

REAL

JUL 27

Transforms-New
of Wash

VOL 11 NO. 14

\$1

YOUR VENDOR BUYS
THIS PAPER FOR 35¢
AND KEEPS ALL THE
PROCEEDS.

PLEASE PURCHASE FROM
BADGED VENDORS ONLY

WWW.REALCHANGENEWS.ORG

APR. 6-12, 2005

FAIRNESS • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY

Dream Big

*Far-reaching changes could be
in store for treating chemical
dependency and mental illness*

By ADAM HYLIA
Editor

Cynthia Ozimek has been using drugs and alcohol for over 25 years. She has been booked into King County's detention facilities, and then sent back into the streets, more times than she cares to count. She says she is ready for a life change.

But Ozimek's every effort to get clean is frustrated by her bouts of anxiety and mania — for which she takes prescription drugs. Then, sometimes, jail intervenes between her and her meds.

"It's not detox" when she goes cold-turkey in prison. "It's a joke."

Most of the time, the sum of the accessible services on the inside amounts to prayer meetings. And coming clean behind bars only makes the heroin and alcohol waiting for her outside all the more attractive.

"How many times have I found Christ in recovery at the jail, and left him at The Turf [a downtown restaurant], saying 'I'll be right back'?"

"Maybe this isn't true for people who don't have these two issues, you know," she says. "But I do."

Ozimek is one of an untold number of people in Washington State with what social workers, drug treatment counselors, and mental health professionals call the co-occurring disorders of mental illness and drug addiction.

There one encouraging sign of a more enlightened social policy for

See SB 5763, Page 12



Photo by Matthew Sumi

Ground War

*Victor Steinbrueck Park is the scene of a turf battle over Seattle's
public space*

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

By the time the city finishes with all the upgrades it wants to make in Seattle's downtown parks, there might not be a bench left. If there is, it certainly won't be in the shade — trees will be pruned back or cut down.

That's the current plan at Occidental Park and Freeway Park. Now a neighborhood group is working with the Parks Department to do the same at Victor Steinbrueck Park in the Pike Place Market.

In March, the Parks Department called the first formal meeting of a group now called the Friends of Steinbrueck Park. Made up of area merchants and residents, the group came up with a draft plan of 13 ideas to take care of problems, including drug dealing, in the park.

Among the ideas, the group wants to remove all the benches on the east side of the park bordering Western Avenue, install security cameras, prune what few trees there are, and open the park for use by the neighboring Cutter's Bayhouse restaurant or Seattle Athletic Club.

The group is also looking at doing something with the park's space-age, self-cleaning toilet, which the city installed in March 2004 at a cost of \$600,000 a year.

Because it's self-enclosed and private, says Michael Teer, a member of Steinbrueck Friends and owner of the market's Pike & Western Wine Shop, the restroom has become a haven for drug dealing and use, which Teers says he's seen grow dramatically in the past year.

"I walk by there a couple of times a day," Teer says. "The green light is on 10 percent of the time, so the public isn't able to use. That includes tourists and the homeless."

Teer says the group isn't sure what can be done to solve the problem, but cautions that none of these details are

"I'm going to try to remain calm, but my blood is flowing rapidly."

—Seattle City
Councilmember
Peter Steinbrueck

TAX THE DEAD

Why does Washington hate
progressive taxes? **PAGE 2**

SNOOPS IN PORTLAND

Seattle sister-city challenges
Patriot Act. **PAGE 3**

EYES WIDE OPEN

AFSC puts the leather to
the ground **PAGE 4**

A PRISON LAFF RIOT

Local comedians yuck it up for
books for prisoners.
You can too. **PAGE 5**

INTERVIEW

The Exxon Valdez was worse
than you know **PAGE 6**

MOCKINGBIRD

An insert from our friends, right
down the middle

Change Agent.....	3
Just Heard.....	3
Short Takes.....	4
Books.....	8
Dr. Wes.....	9
StreetWatch.....	9
Letters.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Director's Corner.....	11
First things First.....	11

See PARK, Page 9

Fitting the Bill

For a society of equal opportunity, we need a "Grateful Heirs" tax

By LOIS CANRIGHT
United for a Fair Economy

We cannot get by without taxes, and this is the most progressive tax available, meaning that it is paid by those most able to pay it — deceased millionaires.

It's budget writing season in Olympia, that stage in state government where the rubber meets the road, and our legislators must decide how to raise the money to run the state, and where to spend it. Once again, our antiquated and unfair tax system has failed to raise enough revenue to cover all the existing priorities of the state, and lawmakers are facing a \$1.5 billion shortfall. Larger goals, like achieving affordable housing and healthcare for all Washingtonians, are not even on the table.

What's different this session is that Democrats control both houses of the legislature and the Governor's seat, and Democrats do not have the same pathological aversion to raising taxes that has afflicted the GOP. While the Republicans solve every budget deficit by cutting public services while handing out tax breaks to business, Democratic leadership in Olympia has proposed raising some tax revenue to maintain and restore state services — with an estate tax.

There is a lot of confusion about the estate tax, so let's be clear. This is a tax placed on large estates when they are passed on to inheritors after a wealthy person dies. Period. The threshold for this tax is likely to be \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars, and less than 1 percent of people who die will leave estates large enough to ever owe it. Governor Gregoire has proposed a threshold of \$2 million for the tax, and around 240 estates per year would pay the tax at that level — out of 44,000

people who die — yet it would raise around \$100 million per year. So this is a tax on the assets of the richest Washingtonians, and it is levied only after they have died, before their wealth goes to their heirs.

Why is this a fair tax? First, we cannot get by without taxes, and this is the most progressive tax available, meaning that it is paid by those most able to pay it — deceased millionaires. Washington's tax structure is already the most unfair in the country. Our lowest income households pay almost 18 percent of their income in state and local taxes, while the wealthiest 1 percent — those impacted by the estate tax — pay only 3 percent of their income. The wealthy in our state are not paying their fair share, and the estate tax is necessary to restore some balance and fairness to our tax system.

Secondly, the wealth of the richest 1 percent of Washingtonians has doubled in the past 20 years — they have done fabulously well. It is fair that a small portion of their gain should be paid back to the system that provided the infrastructure making it possible for them to become rich. Government provides the educational, legal, regulatory, transportation, and financial systems that provide the foundation for wealth. In fact, the father of the world's richest man, Bill Gates, Sr., calls this the "grateful heirs tax." At rates ranging from 4.2 to 10.5 percent for the largest estates, the estate tax still raises significant revenue from those most able to pay.

Thirdly, this is not a new tax for Washington. We have had an estate

tax since 1920, and it was only thrown out this past February by the state Supreme Court on a technicality. The governor and legislative leaders propose to fix the problems in the old tax, and raise the threshold to reduce the impact on small businesses and homeowners in our inflated real estate market.

Finally, the revenue from the estate tax is being dedicated to education, specifically to fund the reduction in class size that the voters demanded when we passed I-728, but have not gotten because of budget deficits. This really gets at the heart of the intent behind the estate tax: helping to make this a society of opportunity for all. It is fair to call for the wealthiest and most successful people in our state to return some of their wealth after death to the system that makes it possible for others to succeed.

Does this make sense to you? If so, please call your legislators on the hotline: 1-800-562-6000, and urge them to vote for restoring Washington's estate tax. (They'll help if you don't know who to ask for). The vote will be soon, and they need to hear from YOU. The governor has acknowledged that the state needs structural tax reform, meaning a real fix to our ongoing inadequate and unfair way of raising money. Restoring the estate tax is an important sign that she understands the role that the wealthiest Washingtonians must play in a fair tax structure. ■

Lois Canright is the northwest organizer for United for a Fair Economy.



Real Change is published weekly and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35.

Real Change vendors receive 65¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

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

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.

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

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

Who Is Real Change?

Board of Directors

Don Brown (President), Faith Wilder (VP), Mandy Levenberg (VP), Anne Bailey (Treasurer), Maria Sanders (Secretary), Wes Browning, Stephan Fjeldstad, Margaret Kae, Rebecca Kavoussi, Gabriela Quintana, JoJo Tran, Erica Wiley

Advisory Board

Affiliations listed for identification purposes only: Sherman Alexie, Poet, Writer, Filmmaker, Nancy Amidei, Univ. of WA School of Social Work, Kenan Black, Media Consultant, David Bloom, Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action, Kari Connor, Wangdoody, Walt Crowley, HistoryLink, Darnell Dent, Community Health Plan of Washington, Lynne Dodson, Co-Chair, Jobs with Justice, John Fox, Seattle Displacement Coalition, Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember, Dist. 10, Jon Gould, Children's Alliance, Andy Himes, Poetry in Wartime, Bill Hobson, Downtown Emergency Service Center, Naomi Ishisaka, Colors NW, Sally Kinney, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness, Paul Loeb, Writer, Meizhu Lui, United for a Fair Economy, Carl Mack, Seattle NAACP, Roberto Maestas, El Centro de la Raza, Paola Maranan, Children's Alliance, Joe Martin, Pike Market Medical Clinic, Vince Matulis, United Way of King County, Al Poole, City of Seattle Survival Services, Trisha Ready, Richard Hugo House, Aiko Schoefer, Statewide Poverty Action Network, K.L. Shannon, Racial Disparity Project, Bob Siegal, National Lawyers Guild/Center for Social Justice, Rick Simonson, Elliott Bay Book Company, Pat

Simpson, Interfaith Task-Force on Homelessness, Hilary Stern, CASA Latina, Robby Stern, WA State Labor Council, Peter Steinbrueck, Seattle City Council, Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society, Marilyn Watkins, Economic Opportunity Institute, Bruce Wirth, Program Manager, KBCS Alice Waldt, Washington Association of Churches

Staff

Executive Director
Timothy Harris

Associate Director
Rachael Myers

Editor
Adam Hyla

Staff Reporters
Cydney Gillis, Rosette Royale

Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager
Brooke Kempner

Vendor Services
Peter Verburg-Sachs, Erin Anderson, Robert Hansen, Margaret Kae

Development Associate
Cindy Lin

Advertising Sales Representative
Candi Wilwang, Denver Davis, Kari Bailey

Webmaster
J. Kemble

Interns

Breeana Laughlin, R.V. Murphy, Gentle Vuong, Nathan Arnett

Editorial Committee

Artis, Wes Browning, Stan Burriss, Morrie Condit, Anitra Freeman, Michele Marchand

Contributing Writers

Israel Boyer, Tom Cogbill, Jake Edel, Jennifer Gore, Jess Grant, Lester Gray, Jade Ingmire, Breeana Laughlin, Patty Lane, Megan Lee, Robin Lindley, Joe Martin, R.V. Murphy, Emma Quinn, Sean Reid, Kyle Senikawa, Kona Shen, Jason Siegel, Wendy Smith

Photographers, Graphic Artists

Rob Casey, Ken Dean, Terry Divyak, Tom Douglass, Sean Ellingson, Lance Hammond, George Hickey, Andrea Lee, Justin Mills, Meagan O'Shea, Mark Sullo, Matthew Sumi, Craig Updegrave

Volunteers This Issue

Greg Crowther, Tige DeCoster, Sandra Enger, Casey Fortenberry, Robert Goldsworthy, Ingrid Haftel, John "Joe" Kemble, Pui-Sum Kwan, Brianna Morgan, Loretta Prazzi, Eric Sanderson, Kelly O'Connell, Elizabeth Smith, Lauren Schugar, Wendy Smith

Change Agent

DeWayne Martin was tired. Tired of trudging up two flights of stairs with a plastic bucket so his 16-year-old granddaughter could take a warm spongebath before school. Tired of waking in the middle of the night to make sure the jury-rigged fuse box hadn't set the building ablaze.

So he didn't see any humor in his landlord's quip that living without a stove, hot water, or heat for 74 winter days was "just like camping."

