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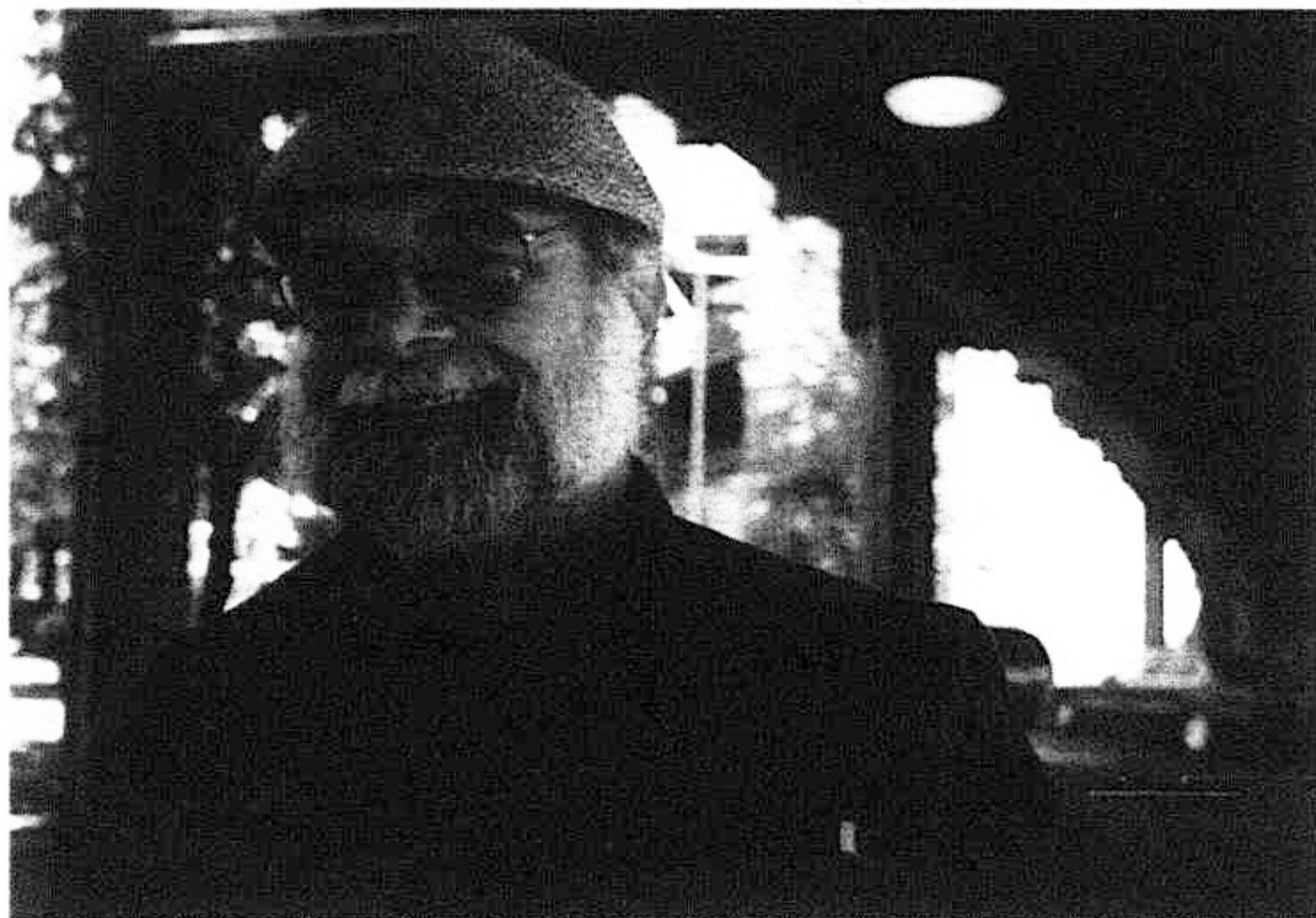
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AS A MEDIC IN VIETNAM, FILMMAKER RANDY ROWLAND "DECIDED THERE BETTER BE A DAMN GOOD REASON TO SUFFER LIKE THIS." PHOTO BY BROOKE KEMPNER

Marching One by One

Local vet says disenchanted soldiers like him will end the Iraq War

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

Randy Rowland was not a hippie. He came from a military background and, until 1967, had always believed what the president said was true.

At one point, he came across a Vietnam War protest and remembers being offended. In fact, "I was one of the assholes standing on the other side of the street throwing things at them," the 59-year-old Seattleite says.

All that changed after Rowland enlisted in the Army. While serving as a medic at Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, he was appalled by what got thrown at him every day — the stories of paralyzed soldiers, many of whom begged Rowland to end their lives.

"That stopped me short," he says. "I decided there better be a damn good reason to suffer like this." Rowland says he went looking for one, but "it didn't take any looking at all," he says, "before I realized the war was full of shit."

Within months, Rowland would go AWOL to avoid going to Vietnam. Slowly but surely, he says, soldiers in or returning from Iraq are coming to the same conclusion, with many destined to do what he did 40 years ago: In 1968, he and 26 other soldiers held a sit-in inside San Francisco's Presidio stockade — a groundbreaking protest

recounted in the documentary "Sir! No Sir!" which opens Aug. 11 at Seattle's Northwest Film Forum.

The film's one-week run is timed to the Aug. 10-13 national convention of Veterans for Peace, which is bringing antiwar activists and authors Cindy Sheehan and John Perkins (*Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*), Iraq war objectors Sgt. Kevin Benderman and Sgt. Camilo Mejia, former CIA analyst Ray McGovern (Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity), and others to the University of Washington.

Like the 2005 campout at President Bush's Texas ranch that brought Sheehan to the nation's attention, Rowland and his comrades made headlines in October 1968 for planting themselves in the stockade yard and singing "We Shall Overcome." For refusing to disperse when ordered, the "Presidio 27" were court-martialed for mutiny.

Rowland served a year and a half in Leavenworth — something he describes as "an eye-opening experience for an Eagle Scout." He then came back to Fort Lewis to convert other GIs, in part by using an independent monthly called the *Lewis-McChord Free Press*.

Today, as an active member of Veterans for Peace, he says many soldiers returning from Iraq are starting to follow in the footsteps of his generation.

See MARCHING, Continued on Page 12

Left at the Altar

Marriage effort moves from the courts to the legislature

By ADAM HYLIA
Editor

The past week has been a time of mourning for gay rights activists and their allies, as they learned of the decision of the Washington Supreme Court, in *Heather Andersen et. al. vs. King County et. al.*, to uphold the Defense of Marriage Act.

But now, the effort to make a place for same-sex couples in the state's lawbooks moves to the legislature. That's where writer Janice Van Cleve is turning her energy.

She remembers Target '98, a campaign where gay-rights activists backed Democrats in swing districts and "threw out three of the most homophobic legislators in the state," she says.

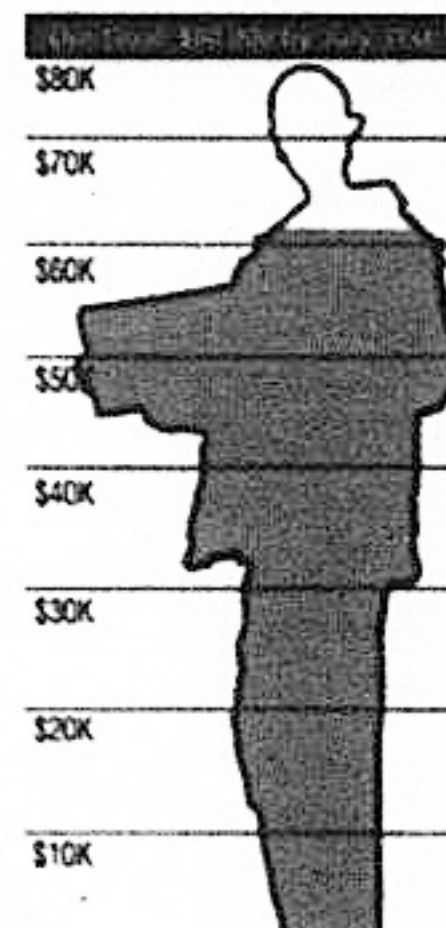
Now, "What's really needed is a Target '06. That means giving money, doorbelling, stuffing envelopes: basic campaign work, block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood."

Activists like Van Cleve are discussing legislative strategies and formulating talking points to get the attention of Washington's legislators and the people who put them in office this fall and further on down the road. They want the legislature to do what the court did not: repeal the 1998 Defense of Marriage Act, which both bans same-sex unions in the state and refuses to recognize such unions if they've been enacted in other jurisdictions.

See MARRIAGE, Continued on Page 10

One More Month

Last week, readers moved us another \$21,420 toward our summer goal by helping us complete our \$15,000 match and bringing us within striking distance of our \$80,000 summer goal. You can help us reach our goal and end the fund drive with a donation today. Please use the coupon on page 7 to send a check today or make a secure online gift at realchangenews.org.



WOE: MEXICO

Fraud and corruption are a fact of life in Mexican elections; and this one was no different.

PAGE 2

A YES TO "NO"

Local activists speak out against Mayor Nickels' "Big Dig" plan for the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

PAGE 3

NO ROOM

An unprecedented number of women in need are being turned away from local shelters.

PAGE 4

BIKE THE POWER

Larger-than-normal Critical Mass is calm, one month after assault by cops.

PAGE 5

THE MOCKINGBIRD TIMES

CENTERFOLD
SPREAD



Change Agent.....	3
Just Heard.....	3
Short Takes.....	4
Arts.....	8
Ask a Lawyer.....	9
Dr. Wes.....	9
Street Watch.....	9
Letters.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Director's Corner.....	11
First things First.....	11

Pobre De Mexico

Mexican elections riddled with fraud and corruption

By ROBERTO MAESTAS
El Centro de La Raza

Who could believe that the right-wing extremists in charge at the White House and their counterparts in Los Pinos would take any chance of losing power?

"Pobre de Mexico! Tan lejos de Dios y tan cerca de Estados Unidos." (Woe to Mexico, so far from God and so close to the United States)

A week or so after the Mexican elections of July 2, the *Seattle Times* led off with a grossly paternalistic and misleading editorial praising the outcome as an example of Mexico's maturing and transparent democracy. Predictably, the rest of the corporate media followed suit.

They congratulated the Mexican electorate for following the U.S. example of accepting the razor-thin victory of the "conservative" protégé of Vicente Fox, just as we accepted George W. Bush's election in 2000 without major disruption and urged the "leftist" loser Obrador to keep his mobs in check for the good of "democracy" in the hemisphere.

Almost every Latino has heard the above saying, one of Mexico's most famous, over many generations. "So far from God" laments the suffering of Mexico beginning with the 300 years of Spanish oppression, ending only after a bloody war from 1810 to 1821. Before Mexico could recover from that devastation, the U.S. dreamt up an excuse to invade in 1846 and by 1848 had annexed my beautiful homeland of New Mexico and four other states, which we often refer to as *Mexico Ocupado* (occupied Mexico). No sooner was that brutal nightmare over when Imperial France, seizing the moment during the U.S. war over slavery, invaded Mexico in 1861, leading to four more years of death and destruction but a heroic Mexican victory.

"And so close to the U.S." refers not only to the illegal invasion and annexation but also to the continuing intervention of the U.S. government and other institutions in the internal affairs of this sovereign nation. In the 1910-17 Mexican Revolution, the U.S. tried to defend the landowning elite by sending Gen. John J. Pershing to squash Pancho Villa. For 71 years, the one-party dictatorship of the PRI ruled with an iron fist until the year 2000, with full support and training by U.S. agents and strategists. From the 1968 student massacre in Mexico City until 1988, more than 500 more labor organizers, students, teachers, journalists, and opposition party activists were assassinated with the training of U.S. personnel. Only the richest of the 100 million Mexicans wish to host the largest embassy in the world, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. When, in 1988, some former PRI leaders joined in a mass progressive movement and won the Presidential elections over Ronald Reagan's great friend and Harvard graduate, Salinas de Gortari, the electoral computer system went dead and Gortari was declared president. He plunged the country into a scandal-ridden economic disaster and is one of the most discredited Mexican Presidents ever.

That, *amigas, amigos*, is a thumb-nail backdrop of the recent Mexican elections. If you believe the U.S. media on the matter, I will sell you the Sonics for a cool million bucks!

Who could believe that the right-wing extremists in charge at the White House and their counterparts in Los Pinos would take any chance of losing power?

It is particularly galling of the *Seattle Times*, since they were present at a meeting of over 600 people at the Wes-

tin on May 24 when Vicente Fox was in town. From the podium, I personally confronted Fox on his party's extreme attacks on Lopez Obrador, which not only violated common decency but also electoral laws.

The vicious TV attacks produced for Calderón by the same U.S. "guns for hire" that did the infamous "Swift Boat" attacks on Kerry and the racist "Willie Horton" ads on 1988 Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis were so outrageous that the Mexican Electoral Commission was forced by "street heat" to order them off the air — long after the damage was done.

The Mexican president is prohibited by law from publicly wielding influence, yet Fox, Bush's best friend in the Latin world, campaigned until the end, then personally congratulated Calderón even though the decision wasn't in.

The litany of electoral abuses culled from personal interviews, emails, articles, and personal observations by our family members and the 836 page appeal by the PRD include an endless number of violations covering intimidation, lack of access, illegal spending limits, and dirty politics, American style.

Two major differences between now and the 1988 theft is that a seven-member Federal Commission will decide the victor on Sept. 6 and will also have to consider a unified campaign of "street heat" leading to that date.

If the right-winger Calderón wins, the same failed policies of Fox-Bush will continue. If Obrador wins, there will be a new beginning for Mexico, to keep its citizens home by developing its amazing national wealth and enjoy a peaceful and secure border between our two beloved countries. ■

Roberto Maestas led the occupation of a vacant schoolbuilding in protest of cuts to nascent basic education and English-language courses in 1972 and still heads El Centro de La Raza, a Latino-focused multiracial civil rights, human rights, and human service organization begun in that school.



