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## Debating a Legacy

**Architects debating the "livability" of Freeway Park**

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Writer

No sooner had the city Parks Department issued a report on how to change Freeway Park than two landscape designers filed a nomination with the city to make Freeway Park a Seattle landmark – a move that could stop the city's plans.

The nomination was filed in March by Brice Maryman and Liz Birkholz, two landscape architecture graduates of the University of Washington. The two are hoping to preserve the look and feel intended by San Francisco landscape architect Lawrence Halprin as a first of its kind: an urban woodland built over a freeway.

Maryman says it's just a coincidence the two filed the nomination less than two months after the Parks Department issued a 73-page set of recommendations that could dramatically alter Freeway Park, which opened in 1976. But it's clear the two aren't happy about the process the city used to arrive at its plans.

Last year, the Parks Department and the Freeway Park Neighborhood Association got together and hired Project for Public Spaces, a nonprofit consulting firm based in New York, to come up with proposals for increasing activity in the park, which is often used by the homeless and has a reputation for crime.

PPS is the same group that has proposed cutting down trees and repaving Pioneer Square's Occidental Park. Last fall, the group held four public workshops and interviewed nearby property owners or managers – largely clients from the Freeway Park Neighborhood Association. The group includes representatives from the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Town Hall and a luxury retirement high-rise called Horizon House.

Among PPS's short-term recommendations, the city's Board of Parks Commissioners has already signed off on an initial, \$500,000 plan to try out vending carts and add programming

See PARK, Page 10



UW OFFICIALS HAVE PROPOSED A \$60 MILLION LABORATORY FOR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS RESEARCH NEAR THE SHIP CANAL. PHOTO BY MEAGAN O'SHEA.

## Bio-Boondoggle?

**UW considering "pork barrel" bioweapons research lab**

By ADAM HYLIA  
Editor

Biotech's big-money stakes went up a notch early this year, when public discussion began on a new \$60 million facility for conducting research on biological weapons.

Late last year, the University of Washington applied for federal funding to pay for a portion of the Northwest Regional Biocontainment Laboratory. The lab would be researching pathogens that might be used in an attack on civilians.

Opponents of the lab say that in experimenting with harmful pathogens, the university is paving the way for a catastrophic human blunder and providing terrorists with a prime target. University officials say the lab, located at the south end of the UW campus near the Ship Canal, would be built to level-three safety standards, equipped with lab equipment to contain diseases that are treatable, but not preventable, like anthrax.

For some, a new biolab is just a bio-boondoggle.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which saw its bioweapons budget swell by 1400 percent after 9/11, is spending money regardless of need, says Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University.

After the anthrax scares during

the fall of 2001, Congress put forth an appropriation for biodefense "so large that it could not be expended through the normal process," says Ebright. "The only way to spend it was through large-cost capital construction. It's budgeting and planning driven by appropriations, rather than by needs. It's the epitome of pork-barrel spending."

And by the time UW's lab is up and running, there will already be numerous similar labs around the country – all competing to do the same work. "They are building into a building glut," says Ebright.

UW officials weren't able to respond to *Real Change* at press time.

While neighbors have wondered about the lab being a target in an attack, UW representatives have argued that "increased emergency public health laboratory capacity" would be an asset in the case of a terrorist strike.

But the lab will probably be neither necessary nor feasible, says Bill White, deputy secretary of the State Department of Health.

The department has its own labs to examine microbial terror agents sent in by emergency responders. In the case of a flurry of credible threats, a half-dozen public hospitals and labs around the state have agreed to shoulder the extra responsibility.

Replacing that emergency plan with

See BIO-LAB, Page 12

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## MAKE WORK PAY

Low-wage hotel workers are holding the line on the race to the bottom.

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The homeless memorial proposal that isn't going away.

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# Upholding the Standard

Boycotts at Seattle hotels are part of fight to maintain workers' hard-won gains

By BEN MANTLE  
Guest Writer

Over the years, union hotel workers have fought hard to carve out a space in the middle class. But recently, increased pressure from Starwood, Hilton, Marriott, and other hotel giants to maximize profits at all costs has threatened this decent living standard and brought the situation to a head.

Seattleites concerned with social and economic justice have long been keenly aware of the trend toward ever more consolidated, ever more expansive corporate power. In recent decades, the "race to the bottom" for wages and benefits has put the squeeze on working families in our community and around the globe. In 2002, 34 million Americans lived below the poverty line; 7.4 million were workers. During the same year, 43.6 million Americans lacked health insurance; 80 percent belonged to working families. And perhaps most shocking of all, America has the highest child poverty rate of any industrialized nation in the world.

While the crisis for working families escalates, executive pay skyrockets. In 2000, the average CEO earned 531 times what the average worker brought home — up from 42 times in 1980 and 85 times in 1990. The bottom line is that industries that used to be predominately local are becoming less and less accountable to the communities where they operate and to the workers responsible for their handsome profits.

These trends have been especially clear in the hotel industry. Seventy-five percent of all hotel rooms in the top 15 American markets are now affiliated with national or global companies. Smith Barney projects that the Big Three hotel companies (Hilton, Starwood, and Marriott) will take in \$1.6 billion in profits in 2006, an increase of more than \$400 million in only

six years. And Starwood (the parent company for Sheraton, Westin, W, St. Regis, and Four Points hotels) barely existed a decade ago. But as these corporations expand, consolidate, and increase profits, median wages for hotel workers remain low (only \$7.85 for housekeepers) and benefits like health care and pensions are getting further out of reach. In response to this injustice, UNITE HERE!, the union representing hotel workers across the US and Canada, has begun a momentous campaign to hold the industry accountable.

Over the years, union hotel workers have fought hard to carve out a space in the middle class. But recently, increased pressure from Starwood, Hilton, Marriott, and other hotel giants to maximize profits at all costs has threatened this decent living standard and brought the situation to a head.

In San Francisco, the Multi-Employer Group (MEG) contract covering approximately 4,300 workers in 14 hotels expired last August. After six weeks of negotiations without a decent offer, UNITE HERE! declared a two-week strike at four of the 14 hotels. The MEG quickly responded by locking workers out of their jobs at the other 10 hotels. After nearly two months of around-the-clock picket lines and with tremendous support from the local community (including that of Mayor Gavin Newsom), UNITE HERE! was able to break the lockout. Since the union members went back to work, no agreement has been reached, but boycotts on the MEG hotels have cost the hotels millions of dollars.

In Los Angeles, the Employer

Council (EC) contract covering approximately 2,500 workers in eight hotels was terminated by the EC last June. Since that time, a lockout has been threatened, but community support has been building there as well, and has led to another successful boycott campaign with lost revenue in the millions.

Now Seattle is coming to the front lines of the struggle as well. Several contracts for downtown hotels, including the Hilton and Westin, expire this spring and throughout 2006 as the fight over industry standards hits home. Already, tensions are building over outsourcing and other issues.

Another part of the effort to stop the widespread disrespect for hotel workers are the boycotts that UNITE HERE! has launched on non-union hotels across the nation. Through persistent action and public support, UNITE HERE! aims to demonstrate to the hotel industry that the "race to the bottom" has serious consequences, even where workers do not currently have union representation.

In Seattle, the two hotels under boycott are the Sheraton and the Crowne Plaza. By honoring the boycotts on these two hotels, you can show your support for the rights of hotel workers everywhere to decent wages and benefits and to workplace justice. Together, we can turn the tide for working families in Seattle and beyond. ■

Ben Mantle is an organizer with UNITE HERE! Local 8. To get involved in local hotel worker actions, contact him at (206) 728-2326, ext. 21.



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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.

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# Change Agent

"There may be some surprises in store," Mike Pesa says wryly when he speaks of an upcoming environmental protest this Thursday at the Weyerhaeuser shareholders' meeting in Federal Way.

