

Creale Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty • Volume 11, No. 12

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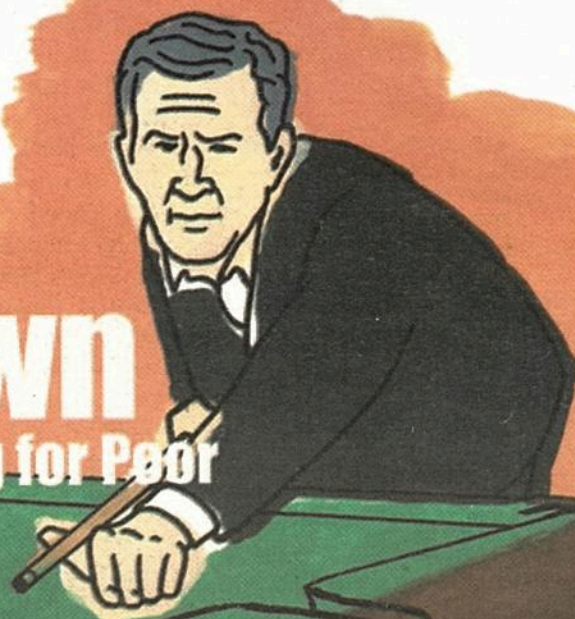
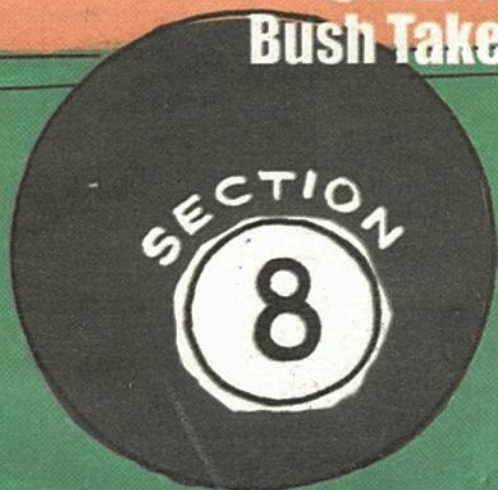
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Going Down

Bush Takes Aim at Housing for Poor



Inside: Jim McDermott on the Draft

Tent City Rises Again

World's Most Expensive Homeless
Drop-in Center Opens Downtown

By Adam Holdorf

It's not the first time Bud Alkire has seen his organization's money used as a political football. But that's just what is happening this year, he says, with the Bush Administration's proposal to deep-six the Section 8 housing program.

Alkire is the executive director of the Everett Housing Authority, the governmental agency charged with housing that city's poorest residents. In addition to owning and managing public housing within the city limits, the agency dispenses 2,300 Section 8 vouchers to low-income tenants. The Department of Housing and Urban Development says that, in the last six weeks of its fiscal year, the Everett Housing Authority must make \$120,000 in cuts to its \$1.2 million Section 8 program.

Tacoma's housing agency, for its part, will suffer a monthly deficit of \$106,000 for at least six months, starting in July. On May 10, at least one tenant received notice that her voucher was no longer any good. The housing authority, it said, was "very sorry to deliver this news... we know you were depending on your voucher to obtain housing." Attached to the letter was a bill. Because her voucher had been canceled, the woman owed the Tacoma Housing Authority \$210 in rent for the last half of April.

In Everett, Tacoma, and all across the nation, Section 8 works like this: A qualifying tenant applies, gets a voucher, and finds landlords to accept

it. The tenant pays no more than 30 percent of her income in rent, and the landlord collects the rest of his money from HUD.

In most parts of the United States, the gap between wages and rents continues to widen. Between 2000 and 2002, average wages fell by 1.6 percent while rent and utilities costs rose by 8.5 percent. For anyone fortunate enough to have it, Section 8 fills that gap between what one's income allows and what the rental market requires.

Few are so fortunate. The Seattle Housing Authority has dispensed 6,000 vouchers to city residents. Another 4,000 people have signed on to a waiting list. They all qualify: they are seniors, disabled individuals, or families, and they make less than half the area's median income (about \$31,000 a year for a family of two).

Right now, SHA is issuing "the last of the vouchers that anyone will get for a long time," says Kathy Roseth of SHA's Porchlight program. At this point, the vast majority of those 4,000 people may as well expect a miracle.

What's responsible for the fiscal uncertainty is HUD's Notice PIH 2004-7, issued April 22. It told the nation's municipal housing authorities that the federal funding that has paid for their Section 8 tenants for more than

two decades would no longer be calculated on an as-needed basis. Rather, HUD would freeze its funding at whatever an agency had needed in August 2003, plus an inflation factor.

Local housing officials were caught out. The number of Section 8 vouchers in play, and the amount of government money each requires, fluctuates based on two factors: market dynamics (a cooler rental market means more landlords are more likely to accept the vouchers) and bureaucratic protocols. HUD had been encouraging housing authorities to issue all the vouchers it could; now, it said, they would not be paid for.

To make matters worse, PIH 2004-7 came on the heels of the Bush Administration's 2005 budget proposal, which would cut the program by \$1.6 billion. Cash-strapped housing authorities would be compelled to take vouchers away from a quarter of a million families. Evictions would follow.

Now, something approaching a firestorm has erupted from housing authority staff, advocates, and elected officials. Congressional representatives weighed in. On May 21, Congress heard HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson defend PIH 2004-7 and then offer a deal: about \$150 million would be delivered early to the nation's housing authorities, helping them, he said, stave off

drastic measures. Jackson continued to maintain that the rule is "congressionally mandated," and that HUD is only the executor of Congress' will.

Bud Alkire sees through this. HUD took a portion of that \$150 million away from the Everett Housing Authority. What Jackson did, he says, was simply announce he would restore local agencies' reserves — money that was coming anyway.

What's more, HUD has been acting "under the guise of saying this is forced on them," he says. "I've yet to see a congressman knowledgeable about the issue who says they did not intend to fully fund the voucher program."

Even with that reserve funding, Alkire says that HUD's PIH 2004-7 means that 300 Everett tenants will lose their Section 8 vouchers in the next year. Alkire has seen five-year projections for Everett's Section 8 tenants showing as many as 700 — about one in three — could lose their vouchers.

That is "really frightening," he says. "The deficit is way out of control, and the assumption is that discretionary domestic spending is going to bear the results of the tax breaks that Congress and the Administration have been passing."

Seattle's municipal housing agency is less hamstrung than Everett's or Tacoma's, because of a 2000 agreement with HUD letting the Seattle Housing Authority manage its own reserve funds. Still, SHA's Roseth says that the agency is already looking at cost-sav-

Continued on Page 12

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anyone will get for
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Kathy Roseth.



One-sided

Dear *Real Change*,

While I appreciate overall the idea of *Real Change* as a voice for the homeless and an economic opportunity, and while I buy a copy nearly every week, I have just decided to stop this practice because of the completely one-sided view consistently presented on social issues outside of poverty, such as gay marriage and also President Bush.

I am a Christian and also happen to oppose gay marriage and support the war in Iraq for several reasons. I feel that your articles and contributors are always only giving one viewpoint on these areas. I would like to remind you that it is an editor's job to give different sides of an issue.

Also, many people I know who share my opinions on these issues also care more and do more for homeless people than the average citizen. Do you think it is a coincidence that churches frequently feed and house homeless people? Are the anti-war and homosexual activists opening any shelters? I have not heard of any lately.

I would suggest that you take a sincere and objective analysis of the situation, and you will find that not all people who support the President or oppose gay marriage are the enemies to the homeless, quite the opposite, I'm sorry that you had to lose a customer to hear this.

Sincerely,
Aaron Martin
Seattle

If you don't vote, you can't complain

hey real,

As a person in recovery living in transitional housing, homelessness is a painfully clear memory. So I feel true empathy when I buy two to four copies of each of your editions from my brothers and sisters on the streets. I admire those persons that are willing to try to improve their status in life. I can frequently relate to the articles and subject matter. I sometimes enjoy some of the poetry. but, I really expect only to contribute to my own benefit by aiding my brothers and sisters.

In a recent edition I read an article about the disenfranchisement of former felons ["Out of Reach," April 15]. I had previously visited the voter registrar of King County, picked up a voter registration form, and noted that there

was a box requiring my signature which stated, "I have not been convicted of a felony." So I discarded said form. I thought as a former felon, in Washington state, I was disenfranchised. I had retired my sentence in club-fed and owed no fines or compensation.

I was intrigued when I read the article, as it informed me that I am now eligible to vote. I went back to the Registrars Office, informed them of my felony conviction, nonsupervised status, and my non-indebtedness to the Department of Justice (one of the only wolves not slaving at my heels), and the lady I spoke with gave me a registration form which didn't have the aforementioned box.

I will now be able to vote against George W. Bush and his thieving-assed minions of capital puppeteers. THANK YOU SO MUCH for the invaluable information. I have always considered

voting to be a means of "bitch insurance," and you have given back my access to my most valued policy.

Sincerely,
d.g. Iudden
Seattle

Business is good

Dear Editor,

Does Patty Murray still blame you and me for Islamic terror? Does Patty Murray wish we were more like Osama bin Laden, the beneficial builder of society?

If so she should vote to support faith-based charity initiatives. Faith-based, Christian, charities are responding to the massive needs in Iraq, Afganistan and other Muslim countries. Christian organizations from World Concern down to individual Christians are sacrificing thousands of hours, millions of

dollars and even their lives to bring aid and assistance to the Middle East.

A second group is working diligently to restore Iraq and Afghanistan — the American businessman. Many of these individuals are small and medium sized businesses. We urge Patty Murray to begin supporting efforts by local companies engaged in multinational efforts and exporting.

Obviously, the third entity is our military. The vast majority of them are engaged in extreme sacrifice and behaving exceptionally well under enormous pressure. Patty Murray please support our troops and President in every way possible.

The majority effort required to blunt the Islamic terrorist's ambitions is being provided by American Christians, businessmen and our soldiers. Please support them and their efforts!

Sincerely,
Mark McDonald
Issaquah

Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty

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.

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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.

Dept. of Self-Congratulation

Timothy Harris, founder and Executive Director of *Real Change*, was awarded the Susan Hutchison Bosch Award for outstanding achievement at the Society of Professional Journalists' annual awards banquet May 15. The award honors Harris for his work on behalf of the homeless.

"I believe, with Anne Frank, that 'in spite of everything, people are really good at heart.' They want to help," the soft-spoken Harris said to about 300 gathered media workers at the Boeing Museum of Flight. "Street newspapers are a bridge across that divide of affluence and poverty that offers the comfort of denial to some and isolates and stigmatizes others." After his acceptance speech, the audience gave him a standing ovation.

When presenting him with the award, presenter Ruby de Luna of KUOW noted Harris' years of public service. "[He] has led several successful organizing campaigns, including the 2001 Initiative 71 ballot measure to increase shelter and other re-

sources for homeless people. Prior to moving to Seattle in 1994, Harris founded the Spare Change homeless newspaper in Boston in 1992...He is a leader in the international street paper movement, and is cofounder and current chair of the North American Street Newspaper Association."

The award is named for Susan Hutchison Bosch, an environmental reporter for the *Post-Intelligencer* until her death in 1970 of Hodgkin's disease. She was 25. The SPJ created the award for those who personify, as she did, "intellectual honesty, deep understanding of people and their problems, abiding fairness, grace, perseverance and quiet courage."

The award is not given every year but only when a worthy recipient is found. It was last given in 2001, to Walt Woodward of the *Bainbridge Island Review*, for his consistent editorialization against the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

— Polly Keary

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United We Serve

The draft means equal sacrifice in war and peace

By Congressman Jim McDermott



More mention of the draft tends to send shivers down most people's spines, especially if, like me, you remember the Vietnam era all too well.