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.

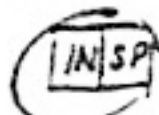
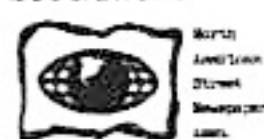
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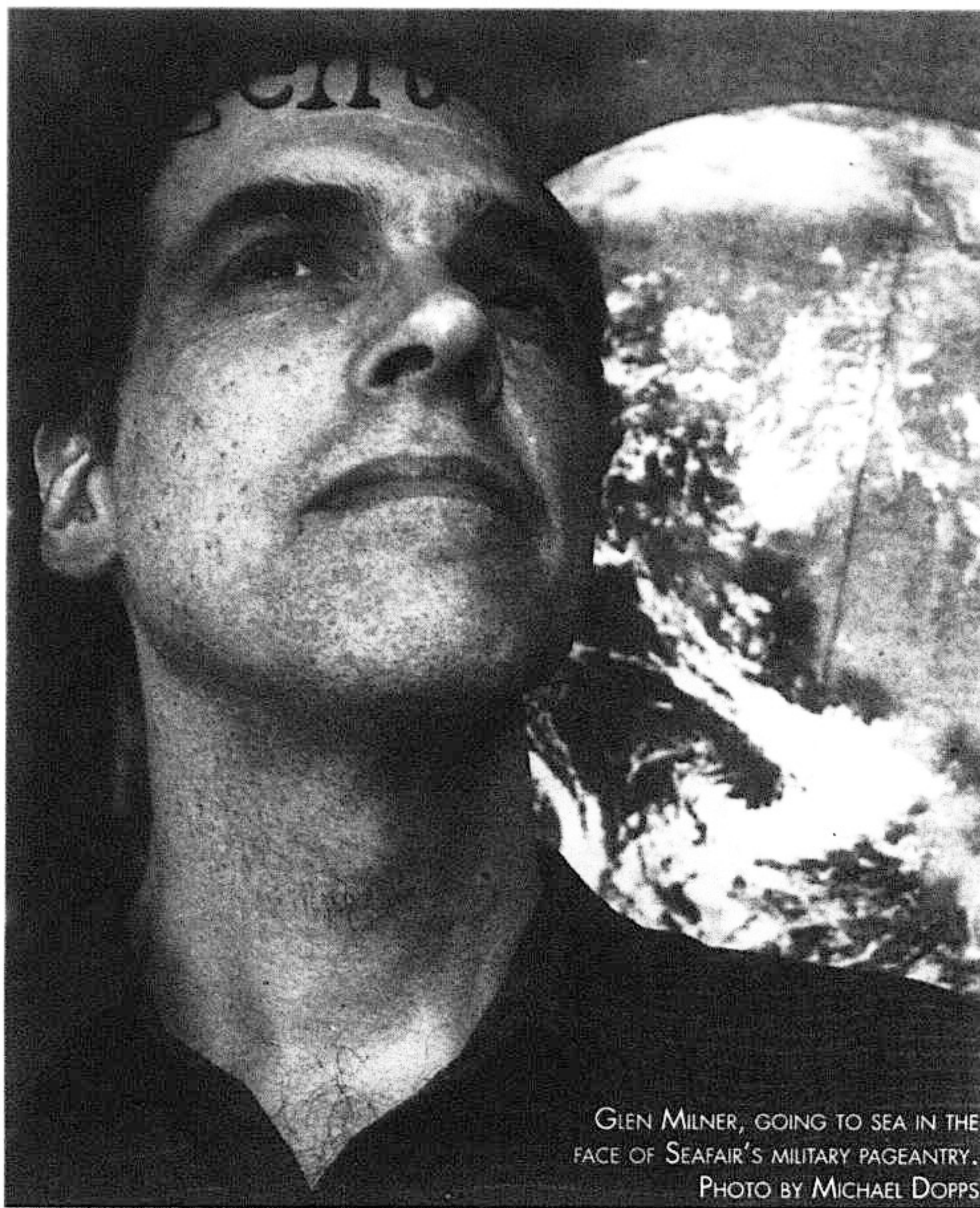
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Change

Each summer in Seattle, the Blue Angels streak overhead and Naval ships enter Elliott Bay. How often do we think about the greater implications of these traditions? Glen Milner calls the display of military might a "humiliation to the peace-loving people of the Puget Sound area." He and a group of local citizens in small boats motor out to meet the Naval ships in non-violent protest. In the past few years, boats participating in Peace Fleet have been boarded by the Coast Guard, and Milner has been threatened with heavy fines and jail time.

He persists, he says, because celebrating warships and fighter planes habituates us to war, converting them from tools of destruction into normal parts of life. Despite his objections, Milner says that he does not condemn the Navy or the people on the ships. Rather, he hopes to articulate an opposing viewpoint that will move others to act. Progress can be slow, Milner says, but "even if there isn't change, you have to follow your conscience. And the conscience is not always rational."

—Rachel Rubinstein



GLEN MILNER, GOING TO SEA IN THE FACE OF SEAFAR'S MILITARY PAGEANTRY. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DOPPS

Just Saying No

Anti-tunnel activists want public vote on viaduct

By JESSICA KNAPP
Contributing Writer

The meeting was a "conscious attempt to invite all the folks representing all the other non-tunnel options to look at how we can stop the tunnel."

—John Fox,
Seattle Displacement Coalition

On Thursday, July 27, a small group of Seattle and Washington state residents — about four dozen strong — gathered to discuss their concerns over the potential tunnel replacement option for the Alaskan Way Viaduct. By nearly unanimous margins, those in attendance voted to form a new coalition of voters opposed to the tunnel.

Currently operating under the name No Tunnel, the group will not advocate for any specific solution to the problem of the decaying viaduct. Instead, it will fight the tunnel option, which is the favored choice of Mayor Greg Nickels' office. The meeting was led by activist John Fox, coordinator of the Seattle Displacement Coalition. Fox described the meeting as a "conscious attempt to invite all the folks representing all the other non-tunnel options to look at how we can stop the tunnel."

In attendance were representatives of a campaign dedicated to replacing the viaduct with a new one, and advocates for retrofitting the current structure. Absent from the meeting was the People's Waterfront Coalition (PWC), which supports tearing down the viaduct and reworking surface streets to handle the traffic. Cary Moon, co-founder of the PWC, said she had a conflict that evening. "We do definitely share opinions with them," Moon says, but adds, "Our focus has to stay on the larger, positive vision."

Many of the audience comments on Thursday focused on people's desire to have a public vote on what to do about the viaduct. The City Council could decide to bring the topic to a vote but so far has not made that move. Currently, only three councilmembers are strongly in the pro-vote camp: David Della, Nick Licata, and Peter Steinbrueck. One strategy of No Tunnel would be to advocate for such a vote.

Audience members expressed frustration about

not being able to vote. One man said, "I don't understand why we can't have a vote when it's our money."

Audience member Peter Sherwin spoke to the vote issue and to the positive nature of the group's goals by saying, "What this organization is trying to say, in a very positive way, is that we want a vote. Let us vote." A final decision on whether to hold a vote will come from the City Council on September 22.

Moon expressed some apprehension about a public vote, pointing out that there really hasn't been an exhaustive study of the surface street option. She says that, given the current anti-tunnel sentiment many in this city feel, a public vote is an almost-sure victory for the rebuild. The PWC has chosen, instead, to lobby the mayor and other city leaders behind the scenes. "At some point... you have to get the mayor on your side," Moon says.

Important deadlines are quickly coming up regarding the viaduct — besides the September 22 vote deadline. The Washington State Legislature commissioned an expert review panel to investigate options for handling the ailing viaduct, and that panel is scheduled to make its recommendations on September 1. In attendance at Thursday's meeting were State Representatives Mary Lou Dickerson and Helen Sommers. Dickerson recommended voters opposed to the tunnel point out the idea's lack of "feasibility" in any communications directed at the panel.

With two major deadlines looming in the near future, No Tunnel may have only a few weeks to take action. The self-described "grassroots" movement has already emailed supporters, but quick action may be difficult for a newly formed, bottom-up organization.

No Tunnel's steering committee will meet on Wednesday, August 2, at 7 p.m. at the University Baptist Church. All supporters are welcome. ■

Just Heard...

Whose voice?

Let the record show that City Councilmember Richard McIver was visibly perturbed with the objections raised Tuesday to Sybil Bailey, the mayor's nominee for a tenant representative spot on the Seattle Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners.

In public testimony to the council's Housing Committee, a number of SHA tenants said they didn't want Bailey, 65, speaking for them on the board, which oversees SHA's activities. Among other things, they said she rewrote a set of bylaws that stopped their Resident Action Council from representing tenants at the agency's garden communities and other properties, all without residents voting on the change ("Strong Voice or Rubber Stamp?" July 26).

When Councilmember Nick Licata asked if there had been a vote, Bailey replied, in essence, that it didn't matter. "They weren't really represented anyway in the Resident Action Council," she said.

"It seems to me everyone gets their word in," McIver interjected. All the same, no one seconded his motion to approve Bailey, and committee Chair Tom Rasmussen deferred a vote to Aug. 15.

High-end exemption

It will be six months before the City Council has a chance to take up the issue of how high rents should be in buildings that get a Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption. In the meantime, Tom Ferguson gets his \$1.5 million tax writeoff.

Ferguson is developing the 125-unit Lothlorien Apartment in Seattle's University District. In exchange for the writeoff ("There Goes the Neighborhood," May 24), Ferguson will set aside a certain number of affordable units for 10 years. But, with the set-asides starting at \$914 for a studio, housing activists have howled the exemption achieves nothing other than lining a developer's pockets.

Despite reservations, the council's Housing Committee approved the Lothlorien's exemption, with councilmembers noting that the policy would be revisited early next year.

Katrina homecoming

It's been nearly a year since Hurricane Katrina dispersed survivors throughout the United States, including an estimated 5,000 people in Washington. Now, a group is trying to help some of them get home in time for the storm's one-year anniversary.

The Social Change Caravan Coalition will leave Seattle Aug. 23 and pick up survivors in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Houston on the way to New Orleans, where they'll reconnect with family and friends.

To support the effort, the coalition plans two fundraisers this month. A benefit on Aug. 16 at the Neptune Theater will screen *Standing on Common Ground*, a documentary of the filmmaker's life-changing volunteer work in New Orleans; on Aug. 18, New Orleans' Rebirth Brass Band will play. For details, call (206)353-0020 or visit www.socialchangecaravan.org.

—Cydney Gillis

[Info]

To find out more about the state-commissioned Viaduct review panel, you can visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/Expert-ReviewPanel/Default.htm.

Out Cold

More women finding shelters full

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

"I don't think it's inappropriate for the city to want to see results, but the unintended consequence of hiring social workers is there's less money for [basic shelter]."

—Rev. Rick Reynolds, Operation Nightwatch

Welcome to year two of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness: The ink hadn't even dried on some of the city's new contracts with shelter providers this spring when more women started finding themselves out on the street for the night.

A lot more women, judging from the numbers being referred each night from full women's shelters to Operation Nightwatch, Seattle's shelter of last resort for men and women at 14th Avenue and Main Street.

After nine years working at the Women's Referral Center, an early-evening way station on Third Avenue where women are assigned a spot at one of 13 women's shelters, lead supervisor Jeanine Hardy is unnerved by the increases, which have led her and others to ask whether the city's new "outcome-based" shelter contracts aren't partially at fault.

"This has been the worst year," Hardy says. "I've never sent 25 to 30 women [a night] to Operation Nightwatch in my whole history of being here. I may have sent three to five a night, but never to this degree."

The referral center is a program of Noel House, which runs three women's

shelters. Between April 1 and the third week of July, says Eileen McComb, director of programs, Noel House referred 1,325 women to Operation Nightwatch. Last year at the same time, the total was 510.

The average, she says, has been 11 women per night, compared with four last year. "On May 22," says McComb, "we sent 40 women, the largest number we've had."

For Operation Nightwatch, it's meant a "jump from five to six [women] a night to 15 to 20," says Rev. Rick Reynolds, executive director. On one night alone, he says, the program had to turn away 22 women at midnight — in a city where a homeless woman was recently stabbed to death and another found dead.

Reynolds says Operation Nightwatch has since contracted with the Salvation Army for 15 mats at another location, at a cost of \$10,000 a month.

"It started almost exactly on the first of April, when the winter response shelters [closed for] the season," Reynolds says.

McComb agrees, attributing the increase largely to Seattle women who, for whatever reason, are no longer welcome to "couch surf" with friends or family. But she and Reynolds also note the surge coincides with the city's

shift this year away from funding mats on floors to what's known as "enhanced shelter," which aims to move people into permanent housing by providing case managers and personal plans, such as Noel House does.

Reynolds says the city wants shelters to show results. And, since the start of its new enhanced shelter contract on April 1, Angeline's, the YWCA shelter that houses the Women's Referral Center, has done just that, placing 12 of 56 women. The YWCA's Liz Mills says two went to transitional housing and 10 rented apartments or moved in with family.

The program serves about 35 women a night and looks for women who appear motivated and capable, Mills says.

But that, Reynolds and others say, screens out the most chronically in need: alcoholics, addicts, or the mentally ill. While there are other programs they can go to, rehab beds, in particular, are few and far between.

"I don't think it's inappropriate for the city to want to see results, but the unintended consequence of hiring social workers is there's less money for warehousing," he says of basic shelter.

"A certain number get off the street," Reynolds says, but "it's the low-hanging fruit." ■

Short Takes

Breaking Ground

The Downtown Emergency Service Center started construction last Thursday on its newest supportive housing project at 415 10th Ave., to be completed in 2007.