Pesa and his compatriots are members of Wakeup WeyerHouse, the U-District base of operations for grassroots members of the Rainforest Action Network. Determined to convince the company to reconsider its logging tactics, Pesa, Justin Rolfe-Redding, and other WeyerHouse members are launching campaigns to pressure change via their blog ([www.wakeupweyco.com](http://www.wakeupweyco.com)) and live performances. Often the house is the command center for calls, signs, and mailings designed to encourage Weyerhaeuser customers, like Costco, to take their business elsewhere.

A similar effort yielded success with Boise Cascade, which after losing 12 contracts, negotiated more environmentally friendly policies. "It allows companies to become part of the solution," says Pesa, who hopes a 50-strong activist army will have the same effect on Weyerhaeuser shareholders April 21.

—Sean Reid



WEYERHOUSEMATES: Ryan Hirst (front) and (left to right) Seth Ballhorn, Lauren Simpson, Tyga, Hannah McHardy, and Justin Rolfe-Redding.

Photo by MARK SULLO.

## Just Heard ...

### Breach of Trust

It's been 14 years since Exxon settled a civil suit over the 1989 Valdez oil spill. But the lingering effects of the spill could crack that case open again.

The settlement forced Exxon to pay \$900 million, but added a clause re-opening the case if any of the parties — the company, the state, or the federal government — detect unforeseen harm. Dr. Riki Ott, a biologist in Cordova, Alaska, says there is little chance that those parties will pay heed to the toxic damage scientists are finding in Prince William Sound ("The Poisoned Sea," April 6). So she's hoping to build a public effort to sue the parties for breach of trust.

"Citizens are trying to get creative to see how we can have the state and feds take care of public resources in the public interest," says Ott.

The case could be re-opened in September 2006.

### How the poor die

The story of former *Real Change* vendor Brad Gierlich is in the media limelight, with a KOMO 4 investigative team covering a suit by his sister against the King County Medical Examiner. Gierlich's sister charges that his brain was sold for research without the family's permission. Gierlich, who suffered from both drug addiction and mental illness, was a longtime vendor who died of a drug overdose in October 1998.

### Screw Tully's

A Pioneer Square coffee shop suddenly began telling homeless customers earlier this month that they were no longer welcome.

Bill, a guest at the Bread of Life Mission who wasn't willing to provide his full name, says he went in to the Tully's at First Avenue and Yesler for his morning cuppa only to be told, he says, "We can no longer serve the homeless community."

Another guest of the shelter, Patrick, says he was told, "in front of six or seven people, 'We can't serve you coffee because of your living situation.' It was embarrassing and degrading."

Staff told the two men that an overdose by a homeless customer was the trigger for the rule.

Tully's spokesperson Jason Hamilton says there's no such rule: "Any paying customer has the right to enjoy their beverage in the store." Regardless, the incident turned off at least one paying customer. "I'm pretty pissed off," says Patrick. "Now I go to Starbucks."

—Adam Hyla

### Black boxes sued

Bellevue attorney Randy Gordon filed a lawsuit last week against Sequoia Voting and Snohomish County, claiming the county's touch-screen machines caused a number of irregularities in the 2004 election. Gordon's client, Everett attorney and election tracker Paul Lehto, says many machines had precast votes or voted Republican when a Democrat's name was pressed. Lehto says machines froze or switched votes in 50 of the county's 148 precincts.

Lehto and author Bev Harris (*Black Box Voting*) will speak on election reform May 4, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. (S12), at Seattle's College Club, 505 Madison. For information, call Pat McCoy, (206) 283-0725.

—Cydney Gillis

## Drug Dependent

County may distribute methadone to jailed addicts

By SEAN REID  
Contributing Writer

The King County Jail recognizes that it has a drug problem, and it's seeking treatment.

The jail-based Opioid Dependency Engagement & Treatment Program (JODET) is in the process of registering to provide its own methadone to inmates hooked on drugs. The methadone program may be in place by next summer.

Mark Alstead, the head of JODET, says the project is a result of a 1998 study of public treatment alternatives like methadone, which is a common substitute for heroin. At that time, government officials counted more than 100 drug overdoses in the county each year. He credits the study for seeking real solutions to drug dependency.

"It said while heroin use is illegal and a choice, heroin addiction is a chronic illness," says Alstead. Treatment, he believes, remains a necessity for addicts in the criminal justice system.

"We're targeting people who are in jail frequently, typically for crimes related to their dependency."

In a 1999 national study on incarcerated populations that tested positive for opiates, Seattle tied for second out of 35 major urban centers. Often, poorer addicts will resort to crime to fund their need for heroin or other opioids with a fleeting euphoric effect.

Helping refer opioid-dependent people to methadone for at least two years is the preference of Michael Hanrahan in the county's needle exchange program. Like Alstead, Hanrahan oversees a social worker who helps clients find treatment at nonprofits through a voucher-based program.

"Achieving long-term secession of heroin use, and returning to economical stabilization, is directly correlated to time spent in treatment," says Hanrahan.

JODET's social worker, Kaye Schmidt, provides counseling and offers methods to get treatment for jail inmates. Addicts convicted of misdemeanors and low-level felonies are offered the option of treatment and then transferred to other facilities, Alstead says. Schmidt performs assessments for whoever requests this route or based on referrals from police officers or other state officials. State and federal funding provides vouchers for treatment centers to those who qualify.

By discouraging the drug habit practiced by inmates going in and out of the system, the county aims to have the program cut down on criminal activity and the spread of HIV and other diseases. Ultimately, he reasons, it becomes less of a burden on the community at large to fund treatment efforts.

Still, the effort is a ways away from being fully implemented. JODET officials hope to be distributing methadone by July 2006.

"We want to move this forward as quickly as we can, but we want to do it right," says Alstead. ■

In a 1999 national study on incarcerated populations that tested positive for opiates, Seattle tied for second out of 35 major urban centers. Often, poorer addicts will resort to crime to fund their need for heroin or other opioids with a fleeting euphoric effect.

### [Resources]

Those seeking to refer opioid-dependent persons in jail may contact JODET's social worker Kaye Schmidt at (206) 205-5365.

Evergreen Treatment Services may be reached toll-free at (866) 668-7425.

The Needle Exchange accepts walk-ins on 1511 Second Ave., 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mon-Fri. For more info call (206) 205-7836.

## Urban Contemplation

### Memorial idea for Freeway Park gathers support

By DIAN McCLURG  
Contributing Writer

**B**ackers continue to draw support for a memorial to Seattle's homeless in Freeway Park, with more than 50 people attending a public forum at St. Mark's Episcopal Church to discuss what's next for the plan on Wednesday April 13.

"We want to build broad, deep community support to prepare ourselves for approaching the City Council," said Pat Simpson, pastor of the Church of Mary Magdalene.

Following a March 10 meeting of Park Commissioners where the proposal was informally rejected because of a ban on memorials in city parks, speakers said that appealing to Seattle City Council is the next obvious step for the group.

"We need every one of you to write to city councilmembers," the Rev. Mary Gould, deacon at St. Mark's, told supporters Wednesday. "We need to let them know they cannot get away with saying 'no' to memorials anymore."

The request is fairly simple. Members of Women's Housing, Equality, and Enhancement League, Women in Black, and others want to establish a garden of remembrance in the downtown park that bridges Interstate 5. There they would somehow inscribe the names of homeless people who die each year in Seattle.

"We should be able to accommodate this request in a meaningful way. I'm hugely sympathetic to this cause. The memorial is the least we can do, I should think."

— Council member Peter Steinbrueck

The proposed location — Freeway Park — was chosen to be accessible for homeless people using the downtown Seattle Ride Free Zone. It is also a public space used frequently by the homeless, and at least four homeless people have died there in the past few years, the group said.

