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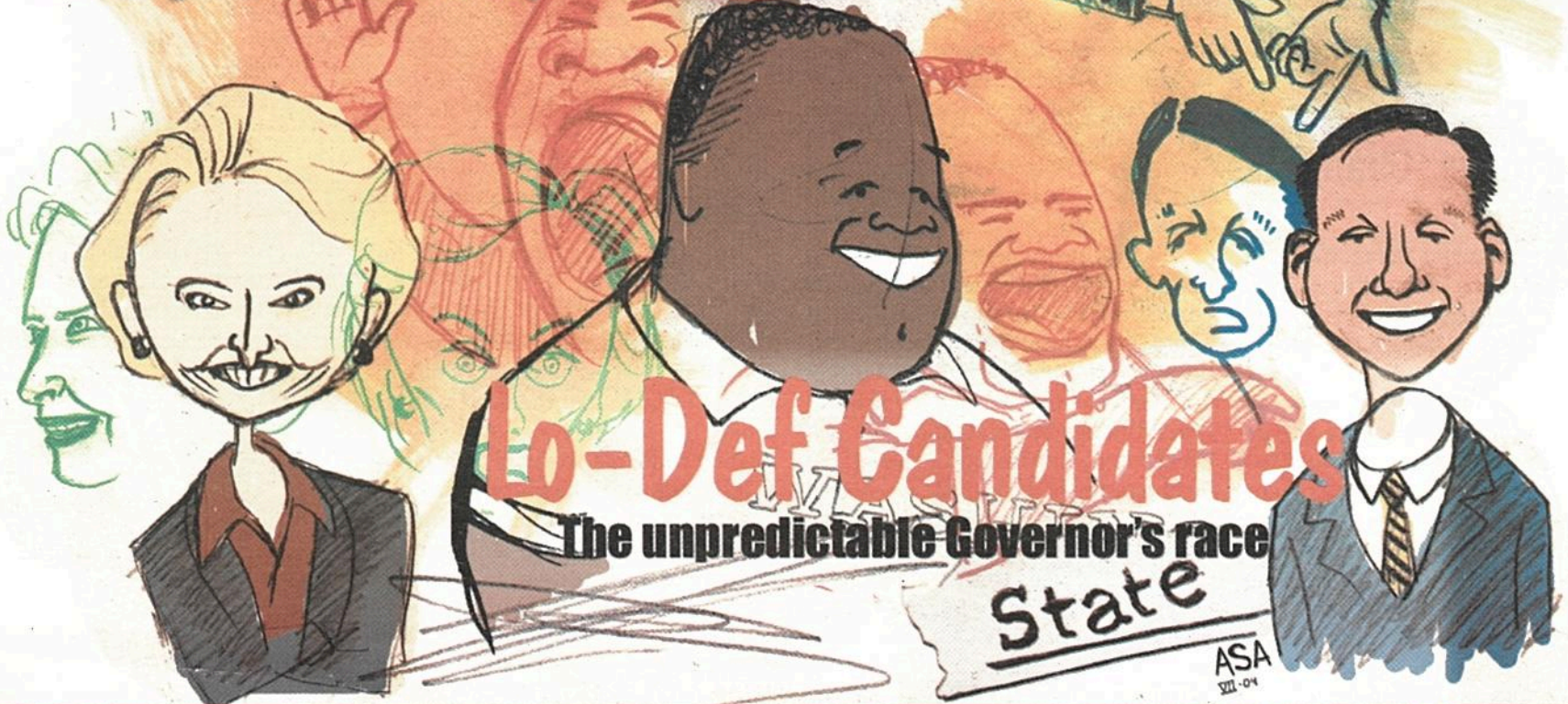
Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty • Volume 11, No. 17

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW ALLEN

By Adam Holdorf

If you're feeling starved for information about the gubernatorial race, you can probably blame Bush and Kerry for grabbing all the headlines.

Or, you can blame the race's three major candidates, who for the most part have kept a lid on their agendas-in-progress.

Here's a take on the issues and personalities behind the race of Washington Governor.

Rossi: I don't need your vote

Dino Rossi, a commercial real estate agent elected to the State Senate eight years ago, doesn't need the job he's running for. "I could do a lot of other things with my life," he told the audience at a gubernatorial forum held by the Tabor 100 group of Black entrepreneurs on July 30. He's contrasting himself against his two opponents, both lifelong public servants.

To hear Rossi tell his own story, he is a successful businessman with a social conscience who's trying to stop the slow decline of Washington's economic climate. His local roots go back to his grandfather, a coal miner in Newcastle. When Rossi's brother moved a struggling business to Arizona, it dawned on him: this state's business climate was driving out talented people. His wife said, do you want that to happen to us?

"The next Bill Boeing or Bill Gates is working in a garage around here somewhere," Rossi told the audience. "He could move to Arizona too."

To make the state a good place to do business in, he said, "We have everything we need except for the political will, courage, and leadership to make it happen."

Rossi has put out position papers calling for state agencies to be more consumer-friendly. He doesn't have many specifics. "You will have to work to figure out what he stands for," says one political observer close to the Democratic Party. "For being a nice guy? For not being as crazy as [previous Republican candidates]?"

Rossi doesn't run on conservative social issues. But as Senator he did vote for the state's Defense of Marriage Act and worked to repeal Governor Locke's veto. "I think marriage should be between a man and a woman," he told *Real Change*.

Rossi spent seven years in the state Senate, where most recently as chair of the Ways and Means Committee he engineered a state budget that this winter sustained a record cut and, in his words, "didn't raise taxes" and "protected the vulnerable."

He certainly didn't raise taxes; the second part of his story is less than ac-

curate. Rossi had originally proposed to eliminate cash assistance for people unable to work, called GA-U. The GA-U program was saved by the Democrat-controlled House. If not for a last minute administrative move by Governor Locke, the budget Rossi passed (and Locke approved) would have cut thousands of children off of the state's Medicaid program this summer.

House Speaker Frank Chopp recalls that Rossi "proposed an extreme budget that cut health care for kids, assistance for the disabled, and may other proposals that would have deeply harmed people. The thing that bothers me is he's running as a compassionate conservative."

State Senator Adam Kline (D-37th District) calls Rossi "a person of integrity." The two worked together to toughen the state's DUI laws. But on issues of taxation, economic policy, and human services, says Kline — "on all those issues, Dino is on the far right."

Sims: let's talk taxes

Even if King County Executive Ron Sims is considered a long shot for the September 14 primary election, and even if his opponent in that election, Attorney General Christine Gregoire, has a solid lead in fundraising, Sims still has his passionate son-of-a-

preacherman oratorical power. He brought most of the audience at the July 30 forum to its feet with a rambling narrative about education, economic opportunity, and his niece — a former teacher who now makes more money working as a flight attendant.

He also hammered away at the Business and Occupation Tax, pointing out that it bites into business revenue whether a company has made a profit or not. And he brought up the possibility of a graduated income tax.

All the tax talk might just work in his favor. It has been the only real issue pushing the gubernatorial race into the headlines, and if the Democratic faithful vote en masse this September, they might see tax reform as an issue of economic fairness and fiscal soundness.

But it's not clear what form a Sims-styled tax structure would take. Following the 2003 state commission on tax reform known as the Gates Commission, he might suggest lowering sales and property taxes and eliminating the B&O tax. Instituting an income tax is a politically difficult job, given that the state's founding fathers wrote the income tax prohibition into the Constitution, and it takes two-thirds of the Legislature and a majority of the popular

Continued on Page 11



Look for the Mockingbird Times Inside!





Sharpton vs. Obama

Dear *Real Change*,

Forty years after the Democratic National Convention refused to seat an integrated delegation from Mississippi led by Fannie Lou Hamer, the Democratic Party and the nation as a whole still finds itself challenged by African American Democrats to create a more inclusive society.

Reverend Al Sharpton, former Democratic candidate for president, described the promise of America in his address at the Convention. "The promise of America says we will guarantee quality education for all children and not spend more money on metal detectors than computers in our schools...

The promise of America provides that those who work in our health care system can afford to be hospitalized in the very beds they clean up every day."

Illinois Senate candidate Barack Obama provided a healthy balance between public and individual responsibility — a balance that so often eludes public policy discussions. Obama affirmed the government role in creating the ladder of opportunity. His white grandfather went to college on the GI Bill and got an FHA mortgage, programs that most often were not open to African-Americans at the time. It is ironic that Obama, who may have the opportunity to be the only Black U.S. Senator next year, exemplifies not only Black excellence and diligence but also white privilege.

This white privilege seems to be taboo in public discussion. It is usually concealed with the racist rhetoric that white Americans are more prosperous because they worked harder and upheld better moral standards. In recent years, Charles Murray's book *The Bell Curve* and Ronald Reagan's demonization of the welfare queen have helped keep these stereotypes on the public stage.

When it comes to the racial divide in this country and de-facto white supremacy, the primary cause is not the moral behavior of Blacks, or the types of music we listen to, it's institutional-

ized racism.

African Americans with graduate degrees are two to three times more likely than whites to engage in the rough-and-tumble world of entrepreneurship with small business start-ups. Employed Black workers work more hours per week and per year than white workers.

When sociologist Dalton Conley analyzed educational outcomes, he found that family net worth, not race, was the best predictor of high school graduation and college enrollment. At a given level of assets, Black students are actually slightly more likely to graduate from high school than white students. The drop-out rate for Black students has declined 44% since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Yet African Americans have not been rewarded for all this effort. For every dollar of per capita white income, Blacks had 57 cents in 2001, up from 55 cents in 1968. The racial wealth divide is even worse: the typical Black family has less than one-tenth of the median white net worth of \$120,000.

Obama and Sharpton, in their speeches, stressed that government must be held responsible for its failures and for countering discrimination. They also both stressed that citizens must be responsible for taking hold of these opportunities. As Mr. Obama asserted, "with just a change in priorities, we can make sure that every child in America has a decent shot at life, and that the doors of opportunity remain open to all."

Rev. Sharpton articulated how, from Crispus Attucks to Fannie Lou Hamer until today, African-Americans have been at the forefront of demanding opportunity for all Americans.

Let us all work to continue the African American tradition of both living up to our own personal responsibilities and demanding that the government live up to its promise.

Dedrick Muhammad
United for a Fair Economy
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Real Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty

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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.

Milestone 200

Ten years later, it's still about relationships

By Timothy Harris

This thing we do. It's never been easy. When I started this paper back in 1994, I was new to Seattle, didn't have any money, and worked nights as a telemarketer for the Great Expectations dating service to pay the rent. Over the first few months, as I shopped the idea of a homeless newspaper around Seattle, the response ranged from skeptical to hostile.

My planned five-minute presentation to the Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless was unceremoniously terminated within the first minute. The YWCA's Linda Weedman, who in those days chaired the Coalition, acted like I was stalking her. Joe Martin, a Seattle human services icon, wondered aloud if I was FBI. Wes Browning, a local homeless artist, decided I was an agent as well. Many people listened politely, said something like, "Well, good luck with that," and sent me on my way.

But never underestimate someone who does telemarketing for a living. While Great Expectations rivaled digging ditches in clay with a pick and shovel for the worst job I ever had, it taught me a few things about persistence. I realized that sales and organizing are pretty much the same thing. You make a personal connection, offer a vision, listen for concerns, and get the commitment. And "no" never really means no.

