

SPRING FUND DRIVE ■ PULL-OUT SECTION

REAL CHANGE

SPECIAL OUTREACH EDITION



Volunteers form a line to unload the April 25th edition of Real Change.

Photo by Rich Mealey

A Message from Real Change Editor Amy Roe

I'm writing this on a Wednesday, the day the new issue of Real Change comes out and therefore my favorite day of the week.

Through the bus window on the way to work I can see vendors downtown, waving copies in the air. Even at a distance, the cover of the newspaper looks sharp and bright and vendors seem proud of what they're selling.

In the office, I grab a couple stacks and head to the basement, where we keep an archive of old issues.

Sometimes, five or 10 minutes later, I find myself still standing alone in that cold, cluttered room, perusing the new Real Change. That's when I see the paper as a reader, not the editor. That's when I'm reminded why this newspaper is different.

In my time as a reporter I was cautioned to write at a level a fifth-grader could understand, and to try to keep things "light and bright." The idea is that

readers have short attention spans and don't want to be burdened with too much "bad news."

At Real Change we have the luxury, perhaps the imperative, to break those rules every week. A single issue recently contained stories about the extreme tactics of debt collectors, racial disparities in school discipline and the perils of redeveloping subsidized housing.

Looking closely at our communities can yield some heart-rending results. When Assistant Editor Rosette Royale portrayed an Aurora fast-food restaurant that's become a haven for the homeless "Having it their way," (RC, Feb. 8, 2012) it didn't have a happy ending. When reporter Aaron Burkhalter described how the mentally ill are flooding our state's emergency rooms and jails, ("State of Desperation," RC, April 11, 2012) he showed things will only get worse, thanks to budget cuts.

This is not Chicken Soup for the Politically Correct Soul. It's all hardcore journalism, all the time.

Amazingly, you, our readers, spur us on, challenging us to dig deeper in our reporting and to hone our understanding of the complex issues affecting economic injustice.

In your calls and letters, cards and emails, you assure us you don't want to look away from the problems of economic inequality, you want to face them and find ways to do better.

With these expectations for Real Change, you, our readers, dispel every cynical notion about what mass media can do, and what people ought to expect from journalists.

In my time as editor, I've learned Real Change readers are compassionate, sophisticated and — when it comes to social issues journalism — absolutely hardcore.

We're hardcore because you are. ■

An award-winning publication

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Susan Hutchinson Bosch for
Outstanding Achievement

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

First Place, Personalities

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Second Place, Humor Writing
Honorable Mention, Minorities

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

First Place, General Reporting
First Place, Social Issues
First Place, Minorities
Third Place, Humorous Writing
Honorable Mention, Personalities

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

First Place, Social Issues
First Place, Education Reporting
First Place, Arts/Criticism News/Features
Second Place, Personalities

WASHINGTON PRESS ASSOCIATION

First Place, Education writing
First Place, Consumer Affairs News
Third Place, Minority Affairs
Third Place, Personalities

2004 2006 2007 2008 2009 2011

The Real Change News Staff

EDITOR

AMY ROE



Amy has worked as a web editor at KOMO News and as a reporter at the Seattle Times. She has received first place awards from the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association for news writing and agricultural reporting and a first place award from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) for reporting on Religion and Values.

ASSISTANT EDITOR

ROSETTE ROYALE



In addition to the four SPJ first place regional awards that Real Change Associate Editor Rosette Royale has received, he also earned the 2008 national SPJ Sigma Delta Chi award for his epic "Man Standing on the Bridge." This story of system failure started from a police blotter about an Aurora Bridge jumper and became a three-part in-depth series based upon numerous interviews and research into more than 600 pages of documents obtained from the Department of Corrections.

REPORTER

AARON BURKHALTER



Aaron Burkhalter is our staff reporter and comes to us from the Skagit Valley Herald where he was a daily reporter for more than three years. He has received a first place SPJ award for environmental coverage and first place in lifestyle reporting from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