Park commissioners noted March 10 that the memorial idea violates a city policy against such objects in parks. Parks exist to meet the recreational and stewardship needs of park users, the May 2002 policy states.

"I'm not real impressed with that

response," City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck said during a telephone interview three days after the memorialists' meeting. "If not in parks, then where should they go?"

Steinbrueck chairs the Urban Development and Planning Committee, and he's an advocate for reducing and preventing homelessness in Seattle.

"We should be able to accommodate this request in a meaningful way," Steinbrueck said. "I'm hugely sympathetic to this cause. [The memorial] is the least we can do, I should think." ■

*Freeway Park spans Interstate 5 on the south end of the Convention Center downtown.*

Photo by Terry Divyak.



## Short Takes

### Licata's Better Way

Where there's crime, there's always a call for more police. But City Councilmember Nick Licata says police can't arrest the drug addiction or mental illness that land some people in jail.

So Licata has come up with a plan he calls the Civil Streets Initiative. It would increase and integrate police and social work to target issues associated with homelessness, mental illness, chronic alcoholism, and drug dealing.

Funding would come from a special, three-year property tax levy. Licata says the levy would cost the average Seattle homeowner less than \$35 a year and raise \$10.5 million a year, with \$3.5 million going to police, firefighters, and human services.

Licata says the money could pay for more bike patrols and beat cops — first responders who can deal with chronic public inebriants and substance abusers — and more social workers who can help get people into treatment.

"There's a growing frustration among citizens in Seattle that we have too many folks on the streets not being treated for drug addiction and alcoholism and mental illness," Licata says. "Right now, people get arrested and there's no human service provider. It's strictly the legal system. This would try to integrate law enforcement with human services to provide assistance for people."

Licata plans to introduce the measure in the next few weeks — after the City Council learns how Mayor Greg Nickels plans to pay for and deploy 25

new police officers he has proposed hiring.

Licata will be bringing up the initiative at a citywide Neighborhood Crime Summit and public hearing at City Hall, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on April 26.

— Cydney Gillis

### Bread line: still waiting

A site for dispensing meals outdoors to homeless and low-income people should be up and running in early May, according to Alan Painter, director of community services for the City of Seattle.

Negotiations are being finalized between the city and the First Presbyterian Church, at Seventh and Spring streets in the First Hill neighborhood. According to church liaison Ron Reese, as soon as a written contract is approved, the church will be ready to implement the necessary sanitary and security measures. He said it has worked hard to allay concerns of area residents about the program's impact. The program will police itself as regards litter and unruly behavior by participants.

The church will replace the former site at the Public Safety Building Plaza, which was shut down in January because of the building's scheduled demolition. Although fewer participants are expected initially, both Painter and Reese say the number would probably grow over time as the relocation becomes better known to the needy. Present plans call for weekday servings only, not weekends.

— Tom Cogbill

### God save us from DSHS

When the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) began the WashCAP program in 2004, the idea was to eliminate access barriers that those on SSI may face in getting their foodstamps. Instead of having to go to one of the state's 56 DSHS offices — often times a difficult task for SSI recipients because they are either over the age of 65, blind, or disabled — recipients were able to apply for food stamp benefits at their local Social Security office.

Beginning in 2005, however, SSI recipients who had enrolled in WashCAP instead of the regular food stamp program found themselves losing about \$50 per month. Worse, they couldn't switch back, due to an emergency ruling last January by DSHS.

Columbia Legal Services (CLS) filed a brief in Thurston County Superior Court on April 12 in an effort to reverse that emergency ruling. CLS argues that the "emergency" DSHS cites is artificial.

"They can't create their own emergency," says Amy Crewdson, a CLS lawyer working on the case.

In order for DSHS to legally declare emergency rule — a rule that forces recipients to remain on their program — there must have been a change in federal or state law, a change in federal rule, or a federal deadline that impact the practicability of DSHS, Crewdson says.

She adds no laws or rules were changed and that DSHS assumed a federal deadline because it ignored the federal government's worries about the

program's costs for some time.

CLS is also arguing the choices DSHS made to implement the Washington State Combined Application Program are unconstitutional because they apply benefits inconsistently.

"Several thousand people in SSI qualify for WashCAP but never got it, and they get more money than the people on WashCAP," Crewdson says.

Lawyers representing DSHS are currently putting together their legal research and arguments. The trial is scheduled for May 27.

— J. Jacob Edel



THE SPECIALTY COFFEE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MET IN SEATTLE LAST WEEKEND, AND NESTLED AMID THE TRADE TALK WAS SOME TIME FOR FUN: A SATURDAY SOCCER MATCH BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF EQUAL EXCHANGE'S FAIR-TRADE COFFEE. AMONG THE PRODUCERS' TEAM WAS CHAPAS COFFEE FARMER EDGAR, WHO IS PART OF A WORKERS' COOPERATIVE THAT COLLECTIVELY EARNS 22 PERCENT MORE FOR HIS BEANS THAN NORMAL-MARKET FARMERS. IN RETURN FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING AND FAIR-TRADE PRICES, EQUAL EXCHANGE'S COFFEE GROWERS MUST BE PART OF WORKERS' CO-OPS AND ABIDE BY STRICTER SOIL MANAGEMENT RULES. PHOTO BY JUSTIN MILLS.



## Cosmetic Changes

Local woman campaigns to end use of harmful cosmetics ingredient

By BREEANA LAUGHLIN  
Contributing Writer

A laboratory study of the chemicals by the environmental health organization Health Care Without Harm indicated that phthalates interfere with fetal and infant development in the liver, kidneys, lungs, and the male reproductive tract, causing birth defects.

A Seattle woman has launched a campaign to eliminate damaging chemicals known as phthalates from a broad range of beauty products.

Phthalates are commonly used in perfume, shampoos, conditioners, hand lotions, and deodorants, as well as in industrial, commercial, and medical products. They provide flexibility, their oily texture making skin feel soft.

High levels of phthalates have been detected in nail polish, which becomes brittle and chips after the phthalate DBP has leached out. German scientists found that women wearing nail polish absorb DBP both through their nails and directly through their skin when the chemical comes in contact with water.

A laboratory study of the chemicals by the environmental health organization Health Care Without Harm indicated that they interfere with fetal and infant development in the liver, kidneys, lungs, and the male reproductive tract, causing birth defects.

Last year, the European Union banned two of the most toxic types of phthalates, DEHP and DBP. But not all companies that are reformulating for the European market are doing so in the U.S. Major companies that have agreed to remove phthalates include L'Oreal, Revlon, and Unilever. Estée Lauder, Max Factor, and Cover Girl have agreed to remove phthalates only from their nail polish.

Seattle woman Heather Trim is part of a campaign to get people to know the word phthalate, and put pressure on more manufacturers to reformulate their products.

Trim says the public can influence companies to stop using phthalates by buying products that are phthalate-free, or by putting pressure on companies that buy large quantities of these products, like salons or hospitals. The public can also write letters to manufacturers — something Trim's campaign is doing right now.

Some manufacturers still defend their use of the chemicals.

Ann Young, who works in the consumer relations department for Kao Brands Company, writes that the Cosmetic Ingredient Review was set up years ago to ensure cosmetic ingredient safety, and it recently reconfirmed its full support for use of phthalates as ingredients in personal care products as they are used today.

But advocates for environmental health counter that existing reviews are insufficient.

"The federal government doesn't have adequate testing in place," says Pam Tazioli of the Breast Cancer Fund. "Consumers should be able to purchase and use everything that is available to us and not be worried about our public health."

"Many companies argue that the amount of chemical they use is very small and therefore it is not harmful," says Tazioli. "But it is persistent."

