

Mockingbird Times



Building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth

August 2005

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

Volume V, Issue 8

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

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Mockingbird Society Celebrates Four Years

MISTY LOU
COOK



Congratulations to the Mockingbird Society! This August Issue, we celebrate four years of Foster and Homeless Youth Advocacy! Looking back on all that the Mockingbird Society has done on behalf of our marginalized and struggling young people, we should feel proud. From publishing our first *Mockingbird Times* newspaper four years ago to forming the ASK-Y Advocacy Group to sponsoring Youth Advocacy Day in Olympia, WA, these have been some amazing years, and we're just getting started.

"The Mockingbird Society strives toward the vision of a world in which the intrinsic value of our most marginalized children will be both recognized and celebrated. As an organization, we are committed to advocacy, public education and system reform on behalf of the thousands of children and adolescents involved in the Child Welfare System." We put these words into action last year when we facilitated the passage of House Bill 3078. Because of the hard work of our ASK-Y Advocates and our MBS Executive Director, HB 3078 became a law that protects rehabilitated youth by sealing their juvenile records promptly so that they may get jobs, scholarships, and other legal and professional essentials. This House Bill has the potential to have a positive effect on up to 10,000 youth per year.

Last year also brought the glowing success of the Mockingbird Family Model, formerly known as the Mockingbird Foster Family Constellation Project. This innovative and evolutionary model, created and implemented by our own Jim Theofelis, has received much

praise and respect from the Northwest Children's Institute (NWC) of the University of Washington, a children's organization known for its excellent history in conducting research and evaluations of projects concerning children in the foster care system. The NWC reported that, thanks to the Mockingbird Family Model, siblings remained together in placements, parents reported feeling supported in their roles as foster parents. Parents of the children who received tutoring reported that the children showed improved attention and concentration in class, which resulted in improved grades in the majority of classes. This year we have been given a large donation to replicate this extraordinary foster care model in five different locations throughout King County!

The *Mockingbird Times* newspaper publishes articles ranging from Summer Events in Seattle to the possibility of a U.S Draft happening soon to poetry voicing one girl's dissent from and resistance to the street drug culture. The *Times'* unique articles are proof-positive of the diversity of our staff and it's amazing to be a part of this society that advocates for street youth and young people in the foster care system. Working here has given me a crash course about the foster care system and how dysfunctional the foster care system really is ... and I'm not just saying that. We have youth reporters here who have been in well over 10 different placements and experiences that range from alienation to worse than I could imagine. Yet we all come here weekly, to the safe space of the *Mockingbird Times*, to write and tell our stories, hang out, grow and thrive in this positive environment.

When I first started writing for the *Mockingbird Times*, now over a year ago, I was still struggling with homelessness. I had been on and off of the streets since I was in Middle School, which at that point had been 6 or 7 years, and the *Mockingbird Times* offered me my dream job of getting paid to write. At first it was only

a few hours, but it paid for food here and there and helped me get started on my path to self-made stability.

I hope that the *Mockingbird Times* and its message of justice for all youth will spread far and wide. I hope that all youth that are homeless, in foster care or elsewhere will one day receive love, safe homes, positive community support and social equality. Four years from now, I dream that youth all over the world will be cared for, taken care of and truly loved. "I have a dream" that one day my blurb about wishing for world justice would become just another part of history ... no longer relevant because we as people finally evolved and all of our children are now safe, happy and loved. In four years, I hope that the *Mockingbird Times* will be publishing a headline that reads: "Humanity Finally United! We Are Loved and There Is Peace."

Courtney Konietzko has been writing for the *Mockingbird Times* for over two years. In four years, Konietzko would like to "see the Mockingbird Family Model replicated across all 50 states." She wants to see all 50 states communicating about homelessness, foster care and the Mockingbird Family Model. When asked about the impact that the *Mockingbird Times* and The Mockingbird Society has had on her life, Konietzko said "Ever since I started working here, there's been positive changes in my life."

Writer and poet James Baldwin once wrote "For these are all our children and we will profit by or pay for whatever they become." If these words hold true, which it seems that they do and always will, then the *Mockingbird Times* and its society of people who care for the youth of today will definitely be profiting from the positive and hard work that we do in the near future, the far future and the future that I'm yet to dream about.