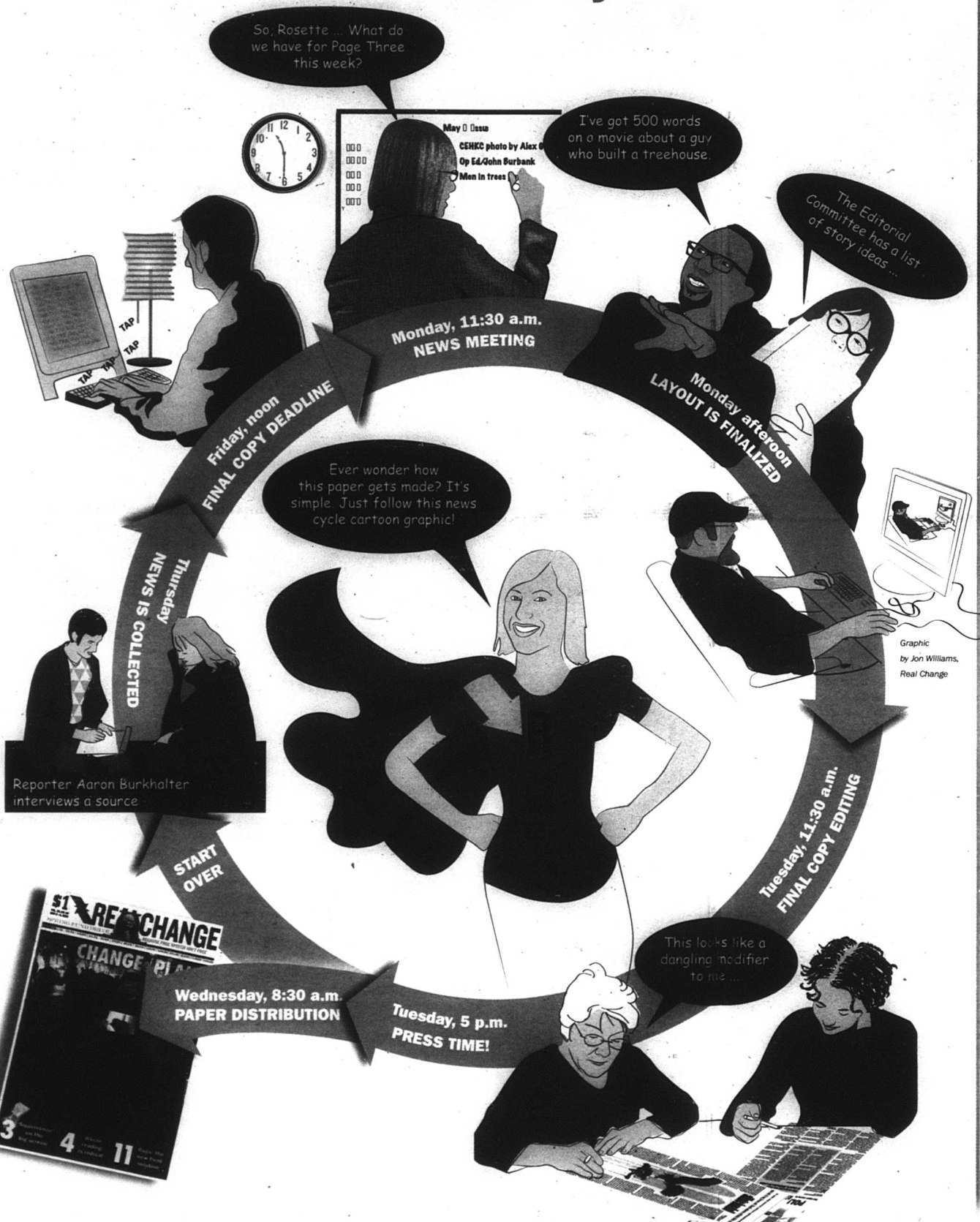
JON WILLIAMS



Jon Williams brings more than 25 years of design, layout, art and photography experience to Real Change. He has worked for several newspapers including The Kitsap Sun, The Rocky Mountain News and The Sacramento Bee. While at The Bee he won several front-page design awards from the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the Sacramento Bee Publisher's Award for innovative design. Jon has also been inducted into the Scripps Corporation's Journalism Hall of Fame for his outstanding newspaper design work at The Kitsap Sun.

The News Cycle





The Editorial Committee and Its Members



By WES BROWNING | Columnist

Ever wonder how Real Change newspapers are put together? There's an editorial department, run by Editor Amy Roe, it includes an assistant editor, a reporter and a graphic artist. There's the occasional intern. Volunteer writers accept assignments. In addition to all that there's the Editorial Committee, or the "EC." What's that about?

I'll tell what I can about the history of this EC thing, and I'll explain what it does.

I missed the very beginning of the EC by a month or two, so I'm a little unclear about the start-up. However, the idea was to provide grassroots input to the paper's content. At the very beginning, in the fall of 1994, there was no editor, no paid reporter, and no graphic artist, unless by all those positions you meant Timothy Harris, our founding director and only employee at the time.

So the EC was assembled by invitation. As the paper was going to focus on homelessness, calls went out to homeless services and their clients. When I joined the EC in its second or third month, there were maybe eight members. The paper came out monthly, and the EC met right after each issue. It reviewed the latest edition and considered where to take upcoming issues.

My own involvement in the EC happened because the committee had no private room to meet back then. So I was sitting around during one of their meetings and butted in. Instead of telling me to go away, they made the mistake of inviting me to join them.

