

REAL CHANGE

WSL ACQUISITIONS

OCT 09 2006

RECEIVED

VOL. 13 NO. 41

\$1

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

PLEASE PURCHASE FROM BADGED VENDORS ONLY.

WWW.REALCHANGENEWS.ORG

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

OCTOBER 4 -10, 2006

Schooling the Primary

Pierce County measure takes aim at two-party politics

By J. JACOB EDEL
Contributing Writer

Before the voters of Pierce County this November is an initiative that aims to change how county officials are elected.

The Pierce County Charter Review Commission decided a few months ago to put Amendment Three on the ballot in response to negative comments it heard regarding the pick-a-party ballot that began in Washington two years ago.

The initiative asks voters to approve or reject the amendment, which will install a rank-the-candidates election system or sustain the current system.

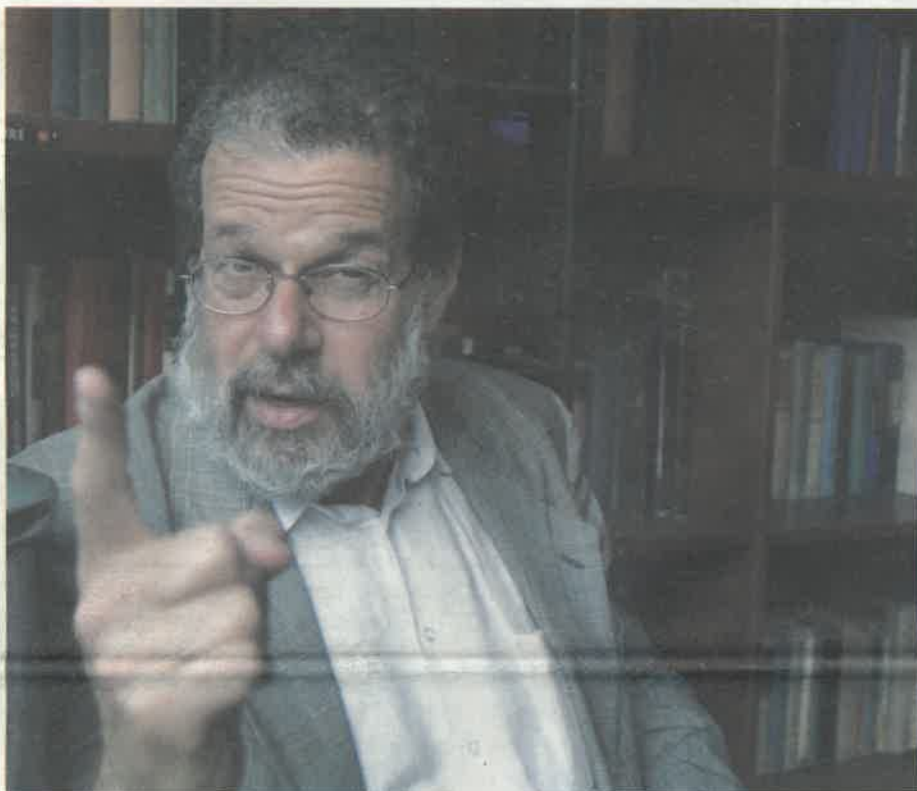
"We have heard testimony from lots of people that they want to see Instant runoff voting used in Pierce County because it's an attractive alternative to the pick-a-party ballot that they have such a dramatic distaste for," says Kelly Houghton, the charter commissioner who drafted the amendment.

Instant runoff voting, as the ranking system is called, works in voting rounds, in which each voter's ballot counts as a single vote for the candidate they rank highest. The candidate with the lowest ranking is eliminated after each round, until two candidates remain.

If there is no clear winner after the first round, then the voter's ballot whose highest-ranked candidate got eliminated is tallied toward the voter's second choice. The candidate who receives the greatest number of votes is the person elected.

For Instance, if IRV had been in place for the close 2000 presidential election, there would have been no clear winner after the first round of counting and a second round would have to be conducted. Ralph Nader, who received the fewest number-one votes, would have been eliminated from the election. The ballots that ranked Nader No. 1 would then have

See PRIMARY, Continued on Page 12



JOURNALIST PETER LAUFER TELLS THE STORIES OF VETS WHO WOULDN'T SERVE IN HIS NEW BOOK *MISSION REJECTED: U.S. SOLDIERS WHO SAY NO TO IRAQ*. "ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S FASCINATING ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE CONSCIOUSLY REJECTED THE MISSION IS THAT THEY'RE GETTING A PHENOMENAL POLITICAL EDUCATION," HE TELLS *REAL CHANGE* ON PAGE 6. PHOTO BY SHERRY LOESER

Imperfect Health

State's schools suffer nurse shortage

By JULIE CHINITZ
Contributing Writer

The first patient of the morning suffers from an abdominal injury, and the second from a bloody lip, but the culprit is the same: balls in the playground.

Nurse Gail Fast attends to both simultaneously, reminding the distraught first-grader to keep breathing while she fetches a tissue. She sends the unruffled fifth-grader to clean his lip at the sink.

Fast is a nurse in the Wapato School District, responsible for care at two elementary schools and one alternative school. By 12:30, she will have treated patients complaining of ailments as diverse as a leaky ear, a cut finger, a sore throat, a torn flip flop, a bug bite, and asthma symptoms.

In between, she takes time to receive hugs from her patients. She also discusses assistive technology for a disabled student and tracks down a child with a food allergy, checking for a doctor's diet order and consulting with cafeteria staff. At her office in another

school, she troubleshoots a missing medication permission form and calls the clinic to follow up. Around 11, she observes the handling of care for a diabetic student. On top of all that, there's the paperwork. And a fire drill, too.

In all, it's a quiet morning. Earlier this week Fast raced from one school to another while instructing staff to use an EpiPen on an allergic bee sting victim.

"School nursing has changed drastically in the past 15 years," says Gloria Hilsinger, school nurse corps supervisor for Educational Service District 105, to which Wapato belongs. "It's been an explosion of issues they didn't have to deal with before."

Nationwide, schools are seeing health conditions increase in both number and severity. These include things like diabetes, asthma, and allergies that can send kids into anaphylactic shock. Wapato is far from immune.

In this agricultural district, about 65 percent of students are Latino — many

See NURSES, Continued on Page 10

DEAR CHRISTINE

Just because you're a female Dem doesn't mean I'm voting for you. Signed...

PAGE 2

DOWN BEAT

A local Black DJ — known on the music scene as DV One — claims police officers assaulted him.

PAGE 3

4 SCORE

Who's going to clean up the PCBs along Slip 4 on the Duwamish? The city and the county, that's who.

PAGE 4

MEMORY LANE

The death of a cyclist in West Seattle prompts Critical Mass bikers to ride for a friend.

PAGE 5

THE MOCKINGBIRD TIMES

CENTERFOLD
SPREAD



Change Agent.....	3
Just Heard.....	3
Short Takes.....	4
Poetry.....	7, 8
Arts.....	8
Ask a Lawyer.....	9
Dr. Wes.....	9
Street Watch.....	9
Letters.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Director's Corner.....	11
First things First.....	11

Earn My Vote

An open letter to Gregoire

By JEAN COLMAN
Advisory Board

Last fall, Governor Gregoire approved a meanspirited plan to throw children off welfare. She approved a full-family sanction policy, believing that welfare workers would implement the policy fairly.

Real Change Advisory board member Jean Colman wrote the following in response to a letter she received from the People for Christine Gregoire campaign. In it, the one-term governor who won narrowly in 2004 plugs her work on improving public education and promoting alternative fuels. She mentions that her opponent, Dino Rossi, has never stopped campaigning. And she attests to "constantly defending our state against the negative impacts" of the Bush Administration. Among those impacts is "Medicaid, mental health, Head Start, and the latest round of cuts in Homeland Security."

The letter goes on: "I could not have gotten here without you and your support and in order to keep fighting against the Bush agenda in our state, and to continue our work for positive change, I need your help again today."

Clinton did not have to sign that bill. He would have easily beaten Bob Dole without it. He again played the race card for political gain. I chose not to vote for him in 1996.

In 1997, Gov. Gary Locke worked hard to show that he would not support "Mike Lowry's liberal welfare program." He turned a program that was working upside down and simply converted welfare-poor mothers and families into

tool to beat up on poor women whose children get sick, car breaks down, bus schedule does not match the job search schedule, and a myriad of other reasons women are put in sanction, illegally, by workers with a little bit of power.

Gregoire refused to hear that such a policy does little to actually engage parents in the process. Instead it disproportionately impacts women of color and women with multiple barriers to employment or who are not attractive employees.

This is bad public policy. Her support for it is a constant reminder that not all women are my sisters and just because one is female does not mean she cares about other women. This policy contradicts the goals of her early learning initiative, which her fundraising letter promotes. How can children learn if their parent's stress of losing income and dealing with an agency that mirrors the behavior of the abusive partner she recently left affects their own well-being.

This policy contradicts the goal of ending homelessness within 10 years. How can children be safe if they are homeless because the worker cut the family's check? I wonder if anyone has run the numbers to see what the impact will be on the child welfare system when TANF mothers can no longer pay rent? Or the impact on cities and counties when families with no income look for shelter and food. Our state can do better.

I will not vote for the Republican nominee in 2008. But right now, Christine Gregoire needs to earn my vote. I will not give it to her just because she is a woman and a Democrat. ■



Jean Colman is executive director of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, which works for positive change in the welfare system through leadership development, grassroots action, and mutual support. The views expressed here are her own, and not the views of WROC.

Photo courtesy of governor.wa.gov

To whom it may concern, or
To whomever cares,
Today I received a fundraising letter. I will not send money. And I have not yet decided if I will vote for Christine Gregoire in 2008. This is why:

In 1992, Bill Clinton ran on "ending welfare as we know it." He played into everyone's fear of being poor, plus anger at low-income women—especially Black women. In 1996 he signed a welfare reform bill that ended the federal commitment to low-income children and their custodial parents.

working-poor mothers and families. Are they better off? It is questionable when working parents still cannot put food on their children's table or they don't see their children because of the two or three jobs they need to work in order to pay the rent. I did not vote for Gary Locke in 1996 either.

Last fall, Governor Gregoire approved a meanspirited plan to throw children off welfare. She approved a full-family sanction policy, believing that welfare workers would implement the policy fairly. She refused to hear how such a policy gives workers a

Who Is Real Change?

Board of Directors

Don Brown (President), Faith Wilder (VP), Erica Wiley (VP), Anne Bailey (Treasurer), Rebecca Kavoussi (Secretary), Wes Browning, John Denooyer, Stephan Fjelstad, Katherine Jakielski, Margaret Kae, Mandy Levenberg, Gabriela Quintana, JoJo Tran

Advisory Board

Affiliations listed for identification purposes only: Sherman Alexie, Poet, Writer, Filmmaker; Nancy Amidei, UW School of Social Work; Kenan Block, Media Consultant; David Bloom, Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action; Kari Connor, Wangdoody; Darrell Dent, Community Health Plan of Washington; Jim Diers, Author; Lynne Dodson, Jobs with Justice; John Fox, Seattle Displacement Coalition; Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember, Dist. 10; Jon Gould, Children's Alliance; Andy Himes, Poetry in Wartime; Bill Hobson, Downtown Emergency Service Center; Naomi Ishisaka, Colors NW; Sally Kinney, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness; Sharon Lee, Low Income Housing Institute; Paul Loeb, Writer; Sarah Luthens, SEAMEC/Allyship.org; Roberto Maestas, El Centro de la Raza; Paola Maranan, Children's Alliance; Joe Martin, Pike Market Medical Clinic; Vince Matulionis, United Way of King County; Carlos Marentes, Committee for General Amnesty and Social Justice; Al Poole, City of Seattle Survival Services; Wilson Edward Reed, PhD, Seattle University; Trisha Ready, Richard Hugo House; Nika Schoeter, Statewide Poverty Action Network; Peter Schurman, Retired; K.L. Shannon, Racial Disparity Project; Bob Siegal, National Lawyers Guild/Center for

Social Justice; Rick Simonson, Elliott Bay Book Co.; Pat Simpson, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness; Hilary Stern, CASA Latina; Robby Stern, WA State Labor Council; Peter Steinbrueck, Seattle City Council; Silja Talvi, journalist/essayist; Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society; Marilyn Watkins, Economic Opportunity Institute; Bruce Wirth, KBCS; Alice Woldt, WA Association of Churches

Staff

Executive Director
Timothy Harris
Director of Advocacy and Organizing
Rachael Myers
Editor
Adam Hyla
Staff Reporters
Cydney Gillis, Rosette Royale
Production Manager
Rosette Royale
Director of Operations
Craig Kirkpatrick
Director of Development
Joe Bushek
Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager
Brooke Kempner
Vendor Services
Robert Hansen, Margaret Kae

