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VOL. 11 NO. 12

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MARCH 23-29, 2005

## 'The Status Quo Kills You'

*Gregoire budget leaves lives in  
the balance*

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Writer

**S**am Blair will sleep a little better tonight knowing Gov. Christine Gregoire put \$80 million in her budget for Medicaid funding.

It's money the federal government planned to take away from Washington state July 1. By finding a way to cover it in her budget, mental health advocates say, Gregoire averted disaster for the state's frayed community clinics and the mentally ill people who depend on them in King County.

One of them is Blair, who will be able to continue seeing a case manager at the Downtown Emergency Service Center. But, because of a snafu with Medicaid, Blair is currently relying on DESC for samples of the prescription medications the state should be paying for right now.

Like the governor said when she released her budget this week, it's just for "getting by." Blair and others on Medicaid are barely doing that today — and Gregoire wants to cut more assistance and services in order to close the state's \$1.6 billion budget gap, including \$18 million in General Assistance - Unemployable (GA-U) grants to at least 4,000 people who are temporarily disabled and cannot work.

Blair, of Auburn, is permanently disabled. Once an electronics technician, he came down with seizures and bipolar disorder in 1994 and spent four years on the streets, until someone at a shelter recognized his condition and referred him to mental health services.

Seven years ago he got a subsidized apartment, and then a lawyer to sue the feds for the Social Security disability benefits he was owed. The court-ordered settlement stipulates Blair remain in a monitored mental-health program like DESC's SAGE, which manages his bank account and provides a case manager once a week and a psychiatrist once a month.

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ONE MORE REASON TO TAKE THE BUS: PACIFIC MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS RICHARD FEELY AND CHRIS SABINE HAVE COMPLETED A 15-YEAR STUDY OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS' ABSORPTION OF CARBON DIOXIDE, WHICH HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE AND OCEAN LIFE. PHOTO BY ROB CASEY.

## Move Over, Global Warming

*Seattle scientists say a greenhouse gas is changing ocean ecosystems*

By KYLE SERIKAWA  
Contributing Writer

**T**he oceans have buffered the effects of man-made carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, but at a potential cost to the organisms living in the oceans' upper layers. Scientists at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory on Sand Point Way are part of an international team who discovered that half of the carbon dioxide produced by human industry has ended up in the oceans instead of remaining in the air. They reported their findings last year in the journal *Science*.

Their research represents the culmination of a 15-year effort to measure and interpret the role of the ocean in the global carbon cycle. Over the past two centuries, although the amount of man-made carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has steadily increased, only about half of the expected increase was seen. Where the other half went was unknown.

These studies represent "the first time we've taken direct measurements to show that the oceans take up man-made carbon dioxide," says Dr. Chris Sabine, one of the primary authors on the reports.

"Whether you believe in global warming or not, we are adding huge amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, and that is measurably changing the chemistry of the oceans."

Dr. Richard Feely, another of the lead authors, adds that "These numbers are used to constrain the global carbon cycle models. We need to have these constraints to know if the models are working properly."

Building accurate models for the movement of carbon dioxide is of particular importance because carbon dioxide acts as a greenhouse gas. As the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases, more of the heat from the sun is trapped near the earth's surface, potentially leading to an increase in average temperatures around the world.

This research also demonstrated the effects of carbon dioxide uptake on the oceans themselves. "People seem to have very strong feelings about global warming," says Sabine.

"But whether you believe in global warming or not, we are adding huge amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, and that is measurably changing the chemistry of the oceans."

Carbon dioxide's potential to affect the environment was recognized over a century ago by the Swedish chemist

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A photo, 1,000 words.

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# No More Harm

Governor's budget a half step toward healing state

By JON GOULD  
Real Change Advisory Board

State budget cuts of the past three years have hurt everyone in Washington. Our most vulnerable residents have lost critical supports, and we're all paying more for costly, emergency interventions down the line.

The waiting is over. Governor Christine Gregoire released her budget this week, ending months of speculation about how she would maintain critical services given a \$1.5 billion budget deficit.

All told, the Governor's budget represents a half step towards the budget Washington needs to heal the harm of past human service cuts and secure a strong future for all residents of the state.

On the bright side, the budget proposal funds nearly all the lost federal funds for community mental health services, restores cuts in children's health care, and preserves the state's Basic Health Plan for adults unable to afford health coverage.

Governor Gregoire also deserves praise for proposing to re-establish a portion of the state's estate tax, one of the most progressive forms of raising revenue.

On the other hand, the Governor's budget contains cuts to human services. The budget summary says clearly that the budget will be balanced by reducing "funding by \$82 million for certain health and human services programs." Among these cuts is a reduction in the state's General Assistance-Unemployable (GA-U) program by \$18 million. Other cuts include reduced support for low-income families with children leaving public assistance.

The details of any state budget need to be seen in this light: State budget cuts of the past three years have hurt everyone in Washington. Our most vulnerable residents have lost

critical supports, and we're all paying more for costly, emergency interventions down the line.

It is this reality that led health and human service organizations to unite and create People for a Responsible Budget, a coalition of concerned Washingtonians and more than 70 organizations statewide.

The coalition is calling on our state legislators to raise the revenue needed to produce a budget that does no further harm to those who have borne the brunt of three years of budget cuts and makes smart investments in Washington's people, families and communities. With the economy showing strong signs of recovery, now is the time to make those smart investments.

People for a Responsible Budget calls on legislators to take the **Smart Budget Oath**:

- First, do no more harm
- Raise revenue
- Secure the future

What does this oath mean? It means stopping the year-after-year cuts that are hurting everyone in Washington State. It means making smart investments in the programs and services that make all of us stronger. It means creating a strong future.

We must ask ourselves: What

kind of Washington do we want to live in? A place with more and more people who are homeless? A place where children only see a doctor when they're rushed to the emergency room with a serious infection or asthma attack? We don't believe that's the Washington our residents really want.

We cannot continue to slash and burn our way out of budget shortfalls. Legislators must find new revenue, now, to make the kind of smart investments that build our human capital and prevent higher costs and social crises in the future. When people fall through the cracks, they may disappear from sight, but they don't disappear from the bottom line.

Next up in the state budget debate is the Senate's proposed budget, due the week of March 28th. Concerned *Real Change* readers can email their state legislators and Governor by going to [www.childrenshub.org/campaign/stbudget](http://www.childrenshub.org/campaign/stbudget) or by calling 800-562-6000. ■

## [Resource]

For more on the budget, see the First Things First action alert on page 11.

Jon Gould is Deputy Director of the Children's Alliance and a member of the Real Change Advisory Board. The Children's Alliance is a member of People for a Responsible Budget. Jon can be reached at [jon@childrensalliance.org](mailto:jon@childrensalliance.org)

## Gregoire's Budget: A Weather Report

**Dark cloud:** Takes away personal-care assistance for seniors trying to stay out of nursing homes.

**Silver lining:** Raises the cigarette tax and reapplies the estate tax, raising more than \$200 million.

**Dark cloud:** Fails to fix a \$65 million deficit in WorkFirst, endangering childcare, welfare grants, and job training.

**Silver lining:** Funds community mental health, restores cuts to kids' health care, and preserves the Basic Health Plan.

**Dark cloud:** Eliminates up to 8,000 sick and elderly people from GA-U, a meager source of cash assistance.



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

Real Change vendors receive 65¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

### 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.

Submissions should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247; fax. (206) 374-2455.

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ISSN 1085-729X

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# Change

Feeling "deep levels of frustration with the way the government is running our world, and realizing over half my tax dollars are going to fund this planetary bully," John Chisholm hasn't paid his taxes for the past three years.