See MAKEUP, Page 8

### [Resource]

Read more about the use of phthalates in toys, IV tubes, and other materials at the website of Health Care Without Harm: [www.noharm.org](http://www.noharm.org).

*Pretty nasty: beauty products like nail polish seldom list their ingredients.*

Photo by  
Breeana Laughlin.



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# The Night Shift

*Hungry and desperate, Namibia's street children turn to the sex trade*

By STANLEY SNYDERS

Guest Writer

**M**annie\* is 14 years old. He "works" in the Windhoek city centre, mostly behind the municipality's headquarters. Sometimes he hangs around the Eros shopping centre waiting for clients to pick him up. On most nights, especially during weekends, he works from 9 p.m. until early in the morning. Although he lives rough, sleeping in riverbeds and in storm water drains, he looks smart when he goes to "work." His clothes and shoes are in good condition, and he doesn't look like the street child that he is.

"I am from Mariental," he explains. "I came to Windhoek when I was nine years old because both my parents had died and I grew up with my grandmother. I ran away because she is too old to look after me and there is no one else who can care for me."

Mannie says that at first he used to beg from people for a few Namibian

or more because you are a street child. Later on I began having sex with the boere and also Black and Portuguese men for N\$150 or N\$200. It's sore but it's good money and I can make a living. Sometimes I have four or five men a night, and if I sleep with one the whole night I get paid double.

"If we're lucky, they take us to Swakopmund or Walvis Bay for a weekend. They buy us clothes and shoes and also give us money. We [street children] drink alcohol and smoke dagga and pille [Mandrax]. Sometimes the men that we sleep with buy us wine or cigarettes."

Doing this kind of work doesn't make Mannie happy.

"It's not that I want to do this, but I need the money and it's better than begging," he says.

In total, *The Big Issue Namibia* interviewed separately 10 street children involved in commercial sex work. There are many more. Many of them have run away at a very tender age from

as the area is also used as a toilet by many street people.

"Living under the bridges isn't safe. We're often hassled by skelms, by people who want to give us trouble and steal from us."

The smell of cheap wine coming off his breath is very strong as he begins to tell me his story.

"The first time I came to Windhoek I just wandered around with my friends and slept in Eros. We begged during the day. Two years later we began having sex with men for money — whites, blacks, Portuguese, and foreigners also. We were scared at first but later we got used to it, because the money was alright and we could survive.

"We are careful of the Black men and the Basters because they don't want to pay. When they have finished sleeping with us, they hit us and drive us far out of town and dump us there, without any money, and we have to walk home, hungry. That's why we don't often go with Black men unless they are from overseas. The best customers are Portuguese men, aged 50 or 60. In the end, for us it is just about the money. It's a job. We don't see ourselves as homosexual. We're just playing the role to make a living."

Maria is one of many young teenage girls working on the streets of Windhoek. She is 14 years old and has been selling her body for the past year. Customers find her in the area around the municipality, which is a notorious pick-up spot for commercial sex workers. When I meet her one night, she is wearing a mini skirt and a strapless top. Her

hair is nicely brushed and she is wearing red lipstick.

She says she stays in a house "somewhere in" Windhoek with some friends, all of whom are also commercial sex workers. Some are very young, like Maria. The other women are in their 20s and 30s. Maria says her older friends teach the younger ones how to work.

"I came to Windhoek when I was 11 years old. Before that I was at school in Rehoboth, in Grade Six. I only have sex for money with white people, Afrikaners, and tourists, and sometimes women as well," she says.

Maria says when she makes enough money, she sends some home to her grandmother in Rehoboth.

"She brought me up so I try to look after her now that I have money. Sometimes she asks where I get the money from, but I can't tell her. It's my secret. I hope that one day I'll get a good job so I can look to the future."

\*All the names in this story have been changed to protect the identities of those interviewed.

Reprinted from *The Big Issue Namibia*, March 2005. ©Street News Service: [www.streetpapers.org](http://www.streetpapers.org). Writer Stanley Snyder is an active *Big Issue Namibia* vendor and a participant on the Community Journalism Mentoring Course run by the magazine's editor, Sarah Taylor, and sponsored by the Netherlands Institute of Southern Africa.

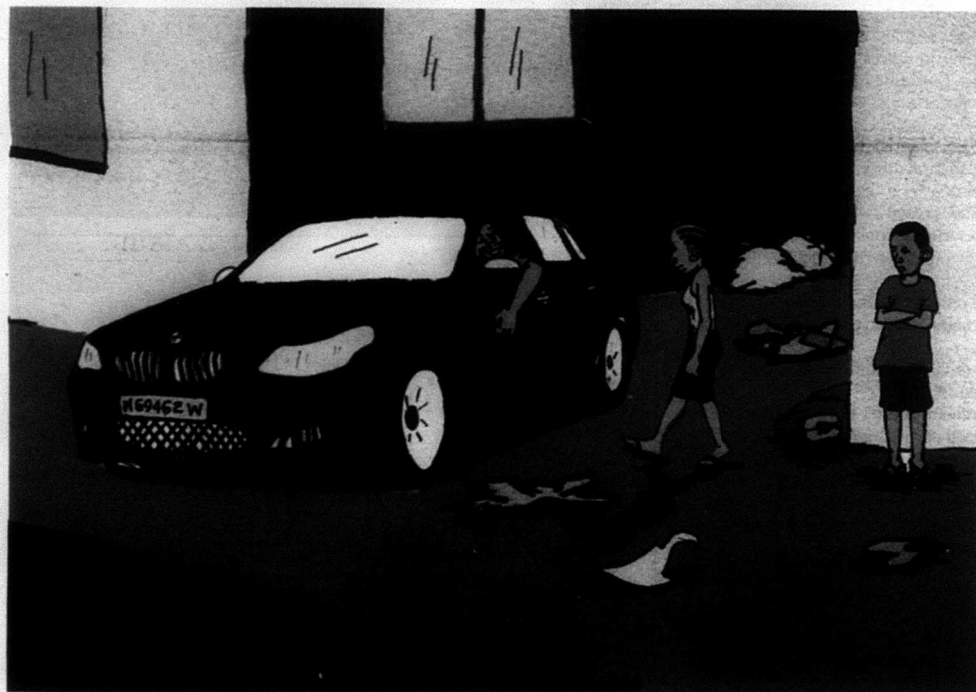


Illustration ©Street News Service: [www.streetpapers.org](http://www.streetpapers.org).

dollars so he could "eat and live."

"I was 12 years old when I first began sleeping with the "boere" [white people] and tourists. I learnt how to do this from my friends on the street. Sometimes they [the clients] come and pick us up in BMWs, Polos, and Mercedes Benzes. Then we go with them to their houses or other places, like in the bush."

Mannie says at first he would skomel (masturbate) his clients or perform oral sex for N\$30 — about \$4.80 in U.S. currency.

"If you do good work, they pay more, and the tourists give you N\$100

broken homes. Their parents were alcoholics, unemployed, or both. Others are orphans. Most have minimal education. Many see the work that they do as their only means of survival.

**J**akobus ran away from home in Keetmanshoop when he was 10 years old. He has never been to school. Today, at the age of 13, he makes a living selling sex on the streets of the capital city. He lives under bridges in Windhoek with two of his friends. When it rains, they are forced to move, and it's a dirty place



## NAMIBIA, Cont. from prev. page

"Before I get in to their cars, we agree on a price. The women pay me N\$50 to N\$70 an hour, but if I go with them to their places for the night then I get double, as well as something to eat, some alcohol, and smokes. If they don't pay me then I steal from them or I tell them I'll go and complain about them."

Maria says sometimes she takes along a "big, strong man" who will keep the money for her "because there are skelms who wait to steal our money from us." Afterwards she pays this man something.