Advertising Sales Representative

Candi Wilwang

Interns

Darina Garcia, Kevin Hamedo, Billy Joyce, Lindsay Tree

Editorial Committee

Artis, Mary Andrews, Wes Browning, Stan Burriss, Morrie Condit, Lisa Easter, Anitra Freeman, José Ornelas, F. Roberts, Ruanda

Contributing Writers

Maria Antonova, Amy Besunder, Dena Burke, Tom Coghill, J. Jacob Edel, Justin Ellis, Kimburly Ervin, Jess Grant, Lester Gray, Austin Haskell, Jessica Knapp, Megan Lee, Robin Lindley, Emma Quinn, Amy Roe, Donna Stefanik, Diana Wurm

Photographers, Graphic Artists

Ginny Banks, Ken Dean, Terry Divyak, Tom Douglass, Sean Ellingson, Suzanna Finley, George Hickey, Sherry Loeser, Luke McGuff, Justin Mills, Jude O'Reilly, Katia Roberts, Elliot Stoller, Mark Sullo

Volunteers This Issue

Artis, Nick Cottrell, Tige DeCoster, Sara Dooling, Sandra Enger, Jeanette Fassbind, Susanne Forham, Rick Garrett, Valerie Garvida, Nadine Gioia, Ana Haberman, Armando Levio, Brianna Morgan, Don Otto, Loretta Pirozzi, Beth Roberts, Rachel Smith, Sara Sprigg, Carrie Wicks



Real Change is published weekly and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Vendors receive 65¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

Mission Statement:

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

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Programs include the Real Change newspaper, the StreetWrites peer support group for homeless writers, the Homeless Speakers Bureau, and the First things First organizing project. All donations support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

On the Web at

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

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



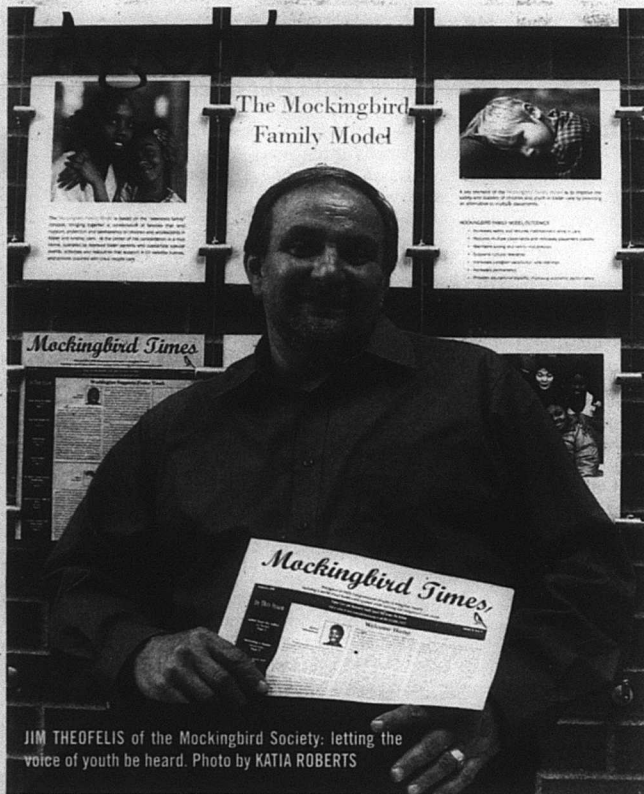
Change

Over 30 years working with foster youth, Jim Theofelis ran into some of the same issues over and over again. Children were placed in anywhere between five and 50 families, while foster parents struggled with isolation and a lack of support. Theofelis also took issue with a system that assumed foster kids were broken and needed to be fixed, instead of focusing on ways to help them thrive.

In response, he created The Mockingbird Society, an organization that uses innovative models to address these problems. The Mockingbird Society empowers foster children through its youth-run newspaper, the *Mockingbird Times* (there's a copy between pages 6-7 of this issue) and provides them support and cultural relevancy by bringing together families to create a larger community of foster care.

In his advocacy and policy work, Theopolis is most discouraged by "how many times smart, healthy young people face insurmountable barriers because it's them against the system." However, his resourceful ideas have already made a difference in Seattle and will soon be tested in Washington D.C as well.

— Rachel Rubinstein



JIM THEOFELIS of the Mockingbird Society: letting the voice of youth be heard. Photo by KATIA ROBERTS

Standard Deviation

Reputedly gentle DJ's beating turns light on police

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

"I cannot count the number of people I've represented who've had similar experiences."

— Lisa Daugaard,
Public defender

It's hard to say how any father would react if a policeman had his 14-year-old daughter up against a cruiser in an arm lock.

But, as a Black man who says Seattle police harassed him and his friends growing up in the Central District, Toby Christian insists he has better sense than to run up to, much less attack, an officer, the way police report he did on July 15 in the parking lot of Memorial Stadium.

"I was not running. I walked over hurriedly," Christian, 34, says of approaching a female officer who stood him off after a high school football game. "Then, in my head, I said, 'Yo, you're walking at the police, so you better slow down.'"

The accounts of what happened next are nothing alike: Police say Christian shoved and hit Officer Daina Boggs before getting her in a bear hug and taking her to the ground. Christian says it was he who was rushed to the ground by two officers, who kicked him in the head at least 20 times and Tased him twice, leading to him being charged with felony assault.

Christian's public defender, Lisa Daugaard, calls the police version "absurd." But the disparity, she says, is all too common in Seattle. This time, however, Daugaard says the police made a big mistake: They beat up a Black man who is known in Seattle not only for being a DJ but having a gentle nature.

"I cannot count the number of people I've

represented who've had similar experiences," Daugaard says. "What's different is not what the police did but who they did it to: a well-known person, a person of moral character and good judgment."

The soft-spoken Christian, who goes by DV One at the clubs and events where he deejays for a living, describes himself as a "zero drugs, zero alcohol" guy who pays his child support on time, is going to school to learn hair-cutting and, to earn a little extra money, day-trades in the stock market.

He admits he had a few runs-in with the law over graffiti years ago, but nothing recently — except for an assault charge he pleaded guilty to last year. Christian says he witnessed, but did not take part in, a fight at a motorcycle club, but took the plea to avoid a trial and possible jail time that would take him away from his daughter and wife of five years.

"She is absolutely the most wonderful girl," he says, showing pictures of Andrea, his daughter.

On July 15, police say Andrea, a freshman at Franklin High School, was sarcastic to police when they told her to move out of the way of cars exiting the parking lot — something Christian doesn't believe. "She's so square. She's not a smart-mouth girl," he says with a laugh.

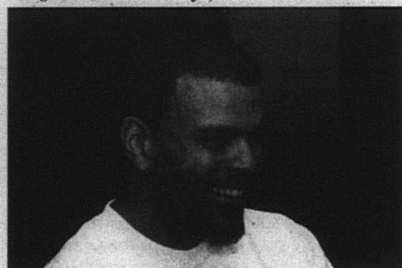
The police department is now investigating the incident internally and declined comment on the case. Spokesman Dan Donohoe says the King County Prosecutor's Office is also taking statements from witnesses who were at the scene in order to determine whether to go forward.

"They're going to dismiss the charges," Daugaard says, "and then there needs to be a discussion about the crime that did take place."

For his part, Christian says the incident has gotten him down but could be a blessing in disguise.

"This is a bigger story than just me," he says. "The one thing I want to come out of this is definitely justice and public awareness. I want people to stop having blinders on that because [it's a police officer who] says one side of the story, that's the way it is." ■

Toby Christian was beaten by Seattle police. Photo by Justin Mills



Just Heard...

Millionaire Club

With a little more than a month to go until the election, the folks at the No on 920 campaign — which wants to keep the state's estate tax in place — got some pretty good news. Or, more accurately, some pretty pennies, in the form of \$100,000.

The donation came from the general fund of SEIU, a North American union with a membership of more than a million members. That million-plus mark for SEIU, while relating to people, bears a correlation for the campaign: According to Sandeep Kaushik, media rep for No on 920, the campaign's total donations have topped the \$1 million mark.

The coffers are being filled by other unions, says Kaushik, along with such Seattle notables as Bill Gates, Sr. and his son. Even so, Kaushik says he's hoping the campaign will be able to pad its treasure chest with still more contributions, to fund voter contact before ballots are cast.

"We need to reach people across the state," he says.

— Rosette Royale

Toilets: into the breach

The city's self-cleaning, automated public toilets are under fire from the Downtown Seattle Association, which is raising questions about vandalism and illegal behavior inside the two-year-old commodores installed in the International District, Broadway, Pioneer Square, the waterfront, and near the Pike Place Market ("Plumb Crazy" Sept. 20). Each toilet costs the city \$360 a day to operate — an expense that was fully anticipated when Mayor Greg Nickels had them installed, in the midst of an economic downturn. Despite better financial times, officials may be entertaining second thoughts: City Attorney Tom Carr's office recently forecast the cost of breaking the 10-year contract immediately at nearly \$850,000, plus other expenses associated with leaving the contractor high and dry.

— Adam Hyla

At it again

A new group called the Coalition for Parks as Public Spaces plans a rally next week outside City Hall prior to a city budget hearing. The group includes organizations such as the Friends of Gas Works Park and Save Our Zoo that originally came together in February to protest various plans for parks around the city.

Among those plans, Save Our Zoo doesn't want the city to build a parking garage at Woodland Park and Friends of Gas Works Park is suing to stop a private concert series.

The rally starts Wed., Oct. 11, at 4 p.m., followed by a march into City Hall for the budget hearing at 5:30 p.m. For details, call 206-375-0012.

— Cydney Gillis

Save our Slip

PCB-contaminated South Seattle inlet slated for cleanup

"[I]t's been since 1990 that there've been some concentrations we knew we should be paying attention to."

—Karen Keeley, EPA Superfund manager speaking of Slip 4

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Reporter

Along the banks and in the sediment under Slip 4 — an inlet finger on the eastern shore of Lower Duwamish Waterway that extends into the Georgetown neighborhood—there resides a host of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Desperately in need of removal, the toxins infect some 3.6 acres of riparian habitat. It's these poisonous dregs that the City of Seattle and King County, in an agreement with the Environmental Protection Area (EPA,) have agreed to clean up in the autumn of 2007, to the tune of \$7.4 million.

The PCBs — commercially produced organic compounds that are proven carcinogens — around and under Slip 4 popped up on the EPA's radar screen in 1985. "But it's been since 1990 that there've been some concentrations we knew we should be paying attention to," says Karen Keeley, EPA Superfund manager. Toward the slip's very tip, which abuts E. Marginal Way, Keeley says concentrations in the sediments top out at 5 parts per million (ppm). Other chemicals, she notes, are also present.

Attempts to have the city and county pen their signatures on an agreement,

says Keeley, represent a process that has taken nearly three years. Within that time frame, decisions had to be made about what needed to be cleaned, how the cleaning would best be done and, ultimately, she says, who would bear the financial burden.

Currently in the design phase, the two-party cleanup will encompass a number of tasks. Approximately 4,300 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged; 9,700 cubic yards of soil along the shore and bank will be excavated; and close to 500 tons of asphalt, creosote-treated timbers and pilings will be hauled away.

All contaminated materials will find their way into an approved landfill. Then the entire 3.6 acres must be "capped," or covered, to isolate any contaminants that may have been missed.

Due to an extraordinarily high level of PCBs and other toxic chemicals within, under, and along the river, the EPA listed the 5.5-mile stretch of the Lower Duwamish Waterway as a Superfund site in September 2001. Five of the waterway's most polluted sites, including Slip 4, were named for early action removal, meaning their cleanup is imperative.

With an exception of a small tract of land near the mouth of the slip

held by the Boeing Corporation, the majority of Slip 4 is owned by Crowley Maritime Services, a worldwide marine transportation company. In order for the work to begin next fall, the city has decided to buy a portion of Crowley's share. (The cleanup does not affect Boeing property.)

Negotiations for the ownership rights to the necessary acreage are moving forward, says city project manager Jennie Goldberg. Goldberg, while indicating that the potential purchasing cost can't be revealed while the deal is still in discussion, says the city is proceeding with the design phase to ensure the cleanup occurs as scheduled for next October. "It works out for the [taxpayers] to get the best cleanup for the best price," says Goldberg. Once the cleanup is completed, the area around Slip 4 will incorporate a habitat that will be more fish-friendly, adds Goldberg.

That aspect, along with the entire clean up plan, pleases BJ Cummings, coordinator of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition. The coalition has been watch-dogging the planning process and it looks, says Cummings, as if the cleanup will be going off on schedule.

"We thought the plan was well designed," says Cummings. "We're very optimistic." ■

Short Takes

The Color of WASL

The American Civil Liberties Union is urging state officials to investigate the causes for the lower-than-average WASL scores of students of color.