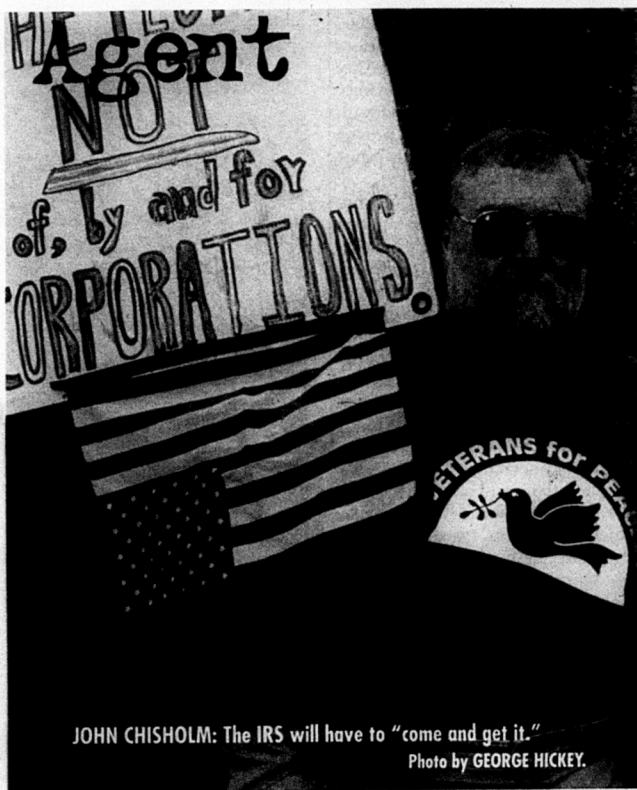
During the Vietnam era, Chisholm was honorably discharged from the Army because of his antiwar stance. He then co-founded the Axis of Peace, a foundation that encourages people to redirect tax money towards a peace-making cause of their choice.

For the 2003 tax year, Chisholm redirected \$911.01 (in memory of 9/11) to the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice, and has received about three letters from the Internal Revenue Service about his civil disobedience. To this, Chisholm says, "They are going to have to come and get the money."

Chisholm says tax resistance appeals to him because "it's real. Our votes don't seem to be making much of a difference. Perhaps if we vote with our money, [the government] will listen."

—Jade Ingmire

An excellent guide to tax resistance is available through the Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia's website: [riseup.net/nacc/wtr-fly.htm](http://riseup.net/nacc/wtr-fly.htm).



## Just Heard ...

### Oly: alive and dead

Some good news from Olympia: Family leave insurance passed the Senate last week, allowing workers temporary paid leave in the event of a new baby or a sick one at home. And low-income workers might get a little help putting away some savings thanks to Seattle Rep. Eric Pettigrew (D-37) and central Washington Rep. Bill Hinkle (R-13), who spearheaded the passage of SHB 1408, which sets up matching funds to add to nest eggs for homes and education ("Pennies Earned," March 2). Both bills move on to the opposite houses, where they must be passed by March 30 to survive.

Plenty of good bills that have already expired quietly. HB 2062, which would have restored the right of felons to vote once they're released from prison, died in committee despite the sponsorship of a dozen legislators. The Health Care Responsibility Act, a way to make giant low-wage employers like Wal-Mart responsible for the health care needs of their workforce, also died. On this bill, some employers sided with labor: the head of one grocery store testified to state legislators that companies like Wal-Mart make responsible businesses "feel like chumps for covering their employees."

—Adam Hyla

### No more recruits

Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wa.) joined members of the rock group Anti-Flag at a news conference in Washington last Thursday to protest military recruitment in high schools. By law, public schools must provide student information to military recruiters unless parents opt out in writing. McDermott recently co-sponsored H.R. 551, giving parents more freedom to block such information.

In his speech, McDermott highlighted Anti-Flag's petition drive, Military Free Zone ([www.militaryfreezone.com](http://www.militaryfreezone.com)), which calls for an end to youth recruitment. "High schools across America are drug-free, alcohol-free and weapons-free; they should also be military-free," McDermott said.

—Sean Reid

### Support those troops

Earlier this month, a coalition of antiwar activists has asked Governor Christine Gregoire to bring the state's National Guard troops back from Iraq ("Not yet home," March 16). But Gregoire's office has responded with: they'll be home at the end of March.

Well, most of them, anyway. Three thousand of the state's 7,000 National Guard members will be back from Iraq at the end of the month. Six hundred will remain there. The returning personnel will be part of Gregoire's drought emergency plan, helping fight wildfires. Gregoire "would also like to see them back as soon as possible," says spokesperson Jerry Gilliland. But: "We need to acknowledge that the Guard has a duty to support the nation in going where they're needed."

—Adam Hyla

## Warning Signs

Want to give to an honest charity? Think donor beware.

By SEAN REID  
Contributing Writer

Back in January, the Secretary of State's office issued a public bulletin about charities popping up nationwide falsely claiming to benefit the tsunami relief effort. The declaration became another of the many tips posted on the office's website to help consumers avoid scam artists.

By law, most nonprofit charities must register with the Secretary of State, providing general and financial information, to solicit funds and receive tax exemption status. But once registered, the State's job with charities ends, leaving any possible future deceptive activity to be investigated by the attorney general, and only then if someone files a complaint. Thus, telling the difference between genuine and phony charitable groups in Washington State depends not on a government-run watchdog, but in the querying skills of a savvy giver.

Such was the case earlier this month when *The Belfair Herald* reported on suspicious solicitors in Mason County, who claimed to raise money on behalf of a local shelter for victims of domestic violence.

After extensive research, the *Herald* determined that no domestic violence professionals knew of the two groups the solicitors represented, Operation Help and Alki Women's Safe Housing. What's more, the group's directors were notoriously hard to contact from the phone numbers on distributed flyers and avoided meeting publicly at the addresses listed, one of which turned out to be a mail box in a United Parcel Service store.

Proving whether Operation Help or Alki Women's Safe Housing were ultimately legitimate or not eluded the story's writer, Liz Case.

"I didn't find any specific fail-proof ways of doing that," Case said. Regardless, she maintains

her doubts about the groups and recommends givers do their own investigating before donating to charities.

Any citizen may contact the Secretary of State's Charity Program to see whether a charity is registered. Still, as explicitly stated on the website ([secstate.wa.gov/charities](http://secstate.wa.gov/charities)), spokesperson Rebecca Sherrell admits, "The fact that an organization is registered or not does not mean they are legitimate. They've only submitted information that makes their financial information public."

Independent websites like [guidestar.com](http://guidestar.com) and [networkforgood.com](http://networkforgood.com) help connect individuals to charities for which they might want to donate and can be a good resource to research an organization. However, like the state, both base their list of charities on those which have registered and filed forms with the IRS. Those who lose their registration are removed, but most are not monitored on how they spend their donations.

"We are not a watch dog," Suzanne E. Coffman, Guide Star's Director of Communication says.

Case advises donors to think about what relief effort they are most concerned with and then research which charity has consistently been most effective serving it. Coffman agrees, citing the group [give.org](http://give.org), an arm of the Better Business Bureau, which has evaluated over 6,000 charities by a specific list of criteria based on effectiveness.

"We believe something is most effective when you ask 'Is it accomplishing its mission?'" Coffman says.

Meanwhile, the Secretary of State plans to assist the public in spotting charity scams. As far as removing false charities from the registered list, if they are prosecuted by the state, Sherrell says, "Depending on how the court ruled, we would probably act accordingly."

"It's something we would like to be more proactive about, but right now we're spending a lot of time educating the consumer. We hope they're a resource to us to provide us with info." ■

### [Resource]

To view tips on how to spot a charity scam, visit the state's web address at [secstate.wa.gov/charities](http://secstate.wa.gov/charities) or call 1-800-332-GIVE. To file a complaint on an organization with the state attorney general, contact 1-800-551-4636 or visit [atg.wa.gov/consumer/charity](http://atg.wa.gov/consumer/charity).

# Locked in Doubt

Where will Seattle's prisoners go?

By ADAM HYLIA  
Real Change Editor

At the end of this month, the city will begin searching for expert help envisioning what should happen come December 31, 2012, when its arrangement for housing arrestees in the King County Jail ends.

City officials believe the county jail administrators may wish to reserve the entire jail if the number of felony offenders under the county's jurisdiction grows.

County staff are holding their cards close at this time. Reed Holtgeertz, director of the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, says only that "There are options still open. We're in the process of exploring them."

The city puts misdemeanor defendants awaiting trial or those who have already been sentenced with misdemeanor crimes — like drunken driving, domestic violence, or criminal trespass — in one of two places. Either they go to the King County jail at Fifth and James downtown, or out to the Yakima County Jail, where detention costs are 25 percent lower.

