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Shame, Blame, and
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is a Washington State
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Real Change is published the first of each month, and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle.

Submissions are encouraged and should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247.

Tacoma Office: 1417 S. G St., Tacoma, WA 98405, (253) 572-4247 or 572-6582

On the Web at <http://www.speakeasy.org/realchange>
Email rchange@speakeasy.org
ISSN 1085-729X

Annual subscriptions (24 Issues) are available for \$35, and support *Real Change*. All material copyrighted to author.

Real Change vendors receive 70¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

MISSION STATEMENT

Organize, educate, and build alliances to find community-based solutions to homelessness and poverty.

Goals

- 1.) provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.
- 2.) publish the views of marginalized communities.
- 3.) create direct economic opportunity.
- 4.) build bridges with a broad range of allies in the struggle against poverty.

Editorial Policy

Articles appearing in *Real Change* reflect the opinion and perspective of the author. We encourage the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction, poetry and artwork, and hope to create a forum where the many perspectives that exist regarding poverty and homelessness can find expression. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit any material for length and style. Articles considered libelous or which encourage violence, sexism, homophobia, or racism will not be considered for publication.

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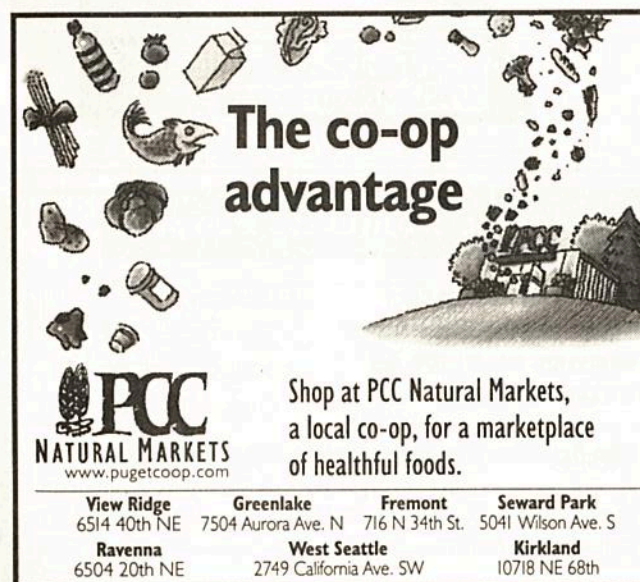
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Vendor of the Month

James Lee Rainee

Though originally from San Mateo, California, 45 year-old James Lee Rainee, like many others before him, came to Seattle in search of better work and a better life. After the uncertainty of temp work and day labor jobs became too much ("I never knew when I would have work and when I would not"), James found his way to *Real Change*.

Though homeless now for the past 2 years, says James, "The paper has helped keep me off the streets. *Real Change* has given me the opportunity to make some money for myself, and it has helped me to buy food, clothing, and to keep up my appearance."

"Without the paper, a lot of people would be hurting. *Real Change* is the most practical form of income for poor and homeless people."

James would like to give thanks to all those who have supported and inspired him through his time here. "I appreciate all the customers, especially the University students who have helped me. They ain't got much, but when they can give, they give. They have all been wonderful."

As our March vendor of the month, James receives a \$25 prize and a gourmet dinner for two at Common Meals. Our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. James Rainee! 📧



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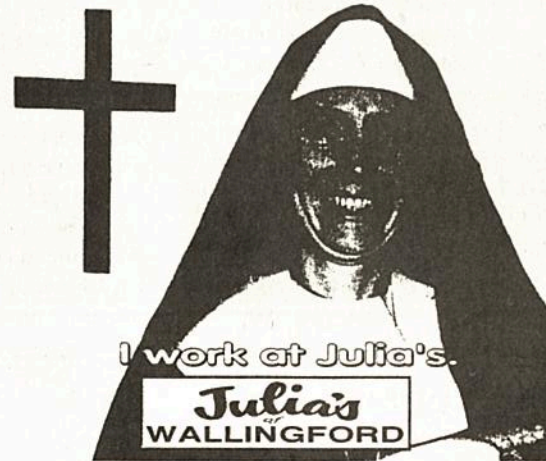
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Readers React

Real Change Survey Say's We're On Track

Last December, *Real Change* mailed a survey to 800 of our closest friends. We asked how we are doing, and what we could do better. More than 20% of them were good enough to fill out the 4-page survey and mail it back. We thought you'd be interested in the results.

Timothy Harris

It needs to be said that our respondents were our fans. We don't really know what the people who don't buy our paper think. Nor do we know, really, what the people who rarely buy our paper think. 82% of respondents said they always or almost always get every issue of *Real Change*. 89% of these people read all or most of the paper.

The most striking result of our survey is the almost complete lack of support for more "popular" content. Our most dedicated supporters felt overwhelmingly neutrally or negatively about celebrity interviews, and movie, music and restaurant reviews. The one exception was that most people supported the idea of book reviews, as long as they were relevant to our focus on poor people's issues.

More than 80% of respondents said they were very interested in our coverage of poverty issues and community activism.

Receiving similarly high ratings was our coverage of successful poor people's programs. 92% said they were very interested in first hand stories by poor and homeless people.

As a result, we've redoubled our commitment to providing quality journalism and analysis on the issues that matter to our readers. We are also working on developing our StreetWrites writers workshop for poor and homeless people.

Readers supported every aspect of our paper, although opinion was more divided on some topics than others. Our readers either love or hate our poetry section, although many commented that they find some of the best poetry around in our paper. While we realize it's not for everyone, we like our poetry fans and want them to be happy.

Even the suggestions for improvement were overwhelmingly supportive. Again, readers were clear that they wanted to find their entertainment journalism elsewhere, and that we should keep to the niche we've established. As one person put it, "Don't try to be everything to everyone. ... Reviews are in every paper. Unless they fit into the empowerment/activism picture, don't clutter the pages with them." Another summed it up as "Keep it grassroots and don't get slick."

Many respondents said they would like *Real Change* to be even more activist that we are.

Real Change remains dedicated to our mission: "Organize, educate, and build alliances to find community-based solutions to homelessness and poverty." As part of that, we

want to publish the best publication that we possibly can.

We can't do this without your help. We're a poor people's publication that runs on a shoestring. Please consider making a donation today to help us keep up the fight.

Many respondents commented on what moved them most about *Real Change*. I'll close with their comments:

"Your voice should be loud. It's a great way for vendors to get work and for me to contribute money."

"A fresh perspective on our very materialistic privileged society."

"You are a wonderful voice for the poor, for activism and dignity. I am a have, and yet I feel much richer when I read your paper. We should all be fighting for a better world and a better deal for the poor. Keep doing what you're doing."

"I like looking your vendors in the eye and treating them with respect."

"I like RC's evolving identity as a poor people's paper, with the realization that that majority of us work."

"I am very interested in hunger, homelessness, poverty. I find entertainment articles in other magazines and newspapers. I look forward to each new issue."

"I like the chance to feel what the poor feel."

"I like what it means to the people who sell it."

"I like people's experiences and stories."

"I like buying the paper from real people."

"I like Dr. Wes Browning a lot."

"I like the social realism of stories by the homeless."

"I like the courteous, personal, and upbeat manner of most vendors."

"I like the strong and honest vibrant voice of people whom I may see but do not know. Their sharing makes me feel close to them."

"I love it. We do have a voice if we use it. Powerful." ☺

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The Carrot and the Stick

Street Drunk Plan Saves the Best for Last

By TIMOTHY HARRIS

Patrick Vanzo says that Seattle has about 1,000 Persons who are Chronically Publicly Inebriated. The hefty reports he generates over at Seattle-King County Public Health terms them "PCPIs," as in the sentence, "services for the PCPI population, described by both MH and A/D systems, are fragmented and limited in scope."

Those of us not up on the latest terminology just call them "street drunks."

In recent years, street alcoholism has been recognized as a serious public health concern, as well as what City Attorney Mark Sidran has termed a "civility issue." In response, King County Executive Ron Sims convened a work group, led by Vanzo, that includes human service providers, law enforcement, the business community, health care workers, and others to find long-term, multi-disciplinary solutions to this difficult issue.

After numerous meetings involving, in all, more than 200 people, this group has begun to take action. While the work group has recommended many long-term solutions to street alcoholism, the action plan has been criticized as an attempt to clean up the downtown's image while offering little other than business as usual for those who seek treatment.

"I think a good part of the Sims plan is based on aesthetic considerations," said Joe Martin, a social worker at Pike Place Market Clinic. "I'm not sure it addresses the problem." While a new sobering center is scheduled to open this summer, Martin believes this is an insufficient beginning.

"The sobering center is a pennywise, pound foolish approach. It's not a solution to addiction; it's an aesthetic solution to get people off the street," he said. More substantial solutions, said Martin, will take

more money, and it is far from clear whether the commitment for this exists.

Drying Up Seattle

To all but process insiders, the Sims plan debuted last January when a campaign was publicly initiated to dry up the City's supply of cheap fortified wine and 40-ounce malt liquors.

Through the use of Good Neighbor Agreements, Vanzo hopes that neighborhood stores will voluntarily stop selling these products. A good deal of politicking has taken place to see that the Liquor Control Board leans on stores that do not comply.

While Vanzo will not disclose how many stores have already signed GNAs, he hopes that 80% of the stores in question, in an area running along Elliott Bay from the International District to Lower Queen Anne, will sign the agreements within the next two months.

Downtown Emergency Service Center Director Bill Hobson, an advocate for the plan and a member of the work group, points out that "in discussions about this plan, the phrase 'carrot and stick' crops up a lot."

Many work group members hope that product regulation and expanded police authority, combined with increased access to treatment, job training, housing, and services, will significantly change the way the downtown looks while offering sick people the resources they need to recover.

Yet critics worry that the stick has already begun to outpace the carrot. Other aspects of the plan that would fall under the heading of "stick" include changing the law to make first-time public drinking a jailable offense, and loosening the definition of who may be involuntarily committed to include those who are "gravely disabled."

"It's not like trying to solve the mystery of cancer or AIDS ... We understand this. We just don't provide adequate funding."

—Joe Martin

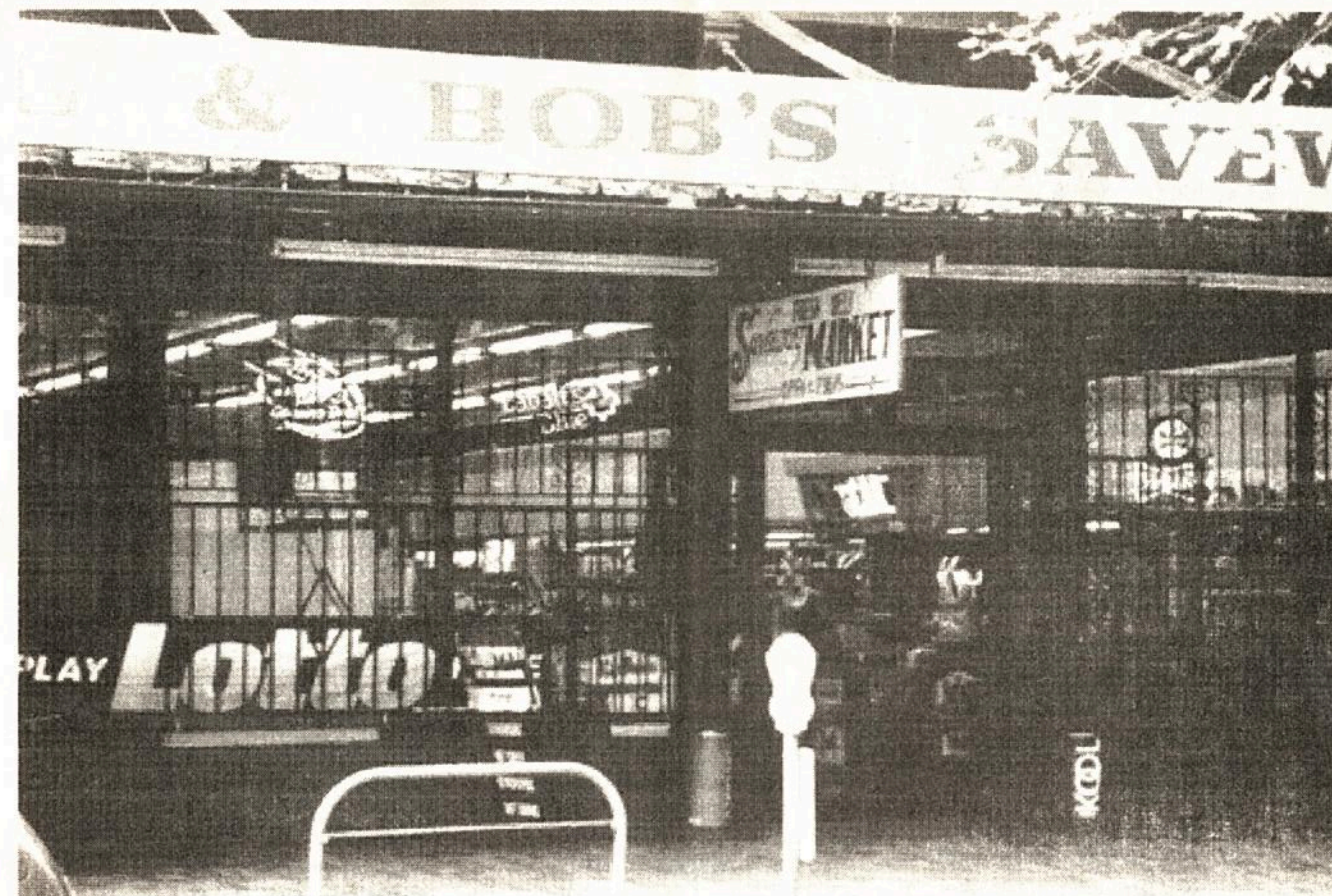
Expanded services will be expensive, and much remains to be done before our underfunded treatment system comes close to meeting demand. In the meanwhile, pressure for street drunks to move on has already started.

Shuffling Things Around

Social workers like Joe Martin say their clients are caught in a "revolving door," where treatment options are scarce and support almost nonexistent. He describes a homeless man who has tried for two weeks to get inpatient treatment for alcoholism. He faithfully shows up for all of his interviews and checks in regularly by phone. "I don't know how many more weeks it will be," said Martin.

