

OCT 12 2007

\$1

Nov. 13-25, 2003
Please buy from
badged vendors only

DANGER

POLICE IN AREA

Reaching Out to End Poverty • Volume 10, No. 24

Change Crusader

The NAACP's Carl Mack on Kids, Cops, and the Poisonous N Word

Inside: Gary Ridgway and the Death Penalty • The Unsinkable Howard Dean • JFK, 40 Years After Dallas • Growing Up South African • A Holiday on the Street

SEATTLE NAACP PRESIDENT CARL MACK FIGHTS FOR HIS RIGHT TO PROTEST ON THE STREETS. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.

Interview by R.V. Murphy

The Seattle chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People just turned 90 years old. Its pugnacious new leader is renewing its vigor.

Last November, the Seattle NAACP selected 41-year-old Carl Mack as its president. Mack, who works as a mechanical engineer at King County Metro, was considered more of an activist than his predecessor, Oscar Eason Jr. (who now heads the NAACP in the tri-state area of Washington, Oregon, and Alaska). But if you had led a street protest that shut down Interstate 5 (as Mack did in 2002), you'd have a reputation too.

Mack has lived up to that reputation. In his first year at its helm, he's confronted bastions of power all over Seattle, from the University of Washington (which erected a statue to a football coach who never apologized for his poor treatment of Black players) to the downtown clothing store Urban Outfitters. When a group of protesters representing the NAACP showed up at the Fifth Avenue store, personnel removed the game Ghettoopoly — a game comprised of satirical uses of racial stereotypes — from the shelves.

And while he's taken some heat from other parts of the African-American community for his stances, even Mack's critics admit that he's re-energized the local face of the nation's most prominent civil rights organization. Mack says that more than 500 new members have signed up for the Seattle NAACP since he took office on January 1. At this time last year, only 1,000 of Seattle's approximately 48,000 African Americans were members of the NAACP; only 282 voted in Mack's election.

Mack recently sat down with *Real Change* and talked about police accountability, the dismissal earlier this year of schoolteacher Brian Emanuels for using "the N word" with a student, and more subtle forms of racism in so-called liberal Seattle.

Real Change: *Seattle has a reputation as a liberal, progressive area. Does it live up to its reputation?*

Carl Mack: I think Seattle is one of the most disturbing communities that I've ever lived in. And I'm from Mississippi; I know what racism is. White folks don't like you back home, they tell you. In the most extreme cases, it plays out like that shooting played out in Meridian, Mississippi, this year, where a known racist takes his gun up to a Lockheed-Martin plant and shoots up the place. That's an extreme case. But by and large, Seattle wants to paint itself as a very liberal we-love-everybody community, and Seattle couldn't be anything further from that as far as I am concerned.

Maybe it's because, being with the

NAACP, I'm in the game: I get to hear what's going on, discriminatory-wise. But then again, take a look at the

broader political picture. If Seattle and the state of Washington were so liberal, why did we lose affirmative action? Is everyone now trying to tell us that we live in a color-blind society? Everyone is treated fairly? Absolutely not.

If Seattle is so liberal, why do you keep a man like Norm Maleng in office for 20-some odd years when he's never seen fit to place a value on African-American lives, by allowing cops to shoot and kill any person of color and not face justice? That type of action is what

precipitates studies like what came out of the University of Washington, that Blacks are more likely to be shot by law

"I think Seattle is one of the most disturbing communities that I've ever lived in. And I'm from Mississippi; I know what racism is. ... Seattle wants to paint itself as a very liberal, we-love-everybody-we-value-everybody community, and Seattle couldn't be anything further from that as far as I am concerned."

— Seattle NAACP
President Carl Mack

Continued on Page 8



Hearty fare

Dear *Real Change*,

Enclosed please find a donation of \$25 and an appreciation for running the article about the Gang of Four ["Soldier On," *RC* August 7]. Larry, Bob and Roberto have been heroes of mine ever since the early '70s when I first moved to Seattle. I've had the wonderful opportunity to work with each of them. I regret that I didn't know Bernie personally.

When there is so much cynicism and a sense of hopelessness around us, it is heartening to read about these good and courageous men. Their lives and the work they do are examples to all of

us. We must all strive to "be the peace we seek in the world."

Thanks,
Sooz Appel

Building the future

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a check towards your goal to raise \$50,000 by the end of 2003 [see page 3]. I think that your paper can become a real alternative to the other Seattle papers in publishing news that affects the lives of people. Articles on local and regional problems and solutions, as well as "good news," will focus our attention on what is happening and what needs to be accomplished for the good of all of us.

Sincerely,
Ronald DiGiacomo
Seattle

In good faith

Dear *Real Change*,

I am making this donation because I am taking you at your word that you will advocate for social justice at the level of government policy. I have long felt that *Real Change* plays it too safe and only advocates for more funding

for social services without delving into *why* we have to beg for crumbs and who the whole loaf is going to. There is a connection between lavish public spending on what Paul Allen wants for South Lake Union and further cutbacks in medical care for the poor. There is a connection with tax policy, too. Public officials like [Seattle Mayor Greg] Nickels and [City Councilmember Richard] McIver need to be held accountable to their campaign promises. They should not be allowed to posture as friends of the homeless when their decisions destroy low-income housing. Keep up the good work, but take it to the next level in your press coverage.

Sincerely,
Carolee Colter
Seattle

Ed. replies:

Thank you, Carolee, for taking us at our word. A major goal in our new three-year strategic plan is to broaden and diversify the voices informing the paper's content, and the issues that we cover.

On the flip side of every story about poverty and injustice, there's the issue of wealth and influence — like two sides of the same penny. Part of our broader coverage will consist in laying that fact bare. One member of our editorial committee has quipped that "power protects itself by being boring." That's mostly true of state tax policy (which we reported on frequently last winter) and budget cuts (which are included in this issue). These are just two of the boring issues that have profound impacts on people's lives.

As we expand coverage, we will search out ways to tell them better: pointing out who benefits in a given issue, who loses, and who finds it convenient to ignore their responsibility in the matter. I daresay you'll find our future work satisfying. And if you're not, let us know.

Staff, Board & Advisers

Founder

Timothy Harris

Acting Executive Director

Rachael Myers

Editor

Adam Holdorf

Production Manager

Molly Rhodes

Volunteer Coordinator and Officer Manager

Shawn Steen

Vendor Services Coordinator

Lily North

Advertising Sales Representative

Candi Wilvang

Interns

Anne Barnes, Polly Keary, Brooke Kempner, Kristina Mageau, R.V. Murphy

Board of Directors

Jon Gould (Pres.), Wes Browning (VP), Cho Ize Yang (Treas.), Bruce Wirth (Sec.), Scott Nodland, JoJo Tran, Carole Frisell, Robert Siegel, Rebecca Kavoussi, Faith Wilder Grothaus, Mandy Levenberg

Editorial Committee

Wes Browning, Stan Burris, Anitra Freeman, Michele Marchand, Kathleen Mitchell, David Trotter, Kevin Vanderhoef

Contributing Writers

Heidi Dietrich, Megan Doyle, Lorie Elbert, Sandra Enger, Jess Grant, Trevor Griffey, Andrea Iglar, Polly Keary, Susan Kim, Joe Martin, Cynthia Ozimek, Susan Platt, Romie Ponce, Betsy Power, Janice Price, Emma Quinn, R.W. Reid, Patrick Schwartz

Photographers, Graphic Artists

Ken Dean, Jake Dillon, Tom M. Douglass, Signe Drake, Stefano Gaudiano, Lance Hammond, George Hickey, Brooke Kempner, Jkemble, Robin Lindley, Karlene Minea, Jackie Renn, Tim Swope, Mark Sullo

Volunteers This Issue

John Curry, Brit Fredrickson, Emily Fuller, Simon-

Ward Geraghty, Jennifer Graves, Cory Jennings, Lara-Anne Jordan, Louise Lavallee, Corwin Light-Williams, Michael Long, Ian McFeron, Candice McGowan, Rick Monroe, Brianna Morgan, John Morse, Michael Moscheck, Reed O'Neal, Suzanne Peck, Paul Rice, Tyler Ross, Eric Sanderson, Elizabeth Schmid, Anne Townsend, Rachel Wilhelm, Glenda Wilson

Advisory Board

Nancy Amidei, *U District—University Partnership for Youth*
Bob Barnes, *King County Rainbow Coalition*
David Bloom, *Community Activist*
Juan Bocanegra, *Downtown Human Services Council*
Jean Colman, *Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition*
Walt Crowley, *HistoryLink.org*
Ishbel Dickens, John Fox, *Seattle Displacement Coal.*
Curt Firestone, *Community Activist*
Matthew Fox, *Community Activist*
Neil Fox, *National Lawyer's Guild*
Larry Gossett, *County Councilmember, Dist. 10*
Bill Hallerman, *Archdiocesan Housing Authority*
Bill Hobson, *Downtown Emergency Service Center*
Erin Katz, *June Bug Media, Filmmaker*
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, *36th Legislative District*
Mike Lowry, *The Fairness Project*
Paola Maranan, *The Children's Alliance*
Joe Martin, *Seattle Displacement Coalition*
Camille Monzon, *Seattle Indian Center*
Lonnie Nelson, *Coalition of Labor Union Women*
Trisha Ready, *The Zine Project*
Siobhan Ring, *Tenants Union*
Mary Robinson-Smith, *Denny Regrade Planning Org.*
Aiko Schaefer, *Statewide Poverty Action Network*
Silja J.A. Talvi, *Freelance Journalist*
Jim Theofelis, *The Mockingbird Society*
Tamara Turner, *Radical Women*
Velma Veloria, *State Representative, 11th District*
Harriet Walden, *Mothers for Police Accountability*

Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the
Poor and Homeless

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

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

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

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

Mission Statement:

Real Change 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.



PorchLight

Community services of
the Seattle Housing Authority

907 N.W. Ballard Way, Suite 200
Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
206-239-1500
www.sea-pha.org

Visit us to learn about and apply for:

- Low Income Public Housing
- Seattle Senior Housing Program
- Other affordable housing

TAKE METRO BUS #15 OR #28 FROM DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

Applications for housing assistance are available at the PorchLight Housing Center, and can also be downloaded from www.sea-pha.org. To have an application mailed to you, call PorchLight at 206-239-1500.

Beyond Retribution

The Ridgway Deal paves the way for a more humane justice system

By Adam Holdorf

So the Green River Killer will live among us, for now. Can we all learn to live with that?

In a nation that puts its most heinous criminals to death, one of the most heinous serial killers in history will not die for taking the lives of 48 women. That deal, worked out between King County prosecutors and Ridgway's public defender, saved the county \$2.3 million in legal costs. It spared Ridgway's ass. It was an enormous gift to the families of 41 women killed by Ridgway, perhaps the only satisfactory gift: the truth.

Even in Ridgway's case, truth should be enough.

But to read the letters page of the *Seattle Times* two days after County Prosecutor Norm Maleng's plea bargain was announced, the citizens of this region want nothing less than Ridgway's life in atonement for what he's done.

"Gary Ridgway should be put to death in accordance with the laws of King County," a woman who lives in Shoreline wrote. "Whether it's on seven counts of aggravated murder, or 48 counts, or even one. If he's dead, he's dead and we don't have to see his ugly face looking out from his nice, cushy prison cell."

"Allowing a monster like that to live after he admitted murdering 48 women only works to devalue innocent life," wrote a Seattle man. "The prosecutors in this case should be fired."

