

# REAL

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JUNE 8-14, 2005

## Reefer Sadness

*Having kept their home, medical marijuana users walloped with Supreme Court ruling*

By J. JACOB EDEL  
Contributing Writer

Less than a week after two former *Real Change* vendors convinced a county judge the marijuana plants they cultivate and smoke in their apartment are in compliance with the state's medicinal marijuana laws, a decision by the Supreme Court means they can no longer rely on it for treatment.

The county judge's ruling saved Bruce and Rainee Osman from eviction and persuaded the King County Housing Authority to reinstate the Osman's Section 8 voucher — federal assistance the couple relies on to pay rent. The decision also enables the Osmans to keep custody of their 6-year-old daughter Chandler, who lived with her grandmother the first three years of her life while Bruce and Rainee were homeless and selling *Real Change*.

"The judge agreed the Osmans were qualifying patients, that the marijuana was used in such a way that it was not displayed to the general public, and that the amount was within the legal 60 days' supply," says Eric Dunn, the Osman's attorney.

Dunn, who works for the Northwest Justice Project, represented the Osmans in King County Superior Court on Wednesday June 1 in an eviction trial because their apartment managers at the Alderbrook Apartments in Kent wanted them out after marijuana was discovered in their car.

A day after the Osmans failed a King County Housing Authority inspection because they refused to let an inspector view the room in which they grew the marijuana, they covered their 15 plants with translucent plastic bags and moved them into their 1994 Chevy Lumina. Shawn Campbell, the maintenance supervisor of the apartment complex, said in his testimony that he saw the covered plants in the Osman's car on Mar. 9 and immediately reported his discovery to the building manager, who then called the Kent police.

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CURT CHAPMAN, MIKE WAGNER, AND TED KUOPPAMAKI SCRAMBLE AFTER A LOOSE BALL ON THE COURT OF A QUAD-RUGBY GAME IN A BELLEVUE COMMUNITY CENTER. TEAM SEATTLE IS PREPARING FOR ITS FALL SEASON, PLAYED BY PEOPLE WITH LIMITED USE OF THEIR ARMS AND LEGS.

PHOTO BY MARK SULLO.

## Thunderball

*Seattle's own wheelchair rugby team preps for new blood, new season*

By SEAN REID  
Contributing Writer

Stand in the hallway outside any basketball court and you'll hear the typical echoes of a game: teammates shouting, a bouncing ball in play. Stand outside a quad-rugby game and you'll hear something extra: the thunderous, merciless clashing of metal.

These are the sounds of wheelchair behemoths tackling each other for the chance at victory. But fear not, the aggression is all part of the fun in quad-rugby, nicknamed "murderball" by its Canadian originators. The sport, created for quadriplegics with limited use of their arms who play in specially-modified wheelchairs, is poised to capture the mainstream attention in a few months.

The buzz is due mostly to the documentary *Murderball*, which won the audience award at Sundance and was recently screened at the Seattle International Film Festival.

Hopefully, the film's upcoming release may steer eyes towards Seattle's own team, whose members are now preparing for a new season in October.

Mike Wagner, an Edmonds native, has been playing for 12 years. Initially, the motivation to join was simple: He wasn't having any fun.

"I was a year out of the hospital and I was depressed," Wagner says, when he saw a quad rugby flyer at the University of Washington's spinal cord injury center and he took a chance on the sport. The commitments were big: customized wheelchairs run around \$2,500 and the game's aggressive nature, to a first-time observer, can be jarring.

But he seems unfazed as he speaks on the court sidelines of the Highline Community Center in Bellevue, where Team Seattle practices on the weekends.

"I came out the first time and I've been here ever since. I love it."

Now, when Wagner meets individuals who have suffered a spinal cord injury, he talks up the game's merits and addictive fun. Team Seattle members occasionally visit rehabilitation centers around the area to do the same. Still, some quads will come for one practice and never come back.

Though quad rugby has been around for over two decades and remains an international sport, its notoriety hasn't made the leap outside the realm of wheelchair sports.

There are certainly myths to dispel. Contrary to popular belief, all quadriplegics are not totally disabled in four limbs, but may be impaired in each to varying

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## THE PITCH

We're closing in on our Summer Fund Drive goal. But we need a little more help.

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# Have We Mentioned Our Fund Drive?

Reader support offers dignity and opportunity for our vendors. You can make the difference.

We're building a foundation for long-term social change that makes an immediate difference to the poor and homeless. We offer an independent news source that is grounded in the communities we serve. We're bringing people together across class boundaries to build a vision of a better society. We need your help to keep it up.

By TIMOTHY HARRIS  
Executive Director

We asked, and our readers are responding. Half way through our summer fund drive, we have already received more than \$40,000 in contributions and pledges. These range from the \$10 in cash from the person who said they wished they could do more to a pledge of \$15,000 from a supporter who recently came into inherited wealth.

Why does someone give *Real Change* that much money? Because we're one of the few organizations in town that goes beyond offering services to working for systemic change. We help people to help themselves while addressing the issues that make them poor in the first place. We offer hope that things can be different.

Right now, we need our readers to do their part. While early returns on our summer fundraising drive look promising, raising that last \$20,000 is going to be the hardest.

Last February, *Real Change* went weekly to help our vendors and improve the quality of our news and advocacy. Weekly publication keeps our news fresh and gives the vendors a better product to offer our readers. Higher sales puts more money into the vendors' pockets.

It was a huge stretch for us, but so far, it's worked. As one vendor told me, "I've never been more proud to sell *Real Change*." Readers are responding and sales are up by more than 20 percent. For an average vendor, selling 200 papers

or so a month, that means about fifty dollars extra. Some of our more serious vendors report that for the first time since they've started selling the paper, they're even putting some money away.

This translates into increased dignity and opportunity for the vendors. As vendor Joe Armstrong put it, "Some people used to buy papers just because you were working, not panhandling. Now they buy it to actually read."

*Real Change* isn't just a newspaper. It's a tool for activism. We want each of our readers to be inspired and have the information they need to take action. We offer up-to-date legislative information in each issue and try to make it easy for people to get involved. About 1,500 people have taken the next step and gone to [www.realchangenews.org](http://www.realchangenews.org) to sign up for our e-alerts. Weekly publication allows us to be much more timely in our activism.

We're building a foundation for long-term social change that makes an immediate difference to the poor and homeless. We offer an independent news source that is grounded in the communities we serve. We're bringing people together across class boundaries to build a vision of a better society.

We need your help to keep it up.

None of this has come easily. When we decided to go weekly, we spent the next year and a half in preparation. We lined up additional foundation support to help underwrite increased staffing. We built an active 35-member advisory board

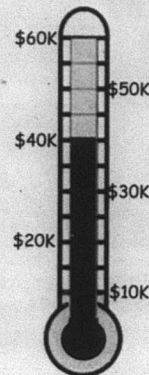
to ground us in the communities we serve. We went through a redesign and rethinking of our content that included a reader survey and two non-reader focus groups. We hired additional vendor support staff and journalists.

After all of that, the move to weekly is still a leap of faith. Money is very tight. While increased circulation and ad sales will eventually make weekly publication sustainable, right now we're going a little more into the hole every month. We've reduced expenses and laid off staff. We're doing everything we can to make this work.

The vast majority of our readers end their support at their purchase of the paper. Sixty-five percent of *Real Change's* dollar cover price goes directly to the vendor. Only about 40 percent of our operating budget is raised through circulation and ads. We rely on foundation support and help from our readers for the rest. We need you, our reader, to take that next step to become a donor as well.

Without your generous support, there can be no *Real Change*.

Please help us make a difference. Join the more than 1,000 regular readers of *Real Change* who wrote a check last year to support our work. There's no time quite like now. ■



## [DONATE NOW]

At \$40,128, *Real Change* is two-thirds of the way toward meeting our Summer Fund Drive goal of \$60,000. The last part is the hardest, and it happens one donation at a time. Visit [www.realchangenews.org](http://www.realchangenews.org) to make a secure on-line donation, or use the coupon on page 12 to mail a check today. Thank you for your support.