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning is one of a number of high school graduation examinations adopted by many states as part of the standards-based education reform movement. Sophomores in Washington's high schools are tested in reading, writing, science and mathematics by the WASL. Beginning at the class of 2008, passing the test will become a graduation requirement.

However, according to the 2005 WASL results, while only 47 percent of white 10th-grade students passed all three sections of the test, scores drop even further in other groups, with only 21.7 percent of Native Americans, 18.1 percent of African Americans, and 20.1 percent of Latinos having passed the test.

In a new report submitted to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), a government research body, the ACLU suggests that "curriculum misalignment," particularly in math, could be one reason for the high failure rate. It states that the WASL only tests certain "strands" of knowledge which all students might not have access to in classes, and embraces approaches in math that many schools do not follow. As a result, the report says that many students may test poorly even if they are successful in rigorous academic programs, and minority students are particularly vulnerable.

Additionally, the report suggests that schools with high concentrations of minority students may not be taught by qualified teachers, citing data from a 2002 Education Trust report that recognized high

numbers of teachers without even a minor in the subject being taught.

"We want policymakers to take a very hard look at the reasons for such dramatic racial disparities," says Jennifer Shaw, legislative director for the ACLU of Washington. "These disparities will become especially critical in 2008, when the WASL becomes a graduation requirement for all students."

The ACLU is encouraging the WSIPP to pursue ways to improve communication between the schools and families, strengthen relations between schools, effectively align curriculum with the WASL, and provide teachers with the support and resources needed to prevent burnout.

—Kevin Himeda

The Seattle NAACP, the Urban League, and several other community organizations are sponsoring a summit on closing the race-based testing gap. Oct. 13-14 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Mercer Middle School, 1600 S. Columbian Way. Call (206) 772-4916 to register.

State Tightens VISTAs' Belt

Nearly 250 Washington Volunteers in Service to America (VISTAs) have found themselves with more worries and less food on their plates since Sept. 1, when the state Department of Social and Health Services figured out they were giving them too much help.

In King and Snohomish counties, VISTAs receive a \$949 monthly stipend while working fulltime at social service sites. Prior to Sept. 1, VISTAs were routinely allowed to apply to DSHS for food stamps without having to report their monthly stipend, which resulted in around \$155 in food stamps a month.

Now, VISTAs must report their stipend, and all but \$10 of food stamps will disappear.

The policy never changed. VISTAs were always required to report their stipend when applying for food stamps, because VISTA is governed under the Domestic Volunteer Act of 1973. The confusion lies in differentiating between the 1973 law, which regulates VISTAs, and the National and Community Services Trust Act of 1993, which allows volunteers with the newer AmeriCorps program to exclude their stipend when applying for food assistance.

Dennis Stewart, the western regional director for the USDA Food Stamp Program, says, "We became aware that Washington state misinterpreted" the rule, and "the policy from [the federal government] never changed." DSHS had "misinterpreted" the rule for nearly 13 years.

Current and ex-VISTAs say that food stamps are an important boost to volunteers' monthly income.

Former VISTA Michael Kelly says, "I did a year of VISTA and I was on food stamps," he went on to say, "I don't think I would have been able to do VISTA without basic food assistance."

VISTA restricts its current members from advocating for themselves while they

are in the program, so Kelly and other former VISTA and AmeriCorps members have organized a group called AmeriCorps Alums to help out current volunteers on issues like this one.

Having food stamps allows VISTAs to better focus on their volunteer work. Kelly says, "because you don't need to worry about where your food's going to come from."

VISTAs can receive more aid if their rent is over a certain percentage of their monthly income or if they pay for utilities. Also, if VISTAs qualified for food stamps before volunteering with the program, they will still receive comparable benefits.

—Billy Joyce



Stand Up for the Uninsured

PUBLIC HEALTH — SEATTLE & KING COUNTY WORKER MARVIN MURRAY SPEAKS FOR HEALTH CARE AT A SEPT. 30 RALLY IN SUPPORT OF TWO NORTH SEATTLE CLINICS WHICH SERVE UNINSURED AND LOW-INCOME PATIENTS. SHORTLY BEFORE THE RALLY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE RON SIMS ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD FOUND FUNDING TO KEEP THE CLINICS, WHICH HAD BEEN SLATED TO CLOSE IN 2007, OPEN FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS. PHOTO BY KEN DEAN

Ride the Wake

Cyclist's death prompts car-free funeral cortege

By CHRIS MILLER
Contributing Writer

"It could've been me, and it almost was."

—Greg Smith, cyclist struck by a car

A culture and a community. A living declaration of bicyclists' right to the road. And last Friday, the monthly downtown protest-on-wheels known as Critical Mass became a memorial procession in honor of one of their fellow cyclists, Susanne Scaringi of West Seattle, killed Sept. 27 while cycling to work.

Some of the regular Mass was taken aback initially. "They're not hijacking this for *this*," said one regular after Scaringi's father extolled her Christian faith and spoke a short prayer to those gathered at the Westlake fountain at the ride's start.

"Let them have their peace about it all," replied a veteran 'corker,' the term used for riders who plug car traffic at intersections to allow cyclists safe passage. "It could have been any one of us."

"It could've been me," said Greg Smith, "and it almost was." An avid cyclist, Smith went to the emergency room earlier this week after being flipped onto the hood of a turning car whose driver hadn't seen him. Scaringi was killed colliding with a left-turning van.

"I got lucky; she didn't. If I had been hit in any other way I probably wouldn't be here right now."

Thirteen bikers were killed last year in Washington, 784 nationally, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

With blessings, black ribbons, and Susanne "Nanne Girl" Scaringi t-shirts, her friends and family sent off the hundreds of cyclists from Westlake to the streets, ribbons fluttering from their handlebars.

But this was no ride of silence. As the corkers bottled cars in the sidestreets, Critical Mass was the celebratory embodiment of its cyclists' agenda. BMXers pulled stunts around the main pack, while others passed out political comics or fliers encouraging drivers to engage with the city of Seattle's in-process Bicycle Master Plan.

Of the stopped cars, Joel Moreland commented that "the phrase 'share the road' isn't exactly executed on Critical Mass."

But Scaringi's story brought new light to oft-hostile encounters with the trapped drivers. "I asked the drivers of the cars we stopped to have patience - we're on a memorial ride for a biker who died riding," said Jill Hardy. "It gave them a pause; it calmed their aggression immediately."

Some saw Scaringi's commute, and her fate, as emblematic of both the call for driver awareness and environmentally conscientious living in a world turning oil reserves into greenhouse gases. "We're trying to be sustainable," said Allison Lotspeich, who bikes to work. "In 20 years, we're all going to have to bike to work."

At least 300 cyclists rode seven miles and up High Point Hill, the tallest point in Seattle, to the candlelight vigil where Scaringi was hit at 35th Avenue SW and SW Graham Street, estimated Matt McClung, event organizer and close friend of the deceased. Their arrival, bike lights blinking and bells ringing out, "touched and moved the family beyond belief."

"Susanne would have loved this event," said close friend Courtney Estes.

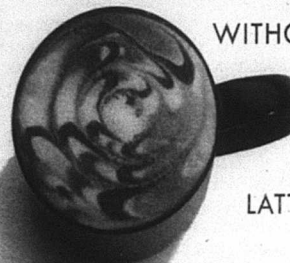
McClung called out to cyclists departing the vigil, "Ride Safe." ■

[Get involved]

Critical Mass meets across from the Westlake Mall on the last Friday of each month, leaving at 5:30 p.m. For more information, check www.criticalmassseattle.org.

To make a comment on, or get more information on the Seattle Bicycle Master Plan, contact Pete Lagerwey, (206)684-5108 or email a statement to pete.lagerwey@seattle.gov.


Let Real Change be part of your success
Reach 40,000 socially concerned readers while giving back to the community.
Real Change ad rates are competitive and affordable.
Check us out at www.realchangenews.org,
or call 441-3247 x202



WITHOUT DOUBT, THE MOST
SOCIALY RESPONSIBLE
LATTÉ YOU'LL EVER DRINK.

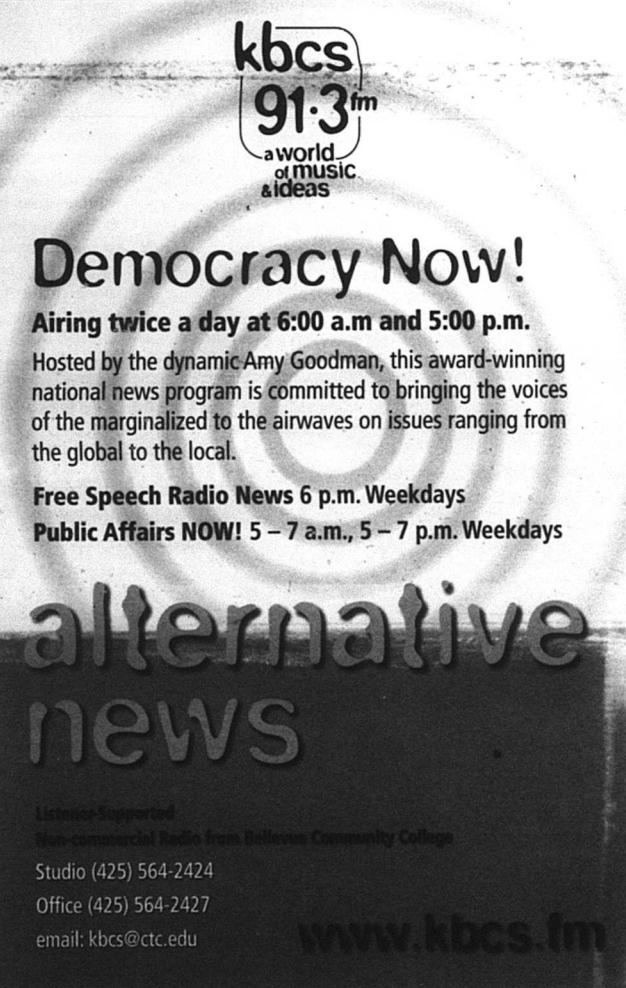
When can a delicious latté help Seattle youth get off the streets and begin to lead healthy, productive lives? When you order it from a FareStart Café providing on-the-job experience for our Barista Training and Education Program. If one latté does all that, imagine the power of a sandwich and pastry.

www.farestart.org
FareStart Library Café, Seattle Central Library, 1000 4th Ave.
FareStart Café at 2100, 2100 24th Ave. S., Rainier Valley.



FARESTART
Great Coffee. Better Lives.

Buy a pastry or sandwich, get a free coffee (expires 10/01/06)



kbcs
91.3^{fm}
a world of music & ideas

Democracy Now!

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

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

Free Speech Radio News 6 p.m. Weekdays
Public Affairs NOW! 5 - 7 a.m., 5 - 7 p.m. Weekdays

alternative news

License supported by
non-commercial radio from Bellevue Community College

Studio (425) 564-2424
Office (425) 564-2427
email: kbcs@ctc.edu

www.kbcs.fm

Soldiers' Stories

Journalist Peter Laufer finds the end of Bush's Iraq campaign in the tales of those who refused to fight

"If you are against this war or I am against this war, that's one thing.... But these guys went over there, when they say, 'I've seen immoral and illegal behavior,' then you cannot impugn their credibility."

Interview by CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

Camilo Mejia. Kevin Benderman. Joshua Key. Clifton Hicks. Thousands of people are expected to take to Seattle's streets Thursday, Oct. 5 to protest the Bush administration, its torture, wiretapping, and war in Iraq. But it's the voices of these four soldiers and others like them, journalist Peter Laufer suggests in his book *Mission Rejected: U.S. Soldiers Who Say No to Iraq*, that could bring Bush's military adventurism to its knees.

Each man served in Iraq and has seen the chaos and carte blanche killing of civilians the occupation has led to. Each decided the Iraq War is immoral and refused to return, leading them to desert or seek refuge in Canada.

It is their stories — six told in depth — that Laufer captures in *Mission Rejected*.

Among them, Aidan Delgado says his unit opened fire on detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison during a protest in which the inmates were throwing sticks and rocks. Five were killed. Joshua Key, a young man who now lives in Canada with his wife and four children, describes arriving at a scene in Ramadi where U.S. soldiers had "lost it" and decapitated a number of Iraqis, with two soldiers battling about heads like a soccer ball.

"You can take lives at a fast rate and all you have to say is, 'Oh, I thought they threw a grenade. I thought I seen this, I thought I seen that,'" Guthrie says in the book. "You could mow down 20 people each time and no one's going to ask you, 'Are you sure?' They're going to give you a high five."