"I don't think it's a bad idea [doing this work] because there is no other way to survive and there is also no work ... I don't always use a condom, only if the client insists, so every two to three months I go to the clinic for an AIDS test just to make sure I'm not sick. The nurses don't ask me questions, even though I am only 14."

Maria says when she makes enough money, she sends some home to her grandmother in Rehoboth.

"She brought me up so I try to look after her now that I have money. Sometimes she asks where I get the money from, but I can't tell her. It's my secret. I hope that one day I'll get a good job so I can look to the future. If God can help me then I can change my life so that I can help myself and I can leave this bad work."

Magdalena (15) ran away from home at the age of 10, with just a Grade Three to her name. She hails from Karasburg. She came to Windhoek because she had heard "what a nice place it is." On the streets she made friends with other young girls, and when she was 13 they showed her how to make "fast money" by sleeping with men.

"I was 14 when I gave birth to my first child by an old German man. He went back to Germany and doesn't give me anything, so I have to keep struggling so that both my child and I can survive, and so that I can pay for my room."

She says that she leaves her baby with neighbours when she is working.

"I can't make money any other way, because people tell me I am too young to work. I can make very good money this way. Sometimes I have sex with five or 10 men each night, and can easily make up to N\$1,000 or even N\$2,000 in two days. If someone would give me other work, I would stop sleeping around immediately and I would be happy."

Paulus (15) comes from the Oshakati area and has never been to school. He came to Windhoek when he was 11 and hooked up with other Oshiwambo-speaking boys who lived in the Eros riverbed.

"It wasn't a good place to live. Whenever it rained we had to find somewhere else to sleep, and in winter it was very cold in the river. We slept under boxes and sacks, and would beg during the day for money or some food."

Paulus was 12 when he began sleeping with "die boere." He didn't enjoy it at first but says he learnt from Damara kids how to sleep with these men.

"If I have sex with them, I use a condom or ask them to buy condoms.

If we masturbate them, we don't need to use condoms.

"I don't think it's a good thing to do because a man shouldn't sleep with another man but if money is involved, and big money, then it is a good idea because there is no other way out for us, and no other work." ■

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## The Painted Desert

The sweet smell of Cottonwoods,  
Endless, rushing sound,  
This smooth pew – almost a long-lost friend,  
My cigarette, an orange star.  
It's twilight still,  
and hours before dawn,  
but I feel like staying.  
Ashes fall.

I think of a story my mother once told me  
about a tiny mud home  
in a far-away place  
where rain falls from the sky  
in great veils, so certain  
it will reach the ground that  
it never considers  
it might fail.

The clean, cool smell of earth and pine needles.

The sudden pattering of raindrops.

I look out, and see the very scar  
that leads to all the roads of the world...  
through fields and passes,  
forests, canyons,  
cities, seashores...

And I find myself wishing that the four walls  
of this little church could somehow hold it all...

That I could wrap this planet  
in my Indian blanket,  
cook it dinner,  
tell it stories,  
sing it to sleep.  
Fingers burn.  
Time.

—JONATHAN LOCKE

# Deadly Harvest in Northern Iraq

*A powerful film about the value of lives held cheap.*

Film Review: *Turtles Can Fly*  
Dir. by Bahman Ghobadi

Review by LESTER GRAY  
Contributing Writer

Soran Ebrahim  
plays Satellite  
in *Turtles Can Fly*.

**T***urtles Can Fly* is a single, eloquent statement, its constituent parts unselfishly serving the whole. It's a profoundly tragic story, unfolding with a grace that seldom tempts the heart or mind to turn away, and a testament to the skill of writer/director Bahman Ghobadi.

Set in the Kurdish refugee camps of Northern Iraq, *Turtles Can Fly* tells its story through the eyes of a group of abandoned and orphaned children, who despite living in the most desperate of conditions, insist on bargaining in good faith with their destiny. With a tenuous lease on life, they remain industrious and purposeful.

Each day this makeshift family gathers as in a union hall, waiting assignments negotiated through a 13-year-old steward named Satellite. Journey men all, certified by dismembered

arms and legs, they matter-of-factly do the nine-to-five, harvesting live American-made land mines from local fields, which are sold to be used again.

Satellite, the group's nerdish alpha-male, earns his moniker by virtue of a prodigious facility with technology in general and satellite dishes in particular. This latter talent gains him a certain respect among tribal leaders, who need him to set up religiously proscribed satellite dishes that they hope will oracle the coming of their enemy's enemy, the Americans, and signal the end of Saddam's regime.

But Satellite seeks a sign from a much more proximate source. A young woman, an itinerant refugee, arrives in camp accompanied by her older brother and a toddler who appears to be a sibling. Her beauty, isolate in this stark environment, reaches out to him as his assured and compassionate nature reaches out to her. Through this subtle and brief courtship we discover that she is already spoken for in ways that few of us can imagine.

But the tragedy here is not one of star-crossed love, but rather in the tendency of the world's powers to depreciate the value of life in underdeveloped nations. The Kurds are unfortunately victims of this perversion. Bahman Ghobadi is all too aware that such myopia is not remedied by argument or anger. Instead he offers a masterful reminder that their lives are as precious as ours. ■

Bahman Ghobadi is all too aware that the myopia of power is not remedied by argument or anger. Instead he offers a masterful reminder that their lives are as precious as ours.

**[Showing]**  
*Turtles Can Fly*  
opens April 15  
at the Uptown  
Cinemas, 511  
Queen Anne  
Ave. N., (206)  
285-1022.



## MAKEUP, Continued from Page 5

Once used, phthalates don't seem to go away. A Safer Product Project study of household dust in 70 homes in seven states, including Washington, revealed that phthalates were the most common of the 44 chemicals the researchers looked for.

"Phthalates are incredibly ubiquitous in all our environment: in our homes and businesses and the air we're breathing outside. Also, in the water and sediment systems," says Trim. "They're everywhere."

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics says the FDA recently conducted a safety study of phthalates, but the agency is refusing to publicly release its findings. Friends of the Earth has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to obtain the study.

"The FDA is withholding an important piece of scientific research from the public," says Lisa Archer, campaign coordinator for Friends of the Earth. "We deserve to know if there are harmful ingredients in our cosmetic products. As a publicly funded agency, the FDA has a duty to tell the public what it knows about products that contain phthalates."

Some cosmetics carry ingredient labels, but the consumer can be hindered by lack of knowledge. A typical shopper might not know that "dibutyl phthalate" is a potentially harmful substance.

Alternatives to phthalates are readily available to industry, as only a fraction of any given cosmetic or beauty product contains the stuff, according to the Environmental Working Group.

But, says Trim, "phthalates are widely used right now in such a range of things that companies are, in general, unwilling to take them out unless they are going to be required to by the government."

"We need to no longer shrug our shoulders and say we can't do anything about phthalates," she says. "We actually can. Europe has started it, and we can continue." ■

## Untitled

Cinderella's slippers are  
Sculptured from blocks of ice  
Midnight strikes melting  
Heels into flats  
Voile and lave reveal  
Remnants underneath  
Velvet gloves unravel  
Reviying yellow Rubbermaids  
Lilac perfume evaporates  
Like foaming carpet cleaner

Sculptured from a pillar of salt  
Fright dissolves in the surf of the ocean  
No longer a mermaid flailing inside a net  
Opal wriggles out from her passive submission  
Vigorous blinking a purified water eclipse  
Panic vaporizing into the azure skyline.

—CAROL KOSCHE





Adventures  
in Irony

© Dr. Wes Browning

## GW Bush: A Laff Riot

But this week, we are going to the land of sure-fire universal humor.

