

REAL CHANGE

VOL. 13 NO. 24

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

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JUNE 7 - 13, 2006

The Courthouse Lawn

Park plan revealed

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

The city unveiled a plan last week to return Seattle's City Hall Park to its historic role as a "grand public green" by removing some of its lawn and most of its 40-year-old oak trees.

Under the \$3.4 million proposal, which will be the focus of a public hearing Thursday before the Board of Park Commissioners, the Parks Department would cut down 10 of the park's 15 oaks and install a short, hedge-lined fence to enclose most of the park, which abuts the King County Courthouse between Third and Fourth avenues at Yesler Way.

See LAWN, Continued on Page 4

NIP AND 'DUCT

Getting rid of the crumbling Viaduct could give Seattle a new lease on life.

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BROGUE STATE

In Edinburgh, Scotland, the last remaining homeless hostel closes its doors.

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AIR BALL

With I-91, voters have the chance to tell Sonics that funds for education trump new arena.

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STREET SMARTS

Connecting with homeless youth, says expert Jerry Fest, means making the system accessible.

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THE MOCKINGBIRD TIMES

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PROTESTORS SWARMED THE PORT OF OLYMPIA DURING THE LAST 10 DAYS OF MAY TO VOICE THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH THE DOCKING AND LOADING OF A VESSEL BOUND TO IRAQ WITH ARMY GEAR AND VEHICLES. MANY WERE PEPPER-SPRAYED. HERE, INDIVIDUALS STAGE A DIE-IN ON MAY 30, THE DAY BEFORE THE VESSEL *POMEROY* SET SAIL FOR IRAQ. PHOTO BY CHRISTIN OSGOOD.

Burning to Get Involved

Olympia port protest draws pepper spray, cements activism

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Reporter

Michael Yates says that after the pepper spray hit him in the face, all he could feel was the burning, the constant burning.

A friend, one gathered with him in the evening hours of Memorial Day to protest the docking and loading of a military carrier docked at the Port of Olympia, had him tilt his head to the side: that way, water poured over his open eyes wouldn't send pepper spray pouring onto his face. The burning didn't stop, says Yates, a 23-year-old junior at Evergreen College. He yearned for relief. He thought of Puget Sound. He dunked his face into the cold, salty water. "That stopped the burning," remembers Yates. "Initially."

Then he continued protesting.

Yates was not alone. A number of the 80 people nearby him that evening, gathered at a fence near the port, were

doused with spray. While those incapacitated by the inflammatory agent were being tended to by fellow protestors, some in the group shook the fence; still more screamed at police and port officials.

By this point, protestors had been converging on the port, in fluctuating numbers, for nearly a week. The group's Memorial Day presence was heralded by the arrival, some moments before, of the *Pomeroiy*, a 950-foot vessel being loaded with gear and Stryker vehicles for the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Lewis. According to Yates, the group suffered three more rounds of pepper spray that evening, though he remained unaffected by the subsequent deployment of the spray. Until, that is, the next day.

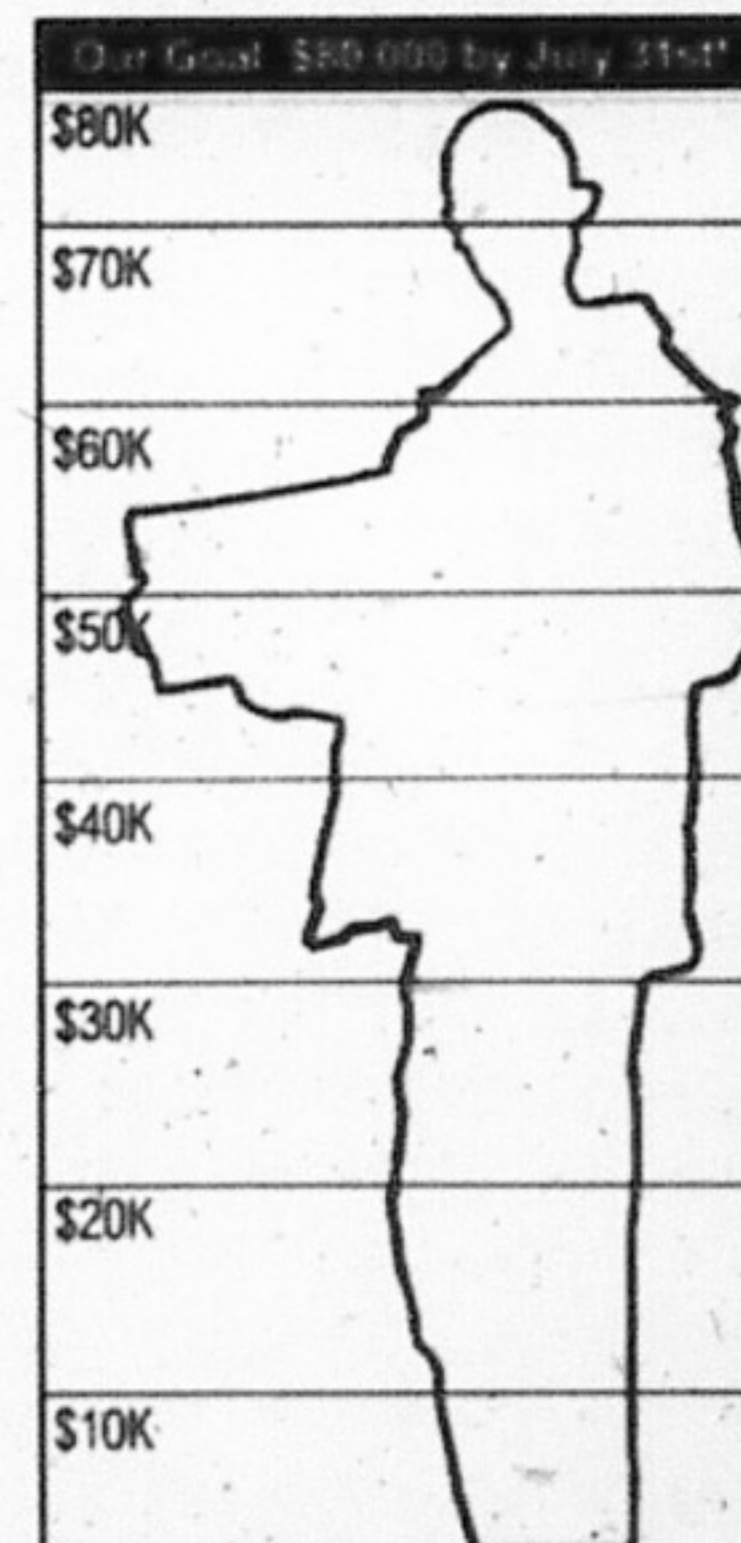
There had been a vigil near a downtown intersection on May 30, recalls Yates, and protestors began

See PROTEST, Continued on Page 12

[Donate Now]

Our ability to continue as an alternative weekly news source that employs more than 250 homeless and very low-income vendors each month depends upon raising the summer fund drive goal of \$80,000 in reader support by July 31. The first week brought 11 donations totaling \$1,720. This is a great start, but we need to hear from the rest of you. If you support effective activism, opportunity and community for the poor and homeless, and quality alternative journalism on the issues that matter to you, please show your support by making

a secure, on-line donation at www.realchange.news.org, or mailing your tax-deductible gift to Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle WA, 98121, today.



Culture Shift

Seattle can kill the waterfront highway and get a new lease on life

By CARY MOON

People's Waterfront Coalition

Other cities that have removed waterfront highways have realized tremendous gains in increased economic development around the newly reclaimed public land.

Here we are, five years after the Nisqually earthquake shook Seattle and damaged the Alaskan Way Viaduct, and we're still discussing what to do. While some may wish the Mayor would just push through his preferred solution like a firm father who knows best for his family, I think the debate indicates a profound shift is underway.

Seattle is confronting our past mindset about the primacy of cars over people and searching for better ways to offer a decent living environment to future generations.

Imagine if people actually believed moving traffic through cities was the most important job of government. Then it would have been easy to keep the debate focused on what kind of replacement highway: partial-tunnel vs. elevated. End of story. But the world is changing around us, and some emerging doubts about business-as-usual cannot be ignored. This decision is about global warming, density and public life downtown, our cost of living, Elliott Bay's ecology — in addition to mobility for freight and people.

So while the Transit + Streets solution proposed by the People's Waterfront Coalition doesn't meet WSDOT's criteria of keeping the same amount of traffic on Seattle's downtown shore, we want to convince you this is a good thing. Because what we all gain instead is far, far more interesting.

Improving the connectivity in the street grid — untangling bottlenecks, providing more north-south through routes — provides benefits to all drivers, including those who live in the other three-quarters of the city who don't use the viaduct. Since we're sharing the cost, shouldn't we all share in the benefit?

Well-connected street grids can actually work better to move urban traffic than limited access highways because they offer drivers lots of choices. Imagine Grand Central Station at rush hour — if engineers tried to channel the flow and force people onto moving walkways they couldn't get off, congestion would likely result. What actually works best in complex systems — like urban traffic — is offering people enough freedom so they can use their brains to find their way.

As gas gets more and more expensive, we're going to need effective alternatives to driving. Investing in transit and making walking and biking more feasible will help insulate us from the increasing costs of car-dependence. Car-centric transportation systems shift a significant cost burden onto individual households. Seattle has one of the highest rates of car ownership for any city (2.4 cars/household), and we already pay a high percentage of our personal income for transportation (22 percent). With all the new local taxes we'll be expected to offer up for the viaduct, SR-520, RTID, Sound Transit 2, and repaving I-5, something has got to give. We can't afford it all.

Other cities that have removed waterfront highways have realized tremendous gains in increased economic development around the newly reclaimed public land. Increased desirability of land adjacent to a downtown park means increased property values, increased tax revenue for the city, and ultimately, increased density. Sure, some downtown developers are going to benefit financially from this. But all of us benefit too, by having a great park on our downtown shore, adjacent to the jewel that is Pike Place Market.

But what happens to the traffic? The People's Waterfront Coalition has been

watching what has happened in other cities that reduced highway capacity or removed waterfront highways, and this is the most interesting part of this story. When local government provides advance notice, offers effective alternatives, and educates people on the new choices, people adjust. The gridlock threatened by highway planners has never once materialized in the real world, because people are a lot smarter and more agile than computer models assume.

Collectively, here's how we'll probably adjust in Seattle: some Viaduct trips will continue to happen by car, but shift to surface streets in a better flowing street grid. Some people will use the new four-lane surface Alaskan Way. Some people will shift to the new rapid transit Metro is offering to serve this same corridor. And some trips will be decided against, because they weren't that important after all.

These changes are not going to cripple our economy. They may be more in line with some demographic and cultural changes already underway in our city, like our increased desire for healthier lifestyles and more meaningful connections to local community. They're a series of incremental adjustments that add up to some large collective benefits: reduced greenhouse gas production, reduced household transportation costs, a chance to have a model healthy shore ecology on Elliott Bay, and the avoidance of the decade-long devastation and money suck of a risky megaproject.

Seattle DOT has plans to keep us mobile for two to four years without the Viaduct. Couldn't these fixes be adapted as a permanent solution? Now is the time to examine a third way and see whether the larger benefits just may outweigh the sacrifice of a quick shortcut around downtown. ■

Cary Moon is co-founder of the People's Waterfront Coalition (www.peopleswaterfront.org).



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.

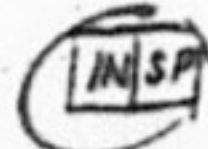
On the Web at

<http://www.realchangenews.org>

Email rchange@speakeasy.org

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Change Agent

It's Memorial Day weekend and the Folklife Festival is in full swing. Thousands of people gather at the Mural Amphitheatre to listen to the soulful sounds of the Total Experience Choir. After the performance, a woman approaches the group and says, "I am an atheist, but I really connected with the gospel music you were playing."

It's a sentiment founder and artistic director Pastor Patrinnell "Pat" Wright hears often. "We play songs of hope and faith and joy, songs that know no cultural or spiritual boundaries," she says.

The choir began as a pilot project at two inner-city, public high schools. "I wanted to offer an alternative music program to the students," Wright explains. When funding for that program was terminated, she took her vision to the community. Three decades later, they're still going strong. They have received more than 150 awards and were the first choir from the gospel tradition to sing at the Mormon Tabernacle. "We're as ethnically diverse as the United Nations," Wright states proudly. "Our music does not discriminate; it has appeal for everyone, regardless of skin color or religion."

—Amy Besunder



REV. PATRINNELL "PAT" WRIGHT, sending out gospel music's call, so all can respond. Photo by ELLIOT STOLLER.

Scotland: end of an error

Flats replace hostels accommodating Edinburgh's homeless

By CLARE HARRIS
The Big Issue in Scotland

"It's absolutely tremendous to get to this stage. People are moving into anonymous accommodation suited to their needs."

—Laurie Naumann, former director of the Scottish Council for Single Homeless

The site of Bowfoot House, in the Grassmarket section of Edinburgh, had been a place of refuge for homeless people since the 1880s. Before it became Bowfoot House in 1983, it was known as Castle Trades Hotel, one of the capital's biggest lodging houses. But now the last of its residents have moved into flats, signalling the end of the only remaining long-term homeless "institution" in the city.

Jim Anderson, a former grocer who began work at Castle Trades in 1980, said the changes in the hostel reflected how society's attitude to homeless people should have changed, too. He said: "The people we worked with feel better with themselves and have more self-esteem. Before, people were ostracized and weren't allowed to go to a 'normal' doctor's office, for example. When the hostel was still the Castle Trades, the doctor would come in once a week and see 50 people in an hour."

In early May, at a ceremony to mark the closure of Bowfoot House, images of how the original Castle Trades lodging house once looked were displayed. Dating from the 1880s, the place was dark, dirty and crowded, with over 200 people calling it home.