As a Vietnam-era veteran who treated our soldiers who returned from that war, I know the terrible price war extracts from soldiers we send to combat. Indeed, my experiences as a psychiatrist in the Navy influenced my desire to run for elected office. Having seen the human costs of war, I wanted to ensure that our nation would never again go to war without a compelling reason or a clear plan.

I have been outspoken in my opposition to President Bush's war on Iraq; among the reasons for my position is the very vulnerable situation to which our soldiers have been relegated by the Bush Administration's alarming absence of planning, knowledge, diplomacy, and strategy preceding its rush to war.

During this session of Congress I co-sponsored a bill with Rep. Charlie Rangel, HR 163: The Universal Service Act. I support this piece of legislation for several reasons: first, it has long been my view that every American should be required to devote a period of service to our country, and second, although I believe that war should always be our last option, it is my opinion that when our country is at war, that burden should be shared by all Americans. Not least, I chose to co-sponsor this bill because the debate about a draft amplifies to our country's leaders the harsh consequences of war for all who serve and the families who love them.

For many years I have been a proponent of a public service requirement for young Americans. I think that such a requirement would underscore the obligation each of us owes for the benefits we receive. This might be military service or it might be active involvement in one of our many public service organizations, contributing to the vital work of social, educational, environmental, health, or housing programs. I believe that young people benefit significantly from this type of effort, much as they might learn important, lifelong lessons from military service. HR 163 would establish such a requirement.

At the time that this bill was written, President Bush was preparing to send our armed forces into Iraq. Many, many members of Congress supported him. I, and the other co-sponsors of this bill, couldn't help but think that perhaps those decision makers who supported the war would feel much differently about sending young Americans to Iraq if their sons or daughters were heading there, too.

A disproportionately high representation of low-income and minority groups make up the enlisted ranks of our military. They do more than their fair share of service in the ground forces. Only a handful of members of the Congress, which voted overwhelmingly for war, had children in the military. Is it not right that all Americans should bear the burdens of war? The most privileged Americans rarely participate in military service. Families who can afford to send them to college are unlikely to face the prospect of their son or daughter being deployed to Iraq in exchange for a chance at a better life.

Our armed services should reflect the breadth of our society. If our nation decides to go to war, we should not expect it to be fought primarily by the children of poor parents or parents of color, while life continues as usual for the rest.

I was dismayed by this heedless rush to war. I was dismayed by the faulty premise for this war, and I was dismayed that many who voted for the war had never served in the military, and thus had no personal knowledge of the costs of war. I was dismayed that it seemed so easy for President Bush, who avoided combat in Vietnam, to send a volunteer force to fight in Iraq. Sending Americans to fight should not be an order given lightly.

I am not so naive as to think that the Bush Administration would reinstate the draft during an election year. That they would offer up to millions of Americans the prospect of a beloved child coming home in a body bag is politically unthinkable. But I do believe that our nation MUST have a conversation about equity in the process by which we send Americans to fight and perhaps die for this country. I oppose this war and the false reasons we were given for entering into it. However, I believe that debate about a universal draft can help to shine the light of truth on the harsh consequences of war. ■

Jim McDermott is the 7th Congressional District representative from Seattle.

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Inside:

Opinion

The Draft: equal sacrifice in war and peace
by Congressman Jim McDermott 3

Features

Street Talk: Sounding off about Iraq
by Vi Vu 6

Adventures in Poetry: Boo to water torture
with ©Dr. Wes Browning 6

Street Watch
by Emma Quinn 11

On Seeing: a visit to Bothell's Tent City 4
by Wendy Smith 14

Troubles Seep: *The Working Poor* by David Shieler
review by Timothy Harris 14

Princess Bianca and the Vandals by Nick Licata
review by Anitra Freeman 14

Calendar
compiled by Sandra Enger 15

News

Going Down: Bush takes aim at Section 8 housing
by Adam Holdorf 1

Policing the Police's Police: OPA's insufficiencies
by Jess Grant 5

News You Can Use: Impound goes down, Levy debated
by R.V. Murphy, Natalie Findley 4

Poetry

Insights and surprises from David Stuke and Liz Smith 6

Activism

Citizens Participation Project 16

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Impound goes down

K.L. Shannon held her hands in prayer, applauded favorable comments and impatiently squirmed in her seat during long-winded speeches Monday afternoon in the Seattle City Council chambers. As the Chair of the People's Coalition for Justice, Shannon knew of cases where people had their cars towed because of unpaid traffic tickets which then prevented them from finding a job. Finally she let out a sigh of relief when the votes were tallied and the City Council repealed the 1998 Impound Law.

In 2000, council chambers were filled with chants of "shame, shame," when the law was retained by a narrow 5-4 margin. Some thought it would have been repealed then, so it was understandable that Shannon and other opponents of the bill were on pins and needles until the final vote. This time there was no backroom vote trading and Operation Impound went down by a 6-2 margin.

"This is something I've worked on for six years," says Shannon, who was hugging other activists outside of council chambers after the meeting. "Six years ago (when the Law passed by an 8-1 margin) it was painful. I remember thinking, I was tired of chickenshit politicians riding on the backs of the poor. Today, I'm so elated. I just exhaled (after the final vote)."

Operation Impound, enacted by the city of Seattle in 1998, provided for the towing of cars by people with suspended licenses, including those with third-degree suspensions, those who have lost their license for driving with four or more parking tickets and other minor traffic violations. Critics of the impound law said that low income and persons of color were adversely affected by the law.

"This is not a total recall," said David Della, the Vice-Chair of the Parks, Neighborhoods & Education committee. "We're eliminating towing for third-degree suspensions. We will tow cars of people driving under the influence. And cars can't be towed if they're driven by anyone other than the owner."

Council members Nick Licata and Richard McIver tried to change the law in 2000 but couldn't get the five necessary votes. The repeal drive gained momentum this year when the three new council members (Della, Tom Rasmussen, and Jean Godden) stated their opposition to the law.

Della, Rasmussen, Godden, McIver, Peter Steinbrueck (the lone dissenter when the Impound Law was first passed in 1998) and Richard Conlin voted for the repeal; Jan Drago and Jim Compton voted against. Licata, who's on vacation this week, was probably the leading voice on the council against the Impound Law.

"We're not just talking about parking tickets here," said an irate Compton, expressing the minority point of view. "There was a reason that we passed the Impound Law in 1998. Non-licensed drivers are in more accidents than licensed drivers. There was one council briefing on this issue and no public hearing."

Compton also echoed the sentiments of City Attorney Tom Carr, stating that by dropping the Impound Law, it's inevitable that the city will have to start arresting more drivers. Lisa Dugaard, a lawyer who serves as a "technical advisor" to neighborhood groups, feels that doesn't have to be the case.

"What will happen now is that when a car is stopped, the driver will be given a citation," says Dugaard. "This is the way it was before 1998. The council would like to see a relicensing program like King County has, where people can set up a payment plan or do community service."

The Impound Law was passed in 1998, at the height of former City Attorney Mark Sidran's push for civility laws. After the meeting, Shannon was asked if the vote signaled the end of the Sidran era.

"He has his twin Tom Carr in office now," said Shannon. "It's hard to tell. There will be something else to fight. But today I'm just going to exhale. It feels good."

—R.V. Murphy

Levy's subject: schools

On Thursday, May 19, the Seattle City Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed renewal of the Families and Education Levy, which would allocate \$99 million to the Seattle Public School District for after-school programs, family-support services, health services and early-childhood-learning programs, to start. This levy will be voted on by the Seattle public September 14 on the primary election ballot.

Issues and opinions touched on at the hearing ranged from total support of the levy, to major concerns about its allocations and extensive discussions of its shortcomings, as well as hopeful pleas for expanded funding for some programs. There was, however, a unanimous desire to somehow better the



Seattle Public School District and to enhance student learning overall, as well as retain important services that already exist.

"Part of what is supposed to be a strength of this country is its education," one Spanish-speaking Beacon Hill mother said. "I don't understand how we're supposed to move forward in this country if things are being taken from the education we thought we were going to have for our children so they could be successful."

The most general and pressing concern, however, seemed to focus on cutting funding for the nurses, family-support services and middle-school programs, which will all suffer budget cuts despite the increased funding for the levy overall. For example, the city is cutting four school nurses (bringing the total down to seven) and six family-support workers. Examples such as emotional counseling, sexual-health issues and suicide prevention, after-school care and eyeglasses for children were cited as important services these programs provide in helping children stay successful in school.

"They gave me hope in my life, where I could see past the teasing and all the threatening that I was getting," one Roosevelt High School student said, regarding teen-health programs at Roosevelt. "The teen health center at Roosevelt is a safe place to be."

As expressed at the hearing, many also feel these programs are important in closing the learning gap that many minority and poverty or below-poverty children experience.

"For the first time in this state's history, we have more African Americans in prison than in our public institutions," said Citizens Advisory Committee member James Kelly.

David Abrams, President of the Seattle Schools Nurses' Association as well as a Seattle school nurse, described his inability to fully cover schools' health centers. "We are spread really thin," Abrams said. "I have significant angst, because in a school where I'm assigned to be on staff one day a week, two brothers were victims of domestic violence — they were murdered by their mother's boyfriend in the middle of the night. As a BSN and RN, I am professionally trained to identify the hallmark signs and nuances of domestic violence, yet I was not in a position to utilize my training due to a lack of time in the school itself. Prevention strategies cannot be implemented in one day a week."

He did, however, cite his involvement in several life and death incidents that have made a positive difference for students, because he was there. Other parents, family workers and children expressed extreme concern about the cuts in family-support programs, ESL (English as a Second Language) programs and ESL health workers.

"The family support worker at my sister's school has helped our family find counseling when the Latino agencies my mother has contacted would not help. We have been able to keep our housing and for the first time we have stability. Please fully fund all school programs," one young student said.

The only true disagreement at the hearing between speakers revolved around the idea that students receive everything they need from the schools. "Children spend 80 percent of their time outside of schools," one activist and educator stated, reinforcing the importance of community-based organizations. "We should remember, we are in a financial crisis around education due to the fact that the school district mishandled around \$35 million."

—Natalie Findley

Findley is a student at the UW News Lab.

A WOMAN WEARING A MASK CRADLES A CHILD IN WESTLAKE CENTER. SHE WAS PART OF A GROUP OF COSTUMED PROTESTERS IN WESTLAKE ON SATURDAY, MAY 22, MARKING RAIDS ON PALESTINIAN HOMES IN THE GAZA STRIP. CREATED BY A SEATTLE ARTIST, THE MASKS COMMEMORATE PALESTINIAN LIVES LOST. PHOTO BY VI VU.



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

Policing the Police's Police

Citizen groups frustrated by SPD accountability process

By Jess Grant

The civilian review board assigned to monitor the Seattle Police Department's (SPD) internally run complaints process recently presented its 2003 Year End Report to the City Council, and the conclusions it reaches are not encouraging. Though the tone of the board's report is polite, its frustration can clearly be heard in statements like this one:

"Our inability to see complete files or physical evidence, hear the voices in recorded witness interviews, or review the actual disposition of closed, sustained cases (i.e. imposition of discipline, corrective training), limit our perspective as to 'what really happened...'" The review board also claimed that their work was "hampered by the redaction process," a process in which police officials remove officers names and other information from the investigative reports prior to their release for review.

The Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) was created with the intent of providing greater police accountability, but has so far done little to convince community groups that rogue police are really being brought into check. There is little of the institutional transparency that police accountability advocates insist must be present for a review process to work: all of SPD's disciplinary proceedings are classified personnel matters, so any consequences meted out to the department's bad apples remain hidden from view.

The OPA Review Board (OPA-RB) issued its findings on April 30, based on their perusal of a randomly chosen 10 percent of the OPA's closed cases from 2003. Other organizations have also chimed in on the issue, most significantly the Racial Profiling and Police Accountability Task Force of the

Minority Executive Directors Coalition (MEDC) of King County. The Task Force issued its own set of nine recommendations to improve the police review process, which echo the OPA-RB's suggestions and then some.

