three, all three designed to arrive at the next bus stop about 30 seconds after the connecting bus has pulled away. Once all the passengers have de-bussed, Metro will extend its already notorious agreement with the Almighty over mechanical mishaps, and arrange freak storms over the bus stops. It's hoped within a matter of weeks that homeless people will get the point and move on.

Ryder dismissed any description of this plan as "a little harsh," and poo-pooed any claims that the other people riding the bus would jump in their cars and add to the very traffic that buses are supposed to alleviate.

"These people don't have cars," says Ryder. "If they did, do you think they'd tolerate how slow these buses are? Anyone who already puts up with what we do and actually has to get somewhere isn't going to leave us so easy." ■

— April Fools



PHOTO BY TOM SEYSS.

Learn about homelessness through the Real Change Speaker's Bureau

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.



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

poetry

in possession

I'd had nothing. Yet...
this strange
noise (the center
of
it...)
turned in my hand
while I
stood
there.

Now.

— STAN BURRIS

Tibetan Prayer Wheel

My purest prayers are left unsaid.
Each time I pass The Vajra Shop
I must spin the prayer wheel.
Its silent script reels off the spool
into thirteen dimensions.

Unspoken, the prayer wings back
and enters my unsuspecting heart.
It's then I feel the hunger
of the sparrow hopping under the table
at the outdoor café,
the suffering of the Labrador
tied outside the post office,
the bruises of the addict sprawled
on the sidewalk in a running position.

And even though these abrasions
chafe until my heart is sore and tender,
the prayer awakens the thump
and thud of unvanquished happiness.
I sense the slow crawl of the shadow
across the square in the afternoon
and I become the glad gust of wind
that whirls away the newspapers.

— LEONARD L. TEWS

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



Let's hyperventilate!
Rumsfeld is right. I have become such a CNN junky.
I watch the war news 16 hours a day on television and
spend the rest of my time reading about it at CNN.com. I
have strong opinions about what Aaron Brown has become.
I recognize way too many retired army generals.

I know far more than I need to know about the 3-7th
cavalry. Unofficial song: the Garryowen (I can even spell
it!) Unofficial Martyr: General Custer. Battle cry: "Hoo hah!"
And to think, I used to credit *Mad Magazine* with inventing
"Hoo hah!" along with "Axolotl?" and "What you mean WE,
Kimosabe?" I know what a FARRP is. I know who the tip of
the tip of the spear of the rolling wave of steel is, according

to CNN's Walter Rodgers (namely the 3-7th cavalry, of course.)

Then, a couple of days into the conflict, I learned that "stay behinds are
eating up our soft logistical tail" from retired Colonel David Hackworth. Thus
I began to hyperventilate, precisely as Rumsfeld has described.

It's all those ups and downs of 24-hour coverage. It's the up of watching
a rommel of tanks race across the desert a hundred miles unopposed, fol-
lowed by the down of hearing about an ambush and capture of POWs, fol-
lowed by the minor up of Gen. Myers calling our strategy "brilliant," fol-
lowed by the extreme down of watching the British conduct "psychologi-
cal warfare" as they bulldoze murals of Saddam. Like anyone's dumb enough
to fall for that trick. ("Hey, where did big picture of Saddam go? Me guess
war is over." I wonder how much they're saying that in the outskirts of
Basra.)

Is it any surprise I need a paper bag to breathe into? I am experiencing the
fundamental stress that all thinking organisms experience when we need in-
telligence and all we get are unconnected facts. This is what I call an adven-
ture in poetry. It's the anxiety that adheres to so-called military intelligence
operations like peanut butter to the roof of a dog's mouth. We know all kinds
of stuff, but we don't know what matters.

Let me give an example. According to our great spy agencies, the Iraqis
still had weapons of mass destruction as of March 19, when we started to
shoot at them. The whole excuse for shooting at them was the presumed fact
I just mentioned, coupled with the equally presumed fact that the Iraqis were
willing to USE the afore-mentioned WMDs on us in the future.

But the question that mattered was HOW willing were the Iraqis to use
those WMDs.

I mean, what the hell does it take to get an Iraqi to gas you? How much do
you have to throttle one of these guys before he blows VX in your face? Don't
they know we're conquering them?

**"Hey, where did big picture
of Saddam go? Me guess
war is over." I wonder how
much they're saying that in
the outskirts of Basra. Is it
any surprise I need a paper
bag to breathe into?**

when I personally favor using them.)

Our "intelligence" got it wrong because the Saddam regime used weapons
of mass destruction on "his own people," hence proving that he was evil,
hence proving a willingness to use WMDs on us at the drop of a hat.

Well, that logic didn't work.

Apparently Saddam Hussein, who regards the Kurds as less than animals,
respects Americans and British as moral equals who deserve better treat-
ment.

Perhaps he sees himself in us. ■



Addicted to Rhyme

I lost my job in the library
For kissing a girl from Milan, Italy.
I fudged my diploma and become a chef
Because I have complaints about being deaf
I used to run errands for a nuclear bore
Who taught me a thing or two about men of war.
The police had a look in my sorry head
Said, “doctor, he ain’t committed no crime”
Doc said, “I know, but he’s suspiciously
Addicted to rhyme.”

Was it Floyd Patterson who taught me to fight?
It don’t make a damn if you’re black or you’re white
A person is only as good as their soul
Don’t pester me with sorry old rock and roll
I know that religion is full of good times
But I’m bound for hell
Because I’m addicted to rhyme.

I used to type for a feminist troupe
Got so I hated my alphabet soup
They inspired me in weird old ways
They were sweeter than smart
We made love all the time,
But that don’t compare
To a half decent rhyme.

I’m done smoking weed
And I never shot up
But my life be broken
My life is shot up.
I’ve thrown it away
On my addiction to rhyme.

— MAC CRARY

The Gift

man walked up
announced (silly) thing
He had something
unsure what to do
asked what it was
showed me something
cupped in hands
so bright, so beautiful
held up hands
called to night

And there was life.

— GALAXIE S. STARLINER

A thought gone
a point lost
Brutally
a lone ascendant lost to the void
Only to be discovered
thawed & broken
a season too late

— WES SINGLETARY

REAL CHANGE

There sits blind Susan
on the street with hair
in her eyes, selling
Real Change,
the paper for homeless people.

But she knows some things
never change—she will
never be able to read it.

— LEONARD L. TEWS

Mental Shift

Story and photos by Brooke Kempner

Don't be surprised if you start seeing the Seattle City Council President or a local television newscaster asking for change in the near future. It's all part of a new advertising campaign designed to break down stereotypes.

Billboards, posters, and television ads created by advertising firm WongDoody will start appearing sometime this spring. Additionally, *Real Change* is seeking donations to pay for ads placed in local papers. For the ads' concept, WongDoody enlisted community members like Seattle City Council president Peter Steinbrueck and KING-5 *Evening Magazine* host John Curley to become homeless for a day, standing before a camera uttering lines like "Hey buddy, can you spare a dime?"

"We wanted to do something pro bono," says Kari Connor, WongDoody account supervisor. "We're a Pioneer Square ad agency, and our neighbors are homeless. We wanted to do something for our neighbors."

WongDoody looked around at organizations that help the homeless and picked *Real Change* because they liked its innovative approach to the problem. They came up with the idea of dressing Seattle businessmen and women as if they were destitute, juxtaposing them with *Real Change* vendors dressed in professional attire. They chose this approach because they feel that the ad needed to be emotionally engaging and a bit unexpected.

"Sometimes it's good to make people feel a little uncomfortable," Connor explains.

When Steinbrueck got the call from WongDoody, he liked the idea and immediately agreed to participate.

"I'm tremendously impressed with the effort going into this, and the number of people and companies supporting the interest of increasing public awareness of homelessness," Steinbrueck says. "I expect it will increase understanding of the problem of homelessness and perhaps serve to help people change their views and break down stereotypes."

In mid-March, the WongDoody crew and the volunteers gathered outside the Sun Foods Trading Company warehouse in the SODO district to get the production underway. Not more than an hour into shooting, the rain came and never left. *Real Change* vendors, art directors, and volunteers ducked between limited shelter and the pouring rain. They all suffered the same wet fate. For the members of WongDoody, working on the ad in the wet and cold affected them emotionally.

"The rain was relentless, but I think it was meant to be for all of us to get a little taste of what it's like to be on the streets," said Connor.

Linda Wilmer, a volunteer from

Wilmer Communications who will appear in the ads, also felt that her perspective on homelessness changed. "I felt bad complaining that I was cold or hungry," says Wilmer. "Being here made me think about everything I was saying."