King County Executive Ron Sims and Mayor Greg Nickels were on hand to break ground on the 75-unit building, located just south of Seattle University, which will house and provide 24-hour services to the homeless and mentally ill. Tenants will be drawn largely from the 600 men and women already enrolled in DESC's mental health program, of whom 125 are currently homeless.

Unlike a pending DESC project in the Rainier Valley also meant for the mentally ill, 415 10th didn't generate much community opposition, moving quickly from concept to construction. The idea was introduced in 2003, when King County made the proposal its number-one priority in its yearly funding application to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. So far, it's the only project in the country to make use of both HUD funds, which can be used exclusively for housing, and Medicaid, which may also go towards services — a model that DESC hopes to replicate on future projects.

And this one isn't cheap. Construction will cost \$15 million, with an additional \$750,000 for operations annually, working out to \$10,000 per tenant per year. Although new funding sources like Medicaid are encouraging, says DESC's director of development Nicole Macri, King County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness requires 1,000 new units to be built per year. Right now, only 200 units are becoming available per year, and funding organizations are \$650 million short of being able to cover

the rest of the bill.

"The gap is huge, so huge, so those are just drops in the bucket of what we really need," says Macri. "If we build housing at this rate, we're just never going to catch up."

Macri notes that the 10-Year Plan's governing board is beginning to get serious about making up the shortfall. Meanwhile, 3,300 people use DESC shelters every year and may have to compete for spots in the new building after it's completed next year.

—Lydia DePillis

For losing suit, plaintiff may pay

After asking for an award of hundreds of thousands of dollars, a man who sued a local nonprofit that assists the poor and homeless may end up indebted with the defendant's legal costs.

Kenneth Jennings, a former tenant of the Low Income Housing Institute's Arion Court Apartments near downtown, alleges the building managers ignored his pleas for rectification and knowingly created an unsafe living environment.

In a summary judgment awarded earlier this month, however, Judge Lauren Inveen sided with LIHI. So LIHI has asked the court to make Jennings pay for the cost of legal representation and court filings.

Jennings filed the suit six months after he voluntarily terminated his tenancy because he decided it was safer to be homeless and live in his van instead of in his room at the Arion.

In court documents, he contends that LIHI housed

and employed a level-two sex offender, giving him keys to individual units and the building's shared bathrooms, including the women's. He also complained that LIHI housed a drunk, pyromaniac, non-English-speaking illegal immigrant who disabled his smoke alarm and lit fires in his room before passing out.

According to the documents, Jennings cited a time when thick smoke filled the building and no alarm sounded. He wrote that several of the tenants were concerned for their safety because the fire department didn't show up until after someone called them.

LIHI provided the court with documentation that the alarm was recently tested and worked the day in question. According to their version of the incident, the man disabled his smoke alarm and passed out with something burning on the stove, which eventually triggered the building's system and alerted the fire department. They also told the court they issued him a three-day eviction notice within days.

In regards to the sex offender, who still lives there, they say they gave him "keys to the basement for access to cleaning and painting supplies." When tenants move out, they say, the building managers give him the keys to the unit so he can clean and paint it.

The amount of money LIHI spent on

lawyers and court fees in its defense totaled more than \$19,000. According to Sharon Lee, the executive director, that money will come out of the Arion's operating budget.

"He's hurting the very people he thinks he's trying help," Lee says.

—J. Jacob Edel



FLOWERS, SIGNS OF APPRECIATION, AND CARDS EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES WERE LEFT OUTSIDE THE OFFICES OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER SEATTLE, WHERE A MAN KILLED ONE AND WOUNDED FIVE EMPLOYEES ON FRIDAY.

PHOTO BY ADAM HYLIA

Road Rage Cooling

Swelled by assault incident, Critical Mass bike ride goes smoothly

BY LYDIA DePILLIS
Contributing Writer

Critical Mass, the monthly ride through downtown for bicyclists' rights, had a larger than average turnout last Friday, with many riders drawn by the acquittal of one of their own: Zachary Treisman, the UW Ph.D. student who had been charged with a felony for defending a fellow rider against the attack of an undercover police officer at last month's event.

"It's always important, but I've been lagging," said cyclist John Dwyer, who noted that last month's incident had prompted him to join the ride. "I think police should be held to a higher standard."



Bikers at the Friday, July 28 Critical Mass, the first since rider Zachary Treisman was charged with a felony for defending another rider from undercover Metro Transit deputies. Photo by Katia Roberts

Treisman's attorney, David Speikers, said that there were "striking differences" between the 25 statements he gathered — including five from motorists — and the account offered by the Metro Transit deputies involved in the scuffle. That was enough for the King County Prosecutor's Office to drop felony charges, although Treisman may still face misdemeanor charges from the city.

"It's very embarrassing," Speikers says of the Sheriff's office. "They did something wrong, and they were trying to cover it up."

Speikers noted that he has seen a rise in the number of complaints against the Sheriff's office regarding undercover officers and the excessive use of force. Although unmarked cars are necessary for drug busts, Speikers said, police officers would do a better job controlling crowds in uniform.

Although Speikers says that his client would have grounds to bring his own suit, Treisman would instead like to "open a dialogue" with law enforcement officials to devise a new policy regarding the use of undercover police officers.

Treisman himself returned to ride again on Friday, saying that he didn't think his legal battle had brought out any more people than usual. "I'm just here to ride my bike," he said, acknowledging that he'd like to see some changes. "I feel that injustice was done, and it would be a shame if nothing good came of it."

The ride, which took place hours after a fatal shooting at the Jewish Federation only blocks away from Westlake Center, demonstrated cooperation between cyclists and police, rather than tension. Before it began, Seattle Police Capt. Lanny Black asked several riders to spread the word and help things run smoothly, saying, "It would be great if we could do it next week, but I don't think that's going to happen."

The crowd of more than 300 applauded Black after he made an announcement of the police's efforts to keep the area clear. "Stay out of Belltown!" several cyclists cried as the ride started. Two police vans, three marked cars, and

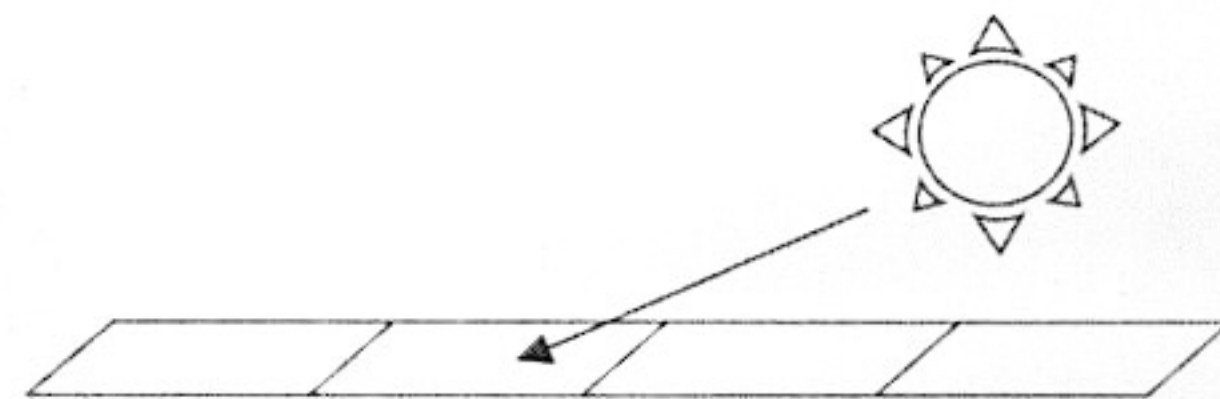
See RIDE, Continued on Page 10

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Story Problem 8

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



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Sprawled Out

Author Anthony Flint says rampant growth destroys community and makes us less healthy

By DENA BURKE
Contributing Writer

The NIMBY phenomenon is very real, and it is a big challenge for smart growth and New Urbanism. Established residents have to recognize that these developments actually add value. There are legitimate concerns about traffic, parking, and things like that, but that is what makes smart growth and New Urbanism harder. You have to deal with neighborhoods.

You have to make it a participatory process. It is much easier to go into the countryside and turn the bulldozers lose.

Suburbs, exurbs, and boomburbs have been portrayed as the American dream, but instead of paradise, many are discovering long commutes, rising gas prices, and big-box stores with no sense of community.

An alternative to these drawn-out neighborhoods is a dense, mixed-use, urban neighborhood. Anthony Flint, author of *This Land: The Battle Over Sprawl and the Future of America* (John Hopkins, 2006), predicts that a renewal in city living will replace the mass exodus to suburban developments.

The quiet fight to eliminate sprawl and promote urban living has taken two forms: smart growth and New Urbanism. Smart growth encourages the redevelopment of land in cities through incentives and zoning changes. New Urbanism is a school of design that focuses on creating neighborhoods as they were before World War II: human scale, walkable, and compact.

Flint analyzes these growing movements in his book but acknowledges that most Americans will not rise up against sprawl out of altruistic or political concern. They will do so only when it directly and immediately affects their own interests.

Real Change: What are the effects of sprawl on the environment?

Anthony Flint: Twenty-five million acres of land between 1982 and 1997 succumbed to suburban development. That is a lot of wildlife habitat [and] farmland that has disappeared. It is a lot of pollution from cars, which are necessary to get around in these dispersed environments, though it has not been enough to change anybody's mind about sprawl until now. On a personal level, people are discovering that it is inconvenient and actually very expensive to live in sprawl.

RC: Does sprawl also have an effect on people's health?

Flint: Yes, people are discovering that a little bit of physical activity like I did today [walking up the hills of Seattle] is good for you, and it can have great effects on your health. When we spend so much time in a car, driving around these separated, dispersed environments, we're not out there walking around. A walkable, urban neighborhood promotes a kind of physical activity that can have a big impact, especially as we see the obesity epidemic.

RC: A lot of Americans want to live closer to where they work, but many cannot afford it.

Flint: Affordability is the central challenge for the smart growth movement and the New Urbanism movement. It's not smart growth if it's not affordable.

There are very few New Urbanism projects compared to sprawl, which is ubiquitous, so part of the challenge is to increase the supply of these places, to make urban neighborhoods appealing [and to make] urban neighborhoods more ubiquitous. Then they won't be as expensive because they won't be as rare.

There is a range of housing in a smart growth development: one-bedroom, three-bedroom, rental apartments, townhomes. Now you have one choice: the single-family home as a periphery. If communities receive funding for smart growth development, they could be required to make 20 percent affordable, that is affordable to families making 80 percent of median income.

RC: In your book you mentioned the not-in-my-backyard movement, where people who have purchased their house and want to protect their investment fight against low-income developments. How can those people be convinced to allow low-income housing?

Flint: The NIMBY phenomenon is very real, and it is a big challenge for smart growth and New Urbanism. Established residents have to recognize that these developments actually add value. There are legitimate concerns about traffic, parking, and things like that, but that is what makes smart growth and New Urbanism harder. You have to deal with neighborhoods. You have to make it a participatory process. It is much easier to go into the countryside and turn the bulldozers loose. In the book, I ask folks in those neighborhoods to not have a knee-jerk response to more development.

RC: Is there an example of an American city that used smart growth and New Urbanism to change their area?

Flint: I think you're seeing a great momentum right here in Seattle. Certainly Portland has been a model for dense residential and mixed-use settlement

that uses transit and light rail. All of this is about a "back to the future" kind of notion. If you look at Chicago, Boston, and San Francisco, what was



great about some of these neighborhoods is that they have a center and vibrancy. That only comes with density. You could look at any city across the country, whether it's Chattanooga, Minneapolis, or Dallas, [and they] are rediscovering the advantages of living in a compact, more concentrated, mixed-use way.

RC: In the future, do you think that the rich will live in the city and the poor and lower income will live out in the suburbs?

Flint: No, living in the suburbs is not less expensive because you have to factor in the cost of keeping a car filled with gasoline. That is going to drive change. You have to factor in the true cost of housing, and the only way to do that is to calculate the cost of transportation and energy. Energy is never going to be cheap again; it's only going to be more

Anthony Flint wants to tame sprawling suburbs with smart growth. Photo by Dena Burke.

See SPRAWL, continued on Page 7

SPRAWL, continued from page 6

expensive — whatever form it takes. A more concentrated settlement will be the choice of the rich and not-so-rich alike, almost out of necessity.

RC: Do you think people will have issues living in densely populated areas? Perhaps neighbor rage replacing road rage?

Flint: [Laughs] That's quite a prediction. Density has a bad rap in America, but many of us love going to Paris and that has more density than Boston or Seattle. [Paris] has a lot of density, and we love it because it works. There are virtues to density, having access to transit, and all the functions of life jumbled together a bit more. The suburban model is based on separated use: all the homes in one place, the stores in another, [and] the offices in another. I think you're going to see a different version of the American dream that celebrates the advantages of density.

RC: In your book, you mention that some commentators have said that sprawl is a sign of a good economy. What is your response to that?

Flint: Critics of smart growth and New Urbanism have been hitting the blogosphere and writing up op-ed essays celebrating sprawl. [It is] a playing of devil's advocate, poking holes in smart growth and New Urbanism but not having a program of their own. These critics are not addressing the real issues that communities all over the country are wrestling with in terms of planning for future growth.

Yes, we disperse when we are able to because of affluence. If you can afford a big house on a big piece of land, you might go ahead and do that, [but] it is not a straightforward analysis. Sprawl has been so popular, not because it is driven by affluence, but because it is seen as affordable, at least initially, by the middle class. You have folks now moving out to West Virginia and commuting into D.C. The Central Valley in California has become a commuter-shed for San Jose, Oakland, and

San Francisco. The initial sticker price is very attractive and within reach, and then of course [with the price of a car and gas] it doesn't turn out to be the bargain it's cracked up to be.

RC: There is a chapter in your book called "Hands Off My Land" about people whose ability to build on their land was taken away by the government and the owners sued for compensation. Do you see this trend of lawsuits affecting smart growth and New Urbanism?