I used my new phone skills to raise about \$3,000 selling endorsement ads to community allies, and in August of 1994, Volume 1, Number 1 of *Real Change* hit the streets. Now, 10 years and 200 issues later, the skeptics have come around. Linda has helped to lead our advocacy work and makes sure all the YWCAs subscribe. The Coalition for the Homeless advocacy committee is co-chaired by Real Change staffer Rachael Myers. Joe is a frequent contributor and advisor. Wes is a popular columnist and a long-time member of our Board of Directors.

Two hundred issues later, we're still learning, growing, and making changes. We're not satisfied with bi-weekly publication. A serious activist newspaper needs to be weekly, and in 2005, that's what we're doing. Circulation over the past three years has risen by 30 percent, but 18,000 copies per issue isn't nearly enough. Over the next three years, we want our readership to double. And while we've had our advocacy successes, poor people are still losing. Our job is to organize for power so that all of us can start winning.

We still have a long way to go.

I believe that the core moral issue of our time is the growing gap between rich and poor. This is about power. Poor people — who don't have a lot of resources and mostly don't vote — can't compete for political influence with those who do, so the gap, year after year, grows wider. There are only two strategies to change this.

The first is voter registration and education, and Real Change is a leader in Seattle in registering and mobilizing poor and homeless people to vote. Poor people need to be heard. But this alone will never be enough.

The second is convincing those who can make a difference that their voice matters. Most of us know that our affluence rests upon a deep well of injustice. We do not want to live in a society divided between the privileged and the poor. We know this is wrong. We're not sure how to change things. We are made to feel powerless when we are not.

Real Change is a bridge between the very poor and their better-off allies. Our typical reader is a progressive, educated, middle-class professional who enjoys quality local journalism and wants more connection to their community. Our First things First organizing project helps these readers understand how to be a part of the solution. If you are not signed up for our action alerts, you can do that at www.realchangenews.org.

It's been a long road since that first issue came out in 1994. Over that time, I've always thought of each copy of *Real Change* as a stone tossed upon a pond, each having the potential to build relationships, raise questions, and challenge assumptions. We've provided opportunity for self-help, and encouraged people to take action on issues that matter.

We help people to move beyond divisive stereotypes to discover the humanity in themselves and others. We know from our reader survey that what people value most about *Real Change* is the relationships they have with their vendors. We've helped our vendors by offering the opportunity to succeed through their own effort, and a connection to a broad community of supporters.

After 200 issues of this paper, I think of all those people — some who have had their fair share of breaks in life and others who have not — who have formed unlikely friendships over a newspaper, a smile, a dollar, and a chance to learn from each other. This is what makes Real Change happen. ■

After 200 issues of this paper, I think of all those people — some who have had their fair share of breaks in life and others who have not — who have formed unlikely friendships over a newspaper, a smile, a dollar, and a chance to learn from each other.



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This week's online action... Fax Mayor Greg Nickels to tell him that two years of cuts to people in need is enough—we can't take anymore!

Health care: the people get a say

Seattle voters could have an opportunity this November to make a statement in favor of quality health care for everyone.

Brian King, vice-president of the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans (PSA) and chairman of the group's Health Care Committee, came up with the idea of a citizen advisory measure that simply states, "Every person in the United States should have the right to health care of equal high quality. The Congress should immediately enact legislation to implement this right."

King approached PSA president Will Parry with the idea about a year ago. With a group of about 20 volunteers (many from Health Care for All), King gathered a total of 10,000 signatures and delivered them to the Seattle City Council on July 26. King hopes to get his measure on Seattle's ballot in the November 2 general election.

"Because of the costs that are incurred [in putting an item on the ballot], the City Council wants to wait and see if they can get it on the ballot with at least one other item," said King. "The chances look pretty good that there will be at least one other item."

On July 30, Councilmember Jean Godden introduced the measure and the rest of the council weighed in. King expects the council to make a motion the last week of August or the first week of September to put the measure on the ballot. King found the council's response "rewarding" and thinks that the majority of the council will support the measure.

While most would agree that high quality health care is a good idea, King was asked what practical use the measure will have. "The most important element is that it puts a moral force to the opinion of Seattle's people. It gets people to say what they believe in and sends a message to Congress. You always hear about budget cuts, but health care is a different element. I think a sizable amount of the voters will support the measures."

King says he aimed at getting the bill on the Seattle ballot as opposed to statewide because "This was a size we could handle. We put a lot of work into just getting Seattle signatures."

"We think [the measure] will cause more people to come out and vote," says King. "And we think most of those votes will go to John Kerry. Hopefully, if he's elected, we want to support his health plan."

—R.V. Murphy



with the business community and charitable organizations.

Currently, 47 states have signed on, but more importantly, according to Mangano, 128 mayors (including Seattle mayor Greg Nickels) have partnered with the federal government. Major cities such as New York and San Francisco, as well as small towns in Idaho, have signed on.

Mangano, who says his work is inspired by abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass, remains optimistic about ending homelessness. "Twenty years ago, if you went into a mayor's office and wanted to talk about homelessness, chances are, before the door slammed shut you'd be on your way out again. But now the political will is there. To end homelessness we need political will, and today the political will is unprecedented."

—R.V. Murphy

Woodinville Church to Host Tent City

Tent City 4, the homeless encampment inhabiting the Bothell area, is scheduled to make a move to Northshore United Church of Christ of Woodinville in about two weeks. Reverend Paul Forman of Northshore held a meeting on Sunday August 1 at which the congregation decided to allow Tent City to occupy the church grounds for three months. This meeting was in response to a letter from Tent City's organizers, SHARE/WHEEL, which contacted the church requesting its hospitality and aid. Rev. Forman wants the church to obtain the city permits as soon as possible, so as to make the move as smooth as possible.

However, there is one fly in the ointment, namely, a zoning problem in Bothell. The City of Bothell may issue St. Brendan Catholic Church, Tent City's present host, a warning that the encampment is in violation of its land use permit. Until the tents move, St Brendan may be required to pay as much as \$250 per day. Northshore Church may be able to avoid a similar situation, but again, it will only be a temporary arrangement.

Perhaps this maelstrom will persuade King County to decide that permanent shelters for the homeless should be established. A 22-member task force, formed by the King County Council in the wake of Tent City 4's establishment, is studying the need for more shelter services in suburban areas. The task force is expected to release its findings on August 15.

—Pranai Cheroo

Bush homeless czar: searching for ideas

To solve the problem of homelessness, Philip Mangano says, "The homeless don't need people in an office trying to dream up ideas to help them. The ideas are out there; I try to find them."

Mangano, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, was in the Seattle area last week to investigate a new idea: a public-private partnership that builds temporary housing.

Mangano visited Vision House of Renton, one of the model shelters of HomeAid America. Vision House will provide transitional housing and case management for homeless single mothers and children. HomeAid America is a national non-profit partnered with Master Builders Care Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Master Builders Care Association of King and Snohomish Counties.

HomeAid America celebrated its 15th anniversary while Mangano was in town. "Mike Lennon, the president of HomeAid, approached me about a year and a half ago," says Mangano. "What's exciting is that HomeAid is partnering with the private sector."

In March 2002, Mangano was appointed by President Bush to lead the Interagency Council, a unit of the Domestic Policy Council responsible for the coordination of 20 federal agencies working to reduce and end homelessness. Previously he was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, a statewide coalition of 80 agencies that operated more than 200 programs. Mangano jokes that after living in Boston for several years, he is "currently living in exile in Washington, D.C."

Ironically, HomeAid has worked primarily with transitional housing while Mangano believes in permanent housing programs as long as the support systems (medical, social work) are in place.

When Mangano addressed HomeAid executives last Wednesday night at the Space Needle, he talked about the growing discrepancy between the problem of homelessness and the lack of resources that are available — that is, the lack of government money. He talked of the 10-year plan he has developed that centers around building coalitions between state and federal government

A place of her own

AN AUGUST 3RD RALLY IN FRONT OF DOWNTOWN SEATTLE'S FEDERAL BUILDING HIGHLIGHTED SECTION 8, THE FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAM TARGETED FOR CUTS BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION. SPEAKING TO THE CROWD THROUGH A COMPUTER VOICE SYSTEM, SHARON KING SAID THAT SECTION 8 HAS ALLOWED HER AND HER HUSBAND (WHO ALSO HAS CEREBRAL PALSY) TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY IN THEIR OWN APARTMENT. IN 2005, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO MAKE THE DEEPEST CUTS TO HOUSING PROGRAMS IN 30 YEARS. PHOTO BY JACKIE PRICHARD.



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

The Wrong Science

Spokane's anti-camping ordinance sparks a consciousness-raising campaign

By Tyler Martin

Although Spokane's downtown campsite protesting the city's new "Transient Shelter Ordinance" came down on July 10, the war of words between city officials in Spokane and the homeless has yet to subside.

The shelter ordinance makes it possible for anyone using any sort of temporary shelter, such as tents or tarps, on public property to be given a misdemeanor penalty. The fines for such a penalty can reach as high as \$1,000 and imprisonment for 90 days.

Signed by Mayor Jim West on July 12, the ordinance goes into effect on August 11.

Mayor West ordered that the encampment, located on a median between the Catholic Diocese and the posh Spokane Club, be taken down because it interfered with traffic and the right of way of the general public, and because it's "not for the exclusive use of a few."

West felt that the camping protest only reinforced the need for the ban. "They're making the case for why we need this shelter ordinance," he told

a local radio station three days before he ordered the camp taken down.

At a news conference, West announced a task force that would create a plan for helping the city's homeless. The task force was given 30 days to develop a plan.

West also said he wanted the encampment removed because of fears that the grass and trees in the median weren't being watered regularly.

Campers placed coffee pots over the automatic sprinklers when they

noticed that the sprinklers' automated times were re-set to go off in the middle of the night after their third night at the median. "They're trying to flood us out," said one activist.

The protesters felt that the sprinklers were just one example of the real issue: city officials' efforts to keep the homeless "out of sight, out of mind."

"This is a human problem, it's not necessarily a real estate problem," said Dave Bilsland, 47, protest organizer and People 4 People co-director.

People 4 People is a one-year-old group of homeless and formerly homeless individuals engaged in consciousness-raising activities about homelessness in Spokane. The

grassroots organization has planned blanket and clothing drives for the winter, voter registration efforts, and a homeless artists' mural project. It is also registering as a Political Action Committee, allowing it to wade into electoral politics. The group has been in existence for just over a year.

Bilsland, himself also a camper, is not

new to the political arena. He's been involved in politics for 25 years, working at one time on Brock Adams' campaign for U.S. Senate, and is a former executive board member of the Washington State Young Democrats.

Bilsland feels that the city and the Spokane Police Department are viewing the shelter ordinance too myopically. "The SPD says that this is about criminality and demands a criminal solution; that is the wrong science. The problem is about socio-economics and

"The SPD says that this is about criminality and demands a criminal solution; that is the wrong science. The problem is about socio-economics and needs a socio-economical approach."



NORTH AMERICAN NEWSBRIEFS

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Boredom was the reason given by three 14- and 15-year-old boys for **beating a homeless man to death** in California.

Joseph Brown was attacked while he slept near an abandoned building in West Oakland. Brown was the 44th of 48 people killed in Oakland so far this year. His badly beaten body and the

age of his alleged killers shocked Police Chief Richard Word. "This was such a brutal and senseless crime," he says. "I cannot understand how three young boys could be so cold and callous." The three teens remain in custody at juvenile hall. They may be charged with murder.

