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MAY 25-JUN. 1, 2005

The Brink of Bust

Boomtown Café ponders new directions

By **JADE INGMIRE**
Contributing Writer

It's like if Starbucks was selling lattes for four dollars, when it really cost them five, they wouldn't be as profitable. Everyone loves Starbucks, but they still wouldn't profit."

That's how interim executive director Dan Lieberman explains the financial deficit at Pioneer Square's Boomtown Café, a unique restaurant that lets customers pay below the cost of food, or exchange labor for a meal.

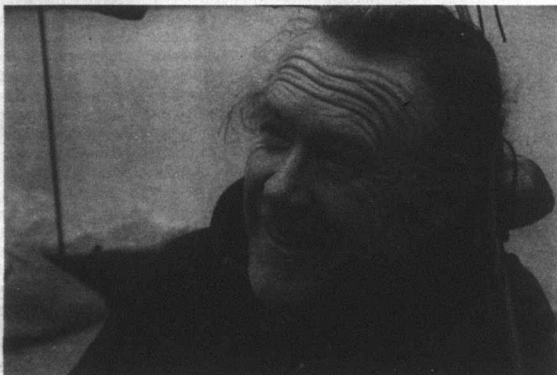
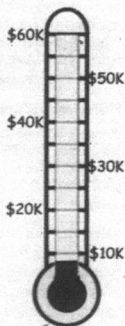
Despite the café's popularity — it sells 500 meals per day at its location on Third Avenue across from the King County Courthouse — the culinary catch-22 of higher food costs and increased customers, along with dried-up donation sources, is putting Boomtown on the brink of bust. But Lieberman says he and his employees won't let that happen.

The most volatile economic markets right now are food and energy. At a glance, Boomtown doesn't seem short on either. In the words of volunteer coordinator and former customer Doug Mckeehan, "It's loud. It's raucous. One of the reasons I wanted to get involved

See **BOOMTOWN**, Page 12

Heat It Up

The Real Change May-June Summer Fund Drive is in its 4th week and the news is good and bad. We're hearing from lots of new donors. That's good. We're only at \$8,516. That's bad. Our goal to keep on track for 2005 is \$60,000. Please show your support. See Director's Corner on page 11 for more information.



Knutson is at the center of a controversy over the Port's future. Photo by B.J. Bullert.

Old Salt

Port, Fisherman struggle over waterfront future

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Writer

Some old news is about to hit the fan at the Port of Seattle — and Peter Knutson is the man with his hand on the switch.

Knutson is a fisherman who's been fighting the Port of Seattle for four years to save Fishermen's Terminal, which he says the Port planned to sell until he and other fishermen raised a ruckus.

Founded in 1913, the Ballard docks and its 369 slips are the last of a kind — the last working fishing terminal in a major American city. But, in 2001, with some fisheries in decline and the industry consolidating, the Port found itself with empty slips. It decided to fill them by allowing pleasure craft to start mooring at the terminal.

At the time, Knutson and other fishermen howled that condos couldn't be far behind—protests that now are the subject of "Fishermen's Terminal," a new documentary debutting May 30 at the Seattle International Film Festival.

In the film, Port Commissioner and City Council candidate Paige Miller strenuously denies any real-estate plans for Fishermen's Terminal. Later, Knutson confronts her with a signed contract showing Port staff hired a

real-estate consultant who advised redeveloping or selling the property — something Miller says she and port commissioners had no knowledge of.

Last week, to stoke the battle — and promote the film, a Port official claims — Knutson filed a zoning complaint with the City of Seattle Planning Department. In it, Knutson argues the city should enforce the Urban Maritime zone where Fishermen's Terminal sits. The city's UM zoning, he says, prohibits operating a recreational boat marina unless the Port has a conditional use permit from the city.

Port spokesman David Schafer dismisses the issue, saying the Port's legal department looked into the matter in 2001 and decided it did not need to apply for the permit.

At any given time, Schafer says, 70 pleasure boats are moored at Fishermen's Terminal compared to 268 fishing or work vessels, which are given priority. As a result, Schafer says the terminal is still a commercial operation—one that brought in an extra \$217,000 in 2004 from the higher rates that pleasure boaters pay.

With the restaurants, retailers and fish market on the terminal's upland or south side, Schafer says the facility still loses about \$1 million a year and needs the revenue.

See **SALT**, Page 12

HOUSEWORK

Housing activists argue that downtown density just don't float!

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WE THE PEOPLE

Howard Zinn's weekend history lesson.

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BEAT IT

Twenty-five more cops, comin' right at ya.

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GLOBAL VILLAGE

Tacoma pastor creates creates Int'l Tent City Day.

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SWOOSH

UW B--Ball nets a million dollar coach. Will they get their game on?

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Dense Thinking

Upzoned neighborhoods can't, by themselves, lower the cost of housing

Sacrificing the city's existing low-income housing stock does not solve our regional growth issues.

By DAVID BLOOM
Real Change Advisory Board

In our market system, we assume that increased supply of a product will lead to more competitive pricing, thereby keeping the product affordable for everyone. But housing isn't just any product. It is essential for human survival and not a matter of choice. Everybody needs it, but today in this city and across the country, not everybody can afford it. While increased demand for housing in Seattle is indeed driving up the supply, it is not simultaneously increasing affordability. The average price of a single-family house in Seattle is now well in excess of \$300,000, and average rents for one and two bedroom apartments are well beyond what is affordable to most working-class households.

It is ironic, I think, for Mayor Nickels to tout increased density as an answer to the housing affordability question. The last 30 years has seen the greatest development boom in our city's history since the turn of the 20th Century. Yet during that same time period, we have seen an explosion in the numbers of homeless people. We have also seen an increasing number of working-class households paying 50, or 60 percent of their meager incomes for housing. And we have seen a growing movement of racial minorities out of the city into the suburbs in search of affordable housing.

No amount of increased housing density is going to answer the question of where these people are going to live, especially not as long as that increased density comes at the expense of the existing supply of affordable — mostly

rental — housing. With the combined impacts of the high cost of new construction, developers' profit motive, the demand for higher-end housing, and the evaporation of government subsidies for low-income housing, changing the city's zoning laws to allow greater density is more likely to hurt our affordable housing supply than help it.

Each year we lose 500 units of decent lower-density affordable housing to demolition, making way for expensive apartments and condominiums. Another 1,000 units are sold to speculators who often raise rents above affordable levels, placing extreme financial pressures on lower-income households, often forcing them to move. In most cases these units sit on land zoned for higher density that the new owners can redevelop for higher-income uses. Consequently, housing never does "trickle down" to the poor. The Mayor's call for higher-density zoning just accelerates these trends.

We should all be concerned about sprawl, but the City of Seattle cannot control the land use policies of the suburbs. We still suffer from the old frontier mythology that the supply of land is inexhaustible. It's not. We should use it judiciously and conscientiously. While we fight the battles over density in Seattle, suburban communities should stop allowing huge residential developments of 5,000+ square foot homes on half-acre and larger lots. This is not sustainable. At the same time, sacrificing the city's existing low-income housing stock does not solve our regional growth issues. We need a regional approach to housing, transportation, commercial development, and land use throughout King,

Snohomish, and Pierce counties.

There are things we can do to allow for the kind of growth we desire, while preserving the neighborhood qualities and economic diversity we value. Things like:

- Preserve and protect our existing supply of affordable housing. It's a little like conservation in our approach to our energy needs: make the best use what we already have.

- To prevent the speculative sale of existing rental buildings, the City should give tenants the right to link up with a non-profit organization to purchase a building and preserve it for long-term affordability.

- Promote in-fill development over demolition and redevelopment. Even under existing zoning, and even with some vacant land locked up in single-family areas, we still have substantial capacity to accommodate new development that does not require tearing down existing housing.