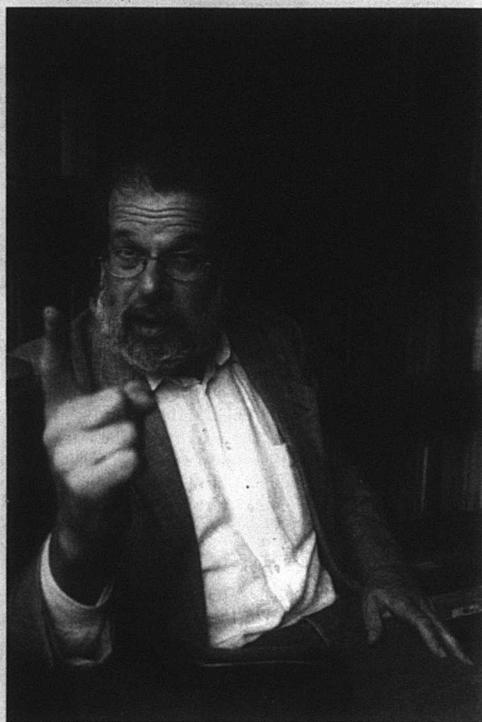
That, Delgado tells Laufer, is why no soldier has a duty to serve in Iraq.

"When most soldiers volunteer, they have the understanding that there is some kind of social compact that they will be used in a responsible way. When that trust is violated," he says, "the entire contract is morally nullified."

Laufer spoke to *Real Change* about the new generation of military resisters during the annual convention of Veterans for Peace, held Aug. 10-13 in Seattle.

Real Change: How did the soldiers in your book turn against the war? I know that Joshua Key, the young man from Oklahoma that you profiled, felt he "broke the rules by having a conscience."

Peter Laufer: There's a drumbeat of criticism based on what they're being told — that they're going over there to get rid of weapons of mass destruction, that they're going over there to generate a democratic society, that they're going over there to prevent Iraqis from coming over here and hurting us, and these guys are learning firsthand that this is not true. They're opposed to it for those reasons. Then they're seeing the damage to the civilian population and the civilian infrastructure. They're seeing the generation of anti-American belief and behavior. If one guy came back and was troubled, then maybe he would be a troubled guy, but when we're getting back a lot of people — even if it's just in the hundreds now, but it's undoubtedly going to be more — and they're coming from different educational backgrounds, different experiential backgrounds, different socioeconomic backgrounds, and they're saying the same kinds of things from these different points of view, we'd better listen.



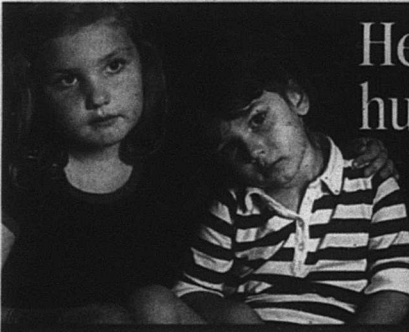
were bored, who were delinquent and faced one more round in the county jail, that are in the Army. And they have always been in the Army. The Army's always been an opportunity for people in those circumstances.

That's not a bad thing, except for the fact that this war exists. So to say they come into the Army undereducated is fair, and maybe one can say politically naïve and ignorant of world affairs. [But] that's OK, because one of the things that's fascinating about those who have consciously rejected the mission is that they're getting a phenomenal political education. They're interacting with people from the GI Rights Hotline, or up in Canada the [War Resisters Support Campaign], that's helping them out up there. They're meeting with peers talking about what's going on and why, so somebody like Ryan Johnson or Joshua Key who might be talking about how fast their car could go, or where to get drunk, or who won the baseball game [are instead] talking in an extraordinarily sophisticated manner about the circumstances that they're involved in up to their necks and how they got there and what can be done about it. They're analyzing American foreign policy and world political affairs, and their grammar might not be straight yet, but they have a consequential understanding from the ground now.


RC: Was there a particular story that really got you?

Laufer: The nature of the all-volunteer Army is, these are the guys that are left by the side of the road by society. Obviously not all of them. But there are an awful lot of people who couldn't find work otherwise, who were promised money for college, who needed medical care for their families, who saw an opportunity for job training, who

In "Mission Rejected," Peter Laufer lets soldier explain why they think the war in Iraq is just plain wrong. Photo by Sherry Loeser



Help feed hungry kids



PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL WITH YOUR GIFT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

Help a Family in Crisis!

Please send your tax-deductible gift to:
The Salvation Army
P.O. Box 9219
Seattle, WA 98109-0200

DOING THE MOST GOOD

YES, I want to help feed and shelter families in crisis this summer with my gift of:

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

To make a gift by credit card, call toll free 1-800-SAL-ARMY.
www.SalvationArmyNW.org

Your gift to The Salvation Army will be used one and throughout the year to support Salvation Army services in our community.

RC: How does socioeconomic background come into play? How do non-political young men like Joshua Key end up putting everything on the line to oppose the war?

Laufer: The nature of the all-volunteer Army is, these are the guys that are left by the side of the road by society. Obviously not all of them. But there are an awful lot of people who couldn't find work otherwise, who were promised money for college, who needed medical care for their families, who saw an opportunity for job training, who

Continued from Previous Page

ences, it's a combination of this harsh military lexicon of crude language and images with a poetic understanding and interpretation of the events that he experienced. He's from the backwater of the Southeast and he was sending reports home that his father put up on the family blog. He was harshly critical of the war and the command in these blogs, and that got back to his commanders. He was sentenced to hard labor, as I recall, reduced in rank and fined, and applied for conscientious objector status, [which] eventually he did get.

But he tells stories on himself, and that's one of the things that's amazing to hear — these guys who are indicting their own actions. He tells these ghastly stories of the things he did or experienced that helped him realize the war is wrong, and two things in particular always stand out in my mind. One is that, due to confusion, and seemingly not malicious confusion, a wedding party was shot up and he was involved in the cleanup after it. A young girl, I think she was six, was killed. There was no report filed, according to him. The U.S. troops just saw that they'd killed her and kept on going because it was not a factor of consequence.

Hearing stories like this puts into context the atrocities that we're hearing about, not to in any way suggest that the majority of the troops over there or even a consequential number of them engaged in this sort of thing, but it allows one to see how an immoral policy and resorting to violence to solve political problems can lead to individuals doing horrific things that they would never consider. Bad enough that this girl was killed and left, and his compatriots would defecate into the containers for MREs, the meals that are distributed to the troops, and then offer them to hungry Iraqis, because this was a way for them to get back at the Iraq that they learned to hate. And he talks about learning to hate Iraq and learning to hate Iraqis even though it's contrary to his personal beliefs and upbringing.

RC: Is it the returning soldiers who will turn the tide against the war?

Laufer: No question. That's why it's critical to learn the lessons from Vietnam. Initially the question that I always get is "How many in the military are saying no?" "How many are opposed to the war?" And obviously it's impossible to quantify that. Clearly the numbers are small compared with the overall population of the military, but if we look at Vietnam for some guidance, initially the opposition from within the ranks of the military was small! That's natural and then it builds.

If we're seeing poll numbers from something as mainstream as a CNN poll yesterday or the day before saying 60 percent of the American people are opposed to the war, it's impossible for that to not in some way impose itself. Certainly they are a unique subset, and they are in the military because their beliefs are going to lean toward military solutions, but, as we see from this convention, we get incredible strength out of oppositional military [personnel].

The reason all these stories are so important is that, if you are against this war or I am against this war, that's one thing, not that it's not important — you've got the bully pulpit of the newspaper; I have my books or my history of rejecting Vietnam. But these guys went over there. They volunteered. They chose to participate in the military and then accepted this assignment, and then when they say no, when they say this is wrong, when they say this is immoral, this is illegal, when they say, "I've seen immoral and illegal behavior," then you cannot impugn their credibility. You can disagree with it, but you can't impugn it. So I see these guys as being on the frontlines of the most important battle in their lives and that is for our country's soul. ■

[Event]

"The World Can't Wait: Drive Out the Bush Regime" is a nationwide protest that starts at 10 a.m. on Thurs., Oct. 5, at the University of Washington. March proceeds to Capitol Hill and reaches the Federal Building at Second Avenue and Marion Street at 3 p.m. For more details, call (206)322-3813 or e-mail seattle@worldcantwait.org

First Response

You've taken off
on a 911 trip again
to all the caregiving attention
anyone could ever need.
I miss you.
You are so steadfast
I can't imagine a time
without you here,
leaving me
leaving your sons and daughter
leaving your grandchildren and friends.
But if you do go
I hope it's to a place that's worthy.

—CATHERINE HUNT

TRANS HEALTH MATTERS.

VERBENA presents the 3rd Annual TRANSGENDER HEALTH FAIR

FREE SERVICES:

- Health Screenings (pap, CBE, blood pressure, glucose, HIV)
- Massage • Nutrition & Body Composition
- Fertility Info • Smoking Cessation
- Legal Documents & Resources

October 21, 2006 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
MILLER COMMUNITY CENTER
330 19th Ave E • Seattle, WA 98112

For more info: 206.323.6540 ext. 2 or 3



I used to hide in the shadows, afraid of everyone and everything. But not anymore. Clean and sober, I hold my head up high. I am an asset to my family and my community. I am alive again.

My name is Daniel. I'm a recovering addict and alcoholic.

Recovery is everywhere.

Find out more about publicly-funded alcohol and other drug prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services:

Alcohol/Drug 24 Hour Help Line
206-722-3700, www.adhl.org



Mental Health, Chemical Abuse
and Dependency Services Division
www.metrokc.gov/dchs/mhd



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services
Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa

www.recoveryiseverywhere.com

Texas Injustice

Tulia: Race, Cocaine and Corruption in a Small Texas Town

By Nate Blakeslee
PublicAffairs, 2005
Hardcover, 450 pages, \$26.95

Review by ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Reporter

Chances are, if you were to blink while speeding down Interstate 27, working your way south past Amarillo, Tex., you'd miss the tiny town of Tulia, population 5,117. Known as the Crossroads of the Panhandle, Tulia is one of those places that can get lost in the 70-mile-an-hour blur to find what might be considered a more interesting destination. But in *Tulia*, investigative journalist Nate Blakeslee shows that this place in the middle of nowhere deserves a closer look. For the activities he finds there represent a gross miscarriage of justice, events that make for riveting reading for anyone who's heard the term racial profiling.

The story Blakeslee recounts goes something like this: In 1998, undercover cop and Officer of the Year Tom Coleman was deep into a sting operation to bring in Tulia's drug kingpins. Coleman was on the hunt for coke dealers and, working without backup during most of the investigation, he claimed to have procured powdered cocaine from 47 men and women. The cocaine amounts weren't huge — a gram was typical — but the number of purchases he claimed to have made was: almost

120. Eventually aided by a cadre of "Tulia's Finest," Coleman began hauling in the alleged dealers. One after the other, the suspects stood trial, lost their cases, and were sent packing off to jail. Cases closed.

Or they might have been, except for a teeny-weeny problem: Of the 47 people arrested, 39 were Black. (The remaining represented an even split between Hispanic and white.) There were barely 350 Black people living in Tulia at the time, and half of them were children. Could it really be possible that more than 20 percent of Black adult Tulians were pushers?

With talk of the arrests spreading, a few intrepid residents started asking questions, one of whom contacted Blakeslee, a reporter for the *Texas Observer*. He broke the story in 2002. Other news agencies, like *The New York Times*, caught wind of it. Court TV jumped on the reportorial bandwagon. An inchoate young lawyer from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund learned of the unfolding drama. Suddenly, lawyers, reporters, and cameras crews were swarming all over Tulia like maggots on roadkill.

As well they should have been. The events taking place there stunk to high heaven. And it's this stink that Blakeslee noses out. But along with sticking his nose where it belongs, he knows how to spin an arresting yarn. Here, the start of Chapter 1: "A dozen officers stood outside Swisher County sheriff's office smoking cigarettes and

drinking coffee in the predawn darkness of a cool summer morning on the high plains." Of an arrestee and his girlfriend the night before his hearing: "They lay next to each other in silence, as Freddie's fate slipped up on him with the morning sun."

It's to Blakeslee's credit that he doesn't let the story — with the *dramatis personae* pushing 60 individuals — slip away from him. His lucid, unadorned prose details the mounting tribulations of the impoverished Black people there without a dose of sentimentality. Things bog down, however, at what's ironically the story's climax: Just when a "Dream Team" of lawyers begins discrediting Coleman's testimony in court, proving nearly all of the accused are innocent, the words thud across the page like anvils. This might well be because Blakeslee relied heavily on court transcripts for this section. While this move preserves the integrity of courtroom proceedings, it corrupts his nuanced touch.

But this is easy to overlook, since the majority of *Tulia* is nothing less than wonderful. Reading that 35 of the defendants were given full pardons by the governor in 2003 proves a balm to the soul. And while it practically shatters the heart to know that so many innocent men of color spent unnecessary time in jail, it's great to know that Blakeslee stopped at nothing to reveal the truth of their lives. Deep in the heart of Texas, *Tulia* tells a story that everybody in the country ought to know. ■

Nate Blakeslee's lucid, unadorned prose details the mounting tribulations of the impoverished Black people of Tulia, Tex. without a dose of sentimentality.