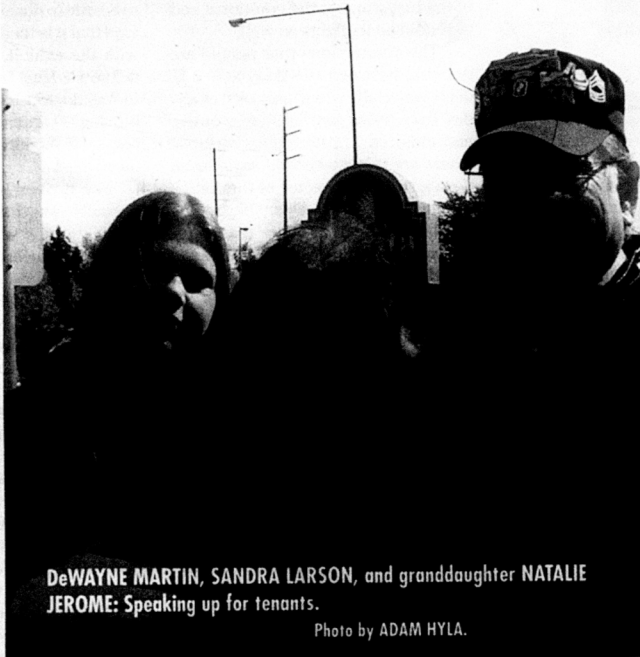
Martin and Sandra Larson moved out of the Lakewood Garden Apartments several months ago. Early this year, they and other tenants with similar experiences went to Olympia to speak in favor of Senate Bill 5577, which would make landlords who refuse to repair their units liable for the cost of their tenants' relocation.

Larson says she went and testified because "I don't want to see people go through what we've been through."

"This act will hold slumlords accountable," adds Martin.

Passed 48-0 in the Senate, the bill is heading for approval in the House.

—Adam Hyla



DeWAYNE MARTIN, SANDRA LARSON, and granddaughter NATALIE JEROME: Speaking up for tenants.

Photo by ADAM HYLA.

Just Heard ...

Solar fight flares up

It seems state lawmakers can't give enough tax breaks to Boeing. But, when it comes to creating 400 jobs in new industry like solar energy, they're a little confused.

Two bills that would give tax breaks to solar manufacturers and pay back homeowners who buy the systems passed the Senate 48-0 in March ("Solar Heats Up," March 30). On March 31, after an executive from German solar giant RWE Schott testified the company would open a Washington plant and create 400 jobs, the House technology committee passed the bills 10-0.

But the committee cut the solar incentive program from 10 years to five. On Monday, when it passed the bills, the House Finance Committee upped the window to seven years. But proponents say that unless the state commits to the full 10 years, S.B. 5101 and S.B. 5111 won't work — and Schott won't come.

The bills are now headed to the House floor for what Seattle solar-energy consultant Scott Allison calls a "food fight" to get the 10-year tax break restored. Without it, he says, lawmakers are setting up the program for a failure that will only embarrass Washington state.

—Cydney Gillis

Spiked

Just in time for Tax Day, Seattle's new consumer-protection ordinance regulating tax refund loans is going to be nullified by state lawmakers.

Senate Bill 5692 would apply a uniform, statewide law to income-tax preparers offering advances on the IRS's expected refund. It pre-empts all similar local laws — meaning Seattle's, which has detailed stipulations on the manner in which loan information is provided to borrowers.

Among them was a requirement that the fine print must be presented in whichever language a borrower knows best. City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, who spearheaded the city's legislation, says he's disappointed: "I had hoped that disclosure would be in the person's primary language if they didn't speak English."

—Adam Hyla

Spreading the plan

State legislators are working up a bill that could dramatically reduce homelessness statewide.

House Bill 2163 would authorize counties to charge a \$10 document filing fee — money that they would use to strategize the type and quantity of services needed by homeless people in their communities.

"Assuming this bill goes through, we will have a lot more work to do on the local level, in implementing plans to end homelessness," says human services lobbyist Seth Dawson.

—Adam Hyla

Portland Showing Snoops the Boot

Concerns over civil liberties prompt threats to pull out of anti-terror task force

By ISRAEL BAYER
Contributing Writer

Portland, Seattle's sister city and a town nicknamed "Little Beirut" by the first Bush Administration for its anti-war stance during the first Gulf War, is in a tug-of-war with the federal government.

In a special four-hour City Council meeting last week, the city saw testimony from the FBI, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and dozens of community activist groups about Portland's role in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The City of Roses is giving the FBI three weeks to agree to open up JTTF files involving two Portland police officers who work in conjunction with the FBI.

JTTF's work with local police departments in more than 100 cities, including Seattle. In the past year, the task forces have come under attack by the ACLU for abusing their power. According to the ACLU, the FBI and local police have been caught spying in Oregon, California, Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado.

The city's agreement with the Department of Homeland Security says the mayor and police chief can be eligible for secret clearance. The city is asking the federal government to give the mayor, the police chief, and the city attorney the same clearance the two officers have.

"Right now, we are told things on a need-to-know basis," said Mayor Tom Potter at the packed council meeting.

"There is either a basic respect for our city, or there is not," joined in city

commissioner Randy Leonard. "The federal government is saying it's either our way or the highway. We think this will create a level playing field."

If the federal government does not grant access, four of the five city commissioners are prepared to pull local officers out of the JTTF 90 days after the April 20 council vote.

"Hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals have had files kept by the FBI and Portland police for decades," said David Fidanque, executive director of the Oregon chapter of the ACLU.

"Oregon state law strictly prohibits the investigation of political, religious, or social groups unless law enforcement agencies have direct evidence of criminal activity," said Fidanque. "But the FBI is working under a different rule book," referring to the changes made by the Patriot Act making court-appointed warrants for wiretaps, home entry, e-mail surveillance, and DNA sampling a moot point.

"The city is experiencing enormous political pressure," said Fidanque. "There have already been threats of federal funding being cut."

Portland officers have been on the task force since 1997. The team includes around 15 law enforcement agencies and dozens of officers. The task force helped arrest and convict six of the infamous Portland Seven on charges of conspiring against U.S.

troops in Afghanistan.

But the group falsely arrested Portland lawyer Brandon Mayfield, whose fingerprints had been mistakenly linked to the terrorist bombings that killed 191 people in Madrid last March. The FBI gave a rare public apology to Mayfield,

Portland is under enormous political pressure, including threats to federally funded programs.

a convert to Islam, who is suing over the botched arrest. The *Oregonian* reported last week that the Portland JTTF entered Mayfield's home without permission, took material from his hard drive, snapped hundreds of photos, and collected DNA samples.

"The question now becomes, were any of the Portland police officers at the scene?" said one activist at the packed council meeting. "If an officer was at the scene, it clearly goes against Oregon state law. What's the city or state going to do then?"

The fight over the JTTF is the latest in an ongoing battle between local and federal officials.

In November 2001, the Justice Department asked cities throughout the U.S. to interview 5,000 Arab-American individuals who had arrived in the country since January 2000. To the dismay of the FBI, police bureaus in Portland and Corvallis, OR, opted out of the interviews due to racial profiling implications, even though the state Attorney General ruled that the interviews did not violate state law. ■

Eyes Wide Open

Travelling AFSC exhibit brings reality home

Like many others, a mother from Oregon is planning to come to Seattle to donate her son's boots.

By KONA SHEN
Contributing Writer

1,524 combat boots and 1,000 civilian shoes stretch out in long, narrow rows. The battered boots are dusty and cracked, with knotted laces and neat labels that state name, age, and rank. Thin canvas shoes range in sizes for toddlers, youth and adults. Each pair of empty, slumping combat boots and faded canvas shoes represents a life lost in the Iraq war.

On April 9 and 10 the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is presenting their "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit in Seattle in an effort to humanize the Iraq statistics. The exhibit explores not only the physical effects

of the Iraq war, but the emotional and psychological effects as well.

"The connections that people are drawing between the Iraqi and U.S. dead, especially when [they] see everyday Iraqi shoes that fit men, women, and children . . . the reality of those losses are very powerful," says Susan Segall, regional director of the AFSC.

Since 'Eyes Wide Open' began, the exhibit has been to more than forty cities, including New York, Memphis and Houston. 'Eyes Wide Open' began in Chicago with 504 combat boots in 2004 when Mike McConnell, regional director of the AFSC Chicago chapter, felt that the public was blind to the human cost of war. The AFSC is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service.

Sadly, the exhibit has expanded in every city, as soldiers and civilians continue to be killed. As the exhibit expands, boots have been donated mainly by army surplus stores, but some have more personal histories. Like many others, a mother from Oregon is planning to come

to Seattle to donate her son's boots. She says that it is "healing to know that he's with the exhibit, and that people are acknowledging the loss." For families in Washington, the exhibit is especially moving — among the rows of empty boots, 32 Washington soldiers are memorialized.

The civilian shoes represent just a small fraction of the 20,000 to 100,000 Iraqis who have been killed since the war began, but "Eyes Wide Open" recognizes "the magnitude of the Iraqi loss in this war" through using informational text to examine how the previous years of economic sanctions and bombing crippled the nation prior to the Iraq war. A "Wall of Remembrance" lists 11,000 Iraqis who have been killed, including each victim's age and cause of death. As Segall emphasized, the exhibit is not just about the current war. It also explores how, she says, Iraq "was set back generations by military action, instability, and continuing violence" before American troops arrived.

While Segall considers "Eyes Wide Open" not to be didactic in nature, "There are several things we hope visitors will do with this exhibit: grieve, reflect on this war — and all wars — and ask new questions about the necessity of war. It's imperative to find non-violent solutions," says Segall. "Maybe we can do things differently next time around." ■

[Event]

From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the April 9, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 10, the exhibit will be open and free to the public at Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion.



Short Takes

Homebound: happy

For elderly and disabled people who depend on COPIES or Medicaid Personal Care to pay for an in-home assistant, last week's news was good and bad.

The state budget news was good: After the Senate released a 2005-2007 plan that would have cut \$10 million from the programs by tightening eligibility, Sen. Darlene Fairley (D-Lake Forest Park) got the funding restored in the Senate's final version.

The House's proposed budget is due this week. It remains to be seen whether it will take a cue from the governor, who has proposed a \$21 million cut that would drop 1,765 people from the programs.

More good news came Friday, when a judge in Thurston County struck down a so-called "shared living rule" adopted one year ago by the Department of Social and Health Services, which pays for the in-home care. Aimed at saving money, the rule cut the hours of all caregivers who live in a client's home, on the theory that DSHS shouldn't have to pay for things caregivers would otherwise do for themselves — such as making meals or washing laundry.

In a lawsuit brought by two disabled clients, Columbia Legal Services argued DSHS wasn't thinking: Some clients require special diets or are incontinent, requiring extra meal preparation or extra laundry. Superior Court Judge Richard Hicks agreed. DSHS, he said, must assess clients' needs

individually, not use a blanket rule.

The bad news: Jeffrey Kilip, the lawyer representing DSHS in the state Attorney General's office, says the state plans to appeal.

—Cydney Gillis

Tent community: milestone

Tent City 3 residents feasted on a buffet lunch and slices of cake to commemorate the community's fifth anniversary, while rejoicing guest speakers hailed TC3's educational outreach during its stay at Seattle University and reveled in the promise of King County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

TC3 residents celebrated the birthday at St. Mark's Cathedral in Capitol Hill on Saturday, April 2. St. Mark's is hosting TC3 for the sixth time since the inception of the homeless community, which moved to the cathedral after it concluded its stay at the nearby Seattle University campus on Feb. 28.

"They're throwing a birthday party for themselves and we are hosting it," Mary Gould, a Deacon of St. Mark's said. "We are very happy to have them."

Tent City residents, however, were happy to have the chance to recognize eight-year-old Perry Ortiz-Williams of Seattle. They gave the youngster a plaque for his gallant \$2,000 donation to the Plymouth Housing Group. Leaders asked Perry to attend because he has inspired many volunteers

through his simplistic methods of fundraising: handing out letters at his elementary school and asking the school's teachers for small contributions.