After consultation with the residents — some of whom had been living there for 20 years or more — Old Town Housing Association, the owners of Castle Trades, decided to refurbish it and create the more modern Bowfoot House.

"When I first walked into Castle Trades, it was as if I was stepping from 1980 into 1880," remembers Anderson. "It was grey and grimy, and the only redeeming feature was the people who lived and worked there." The name was changed to Bowfoot House to tackle the stigma that came

with the Castle Trades address, and, says Anderson, the institution was "humanized."

"I think this is the way to break the stigma of homelessness," Anderson added. "Short-term hostel accommodation must have a place, because people can't be left on the street, but in the long term, it's not the way forward."

The residents from Bowfoot House have moved to supported accommodation managed by Hillcrest Housing Association and Gowrie Care Ltd., the care arm of Hillcrest. Eleven self-contained flats with workers on hand are being used in the city center, which the group says is sufficient to meet current needs. Hillcrest Housing chief executive John Mulloy said: "The main objective was to secure the residents of Bowfoot House accommodation that was more suited to their needs. Bowfoot House had traditionally provided single rooms with communal living areas, which is no longer the most suitable solution to the needs of homeless people."

Laurie Naumann, former director of the Scottish Council for Single Homeless who witnessed the changes taking place on the Grassmarket over the years, was at the closure ceremony. He said that the move from large-scale, institutionalized accommodation to supported flats was the right one in order to combat the stigma of having been homeless. "It's absolutely tremendous to get to this stage. People are moving into anonymous accommodation suited to their needs."

"I hope that Glasgow can learn from this experience."

Currently, the Glasgow Homelessness Partnership, made up of the local council, the Executive and voluntary groups, is halfway through the closure programme of its large-scale hostels, which includes Peter McCann House, due to shut its doors in July. A spokesman for the partnership said: "We're closing the large-scale hostels gradually, following the Street Homelessness Review by the Scottish Executive."

"We feel that the hostels are an outdated form of accommodation, and we're seeking to develop a range of accommodation that's suitable for people in this day and age." ■

Just Heard...

Kenya. Or Somalia.

After being detained by federal officials for the past six months without bond, a local imam has decided to give up his fight and be deported.

Sheik Abraham Mohamed, cleric of the Rainier Valley Abu-Bakr Mosque, informed a judge he would willingly leave the United States during a bond hearing held June 1. While his decision means deportation proceedings can begin immediately, the imam's ultimate destination remains uncertain.

Since being detained, Sheik Abraham has maintained he was a member of a persecuted minority Somali tribe. His passport, however, shows he's from Kenya. The discrepancy, according to his lawyer, Hilary Han, is due to the fact that his client applied for documentation in Kenya.

Han says immigration officials have six months to contact the Kenyan government, to determine if the country will accept Sheik Abraham. If not, he will be sent to Somalia, even though that country has no legally recognized government.

Han says the imam's willingness to leave stems from the ordeals of his detainment. Says Han: "There are a lot of factors that went into the decision," including "being mostly in seclusion."

—Rosette Royale

Snubbed by Bush

Since Congress passed the Older Americans Act in 1965, the White House Conference on Aging has always had the imprimatur of presidential concern. Until last year.

At the December 2005 conference of more than 1,200 delegates from across the country, instead of appearing in person or via video address — something every sitting president has done since LBJ — the president lit out for a Virginia gated community to tout the newly-minted Medicare prescription drug plan, says Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans director Will Parry.

Parry was dismayed but unsurprised. Bush's absence, he says, was consistent with his avoidance of tough crowds. "He would have gotten booed, people would have turned their backs on him" because of the prescription drug plan and the schemed privatization of Social Security.

Advocates for older Americans will debrief the public June 10 about the conference's agenda. For more information, call (206) 448-0859.

DSHS and deaths

Smaller caseloads for state workers. Mental-health evaluations for parents. Those are two ways to stem the tide of deaths suffered by children in the state's care, says a June 1 report by the Family and Children's Ombudsman, a state-appointed overseer of the Department of Social and Health Services.

The report counts 87 children who died in DSHS's care in 2004, most of whom were under the age of 2. While some deaths were clearly the result of severe, intentional mistreatment, in at least 25 cases abuse was suspected but couldn't be proved.

—Adam Hyla

LAWN, Continued from Page 1

Three walkways would break the fence line and lead to an interior plaza with small lawn areas on either side, creating what Parks planner Cathy Tuttle called "defensible spaces" in a briefing Monday to the King County Council.

Opened in 1911, the park fronts the old main entrance of the courthouse, which once housed Seattle's City Hall. In 1967, the county closed the south doors and moved the main entrance to Third Avenue, leaving the landmarked park as a side yard. It's largely used today by the homeless and poor and disabled downtown residents, along with drug dealers who drive in at night on tiny Dilling Way, which would be closed.

The park is "often used for sleeping and things we'd prefer not to have," Tuttle told the council, which reacted positively to the plan, with some reservations. The council is currently considering paying \$100,000 to study reopening the courthouse's

south entrance as a way to create more foot traffic.

"The park is home to many profoundly addicted and mentally ill people," said Councilmember Julia Patterson (D-SeaTac). "Just shooing them away will push them into the dark corners — the parking lots, the stairwells."

Since last fall, when a citizens advisory group started meeting on the redesign, county workers have repeatedly asked about reopening the courthouse's south entrance. But Bud Parker, the county's manager for capital planning and development, had told them it was a dead idea.

"It's not dead," says Councilmember Bob Ferguson (D-Seattle) says with a laugh. He'd like to see the county and city work together.

"The park is home to many profoundly addicted and mentally ill people. Just shooing them away will push them into the dark corners — the parking lots, the stairwells."

— Councilmember Julia Patterson (D-SeaTac)

On Wednesday, the council's Capital Budget Committee, which Ferguson chairs, will vote on his legislation to examine opening the south entrance — an idea he says the county had researched and priced in the past but ended up shelving after the Nisqually earthquake of 2001.

With the measure likely to pass, Ferguson says, the full council could vote on it June 12 or June 19. But, with the Parks Department moving quickly to add park rangers, vendors, and programming in Seattle's 24 downtown parks as part of the mayor's larger Center City plan, deputy superintendent B.J. Brooks says it will move forward this year without the county.

That's if the Parks Department gets the \$3.4 million it needs from the Seattle City Council.

"That's a big 'if,'" says Tatsuo Nakata, an aide to Councilmember David Della, who chairs the council's Parks Committee.

In the wake of controversy over Occidental Park, where the department cut down one third of the trees, the City Council nixed this year's construction budget for City Hall Park so that it could be more clued in to the process, Nakata says.

"It seems to make sense that, if that's on the table," Nakata says of opening the courthouse's south entrance, "why wouldn't you take a look at it?" ■

[Event]

The Park Board plans a public hearing on the proposed redesign of City Hall Park on Thurs., June 8, 6 p.m., at the Parks Department's offices, 100 Dexter Ave. N., just off Denny Way. Comment can also be e-mailed to sandy.brooks@seattle.gov prior to June 22, when the board plans to vote on the design. The design is online at www.cityofseattle.net/parks/maintenance/CityHallPark.htm

Short Takes

Mayor's ethics

The mayor got a slap last year from Seattle's Ethics & Elections Commission for appearing to campaign on city letterhead. Now the Seattle Displacement Coalition has filed an ethics complaint over a two-minute video spoof of saving the "big ugly" that the mayor had made.

The "big ugly" is the Alaskan Way Viaduct. The Mayor Nickels is pushing hard to replace it with a \$4 billion tunnel that's expected to come up for an advisory vote this November. In the video, which the city's Seattle Channel produced for a speech Nickels gave May 24, actor Matt Smith portrays an activist with the Committee to Save Big Ugly Things.

"It was designed to add humor to the debate," says Nickels spokesperson Marianne Bichsel. "Every elected official gets to advocate for their policy position. That's what you're elected to do."

Not in an election-year, says the Displacement Coalition's John Fox, who wants the elections commission to look into the mayor's relationship with a political action committee, or PAC, called Citizens for a Better Waterfront.

Bichsel had told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer that the PAC would pay for the video — something that would violate the law — but now says she misspoke and the city will pay the bill. Fox says that, too, is illegal: Nickels, he says, has used city resources on an issue that, under the law's definition, is already in a campaign phase, as evidenced by the existence of the PAC.

Bichsel counters the tunnel isn't on the ballot right now, but Fox says that doesn't matter, either: the law covers proposed ballot measures.

"It's unfathomable that Bichsel or the mayor's office would say it doesn't meet the test of campaigning," Fox says. Bichsel's retraction about who would pay, he adds, "is ridiculous on its face."

— Cydney Gillis

The judicial turns political

This year voters should expect to see more independently-financed television, print, and radio

campaigns surrounding the re-election campaigns of three state Supreme Court justices.

Political action committees have been formed and scorecards written, all in the name of putting a given candidate in a position on the Washington State Supreme Court.

This comes in the wake of campaign finance reform legislation passed earlier this year, which limits for the first time the direct contributions awarded to a specific candidate for his or her campaign.

A loophole within the legislation does permit political action committees — commonly-referred to as PACs — and organizations to spend unlimited amounts of their own money to support or oppose a candidate, so long as it isn't affiliated with the actual campaign of the candidate.

Recent months have brought about the formation of two talked-about PACs, which have been highlighted recently in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and *The Stranger*.

The Constitutional Law PAC was formed in November 2005 and includes among its supporters former Republican senator Slade Gorton, who serves as chairman of the board. It receives financial support from the Building-Industry Association of Washington.

FairPAC is still in its early stages and is being formed by such Washingtonians as attorney Ronald Ward, the immediate past president of the Washington State Bar Association.

The Association of Washington Businesses (AWB) has also released, for the second consecutive year, a judicial scorecard for the Washington State Supreme Court. The AWB rates justices based on how frequently they voted the way the business organization would have liked them to vote.

Justice Jim Johnson received the highest rating, voting pro-business 82 per cent of the time, while Justice Charles Johnson received the lowest rating — 42 per cent.

Neither justice is up for re-election this year.

Hoping to be re-elected this year are Chief Justice Gerry Alexander and justices Tom Chambers and Susan Owens.

Neither PAC has released official opinions on the candidates, but those are likely to emerge within upcoming weeks.

AWB gave Chief Justice Alexander a score of 54 percent while justices Chambers and Owens rang in just slightly above Justice Charles Johnson at 47 percent each.

— Liz Miller

TC4: home for now

With its legal status still in limbo, the approximately 64 residents of Tent City 4 settled into the grounds of Northshore United Church of Christ in mid-May, waiting on a decision by a King County Superior Court judge as to whether they could occupy the space for the full 90 days. Delayed since May 24, the court has been hearing testimony from NUCC Pastor Paul Forman, staff from SHARE/WHEEL, and representatives from the Woodinville

City Council, and is expected to make a final decision on June 9.

Nonetheless, SHARE — TC4's sponsoring organization — seems confident that Judge Charles Mertel will come down on the side of the homeless encampment's continued residence at the Woodinville church. The SHARE website says that the tent city will remain there until August 11, which marks the end of the allotted three-month term.

The City of Woodinville had originally denied the homeless encampment the right to set up at the church, saying it lacked the proper permit, although representatives of SHARE have said that the city has rebuffed multiple attempts to work with the city to secure one. TC4 has also stayed at locations in Kirkland and Bellevue.

After August, the tent city's future is uncertain: according to TC4 executive committee member Joy Warmke, a site has not yet been secured for the end of TC4's term at NUCC.

— Lydia DePillis

Cat Whiskers

My Cat has Twenty Whiskers
and One of them is White

We listen to classical music
to pass the time
and order Brahms for Christmas

We see our fat friends in
Cat Fancy and wish them
well as we walk the
neighbor's dog
tongue hanging pink to our

one white whisker.

—CATHERINE HUNT

Voters on the Rebound

For the Sonics, buck may stop with city initiative

By LYDIA DePILLIS
Contributing Writer

Seattle voters are used to nixing tax subsidies for professional sports stadiums and then having to pay for them anyway. Now they may have the chance to stop the flow of public money to pro sports teams once and for all — and this time, it looks like politicians agree.

Initiative 91, currently gathering the 18,000 valid signatures it needs by July 6 to qualify for the November ballot, would prohibit the City of Seattle from loaning money or leasing facilities to professional sports teams at below "fair value." While the measure would not affect the ongoing debt payments for Qwest and Safeco Fields — on which taxpayers spent more than a billion dollars, without interest — it could derail the construction of a new NBA facility in Seattle Center, which the Sonics have named as a condition of their continued tenancy in 10-year-old KeyArena.

Public-relations professional Chris Van Dyk, the initiative's campaign manager, says that a recession and the Sonics' losing record have made the public less friendly to the idea of using its tax dollars to subsidize the team's payroll, which has expanded nearly 50 percent since the KeyArena was first built.

"Public opinion has changed dramatically," says Van Dyk. "Everyone's fed up with the inability of the politicians of the world to tell the difference between a good deal and a bad deal."

I-91 is a project of Citizens for More Important Things, an organization co-founded by Van Dyk in 1995 to defeat funding for Safeco Field — via a county-

wide initiative that was thrown out by the state Supreme Court — and which subsequently fought the construction of Safeco and Qwest fields.

This time, the initiative is carefully crafted to avoid a legal challenge, and Van Dyk sees it as a test case for a statewide measure.

I-91 is an additional safeguard, but so far the Seattle City Council has held its ground on the Sonics anyway. In May, the Council passed a resolution requiring that any further expenditures on KeyArena be put to a vote of the people and must have a "tangible public benefit."