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

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

### Mission Statement:

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

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

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

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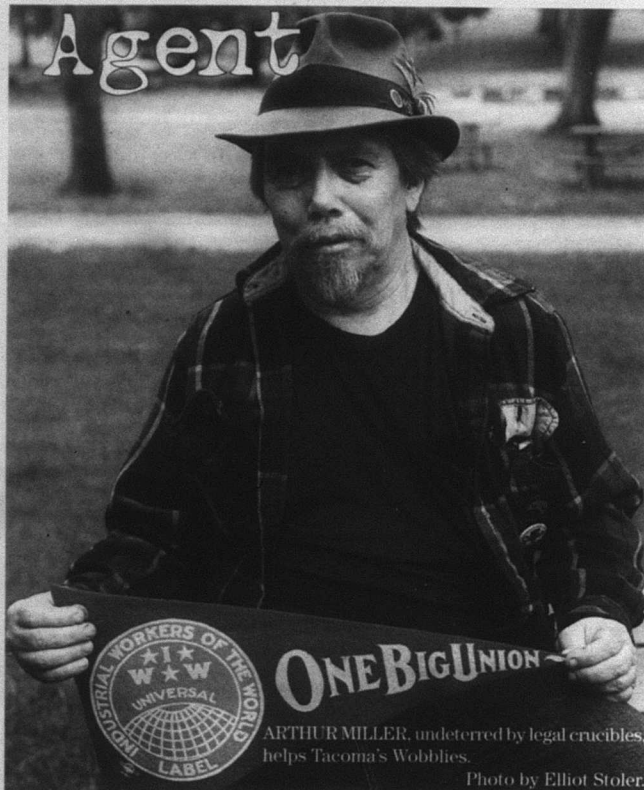
# Change Agent

Arthur Miller believes in the universal solidarity of struggling people. And he's not afraid to act on it. In fact, Miller has been arrested seven times for exercising free speech since his activist advent in 1967, and has also successfully sued the City of Tacoma after the city refused to allow a protest march Miller was organizing.

This renaissance resister has organized on behalf of a bevy of political prisoners, most intensively in the illustrious case of political prisoner Leonard Peltier, and is also a member of the historic Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a league of industrial unions which works toward "creating the organized power of the working class." Perhaps Miller gets his fearlessness from his rugged background as a farm worker, oil-rig roughneck, long haul truckdriver and shipyard worker. But in his own words, the antidote to fear is knowledge.

"Know the laws and do not fear the mass media, the police, or the city," Miller says. "One must realize that we only have the rights we are willing to stand up for."

—Jade Ingmire



ARTHUR MILLER, undeterred by legal crucibles, helps Tacoma's Wobblies.

Photo by Elliot Stoler

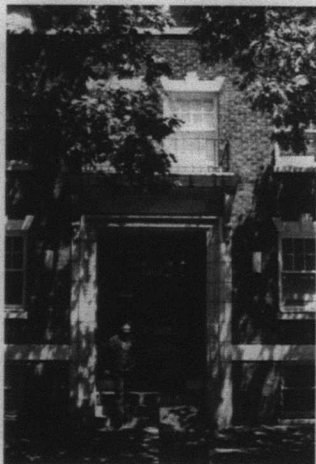
## From Prison to Pit

Sex offenders welcome, but Corrections Dept. protests conditions at Belltown apartments

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Writer

At one time, as many as 35 of the 40 residents of Belltown's Franklin apartments were registered sex offenders. Now, citing shabby conditions, the state no longer sends parolees to landlord Howard Close.

Photo by Matthew Sumi.



Howard Close likes to rent to convicted sex offenders. Because he's one of the few landlords who does, he can charge top dollar for the ancient units in his building, the Franklin.

The Franklin is located in downtown Seattle at Fourth Avenue and Bell Street. At one point within the past five years, 35 of the 40 people who lived there were parolees supervised by the Department of Corrections, including many Level 1, 2 or 3 sex offenders.

In a strange twist, nearby residents in Belltown actually liked the Franklin being filled with paroled sex offenders. Because parolees live by strict rules under DOC supervision, neighbors say it cut down on the drug dealing and prostitution that had gone on at the building. And, with the sex offenders in one place, it was easy for the DOC to manage them.

Not anymore. One year ago, the department stopped referring parolees to the building — a decision the DOC made, in essence, because the Franklin is a pit. While some have moved in since then, Linda Bonazza, King County's acting correctional manager, says some units didn't have operational appliances or heat.

Since then, Close has refused to renting his units to anyone off the street, with no background checks.

Neighbors say that's caused crime at the corner to shoot up. With the rental market soft — and 11 of the Franklin's 36 units currently vacant — neighbors are trying to pressure Close into fixing up the place so parolees can start moving in again.

It's not the first time. But, at 81, the crusty Close — who raised two children in an apartment behind the survey instrument shop he runs down the street — won't budge. Neither will the DOC. Between the two of them, 11 apartments that sex offenders could be using to restart their lives are standing empty.

"It's not the Ritz," Close says. "We try to keep 'em up to code. But I have no intention of turning the place into a palace."

Close says there's not a unit he couldn't live in. But the building's peeling paint, urine-stained carpet, and war-era refrigerators, fixtures, and Murphy beds can't be comfortable for anyone.

For these accommodations, Close showed a studio at \$695 and a large one-bedroom at \$895 that's often shared. Across Bell Street at the Charlesgate Apartments, a clean, freshly painted studio with newer appliances goes for \$650.

Some in the neighborhood call Close a slum lord, but he makes no apologies. "Slum lord, my eye," Close says. "The old place isn't bad. It's good enough for someone getting out of jail."

Because he doesn't do background checks, Close says he has to charge high rent in order to compensate for the many deadbeats he ends up evicting, a process that takes about three months.

"Talk about rescuing people," he adds. "I'm the only guy stupid enough to take guys off the street. You're looking at Mr. Community Service."

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## Just Heard ...

### Yakima: Off the Hook

Alexander Hooks had his date in court June 1. And that means his trips to the Yakima County Jail — and the pain and inconvenience they caused — are a moot point.

Detained by Seattle Municipal Court on charges of domestic violence and then transferred to Yakima when the city's jail space reached its limit, Hooks charged that the city's move violated his Constitutional rights to due process and cut him off from family and defense attorney ("Over the Mountains," June 1).

Public defender Lisa Daugaard, who represents Hooks, tried to get the city's transfers of pre-trial inmates to Yakima thrown out in King County Superior Court. But judge John Erick upheld the city law on the very day Hooks' trial was scheduled to begin, noting that while he was "disturbed that access to counsel... may be impaired as a consequence of... transfer to and housing in Yakima County Jail," Hooks' imminent trial means he won't be harmed by the policy any longer.

Daugaard, one of a number of the city's public defenders who say they are less able to prepare for court when their clients are transferred across the mountains, says the policy will be challenged some other way: "We may need to proceed on behalf of a larger group of clients or on our own behalf."

### Growing the Garden

The idea of a public memorial space for homeless people who have died on the streets has an ally: the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

AIA Seattle is holding a "design challenge" for architects, artists, graphic designers, and others to draw up plans for "A Place of Remembrance," marking the deaths of homeless people in their communities. Promoted by a group of homeless women and their supporters called Women in Black, the proposal for a memorial got a hearing at St. Mark's Cathedral this spring ("Urban Contemplation," April 20). A UW architecture professor caught wind of the idea and promoted it to his colleagues. Peter Sackett of AIA Seattle says it seemed like a good way to "elevate the discussion to a larger community."

"It seemed to be an engaging and exciting opportunity for someone to cut their teeth on — a project to feel good about."

Anyone may submit a model of what a memorial space should look like, says Sackett. A panel of professional architects will judge the entries as part of the Honor Awards for Washington Architecture on November 7. More information about the process is available at [www.aiaoseattle.org](http://www.aiaoseattle.org).

—Adam Hyla

## Connecting the Dots

Community court system offers alternative services, not jail

By CARRIE WOOD  
UW News Lab

The Seattle Municipal Court's new Community Court system, which allows those arrested for petty crimes to do community service instead of jail time, is going better than expected, according to Thomas Carr, Seattle City Attorney who was instrumental in implementing the system.

"[The program] has been very encouraging," says Carr. "Thirty-four percent of our defendants have completed the program, which is better than I hoped."

Instead of wasting money on jail time for minor criminals — which costs around \$92 a day — the Community Court saves the city money by instead allowing these offenders to do community service in the same neighborhoods where the crimes were committed.

Since the program's beginning in March, it has demonstrated a good success rate for the 72 people who have gone through the system so far, according to officials. In the most successful cases, offenders have completely turned their lives around.