"We're getting people involved," said Leo Rhodes, a former TC3 resident now living in the eastside's TC4, during the event. "We're bringing back that perspective that we're human beings."

—J. Jacob Edel

Journalists: targeted

Jose Couso was in Baghdad when the U.S. Army arrived in April 2003. A television cameraman with a Spanish network, he had been instrumental in persuading many independent reporters to stay in Iraq when an invasion looked imminent.

On the morning of April 8, U.S. tanks could be seen across the Tigris River from Couso's hotel, seizing control of Saddam's largely abandoned Republican Palace. Like many of the photographers in his hotel, Couso was out on his balcony, filming the action. A tank rolled onto a bridge on the far side of the river and trained its big gun on the hotel for several minutes, then let loose with a single anti-personnel round that killed Couso where he stood and injured several others.

Javier Couso, brother of the slain journalist, came to Seattle last week with damning proof that the U.S. military deliberately targeted independent reporters during the invasion of Iraq. With a Spanish TV documentary on the killing, plus the results

of more recent research, Javier presented a compelling case of war crimes by our government.

Javier argued that military hostility towards the media goes back to the Vietnam War, when the disturbing images of American cameramen eventually undermined support for the war back home. The military tried to learn from its mistakes by creating a system of "embedded" reporters — a system that contained several hundred journalists in the invasion of 2003.

The military has offered up three different versions of what happened, none of which correspond with the testimony of reporters who were in the hotel. First, the Army claimed that sniper fire had originated from the lobby of the hotel. When asked why they would fire at the 14th floor if the enemy were in the lobby, they claimed to have seen a spotter above who they feared was relaying their position.

A government report has held the Army blameless in the incident, but Couso's group characterizes this conclusion as "a mere internal report of a self-exculpatory nature."

The Hotel Palestine was not the only media outlet fired on by U.S. tanks that morning. Two more people died in attacks on the offices of Al Jazeera television and Abu Dhabi television, creating a suspicious pattern of apparently deliberate provocations against independent media personnel covering the war.

—Jess Grant

Bring the Funny

Local comedians put on jail fundraiser

By SEAN REID
Contributing Writer

"Anytime you put a book in someone's hands, it's an improvement. And when it's for whatever reason, in jail, a book is a good thing."

A drunk stumbles out of a bar and runs right into two priests. He says, "I'm Jesus Christ." The first priest says, "No, son, you're not." So the drunk turns to the second priest and repeats himself. The second priest says, "No, son, you're not."

The drunk says, "Look, I can prove it." He walks back into the bar with the two priests. The bartender takes one look at him and exclaims, "Jesus Christ, you're here again?"

OK, so journalism and comedy don't necessarily mix. All the more reason to check out the Comedy Underground's Book 'Em event next week. An annual program aimed at raising money for the King County Jail Library, Book 'Em features a motley crew of the best comedians around town doing some of their greatest bits.

"You're getting professionals doing their favorite stuff from their act; it's sort of a rare opportunity," says Scott Meyer, this year's emcee.

Meyer, a 12-year performer who describes his act as mostly clean, observational humor ("—though I do go dirty if I have to—") bills the night as a treat both for audiences and comedians. The pressure is on to not only condense their acts — in order to provide multiple comedians during the short time — but also entertain their peers.

"Bizarre character work and material is written specifically for this," Meyer says.

Why so much effort for a simple fundraiser? Perhaps because the beneficiary isn't the first thing on donor lists. Books for a jail library, Meyer acknowledges, can be a tough sell. "People confuse [the county jail] with the prison system."

Yet you can't always know why somebody is in jail, adds Peggy Platt, a fellow comedienne also on the Book 'Em lineup.

"They could be innocent," Platt says. "You know, there's a lot of people who are there for no other crime than vagrancy, drug addiction, or alcohol."

From out of that ambiguity comes the altruistic intentions of Book 'Em. Budget cuts over the past four years have hampered the reading selection in the jail, according to its resident librarian. Foreign-language and non-fiction materials tend to cost more than regular paperbacks, which limits the availability of books geared for the minority population.

While no one seems to expect a resurgence in reading from the funds raised by the event, Platt notes spreading literacy remains at the heart of the cause.

"Anytime you put a book in someone's hands, it's an improvement. And when it's for what-

ever reason, in jail, a book is a good thing."

The King County Jail library estimates Book 'Em has raised an average of \$2,000 a year for purchasing new books. This year, donors may also make gift certificate contributions through the Elliott Bay Book Co., which provides the library with a 20 percent discount.

Both Meyer and Platt hope to see a packed house for this year's lineup, which includes David Crowe, Gabriel Rutledge, Rodney Sherwood (who is "Nuts! And I mean that in the nicest way!" says Platt), and Las Vegas lounge legend Lenny Beckerman.

"These are a bunch of people who are genuinely friends and love doing it," adds Sherwood, a first-time emcee with the biggest job and longest stage time.

"The only thing that makes me nervous is the need to make this special." ■

Comedians Scott Meyer and Rodney Sherwood bring literature to lockdown through Book 'Em, the annual comedians' fundraiser for the King County Jail's library.

—Photo by Mark Sullo.



[Ticket Info]

Wednesday, April 13, 8:30 p.m.
All ages, \$12.
The Comedy Underground
222 South Main St.
206-628-0303

To donate to the library via the Elliott Bay Book Company:
First and Main St.
(206) 624-6600

IN THEATRES APRIL 15

Cinema Libre Studio presents

★★★★★...Extremely literate."
— Entertainment Insiders

"A strong, riveting film."
— The Los Angeles Times

"A history of verse is laid alongside that of warfare, and the ways in which they are braided together proves fascinating."
— Variety

"It is impossible for the film to ignore the policies of our own time. Voices in Wartime is not just a literary romp through the war-worn fields of history. It refrains from the pitfalls of picking sides and leveling accusations."
— José Diaz, US Army Reservist, Iraq War Vet/Poet

Official Selection
2005 PALM SPRINGS
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Official Selection
2005 D.C. INDEPENDENT
FILM FESTIVAL

VOICES IN WARTIME

Nobody Escapes Unchanged.

The experience of war sharply etched through powerful images, moving interviews and the words of poets from around the world.

www.voicesinwartime.org

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT
OPENS APRIL 15

LANDMARK GUILD 45TH
2115 N. 45th Street, Seattle
Tix/Info: (206) 781-5755

Poisoned Sea

*The Exxon Valdez spill demonstrates oil's long-term toll on the environment*Interview by KYLE SERIKAWA
Contributing Writer

The system that we trusted to take care of us — the legal system — has completely failed in people's eyes. There's a lot of bitterness in town.

When the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground in Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989, spilling 30 million gallons of crude oil, it forged a chain of ecological disasters and human health problems that continues today. Dr. Riki Ott, who was a commercial salmon fisherman in the Alaskan town of Cordova when the spill happened, was a firsthand witness to the devastation. *Sound Truth and Corporate Myth\$* is her account of the spill's long-term human and environmental costs on her home.

Her book is also a study of how scientific paradigms change. She follows the work of several scientists who discovered the alarming persistence of oil toxicity. In particular, these scientists have documented the toxic effects of the poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in oil that can linger long after the mop-up crews have left.

Dr. Ott became aware of the costs of pollution as a child in Wisconsin, where she saw robins dropping dead from the trees because of DDT. After reading Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, she determined to become a scientist and communicate science to others. She received a Master's and Ph.D. in pollution studies before taking a summer vacation to Alaska that turned into a nine-year career as a salmon fisherman. After the spill, Dr. Ott organized nonprofit citizen watchdog groups in Alaska before beginning work on her book in 1998.

Real Change: What is your book about?

Dr. Riki Ott: It's an exposé of oil as a poison to people, animals, and the environment. It

begins with looking at sick people — what happened to the *Exxon Valdez* cleanup workers. That's Part I. Part II is sick wildlife and that's Prince William Sound, the lingering harm. Part III is the legacy of, OK, now that we've realized oil is this toxic, where do we go from there and what laws need to be changed to protect us? It's kind of a synthesis of the scientific advances, the medical advances, and where we are.

RC: How did the *Exxon Valdez* spill change life in your town of Cordova?

Ott: A sociologist made a case study out of Cordova and studied the emotional trauma of a man-made disaster as opposed to the emotional trauma of a natural disaster. He documented and measured the stress to the community over the years. If you compare [Cordova] to a control community, he found that the level of stress in our town was equal to that caused by the loss of a beloved one. We bottomed out on that stress in '92-'93, when the fish runs collapsed.

Then the issue in '94 was, "OK, we've got this settlement [from Exxon], I can pay off my debts on my commercial fishing permit and get on with my life." But Exxon has dragged out the *Exxon Valdez* case for, well, now still today. Now the stress is, "How am I going to pay my debts? When is this going to be over?"

The system that we trusted to take care of us — the legal system — has completely failed in people's eyes. There's a lot of bitterness in town. It's like Br'er Rabbit and the tar baby: they socked this thing and now they just can't let it go.

RC: How did the first half of your book get started?

Ott: Originally when I started writing this book, I thought it was going to be a book about the long-term effects of the oil spill on the wildlife in Prince William Sound. And the second half still is.

Meanwhile, I had people calling me from the community [starting in 1989], saying, "I just came back from the cleanup and I'm peeing oil." And I'm like, "You mean your urine's black?" And they're like, "Yeah." And I'm thinking wait, you're not peeing oil, you're overexposed to something and it's harming you. So I don't know what it is and I'll try to get to the bottom of it. I had no idea that promise was going to take 12 years.

RC: What were some of the flaws you saw in the way that Exxon and VECO, the company hired by Exxon to supervise the cleanup, approached health and scientific issues?

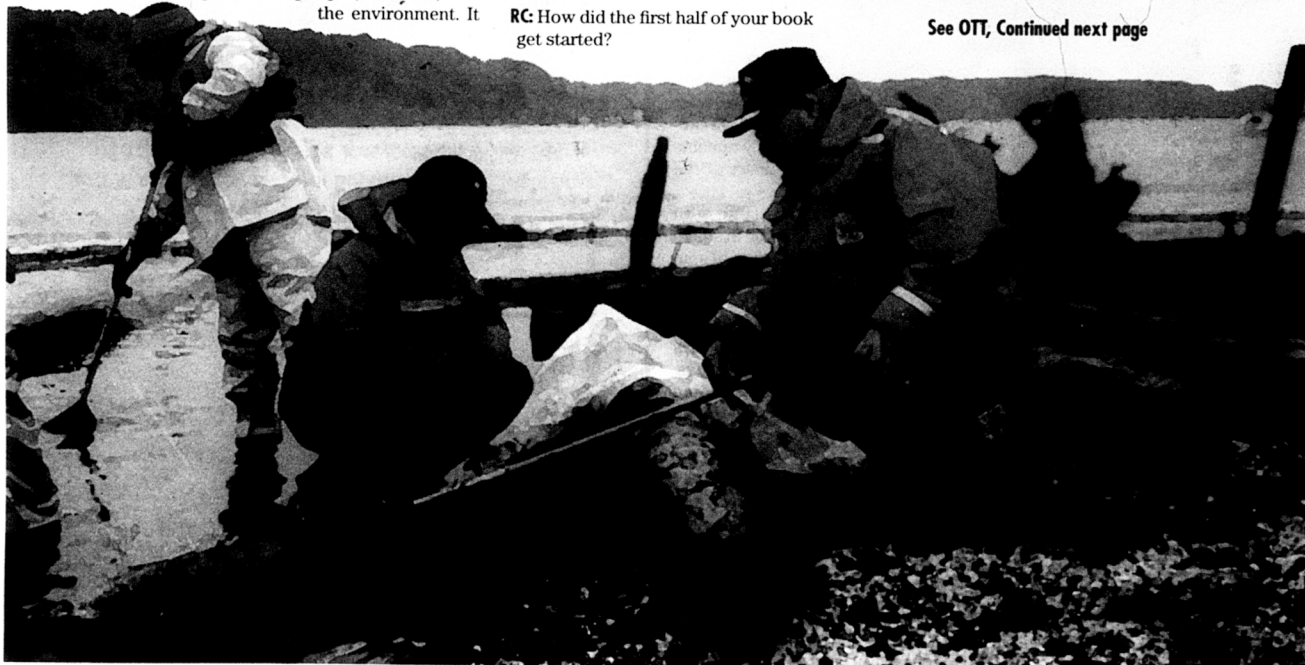
Ott: It was the first oil spill in the country conducted as a hazardous waste cleanup. There are lots of rules in a hazardous waste cleanup. Every worker is supposed to be shown the material safety and data sheets for every hazardous compound they may be exposed to. There were four hours of training on the hazards of the cleanup. About five minutes or less were actually spent on hazardous chemicals. And a lot of the early workers, the workers who were out there in May and April, before the training went into effect, had no training whatsoever in hazardous chemicals.