* www.mockingbirdsociety.org

Mockingbird Receives National Award

The Mockingbird Society is pleased to announce that we have received the prestigious **Angels in Adoption Award** in which members of congress recognize organizations and individuals from their states who have changed the lives of children through foster care and adoption. Nominated by **Washington State Congressman Jim McDermott of the Seventh District**, the achievement places Mockingbird Society at the forefront of national attention for advocacy and support of our nations most vulnerable children.

McDermott announced, "I am pleased to honor the Mockingbird Society with the Angels in Adoption award. Through its innovative programs, the Mockingbird Society has proven itself to be a considerable force in the fight for children's justice. The work of the Mockingbird Society makes me very proud to represent the Seattle area. I look forward to its future contributions to the children of the Seventh District," upon hearing that the Mockingbird Society was distinguished by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Mockingbird Society: The Story Behind the Name

The 1962 American classic *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is the inspiration for our name, Mockingbird Society. Atticus, the widowed father of Jem and Scout, joins Miss Maudie in teaching his kids that it's a sin to kill a mockingbird because "...mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't do one thing but sing their hearts

out for us." What if we created an organization, a community, indeed a world in which our most vulnerable children and youth were protected and valued with the same commitment that Atticus had for mockingbirds? Join the Mockingbird Society today and help us give young people a safe place to nest and sing.

Hey You!

The Mockingbird Society is looking for a volunteer Volunteer coordinator. For more info contact Darcie Gray at 206-323-5437(KIDS) or via email at darcie@mockingbirdsociety.org,

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We are looking for articles, poetry, artwork and photography from our young readers who have experience in the foster care system and/or homelessness. If you want to be published in the *Times*, contact us at 206-323-5437 or via email at newspaper@mockingbirdsociety.org. For more info and to check us out, go to www.mockingbirdsociety.org.

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

Letter from the Editor

Greetings and Happy Summer! The Mockingbird Society is proud to celebrate four years of operations serving children, youth and families involved in foster care and/or homelessness. Over the past four years we have worked hard to ensure that young people have an active voice in the social justice effort to reform the foster care system and reduce the number of youth who become homeless and/or street-involved. Our Youth LEAD program sponsors the *Mockingbird Times*, ASK-Y and our Youth Speakers Panel. Youth LEAD is an employment readiness program that provides marginalized youth with an opportunity to develop leadership and advocacy skills while also earning, saving and spending money through honest, hard work. We are a mission-driven organization that is dedicated to improving the current and future lives of the children and youth involved in the foster care system. Having young people join us in this mission has been an amazing reward. I often tell the youth reporters at *Mockingbird Times* that we are working to

reform the foster care system not only for their benefit but for the benefit of the five year old little girl or boy who has just entered foster care. It is truly a blessing to watch how these young people have embraced and strengthened our mission. In addition I would like to thank you, our readers, for taking the time to read the *Mockingbird Times* and especially to those of you who have sent us feedback about the paper or a particular article you have read. This feedback is so important to the youth and I encourage you all to take a moment to share your thoughts and responses about our work. I also want to thank those of you who have donated to Mockingbird Society and would encourage each of you to contribute to Mockingbird and allow us to continue to do our work: **"Building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth."**

 Jim Theofelis
jim@mockingbirdsociety.org

Tough Lovin'

JASMINE CALDWELL



Love is not everything people say it is. Love can make you do some crazy things, things that you can't even imagine. Love can be passionate but it can also be hurtful in so many ways. When you're in love it can make you feel so high that you think you can do anything but it also can make you feel low to the point where you have nothing going for yourself. Being in love doesn't mean you let the person you're in love with walk over you and talk to you in any kind of way. It means you share commonalities. Love is beyond lust. Being infatuated with someone isn't love, it just means that you're obsessed with the person; you think you're in love with the person when you're really not.

I don't have much experience being in love but I understand what it means. I see people go through it every day in movies and in real life. In the year of 2004, I fell in love with a man who I never thought I would want to spend time with because he was a drug dealer, on the streets a lot and was in and out of jail. That was not something I wanted to be part of. I've been with him for the last ten months and he has been in prison for the majority of our relationship. Being with someone who is incarcerated is very stressful and I found that out the hard way. It's like they expect so much from you just because you have access to the real world. That's not all true, it's stressful for us too because we have lives of our own. If you have a lot going for yourself you don't want to throw that all away just for someone you love. I've been through so much with my boyfriend: his insecurity, him thinking that I'm talking

to other guys. Stress is one thing that a woman doesn't need from a man, especially when he sees what stresses you out and he knows what buttons to press, always finding another reason to mess with you because he knows what makes you mad. Just the little things that a man can do to a woman can make you go crazy.