In one case, a man charged with minor theft was introduced to an outreach service that helped him to get a job and get his life back on track, says Carr. "He came back to thank the court."

Yet success isn't always that tremendous, and can be seen even in

less significant examples, says Lori Cox, strategic advisor for the court.

"One gentleman has mental health issues, a chemical dependency and is homeless — not a unique constellation of underlying issues. He came before the Community Court for theft — the most frequently occurring type of offense — and was sentenced to 16 hours of community service." The man did not comply, and after he was arrested again on a warrant, he was found to have depression and was stabilized through some psychiatric services that the program offers.

"It was those complicating factors that kept him from complying. His head was clear and he was then

able to comply," she says.

This is the major reason why this program is doing so well, in that it is designed not merely to punish the offender, but also to help them, which is preventative for repeated crimes, says Carr.



IN AN EFFORT TO DIVERT LOW-LEVEL OFFENDERS FROM JAILS AND GET THEM NEEDED SOCIAL SERVICES, SEATTLE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE FRED BONNER HAS HELPED ORGANIZE THE CITY'S COMMUNITY COURT SYSTEM.

PHOTO BY MARK SULLO,

"The Community Court is a one-of-a-kind therapeutic court," he says. "There is a group of folks who commit minor crimes and we realize that they're not bank robbers, but that there is an underlying factor that we need to address."

"In a traditional court, those factors wouldn't be addressed," says Cox. The more the court can help address issues that lead people to commit crimes, such as poverty and homelessness,

the less likely that person will be to commit the crime again. This is important, considering 70 percent of minor criminals are homeless and 50 percent have a chemical dependency, says Cox.

There have also been some difficulties for the program.

"People will offend in multi-jurisdictions where they are arrested for a crime in Seattle, and have a warrant out for their arrest in Kent," says Carr. Consequently, the court has to wait for the multi-jurisdictional holds to clear before an offender can begin community service. "Sometimes [the offenders] do not come back to do their community service because they don't remember," says Carr.

Prosecutors content with conventional courts may say Community Court is "hugging thugs," says Cox. "I'd rather say we are [being] smart on crime."

"We're helping people who get arrested," says Carr. "Some think that we should have this treatment for everybody who gets arrested. I agree. However, petty offenders cost a great deal of money to society and we don't have that capacity yet to be able to offer this type of program to everyone."

Cox says that the Community Court system has given everyone involved some hope for something different.

"Accountability and assistance must go together," she says. ■

## Short Takes

### Section 8: Thinning the Soup

The evening of June 2 the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) held a hearing to hear public response regarding the proposed changes in its Section 8 housing voucher program. Over a hundred people turned up at Rainier Valley's NewHolly Gathering Hall, filling in the form to voice their concerns. The hearing followed several briefings for tenants and landlords.

The restructuring of Section 8 is an attempt to help the 2,700 families on the waiting list, which has been closed since 2003 due to ongoing federal budget cuts. SHA officials say their goal is to bring more people to the table, but they have to "thin the soup" in the process. They are trying to establish just how thin their service can get.

The meeting began quickly, after a brief presentation and Q&A on the proposed changes and how much money each change would save. As changes were announced, people audibly booed, eager to get their chance to speak. When the microphone opened for public comment, SHA officials listened and responded to concerns. Comments and testimonials were transcribed, to be relayed to the agency's board of commissioners, which will review the information June 20.

The Tenants Union of Washington (TU) vocally

attended. They are against the proposed changes and encouraged voucher holders to give personal testimony and join the Section 8 Tenant Organizing Project (STOP). TU organizer Emily Paddison echoed tenant concerns about protecting the integrity of the program.

"The solution to this problem is for President Bush, Congress and HUD to fully fund the Section 8 voucher program — not punish people who depend on Section 8 to keep a roof over their heads," Paddison said.

Some speakers supported the changes. People on the waiting list stated anything would help.

For those who oppose them, changes in occupancy standards are the biggest concern. Speakers decried situations where awkward-aged children would be forced into rooms together, adhering to the blanket two-per-sleeping space rule. (A living room is also considered a sleeping space.)

Jacqueline Smith, foster care giver who relies on Section 8 assistance, explained how detrimental the proposed changes will be for children. Children who have been abused and act out need their space, she said. Many voucher holders feel the changes will squeeze them out of certain neighborhoods — another form of segregation.

"How far from Seattle will we have to move to find the quality of life we have here? The

best thing about Section 8 is it gives us a choice of where we live," Smith said. "This will create clustering of low-income family in areas, creating a stigma. Minorities need to be able to afford to raise foster children in a nurturing environment."

The Board of Commissioners, composed of six appointees — three of whom are Section 8 residents — will have the final say. They will review the litany of compiled data and decide which of the proposed changes are most feasible. They could vote at a June 20 board meeting.

—Megan Lee

### CSI: Seattle

In a few short months, there might be a slightly more visible police presence on the street, now that the City Council has passed a resolution launching the Civil Streets Initiative. Known as CSI, the initiative seeks to combine law enforcement with human services.

As crafted by Public Safety, Civil Rights & Arts chair Nick Licata, the CSI resolution details three specific actions. First, the council is throwing its support behind the mayor's proposal to increase the ranks of the police force with the addition of 25 more officers for beat or bike patrols; this move will raise the number of officers to 2003 levels. Second, a financial

plan is requested, detailing how enforcement intends to share crime information with civilians; the financial plan is to be part of the 2006 Executive budget. And third, the Council will begin discussing a potential Nov. 2005 property tax levy to fund the creation of partnerships between precincts and targeted human services; if voters cast their ballots for the levy, its efficacy will be evaluated in three years.

Licata says the council is looking at a levy that could amount to \$9 million a year for three years. That levy total would equate to roughly \$38 a year per taxpayer, says Licata.

Potential social services that might see funding through CSI include the King County Drug Court, Municipal Court Day Service Center, and methadone voucher programs. On the enforcement side, funds could be directed to programs for school resource officers or the police department cadet program.

Licata says he's had strong support from both the social service sector and precinct advisory groups.

"I think they both understand the need to have a comprehensive approach to public safety," he says. The Council will address the Civil Streets Initiative this Monday, June 13, immediately following its regular council meeting.

—Rosette Royale



# Group Hug

*What I found in the embrace of the Indian "hugging saint"*

By **TIMOTHY HARRIS**  
*Contributing Writer*

**M**y friends were surprised when I broke the news. Amma, the hugging saint of India, was coming to Burien. As a community leader, I was invited to learn about her movement, have some Indian food and chai tea, and receive the legendary hug. It seemed rude to refuse.

"I didn't know your were into that woo-woo shit," said Rachael. "I could never do that." While I had concerns of my own, I wanted to know hers.

"Well, she's probably huge. It'll be like getting hugged by some big, sweaty, Jabba the Hutt."

I dug out a photo from the pile on my desk. Amma was indeed amply proportioned. Maternal.

I called my friend Bonnie, who I remembered had been to an ashram last summer. Turns out it was Amma's. She explained that Amma was the human incarnation of Love. That she ran the largest humanitarian network in India. That she came from poverty and offered hope and dignity to the destitute.

"Kind of an Indian Mother Theresa," I offered, forgetting that Mother Theresa was from India. "Yeah," said Bonnie, "kind of like that."

Later, I told another friend about my Mother Theresa analogy. "More like the Dalai Lama, really," she opined.

By then, I was starting to look forward to my hug.

**T**he scene was one of those characterless convention centers that host everything from dog shows to Moonie weddings. My friend Bonnie met me at the door. She would be my guide. I learned more about Amma.

Amma had always been different. On another wavelength. Intensely spiritual. When, as an uneducated 17 year-old, her hugs started to catch on, Amma's parents objected. Hugging strangers, both men and women, was not the sort of thing proper Indian girls did. She kept on.

Now, 33 years later, Amma's hugs are an intensely sought spiritual experience. Her U.S tours, undertaken with an entourage of about 200 devotees, draw hundreds of thousands. In India, she will hug upwards of 30,000 people a day. In all, she is said to have hugged around 35 million people.

Reactions are said to range from mild affirmation to unification with the All. "If there's anything that you're

*Amma was in town last week, doing what she does best.*

See AMMA, Continued Page 8



## Democracy Now!

**Airing twice a day at 6:00 a.m and 5:00 p.m.**

Hosted by the dynamic Amy Goodman, this award-winning national news program is committed to bringing the voices of the marginalized to the airwaves on issues ranging from the global to the local.