Secondly, the workers are supposed to receive training in how they could safely handle the chemicals that they encounter and, if they start to get

[Reading]

Dr. Riki Ott reads from *Sound Truth and Corporate Myth\$: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* on Thursday, April 15, at 5 p.m., at the Elliott Bay Book Co., 1st and Main St. in Pioneer Square. The event is free.

See OTT, Continued next page



OTT, Cont. from prev. page

sick, what might be the symptoms of overexposure to these various different chemicals. In a lot of cases, that just did not happen.

The workers also were not warned that inhaling the oil mist could cause headaches and flu-like symptoms and respiratory problems — basically, occupational asthma. And so when they started getting these symptoms, they had no clue that this was maybe not an ordinary cold or flu. It was maybe chemical poisoning. So they went back out into conditions that made them sick, they got sicker; they went home thinking they would get better and they didn't.

RC: In your book, you mention the survey by Annie O'Neill, looking at the health of oil cleanup workers 10 and more years after the spill. Can you summarize for us what she found?

OTT: What she did was a pilot study. She developed a health survey and got the [employee] databases from the state of Alaska. She found that a third of her participants had significantly higher respiratory damage, central nervous system damage, and chemical sensitivity [than control populations]. Central nervous system damage includes things like headache, mood swings, depression, brain fog, trouble concentrating. Annie also found that 70 percent of the workers she interviewed did not have any respiratory equipment, ever.

RC: It's been 15 years. How has Prince William Sound recovered?

OTT: Unevenly. That's the nutshell version.

The Exxon [funded] scientists see the sound as completely recovered. They're not differentiating between the many different pockets and bays that were differently oiled. The analogy I make is to the AIDS epidemic. If you just look at the whole world population, well, AIDS isn't that much of a problem.

But if you look in Africa and the other places where AIDS is a problem, you see that it's affecting a huge number of people.

The same is true in Prince William Sound. If you look at all of Prince William Sound, well, it seems like things

SOUND TRUTH AND CORPORATE MYTH

The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill



Dr. Riki Ott

pretty much have recovered. But if you look in specific bays and pockets — no, we're still having problems.

When I read Exxon's studies I found, without exception, that their statistical design set up the studies to not see the effects from oil. Here's a specific example with sea otters. We're seeing the young sea otters dying still to this day. Exxon did a study where they looked at sea otter productivity. The question being, are sea otters having babies in the oiled areas at similar levels to the un-oiled areas. Yes, they're having babies, but the real important question is, are the babies surviving? And Exxon did not ask that question.

RC: You write that there is a new paradigm developing about oil toxicity and its effects on the environment. Can you summarize this new paradigm?

OTT: The emerging paradigm is that oil is hazardous stuff. The PAHs [poly-aromatic hydrocarbons] in particular are much more toxic to people and to animals and the environment than we previously thought. There is enough scientific and medical evidence accumulated now where the Environmental Protection Agency listed 22 of the PAHs found in crude oil on its list of persistent bioaccumulative and toxic pollutants, along with lead, dioxins, mercury, PCBs, and DDT. None of the other compounds on this list do we put in our gas tanks.

RC: Your book ends with a call to the reader to use some of the lessons we've learned from the Exxon Valdez disaster. What are the sorts of things you think people should do?

OTT: Wean ourselves, as individuals, off of fossil fuels. I've been encouraging people to become energy-literate so that when you turn on the light switch or when you turn up your heat or you turn on the air conditioning or you go to fuel your car, you're aware of what energy source you're using. You can do things like buy clean-energy cars: consumers are now driving this market. We forget that we vote every day with our pocketbooks. So go get on the list for a clean energy car if you can. And if you can't, do carpooling. You can buy locally for food, and buy organic, or grow organic, because the fertilizers and pesticides and stuff are mostly made or derived from petrochemicals.

Finally, don't buy from companies whose practices don't match your values. ■

The Beggar at the Side of the Road*

(For Juliette)

She walks from a building
on a downtown street
seemingly deserted
her car just steps away
when a man appears
and asks for spare change
so suddenly
she has no time to be surprised.

She says no, prepared to move on,
when he asks instead for a prayer
and falls to his knees on the sidewalk
in front of her.
So she prays over him
as she is one who knows how to pray
and does so often.
He rises, thanks her, and leaves.

She wonders about this
as the memory follows her
throughout the day.

**Jewish tradition cautions the faithful
not to scorn the beggar at the side of the road
who may be god's messenger
sent to test one's worth.*

—HERBERT SUNDVALL

Discrimination?


CALL US!

Seattle Office for Civil Rights

(206) 684-4500

(TTY) (206) 684-4503

www.seattle.gov/civilrights

 City of Seattle Greg Nickels, Mayor

We All
Belong!

Housing
Contracting
Employment
Public
Accommodations

Free, fair, and
impartial services

eyes ON FREMONT

UNIQUE
AFFORDABLE
EYEWEAR

Friendly,
Skilled Staff

On Site Lab

Eye Exams

Student
Discounts



4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-3375

In Defense of Godless Values

Freethinkers:

A History of American Secularism

by Susan Jacoby

Metropolitan Books, 2004

Hardcover, 432 pages, \$27.50

God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It

by Jim Wallis

HarperSanFrancisco, 2005

Hardcover, 416 pages, \$24.95

By ANITRA FREEMAN

Editorial Committee

Jim Wallis, leader of the national church-based effort to address poverty, speaks often of the importance of being "people of faith." But comparing these two books, I think a more accurate term for what he is describing is "people of conscience." If faith is a commitment to values that you stand by come what may, then non-theists have faith as much and as often as theists do.

Both Susan Jacoby and Wallis describe an America that has barely begun to live out the commitment to human rights expressed in our founding documents, and has been over the past 30 to 40 years eroding what advances we had made. Both call for a recommitment to "liberty and justice for all," and illustrate in their equal passion, and the passion of those they describe and admire, that such a commitment transcends boundaries of theism and non-theism.

Jacoby shows how religious evangelicals allied with freethinkers and deists to ratify a Constitution with no mention of God or any appeal to Divine Authority. Instead of secularizing the nation, Jacoby explains, the secularized Constitution put the just-sprouting Protestant denominations on equal footing with established religions, which "has probably enabled religion to flourish throughout the 20th century in this country in ways that it doesn't in other developed nations."

Jim Wallis describes the coalition of evangelical as well as liberal Protestants, Catholics, and Jews who are now allying to speak out against the theology of American Triumphalism that passes for Christianity on the Right, and refocus the message on social justice: in particular, the related issues of poverty, racism, and the environment.

While Jacoby's book celebrates the respect for reason and rejection of "truth by decree" that is essential to

carrying out such a commitment, Wallis illustrates how emotional faith is not necessarily in conflict with free reason and the criticism of tradition. In an article on racism as "America's Original Sin," he writes that the nation "was established as a white society, founded upon the near-genocide of another race and then the enslavement of yet another."

Jacoby acknowledges the work of progressive Christians in working for the advance of democracy and civil rights, while providing a much-needed corrective to American's historical amnesia by publicizing the leadership of secularists, including agnostics and atheists, in those advances. While Wallis advances a very progressive agenda, he rarely acknowledges the contributions of atheists and agnostics, or even of those religious outside of the Jewish-Christian-Muslim family of faiths, in advancing the principles of conscience he proclaims for a new "spiritual" politics.

Yet both Jacoby and Wallis — and all of the people they praise and identify with — are committed to the same principles of human rights and common good; of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of "The Beloved Community."

These principles seem to Jacoby to be rooted in secular values; to Wallis they seem rooted in the values of the God of the Bible, proclaimed by the prophets of the Bible — prophetic voices still lifted up today. Both regard the effort to incorporate these values into social life as an ongoing counter-cultural revolution. The revolution to establish liberty and justice for all may have begun in 1776, but it has never ended, and has a long way yet to go. Engaging in that effort is a profound moral commitment.

Both Jacoby and Wallis say that we need a revitalized commitment to those values to even regain what we once had, and to build on it. That both books are bestsellers today demonstrates that this message transcends theism or secularism. ■



Contractors Sought

Proposals are invited for two projects

1

Undoing institutionalized racism — Help Real Change become a strong anti-racist institution by guiding us through an organizational assessment, training, and development of ongoing work.

2

Grant writer — Help ensure that we stay strong for the long run by developing the financial resources we need to grow and thrive.

Deadline for proposals April 8. Full descriptions and submission guidelines available at www.realchangenews.org or by calling 206.441-3247 x 201.



Democracy Now!

Airing twice a day at 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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

Free Speech Radio News 6 p.m. Weekdays

Public Affairs NOW! 5 – 7 a.m., 5 – 7 p.m. Weekdays

alternative
news

Listener-Supported

Non-commercial Radio from Bellevue Community College

Studio (425) 564-2424

Office (425) 564-2427

email: kbcs@ctc.edu

www.kbcs.fm



PorchLight

Community services of
the Seattle Housing Authority

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

Visit us to learn about and apply for:

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

FOR MORE INFO, CALL 206-239-1500 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.SEATTLEHOUSING.ORG

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

Let Real Change be part of your success

Reach 40,000 socially concerned readers while giving back to the community.

Real Change ad rates are competitive and affordable.

Check us out at www.realchangenews.org, or call 441-3247 x202

Adventures
in Irony

© Dr. Wes Browning



Here's another rule of mine: if a private citizen disobeys the law in the interests of doing what he thinks is morally right, that's civil disobedience. But if an elected official disobeys the law in the interests of doing what he thinks is morally right, he's substituting his morals for the people's laws and our Constitution, and so then he's an arrogant ass.

myself thinking it cannot be. He's punking us, right? This is all a gag; the cardinals are in on it; they'll go through the whole process of picking some unknown as the new pope — white smoke, black smoke, white smoke, black smoke, the new guy steps forward, and— surprise! — it's John Paul II again.

Of course, we here at Irony Central feel it is our duty to laboriously root out and expose ironies wherever they are, even surrounding the recently deceased. So we can't help but note that some of JP II's so-called socially conservative positions yield delicious ironies. Let's take his opposition to the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. It may not be ironic that the Pope considered rubber prophylactics to be unnatural means of preserving the benefits of abstinence without preserving the form, while he considered a tube surgically introduced to the stomach by way of the navel (in grotesque imitation of God's own umbilical cord) to be a perfectly natural means of preserving the benefits of eating, without preserving the form. But there is literal irony in the way that John Paul insisted during his last days on not being taken to an intensive care unit.

Speaking of people whom I mostly agree with but not always, I was struck by Jesse Jackson's last-minute push to restore Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. One of his assertions in that regard was especially interesting. He said, "We cannot hide behind the law and not have mercy."

Overlooking the debate over the notion that it is mercy to ignore someone's wish to die with dignity, I see Jackson equating obedience to the law and support of the courts' decrees with evading moral responsibility. This from a man who would have been president?

