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# Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty • Volume 10, No. 22



Inside: The Battle of Broadway • SLU's Biotech Fight • Free Trade's Race to the Bottom • Kicking Drugs and Coming Inside

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY STEFANO GAUDIANO, BASED ON 2000 PHOTO BY DAN CAPLAN.

## Those People

On Capitol Hill, much ado about a silenced minority

By Adam Holdorf

**Y**ou know what's being talked about in the meeting halls of Capitol Hill? In the corridors of City Hall, in the papers? Everyone is talking about Those People.

Those people are most frequently seen when the weather's warm: they become the stuff of fable among Capitol Hill residents. Those people lounge on the lawn of Bobby Morris Playfield, just off Pine Street. Those people leave behind needles and other drug paraphernalia. Those people puke, shit, shoot up, pimp, and have sex in unabashedly public places.

Broadway is Ground Zero for a high-toned debate over panhandling, prostitution, drunkenness, drugs, and defecation. And the conventional wisdom — promoted by those with (not coincidentally) access to home computers, phone lines, city directories, and jobs — is that it's awash in filth. Infested. Its sidewalks lined by scumbags.

Those people are the subject of debate, even though they are not the problem. Just a very visible, vulnerable symptom.

And even on a fall evening salted with hail, the junkies, beggars, losers, hookers, bums, drug dealers, failures, et cetera — all who fall under the appellation Those People — are still outside. Their needs are real. Despite the cold, they have stories to tell.

**"They are never going to get rid of it."**

**G**arrett Evans is standing in the fluorescent glow of a convenience store awning next door to the Post Office at the corner of Broadway and Denny — the two names that mark what has become the heroin epicenter of King County.

In the next year, Evans will turn 40 years old. A former construction worker who hurt his back on the job in 1998, he now does what he can to get by. He wouldn't say what that was. Is it dangerous? "For me, yes," he said.

As he does his work and lives with his two-gram-a-day heroin habit, Evans is hoarding Valium and Klonopin in preparation for a holiday visit to his parents' house nearby. He won't use heroin around his family, and the pills will help. But when the pills are gone and the holidays are over, there's nothing left but the same old streets.

Evans adamantly swears he doesn't want to be in such a jam. To get out of it, he needs access to treatment from regional agencies that are practically inaccessible to drug-dependent people who have no professional aid.

Even when an opportunity arrives, it often doesn't come through. Last year,

when one of Evans' lungs collapsed and he got help at Harborview, "I told them I was an IV drug user," he says. Hospital staff promised they would help him find treatment. They never came through.

What does such a man think of neighbors' concerns about the street's drug trade? "They are never going to get rid of it," he said.

Jeffrey Eaton, a wisecracking companion with a tattooed face who joked that the police "bring us donuts every morning," thinks that legalizing drugs would bring about a sea change in Broadway's street culture. If addicts paid just a fraction of the price dealers can command, there would be fewer panhandlers, car prowlers, or burglars.

"I understand these businesses' concerns," he says, gesturing toward the plate glass windows of the mini-mart. "Nobody wants to see a little kid playing around a rig, you know?"

But much of the neighbors' ire is raised by out-in-the-open drug abuse. What the neighborhood needs to do to solve the problem of "those people," people like him, is to provide a safe, controlled environment for injection drug users.

*Continued on Page 12*



*Look for the Mockingbird Times Inside!*







## From Oswald to Osama

Dear *Real Change*,

For many years the plain questions went unasked/unanswered about the Kennedy assassination ("Incredulous Americans: Why JFK won't go away," *RC*, November 13-25). Like how Oswald could have shot Kennedy in the forehead from behind. Today, the facts are finally coming to light. The truth always comes out; however, 40 years is too long to wait.

Today, we still grieve and seek answers about the 3,000 Americans assassinated on 9/11, and, strikingly similar to 1963, the answers aren't coming from our government. Maybe it's because some plain questions just aren't being asked.

Why is it that in two years since 9/

11, not one reporter has asked the current president directly to his face, "Mr. President, why did you OK the exodus of Osama bin Laden's entire family out of the United States within two weeks of the destruction of the Twin Towers without questioning then. Don't you believe that, if kept in the United States, many of them would have had information vital to the investigation?"

Simple question... plain talk. The president likes plain talk.

Then, I would ask a follow-up: "Has any Bush family oil business, or Halliburton, ever had dealings with the Bin Laden oil business?" It's been two years and two wars since 9/11, and still no one has asked him. Someone give me a press pass.

Sincerely,  
David Singelyn  
Warner Springs, CA

## Eyes burn, city officials fiddle

Dear *Real Change*,

I'm writing to thank you for printing Jess Grant's excellent op-ed, "Collateral Damage: Police tactics hurt First Amendment rights" in the September 18 - October 1 issue of *Real Change*.

You make excellent points about the disturbing assumptions behind Chief Gil Kerlikowske's comments [about non-violent protesters: "You shouldn't be standing next to someone with a gas

mask"] and the Seattle Police Department's use of chemical irritants in crowd-control settings, as well as the alarming inaction of our elected officials on this issue. The First Amendment is the crux of freedom in the country, without which our democracy ceases to function, and must be protected from the over-zealous actions of law enforcement officials.

I applaud your call to SPD to reform its policies for use of non-lethal chemical irritants in crowd-control settings. Despite urging from the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, SPD has yet to adopt a comprehensive crowd control policy similar to those of other police departments in metropolitan areas.

Hopefully, your article will inform and motivate citizens to put the necessary pressure on elected officials needed to stop the SPD's *de facto* policy of using tear gas and other non-lethal chemical irritants to silence dissent.

Thank you again for standing up and speaking out in defense of our freedoms.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Taylor  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Washington

## Making good

Homeless people have a hard life living outdoors. The homeless woman wants a roof over her head and a bed to sleep in, a job to look forward to, education for her children. She has stories to tell — some good, some sad — but don't pity her. Treat her with respect. She has a right to live in society as a human being and be looked upon as such.

Now to homeless people wherever you are: beat the odds somehow; don't be afraid to try. Knock depression in the face and step on Can't. And always be alert for a chance to make good.

Sincerely,  
Estella Wallace  
Seattle, WA

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# Change

Puget Sound's Voice of the  
Poor and Homeless

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

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

On the Web at  
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Email [rchange@speakeasy.org](mailto:rchange@speakeasy.org)  
ISSN 1085-729X

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### Mission Statement:

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

### Goals

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

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

### Editorial Policy

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



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# Imagine a Seattle Without a *Real Change*

## Our readers can make the difference

By Timothy Harris

Consider a Seattle without *Real Change*. What would you lose? For starters, there would be one less scrappy alternative news source. You'd have to rely more for news on papers like *The Seattle Times*. There would be less coverage of the issues you care about, and little depth in most of that. Voices of poor people themselves would be lost.

Homeless and other desperate people would have one less option for immediate work. You'd see a lot more panhandling and a lot less dignity. Local politicians would have one less reason to care. They'd hear less from those of us who think we need to put people first. The powerless would lose.

The very poor and everyone else would pass each other more often in the street without so much as a nod. There would be more embarrassed avoidance, less humanity, more shame. We'd all be a bit more alone.

These are challenging economic times for many of us, and *Real Change* is no exception. While circulation is at an all time high, we've had to make deep cuts to keep the doors open. We've laid off staff, reduced expenses, and ended programs. We are now focused entirely on our core mission: providing opportunity and a voice to the poor, taking action to end poverty and homelessness.

That's probably a good thing.

We have a very exciting plan for the next three years, but we can't do it without you. We need your help to end the year firmly in the black. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in grassroots support in the final months of 2003. In December, we'll sell about 50,000 copies of *Real Change*. If everyone sent in a dollar, we'd be there.

But that's not going to happen. Most people, if they've even read this far, will turn the page and hope someone else will respond.

We need you to not be "most people."

Since we announced our fund drive in the beginning of October, we have received more than \$20,000 in support. We need your help to raise the rest. Most people buy this paper to support their favorite vendor and don't take that next step of making a donation.

We're asking you, our valued reader, to join our family of financial supporters with a donation that works for you. Maybe that's \$10. Maybe it's \$100. Maybe it's \$1,000. The important thing is that you make whatever commitment you can to a healthy future for grassroots media and activism in Seattle.

We have just completed a three-year plan to strengthen our alternative media voice, build a more effective movement for social change, offer a hand up to those too often left out, and ensure our own sustainability. While you can download the full strategic plan from [realchangenews.org](http://realchangenews.org), here are some highlights:

- *Real Change* will go weekly in 2005. We will report on a broader range of progressive struggles and communities while remaining grounded as a voice of the poor.
- *Real Change* will offer more support for vendors to succeed and be heard. Our homeless writers group will offer more opportunities for community and expression.
- *Real Change* reaches tens of thousands of people who want a better world. Our newspaper and our activism will be more strategic. We will work hard to build a more effective activist communications strategy.
- *Real Change* is laying the foundation for long-term sustainability by increasing income from newspaper and ad sales and broadening our donor base. Our work is too important to leave our funding to chance.

There have been many recent successes. Circulation, due partly to an amazing *pro bono* public awareness campaign, is up more than 10 percent over last year. We have led a coalition this year to register and mobilize low-income voters. We partnered with the Seattle Public Library to empower homeless writers. Despite cutbacks in staffing and diminished foundation funding, we have had a very good year.

Every issue of *Real Change* through the end of 2003 will have the "No Free Parking" ad you see to the right. Help us move the meter toward that \$50,000 we need to end the year strong. You know this is important. We're counting on you to take whatever action you can.

Thank you for reading. And thank you for your support. ■

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## No one gets Free parking.



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

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

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

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

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## Hate talk

Puget Sound's newest talk radio station inflamed the patriotism of its right-wing listeners before a November 15 rally outside Fort Lewis. But they may have gone too far.

