

Mockingbird Times

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



December 2004

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

Volume IV, Issue 12

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

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Election Proves that Every Vote Counts

ECHO SPEED



ROD LOVE, CANADIAN ALLIANCE CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST, was once quoted as saying, "Once again we saw the phenomena of three kinds of citizens in this country: the activists who campaign hard, the regular citizen who votes but does not otherwise participate and the truly tuned out who never even know when an election has been called." Only about 18% of the overall ballot count for the 2004 presidential election belonged to youth voters. Because 18% was the youth count for the 2000 presidential election as well, there are many who assume the youth vote for this election just repeated history. In reality it isn't quite the same, because truth be told a large number of youth did turn out to vote for this past election.

However, despite the marketing for this election, not near as many anticipated youth voters took the time to go to the polls, and given that there was such a large number of votes from the rest of the population, the number of youth who actually did vote still only averaged out to 18% from our prior election (seattlepi.com, 11/4/04).

It's safe to say that the 2004 presidential election was viewed as very important by most everyone in the nation, and getting people to vote, primarily youth and minorities, was a major focus for political parties. You might as well have been living under a rock to have missed all the talk and efforts to gain every youth vote. "Rock The Vote" and MTV's "Choose or Lose" both made immense efforts to get young people registered to vote and involved in the campaign issues. Moreover, let us not forget the "Vote or Die" project thanks to P. Diddy and Russel Simmons. Many people and groups would stop you in the street, or come knocking at your door, and some

would set up booths around every promising area to get as many youth as possible (or just anyone for that matter) registered to vote. 18 to 29 year olds' votes showed a 9.3% increase over the amount of votes (from the same age group) from the 2000 presidential election. Cardinal De Retz once appropriately said, "There are no small steps in great affairs."

Unfortunately, there are reports from CNN Headline News that although "Rock The Vote" had hoped to bring 25 million new voters to the polls, estimates show they only got six million. The "Vote or Die" campaign was surpassed four to one by the Christian Youth Vote. 47% of those who were newly registered either slept in or were no shows. On top of that, even though Senator Kerry conceded, making President Bush victorious, the fact is that the election was razor close. According to

Kevin Drum for *Washington Monthly*, it all came down to a swing of 1% of the vote in one state. Imagine how easily the outcome of this election could have changed if more of the nation's youth had gone out and voted.

Considering how significantly the outcome of this election affects all youth, it is both amazing and disappointing that so many did not care enough to go out and vote. This was our future at stake, so what happened? Those who did not vote now have the next four years to ultimately determine whether or not our great country was put in good hands, knowing either way that they gave up their chance to have any say in the matter.

The US has been through difficult wars and hard times, managing to get through it all one way or another, despite the odds. People need to stay involved to secure the future of our country. It's such a shame that so many seem to care less about what may happen during the next four years. Congratulations are in order, however, to the great many youth who did get out and vote. No matter who they voted for, their voice was heard in this election because they cared about the future of the United States of America, and that is something to be very proud of. 

Kinship Care Forum Addresses Needs of Families Providing Care

MOCKINGBIRD STAFF

DID YOU KNOW THAT 4.5 MILLION CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES LIVE in grandparent-headed households? Or that, according to a 1997 report, around one third of all children in foster care are living with a relative? When a relative takes on the responsibility of raising a child as an alternative to that child being placed in a foster home, it is called a Kinship Care Placement.

The Child Welfare League of America defines kinship care as "the full time care, nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes or clans, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. Kinship care allows a child to grow to adulthood in a family environment." Although kinship care is one of the fastest-growing trends in Child Welfare and is recognized as often the most culturally appropriate and nurturing placement for the child, many relative caregivers find themselves without financial support or legal rights as guardian. In recognition of the vital role that kinship caregivers play in the lives of children as well as their often neglected status as legal caregivers, the Seattle office of **Casey Family Programs** along with several community partners including **The Mockingbird Society, Department of Social and Health Services, Black Child Development Institute, Seattle Affiliate, One Church on Child/UJIMA, DADS**, and a number of kinship youth and grandparents came together to host the event "Kinship Care: A Gathering of Families Caring for Families." After months of planning, the day-long event took place in October 16 and

was well-attended by kinship care providers, youth, local service providers, community advocates and policy makers. It was billed as an opportunity to "share information and ideas, find resources and support, and celebrate families caring for families" and included workshops and information for both caregivers and young people, a youth panel facilitated by Representative Eric Pettigrew, on-site massage for caregivers, free food and entertainment and daycare for young children.

