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FAIRNESS • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY

Sentenced to Labor

State prisons to put more inmates to work

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Writer

The more people we put in prison, the more jobs we have to create for them inside.

That's the thinking behind two prison labor bills the state Senate passed unanimously in March with little media scrutiny. One, SSB 5631, would support a current prison "business plan" that seeks to more than double the number of state-employed inmates who earn 35 cents to \$1.10 an hour from about 1,400 workers today to 3,068 in 2010.

Another, SJR 8206, would reverse a 2004 state Supreme Court decision that outlawed private companies employing inmates. It proposes a constitutional amendment to legalize the practice — something voters will decide on the November ballot if the bill passes the House.

In the wake of the ruling, the Department of Corrections had to close nine private or Class I companies that sold blinds and other manufactured goods to the public from inside prison walls — unfairly, according to the outside companies that originally sued the state over the issue.

The nine companies only employed 254 inmates. But because they paid a real (if low) wage from which the state took various deductions, the loss to the prison system's Correctional Industries division was \$601,000 — money the division used to sustain itself and create more inmate jobs, says Howard Yarbrough, its top administrator.

To make up for the loss, the 2004 Legislature set a goal for Correctional

See **LABOR**, Page 9



No Go

Do military recruiters target young people of color?

By **ROSETTE ROYALE**
Staff Writer

Catherine Harris-White says that even though she's no longer in high school, she's still getting phone calls from military recruiters.

Her 16-year-old brother has already gotten a call from a recruiter, not to mention numerous military mailings. And she remembers that her older brother, 13 years her senior, was enticed by recruiters as well, some of whom showed up at the house.

While she has yet to formulate a concrete theory on why she and her siblings have been singled out, she does have a hypothesis.

"From my experience, recruiters go after young people of color," she says.

Now an 18-year-old freshman at Cornish College, Harris-White has been sharing her feelings about military recruitment throughout the city. On Monday, March 14, she spoke to members of the Parent Teacher Student Association at Garfield High School on the subject. Two months ago, she gave a talk at an event in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, who, during his 1967 "Beyond Vietnam" speech, linked the "giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism."

Catherine Harris-White is sick of being cold-called by military recruiters. "From my experience, recruiters go after young people of color," she says.

Photo by Sean Ellingson.

[Resource]

Check out the Military Out of Our Schools Program at www.objector.org/recruiting.html, or the Seattle Draft and Military Counseling Center, offering free, objective advice about enlistment for anyone who needs it, at www.sdmcc.org.

COMMON GROUND

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Hide and Seek

Real conservatives are just as concerned about the human costs of war

By ANITRA FREEMAN
Editorial Committee

Conservatives have different opinions on how to promote the general welfare; they still take as much responsibility for the general welfare as any liberal. They do not attempt to bankrupt the nation as a political ploy so that they can "drown the federal government in the bathtub"

Radical "conservatives" want to dismantle what they call "the welfare state." That's a given; it's one accusation that not even they dispute. That they include the welfare of military troops and veterans among the benefit programs they want to dismantle seems surprising, given the radical conservative emphasis on patriotism, military might, and support for the troops.

During the Korean and Vietnam wars, the names and numbers of our dead and injured military personnel were readily available directly from the government. Now, the British Ministry of Defense site posts a photograph of each person killed in Iraq, with several paragraphs of memories about them, making them real. Flight Lieutenant David Kevin Stead "was a typically straight-talking Yorkshireman with a devilish sense of humour and a fine wit, who always insisted on his cup of Yorkshire tea to start the day."

The U.S. Department of Defense site lists a short paragraph with the details of each death. "Sp. Matthew A. Koch, 23, of West Henrietta, N.Y., died Mar. 9 in Taji, Iraq, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Koch was assigned to the 70th Engineer Battalion, Fort Riley, Kan." No photograph.

Denver Jones ruptured three disks and fractured two of the vertebrae in his spine in a vehicle accident in Iraq. He also suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Although Jones is now

disabled for life, he is not included in the Pentagon's casualty count, because he was not injured during direct contact with the enemy.

Less than a year after driving trucks to the front lines in Iraq, Herold Noel was homeless, along with his wife and children.

At least as many U.S. soldiers have been injured in combat in this war as in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, or the first five years of the Vietnam conflict, according to the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Also according to the *NEJM*, as many as 15 percent of returning servicemembers from Iraq will suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Why should soldiers get less care after they have done their service than they did while serving? A study done at Harvard University in 2003 found that almost 1.7 million veterans lack health insurance, an increase of 13 percent since 2000. More than one in three vets under the age of 25 have no health insurance. A conservative would take responsibility for that — not attack the researchers as a bunch of socialists promoting universal health insurance. A conservative would agree with Veterans for Common Sense: "Our government has a duty and a responsibility to address both the traditional and non-traditional effects of war, including battlefield injuries, post-traumatic stress, and diseases resulting from vaccines and toxic exposures" — not call them a "communist front" because, horror of horrors, a bunch of socialists agree with them.

I will not call George Bush or any of his administration or supporters "conservatives." Conservatives have differ-

ent opinions on how to promote the general welfare; they still take as much responsibility for the general welfare as any liberal. They do not attempt to bankrupt the nation as a political ploy so that they can "drown the federal government in the bathtub" — as Grover Norquist openly declared the rad-con agenda to be. Conservatives tend to value military might, to guard the hearth, and bristle at foreigners; conservatives do not start wars. When a conservative fights a war, he takes responsibility for the troops.

We are social beings because we survive better when we look out for each other than when we go it alone. Soldiers in the trenches know that. People on the streets know that. The founders of our nation knew that, and wrote it in the Preamble to our Constitution: government exists to promote the general welfare. True conservatives understand that. Radical conservatives don't.

Tyson Johnson lost a kidney in a mortar attack in Iraq in 2003. He received notice from the Pentagon's own collection agency that, because he could not fulfill his full 36-month tour of duty, he had to repay his enlistment bonus. The Pentagon listed the bonus on his credit report as an unpaid government loan.

Let's not let that happen again. The people who serve us in the military have loaned us their lives. We owe them a repayment. ■

Anitra Freeman is a writer, social activist, and member of the Real Change editorial committee.



Real Change is published weekly and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35.

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Mission Statement:

Real Change exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Programs include the Real Change newspaper, the StreetWrites peer support group for homeless writers, the Homeless Speakers Bureau, and the First things First organizing project. All donations support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Change

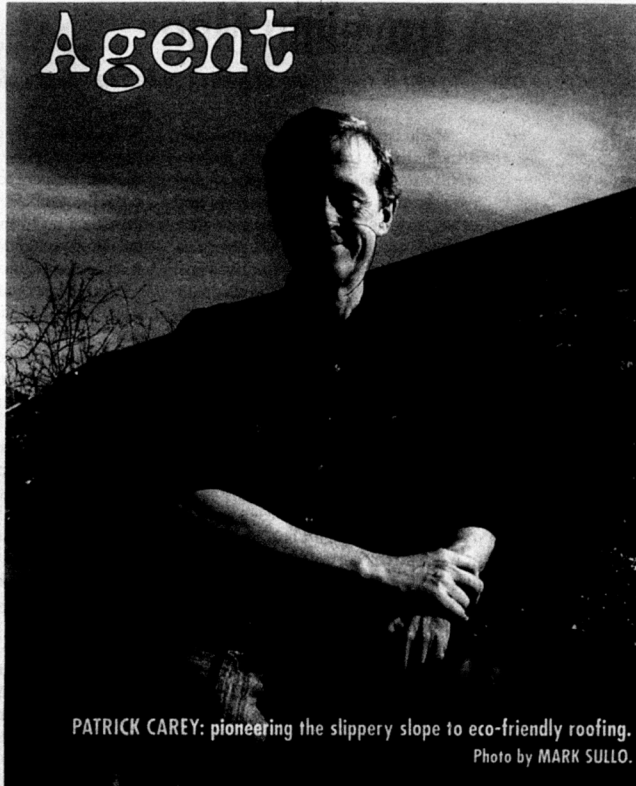
After five years of unpaid hours and steep problems, Seattle architect Patrick Carey remains determined to bring green roofs to Seattle homeowners.