Flint: Very much so. It's a powerful force. It's based in the Constitution. It says right there in the Fifth Amendment that "Government shall take no land without just compensation," and the property rights movement has play[ed] on people's emotions and sense of fairness. It is also brought on by an idea of emphasis on restrictions, and today [there is] a lot less of that in smart growth [because it] is focused on incentives and changing zoning. You saw [the property rights movement] next door in Oregon with Measure 37, and you're also seeing it play out in eminent domain. Forty states have introduced some kind of legislation limiting the government's use of eminent domain. Twenty-two have passed a bill, and the U.S. House has a bill. This is going to slow down smart-growth efforts in cases where it is necessary to assemble land to redevelop.

RC: What do you think of the expensive condos going into South Lake Union and downtown?

Flint: These places get very popular very fast, and it is because there are not enough of them. There are not enough neighborhoods where you have this kind of development. Maybe it will end up taking the pressure off other parts of Seattle.

RC: What do you think the average person can do promote smart growth?

Flint: I ask people to start by making an honest assessment of their living needs. Do they need that much house? Is it convenient to drive so much? If owning and operating a car is about \$10,000, that's

Growing Old

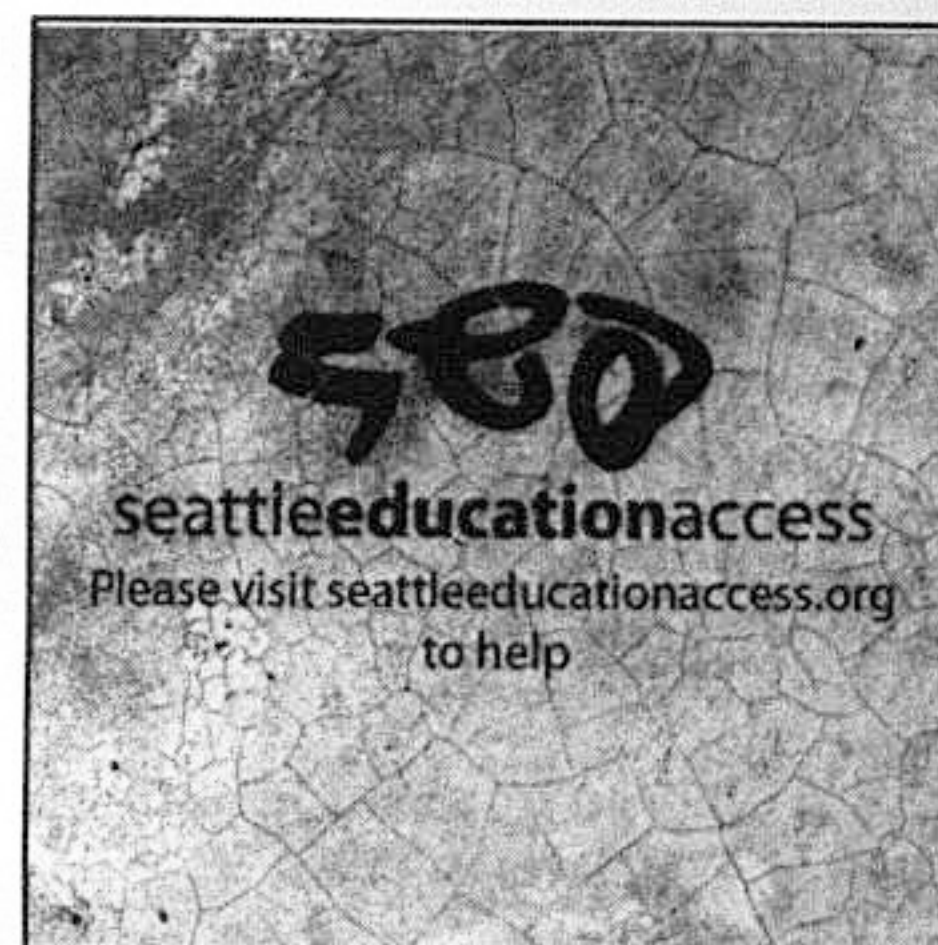
Let me tell you this, I think I've grown old. How do I know this has happened to me? I've had young girls open the door for me.

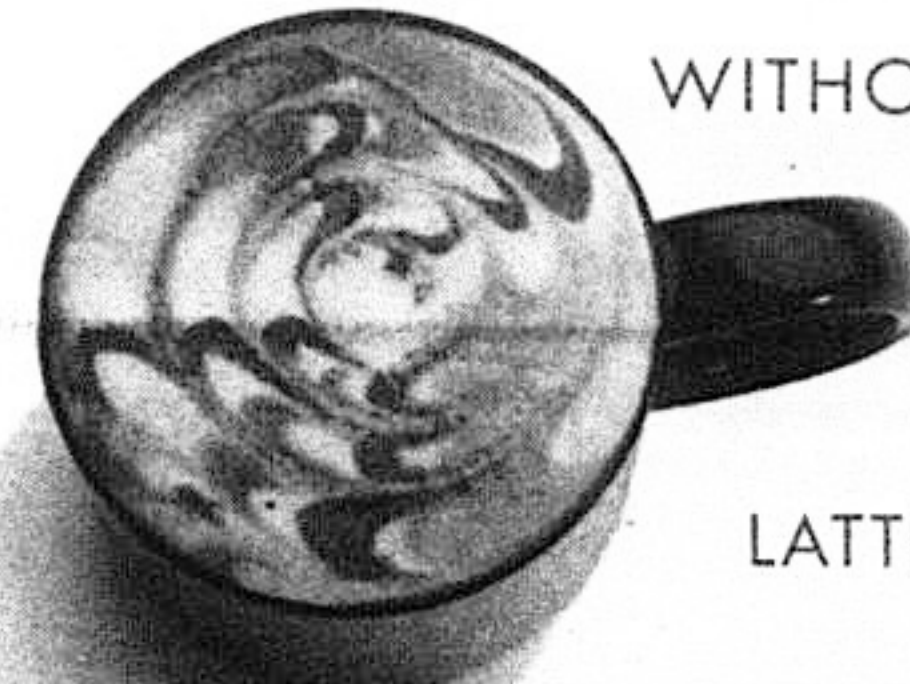
Old farts have stood up for me on the bus. Metro now gives me a cheaper pass. I find myself thinking of friends now gone

Women are no longer afraid of me, When we are alone on elevators. Old women sometimes look pretty good.

—J. GLENN EVANS

more than \$100,000 on a mortgage. Ditch the car, and you can afford more house. I also ask people to support changes in zoning. It doesn't sound like the most exciting thing in the world, but it is very important that the barriers and red tape be addressed. [It should be] as easy to redevelop and recycle urban areas and older suburbs as it is to build sprawl. I ask people to not just fight things but be a makeover artist for the planet [and] to think about their impact. With the concerns about global warming, it seems like a sensible thing to do. ■






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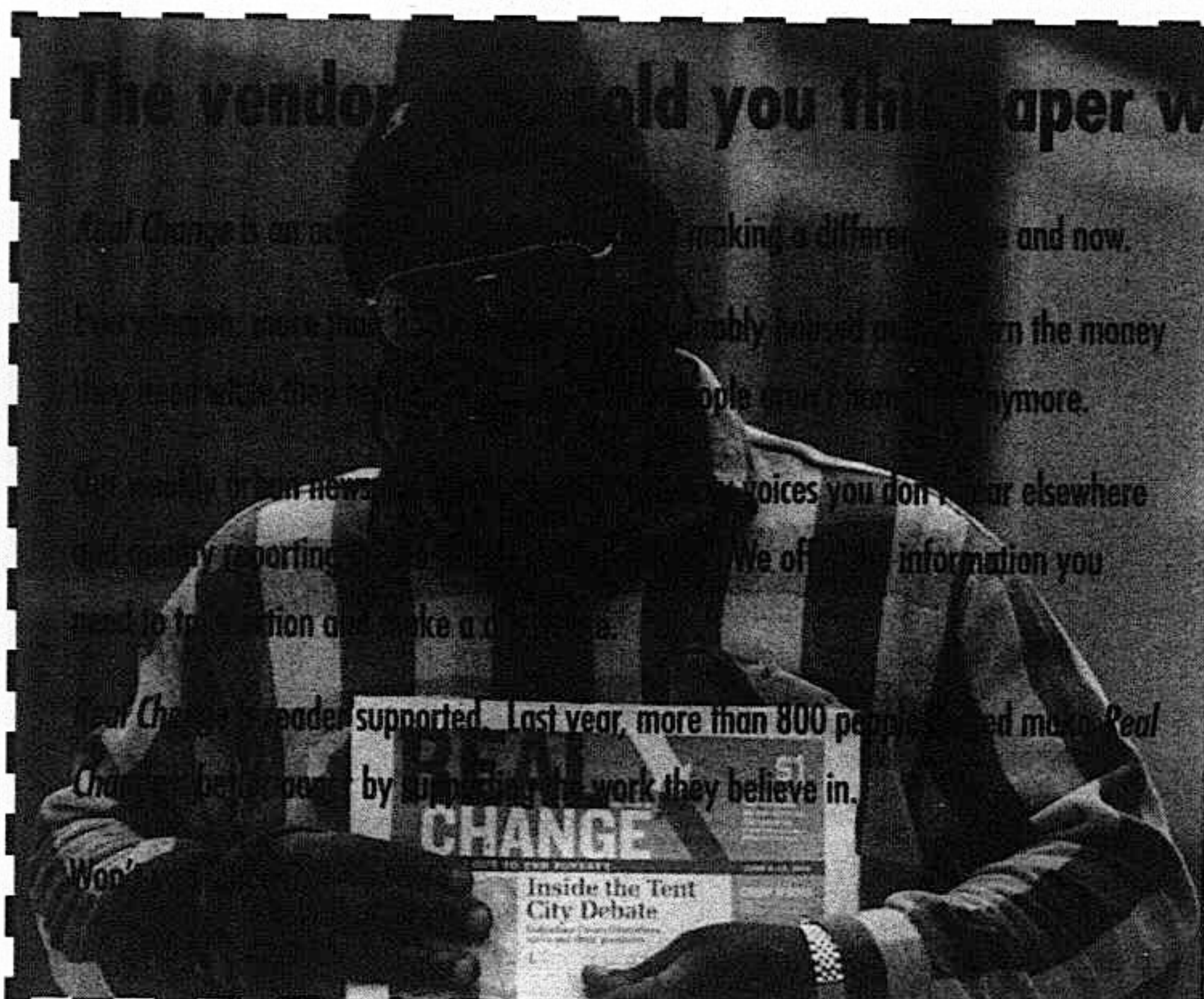
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When the Lying Lay Down with the Lamb

Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism

By Michelle Goldberg
Norton, 2006

Hardcover, 224 pages, \$23.95

Review by TIMOTHY HARRIS
Contributing Writer

There is a rising Christian nationalist movement that comprises about 25 percent of the electorate and has permanently reshaped American politics. The goal of this movement is to erode the wall between church and state and make their ideas on a wide range of issues — marriage, sexual orientation, reproductive choice, science — the law of the land.

In the absence of an effective counter-mobilization, this movement, which thinkers ranging from Desmond Tutu to John Dean have described as “proto-fascist,” could threaten democracy as we know it.

This is the message of Michelle Goldberg’s deeply disturbing *Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism*, an inside look at the movement that the Bush Administration rode to reelection in 2004. In that year, Goldberg writes, the Christian Coalition gave 42 out of 100 Senators perfect ratings, meaning that they adopted the Coali-

tion position 100 percent of the time.

Goldberg describes a diverse and growing movement that, in the increasingly popular suburban megachurches, mixes right-leaning religion-lite with extreme patriotism. The home-schooling movement alone includes up to two million kids who, some argue, are the Christian culture warriors of the future.

On the more extreme end are the Taliban-like pre-millennial reconstructionists, who believe that adulterers and gays should be killed to pave the way for the reign of God. While the reconstructionists were once “politically radioactive,” says Goldberg, since 2004 various centers of power have migrated increasingly toward their leaders and positions. Their philosophy of “dominionism,” for example, which asserts a God-given Christian right to political rule, has over time become the common sense of the broader movement.

Activists have developed a sophisticated infrastructure, which includes the home-schooling industry, more than 800 Crisis Pregnancy Centers, numerous well-funded think tanks, deep legal resources, a vast media empire, and ready access to the highest levels of government.

Quoting Hannah Arendt’s *Origins of Totalitarianism*, Goldberg reminds us that “before they seize power and

establish a world according to their doctrines, totalitarian movements conjure up a lying world of consistency which is more adequate to the needs of the human mind than reality itself.” The goal, says Goldberg, isn’t so much to roll back the New Deal as to challenge the Enlightenment itself.

This quality of being impervious and even hostile to reason increasingly defines the elements of government to which the movement has laid claim. Goldberg documents how, in areas ranging from environmental science to population control to international relations, scientists have been eclipsed by religious think-tank hacks at the highest levels of policy-making.

In one of the more egregious examples of ideology taking the lead, “faith-based” programs serving the poor are gradually replacing other types of human services support. More than half of all state governments have established their own faith-based offices to distribute funds. Of 1,600 programs funded, only about 3 percent were non-Christian.

These faith-based programs have little to no criteria to measure effectiveness and have turned into little more than a transparent means to fund the religious right’s evangelical base. “There is... a complete lack of a policy apparatus,” says John DiIulio, the first Bush

appointee to run the faith-based office. “Everything, and I mean everything, is being run by the political arm. It’s the reign of the Mayberry Machiavellis.”

One of the main arenas of Christian nationalist ascendancy has been the fight over the judiciary, which is the main obstacle to religious rule. The movement has adopted a two-pronged, somewhat contradictory strategy of taking the judiciary from within and eroding its power from without. This taming of the courts, says Goldberg, is where democracy is most vulnerable, and consequently where the energies of Christian nationalists are most focused.