Any movement to increase density in Seattle must be accompanied by effective preservation policies for existing housing and incentives and requirements that assure that new housing fits into the character of our neighborhoods, do not come at the expense of our existing supply, and meet our ongoing goals of a diverse and robust city that is welcoming to all people. ■

[Resource]

Check out the mayor's zoning proposals for the downtown area at www.seattle.gov/mayor/issues/centercity/. Another rezone proposal for selected neighborhoods is at www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Business_District_Strategy/index.asp.

David Bloom is head of the Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action. His remarks were adapted from an April 27 forum on Urban Density organized by the Audubon Society and the Seattle Displacement Coalition.



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.

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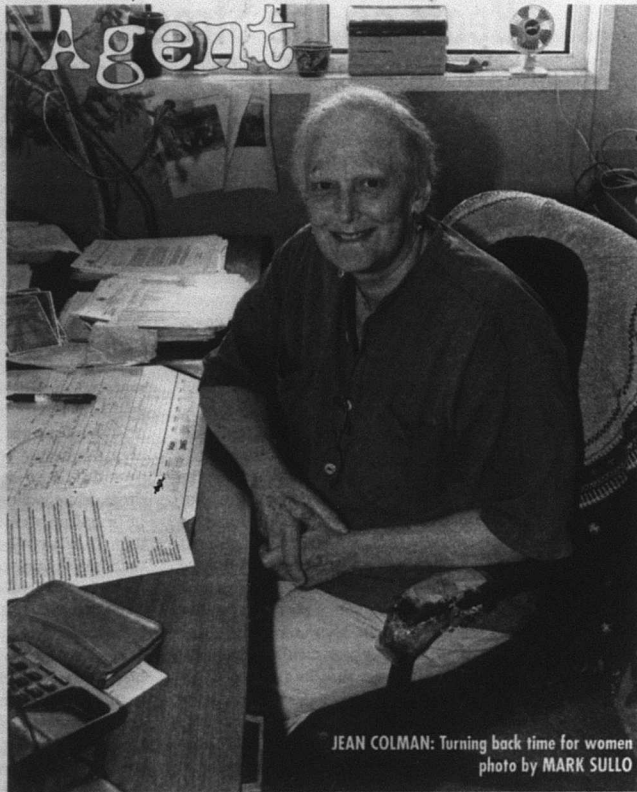
Change

Time is ticking for mothers on welfare, but the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition is helping them fight the clock. Since President Clinton's welfare reform bill in 1996, poor people can get federally funded cash benefits for only five years over the course of their lives. After that, it's off to work. Enter WROC director Jean Colman, whose organization combines personal aid with political advocacy.

Unlike current conservative quick-fix government sentiment, which encourages low-income single mothers to get married or find a menial job, Colman and her organization are thinking long-term. Besides lobbying for government-funded education and training, which Colman says are the best anti-poverty programs for women, WROC sets up community information stations where women can go and find out how to register to vote, who their legislators are, and how to contact them.

A veteran of the protest-against-policy scene since Vietnam, Colman has long switched her feisty focus to feminine issues. The reason? "Women's issues are so broad — from health care, to social justice, to the environment. If you improve women, you improve society."

—Jade Ingmire



JEAN COLMAN: Turning back time for women
photo by MARK SULLO

Just Heard ...

Ditching Plan B

Show us Plan B, or the nominee goes down. That's the stance Senators Patty Murray and Hillary Clinton took May 12 after learning a right-wing doctor at the Food & Drug Administration may have blocked over-the-counter sales of Plan B, an emergency contraceptive pill that can prevent pregnancy within 72 hours of sex.

The senators have asked the Department of Health & Human Services to investigate the matter. Until they get some answers, the two say they'll block the nomination of FDA acting director Lester Crawford, on whose watch the drug was ditched.

Washington and five other states have special programs that allow pharmacists to sell Plan B directly to women. Otherwise, it's still available by prescription. In late 2003, an FDA advisory committee voted 23 to 4 to approve direct sales of the drug nationwide. One objector was Dr. W. David Hager, a Bush Administration appointee who argued Plan B would lead to increased sexual activity among adolescent girls. In a rare move last May, the FDA blew off the vote and prevented the drug's sale.

Hager has claimed a memo he wrote to FDA officials led to the decision. Murray and Clinton want to know about that memo — and "whether the FDA is making decisions based on sound science or some sort of philosophy," says Murray spokesperson Alex Glass.

—Cydney Gillis

History Aloud

Voices of resistance from yesterday, today to be performed at SAM, May 28-29

By SEAN REID
Contributing Writer

Being taught Columbus' discovery of the Americas is pervasive memory for most people, but for progressive author/historian Howard Zinn, it remains a distorted half-truth.

As Zinn writes in *Voices of a People's History of the United States*, the history lesson tends to gloss over Columbus' less-virtuous acts — namely the subjugation, torture and deaths of Native Americans by his hand.

Giving voice to the darker, unheard-of aspects of western history will be the highlight of a series of readings from Zinn's book by local activists this weekend. Co-editor Anthony Arnove has assembled a lineup that includes photographer Subhankar Banerjee and Cindy Corrie, the mother of slain activist Rachel Corrie.

Distilling the atrocities of Columbus will be the task of Banerjee, who plans to read from Bartolomé de Las Casas, a contemporary of the explorer. Las Casas writes of Columbus' men who, upon arriving in Hispaniola, "immediately behaved like ravening wild beasts, wolves, tigers, or lions that had been starved for many days."

Banerjee finds reading from Las Casas emotional, but more so in light

of the fact that similar accounts of tribal oppression read the same over the centuries.

"The thing I found most interesting is you pick any topic... the book goes 500 years, and you see this continuity of torture, struggle and fight," says Banerjee, whose photography combines landscapes with Native American cultures and issues.

The bulk of documents in Zinn's book touches on progressive action in the growth of the U.S., from slavery to war to various presidential administrations. Throughout civil liberties are threatened, voices silenced, and freedoms stolen; but, as maudlin as all seems, Banerjee sees grace in recounting them.

From his idol, Indian writer Mahasweta Devi, he quotes, "It's the defeated who continue to live in our minds. Regimes change, but the struggle continues."

"Howard Zinn is saying the exact same thing."

Banerjee plans to follow up Las Casas with a Zinn speech, "The Problem is Civil Obedience," about civil disobedience during the Vietnam War, and from Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez's "Not In Our Son's Name," about a plea for peace in the wake of 9/11.

Perhaps the most dramatic reading of the series will come from Cindy Corrie, who will read a letter her daughter Rachel wrote from Palestine, included

See ZINN, Page 9



PHOTOGRAPHER AND ACTIVIST SUBHANKAR BANERJEE READS FROM HOWARD ZINN'S NEW BOOK THIS WEEKEND. PHOTO BY SEAN ELLINGSON.

Spare change

The Auburn City Council told panhandlers to move along on May 17, passing an ordinance forbidding the practice at intersections and on-ramps. The *South King County Journal* reports that offenders who refuse to stop can be arrested, fined as much as \$1,000, and sentenced to up to 90 days in jail.

The ordinance passed unanimously, but not without protest. David Schenberger, a homeless, disabled panhandler, told the *Journal*: "I'm not a thief. I'm not a criminal. I'm just out there trying to survive."

Back off

If South King County resident Andrew Felix can avoid getting pulled over this summer, he'll win a clear record.

Felix, stopped over 80 times by the King County Sheriff's Department in the past four years, was in court May 17 for an incident in which, he says, sheriff's deputies threw him through an auto-parts store window and then charged him with assault ("Glass Case," Feb. 23). His lawyers got county prosecutors to agree to drop all charges if the African American man avoided any encounters with the police for the next three months. Felix's defense team had sought to argue that racial profiling was a factor. The court case may end that, says attorney Paul Richmond — at least for Felix. "He's got a 'Warning: do not touch' sign on now. We can hope they won't."

—Adam Hyla

Beats on the Street

City Council considers proposals for police, human services

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Writer

Twenty-five cents will buy a shiny silver quarter. And 25 police officers linked with human services, city officials seem to agree, will buy a safer Seattle. But where, pray tell, will the silver come from to buy those officers?

