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# Real Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty • Volume 10, No. 19

SHANE THOMPSON, HOMELESS

PETER STEINBREUCK, PRESIDENT, SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL



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Real Change  
Special Issue

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Times Inside

## Real Change

Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless

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The Road Ahead

CHANGE  
PERSPECTIVE

realchangenews.org





## Remembering Emmett Till

Dear *Real Change*:

I was very interested to read the interview with documentary filmmaker Keith Beauchamp ["Linger On," Sept. 18]. I am gratified that Emmett Till's story has not been forgotten. The famous picture of the sweet round-faced boy and his mother Mamie never left my unconscious, nor did the remembrance of the plump, smiling lynchers leaving the courtroom scot-free.

Gwendolyn Brooks wrote a poem addressed to the wife of one of the lynchers who divorced her husband

soon after Emmett's murder. James Baldwin makes reference to this event in one of his essays: how the sight of young Emmett's crushed head haunted his nightmares. One of Bob Dylan's early songs deals with the lynching.

I remember also, when Cheney, Goodman, and Schwerner disappeared during the Civil Rights struggle of the sixties, when officials were dredging the river to find their bodies, they kept dragging up other bodies: nearly all the bodies of young black men. Few people asked "Who are these people? Why are they at the bottom of this river?"

The Old South is alive and well and occupying the White House. I do not think America will ever live out her dream until she comes to grips with the great wrong she has done to African Americans.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Romero

## Free health care begins

To the editor:

It is ironic that the title of Chris LaRoche's article asks "Where's the nurse's office?" in regards to our Seattle schools and the difficult times we have been going through ["Condition Criti-

cal," Sept. 18]. As a school nurse, I would like to point out that particular question rings true in a manner which Mr. LaRoche may not have intended, and more so each year as budget cuts trim the amount of funds for nurses in our buildings. There are schools that have a nurse only one day every other week. Schools, when faced with difficult decisions regarding their budgets, realize they can barely afford a nurse. Other schools are funded in part by a levy that may not pass. Will there be a nurse's office to go to?

I think our children deserve and greatly benefit from a free, public education. They also should grow up with free access to health care, at least within the public school system. How else will they come to understand that free health care (like an education) should not be a commodity they must buy? Healthy children are more successful in school. The Seattle School nurse practice is devoted to the health and academic success of our children.

Some time ago, a student at a school with a nurse only three days a week said to me, "Don't they know that we could get sick five days in the week, not just three?"

Christa Lilienthal, RN  
Seattle

## Tell us who your heroes are

Who's your hero?

Has someone gone out of their way to right a wrong, stand up for the little guy, or ward off a perfect stranger's impending disaster?

*Real Change* seeks nominations for our first-annual 2003 Heroes issue, showing off the region's outstanding change-agents — the people and organizations which are most effectively doing their part to save the world. Who are the heroes of the greater Seattle area? Drop us a line at [editor@realchangenews.org](mailto:editor@realchangenews.org).

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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.

Submissions should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247; fax. (206) 374-2455.

On the Web at

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Email [rchange@speakeasy.org](mailto:rchange@speakeasy.org)

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

Mission Statement:

*Real Change* exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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 *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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# It's All About Us

## Rethinking *Real Change* at Nine

**G**enerally speaking, we're not this self-absorbed. *Real Change* usually brings you progressive news, in-depth interviews, reporting on poverty issues, and information on how you can get involved. We also bring you poetry, humor, and cultural reporting that you're unlikely to see anywhere else. We talk about the issues, not ourselves. But not this time. For this, our ninth anniversary issue, is mostly about us.

Over the past year, we've thought long and hard about why we're here. We've surveyed our readers to ask who they are and what they want. We've interviewed many of our closest friends to ask what's important. We've thought about our values. We've reconsidered our mission.

The old mission, most easily summarized as "educate, organize, build alliances, and be a voice of the poor," has served us well. It wasn't really broke, but we fixed it anyway. We found, when we thought about it, that this statement didn't really say what we do. It was more about how we did it, and left the basic questions unanswered. The new mission leaves little room for doubt.

"*Real Change exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*"

After nine years of educating, organizing, building alliances, and being a voice of the poor, we've decided to refocus on what we do best: the newspaper, the organizing, helping people succeed and be heard.

When we asked our readers and friends what mattered most, a number of clear themes emerged:

- **The vendors are tops.** People buy our paper because they care about our vendors. *Real Change* is committed to offering our vendors the support they need to help themselves. Part of creating success is building visibility and a broad readership for the newspaper. The advertising campaign profiled in this issue will help more people understand *Real Change* and support our work.

- **More is better.** We found that our role as a community newspaper is valued and respected. We have clout with decision-makers and enjoy a broad and engaged readership. Readers see a strong need for an alternative press in Seattle that reaches beyond the self-identified left to build upon what unites us. People want more news from a broader diversity of sources more often. As a result, we've decided to enlarge our community and begin weekly publication in 2005.

- **It's the organizing, stupid.** In recent years, *Real Change* has shown a proven capacity to involve the community and get things done. From our 2001 ballot initiative campaign to increase resources for shelter and services to this year's homeless voter registration drive, we have engaged a base of activists and offered leadership to our community. Our readers want the newspaper and the organizing project be more strategic in their goals and united in their efforts. We agree, and we're bringing together the newspaper, leading edge online tools, and other technology to help our readers take action.

These are difficult and dangerous times. Budget cuts at every level of government threaten years of hard won progress. Homelessness is growing at its fastest rate in more than a decade. Huge divisions in wealth and power endanger democracy itself. While national security has, rightly, become our nation's highest priority, our most fundamental needs — health, housing, education, childcare, jobs, safe and secure retirement — are largely ignored.

If ever there has been a time to build power from the grassroots, it is now. Educating, organizing, building alliances. Being a voice of the poor. It's still what we do. Please join us at our anniversary party this October 10 (see page 5) and support our work however you can.

**Donate:** If you support our work you should support us financially. Most of the dollar you pay for the newspaper goes directly to your vendor. We need to raise \$50,000 from our readers between now and January and every bit helps. See the ad to the right for details.

**Volunteer:** *Real Change* has a small, over-extended staff and depends upon volunteers to get the job done. See our website for volunteer opportunities, or call our volunteer coordinator at 441-3247 ext. 203.

**Engage:** We're building a base of citizen activists to take action against homelessness and poverty. Our First things First newsletter brings you the latest information and tips on how to be effective in the limited time you have. Email [subscribeFTF@realchangenews.org](mailto:subscribeFTF@realchangenews.org).

*Real Change* cannot succeed without you, the reader. We invite you to download our 2004-2006 Strategic Plan from our website ([realchangenews.org](http://realchangenews.org)) and to think about how you can help. We plan to be here for the long haul, and we need you at our side. ■

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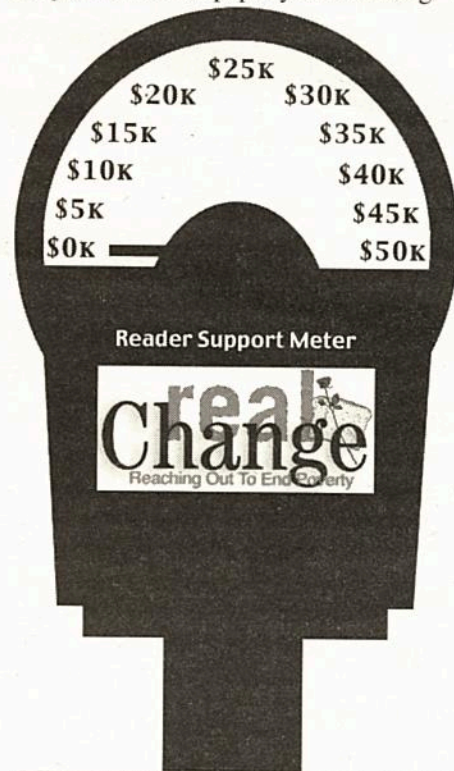
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## No one gets Free parking.

You paid \$1 for the paper you're reading. The vendor paid 30¢. We paid the printer.



You don't get much for nothing these days, and that includes *Real Change*. More than 40% of our 2003 budget comes from donations made by readers like you. That support keeps our doors open.

We need your help to continue to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of homeless and low-income vendors who sell *Real Change* every month.

We need to raise \$50,000 by December 31st to start 2004 on solid ground. Your contribution will help us provide a dignified alternative to panhandling and allow us to continue publishing the stories you've come to expect. As you consider your holiday giving, please consider doing a little more. Use the coupon below to make a tax-deductible contribution today. We'll keep you updated on our progress.

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☐ PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT VOLUNTEERING MY TIME AND ENERGY

MAIL TO: REAL CHANGE, 2129 SECOND AVENUE, SEATTLE, WA 98121



## Preserving the P-I

A judge has invalidated part of the legal argument *The Seattle Times* has used in its effort to dissolve ties with the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. It's a victory for the *P-I*, its supporters, and The Committee for a Two-Newspaper Town. But the *Times*' effort to dissolve the JOA is not over.

On September 25, King County Superior Court Judge Greg Canova ruled that the 2000 newspaper strike was an exceptional event — in legal terms, a *force majeure*. As such, operating revenue lost during the 49-day strike is not a factor that contributed to the *Seattle Times* newspaper's financial losses that year.

