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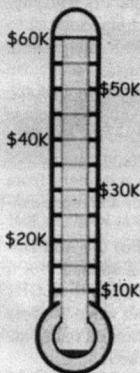
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MAY 4-10, 2005

We Need Love

This May, *Real Change* kicks off our Summer Fund Drive. Over the next two months, we need to raise \$60,000 in reader donations to keep on track for 2005. If you value *Real Change* as an important community asset, here's your chance to help. See Director's Corner on page 11 for more information.



Teamwork

**Prosperity Partnership wants
public money, tax reform for
jobs**

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Writer

Seattle is forever on the verge of being a world-class city, our civic leaders tell us. It's always just a matter of paying for a new museum, stadium, or lab — or giving away a hefty tax break.

The latest idea is even bigger. It's called a regional "cluster," a new model where industry competitors in aerospace, biotech, and trade, to name a few, will cooperate throughout the Puget Sound region to land business and create more jobs — backed, of course, by tax dollars.

That's what the Puget Sound Regional Council has in mind. Next week, the council — a Seattle-based consortium of cities, counties and state agencies — will debut a draft plan for what it calls the Prosperity Partnership, an ambitious, four-county effort to create 100,000 jobs and five world-class industry clusters by 2010.

One idea is to coordinate and market the goods of Seattle's eco-friendly builders, manufacturers, and clean-energy producers under the brand "Cascadia Green."

See **PROSPERITY**, Page 10



LIKE 41 PERCENT OF PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES NATIONWIDE, WALDENE PILINSKI'S WAS PRECIPITATED BY HER MEDICAL BILLS. PHOTO BY ANDREA LEE.

From Hospital to Poorhouse

**Each year, 1.5 million Americans declare bankruptcy because of
insurmountable medical bills**

By **JADE INGMIRE**
Contributing Writer

Waldene Pilinski's warm, coral-walled home is rich with vivid plants, the snores of two sleeping dogs, and the serene hum of a fish tank. It's also crammed with shelves full of books on alternative medicine.

Her interest is understandable.

A former pharmacy technician, Pilinski had an investment in the medical realm for more than two decades. But in 1998, her medical interests turned from professional to personal.

That was the year she was diagnosed with multiple medical conditions that eventually caused her to be fired, without a severance package, from her 14-year tenure in the pharmacy department at Virginia Mason Medical Center.

Pilinski remembers "feeling like my body isn't strong enough to hold itself up, like I could just fall over and go to sleep." She speaks of aching all the time, as if she had constantly just completed a run or workout.

The combined downspiral of illness and joblessness eventually caused her to declare bankruptcy, bracketing Pilinski with the 41 percent of people who declared bankruptcy because of insurmountable medical bills in 2001, according to a Feb. 2 article in the policy journal *Health Affairs*.

The same survey found that the average debtor was a 41-year old woman with some college. Pilinski, 41, with certificates from Seattle Central and North Seattle Community College, fits the bill perfectly. And Pilinski couldn't pay the bills — that is, the whopping medical bills that accrued after her ability to earn a living deteriorated.

When she was employed, Pilinski says, she was "just like any single woman. I'd go out to eat four times a week. I'd go out with friends to movies, health clubs, go on vacations."

But after being diagnosed with fibromyalgia — a condition causing aches in soft tissues and ligaments, ruptured discs in her back, and Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome (nocturnal alertness and daytime sleepiness) — all of that changed.

"At first [the medical diagnosis] all sounded like a bunch of bullshit," she says. "But now I know it's real because it happened to me."

As a result of tardies related to her sleep disorders, the woman described by co-workers in a 1999 peer review as "a great help to have around" and "always willing to do extra" was fired in 2000. She had been diagnosed in her employer's own hospital.

"It was so ironic," says Pilinski.

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EQUALITY DENIED

Ed Murray on how party discipline killed the anti-discrimination bill

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CODE YELLOW

Response times in dispute for mentally ill

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Health care initiative for artists leads way for self-employed

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NO RECOVERY

Absence of choices exist when patients are too poor to rate a bed.

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SHUT OUT

Press freedom defender Lucy Dalglish on what the government doesn't want you to know

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Equality? Maybe next year

How party discipline killed the Anti-Discrimination bill

By Rep. ED MURRAY
Guest Writer

Today in our state it is perfectly legal if someone is fired because of his or her sexual orientation or denied housing if they are gay or lesbian.

This is a fact that for many of us seems unbelievable, but for our gay or lesbian friends is far too real. Many who hear this statement may wonder how it's possible, given Washington's strong anti-discrimination laws. In fact, more than 80 percent of Washingtonians believe that it's illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation.

Sadly, this isn't the case. Washington currently has no law which ensures gay or lesbian citizens are treated fairly.

Legislation has been introduced for the last 30 years, with myself the prime sponsor of the bill since 1995, to add the term "sexual orientation" to our state's anti-discrimination law. Unfortunately, it has yet to pass the legislature.

In the 30 years of debate over this fundamental question of equality, much has been said about what this law is or isn't.

The legislation is not about quotas or affirmative action. It doesn't affect small businesses. It is not about a group of Americans seeking special privileges. It is absolutely not about marriage.

This legislation is about Americans, our neighbors, who work hard, pay their taxes, and contribute to their communities. It is about our economy because tolerance and respect creates a business climate that attracts new companies and great employees.

Ultimately, this legislation is about sending a message to the entire state that discrimination in any form is wrong.

As the longest serving of four openly gay legislators in Washington, the fight for this legislation has been deeply hurtful at times. When this issue was debated in the 1990s, the tone of those debates was anything but civil. To be gay and lesbian was to be equated with pedophilia or other criminal behavior.

We have made progress, though. In this last session, the state House passed the Anti-Discrimination bill by the largest margin ever. The bill was also brought to a vote before the full Senate. This is the first time ever in the bill's 30-year history that the Senate took a vote on it. While it did fall one vote short of passing, it is an accomplishment that a vote was taken at all.

Obviously, I am extremely disappointed that equality for everyone is not yet a reality in Washington. But I take some comfort in how far we got, and I am encouraged by the outpouring of support from people across the state.

Looking to the future, I am confident we will pass this legislation. We know that the people of Washington don't tolerate discrimination. This year it came down to one vote. I know we will get that one vote someday.

This legislation isn't a partisan issue. The vote that was taken in the House demonstrated that. In addition to the 55 Democrats, six House Republicans crossed the aisle and voted their conscience.

It is clear that there is a diversity of opinions within both parties on this

issue. I laud House Republicans in allowing this diversity to be expressed in the votes by these moderate Republicans.

Over in the State Senate, Democrats also faced a similar diversity of opinion and two Senate Democrats voted their conscience and opposed the measure. As disappointing as their votes were, it was fair that they were able to break party ranks on an issue they felt so strongly about.

Senate Republicans demonstrated no such courtesy. Republican leadership in the Senate did not permit a single one of their members who supported the Anti-Discrimination bill to vote in favor of it. With such a slim Democratic majority in the Senate, we won't be able to succeed without some Republican support. Our challenge is to change hearts and minds. But Senate Republican leadership should not stop their moderate members from voting their conscience and representing their districts.

The recent defeat of the Anti-Discrimination bill was a setback but it will not stop us. We all in the LGBT community were upset when the vote happened. But we shouldn't stay angry; we need to take action.

I will not stop fighting for the equal rights of everyone in our state. I know many of my colleagues and other supporters from around the state will not stop either. The people of Washington want fairness and I believe we will get there soon. As my colleague and friend, Rep. Jim Moeller, said, "There will be another spring, and there will be another vote." ■

As the longest serving of four openly gay legislators in Washington, the fight for this legislation has been deeply hurtful at times. When this issue was debated in the 1990s, the tone of those debates was anything but civil. To be gay and lesbian was to be equated with pedophilia or other criminal behavior.

Rep. Ed Murray (D-Seattle) is a state legislator from the 43rd district, and chairs the House Transportation Committee.



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.

