

REAL

VOL. 12 NO. 22

JUL 27 2005

ms-Newspaper
Washington

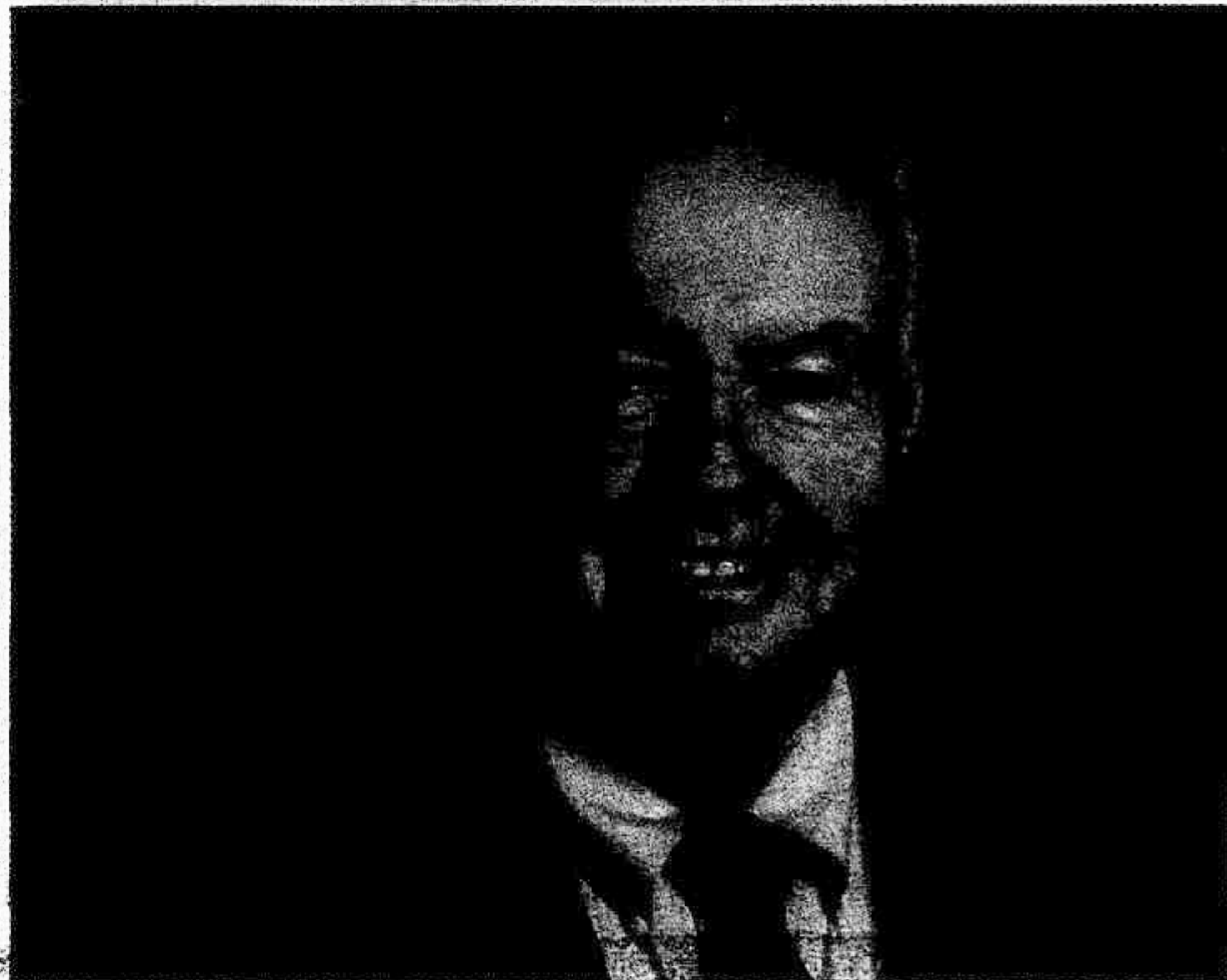
\$1

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

PLEASE PURCHASE FROM
BADGED VENDORS ONLY

WWW.REALCHANGE-NEWS.ORG

FAIRNESS • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY



AFL-CIO PRESIDENT JOHN SWEENEY WAS ELECTED A DECADE AGO AMID HOPES OF REVIVING UNION LABOR'S DECLINING NUMBERS. HIS BID FOR RE-ELECTION THIS SUMMER HAS BECOME A REFERENDUM ON THE HEALTH OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. PHOTO COURTESY AFL-CIO.

Which Way for Labor?

Union activists to hash out the future of the AFL-CIO

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

It's not your father's AFL-CIO — at least, it won't be if the Service Employees International Union gets its way this summer.

The union — the nation's largest and fastest-growing — is currently fighting a bitter battle to reform America's 50-year-old labor federation so that orga-

nized labor, which now makes up just 7.9 percent of the private sector workforce, can stop bleeding members.

The battle will come to a head in July, when union delegates meet in Chicago to re-elect or dump John Sweeney, the 10-year AFL-CIO president who promised he would reverse the decline. SEIU and a coalition of unions that represents more than a third of the

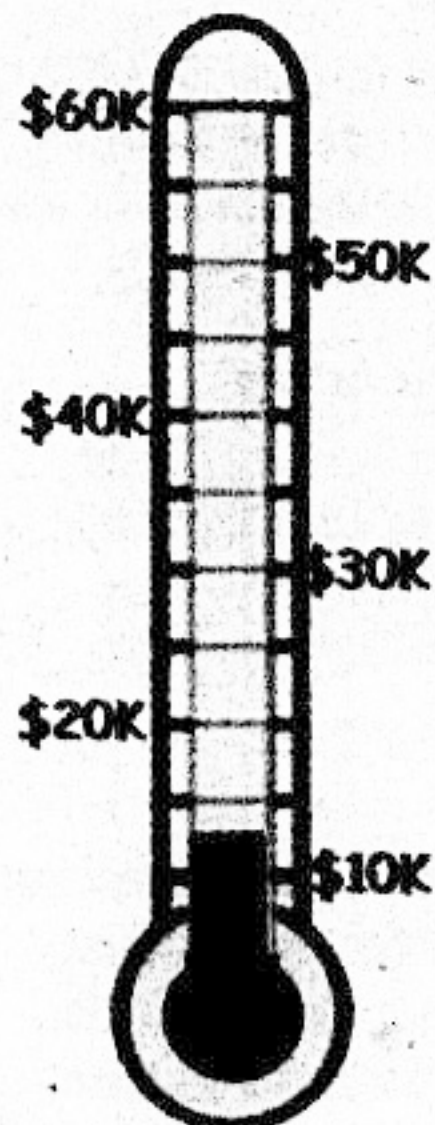
See AFL-CIO, Page 12

Getting Warmer

Real Change is entering the second month of our May-June summer fund drive, and at \$15,802 we're about one-quarter of the way toward reaching our \$60,000 goal. Most of our readers support our vendors directly by buying *Real Change* on the street. The best way to support our vendors right now is to take the next step and support the paper itself.

Our vendors are very proud of the paper they sell. Along with weekly publication came a new focus on being the best progressive community newspaper we can. Readers are responding, and our vendors hear about it first. Customers no longer need to buy multiple copies out of charity. Every week, there's a new issue. For our vendors, that's meant about a 20% increase in sales. For an average vendor, that's another \$50 a month.

Over the last ten years, *Real Change* has come a very long way. Help us take the paper to the next level and support opportunity, hope, and effective activism in Seattle.



Logging Out

Former Microsoft employee
expects better relations, rights
for gays in the workplace

By SEAN REID
Contributing Writer

It was the job that pulled him out of debt: a well-paying gig with sweet health benefits and the resources to sharpen his skills.

But Tuesday was the last day at Microsoft for Jeff Koertzen, a technical consultant who gave notice last month in the wake of the company's reversal on an anti-discrimination bill. The legislation, which would amend Washington law to protect gay workers and homeowners, failed in the senate by one vote.

Koertzen, who is homosexual, was pleased Microsoft came back in favor of the bill for next year, days after it suffered criticism in the media and by gay-rights groups. But he still won't be sticking around the Redmond campus. Instead, he plans to begin his own business for office and computer training.

"Stepping away from all this is a big step," he says, reflecting over the phone on his ties with the company.

His departure came as a surprise to his office peers, who viewed him as the go-to "tech guy" whenever computer issues cropped up. In his role as secretary-treasurer of Gay and Lesbian Employees At Microsoft (GLEAM), Koertzen also was influential in pressing Microsoft to reconsider its stance.

The email sent to employees by chief executive Steve Ballmer reaffirming the company's commitment to gay rights included a bulk of the demands asked for by GLEAM after the scandal broke. Microsoft's announcement also happened only a few days after Koertzen publicly spoke about quitting to *The Stranger* weekly newspaper.

"I got emails from people in GLEAM, saying 'You're leaving at a critical time, we need you.'"

While he no longer sits on the board, Koertzen maintains ties with members of GLEAM who continue to watch Microsoft's progress on the issue. The software-maker has yet to make good on a few suggestions proposed by the group: namely, a diversity event and a mandatory company workshop to

See MICROSOFT, Page 12

ROOT ROT

Digging deep beneath the surface to weed out the causes of homelessness.

PAGE 2

THE BLUES

New recycling effort in Seattle helps reduce waste

PAGE 3

ANTI-VIRAL

Global effort steps up search to find HIV vaccine.

PAGE 4

OVER THE TOP

Yakima Prison compromises basic health of prisoners

PAGE 5

20 GETS YOU 0

Jeffrey Sachs says global poverty can be ended in just two decades

PAGE 6

Change Agent	3
Just Heard	3
Short Takes	4
Books	8
Dr. Wes	9
Poetry	9
Street Watch	9
Letters	10
Calendar	11
Director's Corner	11
First Things First	11

Root Causes

Ending homelessness means confronting gentrification, taxation, poverty-wage pay

Every year in Seattle alone, developers demolish more than 500 low-income apartments to make way for office buildings, expensive condominiums, and parking lots.

By JOHN V. FOX and CAROLEE COLTER
Seattle Displacement Coalition

Every day in King County, more than 50 social service agencies provide help to 2,500-3,000 homeless people. Local governments fund these programs to the tune of more than \$20 million a year, not counting additional funding from United Way, churches, and the private sector. Nevertheless, the number of homeless on our streets has continued its relentless upward climb.

A new effort, however, has recently emerged, boldly calling itself the Committee to End Homelessness. More than two dozen social service agencies, church organizations, King County, the City of Seattle, and United Way have combined forces and promised to guarantee "a roof over every bed" by 2014. The committee has set up a website (www.cehkc.org), while the city and county have committed more than \$200,000 to staff the effort. Countless meetings over the last two years have brought together dozens of human service providers, agency officials, and community leaders. The list of participants reads like a Who's Who of local electeds and agency heads.

The committee recently released a 52-page report calling for improved cooperation and better linkages between homeless programs and the public and private sector. It emphasizes the regional scope of homelessness, and calls on municipalities county-wide and private donors to do more. It urges the region to create 4,500 units of low-income housing and acquire another 5,000 existing low-income units over the next decade.

These components of the committee's plan are laudable. But in spite of its goal to "end homelessness, not manage

it," the plan is conspicuously lacking in programs and strategies that would attack the problem at its roots.

The Committee to End Homelessness has not indicated where we are going to get the additional funding needed to secure these low-income units. The report should have called on elected leaders county-wide to immediately identify new funding sources — sources needed if only to compensate for deep cuts in federal housing programs.

But even if these 9,500 units are created, unless we put controls on the loss of existing housing, for every one of those units that are secured, we will continue to lose three to four times that amount to the forces of gentrification.

Every year in Seattle alone, developers demolish more than 500 low-income apartments to make way for office buildings, expensive condominiums, and parking lots. Another 1,000 are sold to speculators who immediately raise rents above what low-income people can afford.

Our mayor and most of our city councilmembers have actively encouraged these trends by approving land-use changes that concentrate more growth precisely in the areas where our remaining low-income housing is located. This only accelerates the loss of existing units serving the poorest of the poor, with more homelessness the inevitable result.

The Displacement Coalition has participated in numerous homeless and housing task forces and blue ribbon committees over the last 25 years. Most of these earlier efforts at least recognized the causal relationship between growing homelessness and the loss of low-income housing. In contrast,

the committee's 10-year plan offers no solutions aimed at curbing developer actions that cause displacement.

Even more troubling, as we read through the lengthy report, is that it begins to look like a plan to institutionalize and further bureaucratize our response to homelessness. The emphasis is on adding new layers of ever more complex service delivery systems and identifying ever more sophisticated ways to track, categorize, and process the homeless — to move them "seamlessly through a continuum of care," whatever that means. If our goal is to end homelessness, where is the timetable for phasing out this vast shelter network? The plan only refines and entrenches the system of service delivery.

For those immersed in the overwhelming task of delivering services to the homeless, inundated with more people than they can help, we understand the focus on maintaining and expanding programs. Indeed, until our elected leaders are willing to aggressively respond to the forces of gentrification and displacement in our community and other root causes — like the absence of decent paying jobs, or a progressive tax structure — this may be our only alternative. Despite the well-intentioned efforts of a lot of good folks on the Committee to End Homelessness, they are caught in a Sisyphean quest where the only choice is to convene one more task force, revamp that system of service delivery one more time, and if possible expand it again in an attempt to meet a need that always outpaces our ability to address it.