Advocates are worried that the homeless population in Los Angeles could be hit hard by the **West Nile virus**. They are issuing a call for extra safety measures for those who sleep in parks and alongside rivers where mosquitoes carrying the disease thrive. While many know the warning signs and notice an increase in dead birds possibly infected with the virus, they are reluctant to leave the parks. "That's where people won't complain about them," one health worker tells the *Mercury News*. A city council member has asked a team from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to pass out information about the disease and talk with people camping near water and in parks. Advocates are advising people sleeping outdoors to cover up at night and visit an emergency room if they experience any symptoms, like a fever and stiff neck. They're also trying to obtain insect repellent. A study done in Houston found that

needs a socio-economical approach."

In its latest tally, the Spokane Homeless Coalition finds that 8,416 people are homeless in the city. In contrast, there are just fewer than 600 shelter beds available in the city. Mayor West has been quoted by the Associated Press as saying that there were "more than enough" beds in Spokane's shelter system to house the 50 protesters at the campsite.

People 4 People has started several programs since the end of the camping ban. The Green Team aims to educate campers on maintaining tidy campsites. The group is also organizing an educational campaign to get the public to look at the possibilities of establishing forms of affordable, permanent housing instead of relying so heavily on the current shelter system. It is also circulating a petition to either repeal the anti-camping ordinance or submit it to referendum at the next municipal election. Finally, the group is in contact with law-

yers who are looking into the constitutionality of the camping ban.

Bilsland sees the establishment of a tent city as one goal that's more within reach. "We want Playfair," he exclaimed, referring to a little-used public park in Eastern Spokane as a site for a tent city.

Public officials see a tent city as a poor option. "You're just packing the problem together," said Spokane Police Department Chief Roger Bragdon. "By doing this, you're creating another societal problem."

Despite what Chief Bragdon says, the organizers of the protest continue to press on. The members of People 4 People continue to collect signatures for their petition and organize their PAC campaign against the shelter ordinance. "And let me tell you," said Bilsland with a grin and a determined stare, "I know how to organize those." ■

Tyler Martin is editor of Spokane's street newspaper, the Rising Times.

Memorial Vern Zuehlsdorff

Threatened by eviction, Vern Zuehlsdorff fought to maintain affordable housing for himself and his fellow tenants in downtown Seattle's Oxford Apartments. He advocated for change on the state, national, and global level. Vern died on July 23, at the age of 67, from an infection.

Siobhan Ring, executive director of the Tenants Union, worked closely with Vern during negotiations for the future of the Oxford Apartments. In 1997, the building's owner announced that he would let his federal Section 8 housing subsidy lapse and raise the rents. Vern came to the Tenants Union. What happened next, Ring recalls, was "one of the most grueling organizing campaigns the organization has undertaken."

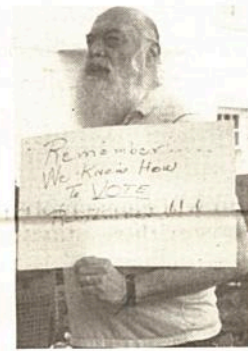
"Vern took on this battle with remarkable compassion and commitment, and at great personal sacrifice," Ring wrote in an email after Vern's death. "He spent hours working to involve his neighbors and the community

in the campaign to save the building." After a lawsuit and two years of negotiations, the campaign resulted in a settlement that saved the homes of current residents.

Michael Kane, director of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants, noted that "the most fitting tribute to Vern would be to carry on his vision of realizing the universal right to housing, here and across the globe."

A Buddhist and student of many religions,

Vern's spiritual strength is possibly what kept him working so hard right up to his death. This spring, he traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby on Capitol Hill and teach workshops on organizing. He came back to Seattle and began a letter for the April 15 issue of *Real Change* with the following characteristic statement: "Homelessness must be eliminated! Let us all repeat it to each other until it is achieved." ■



10 percent of West Nile encephalitis cases in 2002 were homeless men and women.

Free bus service in Houston, Texas, is getting homeless men and women to clinics, shelters and social service agencies. Project Access is one of few like it in the country. The Associated Press reports it was developed by Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston, a consortium of 28 agencies and organizations. It was launched a year ago after an annual survey found the biggest barrier to **health care** for homeless people was transportation. A \$120,000 city grant allowed the group to charter a bus company and run a route each weekday.

A school district in California is gathering school supplies so that homeless and low-income children have equal access to education. "All of these children have to deal with special circumstances like hunger and fatigue, along with trying to stay in school," Diane Ortiz of the HSD tells the *Hollister Freelance News*. There are more than 80 homeless children in the district. We really want to try and make sure they have equal access to education," she says. With many homeless families moving from shelter to shelter, roughly **23 percent of homeless children drop out of school** nationwide. "When you have 80 children living in a shelter in a small community, there is obviously a problem," she said. "Our goal is to reduce the barriers for these students and let them know the schools support them. This is not something we can cross our fingers and try to ignore." The district hopes to have 50 backpacks stuffed with pencils, crayons, notebooks and other school supplies ready to go by fall.

—Compiled by Patty Lane

poetry

Snowing

cold
freezing
to the bone
the bus stop
all night
no money
outside the
casino
starts
snowing

—RICK UNGRICH

Untitled

When the bird came here
New freedom came conquering
Now I fly high, too

—DAVID TROTTER

Untitled II

Thundering Water
Crashes to body, to soul
Liberating her

—DAVID TROTTER

A Man Made of Money

A man made of money
makes his own weather wherever he goes.
a man made of money can't be too careful
who he trusts.
a man made of money can buy clothes
made of poverty.
a man made of money and a woman made of heat
are made for each other.
a man made of money
can afford his own laws.
a man made of money and a nation
made of outlaws meet at the tip of a bullet.
a man made of money disperses like anybody else.
a man made of money
dies the same as any other man.

—DAVID THORNBRUGH

A moment of silence

The easy ways out
Are merciless illusions
Like holding yourself
For big money ransom
Belief isn't proof and
Truth is so fragile
It's bound to float away.

Smiling Chinook confesses
With drenching rainfall
The salesman says love
Fills up buckets
Thorns draw blood when
Seized with abandon
Roses are entitled to
Barbed-wire fences.

Letters cascade from the alphabet
A man with ideas shirks them up
A game of musical chairs ushers
Pageantry against rivalry
With the cunning loser left
standing.

—CAROL KOSCHE

Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning



Good news! Thanks to the Democratic Convention occupying the media, there has been no actual news lately.

This gives us here at Adventures in Poetry — meaning by us,

me, ©Dr. Wes Browning — a chance to take stock of our life. A chance to sniff the winds of our change and dip our toes into the pools of our stagnation. To audit the account books of the psycho-socio-biological records of our historic being. To see to whence we have arrived, and from whence we have departed. And to see who or what is all that in the cargo hold, and why is there a woman in our bed wanting something.

Well, first of all, we are old. We just did the dreaded calculation and discovered that our current incarnation has been breathing air for 20,000 days and a little more than an extra hundred. As a mathemati-

cian, let us put that number in perspective. That's one more than 19,999. If he saw 20,000 Republicans laid end to end, Rush Limbaugh wouldn't raise any moral objections. Jules Verne talked about 20,000 leagues, but we don't know what a league is, we're a mathematician, not a damn encyclopedia. If you saw 20,000 pigeons flying toward you, you'd wish you had an umbrella, etc.

We once saw a guy walk on the moon live on television. We saw the assassination of an assassin live on television. We saw several wars live on television, so many that we lost count, sometime around about Panama. Most of them were unnecessary and a huge waste of lives, health, and money.

History used to happen in black and white, but now it's always in color. Conversely, Red Square isn't red anymore. There's nothing left for conservatives to be better dead than, which must be disorienting for them.

We have lived to see the amazing Wolf Blitzer ask Jesse Jackson, in Jesse's capacity as a Black spokesperson, why did Barack Obama, a Black African immigrant running for the Senate, not speak before the Democratic

Convention in Boston using the same kind of rhetoric as did Al Sharpton, an African-American reverend who had been running for President. Why oh why, Jesse?

Just yesterday, after living a thought-filled and examined life for over five decades, we arrived for the first time ever at an adequate working philosophy. This was facilitated by the able conversation and intellectual assistance of our regular companion, the afore-mentioned wanting-something woman and person on whose kitchen floor we have sometimes slept, Anitra Freeman. With her help we came up with this:

"Good things now, bad things later." When in doubt, always refer to that formula. It's a plan of action that can't go wrong. For example, by using it, you will never force yourself to save dessert for after the asparagus again. You will know all the times that it would be better to be home in bed than. You will learn to appreciate the paper plates of life, and the other disposables. You will shower for the fun of it, not because you have to. There is the way of wisdom.

We have been homeless four times in our life. We mention this in part to fulfill our unwritten contract with Real Change and the *Real Change* Editorial

Committee. Every column we write is required to make at least one mention of homelessness, directly or indirectly, or one local politician must be made fun of, or two national politicians, or we must directly advocate for at least two of the following: minority rights, free pizza for Real Change volunteers, writers, and "editors," free/more/better treatment for recovering [insert addiction here], cats.

Duck licking. Speaking of speaking of duck licking, every column should contain at least one non sequitur, and one abuse of logical accuracy, which may be the same. But that has nothing to do with the unwritten contract. We have digressed.

We have lived in the same subsidized housing for almost seven years now, the same housing funded by the Housing Agency Formerly Known As Seattle Housing Authority, the housing that was granted after 14 months on a waiting list, the housing that was promised to me as being permanent, the housing that is now threatened by Bush Administration cuts in Section 8 funding, the housing that we will never move from until they haul my cold lifeless never-to-be-homeless-again body out of it. Or until they come up with something better. Like that'll happen. ■



Thursday, July 8, 6:15 p.m., Freeway Park. Officers contacted state troopers regarding a man who fell from Freeway Park onto the James Street off-ramp from Interstate 5. A witness stated that he was exiting I-5 at James when a man fell from above into the roadway. The witness did not see if the man jumped, was pushed, or fell. The witness stopped and rendered medical assistance until help arrived at the scene. The victim, a transient white male in his 40s, stated he was walking in the park when he tripped on the vines and fell. He was transported to Harborview and there was no evidence of any crime.

Friday, July 23, 10:52 p.m., Harrison Street, Office Building. The complainant stated he saw the suspect, a transient Black male, aged 46, pulling at something on a window as he stood on a concrete flower box. He saw the suspect fall off the box, get back on and pull some more. He believed the suspect was attempting to break into the office. He stated the suspect seemed mentally unstable and homeless and had last been seen on the corner of First and Harrison. Officers picked him up there. He was yelling nonsensically, including stating he was being arrested for being a Kennedy. The window screen was found to have two small holes, a repair cost of \$25. The suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Saturday, July 24, 10:40 a.m., First Avenue and South Main St. The victim, a Native American female, age 29, flagged down officers as they drove by. The suspect, a transient white male aged 44, was following her. She stated that she and the suspect have been dating for about 10 years. On Thursday night, they were in the "Jungle" under I-5 and had been drinking and taking drugs. They got into a fight over their present condition, and the victim attempted to leave. He became irate and the argument became physical — he pinned her to the ground, causing bruising on her upper arms. The yelling caused another pair of transient men to investigate, but the suspect scared them away. The victim managed to get up and start to get away, the suspect punched her in the back as she fled. She stated that since that time he has been following her and will not leave her alone. She said she wanted to get a restraining order. The suspect was arrested and questioned at the precinct, where he stated he had no idea how the bruises on the victim occurred. He was booked into King County Jail for assault.

Sunday, July 25, 3:13 p.m., Third Ave. and Union St. A transient white male, age 42, cut open his left arm with a broken bottle as he was sitting on the sidewalk. He stated that he hurt himself because he wanted to go to Harborview to get himself straightened out. He was treated at the scene by Seattle Fire, and transported to Harborview for an involuntary commitment.