One consistent theme in both reports was the need to review unredacted files. Currently the City's contract with the police guild prevents the release of officers' names to civilian reviewers even though, as political appointees, they're sworn to confidentiality. The task force agrees with the review board in saying, "The Board should be able to determine if particular officers are the subjects of an unusually large number of complaints... [and] the particular officers who do present an ongoing problem should be identified...."

The police guild's contract is a sticking point, however, requiring political solutions that transcend simple labor/management models. The challenge for progressive council members on the Public Safety Committee is to reconcile their desire for police accountability with their respect for the collective bargaining rights of the city's employees. As Julya Hampton of the ACLU-WA told the City Council last fall, "The City should stop giving away in the collective bargaining process the public's ability to establish a stronger and more effective police accountability system."

According to the ACLU, the tail wags the dog here in Seattle. They quote "nationally recognized police accountability expert Sam Walker of the University of Nebraska," who they say claims, "Seattle is the ONLY city where the union presumes such issues are negotiable and the City agrees," and they give examples of what they describe as "the absurd level of control

of minutiae that the City has given away to the Guild."

The review board broached another issue that cuts directly to the heart of police accountability: the question of, as they put it, "Civilian's Word vs. Police officer's Word." They concluded, "Some claims... seem to be summarily rejected because of premature judgments made about the complainant's character or credibility. If the Department is to continue handling complaints against its own, complainants should be accorded greater benefit of the doubt than evidenced in the cases we reviewed."

At the Public Safety Committee's hearing on May 18, Tony Granillo, a former Commissioner on the Seattle Human Rights Commission, amplified this point. He said that the board's "greatest obstacle is it must rely on police reports and investigations by police. In light of documented patterns of distortion of fact by police, this severely hampers the ability of the review board to really know if what they are reading is a complete and factual record of events."

While the OPA Review Board and MEDC's Police Accountability Task Force stop short of proposing much beyond some reforms to the existing OPA, former Commissioner Granillo

goes further. "It is time for the council to seriously consider legislation that removes the privilege of police investigating and disciplining themselves.... Why wait any longer?"

Nick Licata, chair of the council's Public Safety Committee, is not prepared to reject the OPA system so quickly. Responding to questions from *Real Change*, councilmember Licata said, "I believe the OPA is reformable. I think it is still in its early stages, and as it matures it will develop a better process for dealing with citizen oversight." As for the nine suggestions put forth by MEDC, and the dozen from the OPA-RB (21 points in all), he says "they're all on the table, and I will give all of them serious consideration."

Much hinges on the outcome of ongoing contract negotiations between the City and the Police Officers Guild. Their last three-year contract expired at the end of 2002, leaving them to labor under the terms of the old contract while negotiators continue to work on a new agreement. The talks are secret, so it's anybody's guess whether accountability issues are under discussion. Theoretically, though, there's still time for the council to

negotiate a labor contract that allows greater civilian oversight of Seattle's police. ■



"I believe the OPA is reformable. It is still in its early stages, and as it matures it will develop a better process for dealing with citizen oversight."

**Councilmember
Nick Licata**

From the Street

Interviews and photos by Vi Vu

Street Talk went to the University District and Pike Place Market and asked: **What do you think of the ongoing war in Iraq?**



"I think there shouldn't be a war, because we have a lot of stuff that needs to be taken care of, and we don't need to spend that much money on it."

Gary, 55, tattoo artist



"I think the U.S. government should make a good decision so we don't have to continue losing money and our troops' lives in Iraq."

An Do, 48, restaurant owner

"It's a hassle for everyone, even for those not involved. It's hurting a lot of people, and a lot of innocent life. I hate it."

Masha, 19, Pike Place Market agent

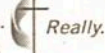


"It is the greatest mistake since the Vietnam War. An absolute stupid diplomacy. And it's the greatest thing promoting Middle Eastern anti-Americanism."

Mark, 58, art salesman

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and then when you die of...
(whatever)
someone finally shows
some courage
(and fills you with chemicals
in person)

—ROGER STUKEY

The Quiet Man

The quiet man
Bows to the wind
Like a weeping willow on a soft fall evening.
He sleeps in seclusion
On the hard ground, on the yielding grasses
Of the great plains
Under the stars, light-years away.
The quiet man shivers
In apprehension.
Winter will soon come
Bringing the hard winds, unceasing rain, and
gloomy clouds
Each dawn a fresh grey misery.
No one sees the quiet man, not even God,
Who sees every sparrow
But, apparently, not the suffering
Of the quiet man
Who passes like a shadow
Along the grimy streets,
Each day he lessens
Like a skeletal tree, leaves gusted away one by one
All good things falling away
Never to be seen again.

The quiet man
Never quite gives up
Never gets a lucky break
In a better world
The quiet man
Sits in a rocking chair
Holding a grandchild on his lap
Reading *Goodnight Moon*
While a tall clock ticks softly in the hall
And a wine-dark stew simmers on the stove.

This poem is so useless
I am so helpless
I could write until the world ends
Give my tears, promise devotion,
And it wouldn't bring about even one brick
To shelter the quiet man
Who once had a future
And a loving family.

Close your eyes, and
Dream along with me.

—LIZ SMITH



Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning

Personally, I don't like to talk about abortions. It isn't that I have any problem discussing such controversial issues as abortions represent. It's just that, personally, I can't have any. Abortions, that is.

For, contrary to any previous claims to the contrary, I am not now, and never have been, a woman. Thus, there is not now, and never has been, a pregnancy option on the old Wesmobile. Since I can't get pregnant, it is extremely unlikely that I would ever have to decide whether I should get an abortion or not. I might want to decide such a thing. I might even want to have to decide it. But I wouldn't have to decide it.

Likewise, the Pope doesn't have to decide whether he should get an abortion. Like 100 percent of all other Roman Catholic priests, the Pope, a.k.a. Bishop 001, isn't a woman, has never been a woman, and if he became a woman at this late date he wouldn't be allowed to be Pope anymore. There can't be a Pope Joan Pauline.

If the Pope became pregnant, they would snatch his pointy hat and curly stick away, refer him to a home for wayward girls, and call together the Electoral College of Bishops to do that weird thing they do with the colored rocks and the smoke and elect a new man to lead the club.

So it is something to wonder at that not only does the Pope want to decide who else should get abortions, but that he feels equipped to decide this issue himself, personally, without even so much as asking for input from anyone (like, for instance, a woman) who might ever have need to decide whether to get one.

Ordinarily, what the Pope decides on behalf of all women, none of whom get any say in the matter, wouldn't be a huge concern of mine, since my one-time relationship with the Roman Catholic Church suffers from considerable neglect. But now one of their lesser bishops is forcing me to jump into the gravy and roll around in it, if you know what I mean.

Here's the deal. Some pea-brain bishop in Colorado heard that some other

bishops were saying that politicians who are pro-choice shouldn't be allowed communion. Having a pea brain, this Bishop Michael Sheridan decided that just punishing the politicians for disagreeing with him wasn't enough. He would punish the voters themselves. So if you're in his diocese and you vote for a pro-choice candidate for, say, the presidency, no more Body of Christ for you.

Never mind that he doesn't know who votes for whom. As he puts it, "God knows." He has the power of guilt working for him, and he takes for granted that these, his people, are guilt-ridden people. He relies on the honor system for now. (Maybe later he will scour rolls of campaign contributors.)

Now, if you have followed me so far, you should have caught the fact that I do not now regularly consume Christ Body, nor do I live in Bishop Pea-Brain's diocese. So you could very well be asking, "Wes, why the hell do you care?"

I'll tell you why I care. I don't want to trade my American citizenship in for citizenship in a New Christian Iran of America, where some Roman Catholic bishop sets himself up as the Ayatollah of Colorado Springs and starts issuing fatwahs against anybody who doesn't vote for his candidate.

I also want a government that doesn't try to tell me that holding someone's head under water and pretending to drown them doesn't constitute inhumane treatment. I'm still waiting to hear George W. Bush order such treatment stopped at Guantanamo. What's taking so long? Do we have to wait for the Wizard to make him human?

I want to be proud of my country. I want the people in my country to vote for a president who would not dismiss the Geneva Convention under any conditions.

I want Americans to have a free choice between torture and not-torture. I also want them to be able to freely choose against unjust wars, pre-emptive wars, and/or wars of economic exploitation.

I take this all very personally. I don't want my country to torture in my name. ■

**I don't want to
trade my American
citizenship in for
citizenship in a
New Christian Iran
of America ...**



Monday, May 3, 8:05 a.m. Western Ave. Casa Latina Labor Center. Victim, a 42 year old male, was sitting in the TV room at the Casa Latina and stated that the suspect, a 25-year-old Hispanic male, came up to him and said "What are you doing here, are you Mexican?" and punched him several times. Victim was intoxicated and could not provide a more detailed description of the incident or his attacker. A Casa Latina coordinator stated the victim asked him to call 911. Victim sustained a laceration to the back of his head and complained of pain in his teeth. He was treated at the scene and transported to Harborview Medical Center by AMR. Suspect left after the incident and was not located.

Friday, May 7, 8 p.m.-6 a.m. Under I-5. Victim, a 51 year old Native American male transient, was sleeping under I-5 at about Eastlake and Fairview Ave. N. He went to sleep around 8 or 9, and awoke the next morning to discover his backpack was gone. It contained his medications, and clothes worth about \$40.

Sunday, May 16, 10:40 a.m. Broadway Ave. E. Victim, a homeless East African male aged 22, said he was talking on the payphone in front of Vivace coffee when the

suspect, a White male aged 20 to 25, walked up to him and began hitting him. Victim asked suspect what he was doing, and suspect said "Don't you remember me?" Victim said suspect hit him several times with an unknown object, and cut him above the left eye. A witness working at Vivace saw the fight, and stated it looked one-sided. He went out to break up the fight while another Vivace employee called 911. The suspect fled on foot. Witness stated he saw the victim covered in blood and a knife on the sidewalk and assumed the man had been stabbed.

Officers arrived, and the witness pointed out the blood on the sidewalk and the knife, but the victim had gone. Victim then reappeared, bleeding from the head. He stated he did not know what had happened, and added that when he fell to the ground from the blows, his assailant stole his CD walkman. He had not seen the suspect before, and did not know why else he was attacked except for his CD player.

The Seattle Fire Department responded to treat the victim, who had suffered a bloody nose and a cut above his eye, but he declined treatment. He asked instead to be transported to Jefferson, and once there walked away.

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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Comfort and Dignity

Seattle Public Library's New Central Branch

by Kevin Vanderhoef

Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas said that the new Central Library is "very important," coming "in a time when there aren't a lot of public investments." It was designed to provide "comfort, dignity, and serenity," Koolhaas said in a May 19 press conference, to be a beautiful place for everyone in Seattle. The builders went forth with a few principles in mind: that the materials used be both "functional" and "durable."

During a May 19 media tour, *Real Change* editor Adam Holdorf asked Deborah Jacobs about one subtext in the design and planning of a new library: the place of homeless people within it.

"Lately, I've become irritatingly didactic" around that issue, Jacobs said. "I don't believe there's a homeless problem. I am concerned by people who have nowhere to go and may be addled by drugs and alcohol." That's why the library has rules of conduct. And there is a community-wide responsibility to make sure everyone can use the library—for example, to provide storage lockers so that homeless people aren't totting large bags through downtown (including, into the library). Why, asks Jacobs, are city leaders chronically inactive on the issue of a day, hygiene, and storage center for homeless people in the downtown area—despite protests from the library staff and board? "I don't want to own this problem," she says, "I want to solve it."

This is the third Central Library built at 1000 Fourth Ave. It stands 11 stories tall, and is designed to be earthquake safe. Covered by nearly 10,000 square feet of glass and aluminum mesh, the building provides 362,987 square feet of floor space. The new building has room for more than 1.4 million books, features 400 public computer terminals, and boasts a view of Puget Sound that was not expected for its site.