We can do better, but it must start with a greater willingness on the part of all of us, including the service providers themselves, to demand real accountability from our leaders. ■

This column was originally published in the *Beacon Hill News / South District Journal*. ©Pacific Publishing Company 2005. For more information, see the Displacement Coalition website at: www.zipcon.net/~jvf4119/.



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 Block, Media Consultant; David Bloom, Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action; Kari Connor, Wongdoody; Walt Crowley, HistoryLink; Darrell 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; 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; Tri-sha Ready, Richard Hugo House; Aiko Schaefer, 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; Silja Talvi, journalist and essayist; Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society; Marilyn Watkins, Economic Opportunity Institute; Bruce Wirth, Program Manager, KBCS; Alice Woldt, Washington Association of Churches

Staff

Executive Director
Timothy Harris
Associate Director
Rachael Myers
Editor
Adam Hyla
Staff Reporters
Cydney Gillis; Rosette Royale
Production Manager
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

Webmaster

J. Kemble

Interns

J. Jacob Edel, Breeana Laughlin, Nathan Arnett

Editorial Committee

Artis, Mary Andrews, Wes Browning, Stan Burris, Morrie Condit, Anitra Freeman, Michele Marchand, José Ornelas

Contributing Writers

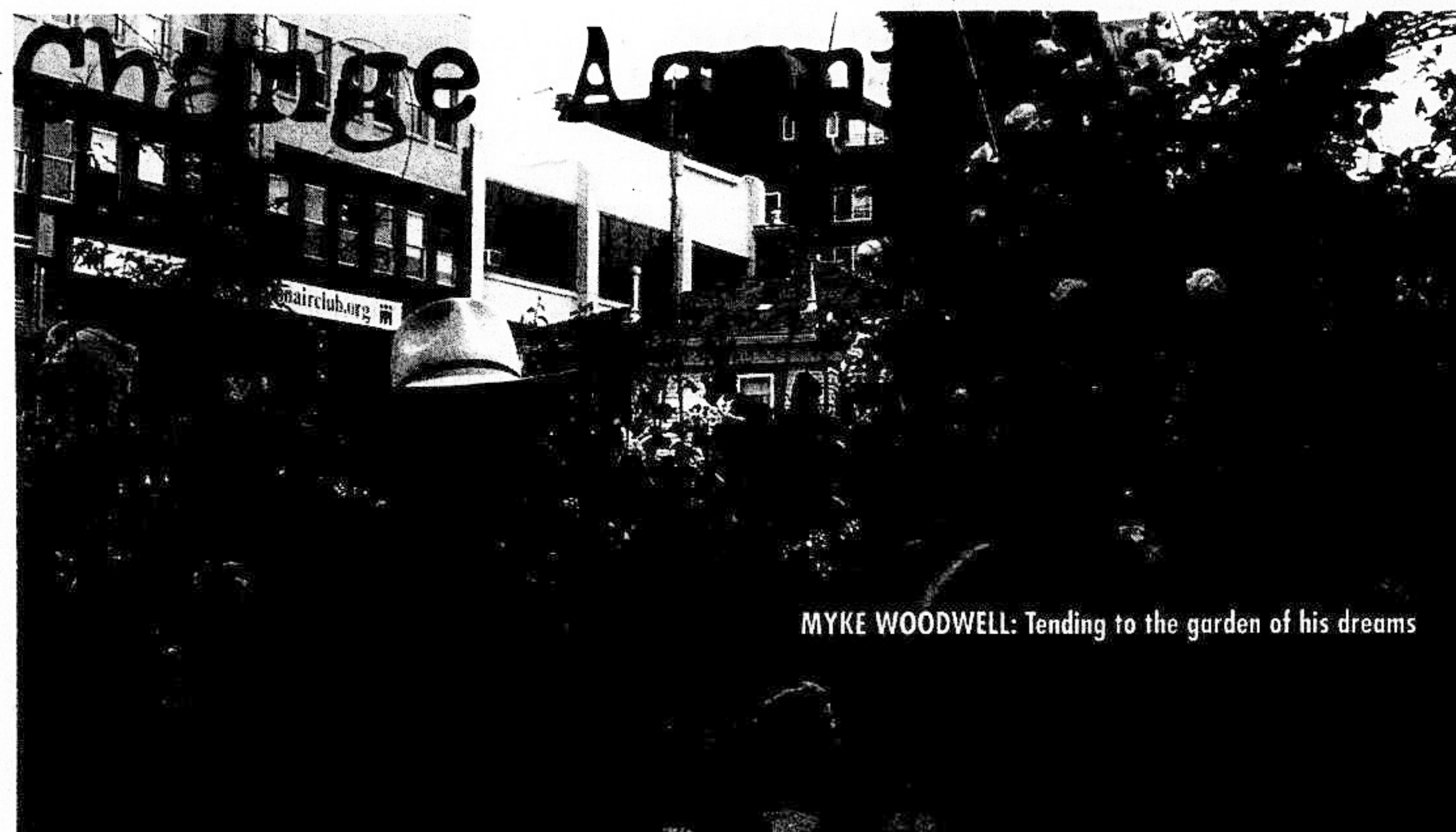
Israel Bayer, Starlyn Brown, Tom Cogbill, Jennifer Gore, Jess Grant, Lester Gray, Patricia Gray, Jade Ingmire, Patty Lane, Megan Lee, Robin Lindley, Joe Martin, R.V. Murphy, Cynthia Ozimek, Emma Quinn, Sean Reid, Kyle Serikawa, Kona Shen, Jason Siegel, Wendy Smith

Photographers, Graphic Artists

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

Volunteers This Issue

Artis, Douglas Blair, Tige DeCoster, Sandra Enger, Casey Fortenberry, Jessica Gregg, Nadine Joy, Sally Kinney, Jeffery Latham, Brianna Morgan, Loretta Pirozzi, Eric Sanderson, Zach Sherman, Saranya Venkatachalam



MYKE WOODWELL: Tending to the garden of his dreams

Community garden sites called P-Patches are spread throughout the city. So what makes the Belltown P-Patch such an interesting story? It, along with the adjacent single-family cottages, is the culmination of one man's dream.

Myke Woodwell is a "40s-ish" engineer at Kenworth Truck Co. who spends much of his free time volunteering in the community. His idea for the P-Patch first came to him while he lived in one of Belltown's cottages — at the time, a ramshackle remnant from the time the neighborhood stood at the edge of lumber mills, shipyards, and canneries of the waterfront.

Making his dream come true took "a damn lot of hard work on many people's part," says Woodwell. He and those who worked with him spent many hours with the Seattle Parks Department and writing letters to the City Council, the mayor, and the King County Council. After persuading the powers that be to purchase the land, Woodwell and his crew designed and built the P-Patch to be a haven of growing things on the edge of downtown.

—Matt Smith

Urban Ecology

Blue bins work to city's waste-reduction goal

By KONA SHEN
Contributing Writer

In a city known for Starbucks, the Seattle Public Utilities is encountering a persistent legacy of our love affair with caffeine: discarded coffee cups. The cups fill the city's public recycling bins and account for the highest amount of contamination (non-recyclable material) that lands in recycling bins. And they're interfering with Seattle's newest recycling program. Starting in November, as a citywide effort to reduce waste, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) began placing 300 blue recycling bins throughout downtown. Seattle aims to recycle 60 percent of its garbage by 2008 — an ambitious goal when compared to the national average of 30 percent.

Michael Davis, planning and development specialist of Seattle Public Utilities, says that "the biggest challenge [to the program] is education and awareness." To reach out to the public, SPU has labeled the bins with signs explaining the guidelines. In addition, SPU has also included pictures in an effort to bridge any language barriers.

Davis says that the effectiveness of the recycling program "depends on the

community. In Pioneer Square, there's a mix of folks. The nightlife adds to the contamination."

The bins are used to recycle aluminum cans as well as plastic and glass bottles. Food products, bags, and anything made of paper are all non-recyclable. The most common

bins, they're more likely to follow suit, contributing to the problem.

While the majority of the bins are currently being serviced once a week by a private contractor, now the bins are filling up so quickly that they will have to be emptied twice a week instead. The bins' contents will be remade into bottles, cans, steel products, plastic materials, fleece clothing, stuffed animals, and carpeting. While the current program does not recycle paper, SPU officials say they'd like to expand in the near future. The biggest obstacle would be to find enough space on street corners for yet another bin.

According to Davis, people seem to be doing neighborhood cleanups and using this program for their recycling. "People are wanting to recycle, and this is convenient," he says. In fact, Seattleites have been doing a surprisingly good job — consistent with their reputation as environmen-

tally conscious people. As Davis said, "given the opportunity, information, and choice, people will do the right thing." It's because of this tendency that SPU workers sometimes stumble across the best proof of the program's success: recycling bins that are full of recycling — and nothing else. ■



P.J. REDMOND AND VAJRA ALLAN SHOW OFF THEIR HANDIWORK, THE BLUE BINS SET UP DOWNTOWN BY SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES. THE TWO WORK FOR THE CITY AGENCY TO PROMOTE RECYCLING.

PHOTO BY MEAGAN O'SHEA.

contamination found in the bins is newspapers, cigarette packages, food, and the endless problem of coffee cups. Contamination must be removed by SPU workers who check on the bins about once a week. Davis says that this is important, because if the public sees trash in their recycling

Just Heard ...

Pleasure boat check

The City of Seattle is investigating a zoning complaint that the Port of Seattle doesn't have a right to moor pleasure boats at Ballard's Fishermen's Terminal.

Fisherman and Port antagonist Peter Knutson filed the complaint May 12 ("Old Salt," May 25). In it, he argues the terminal, a commercial facility that the Port started renting to yachts in 2001, is located in an Urban Maritime zone where the city prohibits recreational marinas. Knutson is demanding the city enforce the code to save the terminal from further gentrification.

Karen White, the city's director of code compliance, says she dispatched a shoreline inspector this week to investigate, with a report expected in late June. If the City issues a notice of violation, White says, the Port will get time to respond or comply. If the city isn't satisfied, it would have to sue the Port and get a judge to levy fines, which typically accrue at \$75 a day.

Smoke this

Prestige. Pleasure. Independence.

These are some of the cigarette "brand names" that artist Jamey Baumgardt has come up with in "What Are They Selling?" — a set of 24 giant replicas of cigarette packs at a new summer gallery that Seattle's Art Patch is opening in Pioneer Square.

Art Patch is a new nonprofit ("Fire One Up," March 23) working to fight the influence and effect of Big Tobacco in the arts, which receives major funding from cigarette companies, often targeting youth. In Seattle, Lucky Strike has provided funding to the Center on Contemporary Arts and Consolidated Works.

Baumgardt is a founding member of Art Patch. His show and the gallery will open June 2. For more information, go to www.artpatch.org.

—Cydney Gillis

Our business is business

Many in the long line of Star Wars fans waiting to get into the Cinerama on May 18 (opening night for George Lucas' Episode III opus) were in violation of the Seattle city code forbidding sitting or lying down on public sidewalks. That's a fact apparently unbeknown to hundreds of patient, prostrate pavement dwellers — let alone the off-duty police officer lounging in the lobby of the Belltown movie house.

If the sit-lie ordinance isn't universally upheld, then what's it for? Real Change called the offices of the City Attorney, who is charged with defending local laws.

Apparently, some clarification is in order. While the code is broadly worded, it's intended "for people who interfere with business — like aggressive panhandlers standing outside [Macy's], deterring people from going inside," says Ruth Owen, spokesperson for City Attorney Tom Carr.

—Adam Hyla

Prosecuting the Virus

Seattle project makes way for global anti-AIDS research effort

By KYLE SERIKAWA
Contributing Writer

The hunt for an HIV vaccine has taken on a new face. An international consortium announced the Global HIV/AIDS Vaccine Enterprise in the February issue of *Public Library of Science*. The Vaccine Enterprise is a dramatic restructuring of worldwide efforts to find vaccines that will combat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"It's widely recognized that HIV vaccine R&D [research and development] can be greatly accelerated with better global collaboration and coordination," says Dr. José Esparza, one of the authors of the announcement and a scientist with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"I think it's great," adds Dr. James Mullins, an HIV researcher at the University of Washington. "The Enterprise seeks to enlist the ideas of smart scientists but also to coordinate their activities so that we can achieve exploration of ways of making vaccines at a scale that we couldn't otherwise."

Despite more than 20 years of research and billions of dollars, a vaccine for HIV remains elusive. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS projects the cumulative total of AIDS-related deaths to top 70 million by 2020 if greater progress towards prevention and control is not made.

Several local organizations have announced their support of this effort,

including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), which is headed by researchers from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and UW.

The Vaccine Enterprise was foreshadowed by the efforts of the HVTN, which was launched in 1999 with funds from the National Institute of Allergies

and Infectious Diseases. The HVTN organizes and coordinates vaccine trials worldwide. More than 15 international sites are involved in vaccine trials, including Seattle, where four vaccines are being tested by researchers at Fred Hutchinson and the UW.

The Enterprise expands on the idea of coordination that underlies the HVTN and transfers that idea to other aspects of vaccine production, including basic research, fund-raising, and vaccine production. Under the Enterprise, the HVTN will become one link in the chain leading from laboratory research to large-scale vaccine production.

A coordinating committee will set

priorities, interact with real and potential funding sources, seek an increase in vaccine manufacturing capability, and provide oversight to the many prongs of vaccine research.