Radio host Mike Siegel of KTTH 770 AM ("You deserve the truth") urged listeners to call the toll-free number of the GI Rights Hotline three days before the anti-war demonstration. Local volunteers from the hotline had planned to attend the rally. KTTH's listeners called, jammed up the 800 line, and succeeded in cutting off legitimate callers wanting to know how to get out of military service.

The calls were "threatening, abusive, and profane," says Michael Dedrick, a construction contractor and local volunteer with the Seattle Draft and Military Counseling Center. He takes turns with two other volunteers to field hotline calls from all Washington area codes. Dedrick went through and deleted the crank messages. But when he heard comments like "you people should be lined up and shot," he stopped and phoned the Seattle Police Department.

"The tactic is obnoxious," says Dedrick. "There's nothing particularly upsetting about it. But it's one thing to be abusive, and it's quite another to threaten people with violence."

Dedrick will allow detectives to have access codes to the hotline, and they can trace the messages. He doesn't fear for his immediate safety. "I wanted to make it a matter of public record in case it ever came to anything," he says. And he'd like the managers of KTTH to know what their show spawned. "I don't know if they know how crazy these people are." ■

— Adam Holdorf

## YWCA Opportunity Place

The YWCA of Seattle and King County is opening 150 new apartments this month, a significant new inroad into meeting homeless women's shelter needs.

They open at Opportunity Place, a brick Belton apartment building that will offer permanent housing, emergency shelter, employment counseling, a computer lab, and other services for thousands of homeless women every year. Men may also use the employment services.



KING 5 HOST JEAN ENERSEN: "WE CAN SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES." PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

The people who put Opportunity Place together "said that we can say no to homelessness, we can say no to poverty, no to violence against women and their families," said KING 5 news host and YWCA co-chair Jean Enersen during an opening ceremony November 20. Individuals donated more than \$14 million for the capital campaign; government agencies and corporate donations made up the rest of the \$42 million construction budget. And other companies donated

furniture, appliances, and wall art for each apartment.

The 45 one-bedroom and 100 studio apartments will rent for one-third of a woman's income. The federal government's Section 8 program has issued vouchers to cover the gap between what women can afford and what the landlord could charge. On the open market, each studio would rent for more than \$700.

One significant barrier to indigent women accessing the program is a \$600 cleaning deposit required upon move-in. Women who have been homeless for months or years are not going to be able to pay that. But YWCA housing coordinator Leslie Leber says the YWCA staff are working to decrease it. Thirty-five of the new residents will get a matching grant from local non-profit Mutual Interest. Leber says staff will search out other grants from agencies that help homeless people with move-in costs. "We don't want to turn anyone away because of [inability to pay]," she says. ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Memorial

Since acts of creation enrich our lives, Tabor Sabin's short time with us was bountiful by anyone's standards. He passed away November 13, a month before his 23rd birthday. I knew Tabor as an enthusiastic, kind, softspoken young artist who did charcoal illustrations (like the own shown here, for a May 2002 essay on a day center for homeless women) for *Real Change* in 2002. He also wrote poetry and spun music at local clubs. A friend of his from the Massachusetts College of Art wrote of Tabor, "His studio was like a war zone: wet oil paint everywhere with tons of drawings all over the floor."



Tabor's mother, Shelley Meyring, said that when the cancer that consumed his left eye became inoperable, he chose to focus on what he could do with the time he had left. He took classes in figure drawing at the Seattle Academy of Fine Art and Shoreline Community College. "He had so many images in his head," she says, "he needed to express them creatively. I think he wanted to put it all down on paper somehow."

Tabor's family requested that memorial donations be made in his name to *Real Change* and to the Hawthorne Youth and Community Center, in Roxbury, Massachusetts, where he helped direct a children's art program. ■



ONE OF TABOR SABIN'S MANY CREATIONS FOR *REAL CHANGE*.

— Adam Holdorf

## Dinged for a ring

Welfare recipients who go to the grocery store without first checking their account balances on their state-issued debit cards can find a pay phone, call a toll-free number, and find out how much money they have for food. Until January. Then, they'll get a simple answer to their query: "This call can not be completed as dialed." Why? Call it a combination of profit-seeking phone companies and cash-strapped state agencies.

The state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) dispenses "Washington Quest" debit cards to hundreds of thousands of low-income people, and provides a toll-free 800 number for cardholders to check their balance. Pay phone operator MCI wants to increase calling fees imposed on DSHS from 26 cents to 43 cents per call.

The company cites a 2000 Federal Communications Rule that allowed pay phone operators to set "pass-through" rates on toll-free charges, in order to pay for wear and tear on public phones. DSHS is fighting the rate increase in court. But officials say that even if they succeed in holding down the per-call fee, they'll still cut their clients' phone cord. The state now pays MCI approximately \$12,500 per month for an average of 48,000 inquiries from clients. That's too much, by its estimates.

A DSHS spokesperson says clients will still be able to access the 800 numbers from private phones, or go into the local welfare office to use a phone, Monday through Friday, during normal business hours. They can also go to grocery stores' swipe machines, or to an ATM machine, to see how much money or Food Stamps they have. ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Run for a cause

On Nov. 22, hundreds of people came together to fight the unjust Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by participating in Seattle's Race to the Bottom, a 5K "Fun Run" and march led by the Community Alliance for Global Justice (CAGJ).

The morning began in Occidental Park in Pioneer Square with a send-off rally where speakers from local labor unions, immigrant and social justice groups, and the Seattle School board spoke about the different issues that are connected locally to this uneven trade policy.

Since the North American Free Trade Agreement was implemented in 1994, Washington State has lost over 40,000 jobs, because corporations have been racing to wherever in the world the lowest labor costs, workers rights, and environmental standards are located. People in other countries are being hit hard as well. Real wages have declined in Mexico 30 percent and an additional 11 million people have fallen into poverty.

There were many participants in costumes and tons more carrying picket signs, banners, and flags. After the rally, runners set out for the "Fun Run" along Myrtle Edwards Park, as others took to the streets for the march to the Federal Building, where federal employees protested the Bush plan to privatize 80,000 federal jobs.

Protesters then continued down through Pike Place Market, a haven for farmers and small businesses that do not have any place whatsoever in the corporate world of FTAA negotiations.

"Viable fair trade alternatives do exist," said Jeremy Simer of CAGJ. "We need to build strong, sustainable economies at the local and regional level. That's what's going to create prosperity over the long haul." ■

— Toni Sutton

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



# Hero of the Homeless

By R.V. Murphy

When Operation Nightwatch decided to pick its 2003 Hero of the Homeless, executive director Rick Reynolds said the board opted to select "somebody down in the trenches."

Deacon Joe Curtis, minister to the homeless at Saint James Cathedral on Capitol Hill, has been in the trenches since 1982. After breaking a hip two years ago, the 77-year old Curtis doesn't walk the streets as much as he used to, but other than that he's a tireless worker for the Operation Nightwatch program.

"He doesn't like loose ends," says Reynolds. "The first and third week of every month he sends out a newsletter letting all of the Nightwatch volunteers know what they're going to do. Teams of people prepare sandwiches for the homeless twice a month, others go with Joe when he visits the Saint Martin de Porres Men's Shelter. Another team prays for the city and the work at Nightwatch, while others from the Cathedral assist in serving a meal at the Nightwatch Dispatch Center."

Curtis was recently presented a plaque and a red Superman's cape at a luncheon held at the Plymouth Congregational Church. The award is the brainchild of local philanthropist Ken Alhadeff, and the luncheon serves as Operation Nightwatch's only fundraiser of the year. Previous winners are King County Executive Ron Sims (2000); Dick & Ina Lou Spady (2001) of Dick's Drive Ins; and Seattle City Council President Peter Steinbrueck (2002).

"Shortly after becoming a deacon, Sister Bernie Ternes invited me to walk the streets with her," says Curtis. The first night Curtis walked the streets, he left Nightwatch, then located downtown on First Avenue, and immediately ran into a woman holding two small babies. All three were crying. The women had just left an abusive husband

in Bellevue and was looking for a place to stay. Nightwatch found a place for the woman, but perhaps most impressively, Curtis, without any money in his pocket, was able to get a cashier at a nearby store to give him food for the mother and the children and diapers to boot.

"I soon discovered an important aspect of street ministry was going into bar rooms," Curtis told those in attendance at last week's luncheon. "Not the nice upscale bars that you have in hotels. These were bars that attracted people who weren't spending a lot of money or looking to have a good time. They came from small one-room apartments and were just looking for contact with other people."

"He has a deep affection for people," says Nightwatch board member Gary Lazzeroni. "Joe cares about helping people and being there for people. He's unassuming. But he notices people and knows a lot of people by name. I was a parishoner at St. James, and he inspired me to get involved with homelessness. It was very affirming."

Along with being the night minister for Nightwatch, Curtis is also co-founder of the Matt Talbot Center, a day program for recovery from chemical dependencies, and serves as clothing room worker at the Lazarus Day Center, a day program for poor and homeless senior adults.

It was approximately two years ago that Curtis fell in front of the building that Nightwatch owns on 14th and Main. "I slipped on a muddy patch of wet grass and banged my head against the side of the building. That was my biggest concern at first. I didn't realize that my hip had been broken. A large homeless man who had been waiting in line to get into Nightwatch picked me up and cradled me like a baby and held me until the ambulance came. He said he used to be an ambulance driver and



DEACON JOE CURTIS, LEFT, MINISTER TO THE HOMELESS AT CAPITOL HILL'S SAINT JAMES CATHEDRAL, RECEIVES HIS AWARD FROM OPERATION NIGHTWATCH DIRECTOR RICK REYNOLDS. PHOTO BY REIKO ISOBE.

these people know what they're doing. I wish I knew who he was. I never saw him again. But that was a time someone was there for me."

