REAL CHANGE

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Manley Quest

Local man fathers a movement to abolish child support

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

Wind and rain pierced the plaza at Seattle's new federal courthouse on May 18. That didn't stop Perry Manley. He was determined to burn an American flag to protest something he's been fighting 15 years: child support and the second-class citizenship of divorced fathers.

"Freedom march for non-custodial parents!" Manley cried. "Freedom march for non-custodial parents!"

Except for one other dad taking pictures, Manley was a march of one. He wore a black judge's robe and yellow sandwich board, which he took off before stepping up to a fountain to burn the flag he'd brought with him.

His lighter, however, only burned holes in the nylon — nothing for the nine policemen on hand to worry about. Manley has been to the courthouse so many times, in fact, that one of the officers greeted him by name, then asked why he needed to burn a flag.

"It's a symbol of freedom," Manley answered. But "25 million non-cus-

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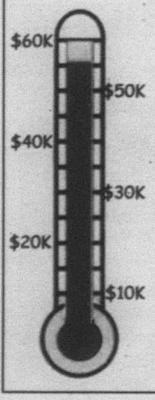
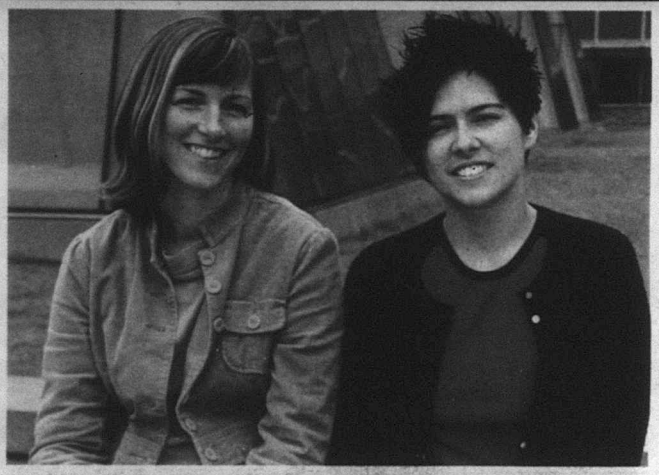
[Thank You]
With just two weeks left to go in our summer fund drive, the readers have spoken. *Real Change* is a valued community resource that deserves your support. With, $51,251 in donations and pledges received, we are closing in on our goal of raising $60,000 by June 30. We get there one gift at a time. Please use our secure on-line donations page at *www.realchangenews.org*, or the coupon on Page 12 to support *Real Change* today.





UW LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS LINDSAY HALM AND LESLI WOOD, THROUGH THE INNOCENCE PROJECT, HAVE FOUGHT TO BRING FORTH EVIDENCE OF PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT IN THE CASE OF CONVICTED ROBBER ANTON BARKER. PHOTO BY MARK SULLO.

Case Reopened

UW law students use new evidence to revive convicts' hopes of freedom

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

Lesli Wood quavered as she stood before the three appelate judges. Her time was nearly up, but there was so much more she wanted to say about Anton Barker. Tears welled up in her eyes.

Barker, 45, is currently serving a life sentence in Monroe for a 1999 robbery in Yakima. It was supposedly his "third strike," but the conviction was based on the testimony of a witness who never saw the robber's face and a convicted snitch known for lying to police.

The jury, however, never got to hear that last bit of information. That's because the prosecutor kept it a secret. Last week, before the U.S. Court of Appeals in Seattle, Wood and fellow law graduate Lindsay Halm argued it was a miscarriage of justice for which Anton Barker deserves a new trial.

Wood and Halm have spent the last year working on the case for the Innocence Project, a year-long clinic at the University of Washington School of Law. Ten to 12 law students take the clinic each year to earn credit — and work on righting grave wrongs.

The program, which started out an all-volunteer effort in 1997, was one of the first in the nation to reopen cases using DNA testing. While not always successful, the Innocence Project offers a critical last chance for forgotten souls like Anton Barker, who so believed in his innocence that he originally represented himself at trial, despite having only an eighth-grade education.

"This case is attrocious and I feel I didn't get a chance to get that across," Wood says of the tears that came to her eyes.

Halm notes, however, that Barker finally got a hearing — something he's been fighting for for years.

Barker was tried as Yakima's so-called "clown robber." On April 1, 1999, a man wearing red and blue face paint, a kerchief and baseball cap walked into a Payless Shoe store and robbed a lone clerk from behind. Though the description she first gave police did not match Barker in age or build, he had previously visited the store without buying any shoes.

