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VOL 13 NO 15

APR 12 2006
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Hot Spot

**UW hires contractor with abuse
record to decommission defunct
nuclear lab**

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Reporter

Beginning in 1961, the curious could gaze through the glass windows of the University of Washington's More Hall Annex, gaining an unimpeded view of a nuclear reactor in full operation. When the research lab was shut down in 1988, however, the windows provided little for folks to look upon, other than the reflections of trees and passersby.

But come April 11, when the university begins its final decommission and decontamination of the facility, those very same windows will cast a bright light on the contractor hired to do the job, LVI Environmental Services, Inc.

Just who is LVI? That depends on whom you ask.

Founded in 1986, the non-union company claims on its website that it provides the "most cost-effective, highest quality environmental remediation and demolition services available." The university considers them to be a "very competent company." Alex Bacon, a member of the Student Labor Action Project, describes them this way: "They're the Wal-Mart of the abatement industry."

Bacon's belief about LVI stems, in part, he says, from the numerous allegations from former LVI employees of unsafe working conditions on job sites. Bacon says he understands how the open bidding process entered into by the university to decommission and decontaminate the now-defunct nuclear research lab led to the eventual selection of LVI. "It's not surprising that any company that exploits its workforce would be able to make the lowest bid," says Bacon.

Carlos Fernandez, a former LVI employee, considers himself one of the exploited. Speaking through a translator, Fernandez says that he was working for a Calif. subsidiary of LVI last year doing asbestos abatement, an industry term pertaining to the removal of asbestos and asbestos-laden materials. When he was offered an opportunity to do the same work in Seattle, on the Bank of California



MIRIAM ISRAEL MOSES SOMETIMES VISITS JOBS SITES TO INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS OF STATE WAGE LAW. MOSES DIRECTS REBOUND, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY UNION WORKERS' DUES THAT INVESTIGATES PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. PHOTO BY JUDE O'REILLEY.

The Job Police

In lieu of shorthanded regulators, Rebound stands up for workers' wages

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

If it weren't for Rebound, David Ciprut would be out \$3,100.

That's how much in back pay the Seattle nonprofit got from a concrete contractor who employed Ciprut on several projects in 2004, including jobs at the King County Courthouse and the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in downtown Seattle.

At the time, Ciprut was making \$10 an hour. But, under the law, the prevailing wage on the public works jobs he was doing was \$32. Ciprut didn't realize his employer, Permanent Concrete Solutions, was paying him a third of what he was owed until a friend in the ironworkers' union tipped him off.

The friend sent Ciprut to Rebound. Formed in 1988 by labor unions, Rebound is a private organization that, in essence, polices public works contracts by investigating, filing claims, or suing contractors who violate prevailing wage laws.

It's the Department of Labor and Industries' job to do the policing. But, with only six field agents for the whole state, the agency can't keep up with all the violations, says Miriam Israel Moses, Rebound's executive director.

It took eight months, but after Rebound investigated and put pressure on Permanent Concrete Solutions, the owner paid up.

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TRUE TO REFORM

Maine and Arizona have taken up public campaign financing. It's time for Washington to join in.

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VOTING FIGHTS

State Supreme Court to hear arguments on poll tax for ex-felons looking for voting rights.

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CONSPIRACY QUERY

A forum at UW examines the union story on 9/11. What about Building 7?

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ORDER OF THE DAY

When the Minutemen protest day laborers, Seattleites show up to protest vigilantes.

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THE MOCKINGBIRD TIMES

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House Flush

*Money dominates our democratic process. There's a better way*By KATY CARTER
Guest Writer

In Maine and Arizona, public financing won the confidence of veteran campaigners by proving to be more than sufficient to run a credible campaign, while Arizona's entire program cost the taxpayers less than \$1.50 per person per year!

As the Abramoff and DeLay corruption scandals continue to unfold, and as Congress and President Bush continue to pass laws that give tax breaks to the rich while cutting programs that help average and low-income people, you may be asking yourself: Isn't there a better way? There is, and it starts with public financing of political campaigns.

Consider the scenario in which our elected officials must operate. Nationwide, our politicians spent almost a billion dollars in the 2004 election. Much of that money came from wealthy donors and special interests, even though the McCain-Feingold campaign reform bill was intended to severely limit large contributions. Large donors set the agenda in the U.S. As former Senator Alan Simpson once said, "Who, after all, can seriously contend that a \$100,000 donation does not alter the way one thinks about — and quite possibly votes on — an issue?"

If you were a candidate running for office, needing the increasingly vast sums of money to win, whom would you be most apt to listen to: the drug company that raises \$30,000 for you, or the voter who can afford to give you only \$10? According to *The Tacoma News Tribune* of July 2, 2003, an Associated Press analysis shows that elected officials voted five out of six times in favor of the groups that donated the most money to them. For example, a bill in the U.S. Senate to increase fuel-efficiency standards failed 62 to 38 — with the average no vote getting \$18,000 in donations from auto companies and the average yes

vote only \$6,000. The main conduit for this money is contributions to political campaigns.

Not only does the big money of special interests introduce undue and undemocratic influence into the political process, big money produces other problems: it discourages ordinary citizens from voting; it deters potentially strong candidates from running unless they have an inside track to special-interest money; it forces candidates to spend more time raising money and less time getting out to meet the voters, particularly in lower-income areas; it fuels the public perception of corruption and conflict of interest; and, last but not least, it discourages challengers from entering races against well-funded, entrenched incumbents.

Do you want your elected officials to listen to you as much as to the big and powerful? I know that I do. And I was elated to find that there is a revolution that began in Maine and Arizona. In the late '90s, both states passed "Clean Money, Clean Elections" initiatives instituting public campaign financing at the state level. They have each run three elections with this system and have enjoyed broad and increasing participation by members of both major parties, as well as members of minor parties. Ten of 11 of Arizona's statewide elected officials, including its governor, attorney general and treasurer, ran with public money only.

Candidates who opt to run on public money must first demonstrate a strong base of support by securing endorsements and small contributions from a set number of constituents. When they promise not to use any additional private money (their own or anybody else's), the state will provide

funding adequate to run a competitive campaign. In Maine and Arizona, public financing won the confidence of veteran campaigners by proving to be more than sufficient to run a credible campaign, while Arizona's entire program cost the taxpayers less than \$1.50 per person per year!

Would you like to see a system like this in Washington state? I work for a group called Washington Public Campaigns, and our sole purpose is to get public campaign financing laws passed here. We have been endorsed by numerous state and local organizations, including the Washington League of Women Voters.

This legislative session, we tried and almost succeeded in getting a bill passed that would allow public campaign financing at the local level (it passed the state Senate but was not brought to a vote in the House). We will try again next year, and, at the same time, we will be working to get public campaign financing at the state level, and ultimately at the national level. We look forward to the day when the concerns of the individual voter are as important as the concerns of corporate and wealthy special interests!

We can also send a speaker to make a presentation to your group. Ironical as it may seem, we need money to continue our effort to get the word out. If you like what we are doing, please send us whatever you can. You can contribute online by credit card, or send a check by mail to the address at the right.

Let's take our power back from the wealthy special interests! ■

Katy Carter is executive director of Washington Public Campaigns (www.washclean.org). Find out more about public campaign financing by going to their website, e-mailing wpc@washclean.org, calling (206)463-2812, or writing to Washington Public Campaigns, P.O. Box 45088, Seattle, WA 98145-0088.

REAL CHANGE

Real Change is published weekly and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. 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.

On the Web at

<http://www.realchange.org>

Email realchange@speakeasy.org

ISSN 1085-729X

Real Change is a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association, the International Network of Street Papers, and the Greater Seattle Business Association.



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Change Agent

As one of the founders of African Youth United (AYU), Ayan Musse works to educate African students about their own history and origins as well as the culture of those around them. After moving to the United States from Somalia, she discovered that not only were Americans uninformed about her background, other African immigrants were carrying around misconceptions about one another.

"There's a breakdown in communication," Musse explains. "East Africans may not speak with West Africans. African Americans may not speak with either group. If we know nothing about one another, we begin to believe all the things we've heard, whether they are true or not." Musse adds that newcomers to the education system are often lumped together by country of origin, reinforcing this division.

AYU creates a common bond of understanding, trust, and respect among students and, through structured lessons, provides a safe forum for honest discussion about their prejudices. AYU overcomes discrimination within the African community by exposing participants to one another's cultures and values and fostering relationships that extend beyond the classroom.

—Amy Besunder



Just Heard...

Unanimous

Social justice activists laid claim to a victory on Monday, April 3, as the Seattle City Council passed zoning changes that include a fee on high-rise condo development. Under the leadership of councilmember Peter Steinbrueck, the council raised Mayor Greg Nickels' proposed \$10 per square foot surcharge to nearly \$19 per square foot. And they did so unanimously.

The people who showed up for public hearings, wrote letters, and phoned in their comments made it happen, says Elana Dix of Seattle Alliance of Good Jobs and Housing. "It really shows the strength of the collective community's voices in calling for some benefits for low- and moderate-income people" as a consequence of extensive zoning changes. The fee is projected to raise \$107 million and build 2,693 units of housing over the next two decades.

The council also passed a resolution calling for the Mayor's Office to inventory job growth in downtown, to understand whether jobs created by high-rise development pay a living wage.

Off balance

The City of Bellevue has run up a legal tab of \$288,000 for mounting its not-in-my-backyard offensive against the Eastside homeless encampment Tent City 4.

On Monday the City Council raised its cap on legal fees to the Seattle law firm Preston Gates & Ellis, which helped the city set strict land-use regulations against the camp.

Makes you wonder what would have been accomplished if the city had just used all that money to get people into housing.

—Adam Hylo

Scenic affront

The mayor's Downtown Parks Task Force says it's not attacking the homeless in its "Downtown Renaissance" report, which calls for hiring park rangers and extending the parkhanding ordinance in 24 downtown parks. In a public hearing last week before the Park Board, however, two task force members did attack homeless advocates who have objected to the measures.

"Some people call themselves experts on homelessness even though they've never been homeless," said Bruce Bentley. Tina Bueche agreed: "You can listen to people who aren't homeless talk, or you can go down and talk to the homeless."