That's the part of the equation the city is still trying to work out. City councilmembers will vote next week on whether or not to begin a six-week process to create a ballot measure for the November election asking for 25 new officers' positions in the police department.

A council resolution, crafted by Councilmember Nick Licata, asks Mayor Greg Nickels to supply the Council, by July 1, with his plan for how the officers will be deployed to best handle the city's safety priorities. The proposal also asks the council to initiate discussion of a potential property tax levy this November to fund the creation of partnerships between police and targeted human service priorities.

The resolution "throws support behind the mayor's plan for 25 more officers," says Councilmember Nick Licata.

Twenty-five was the magic number put forth by Mayor Nickels in early

April, when he sent legislation to the council asking for the additional enforcement. The officers are to be deployed among the city's five precincts. Adding more officers now will restore the number of officers on the force in 2003, when purse strings were tightened. The mayor estimates spending \$837,000 this year, a figure that would cover recruitment and training costs. Next year, the annual cost will likely climb to \$1.7 million.

For his own sake, fellow councilmember Richard McIver concurs that the city would be better off with more officers. But McIver, who chairs the council's budget committee, says that while he appreciates the notion, taking the issue out of a broader budgetary process is somewhat unfair. "In the budget process, we need to consider a variety of things," says McIver. To do so, McIver says he is trying to formulate a strategic agenda, with input from other councilmembers, which might be ready within a month.

Licata says that as finance chair, McIver is in the best position to come up with a strategic plan which can help councilmembers know how best to apportion funds. "I'm totally in support of what he's doing," notes Licata.

But there is a difference in the fund-

ing source Licata wants to tap. McIver, says Licata, is talking about a capital agenda, or "bricks-and-mortar" issues, while Licata says he is speaking of an operations money, dealing with personnel. "He's talking about the General Fund, but this is a ballot issue," says Licata.

A 2006 executive budget submittal is requested as part of the resolution as well, that will include a plan funding how law enforcement can support information sharing and collaboration with citizens relevant to precinct.

From comments garnered during a Crime Summit, held in late April, Licata has said that citizens in each precinct feel that to successfully address crime, police need to freely share information about how they're patrolling. They also feel police should better address human needs that give rise to crime. "Citizens in all precincts feel that the number of beat patrols need to be increased," Licata has written.

Again, McIver, with his hand on the budgetary strings, has no argument with more officers. "Yes, it would be great to have more support for the police," says McIver. But when it comes to the entire budgetary process: "Is that our highest priority?" ■

Licata has said that citizens in each precinct feel that to successfully address crime, police need to freely share information about how they're patrolling. They also feel police should better address human needs that give rise to crime.

Short Takes

Freedom of Religion

Six Somali women fired by the Seattle sausage company Oberto are being honored June 3 by A Legacy of Equality, Leadership, and Organizing (LELO) during the organization's annual fundraising dinner.

The women were fired from jobs at the Oberto factory due to conflicts over their rights to pray when their religion deemed it necessary. All six women are Muslim and must pray at certain times of the day. According to Gwynne Skinner, an attorney with Public Interest Law Group (PILG), now representing the women in a case against Oberto, the women had worked at the company for a year and a half without incident.

In November of 2003, Oberto decided to switch from a three-shift day to a two-shift day. When the workers' schedules changed, so did their break times. According to Skinner, the Somali women initiated two separate meetings with their managers to make sure they would be able to pray when they needed to. Both times, their requests were denied by then new plant manager, Ron Hacker. Hacker no longer works for Oberto, though Oberto has not said whether it is related to the case.

The shift change happened to fall during Ramadan, making the women's request that much more urgent.

Oberto has claimed that it offered the women two alternatives. One was to switch to the night shift. But, according to Skinner, there were only two openings on this shift, and those were quickly filled. The other was to switch to another department at the same factory. Yet in neither case could the women be guaranteed that their requests to pray would be granted.

Under federal law, employers have a responsibility to accommodate employees' religious practices, provided they only cause minimal disruption to work. The law also requires employers to look at each claim of religious necessity on a case-by-case basis.

The women are arguing that Oberto did neither.

The case, which has been active for over a year now, recently failed to resolve in mediation and is currently in the discovery process.

[LELO's Seeds of Resistance fundraising dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. at Seattle Central Community College. To purchase tickets, contact LELO at (206) 860-1400 x 4.]

Welfare-to-Work shifts

By July 1, the job-search services of WorkFirst, the state's eight-year-old welfare-to-work program, will consolidate offices and lay off 104 staff members — two-thirds of whom help welfare recipients find jobs.

The move, which will save \$10 million a year and affect 6,800 people statewide, will fold WorkFirst's

job-search program into WorkSource, the contracted agency that serves the rest of the state's unemployed. It will also end the year of follow-up services that WorkFirst participants currently get after they land a job, including help finding a better position.

Despite the cut, which was ordered in February by Gov. Christine Gregoire, welfare rights advocates say the move is good because it will lift the stigma WorkFirst creates by treating its job seekers separately — and with less dignity — than other job seekers.

Today, many participants in WorkFirst — a mandatory program started after the federal welfare reform of 1996 — get limited job-search services at their local welfare office. Under the new system, Jean Colman, director of Seattle's Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, says welfare recipients will be able to get actual job listings and training referral at WorkSource — without being subjected to a week-long orientation of questionable value.

"There's a very heavy emphasis on the morality of them being poor and that it's all their fault," Colman says of the WorkFirst orientation. "We've also heard they've gotten some heavy family planning messages about not getting pregnant again."

The big change, says Sandy Miller, the WorkFirst director for Employment Security, is that job seekers who currently get WorkFirst services at the welfare offices in Belltown and Capitol Hill will have to go the WorkSource office on Rainier Avenue South.

"Since WorkFirst is so punitive, we're hoping at WorkSource sites they'll be treated better — as potential workers, not just welfare recipients," Colman says.

—Cydney Gillis



Out of Our Schools

An estimated 130 high school and college students marched on three military recruiting offices in Northgate, the University District, and the Central District of Seattle on Monday, telling staff to stay out of the city's schools and calling for adequate funds for education, not war. Student organizer Emily Reilly, 24, says the disruption, which led to office closures of as long as two hours, "was a great victory to have an action lead entirely by youth, with youth of color in leadership positions. And not only calling for an end to the war in Iraq but for fundamental changes in the way our society works here." Photo by Mark Sullo.

Show of Strength

Homeless self-helper makes friends with International Tent City Day

By JESSICA KNAPP
Contributing Writer

Seattle has one. So do Kirkland, Portland, Denver, Toronto, and even Tokyo. So why doesn't Tacoma?

That's the question Rev. Hank Montgomery is asking. If all of these other cities are hosting tent cities, why can't Tacoma have one too?

Montgomery is the brains behind International Tent City Day, an event designed to simultaneously celebrate existing tent cities and protest the lack of tent cities in areas that do not have them. Observed on Sunday, May 15, the event was marked locally at Wright Park in Tacoma.

Supporters of the cause set up several small tents to demonstrate what a tent community might look like on public land. They also erected a mock graveyard with cardboard headstones for people who have died on the streets of Tacoma. Speakers shared their experiences living on the streets, and in some cases, getting off of the streets. Approximately 25 people attended the event, and nearly all were homeless.

Both the issue and its leader are surrounded by controversy in Tacoma. Pierce County is in the first year of its 10-year plan to stamp out homelessness.

Tent cities are not part of that plan.

The plan instead focuses on permanent, low-income housing for the chronically homeless — defined as having lived, unaccompanied, on the streets for more than a year, or for three or more times in a four-year period. Of the estimated 2,000 homeless people in Tacoma, 200 are said to be chronically homeless.

Mike Lonergan of the Tacoma Rescue Mission agrees with the county's strategy. "A valued goal for my organization... is to help people to become housed, healthy, safe, and no longer be homeless," he says, "not to facilitate their continued homelessness. This is fundamentally different than the practice of creating tent camps."