Green roofs are an energy-saving, environmentally friendly way to cover a roof with plants, which grow in a layer of porous rock on top of a waterproof membrane. Seattle's new City Hall has one, but commercial roofers aren't interested in houses, Carey says, because there's little profit and pitched roofs are a pain.

Five years ago, Carey helped build a demonstration green roof for the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild. Since then, he's led a band of volunteers in 20 Guild projects. His firm, Hadj Design, has built another nine, often on garages or out-buildings such as the green house at Wallingford's Good Shepherd Center.

The 32-degree angle was "pretty steep," Carey says. "We had to invent a bunch of stuff on the spot."

To learn more, visit the BuiltGreen Conference & Expo, which is open to the public March 17, 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Seattle Center. Free. Info: www.builtgreen.net.



PATRICK CAREY: pioneering the slippery slope to eco-friendly roofing.

Photo by MARK SULLO.

No Deal

Labor-enviro coalition calls off South Lake Union talks

By ADAM HYLA
Real Change Editor

The united front of labor activists and environmentalists that was angling for an agreement with billionaire Paul Allen has died. And not a moment too soon.

So say observers of the nine-month-long negotiating process between the Coalition for Health Communities and Vulcan NW, Allen's real estate development arm.

The coalition had formed to negotiate with Vulcan over workplace, housing, and environmental conditions in the rapidly redeveloping South Lake Union neighborhood, where it and its subsidiaries own nearly 50 acres of land.

One model for their work was a Los Angeles effort that wrested a "community benefits agreement" on labor rights and environmental concerns in exchange for public funding for the Staples Center, a new stadium and convention complex.

The local group held regular meetings with Vulcan and representatives from city government for months. According to a March 8 press statement from its leaders, the coalition finally "determined that its goal of negotiating a meaningful CBA could not be reached" and "left negotiations with concerns about whether or not funds would be diverted from other neighborhood transportation needs or essential city services to accomplish [the neighborhood] development plans."

The coalition had been hoping to get Vulcan to agree to a grab-bag of amenities: propping open the door for unionized hotel and security staff, adding urban amenities like bicycle lanes to streets, and building affordable housing.

John Fox, chair of the Seattle Displacement Coalition, says he felt that the negotiations were hampered from the start. For one, they were missing opportunities to force their agenda into the regulatory framework at the City Council.

He remembers asking a Coalition for Healthy Communities member, "Aren't they just using you, keeping you busy in these little meetings when meanwhile, all these decisions are being made on policy?"

For two, the mayor's office was sitting at the negotiating table, parroting the coalition's goals when city officials offered to divert citywide funding initiatives to benefit the neighborhood. Making the public pay was not what the coalition had in mind.

But the public is already paying, indirectly, to fulfill Allen's dreams.

The Cascade neighborhood lost a venerable source of unsubsidized, affordable housing when Vulcan purchased the Lillian Apartments, issued residents checks to leave quickly, and then tore down the building in 2002.

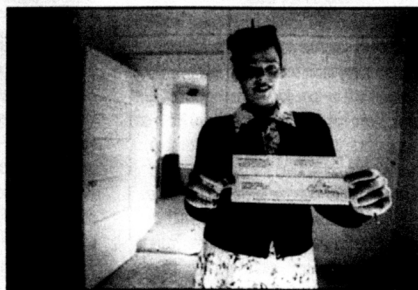
Last March, the Seattle City Council voted to extend special tax exemptions for new apartment buildings springing up in South Lake Union. That paved the way for the council's March 7 decision

to issue a tax exemption for the building that rises on the ground where the Lillian once stood—in which the cheapest 20-by-20 foot studio will go for \$738 per month, according to a *Seattle Times* report. That's about twice the old rents at the Lillian, notes John Fox. And the new building will cost the city more than \$300,000 a year in lost tax revenue over 10 years.

Vulcan has embarked on a long-range redevelopment of the industrial district between downtown and Lake Union, home of the historic Cascade Neighborhood and a warehouse district that once used Seattle's urban lake as a working waterfront. Allen's ambition also entails city zoning changes to welcome the biotech industry and a multimillion dollar plan to unsnarl the east-west Mercer Street corridor dubbed the "Mercer Mess."

Now, with Mercer Corridor fixes, streetcar funding, and other items on Vulcan's agenda, there will be more opportunities for community intervention.

"The silver lining is they didn't arrive at an agreement," says Fox. "There's no soiree with the mayor." ■



HAPPY TO LEAVE: A TENANT OF THE LILLIAN APARTMENTS, HOLDING HER EXIT CHECK, SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE BUILDING'S DEMOLITION IN SEPTEMBER 2002. PHOTO BY CASEY KELBAUGH.

Just Heard ...

Not settled

The legal battle for marriage equality continues to rage on the West Coast, with a recent San Francisco County Superior Court ruling that "the denial of marriage to same-sex couples appears impermissibly arbitrary." SF mayor Gavin Newsom indicates the tentative ruling is simply the start of a legal battle that may ultimately be decided by the California Supreme Court.

This decision comes less than a week after the Washington State Supreme Court heard arguments on the legality of the state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), that limits marriage to a union between one woman and one man. Nineteen couples are challenging DOMA in two lawsuits, and are basing their claim to marriage on key components in the state's constitutional law. Washington is one of only 38 states with such laws.

—Rosette Royale

Not yet home

Governor Christine Gregoire is commander-in-chief of the state's National Guard troops. So why are they in Iraq?

That's the question posed to Gregoire in a March 4 resolution demanding that she "pursue and exhaust every avenue in her power to immediately bring, or cause to be home, all Washington National Guard troops presently serving in Iraq."

The resolution, co-signed by five antiwar spiritual and legal advocacy groups, was presented to the governor's staff on March 7. Its statements make a viable case that the state's welfare is jeopardized by the deployment — among them, that Guard members are drawn from important police, fire, security, and emergency crews; that federal cuts "will place additional demands on currently overstressed state... services;" and that such an inappropriate mission will diminish the Guard's ranks and increase "the likelihood that Washington could be left unprotected for years to come."

Not forgotten

The heirs of Shawn Jerel "Raiko" Maxwell have filed a wrongful death suit in federal court against the City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Department. Maxwell was shot to death during a February 2002 confrontation with Seattle police in which he is alleged to have been wielding a sword. Seattle attorney Paul Richmond was aided in the suit by research conducted by *Real Change* volunteer writer Jess Grant for a story on Maxwell's death ("a.k.a. Raiko," March 4, 2004). Among the resolution's co-sponsors are Gold Star Families for Peace, a group of people who with loved ones who have been killed while serving in Iraq.

At press time, a response from Governor Gregoire was not yet available.

—Adam Hyla

A Traveling Man

Recycled, multi-purpose traveling can is the dream of homeless entrepreneur Chiaka Howze

By MEGHAN PETERS
Contributing Writer

Amid the hustle and bustle of this fast-paced, constantly changing world, it sometimes feels as though we must bring our entire lives along with us everywhere we go. From the executive on a business trip to the poverty-stricken person on the streets, we all need something in which to store our personal belongings.

That is the notion of would-be entrepreneur Chiaka Howze, who has built the Gear Organized Baggage Equipment (GOBE). It's an experiment in socially conscious business — made more difficult by Howze's periods of homelessness.

The Gear Oriented Baggage Equipment (GOBE) and Chiaka Howze, its proud inventor.

Photo courtesy
Asher Lee.



Made from a recycled car bumper attached to a dolly, Howze's mobile, multi-modal suitcase carries a significant amount of clothes, toiletries, and other materials useful while traveling. It's also outfitted with an AM/FM radio, a CD player and an Internet hookup.

Asher Lee, devoted friend of Chiaka and promoter of GOBE, says this product is "made to recycle excess waste and resources that presently crowd our already overcrowded planet." One day, Howze and Lee hope to form an assembly line to mass-produce GOBE, creating jobs for the unemployed, who would assemble the product out of car body parts.