Love is such a strong word but do half of the people who use it know what it means? My definition of love is trusting the person you're with, caring for that person so much that you would do just about anything for them, feeling comfortable around the person no matter what you do and how you do it and telling secrets to that person no matter how embarrassing they may be. Being in love feels great but at the same time it can hurt; trust me, I know from experience. I've been in a serious relationship for almost a year now and I feel that I can't do anything without his permission or without letting him know what I'm going to do ahead of time. He always finds a way to hurt my feelings just so he can hear me say I love him. My boyfriend has had his heart shattered in pieces many times so I'm the one who has to pick up the pieces just because I love him. Half of the time I get confused on what love is because he tells me things that sound so good but does something different, which ends up making me cry. I honestly know that my boyfriend is not the right one for me but it's hard for me to let go because I fell in love with him. It's like he has a hold on me (which he does) but he doesn't know that. So, my question for you readers is: How do you find the words to say goodbye to someone you've grown to love and care for?

Please respond to with your advice/support to:

The Mockingbird Times,
2100 24th Ave. South Ste. 240,
Seattle, Wa 98144

Washington Education Foundation's first Annual Make It Happen college experience



Regina Louise's mother Jeannie Kerr, Mockingbird Times Reporter Teresa Asher, MBT Reporter Larishica Asher, Regina Louise (author of "Somebody's Someone"), and MBT Reporter Ashley Grant

THANK YOU'S

Biji Keigley, Gino Valdivia, Elizabeth Upton & Rayburn Lewis, The Jundt/Stoll Family, Susan & Jennifer Cedar, Congressman Jim McDermott

ABOUT US: The Mockingbird Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to building a world class foster care system and improving the other systems that serve children and adolescents involved in homelessness and foster care. The *Mockingbird Times* is a monthly newspaper written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of Mockingbird Society are paid between \$7.50 and \$8.50 an hour. Additionally, youth from across the country submit articles, art work, poetry and are compensated up to \$25 per published piece. The *Mockingbird Times* has a monthly circulation of 40,000 copies being distributed across Washington State and the U.S.A, through a private distribution list and as an insert in *Real Change*, a Seattle-based community newspaper. Youth involvement is the key to the philosophy, values, and success of The Mockingbird Society and, as such, youth are involved in all aspects of organizational development and decision-making. Donations to The Mockingbird Society may be tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. No part of the *Mockingbird Times* may be reproduced without the written permission of The Mockingbird Society. All contents copyright 2005 The Mockingbird Society.

A Mockingbird Inside Your Mailbox

Make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable youth and support the Mockingbird Society!

Donations may be tax deductible and all donors receive the *Mockingbird Times*. Enclosed, please find my check made payable to Mockingbird Society in the amount of: \$ _____

Suggested Donations:

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

NAME	PHONE		
ADDRESS	EMAIL		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	<input type="checkbox"/> Please do not include my name on published donor lists.

Please fill out and mail this form with a check or money order payable to: The Mockingbird Society, 2100 24th Ave South Suite 240, Seattle WA 98144

MEET OUR STAFF

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Harry Potter Book Review

ECHO
SPEED



Harry Potter. Harry is the boy who grew up with cruel and neglectful caregivers, discovering upon his 12th birthday that he had really been a wizard with magical powers his whole life. Harry put an end to the horrific reign of an evil tyrant when he was just a baby, due to a magical spell placed on him by his mother, and became a legend among the witch and wizard community. Great things are expected of him... and so far he's been having his fair share of opportunities. In book six, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," J.K. Rowling paints the picture of a society at war. Every wizard's worst fears have become realized, for Lord Voldemort (or "He who must not be named") is back, and what's left of his Death Eaters have come out of hiding. Dementors have joined forces with the Dark Lord, important members of the ministry have come up either missing or brutally murdered, and even the muggle community (the "human" world: a world lacking the ability to do magic) are suffering from horrible disasters and deaths. All wizards and witches are advised to take extreme (and slightly peculiar) caution at all times for who knows when, where, or how Voldemort's Death Eaters will strike next. People believe that Harry is the "chosen one" now...that Harry

is the one who's meant to defeat the Dark Lord and put a stop to him once and for all. Lucky for them that's precisely what he plans to do.