That invalidates the *Times*' April notice to the *P-I* saying that, because of three straight years of operating losses, it would dissolve the two papers' Joint Operating Agreement. The JOA pools the two papers' printing, classified, advertising, and circulation businesses under the *Times*' roof; without it, Hearst (the *P-I*'s owner) would likely close the paper. If they walk away, they get one-third of the *Times*' profits for the next 80 years.

Hearst, which brought the lawsuit to court in order to dispute the *Times*' notice, argues that the *Times*' claims to have lost money in 2001 and 2002 are also invalid.

The ruling still leaves the *Times* several options for pursuing the JOA's dissolution. Since Judge Canova only ruled on the 2000 losses, the *Times* may remount a bid to dissolve the JOA at the end of the year. The *Times* expects to end 2003 in the red as well. Or *Times* lawyers may try to reverse Canova's ruling in the State Court of Appeals. They have until October 27 to do so. For its part, the ad-hoc Committee for a Two-Newspaper Town may seek intervention from the Justice Department or the Attorney General's Office to thwart monopolization of Seattle's daily-paper market. ■

— Adam Holdorf

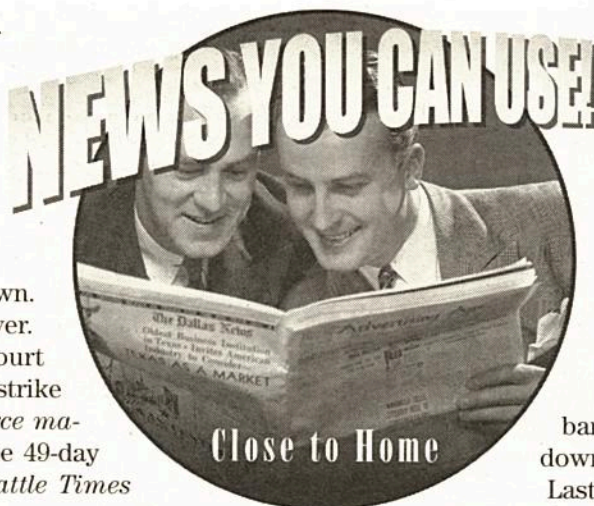
## Licensing landlords

Seeking a way to hold property owners accountable for dilapidated buildings or criminal activity taking place on their property, the Tacoma City Council may soon require that local landlords get a city business license. If their properties violate building codes or draw persistent nuisance complaints, their license to rent would be revoked.

The proposal was drafted by Tacoma City Councilman Rick Talbert last year, in response to constituents' complaints about neighborhood rental properties/ in their neighborhood.

Landlords with more than \$10,000 of annual income from their rentals would pay \$72 for their license each year. That's drawn fire: some landlords say that the fee will simply be passed on to the tenants; others say Tacoma is simply trying to fill holes in a budget gap that spells \$19 million in cuts in 2004.

The proposed ordinance gets its first reading before the City Council on October 14. If passed, it is scheduled to go into effect on January 1. Several



other cities, including Burien, Lakewood, and Auburn, already have already established rental property licensing fees and registration. ■

— Romie Ponce

## Budget calm

If Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels has his way, the budget cuts of 2004 will largely bypass Seattle's shelters, food banks, and other city-funded charities. But they'll come down hard on health care.

Last year, the City Council's intervention doused a mayoral proposal to cut money for a handful of homeless shelters and other services. This year, Nickels' plan to divert money from low-income community facilities to sidewalks construction is back; as is a 15 percent cut in community health centers that serve the city's poor.

Among Nickels' cuts to human services is: \$70,000 from an intergenerational community program in Ballard; \$95,000 from a Housing Support fund; and \$132,000 from a Pioneer Square hygiene center which will soon be closed for remodeling.

The City Council will hold public hearings on the mayor's proposals; they are expected to finalize the budget by Thanksgiving. ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Immigrants' freedom ride

SEATTLE-AREA IMMIGRANTS FROM 17 COUNTRIES BOARDED A BUS TO WASHINGTON D.C. SEPTEMBER 20 AS PART OF THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE. THEY ARE PART OF A NATIONWIDE MOBILIZATION THAT'S BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE KEY ECONOMIC



ROLE OF IMMIGRANTS, WHO OCCUPY ONE IN SIX U.S. JOBS. ORGANIZERS WANT AMNESTY FOR UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS AND CIVIL RIGHTS FOR NON-CITIZENS DETAINED UNDER THE USA PATRIOT ACT. RIDERS FROM ALL OVER THE U.S. WILL MEET IN THE CAPITOL AND THEN RALLY IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 4. 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.

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Looking for work?

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Right now we need people for the following volunteer positions: front desk/ reception, editorial support, development assistants, and graphic designers.

You can find a complete list of volunteer opportunities at [www.realchangenews.org](http://www.realchangenews.org) or call Shawn at 441.3247 ext. 203

# WE SEE THROUGH THE LIES!

WAR IS NOT PEACE  
OCCUPATION IS NOT LIBERATION  
IMMIGRANTS ARE NOT TERRORISTS  
POLICE STATE RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT SECURITY

# NATIONAL PROTEST! OCTOBER 5, 2003

Rally at Volunteer Park Amphitheater, 1PM (10th Ave E + Prospect)  
March through the city to INS (Airport Wy + Dearborn)  
Midpoint at Westlake (4th + Pine)

Called by the Seattle Not In Our Name Project. Tax deductible donations urgently needed  
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# Make Some Noise

First things First upholds poor people's voting rights

By Manny Frishberg

Most people don't vote in America. It's as simple as that, though the reasons for that fact are hardly so simple. Rachael Myers of *Real Change* began thinking about getting disenfranchised voters to participate in elections while working to pass the 2002 Seattle Housing Levy.

"There were a lot of people who would be impacted by that levy's success or failure," she says,

"and probably most of those people didn't vote. We decided that we should start encouraging people who were impacted by homelessness to get out to vote."

First, though, she found out how elections rules hinder the voting rights of people without a residence.

The law is clear that a permanent address is not a requirement for voting. But, when it comes to the county Elections Office, "What we discovered," Myers says, "was there was no law at the state level that said how counties needed to register people without a home address. Every county was able to do it however they felt like doing it."

Working with the Washington State

Coalition for the Homeless, they convinced the Secretary of State's office to adopt a new administrative rule that says that lack of a traditional address is not sufficient reason to turn a would-be voter away. And then First things First took action. "We decided that if we were going to get this new tool," Rachael says, "then we should do our part in actually getting people registered and turned out to vote."

Getting people registered is not the same as getting them to come out and vote, though. Nancy Amidei, who heads the Civic Engagement Project, says, "We know historically that people of color, people from immigrant backgrounds, people with less education are less likely to vote." Poor people have some of the lowest voter turnout rates of any recognizable group. Holding down a job or two, raising a family, and just struggling to keep a head above water can take up as much time as a person has. Finding the time to learn about candidates and track the issues or even read the Voters Pamphlet isn't always a high enough priority. Amidei sees other reasons as well.

"Increasingly, I see people not understanding how their government works," she says. "If you don't understand how something works, you're hesitant to jump in. That applies to everything from voting to calling your legislator to writing a letter or showing up to testify."

One thing she says we all know is that people tend to listen to those they see as more like themselves. That is why, she says, the organizers of an August 4 Get Out The Vote kick-off event "made a strong effort to include people from the different communities of color, low-income communities, young people"—because if they could be trained to go out and involve others, that's going to be the most effective way.

The Hate Free Zone is working to bring immigrants into the political system as well. Staffer Melissa Bailey is working with a coalition called the Civics Education Outline For Communities of Refugee Empowerment.

"Right now we are working with just basic know-your-rights things," Bailey says.

"It's really hard for the immigrant communities, especially the newer immigrant communities, because when the first get here they're put into survival mode. Voting isn't something they see as a survival tool." But she says the immigrants who are part of her group also want to address voting rights.



REAL CHANGE ANTIOCH INTERN ANNE BARNES WORKS THE BOOTH AT THE SALVATION ARMY'S RESOURCE FAIR, HOSTED SEPTEMBER 26 AT THE WILLIAM BOOTH CENTER IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE. PHOTO BY ISAAC SHAPIRO.

"One of the things that I do is educate people that you can have somebody help you fill out the registration," she says. "You can have somebody go into the voting booth with you and translate and help you. Is that person going to be provided? No. You're going to have to find somebody."

"If we want to make democracy for everyone, and I do, then we have to be vigorous in making sure that people who have not typically voted know that their vote is important. It's not enough to just harangue people," says Amidei. "If we want to convince them that their vote is important, we have to go out of our way to say, 'Hi, we really think that it's important that you vote.'" ■

## CHANGE PERSPECTIVE:

REACHING OUT TO  
END POVERTY

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Peter Steinbrueck  
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\$35 suggested donation



# poetry

## Democracy and what it means to me

It means I have the right to live where I want  
I have the right to stand up for what I believe  
In within reason  
I have the right to feel  
Compassion  
I have the right to  
Voice an opinion  
When I need to  
I have the right to believe  
In god and I have the  
Privilege to be free  
That I also have the  
Right to demand justice when needed  
That's what Democracy  
Means to me

— ALBERTA D. JOHAL, VENDOR #2112

This is the winning entry in *Real Change's* vendor writing contest, as judged by a panel of peers. Vendors were asked to respond to the question, "What does democracy mean to you?"