"Often people honestly want to stop, and they come to us to try to get into a program, and that's where they hit the wall. Withdrawal is horrible. It's life-threatening. When you present people with a brick wall instead of a door, it's not surprising that they sometimes turn away," he said.

Martin said that while there is much agreement on what services are needed to effectively treat alcoholism and drug addiction, the current treatment system is



underfunded. "It's not like trying to solve the mystery of cancer or AIDS," said Martin. "We understand this. We just don't provide adequate funding."

He remains skeptical that the Sims plan will attract the dollars it needs to go much beyond paper, and believes the Good Neighbor approach just drives people out of town. "Targeting stores sends a message all-right," said Martin, "but it's not 'sober up.' It's 'go somewhere else.'"

Bill Hobson at DESC said the problem with existing treatment services is that "flow doesn't exist." Rather than going into treatment and then moving on to other support services and independence, clients cycle through the same steps again and again. "Case management doesn't exist. It's existed in a few pilot programs that were successful, but these programs close after the research funding goes away."

The True Way?

Vanzo and others involved with the Sims plan acknowledge that much of the inspiration for Seattle's approach is based on Portland's success in dealing with street alcoholics. Some say that in Oregon,

product regulation, street outreach, treatment, and the creation of housing has produced dramatic results for Portland's downtown core.

According to Central City Concerns Director Richard Harris, Portland's inebriate outreach vans used to make between 5,000 and 6,000 pick-ups annually in that city's downtown core. Now, five years after initiating intensified services, the vans have greatly increased the territory they cover and project fewer than 2,000 pick-ups for next year.

"The reduction is partly because Good Neighbor Agreements have scattered people out," said Harris. "But it's also because people have gotten into treatment. Alcohol and drug free housing extends the time that people remain sober and provides a supportive environment for recovery." Harris said that 452 units of housing have been provided for chronic public inebriates in Portland since 1990.

Chuck Currie, the Co-Chair of the Oregon Housing Now! Coalition, is somewhat more critical of the Portland model, but is still very supportive. "The focus here is on sobering centers," he said.

"There's definitely not enough alcohol and drug treatment available, although there are good programs for people in recovery. Our street outreach vans are like emergency shelters: they save lives, but they don't really get people off the street."

Harris, who has worked with street drunks in Portland's downtown core for 18 years, says that Good Neighbor Agreements alone may actually make the problem worse. "People who are addicted will find a way. When the bans went into effect people switched to cheap vodka, and even Lysol."

"This makes the inebriates harder to find and actually endangers them. People get pissed off when you move the problem around. It just makes it hard on the inebriate and generates more fear and loathing in the public. Banning substances shouldn't be mistaken for a real solution. People need treatment and housing."

While Bill Hobson would agree with that sentiment, he also believes that tolerance for street drunks in Seattle is beginning to wear thin. "I believe that Vanzo, Sims, and others want to make housing, treatment, and survival services

Continued to page 24

I-688 Kicks Off

An Honest Day's Pay for an Honest Day's Work

JANICE PRICE

In the late morning drizzle of St. Valentine's day people gathered under the front awning of Carpenters' Hall, talking quietly together while waiting for the door to be unlocked. On this day of love, usually celebrated with flowers and chocolate, these men and women were showing devotion of a stouter sort: they were giving their time and energy to ensure that all people working in Washington State will receive a living wage for their labor.

At 11:30 the door swung open and the kickoff for Initiative 688—the Paycheck Protection Act—was officially underway. Initiative 688 seeks to raise the state's minimum wage to \$6.50 an hour by the year 2000, and by 2001 automatically tie it to the annual inflation rate. Washington State has the lowest minimum wage on the West Coast: \$4.90 per hour compared to California's \$5.75 and Oregon's \$6.00. Even if a Washington worker made the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour, she or he would earn little more than \$10,000 annually for full-time work. This wage puts a family of four 30% below the federal poverty level.

About 70 people walked through the door and into the presentation room. There were children towing heart-shaped balloons, men carrying toddlers, union members retired and active, union organizers, students, and other people like me—curious and supportive. Sympathetic politicians lent their encouraging presence: Frank Chopp of the 43rd legislative district and Steve Conway of the 29th legislative district both attended.

Bob Swanson of the Washington State Association of Community Action Agencies moderated the event. When he asked what groups were represented, the answer was a good-natured cacophony of names: Washington State Jobs with Justice, Interface Alliance, Washington State Association of Churches, farm workers from Yakima Valley, ILWU, OPEIU, SEIU, Worthy Wages, Washington Works, Freedom Socialist Party, Washington Citizen Action, and many others.

The purpose of a mandated minimum wage is to assure "the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well-being of workers." A wage of \$4.90 an hour cannot and does not fulfill this purpose, and food banks and homeless shelters in Washington State have noticed an alarming increase in the number of employed people seeking assistance. Workers are asking why businesses should be allowed to pay wages so low that taxpayers and charities are forced to take up the slack.

Acting as enthusiastic cheerleader to the crowd, Althea Burke-Lute, Vice President of the Washington State Labor Council, announced the Council's unequivocal support for I-688 and foretold strong voter support in the November ballot.

Roger Yockey of the Washington State Association of Churches emphasized that workers are not begging, but simply seek the just wages that they deserve. He reminded everyone that a little more than 10 years ago the US Catholic Bishops in their pastoral letter entitled "Economic Justice for All," wrote that workers who add to the wealth of the community should share in the prosperity they helped create. His simple declaration that workers who produce the food we eat have at least as much dignity and worth as the CEO of a large corporation brought applause and cheers.

Then it was time to get down to business. The supporters of Initiative 688 must collect 225,000 signatures by July 2, 1998 to get the initiative onto the November ballot. Steve Zemke took the floor. He emphasized that although he is a paid campaign director, this initiative is a grassroots movement. Unlike some past initiative campaigns, the signature gatherers will not be paid. Volunteer effort, he said, is "part of our responsibility in a democracy."

Attendees paid close attention as Steve, through a combination of instruction and role-playing, taught them how to gather signatures on a petition. Then they perused wall posters listing times and places needing signature gatherers, and gently mobbed campaign staff to get their petitions.

Less than half an hour after leaving the meeting, I met volunteers gathering signatures in Belltown. Almost a quarter of a million signatures is a lot to garner in just five months, but if dedication and enthusiasm can do the job, the volunteers of Initiative 688 campaign will get it done. ☐

—For more information, call the Paycheck Protection Coalition, 256-6391

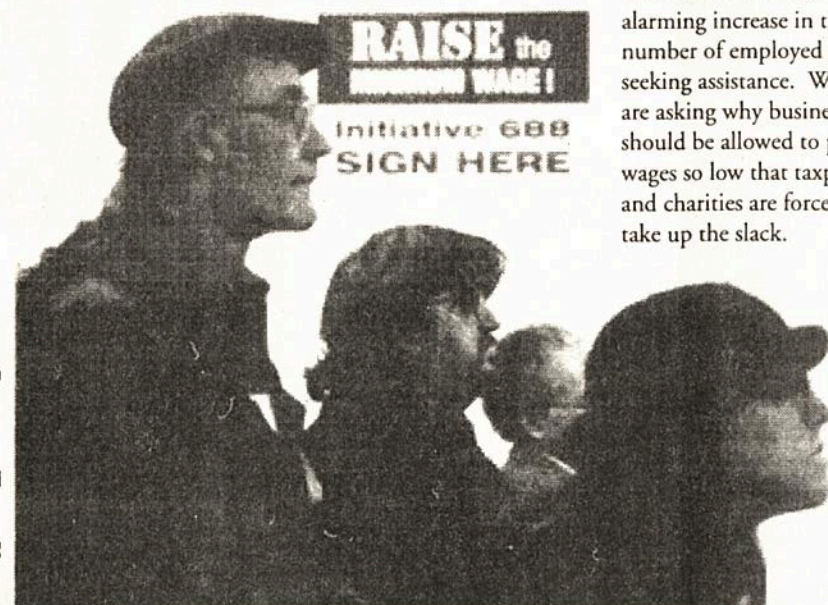


PHOTO BY TAWNY YOUNG

An Addict's Life

Blame, Shame, and Heroin in Seattle

I'm 34, white, and college educated, and I am a heroin addict. I have fought addiction since I was a girl, when I got hooked on codeine that was prescribed for severe migraines. I got hooked by 13.

When one pill didn't work anymore, I upped the dose to 2 or 3 pills to get the same relief. At 13, I knew I was hooked, and began my fight against narcotic pain medication. I have never had a denial problem. I successfully got off the codeine, but only by substituting about 20 Exedrin per day.

I have had a lifelong battle with opiate addiction, although I have managed to stay clean for years at a time. With the help of treatment programs, God, and NA and AA, I have learned that drug addiction is not a defect of character. It is an illness. As my migraines are a hereditary illness, so is my disease of addiction.

At 25, I had major surgery to patch up perforated ulcers. I nearly died from that. I was given morphine, and once again became hooked. Later, I had two foot surgeries, which required yet more pain pills.

Eventually, I left Seattle to try to stop taking painkillers. There were many doctors here that would prescribe drugs for me with just a phone call. I went to Las Vegas, but instead of quitting cold turkey, I turned to heroin.

I sweated it out in a hotel room for four days, and virtually lost control of all my bodily functions. I was fooling myself that I could quit that way. I needed treatment, but the great insurance that paid for every pill I took didn't pay for chemical dependency.

I realize this sounds like I think I'm a victim. Believe me, I hold myself 100% accountable for every choice I've ever made, including sticking a needle in my arm that first time at the age of 30.

I hate myself. I've paid dearly for this addiction. It has cost me a lot. I've lost the respect of virtually all my life-long friends and family. I've lost my self respect, my health, and my God-given natural beauty.

I've made no secret of this problem to my family and friends. They still love me, but at a distance. I haven't seen my childhood best friend since doing my first shot of heroin 3 years ago. She supported me through all the pills, but saying the word 'heroin' to people is such a taboo, it's like saying 'incest.'

I've managed to get my habit down to a quarter gram, about \$20 worth, a day. If I try to quit altogether, I spiral into horrible withdrawal and depression, which always makes me take more. So right now, I'm safer doing \$10 worth in the morning, and \$10 worth at night. It's not enough to produce a "high," but it keeps me from feeling sick.

I go to frequent NA meetings. They accept me, do not judge me, and say "Keep coming back. It works."

A few nights ago, a heavily armed 10-man SWAT team broke my door down with a battering ram. They got a report my boyfriend and I were dealing dope, which we honestly are not. They found a quarter gram of heroin. Not the quarter ounce or quarter kilo they expected.

They trashed our tidy Queen Anne apartment, scared the wits out of us and our neighbors, and confiscated the \$670 that was our rent and bill money. My boyfriend had worked more than 60 hours for that money. They took both of us to jail.

My boyfriend was released when his urinalysis came up clean. He's in treatment and has been passing for more than a year now. After I'd been in jail a week, he wiped out our savings to bail me out for \$500. I could have sat there for two months on a simple possession charge for a \$20 bag of heroin.

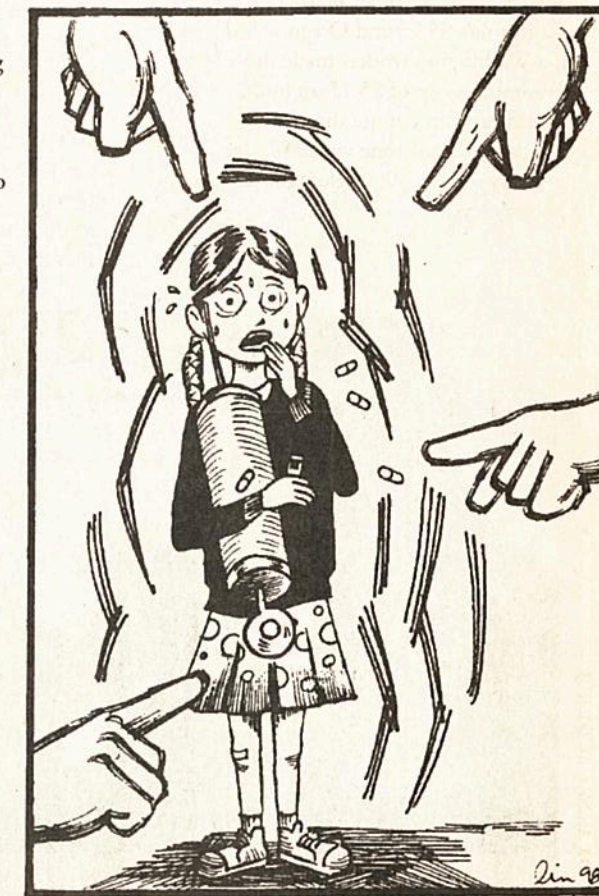
He's working hard to earn money for us. We're being evicted, so we have to get the money to move. We might get back the \$670, since he can show a paystub. But still, it's going to take some time for the case to go to court.

I'll go to drug court as a first time felon, and maybe it's a blessing in disguise. You see, if they court order treatment for me, they have to pay for it. I've never been able to afford real treatment.

The cops said "You're the enemy." They kicked my pet bird's cage and told me that I'm a horrible mother to her. They were sure mad as hell to just find that tiny bag.

I guess God has a purpose for everything. ☐

—The author has asked to remain anonymous



GRAPHIC BY LIN LUCAS

“They Call Me Bix” Talkin’ about Trouble with a Disobedient Jesuit

INTERVIEW BY MICHELE MARCHAND

Bill Bichsel was born and raised in Tacoma. He has been a priest with the Society of Jesus for more than 50 years, and has been involved in numerous social justice movements. He was recently sentenced to six months in Federal prison for actions connected to the campaign to close the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He goes back to Georgia for a felony trial in March.

“They call me Bix,” he said. “I’m growing old in the Catholic Worker movement, and drawing hope and inspiration for the people all the time.” Last week Bix spent the day at St. Martin’s on

Westlake, a housing community for older men. This interview was a collective effort of *Real Change* and Westlake staff and residents.

RC: Can you tell us a little bit about the Catholic Worker movement and Dorothy Day?

Bix: Right now I’m at the Tacoma Catholic Worker—Guadalupe House. We’ve been a Catholic Worker since 1979. We take in the poor and homeless, live in community with them, and those who come to be Catholic Workers as staff live in voluntary poverty. No one gets a salary; we live basically on donations or what little things we can do to earn money. We’ve turned a

lot of vacant lots around our place into gardens and we’re into selling vegetables. Basically we live a lot on what comes from other people.