On Jesse and Other Hams

What a world we live (and die) in
With the death of Pope John Paul II, we have lost a great friend of the poor and a great supporter of freedom and justice. I find

Here's another rule of mine: if a private citizen disobeys the law in the interests of doing what he thinks is morally right, that's civil disobedience. But if an elected official disobeys the law in the interests of doing what he thinks is morally right, he's substituting his morals for the people's laws and our Constitution, and so then he's an arrogant ass.

Jesse Jackson is spared that judgment only by never having been elected. But he tried to talk Jeb Bush into being an arrogant ass. And the irony is: Jeb Bush wasn't! What a strange world we all live and die in.

I'm reminded of another irony connected to Reverend Jesse Jackson that I passed up last year. Remember the big flap about gay marriage that everybody was jabbering about during the presidential campaign? During that time Jesse made a little speech at Harvard in which he downplayed comparisons of gay civil-rights movement with that of African Americans, saying, "No slave was ever enslaved because he was gay."

In fact, during the slave era, enslavement of Africans was justified on a bogus theory that they descended from a gay man! And Reverend Jackson, being a reverend, should have known that!

You see, there's this passage in the Bible that says one of Noah's sons, namely Ham, "saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without." So then Noah cursed Canaan (son of Ham) with perpetual servitude.

During the slavery era, that little passage was widely interpreted like so: Ham actually had sex with his drunken, passed-out father, euphemisms aside. "Canaan" did not refer to just one of Ham's sons, but was taken to stand for all the descendants of the offender Ham. These included all Black Africans in the view of Christians of those days.

Of course, nobody thought that Ham's crime was solely what we would call it today: incestual rape. No, it was seen primarily as committing a homosexual act. There's your irony. ■



Sunday, March 20, 9:19 a.m., Broadway QFC. Victim stated he was waiting for his girlfriend, who was making a call in QFC, when three white males jumped him. They took his backpack, which contained his clothing and his wallet with \$40 inside. Victim, a transient white male age 43, stated he does not have an address or telephone number. He admitted he'd been drinking, and at the time of the report, officers could smell intoxicants on his breath. Seattle Fire Dept. treated him at the scene for scrapes and scratches on his head and knees. He walked away from the scene stating he was going somewhere in Snohomish County.

Sunday, March 20, 12:50 p.m., S. King St. Officers were dispatched on a report of several persons inside an abandoned house. The residence was clearly marked with "No Trespassing" signs. Suspect, a transient Asian male age 46, was one of the persons found inside. He was found to have a DOC warrant, and was arrested and booked into King County Jail. Also arrested was a suspect found on the second floor, sitting on a couch. Officers ran his name and found that the suspect, a transient Asian male age 39 had been trespassed from the abandoned property previously. He was arrested for Criminal Trespass 1st Degree, and booked into King County Jail.

Wednesday, March 23, 9:25 a.m., 200 blk James St. Victim, a homeless male, reported that someone had taken his bag, containing his medications and some toiletries, from the bus stop.

Wednesday, March 23, 9:51 p.m., 400 blk Main St., Parking Lot. Officers observed a male seated in the parking lot, drinking out of a can of beer. He contacted the man, and recognized him as having been previously trespassed from the parking lot. He ran the suspect's name through the police computer, which confirmed the previous trespass admonishment. Suspect, a transient male age 36 was arrested and transported to the precinct, later to be booked into King County Jail for trespass.

Thursday, March 24, 12:01 p.m., Nordstrom's, Pine St. Officers observed suspect, a transient Black male age 45, panhandling in front of Nordstrom's. He was leaning against the building, holding out his baseball cap for money. Officers had officially admonished him in February for loitering and panhandling in front of the store. Today he had two large bags of personal belongings with him, which would have made his physical arrest too difficult to accomplish. Suspect was advised of the criminal trespass he was once again committing, and issued another trespass admonishment. Officer requested a charge of criminal trespass be filed.

Thursday, March 24, 12:08 p.m., Pike Place Market. Officers spotted suspect, a transient Native American male age 61, inside the market. They have previously trespassed the suspect on several occasions. He was contacted, identified, and released — officers requested charges of criminal trespass be filed.

Compiled from incident reports of the Seattle Police Department by Emma Quinn. Got your own experience to relate? Call us at (206) 441-3247 ext. 207 and we'll get the scoop.

PARK, Continued from Page 1

cast in stone. The Parks Department is merely looking into the ideas — all of which would be subject to approval by the Pike Place Market Historical Commission.

One year ago, the Preservation and Development Authority, the agency that manages the Market, got the commission's approval to remove a bench under a pergola at the north end of the Market directly across from Teer's shop. The PDA wants to put new benches there with an information booth but has yet to submit any design plans to the historical commission.

In the meantime, City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck, son of the park's co-designer — the architect credited with saving the Pike Place Market in the 1970s — says he's seeing red about the Friends of Steinbrueck Park and their plans.

"It looks like more than a draft," Steinbrueck says of the action plan. "I'm going to try to remain calm, but my blood is flowing rapidly."

For one thing, Steinbrueck says, there is no Friends of Steinbrueck Park — it's something the Parks Department is trying to create to give legitimacy to

ideas Steinbrueck says are unacceptable.

"All these things are aimed at driving out the poor. That's the singular goal," Steinbrueck says.

While he acknowledges the park has public safety issues, Steinbrueck says it's a matter for the police to handle with enforcement — not harassing the homeless.

"The people who are sitting on the benches and not interfering with anyone — leave them alone, damn it," Steinbrueck says.

He says he's also against any attempt by Cutter's or others to privatize the park — something that's been tried before.

Teer says the homeless are not a target, but something has to be done to counter the growing drug dealing he sees every day. At night, residents say, there is gang activity.

If there is, that's news to PDA security chief Chuck Winters and the Seattle Police Department. SPD spokesman Sean Whitcomb says the department, which is working with the Steinbrueck Friends, isn't aware of gang activity in the park.

Regardless, Winters says, there is drug and prostitution activity — and,

Haiku: Wet City Woman

Mud always prevails.
Can't claim to be waterproof.
Scotchguard me, please.

—LAURIE CROW

even with stepped-up patrols, the police can't be everywhere at once. On a gauzy Sunday afternoon, for instance, a man sat under the picnic shelter in Steinbrueck Park casually smoking and selling grams of marijuana.

"When there's a uniformed presence, the problem people go away," Winters says. "As soon as the presence is gone, the activity goes back up to full speed."

Irene Wall, a community activist who fought a 1997 Marriott Hotel plan that would have blocked views from Steinbrueck Park, says that's no justification for putting in security cameras that smack of Big Brother.

"The surveillance idea is ironic," Wall says. "It's a city park surrounded by eyes — in condos, in office buildings, at Cutter's. How many more eyes can you possibly get on that park?"

See PARK, Page 12

Crisis Clinic
Helping Lives On the Line

24-Hour Crisis Line

Immediate help to individuals, families & friends of people in emotional crisis.

206.461.3222 | Toll Free 866.4CRISIS (427.4747)
TDD 206.461.3219

Why Advertise in Real Change?

Every week we reach 12,000 people who purchase Real Change from one of our 230 vendors.

low rates • loyal readers

**Voted "Best Community Newspaper",
Seattle Weekly Readers Poll, 2004**

Email adsales@realchangenews.org or download rates at realchangenews.org

Empower homeless youth in their fight for change.



Be a part of their movement off the streets.

Ad 2 Seattle

www.psk.s.org

PSK Seattle
PARKS
SEATTLE
KING COUNTY
STREETS



Rev. Jerry Falwell says
that God
is Pro-War.

Jesus told his
followers to love their
enemies.

We've decided to
go with Jesus on
this one.

**Keystone
United Church
Of Christ**

**5019 Keystone Place
Seattle WA 98103
Worship Sunday 10:30**



Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Baseless

Dear Real Change,

I was disturbed to read in your story about political consultants ("Kingmakers," March 30), the baseless allegation that my City Council tenure has been marked by "less-than-stellar attendance." This is the kind of irresponsible charge that characterizes the campaigns run by political consultant Michael Grossman. It is unfortunate that Real Change chose to reprint the charge without asking for the substance of the allegations.

My electoral opponent [Robert Rosencrantz], who is Mr. Grossman's client, makes the charge that I have "either missed or been late" to a number of council meetings. Characteristic are several council meetings I missed in order to attend National League of Cities conferences, where I lobbied for continued federal funding of human service programs.

Just weeks ago, I went to Washington, D.C. with three of my council colleagues to fight the proposed Bush cuts to the Community Development Block Grant program and Section 8 housing. Human service funding would be devastated if these cuts were adopted.

Attending such conferences is a critical responsibility of elected officials. To suggest otherwise either displays a cynical Karl Rove approach to campaigning or a disturbing level of ignorance about how government works. (I'd also add that simply because I'm not attending a particular meeting, does not mean I'm not working on city issues.)

I would hope that citizens focus on Seattle's challenges, as opposed to cheap shots made by political consultants more interested in winning elections than in making good public policy.

Richard J. McIver
Seattle City Council

Family Values

Dear Real Change,

First, the Bush Administration and many others expect us to live in accordance with the bigoted view that same-gender couples should be denied their right to marry. Then, when a husband attempts to fulfill his obligations, they have the unmitigated gall to deny him the right of the only kind of marriage they say they recognize and accept.

I believe that most of us recognize the rights of our fellow adult citizens to make their own decisions, free from interference or coercion. We can all get along. We can even thrive, if we behave honorably and respectfully toward ourselves and one another.

My mother lived a selfless life of service based on her fundamentalist Lutheran faith. However difficult and troublesome her 82 years, she derived great joy and contentment from it. She tried to teach her children how to walk our respective paths with honesty, integrity, humility, tolerance, patience, and compassion; she was the best example of those qualities I have ever known.

On March 7 she was fighting for her life after quadruple-bypass surgery. My five siblings and I were forced to make the most difficult collective decision of our lives. I'm honored to say that we set aside our extreme religious and secular differences and made choices based on our love and respect for our mother, and our desire to honor her beliefs and wishes.

I shudder to think what might have happened if a government entity had attempted to force its way into our tragedy and make this very personal and private decision for us.

Mary Junttila
Seattle

Real Change welcomes letters to the editor of up to 250 words in length. Please include name, address, phone number, and email for author verification. Letters should be addressed to Editor at Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA, 98121, or emailed to editor@realchangenews.org

Editorial note: The last two sentences of a March 23 story on the oceans' role in absorbing carbon dioxide ("Move Over, Global Warming") were inadvertently left unpublished. Here they are: Feely believes there is a need to decide what to do about man-made carbon dioxide emissions as soon as possible. Based on current models that show carbon dioxide will remain in the atmosphere for millennia, even with a decrease in man-made emissions, "what we do over the next hundred years will affect man over the next several thousand."

CLASSIFIED

Volunteer

Volunteer in Africa! Environmental & community development work. 14 mo incl. training in Northern Cal. No qualifications needed. Team starts May 1st. Fee/grants available. Info meeting Seattle April 16. Contact josefina@cctg.org, 530-598-7971, www.cctg.org

Volunteer Chore Services: Want to make a difference? Help low-income elders and adults living with disabilities remain independent by volunteering with Volunteer Chore Services, a program of Catholic Community Services. Volunteers assist with light housework, transportation, or yard work for 2 to 4 hours a month. Flexible hours; locations throughout King County; groups welcome; endless rewards. For more information, call 888-649-6850 or email vc@ccsw.org.

A SISTERHOOD OF WOMEN FACING HIV TOGETHER.

Women with HIV need you! The Babes Network is an agency of, by, and for women living with HIV/AIDS. To volunteer, contact Mindy Gresham at 206-720-5566 Ext. 13

Opportunity

Need a Loan 4 your Credit Problems, Good or bad credit okay 1-877-604-8741 www.communityfirstconsultants.com

Events

FREE CONCERT. Maestro Sri Chinmoy performs The Harmony Concert on traditional & exotic instruments from around the world. May 21, 8 p.m., Hec Edmundson, UW. Free. Tickets required. (206) 522-2700 or www.harmonyconcert.org

Real Change classifieds are an inexpensive way to reach 30,000 loyal readers. Call 441-3247 today, or email classified@realchangenews.org

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Thursday 4/7

Is science being misused for political ends as the Union of Concerned Scientists suggests? This talk takes a critical perspective on the current state of science, policy and politics in the U.S. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the University of Washington campus, Physics and Astronomy Auditorium, room A102.