Task force members said their call for ornamental fencing around some parks have been misunderstood. Park Commissioner Terry Holme pointed out, however, that Colonnade Park was supposed to get ornamental fencing but, due to cost, ended up with chainlink.

The Park Board votes on the recommendations April 27. Until then, comments can be made at 684-6066 or sandy.brooks@seattle.gov.

—Cydney Gillis

Debtors' Prison

Ex-felon "poll tax" goes to State Supreme Court

By J. JACOB EDEL
Contributing Writer

"I feel like I'm not a part of the country anymore."

—Beverly DuBois, an ex-felon who is unable to vote

Indebted and indigent ex-felons seeking to regain the right to vote despite their outstanding legal fines must now wait for a ruling from the state's high court before they cast their ballot.

Last week, the state government appealed the ruling made in King County Superior Court that stated it was unconstitutional to prohibit ex-felons from voting only because they have not paid-off their legal fees in full.

Convicted felons in Washington currently lose the right to vote and must complete their entire sentence — including paying off all fees assigned by the court — and receive a certificate of discharge from the sentencing court to legally register again.

Many ex-felons, however, struggle to pay the fines and as a result are unable to vote for a substantial amount of time after they've been released from jail and completed probation.

"I feel like I'm not a part of the country anymore," says Beverly DuBois, an ex-felon who is unable to vote. "And I don't feel like I'm a citizen because I can't vote."

On behalf of DuBois and two other indigent felons, the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the state in October 2004 arguing that forcing ex-felons to pay off their fines before they can vote, as required in the Washington Sentencing Reform Act of 1981, violates both the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the Washington State Constitution.

And on March 27, in a summary judgment, Judge Michael Spearman ruled the state's requirement that felons pay off all their legal financial

obligations, or LFOs, before regaining their civil rights is unconstitutional.

"Accordingly, the Washington re-enfranchisement scheme which denies the right to vote to one group of felons, while granting that right to another, where the sole distinction between the two groups is the ability to pay money, violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Sections 12 and 19 of the Washington State Constitution," Spearman wrote.

Spearman wrote that the state may enact its own requirements for felons to regain their civil rights, as it has in RCW 9.94A.637(1)(a), but agreed with the ACLU that requiring someone to pay money to earn their right to vote is wrong because he saw no "rational relationship between a felon's ability to immediately pay Legal Financial Obligations and a denial of the right to vote."

Hours after the ruling, Republican Party state chair Diane Tebelius issued a press release urging the secretary of state to appeal the ruling. The following day, Secretary of State Sam Reed and Attorney General Rob McKenna announced the state would appeal.

"I felt like the little guy could make a big noise and get something changed, but then the big guys say no and nothing changes," DuBois says of the appeal.

The ACLU recommends ex-felons refrain from registering until the Supreme Court makes a decision, even though nobody knows how soon that will occur. That's because the ACLU remains optimistic despite the appeal.

"We have made an important victory but it has to be affirmed by a higher court," Doug Honig of the ACLU says. "When we first started this lawsuit, nobody knew about this. But now it is something with much more awareness. Just getting it on the political agenda was a major accomplishment for us." ■

Another Grassy Knoll?

Forum looks at 9/11 conspiracy theories

"To know about 9/11, you really only need to know about Building 7."

—Gerald Posner, author

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

The investigation is over, the debris long ago cleared. But nearly five years after the destruction of New York's twin towers, some people are still asking what happened on Sept. 11, 2001.

Even for those who have never doubted that hijackers flew planes into the towers and the Pentagon, the questions that 9/11 authors Webster Tarpley and Barrie Zwicker raised Saturday in a lecture at the University of Washington are deeply disturbing:

How could a Boeing 757 hit the Pentagon without leaving a trace of seats, luggage, or wings? What made the twin towers crumble? And why did an undamaged building at the World Trade Center seem to implode later that day?

Like a growing number of 9/11 "truth activists," Tarpley and Zwicker say the answers go far beyond Osama bin Laden and 19 would-be hijackers. That's one reason the two writers, who were presented by Seattle's 9/11 Visibility Project, spent as much time talking about the psychology of denial as the unexplained facts of Sept. 11.

They're not alone. On March 20, actor Charlie Sheen raised the same questions on the Alex Jones radio show and said the tide is turning for an independent investigation.

The first thing to look at, the two authors said, is the collapse of World Trade Center's Building 7. At 5:20 p.m., with only small fires burning on two

floors, the 47-story structure collapsed in a demolition-like free fall. No plane ever hit the building.

Author Gerald Posner has argued that tanks of diesel fuel in the building caught fire. But, "Even if the whole building were covered in flaming diesel," Zwicker said, "it would not bring down a steel-framed high-rise."

"To know about 9/11, you really only need to know about Building 7."

Zwicker is a Canadian reporter and producer of "The Great Deception," a 2002 TV series that was the first to question 9/11. He and Tarpley, author of "9/11 Synthetic Terror," also said that the collapse of the twin towers can't be explained by fire, the reason given in a report finalized last year by the government's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Zwicker cited skyscrapers in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Caracas and Madrid that had survived raging fires on multiple floors. The twin towers, he added, were among the strongest structures ever built, with 47 gigantic vertical steel supports.

In November 2004, he said, Kevin Ryan, a site manager with Underwriter Laboratories, which certified the steel used at the World Trade Center, sent a letter to NIST refuting that jet-fuel flames caused the towers to collapse. Ryan, who was later fired, wrote that the 500-degree heat of the fires was far short of the nearly 3,000 degrees required to soften un-fireproofed steel.

Zwicker and Tarpley assert the towers were prewired with explosives. As proof, they cited the eyewitness reports of explosions, the tons of pulverized concrete blown into the air, and the metal that remained at the site as molten liquid for weeks on end.

The authors also said there's no evidence that Flight 77 actually hit the Pentagon. In a photograph taken just after the impact, Tarpley showed a ground-level entry point that he said was too small for the fuselage or engine of a Boeing 757 to have made.

"A cruise missile is more likely," he said.

The 19 hijackers, Tarpley said, were merely patsies in the world's most brazen "foreign-flag operation" — an incident invented or pulled off by the military, such as Vietnam's now-discredited Gulf of Tonkin attack, that's used as a pretext for war.

Otherwise, Zwicker said, "you have to believe that 19 kamikaze hijackers" — one of whom couldn't pass a Cessna flight test — "outwitted NORAD and the American Air Force" in some of the world's most protected airspace.

"You start talking about this, even with conservative Republicans," Charlie Sheen told Alex Jones March 20, "and they can't debate away some of the most obvious facts." ■

[Resources]

To learn more about 9/11 activism, go to www.911truth.org or www.septembereleventh.org.

Short Takes

Citizens: don't cut SCAN

At last week's hearing on Seattle's cable franchise renewal and the budget cut it would bring to the area's only public-access TV channel, Robert Hill made a critical point in a roundabout way. "George Bush," he said, "is a punk-ass bitch." The audience at the Seattle Center roared with laughter.

Love or hate it, Seattle's Community Access Network is the only place a message like that can be broadcast today — a free-speech argument that Hill and other SCAN supporters drove home to City Council members in three hours of testimony.

Nearly 300 activists, artists, and producers showed up at the event, the vast majority pleading to restore funding for SCAN, which is facing a 25 percent cut. The speakers ranged from the teenage videography group Reel Grls to Hispanic, Filipino, Ethiopian, Somali, and Russian producers. Most stressed that SCAN promotes free expression and provides vital information that connects their communities.

"This kind of help from the city should not be cut at any cost," Oriyon Abraha said through an interpreter. Abraha produces the program Ethiopian Community Affairs.

Under the proposed 10-year agreement with Comcast Cable, the city would increase its franchise fee on cable bills from 3.5 to 4 percent, providing SCAN with \$500,000 a year — a drop of \$160,000 that many said would deal SCAN a death blow. At the same time, the city would get \$4.2 million from Comcast to produce new arts programming on its own Seattle Channel.

SCAN board President Daniel Hannah and others urged the council to increase the franchise fee to 4.2 percent. The additional two-tenths, Hannah said, would fully fund SCAN at \$700,000 a year.

The City Council's Energy and Technology Committee will take its final public testimony on the Comcast renewal at City Hall on April 12 at 9:30 a.m. Comments can also be phoned or e-mailed to (206) 684-8807 or jean.godden@seattle.gov.

—Cydney Gillis

Santos honored

Bob Santos is retiring, and the King County Council is recognizing his four decades of community leadership and social activism by declaring Saturday, April 22 Bob Santos Day.

The son of a Filipino immigrant who earned renown in the local boxing circuit, "Uncle Bob" Santos spent much of his childhood in the gritty Chinatown neighborhood. He acted as a key negotiator during the planning of the Kingdome, which shouldered up against the International District / Chinatown neighborhood when it was built in 1968. As the Clinton-appointed director of HUD's Northwest regional office, Santos opened up the federal office's basement as a shelter for homeless people. In a 2002 interview with Real Change, Santos remembered how fellow activists responding to Kingdome construction plans would storm out of meetings, and "threaten to burn down concrete buildings" while he stayed behind to learn how to get money for affordable housing. In time, he said, he got allies into positions of power at the city — into places where they could find out about unused sources of funds. "We'd get [money for the community] because we had the folks who could tell us about it. That was learning the political system, and using the hell out of it."

—Adam Hyla

LVI, Continued from Page 1

building, he says he decided to come north. "I came to Seattle because they told me [I'd get] more money," says Fernandez, "but it never happened."

In L.A., he says he was being paid \$12 an hour. Fernandez says he was promised \$14 an hour for his work in Seattle; he says when he got here was actually paid \$10. The prevailing wage, for a journeyman doing asbestos abatement work in King County is \$33.46.

He says he often worked overtime, but was not paid for the extra work. Eighteen other co-workers who traveled from L.A. to Seattle with him, says Fernandez, found themselves in similar straits.

Fernandez says while on site in Seattle, LVI did not provide proper ventilation for employees who, in order to protect themselves from hazardous materials, spent their working hours in face and eye masks. Required water breaks, he says, were not provided. And employees were not always given access to showers, Fernandez says, when leaving contaminated areas of the job site. "They didn't have the right equipment," says Fernandez.

Employees were often rushed to complete jobs, he claims: sometimes asked to do in one or two days what would usually take five. "That's just no good," Fernandez says. "It can make for an accident."