But activists like Montgomery say a temporary solution is just what they need while a permanent one is in the works. Florence Dahling points to the time it frequently takes to acquire low-income housing.

"Tent city for me would be a way to wait them out until I could get it," she says.

Tacoma and Pierce County are relying on their network of shelters. But many of the homeless say they are simply not adequate. Dahling points to the lack of daytime storage for belongings, which can make job interviews a challenge. Jessica Callarman, a 19-year-old

single mother who was homeless when her now 1-year-old child was born, says, "The shelters aren't an option [for everyone]... They kick you out for 30 days." Pierce County shelters limit stays to 30 consecutive nights a year.

Montgomery himself has strained relationships with many of the people in Tacoma government, which might hinder his cause. Jack Tafari of Portland's Dignity Village says, "Hank is no stranger to controversy." Of his own interactions with Montgomery, Lonergan says, "The keys to good communications and good working relationships are honesty and mutual respect. I have not experienced good communication or a good working relationship with Rev. Hank Montgomery."

Montgomery himself cites difficulty scheduling appointments and getting phone calls returned. It might be his methods that lie at the heart of the problem.

When Montgomery cannot get a meeting with an elected person through official channels, he's been known to surprise him in the hot-tub room at the local YMCA. Frustrated by what he saw as inaction on the part of the Tacoma /

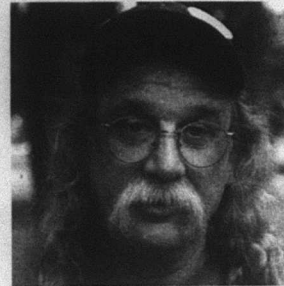
Pierce County Coalition for the Homeless, Montgomery created his own Tacoma / Pierce County Coalition of the Homeless. (The Tacoma / Pierce County Coalition for the Homeless declined to comment on Montgomery.)

He seems to have changed his tactics recently. For his coalition's most recent event, Montgomery actually filed for and received a permit from Tacoma Metro Parks. At the rally, he occasionally wandered through the crowd, reminding people to pick up their garbage. His coalition also hired their own security for the event, in an attempt to keep police away.

In the homeless community, Montgomery is largely respected as a man who is looking out for his peers. Homeless himself, Montgomery lives in a van that is always full of supplies: blankets, cans of tuna, bottled water. He parks in the same spot every night so those in need will know where to find him.

"The homeless community respects Hank because we all know that what he is trying to do is help us," Callarman says.

International Tent City Day was also celebrated in Portland, Toronto, and Osaka, Japan. ■



DOWN IN TACOMA, REV. HANK MONTGOMERY DISTURBS THE COMFORTABLE AND COMFORTS THE REST. PHOTO BY ELLIOT STOLLER.



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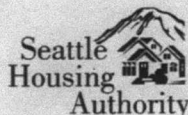
The Seattle Housing Authority is considering changes to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program to reduce costs and serve more low income households.

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The Price of Success

To sustain its big win, UW's basketball team buys a million-dollar coach

By J. JACOB EDEL
Real Change Intern

Covering the wall above the stairwell into the University of Washington's basketball offices, large banners picturing Will Conroy, Nate Robinson, and Brandon Roy illustrate how significant the basketball program has become in the past two seasons.

The emergence of a premier men's basketball team has been the biggest sun-break for an athletic department recovering from a two-year thunderstorm of misfortune. The UW athletic department is facing something close to a \$5 million budget shortfall because of a recent series of large costs, including the \$1.5 million settlement with former football coach Rick Neuheisel.

The athletic department's problems, however, don't directly affect the educational institution because there is a financial firewall between the two. Ticket sales don't fund university research; tuition doesn't pay for sports equipment. The school and the state government that supports it struggle to pay competitive teacher salaries, keep tuition affordable, and provide a quality education. Meanwhile, on the other side of the firewall, the UW athletics program is paying more for quality coaches and promising recruits.

Despite the department's budget crisis, UW Athletic Director Todd Turner recently gave the head football and basketball coaches lucrative contracts.

In March, toward the end of the basketball team's best season in decades, Turner awarded coach Lorenzo Romar a new deal that offers him a chance to earn more than \$1 million



A SIGN OF ON-COURT SUCCESS, COACH LORENZO ROMAR'S NEW \$1 MILLION CONTRACT OFFERS HIM NEARLY TWICE THE PAY OF UW'S PRESIDENT. ROMAR AND FOOTBALL COACH TYRONE WILLINGHAM ARE THE REGION'S MOST HIGHLY PAID PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. PHOTO BY KEN DEAN.

a year. Turner also hired former Notre Dame football coach Tyrone Willingham in December with a \$1 million-plus contract.

Both contracts include bonus incentives for producing successful teams that compete in the post-season by appearing in bowl games or the NCAA tournament, improving student GPAs and team graduation rates, and avoiding any violations of NCAA rules.

Turner offered the coaches such rewarding salaries because he wants the players to win and to learn.

"If [coaches] really want to earn their bonus incentives, they'll be very

supportive of their students' academic objectives," Turner says. "They're here to do a lot of things in addition to coaching, and one of them is to make sure students succeed."

The coaching transition in football is a major reason why the athletic department is \$5 million in the hole. The basketball program, however, has helped minimize the impact with two consecutive winning seasons. Accompanying the victories on the court, the Huskies basketball team's graduation rate has doubled, from 22 percent to 45 percent, since Romar took over. The graduation rate for the entire athletic department is 68 percent

and 70 percent for the whole student body, according to the 2004 Graduation Rates-Report for NCAA Division I Schools.

As a result of these gains, Romar's salary increased as he met his bonus incentives, consistently since joining the UW in 2002. The bonuses earned by such accomplishments supply the majority of Romar's income. His old contract paid him a base salary of \$200,004 but because of bonus incentives the UW paid Romar a total of \$660,004 for his first season, according to documents obtained from the UW. The following two years, the team's improvements equaled more money. He earned \$758,171 his second season and \$780,004 this year. With his new eight-year contract, however, he most likely will earn more than \$1 million next year.

According to Turner, the agreement makes Romar one of the highest paid 25 to 30 coaches nationwide. Even under his old contract, he would make more than the head coaches of top teams at Arizona and Louisville, but less than those of the other three teams in this season's Final Four.

Market Prices

Since Huskies coaches are paid solely through the revenues earned by the athletic department, unlike city officials whose salaries are supported through tax dollars, the UW, a state institution, may pay the basketball and football coaches \$1 million-plus salaries, which dwarf the incomes of Seattle's highest paid officials in comparison. The Superintendent of Seattle City Light, Seattle's top earner, may get as much as \$237,614 a year, according to the city's 2004 Salary Schedule and Compensation Plan. The mayor earns the next highest amount at \$141,649, followed by the police chief, who may earn as much as \$139,374.

Paying coaches large sums of money indicates the significance of collegiate athletics in Division I-A schools, just as the salary of the UW president signifies the importance of running the institution. Yet Romar and Willingham may earn nearly twice as much as UW president Mark Emmert, who gets a base salary of \$470,000 and up to \$120,000 in bonuses.

The amounts coaches earn, Turner says, are based on the private marketplace.

"The contracts they have are market-driven," Turner says. "We really don't control that marketplace. So if you want coaches of the highest caliber, like those guys [Romar and Willingham], you are going to pay whatever the market bears."

Romar's contract is a demonstration of gratitude for the coach's accomplishments. In his three years at

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UW, he converted a struggling program that lost 18 games in the '01-'02 season into this year's PAC-10 Tournament Champions that won 29 games. Turner says basketball revenues have been increasing as a result.

"If you include all our sources of revenue, from NCAA tournament revenue, to ticket revenue, to television revenue through the PAC-10, to concessions and donations associated with the seats in the gym, basketball is one of our two profitable sports," Turner says.

