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Real Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty • Volume 10, No. 14

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Brave Souls

Two local Marines dropped out of the Iraq War. Here's Why.

Interview by Anitra Freeman, Adam Holdorf, and Jackie Renn

Stephen Funk is spending his days in a Marine Corps camp, doing warehouse detail and waiting for a court hearing that will shape his future. Vadim Nuniyants is home, free, in Renton. He contemplates his own plans: bartending, transferring to the University of Washington to earn a Bachelor's Degree, perhaps going to a trade school.

The two young men, who both turned 21 in June, met in a military camp in New Orleans where the Marines transfers soldiers who apply for CO status. Having made the decision to withdraw from military service on moral or religious grounds, submitted the necessary paperwork, braved the reactions of their peers, and endured long interrogations about their beliefs, what these soldiers then do is wait. How did the interviews go? Will they approve my application? Will I be able to leave?

Marine reservist Stephen Funk started this process in early April. He stood outside the gates of his base in San Jose and announced his application for conscientious objector status. "I object to war because I believe it is impossible to achieve peace through violence," he told reporters. "There is no way for me to remain a Marine without sacrificing my entire sense of self-respect." His announcement made national headlines.

The Marines have charged him with desertion. Now he's counting down the time until the charges are heard in court. On a week's leave for his 21st birthday, Funk returned to Seattle in mid-June (he had graduated from the alternative high school Nova in 2000). He brought back the guitar he'd borrowed from Nuniyants, who had taken a more quiet route to gaining his CO release.

The two met with *Real Change* at the Renton home where Nuniyants lives with his parents. They shared their experience going through the little-known CO process. Their actions demonstrate a principled kind of bravery: the courage to stand up for what you believe, in spite of the cost to yourself.

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- Rachel Corrie's Evergreen Memorial
- No Escape for Battered Women
- Anne Tyler's *Breathing Lessons*
- Pageler's Challengers
- Goodbye to the Millionaire Club Thrift Store
- Debating District Elections for Seattle City Council



Look for the Mockingbird Times Inside!





A worthwhile cause

Dear *Real Change*,

My husband and I came to Seattle last week for our honeymoon and had a fabulous time. While we were here, we visited Elliott Bay Bookstore (my husband is a newly published author and we were signing copies of his new book).

Outside of the bookstore was a very nice man selling *Real Change*. I work for an assisted living facility for homeless people with AIDS in New Orleans, and the paper interested me.

The salesman was not pushy, very nice, and we were easily convinced to spend \$1.

I have been reviewing my mail and photos from our trip, and I came across *Real Change*. I decided to glance through it, especially because I was interested in the cover article about free veterinary care for pets of homeless and low-income people. (I am an animal activist.)

To my surprise, the articles were very informative, extremely well written, and enticing. I am so impressed with some of the ways Seattle seems to recognize issues of the homeless and societal problems.

I will subscribe to this magazine because I believe it is a worthwhile cause and an interesting source related to my work. (I am a grant writer for my non-profit institution.)

On a similar note, the homeless people we met in Seattle were very polite, fairly well spoken, and very sympathetic. I can only hope that I will be able to spread some of the concepts that you employ to the people of New Orleans.

Thank you for this interesting and informative source. I hope you all will continue your efforts for a long time.

Dara Fox
New Orleans

A call for compassion

Dear *Real Change*,

I, unfortunately, do not have any tips for getting employed, having only a couple of part-time intermittent jobs myself right now, but I wanted to thank you for Lorian Elbert's thoughtful essay ("Civil and Sane," June 12). All it boils down to, really, is a plea for compassion and respect, which seems to be so lacking these days.

I hope that your article reaches at least some employers and changes their manners for the better. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Sincerely,
Kirsten Hopkins
Seattle

Thanks for caring

I'm writing to thank all the stores where I've sold the *Real Change* newspaper: QFC on Broadway and Pike, Ralph's on 4th Avenue, Safeways in Jefferson Square and West Seattle, and Tower Records.

Thank you for letting me be there. Some of you took the time to care about me. Some of you who give me money for the paper care about me as a person. You are there if I need you.

Some of you remembered me on my birthday and gave me a cake and a brown bear. When it was cold, you gave me hot chocolate and a kind word. This really helped me keep warm inside, from the rain and the cold.

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Real Change

**Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless**

Real Change is published every other Thursday and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35. All material is copyrighted to the authors.

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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, 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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Send the Governor and Our State Legislators to Oz

By Barb Flye

It is too bad that along with everything else, the state's travel budget has been cut. Because I think a trip to Oz is just what a handful of our legislators and the Governor need.

Faced with a \$2.7 billion shortfall, lawmakers in Olympia made decisions as if they had neither heart, nor brain, nor courage. No heart to recognize the pain and suffering that will result from their cuts, no brain to realize that if you kick people off of health care coverage they will show up in the emergency room and cost the state even more, and no courage to do what needs to be done — raise revenue and tell wealthy corporations that they must share in the burden of getting this state through tough economic times.

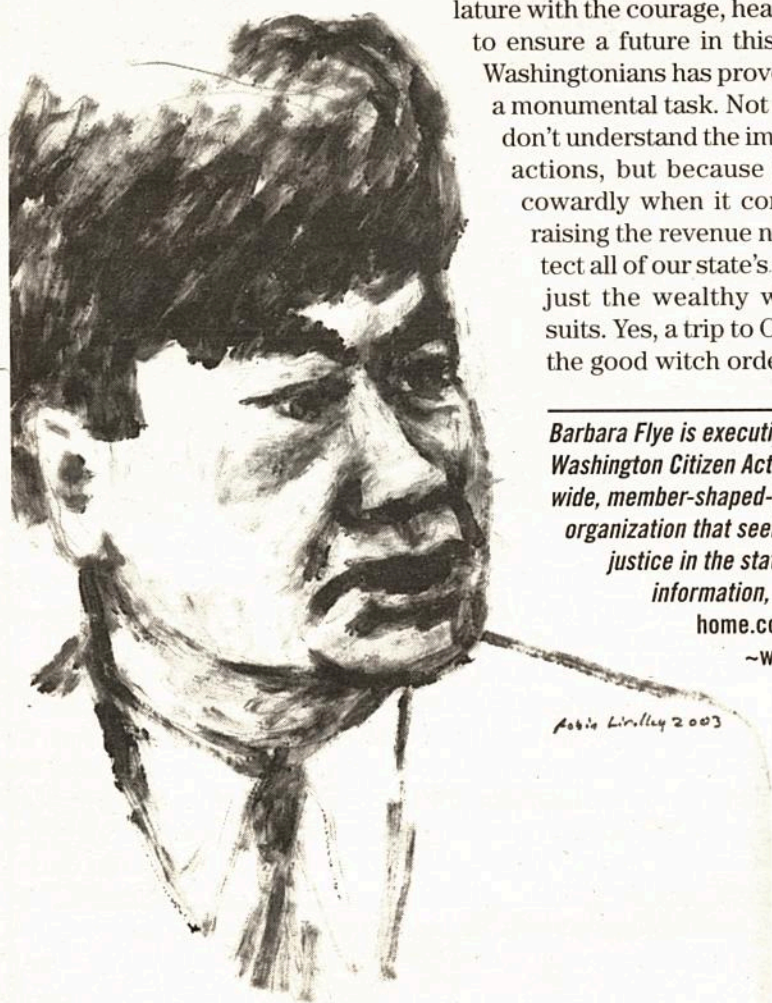
Quite the contrary has happened in our state. In December 2002 a tornado struck: it was Governor Gary Locke and his budget. The governor issued an all-cuts budget, slashing health care, education, and human services. You could see the flying monkeys circling the capitol in joy. Following suit, with plenty of praise from the Governor himself, the Senate passed a similar all-cuts budget that simply traded off services used by kids with those used by seniors. The wicked witch, Dino Rossi, spoke. All of this left us munchkins wondering, where in the world is Glenda the Good Witch? Unfortunately, she never materializes.

By the end of the legislature's first special session, all hope for a balanced approach was dashed. Instead of closing even a couple of our state's 431 corporate tax loopholes (amounting to \$13 billion in deferred revenue each year), Locke and the legislature gave away even more goodies to the big corporations — while at the same time cutting children's health care, putting their educational future at risk, and making the home care system for our elderly unsustainable. Aside from saving a few critical programs, it was clear that our state's teachers, low-income children, employees, and home care workers will never find their way home. The ruby slippers were given to the state's corporations.

Held hostage by the threats of the Boeing Company and all of their corporate cronies, the legislature reconvened for a second special session. The sky was green and menacing. Next on the corporations' hit list was those suffering the worst in our state's economy — the unemployed. By the end of the day, on June 11, 2003, a house fell on top of 250,000 unemployed men and women. Inside, sitting at the dining room table, was Phil Condit, CEO of Boeing, and Don Brunell, president of the Association of Washington Business. Governor Locke was there, too, serving them martinis.

Infusing Governor Locke and our legislature with the courage, heart, and brains to ensure a future in this state for all Washingtonians has proven itself to be a monumental task. Not because they don't understand the impacts of their actions, but because they are too cowardly when it comes down to raising the revenue needed to protect all of our state's people — not just the wealthy white men in suits. Yes, a trip to Oz is just what the good witch ordered. ■

Barbara Flye is executive director of Washington Citizen Action, a state-wide, member-shaped-based lobbying organization that seeks economic justice in the state. For more information, see <http://home.covad.net/~wacitizenaction/>.



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6/26/03

Going broke

On Friday, June 27, Belltown will say goodbye to one of its last neighborhood bargain shops, The Millionair Club Thrift Store. Store manager Genevieve Phillips is trying to stay focused until she closes the store she's managed for the last six and a half years. She hopes its closing will remind people to support local social services, because "before you know it," she says, "they can disappear before your eyes."

The board of directors for the mother organization, the Millionair Club — a nonprofit temporary employment agency also located in Belltown — decided to close the shop last month. Phillips cites poor economic times and "the post-9/11 reality of running a nonprofit in a high rent neighborhood" as some reasons the thrift store must close. "You can't eliminate salaries and you can't eliminate rent from the costs of running a business," she says.

Although it was never intended to be self-sufficient — instead depending on subsidies from its mother organization's budget — the thrift store has thrived

in the last year. Having offered hip fashion and low prices, the store's closure has left customers dismayed. But the board made the decision to focus on its core mission, the day labor program, which puts thousands of people to work each month. The Club also provides two free meals per day.

While regulars will miss the store, the population most affected by its closure will be the homeless and poor, who picked



MILLIONAIR CLUB THRIFT STORE WORKERS GENEVIEVE PHILLIPS, BABE DEFRESNE, KATE MALDONADO, AND EMILY CURRY IN THEIR FINEST GET-UPS. PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLIPS.

up free clothing vouchers at The Millionair Club's Western Avenue office, then "spent" them at the store on Blanchard Street. Now without an agency that provides free clothes, the poor community of Belltown will have to go elsewhere to find attire for day labor, job interviews, and everyday wear. ■

—Anne-Marie Townsend

District democracy

Electoral reform is the subject of debate at City Hall. The issue took center stage on Monday, June 23, in a public hearing in the Municipal Building.

A new election system is necessary Zander Batchelder, president of the Belltown Community Council said, because the alienation under the current at-large system has gone so far as to lead to talk of secession for areas such as Ballard.

A citizen advisory panel was established by the City Council in March to research council election options. The current system, known as the at-large/position system, allows all voting citizens to vote for candidates who run in separate, numbered positions. Besides the current system, the panel discussed six other options and listened as the public debated.

Capitol Hill resident Michael Taylor said he likes the idea of district elections because neighborhood activists don't have the money or recognition to be successful in an all-Seattle campaign.

"Let the candidate meet people in person and give them a reason to vote for you," Taylor said. He believes that local people who represent a local interest should be able to doorbell within their district and win a campaign.

In a district system, Seattle would be split into nine districts and each district would elect a council member. Each voter would vote for one candidate in their district.

The panel also brought up the idea of mixing the district and at-large systems, though most of the people who attended the public hearing were against the at-large system — even as a component of a mixed at-large and district system. "At-large is a horse-and-buggy system from a horse-and-buggy time," said Batchelder.

Stewart Wechsler was in support of choice or proportional voting. Under this system, citizens would vote by ranking each candidate, ensuring that no one's vote is wasted. Wechsler said that everyone is in some "minority" group — usually an interest group like an environmental group. "The same color of skin does not equal the same values and priorities," he said.