Wilmer became involved when a friend at WongDoody asked her to help out. John Curley also was asked to partake by friends associated with WongDoody. He said yes immediately, and even did a television spot about the

Real Change ad campaign to raise public awareness



ad campaign on his March 17 show.

"I think if this ad just stops people for five seconds and they view homelessness in a slightly more humane way, then the ad has done its job," Curley says.

Real Change Vendor Robert Hansen agreed to be in the ad so that he can help get the word out to people who don't know about *Real Change* and what it does.

"There are people out there who really know about the paper, really consistently buy the paper," says Hansen. "I'd like it to get people to realize there's a situation with the homeless."

In all, volunteers from *Real Change*, the community, and people from 12 different companies besides WongDoody participated in the ad. Many others helped out by donating supplies. Kristie Gamer, the stylist in charge of the dress and makeup for the campaign, was impressed with the generosity of thrift shops that donated boxes of shoes and accessories.

Gamer found that working with the *Real Change* vendor volunteers made her realize some of the things she takes for granted.

"It had never dawned on me that when I handed a man a tie, he wouldn't know how to tie one," she says.

Gamer, WongDoody, and the volunteers left the shoot with faces to put with the word 'homeless,' and considering some things they hadn't thought about much before. They weren't the

Dressing the *Real Change* vendor volunteers in professional attire made stylist Kristie Gamer realize one of the things she takes for granted: "It had never dawned on me that when I handed a man a tie, he wouldn't know how to tie one."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: *REAL CHANGE* VENDOR SHANE THOMPSONS AND SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETER STEINBRUECK SHARE A THOUGHT; ERIK CHAN, LEFT, POSES WITH *REAL CHANGE* REGULAR KEVIN VANDERHOEF; VENDOR LINDA BEAR, LEFT, GETS NOTES FROM WONGDOODY DIRECTOR BRANSON VEAL; ROVERS CHEF THIERRY RAUTUREAU, RIGHT, GETS A TOUCH UP BEFORE HIS SHOOT WITH VENDOR KARL JACOBSON.

only ones affected. At the end of the day, one man came up to the WongDoody staff in tears and thanked them "for making ads that will help people acknowledge his existence." ■



What Democracy Looks Like

Center School students educate Olympia legislators

By Jessica McMichael Kastner

People
Remain vulnerable,
Soft to the touch
Hard to the feel,
And,
the warm bodies of our state
will soon turn cold
in this time of
lost jobs,
and wandering wages
We should
Not cut
what,
They need.
Let lives live.

Let our words ring true
Ring through
Our voices speak
with
Strong conviction...
Raise revenue.

Members of the House Fiscal Committee listened as 11th grade student Haley Gronbeck began her group's presentation with a lyrical response to a resolutely right-brain issue: Gov. Gary Locke's proposal to cut state-funded social service programs like Medicaid, GA-U, childcare, and job training.

Gronbeck and 47 other students from Seattle Public Schools' Center School traveled to Olympia on a rainy Thursday last month, to present alternative solutions to solve the state's widening \$2.6 billion budget deficit.

"The guiding question for this project has been: How can the state best generate revenue to meet the needs of its citizens?" explains their teacher, Jon Greenberg.

The students began studying the state's tax system and budget in February, led by graduate students from Seattle University. They researched ways to solve the budget crisis by taxing luxury items or professional services, temporarily increasing the sales tax, or repealing unnecessary tax exemptions. After completing their proposals, they collected more than 600 signatures in



CENTER SCHOOL STUDENTS (FROM LEFT) KIMIKO UTSUNOMIYA, MOLLIE PRICE, AND ANNA MINARD, MEETING WITH REP ERIC PETTIGREW FROM THE 37TH DISTRICT. PHOTO BY JESSICA MCMICHAEL KASTNER.

favor of specific revenue generating ideas: adding a tax to dry cleaning, computer, and beautician services; increasing hard liquor taxes; and adding a one-to-three-cent tax on sodas. Last month's Olympia visit allowed the students to show legislators the creative alternative to slashing services for the poor.

The 11th graders used song, poetry, drum beats, and various props in conjunction with well-researched references and statistics to support their proposals.

"Good Morning. We have the weird device," Oscar Gubelman explained to the six members of the House Fiscal Committee attending the forum. Each member of Oscar's group stated his name and district — all four were from the 36th District, stretching from downtown Seattle north to Ballard. They began talking about the budget deficit and the Governor's plan to cut General Assistance-Unemployable (GA-U) and Medicaid. They offered antidotes — a 2 percent temporary sales tax increase, an additional car tab fee — to raise revenue instead. And they pointed to "the weird device" in front of them, comprised of a five-gallon plastic container marked "Budget" filled with green water.

Two tubes were connected to the container. One tube fed a plant marked "Untouched Funds;" its leaves were each labeled "Public School, Natural Resources, Higher Education, and Government Operations." The other tube fed a plant marked "Health and Human Services" with leaves labeled "GA-U, Medicaid, and Mental Health." A helper poured green water into the "Budget" container, and it sloshed out of the tubes, feeding each plant. But the green water ran dry.

"There is not enough revenue to keep up the water level," Gubelman explained. "If we cut the tube feeding the Health and Human Services, everything over here (in "Health and Human Services") is going to die."

The student group concluded with a story about a man they met while collecting signatures for their petitions. The man told them that he was addicted to speed for three years, and to heroin for four. He said he would not have gotten off the streets without help from GA-U.

Before the last student group could make its presentations, House Fiscal Committee chairman Rep. Jeff Gombosky thanked the students with

a few positive words and adjourned the meeting. Fellow committee members had to leave shortly. The Center School students remained in the House hearing room for what Mr. Greenberg called "reflection" time. The humanities teacher asked for comments about the process.

"Out of all the presentations we've made, I feel the people really appreciated us coming here more. No one ever thanked us before," Ashlin Spence commented.

"It's really hard for us to get up there and go, go, go, when we had to get up so early this morning," Christa Coleman said. Students had gotten up between 4 and 5 a.m. The chartered bus was 30 minutes late in arriving to the designated meeting area. Consequently, the students were 15 minutes late to their 8 a.m. meeting with the House Fiscal Committee. As soon as they arrived at the capitol, they were rushed onto the hearing room floor. Due to the circumstances, students agreed that their presentations "were not as energetic" as some of their other presentations to city and county officials last semester.

"Because the bus was late, it affected the whole day. We rushed nine groups in 45 minutes," student Anna Minnard commented.

"I can understand you guys feeling rushed, but it didn't look that way," graduate student Aaron Fuller commented.

"You all didn't miss a beat," Greenberg assured students.

The group took a brunch break before touring the state capitol. As the tour guide talked about the million-dollar Tiffany lights and chandeliers that adorned the Temple of Justice, the students began asking questions.

"Why can't we sell the chandeliers to feed the homeless?" one student piped up.