Two other clerks thought that was suspicious: In their 76-page brief, the Innocence Project team — including Halm, Wood, project director Jaqueline McMurtrie and Seattle University law professor John Mitchell — argue

See INNOCENCE, Page 12

Building the Will

Ending homelessness will take a coordinated response

By JEFF NATTER
Committee to End Homelessness in King County

Beginning in 2005, King County, the City of Seattle, United Way, the faith community, and many others are joining together to tackle the issue of homelessness as never before. A broad-based coalition of business, government, faith, social services, and homeless advocates formed the Committee to End Homelessness in King County. After months of study and discussion, in March they approved a Ten-Year Plan to create the structure, housing, support services, and community will to end homelessness in this region by 2014.

In a recent opinion piece, John Fox and Carolee Colter of the Seattle Displacement Coalition applauded the Plan's goal to end homelessness ["Root Causes," June 1], but said the Plan fails to adequately address the social problem at its source. They wrote that the committee needs to make a stand for more funding to create the needed social services. And they criticized what they felt was a focus on maintaining bureaucracies.

It is true that, despite the efforts of many and millions of dollars, the region has been unable to reduce homelessness over the past several years. In a study commissioned by the federal Office of Housing and Urban Development in January 2004, King County was lauded for its wide range of high-quality housing and supportive services, but criticized for lack of service coordination and effective, sustained, public and private partnerships to end homelessness. The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County was the response to that report — a recognition that a more collaborative and regional effort was necessary to end homelessness, rather than continue to manage it.

It is true that, despite the efforts of many and millions of dollars, the region has been unable to reduce homelessness over the past several years. The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness is a recognition that a more collaborative and regional effort is necessary to end homelessness, rather than continue to manage it.

While Mr. Fox and Ms. Colter term this a "plan to institutionalize and further bureaucratize our response to homelessness," in fact, the Plan is unique in that it brings together representatives from a very wide range of fields to lead a new kind of dialogue. For the first time in our county's history, a gathering of this region's strongest voices will work together to address the issues of homelessness and develop the community's response.

It is important to understand that the Ten-Year Plan in and of itself does not represent the solution to the myriad social, economic, and human issues that lead people into homelessness. The issues that the authors raise — livable wages, preserving affordable housing, and ongoing public and political accountability — certainly will not be peripheral to the discussions. Indeed, having community leaders from a broad range of perspectives serving on the Plan's Governing Board, its Interagency Council of service providers and advocates, its Consumer Advisory Council, and the various subcommittees ensures that attention be given to both historical and emerging issues by people with the knowledge and authority to effect change. I invite, and hope to welcome, members of the Displacement Coalition to those discussions.

Chief among the authors' concerns is that the Plan is not sufficiently specific regarding funding. It is difficult to estimate the amount of funding needed over the next 10 years, but we do know that we will need to develop additional revenue streams. That is exactly why inviting members of the business community, philanthropy, key elected officials, and housing developers to the table is so critical. The interplay of expertise among these leaders will allow new, creative approaches to funding to emerge, as well as ongoing accountability for the most effective use of our current resources.

It is important to note that some of the necessary funding already exists. King County currently commits approximately $30 million annually to housing and homeless programs. Over the course of the next decade, this translates to $300 million dollars. Additionally, we hope to collect $3-5 million per year from the "Homeless Housing Funding Act," a new revenue source for housing and homeless programs recently approved by the 2005 State Legislature. Finally, we estimate that we may realize millions of dollars in cost savings as people move into permanent housing and their utilization of costly programs such as emergency services, jails, and inpatient treatment facilities decreases.

Making a commitment to *end* homelessness is a bold action. The energy and enthusiasm generated by the Plan are inspiring. Nevertheless, when I talk about the Plan to various community and government groups, I'm often met by what I would call "healthy skepticism." "Ending homelessness in ten years? Impossible. Foolhardy." I disagree. I firmly believe that, over the next decade, we can generate the public and private will to provide safe, affordable, long-term housing for every man, woman, and child in this county. I ask the authors and all citizens of the county to join in this effort. ■

Jeff Natter is the project director of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County.