On the Web at
<http://www.realchangenews.org>
Email realchange@speakeasy.org
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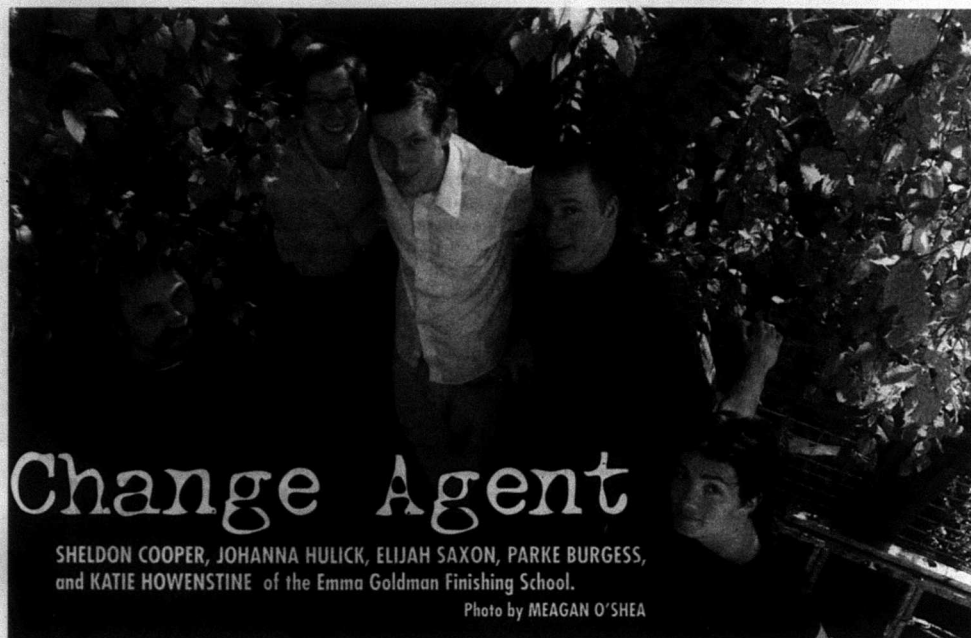
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Change Agent

SHELDON COOPER, JOHANNA HULICK, ELIJAH SAXON, PARKE BURGESS,
and KATIE HOWENSTINE of the Emma Goldman Finishing School.

Photo by MEAGAN O'SHEA

The Emma Goldman Finishing School sits on a quiet street in Beacon Hill. Not a school at all, the EGFS is actually an "intentional community" engaged in the painstaking work of changing society. Composed of nine members, the household is dedicated to the principles of egalitarianism, nonviolence, ecology, simplicity, and community living.

These folks go beyond the usual shared meals and chores common to most collective households. The Finishing School has a complex set of guidelines for income sharing, with each person putting in some combination of money or time to the house. They are also raising money for a fund

with which they plan to start another egalitarian community in Seattle.

By radically rethinking the economic assumptions that we live under, the house is creating revolution by "building the new society within the shell of the old." Suspicious of millennialist Old-Left theories that promote a single, cataclysmic revolutionary moment, they have adopted the incremental approach to social change, or what they call "small-A anarchism." Emma Goldman would approve.

More online: www.egfs.org.

—Jess Grant

Responding Code Yellow

Officials dispute lag time's effect on mentally ill

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Writer

Some Seattle police officers are voicing their concern that their inability to call for a "Code Red" response from a local ambulance provider may endanger those who are mentally ill, not to mention officers themselves.

This was not the case in the past, according to Officer Bob Peth, Community Policing Team officer for King Sector (Pioneer Square, Chinatown, SODO). Officers used to contact a dispatcher and request an ambulance through American Medical Response (AMR) if they felt one was needed, says

Peth. If the situation appeared to be escalating, an officer could ask the dispatcher to request the ambulance to step it up — in enforcement terminology, to go "Code Red" — using lights and sirens.

But now? "There are really only two options available for officers," says Peth.

The first, he notes, is to call for an ambulance that will respond "Code Yellow," without lights or sirens. The second? "To try to keep the situation in hand until they [AMR] get there," says Peth.

Peth says there is "a pretty high frequency" of someone who could be mentally ill becoming violent and trying to get away. Violence directed towards an officer means a situation turns from a mental health issue into a crime. "And it shouldn't be a criminal issue," he says.

Bill Hepburn, assistant chief of the Fire Department, says that over the last year, the police and fire departments have been working together closely, so that each is clear about the other's specific roles.

If a request is made for transport of a suspect for a mental health evaluation, Hepburn says there's no need to travel with red lights and sirens.

"The reality is that we're talking about minutes — maybe about five minutes," says Hepburn. "I wouldn't say there would be a significant time lag. The point is that if it's a medical emergency, then red lights and siren are used."

As for concerns about an officer's interactions with an individual that escalate from merely dealing with a mental health issue into a criminal one, Hepburn says such a decision is really

Just Heard ...

Camp Town Clampdown

Last Monday, the King County Council gave homeless encampments some good news, and then passed along some bad.

The good? The council passed 2004-0519, which requires organizations hosting the camp to give two weeks' notice to all homes and businesses within 500 feet of where the encampment sets up. A community meeting is required to take place 10 days before the encampment begins, and the encampment must not be on site for more than 92 days. No more than 100 people may reside there.

Now for the bad: The council also imposed a one-year moratorium on encampments being sited on county land.

While churches throughout the county have backed 2005-0519, church representativeness in attendance at the meeting uniformly imposed the moratorium.

—Rosette Royale

Green Light

Commercial developers won a way to build new housing more cheaply on Monday, when the City Council passed an ordinance decreasing the number of parking spaces required in new multifamily buildings from the University District to First Hill.

Some residents of those neighborhoods forecasted that finding a place to park would get tougher. But John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition opposed the legislation because, with cheaper construction methods, the pace of demolition and displacement will tick ever higher.

Councilmember Nick Licata proposed a two-year study of housing demolitions in the affected neighborhoods. Peter Steinbrueck supported him. But the rest of the council disregarded the idea, and the parking-reduction ordinance passed without the amendment.

—Adam Hyla

Spare Change

If you had an extra \$5 million, what would you spend it on?

After discovering the city has \$5 million more in real-estate excise taxes than it expected, the City Council's finance committee has proposed keeping \$2.5 million in reserve in case there are cost overruns on remodeling the city's fire stations.

The committee wants to allocate the rest of the money — which law requires must be spent on capital projects — to street improvements, along with putting \$300,000 toward a \$2.15 million expansion of the Mt. Baker Boat House.

The other projects include \$100,000 for lighting at the new hygiene center slated for Pioneer Square, \$100,000 for a pedestrian signal on Crown Hill where a boy was hit by a car, \$500,000 for signals at other intersections, \$500,000 for cameras that the city would use to capture and ticket cars that run red lights, and \$1 million for street maintenance and arterial paving.

The full City Council could vote on the allocation as soon as Monday.

—Cydney Gillis



Photo by Sean Ellington

Avant-Garde

Arts community to take care of its own with health-care initiative

By JADE INGMIRE
Contributing Writer

Ah, Seattle. Vibrant cultural metropolis of indie music, eclectic art shows, and open-mic poetry. Here in the city and in the state beyond, Washingtonians enjoy the benefits of a rich artistic, musical, and literary heritage.

But what if Kurt Cobain had abandoned Nirvana and become a construction worker in order to provide medical insurance for his wife and daughter? What if Jimi Hendrix had put down his guitar and joined a union to become part of an affordable health care plan? Or if poet Theodore Roethke abandoned writing to become a medically insured electrician?

It may sound ludicrous, but according to artistic director Frances McCue at the Richard Hugo House, this has been the case for several known artists within the literary arts center she helps run.

In an email, McCue describes the cost of such losses as "staggering" not only to the artist, but to society.

"We all lose cultural capital when

artists take jobs just for medical benefits," said McClure. "Health care is an urgent need for people working in the arts. Without access to medical benefits, many artists take up other jobs that keep them from doing their artistic work."

Now, a national initiative is being launched to provide medical insurance to artists through a pilot project known as the Washington Artists Health Insurance Project (WAHIP). The project is designed to evaluate the health care needs of artists and writers, with the ultimate goal of meeting them through a national health insurance initiative.