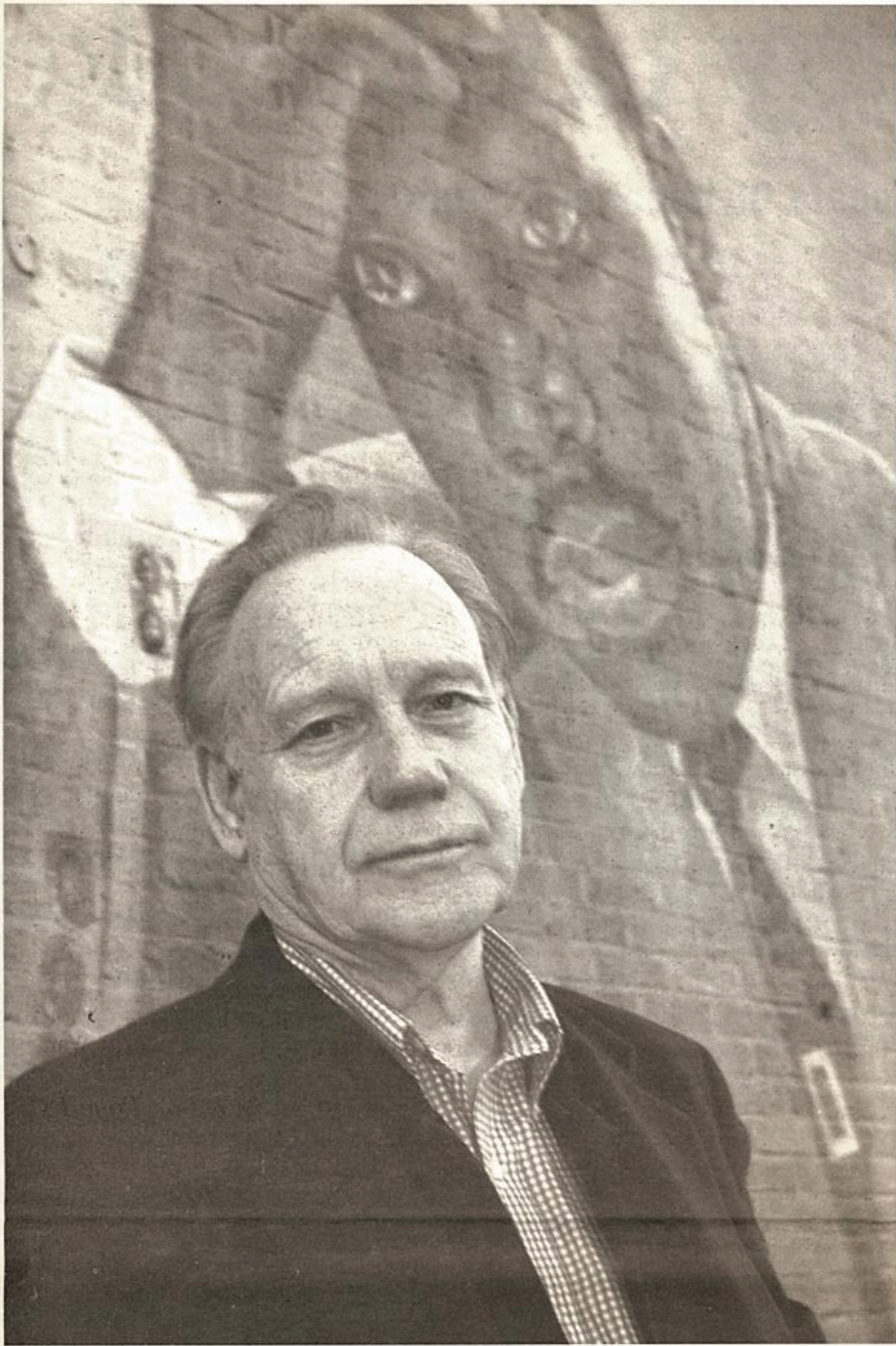
The tour guide rebuffed with an answer about how the chandeliers were acquired a long time ago. "We didn't

Continued on Page 17

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WILLIAM PEPPER TAKES A MOMENT TO REFLECT NEXT TO THE MURAL OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., OUTSIDE THE CATFISH CORNER IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT. PHOTO BY BROOKE KEMPNER.

KING Continued from Page 1

wanted me to go with him to talk to Martin's alleged killer. This took me by surprise, but I told Ralph that I would go along. Prior to our meeting, I decided to read up on the case. I was frankly intrigued on first encountering James. It turned out that he was not a vehement racist, and, interestingly, he knew

little about guns. In fact, he told me that he once had shot himself in the foot. He was rather shy and docile in his demeanor.

In 1969, days after he confessed to the crime, James made a retraction and declared his innocence. Right then, he asked for a trial. James had been given very inept legal assistance at that time. During our first meeting in 1977, I heard

from James a very different story about the death of King. I began to wonder if the official story we'd been told about Martin's death might be less than truthful. And at this first meeting, we had even brought along a body language specialist from Harvard. We wanted this specialist to observe our interview and tell us if there was anything suspicious in James' expressions that might indicate he was conning us. There wasn't anything.

When it was over — the meeting had lasted five hours — both Ralph and I concluded that James had not killed Martin. At that point, I began my own investigation into Martin's assassination. Eventually, years later, I would become James' attorney.

RC: What did you unearth as you undertook your own investigation?

Pepper: I found out a lot that I had not expected to find. In the post-9/11 age, every American citizen needs to know about the shadowy political underside of this nation. The real story behind Martin's death lays bare this violent and anti-democratic underside. By 1968, Martin had become a true nonviolent revolutionary. He had moved his focus from civil rights to human rights. He had come out firmly against the war in Vietnam. He wanted to restore critical domestic programs hindered by the siphoning off of dollars for the war. He wanted to help bring about a peaceful social revolution in the United States.

Martin wanted to restructure the economic apparatus of American society. He wanted to work for the redistribution of wealth in this country. He was about to challenge the fundamentals of American capitalism. It was the greatest risk he ever took. He would be killed as a result.

RC: How was King going to undertake this challenge?

Pepper: He devised the idea for a Poor People's Campaign that would culminate with a march on Washington, D.C.

Martin envisioned half a million impoverished Americans of every color, the wretched of the republic, and their supporters pouring into the nation's capital to demand economic justice, an end to their suffering. This vast panoply of the poor would not simply march and demonstrate for a day or two and then disperse. They would stay indefinitely in D.C. They would encamp, become an extensive tent city, and reside in the capital of the United States until the federal government met their demands. This proposal caused some people in Washington to absolutely panic. The U.S. Army was convinced that the indigent throng would soon transmogrify into an angry and rebellious mob. There was no way those in power were going to allow this to happen. Martin would be killed first.

RC: So if James Earl Ray didn't do the killing, who did?

Pepper: Around the time Ralph and I met James, the government itself was reinvestigating the deaths of both Martin and John F. Kennedy. The House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that there was no conspiracy to kill King. But the many volumes of evidence and related materials pertaining to Martin's death were a trove of information, of leads that should have been followed up.

Predictably, the Department of Justice was indifferent; the government accepted the conclusions and dissolved the committee. Most Americans, of course, were unlikely to pore over this wealth of material that contained a lot of troubling questions. I was determined to find out the answers. I had concluded that James was innocent, that he was set up to be the fall guy.

Eventually, after many years of thorough investigation and analysis, I would conclude that Martin Luther King was assassinated by individuals in the Memphis Police Department and underworld figures, all working in some sort of coordination with covert factions of the U.S. government and military.

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EMAIL RCHANGE@SPEAKEASY.ORG

RC: How did your investigation unfold?

Pepper: Early on, there were a number of items that warranted attention.

Loyd Jowers, an ex-cop, owned Jim's Grill, the back of which provided a view of the Lorraine Motel, and specifically King's room, number 306. James McCraw, a taxi driver, had mentioned that Jowers had showed him a rifle the very morning after the shooting. This rifle was hidden under the counter in the restaurant. Jowers claimed that he had found it right out back. McCraw would later reveal to a friend that he was ordered to dispose of the weapon by Jowers, which he did by throwing it from the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge into the Mississippi River. However, he never admitted this under oath. But it is likely that the murder weapon lies forever sunk in the silt of the Mississippi.

McCraw also had some interesting things to say about Charlie Stevens, the state's chief witness, who claimed to see James Earl Ray running down the hallway of the rooming house above Jowers' establishment moments after the gunshot. A little before the assassination, McCraw had gone up into the rooming house to pick up Stevens, a known heavy drinker, for a taxi ride, and found Stevens drunk and slumped on his bed. McCraw also observed that the shared bathroom on that floor of

the rooming house, the one from which James was alleged to have fired the fatal shot, was vacant. McCraw left without his drunken fare. This all transpired a few minutes before 6 p.m. King was shot at 6:01.

RC: What about John McFerrin?

Pepper: John was very active in civil rights work in the Memphis area in 1968, and he had been beaten up and shot at for his efforts. He was in a produce company's store the afternoon of King's death. The store was owned by Frank Liberto, a man with reputed Mafia connections. At that moment, Liberto was on the phone. He did not know McFerrin was nearby enough to overhear. Liberto growled into the phone, "Shoot the son of a bitch when he comes on the balcony." He also discussed an amount of money and where to go to pick it up. McFerrin was astonished to learn an hour later that King had been slain. He went to the authorities with his story and was essentially ignored.

There were other people close to Jowers, to the crime scene, who knew facets of what had happened. I wanted to be able to get James Earl Ray what he deserved — a fair trial. But I was not getting far with that, despite all this mounting evidence.

RC: So you went forward with an

unscripted mock television trial in which you were able to lay out a lot of your cogent arguments.

Pepper: Yes, that was an HBO event in 1993. I actually presented only a fraction of my overall evidence at that time. Yet the jury, after seven hours of deliberation, concluded that James was innocent. It did not get a lot of publicity, and James was still no closer to getting a real trial.