If you enter the first floor, through the Fourth Avenue entrance, you will find the Fay G. Allen Children's Center, the Anne Marie Gaul Story Hour Room, The Evelyn W. Foster Learning Center, The Microsoft Auditorium, and a small exhibition space.

You won't be able to visit the staff-only Second Floor, but I am told that it contains the Automatic Book Sorter, which uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to check in and sort returned books to the appropriate sections of the library.

The RFID system, installed and tested over the four and a half years the temporary Central Library was open, is more than just the book security system previously. The new tracking system will still cause an alert to sound if you forget to check out a book. When you drop a book in one of the return slots, a sandwicking double conveyor belt moves the book to the second floor. An antennae identifies the book via a microchip in the

book. The book is then sorted, either into a bin for transport to another branch library, or is placed spine out, top up onto a cart to be shelved manually. Designed by Tech Logic, three computers running Microsoft Windows 2000 operate the \$5 million system, and Tech Logic's Automated Materials Handling software can sort an average of 14,000 items per hour.

If you prefer, you can enter the third floor through the Fifth Avenue entrance, where you will find the Norcliffe Foundation Living Room, the Starbucks Teen center, the Maria Lee Koh and Family Fiction Collection, and the FareStart Library Café, where you may purchase sandwiches, snacks, and beverages. While food items are to be eaten within the Café, you may take your close-lidded beverage with you into the library.

There is a short red escalator that travels to and from the fourth floor, which contains six differently shaped meeting rooms.

Taking the centrally placed escalator from the third floor to the fifth floor, also named the Charles Simonyi Mixing Chamber, this contains the General Reference Desk, and over 120 public computer terminals with Internet access. The Mixing Chamber provides cross-reference functions across disciplines and is a good starting point for research collaboration throughout the library.

SECTION 8 continued from 1

ing measures. The agency has already imposed a minimum \$50 monthly rent payment from all tenants. Now, SHA will try to lower the standard rent payment landlords receive. If SHA still finds itself short—if, for example, the Bush Administration gets its wish for the 2005 budget—it will look at across-the-board rent increases.

"It's not our first choice, but it could happen," she says.

It's ironic that Section 8 is in the Bush Administration's crosshairs. For decades, the program held appeal for Democrats and Republicans alike.

Section 8 was invented by the Nixon Administration; it offered a kind of safety net for the poor while meeting the concerns of right-thinking policymakers, who wanted to divert the federal funding stream from cinderblock housing projects into the private rental market. Since the government wouldn't own the real estate, there would be no costly maintenance. And to property owners, those vouchers meant the federal government was assuring a poor tenant's rent. Landlords had a certain amount of peace of mind. Section 8 was like a bond in the bank.

Vincent Mullally is president of the Rental Housing Association of Puget Sound and a partner in Mullally Development Company, which owns and manages approximately 1,300 units of housing in the Seattle area. He says Section

Moving up, we come to the main portion of the library, floors six through nine, a spirally linked spool of stacks comprising the Non-Fiction section. The floors are exposed concrete, with black rubber mats with numbers denoting the Dewey Decimal number of the nearby shelves. On each of these four floors is a copy center, a reading area, about 30 public computers, and one or two themed collections or music rooms. These floors also hold about 75 percent of the Central Library's collection of books.

The 10th floor is the Betty Jane Narver Reading Room. This room was designed to look and feel like a tradi-

tional library, with a decoration scheme similar to the first and third floors.

If by chance you take an elevator to the eleventh floor and visit the Seattle Public Library's staff headquarters, a wall emblazoned with the following quote will greet you:

"There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the free public library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."

Those are the words of Andrew Carnegie, and they say a lot about why we have public libraries. ■



CITY LIBRARIAN DEBORAH JACOBS IN THE THIRD-FLOOR LIVING ROOM OF THE NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY. PHOTO BY ADAM HOLDORF.

8 is both useful and morally necessary.

"We have a lot of Section 8 residents in our various properties in Seattle. Generally, they are no more problem than any other resident. It's business for us, and we'd like to continue it. And, you have a segment of society that isn't able to afford market-rate housing. Section 8 gets the public—instead of a specific group of people, like with rent control—to pay for them."

"It's a free-market enterprise," says Linda Weedman, director of housing programs at the YWCA of King-Snohomish Counties. "I'm really surprised that it doesn't have the support of this Administration."

But conservative criticism is best encapsulated by the libertarian think tank The Manhattan Institute. In an article entitled "Let's End Section 8" in the fall 2000 issue of the Institute's publication *City Journal*, Howard Husock wrote that the program expanded because "Republican officials continued to focus on the mechanics and efficiency of the program, without stopping to recon-

sider its fundamental assumption that, without subsidies, the private housing market couldn't serve the poor."

That assumption, he wrote, is wrong: "Poor families *can* afford existing private housing without a subsidy—so long as the family has two earners.... Our 'housing problem,' then, really is just another name for our single-parent family and illegitimacy problems, with female-headed households making up fully 84 percent of voucher holders."

The Bush Administration's assault on Section 8 is ostensibly about fiscal discipline. After all, officials say, Section 8 is the fastest-growing part of HUD's budget.

But when thinkers on the right cast the debate over housing in terms of "family and illegitimacy problems," and when HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson calls poverty "a state of mind" (as he did in the May 21 Congressional hearing), one wonders about the existence of deeper motives.

Bud Alkire has a theory. "This is a deliberate, politically driven effort aimed at dramatically reducing the funds available to those most in need in our communities. You get a political desire to cut the programs with an agency that's willing to implement those changes in really inappropriate ways."

In sum, Alkire says, Bush plus HUD equals "the worst of both worlds." ■

Section 8 "is a free-market enterprise. I'm really surprised it doesn't have the support of this Administration."

On Seeing

A Visit to the Eastside's New Tent City

by Wendy E. Smith

It is noon as I step off the 522 Express from Seattle. After a long discussion, precipitated by my flashing my disabled pass, the driver decided to let me off near the Bothell Park and Ride. She thinks I can walk to Saint Brendan's from here. I'm not bothered. Being visually impaired, I'm used to being lost in strange neighborhoods.

It's a beautiful, sunny day as I head up the road in what I hope is the right direction for Tent City 4. This tree-lined, middle class suburb, I observe, is not unlike the one on Long Island in which I was raised.

In about 15 minutes I see two police cars pulled into a drive. Jackpot. Considering all the controversy that has surrounded the establishment of the new encampment for homeless people, I figure I must be about there.

This being suburbia, I am the only discernable person on foot. I walk to the closest police car and tap on the glass. When the officer lowers the window, I inquire as to the location of "the Catholic Church."

"You can't miss it," he tells me. How many times have I heard that in my life and then managed completely to miss whatever I couldn't possibly miss?

"You just walk down that way," he continues, waving his arm, "and then you'll see the tents; and the church is just across the street." I twig to what might currently be uppermost in the officer's mind.

In the event, the officer turns out to be right. I spot Tent City 4 right away. My only question is where the official entrance is. Finally, I just head cross-country toward the greatest concentration of people.

Even before I reach them, I am struck by the loveliness of the site. The fresh bright blue tarps that cover most of the tents look beautiful under the tall shade trees and the bright sun alike. I have the odd feeling that I am back in summer camp.

When I reach the grouping of people and introduce myself, their air of camaraderie, busy activity, and, truth be told, jubilation, does nothing to dispel this impression. These people are happy to be here.

I begin my interviewing right there in what I have now figured out is the reception area. I take out my little notebook and carefully print the name of my first interviewee: Bruce Hollander. Bruce is a cheerful, middle-aged guy with a belly and thick, graying hair. He looks like a lot of activists I know back in Seattle. And, as it turns out, he is. He starts reeling off figures faster than I can get them down: 8,000 homeless people in King County. Only 2,500 shelter beds....

I understand, I tell him. Not enough shelter. But why come to Bothell to camp?

"Some people are afraid to live out-

doors in Seattle. Also, in shelters, people have to stick to a strict schedule. But a lot of people want to work swing or graveyard shifts. Here we can come and go as we please."

I can relate to these reasons. I too want to live in a safe neighborhood. Before I moved to Seattle, I lived in a town in Connecticut where every person I knew, including me, was a victim of some sort of crime, many of them violent. I too want to manage my own schedule. I have only worked one nine-to-five job in my life. As a writer and activist (not to mention an insomniac), I can work in my pajamas at 2:00 am, should I see fit.

As I penetrate deeper into the camp, it occurs to me that these homeless people's personal reasons for moving to Tent City 4 are pretty much the same reasons other people move to the suburbs.

I talk to a pretty, heavy-set woman with strawberry blond hair and a radiant smile. Her name is Kim and she is working the whole time we are speaking, reaching down from her chair to sort through a virtual mountain of donated items.

"I grew up in a small town," Kim says. "I didn't like the cramped conditions in the city." Her boyfriend briefly interrupts us to give her a new bag of donations and point out, therein, a collection of seashells, some of which he would like for a necklace.

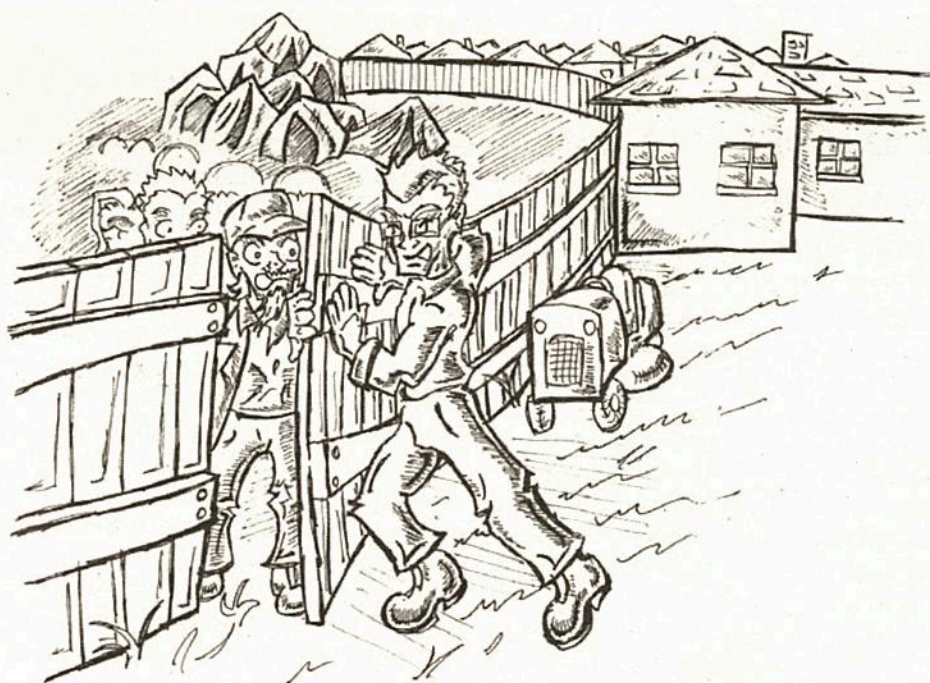
Kim tells me she has a degenerative bone disease that prevents her from standing for more than short periods. She's trying to get on SSI.

"I get depressed sometimes," she admits. "If it weren't for some of the women here, I would really be a wreck. They are like family."

I think of my own community in Queen Anne. I am barely on speaking terms with most of my neighbors. They wouldn't give a flying fuck if I became a wreck.

One theme that runs through my conversations with Tent City 4's residents is that homeless people are just like everyone else, only "down on our luck," as Kim puts it.

"It could have been them," she says with reference to the housed residents



of Bothell who objected to the arrival of Tent City 4. "They just don't realize it."

One reason I have come here is because I do realize it. But I didn't until I was halfway through a Ph.D. program at Yale.

