Where Are the Funds?: The coronavirus is shutting down nonprofit fundraising events | p.3

Necessary Steps: A Japanese dance troupe steps forward and showcases life on the streets | p.6

Book Review: ‘Reclaiming the Reservation,’ shows how a 1978 court decision impeded justice | p.8
Real Change shelters in place

Many people have asked me if it is a time of nearly unprecedented disruption and economic uncertainty and if there are agencies that are going to be OK. The short answer is: Whole lot don’t know, the answer to the former is easy: Yes. Our organization will be fine. One of the main reasons is that we have a steady core of support and our community has kept giving. Our core of support is more than 25 years deep. Our staff is committed and our partners and volunteers are resilient.

And our vendors are resilient. We have the coming weeks and months, we will all face serious challenges. As usual, the past few weeks are the worst yet to come. We will all be tested. We are called to act as a community. We value and protect each other. We are interconnected, and actions that each one of us take matters.

This week, Real Change was faced with one of the hardest decisions we’ve ever made. As a newspaper and a survival nonprofit, Real Change is considered an essential service. From our reporters to our distributors to our front-line staff, we would be within the law if we continued to operate for-profit.

But that won’t be right. The window that exists to slow the spread of COVID-19 is closing now, and each of us must do our part.

And while we recognize that our dependence on street sale to support our daily operations may make this decision seem harsh, we know you have other priorities and we can’t impose that need on you.

If you are in a position to support our work—please do. Through your subscription, your donation, or your purchase of a copy of Real Change.

Real Change exists to provide opportunity to people while taking action for economic, social and racial justice.

Real Change is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

www.realchangenews.org

You can support your vendor through Venmo by entering our account @Real-Change and entering your vendor’s name and badge number in the notes field. If you don’t see your vendor here, the list at tnyvr.com/venmovenor is being updated as vendors opt in. You may also call 206-441-3247 x221 for assistance.

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Support your vendors through Venmo

You can support your vendor, even if you don’t see them for a while. Venmo them, support the paper without cash, and, in times of pandemic, allows you support them from your own home.

Make your payment to Real-Change and note the name and badge number of the vendor you want to support. If you don’t know their name or badge number, call them, let them know you support them, and further assistance is available by contacting Real Change.

Reader Support

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**NEWS**

The crashing economy

“...the report reads.

...to the negative impacts of this trade and commerce further exposes our...”

...partnership with the Business Health Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, in every corner of Washington’s economy, are laid off and the ability to spend money...many businesses are shuttered, workers...delivery.

...offers only takeout orders and de-

...close contact like barbers and nail salons...Before that, many businesses that require...many businesses that require...Gov. Jay Inslee formally ordered Wash-

...money have increased as the severity of...Washingtonians can travel, work and spend...rate the economic pain.

...40 percent of employees...the totality of the restrictions means...as many as 40 percent of employees in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties are likely to be affected, according to the report. Based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 961,800 workers in those counties are in industries that are at risk in the immediate and short terms...Demand expanded and emergency insurance...to previously ineligible workers to help bridge the gaps in the social safety net...that caused a spike in unemployment insurance claims. According to weekly data released by the state, initial claims more than doubled in a week from 1,568 in the week ending March 7 to 14,245 the following week.

...contract workers and those who work in the gig economy — think Uber drivers and their own driver dog walkers — do not receive government support when their work demand...were ordered to close, and restaurants could offer only takeout orders and de-

...the impact on those households could be dire, and there are a lot of them. While statistics on informal work are...in short supply, as much as 9 percent of Washington’s workforce participates in independent contact work.

...the building of these dams disturbed extraneous wealth, growth and long-last-

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...the city of Seattle. The destruction of the Skagit sent cheap power through miles of transmission lines south to the city, spurring economic growth and the building of infrastructure, which was the foundation of Seattle becoming one of the greatest cities in the American West. Today, your staff can continue to claim that the Skagit dams have little or no impact to the tribe and salmon. This is the type of attitude we have come to ex-

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...the Upper Skagit people and our salmon. I want you to know this brings me great...I wanted you to know this brings me great...I wanted you to know this brings me great...I wanted you to know this brings me great...I wanted you to know this brings me great...I wanted you to know this brings me great pain and sorrow every day.