But in many ways, it was this TV trial that really helped reopen the case. James had been saying for years that he had been framed by a man named "Raul" with whom he was associated at the time of the assassination. In 1967, when he was on the lam, James met Raul in a bar in Montreal, Canada. Raul involved Ray in some smuggling activities. In April of 1968, James was again employed by Raul, and Raul was directing James' movements. Authorities had always dismissed James' story of Raul as strictly a fantasy or maybe con job. But after the TV trial, others who knew Raul started to come forward. One strange revelation was that Percy Foreman, James Earl Ray's second lawyer, actually knew Raul. Now, I too know who Raul is. And he's still alive and living just outside New York City.

RC: Jowers himself was becoming more vocal by 1993.

Pepper: Yes he was. On ABC's "Prime Time Live" in December 1993, Jowers completely cleared Ray of any involvement in the crime. Jowers admitted that he had hired the actual shooter, who was not Ray. Frank Liberto had provided \$100,000 to facilitate the assassination. Jowers also stated that Raul appeared at the restaurant and had dropped off a rifle as part of the assassination scheme. By the way, there was hardly any media coverage of this astounding admission, not even on ABC News!

RC: Where does the military enter this picture?

Pepper: In 1993, a Memphis newspaper, the *Commercial Appeal*, ran a piece that was the result of an 18-month-long investigation into the activities of U.S. Army intelligence and its monitoring of civil rights organizations. The reporter was Steve Tompkins. He concluded that Army intelligence had followed King and were conducting this surveillance right up to his assassination. The Army worked closely with J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI. Hoover, of course, hated King and considered him a Communist stooge. Army surveillance of black organizations throughout the United States had apparently been going on since the end of the First World War.

Continued on Page 18

REAL CHANGE HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

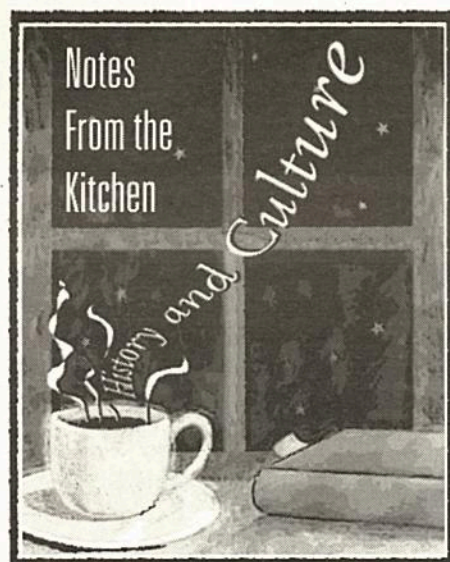
SILENT AUCTION



SATURDAY MAY 3, 2003

5:00-7:00 PM

2129 SECOND AVENUE



What Ain't We Got? We Ain't Got Peace

By Liz Smith

Well, here we go again. Another war, this one stupider than most. Another press conference, full of self-righteous bullies spouting high-minded crap so sickening you can only respond with helpless fury and dismay.

The other night I was sitting at my kitchen table having a light supper of bitter herbs, and all these questions were running through my head. What is wrong with President Bush? Why is he antagonizing our allies? Why is he attacking a country that has never attacked us on our own soil? Why isn't he trying to find a diplomatic solution to North Korea? Why is he so willing to subject our military forces to all kinds of chemical and biological poisons? Doesn't he realize he is exposing our country to retaliations that will be disastrous? Why does he want to spend billions on a war and billions rebuilding Iraq when things are falling apart here at home? Who's going to get richer as a result of this war? Why do the whims of one man and his little band of true believers get to wreak havoc when millions oppose him? Does he think his diaphanous charm and oversized ego are good substitutes for true political wisdom and leadership?

And so on. To distract myself — I was one question away from a life-altering heart attack — I put on my newest favorite opera, by Handel, called *Semele*. Semele, who has a charming voice but not much sense, is in love with Jupiter (Zeus), and she wants to be immortal. As the end of the opera she dies as a result of her ambition and greedy desire for

power. In the little book that goes with the CD, it says, "in Handel's oratorios the characters are tragically inflicted with death and destruction as a result of their own failings... and blind and foolish ambition."

"Hmm," I thought to myself. "This all reminds me of somebody, but I can't think who." Then, listening further, there is a beautiful passage where Semele is gazing at herself in a mirror and she sings:

"Myself I shall adore,
If I persist in gazing;
No object sure before
Was ever half so pleasing.
Myself I shall adore."

"By Jove!" I exclaimed. "It's President Bush, and this is the song he sings to himself every morning while shaving his own beautiful cowboy face." Unalloyed hubris does give a man that attractive inner glow, I always say.

One of the hardest things to understand is the attitude of the 70 percent of Americans who think this war is a good idea. I met one of these people at my bus stop. He used words like "Hitler," also "cancer," and finished with "If the neighbor kids are picking on you, you've got to fight back." I don't think he gets it. In his remarkable (and never boring) book, *The Arabs*, David Lamb reveals how complex the Middle East situation truly is. Lamb's book won't really bring an understanding of the war, but will give a valuable "big picture" overview to a Western mind.

And it is a complicated situation. This war is being fought for oil/ regime change/ liberation of Iraq/ eventual re-partition of the entire Middle East/ fighting terrorists/ finding weapons of mass destruction/ protection of human rights. In the meantime, the death rates for small babies and children under five years of age are going up. People are huddled terrified in their houses and apartments, listening for planes. They must think we're insane, saying we want to help by bombing their water and electricity plants and all the other places we're going to destroy. The Oil-for-Food program is severely disrupted. People have empty bellies. The people of Basra are thirsty. We destroyed their water supply.

How does this help?

I am no great political science genius. I am just an ordinary woman, wishing our President would lead us in peace, not in war. Since I am better at asking questions than giving answers, I can only finish this column with a heavy heart and a recipe for:

Where Will It All End Chicken and Peppers

Serves Two

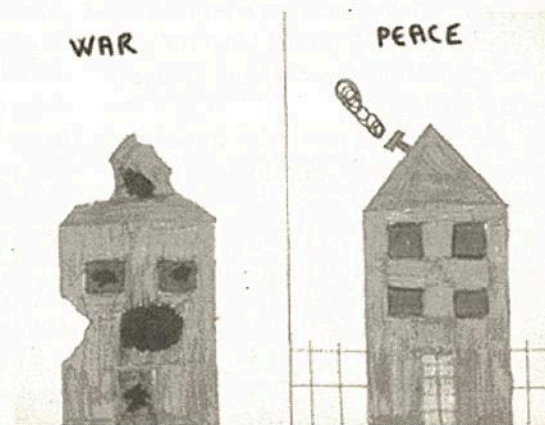
1 Tbsp butter
1/2 tsp each: salt, pepper,
curry powder
2 cups water
1 cup long-grain white rice

2 Tbsp butter
2 medium red bell peppers
2/3 cup diced chicken breast
1/2 cup milk or chicken stock
6 Tbsp Thai peanut sauce

1. Rinse peppers. Cut in half lengthwise. Remove stems and knock out the seeds.

Place cut side down on a foiled-lined cookie sheet. Broil until skins are some what blackened. Remove from oven and seal inside foil for 10 minutes. Remove peel and dice peppers into 1/2 inch squares.

- Put 1 Tbsp butter, spices, and water in a large pot. Bring to a rapid boil. Gradually stir in the rice.
- Lower heat to a low simmer and put on the lid. Let rice cook for about 20 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.
- In a new pot, melt remaining butter on medium high heat. Add diced red peppers and cook five minutes, stirring a few times. Add chicken and cook 10 more minutes, stirring often. Pour in milk or stock and let simmer three minutes. Stir in peanut sauce. Blend everything together for about a minute. Then serve, on top of the rice. ■



A CHILD'S DRAWING OF THE EFFECTS OF WAR, COURTESY OF WWW.UNICEF.ORG.

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and a resume of your relevant
experience to:

rchange@realchangenews.org

STUDENTS Cont. from Page 13

have to pay that much for them at the time," she said. "We need to preserve antiques and architecture for future generations."

Just as the tour guide finished one question, another student asked, "And what is this room called again?"

"The Temple of Justice," she replied, the expression on her face changing as she realized the implication the student was making.

Before returning to their advocacy, students were able to see firsthand how the judicial process works by reenacting a State Supreme Court case. After completing the mock trial, the high school juniors went to Hearing Room B to meet with their senators and representatives. Legislators walked around the room, listening to students about their proposals to solve the budget deficit. In this informal meeting, students were able to present their ideas and legislators were able to provide feedback.

"A lot of legislators say they don't want to vote for any tax increase unless they can see it's going to be necessary in the long run," Eric Pettigrew, a Democratic representative from south Seattle's 37th District, said.