But allegations of LVI worker abuse extend to areas further than the Northwest. After Hurricane Katrina, LVI was contracted to do cleanup in the Gulf Coast, including mold remediation. Articles in *The New York Times* and *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune* detail instances of unsanitary and unsafe worker conditions. An exposé on the PBS series *NOW* documented similar complaints from workers in the Gulf Coast, particularly those of undocumented workers.

See LVI, Continued on Page 12

Standing Up

Seattle rallies against border vigilantes

By RACHEL DAVIS
Contributing Writer

The "Minutemen" are here.

April 1 marked the beginning of a month-long campaign during which the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps say they'll protect U.S. borders from illegal immigrants. Stationed along the Arizona border to the south and the Canadian border to the north, individuals armed with cell phones and binoculars (and oftentimes guns) sit waiting for the unsuspecting trespasser.

A secondary plan includes the surveillance of day laborer pickup sites. Minutemen representatives will photograph and videotape the exchange between workers and would-be employers and post the pictures on operationshameonyou.com. According to the web site, the intention is "to shame those who hire day laborers and make an example out of them in front of their neighbors and the community."

When CASA Latina — a local community-based organization empowering Latino immigrants — learned that the Minutemen were staging a campaign against the day labor-



Hundreds gathered at the CASA Latina Day Workers' Center last Saturday to support undocumented workers.

Photo by Elliot Stoller.

ers, executive director Hilary Stern organized a rally for immigration reform. Last Saturday, despite the rain, hundreds of community members arrived at the Day Workers' Center on the corner of Western Ave. and Battery St. in downtown Seattle to show their solidarity for the laborers.

Members of the Latino community delivered speeches from the steps of the office explaining what organizers believe must happen to legalize, and subsequently help, the immigrants living and working in the U.S. "We need a humane and decent immigration reform," said Roberto Maestas, founder and director of El Centro de la Raza, "one that will permit people to receive benefits, secure better jobs, and provide a clear path to legalization."

Day laborers addressed the crowd one at a time, each explaining in his own way that they came to the United States because there are jobs here. They only want to make money and provide for their families.

By noon, organizers had divided community supporters into four work teams and dispatched each team to day laborer pick-up sites throughout the city. In an effort to protect the workers and show solidarity, participants encircled the day laborers, making it difficult for Minutemen to take photos or videotape.

The Home Depot on First Avenue South — a regular day laborer site — was the largest demonstration of the day, with more than 200 community members in attendance.

The Minutemen may have been present but they didn't make themselves known. Rumors of photographic activity surfaced, but as of press time there were no pictures on the web site and no altercations ensued.

Beyond the immediacy of an activist-fueled April, immigration reform is weighing heavy on the minds of community members while government officials debate. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have immigration bills in their possession but each is replete with criminalization, felony charges for undocumented immigrants and those who help them — like CASA Latina — and a host of embedded contradictions, says Stern. ■

[Find out more]
Visit the National Immigration law Center at nilc.org.
Also casa-latina.org or elcentrode-laraza.org

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Play On

Homeless World Cup goes to Cape Town, welcomes women teammates

By PETER JOHN MEIKLEM
Street News Service

"This is a sport that can help people from all backgrounds get a better place in life. For me, football bridges the gap between different communities and ethnic backgrounds."

— Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand

The Homeless World Cup – the offspring of social change and revolutionary football – is set for its biggest and best incarnation yet.

On a sizzling September afternoon in Cape Town, in the same square that Nelson Mandela made his first speech after coming out of prison, the best homeless players from 48 different nations will kick off the world's only alternative festival of football.

Now in its fourth year, the 2006 HWC will move on from last year's event in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens to burst out of Europe for the first time and land with a crash, bang, wallop in South Africa from September 24 to September 30 – the home for the full Fifa tournament in 2010. Thousands of homeless players are already gearing up, practicing their ball skills and keeping their fingers crossed in the hope they will get to pull on a national team jersey.

HWC organizer Mel Young feels the tournament, which started in 2003 with only 18 teams, is coming of age and entering a new phase – and what better place on earth for that than Africa. Branded a scar on the conscience of the world by many, in Cape Town 2006 the HWC will take one small step towards healing and sportsmanship, all in the name of fun and raising awareness.

The selection process for the Scotland team – which is accustomed to beating the biggest names and have finished amongst the top teams in the last three tournaments in Scotland, Sweden and Austria – is already under way. Tournaments will be held in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Forth Valley, Tayside, Borders, Inverness and Aberdeen over the coming months to pick the eight players, who will represent their country.

Hindered by visa problems, last year's HWC ended up going through a location shift from New York to Edinburgh. And even then, red tape and

bureaucratic wrong-headedness kept several African teams from joining the party. They were refused entry to the UK at the last minute for having insufficient funds for their stay. This year, vows Young, will be different.

"We've always had a few African teams, but not as many as we'd like, so we're keen

to get the tournament out of Europe this year," says Young. "It will just be a carnival atmosphere built around a festival of football." There may even be, he hints in a cheeky Big Issue exclusive, live TV coverage and some major personalities attending to add to the multimedia extravaganza.

Some of the world's biggest football superstars have come out to show their support. Rio Ferdinand, the controversial Manchester United and England defender, said: "This is a sport that can help people from all backgrounds get a better place in life. For me, football bridges the gap between different communities and ethnic backgrounds." His boss, dour Scot Sir Alex Ferguson adds: "Football is a great tool for changing people's lives and the HWC is a great way of doing that."

James Garner, editor of Big Issue South Africa, is thrilled at representing the tournament as the host street paper. "Having been at the previous three Homeless World Cups I know how valuable the experience

can be to players," he says, speaking from Cape Town, where the magazine is based. "The opportunity to participate in a high-profile international competition gives players a huge boost in confidence and allows them to interact with other players from all over the world."

"Our vendors face a daily battle against public apathy, and the chance to be cheered on and

treated like football stars is of enormous value. Seeing them signing autographs and playing in front of large crowds has made me realize what a positive impact the Homeless World Cup can have."

Cape Town 2006 will see a much greater involvement of female players. Some teams in the past, including the U.S. and Portugal, have brought women players on board, but other teams have been less forward-thinking. To sort it out, the HWC organizers put out a call for mixed teams, with a special cup to be won by the best of the mixed-gender bunch.

Scottish coordinator Jim Brown has decreed that the Scottish squad of eight players must contain two female players at bare minimum. "A sizeable number of homeless people are women so it wouldn't be right to exclude them," he says.

Striker Pauline Hamill, who has played 87 games for Scotland, thinks it's a great call: "I'd encourage as many people as able to turn up to the trials and give it a go. The girls will compete with the guys and show there are very good reasons that they will be included."

The boss of Scotland's women's football league, Maureen McGonigle, couldn't agree more: "It's forward thinking and it's great that it highlights the fact women are part and parcel of the football community."

The HWC also brings down barriers of nationality, as demonstrated by goalkeeper Jamie Shearer. He played through last year's selection process but narrowly missed out on a spot in the 2005 Scotland squad. Instead, he ended up playing with the Russian team.

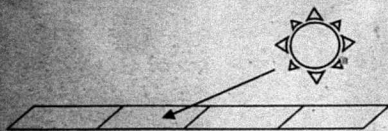
Meeting his Russian teammates was an experience he will never forget. "I felt embarrassed. This sounds crazy but one of the boys asked me about my problems and I was like, I dunno, I



USA player Margaret Lindsay embraces a fan after the U.S. vs. France game in the 2005 tournament. Team captains report that since the tournament, none of the players have returned to homelessness. Photo ©street-soccer.org.

Story Problem 8

Assume sunlight travels to Earth at a rate of 186,000 miles per second and concrete possesses a thermal mass of .15 degrees Fahrenheit per hour (in direct sunlight). If the temperature drops to 27 degrees Fahrenheit, how much perseverance do you need to fend off hypothermia?



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Continued from Previous Page

felt humbled. I got close to a lot of the Russians and I found out 5,000 a year over there die of the cold. And that's just in St. Petersburg."

Shearer says he was using drugs before the tournament, but as soon as the training kicked in his habit became a thing of the past: "I didn't want to let my team down. I was getting a better

buzz out of playing football than the drugs were giving me."

Shearer says the HWC is the best buzz on offer, and with trials held all over Scotland, everybody who can should give it a try.

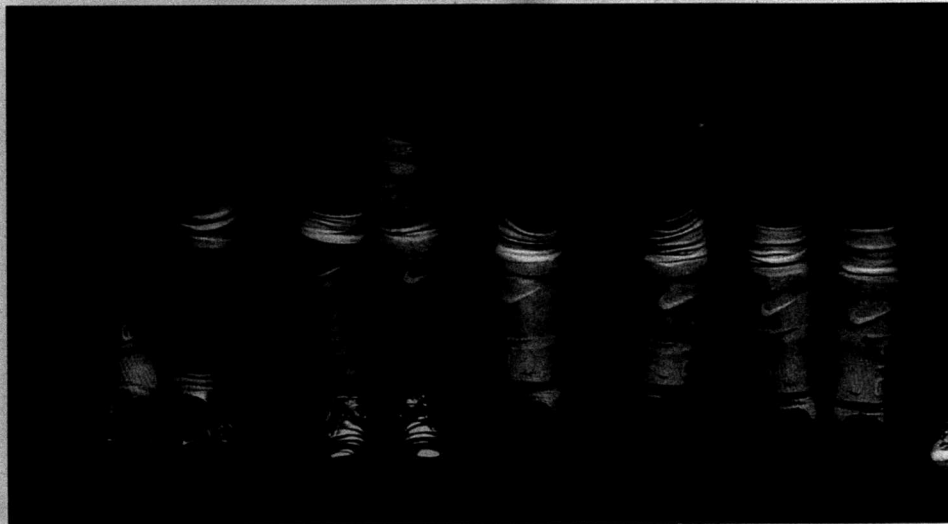
"The lift you get is amazing. It's an achievement to fight to get into the team and to get near playing for your country. You learn people in the West are quite lucky compared to many

others. We're the lucky ones because of where we are born." ■

Reprinted with permission from *The Big Issue in Scotland*, April 4. © Street News Service.