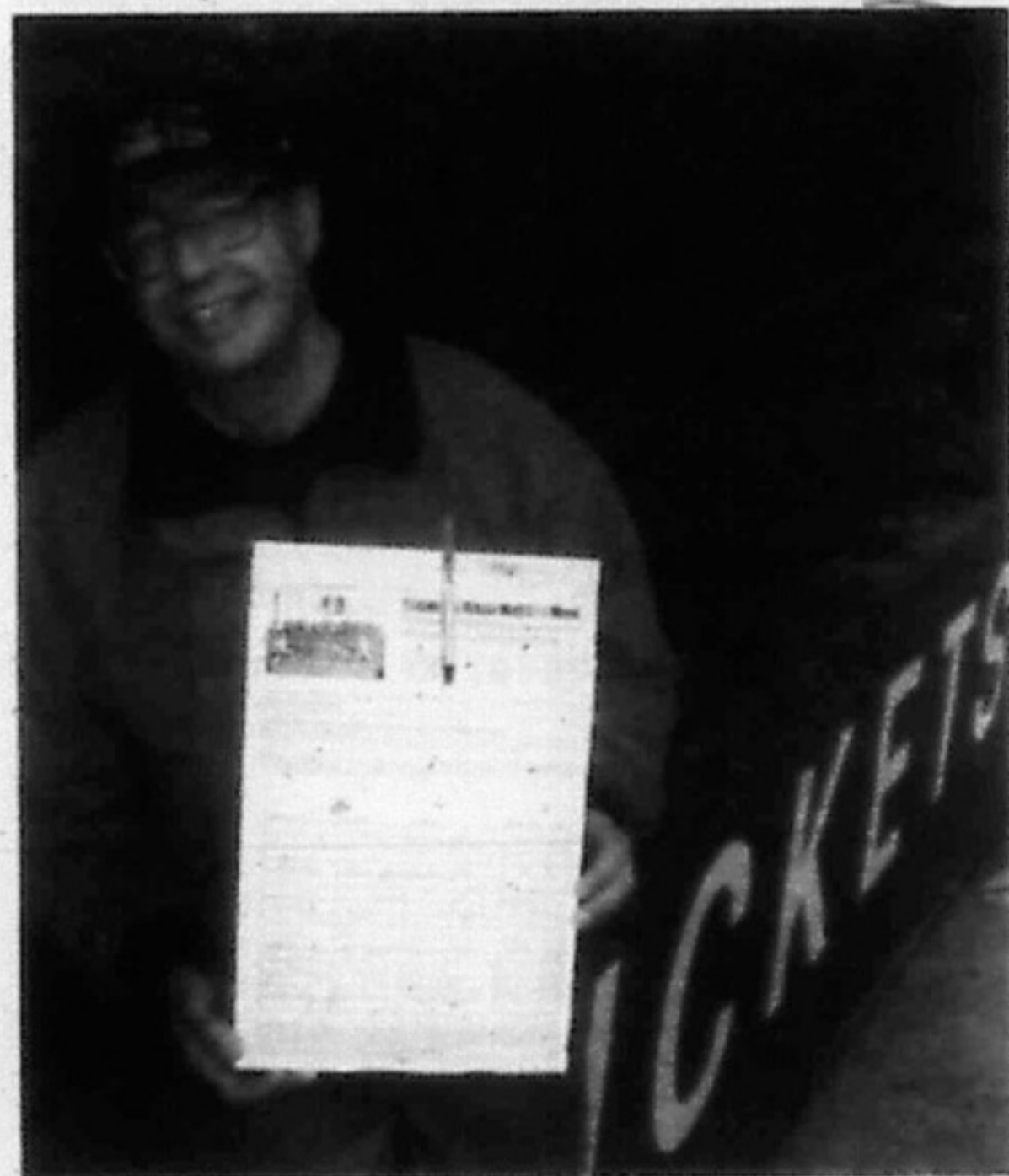
Perhaps realizing the odds against them, the team went directly to the legislature this spring, asking that the public finance all but \$18.3 million of the \$220 million remodel. That approach was rebuffed by the Governor and key legislators, although negotiations will begin again next January.

Responding to the possibility of a deal at the state level, Democrats of the 43rd, 36th, and 46th districts have passed resolutions in recent months that state in no uncertain terms their opposition to further public financing for the Sonics.

"A lot of people in the district have read economic studies, and there just isn't any evidence that the public money put into these stadiums ever gets returned," says 36th District Chair Peter House, noting that the resolution passed handily. "If the Sonics put it up to a vote, they'd fail, and that's why they're fighting tooth and nail to keep it from coming to a vote."

Last month, a commission convened by Mayor Nickels issued a report with two principal conclusions: that a \$200 million investment is required for KeyArena to retain an NBA franchise, and that the Arena is viable without one — provided that the Sonics do not move to a suburban facility that would siphon off KeyArena's other shows.

The commission did not agree on how hard the City should try to keep the Sonics. Committee member Richard Feldman of the King County Labor Council expresses reservations about the long-term economic sense of having the Sonics manage KeyArena, which has not been able to pay off its construction debt. But "at the end of the day, it's not about economics," says Feldman, who notes that the prestige associated with an NBA franchise influenced the commission's final recommendations. ■



Won't be fooled again? Chris Van Dyk takes the Sonics to the streets. Photo by Adam Hyla.

[More info]

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Growing Pains

Street-culture expert Jerry Fest on what homeless youth really need

By BILLY MENZ
Street Roots

"If we can get them to be healthy and accomplished people, then they'll deal with the problems themselves. We don't have to fix the problem. We have to help them develop."

Jerry Fest is nationally recognized for his work with street-dependent youths, but his roots bring him back to Portland and the early days of street youth outreach. Today, his training manual, *Street Culture: An Epistemology of Street Dependent Youth*, is required reading material for anyone working with youths on the streets.

Street Roots caught up with Fest, considered a guru in his field, following a recent local training for a group of outreach workers at Yellow Brick Road, a comprehensive, volunteer-staffed outreach program Fest founded.

Street Roots: What is your history in the Portland area? How long did you work in Portland and when did you leave?

Fest: I did a lot of work with homeless youths in the Philadelphia area prior to coming to Portland in 1978. I came here and started to work with homeless youths. I operated the first street outreach program in 1980 through a federal grant program that doesn't even exist anymore. I worked through the first evolution of services.

Finally, in 1986, the federal government selected Portland as one of seven demonstration sites for a new transitional living program for homeless youth. I was hired to run that program, and that program became Bridgehouse, which is the transitional living program of Janus Youth Programs. It's the oldest continuously federally funded transitional living program in the country. I continued to work in the area with Janus Youth Programs until 1998.

In 1998 I sort of had a career choice to make. Since we had been doing Bridgehouse since 1986, which is a youth development model, the federal government then began using this model for other programs around the country, and I began to receive calls for groups to have me come train them on the youth development approach. So in 1998 I realized I had two full-time jobs. One was running my program here in Port-

land, and one was traveling around the country trying to help them get started. I made the decision at that time that I had been working here in Portland long enough, and I turned the program over to someone else, and I went into fulltime training and consulting.

SR: In your experiences locally and nationally, what changes have you observed in youth street culture during that time?

Fest: It depends on what you mean by the question. If you are talking about what changes I have seen in the actual culture on the streets, really very little. The culture that formed out of some common experiences that people have prior to hitting the streets — the underlying culture, the way they interact with each other, the mores and issues of how to survive on the streets, that changes very little.

What changes is the environment that culture has to respond to. And we have seen a lot of changes in terms of the evolution of the service system here in Portland. It went from basically no services to a smattering of different services doing things to try and figure out what works, to a system that was fairly resource-rich. I use that term as broadly as possible because there are still nowhere near enough services, but compared to other communities, Portland is resource-rich. And then to an evolution recently, over the past 10 years, of a different community response to homelessness — one focused far more on outcomes and accountability, which there are arguments for and against. One of the biggest changes I have seen in terms of impact on the street culture is, because of the emphasis on accountability, all the new drug-free zones, prostitution-free zones, curfews in the park, and all of that.

What happened in the local scene is we went from a fairly centralized and visible street population in the downtown core to a decentralized and more underground street population. There are pros and cons on both. The pros are, the businesses are much happier with it being out of sight, out of mind.

The con is that it is more difficult for programs such as Yellow Brick Road and street outreach to even find the people they are looking for. It used to be you could easily find what you were looking for, and now they are all over the city.

SR: You once wrote that "a system cannot help anyone who does not enter." What did you mean by that?

Fest: For better or for worse, we can



talk all we want about whether young people should have the right to survive on the streets, the right to make their own decisions, the right to be separate from the education system. We can talk all we want about whether or not they have that right. At the same time we are having that conversation, though, we have to recognize that whether or not they have the right or not, they certainly have the power to do it. And they are doing it for a variety of reasons. They are leaving the home and surviving on the streets.

What that means is that in order to help them, we have to get them to voluntarily connect with us. Now, if we have a system that has so many barriers and is viewed as so irrelevant to their lives from their perspective that they're not going to connect with the system, then it really doesn't matter how good the system is. They're not going to be in it. So, the first thing you have to do is make a system that is accessible, and then you can worry about how to work with them.

SR: What experiences in your own life drew you to youth services?

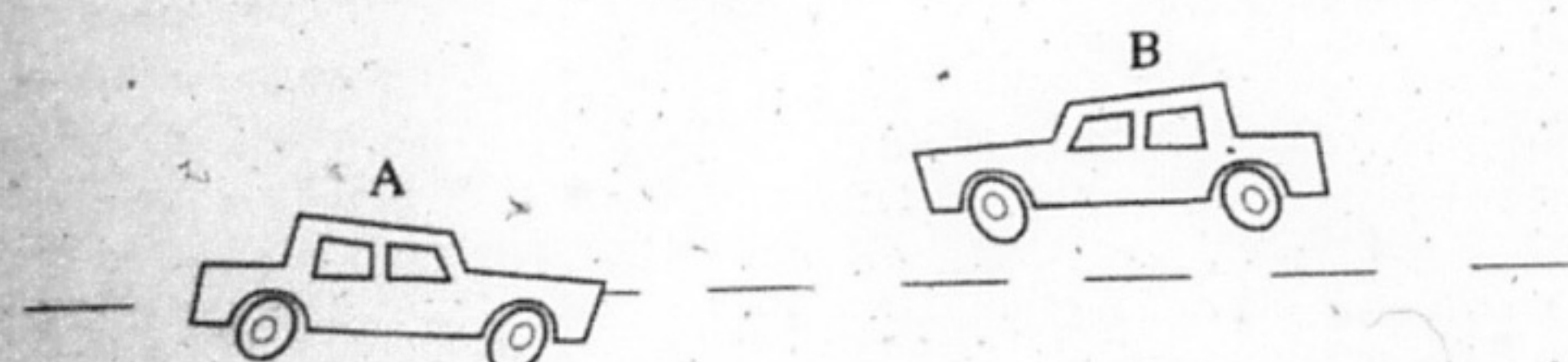
Fest: I hesitate to answer that usually because the way I really got into this was I was a homeless youth myself. I spent about five years on the streets of Philadelphia, and the way I evolved off the streets was, back in the late '60s and early '70s when you would see all these little hippie hotlines popping up that were dealing mainly with bad acid trips and drug overdoses. And I got involved with those programs not as a client but as a volunteer and sort of made the shift over that way.

I usually hesitate to bring it up because I find that a lot of that is not helpful to people. When I am dealing with homeless youths, it is not helpful to say, 'Oh, I've been there,' because I really haven't been "there." My experience is

Seattle's Own:
Two homeless youth, out on the streets. Photo by Rosco Kickingstone.

Story Problem 13

Car A leaves work traveling eastbound on the freeway at 60 mph. Car B leaves work traveling westbound on the freeway at 58 mph. If both cars travel at constant speeds, how hopeless do you have to feel to sleep under that freeway?



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Continued from Previous Page

not relevant to their experience. And a lot of times when I am advocating for homeless youths, if you bring up that you were homeless yourself, it allows people to discount what you're saying because they see you as too personally invested. So, I often really don't know how to answer that question.

SR: What is a typical day for an 18-year-old on the streets?

Fest: The best description of street life I have ever heard in my life is that it is endless hours of excruciating boredom punctuated by moments of sheer terror. And that is really what it's like, and when you look at what's going on with young people on the streets, a lot of the behaviors that the community has difficulty with are because these kids are freaking bored out of their minds. They have nothing to do, so they create constant drama. Somebody is always doing something to someone, and it's because they're bored! And that's really one of the things we miss in terms of service provision. We are focusing on what do we need to do to address their problems, when we should spend at least as much time on what we need to do to address their existence. And give them something to do.

SR: Through Willamette Bridge you helped create the youth development model. Can you explain the logic of this program?

Fest: What this approach focuses on is that young people's problems aren't the issue. Looking at all the issues on the streets, we are not out there to fix all their problems. Problems are symptoms of unmet developmental needs. What we want to be doing is working with the young person to assist them in their development as a person. If we can get them to be healthy and accomplished people, then they'll deal with the problems themselves. We don't have to fix the problem. We have to help them develop.

SR: For many of our readers, they look at youths on the streets and they feel powerless or even intimidated. What would be your suggestions as to how they can help?

Fest: First, the intimidation is the goal of the behavior. You're looking at a scared kid. They're out there on their own and they're frightened to death and the best way to keep themselves safe is to be loud and obnoxious so that you'll leave them the hell alone. That behavior is to keep you away. One of the things that we want to do is not allow that behavior to work.

Three things I tell people is, one, to support the people who are doing the work. I'm not asking people to give 'til it hurts, but a little bit from a lot of people goes a long way. Another thing is, the best thing you can give is yourself. If you have the opportunity to do some mentoring or street outreach, then the more we can involve the community with the young people, that is going to go a long way toward letting them see the community in a different light. I remind people that there are adults reaching out to young people: pimps and drug dealers and the adult predators. They are just the wrong adults. We need the businessmen and the bankers and those type of people giving themselves. Finally, we are all gatekeepers in our own lives to different opportunities. If you're a pilot, offer a kid a flying lesson. I always say open your wallets, open your hearts, open your doors. That is the solution to youth homelessness. ■

Reprinted from *Street Roots*, April 11, 2006. ©Street News Service: www.streetpapers.org.