Friday 4/8

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center presents the 2nd annual **African American Film Festival** featuring new works from emerging filmmakers across the country. Runs through April 10th. Tickets \$7. 104 - 17th Ave, S. Info: (206) 684-4757, schedule at www.geocities.com/gumbo-media/haaff/index.htm.

Every Mother's Son, a documentary about the mothers of Amadou Diallo, Anthony Baez, and Gary Busch — all killed by NYPD officers. Roughly 8,000 people have been killed by U.S. police in the 1990s. University Heights Center. Admission free, donations are requested. 7 - 9:30 pm, room 106, corner of University Way N.E. & N.E. 50th St. Info: Green Party of Seattle, info@seattlegreens.org, www.seattlegreens.org.

Clemencia M. Vargas, Ph.D., speaks on the "Socio-Economic Inequalities in Oral Health: The Painful Reality of Toothache in Children." 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m., University of Washington, Health Sciences Building, B-508.

Saturday 4/9

The Elliot Bay Book Company presents **Ellen O'Grady**, an artist and writer who

spent six years living in the Occupied Territories. She discusses her book, *Outside the Ark*, and current conditions in Palestine. 2 p.m., S. Main and 1st Ave S.

Sunday 4/10

West Seattle Neighbors for Peace and Justice presents, as part of the Sunday Afternoon Meaningful Matinee Film Series: **Johnny Got His Gun**, a classic anti-war film based on the book by Dalton Trumbo. A discussion will follow. 2 - 4 p.m. at the West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave S.W. Info: jmrepp@comcast.net or John Repp 206-932-9522.

Tuesday 4/12

The Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and others present "An Evening with **Dr. Gino Strada**," founder of Emergency. This organization's mission is, in part, to bring medical aid and other humanitarian assistance to non-combat victims of war. 7 p.m. at the Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Place N.

Various groups sponsor **Jim Wallis**, author of *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*. Admission is \$3 - \$5, 7 p.m. at University Temple United Methodist Church, on the corner of 15th N.E. and N.E. 43rd.

Wednesday 4/13

Various groups sponsor "Enough For Everyone: **Fair Trade Panel**." Learn how to move the Fair Trade mission forward in Seattle at this panel featuring a variety of producer and consumer perspectives. Reception 6 p.m., panel 7 p.m. at Seattle Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. Info: www.uuchurch.org or www.equalexchange.com/seattle.

Director's Corner



From Day One, *Real Change* has been all about the vendors. We're here to offer opportunity and a voice to the poor and homeless, and to build power from the bottom up, the kind of power that's needed to make change in Olympia and Washington. Along the way, lives get changed one at a time, and those changes are perhaps what matter most.

If you'd asked me five years ago what mattered most about *Real Change*, I'd have talked about the chance to work, or maybe our advocacy on poor people's issues, but over the years I've learned differently. It's all about relationships. When our vendors are out on the street, they learn that people really do care. They find that they are not as isolated and alone as they once thought, and that a caring community exists that believes in something better for us all. When people feel valued, it goes to the core of who they are.

We hear a lot about how much people appreciate the hard work, initiative, and common decency of our vendors. We're here to offer immediate opportunity. When there's trouble, we respond as quickly and fairly as we know how. Our community reputation matters to us a great deal, and we don't want the actions of a few to reflect badly on the others. Our vendors are proud of their role in the community, and want us to know when problems arise. If you see something happening that is not in line with your expectations of *Real Change*, let us know. We'll respond.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Support Fair Taxation

Issue: State legislators, dealing with a substantial budget shortfall, are weighing their options to produce a balanced budget. Their first priority should be to raise the revenue we need to keep the most vulnerable members of our communities healthy and safe. One of the simplest and fairest ways to raise revenue from people with the most ability to pay is to bring back the estate tax — and exempt properties worth less than \$1 million.

Background: The estate tax is the most progressive way available to raise revenue the state desperately needs to meet its commitments. We are facing a \$1.5 billion shortfall this biennium and because of the structural problems with our state's tax system, it will continue to get worse.

We cannot keep cutting and freezing services; there won't be anything left.

Until the recent court decision stating that the phaseout of the federal estate tax invalidated our local tax, this was one of Washington's only progressive taxes. Legislating an estate tax is not adding a new tax, but providing a technical fix to a tax that the state already had, which legislators have fought to protect in the past.

Losing the estate tax makes Washington's most-regressive-tax-structure in the country even worse, and provides another tax cut for millionaires. Washington's lowest-income households pay almost 18 percent of their income in state and local taxes, while the wealthiest pay only 1 to 3 percent.

The estate tax helps restore some balance to our tax system.

The wealth of the richest 1 percent of Washingtonians has doubled in the past 20 years; it is fair that some of this gain should be repaid to the system that built the infrastructure that helped to build their wealth. Before the Supreme Court decision invalidating the old estate tax, only the richest 2 percent of Washington estates paid the tax. Of the 44,000 people who die in a year, only 1,000 had estates that were subject to the tax.

The Washington Tax Fairness Coalition is calling for a tax threshold of \$1 million. The Governor's proposal raises the threshold to \$2 million, and the Senate raises the threshold to \$1.5 million this year and \$2 million in subsequent years. (At press time, the House budget was not yet out.) Keeping the exemption at \$1 million provides \$45 million more than the Governor's proposal. In this budget climate, that amount could be put to good use — by building more affordable housing, making health care more accessible, and preventing cuts to GA-U.

Action: Contact your legislators and the Governor and let them know that you support reinstatement of the estate tax at the \$1 million threshold. Contact them all with one phone call to the Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000 or personalize and send a pre-written email by visiting the Washington Association of Churches website: www.thewac.org, click the Take Action button on the right.

Home



FareStart, in collaboration with Getty Images and photographer Nicholas Prior, host a reception for *Home*, an exhibit depicting the realities of homelessness in the Seattle area. Prior will discuss the ethics of photographing subjects in despair and realizing the privileges and responsibilities of having a home. April 14, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Henry Art Gallery, 4100 15th Ave. N.E. Tickets available online at www.FareStart.org.

SB 5763, Continued from Page 1

people like her: it's Senate Bill 5763, a 913-section omnibus package with a thunderous array of changes to Washington state's care system.

Sponsored by State Sen. Jim Hargrave of the Olympic Peninsula and Grays Harbor County, a small-town Democrat with a powerful position on the Senate's Human Services and Corrections Committee, S.B. 5763 would revolutionize how mental hospitals, prisons, and the Department of Social and Health Services diagnose and treat clients.

The bill's provisions reflect how the two issues of drugs and mental illness are increasingly seen as threads in the same cloth. The practice of psychiatry has turned family secrets into treatable illnesses. The American Psychological Association has listed substance abuse and dependence in their bible, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Addiction and alcoholism are coming to be seen as diseases, not moral failings. On the reasoning that a long-time addict can't be truly free to make a

decision, the bill updates rules for involuntary commitment to locked treatment centers.

More importantly, it dramatically expands the state's capacity to handle the tens of thousands of low-income addicts who can't get into treatment.

In 2006, the bill would double the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse's treatment programs for people eligible for Medicaid, from meeting 20 percent of the need to 40 percent. It would go up again in 2007, from 40 percent to 60 percent.

But with a \$1.5 billion gap in revenues, legislators are poorly positioned to consider granting these proposals. That's why the Senate added a provision nullifying much of S.B. 5763 if funding doesn't materialize by June 30.

This week, the State House, the Senate, and Governor Christine Gregoire will begin hammering out a deal to close the state's \$1.5 billion budget gap. So far, they've proposed a hodge-podge of cuts, a few specific tax increases, and copayments from low-income people on state health plans. ■

A Bill Worth Fighting For Senate Bill 5763 would:

- triple the amount of drug and alcohol treatment available to low-income people by 2008
- establish four county-wide pilot projects for outreach and intensive case management of addicts with mental illness who cycle from hospitals to streets to jails
- get DSHS to check for substance abuse among people diagnosed with mental illness
- stanch the loss of inpatient beds at mental institutions and treatment centers
- prevent homelessness by ensuring that people leaving prison who qualify for Medicaid get on it
- build housing for people diagnosed with mental illness who don't pose an immediate threat to anyone
- authorize counties to increase sales taxes by one-tenth of 1 percent to accomplish these tasks

PARK, Continued from Page 9

Teer says no one is trying to change the nature of Steinbrueck Park. His group's goal is to nurture the park for everyone's use.

"I want my employees to feel comfortable walking to the garage at night," Teer says. "I don't want them to have to pass human feces. We're trying to make it a better environment for everyone."

Wall says anyone who really wants to do that would simply spend more time in the park.

Landscape architect Richard Haag, who co-designed the park with Victor Steinbrueck, says those who are scared shouldn't take it out on the homeless.

"If you want to change the demeanor of the park, then the people who live nearby need to show up and use the park," Walls says.

"I don't ever feel threatened," says Faye Kaufman, a Seattle resident within sight of the marijuana dealing under the picnic shelter last Sunday.

"I don't come down here at night," Kaufman added, but, then, "I don't go to Green Lake at night either."

Landscape architect Richard Haag, who co-designed the park with Victor Steinbrueck, says those who are scared shouldn't take it out on the homeless.

"It's a sociological cleansing," Haag says of the plans at Steinbrueck, Occidental, and Freeway parks.

"As a populations move into these areas and they become gentrified, then these people feel like they own the park," Haag says. "But they should adjust to the park. It was serving society — maybe not their level of society — before they got there." ■

Benefit for Real Change

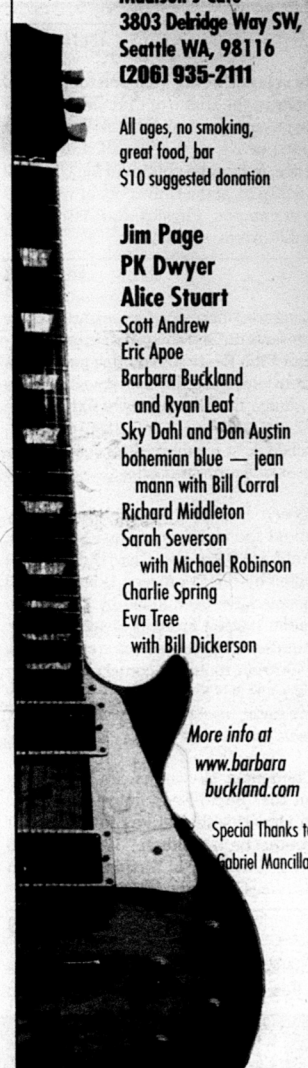
**Saturday,
April 2, 6 p.m.
Madison's Café
3803 Delridge Way SW,
Seattle WA, 98116
(206) 935-2111**

All ages, no smoking,
great food, bar
\$10 suggested donation

**Jim Page
PK Dwyer
Alice Stuart
Scott Andrew
Eric Apoe
Barbara Buckland
and Ryan Leaf
Sky Dahl and Dan Austin
bohemian blue — Jean
mann with Bill Corral
Richard Middleton
Sarah Severson
with Michael Robinson
Charlie Spring
Eva Tree
with Bill Dickerson**

More info at
www.barbarabuckland.com

Special Thanks to
Gabriel Mancilla



The vendor who sold you the paper works. So does Real Change.

Real Change is an urban news source that's making a difference here and now.

Every month, more than 25,000 copies are distributed. We give you the money they need while they help you get the money you need. No one's getting any more.

Our weekly urban news source gives you the voices you don't hear elsewhere and quality reporting on the issues that matter. We offer the information you need to take action and make a difference.

Real Change is reader supported. Last year, more than 800 people helped make Real Change possible by supporting the work they believe in.