People who approve of the death penalty are predictably outraged; if any act deserves death, Ridgway's terrible two-decade spree does. And whoever wants to fire Norm Maleng should try to, next time he's up for re-election. But Maleng did the right thing: he brought a close to as many cases as was possible, even though the killer traded the information for his life. And that has radical implications for our criminal justice system: it suggests that revelation, not retribution, is the dearest form of justice.

It's a startling notion, coming at a pivotal time. In a Gallup poll this spring, 70 percent of Americans said they approved of capital punishment and that prisoners should be put to death more frequently. But here's the rub: only a slim majority (52 percent of those polled) believes it is applied fairly, and would prefer to kill convicted murderers rather than locking them up for life.

Public confidence in the death penalty is wavering. The American public is learning new things about capital punishment: that it is three times more expensive than a life sentence; it's applied more often to the killers of White victims, and more often to accused belonging to ethnic minorities; executions have been cruelly botched; and it is in no way a deterrent to murder. As of January 2001, 89 people had been removed from death row after evidence emerged proving their innocence. How many of the 877 people killed by the state since the death penalty's reinstatement were innocent? What kind of moral authority can the state lay claim to, when it enacts such a flawed and barbaric policy?

There is nothing in Ridgway's confession to suggest that the death penalty would ill serve him. Indeed, there are dozens of cases still to investigate. His cooperation in this matter will be of immeasurable value to the families involved. And his work may help us see past our own bloody thoughts.

Ridgway's case points a new way — not only in the deal that was struck, but in the approach to the accused. The amazing and confounding fact of it is that love moved the man. Defense attorney Michele Shaw befriended him, told him that his brothers loved him and wanted him to live, and asked, do you want to live, Gary? He said he did. I want you to live too, she said.

He signed the plea deal and cooperated with the authorities. One person's kindness made a difference, ending the legal standoff between the accused and the prosecution.

Still, there's much in this story to commend the death penalty. The paradox pulsing at the center of Ridgway's case is that the state may never have gotten the man's cooperation without first threatening to take his life. It indicates that, however cruel and arbitrary the death penalty may be, its existence functions as a tool to coax confession.

And the result? The sad ends of 41 marginalized women have been told; their families, and their communities, can know what happened. According to the defense, Ridgway has done all he can for King County. Authorities across western Washington can do much more, by plumbing their cold cases of dead women for ties to Ridgway. Let's spread the truth around. Revelation is a beautiful thing. ■

Inside:

Opinion

Beyond Retribution
by Adam Holdorf
3

Regular Features

News You Can Use:
Incumbents, veterans embrace their fate
by Adam Holdorf, Patrick Shultz
4

North American Newsbriefs:
compiled by Molly Rhodes
5

Adventures in Poetry
with © Dr. Wes Browning
6

StreetWatch
compiled by Emma Quinn
13

Calendar
compiled by Molly Rhodes
15

News

Crusader
by R.V. Murphy
1

Part of the Budget
by R.V. Murphy
5

Features

Hope and Faith
Howard Dean awakens the disaffected
by Polly Keary
10

Incredulous Americans
Book review
by Joe Martin
12

Grasping onto Fairies
A political lesson from South Africa
by Molly Rhodes
14

Street Talk
Hopes for the Holidays
by Kristina Mageau and Anne Barnes
14

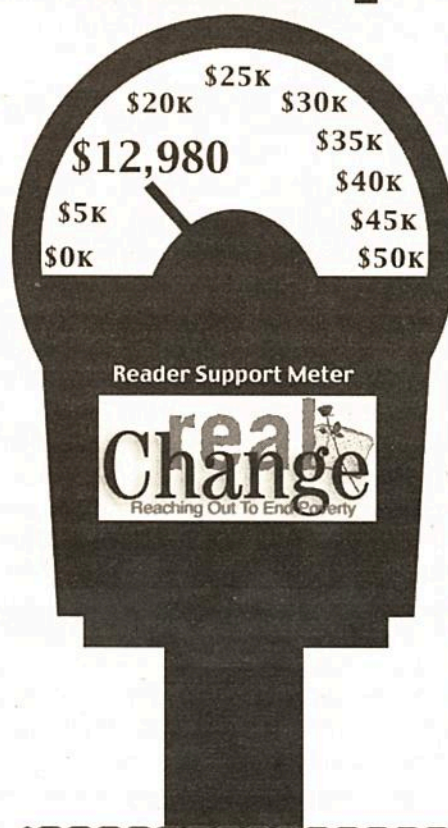
Poetry

Insights and surprises from Amy Bailey,
Brett Drugge, Laurie Corzett, Aubra Godwin,
r. ungrich, Roberto Valenza
7

Activism

Citizens Participation Project
16

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.

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS: ☐ CHECK ENCLOSED

PLEASE CHARGE MY CARD: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

ACCT. NO. _____ EXP. _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE () _____ EMAIL _____

☐ PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT VOLUNTEERING MY TIME AND ENERGY

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

Elections: it's all over

The November 4 General Election left only two of five incumbent candidates for City Council still standing. Was it a bang of rage from the people? Or an unenthusiastic whimper?

Voter turnout in the off-year election indicates that latter. Just 35 percent of Seattle's some 362,000 voters bothered to go to the polls or mail in their absentee ballots. That's slightly fewer than the turnout King County Elections forecast for the entire county. Other municipalities, with contestants less tarnished by scandal, had greater numbers of voters: North Bend achieved 50 percent turnout; Sammamish hit 40 percent. Issaquah, like Seattle, eked out a 36 percent turnout.

Voter energy (or lack of) aside, three Seattle City Council challengers sashayed into office with majorities. Seniors advocate Tom Rasmussen held a 4,000-vote lead over 12-year Council veteran Margaret Pageler to garner a slim 51.7 percent majority. Former *Seattle Times* columnist Jean Godden walloped first-term councilmember Judy Nicastro with 6,000 votes to get 52.6 percent. And David Della, a United Way administrator and former aide to Mayor Norm Rice, beat first-term Heidi Wills by nearly 10,000 votes, or 54 percent.

More indications that this election wasn't a no-confidence vote in the Council's conduct:

- Incumbent Peter Steinbrueck, who's led the body as Council President for the last two years, sailed through a challenge from neighborhood activist and districts proponent Zander Batchelder.
- Despite being tied to two — not one, like Wills and Nicastro, but two — influence-peddling scandals (secret meetings with people trying to influence city zoning of a Lake City Way strip club; a free plane ride from billionaire Paul Allen to watch Allen's basketball team, the Portland Trailblazers), first-term councilmember Jim Compton rode to re-election.
- Voters rejected Charter Amendment 5, the proposal to reform City Council into a district system.

It was an election cast, in its final days, by talk of the council's "silliness" (as Godden put it) on issues like circus-animal cruelty and breaching Snake River dams. And as candidates jockeyed to define the important issues, they made reference to "jobs" and "a new prosperity." Seattle citizens can watch those claims play out in the next year, as Mayor Greg Nickels prepares for a massive up-zone of downtown's height limits and pushes his agenda on biotech in South Lake Union.

Yet incumbents took heat for real issues. City councilmembers Heidi Wills and Margaret Pageler both took heat for their oversight of Seattle City Light, as the public utility ran into a series of supply crises that forced them to raised rates for Seattle households. And Judy Nicastro alienated social advocates for her stance on the 2002 housing levy, which, she argued, directed too much money toward housing programs for moderate-income homeowners.

Nicastro, a renter's rights advocate with a history of taking principled stands when it suited her (the housing levy, property rights in the Rainier Valley) and horse-trading when it didn't (the vote to reconfirm City Light superintendent Gary Zarker), earned viable opponents like Kollin Min, Robert Rosencrantz, and Daryl Smith early in the race. Even though she entered the race at the last minute, columnist Godden's name cachet guaranteed her a win in the primary, clearing the others off the slate. Godden got a late-season push from the Rental Housing Association (RHA) of Puget Sound, the landlords' advocacy group, which used its newsletter to urge landlord-members to support her. Former Mayor and RHA leader Wes Uhlman donated \$500 to her campaign. Another big donor was Paul Allen's development company, Vulcan NW.

Also coming through for Godden (and indicating how they'd been let down by Nicastro) were the city's unions. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 gave \$400; the Hotel and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Political Action Fund gave \$650, the maximum allowable. In a letter to colleagues, HERE Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Rick Sawyer detailed the faith he'd lost in Nicastro in 2001, after, against the union's wishes, she voted to allow downtown developer Richard Hedreen to build a high-rise without mitigating its social impacts by paying into an affordable-housing fund. In contrast, he said, Jean Godden's leadership on the picket line during the newspaper strike of 2000-2001 demonstrated a great affinity with the rights of working people.

"When faced with one of the most difficult decisions workers are asked to make — to go on strike against a powerful employer — Jean Godden took the side of working people," Sawyer wrote. "When Nicastro was faced with a similar test, she revealed her loyalty to be with wealthy corporate contributors." Quoting Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild administrative officer Liz



Brown, the letter said Godden was "a tireless picketer" who "stood up early on and made her support for the union clear to all... she is a hero whose courage was key to inspiring others to stand firm." Godden also paid for her stance: the *Times* "stripped her beloved Sunday column from her upon Jean's return to work."

Along with the three defeated councilmembers, the City Council's gender balance will depart when the new gang takes office in January. As Pageler, Wills, and Nicastro leave, the council is made up of two women (Jan Drago and Godden) and seven men. ■

— Adam Holdorf

Happy Veterans Day?

Veterans' Day came and went. For at least 50,000 past members of the armed forces, it was just another day on a waiting list.

Across the country, that many veterans are waiting at least six months for a doctor's appointment at their regional Veterans Administration (VA) hospital, according to estimates by advocates. And money for their health care needs is a politically contested hot-button issue each year in Congress, says Washington Senator Patty Murray. Murray (the first woman ever to serve on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee) is supporting the Veterans' Health Care Funding Guarantee Act, a move to make health care an entitlement for those who served in the military, forcing the federal government to set aside the funds for it. The act would reverse a 50-year slide by Congress to restrict access to health care to only veterans' hospitals, only when space is available. Hence the long wait.

It can only get worse, with the Bush Administration's plan to close VA hospitals in cities around the country under the rubric of the Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services Commission, or CARES for short. On the chopping block is the VA hospital in Vancouver and Walla Walla, Washington.

"I am very concerned that the VA has turned the CARES process into a cost-cutting mechanism that has lost sight of the individual veteran," Murray said in a statement last month. "It is up to the Administration to act to restore confidence in the CARES process. Our veterans deserve nothing less."

Murray has persuaded federal officials not to close the Tacoma VA; the final decision on which facilities will close will be announced at the end of the year. ■

— Adam Holdorf

Yo, Fo!

The First Annual Youth Forum on Homelessness was held Tuesday, October 28, drawing nearly a hundred high school and middle school students to downtown Seattle's Boomtown Café to learn more about homelessness.

Sponsored by Common Cents, a program of the Fremont Public Association that educates and involves youth in the issue of homelessness, students from local schools were treated to pizza and soda pop donated by local businesses while listening to speakers from different agencies. YouthCare, Seattle Youth Garden Works, and Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets were among the organizations represented.

The event was a sort of "Homelessness 101" for youth, explaining the sense of community found among street kids and how different homeless populations access services.

"I knew there were homeless kids, but I didn't know anything about it," says 13-year-old Molly Virgin, an 8th grader at Hamilton International Middle School. Now, she says, "I want to do more."