You'll enjoy this book even more than the last... it truly is worth all the silly hype it's been getting. You're in suspense throughout the whole book and the end is a real star-studded shocker. Also, you'll get to enjoy the developed romances as well... and there's more emphasis on certain characters that have only been mentioned in books preceding the sixth one. I don't suggest you pick this book up and start reading without reading the other ones first. And to be perfectly honest the movies based on Harry Potter, as fantastic as they are, would not be sufficient enough. The movies are great and they do a better job than most at sticking to the story's concept, but Rowling places little hints and minor details in one book that always lead to a major thing a few books down the line. There is so much of the story that you just wouldn't ever understand if you didn't bother to read what came before it. If you're too impatient to read the first five books (this would take a while because the books start getting quite large after I and II) then I suggest you do what I did with Book IV, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," and listen to the book on audio. I always listened while in bed and I managed to get "Order of the Phoenix" knocked out in only a couple days. Plus the man who does the voice over in the book is incredible... he's done all six books and really makes the stories come alive.

Harry's author, J.K.Rowling, has been creating brilliant plots filled with all kinds

of juicy elements and sensational details for many years now. She has literally hatched into existence a whole new reality fully loaded with clever adventures, sprightly characters, and major contrasting forces of good vs. evil in a magical realm. What I've personally enjoyed is the way she's matured her books one after another. With each book, Rowling's writing seems to slowly but surely climb up the ladder of age pertaining to its different audiences, and although it is true that the pages of every Harry Potter book are undeniably devoured by almost all ages, there is still an obviously... more "mature" read in book six if compared to the very first book that was written. Originally, at the start of the book series, we were having awe-struck fun in the world of magic, discovering the supernatural joy in being a witch or wizard and the bizarre lifestyle led by one. We went on dangerous adventures with Harry and his friends, but we never doubted the outcome and had complete faith all the way. Now things are different, because these past few books have started getting more and more dark, and less and less assuring when it comes to the safety of beloved characters we've all grown so attached to. Everything's become so serious, so dangerous... on levels you most certainly would never find in an old "Goosebumps" tale. I dare say J.K.Rowling has brought the kind of epic and adventurous fantasy, mostly captured in adult-level novels, to a reading and understanding level that anyone with the ability to read can and will enjoy.

I know you'll get pleasure from this impressive work of fiction.

YWCA Working Zone Open House

Come celebrate the grand opening of our new facility! Food and beverages all day!

When: August 11th, 3PM-7PM
Where: 5516 Roosevelt Way NE

Phone: 206-633-7901

The YWCA Working Zone is an employability program for homeless youth ages 15-21

YWCA Working Zone offers:

- Paid internships-Earn \$7.35 per hour
- Safe and adequate housing for every youth
- Increased job skills, life skills and exposure to career and educational opportunities
- Job search assistance
- Stabilization in collaboration with services in the community

My Journey of Self-Discovery

COURTNEY
KONIETZKO



I grew up in Port Angeles, Washington and went to an elementary school that was mostly composed of white people. I never really thought of myself as "not white" until other people pointed it out. I remember there being three black people and about 10 Asian people in the elementary school. As early as kindergarten, when kids saw my white parents they would ask me, "why don't your parents match you?" I remember feeling vaguely uncomfortable and telling them I was adopted. Then sometimes I had to explain what being adopted meant, although I hardly understood myself. The word "biological" mom or dad as compared to "real" mom or dad was alien and confusing to me. I didn't realize until now, at age 22, that being adopted has made a major imprint on my life. Even with a better understanding there are still so many questions unanswered.

What inspired this article? I work with mostly African-American youth, which has made me look at myself; I realized one day that I wasn't any more black than I was white and I had walked around blindly up to this point believing I was a Twinkie: white on the inside yellow on the outside.