Last year, 78 Seattle prisoners per day did time out in Yakima. And this year, for the first time, the Seattle Municipal Court has sent 29 people awaiting trial across the mountains.

This outsourcing began in 2002 and expanded to pre-trial detainees last spring, in an effort by the City Council to save money — a savings, public defenders have predicted, with untold costs to people not yet proven guilty and their families ("Miscarriage of Justice," April 29, 2004).

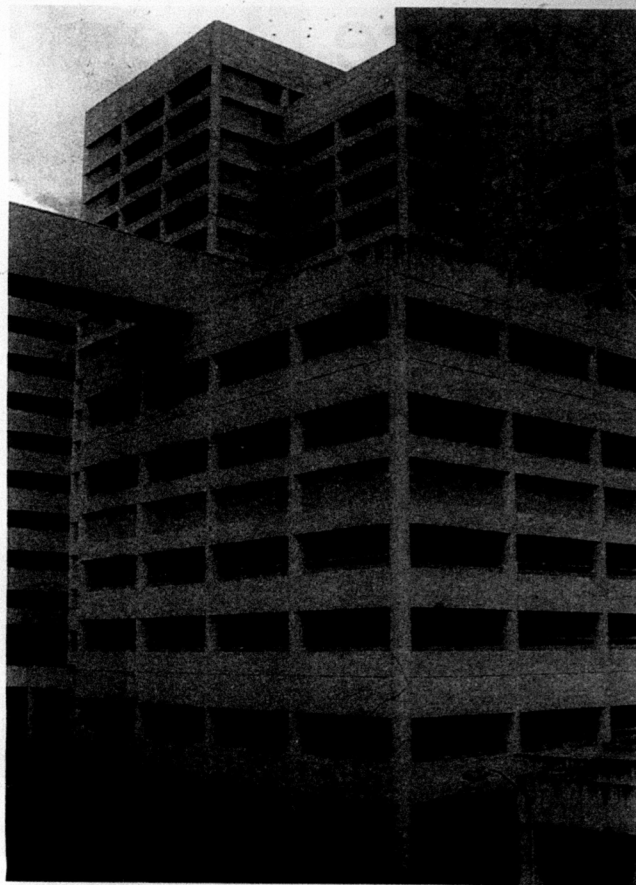
Yet if the county boots city prisoners and the city elects not to build its own jail, the practice could expand.

"I think it's important if the city is exploring a new facility that there not be the typical knee-jerk reaction that jails are bad things to spend public money on," says Lisa Daugaard of the Defender Association. "If there is no local facility and the only alternative is to send everyone to Yakima, that's not an acceptable situation."

Where to send the city's detainees is not now the urgent problem it would have been a decade ago, because of a drop in crime rates, the state Legislature felonizing more offenses, and a few other changes in policy. Daugaard and City Attorney Tom Carr note that the Municipal Court has eased the city's demand for jail space by finding alternatives to locking up the accused: electronic home monitoring, for example, enables police to send some suspects back home. And a new work-diversion program allows offenders to complete tasks in the community and meet with social workers instead of sitting in a holding pen.

"Part of it is that we're thinking more seriously about who we put in jail and for what reasons," says Carr.

But over a year, the city handles 1,500 cases of domestic violence. So home detention is not always advisable.



Four [prior offenders] in the four years I've been in office have gone on to kill their victims," he says. "I need a place to put those people." ■

No room at the pen? City officials may have to find more alternatives to housing offenders in the King County Jail. Photo by Terry Divyak

## Short Takes

### Yesler Terrace: future in question

Yesler Terrace is Seattle's last big public housing project that hasn't been remade into a mixed-income neighborhood. By the end of the decade, that could change.

The Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) will initiate a public discussion of the future of its 22-acre property, perched above downtown Seattle, in June.

Residents and organizers have already staked out their ground. On March 29, an alliance of housing advocates, community organizers, and community residents will gather to watch the premiere of a documentary film on Yesler Terrace's residents, then discuss how to protect the community's low-income housing.

Longtime resident Kristin O'Donnell says that she's involved in order "to make whatever happen more tolerable for people who are living there now, and for people who will be needing public housing in the future."

Advocates for the community say they have an ally in City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen. Rasmussen, they say, promised at a mid-March meeting to set up an advisory committee to help guide the housing authority's planning process.

"I thought it might be good for the city to develop a statement of principles and goals," he says, "so that this occurs in a way that is good for the residents, good for the city, and good for SHA."

There's been a fair amount of discussion already among the 1,000 people who call Yesler Terrace home. Some residents have circulated a group letter declaring their opposition to any plan that would reduce the property's number of units for the city's poorest residents. The group also wants SHA to grant everyone who lives there currently the right to return to units in the remodeled community.

Such moves would be poor substitute to Kristin O'Donnell's number one wish: "to be left alone," says the secretary of the Yesler Terrace Community Council. But "that is such a lost battle at this point."

The first community of its kind in the United States to be racially integrated, Yesler Terrace was completed in 1941. Still home to 1,167 people of diverse heritage, 40 percent of its households are Asian, 38 percent are African or African-American, 11 percent are white, and 3 percent are Native American.

—Adam Hylia

### Prescription drug, cocaine deaths climb

It's not that so-called "club drugs" such as ecstasy or ketamine aren't dangerous. But the latest six-month recap of statistics from the University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute proves once again that TV news has blown the issue of youth and rave parties fair out of proportion — and missed the real story of who's dying from

what drugs.

In the first half of 2004 in King County, there were 48 deaths involving prescription opiates such as Demerol and Vicodin — an all-time high in the data tracked since 1997. In the full year from July 2003 to June 2004, deaths involving depressants such as Valium and Xanax were also at an all-time high — 79 compared to 45 in 1997.

In both cases, more than 42 percent of the dead were women with a median age of 43 — much higher than the 29 percent that women represented in all other drug deaths. More women were also treated for methamphetamine, which killed seven people in the first half of last year.

Cocaine was involved in more than a third of all deaths (43), which was the third highest number of cocaine-related deaths since 1997. Heroin deaths (34) were at an all-time low.

In the same period, more people died in King County from overdoses involving muscle relaxants (four) than rave drugs (two).

—Cydney Gillis

### Green light, red light

The stew of controversy over a March 11 West Seattle High School peace group's dress rehearsal has seeped all the way up to the School Board. But Ben Doty, founder of the student group that was about to put on the performance, says his

principal knew exactly what was going on before an angry guest demanded that the skit shut down.

Doty founded the 20-member Students Take A Stand this fall. The skit was a re-enactment of their understanding of conditions in Iraq. A panelist of activists were on hand to provide a balanced look at the situation. But guest panelist Nadine Gult walked in on the dress rehearsal, went straight to the principal's office, and threatened to contact the media if the play wasn't shut down immediately. Principal Susan Derse complied.

Doty was surprised; Derse "knew what we were doing," he says. "The School Board is trying to make out like there were no faculty involved."

Peter Daniels, public affairs director for Seattle Public Schools, denies that the principal knew of the production's content in advance.

As to the matter of administrative censorship and caving into Gult's demands, Daniels says only: "Something like this needs to be fair and balanced. We certainly do not want to discourage free speech for students."

What's next for Students Take A Stand? The group had scheduled U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott to speak at an assembly March 31, but, says Doty, "I was informed by a school counselor that this may not happen because of the shut down of the first assembly. We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

—Jackie Renn



# Fire One Up

Art Patch reclaims Seattle arts scene from corporate tobacco

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Writer



## [Event]

Art Patch presents "Cartoonists Take Up Smoking," a traveling exhibit of more than 300 editorial cartoons lampooning smoking and tobacco industry issues, April 7-30 at Artworks Gallery, 1914 Fourth Ave., Seattle. Opening reception April 7 with a special reception April 22 for curator Alan Blum. Both free, 7-10 p.m. Info: [www.artpatch.org](http://www.artpatch.org).

The great Seattle smoke-out: Artist Jamey Baumgardt and Art Patch director Don Hudgins before Baumgardt's parodies of cigarette packs.