"A major goal of the Vaccine Enterprise is to mobilize new resources for HIV vaccine research, and to ensure these resources are used to have the

greatest impact," says Dr. Esparza.

Another major priority for the Enterprise will be a free exchange of data and ideas, especially among groups working on similar approaches.

HIV has frustrated researchers looking for a vaccine because of its confounding biology. The virus acts like a criminal with a thousand disguises.

"The key feature is, the virus mutates so fast," says Dr. John Mittler, whose research program at the UW includes mathematical models of HIV infection within the body. "It evolves a million times faster than the human genome," adds Dr. Mullins.

As HIV viral particles replicate

within an infected human, their genetic material accumulates small changes. Each new particle is like a cassette being copied using a tape recorder with worn-out heads. Every copy has noise, and every copy is unique.

Vaccines introduce a specific part of a virus to the body's immune system and that serves as a wanted poster, alerting the body's antibodies and T-cells to be on the lookout for that virus. But the rapid mutation rate of HIV means it is difficult to find a part of the virus constant enough to be used as an effective vaccine.

The problems of vaccine development are so great, many researchers are turning their focus away from developing a preventive vaccine, which would be given to uninfected individuals to prevent infection, to therapeutic vaccines, which would slow the progression of the virus and reduce further spread of infections from already infected individuals.

"I think that we have been beaten down so much by this virus that our near-term aspirations have been curtailed," says Dr. Mullins ruefully. Nevertheless, says Dr. Esparza, "I think it's likely that research conducted by the Enterprise partners will produce progress toward both types of vaccines." ■



DR. JOSÉ ESPARZA IS HOPING RESEARCH BY THE NEW GLOBAL HIV/AIDS ENTERPRISE WILL LEAD TO AN AIDS VACCINE.

Short Takes

Meeting immigrants' needs

The face of Seattle is changing — or at least the faces are. On May 26, Seattle city council member Tom Rasmussen sponsored a brown bag forum to discuss the changing needs of the city's immigrant/refugee community.

Scheduled at the request of Hate Free Zone Washington (HFZ), the meeting began a public dialogue between city leaders and the local immigrant community. The community's demographics have shifted dramatically in recent years.

At the forum, Pramila Jayapal, executive director of HFZ, revealed that Seattle is experiencing such an influx of immigrants that it's classified as a re-emerging gateway: a city that experienced a high immigrant influx in the early 1900s and now is trending well above the national average.

Between the 1990 and 2000 census, the immigrant population grew by 57 percent nationally. In Seattle, it grew by 90 percent. In the same decade, Seattle saw a 320 percent increase in immigrants from Africa. In total, according to the census, about 95,000 Seattleites — or 17 percent of the city's population — were born abroad.

In Seattle public schools, the number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Asian students has decreased while the number of Latino and African LEP students has gone up. Julio Sanchez, a local immigrant activist who has worked with a Legacy of Equality, Leadership & Organizing, argued that these groups are not adequately being served. He pointed

out that only five percent of Cambodian students met state requirements on the WASL. Other immigrant groups faced similar problems on the test.

"There really hasn't been a coordinated response from the city to the changing needs of the immigrant community," Jayapal says. "We don't want to have just a little bit here, little bit there. We really want to have the city kick off a large initiative."

A spokesperson for Rasmussen says one of the next steps is to establish an immigrant/refugee task force.

— Jessica Knapp

Tully's: it never happened

Homeless regulars at a downtown Seattle Tully's say they were refused service last month ["Screw Tully's," April 20], but employees for the coffee chain are in steadfast denial.

"It's not true, and I'm not allowed to talk about it," a Tully's employee at the Pioneer Square coffee shop stated. "I serve everyone coffee."

Patrick and Doug, guests at the Bread of Life Mission, went into this Tully's, on First Avenue and Yesler Way, on a Sunday morning in April.

"I got some bad news for you guys," Patrick recalled an employee say. "You ran out of coffee?" Doug jokingly asked. "We can't serve the homeless," they recalled the employee answer.

This happened to many other patrons, say the two — some of whom also stay at the Bread of Life. Patrick had been going to that particular

Tully's for the last six months, and Doug had been a loyal customer for about two years.

"I don't want anybody fired," Patrick said. "I just want someone to admit what happened."

The two men have not returned to Tully's since the altercation. And homeless customers at an uptown Tully's, on First Avenue and Virginia Street, say they have not had negative experiences regarding customer service.

Jason Hamilton, public relations representative for Tully's, reiterates that there was never a new policy regarding refusing service to homeless patrons. While Tully's has the right to refuse service because of disruptiveness or inconsideration to staff, "any person willing to purchase coffee is able to do so," Hamilton repeated.

— Eun-Ju Shara Choi

Section 8: pinching pennies, tenants squeezed

The Bush Administration has proposed a series of budget-cutting measures. And about 2,700 households are sitting on the city agency's waiting list. So the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) is attempting to cut costs by reorganizing its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Changes would redistribute benefits to accommodate the needy families on the waiting list, which has been closed since 2003, by spending an average of 10 percent less on each of the families who currently have Section 8 vouchers.

SHA wants to reduce payments to landlords for the housing vouchers, change occupancy standards, enforce year-round reassessments of rents when family incomes change, and change the rent structure for foster parents, TANF and WorkFirst recipients, and students on financial aid.

The most significant change would be to the Section 8 payment standard, the maximum amount of rent that SHA will pay on behalf of a household using a Section 8 voucher.

For example, a family of two or three living in a two-bedroom unit will see SHA's payment standard drop by \$72. Either the landlord will have to accept less rent, or those families will need to find a cheaper apartment.

Overall, approximately 4,523 households will be affected, saving about \$2.5 million.

"Will I have to move," was the main concern voiced at two briefings for tenants in May. The answer: maybe. At the briefings, SHA official Kathy Roseth encouragingly explained that in the current rental market, many landlords may reduce rent rather than have a unit go vacant.

Roseth reminded recipients what it was like to be on the waiting list. She explained that what they are proposing is fair. "This will make more money to go around."

A public hearing on the changes takes place June 2 at the New Holly Gathering Hall in the Rainier Valley. The seven members of SHA's Board of Commissioners will review all feedback, including questionnaires returned during briefings, adopting changes as soon as June 20.

— Megan Lee

Over the Mountains

Inmate challenges city outsourcing of prison to Yakima

By ADAM HYLE
Editor

"I needed dental care but my kites [written requests for help] was ignored," said a 34-year-old Black man who spent 60 days in Yakima.

Shuttling imprisoned defendants to Yakima before their trial is a violation of due process and other constitutional rights.

That's the charge of Alexander Hooks and his counsel, public defender Lisa Dagaard, against the City of Seattle for last year's decision to ship alleged offenders over the mountains to wait for their day in court.

Hooks, arrested this spring on charges of assault, harassment, and interfering with an attempt to halt domestic violence, had asked the court not to send him to Yakima County Jail but was sent anyway on April 13, bedded down in a holding cell with "serious violent offenders, [so that he] feared for his safety," according to charging papers filed in King County Superior Court.

While not a class-action on behalf of the handful of pre-trial defendants sent to Yakima this year, the charges are sweeping in their condemnation of the city's policy.

"Every procedural right of a defendant awaiting trial is jeopardized by this arrangement," Dagaard told Judge John Erlick at a May 26 hearing. Charging papers say the transfers violate clients' right of access to courts, access to legal counsel, and a timely release upon posting bail.

The city signed a 10-year contract with Yakima County's jail administration for 155 beds in an expanded wing of their county jail in 2002. At the time, the city intended that only those sentenced to jail time in a Seattle Municipal Court trial would be sent to fill those beds.

That changed in April 2004, as a state Supreme Court judgment against the city precipitated a host of emergency cuts. Moving pre-trial defendants to Yakima allows the city to save 30 percent of what it costs to house them at King County Jail.

You get what you pay for. That's what respondents to a city survey of people just released from Yakima, who gave the facility a "poor" rating slightly more frequently than they did the King County Jail.

A look by *Real Change* at the city's collection of surveys revealed specific complaints about low-quality medical care.

"I needed dental care but my kites [written requests for help] was ignored," said a 34-year-old Black man who spent 60 days in Yakima.

"I was in pain — couldn't sleep — also they never answered kites or cared," said a 44-year-old white male who spent 15 days there.

A 36-year-old white woman described maladies such as "ear infection; also, skin trouble with which [King County Jail] is familiar. I was not treated for skin problem here. Not good!"

Under its contract, the city is supposed to pay for medical and dental care as well as prescription drugs for its inmates. Cindy West, an employee of the city's Office of Policy Management who reviews its arrangement with Yakima officials, says that problems with medical care have been addressed — but that Yakima just doesn't have the quality of care available at King County.

Reading through the surveys, "If we saw a specific concern, we would bring it up with Yakima. We tracked, emailed or called the director," she said.

And based on previous experiences at the King County Jail, she says, some inmates' expectations were simply too high.

People were mostly complaining "that it took longer than expected, trying to get help and they couldn't get it," she says. "At the King County Jail, that is one thing they spend much more money on. Like us: if we have an immediate need, we go in to our doctor; if it's not immediate, we wait a day." ■



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

Studio (425) 564-2424

Office (425) 564-2427

email: kbcs@ctc.edu



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

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

The Power of Belief

Economist Jeffrey Sachs says we can end extreme poverty inside 20 years

By **PETER JOHN MEIKLEM**
Contributing Writer

Jeffrey Sachs, economist to the stars, answers his mobile phone just before we're due to talk. He power walks to the corner of the hotel and barks into the handset, his hand on the back of his head, knuckles grinding against his skull. "Who's on the phone?" I ask Mary, his PA. "Oh," she says smiling, "just the Canadian Prime Minister."

Sachs is here to explain how he will end extreme poverty by 2025, and heaven help anyone who gets in his way. That includes the Canadian Premier — a member of the G8 — who Sachs speaks to like a wayward child. His phone call finished, he sits down at the interview table. "I'm not an economist," I tell him nervously, turning on the tape. "Don't worry," he winks at his PA and laughs. "That's what they say about me."

It's the first, and only, flash of self-depreciation from Sachs. The special adviser to the United Nations, director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York and all-round economic superstar knows exactly how important he is. A short man who looks younger than his 50 years, he has the kind of all-American look familiar from t.v. programs like *The West Wing*.

But when he starts talking, his voice a confident call to arms, the substance jumps out from behind the sheen. Sachs believes extreme poverty — defined by him as the kind that kills 30,000 people every day across the world — can be wiped out in the next 20 years. And he has just published a book explaining, in a matter-of-fact way, exactly how it can be done.

Modestly, he has called it *The End of Poverty* (Penguin, 2005).

"Millions of people are so desperate that they use all of whatever meager income they have to fight to stay alive," he says. "These people are not just hungry and sick and poor — they are trapped in their poverty. If we helped in a smart way, we wouldn't just help people to help themselves and their children but also find a way out of this mess. That's the basic idea."

It's an idea that Sachs unravels over 380 tightly written pages. He uses his own experiences — parachuting in to help mend Bolivia's economic crisis, negotiating Poland's transfer from communism to capitalism — to show the human face behind the economic numbers. That's his philosophy. While most of his peers look at the numbers first and try to squeeze the faceless masses to fit, Sachs looks at the people — and the countries, cultures and geographies that make them — and forces the numbers to fit the faces. Today, the problem of Africa is one of Sachs' biggest challenges.

"Very poor people live in places that impose real barriers to their economic development, but not insurmountable ones, so these people need more than lectures. They don't need to be told 'pull yourself up by the boot straps.' They need help in a very practical way."

Sachs calls it clinical economics: treating poor countries like sick patients visiting the doctor. Looking at each country on an individual basis, working out why it's poor, calculating the investments needed to kickstart its economy, then hunting for the money to pay for it. Once a poor country gets the help it needs, Sachs argues, economic growth becomes a self-ful-

filling prophecy. It seems simple but it's a world away from what happens now. Currently, "poor" countries get what they're given by "rich" countries and if that's not enough to haul them out of extreme poverty, then — tough. Money comes first and the country's needs second.

"It reminds me of the farmer who is trying to train his cow to live without

food. So he keeps the food away and finally the cow dies and he says, 'That's such a shame, the cow was just getting used to it,'" Sachs says. "This is what we're doing with poor people. If we go long

enough collecting their debts, squeezing their budgets, we think they'll somehow get used to it. Well, they don't get used to it. We have millions of people dying from poverty this year and the rest of the world should stand up and say no more."

Everyone from Bono to UN secretary general Kofi Annan regard Sachs as a brilliant mind. He has been called the foremost economic reformer of his generation and was made a tenured professor at Harvard University aged

only 28. "When you're given that, it doesn't come with a slip that says you know everything, but they kind of hint at it," he laughs. Aside from his role as special adviser to the UN, he has launched the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He is also the man in charge of making the world's promises to end poverty — the Millennium Development Goals



"Millions of people are so desperate that they use all of whatever meager income they have to fight to stay alive. These people are not just hungry and sick and poor — they are trapped in their poverty."