In the Beginning

In the beginning,
God created...

But we forget...

God
is not man,
was not man.

Creator
gives Life,
gives Birth
to Creation,
Plants the seed
in her self
and
bears forth
the world—
from her own
womb,
giving warmth—
in her own belly,
pushing forth—
into being.

How can this be man?

Goddess
nurtures the world
at her own breast:
never letting go,
never dropping her child,
never letting it fall,
except into Loving arms.

Goddess—God,
All one.

He impregnates
herself,
and
He midwives
Her
Birthing
Creation

-DAVID TROTTER

Bush Beats the Devil



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Not only does George Bush not have the political acumen of Satan, he lacks the vanity, and in his case that's not a good thing.

scholars have conducted a thorough exegetical study of the biblical texts concerning the person, disposition, and earthy manifestations of Satan (Beelzebub, Lucifer, Prince of Darkness). They have incontrovertibly concluded that, contrary to the assertion of Hugo Chavez, President Bush is not the Devil."

I totally agree. I have done my own extensive research using alternate tools, and have determined that, without question, President George W. Bush is not Beelzebub. Without going too far afield, I would like to add that he is also not Alfred E. Neuman, a chimpanzee, or the latest reincarnation of the 14th century Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus.

For one thing, if he were Beelzebub, he would not have said this: "I like to tell people when the final history is written on Iraq, it will look like a comma because there is — my point is, there's a strong will for democracy." Beelzebub would have had far better sense than to speak like that to Wolf Blitzer on national TV. However much you may dislike Beelzebub, you have to admit he is one shrewd personification of Evil. A chimp would have just flung his feces at Wolf. I don't know exactly what Paleologus or Alfred would have said, but I'm sure they would have committed offenses on entirely different levels.

As usual, no one in the world really knows what George Bush meant to say. Did he mean that historians are such bad people that they would reduce to a comma the sacrifices of all the U.S. soldiers who have fought in Iraq, including the

now nearly 3,000 who have died? Did he mean that he's with these imaginary bad historians on that point? Or did he just mean to remind us that he doesn't like to read, so if he were handed a history of the Iraq War in say, twenty years, he'd only read to the first comma?

Or maybe he has a deeper meaning in mind. What's a comma anyway? It's a hesitation and an interruption. Maybe he is using the word comma accurately as a metaphor for the way he has used the Iraq War and the so-called war on terror to interrupt America's history of freedom, for the sake of creating and buttressing a sham democracy on the other side of the planet.

Maybe the comma is meant to indicate what he and Congress have together made of us.

The United States as we have known it is now hanging by a thread, with the passage last week of S. 3930. Congress was told by the Supreme Court to fix our policies on detaining and trying terror suspects, to bring them into line with the U.S. Constitution. Congress has basically spit back in the face of the Supreme Court and said to hell with habeas corpus, to hell with the Fifth Amendment, to hell with the 14th Amendment. Beelzebub can have all of them; we'll take Bush and fear.

The thread I mean is the Supreme Court again. If the Supreme Court lets S. 3930 stand, there will be no branch of government left to preserve the Constitution. Without a functioning constitution respected by any fraction of our government, the United States will have essentially been commuted out of existence.

George Bush calls the Geneva Convention vague. I have to wonder if he has ever encountered any of his own pronouncements in print. Does he not even read himself? Not only does he not have the political acumen of Satan, he lacks the vanity, and in his case that's not a good thing.

Satan would have a lot to teach Bush. He could show him how to google himself, teach him to take pride in his language, and how to reach new levels of competence, so he can screw us all even better than he's doing now. ■

call the Police Department or one of the towing companies immediately.

The towing company will store the car until contacted by the owner or an agent of the owner who has permission to retrieve the car. In order to retrieve it, you must go to the impound lot with the appropriate documents: vehicle title, vehicle registration, and/or current valid driver's license. The car must also have registration paperwork in the vehicle and current tags. Because towing companies' requirements vary, call and ask which documents to bring.

It is expensive to get your car out of impound, and you will likely be responsible for any towing and storage fees if it was there for longer than 12 hours. Each company has its own system of pricing, and the fees for towing depend on where the car was towed from and any other city and company service charges involved. You should have at least 21 days to make a payment, but if you cannot pay, the car may be sold to cover the above-mentioned costs. If the car sells for more than what you owed the towing company, you have one year to file a claim with the State of Washington to recover the excess proceeds.

For more information, contact: Automobile Records Unit of the Seattle Police Department, (206)684-5444. For information on towing companies: Columbia Towing, (206) 722-2535; GT Towing, (206) 938-4423; or Lincoln Towing, (206) 364-2000. ■



Mon., Sept. 18, 11:17 a.m., 43rd

Ave E. An officer was dispatched to a call of a suspicious person who had wandered into the residence of the complainant through an open sliding door. Complainant had discovered the subject, a homeless white male aged 30, looking into his refrigerator, and had asked the man if he was lost. Subject responded that he was "looking for his father... who was a spider." Complainant asked him if he would like to talk about it outside, and the subject agreed. Complainant stated to the police that the subject seemed disoriented, and he still appeared that way when officers arrived. Complainant had given the man an extra jacket and a cup of coffee, and stated that he did not want to pursue the matter any further — he had left the door open, and nothing was missing from his house. Officers checked the subject via radio and his name checked clear. When asked, subject agreed he would like to go to hospital and talk to someone. He was trespassed from location then transported by ambulance to Harborview Medical Center.

Thurs., Sept. 21, 2:15 p.m., Madison St., Bank of America.

A member of the bank staff called to report that a customer was threatening staff, causing a disturbance and refusing to leave. Officers arrived and spoke to the suspect, a transient white female aged 20, who again refused to leave the premises. She talked a lot about wanting to die that night, specifically in jail. She stated she was going to die by her medication, but wanted to die by electric chair. She had threatened the bank staff by saying that if they left they would die. She also yelled various statements about her mother, rappers, medications, gangs, and telephone numbers. None of the employees of the business wanted the suspect prosecuted; they wanted her to get psychiatric assistance. The officers completed a mental health contact report, and the suspect was transported to Harborview.

Thurs., Sept. 21, 5:15 p.m., 2100 S. Jackson St., Dr. Blanche Lavizzo Park.

A transient Black male aged 46 called 911 to report an assault. He stated that he had been sitting at a bench at a picnic table in the park when an unknown person attacked him from behind. Victim was knocked out, and when he awoke walked to the phone to call police. He said that at the time he was struck he thought he was the only person in the park. Officers went to the park to look for suspects or witnesses, but the park was empty. Seattle Fire Department arrived to treat the victim, who was bleeding from his left eye. He needed stitches, and was transported to Harborview for assistance.

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



REAL-LIFE ANSWERS TO YOUR LEGAL

I have been living in my car and am concerned that it might be impounded.

How much time do I get before the police would take it, and how would I get it back?

According to Derek de Bakker of the law firm Foster Pepper PLLC, law enforcement agents can impound cars left on public property but generally must provide 24-hour written notice on the car before impounding it. After written notice is given, the car may be impounded only if (a) it has been abandoned, (b) is a junk vehicle, (c) is so mechanically defective that it is unsafe to drive, or (d) is in violation of the law, including local ordinances.

Every city has its own ordinance limiting the amount of time you can park your car on the street. In Seattle, you may park your car on an unmarked street (i.e., one with no posted parking time limit) for up to 72 hours. After 72 hours, you must move your car to a location more than one block away.

Once an impound order has been authorized, a towing company picks up and tows the car to its lot. The towing company must inform the Police Department, which keeps a record. If you believe your car has been impounded, you should

Answers are intended for general information only and are not intended to take the place of advice of your own attorney. Ask a lawyer is in partnership with the Access to Justice Institute at Seattle University and Foster Pepper PLLC. Got a question? E-mail atij@seattleu.edu.

NURSES, Continued from Page 1

from farmworker families — and a quarter Native. When the children arrive at school, in addition to bringing their Spiderman backpacks, they come bearing the effects of economic and racial inequity. Among these are substandard housing, difficulties obtaining nutritious food, inadequate access to health care, and the stresses of poverty. Fast may be the only health care provider some of the children have a chance to see.

In addition to caring for over 1,000 students, Fast is the current president of the School Nurse Organization of Washington (SNOW). One of SNOW's top legislative goals is reducing nurse-student ratios. The Wapato School District has three nurses for about 3,400 students, which Fast compares favorably to other districts. Nationally, a ratio of one nurse for every 750 students is recommended.

State law does not mandate ratios. Although the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has surveyed districts with 2,000 or more students, not all districts have responded, and gathering consistent data on school nursing remains a challenge.

See NURSES, Continued on Page 10



Acoustic Fretted Instruments
Bought and Sold
Martin Guitar Dealer
Books, Strings, Repairs

5210-A Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98105
(206) 524-1110

Free parking up to a half-hour
in the loading zone out front.

www.folkstoreseattle.com

GET YOUR PICKS on (METRO) ROUTE 66

This Holiday Season,
**Help The Working Homeless
HELP THEMSELVES.**

Since 1921 donations from people just like you have allowed the Millionaire Club Charity to provide JOBS for the unemployed and HOT MEALS for the homeless. But we cannot do it without your help.

During this holiday season please remember one of your oldest local charities — started right here in Pioneer Square. Every dollar you give stays here in Seattle. We don't accept any government donations, so our ability to make a difference in the lives of so many needy people depends on one thing: YOU.

Every day 150-200 men and women come through our doors desperately wanting a job needing a hot meal. Your donation counts, so please give generously.

Go now to www.MillionaireClub.org or call 206-728-JOBS (5627) and donate today!

Millionaire Club Charity
2515 Western Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121
206-728-JOBS (5627)
WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY!

THE MILLIONAIRE CLUB CHARITY



Noche del Jaguar

CASA Latina
XII Gala Dinner
& Auction

October 14th, 2006

5:30 pm Grand Hyatt Seattle
721 Pine St. Seattle 98101

Letters
editor@realchangenews.org

Right plant, right place

Dear Real Change,

While I sympathize with Ilze Jones and the Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders group ["Cover Me: Seattle's mature trees need TLC, say environmentalists, arborists" Sept. 20], I must comment on Ms. Jones' assertion that the 17 London Plane trees removed from Pioneer Square's Occidental Park were healthy.

Twice in the last several years I was asked by different players in the Pioneer Square neighborhood to walk through this park and comment on the health and condition of the 35 year-old trees and make recommendations on how to manage them. Each time I visited I stated that a number of poor quality trees should be removed to reduce over-crowding and other trees should be pruned for tree health and to allow more light to reach the park surface. From a tree management perspective, all the trees that were removed last spring should have been removed. Clearly one of the reasons that some large trees needed to be removed is that this park's tough trees had received little or no maintenance in their 35 year existence.

I agree with Ms. Jones and the Stakeholders group when they claim that the City of Seattle has done a poor job in managing its street and park trees. But believe it or not, it used to be worse. Prior to the passage of the '98 Pro Parks levy, about all the Park's tree crews were able to do was drive around the city and "put out fires." With new levy money, Parks has been able to make a dent in its large backlog of tree pruning and hazard tree removal projects. More money is being spent, but both the Parks Department and SDOT crews are still dealing with only basic tree care projects.

It is sad and ironic that we are seeing our forest canopy decline while we live in the midst of one of the world's most productive tree-growing ecosystems. And therein lies the problem: one can stand on any tall building or park on any high Seattle hill and look in any direction and view what appears to be vast forest land. Our climate is mild and forgiving and more than shade, Puget Sound residents seek more light and a break from the gray skies. Trees grow easily here without a lot of help,

and that leads many of us to take them for granted. One Midwest urban forest champion once remarked to me: "How do you grow the urban forest in Seattle? Get out of the way."

Rather than criticize the city for not going far enough with its Urban Forest Management Plan, Stakeholders should make sure that they are at the table every time critical decisions are to be made. In my 21 years in Seattle, 19 as the owner of a major tree care company, I have seen progress in turning the "take trees for granted" attitude around. One of my jobs as a tree care company owner is to propose alternatives when a potential client seems determined to remove a tree without good cause. None of the other mayors I have lived under have even come close to developing a forest management plan. We need to be diligent about promoting new tree planting and lobby furiously for adequate funding for proper tree care of publicly owned trees. We need to educate our leaders and neighbors of the notion that trees are not an amenity, they are a necessity.

John Hushagen, owner,
Seattle Tree Preservation, Inc.

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.

Real Change Readers
are progressive, community-centered, and action oriented. We are educated, affluent, and support businesses that share our values.

An ad this size can cost as little as **\$30** per issue
call 441-3247 x205 for info.