Photo by Mark Sullo

The lounge was roaring with talk. The women were hot, if few and far between. And, on the floor of Neumo's Crystal Ball Reading Room, Mon Frere's 21-year-old guitarist Kyle Swisher was hammering away to the vocals of 19-year-old Noela Johnston.

The scene was typical for the Capitol Hill nightclub, except for two things. It was a special event — *The Stranger's* annual "Big Shot" showcase of bands. And, thanks to the event's sponsor — Art Patch, a new Seattle nonprofit that's taking on tobacco and its role in the arts community — the event was totally smokeless.

No ashtrays. No butts. No stink.

It was the first event of its kind for Art Patch, a feisty little organization that's turning the tables on cigarette makers such as Lucky Strike, which infiltrated the Seattle scene last year by funding Big Shot, the Genius Awards, the Center on Contemporary Arts, and Consolidated Works.

In return for the money, the venues passed out Lucky coasters, napkins, and matchbooks — a corporate form of guerilla marketing specifically targeting the young. In response, Art Patch's March 4 event at Neumo's sported buttons, napkins and posters with its anti-smoking "brand" — an image, more or less, of two cigarettes bent in the shape of an X.

Despite signs noting it was a "Smoke-Free Event," Neumo's packed in 1,200 people. Those who had to smoke simply stepped outside.

"That was a powerful demonstration that I'm no less cool or hip smoking outside," says Roger Valdez, founder of Art Patch and manager of the Tobacco Prevention Program of Public Health - Seattle King County. "By showing that to people, we probably made more in-roads than saying smoking is bad, it's going to kill you."

That, Valdez says, is what Art Patch is trying to do: demonstrate that people will respond better to anti-smoking efforts that come to them and support their lifestyle than to the stern messages typical today in public health educational campaigns.

The idea, Valdez says, is a paradigm shift for Public Health, which funds Valdez's 14-person tobacco prevention unit through tobacco settlement monies.

Last May, after news broke in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* on the extent of Lucky's local arts funding, Valdez decided to fight back. He hired a group of design students from Cornish College to develop a counter campaign that would expose tobacco's marketing to artists and youth — and point out how starved Seattle's younger arts groups

See ART PATCH, Page 9



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# Targeted



*Ward Churchill on free speech, technocracy,  
and denying the holocaust*

Interview by JIM PAGE  
Contributing writer

**W**ard Churchill is standing at ground zero in a raging firestorm over academic freedom.

A university of Colorado professor of ethnic studies and author of a mountain of books on the FBI, Cointelpro, and genocide against Native Americans, Ward published a piece online on 9/11 called "Some People Push Back: on the justice of roosting chickens."

In February, New York's Hamilton College canceled an appearance by Ward when right-wing student activists brought the essay, which referred to some of the people who died in the attack on the World Trade Center as "little Eichmanns," out of relative obscurity.

A full-bore assault on Churchill's tenured position and his character ensued.

I've known Ward for 20 years. We met back in '84 when he used a few lines from a song of mine about Leonard Peltier in one of his pieces. Last week I spoke with him over the phone at his home in Boulder.

**Real Change:** What does this mean to our right to speak? It's sending a chilly wind.

**Ward Churchill:** It should. It will have a ripple effect. You can stand out on a soapbox someplace with no one listening to you, that's fine, that's where you belong. But to actually have a venue within an institution to project critical analysis....

In Colorado, which I assume they are looking at as some kind of model, they want to review the justification for every department to continue to exist. They want the credentials of every faculty member to be to their satisfaction, which is the status quo, politically and economically speaking.

I have actually gotten it from one of the reporters who's involved in this,

that this is the first time in his 20-some years of experience that he has ever had the kind of editorial pressure he's got now. If his copy is submitted at the end of the day in a manner that does not significantly adhere to the editorial goals and objectives of the paper, it is actually rewritten under his byline. Both the major papers in Denver are doing this right now.

They need to win this. Colorado ultimately is to serve as the template. So people need to be watching what happens in this institution and in this state. Because they are going to establish the model that they want to replicate in every place that they have control.

**RC:** Right after 9-11 Anne Coulter wrote a piece saying, "We should invade their countries, kill their lead-

ers, and convert them to Christianity." No complaints. Why not?

**Churchill:** It sort of validates my Eichmann formulation, doesn't it?

I intended that in a symbolic way, because Eichmann of course was symbolic, even in his own context. He symbolized all the little people who worked under him. And a kind of Nazi framing — mass slaughter, carnage — this ideological presumption, and the entitlement to engage in it.

**RC:** Someone wrote a letter to Real Change saying that your position is "viciously anti-Semitic."

**Churchill:** I am on the board of the Institute On the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem. I was solicited to take a seat by Israel Charney [the institute's

Executive Director], one of the pre-eminent experts on the Holocaust. I doubt if I was actively anti-Semitic that I would be on an Israeli board of that caliber.

That term, "anti-Semitic," is an insidious term. I have been accused of it before because of my solidarity with the Palestinians. Last I heard, the Palestinians were a Semitic people. I object to the appropriation of the term. And it's not coincidental that there is a whole range of discourse saying the Palestinians really are a fiction, they don't exist. That's the ultimate nullification. It is genocidal. In order to impose the kinds of policies, that kind of framing, on the Palestinians, one must themselves be an active anti-Semite.

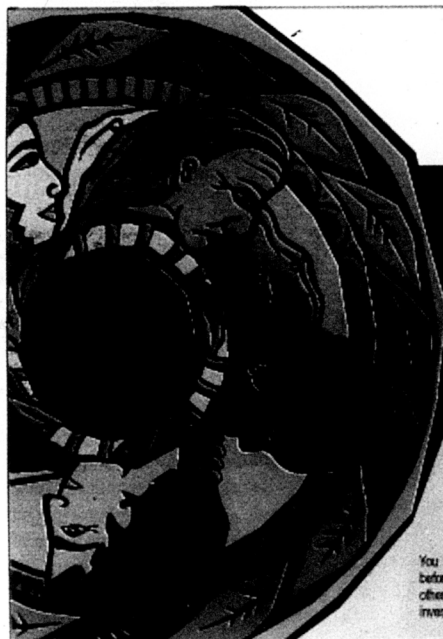
**RC:** Didn't the Eichmann trial set an international precedent against blind obedience to bureaucracy?

**Churchill:** Yeah. This is essentially holocaust denial that's going on here.

I have a discussion paper that was received by the Brazilian government, arguing that you should displace certain forms of industry to the third-world context, including areas of Brazil, where the life expectancy was too short for there to be a likelihood that people would die of prostate cancer. These industries had byproducts that were very expensive to contain, that if not contained would almost guarantee prostate cancer. But if you would die earlier than that, you won't have to contain it, and you won't have that result. If that's not Eichmann speaking there, I can't imagine what is.

And what was the purpose of this little paper? It was to figure out how to maximize profit, so the stock and bond traders could sell more effectively on the incentive that there would be greater dividends to purchasers. You have to be in flat denial to argue that

See CHURCHILL, Continued next page



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## CHURCHILL, Cont. from prev. page

the mentality involved is distinctly different from the mentality that went into converting Jewish people into industrial products. Slightly different, I understand that; no two sets of circumstances are identical. It's what they have in common, not what distinguishes them, that's always of essence. It's not how we are different from Eichmann that's important, it's what we have in common.

Note I say "we," because beyond the children who were consumed in 9/11 there were no innocents. Those I referred to as the "little Eichmanns" were the technical cadre in the towers.

There are varying degrees of culpability. There is absolutely no definition that I'm aware of that would place a janitor or a food service worker, or a tourist or a passerby in a technical cadre. Those people are what the U.S. refers to when it kills people elsewhere as being "collateral damage."

One other piece to this: the U.S. repeatedly hit civilian targets in Baghdad and elsewhere. We're talking everything from hospitals to shelters to orphanages to schools — you know the list. And the standard U.S. defense or justification has been, "These insidious Iraqis, particularly Saddam, have situated elements of their command-and-control infrastructure in these otherwise civilian-occupied facilities." Thus using civilians as human shields. So that made it a legitimate target, and it was the Iraqis' own fault.