Won't you?

I Support Real Change. Here's what I can do.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other

Make checks to Real Change and mail to 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121, or use our secure online giving option at realchangenews.org. Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Mockingbird Times

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



April 2005

Visit us online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org or call 206-323-5437 (KIDS)

Volume V, Issue 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Editor
Page 2

Letters to the Editor
Page 2

I'm Playing Basketball:
Innovative New Program for Homeless Youth
by Darius Reynolds
Page 3

Memoriam:
Goodbye Joshua
by Mockingbird Staff, Shay Deney, Bridgett Siroshita
Page 3

Movie Review:
The Boogiemans is NOT Going to Get You
by Courtney Konietzko
Page 3

Clarity Achieved in Providing Health Care to Minors
by Darius Reynolds
Page 4

Creative Corner:

Remember This and One More Chance
by Sharina
Page 4

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

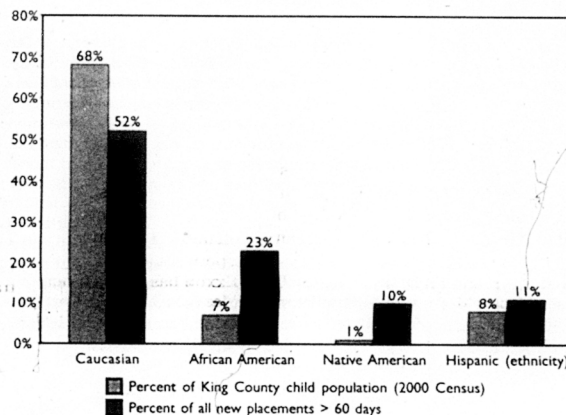
Racial Disproportionality Addressed in WA State's Child Welfare System

ECHO SPEED



THE NATION'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM has for some time been experiencing problems with racial disproportionality. According to the Child Welfare League of America, "recent research indicates that overrepresentation of children of color in the foster care system is a widespread concern." This can be seen locally as well, as African-American and Native-American children are vastly over-represented in King County's foster care population (see graph). This means that while these groups make up only a comparatively small percentage of youth across all of America, they make up a considerably larger percentage of youth in the foster care system.

The King County Racial Disproportionality Coalition is working to address this issue and has been holding regular meetings since 2002. A research subcommittee supports and tracks the progress of the research team in analyzing baseline data, implementing decision point focus groups, and designing the evaluation. A subcommittee will begin designing the implementation of cross-system intervention strategies, including program supports and enhancements, and an



overall communication plan. Findings from the research team conclude that many factors contribute to racial disproportionality in the Child Welfare System, including factors the coalition cannot directly address. The report from this team states that, "societal factors outside the reach of the child welfare system [affect disproportionality in the child welfare system]...such as poverty, housing, community safety, racism expressed in the larger community and media, and the differential history of discrimination experienced by people of color in this country." The report concludes, however, that the coalition can influence "factors associated with policy, funding, practice and contracting...factors associated with individual attitudes, values, stereotypes and racial biases of people involved in the...system."

The Honorable Judge Patricia Clark, King County Superior Court and Co-Chair of King County's Racial Disproportionality Coalition, is confident that with everyone working together positive results will soon start to show. "Our work is not only being followed by the rest of the state," says Judge Clark, "but by the rest of the nation." With the help of Regina Jones, Executive Director, Commission on African American Affairs and active member of King County's Racial Disproportionality Coalition, there's a chance that enough information about this serious problem will convince Governor Gregoire to take an active role in participating in some solutions.

Part II of Military Draft Series: Expert Opinions on Possibility of 2005 Draft



MISTY LOU COOK

FOR PART II OF THIS SERIES, I asked a variety of individuals and experts for their opinions about the impact they believe a draft will have on the youth of this nation and the people of the world. According to The National Priorities Project website, which lists the cost of the Iraq War up to the exact second, as of March 1st, 2005, at 5:25PM, the U.S. had already spent a grand total of \$156,714,643,298 for weapons, war and the invasion in Iraq. The truth is, our resources are being stretched so thin in Iraq that the possibility of a draft in 2005 is becoming more of a reality than ever before. What could this mean for you? What could this mean for your friends and the rest of the youth in this nation and the youth in Iraq?

Aimara Lin started the Bay Area Chapter of Not In Our Name in March of 2002. Not In Our Name is a national project composed of a "network of individuals and organizations committed to standing with the people of the world." The Not In Our Name Pledge of Resistance states, "We believe that as people living in the United States it is our responsibility to resist the injustices done by our government, in our names." After Lin started the Bay Area Chapter, folks have been attending the weekly Wednesday meetings, getting educated and becoming involved in the

Bay Area ever since.

I asked Lin for her thoughts and feelings about the draft and the war in Iraq. Lin replied that, "No matter how much money the government offers, their lives are worth more to themselves and their families than [anything] this government could send these youth out to do." About the possibility of a 2005 draft, Lin said, "If a draft does happen, it's going to be a direct result of the unpopularity of this war." For more information about Not In Our Name, visit www.notinourname.net/index.html.

Nancy Lessin founded the organization Military Families Speak Out in November of 2002. Lessin is the mother of a stepson who is currently in Iraq. Lessin started this program with a friend who was the father of a soldier about to be deployed. Military Families Speak Out was started in Boston, Massachusetts and is internet-based. Lessin informed me that they now have "well over 2,000 military families across the United States speaking out against this war."

Lessin emphasized that, "the reality is, the draft is already here in certain forms." Lessin described three different ways that the draft is here. The first she called the "poverty draft", which essentially targets the young, poor youth of this nation. Lessin said that when young, poverty-stricken people are looking for "security, real living-wage jobs, health insurance and money for college," they often turn to the military because it seems to be their only viable option. Lessin went on to say that it seems that the U.S. Government is taking advantage of young people's hardships

DRAFT CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Letter from the Editor

JIM THEOFELIS



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AND PREVENTION MONTH. This is an important opportunity to renew public attention and action on the horrors of child abuse as well as the role each of us can serve in its prevention. Typically, when most folks think about child abuse their thoughts turn directly to young children. This is understandable given the natural inclination for most of us to protect babies and young children. I believe it is important to also remember that abuse and neglect have a devastating impact on adolescents as well.

There is no question that the idea of an infant or toddler experiencing physical, sexual or psychological abuse is repugnant and overwhelming to the senses. It is equally repugnant to imagine a thirteen year old youngster being sexually abused or a fifteen-year-old receiving daily humiliation and physical abuse. It is critical that we commit to protecting all kids from this type of treatment, independent of age. I encourage each of you to find a way to participate in the community effort of protecting kids of all ages from the bruises, scars and life long wounds that characterize abuse and neglect.

You may recall in Harper Lee's classic, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, when the father is teaching his son how to shoot and handle a rifle for the first time. The father tells his son that whatever you do do not shoot the Mockingbirds because "...Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy...they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us." When choosing a name for our organization, this quote continually came to mind. What if we as a community valued our most marginalized children and teenagers in the same way this dad valued Mockingbirds? The Mockingbird Society and you can work together to build a world class foster/kinship care system while serving our neighborhood kids.

Jim Theofelis

jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

Mark your Calendars...May is National Foster Care Awareness Month!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Rico,

[In response to your article "Making Your Path" in the March 2005 issue of the *Mockingbird Times*], I am so glad to hear you taking responsibility and not blaming the "system." I receive the *Mockingbird Times* every month and initially thought the concept was great. Unfortunately all the whining and blaming of the "system" put me off and it usually went in the trash pretty fast. Your article caught my eye.

I agree you should not have to worry about housing. Nor should you have to worry about college. There are plenty of programs to help you. Contact the YMCA in Seattle about their Independent Living Program. Contact Treehouse for tuition assistance. Apply now for the Governor's Scholarship. A girl on my caseload got \$5000.00 for college and her grades were not great. It is an underused resource. Friends of Youth, (425)869-6490 has several transitional living programs. There is a wealth of resources for people transitioning out of foster care in Region 4, especially when they have your attitude and insight.

I want to wish you good luck and a successful future.

DSHS Social Worker III

Mockingbird Response:

Thank you for taking the time to send Rico a message of goodwill. Receiving feedback regarding their articles has a very positive impact on youth so again I thank you. I am appreciative of your honest feedback re: the perception that *Mockingbird Times* spends too much time/focus on "blaming" the system. As you might guess, we get that feedback particularly from folks from DCFS, although not as much lately. I would like to point out that we work hard to ensure that there is a balance in the paper between allowing youth to give voice to their experiences in the system while ensuring that we also discuss solutions and personal responsibility. Often, youth need a bit of time before they can get beyond being locked into their experience as victims and survivors, and move towards seeing themselves as having some authority and choice over their lives. At the same time, most of their issues are real and legitimate, particularly for the older adolescent (we've just had two youth who lost their foster home at age 18, becoming homeless six months before their High School graduation). I just want you to know that we do strive to find a balance. Again, thanks for taking the time to send a message to Rico.

Best Regards,
Jim Theofelis

My name is Johnny Ohta. I am a Chemical Dependency Counselor and work with homeless youth at The Orion Center and The University District Youth Center (in Seattle). I am writing this letter in response to the article in the February 2005 issue of *Mockingbird Times*, "The Dirt on Heroin Abuse," by Shay Deney. I think it is an excellent article, very informative and well written. However, I am extremely distraught about a few aspects of this article. First of all, the "make a rule about money" point. Shay suggests that sometimes you give a heroin addict money because you may be keeping them out of trouble. In my experience, it's very difficult to figure out when it's the right time to give a heroin addict money to keep them out of trouble. The only time that you should give a heroin addict money is when you have decided that you are willing to buy heroin for them. Enabling addicts to continue to use and provide them with "soft landings" prolongs the active addiction. In working with addicts, be they loved ones, family members or clients, it is important to show compassion and support in the direction of overcoming their addiction. The truth about enabling is that it's really difficult to say no to drug addicts. Often one needs to get support in being clear about what you can and can't do for the addict. The other issue is the "Lapse Relapse" point. Whether it's a lapse or relapse, the issue is still what happens when you use. Addiction is in it's very nature not something you can rationalize. The addict's brain sends one message over and over— "Just one more time." When an addict uses again after being clean for a period of time, it triggers a craving and whole set of physical and psychological responses which sets up the active addiction pattern once again. The significance of using again after being clean for a period of time should not be minimized.

I greatly enjoy the *Mockingbird Times* and the issues the talented young writers bring forth. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Johnny Ohta

THANK YOU'S...

Michael Oliver & Janet Osborne, Anne Redman, Anne McBride, Ernest & Ruth Watts, Valerie Ramisch, Elizabeth Little, Washington Mutual Matching Gifts, Stella L. Pitts & Associates, PLLC, Ron & Lauren Maier, Honorable Judge Patricia Clark, Sherri Bloomer, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Bridgett Siroshon, Shay Deney, Johnny Ohta, Lucy Lawless.

All incoming Letters to the Editor should be addressed to Mockingbird Editorial Staff and will be opened by Editorial Staff. All incoming correspondence to reporting staff under 18 years of age will be opened first by Mockingbird Editorial Staff.

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 60,000 copies being distributed across Washington and the U.S.A, as inserts in *Real Change*, *Seattle Sun* and *Seattle Star* newspapers and our own distribution list. 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 2005 The Mockingbird Society.

A Mockingbird Inside Your Mailbox

Make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable youth and 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:

\$ 1,000+.....Protector \$500-999.....Caretaker \$250-500.....Organizations
\$50+.....Supporter \$25.....Foster Parent

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ Please do not include my name on published donor lists.

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

- ☐ 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.