Anna Leon, one of eight young people involved in planning the event, is 16 years old and has been in kinship care for 14 years. Leon comments, "I think it (kinship care) was the best thing for me, because I know that my mom couldn't take on the responsibility for me and I wouldn't be the person I am today." Of the event Leon says, "I was so excited for this day. I got to experience being on the Youth Panel which was fun, exciting, nerve-wracking, and somewhat emotional for me. I got to meet a lot of new people and find out that there are other youth out there that are going through what I'm going through. I feel like more children should be placed in kinship care, instead of being taken away from their parents and placed in foster care. I'm not saying there is anything wrong with foster care, but it would be better from my experience that children are placed in kinship care."

For more information on the support available to kinship care providers, check out www.childrensdefense.org/childwelfare/kinshipcare/resourcekit/otherresources.pdf 

Letter from the Editor

JIM THEOFELIS



ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, YOUTH AND THE ENTIRE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY I want to extend to you our deepest wishes for peace and joy during this holiday season and into 2005. The Mockingbird Society is grateful for our ability to participate in the social justice effort to improve the current and future lives of the children, youth and families who find themselves separated from loved ones due to foster care and/or homelessness. For too many of us, the plight of abused and neglected children and teenagers living in a foster home or "on the streets" during the holiday season seems like a foreign concept; something that seems to happen to "those folks over there." We at the Mockingbird Society believe "those kids over there" are still our kids and "those folks over there" are still our neighbors; our brothers and sisters who need and deserve the compassion and support of our community. As you celebrate the season of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa I urge you to find ways to share the love and bounty with those less fortunate. Additionally, I hope you will remember those service men and women who

are separated from their loved ones during this time of war. Independent of one's view of the war and surrounding politics it's still our young men and women from our neighborhoods that are in harms way. This is indeed the time of year to count our blessings and I start by thanking the staff, volunteers and the young people we serve for their commitment over the past year. I thank Shannon, Lauren, Erin and all the Mockingbird youth who have worked so hard this past year to produce the Mockingbird Times each month. I also want to thank the members of our Board of Directors who continue to invest their time and energy in the development and success of Mockingbird. We are all excited about the documentary being produced at Mockingbird under the direction of Wild Geese Productions due for release in early 2005. I also thank our donors who have ensured that the vision and mission of The Mockingbird Society continues to grow. I also want to thank the young women and parents from the Holy Names Academy Varsity Soccer team. These young ladies collected donations for The Mockingbird Society and I am appreciative of their loving efforts. Finally, I close by again wishing each of you a holiday season that is filled with joy and peace. And as always: Remember the children!

Jim Theofelis

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Letter to the Editor

Too many times do I get to hear about youth in the adolescent unit are their bad qualities and negative behaviors. Too many times, these comments are directly from professionals within the community whom are working together to serve these teenagers. As a social worker, I am able to find positives in every teenager on my caseload and I encourage every professional working with adolescents being raised in foster care to do the same. Too many times do I hear from kids on my caseload that they think that no one cares, deep down, about them. I want to take this time to thank Mockingbird Press for the chance to offer a creative outlet for these teenagers and the opportunity to express themselves.

Signed,
A Caring Social Worker

In Memoriam

JOHN D. BARELLO Age 82, born in Leechburg, PA, Jan. 1, 1922 to Mario and Marie (Vallino) Barello, passed away Nov. 1, 2004 at his home in Sequim, WA. John was a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps in WWII and the Korean War. He served in the South Pacific during WWII and was one of the first to enter Japan after the Atomic Bomb was dropped.

John Barello was my grandfather. He taught me how to be strong and courageous in this world. He also taught me how important it is to laugh and enjoy the life that you have, no matter what obstacles get in the way. I feel honored and fortunate to have had someone like this in my life as a role model. I wish that more of our young people had family members to provide this kind of example to look up to and learn from.