Well, there was a CIA office situated in the World Trade Center. There were Defense Department offices there. These are both elements of command-and-control infrastructure in even the narrowest sense. So by the U.S.'s own logic, they had made the WTC a legitimate target.

I'm not embracing the legitimacy of the entire line of action; I repudiate it. But if you're going to do it to other people — if you're going to applaud, as many people do — you've got no complaint whatsoever when they do it right back on the same grounds. So the complaint about the WTC getting hit: Take it to Donald Rumsfeld.

**RC:** What about the enablers and bystanders? The Nazis needed them.

**Churchill:** Generally speaking, they knew what was going on. The Jews were being removed, their property expropriated, and all the rest of that. And there was an affirmative embrace by the general public. Hitler's popularity did not begin to decline in Germany until the winter of Moscow and Stalingrad. As long as they were winning, it was all just fine.

The stuff we've been talking about is just as serious. They choose to ignore it, they rationalize, they justify, but they know it. As long as it works to their advantage, they will continue to make the resultant system function ever more efficiently for their own benefit. That's the problem: It's not simply an acquiescence. The enablers participate. They knowingly participate. That is not innocence.

That's been a standard component of the American character since the beginning of the republic and probably before, in the antecedent colonies: to go out and commit mass murder and proclaim oneself innocent at the same time.

The history of the U.S. — "adventure," shall we call it? — in the Philippines: [the hundreds of thousands killed during the Spanish-American War] was much publicized, there was all the expression of horror and handwringing that nothing was done, and after about a month, with the last of the hearings done, there was a reassertion of national innocence.

That's been a standard component of the American character since the beginning of the republic and probably before, in the antecedent colonies: to go out and commit mass murder and proclaim oneself innocent at the same time. It's the direct participants, as well as the bystanders, who always have this wide-eyed innocence: "Why should I have to suffer any consequences from that?"

Interestingly enough, Eichmann posed exactly the same question to his interrogator in Israel. He said "Why me? Everybody was killing Jews."

**RC:** Any last words?

**Churchill:** I can't get a distanced vision [of the controversy]. I don't know exactly where it ends and I'm not a prophet so I can't predict.

But my advice is make it a point of existence to frame your understanding of reality clearly, not to equivocate. Call it as you see it, and don't back up when someone tries to divert. Develop your skills, take it right back to the point. The first level of making any change has to be: If you can't understand a phenomenon, you can't hope to act upon it. ■

## Come the Night

Under the moon's white song,  
ordinary lives continue. Children  
in careless sleep, the final, tender  
words of lovers, while others,  
haunted by night shapes,  
rush at the silence, as if fear  
could be swept by surprise,  
rolled up in a tattered blanket  
and carried away.

—MERCEDES LAWRY



## [What he wrote]

Those killed at the World Trade Center oversaw "America's global financial empire — the 'mighty engine of profit' to which the military dimension of U.S. policy has always been enslaved.... Recourse to 'ignorance' — a derivative, after all, of the word 'ignore' — counts as less than an excuse among this relatively well-educated elite.... If there was a better, more effective, or in fact any other way of visiting some penalty befitting their participation upon the little Eichmanns inhabiting the sterile sanctuary of the twin towers, I'd really be interested in hearing about it."

Read the whole essay at [www.darknightpress.org/index.php?i=print&article=9](http://www.darknightpress.org/index.php?i=print&article=9) or buy the book, published by AK Press: [www.akpress.org](http://www.akpress.org).

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# Alive, from Sarajevo

*Hello To All That*  
A Memoir of War, Zolof, and Peace  
By John Falk  
Henry Holt, 2005  
Hardcover, 304 pages, \$25.00

Review by TIMOTHY HARRIS  
Contributing Writer

When I was in college, I knew a guy whose thing was to get beat up at demonstrations. He was big, kind of crazy, and had this in your face approach to peace rallies that cops found irresistible. Jon was cop catnip. One summer in 1986, he grabbed his camera, booked a plane to El Salvador, and wandered around for a month on his own. We all thought he was going to die. But he came back, gaunt and crazier than ever. He would become a war correspondent.

This was my first hint that those who are drawn to war zones aren't exactly the picture of mental health. Myself, I prefer the adrenaline rush second hand, with my precious ass in a comfy chair next to a good reading lamp. War reporting — humanity in *extremis* — makes for great stories, and John Falk's memoir of playing reporter in Sarajevo offers that and more.

John Falk was a privileged and popular suburban kid who awoke one morning to find that everything had changed. The world, for no apparent reason, had become cold and barren and there was nothing he could do to fix it. After months of withdrawal and crisis, he learned to mask his misery, but inside, where friends and family couldn't see, Falk lived a grey, pointless existence. After a dozen years of bad brain chemistry, he discovered Zolof. It brought him back.

In the past, Falk had tried to conquer his inner deadness by flirting with extremes. In college, this expressed itself in binge drinking and petty crime. Now, through the graces of Zolof, he wanted to kick things up a notch. If he could just live with enough intensity, he thought, he wouldn't even need the drugs.

He would become a war correspondent.

Undaunted by his complete lack of journalism experience, Falk manages to talk NBC Radio out of a press pass. He buys a plane ticket and some body armor, stashes a year's supply of Zolof in a tube sock, and lands in Sarajevo during one of the bloodiest civil wars in recent history. Through a series of lucky breaks, Falk learns the ropes, avoids getting himself killed, and

within weeks is actually filing stories. "This is John Falk, on location, in Sarajevo."

One of those lucky breaks was the Noneviches. When Falk becomes their boarder, he is adopted into the family, sharing their food, suffering their good-natured ridicule, and making contact with ordinary people living through extraordinary times.

The Noneviches, in some ways, mirror Falk's own family. In better times, they had the good life. The father, Nino, had been a successful manufacturer of plastic products. Their life revolved around a nice home, luxury cars, ski vacations, and good schools for the kids. Nino never saw the war coming. Now, the Nonevich family lived in a poverty-stricken shooting gallery, where going outside meant dodging random death at the hands of Serb snipers.

The two kids, Dini and Omar, at 18 and 20, struggle to live normally, but, like everyone else, are survivors. The jaunty kerchiefs they wear can be converted to tourniquets, should the need arise. When Omar is to be conscripted, Falk vows to get him and his sister out of the country. Miraculously, he pulls it off. Along the way, he builds the human connections that were missing in his life during the depression years. Falk becomes fully alive again by caring enough about others to put himself on the line.

One of the minor miracles of this book is that Falk is a great writer. *Hello To All That* is an odd hybrid — part depression memoir and part war correspondence — unified by his own humanization in Sarajevo. Somehow it works. I found myself caring deeply about Falk and nearly everyone he meets.

Perhaps more astonishing, Falk has managed to write a book about depression and Sarajevo that is laugh-out-loud funny. Maybe this isn't so surprising. The most entertaining people I know are chronically depressed. One of life's ironies is that humor is a great defense.

At bottom, this is a book about living with and sometimes overcoming adversity, whether it be a life of depression or life in a war zone. People, god love 'em, almost always do what they gotta do, and there's usually a story to be told. ■

## dispute

It shatters at  
once...  
and,  
each moment? When  
does it last—  
this  
thing?  
Where  
does it make an  
appearance—  
this,  
time-in  
-one?  
And! earn a name?  
It  
falls  
from you. Now,  
it falls from you.

—STAN BURRIS

## War for Oil: Still Wrong

March 19 marked the second anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and an estimated 5,000 people turned out for a rain-drenched rally at Seattle Center and a march through downtown. The protest was put on by Washington State Jobs with Justice, the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War, and others.



STEVE BOMKAMP, WIELDING A REAL 50-GALLON OILDRUM ON HIS BACK, AT FOURTH AND LENORA. PHOTO BY GEORGE HICKEY.



Adventures  
in Irony

© Dr. Wes Browning



The bad news is that the intent of the act is to bring the power of Congress to bear on this case, even though Congress has no legal power in the matter, and they know it. To that end the act specifically directs the court to ignore all previous rulings in this case.

with the exact title, "An Act for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo." The law directs that one specific federal court, the U.S. District Court of the Middle District of Florida, shall have jurisdiction over one specific case, namely that of whether Theresa Marie Schiavo's life support should be curtailed.