Operation Nightwatch was founded in 1967. Reverend Bud Palmberg, a Mercer Island preacher, came to Seattle looking for the runaway son of one of his parishioners. Shocked by what he saw, Palmberg kept coming back and eventually formed a group of ministers to walk the streets. At the time, Nightwatch was mostly a street outreach ministry program.

Nightwatch soon took on the responsibility of serving as a dispatch center for approximately eight homeless shelters. The building they purchased on 14th and Main five years ago opens every day of the year at nine p.m. Clients who have received tickets from various shelters downtown throughout

the day are then assigned to various shelters for the night. However, no one leaves Nightwatch without getting a meal, and those who don't get shelter are often given a blanket. The program serves about 125 people a night. Nightwatch also has a voucher program providing long-term shelter for families. Currently about 24 senior and disabled citizens live on the second floor of the Nightwatch building. About five years ago, Dick Patterson of Nightwatch approached Alhadeff about fundraising opportunities for the organization, which led to the Hero of the Homeless concept.

When asked about the state of homelessness in Seattle today, Curtis is typically optimistic. "There are a lot more homeless people (than the early '80s), but there are many more shelters too." ■

## You Can Give the Gift of Shelter and Safety

**NOEL HOUSE PROGRAMS** is the largest provider of women-only emergency shelter services in Seattle, serving over 200 women each night.



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# poetry

## No Regrets

I listen to Leonard  
imitate the cartoon  
Tarzan heroics  
drinking and typing  
whores and poets should love  
what they're doing  
I knew a woman  
who was once a bartender  
we fucked because her boyfriend  
didn't appreciate her  
I felt bad for the both of them  
today in the welfare office  
she gave me advice  
diametrically aerobicizing is fun  
but single isn't just one  
word  
I tried to tell her the whole story  
but she left  
me and I sat with my poetry manuscript  
needed to proof it for my editor  
not crying for the mistakes I made  
being a fat drunk  
poet  
no, human beings are  
real, yes  
they live and breathe.

— EARLE THOMPSON

## [untitled]

he'd just leave me standing  
should i cross the vibrating  
rails?  
is my life worth the risk?  
is my heart a critical furnace?  
blue fire burning handcuffed  
details?

— CAROL KOSCHE

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



I'm in for it this time: I let myself get talked into making this column about the death penalty and Ridgway's sentence deal. Look out, everybody, we're in for a laugh riot now!

This situation came about because our beloved "editor," Adam "Designated Cat-Herder" Holdorf, wrote an op-ed piece last issue ("Beyond Retribution," Nov. 13) on the same subject. That article contained elements which various of us other "editors" on the "Editorial Committee" thought were, well, let's just say we thought Adam was experimenting with unusual pesto recipes when he wrote it, if you get my drift.

Now we all know that anybody who reads Adventures in Poetry for fact-based analyses of deep contemporary issues would eat cardboard for the vitamins. We hate facts here the most. We hate detailed analyses the second most.

Growing up I had many traumatic experiences involving facts and analyses. I was repeatedly forced to compare and contrast things. It was torture. This one may have scarred me for life: "Compare and contrast the maple producing industry of the Northeastern United States to the production of papyrus in Egypt circa 1000 B.C., indicating the social effect either has had. Be as specific as possible and incorporate at least one pie chart."

Because of that psychological scarring I now constantly make fun of facts and analyses. A day isn't complete unless I have found a fact to mercilessly tease and poke for my sick amusement. While I avoid targeting innocent people who might get in the way, I sometimes will inadvertently slip and tease a human who just happens to be standing next to an intelligent critique. I deeply regret these incidents. I want to especially apologize for the "pus-filled wonk" comment some time ago. It was horribly, horribly wrong.

So I am naturally very reluctant to comment on Adam's op-ed. But I must. Adam's piece was an intelligent critique if I ever saw one. It had a lot of good parts to it. Therefore, I need to pick at it. It is my twisted purpose in life, thanks to my twisted nurturing.

One of the very good parts of it is the part where Adam says that capital punishment is in no way a deterrent to murder. As strong as that statement looks, it isn't strong enough. There is strong evidence that capital punishment

**I now constantly make fun of facts and analyses. A day isn't complete unless I have found a fact to mercilessly tease and poke for my sick amusement.**

actually increases murder and other kinds of violent crime. There are other factors affecting the murder rate, such as economic and social and cultural conditions, that can mask these increases, but really the evidence is getting so massive that continued denial of it is beginning to look seriously stupid.

I mean if you're standing on railroad tracks and you hear a whistle blowing, you get off the tracks. You don't stand there and insist that it might not be a train.

It's a matter of survival. The evidence strongly supports the view that a brutalization effect is

at work that is stronger than any deterrent effect. So to persist in supporting capital punishment is ASKING for more murders.

Yet it is now being suggested that this deal with Ridgway to trade his death penalty for confessions provides a new justification for the death penalty. In Adam Holdorf's words, "It indicates that, however cruel and arbitrary the death penalty may be, its existence functions as a tool to coax confession."

No! We can't be mandating the death penalty as a tool to engineer good grief-management outcomes. "Coax confession?" The word is "extract" and we don't need to go there. We don't do torture. This is morally equivalent and subject to the same uncertainties. Torture does not guarantee truth.

What we need is to take the step to humanize society by doing away with the death penalty once and for all. ■





**Tuesday, October 7, 12:09 a.m., 1500 block Airport Way S.** Officers searching under I-5 for a murder suspect came across a transient Black male aged 38. They identified themselves as SPD, but he ran off westbound. He jumped 15 to 20 feet onto I-5, ran across the northbound lanes and jumped 30 feet down to the area between the north and south lanes, with spirited motivation and without hesitation. He was recovered from a bramble bush without incident, and was booked into King County Jail for obstruction and trespassing.

**Wednesday, October 5, 8:03 p.m., Blanchard St.** Officers driving through the King County Health Department parking lot observed the suspect, a transient White female aged 31, trespassing on the lot and looking through county vehicles. They contacted her, and she said she was looking for somewhere to camp. She was DOC (Department of Corrections) active, and her officer was contacted. He advised police to detain her for DOC violations. She was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

**Friday, October 7, 12:05 p.m., Pike Place Market.** Officers observed the suspect, a transient Native American male aged 44, on the second level of Pike Place Market. They were aware that he had been previously trespassed for one year, and they took him into custody. He was escorted to the Pike Place security office, identified and released.

**Friday, October 7, 2:12 p.m., Aurora Ave. N.**

A transient Black female aged 36 was walking northbound in the southbound traveling lane of Aurora from approximately Denny Way to south of the Aurora bridge. A resident of a nearby home called 911 and two drivers flagged down the responding officer to report the subject. She was attempting to stand in the way of the southbound drivers. Victim wore a shirt, shoes and pants, but no cold-weather clothing despite the freezing temperatures. She was confused, unable to answer simple questions, and could not explain her actions. An ambulance transported her to Harborview for a mental evaluation.

**Friday, October 7, 2:15 p.m., Dearborn St.**

Officers contacted the suspect on the east side of Judkins Park in possession of an open can of beer. An officer learned that the suspect, a transient Black male, had two active warrants out in King County. They were verified, and the suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

**Saturday, October 8, 1:31 p.m., Pike St.** A Risk Management Services employee advised officers that a transient Native American male was sleeping in an alcove on Pike Street, blocking an entrance. He said that the suspect had been previously trespassed from the location. The officers contacted the suspect and verified that he had been trespassed before. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail. ■

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

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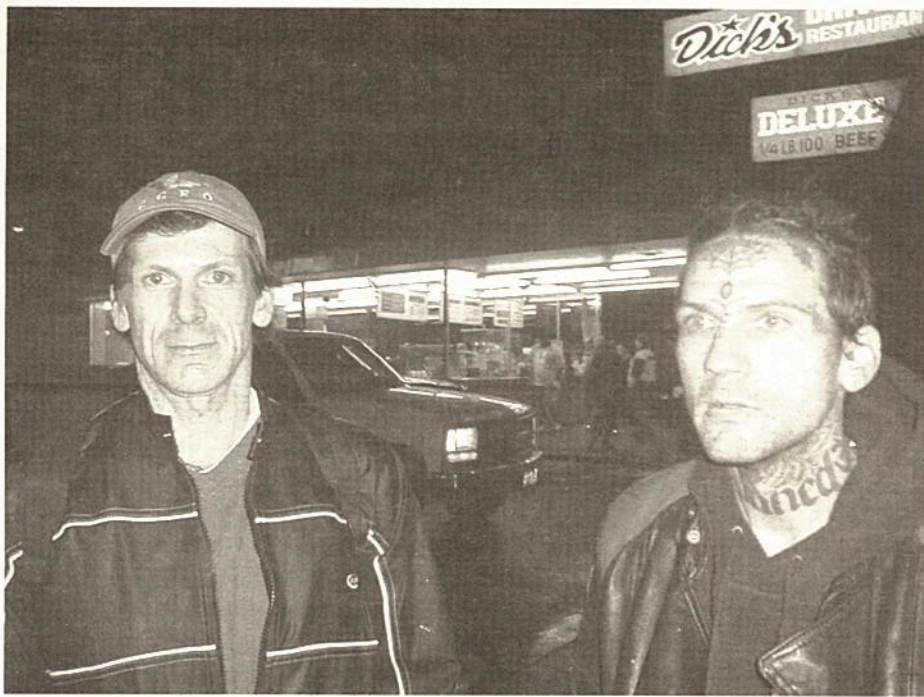
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GARRETT EVANS, LEFT, AND JEFFREY EATON BEMOAN THE LACK OF SAFE OPTIONS FOR DRUG ADDICTS ON CAPITOL HILL. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

## CAPITOL HILL Cont. from Page 1

### "Perceptions — true or not — have a real impact"

Brad Trenary had been cleaning feces off his front porch and picking needles out of his garden across from the Lincoln Park Reservoir for years, and saying "Well, this is just a part of urban life." This summer, something snapped. In June, while watering a flower bed, he saw two people cooking up a dose of heroin. He went inside and called 911; the dispatcher said police were too short-handed to respond.