"You can sell more tickets with premier teams, you can ask more for donations that allow people to sit in the arena, and it goes back to creating a sense of value for the institution. It generates pride, enthusiasm. It makes the value of the degree, in some sense, go up, because of the reputation the university is spread through athletics."

Revenues generated from basketball and football support the other UW athletic programs. Those sports now need basketball and football to resolve the department's budget problem, or they may face elimination. Turner says no programs are being cut at this point, but acknowledges the importance of football and basketball.

"The only way we'll support the other athletic programs is if we are playoff contenders," says Turner. "As long as we're doing that, we have a good chance to be able to support the rest of the programs."

Talent Scouts

That dependence means the athletic department must invest in the interests of talented football and basketball recruits, according to Dr. Katie Baird, a UW-Tacoma economics professor who has researched the role of scholarship restrictions in collegiate football.

"You buy the stuff that will convince them to come to your institution. This means a coach with a national reputation, great training facilities, good travel arrangements, nice hotels, academic help, a new attractive stadium/arena, etc. They also, of course, spend a lot on scouting out the talent and trying to recruit it."

Along with increasing its profits, the Huskies basketball team has increased its recruiting expenses, according to Lance LaVetter, the director of the school's basketball operations. Financial documents obtained from the UW show that the single greatest expense of the men's basketball program under coach Romar has been recruiting. In Romar's first two seasons, the team spent just over \$79,000 each year in recruiting.

"We're spending a ton on recruiting this year," LaVetter says. "Why was that? We signed seven kids. When you sign that big of a class you are going to be out recruiting more. On the flip side, the previous year we were under, and next year we'll be under or we won't spend as much because we're not going to sign seven."

The athletic department hopes its highly paid coaches and their promising recruits will produce the revenues required to maintain a successful

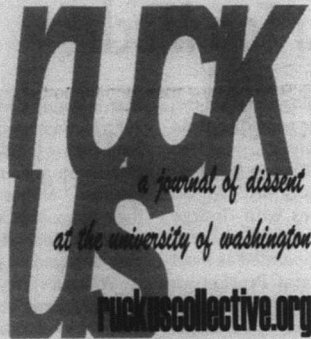
athletic department. Regardless of the budget shortfall, Baird says, the promise to pay coaches big bonuses makes sense given the system in which college athletics operates.

"The incentive to spend on coaches is because you can't spend on players," Baird says. "So you get to players by spending a lot on coaches. The best players want to go where they have the best shot of getting into the NBA or the NFL. Coaches make a difference, and their salary reflects this."

While some may think it unfair that coaching salaries exceed the university president's, Baird points out the unpaid labor supplied by players supporting an entire athletic department.

"Not being able to pay players warps the system. I'd like to see the players get more of what they earn, and if that's not possible, colleges should get out of the business of amateur sports. Of course that isn't going to happen, but that is another matter," Baird says. "I find it very problematic that their work should fund the rest of the athletic program, or even academics."

"Why should the work of 12 gifted basketball players, for example, be used to shore up a university that taxpayers won't fund? Or an athletic program that student fees could pay for?" ■



Street Talk

How much is enough?

The UW has two great sports teams, basketball and football. Each winning season generates a lot of revenue in ticket sales and televised games. The athletic department, however, pays coaches nearly 10 times as much as math professors. Is it fair for a good sports team to fuel money increases for athletics alone? How should money from college athletics be distributed?

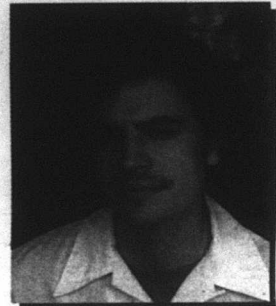


Teachers don't get paid nearly enough. I don't like the arrogance of the students playing the sports, it perpetuates the situation. It's sad...Some of the money should go towards academics.

—Erin Miller, 31, welder

A lot should go to academics. There wouldn't be an athletic department without academics. It's a strange message. Players don't make anything, it all goes to the coaches. And students pay nearly \$1,800 for tuition, three times as much as it used to be.

—Ethan Cudabuck, 28, student



I don't think it's fair for all the money to go towards athletics. All teachers should get more.

—Leah Ran, 19, office assistant/student

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True Lies

Our Man in Havana (1959)

B & W, 111 min.

Directed by Carol Reed

By LESTER GRAY

Contributing Writer

Left to right:
Burl Ives, Alec
Guinness, and
Ernie Kovacs
in *Our Man in
Havana*.



Graham Greene's enjoyable satire is set in pre-revolutionary Havana, a haven for the well-to-do, that era's "what happens here, stays here" destination.

In a story that anticipates the U.S.'s incredible bungling in Cuba, British senior sleuth Hawthorne (Noel Coward) enlists English expatriate Jim Wormald (Alec Guinness), a vacuum cleaner salesman, in an effort to establish a foothold in the "West Indies." Wormald is reluctant, but as a single father trying to support his only daughter in the increasingly affluent style to which she is accustomed, the more than ample salary seals the deal. Following a short verbal primer that includes such advanced techniques as

turning on bathroom faucets to camouflage conversations from audio bugs, Wormald's initiation is complete. He is

free to make mischief under the authority of Her Majesty's Secret Service, but what mischief to make? The nature, let alone the substance of the intelligence to be gathered, and on whom, is less than vague. His efforts at recruiting are so inept as to be slapstick.

He almost despairs, but with money speaking in one ear and his good friend (Burl Ives) in the other, he decides to get creative. He invents the information and proves a bit too good at it. His reports to London, initially a bit spare, start to show progress — so much progress as to look suspicious. But his fabrications are seductive stuff, and nobody really wants to pull back the lips on this gift horse. Examining Wormald's fictive drawings of a futuristically depicted weapons system, the Brits are ravenous. Intoxicated by the possibilities of this Buck Rogers contraption, they exclaim, "This could turn the H-bomb into a conventional weapon." The folks in London are not the only ones taken in by the smoke and mirrors, and suddenly the Caribbean outpost unwittingly becomes what it is pretending to be — a cloak-and-dagger operation.

At this point the levity gains weight, and Greene makes the point that such folly is not without serious consequences. But *Our Man in Havana* never gets preachy, and there's a good amount of fun from beginning to end.

Humor, according to writer Dawn Prince-Hughes, is "a relief response to something that scares you" but doesn't hurt or kill you. Considering that this film parodies a situation that eventually brought us within minutes of nuclear devastation, we should be rolling in the aisles. ■

Our Man in Havana runs May 27 through June 2 at the Grand Illusion, 1403 NE 50th, (206)523-3935.

Don't Protest Too Much

It's My Party, Too: The Battle for the Heart of the GOP and the Future of America

by Christine Todd Whitman

The Penguin Press HC, January 27, 2005

Hardcover, 256 pages, \$24.95

By ANITRA FREEMAN

Editorial Committee

George W. Bush has certainly accomplished one thing: He has made a lot of Democrats think fondly of Ronald Reagan. We begin to refer to the administration of GWB's father as the Golden Years. Some of us are even beginning to talk about the good qualities of Richard Nixon.

There are still a lot of moderate Republicans around, and they are getting almost as fed up with the extreme Right that has been ruling the party as left-wing liberals are. A handful of moderates in Congress, and many more elbowed out of Rove's Washington, are talking about the betrayal of conservative values in an administration that has ballooned the federal deficit to an all-time high and is busily reversing acts of conservation by great Republican presidents.

Christine Todd Whitman has spread her sails to catch the change in wind. She's tacking them mighty carefully.

Whitman wants to appeal to moderate Republicans by urging a return to their values of limited executive power, fiscal responsibility, and government butting out of people's private lives. She wants to show moderate Democrats that these values are compatible with theirs: conservation of resources and the environment, respect for sci-

ence on global warming and stem-cell research, no marriage amendment, no reversal of *Roe vs. Wade*.