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# Crossing the Thin Blue Line

Former SPD chief Norm Stamper spills the beans about drugs, bureaucrats, and the WTO

Interview by **CYDNEY GILLIS**  
Staff Writer

**[Event]**  
Elliott Bay Book Company presents former Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper reading from his new book *Breaking Rank: A Top Cop's Expose of the Dark Side of American Policing* Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, Eighth and Seneca, in Seattle. For information, call 206-624-6600.

If Norm Stamper were a Hollywood insider, his new book would be called a "kiss and tell."

But Stamper is Seattle's former chief of police, the man who failed to plan for the 50,000 protesters who took the streets of Seattle during the 1999 ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization.

That makes *Breaking Rank: A Top Cop's Expose of the Dark Side of American Policing* (Nation Books) something of a "baton and tell." In the book, Stamper — who resigned in a cloud of teargas just after the WTO — discusses his failures in the WTO, along with what he sees as the larger failure of police departments to serve their community.

That includes not getting a grip on racism, sexism and domestic violence. The book, which Stamper will read from June 9 at Seattle's Town Hall, starts with a chilling "open letter" to David Brame, the Tacoma police chief who killed his wife, then turned the gun on himself.

Stamper makes it clear that Brame's abusiveness and violence are common among cops — a case in point for enforcing domestic violence laws. Stamper also advocates decriminalizing drugs and prostitution, and demilitarizing today's urban police forces.

**Real Change:** Why did you decide to write this book?

**Norm Stamper:** Well, I think there were two reasons. One, professional and political and the other personal. On the political side, I have believed for many years based on firsthand observations and research and my own values that

the institution of American policing is in need of a major overhaul, that the strains in community police relations, the difficulty in launching effective, sustained crime-fighting strategies and ensuring officer safety and morale are deeply rooted in the structure of the institution. So that's the polemical side of it.

The memoir side is that I wanted to explore and share with others my personal journey, why I became a cop, how I behaved when the power of the position went to my head and what I've done since, for better or worse, to atone for my early sins and to help improve the institution.

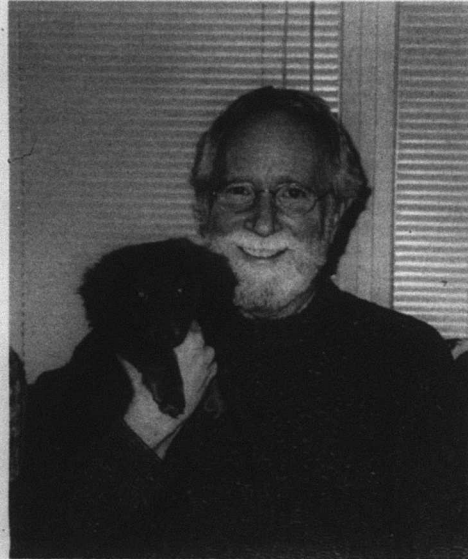
**RC:** What needs to be done and what stands in the way of doing it?

**Stamper:** At the top of my list would be a very intelligent demilitarization of many aspects of policing. There is a very steep hierarchy of command and control in police bureaucracies, which has the effect of slowing down decision-making and communication and stifling creativity and imagination and, too often, encouraging sycophants. There is a tendency to look up instead of down and out, to be constantly looking over one's shoulder to ensure that one is pleasing the boss and not looking to the com-

munity to forge authentic partnerships with our diverse communities, problem solving, crime fighting, civil liberties-guaranteeing kinds of partnerships.

**RC:** Are you saying police should be more "touchy-feely"?

**Stamper:** I hate that term. I get saddled



Norm Stamper, still done up in blue, enjoys retirement and canine.

Photo courtesy of Norm Stamper

with it all the time and I've given up trying to correct the impression. I think it's the opposite. I think it moves towards creating tougher cops, tougher supervisors, tougher managers, tougher leaders. Instead of looking to kick problems upstairs, you do your damndest to solve them where you happen to be working, if that's on the streets or if that's in an office.

**RC:** What can be done to make that hierarchy move faster?

**Stamper:** Flatten the bureaucracy as much as possible, carefully analyze each and every role and ask whether each position is necessary. Is it possible, for example, to get along with fewer ranks in a police department? We did that both in San Diego and in Seattle and I'm convinced that it did help speed up decision-making and improve communication.

**RC:** You advocate decriminalizing drugs in the book. Talk about that.

There is a very steep hierarchy of command and control in police bureaucracies, which has the effect of slowing down decision-making and communication and stifling creativity and imagination and, too often, encouraging sycophants.

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## Continued from previous page

**Stamper:** Sure. I think in scope and magnitude the damage that's been done by the war on drugs far exceeds the damages of any other domestic crime-fighting public policy in the history of the country. I think it has been an abysmal failure. It has led to local and national as well as international problems of credibility and effectiveness in the efforts to achieve safe streets, safe communities and, for that matter, better relations with foreign nations. We need to rethink drug use and drug abuse. Drug use, in my opinion, by adults who use those drugs responsibly to whatever ill effects they may have on their own health ought to be seen and respected as a right. If we see it as a right - I'm not pretending this is going to happen tomorrow - we can shift our thinking such that we focus on abuse and the irresponsible use of drugs, which means drug abuse becomes, as it truly is, a health problem, a medical problem.

Government stays in the picture by regulating the production as well as the peddling of drugs, much as government currently plays a role in the regulation of tobacco and alcohol. [But it's] shifting resources from enforcement to education, prevention, and medication. I mean there's no excuse for not providing methadone and clean needles to IV drug users and addicts who have said "I wanna get clean." To have waiting lists and, in some cities, to ban needle exchanges or to not permit pharmacies to sell small quantities of hygienic syringes is unconscionable in my view. Government in that context is helping to perpetuate addiction and all kinds of medical problems including hepatitis and HIV.

**RC:** Police departments are headed in the direction of arming themselves like SWAT teams today. What's going to reverse militarization?

**Stamper:** A very thoughtful process that helps reduce the distance between the police department and the community it serves. The answer is the community will reverse it, as well as informed and courageous members of the institution itself. What it comes down to is encouraging citizens' participation in policy making, program development, oversight. I'm a strong believer in citizen review boards. It's when police chiefs and officers and agencies feel that they are somehow empowered to make unilateral decisions on behalf of the community that we have problems. [The thinking is] we're the cops, we're the ones in the uniforms with the badges and guns and conspicuously marked automobiles. We'll tell you what's best. I would reverse that and say the community is the senior partner in this partnership.

**RC:** Speaking of these lines of communication and being involved with the community, there was a lot of press before the WTO. Six months out, we knew we were going to have 50,000 people. How could you not have known there would be that many people here and not plan accordingly?

**Stamper:** Well, first of all, crowd predic-

tions are just that - predictions. Personally, I was thinking we'd have about 30,000 people. But when you put 30,000 or 50,000 on a street in a downtown city the size of Seattle, you're going to have a whole lot of activities come to a complete standstill. If you add to that mix, five people or 30 people or 100 people who are bent on destructive protest, and you've got a police force the size of Seattle's, you're really going to have a difficult time policing that event, and that's what happened. I don't say I don't make any excuses. Of course I

[The thinking is] we're the cops, we're the ones in the uniforms with the badges and guns and conspicuously marked automobiles. We'll tell you what's best. I would reverse that and say the community is the senior partner in this partnership.

do. I make lots of excuses. I'm trying to say that if we had had a police force twice the size of Seattle's, I'm not sure it would have stopped the violence or prevented rioting.

**RC:** My impression is that the violence and window smashing was an immediate response to teargas being used at Sixth and University and Union to clear the intersections.

**Stamper:** There was some before that, there was some after that, and there's no question that it had a catalytic effect on many of the demonstrators.

**RC:** Even so, it passed quickly. What was the great danger that required a state of emergency?

**Stamper:** In any given location, at any given time, there could be a completely peaceful, huge demonstration. Our philosophy and policy was let it go, un-

less they've completely blocked access to emergency vehicles, in which case we're going to do our police thing. Some people don't like that. I'm sorry, that's tough. If my kid's been hurt, if my mom is on the third floor of the building and nobody can reach her, I'm sorry, you've still got critically important emergency services to provide. I think our biggest problem is we just didn't have enough people to seal it off and contain it. So how do you deal with it? Gas. A whole lot of my philosophically and politically aligned friends would say, "My god, the gas." I would do it again.