[More info]

The Homeless World Cup 2006 runs from September 24-30 in Cape Town, South Africa. Find out more



KNEES AND SHINGUARDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM PLAYING IN THE 2005 TOURNAMENT, HELD IN EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

How are the players of the 2004 Homeless World Cup doing now?

According to a survey of team members:

- 188 of the 204 World Cup players have a new motivation for life
- 78 found regular employment
- 95 improved their housing situation
- 70 have pursued education
- 56 have addressed their drug dependency
- 146 continue to play football after the Homeless World Cup
- 16 signed with football clubs or work as coaches

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Ordinary Resurrection

The Christianity of "affluent conformity and God Bless America only" is not very compelling. But Claiborne stops short of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical

By **Shane Claiborne**
Zondervan, 2006

Paperback, 368 pages, \$12.95

By **KILLIAN NOE**
Contributing Writer

When was the last time you drank a tall glass of iced tea with a sprig of mint on a blistering day? O.K., maybe never if you are from the Northwest. But let me tell you, it is refreshing. Much like *Irresistible Revolution* by Shane Claiborne.

It is the personal account of a young man's journey that begins in Memphis, Tennessee and through the slums of Calcutta, into Philadelphia's most forgotten neighborhoods and even to the war zones of Iraq. Claiborne begins his travels with the realization that the world doesn't need any more churches; what is needed are more people who are willing to follow Jesus' way of love.

Having grown up in a mainstream denomination in the south, I identified deeply with Claiborne's journey. Like me, Claiborne had grown tired of Christianity's emphasis on doctrine and "beliefs" and had become much more interested in "practices."

What most of us need are practices that keep the doors of our hearts open to

transformation. The transformation of a handful of open-hearted people just might lead to the transformation of a blighted neighborhood, a racially, economically segregated city, a warring world.

The Christianity of what Jim Wallis calls "affluent conformity and God Bless America only" is not very compelling. But Claiborne stops short of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

He seeks to reclaim the essence of that earlier movement which began some 2,000 years ago when the hearts of a handful of men and women were captured by an "irresistible revolutionary" who taught us to love our enemies instead of killing them, to share our wealth with the poor instead of stockpiling it, and to side with the most vulnerable instead of ignoring them.

While a college student, Claiborne learned of a community of homeless families who had moved into a dilapidated cathedral in the "badlands" of North Philly and were about to be evicted. Claiborne organized a movement on campus which came to be known as the YACHT Club (Youth Against Complacency and Homelessness), resulting in confrontation with the fire department, the police, and the Catholic bishop. Eventually, the "powers," reneged on the eviction order

and granted the families living inside the cathedral the right to make the old church their home. But the real miracle was what happened within and among those families and the students who had started out as their advocates. They became real community.

Claiborne's quirky sense of humor sprinkled throughout the book is an unexpected treat. But his humor does not obscure the seriousness of his quest. One day the community within the cathedral received a box of donations from one of the wealthy congregations near their college. Someone had written in magic marker on the cardboard box, "for the homeless." Claiborne recalls excitedly opening the box which was filled with microwave popcorn.

"My first instinct was to laugh. We barely had electricity, much less a microwave. My second instinct was to cry because of how far the church had become removed from the poor."

I like to think of communities such as the one Claiborne helped found as part of the "mustard seed conspiracy." Jesus said that the "kingdom of God is like a mustard seed," one of the smallest of all seeds, and wherever it takes root it grows and spreads until it transforms the entire landscape. ■

K. Killian Noe is the Founding Director of the Recovery Café in Seattle and the author of *Finding Our Way Home: Addictions and Divine Love*.

Baby Love

L'Enfant

Written and Directed by **Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne**
opens April 7 at the Harvard Exit

By **LESTER GRAY**
Arts Editor

The Dardenne brothers are uniquely accomplished and, despite several prestigious awards, underappreciated. In film after film, they present complex characters, not caricatures, from society's margins; no standard *Law & Order* perps, these. From furnishings and transportation to makeshift family trees and survival-shaped probity, the raw tableau against which these lives take place requires little suspension of disbelief. The drama begins well before the curtain is raised and continues long after it falls. We get a segment of the arc, the plot points subdued.

With *L'Enfant*, the Dardennes captured their second Cannes *Palme d'Or* award in six years, a rare accomplishment (only three other awardees have won it twice). In this film, Sonia (Déborah François) has just given birth to a baby boy. Returning to her apartment, she finds it has been sublet by her boyfriend Bruno (Jérémie Renier), a Dickensian street hustler, who

"employs" a couple of pre-teen underlings. Sonia finally locates her beau on the job doing double-duty: aggressively panhandling from cars at a stoplight and simultaneously serving as some type of lookout. Presented with his new son for the first time right there on

the street, he is at a loss to produce much of a natured or nurtured instinct.

The new parents are young. They spend foolishly, with an impulsiveness that speaks of the immediacy of their lives; there is little to be gained by delaying gratification. Sonia, who has carried the baby for nine months, is fully bonded with her child. Although Bruno makes an effort to connect with his progeny, the ties-that-bind never cinch.

But the petty thief does find value in the child. Having learned of the large sums adoption-minded couples pay for a newborn, he sells the child on the black market. When Sonia, not having been consulted, learns of her boyfriend's deed, she becomes furious and Bruno is faced with having to undo his act. His rocky path to redemption forms the heart of the film.

In *L'Enfant*, we have a recurring theme in the work of the Dardennes: to a certain extent, the expense of morality, like a tax, is regressive. In their 1999 *Rosetta*, the protagonist hesitates to rescue a drowning acquaintance because she wants his job. He forgives her and continues to seek her affection. In *La Promesse*, Roger, a man employing illegal aliens, fails to seek medical attention for his critically injured worker. He fears his malfeasance will be discovered and his source of income cut off. In *L'Enfant*, Bruno, certainly not a mean-spirited sort, commits an act he knows is wrong, but lacks perspective on its gravity. In these worlds, the prescribed ethics of the bourgeois are scrutinized on a case-by-case basis.

Despite the subject matter, the Dardenne's works are neither dour nor didactic. They are not judgmental. The stories and the characters in them move forward with the requisite energy and structure of compelling fictive devices. The entertainment value comes from drama that's in and of a world seldom captured effectively, where just making a living is an adventure of its own. ■

Having learned of the large sums adoption-minded couples pay for a newborn, a new father sells his child on the black market in *L'Enfant*.

Déborah François and Jérémie Renier in *L'Enfant*.



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning



Intelligence is for SOCA's

Let's talk about subversion! "The Raging Grannies" is a worldwide subversive movement. It aims to undermine our (your!) civilization's underpinnings and metaphoric undergarments. It takes our most underpinned, our elderly women, and uses them as

weapons of mass instruction. Its MO consists of nothing less insidious than the wearing of silly clothes and the singing of horribly silly, but instructive, songs.

Who is really behind The Raging Grannies? Could it be the world's grannies themselves? Could it be that our mothers and our mothers' mothers have become subversives entirely on their own? Or are these unveiled, exhibitionistic women, who wear the silly hats and sing the silly songs, not the brainwashed dupes of Al-Qaeda?

Speaking for itself, members of the local chapter of The Raging Grannies were recently quoted singing, "Oh, we're a gaggle of grannies, urging you off of your fannies. We're raising our voice. We want a new choice. No — more — war." Clearly they are intent on ducking the question.

One member, herself intent on ducking the question, indeed on ducking any and everything, is Anitra "Not an Italian Duck, But Ducky-ish" Freeman. Ms. Freeman, like the others, won't admit to being a tool of Al-Qaeda, even to me. But regular readers of this column will know that I have spent many years in close association with Ms. Freeman, and they will correctly guess that I have thereby been afforded deep insights into her devious ways.

What I know about Freeman tells me that the evil masterminds behind The Raging Grannies are truly masterful for, if she is any indication, these hardened women aren't going to give up their secrets to the prying eyes of mere amateurs.

Thank goodness the Federal Bureau of Investigation has stepped in. America's professional

prying eyes have been surveilling the elderly female parodists for a while now, and any day they will get the goods on them, revealing the grannies for the threat they are. Or not. In either case we can sleep peacefully at night knowing that our trusted G-Men are on the job, protecting us from people who sing.

I wouldn't have brought any of this up now if I hadn't read the news from the other side of the Atlantic that Tony Blair is starting up an organization intended to be modeled on the FBI, to be named, and I swear on a stack of holy scriptures of all faiths true and false I am not making this up, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, or SOCA.

How can anything modeled on today's FBI be called the Serious Organised Crime Agency? How about calling it the Silly Organised Crime Agency? That would fit. And since it won't change the acronym to call it that, that's what I'm going to call it. The acronym is perfect. SOCA to me, SOCA to you, yes.

The news stories say that about a third of the initial staffing for SOCA will come from British customs. Those are the twits who wear bowlers and carry bumbushoots and, if you're a married man, dig through your suitcase during inspection until they find a pair of women's lacy underpants, and hold it up where your wife can see and say, "What's this now?" and she says, "Hey, those aren't mine!" and you have to say to her, "Maybe they got in there by accident at the cleaners in Amsterdam" and she says, "As soon as we get home I'm filing for a divorce!" and you think, "Customs twit."

It's clearly better that Customs twits work in the Silly Organised Crime Agency than that they root through our suitcases. They will make excellent British equivalents of our G-Men. Blair is definitely on the right track.

That right track, of course, is the track to greater unity in our civilization, to be achieved by eliminating all traces of disunity, such as unapproved silliness and unaccounted-for undergarments, until we are all one great united government-approved-and-accounted-for whole. ■



Tues., March 21, 12:27 p.m., Third Ave., New Horizons Street Ministry.

Complainant called 911 to report that her husband, a transient white male aged 20 who has a long list of psychological issues, was not taking his medication, and was acting irrationally. She stated he had struck her in the face with his bandanna during an argument over him not taking his medication. She stated she believed he was "schizo-affective" and based on her observations of his behavior believes he may be seeing and hearing things that are not there. She was unable to convince him to go to Harborview, and therefore called 911. During the contact subject made several irrational and disjointed statements, and appeared nervous and fidgety. His answers did not always match the question asked. Officers found him reasonably articulate, and subject denied he was off his meds, and stated he did not want to go back to Western State Hospital. Based on his irrational behavior and the alleged assault, subject was turned over to Harborview mental health professionals for evaluation.