I came from an upwardly mobile middle-class family where all three of the kids went to Ivy League universities. At 24, I had everything: family stability, friends, academic and cultural attainments, prizes, prospects.

New Haven, the city where Yale is located, was then the fifth poorest city in the country. For two years I had been tripping over homeless people on my way to class, but, absorbed as I was in working towards a career as an English professor, I hadn't given them more than a few moments' thought. They were from some other world to which I was not attuned.

School was hard for me, given that I was legally blind and English grad students have to do more than a shelf-load of reading. But I was a hard worker, and things went swimmingly until it was time to begin the long trek of preparation that would culminate in my oral qualifying exam.

I knew in my bones that I was not going to be able to pass that thing without some kind of accommodation. I simply couldn't read fast enough to learn everything I needed to know before I had forgotten the first stuff I had read. I decided to ask to take the exam in two parts. My request was summarily denied.

Full of angry pride, I began trying to force myself to achieve the impossible. What I achieved instead was triggering the beginning of a life with mental illness. Since I didn't know what mental illness was, and since people "like me" didn't have mental illnesses, it took months of not being able to sleep or eat or shop for food, of choking out phoned requests for help from friends, of emergency runs to the infirmary for sleeping pills, of trips back to my par-

ents' house where I didn't have to cope as an adult, before I sought the psychiatric help I needed.

I felt as helpless as a peeled grape. And, oh, the shame! The only reason I survived was that I had friends and a family with money to fall back on.

Eventually, I dropped out of grad school and started working for a human services consulting firm. Through my job, I started meeting people who were down on their luck, the people I hadn't seen before, the people who lived in that other world that had nothing to do with "us."

That was the year I became a human being. What I knew then was that the only thing that separated me from "them" was a thing as thin and fragile as the crumbling paper in the volumes in Yale's rare book library.

Some residents of Bothell have clearly gotten the picture. In addition to the mountains of blankets, clothing, toiletries, flowers and food they have delivered, they have also come bearing love.

"I was afraid to come here yesterday," Kim confesses. "I thought people were going to be against us. But I had people coming here giving me hugs."

On the other hand, things are clearly not all roses.

I ask Bruce what he thinks all the screaming in town meetings and the City of Bothell's lawsuit against the church are about.

"Unfounded hysteria," he says with a wry laugh.

"The thing that really got me," says resident Dorn Jones, in a distinctly less cheerful tone, "was 'I'm a Christian, BUT....'"

Dorn also tells me that he is unhappy about one concession that Saint Brendan's made to pacify the more vociferous neighbors.

"The church is having to put up this big chain link fence around us, and then another one around the school yard, and it's going to have black paper on it so the kids don't have to see us."

Don't have to see us. The phrase reverberates in my mind. Will these children too have to wait until they are 24 and have a nervous breakdown before they become human beings? ■

The only thing that separated me from "them" was a thing as thin and fragile as the crumbling paper in the volumes in Yale's rare book library.

Troubles Seep

The Working Poor: Invisible in America
By David K. Shipler
Knopf, 2004
Hardcover, 336 pages, \$25

Review by Timothy Harris

The most remarkable thing about poverty in America is its ubiquity. While we are surrounded by and depend upon the labor of those working in low-wage industries — food service, janitorial, childcare, and retail, to name a few — we don't much want to pay them. A full-time worker in a minimum wage job, in most states, lives well below the poverty line.

Election year politics has led to some recent Congressional debate on this issue, with millionaire Democrats posing as friends of the working poor and millionaire Republicans posing as friends of small business. It's the perfect political debate in which everyone, barring perhaps the poor, wins. In the end, the minimum

reached its peak buying power in the 60s and has declined relative to inflation since 1973, will go up a buck or two, and deeply entrenched poverty will still be very much with us.

Forty years after the publication of Michael Harrington's *The Other America*, the income gap yawns wider than ever, with the top 10 percent of Americans earning an average of \$833,600, and the bottom 20 percent earning just \$7,900. The United States has a lower life expectancy and higher infant mortality rate than Japan, Hong Kong, Israel, Canada, and any of the nations of Western Europe. Yet, somehow, our capacity for outrage has been lost. We have sadly acclimated to widespread misery amidst obscene displays of wealth.

David Shipler's *The Working Poor: Invisible in America* is the best and most deeply nuanced of the recent crop of books exploring this issue, including Barbara Ehrenreich's popular *Nickel and Dimed* and Beth Shulman's fiery *Betrayal of Work*. Shipler, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his book *Arab and Jew*, refuses to polarize the issue along the familiar lines of structural causes vs. personal responsibility, and through dozens of in-depth interviews with individuals and families struggling to get by manages to humanize the issue while revealing the deep underpinnings of poverty in America.

"It is difficult," writes Shipler, "to find someone whose poverty is not

somehow related to his or her own unwise behavior... and it is difficult to find behavior that is not somehow related to the inherited condition of being poorly parented, poorly educated, and poorly housed in neighborhoods from which no distant horizon of possibility can be seen."

Tenuous successes all too often are undermined by the essential vulnerability that poverty creates. "In the house of the poor," he writes, "the walls are thin and fragile, and troubles seep into one another." Worse, entire industries that prey upon the poor, such as high-interest check cashing outlets and other businesses that exploit poor credit, ensure that some working poor remain forever in debt. Shipler describes poverty as "a bleeding wound" that weakens defenses, lowers resistance, and attracts predators.

Of all the interviews that make up this book, the ones that haunt the most are of those most like our-

selves: hard working, struggling, even middle class. A close-knit New England family fails to overcome a mother's cancer and, while a community rallies to help them through tragedy, their poverty endures. An educated middle-class woman and her children are reduced to destitution after a divorce, yet their cultural capital keeps the family together until the children both enter prestigious universities. A young couple with too little income and few prospects for getting ahead spend money on non-essentials like CDs, beer, and tattoos while they avoid confronting the issues that keep them poor.

While there are few outright prescriptions here for redistributing the wealth, the programs Shipler favors approach poverty holistically. There's a clinic in Boston that's had great success in treating illness with lawyers. With three legal staff and numerous interns, their advocacy-driven approach applies lasting solutions instead of quick band-aids. There are schoolteachers who offer support to their kids along with high expectations. A job-training program run by a former drill sergeant in Virginia focuses on building self-esteem and the soft skills like arriving on time, reacting to conflict appropriately, and learning to complete tasks.

In the end, says Shipler, solving poverty often comes down to teaching the skills people need and finding the political will to make this sort of training and advocacy more available, but that's easier said than done. Poverty persists because those of us who are more privileged benefit. Responsibility is so broadly diffused, says Shipler, "that it looks like no one is accountable. But in fact, everybody is."

Princess Bianca and the Vandals: A Post Modern Tale of Two Kingdoms

By Nick Licata
Fratelli Gracchi Publications, October 2003
Paperback, 165 pages

Review by Anitra Freeman

Some wonderful children's fantasy books are also favorites of many adults: C.S. Lewis's chronicles of Narnia from its creation by Aslan the Lion to its apocalypse; Madeleine L'Engle's trilogy of the cosmic adventures of the Murry children in *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Wind in the Door*, and *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*; many others which if I list them all will take up all the space and I will never get to telling you about Nick Licata's *Princess Bianca*.

Like the children in Lewis's and L'Engle's books, *Princess Bianca* must deal with much more than the dog Spot and a big red ball. Fantasy has long been used to address the problems of reality, and in *Princess Bianca and the Vandals*, Bianca must address the impact of humans on nature and nature on humans that has begun to concern an increasing number of us since the first days that "ecology" became a buzz-word. Her mother, father, beloved forest, and entire way of life are at risk from greed and violence, and it seems that Bianca is the only one who can set things right.

Relationships are also a big part of children's concerns, and seem to get much more emphasis in "children's" books (the best of them, anyway) than in "adult" books. Some adults may be disturbed that Bianca is the one to rescue her mother and father. While it may not be healthy for children to think that they have to emotionally rescue their parents in reality, physically rescuing our parents and other adults in fantasy, however, seems to be an important part of growing up.

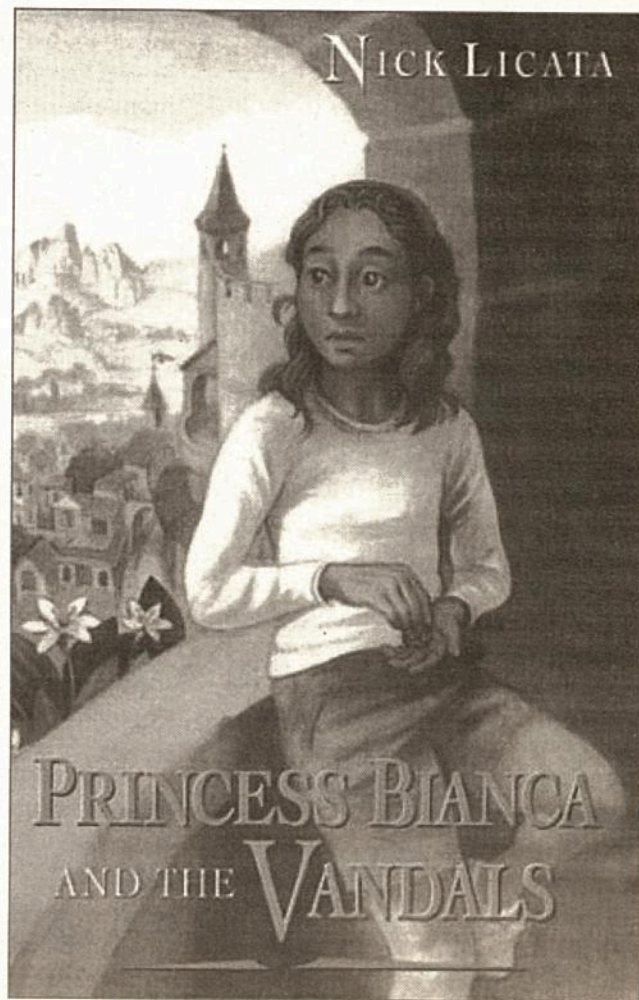
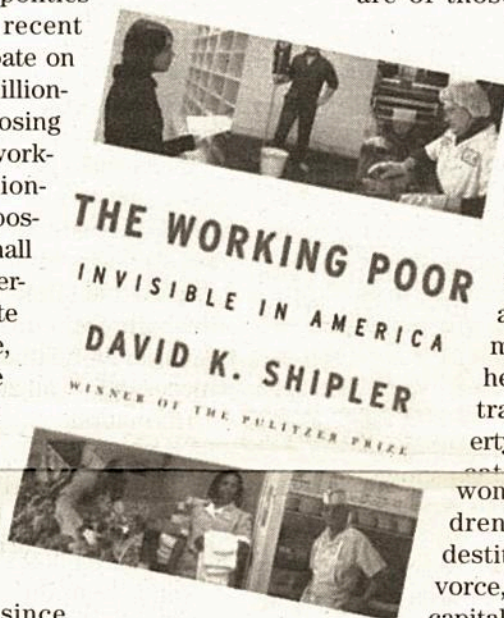
The female characters are definitely the leaders in this story. While the King and the Prince certainly have power, they spend most of the book either dead or asleep. The Queen is more often shown exercising leadership. Bianca her-

self leads the expedition to rescue the Queen, and the other strongest figures on the expedition are also girls—and they have very active adventures, indeed. This is all presented so matter-of-factly that it has a much greater effect, I think, than women fighting for power and independence in such books does, even when they win.

Nick Licata never comes right out and says that when we destroy the relationship between ourselves and nature, we also break down the relationships among ourselves; and when we destroy the relationships among ourselves, we also break down our relationships with nature. He just demonstrates it. That is the power of story, to be able to show without telling, and the best storytellers use that power. When stories are fun, they not only have more effect, but they get read by more people. And *Princess Bianca's* story, as meaningful as adults may find it, is also fun. I hope it is enjoyed by many children. The bookshelf of juvenile fantasy needs more such entries.