In the tradition of Dorothy Day we try to be advocates for the poor, and especially to speak against violence in our nation. In Tacoma we are involved in resisting the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Living in the tradition of Dorothy Day is trying to live out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Walk the walk and talk the talk, trying to do that as she did that. Each house is autonomous; it has its own flavor. The population they offer hospitality to depends a lot on where they are. Some take in women

and children, some AIDS patients, elderly.

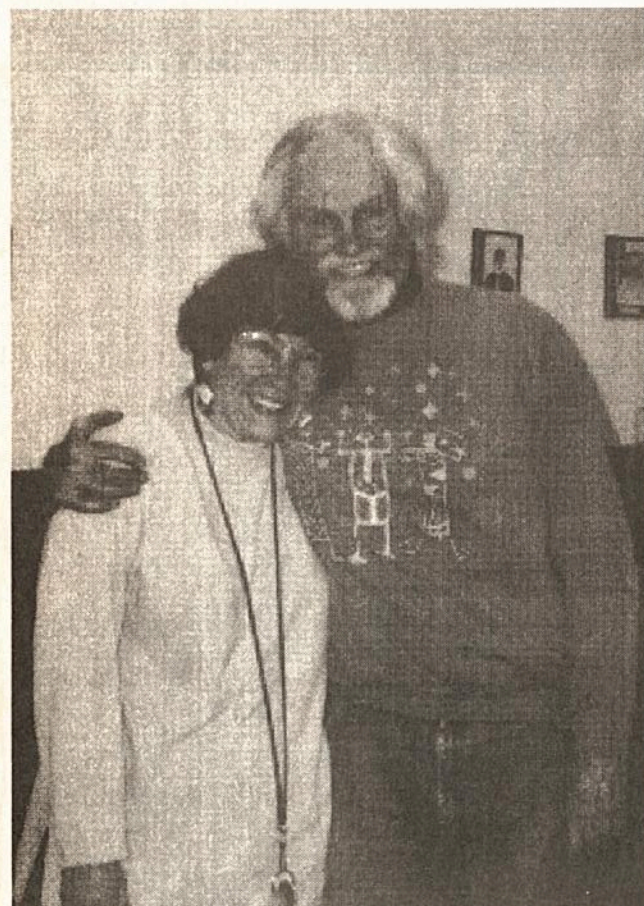
Dorothy Day was a journalist and a writer. She started the Catholic Worker paper in 1933 with the help of Peter Maurin. The two of them were co-founders of the Catholic Worker movement. The paper was very instrumental in touching a lot of people about what the Gospel is really about, what the mission of the church is. Oftentimes she would be in conflict with the hierarchy of the church because she was walking the walk and talking the talk and that really wasn’t happening on their side of street.

RC: One of my favorite quotes from her is “All of our problems stem from our acceptance of this dirty rotten system.”

Bix: Amen. We live by that.

RC: How bad is it for homeless people in Tacoma today?

Bix: There’s a big pressure for development in downtown Tacoma with the University of Washington branch campus and with the revitalization of downtown. Of course the first ones they want to go are the poor.



BILL BICHSEL, SJ, WITH RITA PETERSON AT ST. MARTIN’S ON WESTLAKE. PHOTO BY ERIN SHIRK

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Wed. Mar 11, 18, 6:30-9:00pm
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Tues Mar 24, 6:30-9:00pm
This workshop will teach you how to effectively use every natural body weapon against a single armed or unarmed attacker and will progress to strategies and techniques for dealing with multiple attackers.

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Catholic Community Services was given a building downtown and there they wanted to put 25 homeless and low-income people. They were forbidden by the City Council to do that; the Council claimed we already have enough buildings for low-income and homeless down there, we don’t want to be overloaded. It’s very segregationist, very discriminatory.

RC: Why choose civil disobedience, either in doing organizing around homelessness or in resisting the School of the Americas?

Bix: I think it’s a process, after you’ve tried it. We’ve fasted on the steps of the Capitol for 40 days, we’ve been to every Representative and Senator’s office in Washington DC, constantly pleading, writing letters, leafletting, praying, holding vigils ... for years this is going on, and then the response is very much you’re at the beck and call of Congress. So pretty soon you say, “Lookit, this means so much to me that I want you to understand what’s going on. We are not going to obey that law anymore when we know slaughter is going on. If you want to give us the sentence we’ll take the sentence.”

I think civil disobedience comes after a sense that we’ve done a tremendous amount already and no one’s paying attention. It’s not something that’s urgent, whereas lives are continually being snuffed out. So civil disobedience becomes a way for us to speak out, especially if we stick with it. Most of the people are coming back time after time and being arrested. It’s not going to go away. As we tell the judge, we’re not going to disappear.

RC: What’s going on with the School of the Americas Campaign?

Bix: There are two felony charges that five of us are facing now—one of them is injury to government property and the other is willfully and maliciously attempting to destroy government property. We have to go to court on March 2nd. It’ll be a jury trial. It’s not a friendly court—the judge is the oldest Federal judge in the system; he was appointed by John Kennedy. He put Martin Luther King in jail.

The School of the Americas has been in existence since 1946. It was first in Panama and then they moved it to Fort Benning, Georgia in 1984. Basically it’s a program of the USA which they hang onto very tenaciously. Taxpayers support it, basically, as much as we support the military.

Part of the curriculum at the School of the Americas is counterinsurgency measures, low-intensity conflict, psychological warfare, sniper training. You have to ask yourself—counterinsurgency: who are the insurgents? Central American and South American countries, they don’t fight one another, so the insurgents are their own poor. As soon as they organize, or anyone who stands by the poor helps them organize—whether it’s labor union people or cooperatives, women’s cooperatives or whatever—they’re considered subversive. Low-intensity conflict means constantly keeping the pressure on, constantly keeping them down, keeping them off-balance, terrorized. Low-intensity conflict is constant use of terror, and I might say torture.

Probably a year ago last September the Defense Department and the Pentagon were forced to release seven manuals of torture that were part of the curriculum of the School of the Americas, and it’s free for anyone to take a look at. There it calls for neutralization of suspects—a euphemism for killing; or how to torture, interrogation methods, how to detain, how to destabilize villages.

RC: Is there anything calling for the stop of teaching these kinds of techniques or just for the closure of the School?

Bix: It’s just for the closure of the School. But it’s kind of like trying to take on the ocean—you’ve got to do something that’s in front of you, that’s very concrete and verifiable with proven evidence. Most of our military bases incorporate these trainings. But the School of the Americas has a particularly egregious, horrifying and verifiable history of atrocity connected to it, the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of indigenous people in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Columbia where genocide is happening now.

RC: You started out teaching at Gonzaga. What changed for you?

“But the School of Americas has a particularly egregious, horrifying and verifiable history of atrocity connected to it, the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of indigenous people in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Columbia where genocide is happening now.”

Bix: I grew up in the Depression, and my mother always fed people off the back porch. Every day there’d be three or four people on the back porch. Every day it’d be bacon and eggs or ham and eggs. We were Catholic, and one of the big things is you don’t eat meat on Friday, so being real young, I tried to convince her she was committing a mortal sin, that her soul was in jeopardy. She kept telling me, “God will understand.” I said, “Yeah, but you don’t.” It was a working family, we were six boys

Continued on page 26

Welcome to Cow Country
(Watch your Step!)

Mae’s Phinney Ridge Cafe
65th & Phinney 782-1222

Women's Work Is Everyone's Business

Over 70 women's organizations will celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Seattle Center House.

This year's theme is "Women's Work is Everyone's Business" and will highlight the struggle of women in sweatshops around the world. The free event will include an art show, music, ASL interpretation, and a child activity table. An area of the Seattle Center will be dedicated to women who lost their lives at work.

"We all need to address the issue of dangerous and inequitable work," said Lexie Evans, one of this year's event organizers. "We want to honor the many kinds of work that women do in the world, both paid and unpaid. We want to celebrate their brilliance, creativity, and courage."

March 8th has been International Women's Day since 1922, but the idea began as early as 1857, when garment and textile workers in New York City chose the day to protest inhumane working conditions. By March 8, 1908, 15,000 women marched in New York City to demand shorter hours, better pay, voting rights, and an end to child labor.

Radical Women will commemorate International Women's Day with a book launch and birthday tribute dinner for local author and activist Clara Fraser.

Fraser, who is 75 this month, led a 1948 Boeing strike (for which she became blacklisted), and co-founded Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. She is the author of *Revolution, She Wrote*, a collec-

Women in the Trades Awards

Ladies Don't Drum

Kimberly Bass

Magdalene Hsu-Li

Seattle Labor Chorus

Nina Laboy

tion of commentaries and essays on women and politics. At press time, event details were not confirmed, so call Radical Women at (206) 722-6057 or (206) 722-2453 for more information.

Women interested in volunteering for the Seattle Center celebration or helping to shape next year's event can call (206) 587-3890. The Women's Day Celebration planning group meets Thursday mornings at 7:30 am at Four Angels Cafe, 1400 14th Ave. (14th and Union).

—by Abby Staten



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Three Penny Theater

Pay-What-You-Can: A Boon to the Hoi Polloi

BY RUTH A. FOX

Seattle is a wonderful city for theater, especially with content appealing to progressive types. It's more wonderful when you can afford to go. Many of us can't.

What many of us don't know though is that low-cost theater tickets are available at several local theaters, on selected nights, so designated as *pay whatcha can*, a special event just for poor folks.

Of course, it's not well-advertised and you can't get very many. Nor can you reserve them over the phone with your credit card like rich folks. You hafta go in person, usually on the night of the show.

Adding insult to injury, at least one local theater sells tickets in advance at full price for that same night, explaining why a *Real Change* staff member recently saw folks in fur coats at a pay whatcha can show. However, this led us to believe that we poor folks are under-utilizing our options.

Think of it this way. All theater is really political. A play about rich folks cavorting while others unquestioningly serve them tells you what the playwright's attitude toward servants is. Now *you too* can have a political response.

Simply educate yourself to the ways of attending cheaper than the listed price. The current economy depends on a fair number of us being poor to sustain itself. So society should reward us for this by letting us pay less.

Pay whatcha can is but one way of doing so. Another way is simply to demand a cheaper price. Sometimes this works. You say: "I'm low-income." Or: "I'm unemployed." Or: "I'm homeless. Gonna give me a price break?" Ask to pay the senior/student price if there is one.

You can also volunteer to usher at a theater, and receive free tickets for your effort. The Fringe Festival, March 12-22, needs volunteers right now. (Call Wesley

Middleton at 386-1971.) Fringe theaters don't charge very much anyway, and often have better content. These small theaters are poor, too, and well deserve support.

My current three top choices are: Seattle Public Theater, almost always pay whatcha can; Theater Simple, that includes *being subversive* in its mission statement; and Theater Babylon, that has pay whatcha can every Thursday performance.

But suit yourself. Listed below are theaters that definitely have pay whatcha can and/or are inexpensive compared to the rest. The Annex has tickets as low as \$5 and even some free performances. This is by no means all the theater available in Seattle either.

Check *The Stranger* or *Weekly* for current show listings and box office phone numbers. These papers are free and their reviews are way better than the *Times* or *P-I*.

So get out there and go to plays! Stand in line for pay whatcha can. Wear your shabbiest clothes and carry a

placard saying: Hey! I'm poor but I'm here! All right, it's not necessary to go that far. But, please, don't wear furs. ☹

The Pay-What-You-Can Directory

Seattle Repertory

1st Thursday performance of each show run. Buy at box office day of performance when opens at 10 a.m. Usually a line-up. Caveat: tix sold in advance full price, so subject to availability. 443-2222

Intiman Theater

One performance per show run. Usually first Thursday after opening night. Call for more info. 269-1900

A Contemporary Theater (ACT)

Yes. ACT's new season opening in May will have pay whatcha can nights. When & how often is not yet known. 292-7676

Bathhouse Theater

One performance per show run. Buy at box office day of performance starting 6 p.m. Call to find out date. 524-9108

Belltown Theater Center

Preview night, on the Wednesday or Thursday prior to opening. Call for info. 728-7609

Empty Space Theater

One matinee performance per show run. Buy at box office up to one week in advance. May purchase up to two. 547-7500

Group Theater

One performance per show run. Buy at box office day of performance any time after noon. Call to find out date. 441-1299

NW Asian American Theater

One performance per show run. Call for more info. 340-1049

Taproot Theater

One performance per show run. Buy at box office day of performance. Call to find out date. 781-9707

Twelve Bucks and Less

Annex Theater, Belltown Theater Center, Book-It Repertory Theater, Brown Bag Theater, Cornish College, New City Theater, NW Actors' Studio, NW Asian American Theater, NW Puppet Center (kid stuff!), Odd Duck Studio, Open Circle Theater, Printer's Devil, Re-Bar, Seattle Rep (some performances), Seattle Public Theater, Stepping Stone at The Chamber, Theater Babylon, Theater Simple, UW Playhouse.

No Boundaries

No Boundaries, a new photographic exhibition by Andrew Firth that opens at the Benham Studio Gallery on March 5th, is not to be missed.

It is subtle. It is hard-hitting. It is emotional. It will make you stop, think, and think again.

Andrew Firth, a native of Silverstone, England, originally came to Seattle to work with well-known photographer Robert Lyons. Andrew has been working with Lyons for the last couple of years as an assistant, but his own personal work definitely has something to say about his experiences here.

Through this exhibit, Firth intimately examines the meaning of the word, "home." His hope, he says, is that this exhibit will help give insight into another way of life.

Firth spent six months befriending a group of homeless people who live underneath a freeway in Seattle. In doing so, he learned that, at bottom, the shape of their lives is not very different from our own. His hope is that this exhibit will give a different perspective, that it will make people stop and think a bit more.

The idea for this series came about as Firth was watching people drive to work on the freeway. What he saw were people driving from point A to point B, and not looking at what was around them. Looking perhaps, but not really seeing.

This exhibit is an intimate documentation that has intentions of bringing its viewers closer to another reality. "It is so easy today," says Firth, "to just walk past when someone is panhandling on the street.