“Ideologies that answer deep existential needs are hugely powerful,” writes Goldberg. “The Christian nationalists have one, and their opponents largely do not.” Goldberg writes that blue-state activists and other progressives must build a countervailing set of institutions and ideologies that can eventually challenge the movement’s electoral grip.

The Democrats winning the Presidency in 2008 will not significantly slow Christian nationalism, warns Goldberg. “The challenge,” she writes, “is to make reality matter again. If progressives can do that, perhaps America can be saved.” ■

Adventuresses, Not Caricatures

Descent

Written and Directed by Neil Marshall
Opens in theaters on Friday, Aug. 4.

Review by LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

Ten years ago *Descent* would not have been possible — not in this version. The characters — six intelligent, physically capable, but otherwise average young women — were absent in pop media folklore. Adrenaline junkies, they subject themselves annually to an extreme adventure, e.g., river rafting, rock climbing, etc. No fanciful personages here: no super-heroines or marshal-arts experts with form-fitting attire.

In a carefully choreographed blend of adventure and horror, writer/director Neil Marshall borrows much from his first film, *Dog Soldiers*. As in that 2002 offering, the characters embark on an adventure, only to find their challenge expanded in unimaginable ways.

A curious, beguiling tension, chiefly strung between protagonists Sharon (Shauna Macdonald) and Juno (Natalie Mendoza) establishes itself from frame one. As the women complete a whitewater rafting excursion, director Marshall serves notice that complex interactions will not be orphaned in the name

of gratuitous excitement. On the way home from the river, Sharon’s husband and child, with whom she is riding, are killed in a traffic accident. This sets the stage for a difficult homecoming when the two women and four of their friends meet in Appalachia a year later for a bit of spelunking.

The de facto leader of the group, Juno, challenges Sharon to re-emerge from a year of mourning. This importuning lands somewhere between support and competitive jibe: an element of friction and doubt that, like a ghostly team member, appears whenever the stakes for trust and interdependence are the highest.

In working through more than 10 rewrites, roles that began, in the director’s words, as “caricatures” emerged as fully capable females ...

Descending into caverns almost two miles under the surface, squeezing through intestinal byways, skirting abysmal drop-offs, and precipitating a rock slide that blocks their retreat, the sextet belatedly finds that Juno deceptively set them up for more than they bargained for. It’s the realization of a claustrophobic’s nightmare. This is generally enough grist for most narrative mills. In *Descent* it just lays the foundation.

Marshall is a skilled practitioner of his craft. Foreshadowing with singular skill — he morsels adumbrations like hors d’oeuvres — deftly ushering us to an entrée, the enjoyment of which

cannot be separated from the process by which it is introduced.

Movies have long functioned as a societal bellwether, harbinger, and reflector: leading, hedging, and echoing mean sentiment on issues and trends, lending credence or discredit to current biases. The press notes for *Descent* would lead one to deduce that Marshall had no original intention of making a social statement. He did, however, come to realize the benefits of making the women “much more real and human.” In working through more than 10 rewrites, roles that began, in

the director’s words, as “caricatures” emerged as fully capable females, worthy of traits heretofore assigned solely to their male counterparts. In a genre known for pandering to stereotypes, the actors and their characters slipped the bondage trammeling their onscreen predecessors, trapped in wet T-shirts and perplexed attitudes.

It is a testament to progress that in an adventure film, viable characters and egalitarian ethics go hand-in-hand. Let’s hope that *Descent* helps to implant a standard from which it will be difficult to retreat. ■



SHAUNA MACDONALD IN *DESCENT*.

Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning



On the Basis of Race or Breed

Recently I leapt out of bed with a brilliant flash of insight. It followed months of rumination about letters to the editor we had gotten. They were letters prompted by stories *Real Change* had run featuring non-white People. The letters' writers said they wouldn't buy the paper anymore, because we were always putting down the White Race.

Reading those letters through the tears of laughter, it occurred to me that hidden deep beneath the expressed froths of the letter writers there may be this sediment of truth: We have NOT been glorifying White People in the manner to which they have been accustomed during — oh, recorded Western history, or so.

But then, last Wednesday morning, it hit me: We ALSO haven't glorified heterosexuals, or the breeding they do for all of us.

I mean I know you don't have to be heterosexual to breed. We've all heard of the occasional gay guy who steels up his courage, closes his eyes, charges into the breach, and does one for the Pope. But heteros (like me!) do it (not sex, we're talking about procreation here) with a grace and style that can come only from native-born talent.

Anyway, so I had that brilliant flash of insight Wednesday morning, and then I read the news. And there was Washington Supreme Court Assistant Associate Chief Jester Barbara Madsen stating that the Washington Defense of Marriage Act "is constitutional because the legislature was entitled to believe that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples furthers procreation essential to survival of the human race," blah blah, blah, "furthers the well-being of children," BS, blah, BS, blah, "biological parents," harumph, harumph, BS, blah.

Madsen's words finally got through to me. What a huge disservice we have done, not only to the heterosexual community, but also to the entire human race, which depends so essentially, as she says, on that community for our vicarious continued existence on this planet (through descendants of that

community, who shall represent those lessers of us who never step up to the procreative plate.)

Here's what I see Chief Breeder Steward Madsen really saying: She's saying human breeders are like pandas. Pandas are cute and sexy, to each other, sure, but skittish. Zookeepers spend years, decades, coaxing nervous, sensitive pandas into the sack, using imported Chinese bamboo leaves, playing imported soft flute music, and above all, ensuring that there are no distractions.

Think of Genghis Khan, perhaps the greatest heterosexual breeder of all time. Genghis Khan's people respected his needs. They provided him with plenty of women, quiet tents, and pillows. Had they not, there might not be a Mongolia today. I don't know about the rest of you, but I wouldn't want to live in a world without a Mongolia.

Look. When there's all this hoopla and raucous goings-on of gays same-sex marrying here and civil-unioning there (have you seen those people dance at their weddings?), our beautiful, valuable, but emotionally fragile breeders can't mate to the degree that the survival of our species requires. "I'm sorry, dear, two men just married in Skamania; I can't focus tonight."

Real Change has made matters so much worse by never once helping the delicate breeders of Washington state feel good about their selves so that they could settle down in the warm glow of constant emotional strokes and get it on for humankind.

So, belatedly, I want to say what great people heterosexuals are, and to tell you all that we at *Real Change* promise in the future to glorify our state's prized heterosexual breeders the way we should have been doing all along. The same way, in fact, that we should have been extolling the greatness of White People all along.

Therefore, beginning next week and each week after, look for our new *Real Change* Pro-Creator feature, replacing the current Change Agent stories on page 3.

With all of us, including *Real Change*, working in solidarity with the breeding community, our great state may yet be the Mongolia of the fourth millennium! ■



REAL-LIFE ANSWERS TO YOUR LEGAL HASSLES

I believe my car was impounded without good reason. What discretion do authorities have for impounding cars? How can I get it back?

According to Kelly Angell at Foster Pepper, your car may be towed for several reasons. Your car may be towed immediately at the request of a private landowner if it's on that person's property. Your car may be towed immediately if it is parked on private non-residential property, such as a parking lot, if there is a sign giving notice that unauthorized vehicles will be towed, and the sign provides the name, address, and phone number of the towing company. Your car may be towed on private non-resident property after 24 hours even if there is not a posted notice.

The police, or any public official having jurisdiction over the public property upon which the vehicle is located, can initiate an impound. Your car can be towed if it is left on a public road in a manner that creates a hazard, if it is parked illegally on the street, or if it is parked in a handicapped space without a permit, or if it has been left on a highway 24 hours after being tagged by law enforcement. Your vehicle may be towed if you are arrested or

charged with driving under the influence, driving without a proper license, or driving with a suspended or revoked license.

If your car was improperly impounded, then you are entitled to a hearing in District or Municipal Court. The notice that you receive from the towing company will state the name and address of the court at which you need to request a hearing. You have 10 days to request your hearing; if you wait longer than that, you lose your right to the hearing. You will have to pay a court-filing fee, but if you have financial hardship, you may fill out a form and request that this fee be waived. To make the request, ask the clerk for an *In Forma Pauperis* form.

You cannot contest the amount of the tow, unless it does not match the rates that should be posted at the towing company. If the court determines that you were improperly towed, all towing and storage fees that you paid will be reimbursed to you and possibly reasonable damages for the loss of the car. If the court finds that you were properly towed, you will be charged for the towing, the storage fees, and court costs.

If you have a complaint about a registered tow truck driver in King County, contact the Department of Licensing at (360)664-6475. You can also contact the Northwest Justice Project at (206)464-1519 in Seattle or 1-888-201-1014 or www.nwjustice.org. ■

Answers are intended for general information only and are not intended to take the advice of your own attorney. Ask a Lawyer is in partnership with the Access to Justice Institute and Foster Pepper PLLC. Got questions? E-mail atji@seattleu.edu



Fri., July 21, 6:06 a.m., Aurora Ave. N. & Valley St.

Officers were working a high prostitution area of Eighth Ave. N. and Harrison St. when they observed the suspect, a transient Black female aged 23, loitering in the area with an unidentified person. The officers contacted suspects and ran their names via police computer. The two were then released with a warning not to return to "work" in the area anymore. Approximately 15 minutes later the same officers saw the suspect and her friend walking in the same area. They were unable to stop at this time, as they were en route to another call. Approximately 25 minutes after that the officers stopped the suspect as she was loitering at Dexter Ave. N. and Denny Way. On this occasion a crack pipe was seen next to her on the bench. Officers again warned her to stay out of the area. She stated she was waiting for a bus so she could leave. Forty-five minutes later she was spotted walking along the 900 block of Aurora Ave. The officers stopped and arrested her, and transported her to the West Precinct. She was interviewed and released.

Fri., July 21, 6:17 p.m., Third Ave. and Pike St.

A group of Department of Corrections and Seattle Police Department officers were working in uniform in an unmarked van performing emphasis patrol in the Third and Pike area when one of the officers pointed out the suspect, a transient Black male aged 32, standing on the northeast corner of Third and Pike. A DOC officer performed a name check on the man for any possible violation of failing to report. A violation was confirmed, and he instructed the SPD officers to arrest the suspect. Suspect was contacted and searched, and a chain was found around his neck. Hanging from the chain was a small metal flask type bottle around the size of a matchbook. Inside were five small pills: two green, two purple, and one orange. Suspect was transported to the West Precinct, where the pills were lab tested. They tested positive for the presence of Ecstasy, and the suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sat., July 22, 11:15 a.m., Third Ave. and Pike St.

Seattle Police were dispatched to a harassment call from Third and Pike. The complainant, a transient Black female aged 36, reported that her ex-boyfriend was threatening her and attempting to assault her. Officers arrived and spoke to the complainant, who stated the following: she said the subject was attempting to keep her from getting on the bus, and that while she wasn't assaulted, the subject had hugged her. She didn't feel hurt or scared by this, and stated that this was not typical behavior for him — she just didn't want to hang out with him today. Officers talked to subject, who stated he did hug the complainant. He was advised to leave her alone for the day.

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.

RIDE, Continued from Page 5

two unmarked cars with flashing lights followed the flood of bicycles as it made its way down Second Avenue, up on Jackson, and south on Rainier, with grumblings but no major incident.

Even people in vehicles, delayed for upwards of five minutes as the riders streamed by, seemed not to mind. Some gave high fives from their windows, as the bikers waved and rang their bells.

"It seems like a lot of cyclists feel like they have to ride aggressively in order to be noticed," said one rider, noting that his accident rate had decreased since he started riding defensively. "It's like wild animals: they get excited when they feel that others are getting excited." ■

MARRIAGE, Continued from Page 1

Right now, the only state in the nation to permit same-sex marriage is Massachusetts; if a Washington couple marries there, or in Canada, no state official will accept the license as valid.

Electing more Democrats, who tend to be friendlier to the equal-marriage cause, may help change the atmosphere in Olympia. It could lead, Van Cleve and others say, to the sort of victory civil-rights activists enjoyed this winter, when the Senate narrowly passed a bill banning discrimination against gays and lesbians — a bill 29 years in the making.

But the shortest route to achieving marriage equality may not be by simply calling for it — a demand that enrages the right. That's why other ideas are also on the table — like ensuring that gays and lesbians can visit their hospitalized partners.

"It may be very important to get hospital and medical leave for same-sex couples," says Josh Friedes, education director for Equal Rights Washington. "Only a curmudgeon would oppose giving people in need basic rights."

There's no shortage of benefits conveyed upon couples bound in matrimony that should be extended to those who can't marry, says Friedes. And what angers the right so much about equal marriage is not that they don't want gays and lesbians to have those rights; it's that they don't distinguish between the spiritual aspect of marriage and the secular rights marriage bestows.

Some faiths welcome same-sex unions; if Washington passed an equal-marriage law, the rest would not be forced to officiate weddings they did not condone, says Friedes.

"It's always the right of religious leaders to refuse to marry whomever they choose. What we're talking about is the state's granting of marriage licenses."

And those licenses, he says, convey real rights upon their possessor. In the court majority's reasoning that marriage must be restricted to ensure procreation, he says, "You see particular sectarian values thrust on all the people of Washington."

"Gay and lesbian couples have children," he says. "The bottom line is whether we have the right to protect them." ■

Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Corruption of the Best

Dear Editor,

What is the difference between political corruption in the United States and up and growing nations? Political corruption in up and growing nations is considered a fact of life and one just goes with the flow. On the other hand, political corruption in the United States is mostly hidden and kept a secret. If there was no political corruption in the United States then we would not have jokes such as the following: "It was so cold last winter that I actually saw a politician with his hands in his own pockets."