Nick Nelson of Phinney Ridge wants a system that "helps a larger spectrum of candidates to run." Many citizens agreed, saying that currently, only



candidates with name recognition and money win council elections. In a history lesson to people in attendance, Batchelder noted that of the last nine elections, eight were won by the candidates with the most money.

This was the first of two public hearings for the election reform issue. The next will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 30 at the New Holly Gathering Together Hall at 7054 32nd Ave S. The panel will present a final report to the City Council in July. ■

—Megan Doyle

Senior Housing: Untouched

After a year of sometimes acrimonious debate, the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) has finalized a plan to adjust rents in 993 apartment units that make up the Seattle Senior Housing Program. What was once an across-the-board rent increase has been tailored to anticipate residents' future needs.

Last summer, SHA proposed to increase the minimum rent in the city's senior housing from \$210 to \$390 per month. That would have barred exactly the kind of people who currently live in these apartments: low-income seniors making less than \$1,300 a month. Few people on Social Security or Disability could cover the new rents.

But on June 16 the SHA Board of Commissioners passed a revised rent plan that makes only minor adjustments in tenants' rent. The new plan ensures that at least three quarters of the residents will continue to be very low income, making below the \$1,300 monthly mark.

In order to keep the rents low and continue the program, SHA will rely more heavily on a source of federal money called Section 8, which gives poor people vouchers to use at private apartments. SHA expects that 150 tenants with vouchers will live in Senior Housing Program units on an ongoing basis. As of last fall, 100 Section 8 vouchers were being used in the apartments. Their future is cloudy: vouchers become a political football on Capitol Hill every other year. This spring, the Bush Administration proposed that the program be handed over to state governments and 100,000 vouchers be cut from the fiscal-year 2004 budget. Fearing budget cuts, SHA has closed the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers.

The Senior Housing Program was created in 1981, when municipal bonds paid for the construction of two dozen apartment buildings across the city. When the buildings were finished, management was turned over to SHA. ■

—Adam Holdorf

Janitors unite



HUNDREDS OF SUPPORTERS JOINED LOCAL JANITORS TO RALLY FOR BETTER WAGES AND HEALTH INSURANCE AT OFFICE BUILDINGS AROUND THE REGION. THE FRIDAY, JUNE 13 EVENT OUTSIDE THE WELLS FARGO CENTER ON SECOND AVENUE AND MARION STREET, CLOSED A DOWNTOWN STREET. THE APPROXIMATELY 2,500 JANITORS SPEAK 24 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES; TWO-THIRDS OF THEM WERE BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES. UNDER A UNION CONTRACT WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES' INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU) LOCAL 6, THE JANITORS HAVE FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE AND MAKE \$8.85 TO \$11.40 PER HOUR. THE UNION'S CONTRACT WITH SEVERAL DOWNTOWN OFFICE BUILDINGS EXPIRES JUNE 30; EMPLOYERS ARE EXPECTED TO BALK AT RENEWING THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN. PHOTO BY KEN DEAN.

Do you have any stories we should look into? Call Adam at 441-3247, ext. 207, and just maybe we will.

No Escape

Despite legislative attempts, landlords can still penalize women for breaking a lease to escape an abusive relationship

By Megan Doyle

One of the bills that died when the state Legislature ended its regular session this spring would have allowed victims of domestic violence to break their leases and move away in order to escape an abuser. The proposal faced opposition from Seattle-area landlords.

State Representative Lynn Kessler was asked by the Women's Law Center to sponsor the bill. Kessler feels that allowing women to move out without penalty will help people who are scared and isolated, emotionally and financially. Kessler, a Democrat, represents the state's 24th District, including Jefferson, Clallam, and parts of Grays Harbor counties on the mostly rural Olympic Peninsula.

"This bill will help ensure that victims of domestic violence don't have to bear undue financial burdens just because they are trying to get away from their violent partners," said Margaret Hobart of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a state-

wide advocate for women and families caught in abusive situations.

The bill was passed in the House, but was killed in the Senate. Sen. Don Benton, chair of the Insurance and Housing committee, agreed that the bill was a good bill, but would not let it pass without an amendment that would have required that potential landlords know of a renter's prior history in domestic abuse situations.

"That would be victimizing the victim twice," Kessler says — once when she's abused, and again when her privacy is violated and she's discriminated against. Kessler is afraid that that kind of disclosure would make it more difficult for victims to find new places to live because landlords wouldn't want to rent to them.

While Seattle landlords were the most significant group to oppose the bill, Kessler does recognize that landlords from other areas strongly agreed with the bill.

"They thought it was a needed

change that they were willing to go along with," Kessler says of the eastern Washington landlords who testified in favor of the bill.

Members of the Washington State Coalition against Domestic Violence believe that this bill will assist victims by "prohibiting discrimination against victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in the context of residential housing; enhancing the ability of victims of violence to move from their current rental housing when necessary for their safety; and providing a legal defense for victims who face eviction due to the violent acts perpetrated against them."

A similar bill involving tenant leases was passed this year that allowed military persons to break their leases without penalty if they are shipping out or being reassigned.

"Is it only when you go to war that it's OK?" Kessler asks. "It's OK if you're fighting for Uncle Sam, but not if you're being beaten up?"

This is Kessler's sixth term in office. Prior to her legislative career she was the director of United Way in Grays Harbor County for eight years, providing shelter and food for the victims she

is now helping in other ways. Kessler has been given an award from the Women's Law Center for her advocacy for domestic violence victims.

One of the bills she sponsored with the Women's Law Center's support passed after three or four years of debate. It gave unemployment insurance to women who left work because they were being stalked. The business community argued against the bill, saying it gave money to people who were voluntarily quitting their jobs, Kessler says.

Kessler is not giving up on the domestic violence victim tenant lease bill, she

says. She hopes to be more successful when the Legislature reconvenes in January 2004. ■



**State Representative
Lynn Kessler feels that
allowing women to
move out without
penalty will help people
who are scared and
isolated emotionally
and financially.**



NORTH AMERICAN NEWSBRIEFS
■ WWW.STREETNEWSERVICE.ORG ■

When you can't beat 'em, put 'em to work for you. That's the thinking behind a new ad campaign for a Portland, OR, pizza company, Pizza Schmizza, which "hires" homeless people near its stores to hold signs reading "Pizza Schmizza paid me to hold this sign instead of asking for money." In exchange for holding the signs, homeless people get \$5, a couple of pizza slices, and a soda. As Pizza Schmizza's founder, Andre Jehan, told *The Oregonian* (oregonlive.com), "I'm not trying to be a good Samaritan. I'm just trying to fix the problem on my block... It keeps the homeless from in front of our store, and gives them something to do and something to eat." Some homeless advocates in the area see the exchange of services for food and a few bucks as a positive one, much better than panhandling to support drug or alcohol addictions. Other advocates, however, argue that homeless people, even if they're just standing for an hour with a sign, still deserve the dignity of minimum wage.

A strike among workers at a Toronto inner-city community center has shut down day-care and youth programs run at the shelter. About 150 workers at Central Neighborhood House walked off the job in mid-June, demanding a 3 percent wage increase a year and compensation in lieu of benefits for part-timers, according to the *Toronto Star* (www.thestar.com). The management of Central Neighborhood House, who offered a 1.5 percent wage increase over two years, said they could not afford a greater wage increase.

One of San Francisco's mayoral candidates hopes to draw a clearer line between different kinds of homeless people. Angela Alioto wants to house and provide services for homeless seniors, families, youth, and disabled people separately from general homeless services that also attract homeless people who are addicted, mentally ill, or violent, according to the San Francisco radio station *KRON4* (www.kron4.com). Alioto based her plan on the belief that people should be placed in shelters with other people who are facing situations more similar to their own, not just someone else who is also homeless. Alioto hopes to get her plan on the November 2003 ballot.

Outreach workers from Boston's Pine Street Inn had their vehicle banned by South Boston's neighborhood activists convinced that the workers' efforts only attract homeless people to the area. "It's just an encouragement for them to settle in," long-time city Councilor James M. Kelly told the *Boston Globe* (www.theglobe.com). "We should not be encouraging people to break the law, especially when they're living in our parks and harassing our neighbors." Workers from Pine Street Inn counter that it's their outreach services that provide the best chance for actually getting people off the streets. "We're not a take-out restaurant service," the Pine Street Inn spokeswoman, Shepley Metcalf, told the *Globe*. "The real mission of the van is to establish relationships with the most vulnerable groups, and to encourage them to come off the streets." As a testament to their ability to equip homeless people with real-life skills, 200 people recently graduated from Pine Street Inn's job-training program, according to Boston's *NewsCenter 5* (www.thebostonchannel.com). As one graduate told the *NewsCenter*, "Without Pine Street Inn and the programs that were available to me, I might be living a life of lies and excuses." ■

— Compiled by Molly Rhodes

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poetry

Saga

The other day
On Second Avenue
I saw a Viking
Looking like a blond god seven feet tall
Horned helmet and reeking animal skins
Swinging his chipped stone axe in a great arc
Lopping the heads off parking meters landing on the sidewalk with great cracking thuds
Trailing an entourage of happy peasants and nervous police.
“Get me someone who speaks Viking!” yelled the Chief.
But the police could not get to him
He was surrounded by an ever larger crowd
“Death to parking meters!” they chanted
By then his axe was getting dull
And it was time to go
1,000 parking meters is a long day’s work even for a Viking.
Down the harbor steps he went, surrounded by cheers
He leapt onto his ship
And got away.
He was denounced by the press, who didn’t understand
Vikings are a law unto themselves
And even a Viking must have his fifteen minutes of fame.

— LIZ SMITH

Untitled

Asian river flows
past leaning bamboo trees
Underneath dancing
starlit night.

— CASEY A. O’NEILL



Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning

Having been homeless a bunch of times has warped my conception of a good time. It used to be that a good time involved some activity. There had to be a convertible and a woman. I expected some state and federal laws to be broken. Two or three weeks’ worth of spending money had to be thrown away within minutes.

My idea of a good time is now and probably always ever will be to sit indoors someplace where I belong and not have to get up and move.

That’s what I like about the zoo. What I can do at the zoo is pay my money (or someone else’s money, I don’t care) to get in, then find my way to the food pavilion, sit down with a burger and a drink and watch the other people at the zoo

who are running around looking for animals to watch.

As many of you know, I am no longer homeless but live in a subsidized apartment building, the Union, run by the same people who run what’s called the Downtown Emergency Service Center. These people, who also call themselves DESC, don’t want me to just sit in my room and not get up. They try to entice me out of my room with ping-pong, bingo, parties, and games. Nothing much works until someone mentions a field trip to the zoo.

The zoo is wonderful. You’ve got your animals. Animals are cool. You’ve got your basic zoo paradigm: the animals are mostly locked up, but it’s made to look like they aren’t, if it’s a good zoo. Every time I go to the zoo I think there has to be a wealth of political metaphor there. I think of Walden II, Brave New World, and lately the Matrix, and I’m sure I will have something insightful to say in this column about such metaphor, perhaps having seen the orangutans.

So last week I went to the zoo with a bunch of fellow residents of the Union. I couldn’t wait to get my hands on some of those hot political metaphors I was going to write about, and then I would check out the snow leopard, and then I would retreat to the food pavilion to sit and not get up.

First we all rushed to see the tiger cubs. We studied our maps carefully

and found our way to the tiger cub display. As we approached them I thought of all the injustices of child exploitation around the globe that I had ever heard of. I was thinking, boy, these are going to give me terrific insights. Finally we arrived to see them stretched out on some fake rocks in front of us. What a dearth of political metaphor they represented. I have never seen such a paucity of metaphor in a pair of cats as

in those two. I have more political metaphor in my little toes.

Then we went to see the snow leopard. Whenever I had looked for the snow leopard in the past he was almost impossible to find thanks to his camouflage. There’ll be a metaphor in that for sure, I thought.

Well, guess what. This year the snow leopard was out in plain view putting on a show for all the visi-

tors. He wasn’t hard to find. You could see, hear, and smell him as easily as an incontinent Great Dane. Not much political metaphor there.

There was a little relief in the form of the one neurotic porcupine. But I do neurosis all the time. I was hoping I’d find a metaphor that was more out of the way, a little less common. I can find neurotic at 3rd and Pine.

Finally, just as I was about to give up, our group approached the African Wild Dogs. As we walked up to them I could see four wild dogs running around their area in a single file, nose to tail, always in the same order. I shouted something stupid like, “Hey, everybody, look! Puppies!” The lead dog then made a beeline for me with his three buddies following him in their constant order, and he stood in front of me and said: “Hoo.”

Then, when he was satisfied that I was nobody, the lead dog took off with the other three to look for other potential challengers to his power in their territory.