REAL CHANGE

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

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

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

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

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

On the Web at
http://www.realchangenews.org
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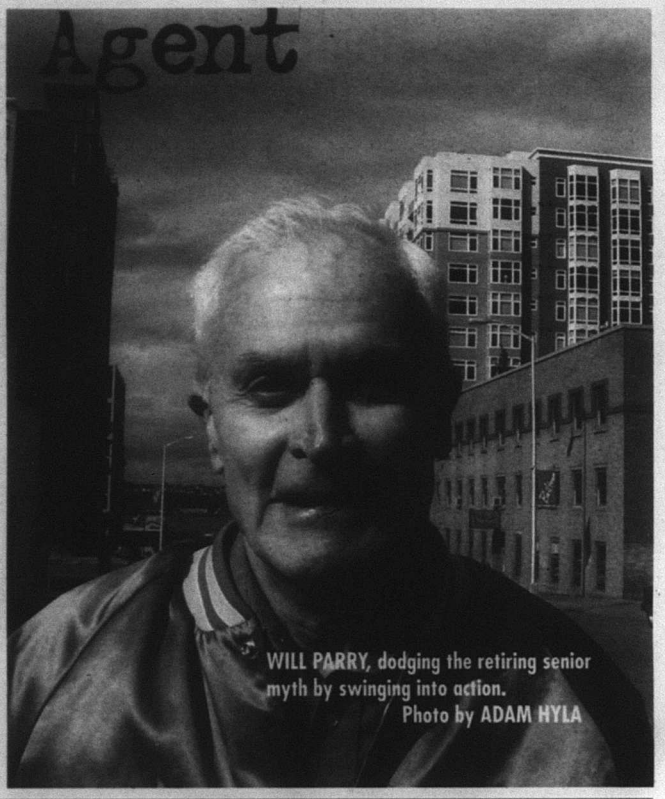
Change Agent

Will Parry isn't a single-issue senior. He reminds you right off the bat that more children are on Social Security than on welfare. The organization he and his wife Louise help steer, the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans, is pushing for a citywide referendum on the right to decent health care. And when seniors grumble about immigrants living off government largesse, Parry stands up and tears down that myth, too.

A lifelong writer, in the 1940s and '50s Parry was a cub reporter for the *New World*, a paper backed by a broad-based alliance of poor people, labor activists, and far-left Democrats called the Washington Commonwealth Federation. As McCarthyism decimated the left, Parry was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He took the Fifth. The present day is not as bad, he says, as when McCarthyism silenced millions. Back then, "Nobody would have shown up to protest when a Dick Cheney came to town."

Hope is well-founded, he says. "We have a free-swinging tradition of democratic action, and things can turn around in a hurry here."

—*Adam Hyla*



WILL PARRY, dodging the retiring senior myth by swinging into action.
Photo by ADAM HYLA

Schooled in Protest

Granito de Arena shows globalization through schoolteachers' eyes

By TOM COGBILL
Contributing Writer

In one of many conflicts over the future of public education in Mexico, Granito de Arena *captured police in Chiapas forcibly removing citizens from a teachers' college. Made by local filmmaker Jill Friedberg,* Granito de Arena *has a Seattle debut June 25.*

On the heels of the success of her first documentary, *This Is What Democracy Looks Like*, an account of the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle, local filmmaker Jill Freidberg began looking for ideas for her next project. A self-described activist and organizer, she has long been concerned about infringements on the quality of public education in the United States. So when she learned from friends in Oaxaca about the decades-old struggle of Mexican teachers against efforts to dismantle the public education system there, the idea of linking the two began to take shape in her mind.

Two and a half years of traveling back and forth to Mexico, developing trust with the rebellious teachers, and watching as events unfolded there have led to the recent release of her second documentary film, *Granito de Arena* ("Grain of Sand"). Not sure what to focus on at first, Ms. Freidberg ended up with 120 hours of film, which she ultimately edited down to a single hour. In the final cut, she interweaves protest scenes with archival footage and interviews of commentators and participants. Her aim was to relate how the teachers have been responding to the impact of economic globalization on public education in Mexico.

Discussing why she took this tack, Ms. Freidberg says, "This film is about the teachers' resistance to the impacts of neoliberalism. I think around the world it's critical that teachers themselves ask the question: What should be the role of a teacher in the context of economic globalization? That's the question behind the film. There isn't one answer, but the film tries to present food for thought for answering that question."

Originally an anthropology major in college, Ms. Freidberg felt herself drawn to making documentary films on social and economic justice. After looking over various programs, she decided to attend Vancouver Film School to learn the basics of the craft. In 1999 she became involved in founding the Seattle Independent Media Center and has worked with independent media collectives in Mexico as well. When not pursuing a project of her own, she works as a video editor and volunteers with KBCS as a radio programmer.