When questioned by an audience member about what is most needed by homeless youth, YouthCare Program Manager Tobin Marsh had a specific request: "Socks! We love socks down at Orion Center."

"Youth aren't necessarily familiar with homelessness issues," says Common Cents Coordinator Ashley Fluhrer. She says that while many students are involved in Common Cents' fundraisers, the idea behind the Youth Forum, or "YoFo," is about "actually learning about these issues."

The Youth Forum was also an opportunity for organizers to encourage students to join Common Cents' Service Learning Youth Board Program, where kids help decide which local agencies get grants from their school "penny drives," which generate about \$30,000 a year.

Organizers hope to turn the Youth Forum into a yearly event. ■

— Patrick Schultz

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

Part of the Budget

Citizens jam council chambers to defend human services, ask for police patrols

By R.V. Murphy

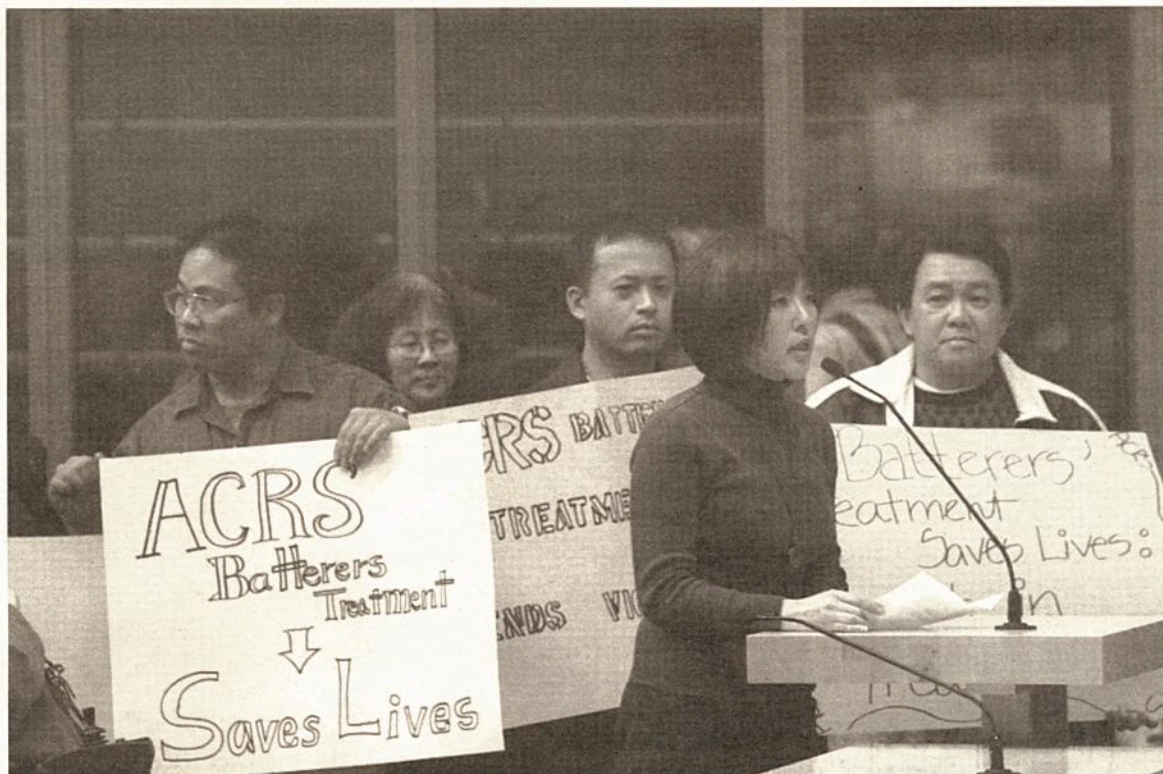
When Capitol Hill resident Brad Trenary stepped to the microphone at last week's 2004 city budget hearings, there was an audible gasp from the audience. Trenary, by all appearances a quite unassuming gentleman, reached into a QFC shopping bag and pulled out two pickle jars full of drug paraphernalia. One of the jars contained 28 used hypodermic needles, not the type of fare city officials expected to be brought into council chambers when the new City Hall opened last summer.

Trenary, who lives across the street from Cal Anderson Park, went on a scavenger hunt of sorts and in one hour accumulated the materials he brought to the open meeting concerning Mayor Nickels' 2004 budget proposals.

"Things aren't going to turn around if we don't get more law enforcement," says Trenary, a member of Friends of Cal Anderson Park. The organization is asking for more police at the East Precinct and a bicycle patrol of the neighborhood. Cal Anderson Park is in the same police precinct as Miller Park, which encompasses the intersection of 21st Avenue and Madison Street where

a shooting recently occurred. Neighbors say the intersection is one of the most dangerous areas of the city. Trenary is most concerned about the park noting, "I have nieces and nephews who come to visit me, but I could just as easily step on a needle myself."

Friends of Cal Anderson Park was just one of numerous organizations and Trenary was among close to 500 people who attended the open hearing on the budget recently unveiled by Nickels. The city council will spruce and trim the proposal in the next month. Budget Director Jan Drago, Council President Peter Steinbrueck, and Councilmembers Jim Compton, Nick Licata and Richard Conlin were all in attendance at the hearing. The three Councilmembers who lost in last



MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICE TESTIFY BEFORE A CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON THE 2004 BUDGET. PHOTO BY KEN DEAN.

week's elections — Judy Nicastro, Heidi Willis and Margaret Pageler — were no shows along with Richard McIver.

The mayor's budget would cut health services such as funding for health clinics and AIDs programs. Representatives of health clinics, food banks, domestic violence programs, and the Tenants Union who spoke at the hearing say they need more help from the city. And while Nickels trum-

pets that \$900,000 will be spent on neighborhood projects in the upcoming year, neighborhoods like Capitol Hill feel ignored.

Patients from the various community clinics spoke at the hearing, including a woman suffering from major depression who said she wouldn't be alive if not for the money that was allocated to the clinics. The group ACORN (As-

Continued on Page 11



NORTH AMERICAN NEWSBRIEFS
 ■ WWW.STREETNEWSERVICE.ORG ■

Homeless newspapers in Germany became prime property in late October when J.K. Rowling offered them exclusive publishing rights to the opening chapter of the latest Harry Potter book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, before it hits the stores in its German translation. The first chapter was printed in more than 20 street magazines in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, according to the German news corporation Deutsche Welle (www.dw-world.de). Rowling agreed to the early taste of the book as an effort to provide a much-needed boost to the homeless services and job-training programs the street papers support. Rowling was herself an unemployed single mother living on welfare benefits before gaining success with the Harry Potter franchise. Birgit Müller, editor of *Hinz & Kunzt*, Germany's biggest-selling street magazine, said the offer from Rowling's publishers was a wonderful surprise and too good to refuse. "It was the greatest gift to us to be able to publish the chapter," Müller told Deutsche Welle. The offices of *Hinz & Kunzt* started fielding dozens of phone calls a day from impatient Potter fans as soon as the announcement was made. "The vendors are over the moon. It will give us a massive boost."

One of the four Ohio teenagers accused of kicking, urinating on, and shocking homeless people with a stun gun in downtown Cleveland this past August was sentenced to spend the rest of the year in jail, followed by 150 hours of volunteer work with homeless service organizations. "If I could order it, I'd order no Thanksgiving dinner, no Christmas dinner while you are there," Cleveland Municipal Judge C. Ellen Connolly told Joshua Langenheim, 19, at the sentencing hearing, according to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (www.cleveland.com). "You don't deserve it." Langenheim and his three accomplices were all caught when a video tape they had made of their attacks — which also showed them laughing at the people they were assaulting — was found in their car. The other three defendants are all minors and are currently undergoing trials in Juvenile Court. In his

tearful read of his apology in court, Langenheim said, "I don't know if this was the downfall... or the turning point in my life. All I know is that I look at things differently."

Poet David Fewster doesn't paint glossy pictures of his life in his latest publication, *Diary of a Homeless Alcoholic Suicidal Maniac and Other Picture Postcards*. The autobiographical collection of poems details his life, from watching other homeless people, including one who muttered "loudly about a conspiracy theory involving George W. Bush, Saddam Hussein, Mariah Carey, and a large buttered artichoke named Leon," to picking up chicks at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, according to the *Tacoma News Tribune* (www.tribnet.com). Fewster published the book with the help of a \$3,000 grant from the Tacoma Arts Commission, and doesn't know what his next plan is for his life. "To be honest, I expected to be dead like two and a half years ago," he told the *News Tribune*. "I've obviously got a lot of problems to continue to sort out as I bop along." For a copy of Fewster's book, email him at davidfewster@netscape.net. ■

— Compiled by Molly Rhodes

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



poetry

I Am Not

I am more than what I'm not
compare the weight
of something to nothing
and find
I am something, heavy,
scales tipped every time
there is what exists
and what doesn't
is in your mind
next to your expectations for me
as I contemplate my
new possibility
I am more than what I'm not
because I can still be
what I haven't been yet.

— AMY BAILEY

[untitled]

to witness true grief: one middle aged woman,
pushing an empty baby carriage,
softly sobbing.

to witness happiness: a couple holding hands
surrounded by black plastic bags,
smiling and throwing crumbs to one
pigeon.

— ROBERTO VALENZA

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



My favorite line from all the movies put together: "It's not my fault!" — as said by both Han Solo and Lando Calrissian in *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

I've always dreamed of an opportunity to say that, dramatically, while a wookiee moans behind me. Other things I've wished I could say, dramatically, with or without a wookiee on hand, are, "I sense a disturbance in The Force," and, "You still have much to learn, my young apprentice." I don't think I'll ever get the chance to pull those off convincingly, but surely I should be able to manage "It's not my fault!" at least if I drop the requirement of a wookiee accompaniment.

What started me thinking about this recently was the announcement by Prince Charles' royal personal secretary that His Royalness didn't do it, "it" being unspecified.

Why didn't I ever think of that? All this time since *Empire Strikes Back* I could have been shouting "It's not my fault!" at random intervals without ever indicating what it was that wasn't my fault.

I'm going to do it right now: It's not my fault! And I'm not telling you what it is I didn't do. All I'll tell you is that someone may have said I was witnessed in a compromising incident, which is all England will let you know about Charles. By the way I don't know what Charles and that other man were compromising about, although I think it had something to do with the placement of their genitalia, and I scarcely see how you can call that a "compromise," but I guess to some people it's all about the art of negotiation. Anyway, I didn't do it either.

I also never said I wanted to come back in my next life as a feminine hygiene product. But I would like to come back as a rich prince of a constitutional monarchy.

Speaking of not doing anything, in the very same paper where I learned that Prince Charles didn't do it, I read that the City of Tacoma didn't do it either. When it rains it pours, and when it doesn't rain all the water everywhere gets sucked up into space by giant planet-sucking pigs, right? That's what I've noticed.

The City of Tacoma has been sued for not protecting Crystal Brame from her husband and Tacoma's police chief David Brame, who had threatened her and physically abused her. You may recall that last April David Brame eventually murdered Crystal after Tacoma apparently did precisely nothing to protect Crystal, even though she specifically asked for help from Tacoma officials.

What Tacoma says now is, "It's not our fault!" Furthermore they say that if it were their fault it would also be other people's fault too, so there. For example, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote about the Brames' divorce one day before the murder-suicide. This proves that the *P-I* knew that David Brame was a threat to Crystal Brame, and yet the *P-I* did not do anything to protect her.