Is that really a baseless joke? Let me remind everyone of some historical facts. House Majority Leader Dan Rostenkowski was convicted of fraud and sent to prison. How many U.S. Congressmen and Senators were involved in the Postal Stamp Scandal? The once popular and respected U.S. Congressman from California, Duke Cunningham, was indicted, convicted, and is now serving time in prison for accepting bribes to the tune of millions of dollars. A former Oklahoma judge was convicted recently of exposing himself by using a sex gadget while he presided over trials. The former U.S. Congress House of Representatives Majority Leader Tom DeLay was accused of demeaning Congress by trading favors with lobbyists. He had to step down as majority leader after he was indicted in Texas on campaign money-laundering charges. Mayors of large U.S. cities have been convicted of cocaine use while serving their term in office. Then there is the widespread political corruption that is not reported because it has not reached the notoriety of the previously cited examples. Another serious question is how many other politicians knew about the aforementioned cases, before the cases became public knowledge, and yet said nothing about the alleged problems. If politicians know of wrongdoing and do nothing, they are guilty of committing conspiracy or at least the sin of omission.

There is a heavy price we pay for political corruption! Is it any wonder that illegal drug use is uncontrollable when elected officials are themselves

convicted of illegal drug use? Is it possible for congressmen or senators to introduce good legislation, while they are under the strong influence of a lobbyist and/or big business. No wonder our penalties are stronger for drunk driving with local, county, state and federal officials involved with alcohol abuse. Is it any wonder legislation lacks clarity when even presidents don't know the definition of "is"?

Benjamin Franklin made an astute observation about England over 200 years ago: "But some punishment seems preparing for a people who are ungratefully abusing the best constitution and the best king any nation was ever blessed with, intent on nothing but luxury, licentiousness, power, places, pensions, and plunder." It seems that comment could aptly apply to the United States today. When good men do nothing, wickedness flourishes. It is high time congress, and all branches of government, start cleaning themselves up to leave our posterity a government they will lovingly support. Do nothing and our Founding Fathers will not recognize what is left for our posterity. The present political corruption must be put to a stop or there will be no stopping it in the future. Enough is enough. "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country," to quote an old adage. It is speak now or forever hold your peace.

**Silence Dogood
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

United Way Ending Homelessness Calendar: We are looking for individuals to be photographed for our annual ending homelessness calendar "Out of the Rain." Our theme this year is, "What is most important to you?" We would like to photograph homeless individuals with their most cherished belonging. The idea is to capture some essence of what is most important to you in your life. If you are interested in being photographed for the calendar, please contact Inye Wokoma (photographer) at 206-325-1159 or 206-391-8082 cell.

CLASSIFIED**Event**

Join us for a morning hard hat tour of the Alaskan Way Viaduct on August 19. Get the facts on the cut-and-cover tunnel and elevated structure alternatives, estimates, and funding, and learn the latest on construction plans. RSVP to viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov by Friday, August 11 with 'August viaduct tour' in the subject line, or leave a message at (206) 269-4421. More information will be sent in a confirmation email or return phone message once you RSVP. Space is limited. Please note that for safety purposes, no children will be allowed on the tour.

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

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Thursday 08/03

A tribute to LGBT history and the Seattle-based Lesbian Mothers Defense Fund, the documentary *Mom's Apple Pie* is the true story of five lesbian mothers, four (now adult) children, and the horrific custody battle that ensued when the children were legally taken away because of their mother's sexuality. Tickets \$10. 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway.

Wednesday 08/02 - Friday 08/04

Approximately 40,000 Iraqi civilians and 2,567 American soldiers have died since the Iraq War began. The human cost is examined in the exhibit and memorial *Eyes Wide Open* by using a pair of boots to symbolize each loss. Informational panels and artifacts are also used to detail the

losses and encourage reflection on the cost of every war. All people, regardless of their political convictions, are welcome. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Plymouth Congregational Church, Hildebrand Hall, 1217 Sixth Ave. Info: nuramos@thechurchcouncil.org.

Until Saturday 08/05

While finding work as a performance artist, Lauren Weedman was a volunteer advocate in a Southern California prison for women. Her semi-autobiographical one-woman show, *Bust*, portrays her experiences, brings 50 characters to life, and arouses compassion and contempt. Tickets \$10 and up. Wed.-Thurs. 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Seattle University, Lee Center for the Arts, 901 - 12th Ave. Info: (206) 547-7500, www.emptyspace.org.

Friday 08/04 - Sunday 08/06

The Northwest's oldest and largest Black community festival, Umoja Family Fest celebrates unity by bringing people of all ethnic backgrounds together for food, music, and networking. Highlights include the African heritage parade, drum and dance shows, Reggae, spoken word and poetry, fashion shows, history exhibits, Hip-Hop Helps Peace and Unity Concert, and Bite of Africa. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Judkins

Park, 2150 S Norman St. Info: www.umojafamilyfest.com.

Sunday 08/06

From Hiroshima to Hope honors the victims of the nuclear bombings. The

family program includes calligraphy, traditional music by the Seattle Kokon Taiko members, speakers, origami cranes, and a lantern-floating ceremony. 6:30 p.m. - dark, Green Lake, 7312 West Green Lake Dr. N Info: www.hiroshimato-hope.org.

Monday 08/07

Ruin and Resistance in the Americas is a new discussion series centering on Latin American revolutions against free trade and crushing poverty. Participants will learn about the impacts these revolts have had on American workers. 7 p.m., New

Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S.

Tuesday 08/08

Military veteran, former CIA agent, and reclusive science fiction writer James Tiptree, Jr. broke the barrier between "male" and "female" writing: it was discovered in 1976 that Tiptree was a woman. Journalist Julie Phillips spent a decade researching the complex legend and has written a full-length biography *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S Main St.

Wednesday 08/09

King County recently made changes to several civil rights ordinances. Find out what your civil rights are and how to resolve discrimination situations at a discussion and open house. 11:30 a.m., DDES Hearing Room, first floor, 900 Oakesdale Ave. SW, Renton.

Saturday 08/12

Join the national emergency protest to defend the people of Lebanon and Palestine and stop U.S. aid to Israel. The march calls for an end to the occupation and the right for Palestinians to return to their homes. Noon, Federal Building, 915 Second Ave.

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

Director's Corner

Last week, unimaginable tragedy hit Belltown just a block from the *Real Change* office. A woman is dead and several others seriously injured, and it has very little, really, to do with the Middle East, Arab-Jew relations, or terrorism. This is about a mentally disturbed man with access to semi-automatic weaponry. We've seen this story before.

The United States leads the world in gun violence. In 2001, firearms were used to murder six people in New Zealand, 56 in Japan, 96 in Great Britain, 168 in Canada, and 331 in Germany. In comparison, firearms were used to murder 11,348 in the United States. There is something deeply wrong with this picture.

Police Chief Gil Kerlikowski and Mayor Greg Nickels have been national leaders in the fight for tougher gun control laws, and have drawn fire from the gun lobby for their efforts. A *Seattle Times* op-ed last April from Bellevue's Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms described calls for greater gun control following the Capitol Hill shootings as "tantamount to dancing in the blood of Kyle Huff's victims."

In the case of Kyle Huff, there was little that that could be described as predictive. This time, it's different. A man with a history of mental illness and angry behavior was able to easily purchase two high-caliber pistols. This was a preventable tragedy.





First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Wage Raise yes, Tax Cut No

Issue: The federal minimum wage has remained at \$5.15 an hour since 1997. While Washington State has a significantly higher minimum wage, 29 states use the standard set by the federal government. US Senator Edward Kennedy is leading the effort to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour. His latest effort didn't receive the votes needed to pass, and now House Republicans are attempting to tie an increase in the minimum wage to a repeal of the estate tax and a reduction in pay for tipped employees.

Background: Last Saturday the US House of Representatives passed a bill that increases the federal minimum wage to \$7.25, phased in over three years, while cutting \$268 billion from the estate tax, along with \$38 billion in other tax cuts. On top of that, it creates a tip penalty — allowing tipped employees to be paid as little as \$2.13 per hour. Currently, Washington State requires tipped employees to be paid the state minimum wage. Washington's House members voted along party lines, with Hastings, McMorris, and Reichert (who represents the eastside of King County) voting for the bill.

Workers earning the federal minimum wage make \$10,712 annually. Each year, the National Low-Income Housing Coalition produces a report that compiles state and local statistics on wage and housing costs. This year's report found that there is no jurisdiction in the country where the minimum wage allows a single worker to afford even a one-bedroom apartment.

The federal minimum wage has remained stagnant for nine years. In fact, because the wage isn't indexed to inflation, when Congress doesn't act to increase it — we actually lose ground. Right now, the inflation-adjusted value of the minimum wage is 30% lower than it was in 1979.

During the nine years since Congress has increased the minimum wage — they have accepted nine raises in their own salaries. Congressional pay raises between 1997 and 2007 will add up to \$34,900 — which is more than three times what a minimum wage worker earns.

Action: It's time for Congress to look out for low-wage workers well being in the same way they use our tax dollars to look out for their own. But tying the minimum wage to a permanent estate tax repeal is an unacceptable, partisan maneuver that the Senate should reject when they return from the August recess.

Contact: Senators Murray and Cantwell and let them know that you strongly support increasing the minimum wage, but not at the expense of more than \$300 billion in tax cuts that will diminish other efforts to lift people out of poverty. Ask them to vote no on the minimum wage - estate tax bill, and to continue to work with Senator Kennedy to increase the minimum wage without the trade-off.

Senator Maria Cantwell
(202) 224-3441
maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

Senator Patty Murray
(202) 224-2621
senator_murray@murray.senate.gov

You can also sign on as a citizen co-sponsor of Senator Kennedy's minimum wage bill at www.union-voice.org/campaign/fairminwage.

Information for this column comes from the AFL-CIO, United For a Fair Economy, and the Economic Policy Institute.

MARCHING, Continued from Page 1

Besides the recent, high-profile refusal of a commissioned officer, Lt. Ehren Watada, to go to Iraq, Rowland says the Army acknowledges it has more than

6,000 deserters.

Some, like 27-year-old Joshua Key, whose story is told in the new book *Mission Rejected: U.S. Soldiers Who Say No to Iraq*, have fled to Canada, where they are seeking political asylum. A native of Oklahoma, Key served eight months in Iraq and, in the book, relates one of the horrors that converted him:

Outside Ramadi,

he came upon a line of dead Iraqis that his fellow GIs had decapitated. While he followed orders and searched for evidence of a firefight that had never happened, Key says two of the soldiers were kicking around the heads like soccer balls.

As with Vietnam, it's that kind of insanity, says Rowland, who founded the documentary film company PepperSpray Productions during Seattle's WTO protests, that will turn the tide, one soldier at a time.

"There's a huge sense of betrayal among the soldiers I've interviewed. I know a lot will become activists," Row-

land says. "It's not some agitator on a streetcorner that turns you into a radical. It's your own experiences. These guys know more deeply than the American population just how shitty it is in Iraq."

And just what it will take to end the war. Besides Veterans for Peace, there's now the Iraq Veterans Against the War. A contingent of its members are biking from Eugene, Oregon, to attend and call attention to the convention.

"We did, in fact, stop a war," Rowland says of his efforts in the '60s. "They withdrew ground troops from Vietnam because the Army had become unreliable."

"Whenever I see GI resistance, I'm just tickled shitless," he says, because "as long as they need soldiers, we can, in fact, stop them." ■

[Events]

David Ziger's award-winning film "Sir! No Sir!" opens Aug. 11 at the Northwest Film Forum, (206)267-5380 or nwfilmforum.org. Veterans for Peace holds its national convention Aug. 10-13 at the University of Washington. Information is at www.vfpnational-convention.org, or sign up by calling (206)543-7634.

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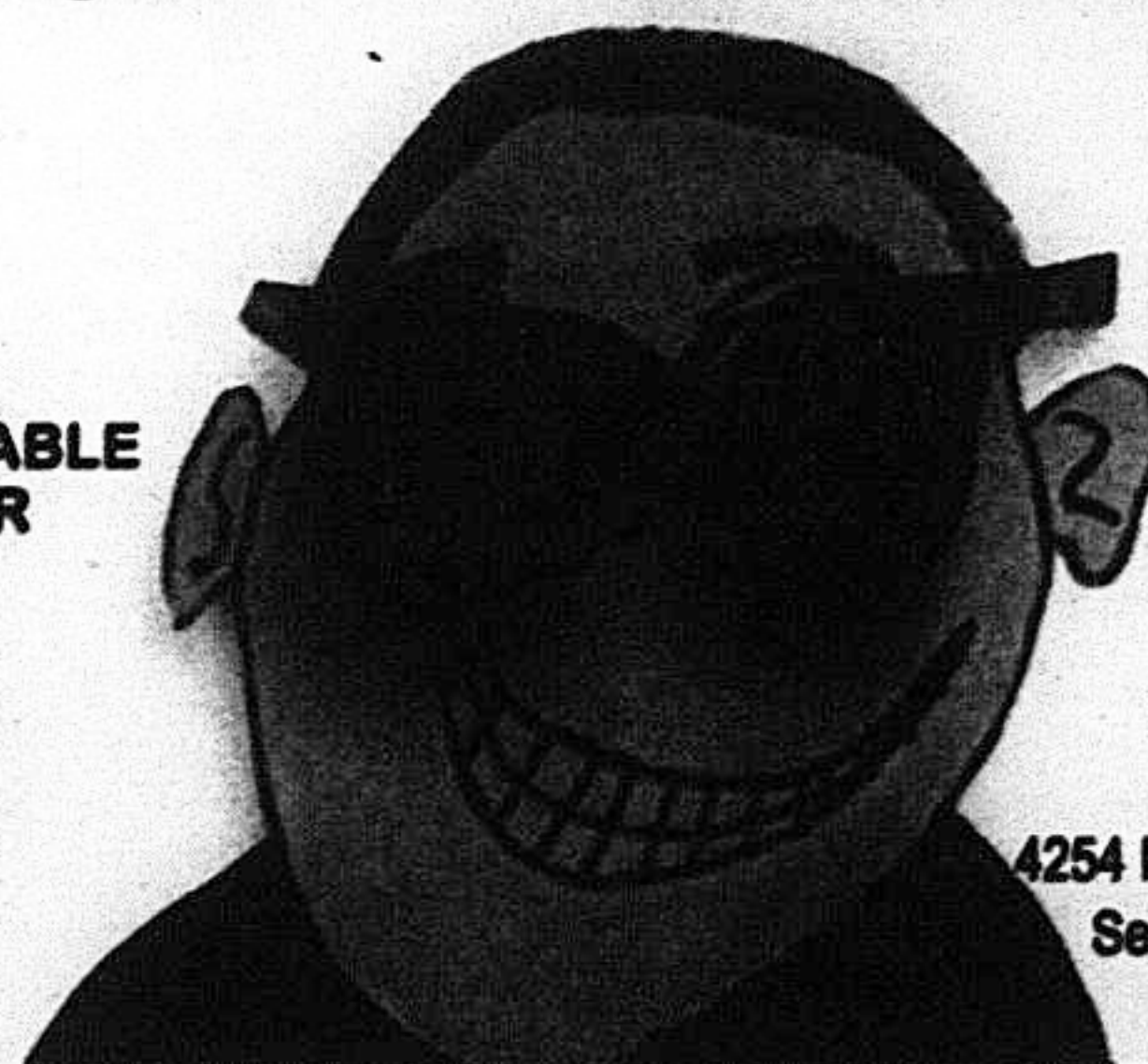
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Volume VI, Issue 8