Later that summer, he stood with a cop and watched two injection drug users dispose of their contraband by spraying it into their mouths. "The cop just turned to me and said, 'Well, nothing we can do now!'"

His neighbors took a dim outlook on the city's multimillion-dollar capping of the Lincoln Park Reservoir and its rebirth as Cal Anderson Park. After all, wouldn't those people just trash it?

"I thought: I don't want to leave. So I began to act." Walking the park and the playfield, cell phone in hand, calling 911 when he saw drug use or other illegal behavior, holding meetings with neighbors: soon the newly birthed Friends of Cal Anderson Park "became a political entity." The *Capitol Hill Times* did a news story on them. Then *The Seattle Times*.

Perceptions of the neighborhood "hitting bottom" were aired. Charles Hamilton, president of the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce, enumerated the loss of retail and residential tenants, the prevalent panhandling by homeless youth, the "perceived increase in crime," and "a decrease in upscale shopping and... diversity of retail outlets," and concluded that such perceptions — "whether true or not — have a real impact on the community."

Where's the evidence that Capitol Hill has hit bottom? In everyone's perceptions.

Trenary and fellow neighborhood activists are talking about two strategies to revitalize the area: make law

enforcement effective, and find a way to reduce panhandling.

The former is coming in January, in the form of a \$600,000 addition for "public safety" in the East Precinct. Neighborhood groups that lobbied the City Council for extra police forces had asked specifically for bike cops to patrol two different areas which are a leg-burning half-mile apart from each other. Exactly how to spend the money will be hashed out next year.

Reducing panhandling is a tougher issue: law enforcement can't do that. Despite the city's law against "aggressive panhandling," there are few, if any, violators. City problem-solver Jordan Royer says the police department conducted undercover anti-panhandling "stings" along Broadway a few years ago, and found no one in-your-face enough to bust.

Homeless advocate Randy Nelson floated the possibility of a Panhandlers' Union that would regulate the number of beggars on Broadway, but found it wildly infeasible. So business boosters may grasp at the devices that were installed this summer in the University District — even though the results are so far unimpressive. They may bring Giving Meters to Broadway.

The Giving Meters are five parking meters lining the Ave, painted forest green, a sign attached to each saying that the change inserted goes to a program putting homeless youth to work. They bring in a paltry \$10 per week. And there is no similar work-for-pay plan in place on Capitol Hill. No one has suggested that the Ave's meters have reduced panhandling, as Mayor Greg Nickels wished.

So why would businesses want these meters on Broadway? Just to keep up appearances. As one business owner said in a November 20 discussion of the meters, it's important to be *perceived* to be doing something. Even if it doesn't work.

What's not happening is finding adequate services for Capitol Hill's drug users, alcoholics, and homeless people. Nelson, whose city-funded job will be

## "...we've made it impossible for these people to be"

Interview by Trevor Griffey

Local efforts to do something about "street conditions" are part of a national phenomenon. Across the country, communities have responded to "quality of life" issues by criminalizing begging or putting public property off-limits. In *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space* (New York: Guilford, 2003), Syracuse University professor Don Mitchell says that a just society makes the public's space available to all.

**Real Change:** One of the phrases you have in your book is that "homelessness has become so prototypically the bellwether of urban justice." What did you mean by that?

**Don Mitchell:** Particularly in the U.S., but increasingly so in Japan and Europe and other developed places, one of the big changes that has gone on in the last 30 years has been the wiping out of the welfare state. And with that has been the rise of a permanent homeless population in almost every major city. The homeless become almost an indicator species of the degree to which we're beginning to abandon any kind of notion of inclusive social justice.

**RC:** You also suggest that the ways in which people have been raising issues of homelessness in public discourse are not fully adequate.

**Mitchell:** I think they're incredibly significant, but I also think they're paltry. It's hard to get excited about winning a right to beg. It's the status quo of a quite unjust system. That's only part of what needs to be done: a struggle for a right to housing, a fight to be a part of the city, a guaranteed minimum income, the right to organize. Trying to develop a political culture and ideology that takes rights — to livelihood and welfare — seriously enough so that they become more than the right to beg. On a practical level, how do we get there? Some of it is contesting what these laws are doing and what they mean ideologically, not just practically.

So, for example [in mid-June], one of the late-term decisions that the Supreme Court made that didn't get a lot of media play was a unanimous decision written by Scalia concerning a public housing complex in Richmond. In that housing complex, the city of Richmond deeded all the streets and sidewalks to the housing authority to redevelop the area. The housing authority put up signs saying that the streets and sidewalks are private property, that you could only be on that property with permission unless you had a legitimate social or business purpose. Anyone that they felt didn't have a legitimate social or business purpose could be detained, cited, and barred from the property forever.

My sense is that this is going to be a decision that is going to be picked up very quickly by cities around the country, and they're going to start deeding all kinds of property to redevelopment authorities, in essence privatizing it. And if you don't have a legitimate social or business purpose, you can be removed. That's the kind of discourse that might seem small that we have to pay attention to. What they're suggesting is that cities exist only for very, very narrow purposes, and only for a narrow cross section of the population.

**RC:** In the book, you described Seattle's civility laws as "the annihilation of people by law." You also use the word torture at one point, and even employ the phrase "genocidal zoning." What did you mean by all that?

**Mitchell:** First of all, I'm being polemical. There are vast differences between the genocide of the Jews during World War II and what I'm talking about. But there are some connections as well. To the degree that we're able to create cities that are structured by rules that exclude people who do not have homes, people who have to be on the streets and have to engage in particular activities that are necessary for living — eating, drinking, shitting, pissing — in public, to the degree that we make that impossible, and don't provide any other opportunities, we've made it impossible for these people to be.

We're potentially creating an urban landscape in which there is quite literally no room for some class of people. But the next step is that if you have no place to be, you simply can't be. We usually think of that as pushing them out. But to the degree that such laws can cover all spaces — they probably can't, but to the degree that they could — we're suggesting eliminating people.

The degree to which there is no safe haven, house, or anything for homeless people, that we as a society are responsible for those increased death rates. We are putting people basically in harm's way. And I think we're doing this unthinkingly, or uncaringly, but not entirely unknowingly. ■

Continued on Page 14



# Finding a Place



## A formerly homeless man plugs into the music business

DONTE, MIDDLE, AND HIS MUSIC PARTNER JOSH WILLIAMSON, LEFT, ARE CONSTANTLY USING THEIR MUSIC TO HELP OTHERS. ON DECEMBER 6, THE JOSH WILLIAMSON BAND WILL PLAY A BENEFIT CONCERT TO HELP LORRAINE (STANDING, RIGHT) AND KATE FOURNIER (IN THE BED) PAY FOR KATE'S MEDICAL BILLS AFTER SHE WAS HIT BY A DRUNK DRIVER. THE SHOW WILL BE FROM 9 P.M. - 1 A.M. AT THE OULD TRIANGLE, 9736 GREENWOOD AVE. DONATIONS FOR KATE CAN ALSO BE MADE AT ANY KEY BANK. PHOTO BY LANCE HAMMOND.

By Polly Keary

Donte looks extremely out of place at the Spotlight in Renton. The bar is full of young white kids playing pool as the World Series plays on television screens on every wall. A disco ball spins light over everything in the back room where the band, which he has booked into the club, is setting up. Donte, tall, dark-skinned with long black dreadlocks now touched with gray, stands out among the ball-capped, baggy-clothed crowd like a panther on a snow field. His presence seems as unlikely as the fact that this formerly homeless man now runs Kodon Productions, booking more than 70 bands into Seattle clubs.

The gentle, soft-spoken Virgin Islands native, who possesses just one name and doesn't know his own age because Rastafarians don't celebrate birthdays, can be surprisingly tenacious when it comes to looking after his bands. When recently a club asked one of his bands to start and end an hour later than planned, he lit upon a waitress. "Since they're being asked to play later than they'd planned, I think they should get dinner for free," he said.

"And two free drinks before they start." After a rustle of activity and a phone call or two, he prevailed.

His understanding of the needs of musicians comes from his many years in and around the business. A lifelong musician, Donte got his first set of drums when he was just five. His father, a professional jazz musician who played with such legends as John Coltrane and Miles Davis, got him started.

"I had 11 sisters, we did a singing group at talent shows," he says.

His father, unfortunately, also had a drug problem. "At his shows, I'd notice he'd sweat a lot, after the breaks he'd come back and play with a lot more intensity. I found out later what that was all about: cocaine and heroin."

Donte's music career had him touring up and down the West Coast before it stranded him in Seattle, where his band fell apart.

"When they split, I stayed, dabbled in drugs a bit, lived on the streets. I was in and out of jail for possession, getting high when I got out."

Although he was addicted, he still

managed to become an activist with Operation Homestead, a group of activists that formed in 1988 to occupy abandoned buildings to call attention to the need for low-income housing.

"We took over the Pacific Hotel and the Gatewood and Arion Court — they are now low-income housing. I was still homeless but I had a drive, a spiritual drive. I believe in direct action. We got arrested for criminal trespass, but the charges were dropped. I did speeches in front of City Hall, all while I was still addicted. I was involved in Tent City when it was on Aurora. There were always causes, I felt I had to at least do my part."

Jon Gould, a housing activist who was also part of the takeover (and is now president of the board of *Real Change*), remembers working with Donte during the takeovers. "Donte was very involved in the Pacific Hotel takeover and was a leader who contributed greatly to the self-management of the hotel when it was under occupation," he says.

Donte was also an annual volunteer with Bumbershoot and Hempfest, even-

tually becoming an assistant manager at Bumbershoot, a position he holds today.