Like the children in Lewis's and L'Engle's books, *Princess Bianca* must deal with much more than the dog Spot and a big red ball.

It always gives us a special glow when an author is from Seattle. It seems even more special when the author is from the Seattle City Council. Seattle already has a reputation in the rest of the country as being a very literate city, where people sit around in coffee houses and discuss books; Seattleites buy more books per capita each year than any other city in the country except Minneapolis, Minn., and that's probably just because they have Garrison Keillor. Now we can even say that our City Council writes books. I don't think even Minneapolis can say that. Write On, Nick! ■



Memorial Day Notables

Friday 5/28

Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice present Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies. This evening's film is **The Face of Decent Work**, a riveting expose of the world's most deadly professions and workplace hazards. Free, donations welcome. 7 p.m., at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. just north of 50th in Wallingford. Info wfnfp@comcast.net.

Saturday 5/29

Volunteer to increase voter registration and turnout of low-income voters. Join the **Statewide Poverty Action Network** as they register voters door-to-door in Auburn and Kent. Transportation from Seattle provided. 10:45 a.m. - 2 p.m., every Saturday through Oct. 2. Carpool from Fremont Public Association, 1501 N. 45th, at 10:15 a.m. Info Anne Yen 206-694-6794 ext. 4 or anney@povertyaction.org

Sunday 5/30

25th Anniversary of the ending of Cambodia's genocide. In commemoration three artists are on tour with the **Spirit of Cambodia**, a presentation of film, stories and music. Sponsored by the University of Washington's School of Social Work and many others. Many programs offered all day, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., at UW School of Social Work, 4101 15th Ave. NE. Info Ryker Labbee 206-295-1461 or rykerl@hotmail.com.

Wednesday 6/2

Seattle/King County **Youth Workers Forum**. This is an opportunity to network, share resources, receive training, and strengthen the community of people who are committed to positive support and development of young people in our area. This forum is open to any staff members, volunteers and others who are interested in working with young people. Free, please bring a lunch. Please RSVP to Teresa Perez

206-382-5013 ext. 5068 or tperez@mc.seattleymca.org. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Catholic Community Services, 100 23rd Ave. S. at Yesler. Info David Kelly-Hedrick 206-382-5343.

Jobs With Justice Organizing Committee meeting. 5:30 p.m., at Labor Temple, Hall 8, 2800 1st Ave., Seattle. Info 206-441-4969.

Thursday 6/3

State Budget Priorities, a Town Hall Meeting with Marty Brown, director of the Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM). Learn and comment as OFM prepares to write a second biennial budget to be submitted to the 2005 Legislature. Ample time for audience participation will be allowed. 7 p.m., at Seattle Community College, 1701 Broadway, north of Pine, Rooms 1110-1111. Please RSVP to Ryan Agnew at ryan.agnew@gov.wa.gov or 360-902-4110.

Friday 6/4

Celebrating the **Legacy of Cesar Chavez**, this banquet is the major fundraising event to support completion of the only public park in Washington that honors Cesar Chavez. Reception 5:30 p.m., Dinner and Program 6:30 p.m., at South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave. SW. Info Adrian Moroles adrianmoroles@seamarchc.org.

Joy and Justice lecture with Marjorie Kelly, author of **The Divine Right of Capital**. Ms. Kelly will discuss ideas to democratize economics and to make corporations accountable to the people. Free, donations accepted. 7 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23rd Ave. NW in Ballard. Info Rev. Rich Lang 206-784-2227 or oddrev@yahoo.com. A follow-up seminar will be at this same location on Sat. 6/5 at 9:00 a.m.

Wallingford Neighbor for Peace and Justice present Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies. This week's film is

Strong Roots: Brazil's Landless Worker's Movement. Speaker and discussion follows. Free, donations welcome. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. just north of 50th in Wallingford. Info wfnfp@comcast.net.

Saturday 6/5

Benefit Concert for SNOW (Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War), with Molly Tenenbaum & Friends playing old-time Appalachian stringband music and Clallam County playing and singing rousing folksongs of several decades. SNOW is a coalition of 106 groups and individuals formed in 2002. Suggested donation \$10. 7:30 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23rd Ave. NW in Ballard. Info and tickets 206-706-7088 or marjackson@juno.com.

Sunday 6/6

A Children's Gathering for Peace, a peaceful outdoor gathering of children, families and friends to celebrate different cultures and to promote world peace through song. This event will be filmed and part of the film will be sent to Afghanistan to be aired on television. Children from many different countries will be participating. Sponsored by Seattle Center. 2 p.m., at Seattle Center Mural Amphitheater. Info Mary K. McNeill 206-517-9897 or mkmcneill@mac.com.

Tuesday 6/8

Cuban Film Festival showing the film, **Send a Piano to Havana**, followed by a discussion led by Taleigh Smith of Pastors for Peace. A \$10 donation is requested to support education and advocacy work for the right to travel to Cuba. Presented by U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration Project. 6:45 p.m., at 911 Media Arts Center, 117 Yale Ave. N. off Denny and near REI, Seattle. Info 206-682-6552.

Wednesday 6/9

Homestead Community Land Trust general meeting, a grassroots, membership-based group creating permanently affordable homeownership opportunities. 6:30 p.m., at

Homestead's office, 1309 13th Ave. S., Seattle. Info 206-323-1227 or homesteadclt@yahoo.com.

Calendar compiled from Jean Buskin's **Peace and Justice Events Calendar**, available in full at www.scn.org/activism/calendar. Are you holding an event? Email calendar submissions to Real Change at calendar@realchangenews.org. Please allow three weeks' notice.



A free service linking do-gooders with organizations in need.

Be a part of history! This festival, the first of its kind, is a three-day multidisciplinary event featuring workshops with the nation's most accomplished Black speculative **fiction writers**, film screenings and lectures from June 11 to 13. Please go to www.cdforum.org/bttf for more info or call 206-323-4032.

SHARE/WHEEL is in desperate need of **volunteer drivers** to deliver supplies and blankets to shelters and Tent Cities. Having one's own van/pickup is extremely helpful, but not absolutely necessary. Call 206-448-7889 for more information.

Shoreline YMCA has tons of rewarding volunteer opportunities to **care for area teens and kids**. Make a lasting difference today! For a complete list of "opportunities to serve" log onto our website, call us or email us directly mack@sh.seattleymca.org.

Volunteer Chore Services needs volunteers to help with housechores and yardwork to help low-income **disabled adults and seniors**. The program allows each volunteer to choose their time/location. Please call Heather at 425-284-2240 or 888-649-6850 for more info.

Send a free listing of no more than 50 words to **Volunteers Wanted** at adsales@realchangenews.org.

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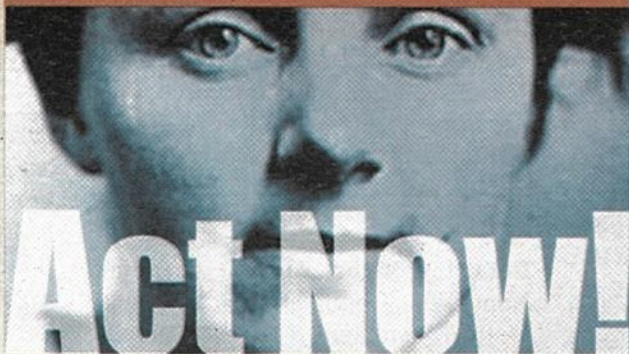
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Find this Shelter a Home

Issue: Two shelter programs operating within the Downtown Public Safety Building risk being discontinued when the building closes June 30 in preparation for demolition.

Background: A year-round shelter has been shuffling around the downtown core for the last several years, and is slated to move again at the end of June. Only problem is, as of yet the shelter has nowhere to relocate to.

The two shelters presently housed within the Public Safety Building — one, staffed by the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), provides 50 beds and runs year-round; another, a Winter Response/emergency shelter, run by the Salvation Army between October and March, can accommodate up to 150 — together provide upwards of 200 beds at full operation. Originally housed in the old Municipal building, the shelter was relocated to the Public Safety Building last year when the former closed down.

The “shelter formerly known as Muni” caters primarily to middle-aged homeless men, and in 2003 provided 17,423 bed-nights of shelter to 905 people. No corresponding stats were available for the winter-only shelter, but you can imagine how the numbers increase.

DESC staff responsible for running the year-round shelter often split shifts between it and their downtown center at the Morrison Hotel (at 509 Third Avenue), so relocating centrally is an imperative. The city's Human Services Department (HSD) is charged with locating a new venue for the shelter and to this point seem to have had their hands tied by a general dearth of suitable, available buildings in the downtown area.

Some have suggested setting up shop in the of the new City Hall building if necessary, however no one with the city seems to be taking the idea seriously. But they have a point: Seattle citizens have in the past two years spent hundreds of millions putting up a new City Hall — apparently less homeless-friendly than the former one — and, more recently, a new Central Library, which opened amid mass consternation that it would be overrun by the daytime homeless crowd. If Seattleites are worried about homeless people clashing with our precious new buildings, the logical solution is to provide them with a place to go.

Let's work together to make sure that when the Public Safety Building closes in June, we have a site ready and waiting. One night of services lost as a result of the move is one too many.

Action: Publicity and political will are what's needed. Help force the drive to find a new home for the “Muni shelter” onto the radar screen of local politicians and the general public alike. Contact your mayor and councilmembers or pen an editorial to the *Times* or *P-I*. The clock is ticking. Contacts:

Richard.Mciver@seattle.gov / 206-684-8800
Jan.Drago@seattle.gov / 206-684-8801
Jim.Compton@seattle.gov / 206-684-8802
Nick.Licata@seattle.gov / 206-684-8803
Peter.Steinbrueck@seattle.gov / 206-684-8804
Richard.Conlin@seattle.gov / 206-684-8805
Jean.Godden@seattle.gov / 206-684-8807
Tom.Rasmussen@seattle.gov / 206-684-8808
David.Della@seattle.gov / 206-684-8806

Call Mayor Nickels at 684-4000, or email him by going to www.seattle.gov/mayor/citizen_response.htm.

The website at the end
of Western Civilization
classicscorner.org



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Bring story ideas, comments, sug-
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monthly open meeting of the **Real
Change Editorial Committee**. Wednes-
day June 23, 4:30 p.m., at the *Real
Change* office. Everyone welcome.
For additional information about
the meeting, please call Adam
Holdorf, editor, at 206-441-3247, ex-
tension 207.

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

Seattle Public Library, Serials Unit
1000 - 4th Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104



Mockingbird Times



Building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth



June 2004

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

Volume IV, Issue 6

Visit us online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org

Take Charge of Your Transition From Foster Care

ECHO SPEED



THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PRETTY TOUGH COOKIE TO CRACK when it comes to changing the way they deal with youth. Transitioning from foster care as one approaches the tender age of 18 isn't an exception to this rule. However, there are also certain options that youth in this situation have that allow small windows of hope for a better adulthood upon transitioning out of the state's care.

Depending on your situation, leaving the system doesn't have to be a doomed experience if you play your cards right. And standing around and not taking action may not get the job done.

According to the book "Time Running Out: Teens In Foster Care" by Madelyn Freundlich, research has tackled numerous issues affecting a youth's transition out of foster care system. Issues include health status; access to health care; education; employment; poverty; safety; criminal

activity; and housing. Research has to some degree also addressed the importance of family and adult connections, the public's perception of youth transitioning from the foster care to adulthood, and assessments of the adequacy of independent living preparation.

Recent studies show that youth often need highly intensive and specialized health services once they start to age out of the foster care system. 30% of youth formerly in foster care reported having serious physical and mental health problems in the Nevada KIDS COUNT study (2001).