In This Issue

Letter from the Editor
Jim Theofelis
Page 2

The Real Definition of Love
Raquel Granath
Page 2

Letter to the Editor
Tamsen Spengler
Page 2

Aloha Dietra!!!
Misty Lou Cook
Page 3

What the Orion Center Has for You!
Jessica Garcia
Page 3

Lawsuits on MySpace
Surri Evans
Page 3

Three Steps to a Drama-Free Life
Renita Baskin
Page 3

Rediscovering Myself and Family
Maleka Taylor
Page 4

Creative Corner: Larisica's Gentleness
Larisica Asher
Page 4

Creative Corner: Tearz
Raquel Granath
Page 4

Life is Just So Hard at Times
Teresa Asher
Page 4

Make It Happen

JAMICA HENDERSON



From left to right, Greg, Youth Rep. Jamica, her sister Kanesha and Jamie at Make It Happen banquet.

I had the chance to volunteer at this year's Make It Happen event. It was organized by the Washington Education Foundation who offers the Governor Scholarship and Gates Achievers Scholarship. It was a week long and hosted at Seattle University. Make It Happen is a wonderful camp for young adults who are in foster-care and want to become successful college students. This program helps them reach the dreams that they want for themselves. All the students were all so beautiful and had great personalities. They were very outgoing and committed to reaching their goals.

Make It Happen had lots of information on how to apply to college, how to fill out your FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Student Aid), and what choices to make while in college. This year's event was attended by 108 students from across the state. They were broken in to five different groups (orange, red,

purple, blue and green) that were organized by the student's current educational level. Everyday, each team would go to a workshop that was assigned to their group along with their two peer mentors. Once they were finished with their workshops, they would debrief as a group. While debriefing, they would talk about what they learned and what they would like to know more about. Once they finished debriefing, it was free-time for them and they could go and watch TV, play games, make postcards and more. While they would have free-time I would prepare the snacks. Once free-time ended it was "room-time" and lights went out at twelve. On our last full day, we had a banquet and guest speaker, Regina Louise (author of *Somebody's Someone*). She spoke about being "your own champion". It was a very inspiring speech and a perfect way to end the week.

What I liked most was how Washington Education Foundation took the time and made this a successful event. I would like to thank them for that and the opportunity to volunteer at such a meaningful event. I liked the organization of the different colored groups, the scheduling, and how everything worked out and went smoothly (not to mention I felt so official with my walkie-talkie). I realized that we (as foster-children) have dreams and that we can achieve despite great odds. I recommend this event to anyone in foster-care that wants to go to college. It was exciting to watch all the students making it happen.



Mockingbird Staff take final farewell picture with Americorps member, Dietra Clayton.



Youth Rep. Larisica Asher with Regina Louise (*Somebody's Someone*) at Mockingbird Society sponsored event for foster families.

Happy Birthday to Mockingbird Society; celebrating five years this month!

How to Get Yourself Off the Streets

MISTY LOU COOK



The first and most important thing to establish early on is a desire to get yourself off of the streets. You have to really and truly want to stop the cycle of homelessness. If you really don't want to stop being homeless, then you won't stop being homeless. I know that this can be complex, because of so many different life situations, but if you really, really want to get yourself off of the streets, then no one can stop you from doing just that.

After you've established and confirmed your desire to get yourself off of the streets, you have to learn to believe in yourself and your strengths. You were probably told that you were stupid, fat, ugly, lazy or some sort of other horrible adjective at some point in your life, or throughout your entire life. It's very important that you learn NOT to believe these insults. If someone has made assumptions about your intelligence, your morals, your personal goals, your dreams or your identity based upon false stereotypes and prejudices, then they were being racist, homophobic, sexist or just plain ignorant. Don't believe

the lies. The truth is that you are beautiful, smart and capable, and they were probably just picking on you to make themselves temporarily feel better about their own situation (which never works out in the long run). In my experience, people, especially homeless youth, are more afraid of their strengths than their weaknesses, which have probably been pointed out and exaggerated, especially if they are a marginalized youth. You have to believe in yourself and your abilities!! If you're still discovering what all of your skills, talents and dreams are, then that's okay too. Let yourself discover your dreams, talents and passions. Get to know yourself and be comfortable with yourself and in your personal and cultural identity. This is so important, it is the most crucial step...because if you don't believe in yourself, it doesn't matter if the resources and solution is RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE and saying "hey!", because you won't be able to realize that you are smart, capable and able to take advantage of this opportunity to get yourself off of the streets. Surround yourself with positive, good and comforting people and create a supportive community for yourself. You will only benefit from believing in yourself.

There's only one thing left to do once you've established a desire to get yourself off of the streets, created a supportive community

and finally started believing in the incredible being and survivor that is you: get yourself off of the streets using the resources that have presented themselves to you or that you have intentionally sought out. That's it. Recognize that there are good people who want to help you and connect with them. Be open to different options and don't sell yourself short, reach for the stars. After all, you ARE a star: beautiful, bright and shining, immersed in a gorgeous sky of endless possibilities. You can really do anything you want if you want it, believe in yourself and just go for it, reach for your goals. Don't be too hard on yourself if you fall in your process of reaching for the stars, because it's like what Frederick Douglass said: "Without struggle, there is no progress ...". Be persistent and creative with your solutions to homelessness. One of the keys to getting yourself off of the streets is being dedicated to your goals. You need to know who you are and what you want and then just GO FOR IT ... the last step is to take the foundation built up in the first two steps and utilize them for all their worth. The last step in personally ending your youth homelessness is to just get yourself off the streets. You can do it, you know that you can. Go ahead and BE the CHANGE you want to see in this society...

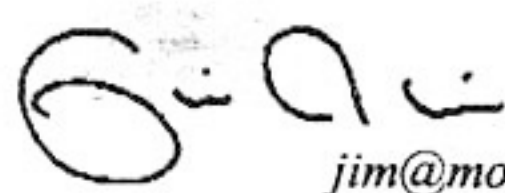
Letter from the Editor

JIM
THEOFELIS



Once again this issue of the *Mockingbird Times* provides the reader with a special insight into the struggles and perseverance of young people involved in foster care and/or homelessness. Virtually all of the stories and poems in this issue speak to the pain of isolation and the hope that is embedded in love. I think one of the most erroneous and spiteful myths about young people in these life circumstances is that "they are happy where they are" and "don't want help or to improve their lives". One need only to truly listen to the message within these pages and it becomes very clear that these young people are struggling and striving to be fully engaged in all that life has to offer. Struggling and striving to get off the streets, to return to high school, to prepare for college, and of course struggling and striving to remain alive, strong and healthy while protecting their dreams and gentleness. I am especially proud of the growth and leadership these youth have demonstrated while at Mockingbird Society. It is our philosophy that young

people do indeed want to participate in meaningful work and our role is to provide the opportunities and support for that to happen. August is a special month to the Mockingbird Society as it marks our 5th Anniversary as an organization. It seems like a long time ago that we created the first issue of the *Mockingbird Times* in my small private practice office with three youth and \$50,000. The first issue of the *Mockingbird Times* had a circulation of about 6,000 copies distributed primarily through the Seattle/King County area. This current issue has a circulation of over 50,000 issues distributed to every state in the nation. The Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) continues to demonstrate its efficacy as an innovative model for delivering community based, culturally relevant foster and kinship care services. We are in the planning stages of replicating the MFM across Washington and into other states and jurisdictions. I would like to encourage you to help us celebrate our 5th Anniversary by making a donation to the Mockingbird Society and join us in building a world class foster care system that recognizes and celebrates our most marginalized children, youth and families.

 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.

Thank You's

Matt & Maureen Marinkovich; Steve and Kelly Nolan Shafer; Joy Smucker; Maria Oropeza; Sabrina Schongalla; Silvana Bruxel; Alan Rothblatt and Sima Kahn; Bill Dickerson at Olympus Press; Wendy Miller and Seattle REL; Virginia Blaney; Kathryn Brooks; Henry and Jennifer Gordon;

A special thank you to those who helped make our event on July 27th a great success:

Regina Louise; Ocheami; Michaud Savage; Chris Jackson; Tenley Ghan; Joan Stewart; Davidson Dodd; Erin Pugh; Elias Rothblatt; Marika and Luke Theofelis; Linn Tran; and the Garfield Community Center.

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: \$ _____

Suggested Donations:

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

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
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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.

- ☐ Please bill me for the amount indicated.
- ☐ My employer will match my gift; enclosed is my matching gift form.
- ☐ I am interested in receiving information on the advantages of planned giving.
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The Real Definition of Love

RAQUEL
GRANATH



I've been contemplating the purpose of humans on this earth for quite a period of time now and I think I've come to a conclusion on why we were put here. We were put here to Love... love conquers all things. If everybody loved each other there wouldn't be war going on in Iraq or world hunger steadily increasing in Third World countries. If you LOVE, someone are you going to sit there and let them suffer? If you loved each and every person, would you let them die in front of you when you have to power to save their lives? I seriously doubt it. This world is not too far gone. We can save ourselves if we just show an ounce of love.

You will know you're in love when it happens. Love will have its doubts but its how you overcome them and continue to love that defines the league of love that you're in. Not everyone will experience all the different kinds of love in their life to be able to differentiate which one it is. Friendly love is obviously the kind shared between acquaintances and family, one that is not romantic but on a lesser value more affectionate. The religious, or "agape love" states that everybody should have unconditional love for all people which is

true but sounds kind of unrealistic in this context. Then there's my favorite, puppy love. The love that kids fall into and swear is real but is labeled as infatuation.

Lastly there's the one that people strive to achieve sometimes for their whole lives. The big cheese, the cigar, the romantic, true, undying, committed love shared between two people. (not necessarily of the opposite sex) This kind of love is few and far between and sometimes even hard to distinguish. It's a beautiful enlightened place. And when I say 'place' I mean that literally; being in love is a whole different dimension. Its euphoria, things are very warped; your perception of the world around you may be hazy. It's beyond getting high, or drunk, or any other device that man has constructed to escape reality because it IS reality. Everyday you wake you your life has a meaning and a purpose. And depending on how the dynamics of the relationship are, you think about that person more than you think about yourself. You treasure them and their feelings, you long for them, and hold their best interests at heart. On your list of necessities right between oxygen and food, their name is written in bold letters so you're sure not to leave it out. This person is beyond infatuation, and beyond obsession, this person is part of the reason you're living. This is love folks, the mere declaration of the word makes you think of that special someone. Is it sincere though? I don't know that's up to you to decide.

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.

MEET OUR STAFF

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ALOHA DIETRA !!!

MISTY LOU COOK

When Dietra first walked into the office here at the Mockingbird Society and Times, no one knew how much she would change our workplace, our communities, our lives with her humor, smile and helpful advice. Our Americorps volunteer, Dietra Clayton, brought us all a lot closer together and it's hard to put into words how much we've all appreciated her consistent, shining presence, with her bad knock knock jokes, spiritual tattoos and complex but lovable personal identity. Dietra, I speak on behalf of the rest of the Mockingbird when I say that we will ALL MISS YOU and your zany sense of humor, knack for helping out troubled youth and your fabulous fashion sensibilities !!! You have taught us all so much; from how to write poetry to how to bridge cultural gaps to how to be compassionate yet professional at work. We all know you, we all LOVE you and we will ALL MISS YOU. Luckily for us, you're still going to be an on-call volunteer here at the Mockingbird Times, since you are a chronic do-gooder and all. We are all PROUD of Dietra for her next job transition, as a youth counselor at Spruce St., a Secure Crisis Residential Center (SCRC) that picks up youth that are in crisis here in Seattle. We will miss Dietra's warmth, light, love, professionalism and everything else that she has brought into our lives by just being herself. YOU ROCK OUR WORLD DIETRA !!!!! Best wishes.