Now, though, Howze uses the prototype as a mobile art studio, pushing it from street corner to street corner, unpacking art supplies he stores within the luggage, and painting pictures which he sells to anyone interested — "giving back where he feels he has taken and gained so much inspiration," says Lee. It's a kind of popular education, says Howze: he's demonstrating how passersby can get in touch with their artistic sides.

Carting a heavy dolly around the streets is not without its pitfalls, especially when a guy has nowhere else to go. Last December Howze awoke to Seattle police tapping on his umbrella. Having recently been released from the Sheldon Correctional Facility, Howze expected nothing to be wrong when

he handed his ID to the officers. When they ran his name through the system, though, officers found a warrant from a Portland court in 2002. As officers brought him to the car to take him to jail, Howze asked what would be done with his large, unwieldy GOBE.

As Howze remembers it, the police said "that's not our responsibility. We don't have time for that. What we're here to do is take you to jail."

Police department's policies state that officers undertaking an arrest are required to bring along everything on the person and as many extra belongings as is practical. Large items are stored in the evidence unit of the King County Jail, and the person is given a receipt to pick up their belongings before they leave. If a person feels that their property has been wrongfully abandoned, they can file a claim with city authorities.

Howze did so, describing how he felt not only "frustrated, depressed, and helpless" without his prototype but how it contributed to a "downfall in the development of my career." He also attempted to put monetary value on the lost possessions, emphasizing the cost of the hard work and study put in to his art.

The GOBE and the articles inside of it were never found. Luckily, Howze was able to build a new one, and he can still be seen around town, displaying his art. ■

Made from a recycled car bumper attached to a dolly, Howze's mobile, multi-modal suitcase carries a significant amount of clothes, toiletries, and other materials useful while traveling. It's also outfitted with an AM/FM radio, a CD player and an Internet hookup.

Short Takes

Rehab costs less

Want to save a quick \$37,200 a year in the county budget? Stop sending so many Black people to jail for buying or selling less than a gram of drugs.

The \$37,200 is King County's per-person annual cost to jail offenders — too often Blacks, who research shows are arrested at alarmingly higher rates than whites for non-violent drug crimes in Seattle.

In a March 9 public forum devoted to changing the city's drug policy, criminal justice advocates told members of the Seattle City Council that treatment would cost less than jail, be more effective at stopping future crime, and not ruin the lives of Blacks, who are disproportionately targeted by Seattle police.

In a city where only 8.4 percent of the population is Black and most drug dealers are white, Blacks were arrested in 64.2 percent of the city's street-level drug cases from January 1999 to April 2001, a period studied by University of Washington sociology professor Katherine Beckett, a forum participant.

"Clearly, something was going on with the enforcement pattern," Beckett said.

By contrast, Seattle police made arrests in less than 20 percent of the city's violent crimes in 2002 — less than half the national average of 45 percent. Beckett said that could be due to pursuing drug enforcement. Just one undercover buy-bust

operation, for instance, requires seven to 10 police officers.

No Seattle police attended the event, leaving participants' questions about expenditures on drug enforcement unanswered for now, though forum chair and City Councilmember Nick Licata said he would get the data.

What will be done with the data, if anything, remains to be seen.

—Cydney Gillis

Bye, bye streetcar

Seattle's waterfront streetcars could be one meeting away from shutting down permanently, Kevin Desmond, general manager of King County Metro, acknowledged last week.

This fall, when the Seattle Art Museum breaks ground on its sculpture park at Myrtle Edwards Park, the trolley maintenance shop that now stands in the park will be torn down. After a year-long search, Metro has come up with a site at Ninth and Jackson where it could build a new service shop, which is necessary to keep the old cars running.

Community members are interested in the idea — if Metro incorporates the shop into a mixed-used facility. The project would take three years to complete, Desmond says, and only be open a year before the streetcars would shut down again for viaduct construction in 2009.

That, Desmond says, makes support unlikely

on the King County Council. Next step? One final community meeting (not yet scheduled) to discuss the streetcars' fate and extending the line east and north in the future — perhaps with new trams like Portland's.

"These vintage cars," Desmond says, "aren't suitable for a longer line."

—Cydney Gillis

Not in "our" parks

So much for a homeless memorial in Freeway Park.

Last Thursday night, in a quiet bow to "policy," Seattle's six-member Board of Park Commissioners voted down a request to create a homeless garden of remembrance in the downtown park that bridges Interstate 5.

After a year of working on the idea, a committee of housing advocates from WHEEL and local churches had decided Freeway Park would be an ideal spot to honor those who die outdoors each year in Seattle — in part, because the park's wooded seclusion affords shelter for the homeless.

The commissioners, however, said parks policy does not permit memorials. A firefighters' memorial in Pioneer Square stands outside Occidental Park — by a few feet that, in fact, have no practical division or distinction from the park whatsoever.

Still, "Once you deviate," parks commissioner Angela Belbeck said, "you're starting down a

slippery slope."

Board members did approve a Freeway Park "activation plan" developed in November and December with the Freeway Park Neighborhood Association, a group made up of propertied interests from the Downtown Seattle Association, Washington State Convention & Trade Center and nearby residences such as Horizon House.

The Parks Department can now move forward on portions of the plan that will cost \$500,000 in 2005 and 2006. That includes limbing or cutting down trees (yet to be identified), opening up and making the park's entrances more visible, and bringing in events, activities and vending carts — the latter currently prohibited by city law.

The department will also start a capital improvement project to better light the park and create a guided walking loop to include children's play activities.

—Cydney Gillis

[Resource]

To see the full Freeway Park plan, click on "report" at www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/FreewayPark.htm.

Not Yer Mama's Joe

Behind the Scenes at Barista Showdown

By Jess Grant
Contributing Writer

The Barista Championship judges and competitors talk about coffee with the same rich language that wine connoisseurs use. They can describe subtle flavors — floral hints, nutty overtones, chocolate aftertastes — which most mortals can't begin to taste. Competitors usually dress up for their performance, and specialty drinks on the whole tend to be small, cold, and complex.

Last Wednesday the espresso circus hit town, and I was there to meet it at noon for the mandatory competitors' meeting. My employer, the Essential Baking Company, had been good enough to sponsor my entry, and I and another Essential employee were now competing on somewhat short notice in the U.S. Barista Championship (USBC), held here in Seattle March 10-13.

The competition was held across from the Convention Center in a drafty building at Eighth and Pike, and I arrived at the pre-contest orientation with plenty of time to spare. The rules and the technical questions were addressed. Would you be penalized for placing milk in a pitcher before the performance began? (Yes.) Would the judges be lenient towards *ristretto* shots? (Not unless you could offer a good reason for pulling them.) Was milk art acceptable, or must our four cappuccinos sport the traditional "monk's head?" (Here there was leeway, though we were warned against "crossing the line into latte-land.")

Lesley and I had been practicing as much as we could in the last two weeks, but the opportunities were mostly limited to our shift work. It was difficult to find a time in our shops when the espresso machines weren't being used, and practicing at closing time was awkward as co-workers tried to pull floor mats and mop around us.

We soon came to realize that the skills required in these barista competitions are very different from the ones we learn in the café. The competitions are not intended to reflect the working conditions of baristas, nor do they put on display the many survival skills that help us handle a long line of cranky and under-caffeinated clients. My co-worker Janet and I have often talked about holding a barista Olympics that featured practical skills like folding pastry boxes or carrying coffee cups in one hand but these aren't the skills you'll see featured at the USBC.

Instead, the culture of the Specialty Coffee Association of America, which puts this on, encourages the creation of a four-star dining environment. The Barista Championship judges and competitors talk about coffee with the same rich language that wine connoisseurs use. They can describe subtle flavors — floral hints, nutty overtones, chocolate aftertastes — which most mortals can't begin to taste. Competitors usually dress up for their performance, and specialty drinks on the whole tend to be small, cold, and complex.

Pursuing a different aesthetic, I developed a presentation and specialty drink that was heartier and, I hoped, less pretentious. I set out to faithfully recreate the Essential Baking Cafe experience, replete with plain white ceramic cups, simple glass tumblers and a selection of fresh-baked pastries. My specialty drink was the Cafe Ole Au Lait, a Mexican mocha featuring four alternating layers of brown and white (chocolate, milk, espresso, foam) in a 12-ounce schooner, served up hot with a long spoon. With a side of baguette and butter, this drink makes a great breakfast, and I hoped that it would stand out in a field of tiny frosted delicacies.