The good news is that the court is only granted jurisdiction to determine whether Schiavo's existing rights under federal law have been or are about to be violated. In other words, the court has been given jurisdiction, by an act of Congress, no less, that it already had! (Tomorrow they may pass a law directing you to breathe!)

The bad news is that the intent of the act is to bring the power of Congress to bear on this case, even though Congress has no legal power in the matter, and they know it. To that end the act specifically directs the court to ignore all previous rulings in this case. The court is also directed to ignore any ongoing litigation in the state courts. ("You're to breathe, citizen, but only through this tube....")

Whoa! That's a nasty slap in the face to your silly Founding Fathers and their silly "separation of powers," isn't it? Who needs it, when we can just order some judge, anywhere we want, in any individual case we want, to pay attention to nothing but what we say. Ignore the man behind the curtain!

Congress to the judge: "Fifteen years of court fights repeatedly resulting in rulings in favor of Michael Schiavo? What, 15 years of what? Listen to your Congress: You are getting sleepy, very sleepy, and when we snap our fingers you will

wake up and rule that Terri Schiavo's rights have been violated."

And if the court refuses to obey Congress, like on the grounds that they can take their unconstitutional law and stick it where their heads usually rest, no problem. Congress can just pass another act "to relieve the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo, again," this time in a different court. If that doesn't work, well I don't know, maybe they would have to get serious and pass a law that would actually legislate something, but they'll cross that bridge when they get to it.

All of this could have been avoided if 10 or 15 or, better, 20 years ago, Congress had sat down and actually considered such situations and what they would want to happen in these sorts of cases. Then Michael Schiavo would not have spent 15 years of his life fighting in state courts for something that Congress was just going to rule against, after all of it.

Oops, did I say rule? Is that what they're doing, ruling in this case? Gosh, no, they wouldn't do that, because that would be unconstitutional. They're just ordering a federal court to rule, their way, according to new rules that they just invented, in a long-fought pre-existing case.

Can you say ex post facto? But they believe they can get around that by a technicality: she isn't dead yet. So the "facto" hasn't happened. So they can still butt in, without regard for that little detail of the Constitution.

Can you say bill of attainder? Again, they've got a technicality: Courts have only interpreted the prohibition of bills of attainder to include such things as depriving specific people of life, liberty, or property in cases where Congress would intend to punish them. But the intent here is to deprive Terri Schiavo of her right to refuse life support in accordance with her own wishes (as determined by the courts), for her own good, not to punish her.

Hey, I got my outrage back! ■

ART PATCH, Continued from Page 5

are for funding.

"If you don't fund [the arts] and everything is the Cheesecake Factory or McDonald's, is that what we want? No, we want to see a crazy band at a little venue we can walk to without being hit with a bunch of Lucky Strike promotions."

"I want people to make a connection between art and health," Valdez says. "I want people to grasp the idea that a healthy community supports its arts community."

So far, Public Health has funded about \$47,000 in projects, including \$20,000 for the Art Patch logo and materials (such as fake parking tickets that promote the group's website — [www.artpatch.org](http://www.artpatch.org)). Earlier this month, Art Patch gave \$2,000 to Seattle's Theatre Babylon so it could move to a new location — rescuing its current production ("Influence") from a Fire Department shutdown at Union Garage.

In December, the group filed papers to become its own nonprofit organization led by Don Hudgins — who was, ironically, the director of CoCA during last spring's "Art Pack" show, a series of miniature artworks that Lucky Strike commissioned to give away in packs of cigarettes.

Hudgins is currently working on "Cartoonists Take Up Smoking," a set of 300 editorial cartoons — including works by the P-I's David Horsey — that will open April 7 at Seattle's Artworks Gallery.

Such projects will not compete with other arts groups for funding, Hudgins says. Rather, Art Patch and its five-member board — led by Megan Kennedy, wellness program director at Cornish College — plan to find new funding sources, probably in the health industry.

A health maintenance organization,

for instance, might find it useful to market itself at Patch events, Hudgins says.

"For the price of one good-sized billboard, you could fund five small arts organizations in Seattle for a year," Hudgins says — along with getting a logo in front of a year's worth of eyeballs.

"The billboards are here today and gone tomorrow," Hudgins says, "but events in the arts community are legend." ■

At the Bar

I know that the man with the strange look and the twisted hand  
Plays far-out rock on the jukebox

I know I am surprised that this pompous ass next to me  
Even exists

And I know that life is never  
What you expected or wanted

But is very nice in some ways  
Just the same

—ELIZABETH ROMERO



**Thursday, March 3, 5:30 a.m., Second Ave., Ext. S., Union Gospel Mission.** Victim stated that the suspect was spitting on the floor inside the mission. When he challenged him about this, the suspect began punching at him. He stated the suspect, a Hispanic male aged 35, attempted to hit him with a chair but was unsuccessful. He suffered a one-inch laceration to his scalp, but was unsure how it happened — he said the suspect was probably wearing a ring. The Fire Dept. arrived, but the victim declined medical attention. The police asked him if he would like to press charges if the suspect was found, and the victim, a transient white male-aged 40 stated he didn't care what actions the police took.


**Friday, March 4, 8:17 p.m., S. Washington St.** Officer was parked in a parking lot, catching up on paperwork, when the suspect approached his car, put his hands on the hood, and stated, "Is this what you want?" The suspect, a transient Black male, had had four beers in his coat sleeves and metal wires and a rolled up can extruding from his pants pocket. The can had a brillo filter, and the suspect stated he smokes crack, stating he'll never stop, and he could smoke crack if he wanted to. He added that the Department of Corrections "just let me go anyway." He was taken into custody and transported to the precinct without incident, then booked into King County Jail.

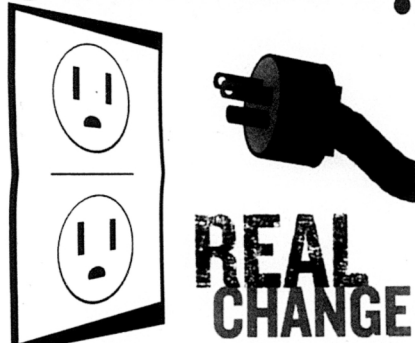
**Friday, March 4, 10:43 p.m., 100 block Post Alley.** Officer contacted the suspect, a transient Black male aged 50, and two other men in the doorway of First and Cherry mini-storage. The doorway was clearly marked "No Trespassing, No Loitering." The officer pointed out the sign to them and let them go with a warning. Officer returned at 10:43 p.m. and found the suspect still camping in the doorway. He was drinking from a can of Pabst, and the doorway reeked of urine. When asked why he hadn't left, the suspect stated that he believed it was unconstitutional for the trespass admonishment to even exist, and said that if the officer had to take him to jail, so be it. He stated he wanted to talk to a judge to discuss the constitutionality of such a law. He was very polite and co-operative, and rolled up his bedroll and packed his bag. Officer noticed he had a lot of papers and writings in his belongings, organized meticulously. He had a stack of papers sewn into his jacket under a piece of a Washington State flag. He said his papers were very important, and that he was a teacher. He was booked into King County Jail for trespass.

**Saturday, March 5, 8:52 p.m., Second and Yesler.** Officers were dispatched to a call of a naked person in the "sunken ship" garage. Suspect was clothed on arrival but was camping in the garage. "No Trespassing" signs were clearly posted. Suspect, a transient white female adult, gave officers several names. She was taken into custody and booked into King County Jail for trespass and obstruction. ■

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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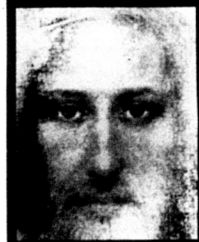


Rev. Jerry Falwell says  
 that God  
 is Pro-War.

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 followers to love their  
 enemies.

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 go with Jesus on  
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## Letters

[editor@realchangenews.org](mailto:editor@realchangenews.org)

### Comfy seat?

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your article ("Sentenced to Labor," March 16) regarding the legislation currently in the Washington State Legislature that seeks to increase the capacity of Correctional Industries and to override the Washington State Supreme Court which ruled private corporations cannot hire inmates.