Tues., March 21, 11:45 p.m. First and Yesler, Pioneer Square Park.

A group of suspects were standing in the stairwell of a business, talking, when police contacted them. Pioneer Square Park closes at 11:30, and the business has "No Trespassing" signs posted on the doorway and stairwell. Suspects, three transient Black males aged 44, 30, and 28, were placed under arrest for trespassing and booked into King County Jail.

Thurs., March 23, 2 p.m., 1000 block Pine St.

An officer was checking the area behind the Paramount Theatre and under the Pine Street overpass at I-5 for suspicious activity after receiving numerous complaints from various community members. He walked under the Pine St. overpass and saw the suspect, a transient white female aged 27, sitting on the ground with her shoes off. Lying on the ground next to her was a pocketknife with the blade open, and several metal "cookers." The officer notes that due to the approach the suspect saw him long before he saw her, and that there is a 30-40 foot drop down to the road, which is heavily littered with drug paraphernalia. He informed the suspect that she was trespassing on Department of Transportation property. She replied, "I know — I was just getting some dry clothes." He then asked her why she had her shoes off, and she did not answer him. The officer said that it looked to him like she was in the process of shooting up; she denied this, saying she had just been released from jail two hours ago. He ran her name via the police computer and found she was active with the Department of Corrections. Her DOC officer was contacted, and suspect was placed under a detainer for violation of her parole.

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.



REAL-LIFE ANSWERS TO YOUR LEGAL HASSLES

My debit card was stolen and the thief overdraw my bank account. I contacted the police but they said there was nothing they

could do. I'm afraid it will ruin my credit and destroy my ability to rent an apartment. How can I clear it up?

According to Ryan Russell at the law firm of Foster Pepper PLLC, even though this type of identity theft is illegal, the police often do not have the manpower to respond to every claim, so you will likely have to attempt to resolve the matter yourself. This is a two-part article. Here, we will outline what you should do immediately to protect yourself and your credit. In the May 3 issue, we will discuss how to deal with the ongoing problems created by identity theft.

Typically, under state and federal law, you will not have to pay back the entire amount of money overdrawn from your account. However, you need to take immediate action to avoid liability for the charges and to protect your credit history. Throughout the process, keep accurate, detailed records, including names, dates, and telephone numbers of everyone with whom you speak.

Take the following five steps immediately if your debit card is stolen: first, call your bank, close your account, and speak with its fraud unit.

Second, tell the bank that someone stole your card and ask the bank to note the account, "Closed at consumer's request." This will prevent credit-reporting agencies from assuming that it was your fault the card was lost.

Third, ask the bank for the names and phone numbers of every place where the card was used. Contact these places by phone and in writing as soon as possible. They may have a form for you to fill out, and many companies will accept the Federal Trade Commission's form found on-line.

Fourth, ask the bank for a new account number, a new card, and a new password. When choosing a password do not use an easily guessable password, like the last four digits of your social security number, an old often-used password, or your date of birth.


Fifth, if you have set up automatic bill payments with anyone, remember to tell them that you have changed the account.

You should also contact the police immediately to create official documentation that is to help protect your credit. Be sure to attach your police report to each form you send to companies where your card was fraudulently used.

Finally, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, which maintains a database of identity theft cases that law enforcement agencies use for investigations of this type of fraud.

For more information, contact the state Attorney General's Consumer Resource hotline at 1-800-551-4636 or the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline at 1-877-438-4338 or www.consumer.gov/idtheft/. ■

Answers are intended for general information only and are not intended to replace the advice of your own attorney. Ask a Lawyer is in partnership with the Access to Justice Institute, Seattle University School of Law, and Foster Pepper. Got a question? E-mail: atlj@seattleu.edu.



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Letters

Nickels for Housing

Ed. note: We got the following letter — signed! — from the Mayor last week, after providing him with one of our new t-shirts that reads "Developers stole my city and all I got was this lousy t-shirt."

Dear Friends at Real Change,

Thank you for the t-shirt and message. Unfortunately, it seemed that Real Change may not have the benefit of the actual statistics regarding who lives downtown.

Seventy percent of the rental units in the downtown rezoned area are affordable to people who earn less than \$40,600 a year (80 percent of median income). Out of the 8,832 units that are affordable to people who earn less than 80 percent of median income, the City of Seattle has funded approximately 6,000 units. That number of units does not include several projects that the city has funded, but which are not yet constructed, such as the Low Income Housing Institute's Belltown View Apartments and Plymouth Housing Group's Third and Blanchard Apartments. Most of the apartments funded by the city provide housing to people who earn less than \$27,250 a year — there are at least 4,822 units for people who earn less than this amount. As you may know, the city-funded units are legally required to remain affordable from anywhere between 50 and 75 years. This number of affordable units will not decrease, but will increase as the city continues to invest in affordable housing.

Although there has been much attention paid to the development of condominiums, we estimate the number of condominiums within the downtown rezoned area is less than a third the number of rental units. Even if we were to assume that every single one of the 5,053 condominium units within the downtown rezoned area were affordable only to people earning more than \$40,600 (80 percent of median income), a majority of downtown units are still affordable to people who earn under \$40,600 a year.

My proposed changes to the downtown zoning code will generate an additional \$92 million for affordable housing downtown, beyond what the

city currently spends. In addition to the investment the city has made in affordable housing downtown, we have invested in affordable housing throughout the city. In 2005, we awarded \$17 million to 15 affordable apartment buildings throughout the city.

Since 2002, we've grown the Multi-Family Tax Exemption Program to 17 neighborhoods, creating over 600 workforce housing units. Through the requirement that downtown commercial developers invest in affordable housing and childcare in order to obtain additional density, we have generated over \$9 million through the construction of the Washington Mutual Headquarters and the new Sheraton Hotel tower for affordable housing downtown. My investment and commitment to affordable housing has been and will continue to be significant.

When you look at the facts about who lives in downtown, the bottom line is that downtown is a place where people of all income levels reside and where the majority of residential units are affordable to very low-income and moderately low-income people.

**Greg Nickels
Mayor of Seattle**

RC replies: We're glad you liked the t-shirt and we appreciate the investment the city makes in affordable housing. Unfortunately, in spite of that investment, to afford an average priced two-bedroom apartment in Seattle, a worker needs to earn more than \$16 an hour. There are still more than 8,000 homeless people in King County, and more than 2,000 found surviving outdoors this past January. Your proposal would have generated a much-needed \$92 million for affordable housing over the next 20 years, but the proposal that passed the City Council unanimously on Monday generates nearly twice that much.



Classified

Information

Who is African-American? presented by the CD Forum, as part of its American Heritage Series. Thurs., April 13, 7 p.m., Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. Tickets \$7 for adults and \$5 for members/students/seniors, online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2664 or 1-800-838-3006. For more information contact 206-323-4032 or info@cdforum.org.

FROZEN IRS REFUND? Did you take an earned income tax credit? Did the IRS "freeze" or keep your refund? If you answered "yes" to both, call Real Change reporter Sydney Gills, 206-441-3247 ext. 209.

Opportunity

Advocacy and Organizing 101: learn the basics of grassroots organizing. South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave. SW, April 18 & 19, 6 p.m., \$45

West Seattle Neighbors for Peace and Justice anti-war gathering. Every Sunday, noon, California Ave. SW & SW Alaska St. Info: jmrepp@comcast.net.

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

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Thursday 4/6

Jerome Bernstein, Jungian analyst and author of *Living in Borderland*, presents the opening remarks on changing values and perspectives at "Psyche and the Spirit of the Times: A Series of Community Conversations on the Current State of the American Psyche." 7 p.m., Antioch University, 2326 Sixth Ave.

ACTION Northwest's second poetry slam is centered on the theme of civil rights for minorities and the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poets will share their writings on the fight for equality and struggle for justice. 7 p.m., On the House Café, 1205 E Pike St.

Friday 4/7

Nuclear Winter explores the possible devastation following large-scale detonation of nuclear weapons. Filmmaker and scientist Carl Sagan pioneered the idea of a nuclear winter and protested in front of nuclear weapons sites during the 1980s. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl.

Sunday 4/9

Once a prominent Republican, Kevin Phillips became disenchanted with his party in 1997 and is now one of its harshest critics. The prolific writer's new book, *American Theocracy*, is a scathing criticism of the dangerous Bush politics, portraying nightmarish disaster brought about by radical Christianity, U.S. oil policy, and the national debt. Tickets \$10 and up. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Monday 4/10

The people of Grassy Narrows First Nation have resided in the forest and on the lakes and rivers of Kenora, Ontario for thousands of years. Now Weyerhaeuser is planning destructive logging that threatens to uproot their traditional way of life. The Seattle Rainforest Action Group displays posters on this violation of UN-protected indigenous rights. 6 p.m., Café on the Ave, 42nd Ave. and University Way NE. Info: www.freegrassy.org.

A dialog exploring sexuality, our perceptions, our identities, and our communities, "Same Sex...What's the Difference?" South Asian Women and

Sexuality" includes speakers from Trikone NW, a group supporting LGBT South Asians. 6:30 p.m., University of Washington, HUB Room 309. Info: chaya@chayaseattle.org.

Tuesday 4/11

Lipstick Jihad is an achingly personal glimpse at the internal conflicts Azadeh Moaveni felt growing up trapped between two countries and cultures, searching for her "authentic self." She discusses the Islamic revolution, growing up in San Jose, living in Iran, the aftermath of 9/11, and the stories and perspectives of Iranians. 7 p.m., Seattle Public Library, Microsoft Auditorium, 1000 Fourth Ave.

Published by Seattle University's School of Law, Se-

attle Journal for Social Justice draws from a diverse array of voices and contributors to address social issues in the light of law. The journal presents an evening of readings by contributors on topics such as sexual orientation, corporate law, and the news coverage of 9/11. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Books, 101 S Main St.

Wednesday 4/12

Christine Ingebritsen, Associate Professor of Scandinavian Studies at UW, has written the first authoritative text on Scandinavia's roll in the post-Cold War era, *Scandinavia in World Politics*. She argues that Scandinavia has both the legitimacy and the domestic political attributes to be a key international player and moral leader. From sponsoring the Nobel Prize to providing generous foreign aid, the often-overlooked countries have much to offer the world. 7 p.m. University Bookstore, 4326 University Way NE.