That made my day — I’d seen politicians themselves. ■



The Fable of Happiness

from the moment you're born American
you can't stop hearing it
reading it
seeing it

it's printed on the backs of cereal boxes
and tattooed on the lips of French girls
it's embedded in your dog's ears
so you can find it when lost
you see it stapled to telephone poles with a phone number
it's the foam on your bar of soap
it's the finger your grandmother
stuck up your ass
when no one was looking

it's the cop under the bed
and the pole vaulter in the dirty clothes hamper

it's the fable of happiness
every American is born shouting
like the drill sergeant's hymn to the rifle:
drop your socks and grab your cocks
this is my rifle this is my gun
this one's for killing
this one's for fun

the fable of happiness belongs to us
like Henry Ford's first wrench
and Batman's bloody knuckles
it's the girl with outsized eyes staring back at you
from across the gym floor at the dance

it's the new car in the bathtub
scrubbing behind its spare tire

it's the zoo monkey grabbing its red
suspenders and poking out its butt
to the snare drum razzmatazz
before the next stripper bounces on
with her ten pounds of silicone joy

it's the magazine cover of Himalayan
teeth snowed under in a porcelain avalanche
it's the three-minute quickie
center stage Carnegie Hall
under the violin bow of Yehudi Menuhin
sawing JFK in half
while Jackie screams oil tankers
out of Aristotle's fat Greek sausage
and the divas of too many trashy novels
trash around in the oil slick
with the birds

it's the fable of happiness
giving Jesus a hand job
while the Pope looks on taking notes
and smiling
it's the fable of happiness
Americans are born believing in

— DAVID THORNBRUGH

Last Home of the Mighty

Quiet dignity pervaded marble halls
Temples and pillars of the mighty
Power and wealth permeated these premises
A lifted finger once caused heads to roll
Mighty armies followed their lead
Empires rose empires fell at their behest
Many had their names engraved in history
Amid all this dignity appeared
A little black dog that lifted his leg
Wagged his tail and trotted about his vast domain

— J. GLENN EVANS

My Cold

Opening my window; the breeze sends a chill down my spine.
The times that I smoothed out blankets, etc. in the wind when I was sleeping out
— to a makeshift bed;
I am appreciative that I am inside, where it is warm.
On "room inspection" I told the latest that is the second reason that I pay rent.
From the warm room to the cold outside. That is when the cold gets you. Not
enough insulation.

Viewing the dirty and disheveled streetpersons huddled where ever; I remember
how it was.
I wish I was in a position to help everyone.
In transitional housing; expecting to hear that a permanent unit is available; I'm
not in a much better situation.

Having a place that I can decorate, relax and work in excites me.
And "Fluffy," my small pet dog; for company and some protection.

Lots of "free" feeds in the area and the hospital close.

JESUS DIED SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE LIFE!!

— CAROL LENO

Following Margaret

Who's looking to win Margaret Pageler's City Council seat?

By Adam Holdorf and R.V. Murphy

Ed. Note: This article is the fourth in a series of profiles on challengers in this fall's City Council race. In our July 10 issue: Rudi Bertschi takes on council president Peter Steinbrueck.

Tom Rasmussen is embarrassed by the Seattle City Council, and he wants to make things right. In a word: he wants focus. Lengthy deliberations on matters that aren't under the city's purview — like the council's recent discussion over how to word a resolution supporting U.S. military troops in the Iraq War, for example, and its endorsement of breaching dams elsewhere in the state to save salmon — makes Seattle city government look both irrelevant and meddlesome.

"People are elected to be members of the City Council; they're not elected to establish foreign policy or pass resolutions that don't directly affect the city. And they've spent weeks — weeks! — doing that."

The worst part, says Rasmussen, is that it looks bad to the City Council's cohorts in Olympia and D.C. "When they hear the words 'Seattle City Council,' they think of a bunch of people who don't have a grasp on their jobs."

Rasmussen is particularly perplexed by the conduct of the council's elders — his opponent, Margaret Pageler, for one. "You could imagine that a mature senior councilmember like Pageler would say, 'Come on, guys, we were elected to get the Viaduct rebuilt, or to deal with parks and public grounds issues,'" he says. "I care about international issues, but that's my role as a citizen, not as a councilmember."

As a legislative aide to former councilmember Jeanette Williams, from 1976 to 1988, Rasmussen has amassed more practical experience in City Hall than any competitor except the incumbent.



TOM RASMUSSEN.

He's running for Pageler's position not because she's the most vulnerable, or because her record is the most objectionable to him — but because, in her third term in office, she seems the most reluctant of the council's legislators. Shortly after ceding her position as Council President, Pageler applied for a job as the president of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. "I think that's an indication that her heart is no longer in the job. We need all nine councilmembers to really care passionately about solving issues," he says. Still, Pageler edged out Rasmussen in the fundraising game in May, amassing a total of \$68,000 to his \$63,000.

Rasmussen is concerned most about the possibility of Boeing leaving the region to build the 7E7 "Dreamliner" elsewhere. Without sacrificing living-wage jobs and a healthy environment, he says that the city should do all it can to ensure Boeing sticks around. There's a dearth of regionalism on City Council, he says; councilmembers don't often link up with politicians in other areas to make sure that important public priorities are met.

Elderly citizens are Rasmussen's passion. He enjoys being their advocate in the Mayor's Office, and boasts of setting up a volunteer-run computer training class on a shoestring budget. And he enjoys bringing seniors to speak in front of grade-school classes. He's seen Holocaust survivors and schoolchil-

dren bond in these settings. "Many of the children are immigrants and refugees themselves; they know what it's like to be discriminated against," he says. It's a moment when "the seniors see that their lives have meant something and still do mean something."

Total money raised: as of June 1, \$63,692 — about \$5,000 less than incumbent Margaret Pageler.

Employer of biggest con-

tributors: Employees of Onvia, an online directory sending funding announcements to companies that bid for government contracts, have given Rasmussen's campaign \$3,700.

Linda Averill

Linda Averill isn't your typical candidate running for City Council. Averill, who's running for Position 5, the office held by three-term incumbent Margaret Pageler, is a member of the Freedom Socialist Party. "Life has made me a socialist," says Averill, a University of Washington graduate who writes for the Freedom Socialist newspaper. Averill has been a Metro bus driver the past 11 years. She's also a delegate to the King County Labor Council for her union, the Amalgamated Transit Union #587.

"It's a non-partisan race, obviously, but I'm running as a Freedom Socialist," says Averill. "And I also consider myself a labor candidate. My coworkers are thrilled that I'm running, that a bus driver is running for City Council. I have a working person's perspective. You see a lot of professional politicians running for City Council."

Her platform echos the socialist philosophy. She favors an elected civilian review board over the police to end police brutality, a \$12 minimum wage, taxes on corporations to fund social services, affirmative action in city hiring and contracts, reproductive rights for women, and rent control to end homelessness.

Perhaps Averill's platform reflects the feelings of many Seattle residents, but does she think voters will elect a socialist? "Being a socialist might scare off some people, but what I'm finding is that right now people are very open and they're looking for alternatives. They're unhappy with the Democrats and Republicans. What they really want to know is where I stand on the issues. When I talk to people about my program, they say, 'good.' It sounds good."

Nevertheless, Averill's campaign is seeking an exemption from the state election and ethics commission that requires campaigns to disclose the names and employers of contributors who donate more than \$25. She notes

that when the Freedom Socialist Party put up a candidate for City Council in 1991, their campaign signs were vandalized and turned into a cross. Averill also doesn't like to say how many people are in the party, "because that's something the police and the FBI like to meddle with, but when we have an event we get 70 to 100 people."

While Averill has a personal history



LINDA AVERILL.

of being involved in political activism (she was an organizer for Seattle's Radical Women for four years), she says the only other time she ran for a political office was in college during the 1980s. She says she could have run against any candidate on the council but notes that Pageler is "one of the more establishment candidates. She caters to downtown developers and is very pro-police."

"I think affordable housing is the biggest problem facing Seattle right now," says Averill. "If low-income housing is going to be torn down it should be replaced, one-for-one. And we need to quit giving money to developers and start prioritizing human services. We have two new stadiums, a parking garage. We didn't ask for these things. Meanwhile, day care is being cut back, housing, health care for senior citizens. Unemployment benefits are being cut back, and the reduction and exclusion of benefits for seasonal workers is just going to make the homeless population larger."

"That's why I decided to run this year, because things just keep getting worse," says Averill. "I've said that labor has to run its own candidate and have its own voice. We don't have a Labor Party, but we have a Socialist Party that has a history of standing up for working people. That's what I want my campaign to accomplish. Put a voice out there for working people."

Total money raised: So far, in a quest to protect her donors from being red-baited, Averill hasn't publicly reported raising a dime. ■

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Awakening

Rachel Corrie was everywhere
at Evergreen State College's 2003 Commencement

By Michele Marchand

"Education means only this: that the lively, alert, fearless curiosity of children must be fed, must be kept alive."

—Doris Lessing, *Briefing for a Descent into Hell*

"Parents can be awakened by their children," said Cindy Corrie as she accepted her daughter Rachel's baccalaureate degree, awarded posthumously at this year's Evergreen State College commencement. During her 15-minute speech, with her husband's hand placed protectively on her shoulder, words like "Palestine" and "Occupation" and "justice" rolled off Mrs. Corrie's tongue as surely they never had before her 23-year-old daughter was killed.

Rachel Corrie went to Gaza with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM); she was killed March 16, in Rafah, by an Israeli bulldozer poised to demolish a Palestinian pharmacist's house she was attempting to protect. Rachel was shouting at the driver through a megaphone and was wearing an orange, fluorescent vest; the bulldozer ran over her and then backed over her prone body again.

The crowd at Evergreen — its largest-ever graduating class — was subdued; perhaps mournful, perhaps preoccupied. Or perhaps afraid: the world we are sending our children into is filled with fear. I asked a friend who grew up in the '50s how the current fear of terrorism compares to the Cold War era's omnipresent nuclear threat, the "Duck and Cover" lessons she and other schoolchildren practiced during recess. "Oh, it's much worse now," she said, and told me about a dream she'd had the previous night, a dream in which President Bush decided that one way to protect the United States from terrorist threats was to make the Pacific Northwest a vast, nuclear wasteland.

Despite mourning, preoccupation, and fear, the profound courage and simple wisdom of Rachel Corrie shone through and made graduation day at Evergreen electric. Her dispatches — emails she sent from Gaza during her work there with the ISM — have been published widely, but they don't capture the heart-wrenching poignancy of her death or adequately relay the lessons we have to learn from this young woman, who felt "giving up comforting habits and behavior patterns is one of the most radical things we can do."

Who witnessed the encroachment of illegal Israel settlements in the Oc-

cupied Territories as "a jail that the jailkeepers decided was too big so now they are squeezing it smaller. The people here live within the smell of the ocean but they can't go see it anymore."

Who wondered, "Once you have experienced the reality of a world that isn't surrounded by murderous towers, tanks, armed 'settlements' and now a giant metal wall, I wonder if you can forgive the world for all the years of your childhood spent existing — just existing — in resistance to the constant stranglehold of the world's fourth-largest military apparatus, backed by the world's only superpower, in its attempt to erase you from your home. That is something I wonder about these children."

Who understood she was entering the world of those scared children "briefly and incompletely," with all her White person's privilege — skin color, money, ability to leave — intact.