Components of this project include: creating a panel of experts on health care, workers' benefits, insurance and the arts to give input; conducting research regarding the artist population and insurance in Washington state; and ultimately formulating medical insurance plans and programs for artists, along with prospective sponsors and financial backing to implement these plans.

The project, initiated on a national level by a group called Leveraging

Investments in Creativity (LINC), partnered with Artists Trust, an artists advocacy organization, has now entered the research phase of the project, namely a survey conducted by the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University. This and other research will be examined during a one-day forum this summer. Information from the forum will provide the basis for a model of state-provided artist's insurance.

Though backed by several organizations, this artistic project is still on the drawing board, according to Barbara Courtney of Artists Trust.

"There is no product yet," she says. "Basically what we are trying to do is formulate solutions to artists getting health care."

Those without an artistic bone in their body but who are still in need of health insurance shouldn't despair, says Courtney.

"Policymakers are using artists as a litmus test for insuring self-employed people. This initiative for artists could go on to become the model for medical insurance for all self-employed people." ■

Policymakers are using artists as a litmus test for insuring self-employed people. This initiative for artists could go on to become the model for medical insurance for all self-employed people.

Short Takes

John Kerry returns

He may have lost the presidential race. But Democrat John Kerry is trying to make good on his campaign promise that "help is on the way."

The Massachusetts Senator was in Seattle Monday to rally support for a bill that would provide universal health care to all children living at the federal poverty level — currently \$15,670 for a family of three.

Kerry introduced the Kids Come First Act (S. 114) in January and is currently "going around the media" by pitching it directly to supporters in Seattle and other key cities: Under the bill and its House companion, H.R. 1668, the federal government would take over providing Medicaid and other state coverage to low-income children.

That, Kerry told a packed Town Hall audience of 750, would relieve the strapped budgets of both families and states while providing coverage for 11 million children — 160,000 of them in Washington — who have no health insurance today. Children would be enrolled automatically at day care, school, or on their first visit to a doctor.

Regular care, Kerry said, would prevent ailments that can hurt a child's ability to learn — and earn later in life — such as untreated earaches that can cause deafness or a "lazy eye" that can go blind.

Kerry would fund the \$11 billion bill by canceling the next round of President Bush's proposed tax cuts, which would go to people with incomes of \$300,000 or more.

It may take years — and a new Administration — to pass the bill, Kerry said. But "Nowhere in the New Testament did I hear Jesus suggest that you ought to cut taxes for the wealthy and take it out of the hides of children."

Christy Margelli, director of Washington for Health Care, a lobbying project of the Service Em-

ployees International Union, says the media depicts the tax cuts as a done deal when they're not.

"Taking it out to the people on a grassroots level is an excellent way of getting by that mentality," Margelli says. "We could fund this if we wanted to."

For more information on Kids First, go to www.johnkerry.com.

—Cydney Gillis

Into Africa

A three-week-old student group is challenging University of Washington administrators to make sure they're not inadvertently supporting acts of genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The Save Darfur Coalition of UW was put together after a student activist's leafletting on campus drummed up a group of willing supporters. Ben Weintraub, a freshman from Portland, Oregon, was one of them. Weintraub had resolved not to be silent in the face of genocide after a high-school class on Rwanda. He says the coalition began looking to one victory at Harvard, where administrators announced they would divest from PetroChina, a foreign company doing business with the vast central African country's rulers.

The group drafted a letter to UW President Mark Emmert and the Board of Regents stating that "...the University has a moral obligation to send a clear message to the Sudanese regime and the corporations who fund the Genocide; if you do business with Genocide we won't do business with you." It calls for Emmert "to publicly state that the University of Washington will not invest in any corporation that conducts business with the Sudanese government for as long as Sudan is in violation of international rules of human rights." Two hundred

and forty-eight members of the campus community have signed on. The letter is available at the group's web site: highlyrefined.net/darfur/.

The UW accounting office is in the "very preliminary" stage of disclosing financial ties to Sudan, says University spokesperson Steven Goldsmith. "We're trying to figure out who monitors these investments," he says.

The Save Darfur Coalition is preparing to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 6, and seeking to build alliances with other campus groups, like the Black Student Union.

—Adam Hyla

Dried Up

Safe swimming holes this summer will skew toward the whiter, older, more middle-class parts of town, say Southeast Seattle parents and activists trying to reopen a lifeguard station at Pritchard Beach.

The most southerly swimming beach on the shore of Lake Washington, Pritchard has been without a professional lifesaver since last summer, when city funding ran dry for it and the eastern shore of Green Lake. East Green Lake will be getting its lifeguard back this year.

Southeast resident Pat Manuele notes that according to the Parks Department, from 1983 to 2000, Pritchard had the highest rate of

rescue in the city — meaning, lifeguards were more necessary there than anywhere else.

And lifeguard or no, she says, people will still use Pritchard Beach. She says parents drop their children off for "ersatz child care" before going to work. The nearest guarded beach is two miles north at Seward Park.

"I don't care if they think they've closed the beach," she says. "To the community, it's a beach."

Green Lake, by contrast, has two lifeguarded beaches on either side. Manuele notes that Southeast Seattle, according to the 2000 census, has more households with children — and nearly 85 percent of them are children of color — than the neighborhoods surrounding the north-end lake.

The neighbors have gained the support of city councilmembers David Della, Richard McIver, Nick Licata, and Richard Conlin for restoring these funds. They'll get their chance this week, as the council begins reappropriating some \$1.2 million in city funds left over from 2004.

—Adam Hyla



WARNING: SWIMMERS, MOVE NORTH. PHOTO BY MEAGAN O'SHEA.

Going Without

Shortchanged by Medicaid, doctors refuse surgery essential to the poor

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

"I need surgery real bad and my doctor is trying to fight for me, but no hospitals will do it — not the University of Washington, and not Swedish or Providence."

Charlotte Snowden, homeless

Charlotte Snowden winces as she sits down at a table. Though she hasn't eaten all day, she refuses food. She's just gotten bad news from her doctor and is in too much pain to bother.

Both of Snowden's hip bones are literally dissolving, a condition the 54-year-old has suffered two years. The bad news is that, despite her doctor's referrals to orthopedic surgeons at the University of Washington and other facilities, each one has refused to perform the bilateral hip replacement she needs.

That's because Charlotte Snowden has two important strikes against her: She's on medical assistance, and she's homeless.

"I can't have my hip surgery because they want money and they won't take medical coupons," Snowden says of the state Medicaid program.

Medicaid reimburses fees at such low rates that more than 40 percent of the state's doctors no longer accept Medicaid patients, according to a limited survey done by the Washington State Medical Association.

Snowden is also covered by Medicare, the federal health program for senior citizens. Though it pays more, her doctor at Harborview Medical Center — Pat Fleet — still says no one will take her case.

That includes the UW Medical Center, which Snowden says refused to even look at her X-rays.

"I need surgery real bad and my doctor is trying to fight for me," Snowden says, "but no hospitals will do it — not the University of Washington, and not Swedish or Providence."

Fleet explains that Harborview, the county's public hospital, doesn't perform what is considered elective hip or knee replacements in its orthopedic department, which is reserved for trauma cases such as crushed pelvises.

Both Harborview and the UW are short-staffed, Fleet says, because the state can't pay orthopedic surgeons what they can get in private practice.

"Orthopedics in Seattle is a very tight guild," Fleet says. "They only take people who are well insured. The state doesn't pay enough money for the procedure for them to develop any sustaining interest in doing it."

Jim Stevenson, communications director for the state's Medical Assistance Administration, says Medicaid currently reimburses \$821 for a single hip replacement. Medicare pays \$1,331.

Both are a far cry from the "base price" of \$3,321 quoted by Dr. Edward Farrar, president of the 300-member Washington State Orthopedic Association.

None of the prices include anesthesiology, recovery time, or medications. While Medicaid would pay about \$1,200 for a double hip replacement, Cassie Sauer, director of advocacy for the Washington State Hospital Association, says that amount barely covers the cost of the hip device itself, let alone the surgery.