I worked for Correctional Industries delivering inmate-made furniture, license plates, filing cabinets, and clothing. In the Washington State Correctional Industries scheme (which will change soon because of institutional changes), men at McNeil Island make furniture, filing cabinets are assembled at Stafford Creek, license plates and other metal works are done at Walla Walla. Women inmates deliver the furniture, which sometimes weighs hundreds of pounds. The women also assemble office panels and countertops and draft plans on extremely outdated AutoCad.

All of this work is done for as little as 30 cents and at most \$1.40 an hour. Often, the work is extremely dangerous and neither Correctional Industries nor the Department of Corrections (they see themselves as two separate entities) provide safety equipment. The Department of Corrections deducts from this wage monies for their own operations (the "cost of incarceration"). None of the money goes to schooling or other programs which may actually help an inmate. They do not deduct from the meager salary for Social Security, workers' compensation, or any other benefit. Employment at Correctional Industries is not "voluntary," in that failure

to work is severely punished, including, but not limited to, being sent to solitary confinement.

When people protest and refuse to purchase prison-made clothing, tennis shoes, and watches from countries like China, they might want to think about the exploitive conditions prisoners work in in Washington State prisons, making and delivering the chair they are sitting in as they teach classes at the University of Washington. These two pieces of legislation perpetuate this exploitation.

I would challenge Correctional Industries and the state Department of Corrections to produce any shred of evidence showing that an offender has been "rehabilitated" because of their work through Correctional Industries or with outside private contractors. There is no difference between what happens in Chinese prisons and here in Washington State. And, like China, the state of Washington makes enormous profits from exploiting the inmates. It is way too lucrative for the state to give up easily. This is about money, not about keeping so-called idle hands busy during incarceration.

Perhaps the state legislature should focus on providing job training that is realistic (think about what employers will hire felons), reform laws that bar them from employment, and overhaul the punitive and unproductive sentencing system. Those, and other reforms, will help the "idle hands" issue.

Kim McDonald

*Editor's note:* Last issue's Change Agent about green roof architect Patrick Carey highlighted the Mar. 17 BuiltGreen conference as a resource for learning more about eco-roofs. Here are the websites of two groups dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of sustainable building practices: [www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org) and [www.ecobuilding.org](http://www.ecobuilding.org).

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](mailto:editor@realchangenews.org)

## CLASSIFIED

### Volunteer

**Volunteer in Africa!** Environmental & community development work. 14 mo incl. training in CAN. No qualifications needed. Team starts May 1st. Fee/grants available. Info meeting Seattle April 16. Contact [josefina@cctg.org](mailto:josefina@cctg.org), 530-598-7971, [www.cctg.org](http://www.cctg.org)

**Volunteer Chore Services:** Want to make a difference? Help low-income elders and adults living with disabilities remain independent by volunteering with Volunteer Chore Services, a program of Catholic Community Services. Volunteers assist with light housework, transportation, or yard work for 2 to 4 hours a month. Flexible hours; locations throughout King County; groups welcome; endless rewards. For more information, call 888-649-6850 or email [vc@ccsww.org](mailto:vc@ccsww.org).

**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](http://www.hopeheart.org) or 425-899-3000.

**PAPER POLITICS,** April 1st-29th, An Exhibition of Politically and Socially Engaged Printmaking. Opening Friday, April 1, "Printing Against the Grain," a talk by Josh MacPhee, 6:00 pm. Artist Reception: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Phinney Center Gallery, 6532 Phinney Ave N., Seattle WA 98103. Curated by Josh MacPhee [josh@justseeds.org](mailto:josh@justseeds.org)

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# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

### Wednesday 3/23

The Community Alliance for Global Justice invites you to join their monthly meeting featuring a representative from Jubilee NW who will discuss **canceling debt to poor nations**. Join us for a light dinner and get involved in our campaign to defeat the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and promote fair trade. 6-7:30 p.m. at 606 Maynard Ave. South. Info: [cagj@seattleglobaljustice.org](mailto:cagj@seattleglobaljustice.org) or call 206-405-4600.

Sustainable Ballard invites you to join in discussions and workshops regarding the **coming peak in oil production** and what we can do as a community to help ourselves. 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Ballard Community Center, 6020 - 28th Avenue NW. Please RSVP: [vic@sustainableballard.org](mailto:vic@sustainableballard.org) or 206-789-7646. Info: [www.sustainableballard.org](http://www.sustainableballard.org).

The Phinney Center Gallery in conjunction with the Wing Luke Asian Museum presents **Beyond Talk: Redrawing Race**, an art exhibition exploring race in America. Runs through March 25. Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N. Info: [www.phinney-center.org](http://www.phinney-center.org) or 206-783-2244.

### Friday 3/25

The Church Council of Greater Seattle invites you join in a **Good Friday Stations of the Cross procession**. The theme this year is Walking for the Homeless. We will walk in the Crossroads area of Bellevue. Hosted by St. Louise Catholic Church. Noon to 2:30 p.m. Meet and park at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 411 - 156th Avenue N.E., Bellevue. Info: Michael Ramos, 206-525-1213 x3950.

### Monday 3/28

The Statewide Poverty Action Network invites you to **volunteer for a**

**letter-writing campaign**. For two hours you interact with diverse food bank clientele, facilitating their sharing of personal stories on paper with lawmakers. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Puget Sound Labor Agency Food Bank, Labor Temple, 2800 First Ave. Info: John Dortero. 206-694-6799.

### Tuesday 3/29

Washington Citizens for Proportional Representation invites you to a meeting on **More Democratic Voting Systems**, ones that don't require choosing the lesser of two evils. 6-7:55 p.m. at the University Branch of the Seattle Public Library, N.E. 50th and N.E. Roosevelt Way. Info: [JanetRAnderson@msn.com](mailto:JanetRAnderson@msn.com) or [www.fairvote.net/washington](http://www.fairvote.net/washington) or 206-285-2460.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship and others sponsor a forum on **Nuclear Arms in Outer Space**. A discussion follows the showing of the video Arsenal of Hypocrisy: The Space Program and the Military Industrial Complex. 7 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 1710 - 11th Ave. Info: [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org) or Tom Walker 425-641-9247.

### Wednesday 3/30

**The North Seattle Neighbors for Peace and Justice** invite you to their **monthly book group**. Suggested readings are two books by local author Paul Loeb: *The Impossible Will Take a Little While* and *Soul of a Citizen*. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Broadway Library.

### Thursday, 3/31

Seattle Latino writers group Los Norteños hosts a reading/ performance entitled **Writers for World Peace**. Admission is free. 6-10 p.m., Richard Hugo House, 1634 - 11th Avenue. Info: Angie, 206-320-9313.

## Director's Corner



As I sit down to write this, the cost of the war in Iraq after two years (see [castofwar.com](http://castofwar.com)), sits at around \$157,755,711,034. I remember a time — when the wall came down and the Cold War was over — when the US peace movement had some chance of redirecting military spending to human needs. We had a dream. It was called the Peace Dividend.

Never happened. The new threat of "narcoterrorism" quickly emerged to fill the breach, and third world counter-insurgency in places like Colombia and the Philippines proved costly. Then came 9/11, and it was all over. Ironically, opium production in Afghanistan, now at the highest levels ever, accounted in 2004 for 60% of that country's GDP. If the war on terror goes anything like the war on drugs, we're all in deep trouble.

Back in the day, before the expansion of the military-industrial complex that Eisenhower warned us of stretched endlessly and alarmingly into the future, we used to talk about "real security." Do we need a fantastically expensive science fiction fantasy missile laser system up in Alaska, or do we need more cops on the streets, better security at our ports, and schools that actually prepare kids to succeed? Is this even something we need to think about?

Anyway, it's been about 25 minutes and another \$4 million bucks has flowed toward the war in Iraq. Think what we could spend in another two years. Feeling safer? ■



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

### Gregoire: Axing Critical Care

**Issue:** On March 21, the Governor presented her budget proposal. She called it unsustainable in the long run, but a budget we can live with for now. No doubt she had to make some hard choices, and maybe most people in the state can live with it, but not everyone can. While she did preserve some important things in the budget, and even addressed a pending mental health crisis, she traded off some other important items in order to achieve that, and some of those trade-offs hurt too much for the Legislature to let them stand.