I was adopted at 6 months old from Seoul, South Korea and came to the United States screaming the entire plane ride because of a bad ear infection. Kids can be cruel; they used to take their fingers and

pull up the sides of their eyes and call me "slant eye." It's funny, later on in life when I told my high school teacher in Seattle that story he told me that when he went over to Korea, kids did the opposite. They pulled their eyes down and made fun of him for being a "round eye." Later on when I took art classes I was not chosen to model and I think it was because I am an Asian-American; the white girls were the preferred choice. Sometimes people make comments to me about Asian restaurants serving up cats and dogs, how Asians can't drive, and occasionally "chink" and "gook" have been verbally hurled at me. This is what I've experienced as overt racism. What have I experienced as covert racism? This is a question I ask myself sometimes.

I guess I learned to assimilate well because I was able to hide my race from myself growing up in a white city and a white household. I learned to talk white and dress white. Even friends would say to me, "I don't think of you as Asian." Is that supposed to be a compliment? Then I started trying to dress as weird as possible, for example putting my waist-length hair up into one giant spike and wearing vintage polyester. **For a while I thought my style would talk for me and give me an identity but I was wrong. Identity goes deeper than the surface. When I moved to Seattle I felt even more lost in some ways because other people dressed as weird as I did or even weirder so that couldn't define me as an individual anymore.**

Later it came as a shock that assimilation does not mean I can hide my race from myself. Eventually that part of myself will find me. Whenever I look in a mirror it is quite obvious to me that I am Asian and sometimes it even shocks me

because it is one of those things I forget. In a way that part of my identity is lost and I become lost in what I do, my job title, and what I like. I know deeper down there are cultural roots that play a big part of the picture. I stand strong like a tree in a windstorm but sometimes feeling like my roots are uplifted and I am going to be tumbled away, confused in questions, welling up in the eyes with tears, sick of looking at others who look like my race, and knowing that this must be addressed in order for me to come to peace. **My leaves get shaken sometimes by the simplest questions like: where do you come from, colored people can't tan can they, do you know who your "real" parents are, etc.**

Whenever any paperwork would ask me what my race was, I would mark other and fill in the blank provided with "human." There were a couple of times when culturally specific services were offered to me because of my race and I turned them down both times feeling singled out. I responded with, "We're all human, aren't we?" Inside I was fighting the blonde-haired, blue-eyed monster that wanted to take over. This monster still rears its ugly head sometimes when I see models on TV, but now I know that being a person of color is beautiful too. I struggle with the fact that I have hooded eyelids, which means that there is an extra fold of skin around my eyes. Some days both eyelids show, other days there's just one showing, some days they both disappear. This makes applying eye shadow a challenge sometimes. There is a cosmetic surgery procedure to "fix" this "problem" called blepharoplasty, where they make both eyelids match.

It's funny, when I go out to eat at an

Asian restaurant with a group of predominantly Caucasian people, I am the only person who asks for a fork. Recently I discovered I love Korean food, not surprising. It is like I am in disguise because I look the part, being South Korean myself, yet I have to ask the wait people to explain what everything is. I feel as lost in an Asian grocery store as any person of non-Asian descent would typically feel.

I remember dipping my hair in a bucket of Clorox when I was in middle school because I desperately wanted to be platinum blonde. I sat there for about half an hour until I couldn't take the burn anymore and was disappointed it didn't work. The only thing it left me with was a red inflamed scalp. I thought Clorox bleach and hair bleach were the same product.

I tried to do the stereotypical gothic look and paint my face white. It looked pretty silly with a tan neck. For years I bought foundation in the wrong color trying to disguise the color of my skin. Then when I started accepting the color of my skin I realized it is extremely difficult to find makeup with yellow undertones. Then I found Zhen Cosmetics, a company that specializes in makeup specifically for Asian people. MAC is also a good company and one of the first major lines to take into account people of color and the many varying hues of skin color.

For so long I refused to acknowledge my culture. Then it became apparent that I must know my roots in order to grow after looking around my work space one day and realizing I am not black any more than I am white. I look forward to the future and what it holds on this journey of self-discovery.

Reel Grrls Rock!

MISTY LOU COOK

REEL GRRLS KICKED OFF IN 2001, AND HAS BEEN KICKING THE BUTTS OF THE MALE-DOMINATED MEDIA EVER SINCE. Reel Grrls teaches classes to young women between the ages of 14 and 18 about the importance of critiquing and thoroughly examining the media they are often exposed to and influenced by. After empowering these young women to challenge the media, Reel Grrls help the real grrls develop the skills necessary to produce their own media. Young women are taught such valuable skills as video, audio, and web production.