[Resources]

Jerry Fest's book is available online at www.in4y.com/in4y/street_culture.html.

[Get involved]

Seattle services for homeless teens: Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets is a gathering place for Capitol Hill youth and young adults: www.psk.org. Teen Feed, a nightly meal at one of four cooperating University District churches: (206)522-4366. YouthCare provides shelter, education, training, and other services: www.youthcare.org.

Restraint II

Once I was tempting the powers
of a captain in the Marine Corps,
when he smacked me black and blue
with curses, threatening to send me away
on an ocean liner of insanity,
letting loose a flood of memories.
The dikes were wide open, sending me
tumbling backward through
my whole biography where trembling
I was interrogated and the doctors watched me.
I heard an invisible fleet talking to me
of sail boats and cribs where I curled
afraid at night. It's probably futile
to explain, but you may understand
the blaze I went up in when the earth
seemed a long way from my feet
and I met a lot of angels
also tumbling to free themselves
from the restraints on is put in
from birth: Five Point, like a star (waist, ankles and wrists);
Three Point (waist, one ankle, one wrist) -
they can tie you down.

—CRYSTA CASEY

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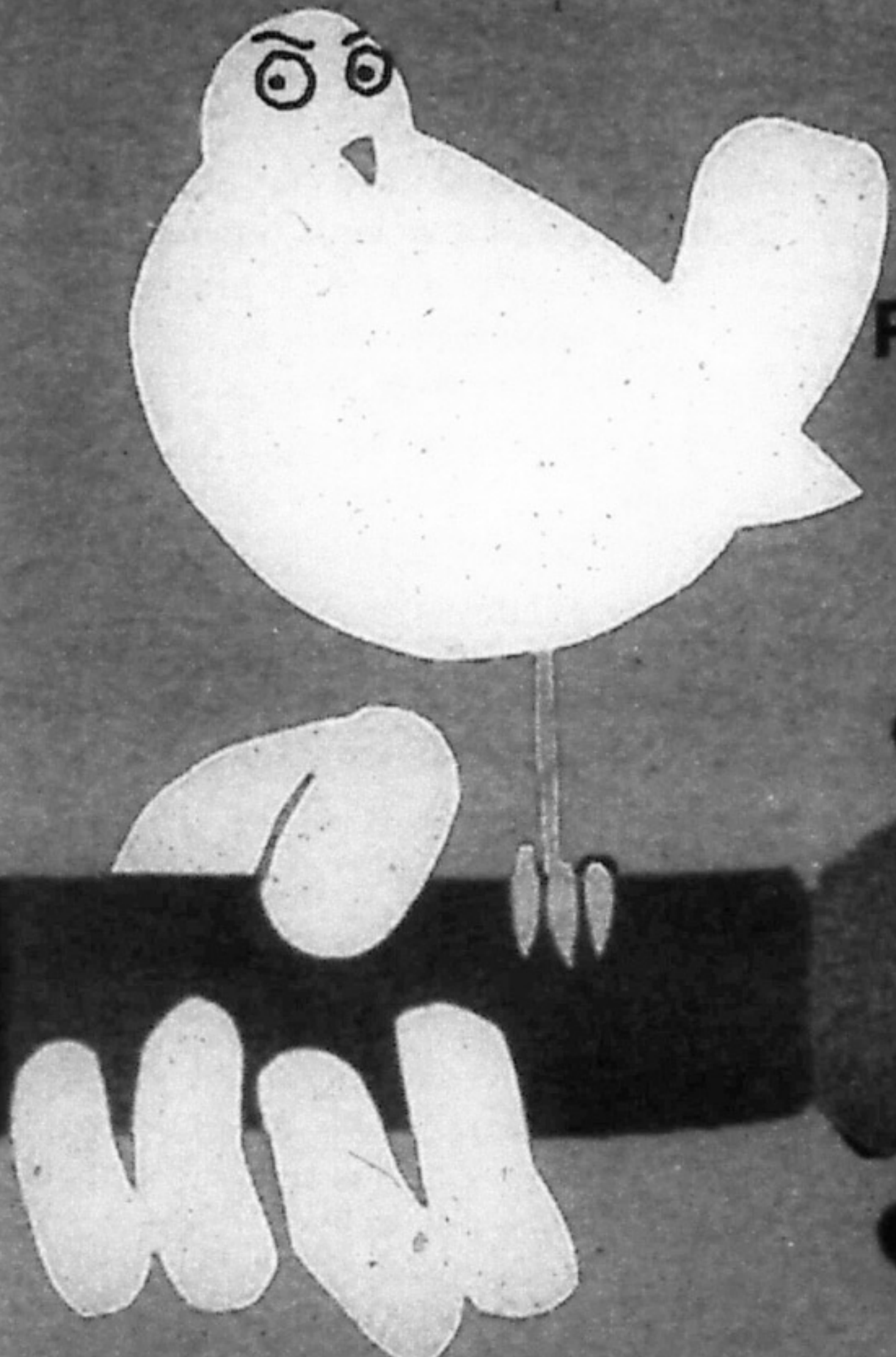


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Diana Evans masterfully blends imagination and reality in *26a*, as her lyrical prose captures the innocent adventure of being a child, without compromising the complexities of a profound story of love and loss.

26a
By Diana Evans
William Morrow, 2005
Hardback, 288 pages, \$23.95
By AUSTIN WALTERS
Contributing Writer

Debut novels are a dime a dozen in the fickle world of fiction. They line the shelves of bookstores with colorful covers and catchy titles, attracting dust and disappointing readers with shallow characterization and predictable plot lines. But occasionally a fresh and original voice emerges from the pack, and Diana Evans is one such voice. In her debut novel, *26a*, readers are rewarded with a complex and intriguing story about identical twin sisters in contemporary London.

Central characters Georgia and Bessi are a perfectly formed whole. Georgia is as introverted and cautious as Bessi is bold and adventurous. The twins believe that they will never be apart.

Their attic room at 26a Waifer Avenue in London is a carefully constructed sanctuary where fantasy reigns and the girls can escape from the danger on the floors below. Sometimes joined by older sister Bel and younger sister Kemy, the sisters eat tangerines and dream of

their future success as the "Famous Flapjack Twins."

Below, their Nigerian mother, Ida, suffers through dark depressions as she aches for the beloved homeland she left as a girl. Speaking to spirits to soothe her homesickness, Ida cooks strange feasts and frets over the family from her distracted perch. At the same time, their frustrated and volatile father, Aubrey, sloshes away his disappointment in life at the local pub. The children brace for his late-night returns, huddled together in the attic room, anxiously monitoring each creaking floorboard.

Despite their imperfections, the family bonds and grows. The death of their beloved hamster teaches the girls about life's delicate balance. When Bel reveals a late teenage pregnancy and causes a stir of fury in Aubrey, the women protect and nurture her and eventually convince their father to accept his first grandson.

Bel's quick transition into adulthood also marks an end to all of the sisters' childlike innocence, as the pressing incursions of the real world force the younger twins to consider choices in their individual lives and face an imminent separation. Georgia suddenly understands that she holds the embedded family secret of immobilizing depression and can never be entirely whole or happy.

Having vowed to keep nothing from her sister, Georgia felt the first cracks in her fragile mental state when she concealed a terrifying sexual assault in early adolescence. Directing her horror inward, Georgia felt she could protect her twin from the ugliness in the world and preserve Bessi's courage for at least a few more years. But it's not until Bessi decides to travel instead of going to college, forcing their longest separation, that Georgia's debilitating depression really takes hold. She's soon overwhelmed by the simple daily tasks of buying milk or walking to school. When a brief romance brings joy and relief back into her life, the family's worries are momentarily averted. But the sadness creeps back in and Georgia begins to say her heartbreaking good-byes. The night before she takes her own life, she visits Bessi in a dream, and asks for her forgiveness and understanding, saying, "I must go, for I do not fit. And you will understand, soon, that I must."

Evans masterfully blends imagination and reality as her lyrical prose captures the innocent adventure of being a child, without compromising the complexities of a profound story of love and loss. This coming of age story about twin sisters is an expertly drawn and powerfully told debut novel, marking Evans as an emerging star. ■

On the Radio

A *Prairie Home Companion*
Directed by Robert Altman
Opens in theaters June 9

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

There is an enduring and stubborn half-truth that all good films start with a good script. Indeed, without a tangible for studio script readers, producers, investors, and insurance companies, nothing much would get done. Because director Robert Altman (*Nashville*, *M*A*S*H*) has always refused to be tethered by these 90 or so pages, he brings us full dimensional narratives, stories that take advantage of the medium of which he is a master.

He uses this touch to issue forth hilarious mockeries of our vanities. Up until this point his films have been about "them" — caricatures of the megalomaniacal, greedy, and

pretentious. *A Prairie Home Companion* is about "us" — the same folks, our frailties held in a more compassionate light.

Based on Garrison Keillor's eponymous NPR show and placed back in the pre-television years, it addresses an issue that Altman, at the age of 85, no doubt personally visits: mortality. As usual, a top-drawer cast is on hand, anxious to work with the maestro: Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson, Lindsay Lohan, Kevin Kline, and John C. Reilly.

Prairie tells the story of an ensemble of actors and musicians whose local radio program, on which no one's and everyone's a star, is threatened with termination. There's the Johnson sisters, Yolanda and Rhonda (Streep and Tomlin), a singing duo, whose chance at the big time has come and gone. Their male counterparts, Dusty and Lefty (Harrelson and Reilly), with guitars and vocals, have also passed their pinnacle. But their down-home, heartfelt crooning tells us all we need to know about these people and their sense of community. And once we're truly aware of what they have, and cognizant of what it means to lose it, the film ushers us into a gentle allegory on impermanence.

Garrison Keillor, who wrote the script, plays himself. In his role of emcee and impresario, he brings his trademark dry Midwest humor and pronounced sobriety. Through his personal brand of irony that leverages so much on so little effort, he is irresistibly endearing.

Altman, like Keillor, a man from the Midwest, has never been one to brook arrogance and pretense — components of the human folly with which the director delights making mischief. His fondness for this theme has endeared him with the socially judgmental baby-boomer audience more than two decades his junior. And now he has another message for them in his "us" movie: that for all of your self-importance, your time in the spotlight will come to an end, and as with all of us, the curtain will come down one last time on your show. ■

A Prairie Home Companion tells the story of an ensemble of actors and musicians whose local radio program, on which no one's and everyone's a star, is threatened with termination.

Woody Harrelson and John C. Reilly, a-picking and a-signing in *A Prairie Home Companion*.



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning



It's on the Tip of My Tongue...

What should we call our new form of government?

This can't be a Republic any more. I'd say the Republic died November 4, 1952, when Truman let the National Security Agency start up without the knowledge of the

citizens or most of Congress, but that's just me.

Some other folks say the Republic ended the first time Congress neglected to either declare or put a stop to a war. Others blame Congress for 100 years of dragging its heels on civil rights legislature, forcing the people to fall back on the courts. Unexpected results: (1) George Bush, 5-4, 2000. (2) The Eminent Domain Principle neutered, 5-4, 2005. (3) The obliteration of First Amendment rights enabling public employees to protect the public, 5-4, last week.

Need more proof? Our executive branch now conducts searches without warrants and regularly tries to deny *habeas corpus*. Our elected president abuses signing statements to excuse the selective enforcement of laws, openly defying the power of Congress to make those laws.

It's now deemed illegal to exercise the right of free speech except in a "free speech zone." Military funerals have been nationally designated, now and forever, as free from free speech. Cries of "Protestor!" from security at the president's appearances are signals to use violent force to remove and arrest people wearing anti-Bush T-shirts, who are treated as enemies of the state.

Many have already been asking the question I began with and have come up with ideas of their own. Some say we should imitate Rome and call our government Empire. I think that the Romans were not precise enough; yes, it was an empire, but it was so much more. Let's be precise where the Romans weren't, because we care more about who we are.

Some say we now have a Fascist government. They point first to Mussolini's definition: the repudiation of pacifism, the glorification of war, the claim to nevertheless be pro-life, the rejection of class struggle and explicit rejection of collective responsi-

bility, the idea that citizens need to be preemptively deprived of freedoms that might only potentially be "harmful," and the right of the state to assert itself in the world by virtue of its power.

If all that doesn't get you to buy the name, proponents point to Dr. Lawrence Britt's Fourteen Defining Characteristics of Fascism, all of which apply to our government, from (1) "Powerful and Continuing Nationalism," (2) "Disdain for the Recognition of Human Rights," all the way through to (13) "Rampant Cronyism and Corruption" and even (14) "Fraudulent Elections." (Note the universal use by both parties of gerrymandering to lock incumbents into office — a war on the representational system.)

I don't think we should call our government Fascist, even if it fits everyone's definition, because Fascism comes from the Italian *Fascismo*, and by golly, we speak American here. So we should have our own American name for our form of government.

"Totalitarianism" is technically valid, but like "Empire," hardly descriptive enough, and our leadership is not so narrow as the kind of one-party dictatorship the term usually conjures up. George-Dick Bush-Cheney is not solely in control. He/it has to share power with Judge Roberts, Exxon, Halliburton, and even some Democrats, like Zell Miller.

So we would need to refer to what we have as some kind of oligarchy, but what kind is it?

For a clue I looked up the origin of the word "Republic." It comes from the Latin *res* (meaning "thing" or "matter") + *public* (meaning "public.") So it means a Public Thing. Clearly, what we've got now is no kind of Public Thing. What we've got is a secret, private thing. We have a government of dissembling and disguise.

So my own recommendation is (ta-da!): Redissimulation.