Anna Minard explained to Pettigrew her group's proposal to add taxes to luxury items such as soda, gum, candy, hard liquor, dry cleaning, and beauty services. Pettigrew was responsive. "I am seriously going to take this to the legislature; you might see parts of this in our proposal," he said at the close of the meeting.

Finally, at the end of the day, students met again to reflect on the day's experience.

"I feel like we weren't taken that seriously. Like kids coming to the capitol to show their posters and sing songs. I didn't like the way we were perceived," one student commented.

"I felt more patronized at the county meeting than I did here," another student said.

"How will this affect you as far as being an active citizen?" Greenberg asked.

"This was my first time feeling like my voice was heard. It is important to see that it is open to the public," responded one student.

"It's made me more active in my community. I found out how to write to my elected officials and how to advocate. I feel more active, like my elected officials listen to me," another said.

The students gathered their props and piled back on the bus. Seattle University's graduate students followed behind the bus in a car (the bus line sent a smaller bus than the one that was requested), discussing their experiences about their service learning project with The Center School.

"It forges connections between students and the community at large," Aaron Fuller commented.

"It's one of the most powerful educational tools available or imaginable, because it combines a needed service to the community with actual student learning," Tim Owens added.

After all that work, the caravan turned off the interstate for one last stop: Chuck E. Cheese. ■



Thursday, February 27, 11:56 p.m., Occidental Park. Officer on patrol on the north side of Occidental Park was advised by a passer-by that he believed there was narcotics activity going on on the benches nearby. The officer rode up to a male and female near the benches. The woman handed the male something, which he then threw to the ground, where it shattered. There were pieces of possible broken crack pipe on the ground. The female, a black transient aged 45, was ID'd, and it was found that she had a Parks Exclusion for Occidental. She was arrested for trespass in the park, and booked into King County Jail.

Friday, February 28, 9:56 a.m., 1700 blk. Broadway Ave. A plain-clothes officer on duty observed a 31-year-old white male transient walking along Broadway, carrying a long thin object wrapped in newspaper. He was waving the object around, and was observed yelling and acting as though he had mental health issues. Officers contacted and detained him, and the newspaper was opened to reveal a sword in a sheath, and a dagger. The suspect was taken to the precinct where he stated he had just bought the sword, and was about to catch a Greyhound to Pennsylvania. He was also talking about "the light." A check with Seattle Mental Health revealed the man had an acute cocaine dependency, and was developmentally disabled. His sword was taken, and he was released.

Friday, Feb. 28, 12:41 a.m., Denny Way/Aurora. Officer contacted the subject, a 39-year-old black male transient, at Denny and Aurora while he was arguing with a friend. A routine computer check revealed he had a warrant for his arrest. The warrant was verified, and the suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 p.m., 21st & E. Madison. Officer observed the suspect, a 41-year-old black male transient, standing on the corner of 21st & Madison. Officer had personal knowledge that the suspect had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. He took the suspect into custody, verified the warrant, and booked the man into King County Jail.

Tuesday, March 11, 11:16 p.m., Pike St. Officer responded to a report of two white males prowling cars in an apartment building's garage. Upon arrival, two black men and two white men were leaving the garage. The first white male was acting suspiciously, closing the garage door and retreating to the stairwell. All four suspects seemed nervous, and said they had been visiting a friend in the building. All men but one were cleared via radio — one of the white males, a transient aged 25, was found to have a warrant. He was arrested and 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.

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KING Continued from Page 15

The Army believed that African Americans were particularly susceptible to Communist propaganda and manipulation.

I got a hold of Tompkins and asked him if he would tell me what role the Army intelligence operatives were playing in Memphis on the day of King's death. Also, I wanted to know, if possible, who these people were. Steve did not reveal any names, but he told me that he had come to believe that certain highly specialized Army personnel were in place that day to do more than just spy.

RC: Are you saying these operatives killed King?

Pepper: No, but they were the backup. I have concluded that Martin was killed by an expert sharpshooter from the Memphis Police Department. He fired from the shrubbery in back of Jim's Grill, not from the bathroom window of the rooming house. Then, he tossed the rifle to Jowers, who hid it in his restaurant. It was all very quick. As a result, there was no need to implement the backup plan, so the army snipers were dispersed hastily. Martin died an hour later at Saint Joseph's Hospital. Incidentally, the very next morning all of the shrubbery in back of Jowers' place was cut down and hauled off.

RC: And now James Earl Ray is dead.

Pepper: Yes, James never got his trial. But Martin's family agreed to pursue the civil trial, which resulted in a thorough airing of all of our evidence. Four thousand pages of trial testimony can be viewed on the King Center's website. Never before had such a legal proceeding occurred whereby, under oath, mounds of testimony and evidence were brought forward in the matter of a major political figure's murder. It is a valuable case history which reveals, for all who care to look, the truth behind the assassination of one of our greatest Americans. It demonstrates the murderous workings of a shadow government. It shows that, if you don't go along with those forces, and if they consider you a threat, they will find ways to get rid of you. And the mainstream media, increasingly consolidated and uncritical, plays along.

At present, I fear that fascism is encroaching on America. It is critical that we resist this right-wing momentum. And it is critical that we celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, that we understand the terrible truth of his assassination, and that his memory be honored by our resolve to make justice and peace a reality, and to create and make manifest the experience of genuine economic democracy for every citizen of our republic. ■

More information on the trial can be found at www.thekingcenter.org. Click on "news and information" and then "Memphis Assassination Trial Transcripts and Information."

CLASSICS CORNER



by Perfess'r Harris

This week, we at Classics Corner wrestle with one of the great literary controversies of all time: When Hecuba blinded the King of Thrace and murdered his children in cold blood, did she have God on her side, or was she just being a total bitch? A related issue posed by Euripides' *Hecuba* has to do with the nature of God himself. Do we live in a just, well ordered universe, or is life more like an unending episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; violent, tedious, both beautiful and horrible, and without any point whatsoever?

As you no doubt recall, Hecuba is the Queen of Troy, a city that has seen better days. With the aid of a highly improbable Trojan Horse, the Greeks have reduced the city to rubble and Hecuba to slavery. Her husband Priam is dead. Her son Hector has been killed and mutilated by Achilles. Her daughter Cassandra has become Agamemnon's sex slave, and her other daughter, Polyxena, has been sacrificed to appease a ghost.

We at Classics Corner view Hecuba as a powerful woman who summoned up the strength to stop being a victim and kick Polymestor's ass.

Just when things seem like they couldn't get worse, her last son, Polydorus, washes up dead on the beach.

Young Polydorus had been sent to Thrace to live with King Polymestor for the duration of the war. This arrangement worked well until Troy fell, at which point Polymestor had the kid hacked to death so he could steal his gold.

Hecuba, who should be visualized as Katherine Hepburn in Michael Cacoyannis' 1971 production of the

Trojan Women, wet-eyed and head shaking like she's in the late stages of Parkinson's, decides she's had just about enough. She asks Agamemnon to allow her to take revenge. Motivated in equal parts by a sense of justice and the hope of getting into Cassandra's pants, the King agrees.

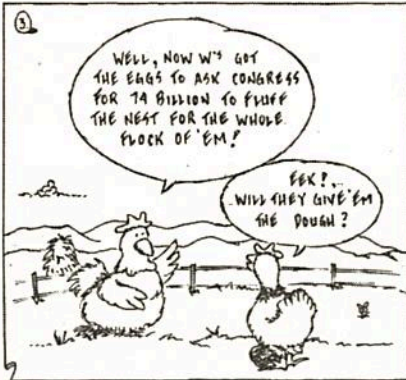
Hecuba lures Polymestor and his two small sons into a tent full of pissed off Trojan Women. A tender scene of maternal affection turns murderous when they suddenly bury him in flesh, gouge out his eyes, and kill his sons. When Polymestor, empty eye sockets and all, demands revenge, Agamemnon says he had it coming.

Classicists generally interpret *Hecuba* as a commentary on the degradation of war. As misfortune upon misfortune assails the Queen, they say, she is reduced to an animal. We at Classics Corner see this as anti-feminist, and prefer to view Hecuba as a powerful woman who summoned up the strength to stop being a victim and kick Polymestor's ass.

In *Hecuba*, two opposing views of the universe are offered. "Do we, holding that the gods exist, deceive ourselves with unsubstantial dreams and lies while random chance and change alone control the world?" Or is there an "absolute moral order" that even the gods obey, through which "we live, defining good and evil?"

Agamemnon and Hecuba opt for moral order, but it isn't pretty. Euripides leaves open the possibility that what passes for justice is a thin veneer of purpose laid over an essentially random and violent universe. We make up our meaning as we go along. This, we suppose, beats the alternative. ■

Reprinted from the November 1, 2001 edition of Real Change.