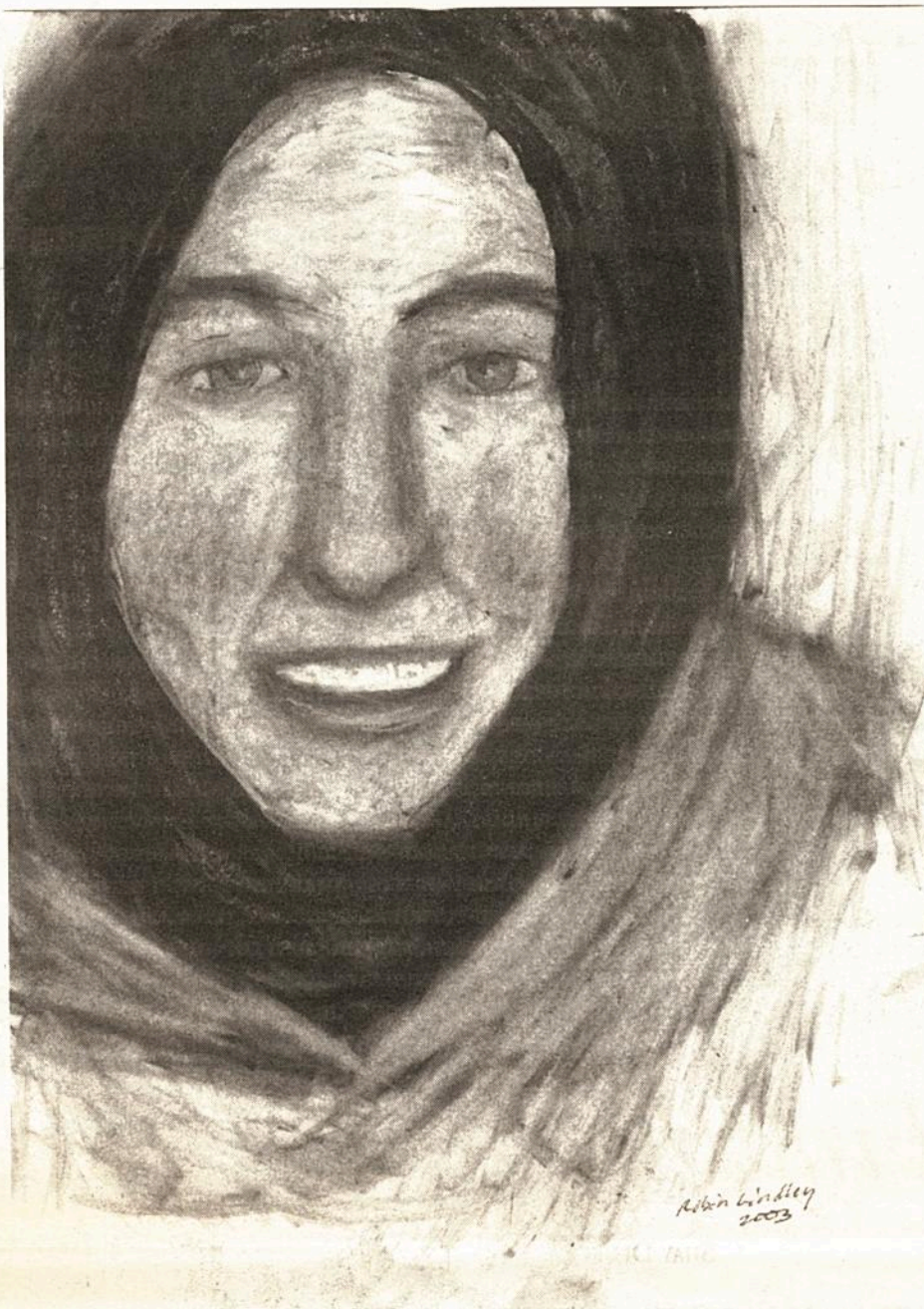
And mostly, whose first instinct, when a father and his two children walked into the shadow of a tank, was to stand between that family and the tank itself.

Rachel understood the Occupation is hurting both Israelis and Palestinians. During

her commencement address, because Rachel would not have wanted to be singled out, Journalist Amy Goodman of the radio show *Democracy Now!* read the names of Palestinian and Israeli children killed during the month Rachel Corrie died:

Abigail Little (age 14), Yuval Mendelevitch (13), and Asaf Tzur (17), killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber. Baker Hawash (17), Usama Abu Khalil (16), Rabi Sharqawi (17), Muhammed Abu Yuself (17), Hanan Assar (4), Omar Daroush (13), Ahmad Abahrah (14), Hakam Nassar (14) and Christine Saada (10), killed by Israeli forces.

In many ways, Rachel was a child herself. She wrote to her mother from Rafah that "I still really want to dance around to Pat Benatar and have boy-



GRAPHIC RENDITION OF RACHEL CORRIE, BY ROBIN LINDLEY.

friends and make comics for my co-workers. But I also want this to stop. Disbelief and horror are what I feel."

Rachel Corrie went to Palestine as a witness and protector despite worry for her physical safety, despite conventional wisdom, and despite perspectives vilifying her action as oversimplistic or anti-Semitic. Perhaps her youth saved her from the fears that hobble, hamstring, and blind the rest of us.

Of course, fear of Palestinian suicide bombers and al-Qaida terrorists is real, and it is terrifying. But seen through the eyes of children, making the space between us larger and larger and squeezing the jail for others smaller and smaller — for our own safety — is a greater danger.

Rachel wrote: "We are all born and someday we'll all die; most likely to some degree alone. Our aloneness in this world is, maybe not anymore, a

thing to mourn. Maybe it's a thing that has to do with freedom.... What if our aloneness isn't a tragedy? What if aloneness is what allows us to speak the truth without being afraid?"

She did. Rachel Corrie went into the silence and spoke the truth. ■

Family and friends of Rachel Corrie are calling for a State Department investigation into her death; to add your voice to their plea, call the office of Secretary of State Colin Powell at (202) 647-4000. For more information on Corrie's life and death, go to www.rachelcorrie.com (which includes Rachel's writings, editorials about her, eyewitness accounts of her death, and information about Israel/Palestine), or www.palsolidarity.org (official website of the International Solidarity Movement). Listen to Cindy Corrie's commencement address at www.democracynow.org.

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Blaming the Victim

A psychotherapist looks at world politics

By Melinda Rector, M.A.

Before and during the Iraq War, day after day, George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld proclaimed with narrowed eyes that Saddam Hussein was making us hit them. It's always the other guy's fault.

As a psychotherapist working with adults, children, families, and HIV-positive clients, I always hope to galvanize peoples' resilience, courage, resourcefulness, and willingness to take responsibility for their actions. We have learned that we are more than our inherited traits and learned adaptations; we also influence and are influenced by the communities and nations we live in. If we look at the United States' foreign and domestic policies through the lens of the psychiatric profession's diagnosis of personality disorders, dismaying parallels are evident.

The literature of domestic violence professionals (like myself) describes a perpetrator as someone who needs violence in his or her life. Domestic violence is about power and control; its authors use sex, money, physical, and emotional abuse as weapons. Along a continuum, physical violence escalates from a pinch to a punch, from a threat to an act. The perpetrator controls the money, isolates the victim, uses sexual force, calls her names, and takes other intimidating behavior to dominate the other. The perpetrator maintains power and control through male privilege: he "treats others like his servants," or "acts like the master of the castle." Despite his outward swagger, he is beset with anxieties and insecurities about his own worth. Global feelings of inadequacy, jealousy, sexual anxiety, or fear of abandonment are common underlying themes.

We see warnings of potential violence, or "red flags," in body language: clenched fists, narrowed eyes, distorted thoughts. "He's doing this deliberately," or "Don't make me hit you," or "I need to teach you a lesson."

Finally, perpetrators shift the blame onto the victim, saying "she caused it," or they deny the abuse actually happened.

Our government acts as the perpetrator who maintains power

and control through the intimidation, militarily and economically, of countries around the world. Our own leaders raise their fists, narrow their eyes, call other world leaders rude names. We taunted Hussein, just as we've taunted Castro, Arafat, Ortega, Chavez. Our foreign policy is expressed with "Don't make me hurt you."

Bush, Powell, and Rumsfeld are shown on TV narrowing their eyes and clenching their jaws, hurtling insults such as the words "evil," "axis of evil," "megalomaniac," and "irrelevant." Sexual metaphors are common, with Pentagon and Administration speeches littered with words like "shrivel," "impotent," and "the need to thrust."

The United States acts in the world as if it were entitled to be the definer of rights. We pick and choose which, where, and when humanitarian principles are to be applied. We also are apparently entitled to dominate the world stage, using an embarrassing disproportion of the earth's resources to

pamper our every whim — unless you happen to be among the nation's poor, disabled, minority, elderly, or less educated. We believe that we have the right to possess the largest weapons pile of any nation in history, and to start up unilateral wars. We believe that we have the right to disarm Saddam Hussein but he does not have the right to disarm us.

Like perpetrators, we have shifted the blame onto the victims, accusing them of breaching some trust we have ourselves already betrayed.

U.S. foreign policy has consistently overthrown governments that didn't allow the U.S. to exploit their people — e.g., Iraq, Haiti, Iran, Guatemala, Chile, Panama, the Dominican Republic. We replaced them — or tried to — with our own puppet governments, such as we did in Haiti, Cuba, Panama, Kuwait, Chile, Iran, just as we aim to do in Iraq.

Like perpetrators, we have shifted the blame onto the victims, accusing them of breaching some trust we have ourselves already betrayed. People after people have risen up against the "Americanization" of their culture, knowing firsthand its darker side of human suffering that our

U.S.-sponsored abuse has caused. We are responsible for napalm, Agent Orange, deforestation, pipeline leaks, exposure to depleted uranium, and land mines. And we have tried to deny it all. Our stance: "They caused it in the first place," or "The Muslims are just jealous of us," or "We deserve the most toys because we're the biggest, best, and strongest," and "We're God's chosen."

Anti-Social Personality Disorder is described by mental health workers as a "pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood," with "deceit and manipulation" as central features. As with Conduct Disorder, the specific behaviors include destroying property, harassing others, stealing, or pursuing illegal occupations. People with this disorder disregard the wishes, rights, or feelings of others. They are frequently manipulative in order to gain personal profit or pleasure (e.g., to gain money, sex, or power). "Further, individuals with Anti-social Personality Disorder tend to be extremely irresponsible both at home and at work." Financial irresponsibility is indicated by acts such as defaulting on debts, failing to provide child support, or failing to support other dependents on a regular basis.

These individuals show little remorse for the consequences of their acts. At best, they provide a superficial rationalization for having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from someone. They say that "Life's unfair," or "Losers deserve to lose," or "He had it coming anyway." They blame the victims for being selfish, lazy, foolish, suckers, wimps. They may minimize the harmful consequences of their actions, or they may simply indicate complete indifference. They generally fail to compensate or make amends for their behavior. They may believe that everybody's "out for number one," and they fear being taken advantage of or humiliated, stopping at nothing to compensate for that fear.



GEORGE BUSH,
ANTISOCIAL PERP.
ILLUSTRATION BY
ROBERTA GREGORY.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Ordinary Endurance

Breathing Lessons

A Book-It Repertory Theatre Production
From the novel by Anne Tyler, adapted
and directed by Kevin McKeon
Runs through June 29 only!
Call (206) 216-0833 for ticket information

Review by Michele Marchand

In a 1977 *New York Times* interview, Anne Tyler said, "I have no world view. Reading Eudora Welty when I was growing up showed me that very small things are often really larger than the large things."

That pithily captures the theme of her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Breathing Lessons*, which has been faithfully adapted by Kevin McKeon for a Book-It Repertory Theatre production. It takes place in a single day in the life of Maggie and Ira Moran, a longtime married couple, who hit the road for a funeral of an old family friend, make a stop to see their ex-daughter-in-law and granddaughter, and return home hoping to reunite their errant son with the family he began.

One of Tyler's many gifts is her use of memories and interior monologues to expand our sense of time and place. We learn that son Jesse got his girl-

friend, Fiona, pregnant when they were quite young. Their marriage dissolved after Jesse continued his aimlessness, despite his mother's attempt to care for both Fiona and baby Leroy. Maggie has never lost hope in reuniting the family.

There are many minor mishaps: a fender bender as Maggie's driving her newly-fixed car out of the auto shop. Ira and Maggie getting kicked out of the funeral reception for beginning to commit an indiscretion in the deceased's bedroom. A hilarious misrecording of an answering machine announcement.

These small things weave together a portrait of Maggie as a slightly askew but perpetually hopeful matriarch of her misguided family. Her adolescent daughter says, in spot-on deadpan, "Is there a particular point in your life where you decided to settle for being ordinary?"

Maggie is terrible with mechanical things but profoundly optimistic about people, telling the occasional white lie in order to mend things between them. "She thinks the people she loves are better than they are, and so she starts changing things around to suit her view of them," says Ira of his wife.

Ira is the puncturer of his wife's dreams, but his own life has been

IRA AND
MAGGIE,
PLAYING
CARDS IN BED.
PHOTO
COURTESY OF
BOOK-IT.



scarred by disappointments. He was forced to take over his ailing father's frame-making shop instead of pursuing a career, and forced to care for his developmentally disabled sister. He is obviously frustrated by Maggie's perpetual optimism, but paradoxically, they are what keeps him alive.

The set is remarkably simple: a couple of benches, a rolling steering wheel, and one small table are moved by the actors to become by turns a car, a church, a coffeeshop, and the family home.