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.

LO-DEF from page 1

vote to make a constitutional change. Meanwhile, Sims also supports Initiative 884, which would raise the sales tax by 1 percent for the state's educational needs.

Morton Brilliant, communications manager for Christine Gregoire's campaign, says, "I would disagree that [the tax structure] is the biggest issue in the race. What people are talking about is that we need to create jobs."

Gregoire: hugging the middle

Talking about tax reform might fall flat with voters wary of new taxes. Yet avoiding the question has its own costs.

"Gregoire is purposely not bringing it up in order not to be [seen as] a tax-and-spend liberal," says Sen. Kline. "But when you get there [in office], do you bring it out of a hat? 'Oh, by the way....' You look like you have hidden something from the electorate."

And to accomplish an ambitious agenda, you need money. Gregoire has released policy papers on education, calling for better teacher training and the pay raise promised by Initiative 732. No funding for these needs is in sight; she has not endorsed Initiative 884.

Gregoire, who wasn't present at the July 30 forum, also has a series of sweeping promises on the economy: She will award tax credits to companies which invest in worker training

and promise not to outsource; she will "go anywhere, anytime to bring new jobs to Washington and convince current employers to stay in our state."

For her part, Gregoire will be counting on voters to go with a familiar name. She's running on her reputation as one of the dragonslayers of Big Tobacco, resulting in the multimillion-dollar settlement pouring into state coffers.

At the Mt. Zion community hall, one man bucked the stereotypical image of Black America's ties to the Democrats. He was former State Senator Michael Ross, the last African American Republican to be sent to Olympia (from Southeast Seattle, in the early 1970s), and he was backing Rossi.

Ross calls himself a "historical Republican"—of the party that believed in a strong federal government that would play a role in stimulating industry.

Won't a Republican be terrible on economic issues of concern to the poor?

"What about Governor Locke? What about welfare reform and teachers' pay?" Ask the Washington Education Association, Ross said, what they think of Locke.

Okay, point taken: Locke suspended teacher pay raises mandated by I-732. But how will Rossi be different when it comes to something like teachers' pay?

"If he tells them he's in favor of a pay increase, he'll keep his word."

"Sometimes," said Ross, "politics is all personal." ■



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Canaries in the Mine Shaft

Social neglect and climate change doom the frail elderly

By Will Parry

Last summer's heat wave in Europe left between 14,000 and 15,000 people dead in France alone. Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom also experienced record death tolls from the searing temperatures.

In Rome, the mean average temperature during June, July, and August of last year was 95 degrees Fahrenheit, a full 7 degrees above the mean average for the same summer months between 1995 and 2002. Deaths shot up in Rome along with the temperatures. An estimated 1,094 more people died than might have been predicted from the mortality data of the previous years. The highest increase in deaths occurred among people over 75, living in the most impoverished areas of the city.

In France, hospitals and morgues were overwhelmed. Most of the victims were elderly. Most lived in isolation from family and community. Most were poor. Rich folk don't die of heat waves.

Fred Brock wrote a deeply affecting commentary on this mass tragedy in *The New York Times*. Brock quoted Dr. Eric Klinenberg, a New York University sociology professor who has studied heat-related deaths. Dr. Klinenberg says the toll in France exposes a major social change: the emergence of an older, vulnerable population that lives and dies in isolation.

The ranks of this population are growing in the United States as well as in Europe. Children and grandchildren move away, leaving their aging elders to cope as best they can. Communities have become atomized. Neighbors are less likely to look after one another than in earlier times. And heat waves cruelly reveal this fraying social fabric.

"Heat waves are silent and invisible killers of silent and invisible people," says Dr. Klinenberg.

He reminds us that the severe heat wave of 1995 in our own Midwest left

700 people dead in Chicago alone. This tragedy has faded from the national memory, "a non-event in American history," he says. "If 700 people had been killed by a tornado, we'd still be hearing about it."

pressed the terrible toll, but the scale of last year's calamity in France was simply too vast for cover-ups. The French even considered the cancellation of one national holiday to provide funds for the elderly.

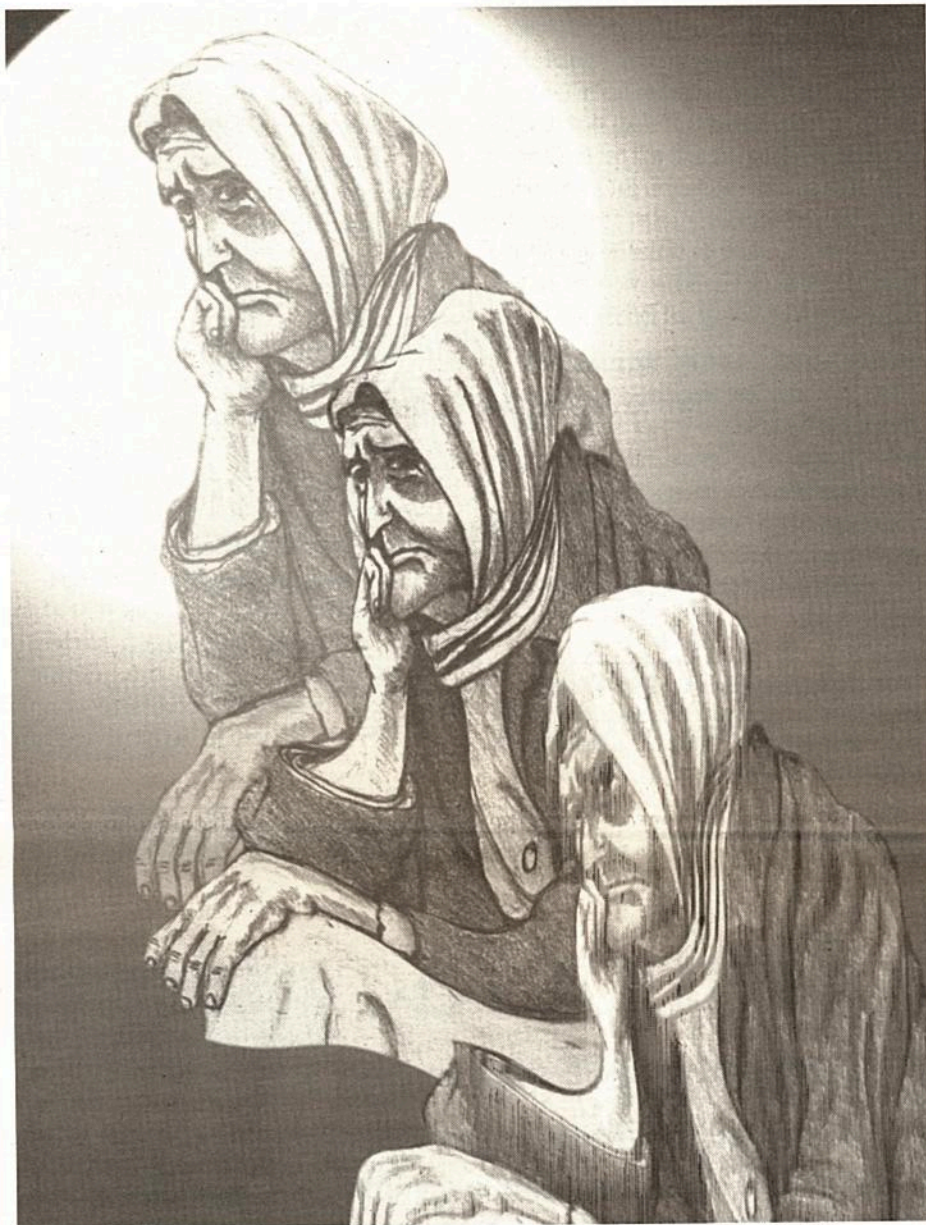
This summer, Italy is implementing a massive intervention program. In Rome, for example, city officials have established a plan, focused on the elderly, involving health and social services, emergency medical services,

talking about people who die because they neglect themselves," he said.

International Herald Tribune columnist William Pfaff found last year's heat waves a blessing. The victims, wrote Pfaff, "were not, most of them, killed by the heat. The time had come for them to die, and the heat eased their way ... we should be grateful to pneumonia, broken hips, and heat waves that can take us gracefully to where we all must go."

Indeed, the infirmities of old age are real, and indeed we all must go. But a society that values human life will not permit the elderly to perish in a heat wave.

As Fred Brock notes, there is nothing graceful "about dying a slow, agonizing death alone; of being discovered



GRAPHIC BY TOM M. DOUGLASS

Those charged with environmental protection under George W. Bush should confront the implications of last summer's thousands of deaths across Europe.

only when neighbors or passersby report a strong odor; or of being buried in a cheap wooden casket in a common grave...."

Society, says Dr. Klinenberg, must come to terms with the broader issue of old people living in isolation. "When massive numbers of people die alone, it's a social embarrassment," he says. "It's the sign of a sweeping social breakdown. Everyone is implicated."

Those charged with environmental protection under George W. Bush should confront the implications of last summer's thousands of deaths across Europe. The sweltering temperatures there corresponded to the forecasts of climate scientists. British meteorologists predicted that as a result of climate change, 2003 would be the warmest year on record.

In the *Guardian* of Great Britain, George Monbiot writes that "the consensus among climatologists is that temperatures will rise in the 21st century by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Centigrade [2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit]; by up to 10 times, in other words, the increase we have suffered so far...."

"We are not," writes Monbiot, "contemplating the end of holidays in Seville. We are contemplating the end of circumstances which permit most beings to remain on earth."

The more than 14,000 French elderly are, in some sense, the canaries in the mine shaft. The air is foul. The canaries are dying. ■

Will Parry is director of the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans.

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In fact, says Dr. Klinenberg, heat waves kill many more Americans each year than tornadoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes combined.

In 1995, Chicago officials sup-

ported health care professionals, and volunteers. A 24-hour telephone assistance line is prepared to link callers to available resources.

But here in the U.S., says Dr. Klinenberg, heat-related deaths are seen as "an act of God" or as "the failure of individuals to care for themselves." In 1995, Chicago's commissioner of human services blamed the 700 victims. "We're

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The Genuine Article

From Vietnam, to Nicaragua, to the U.S. Senate, John Kerry's long journey to political realism

John F. Kerry: The complete biography by the Boston Globe reporters who know him best

By Michael Kranish, Brian C. Mooney, and Nina J. Easton

PublicAffairs, 2004

Paperback, 432 pages, \$14.95

Review by Patricia Coburn

This biography, which began as a newspaper series, is the only available study of John Kerry's entire life to date.

It's a peculiar book.

On the one hand, it's loaded with useful facts and quotes from various sources. On the other hand, it's laced with hostility. For example, when newly elected Senator Kerry begins investigating the Iran/Contra scandal, a case of the abuse of presidential power in the worst degree, these reporters describe him as "a restless former prosecutor with a taste for television acclaim." It requires a very alert reader to separate the facts from the cynical, irresponsible innuendo.

The *Boston Globe* has consistently endorsed Kerry on its editorial pages. However, as is the case with all major newspapers, the editorial board and its reporting staff are two different operations. In the preface to the book, *Globe* editor Martin Baron overtly discusses the "testy" relationship between Kerry and the newspaper: "The *Boston Globe's* relationship with John Kerry has been marked by rocky moments, and he has not infrequently conveyed, directly or through surrogates, a feeling that the newspaper was out to get him."

Kerry gave the *Globe* many hours of his time so that the newspaper series on which this book is based could be done. He was then asked for more hours. He refused.