## New Moon

On the new  
of the moon  
of the middle  
of the day,  
a rain colored  
bow of my  
breath took  
away.  
A circle of  
light in  
the city  
of death,  
arched with  
a promise  
of strength  
and new  
breath,  
circled the  
trees and  
the clouds  
and what not,  
and lit up  
my heart  
in the gray  
parking lot.

— LORAIN CAMPBELL

## The Bargain

The argument went like this—  
a day's pay for a day's work.  
Who were the sacrificed  
when that deal struck the stone?

I was the chisel, you the hammer  
in the tracks we made, one gouge  
at a time and everyone took the blows.

This part is true: Your arms developed  
muscle and sinew. Your hands,  
like your mind, calloused over.  
We both agreed protection serves.

I admit the dirty work was mine.  
Head bowed, nose down, I followed  
directions, no questions asked.

Of course there were howls, terrible  
outcries, the expected protestations.  
We didn't listen. Or care. It was a job,  
the pay regular.

Listen to me!  
The innocent were legion  
but quiet — fields of carved stone.

— NANCY DAHLBERG



### Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning

It is now possible for any of us to be secretly imprisoned indefinitely, without charges, by making creative use of existing anti-terrorist laws. So what do people worry about? They worry that there's too much obscene language on prime-time network television.

For one thing, there can't be too much. That's like saying there's too many Bulgarians. The Bulgarians aren't hurting anybody, are they? So how can there be too many of them?

OK, maybe some Bulgarian has popped you in the nose recently. So then maybe that wouldn't be a good illustration of my point. So instead of talking about Bulgarians, we'll talk about wide ties. Now I understand that a lot of you hate wide ties. Hell, I hate ties altogether. But no one was ever injured

by a wide tie, at least not by its wideness. Therefore, there is no such thing as there being too many wide ties, even if there may be far too many ties.

Likewise, there may be far too much prime time network television, but there can't be too much obscene language on what there is of it. Because none of it hurts anybody, no matter how much they whine and tell you it does.

Let me put it another way. If any of these prudes who don't like obscene language want television that doesn't have any, let them do what everybody else in this country has to do when they want something they don't have. Let them pay for it. It's called cable, and it's widely available these days.

Hey, I want to watch *South Park* on free prime-time network TV and listen to weird little fat cartoon kids from Colorado talk about unnatural sex. Is Congress going to pass a law so that I can get what I want? No! I have to pay for *South Park*. So why should these obscenity-hating whiners get free obscenity-less TV? What makes them better than me?

Some of you are probably saying to yourselves right now, "Self, if Dr. Wes likes obscene language so much why doesn't he use it all the time? Better yet, why doesn't he go away to Obscenity Land or Obscenitrovia or whatever?"

Fair enough, except for one thing: this IS Obscenity Land. If you don't believe me go ride a bus. Get out and meet people. And no, it didn't just start

being Obscenity Land when Berkeley Breathed started using the word "suck" in Bloom County. People were using a lot worse s-words years before that.

In fact, speaking of worse s-words and foulmouthed little kids, way back when I was 9 years old, back in 1958, during the Eisenhower administration right here in Prudezuela, the other little kids on my block promised to beat the crap out of me if ever I uttered any single sentence that didn't at least once use the s-word that signifies "crap." The *South Park* kids would have gotten beat up all the time in my neighborhood, because sometimes they say sentences like "What?" Where I lived you had to say "What's this [s-word]?" or eight kids spent an hour taking turns scraping your face on the pavement.

So why don't I use the crap-signifying s-word all the time now? I'll tell you. I don't do it, because I moved away from that insane neighborhood and those kids didn't follow me, and they all grew up and don't care anymore anyway, so now I don't have to say the s-word if I don't want to. So I don't.

After I moved out of the insane neighborhood I moved into another insane neighborhood. In the new insane neighborhood you were ostracized if you said the words "golly" or "heck" or "gosh darn it."

This is the one constant: wherever I have been in this country, people have tried to tell me what kind of language I could use, instead of being content with controlling their own mouths.

Why is that? And why are we imprisoning people without trials? That's offensive. ■

**OK, maybe some  
Bulgarian has popped  
you in the nose  
recently. So then  
maybe that wouldn't  
be a good illustration  
of my point.**



You're invited to celebrate

## A Decade of Activism for justice



Saturday, Oct. 25 from 6-10 PM  
Scottish Rite Center in Seattle

Honoring the Justice for Janitors  
Campaign, the MLK Celebration  
Cttee, and the Longshore Union

check out the JWJ website at  
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Washington State  
**JOBS WITH JUSTICE**  
10th Anniversary  
**Honoree Dinner**  
October 25, 2003

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Adam at  
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3247  
ext 207**



**Friday, August 29, 7:20 p.m., 1600**

**blk. Boylston.** The victim, a transient White male aged 46, was sitting on the sidewalk on Boylston when the suspect, a White male aged 30 to 40, approached him. He gave the victim a cigarette and began to converse. After a short while, the suspect suddenly punched victim in the face and grabbed his tote bag, fleeing eastbound on Pike. The victim walked to the police station and reported the robbery. Stolen items included medical supplies, personal items, and artwork the victim had made.

**Sunday, September 7, 3:18 p.m.,**

**1701 Broadway Ave.** Officers investigating a graffiti incident at Seattle Central Community College located a possible suspect, a White male aged 16, who appeared to be living on the street. He was filthy and said he had been eating at New Horizons downtown. He had two condoms in his pocket, and was living on the street with an adult male who was not his guardian. The officers decided he was in a dangerous situation for a juvenile. He stated he did not know where his parents were, and that he was not registered for school. Officers attempted to locate his family, but failed. They contacted Child Protective Services, who said they could put him up at Spruce Street Secure Crisis Residential Center, and he was transported there.

**Friday, September 12, 4:41 a.m.,**

**8th Avenue, First Presbyterian**

**Church.** Officers conducting a premise check of 8th Ave. discovered that the suspect, a transient White male aged 44, had entered and remained in the premises of the church by sleeping in a side alcove of the property. He had been trespassed from this location on August 25, and warned again sometime later. He was found there again, and said he knew he was not supposed to be there, but he wanted to get out of the rain. Officers stated it was not raining that night. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass.

**Saturday, September 13, 11:45 a.m.,  
Boylston Ave. and East Pine St.**

Officers on patrol saw subjects at the corner of Pine and Boylston, arguing. They contacted them, and determined there was no disturbance. The first subject, a transient Black male aged 42, left the scene. The second subject, a transient Black female aged 33, threw a cigarette on the ground. Officer asked her for I.D. as she had committed an infraction by littering in front of him. She provided verbal I.D. but no physical I.D. Officer conducted a computer check, as he did not believe her I.D. She had a bulge in her pocket that the officer believed was a wallet — it was cash, and an expired bus pass. She was handcuffed and transported to the East Precinct. Her I.D. was confirmed, and she was released with an oral warning about littering. ■

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

## Beauty & Strength

*The More than Homeless  
Women of Mary's Place*

Order from Church of Mary Magdalene  
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By e-mail: [staff@churchofmarymagdalene.org](mailto:staff@churchofmarymagdalene.org)  
Available at Elliott Bay Book Company,  
Bailey/Coy Books, and University Bookstore

2004 Wall Calendar  
\$10 Postpaid  
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More pictures on our website:  
[www.churchofmarymagdalene.org](http://www.churchofmarymagdalene.org)



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## Democracy Now!

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Weekdays**

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

**Free Speech Radio News 6 p.m. Weekdays**

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## Interviews by Adam Holdorf, photos by Bob Peterson

**P**rovoking thought, promoting *Real Change*: These are the goals of the newspaper's first-ever publicity campaign. It's a multi-media approach — comprising posters, newspaper and magazine ads, public-service TV and radio spots, and billboard space — produced by the Pioneer Square advertising firm WONGDOODY.

The firm approached *Real Change* early this year to offer of *pro bono* support for a major publicity campaign. They had come to know and admire us through interactions with Pioneer Square vendors and homeless people. "Our neighbors are homeless," said WONGDOODY producer Kari Connor.

By March, Connor assembled photographers, costume designers, and a cast on a drizzly morning in south Seattle's industrial area. The affluent folks — prominent in their fields of politics, television, the restaurant and construction industry — donned ill-fitting clothes, garbage bags, and other paraphernalia of homelessness. Our vendors, on the other hand, dressed as successful professionals. All gazed impassively at renowned photographer Bob Peterson's lens.

Now, the product of that wet spring day goes out in a multi-pronged publicity scheme led by public-service ads aired on Comcast's cable channels and hundreds of "change perspective" posters going up around greater Seattle, Edmonds. The posters will be reproduced in a donated ad in the *Seattle Weekly*; and may also show up as full-page ads in national magazines such as *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Fortune*. *Real Change* continues to solicit \$3,000 to produce billboards and bus advertisements to take advantage of donated space.

And what is that message? Probably the best authorities on the subject are the messengers themselves. In the following narratives, based on interviews held months after the shoot, each recalls a remarkable experience. Changing clothes, they changed perspective. They became unusually conspicuous or nearly invisible; being cared for or being ignored, being somebody or being nobody. Here are their stories.



SHANE THOMPKINS, LEFT, AND PETER STEINBRUECK, RIGHT.