After the competitors' questions had been answered, Michelle gave us a tour of the facility. We were shown to the preparation room — to call it a dressing room would have been overstating the case, as there was no place to hang our pressed clothes nor a wall clock — where every competitor found a sack of corporate loot awaiting them: book bags, aprons, syrups, lanyards and t-shirts emblazoned with the logos of sponsoring companies. Each competitor was then given three feet of table to set their gear on (beans, cups, saucers, tools and miscellany).

On the far side of the room were three La Marzocco machines, snorting with steam and ready to practice on. Coffee grinders were provided, but many baristas brought their own grinders anyway. Some came from far away places like Hunt Valley, Maryland and Ithaca, New York, but there was a heavy skew towards the west coast with Oregon, Washington and California well represented.



Photo by Will Bossen.

Jess Grant is a barista, songwriter and frontman for Seattle's Joan Jett tribute band, Jett City.

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A Patient Crisis

War, famine in Sudan are a matter of political will

Interview by **ADAM HYLIA**
Real Change Editor

[Event]
"Genocide Emergency: Darfur, Sudan" is a talk by Jerry Fowler and Dr. Jason Wong. It takes place Wednesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th Street, Seattle. Free and open to the public. For directions to the Temple call 206-525-0915.

Public attention to Sudan may have faded, but that doesn't mean the crisis has. Half a year since the U.S. public was alerted to acts of ethnic violence by organized, armed, and government-backed militias in the massive central African nation, life for refugees of the conflict is still very tenuous. The only thing that's changed is they're no longer in the news.

But Jerry Fowler has encountered a groundswell of U.S. concern for the two million civilians caught in the conflict. He's coming to Seattle to speak about his experience in the refugee camps and to spark a blaze of outrage at the actions of the Sudanese central government in Khartoum.

Fowler is an international expert on human rights, international justice, and genocide, and director of the Committee on Conscience at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. He'll be speaking in Seattle along with Dr. Jason Wong, a volunteer with Doctors without Borders, who has provided aid at Sudanese refugee camps.

RC: You say the number of people displaced from Darfur now stands at 200,000; it was 150,000 when you visited in May 2004. Has the crisis slackened?

Fowler: I think it's a continuing crisis. There was a period of intense media attention over the summer, and then it died down. So there was a new round of violence particularly in December and January, where a large number of villages that had been passed over before were attacked and their inhabitants murdered.

So there's been a connection between what has happened on the ground and the amount of outside attention and pressure. The more attention and pressure there's been, the less devastating it's been on the ground.

It continues to be a crisis; as I said, about 200,000 people have crossed

into Chad. But about 1.8 million people who have been displaced are still stuck inside Darfur, in very tenuous circumstances there. They're grouped together outside larger towns, still subject to attack; the government has occasionally moved in and destroyed peoples' camps; they don't have enough food, water, and medical care, so that mortality rates in these camps are extremely high. The U.N. estimated last fall that something on the order of 10,000 people a month are dying, just because of the conditions of life: the lack of food and water. That's probably a conservative estimate.

The refugees in Chad are relatively secure; French troops have been deployed along the border and that put an end to the incursions [of the Janjaweed, Arab militia men].

RC: Where is U.S. opinion now? Have we forgotten?

Fowler: I think there have been a lot of things distracting us. The tsunami, for example. In January there was a peace agreement signed between the Sudanese government and the rebels in the south, and I think that confused a lot of people. Attention is getting refocused on it; there are people everywhere who care about this, who are organizing events, who are contacting the government. I think that's ultimately one of the keys to stopping this genocide: it's for the American people to insist that our government make this a high priority.

RC: What might we do? Colin Powell called this genocide back when nobody else used the word; yet we now have John Bolton as U.N. ambassador. What do you prescribe?

Fowler: Well, I think either working through the UN security council or put-

See DAFUR, Continued next page

Jerry Fowler of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum met with Sudanese refugees in Chad, where this picture was taken. The woman on the left fled after her father, cousin, and brother were killed by militia. Photo courtesy U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.



[Resource]
Alex de Waal's August 2004 essay in the *London Review of Books* explains the origins of the Darfur genocide. Read it at www.lib.co.uk/v26/n15/waal01.html.

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Let's not forget about the little guy this is really freakin me out! I told them I'd been to the mountaintop and there's no one up there... except tourists of course... all the real people have gone to Honolulu or to heaven of course as it were and notwithstanding. I've never been able to make sense of any of this and less so now... the older I get the less I know and the less certain I become... I just know there's a point to all this but damned if I know what it is... why can't there be peace in the valley... why don't things fall up? Imagine the possibilities... you'd drop a book and up it would go joining thousands of other lost things in the sky... metropolitan areas would have to have air cleaning departments and people would complain how inefficient they are... nothing says lovin like something from the top of the sycamore tree in the backyard... raised by wolves raised by nuns raised by humans ... never again I said will I submit to that humiliation... the sensors were on and no one expected a Spanish Inquisition... but for those who do there's pure cholesterol in a jar for the low price of only a small payment plan no more than you spend on your daily lattes... but does that mean we aren't loyal to the red, white and blue velvet and the blues reds are good but they can leave you too hyped up and everyone knows about whites weed and wine don't get me started I'll tell everything I know and then where will we be where will it all end it's gonna get worse before it gets better I say... I'm telling you it really blew my mind... really made me think... really impressed me... nothing like it my friends nothing on earth... space is vast and dark and cold and without oxygen that's why you need transportation otherwise you'd have to stay where you were and that's just plain un-American as any fool knows don't worry I'm just spinnin your wheels skate ride pedal and fly east west home is best... am I going too fast for ya? Make a big splash cause ripples and I don't mean ice cream... easy there boy you'll never make the eleven fifty-nine if you don't watch where you're going

—ELIZABETH ROMERO

DARFUR, Cont. from Page 6

ting together a "coalition of the caring," working with the African Union, is key. I think there's the potential for the Security Council to act, though it's going to take a lot of diplomacy. The Chinese in particular have been very obstructionist, because they have close relationships with the Sudanese government.

RC: Why does China have close relations with Sudan?

Fowler: The main reason is oil; China is heavily invested in the Sudanese oil industry. They get about four to six percent of their oil from Sudan.

RC: You pointed me toward this essay by Alex de Waal, who talks about how ethnicity was constructed prior to this conflict. He points out that there was a long period of relative harmony before this. Then what happened?

Fowler: Well, several things happened. Alex's essay explains them better than I can. But one thing is the desert is moving south, into the region, reducing the amount of resources available to growing crops and herding cattle. That's obviously put pressure on the different groups using the resources. That's number one, climactic change.

Number two is an increase in the sense of Arab identity and superiority, partly because of the efforts of the government in Khartoum, partly because of Qaddafi in Libya, trying to create an Arab belt through the area. That started rigidifying the different identities between Arab and non-Arab.

The third thing is the central government in Khartoum altered the normal, indigenenous decisionmaking process; their old methods of settling disputes were taken away and replaced with ones that seemed to give more power and influence to the allies of the government.

A very recent thing that helped set the spark to the tinder was the progress in resolving the war in southern Sudan, which was based on the principle of sharing wealth and power. For the non-Arab groups in Darfur, they saw this as re-slicing the national pie and they weren't getting a piece. They felt that they might be losing their historic chance to get a fair share of natural resources. That led to the creation of these rebel groups.

All of those things combined to — when the rebellion started, the government's response was, "Well, these rebels are coming from the non-Arab groups; they're second-class citizens anyway, we don't need them, and our friends in some of the Arab groups will help us" — they had this incentive to help because of the land issue. And so they launched this war against the civilian population, to devastating effect.

RC: What will you be speaking about

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when you're here?

Fowler: I'll be sharing some stories of the people I met there. It really helps to humanize this. You're talking about two million people driven from their homes, 300,000 dead, thousands of women and girls raped, but they're also individuals and they have individual stories. I find that it helps people understand the human cost if I introduce them to these refugees that I met.