We are talking about the likes of monkeys riding Labradors, ducks wearing Groucho Marx glasses, and squirrels water-skiing. We are talking about GW Bush's iPod playlist.

you ever used elbow soap? No? Are your elbows filthy? What's the opposite of a light bulb? A dark bulb? A heavy bulb? How many deadheads does it take to change a heavy bulb, man? These things occur to me the instant I hear the words, no matter how often I hear them. I laugh without warning or explanation, and then people around me slowly back away.

So I set forth topics here with considerable trepidation. I worry that the things I find hilarious may be only mildly humorous to my readers. Or worse, I think I might make some crack about some subject, and everyone might recoil in horror, and my friends might have me locked up for my own protection and emergency psychiatric care.

That might happen, for example, if I wrote this column about Andrea Dworkin and my thoughts on how gay pornography can only do violence to women by excluding them, and how "f\*\*\* you" is really a very nice thing to say to someone: "F\*\*\* you." "Why, thank you very much, I'd enjoy that immensely. And you get f\*\*\*ed, too." "Thank YOU. You are ever so gracious!"

But this week we aren't going there. We are going to the land of sure-fire universal humor. We are talking about the likes of monkeys riding Labradors, ducks wearing Groucho Marx glasses, and squirrels water-skiing. We are talking about GW Bush's iPod playlist.

What a gift this is! For those of you who were living in a bomb shelter all last week, an aide of our president has revealed G.W.'s iPod playlist, according to a *New York Times* story. Mr. Blake Gottesman, Bush's personal aide, actually downloaded the songs on the list to Bush's iPod,

because Mr. Bush is so busy freeing the world, but we are all certain that the list reflects Bush's tastes, or at least his tastes as understood by someone extremely close to him. So what we have here, boys and girls, is nothing short of the George Bush Rosetta Stone!

Sure, the *New York Times* didn't publish the whole list. They only teased us with a dozen or so titles and a general description of the rest. But that general description came through the filter of the *New York Times*, the most respected newspaper in the world of the '90s. If that doesn't make it golden information, it's at least really shiny information.

So what do we know about George Bush now that we didn't know before? Well, for one, he likes "My Sharona," a song about an old perv hot for a much younger girl. So Bush is a lech. We know that the list is heavy on boomer rock and short on R&B, a.k.a. "colored music." Based on secondary sources, we are fairly confident that there is no Elton John, although we are still awaiting confirmation. There is evidently only one female artist on the list.

We are sure of this: if George weren't president he'd be an all-the-time, cowboy-hat-wearing, crying-in-his-milk, ex-alcoholic I'd-buy-your-beer but I'm-on-the-wagon-myself kind of lech. Just like he acts!

Our final conclusion: George Bush is an ex-alcoholic, racist, mostly sexist, homophobic, wannabe pedophile. This information will be very valuable to foreign governments seeking to know how George Bush will react in a crisis. He'd react like anybody you've seen on the Jerry Springer show, only in slow motion.

Now, looking at that assessment, consider this: The U.S. Justice Department and the Bush Administration, through things like the PATRIOT Act, want to know what YOU read and what music YOU listen to.

After their agents have found that out, what would their assessments of YOU look like? ■



Thursday, April 7, 1:10 p.m., 100 block Pike Street.

Officers observed the suspect, a Native American male age 25, urinating in an alleyway. He was standing by another person whom officers knew to be an active Department of Corrections supervision. The first subject admitted he had been drinking, and smelled of intoxicants. He was also found to be on active DOC supervision. Police contacted their DOC officers to advise them of the suspects' actions, and she advised that they be transported to the DOC offices for their violations. The first suspect and his friend, a transient Native American male age 37, were both transported to the DOC offices, where they were placed on a stipulated agreement and booked into King County Jail.

Friday, April 8, 2:10 p.m., Third and Yesler, Prefontaine Park.

Officers observed suspect, a 29-year old Black male transient, in Prefontaine Park. He had been trespassing from that location on 3/10/05 for one year. Officer was observing narcotic activity in the park when he saw the suspect and asked for a unit to assist him. Suspect was placed into custody without incident and was booked into King County Jail for trespass in the parks.

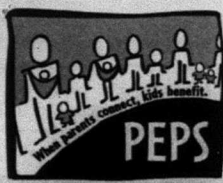
Sunday, April 10, 10:24 a.m., Victor Steinbrueck Park.

Officers observed the suspect, a transient Native American female age 25, drinking a beer with two other people in Victor Steinbrueck Park. They ran her name via the SPD computer, and information returned indicating she had two outstanding warrants. These were verified, and the suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sunday, April 10, 3:42 p.m., Pine St., Metro Tunnel Entrance.

Suspect, a homeless Black male aged 32, and another man were contacted within the bus tunnel entrance for suspicious circumstances. As officers approached, suspect made a furtive hand movement, as if putting something in his back pocket. The area is well known for being a high narcotics center where drugs are sold and used all hours of the day and night. Both men were identified and a routine computer check was done. The other man had Washington ID and the suspect claimed to have Arkansas ID, but not with him. Both men's names came back clear and they were released. Suspect was then observed by officers jaywalking at Fourth and Pine shortly after being released. Officers attempted to contact him but he began running in an attempt to prevent them from catching him. Officers caught up with him and he attempted to board a bus. He was read his rights and insisted that the name he previously gave was his real identity. Officers located a wallet hidden in his sleeve with several different fake IDs and Social Security cards bearing a different name. The suspect was transported to the Precinct for processing to determine his true identity. He was booked into King County Jail for fake IDs and false reporting.

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"I refer to these kinds of changes as the pupu platter of the ADD generation. The problem is when you create these landscapes, they all look the same."

Charles  
Birnbaum,  
Cultural Land-  
scape Foundation

## PARKS, Continued from Page 1

in the park. The plan also calls for installing pedestrian lighting, opening sightlines, adding signage at the park's hard-to-find entrances, and creating a walking or exercise loop.

Long-term recommendations — which are not yet finalized or funded — call for adding chess tables and a bocce ball court, filling in the American Legion and Piggott Corridor fountains, painting colorful murals on some of the cement walls, and putting an outdoor café at the park's main entrance at Sixth and Seneca Streets, where a series of cement blocks called the Cascade Fountain would be removed or replaced with a children's fountain.

Maryman says he and Birkholz worked on the park nomination for three years and are concerned that Halprin's legacy be taken into account in any changes the city makes.

Now 88, Halprin was among the nation's first landscape architects to synthesize the car with America's growing awareness of the habitat it was destroying. Freeway Park, says Charles Birnbaum, founder of the Washington, D.C.-based Cultural Landscape Foundation, is the first park in the world to bridge a freeway — one of many reasons Maryman and Birkholz nominated it.

"There are a lot of Halprin works across the country that have been renovated or torn down completely," Maryman says. "Trying to save our little piece of that heritage was the motivating factor" for the nomination.

What effect landmark status would have on the city's plans remains to be seen. Karen Gordon, the city's historic preservation officer, says the nomination is still awaiting review. But three parks in the city — Gas Works, Kinnear Park, and the Lincoln Park/Lincoln Reservoir on Capitol Hill — have been granted landmark status.

"My overall impression was that the people they sought input from were a very small slice of the users of Freeway Park," Maryman says.

Among those missed, "The obvious user group is the homeless folks who use the park," he says. "There's also a large contingent of office workers who use the park during the day."

Susanne Friedman, project manager for the Freeway Park Activation Project, says meeting notices were mailed to all residents in the zip code surrounding the park.

"It was an opportunity to get many points of view, which we did," says David Brewster, executive director of the nearby Town Hall auditorium and treasurer of the Freeway Park Neighborhood Association.