**Shane Thompkins**, above left, sells *Real Change* on the corner of First Avenue and Blanchard Street in Belltown. His girlfriend Pika also participated in the shoot.

It was raining, but they had umbrellas above us. Lights around the picture, lighting us up. We had a catered lunch at lunch time. Trays of meat; the finest pastries. One of the volunteers made sure we knew who everybody was, made sure we had everything we needed.

Standing there I felt important. I was thinking, well, maybe that could be me someday. It was just neat standing next

to a person who really cares. I said, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Steinbrueck"; he said, "Call me Peter." The whole time we were talking — talked about our jobs, talked about our families, talked about what it was like being outside. See, I wanted to know, and he was interested to know back. If people are willing to do this, go out and pose, they're willing to do a lot more.

If I thought negative about everything, I wouldn't survive out here. I woke up this morning — that's a damn good day. I'm in good shape. In the Bible there's a verse: "Great is thy faithfulness and new



PIKA CARTER, LEFT, AND LINDA WILMER, RIGHT.

**Linda Wilmer**, 45, above right, co-owns *Wilmer Communications*, a marketing and communications firm, with her husband, Jim.

It was a really uncomfortable experience for me. When I got there I was glad to see all the celebrities who were involved — the television guy, the chef at Rover's — but it got uncomfortable for me in the dressing room, while Pika was dressing down and I was dressing up.

Pika is tall and slim and just a gorgeous woman; she looks absolutely beautiful. And she was like — "God, I can't wait to get out of these clothes." Her husband standing by, Shane, said "I've never seen you dressed up like that, baby." And meanwhile, the costume designer was applying shoe polish to me to make me look more weathered. I was thinking, Pika doesn't

look like what I'm being made up as.

They ended up switching out my body in Photoshop — that's not actually my body — to make me look more homeless, I guess. It's just the look they were going for.

What really broke my heart and opened my eyes was, Pika kept asking when the food truck was going to be there. People were cold and hungry and didn't have a hot shower and a warm home to go back to.

Since then I feel more open when I run into people. I know how hard it is to sell the paper, how competitive it can be with other vendors out there — and I notice people who are selling a paper without a legitimate badge.

**Pika Carter**, above left, was unavailable for an interview. ■

are your mercies every morning, O Lord." It's Lamentations 3:23. You know I quote that to myself every morning. Every morning. That's the first thing I say to myself when I open my eyes. And you don't know how grateful I am. I don't mind at all if you share that in the article; we ought to be grateful. I'm darn grateful.

**Peter Steinbrueck**, near left, is president of the *Seattle City Council* and a nationally known advocate in the effort to end homelessness.

I spent a lot of my youth as a carpenter and laborer, and I'm comfortable wearing old raggy clothes and jeans. That's not to diminish the fact that some people don't have a choice about those things.

I was putting myself in the frame of mind: nowhere to go, cold, hungry, and in this rather inhospitable place. They say that as a politician you need acting skills, but I'm still learning. Having the conversations I did with Shane and oth-

ers, and the weather, put me in that place. I did feel a little bit silly in those clothes — and that's probably a real reaction too. How you look has a lot to do with your feelings about yourself. Feeling conspicuous and embarrassed is part of it. Under our clothes, we're all human beings. We have feelings, we have values, we have hopes and dreams. But we're in different places in life. I felt a certain sense of camaraderie with the homeless people who were part of this: we were doing a project together, talking one on one.

I felt like we were walking a fine line, using homeless people. Those of us who have not been homeless, how do we dress and act like a homeless person? We were in the presence of people who were homeless, and that's a serious matter. I was concerned with not showing disrespect or making fun of the homeless people I was in the presence of. After this, they had to go back to it. ■

Find out more about seasoned photographer and film director Bob Peterson, who has worked for *Time Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, Nike, Boeing, and Honda. Check out a profile online at [www.realchangenews.org](http://www.realchangenews.org).





LARRY ELMORE, LEFT, AND JOE MCKINSTRY, RIGHT.

**Larry Elmore**, 49, above left, a Seattle resident since 1981, has been selling *Real Change* for about six years. He is currently "in between" residences: when he's not staying at his lady friend's house, he sleeps outside.

It was a new, and different, experience for me. Interesting. I was nervous, standing there and thinking about where these pictures would go. But the people made you feel comfortable. It had been a while since I wore a suit. At

**Robert Hansen**, near right, 52, has sold *Real Change* since the paper's inception.

I figured it was a different approach to getting more publicity in outlying areas — places like Renton and Issaquah. I sold the first issue of the paper, back in '94, and it was a jungle — you just had to get people aware of what it's all about. More public awareness helps the sales, gets more vendors out to outlying areas where people may not know about the paper — or may not know about what a homeless or poor person's basic needs might be.

Every time a new person comes up and asks me about the paper, I explain what it's all about. I show them the mission statement [on page 2], how we pay 30 cents for the paper and sell it for a dollar, how most of the proceeds go back into publishing the paper, how we're funded by donations from the private sector and whatever grants we get from whomever. You have to tell people what the paper's all about. These photos should bring more people our way. Anything to help *Real Change*.

I'm not homeless now, and wasn't when the pictures were taken. But it's about the homeless and the poor. You ain't making much money selling the paper — barely enough to survive on. I'm out there 10 hours a day, six or seven days a week. You put into it what you get out of it.

**John Curley**, far right, 41, is the television host of KING 5's *Evening Magazine*.

I was honored to be invited to do this; I've supported *Real Change*, and on air I once pledged to buy a paper every time I walked through Pike Place Market.

Something really clicked for me when Robert and I were undressing in the trailer. Here we are standing in our underwear, and you can see that we're not that different. One of us was given better breaks and maybe made a few different choices. And I didn't want to be disrespectful of Robert. I am going to leave in my nice clothes and my fancy car, and I didn't want him to think I was taking it all too lightly. I leaned over to him during the shoot and said "This is a little weird, isn't it?" And he just said, "Nah, don't worry about it. Any way you can get the word out." Maybe it takes something weird to break through the cacophony of messages that are beamed at people all the time.

I really feel that these are not just costumes; it wasn't pretend and it wasn't make-believe. Costumes would have just served the purpose of creating an illusion. These clothes are the last defense from the elements for homeless people. They deserve dignity.

The people who were taking the pictures, and the people from *Real Change*, treated us all the same, homeless or not. We all stood there in the rain; no one was better and no one less. A lot of times, people are like, "Oh my God, you're on TV." It was real refreshing. ■

my mama's funeral, in Texas, specifically. That is my wedding ring on my left hand; it's silver. The rest of it is the clothes they had for me.

*Real Change* has been helpful, it helps me get some of the basic things I need, and I like doing it. You can quit when you're ready and start when you're ready. Sometimes I run into a few (pardon the expression) assholes out there, but I have learned how to accept it and deal with it.

**Joe McKinstry**, 53, near left, is the owner of *Joseph McKinstry Construction*, which does residential homebuilding and remodeling in the Seattle area.

I wondered how they would pull this off. When I got there I was amazed. I was also amazed at how cold and wet and damp and windy and crappy it was, and how I got to get back in my car and drive back to my warm office. It was tough in that sense — well, it was tough in a lot of senses.

I kept being sprayed in the face by the makeup guy; he was making me look dirty so I was like "What the hell?" Everybody was saying "Don't smile, don't be human. Don't humanize this." It made me think — it does make you think — how many times you just go

past someone. You know, I could stand there with that bag next to the off-ramp in Ballard, and people would just blow right on by.

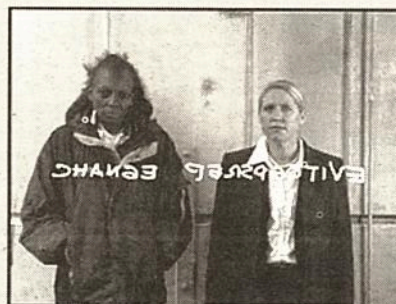
It just made me think what a fine line there is between having a home and being homeless. And I've seen people who have slipped over to the other side, generally not going from homeless back; it made me realize how fragile life is. I've had some friends who were bipolar; some who got out of high school and never quite made it, and I was surprised to see that they were living on the street.

I realized that I don't do enough. I knew that before, and I don't do enough even now, you know? I buy a hell of a lot of *Real Changes*, let me tell you. Any place I see a guy. You're so overwhelmed that you don't know where to start, and this is a pretty easy place to start. And it's not uncommon that I strike up a conversation with them, too, because the people that are selling them have become more real than they were before.

In the video segment, Jill had an episode where she looked in the camera and said, "I'm HIV-positive." She came home and was telling me about her shoot, and when she said she did that I was like, "Oh... shit." There's a power to even saying a word. You try it on and you wonder, where would our lives be? ■



ROBERT HANSEN, LEFT, AND JOHN CURLEY, RIGHT.



A STILL FROM THE WONGDOODY TELEVISION SPOT, WHICH YOU CAN SEE AT [WWW.REALCHANGENEWS.ORG](http://WWW.REALCHANGENEWS.ORG).

Check out the television commercial version of the **WONGDOODY Change Perspective** campaign online, [www.realchangenews.org](http://www.realchangenews.org).

The TV spots also playing 20 times a week on Comcast Cable channels.