Here it is, used in a sentence:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to The Redissimulation for which it stands, one oligarchy under Bush's imaginary God, entrenched and unaccountable, with liberty and justice, but not for long. ■

of the abusive environment. Leaving a batterer is a very dangerous time, and planning ahead may limit the risks to you and your children. Once your safety plan is in place, be sure to consult it often to ensure that it is the safest way to leave your batterer. You can find a sample safety plan at the Washington Courts website at www.courts.wa.gov/dv/?fa=dv.safeplan.

After you have left your batterer and checked into a shelter, you may want to consider getting a protection order against your batterer. A protection order can help keep you safe by ordering the batterer to stop all contact with you. However, a protection order may not be the safest option for everyone. You should talk to a domestic violence advocate either at the shelter, or from another organization, about the best option for you before getting a protection order. You do not need a lawyer to get a protection order, and you can learn more about the process at the Washington Courts website at www.courts.wa.gov/dv/?fa=dv_order.home.

For more information on how to obtain a protection order, on answers to general questions, or for additional shelter and support information, you can go to the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence: (206) 389-2515 or www.wscadv.org.



Sat., May 6, 1:23 p.m., Fourth Avenue South — Jack in the Box.

An officer was dispatched to the Jack-In-The-Box to a trespass call. The complainant, an employee of the restaurant, reported that a Black female was inside the lobby, apparently asleep. She had been asked to leave several times but had refused. The officer arrived and contacted the suspect — a transient Black female aged 46, and ran a name check on her. An outstanding warrant was found and verified. Suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Thurs., May 18, 5:14 p.m., 500 Queen Anne Ave N. — Dick's Restaurant.

Officers were dispatched to a call of a disturbance — the information on the call indicated the manager of the business wanted a "transient male removed from the lot." Officers arrived and observed a transient white male aged 50 sitting just outside the business. He fitted the description provided by the complainant. Complainant then came out of the business and stated she had asked the suspect to leave prior to calling the police. She also stated she believed he has been previously trespassed from the location. The suspect was cooperative and provided his ID — a records check showed he had been trespassed previously on 05/31/05. Suspect was arrested and transported to the west precinct — he was then issued another trespass card from Dick's, and was issued a verbal warning for having an open container of Steel Reserve beer in public at the time of his arrest. He was then transported to King County Jail.

Thurs., May 25, 12:18 p.m., 600 block Third Ave.

Officers were dispatched to a call of a man wandering in the road. When officers arrived the citizens that had made the call were present, and the victim, a transient male aged 22, was well off the road on the east sidewalk. Officers asked the subject if everything was okay; he said yes, and that he was just tired. They asked the man if he needed to go to the hospital, or was in need of any medication, and he stated again that he was fine. The officers told him to make sure he stays out of the road, and the man walked away northbound on the sidewalk.

Fri., May 26, 6:56 p.m., Queen Anne Ave. N. — Starbucks Coffee.

Starbucks' manager called 911 to report that the suspect, a transient white male aged 36, had been previously trespassed from the store but had returned and was sitting at an outside table, panhandling. Prior to his arrival, the officer did a name check on the suspect and found he had been trespassed from that location in August 2005. He arrived and found the suspect still sitting at the table. He contacted the man and placed him into custody without incident. He was transported to King County Jail and booked for criminal trespass.

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



REAL-LIFE ANSWERS TO YOUR LEGAL HASSLES

My husband is very abusive, and I don't know how much more I can take. However, I was told that a shelter wouldn't admit my 14-year-old son. I can't leave him with my husband. What can I do?

According to attorney Kelly Angell at Foster Pepper PLLC, if you find yourself in immediate danger, call 911. If not, there are a number of confidential emergency shelters in King County that take women with adolescent children. The shelters take children, both girls and boys, up to age 17 or 18. All you need to do to make arrangements to stay at one of the shelters is call the 24-hour crisis line at (206) 461-3222 or the statewide hotline at 1(800)562-6025. However, the need and requests for emergency shelter outweigh the availability. Shelters accept clients on a first-come first-serve basis, so it is possible when you call that the shelters may be full.

You should continue to call daily and in the meantime, you should make a safety plan to have a successful transition from your home to a shelter. A safety plan is essentially a checklist of items that will aid you in making a safe move out

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 PLLC. Got a question? E-mail: atji@seattleu.edu.

Approval

His hand moved on a slow path.
He could not seem to lighten it; there was no
desire. No fresh edge to this shape of daylight
beneath him, above the hand that he raised.

And he was frightened. No clear water was
possible for him, yet he could sense the act.
The beginning of it.

Then... as with water, he raised question!
There was no shelter. Still, he would find
shapes for himself.
Yes!

And he did that.

—STAN BURRISS



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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Take NOTA

Dear *Real Change*,

The majority of Americans, commonly known as the "Silent Majority," are becoming totally frustrated and discouraged with the direction this great country is headed, especially in the political arena. It's time to make a change for the better and give the American voters a real choice! The political framework for this great country was laid by our Founding Fathers over 200 years ago. However, the political fantasies of the "corrupt and greedy" have disgusted Americans for years and it will in turn be responsible for the demise of our mighty nation. Americans have paid a high price for political corruption and greed over the years. The mockery has reached the breaking point. The following is an idea to make a change toward the right direction and give Americans a true choice in electing their government officials.

"None Of The Above" ("NOTA") is an option being suggested from this point forward. It is simple. "NOTA" will become a valid choice for the American people to make. In other words, if a voter is not satisfied with any of the choices, then simply select "NOTA." How does it work? Well let's say that George W. Bush and Al Gore were the two on the next ballot for the Presidency. Their names would be on the ballot along with "NOTA." If "NOTA" receives the majority of the votes, then the American people have spoken. Both candidates would be eliminated and not

able to enter any subsequent elections for that office! In this case the Electoral College could override the choice of the American people and a new election must be held.

If "NOTA" is the winner then any qualified American could run in the subsequent election, to be held three weeks later. During the following weeks, all new candidates would be given equal opportunity in the media, newspapers, television, and radio to air their platform. At the end of three weeks another election would be held. This process would be repeated until a candidate received more votes than "NOTA." If only one candidate receives more votes than "NOTA," then that candidate wins the election and there will be no need to convene the Electoral College. If two or more candidates receive more votes than "NOTA," then and only then would the Electoral College convene, to elect the president from those who received more votes than "NOTA."

Candidates had better be serious and not waste our time because "NOTA" will be a valid choice! This will apply to all elections: local, state and federal. It is time these jobs were taken seriously! Then and only then will those who are elected start working for the American people and not their own individual special interests? At that point this country will rebuild itself into the greatest nation in the world, hands down! We want results and we want results now! When all else fails, vote "NOTA."

Charlie Peters
Seattle

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



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Opportunity

Nobility examines the world's most pressing problems from the perspective of Nobel laureates. Saturday, June 10, 7:30 p.m., East West Bookshop, 6500 Roosevelt Way NE.

Save Darfur Washington State hosts a planning meeting to speak out for ending the genocide. Monday, June 12, 6:30 p.m., Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St.

Want to do your part to fight poverty and have fun to boot? Then volunteer to work at the Fremont Fair June 17 and 18. Volunteers are invited to a free beer and pizza kickoff event Tuesday, June 13, 6-8 p.m. at Jonas Jensen Studio, 155 N. 35th St. For more info, contact Elena Semeraro at 694-6825 or find out more by going to the website www.fremontfair.org/volunteer_fair.php

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

Wednesday 6/07

The Cambodian Cultural Museum hosts a community-wide celebration of Cambodia, featuring food, arts and craft items for sale, and films on the evolution and history of the country. 6:30 p.m., Youngstown Cultural Center, 4408 Delridge Way S.W. Info: (206) 730-7740.

Elizabeth Grossman discusses her full, astute analysis of burgeoning e-waste featured in *High Tech Trash: Digital Devices, Hidden Toxins, and Human Health*. The millions of plastic computer casings, lead-infused monitors, antiquated cell phones, and dead TV remote controls that pile up in annually in America's landfills are leaking arsenic, mercury, and other dangerous chemicals. 8 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Thursday 6/08

Government employee, activist, and riparian property owner John Lombard brings a unique perspective to preserving the Puget Sound's ecosystem. His book, *Saving Puget*

Sound: A Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century looks beyond salmon to the region's other natural treasures: forests, rivers, the shoreline, and the South Sound prairies. He talks about his new book and how to fiscally implement his plan. 7:30 p.m., Mountaineers Clubhouse, 300 Third Ave. W.

Friday 6/09

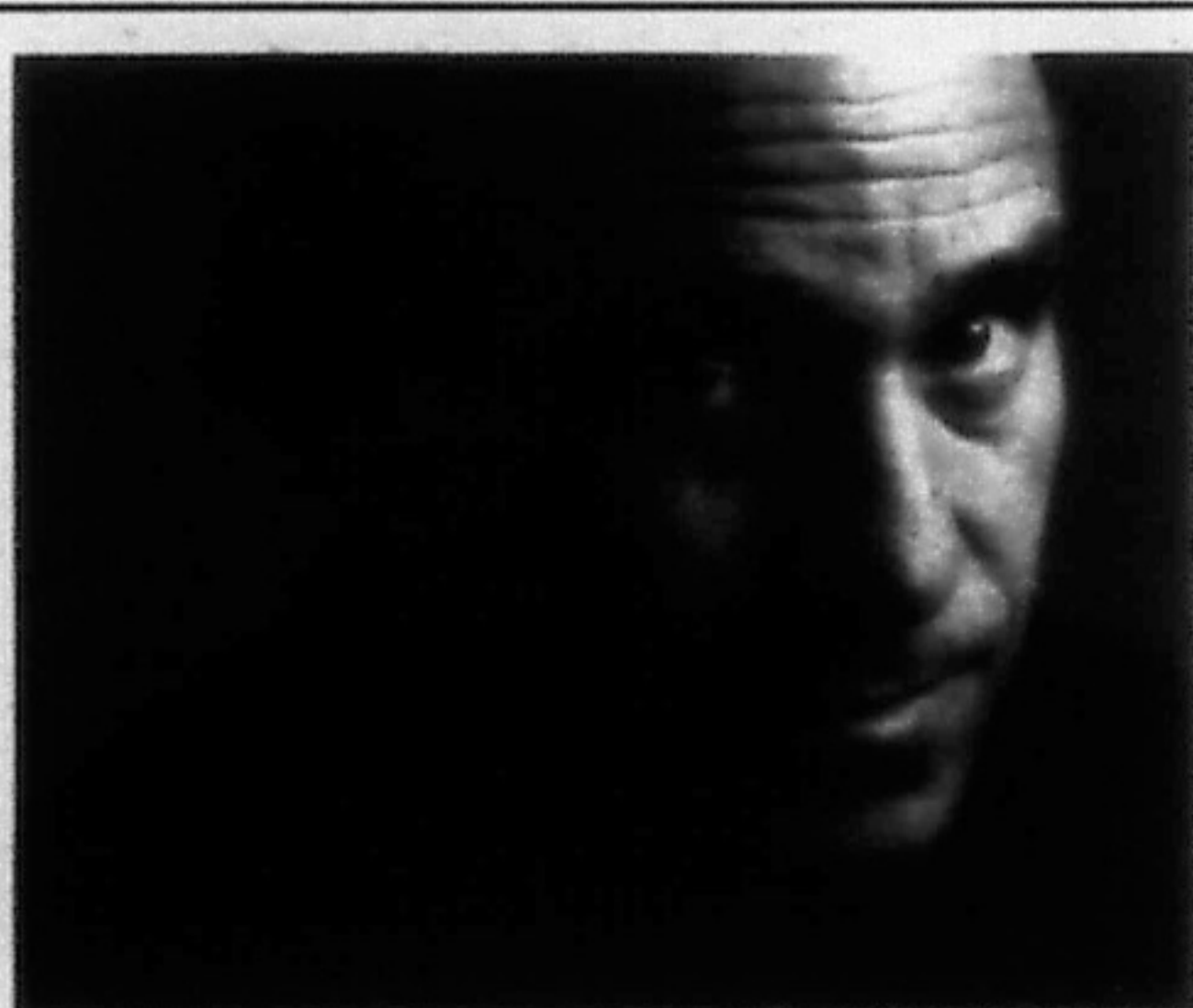
Was your vote counted in 2004? Penny Little's investigative documentary *Electile Dysfunction* is an overview of the myriad of problems in the 2004 presidential election: easily hackable voting machines, fraud, disenfranchisement, and exit poll manipulation. The film also covers a stolen election in Alabama 2002, reveals the irregularities in Florida and Ohio, and features interviews with activists, celebrities, journalists, and many more. 7:00 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. Info: wnfp@bridgings.org.

Saturday 6/10

Fascism in America: Is It Coming? features lectures, conversations, and music on the troubling changes in the U.S. This forum examines fascism in relation to corporations, economics, and fundamentalism. Speakers include

Rev. Rich Lang, Neil J. Elgee, and Attorney Bill Hanson. 9 a.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23rd Ave. NW Info: www.tumseattle.org.

Freedom Project and Threshold Ensemble present an evening of Playback Theater exploring freedom from violence through personal stories of compassion, humor, connection, and understanding. Freedom Project works with imprisoned and released prisoners. Suggested donation \$15. 7:30 p.m., Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave.



Muckraking journalist Greg Palast used old-school detective work to dig up information on the War on Terror. He uncovered the greedy schemes to seize nations with abundances of oil, the hidden plan to steal the 2008 election, and the media biases that keep it all unreported. Palast discusses his new book, *Armed Madhouse*, the Katrina reconstruction efforts, the war in Iraq, and more. Tickets \$10. Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Beginning at Chief Seattle's grave and ending in Vancouver, the International Peace Walk incorporates the practice of Japanese Buddhist monks and nuns who walk and chant while beating their drum as a call for world peace. The walk aims to move the hearts and minds of everyone toward a culture of peace and sustainability. Bainbridge to Seattle ferry. Info: www.footprintsforpeace.net.