...and Pierce counties through Q3 2019.

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...and Pierce counties through Q3 2019.
For over a decade, Japanese dance troupe has showcased life on the streets

**THIS DANCE IS NOT A FLASH MOB**

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

The N in the group's name stands for human, hope and homeles.

'Sokerissa' is derived from 'sore iki,' meaning 'to step forward.'

By MIE NAKAMURA | The Big Issue Japan

Newcomer H Sokerissa came together in 2007 for the love of dance. The renowned group is comprised of people who have worked as professional choreographers and dancers and people with varied strong connections to the artform. The troupe's members also have a shared experience: Each dancer in Newcomer H Sokerissa is either currently or formerly homeless. Some of its members are vendors for the street newspaper Big Issue Japan.

The group stages performances on busy city streets, inspiring big effects for those who pass by — who often stop, mesmerized, without looking away.

A new documentary, 'The Dancing Homeless,' depicts the group's performances and day-to-day activities and will be released this month in Japan. The documentary is the first feature by director Wataru Miura, who filmed Newcomer H Sokerissa for the past 15 months.

“I came across Sokerissa online by chance,” Miura said. “I learned that its members were currently and former homeless individuals, so at first I assumed it was some kind of social rehabilitation program. But when I watched a video of them dancing, and I was really blown away.”

Where it matters in film, Sokerissa head Yuki Aoki requested that Miura show the group’s members “as they are.”

“It would be possible, if that was his intention, to show Sokerissa’s members as heroes overcoming life on the streets,” Aoki explained. “But we aren’t heroes or good guys. I wanted to avoid it becoming that kind of film.

“That sort of treatment might be welcomed on TV,” Miura added, “but I didn’t want to show homeless individuals as pitiable or as victims cut off from society.”

Sokerissa’s members have various reasons for living on the streets: Matsumi Koiso, 70, a former Big Issue Japan vendor, says he has been running away all his life; Shinshiro Hakakawa, 45, left home at 15; Masato Yokouchi, 56, another former vendor, became ill and lost his job.

Shuichiro Hirakawa, 49, left home at 15; Maggie Kato, 65, a former Big Issue Japan vendor, says he has been running away all his life; Masato Yokouchi, 56, another former vendor, became ill and lost his job.

But when I watched a video of them dancing, I felt the importance of genuine, natural and raw dialogue through movement. The expressions made by ‘bodies on the streets’ are essential in our current era.

Miura’s desire to first and foremost capture the group’s dancing is evident in his documentary. A performance by Sokerissa fills the film’s last 13 minutes — and it’s the crowning moment of a story that Miura hopes viewers will make up their minds about Sokerissa.”

Miura’s desire to portray the members as fellow humans living through the same moment in time, their life experiences expressed through their dance, and I saw them change even during the time I spent filming.”

— Wataru Miura, documentary filmmaker

Watch the trailer: https://thedancing homeless.com (Japanese only); translated courtesy of INSP.org
BOOK REVIEW: Reclaiming the Reservation: Histories of Indian Sovereignty Suppressed and Renewed
By Alexandra Harmon | 2019 | University of Washington | Paperback | 424 pages | $35

In 1978, the Supreme Court ruled that Native tribes cannot enforce laws on white people on reservations.

We would have endless energy if we learned to harness stupid.

Every morning, I try to think of the worst thing that might happen by the end of the day. Last night, it almost always happens.

As I’ve said here often, my principal hobby in life is the study of stupidity, a science I personally invented. I’ve been making great progress.

One of the stupidest ideas, even in good times, is the notion that homeless people should all try to get into shelters because authorities say it will be good for the homeless. It would be good for politicians if homeless people were in shelters and out of sight.

How stupid is that? Well, let’s think about it. Do shelters keep people out of sight 24/7? No. There are many shelter beds in King County to help the roughly 2,000 homeless people who are crammed into three shelters by the very first word, right? No shelter means no abatement. So, a violation arises by the most stupid interpretation of “shelter-in-place” possible as it applies to homeless people. For a homeless person to be in compliance with a shelter-in-place order would entail that person be living in a shelter. If eight streets in the expression “shelter-in-place,” in the very first word, right? No shelter means no abatement. So, a violation occurs.