In 1993, he was finally able to end his addiction to heroin.

"A friend in Duvall went to New York for two weeks. He gave me the key and access to his double-wide," he says. "Even when I got sick, kicking, I went outside thinking of going to go cop, but the nearest neighbor was a quarter mile away, the neighbors were all White, there was no bus, I knew there was no way I was getting into town. I went back in and went for it. I've been clean ever since. I was already ready here," he pointed to his head, "it was just the physical part I had to go through."

A series of low-paying jobs followed, including a stint at Taco Del Mar that ended on September 11, 2001.

"I got a call from back East telling me what happened, and I threw up my hands and quit." Wanting a more meaningful life, he began to look for bands to promote.

His first act was a teenage guitar player named Josh Williamson.

"He just showed up at a gig I had at the Rox Broiler in Kenmore," says Williamson. "He called me up later and said he was going to start booking the Old Pequiar (in Ballard) and he wanted to kick it off with some blues. We did that show in October of last year and it went over really well, so Donte started booking some other bands, and then he got Parker's Casino, the Ould Triangle (in Greenwood), he's been finding these little places to play and doing a lot of leg-work, putting up posters, walking into CD stores to get them to sell CDs — all the dirty work that no one wants to do."

In time, Donte found people to help, including Katie Fournier, 20, who donated her graphic design skills to make posters for his upcoming events. Recently, tragedy struck the little company that Kodon Productions has become. Katie was struck by a drunk driver and is now in the hospital, where she is struggling to regain skills as basic as tracking a moving object with her eyes. Donte has been to the hospital nearly every day and organized a benefit for her at the Old Pequiar, where they met.

"We're all a family," says Donte. "That's the concept behind Kodon Productions, it's more than a production company."

With only a few friends, a cell phone, and his vivid red, gold, and green business cards, Donte now books more than 70 bands, which is a source of considerable pride for him. A smile spreads over his fine-boned, elfin face.

"I've come from the streets to have a fully licensed business, and I'm able to maintain a living."

Although he charges bands very little for his services, he now has a small apartment in Ballard, keeps his expenses low, and gets by.

"My needs are small," he says. "It comes down to: what do you really need? I don't owe anybody money, I don't have a car."

Donte has, at long last, found his place, professionally and domestically. Even if he seems out of place at the Spotlight, he has a place there, too. ■

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# What will It take?

## Ending homelessness requires institutional reform of hospitals, jails, shelters

By Rachael Myers

**O**n November 12, the Interfaith Taskforce on Homelessness sponsored its third annual conference: "Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness: Beyond the Revolving Door." Like last year, *Real Change* co-sponsored the event. The day brought together a small number of homeless people with more than 200 people from congregations, social services, health care, criminal justice, and the mental health system.

Getting people together to talk about ending homelessness is almost always a good thing, especially with people who aren't the usual advocates. After all, to create political will, we have to create public will. But getting well-meaning people together isn't enough to solve complex problems. The good work that started at the conference is still to come.

Participants spent the day talking about what works to move people out of homelessness. But they also talked about the ways the systems that touch the lives of homeless people don't always work. People cycle through jails, hospitals, and shelters and receive services that cost the public enormous amounts of money — yet don't fulfill human needs.

The King County jail releases people downtown, in the middle of the night. Hospitals send sick people to shelters that aren't prepared to meet their needs, or admit them for expensive inpatient care because they don't have better options. People with mental illness and addictions walk out of various institutions and return to the streets all the time.

Addressing the ways that mainstream systems contribute to homelessness is gathering momentum nationally. One major study found that providing housing and supportive services saves enough in hospitals, jails, and shelters that *it costs almost as*

*much to leave someone homeless as it does to provide housing and services.*

With almost 8,000 homeless people in King County, there's potential for significant local savings. Jail costs \$64 a day in King County. Emergency care at Harborview costs \$400 per admission. Inpatient costs there are \$1,000 each day, at a minimum. Plymouth Housing Group can, on average, provide housing plus supportive services for just \$18.53 a day.

Conference organizers weren't the first to figure this out. Advocates have been talking about the cost-effectiveness of services for years. Locally, some steps are being taken to close the revolving door. King County's Criminal Justice Initiative is taking steps to ensure that people have at least some of the services they need to avoid homelessness before being released. The foster care system is paying more attention to planning for independence. The Downtown Emergency Service Center plans to offer housing for chronic street alcoholics, because they

know that housing people will prevent bigger financial and human impact later on. But the system is far from fixed.

In preparing for the conference, organizers conducted focus groups with homeless men, women, and youth and heard the stories that illustrate why this matters. A woman was told to keep her infected leg elevated, and then released from the hospital to the streets. A homeless youth stayed in detention long past her release date because her case manager couldn't find housing. A homeless man was discharged in a hospital gown because his clothes were infested with body lice. Homeless people and service providers alike also said that social services aren't exempt from needing to examine their policies. The systems we set up to help those most in need, sometimes don't.

We don't know what will come next from all of this, but we're hopeful that the day helped provide some impetus for decision makers to think a little differently. The grassroots concern that we

usually channel into calls for more shelter — or at least no cuts — needs to include a call for a change in priorities. There are models that work and possibilities to consider. San Francisco's Department of Public Health contracts for housing instead of just dumping sick people without homes into the homeless system, which is already bursting at the seams. There are ways to hold the criminal justice system more accountable for its part in creating homelessness. The Committee to End Homelessness in King County is in the process of identifying strategies to do what their name promises. That's where many of the answers will be articulated. Hopefully, they'll pay attention to the public will that was evident at the conference, and help turn that into the political will to close the revolving door and finally end homelessness. ■

*Rachael Myers is Acting Executive Director of Real Change.*

### CAPITOL HILL Cont. from Page 12

extended because of the lobbying of neighborhood groups, acts as a roving liaison between neighbors and homeless people on the hill. If someone needs help, they can try to find Randy. There is no door to enter. No place to go.

Drug and alcohol counselor Johnny Ota says that, short of a safe injection site, the neighborhood desperately needs a permanent, always-open drop-in center. "We need to have a place where people can come and build relationships [with case managers]. When I worked at the Needle Exchange, I found that the first time you meet someone, they don't want to talk to you. The 20th

time they're in, they might give you their life story. And then something will happen and they'll say 'Johnny, I can't go on like this. How do I get treatment?'"

### "This is my home"

**S**tarr has called Capitol Hill home for many of the reasons most people live on Cap Hill. "I love the diversity," she says. "The mix of creeds, races, sexual preferences."

The difference between Starr and most people who live on the hill is that Starr doesn't actually have an address there. She and several other homeless young women camp around town, including under the Alaskan Way Viaduct in Pioneer Square. But they call Cap-

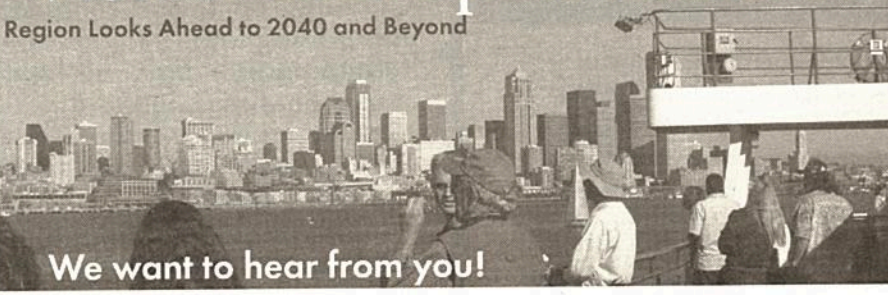
itol Hill home.

In the context of neighborhood debates, Starr wears her homeless status as a badge of honor. "I'm a voting citizen, and I'm homeless. I think it'd be really cool if people got to know us. As much as I'm feeling pressure and hate from the community, this is my home, and I feel like I have a lot to offer," she says. "I'm going to be a case manager when I finish school."

In the meantime, she's content to plug away at the community meetings where residents rail about what goes down on the street, and try to name the solution.

"I'm happy having all this controversy. It means that we are going to deal with things." ■

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Puget Sound Regional Council [psrc.org](http://psrc.org)

## A Big Old Thank You!

Cold & flu season are quickly approaching! While these illnesses are relatively easy to care for in the general population, for people who are homeless, with limited access to rest and sanitation, common illnesses can have huge consequences. This year, Seattle Pacific nursing students distributed free cold care kits to Real Change vendors to help them through cold and flu season. This project was made possible by monetary grants and in-kind donations from the King County Nurses Association, Eurest Dining Services/Thompson Hospitality, and John Hay Middle School 4th Graders.

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Special Thanks to: KCNA, Eurest Dining Services/Thompson Hospitality, John Hay Elementary School 4th Grade Class, SPU, Ruby Eglund, Kathy Stetz, Rebecca Cooley, Saunya Cortez, Bella Cortez, Natasha Jarmilla, Sarah Leal, Julie Lee, Naomi Seiler, Lisa Skavdahl, Annika Sojak, Joy Vanderlinden, Kim Nguyen, Kathy Stetz, Jason Cooley.



# Thanksgiving

# Notables

## Thursday 11/27

"Harvest: A First Nations' Reclamation of Thanksgiving," an event to celebrate **survival as native people**. The program includes First Nations actors, poets, storytellers, and dancers. Thanksgiving night at the Capitol Hill Arts Center, 1621 12th Ave. near Pine. Info 206-329-1606.

## Friday 11/28

Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice present Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies. This week the film **Salvador** will be shown, starring James Woods and directed by Oliver Stone. 7 - 9 p.m., at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. Info <http://groups.msn.com/wallingfordneighbors>.