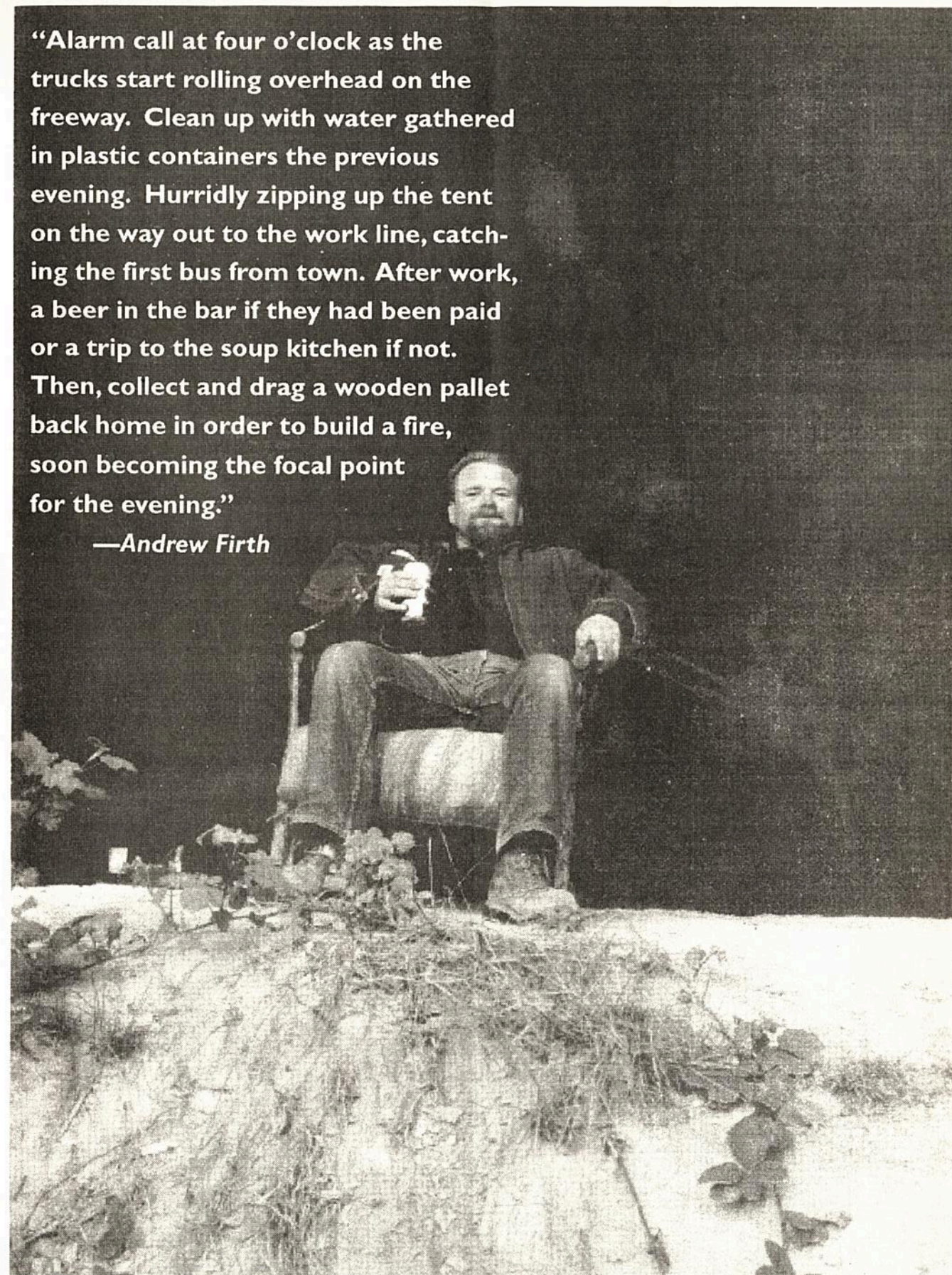
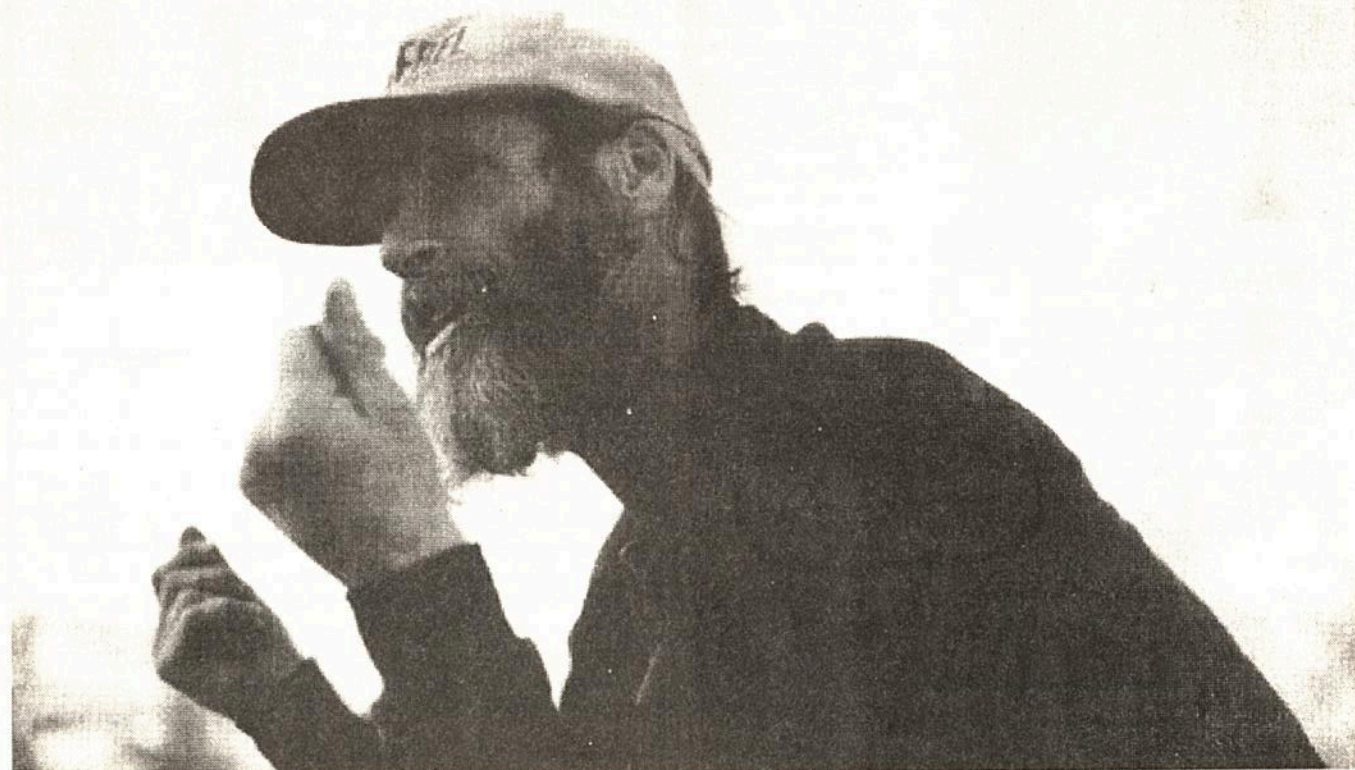
It is so easy to distance ourselves from their experience."

Ultimately, he has hope that through understanding, people will choose to be a bit nicer and choose to give a little more of themselves. This could be in terms of time, energy, money, or skills he says.

Firth has concentrated on a variety of community-aware photo stories since graduating from England's Middlesbrough College of Art in England in 1994. This exhibit continues a series of work observing people in their environment and social groupings.

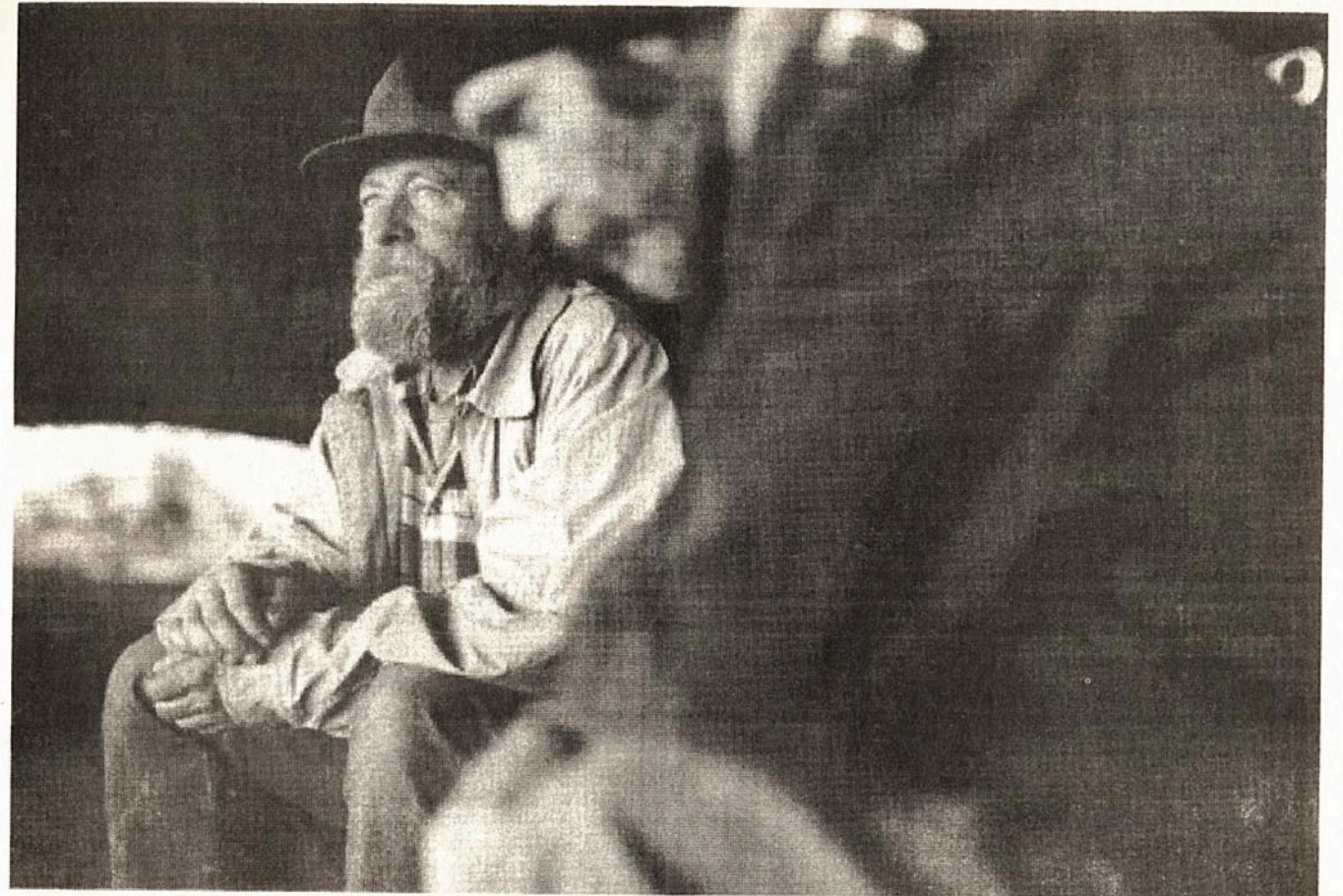
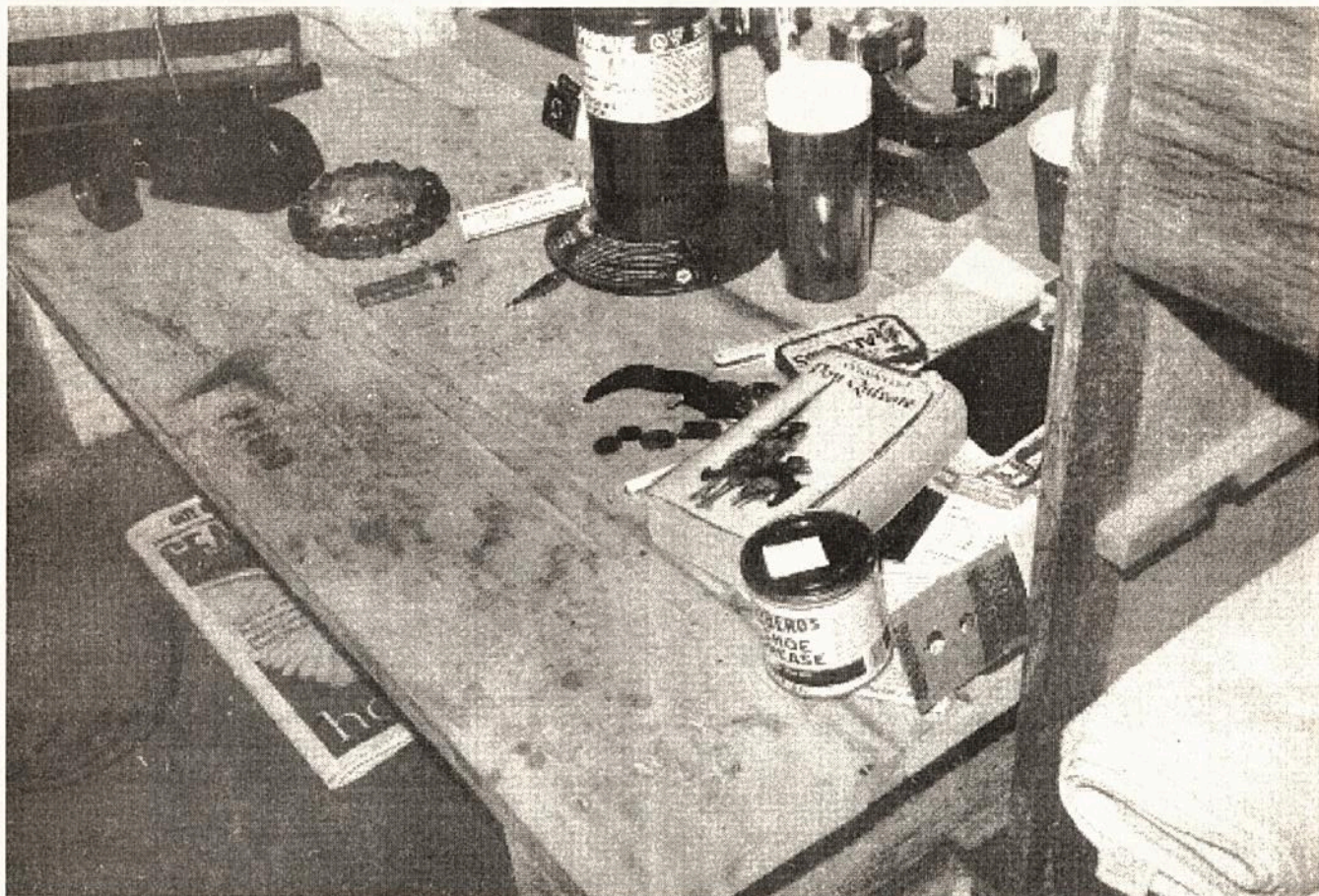
No Boundaries can be experienced beginning March 5th at the Benham Studio Gallery, 1216 First Ave. Seattle, WA 98101. (206) 622-2480. benham@halcyon.com.