That first meeting was quite a ride. A shouting match broke out. Two members walked out in the middle of the meeting. A third resigned afterward. The argument, as best as I can recall, was about who belonged more to an ethnic group than the others. Good times.

I have to mention a few long-time members of the EC that became involved around then. One was Michele "Give 'em hel' with one 'L!' Marchand, who was there at the start. Michele was without a doubt the most productive member the EC has ever had, until her work with SHARE/WHEEL became too demanding. My easy admission to the EC led me to tell a friend, poet Stan Burriss, after he expressed interest in joining, to just try and crash it. He did, and for 10 years we enjoyed his lectures on peace and warmth, hands and circles.

About a year after I joined, a certain Anitra Freeman showed up with a poem we liked, so we published it and tricked her into also joining the EC, where she remains.

After the rocky beginning the EC has

rarely had walk-outs, and never again two at one meeting. We now ask to get to know new applicants before making them official members. However, in the entire history of the EC only two people have been asked to leave. One, because we were spending too long explaining basic concepts, like "poor means you don't have enough money." The other, for not getting along. So it's hardly a closed club.

At first, meetings were lead by Timothy Harris. Later, when Real Change could afford to hire an editor, the facilitation was passed on to him or to an intern, for a while. During this period EC members were often asked to share in the writing. Anitra had set up a workshop she called StreetWrites, so vendors and other homeless people could enjoy writing. We put the workshop to good use by sending EC members who wanted help with their assignments.

Since then the goals of the EC have shifted. As more paid staff can now write stories or assign them to volunteers, the EC has been called upon to focus on coming up with ideas for stories.

As the EC changed, it became possible to seek more participation from Real Change vendors. The makeup of the committee varies from month to month, but the current group is typical. We have 14 members now, 10 of whom are vendors. All of us have been homeless in the past and about one-third of us are currently homeless.

A typical meeting might be spent talking about closing shelters, ideas for an issue centered around food, a recent death on the streets and who might know about it, or changes witnessed in local services. We'll discuss what we have learned about these, and what we'd like a writer to find out and report on in the paper.

Besides brainstorming, the EC also spends a little time in each meeting looking through the most recent paper for errors that might need correcting, or stories that suggest follow-up.

Then, every month or so, we go over unsolicited submissions of poetry and other writings. These are confidential sessions. A volunteer has previously blanked out the author's names on the submissions, so that we can vote to accept or reject blindly. Our acceptance is provisional—the editor makes the final decision.

Meetings are currently 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursdays in the Real Change conference room, 219 First Ave. S, Suite 220. Guests and applicants are welcome the last Thursday of every month. Real Change vendors have preference and may apply at any meeting. ■

Mary T. Andrews

Mary is Native American, a single mother, a former vendor who is currently going to college in Oregon and isn't around as often.

Wes Browning

Wes is the most publicly known of our committee, with a regular column in the paper. What is little known is that he lives a quantum existence in which he occupies many different times and spaces at random.

Anitra Freeman

Anitra is a raging granny, with all that entails. She is also a poet, a signer of official documents at SHARE/WHEEL and is the current secretary of the Real Change Board of Directors. She had something to do with radars and large Air Force computers in her past.

Joe Howard

Joe is a vendor. He traces his ancestry to the Cherokee Freedmen, descendants of unions between Cherokee tribal members and black slaves of the Cherokee freed after the Civil War.

Morrie

Morrie, one of our older vendors, is a former taxi driver, as Wes was (in one of his incarnations). Morrie owned his own cab. Wes lived in his own car, and rented a cab.

Catherine O'Neale

Catherine is one of our 600 Club vendors and also one of the most popular speakers in the Real Change Homeless Speakers Bureau.

Charles Oldham-Fifer

Charles is a new member of the EC.

Teresa Reeves

Teresa is active with WHEEL homeless women's organizing effort, Antioch Breakfast and Education Project and advocates for the rights of transsexuals. She also became a member of the Real Change Board of Directors in January 2012.

William Slonnach

William has been a vendor and EC member for about three months. If he has his way, we will be writing a lot more about the local music scene.

Randy Whitelock

Randy is a new member of the EC.