"Dietra thank you so much for everything you have done." ~ Sam

"I will miss the fun times we had at Mockingbird! I appreciate how you've mentored me and helped me to discover myself." ~ Raquel

"You brought so much to our team. We will miss you and wish you all the best at Spruce Street!" ~ Lauren

"I hope that you keep the good deeds up ... you're a great person and will be missed ... I like your advice and your care-free ways ..." ~ Jessica

"Thank you 4 everything Big D." ~ Teresa

"I am really proud of you and ... I hope you know that you have touched everyone with your love and caring spirit. Know that you will always be welcome at the home of Mockingbird. See ya soon" ~ Jamica AKA MICKA - MOO

"Even though it makes me sad to see you go I am very happy for you and your new job and I am sure that your beautiful smile will shine bright everywhere you go." ~ Renita

"Dietra, I'm gonna miss the fun times in our little office." ~ Dennis

"Dietra ~ Thanks for all that you brought to Mockingbird Society and Youth LEAD. You will be missed!" ~ Ros

"... you are moving up, so I'm proud of you. I hope things in life get a lot easier for you and take care ..." ~ Larisica

"Dietra is a great peer to work with; her inquisitive nature, energy and enthusiasm will take her far in her endeavors!" ~ Darcie

"I will miss your humor, company and commitment to your work. You were such a bright light around here. Best Wishes!" ~ Najja

"Dietra has brought great energy and passion to the Youth LEAD program and the overall mission of the Mockingbird Society." ~ Jim Theofelis

Lawsuits on MySpace

SURRI EVANS



The popular website MySpace, has been going on since 2003, with more than 80 million registered users the site has become a well know internet site that youth have open access to. Lately there have been a lot of reports about online predators harassing the young adults on the site.

The site prohibits children 13 and under to log on, and 18 or older aren't allowed to request 14-15 year olds unless they know the persons full name e-mail address.

For the young adults on the site making a profile consist of their age gender and city, as for the older people that log on their profile consist of the same but with more personal information. Making a profile doesn't mean it has to be true, an adult can log on as a minor and request to chat with another minor and vice-versa.

The mother of a 14-year-old girl from Travis County, Texas filed a 30-million-dollar lawsuit against the site due to her daughter who claimed to have been sexually assaulted by a 19-year-old high school male. "In May, after a series of e-mails and phone calls, he picked her up at

school, took her out to eat and to a movie, then drove her to an apartment complex parking lot in South Austin, where he sexually assaulted her, police said. He was arrested May 19." (1)

"The lawsuit claims that the Web site does not require users to verify their age and calls the security measures aimed at preventing strangers from contacting users younger than 16 utterly ineffective." (1) I think that there should be more supervision by the parents; like curfews for the computer and teaching their kids what to do and what not to do on the computer and maybe that will reduce the risk of young kids getting lured by the online predators. MySpace is not a terrible site for teens and adults to visit; in fact I have a profile of my own to keep in touch with people out of state that I know and to make friends. I think that some children just have too much time to waste and/or feel like they need to portray their self as adults or an alter ego to feel grown-up. Here are some tips for parents, to keep your self safe on the internet.

- 1) Get to know your child's on-line usage.
- 2) Have rules and guidelines for the computer, and discuss them with your child and keep computer in general area.
- 3) If your child comes to you with a problem that occurs, don't overreact. Take the time to work it out with your child.

(1) <http://www.msnbc.msn.com>

What the Orion Center Has for You!

JESSICA GARCIA



On my visits to the Orion center, the experiences were wonderful! The staff was welcoming, and wanted to offer me many services. I would suggest stopping by there if you are a youth that struggles in your placement, or have no place to go, or just need a safe and fun environment to hang out for a while.

The staff at Orion can help with many kinds of needs. They can make referrals to housing/shelter and healthcare. Kathleen works with youth who are HIV positive. The Orion center can also provide case management services which can help you find a job, get back in school and back on-track overall. The staff there are really good at getting you connected. They also have a school you can attend to get your

GED or complete High-School.

The daily services offered are clothing, food and a safe place to hang-out. Lunch and dinner are Monday through Friday from 1-1:30 and 6-6:30. The drop in floor opens at 2:30. Breakfast is served Wednesdays at 9:00. You can wash your cloths on Wednesdays at 1:00pm and go to the food bank that they have to stock up for later. They offer fun activities which include sailing trips, going to the YMCA to enjoy work-outs, a photography program with Youth in Focus and much more!

Please, if you need a safe place to go or would like good access to many services, I guarantee that you will be satisfied with a visit to The Orion Center. Think of it as a one-stop-shop. Plus, it's all free! If you need more information, contact them at 206-622-5555 or toll free 877-522-5551. They have MOVED and their new location is the building located on the corner of Denny and Stewart at 1828 Yale Ave. You can also visit www.youthcare.org and click on "services".

Three Steps to a Drama-Free Life

RENITA BASKIN



Today's youth's problems are caused mainly by drama. No matter what state you are in or group of people you hang around, there will always be drama. That's what teens like to think; especially when they know they're the ones causing it. The truth is that you can eliminate all the drama out of your life. My three steps to do this are:

1. Test your friends to see if he/she talks about you behind your back. A good way to do this is to put them on three-way with one of your associates that you barely talk to and see if the will talk bad about you if the opportunity pops up; or will they be a true friend and stick up for you while you are not around. If you hear from somebody that you are being talked about by one of your peers, the best thing to do is to go to the main source in the situation (which would be that person). Once you have talked to them in an "adult manner" and find out that they weren't talking about you, then the best thing to do is to not pay attention to the people that keep coming to you with the drama because those are the people that will do anything that they can do to see two people fight. If you discover or feel like the person really is talking about you, they're just being childish and you should just not give them the time of day. This technique is really good because once they see that you are being the "bigger person", that makes them feel really small.
2. The second step is to eliminate all the people that are in your life just to feed you more drama. A real friend will come to you when ever somebody is talking about you, but if they come to you with just "drama", then they're not a true friend. They are just using you for their own entertainment. Whenever you know that one of your friends are about to cause drama,

make sure that you do whatever you can to stop them from doing things that you know they will regret. If you realize that you are constantly being a true friend and you're not getting the same amount of respect and loyalty in return, then they probably aren't a true friend.

3. The last part of the drama elimination process is to notice that when you stop talking to those certain drama related people, you sleep so much better and you will have more time to focus on the more important things in life; like your education and family problems (because we all know that those are always popping up). Sometimes we get so caught up in "he-said she-said" that we forget the about what really matters. This happens because we are too busy entertaining others. Trust me, I know. I use to spend my whole life trying to make school fun for others by picking on people and getting into fights just to be the center of attention. Then I noticed every time I played this role, my grades dropped. So remember that you can eliminate the drama with a little three step process.

I know sometimes life gets rough and you want to tell someone your problems and that's not always the right thing to do because when you trust the wrong person, that can cause drama too. So, whenever you feel like you need to talk to someone and your friends are acting funny or you think that whatever you need to say is too personal to tell one of your friends or family, don't forget there are places you can call.

- Crisis lines for teens by teens (206)461-3222
- Teen Crisis (801)755-1102
- Troubled Teens (877)372-9250
- And for teen mothers (202)362-3332

* Remember, if you don't want anybody to know, nobody will know. You can even use a fake name if it makes you feel more comfortable. To every problem there is a solution waiting to be found.

Rediscovering Myself and Family

MALEKA
TAYLOR



Recently, I found myself stuck in one of life's ruts, because of the chain of events that I allowed to happen in my life. I accept full responsibility for the things that I could control; the use of illegal substances and the acceptance of domestic abuse and I give to God the things that were out of my hands; the side effects of the illegal substances and the fact that I ended up in a domestic violence situation.

The first link in my chain consisted of being disrespected, called all types of vulgar names, mentally/emotionally tortured and physically abused. Being called names, believe it or not, made me feel like I was in a normal and healthy relationship, because of the female company that I kept and societal images I was given about how men treat women. I felt mentally/emotionally tortured because the times that I confided in the one I thought loved me about touchy issues (such as being sexually abused as a child) he would tell me that it wasn't my fault. Then, as soon as he got mad he would tell me that it was my fault and that I wasn't "worth nothing". The pain was so unbearable that I would verbally lash out and try to say equally hurtful things. In return, he would hit or choke me and when he felt like I got what I deserved, he would go through the whole "I'm sorry, I love you," routine. Hurt, scared and unsure, I accepted his apologies and tried to make myself believe that he really loved me.

The second link on my chain consisted of the use of alcohol. I would drink myself into a state of "freedom" (I thought) free from life itself. I felt no responsibility to myself or to anybody else. I was free to say and do whatever I wanted and nobody could say anything to me; and when they did, I would drink more. In actuality, I was drinking myself into a state of misery. I had gotten so miserable, that I had to find something to take me out of my miserable state, which brings me to my third link, the weakest link; drugs.

I'm not yet comfortable in saying exactly what drugs I was using, just use your imagination. At this time, I hadn't been to work in weeks. I wasn't even considerate enough to call and say that was alive. I ran up and down the streets of

downtown Seattle day-in and day-out for a month and a half straight. The longest I stayed up was five days and even then I had to be forced to go to sleep. I see now that I was trying my hardest to kill my heart because all it did was hurt. I was no longer myself. Everything that I had worked so hard to achieve, the person that I wanted to be (and was becoming), the relationships that I had built; it all disappeared before my eyes.

On Tuesday the 12th I ran into a man whom which I struck a conversation with and out of the blue he said "ya know Jesus loves you," I instantly broke into tears. We continued our conversation, I called my mom and then I walked away. The very next day, the same man came and found me and told me that my family wanted me to come home. Once again, I broke into tears, because I was getting tired of the scandalous life; it just wasn't fun any more. I had exactly \$5.75 so I went to the store and brought a bag of Salt and Vinegar chips and a grape juice, called my aunt and told her that I wanted to come home. She told me to meet her at the Greyhound station at 6:00 in the morning, so that's what I did. When I got to the station I greeted my aunt but didn't say too much because I was embarrassed and ashamed of things that indulged in. She understood and didn't ask too many questions.

When I arrived at Portland Greyhound Station, my aunt greeted me with a loving and relieved smile. When I reached my mom's house, I was hesitant to go inside, but I put my pride aside and opened the door I was welcomed with pure love. This "thank you God I'm rescued" feeling instantly filled the void in my chest and my family and I picked up conversation right where we left off.

After being home for a couple days I found out that on Saturday, my family was going to come look for me because they knew something was wrong. I have never felt more important and loved in my life. Now that I'm here I'm and going to build a new life and relationship with my family and make new friends, so far so good. The only thing that I regret from this experience is the family and friends that I hurt along the way.

On a successful note, I have taken the first step to enroll in community college which is filling out FASFA (which I am now eligible for). I have regained my motivation and courage to do the things that I love and the things that are right. From this moment on I have declared that I love myself and it feels good.

Foster Youth and Alumni Leadership Summit:

One United Voice for Change

Current and former Foster Youth, age 14 to 24 and their supporters will:

- Discuss the perceived stigma related to growing up in foster care
- Learn to use their voice effectively
- Establish local foster youth and alumni action groups to address issues important to them
- Identify pressing issues to discuss with state policy makers

October 7 & 8, applications due August 15, 2006 - Space is limited

Email fyasummit@gmail.com for application
Sponsored by Casey Family Programs and WA Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care

Cool Sites to Visit This Summer

www.liquidgeneration.com

LiquidGeneration offers a respite from your boring life by providing animated comedy spoofs, trivia, and quizzes.

www.snopes.com

This site separates the myths from the facts about many popular Urban Legends that are often found in forwarded emails

www.lotsofjokes.com

Every kind of joke you could think of resides in this funny website. Jokes, pictures, comics and more.

Creative Corner

Larishica's Gentleness

LARISICA ASHER

My gentleness is very deep inside of me and only comes out when someone is hurting

My gentleness shows to my baby brothers and sisters when they are feeling the pain of something that hurt them

My gentleness is something that no one can take from me because of how deep it is in my soul

My gentleness will never be taken or destroyed by anyone or anything because of the place it holds inside me



::~*Tearz*~::

RAQUEL GRANATH

I'm proud of my tears they are a part of me

They represent my fears, frustrations of wasted years

They come to me when I'm weak, my sadness is at it's peak

During pain and my heartbreak, they're my only escape

The only thing I can rely on, when things go wrong

Guaranteed to show up when I'm touched by writing or song

An alternative to destruction, my tears are more productive

They calm my nerves, better than drink or herb

I only need a little push to send me to my edge

I cry quite often in the closet, the shower or the bed

More comforting than cookies or any kind of drug

My tears are reliable to show up when the time comes

Not like a man, tears are there when I need them

Like a lion's hunger pain, I'm obliged to feed them

I'm neither deranged nor ashamed that my tears descend my face

I feel strong; they belong, like flowers in a vase

They come slowly at first gently kissing my mouth

Then faster and faster, leaving water on my blouse

They're sometimes salty, always pure Like a small ocean to the shore

They carve pathways through my cheeks Seeming superficial they run deep

Though you may not understand, why I love my tears so much

Throughout my whole life, they're the ONLY thing I trust

If I didn't have them I don't know where I'd be

I'm proud of my tears they are a part of me

Life is Just So Hard at Times

TERESA
ASHER



Life is just so hard at times and at those times you feel like "I don't care." I give up trying to get things, and things back that I have earned. I give up now because it feels like I have worked for nothing and the blame is all on me. Life feels like nothing but a game you win and sometimes you lose. I've lost a lot and I now have to gain all of my respect back; even though I have worked for it and I'm working for it again. Sometimes it feels like I'm just nothing. Like I have nothing and am nobody to anyone even my loved ones sometimes.

Enough of the negativity. I'm proud of myself for making it this far. I have been doing good in school, but it seems as if I only started to take it seriously at the end of the last semester. I wish that I had realized sooner how much school mattered to me. At the time, I was playing around way too much and had been only taking certain classes seriously. I know I should have been focusing on all of them, but people do make mistakes and you learn from them.

As for right now, I am in summer school at Franklin High. It's going good and I am completing all of my work and staying on track. There are a lot of fun people that I know so it makes going a lot easier. Also, I have been making money from working a short-term job at Garfield's Teen Life Center and here at Mockingbird Society. I know this summer will go by fast and I am working really hard to get ready to stay focused in the new school year and not wait until the last minute to "act right".

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd president of US (1882 - 1945)