Director's Corner

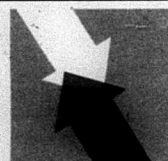


This week, *Real Change* once again proved that grassroots activism works. On April 3rd, the Seattle City Council unanimously passed a zoning package that nearly doubled the amount of money that proposed downtown development will raise for affordable housing. Huge profits, we argued, shouldn't come at the expense of the poor. In the end, the City Council heard us loud and clear.

Real Change vendors helped to educate their customers and you responded with 422 emails and nearly 200 postcards. You came out in the rain to attend the "Zoned Out" forum on downtown development, and you packed the committee hearings right alongside the developers. And then, you won. This is what a community in action looks like.

The final legislation, in addition to strengthening environmental, labor, and transportation provisions, was a major win for poor people. The Mayor and most housing developers supported a housing bonus of \$10 per square foot for development over previous height restrictions. The final legislation, through a tiered system that increases the bonus paid along with additional building height, will charge an average of \$18.94 per net square foot. Over the next thirty years, this will mean tens of millions of additional dollars for desperately needed low-income housing.

This campaign brought many new people into action, and is just the beginning of what we can achieve when we come together. To join our take action list, please visit our website at realchangenews.org.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Bad Budget Plan Ignores Needs of Millions

Issue: The U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee is at work on its budget resolution now, which is a blueprint for how lawmakers will develop the 2007 federal budget. The resolution doesn't specify amounts for specific programs, but it does set overall spending and revenue goals, and establishes the framework within which Congress will develop a more detailed budget later. The resolution passed by the House budget committee — which the full House will vote on very soon — puts health care, education, nutrition support and other essential services at risk.

Background: Over the past couple of weeks, more than two dozen moderate House members who can prevent a bad budget from passing have said NO to cuts in services. But late last Wednesday, the House Budget Committee approved a budget that ignores the growing opposition to cuts — and ignores the needs of millions of Americans.

It will force cuts in human needs programs. Its funding for annual appropriations is \$9 billion short of the cost just to keep up the current level of services next year — for education, food packages for the poor, housing, child care, meals on wheels, and many other services. It forces \$4 billion in cuts over five years from a category of funding that includes basic entitlements such as unemployment insurance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and income support for poor senior citizens or people with disabilities.

If members who voted against the last round of painful reductions are joined by those who have gone on record against cuts now, such a harsh version cannot pass.

The House budget's funding for annually appropriated programs is close to the amount proposed by the President. That means cuts! Just a few examples of harmful cuts in the President's budget:

- Food aid eliminated for 420,000 seniors and 50,000 young children and moms: the President would eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
- Education for the disadvantaged would be cut by \$2.4 billion.
- 650,000 fewer children will receive subsidized childcare in 2011 than in 2000.

Action: Please call your representative today, using the toll-free number established by American Friends Service Committee (800)459-1887, and deliver the following message to your Representative:

"I am calling to urge Rep. _____ to vote against the Budget Committee's budget resolution. It forces cuts in nutrition aid, health care, education/training, housing, and other essential services. Its funding is so low that vulnerable people — infants, struggling workers, the elderly — will lose needed services. Please support efforts to restore funding for domestic programs. This budget sacrifices essential priorities for tax breaks that favor the rich."

For more information or to take action online, visit www.chn.org. Please encourage people you know outside of Seattle to take action too.

Calendar compiled by Dena Burke. Have a suggestion for an event? Email it to calendar@realchangenews.org.

LVI, Continued from Page 4

LVI, the country's largest asbestos abatement company whose annual gross sales topped \$250 million in 2004, has been cited over 90 times in the past 10 years for violating workplace safety regulations, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Those fines amount to almost \$54,000.

Norm Arkans, executive director for media relations and communications at UW, says LVI was selected through a competitive bid process involving three pre-qualified companies (those with knowledge of nuclear decontamination and decommissioning).

The radioactive fuel rods at the facility were removed in 1991. Even still, there is the possibility of residual radioactive material may be on site.

With a total project cost of \$4.1 million, LVI is to be paid \$3 million for the "construction" phase of the project. "Our primary concern," Arkans says, "is to do this within budget and on time." Project completion is slated for mid-October.

Arkans says he has heard about allegations of LVI worker abuse post-Hurricane Katrina, but doesn't know what substance there is to those claims. In regards to Fernandez's claim of abuse while working for the company in Seattle, Arkans says, "This has nothing to do with the project we're working on here."

He says the university stands behind LVI. "We believe they're a very reliable company and we expect to get a very reliable product from them," says Arkans.

When asked to comment on the decommissioning project, a representative for LVI says, "Our policy is not to talk about any specific projects with anyone other than our clients."

Bacon admits that with the project set to commence on April 11, it's highly

unlikely the university will rescind its contract with LVI. Even still, he says there are ways to hold the company accountable.

He says that SLAP, along with three labor unions, UW faculty, and clergy, has created a Standards of Conduct document for LVI, which was given to UW executive vice president Weldon Ihrig at the end of March. The document, which the coalition is asking LVI to sign, asks for workers to be fully compensated for their work, to receive water and adequate bathroom facilities, and to be offered full medical insurance while working on the project.

These requests and numerous others listed on the document are important for non-union laborers, says Bacon, as they ensure the workers will feel confident in speaking up about any safety violations they encounter. Such confidence, he adds, has benefits that surpass those who will be doing the actual work of hazardous waste removal.

"It gives [the workers] the ability to be whistleblowers if they see things that might be putting the whole campus at risk." ■

[Event]

The Student Labor Action Project is sponsoring a "fashion show" and parade to raise awareness about workers' rights, the decommissioning/decontamination of More Hall Annex, and the University's choice of LVI as project contractor. The event takes place on Thurs., April 6, on the Hub Lawn at noon.

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REBOUND, Continued from Page 1

"He'd been in business a long time and was fully aware these were all prevailing wage jobs," Ciprut says. "He was basically just trying to get one over on me."

Moses says that's all too common. Among just a few of the scams she's seen, contractors will tell workers they will get the prevailing wage after a six-month probation period or that they're not entitled to it because they don't have a green card or visa.

Some contractors will pay the prevailing wage to Pedro and Juan, who then pay undocumented workers under the table, she says.

Then there's the old trick of a contractor pretending to build a private project that just happens to be leased mostly by public agencies — something covered by prevailing wage law if more than half the building is publicly leased.

"It's been one of the biggest scams, for years," Moses says. "Build them private, rent them public."

That's why union locals for electricians, plumbers, roofers, and other workers kick in a nickel an hour from every member's wages to support Rebound — to make sure that all workers on public projects earn the same wages under the 1931 Davis-Bacon Act and a similar 1945 state prevailing-wage law.

The laws weren't passed for workers, Moses says, but to protect contractors from unfair bidding. Acting much like private detectives, Moses and another investigator, Tim Silsbee, respond to calls and tips from workers such as Ciprut, visit job sites, and audit payrolls. That includes comparing pay stubs to job-site calendars and payroll affidavits that contractors must file with the state.

"If I look at the payroll and it lists carpenters, and the payroll affidavit shows no carpenters, something's wrong," Moses says.

Instead of filing claims with L&I, which often settles with an employer for half of what the worker is owed, Moses says, Rebound's strategy in recent years has been to sue the employer in district court, where the worker can collect double the wages owed, up to \$50,000.

Ninety-five percent of the work Rebound does, she says, is for non-union members, with the organization collecting nearly \$300,000 in back pay in 2004.

"They helped me out immeasurably," Ciprut says. "I would never have been able to get that money on my own. I'd have had to hire a lawyer." ■

[Resources]

Information on prevailing wages and scope of work can be found at www.rebound.org.

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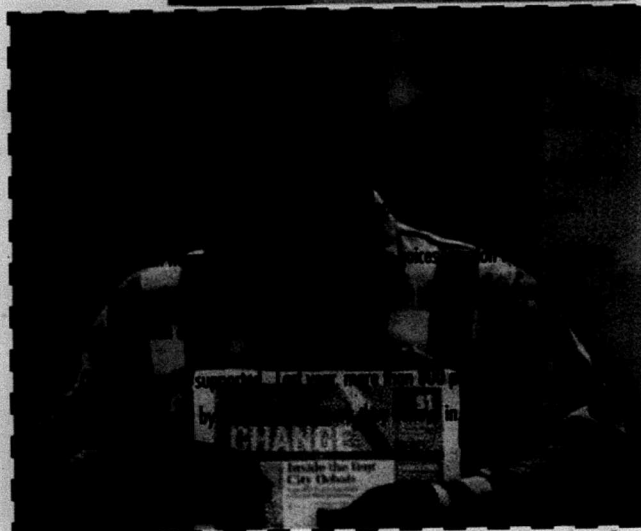
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Mockingbird Times,



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April 2006

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Volume VI, Issue 4

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Fifth Annual Fundraiser a Success!

MALEKA TAYLOR & JAMICA HENDERSON

This year Mockingbird Society celebrated their 5th annual fundraiser at the Broadway Performance Hall on Thursday March 30, 2006. It was an exciting experience for all of us. At our fundraiser, we had a silent auction and ate delicious appetizers for the first 90 minutes. During the silent auction, we stood at the Youth LEAD (Leadership Education/Employment and Advocacy Development) booth and greeted people. This was our time to shine and talk about all the exciting activities we do here at Mockingbird Society as Youth Representatives. At first we were nervous and didn't know what to expect, but once people began to come in we were focused. All the people we met were great! They were friendly, elegant and sophisticated.

There were some people that didn't know much about who we are, but were anxious to learn more.

We had so many wonderful items to auction off, people couldn't believe it. It began in the fourier and ran all the way to the stage. There were things like wine, jewelry, trips, different cultural art work and more. All the items we had were donated from generous businesses and individuals in the community.

After the auction closed, we called everyone into the theater for the program portion. Once everyone was settled, we viewed the film called *A Place to Sing* that Mockingbird and Wild Geese Productions put together. The Representatives were then able to come on stage with Jim (Executive Director) to introduce our-

selves and thank everyone for coming and especially those who have been there since the beginning. Our speaker for the night was Adam Cornell, a prosecutor and advocate for foster youth, spoke about his life in foster care and why it is important that we keep our organization going.