## Saturday 11/29

The Duwamish Tribe of Seattle is proud to host Charlie Hill, **four-time Indian Entertainer of the Year**. This benefit performance will help build the Duwamish Longhouse Cultural Center. Advance tickets \$35, call 206-431-1582. 7 - 9 p.m., at United Indians of All Tribes Day-break Star Center in Magnolia. Info <http://www.duwamishtribe.org>.

## Sunday 11/30

Seattle UFO/Paranormal Group, founded on freedom of speech and belief, holds its 4th Annual Candle Light Gathering and Vigil to **Remember the WTO Protest**. Everyone welcome; bring your own candles. 6 - 9 p.m., on the campus of Seattle Central Community College. Info <http://www.seattlechatchub.org>.

The Multifaith Alliance of Reconciling Communities (MARC) **World AIDS Day Memorial Service**. Everyone is invited, this is a time for us to remember those who have survived and are living with AIDS. 7 - 9 p.m., at All Pilgrims Christian Church, Sanctuary & Stuart Hall, Broadway and Republican. Info 206-725-2293.

## Monday 12/1

Come enjoy **basic computer classes** at Q Café and Community Center. Today and December 8 and 15 and Thursdays December 4 and 11, all from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Suggested \$10 registration fee. 3223 15th Ave. W Seattle, WA 98119. Call Q Café at 206-352-2525 for more info.

## Tuesday 12/2

City of Seattle Human Services Dept. Homeless Opportunities Training Program presents a workshop, **"Confronting Racism in Social Services: A Workshop on Homelessness,"** facilitated by Ron Chisum, Executive Director of The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. Workshop is free and lunch is included. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at Union Hotel, 204 3rd Ave. S. at Main, Pioneer Square. Registration and info call Margery 206-386-1146 or [margery.muench@seattle.gov](mailto:margery.muench@seattle.gov).

**All Powers Necessary and Convenient: A Play of Fact and Speculation**, by UW drama professor Mark Jenkins, about the Washington State Legislature's Un-American Activities Committee. 7 p.m., free staged reading, in Suzzallo Espresso at the Suzzallo Library on the UW Campus. For more information, please email [alissas@u.washington.edu](mailto:alissas@u.washington.edu).

## Wednesday 12/3

Jobs With Justice Seattle Organizing Com-

mittee meeting. 5:30 p.m., this and subsequent 1st Wednesdays, at Labor Temple, Hall 8, 2800 1st Ave. Info 206-441-4969.

Members of Another World Is Possible, just back from Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine, speak on **"Iraq and The Middle East: Witness to Occupation."** Sponsored by the Phinney Neighbors for Peace and Justice. 7 p.m., at Phinney Neighborhood Association, 6532 Phinney Ave. N. Info Andy 206-789-5081.

The Ethnic Cultural Center (UW) presents **Dr. Maulana Karenga, creator of Kwanzaa**, a celebration of family, community, and culture. The evening includes a performance of African cultural expression and a Kwanzaa candle-lighting ceremony performed by UW students. A reception follows in Walker-Ames Rooms. 7 p.m., at Kane Hall 210, University of Washington. Info Pamelah Payne 206-543-4635.

## Thursday 12/4

**Radical Women** general meeting, learn about current campaigns and activities. A tasty dinner, with vegetarian option, will be served at 6:30 p.m. for a \$6.50 donation. Meeting at 7:30 p.m., at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S. Info 206-722-6057 or 722-2453.

League of Women Voters forum on the **Patriot Act: Security versus Civil Liberties**. Speakers include John McKay, U.S. Attorney for Western Washington; Michael Schein, ACLU of Washington; Rita Zawaideh, an Arab-American, and others. Refreshments are free but there is a \$2 parking fee. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., at Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave. at Seneca St. Info 206-329-

4848 or <http://www.seattle.wa.lwv.org/>

## Saturday 12/6

The Statewide Poverty Action Network hosts an all-day conference to address the **root causes of poverty in Washington State**. Registration fee \$15 to cover lunch and materials. Low-income scholarships available. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., at New Holly Gathering Hall, 7024 32nd Ave. in South Seattle. For registration or scholarship call Sola 206-694-6794 or [sola@povertyaction.org](mailto:sola@povertyaction.org). Info Julie L. Watts 206-694-6794 or [julie@povertyaction.org](mailto:julie@povertyaction.org).

Elliott Bay Bookstore and Seattle Thunder sponsor a lecture and book signing with writer and filmmaker Tariq Ali. Mr. Ali will discuss his book **The Clash of Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads, & Modernity**. Tickets \$8, available at Elliott Bay Bookstore or at the door the day of the event. 7 - 9 p.m., at Keystone United Church of Christ, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. Info <http://www.seattlethunder.net> or <http://www.elliottbaybook.com>.

## Ongoing

Intiman Theatre's annual Holiday Production of **Black Nativity: A Gospel Song Play** by American poet Langston Hughes. The production includes the Total Experience Gospel Choir, the Black Nativity Choir, and a company of dancers led by Shannon Davis and Erricka S. Turner. Tickets are \$10 - \$42. Nov. 29 - Dec. 28, at the Intiman Theatre, 201 Mercer Street at Seattle Center. Tickets and info 206-269-1900 or <http://www.intiman.org>. ■

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citizens participation project



## Stop Criminalizing the Mentally Ill

**Issue:** The passage of House bill 2387 will help provide national funding for state and local programs geared towards reducing the number of non-violent, mentally ill offenders in our nation's jails.

**Background:** There are more than two million people in jails and prisons in the U.S. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than 16 percent of these inmates suffer from mental illness. These prisoners are more likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system, endure longer prison sentences, and experience higher rates of recidivism than other Americans due to the simple fact that our justice system isn't adequately equipped to handle their specific needs. As local, state, and federal budget crises serve to shrink the amount of treatment resources available to those with mental illness, more and more of these individuals are ending up in jail.

House Bill 2387 operates on the premise that, for many non-violent, mentally ill offenders, incarceration is an unnecessary and often counterproductive means of rehabilitation. Passage of the bill would create a federal grant program of \$100 million per year for 2004-2005, to encourage and fund collaborations between criminal justice and mental health professionals at state and local levels. Among other things, grants may be used to:

- Fund training for law-enforcement officers dealing with mentally ill offenders.
- Fund mental-health treatment for inmates and former inmates
- Fund mental-health courts or other such programs which serve to divert qualified offenders from prison and into treatment

In the midst of a national recession, where funds to build, staff, and operate prisons, as well as to pay police, are drawing from an ever-diminishing revenue well, it is necessary to free up money and resources wherever possible. The implementation of the policies outlined in HR 2387 will not only reduce the number of non-violent, mentally-ill offenders being unnecessarily incarcerated, it will also free up law enforcement officers to focus on the tasks that are truly vital to the safety of the communities they serve.

HR 2387, passed unanimously by the Senate on October 27 (Senate Bill 1194), and introduced to the House by Rep. Ted Strickland (D-OH), is still lacking co-sponsorship in the House.

Our nation's mentally ill deserve better.

**Action:** Call your congressperson and tell them to co-sponsor the Mentally Ill Offender and Crime Reduction Act. Here's some local information:

**Representative Jim McDermott**, 7th District: Send email by logging onto [www.house.gov/mcdermott](http://www.house.gov/mcdermott) or call 206-553-7170.

**Rep. Jennifer Dunn**, 8th District: Send email to [dunnwa08@mail.house.gov](mailto:dunnwa08@mail.house.gov) or call 206-275-2438.

**Rep. Jay Inslee**, 1st District: Send email to [jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov](mailto:jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov) or call 800-226-7144.

**Rep. Adam Smith**, 9th District: Send email by logging onto [www.house.gov/adamsmith](http://www.house.gov/adamsmith) or call 253-593-6600.

For more information contact: Congressman Ted Strickland's office, 202-225-5705, or visit [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov) and look up HR 2387. ■

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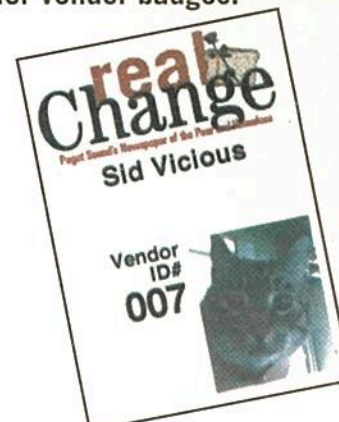
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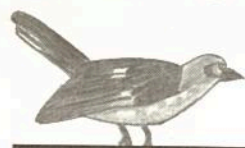
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# Mockingbird Times



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DECEMBER 2003

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VOLUME III, ISSUE 11

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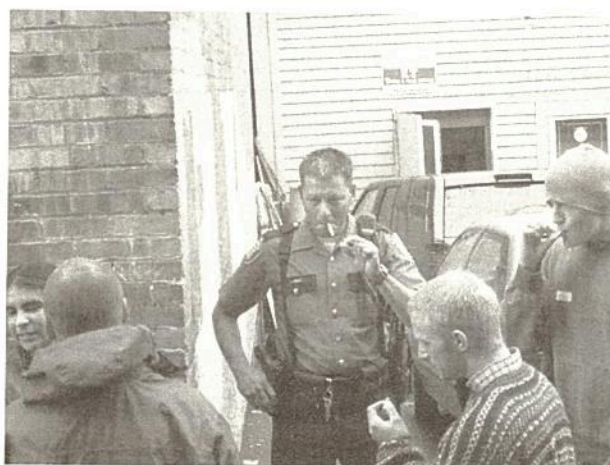
## Youth, Police Learn how to Talk Together

Shay Deney



**FOR YEARS** there has been a growing tension in Seattle between homeless youth and the Seattle Police Department (SPD). A lot of this tension is caused by pre-conceived notions and misconceptions, such as homeless youth thinking that all cops are out to get them and police thinking that every homeless kid does drugs, steals, etc. Over the past couple years, the problems have been getting worse. The community decided to take matters into their own hands and create something called the *Donut Dialogues*. This is where street youth and the SPD get together and talk about issues that each are having with the other. There have been four previous Donut Dialogues sessions held on Capitol Hill in Seattle, WA. Recently, I had the chance to attend the first session held in the University District.