Reel Grrls tell it how it is on their website and tell the truth about the media and who control it right now. Statistics like "Only 3% of all of the cinematographers in Hollywood are women. A woman has never won an Academy Award for Film Directing," are disturbing and, well, REAL. What would Reel Grrls have to say in response to this kind of reality? **"REEL GRRLS would like to change that." And they have, they are and they will.**

Reel Grrls believes that, "As media plays such an influential role in our global society, we believe that if women and girls are to achieve equality and advancement in today's world they must be taught to be

media literate."* By teaching young women how to deconstruct the media, know the truth about who's running the shows on today's mainstream television programs and giving young women the power and knowledge to create their own media, Reel Grrls is spreading a wildfire of inspiration and social change ... and that fire of hope is catching and it is spreading worldwide. Young women are finding their own unique voices and expressing the need for justice and equality. People are taking notice of these young women, their art and these Reel Grrls are definitely keeping it real.

Reel Grrls have grown strong and, since their debut in 2001, have been shown around the world at such film festivals as The Sundance Film Festival-Gen-Y Studio, The Hong Kong and Korean International Film Festival, Hamptons International Film Festival, The San Diego Film Festival, The MediaRights Online Festival, Zoom To Europe (Hungary), Media That Matters Film Festival (New York) and the Bend-It Film Festival (Seattle). And, in 2003, the 27th Young Peoples Film & Video Festival (Portland, Oregon), the Seattle LGBTQ Film Festival, the Seoul International Youth Film Festival (South Korea) and the list

goes on and on and on!

I recently enjoyed the opportunity of speaking with **Reel Grrls co-founder and Program Director Lucia Ramirez.** Ramirez is in charge of overseeing daily operations, making sure that the curriculum is adequate, managing volunteers, making sure that fun happens and many other responsibilities. When I asked Ramirez why she initially became involved with Reel Grrls, she said that she loved the **"opportunity to not just talk about issues and the impact of the negative media on body image, but to give these young women the tools to combat the media."** Reel Grrls definitely gives young women tools, such as the ability to dream, implement and produce their own media. Ramirez, myself and many other people would love to see a woman's perspective in the movies for a change.

I had the incredible fortune of viewing some of the Reel Grrls films last year. My favorite film was a "mock-umentary" about a girl in High School who had to come out as straight in an almost all-queer (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited, etc) world. I watched this great film via the Bend-It Extravaganza's Film Festival. The movie was hilarious, memorable and thought-provoking! The main character's name was Kate, and she confided in a close friend that she was so worried that everyone, in the

predominately queer world she lived in, would call her "Straight Kate." Eventually, Kate comes out as straight, despite the obstacles, and learns lessons about how important it is to know yourself and remain true to yourself. The Title of the movie is "Coming Out...Straight" and the young producer's name is Kali Snowden.

If you're interested in viewing some of the Reel Grrls videos, the lovely and talented ladies at Reel Grrls have some fantastic products for sale...including the mock-umentary that I've been raving about! If you're an individual who would like to acquire such a film, the cost is a mere \$20, if you're a library or some other sort of similar establishment, the price is \$45.

Lucia Ramirez wanted me to "make sure that the organizations who have supported this are acknowledged." So, a big thank you goes out to the YMCA and 911 Media Arts Center. Another thank you goes out to Lucia Ramirez and Malory Graham, for having the courage to start one of the most innovative young women's artists programs I've ever heard of and for making the Reel Grrls Program so incredibly real and truly amazing. Thank you for helping young women find their voices and for being leaders in the movement towards equality, visibility and justice.

* <http://www.reelgrrls.org/about.html>

Summer Events in Seattle

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

Arab Festival

Saturday August 6th, Sunday August 7th
Seattle Center 305 Harrison St.
FREE!