Why? Consider the main "discovery" of the *Globe's* reporters: unbeknownst to him, Kerry had two Jewish grandparents on the paternal side, not just one, and that grandfather Kohn took his own life. His ancestors changed the family name from Kohn to Kerry. In discussing these minor facts, they imply that Kerry has deliberately deceived Massachusetts voters by not doing something — calling a press conference? — to alert the public that he is Austrian by background, not Irish.

Does all of this seem fairly ridiculous? No more ridiculous, I find, than

the overall notion advanced by the *Globe's* reporters that Kerry is an ambitious, untrustworthy publicity hound. Since much of the information they quote from says something else entirely, they are left to us as authorial schizophrenics. Why these reporters are hostile to Kerry I would not want to speculate about, although jealousy does come to mind when they discuss aspects of John Kerry's "glamorous" life. They are clearly not happy with the fact that he is married to a wealthy wife (in the book's introduction, they imply that he has been a fortune hunter), or that he once bought an expensive motorcycle.

In the interest of full disclosure: I happen to like John Kerry, although I've never shaken his hand.

Back in 1986, I became a "sandalista," one of the thousands of people from all over the world who traveled to Nicaragua to try to help prevent a Reagan armed invasion. Prior to making the trip, I read extensively in Nicaraguan history. Then and afterwards, I was keenly aware of how inaccurate U.S. reporting on Nicaragua was. Stories in *The New York Times* and on

National Public Radio made me ill. White House manipulation and Cold War attitudes dominated the major media. The best "reporting" came from religious and human rights organizations.

In this hostile, isolating environment, John Kerry stepped forward. He had been sworn in as a U.S. senator in January 1985, along with Tom Harkin of Iowa, a former Navy pilot who had exposed torture tactics by a corrupt South Vietnamese government. In the face of almost total major media misinformation, Kerry made this statement to colleagues in the U.S. Senate: "The American people are being misled on a systematic basis about what we are doing, and by what means, in that region." He described Reagan's Contra "freedom fighters" as a "mercenary army... guilty of atrocities against civilians." He and Harkin decided to go to Nicaragua to try to stop Reagan's war. Almost no other U.S. senators at the time were willing to do something so controversial.

After two days in Nicaragua, Kerry and Harkin brought back a two-and-a-half page peace offer from the Nicaraguan government: Nicaragua would agree to a cease-fire and would restore

civil liberties if the U.S. government would end its financial support of the Contras. Kerry commented: "If the U.S. government is serious about peace, this is a great opportunity."

Any decent U.S. government that recognized the right of small states to run their own affairs would have seized upon this peace offer. Of course, that was not Reagan's point of view. The war went on, thousands died, and Nicaragua was plunged into a terrible state of poverty that persists to this day. Yet those aware of the suffering of the people of Nicaragua feel forever grateful to Kerry for what he tried to do in the mid-1980s.

The facts of his life, presented on TV specials from CNN and MSNBC, were taken in part from this biography. John Forbes Kerry was born in Denver on December 11, 1943. His father was an attorney and Foreign Service officer. The family was not rich, but they moved frequently, living in Massachusetts, D.C., and Berlin. Eventually Kerry was enrolled in boarding schools in Switzerland and Newton, Massachusetts. Then came high school at St. Paul's in Concord, where most students were white, rich, and Republican. Kerry talked for hours about civil rights and racial problems with the school's one Black teacher. He was considered by a classmate to be "not a sort of typical prep school kid."

In 1962, Kerry entered Yale University, his father's alma mater, where he was a serious, talented student, an athlete, and a top debater. It was too early in the Vietnam era for Yale to be a bastion of anti-war sentiment. However, by 1966 Kerry apparently had doubts about U.S. policy. Nevertheless, when told by his draft board that he would probably be enlisted, he chose Naval Officer Candidate School. While Kerry trained, the number of U.S. and Vietnamese dead ballooned.

The next phases of Kerry's life are the familiar ones most written about: Vietnam and his time as a war protester.

The *Globe* reporters devote three chapters to these times in Kerry's life. Once he became a leading national anti-war figure, Richard Nixon's White House went after him. An investigation was put in place to find "dirt," but no dirt could be found. In a sentence that has to be of interest in 2004, Nixon's counsel Charles Colson wrote in a memo: "Let's destroy this young demagogue before he becomes

another Ralph Nader."

Kerry asked for an early discharge from the Navy so that he could run for Congress on an antiwar platform in 1972. He lost in part because of virulent attacks by the Lowell, Mass. right-wing newspaper the *Sun*. Between 1972 and 1984, when he ran for the U.S. Senate, Kerry went to law school, worked as a highly successful prosecuting attorney, and ran victoriously for Lieutenant

Governor. Once in office, he compiled a voting record that is one of the Senate's most liberal. He opposed Reagan's militarism by supporting cancellation of a number of weapons systems that were widely discussed and opposed in the late 1980s by the U.S. peace movement, the Center for Defense Information, and publications like *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* because they would either have

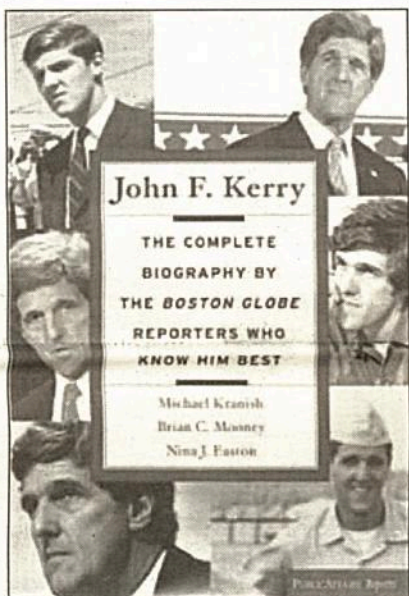
wasted money or heightened the tensions in the U.S.-Soviet standoff.

As this biography makes clear, Kerry knows what it's like to be the target of an all-out conservative attack. As a result, he seems to have learned caution. Some Democrats and progressives might prefer that Kerry not back off from some of his exceedingly strong statements on Vietnam, which can be found on the pages of this book. However, I believe that Kerry is simply a realist who understands U.S. politics. The record documented by the *Globe* shows him capable of building bridges with unlikely fellow senators.

Anyone who reads this biography with care will conclude that John Kerry is an admirable, substantial human being. John McCain puts it this way in the book: "You get to know people and you make decisions about them.... I found him to be the genuine article."

The cynical authors might not have wanted to reach that conclusion. It's a testimony to their thoroughness that you get there anyway. ■

Nixon's counsel
Charles Colson
wrote in a memo:
"Let's destroy this
young demagogue
before he becomes
another Ralph
Nader."



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8/05/04

Upcoming and Notable

Thursday 8/5

Seattle Men Organizing Against Violence sponsors an evening with Alisa Bierria of CARA Seattle. Ms. Bierria will discuss the history of the **anti-violence movement** and how the prison industrial complex harms survivors of domestic and sexual violence and people with disabilities. RSVP not required but helpful. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at 2100 Building, 2100 - 24th Ave. S., Seattle. Info Kevin Miller 425-891-9596 or kevin@unlessyou.org.

Friday 8/6

Umoja Fest 2004 **African Heritage Festival and Parade**. Friday is Children's Day, with a park full of fun and educational activities. Saturday features African Heritage Parade with drill teams, African drum & dance, floats and more. This three-day event will have fun for the whole family and features Northwest Urban Hip-Hop Music Fest, a Gospel choir contest, a fashion expo, and a Bite of Africa food court. Aug. 6-8, at Judkins Park, near S. Dearborn St. and 20th Ave. SE, Seattle. Info 206-279-8589 or umojafestnw@yahoo.com.

Labor Employment Law Office (LELO) is sponsoring a potluck and presentation on **Brazil's Landless Worker's Movement**, the largest social movement in Latin America. These workers also battle against Free Trade Agreements that subsidize corporate agriculture while preventing small farmers from growing their own food. Potluck 6 p.m., presentation, 7 p.m., at Bush Hotel Auditorium, LELO's office, 409 Maynard Ave. S., Suite P4, Seattle. Info 360-259-1879

Commemoration of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with speakers, music and a lantern ceremony. Come experience this peaceful and moving event. 6:30-9:15 p.m., at Greenlake, northwest shore near Bathhouse Theatre. Info 206-547-2630 or <http://www.winglake.org>.

Saturday 8/7

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 a.m. Info Anne Yen 206-694-6794 ext. 4 or anne@povertyaction.org.

Summer Send-Off Party, Native American feminist and attorney Debra O'Grady is leaving for New York, where she will work in domestic violence prevention. The public is invited to join the farewell festivities in her honor, including a salmon barbecue with all the fixin's. Sponsored by Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. 2-7 p.m., at the home of Henry Noble and Helen Gilbert,

1903 NE 82nd St., Seattle (near the 72 bus line). Buffet donation is \$8.50. Info 206-985-4621 or fspnati@igc.org.

Wednesday 8/11

Hopelink's Family and Emergency Services Dept. will host a **Homebuyers Certification Class** for low-income individuals and families. Participants must attend all five hours and will earn certification required for money for a downpayment, lower interest rates, and much more. Free on-site childcare is available. Clients must register for class at 425-943-7577. 6-8:30 p.m., Aug 11 and 19, at Hopelink Building, 14812 Main St., Bellevue.

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

Thursday 8/12

The **Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)** celebrates the opening of Martin Court, named after Joe Martin, a compassionate housing activist who will be speaking at this event. Residents at this renovated 1940's motel will be able to stay for up to two years as they transition into permanent housing. Other speakers include Tom Rasmussen of the Seattle City Council. 10 a.m., at 6188 4th Ave. S., at the corner of S. Michigan St. in Georgetown. Info Diane Lee 206-764-6059 or diane@lihi.org.

University Street Ministry Art Exhibition, showing art by **homeless young people**. This exhibition is part of an Open House Celebration, "Thanksgiving in August." There will be food, music, and fine art. Artwork may be for sale at the artist's request. 5-8 p.m., at 4740-B University Way NE, Seattle. Info 206-522-4366 or director@usministry.net.

Friday 8/13

Reel Resistance Film Series concludes with *Amandia!*, the 2002 Sundance winner celebrating the music of the anti-apartheid movement. Hosted by the Freedom Socialist Party. Tickets \$2, appetizers and desserts available (work exchange and sliding scale for low income). Doors open at 7 p.m., showtime 7:30 p.m., at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle. Info 206-722-2453 or www.socialism.com.

Sunday 8/15

Seattle Peace Concert hosted by the Washington Blues Society. Featured artists are Heather Banker, Becki Sue and Her Big Rockin' Daddies, Blues Alliance, Jack Cook and The Phantoms of Soul and more. Free, please bring food bank donations for Northwest Harvest. Noon-6 p.m., at Gas Works Park, Seattle. Info 206-729-5232 or www.seapeace.org.

Peace Action of Washington sponsors a theatrical event, "Incredible Feats of Stupidity or What Would You Do if You Had \$420 Billion?" You knew the **Pentagon has a lot to hide**, you never knew it was funny. \$10 donation. 6:30 and 9 p.m., at Bathhouse Theatre, NW shore of Greenlake, Seattle.

Wednesday 8/18

Hopelink's Family Development Program is hosting a series of **Financial Management Classes for Low-Income** people. These classes are aimed at helping clients understand financial issues. Free on-site childcare available. 6-7:30 p.m., at Hopelink Building, 14812 Main St., Bellevue. Registration required 425-943-7577.