Tex

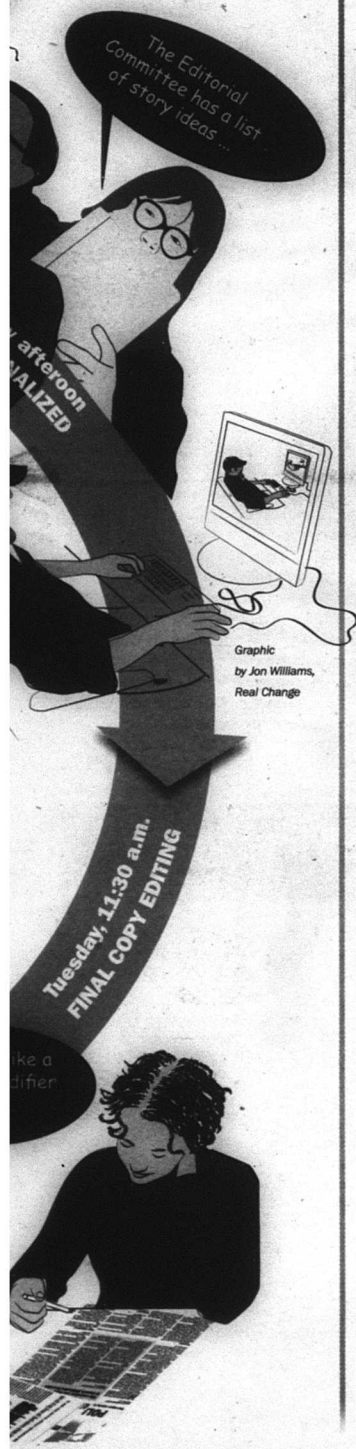
Tex is a veteran vendor and a long-time member of SHARE homeless organizing efforts. He has been to jail for justice three times, twice with Anitra. Tex was the one who finally got Anitra selling the paper after 17 years of volunteering.

Maya

Maya is a single mother and a member of the Yakima tribe. She gives us personal insight into two major local issues.

James

James sells Real Change in Bellevue, where he is also active in advocating for increased services for homeless people. On his vendor record, James spells his last name :!) to represent his mustache.



Seth Goodkind by Lucien Knuteson

Lucien Knuteson by Seth Goodkind



Volunteers separated at birth? We asked volunteer artist Seth Goodkind, who has created some of our most amazing covers, to draw volunteer photographer Lucien Knuteson for this page. Oh, and while Seth was drawing Lucien, we asked Lucien, whose wonderful images have also graced our covers, to take some pics of Seth.

Why I Write for Real Change

By JOE MARTIN | Contributing Writer

Change that is relentless, serious and seismic pervades our city and nation. Our country courses swiftly in a precarious direction. This turbulent twister of change makes some people wealthy and evermore convinced of the rightness of current trends. Others not so well placed are stunned and embittered when impersonal forces rob them of livelihoods and transform once thriving communities and whole regions into economic wastelands. Scattered to the periphery of society and beyond, a growing numbers of citizens find their

lives disconnected and uprooted. Increasing numbers have no prospect of a job and no place to call home except the shelters, the jails and the streets. Those forced to the edge find that daily bare-bones survival is truly a full-time job. The sick, addicted and destitute move about urban and suburban byways like shadow people.

How many care to notice and contemplate this momentous and disturbing drift and ponder its meaning for our time? While a vast segment of our society disintegrates, many still have the

luxury of a full immersion in private life and the pursuit of myriad interests and amusements. A plethora of distractions provides escape and blissful insulation from unpleasant realities. Exigent issues that unsettle routine and challenge the warm assurance of material comforts can be simply dismissed or ignored. Why reflect on alarming social and political trends when there is still so much fun and novelty to be had? Of course, ignoring the rot does not make it go away.

Real Change does not ignore the rot. For many years I have been writing piec-

es for Real Change. This newspaper does not hide or diminish the grim realities that overwhelm so many working class and impoverished citizens. Urgent issues of economic hardship, of homelessness and social injustice in its manifold guises get a full airing. And books that would not be touched by the mainstream press get informed reviews in these pages. In Real Change readers find a critical depth and point of view not found elsewhere in our local and regional press.

Real Change. Buy it. Read it. Share it and spread the word. ■

The vendor who sold you this paper works. So does Real Change. Please join them and help us in the fight against poverty and homelessness.

Real Change is a quality newspaper, organizing project and low barrier economic opportunity. Real Change works.

Every month, more than 350 homeless and vulnerably housed people earn money and build confidence by selling Real Change. We bring you community voices you won't hear elsewhere and quality in-depth reporting on stories often left out of other papers.

Real Change is reader supported in the same way that public radio and TV are listener- and viewer-supported. Last year more than 1,300 people helped make Real Change work even better by being donors and volunteers. Will you join them now?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Contact me about volunteering

☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other:

Make checks payable to Real Change and mail to: 219 First Ave. S. Suite 220 Seattle, WA 98104, or use our secure online giving option at realchange.org. Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.



Please let us know why you choose to invest in Real Change, by ranking your choices. Please circle 1, 2 or 3, with 1 being the most important and 3 being the least important.

- 1 2 3 Advocacy and political organizing work
1 2 3 Support Real Change vendors and homeless people
1 2 3 The newspaper/supporting independent media

1 2 3 Other reason (please list): _____