But of course, in a character-driven piece like *Breathing Lessons*, the acting makes or breaks the play. Luckily for us, the leads in *Breathing Lessons*

are terrific. Jane Jones is mesmerizing as harried, hopeful Maggie. Michael Winters does a fine job as laconic, preoccupied, perpetually humming Ira. Jones is one of the artistic directors for Book-It. Winters is perhaps best known for playing a fussy grocery-shop owner and town elder on the wonderful WB network show *The Gilmore Girls*.

Breathing Lesson's central question — how to hold onto hope despite disappointments borne because of the people you love — isn't answered easily during the two and a half hour production. But by the end, it is clear that ordinariness isn't so very terrible, as long as it endures and is hopeful. ■

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BRAVE SOULS Cont. from Page 1

Real Change: What were the reasons each of you decided to enlist in the first place?

Vadim Nuniyants: I enlisted because I wanted to go to war. I was like, you know, "Give me a gun, I want to go kill some people." I was pretty hateful — I wanted to go in and kill.

Stephen Funk: I was in California — I was waiting for California residency so I could afford to go to school. I wanted to go to Berkeley. I had gone to college for a year in Los Angeles and decided I didn't like it because the kids were pretty apathetic there. It was a private school where the kids were a little more wealthy, and they didn't really have a reason to care about politics. I guess I felt like the marines would be a way to pass the time and get organized and find direction and learn things. What I was sold on was teamwork and exercise. I'm pretty laid back and not really aggressive. I think the recruiter recognized that I wasn't very violent, and he didn't really talk about that. I'm not stupid, I knew that [violence] would be involved. But I thought, you know, it might be kind of different.

The recruiter had my number and kept calling and calling and one day he invited me to an event — what's called a poolie function. Poolies are people waiting to get into boot camp. There was an obstacle course, and he had pestered me a lot already, and I wasn't doing anything that day, so I went and all the other people were already sworn in, and they were all coming up to me and telling me why they joined. If someone had come up to me because they had joined for the reasons [Nuniyants] joined, I might have been a little more hesitant. That day I saw what I wanted to see — teamwork, leadership, exercise — and I decided to do it.

RC: Tell us about boot camp.

Nuniyants: I went to boot camp in June of 2000. I was in the Delayed Entry Program for a year; when you're still in high school, they kind of start teaching you. I was looking forward to boot camp because they say that it's a place where they strip you down and rebuild you. I was kind of disappointed. I was expecting more of a butt-kicking; it didn't really phase me.

Some people get really intense. I think that what attracts a lot of people to that way of life is that it's really easy,

much easier, if you go along with the military. It works if you adopt their program completely. You don't have to worry about what to wear, what to say, what to think, what to eat, where to eat, where to sleep. They offer everything. There is a script, and there are certain parts of the script, catchphrases, that people use over and over again. You say "Kill!" all the time. You say, "Good morning, Sir" to an officer and he'll say "Kill!"

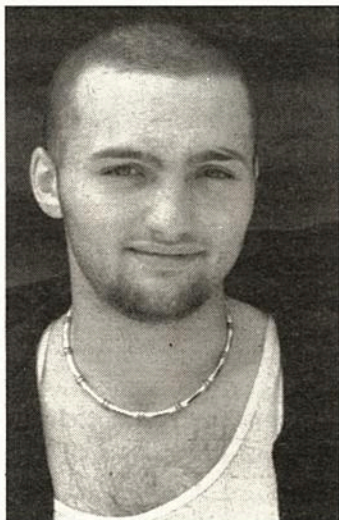


PHOTO BY JACKIE RENN.

"I enlisted because I wanted to go to war. I was like, you know, 'Give me a gun, I want to go kill some people.' I was pretty hateful."

— Vadim Nuniyants

Funk: When you say something over and over again, it becomes casualized, you become desensitized to it. You're not going to be like, "Oh, killing's a bad thing." In boot camp you're always saying "Kill." The people they call the motivators for recruits, they're saying "Kill!" constantly.

They're the motivated recruits, the ones who are the most gung-ho. The ones who are always promoted, the ones who are praised because they adopted the lifestyle completely. I always thought it was because you didn't have to think of anything that makes it attractive. There's a lot of that going on in people, just everybody in America today; they'd rather not think about some of the things you have to take responsibility for.

RC: Vadim, where were you when you were called up?

Nuniyants: I was actually in San Diego, and I was going to go on UA — unauthorized absence. If you're UA for long enough they just discharge you. I didn't want to deal with the military anymore. But I got a phone call in January saying "You've been activated, you have to go to Kuwait." Then if you don't obey it's a felony, it's very serious. So I came back up here. I wasn't aware there was a CO process; I didn't know there was anything like it.

RC: What made you change your mind about the military?

Nuniyants: It was a gradual realization. I started getting into Buddhism, although I'm not particularly religious. There wasn't anything particular that I read, that I can recall. But I've really changed in the past two or three years; I was a different person.

I went straight to my commander and said I wouldn't go; I'm not going to do this. They weren't very happy; they harass you to try to talk you out of it; they called me a flag-burner. I was like, keep talking, you're not going to change anything.

They took me down to deployment anyway; my commander wanted to give

me some time to change my mind. It was a 24-hour bus ride down to California that he took me along on, and then a week of training. Then the day they were going he was like, you still don't want to go? And I'm like, heh, nothing you do is going to change it. By the time I left everyone in my platoon knew about it.

RC: Anyone give you problems for your decision?

Nuniyants: Some remark here or there; I never take offense to it. Most people just asked me about being a conscientious objector — it was the first time they heard of it. A lot of people don't know that it didn't go out with the draft.

RC: Stephen, can you tell us where you're at in this process?

Funk: I was in the military for less than a year before I decided to become a CO. When I joined I thought I would go to boot camp for three months and then be able to go to school. No one told me about MOS, Military Occupational School [for two months afterward]. I was very distrustful of my base. If you don't like the military, they don't want to accommodate you.

When I was called up in February I went AWOL — I told them that I've been working on a CO application, it's almost done, and I'll turn myself in when I'm done with it. They were calling up and harassing me, and I didn't want to go in until at least after [my unit] had left. I didn't trust them — they didn't know what a CO was, really, so I didn't want to go in and then have them do something wrong and delay the process.

I wish I had been more trusting and gone in, because now they're charging me with desertion. Which is new — they didn't charge me with that until they moved me to New Orleans, and they charged me without telling my lawyer.

RC: How did you find out about the CO status?

Funk: In MOS, where we had access to the Internet. I decided before boot camp was over, where I was being trained to kill and felt that was immoral. I had so many problems with shouting "Kill!" all the time. I faked my way through boot camp. Then in Combat Training, I just thought I was stuck. But in MOS, when we actually had some time to do something else, I found out through the GI Rights Hotline.

At the end of training I felt so hypocritical because I'd been part of something that was wrong. I wanted to coun-

teract it. I got a lot of support in the Bay Area, where I did anonymous speaking engagements about the military. I used what I knew to be an "anti-recruiter" — I quit my job, spent 60 hours a week doing that.

RC: Vadim got out just four months after filing for CO status; Stephen, your case is much more involved. What's the difference here?

Funk: To me it's pretty obvious why they're charging me: because I went public. The ones who go public are the ones who get scrutiny. They want to punish them — because if people look at the person who went public they're going to think that that's what it's like. My situation is much worse than what the average CO would go through. They want to make it look like it's hard to do, not a good option, a last resort. That's not true — I wanted to make sure people know that it's a good option. I mean that's why I went public — so that people would know what it was. Hopefully more people applied for it after I went public. Because I had to do a lot of research.

Nuniyants: I did get out quick, but both of my roommates got denied. One was told that he had a valid point, but he was "too immature in his faith." It's really strange, because they have a mili-

tary order that says that if you agree that they're sincere [you let them go].

The chaplain isn't supposed to give any personal views on the faith. The investigating officer is the one who looks at all the interviews and makes the decision. But I think it's fair to say that it's the chaplain who makes the decision. Because the investigating officer has his interview after the chaplain, and he's been primed by the chaplain. If the chaplain says yes, he'll say yes; if the chaplain says no, he'll say no.

Funk: I had an interview with Chaplain Brown — he's crazy. He started off the interview with, "I don't believe you. I'm going to disapprove it, so we

can just leave now."

I talked to chaplains at boot camp about what I felt, and they always said things like "Just don't think about it, just go along with the program." They'd quote the Bible at me: "Jesus said to carry a sword."

RC: Yeah, "I come not to bring peace, but a sword." Catholicism has a just war doctrine.

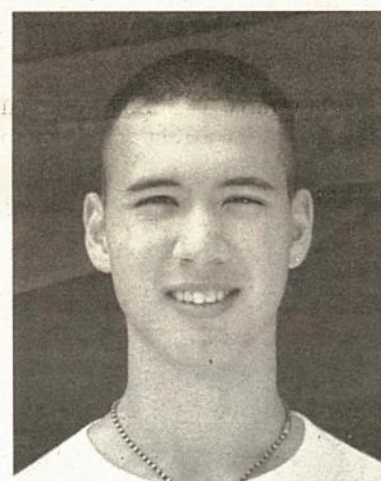


PHOTO BY JACKIE RENN.

"To me it's pretty obvious why they're charging me [with desertion]: because I went public."

— Stephen Funk

Continued on Next Page

BRAVE SOULS Continued from Previous Page

Funk: That's true, they do, but this war was not a just war.

RC: *The Pope was against it.*

Funk: I don't think any war the U.S. will get involved in under the way the country's run now is just. It's imperialist; it's not about homeland protection or economic stability. That's not moral. Trying to profit off of war, and death, and destruction, is not moral. To me, if Americans weren't living so high, and they wanted more, I guess it would be more understandable. But we already have so much. You don't need more. And actually, we're killing the world because we desire so much.

RC: *What's next for you?*

Funk: Now I'm just waiting. In New Orleans, it's not like we're in prison. We have it pretty nice actually. We can't be harassed; I mean they don't tolerate it. Most of these guys are anonymous. They put you up in housing; they pay you a basic allowance that's the same as what you'd get back home. I think that if people knew how easy it was, a lot more people would do it. Because it's not that hard. It's a little crazy when you're doing the interviews and you don't know whether they approved you or not — you're waiting. It goes through, like, nine people.

I go back to New Orleans and have my August 11 court hearing. I'm under a special court marshal, and if I'm convicted the maximum sentence is one year and then a discharge. But they're

not going to take my conscientious objection application; I think they'll do anything but honor my CO status because it makes them look better that way. I don't care. I don't want to have that [war] on my conscience, so if I get out for CO or whatever reason I'm fine with that.

RC: *Is there anything else you would like to say?*

Funk: I feel like these major protests have been following me around — WTO in Seattle, and then the Democratic National Congress in Los Angeles in 2000, and then the anti-war protests in San Francisco. They've really become a part of my life; I plan to keep them with me. The good thing about going public was it sort of forced me to live how I think I should be living. Now I don't feel that's a restriction on me. It helps me: it's like, "Oh, you did that, remember?"

I know why I'm being punished — it's not military or government policy. Everything is so controlled and censored right now; that makes the military think it's justifiable to punish someone for using his First Amendment rights. A lot of activists think that corporations or the powers-that-be have taken control of everything, but Americans really gave up control. They allowed it to happen. It was coming and they saw it and they preferred to be distracted and didn't want to take responsibility.

So I would encourage people to take responsibility for their actions, to live as if it matters — because everything you do matters. Like, to participate in your life; don't be a spectator. ■



Thursday, June 5, 10:25 a.m., Fourth Ave. and Maynard. The suspect, a transient 39-year-old black male, was previously issued a park exclusion notice for 90 days from all zone 5 parks. Police officers observed him sitting on a park bench in Hing Hay Park with a closed beer. The suspect was issued another exclusion notice, placed under arrest, and booked into King County jail for criminal trespass.

Thursday, June 5, 10:50 a.m., Third Ave., City Hall Park. The suspect, a 46-year-old white male, was observed in City Hall Park. Officers were aware he had a previous parks exclusion warning, and he was taken into custody and booked into King County Jail. 1:45 p.m. An officer observed the suspect (a 28-year-old black male) sitting in City Hall park. The officer was aware that the suspect had several exclusions from zone 4 parks, and was in violation of these. The suspect was taken into custody and booked into King County jail.

Thursday, June 5, 7:23 p.m., Alaskan Way Viaduct. Officers were conducting a premise check under the viaduct. This area is clearly marked "No Trespassing" in Spanish and English. Recently there have been reports of drug activity and other crime under the viaduct. Officers contacted a male who was lying under the bridge, very intoxicated. Officers warned him he was trespassing, and then noticed he was holding a knife. He was ordered to drop this, which he immediately did. The suspect, a transient 50-year-old

white male, was placed under arrest for weapons violation and was booked into King County Jail. Officer advised city prosecutor to file charges for criminal trespass also.