**RC:** Would you?

**Stamper:** Yeah. The alternative to gas - and I know it's a horrible thing - is to take out your piece and fire. There were, I would say conservatively, a couple of dozen instances in which lethal force would have been lawful

during those intense three or four days. Not once to my knowledge did a firearm leave its holster. I guess I'm looking for things to point to as a success, and that's one of them.

**RC:** What would you have done differently?

**Stamper:** [Laughing] I'm laughing because it's five years later. Two years ago or three years ago, I probably wouldn't have laughed. And I don't mean in any way to minimize the suffering that people experienced during that time, the reputations that have been damaged since then, and the credibility of the police. But we did get snookered, and what I learned from that is that you've got to keep demonstrators further away from the actual venue of the event. No matter how much they don't like that, you've got to do it. ■



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# Cast Aside in L.A.

Ellie Parker  
Directed by Scott Conley

By LESTER GRAY  
Contributing Writer

**C**asting sessions, sometimes known as "cattle calls" for their impersonal herding of prospects, are dehumanizing. Preparatory to the actual event, the actor may possess only the skimpiest of information as to the character they are to portray and even that may change without notice. This all culminates in a four to five minute audition, the orchestration of which is subject to the caprice of variously credentialed producers, directors, executive whatevers, and their assistants. Such is the world of aspiring actress Ellie Parker (Naomi Watts).

Ellie, like so many others over the decades, has come to Hollywood, where would-bes and wannabes are so numerous as to constitute an ethnic group. They collectively eat, inebriate, and whimsically fornicate. Most significantly, they confer legitimacy on each other's quests, no matter how delusional — for to question another's dream is to question your own.

But Ellie finds this a fragile reality, her identity crisis growing as she goes from one casting session to the next, in and out of varied characters and their attendant psyches two or three times a day, prompting her to scream, "I want to play a real person, a schizophrenic woman, not a lawyer."

But it's not just the auditions that keep pulling the rug out from under Ellie's peace of mind. It's society in general and the Los Angeles scene in particular. Her agent, as well as her psychologist, her best friend, and her acting teacher

— erstwhile benchmarks in a world of inconstancy and repudiation — reveal themselves to be no more than lechers, dope heads, and thieves. Reflecting on the counterculture she formerly embraced, the actress laments, "What was once a promise is now a threat."

*Ellie Parker* unfolds with the voyeuristic appeal, if you're that type, of reading through your sister's diary, an effect furthered by the fact that the movie is shot with a handheld consumer camera, sometimes as unsteady as Ellie herself, but always intimate. As the actor's life spins out of control, you're right there with her.

This comedy debuted as a 16-minute short at Sundance, where it was well received. Encouraged, actor Naomi Watts and director Scott Conley kept adding scenes over the next several years, pulling the script out of their own experiences in the industry. With the exception of the other actors who appear, and a couple of editors, it was just the two of them, an off-the-shelf camera and some "scotch tape and spit."

*Ellie Parker* is more than a very respectable effort. It's testament to the increasingly egalitarian possibilities in film (due in large part to the availability of inexpensive equipment), which promise continued offerings from a greater diversity of artists. ■

From left, Naomi Watts and Rebecca Rigg in Ellie Parker.



Ellie Parker plays at the Neptune Theater as part of the Seattle International Film Festival at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 9, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 11.

## AMMA, Continued from Page 5

praying for," said Bonnie, "this might be a good time to think about that." I began to think.

The system was similar to a very large airline boarding. When I arrived, Amma was now hugging ticket holders 600-700.

We sat among a peaceful scene of folding chairs and people wearing white. Amma was surrounded by a throng of several dozen followers. The occasional monk, or Brahmachari, was distinguished by ochre. The crowd that milled throughout the convention center was the kind of people you'd expect to find at something called "Awareness Expo 2005." Mostly white, mostly middle-class, looking alternately troubled or serene. People sat alone or in couples, in quiet contemplation, awaiting their hug.

Bonnie and I talked. Amma is about Love, she said. There is little to no dogma involved. Her ashram accepts pretty much anyone, for short to lengthy stays and little to no money. The hugs are always free.

When her followers once suggested that some criteria be established for who could stay at her ashrams, Amma objected. "That," she said, "would be like a hospital saying sick people couldn't come."

Her followers are devoted to prayer and service — works of the heart and hands. In the poorest parts of India, Amma has created schools, hospitals, and food programs. Her organization raised a billion rupees — about \$23 million

— for tsunami relief, making them the single largest organizational contributor.

When Amma said raise a billion rupees, her followers simply said, "By when?"

Bonnie was at Amma's Kerala Ashram when the Christmas Eve tsunami hit in 2004. If you're like me, when you think of an ashram, you think small. Try thinking big instead, like Amma does. Visualize an eight-story college dormitory at a large state university. Double or triple that, and you have a better idea. This ashram serves about 13,000.

We went to a side room to watch a tsunami video. The water came in, relentless, low wave after low wave, pushing toward where water had never been. Amma was in the middle of it, a commanding 4'10" presence, directing her monks and coordinating an emergency response from the first hour forward.

She was a force of nature in her own right.

After a lovely meal of dal soup, rice, vegetables, salad, and tahini, I was ready for my hug.

**T**he Darshan, as in "Have you received Darshan yet?" means blessing, and is the proper term

for the hug. By the time Bonnie and I joined the line, Amma was hugging ticket holders 1600-1700. I was number 623 and Bonnie was 1315, so we were good. We prepared to join the line of people on their knees before Amma.

We would kneel, explained Bonnie, not out of subservience to Amma, but to symbolize that "ego is beneath spirit." I said that was probably one of those things that sound simple, but isn't. "Yeah," she laughed, "It is."

The volunteer at the head of the line handed me a laminated card stating the ground rules. Remove glasses. Wipe off excess makeup or any perspiration. Grasp the sides of the chair

for support, not Amma. And my favorite: "Don't hug Amma. Let Amma hug you."

We went down on our knees and began the process of inching forward. Once we were about a half-dozen people back I was handed a tissue for my face. A few more lunges forward and my glasses went into a basket. Soon, we were off the runway and in the press of flesh immediately surrounding Amma.

Her devotees constantly directed me into the eight inches of space between me and the kneeling figure just ahead. "Move closer," they smiled. "Closer."

Finally, I was there. A number of helpers, dressed in white, simultaneously offered gentle direction.

The woman just ahead of me was sprawled across Amma's lap, gently sobbing. I felt detached, like the proverbial anthropologist from Mars. My rational mind had taken over. For me, there would be no magic today.

The sobbing lady was led away. Hands from all sides directed my body into position. Arms to the side of the chair, head somewhere between Amma's shoulder and bosom, kneeling into her lap.

As Amma began the hug, she continued an uninterrupted conversation over my head in what I presume to be Malayalam, the dialect of her native Kerala. Her helpers repositioned my head about three times. She rubbed her arms across my back.

The rough white linen of her blouse smelled fresh. I felt awkward and ridiculous. After five or ten seconds she bent her head to my ear and blew sharply, then crooning something like, "mardoori, mardoori, mardoori, mardoori, mardoori, doom, doom, doom, doom, mardoori." Soon, it was over.

Hands prodded me backwards. I looked Amma in the face but didn't connect. She handed me a chocolate kiss and a flower petal. Reflexively, I gently grasped her fingertips. She drew back and glared. That was apparently not allowed. I was led away.

After fumbling blindly into the wicker basket to distinguish my glasses from the four other pairs, I sat back in a folding chair. Bonnie soon joined me. Her hug had come just after mine. She looked blissed out, big-time.

"Well?" She asked.  
"She's something," I said. "Really something." ■





Adventures  
in Irony

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I tried to google "Downing St. Memo." I expected that a story of the magnitude of the Downing St. Memo story had been written up thousands of times, as would be revealed when I searched Google News from among their more than 4,000 news sources. But only 27 stories popped up.

# Google-y Eyed

If you're like me (and pray to your favorite power source you aren't), you like to sit all day. And when you sit all day staring at a computer, like I do, you get tired of it just sitting there

staring back at you with the same cute kitty picture in the background, or whatever. So you push buttons and try to make the screen do stuff.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that one of the things I make my computer do is fetch news stories for me. This is how I, a man who hates to leave his chair even to collect free food, came to know a while back that a rooster in a town in New Zealand was suspected of carrying a bomb. I did not go to New Zealand. I simply read about it in a newspaper story, which I found online. I think I had googled "New Zealand terrorist chickens" during an extreme boredom fit. Or some such thing. ("To google" = to use the Google internet search engine.)