Educational disadvantages plague youth leaving the foster care system. The Youth Advocacy Center (2001b) revealed that only about 50% of youth, two to four years after aging out of state's care, ever completed high school or received a GED. Only 9% had entered college. Those recently in foster care also find it difficult to be in employment. Courtney, Pilavin, Grogan-Kaylor, and Nesmith (2001) did a study that indicates 40% of youth interviewed 12 to 18 months after leaving foster care were not employed. And,

Do not hesitate to do what you must when your future is at stake. There are plenty of programs available that are meant to help your cause, and you have a right and a responsibility to yourself to participate in them.

of course, this couldn't possibly have anything to do with the severe problem of adults previously in foster care being at high risk for poverty. Courtney and colleagues (2001) found that between 12 to 18 months after leaving care, 32% received public assistance.

Now it's time to approach the ways to prevent a youth from becoming part of the statistics discussed. Education is a good place to start. In my opinion, youth have much better luck going to a regular school versus schooling in congregated care when it comes to the amount of learning that is achieved.

On the other hand, some youth seem to do considerably better in school if they attend an alternative school program. In some cases a young adult might be so far behind in school that catching up isn't even possible until they are released from the system. Obtaining your GED (General Education Development Test) is a good goal to seek in this case and most colleges will accept this as an alternative to a diploma. Call

Continued on Page 2



Tent City Uproar Unnecessary

DARIUS REYNOLDS



IMAGINE THAT A FAMILY OF DUCKS LANDS IN YOUR BACKYARD and decides to make it their new home through the winter. Will you make them leave? Not only do they make your backyard their new home but it's now their bathroom, plus they leave feathers everywhere and are noisy. A lot of people would let them stay because they are cute.

Now imagine that the government has given a hundred homeless people permission to camp two miles from your house for three months on land that nobody uses. These people are quiet; they clean up regularly and even provide extra security for your neighborhood. Will you let them stay? A lot of people would say no because homeless people are considered bad.

Why are people making such a big deal about Tent City moving to the Bothell Brickyard Road Park & Ride? It's not like they are asking people to give them money or let them sleep in their bed. I do understand that the city should have given the community more notice but I don't think that is a reason to react how they did at the Town Meeting on May, 3 2004.

Real Change (A Seattle-based homeless newspaper) recently stated that the general public does not have the right to ignore homelessness. I agree with this, the public does not have the right to remain ignorant. This seems like exactly what the community in Bothell wants; to stay ignorant about serious community issues. It's not like a hundred serial rapists are moving into their neighborhood; we are talking about a community of people who have lived peacefully in the other neighborhoods where they have been located.

Tent City is a nomadic tent community that is coordinated by homeless people as an alternative to living on the streets or camping illegally. Tent City

provides homeless people a place to keep their things so they can go out and look for a job without actually looking homeless, as well as a safe place to sleep and access resources. I have met a few people who lived at Tent City and all of them are people who worked everyday and if not; they sit at Millionaires Club or Labor Ready (temporary employment agencies in Seattle) waiting for work.

According to a recent article by Amy Haimerl, the first Seattle Tent City was founded in 1990 and there have been three since this date. In 2000, Tent City sued the city because they were denied a camping permit. In 2002 the courts ruled that camping on private land is not illegal and that Tent City could still function as long as they limited the population to 100 people and move every 90 days, Tent City agreed to this (westword.com).

Before Tent City was in Bothell it was at a number of other churches, including Trinity United Methodist Church in Ballard. Reverend Rich Lang, the pastor of this church, told the *Seattle PI* that at the first community meeting regarding Tent City, "It was the same hysteria as in Bothell." However, after a few months the Ballard community accepted Tent City and even invited them to come back for another three months.

On May 17, 2004 Tent City moved to Bothell. I hope the people in Bothell grow to accept the people at Tent City. People like Reverend Lawrence Minder of St. Brendan Catholic Parish, who will be camping with the residents of Tent City for the whole three months, will hopefully set a good example for everyone.

I would like to close with a line from *Real Change*, "The tired and perfected military solution is for soldiers to build their own temporary shelter (tents), until permanent shelter can be provided."

INSIDE

Letter from the Editor
by Jim Theofelis

2

Poetry Corner
Public Pretenders
By Jake Palladini

2

Goodbye Mockingbird
by Bridgett Siroshon

3

Yeah Yeah Yeah Excitement
by Bridgett Siroshon

3

Kill Bill Volume II
by Courtney Konietzko

3

Thoughts on Oppression
by J.Eboh

4

Mockingbird Meets David
Horsey
by Echo Speed

4

Bend It Extravaganza
by Misty Lou Cook

4

Letter From the Editor

SINCE AUGUST OF 1998, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has been embroiled in a lawsuit involving the care and safety of approximately 3,500 children and adolescents in the Washington foster care system. Officially referred to as the **Jessica Braam Et Al v. State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services**, the lawsuit focuses on the standard of care provided by DSHS, specifically the prevalence of multiple placements, importance of keeping siblings together and the need for improved recruitment, retention and training of foster families. The case was appealed to the State Supreme Court, who recently provided their ruling, resulting in both sides claiming victory. The DSHS was elated that a Whatcom County jury's verdict was reversed—a verdict that would have resulted in some oversight of parts of the state's foster care system to an independent entity.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court ruling clearly rejected the state's position that the standard of care for foster children was less than or equal to that of incarcerated prisoners. The Court also rejected the state's argument that violations of the children's rights could be excused because of a lack of funding. Supreme Court Justice Tom Chambers, on behalf of a unanimous Court, wrote that the State, "...owes these children more than benign indifference and must affirmatively take reasonable steps to provide for their care and safety."

The case now appears to be heading back to court unless there is a strong demonstration of leadership. **DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock** has demonstrated his capacity for such leadership. Recently hired **Assistant Secretary for the DSHS Children's Administration Uma Ahluwalia** has shown great promise as a leader dedicated to improving children's lives and future. **Governor Gary Locke**, Secretary Braddock and Assistant Secretary Ahluwalia have an incredible opportunity at hand. The state is right to identify positive gains achieved in recent years. However, the recent failings in the federal review of Washington's child welfare system and the ongoing reports from social service providers, families, foster parents and state caseworkers is ample evidence that there

is so much more to be done. Kids and families continue to fall through the cracks often because of a lack of resources but also because of policies and practices. Negotiations between DSHS and opposing counsel are set for mid-June.

It's time to bring some urgency to the negotiations, settle this case and get about the business of building a world class foster/kinship care system. Washington's Supreme Court had it right and as did **James Baldwin**: **"For these are all our children and we will profit by or pay for whatever they become."**

On another note, this marks the last issue that Bridgette Siroshon will work at *Mockingbird Times*. Bridgette has been a wonderful addition to the *Mockingbird Times* team; producing articles that have been fun, thoughtful and thought-provoking. She is a remarkable young woman who has much to offer and I know all of the youth and staff at Mockingbird join me in wishing her the best because that is what she deserves.



Jim Theofelis
jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

We will Miss You Bridgett!!



Continued from Front Page

1-800-626-9433 for GED testing centers nationwide and in Canada. Before aging out of the system, a young adult should make sure all their schooling is done and then immediately seek college education to avoid a dead end life.

Job hunting is the same. It's very important to earn job experience while you are still in the system--because once released all you have on your side is what you know about making it in the real world—and if you don't know how to find and keep a job how will you succeed when you are independent?

When it comes to independent living and transitional programs, whether or not they are actually helpful is under much discussion. According to Freunlich, some writers are critical of independent living programs. They claim that the programs create unreal and unfair expectations on part of the youth foster parents and practitioners; underestimate the importance of youth needs to connect with others and place the burden of preparing youth for adulthood on themselves.

The road to independence has a lot to do with real world experience. If you aren't sure that a program you are placed in is going to help you...help yourself. Take as much opportunity to gather real life experience as possible.

I'd like to bring attention to all youth in state care the matter of how capable your case worker is. Yes, there are a great deal of case workers who may seem lazy or uninvolved. Sometimes your case worker may seem like they hold a grudge against you, or like they don't pay enough attention to your needs.

Don't just sit back and relax. If you are serious about progressing in life, you have to stand up and work for it. Get your worker's attention—force them to listen. Constantly bug them until they have to pay attention. If that doesn't work, write letters to your judge or the case workers boss.

Do not hesitate to do what you must when your future is at stake. There are plenty of programs available that are meant to help your cause, and you have a right and a responsibility to yourself to participate in them.

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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 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 \$25 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 the key to the philosophy, values, and success of The Mockingbird Society and, as such, youth are involved in all aspects of organizational development and decision-making. All donations to The Mockingbird Society are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. No part of the *Mockingbird Times* may be reproduced without the written permission of The Mockingbird Society. All contents copyright 2004 The Mockingbird Society.

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Kill Bill Volume 2

COURTNEY KONIETZKO



"Bill is a pimp," Tarantino declares. "He's a procurer in every way, except for him it's about death, murder, and killing as opposed to sex: seeing a girl who he thinks has a prostitute hidden inside her, but she doesn't know it yet. All he has to do is bring it out, to turn her and make her part of his stable." – Quentin Tarantino

DESPITE THIS QUOTE, I FOUND KILL BILL VOLUME 2 TO BE REALLY EMPOWERING towards women. I can't tell you why I found it empowering or I might give the movie away. I eagerly awaited this movie, constantly checking to see when it was REALLY coming out because the date kept on getting pushed further back. Kill Bill Volume 1 left me hungry for more. That's the way it always seems to be with Quentin Tarantino films. Volume 2 fed my appetite for now at least. You know it's good when you know the end of the film is approaching and you get that "Aw, does it have to end?" feeling.

While Volume 1 was a fast-paced beautiful blood bath, the gore factor of Volume 2 is severely reduced. Volume 2 is more emotional, slower paced, and the acting is really strong. I also liked Volume 2's soundtrack better; it seems slightly more listener friendly. One of the golden tracks is the song Black Mamba by the RZA (pronounced Riza), producer of several of the Wu-Tang Clan's albums.



The RZA has talent. There's something strangely melodic about his stuff.

Tarantino's films are often quirky and violent. Kill Bill was not an exception, but what makes it different from his other films is the length – Volume 1 runs 111 minutes and Volume 2 runs 136 minutes— equaling over four hours of film – Tarantino's longest work yet. You don't realize that each volume is that long because your attention is held firmly by the intensity of the film. Each volume is set up with chapters splicing apart the various scenes. Like Kill Bill Volume 1, it reads like a good book you can't put down.

The Bride a.k.a. Black Mamba (Uma Thurman) continues on her quest to make a wrong done to her right--having had an attempt made on her life by the other members of the DIVAs when she tried to marry a normal guy and get out of the killing business. The Bride continues seeking out the rest of the people on her hit list with Bill a.k.a. Snake Charmer (David Carradine), being the big guy at the top. The list is composed of members of the Deadly Viper Assassination Squad (DIVAs), a killing team of three women minus Black Mamba, Bill's brother Budd a.k.a. Sidewinder (Michael Madsen – known for his role as Mr. Blonde, the guy who cut off the cop's ear in Tarantino's Reservoir Dogs), and Bill. This a story of revenge.

Go see it—you're in for a treat! Theatres in Seattle currently showing Kill Bill: AMC Pacific Place 11 (206) 652-2404, Landmark Varsity Theatre (206) 781-5755, and the LCE Grand Cinema Alderwood (425) 774-3536.

Yeah Yeah Yeah Excitement

BRIDGETT SIROSHTON

THE YEAH YEAH YEAH'S WERE FORMED IN WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO. The line up for the band consists of singer Karen O, guitar player Nick Zinner, and last but not least drummer Brian Chase. They don't need a bass player because Nick uses two amps (similar to the White Stripes sound).

The Yeah Yeah Yeah's are an art-punk/disco sludge kind of band, and their success is mostly word of mouth and MTV. Their first album *Fever To Tell* was nominated for a grammy, for the song "Maps" their first single. Karen O. sings with melancholy and kind of a slowish parody of their name (Yeah Yeah Yeah's) when she sings in "Maps" "My kind's your kind, I'll stay the same, back up don't stray oh say say say ...they don't love you like I love you!"