The outcome of the fundraiser was great. We raised almost 43,000 which more than doubled what we made last year. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support us and especially those who made donations to our program. We had a really wonderful experience and are looking to seeing you all, and many more, again next year.



Mockingbird Representatives Maleka Taylor and Jamica Henderson at annual fundraiser.



Adam Cornell with Jim Theofelis at annual fundraiser.

Governor Signs HB 2002

ANTHONY GUESS

March 28, 2006 marked the end of a long intense saga. HB 2002 awaited Governor Christine Gregoire's simple pen strokes, which would allow foster kids at the age of eighteen the choice to exit the foster care system or stay in their placements and receive benefits and support until the age of 21. If he or she decides to stay, they have to enroll in college or an educational program, after completing their High School diploma or GED. We made the trip to the capitol to witness this monumental event that will change foster care as we know it in Washington state.

The Governor's office was filled with photographers and reporters such as, Austin Jenkins from KPLU, Rachel Bell from KIRO News Radio and more. Last but not least the office was filled with a lot of emotions and mainly a feeling of excitement and relief. We all listened closely as Gov. Gregoire read the bill and made her comments on how important it was and why she was choosing to support it. Then the moment we had all been waiting for was in front of us. She pulled out her black pen (with her name on it) and proceeded to sign the bill that would change many lives. We then took pictures with the group and all received a pen as a memory of this occasion. It was definitely a very proud moment for all and especially for all the young people that attended.

The Mockingbird Society and some others left the Governor's office and went to celebrate a new chapter in foster care history in Representative Mary Lou Dickerson's office with cake. On the way to her office, some of the Mockingbird Youth Representatives were stopped and interviewed by several people from the media. One of the questions that were asked was "How important was the bill being passed?" Jamica Henderson replied, "Because I aged out at the age of 18, I didn't receive any health care or any personal support. I have younger brothers and sisters who are still in the system and I want them to have the opportunity of a good life." Misty Cook's response was, "This bill being passed is essential to foster care youth's development. Without the bill more and more youth will end up on the streets and become homeless. Teary-eyed Cassandra Davis stated, "I just really know how far I've come and I know I didn't do it by myself, it's been with supporters and so I just know it is going to mean so much to them...it's going to change lives". We at Mockingbird Society couldn't agree more and are looking forward to all the new opportunities that will open up for youth in foster-care. Thank you again to everyone who supported this effort because without you this would never have been possible.



Anthony Guess, Cassandra Davis, Jamica Henderson and Misty Lou Cook at HB 2002 signing.



Mockingbird Staff with Washington State Governor Gregoire and Representative Dickerson at HB 2002 signing.

Letter from the Editor

JIM
THEOFELIS

This issue of the *Mockingbird Times* reflects the hard work of Mockingbird Society staff, youth, members of our Board of Directors and volunteers as well as the many blessings we have been fortunate to receive. We've included pictures of youth from Mockingbird's Youth LEAD program with Washington's Governor Christine Gregoire as she signs into law HB 2002, the Foster Youth Achievement Act. You'll also see great pictures of youth with the bill's prime sponsor, Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, as well as Mockingbird youth conducting a mini-press conference for local media on the steps of the state capitol. Before HB 2002 was enacted, youth who earned their high school diploma/GED and turned 18 were immediately ineligible for foster care. This shortsighted policy was a key factor in the dismal outcomes that far too many foster youth experienced after turning 18. How many 18-year-olds are ready to face life totally alone? Because of HB 2002, youth in foster care now have an option

to remain in foster care if they enroll in a college or voc-tech program. Governor Gregoire signed HB 2002 into law on March 28th, and on March 30th the Mockingbird Society held its 5th Anniversary Fundraiser, which was a major success due to the work and support of so many individuals and corporate sponsors. There were several highlights, including the food, venue, and the premiere of our video documentary, *A Place to Sing*. This was produced by Wild Geese Productions with the assistance and involvement of several Mockingbird youth. Adam Cornell was the keynote speaker and was inspirational as always. I express my appreciation to all of the volunteers, Corporate Sponsors and attendees who helped make this such a successful event. I also want to thank the youth, staff and members of the Board of Directors from the Mockingbird Society who put so much work and energy into both HB 2002 and our Anniversary Event. In particular, I want to thank John Friedman and Sylvia Black, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the event, and especially Siri Throm-Saxe who was the Event Coordinator and worked so hard and smart to make this our best event ever. Thank you all and Happy Spring!

 Jim Theofelis
jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

Mockingbird Staff Celebrating Good Times



Jim eats cake at Rep. Dickerson's office after signing of HB 2002.



Americorp Volunteer Dietra enjoying appetizers at successful annual fundraiser.

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

ABOUT US: The Mockingbird Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to building a world class foster care system and improving the other systems that serve children and adolescents involved in homelessness and foster care. The *Mockingbird Times* is a monthly newspaper written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of Mockingbird Society are paid between \$7.63 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 50,000 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 2006 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: \$ _____

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Please fill out and mail this form with a check or money order payable to: The Mockingbird Society, 2100 24th Ave South Suite 240, Seattle WA 98144, or donate online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

Mockingbird Society: The Story Behind the Name

The 1962 American classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is the inspiration for our name, Mockingbird Society. Atticus, the widowed father of Jem and Scout, joins Miss Maudie in teaching his kids that it's a sin to kill a mockingbird because "...Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us."

What if we created an organization, a community, indeed a world in which our most vulnerable children and youth were protected and valued with the same commitment that Atticus had for mockingbirds? Join the Mockingbird Society today and help us give young people a safe place to nest and sing.

Thank You's

Mockingbird Society's 5th Annual Fundraiser *We Believe We Can Fly* was a tremendous success. We would like to take the time to thank all of those who attended, each of you made a significant contribution to improve the lives of children, youth and families in the child welfare system.

A special thanks to:

John Friedman and Marshal McReal; Jennifer and Justin Goin; Violet Franz; John and Michelle Hersman; Oak Kaarna; Stellman Keenel; David Kipnis; Sue Kukuk; Anne McBride; Steve and Kelly Nolan Shafer; Susan Ross, Shelia and John Scates; Alan and Sima Rothblatt; Joan and Doug Stewart; Colleen and George Willoughby; Ann Wyman; Representative Mary Lou Dickerson; Senator Pat Thibodeau; Representative Ruth Kagi; Judge Laura Inveen and Justice Bobbe Bridge.

Our Corporate Sponsors:

Casey Family Programs; Jacobson Jarvis & Co, PLLC; Laurel Harrison - Interior Designer; WDWillis Wealth Management; Virginia Mason Departments of Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology; Moss Adams LLP

Catering by: The Upper Crust

Desserts by: The Rusty Pelican

Music by: Rob Carroll and Mike Padilla of the band WILDLIFE

Thank you to the extraordinary people who were dedicated to making the event a success:

Siri Throm-Saxe, event coordinator; Mockingbird Society's Board of Directors Alan Rothblatt, M.D., Joan Stewart, Leslie Richardson, Larry Crim, Davidson Dodd and Sheila Scates; Event Co-chairs John Friedman and Sylvia Black; Adam Cornell; Robert Shackelford of Wild Geese Productions; Degale Cooper and Lisa Carscadden; Mockingbird Times Youth Reporters Misty Cook, Jamica Henderson, Maleka Taylor and Cassandra Davis; and the Staff of Mockingbird Society.

We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers:

Anna Trombley, Autumn Eyre, Patricia Gray Denise Martin, Derek Eisel, Jacquie Dodd, Joanna Gangi, Spencer Noland, Joe Kahn, Krystal Anderson, Quinton Kakaley, Linda McCarrell, Mary Ann Van Tassel, Patrick Fennessy, Shannon Sifferman, Tenley Ghan, Megan, Kristi Hartman, Joyce Schowalter, Jaci Edelen, Jen S., Elias Rothblatt, Yana Zhaglina, Marika Theofelis, Yan Yan Teague, Luke Theofelis, Linn Tran, Blaze Carney, Nancy Iannucci, Olivia Jones, and Martina McGraw.

Get Your Work Published!

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 via email at newspaper@mockingbirdsociety.org. For more info and to check us out, go to www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

MEET OUR STAFF

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Youth LEAD Coordinator
Najja Morris

Operations Manager
Ros Ghan

Public Relations
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Contributing Writers
Carmella Macabababod, Raquel Granath,

Volunteers
Patricia Gray, Anna Trombley

Pictures from our Annual Fundraiser and HB 2002 Signing



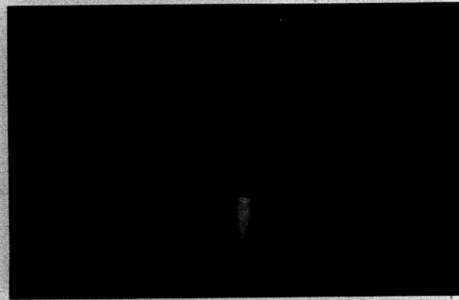
Mockingbird Representatives Misty Lou Cook, Jamica Henderson, Cassandra Davis and Anthony Guess with Rep. Dickerson after HB 2002 signing.



Misty Lou Cook with Ken and Ramona Kirsch



Mockingbird representatives interviewed by media after HB 2002 signing.



Mockingbird Staff Darice Gray with Jim Theofelis Sr. at annual fundraiser.

May is National Foster Care Month!

We hope you will join us in making National Foster Care Month a success. Check out these websites for events in your area.

www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care

www.casey.org/cnc/foster_care_month

www.fostercaremonth.org

Aging out of Foster and Health Care

CARMELLA MACABABAD

Aging out of foster care can be as traumatic as entering. Once again, you are faced with the unknown. Once again, you are separated from any kind of permanency you may have become accustomed to. Your way of life is suddenly and completely changed.

One of these changes comes in the form of healthcare, or lack thereof. The age of eligibility varies from state to state since Medicaid is funded by both federal and state money. Here in Washington, former foster youth lose their Medicaid benefits the month after their 19th birthday. They then have to reapply for aid and hope that they meet the qualifications set forth in order to continue to receive aid. If they are doing fairly well, such as having a job and no children, then it is unlikely they will continue to receive aid. Thus the encouragement *not* to be our best continues. As we go through our lives, the hope that things will get better, as seems to be the pattern in America, prevails. We think to ourselves, even though these possible changes for the better will not affect us, or negate the experience we had, *at least* the next generation will be able to benefit from it and will not have to share any trauma that we had to go through. However, things are not getting better in this area for alumni of foster care...instead they are getting much worse.