"I view my work as part of a larger effort to redefine media," she says, "and, in terms of how I distribute my films, tapping into the same independent media networks."

She did not attempt a mainstream distribution of her first film, *This Is What Democracy Looks Like*, but sought instead "to get the film into communities of action, as part of coalition building." She distributed thousands of copies to student groups, unions, churches, and activist organizations. ■

Just Heard ...

Sudan: progress

Student activists brought the plight of victims of genocide in the western Sudanese region of Darfur to the University of Washington Board of Regents. And the regents responded.

Because of a resolution passed by the school's governing board, the UW's Department of Financial Management is writing five companies it's invested in that have ties with the Sudanese government responsible for the deaths and displacement of ethnic Africans in Darfur. Each of the companies — ExxonMobil, Lafarge, RoyalDutch, Siemens AG and Total — are involved in the oil industry, say the students.

The letters are a chance "to make clear our point of view," says V'Ella Warren of Financial Management. She says UW officials will reach out to institutional investors like New York's state pension fund, which is making efforts to get their money out of Sudan.

One such institution with a ways to go is Washington state. The student group says the state employee pension fund has an estimated $1.5 billion worth of investments supporting the Sudanese government. For more information, check out Save Darfur: UW at highlyrefined.net/darfur.

Streetcar: green light

Five members of the Seattle City Council have given the thumbs-up to a streetcar that would bump along from Westlake to the south shore of Lake Union. But because of a last-minute amendment by councilmember Tom Rasmussen, local property owners paying for a portion of its construction won't know the exact price until the design is fully underway.

That may be frustrating for them, but it's good for the city. Property owners will be first in line to pay. "I'm committed to minimizing the risk of having the public pay for unanticipated cost overruns," Rasmussen says.

—*Adam Hyla*

A piercing issue

If you're squeamish, the news is good: No one will be hanging by a hook in this Saturday's Fremont Solstice Parade.

That's what a group of Seattle performers called PURE had proposed for its parade float — a mounted beam holding a person pierced by a hook.

Though piercing is an ancient practice — one that PURE has a great deal of experience with, parade director Monica Miller says — the nine-member board of the Fremont Arts Council took an unheard-of step last week: It bowed to community complaints and voted down the proposal.

That's bad news for freedom of expression in Seattle. Until now, Miller says, the parade was an uncensored public forum that anyone could participate in — something the parade director says she's repeated many times.

Much to her disappointment, Miller says, "It turns out that's not true."

As a result of the controversy, Miller says, some Fremonsters are now discussing starting a whole new parade next year.

—*Cydney Gillis*

Hold-Up

Fearing personal liability, citizen review board can't report on police investigations

By ADAM HYLA
Editor

The OPA [Office of Professional Accountability] Review Board is one of three civilian components to the investigative process dealing with allegations of police misconduct, which are handled by the police themselves.

The citizen observers of Seattle's police-accountability process are months late with their twice-yearly reports, hamstrung by an agreement with the police union holding them legally responsible if they violate the privacy of officers accused of misconduct.

The three-member volunteer board, which looks at papers filed on every 10th case concluded by the Seattle Police Department's staff investigators, is expected to author a written account of the type, number, and outcome of civilian complaints to the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA). The board tallies up the number of officers who are the subject of three or more complaints in a given year, and notes any trends or problems in the internal investigations process.

After a reading by the City Attorney's Office, this report is released to the public every six months. But the last report was released April 30, 2004.

"We may never issue another report, if they can't deal with this problem," says boardmember and lawyer Peter Holmes, who recieves a $375 monthly stipend for the hours he spends poring over the OPA files.

The OPA Review Board is one of three civilian components to the investigative process dealing with allegations of police misconduct, which are handled by the police themselves. The board's investigative and disciplinary power is very limited — it only sees case files that have been concluded and with officers' names redacted. Still, it does serve as a watchdog of police protocol, questioning inconsistent disciplinary action or commending departmental reforms.

Even if the name of an officer who is the subject of a complaint slips past the black pen, review board members have signed a confidentiality agreement — mandated by the union contract between the city and the Seattle Police Officers Guild — that says they will be legally responsible for intentionally breaching the privacy of any officers.