—Story by Julie Eagleton



"Alarm call at four o'clock as the trucks start rolling overhead on the freeway. Clean up with water gathered in plastic containers the previous evening. Hurridly zipping up the tent on the way out to the work line, catching the first bus from town. After work, a beer in the bar if they had been paid or a trip to the soup kitchen if not. Then, collect and drag a wooden pallet back home in order to build a fire, soon becoming the focal point for the evening."

—Andrew Firth



Seattle Volunteer

www.speakeasy.org/~seavol

CHICKEN SOUP BRIGADE seeks your help with providing practical support services to people living with HIV and AIDS in King County. Join a community of volunteers who prepare fresh meals, deliver groceries, provide in-home chore assistance and give rides to medical and social service appointments. To volunteer, call 320-0206.

CHANGING THE WORLD is not always glamorous. Washington Low Income Housing Network, an education and advocacy coalition, seeks a creative and detail-oriented person to help keep our office in order. Filing, library organizing, mailing, answering phones, possibly some computer work. Days, 2-4 hours/week. Call Laura at 442-9455.

ST MARY'S FOOD BANK Provide food to individuals and families in need by helping sort and distribute donated food. Help needed Sunday through Thursday, year-round. Call K.C. Pilon, 322-4591.

MAMMA'S HANDS If you want to meet the needs of Seattle's homeless, come volunteer at Mamma's Hands. Contact Kimberly Carroll at (425) 889-0528 or by e-mail at kimc@morsepr.com or visit the Web site at www.mammashands.org to learn more about Mamma's Hands. You can do more than giving quarters or words of encouragement. You can make a difference!!

FIGHT POVERTY IN YOUR COMMUNITY Women in Community Service helps young women coming out of Job Corps, a federally sponsored job training program. Keep them going in the right direction by offering support during the first months of their transition to work. Call Women in Community Service, 1-800-283-9427.

SEATTLE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, a faith based nonprofit housing organization is seeking help with reception in the office, skilled construction volunteers willing to lead small groups, and On-Site Volunteer Coordinators to help facilitate work days. One Saturday a month for six months is encouraged. Please contact Melissa at 292-9617.

HELP THE HOMELESS by volunteering at the Downtown Emergency Service Center, Seattle's largest multi-service center/shelter for homeless men and women. Positions available in the Shelter, Mental Health and Housing Programs. Training provided. 6 month commitment. Call Keri E. at 464-1570 x 3003.

SLUMBER PARTY! Rose of Lima transitional housing program needs women who provide companionship and spend the night at our residence once or twice a month. For more information call 328-5730.

STUDYING TO BE A LAWYER or a paralegal? Already have a degree or certificate? Gain valuable, practical experience by volunteering on the Northwest Women's Law Center's Information and Referral Phone Line. Assist callers in defining their legal issues. Internships also available. For more information please call, June at 682-9552.

HELP TEACH CITIZENSHIP to immigrants and refugees. CCS-Refugee Assistance Program is seeking committed volunteers to assist with teaching ESL for Citizenship classes in King County. Good opportunity to work with people from different cultures. ESL experience a plus. Training provided. For more info call Emi@323-9450.

THE KING COUNTY LITERACY COALITION, supporting 40 adult literacy provider and support organizations, is looking for volunteers for office support, basic bookkeeping, public relations advising, fund development and advocacy. Call Carolyn at 684-6648. To be a volunteer tutor for adults, call the literacy hotline at 1-800-323-2550.

BOOKS TO PRISONERS. Our all-volunteer collective sends books to men and women in prison nationwide. We need you: simply open letters and choose books from our library to match. Promote literacy, education, empowerment, and social justice. Mon 6-10pm, Wed 8pm-midnight. 1404 18th (and Union), Seattle. 320-0618 or jargon@u.washington.edu.

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Messin' With The Mantra A Modest Proposal from the Gang of Eight

To quote what Schell's staff has called the Mayor's Mantra on housing, "The Goal the Mayor's Housing Action Agenda is to explore ways to dramatically increase the supply of housing for all income levels in the neighborhoods that want it and in ways that enhance our sense of community." The Action Agenda itself is advertised as "a work in progress." It won't be finalized until after Schell's citywide housing conference/summit/charrette on March 21. City Council needs to sign off on it after that if it is to become policy, which is interesting, given that many council members are sort of ticked about not being invited to play much of a role in creating the first draft of the Agenda.

Released on January 27 as a first draft, the Action Agenda itself consists of 21 policy proposals, grouped into four categories: Neighborhood Partnerships, Housing Design, Permitting and Zoning, and Housing Finance. Four categories that it is not grouped into and that it doesn't cover much include Homeless Shelters and Transitional Housing, Low Income and Public Housing, Civil Rights, and Accountability in the Use of Public Funds.

So, does the Draft Action Agenda itself live up to the Mayor's Mantra? Well, there's some good ideas in it. The Agenda mentions innovative housing preservation strategies such as community land trusts, receivership programs, and strategies—albeit limited—for preserving the stock of Section 8 apartments. There's a general commitment to expanding homeownership opportunities. And the idea of redefining the role of DHHS is particularly appealing to non-profit housing developers. More broadly, there's an undeniable can-do spirit to the Agenda...which begs the question: How progressive is this can-do attitude?

A key criticism coming from housing advocacy groups is that the Agenda's primarily supply-side approach of "dramatically increasing the supply" of market rate housing won't have much, if any, trickle-

down effect in increasing housing affordability for those who are most deeply affected by the housing crisis: lower income families, senior citizens on fixed incomes, and the homeless. Never mind the doubts expressed by real estate appraisers and land use experts about the effectiveness of supply-side strategies in increasing local affordability for even moderate income families.

The best we can hope for from Schell's supply-side "developer's rights" approach is that it may help to hold the line on housing costs as new workers rush into the area to take advantage of the boomtown economy. Perhaps we can find some small solace from this, but that's about it. In fact, as UW population expert Professor Richard Morrill puts it "Seattle's policies may aggravate housing prices...other things being equal, higher density raises the price of land."

In short, the Action Agenda, based as it is on Reaganesque supply-side economics, is not really a progressive agenda. What Schell needs to do, and there's still time, is find a way to up the ante, literally and figuratively. Here are some ways to do so, following the Agenda's general outline, and based on recommendations from local housing advocates:

Neighborhood Partnerships

PROACTIVELY PROMOTE A DIVERSITY OF INCOME LEVELS IN ALL NEIGHBORHOODS, not just the "neighborhoods that want it". Build support in every neighborhood for preservation of existing and construction of new low income housing and shelters by providing amenities and greater design

review control over market rate housing to those neighborhoods which adopt progressive and proactive housing plans.

BUILD SUPPORT IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR A TENANTS' RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL ORDINANCE, a strategy that will help the neighborhoods meet affordability goals, while also controlling the impact of new high density development on the neighborhoods.

INCREASE THE FUNDING FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS, with special priority given to neighborhoods with progressive and proactive housing plans.

WORK WITH THE NEIGHBORHOODS TO PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LOW-INCOME HOUSING, SHELTERS AND RELATED SERVICES on existing underutilized public land, and at future RTA and Monorail station locations.

DON'T ADOPT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 1996 LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS without first reviewing them with the neighborhoods. Most of the C of C recommendations are simply "developer's rights" proposals, and may have the effect of alienating neighborhoods that would otherwise be more receptive to a progressive housing agenda.

Permitting and Zoning

DISCOURAGE UPZONING, WHICH TENDS TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF LAND. As pointed out in a recent paper by Brian Livingston of the Seattle Forum, "most neighborhood centers are built to only a fraction of their zoned capacity at present...the City still has unused zoning capacity equal to more than 113,000 new housing units."

Continued on Page 22

"The best we can hope for from Schell's supply-side "developer's rights" approach is that it may help to hold the line on housing costs as new workers rush into the area to take advantage of the boomtown economy."

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SF Mayor to Nonprofits: Pay Union Scale

Nonprofit groups delivering public health and social services under contract with The City of San Francisco should pay union-scale wages, Mayor Brown says.

Brown also contends they also should allow union organizing of their work forces by a public vote rather than insisting on secret ballots. His comments placed him squarely on the side of labor in a high-stakes political battle between San Francisco's municipal employees union and an alliance of nonprofit groups and corporate San Francisco.

"I really don't think there ought to be people trying to legislate to bar people from using certain tools," Brown said of "card-check" union elections. Under card-check, a union can organize a workplace by getting a majority of employees to sign cards rather than going through an election monitored by the federal government.

The nonprofit groups, backed by some of San Francisco's largest companies, have gathered signatures to put a measure on the June ballot to preserve an employer's right to insist on the secret ballot in a union election. Brown says it should be up to the workers to decide. Passing legislation allowing card-check organizing at for-profit and nonprofit city contractors is a high priority for labor.

The fight carries major fiscal and political ramifications. Nonprofit groups get millions of dollars a year in contracts to serve low-income residents and people with AIDS. By siding with Local 790, Brown risks angering nonprofit agency operators and their clients, part of the liberal vote that propelled him into office two years ago.

States to Vie for Welfare-to-Work Bonus Money

Competing for \$1 billion in bonus money, states will be judged by how many welfare recipients find and keep jobs over the next five years.

The formula, being sent to state governments this week, gives no weight to states that see caseloads drop but can't prove that the people are finding work.

The guidelines resolve a long-standing question over how the federal government will judge success as states implement their

own welfare programs. While Clinton and the governors often boast about declining caseloads—they have dropped 31 percent since their peak in 1994—it is less clear where these former recipients are landing or if they are moving out of poverty.

The high-performance bonuses offer \$200 million a year for five years to the 10 states that have the most success.

States will be judged on the number of welfare recipients who got jobs that year, their success in the work force, and the increase in their incomes. Also considered is how much states improved over the previous year in the categories.

San Francisco May Allow Homeless to Live in Cars

The head of the San Francisco Police Commission agreed last night to meet with homeless advocates to consider a proposal under which San Francisco would be the first city in the nation to allow people to legally live in their vehicles.

Commission President Pat Norman cautioned that she was acting on her own and would not bring the matter back before the panel until she meets with officials from the city attorney's office and Police Department to determine what laws would have to be waived.

Norman made her announcement after more than a half dozen people who live in their vehicles in China Basin told the commission that since October, police have been aggressively towing away their makeshift homes, taking everything they own.

Norman said the proposal to set up a place where people could legally sleep in vehicles has the backing of Terrence Hill, Mayor Willie Brown's coordinator on homelessness.

Brown has yet to speak publicly about the proposal, and his office has referred all questions to Hill, who has said the mayor has given him permission to explore the possibility.

Clinton Panel Divided on Race Issue

President Clinton's advisory board on race took on the tough challenge of how to overcome widespread poverty in minority communities.

The Race Initiative Advisory Board heard several experts suggest that urban poverty is caused by multiple factors,

ranging from a changing job market to pure discrimination, but they could not agree on the best strategy to tackle the problem.

William Julius Wilson, one of the nation's leading sociologists on urban poverty, said racism is what originally forced many blacks into low-skilled jobs in the nation's urban centers and trapped them there with little chance for escape.

"There is no way to explain the disproportionate number of minorities who are poor without taking the legacy of race into account—and the legacy of racism is the urban ghetto," he said.

But he said profound economic transformations, such as the decline in demand for low-skilled jobs, have contributed to keeping blacks in poverty. Government-inspired remedies, he said, are needed to address the changing nature of the job market which hampers all races.

Robert Woodson, director of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, discounted the importance of race. "Why are poor blacks suffering in cities run by blacks?" he asked. "And why are Latinos suffering in poor areas run by Latinos?"

Raquel Rivera Pinderhughes, a professor of urban studies at San Francisco State University, said another key factor that is overlooked was "anti-immigrant sentiment" in California. "We have to deal with anti-immigrant climate, which is making all immigrant populations and native-born ethnic populations more vulnerable to labor exploitation, civil rights violations, pitting groups against one another," she said.

Because of these influences and others, all panelists agreed that "monolithic strategy" to deal with poverty would be a mistake. Despite the conflicts, the experts found signs of hope. And Massey said that perhaps what was most hopeful was that "we're having this conversation on race, and the Clinton administration is now turning to the unfinished business of the civil rights movement."



Groups: Citizenship Bill Foils Voting/Civil Rights

A coalition of voter and civil rights advocates said that pending legislation to verify the citizenship of would-be voters imperils the rights of millions of Americans to cast ballots.

Becky Cain, president of the League of Women Voters, said the bill would undermine the so-called motor-voter law aimed at making voter registration as easy as applying for a driver's license. And she said it would open the door to new discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities.

At a news conference on Capitol Hill, she and representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union said the measure is unnecessary because existing perjury penalties keep voter rolls largely free of noncitizens.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Stephen Horn, R-Calif., grows out of allegations by former Rep. Bob Dornan, R-Calif., that his 1996 election defeat by Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., came through the fraudulent votes of noncitizens. Sanchez has disputed that claim. The Committee on House Oversight recommended on an 8-1 vote this month that Dornan's challenge of the election result be dismissed.

The Horn bill is on a list of "noncontroversial" legislation scheduled to be considered by the House. Cain contended the bill is actually "highly charged and extremely controversial" and should be subject to full debate. She urged President Clinton to veto it, should it move all the way through Congress.

"Hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of native-born and naturalized citizens would be dropped from the rolls or have to prove their citizenship to be reinstated," if the bill became law," she said.

Horn, in a written statement, said the bill targets no group and is "not an attempt to stifle voting by immigrants who have naturalized and become American citizens."