The low reimbursement rate, however, doesn't explain why the publicly funded UW Medical Center would turn Fleet down. Spokeswoman Tina Mankowski says she can't discuss the case without a release from Snowden, whose homelessness makes her hard to reach.

That, Farrar notes, could be another reason no surgeons will take Snowden: It would be difficult to follow up with her and ensure a safe recovery without infection — a high risk, particularly with bilateral surgery.

The overhead of a running a doctor's office, Farrar says, eats up about 45 percent of a doctor's revenue. That makes it possible to break even at Medicare's reimbursement rates.

But, at the 25 percent Medicaid pays, Farrar says the numbers are so low it's possible they violate federal regulations, which stipulate the state reimburse at sufficient rates to guarantee enough doctors will perform services for Medicaid patients.

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Democracy Now!

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Shut Out

A free press has been in jeopardy since 9/11, says reporters' defender Lucy Dalglish

By SEAN REID
Contributing Writer

When journalists are shut out by government or face the menace of a lawsuit, you'll almost certainly find Lucy Dalglish running to their side. As executive director for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Dalglish offers legal assistance and spreads the word about injustices laid upon the fourth estate. A reporter herself, in addition to being a media lawyer, she has earned high honors from the Society of Professional Journalists for her defense of the press. Dalglish spoke to *Real Change* about the threats to securing public information and unprecedented legal challenges to reporters' rights.

Real Change: Tell me a little about your organization.

Lucy Dalglish: To the extent that someone worries about press freedom in the United States, I suppose that's us. We were founded in 1970 by a group of journalists in Washington and New York who were very concerned about actions the Nixon Administration was taking to identify and subpoena reporters to find out who their confidential sources were.

Since that time we have evolved into a full-service legal defense and advocacy organization for journalists who are working in the U.S. We talk about the state of information-gathering in the post-9/11 environment. We talk about the government's propensity these days to subpoena reporters to find out their confidential sources.

RC: What do you think the state of press freedom is compared to say a year ago?

Dalglish: I think it has loosened up in a few areas. I think we're getting more information from a couple of agencies. In general, the number of reporters

being subpoenaed to reveal their confidential sources in federal court right now exceeds 30. That is unprecedented. We've never seen anything like this.

The big change in the last year: all of a sudden we've gone from worrying about the government keeping secrets and keeping information secret that used to be public, to worrying about reporters protecting their sources and reporters going to jail. Last year, I didn't worry all that much about keeping reporters out of jail. This year I'm worrying about it every day.

RC: Do you think this is a result of the whole Valerie Plame incident?

Dalglish: The Plame incident is one of those cases; it's one of the newer cases. The Wen Ho Lee case is an older case. But Plame is definitely the case right now where there is the most imminent threat of a reporter going to jail.

RC: Do you think there is more of a risk of being subpoenaed if you're a newspaper reporter or a broadcast journalist?

Dalglish: That doesn't really seem to matter. The difference is, are you covering issues having to do with national security or issues having to do with highly controversial court cases? Those are the types of reporters who seem to be subpoenaed most often, by the government and by private litigants. There is one type of case where former government employees, such as Stephen Hatfield, who was apparently a suspect in the anthrax investigation, and Wen Ho Lee, who pled guilty to one felony in connection with the Los Alamos nuclear secrets issue, brought privacy act cases. Those are lawsuits that can be brought by federal employees because someone in the government released information in their personnel file in violation of federal law. So they bring a civil

lawsuit against the government.

But to collect damages, they have to find out who the leaker was. Now the only way, the courts have been saying, to identify who the leaker was is for a reporter to tell you. So we're getting those criminal cases where prosecutors are trying to go after reporters and we've got this other type of case where civil litigants who are suing the government are trying to find out confidential sources.

RC: On one side, there are people trying to seek justice for whatever reason. And on the other side is the freedom of the reporter to inform the public while having a relationship with their sources.

Dalglish: You're right, there is a tension there. What the government always argues is that they have a right to compel testimony from anybody. And that anybody can be called to testify before a grand jury. Journalists argue that just as lawyers, doctors, and priests have privilege not to testify, then so should journalists. Because if you require journalists to identify confidential sources, their sources are going to dry up.

RC: Why is it that the relationship of a journalist to her source doesn't get the same respect as a priest's to his parishioner?

Dalglish: For one thing, the media is not licensed in this country. We can identify who is a doctor, who is a lawyer. Anybody can become a journalist. One



All of a sudden we've gone from worrying about the government keeping secrets and keeping information secret that used to be public, to worrying about reporters protecting their sources and reporters going to jail.

[Event]

Lucy Dalglish will be the featured speaker at the Society of Professional Journalists' regional conference on May 7. For more information, go to www.spjwash.org.

[Resource]

Visit Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press website at www.rcfp.org. A 24-hour legal defense hotline is available for journalists and media lawyers: 1-800-336-4243.

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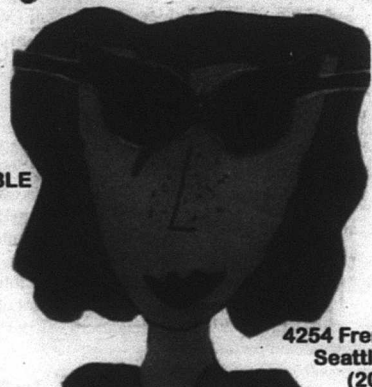
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DALGLISH, Cont. from prev. page

argument is that courts are very unwilling to recognize a privilege that may be interpreted broadly. And — some people just don't like the media.

RC: Bloggers are now getting access to the White House and trying to establish that they can get the confidentiality privilege between their sources. Do you think that is hurting the cause?

DalGLISH: Well, I think some bloggers are absolutely journalists. People who collect information and collect factual information and do something to it editorially and turn it into a story and publish it to an audience: those are journalists.

But yes, there are a number of judges out there who have been very leery of conveying a right to bloggers, because they think that anybody can start a blog and they can't distinguish between who's a journalist and who's not. I don't think it's that tough.

RC: Besides these lawsuits, what other dangers are you seeing that are threatening the freedom of the press in the United States?

DalGLISH: Well, secret courts. We got kicked out of a hearing this morning in D.C., brought by a sort of whistleblower by the name of Sibel Edmonds. We've seen a lot of judges closing hearings lately without following procedures that the Supreme Court requires. They're just ignoring what the Supreme Court says they're supposed to do, and it's making me crazy. But getting a federal judge to do something — even if you tell them what the law is, that doesn't mean they're always going to do it. So I think we will continue to see legal action in some of these cases where the media, once they find out about a secret case, will move to intervene and open the proceeding up to the public.

RC: Is media consolidation threatening freedom of the press?

DalGLISH: I have to say that some of these big media companies have been spending an enormous amount of money trying to open courts, trying to keep journalists out of jail. This is an area where I don't think media consolidation has much impact. I gotta tell you that NBC, Universal, Viacom, Hearst — all these big companies are spending a ton of money advocating for the First Amendment rights of their employees. That is just not something I worry about on a daily basis.

RC: Has anyone come up to you and brought their concerns as a journalist?

DalGLISH: It happens everywhere I go: people being told they can't have records that they have always had access to, because it's sensitive Homeland Security information. Or being kicked out of meetings, or kicked out of trials and court proceedings that have always been open. Every day.

RC: Last month, President Bush told journalists not to expect more openness from the White House because of security reasons. Do you think the administration is getting more secretive and harder to work with?

DalGLISH: Yes. Short answer, I think we just need to let the public know what's going on and trust that voters will eventually catch on that they're not getting enough information to make educated decisions at the ballot box. I for one am trying to make sure journalists report these issues so that the public knows what they're not getting.

Openness is not a partisan issue, for the most part. You have some Republican administrations that have been relatively open and you have some Democratic ones that have been relatively closed. However, this particular Republican administration is one of the most closed-off in history. My guess is that it really couldn't be worse.

RC: Do you think future White Houses will think this is a good act to follow?