That's not a condition shared by OPA civilian auditor Katrina Pflaumer, who is contracted part-time by the city to review cases in process. Like the volunteer boardmembers, she is also sworn to confidentiality, witstands a thorough criminal background check, and issues reports on the process.

For the Review Board, it should be a simple task of ensuring names and police badge numbers are omitted from the reports. But it's not.

Holmes says he and his colleagues undertook four major revisions of the April 30 2004 report before its release, aiming for a certification from the City Attorney that it did not contain prohibited information. Problem was, circumstantial information — even direct quotes from the case files themselves — could potentially reveal an officer's identity, said the attorney.

Finally, the lawyer concluded that, in Holmes words, "if litigation results, we believe the city will prevail" — cold comfort, since even after the court victory, board members would still have to pay the legal fees.

City Attorney Tom Carr says the city's lawyers can't provide any assurance that the report maintains officers' privacy.

"A court would ultimately make that decision," says Carr. "We would be really bad lawyers if we told them there was no risk of something."

In the end, the review board excised any direct quotations from case files — which "took a lot of the clarity and impact out," says Holmes.

Nearly 14 months later, Holmes says he and his colleagues are still uncertain how detailed their next report may be without getting them into hot water.

"We're acting at our peril, trying to discharge our duty to oversee the OPA," says Holmes. "It's like, 'There's a line out there, but we're not going to tell you where it is.'" ■

Short Takes

Safety levy: maybe later

After championing it, Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata has scuttled the idea of a November property tax "public safety" levy to pay for more police officers and social-service aid.

Intended to keep poor people from cycling from hospitals to jails and back to the streets, the idea came to the fore this spring as the City Council held a community forum on policing. There, citizens from a range of neighborhoods called for more patrol officers. While Seattle mayor Greg Nickels is planning to add 25 more cops to the force, councilmembers note that they will only compensate for cuts to the department enacted in 2003. A resolution commending Nickels for the 25 officers and signalling that the council would consider putting a levy on the November ballot passed the council 8-1 May 31.

But the wind shifted rather swiftly. Less than two weeks later, Licata polled his colleagues and found no support for getting a levy ready by November.

The levy idea is a victim of logistical problems, says councilmember Richard Conlin, who co-sponsored the resolution.

"I felt we didn't have enough clarity as to what we were going to accomplish," he says. The idea of bringing on another 30 officers is fine, he says, but where would they be assigned? What sorts of social services should be funded? And what are they supposed to accomplish? Conlin says the goals of the levy weren't yet clear.

> I felt we didn't have enough clarity as to what we were going to accomplish.
>
> *—Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin*

"It's not to say that you couldn't put something together, but I thought we would have a hard time making a case to the voters because we had a hard time making the case to ourselves."

Meanwhile, the clock was ticking, says councilmember Jean Godden, who also voted for the resolution. Other tax levies have had citizens' committees with ample time to sort out the details. "This was a rather short time-frame."

The Downtown Seattle Association is still a big supporter of the idea. The merchant group's vice president, David Dillman, says more is needed than police.

"We need to work with the street population to find them housing and case management, before they put themselves into the position of committing crimes. We saw an opportunity through [Licata's] program to assist in that process," says Dillman. "Without advocacy and outreach, we're just adding officers to have more officers."

—Adam Hyla

Freeway Park skate?

Project for Public Spaces, the New York consulting firm that brought you the city's current plan to cut down 17 trees and add bocce-ball courts in Occidental Park, is looking to do much the same at Seattle's Freeway Park.

The idea is to bring more people into the parks — and make them less hospitable to the homeless. But, if that's the city's goal, asks Seattle landscape architect Kate Martin, why not open Freeway Park to the people who would use it most — skateboarders and BMX bikers?

> We have problems in the downtown parks and much of what we've tried hasn't worked.
>
> *—Seattle Landscape Architect Kate Martin*

It's an idea Martin, a member of Seattle's Parents for Skateparks, wants people to consider at a brown bag lunch and tour she has organized June 15, 12 p.m., starting at Freeway Park's main entrance at Sixth Avenue and Seneca Street.

Allowing biking and skateboarding in designated areas would help fill Freeway Park and bring in spectators, Martin says — at a fraction of the $1.2 million that the city has allocated to reinvent Occidental Park.

The plan, which the city paid Project for Public Spaces to come up with, includes cutting down 17 of the park's 39 trees, removing the pergola shelter and benches, and installing a stage and bocce-ball courts — ideas that run counter to a plan Pioneer Square business owners and residents developed over a five-year public process.