Brewster says he doesn't know why the group didn't seek the opinion of homeless people or any advocacy groups. But he notes that Iain Robertson, a UW landscape architecture professor and member of the park's client group, spoke for preserving Halprin's design.

"If we'd opened the client group to everyone who had an interest, it would have been unwieldy," Brewster says. "It would have been difficult to know who to include and who not to include."

Birnbaum and Maryman, however, are disappointed the group didn't take a larger view.

"Freeway Park partially functions as a neighborhood park, but that's not its sole function," Maryman says.

"Originally, it was a response to the freeway: trying to heal this gouge running through the city," he says. Today, "It reflects the re-evaluation of the cities as a whole that happened in reaction to the whole interstate system of the 1950s."

"It's the ascendancy of the idea of livability," Maryman says.

David Dillman, president of the Seattle Downtown Association and another member of the client group, says it's important to not push any group out of the park. But all the city's downtown parks face challenges, he says.

Solving them, Birnbaum says, will take a lot more than the chess tables and bocce ball courts that Project for Public Spaces wants to put in both Freeway and Occidental parks.

"I refer to these kinds of changes as the pupu platter of the ADD generation," Birnbaum says. "The problem is when you create these landscapes, they all look the same."

"No matter what you think about Freeway Park — and there's no question it has suffered," Birnbaum says, "it doesn't look like any place in the world." ■

## Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

### Take me out to the ballpark

Dear Real Change,

Tent City needs a good home.

The football stadium needs something to do during the baseball season; the baseball stadium needs something to do during the football season.

Is the solution really that complicated?

The stadiums are paid for by the taxpayers. They have restrooms, shower facilities, and lots of space for tents. We could even show movies (or educational films) on the scoreboards.

It's all a question of priorities.

Sincerely,

Randy E. Winn (not the Mariner)  
Mercer Island

### Correction

The Seattle Board of Parks Commissioners did not vote down a proposal to create a homeless garden of remembrance in Freeway Park, as reported in the March 16 issue of *Real Change*. On March 10, parks commissioners discussed the proposal and agreed that parks policy does not permit memorials in city parks. Board members later voted to approve initial changes to be made to Freeway Park.

*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



President Bush claims that as a Bible believing Christian he must oppose same-sex marriage. He voices no concerns about granting huge tax breaks to the wealthy.

Jesus, on the other hand, says nothing about homosexuality, but he often denounces the hoarding of wealth.

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**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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**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).

#### Politics

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# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

### Wednesday 4/20

Everett Community College presents Thomas Blatt, the author of *From the Ashes of Sobibor: A Story of Survival*. Mr. Blatt is a Holocaust survivor who was imprisoned at the Sobibor death camp and participated in the revolt there. Noon, Everett Community College. Info: (425) 388-9411.

### Thursday 4/21

Dr. Richard Frankel, author of *Bismarck's Shadow*, explores how famous images have been used and abused by right-wing factions seeking political gain. Dr. Frankel focuses on the Franz von Lenbach portrait of Bismarck (from the Frye's permanent collection) and the rise of a radical nationalist political style that contributed to the success of the Nazi party. 7 p.m., admission is free. Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Avenue. Info: (206) 622-9250 or [www.fryeart.org](http://www.fryeart.org).

### Friday 4/22

Wallingford Neighbors For Peace and Justice presents **Friday Night At The Meaningful Movies**. *Oil on Ice* addresses the increasing pressure from Washington to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, with a look at the region's indigenous people. A discussion follows. Admission is free, donations are appreciated. 7 p.m., 5019 Keystone Pl. Info: [wfnjp@bridgings.org](mailto:wfnjp@bridgings.org).

Art/Not Terminal Gallery presents *"We Are Not Flowers, We Are Flames,"* a photo exhibition of the Bhopal chemical disaster that struck Bhopal, India, 20 years ago. Admission is free. Runs through May 5. Subterranean room, 2045 Westlake Ave. Viewing Hours: Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m. Info: [www.tasveer.org](http://www.tasveer.org).

### Saturday 4/23

The Family Resource Center presents its 8th annual Eastside Volunteer Fair,

**"Weave Yourself Into the Community."** The event is designed to provide a "one-stop" opportunity for community members to identify volunteer situations in which they would like to participate. 11-4 p.m. at Crossroads, N.E. 8th & 156th Ave. N.E., Bellevue. Info (425) 869-6699 or [www.familyresourcecenter.org](http://www.familyresourcecenter.org).

### Sunday 4/24

UW School of Drama presents *"Execution of Justice,"* a play that chronicles the trial of Dan White, the man who killed San Francisco Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk, the first openly gay politician ever elected. Runs thru May 8th at the University of Washington. Info: [www.qcenter.washington.edu](http://www.qcenter.washington.edu) or (206) 616-7296.

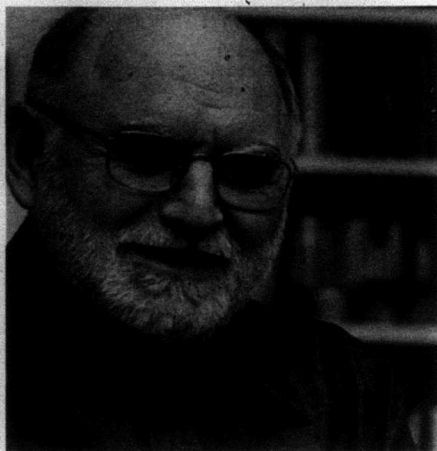
Puget Sound Network for Compassionate Communication presents "A Way to Be the Change You Wish to See in the World," an introduction to nonviolent communication. 7-9:30 p.m., admission is \$30-\$15, students \$10 - \$0, donation based. Info: (206) 382-8576 or [www.psucc.org](http://www.psucc.org).

### Tuesday 4/26

Dr. Mel Levine, director of the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning, explains his **non-labeling approach to understanding differences in learning**. He is well known for his work with children and young adults with learning, development and behavioral problems. 7 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. Info: (206) 652-4255

### Saturday 4/30

The Rainbow Bookfest, a Seattle celebration of authors of color, presents award-winning writer **Gwynne Foster**. Her latest published book is *If You Walked in My Shoes*. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Community Center, International District, 719 Eighth Avenue S. Info: [www.rainbowbookfest.com](http://www.rainbowbookfest.com).



Town Hall presents leading American journalist **Victor Navasky**, editor of *The Nation* since 1978 and now publisher and editorial director of this influential journal. He talks about his life in journalism and his new book, *A Matter of Opinion*. David Brewster of Town Hall and former editor of the *Seattle Weekly* joins in the conversation. Co-presented with University Book Store. April 25, 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave. Info: [www.townhallseattle.org](http://www.townhallseattle.org). Photo credit: Leo Sorel.

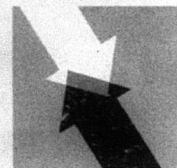
## Director's Corner



Too much of the time, governments behave in their irrational short-term interest. Smart programs get killed because they cost money now and deliver later. In an environment where public officials must do the impossible with budgets that don't work, delayed benefits don't cut it. The pay-off down the road doesn't help to get re-elected this year.

The Community Service Officer program is one example. Once upon a time, Seattle had police who could respond appropriately to someone having a mental health crisis, or maybe help get someone into drug treatment. Over the years, this small but effective program was cut again and again until it was gone. Apparently, there just wasn't the constituency there to save the CSOs from the ax. Hardly anyone seemed to even notice. One day, there just wasn't anyone left to call. This wasn't just a failure of government; this was a failure of community.