I mean, think of that! The *P-I* had almost all the same facts that Tacoma did (all except for maybe some that Tacoma was hiding, but hey, that's another issue), and yet the *P-I* didn't take David Brame's gun away from him, did they? No! And the *P-I* didn't suspend him as police chief either! So why isn't the *P-I* being sued, huh? That's what Tacoma wants to know.

Other entities whose fault it could be as much as Tacoma's include Pierce County and Gig Harbor, because the Brames lived there and they didn't take David's gun away from him, and an on-line publisher who didn't do all the same stuff the *P-I* didn't do.

I have a confession to make. I read the article the *P-I* printed the day before the murder. And I also did not suspend David Brame or disarm him.

So what do Han Solo, Lando Calrissian, Tacoma, Prince Charles, Gig Harbor, the *P-I*, and I have in common? We didn't do it, it's not our fault. ■



am i the only one?

A desperate cry,
from forsaken voices
lost

in the clutter
of their rumored life.
Alone,
they spin
on this lonely globe.

— AUBRA GODWIN

Wish

I silently wished for the War on Iraq
to be a disaster
with the hope that the lesson
that war bleeds war
instructs those in charge
to do this no more

I hate these wishes
and wish they'd go away
with my righteousness in hand
to the land of polarity
where cut and dry live in harmony
black and white dividedly
and you're with us or against us hyperbole
is voiced to the war drums repeatedly.

Why do I want a meteor to strike the Earth?
(Will the living not perish?)
Why am I anxious for my grandfather to die?
So that I may know what death is like?

I crave to be right
I crave to have others crave compassion through feeling the reality of the
suffering of others

I should let this go though
in order that I could truly be free
As so should the monkey
trapped by its grasp
of an alluring jewel
at the bottom of the gourd
bound to a tree

My grandfather once told me,

"When I die, I want you to come to my grave
and say, 'Grandpa, you wanna go fishing?'"
That's all I ask for:
to go fishing with my grandfather
He's still alive.

— BRETT DRUGGE

New American Anthem

After Shock and Awe
It's a transitional time
Of untidiness

We bombed in Baghdad
Now we have no idea how
To clean up this mess

Forget peace on Earth
Let the common folk suffer
And not have a say

Since god is with us
Against the rest of the world
We'll just have to pray

— LAURIE CORZETT

duality of war

there are two sides to
every question
both are other questions
and both are answers and
both are unanswerable
the other side of "divide and
conquer" is "submit
and subvert" both
untenable solutions to the
other side of *both* sides
and to those in the middle
of either side the answer seems
to defend hearth and home
cause as much damage
to whatever is "outside" and
can disrupt our fragile framework
of self-deception our
delicate balance of illusory calm
why not look within
work on number one —
find peace inside yourself
— start to help
instead of hurt...

— R. UNGRICH

CRUSADER Continued from Page 1

enforcement than any other race of people. Why? Because [police] have never been given a deterrent. What they've been shown is that if you shoot and kill a person of color, and particularly an African American, you don't have to worry about being tried for it.

Take a look at this case that happened up in Snohomish County: you have Harold McCord, Jr., who escapes from jail. He's in a house, has no weapons, does not shoot at law enforcement, but they break in and they shoot him [on June 24].

Now, just a couple of days later, there's a man held up down in the Middleton-Auburn area, South King County, he's in a shootout with law enforcement officials and actually exchanges fire with them. Seven, eight hours they hold out for negotiation. They spare his life.

The same could be said for the way people are treated in their jobs. I work for King County, and at the same time I had two women who were sexually harassed by an individual, being touched. He admits it. It happens in Human Resources. Yet, the

justice that these two women received? Nothing was done about it. One of the women was laid off, and the gentleman who touched her was able to retire with benefits.

I can go on and on with cases that I've dealt with in the NAACP. So when you're talking about a liberal city, it's very difficult for me to understand that, and it's sad considering the diversity that we have here.

RC: With regard to local law enforcement. How are things going to change?

Mack: Some of the things that we've done is open the lines of communication with leading officials within the Seattle Police Department to address the issues that have come along. I can't tell you the number of calls that I've received from individuals about which I'd either call Chief [Gil] Kerlikowske or Assistant Chief [Harry] Bailey, or someone else within the line that they place me in a situation to call. But I haven't hesitated to call up to the very top to get issues resolved. I want them to respect the NAACP; more than that I want them to respect every individual they come in contact with. If you've got that coming from the top, you're

not going to have a problem.

If you don't have it from the top, believe me, the rest of these officers out there are going to run rampant, and it's not going to be long before the majority [White] community starts feeling the same wrath that the communities of color are feeling.

The NAACP is trying to bring about accountability to law enforcement, that's why we're pushing very hard for [Seattle to adopt] a citizen's police review board with full subpoena and full investigatory powers.

I think a lot of us think that Kerlikowske individually is a very decent person and has the making of being an outstanding, very fair police chief. But it's that police guild that we've got problems with. There can be no accountability because of the contract that this city enters into with them. That we would give a union that much power, and then if we want to make them accountable they've got the audacity to say "We're going to depolice" — they'll sit back and watch a crime and they won't do anything. To hold that kind of threat over us and for us to take it — we're twisted. We need to depolice them right out of here.

RC: What will result from the county inquest into the killing of Harold McCord? Will justice be done, or will it be more of the same?

Mack: I'm most excited that the federal government is involved in the McCord situation. We had spoken to U.S. Attorney John McKay about patterns and practices of what we deem to be illegal law enforcement in this region: not only the McCord case but the [shooting of] Robert Thomas Sr. and [Shawn] Maxwell as well. [Maxwell was killed during a confrontation with police in the University District in February 2002. Sitting in his truck with his son and son's girlfriend in south King County, Thomas was fatally shot by off-duty Sheriff's deputy Mel Miller in April 2002.]

Today we know that the FBI is involved with a full-scale investigation in the Thomas issue. They've gone from reviewing whatever info we send them to "Hey, maybe there's something here." And they're reviewing the other two. We've received no accountability through local prosecution, so it's wonderful that we have a higher level to appeal to. The U.S. Attorney can bring

SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS OUTSIDE SEAHAWKS STADIUM STOP CARL MACK, LEFT, PRESIDENT OF THE SEATTLE CHAPTER OF THE NAACP, FROM LEADING A MARCH AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.



charges against officers if they find wrongdoing. And that would send a very powerful message to local law enforcement that you need to value the lives of African Americans.

RC: *You've been very unhappy with King County Sheriff Reichert. What was your experience with him?*

Mack: Well, Bull Connor Reichert as I call him. I'm unhappy with him because of the lie that he's told to our community.

Reichert met with the NAACP executive committee, and he talked about King County law enforcement being an organization of service to the community. That if one of his officers violated the spirit of the law, that he would be accountable for that. He spoke in a way that made you believe that, from the top, he was sensitive to the experience between African Americans and law enforcement, and that he wouldn't tolerate such behavior, and that if you could bring him proof of such behavior that he would act in a just manner.

Well, when the Robert Thomas Sr. case came up, he acted in a very, I would call a racist way, assassinating the character of Mr. Thomas prior to getting all the facts in, tainting public opinion about who Mr. Thomas was [saying he was a felon and a member of a "motorcycle gang"].

This man did his time; whatever mistake he made, he paid his debts to society. I viewed him as a father. The rest of the world didn't view him that way; certainly Reichert didn't view him that way.

So now Reichert meets with community leaders in a church, he tells us that they were at least 80 percent through internal investigations and that within a couple of weeks he would be willing to meet with us and give us the outcome of the internal investigations. It took him a year before they finished the internal investigations, or at least before they released it. It took them a year. And even though it was not ambiguous about the policies that [deputy] Mel Miller broke, Reichert never doled out any discipline to that man. Yes, I call him a liar. I call him a coward. I call him Bull Connor.

RC: *As the University of Washington memorialized former football coach Jim Owens with a statue recently, you, Urban League president James Kelley, and former players asked him to apologize for stacking Black players in the same position, punishing them more harshly than others, and harassing those who dated White women. A local newspaper columnist suggested that Coach Owens "paid a price for his ways" as the losses piled up in the latter part of his career, and "shouldn't have to pay again." Did Owens apologize?*

Mack: I don't think so. When you say "I apologize for any hurt you may have felt," how does that sound? I'm sorry *you think* I may have hurt you. Compare [former Alabama governor and segregationist] George Wallace to him. Wallace said I was wrong, those times were wrong, I take full responsibility for my actions, and I ask your forgiveness. Only a very insensitive individual would reject that apology.

Ralph Bayard, one of the players back then, talks about how harmful this man's

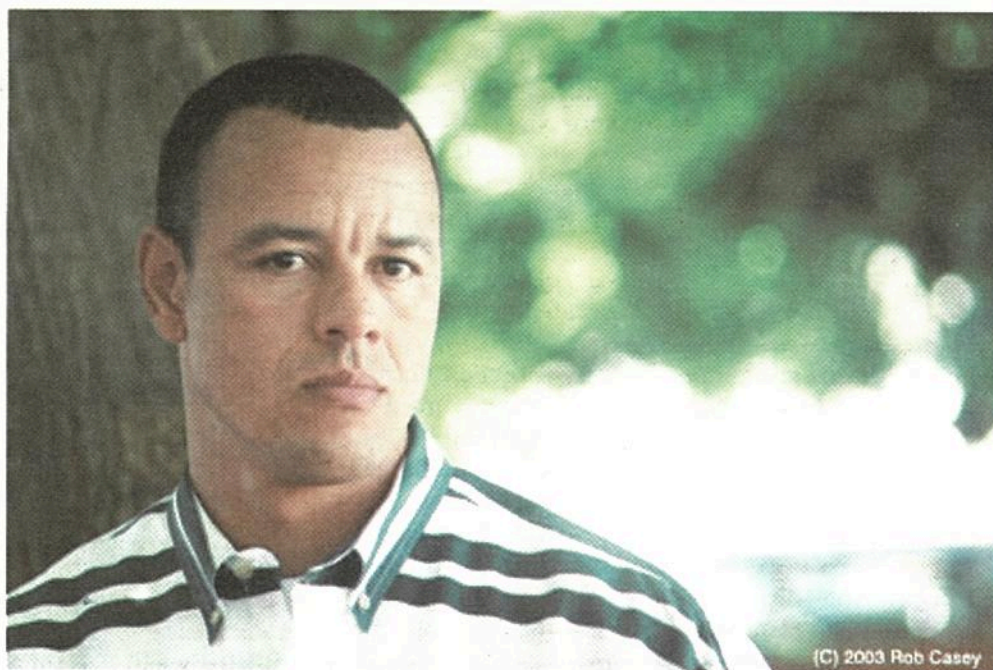


PHOTO OF CARL MACK, COURTESY OF ROB CASEY.

actions were to him as an individual and as a player. People are always asking Black folk to move on and forget about it, because they want to think that America doesn't have a race problem today. I think it was very insensitive for [UW athletic director] Barbara Hedges to allow that statue

on public grounds. Why would you allow that statue to go up when there are still hurt feelings?

I dare say: What would UW football program be like without its players of color? You go back and look at how Warren Moon was treated, not because of his abilities but simply because he was a Black man playing quarterback: booed to no end. And he took them to the Rose Bowl [for a victory against Michigan in 1978]. People now know that that was the wrong way to behave. One way to get past that is to just admit the error.