DalGLISH: Oh, I think they'll try to, yeah. I think they're seeing that it's a successful technique.

RC: How can an ordinary citizen concerned with a free press effect any sort of change?

DalGLISH: Let your elected officials know that the Freedom of Information Act is important to you, that state open records and open meetings laws are very important to you. When they close a local hearing in your federal or state courthouse, complain about it. You are a taxpayer, and you deserve to know how your public officials are spending your money. ■

Twiggyesque

I cry when my sister
tells me why she's fat,
why our little sister's chubby,
why so many of us binge
and purge throughout the day
so we can be "Barbiesque"
feel we are as beautiful
as frail doe-eyed models
who really need a sandwich,
who don't represent us,
the common woman anyway,
because she's a freak of nature
at six foot three and 130,
because putting women on pedestals
sells more slinky lingerie, wedding gowns,
and little black strappy dresses
until time calls for plastic numbers:
breast lifts, tummy tucks, liposuctions,
permanent lipstick sheens
with sunscreen for day,
followed by night cream
religiously before bed
for lotion alcoholics who need their fix:
every day, every minute of the hour,
glossy, retouched, airbrushed, stretched
zine models litter our capitalistic
scene on billboards, busses, and
grocery store check-out counters
so a few make a fortune off
feeding women low self-esteem
and we buy Lean Cuisine.

—ANGIE TRUDELL VASQUEZ

Untitled

Go under a bridge.
Alleys, sidewalks are our choice.
Alternative? Tents.

—LAURIE CROW



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Islands of Discord

Crash attempts to defy the gravity of the race miasma by giving us a more intimate view of those caught in its grasp, and almost succeeds.

Crash
Directed by Paul Haggis
Rated R, 100min.

Review by **LESTER GRAY**
Contributing Writer

Negotiating a gauntlet of clichés, stereotypes, and almost as many producers as there are cast members, writer/director Paul Haggis still manages to bring some freshness to the topic of race in the United States. He offers not so much new insights, but rather a keener look at old ones. In the press notes, he invokes the hackneyed director's disclaimer by saying, "This film is not about race, it's about fear of people." To which I say: "Yo Paul, stuff the lofty bit, this is about race. Trust me."

Crash takes place during a 36-hour period in Los Angeles, during which the lives of its culturally diverse characters collide in a city where cars are synonymous with mobility, hence the title of the film.

While these interethnic bouts feature adversaries from the full rainbow of race, center stage is reserved for the unrelenting tension between the police and the African-American community, as it is peculiar to southern California. This latter conflict, a real-life epic in which Black drivers, using the requisite mode of transportation, often feel like prey, has served up such infamous moments in Americana as the Rodney King incident and by extension the L.A. Riots. It is through the film's portrayal of a DWB (Driving While Black) citation that it touches on the raw nerve of all raw nerves in race relations, providing the most poignant and agonizing moments in the film.

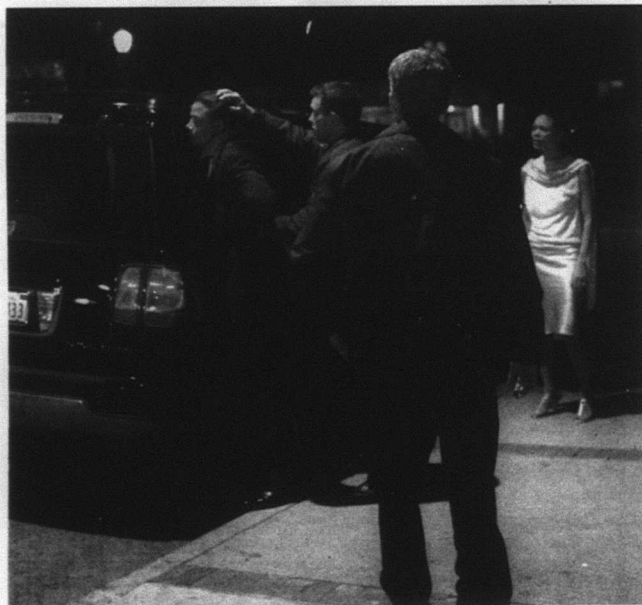
But this scene is the crown jewel among lesser gems, all threaded together on a rather tenuous narrative casting a compassionate view on the people who commit some rather heinous transgressions. It takes more than a little contrivance and the solid contributions of a cast anchored by Don Cheadle, Sandra Bullock, and Thandie Newton.

In addition to America's marquee match-up, we have supporting run-ins between Latinos, Chinese, and Persians. Haggis wants us to see these confrontations as a universal dysfunction, but this concept never gels; and as art imitates life, we are just left with islands of discord.

Crash is a courageous and laudable undertaking. It attempts to defy the gravity of the race miasma by giving us a more intimate view of those caught in its grasp, and almost succeeds when it loses faith in itself and the audience, and tries to force-feed us with a noble conclusion. ■

Cameron Thayer (Terence Dashon Howard), Officer Ryan (Matt Dillon), and Christine Thayer (Thandie Newton) in *Crash*.

Photo by Lorey Sebastian.



Give Me the Spine

Make me Jesus with a knack for crafting crosses from Popsicle sticks, miniature mangers from red-tipped matches, butterfly crucifixions from toothpicks, give me the spine to stand upright against the great wave of just one more time bearing down on the beach where I was shipwrecked at birth, show me the horizon to row toward on this raft of shattered promise.

—DAVID THORNBRUGH

Chomsky for the Rest of Us

9/11
by **Noam Chomsky**
Seven Stories Press, 2002
Paperback, 140 pages, \$8.95

Review by **JOE MARTIN**
Contributing Writer

In 1970, a fellow linguist had this to say about Noam Chomsky: "It is undoubtedly for his political writings and his political activity that Chomsky is now most famous, especially in the United States." Early in his academic career, Chomsky had distinguished himself as a revolutionary theorist in the field of linguistic studies. By 1955 — at age 27 — he was hired by MIT.

"I settled then into a comfortable academic life," says Chomsky, "with very satisfying work, security, young kids growing up, everything that one could ask from a personal standpoint. The question I had to face was whether to become actively engaged in protest against the [Vietnam] war, that is, engaged beyond signing petitions, sending money, and other peripheral contributions. I knew very well that once I set forth along that path, there would be no end."

Indeed, he has since engaged in an unceasing critique of the ubiquitous injustices and violence that plague our time. Numerous books, articles, interviews, and personal appearances have made him a public intellectual unique in his persistent engagement with people everywhere. Chomsky is a thinker of towering erudition whose command of history, political theory, and logistical information is breathtaking.

Many of his books are scholarly affairs with ample footnotes. His name also appears on a raft of slimmer publications comprised of interviews given around the world. Chomsky is admittedly more comfortable with his weightier productions because the multifarious footnotes substantiate his analysis. However, he allows the transcription and distribution of his talks and interviews. These can be more accessible to readers who are intimidated by the meatier tomes. 9/11

is one such shorter work comprised mostly of interviews.

Much of the commentary in this little book was made in the weeks following September 11, 2001. Throughout, Chomsky deplors all violence, including the carnage of the 9/11 atrocity.

Yet at a time when this country was still reeling from its first major assault since the War of 1812, Chomsky characteristically called for a calm, honest assessment of these terrible events, and the social and political conditions that lay behind such heinous acts. Many — especially elected federal officials — were unmoved by his articulate, informed remonstrations.

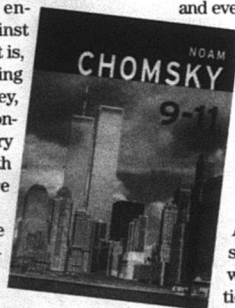
Plainly, the United States is the terrorist state nonpareil. The ferocious terrorism of the powerful has, on a global scale, always been practiced perfunctorily and with impunity, with America leading the pack. As dastardly as the 9/11 conflagration was, comparable

and even greater acts of horror have been visited upon myriad nations and peoples by the U.S., directly or indirectly. Today, the only change is that "the guns are now aimed in a different direction, something quite new in the history of Europe and its offshoots."