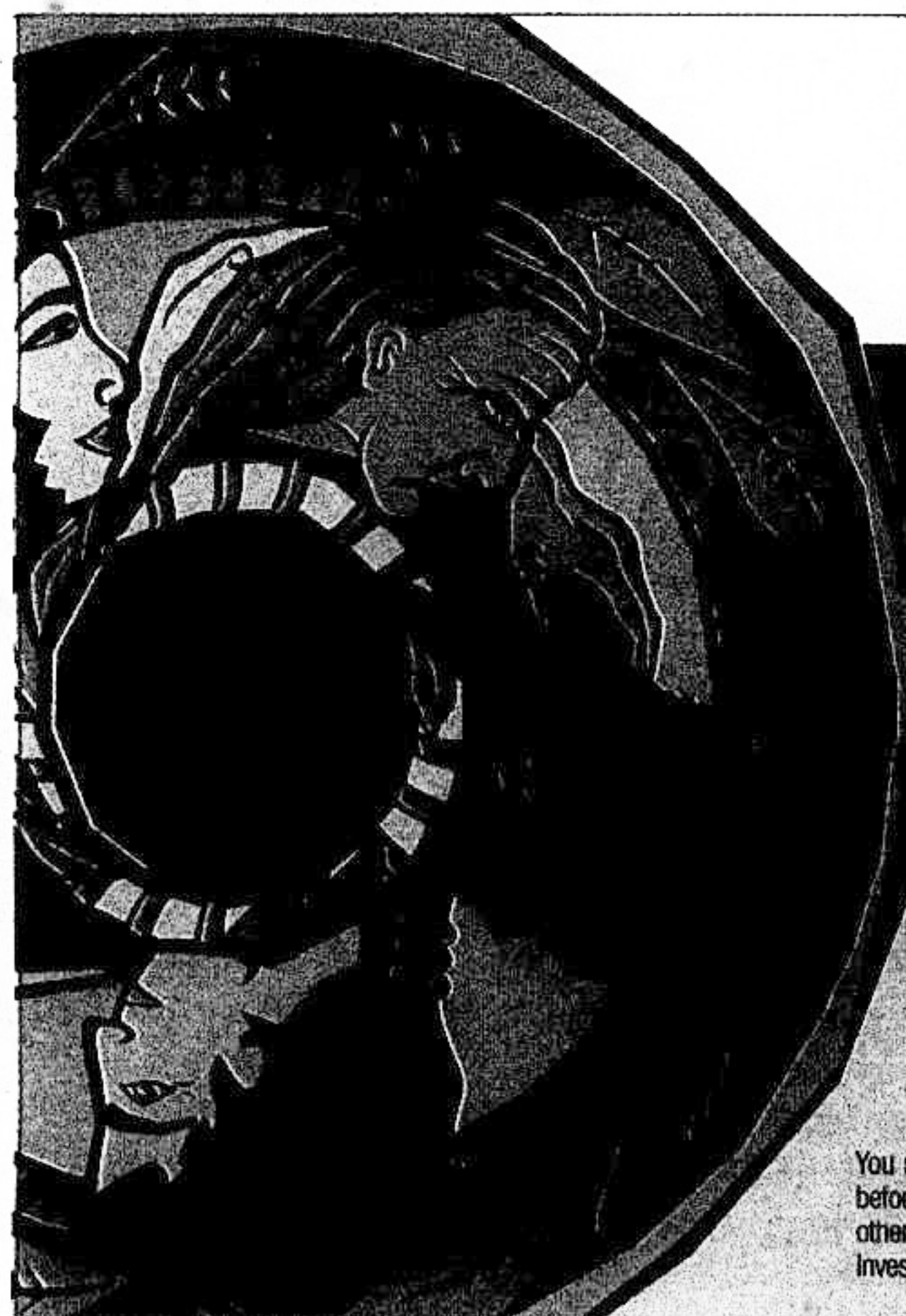
— Jeffrey Sachs

— actually happen. No small task when international development rhetoric often veers wildly from the penny-pinching reality.

It's the on-the-ground details that matter. Sachs says his PhD didn't prepare him for the reality of fighting poverty. "I knew nothing about fertilizers, malaria, growing food, rainfall patterns, or transport costs." He soon discovered these were the critical factors, the reasons why poor countries were impoverished in the first place. "And I wasn't trained in any of it. I didn't realise that it was important to be trained in all those things. Frankly, many of my colleagues still don't."

To end poverty, Sachs wants all the "rich" countries in the world to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GNP to helping "poor" countries — something they have repeatedly promised but have yet to fulfil. He wants more debt to be dropped and aid to be distributed multilaterally by the UN on the grounds of need. Although his ideas sound matter-of-fact, they have been controversial in the U.S. where he has met stiff criticism, especially from the Bush administration. But Sachs seems to relish the fight.

"A lot of the people I talk to have not even taken the time to visit these places. One shouldn't underestimate the misinformation and bad ideas in our capitals by people who give lots of speeches about poverty but know nothing about it. Washington is in the grip of people who lack even basic knowledge. They may know a lot about running the Pentagon, but they don't know much



Treat others with justice and respect. How you treat others will be how they treat you.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Domini
SOCIAL INVESTMENTS
Investing For Good™

You should consider the Domini Funds' investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. Obtain a copy of the Funds' current prospectus for complete information on these and other topics, by calling 1-800-530-5321 or online at www.domini.com. Please read it carefully before investing or sending money. DSIL Investments Services LLC, Distributor. 10/04

See SACHS. Page 10

Ears Open Wide

A friend's suicide strengthens a writer's resolve to listen, not judge

By CYNTHIA OZIMEK
Contributing Writer

"There is not a demon in you, Dina," I intoned impatiently. "You have a chemical collision going on inside your brain called schizophrenia. If you take medication, the devil will go away."

It is the end of the Easter season. I am sitting in Angelines, the YWCA's shelter for women — not the battered old icon of homelessness haphazardly located on Third and Virginia, but the sleek multi-million dollar dynasty of social ascension built directly across the street from the Y's previous shelter. The new building, in total, is referred to as "Opportunity Place." It is exquisite to the eyes, but, unlike the discrepancy it replaced, the "new" Angelines is sadly lacking in soul.

As I am smoking in the small, picturesque courtyard adjacent to the common area's of the shelter, 103.3, "the Mountain," a classic rock station, offers a beautiful acoustic song about things getting better as we get older. As much as I love this song — have sung it word for word — I have never found out the name of the band or, even, the name of the song itself. But there is a line that refers to "love's suicide," and it reminds me of the vast, impenetrable darkness that, at times, has enveloped each and every one of us.

Then I look up, and I see the green and white sign of the Warwick, the fashionable hotel upon whose 18th floor my associate, Dina Lane, recently leapt to her death. And now I find myself fighting a minuscule but infinite strand of tears, wept for Dina and for the times, I in an ebony of desolation and despair, have attempted to nullify my own embattled center of absolute darkness with the slice of a razor, or a ration of benzodiazepines.

I can't really say that I loved Dina; mostly, she drove me to distraction with her interminable view that "Life is hell and everyone in it sucks." For all of her verbal tyranny, Dina was inexplicably passionate in her dastardly machinations of universal doom. In retrospect, I could, at the least, appreciate the sheer volume and tenacity of her views. But I had grown to feel besieged by Ms. Lane's verbal assaults on humanity.

I had, over the last several years, witnessed each and every one of her attempts to make sense of the "madness." I had been through "Dina as Buddhist" (she was anything but passive). I had been through "Dina Lane, the Dalai Lama ding-dong." I had an intimate knowledge of "Dina from the Bible," brought to me by the teachings of an anonymous "religious man" known as John the Baptist. John convinced Dina that Jesus was coming to Seattle — and soon. I forget the date she mentioned, but invitations were extended to just about anyone she met. Needless to say, Christ was a no-show — can you imagine Dina's depression?

In the last months of her life, Dina had, for \$650, purchased a small plastic religious card. Each evening, she would sit down in a cigarette-burned easy chair with

the lamp bent towards her face, card held high, basking in the intensity of artificial light as if it were life's sweet and complete sunlit imposter. One morning the card disappeared.

"There is a demon in me," Dina said, as we sat in the smoking room.

The coffee I was drinking spat forth from my lips.

"She's finally lost her mind," I thought.

"There is not a demon in you, Dina," I intoned impatiently, "You have a chemical collision going on inside your brain called schizophrenia. If you take medication, the devil will go away."

Those were the last words I spoke to Dina, a woman so unwell that she was compelled to jump 18 stories to her own ghastly death. Did I really listen to her when we last had the opportunity to speak? I can't say I did. Did I show the compassion others have shown me? No, I did not. And, looking back, had I taken the time to think about someone other than myself on that morning, I might have noticed a significant difference in what Dina was attempting to say. The difference was the wickedness of intent — the macabre tenant of Dina's existence had become far more intimate. This time, the malevolence wasn't merely around her. It had become her.

I have felt as if I were evil in the sense of some of the things I have done. And I have experienced evil around me. Witnessing evil and feeling evil are two very separate experiences. The former is both episodic and sequential; this type of "evil" has an ending. The latter is a feeling of worthlessness that will consume anything remotely human. All becomes nothing, nothing is you, and perish seems the only cure.

I am fortunate that during the worst experiences of my life, the initial love of my mother and all things related to the heart have emerged to protect me, to return me to a time of safety, to guide me through the darkness. Like Anne Frank, I confess to believing that people are basically good in heart.

This said, if the compassion, the guidance and the faith I have been blessed with in this life are to endure, then they must be repeated in the interactions I have each day. And not merely when it is easiest, when I am feeling rested and willing and able to give. No, my effort must be offered especially when I feel most like not giving. For giving when nothing is needed or required is not really giving — it's pretending.

Today, in the quiet significance of these tears I cry, for this woman who was hurting, who had no one to listen, I give sustenance and forgiveness to myself, for I am human and I have made a multitude of mistakes. Today, I vow that I will offer the strength of my beliefs not when it is convenient to my purpose, but purposeful to the God of my existence. Today, I will not turn away from an outstretched hand because it is unmanicured or somehow, in the own miscreant creations of my mind, lesser than mine. I will offer nothing less than life has offered me. This is my tribute to my mother. This is the faith of my father. This is my vow to Dina Lane. ■

Dina Lane, late friend to many homeless

Photo courtesy Michele Marchand.



Mystery in Simile

The Final Solution: A Story of Detection
By Michael Chabon
HarperCollins, New York
Hardcover, 131 pages, \$16.95

Review by REX BROWNING
Contributing Writer

I like the mental twist of a good metaphor, the bite of a sharp simile — they are, I think, a prose-writer's poetry. Chabon is a master: "The memory of the taste of scotch was in his mouth like the smell of burning leaves lingering on a woolen scarf;" "There was something desperate and brave about the landlady's good cookery. It was like the quavering voice of a bagpipe, issuing forth from a citadel that was invested on all sides by dervishes and infidels on the morning of the day on which it would finally be sacked;" "[The boy] held out to the old man a face as wan and empty as the bottom of a beggar's tin cup."

Good stuff, but the beauty of this Pulitzer-Prize-winner's writing isn't limited to similes. Take this sentence, which captures the entire life and doomed dreams of one Mrs. Panicker: "She was a large, plain, flaxen-haired Oxfordshirewoman whose unimaginably wild inspiration of 30 years past, to marry her father's coal-eyed, serious young assistant minister from India, had borne fruit far mealier than the ripe rosy paw paws that she had, breathing in the scent of Mr. K.T. Panicker's hair oil on a warm summer evening in 1913, permitted herself to anticipate."

It is a writing student's axiom that prose this self-consciously crafted and clever will pull readers out of a story, making them think of the author instead of remaining immersed in the

fiction "dream," as John Gardner put it. But with Chabon, the elegance of the writing dissolves into atmosphere, and becomes the perfect antiquing background for his ancient detective.

But I indulge my writer's envy, and probably bore you. Let's talk plot.

Unfortunately, the story line here is barely enough to pull us through. The story's main character is referred to only as "the old man," obviously

parrot who rides on his shoulder, reciting strings of numbers in German amid snatches of Goethe and Schiller and the occasional snippet of Gilbert and Sullivan. Are the numbers a key to unlock the German military code? Or the numbers of a Swiss bank account?

Such a parrot is incentive enough to skullduggery. It disappears, apparently stolen by a fellow boarder who was then set upon and murdered by... whom? Mrs. Panicker's delinquent son, her husband, and unknown agents of both the Reich and the Crown are all suspects.

So mysteries there are aplenty, but none enough to entice Holmes from his bees. He waves off (with "a long fingered starfish hand, all warts and speckles") an Inspector's request to help solve the murder, and the Crown's request to help decode the mystery of the numbers is similarly declined.

What does finally rouse the old man to one last detection is a goal that seems trivial, set as it is against murder, the War, the Holocaust, and the bombed-out ruins of London: Holmes wants to find, and return, the boy's parrot.

Why does that matter so? That is this tale's real mystery, and its solution grafts a third meaning onto the book's title (beyond the Holocaust and a bow to Doyle's *The Final Problem*). I don't believe I

spoil it to say the solution is in the smile Holmes brings to "a mute 9-year-old boy whose face was like a blank back page from the book of human sorrows."

Is a child's smile trivial? Or humanity's final, and only, solution to evil? ■

But I indulge my writer's envy, and probably bore you. Let's talk plot.



a decrepit but mentally still keen Sherlock Holmes, now 30 years into a retirement of bee-keeping in Sussex. The year is 1944.

Holmes encounters a mute young boy, a parentless Jewish refugee whose only companion is a gray

Leave Me Alone

Loneliness, loneliness
leave me alone
I want to write
a life of my own
An original amalgam
of poetry and song
But I can't write
unless I'm alone
And I can't be alone
without loneliness
And so many people
have so much less
So who am I
to whine and to bemoan
Loneliness, loneliness
leave me alone?