Friday, June 6, 11:45 p.m., 2000 blk Western Ave. The suspect, a 41-year-old white male, was observed sitting in Victor Steinbrueck park at approximately 12 p.m. He had been trespassed from the park earlier in the week and was arrested and booked into King County jail for trespass violation.

Saturday, June 7, 1:17 p.m., Occidental Park. The officer contacted the suspect, a 40-year-old black female, on a narcotics overview in the park. A computer check showed she had been excluded from the park for one year on November 9, 2002. She was taken into custody for the violation and booked into King County jail.

Sunday, June 8, 6 p.m., 1100 blk. 6th Ave. Freeway Park. An officer was dispatched to investigate an assault and contacted the victim, a 49-year-old transient white male, as he was being treated at the scene by Seattle Fire Dept. The victim said he was lying down in the park when the suspect, who appeared highly drugged, appeared. The suspect was carrying a metal street sign pole in his hand, and mentioned something about "wanting his dope back." The victim assumed someone had stolen his drugs. The suspect then began striking the victim, hitting him on his back and thigh with the pole. The victim stood up and they began to fight. After a brief struggle, the suspect fled. The victim called 911, and was transported to Harborview for scrapes and bruises on his face, foot, and hip. The suspect could not be located. ■

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

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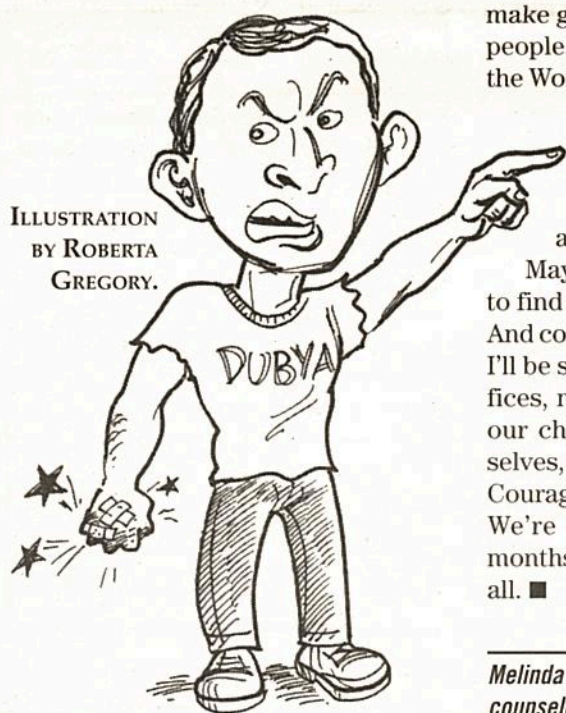
alternative news

VICTIM Continued from Page 14

U.S. foreign policy could be summed up by the above descriptions. While we claim to be liberating Nicaragua, Chile, Vietnam, or Iraq, we are violating others' sovereignty and civil liberties. We have caused horrendous damage to innocent people, in the name of installing democracy — and whether or not "the people" ask for it. We let our military and CIA bomb and sabotage and "destabilize" third-world governments, wrecking schools, hospitals, power plants, factories, and bridges. The puppet governments we set up are never popular with the people, since few gain from them, and poverty remains amidst the ruin. We make promises, in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo, to "leave it better than we found it." But again and again, the people are in worse shape than ever. We seem not to care.

Here at home, our states' economies are in tatters, with unemployment rising, health care a national scandal, environmental woes that need attending to, and our schools chronically underfunded. Money we give (our rich give the least) to the Feds is funneled into the Pentagon and turned into our very own weapons of mass destruction.

If an individual comes into my office and spouts off that he is planning on or threatening to hurt another individual, it is my legal responsibility to warn the victim, or the victim's parent.



I must call the police and or Child Protective Services. What sort of therapist would I be if I failed to protect my clients or my community? It follows that it is my duty to warn my clients and fellow citizens that our own government is Not Safe for Children and Other Living Things. It is armed and dangerous and we need to seek protection, and the perpetrator must be detained. At what point are we willing to look at our own government's actions in the brightest light possible and recognize that unless we bring in our friends and neighbors, now, escalation of violence here and abroad is inevitable.

If our own Administration, the fathers of our country, are our abusers, where can we go to find shelter? With duct tape and plastic, they are selling us fear. If those war-promoting leaders are classic models of Anti-Social Personality, we know that they are not going to turn themselves in or seek counseling unless it's court-ordered. We need outside help, as well as to galvanize our strengths, so we can step out of the victim's role. Under the Patriot Act, we are being told to sit down and shut up. If this doesn't scare you, it should. Or are you caught up in the "learned helplessness" of the victim?

Recommended treatment: immediate crisis intervention. We need to speak up, talk with our neighbors, get out into the streets, on the websites, in our schools, churches, synagogues, meeting halls. Now that it has overthrown their government, insist the U.S. make good on its promises to the Iraqi people. Insist that our government join the World Court. We need to call on the peoples of the world to keep speaking out on behalf of peaceful conflict resolution and international dialogue and against U.S. warmongering.

Maybe they can help us, inspire us, to find our own resilience and resolve. And courage. As world tensions mount, I'll be seeing the effects here, in my offices, more and more. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, ourselves, for the sake of our home planet. Courage to be the peace we long for. We're going to need it in the days, months, years ahead. Peace be with us all. ■

Melinda Rector is a licensed mental health counselor and a child mental health specialist who lives and works in Seattle.

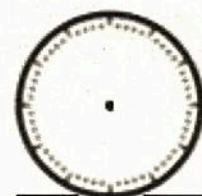
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and graphic designers. We need volunteers available during our office hours (9-6 weekdays), who are reliable, patient, friendly, and able to work well independently.

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Timeless Astrology

by R.W. Reid

July 2003

During turbulent times, when the rest of us flail about, people with evolved Cancer energy remain tranquil. They know they are safe: that it is normal, sensible, and sane to be who they are and do what they do. Like a fresh cake donut on the white saucer of life, they have ballast born of the certainty of their own intrinsic goodness. When swept away like Dorothy in the Oz saga to encounter flying monkeys, talking animals, and witches with less-than-benevolent intent, they remain calm. The secret of their equanimity is that they view these apparitions from their own front door. In the earthquake of life they stand in the threshold and let life flow in and out. Life moves, but they are still. Their gift to us is the revelation of our true inner home — a place of lasting nourishment and grace that we can never really leave because it dwells within us.



Aries: Standing on the bluff overlooking the river of regret, you sigh furtively, embarrassed by your uncharacteristic feelings of stagnation. While contemplating the languid progression of your intentions down the stream of life, notice that while moving slowly they still catch the rays of the sun beautifully and are moving with style.



Taurus: Underneath the concrete slab of your emotional patio, in the dark, wet earth, the worms have finally composted all of those old roots into usable compost. You can see pale new shoots peeking up through the cracks. It's time to tear up the pavement and re-establish a new form of paradise.



Gemini: A schizophrenic month that veers between dreary practical concerns and confetti-like showers of trivia soon convinces you that someone up there is trying to dump cold rain on your parade. Relax. Step off your float and onto the ground long enough to see that even the puddles in the road reflect the sun's warmth.



Cancer: This is the perfect month to get real. But not that dreary, I've-gone-down-the-wrong-road kind of real. The quality of your journey is measured by the light you allow to shine on it. This month all those detours can finally turn you around enough to leave you disoriented but standing still long enough to find the light switch near your own front door.



Leo: There is a stage in the growth cycle of all things that comes just after the moment of ripeness. As Shakespeare said, "the ripest fruit first falls." Savor this moment when the result of your endeavor has fallen warm and fragrant to the palm of your hand. Give thanks for the seed that both started the harvest and sustains you now.



Virgo: Have been you been hoping lately for an easy death — like a cat curling up in the sun that drifts off and never wakes? The secret of an easy death is to avoid sleep entirely by surrendering to the birth and death of each moment. Then, during the illusion of becoming and dissolving, you see death as the door to life. That is, until it is no longer needed and it too dies.



Libra: Walking down the street you pass a bakery and spot the world's most beautiful pastry. It is made entirely of chocolate, cream, and light. Only you can see the true nature of this delectable offering. You want it for your own, but your real gift is to feed not just yourself but everyone with your visions of nourishing beauty.



Scorpio: An urge to give unconditionally seizes you like a puppy latching onto his very first Frisbee. The trick is, you can't play until you let it go.

Examine your motives for wanting to help. Once someone pries your jaws off that red plastic disk, the game of giving freely, back and forth, can begin.



Sagittarius: All those years of acquiring knowledge are finally paying off. You have done your bit for the greater good and can finally rest. Your worn-out laurel wreath falls to the ground and is replaced by — nothing. Just a naked brow with a breeze cooling your mind, making true communion possible.



Capricorn: This month you begin to relax as your hard surfaces are worn away by new and pleasant emotional encounters. Your room in the castle is high but lonely. You decide to try living in the moat for a change. The view is quite different as you step through the reeds and into the water and begin to float with the swans.



Aquarius: You are on the brink of a tremendous revelation. All the ruminations and turmoil of the past months are creating an updraft as you prepare to leap into the unknown. It turns out your ideas were not as crazy as others thought. Prepare yourself for a thrilling ride into new territory, and be sure to check you parachute one last time for holes.



Pisces: The walls of your personal prison become transparent as you begin to realize that your memories are keeping you trapped in a room solid with the past — fruitless strategies for living a life that doesn't quite fit. Release is as close as relinquishing the false idea that your worth is established by anything other than the divine spark in your heart. ■

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Summer's Here Notables

Thursday 6/26

Federal benefits training on Medicare and Medicaid Senior Services. No registration fee. Register with Rose Rapoza, NICOA, 206-324-9360 ext. 1145. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Lillian Rice Center, 2208 2nd Ave., Suite 100, Seattle.

Disability affects us all, discuss your rights. Free and open to the public, including representatives from Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Social Security Administration, Seattle Office for Civil Rights, and the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center, 1625 19th Ave., Seattle. Info 206-684-4540 or <http://www.wccd.org/Events/socr.htm>.

"Start Making Sense: Democracy Under Attack," presented by Phinney Neighbors for Peace and Justice. 7 - 9 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m., at Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle. Info pdgruman@earthlink.net.

Friday 6/27

"Longshore Troubadour" Vance Lelli in a concert, **"Have you been to jail for justice?"** with Anne Feeney and poet-singer Chris Chandler, to benefit Washington State Jobs With Justice. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Reception 5:30 p.m., performance 6 p.m., at Seattle Labor Temple Hall, 2800 1st Ave. Also performance on Tuesday, July 8, with reception at 6:15 p.m. and performance at 7 p.m., at ILWU Longshore Local 23

Hall, 1306 Alexander Ave. E., Fife. Info 206-441-4969 or wsjwj@igc.org.

Saturday 6/28

Rainbow Women's Health Fair, an annual event bringing health education, resources, and free screenings to more than 300 women each year. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Pilgrim Congregational Church, corner of Broadway and Republican on Capitol Hill, Seattle. Info Ling Li, lli@fhcrc.org or to schedule an appointment for a free Pap smear or mammogram 1-888-651-8931.

Tuesday 7/1

Should Government Go Private? How will it affect you? A congressional inquiry moderated by Congressman Jim McDermott. Testimony will be given on the impact on workers, the effect on the public, and whether a privatized government would be economically efficient. 5 - 7 p.m., at the Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave., Seattle. Info 360-253-2616 or <http://www.afge.org>.

Foster families are needed for the **Refugee Foster Care Program** for teens from Africa, Central America, and the Middle East. Come to a free information night, 6 - 8 p.m., at Lutheran Community Services, 433 Minor Avenue N. Call 206-694-5713 for more info and to RSVP.

Wednesday 7/2

Jobs With Justice Seattle Organizing Committee, this and subsequent 1st Wednes-

days. 5:30 p.m., at the Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave., Seattle. Info 206-441-4969.

Saturday 7/5

Seattle Thunder presents **Interdependence Day** with speakers, workshops, music, food, information tables, and fellowship. Two keynote speakers are featured, Cecile Andrews, author of *Circle of Friends*, and Dustin Washington of American Friends Service Committee. Workshops will discuss reclaiming our elections, undoing institutional racism, globalization or localization, and working for homeland security. \$5 donation requested, cost for food will be approximately \$7. 4 - 11 p.m., at St. Joseph's Church, 732 18th Ave. E. at Aloha on Capitol Hill. Info <http://www.seattlethunder.net>.