Sunday 6/11

A shockingly bleak look at America's post-oil future, James Howard Kunstler's latest book, *The Long Emergency*, discusses how the depletion of nonrenewable fossil fuels will radically change American car culture. He argues that alternative energy sources cannot fill the gap, which will eventually result in crippling the U.S. economy. He hopes that the country will regroup, emerging as walk-able towns centered around local, organic farmers and trades workers. He comes to Seattle to lecture on the current state and future of oil. Tickets \$5. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Monday 6/12

The award-winning young guitarists of the Los Angeles-based New West Guitar Quartet combine jazz and chamber music for their original compositions. Tickets \$5 and up. 7 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

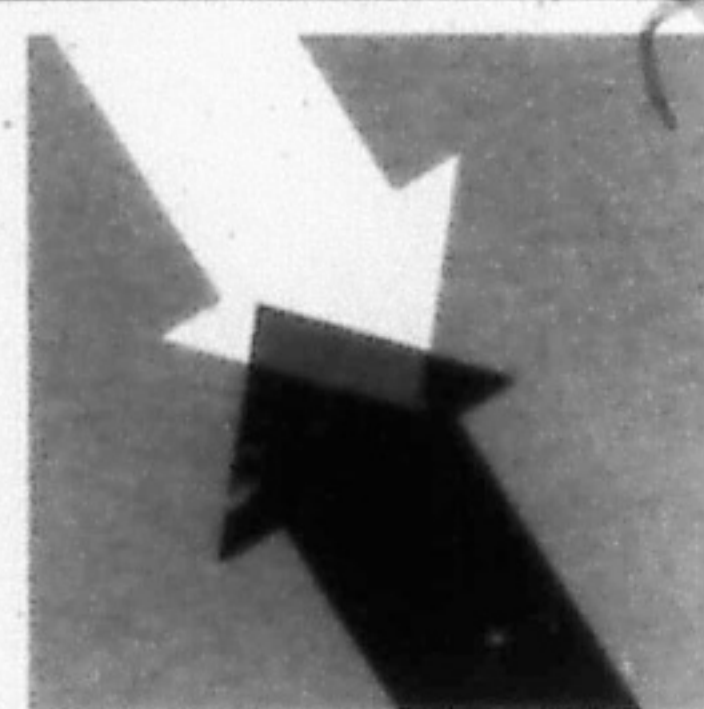
Director's Corner



This month marks the beginning of our summer pledge drive, and we need your help. Like many small nonprofits, our organization pushes the limits of what we can do, and this means sometimes running uncomfortably close to the red. The peaks and valleys of our bank balance generally correspond to the post-holiday season and the early summer. But verily, though we walk in the valley of debt, we shall fear no evil, for we know that there are thousands of people who value our work and want to see *Real Change* succeed.

In 2005, nearly 1,000 readers helped keep *Real Change* healthy and thriving with their support. This year, our readership has increased for the fifth straight year. Our vendors tell us that more and more people appreciate the quality content. While the year is young, we've already won an important campaign to increase what downtown developers contribute to affordable housing. We continue to focus on helping vendors succeed, publishing a great paper, and building a more just society.

We need your help. As an organizing project that challenges the status quo, *Real Change* depends upon a broad base of reader support to make our work possible. Your donation, of any amount, shows that you care. Please show your support by making a secure online donation at www.realchangenews.org, or mailing your tax-deductible gift to *Real Change*, 2129 Second Ave., Seattle WA, 98121, today.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Seattle's Hotel Workers Need a Raise

Issue: Hotel workers all across North America are rising to lift each other above the poverty line, and move into the middle class. Because Seattle is home to the Westin, one of the larger union properties targeted in this effort, Seattle has been chosen as one of the cities to kick off the Hotel Workers Rising! campaign.

Background: Changes in the economy and a move towards global sourcing have eliminated many of the manufacturing jobs that bolstered the American middle class for a generation. Today, 80 percent of jobs in the U.S. and Canada are in the service sector. Hotel and restaurant jobs are the largest percentage of those service industry jobs and make up 50 percent of the lowest-paying job categories. Hotel jobs are staying in the U.S. and employing more people every day. In order to maintain the strong middle class that has been the hallmark of American opportunity, we need to make service jobs good jobs that can support a family.

Hotel workers — largely minority and immigrant women — work hard to create a welcoming home away from home for business travelers and tourists. Few people realize that hotel rooms are dangerous places to work and are becoming even more dangerous because of constantly increasing workloads. The addition of room amenities like heavy mattresses, triple sheeting, and in-room exercise equipment means that these women are pushing heavier carts, carrying heavier loads and lifting heavier beds every day. Room attendants are strong women who work hard to make travelers comfortable away from home and their injury rates are 25 percent higher than other service workers. Their effort should be valued and their health protected.

Wages for the same jobs vary wildly from city to city, and workers find themselves fighting to make ends meet and keep important benefits like health care and retirement plans, as well as their right to organize a union.

The average daily hotel room rate in Seattle is above many of the most profitable hotel cities in North America, yet the average wage lags behind even though the housekeepers all work for the same multi-national corporations. The average room rate for a hotel in Seattle is \$134.33. The average hourly housekeeping wage is \$9.72. In Boston the average room rate is \$129.56 while the average housekeeping wage is \$13.23. The average room rate in Miami is \$103.95 and the housekeeping wage is \$11.17.

In our area, an adult with one child must earn \$17.33 per hour or \$36,600 per year in order to meet its basic needs without public or private assistance. We have the opportunity and responsibility to raise the standards not only for those in the hospitality industry, but to help lift the floor for the entire service sector of the economy.

Action: Attend the Hotel Workers Rising! kickoff rally on Thursday, June 15 at 4 p.m. at the Westin Hotel (Sixth and Stewart in downtown Seattle). To learn more, contact Jessica at jlawson@unitehere.org or call (206) 728-2326, ext. 21.

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

PROTEST, Continued from Page 1

marching, their numbers nearing 200, toward the port. They entered a gate he claims that protestors knew to be unlocked. Police and port officials were caught off guard. He says the police tried to close the gate to stanch the human tide, but in the attempt, the gate toppled over. Protestors who had made it inside fell on the ground. They lay prone. As protestors were pulled apart, out came more pepper spray. Yates was hit with his second spume in less than 24 hours. He says he was wearing a rag over his nose and mouth, sunglasses over his eyes, and a coating of Maalox on his exposed skin to stop the burning. "This time," says Yates, "I was prepared."

The stinging was less severe the second go-round, as, Yates says, police pulled his arms behind his back

and plastic handcuffs were tightened around his wrists. He and 21 others in similar straits waited for a police vehicle to take them for booking. While in the holding cell later, Yates says a friend of his went into shock from the pepper spray.

As it turned out, of those arrested on May 30, 20 were charged with criminal trespass, the remaining two with failure to disperse. Yates says he's not supposed to speak about what charges he's facing, except that he

"All of a sudden, this port thing happened, and it was our moment."

has to keep 500 feet away from the port now. A court date beckons on June 13.

Even though he says protestors were unable to stop the departure of the *Pomeroy* — the loaded vessel set sail for Iraq on May 31 — he feels a solidarity with anti-war activists he had not experienced before.

"All of a sudden, this port thing happened," says Yates of the end of May, "and it was our moment." ■

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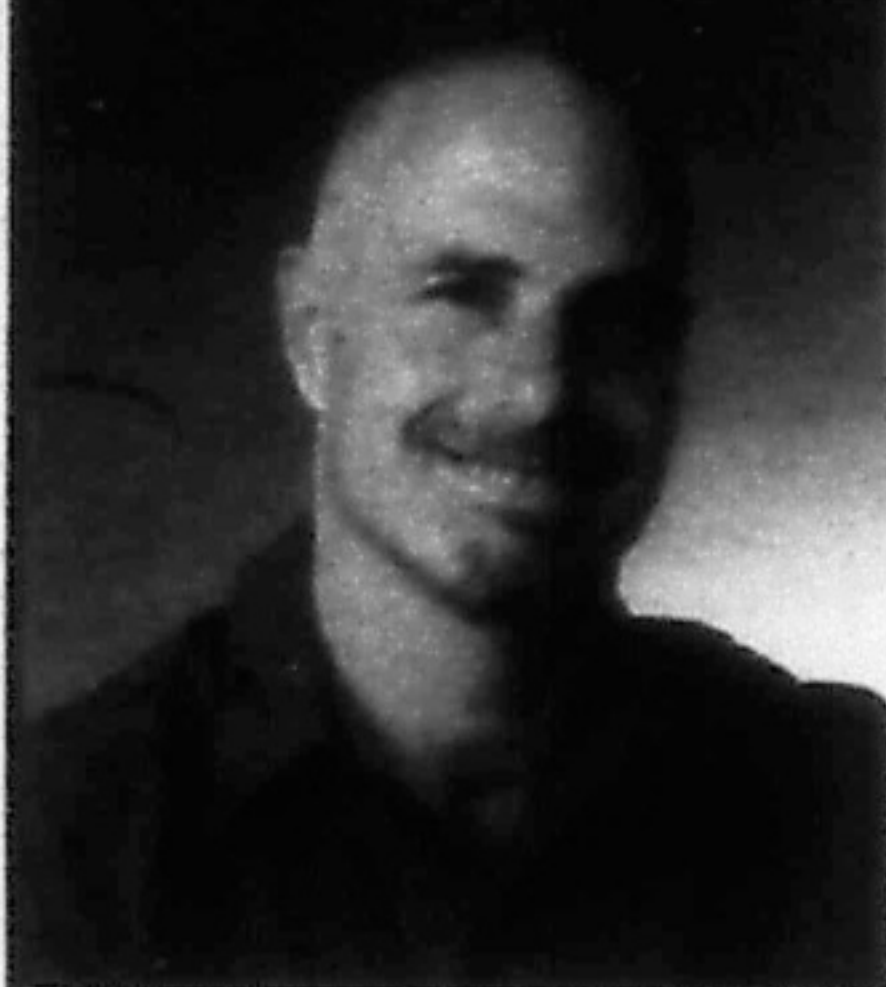
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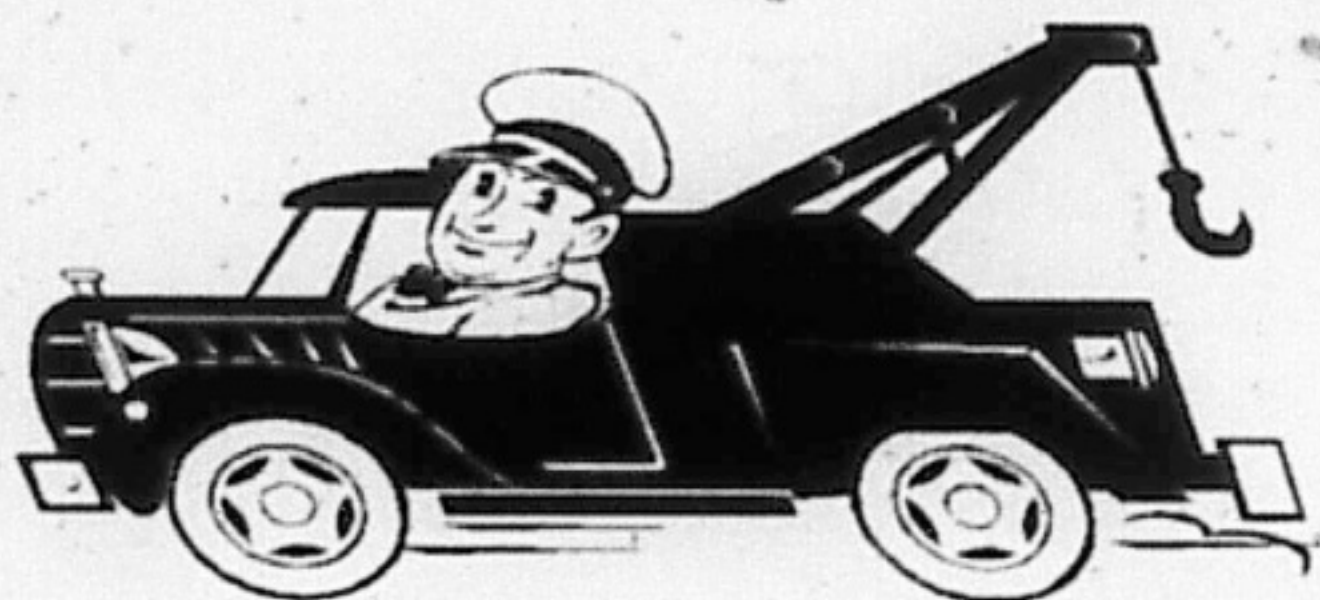
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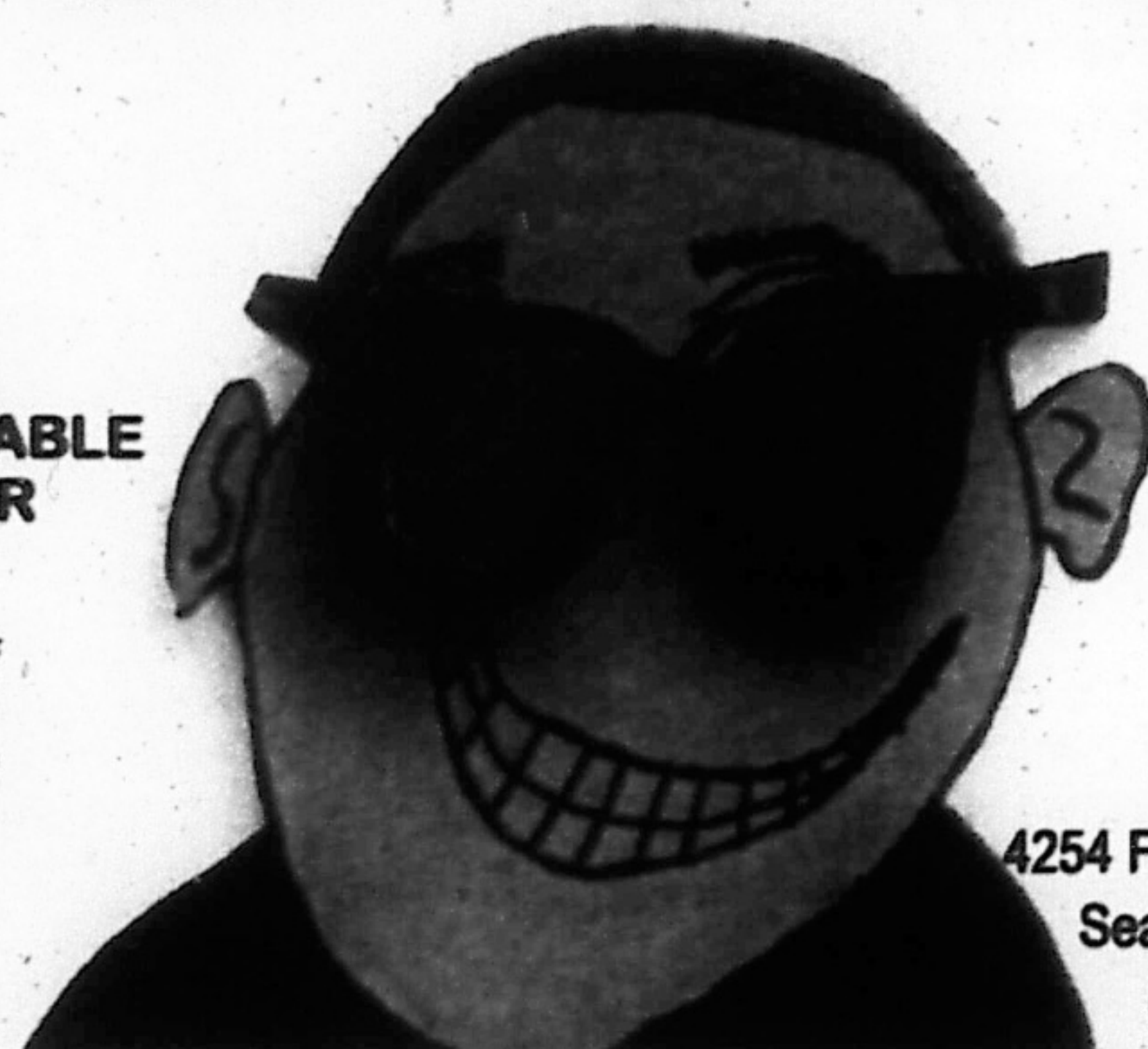
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- "You Oughta be in Pictures" - Argus Super Eight movie camera; Nikon N2000 35mm; 35mm film
- "Vino Bambino Gift Crate"
- Pedal cab tour of Elliott Bay/Lake Union