There's one, for example, about a woman who, when her village was attacked, her father was killed and her brother was killed and her cousin was killed and her mother disappeared. Thirty other people in her village were killed. So she fled with other villagers. After she told me this story I thanked her and was getting ready to leave, and she started speaking in a very low voice. I looked over and tears were splashing down her cheeks; she was saying "What about my mother? What about my mother? I don't know where my mother is. I don't even know if she's alive or if she's dead."

I think about that woman: all of these numbers can come down to one woman who doesn't know where her mother is, and won't know until there is peace and security in Darfur.

RC: Are we going to see a lot more deaths before we get a meaningful international response?

Fowler: It can be relatively quick — but I think it's a function of political will. Everybody knows what the elements are: a robust military force on the ground, preferably from the African Union; there's already a very small monitoring force there. Preventing the Sudanese from using their planes to attack civilians. And accountability: ending the climate of impunity that lets the military and the militias think that there won't be consequences for what they're doing. I think all of those things could be achieved fairly quickly if there were political will to do it. Political will is a function of public demands. If enough people speak out loudly enough, that increases the chances of things changing soon. ■

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Stay Human

Point Counter Point

By Aldous Huxley

Dalkey Archive Press, 2001 (Originally published 1928)

Paperback, 432 pages, \$13.95

By ADAM HYLIA

Real Change Editor

I remember opening Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and expecting 1984. What I got was much different.

Huxley's dystopic novel was full of lectures about the influence of Henry Ford, the comfortably numbing effect of the opiate Soma, and "wonderfully pneumatic" sex — as likely as a handshake to denote love.

Satirizing the future means someday your book might be on the future's shelves, where it has, at best, a 50/50 chance of ringing true. In the Soma and the pneumatism, *Brave New World* got it partly right. Still, such foresight doesn't necessarily make great reading; the book has scarcely a memorable character.

In *Point Counter Point*, Huxley aped the world he knew. The result is much more than a satire of upper-class London in the 1920s; it's a timeless exhibition of hubris,

vanity, mendacity, and hedonism, reeling off hypocrisies like a mighty Wurlitzer, with more neurotics and eccentrics than *The O.C.* and *Desperate Housewives* combined.

We start with Walter Bidlake, a young romantic who seduced a married woman whose husband refuses to get a divorce. Two years later, the affair has chilled; Marjorie now waits at home for him, pregnant with his child, while Walter follows after the young socialite Lucy Tantamount, feeling "at once justified and without excuse": "confusedly and simultaneously he hated Marjorie for her patient, martyred coldness; he accused himself of swinish sensuality. His love for Lucy was mad and shameful, but Marjorie was bloodless and half dead."

There's Walter's boss, Burlap, editor of the literary periodical the *World*, whose moralism is eclipsed only by his vanity. Burlap is going on the lecture circuit with a book on St. Francis, who seems to have distinguished himself by licking lepers' sores. Burlap paves his way to pleasure with erudite piety. His method of getting into a woman's pants is to impress her with a display of child-like purity, mewling for a rub-

down in the bath.

And there's Spandrell, a self-destructive devil sick of sin, who has twisted his courtly comportment into a method of misogynistic revenge. Spandrell finally arrives at his life's purpose in political assassination. The murder committed, he expects justice and gets mere farce. God, he finds, is a joker after all.

The moral center of the satire is Mark Rampion, inspired by the real-life D.H. Lawrence. Rampion is a little too perfect, a bit too hyperbolic; the book's one fault is his constant harping on the central theme. The hedonists and the moralists are all denying part of themselves, he says, and in so doing become much less than human. St. Francis, he tells Burlap, "kills whatever decency he had in him and becomes a smelly little pervert who can only get a thrill out of licking lepers' ulcers."

And hedonists like Spandrell: "The trouble with you, Spandrell, is that you really hate yourself. You hate the very source of your life, its ultimate basis — for there's no denying it, sex is fundamental. And you hate it."

Each has the same problem, says Rampion: "All perverted in the same way — by trying to be non-human. Non-humanly religious, non-humanly moral, non-humanly intellectually and scientifically, non-humanly specialized and efficient non-humanly lascivious and Don Juanesque, non-humanly the concivious individual even in love. Perverted toward goodness or badness, toward spirit or flesh; but always away from the central norm. Always away from being human."

Huxley attempted one of the most difficult things a novelist can do: to describe not just a single affliction but the whole spectrum of folly, whether springing from heart, mind, or loins. He succeeded as well as anyone. *Point Counter Point* is a great novel because even where it turns into a lecture, its characters' foibles are still enormously entertaining. ■



Aldous Huxley's timeless message:

The rich are weird, pass it on!

BARISTA, Continued from Page 5

Most of my fellow competitors were friendly enough and very serious about their coffee. People didn't mind if you watched or asked questions, and I was able to pick up some pointers. My tasting palate is undeveloped — it all still tastes like coffee, some of it better than others — but I respect the study and dedication that these aficionados bring to their craft.

Many competitors were conspicuous by their absence. I was surprised to see that local java joints like Cafe Vita, Victrola Coffee, Lighthouse Roasting and Espresso Vivace weren't represented at the USBC, despite their formidable reputations for fine espresso. Even more conspicuously absent was Starbucks, a silence that spoke volumes about the state of an industry that's been consolidated beyond recognition beneath their bright green banner.

Starbucks' emphasis on global domination has inevitably led them away from quality. They developed an espresso technology that's so automated it relieves the barista of all personal investment in their product — baskets are dosed and tamped automatically, milk is robotically frothed, and shots are timed to shut off. Starbucks could not compete (as if they wanted to) because their baristas don't have the same skills or even use the same machines. They work hard, to be sure, but most of them wouldn't know a cappuccino if you spilled it in their lap.

Yet in typical American fashion, Starbucks has become almost synonymous with espresso drinks to the average suburban consumer. This disjunct isn't reviled by the folks at the USBC so much as simply ignored. Nobody felt compelled to put down the big corporate bad guy; Starbucks was simply an alternate universe with no relevance to the art of extracting espresso as practiced by these devotees.

Also absent from the competition was any discussion, even joking in nature, about the fact that baristas deal

in drugs. It may be legal, but everyone knows that caffeine is consumed for its stimulating effects. Nonetheless, jokes about getting buzzed were curiously absent, as if serious coffee drinkers simply didn't feel the effects anymore (or feel the need to mention them).

When I finally took the stage on Friday afternoon I felt ready to go — but I hadn't counted on the pressure of being watched by seven judges, a camera crew, and a live audience while wired with a microphone. Simple moves executed automatically behind my café counter on a busy morning were forgotten in the throes of stage fright. My erstwhile rosettas were mere milky blobs and I went over time by about 45 seconds, losing significant points and destroying any remaining fantasies

I had about attending the semi-finals that weekend.

To the untrained eye, some of the relationships among judges and competitors seem a bit cozy for comfort. Zoka's influence seems particularly strong, and the lines that are drawn to avoid conflict of interest appear fuzzy. Though I am a former employee of Zoka, I found myself being judged by a panel that included Zoka's owner as well as the company's former training director. The emcee for my segment was a man who had worked in Zoka's sales department. At least three other judges or of-

ficials had similar past or present ties to the same company. Despite this strong presence in the judges' ranks, Zoka still mounted a large team of competitors, and no one seemed to look askance at such an arrangement.

In the end, the medals will go to the baristas that train like thoroughbreds. While the average barista labors at her café shift, practicing latte art under the pressure of a commercial setting, some high-bred barista is busy rehearsing his routine at a dedicated training facility, where friends take notes and coach him on his technique. I can't hope to compete with these folk, but I can certainly learn from them, and that's enough reason to keep coming back. ■

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Dr. Wes Gets Outrage Fatigue



Though poised to rant, I am rantless. I am like the roarless lion, the croakless frog, the yell-less sixth-grader. I am also lacking even one decent metaphor.

Oh no! I was about to write this column on my latest righteous outrage du jour, when suddenly, to my horror, I didn't have one. Should my meds be adjusted again? Have I become laid-back now, according to the principle that everyone becomes the person their friends tell them they are, no matter how wrong their friends' perceptions were originally?