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April

Notables

Thursday 4/3

Randall Mullins, Director of the Center for Contemplation and Nonviolence, explores the question: **Is redemptive violence the dominant religion of our society?** Optional prayer service at 7 p.m., \$5-10, Keystone United Church of Christ, 5019 Keystone Place North, 206-632-6021.

Friday 4/4

Presentation and book signing with **Judith Wright**, author of *There Must Be More Than This - Finding More Life, Love and Meaning by Overcoming Your Soft Addictions*. 12:30 p.m., at Borders Bookstore, 1501 4th Ave., downtown. Info <http://www.thereustbemore.com>.

The John and Mary Ann Mangels lecture **"Race in Higher Education."** Speakers are Dr. Tito Guerrero, President of Stephen F. Austin State University, and Dr. Yolanda Moses, President of the American Association of Higher Education. Dinner and discussion \$45 per person. 5 - 9 p.m., at Seattle Sheraton, 1400 6th Ave, downtown. Info 206-389-7263 or novelette@seattlechamber.com.

Saturday 4/5

Regular meeting of the merged **Citizens Concerned for the People of Iraq** and the Interfaith Network of Concern for the People of Iraq. 3 - 5 p.m., at the Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. Info Andrew Fung 206-568-8178 or <http://www.endiraqsanctions.org>.

Native Related, an original play inspired by students' life experiences and by Native cultural traditions. The writers/actors are nine Native American and Alaskan Native students in Red Eagle Soaring's Youth Theatre Program. A donation will be requested at the door. 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, at The Chamber Theatre, 915 E. Pine. Info Martha 206-323-1868 or Qwo-Li 206-329-1606.

Sunday 4/6

Potluck for those considering joining the **Axis of Peace**, a campaign that engages people in a civil disobedience. Bring a dish or drink if you can. 2 - 4 p.m., at the University Friends Meeting Center, 4001 9th NE. Info Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia 206-547-0952 or <http://www.axisofpeace.info>.

Monday 4/7

Information session on service programs; the Fremont Public Association sponsors three unique National Service programs focusing in the areas of elementary school literacy, domestic and youth violence education and prevention, and project development for various anti-poverty community organizations. 5:30 - 7 p.m., at Columbia City Library, 4721 Rainier Ave. S. Info Michael S. Tamayo 206-694-6862 or michaelt@fremontpublic.org.

Lambert House has launched a **discussion group for youth** who want to talk about what it means to be an ally. 6 - 7:30 p.m., this and subsequent 1st Mondays, at 1818 15th Ave., near Denny on Capitol Hill. Info 206-322-2515 ext. 13 or <http://lamberthouse.org>.

7th Annual Freedom Seder dinner celebrating the **Journeys from Slavery to Freedom**. Reservations required, families of 3 to 5 \$30, adults \$12, children \$10. 6:30 p.m., at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 19th & Madison, Seattle. Info and tickets through Mt. Zion 206-322-6500 or AAJCJ 206-781-6654.

Tuesday 4/8

Investigative reporter, Greg Palast, reads from ***The Best Democracy Money Can Buy***. Reading benefits KBCS-FM 91.3, Independent Media Center, and Mind Over Matters. Admission \$5 - \$10. 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave. at Seneca. Info and tickets 206-624-6600 or <http://www.townhallseattle.org/calendar>.

Book 'Em, a show benefiting the Friends of the Jail Library, featuring Seattle comedians. The Comedy Underground, 22 South Main, 8:30 p.m., \$10, 21 and over.

Wednesday 4/9

Brownbag discussion on fair trade. Ethiopian fair trade coffee farmer, Tadeese Meskela, will speak with the interested community about the practice of fair trade agriculture. Sponsored by Students for Fair Trade, School of Social Work, the Program on the Environment and others. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., at HUB, Room 310, University of Washington and 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., at School of Social Work Bldg, Room 305, University of Washington.

Homestead Community Land Trust general meeting, a membership-based group **creating permanently affordable homeownership opportunities**. The group helps prevent displacement of lower-income families, strengthens our neighborhoods, and maximizes limited housing subsidies. 6:30 p.m. this and subsequent 2nd Wednesdays, at Homestead's office, 1309 13th Ave. S. Info 206-323-1227 or homesteadclt@yahoo.com.

A showing of the documentary, ***Urban Warrior***, which focuses on the trend of developing police units into military special forces to fight the "wars" on drugs and crime. This film uses case studies including Seattle WTO Ministerial and drug raids to illustrate this alarming incursion into our civil liberties. Screening followed by discussion with local attorney, Paul Richmond. 7:30 p.m., at Independent Media Center, 1415 3rd Ave. Info 206-297-6810.

Northwest **Labor Employment Law** Offices sponsors current affairs show, **Speaking for Ourselves, to Each Other**. 7:30 p.m., on SCAN TV Channel 77. Info 206-860-1400.

Thursday 4/10

Global Economy Working Group of the Church Council of Greater Seattle meeting. 7 p.m. this and subsequent 2nd Thursday, at St. Mark's Cathedral, Conference Room, 1245 10th Ave. E. Info Mary Margaret Pruitt 206-382-3785.

Sunday 4/13

Students and youth organizing training and summer program, attend a free one-day interactive training that teaches basic organizing skills, strategizing, and workplace fundamentals. This training will prepare you for working with a union and to organize your workplace over the summer. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., at the University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Center, 3931 Brooklyn NE. Info The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies 206-543-7946.

Monday 4/14

W.H.E.E.L. 10th anniversary tea, enjoy fabulous refreshments as a celebration for all the organization has done for poor and homeless people, First United Methodist Church, Drury Hall, 5th Ave. and Columbia, suggested \$10 donation for those who can afford it, rsvp to 206-956-0334 or to WHEEL, P.O. Box 2548, Seattle, WA 98111-2548.

Wednesday 4/16

Seattle **information session on service programs**; the Fremont Public Association sponsors three unique National Service programs. 5:30 - 7 p.m., at Fremont Public Association, 1501 N. 45th, Wallingford. Info Michael S. Tamayo 206-694-6862 or michael@fremontpublic.org.

Free screening for children and adults with ADD/ADHD, learning disabilities, and head injuries. Appointments required, but services are free. Developmental Movement and Education Center, CAPO Building, Suite 201, 12351 Lake City Way NE. Reserve a screening time at 206-525-8038.

Ongoing

The provocative exhibit, **"Can We Talk Now?"** photography by Simon Norfolk, Didier Ben Loulou, and Gabriel Valansi. This exhibit uses photography to question the validity of war and aggressive military action as the means of solving conflict. Tuesday - Saturday through April 12, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., at the Benham Gallery, 1216 1st Ave. Info 206-622-2480 or <http://www.benhamgallery.com>. ■

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No tax breaks for the wealthy while soldiers fight a war

Issue: Tell key members of Congress to Vote NO on a budget resolution that hands out freebies to the rich while ignoring the costs of the Iraq war and shirking social programs.

Background: George W. Bush wants \$74 billion to pay for war with Iraq. He also wants to give American taxpayers 10 times that amount — \$726 billion — in tax cuts. About three-fourths of those giveaways would benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of the nation. The average millionaire would get a \$90,000 tax break, according to the *New York Times*. Our elected officials are urging American troops to fight a war as they surrender the treasury to the rich.

Budget resolutions from both the House of Representatives and the Senate have included billions in tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest families. What's the impact of tax breaks for the wealthy? In the House proposal, which fully adopted Bush's plan, Supplemental Security Income for low-income seniors and people with disabilities is cut by \$19 billion over the next nine years. Veterans' benefits are cut by \$14 billion. The Earned Income Tax Credit, responsible for lifting millions of families out of poverty each year, is scaled back by \$14 billion. Food Stamps are cut by \$13 billion. Student loans are cut by \$2 billion. Health insurance for poor children is cut by \$2 billion.

On March 26, the Senate passed by a vote of 56-44 their fiscal year 2004 budget resolution. Realizing how unseemly it is to pass a gaggle of gimmes while extolling wartime "sacrifice," the Senate halved the House's tax breaks.

Members of the House and Senate are now hammering out the differences between their two budget resolutions. The final amount of tax cuts, in the Budget Resolution Conference Report, will likely be a compromise somewhere between the two — probably in the neighborhood of \$500 billion in tax cuts. The final compromise is also highly likely to cut many of the low-income program mentioned above.