In honor of Veteran's Day, on November 11th, we at Mockingbird want to honor my grandfather and all of our veterans—alive and deceased—and families, for their courage, strength and example over the years.

--Shannon Barello

Make sure to mark Mockingbird Society as the non-profit organization to receive your United Way Donation and have a great holiday season!



Photo from reception in November celebrating The Foster Care to College Partnership, a collaborative partnership between Treehouse, The Washington Education Foundation, Casey Family Programs, DSHS Children's Administration, The Higher Education Coordinating Board and The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Included in photo is CEO of The Washington Education Foundation Bob Craves, MBT Reporters Jamica Henderson and Ashley Grant, DSHS Children's Administration Assistant Secretary Uma Ahluwalia and DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock.

...What's Happening...

YMCA Transitions has openings right now! If you need help with housing, education, career development and/or independent living skills, please call (206)749-7540 or e-mail YMCA staff at smorales@ts.seattlymca.org

Youth Advocacy Day in Olympia, sponsored by ASK-Y. Friday, February 11th, 2005, 9am-2pm, contact Mockingbird staff for more info at (206) 323-KIDS (5437).

Have a Heart Day in Olympia, sponsored by the Children's Alliance Monday, February 21st, 2005, 9am-3:30pm, for more info contact Jon Gould at 1-800-KIDS, x19

Mockingbird Fundraiser, Sunday February 6th, 4-6pm, 2100 24th Avenue South Suite 350

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.

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 60,000 copies being distributed across Washington and the U.S.A. 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 2004 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

- Please bill me for the amount indicated.
- My employer will match my gift; enclosed is my matching gift form.
- I am interested in receiving information on the advantages of planned giving.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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 350, Seattle WA 98144

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Positive Power: Money Management 101

COURTNEY KONIETZKO



I RECENTLY ATTENDED A MONEY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP taught at the Fremont Public Association by Kellie Port. It was extremely helpful and I thought it would be good knowledge to pass on. Port is a very good teacher; she made the time fly and was good at answering any questions that came up.

I recommend taking this free class because it is good knowledge to have. It also satisfies the money management requirement for getting an Individual Development Account (IDA); a great resource to have if you are low-income and wanting to go back to school, become a homeowner, or start your own business. Following is a summary of Port's workshop.

Identifying and Increasing Net Income

Port had suggestions for increasing net income. One of these suggestions was to get as much as you can out of each paycheck by choosing to get more with each pay check and less back at the end of the year because it will be more useful to you throughout the year. Also we discussed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which is a credit where you get money back at the end of the year.

According to Port, "To qualify for the EITC, you must have a valid Social Security number, be between the ages of 25 and 65 years, and have earned income. An EITC benefit can range anywhere from \$350. to \$3,888. Any benefit earned from the EITC will not affect SSI benefits, TANF benefits, or food stamps and housing assistance."

Another credit that you might qualify for if you have children is the Child Tax Credit which, according to Port, "can lower the amount of income tax you owe and increase any refund you might receive. The benefit can be as high as \$500 per child. There are additional benefits for single working parents." To qualify the child must be 17 years or younger by the end of the tax year and be a U.S. resident.

Budgeting

One of the best things to do is make a need and want list and according to Kellie, "think in terms of choices, and set priorities." The income you use to figure out your budget should be your net income. The difference between gross and net income is the gross income is before taxes and the net income is what you actually have to spend. According to Port, "If you don't know your net income because it varies paycheck by paycheck, a quick and easy way to figure out net income is to multiply your hourly wage by the number of hours you work in a month, then multiply that number by 85% (x.85 on the calculator) to reflect 15% taken out for taxes and other deductions."

It is also helpful to make another list of fixed and variable expenses. Fixed expenses are things you must pay that are the same amount every month like rent. Variable expenses are things you must pay that aren't always the same amount; like gasoline, clothes, etc. When figuring where you can save money, look at the variable expenses. There will be a handout online on the Mockingbird website from the money management booklet #1 on "Ways to Reduce Routine Expenses (a.k.a. ways to save money)."