I've never been laid-back. I've always been a seething pool of anger and fury. Okay, I kept a lid on me, pool that I was, in order to prevent unacceptable actions like land reclamation and inappropriate commercial development of human pools. Boy, this metaphor sucks.

So anyway, like I say, I'm a pool of anger, fury, etc. And I thought I had some outrage to dish up this week. I went so far as to mark my territory (another sucky metaphor!) by warning Anitra "Op Ed Mama" Freeman off the topics of my outrage. "Don't talk about the news about the Pentagon Channel," I said, "because I'll want to rant about that." "Don't talk about the Senate Nuclear Option," I said, "because that really has my panties in a bunch."

But now deadline approaches, and here I am. Though poised to rant, I am rantless. I am like the roarless lion, the croakless frog, the yell-less sixth-grader. I am also lacking even one decent metaphor.

Well, here's the deal, anyway. You know how the government lies to you all the time? They've been lying to our troops since the Napoleonic Wars, but now the Pentagon is institutionalizing its process of lying by going forward with plans to bring the "Pentagon Channel" to the widest civilian audience possible on cable and satellite dish outlets. They will be providing national and international political news and analysis as well as the expected in-house military news.

An example of Pentagon editorializing-by-headline, from their 24-hour streaming website

(www.pentagonchannel.mil): "Taking its cues from President George Bush, the international community is now standing up to Syria demanding the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon." Yes, the international community is just helpless without cues from George. What will they ever do when they lose his manly leadership?

So, terrific, we have the beginnings of our very own U.S. equivalent of Pravda. Why aren't I up in arms about it? Am I losing my touch? Is this that male menopause they're always talking about?

When I first heard about the Senate Nuclear Option, I went nuclear. I paced back and forth in my hovel, punching the air with my fists. How dare Bill Frist even suggest such a thing, I thought. The thing he suggested was that Cheney, as President of the Senate, outlaw Senate filibusters by fiat, at least for the debate of judicial nominees.

Part of my outrage was directed at the way some are distorting the history of the filibuster. The Senate had UNLIMITED debate before the rule on filibusters was initially established in 1917. Currently requiring a three-fifths vote to close debate, the "filibuster rule" was actually an improvement on a tradition, since 1806, of no closure without unanimity. Would Frist like to return to those good old days?

But, hey, I don't love the filibuster. I remember how it was used to delay civil rights legislation for years. So the real outrage is about the timing. Under Clinton the Republicans didn't need the filibuster; they blocked his judicial nominations by refusing to allow nominees' names to go to the floor.

Now it's all the power the Democrats have left. So this is the time the Republicans decide they want to do away with a 199-year tradition, so that a Republican administration can install judges into the federal courts that anyone even slightly to the left of Mussolini or Bill O'Reilly would regard as extremists.

How pathetic is that? How can anyone stay angry at such pathetic behavior? I can only feel revulsion. ■

LABOR, Continued from Page 1

Industries to double the number of inmates it directly employs in Class II jobs, which pay prisoners 35 cents to a \$1.10 an hour for a variety of jobs. That includes removing asbestos, grinding lenses for glasses, and making apparel, furniture or food products — all of which can only be performed for or sold to other state agencies or nonprofits.

Current customers include the Department of Social and Health Services, which buys the lenses for its clients. Meals on Wheels, the Red Cross, and city and county jails also buy trays of food produced by Correctional Industries. Nearly 40 percent of CI's sales — which rang in at \$43 million last year — were to the prison system itself.

Last fall, the division laid out a business plan that calls for adding 200 Class II jobs each year for three years, then 300 a year through 2010. To do this, Yarbrough says, the division is currently asking the state for a one-time capital construction allocation of \$3.5 million to expand its Class II work facilities, including its apparel, furniture and food factories and laundry services.

"We have to make that up somehow," Yarbrough says of the lost \$601,000 and other deductions. "How

we do it on the Class II side is sell more widgets" — through a team of 13 sales representatives that Correctional Industries already employs throughout the state.

SSB 5631, a bill sponsored by Sen. Debbie Regala (D-Tacoma), supports this by encouraging schools to buy prison-made furniture and allowing family members and guards to purchase uniforms and jeans sewn by inmates, as long as the family is buying the item for the inmate.

That, Regala says, will help offset the 15 percent cut the state also takes when a family member sends, say, \$40 for an inmate to buy a pair of jeans.

Regala and other supporters of the bills say the prison jobs — particularly the private ones — train inmates for life outside, keep trouble (and security costs) down, and teach prisoners responsibility through the payroll deductions, which also go toward the cost of incarceration, victims' compensation, restitution and legal fees, savings, and family support.

"We want the opportunity to offer these jobs for a lot of reasons," says Regala of the private prison jobs that would be reinstated under the constitutional amendment she co-

sponsored with Sen. Jim Hargrove (D-Hoquiam).

"First of all, idle hands are not a good thing," Regala says, and "90 percent of inmates do go back to the community. We'd like them to have some job background or skills so they can become employed again, rather than rely on crime."

With the loss of the wage deductions from the private jobs, Regala adds, "The state of Washington lost a great deal of revenue" that went, in part, to the cost of incarceration.

Cost-of-incarceration funds, however, don't actually pay for room and board, the way it sounds. As Yarbrough acknowledges, the money goes to create more prison jobs and run Correctional Industries — something that prisoner advocates such as Lea Zengage, co-founder of Seattle's Justice Works, object to.

"It's part of human nature, to say I want to maintain what it is that's feeding me," Zengage says of expanding prison jobs. "Especially when you have a government budget crisis on all levels, of course there's going to be motivation to have labor that's paid \$1.10 an hour."

See LABOR, Page 12

Thursday, March 3, 1:40 p.m., Terry Ave. Officers responded to Terry Ave. to check on a female yelling and screaming at citizens. Upon arrival, officers found the subject lying on the ground yelling nonsense words. They asked her if she knew where she was, and she replied that she didn't. Officers smelled a strong odor of intoxicants on her breath, and she was having a difficult time balancing herself. Officers decided she was unable to care for herself. AMR transported subject, a transient white female aged 58, to Harborview Medical Center for a mental evaluation.

Thursday, March 3, 5:50 p.m., S. Washington St., Occidental Park. Complainant, who represents the Pioneer Square Community Organization, contacted police regarding a possible conflict with a group in Occidental Park. She stated that a group by the name of Food Not Bombs was planning a feeding in the park at 5:30, which conflicted with the monthly Art Walk. The Health Department was contacted and asked for assistance in making sure the group feeding was in compliance, as they had not made an application for a permit to feed in the park. After the Food Not Bombs group arrived, their representative met with the complainant and the Health Inspector. The group was advised of concerns from the PSCO, who had issued permits for the Art Walk participants, as well as the issue of the food service. An agreement was worked out so that Food Not Bombs could use a portion of the park to serve food without interfering with the Art Walk. The health inspector informed Food Not Bombs of the proper procedure for obtaining permits to feed.

Friday, March 4, 6:07 a.m., Union Gospel Mission. Victim, who works at the Mission, said the suspect was standing in the front door. The victim attempted to close it, and the suspect asked, "What are you moving so fast for?" He had a golf club in his hand, and smacked it on the floor, saying the victim would get his head cracked open if he did that again. Officers contacted the suspect, a transient Black male aged 42, and he dropped the club after being asked several times. He was very upset that officers had stopped him, and he had to be placed into handcuffs for their own safety. He said he had been down to the Mission and was very upset because they didn't have any blankets. The victim didn't want any police action taken; he just wanted the suspect trespassing from the premises. Suspect was warned he could not return to the Mission for a year. The golf club was placed into evidence, and the suspect was released.

Saturday, March 5, 9:47 p.m., S. Main St. Suspect was found sitting on a private stoop. A name check revealed her as Department of Corrections active. Her corrections officer in Port Orchard was contacted, and the suspect, a transient white female aged 25, was taken into custody without incident. She was released to the DOC and verbally warned by them to return to Port Orchard. She was interviewed and released from the precinct.