—ARTIS

Poemetry II

Executive
Keeps a pistol
in his desk drawer for
the end of
the night.
To scratch the top
of, back of his mouth
where his tongue
can't reach.
an in-flamed spot
fighting infection.
But there are
worse things.

—BEN AHRENS

Treehouse

If you were a tree
I would want to be the house
held in your arms, and,
as lovers
climbed your body
to sit inside me,

they'd hear the birds
sing in your hair,

then kiss
as their legs dangled
from my scrap-wood mouth.

—DAN TOMPSETT



Adventures
in Irony

© Dr. Wes Browning

I think, regardless of Pfizer's worries, we **SHOULD** warn guys that if they use Viagra regularly it might raise their odds of going blind to as much as 2 in a million, if that will help them make an informed decision for once in their pitifully ignorant, uninformed, existences.

They say 42 or 43 of the roughly 30 million users of Viagra and the like have become blind as a possible result of their use. Additionally, somewhere on the order of a thousand sex offenders in some other states have been getting Viagra from Medicaid, even though that is stupid.

OK, so we learn that 0.143 percent of one sex offender in those states should now be blind! An entire 3/10,000th of a blind sex offender may be running around in New York State alone! At this rate, they'll all be blind in a million years, making them that much easier to hide from.

All of this is nevertheless dreadful news for Pfizer, which makes Viagra, because now men everywhere will forgo sex in order to save their vision, causing Pfizer to go bankrupt. Ha! That was a little joke of mine. Nobody is going to give up sex just to see. Still, Pfizer is worried that possible new warnings for their product might scare very stupid people, thereby ever so slightly decreasing the profits they make off the highly valuable demographic of Very Foolish, But Somehow Not Completely Parted From Their Money Yet, People.

I think, regardless of Pfizer's worries, we **SHOULD** warn guys that if they use Viagra regularly it might raise their odds of going blind to as much as 2 in a million, if that will help them make an informed decision for once in their pitifully ignorant, uninformed, existences.

For that very same reason, I am in favor of many other kinds of warning notices. Surely if we warn people of dangers we could only improve their lives, never diminish them. And wouldn't it be so much more useful if all the scissors we made, or that the Chinese made for us, had the

Forewarned is Forearmed

Warning: columnist addresses sex, blindness, death

We are excited about all the news concerning Viagra these days. We get to use arithmetic!

words, "do not run with this product in hands — eye puncture may occur," rather than always having to rely on one's memory of one's mother? What if one had no mother? What if one had no memory, owing to advanced dementia? What if one were raised without scissors, forced to cut paper with crude razor blades, therefore having had insufficient direct prior experience with scissors, making one's parental admonitions seem purely theoretical, lessening their impact?

To take another example, shouldn't there be warnings on car doors? Let's do the math. There are 15 deaths per year per 100,000 Americans (whether they drive or not!) due to traffic accidents. That works out to around 4,500 deaths per each 30 million, a lot more than 43. So maybe a warning on each car door would be appropriate. I'm thinking of something to the effect: "You are 100 times more likely to die from riding in cars like this one than to go blind from using Viagra. According to four out of five doctors, dying is worse than blindness. But remember that Detroit and Toyota depend on you. Please make an informed choice."

How about warnings on warnings? "Warning, the following warning may either (1) unnecessarily alarm you, due to an unbelievable lack of ability to keep things in perspective, causing you to avoid living your life, or (2) not alarm you enough, because you've seen too many warnings already today, and due to an unbelievable lack of ability to keep things in perspective, and as a result you may very well die or at least be permanently maimed. But remember that the medical profession needs work too. Please make an informed choice."

Obligatory homeless connection: How about warnings on streets? "Warning, if you use this product as a home, you are 20 times more likely to be murdered in your sleep, while everybody else on the planet only cares whether they can take sex-enhancement pills safely. Oh, wait, you probably don't have a choice about living here. Never mind." ■



Friday, May 13, 7:55 p.m., Western/Virginia - Victor Steinbrueck Park. Suspect was contacted for consuming an alcoholic beverage inside Victor Steinbrueck Park. Suspect, a transient white male aged 21, was found to be active with the Department of Corrections and was in violation of his parole for consuming alcohol. His DOC officer had the suspect sign a stipulated agreement agreeing to join a work crew beginning 5/18 at 7:00 a.m. Suspect was then released.

Thursday, May 19, 11:50 a.m., First and Pike. Officer saw a known suspect — a homeless Native American male aged 41 — walking eastbound on Pike from First. Officer was aware suspect was on active DOC supervision, and contacted him on Third Ave. Officer caught up with the suspect, who stated that he was going to catch a bus. Officer contacted his DOC officer who stated that the suspect was under arrest for violations, and advised the officer to search him. Officer found nothing during the search, and the DOC arrived and took custody of him. They later had him sign a stipulated agreement, and the suspect was identified and released.

Thursday, May 19, 4:01 p.m., Aurora Avenue - Aloha Inn Hotel. Complainant, the manager of the Aloha Inn, reported that the suspect, a white male aged 42, went to several businesses and portrayed himself as a representative of the Aloha Inn, a homeless shelter. He would write checks and act as though he were buying things for the shelter using his own personal checking account. He would then immediately put a stop order on the check, causing the recipient of the check to come to the complainant for money. Officer made the complainant aware that she is not responsible for the money. She stated that she was mainly concerned with the shelter's standing with charitable businesses.

Friday, May 20, 2-4 p.m., First and Marion. Officer responded to a report of an assault that occurred on the pedestrian bridge at First and Marion. Officer met with the victim, a transient white male aged 37, who stated that he and his friends were hanging out on the bridge, panhandling, when the suspect, a transient white male aged 56, went berserk and started yelling at them. He picked up an office chair that was near him, and threw it at them twice. This broke the chair, and he picked up the arm of the chair and threw that too. Victim was grazed by the chair, but was unhurt. The Federal Protective Service Police had detained the suspect until the officer's arrival. The FPSP officer stated that he has dealt with the suspect before, and he can be very violent. Suspect was booked into King County Jail for assault.

Saturday, May 21, 10:22 p.m., Third and Yesler. Officer saw suspect, a transient black male aged 47, seated on a ledge in Prefontaine Park, and was aware that he had been previously trespassed from all Zone 4 parks for one year. Suspect was contacted and placed into custody without incident. He was booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass.

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.

Passionate Professionals, Proven Results.

Workers' Compensation | Personal Injury | Social Security Disability



- Job-site Injuries
- Worker's Compensation
- Automobile Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Social Security Disability
- Construction Site Accidents
- Injury By Defective Products & Machinery

Free telephone consultation
No recovery, no attorney fee

THE
WALTHER
LAW FIRM



Phone 206 623-5311 Toll Free 866 925-8439

www.walthew.com

Walthew, Warner, Thompson, Eagan, Kindred & Costello, P.S.
123 Third Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98104

For employment advertising that gets a response, try Real Change. Call 441-3247 x202

SACHS, Continued from Page 6

about development."

Since George Bush Jr. entered the White House, he has raised military spending by \$200 billion and has cut taxes by \$300 billion. That's \$500 billion that might have been used to help people living in poverty, says Sachs. It's easy to see the contempt that the economist holds for the U.S. President. At several points in his book he highlights encouraging speeches made by President Bush but then points out the misleading statements, the fudged truths and the pitifully small amounts of money pledged to back up the grandiloquent sentiments.

Despite panning Tony Blair for his part in the Iraq war — which he describes as a sickening waste of money — Sachs praises him for the Commission for Africa and its report. "I think going to war was a huge mistake and I think advocating for Africa is a huge plus. In one case, I have no sympathy for the decision and in the other case I have great admiration. That's the complexity of real life."

He says Blair should be encouraged for showing that military prevalence isn't the only aspect to global life. "George Bush isn't even doing that. So I give Blair credit for saying there is a peaceful development side to global security."

The G8 summit, to be held in Gleneagles in July, will be the forum where Sachs' ideas hit the debating table. Sachs is a people person. He tells me he has a fundamental belief that if we give the right people enough time around the same table, even if they are separated by massive ideological divides, they will eventually come up with an agreement. But surprisingly — especially since he is pro-sweatshops and free trade zones as spurs to economic growth — he shares many of the concerns of the anti-globalization movement. He, too, is "bloody furious" at the world's leaders but, typical of the man, he is angry in a constructive way.

"The G8 leaders need to know they are not going to Gleneagles for a game, or for a little vacation, not for photo ops, not for smiles. They are there to set us

on a real path to ending extreme poverty. This is the way I hope the people of Scotland will greet these summits. Not just with open arms but with the very serious warning — don't leave here without doing your work. Don't leave here without solving these problems."

Sachs believes in getting things done. He is harsh, to the point of intolerance, about anything that hinders his goal. In his mind, children are dying now, we could stop that happening now, so answers — like the one he has provided — should be implemented now. His confidence is soothing, so strong and absolute that doubts turn into dithers and suspicions fall away. Despite making decisions that affect the lives of millions, he refuses to admit an iota of self-doubt. He tells me the only sleepless nights he has are the ones when he finds himself with too much to do. He does, however, acknowledge the enormity of his mission and the huge responsibilities that come with his job.

"You better take care when you're dealing with poor people living right at the edge. Theories are one thing but provide some help, some cushion, some generosity along the way because people are very vulnerable. Don't inadvertently, because of some theory, push them over the edge."

Beneath Sachs' high ideals and, at times beats an angry heart. In The End of Poverty, he justifies his plan to end poverty in every way imaginable — financially, morally, and militarily. But it's the moral argument that wins the day. The fact that so many millions of people die from want is simply wrong. And Sachs writes and talks with the frustration of a man who has the answers at his fingertips. The G8 leaders would do well to listen.

"I think it is shameful what the rich world has not done. But I can't think of anything more inspiring than some real solutions being finally put on the table in Scotland. Don't trash the summit — make it deliver. Don't let them out of Scotland until they produce real solutions." ■

Reprinted from the Big Issue, Scotland. © Street News Service.

Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Poverty + Parole = Problems

Dear Real Change,

Hello my name is Timothy Lee Cooper. I was born into a poor family and had kind of a rough start in life. But I think I was different than most of the other unfortunate kids I grew up around. I always was wanting to learn as much as I could about anything and everything I could, and I did. I can fix cars, houses, appliances, and explain a lot of stuff most kids couldn't.

A few things happened to me when I was growing up that are still haunting me today. It mostly started when I was 18. It was late one night and I had my girlfriend and another person over at my house, being foolish, smoking pot and drinking like almost all kids experiment with drugs at least once. But where it all went wrong was in the kitchen, where a fire broke out. All of us were scared and still drunk. When it went out of control, my friend and girlfriend ran away. I ran off too, not having time to rationalize what to do.

The Fire Marshall came and was asking a lot of questions and I didn't know what to say. A person whom I told my problems to told me not to tell the fire marshall anything at all. He said if I don't talk, they can't arrest me, but if I told them my story I'd go to prison. Well, as it ended up, they investigated and assumed I did it on purpose.

I went to jail for a year and received 10 years' probation. When I got out, I was not able to pay all of my payments and live in a house and eat and keep transportation to work. I was good about making my appointments and satisfying the conditions. But they revoked me — mostly because I was too poor to pay. The lawyer I had at the time stated to me that if I had the money to pay the restitution — approximately \$7,000 — I can walk away scot-free. He told me that they can't convict you for being too poor to pay, but that they will just find a way around that! And they did.

So I did six year of probation and then they gave me eight more years behind bars. Since 1996 'til this day this has been my life, and it's been a constant struggle. I have been looking for some answers to put this all behind me and get a fresh start. Damn, I am less than a year away from being 30 now and still suffering. I really learned my lesson and wish to move on.

I'm from a very small town in Texas that's poor and with very low wages if you can find a job. So I wanted to come here and get my wife her surgery done to start fresh and have a normal life. But I don't know what the plan is now. My wife's living in a shelter while I'm in King County Jail, waiting for Texas to come get me. I know what can fix this, but I need a miracle: seven grand and a good and honest lawyer wanting justice for the little man instead of the greedy man. If there is a lawyer out there willing to put a little time in to help an underdog — the small man who's very bright but with a grim future — please get in touch with me.

Timothy Lee Cooper
Kent Correctional Facility

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

To set the record straight:

We believe that a president lying to the American Public is a moral issue.

We believe that killings thousands of Iraqis and hundreds of Americans on the basis of that lie is a moral issue.

We believe that protecting the environment is a moral issue.

We believe that giving tax money to the wealthy while millions of Americans are in need is a moral issue.

We believe that homosexual marriage is a moral issue.

(That's why we support it.)

**Keystone
United Church
Of Christ**
5019 Keystone Place
Seattle WA 98103
Worship Sunday 10:30

CLASSIFIED

Events

THE HARMONY CONCERT. Maestro Sri Chinmoy performs 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

King Street Co-Op Preschool Rummage Sale/Silent Auction. Raffle, cool clothes, toys, books, bake sale. And lots more! Sat., May 21st, 9am-3pm, 1610 S. King St., St. Peters Church Gym (1 block south of Jackson)

The Lord's Table will again be serving The Lords Supper to all homeless & low-income: 9:00 pm M-Th at The First Presbyterian Church, 7th & Madison. Also accepting \$5, in kind, clothing,

bibles or religious materials. Contact Cal @ 206 325-7764 for more info.