The firm has suggested similar ideas for Freeway Park, but Martin doubts they'll work.

"Let's face it: We have problems in the downtown parks and much of what we've tried hasn't worked," Martin says. "It's unlikely that the planting of annual flowers, painting the concrete, or changing the fountains are going to make Freeway Park an inviting and safe place to be."

—Cydney Gillis

Kate Martin can be reached at 783-6538 or kate.martin@parents4sk8parks.org.

A view of the world outside, as captured by Real Change *vendor Bryant Carlin, below.*

RC Hero

Bryant "Bear" Carlin, Vendor #9059

By ERIN ANDERSON
Vendor Services

Bryant "Bear" Carlin is no stranger to wilderness survival. But three months in the Queets Rainforest, complete with the occasional cougar encounter and only his camera to keep him company, did little to prepare him for the urban "wilderness" of homelessness in Seattle.

Bryant has been a *Real Change* vendor for about six months. "I needed work of some kind, needed to start bringing in some income," he says. "I had bought the paper in the past and I knew what it was all about." While you may find him selling papers outside of the Fremont Starbucks, Bryant's heart lies elsewhere — the Olympic Peninsula, to be exact.

When he's not out selling the paper (and often even while he is), Bryant is busy making plans for a two-year photographic expedition that he's calling the "Olympic Wilderness 'Light-Water-Life' Visual Symphony." In this project, Bryant aims to "visually interpret the song of existence as rendered by the light and life of the wilderness," by photographing 36 images daily to create a cache of 26,280 images from 52 base-camp sites in the Olympics.

Growing up in Alabama, Bryant discovered his passion for nature and photography very early on. "I started taking pictures on family vacations when I was 10 or 11 years old," he says. "I got my first real camera at age 15, and I was really inspired by National Geographic." Taught deer hunting as a child, Bryant says, "I haven't shot any wildlife in the last 15 years, except with a camera. I find that I get the same thrill of close approach to wildlife, but my trophies are still alive."

Struggling to overcome his problem with alcohol abuse and recovering from the devastation that Hurricane Ivan wreaked on plans for a six-month paid photo shoot in the Florida swamplands, Bryant bounces back and forth between a motel room in Shoreline (when he can afford it) and north-end parks (when he can't). Certainly, Bryant sells *Real Change* in order to make a modest income and try to keep himself off the streets, but he also sees it as furthering his long-term goals and passions.

"The best thing that is happening for me in selling the paper is the opportunity to network with people in Fremont," he says. "I hand out business cards, and I've got a couple of people who might be interested in financing my work." He also mentioned some local bars that had expressed interest in displaying some of his photographs for sale.

Bryant hopes to turn his passion for wilderness photography into a stable source of income, selling posters, books, calendars, and fine-art prints. All the same, it is clear that Bryant is in it for much more than the money.

"Wilderness is my religion," he says. "This particular expedition, I look at it as a higher power — something to look up to other than my addiction. It's a deep contemplation of life, beauty, and who I want to be."

Personal triumphs and tribulations aside, Bryant also sees his work in terms of the bigger picture. "I would really like the public to understand the serious nature of this expedition, especially in the face of global climate change," he says. "You can think about the decline of an ecosystem from the standpoint of homelessness. When wildlife loses a habitat and become 'homeless,' that equals extinction." Tongue in cheek, he adds, "And they don't have a newspaper to sell."

The March 30 issue of *Real Change* ran an article called, "Lost on the Coast," about the growing number of displaced, troubled veterans on the Olympic Peninsula. Mention this article to Bryant Carlin, and he will tell you with a smile, "In my case, I'm finding myself on the peninsula." ■

To learn more about CarlinAlan Wilderness Photography, please visit Bryant's websites at: *www.carlinalan.com* and *www.visualballads.com.*

Class Matters

How social change movements can build power by recognizing what keeps us apart

Interview by TIMOTHY HARRIS
Real Change *Executive Director*

Betsy Leondar-Wright is about as middle class as they come. She lives in Arlington, Massachusetts, has a Masters Degree in sociology, and is Executive Director of United for a Fair Economy, a national organization that works to highlight the policies that create ever greater divisions of wealth in America. But more than three decades ago, she dropped out of Princeton to pursue a lifetime of social justice activism, much of that spent working in poor people's organizations. Being privileged, she writes, can be a big asset for everyone, if you know what you're doing.