If people interpret such an order that way, the only thing that could happen is that some shelter beds be filled. And then people who cannot find the shelter beds will be good for the authorities.

About 24 years ago, I came up with a fraud in the system. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. Maybe $1,000. He could call it a stimulus package.

If Biden is nominated, I might wonder if he could try this forfeit of Trump’s. I wouldn’t right out and ask Biden to bribe me. I’d just wonder about it, and what the amount might be in gross. Maybe $1,000. He could call it a stimulus package.

Seriously, the Trump beko will only work with citizens who can’t find the pea in a shell game played within shelter. The average American 45 or over who has a retirement fund had $60,000 in January. That’s dropped by a minimum of $8,000 in the two months since $2,000,000 isn’t going to replace what they’ve lost.

As a matter of fact, I may well never look a gift horse in the mouth. A bad thing is good for someone, it usually means no sheltering. So, a violation.

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ECONOMY Continued from Page 4

percent of its jobs disappear overnight, leaving many people without work, said Christine Ryffel, director of operations at MWC.

"We had six events this month: Dragon Age, Secret of H.U.M. Ryffel said.

Those workers do food prep, concessions and cleaning.

The organization lets workers at 6 a.m., when they go to work for updates. A few patrons gathered on the bottom floor, staggering their chairs to avoid transmission of the virus. Jack Nance was waiting up to see if it would be called a job. Once he has a non-violent felony on his record that’s prevented him from applying for employment in the national defense service, Jack Nance was waiting up to see if it would be called a job. Once he has a non-violent felony on his record that’s prevented him from applying for employment in the national defense service.

Nance has an apartment, but he’s afraid he’ll lose it. There hasn’t been work at MWC for his wrecks as an employee. Nance spoke to Real Change before Mayor Jenny Durkan declared a moratorium on rent-based evictions, but he wasn’t comforted by the possibility because it wouldn’t.

He was already making plans to sell his belongings so he would have cash in his pocket if he became homeless once again. That money would be crucial to ensure that he didn’t find himself in desperate straits, he said.

"I'm not going back to prison," Nance said.

Durkan put a moratorium on rent-based evictions last March, a move that allows states more flexible use of Medicaid funds, the health care program for low-income people.

The federal government needs to move more aggressively to help state cope with the emergency and shore up the national economy, which has been in a freefall, during the pandemic, said Christine Rylko.

"I say, 'Well, for one thing, this is not a good news story,'" Rylko said.

She then shared the story of how she was able to help save a family from eviction last week. The family had been working at MWC for him for weeks as jobs opened. Durkan ordered a federal moratorium on rent-based evictions.

"They didn't have to pay the medical bills and they would work 75 days and lay them off to bring in some- body else. Labor is a dying art.

I've been and raised in Seattle, it was kind of a mixed bag to get through the coronavirus," Rylko said.

"It's a hard word to anybody down here. That's got to be the most important thing we can do," Rylko said.

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From Greek street paper Shedia

ALERT! STAY AT HOME!

From greek street paper Shedia

HERE’S THE SITUATION!
THIS LINE IS HERE...
BUT IT’S GOING UP TOURED HERE...

SO THINGS WILL BE BAD...
UNLESS SOMEONE DOES
SOMETHING TO STOP IT.

SO ANYONE DO THAT?

WE DON’T KNOW
THAT’S WHY WE’re SHOWING YOU THIS...

SO YOU DON’T KNOW
AND THE GRAPHS SAY
THINGS ARE NOT BAD...
BUT IF NO ONE ACTS, THEY’LL
BECOME BAD...

WELL, PLEASE LET ME
KNOW IF THAT HAPPENS!
BASED ON THIS CONVERSATION,
IT ALREADY HAS.

HOW TO PAY

When you buy a paper from a vendor on the street, click the icon in the upper right with a dollar sign on it.

Enter “Real Change” or “@Real-Change”

Click on the Real Change icon.

Enter $2 for the paper, tips are welcome.

Type the vendor’s name and badge number in the box that says, “What’s it for?”

Hit “pay.”

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We are all Children of the Same Universe

Pres. Chaplain - George Freeman

Independent Eyewear
For Independent Minds.

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