RC: *When someone says that Carl Mack is speaking not only for the NAACP, but for all Black people, how do you feel about that?*

Mack: It's frightening, it's humbling, to recognize that the NAACP has been a very strong force within the African-American community. I think most of the times, when I make a statement it appears that our community is pretty much in line with that statement, and I speak from three perspectives. One is from my own personal experience. Two is from the experience of others who've been here even longer than I have — and I've been here 17 years. And three, from a historical perspective — my own personal experiences in a given situation, the experiences that our elders have about the systemic patterns and practices of a particular situation, and historically, what those situations have yielded.

RC: *Is there a little bit of a tightrope, where*

on the one hand you want to be outspoken on issues sometimes, but also be responsible for what you say?

Mack: The tightrope for me and the NAACP is this: to be right. I don't care how controversial it is. I don't care how many

people are pissed off about it. The words of Frederick Douglass come to mind, when he said, "Those who profess to love freedom but detest agitation are those who want crops without plowing the field. They want the ocean without its awful roar. They want rain without thunder and lightning."

RC: *There was a situation with a Seattle schoolteacher, Brian Emanuels — the teacher fired for using a racial slur with a student. The so-called liberal out-*

lets in the Seattle media seemed to think this was the wrong fight for you to take.

Mack: I want you and I want everyone to understand this. Anybody who so desires to refer to my child as a "nigger" and think that it's in a vein of teaching, in the manner in which he did it, will deal with the NAACP on this issue. Without question.

To try to portray him as some great White savior, who had all this knowledge of technology and now comes into the inner city to teach these poor Black kids, they can keep their dirty pieces of silver, they can keep their Brian Emanuels. Nobody will be able to walk into our community and disrespect our most precious commodity in that vein. No one will be able to do it. Now, the way that story broke out, the reason why everybody viewed it that way, was because they gave Emanuels the benefit of the doubt. That is what America has taught White people to do: to give themselves the benefit of the doubt but not Black folks.

They want to get into a "Oh, he worked

at Microsoft, so he must be rich. He's going to bring his talents to the inner-city." Oh no. Oh no. They don't want to listen to the way it went down. Did he make an apology to these kids, according to the people in that class? Absolutely not.

So do I think we were on the wrong end of it? There's a reason I don't think we were on the wrong end of it and I think there's a reason most White folks think we were on the wrong end of it, because most White folks don't look at our children the way they look at their children. Let me as an African American be in a classroom teaching and call some poor White girl "trailer-park trash" in my attempt to teach a lesson, and see how much sympathy I'm going to get.

Do we think we took the wrong side? I'll go to my grave and never regret that situation. I hope the lesson's been infused in everybody's mind: I don't mind anybody Black, White, or otherwise, trying to teach about the N word and not using slurs of any kind, racial or derogatory. I don't mind that at all. But don't insult my child at the expense of trying to teach.

RC: *How much does it disturb you that the word is used by Black people themselves, in a lot of rap music?*

Mack: I've created an African-American history calendar; the first edition came out in 1993. And I've been lecturing across the country since that time. And I talk about how America has taught us to digest this poison of the word nigger and use it in terms of endearment. There is no positive use of this term. We must begin to learn our history. As a child growing up, because of my ignorance, I used to use the word. But like Malcolm X, when I began to fully and holistically educate myself — when I came into the historical experiences of us as a people — I began to see how I was hating myself every day when I used that word. And outside of teaching, which I'm doing right now, I don't use the term nigger. I detest the word in any regards outside of teaching.

RC: *Rappers using it, could that be called a historical ignorance on their part?*

Mack: There's a term that Dr. Bobby Wright, a psychologist from the University of Chicago coined, the term is "mentoricide." Mentoricide is the systematic, deliberate destruction of a person's or a group's mind with the intent to exterminate that person or that group. I would daresay that anyone who uses that term in a sense where they think it's a term of endearment, or it's okay for Blacks to use but not Whites, is suffering from mentoricide.

White people didn't teach me the word nigger. Black folks taught it to me. My mother, my father, my community. But I understand why. Because just like me, here I am a formally educated man with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, yet I never took one Black history course in all of my systemic form of education. Never once. Where did I learn the African-American experience, to think critically about what happened to my people? Why do White people still own the largest part of wealth in this country? Where did I ever learn to think critically about issues like that? ■

Hope and Faith

Howard Dean awakens the disaffected

By Polly Keary

How could a man who once bitterly denounced American culture as "based entirely on human stupidity" on his misanthropic website now be gambling a great deal of time and energy on the hope that Americans are indeed intelligent? What could have turned a chronically irate pessimist into the hopeful, idealistic, and friendly activist that is Ben Von Ullrich?

The answer: moving to Seattle, recovering from addiction, and joining the presidential campaign of Howard Dean.

"This is my first time doing anything political," says the shy but affable database manager. "Dean's appealing to a lot of people who were never political before."

Like many Dean supporters, Von Ullrich was initially attracted to the Dean campaign because of the Vermont governor's opposition to the war in Iraq.

"I saw a speech in California when he stood up and said, 'I want to know why,'" Von Ullrich, 37, says. At a time when most Democrats were supporting Bush's drive to war, Dean's dissent was refreshing. "I nearly fell out of my chair!" he says. "That's exactly how I felt! I went to his website and I've been following him ever since."

Von Ullrich's life at that time, however, was in an upheaval, and it wasn't until the following year that he was able to actively participate in the Dean campaign.

"I had a boyfriend that I met down there and I followed him up here," says Von Ullrich. "He dumped me in May, but I stayed because the people are so nice and the air is so clean."

He also achieved sobriety through a 12-step program, which helped him overcome his antipathy for people that years of addiction and living in crowded San Francisco had brought about.

"I've got almost two years clean and sober," he says. "Before getting involved with [the 12-step group], I'd never dealt with strangers. I learned that regular people can be good and helpful."

Von Ullrich kept up with the Dean campaign on-line and soon began to attend Meet-ups through *Meet-up.com*,

the Internet-based group organization site that allows people with similar interests to connect with other people in their area.

The more he learned about Dean, the more he liked.

"His views on tax cuts I think are useful," says Von Ullrich. "Dean's line is that the middle class never got the tax cut, and if you threw it out you'd never notice. I got maybe \$25 or \$50. His stance on medical use of marijuana is, let the FDA do trials like they would for any other drug and then regulate it, rely on only the facts. That's perfect to me. Civil unions are a nice plus, but that's not the only reason I support him. He wants to treat everyone equally, with equal rights. He's uniquely positioned; he's done a lot of this stuff already, in Vermont. Health care, gun laws, a bal-

anced budget in Vermont."

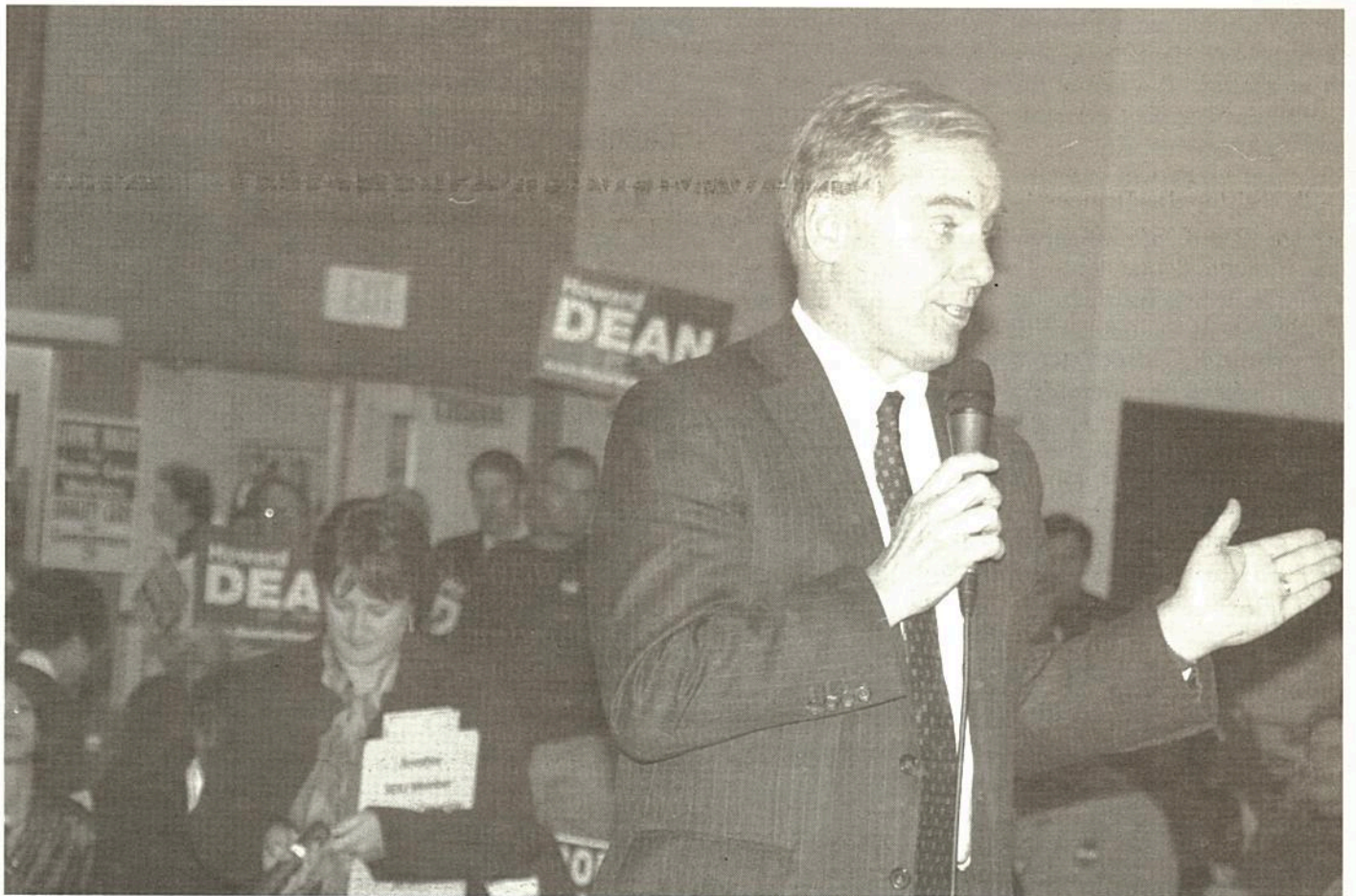
Von Ullrich's involvement with the campaign increased when he moved to Seattle.

He marched with Dean supporters in Seattle's Pride Parade and hosted a Dean information table at the Dykes and Drag Queens Baseball Game in May. Soon after, he decided to be a Precinct Committee Officer (PCO). For a man who had never been political before, it's a pretty involved job.

A PCO works for the Democratic Party and receives from the party a list of people who are affirmed Democrats, that is, people who have in the past registered as Democrats in order to vote in primaries, the only elections in Washington state in which a voter must declare party affiliation.

PCOs are expected to contact those voters who live in their precinct and urge them to vote in the upcoming presidential election. Having the list, which is available to anyone who asks for it, not just a PCO, can be quite useful for one who supports a particular candidate, for he or she can go to the same households and try to persuade the voters therein to appear at the caucuses and lend support to a particular candidate, such as Howard Dean. At those caucuses, which will occur in this state on February 7, voters will be asked which presidential candidate they prefer. From each precinct, delegates will be sent to the county primary. Each candidate will be represented by delegates in propor-

At a time when most Democrats were supporting Bush's drive to war, Howard Dean's dissent was refreshing. "I nearly fell out of my chair!" says Ben Von Ullrich, who has since volunteered for Dean's presidential campaign. "That's exactly how I felt! I went to his website and I've been following him ever since."