Now, she is sharing her insights in *Class Matters*, a timely book on cross-class alliance building for middle-class activists (New Society Publishers, 2005). Using her own ample experience as a guide, Leondar-Wright brings together more than 40 interviews with leading activists to offer nothing less than an owner's manual for a powerful and broad-based movement for social change. She spoke to us from her home about class in America, and what progressives need to do to start winning.

Real Change: There's this idea that Americans aren't aware of class differences, and that everybody here thinks they're middle class. What's going on there?

Betsy Leondar-Wright: It's a myth that everyone calls themselves middle class in this country. That's only true when the pollster gives the option "lower class," "middle class," or "upper class" — because who wants to be low class, right? So, then in that case, 90 percent of everybody call themselves middle class. But when working class is one of the options, then 45 percent of everybody call themselves working class, which is not that far off from reality. I think the obliviousness mostly exists among middle-class people. People who are lacking in class privilege know perfectly well that we're a very class-stratified society, but mostly don't use the word "class" to describe that.

RC: So how do they talk about it?

Leondar-Wright: American culture is just permeated with it. Country music has a lot of anti-elite things in it. Hip-hop culture has a lot of class anger in it. I am a Bruce Springsteen fan myself, so, of course, Bruce always brings up a lot of working-class pride and class rage. So, I think that you see it everywhere — you see it in movies, on TV, in popular culture, and in the way people talk to each other — that there are a lot of little gestures and expressions. Some people kind of push their nose up to represent snootiness. I think that there's talk about class and class unfairness going on all around us, but mostly not using the "c" word.

RC: One of the great ironies of our time is that the right is doing a really good job of tapping into class anger, but redefining it in cultural terms.

Leondar-Wright: That's right. By describing the economy as something that just kind of happens naturally and isn't an appropriate thing for the government to get involved in and thereby taking economic policy out of the political realm, then people's anger at elites becomes all about the social issues: the guns, gays, and God kind of trio, and about cultural things. About how much swearing there is on TV, or about the Club for Growth ad against Howard Dean. That Howard Dean should take his latté-drinking, Volvo-driving, *New York Times*-reading, left-wing freak show back to Vermont where it belongs. They're trying to make a wedge between the red and blue cultures and drive the wedge using working-class people's — mostly working-class white people's — class rage.

RC: And I think that it's the feeling of being judged unfavorably that creates that anger. The left gets accused of elitism, and there is a large kernel of truth there.

Leondar-Wright: That's right. If we want to build a political movement that sees it as intolerable that so many people don't have health care, that so many people don't have housing, and that you shouldn't work full-time and be poor — almost everyone agrees with that — the thing that those of us in progressive and liberal circles have to do differently is to stop acting like the elitists the right wing is accusing us of being.

RC: I love where Barbara Ehrenreich says in your book, "For god's sake, leave the health issues alone." That we need to stop judging people because they're not vegetarian or because they smoke or whatever. It doesn't matter. Get over it.

Leondar-Wright: I see it as really coming out of the more harmful side of middle-class culture. Instead of keeping up with the Joneses, we have 'I'm more simple living than the Joneses.' The competition and the looking down at other people is still there just as much, and giving that up is tough.

RC: Why does any of this matter? Why do we need to do things differently? Why do we need to be aware of class differences and how that keeps people apart?

Leondar-Wright: Well, I think that for any

> It's a myth that everyone calls themselves middle class in this country. That's only true when the pollster gives the option "lower class," "middle class," or "upper class" — because who wants to be low class, right?

[Resource]
Take the test. Where do you fit in America's class system? http://www.nytimes.com/packages/html/national/20050515_CLASS_GRAPHIC/index_01.html

Continued from Previous Page

of us who want to make a better society, or even just make an improvement in our community, having your group or your movement draw from just one kind of person, which is the most typical thing to happen, that that makes you weaker. It makes you less able to reach your goals. I think it's important to realize that anybody who's working for change has some self-interest in broadening the base. One of the first things I do in the book is to go through movements and talk about the limits in who their supporters were and the limits of their achievements. And sort of postulating that if they had been able to bridge those differences and draw in more allies, that they would have achieved their missions to a greater degree.

RC: What's a successful cross-class movement?

Leondar-Wright: Well, I think the Civil Rights Movement is the most cross-class movement we've ever had in this country, and it was also one of the most powerful transformative movements we've ever had, and I don't think that's a coincidence. Some of the pioneers were the relatively privileged African Americans. The ministers and the students took some of the initial risks that were way-way dangerous for the sharecroppers and the lower-income African Americans.