Police Chief Dan Oliver from the North Precinct attended, along with about 10 other police officers and close to 25 homeless youth from the surrounding University District area. The agenda consisted of education about basic laws and a question and answer session with Officer Carver. Subjects touched on included loitering, aggressive behavior, criminal trespassing, spare changing, pet licensing, leash laws, and trash can laws (it is against the law to remove any item from a public trash can). By the end, it seemed like there was more understanding in the room about circumstances involved with each group.



Cop and youth on a smoke break.  
Photo by Darius Reynolds.

Next up on the agenda was the actual dialogue. The room separated into five different groups: two officers and about six youth included in every group. The energy within the room felt calm, even light-hearted at times. It seemed that both groups were listening to the other and setting aside assumptions in hopes that problems could get resolved. As the discussion wrapped up, laughter filled the room and the confidence levels felt high.

The last two agenda items were presentations and feedback. One youth and one police officer from each group gave a presentation on what each had learned about the other. This was one of the most empowering parts of the four-hour session, where youth and police officers came together and accepted each other's differences. Strong points that were agreed upon by both sides included: the need to communicate more, mutual respect, relationship-building, and less assumption making.

"They're gonna give you what you give them," stated one youth, referring to the police officers. Both the youth and the cops agreed that they learned they each had pre-conceived ideas about the other that weren't necessarily true. Officer Brown said that he assumed that homeless youth lead destructive lives and didn't care. He learned that a lot of homeless youth know they lead destructive lives and are working to make their lives better. A common theme mentioned by the SPD was the importance of honest communication from the youth.

"I see a lot of youth pulling themselves out of [destructive] situations," stated Officer Martin. Martin also said that when dealing with the law, most police officers appreciate when their interactions with youth are civil. Things are accomplished much faster with much less hassle.

In conclusion, I would say that this session was successful. Both the youth and the police department agree that they would like the Donut Dialogues to continue so that they can keep building relationships and working out problems. The community also wants to start the Donut Dialogues up in the Central District where problems between the youth and the cops are also on the rise.

Meetings like this are a very important aspect of building a community. Hopefully we will continue to see more improvements in the future and things can finally be at peace. 🐦

### My Day with the SPD

Darius Reynolds



**COPS AND ROBBERS;** that's supposed to be the game, right? However, on the afternoon of Oct 15th in Seattle's University District, a time out was called in the game as police officers and homeless youth set aside their differences to get a better understanding of each other.

The Donut Dialogues were first started May 2001 on Capitol Hill in Seattle by Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS). This year, Seattle's University District decided to have their own dialogue coordinated by Rick Eberhardt, Director of Partnership for Youth, an advocacy program helping youth on the streets. Officers Len Carver and Kim Bogucki, who were also the first police officers to participate in the very first Donut Dialogues, both participated at the University District meeting.

I went to the dialogues as a participant and it was nothing like I thought it was going to be. I figured it was going to be a bunch of yelling and arguing but everybody was actually civil. I was pretty nervous through the first part of the dialogue because I was sitting next to a bunch of cops. A few of them had arrested me or had their guns pointed at me at one point in time; plus I was late. However, after about an hour everyone (including myself) started to loosen up.

We had a smoke break and one officer even came out to smoke with us. We joked that we didn't know cops smoked and had a good time laughing. After our break we went back in and started the hardest part of the dialogue, the "talking to each other" part. We started out by telling each other one thing that we would not have guessed about each other. One of the officers told us about how he stole a motorcycle when he was a kid and got into a high speed chase and got away. I thought it was a good story for the situation because he was letting us know that he was a trouble maker when he was a kid, which helped me connect with him.

The main question asked of the group was what would make our contact more effective. My answer was that we should show each other respect and officers should not assume that

COPS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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*Mockingbird celebrates second year*

Founded in Seattle, Washington, 2001



Letter from the Editor

FIRST I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE who attended our annual event on November 2nd and also those of you who sent in contributions to support The Mockingbird Society. We had nearly 150 people attend and raised close to 12,000 dollars. Thanks to Representative Ruth Kagi for providing a key note address, Integy Entertainment and Kenney Polson for the wonderful entertainment, Aleta Kennedy, Jenny Hoyt and Darin Clendenin for their beautiful rendition of "One Child" by Neena Freelon, a former foster parent. Also, a special thank you to Shay Deney for her wonderful speech. She really brought the house down! In addition, I'd like to thank all the good folks who donated items for our silent auction. A very special thank you to McCormick and Schmick's

Harborside, Marge Mueller of Grey Mouse Graphics, and KINKO's on NE 45th. Because of the generosity of McCormick and Schmick's, all of the donations from the event will go solely towards our program. Thank you to Marianne Kogon and all of Mockingbird's Friends for making our third annual event the best ever! (See page 4 for more info about the fundraiser.)

I want to take this time to wish each of you the very best during this holiday season. Our world seems increasingly precarious, resulting in a great deal of stress, anxiety and grief for many families and kids. I hope you will create the time to share with those you love how much they mean to you and your quality of life. In particular, I send my heartfelt blessings to those children and adolescents who find themselves away from home during this season. Thanks to the foster parents, kinship families and group home staff who welcome these same young people into their homes. Happy Holidays!

Jim Theofelis

jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

Mockingbird  
Expands Headquarters

The Mockingbird Society proudly announces our upcoming move to the beautiful new Treehouse building in the Rainer Valley. We are all excited about this move, in particular the opportunity to work side-by-side with several incredible programs; including Treehouse, Youth in Focus, YMCA (Transitions and ILP), Northwest Children's Fund and Washington Women's Foundation. Our new site will have a space specifically devoted to the Mockingbird Times staff and offices for Mockingbird Society personnel. We are excited to move into a space that will continue to allow us to grow and thrive as we work on building a world-class foster care system while improving the lives of neighborhood youth.

If you would like to help us out we are in need of a copy machine, a TV/VCR, and an array of other office necessities. Please contact us at newspaper@mockingbirdsociety.org or 206-323-5437.



Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display - so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow. It isn't the tree not the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again.

— UNKNOWN

Meet Our Staff

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ABOUT US:

The Mockingbird Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to building a world class foster care system and improving the other systems that serve children and adolescents in foster care. The Mockingbird Times is a monthly newspaper that is written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of Mockingbird Society are paid between \$7.50 and \$8.50 an hour. Additionally, youth from across the country submit articles, art work, poetry and are compensated up to \$20 per published piece. The Mockingbird Times has a monthly circulation of 28,000 copies being distributed across Washington and the U.S.A. Youth involvement is key to the philosophy, values and success of The Mockingbird Society and as such youth are involved in all aspects of organizational development and decision-making. All donations to The Mockingbird Society may be tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. No part of the Mockingbird Times may be reproduced without the written permission of The Mockingbird Society. All contents copyright 2003 The Mockingbird Society.

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# ★ Positive Power: Grocery Grief

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

**TREAT OTHER PEOPLE** the way you want to be treated. That's what my parents told me when I was a little kid, along with, if people make fun of you it's because they're not happy with themselves and they have to devalue other people to feel good. Nobody ever told me that just because you treat people the way you want to be treated that they'd treat you the same way back.

I walked into a local grocery store to buy a cup of soup from the deli and one of the people working in the deli walked up to us and asked, "Are you guys ok?" Why wouldn't we be ok?, I thought to myself, taken aback, offended, surprised inside. Outwardly, I responded, "Yeah, we're fine, do you know where we can pay for this." They stared at me blankly, then responded, "Um, I don't know, I'll get someone else and maybe they know." Another person working in the deli came over and took a long time explaining to us that the deli was closed and I needed to go up front to pay. I thought, why didn't she just say that? It would have taken less time. Then I went up front to pay and the checker gave me strange looks, whispered something into the bagger's ear, and looked back at me and smirked.

I experienced discrimination. It was so subtle that there really was no way to confront it. If people are called on their behavior they often become defensive, so I figured the best thing to do was to walk away and avoid confrontation. I still felt bad because it takes awhile to get over these things. I knew that tearing myself apart with the whys of other people's behavior wouldn't

be productive. Why do people act like that? "What is their problem?" my friend who was with me asked. There was this awkward silence that hung between us. I reiterated what my mom and dad told me, saying, "Some people feel the need to devalue other people in order to feel good about themselves. Specifically, I'll never know exactly why." It could be the piercings in my face. It could be the fact that I look poor or poorer than the normal array of people that shop there. It could be my ethnicity. The list is endless.

"Are you ok?" What a weird thing to ask someone grocery shopping, I thought later on. How about can I help you or if you need anything just let me know. Normal things people in retail ask. Other responses I thought of after the incident included throwing the question back to her — "Are you ok?" or saying, "What do you mean by that? Do you usually ask customers if they're ok?" I felt like I wasn't welcome shopping there and that they'd prefer if I didn't. I felt discriminated against and that there was nothing I could do, and I felt that they thought I was poor, going to steal something, and less than them. Everybody has to eat. We're all human. Later on I checked this experience with a couple other people, who informed me that the people who work there generally aren't nice and that they do discriminate in that area. Maybe they're used to seeing wealthy shoppers who dress fairly "normal". Maybe because I didn't fit the criteria, I wasn't welcome.

Right now I'm enrolled at Shoreline Community College and am taking a class called Multicultural Issues.

In one of the chapters of the textbook I'm reading, it said that some retail stores attempt to match their employees to be like their customers so customers don't feel threatened shopping there. I can believe it. I've seen it at high-end retail stores. But I never thought I'd experience it at a grocery store.