Councilmember Nick Licata's Civil Streets Initiative — which has the support of many community and social services organizations — will take a proactive approach to street crime by expanding not just the police response, but also the human services response, to concerns about public safety. While this initiative is still in the early stages, it bears close watching and our full support. This is what a just society would do. That it makes fiscal sense as well is all the better. ■



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

## Save Community Health Clinics

**Issue:** State House leaders have proposed severe cuts to one of the most important links in our state's health care safety net: community health clinics. Community health clinics are one of the smartest health care investments for the people of Washington. They serve one third of all the uninsured residents in the state — tens of thousands of children and adults. Cutting health clinics is the wrong way to balance the budget — contact your legislators today and tell them no cuts to community clinics.

**Background:** Since 2002, Washington State's health care crisis has been severely worsened by shortsighted budget cuts that have overwhelmed local hospitals, clinics, and emergency rooms, put affordable health care out of reach for tens of thousands of children and working people, and driven up costs for everyone — both insured and uninsured.

If the state government doesn't change direction on health care soon, we will all pay more for health care — in higher taxes, more expensive health care, and negative impacts on our businesses, our communities, and our state's education system.

The state's health care safety net is absolutely vital to the future of affordable health care. Its primary goal is to protect children and working families who do not have health insurance. The health care safety net includes public insurance programs like Basic Health and Medicaid, hospitals and emergency rooms, and community health clinics that care for all people, regardless of their ability to pay. Undermining any one of these weakens the entire safety net.

Over the past two years, more than 99,000 new people have lost health insurance in Washington State — for a total of more than 600,000 uninsured residents statewide! The problem was created in large part by shortsighted legislative decisions to slash state-funded safety net insurance programs, including Medicaid and Basic Health. Rising health care costs and cutbacks in employer contributions to employee health insurance coverage are also major contributors. Community clinics help meet the health care needs of individuals and families who are squeezed out of other programs.

The house budget proposes a \$5 million cut to clinics — that's 22 percent of the state's contribution to community clinics but only a very small portion of the overall budget hole. Legislators should be congratulated for the steps they've taken this session to strengthen healthcare. They shouldn't undermine themselves with such a foolish cut that will only increase our costs in the long run, when people seek out emergency rooms where taxpayers ultimately pick up the cost.

**Action:** Contact your legislators and the Governor immediately and tell them to maintain the current funding level for community clinics. You can personalize and send a pre-written letter at [www.savehealthcareinwa.org](http://www.savehealthcareinwa.org), or you can reach them all with one toll-free phone call to 1-800-562-6000. Budget negotiations are underway right now and the legislative session is scheduled to end April 24, so it's important to speak up now.

## BIO-LAB, Continued from Page 1

a lab that is generating populations of anthrax or plague is not a very advisable strategy.

"We have to be sure we don't cross-contaminate our samples," says White. "We would have to move out the other samples."

"If I was looking for feathers, I wouldn't set myself up in the middle of a chicken yard."

The new lab wouldn't be alone. UW officials note that there are already 30 other level-three labs scattered around campus. Yet "this is a very substantial increase in the university's [bioresearch] activity," says oceanography professor and faculty leader G. Ross Heath.

"And it's part of the biodefense program; the pathogens being worked on wouldn't be studied by existing labs."

Heath has long had a territorial stake in the preferred location of the biocontainment lab — it's a vacant lot that was once slated for development into a centralized home for the College of Oceans and Fisheries. He says his colleagues are "very concerned" by the proposal. "If this site is taken for any use, it limits the future development of our college."

Regardless, he says, bioresearch planners' failure to involve faculty and community members was a big failure.

"There could have been input at a very early stage. They claim that [the grant] was just preliminary, but the way the proposal was being defended made it clear that it was not."

In the wake of the public outcry, UW president Mark Emmert has set up a working group to reconsider the plan. The feds are still considering the proposal; they'll respond sometime this summer. If they provide the money, the university must find an additional \$35 million to complete the building. ■

## [Resource]

More on the lab at the following web sites: <http://depts.washington.edu/rb13/index.html>  
<http://nbioterrorlab.com/>

## RC Hero

Jordana Aziz, Vendor # 8650

"Pangea" is the name given to the super-continent that existed on Earth 200 to 300 million years ago. Lesser-known but certainly of comparable historical significance, Pangea is also the name of the youngest vendor in *Real Change* history. At 13 months and with her own honorary badge, Pangea even has feline vendor Sid Vicious beat out by nearly a decade. While you won't find her photo under "P" in the *World Book* (not yet, anyway), you will find her outside the Queen Anne Larry's Market, the downtown Nordstrom, or the Seattle Center on a sunny day, selling papers with her mom.

Jordana Aziz met her husband, Larry, through *Real Change*. "He was a vendor and I bought a paper from him. It gave us a few minutes to talk," says Jordana. "*Real Change* brought us together."

After becoming pregnant with Pangea, Jordana began selling the paper herself as a way of earning some extra income. Homeless the whole time she was pregnant, Jordana says, "I wanted to stay with Larry, so I wasn't able to utilize the shelters. We could afford motels during the first part of the month on his income, but we would run out and end up on the streets by the end."

This was not an easy time for Jordana, but she persevered. "Through *Real Change*," she says, "I met people, found resources, got a place and got our lives heading in the right direction."

While the financial benefits are certainly important, Jordana also appreciates the emotional support and relationships that she has built through her work as a vendor. "When you get to talk to people, they realize you're doing everything you can to stay afloat," says Jordana. "You find out that a lot of

people really care."

After Pangea was born in March of 2004, Jordana continued her work as a vendor. "Some people think it's great that I'm out there and doing what I need to do to support our family," says Jordana. "Other people think I shouldn't be out here with my baby. But I'm doing legal, safe, happy, healthy, fun things to make ends meet."

Adapting to her new dual role as mother and vendor, Jordana has always put her baby first. Too much cold or rain keeps her inside without a second thought, and she has taken on a nomadic strategy of paper sales, giving Pangea the room she needs to play and grow.

"I think it's the best kind of work there is for me right now," says Jordana. "We're outside. We get to stop and play. We go to the Seattle Center and play in the water. I just have my badge on the whole time, and we sell the paper as we go."

Jordana's favorite thing about being a vendor is this opportunity to bond with her child. "It's something that we can do together," she says, "Pangea likes to get out, and it's our way of exploring different places and getting what we need — a fulfilling life."

Jordana came to Seattle shortly after graduating from college a few years ago. She had plans to go to graduate school and was accepted into a program in Environmental Science and Fisheries. Falling in love, becoming pregnant, and eventually becoming homeless, though, Jordana was presented with a new set of priorities.

Despite her recent struggles, she still sees graduate school in her near future, perhaps when Pangea is a little older. "She is teaching me more than any graduate school could anyway," Jordana says, "More about the simple pleasures in life."

—Erin Anderson



"Some people think I shouldn't be out here with my baby. But I'm doing legal, safe, happy, healthy, fun things to make ends meet."

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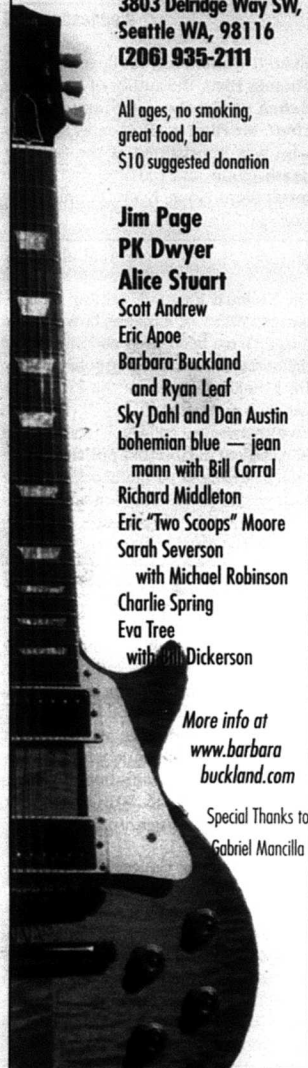
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