Controlling Variable Expenses

When figuring out where your money goes, Port suggests that some things to look at are: "child care, clothing, education, food, gifts, home entertainment, housing, insurance, medical expenses, personal care, recreation/leisure, savings taxes, transportation and miscellaneous expenses like carpooling."

Cash Flow

Another thing to keep track of is what days you are paid (the net amount), what bills you have to pay, when they are due, and what paycheck you should be saving from to pay them. For example, it might be better to start saving rent money closer to the 20th of the previous month than five days before rent is due.

Managing Paperwork

One thing that is very helpful to learn about is record keeping. Keeping a record of how much you are paid and everything you spend money on and keeping the balance up-to-date each time you make a purchase will help you keep track of where your money goes. A pattern will become evident after keeping a record for a month or longer. After you see the pattern you have a better idea how to budget.

Coming up with a system that works for you for filing important papers is also important because it saves time and stress when you need to locate something important like a bank statement. I used five shoeboxes to 'organize' my papers, which didn't really work because they were still piled on top of each other in no particular order, just in five loose categories. Now I use a filing cabinet, a safe and one shoebox. Find what works for you!

The money management booklet suggests five ways to file your papers:

1. Current active records that you use regularly.
2. Records you carry with you.
3. Permanent active records at home.
4. Permanent records in a safe deposit box.
5. Inactive records for long-term storage at home.

Current active records include current bills, papers to file, banking records, and copies of the papers you carry with you. Records you carry with you include personal identification, credit or debit cards, medical information for emergency treatment, and membership cards.

Permanent active records at home include employee pay stubs, resume, transcripts, immunization records, travel documents, property records, and financial records. Permanent Records for a Safe Deposit Box include birth, adoption, baptismal, marriage and death certificates, military service records, custody agreement, divorce decree, copies of social security

MONEY MANAGEMENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Donations for the Mockingbird Society's annual silent auction are now being accepted! Contribute to the Mockingbird Society's annual fundraiser by donating a silent auction item. The auction will be held on Sunday, February 6th, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. For more information or to donate, contact the Mockingbird Society at 206-323-KIDS (5437).

Take Action: 1-2-3 Political Action Plan

J.EBOH



STOP CRYING! GET OFF YOUR COUCH and place the bag of Cheese puffs on the coffee table and put your passport away. Canada doesn't want you. It's time to face reality. There's not going to be a recount. Bush did not "steal" the election and Kerry would not have won Ohio. On November 2nd voters made their decision and now it's time for you to make yours.

"Who are you to talk?" you ask. Truth be told, I'm not on anyone's side. I identify as neither liberal nor conservative. I have no political inclinations. I do believe however that before everyone who hates Bush collectively jumps off a building "lemming-style" they should think about a few things.

If you were against Bush you might be feeling angry, disappointed or afraid. However there is one thing to consider. Whether or not you agree with his politics is of no importance. You have the benefit of having a pretty good understanding of his platform. Bush is committed to his agenda. His future choices will likely support that. (www.georgewbush.com/Agenda/)

This brings me to my next point, would EVERYBODY PLEASE STOP RUNNING AROUND LIKE RABID WOLVES! This is not the time to point fingers, wallow in pity or have a panic attack the size of Kentucky. Instead use that energy to prepare yourselves for the turbulent path that lies before you. Everyone needs to be on the same page right now. Poverty knows no party. Everyone needs a safe place stay, food on the table and way to pay the bills with dignity.

The reality of the situation is that for the current administration employment, education and welfare reform and the like are their main priorities. What does all that mean to you? Look closely at the list above. Do you see the words homeless or foster care listed anywhere? To put it in a not so subtle terms, *you're not a priority.*

So you need to *make* yourself a priority. Advocate for yourselves, form groups and get educated about government. It doesn't matter whether or not you're on the White House guest list. If you come together and make yourselves heard, they'll be forced set out a few extra plates at the dinner table.

1-2-3 Political Action Plan...

1. Get educated. The websites of both the candidates for president are still up and running. Check them out and

make an effort to go beyond your party lines. Don't worry if you're not a political buff. You can start to learn about local government and then move up to national government.