# I Know You Know Me

Organizations that help homeless people leave them fed and bedded, but often, no less downtrodden. This is nothing new, nor is it unique to one country, state, or urban area — a lesson made clear by comparing *I Know You Know Me* (this summer's two-night production by *Real Change* at Richard Hugo House) with the 70-year-old George Orwell classic, *Down and Out in Paris and London*.

Orwell brought no self-pity to his thinly disguised autobiographical novel of a struggling British writer. Neither did the characters of the recent Seattle play. And the same characteristics of poverty and homelessness echo

complaints of inability to sleep in flop houses, in shelters, and on the street, citing many of the same reasons highlighted in the play: the snoring of strangers, their illness, mental illness, death in shared quarters. Cold, rain, hunger, and pain likewise inhibit sleep in both the novel and the play.

Reminiscent of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, the novel and the play both question where society defines the line between the property rights of the Haves and the survival rights of the Have-Nots.

"Depression, despair, apathy become your companions and your anchors," reflects Jason in *I Know You Know Me*. Orwell's narrator gives readers a scene where a man is beaten to death by thugs. The neighborhood residents open their windows just long enough to determine that the victim is, indeed, dead.

The same narrator at another point in the novel eloquently describes how, when a pawnbroker swindles him and a cafe gives him much less food than his voucher paid for, he has to keep

quiet. For all their efforts, the play's Seattleites cannot seem to break the ice beneath which they are trapped, silenced and impersonal.

In both novel and play, resentment flashes to the surface and manifests itself in the obvious: cursing, ranting, throwing of objects. But it also comes forth in curt, quiet statements and episodes of insanity.

How do we answer this cry, change this long-standing bane? The play ends with one simple recommendation:

Hold one hand  
Listen to one voice  
Look in one face  
at a time. ■

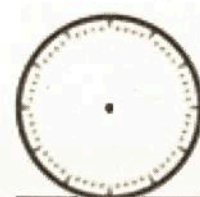


ANITRA FREEMAN, LEFT, SARAH H. HARTLEY, CENTER, AND AMY BLEVINS, RIGHT, PERFORMING *I KNOW YOU KNOW ME* AT RICHARD HUGO HOUSE IN AUGUST. THE PLAY WAS COMPILED FROM WRITINGS BY MEMBERS OF STREETWRITES, A PEER SUPPORT HOMELESS WRITING GROUP, OF WHICH ANITRA WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER.

through each work: the dehumanization of the spirit through chronic fatigue, malnutrition, and exposure to the elements.

In the England that Orwell describes, "You may not enter any one spike [shelter] or any two London spikes more than once a month, on pain of being confined [in jail] for a week." A fearful society kept people — even the frail elderly — occupied with walking miles to a new shelter each day. Just as the play's current-day characters intone in the scene "Just Keep Walking": "Your head aches / Your stomach growls / Just keep walking."

On fatigue, Orwell's protagonist



## Timeless Astrology

by R.W. Reid

October 2003

There comes a day in every partnered person's life when they go nuts. The dream of the perfect mate, child, and house starts to fray at the edges. Unease escalates to flirting with bag boys at the market or longing glances at the flash of a thigh on a windy street. The urge to elope, throw on a party dress, and leave town with an interesting stranger is very strong. The trick is that mates, children, houses, and even beautiful strangers are not really outside of us providing solace, irritation, or allure. They are having their own party inside us all the time. There is no new and glamorous location where a separate giving and receiving of love happens. The true place for the exchange of hospitality is inside us. No need to climb up or down any ladders — this internal party provides a context for a divine madness that if you must go a little nuts is really the only way to do so with any class.



**Aries:** The ancient symbol of a flame under water can burn bright because it can utilize the part of water that is not really wet. This is the liquid that remains after all tears are spent, all sweat is dried, and only the moving blood that circulates, cleans, and connects your heart to all the other hearts you love is left burning.



**Taurus:** You know the virtues of staying put and enduring. It provides a stable view from one defensible position but does not provide the freedom to choose. No need to leave the town or the castle, just pivot and catch the luck as it changes its course and travels towards you.



**Gemini:** The apple of your desire has been peeled by an unseen hand in one long strip and lies like a red snake on the ground. Trying to glue it back on with Elmer's glue is unseemly. Compost that skin. The exposed fruit is ripe now and food for many — not the least being the hungry person that you currently call yourself.



**Cancer:** If your life was Jell-O it would have three layers. The bottom, cherry, the middle, lime, and the top marshmallow clouds. You start with your pure intentions, rise with the gift of the ability to attract with your heart, and are crowned with a sweet lightness and satisfaction as your reward.



**Leo:** You have been watching shadows dancing on a wall. They are beautiful and easy to control with a change of position and a wave of your hand. It's time to become quiet and turn around to find the source of the light. Then life can shine through you, and the shadows of the past and future will blend into the clear and peaceful present moment.



**Virgo:** Once happy to protect your hands by collecting thimbles, potholders, and elbow-length gloves, you shock your friends by getting a manicure. Your hands can feel again. Soon, each fingernail is uncovered, perfect and gleaming as you begin to draw new pictures on the back of the ones you love.



**Libra:** Like Rapunzel in a tower, you long to let down your hair so admiration and excitement can find you. Just be sure the hair falls on dry land instead of in the moat. Nothing ruins the expectation of adulation more than a dip in the stagnant water that could be keeping others from the easy access of your own front door.



**Scorpio:** If you had a dangerous little pet — say, a miniature canine cuisinart disguised as a poodle — would you: 1. Dye it pink and lock it away? 2. Allow it to bite children at the park? Or, 3. Give it comfort, love, and room to roam. Your heart needs some treats and a good run sometime soon.



**Sagittarius:** Something on your mind's back burner has been cooking for a while. It has been simmering away, reducing a large dilemma to a small delicately flavored resolution. Once served up to the world, the coolness of that back burner will make you wonder why you often keep the kitchen quite so hot.



**Capricorn:** Is an egg an egg without its shell? Without boundaries, the white and the yoke mingle and slide to the floor. Raw eggs, like raw ideas, are safer unbroken. Cooked eggs are solid but easily eaten by others. The only safe place this month for your ideas is in your mind waiting for a soft nest and a standard incubation period to hatch.



**Aquarius:** If you think you know what you want at the moment, watch out! Thinking is a fun hobby but knowing is a sacred activity best kept free of the mind. Put all those clever ruminations away and you will find a rest from the burden of being right — not to mention more people willing to appreciate your wacky and true vision of life.



**Pisces:** You would think that the most piercing thing in the world would be a sword. Sharp, pointed, and flexible like a razor-sharp spiritual vega-matic, it can slice through all softness and vulnerability. This month you discover that it is your own softness that penetrates any sword — not the other way around. ■

©RW Reid 2003. Got a question for *Timeless Astrology*? Send it to [editor@realchangenews.org](mailto:editor@realchangenews.org), with "Astrology" in the subject line.

### Help Real Change Grow

The Real Change is growing our Board of Directors to help us create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty. The two-year commitment is for at least 10 hours a month to attend a monthly meeting and participate in committee work. If you have time, energy, and commitment to our mission, please think about becoming an important part of the Real Change Team. We are especially interested in new board members with legal or financial management expertise and people of color.

For an application, please call or write:  
Carole, Real Change, 2129-2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121  
(206) 441-3247 ext. 201 [friz@earthlink.net](mailto:friz@earthlink.net)





# Fall season Notables

**Thursday 10/2**

**3rd Annual Diversity Workshop**, "Diversity: Exposing Barriers and Taking Action." Registration \$25 for AFP members, \$30 for non-members, includes lunch and workshop materials. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the Garfield Community Center, corner of 23rd Ave. and Cherry St. To register call Shirley Bishop Inc., 206-367-8704.

**Friday 10/3**

**Fusion Fest**, a festival of artists, activists, and communities of young people coming together to build a movement of resistance against the oppressions that keep us silent. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m., at Local 46 IBEW Building in Belltown, 2700 1st Ave. Also a day of art and activism Saturday, Oct. 4, Noon - 5 p.m., at the E. Cherry YWCA, 2820 E. Cherry. Info 206-632-0500 X 34 or [seattlefusionfest@yahoo.com](mailto:seattlefusionfest@yahoo.com).

**Saturday 10/4**

**Introduction to Grant Research and Writing**, with Instructor Hilary Loeb. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at North Seattle Community College. Info <http://www.learnatnorth.org>.

**Sunday 10/5**

**Occupation Is Not Liberation**, Protest and Peace March sponsored by Not In Our Name Project - Seattle. 1 p.m., at Volunteer Park Amphitheater, near 10th Ave. E. and Prospect. March will start around 2:15 p.m., down Broadway, by Westlake Center, along 1st Ave. and end at the INS detention center for a final rally. Info 206-322-3813 or <http://www.notinourname-seattle.net>.

Come to **Beauty & Strength**, sponsored by The Church of Mary Magdalene. 2 to 4 p.m., at the Benham Gallery of fine art photography, 1216 1st Ave, Downtown Seattle.