Music, film, dance, exhibits, food, coffee tent, lectures, children's activities, bazaar, Saturday night dance party from the diversity of the Arab world. For more info go to http://www.nwsourc.com/ae/scr/edb_ed.cfm?c=&evt=170886&s=nws

All Mini Car Show

Saturday August 13 from 10am-3pm
Northgate Mall 401 N.E. Northgate Way
FREE

For more info go to http://www.nwsourc.com/ae/scr/edb_ed.cfm?c=&evt=180351&s=nws

Special Exhibition: Asian and Pacific Islander Adoptees: a journey through identity

T-F 11am - 4:30pm, Sat and Sun 12-4pm.
Wing Luke Asian Museum
407 Seventh Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98104
\$2-4

First Thursday of every month is free because it is part of First Thursday Art Walk For more info go to <http://www.wingluke.org/>

Art Walks

First Thursday of Every Month from 6-8pm
FREE!

35+ art venues, galleries, museums, sometimes restaurants, bars, and shops too. They take place in the Pioneer Square Area and the downtown area.

For more info go to <http://www.nwsourc.com/arts/guides/galleries/artwalks/pioneersquare.html>

Free Introductory Aikido Class

Tuesday August 30th, at 6:30 pm
Aikikai 4101 West Marginal Way #A1
Seattle, WA 98106
FREE!

This is a class for people new to Aikido to take a look at the dojo, and see what it's all about. Now's your chance - and if you sign up for membership at the class, you'll get a special introductory discount. For more info go to <http://www.westseattleaikikai.com/>

Your Heart Breaks Concert

Wednesday, August 10 at 6:30pm
16510 N East 79th St (The Old Firehouse)
Redmond, WA 98052
FREE!

With the Sneaky Spines. All Ages.

Rocking DVD Screening

Monday, August 22 at 7pm
The Triple Door
216 Union St, Seattle, 98101
FREE!

A film chronicling the first 10 years of Saddle Creek Records as told through interviews, home movies, rare live performances and never-before-seen archival footage, featuring Bright Eyes, The Faint, Cursive, Rilo Kiley and many more! All Ages.

The New Pornographers (In-Store Performance)

Monday August 22nd at 11pm
Sonic Boom Records in Ballard.
FREE!

New Album "Twin Cinema" will go on sale immediately after the performance. All Ages! Free! Sonic Boom is located at 2209 NW Market St, Seattle, 98107

CREATIVE CORNER



I Want to Hear About Something Nice for a Change

KYLE PILLSBURY

"He is described as a 6 foot 210 pound Caucasian Male. He is considered armed and dangerous. If you have any information regarding the murder or the murderer's whereabouts please call..."

I change the channel, sick of hearing News stories about murder and rape. I want to hear about how Mr. Phillips saved 3,500 jobs by opening the new bank, or how Mrs. Martin just had her third daughter and still managed to bake cakes for the Harrison Elementary bake sale.

Why do people watch other people talk about everything we've been taught is wrong? Why don't people watch shows where people live away from Murder and aren't smothered in Crime? Today A man can't sing or Flow without being called a criminal. What does that say about today's society. It says anything different must be criminal.

If you cross a fictional line into Canada you can turn on the news and hear about the new speed bumps downtown. Why is it that less than five miles apart from Each other are there opposite worlds? Today's youth, our next leaders, don't need to hear about Murder and rape. We need to be revised listening to things that won't enwrap us in fear. If I still watched the news I wouldn't be able to leave my house for fear of being shot. Even though my chances of being murdered or raped are very low the media wants me to believe that everyone is a criminal. Why?

For once I would like to turn on the News and hear about the increasing rabbit population in Bill Jerson's backyard. I want to live in a world free of fear and full of friends and neighbors who know each other's names. Maybe I'm alone, but I still just want to hear about something nice for a change.

Statistics

KYLE PILLSBURY

When you look at me you see another Statistic. In your eyes I'm just another High school junkie with no future, right? You think I'll probably end up selling dope

In some back alley, don't you? If you do you're wrong. I am a poet and a friend. I am a shoulder to lean on. I am a leader. There was a time when I used drugs, but now I'm clean. I lead a life with friends and I go to school and I manage to pass all of my classes with C's or better. If you get to know Me you would see that I'm a comedian.

If you look deep enough you would see that everyday I fight to stay clean And I fight to help others do the Same. I deal with life by myself, without Drugs to numb the pain. Life will never Get hard enough to make me use again because I Have felt the pain drugs cause, and I cannot Put myself through that torture again. Do you

Still think I'm just another statistic? If you do you haven't been paying attention. I am strong. You are the statistic.