Compiled from incident reports of the Seattle Police Department by Emma Quinn. Got your own experience to relate? Call us at (206)441-3247 ext. 207 and we'll get the scoop.

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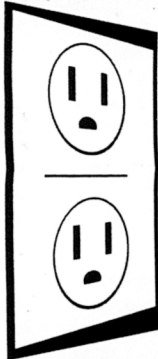
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Letters

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Robin Hood was a Libertarian

Dear *Real Change*,

I grow increasingly tired of the misuse of the Robin Hood metaphor ("Robin Hood Reversed," March 9). Whatever the merits, or lack thereof, of President Bush's budget, claiming it is "Robin Hood Reversed" doesn't make sense. In the Robin Hood legend, he didn't "rob from the rich and give to the poor," as somehow has become common wisdom, he stole from the tax collectors, and gave back to the people whose backs were broken by extreme taxation.

I don't mind debate on the budget proposal, but I strongly dislike warping of old parables in order to make them fit the situation. They called that "new speak" in Orwell's "1984." I believe, and that metaphor does seem to fit.

Cliff Smith
Lynnwood

Soft shell for the hard sell

Dear *Real Change*,

First let me say that I generally support what you are doing. But I have to say that I am sick and tired of being given the hard sell by people selling your paper on the street. They absolutely will not let you pass by without trying to force some interaction. Sometimes I'm in the middle of a conversation and they just completely interrupt and talk over me. Sometimes

I'm just not in the mood to talk to somebody, and they just keep talking to me as I pass by, even though I obviously would like to be left alone. Sometimes they are hitting me up for the hundredth time in a week.

Several times lately people have even been snotty or sarcastic to me. Not because I did anything, or said anything. Just because I did not give them what they wanted. They obviously couldn't care less about me. Basically they are being assholes and I'm sick of it. There is absolutely no excuse for such behavior from an organization that considers itself to be in the public interest. These days I dread even walking down the street where I know they will be.

The solution is simple. No hard sell. No trying to force people to hear your message. Some understanding that people may have other things on their mind at the moment. A simple soft "Real Change daily" spoken as people pass by, with respect for their desire to be able to pass by unaccosted, would be wonderful. Maybe alternating with a tag line or two from a current article. Is that so much to ask?

Regards,
Andrew

[ED Replies]: Thanks Andrew. Most of the time we hear about how polite and unassuming our vendors are, but we'll take this for what it's worth. Street sales are not the easiest thing in the world, especially when everyone in the world seems to think you are invisible. But your letter made me think. Here are a few other good ideas along the lines you suggest: TV ads should be broadcast at the same volume as other programming. I hate it when I'm watching "The Apprentice" and the TV suddenly blasts an SUV ad so loudly I can hear it in my neighbor's bathroom. Also, petition signature gatherers should just stand there with their clipboards and look pleadingly at passersby. They won't get any signatures, but that's probably a good thing, right? And finally, there ought to be a law against trying to engage strangers in conversation on public sidewalks. If I wanted to talk to weird people I didn't know, I'd ride the bus. But I don't, so leave me alone. Thanks for listening. I feel better now.

Real Change welcomes letters to the editor of up to 250 words in length. Please include name, address, phone number, and email for author verification. Letters should be addressed to Editor at Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA, 98121, or emailed to editor@realchangenews.org

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A SISTERHOOD OF WOMEN FACING HIV TOGETHER. Women with HIV need you! The Babes Network is an agency of, by, and for women living with HIV/AIDS. To volunteer, contact Mindy Gresham at 206-720-5566 Ext. 13

Events

Women Take Heart. Free series on heart disease for women & families. Dinner provided. Stations for kids 5-12. 3/9, 3/22: Heart Basics/Nutrition; 3/16, 3/29: Exercise/Stress. Register at www.hopeheart.org or 425-899-3000.

Real Change classifieds are an inexpensive way to reach 40,000 loyal readers. Call 441-3247 today, or email classified@realchangenews.org

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 3/16

Amnesty International Group 4 presents Mike Pesa, campaigner with the **Rainforest Action Network (RAN)**. Come hear about RAN's campaign against Weyerhaeuser and how these issues are human rights issues and do matter to Amnesty members. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Cascade People's Center, 369 Pontius Ave. N. Info: www.scn.org/amnesty or airgroup4@hotmail.com or 206-622-6741.

Veterans Reflect on the Iraq War: A forum and discussion sponsored in part by the Church Council of Greater Seattle. The featured guest is former Marine Capt. Josh Rushing, from the acclaimed 2004 documentary *Control Room*. Ticket donation is \$5 in advance, \$7 on the day of forum. 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave. Info: 206-548-5665 or www.vetsforum.org.

The U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration Project presents the movie *Blouque*, part of an ongoing **Cuban Film Festival** series. A (tax-deductible) donation of \$10 is requested. 7 p.m. at the new 911 Media Arts Center's Theater, 402-Ninth Avenue N. Info: 206-682-6552 or www.womenandcuba.org.

Thursday 3/17

Okay, so you're against the gross injustices of our current economic system; But **What Are You For?** Sponsored by Through the Cracks: Exploring Analyses, Visions, and Strategies for Liberation. This is a workshop on participatory economics and other visions of economic justice. 6:30-9 p.m. at Miller Community Center, 330 19th Ave. E. on Capitol Hill. Admission is free. Info: JeremyLouzao.jeremy_louzao@yahoo.com or 206-725-8486.

Friday 3/18

International Sustainable Solutions and Mayor Greg Nickels present Svend Auken, Former Danish Minister of Energy & Environment. Auken is largely responsible for the policies that made

Denmark the world leader in **renewable energy**. He discusses how Denmark moved from almost 100 percent dependence on foreign oil to being energy independent. \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. 7-9 p.m. UW Meany Hall. Info: www.i-sustain.com/events/svendAuken.htm.

It's been two years since the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Various groups, in locations stretching from Bellingham to Olympia, sponsor peace vigils on March 18, incorporating mediation, prayer, discussion, reflection, and protest. For more info: www.scn.org/activism/calendar/mar.html. See page 12 for more details.

Wallingford Neighbors For Peace and Justice presents Friday Night At The Meaningful Movies, featuring **Hearts & Minds**. The title of this documentary was inspired by the mantra recited by those in charge of the Vietnam War: "In order to win the war, we must win the hearts and minds of the people." Admission is free, donations appreciated. 7 p.m. on Fridays, at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. Info: groups.msn.com/wallingfordneighbors.

Saturday 3/19

How does a nation spiral into civil war? Author William McCaughey answers the question through fiction in his new collection of short stories set in **Sierra Leone, Need**. 7:30 p.m. at the Elliott Bay Book Co., First and Main in Pioneer Square.

Tuesday 3/22

Bellevue Regional Library hosts a screening of **Conscience and the Constitution**, a film about a group of young Japanese Americans interned in an American concentration camp during World War II. They refused to be drafted unless their rights as U.S. citizens were restored. Admission is free: 7-8:30 p.m., at Bellevue Regional Library. Info: King County Library Answer Line 425-462-9600.

Director's Corner

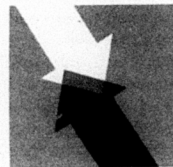


A few years into the GW's first term, I had dinner with an old acquaintance from Boston. Phil Mangano had recently become Bush's top guy on homelessness, and he was a veritable blizzard of good news. Better interagency coordination, combined with better data and a new focus on the chronic homeless, would within ten years eliminate homelessness as we know it. Republicans ended slavery, said Phil, and they'd end this too. I wrote at the time that talking to Mangano, you wanted to believe that George Bush "was the best thing to happen to homeless people since hot soup and army blankets." I was never really taken in, but others were. One local political leader, who should have known better, went as far as to compare Mangano to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now that Bush's second term budget priorities are on the table, some of the smoke has cleared. Community Services Block Grants, gone. Deep cuts to CDBG funding as well. Rural Rental Housing assistance is cut by 73%. Housing assistance to the disabled is halved. What good news there is, such as the 7% increase to Tenant-based Rental Assistance, is dwarfed by the disaster that is the rest of the budget. Additionally, the President's narrow focus on chronic homelessness diverts resources from homeless families and others whose problems stem from widening poverty.