Chomsky's assertion that America is "a leading terrorist state" is not an idle one: "It is worth remembering — particularly since it has been so uniformly suppressed — that

the U.S. is the only country that was condemned for international terrorism by the World Court and that rejected a Security Council resolution calling on states to observe international law." This condemnation came as a result of the vicious Contra war in Nicaragua. The present policy of preemptive war and the continued flaunting of international legal stipulations will not foster pacific or just resolutions in the Middle East, central Asia, or anywhere else.

Throughout this slim volume, Chomsky pleads for political sanity, adherence to international law, and for people of conscience to recognize the desperate need for understanding and honesty over the hypocrisy manifested in the duplicitous propaganda of the rich and powerful. ■



Adventures
in Irony

© Dr. Wes Browning



On Embracing Polychronism

Let's talk about Edward T. Hall, why white people can't dance, and panhandling! Why does panhandling seem wrong to so many of us? I'm going to go out on a limb here and propose that it feels wrong for the same reason

that moving more than the feet to music feels wrong to straight white men over 50: our parents never taught us to do things like that.

My parents said there's a time and place for everything, and they were very specific. Edward T. Hall, a cultural anthropologist, came up with a pair of words to describe the results of these kinds of teachings. He identifies two broad categories of styles of cultures, the monochronic and polychronic, arising from two ways of relating to time. White American / northern European cultures express monochronic styles. The rest of the world, pre-McDonalds, has generally been polychronic.

Monochronic styles require one-thing-at-a-time. Polychronic styles allow and expect lots of things-at-once. In monochronic cultures, there's only one time. Your watch has your time. In polychronic cultures they may not even have a word for time. Talking about when something will or should happen may be wildly inappropriate.

How can this affect our panhandling behavior? (Note: By panhandling behavior we are talking not just about panhandlers but also panhandlees!) Let's say you're white, your name is Chris, you're walking to work, and as you pass the McDonalds another white person holds up a cardboard sign saying "Hungry/homeless, please help" and sticks out a styrofoam cup. What might you think, Chris?

Well, if you're like me, Chris, you think, "Hey, this is my walking time!" You think, "I didn't come out here to give my money away. I do that at the appropriately designated times. I give to United Way at the office. I pay my taxes every April." You think, "This person isn't supposed to get money now. They haven't just completed work. That's

the time you're supposed to get money. Don't they know that?"

It's just like when white people first saw Chuck Berry dancing on a stage. "You can't move that body part like that now! You have to wait until you're in bed with a woman!" So over the years it has been necessary for African American musicians to slowly, step by step, introduce white people to more and more movement, a project that began with the Twist and gradually proceeded through the Funky Chicken and Disco, culminating to date in whatever it is that Britney Spears does.

Now let's imagine someone from an unspecified polychronic culture. Still walking to work, let's say his name is Rongo Diego Yoko M!fumi, and another representative of his same culture appears, panhandling. Same sign, same styrofoam cup. What does Rongo think?

The answer can vary from one polychronic culture to another — Mr. Hall's categories are very broad — but here are some possibilities:

"Sure, why not? My money came from everyone and so it belongs to everyone." Or, "I'm sure that if this fine person had money, and I needed some, he/she would help me. People have always helped me." "Maybe we could go have coffee and sandwiches somewhere and talk. I can go to work tomorrow." "I feel like dancing." "Whoa, look at all those stiff white people staring at us."

To Chris, we work and THEN we deserve pay. To Rongo, we can always be deserving. "Work? Sure we do that. We give, we take, we work, we rest. What's the problem?"

Do you know for a fact that the panhandler HASN'T worked? What if the panhandler worked years for an exploitative employer who paid him less than what his work was worth. Now you have extra change in your pocket. Could that mean you've been paid too much lately? You could help to even things out. Or you could hurry to work, letting the universe run by itself, like a clock that never has to be wound, even though there are people stuck in it. ■



Thursday, Jan. 27, 4:33 a.m., I-5 offramp to Pine St. Washington State Patrol requested an area check of I-5 southbound near the Pine Street overpass on a report of a person who jumped from the overpass and landed in the HOV lane. Officers arrived at the overpass and viewed Seattle Fire working on a female down below in the I-5 southbound exit lane. They made contact with the victim, a transient white female aged 43, who stated that she was trying to climb around a steel grate fence that blocks access to the underneath area of the Pine Street overpass when she fell. The area is clearly posted with "No Trespassing" signs. Victim broke her right leg and ankle, her left wrist, and possibly fractured her jaw; she had lost several teeth at the scene. She was transported to Harborview Medical Center for treatment. Her injuries were consistent with a 30-foot fall, but were not considered life-threatening. She was not charged with a crime.

Sunday, Feb. 27, 9:05 a.m., Third Ave. McDonald's Restaurant. Complainant, the lobby captain at the McDonald's on Third Ave. stated that the suspect, a transient Black male aged 45, entered the restaurant and asked to use the restroom. Complainant denied this request because the suspect was not a customer. Complainant stated that the suspect then walked outside, removed the lid from a standing garbage can, and defecated into it. When questioned, the suspect stated that he had told the complainant that he had a medical condition, and asked to use the restroom, but his request was denied. He stated that he could not hold it anymore, and had to relieve himself. Suspect was identified, admonished against returning to McDonald's, and released.

Thursday, March 24, 5:45 p.m., Fourth and Virginia. Complainant, a transient Black female aged 50, came to the precinct desk to report that she has been in a domestic relationship with the suspect for about five years, and that she is currently staying in a domestic violence shelter because of prior disturbances with him. On the above date and time, she was walking on the street when the suspect, a transient Black male aged 40, approached her from behind and grabbed her by the arm. When she turned around he stated that it would be easy for him to kill her, and that he would kill her entire family. He stated that he was going to California for two weeks, and that when he got back she had better be packed and ready to move back in with him. He stated that if she didn't, he would kill her and hang her from a lamppost — he then walked away. Victim believes he is able and ready to carry out these threats. She was given a card with her case number, and a brochure on domestic violence.

Streetwatch's "recent hits" (for lack of a better term) were collected by Jessica Gregg. Emma Quinn returns with a new batch of dispatches next week.

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.

CODE YELLOW, Continued from Page 3

up to the responding officer and dependent on police policy. But, if officers need help, Hepburn adds, "they can call the Fire Department for assistance."

At the core of this issue is a contract entered into by the city on behalf of the Fire Department and AMR. The agreement states: "Except when authorized [by the Fire Department], the Contractor [AMR] shall not provide rapid initial response or advance life support to medical emergencies within the City."

Repeated calls to speak to an AMR official who handles the contract for the city were unreturned.

Hepburn says the Fire Department's

contract with AMR, which was renegotiated two years ago, brought the issue of responding to mental health calls to the forefront.

Ambulance transport of mentally unstable individuals allows those individuals to be moved with the use of soft restraints. Peth — who notes that officers don't have soft restraints at their disposal — describes them as straps of cotton webbing, three inches wide, that wrap around wrists and ankles, which can then be tied to a stretcher or backboard. Peth says police policy is not to use police cruisers to transport those needing mental health evaluations. "So that's why we need to get them in restraints," he says.

AMR carries soft restraints. And Hepburn says that within a week, he believes that the Fire Department should soon be fully equipped with them as well.

Peth says that a police directive is in the works which may help to make any potential interactions between police and the mentally ill safer for all involved.

"The main concern is about danger to the person who needs help, and danger to us," asserts Peth. "That's what the whole issue is about." ■

To My Dialysis Machine

For three long hours
You pump away,
Dear B. Braun
Cleansing my blood

Your tubes
Red with my blood
Curve and writhe
Going and coming

You even take the pressure
of my blood—
Now too high: you warn!
Now too low: you warn again!
Thank you!
My dear caring robot
Do you have a soul?
Do you have a heart?
I hope so.

God bless you anyway—
I owe you
my life.

—FRANK LANGOR

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SURGERY, Continued from Page 5

In Snowden's case, however, the bigger issue could be liability.

"To have a successful outcome requires a relationship between the physician and patient," says Farrar, an employee of Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee. "We do our part, but the patient must be reliable and show up for follow-up appointments."