For More info, call Peter, (206) 441-3247
x208, development@realchangenews.org

Mockingbird Times,



Recipient of 2005 Congressional Angels in Adoption Award
Building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth.

June 2006

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak Out Across the Nation

Volume VI, Issue 6

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

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Pathways to Adulthood Conference

JAMICA
HENDERSON



From May 17th-19th, Najja, Misty, and I went to a conference in Portland Oregon called the Pathways to Adulthood. We attended the conference to meet with other organizations and individuals who were also working to help foster and homeless youth make a smooth transition to adulthood as well as to conduct a workshop on Mockingbird Society's Youth LEAD program. This conference was nation-wide and people came from almost everywhere. It was good to meet all the people that work with foster youth and hear about all the cool programs. It seemed that every one who was there had a goal of finding a better way to fix transition process for those aging out of the foster-care system and who are homeless.

On the first day, we checked into our hotel room and later that evening we all met in the conference room to get a feel for who was there. Once we finished that, we attended a reception in the dining hall and watched young Native dancers perform. They were beautiful and the food was delicious (sponsored by Casey Family). It was a great night and I went to my room excited for what the morning would bring.

The next day, we attended three workshops and each of them had lots of information explaining what they do or would like to do to help young people transition to adulthood. It was good information and gave me many ideas. Later that afternoon, Najja and I went on a site visit to Bridge House, a transitional housing program for homeless youth (including parents with their young children). The home offered many opportunities such as employment, independent living skills and case management that was all in place to help them get on their feet.



Jamica and Najja all smiles during conference workshop.

On the last day, I went to one workshop and then we did our presentation. I was a little nervous at first, but once it was time to present the nervousness went away. We had a pretty good audience who were very interested in what we were doing on behalf of homeless youth and those in the foster-care system. I was excited that they were so interested and willing to learn more. In all, I had a great time and would love to go all over the world to tell everyone about what we do here at Mockingbird Society and how we are making a huge difference in the foster-care system.



Misty "speaking-out" during Youth LEAD workshop.

Get Published — Get Paid!

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.

Remembering Stonewall

MISTY
LOU COOK



"The Stonewall Riots were a series of violent protests and street demonstrations that began in the early morning hours of June 28th, 1969, and centered around a gay bar in the Greenwich Village section of New York City" (1). The riots and physical protests were in response to the homophobia and oppression of queer (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, etc.) people, especially queer people of color and working class queer people. The Stonewall Inn was a gay club where the New York queer community congregated, supported each other and created memories. The Stonewall was also a place where queer people routinely got beat up, harassed, raped by the police and then charged with the crime of "homosexuality". During the turbulent time of the 1960's, there were no state or federal laws that specifically outlawed homosexuality, but there were so many harsh laws prohibiting ANY homosexual/queer intimacy or sexuality, dress, activities, behaviors or expressions that they might as well have prohibited homosexuality and identifying as a queer person altogether!! Police laws restricted how queer people dressed, where they could gather, whom they could love and show affection, even the way they expressed themselves.

"At the end of the 1960's, homosexual

sex was illegal in every state but Illinois. Not one law - federal, state or local - protected gay men or women from being fired or denied housing. There were no openly gay politicians. No television show had any identifiably gay characters ... There were no openly gay policemen, public school teachers, doctors or lawyers ..." (2). The queer community in America during and previous to the 1960's was strictly underground and in constant danger of being discovered. If you were found to be gay in the 1960's, you could lose your job, housing or worse. Queer people were frequently written off as being insane, emotionally unstable, perverted and generally unfit for society. In California hospitals and elsewhere, queer people or anyone discovered as having queer behaviors were frequently hospitalized and/or incarcerated, given "electrical and pharmacological shock therapy, castrated, and lobotomized." (3). New York police frequently arrested any person (especially at a queer bar/park/part of town) for wearing "fewer than three articles of clothing appropriate for their gender". The religious right in this country condemned queer people and called them "sinful", the police enforced outdated homophobic laws imposed by fearful fanatics of the religious right and all of the institutions of medicine and mental illness called them "perverts" and "insane" ... it seemed that queer people were pushed into a smothering corner filled with laws, fears and hatred from outside communities.

Around 1:20AM on June 28th, 1969, New York police and undercover investigators went

in to "bust" the Stonewall Inn for "serving alcohol to homosexuals" and arrest the patrons of the Stonewall Inn for acts of homosexuality and/or being homosexual. There was a lot of nervous energy in the Stonewall Inn, young lives were at stake, families could be destroyed, jobs lost, futures forever ruined. The street-involved youth and queer people of color were especially effected by this particular police raid, as well as the transgender community, who were usually targeted and punished/beaten the most often.

As police began to round up the queer people of the Stonewall Inn, and demand ID's and any condemning homosexual information, there was a spirit of resistance that was new to both the queer people and the cops that were present. This spirit was the beginning of what would later be called "The Stonewall Rebellion". The queer people of Stonewall, after being pushed around and brutalized by the New York police, REVOLTED and REBELLED against the police raids and homophobia, and that initial rebellion started SIX DAYS OF RIOTING that would eventually spark THE QUEER LIBERATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT !!! The transgender men and butch women in the front room and throughout Stonewall were resisting police brutality and insisting "we have a right to be here." (4) while the drag queens and transgender women were screaming "get your hands off me!" (5) in the back room. In

STONEWALL CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Letter from the Editor

JIM
THEOFELIS



Take Good Care of the Folks who Take Good Care of Kids: The Foster Parents Association of Washington (fondly known as FPAWS) released the news that they are moving toward unionization of foster parents across Washington State. This is a bold move on the part of Steve and Daniele Baxter who are the Co-Presidents of FPAWS as well as being stellar advocates and veteran foster parents. At this point there remain a lot of unanswered questions regarding how this will ultimately impact the children and adolescents who are in the foster care system. However, it is very clear that foster parents continue to feel under appreciated and under supported in their roles. If we want to retain and recruit great caregivers we must figure out how to value and support their work. If you are a foster parent and/or just want more information you can contact FPAWS at 1-800-391-CARE or visit their website at www.fpaws.org

HB 2002 the Foster Youth Achievement Act is new legislation that allows youth to remain in foster/kinship after age 18 if enrolled in a college or voc-tech program. Rick Butt is the Washington State Independent Living Program Manager who is leading the implementation process of this exciting new program. For information regarding eligibility and the intake process you can contact Rick at 360-902-8243 or RLBU300@DSHS.WA.GOV. You can also contact me at Mockingbird Society.

On behalf of the staff, Board of Directors and the children, youth and families we serve I want to wish each of you a very warm, safe and fun filled summer. This is the time of year when kids really need the chance to be kids with lots of visits to the park and other fun activities. This is also the time of year when we get so busy we forget about supporting the programs that enrich the community. Please give consideration to making a donation to the Mockingbird Society or some other wonderful organization that you feel good about. Happy Summer!

Jim Theofelis

jim@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.

HB 2002 Reminder

New legislation allows youth to remain in care and receive their medical benefits while pursuing higher education. Talk to your caseworker for details about taking advantage of this legislation or contact Mockingbird Society at (206) 323-5437 for more information.

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.

My Experience with Passages 2006

JESSICA GARCIA



Jessica with her ILP Case Manager Khaliah at this year's Passages event.

Every year, Treehouse holds an event for youth aging out of foster-care. The name of the event is called Passages. This event is a great success every year. It is held in celebration for youth aging out of care and the ones who graduated with their High School Diploma or GED. It was the first time I had ever seen anything like that before. It made me feel like I was special and that being in foster care was not the worst thing after all.

The event took place on Friday, May 12, in the evening at the Safeco stadium. The youth that were aging out of the system were very smart. They had a lot to say that that made me feel proud. They spoke about how graduating did take a lot, but in the end, they have a greater path ahead of them. To have an event for these youth is very important. I feel they really deserve it because they could have just given up and went to using drugs or not even finishing school and possibly attend college, but because they had that much determination and wanted to do better things in their life, they didn't give up. They decided that they didn't want to be the "person next door", but something better.

To hear all this just gave me a better perspective on life. I want to grab life and make it what I want. Not what another individual wants or sees for me. Going to the Passages event has made me want to do great things!



Misty and Jamica accompany Jim in his acceptance of the 2006 Voices of Children award.



Mockingbird Youth Representatives, staff, and guests meet with State Children's Ombudsman.

Become a Foster Parent!

If you are considering becoming a foster parent, now is the time to get involved and learn more! King County and Washington State are in great need of foster parents. For more information, please call Why Foster at 1-800-760-5340, visit www.whyfoster.org, or contact:

Billy Hancock, Recruitment Specialist
Amara Parenting and Adoption Services
(206) 260-1700
billy@amaraparenting.org
www.amaraparenting.org

Nadia Nijim, Foster Parent Recruiter
King County, Region 4
DSHS-DCFS
Office (206) 691-2401

Thank You's

Frances DeMarco; Judy Cook; Margaret-Ann and Mark LeRoy; Roberta Blayney; David Eiffert; Yancy Wright; Hannah and Joseph Voss; Britton Steel; Janis Avery; Kathryn Brooks; Lisa Taylor; Sue Gagey; Virginia Blayney; Phyllis Duncan-Souza and Casey Family Programs.

MEET OUR STAFF

Executive Director
Jim Theofelis

Youth LEAD Coordinator
Najja Morris

Operations Manager
Ros Chan

Public Relations
Darcie Gray

Executive Assistant
Lauren Frederick

Americorps Member
Dietra Clayton

Senior Youth Representatives
Misty Lou Cook, Dennis Fisher, Jamica Henderson

Youth Representatives
Ashley Grant, Larishica Asher, Terasa Asher, Anthony Guess, Maleka Taylor, Cassandra Davis, Surri Evans, Jessica Garcia, Raquel Granath

Contributing Writers
Sherrell Dorsey, Ashley Olzendam

Volunteers
Patricia Gray

STONEWALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fact, it is widely known that the transgender community, the gender-bending social outcasts and the poor people of color are the ones who sparked the Stonewall Riots.