She is still unwilling to tread on any toes or burn any bridges. So she gently disagrees with George Bush, but does not make any harsh criticisms of him. Appointed as head of the Environmental Protection Agency in Bush's first administration, Whitman says she "may have underestimated the president's interest in environmental issues."

Whitman consistently refers to the extremists of her party as "social fundamentalists"—adroitly divorcing their politics from religious associations, and avoiding the appearance of opposing faith.

As *More* magazine's Meryl Gordon describes it, Whitman "tries so hard to be conciliatory and, yes, ladylike, that the book is schizoid: a white-glove critique of hardball tactics." Whitman herself recognizes that "The problem moderates have is that we're a little squishy. We see several sides and are reluctant to force our opinion down other people's throats."

What Whitman achieves is a moderation that is a counterpart to liberal "niceness": trying to steer an inoffensive middle between two extremes, not offending anyone, competing by trying to out-polite everyone else. This is not the moderation of Abraham Lincoln, or of Lincoln Chaffee, one of the lone moderate Republicans left in Congress. That other moderation is committed to principles and minces no words about them; it is interested in actually solving problems rather

than in winning ideological battles. As John McCain tried to tell his fellow Republicans at the 2004 convention, "The Democrats are our opponents, not our enemies." Moderates don't demonize their opponents and make them into enemies. Moderates don't polarize, but they do stand on principles.

Whitman is trying. At her new web site the former governor writes: "It is time for moderates in the Republican Party to become activists — activists for the sensible center, for reasonable policies based on the fundamental republican principles, which address the challenges Americans face at home and around the world." But when Those In Power campaigned to prevent fellow Republican Sen. Arlen Specter from taking the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Whitman and her centrist group were silent.

Specter won the chair anyway. The moderate revolution may be happening without Whitman's help.

It is encouraging to read *It's My Party, Too* and know that the "social fundamentalists" are facing an intra-party resistance movement. In the end, however, Christine Todd Whitman may just be too nice to lead it. ■



Christine Todd Whitman consistently refers to the extremists of her party as "social fundamentalists."



Adventures
in Irony

© Dr. Wes Browning

You could call it Karl Rovism: this is our planet because, owing to our previous thefts of its wealth, we now have all the money, so we own all the people everywhere that we have stolen from.

It's Called Arrogance

Here's a pet peeve of mine that I'm sure you all share: arrogance. We can't stand arrogance. All of us hate it. So how come it keeps happening? My biggest gripe is with people who justify crimes with arrogance.

Once while walking up the Ave in the U District, I saw a couple walking toward me, the woman holding a balloon. Before they reached me a group of five frat guys came up and snatched the balloon away. When the woman's partner demanded it back, the guys laughed and threatened to beat him up. Just then a policeman appeared and the matter was laid before him.

Incredibly, the frat guys complained to the cop that the couple had no business demanding their balloon back, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE COUPLE WAS OUTNUMBERED AND EASILY OVERPOWERED. "There's five of us; we could take them; if they cause trouble by telling us we can't have their balloon, don't they know they're asking for it?" They actually said that the policeman should tell the couple to leave them alone, because not to do so would result in a fight that would get them hurt. They were concerned about maintaining the public order!

As amazing as it sounds, there are people in the world who think that way all the time. I first realized the truth of this when I was a cab driver. Hardly a shift went by when there wasn't some cowboy in the cab telling me I had to run red lights to get him where he was hurrying to, ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS PAYING ME.

Once the dispatcher sent me to a house in the neighborhood of 85th and Roosevelt, and when I arrived nobody came out to get in the cab so I had to go to the front door to announce myself. Two men greeted me, one with a pistol. While I

stood in the doorway, not knowing if I would be shot if I said something they didn't want to hear, they told me they were hiring me to drive downtown by myself to fetch them two hookers. They told me I should do what they said BECAUSE THEY WERE GOING TO PAY ME \$100. They said it would be OK if I couldn't find them good-looking hookers, ugly ones would do, and that they would share them with me. I said thank you very much, but that nevertheless I would decline their kind offer. They were shocked. I never did figure out why they pointed a gun at me. Maybe it was to keep me from running off with their welcome mat. They were probably thieves as well as johns. No one is less trusting than a thief.

The general rule seems to be: If I'm a monkey and I want to take a dump on your head, it's all right because I'm a bigger monkey than you, or I am just one of a gang of five monkeys and we outnumber you, or anyway I'm paying you so you have to do what I say BECAUSE MY MONEY SAYS I OWN YOU. You could call it Karl Rovism: this is our planet because, owing to our previous thefts of its wealth, we now have all the money, so we own all the people everywhere that we have stolen from.

This rant was inspired by the tiniest of provocations, namely, Jeff Tweiten's theory that Seattle's No-Sitting Ordinance shouldn't apply to him while he's trying to set a new Guinness World Record by waiting in line for a movie [RC, "Fanatic Finale," May 11-17].

As best as I can determine, this theory is founded on the principle that he should be able to sit or lie on the sidewalk for 136 days or more BECAUSE AT THE END OF THAT TIME HE WOULD BE BUYING A MOVIE TICKET, THEREBY PROVING THAT HE DESERVES MORE CONSIDERATION THAN HOMELESS PEOPLE, who are just about surviving, and other stupid crap like that. ■

When Rachel's older brother, who Corrie describes as fairly conservative, read the letters, she recalled him saying it was really eye-opening, not the kind of news that we usually get.

Corrie hopes the reading encourages willing minds to explore different avenues of interpretation on historic and current issues. "I think the gift of the book is an extraordinary collection of different points of view."

In addition to Corrie and Banerjee, the reading will also feature Aaron

Dixon, the founder of the Seattle Black Panthers and a handful of other actors and activists. ■

[Event]

"Voices of a People's History" will take place at the Seattle Art Museum this Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29, from 7-9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by calling 206-325-6500 or visiting www.ticketwindowonline.com. \$12 advance, \$15 at the door; \$10 students and groups; \$20 solidarity price.



[Ed. note: Early May must be vacation-time for Seattle's finest: Street Watch compiler Emma Quinn found no reports involving homeless people at the West and East Precincts of the Seattle Police Department. So we've anthologized the following selection of street incidents from our archives.]

Thursday, January 22, 9:43 p.m., E.

Madison. A citizen called 911 to report that the subject, a transient Native American woman aged 42, was walking in and out of traffic in the 2800 block of E. Madison and trying to talk to drivers. Another call had been received about her 45 minutes previously — she had been trying to direct traffic. Officers located the woman sitting in a gas station parking lot. She smelled of alcohol, and appeared to be intoxicated. She was unable to follow a conversation and seemed verbally hostile. Officers determined that she was unable to take care of herself or ensure her personal safety. They were unable to determine if she was mentally ill, and she was transported to Harborview Medical Center for a mental health evaluation.

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 10:40 a.m. Broadway Ave. E.

Victim, a homeless East African male aged 22, said he was talking on the payphone in front of Vivace Coffee when the suspect, a White male aged 20-25, walked up to him and began hitting him. Victim asked suspect what he was doing, and suspect said, "Don't you remember me?" Victim said suspect hit him several times with an unknown object, and cut him above the left eye. A witness working at Vivace saw the fight, and stated it looked one-sided. He went out to break up the fight while another Vivace employee called 911. The suspect fled on foot. Witness stated he saw the victim covered in blood and a knife on the sidewalk and assumed the man had been stabbed. Officers arrived, and the witness pointed out the blood on the sidewalk and the knife, but the victim had gone. Victim then reappeared, bleeding from the head. He stated he did not know what had happened, and added that when he fell to the ground from the blows, his assailant stole his CD walkman. He had not seen the suspect before, and did not know why else he was attacked except for his CD player. SFD responded to treat the victim, who had suffered a bloody nose and a cut above his eye, but he declined treatment. He asked instead to be transported to Jefferson, and once there walked away.

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2004, 10 a.m., Federal Army Navy Store, First Avenue.