A recently passed House Bill, HB 2002, for Washington State, will increase the medical coupon coverage of those aging out of foster until age 21. Unfortunately, this will only be the case for the 50 participants per year (over the next three years) who decide to stay in care and pursue higher education. For more information go to <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature> and enter in the Bill number, 2002.

It is not just the states that we have to blame for this deficit in healthcare. As stated earlier, Medicaid is funded by both the federal budget and the state budget. However, states are having trouble picking up their portion of the bill, causing cut-backs everywhere. Instead of stepping in to give our states, our people, a helping hand, the President's Administration has proposed more cutbacks, totaling \$12 billion over the next five years and \$45 billion over the next 10 years.

Today, it has been estimated that 30 percent of all young adults (ages 19-29) in the U.S. are uninsured and about 33 percent of former foster youth, ages 18-44, are not insured after leaving care, as reported by the Northwest Alumni Study. Those numbers will only increase in the coming years if the Administration's proposals are passed. The National Coalition on Health Care stated that the U.S. Government spends almost \$100 billion per year pro-

viding health services for the uninsured. In most cases, this is emergency care that would not have been necessary had the patient had proper preventative care in the first place.

So why the budget cuts? Why not change the policy, increase the provisions being provided countrywide to those in need, and increase the amount of preventative care available to our most vulnerable children? Insurance companies do it, why can't our government? Insurance companies *want* you to get regular health, dental, and vision check-ups. Ultimately, insurance companies know that it will cost them *less* money to provide preventative care, than to actually pay for the high cost of emergency care.

Even if we, as former foster youth of America, are practically invisible to our own government (as Casey Family Programs' Medicaid report so eloquently puts it), shouldn't the numbers speak for themselves? We need health insurance while we are in school, unable to work full time and receive medical benefits. If we are unable to receive this much needed additional care to help us live healthier lives and give us better opportunities for success, we should at least be able to keep what we already have! Why is the government trying to make life *even more* difficult for us?

Healthy Relationships

JAMICA HENDERSON

Sometimes in our life, we find ourselves in situations that we have no clue will hurt so badly. Everyone has an idea of what they want in a relationship, but what do you do when those things are not there anymore and you still have feelings for your mate? This part of life can be hard when you're in love. You don't want to walk away from something that can be worked out, nor do you want to keep getting hurt. How do you know when someone has hurt you to your limit?

While being in relationship you are supposed to have respect for the person you love no matter what. Once that respect is gone or when you feel that your mate has no respect for you, it's time to go. Sometimes this can be hard because you may still have respect and/or love for them, but once your respect is not given you can leave. It's good to stop yourself before you let it go on too long and it really hurts to leave.

When being in a relationship that you really enjoy, it can be hard to leave. Why is it so hard to leave? Maybe because you're still in love, you enjoy the company, it can be worked out, he or she only did it for the first time, so on and so on. When you begin to think like that you begin to make excuses and push the real reason on why you wanted to leave out of your mind. That's a **NO NO NO!** You can't let those thoughts of yours get in the way especially if you are tired of being hurt and in an unhealthy relationship. I located three important facts that are a major part in a healthy relationship and if you don't have these three things then you might want to think about whether it is worth it to stay:

1. Communication: To have a healthy relationship there must be or should be good communication between the two of you. The society we live in today is so busy that by the time you get home you are dead tired, but if you are in a relationship and you live with your mate you should be able to communicate. Sometimes communication can be hard when you're a busy person, but if you are willing to engage in a relationship you must communicate.

2. Unrealistic expectation: Now this step is a step that we all have tried. Have you ever tried to help someone and it becomes more of trying to change them? This is one way a relationship can be unhealthy because you're not accepting that person for who they are. So to have a healthy partnership both male and female should not have unrealistic expectations on each other or who they want that person to one day become.

3. Respect: If you want a healthy relationship respect is the main key. If there is no respect there is no love, relationship, friendship and so on.

Relationships can sometimes make you really sit back and think. While you sit back and think it allows you to notice what you want and what you don't want. Whatever decision you decide to make, remember that a healthy relationship must have at least Communication, Realistic Expectations and Respect.

Meet the Staff

SURRI
EVANS



My name is Surri Evans and I am 18 years old. I'm a very outgoing person, and I love to live life, and the most part of that is because I was blessed with my 8 month old daughter Sa'maiah. She is my sun and my moon and the reason that I'm still trying today. On one of my basic days I enjoy to read and write, usually when I write I'm just writing in my journal. I'm a jotter; I log all my events that I've been through. My Hobbies are dancing, I love to dance, hip hop/jazz, crunk and all. Besides my daughter, those three things keep my mind off of the drama that I have had and encounter now. I must say, I'm very blessed I've been through so much in my 18 years I shouldn't be this happy, but I am I know that end I will come out on top. When I found out about the Mockingbird Society, I thought that I would give it a shot I know for sure that I'm not a hard person to get along with, so why shouldn't they like me. Writing is a good stress reliever, it helps you wind down and put all your expressions down on a piece of paper.

BoulderZ

RAQUEL GRANATH

- My father is in me
- Everywhere I go
- I can never shake him
- He won't ever let go
- He's the weight on my chest
- And he won't go away
- He's the rain on my picnic
- And he's here to stay
- He's the monster under my bed
- He's the evil voice in my head
- He's the reason all my hope is gone and dead
- He's the poor soul I pray about every nite
- He's the stupid mean bully who always picks fights
- In all the world he's everything bad
- In my whole life he's mad me so sad
- Yet here is stays running thru my veins
- He causes so much pain
- The disdain in my membrane
- He sits on my shelf collecting dust
- I never want to meet him
- He'll never earn my trust
- Yet there he is sitting on my shoulders
- And blocking my way
- Like two big boulders.....

Creative Corner

I always lie and say I'm 12

I've never done this so....

Why would you choose 12?

Twelve is a good age if you choose to deceive

I say that deception is a matter of perception

Twelve is timid

Four square and wall ball and skating rinks from seven to seven

Man I miss twelve

Being an adult is a glorified version of twelve.

Twelve was a more care free time

Patience is a virtue but remembrance is a passion

That is deep

That was deep

Don't you hit puberty at 12?

Girl to Woman

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

Being a young attractive woman in society is a commodity
You get looked at like a meat market,
flirted with nicely, or straight out
harassed if you don't give the proper
response

Wearing a skirt can be a source of pride, a
source of prettiness

Or an object of unwanted stares and
comments; an item of daintiness, of
femininity, a signal that you're working, or
business attire.

Whatever the cultural standard is; people
piss away their dollars trying to attain
because the message screamed is meet the
standard and you might just fit in or even
be beautiful and popular!

Barbie messed things up for the natural
course of more children. Barbie's stats are
out of wack, if she was real she wouldn't
be able to stand on her own 2 feet, would
qualify as having an eating disorder, and
would have had to get plastic surgery
done to look like a superstar.

Look Who's Flying

This section is dedicated to the young people at Mockingbird Society who continue to take flight towards healthy, happy and independent lives despite the numerous obstacles they have, and continue, to face.

Maleka Taylor Congratulations on completing your GED! We are all very proud of your accomplishment and know there are many more good things to come as you move on to your higher education goals.

Thomas Harris Congratulations on completing the CEO program! We look forward to seeing you take flight.



Thomas Harris proudly displays his certificate of completion from the CEO Program

Celebrate Poetry Month

Hip-Hop, Spoken Word and Slams!

Teen Poetry Workshop and Slam

6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Thursday, April 20

Poet Patrice Vecchione will lead a free workshop on writing and performing poetry, followed by a slam. Open to teens ages 12 - 18. Pizza and prizes provided.

Beacon Hill Branch • 2821 Beacon Ave. S. • 206-684-4711

Teen Spoken Word Night

5 p.m. - 8 p.m., Thursday, April 27

Performances from groups like Power of Hope, Hugo House, PSKS, Arts Corps, The Mockingbird Society and more, followed by an open mike for teens ages 12 - 20. Pizza provided.

Capitol Hill Branch • 425 Harvard Ave. E. • 206-684-4715

Speaking at the African-Americans and Foster Care Forum

MALEKA
TAYLOR



On Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7pm in the Ethnic Cultural Theatre (University of Washington) the central District Form of Arts & Ideas presented Which Way Seattle? A series on African American and foster care, featuring Zynovia Y Hetherington Director of the Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program, Bernice Morehead a licensed foster parent and has worked in the Child Welfare community for 35 years, Lyman Letgers, Casey Family Program Director, Randee Eddins founder of AAWA (African American Writers

Alliance, and myself. I was proud to be a panelist, and one of the topics discussed was African American disproportionality.

Some of the questions were difficult but I managed. At one point, I got choked up on my words because it triggered some emotions that I didn't know I still carried, but when I got comfortable I opened up and was able to speak from my heart. Some people might think that foster care is a way of keeping kids off the streets and into a safe home, but in many cases it is a process that is painful and scarring. Many children lose their identity, sense-of-self, and in the long run feel betrayed. Sometimes, kids can feel like they are being tossed around like dirty rags! The current system is one that agencies (such as the Mockingbird Society, Casey Family and many others) are pushing hard to change. The Mockingbird Society assisted in making it possible for

children to stay in foster care until they are 21 if they want to further their education by advocating to get HB2002 passed. This change will take place beginning July 1st of this year!

The more I have the opportunity to talk about my experience the more I find it difficult. If this is the healing process then I'm definitely in the middle of it. I'm in a stage of figuring out who I am and who I want to be. It can be a bit hard, because for so long my life was in someone else's hands, but now it's in mine. I have a niece in foster care and I want to ensure that she gets the best care possible and that she doesn't have to go through what I went through or face the issues I am now. I'll do what ever it takes to make sure that foster children get what they deserve. LOVE

SYEP Job Fair

Search 2006 Youth Education & Job Fair at the Harbor Community Center, 4600 35th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

Mockingbird Society will be there among other community members from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

If you are between the ages of 14-21 this is for you!

For information call:
206-394-1375

Sponsored by: City of Seattle, Human Services Department, Youth Development Center, Harbor Community Center, & Seattle Public and Community Schools