HOWARD DEAN AT A LOCAL RALLY WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION. PHOTO BY KEN DEAN.

For more info: Dean locally— Get plugged in at a local meeting of Dean's supporters at <http://dean2004.meetup.com/>; Dean nationally: <http://deanforamerica.com/>

Are you a Seattle or King County resident
in need of food assistance?
Call the Food Bank Information and Referral Line!
(206) 694-6756
Available Monday-Thursday 9-5
Or access information online at:
www.fremontpublic.org/client/food.html#d



A project of the Fremont Public Association

**INTERESTED IN BUYING OR SELLING
A HOME? GIVE ME A CALL.**

Joe Easterday, MSW, Realtor

Direct: 206-349-3277

Office: 206-725-7255 ext. 227

E-mail: Joeeasterday@windermere.com

Web: Joeeasterday.mywindermere.com

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate/Northwest Inc.
4919 S. Genesee St.
Seattle, WA 98118

**Advertise in *Real
Change*.**

**It's a great deal for a
great cause.**

Call 441-3247 ext. 205

tion to the amount of support they received during the precinct primaries. From there, the same process will be repeated at the state level, then at the national level, until a candidate for the Democratic Party has been chosen for the 2004 election.

There will be no blanket primary this year in Washington State, in which any voter may walk into a polling booth and vote for the primary candidate of his or her choice. The reason is that, during a primary, many people of the president's party will go to the primaries and vote for the candidate on the opposing ticket who is least likely to win — i.g., a Republican voting for Carol Moseley Braun on the Democratic ticket. The blanket primary allowed partisans to skew the results of their oppositions' contest, producing something like an Al Sharpton-George Bush match. By eliminating the open voting primary process and closing the caucuses to all but voters who declare themselves Democrats, both parties hope these rather Machiavellian maneuvers will end.

Von Ullrich has been studying the PCO handbook and attending monthly PCO training meetings, where organizers talk about how to avoid injury while "precinct walking": shake the gate before opening it lest a dog should be startled and bite; say "Hi, I'm Ben, I'm just walking the precinct today on behalf of the Democratic Party for Howard Dean." He still fears that aspect of the job, going door-to-door among people in his precinct who have historically registered as Democrats, trying to exhort them to vote, particularly to vote for Dean in the primaries.

"My friend Ray was walking this weekend," Von Ullrich says. "He asked me, 'When are you going to walk?' I'm nervous but he said it's really fine; that people are actually really nice... I don't want to get into arguments or philosophical debates, I just want to let Democrats know that you need to vote." He rubbed his shaved head for a moment, his arrow-shaped male symbol earring glinting in the overhead fluorescent lights. "I will start walking after November 5th," he announced resolutely. "As soon as I get over my phobia."

Aside from being a PCO, Von Ullrich has been leading Meet-ups at which he talks to groups of 50-80 or more about the Dean campaign, as well as assembling mailing lists. He also donates money every month to the cause.

Another task the campaign tried to assign him was writing handwritten letters in support of Dean to primary voters in Iowa, one the earliest of the state primaries and one that is often used as a predictor for the national party caucus results. That wasn't so easy for him.

"I can't be brief," he explains, and his lengthy and convoluted website bears him out. "I was going to talk Dan into doing it for me, because they credit letter writing for bringing up the poll numbers for Dean in Iowa."

Dan is Von Ullrich's new partner, who helped him heal from his destructive 10-year relationship that ended in May, and with whom he bought a house recently. Although Von Ullrich de-

scribes Dan as apolitical, his boyfriend painted flags and other patriotic art on all the pumpkins that decorated the Dean campaign headquarters during their pre-Halloween open house.

Von Ullrich has even considered going to Iowa to work on behalf of his candidate, but remains uncertain. "I'm not ruling out going to Iowa," he says, "but there are a lot of precincts in Washington and it's so damn cold in Iowa."

Von Ullrich has maintained his website, www.benland.org, since he left California, and now the home page contains a lengthy treatise on his new political venture and why the visitor should investigate the Dean campaign. Further into the website, the diligent visitor may find links to his more recent entries in which he talks about his new life in the Puget Sound. It's worth the search for the new links, because Von Ullrich is a happier man. Where once he lambasted his fellow human, now he writes lovingly of his new home and includes pictures of the squirrels that visit his deck for a treat of sunflower seeds that he is more than happy to provide. Where once he wrote bitterly of a long-term love affair that ended in pain and betrayal, now he writes affectionately about his new relationship with Dan. And where once he decried the state of American politics, now he exhorts all visitors to vote for Dean. ■

BUDGET Continued from Page 5

sociation of Communities Organized for Reform Now) spoke out against the city cutting from 116 to 66 crossing guards in recent years. And librarians asked for more money, in part to help libraries deal with the homeless population that frequents their facilities during the day.

Six juniors from The Center School — Kia Sanger, Aurora Bennett, Alex Black, Caitlin Bauermeister, Parker Butterworth, and Peter Doggett — composed and sang a song entitled "Part of the Budget," sung loosely to the lyrics of "Part of Your World," from Disney's *The Little Mermaid* movie. The audience and the council came to life listening to the song that spoofed pothole patching and the city's lack of spending on health care. Even the usually stoic Steinbrueck broke up at the line, "trolleys are nice but it's more of a luxury," referring to the mayor's fixation with putting a trolley in South Lake Union.

Another half dozen students from the school also spoke, including a German exchange student who sadly related how she never saw as many homeless people in her country as she's seen in Seattle.

The Center School, located in the Seattle Center, is a public high school of approximately 300 students that fo-

cuses on the arts and technology. The students say they were speaking on their own but became interested in social issues through their Health and Human Services class.

"We've had a lot of people speak at our school and we've written to the City Council," says Chris Megrey, one of the students who spoke at the hearing. "I think our song got a reaction from the audience. And the council — they looked bored. When we went up, we woke them up."

Unlike many of the City Council candidates who recently ran for that office, Megrey says that the class has come up with some specific ideas to get more money for the city. "Everybody who works for the city gets a COLA [cost-of-living adjustment], a salary increase of 3 percent to reflect inflation." No matter whether they make \$10,000 a year or ten times that amount. "If you capped that off at \$70,000 or \$80,000, that would be \$2,000 more money per person that would go back to the city," says Megrey. "We'd get \$4,000 from the mayor."

The class found that, if city employees whose last names began with the letter S didn't get a COLA next year, the city would save \$134,000 right there. Megrey said the letter S was arbitrarily selected because it was a common letter and had nothing to do with Council President Steinbrueck. ■

NEW MOVE IN SPECIAL!

Affordable Apts- located near Denny and Stewart. Secure bldg, close to bus stops and walk to DT. Views of Space Needle and Olympic Mountains. Community room, landscaped courtyard, elevator, pkg available. On site mgmt. FREE CREDIT CHECK AND GROCERY GIFT CERTIFICATE for new residents.

PHG Plymouth Housing Group

CALL NOW
206 381-8448

NEW MOVE IN SPECIAL!

Prime DT affordable apartment living. Bldg renovated and recipient of the Nat'l Historic Preservation Award. Close to library, Safeco Field, Pioneer Square and the waterfront. Landscaped courtyard, elevator, community room, and computer lab. Secured bldg with on-site mgmt. FREE CREDIT CHECK, GIFT CERTIFICATE, and BUS TICKET BOOK for new residents.

PHG Plymouth Housing Group

CALL TODAY
206-621-1955.

STOP DISCRIMINATION



Seattle Office
for Civil Rights

Housing
Contracting
Employment
Public
Accommodations

(206) 684-4500

(TTY) (206) 684-4503

www.seattle.gov/civilrights

Free, fair, and impartial services



City of Seattle

Greg Nickels, Mayor

Need help around the house?



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

CALL (206) 728-JOBS

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

Book Reviews

Incredulous Americans

Why JFK won't go away

The Assassinations
edited by James DiEugenio and Lisa Pease
Feral House (2003)
677 pages, \$24 hardcover

Review by Joe Martin

In their preface, the editors of *The Assassinations* quote George Orwell: "During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act." They are trying, they write, "to tunnel out of a Platonic cave of stupendous dimension, to correct a false sense of history imposed on all of us." Forty years after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and more than a decade after Oliver Stone's film *JFK* stunned America and much of the world, the murder of our 35th president is still a political powder keg. *The Assassinations* is a laudable attempt to lead us closer to historical truth, a truth that is urgently needed in our present tumultuous time.

A national poll taken shortly after the assassination indicated that the majority of Americans then did not accept the lone gunman explanation. In 1993, a *USA Today*/CNN/Gallup survey revealed that most Americans still did not believe official government explanations for Kennedy's death. (Before his death in 1973, even Lyndon Johnson admitted in a filmed interview that he personally did not accept the conclusions of the 1964 Warren Commission.)

For all we know, the public continues to cast doubt on the orthodox line. While the mainstream media has continued to blunt the issue, myriad and disturbing questions surrounding this case linger on.

Consider the story of Rose Cheramie. A prostitute and drug abuser, Cheramie predicted the assassination one day before it happened. In November 1963, in the company of two men, Cheramie was traveling by car from Florida to Dallas. After an argument erupted between her and the two men, she was dumped in Louisiana. Alone, Cheramie started to hitchhike on Highway 190 and was accidentally hit by a passing automobile. She was taken to Moosa Memorial Hospital in Eunice, Louisiana, where she revealed to a state police officer that her two male companions were planning on assassinating the president in Dallas. She also told this story to some of the medical providers caring for her. In addition, she stated that she had

worked in a Dallas nightclub owned by a man named Jack Ruby. Cheramie claimed to have been a drug courier for Ruby as well. After the assassination occurred, the state police officer immediately relayed all of this shocking information to the Dallas police. They were not interested! Cheramie was released. Nearly two years later, she would meet a violent death on a lonely stretch of road in Texas. There was no investigation; her death was noted as accidental.

At present, when our country is once again awash in high-level political chicanery and mendacity, when war and corporate adventurism overwhelm reasoned and rational discourse, it is appropriate that the still unsettling questions surrounding JFK's death get a fresh airing. Many of the essays in *The Assassinations* tap into the relatively recent work of the Assassinations Records Review Board (ARRB), a body that was formed after Stone's movie. In order to lift at least some of the veil

clouding the case, Congress passed the JFK Act in 1992. From 1994 to 1998, the ARRB succeeded in declassifying more than two million pages of documents. In its final 1998 report, the ARRB stated: "The Review Board is certainly aware that there are a great many unresolved issues relating to the assassination of President Kennedy that will be addressed in the years to come. The massive public collection of documents that awaits researchers will undoubtedly shed light not only on the assassination, but on its broader context as an episode in the Cold War."

The Assassinations is a collection of penetrating essays by a variety of dedicated researchers, scholars, and investigators. Most of these articles were written for *Probe*, a respected and now defunct journal that was published by Citizens for Truth about the Kennedy Assassination, formed after Stone's extraordinary 1992 film. The bulk of this hefty volume is dedicated to a study of issues pertaining to President Kennedy's murder. However, the book explores the equally troubling circumstances in the executions of three other prominent sixties leaders: Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert Kennedy. Former northwest resident and veteran peace activist James W. Douglass contributes two fine essays to the collection, one on MLK and another on Malcolm X.