2. After you've learned about local and national politicians; start thinking about social issues that you might be interested in. Research what the government is doing about your chosen issue. After doing more research, pick **one** issue to focus on. I know you want to save the world. But if you're going to put your heart in a campaign you should lay a foundation for success not failure. If you're running around trying to save the whales, reform social security and feed Hungarian orphans you won't be able to commit yourself to anything. And if you can't commit to something it'll be difficult to convince a politician that they should commit.

3. Finally get Active. Start writing letters to people and politicians for support. Form a club at school and enlist your friends. Then you all could encourage each other when things get tough. Contact local non-profits and ask if you can join. Some organizations even give workshops on how the government policies, lobbying congress or even forming your own nonprofit. 

Advocacy is your right and responsibility Check out www.scn.org/politics/ for more information on what you can do.

The Difficult and Challenging Road of Teen Pregnancy

JAMICA HENDERSON



TEEN PREGNANCY IS A BIG TOPIC IN THE 21ST CENTURY. When I started high school in the fall 2001, teen pregnancy was talked about but not seen as much. Now that I am going into my senior year, not only is teen pregnancy being talked about, it is also being seen more and more. As I get older I wonder why more young teens are becoming parents. Being a teenage mother is a very hard job to attend to.

Once you become a parent, it's challenge because not only do you have to care for yourself but your child as well. When you have a child, your life changes. You have to mature fast, put yourself last and be positive at the same time. When you become the parent you have to change your ways because that baby you are carrying is going to look up to you. When you become a parent at a young age every penny you get or earn will be for your child. You don't have as much time to yourself anymore. If you want to be a good mother, you will not be able to go to clubs as much as you used to or be out all night. That can be a challenge because as you get older you want to go out with your friends.

Having a positive attitude is the best way to go in life no matter what the situation is. If your attitude is not positive there's going to be complication. Attitude will get you far in life. If you're going to be a parent you should really make sure your attitude is together that will help you raise your child at a good pace. These are just the little parts you have to fix. So if you are having trouble with these three things now you should think long and hard about having a child at a young age.

Protect yourself if you are sexually active. Think twice about having **sexual contact with out protection.** "It is estimated in the U.S. That 40 percent of white teen girls and 64 percent of black teen girls will have experience at least one pregnancy by the age of 20 (www.surebaby.com).

I understand that it's hard once you get yourself in this kind of a situation. Educate yourself. If you come across this article and know of someone who is wanting or going to be a teen parent, help educate them about the facts.

SHAKURA FELDER



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE AT SCHOOL WHO IS PREGNANT? Someone who is an adolescent like you? Have you ever seen a young mother getting on the Metro bus with a young baby in a stroller? Maybe you know of someone who is pregnant or was a pregnant teen. High school peers and people throughout the community see this everyday. Some people don't think much about it, but if you're concerned like I am about this topic, you'll get to thinking, "I don't want my life to be like that." Becoming an early parent limits your goals in life. You are forced to become an adult.

Teenage pregnancy is a major issue in our community. Girls are becoming pregnant as early as 15-17 years of age. If you are a teenage girl ranging from the age of 15-17 years old, you are at great risk of becoming an early parent. According to the 2004 Kids Count Data Book, teens are more likely to become early parents if they come from a single-parent home, live in poverty, or are low-income, than teens who come from undivided families and come from wealthier communities. You might be stunned to hear this, but it's true. The odds are stacked up against teenage girls everywhere.

According to the 2004 Kids Count Data Book, teen pregnancy rates have dropped nationwide. Why are the rates improving instead of getting worse? It may be due to more teens having protected sex or abstinence. However, there are still many teens having unprotected sex. Many teenagers are unprepared when they get pregnant. The results of having a baby at an early age might cause a young teen to drop out of high school, live in poverty, become a single parent, and be an unsuccessful parent (2004 Kids Count Data Book).

Here are some effective ways out there that might help prevent YOU from becoming a pregnant teen. First, try getting involved in your community. Involvement in sports, a job, or volunteer work can help you to stay busy. Second, communicate with a trusted adult. For example a service provider, family friend, etc. Talk with them about making the right

choices about sex and other issues. Third, be smart. Always use protection when sexually involved, or choose to stay abstinent.

I recently interviewed Tracie Howie, a young African-American mother. At the age of just seventeen years old, Howe had a baby. She was a junior in high school. Her son is now three years old. Years later, Tracie shares her story about the experiences she faced as an early parent.