"You have to be careful," he adds. "The risk of infection can be very significant. When someone shows up and we're concerned they'll go back to sleep in unwieldy places or positions, we're concerned."

"A year later," Farrar says, "you could get a letter saying you're being sued because of an infection."

Regardless, Snowden and her doctor say it's ridiculous she can't get the surgery she so desperately needs.

"I feel like it's not fair," Snowden says. "My medical coupons and Medicare should pay for the operation."

"Rich people with money — they just want to kill the poor of us," Snowden says. "A person can always get better and move up in life — if they're given half a chance." ■

it's a wonderful day in the neighborhood

where am i?

sounds of hammers and saws
echo the pride of home dwellers
crafting their living spaces

fragrant tomatoes and zucchinis
testify
(while being tenderly transplanted)
that those residents enjoy blessing the earth

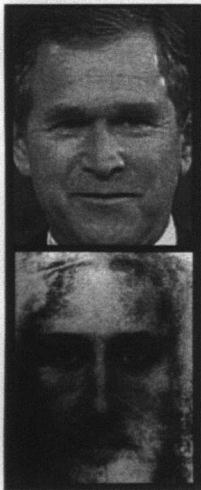
and healthy cats and dogs
(plus a few inquisitive kittens)
approvingly walk territory
busy with daily routine

as i look around me
bar-b-que grills seem to whisper
stay for dinner

where am i?

a sub-division in the City of Roses
they call Dignity Village

—JO MEERS



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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Jupiter

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Pangs at the Pump

Dear Real Change,

I just paid over \$25 to fill my tank and had to delay grocery shopping until the end of the month.

My strategy was to put off buying gas until prices drop. Hah, no chance of that now after seeing George Bush hand in hand with the Saudi Arabian

prince. It makes me so mad to see these rich guys raking it in while working people pay, and pay.

I think it's high time to express outrage with a loud and prolonged protest. Who'll join me in a picket of a gas station or nearby refinery?

Sincerely,
Henry Noble
Seattle

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

CLASSIFIED

Events

THE HARMONY CONCERT. Maestro Sri Chinmoy performs on traditional & exotic instruments from around the world. May 21, 8 p.m., Hec Edmundson, UW. Free. Tickets required. (206) 522-2700 or www.harmonyconcert.org

Volunteer

Volunteer Chore Services: Want to make a difference? Help low-income elders and adults living with disabilities remain independent by vol-

unteering 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

Politics

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Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Thursday, 5/5

Dr. Donald Kennedy speaks on "Science, Security, and Secrecy". The editor-in-chief of *Science*, Dr. Kennedy, is a renowned scholar, scientist, and academic leader. He discusses the challenge of advancing human knowledge when science is constrained by secrecy and concern with national security. Admission free, ticket required. 6-7:30 p.m., room 110, Kane Hall, University of Washington. For tickets email theforum@u.washington.edu or call (206)897-1460.

Friday 5/6

Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice presents Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies. In *Blue Vinyl*, a "toxic comedy," documentary filmmaker Judith Helfand explores the issues surrounding vinyl siding after her parents install it on their Long Island home. *Blue Vinyl* poses the important question, "Is it possible to make products that never hurt anyone at any point in their life cycle?" 7 p.m., 5019 Keystone Pl. Information: www.bluevinyl.org or groups.msn.com/wallingfordneighbors.

Saturday 5/7

The Not In Our Name Project presents "The War Is Over, If You Want." This free concert features the music of The Capillaries, Carla Torgerson, and others. Also appearing is the Art of Resistance performing the "Not In Our Name Statement of Conscience." Admission is free. 3 p.m., Mural Amphitheatre, Seattle Center. Information: www.notinourname-seattle.net.

Sunday 5/8

COR Northwest Family Development Center presents **"Confronting Our Fears: How Do We Live in an Anxious World?"** with congressman and psychiatrist Jim McDermott, M.D. and psychologist Rabbi Ted Falcon, Ph.D. How did the optimism and confidence we experienced a few short years ago

give way to the anxiety and the sense of catastrophe we feel in our thinking and acting today? General admission is \$30, \$15 students and veterans. 7-9:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 8th Avenue. Information: Bob Fahrer, (425)450-4364.

Monday 5/9

KPLU and KUOW present Scott Simon, the voice of NPR's Weekend Edition. He discusses his new book, *Pretty Birds*, set in 1992 Sarajevo, which follows a teenage girl who, while trying to make a life in a war zone, stumbles into a new profession as a sniper. Admission is free. 7p.m., Kane Hall, University of Washington. Information: (206)634-3400.

Jack Hamann discusses his book, *On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II*, which describes how Italian POWs imprisoned in Seattle received preferential treatment over African-American GIs, a situation further complicated by an apparent murder. Admission is free. 4:50 p.m., University of Washington School of Law, Room 133. Information: (206)634-3400 or www.bookstore.washington.edu.

The Seattle Children's Festival invites children and other adventurous people to experience **world-class performances from all over the world.** Scheduled to perform are Labyrinth Circle, Akhira, Lelavision, Fredric Galinano, El Retablo, and many others. Information: www.seattleinternational.org or (206)684-7338.

Tuesday 5/10

Seattle Arts and Lectures presents "Women Writers of the Arab World," featuring among others Suheir Hamad. Born in a refugee camp, Ms. Hamad moved to New York as a child. She is best known for her performance in the Tony award-winning Def Poetry Jam. 7:30 p.m., Benaroya Hall. Information: www.lectures.org/arabwomen.html.

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center presents "Cancer and Culture," a public forum exploring how certain cancers are uniquely dangerous to the minority community and what can be done to help families and communities at risk. 7 p.m., Town Hall, 8111 Eighth Ave. Info: www.townhallseattle.org or (206)625-4255.

Seattle Town Hall presents "Before the Fallout" with Diana Preston. Ms. Preston, an Oxford-educated historian, chronicles the discoveries and decisions, from the discovery of radium by Marie Curie to the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima, which forever changed our lives. Thursday, May 12, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. Info: www.townhallseattle.org or (206)625-4255.

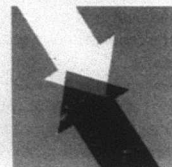
Director's Corner



A couple of summers ago, when we were working on our strategic plan, we asked our friends what they most wanted to see. They said that Seattle needs an activist alternative weekly that's broad enough to attract readers but focused on the issues we care about. It was a stretch, but we rose to the occasion. Now we need you to do the same.

Real Change is a true people's newspaper. We cover the news in Seattle from the bottom up and offer a place to go for those who want to know what's happening at the grassroots. We exist at the crossroads of a progressive community, offering news, opinion, and a guide to action. Last month, 249 poor and homeless people earned an income selling this newspaper. We provide opportunity for work to those who need it most. These vendors found a community of *Real Change* readers who care about their success. Together, we have made Seattle a more caring community.

Weekly publication brings many benefits to both our vendors and our readers, but we can't sustain it without increased reader support. Last year, more than 1,000 of our readers took that next step and became financial supporters as well. If you believe in what we're doing, we need you to help make our work possible with a contribution that you can be proud of. *Real Change* needs to raise \$60,000 during our Summer Fund Drive to keep our paper on track and growing. With your help, we know we can meet our goal. Please use the coupon on page 12 to make your gift today.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

A Better Way for Human Service Funding

Issue: The Regional Policy Committee (RPC), an intergovernmental group concerned with regional needs, is considering a 2005 ballot initiative that would increase human services funding — but only for veterans. County service providers and advocates are planning a 2006 initiative that would provide a stable revenue source for human services, benefiting families, children, and seniors, as well as veterans. If the RPC puts a veterans' services initiative on the ballot this year, there won't be a 2006 initiative because voters aren't likely to say yes twice. In making a small difference, we'll lose the opportunity to make a big difference.

Background: Four years ago, the future of human services funding in King County looked bleak. The county was running out of money, and Executive Ron Sims said that there wasn't anything left to pay for services that the county wasn't required to fund. He gave the County Council a budget that included big cuts in human services — and told us that we could expect the county to stop funding human services altogether very soon.