Essays in the book explore the con-

voluting origins of the Warren Commission; the abysmal efforts by federal intelligence forces to sabotage the courageous investigation conducted in the late sixties by the intrepid New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison; the late seventies investigation conducted by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) and its refusal to confront the shadowy role of the CIA in JFK's death; the alarming failure of our so-called free press to dutifully and thoroughly assess nagging doubts about the homicide; and other relevant topics. All attempt to address disturbing questions that have remained either unsatisfactorily answered or ignored completely for decades.

A whole section of the book examines the enigma of Lee Harvey Oswald. Here there are two superb and positively eerie pieces by researcher John Armstrong on the question of Oswald's identity. In his search for answers, Armstrong has devoted inordinate amounts of time and energy to this matter. He has managed to locate individuals who knew Oswald as a boy, as a young man, who were his friends or fellow employees in different places and at different times. Armstrong argues that in too many instances there are conflicts of time and place, as if Oswald were somehow living in two far-apart places at once. And discrepancies abound in descriptions of Oswald's physical appearance and demeanor over time. Based on

his steadfast research and numerous interviews, Armstrong makes a persuasive argument that there were likely two people with similar names and features — who were unaware of each other — and who were groomed simultaneously, from an early age, by some obscure facet of the U.S. intelligence labyrinth. He posits that these two individuals actually shared the Oswald identity. One was an easterner, skilled in Russian; the other was a southerner with a regional accent and few intellectual pretensions. Although it is a very strange story, Armstrong constructs a convincing thesis. It certainly goes a long way in explaining the many contradictions that confound the mysterious character of Oswald. Armstrong writes: "Oswald was not created by the Mafia, the Cubans, the Russians, or the Dallas Police. He was a creation of the CIA, years before the assassination."

In the section entitled "The Failure of the Fourth Estate," both editors contribute analyses of the American media's collective failure to pursue the spoor of disquieting evidence in the JFK case. Lisa Pease cites Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Carl Bernstein of Watergate fame whose notable article for the October 1977 edition of *Rolling Stone* (entitled "The CIA and the Media") detailed multifarious instances of interplay and overlap between the U.S. news media and the network of government intelligence. Bernstein revealed the extent to which all major media in this country owed allegiance, to one degree or another, to the CIA. In



GRAPHIC BY TOM M.
DOUGLASS.

some situations this allegiance is paid for, in others it is given voluntarily. Legendary media moguls William Paley of CBS, Henry Luce of *Time*, and Arthur Sulzberger of the *New York Times* were, according to Bernstein, always willing to cooperate with the CIA.

Pease mentions James Jesus Angleton, one of the most bizarre characters to ever grace the tenebrous corridors of spookdom. The epitome of the paranoid, ruthless Cold War spy, Angleton, a notorious alcoholic, was the CIA's Counterintelligence Chief for a quarter century. His elite "Special Investigations Group" possessed a pre-assassination file on Lee Harvey Oswald. Angleton had to be literally pushed out of his odious job in December 1974 by then-head of the CIA William Colby. The next day some news people asked Angleton if the CIA, was "involved" in JFK's death. To this, Angleton gave the following coldly cryptic response: "There were many rooms in the mansion. I was not privy to who struck John." Carl Bernstein wrote that during Angleton's 25-year tenure at the CIA, he "ran a completely independent group of journalist-operatives who performed sensitive and fre-

quently dangerous assignments."

Another curious media-intelligence nexus is noted in the character of Robert Loomis, an editor at Random House. Loomis invited writer Gerald Posner to produce the sloppy apology for the Warren Commission entitled *Case Closed* (1994). History professor David Wrono described Posner's work "as one of the stellar instances of irresponsible publishing on the subject." Loomis was also responsible for the publication of James Phelan's *Scandals, Scams, and Scoundrels*, containing a disparaging commentary on Jim Garrison. Phelan, in addition to his role as a journalist, was also an FBI informant and a friend of Robert Mahue. Mahue, who for a period ran Howard Hughes's empire, was an ex-FBI man who worked with the CIA in their attempts to kill Fidel Castro. Robert Loomis's ex-wife Gloria Loomis had been a CIA employee for many years. She was James Jesus Angleton's secretary.

The Assassinations is a critical volume for all who would crave a fuller and more truthful understanding of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Hopefully, it will receive a broad and enthusiastic readership. ■

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Carl Bernstein detailed the interplay and overlap between U.S. news media and government intelligence. He revealed the extent to which all major media in this country owed allegiance, to one degree or another, to the CIA. In some situations this allegiance is paid for, in others it is given voluntarily.



Tuesday, October 21, 11:34 p.m. Harvard Avenue, Westminster Presbyterian Church. Church caretakers had informed officers that the north church grounds were being used by people to engage in drinking, narcotics, and sexual activity. Officers checking the area found the suspect, a transient White male, age 36, holding a syringe in his hand. He complied with officers' orders and put it down. Officers then noticed other heroin paraphernalia around, and the syringe field-tested positive for heroin. The man was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Wednesday, October 22, 9:40 p.m., Swedish Hospital. Officers were dispatched to Swedish to check on a patient who had told staff he was a Level Three sex offender. He had come in seeking mental health treatment and confessed that he was a sex offender. The transient White male, age 21 stated he did not have a permanent address because at the last place he lived they found out he was a sex offender and kicked him out. Officers attempted to contact his parole officer, but found he had no officer listed in the system. They did find two contact numbers that were answering machines and gave these to the suspect. The suspect stated he wanted to comply with the law, and register, but that he had no job or address. He also stated he had not offended for seven years, and had no desire to. He was checked for warrants, and found clear. He was free to

leave after treatment, and stated he was heading for a shelter.

Friday, October 24, 5:30 p.m., Pioneer Square Park. Subject, a transient Black female, age 43, was observed sitting on a bench in the park. Officers knew she was currently excluded from the parks for one year, and she was arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass. Officers observed another suspect, a transient Black female, age 31, in the park at Pioneer Square. They had prior knowledge that she was excluded, and she was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Saturday, October 25, 1:03 p.m., Second Avenue downtown. Police spotted the suspect, a transient Black male, age 30, on a Second Avenue sidewalk. They knew the suspect had warrants, and arrested him. He was booked into King County Jail.

Saturday, October 25, 2:21 a.m., Alaskan Way. Officers conducting a premise check of the 1900-2000 block under the Alaskan Way Viaduct found a man lounging against a support post of the viaduct, by a "No Trespassing" sign. The suspect, a transient White male, age 41, was placed under arrest for criminal trespass. During a search of his belongings, police found a box cutter and an unlabeled bottle of prescription pills. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass, unlawful possession of a weapon, and possession of drugs without a prescription. ■

Streetwatch is compiled from Seattle Police Department incident reports by Emma Quinn. Do you have your own story to tell? Call Real Change, (206)441-3247, and we'll get the scoop.

kbcscs
91.3fm
a world
of music
& ideas

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

Voices of Diversity 7:30 – 8 p.m. Mondays

Listener-Supported
Non-commercial Radio from
Bellevue Community College

Studio (425) 564-2424

Office (425) 564-2427

email: kbcscs@ctc.edu

Celebrating
30 years of
community
radio

www.kbcscs.fm

alternative news

Grasping onto Fairies

A guiding vision for political change from South Africa

By Molly Rhodes

For a play that sprung from memories of a 1960s childhood lived in Apartheid-drenched South Africa, Pamela Gien's *The Syringa Tree* is a remarkably non-political play. Of course, six-year-old Elizabeth is surrounded by politics, as it invades all her relationships, from her next-door neighbor to the Black servants who have helped raise her since she was born, all played with lyrical agility by Eva Kaminsky and Gin Hammond, who alternate in the one-woman show. Yet seen through Elizabeth's eyes we get only hints of the details of the monstrosity that pulses just beyond her family's gates; the word Apartheid is never uttered. When Elizabeth cries out that Black servants can't leave without their papers, she is imitating the worry she has seen from her parents, down to mimicking her mother pounding on her hand, although she herself does not yet comprehend the true depth of what makes her afraid.

We spend much of the play with Elizabeth in this state of suspension. Actress Gin Hammond, whom I saw perform, beautifully captures the amazing powers of children to soak up everything they see even as adults mince and hesitate around them. Although they are kind to the Blacks they employ, Gien does not force on Elizabeth's parents a political righteousness they did not have, nor does she imagine that these servants would have been living these fabulously sophisticated lives had Apartheid not consumed their country. Instead, even as Elizabeth throws all her affection towards the servants who help raise her, we can already see the limits of how far these relationships can go. We can see the damage that the country is doing to her, even if she cannot, as she struggles to grasp onto fairies above her bed, her only remaining comfort when so much else is crumbling around her.

The climactic breakthrough in the play, when the comforts are finally let go and the evil that had taken over the country is faced fully and devastatingly head on, comes, not from Elizabeth, but from a young Black South African Elizabeth had known as the small child of her own nanny. She stands in front of a phalanx of riot police, not afraid to die, or, perhaps more accurately, well aware that the life she has now is no better than death. As she defies the police to shoot her when she knows a bullet cannot take away what she has already inspired the surrounding crowd — and us — to feel, an electric bolt shoots through the middle of what had, up to then, been a very gentle, quiet play.

And I found myself wishing, in that moment, that there had been more bolts to shake us. Instead, Elizabeth, now rapidly growing older, leaves the



GIN HAMMOND IN *THE SYRINGA TREE* AT ACT. PHOTO BY CHRIS BENNION.

The Syringa Tree
By Pamela Gien
ACT Theatre
Through November 23
Tickets and info at
www.acttheatre.org
or by calling
(206) 292-7676

country, sick of what it is doing to its own people, and then, before we know it, her father is calling with the news that the whole mess is over. And I know rationally that Gien was simply following the thread of her own story — she did not stay on to become some tireless freedom fighter, and to impose this on her would have made the final moments of her return to South Africa less poignant. But I couldn't help but thinking that why I, as an American in 2003, was really so drawn to a play about South Africa from 40 years ago, was because I wanted to know. Not just about how horrible the world can be but how it can change, how we, like the young Black South-African girl, can change it. In the program, Gien writes quite clearly, "I had no answers. I was never a politically active person. I didn't understand how to change or fix it," and I know it is unfair of me to want her to make choices dramatically for a character who was only 40 years later just beginning to learn not to grasp after fairies.

But in that moment in front of the riot police, I was there, thinking, yes, this is the beginning, this is the first step. And I was waiting for the next step, because we all know South Africa was able to take it, that they found some way, however imperfect, to move on, to build something else surrounding the cadavers left behind by hate and destruction. I am still waiting to see this story on the stage. ■

Street Talk

Interviews by Kristina Mageau and Anne Barnes

We asked *Real Change* vendors and pedestrians on the streets of Seattle this question: "What are your hopes for the holidays?" Here are their responses.



able to get along together."

— Louise Eagle, 83, retired

"My hopes for the holidays is that we end the war in Iraq and that we have a regime change."

— Colleen Short, 46, executive assistant



"I hope for the troops — my uncle — to come home to see their families because it's been so long since they've been gone."

— Stephanie Christensen, 18, holiday decorator

"For everybody to be nice to each other. To smile and not be grouchy instead of treating us like we're invisible."