This morning I did something similar. I tried to google "Downing St. Memo." I expected that a story of the magnitude of the Downing St. Memo story had been written up thousands of times, as would be revealed when I searched Google News from among their more than 4,000 news sources. But only 27 stories popped up.

Let's put that into perspective. It has been less than a day since Russell Crowe threw a phone at some guy, and the story of his arrest has already appeared in more than 300 news outlets.

So, I thought, maybe I'm asking for the wrong thing. The Downing St. Memo isn't really a memo at all, I thought; it's actually the official British Government minutes of a secret July 2002 meeting called to discuss secret talks with the Bush Administration in April of that year, concerning war plans for Iraq, proving that Bush lied for

months to the American people about his intentions. So I dropped the word "memo" and added the word "minutes," and googled the phrase "Downing St. Minutes."

For just a few seconds it looked as though I was making progress! Instead of only 27 stories I found a whopping whole 49! A stunning improvement! Then I looked at what stories I really got and found that all of the new stories I had picked up were sports stories and one from something called "Boston's Weekly Dig," which had an article on 74 Things to Do This Summer. Number one: "Get drunk at Fenway Park." The word "downing" appeared in a passage that discussed the possibility of downing gallons of cocktails in the company of hairy gay men, the event described as "running with the bears." "Minutes" referred to minutes on a ferry boat ride, presumably also spent getting drunk.

OK, eventually Anitra "born to google" Freeman showed me that I needed to spell out "Street," finally getting me just under 500 hits. But, this is for a story that's had more than a month to spread.

Googling "Michael Jackson trial" netted 13,300 hits! Even a story as recent as the coming out of Deep Throat got me more than 5,000 hits, and that's after googling "Mark Felt Deep Throat," rather than just "Deep Throat."

What does it take to get the world's press to take a story seriously? Evidently only six things matter: Sex, booze, sex, celebrities, drugs, and sex. Michael Jackson's trial has at least five of them. The Russell Crowe story has two of them (if he wasn't drunk that would be news), while writing about the Deep Throat story confers license to write "Deep Throat" over and over again, so there's your sex, sex, sex.

Question: Why does everybody know about Abu Ghraib and almost nobody knows about the Downing Street Memo? Answer: No one was naked at the Downing Street meeting. ■

## PIT, Continued from Page 3

To some extent, Pat McCollum, a parolee with 10 months to go, agrees. He says the \$695 he pays is a bit steep for the age of the place. But "Mr. Close did not hesitate to say yes. He didn't care that I was a prisoner. That makes a big difference."

In fact, it makes all the difference. In order to get out on parole, a convict has to have a residence arranged and approved by the Department of Corrections. Prior to his parole, McCollum said he was turned down at four other buildings.

"Really, I don't have much room to complain," McCollum said, because "without Mr. Close, I wouldn't have a place."

Bob Shilling, lead detective for the Seattle Police Department's sex and kidnapping offender detail, says homeless sex offenders are more dangerous because they can't be tracked and are in an unstable situation that can lead them to reoffend.

"Most sex crimes are crimes of power and control," Shilling says. When parolees don't have power and control over their own lives, he says, "They end up taking control of someone else's life, and we end up with another victim."

Of the 1,447 Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders who live in Seattle and are required to register their address with police, Shilling says more than 140 are homeless. Downtown and Capitol Hill are home to a total of 142 sex offenders — 35 in Belltown.

Close says his dispute with the DOC isn't over upkeep at the Franklin but two or three problem tenants he hasn't gotten around to evicting. Eric Kochis, the manager of the Charlesgate, says they include a crack dealer who has been seen selling drugs on Charlesgate property.

Close says he can't be held responsible for crime outside the building. Kochis, who manages 60 apartments, says that's bunk.

"If you pay attention to residents and create a rapport with them," Kochis says, "you know exactly what's going on." ■

### [Resource]

By July 1, the City of Seattle will go live with a new website where citizens can information on registered sex offenders in their neighborhood. In the meantime, see, [www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/services/sex\\_offender\\_search/](http://www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/services/sex_offender_search/).

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## Saturday, May 21, 10:30 a.m., Fifth Ave. — King County Jail.

Complainant, a transient white male aged 49, called 911 stating he was suicidal and homicidal. Officer contacted complainant in the lobby of King County Jail. He identified himself, and stated he was unaware that he had called 911. He stated that he had been suicidal for 13 years, and felt like killing himself now. He also stated he wanted to go to Aberdeen and kill the men who had apparently killed his father, stating it would make him feel good. Complainant was placed into handcuffs for his own safety and transported to Harborview for a mental health evaluation. Staff at Harborview ER stated he had just been released from their CTU within the last two hours. He was involuntarily committed for a 48-hour evaluation.

## Saturday, May 21, 11:30 a.m., Third and Yesler.

Officers observed a known suspect — a transient Black female aged 20 — while at Third and Yesler. A name check showed an outstanding warrant, and the suspect was contacted and detained while the warrant was verified. Finally, at 12:30 p.m., the police were informed by DSHS that the warrant should have been cancelled. Suspect was released.

## Saturday, May 21, 9:19 p.m., Yesler Way — alleyway to north.

Suspect, a homeless Black male aged 42, was contacted for trespassing in an alleyway — both ends were posted with "No Trespassing" signs. During a protective padown, a pocketknife was discovered in suspect's pants pocket. The knife was entered into evidence, and the suspect was identified and released.

## Saturday, May 28, 6:24 p.m., Battery St. / Western Ave.

Complainant states that he found the victim, a 38-year-old Hispanic male transient, sitting on a retaining wall at the southeast corner of Western and Battery Street. The victim was bleeding from his side and called for police and aid. As medics arrived and worked on the victim, the first responding officer interviewed a witness who stated that the victim told him that the suspect, a male in his 30s, and the victim got into an argument the prior night. Witness stated that the victim had said that the two were staying at an unknown hotel and both had been drinking. Witness then said that the victim threw the suspect out of the hotel and when the two met this morning, the fight continued. The second responding officer contacted the victim while he was being treated at Harborview Medical Center. The victim stated that he did not know the suspect's name, and during the first argument the suspect called him profane names. He added that when he kicked the suspect out of his room, the suspect threatened to "kill" him. He continued, stating that when he saw the suspect near CASA Latina he confronted him about the argument, and that is when the suspect started to fight with him. He said that he was stabbed during that fight. The officer then made contact with the witnesses, provided them with a case number, and requested that they call if they learn anything new.

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.

## REEFER, Continued from page 1

The police responded, handcuffing and reading the Osmans their Miranda Rights while searching their car and home for illegal drugs or paraphernalia. The Osmans were not arrested, however, because their plants weren't illegal. They both have a state-approved doctor's recommendation to use marijuana to help relieve the pains from active Hepatitis C, a disabling disease both Bruce, 43, and Rainee, 41, have. Rainee also uses marijuana to alleviate pain from stomach ulcers and migraine headaches.

"Medicinal marijuana provides us with the relief from our symptoms and allows us to take care of our daughter," Bruce says. "It gives us an enormous quality of life."

The county prosecutor did not charge the Osmans with a crime. Yet the apartment manager, Hannah J. Rudnick, 36, gave the Osmans a three-day notice to vacate the premises and remove all their belongings. In her testimony on June 1, Rudnick said she understood that she could be charged with a Class C felony if the management allowed tenants to have or use illegal drugs on the property — a matter she said she took seriously.

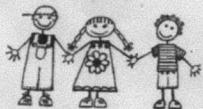
According to court documents of the trial, the management issued the eviction notice because possessing and consuming illegal drugs in rental properties is legally a nuisance. Rainee Osman says the three-day notice labeled them a nuisance, but she found the charge bewildering, because Bruce and she have only had company a couple of times since they've lived there.

According to Bruce, the management has been a recurring problem at Alderbrook.

"We've had five to six different managers in just the three years we've lived there," Bruce says. "We're just not able to build any trust with our managers."

Even though the Osmans didn't get evicted, there was still a possibility they could lose their Section 8 voucher, part of a federally funded program the King County Housing Authority uses to ensure the Osmans can afford an apartment despite their disabilities. According to court documents, Section 8 pays \$661 of the Osmans' \$948 rent. A hearing to decide whether or not the Osmans would keep their Section 8 funding was delayed until there was a judgment made in the trial.