Ongoing

Say No! to the Bush Agenda at the Republican National Convention, Aug. 29 - Sept. 2. More than a million people are expected to converge from all over the world to stand in opposition to the Bush agenda of war and repression. Not In Our Name is organizing to send participants from this area. Help is needed with outreach, fundraising, media, website, and more. Meet every other

Sunday, next meeting is August 8, 2 p.m., at 1609 19th Ave., at the corner of 19th and Pine St., Capitol Hill, Seattle. Info: Not In Our Name, 206-322-3813, or seattle@notinourname.net.

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.

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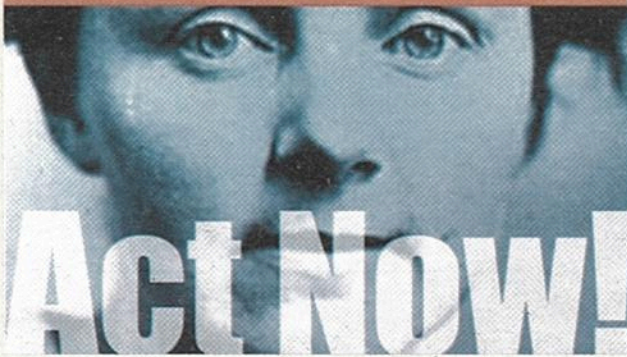
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citizens participation project



Protect the Poor in City's Budget

Issue: In September, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels will deliver his proposed budget to the City Council. Even though it won't be released for almost two months, the process is already well underway. Advocates have done what they can for now, bureaucrats have had their say, now it's citizen involvement (a.k.a. voter involvement) that can make a difference.

Background: Every indication is that unless new revenue can be identified, the Mayor and the Council will have to agree on a way to cut approximately \$25 million dollars. While the Mayor has promised to maintain "core services" he won't commit to avoiding all cuts to the range of services that keep people safe and healthy in their neighborhoods. Since Seattle uses a modified biennial budget (something like a two-year budget) that means that whatever the Council passes in November not only sets priorities for 2005, but also sets the stage for 2006.

The Mayor has said repeatedly that he can't make any promises — and that cuts will have to be spread over all departments. Over the past two years, cuts to services helping low-income Seattle residents have been eroded by over \$4.6 million — at a time when people need help more than ever. Consider the following examples:

*In 2000, there were 1,085 people sleeping on the streets of Seattle on any given night. In 2003, the number had risen to 1,899—a 66 percent increase.

*In 2003, 13 of 14 women who sought shelter for domestic violence were turned away due to lack of space.

*Since 2001, there has been a 40 percent increase in the number of uninsured people accessing community health clinics in King County.

*Since the elimination of City funds in March 2004, the Tenant's Union has had to turn away 100 households per month seeking housing counseling to address serious housing problems — some trying to avoid homelessness.

*In 2003, city funding for the CASA Latina Day Workers' Center was cut by 26 percent. The center was forced to reduce their hours of operation and as a result, CASA Latina dispatched 433 fewer jobs than the previous year.

The goal of spreading cuts over all departments is to share the burden, so no one is disproportionately affected. But low-income people are already disproportionately affected by the bad economy. Every dollar cut from services that help meet human need causes more pain than a dollar cut elsewhere. We can find alternatives to making any part of our local safety net even more fragile. It will take leadership and courage from our elected officials — whatever they cut has its own, often vocal, constituency. But it can be done; it's just a matter of articulating, and sticking to your priorities.

Families do it all the time with their own budgets. When money is tight, it becomes more important than ever to prioritize and make hard choices. A struggling family buys food, pays for housing, and ensures that their children can see a doctor. They don't buy a new car, or remodel their kitchen—those goals wait until times are better. We're not asking anything more of our leaders.

Action: Please join us—and hundreds of other Seattle residents—in calling upon the Mayor to deliver a budget to the Council that makes **no further cuts** to community health and human services. Investments in people should be our highest priority.

To send a message to the Mayor (and copy the City council, for good measure) log on to www.realchangenews.org/firstthingsfirst/ftfhome.html then click the big, red "Take Action" button. Or you can just go to the Real Change home page at www.realchangenews.org, and click First things First.



Executive Service Corps (www.escwa.org) is a non-profit providing affordable **consulting services** to schools and nonprofits. ESC includes 90 volunteers of all ages from business, education, and government professions. If you are interested, contact Nancy Long, Executive Director, (206)682-6704 or execdir@escwa.org.

Volunteer at **Community Lunch** on Capitol Hill! Serve hot, wholesome meals to homeless and low-income of Seattle. Volunteers needed Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Brian Johnson at (206)322-7500.

Shoreline YMCA has "tons" of rewarding volunteer opportunities to care for **area teens and kids**. Make a lasting difference today! Call us or email us directly, (206)364-1700 or jmack@sh.seattleyymca.org.

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We want to hear from you!



Bring story ideas, comments, suggestions, and questions to the fourth monthly open meeting of the **Real Change Editorial Committee**, Wednesday, August 18, 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, extension 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



August 2004

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

Volume IV, Issue 8

Visit us online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org

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Check out Our Exciting Bonus Articles Section Online at mockingbirdsociety.org

Mockingbird Celebrates Successful Third Year

PRINCESS HOLLINS



FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY ARE CELEBRATING OUR 3RD ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH. The Mockingbird Society has done wonders for the community, especially for struggling youth who need jobs, or just need something productive to do. We have had many successes within the program and community for three consecutive years; through hard work and participation in our three programs: *The Mockingbird Times*, ASK-Y (Advocates for the System Kids and Youth) and the Mockingbird Foster Family Constellation Project (MFFCP).

The Mockingbird Society publishes a monthly newspaper, *The Mockingbird Times*, which employs 16 youth reporters who work between 5 and 20 hours per week and are paid between \$7.50 and \$8.50 per hour. *The Times* is designed and produced by youth with experience or some type of involvement with the Washington State Foster Care System and/or homelessness. Every edition is a collaboration of youth experiences, opinions and solutions on how to improve the foster care and homeless youth system. *The Mockingbird Times* is distributed inside *Real Change* (a community newspaper in Seattle) and is also available online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

The Mockingbird Society also facilitates the Advocates for System Kids and Youth (ASK-Y) Coalition, where youth, parents, foster care advocates and community members come together to discuss how to make policies work better for adolescents in the juvenile justice, foster care and homeless youth systems.

The Mockingbird Foster Family Constellation Project consists of six foster families who work closely together, centered around a hub house that provides their foster care children with unconditional and community based care, including family events and respite care. The Constellation Project is designed to build a stronger support system for foster care children, as well as parents. The University of Washington evaluation of the project is available online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

MOCKINGBIRD BY THE NUMBERS..

16 YOUTH ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS *MOCKINGBIRD TIMES (MBT)* REPORTERS.
60 YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE HAD WORK PUBLISHED IN THE *MOCKINGBIRD TIMES*.
260 ARTICLES HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY YOUTH REPORTERS.
\$60,000 HAS BEEN PAID TO YOUTH WRITERS OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.
50 YOUNG PEOPLE WERE TRAINED BY *MOCKINGBIRD* AND *ASK-Y* TO ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER CARE AND HOMELESS YOUTH IN OLYMPIA.
30,000 COPIES OF THE *TIMES* ARE DISTRIBUTED EACH MONTH.
40 INTERVIEWS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS, LEGISLATORS AND OTHER YOUTH HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY *MBT* REPORTERS.
44 POEMS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE *TIMES* FROM KIDS ALL ACROSS THE NATION.
24 TRAININGS SESSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH *MBT* REPORTERS AND THE *SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER* STAFF.
50 STATES RECEIVE COPIES OF THE *MOCKINGBIRD TIMES* EVERY MONTH.

The Mockingbird Society has made great progress over the last three years. To continue our progression, we need your support, so help us celebrate our 3rd Annual Anniversary by continuing to read and subscribe to the *Mockingbird Times* and provide support to our programs. We also invite you to our open house on August 13th, 3-6pm in our new location at 2100 24th Avenue South, Suite 350, Seattle, WA 98144.

REFLECTIONS FROM MOCKINGBIRD STAFF AND FRIENDS...

Gina Hills, Managing Producer at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, has been a participant in monthly meetings between the PI and *Mockingbird Times* staff for a little over a year. Hills enjoys meeting with reporters to edit and revise articles and has seen them gain tons of confidence. Hills would love to see the *Times* expand to hire more reporters and write more articles. Hills appreciates the influence that the paper has on the

community, stating, "The *Times* has helped educate the public about homelessness and foster care."

Anthony Guess, Satellite Reporter, has been working with the *Mockingbird Times* for six months now. Guess believes that if he didn't have the opportunity to work at Mockingbird, his testimony would have never been heard. "*Mockingbird Times* has allowed me to inform society about the foster care system by speaking out about my experience, while making a little money on the side."

Shannon Barello, Program Coordinator, has been with the Mockingbird Society for one and a half years. Shannon loves the youth interaction, stating, "It is inspirational to see reporters gain confidence through their writing and interactions with professionals in the social service and journalism fields...[for example] it is a beautiful thing to see youth reporters interact with *Seattle PI* staff."

Princess Hollins, Satellite Reporter, has been involved with The Mockingbird Society for six months. Hollins states, "This experience has provided me with essential information about the foster care system, which had allowed me to share my knowledge with others in need of resources. I'm thankful that I have the opportunity to be part of something so positive. Thank you Jim Theofelis, Shannon Barello and Mockingbird supporters!"

Budget Cuts Hit Close to Home: SECTION 8 Program in Jeopardy

COURTNEY KONIETZKO



ON JULY 13, 2004, 150 PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HOUSING attended the Seattle City Council Forum about the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. This program helps people who are elderly, disabled, and/or very low-income secure safe, affordable housing in the private rental market—housing that is meant to be permanent or a stepping stone to a better paying job and self sufficiency. Renters on the Section 8 Program pay roughly 30% of their income towards rent, with federal HUD (Housing and Urban Development) funds paying the remainder.

HUD has announced funding cuts and the Bush Administration has proposed even more funding cuts, totaling \$1.6 billion to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. These are the biggest cuts to the program in thirty year, and will result in the loss of more than 250,000 vouchers nationwide and 5,190 vouchers here in Washington State. The number of individuals being affected is larger than 250,000 because a voucher sometimes covers more than one person.

Nationally there are over two million people on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. If these cuts go through, 30% of the Section 8 program will be affected by 2009. Seattle City Council Member Tom Rasmussen states, "12,000 people in our communities in Seattle alone depend on Section 8 subsidies to meet their month's rent." According to the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) website, SHA provides affordable housing to nearly 24,000 people in the city of Seattle. SHA house more than 8,000 residents in their public housing units and more than 14,600 residents through the HUD-subsidized Housing Choice Voucher Program. Approximately 8,400 SHA residents are children.

What are people going to do? How can your own country kick you out on the streets? According to Rasmussen, Seattle already has "1,700 homeless people on the streets at any given night and another 3,700 in transitional housing (temporary housing, two-year stay on average, helps people prepare to live on their own)..." Crisis services are strained to the point of breaking.

It seems much more cost effective to house people permanently than to have people cycling through crisis services like the emergency room. Karyn Cooper, speaker at the July forum, states, "The vacancy rate in Seattle is at 7%. Many complexes are running at 10%...there is housing out there for people, it is ridiculous that the units should just sit there

SECTION 8 CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Letter from the Editor

JIM THEOFELIS

The Mockingbird Society marks its third anniversary with the same steadfast focus and determination in which it was born. We are dedicated to improving the current and future lives of young people involved in the foster care system as well as those who are homeless and street-involved. As we celebrate our accomplishments of the past three years, we want to reaffirm the philosophy that drives our work.