**Tuesday 10/7**

Foster families are needed for the **Refugee Foster Care Program** for teens from Africa, Central America, and the Middle East. Free Information Night will be held from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Lutheran Community Services, 433 Minor Ave N. Please reserve at 206-694-5713 or [ppugnetti@lcsnw.org](mailto:ppugnetti@lcsnw.org)

**Thursday 10/9**

City Year Seattle/King County's Opening Day Ceremony, 32 young idealists will pledge to spend the next 10 months giving more than 50,000 hours of service to the children, youth, and communities of Seattle and King County. Applaud this group of young leaders and celebrate their commitment to service. Also join in an afternoon service project in downtown Seattle. Noon - 1 p.m., at Westlake Park, corner of Pine and 4th Ave. In case of rain, call 206-219-5014 for an updated location.

**Saturday 10/11**

**2003 Hate Crimes Conference** sponsored by the Organization of Chinese Americans and supported by Allstate Insurance and the City of Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods. Learn from victims about the realities of hate crimes and hear from community advocates on how to report a hate crime and why it is important to do so. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Asian Resource Center, 1025 S. King St. Please reserve at 425-895-1086 or [HateCrimesConference@yahoo.com](mailto:HateCrimesConference@yahoo.com)

**Asian pacific American Community Health Fair** organized by the Asian Pacific American Resource Network and sponsored by Cross Culture Health Care Program. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at New Holly Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Ave. Info 206-615-2700 ext. 3600 or [nburkett@u.washington.edu](mailto:nburkett@u.washington.edu)

**Home Alive's Basic 3-hour Self-Defense Class**. Suggested \$10-\$50 per session, sliding scale goes to \$0 for those who need it. To register, 206-720-0606 box 2 or e-

[mailhomealive\\_classes@hotmail.com](mailto:mailhomealive_classes@hotmail.com). 1 - 4 p.m., at 1400 18th Ave. near Union on Capitol Hill.

**ACLU College Freedom Tour**, a multi-media, multi-cultural event that will make stops at eight college campuses across the country. Headlining talent is hip-hop duo Dead Prez. The goal is to create a lively environment for students and young activists to engage in discussions about values and issues, with emphasis on the Patriot Act. Tickets are free and available at the UW HUB info desk beginning Oct. 2 and at the door on event day. 7 p.m., at University of Washington HUB. Info <http://www.aclufreedomtour.org>.

**Sunday 10/12**

**AIDS Walk and Fun Run**, the largest community AIDS event in the Pacific Northwest, coordinated by Lifelong AIDS Alliance. 10 a.m., at Seattle Center.

**Wednesday 10/15**

**Multifaith Works AIDS Careteam Breakfast Fundraiser**, with special guest Ron Sims, King County Executive. Everyone is invited to this First Annual Breakfast.

Tickets are \$50 and benefit the Multifaith Works AIDS Careteam. 7 a.m. at Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave. Info 206-324-1520 ext 303.

**Friday 10/17**

Atlantic Street Center presents the 5th Annual Big League Dreams Luncheon to benefit children, youth, and families. Master of Ceremonies is Tony Ventrella, co-host of Q13 Morning News. Keynote speaker is Franklin D. Raines, Chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae. 11:30 a.m., at Seattle Seahawks Stadium. Info and RSVP 206-329-2050.

**Saturday 10/18**

The Arab Center of Washington presents the 3rd Annual Arab Festival. Admission is free. Noon - 8 p.m., at the Seattle Center, New Fisher Pavilion and Center House, also Sunday, Oct. 19, Noon - 7 p.m. Info, Arab Center of Washington [ibrahim@arabcenter.net](mailto:ibrahim@arabcenter.net).

**Seattle Thunder 4 Democracy Festival** with speakers, workshops, music, food, and fun. 3 - 10 p.m., at St. Joseph's Church Social Hall, 732 18th Ave. E. Info <http://www.seattlethunder.net>.

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citizens participation project



## Support farm workers

**Issue:** An historic bipartisan agreement, the "Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act of 2003," needs your support. Help protect those who put the rich bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables on America's dinner tables.

**Background:** Immigrant farm workers work hard and accept risks no other American workers endure. They pay taxes but enjoy few, if any, benefits while performing some of the most important labor in our nation: feeding America and much of the world. They constantly live in the shadows of fear, making them easy victims of abuse and poverty.

American has steadily militarized its borders, implementing strategies that concentrate on detaining and deporting people seeking a better life in the economic sectors that customarily embrace immigrants — among them agriculture. United States citizens rely on the work of millions of undocumented immigrants, but policies continue to ignore the contributions of this vital workforce. Latinos who were promised 20 years ago that restrictive policies would be lifted are still waiting for the changes.

Octavio, part of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride converging on Washington D.C. and New York City in early October, knows firsthand how hard being an immigrant is. His father, who was a legal guestworker, "worked as hard as any citizen, but he didn't have the same rights. Today things are even more difficult for people who come to work hard and contribute. They can't even apply to legalize their status, but their labor is required to do dangerous and poisonous work, to harvest and serve food, to care for children and the elderly, all kinds of work that makes this country strong. People can be injured or not paid and then deported. We need laws that treat everyone the same."

This bill, the result of a compromise between the United Farm Workers (UFW) AFL-CIO and some of the nation's most powerful growers, would do two things:

- create a "legalization" program enabling undocumented farm workers to earn legal immigration status if they have been working in the U.S. and continue to work in agriculture for a period of time; and
- make reforms in the existing agricultural guest worker program, the H-2A temporary foreign agricultural worker program.

**Action:** Please call or e-mail your senators and representative and ask them to support HR 3142 or S 1645, the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act of 2003. Its sponsors are Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Larry Craig (R-ID), and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Chris Cannon (R-UT). Urge your congressperson to co-sponsor the bill. Here's the contact information for local representatives:

**Representative Jim McDermott:** Send email by logging on to [www.house.gov/mcdermott](http://www.house.gov/mcdermott), or call 206-553-7170.

**Senator Patty Murray:** Send email at [www.murray.senate.gov](http://www.murray.senate.gov), or call 206-553-5545.

**Senator Maria Cantwell:** Send email at [www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov), or call 206-220-6400.

Or you may go to the UFW web site (<http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/FWLegalization>) to send a form email to your representative. ■

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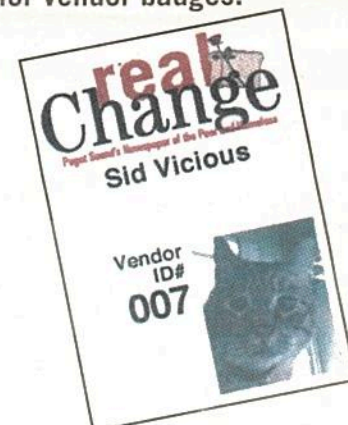
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# Mockingbird Times



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OCTOBER 2003

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

VOLUME III, ISSUE 10

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG)

## Seattle Candidates Tackle Homeless Problem

DARIUS REYNOLDS



**"ALL WE HAVE TO DO** is decide that people are more important than cars," said Dick Falkenbury, one of nine people who are currently running for Seattle City Council. On August 21 2003, I attended the Coalition for the Homeless forum, a group that meets every month in Seattle to discuss homeless issues. Last month they invited Seattle City Council members and candidates to speak on their ideas to get rid of homelessness. Falkenbury was one of the attendees, running for City Council. His plan is to build housing for homeless people on the land that is being wasted on parking spaces in the city.

The council and the candidates have many ideas for new resources to help homeless people. Currently, the Seattle City Council is working with SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort) to get funding to open a second Tent City. Tent City provides housing for homeless people as well as food and personal hygiene supplies. The *Seattle Times* states that more than 100 people use Tent City every night. SHARE is asking the city to let them set up the new tent city in a county park. SHARE has said that they understand the city doesn't have enough tax money to fund the new Tent City, "but it takes very little to provide safe shelter ([seattlepi.com](http://seattlepi.com))." The current Tent City, operated by the homeless advocate groups SHARE/WHEEL (Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement

League), is now located at St. Marks Episcopal Cathedral on Capitol Hill.

It is excellent that the city and these organizations are working together to make something that is going to help a lot of people in the long run. But it's kind of hard to stop homelessness without money. The mayor seems to have social services at the bottom of his list, because more money keeps getting cut from services that are more important than a new road.

In 1998, the King County Homelessness Advisory Group said that "at least 5,000 people are homeless on any given night." Now five years later that number has gone up to 5,500, according to Anitra L. Freeman of WHEEL. And that's only in Seattle. Sixty percent of the homeless people in Seattle, including youth, are employed, and that is a big percentage, so it's not like homeless people are not trying to do something about their situation. But they do need that little bit of help they are getting and a lot more. 🐦

### A Talk with Peter Steinbrueck

I did some research on Peter Steinbrueck, the current President of Seattle's City Council. In Steinbrueck's six years on the council, he has done a lot of work for homeless people. He has even received several awards for his work with the homeless population: the National Alliance to End Homelessness Public Service Award in 2002, and Operation Nightwatch named him "Hero of the Homeless." I recently sent Steinbrueck some questions addressing what he is doing about homelessness and his experience with homeless people.

#### 1. What are some things you are doing to help stop homelessness?

Putting people first has been at the forefront of my agenda since I joined the Seattle City Council. I have worked hard to build momentum around ending homelessness, create permanent housing, protect shelters and supportive services, and meet people's most basic needs to lessen their chances of becoming homeless.

STEINBRUECK CONT. ON PAGE 3

## First High School for Gay Students Opens in New York City

WILLIAM NELSON



**LAST MONTH**, some gay students in New York City had the opportunity to begin their school year in an environment where they are able to set aside issues surrounding their sexuality and focus on their education. The Harvey Milk High School (HMHS) is intended to help "at risk" gay youth, and specializes in computer technology, art, and culinary arts. According to NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg, "It let's them get an education without having to worry."