Mangano should summon up whatever scraps of integrity he has left and just resign. This administration isn't fooling anyone that doesn't want to be fooled.

—Timothy Harris, Exec. Dir.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Unacceptable Consequences

Issue: Governor Gregoire is working on her budget proposal, for release around March 21st. It doesn't look good — with a \$2.2-billion dollar budget shortfall her budget may take an especially heavy toll on the most vulnerable people in our state. The Governor and legislators have a choice to make: pass a budget with little or no new revenue and make it even harder for people to survive, or pass a responsible budget that raises revenue to invest in our communities and our people.

Background: A budget without added revenue means that deep cuts to vital human services will be almost guaranteed. Cuts are expected in critical programs that serve the most vulnerable people in our state — and the people with the least political clout. GA-U, which provides a small cash grant along with health care for people too disabled to work, is likely to be cut. Dental, vision, and hearing services for low-income adults could go with it. Replacing the \$82 million in federal funds we recently lost for mental health services will be unlikely. And the state's Basic Health Plan, which provides medical coverage to low-income people, will probably be funded at a lower level, reducing the number of people served by as many as 18,000. Forget any chance of making things better — without more money, we won't even keep what we have now.

There are plenty of ways to increase revenue and prevent drastic cuts. Legislators have talked about the need for new revenues for the last few years. And for the last few years, instead of making any real changes they've made cuts that have hurt. While they've managed to hold off some of the most drastic cuts, that won't last — there's nothing left to cut instead. Without new revenue, human services will almost certainly be cut, a lot, and more people will be left homeless, sick, and unable to meet their most basic needs.

Action: A budget without new revenue is unnecessary, and state budget writers need to hear that it's also unacceptable. Contact the Governor today and tell her you that want her to write a budget that raises revenue to invest in our state's future by investing in its people. Ask her to take the smart budget oath and promise to raise the revenue we need.

Leave a message for Governor Christine Gregoire at 1-800-562-6000.

You can personalize and send a pre-written letter online in less than five minutes at <http://www.childrenshub.org/campaign/stbudget>

Extra credit: Many legislators are holding budget town hall meetings in their districts. These provide a great opportunity to tell them your priorities, in person. Visit www.educationvoters.org to see what's happening in your district.

If you can make it to Olympia, join us in creating a weekly presence of people most affected by cuts and their allies every Wednesday from 11 to 1 PM starting March 23. Contact Kim Justice at kim@povertyaction.org, 206.694.6794, toll free: 1.866.789.7726.



Over 2 million people have been affected by the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, and more than 50,000 have been killed. Hear Jerry Fowler, Director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum's Committee on Conscience, and Jason Wong, a Seattle physician for Doctors Without Borders. Wednesday, March 23, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th Street, Seattle. Free. For directions call 525-0915.

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"From the perspective of society, rather than spending energy trying to figure out how to get \$1.10-an-hour labor," Zengage says, "why not figure out how to get rid of poverty so people aren't committing crimes out of desperation?"

"I really feel like Class II is a misuse of human beings," she adds.

With no work, however, inmates have no way to provide for their families or buy stamps, pens, paper and every other item they are charged for in prison, says Willie Williams, a community college instructor and volunteer for the Black Prisoners Caucus, a prisoners' empowerment group based inside the Monroe Correctional Complex.

As a union member, Williams says the Class I private jobs weren't fair. But their loss hurt the inmates and families who depended on those jobs.

Williams says the issue is making sure Class I jobs are handed out fairly, without the racial bias still prevalent in prison today. If the program is reinstated, Williams wants the jobs expanded

Get Lost

Downtown neon smacks my eyes, makes me want to lose my name to the shuddering piano, makes me sing uninvited to the hungry stars fixed in the plum black sky.

—MERCEDES LAWRY

to more minimum security environments where offenders are about to be released, rather than maximum security units where offenders have years to go.

"The No. 1 issue for guys when they get released is that they don't have employment opportunities," Williams says. ■

NO GO, Continued from Page 1

In response to whether the Navy, in particular, actively recruits young people of color, Petty Officer First Class Timothy Ingersoll, public affairs representative for the Navy Recruiting District, Seattle, responds with "Yes and no."

POFC Ingersoll says the Navy recruits potential enlistees in hopes of representing a true cross-section of the country. Speaking only for the local recruiting district, Ingersoll says Seattle receives a set of diversity goals from headquarters that are specific as to group. For example, the district may be asked to sign up five Hispanic recruits. But these diversity goals apply to more than racial groups, he continues, as there are goals for gender groups as well. Congress, he says, ultimately sets a goal as to how the military will look in terms of diversity.

"Overall, we'll meet the end goal of a cross-section of American society," claims Ingersoll.

Dustin Washington, an adult advisor for Rise One, an anti-racist group led by college and high school students of color, doesn't see an end goal as representative of the country at large.

"Recruiters aren't dumb," says Washington.

"They know the school systems are failing young people of color. And they know they have one of the few things to entice these students."

Those enticements, claims Washington, include promises of education, opportunities for travel, and job training. What the military doesn't talk about is the reality after enlistment, he says, when enlistees might have to go and fight in a war, and that people of color are misrepresented on the front line. "Then the students are sent to go kill other poor people of color," he asserts.

Department of Defense statistics for fiscal year 2001 reveal that minorities

accounted for 37 percent of total military recruits. Noting that the military recruited less than 30 percent minorities a decade before, the report goes on to say the higher proportion of current minority recruits is a more accurate mirror of the civilian population.

Once in the military, however, the mirror clouds. Blacks, the report states, have a history of being over-represented, while Hispanic and other minorities (Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders) are under-represented.

And while Black enlistees account for 22 percent of total enlistees, only 8 percent of officers were Black. While underrepresented in the officer class, Blacks are overrepresented in administrative positions.

Washington says the students of Rise One attempt to connect with students at Sealth High School every other Tuesday, to inform them about what it might mean to be a person of color in the military. This is information they may not get from recruiters, he says. "They [young students of color] were highly interested," claims Washington. "Young people were coming over in droves."

Whether or not young people are still enlisting in the military in droves is hard to ascertain. Recent press reports indicate that the number of Black recruits in the Army has dropped almost 7 percent since FY 2001. Ingersoll says current Navy statistics were not available. He says the Navy assigns recruiters to certain areas of the country to meet their goals, and, if possible, the recruiters attempt to visit every high school in the area. "The school," says POFC Ingersoll says, "can deny the recruiter entry."

Or the student, in the case of Harris-White, can simply not take the bait. While there are various factors affecting her decision not to enlist, one remains clear.

"Working for a system that promotes killing people and, maybe, children and civilians, is not something that sounds interesting to me," says Harris-White. "It's not something I want to do." ■

Be Counted

Iraq War anniversary events, March 16-21

"War Costs... Who Pays?" peace rally to mark the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Saturday March 19 at Seattle Center, with a march through downtown Seattle slated for 1:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.march19.info. Of several feeder marches, the most notable is the sponsored by **WSJW and the King County Labor Council**, emphasizing how the Iraq war is being used as justification and cover for further attacks on working people here at home, and starting at SEIU Local 6, 150 Denny Way. For further information, contact WSJW (206-441-4969, wsjw@igc.org).

"Security and Nonviolence," sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship and the Nonviolent Peaceforce, asks the following: Can nonviolent action be effective against dictatorship or oppression? Where do we get our ideas about 'the enemy'? How do we create the conditions for violence or peace? What are practical methods of nonviolent action? Saturday March 19, 2-4 p.m. at the Richmond Beach Public Library, Shoreline. For further information, contact Patricia Scott at 206-361-1314.

On Wednesday, March 16, a historic community forum features **three veterans of the conflict with contrasting views** on the war. A former Marine Corps officer who saw ground combat in Iraq, a former Navy public affairs officer aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt, and Captain Josh Rushing, former Marine Corps Public Affairs Officer in Qatar, featured in the highly acclaimed and controversial 2004 documentary *Control Room*. 7 p.m. at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 Eighth Avenue. Tickets are \$7 at the door and \$5 in advance through www.vetsforum.org.

—David Trotter

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