Support Collective Businesses
Worker Owned and Operated

LEFT BANK BOOKS

Wayward Cafe

92 Pike Street
In the Pike Place Market
206 622 0195
Mon-Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6
New & Used Books

901 NE 55th Street
206 524 0204
Tues-Sun 9-9
All Vegan
Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

CLASSIFIED

Opportunity

My Fat Cat Designs - Native American-Bead Designs. Hand Crafted Bracelets and Earrings. By artist Faith Ann Trust (vendor #3231.) Call 206-322-7438 to view jewelry, place an order or general information.

Physicians for Social Responsibility Dinner and Silent Auction, Sat., Oct. 7, 5:30 p.m., Tickets \$65, South Seattle Community College, Jerry Brockey Center, 6000 16th Ave. SW.

Make your lunch count and support the Sacred Heart Soupline, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Fri., Oct. 13, \$10, Sacred Heart Shelter, 6th Ave. and University, Info: (206)285-7489.

Information

Seeking: working mother or family with kids, struggling to make ends meet in Seattle for article. Please contact Cydney Gillis 206-399-7331.

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

Sunday 10/8

Investigative journalist Steve Hendricks discusses his just-published book, *The Unquiet Grave: The FBI and the Struggle for the Soul of the Indian Country*, which is a most-needed update and examination of the FBI's attempts to undermine the American Indian Movement for civil and treaty rights. Beginning with the murder of American Indian luminary Anna Mae Aquash, Hendricks uses interviews from witnesses and recently released government documents to show the travesties, cover-ups, and vigilantism. 2 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S Main St.

Tuesday 10/10

In August of 2004, New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey made history by proclaiming himself "a gay American" and then swiftly announcing his resignation. The son of a working-class Irish-Catholic family, McGreevey excelled in school and politics, but his candid memoir, *The Confession*, reveals his private struggle to accept his homosexuality — a battle of shame and redemption. Tickets \$5. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

What is being done to ensure port security for the Pacific Northwest? A panel of security and trade experts, including Port of Seattle Commission president Patricia Davis, discusses security and the role of women in national and international security and policy-making. 5:30 p.m., Port of Seattle, 2711 Alaskan Way. Info: www.world-affairs.org.

Latino Health Forum: Defining Problems and Identifying Solutions is a roundtable discussion with leading healthcare professionals on the perils of being uninsured, occupational health, and the effects of immigration on mental health. Noon - 5 p.m., South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave. SW.

Wednesday 10/11

A new holy war is brewing within the evangelical community: Liberal Christians believe protecting the environment is a moral commitment, but the religious right supports the Bush administration in downplaying the threat of global warming. In the documentary *Is God Green?* Bill Moy-

ers analyzes the political consequences and interviews the people on the front lines of the debate, from a conservative church in Boise to the activist group Christians for the Mountains in West Virginia. 9 p.m., KCTS Channel 9, check local listings.

Scottish Sculptor Andy Goldsworthy uses wood, leaves, stone, and ice to make site-specific artistic creations that show nature's elements moving freely.



"The Trial of Donald Rumsfeld" is a step towards accountability for U.S.-sponsored torture. Experts on international law and human rights will discuss the definition of torture and the new rules emerging in war, and a dramatized trial will weave together vignettes of news stories, commission reports, detainees' accounts, and a mock cross-examination of Rumsfeld. Saturday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m., Seattle University, Piggott Auditorium, 901 12th Ave. Info: www.rumsfeldtrial.org.

Friday 10/13

A heartwrenching portrait of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Spike Lee's film *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*, tells the destruction through the voices of those who endured and survived. The film

also shows the communities that, despite death and despair, have found the strength and hope to rebuild their city and maintain its cultural legacy. 7 p.m., Revolution Books, 1833 Nagle Place.

Thursday 10/12

Undoing Columbus features Patricia Paul and Professor Joel Ngugi, attorneys and experts in international law and the rights of indigenous peoples. They will discuss rights to land, cultural maintenance, and autonomy within the current nation-state political model. University Friends' Center Community Meeting Room, 4001 Ninth Ave. NE Info: (206)633-1086.

A slideshow presentation of the 450-mile journey through the proposed Pebble Gold Mine site, "Alaska Conservation Series Part Two" shows the largest open-pit mine in North America that could destroy the headwaters of the world's richest salmon-spawning rivers. 6:30 p.m., The Mountaineers, 300 Third Ave W.

Director's Corner



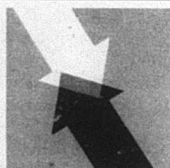
Last Sunday, *Bumfights* — the exploitation videos that feature homeless people brawling and performing other degrading acts for alcohol and small amounts of money — was featured on 60 Minutes.

In a scenario taken straight out of *A Clockwork Orange*, homeless people are being killed for kicks, usually by bored young men. Last June, a homeless military veteran and amputee in Spokane was killed when he was set afire while sleeping in his wheelchair. Two Portland men, 22 and 23 years old, were later charged with the crime. Many *Real Change* readers will also remember the pointless 1999 murder of David Ballenger near Green Lake, also by two teen-aged boys.

According to the 60 Minutes report, those who attack or murder homeless people have, in many instances, sought to emulate the *Bumfights* videos. Homeless people have become a nationwide target for homicidal violence. There has been an average of one killing per month for the past five years.

Real Change has always chosen to ignore the *Bumfights* phenomenon. Our view has always been that media attention simply offers free publicity to a morally indefensible product.

Be that as it may, *Bumfights* couldn't exist in a society that didn't already dehumanize the very poor. At some level, many of us believe that those who are degraded by poverty somehow have it coming to them. The popularity of *Bumfights* says something about ourselves, and it's not very flattering.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

City Budget: Advocacy Counts

Issue: The Mayor's Seattle budget for 2007-2008 proposes cutting the \$280,000 the city invests in advocacy, organizing, and systems support. This includes coordination of meals programs and food banks, assistance for low-income parents to get state and federal benefits for their children, as well as advocacy to secure resources from the county, state and federal level that help Seattle residents meet their basic needs. This is a smart and cost-effective use of city resources, and when the City Council passes a final version of the budget, they should restore this cut.

Background: In the 2003-2004 budget, the City of Seattle cut this funding. In 2005 the City Council restored \$280,000 of this cut, because they recognized the value this service provides to Seattle residents.

Advocacy programs that the City helps fund have secured \$12.5 million in county, state, and federal funding and prevented \$30.8 million in proposed cuts, preventing the city from having to make up those cuts or deal with the outcome of increased poverty. The city's investments in advocacy has paid off at the rate of \$54 returned to Seattle in resources from the county, state, and federal level for every \$1 invested by the city.

Some examples of the value of advocacy for Seattle include:

- A \$22 million dollar proposed cut for children's healthcare in 2005-2006 was prevented partly through city-funded advocacy. This saved \$1.76 million in health care services for children in Seattle.
- Passage of the countywide veterans and human services levy, largely due to work by local city-funded advocacy groups, which will generate \$3.3 million in new funding for human service needs in Seattle.

Preservation of \$3.6 million for Seattle residents through the General Assistance-Unemployable program (GA-U), which prevents many temporarily, disabled Seattle residents from becoming homeless.

The city also invests in a handful of organizations that improve social services efficiency by increasing collaborations and that help Seattle residents access the state benefits to which they are entitled. Since 2002, Food Resources and the Meals Partnership Coalition have coordinated \$884,131 in bulk purchases of thousands of pounds of food each year from state and federal funding. Bulk purchases increase the value of this asset 30 percent. In 2005, city funded groups helped 239 Seattle families apply for food stamps, reducing hunger by bringing \$478,000 of benefits into Seattle.

Action: Contact city councilmembers and ask them to restore advocacy, organizing, and systems support funding in the 2007-08 budget.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sally Clark: sally.clark@seattle.gov 684-8802 | Richard McIver: richard.mciver@seattle.gov 684-8800 |
| Jan Drago: jan.drago@seattle.gov 684-8801 | David Della: david.della@seattle.gov 684-8806 |
| Nick Licata: nick.licata@seattle.gov 684-8803 | Jean Godden: jean.godden@seattle.gov 684-8807 |
| Peter Steinbrueck: peter.steinbrueck@seattle.gov 684-8804 | Richard Conlin: richard.conlin@seattle.gov 684-8805 |
| Tom Rasmussen: tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov 684-8808 | |

Upcoming city budget hearings: Wed., Oct. 11 and Mon., Oct. 30 at 5:30 in the city Council chambers on the second floor of 600 Fourth Ave.

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

PRIMARY, Continued from Page 1

their second choice counted. Assume that 2,000 of the 2,250 ballots that listed Nader No. 1 marked Gore No. 2, and 250 marked Bush second. Those 2,000 ballots would have been awarded to Gore, making him the winner.

If approved, only county-level elections within the legislative and executive branches will be modified. Voters will elect state and national positions, as well as judges and the Prosecuting Attorney, under the current method in accordance to state law.

Proponents of the initiative, such as Richard Anderson-Connelly, a professor at the University of Puget Sound, say the IRV selection method has two significant advantages.

"Under our current system, you either vote Democratic or Republican, or you waste your vote," says Anderson-Connelly. "That's gone once you have instant runoff voting."

"Also, IRV allows you to do what takes two elections under the current system in only one election," Anderson-Connelly adds. "You don't need a primary."

Votes aren't wasted because second choices are tallied after other candidates are eliminated, and the primary becomes unnecessary since the ranking system completes the same task, eliminating candidates with the least votes.

"Pierce County is taking a leadership position in Washington State," Houghton says. "And if it passes, there is a potential ripple effect."

This ripple effect, Houghton says, will be a gradual spread of IRV elections throughout the state until it's the method of selecting all state elected officials. Houghton contends that if and when this ever occurs, millions of government dollars will be saved.

In addition to cutting election costs, proponents say IRV promises respectful elections by preventing mudslinging since the candidates desire second ranks to increase their chance of winning. Amendment Three is the second opportunity Pierce County voters have been offered to abandon the pick-a-party system.

In 2004, voters approved Initiative 872, but the Washington State Democratic Party challenged it in court, claiming it violated their First Amendment right to assemble by removing their right to control the use of their name on the ballot. A judge ruled in their favor.

"Several of the county commissioners elected in Pierce County campaigned with the promise that they would change the pick-a-party primary."

Opponents of IRV, according to Anderson-Connelly, say the ranking system is too expensive and too confusing.

"They act like there are all these technical problems and that there is no technology to handle it," Anderson-Connelly says. "And they're dead wrong. They're either ignorant or lying on these points."

He also stated that members of the major political parties, not the voters, tend to oppose IRV since it abolishes the two-party system by increasing the chance of third party or independent candidates winning an election.

"I think [the Democratic and Republican Parties] understand that this is a challenge to their power because it enables a multi-party system. And that's the last thing they want," Anderson-Connelly says.

The Washington State Republican Party declined to comment for this story because the initiative only pertains to Pierce County; the Washington State Democratic Party did not return phone calls.

According to *VoteYesOnThree.com*, IRV is already used by several university student-body elections across the nation, including the University of Washington, the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco, and was recently used for a mayoral race in Burlington, Vermont.

Voters in Pierce County are the first Washington residents with the opportunity to implement IRV in the state.

"I've been an advocate for this issue for five years," Anderson-Connelly says, "but this is the first time it has been this close to winning." ■

NURSES, Continued from Page 10

When nurses aren't present, non-professional staff is left to deal with emergencies: "We don't have adequate staffing to have safe practice," Hilsinger says. "The only recourse is training staff to respond when you're not there."

The overwhelming demands on nurses also mean that short shift is given to primary preventive measures, such as health education, and secondary prevention, like health screening. Far from being luxuries, such measures promote the well-being necessary for learning. But nurses must prioritize those with the most immediate needs.

"It's not that the educational system would not love to do [primary and secondary prevention]," Hilsinger contends. She says the resources just don't exist.

In 1999, the Legislature created the School Nurse Corps (SNC) to address shortfalls in targeted districts without replacing the resources already there. Yet in 2005 OSPI reported nursing

services in those districts "still at a minimal level," citing inadequate SNC funding. This June, OSPI documented insufficient coverage in other districts, too.

It's now 12 o'clock at Adams Elementary in Wapato, and Omar enters Gail Fast's office, coughing. He's having an asthma attack.

Fast calls his mother and hands him his inhaler, while attending to a girl with an ear infection.

Moments later, a pileup forms at her door. There is Omar's older sister, checking in on her brother, now sitting on the bed. A mother arrives, daughter in tow, to sign a medication permission form. Also in the crowd is Richard, who sports a long black braid and a clothespin clipped to the shoulder seam of his t-shirt. He fell on his side, and now it hurts.

While Fast attends to her patients, a teacher pops in and says, "Omar, what's going on?"

"Wheezing," he says. "Wheezing as always."