Located in downtown Manhattan, approximately one hundred students walked through the doors of this newly renovated building last month. The public school will take on almost one hundred more students come next September.

According to sources involved with HMHS, "The students who come to Harvey Milk leave or drop out of their traditional schools most often as the result of real physical violence and/or emotional harm ([www.washingtondispatch.com](http://www.washingtondispatch.com))." Although this may be true, some people disagree with the decision to spend three million of the city's budget on a school that segregates gays from straights.

According to CNN, state conservative Party Chairman Mike Long criticized the creation of HMHS saying, "Is there a different way to teach homosexuals? Is there gay math? This is wrong, there's no reason these children should be treated separately."

But I am wondering if our public schools are a safe



Photo of HMHS courtesy of the school.

and appropriate place for gay to students to learn and develop socially. If you were gay, and there were four other gay people who were out at your school, two who were your same gender, would you be able to develop at the same speed as your straight classmates when it comes to relationships and dating? Would you be able to concentrate with your classmates constantly harassing, beating, and threatening you? "This school will be a model for the country and possibly the world." Principal William Sulzman said during an interview with the New York Post. But shouldn't a school where everyone can be accepted regardless of religion, race, and/or sexuality be a model for the world? How will students be more accepting of others differences if they are never exposed to them? Isn't culture a form of education? 🐦

**Should people who are gay go to separate schools? Let us know what you think by going online to vote at [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org).**

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Founded in Seattle, Washington, 2001



# Letter from the Editor


**AS WE BID FAREWELL** to the wonderful summer of 2003, it will be remembered by many as full of sun, play, and more sun. The Mockingbird Society is in full swing and welcomes the fall of 2003 with hope, energy, and excitement. As you know, we have been awarded a major grant to test-pilot a foster care delivery model that we believe will reduce multiple placements, allow siblings to be placed together or in close proximity, be culturally relevant to kids and families, and provide foster parents with critical support and respite. (For more information on the **Mockingbird Foster-Family Constellation Project**, go to [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org)).

Additionally, in late December Mockingbird will move

into a beautiful new building that will more than double our current space. The move will create many exciting opportunities for Mockingbird, including having an adequate facility in which to produce a newspaper (we currently have about 200 square feet), allowing us to sponsor trainings and other community events, and getting an office I can actually work out of.

**Moving on up:** I would like to take a moment to say a special thanks to **Shay Deney**. She has been a major part of the *Mockingbird Times* team and now moves on to another job (see related article on page 3). Shay has had such a tremendous impact on *Mockingbird* and has written some amazing articles and essays in her capacity as Senior Staff Writer. She will be missed by all of us. At the same time, we are proud that youth who work at *Mockingbird* are able to move on and secure other employment based on their work with us. We wish her well, thank her for her good work, and trust that we will see her often.

Finally, Mockingbird is gearing up for our annual fund raising event on **November 2**. Please feel free to attend (details are on our website or call 206-323-KIDS), donate something special for the silent auction, or simply make a contribution if you cannot attend but want to assist us in building a world class foster care system for our world class kids.

  
Jim Theofelis  
[jim@mockingbirdsociety.org](mailto:jim@mockingbirdsociety.org)

ABOUT US:

The Mockingbird Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to building a world class foster care system and improving the other systems that serve children and adolescents in foster care. The *Mockingbird Times* is a monthly newspaper that is written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of Mockingbird Society are paid between \$7.50 and \$8.50 an hour. Additionally, youth from across the country submit articles, art work, poetry and are compensated up to \$20 per published piece. The *Mockingbird Times* has a monthly circulation of 28,000 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

Dear Courtney:  
I enjoyed your good article on the Harm Reduction Model ("Helping Addicts Recover by Reducing Harm," August 2003). I've been concerned about addiction treatment for many years and hadn't heard about this model before. I like it.

THANKS FOR EDUCATING ME,  
MICHAEL CAMPBELL

## Foster Care Alumni Stories Wanted

Do you have stories to tell about your prior experience in the foster care system? We'd like to give you a voice! Starting with the December issue, the *Mockingbird Times* is running a new section called the Alumni Corner featuring stories written by Foster Care alumni. This is a collaboration with Casey Family programs. Our plan is to have a story in the paper and on our website at least every other month. This is a powerful opportunity for alumni to share their experiences with youth still involved with the system. To get this going, we need **you!**

Please send submissions to:  
[submissions@mockingbirdsociety.org](mailto:submissions@mockingbirdsociety.org)

Or mail to:  
The Mockingbird Society  
3302 Fuhrman Ave. E., Suite 107  
Seattle, WA 98105

## Meet Our Staff

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- THANK YOUS**  
*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Peter Steinbrueck, Coalition for the Homeless, Mary Ann Eckman, Karr Tuttle Campbell, Washington Education Foundation, Shay Deney

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## A Mockingbird Inside Your Mailbox: Make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable youth.

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# ★ Positive Power: Budget Cuts Teeth

COURTNEY KONIETZKO



**APPROXIMATELY 100,000 PEOPLE** on Medicaid dental coverage will be affected by Washington state's recent budget cuts. According to the *Seattle Times*, last year, more than 110,000 adults covered by Medicaid received dental services. As of August this year, adult Medicaid no longer covers root canals for back teeth, mouth guards, crowns, or TMJ (TMJ is a condition of facial pain in the joints of the lower jaw) treatment. The Washington State Department of Social and Human Services children's Medicaid coverage remains unaffected (according to DSHS, a child is considered someone who is 21 and under). Services still covered by medical coupons for adults are check-ups and exams, cleanings, pain relief, fillings, extractions (pulling teeth), root canals on front teeth, full and partial dentures, and any related services like x-rays. For a full list of changes, go to <http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maaf/ProgramChanges2003/factsheet.pdf>.

Just as services are being cut back, there are very few private practices that accept medical coupons, so most people on Medicaid use the dental clinics for their needs. There are approximately 11 clinics in Seattle

that accept adults and kids, and seven that I know of that accept only kids. The waiting lists for these clinics are usually long. Sometime the clinics will give you a date to call back and they accept a certain number of new patients on that date. It's a good thing to call as early as possible. Here's a partial list of dental resources here in Seattle. (For a full list, go to <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/oralhealth/dentists.htm> )

45th St. Dental Clinic, 1629 N. 45th Seattle, 98103 (206) 633-3350

Southeast Family Dental Clinic, 3800 S. Myrtle Seattle, 98118 (206) 461-6981

Joe Whiting Dental Clinic, 6536-32 Ave. S.W. Seattle, 98126 (206) 461-6966 (children only)

Central Area Dental Clinic, 2101 E. Yesler Way (2nd Floor) Seattle, 98122 (206) 461-7801

Georgetown Dental Clinic, 6200-13 Ave. S. Seattle, 98108 (206) 461-6943

In addition to clinics, there are some other ways low-income people can take care of their teeth, as listed on [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org):

● Most states offer dental assistance programs. Assistance programs vary from state to state, so you may want to contact your state dental society to see if there are programs in your area.

● Another possible source of lower-cost dental care is a dental school clinic. Generally, dental costs in school clinics are reduced and may include only partial payment for professional services covering the cost of materials and equipment. Your state dental society can tell you if there is a dental school clinic in your area. ( Shoreline Community College and the University Of Washington both have dental school clinics.)

● Call or write the Dental Director at your state department of public health.

● Dentists and institutions organizing or participating in voluntary projects that care for uninsured and underserved patients will find information and grant opportunities through Volunteers in Health Care (VIH). VIH program staff are available to assist you at the toll-free number 1-877-844-8442.

To avoid having to go to the dentist for many visits, remember to brush at least twice daily, or if you can after each meal, and to floss. You only get one set of

teeth and they're meant to last you a life time, so take good care of them! Even though dental resources are now more limited for low-income people, it is good to know that there are still options available. 🐦



Graphic by Brian Hudson

## Good-bye, Mockingbird! You Will Be Missed

SHAY DENEY



**AS I TRANSITION OUT** of *Mockingbird* and into a new life, I can't help but think about just how much *Mockingbird* means to me. Everyone there made me feel respected and trusted, something that no other job showed me. Instead of getting angry and frustrated when I messed up, they pointed out my mistakes and taught me how to improve. On days where I came in and was not feeling my best, they supported me, encouraged me, and cheered me up. They really gave me hope.

Before *Mockingbird*, I didn't know much about the working world. I thought every job I got would be terrible and that I wouldn't be able to do a good job. Well, not *Mockingbird*. I looked forward to coming into work because I knew they wanted me there.

*Mockingbird* made me feel respected in a way I had never felt before. They really gave me a chance to blossom. They had patience with me and motivated me when I was having a rough time getting motivated myself. They taught me responsibility and helped me

find who I really am. They supported and encouraged me through the roughest times of my life. I will forever be thankful for everything that *Mockingbird* has given to me. It's been fun as well. Spending time with my fellow Mockingbirds has engraved a picture book in my mind. The times in the office when we laughed so hard and Shannon gave us her "get to work look," burning the popcorn and being able to smell it for hours, Mondays being our " (French) fry days." These memories will always stay with me along with everything I've learned. *Mockingbird* has taught me how good it can feel to give something back. This truly is heart-felt work and I've enjoyed every minute of it.