Complainant works security for the store. He watched as the suspect, a transient white male aged 48, took off his dirty jeans and replaced them with a fresh pair from the store's stock. He then added insult to crime by folding his dirty jeans and placing them in the "for sale" stack. He also took a camping stove and hid it beneath a pile of clothes. Suspect had put on the store's pants without the civility of underwear. The store naturally did not want the pants back. Suspect was arrested, and wore the store's pants to jail.

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.

ZINN, Continued from Page 3

in the book, prior to her death. As a volunteer for the International Solidarity Movement, Rachel was protesting the destruction of Palestinian homes while transcribing her experiences and the daily destitution of people in the region. She was killed by a bulldozer during the demolition of a Palestinian doctor's home.

Back home, "when I leave from school or work," Rachel wrote, "I can be relatively certain that there will not be a heavily armed soldier waiting halfway between Mud Bay and downtown Olympia at a checkpoint with the power to decide whether I can go about my business, and whether I can get home again when I'm done."

The idea to include one of Rachel's many letters to home in the book came from a request by Zinn and co-editor Arno, who read her words in other publications upon her death in 2003. Cindy revealed the efforts to get Rachel's words in print came from what she knew then was her daughter's desire to spread knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian issue and the emotional impact of the letters alone.

"On the day she was killed, it was an instinctive reaction on my part within an hour that we had to get the writing out," Corrie says.

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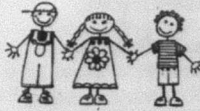
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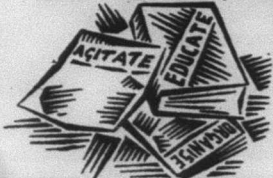
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Fitting the Crime

Dear Real Change,

In 1993, paid signature gatherers and conservative radio hosts promoted and sold Initiative 593 ("Three Strikes") to the voters by alleging this law would impose life without parole on the worst of the worst criminals. The examples given to the voters were rapists, murderers and armed offenders.

The prospect of throwing away the key on such offenders was very appealing to many.

Now, 12 years later, a very disturbing trend has emerged. Washington State currently has about 30 low-level

offenders sentenced to forever, despite the fact these offenders have never committed any Class-A offenses such as murder, rape, or armed crimes.

The Sentencing Guidelines Commission has made some very specific recommendations to fine-tune the current one-size-fits-all sentencing approach that Three Strikes enacted.

Is your lawmaker one who fails to realize that he or she can be tough on crime and smart with punishment at the same time?

I say let's punish all offenders in a manner which reflects the offense that they commit. One size fits all is wrong and is very costly.

**Stevan Dozier
Monroe**

CORRECTION: Last week's editorial was written by a Women's Justice Circle of which Anitra Freeman is a member.

The Women's Justice Circle is a project of the International Peace and Justice Center, not of SHARE/WHEEL, and the statements therein were not from SHARE/WHEEL.

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Events

OUTDOOR CHILDRENS THEATER, "Bring Me What I Ask," A Hawaiian tale of numbers, Cascade Park (South Lake Union), Harrison & Minor, Saturday, June 4th @ Noon.

King Street Co-Op Preschool Rummage Sale/Silent Auction. Raffle, cool clothes, toys, books, bake sale. And lots more! Sat., May 21st, 9am-3pm, 1610 S. King St., St. Peters Church-Gym (1 block south of Jackson)

Opportunity

Credit Problems, We can help your situation. Good/bad credit welcome. 1-800-997-9017
www.yorklandolutions.com.

Jobs

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Politics

Liberal Opinion Week: your source of outstanding national editorial cartoons and commentary, all in one weekly issue. For a free issue, call 1-800-338-9335 or visit www.liberalopinion.com

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

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Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 5/25

The Eastside Fellowship of Reconciliation screens the BBC's *The Power of Nightmares: Part III*. This series challenges much of the conventional wisdom surrounding Middle East terrorists, particularly "who and how many" assumptions and the manner in which these combatants operate. The production argues that neoconservatives encourage and exploit current perceptions to frighten the public. Sponsored by the Eastside Fellowship of Reconciliation. 7 p.m., Bradford Center, 702 108th Ave. N.E., downtown Bellevue. Information: Michael Tivana, (425)454-4865.

Thursday 5/26

Roger Weisberg's *Aging Out* is a provocative chronicle of the lives of three teenagers who "age out" of the foster care system, finding themselves with no stable home, meager financial resources, and little preparation to survive on their own. 10 p.m., PBS. Check your local listings.

Women's Lives, Men's Laws is the latest work by feminist scholar, writer, and activist Catharine A. MacKinnon, professor of law at the University of Michigan. She discusses her book at Elliott Bay Books, 101 S. Main St. Information: (206)-624-6600.

Suppose you notice that every time you swim at a particular pool you subsequently develop a rash? You would probably stop using that facility. That example is a simplification of the precautionary principle which is addressed at a seminar entitled "Toxicology, Human Health, and the Precautionary Principle." 12:30-1:20 p.m., at T-435, Health Sciences Building, University of Washington. Info: www.healthlinks.washington.edu/wucphp/nph/ or www.asmalldoseof.org

Naomi Rose discusses her book *Tibetan Tales for Little Buddhas*, which contains a forward by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This is an event with storytelling, slides, and chanting. For all ages. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Seattle Shambhala Center, 3107 E. Harrison St. (206) 860-4060 or www.tibetantales.com.

A Closer Walk, narrated by Glenn Close and Will Smith, explores the relationship between health, dignity, and human rights as it shows the harsh realities of AIDS. Featured are interviews with the Dalai Lama, Kofi Annan, and Bono, plus vignettes of children, women, and men living with AIDS on four continents. The cinematography celebrates human dignity, even as it bears witness to immense suffering. 7 p.m. at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl., www.groups.msn.com/wallingfordneighbors.

Tuesday 5/31

The Broadway hit musical *Big River* is being heralded once again. Its new groundbreaking production, based on the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, includes deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing actors in a synchronized performance utilizing speaking, signing, gesture, song, and dance. Through 6/5 at the Paramount Theatre, 911 Pine St. Information: (206)467-5510 or www.theparamount.com

Sunday 6/5

Fiddler On the Roof is a timeless musical that chronicles the life of Tevye, a poor dairyman. The father of five daughters, he struggles with changing social mores and the anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Admission: \$7-\$12. Storybrook Theatre, 402 6th St. S., Kirkland.

Through 5/6. Information: (425)827-3123 or www.studio-east.org.

Monday 6/6

The award-winning video *Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street*, which chronicles the successful community-led efforts to control gentrification and development in Boston, lays the groundwork for a discussion on the changing face of local neighborhoods, in particular as it relates to central and south Seattle. Local community members will report on current efforts to ensure resident-direction of redevelopment in Seattle neighborhoods. All welcome, 6-8:30, The 2100 Building, 2100 Fourth Ave. S. Information: Gillian 206-694-6715 or gillianb@fremontpublic.org.

Director's Corner



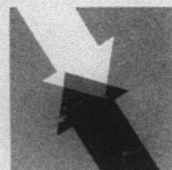
We're nearly half way through our May-June summer drive and while many of you have generously responded, we still have a very long way to go:

We're all about the vendors who sell this paper. Last year, there were 693 of them. During any given month, about 250 poor and homeless vendors find opportunity, hope, and community selling *Real Change*. Our vendor survey tells us that 59% of our vendors suffer from some form of disability. One of our vendors, his legs swollen with edema, said this morning that he gets out to sell the paper for a few hours every day. It's the most he can stand, but it helps him feel productive and to have purpose.

Nearly a quarter of our vendors are women. *Real Change* has formed a new interest group, the Women of *Real Change* (WORC), to offer activities based on what the vendors tell us they need. These have ranged from a movie night to self-defense classes.

A number of vendors have told us that what they want most is for someone to simply remember their birthday.