We will continue to stand by the philosophy of **Unconditional Care** as the guiding light for Washington and indeed the nation's foster/kinship care system. Unconditional Care demands that "all children and adolescents deserve a safe, warm, nurturing environment independent of age, ethnicity, economic status or behavior." We renew our commitment to the fundamental notion that we must take good care of the adults who take good care of children. **The first effective strategy of recruiting new families to provide foster care is to ensure that we are honoring and supporting current foster/kinship families.** A third philosophical position we hold is the mandate that all **services need to be culturally relevant** to the kids and families receiving such services. Children of color are over-represented in the foster care system and, in order to make any meaningful improvement, we must first accept the fact that institutional racism is a reality.

Finally, the Mockingbird philosophy is rooted in the principles of **youth development and leadership**, ensuring that young people are provided the training, support and opportunities to become effective agents of positive change. Youth involved with the Mockingbird Society participate in community meetings and forums, give public speeches and testimony and of course serve as youth reporters for the *Mockingbird Times*. Three years ago I met with three youth and two part time staff as we crafted the inaugural edition of the *Mockingbird Times*. Since then, young people have responded to the call to become leaders in the social justice effort to "build a world class foster care system."

Without question, our survival and success are due to the power, insight and involvement of the many young people who have come to Mockingbird. There are so many individuals and organizations who have supported The Mockingbird Society and the work we do. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and the youth and families we serve, I want to express my appreciation for the tremendous support you have given us. I encourage you to join us at Mockingbird as we renew our commitment to ensuring that all of our children and youth are welcomed to the table of community and truly cared for—just as we would care for our own.

Jim Theofelis
jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

Charitable Planned Giving

Mockingbird Staff recently interviewed Marie Trombley to learn about Charitable Planned Giving, a great way for individuals and organizations to make meaningful donations to non-profits. Here is what Trombley had to say:

MBT: What is charitable planned giving?

Trombley: Every year millions of Americans donate money to their favorite charities. In fact, in 2000, about \$203.45 BILLION dollars was contributed to charitable causes. When we talk about a "planned gift" what we mean is the process in which a donor determines the most financially effective way to make a gift to a nonprofit organization. This can be as simple as making an annual donation by check, or as complex as creating a charitable remainder trust. The planning allows a donor to choose the gift form that meets their financial, charitable and estate planning goals.

MBT: How can it help non-profit organizations, particularly in the current political climate?

Trombley: Our American tax system is designed to encourage tax paying citizens to contribute to nonprofit organizations. The way this happens is that we receive "tax deductions (when yearly income taxes are filed)" for making charitable donations. The theory behind tax deductions is that the charitable contribution eases the financial burden on the government to provide funds for the work of the non-profit. The non-profit organization benefits from a planned charitable gift,

because it generates funds for its mission and services in the community.

MBT: How does it benefit those participating in the "giving"?

Trombley: In exploring charitable planned giving, donors have the opportunity to discover and articulate their personal and philanthropic values and goals. It may be that some donors initially choose to give because it provides them with certain tax incentives. For others, the reasons for giving may be based on a deep desire to give to the community in which they live; or a way of affirming their belief in the value of an education, or the commitment they have to their belief that all children should be given the best possible start early in life, or a desire to honor another who has struggled with an illness. The reasons and benefits are individual and precious to each donor.

MBT: How can our readers get involved?

Trombley: If you are interested in learning more about charitable planned giving, you can speak with your financial advisor, CPA, or attorney – you can contact Jim Theofelis of Mockingbird – or Marie Trombley, Watermark Asset Management, Inc. 1-888-860-0300.

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 involved in homelessness and 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. Donations to The Mockingbird Society may be tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. No part of the *Mockingbird Times* may be reproduced without the written permission of The Mockingbird Society. All contents copyright 2004 The Mockingbird Society.

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

I want to support The Mockingbird Society

Donations may be tax deductible and all donors receive the *Mockingbird Times*. Enclosed, please find my check made payable to Mockingbird Society in the amount of: \$ _____

Suggested Donations:

\$50 a year for one copy per month

\$100 a year for 5-15 copies per month

\$150 a year for 20-45 copies per month

\$200 a year for 50-100 copies per month

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Yes, you may use my name on published donor lists.

Please bill me for the amount indicated.

My employer will match my gift; enclosed is my matching gift form.

I am interested in receiving information on the advantages of planned giving.

Please fill out and mail this form with a check or money order payable to:
The Mockingbird Society, 2100 24th Ave South Suite 350, Seattle WA 98144

SECTION 8 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

empty while there are 1,700 homeless people on our streets and over 10,000 people on waiting lists for housing!" Cooper goes on to say, "Section 8 is less expensive than constructing new units, it's faster and provides housing choice." Housing choice is important so low-income people are not segregated to low-income buildings or neighborhoods. Tom Tierney, Executive Director at SHA and Stephen Norman, Executive Director at King County Housing Authority, both agreed that some of the solutions proposed to deal with the funding cuts won't work. One solution is reducing rent levels for some of the homes and apartments offering Section-8 housing, which some say might backfire by limiting the choices where people have to live, creating, "concentrated pockets of poverty," according to Norman. Norman goes on to say that, "It is not appropriate, wise, or cost effective." Other solutions proposed are increasing rent and cutting the number of people on the program. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell are both actively involved in finding housing alternatives.

Earlier in the year, the Seattle Housing Authority and the King County Housing Authority both had to temporarily freeze their waiting lists for the Section 8 program, which meant that no new vouchers would be issued. In Seattle there are currently there are 7,114 people on the SHA Section 8 waiting list. If nothing is done, and the Section 8 program is cut by 1.6 billion dollars, people already on the Section 8 program will lose their homes. According to SHA, the average income of a person on the Section 8 program is \$11,485 dollars a year. Norman reports that there are 8,200 households on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in Seattle, which breaks down to over 21,000 individuals and over 10,000 children. 800 households in the Seattle area will lose their vouchers by 2005 if something is not done. 2,000 to 2,500 households will have lost vouchers by 2009.

For more information contact Emily at the Seattle Tenant's Union at (206) 722-6848 x102 or Emily@tenantunion.org. They also have a great website full of information on your rights as a renter www.tenantunion.org

THANK YOU'S...

Northwest Children's Fund, Seattle Post Intelligencer, Kaki Dimock, Linda Lilevik, Aleta Kennedy, Denise Redinger, Lisa Revelle, Robin Walker, Graphica Designs, Mary Everett, Ron and Lauren Maier, Joy Smucker, Marlena Sessions at Work Force Development Council

MEET OUR STAFF

Executive Director
Jim Theofelis

MFFCP Coordinator
Shannon Barelo

Administrative Assistant
Lauren Frederick

Staff Reporters
Dennis Fisher, Courtney Konietzko,
Darius Reynolds

Satellite Reporters
Shay Denev, JEboh, Rico Evans, Ashley Grant, Anthony Guess, Jamica Henderson, Princess Hollins, Echo Speed, Hollis Riggins, Shakura Felder, Misty Cook

Contributing Writers
Joyce Camacho

Volunteers
Anna Trombley, Kirsten Hansen-Day,
Aleta Kennedy, Denise Redinger

Guatemalans Provide New Definition of Wealth

ANTHONY GUESS



HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED THOSE INFOMERCIALS ABOUT KIDS IN OTHER COUNTRIES who live in really bad areas, and can't find food, or even go to school? I always thought that I would like to help, but I was unsure how. Well it seems like I found a needle in a haystack. A non-profit organization called Global Visionaries (GV) has been taking teens from different schools, and different racial ethnic, and economic backgrounds, to Guatemala for the past seven years to open their eyes to different cultures and help them have an understanding of how their ecological footprint affects the whole world. One example of this is the US using more water than any other country. The teens involved in GV get to choose how they want to help: the choices are construction, Common Hope (social visits to homes), and/or work in the hospitals.

I was fortunate to go on the trip this summer. It was the most profound experience I have ever had. I realized that there aren't a lot of machines in Guatemala, so everything is done by hand. Also, what we call poor (in the US) doesn't come close to what is considered poor in Guatemala. In the morning I worked with the construction team for four hours, and my group built a school in Hato, located 5 miles from Antigua. In the afternoon I attended language school for three hours. After school we had the rest of the day free.

At the end of the trip we were asked two questions: the first question was what have we learned and what will we be taking back with us to the states. I replied that

we take things for granted and show no appreciation at all. What I'll be taking back with me is a more in-depth understanding about the world as a whole. The other question was would I ever come back? My response was a highly enthusiastic "yes." I'm going back after my senior year and will be staying six months; I'm also on the youth board. This allows me to help plan the next trip.

Here is one piece of advice: if you feel a great burning desire to make a difference, check around your community for organizations that have partnerships with other countries and try to get involved. You can always donate supplies to Global Visionaries. I'm sure that villages like Hato, where it seems like all love and hope has run out would cherish the supplied items. A wise and spiritual woman once said "If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded"-Maya Angelou.

People all over the world view the USA as the richest country, possessing great material wealth, but after spending some time in Guatemala I would have to disagree. The ones who are poor and need a lot of assistance are us as US citizens. For instance, we are rude to each other and don't seem to care. When we see each other we don't even say hello; saying hello can be the ice breaker for an interesting conversation.

Another example is the 9-11-01 heart-breaking event. After it took place many US citizens distrusted people who looked Arabic. Unconsciously it seems like the US traveled back 50 to 60 years. For example the airport security is now overly suspicious of people of color, and racism freely flows from people's mouth and actions. Furthermore we always complain about not having transportation or not feeling like going to school or work. Overall we are very culturally centered, and we tend to

let the little things keep us from engaging in one another's company.

In 1996, the longest civil war in Guatemalan history had ended. The war was between the poor and the rich. Surprisingly enough, the United States played a major role, supplying the wealthy people of Guatemala with weapons and permission to do whatever they wanted. The war left 150,000 dead and 50,000 missing. What makes this war so devastating is the fact that the Guatemalans had nowhere to run except to the hillsides, because of fear of the army and the guerrillas. If they were captured by either the army or the guerrillas they were tortured and killed.

Despite the US involvement in this tragic event, Global Visionaries has been taking teens to Guatemala for the past seven years and not once have the participants been treated disrespectfully. Guatemalans are polite and at peace with themselves and each other. Even though most of the Guatemalans wake up to 10-15 hours of work per day, they go on time and work diligently for they know what will happen if they don't.

A man of great value once said, "Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value"-Albert Einstein. We as US citizens can't change our living conditions, but we can change the way we treat each other and become "richer." Global Visionaries is one organization I found that's making a difference, I'm sure that there are a lot more out there trying to do the same. For more information about the GV program check out www.global-visionaries.org.

Information about Guatemalan history was found at www.latinamericanstudies.org/guatemala/massacre.htm and <http://www-app4.wa.gov/contest/nr2/130/amountused.html>.

How to Take Action in Preventing Child Abuse

HOLLIS RIGGINS



IT SEEMS LIKE DSHS NEEDS TO DO A BETTER JOB MONITORING FOSTER PARENTS. Lately, when you turn on the evening news, all you hear is how foster parent Ronald Young is being charged with 44 accounts of child molestation and exploitation, or when you are chatting with friends someone brings up the topic of Julie Dubravetz, who was arrested on charges that she dragged her 5-year old foster child 10-feet with her car. All too often you hear stories of how state certified foster parents have neglected or abused a child in their care, and it seems like nothing is being done to prevent it.