Action: Contact your Congressional representative and deliver the following message:

"Please vote NO on the Budget Resolution Conference Report. Passing tax cuts for the rich during a recession and a war will mean less money for education, health care, and other social services precisely when the need is greatest. States are already cutting vital social services — do not vote to make it worse."

Rep. Jim McDermott (Seattle) 206-553-7170
Rep. Jennifer Dunn (Eastside) 206-275-3438
Rep. Jay Inslee (Shoreline/Bainbridge) 1-800-422-5521
Sen. Maria Cantwell 206-220-6400
Sen. Patty Murray 206-553-5545

Additionally, the following five Senators are key to the final vote. They have stated some reservations on the budget resolution, and we can strengthen their resolve against the bill. They provide the tipping point that could either defeat or pass the Budget Resolution Conference Report. Your calls could make the difference!

Senator Collins (R-Maine) 1-877-270-5440
Senator Snowe (R-Maine) 1-877-254-1012
Senator Fitzgerald (R-Illinois) 1-800-289-0356
Senator Specter (R-Pennsylvania) 1-877-817-0887
Senator Smith (R-Oregon) call toll-free: 1-877-431-0006 ■

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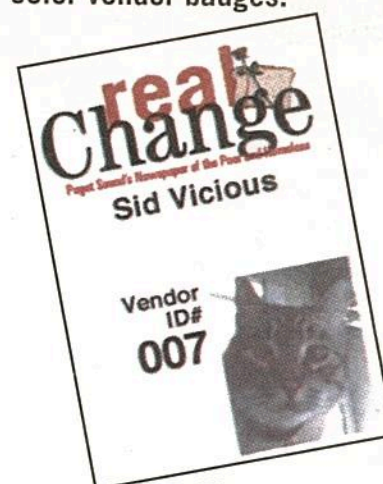


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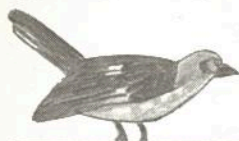
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Caught in the Emotions Surrounding the War

JESSICA GUNNING

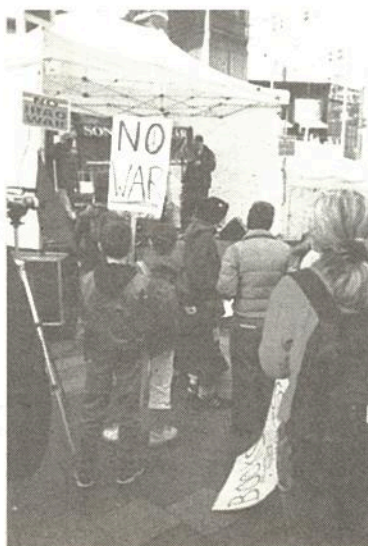


ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, I was in downtown Seattle at the Westlake Center waiting for my bus to get to work. While waiting, I found myself in the midst of a fairly good sized peace rally. I called into work to let Jim know that I wasn't coming into the office that day. I wanted to stay and interview some people and get a good feel for why they thought that a war won't be the solution to the issues we have with the Middle East.

Now I have never been to a peace rally or anything similar to what I went to on that day. The experience for me was very interesting. To be out there, surrounded by the crowd of people and their signs conveying their thoughts and messages about the impending war, was an incredible feeling.

The people in the crowd were fully aware that there were police crawling all over the place, yet they didn't seem to notice, or maybe they just didn't care. They were in their own little world, saying whatever they wanted and they knew that they would get a response from the crowd no matter what they said. As long as they were peaceful, no one would interfere with their protest. Just knowing that made me feel like I was in a whole different place; I was completely separated from the rest of the city.

Being at the rally gave me a sense of what people really felt about the war.† People were walking around carrying signs saying things like "Our Bush Needs To Be Pruned," "How Many Lives Per Gallon?," "Wage Peace Not War," "Drop Bush, Not Bombs," "No WW3," "Empty Warheads Found In Washington!," "Not In Our Name," and of course, the infamous "No Iraq War."



Pictures taken by Jessica Gunning at a Westlake Plaza rally.



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Founded in Seattle, Washington, 2001

There was also a stage set up for people to speak out and sing about their emotions and thoughts on war. While I was at the rally, all kinds of different people took to the stage.† When I first arrived, there were lots of kids and young adults on or around the stage waiting for their turn on the mic. They would start off by saying their name and where they were from. Then they would say whatever it was that they wanted, including things like "We need to get out there and make our voices heard! Protest for peace!" They would also get the crowd to chant along with them "No Iraq war! No Iraq war! No Iraq war!" as loud as possible.

Also there were musical groups that took to the stage to sing about their emotions regarding the impending war. One guy got on stage and did a very powerful freestyle rap about Iraq, President Bush, peace, and war. It was a very interesting approach to express his feelings as well as get the crowd to cheer and make a lot of noise.† Another group came all the way from Oregon to play songs that they had written about how they felt about peace and the ideas of a second Gulf War.

In order for me to be able to take notes on the event, I had to go down the street and buy a notepad and some pens.† While I was getting picking up these two items, I had to come up with some questions to ask people so I could interview them. The two questions I decided on were "Why are you here today?" and "What other things can you do to help change Bush's mind?"

I tried to interview people, but my results came out not quite the way I had hoped for. It turned out that it

was very difficult to interview people on a one-on-one basis because the crowd was so large and there were so many different people. But even though I didn't directly talk to people and ask them the questions I had set out to ask, by the time I was done and decided to go home, I felt that my questions in fact had been answered. I had found the answers to my questions not from interviewing individual people, but from the crowd as a whole. From the signs they were carrying to the words they were speaking, from the buttons and stickers they were wearing to the songs they were singing, I feel that lots of people's questions were answered, not just my own.

However, I do still have some questionable feelings about the war. Young people my age haven't experienced how horrible war really is or can be. Although the first Gulf War went on in the early '90s, most kids my age don't even remember anything about it. So far, September 11th is the closest thing to war or warlike events that we have had to live through in our young lives.

It is an unfortunate thing that our president has made the decision to go to war. For just over a week now, our men and women, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, moms and dads, and brothers and sisters have been over in the Middle East fighting for what President Bush says is right. I personally believe that everyone on this earth of ours should obtain the divine right to freedom, happiness, and most of all life. However, I don't believe that the cost of death should outweigh the cost of life. Unfortunately, our government does. †

Letter from the Editor

ROSALYN "ROSIE" ORESKOVICH
(1948-2003)

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON and all those who care about children and adolescents have lost a great friend and leader. Rosie passed away unexpectedly and was discovered by a friend and colleague on February 28.

Rosie Oreskovich earned her Master's in Social Work from the University of Washington in 1976 and began working for Washington's Department of Social and Health Services in the Children's Administration as a front-line social worker in the "After Hours" office the same year. She quickly developed a reputation as intelligent, hard working, and passionate about her work. Having held many different leadership positions, in 1994 she was appointed to be the Assistant Secretary of the Children's Administration — one boss away from the Governor.

Rosie was respected as a national expert in the field of children's services and made many systemic changes and innovations. She was indeed a "tireless" advocate who brought to Washington a strong work ethic, undoubtedly instilled in Rosie from her Montana



Photo of Rosie Oreskovich, courtesy of her family and WA DSHS.

childhood. During her funeral service in Seattle, the standing-room-only crowd erupted into spontaneous applause when one speaker introduced the former Governor who hired Rosie as the Assistant Secretary of the Children's Administration.

Rosie managed an impossible job with the same intelligence and compassion that she showed

ROSIE CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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.

National Hero for Children

DENNIS FISHER



ON FEBRUARY 28, 2003, Rosie Oreskovich, head of the Children's Administration for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), passed away in her home.

Rosalyn Oreskovich was born in Montana on June 22, 1948. She was hired by DSHS in 1976 as an "After Hours" worker. She worked her way up and up, eventually taking the position of Assistant Secretary for the Children's Administration in 1994.

Rosie was a very active person in reforming the child welfare system. Under her leadership, DSHS implemented the Kids Come First Action Agenda, a program in Washington State which is designed to bring more structure, organization, and stability to the child welfare system.

Also during her time at the helm of the Children's Administration, the Vancouver Division of Children and Family Services office became the first in the West to receive accreditation status. There are currently six more offices pending accreditation status in the state.

Rosie was an incredibly hard worker. On the night before her death was discovered, she had worked a 15 hour shift to close a settlement concerning four kids involved in an incident on the Nooksack Indian Reservation.

HERO CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



"Fight for your opinions, but do not believe that they contain the whole truth, or the only truth."