In the video, Karen O. sings her heart out in a mock-up of a live bar performance. She even cries as the projector lights hit her face. It has to be one of their best songs because of the raw emotion displayed.

There's a lot of hits on this album. Their second single "Date With the Night" is very upbeat, very different from "Maps" because it's very uptempo, Karen O. sings "I'll set it off" whispering then hollering "Buying out the fight, gonna walk on water." The song is okay but I prefer the more slow tempo, because I like slower songs. Another great song is "Man" O. sings "I got a man that makes me wanna kill, I got a man that makes me wanna die...we're all gonna burn in hell, cause we're doing what we got to do, because we got the fever to tell." It's kind of skitterish and doesn't make sense but it does some justice to the song. She's happy to have a man by her

side. "Black Tongue" is a nice up-tempo song and O, at her best, sings, "I wanna see you squeal and shake, uh a ha a ha aha...well you know were on the run, you know there gonna want some".

O's singing is all quirky and excited. The song "Pin," a hard punk-rock song she sings "Things are feeling thin well I know I lost my seat again, I'll go go go, pushing in the pin well I know", then she sings a little melody with the guitar "bom bom bom dana dana dan dana"... The Yeah Yeah Yeah's songs are just put together well. There are many songs worthy of being a single. The Yeah Yeah Yeah's have the kind of energy that just makes you want to hear them over and over again.



Another song "No No No" has thrashing guitars and guitar squalls, and the breakdown is the best part. Karen O. sings "It's not at bad as you thought, he'll never come back as the man you loved, I told her, I told her...no no no." This is a really good song about a friend realizing that her boyfriend isn't the same.

My favorite song on the album has got to be "Y Control" because it has the best beats, and it starts off with electronic beeping that progresses into a repetitive drumming. O sings, "Y control, you walk walk, I'm outta control Y control; oh so what my loving goes...well I'm just a poor little baby cause where I go I lead them on."

The facts are in, the Yeah Yeah Yeah's are one of the best bands in the world. Get this cool CD, you won't be disappointed. And you can get this CD for a cheap price at Best Buy store locations.

Goodbye Mockingbird

BRIDGETT SIROSHTON



WELL IT'S BEEN A YEAR THAT I'VE WORKED AT MOCKINGBIRD AND NOW IT'S MY TIME TO MOVE ON. I was referred to the job by Shannon, my former boss in a writing program called the Zine Project, who now supervises the Times. Shannon has been more than a boss; how rare is it that you find a cool boss? I didn't know how long I would be working here when I started. I thought it would be maybe just a summer job, maybe something longer. But it has been one year. This job has given me time to get my stuff together and pay my rent.

Now it's time for me to move on, and move forward. I think that I've made some important connections at Mockingbird, and I've learned how to write better. This was my first job at a newspaper, and I learned the importance of a deadline and mailing out thousands of newspapers every month.

Just knowing that people hear and listen to what I'm saying is an important aspect of writing for the Times. You don't really get the opportunity to have that happen very often. In the beginning I just wrote music reviews. Then I started tackling hardcore topics. My personal favorite was the Positive Power Piece, "Being Who You Are," about what it's like for young people who are gay. It was very hard to write knowing that some people would not be supportive. Don't get me wrong, I love writing about the music reviews. Being able to share my musical knowledge with other people, and hopefully opening them up to different musical styles is something that I'm proud of.

It's rare that you get to share your beliefs and thoughts in a newspaper like you do in the Mockingbird Times. I'm going to miss Courtney because she has been like my punk-sister, to me we've shared a lot with each other. I'm going to miss Dennis who which our computers wouldn't be functional. And I'm going to miss Darius' music in the background, mostly the band Weezer. I'm going to miss Jim checking on us to see if we're getting everything done.

I'm going to miss compliments on my style and being able to let my "hair down" which I never do. It was nice to have people respect me and treat me as an equal. This is probably the first job that I've had where I haven't had a fight with another co-worker, or where there has been drama. I can honestly say there was "NO DRAMA", which was nice for a change. I'm going to miss the Mockingbird Times. Thanks for the opportunity to grow!

Poetry Corner

Public Pretenders

JAKE PALLADINI

- Sometimes Chaos an' Anarchy is necessary to
- Save us Internally
- the Bravest U.S. Military rarely makes up for atrocities.
- Bravery isn't always artillery.
- Nowadays slavery's mentally in Academies.
- The mentality has to be responsibility to a country
- Politically or religiously or possibly stability financially
- Rationally idiocy gots to be idiosyncrasies
- in your personalities personally
- Similarly I observe these politically
- It's Nationally stackin sheep asleep an blindfolded
- in too deep designed soldiers-brain washed told to
- Stand watch and Stain tops it's hogwash
- human watch dogs for what dog?
- To save the homes of HM0's a nation so cold
- 8-year-olds got no homes and jus' grow old to hobo's
- and old-crows who don't know ish about disowned kids
- got bones to pick in politics for homelessness and call
- it hopelessness
- jus' addict's business tactics
- throw meaningless cents at it
- and census schematics in the present sense backs it
- believe in the Census then call the police and flip
- when kids sleepin on benches.

Mockingbird Staff Meets David Horsey

ECHO SPEED

PERHAPS THE POLITICAL CARTOONISTS OF THIS DAY AND AGE HAVE IT TOO EASY. After all, our political leaders don't make it hard for somebody with the right expressive skills to bring to light their political acts of stupidity and rip their once creditable dignity to shreds. Anybody can state the obvious. However, it takes a real genius to paint a vivid picture accompanied by witty dialogue to illustrate an opinion that almost anyone can understand and laugh at. A genius like the incredible, Pulitzer Prize-winning David Horsey.

Horsey won a Pulitzer Prize both in 1999 and in 2003. He received the National Press Foundation's 1998 Berryman Award for Cartoonist of the Year. Horsey, a staff member at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*,

has published five collections of his work over the past 23 years, his most recently published collection titled "From Hanging Chad to Baghdad." Horsey's work is syndicated by Tribune Media Services to 200 newspapers, including the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*.



David Horsey with Mockingbird Reporter Echo Speed.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Horsey along with two other talented artists, Guillermo Munro and Sarah Jane Lapp in a meeting arranged by Kimberly Mills, Associate Editor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. My time was well spent. Horsey shared with me his early works of art, and apparently he had always wanted to be a

political cartoonist. He looked at some of my art work and gave me some really helpful feedback. Told me a couple things I could use in the way I cartoon, but told me as well to understand that I had my own style. We played around in Paint Shop and he showed me a few things I could do to tweak my work a little, and he showed me the different tools he used on his work. When our time was done, Horsey was sweet enough to give me one of his

"From Hanging Chad To Baghdad" collections, which he signed.

Horsey's work is some amazing stuff, and I look forward to experiencing his future works of art. I also can't wait for another opportunity for him to look at some more of my stuff. 🐦

To take a look at some of David Horsey's work for yourself, please visit <http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/horsey/>

Bend-It Extravaganza Mixes Art and Activism

MISTY LOU COOK

THERE IS THIS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING FESTIVAL coming to Seattle in June. It's called the Bend-It Extravaganza, and it is a **FREE 3-Day Event** packed with bands, workshops, free food, drag shows, film festivals, a Saturday night dance, fashion show, spoken word event and much, much more. There are artists and activists coming in from all over the country to lead workshops and generally rock Seattle's World!!

What's really incredible about this festival is that it is being **organized by queer young people specifically for queer young people!!!** The mission statement of this extravaganza is to create "an accessible anti-oppression based arts festival that integrates art and activism, led by and for queer young people." So you know it's going to be kick-a***!!

Friday is the opening night and there will be all sorts of events and workshops. Some of the amazing workshops from last year were: Activism 101, Gender Identity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Sexism, Fat Positive Queer Body Image and Trans 101 (providing education and support to people who identify as transgender). The extravaganza will run Friday through Sunday.

After a Saturday afternoon full of incredible workshops that inspire communication, acceptance and all sorts of positive expressions and activities, there will be another **FREE DINNER** with food that was provided by both the Madison Market and Local Restaurants!! It'll be great to eat all of that delicious food...that way we'll all have enough energy to **DANCE OUR A**** OFF** at the Dance Party and Battle of the DJ's that follows after the amazing local Fashion Show that will be put on with help from both Vain and Rudy's Hair Salon!! Bend-It will be showing films on both Saturday and Sunday all the way from the Junk Film Festival in San Francisco, the Flaming

Film Fest in Minneapolis and the Turn Up the Volume Film Festival in Houston!! I've heard that the Turn Up the Volume Festival has some of the best flicks in Texas!!

Most of these films are made by young, queer kids...a lot of them are youth of color...you really don't want to miss this amazing Film Festival!!

There will also be **FREE** writing workshops available that are going to be hosted by Bent and Or-a-trix. Bent is a really amazing local writing collective that specializes in helping young, queer people find their writing voices...and we could **ALL** benefit from expressing ourselves through a **POSITIVE OUTLET** like poetry or the written word. Or-a-trix is an all-girl spoken word troupe that performs righteous spoken word art!!

I am hosting the Spoken Word Show on Sunday Night. There will be amazing youth of all colors, ages, backgrounds and genders reading poetry for your listening pleasure from 8:15 to 10:30PM. Or-a-trix will be performing and there will be more than enough space and time during the show for any of you out there who want to be heard!!

With an expected attendance of over 500 Queer Youth from all over this state, this is truly an event that should not be missed!! This event is for you, and I hope to see you all there and having the time of your life!! This amazing festival is taking place the weekend before the 30th Anniversary of Pride...from June 18th to June 20th, 2004. You can visit the site at www.bend-it.org or write to us if you have any questions at bend-it@yahoo.com!! 🐦

Thoughts on the Impact of Double Oppression

J. EBOH



IMAGINE BEING A HOMELESS TEENAGER AND BEING GAY. Being gay is a heavy burden for a teenager living in house in the suburbs. For a homeless youth it's hell. Not only are they discriminated against because they are homeless but also because they are gay. Experts call a situation like this "double oppression".

Homeless queer youth face particularly distinctive challenges due to the discrimination they face and the role that it can play in them becoming and staying homeless. Compounding their misery is the fact that when many of these youth reach out for help they are confronted with individuals and organizations who aren't competent enough to meet their unique needs.

"Cultural competence" is a term used within the social service world to describe social service programs that are capable of meeting the cultural needs of their clients. It is important to understand the needs and challenges your clients face, otherwise you can't adequately assist them.

Look at it this way, if you had a toothache you wouldn't go to the Podiatrist with your problem. You would go to a dentist because they know how to work with teeth. Just as you or I wouldn't want to be forced to settle for an incompetent doctor, homeless gay youth shouldn't be forced to settle for an incompetent caseworker, counselor, youth center, group home and so forth. The needs of gay youth are just as important as anyone else's and they should be addressed and met, as best as possible.

One method to improve the cultural competence level of an organization is effective employee trainings. Organizations can collaborate with local gay rights organizations and other groups that were specifically formed to meet the needs of the gay community. During the trainings, barriers to providing gay youth with the best service possible can be addressed. By collaborating with other groups an organization can gain knowledge that will help turn them into a more competent organization.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the discrimination these youth face on the streets. Many schools have implemented curriculum that teaches tolerance and compassion to their students so that gay youth can feel safe at their schools. I also think that homeless youth centers should make an effort to come up with similar curriculums that can help make the streets safer for gay youth when they encounter heterosexual homeless youth. There also needs to be a no tolerance policy at homeless youth centers when it comes to youth being harassed because of their sexual orientation. 🐦

Do you want to write for Mockingbird Times? Send your poetry, articles, photo's and artwork to newspaper@mockingbirdsociety.org and get paid up to 25 dollars for each published piece!