Under the terms of the Horn bill, local election officials would be permitted to submit the names of both registered voters and those applying for registration to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Social Security Administration for verification of citizenship. States would be allowed, but not required, to refuse applications or drop voters from the rolls unless the federal agencies confirmed citizenship. Cain said the federal govern-

March, 1998

ment does not maintain a comprehensive list of all native-born or naturalized citizens and would be unable to provide such information to election officials.

Food Stamp Debit Cards Ease Shame

Some people describe it as a quick, sideways glance that silently communicates volumes: disapproval, resentment, disgust, sometimes even pity.

Others say it's more like a stare: slow and judgmental. Eyes carefully study the groceries on the conveyor belt, moving from the boxes of cookies to the bottles of soda, vigilant for signs of extravagance.

It's a common experience at the checkout line for someone paying with food stamps. Soon, people on public assistance won't be so conspicuous. Under the 1996 federal welfare-reform law, states are required to replace cumbersome, paper-laden food-stamp programs with automated systems that give recipients access to their benefits with the whisk of a card.

New Jersey began distributing food stamp benefits electronically two years ago in a pilot program. Fifteen other states are also using cards on a limited basis.

Under welfare reform, all 50 states must at least have begun an electronic benefits program by 2002. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania, welfare and food stamp benefits are wired to accounts established for each recipient. Recipients can use the cards to get cash welfare benefits as well as to pay for food. They can be used at ATMs almost anywhere in the country to get cash, and at supermarkets throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

State officials in Pennsylvania and New Jersey say they plan to install machines that can read the cards in a wide variety of locations, including large and small stores.

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MANTRA, CONT. FROM PAGE 19
 LOOK INTO A PACKAGE OF INCLUSIONARY ZONING STRATEGIES, such as incentives that encourage the preservation of existing and production of new shelters and low-income housing. As an exception to the recommendation just above, density bonuses or transferable development rights can be offered to developers who choose to produce a significant percentage of low income housing, transitional housing, shelters and related services.

USE LOCAL CODES TO PRESERVE OUR EXISTING STOCK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Enforce the current anti-abandonment law. Find a way to resurrect the repealed Rental Housing Inspection Program. Implement a receivership program, allowing Seattle to require the repair of neglected buildings or to transfer such properties into receivership. Ensure the long term affordability of all such properties.

Housing Finance

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT LOCAL RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, AND THAT FEDERAL FUNDS ARE SHRINKING, REQUIRE THAT IN NO CASE SHOULD PUBLIC FUNDS FOR HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BE DIVERTED AWAY

FROM THEIR INTENDED USES. This means that corporate welfare projects (i.e.: Nordstroms et al) and over-priced mixed-income redevelopment projects resulting in the net loss of low-income housing (i.e.: Holly Park) should not be funded by the city, due to their devastating impact on City and State funds.

INCLUDE A SEPARATE SUBAGENDA ON THE PUBLIC HOUSING CRISIS, WHICH IS MORE THAN JUST THE THREATENED LOSS OF SECTION 8 APARTMENTS. Devolution at the federal level requires enormous increases in local funding to meet the housing needs for low-income and homeless families, along with higher levels of accountability in the use of these funds.

INCENTIVE STRATEGIES SUCH AS TAX BREAKS should be graduated in such a way that the greatest incentives are provided in connection with the development of low-income and shelter housing and related services.

WORK WITH LENDERS, NEIGHBORHOODS, AND DEVELOPERS TO DEVISE MEANS OF FINANCING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO HOMEOWNERSHIP and housing preservation, including limited equity co-ops, land trusts, self-help, and lease option.

Here's a supply-side mantra that actually will serve to increase housing affordability for all income levels: The City must, most of all, "dramatically expand the supply" of political will needed to address the housing crisis. City policy needs to be shored up, ensuring that there are no more corporate welfare projects, diverting precious tens of millions away from neighborhoods in need. The existing "no net loss" clause in the Housing Levy must actually be enforced. Policies such as the no-sitting and parks exclusion ordinances that criminalize homelessness must be repealed. Perhaps most importantly, Schell and City Council need to come up with a strong progressive Legislative Action Agenda and get their kiesters out into the neighborhoods, down to Olympia, and over to Washington DC to lobby for a "dramatic increase in the supply" of funds for the production and preservation of shelters, transitional housing, low-income housing, and related services. [A]

(Thanks to the Gang of Eight, who are currently reviewing and working on recommendations for the Action Agenda: Flo Beaumon, Sinan Demirel, John Fox, Ginger Segel, Matthew Fox, John Shaw, Diane Lee, and myself. Any misrepresentations and inaccuracies are my fault.)

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Kid, You're Hooked



I have sunk to the lowest depths of depravity. For each new fix I crawl and I grovel, I beg and I plead, I crawl and I grovel. I am no longer a man, I am a receptacle for one and only one need, a need that grows stronger each and every time it is satisfied, a creeping vine choking my humanity to death. So, for that reason, I crawl and I grovel... (hey... I'm really starting to like this word "grovel"! I can barely write these words, except for the grovel word, as my fingers ache to reach for the one thing that can relieve me of the agony I am feeling.

But I must write! I must expose the one who did this to me, so that others might not fall prey to his evil snare. So that others might not have to crawl or grovel. Unless they wanted to. Oh, I am sure there are those who like to grovel. Yes, I read *The Stranger*. But I am likewise as sure that the vast majority of us only like to talk about it and don't like to do it. ("It" referring to groveling, of course.)

Now where was I? See how I've become? This is starting to affect my memory! And it's all the fault of RC Director Tim "The Pusher Man" Harris, who knew what would happen if he installed SimCity™ on this computer.

There is no escape. Everywhere I go its hooks pierce my eyes:

Piercing Hooks, by Copyright Dr. Wes Browning

Luxury houses, apartment buildings, factories, cars, condominiums. Bus depots, railroad tracks, or any number of stadiums. Everywhere that I turn, they turn as well to face me. With evil malice do they grab me pull me & then do place me in front of this computer screen...

My soul screams "Please, no more! My derriere is sore!"

- whence I run out the door.

Only to be greeted once again by schools and police stations, and houses (under construction), and hospitals and seaport cranes and airport hangars and aero-planes, - and all else that there are in major cities like libraries, parks, musea, and univers'ties - sights which grab my heart and would rip me apart, if I didn't return to this computer screen, there to build yet more SimCities™.

Speaking of diversions, I have been listening to the news lately, that is, when I haven't been in the office indulging. Now I have no intention of abusing the privilege of this scribbling outlet by using it as a soapbox to present my own political views unrelated to issues involving the mission of the Real Change. However, current events have compelled my thoughts to dwell upon a certain incident in my *homeless* past which might possibly be seen as representing an allegory relating to who-knows-what is going on, but is in fact really about nothing at all of the kind, so don't anybody get their hackles up, thanks.

So anyway, I was homeless, as I just said, or maybe (I don't remember actually - blame TH) I wasn't homeless but just looked like I was. I was walking west on NE 47th through the Fraternity District. A gentleman was standing alongside the sidewalk there, speaking to two other people.

He was college-age, about 2 inches taller than myself, 50 pounds heavier (I was thin from malnutrition), looking like a jock. He could have been on the swimming team. He was in so much better shape than I was at the time that he could easily have killed me within minutes, if we had to fight.

All the more reason that I was astonished that he would threaten to kick my ass as I passed by, saying "I'm sick of having to look at you people." It wasn't as though I could have threatened him in any way.

In fact, I had just before that merely glanced his way and given him a faint smile and a nod.

Well, I'd been a cab driver for five years by then, so without even thinking, I flipped the SOB off and kept walking. I knew immediately that such defiance was foolish but I couldn't help it, it was a reflex, a habit, from years of receiving abuse and formulating answers to it.

He followed me for two blocks yelling and threatening to beat me up for having given him the finger, while at least a dozen students watched and said and did nothing to stop him. Finally I came across a large rock next to the sidewalk, picked it up and turned to face him. Since no one else was going to defend me, I prepared to do it myself.

I was shaking, sure that this time I was going to end up in traction at least.

At which point he demanded that I drop the "weapon" and that I stop threatening him!

Needless to say, his appeal to me to disarm was totally ineffective. [A]

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DRUNKS, CONT. FROM PAGE 7
available," said Hobson, "but if you refuse to accept these things, you need to leave."

The Big Plan

Seattle strategy on street drunks is based on two documents that were generated by Vanzo's "CPI Systems Solution Work Group." These are the Systems Solution Plan Recommendations, published in November 1996 and weighing in at over 50 pages, and the more recent Clegg report on housing, which was drafted by consultant Judy Clegg and others associated with Common Ground, a non-profit low-income housing development group.

The 1996 document, which came out of numerous round table discussions, outlines a broad plan of attack that incorporates many ideas brought forward from previous efforts of this nature. The Clegg report focuses on the housing portion of the plan, and advocates the creation of about 200 more recovery beds, medical slots, and housing units over the next 7-10 years.

These extra beds and housing units would have supportive services included, and would provide a recovery system that could move the recovering alcoholic from emergency shelter into treatment and then into housing, and provide the ongoing support critical to making recovery successful over the long-term.

The impressively detailed housing plan readily acknowledges that funding housing and services for alcoholics in a tight market will not be easy. "Competition for funding is very intense ... The lack of resources for these services has been the primary stumbling block in addressing the housing needs of PCPIs." The report goes on to say that the inability of most street alcoholics to pay significant rent represents another serious funding problem.

Added to this is the obvious social stigma attached to alcohol and drug abuse. "These are not poster children," said Chris Nyrop, Executive Director of Street Outreach Services. "It's very difficult to come up with funding. The Health Department has been very supportive, but there's not a lot of private foundation support."

Still, Vanzo said he is hopeful that this plan, unlike plans of the past, will actually go forward. He said that County Government is very supportive, and that the

business community now recognizes that it is in their interest to partner with government to fund housing and treatment.

Vanzo points to King County Public Ordinance 98008, which would provide "seed money" for housing for public inebriates, as a hopeful beginning. But according to Jean Carpenter, a housing expert in Ron Sims' office, the ordinance may not generate any money at all.

The ordinance stipulates that any savings in debt service accrued from selling the Washington Center Building at a \$4.2 million loss would be used for housing, including chronic inebriates. "We have no idea if we will realize any money," said Carpenter. If no other problems eat up the savings first, the sale will mean, at most, \$200,000 per year, a small fraction of the cost of any one of the several projects recommended in the Clegg report.

The Need is Real

While there may be skepticism that Vanzo's work group has the political clout to move the more ambitious aspects of the plan off paper, there is broad agreement that the report's recommendations for a system-wide approach are on target.

"These are ideas that have been discussed for decades," said Mark Dalton, a social worker at Belltown Community Services. "I've been on numerous committees and subgroups that have discussed the need for a unified package of services. But a lot of this depends on public will. This is going to cost money. You can be punitive or lock them up, but if you don't provide these services, they're stuck in a revolving door."

Dalton is encouraged that CPI group is involving downtown people who "really are concerned, and now know that the punitive approach alone won't work."

Vanzo said that

his group is planning a study of other cities to show that, in the long run, funding treatment and housing will save dollars on police, court, and jail time, as well as hospital services. "We need to be able to say 'here's what it will cost to do this, but here's what it's costing us already,'" he said.


Yet while Vanzo's work group plans their study, the Good Neighbor Agreements and other law and order approaches are already starting to make life harder for Seattle's street drunks. Vanzo said he is not too concerned.

"There may be some displacement," said Vanzo, "so the neighborhoods not in the demonstration area will probably come to us for assistance. We'll engage some people in treatment, and some will move on to other localities." □

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GRAPHIC BY LIN LUCAS


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BIX, CONT. FROM PAGE 11

growing up during the Depression. There's something in there kind of like you stick with the underdog.

Getting into society, pretty soon you get more and more removed from that. I started thinking, well, the big thing is you've got to be a teacher; you've got to be an intellectual. Things that I'm not and never will be. But gradually when I was Dean of students at Gonzaga University during the Vietnam War it started making more and more sense to ask, "Why are we doing this to them?" I had a lot of friends who were in the ROTC and we were getting into different conflicts. So eventually I left and went to Boston University. I wasn't sure what to do, and when you're not sure what to do you go back to school.

That was '66-68, and I got involved in the peace movement. When I did finally come back to the Oregon Province I knew there was a real difference in me, and I didn't really fit in too well. I was teaching five religion classes at Seattle Prep, and started teaching more about our resistance to the evils going on. Pretty soon I was getting into trouble with the parents and with the kids.

April that year became the worst year of my life—I went down to Tacoma to St. Leo's and got more involved with working with people who were poor around the neighborhood. I think it was a gradual evolution coming out of that.

RC: What's the answer to ending homelessness?

Bix: The Westlake is wonderful. Seeing what's happening here is very inspiring. With homelessness it's that sense of community that's really important. You're organizing among people who don't have that sense of cohesiveness, that sense that we're not alone, that it's we and not just I—and we have some power to make some positive change if we stick together, through all kinds of adversity, absolutely. I think the power is with those who don't have anything, those who are homeless. But it looks almost hopeless and futile.

RC: Where do you find hope?

Bix: I find it always comes into community some way or another. If you're isolated it doesn't happen. It's just the whole pressure to hopelessness, which is incredible in this

country. We live in hopelessness that's manifest all the time. "Well, you can't fight City Hall," you know, or "You really can't do anything about it." We're so imbued with that, that's so strong, but hope really has to come out of a sense of community—people casting in their lots together, maybe casting half a lot together, but in some way or other trying come together, no matter how tentative at first it seems, how probing.

RC: How do you convince people to work with you when there's such a pressure to hopelessness? How do you draw people together to resist?

Bix: I'm not sure. But I think it's being consistent to what you're doing, like Dorothy Day said (at least they attribute it to her, it's attributed to a lot of other people): "The most important thing is not being successful, but being faithful." I think more or less it comes out being in a community where you can support one another, get strength from one another. I think that's probably the important ingredient in different ways of outreach.

RC: What are you afraid of?

Bix: God, do you have a list? Geez ... I'm so aware of my own fears. I don't look forward to going back to jail, I really don't. I've probably spent a year in prison already when you put it all together ... One of my concerns is going down to this jury trial. Part of it is centering on how will I enter into my defense. There's an underlying anxiety that I haven't really prepared well...at times I think maybe I'll miss the point. Some of us are going to have to go pro se, defending ourselves.