I've also had the great opportunity to work with Jim Theofelis. He's such a wonderful person! I admire him for all the work he has done and all the work that he is continuing to do. Sometimes he seems like Superman. He's always got close to a million things going on. He never ceases to amaze me. Thanks for everything you've

done, Jim!

For the rest of my fellow birds, we've had our good times, we've had our bad times, but at least we had those times together. It's been fun and I'm sure I'll be seeing you all around. 🐦



Shay Deney and Executive Director Jim Theofelis celebrate Shay's last day at the office.

## STEINBRUECK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the city's \$60 million budget cuts, I secured \$1.3 million in the 2003-04 city budget to fund nine shelters and supportive services that otherwise would have been reduced or eliminated. I also supported the allocation of \$500,000 in additional one-time fund support to aid food banks.

### What do you think about the Ten-Year Plan to end homelessness in Seattle?

The Ten Year Plan is an excellent community-based effort that recognizes the importance of ending homelessness rather than just maintaining it. To be successful in our efforts, we need the active support of not only the homeless community, service providers and advocates, but also our neighborhoods, community members, businesses, and political leaders.

### Do you have any experiences with homelessness that you would like to share?

When I was young, my father put a human face on homelessness for me by spending time with and talking to homeless people on the streets of downtown Seattle. His sense of humanity and regard for all people inspired me, and at an early age I became interested in the plight of the homeless.

### Why are you so dedicated to getting rid of homelessness?

Homelessness is a disgrace and should not be tolerated in a civil, just, and humane society as rich as ours. Over the years, I've met and talked to many people who were homeless, including single women, families, youth, and children — and I am appalled that we tolerate any child being homeless. I strongly believe that one person can improve the human condition, and I will continue to work hard to ensure that everyone in Seattle has the basic necessities for a healthy, productive life. 🐦



# Have You Seen a Ghost?

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

**AMERICAN HERITAGE DEFINITION:** 1. The spirit of a dead person, especially one believed to appear in bodily likeness to living persons or to haunt former habitats. 2. The center of spiritual life; the soul. 3. A demon or spirit. 4. A returning or haunting memory or image.

It seems that the bigger a city is, the more ghosts it's likely to contain. More people are living and dying and doing their business, and others are haunting with unfinished business. The question of what happens after you die has been one of the constant questions that runs through everyone's heads at one time or another. *Who knows?*

When I was younger I had experiences where I felt... ghosts, but wasn't able to call them that. When I was 13, I took a nature walk off of Steilacoom Blvd. in Lakewood (part of Tacoma, WA), across from the state psychiatric hospital, Western State, and came across the ruins of the old psych ward. It felt... weird, the air was strange, and I was creeped out. Later on, I was surfing the Internet and found out I wasn't the only one who thought this place was strange. According to the Washington State Ghost Society, "On some rainy, foggy nights when the moon is full, you can hear moans and footsteps in the late night to early morning hours. This is believed to be patients that were once institutionalized there. The place is in ruins now, but there remains an underground boiler room where most of the sounds are heard. The fence around the place also shakes for no reason, when no one else is around."

I believe that when there is a lot of pain in a place where people are not understood, it is possible for energy to manifest into physical form and haunt that place. I think ghosts are dead people who need to be understood. People who felt powerless in some way while they were alive. Everybody wants to be understood. I also believe that no one is crazy; people may do crazy things, but if you look deep enough there

are reasons. Angry ghosts are just misunderstood ghosts acting out.

Deeper surfing on the Amateur Ghost Hunters Of Seattle and Tacoma (AGHOST) webpage revealed that much of Seattle seems to be spooky. They have a great website: it has an extensive photo gallery, collection of ghost stories, and all the info you could ever need about ghost busting. **Here's a list of haunted happenings in Seattle, compiled from AGHOST's website:**

**Carlos Torres Memorial:** This statue is located on the edge of Woodland Park and is said to be haunted. Carlos Torre was a great emancipator of impoverished workers. His ghost apparently roams the park around his statue, attempting to help the homeless and chase away police. Cries of "Viva Revolución" are said to be heard around 3 in the morning on certain Mexican holidays.

**Georgetown Castle:** A crazy old lady has been seen choking herself with one hand and hitting witnesses with the other. Her eyes have been said to "burn like coal." The lady is believed to be a Spanish woman who killed her illegitimate babies and buried them under the porch.

**The Harvard Exit:** This is now a movie theater, but used to be a meeting hall for a women's organization. People have reported seeing the ghost of a woman in the hallway, as well as hearing footsteps and laughter.

**Pike Place Market:** The ghost of a Native American woman has been seen in the market at night when all the tourists and shoppers have gone home. The market was built on a site that was sacred to the local [Native Americans]. The Pike Place Market also harbors a ghost of a child at the Bead Emporium. When renovations were done to this business a few years ago, a basket of beads was discovered within the wall, even though there was no access to this space, as the door had been painted shut many years before the store opened.

**The Rivoli:** The spirit of a young Eskimo girl who came to Seattle to start a new life has been felt and seen

here. She was stabbed to death by her mentally ill boyfriend and her body was hidden behind a Murphy bed. The door to her apartment was padlocked, and so she wasn't discovered for several weeks until her neighbor noticed a strange smell.

**The South Annex in Capitol Hill:** The South Annex now houses a dental office and the English Institute of Seattle Central Community College. In the past, it was the Burnley School of Art. There is a story that a young male student at Burnley committed suicide there, and since that time has haunted the building by moving objects and pushing them off shelves. Some folks have claimed to see his ghost.

**"Suicide bridge":** There's a bridge located in Seattle where supposedly a person committed suicide by jumping off with his dog. You can still see the chalk marks when you go there. Around 2 to 4 in the morning, people have seen the man with his dog by the beach near there, staring at people.

**University YMCA:** Many times from 1990 to 1993, while cleaning the basement workout room, some have heard footsteps and voices coming from upstairs even though all members had left the building. A presence was also felt in the furnace room. The building was built in 1951.

**Mariner High School, Everett:** At around midnight, the lights are supposed to be on like a normal school. Yet, on some nights, the lights shut off and if you're close enough, you can see and sense eyes staring at you from within the school. Nothing can be seen but the eyes, which look like floating eyes from a distance. It is too dark to see the body, but you can see the eyes because they have a subtle glow to them. Some sources say, if you stare at them for a while, you can see the figure of a winged man.

If you have an interest in ghosts, check out [www.theresaghost.com](http://www.theresaghost.com). For something a little less scary, there are events for kids of all ages going on around the Puget Sound area the end of this month, from Burien and Ballard to Laurehurst and Meadowbrook. For full details on these events, visit the Mockingbird website at [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org). Oh, and have a happy Halloween! 🐦

## A Camp for Foster Kids To Belong

SHAY DENEY

**THERE ARE CURRENTLY MORE THAN 600,000 CHILDREN** in the United States Foster Care System, with an estimated three out of four children entering foster care separated from at least one sibling, according to [www.camptobelong.com](http://www.camptobelong.com). Sometimes siblings are sent to live in another county, or even across the state. This is a problem because children in this situation are already going through a tough, scary time, made even more difficult by being separated from what could be their only source of support.

After getting split up in the foster care system, some siblings never see each other again in their entire lives. They each grow up alone and may never again know the importance of sibling companionship. This is where Camp To Belong comes in.

Camp To Belong is a national non-profit organization dedicated to reuniting siblings who have been placed in separate foster homes and other out-of-home placements. This program is a week-long summer camp filled with fun activities, emotional empowerment, and sibling connection. Camp To Belong has just completed it's 8th camp season and has successfully reunited more than 1,000 siblings since 1995.

The Camp To Belong summer camp program is the

only program of this type in the country. Camp To Belong's headquarters is in Colorado and the cost to send one child to camp is \$1,500. The Celebrating Siblings Sponsorship Program is set-up to help families cover the cost of attendance. Activities and services included in the camp cost are:

- 5 nights/6 days lodging
- All meals and snacks
- Round trip ground transportation from Denver's International Airport and/or Colorado Springs airport (air transportation is NOT included)
- Child to staff ratio of 2:1
- All camp activities facilitated by trained staff, a beautiful trail ride on horse back, swimming, and campfires, too!
- Motivational speakers specific to needs of children in foster care
- Camper goodie-bag including t-shirt, water bottle, sun screen, etc.
- Nursing staff on site for medication disbursement and health needs
- On-site crisis intervention team

When camp is not in session, Camp To Belong staff members spend their time educating the nation about the value of the sibling bond as well as consistent communication.

This fantastic program was founded in Las Vegas in

1995 by Lynn Price. Price was in foster care herself and at the age of 8 she learned she had a biological sister living on the other side of town. They had limited visits throughout their childhood and only developed a solid friendship as young adults. Their friendship is very strong, yet Price realizes how much they missed growing up apart. Remembering that pain, she proceeded to found Camp To Belong to give brothers and sisters an opportunity to create childhood memories, an opportunity that she never had. 🐦

**If you would like more information about Camp To Belong, you can call, write, or visit their web site. Camp To Belong, 94455 South Sand Hill Place, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126. (303)791-0915 or 888-7BELONG, [www.camptobelong.com](http://www.camptobelong.com).**

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