Jobs

Teacher - Preschool Cooperative in Central Seattle, PT lead position, minimum 2 yrs education/experience in early childhood development, ability to work well with parents and families. Call (206) 719-7574 or email resume to: wwhathaway@excite.com.

Politics

Liberal Opinion Week: your source of outstanding national editorial cartoons and commentary, all in one weekly issue. For a free issue, call 1-800-338-9335 or visit www.liberalopinion.com

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

Wednesday 6/1

Butterflies in flight greet visitors to "Butterflies and Blooms," back for its eighth year. A color explosion representing more than 35 North American species, this exhibit also allows amateur scientists of all ages to "experience" the distinct butterfly maturation stages from egg to adult. Admission is \$7-\$10. Through September at the Woodland Park Zoo, 5500 Phinney Ave. N. (206)684-4800. www.zoo.org.

Friday 6/3

The documentary *The Future of Food: The People and Politics Behind the Science of Engineering and the World's Food Supply* offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered offerings that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade. 7 p.m. at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl., groups. msn.com/wallingfordneighbors.

Monday 6/6

Arron Glantz has made three trips to Iraq, traveling around the country and conducting scores of interviews, providing a perspective that he believes most Americans have missed. He argues that many Iraqis who once welcomed us have now soured on the U.S. in the wake of the death and destruction, especially to civilians. \$5 at the door, Townhall, 1119 8th Avenue, (206) 652-4255, www.townhallseattle.org.

Tuesday 6/7

At eighteen, Eldar Djangirov, an emigrant from Kyrgyzstan of the former Soviet Union, is a jazz veteran. He started studying the genre at age nine and is already being compared to some of jazz piano's greatest legends. Through 6/8 at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, 2033 6th Ave. (206) 441-9729 or www.jazzalley.org.

Wednesday 6/8

Trolleywood, an award-winning film on homelessness in the most glamorous

city in the world, Los Angeles, is the featured film at a benefit for Tent City 4. This intimate look at those struggling on the streets of Southern California is followed by a short video of Seattle's Tent City 3. 7 p.m., the Bradford Center, 700 108th Ave. N.E., Bellevue. (206) 399-5482

Tying the Knot is a documentary that chronicles the travails of several committed homosexual partners, whose relationships, deprived of a legal standing, encounter unnecessary hardships. This film is presented as part of a discussion on "Marriage Equality of Same-Sex Couples: What It Means to Be Married Today." Admission is free. 7 p.m. at Fairwood United Methodist Church, 15255 S.E. Fairwood Blvd., Renton. Information: (206)938-1056, or sluthens@lambda.legal.org.

Information: (206)938-1056, or sluthens@lambda.legal.org.

Wednesday 6/8

Is Bill Cosby Right: or Has the Black Middle Class Gone Crazy? is the title of Michael Eric Dyson's book in which he challenges Bill Cosby's comments regarding the "knuckleheads" of the African-American community. Dyson comes to Seattle to discuss his viewpoint. 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 8th & Seneca, www.foolproof.org.

Thursday 6/9

Former Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper resigned in the wake of the WTO protests. He now returns to the public arena with a new book, *Breaking Rank: A Top*

Cop's Street-Smart Approach to Making America a Safe Place—For Everyone. 7:30 p.m., Townhall, 1119 8th Avenue, (206)652-4255. www.townhallseattle.org.

The title of James Howard Kunstler's new work seems to suggest that we're in some deep doo-doo. He discusses *The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of the Oil Age, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-first Century* at 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., (206)634-3400, www.bookstore.washington.edu.

Director's Corner

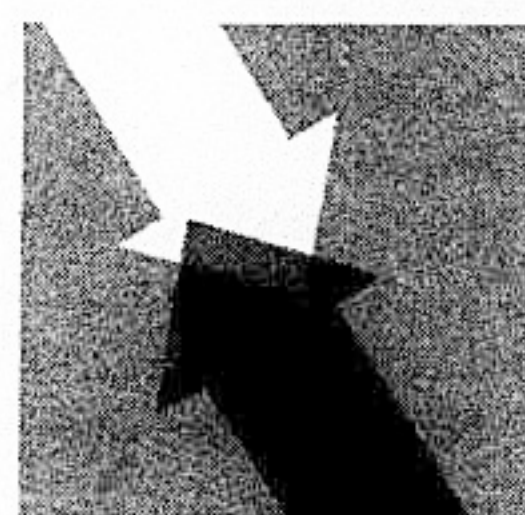


This Spring, I taught a class on Street Newspapers at the University of Washington for the third time. We spend ten weeks or so looking at homelessness and poverty through the lens of the international street newspaper movement. There are street newspapers in at least 27 different countries, ranging from the excruciatingly grassroots to the appallingly commercial. Some focus on creating jobs; others are more about being a voice of the poor. Others still are focused on social services, or activism. Some, like us, try to strike a balance between these objectives. Looking at street newspapers is a great way to understand poverty itself.

One of the questions we asked was "Can homelessness be ended?" At the beginning of the class, not a single student said yes. Later, however, after hearing from advocates, homeless people, and service providers, some changed their mind. Homelessness can be ended, some concluded, but only if government intervenes.

For a significant number, the issue came down to what kind of a society we want, and the role of government in creating that. The "free market," they concluded, was doing a terrible job of meeting human needs. And homelessness, they said, was really about capitalism. The ongoing party on one end seems to generate misery on the other. Somewhere along the line, our political leaders have become terrified of stating the obvious.

Lessons learned from Homelessness 101. Something to think about. ■



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Help the Sun Set on the PATRIOT Act

Issue: Just 45 days after 9/11, and with virtually no debate, Congress passed the PATRIOT Act which made radical changes to criminal and intelligence laws, enabling authorities to conduct surveillance, monitor, and investigate individuals with fewer checks on abuse of power. Congress is currently debating the sunset provisions of the PATRIOT Act, which are set to expire on Dec. 31, 2005, unless they are renewed.

Background: Among the PATRIOT Act "sunset" are clauses that:

- Expand wiretap-eligible federal criminal offenses;
- Allow disclosure of information gathered in criminal investigations to intelligence, immigration, and "national security" officials;
- Create a roving wiretap authority (i.e., the court order follows the target, not the phone) without requiring that the target actually uses the device being monitored;
- Allow the government to demand records and content from communications providers without consent, notice or judicial review in an emergency;
- Permit the government to obtain phone numbers dialed to and from a particular phone as well as Internet "routing" information, with minimal judicial review;
- Allow FBI seizure of any "tangible thing," including highly sensitive medical, library, business, and travel records, from a wide variety of institutions under an extremely weak standard of judicial review.

Our congressional representatives must start the public dialogue that did not happen when the PATRIOT Act was passed in 2001. They should listen to the over 370 communities — including the City of Seattle and King County — and five state legislatures that have passed resolutions expressing concern about the PATRIOT Act.

Action: Contact your members of congress with the following message:

I have read that the PATRIOT Act allows widespread use of so-called "sneak and peek" search warrants in which government agents can break into a home and take information without notifying the home's owner. I believe that these intrusive forms of searches should be used in rare situations, not as a standard practice. I also do not believe that the government should be allowed to indiscriminately investigate personal records. I strongly urge you to allow sections of the PATRIOT Act to "sunset" and urge that you not expand the powers of the legislation.

"The PATRIOT Act should not be extended unless we are assured that there is a proven need for new powers. Any new authority provided under the PATRIOT Act should have appropriate oversight and transparency in operations. I urge you to amend the PATRIOT Act to include procedural protections and the ability for recipients to challenge secret intelligence court orders that allow law enforcement to seize library, medical and business records, and any other "tangible thing."

Senator Patty Murray: www.murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell: www.cantwell.senate.gov

Congressman Jim McDermott: www.house.gov/mcdermott

Go to www.adu-wa.org and click "take action" to send a message to your representatives and for more information.

AFL-CIO, Continued from Page 1

AFL-CIO's membership — including the Teamsters, Laborers, and hotel workers (Unite Here) — have called for Sweeney to step down.

If he doesn't, SEIU, which represents 1.8 million health-care workers, janitors, security guards and public employees nationwide — 65,000 of them in Washington state — says it will leave the AFL and work to form a competing federation.

In a controversial reform plan first floated last November, SEIU wants to cut the dues that member unions pay the AFL-CIO in half, and let the unions use the money (up to \$40 million) to organize new members at the local level — with a tight focus on creating industry density.

To do that, SEIU and its president, Andy Stern, have called for merging today's 57 AFL-CIO member unions into 10 or 20 giant unions organized by line of work — similar to what the Australians did 10 years ago.

That, local SEIU supporters argue, would stop unions from competing for members and create the power to go after Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer. Opponents argue that only SEIU would benefit by filling its ranks from other unions — at the expense of local union au-

tonomy and the AFL-CIO's national lobbying voice.

"The machinists aren't going to have the likes of Stern telling us what our jurisdiction is and who and where we'll organize," says Mark Blondin, president of the District 751 of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, which represents machinists at Boeing.

"We'll not have our autonomy taken away by other unions," Blondin says. "The machinists will decide what's best for machinists. We've done a good job of that in the 116 years we've been around."

With the endorsement of the United Auto Workers, Sweeney's re-election appears to be in the bag. All the same, the 71-year-old labor leader has given layoff notices to 167 of the AFL-CIO's 460 staff members in Washington, D.C., and is already pursuing a plan very similar to that demanded by

SEIU.

One difference is that, compared to the \$35 million to \$40 million SEIU is calling on the AFL-CIO to give back to local unions for organizing, Sweeney and his officers have proposed a national fund of just \$22.5 million. Another is that Sweeney would devote \$7.5 million to special organizing drives such as Wal-Mart, where SEIU wants to dedicate \$25 million.

The services workers — whose ranks include many Hispanic immigrants, the labor movement's fastest-growing pool of members — also stress supporting the issues of immigrant workers and international organizing.

"To say they want to reach out globally is one thing, but we're doing it," Blondin says. "We've got an international affairs staff in D.C. that's dedicated to building relationships

with workers worldwide."

Other trade unionists in Seattle say Stern is right on the mark and that some of his detractors could be people who stand to lose their own AFL-supported jobs. The Washington State Labor Council, for instance, employs about 25 people who work in Seattle and Olympia — none of whom can officially take a position, says spokesman David Groves.

"We're just wringing our hands, waiting to see what happens," Groves says.

"I say, go, let's do this thing," says Robin Kelson, a former SEIU organizer now with The Newspaper Guild. The Guild is part of the Communication Workers of America, which officially opposes Stern's plan.

"It makes me sad things are getting pulled apart," Kelson says. "But I think something extremely dramatic has to happen" to rebuild the industry density required for power.

Some unions, she says, organize a few people here and there without thinking about the bigger picture the way SEIU does.

"If you win small numbers of people and it keeps getting smaller," Kelson says, "you don't have any power at the bargaining table." ■

"The machinists aren't going to have the likes of Stern telling us what our jurisdiction is and who and where we'll organize."

—Mark Blondin, president of the District 751 of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers,

MICROSOFT, Continued from Page 1

improve communication between gay employees and higher-ups.

Koertzen leaves after six years of working in what he considered to be a very gay-friendly environment. In a previous job, he recalled experiencing difficulty starting a group like GLEAM and convincing employees to join. The problem, he believes, is the risk of outing oneself and the potential threat to job security. Being fired because you're gay or lesbian still isn't illegal in Washington and that's absolutely frustrating, says Koertzen.

"Washington is considered a very progressive state, but over on the East Coast you have three states where gays and lesbians have validated rela-

tionships. In this state we're still talking about allowing people to keep their jobs. That's not very progressive."

Koertzen hopes Washington legislators, like the bill's sponsor Rep. Ed Murray (D), will have better luck reaching out to the moderate Republicans to get the bill passed into law next year. Two factors have him concerned about its chances. The first is whether supporters can frame the need for the law in terms of job and homeowner rights and not as the more polarizing endorsement of a lifestyle. The second centers on whether the ongoing case for the governor's office will result in a new election and a subsequent win for Republican Dino Rossi — who Koertzen believes would veto the measure if it passed the legislature. ■

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**



Works. So does Real Change.

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 2121 1st Ave., Seattle, WA 98121, or use our secure online giving option at realchangenews.org. Real Change: Human Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Mockingbird Times

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



June 2005

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation
Visit us online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org or call 206-323-5437 (KIDS)

Volume V, Issue 6

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the
Editor
Page 2

Letter to the
Editor
Page 2

Goodbyes
Page 2

Mockingbird Voices
Continued
Page 3

Creative Corner
Page 4

Movie Review:
Constantine
Courtney
Konietzko
Page 4

Governor Gregoire
and DSHS Honor
Foster Parents
Page 4

Voices of Mockingbird: Meet the Young People Leading the Mockingbird Times

Join us as we take a moment to embrace the tremendous growth we have experienced at Mockingbird in the recent months. It is especially important to recognize the contributions of the youth whose voice, passion and commitment make the Mockingbird Times such a success. In this issue, we want to give our readers a chance to meet our new reporters, as well as reintroduce you to some familiar faces. Enjoy!

HELLO, MY NAME IS ASHLEY GRANT AND I AM AN 18 YEAR OLD SENIOR at Cleveland High School. I am also a Satellite Reporter here at the Mockingbird Times.

I think that I bring sunshine to the environment at Mockingbird because everyone here loves to see me smile and adores my positive attitude. I ended up working at Mockingbird through my old high school principal and I have been here ever since.