I'd really like to get to a point where I'm feeling within myself what Jesus says in the Gospel, "If they haul you into the courts, don't be fearful, the words will be given to you." I trust that, but I'm not there yet. I still find myself trying

"I'd really like to get to a point where I'm feeling within myself what Jesus says in the Gospel, 'If they haul you into the courts don't be fearful, the words will be given to you.'"

to write the script.

RC: What do you see differently now than you did at 50? What do you feel about your life now?

Bix: You finally realize that God doesn't abandon you, though it seems that way at times; it seems hopeless at times. I find a lot of the same things I used to struggle with...my own wanting to control things. I still want to learn to let go more. And I know sometimes that causes me my own anxiety. But I'm conscious of how the weak things of this world confound the strong things.

I guess I'm thankful for the gifts. (He starts to cry.) I am. I'm thankful. ☞

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Catherine "Cathy" Gustafson

May 17, 1954—Jan. 25, 1998

Cathy Gustafson, an Ojibwa woman from Cass Lake, Minnesota, died on January 25th. Just 43 years old, she died at Harborview, where she had been hospitalized for hypothermia, seizures and a heart attack. She had been sleeping out. Cathy is survived by one son, and by family members including a sister still on the reservation in Minnesota. Her strong spirit will be sorely missed.

"Her alias was 'Crazy Cathy,'" said her friend, Wanda McCraigie. She was well-known for her humor, which she kept through years of adversity off and on the streets of Seattle. A couple of years ago she lost one of her legs, run over by a train near the tracks in Ballard. Even this didn't get her down, although her friends said that afterwards, "she did kind of go downhill."

Cathy had lived in Seattle for many years. She did beadwork, with crow beads, and gave everyone a key chain. Cathy was extremely generous, and always seemed to have extra cigarettes for those who needed them. Her friend Tessie said, "She'd always laugh. You could say anything to her and she'd just crack up." Cathy even managed to make the police laugh instead of writing her and her friends tickets. She chased the cops around the parks in her wheelchair.

"She was a smart lady," said one of her friends at Angeline's Day Center for women. She had been a nurse for four years in the military, overseas. After that, said Sister Julie of the Chief Seattle Club, "Alcohol was a heavy burden to carry, but she continued to be a strong woman." She and her husband Duane lived in a boxcar for

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about five months—they had it all fixed up, but came home one day to find it gone. They just laughed. Duane preceded Cathy by several years.

A memorial service was held for Cathy at the Chief Seattle Club, where she had done a lot of volunteer work in the clothing room. There was drumming, singing, fry bread. As Psalm 23 was read, Sister Julie commented, "This psalm is like Cathy's life. There were many dark valleys, but her powerful presence and humor gave others courage."

—Cathy's family, still living on the Cass Lake Reservation in Minnesota, is about \$800 short to pay for her burial. Donations can be sent to Sister Julie Codd, P.O. Box 1763, Bellevue, WA, 98009

A Native American Memorial Walk, to remember all the homeless who have passed on, will be held March 13th, at 9:30 AM starting at the Chief Seattle Club, 416 Second Avenue. It is open to all people.

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Old Dreams

I drank a beer in the park today
 twenty feet from a guy
 sleeping in a blanket
 of newspaper
 and his own vomit
 Haven't been homeless
 since I was sixteen
 but ever since I have lived
 only one paycheck away
 from the gutter
 and
 my room at twenty-two-twelve
 first avenue
 has a good view of it
 from the second floor
 I lost my job today
 and I have enough
 for beer and food for the month
 but when the first comes
 I'll have to dodge the old man
 until I can come up with rent
 the American dream
 seems so far away
 from my corner of the world

— OPUS23

**Jesus Is Stripped
 Of His Garments
 (Good Friday on the streets)**

To Be Stripped Naked

Standing there
 numb and drained
 abandoned and persecuted.

So it is here
 in the weeds of this vacant lot
 under this sidewalk
 people have slept
 on. Display and defenseless
 abandoned and drained ...

To Be Stripped Naked

One day you are having supper with your
 family and before
 you know it, you can't even prove who you are.
 You are alone.

"You were laid off and your wallet stolen, you
 say??"

WELL, then we need you to complete this
 form in triplicate
 and then the questions.

Personal questions.

Over and over

"What is your problem?" "Did your
 parents beat you?"

Where are your children?

How did you get that bruise? Are you
 HIV positive?

You say you're Jesus? You must be crazy.
 Lock this one up.

To Be Stripped Naked

Caught in a surrounding series of events and
 before you know it

You are left standing there beaten down and
 naked

Alone

Exposed for all to judge, label, blame, and
 Hate.

People go by and stare

(or avoid the look of suffering)

And say

"The Homeless are lazy."

"They are weak alcoholics and addicts."

"They live on my tax dollars."

"They like living this way."

"Why don't we put them out of their
 misery."

To Be Stripped Naked

False pretenses don't last on the streets
 No Armani suits for crooks to hide behind
 No six-month dental cleanings or tanning
 booths

for a woman to smile with
 No familiar toilet seat to seek privacy upon
 No fraternity house to pass out in
 No front door to lock behind you

Instead ...

There are polyester discards; haggard women;
 urinating in public citations, and
 personalities pushing your limits.

To Be Stripped Naked

Defeated and scorned
 Despised and humiliated
 Dehumanized
 Homeless
 Stripped.

—Carol in Tacoma

We Can Have It All

We can have it all
 only the weak are limited
 old men drooling in their gruel
 peasant women stooped under loads
 of firewood
 it is children who want limits set
 not us

We want it all

We crack whips and nations jump
 through flaming hoops
 little setbacks like the Titanic going down
 are nothing to us
 we raise the Spanish Armada
 from two miles down
 rebuild Atlantis
 pave the Arctic ice caps
 and park stretch limoes
 among deadpan penguins

I want to be buried on the moon
 I insist on golfing at the bottom of the sea
 who needs the rain forest

with its canopies of birds and insects
 we have Disney and Miramax for that
 360 degree wraparound reality on the big
 screen
 soon enough virtual world
 a universe of flesh in any hue
 texture curve or angle
 will be ours
 is ours

I want to pop a wheelie
 on Mona Lisa's smile
 I have no limits
 I can grow out of this skin
 shed blue planet shell
 like a hermit crab with skin
 itchy from long confinement
 take off into space
 and make the void
 my next landfill

We can reach the stars
 standing on mounds of garbage

I know we can have it all

—David Thornbrugh

Patronas

She gathered wishes
 in a shopping cart on Pico & Western
 gave names to the pigeons
 and prayed to them
 like patron saints
 offering crumbs of bread
 and scattered wine
 that would dribble
 from the bottle
 to the concrete
 they never drank
 but she did
 drank till her teeth fell out
 and the crows
 carried them to heaven
 where they wait for her in a dish

—OPUS23

Blue (a true story)

He liked to knock her around
Because she was so smart
and funny
and talked too much
or was silent.

Because
her poetry was often good
and his often
wasn't

He like to knock her around
because she was.

He liked to knock her around
because
he liked to.

They had blue tiles in the kitchen then.
She lay her head on them

and curled like a child
in her womb.
She wished herself a
Mediterranean holiday
of silence;
water the color of
kitchen tiles.

The blows fell like rain
on strong windows.
She noticed them only when
parts of her broke.

She finally threw a knife at him.
Watched in amazement as it flew from
her hand;
a guided missile
made of
"No."

Because he liked to knock her around.
Because.

It missed his back by several feet.
(A metaphor too obvious even then):

hitting him instead in
the Achilles tendon.

"You could have killed me!"
He screamed at her.

She chopped the carrots
silently,
(using a different and much
smaller knife)

The blue in her head
like the Caspian sea.
Her heart knocking steadily
inside her ribs.
Carrots lying in perfect pennies
on the counter.
The sun on the tiles so bright
all the room is splintered.

Inside her head
The answer.
Because.

—Roberta Guthrie Kowald

Reality

The Laws of Nature
are
NON-NEGOTIABLE

and

REALITY is
UNCHANGED by lies

The bills for
Our Willfulness
and
Denial

Come due
with
Great regularity

—Marion Sue Fischer

Homeless

Do you ever wonder how it feels
To be one of the ones
Whose existence has been declared
illegal
Because their poverty has been pronounced
a crime?

It means your every daily activity
Has been declared
in valid
And therefore,
interruptible.
It means that when you wash dishes
You are causing
"a sanitary problem."
It means you are expected to feel
guilty
For merely being alive (and I do.)

When will they learn
That it doesn't work
To be angry with me
for continuing to exist
and having nowhere else to be
and therefore remaining
in their faces?

They have too narrow a definition
Of what constitutes
a valid existence.
But it doesn't matter what I think
of their definitions
Because I am still the one
Whose existence has been declared
invalid.

Don't they know how it sounds to us
When they endlessly bellow,
"you're still here!"
You were told to leave
two weeks ago!!!!"

Pardon me, sir, for remaining
on the planet
Beyond the time limits
Which you obviously have the right

to set.
I guess I need it explained to me
again
That I have no right
to exist.

—Bridget Reilly

The Promise

At the homeless shelter I promised
you three that one day
we'd have all the holidays.
(Birthdays were the hardest then;
spinning out food to make a
party—a cupcake with a candle
poked in it;
"Happy Birthday" loud enough so
you wouldn't hear the
drunks fighting.)
You looked at me and sighed
sometimes, but never once
complained of it.
You hunkered further in your clothes
went on to school in coats
I found in a Dumpster
in a better neighborhood.
We slowly climbed the ladders
thrown to us, down in that place
where the ladders start.
We found the sunshine,
blinked our eyes and sailed
away in our safe ship.
Our harbor became a house
with mice.
The first snow came and
our pipes all burst.
I saw you dreams leak out your eyes
as Christmas literally went
down the drain.
But fresh new snow is made for
stamping we made a snowman
and a nuisance of ourselves.
Waiting for the plumber I
looked through the window
and all the footprints
in the yard were dancing.

—Roberta Guthrie Kowald

Anacrostic

1	F	2	C	3	C	4	A	5	A	6	H	7	G	8	I	9	C	10	H	11	E	12	B				
13	E	14	H	15	A	16	B	17	F	18	E	19	E	20	E	21	A	22	F	23	C	24	F				
25	B	26	E	27	F	28	F	29	H	30	B	31	B	32	A	33	A	34	B	35	H	36	D				
37	D	38	A	39	F	40	D	41	D	42	B	43	G	44	G	45	I	46	B	47	G	48	G	49	E	50	C
51	D	52	F	53	C	54	G	55	C	56	E	57	E	58	F	59	G	60	E	61	D	62	D	63	E		
64	I	65	D	66	F	67	G	68	A	69	D	70	H	71	G	72	H	73	I	74	B	75	F	76	I		

A. _____
Orca's Timepiece

B. _____
Before

C. _____
Babbitlike

D. _____
Accursed country

E. _____
Whole

F. _____
Self-helper

G. _____
As if you didn't care

H. _____
Producers

I. _____
Show down

Place the first letter of each answer on the blank below to spell out info about the quotation.

_____ . _____ . _____ . _____ . _____ . _____ . _____ . _____ . _____ . _____ .

What's an Anacrostic?

As you find the answers to the above questions, place the letters that have a numeric value in the grid above to spell out an illuminating quote. The first letters of each clue will spell out additional information about the quote.

Last Month's Answer:

"When wealth and the wealthy are honored in a city, virtue and the virtuous are prized less."
—Plato's Republic

Do Puzzles! Win Inexpensive Prizes!

Send us your completed anacrostic, and get a chance at winning a *Real Change* "Be Silent, Consume, Die" T-shirt. One drawing will be held per month. *Real Change* employees and volunteers, and their relatives, pets, and plants, are not eligible. Mail your completed anacrostic to Puzzle Person, *Real Change*, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121

MARCH

C
A
L
E
N
D
A
R

MARCH 1

International Death Penalty Abolition Day, the anniversary of Michigan becoming the first English Speaking territory in the world to abolish the death penalty, in 1847.

The Puget Sound Network for Compassionate Communication and A Season for Nonviolence present a Nonviolent Communications Workshop for those familiar with the NVC Basics (see Feb 26 events above), presented by Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D., International Peacemaker, Mediator, Teacher, Preregistration encouraged, \$90, \$75 by Feb 14, bring lunch or food to share and seat cushion, registration 9:30 p.m., session 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Ravenna Bryant Senior center, 2121 NE 68th at Ravenna Avenue, enter through parking lot but please park on street, near bus line 71. Partial scholarship requests by Feb 10 to Lisa Vuk 206-782-9570, info Janice Eng 206-706-1895 mailbox 2, or Lucy Leu 206-842-2304 mailbox star 2, or lucyleu@compuserve.com

Meeting of Jennifer Harbury Support Group, working for human rights in Guatemala and full disclosure of U.S. complicity in human rights violations, 7 p.m. and subsequent first Sundays, University Friends Library, 4001 9th Ave NE, info Raki Bauer 206-783-8481

MARCH 2

Lecture on the environmental consequences of war and economic development in Central America, Can poor nations achieve "development" without sacrificing the environment? Presentation by Jose "Chencho" Alas, international representative of Salvadoran NGO, Institute of Technology, Environment, and Self-Sufficiency, one of the first to start preaching liberation theology in the 1970s in El Salvador. 7 p.m., Seattle Public Library, Lee Auditorium, 1000 4th Ave.. See also speaking engagements on March 3, 5, 8; info CISPES, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, 206-325-5494, or Jonathan and Sarah 206-547-7565

MARCH 3

Gabriela Network-NW, a US Solidarity Group with GABRIELA-Philippines (Alliance of over 105 women's organizations in the Philippines), join in to get involved in solidarity work around Filipina and Asian Women's issues globally and domestically, Tuesday and subsequent first Tuesdays, 6 p.m., locations vary, Seattle, info 206-824-8229

Irish Northern Aid presents a video in an educational series exploring the current conflict in occupied Ireland and related issues, "Gerry Adams: Towards a Lasting Peace," documenting Gerry Adam's historical 1994 whirlwind tour of New York. Discussion facilitated by a local proponents for peace and justice in Ireland will follow. Free. Informational resources will be available, sponsored by the Native American Student Association at SCCC, 6:30 p.m., Seattle Central Community College, Room 1110/1111, info Eddie Schott 206-726-2306

Meeting of Citizens for Overt Action educating the public about the threat to democracy here and abroad by covert action, told us about the CIA- Crack connection a decade before the San

March, 1998

Jose Mercury report came out, Tuesday and subsequent first Tuesdays, 7 p.m., upstairs at 4759 15th Ave NE, info 206-547-7735

MARCH 4

Washington Assoc. of Churches, 419 Occidental S, meeting of Partnership for religion and the environment, 9 - 11 a.m.