Shakura: What reasons do you think lead you to become a pregnant teen?

Tracie: Disobedience and not listening to helpful advice about being sexually active. As a teenager, I had strong goals in school. I was also working, attending South Community College and trying to get my GED. I developed a close relationship with a guy I had met and had gotten pregnant.

Shakura: Can you explain to our Mockingbird readers, your personal experience as a young mother?

Tracie: Having a baby at an early age slowed me down. My freedom was limited because I had to care for my son. I couldn't do what I wanted to do. I was young and I wasn't ready for adulthood. I didn't know how to raise a baby. Having a child changed my life and it helped me to become a better person.

Shakura: How have you changed becoming an early parent into a success for you and your son regardless of the public's perception of teen mothers?

Tracie: I got a place together for my family and we live in a house. I am currently married and my son has a good, loving father. I have always had faith in God. I put Him and my son first. We are involved in our church. I am also working and at the time I am looking for a second job.

Shakura: What type of advice would you give to teenagers about early pregnancy?

Tracie: I think that teenagers should wait and think about what they are doing if they are sexually active teens. They should study other teenagers who have children and learn from different experiences of what having a child is like for them at a young age. Having a baby is a huge responsibility. Teenagers should get their educations as a first priority. Every teen should study sex education and research pregnancy. Teenagers should consider having children [when they are adults] when they are actually prepared to raise a child. They should not consider having any children as a teen. If teenagers wait, they will find out that waiting longer enables them to enjoy their teenage life.

MONEY MANAGEMENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

cards, etc. "The booklet has some filing tips like color coding or alphabetizing each major section of your files."

Savings and Planning

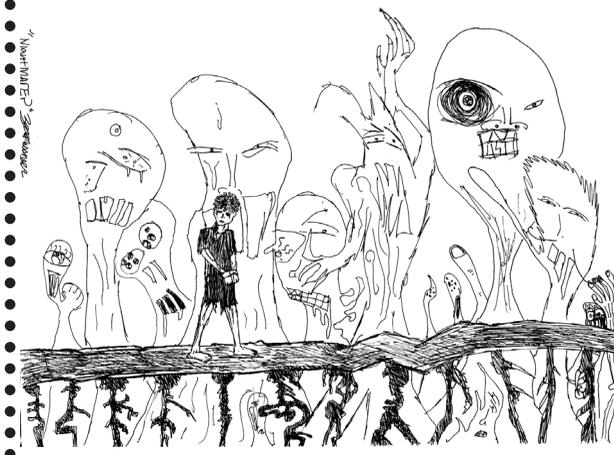
An IDA account stands for Individual Development Account which is a program run by the United Way of King County that matches every dollar you save with three more as long as you are saving towards starting your own business, owning a home, or going to school. If you want more information on this program you can find it at www.unitedwayofkingcounty.org/ida or call the Fremont Public Association Housing Counseling Program at (206) 694-6700.

If you are interested in taking the money management class contact Kellie Port at (206) 694-6864. The 2005 schedule for the class is at www.fremontpublic.org/hotnews.html#takesched. I really recommend this class because the information I present in this article is so much better first-hand with visual aids which you get at the class in the form of handouts and worksheets made into two large easy-to-understand booklets. Hand-outs and worksheets will be online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org.



CREATIVE CORNER

Nightmares?
-ZACH MESSNER-



MICROWAVE SOLUTIONS

-JOSH SWEET-

What is wrong with our society?
Microwave solutions are the core of our disease
Take a minute out of your busy life
To listen, if you please.

What I mean by this, my purpose is not the intricately constructed riddle of a philosopher. Nor is it the garbled nonsense of a street prophet.

No my solution is not as complicated as the inner workings of a laptop computer, yet is as simple as a Kindergartener's finger painting
Take a second to stop and listen, if you will
Everything wrong in our country, neigh, the world stems for a single source. This is an inconsideration for the taking of time. Sometimes we must do things the hard way for them to work.

What is wrong with our society?
Microwaves Solutions the core of our disease
Take a minute out of your busy life
To listen, if you please.
Then you will be part of the answer.