See REEFER, Page 12



### Green Lake Preschool & Childcare Center

a child-centered learning environment

6350 East Green Lake Way North, Seattle, WA 98103

Anne Kelly, Director Phone 206-525-7877

NAEYC accredited, for further information please visit

[www.greenlakepreschool.org](http://www.greenlakepreschool.org)

## To set the record straight:

We believe that a president lying to the American Public is a moral issue.

We believe that killings thousands of Iraqis and hundreds of Americans on the basis of that lie is a moral issue.

We believe that protecting the environment is a moral issue.

We believe that giving tax money to the wealthy while millions of Americans are in need is a moral issue.

We believe that homosexual marriage is a moral issue.

(That's why we support it.)

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United Church  
Of Christ**  
5019 Keystone Place  
Seattle WA 98103  
Worship Sunday 10:30

## Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

### Long live local radio

Dear *Real Change*,

Why should students suffer because of Seattle Public Schools' administrative bungling? Selling off KNHC, Seattle's nationally recognized non-commercial radio station, to make up for budgetary mistakes: there's just no way that's fair or visionary. Instead let's sell off the newly constructed Seattle Schools administration building sited in SODO! Move the entire staff into one of the school buildings recently offered up as surplus. Plenty of room, parking and history — and dare I say poetic justice!

Let's see a commitment like this from the well-paid administrators and staff first; this would be the kind of leadership and belt-tightening action from the decision-makers that inspires, in contrast to the negativity of dismantling a highly successful, unique and popular student radio station. Long live 89.5, KNHC!

Sincerely,  
Billy King  
Seattle

### Politicians and other dirty laundry

Dear *Real Change*,

Here it is 2005, and it is the same old thing. Homeless people are still dying on the streets of Seattle — the town of

the great Chief Seattle, a loving, caring man to everyone. Suicides are rampant here. Homeless men and women are dying from exposure to the severe cold weather. They are raped, assaulted and beaten to death from whatever befalls them. Sleeping on the streets, in doorways, and under viaducts.

Bless the churches that reach out to the homeless men, women and children, giving them a safe place to go at night. To the people who so vehemently refuse to reach out a hand to help, a sanctuary, a service, for the poor and homeless people on the street: As you walk into your place of worship, do you have the feeling that someone walked out? Just a thought.

As we go into 2006 next year, let us all make an effort to end homelessness and racism. Because racism is still here and raising its ugly head wherever it can. The evil of racism bears bitter fruit. It hurts everyone, regardless of who they are.

Let's all vote and vote right. We vote for these people on their promises that they will work for all people. Once there, they get behind closed doors, and sell the poor and homeless out. Let's put people in that will work for, and help, everyone — not just for the survival of the fittest. Diapers and politicians need changing, sometimes for the same reason.

Sincerely,  
Estelle Wallace

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

#### Pioneer Square

Frye Apartments, a HUD Section 8 building, is now accepting applications for its waiting list. Studio and one-bedroom apartments for very-low income individuals, families, and persons with disabilities. Deadline to apply for the waiting list is June 24, 2005. Contact leasing Specialist.

Frye Apartments  
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Fax: 206.405.3583



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### Events

**The Lord's Table** will again be serving The Lords Supper to all homeless & low-income. 9:00 pm M-Th at The First Presbyterian Church, 7th & Madison. Also accepting \$5, in kind, clothing, bibles or religious materials. Contact Cal @ 206 325-7764 for more info.

### Jobs

**Teacher - Preschool Cooperative in Central Seattle**, PT lead position, minimum 2 yrs education/experience in early childhood development, ability to work well with parents and families. Call (206) 719-7574 or email resume to: [www.hathaway@excite.com](mailto:www.hathaway@excite.com).

### Politics

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# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

### Friday 6/10

After working as a journalist in Russia for 10 years and playing pro basketball in Mongolia along the way, **Matt Taibbi** came back to the U.S. and covered the 2002 election. He discusses his book, *Spanking the Donkey: Dispatches from a Dumb Season*, a campaign account, the likes of which have not been seen since the political chronicles of Hunter Thompson. 5 p.m., Elliot Bay Books, 101 S. Main. (206)624-6600.

### Saturday 6/11

The Kharga Oasis has yielded vast

amounts of information on Egypt's history from the Prehistoric to the Roman periods, with some astonishingly well-preserved remains. Discoveries in this oasis challenge our preconceptions about Egypt's history. **Dr. Salima Aikram** discusses the finds in his lecture, "Temples, Tombs, and Petroglyphs." Admission \$5. 2 p.m., Seattle Art Museum, 100 University Street.



For the past 30 years the **Total Experience Gospel Choir** under the direction of Pot Wright has enriched the Northwest community with inspired song. They celebrate the release of their new CD, *I'm So Glad! A Spiritual Reunion of Drums and Voices*. Admission \$16. Brunch 12:30 p.m., performance 1:30 p.m. Century Ballroom, 915 E. Pine Street. (206)324-7263 or [www.centuryballroom.com](http://www.centuryballroom.com).

### Monday 6/13

Following **Air America's** wildly successful live national broadcast from Seattle with Al Franken, the network's afternoon host **Ed Shultz** comes to town to do it again. He's on the air from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Townhall, Eighth and Seneca. Tickets and information: [www.am1090seattle.com](http://www.am1090seattle.com)

### Tuesday 6/14

In *Brother to Brother*, a young man, rejected by his family, befriends an elderly stranger: Bruce Nugent, the Black gay writer who co-founded the revolutionary journal *Fire!* Through his new acquaintance's memories, the younger man discovers the legacies of the gay and lesbian subcultures within the Harlem Renaissance. 10 p.m., PBS. Information after June 7 at [www.pbs.org/independentlens/brothertobrother](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/brothertobrother)

### Thursday 6/16

**George Lakoff**, author of *Don't Think of an Elephant!*, talks about trans-

forming the political debate — reframing issues and revitalizing progressive discourse by discussing policies in ways that speak to shared American values. Admission \$15. 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 8th & Seneca. Tickets at [www.footproof.org/2005/season/lakoff.html](http://www.footproof.org/2005/season/lakoff.html).

According to **Mose Allison**, he was playing in a club on the south side of Chicago when his music hit the radio. *Jet Magazine* called him for an interview. When he mentioned where he had gone to college, the caller commented that he must be the first Black man to graduate from LSU.

Mose said, "I'm a white guy." Mose, a true jazz legend in his own time, tells other tales through his whimsical lyrics and piano playing at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, 2033 Sixth Avenue, (206)441-9729.

On a September day in 1925, Ossian and Gladys Sweet moved into a bungalow on Garland Avenue in Detroit. This event proves pivotal in **Kevin Boyle's**

*Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*. Mr. Boyle discusses his book at 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, First Ave. S. at S. Elliott, 206-624-6600.

### Friday 6/17

African American science fiction author **Nisi Shawl** discusses her forthcoming novel *The Blazing World*, which makes vividly real the connections between human cloning, genetic engineering, and the future of human enslavement in the Americas. 7 p.m. University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E.

Grab your rings and clubs and come on down to the **Seattle International Juggling Festival** featuring the talented duo of Olga and Vova Galchenko. Enjoy workshops, performances, and roving jugglers. This could be the start of a new career. Through 6/19 at the Seattle Center. Information: [www.seattlecenter.com](http://www.seattlecenter.com) or Cascade Jugglers at (425)703-8379.

## Director's Corner

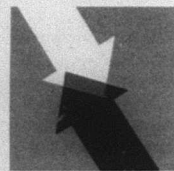


Many people are surprised to hear that *Real Change* is just one of many street newspapers that exist around the world. Since the first one, *Street News* in New York, appeared in the late 80s, a street newspaper movement has evolved that includes more than 100 papers spread across 27 countries from Japan to South Africa to Canada.

The idea of creating a voice of the poor that offers a direct means for homeless people to help themselves has proven popular the world over. *Real Change* also serves as the office for the North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA), which includes 20 papers operating within the United States and Canada. The annual NASNA conference offers our papers a chance to learn from each other and grow.

Washington State boasts papers in Spokane, Tacoma, and Olympia in addition to our own. While these papers are more modest efforts than *Real Change*, we once began small as well. I can easily envision a day when the street papers in Washington State will come together as a powerful statewide advocacy network that multiplies the energy of our many readers.