Jobs with justice Seattle Organizing Committee meeting, Wednesday and subsequent first Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave, info 206-441-4969

MARCH 5

Last morning planning meeting for international women's day, newcomers welcome, 7:30 A.M., Fours Angels Cafe, 14th and Union, info Carol 206-328-9637 or femme2@scn.org

Ethnic Food Fair, featuring ethnic foods and music, sponsored by several campus groups, University of Washington, afternoon

Meeting of The Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network (formerly GLSTN, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers' Network), GLSEN is not only for teachers but for anyone interested in working with others to end homophobia in all of our schools. Come meet lots of interesting people and learn the variety of ways in which you can get involved, Thursday and subsequent 1st Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Northwest School, 1415 Summit, corner of Union on First Hill, info GLSENWA@aol.com or 206-343-8387

MARCH 6

Silent Candlelight Vigil for Asian - Pacific Islander women and children who have been hurt or murdered in domestic violence situations, 4:30 p.m., King County Courthouse Lawn. Info or to endorse the Vigil: Therese Topasna, Asian and Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center 206-467-9976

MARCH 7

Radical Women presents a International Women's Day Celebration and book launch for "Revolution, She Wrote," commentaries and essays on women and politics by local author and feminist frontrunner Clara Fraser. 8 p.m., New Free-

way Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave S. The event is also a 75th birthday tribute for the woman local papers have called "Seattle's Grand Dame of Socialism." Nothing's-Too-Good-For-the-Working-Class Prime Rib Dinner, with vegetarian option, served at 6:30 p.m. for a \$10 donation, all welcome, info 206-722-6057 or 206-722-2453

MARCH 8

Seattle's Celebration of Int'l Women's Day, this year's local theme "Women's Work Is Everybody's Business," national theme: "Working for Human Rights: Women Light the Way." Booths and entertainment, including Ladies Don't Drum, Seattle Labor Chorus. Learn about women related educational and support programs, join in celebrating the accomplishments of the women in our community and around the world." Info or to reserve a booth (\$35 negotiable) noon - 5 p.m., Seattle Center House, Lexie Evans 206-587-3890, Louise Chernin 206-632-8547, or femme2@scn.org

MARCH 10

Series "Civil Society in Everyday Life" looking at issues and how-to's of civility in the 1990's in Seattle and beyond, co-sponsored by the Center for Ethical Leadership, The Evergreen State Society, and Seattle University's Institute of Public Service, Tuesday and subsequent 2nd Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 a.m., Casey Commons, 5th Floor, Seattle University, \$8 advance; \$10 at door; payment to Center for Ethical Leadership, 464 12th Ave. Ste 320, Seattle WA 98122, info and RSVP Pat Hughes cel@halcyon.com or 206-328-3020

MARCH 11

Monthly meeting of the Labor Party, info on Independent Progressive Politics Network which includes the Labor Party, Wednesday and subsequent second Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave. Info: Curt 206-329-1048, info on Labor Party 206-382-5712

MARCH 12

Meeting of the Welfare Reform Coalition, subcommittee meetings, get involved in a project, childcare available if arranged in advance, Thursday and subsequent second Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. CAMP, 722 18th near Cherry. Info 206-273-9120

March 12 - 22, Seattle Public Theater presents Theater of Liberation Ensemble at Seattle Fringe Theater Festival, Theater of Liberation is based on the ground breaking Theater of the Oppressed work of Brazilian visionary, Augusto Boal, and uses theater as a tool to effect personal, social, and political change. Various times at ACT Cabaret, info Marc Weinblatt 206-328-4848 or Marco59@aol.com

MARCH 13

Full Moon Kayaking, a fundraising event for the Homestead Community Land Trust, promises to be an evening to remember; professionally guided kayaking tour to help create permanently affordable housing in Seattle, no kayaking experience necessary. 6 p.m., \$25, details and reservations 206-324-0091

MARCH 15

Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation monthly meeting, a program combining music and humor in "fighting with non-violence: Iggy the Clown and Len Schreiner Go to the Peace Academy," also featuring folksinger Tom Rawson, 5 p.m. potluck, 6 p.m. short business meeting and announcements, 6:30 program, 225 North 70th near Greenwood. Info 206-789-5565

MARCH 17

Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia general monthly action planning meeting. Everyone welcome. Tuesday and subsequent third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave NE. Info Geov 206-547-0952

MARCH 18

Seattle City Council Welfare Ad-Hoc Committee, matters concerning City's response to federal and State changes to welfare system including employment and training opportunities, immigration and naturalization, basic survival services, prioritization of human service allocations, 12 - 2 p.m., and subsequent 3rd Wednesdays, info Phillip Fujii or Junko Whitaker 206-684-8804

MARCH 21

Annual Spring Concert by Folksinging peace activists Men II Geezers to benefit Fellowship of Reconciliation. Refreshments. Suggested donation \$5 - 15, 7 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 1710 11th Ave, info 206-789-5565

MARCH 22

Seattle Women Act for Peace presents an Educational Gathering with refreshments and beverages and presentation with video by Kim Van Eyck on "Columbian Women in the Labor Force" based on Kim's research and solidarity work in Columbia, RSVP appreciated, 11:30 a.m., 3842 NE 90th, info 206-523-1127

MARCH 23

General meeting of coalition working against Initiative 200, Washington State anti-affirmative action Initiative, Newcomers welcome. Status reports, opportunities to get

involved, Monday and subsequent 4th Mondays, 6:30 p.m., CAMP, 722 18th near Cherry. Info Kathleen or Patrick 206-292-5715

MARCH 24

Meeting of Foundation for Global Community which contributes to a transformation of cultural values, a transformation from the dominant culture of growth, of more, of materialism, to a culture of enough, of quality and excellence, of spirit, a culture which works for the diversity of life, meet to support one another in pursuit of this goal, all interested individuals welcome, tuesday and subsequent 4th Tuesdays, various locations, info Jerry Martin 425-746-7304 or martins@televar.com

MARCH 27

Critical Mass, an organized coincidence of bicyclists who ride around the streets of Seattle en masse. It happens when a lot of cyclists happen to be in the same place at the same time and decide to cycle the same way together for a while. Come join the fun! Friday and subsequent last Fridays, 5:30 p.m., Westlake Park, downtown, 4th & Pine, More info http://www.oz.net/~nic/cm.html

MARCH 28

50 years since Mahatma Gandhi died to 30 years since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died, celebrate a season for non-violence by

Taking Steps for Peace, Walk for Peace led by Arun and Sunanda Gandhi, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Memorial Stadium, Seattle Center to Myrtle Edwards Park and back, info 206-524-8816 or http://www.GandhiKing.com

MARCH 31

Green Party of Seattle monthly general meeting. Come check out, learn about, and become a part of Seattle's progressive political option. Tuesday and subsequent last Tuesdays, 7 p.m., University Heights Center, NE 50th & University Way NE, U district, To get involved, become a member, or for more information about the Greens 206-215-1158 or sgreens@boutell.com or P.O. Box 95515, Seattle WA 98145-2515, or http://boutell.com/seagreens

APRIL 1

Jobs with Justice Seattle Organizing Committee meeting, Wednesday and subsequent first Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave. Info 206-441-4969

APRIL 7-MAY 19

Tuesdays, April 7 - May 19, North Seattle Community College sponsors a class taught by Sol Saporta, a retired linguistics professor from the University of Washington, for seniors [defined in this instance as those over 50 years of age] on the various kinds of political humor: safe and (in)correct;

universal vs. circumstantial; feminist humor; self-ridicule vs. ridiculing the victim; urban, ethnic and sexual jokes; linguistic taboos, authority images; the 60's, teenagers and more! 2:30 - 4 p.m., Northgate Mall, Room A,

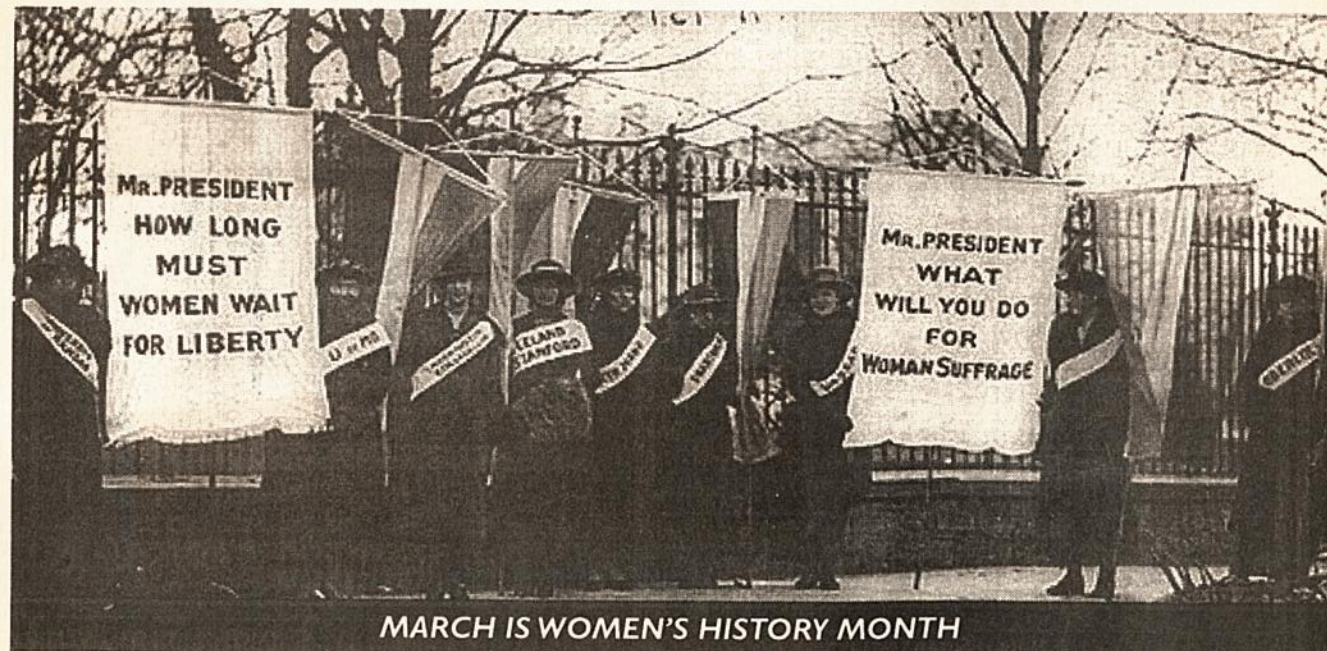
ONGOING

Through early March, Washington State Legislative Session, let your Representatives and Senators know you want justice, Legislative Hotline 1-800-562-6000, info on issues and bills, Children's Alliance web site with frequent updates and direct links to legislator http://www.childrealliance.org

Free Video Rentals of Citizen Vagrom's Micro-Media monthly offerings, a monthly video magazine highlighting independent, micro-media from Seattle and beyond, (also premiering on TV Channel 29 first Wednesdays), at Rain City Video, Fremont, Ballard, Sunset Hill; Video Vertigo, 913 East Pike. Broadway Video, Broadway Market; Scarecrow Video, 5030 Roosevelt Way. Info 206-344-6434 or citizen@speakeasy.org

Boycott Gallo and Mondavi Wines to support the United Farm Workers union, local info 206-443-7645

The Coalition for the Preservation of Affirmative Action. A campus group working against Initiative 200. Regular mtgs Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., University of WA, HUB 200C, info dhoon@u.washington.edu



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March, 1998

Yes on SHB 2459

Accountability Preserves Housing Options for the Poor

The Citizens Participation Project seeks to provide you with the views and concerns that homeless, poor, and working people's advocacy organizations have about pending legislation, both local and national, in a clear, concise and meaningful way.

Our hope is that the information provided here will help make participating in the legislative process a good thing for you. Indeed, something that you want to do.

BACKGROUND: In 1939, Washington State enacted the Housing Authorities Law authorizing cities and counties to establish locally-specific public housing authorities in order to serve the housing needs of low-income folks and senior citizens.

With 8,000-10,000 units of low-income housing in their inventory, the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) is our state's largest owner and manager of low-income housing.

In recent years, a number of issues have surfaced which call into question the effectiveness and integrity of SHA as an organization by the public with the public interest in mind. These issues include SHA's use of public federal money to demolish a substantial number of their low-income units, the "selling off" or conversion of part of their low-income units to market rate or "mixed-income" housing in order to recoup revenue lost due to cutbacks in federal funding, as well as the raising of rents altogether on their low-income housing inventory.

On many levels, SHA has been unresponsive to public criticism regarding these issues and unaccountable to the very people it was established to represent- the poor and the elderly of our community.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE: Public housing authorities are governed by a five-member commission each of which are appointed by the mayor of a city or the governing body of the county establishing the housing authority. The Public Housing Participation Bill, SHB 2459, seeks to alter the way in which these commission appointments, most particularly that of the SHA, are made.

If passed, SHB 2459 would restructure the commission of SHA to include members of the community and guarantee appointment of public housing residents to the Board of SHA. As the Board is ultimately responsible for the actions of SHA, the passing of the bill would insure that the SHA be accountable, responsive, and act with integrity on behalf of the very people it was created to represent.

Currently in Seattle on any given day, it is estimated that there are over 4000 folks in our community without a home, over 15,000 low-income households on a 5-year waiting list for public housing, and another 35,000 low-income households paying more than they can afford for their housing and subsequently, at risk of becoming

homeless. With stats such as these, we cannot afford to have SHA or any of our state's public housing authorities abandon their original mission of housing our poor and elderly.

ACTION NEEDED: Please call your Senator and Representatives at the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000 and urge them to vote "YES" on SHB 2459, the Public Housing Participation Bill.

RECOMMENDED MESSAGE: "If passed, SHB 2459 would restructure the commission appointments of all of our state's public housing authorities, insuring that they be accountable, responsive, and act with integrity on behalf of the very people they were created to represent- our poor and elderly in need of housing."

Advocating Organizations: The Seattle Displacement Coalition, the Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens, OPEIU Local 8, and the Downtown Human Services Council, to name a few. Very special thanks to Rep. Velma Veloria of the 11th District. [A]

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