— Charles A. Dana (1819 - 1897)

CORRECTION: Sola Plumacher's name was misspelled in the March issue. ("Sola Plumnder gives 411 on Homeless Youth Advocacy"). We apologize for the error.

Meet Our Staff

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THANK YOUS

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the family of Rosie Oreskovich, WA State DSHS/DCFS; Dennis Braddock; Kathleen Spears, Jean Rosberge, Dawn and Paige Felker, Martinez Roberson

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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.

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☐ 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:

Complete Guide to Renting an Apartment

SHAY DENEY



RENTING YOUR OWN APARTMENT can be a lot of fun or it can be a real drag. It just depends on how you go about it. The following is a complete guide on how to find an apartment, what kinds of things to look for, and what to do after you decide on a place to live.

Beginning Your Search:

You can look in newspapers, local campus bulletin boards, and elsewhere for possibilities. Call about apartments that sound good and ask questions such as:

- How much is the rent?
- Are utilities included (i.e. electricity, natural gas, garbage, etc. If not included, this could impact the amount of rent you can afford to pay)?
- Is there a deposit? Is it refundable?
- How much is required to move in? (First and last month's rent and a deposit are often required)
- When will the apartment be available?
- Is there a lease? In brief, what are the terms (length of lease, etc)?

Find out all you can over the phone. Then you can make appointments to see the places that still sound good. Once you get there, check out what condition the apartment is in. Is it clean both inside and outside? Inside the apartment, turn on faucets, flush the toilet, open windows and doors, and look into the oven, cupboards, and closets. If there are laundry facilities,

ask how much it costs and what the hours are. If you have a car, what is the parking situation like? If you use public transportation, where is the nearest bus stop and which buses run through the neighborhood?



What to Consider:

It is very important that you take the time to think carefully about exactly what you want — what is important to YOU. The following list contains things you might want to think about when looking for an apartment:

- What kind of cooking facilities are you looking for?
- How far away is the nearest grocery store?
- How far away is school? Work?
- How available is the public transportation in the area and does the bus run at the times you need to use it?
- If you have a car, how's parking?
- Is the area one in which you will feel comfortable and reasonably safe?

Application and Credit Check:

If you find an apartment that you like, the next step is to fill out an application form. This will look similar to a job application, asking about your credit history, where you lived before, and personal references. You're also likely to be charged a non-refundable fee of \$25-\$35 for a credit check. In most places, you only need to pay the fee if you hand the owner/manager a completed application.

The Rental Agreement:

If you and the owner/manager decide that you are going to rent the apartment, you'll be expected to sign a rental agreement, even if you're renting month to month. The rental agreement is meant to protect you and the owner/manager. Make sure you understand EVERYTHING in the agreement. This can save you a lot of trouble later on.

READ THE RENTAL AGREEMENT BEFORE YOU SIGN IT! If you don't understand something on the rental agreement, ask the owner/manager for an explanation. The important part is that you don't sign the lease until you are certain that you understand it all!

The rental agreement will include such things as the names of the persons who will be living in the apartment, the amount of rent and when it is to be paid, the amount of deposit and how much is refundable, and if last month's rent is paid in advance. Also explained are the responsibilities of the owner/manager and the tenant (that's you).

Once you've signed on the dotted line and moved in, keep the agreement in a safe, accessible place so you can refer back to it if you ever have questions about your or the landlord's responsibilities.

I know it sounds difficult, but it really can be a fun learning experience, so happy hunting and good luck! 🐦

Tenant-Landlord Basic Obligations

WILLIAM NELSON



Basic Obligations of Tenants:

Tenants are responsible for maintaining their rental space in a clean and safe manner. You must:

- Pay rent on time
- Properly dispose of garbage
- Refrain from storing dangerous materials on the premises
- Exercise care when using electrical and plumbing fixtures
- Repair any damages caused by yourself or guests
- Maintain smoke detectors (test monthly)
- Grant reasonable access for inspection, maintenance, pest control, and repair.

Basic Obligations of Landlords:

Building owners are responsible for providing clean, safe, and secure living conditions. They must:

- Keep the premises and common areas clean, safe, and fit for human habitation
- Control insects, rodents, and other pests
- Maintain electrical, plumbing, heating, and other equipment and appliances supplied by the owner
- Maintain roof, walls, foundation, and keep the unit weather-tight
- Provide and arrange pickup of proper containers for garbage, recycling, and yard waste
- In long-term accommodations, providing keys to the building entrance doors and rental unit. In most cases, the lock mechanism and keys will be changed upon the change of tenants
- Install a working smoke detector(s)
- When responsible for providing heat in rental units, daytime (7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.) temperatures



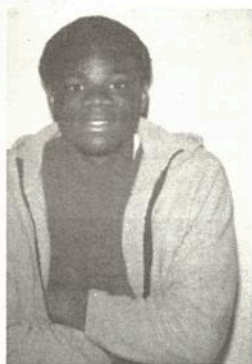
must be at 65 degrees Fahrenheit or above, and nighttime temperatures at no less than 58 degrees Fahrenheit.

Note: The Landlord-Tenant obligations listed above are for the city of Seattle, Washington. They do not include laws, such as just cause for eviction. For an information packet on Landlord-Tenant laws in your city and state please call the Department of Design, Construction, and Land Use nearest you. If you live here in Seattle, you can find more info at: www.cityofseattle.net. 🐦

BE PART OF OUR ONLINE POLL!

Let us know how many foster homes you've been in. Visit www.mockingbirdociety.org. Results will be published in a later issue.

Poetry Page



Culture

Society now today political.
Normally outside particular meaning.
Nature looks like life is solid home.
In the place to be making culture,
Poems daily.
Nice also neat poetry writing.
Pleasant new day rising from faith
Culture educated dedicated living characteristic – Famous.
Artistic Poet,
Working better improvement
Focusing, kind, my mind on future.
Finding peace,
Where true love shows.
Courage honey,
Seeing; now beautiful.
Generation exposed,
Wind blowing forever in a day.
Appearance loving culture to finish.
This precious poem I do only wonderful.
Letters created by us,
Victory missing link.
Fixing studies upon waiting gladly World.
I picture this frame, in my brain,
On stage.
Performing for A pretty thousand folk gathered around outside.
Thankful moment.

MARTINEZ ROBERSON

Troubles

You and me have troubles.
But they're not just like bubbles.
You can't just pop them if they're annoying you.
You have to sort them out.
Get over them.
Stop worrying.
Have some fun.
You're my friend so I'll help you.
Friend to friend
Lets' break those troubles
and go swim in the bubbles.

PAIGE FELKER



Spring
Cool, wet
Skiing, raining, flowering
Warm, friendly/ red, yellow
Falling, running, raining
Warm, frosty
Fall

DAWN FELKER

Markers
Bright, good
Dripping, scribbling, coloring
Cool, fun/ hot, display
Writing, shading, drawing
Dull, gray
Pencil

DAWN FELKER

ROSIE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

throughout her career and that her family spoke of at the service. One beautiful story involved Rosie as a high school student attending a civics event with students from around the state of Montana. Rosie was an over-achiever even then; she had been attending another event in a different part of the state. Despite her parents best efforts, Rosie was late getting to the civics event, and yet she was still elected Mayor by the other students. Rosie later quipped on the ride home with her family that if she hadn't been late she would have been elected Governor.

Like most who knew her, I always felt a special connection with Rosie. Our families were both from



Photo of Rosie Oreskovich as a young girl, courtesy of Rosie's family and WA DSHS.

Anaconda, Mont., and in fact my Aunt Nita still lives next door to the gas station Rosie's Grandfather, "Teddy," operated for many years. Beyond that connection, Rosie continually encouraged me to be a strong advocate for children and youth despite the many times that put me, seemingly, on the opposite side of her and the bureaucracy she represented. In fact she intervened early in the life of the *Mockingbird Times* to ensure it was available in state offices, scoffing at the suggestion that the paper was anything except an opportunity to hear from her customers — the children and adolescents she served.

Rosie was that kind of advocate — always striving to create more room at the table of community even it meant potential discomfort for her. Her legacy is one of honor, integrity,

and leadership. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of lives you impacted, including my own, I thank you, Rosie, for your commitment, friendship, and dedication. Goodnight and Goodbye.

For more information on Rosie Oreskovich, you can visit www.wa.gov/dshs/rosie.html.

Jim Theofelis

jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

HERO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

It's common in Social Services for caseworkers to receive praise first-hand from youth. Oftentimes youth don't even know who the big people behind the scenes are. The Mockingbird Society would like to honor Rosie on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of kids throughout Washington and the nation who benefited from Rosie's work. 🐦