Sunday 7/6

Report on upcoming International Women's Human Rights March set for Sept. in Israel and Palestine. Also report back from recent visits to the Occupied Territories. 6:30 p.m., Cascade Peoples Center, 309 Pontius Ave. N. (at Thomas St.)

Monday 7/7

Jubilee 2000 NW Coalition meeting, working for debt relief for the world's poorest nations. 5:30 p.m., this and subsequent 1st Mondays, at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E. Info Betsy Bell 206-933-1889, or Mary Margaret Pruitt, 206-382-3785.

Wednesday 7/9

Homestead Community Land Trust general meeting, a grassroots, member-

ship-based group creating permanently affordable homeownership opportunities. 6:30 p.m., this and subsequent 2nd Wednesdays, at Homestead's office, 1309 13th Ave. S., Seattle. Info 206-323-1227 or homesteadclt@yahoo.com.

Eyewitness report from the Middle East. Firsthand from Ramallah and Jerusalem: **A Radical Roadmap for Peace** between Palestinians and Israelis. The speakers are Dr. Tikva Honig-Parnass, Jewish Israeli feminist and anti-occupation activist, and Toufic Haddad, Palestinian-American co-founder of a West Bank educational center. The two are co-editors of *Between the Lines* magazine and are touring nationally. 7 p.m., at University of Washington, School of Social Work, 4101 15th Ave. N.E., 3rd floor, Seattle. Info 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453.

Northwest Labor Employment Law Office sponsors a current affairs show, "Speaking for Ourselves, to Each Other." 7:30 p.m., this and subsequent 2nd Wednesdays, on SCAN TV Channel 77. Info LELO 206-860-1400.

Ongoing

Weekly study group on the book, *Revolution, She Wrote*, an optimistic and highly enjoyable collection of essays and speeches by Clara Fraser. Her writings provide a feminist and socialist look at politics and community organizing, and the challenge of creating humane culture in a world of peace and shared wealth. Free, everyone welcome. Sponsored by Radical Women. Mondays 7 - 8:30 p.m., at 1903 N.E. 82nd St., Seattle. For more information, call 206-722-6057 or 206-524-9353. ■

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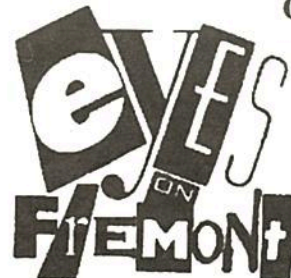
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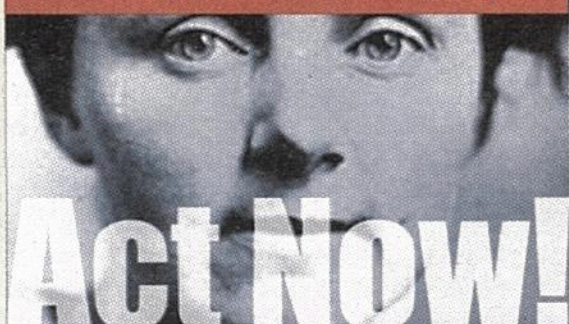
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City of Seattle

Greg Nickels, Mayor

citizens participation project



Low-wage workers need your support

Issue: The livelihood of thousands of Seattle-area janitors is being threatened. They need your help to win a fair contract and reverse illegal, unjust, anti-union dismissals.

Background: Five janitors were fired from Allied Building Services, a Bellevue-based cleaning contractor, in early June. The workers had been organizing to improve working conditions for themselves and their co-workers. This action comes on the heels of the dismissal of seven janitors who stood up to support a mother of three who had worked as a janitor for more than 10 years. She was fired after leading a union-organizing effort in her workplace.

Without union protection, these workers earn only \$8.50 per hour and have no medical benefits. Organizing for a collective voice in the workplace through union representation is a legal and legitimate expression of the right to freedom of association. It is protected by federal and state law. Allied impedes these workers' rights.

Moreover, it is a right enjoyed by everyone in this country, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Allied asked workers to submit legal immigration documents in order to continue working for the company, just as they were exercising their right to organize for living wages and health benefits.

Using a worker's perceived immigration status as a tool to threaten or harass is illegal and immoral. Even the federal government has recognized it as such. In May, the National Labor Relations Board issued a decision to file an unfair labor practice complaint seeking to protect workers in the United States, including immigrants, from continued harassment regarding their legal status to work in the United States when they are organizing for union representation.

Meanwhile, in Seattle's downtown high-rises, 2,500 unionized janitors fear the loss of a hard-won benefit: health insurance for themselves and their families. (It's standard practice in Seattle office buildings to employ union janitors; East Side janitors enjoy no such precedent.) The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 6, which represents these janitors, has entered contract negotiations with their employer; the current contract ends June 30. In a time of ballooning health care costs, insurance is a key item on the table. Janitors must not lose this crucial means of support now.

Action: Call or write to Scott Scribner, President of Allied Building Services, telling him of your outrage at workers' terminations. Tell him that Allied must show respect for their employees as they express their right to organize for living wages and health benefits. Here's the address: Allied Building Services, 13850 Bellevue-Redmond Road, Bellevue, WA 98005-4520. You may also call Allied at (425) 644-2220.

Email a letter of support for the negotiating workers to the Washington Living Wage Movement. The Living Wage Movement will compile the letters and use them to demonstrate the community's support for the janitorial workforce. You can use the following message as a guide: "Laborers and their families need and deserve medical coverage and a decent standard of living. In the midst of rising health care costs and high unemployment, low-wage workers are under increasing threat. Please negotiate to keep family health insurance and better wages for downtown Seattle's 2,500 janitors." The email is livingwagemovement@thewac.org.

Contributions for the fired workers may be made to the Washington Association of Churches, 419 Occidental Ave. S. #201, Seattle, WA 98104-2886, earmarked W.E.A. For more information, please call Michael Ramos at the Washington Association of Churches, (206) 625-9790, extension 12. ■

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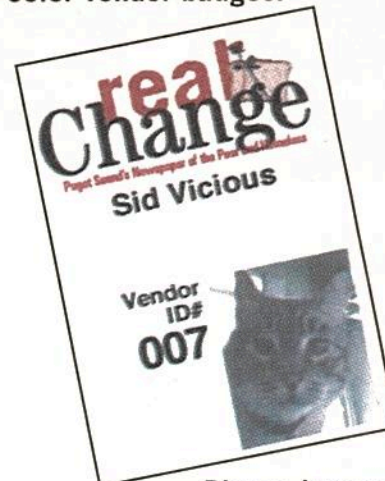
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Mockingbird Times



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JULY 2003

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

VOLUME III, ISSUE 7

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Mayor asked to face facts of homelessness

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

THE FIRST THING I REALIZED walking into the ACT Theatre was that I had been here before. The second thing I realized was that there were a lot of "youth" present. Probably because it was the setting for the Mayor's Youth Forum 2003 and because, at 20, I'm at that awkward age where I still think of myself as a youth in a lot of situations.

It was good to see so much youth involvement from schools and to get acquainted with the mayor's youth council which was composed of youth representing all parts of Seattle. The youth council is responsible for exposing the mayor to issues and concerns of other youth in the city and to be role models and take leadership in creating change. The Seattle Youth Involvement Network and Mayor Nickels started the youth council in January of 2003.

The Mayor's Youth Forum was an opportunity to get your questions heard and answered. It lasted for about two hours and it was covered by Channel Thirteen news. There were five microphones that youth could walk up or down to, depending on where they sat in the room to field their questions.

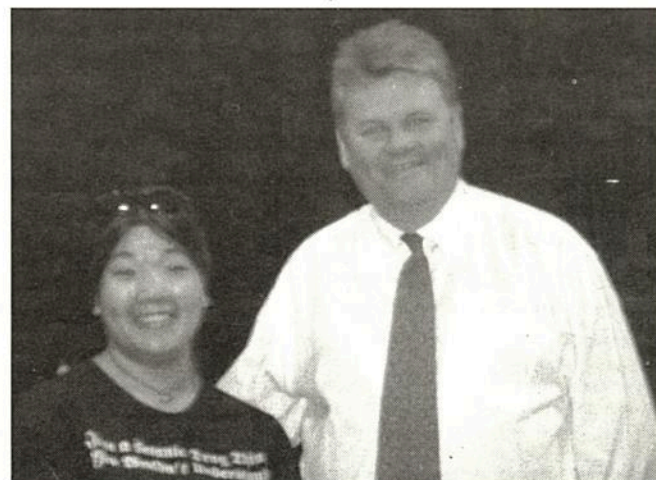
A lot of the questions were about school related issues, probably because the majority of youth there were in middle school or high school. When asked about the economy, Mayor Nickel's responded that he hoped to see 20,000 jobs created by prestigious businesses coming together in Eastlake to do biomedical research.

This idea seemed to come up over and over again in different questions. It made me wonder what degree of education is going to be needed to have one of these

jobs. Some of Mayor Nickel's answers were hard to understand. A girl who had completed two years of community college asked what she was supposed to do now because she could not afford to go to a four-year college and the answer was unclear. I also wondered how successful Nickel's vision will be. When asked about homeless people and why they were on the streets by a little girl, Nickel's answer was more clear and I could feel myself becoming choked up because the question was stated so simply:

People sleeping on the sidewalk — people going to the bathroom outside and stuff — Is there a reason they're not inside? Is there not enough room in the shelters?

MAYOR CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Courtney Konietzko, left, and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels both pondered the causes and solutions to homelessness among youth at the Mayor's annual Youth Forum.

Can I Still Get an Education Please?



BRIDGETT SIROSHTON &
COURTNEY KONIETZKO



IF YOU THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE to graduate from high school, then think again! Courtney and I recently went to the University District Youth Center school in Seattle's University District, to interview some students about their experiences. We wanted to get their opinions and thoughts about being in school while dealing with the major pressures in their lives, like not having a home, being in the foster care system, not knowing where their next meal is going to come from, being objectified sexually, and being beat up by kids on the streets. (People of color, people who are gay or bisexual, or anyone who is not considered the "norm" in our world have an especially hard time on the streets. Often the things that they were running from in the beginning they are facing outside too.)

Many foster care and out of home youth sadly do not graduate from high school. According to a recent report by Casey Family Programs, "out of home children and youth face many challenging obstacles. They often need extensive help to deal with issues of abuse and neglect, emotional problems, and trauma. These issues affect their ability to succeed in school."

Despite these obstacles, some kids know that they would like to make a better life for themselves. I interviewed Leona Bill, a student at UDYC about this.

What is it like going to school and being a foster kid?

It sucks. Friends' visits take caseworker's permission, [it takes] a month to answer phone calls, [my] caseworker acts like she doesn't care because of [me] aging out. Most foster kids go to nightly foster homes and social workers' offices and CRC's until permanent placement [is found].

In your opinion of the foster care system, do you think kids have a low rate of graduating in high school?

Yes!

Well why do you think that is?

Most kids, if they're teenagers, won't like it in high school and they'll run away. They won't go to public schools, because they know they'll get picked up [if they ran away in the first place], or they don't have enough courage in themselves [to believe] that they can graduate.

Most kids don't have a clue about these types of schools, like UDYC or Orion, or even alternative schools. Amber, another UDYC student, gave us some more insight.

Is it hard focusing on school, when you don't have any support systems like parents... do you feel like throwing it away sometimes?

Amber responds without hesitation. Well that would be pointless, because I'm trying to get a roof over my head. It's a matter of motivation; I want to get a job. That would be such a waste of time, I want something in life, I aspire to be a musician. It's kind of hard to practice an electric bass when living outside — there is nowhere to plug it in.

We talked to UDYC teacher Mike McCann.

Are their difficulties with graduation for kids in the foster care system/homeless system?

You don't have your parents making breakfast for you, you don't have a home. It's a lot tougher, but that just deems a certain respect for those kids.

This school's one of the most important things, [it's the] only reason I'm still in Seattle and haven't run away to New Zealand or Iceland. This school has helped empower so many youth to take control of their lives, I believe in it 110 percent. I see kids become able to cope with mental health issues and drug and alcohol issues and still carry on an education. 🐦

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Letter from the Editor

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARSHIP was established by Washington Governor Gary Locke to assist youth in state-recognized foster, group, or kinship care to have access to a college education. Managed by the **Washington Education Foundation** with the vision and energy stemming from the tireless leadership of **Bob Craves** (founder of Costco) and **Ann Ramsay-Jenkins**. Mockingbird is proud to share the 24 recipients of this year's scholarships.