My younger siblings and I have been in kinship care for over four years. Mockingbird has helped me overcome issues that I face with my experience in the foster care system.

Working at Mockingbird is so inspirational to me because the whole cause of being advocates for young people is beautiful. I am glad that our paper is sent throughout the country. My boss Shannon is very influential to me because she understands my style of writing and how to help me put it to make the best article possible.

Mockingbird is the kind of job everyone should hope for because [the environment] is supportive and understanding. Working here enables you to learn life long skills and allows you to use them on your personal journey to success.



ASHLEY
GRANT

I AM 18 AND GO TO SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE. I am a funny, motivated person who enjoys swimming and doing things with my brothers. I have been in foster care since I was two years old. I have been in and out of a lot of homes. I think overall it was a hard but good experience for me. It made me a stronger person and prepared me for a lot.

Mockingbird is like my safe house. When I go to work there is nothing but good vibes coming my way and everyone is so understanding. Shannon and Jim have been my inspiration for coming to work and loving it. Jim came from almost the same background as me and he made something good out of himself. That inspires me to keep going. Shannon is so loving and cares about us more than what she is supposed to.

I am grateful for the experience I had with FPAWS in Wenatchee (as part of a panel of young people from Mockingbird speaking about their experience in foster care to foster parents in WA state). It was good to have older people asking for our help—usually it's the other way around. My advice to your out there is to live life to the fullest and always think positive. If you think negative you will see nothing but negative all around you.



RICO EVANS



MBT Reporters Jasmine Caldwell, Jamica Henderson and Larishica Asher.



MBT Volunteer Emil Redmond, MBT Reporters Princess Hollins, Courtney Konietzko, Echo Speed, Rico Evans.



MBT Reporters Rico Evans, Jamica Henderson, Anthony Guess.

I CAN BE A VERY COOL PERSON. I like to speak my mind and I like to be heard. I consider myself a leader and am a very outgoing person. I love listening to music and dancing. I love going to dances and to parties but I don't drink or smoke.

My history of being in foster care has been somewhat good because I have been in some bad and good foster homes, and I have ended up in a good home. I don't think that anyone should be in foster care because they should live with their parents unless their family has some problems or has abused them.

Mockingbird is a place where foster youth or youth who have been homeless or misunderstood go and get a job and let the world know what foster care is like and what youth go through. My organization (Mockingbird) is very good and my experience here has been really good. Being at Mockingbird has taught me the qualities of a job and how to keep one.



LARISHICA
ASHER

I WAS PRETTY MUCH BORN INTO THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. I spent my first five years in state care, later moving in with my grandma. While growing up I suffered from a lot of abuse. At the age of twelve I decided that I couldn't handle it anymore so I left. I was placed in two group homes and one foster home. I was lucky in a way because usually if you are "born" into the system, it's rare that you have contact with your biological family and stay in only two group homes. I'm sometimes asked, "how that is you only spent time in two group homes, compared to six or seven that many teenagers in the system go through?" I simply say that I looked at the bigger picture, my mind was never focused in the moment, it was always two to three years ahead. So in other words, I never let my situation bring me down.

Now that I'm a senior in high school and have two jobs, I look back at my life and wonder what I would be like now if I didn't go through the system. I think that my life would be really different. I think that I would have less patience and care for people. I wouldn't really take life as seriously as I do now, because I know that I have to do every thing for myself. Working for Mockingbird is really exciting and I feel like I'm almost ready to make a big step up into another role. Right now I'm a Satellite Reporter and as the program grows I would like to grow also. One thing I want to tell readers is that the present never defines who you are—it's always the future.



ANTHONY
GUESS

Bend-It! Extravaganza

The Bend-It! Extravaganza is an absolutely amazing queer youth arts festival led by and for queer young people. This year, the Bend-It! Extravaganza is taking place in Seattle, WA, from June 24th through June 26th. Incredibly talented bands like The Gossip (from Olympia) are opening for our Friday night kick-off event, and I'll be hosting the spoken word event on Sunday. Go to www.bend-it.org or e-mail me at misty-lou-cook@yahoo.com for more info!

VOICES OF MOCKINGBIRD CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

Letter from the Editor

This issue of the *Mockingbird Times* provides us with an opportunity to introduce you all to our reporting staff, and to bid farewell to a few staff members who are moving on. **Erin Daniels**, an intern from the **University Of Washington School Of Social Work**, has been with *Mockingbird* the past year. Erin holds the distinction of being our first intern and has set a high standard. We will miss her.

JIM THEOFELIS

Shannon Barelo has been with *Mockingbird Society* since January of 2003 and has been instrumental in the success and growth of this organization. I've met many professionals over my nearly thirty years of serving children, youth and families and Shannon is truly one of the best. Her passion, compassion and commitment to the young people we serve is extraordinary. Shannon has become a trusted colleague and a dear friend. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and hope that our paths will continue to cross.

On the other side of the transition is the welcoming and re-introduction of *Mockingbird Society* staff. Our *Mockingbird Times* reporting team is an amazing and talented group of young people who are able to articulate their life experiences of being homeless and/or in foster care. I am also pleased to welcome **Najja Taylor**, who has been hired as the **Youth LEAD (Leadership, Employment-education and Advocacy Development) Coordinator**, of which the *Mockingbird Times* is her primary responsibility. Najja brings a wealth of experience, skills and wisdom to the position and we are very fortunate to have her onboard.

Mockingbird Society is clearly in a "growth spurt" and we are feeling the pride and pains of such. We are excited to move into our new office located in the same amazing **2100 Building** in Seattle but with twice the space. We expect to grow the employment readiness and career development component of our program as well as increase the public speaking events youth participate in. I want to thank those of you who have supported our work; especially those who have taken the time to give feedback to our Youth Reporters. Happy June!

Jim Theofelis

jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

THANK YOU'S

**Dr Alan Rothblatt,
Tobias Foundation**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Echo-

I really liked your review of Dave Pelzer's book and your description of your interview with him. He was treated horribly (assuming the stories are true) and you captured the bizarre nature of of his family. But Pelzer seems to be using his experiences to help promote himself, and seems more concerned about that than helping the young people who have followed him. While there's nothing wrong with fame, or even enjoying seeing your byline, the thing I like about *Mockingbird* is that the writers are about helping others as much or more than they are about helping themselves.

I wish Mr. Pelzer had spent some time sharing his strategies for survival and success (other than self promotion) so you could have shared them with the readers. I feel like he missed a golden opportunity to connect with youth in care today. I am glad you tried, and showed us a bit about his character in the process. Keep up the good work. You're a wonderful writer.

Keith Hefner

PS: One of our adult editors at Youth Communication was a journalist for twenty years, but before that she was also in the Seattle foster care system.

Goodbye Mockingbird



MBT Reporters Jasmine Caldwell, Jamica Henderson and Larishica Asher with MSW Intern Erin Daniels.



MBT Reporters Franisa Johnson, Jasmine Caldwell, Larishica Asher, Rico Evans, Anthony Guess and Jamica Henderson with MFFCP Coordinator Shannon Barelo.

FOR THE PAST YEAR, I HAVE WORKED as the MSW Intern here at the *Mockingbird Society*. Now I am preparing to both graduate from the University of Washington School of Social Work and conclude my practicum at *Mockingbird*. I have really enjoyed my time at *Mockingbird*. When I started interning here last summer, despite having worked with several foster and homeless youth in the past, I knew very little about the youth homelessness and foster care systems. I have had a great time and learned a lot by being part of the *Mockingbird Youth Video Project* (watch for the video - it's coming soon!), ASK-Y, Youth Advocacy Day, and everything else.

Mockingbird is a very positive and energy-filled environment, and I have learned a good deal from all the staff here. I have learned the most, however, from the intelligence, creativity, and strength of the young people working at the *Mockingbird Society*. I feel really honored to have spent the year with such truly gifted people. My puppy Zoe, rat Phoenix, and I will be staying in Seattle after graduation, and I am thrilled to be able to stay on at *Mockingbird* as a volunteer.

- Erin Daniels, MSW Intern

I HAVE BEEN A PART OF MOCKINGBIRD for two and a half years. In this time I have had the opportunity to work with some of the most resilient, talented, intelligent, hilarious and absolutely amazing young people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I am constantly surprised, inspired and proud of their strengths and achievements and am honored to have had the opportunity to work with an agency so dedicated to giving young people a real voice in the community.

While I am moving into a new position outside of the *Mockingbird Society*, I plan on continuing to be involved as a volunteer, as I cannot imagine not working in some capacity with this incredible organization, and the incredible people—young and not so young—who I have had the pleasure of working with.

Thank you readers for continuing to support the work we do, and thanks to all the *Mockingbird* staff who made my experience so worthwhile. A special thank you to Jim, whose passion and vision continue to inspire me everyday. Goodbye for now!

-Shannon Barelo, MFFCP Coordinator

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 40,000 copies being distributed across Washington State and the U.S.A. through a private distribution list and as an insert in *Real Change*, a Seattle-based community newspaper. 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

Youth Lead
Najja Taylor

Operations Manager
Ros Ghan

Administrative Assistant
Lauren Frederick

MSW Intern
Erin Daniels

Senior Staff Reporters
Dennis Fisher, Courtney Konietzko

Satellite Reporters
Rico Evans, Ashley Grant, Anthony Guess, Jamica Henderson, Echo Speed, Misty Lou Cook, Jasmine Caldwell, Franisa Johnson, Larishica Asher, Terasa Asher, Leona Bill, Shay Deney, J. Eboh, Hollis Riggins, Shakura Felder, Princess Hollins.

Contributing Writers
Fred Thurmond, Jay-son Foreman

Volunteers
Anna Trombley, Patricia Gray, Shannon Barelo

...Voices of Mockingbird Continued...

HELLO MY NAME IS COURTNEY Konietzko and I am a writer, artist, student, and all around weirdo. Gotta keep it all balanced. I am an aspiring freak who would love to join the Jim Rose Circus Side Show, become an aspiring surgeon, or an aspiring lawyer. I am hoping to figure out what I want to do by completing career testing, talking to people, and life experience. For now I'm just trying to get my Associate's Degree and figuring it out in the process. I would like to learn how to surf, dance, play a musical instrument, and turn my poetry into music.

I like (this is embarrassing) films and books about vampires (for some reason I am riveted by the movie *Queen of the Damned*), a good work out, the moon, visiting my parents (this took a long time!), going to the ocean (I'm a Pisces), industrial music, eating phad thai, drawing pictures, the smell of cloves, vanilla, pine, and Tommy Hilfiger Tommy Girl perfume, and the feeling you get after overcoming something hard. I don't like not knowing how to drive, hamburgers, hatred, war, lies, and very hot weather.

I like working at Mockingbird because I feel like I am making a difference. I like learning how to write non-fiction, put my story into a format where it can reach out to others, and feeling like my experiences are validated. I work with great people who really care. I am exposed to other cultures that force me to look at myself.

I enjoy public speaking and hope to do more of it. I want people to understand how Mockingbird is a tool for social change. I want people to understand the foster care system needs help. I want people to be prepared for when they exit the foster care system. I want less kids ending up living on the streets, addicted to drugs, selling their bodies, living with HIV/Hep C, with no hope. I want to see my friends come up, not fall down.



COURTNEY KONIETZKO



MBT Reporters Dennis Fisher and Courtney Konietzko

HI MY NAME IS FRANISA JOHNSON and I was born in Seattle, WA in 1987. I am a junior at Rainier Beach High School. I work at the *Mockingbird Times* and live with both of my parents. I have four sister and 2 brothers. I am a very calm, respectful and hard-working in everything I do. I don't get into a lot of trouble but as a teen trouble is very hard to stay away from, which is why I stay to myself most of the time.

Peoples' first impression of me is that I'm quiet. I used to think that I had a problem with communicating with others, but I don't. I just like to sit back and relax and enjoy myself. Like people say, actions are louder than words. I feel that I don't have to talk all the time but I will talk when I have something to say about anything—whether it's good or not. Once you get to know me you'll see what type of person I am.



FRANISA JOHNSON



MBT Satellite Reporters Larishica Asher, Terasa Asher, Ashley Grant

write and express themselves.

My experience at *Mockingbird Times* has been fun. I haven't really written my first article yet but I am looking forward for my article to be out in the July issue. I hope you like it.

I feel that *Mockingbird Times* is a real nice place to be. Ever since I've been working here, I feel as if I had to work anywhere else I would want it to be just like this. *Mockingbird Times* has given me a place where I can express my feelings, opinions and facts on whatever topic I want to write about. *Mockingbird Times* is a great place for anyone who likes to

HI MY NAME IS JASMINE CALDWELL I was born in Montgomery, Alabama but raised in Seattle. I have five brothers and three sisters. I'm a hard working student at Rainier Beach High School and maintaining a 2.7 GPA. After High School, I plan to go to Renton Technical College to further my education in culinary arts. My goal is to own a restaurant before I'm 30 years of age. I love to cook, dance, sing, write, shop and just have a good time. I'm a very energetic



JASMINE CALDWELL

"ENJOY LIFE AS YOU MAKE IT AND DON'T EVER LET ANYONE TELL YOU THAT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING, BECAUSE YOU CAN—AS LONG AS YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT."

person and usually nice and kind to those who do the same. I'm the type of person who loves a challenge and never takes no for an answer. I try my best at everything I do and no matter what the situation may be, I never give up. I would love to make it through life without the struggles and the heartache from a man or from anyone but that's not how God made it so I just have to live my life the way I'm suppose to and that way is God's way.