This year, the NASNA conference is hosted by *Street Beat*, a small paper in Halifax, NS. We'd like to bring as many people to this amazing networking opportunity as possible. If you have airline miles to donate, please give me a call at 441-3247 x202, or email [rchange@speakeasy.org](mailto:rchange@speakeasy.org).



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

### Build a Shelter in New City Hall

**Issue:** The Seattle City Council is considering legislation from the Mayor to develop unused space in City Hall to make it available for at least 75 severe-weather shelter beds starting this winter. The Council should support the effort to stabilize this important shelter. It's a smart proposal that will ensure the availability of shelter for years to come.

**Background:** The Mayor is requesting \$261,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to renovate unused space in City Hall to make it accessible and allow it to be occupied for use starting in the fall. The funds requested would be part of a half million dollar package of renovations.

Severe weather shelter serves adult men and women and opens on the coldest or wettest nights of the year. Funds to operate the shelter are already committed at the same level as in recent years, to open 60 to 90 days depending on weather, and to serve at least 75 people.

This shelter has been relocated four times over the last five winters, often with no location secured even as the weather starts to turn cold. Last year was especially difficult and a location was finally secured at Yesler Terrace, a low-income housing community on First Hill, but not until well into the fall. After last year's difficulty, it would be surprising if the City could find a new site any more easily this year.

Locating the shelter in a city building solves the problem of having to find a new location every year. The location is inside the downtown Ride Free area, making it more accessible to homeless people than last year's site. Last year the city had to use part of its reduced-cost bus ticket allocation from Metro to get people to the site. Locating the shelter in the Ride Free area means those tickets can be used to help people get to jobs or other services.

**Action:** Contact City Council members and ask them to fund the renovations needed to use space in City Hall for severe weather shelter. Seven of the nine members must vote yes in order to pass emergency legislation that can be implemented immediately to make sure the space is ready to open by November 1.

**Sample message:** "Last year at least 70 homeless people died outdoors and alone. I can't think of any better use of empty space in a public building than keeping people out of the elements and indoors where they're safe on the coldest nights of the year. I want to know that our new Civic Center — a beautiful example of a community resource — is utilized to its best potential. Please fund the Mayor's request for an additional \$261,000 to renovate the space for use as a severe-weather shelter."

Jan Drago [jan.drago@seattle.gov](mailto:jan.drago@seattle.gov) 684-8801

David Della [david.della@seattle.gov](mailto:david.della@seattle.gov) 684-8806

Richard McIver [richard.mciver@seattle.gov](mailto:richard.mciver@seattle.gov) 684-8800

Jean Godden [jean.godden@seattle.gov](mailto:jean.godden@seattle.gov) 684-8807

Jim Compton [jim.compton@seattle.gov](mailto:jim.compton@seattle.gov) 684-8802

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Richard Conlin [richard.conlin@seattle.gov](mailto:richard.conlin@seattle.gov) 684-8805

Tom Rasmussen [tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov](mailto:tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov) 684-8808

Peter Steinbrueck [peter.steinbrueck@seattle.gov](mailto:peter.steinbrueck@seattle.gov) 684-8804

## THUNDERBALL, Continued from Page 1

degrees. Team Seattle's players must be disabled in at least one arm and one leg in order to play. Out of this comes the game's ranking system. A scale of .5 to 3.5 is used to measure a player's ability to compete on the court. To be on the court, a quad rugby team must have players whose sum rank cannot exceed eight.

The game is also not as dangerous as people think, says player Ted Kuoppamaki. Chairs are built to minimize the chances of tipping over after a crash. A bigger concern for him is staying cool via a water bottle shower, since (like other quadriplegics) his spinal cord injury prevents his body from sweating.

I ask him if that's the main reason for taking periodic breaks during practice.

As he's about to nod, a player a few feet away shouts, "No, it's because we're out of shape!"

The gist of quad rugby is to move a volleyball across the court and score by getting your chair past the opposing teams goal line, ball in hand. All players are strapped into their chairs and wear gloves, usually palmed with tape or glue to grab the ball if their fingers are unable to grip tightly. Players must dribble every 10 seconds, but speed and looking for players to pass to is mostly on your mind, says Kuoppamaki. If you have the ball, you're destined to be tackled by players hungry to steal it.

Wagner points to the bumper grill on the front of his chair, laughing. "You can see how many times mine's been re-welded."

Injuries that result from tackling seem to occur mostly due to chairs not suited to the user, as was the case with player Curt Chapman, who suffered a broken finger and head injury before he got a new one.

"It's really all about the chair," says Kuoppamaki, who ordered his, like some other members of the team, from a local designer. Unlike a normal wheelchair, the models for quad rugby have tires with metal caps that are tilted slightly diagonally for stability, along with three smaller wheels. Straps and frames built

for the user keep riders in place, ready to inflict damage — though all for the sake of a friendly win, of course.

The obvious questions spring to mind as Team Seattle's players huddle for the interview.

Is there any trash talking?

"Oh yeah, oh yeah, all the time," they say.

Wagner chimes in: "One time I had somebody pissed off at me; he left the game because I had him so pissed off. He wanted to kick the shit out of me, too!"

Any fights?

"Not much," Kuoppamaki says. "We usually take it out in hits — you know, legally."

Rivalries are not uncommon, though you'd probably never peg any of the players as types to hold grudges. It's the personality shift that comes with playing, Kuoppamaki reveals.

"I turn into an asshole out there."

Quickly, he flashes a grin and rephrases: "Well, let's just say I get upset very easily."

The competitive attitude switches on when he rolls back to the court near his scrimmage team of four.

His teammate lobs the volleyball into the air to pass but falls short. An opposing player picks it up and passes it to Chapman. Swiveling around, he darts through a massing crowd of tacklers just as Kuoppamaki turns toward him. Before he can line up for the tackle, another player blocks him with a crash, shoving him sideways as Chapman heads for the goal line and scores.

Kuoppamaki appears frustrated but the look passes as they swiftly prepare for the ball to come back into play. His teammate throws it into the air, but another player fails to catch the loose ball.

"He's taking dives, man!" one guy shouts, and suddenly, the game halts while everyone bursts out in laughter.

In between the smart-ass comments, violent sounds, and the rabidly competitive play, you start to wonder: How can this be anything but fun?

**[RESOURCE]**

Team Seattle is currently fielding suggestions for a team name and is always open to new players. Contact [seattlerugby@gmail.com](mailto:seattlerugby@gmail.com). ■

## REEFER, Continued from Page 10

A day after the judge issued her order, Dunn says he received a phone call and a fax from the housing authority, informing him there would be no hearing. He also said the housing authority would reinstate the Osman's Section 8 funding immediately.

"The decision is perfectly reasonable and makes a lot of sense," Dunn says.

While the Osmans don't have to return to the street, they will have to give up the use of medicinal marijuana since the Supreme Court ruled on Monday that the federal government can persecute sick patients who use home-grown pot, even when a doctor has permitted it.

That means the Osmans have to quit using medicinal marijuana if they want to retain their Section 8 funds, says Dunn.

"The Supreme Court ruling has us really bummed, because the feds can

go after anyone they want," Rainee says. "We can't even think of having it in our home and we don't want to use it in our car and drive around. If we can't use it in our home, we're not going to use it."

"It's like we have the right but we can't exercise it," Bruce says.

Now the Osmans say they are going to have to move and will start selling Real Change newspapers again to get the money they need to do so. Even though they won the eviction trial, they no longer feel the Alderbrook

Apartments are a safe place for them to live because of the animosity they feel coming from the management.

"It's not going to be safe for us to live here," Bruce says.

And despite the local victories in Washington, the Supreme Court's decision ultimately means the Osmans lost.

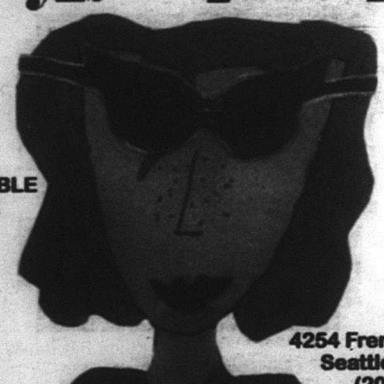
"They accomplished what they wanted us to do," Bruce says. ■



BRUCE AND RAINEE OSMAN AFTER THEIR VICTORY IN KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT.

PHOTO BY ANDREA LEE.

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