Part of the reason that DSHS cannot prevent child abuse is that they may not know all that is happening in the home, because very few come forward with information. Many children will not speak up on their own behalf for fear of retaliation, or a fear that no one will believe them. It is up to us as a community to speak out on the child's behalf. You don't have to be a social worker to help. Here is a list of things you can do to help prevent child abuse, by just being the friend, family member, or neighbor that you are. Some of the things you can do are:

Support programs that help support families. Parent education, community centers, respite care services and substance abuse treatment programs help to protect children by addressing circumstances that place families at risk for child abuse and neglect. If you're looking for some local programs to support, check out the 2100 building located on 24th Ave. S, It is filled with programs like Youth in Focus, The Mockingbird Society, Rainer Scholars, Northwest Children's Fund, New School Foundation, WACAP, Treehouse, YMCA Independent Living Program, and Farestart that help give youth and their families support. There are also some national programs that you can support including the Casey Family Program (www.casey.org) and the National Children's Alliance (www.nca-online.org).

Report suspected abuse and neglect. Some states require everyone to report abuse or neglect. Whether or not you are mandated by law to report child abuse and neglect, doing so may save a child. **If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call the police or 1-866-ENDHARM.**

Spread the word. Help educate others in your community about child abuse and neglect. Ask if you can leave a stack of brochures at your local public library, recreation or community center, or other public place. You can also team up with organizations like National Clearing House (www.nccanch.afc.hhs.gov) or Child Abuse Prevention Network (www.child-abuse.com) who already have brochures.

Strengthen the fabric of your community. Know your neighbors' names and the names of their children, and make sure they know yours. Give stressed parents a break by offering to watch their children.

Finally—and most important: if you are a parent, remember that prevention starts at home. Take time to re-evaluate your parenting skills. Be honest with yourself—are you yelling at your children too much or hitting them? Do you enjoy being a parent most of the time? You can find a list of good places to take classes at www.puttingkidsfirst.org. Getting help when you need it is an important part of being a good parent. If you would like more information or tips on preventing child abuse, you can visit www.dshs.wa.gov.

To get a better perspective of how everyday people can help, I interviewed 19 yr. old "Polly (name has been changed)" who has lived in an abusive foster placement almost all of her life.

Hollis: How long were you in the abusive placement?

Polly: I was put in that foster placement in 1991 when I was 5 years old. I finally left in 1999 because of a fight between my foster parent and me. She called DSHS and said she had enough of me and to come pick me up. I was 13.

Hollis: What was it like for you living in that placement?

Polly: I didn't like it and wanted to leave. I would get in trouble everyday for things like using my sister's blanket

or leaving a sweater out. She used to punish me by hitting me, making me clean out the garage, or making me clean out the entire house by myself!

Hollis: Did you ever try to get help? If so what happened?

Polly: Yes, when I was 9 I told my teachers and my school counselors but no one believed me. They said it was because I was probably misbehaving. They didn't start to believe me until I was around 11, and even then they didn't do anything.

Hollis: What could someone who knew about your situation have done to help?

Polly: The teachers and the counselors could have come and done an investigation or told CPS so they could take me out of that home.

Hollis: Do you feel that the DSHS/Foster Care system does a good job of monitoring foster parents? Why or why not?

Polly: I think it depends on who your caseworker is. Some do a better job than others.

Hollis: In what way were you abused?

Polly: She (foster mom) would hit me if I did something she didn't like even if it wasn't necessarily bad. She would tell me I was ugly and say things like I would never amount to anything.

Hollis: What advice do you have for someone who may be in your situation right now?

Polly: I would tell them to get help by speaking up. If people don't believe you just keep being persistent.

CHECK OUT ECHO SPEED'S UNDOING RACISM EXPERIENCE IN OUR EXCITING BONUS ARTICLE SECTION, LOCATED ONLINE AT WWW.MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG

Barista Program Blends Hope For Homeless Youth

J. EBOH



WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF THE PHRASE "UNIQUE BLEND" in regards to coffee they might start thinking of Starbucks jargon, like "Tall Mocha Latte" or "Venti Tazo Tea" or "Grande Espresso." But today I am going to introduce you to a different (and far less confusing) kind of blend. It doesn't have anything to do with a coffee bean—at least not entirely. What I am talking about is hope and homelessness, two concepts that usually never go together.

The "Java Jobs" Youth Barista training program in Seattle combines these two concepts. Java Jobs is headed by a partnership between Youthcare and Farestart, and was started in July of 2003. In September of 2003 they started accepting participants. The two major goals of the program are employment and education for homeless youth. This is how they provide hope to young people facing homelessness.


On the education side, the program provides support and incentives to the participants for completing goals like enrolling in a G.E.D program, community college or a certificate program. When youth enter the program they are given a basic skills test. Their results are used by the program to determine what skills they have and what they need to improve. Once their needs are determined, they are provided with tutors to help them improve those academic areas that need attention. If by the end of the program they have made improvement on their test scores, they are rewarded with a monetary incentive.

In terms of employment, the program offers eight weeks of job training, so that participants can acquire jobs as baristas upon completion of the training. Baristas are the people at cafés and coffee houses that prepare and serve coffee.

The program offers this kind of training because they believe that it's an accessible job field for the age group of the youth participants.

Participants begin by learning about the history of coffee as well as other things like workplace hygiene and the basics of being a barista. They are then given the chance to practice their newfound skills in the real world. First they get to work in the Farestart café, located off of Rainer Avenue in the south end of Seattle. This convenient location allows participants to work in a building where they can access services that can help them on the path towards self sufficiency. The café is also located in a low traffic part of town so that participants can develop their skills without feeling overwhelmed. The next step is moving to a coffee cart in the downtown public library where they can put their matured skills to work.

Another advantage of the program is that while youth are training they can earn monetary stipends. If they complete the program, participants receive six-hundred dollars in stipend funds. In addition, they can continue to earn up to four-hundred dollars in stipends after the program if they complete goals like opening a bank account or obtaining a job and keeping it for at least three months. All of this is done not only to help the clients financially but also to encourage them to take steps in improving their lives. Since the program works exclusively with homeless youth they also work with youth on finding housing—be it in a shelter, one of Youthcare's housing programs or other transitional housing programs.

The program maintains a drug free environment. If a participant is struggling with addiction they are given referrals to programs that can help them. This program works and supports youth while challenging them to face and take responsibility for issues in their lives that interfere with their employability. Java Jobs offers a great opportunity for youth who might usually find it difficult to get job training and experience. Through their determination to help youth, Java Jobs gives a whole new meaning to the concept of "unique blend." 

Options for Families Needing Extra Support: CHINS/ARY Petitions

SHAKURA FELDER



THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY AND THE CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE SPONSORED A FORUM in Seattle, Washington about the At Risk Youth (ARY) and Children in Need of Services (CHINS) petitions. General information was provided about the two petitions and the requirements for filing.

The purpose of an At Risk Youth (ARY) Petition is to receive assistance from the juvenile court in order to maintain the care, custody and control of the child and to assist in the resolution of family conflict, after alternatives to court intervention have been attempted. The purpose of a Child In Need of Services (CHINS) Petition is to obtain a court order mandating placement of the child in a residence other than the home of his/her parent because: a serious conflict between the parent and child that cannot be resolved by delivery of services to the family during continued placement of the child in the parental home, and reasonable efforts have been made to prevent the need for removal of the child from the parental home.


Although the two petitions are similar, they differ depending on who can file the petition(s) and what the petitions provide. For example, the ARY petition can only be filed by parents or legal guardians. Unlike the ARY petition, the CHINS petition can be filed by parent(s), legal guardians, youth, and DSHS social workers. Both services aim to provide assistance with runaways, substance abuse, and youth who are out-of-parental control, through intervention with the juvenile court. The following is information about how to apply for both petitions:

1. Contact Family Reconciliation Services for a family assessment.
2. Complete a petition and other forms. Forms include: ARY\CHINS Notice and Order to Show Cause for

Hearing, Declaration of Service, Case Assignment Form, and Identification Information Form. Take the completed forms and the family assessment to the Clerk's Office to be filed. A legal number and a court date will then be provided.

3. Deliver a set of copies to the Office of Public Defense to make sure that a public defender is appointed to represent the child.

4. Have someone other than the petitioner, particularly someone who is 18 years of age or older to serve the child with the petition.

Check out the following resources for more about how to file a petition: Juvenile Courthouse (Seattle) at 206-296-1134 or 296-1135; Regional Justice Center (Kent) at 206-205-2578 or 206-205-2635 or Family Reconciliation Services at 1-800-562-5624 

Our bonus articles section on www.mockingbirdsociety.org has more information on filing these petitions, including Hollis Riggins piece on the history behind the ARY/CHINS petitions, frequently asked questions about the petitions and an in-depth interview with Public Defender Linda Lilevik.



POETRY CORNER

JOYCE CAMACHO

Movie Review: Moore Wakes America Up

COURTNEY KONIETZKO


"The people who like Moore are the ones who have also noticed that the Emperor is naked and who welcome a voice brave enough to say it openly. The ones who dislike him are the ones who have some kind of investment in the fineness of the Emperor's raiment." — www.kuro5hin.org

MICHAEL MOORE'S *FAHRENHEIT 9/11* IS A WAKE UP CALL TO AMERICA. It is the winner of best picture at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival. I think it is good for all people—people of political preference and people of no political preference—to see this film. It will definitely make you wonder about things like how free we are and if our president really cares about us. I left the theatre with a renewed appreciation for the things I do have; like the freedom to go to college and not have to go to war; and a safe place to lay my head and grow up in. Sometimes it's easy to lose sight of what you do have because you focus on all the things you don't have. I also registered to vote shortly after I saw *Fahrenheit*. I realized that having an attitude of apathy won't get me anywhere.

Fahrenheit 9/11 is a documentary about George W. Bush, from the time period of when he was "selected" president to now. You hardly see Michael Moore at all, but you hear him narrating and throwing out the occasional humorous comment or question. You see him riding around in an ice cream truck reading the Patriot Act to members of congress on a bull horn. It is an extremely interesting and fast paced documentary, better than some regular movies I've seen!

The opening shot flashes back to the 2000 election. We see the people of Florida cheering for Gore and then the recount of the votes. We learn about Bush's political ties and his failure as a businessman. We learn about Bush's love for vacation time and how he sat motionless in a classroom, reading *My Pet Goat* with school children when the first and second towers were hit on September 11th. The screen plunges into darkness as we hear the screams of people on September 11th. We hear a mom talk about how hard it is to be patriotic and have a son go to war. We hear the soldiers talk firsthand about their experiences. You get to see a lot more.

The biggest criticism I can find online from people who didn't like *Fahrenheit 9/11* is the claim that the facts are not accurate. Moore knew that people who didn't like the film would attempt to pick it apart, and for that reason; he hired a team of lawyers and editors to comb through the film to make sure everything was accurate. Moore's website (www.michaelmoore.com) includes this information as well as some good resources for alternative media and information on voting and how to go about creating change.

Fahrenheit is amazing. It sent me through waves of emotion, sadness, anger, disgust, and a strong want to do something to change the way things are. Go see *Fahrenheit 9/11*—it might open up your eyes like it did mine. "It ignites a fire in people who had given up." — Michael Moore's response after seeing people come out of theatres in his home state of Michigan. 

Why Should I Call You Father?

Where were you when I was young?
You don't love me,
Why should I call you father when you are not
around?
You couldn't pick me up when I was down,
How come huh?
If you loved me, you would stay,
No matter how far you are.
It just takes one step that's all.
Now I forever banish you from me,
So you're not the father I thought you would be.
Life goes on.
Even if you're not around.
Take a look to see if you can find me,
Anywhere.
Not there am I? Or it is you
Who is not there.
So, why should I call you father?