Human services groups got worried and then got organized. They prevented big cuts but it wasn't a long-term solution. Currently, 71 cents of every county dollar goes to criminal justice. Within five years there won't be anything left for human services. And the more we fail to provide help with human needs, the more we'll need to spend on jails. Education, mental health services, addiction counseling, job training, safe shelter, and housing all keep people from criminal acts.

In King County, 8,300 people are homeless each night. Thirteen of every 14 women who seek shelter from domestic violence are turned away for lack of space. Working parents often have to make an unconscionable choice between taking a job or leaving a child in a precarious situation because they can't find affordable child care. A narrowly focused, politically charged initiative for just one type of service won't fix the problem.

Action: Contact Regional Policy Committee members (especially the chair) and your own County Council member to let them know that you support a dedicated fund source for regional human services, not an overly narrow veteran's initiative. Tell them: Don't play politics with people's lives. Veterans and their families deserve a complete solution. And non-veterans also need stable funding for community health and human services. Please don't support a veterans-only ballot initiative.

County Council members

District 2: bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov
District 1: carolyn.edmonds@metrokc.gov
District 11: jane.hague@metrokc.gov
District 12: david.irons@metrokc.gov
District 3: kathy.lambert@metrokc.gov
District 13: julia.patterson@metrokc.gov

Seattle City Council

tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov
jan.drago@seattle.gov

Suburban Cities

Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis (253)931-3041
Enumclaw Mayor John Wise (360)825-3591
Renton Mayor Kathy Kaolker-Wheeler (425)430-6400
Newcastle City Councilmember Sonny Putter (425)649-4444

Messages from constituents are the most meaningful. If your county councilmember is not listed above, visit www.metrokc.gov or call 296-1000 to find out who represents you and send a message to that person.



BANKRUPTCY, Continued from Page 1

"Here I was working in the health care field, and I couldn't even get support for my own medical conditions."

Pilinski says that besides her tardies, her work performance was in no way inhibited by her illness.

"In fact, up until the time I was discharged, my evaluation was up in the 90th percentile," she says.

"It wasn't my ethics or work habits. They just couldn't understand medical conditions. I was told I needed to show up for work or I would get discharged."

Pilinski also alluded to discomfort at work.

"It hurt to sit or stand for long period of time," she says. "I'd be so fatigued if I wasn't moving around, I'd fall asleep." Her back hurt from stooping and rising to shelve drugs all day, and she furnished her car with blankets, pillows, and a kitchen timer, so she could sleep at lunch and on breaks.

Also, despite its awareness of Pilinski's disability, Virginia Mason did not apply the more lenient criteria for disabled employees when evaluating her performance, but continued to hold her to standards for healthy people.

Pilinski says she never asked for more clemency because of her illness — only a later starting time to reduce her fatigue. But shortly after, her start time was changed from 9 a.m. to 8:30. Things just got worse and worse, she says, until eventually she was terminated.

When she lost her job, Pilinski says, "It devastated me. I mean, this is what I had been doing 10 hours a day, 40 hours a week."

After Pilinski was fired, she had to go on welfare to survive. Her medical problems persisted. And she still has not been able to get another job.

Before her termination, Pilinski was making about \$33,000 a year. After she was fired, her welfare check

was \$330 a month — barely half her rent. She began living on credit cards, borrowing from relatives and friends, and doing occasional odd jobs to make ends meet. After about three years of trying to stay on top of things, she filed for bankruptcy.

"It's put me through some really major depression," she says. "I couldn't pay my phone bill, my electric bill. Ev-

[Resource]

Cover the Uninsured Week runs through May 8. Check out a list of local and regional events, including a lunch-time discussion on health care and a presentation on free and low-cost services, at www.cover-theuninsured-week.org.

everything was always about to get turned off. There was no buying a latte, not a two-dollar taco. It sounds trivial, but it was a real shock."

Like many others in the same boat, Pilinski had health insurance at the onset of her illness. After she lost her job, her insurance lapsed after a six-month grace period. To combat her medical needs, Pilinski went on Medicaid — insurance for financially needy people — which she describes as the best insurance she ever had because it covered prescriptions, dental, and vision care.

Then, her disabled state qualified her for Social Security's disability program (SSDI). No longer financially needy enough for Medicaid, Pilinski was put on Medicare, which does not cover prescriptions. According to Pilinski, her monthly income from Social Security is \$1,200. "It sounds like a lot," said Pilinski. "But when you have \$800 in prescriptions it's hard. If I just bought pills with the money, I wouldn't have money for food or rent. It's all a big catch-22."

Despite battling depression and anxiety, Pilinski says she's finally coming to terms.

"There's days when I have lots of energy and I feel good," she says. "I have all these great plans, where I want to go back to work and buy a house. And then other days I think: I'm having a hard time feeding my dogs, how could I go to work?" ■

PROSPERITY, Continued from Page 1

Other than that, the small workgroups behind four other clusters — aerospace, biotech, information technology, and trade — are pushing a familiar agenda, with one notable exception.

The Prosperity Partnership, which includes 100 companies and nonprofits, has gingerly endorsed a corporate and personal income tax to replace the state's much-maligned business-and-occupation tax, which takes taxes whether a company makes money or not.

Clusters, however, aren't a panacea for economic growth — least of all in distressed areas where residents don't have the education or skills to get high-tech jobs. In 26 separate proposals, participants call for investing more public dollars in education and providing help to keep startup companies alive.

But participants such as Paul Sommers, a Seattle University business professor who's sat in on some of the meetings since the Prosperity Partnership started in July 2004, says a top-down goal of 100,000 jobs is political — and untrackable.

One work team in the aerospace cluster, for instance, has proposed hiring a lobbyist and finding \$1.5 million to coordinate the efforts of small- to medium-sized aerospace manufacturers.

"If you put three to four companies together, they can go after bigger contracts or a bigger chunk of Boeing or Airbus business," Sommers says. "They can do a module or a system instead of one part."

That's a reasonable idea, he says. But there are no metrics for measuring the success of any particular initiative — or tracking the overall goal of creating 100,000 jobs that the Puget Sound Regional Council set down for the private sector.

"How does this track into getting all these extra jobs?" Sommers asks.

"No one knows."

Bob Drewel, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council, contends that the partnership's members pushed for and got a transportation package in the Legislature — something that's very trackable in terms of jobs created or lost.

"I've seen a lot of good attempts picked apart so nothing gets started," Drewel says. "If we continue to wait on the perfect, we'll lose the opportunity to do some good."

"I've seen a lot of good attempts picked apart so nothing gets started. If we continue to wait on the perfect, we'll lose the opportunity to do some good."

Bob Drewel, Exec. Dir., PSRC

City Councilmember Richard Conlin, a member of the environment and alternate energy cluster group, says Seattle's "green" industry sector — which employs about 2,500 people today — stands to benefit by selling export goods and services overseas.

Conlin participated in two work groups. One wants to organize and market green building, renewable energy, and recycled products under "Cascadia Green" or another brand. Another team plans to build green showcase projects at public facilities and create a self-sustaining investment pool of \$5 million to \$10 million that would be used to fund future projects.

Like the other clusters, the environmental group wants to create an "idea factory" or research center to develop or commercialize new technologies. That includes a proposed Center for Coatings and Materials in Energy Systems (\$3 million for the first two years) and a \$37.4 million Urban Waters marine research center already planned in Tacoma.

The center would focus, in part, on the effects of aquaculture, invasive species, and urban runoff.

There are "hungry small-business people who've been waiting for this breakthrough for a long time," Conlin says. "We have the cachet of a green city that we haven't cashed in on." ■

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Every month, more than 250 homeless and vulnerably housed people earn the money they need while they help build a world where people aren't homeless anymore.

Our weekly urban newspaper brings you community voices you don't hear elsewhere and quality reporting on the issues you care about. We offer the information you need to take action and make a difference.

Real Change is reader supported. Last year, more than 800 people helped make Real Change a better paper by supporting the work they believe in.

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