In short order, Fast gets the permission form signed, dispatches Omar to lunch with the warning that he not go outside, and sends Richard off with an ice pack and a note for his mother — all in a morning's work. ■

EMERALD
Spokes
www.emeraldspokes.com
(206) 383-5426

CHUCK RINEHART
Journeyman Carpenter
Contractor

Remodels • Repairs • Updating
Disability Alterations &

Ph (206) 719-8450

Lic. # RINEHC1066MR

eyes ON FREMONT

UNIQUE AFFORDABLE EYEWEAR

Friendly, Skilled Staff

On Site Lab

Eye Exams

Student Discounts

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

Focused. Accountable. Real.



Craig Brooke-Weiss

Specializing in
condos & lofts

- Downtown/Belltown
- Capitol Hill
- Queen Anne

*Real Estate for
Real People!*

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate / Wind Street, Inc.

craig@windermere.com

Will donate 5% of commission upon closing to Real Change! Call for details.

Call Craig! • 206-920-7251

Remember to get your
health exam and mammogram.



If cost is a problem ... call the Washington
Breast and Cervical Health Program (WBCHP)
at 1-800-756-5437.

WBCHP is dedicated to increasing access to
healthcare for all women. We provide access to
high quality mammograms and women's
health exams for women ages 40-64.

PH Public Health
Seattle & King County
HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

1-800-756-5437
We care about your health

Mockingbird Times



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

October 2006

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak Out Across the Nation

Volume VI, Issue 10

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

In This Issue

Letter from the Editor

Jim Theofelis
Page 2

Daddy's Little Girl

Sherrel Dorsey
Page 2

Breaking Up

Raquel Granath
Page 2

Meet the Staff:

Jonelle Abd-Rahmaan
Jonelle Abd-Rahmaan
Page 3

Mockingbird on the Move

Page 3

Creative Corner:

Angel With a Broken Wing
Emma Cummings
Page 4

Creative Corner:

Another Statistic in America
Margo McElroy-Johnson
Page 4

Creative Corner: Home

Wilson LaMere
Page 4

Creative Corner:

I Am Like the Wind
Emma Cummings
Page 4

Creative Corner: Pride

Wilson LaMere
Page 4

Foster-Parent Conference Was Full of Hope

JAMICA
HENDERSON



Have you recently stopped to think about how loving foster-parents are? For those of you who can't answer this question, I can. There are really foster-parents who truly care about your life. Mockingbird Society was invited to this year's Annual Foster Parent and Caregiver's Conference which was held in Spokane, WA. It was an amazing conference! The foster-parents were so sweet, loving and caring. The parents that attended the conference reminded me that there are people who really care about the lives of the youth in care. They also want to see a change for the families that are in the system too. It was a three day conference that was filled with lots of information to help encourage the foster parents and support the important work that they do.

At the conference, I had the chance to attend different workshops. My favorites were "Keeping Siblings Together" and the "Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment"

workshops. I enjoyed the sibling workshop because it was more of a group discussion. The presenter invited us to share our stories (if we felt comfortable) to help us understand why it was an important issue. We discussed the statistics of why siblings should, or should not, be together. She shared false statistics with us and it showed me how the system feels justified separating siblings rather than keeping them together.

The second day I went to a session that was four hours all together but they split it into two sessions.

"When the parents came and asked us for advice, I felt like a motivational speaker encouraging the foster-parents to keep up the good work."

This session was the Ansell Casey and it talked about how it can help teens learn how to become an independent young adult, so when they age-out, they will be more prepared. The assessment asks question from many areas of your life like budgeting, career planning and life skills (to name a few). Once it's finished, you can look and see what areas you are strong in and those you need to work on. You can then work with your case manager (or other support person) to gain the skills that you need. After a few months, you retake the assessment to see how you have grown. The foster-parents found this tool really helpful.

The Mockingbird Society Speakers Panel was invited to share what we do as an organization and our personal stories in foster-care. Three of us sat as a panel on the second

night of the conference. Once we finished, we got to interact with the foster-parents one on one. They all were really happy to hear our stories. It was a good opportunity for us as well; allowing us to share what we have experienced and helping us to be positive leaders for those who still reside in foster-care. We had such a great time and had some thoughts to share. Raquel: "This was a great event for me. I enjoyed telling my story about my history in the foster-care system and how I have changed into the beautiful young lady that I am. I feel that the conference was an enlightening experience and that it will change the foster-care system for the better in the future." Jessica: "I was excited to speak in front of the parents and have the chance to share my story about being in care. When the parents came and asked us for advice, I felt like a motivational speaker encouraging the foster-parents to keep up the good work. They even asked for our autographs with a quote of wisdom for their youth at home. I loved it! We all thanked each of the foster-parents for opening their hearts and homes to kids who need a safe and loving place."

In all, it was an excellent conference. We were all touched in a special ways. Each time I share what I have been through, it's like a part of me gets stronger. I had an awesome time and hope they keep having these conferences to support the foster-parents, because I saw what a big difference it will make.

Almost 18

JESSICA
GARCIA



I'm Jessica Garcia and I am turning 18 this month. I will be aging-out of foster-care and wanted to tell you a little bit about my life. First of all, nobody's life is perfect and my life is far from perfect! I wish that I could go back and change some things I have been through.

I have been in foster homes all over eastern Washington and Seattle. I didn't have the best childhood and was in schools where I was made fun of and hurt. The way the kids treated me in school hurt me till this day. I felt insecure and unstable and have had trouble with my beauty and liking who I am. Today, I have to make things perfect, otherwise I beat myself up, telling myself that I'm ugly, that I don't add up to much and that I'm worthless. A lot of the way I treat myself comes from being an orphan with no parents and losing my brothers and sisters and having a lost childhood. While the other kids were playing outside, I was left watching newborns. I was only 9-years-old. I would be left home unattended, which then lead me back in to foster-care and split up from my siblings.

I ended up in Spokane for 2 years and I didn't see any of my family for 2 years I was in an abusive foster home (not uncommon for

me). Then I was removed. I went to another person's house and yet another school where I was treated decent. For the 1st time I felt like somebody. Before that placement, I had never cried. To me, it was a sign of weakness. I just got angry and threw things. Then, the lady told me that it was okay to cry. When I cried, I felt a part of me come back to life from being so numb. It's a tolerance I had to build up from being hurt so much.

I was taken away when I was 12 and back in the ugly town of Yakima. I went back to the school where I was made fun of and felt so sick to my stomach. What I knew would happen did, people made fun of me for being in foster-care and being Native-American. I was torn and angry. Why would these kids hurt someone who had nothing? It just shows how cruel kids can be. Someone once told me that words don't hurt. Well, I'm here to tell you, words do hurt and they have a lot of effect on any person because we are human.

As I got older, I was angry and rebellious and wanted to self destruct and hurt people in any way that I could. I would steal and I was then one of the kids who said mean things to other kids to hurt them. I also started to be rude towards the teachers and was very self-defensive. I would yell and cuss which got me suspended. I started to skip school and started to use drugs. At that time it was no big deal. "It was weed, it couldn't hurt." I then got on probation for trespassing, and then was moved

to the Tri-cities and on probation. I had a violent temper then and was put in anger management. I would run away because the foster homes I was in didn't treat me that well. It's all that I could do. So what I did when I ran away, I stayed with people I didn't know (or did). I was introduced to a drug that changed me and hurt me more than ever. This drug was crystal meth.

The things I would do to get this drug were selling my things and stealing from houses. I would be paranoid and would do things like talk to myself because I was so strung out. I would get angry for no reason, but would act like I had knives on me just in

case someone tried to hurt me. One day I looked in the mirror and realized what damage I was doing to myself.

I had to get clean and do better for myself, otherwise I could end up in prison or worse, dead. I spent some time in juvenile detention and detox. I was scared because of what I was doing to myself. I was skinnier than ever. I looked older than my grandma and had nowhere to go because of the way I led my life. Foster parents didn't want me because of the way I was and they didn't want me around younger children. My mother didn't want me. I had no where to go. I couldn't explain the hopelessness that went on in my head or the heartache and loneliness. What I

"I'm glad that I can now be a role model to my brothers and sister as well as other kids in foster-care through my work here at Mockingbird Society."

JESSICA CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

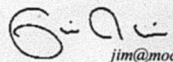
Letter from the Editor

JIM THEOFELIS



First, I want to express my appreciation to those of you who have donated to support our work and mission at The Mockingbird Society. As a small non-profit, we are dependent upon the donations of individuals and businesses that share our concern, compassion and investment in our most marginalized children, youth and families. Over the past month, Youth Representatives from our Youth LEAD (Leadership, Education/ Employment and Advocacy Development) program have participated in several public speaking activities. Young people from Mockingbird Society spoke at the Foster Parent and Caregiver's Conference sharing their perspectives and experiences with foster parents, kinship caregivers and other conference attendees. Additionally, three Youth Representatives presented before the esteemed Braam Panel, which is charged with the responsibility of monitoring the foster care settlement agreement between the state of Washington and the attorneys for the plaintiffs. The Mockingbird Society is proud to have the

capacity to provide young people with the training, support and technical assistance to develop their leadership, literacy and public speaking skills so that they are able to directly advocate for positive public policy. Another exciting update from Mockingbird Society is the replication of the Mockingbird Family Model. The MFM is being replicated in four community organizations within King County (Casey Family Programs, Division of Child and Family Services, Ryther Child Center and Youth Advocates) and is being evaluated by the University of Washington Northwest Institute for Children and Families. As you may recall, the MFM is a model of delivering foster/kinship care services that we propose will reduce multiple placements in foster homes, allow siblings to remain together instead of being split up, provide healthy and safe respite care nearly 24/7, and increase permanency options for kids in care. I am pleased to report that the District of Columbia has contracted with The Mockingbird Society to replicate the MFM within their system. This is a very exciting opportunity for The Mockingbird Society, the D.C. Child Welfare System and the children, youth and families we serve.

 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.

Remember Us!

United Way is conducting their annual campaign during September-December. Please remember that you can designate that your donation to United Way be directed to the Mockingbird Society. Thanks for all your continued support.

Congratulations to Juan Ramirez and Wendy Carrillo
Nicolas Samuel Carrillo Ramirez
09/28/06 4:45 AM PST
7 lbs 15oz 19 inches
AKA: Scrunchy Turtle Face.

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 _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

Daddy's Little Girl

SHERREL DORSEY



My father is an extraordinary man who attempted to re-create the human race by reproducing at an extraordinary rate. A man of an astounding 16, excuse me, 17 children (another one recently discovered 3 weeks ago), he is a living truth to the old Temptations hit, "Papa was a rolling stone."

Shortly after reconnecting with my biological mother, she told me about a father that I never knew existed. Unfortunately she was only 90% sure of who my father was. Until DNA tests had proven her theory, I had to postpone celebrating finally acquiring a father. My immediate friends were raised in two parent households. Their fathers taught them how to ride a bike, change the oil in a car and the fundamentals of watching a great basketball game. I was taught what every girl raised by a single-parent woman was taught: A sense of independence and an "I can do anything better than you" attitude towards men. I was elated to see that it was my turn to have a father and experience the same things my friends were born with.

The relationship with my father never materialized and even though we spoke on the phone and sent pictures to each other, I waited in vain for him to rescue me from a fatherless world, re-teach me how to ride a bike and erase and rebuild what I had already learned about life, love and most importantly, boys. He was literally two states away and never made the trip. Excuses became his past-time and so I decided, the summer I left for college, that it was too late for me to have a father.

One particular day stood out for me as a reminder of how much not having that masculine balance affected me. I was 16

and over-zealous about getting my license. My two best friends and I signed up for driver's education and quickly wanted to put our permits to use. Well, unfortunately for me, my adoptive mother would not immediately teach me how to drive. The words death and destruction were synonyms for the sentence, "mom can I drive your car?". Meanwhile I sat sorrowfully and drowned in envy in the back seat of my best friend's car as her father yelled at her for speeding through a red light.

It is still extremely difficult for me to fathom how two people could pretend not to know that having unprotected sex did not have consequences for what was created out of their irresponsibility. I wanted a father to be there at prom, graduation and the other gazillion things that made memories; memories. I wanted to be daddy's little girl and hide under his sheath of protection.

The anger within me is slowly subsiding over the years and I pray for the day I can forgive both of my biological parents. Until then I am working on accepting the hand that I was dealt. Reshuffling the deck and dealing again is out of the question. I wasn't able to control the actions of my parents, but I do have control over my reactions and how I move forward. I figure that if God chose to skip out on me at the time he assigned fathers to everyone then it wasn't in my cards to have one.

As a word of wisdom to all of the fatherless girls out there, it is okay to be angry. But be both angry and productive. The fire in you should be recycled into a fuel that will allow you to work towards not making the same mistakes as your parents. We use our experiences as a platform, not a crutch. So stand on your flaws, sorrow, shame, anger and tears. They make our skin thick to endure the challenges life throws our way. We may not be daddy's little girl but we are young ladies with just as much to offer as the next girl. We are special, we are loved and we are here for a purpose.