Real Change builds caring community by bringing together our vendors and readers on the basis of mutual interest. It's a vision that's worth supporting. It's work that's making a difference. And it needs your support now. A helpful coupon is on the next page. Thank you. ■



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Congress: Dont Stack the Deck Against Poor Families

Issue: Last month, at the request of the President's Department of Housing and Urban Development, members of Congress introduced S.771 and H.R. 1999. These bills, known as the "State and Local Housing Flexibility Act of 2005," will reduce housing support for people with the lowest incomes and increase homelessness.

Background: These bills will drastically change how affordable housing programs operate and reduce help targeted to the lowest-income families and individuals. The results will be devastating for people directly affected as well as for our community's effort to end homelessness. The National Low Income Housing Coalition has identified the following sections of the bill as some of the most harmful. We at *Real Change* agree.

Income Targeting: Under this proposal, 90 percent of vouchers would go to households with incomes up to 60 percent of area median income (AMI). Locally, that means an annual income of \$46,740 for a family of four or \$32,700 for an individual. Today, at least 75 percent of vouchers must go to households with incomes below 30 percent AMI, or \$23,350 for a family of four or \$16,350 for an individual. The legislation shifts assistance from those who need it most to people with more moderate incomes.

Rents: The legislation would allow rents to be disconnected from incomes. Housing authorities would establish their own rent policies, which may or may not be affordable to people with the lowest incomes.

Time Limits: Housing authorities will be allowed to implement time limits for participating in the voucher program. A better strategy to increase the self-sufficiency of long-term voucher users is to increase access to education and training, employment support, and other services that more directly help boost income. Removing a family's voucher for anything other than increased household income will increase their risk of homelessness.

Portability: The legislation restricts voucher users from choosing where to live and raise families — and brings with it numerous fair housing and civil rights problems. Public housing authorities would be required to affirmatively accept people wishing to move there and carries a risk of decisions motivated by racism. Housing authorities would also be allowed to create disability-specific preferences, for example a preference for people with mobility impairments that could have the effect of discriminating against people with mental illness.

Enhanced Vouchers: Currently, enhanced vouchers protect residents from losing their housing when owners opt out of the program and take their properties to market. Under this legislation, enhanced vouchers will be good for one year only. More than 60,000 tenants with enhanced vouchers would be forced to move and find housing they can afford with a regular voucher.

Action: Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative and tell them you oppose the State and Local Housing Flexibility Act and you want Congress to reject it. For more information, contact the National Low-Income Housing

Senator Patty Murray
www.murray.senate.gov/email (202) 224-2621
Senator Maria Cantwell
Maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov (202)
224-3441

Representative Jim McDermott
www.house.gov/mcdermott (202) 225-3106

For information to find other Congressional representatives, log on to www.house.gov, then type in your zip code.

SALT, Continued from Page 1

Knutson says the Port wouldn't need the revenue if it had been investing in the fishing industry and terminal all along. Instead, he says the Port has acted like a slum lord over the years, letting the terminal's pilings rot and its marine services companies—the lifeblood of an operating fishing fleet—move away.

One of them was Captain's Nautical Supplies, which moved out 10 years ago because “the Port was quite high-handed in how much money it wanted,” says company president Emery Schrock.

But Schrock says it's an old issue. And Schafer points out other suppliers that weren't Port tenants, such as Doc Freeman's, went out of business. The market, Schafer says, just couldn't support them any more.

Schafer adds that the Port started upgrading Fishermen's Terminal in 2002 to the tune about \$37 million. The projects include rebuilding the facility's west wall, south wall and docks 3 and 4 (now completed), along with rebuilding docks 5 through 10 (to be completed in the next two years).

Kris Mullan, former chairman of the Fishermen's Terminal Advisory Committee, says the investment would have happened without Knutson, who he says failed to come to planning meetings.

“He's a thorn in everyone's side,” Mullan says. “The only time he gets involved is if he's protesting or it benefits him” — such as the battle Knutson has also waged to sell his catch directly to consumers from his boat, the Njord.

Knutson says the Port created the advisory committee to rubber stamp its decisions. As far as the investment it finally made, the Port had no choice: First, the Fire Department refused to drive out on the rotten docks, then the Nisqually earthquake did more damage.

“We finally got some investment, but it was done grudgingly,” Knutson says. “The question is who are they rebuilding it for? Why are they putting cable TV outlets in the electrical

wiring? That doesn't seem like an industrial use to me.”

By comparison, Knutson says the Port spent \$120 million to build a cruise ship terminal, maritime museum and conference facility on the downtown waterfront 10 years ago, along with \$78 million to rebuild Shilshole Marina.

Though yachts may bring in more money, he says recreational marinas don't generate near the family-wage jobs as commercial fishing, which the Port was created to support, not destroy.

Knutson points to a study done for the Port showing that in 2000, compared to the \$3.5 million in wages earned by 87 workers at all the Port's recreational marinas, Fishermen's Terminal supported 5,306 jobs and \$417 million in wages and business revenue. In 2003, Knutson says, those numbers jumped to 5,524 jobs and \$485 million.

While some fisheries are in decline, Knutson says stocks of Alaskan halibut, salmon and black cod remain high. In the battle that he and others have fought to sell their fish at the terminal, the Port has restricted what fishermen can sell and doesn't allow them to put up canopies to keep their customers out of the rain.

It's all proof, Knutson says, that the Port is trying to run out fishermen. He points to a new Port brochure advertising Fishermen's Terminal to pleasure boaters — without a word about it being a commercial facility.

“They're going to achieve a use change in a sneaky, gradual way. That's what they do,” Knutson says of the Port. “But I'm not going to let them get away with it.” ■

[Event]

“Fishermen's Terminal,” Seattle International Film Festival, May 30, 6:30 p.m. (\$10), Egyptian Theatre, 805 E. Pine, Seattle. Filmmaker B.J. Bullert debuts her documentary on the protests of fisherman Peter Knutson and his discovery that a Port of Seattle consultant advised selling all or part of Seattle's Fishermen's Terminal. For information, go to www.seattlefilm.org or call 206-324-9996.

BOOMTOWN, Continued from Page 1

was the energy. It's real uplifting.” The Pioneer Square café boasts a bustling clientele huddling around tables, talking and eating to the tunes of a rickety piano, while volunteers bring out plate upon plate of food.

But behind the scenes, Boomtown is struggling to stay afloat, and Lieberman, a former Farestart volunteer and freelance consultant who has been with the café since January, has crafted some ideas to keep Boomtown in business.

“I'm not a genius fundraiser by trade,” says Lieberman. “In any situation, fresh eyes can lend new perspectives. I look and see where there are opportunities. I definitely see some opportunities where we can do different things to raise money.”

Through a multi-pronged plan including expanding the café's catering service, renting out Boomtown after hours for private parties, and increasing fundraisers, such as the monthly “Evening at Boomtown” where famous local chefs come in and prepare food at a ticketed price, Lieberman thinks Boomtown can benefit from the very thing the business is based on, connection with the community.

Lieberman hopes to extend Boomtown's bartering system to make food-for-labor exchanges with local food sources. Since Boomtown does charge

for food, the café is ineligible for donations from some big contributors, such as Food Lifeline, but Lieberman hopes to get around this caveat by assisting with their food production and packaging in exchange for donations.

Most importantly, though, Lieberman says the main reason Boomtown won't go under is the energy — of himself, his employees, the board of directors, and the customers.

Take for example Eric Jordan, who lives in the Star Motel on Fourth Avenue. Jordan has been coming to Boomtown at least three times a week since he moved here last December.

“Boomtown's unique,” says Jordan, “I've never seen a place where people could work for food. That's why more people come here than anywhere else.”

Homeless woman and volunteer Mary, who comes to Boomtown almost every day, also attests to this one-of-a-kind café. “It's the only place I'm guaranteed something decent to eat,” she says.

It is this support that Lieberman hopes will keep the struggling Boomtown above board.

“Shutting down is a possibility,” acknowledges Lieberman, “but with such a high level of commitment from people attached to the organization, we won't let that happen. If everyone relaxed, it would happen.” ■

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