MEET OUR STAFF

Executive Director
Jim Theofelis

MFFCP Coordinator
Shannon Barello

Administrative Assistant
Lauren Frederick

MSW Intern
Erin Daniels

Senior Staff Reporters
Dennis Fisher, Courtney Konietzko, Darius Reynolds

Satellite Reporters
Shay Deney, Leboh, Rico Evans, Ashley Grant, Anthony Guess, Jamaica Henderson, Princess Hollins, Echo Speed, Hollis Riggins, Shakura Felder, Misty Lou Cook, Terasa Asher, Larishica Asher, Leona Bill

Contributing Writers
Sharina, Bridgett Siroshon

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

I'm Playing Basketball: Innovative New Program for Homeless Youth

DARIUS REYNOLDS



ON MARCH 1ST 2005, SEATTLE'S UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPENED "I'm Playing Basketball," a gym for homeless youth opened its doors, with about ten people showing up to play full court basketball. Zach Messner, a homeless youth, has been working with Rick Eberhardt, Coordinator, Partnership for Youth, and the University District Youth Advisory Board for the past few months to make a safe place for homeless youth to come once a week to have some fun and get some exercise and above all get away from the streets for a couple hours. Thanks to the University Presbyterian Church, there is now a space to do it.

The open gym is a very positive thing for the youth in the University District because it encourages them to do something healthy; instead of sitting in a drop in

center for three hours doing nothing. Jay-"Son" Foreman, a homeless youth, thinks the gym will last a while because a lot of youth on the "Ave" love to play basketball. Foreman states that, "The gym provides me with something to do so I'm not on the streets looking suspect to the police."

Johnny Ohta, Substance Abuse Counselor in the University District, who plays basketball with the youth, says that having an open gym is an excellent opportunity for youth to get off the streets and do something fun. Ohta states that the gym offers them a time to forget about the negative things happening in their life. Ohta goes on to say that any activity youth participate in that gets them off the streets is a step towards addressing other issues in their life.

I have attended the open gym every week since it's been open and I would like to thank Zach and Rick for designing the program, the University Presbyterian Church for providing the space and Tyler Bauer and Johnny Ohta for taking the time to come and play basketball with all of us youth. The gym is located at 4540 15th Ave. NE and is open from 12:30-2:30 every Tuesday.



Movie Review: The Boogeyman is NOT Going to Get You

COURTNEY KONIETZKO



BOOGEYMAN IS A BADLY PRODUCED HORROR FILM THAT RELIES completely on shock tactics to make the audience scared, which I guess is the thing that places it in the horror genre. *Boogeyman* is the story of a little kid who is afraid to go to sleep because whenever he turns out the lights the boogeyman comes into his bedroom. The little kid tries to tell his dad about his fear and his dad tells him everything is going to be ok. The dad proceeds to check under the bed and all the places a boogeyman could hide when—suddenly—something happens. This is the good part: the beginning; it teases and promises to deliver something, but it can't. Everything goes downhill from here. I was left at the end with a feeling I'd been cheated with cheap scares and questions left unanswered. There is one seriously creepy part involving lots of little kids. Lucy Lawless a.k.a. Xena Warrior Princess stars in *Boogeyman*, another plus (I always thought she was pretty)

The plot is this: the little kid grows up and seems to be living a normal life when things conspire to bring him back to the house where he grew up. He has to face the boogeyman and figure out whether it's real or in his head in order to get his life back.

Boogeyman made Friday the 13th look killer...and Freddie wasn't even that talented! He was certainly more entertaining though. *Boogeyman* is a typical horror movie

that relies completely on shock value effect to scare you. Scary no, headache yes; I came out of the theatre with a splitting headache from being so tense. *Boogeyman* makes you tense because you never know when the boogeyman is going to jump out of the closet along with lightning fast imagery and insanely loud sounds that make you jerk in your seat. It's similar to the sensation you get when a cat runs out in front of your car. A good horror movie is one that makes you leave your lights on after watching it; one that sends chills through you and makes you wonder about the possibility of it really happening. Needless to say none of that happened for me. I left the theatre relieved that I didn't pay to go see it. If you want to see a good horror movie go rent anything directed by Lucio Fulci, a man who really knows the horror genre, rated R and above.

Boogeyman had potential to be something, the original idea was good, make a movie out of something kids have feared for years but there are a lot of loose ends and gaps in the film that need to be filled before it can be considered a good film.

Boogeyman is directed by Steven Kay and is rated PG-13, which seems appropriate. There isn't any offensive language, lots of blood or graphic imagery, or any sex scenes. Small children might be scared because of the scenes when things seem to jump out of nowhere with loud sounds accompanying them. I jumped a few times and the person next to me sucked their thumb and sat wadded up in a little ball.

Rating Scale: One out of five birds, and the only reason it gets one bird is because there is one scary moment, the guy is cute and there's Xena—I love Xena.

Goodbye Joshua



Joshua Passmore and Shay Deney

"Hi Shannon this is Joshua. How are you? I'm back in town, and working hard on looking for a job now that I'm seven months sober... a job is very important... I was wondering if you are looking for more staff... I'm really interested in working back with Mockingbird, I have a lot of stories in my head..."

On February, 2005, Joshua Passmore, a talented young writer on the waiting list for employment at *Mockingbird Times*, died at the age of 21. Joshua was a young person with many gifts, whose sweet nature made it easy to know and love him. Joshua was also a young person struggling with mental health issues and a debilitating addiction to heroin, in addition to not having a place to call home. Unfortunately, addiction, mental illness and youth homelessness often go hand-in-hand, and the barriers presented are often too debilitating for a young person to overcome on their own. Joshua will be missed by many, and his untimely death should be a reminder to all of us that the cost of youth homelessness includes life and death consequences. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those struggling to find a path off of the streets. Don't give up, find a way and don't let your addiction keep you from achieving your dreams.

-Mockingbird Staff

On February 12, 2005, my life changed forever. My best friend, my soul mate, my everything, Joshua Passmore, died. Joshua was very special to me. He understood me like no one else was able to. Joshua meant more to me than anyone could ever know. No one really understood our relationship but us, but that was ok because that was how we liked it. When Joshua and I were together it was like time stopped just for him and I and it was like nothing or no one else existed. We learned over time that we could take away each other's pain. Life had been very hard on both of us and in each other we found safety, comfort, and most importantly, happiness. I feel very lucky to have gotten to know Joshua the way that I did. He had a very hard time letting people close to him and he had told me many times that he loved how close we were and how special I really was to him. I have no doubt in my mind that he is here with me even now as I write this. I feel him smiling down on me just like he did when he was here by my side, the way it should be. I know that I will never have a relationship with anyone else like I had with him, but at least I was able to experience something as powerful as what we had together. I wouldn't ever have had it any other way. Until we meet again, I love you and R.I.P. my rock star.

-Shay

One of my friends (and ex boyfriend) died recently and I just want everyone to know what kind of person he was. He was a caring individual, a loving person, someone who could show affection at all times, never a dull moment around him. He was one of a kind! I still don't understand why he was taken from all of us and me so soon, he had so much more living to do! But all I have to think is that he is watching over us in a great place; his good energy is everywhere. I didn't get to say goodbye to Joshua but I did write him a farewell letter at his memorial service, it was burned with all the letters from people who loved him, at his favorite place to hang out. So I know that it will go back into the universe from which he came, and maybe one day we will be reunited together in heaven. R.I.P. Joshua

-Love, Bridgett

*Email from Joshua about five months prior to his death.

Clarity Achieved in Providing Medical Care to Minors

DARIUS REYNOLDS

YOUTH AND DOCTORS FACE A SIMILAR PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON STATE; Doctors are sometimes not sure what kind of services they can give a youth without getting in trouble with the law and youth don't know what kind of health services they are eligible for. To fix this problem Columbia Legal Services, Seattle Public Health and UW Medicine came together to create a summary of health care services that can be offered to minors.

The summary explains what rights the youth have and whether or not the doctor has to have parental consent. It also says if the parent has to be notified or not. Below is an excerpt from this document, please go to www.washingtonlawhelp.org for the complete document and more information.

Quote of the Month

"Freedom is actually a bigger game than power. Power is about what you can control...Freedom is about what you can unleash."

-Harriet Rubin, former editor of *Doubleday/Currency*, published some of the most influential business books of the decade, including 40 best-sellers. She now writes for the *Wall Street Journal*.

Service Needed	Minor Consent Sufficient for Confidential Care	Parent/Guardian Consent Required	Parent/Guardian Notification Required	Source and Notes
Emergency Medical Services	Yes	No	No	If the parent's consent is not readily available, the consent requirement is satisfied and the minor can receive medical services. RCW 7.70.050(4).
Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing/ Treatment (including HIV)	Yes, if 14 or over	No	No	Minors may obtain tests and/or treatment for sexually transmitted diseases if they are <u>14 years of age or older</u> without the consent of a parent or guardian. RCW 70.24.110 Public Health - Seattle & King County will test and treat individuals regardless of age due to its mandate to prevent and control the spread of communicable disease
Abortion Services	Yes	No	No	Minors may receive an abortion and abortion related services at <u>any age</u> without the consent of a parent, guardian or the father of the child. RCW 9.02.100(1); State v. Koome, 84 Wn.2d 901 (1975)

CREATIVE CORNER

SHARINA



Remember This

A sad and twisted thought came upon my mind
Something so sadistic that should be left behind
I thought about those who have died so soon
And what I was doing when they met their doom
And I thought about myself, about my blood and my tears
Living with nothing but pain and my tormented fears
And I noticed something that just didn't seem right
Something to make you cry and shiver in the night
Every time you smile, another child cries
Every time you're happy another person dies
When everything's going right and it's the best day of your life
Someone out there has had enough and is picking up that knife
Every time you have someone another person is alone
Every time you feel loved another child is on their own
When your parents are hugging you and showering you with kisses
Some child out there is being beaten by parents who are making death wishes
Every time you see the light another child only sees the dark
Every time you're healthy another person is cutting a fresh mark
So remember this next time you're having a good day
Another someone out there is dying in some way.

One More Chance

One more chance to be free
One more chance so my family
can look beyond all the hatred
and what I should be
One more chance to love
One more chance to be hugged
One more chance to show I could do right
One more chance to kick it all night
One more chance to get my life on track
One more chance to sit back
One more chance is all I need.

DRAFT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in finding living-wage jobs, affordable housing and access to financial aid for college. According to The American Friends Service Community, "Overall, the Pentagon spends over \$2.5 billion a year targeting high-achieving low-income youth with commercials, video games, personal visits and slick brochures."

Lessin also described two other ways that the draft is already here. You can find out more about the U.S. Military's use of "Stop-Loss" (extending Military Duties in Iraq against an individual's will) and the National Guards being sent over to fight in Iraq (when they signed up to stay at home) in an article written by Tim Dickinson. Dickinson's article, "The Return of the Draft," is an excellent account of what is going on with the Draft, Stop-Loss and the National Guards and can be read at www.RollingStone.com.

Look for Part III of the Military Draft Series, in which Misty Lou Cook expresses her reflections about the cost of war

Cool Opportunity: Make It Happen, The College Experience!

The Washington Education Foundation (WEF) is pleased to announce that applications are now available for our statewide summer program, *Make it Happen, the College Experience!* This brand new program will be held July 19-22, 2005 at the University of Puget Sound, to help foster youth prepare and plan for their post-secondary education.

All *Make it Happen* applicants must be in Washington State, tribal or federally recognized out-of-home care; interested in higher educational opportunities; and be either a junior in high school or eighteen or younger and enrolled in or graduated from a GED program.

Make it Happen participants will:

- Experience life on a college campus by staying in the residence halls at UPS for 4 days and 3 nights.
- Meet other amazing students from foster care who are in college now or who plan to go to college.
- Learn about the college admissions process.
- Learn how to apply for financial aid and other scholarships.
- Hear from the captivating speaker, author, and former foster youth, Regina Louise (visit her website to learn more about Regina: <http://www.reginalouise.com>).
- Participate in fun recreational and entertainment activities.
- Receive a \$50 stipend if they complete the program.

The application (postmark) deadline is April 4, 2005. For more information, please visit our website at www.waedfoundation.org or contact Maresha at mbackman@waedfoundation.org or 1-877-655-4097.