Today, the outlook for queer (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited, etc.) people is much less bleak. The Stonewall Rebellion gave courage and inspiration to thousands of queer people and allies, and throughout the 1970's, groups such as the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) (6) and many other Gay Civil and Human Rights Groups began to form, and demand respect, recognition and a place in society. Through the Gay Rights Movement that

was sparked by Stonewall, we now have openly gay politicians, actors, lawyers, advocacy groups, bars, cafes, community centers and so much more. Here in WA State and elsewhere, there is legislation to protect queer people from discrimination at work and school. The queer social justice movement still has a ways to go: queer parents still aren't legally able to adopt in some places, hate crimes still happen to good queer people and queer people still cannot legally get married and get access to 2,000+ marriage benefits, including the right to visit your loved one in the hospital and in the emergency room. However, we've come a long way from where we started, and June is the month to celebrate

Queer and LGBTTT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirited, etc.) Pride !!! Here is a list of a few Seattle Pride Events that are coming up, in celebration of our history, our struggle, our beauty, our futures and our accomplishments:

The Bend-It Queer Youth Extravaganza:

ALL AGES !! FREE !!!
June 16th - 18th
Locations Vary Daily
www.myspace.com/bend_it

Seattle Dyke March:

ALL AGES !! FREE !!!
Saturday, June 24
RALLY at 5PM

at Seattle Central Community College
MARCH at 6PM

Seattle Pride Festival:

ALL AGES !! FREE !!!
Sunday, June 25th
MARCH at 11:00AM from
Westlake Park to Seattle Center
FESTIVAL from 11AM - 6PM
at SEATTLE CENTER
www.seattlepride.org/

(1 - 6) "STONEWALL: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution"

IDA Accepting Applications

JAMICA HENDERSON

At Mockingbird, we come across a lot of opportunities that are helping foster-youth that are aging out. It is important to have somewhere to go when you age out or have a plan. There is this program called the Individual Development Account (IDA) Foster Youth Pilot. This is a great program for those in foster care that are aging out, or have already aged out. While being in this program, you can save money before you age out; so that when you do you will have it for beginning your independent life. The IDA will match whatever you put in at a rate of 2:1 during your participation in the program (see table at end of the article). You can use it for things like: housing, automobile, education, a computer and/or health insurance. This program is currently able to fund up to 25 participants ages 15-20 and those who are planning to leave foster care at the age of 18. The goal of having this type of program is to provide access to building resources that will increase the economic self-sufficiency and improve long-term outcomes for youth in foster care. Are there requirements? Yes, but they are not hard to meet.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be 15 or older and a current or former dependent of the Department of Social Health Service (DSHS)
- Net worth cannot exceed \$10,000

- Foster youth must be less than 80% of the area median income of (\$44,184 household or 1) adjusted for household size: or 200% of federal poverty guidelines. (\$19,040-household of 1)
- Account holder savings should be derived from earned income, taxes, incentives

Program Requirements:

- Participants will be required to deposit a minimum of \$ 25 each quarter into their IDA savings account at the Washington Mutual Bank
- Deposits will be from earned income, tax refunds or incentives offered by the program.
- Participants may make purchases after participating for at least six months and making two deposits into their IDA savings account.
- Participants will have the maximum of 48 months from the date they sign their Savings Agreement to save and purchase their assets.
- Participants must complete Financial Skills and asset specific training before making an asset purchase.

Also, you have the chance to add money in your account by completing some of the incentives that they offer to you. It may not seem like a lot, but the money adds up faster than you think! Here are some incentives that the program will offer and you can choose whichever one you want, but you can't make any more than \$200 per calendar year. In all you can earn the max of \$375 over the life program from the following list.

Incentive List:

- Completion of intake survey and account opening: \$20
- Completion of semi-annual survey: \$20
- Participation on approved board or youth advisory group (annual): \$40
- Participation in approved service learning project (annual): \$40

- Completion of financial education curriculum: \$20
- Maintaining a good grade point average: \$25-\$40
- School attendance rate at least 95% (quarterly): \$50

Overall, the IDA will be a good program for those in foster-care (or formerly were, up to 20) and who are soon to be aging-out. If you know of anyone who may want to participate in saving money for their future, please feel free to send an e-mail to the director who can be reached at THolcomb@uwkc.org. Her name is Terra Holcomb, and she will help you with any more information that you need or you can ask your DSHS caseworker or ILP for more information and/or an application. The deadline of **June 16th** is fast approaching, so don't delay! Remember, there are very limited slots available so take advantage of this awesome opportunity today.

PROGRAM MAXIMUMS

WHAT YOUR MONEY GOES TO	MATCH RATE	YOUTH SAVINGS	STATE MATCH	TOTAL ACCUMULATION
HOUSING, AUTOMOBILE, EDUCATION, HEALTH INSURANCE	2 TO 1	\$1500	\$3000	\$4500
COMPUTER	2 TO 1	\$500	\$1000	\$1500

Knowing Who You Are

MISTY LOU COOK

"Knowing Who You Are" is a movie that discusses the importance of foster care youth knowing their cultural and individual roots. The movie, produced and distributed by the independent and innovative foster care reform group Casey Family Programs, discusses the difficult and important topic of why race and ethnicity matter for young people in the foster care system. According to Casey Family Programs, "A healthy racial and ethnic identity provides an anchor and solid foundation for youth to become productive, independent and well-adjusted adults" (1). I must say that I whole-heartedly agree: a young person in the foster care system who knows their roots and individual cultural identity is more likely to rise above life's many obstacles than a young person with no cultural foundation or personal roots. "Knowing Who You Are" is a film that is both a documentary and a cultural competency tool that could be used by legislators, case workers, foster care and homeless youth alike to educate people about the importance of foster care

(and homeless) youth knowing who they are: culturally, racially and individually. It is an educational and inspiring movie that would be particularly useful as a cultural competency tool for case workers, or, as I like to call them, Social Justice Representatives.

The movie highlighted former foster care youth, their families and their struggle to find their roots, culture and individual identity. Olivia Gonzalez is one of many former foster care youth who was having trouble "fitting in" at school, work and in foster care homes while growing up. She was being made fun of and teased, both at home and at school, for how she looked, dressed and talked. Olivia commented that she had "no foundation to refer back to" (2) and had no idea that she was mixed with Native American and Spanish ancestry. Olivia recalled, "Luckily, I was blessed with a really good social worker who cares about ME" (3). With the help of a culturally competent and knowledgeable case worker, Olivia discovered her racial roots and ethnic identity and now she isn't afraid to

distinguish herself from "the crowd" and is proud of her personal cultural identity.

Kelvin is a former foster care youth who commented on the importance of foster care youth knowing their cultural, ethnic and personal identity. He said, "Without identity, you would never, ever know who you are and the most important thing to survive in life is ... to know who you are ... and you have to be comfortable with yourself." (4). Janelle is another former foster care youth whose testimony about never knowing her cultural roots seemed to echo what Kelvin was commenting on. She said, "I never really had developed any type of culture identity, except for being a foster kid" (5). As one birth parent, Vivian, said, "The social worker might be the ONLY PERSON that these children have that is stable in their lives" (6). Because of this fact, the next part of this article will directly speak to any case managers or Social Justice Representatives that would like some advice regarding how to effectively help foster care youth discover and be proud of their roots, ancestry and personal identity.

Mary is a social work supervisor who has an inspiring understanding of the need for foster care youth to have a strong

personal identity and culturally competent social worker. She believes that foster care youth suicide, homeless and pregnancy rates are directly related to those foster care youth's need for a personal foundation and cultural center that tells them, "No matter what is going on around me, I at least know who I AM" (7). She realizes both the need for foster care youth to have a personal foundation and the need for the foster care youth's case manager to connect with the youth and help with the discovery of their personal and cultural identity. Mary took cultural understanding a few steps further when she said, "I don't think you help somebody else explore themselves if you're not exploring yourself and you're not looking and seeing how you fit into it or how you react to it or how you feel about it." (8). She insisted that, "A youth who has a healthy racial and ethnic identity is going to be successful ... and that is the work" (9). Mary emphasized the need for cultural competency and personal identity when she stated that, "We are dealing with human lives here." (10). For more information check out www.casey.org.

(1 - 10) "Knowing Who You Are" by Casey Family Programs

Entertainment on a Cheap Budget

SHERREL
DORSEY



Creativity, imagination and open-mindedness are the only tools you need to find fun things to do to entertain yourself as a broke college student. Whether you are a movie addict or simply someone that needs some place to go on a sunny day when you're bored and broke, I suggest some activities, low cost or totally free that may help you maximize your time. Your summer vacation is the perfect time to take advantage of your city and what it has to offer.

The library is a great place to start. I'm not suggesting that you spend hours every week reading through the classical literature section. You need a break from the rigorous "studying" you did this semester. Surf the website of library branches in your area. You will be surprised to find that many have different activities. In New York, where I attend college and presently reside, libraries have everything from community celebrations to networking events with various companies, speakers and even seminars. And guess what? The majority of the time they are free. Home buying courses and book clubs are great ways to meet new people and build skills that you will need after college.

Visit other colleges after you have explored your own (and get a chance to see what it is you are paying all of that money for!). Besides making connections that will get you invited to various college parties,

many schools have free seminars, student plays, film festivals and performances that are open to other students. Check the website of these colleges for more information. Who knows? You may find programs that you can get involved in that are not offered at your school.

Volunteer and make it count! There are plenty of organizations that need your help. I suggest finding a program where you can use your experience as a college student to help other college-bound students. One place that can really use your words of wisdom is community organizations in the inner-city, where students need an inspirational role model. Some places you should consider volunteering for include the following:

- Technology Access Foundation
- Rainier Vista Boys and Girl Clubs
- John Stanford Powerful Schools tutoring program

Local community papers and magazines often hide big events with great deals within their publications. Thumb through the "Events" or "Arts & Entertainment" sections and dig for the hidden information. One week prior to the release of "The Da Vinci Code" I found a listing for free movie preview tickets. The majority of the time all you need to do in order to score the tickets is R.S.V.P by phone.

Museums, as well as theatres, also offer discounted tickets to students. Whatever your tastes are, you don't have to be stuck at home with nothing to do. There's plenty to do on a college student's budget. You just have to know where to look and use your community as a stepping stone. Happy hunting!

Music Today

RAQUEL
GRANATH



I think that everyone today can relate to music. That's why it's so popular. No matter what genre or style, people flock to the beating of the bass and the ring of the percussion. But more importantly today is the obscenities that are put in the ears and minds of our young people. Many people claim that "they're just words" or "I wouldn't do any of that in real life!", but, with the success of the CD's and now movies gratifying sex and violence, how could you not be affected?

The world is a different place from what it used to be when Elvis sang about being "shook up" and "hound dogs." Now rappers sing about blunts and 40 ounces, while rockers sing about suicide and drugs, and of course pop stars sing about sex and broken hearts. This is what's being fed into the minds of girls who now grow up insecure, and confused about themselves. We're breeding boys that defile women, gangbang and outright rebel against all that's right. Only 20% of women will make it through their teenage years without sex.¹ The other 80% end up with STD's, unwanted pregnancies and most of all a warped sense of intimate rights and wrongs for their age. It's my opinion that music has taken a toll on society as a whole. It's setting standards that say it's "cool" to steal, kill, party and engage in promiscuous sex.

What's wrong with this picture? I have even discovered for myself the lack of respect shown by kids who partake in the listening to vulgar violent "I don't care" style music. Studies have shown that kids who watch music videos depicting explicit sexual and violent behavior are nearly 3 times more likely to get arrested, and 2 times more likely to have multiple sex partners, get an STD, use drugs or drink alcohol.² That alone should be a deterrent to most people, but quite contrarily, the fact that it's bad makes it that much more popular. Another surprising fact is that although rap music illustrates inner-city "tough" living, the widest audience is suburban white children who are more likely to have access to cable channels such as BET and MTV.

On the other hand, record labels claim that it is the duty of the parents to monitor and set up morals and values for their children. I find this to be true but what of children in foster care, runaways, and other latchkey youth who lack parental guidance? Those are the ones who act out the behavior they see on TV and become the statistic in a study. It is society's problem. It is everybody's problem. Is it going to take penetration of middle class America before it is reformed? Is it going to take more Columboes and more 12 year olds getting pregnant from rapes? I sincerely hope not, but if the world keeps digressing, we'll all be in the toilet 20 years from now.

1) http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_teen_sex.html
2) <http://www.webmd.com/content/article/61/68559.htm>

Creative Corner

Untitled

ASHLEY OLZENDAM



it's kind of sad
that it took 19 years
for someone to finally
stand their ground when they say that
"because" and
"i had to"
aren't [grit teeth]
really [clench fists]
answers

(aren't really good enough answers)

and i actually felt compelled to elaborate

they always seemd good enough to me.
made sense.
perfect, even.

and i actually felt compelled to elaborate
but couldn't

i haven't quite figure out
how to pry open
"because" and
"i had to"

(backed up in my head
with fist-packed self-truths
half suppressed by time
half suppressed by reasoning and
half suppressed to

save
the
world)

safely enough
so that nothing escapes
that isn't meant to see light
and no one gets hurt in the process

(yet).

Barista Training Program

SURRI
EVANS



For the past two weeks, I have experienced training through the BTEP (Barista Training and Education Program). When I went for my orientation, I thought, "OK, I'll just do the 8 week program and get my stipend". But now that I have been in the classroom and actually learned about coffee and it's history, I have a different outlook on it. Coffee has a very long history and you would be surprised at what it takes to make a perfect shot of espresso. I am working in the 2100 café right now and it's going very well, it's actually a fun experience.

During my first three weeks of training, I learned a lot about coffee. Every morning when I go into the café, I pull a test shot. A perfect shot is pulled in 20-25 seconds. Pulling a test shot is your practice before you make a drink so that you can know if your coffee is going to extract slow or fast. I also learned a form of art called "latte art". This technique is done on lattes, cappuccinos, macchiatos and

mochas. There are two different types of the art. One is free pour and the other is etching. "Free pouring" is when you take your milk and you pour to make a heart or a flower. Etching is where you take the left over foam from your milk and you are able to create a design with chocolate sauce.

I think that it is great that this program is available to foster-care and homeless youth. It gives us an opportunity to learn about something that some of us would never have access to. The program is run through Youthcare and they provide a lot of support for us like helping us get valid identification and/or our birth certificate and training to become a fine barista one day. Once you're enrolled in the BTEP you will get an employment counselor that will stay with you for two years. The program also has great incentives for completing certain things.

I have five weeks left until graduation, and so far... so good. Everything is going great and I feel that this program is something that all you eligible readers should take advantage of (that's if your interested). It's very fun and educational while giving you a chance to grow and develop in your skills as a young adult. I am enjoying the program very much. For more information on the BTEP, contact Lisa at 206-204-0626.