**Background:** Governor Gregoire stayed true to her promise of no general tax increase. But she did make the smart decision to increase revenue a bit — through an estate tax (applied to estates over \$2 million and excluding family farms) and a 20-cent tax on cigarettes. Smokers and millionaires passing estates on to their heirs will fill about \$203 million of the budget gap. This, combined with the higher than expected revenue forecast last week means that the deficit is about \$1.6 billion. Much, but not all, of the remaining gap is addressed through the creative shifting of funds, delaying planned expenditures, and cutting mid-level management positions.

#### Who pays for this budget?

People with physical or mental disabilities, seniors and people struggling to find work lose out in the Governor's budget.

People temporarily unable to work because of a disability will have a harder time qualifying for GA-U if her \$18 million cut stands. Even within that group, the most vulnerable are the hardest hit since vocational factors like language, age, job experience, and education will no longer be considered in many cases in determining eligibility. This policy change will cut off about 4,000 people now and up to 8,000 when fully implemented, and will hit older folks, people who don't speak much English, and those with the least education the hardest.

Seniors counting on state support to remain in their homes also lose out because of a \$21 million recommended cut in personal care services and COPES, which helps keep seniors in their homes, instead of in nursing homes.

People enrolled in Workfirst (the state's welfare program), trying hard to find employment and get back on their feet, are likely to lose out too. The Governor's budget fails to address the \$65 million deficit in WorkFirst, which means cuts will be coming to that program. It's not specified where those cuts will come from, but they'll be big, and are likely to come from childcare, welfare grants, job training, and support services.

**Action:** Contact your legislators and remind them that they can choose to balance the budget without hurting people with disabilities, elderly folks, and struggling families — they can raise the revenue they need instead. Leave a message for your legislators at 1-800-562-6000 or visit [www.childrenshub.org/campaign/stbudget](http://www.childrenshub.org/campaign/stbudget) to send a pre-written letter asking them to take the smart budget oath: do no more harm, raise revenue, and secure the future.



Barcelona, 1939, Robert Capa

### They still draw pictures. Children's art in wartime from the Spanish Civil War to Kosovo.

They still draw pictures is a collection of 100 children's drawings from the refugee camps of the Spanish Civil War (1936 - 1939) and subsequent conflicts, from the Holocaust to Kosovo. Documentary images by photojournalist Robert Capa and others are included, setting the drawings in time and place. Opening is Tuesday, March 1, 4-6 p.m. Exhibit will run March 2 - April 1. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. More info: 206.685.1805

## BUDGET, Continued from Page 1

Medicaid is supposed to pay for his medications, which run about \$500 a month — something Blair says he can't afford on a disability income of \$870. But he's been waiting for a Medicaid coupon since January because he's in "spend-down" limbo.

Any time his bank account gets above \$1,400, Blair has to prove to the state that he's spent the extra on appropriate medical services and prescriptions in order to re-qualify. Each time it happens, there's a delay that leaves Blair and others like him hanging in the wind for meds and services.

That's what the state used \$82 million in Medicaid money for — to

pay for gaps like Blair's. Whatever federal Medicaid dollars hadn't been spent in the state's two-year budget went to keeping people on their meds — and out of the hospital — to tide them over.

The state also used the money to cover the mental crises of non-Medicaid recipients who had no way to pay.

In King County, says Amnon Shoefeld, director of King County's Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division, that's about 700 to 800 people a year — people often having their first psychotic break.

As of July 1, the feds are putting an end to Washington using its Medicaid surplus in this way — and Gregoire's \$80 million in state funding is still \$2

million short, which means cuts will have to be made somewhere.

Blair just hopes they won't affect DESC. As it is, his spend-down situation with Medicaid already has him worried. If DESC had to drop him, he says, he would be a disaster.

"Because I wouldn't have a case manager or a psychiatrist, I could be a risk for losing my housing voucher," Blair says. "Section 8 accepted me on the understanding that I would meet all the requirements ordered by the court."

It's a perennial problem that Blair says will only come up again for him and others.

"There are a lot of folks like me who can't afford this out-of-pocket," Blair says. "We need these services."

So do others Gregoire has targeted for cuts. Though lobbyists praised the governor for restoring Medicaid health coverage to nearly 26,000 children and stepping up to raise \$203 million in taxes (with a partially restored estate tax and a 20-cent-a-pack increase on cigarettes), she also plans to cut services to vulnerable individuals:

- The \$18 million cut to General Assistance-Unemployable could cut off a total of 8,000 people over two years, says Tony Lee, a lobbyist with the Fremont Public Association. The state would accomplish this by no longer considering a person's age, education, previous vocation, or even English skills in determining their ability to work, making it possible to deny \$339 a month to people who are temporarily disabled and cannot work.

- A \$21 million cut would cost some 2,000 elderly peoples' in-home assistance through the COPES and Medicaid Personal Care — services that help the elderly stay in their homes.

• Gregoire's budget doesn't account for the WorkFirst program, which is currently running \$65 million in the red. If the Legislature doesn't provide funding, cuts will have to be made in

the program, which assists welfare recipients with training and support to find jobs. ■

**[Get involved]**

Every Wednesday through April 13, people affected by these cuts and their allies will stand in solidarity at the Capitol from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For questions or to get a ride contact [kim@povertyaction.org](mailto:kim@povertyaction.org), 206-694-6794, or toll free 800-789-7726. For another opportunity to act, turn to the First Things First action alert on page 11.

## OCEANS, Continued from Page 1

Svante Arrhenius in 1896. Since then, scientists have struggled to accurately measure and model the global carbon cycle — the movement of carbon dioxide into and out of the many components of the environment such as the forests and the oceans, as well as the man-made inputs from burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests, and producing cement.

Carbon dioxide also deserves particular attention because it has an extremely long retention time in the atmosphere. Once it is released through a process like deforestation, it takes thousands of years for an ecosystem to re-absorb it. "It's not something we can [just] turn off," says Dr. Jorge Sarmiento of the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Program at Princeton University.

The international team, a coalition between two consortia — the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE) and the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS) — measured carbon dioxide levels in ocean waters across the globe and at several depths. The compiled measurements demonstrated that the surface waters of the oceans show a net uptake of about 118 billion metric tons of carbon from the air over the past 200 years.

"The surprise was not that the carbon dioxide was there, but how much," says Feely.

At the same time, the absorbed carbon dioxide is changing the chemistry of ocean waters and jeopardizing some inhabitants' survival.

As carbon dioxide is absorbed by the upper layers of the ocean, it causes a drop in ocean pH. As this happens, "all organisms that form calcium carbonate shells and skeletons, from [some types of] plankton, to the coral reefs — all of these species will have a harder time producing calcium carbonate," says Feely.

Several studies under controlled laboratory conditions have demonstrated how, when ocean conditions change due to carbon dioxide uptake, marine organisms produce less shell or skeleton material. These experiments suggest the potential for large effects on marine ecosystems from carbon dioxide uptake.

The actual pH changes are small; according to Sabine, the ocean surface pH has dropped about 0.1 pH unit.

"If anyone's ever had a fish tank, you know pH is very important to control," says Sabine. "If you let pH get out of control, all the fish will die."

While the ecological changes in the oceans should not be that extreme, many of the species that may be af-

fected by reduced pH are at the bottom of the food chain. Changes in these populations could therefore have far-reaching effects.

Feely sees greater problems in the future, given predictions that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will likely more than double to 700 to 800 parts per million by the end of the century if changes are not made.

"You would see very significant changes to surface ocean chemistry," he says.

Some policy makers appear to have noticed. Senator John McCain invited Feely to testify before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation in September of 2004. Sabine described the senators as "very interested" but was unsure about the policy impact their testimony would have.

Feely believes there is a need to decide what to do about man-made carbon dioxide emissions as soon as



SAM BLAIR RELIES ON SAMPLES OF HIS PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION TO COMBAT SEIZURES AND BIPOLAR DISORDER WHEN THE STATE SKEWS UP ITS MEDICAID PAYMENTS. PHOTO BY ADAM HYLA.

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