Name, High School Anticipated College

Mumin Ahmed, Chief Sealth High School
Seattle Central Comm. College

Atiyeh Allen, Garfield High School
University of Washington

Nicole Anderson, Lewis & Clark High School
Clark College

Apioth Apioth, Henry Foss High School
Seattle Central Comm. College

Gabriel Atem, Yelm High School
Whitworth College

Jacob Dau, Henry Foss High School
Tacoma Comm. College

Leanna Ellis, Connell High School
Central Washington University

Kathrina Estoque, Franklin High School
University of Washington

Jeremy Hills, Cusick High School
Eastern Washington University

Anderia Lual, Yelm High School
Whitworth College

John Lual, Skyline High School
Bellevue Comm. College

Emmanuel Majak, John Marshall High School
Seattle Central Comm. College

Peter Malual, Arlington High School
Everett Comm. College

Dewayne McCabe, Kalama High School
Washington State University

Bethany McCall, Cedercrest High School
Lake Washington Technical College

Bul Nyuop, North Thurston High School
Western Washington University

Chereese Phillips, Franklin High School
Bellevue Comm. College

Magbule Qerimi, Roosevelt High School
Shoreline Comm. College

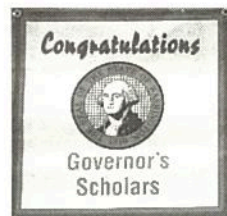
Tonya Schroede, Lyle High School
Spokane Comm. College

Yelena Shtelen, Seattle Academy
Western Washington University

Lawrence Tecumseh, Muckleshoot Tribal School
Muckleshoot Tribal College

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.



Letter to the Editor

MY NAME'S TRAVIS. I'm 32 years old. I've lived here in the Seattle area for a long time. I just came across your paper out of the blue a couple days ago.

Truthfully, I don't have any kids myself and I don't really plan on it, but I do care about the youth and how they're helped. I got to tell you in this day and age of crazy times and very very bad parenting in some cases, federal government control [and] state government control [are] doing a very bad job in my opinion.

It's a very very nice thing to see you and your staff providing a lot of good services here. You guys have a big heart and I really appreciate seeing that. Please tell your staff job well done. That's all I wanted to tell you. Okay, take care. Buh-bye.

(Travis left his message as a voice mail.)

Jesse White, Kelso High School
Skagit Valley College

Danessa Wright, Rainier Beach High School
Shoreline Comm. College

Amy Yates, Toledo High School
Centralia Comm. College

For more articles and pictures go to page 4 or visit www.mockingbirdsociety.org. Check our website for a link to the Washington Education Foundation.

Jim Theofelis

jim@mockingbirdsociety.org



*"When the power of love
overcomes the love of power the
world will know peace"*

— *Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970)*

Meet Our Staff

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THANK YOUS

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State Representative Ruth Kagi, Janis Avery

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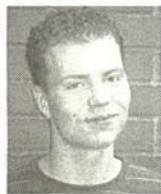
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WILLIAM NELSON AND
SHAY DENEY



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How to keep your card and PIN safe:

- Visa recommends that you sign your card on the signature panel. Some advice from us here at *Mockingbird* is to write "see ID" on the signature panel, because it will make it harder for a thief to perfect your signature.
- Don't leave your card in public areas or your car's glove compartment. Protect your card. Keep it in your wallet or an inconspicuous place. Remember to keep

the item that your card is in within your sight at all times.

- Never write down your PIN, you should memorize it right away.
- Make sure that you get your card back after every purchase. If you do forget your card somewhere, contact every place that you've been, or if you're sure of where you've left it, contact them immediately.
- Always check your billing statements to make sure that they are true and correct. Note: Once you've started a payment, you're stating that the amount you're being charged is correct.
- If you have more than one card, make a list of all of your cards and their numbers, and store it in a safe place.
- Don't lend your card or it's corresponding information to *anyone*. No one, including the police, a merchant, or a financial institution such as a bank, should ever ask for your PIN.
- When making a purchase in person, don't offer any other personal information other than displaying your personal ID when it is requested.
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MAYOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nickels: That's a great question.
(APPLAUSE)

Nobody should be homeless in our city or in our country. It's wrong. There are a lot of different reasons why people are out and not in homes. Some are there for economic reasons. Some are there for [having been a victim of] domestic violence. Some are there out of loneliness or substance abuse.

There are lots of different reasons why people find themselves in those circumstances. The sad thing is that it could be anyone of us. It could be our family members. And so we need to find ways to open the door to the community back up before we can find them shelter from the streets. Part of it is shelter for the night, but a bigger part of that, I think, is helping them to stabilize their life long enough to be able to figure out "what is it, that happened?" and to help them deal with it.

One of the saddest things that I think is true about our

community is that the King County jail is the third largest mental health institution in the state of Washington. That's just wrong. People should have decent care available in their community, and if not in their community, in an appropriate central place that they can get the care to be able to live humanely and decently. And we don't do that anymore; we used to do that as a society, but we don't do it anymore.

I think questions like yours being asked are going to help us get the courage to step up and make it right.

I left with thoughts swimming around in my brain like wild fish. I wonder if one of those thoughts will bite and in the next year I'll be more involved in politics. It was good to finally get acquainted with the mayor and to be able to place a face to a name. It will be interesting seeing what changes are made in the future to help homeless people.

Check out our Mayor Forum photos online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

Interagency Academy Class of 2003

DENNIS FISHER



THIS YEAR 120 YOUTH GRADUATED from Interagency Academy. Interagency Academy is an alternative school in the Seattle School District which serves youth who are homeless, in foster care, and/or have challenges that hinder their ability to succeed in a traditional high school setting.

Their graduation ceremony, like all other graduation ceremonies, had the prerequisite late start, long motivational speeches, and crying babies. There was so much nervousness in the air that I started to get nervous. Another *Mockingbird Times* reporter, Courtney Konietzko, who was with me, said, "The air is filled with electricity — heat is radiating off of everybody's body."

After the standard motivational speeches were all done with, there was a brief musical interlude, and then an awards ceremony. The awards were scholarships and money awards given by different programs and organizations. The award that I remember the best (because I was one of the first two people to win it two years ago [and my name is the first on the plaque because of alphabetical order]) is the Darrel Anderson Award of Excellence, which is awarded by the Seattle School District to youth who excel in their learning.

After the awards were given, the graduation ceremony began. When the first name was called, there was applause. Not a bunch of people clapping, but *applause*. These people were truly proud of the graduates, and the tone and intensity of the applause really reflected it.

Mockingbird Times reporter Shay Dene was one of the youth who graduated this year, and she answered a few questions about the graduation.

How does it feel to have graduated?

It feels good to have accomplished something that, before, I thought I never would have been able to accomplish.

Do you think you could have done this in a normal school setting?

No. You don't get the one-on-one attention. You get attention to the group as a whole, but not based on individual student needs.

What do you plan to do now that you've graduated?

I plan to enroll myself into a two year college to further my education. After that, I plan to enroll myself into a four year college. From there I will start my long journey of getting my Ph.D. in marine biology.

For more information about Interagency Academy and alternative schools, check out their website at <http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/interagency/>. Also, look for an interview with retiring Interagency Academy Principal, Dr. Donald Felder, in our September issue.

Check out our graduation photos online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

Governor Rewards Hard-Working Students

DAWN FELKER

ON JUNE 13, 2003, my family was invited to Governor Gary Locke's scholarship reception. The Governor spoke of how earning a scholarship would change the future of the lives of the scholars, he also talked about what an honor it is to be awarded a scholarship. He encouraged young people to always reach for their dreams. Achieving goals requires work and overcoming obstacles that we face in life. All of the scholars were very happy and it was a very cool experience, especially if you are only 13. I will never forget the experience that day at the capitol.

Twenty-four students received a scholarships this year. In order meet criteria, students need to be high school seniors at the time of the application. They also need to be dependent youth and in state foster, group, or kinship care. The students need to plan to obtain a two-or-four-year degree and attend college full-time at any of the 56 colleges in Washington State. They also have to acquire some academically challenging course work and show resiliency in reaching goals. They have made an effort to set a goal and attempt to reach the goal one step at a time.

Scholarships were made possible through fundraising and awarded to seniors who met the criteria. The Washington Education Foundation directors and staff



Washington State Governor Gary Locke celebrates with Jim Theofelis and Dawn and Paige Felker.

helped with the fundraising for the awarded scholarships. The Governor's Scholarship Selection Committee, Lutheran Community Services statewide carwashes and the Governor's Cup Golf Tournament were the events that helped raise the money for the scholarships.

Governor Locke hopes to have the funding to award 50 scholarships to deserving high school seniors next year. His hopes are that these students can achieve their goals, hopes and dreams for their future.

Staff Reporter: Darius Reynolds



Tell us a little bit about yourself?

I enjoy being involved in the community. I am about to start school. I also enjoy cooking and I hope to some day go to Italy and train to be a master chef.

What are some issues you find important?

Police conduct towards homeless youth and better ways to get youth off the streets.

What is your experience with being homeless or in the foster care System?

I was in foster care until I was 17 and I have been homeless for the last two years. I am just now getting off the streets — hopefully for good.

If you could change one thing about the system what would it be?

Everything.

Why did you join the Mockingbird Society?

So what I have to say and what my peers have to say can be heard by people who care.

Finding a Friend for You

SHAY DENEY

ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY? It really does work. We here at Mockingbird went to visit a program for Washington State's Echo Glen Children's Center. Echo Glen offers a variety of therapeutic programs for younger adolescent male and female offenders. It is a juvenile rehabilitation center for youth offenders.

What does animal-assisted therapy have to do with Echo Glen, you ask? Echo Glen houses a very special program called Canine Connections. This program pairs juvenile offenders with abused or unwanted dogs, giving the youth the opportunity to experience patience, responsibility, conflict resolution skills, and emotional development. The youth in Canine Connections seem to compare the dog's lives to their own lives — unwanted, abused, neglected, locked-up, and involved in training and treatment.

The students are like the dog's counselors. They write treatment reports and plans. The students learn to utilize behavioral therapy methods of positive reinforcement in shaping their dog's behavior. After 60-80 days of intense interaction between the dogs and their handlers, the students interview families who would like to adopt the dogs that they have trained. During the exit interview, the student/trainer explains the dog's background, training methods, and offers advice in caring for the dog.

If you would like to adopt a dog:

To adopt a dog from the Canine Connections program you can:

- Call — (425)831-2578
 - Fax — (425)831-2594
 - E-mail — Canineconnections@seanet.com
- The adoption fee is \$100 plus spay/neuter fee if applicable.



Photo by William Nelson.

I had the chance to interview some of the kids in the program. I owe them an extra thanks because all of them were really wonderful people. I interviewed a young man first named Josh, trailed by his dog, Boon. Entering his 3rd quarter, Josh has been in the program the longest. He says that he has learned a lot of patience while being in the program and has realized that things aren't always the way you want them to be. He has gained more confidence in his life and courage to go along with it. He said he feels more emotional and caring towards both animals and people.

The next student I interviewed was Julie and her dog Percy. Julie says she has learned a lot of relationship skills while in the Canine Connections. She wasn't used to living without drugs but now has something better to do — take care of Percy. Julie has learned to deal with people who she couldn't deal with before. She states that she and her dog have similar personalities.

The last student I interviewed was Lanita who was training a dog named Wharton. However, Wharton isn't in the regular dog training program. He requires more training than the others and a longer stay at Echo Glen. Wharton is being trained as a service dog. A service dog is a dog who is specially trained to guide the blind or help the disabled. Lanita says that being in the program has taught her patience and responsibility, traits she struggled with before she came to Echo Glen.

She says that she feels like Wharton is her own son and she likes to watch him grow. This program has also taught her how to get close to people, when before, she pushed everyone away.

Being around these kids made me realize just how much this program has helped them. They were all very polite, caring individuals who made me smile.

The Canine Connections program came to be because of a great person named Jo Simpson. Simpson is the founder and director of the Canine Connections program. Simpson has spent the last 20 years breeding, raising, training, and showing dogs, so directing this program came naturally. She says that while directing the program it is "very rewarding to see the changes that go on within [the students]."

We also had the chance to speak with Ben Abrams, an intern from the University of Washington's Social Work program. Ben stated that one of the biggest problems is that the kids can't identify with their victims. This program teaches that skill. The kids start to realize that they can have affection for others.

Being there at Echo Glen taught me that animal-assisted therapy is a really important type of therapy. It teaches the kids first hand about dealing with people and having responsibility. It also teaches them empathy and emotion. All the kids that I spoke with agreed that the Canine Connections program really does work!

Poetry Corner

Waterfall Poetry

Smoothly the water
comes down, splashes against rocks
as the fish goes by

STEPHANIE NICOLE KELLY DAVIS