Mockingbird Society Celebrates Four Years

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 nation’s most vulnerable children.

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 his 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.

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.
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."

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

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: $ __________

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☐ 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

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 can also 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 doesn’t even 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 your advice/support to:

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

THANK YOU’S

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

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Harry Potter Book Review

Harry Potter. Harry is the boy who grew up with cruel and neglectful caregivers, dreaming of magical powers, until he found out on his eleventh 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 wizarding communities. Now he stands as the chosen one, and Voldemort’s Eaters will strike next. People believe that he is the “chosen one” now...that Harry Eaters will strike again. I suggest you pick this book up and start reading without reviewing 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 then just 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. I have had too many problems with the first five books (this would take a while because you didn’t bother to read what came before it), but then I suggest you do what I did and read the book. “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,” is a continuation of the Phoenix,” and listen to the book on audio. I always listened while in bed and I find it soothing. I would get out of bed and knock it 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.

My Journey of Self-Discovery

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 “black” 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, “why don’t your parents match you?” I remember feeling vaguely uncomfortable and telling them I was adopted. For a while I thought that when I moved 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 grew older, and I am Chinese, I found out I was supposed to model and I think it was because I am an Asian-American; the white girls were the preferred choice. Sometimes people made fun of me, and I don’t remember ever serving up cats and dogs, how Asians can’t drive, and occasionally “chin” 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 tease 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 the gravity that I needed, but I was wrong. I tumbled away, confused in questions, realizing I am not black any more than I am white. I feel as lost in an Asian world 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. I found T Như, a 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 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! Kicked off in 2001, and has been kicking the buttocks 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: "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 produce their own media."

Abigail Morgan's essay was part of a Reel Grrls program designed to give the young women the tools needed 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.

Misty Lou Cook

Reel Grrls Rock!

Creative Co-Op

I Want to Hear About Something Nice for a Change
KYLE PILLSBURY

"He is described as a 6 feet 210 pound Caucasian Male. He is considered armed and dangerous. If you have any information regarding the murder or the murder'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 how people are murder and cancer. 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 want to turn on the News and hear about the increasing rabble 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.

Mockingbird Times, August 2005

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.nwsource.com/ae/scr/edf Ed_e.cfm?c=&evt=187886&c=nws

All Mini Car Show
Saturday August 6th from 10am-3pm Northgate Mall 401 N.E. Northgate Way FREE!

For more info go to http://www.nwsource.com/ae/scr/edf Ed_e.cfm?c=&evt=180351&c=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 the Thursday Art Walk. For more info go to http://www.winglukemuseum.org/

Art Walks
First Thursday of Every Month from 6-8pm Free!

50+ 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.nwsource.com/arts/guides/gallery/artwalkspioneersquare.html

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 video about Murder and never-before-seen archival footage, featuring Bright Eyes, The Clay, Cursive, Rilo Kiley and many more! All Ages.

The New Pornographers (In-Store Performance)
Monday, August 22nd at 11pm
SonicsBoom 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 Co-op

I Want to Hear About Something Nice for a Change
KYLE PILLSBURY

When you look at me you see anotherStatistic. In your eyes I'm just anotherHigh school kid with no future, right? You think I'll probably end up sellingdope 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 withC'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 every day I fight to stay clean And I fight to help others do the same. I have felt the pain of drugs, 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.