I encourage anyone who's going through something to stay strong. If you live your life focusing on your past you'll never make it. Live your life with enjoyment and happiness because that's what will make your life longer. Don't stress yourself about the little things that may occur in the future or what has happened in your past. Life is full of adventures so enjoy while you can. Life isn't just about responsibilities; it's about having fun and being a kid and not having to worry about a light bill or groceries. You don't want to grow up too fast because nothing is going on but drugs and violence and that's not a road you want to take. So, enjoy life as you make it and don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do anything, because you can—as long as you put your mind to it.

HELLO, MY NAME IS JAMICA. I have been working at Mockingbird for 1 and a half years now. I am 18 years old and am one of four siblings who is the first to go to college. My younger siblings look up to me. I am graduating from high school in June and have received three different scholarships. One I received my junior year which is the Washington Achiever's Scholarship. My senior year I received two more: the Mt. Baker MLK Scholarship and African American Dollars for Scholars. What I want to do with my life is become a Nurse Practitioner. I am going to Highline Community College in the fall.

I am going to go there for my first two years, then I want to go out of state for my next two years. I will be a Registered Nurse by that time. I am going to take a break so I can get used to my field before going back to school to get my Master's Degree.

I am a fun person to hang around. I am comfortable with meeting with new people and learning in new environments. I have good leadership skills. I like to talk on the phone with friends, go shopping, and just hang out. I am an outgoing person willing to jump on the next thing moving in my direction.



JAMICA HENDERSON

MISTY LOU COOK IS A POET, blue collar scholar, activist, artist, writer, self-taught musician, organizer and lover of freedom and humanity, and not necessarily in that order. She grew up in Bellingham, WA, and has been coming around Seattle all of her life. She refuses to answer the little sheet with questions on it (AKA the "survey" that was handed to her) because she is free spirited and bends all rules that do not apply to her. She doesn't always speak in third person, but will for her bio due to the basic convenience of the situation and circumstances.

This particular writer has been off and on the streets, in other words, homeless, since she was 14 years old. She has been homeless all over the West Coast and you'll have to buy her book she's writing to find out why. She chooses to remain mysterious at this time but will disclose some very exciting information for all of the radical readers out there: The Bend-It Extravaganza is coming to Seattle SOON and I am hosting the Spoken Word Event!

Misty started working at the *Mockingbird Times* in June of 2004 and wants to let every reader know that Shannon will be missed. She was a great editor and supervisor, and this is not an obituary column so Misty won't make it sad, but Shannon was a really fun supervisor and a great person to work with. *Mockingbird Times* and Misty Lou Cook wishes her the best that life has to offer and hopes she has fun on this crazy journey called life.

~*HEY YOU*~



Calling all Writers, Artists and Young People With Something Important to Say...

We are looking for articles, poetry, artwork and photography from our young readers who have experience in the foster care system and/or homelessness. If you want to be published in the Times, contact us at 206-323-5437 or newspaper@mockingbirdsociety.org. For more info and to check us out, go to www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

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.



CREATIVE CORNER

Dear Mockingbird Times,

My name is Fred Thurmond and I am 17 years old and in group care. My mother abandoned me when I was two years old. I have only seen her once since she abandoned me. I was living on the streets from age two to five with my sister until my father found us and we lived with him. Then in August, my father died. My whole life I have been in and out of state care and jail. Since my last trip to jail, I have been writing poems and would like them published. People say they are good enough so I am going to try.

Wishes

FRED THURMOND

My wishes flapping in the wind but none accepted cause they won't mend. Mixed feelings in every situation, I am a one man army with only one formation. Can't love myself or anyone, not till my most extreme deed is done. Having no one to love or care for, is it my life I have to spare. My mind shows dimness of death, with an exasperating of one breath. To show faith and courage, pure strength like a full grown marriage can't act like an animal no more cause every mental and physical aspect goes to the core. Unintroduced feelings no need to know for culture and spiritual don't even show. Making people believe me but not wondering about the corrupt ways of seeing. Not having a family to care for. What is life if you don't want no more. But having one person it may show beauty, for inside it shows duty. Got to fight for my independence and freedom

But now my life is filled with greed (om). I might show my skin, but from my bacterial tissues or from withinnot knowing who I am or where I am from
Not fighting for my family or people to come
For I'm a useless piece of space. And not looking in it's face but hiding on the outside. Just like when my father died. My insides churn with resentment and hatefulness. The eyes show a bad test. Truth may feel extremely cold
Until the night it has been told. Not knowing when it's going to stop cause the knife has penetrated too deep. My heart aches with pain no one can bear.

Stereotype

JAY-SON FOREMAN

Walking down the street looking in the air
It seems like no one cares
They look me up and down like I am some animal up for display
It's just another black guy, ya he's probably going to spend his life selling drugs
I want to be something, not hanging out with thugs
Everything you want you have to work for
Blood, sweat and tears
I listen to everything, my mind is open and my ears pay attention
Anybody who speaks down on me is nothing
If the tables were turned how would that person feel?
Would he or she lose their emotions or blow everybody off for the
Cold consuming dollar bill?
When people judge other people it's a sin in God's book
Everybody doesn't know everything so how can they judge?
This world was started over judging other races and culture
So sad it still goes on till this day
Racism, poverty, unemployment, childcare and family
A lot of what this generation doesn't have
If we stop stereotyping maybe we can have world peace
And no more drama
No more wars and killing innocent American people
We're all equal but the government doesn't tell you that
Drugs, jail sheets and prison's are all business to make money
Overseas slavery still goes on till this day,
Innocent people laboring for a messy couple of cents for just the right thing to wear
If no one knows, no one cares
It's all about having this and that
When the lights get dim and there's no one to help you
The things that you do to people affect you as well
Anything you do to someone comes back on you.

Constantine a Good Movie for a Rainy Day

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

I WENT TO SEE THE MOVIE *CONSTANTINE* on the first day of spring. It was pouring rain with cold gusts of wind that hurt when they blew through my coat. It was an adventure going to the Grand Cinema in Lynnwood and realizing how much each Loew's Cineplex looks alike...being surrounded by the welcoming smell of buttery popcorn, the weekend throngs of families and young people out on dates, and the hope to be entertained.

Keanu Reeves won my respect with this movie. He's not a bad actor, he just takes some time to get used to. *Constantine* is a pleasantly dark story of Heaven and Hell and the half-breeds (angels and demons) that walk the Earth, the realm between the two. Jon Constantine is heard talking about how in the beginning, God and the Devil made a deal to see who could get the most souls. However, direct contact with humans was not allowed, only influences.

The story unfolds as somebody/something violated that deal and broke through the barrier into Earth.

I wasn't unhappy about spending money on *Constantine*. However, you know how some films would have been better if they just ended rather than trailing on to hint at a sequel? Well that's what *Constantine* should have done; it would have made it stronger. The redeeming part about the end is the scene where Mr. Constantine is chewing gum (watch to understand what I mean). My other gripe is that *Constantine* isn't really that original. The special effects were mediocre, not horribly bad but they seemed like they were borrowed from other films. And there were times my brain yelled "Neo!" I guess that's what happens when you watch the Matrix one too many times.

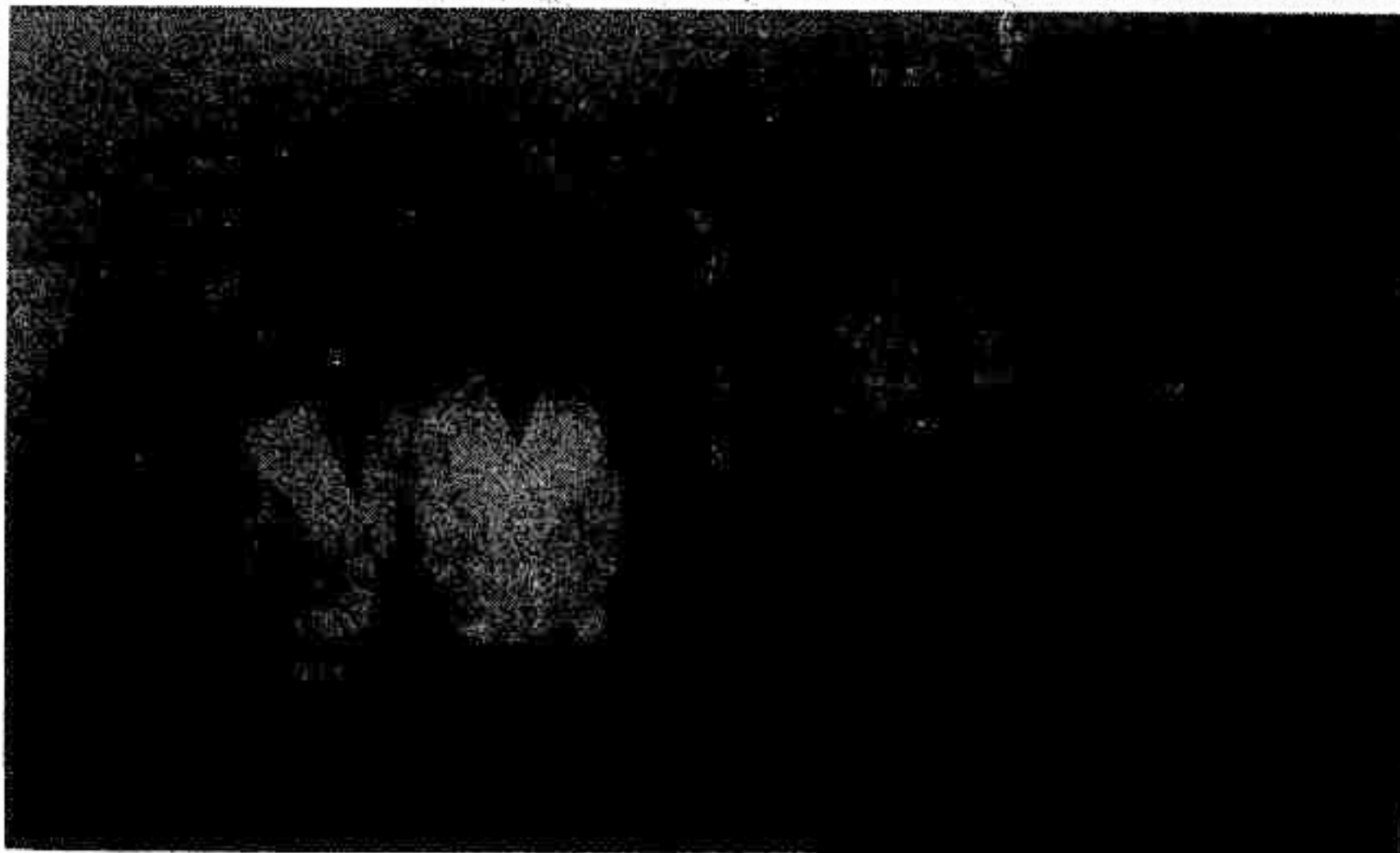
The good things about *Constantine*? The main characters Jon Constantine and Angela Dodson are both easy on the eyes. Neither character falls head over heels for the other, turning the ending into a sappy love story like so many bad films do, the typical boy meets girl, girl plays hard to get, boy learns lesson, girl softens, they draw together like magnets, strife, honeymoon, conflict, blah, blah, blah, they kiss, the end.

There's some good shots (whoever was shooting the film knew what he was doing) and some pretty things in the shots (like some of the places people live.) The beginning is strong and grabs your interest quickly. Oh, I almost forgot the shock- value- fast-movement- loud-noise thing horror movies do to startle you; they only did it once in *Constantine*. Instead they relied on a brooding darkness that is kind of pleasant, if that makes any sense.

Constantine is not a horror movie but it is dark. Everybody in *Constantine* can act and I was wrapped up in the story, wanting to know what happens next. *Constantine* also moves at a good pace and things make sense, except for one spot somewhere in the middle when you wonder what she is doing in the pool (there was nothing leading up to make you think that). Everything explains itself pretty well and introduces each part nicely up until the pool scene. Then it gets kind of scattered and you are left with some unanswered questions.

Constantine is based on the comic book *Hellblazer* by DC/Vertigo comics, directed by newcomer film director Francis Lawrence. Lawrence is known for his previous work directing music videos for the likes of Britney Spears, Will Smith, Sarah McLachlan, and Aerosmith. *Constantine* is rated R and has a run time of two hours. 3 out of 5 birds because it was a totally neutral experience with mild flashes of amusement.

WA State Governor and DSHS Honor Foster Parents and Kids



WA State Representative Ruth Kagi; Department of Social and Health Services Assistant Secretary Cheryl Stephanie; Washington Education Foundation Independent Student Services Officer Mary Anne Herrick; Foster Parent Tony Anderson, Governor's Scholar Martin Sepulveda; Foster Parent Deb Anderson and Secretary of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Robin Arnold Williams

ON MAY 17, FOSTER PARENTS WERE RECOGNIZED for their work by Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire and the Department of Health and Human Services (DSHS). Governor Gregoire has proclaimed May as Foster Care Month in Washington State and is participating in Casey Family Programs national Blue Ribbon campaign, a campaign designed to bring attention to the need for more foster parents throughout the nation. For more information on how to become a foster parent, visit www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/be_FosterIntro.asp

Quote of the Month

"Do all you can, with what you have, in the time you have, in the place you are."

**Nkosi Johnson
1988-2001
AIDS Activist**