MEET OUR STAFF

Executive Director
Jim Theofelis

Youth LEAD Coordinator
Najja Morris

Operations Manager
Ros Ghan

Public Relations
Darcie Gray

Executive Assistant
Lauren Frederick

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

Youth Representatives
Larissa Asher, Terasa Asher, Surri Evans, Jessica Garcia, Raquel Granath, Renita Baskin, Samuel Martin, Jonelle Abd-Rahmaan

Contributing Writers
Sherrel Dorsey, Emma Cummings, Margo McElroy-Johnson, Wilson LaMere

Volunteers
Chrissie Jackson

Breaking Up

RAQUEL GRANATH

In the famous words of the Carpenters, breaking up is hard to do. I have recently discovered this for myself, and I wonder if in the long run I will still feel it was the right decision. Breaking up is never an easy task for the dumper or the one getting dumped. Everyone who is in a relationship will experience problems but when is it just too much?

In order to decide if it's time for a change you have to be honest and realistic with yourself. When you have feelings for someone this can be hard to do, but your wellbeing is important. First of all, is the relationship destructive? Is your significant other mentally, physically or emotionally abusive in anyway? If so that right there is enough of a reason to end what you have. There is no excuse for demeaning someone and if you are experiencing that, he doesn't love you or even remotely care for you. He's selfish and only considering his own thoughts and feelings.

Do your parents object? I've been in numerous relationships that my mother disapproved of, and I've found that most of them were dead ends that left me having to cut my losses. Yes I agree that sometimes parents don't understand and they're not always right but still you should listen and take into account their opinions. I hate to hand the trophy to the bad guy but they do have many years of experience under their belts and they may be able to tell you something you don't know. At the end of the day though, it's all about you and you may find yourself agreeing to disagree.

Perhaps you've grown apart. This seems to be very common amongst teen-

agers who, because of our lack of maturity, tend to lose interest. The summer has ended and free time to spend with your loved one is at an all time low. If you feel like this applies to you, don't feel bad it isn't over yet! Mediate with your partner and try to problem-solve. If they seem unwilling to find a solution or if no solution can be found, it's okay! This could be a sign that you need some time for yourself. You can remain friends without all the obligations and pressures of a commitment.

Has your current lover lied, cheated or done something behind your back that you disapprove of? Firstly, don't feel bad about it; this is an everyday occurrence in the crazy world we reside in. Was it a major or a minor offense? That's up to you to decide. Players will be players and cheaters will be cheaters. Be honest with yourself, if he was out creeping around once, what's to say he won't do it again. How do you know it hasn't already happened on other occasions? He knew quite well before he even started the effect his actions would have on your heart as well as the relationship. But still you can't be judgmental. Question him. Is he sincerely remorseful or is he plotting his next sneaky move? Has he repented from his actions or is he a repeat offender? It's hard to think logically because despite his transgressions you still hope for a better future. Don't kid yourself, if he's worth it take that risk, otherwise kick him to the curb and maybe then he'll learn his lesson.

Whatever the circumstances may be, breaking up will never be an easy task. You have to love yourself throughout the whole process and continually proclaim the importance of your feelings before anyone else's. Don't be another statistic by allowing love to blind you. Overcome and hold true to your beliefs. It will be hard at first but everything will fall into place. Be strong and keep your head up. You'll make it through.

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

JESSICA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

did to myself wasn't good. I dug a 12 foot grave and I felt I couldn't get out.

Today, I have a lot to look forward to. I have been clean for one year. I'm so happy. What I had to do were drop people that I used with. I say hi to old friends when we run into each other, but I move my way (forward) and back on my path. I do this, because I don't have a chance to mess this up.

Now that I am turning 18, I have to think of a long-term plan. I want to have things situated out and have a place to stay. I don't want to have to hop from house to house. What I have in my life today that helps keep me motivated are good friends who are there for me and try the best they can to help me out. Also, I have a great job with Mockingbird Society. I also am going to school for my GED. I try to keep

myself busy with positive activities. I've made mistakes, but now I try my best at everything I do.

Turning 18 makes me impatient because I just want to do what I want to do, but I'm told I need to be patient. I'm glad that I can now be a role model to my brothers and sister as well as other kids in foster-care through my work here at Mockingbird Society. I have so much to offer this world and the people that I am around. I will do what it takes to help another person see what a special person they are. I'm glad I went through the things that I did and that now I have my feet in front of me. I can see them and every step I take is clear. Sometimes my past comes up, but I push forward because for me, I have no other option. I'm glad that I'm a different person and that I can change my world, because from where I stand; my life is great!

Meet the Staff: Jonelle Abd-Rahmaan

JONELLE ABD-RAHMAAN



My name is Jonelle Monique Abd-Rahmaan and I recently turned 18. I was born in Houston, Texas to Robert Wayne Gordon and Nancy Provosts. I was born on September 23 @8:12 pm in Jefferson County Texas. I moved to Seattle in 1993 and have been here for 13 years (since the age of 4). I was put in the custody of my grandmother and aunt who are both from Galveston Texas.

I am currently in the Youth Education Program (Y.E.P.) with Seattle Public schools and am working towards my High School completions in their GED program. In my spare time I enjoy meeting new people. I like starting conversations with people who look interesting by conversing about things like shoes, clothes or whatever comes to mind.

I have been in many kinship-care relationships. I have had to stay with many different relatives because my mom and dad weren't really around for most of my life. I grew up with mostly guy cousins and they rubbed off on me by fighting, teasing and rough-housing with me. It made me

kind of rough and helped me to protect myself. I spent a lot of times climbing trees and learning how to ride a bike by falling off and getting back on. If I could change one thing about the "system" it would be to let kids stay where they are achieving if they were somewhere that they couldn't before. It would be great if they could stay in that home or shelter as long as the parent agreed to have them so that they could get their life together and fulfill their dreams.

When I first found out about Mockingbird Society, I was mostly interested in just submitting poems and having some kind of little job until I could really get a job on my career path. Now that I am here I am hoping to make senior staff. Not just for more money but so that I can grow with the agency by learning more about the system. I am also a very outspoken person and like to talk in front of large and small crowds. I like the positive energy people give off when they are really interested in what I have to say. So, I am looking forward to that part of my position here as a Youth Representative too.

I am a young African-American woman who is pretty curious about life and eager to learn about my environment and culture just as well as others that are different from mine. I don't let anyone bring me down, because I know that I can make it through life's obstacles one day at a time.

HB 2002 is Accepting Applications: Act Now!

New legislation allows youth to remain in care and receive their medical benefits while pursuing higher education. Talk to your caseworker for details about taking advantage of this legislation or contact Rick Butt at (206) 923-4891 for more information.

Mockingbird on the Move



Mockingbird Society Youth Representatives, left-to-right, Jessica Garcia, Raquel Granath, and Jamica Henderson, share their stories at this year's Washington State Foster Care Conference held in Spokane, WA.



Youth LEAD Representatives, left-to-right, Raquel Granath, Jamica Henderson, Najja Morris, Jessica Garcia enjoying dinner at the annual foster parent conference before the panel presentation.



The 6th Annual U.S. Bank Governors Cup Golf Tournament, held at The Golf Club at Newcastle on September 18, raised over \$500,000 for the Washington State Governors Scholarship for Foster Youth. Pictured left to right are former Governor Gary Locke, Governors Scholars Jenn Chung and Robert Chevara, and 1979 Seattle SuperSonics star Gus Williams. The Washington State Governors Scholarship for Foster Youth is administered by the Washington Education Foundation.



Youth LEAD Representatives, left-to-right, Raquel Granath, Jamica Henderson, and Jessica Garcia preparing to present their suggestions for system reform to the Braam Oversight Panel. The representatives were invited to sit on the youth panel in order to assist the state in its implementation of improvements to the foster-care system via the Braam Settlement. For more information please visit <http://www.wspipp.wa.gov/braampanel/default.asp>

The King County Kinship Collaboration presents: 2006 Kinship Care Gathering

When: October 21, 2006, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Where: Brighton Elementary School - new location!

6725 45th Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118

Continental breakfast and lunch provided.

Childcare provided for ages 3 and above.

Please contact Kristie Lund at 206-709-2106.

Creative Corner



Another Statistic In America

MARGO McELROY-JOHNSON

I don't want to be another statistic some suicidal teen
Who make a choice to kill herself when the world
Just seems too mean. She can't go on with life or
So to her it seems realities has fallen short and so have
Her many dreams.

I don't want to be another statistic some pregnant
Little girl who met this great guy and then gave sex
A whirl. She was only 15 and it didn't even feel right
But she was dumb and thought that they would be
Together for more than just one night.

I don't want to be another statistic some kid strung
Out on crack, who started at a party and they can't turn back
First cigarettes and alcohol now meth, crack, and cocaine
She's been smoking it for so long that now she's going insane.

I don't want to be another statistic some girl left in the rain
Who was walking home from school then raped and left in
Pain. She can't tell her mom and it hurts to tell her friends,
She doesn't know what she will do to make this nightmare end.

I don't want to be another statistic some kid out of school
Who dropped out really early and was acting like a fool
She thought that it was boring; she thought that it was dumb
She doesn't have an education but lives on the street like a bum

I don't want to be another statistic some stereotypical teen
I'm going to make a difference I'll fulfill my dream
I won't end up pregnant on drugs or even dead
I won't drop out of school because I'll use my head

I don't want to be another statistic I want to be that teen
Those looks deep down inside and knows that she'll fulfill her dream!!

Angel With A Broken Wing

EMMA CUMMINGS

Somewhere out there is
an angel,
With a broken wing.
A bleeding voice,
That can not sing.
His halo is a lil' bent,
And where he came
from,
Is as unknown,
As to where he went.
He arrived one day,
Out of the blue.
And as to why he came,
No one knew.

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.

Home

WILSON LAMERE

I feel like I'm dying from the lack of success, because of no rest.
No rest because I'm depressed with no love.
No love from family, just strangers at home.
They treat me the best and, yet, I'm still dying from the hole in my chest.

An empty spot with no feeling, just the thought of an endless rest, the
thought of death.
It hits me every day every time I get stressed.
I need a home, one place that's not like the rest, but the best.
The best one for me, where I won't be depressed.

I won't feel like dying, no hole in my chest.
But, a big heart full of love, a new family.
One that loves me more than my own, a foster home that blew away the rest.
One that could make me feel like the best.

I Am Like the Wind

EMMA CUMMINGS

I am like the wind.
Everywhere yet nowhere at the same time.
I make an impression on everything I touch.
People may not like me.
But I've forgotten how to care.
Whenever they voice their opinion.
It can't hurt me no more.
What can hurt the air?

I am like the wind.
You'll never capture me.
Nothing you do will ever rapture me.
Breathe me in.
Fill your lungs with life.
Because I am like the wind.
I'll never fade away.
Because I depend on me.
No one else.
I fight to live yet another day.

Pride

WILSON LAMERE

What's wrong with me?
I keep having this feeling
like
I just want to die.
No tears, no expression,
just my life going by.
It's going by in flashes.

Why can't I cry?
It's all real sad,
my dad, my sister,
all the thoughts of suicide,
my messed up family.
Why can't we all just
swallow
our
pride?

*A bird does not sing because it has an answer.
It sings because it has a song.*

—Chinese Proverb

October is National Family History Month

Being disconnected from family can be really hard when you are in the "system" and/or homeless. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin searching for your family roots in hopes of one day making new connections to unknown family members or finding long-lost ones. Good Luck!

Here are some tips to get your started:

- Begin with a Family Tree (you can find this free on-line) and fill in as you go.
- Start with asking questions of family that you have contact with.
- If you have one; you might want to consider asking your social worker/case manager for help with additional information and/or beginning your search.
- Look on-line to search for surnames (last names), birth/death records, obituaries and military records.
- A great place to visit and get assistance is the National Archives in Seattle is: 6125 Sand Point Way NE 98115 (206) 336-5115 (check local listings in other cities)
- In Washington state, you can visit <http://www.wvc.edu/Library/Research/gen/States/RBSTWA.html>
- If you are really determined to find your family history, don't give up. There are many resources out there, you just have to be your own private investigator.

Here are several on-line resources to help you get started with your research.
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/>
http://genealogy.about.com/od/search_tips/
<http://www.genealogy.com/genhelp.html>

Calling All Foster Youth!

Washington State Wants to Hear From You!

When: Thursday, October 19th

Time: 4-6 PM

Location: 2100 24th Ave South (Treehouse Building)

Washington State Partnership for Youth (WSPY) is working on a statewide health and development plan for youth in foster care.

We want to know, from YOU, what would be helpful in making sure your transition into adulthood is healthy and successful.

Don't be silent! Be heard!

A full dinner will be provided.

For more information, please contact Najja Morris @ 206-407-2134 and najja@mockingbirdsociety.org or Mickey Kander at 360-236-3523