— Alie Duzes, vendor #8312



"I wish everyone would stop fighting, and I wish it would be a little less cold. I hope I can see my family in India."

— Mark Aranhen, 31, software programmer

"To have good health, my lady and I having a quiet meal together, sending out some Christmas cards, and calling my family."

— Henry James, 49, vendor #6575

"That we sleep Christmas Eve in the new YWCA [housing for homeless women, under construction on Third Avenue downtown]."



— Judith Wheeler, 54, vendor #8408



"I hope I reconcile with my family, whom I haven't seen for three years. With all that's going on in the world, I hope people come together in love during this uncertain time."

— Bonnie Campbell, 46, vendor #8608

"I hope I sell papers well during the holidays."

— Travis Atkinson, 48, vendor #7794



"My hopes are to work more and get a better job."

— Frank Sessoms, 56, Construction worker and Vietnam vet



"I'm hoping to get a full-time job. I'm a four-time felon, so I'm having a hard time. I also want to get married again and have some more kids. Family gives a man purpose, you know? Little kids to spoil."

— David Palmer, 41, vendor #8427



"To be able to send my child a present."

— Mark Hoge, 50, vendor #3557

Writers,
photo-
graphers,
illustrators
wanted.
Call Adam at
441-3247
ext. 207

OPPERMAN DESIGN

residential design | plans & permits
consultations | environmentally friendly

Vicky Opperman
2442 NW Market Street #171, Seattle, WA 98107
www.oppermandesign.com | oppermandesign@aol.com
t 206.789.7646 f 206.789.8061 c 206.650.7646

AIA nw ecobuilding guild BUILT GREEN GSBA

November

Notables

Thursday, 11/13

Stone Soup: the 9th annual WHEEL homeless women's forum. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Drury Hall, First United Methodist Church, 5th & Columbia, enter on Columbia St.; Please RSVP by phone, info WHEEL 206-956-0335 or wheel@anitra.net

Peace vigil to protest U.S. policy in Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, and Iraq with silent / visible presence, leaflets, and info table, by Women in Black, Women wear black; men welcome to stand at the sidelines or to leaflet; this and subsequent Thursdays, 5 - 6 p.m., at Westlake Park near 4th and Pine, Seattle; info seattlewomeninblack@speakeasy.net or 206-208-9715 or <http://www.scn.org/womeninblack>

The prominent economist and critic of globalization, Joseph Stiglitz, talks about his new book, *The Roaring 90s*, and how America's economic success in the '90s was due more to luck than to planning. 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Avenue at Seneca St. \$15 tickets at the door only, info 206-652-4255 or <http://www.townhallseattle.org/>

Friday, 11/14

The Northwest Film Forum and *The Stranger* present a program during their Sex, Guns & Batman weekend: **Know Your Enemy: Twisted classics of American war propaganda.** These films, from WWII up through the Cold War, were made for both soldiers and civilians. 7 pm, at the Little Theatre, 608 19th Avenue East at E. Mercer; also Sunday, 11/16 at 7 p.m.; info 206-675-2055 or <http://www.nwfilmforum.org>

Freedom Rising: A free concert to break down the criminal justice system, sponsored by the Seattle Young People's Project. 7 p.m. - midnight, at Swansea Cafe 517 E. Pike St; info Charhys Bailey sypp@drizzle.com or Chris Charles 206-860-9606 ext. 3

Saturday, 11/15

CASA Latina Annual Auction, come celebrate Latin American art and cultures. Red Lion Hotel in Seattle; Info or tickets Palmira Figueroa, palmira@casa-latina.org or 206-956-0779 x18

City Councilmember Nick Licata will read from his newly published children's book, *Princess Bianca and the Vandals*. 11 a.m., at the Elliott Bay Bookstore, 1st Ave S & S Main; info <http://www.princessbianca.org> or nicholasjlicata@aol.com

Affirmative Action Community Forum: Breaking Myths, Moving Forward, with keynote speaker Tim J. Wise, from the Fisk University Race Relations Institute; 1 - 4:30 p.m., at University of Washington Kane Hall, Room 210; info Joy shigaki@juno.com or 206-622-4098

Seattle Peace Chorus **Cuba concert**, featuring music the chorus is taking to the 7th International Choral Festival in Santiago de Cuba. 7:30 p.m., at University Temple United Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd; tickets \$10 - \$12, 206-264-5532.

National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, Nov. 16 - 22; info Michael Stoops 202-737-6444 ext. 19 or mstoops@nationalhomeless.org or <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/awareness.html>

Tuesday, 11/18

First of two **all-city forums on the Monorail**. 5:30 - 9 p.m. — second forum Wednesday, Nov. 19 at same time — at Seahawks Stadium Club Restaurant, 800 Occidental Ave. S. Childcare will be provided. Meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Free parking available in the Seahawks Exhibition Center Garage. Info <http://www.elevated.org> or 206-382-1220

John Newhouse, a senior fellow at the Center for Defense Information, will talk about his book, *Imperial America: The Bush Assault on the World Order*, register at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 Eighth Avenue at Seneca Street; info <http://www.cdi.org>.

Thursday, 11/20

46th Legislative District Democrats will have a **presidential '04 candidates forum**. 7:30 p.m., at Olympic View Church, NE 95th and 5th Ave NE.

Saturday, 11/22

ESL volunteer fair: get connected to the local immigrant and refugee communities while helping adults learn English. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Seattle Central Community College Atrium; info Courtney 206-782-2050 or ESLcoalition@myway.com

Join the Race to the Bottom. Show the world that Seattle cares about the positive alternatives to corporate globalization. 11 a.m. in Occidental Park in Pioneer Square. Registration for the run begins at 10 a.m.

Sunday, 11/23

Meet the Progressive Party at their first event. Refreshments, prizes, entertainment, and a speaker from the Neighborhood Coalition. 7 - 9 p.m., American Legion 3618 SW Alaska St., \$10 suggested donation. ■

Help Support Real Change by sponsoring the

Ramadan Fast-a-Thon

During the Islamic month of Ramadan, Muslims fast during the daylight hours as an act of submission, solidarity, and remembrance. One of the reasons for fasting is to call attention to those who go hungry every day. Hunger affects up to 24.7 million people in the United States alone.

On November 20th Highline Community College students and staff will go hungry for one day, so someone else won't have to.

For information or to become a sponsor contact the Muslim Student Association of Highline Community College at msa_highline@yahoo.com or Call Najma Jeylani at 206-824-6688.



UNIQUE imported eyewear

GREAT vintage glasses!



MODERATE prices!

206-634-3375

4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103

eye exams available

Buying or selling a home in Seattle?

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

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

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate Trust, Inc.

He's also a great real estate agent!

So call. 206-999-9969 DIRECT
425-455-9800x233 MESSAGE



Beauty & Strength

The More than Homeless
Women of Mary's Place

Order from Church of Mary Magdalene
By Mail: PO Box 359, Seattle, WA 98111
By e-mail: staff@churchofmarymagdalene.org
Available at Elliott Bay Book Company,
Bailey/Coy Books, and University Bookstore

2004 Wall Calendar
\$10 Postpaid

More pictures on our website:
www.churchofmarymagdalene.org

Two-for-One
Lunch Coupon

Taste our Recipe for Success by enjoying
lunch in the FareStart Restaurant.

FARESTART

Job Training and Placement
in the Food Services Industry

Our students can't succeed without you.

Present this ad and receive two meals for the price of one.
(free meal of equal or lesser value)

1802 Second Ave. Seattle, WA 98101 between Stewart & Virginia St's
View our menu at www.farestart.org
ph: (206) 443-1233

citizens participation project



Fund Seattle Health and Human Services

Issue: Funding for vital health and human services programs is in jeopardy of being excluded from the 2004 Seattle City budget.

Background: The Seattle City Council, having received the Mayor's 2004 city budget proposal September 29, is moving through the final stages of deliberations concerning the 2004 budget. Confronted with revenue scarcity, a \$234 million dollar deficit, and an economic recession, they're scrambling for creative ways to construct a balanced budget. Unfortunately, some of the creative solutions to the budget quandary, included in the mayor's 2004 budget proposal, would result in a number of indispensable health and human services programs losing funding.

The Seattle Human Services Coalition has identified \$1.5 million dollars in proposed cuts that must be added back to the final budget in order to maintain programs that address the most immediate needs of some of our most vulnerable neighbors: people who are poor and homeless, children, immigrants, survivors of domestic violence, disabled people. For just one example, Community Health Clinics stand to be especially hard-hit, losing \$700,000, or 15 percent of their funding. This follows a recent study done by the city which forecasted a 35 percent increase in demand for services at such clinics. The Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless is also working to restore funding for the Homeless Opportunities Training program, a small city program that offers training to help service providers meet the needs of those they serve, and for assisting the Capitol Hill community to maintain the sole case manager available to help street youth find jobs and safe housing. These equal less than \$45,000 combined (less than the salary of one city planner).

Given our national and regional economic hard times, it is unsurprising that there is more need for these taxpayer-funded services. What is surprising is that our leaders would even consider a decrease in funding for programs that meet such basic needs.

While people are going hungry, without shelter, and without medical care, it is misguided for the city to be ceding generous sums to "Pothole Ranger" and "Roving Tow Truck" programs, and fixing sidewalks. One and a half million dollars has been allotted to cleaning up algae in Green Lake alone. City employees are scheduled to receive cost of living adjustments this year, like every year. If the highest paid city employees (over \$75,000 per year) went without raises this year, that alone would be enough to restore cuts to some important programs. It's hard not to be astounded by high-income city staff receiving raises while we watch clinics that serve the working poor — people whose jobs don't even offer insurance — receive cuts.

In times of economic crisis, when more and more people are out of work and losing health insurance, it is of primary importance that we at least maintain the health and human services available. Which don't even begin to meet the need.

Each cut to health and human services means more pain to people already struggling. The municipal budget should reflect the priorities and values of a community. In Mayor Nickels' budget proposal speech, he talked about "the values that all of us share." Now is the time to contact your councilmembers and share your values with them. The final council budget vote is November 24.

Action: Contact councilmembers and let them know that decreasing funding for health and human services is unacceptable. Ask them to restore the \$1.5 million identified by the Seattle Human Services Coalition, the Homeless Opportunities Training Program, and to help Capitol Hill meet the needs of homeless youth by allocating funding for their case manager. Time is short — your voice counts now.

Jan.Drago@seattle.gov / 684-8801

Richard.McIver@seattle.gov / 684-8800

Jim.Compton@seattle.gov / 684-8802

Nick.Licata@seattle.gov / 684-8803

Peter.Steinbrueck@seattle.gov / 684-8804

Richard.Conlin@seattle.gov / 684-8805

Judy.Nicastro@seattle.gov / 684-8806

Margaret.Pageler@seattle.gov / 684-8807

Heidi.Wills@seattle.gov / 684-8808

You can also send a message to the full Council at budget@seattle.gov. For more information visit our website (www.realchangenews.org) and click First things First. ■

The CoHo Team

Of Windermere Agents



Donating 33%

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

www.cohorealty.com

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

The website at the end
of Western Civilization

classicscorner.org



You can't beat a woman



...especially when she can block and counter a punch! Training in karate develops your commitment to self-defense and confidence in your ability to respond to an attack, be it verbal or physical. Come train with FKU - and discover your strongest self!

...Seattle's non-profit 501(c)3 community resource for martial arts education and self-defense awareness since 1971.

call today! 206-325-3878

Check out our spiffy, new,
color vendor badges!



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

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

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