According to *dictionary.com*, discrimination is "unfair treatment of a person or group on the basis of prejudice." Prejudice is the act or state of holding unreasonable preconceived judgments or convictions. I researched what you can do if you feel you are being discriminated against and found useful information at [www.getsetup.net](http://www.getsetup.net). Because of limited space I can only include some of the information on their webpage. I strongly encourage going to their webpage if you want more extensive information.

This information is pulled from an article called *AM BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, WHAT CAN I DO?* "In a situation such as this, the first thing that you need to do is to ask yourself the question: Where can I get support? This is because, if you are being discriminated against unfairly, then you are likely to need support in dealing with these complex issues. The next thing to do is to look carefully at the situation. You will need to look at why it is you feel you are being discriminated against. Is there any possibility that there has been a misunderstanding? If, after careful consideration, you are still convinced that you are being discriminated against, then the next step is to ask yourself: What evidence do I have that could convince other people of the situation?"

"Next, you will need to decide whether you want to deal with the matter formally or informally. Dealing with it formally, would involve lodging a grievance, making a formal complaint. An informal approach is likely to involve approaching the person or persons concerned and expressing your concerns to them, in the hope that they will be reasonable enough to consider your points carefully and, where appropriate, make the necessary changes."

GROCERY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## KMFDM: A Drug Against War

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

KMFDM stands for Kein Mehrheit Fur Die Mitleid, which translated in English means No Mercy for the Masses or No Pity for the Majority. The band is currently composed of seven core members, most of whom are also in the "industrial" band Pig. They have been described as "industrial rock" and "ultra heavy

beat music." Both these terms help to define their sound, which is full of guitar riffs but also often danceable.

There has been much speculation about what KMFDM really stands for. Some

definitions I've heard are: Kill Moshers For Doc Martens, Kids Make For Delicious Meals, Keep Money From Destroying Music, and Killer Martians Fry Dumb Mortals. KMFDM have had many different people in their line up and have broken up and reformed a few times, so I had no idea who to expect when I went to see them play at The Catwalk Club on October 17. I didn't want to be in the dark, so before the show I went and bought a copy of their latest album, *World War Three*.



KMFDM member Lucia rocks out.

The first track, "WWIII," opens up with an acoustic guitar riff that's deceiving, because in about a minute it turns into extremely fast-paced blistering metal. It has a punk rock sound to it which I wasn't used to and a new female vocalist, Lucia, who has a track of her own by herself singing. Her vocals are present often on other tracks of the album as well. She can scream (really well) but she can also sing.

My first impulse listening to WWIII was, "this doesn't sound like the KMFDM I know! This kind of sucks! (compared to older albums of theirs like *Nihil*, *Xtort*, and *Angst* - really good stuff! *Xtort* helped get me through the confusion and anger of being involuntarily committed to a psych ward at age 14)."

The show proved me wrong. "WWIII" was the opening song, with most of the other songs off their latest album of the same name. It was incredible getting to hear their music live; it was really loud and pretty much blistering in intensity all the way through. They played some old stuff too, like "A Drug Against War,"

COPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

youth are doing something wrong all the time. One officer said that if youth cooperated things would be a lot easier. Officer Carver stated that "No one has ever talked me out of a citation but many of you have talked me into one." This is good advice, especially if the youth did nothing wrong.

I think the dialogue went pretty well. I would like to attend the next one because I believe that if you want to have a peaceful community you have to have good communication. I've already seen a change in how the cops interact with me. It's amazing how spending two hours in a room with people you don't know and you think you don't like can change how you see each other. 🐦

Mockingbird wants to hear from our readers! This month's question is, *how do you deal with your anger?* The info we gather will become part of an article on how to deal with anger in our February 2004 issue. You can email us at [newspaper@mockingbirdsociety.org](mailto:newspaper@mockingbirdsociety.org) or snail mail us at the address on the bottom of page 2. Thanks!

which is one of my favorites, "stronger than ever, ever before KMFDM is a drug against war"...

I left the show sweaty, thirsty, but happy with a new appreciation for WWIII. 🐦



# 'Tis the Season to Be... Homeless?

COURTNEY KONIETZKO



**'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY**, and giving, and on extra good behavior because, "he knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows when you've been bad or good" — you know the rest.

Each year the holidays bring up a lot of feelings for everyone. Normally, kids wake up, go screaming or walking — if you're a little bit older — down the stairs in their house, to the Christmas tree, and open up presents with their family. The night before has perhaps been spent with family, eating a big special dinner and socializing and generally reveling in the holiday bliss. Then there's the Christmas crash, where if you're an adult you have lots to clean up and have to prepare to get back to the daily grind of going to work. If you're a kid, it's going back to school, and getting to play with your presents, which isn't so bad.

This isn't true for kids on the street. Family and home have a different meaning when you're homeless.

Bliss is close to impossible and feelings run high for missing people and wishing for a home to go back to where everything is okay. A lot of homeless kids on Christmas will sleep under a bridge, or in an abandoned building that's condemned, or underneath a bush, or in a doorway with cardboard and newspapers to keep them warm, just like they do on any other night. They will go to bed hungry with the question of personal safety, just like they do on any other night. Some homeless kids will stay in a one-night shelter and others will stay in a short-term shelter where they may or may not wake up to Christmas gifts.



There are things that you can do this year to help these kids make it through the holidays. One idea for these kids would be to wake up at shelter to a warm Christmas breakfast. Usually there's only cereal, which gets boring after awhile. There are kitchens at every one of the churches that give their space to shelters on different nights of the week, so if you wanted to make

breakfast it is be possible. The shelters are also badly in need of clean socks and underwear, toothbrushes, travel-sized toothpastes, combs and small pocket-sized brushes, hooded sweatshirts, people to volunteer their time, sewing kits, and gift certificates for local grocery stores so kids can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables

and foods that the food bank typically doesn't give out. Walkmans, flashlights, backpacks, and small journals are also good gifts.

If you would like to help homeless kids have a good Christmas please contact the University Young Adult Shelter at (206) 729-0820 or [uys98105@hotmail.com](mailto:uys98105@hotmail.com) or the Shalom Zone Shelter at (206) 979-5621.

Some other places that serve homeless youth are Teen Feed, a hot meal program that serves food to homeless youth six days a week, and University District Youth Center, a drop in center that provides case management service, showers, clothes, food, and an opportunity to enroll in an on-site school. Teen Feed needs five to eight people to prepare a holiday dinner on December 23rd.. Other needs at Teen Feed are sleeping bags, backpacks, extra large dark-colored hooded sweatshirts, packets of bus tokens, hand warmers (you can purchase them at a camping store), and gift certificates for music stores, art stores, cinemas, etc, for no more than \$30. Call (206) 522-4366 x3.

University District Youth Center needs cereal, hats and gloves in dark colors, young men's clothing, small journals and planners, art supplies, and people to provide lunch once a month. Call (206) 526-2992 x11.

Enjoy the holidays! "Santa Claus is coming to town..."

## GROCERY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

*"It is important to try and avoid the situation of one person's word against another. You should therefore think carefully about how you could convince a third party that you have been discriminated against."*

I realize I cannot change people so I've decided to not shop there again.

## Mockingbird Friends Make Fundraiser Big Hit

**AN ESTIMATED 150 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE THIRD ANNUAL MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY FUNDRAISER THIS NOVEMBER.**

Friends old and new were treated to spectacular food, courtesy of McCormick and Schmick's Harborside and enjoyed the music of Kenney Polson on saxophone, courtesy of Integy Entertainment. Attendees also had the opportunity to bid in a silent auction with donated items ranging from ceramic artwork to a Microsoft Xbox. Guests who donated \$50 or more were treated to a beautiful book of Mockingbird Times poetry, compiled by Marge Mueller of Grey Mouse Graphics.

"It's so refreshing to see new faces," stated Representative Ruth Kagi during a speech she provided towards the end of the evening. We agree, Representative Kagi, it was a great opportunity to socialize with "new" and "old" faces. Thanks to the support of all who participated in the fundraiser, the Mockingbird Society was able to raise nearly 12,000 dollars! The most important part of the event was not the money, however, it was the friends who showed their support for their community and desire to see youth with less opportunities succeed.



Former Mockingbird Staff Advisor Valerie Douglas and Mockingbird Satellite Reporter Shay Deney get a chance to catch up together. Photo by Mockingbird staff.

*An additional thank you to the following who donated time and/or goods for our silent auction and fundraiser:*

Anne Beishline, Chihuly Studio, Emmanuel's Rug and Upholstery Cleaning, Kristen Bushnell, Laurel Gifts, Laura Servid, Liz Gamberg, Marcia Theofelis, Mockingbird Board of Directors, Microsoft Corporation, Pat Espey, Seattle Mariners, Senator Patty Murray and staff, Council member Peter Steinbrueck and staff, Rob Beishline, Ruth Williams, Sandra Everlove and Marcus Rempel, Seattle Film Institute, 24 Hour Fitness, Valerie Douglas and Virginia Mason Bellevue Clinic.

## Poetry Corner

### A birthday gift

She lived a life in solitude  
 She lived a life in vain  
 She lived a life in which there was  
 A strong, on going pain  
 She had no friends on which to lean  
 And cry her problems to  
 She had no friends to give her love  
 And hope and kindness to  
 She thought about it day and night;  
 She lay upon her bed  
 Her mind made up, she grabbed the gun  
 And put it to her head  
 Just then a ring came from the phone  
 She pulled the gun away  
 It was her mother on the other end  
 And she just wanted to say  
 "Happy birthday, my sweet daughter  
 Today's just for you  
 I care for you with all my heart,  
 I hope you know that's true!"  
 Those words ran through her mind so much  
 The gun was down for good  
 She changed her mind about her life  
 And then she changed her mood  
 She thought about that special day  
 And what her mother had said  
 The gift her mother gave her that day  
 Was the gift of life again...

— GUADALUPE GARCIA