Well, I think that for any of us who want to make a better society, or even just make an improvement in our community, having your group or your movement draw from just one kind of person, which is the most typical thing to happen, that that makes you weaker. It makes you less able to reach your goals.

They could have just stopped there and been an anti-segregation movement of the college-educated folks. Instead, people like Ella Baker and others went out and actually registered people to vote who were the very lowest income. If you get the stories, if you go beyond the big leaders, and look at who the groups were made up of, there was actually a wide range, including the very poorest people, and then they got allies from the North and from white people, that really spanned the whole range of classes in the United States, and that's some of why it achieved so much, whereas other movements have had some class diversity, like the women's movement, but were pretty quickly split by class and ended up achieving much less than they could.

HARD SHELLS AND HARD HATS: ENVIROS AND WORKERS BRIDGE CLASS DIVIDES AT THE WTO, A STRATEGY THAT ENLIVENED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. PHOTO GEORGE HICKEY.

RC: Why isn't there more discussion of class by diversity trainers?

Leondar-Wright: Diversity training happens in a lot of progressive circles, and there's a lot of really good stuff out there, but the way you make money doing it is by doing it for corporations. Other institutions, I think, are to varying degrees open to including class, but I don't see it happening anytime soon in the corporations.

I don't want to exaggerate how good we are on gender or race. We've only taken baby steps. But we have at least developed some language to talk about it. We have sort of an agreed-on goal that we want to have diversity, and most institutions in society now actually have that as a goal. They mostly fail at it, but in many cases they have that as a goal. With class, we don't have any of those things. We don't have vocabulary in common, we don't have an agreed-on goal, and we haven't taken any baby steps yet.

RC: So much of your book is about power: who has it, who's comfortable with it, how to be aware of it. And you talk about boundaries and about having a sense of your limits and also being respectful while not making yourself a doormat.

Leondar-Wright: That's right. That's a good way to say it.

RC: Can you talk about that a little bit?

Leondar-Wright: There are stages you go through with any identity. We all start out oblivious to the oppression that's around us. And then you suddenly wake up and see it everywhere around you and you're just horrified and so angry, and there's a tendency to swing to the other end of the pendulum — to make the opposite mistakes.

When you're oblivious to your privilege, you make these mistakes of dominating, taking over, insisting that things be done your way, and hogging power and hogging resources, etc. And then when you wake up and you're in your angry militant stage, you then tend to make the mistakes of romanticizing people who are less privileged and thinking that all knowledge and all wisdom comes from the oppressed group.

You kind of turn your common sense off. And you just kind of turn into this wimpy follower, which at best means you're following somebody who is good to be following, but you're not really contributing very much.

RC: You've been touring a bit on your book, and having a lot of conversations about class. What's new and surprising for you — an insight that you hadn't really had before?

Leondar-Wright: That's a great question. It's how different places are from each other. I'm not finding any one pattern, but I am finding that in some places, people cannot name a progressive or liberal group run by owning-class people. They say, "That doesn't exist here." Or some people can't name a group run by poor people. I'm in Boston, a big metropolitan area with a lot of nonprofit groups, and community organizations and unions and everything else. I'm realizing that in some areas, if you want to have a mixed-class movement, some whole pieces of it are going to actually have to be organized from scratch. ■

Full-Nelson Femininity

Lipstick and Dynamite: The First Ladies of Wrestling
Directed by Ruth Leitman

By LESTER GRAY
Contributing Writer

In the closing moments of *Lipstick and Dynamite*, a retrospective of women's professional wrestling, 82-year-old Gladys "Kill 'em" Gillem offers, "I know what life is. I slept on the ground, with a good man and a bottle of whisky." Ms. Gillem's down-to-earth and colorful recollections provide an essential counterpoint to the sport's trademark braggadocio, abundant in the film's interviews.

Women's wrestling began as an attraction in carnivals and fairgrounds. Featuring females who would "take on all comers," promoters found these bouts surprisingly lucrative, but a bit dangerous. To have a man defeated by a woman was to flirt with a riot. So these impresarios of the unnatural and unusual adjusted, adding women-vs.-women bouts to male lineups at larger venues, where they successfully boosted sagging attendance. It was in these incipient, post-Depression days that many of the film's interviewees entered the sport.

Most of the recruits at that time, white Southern gals, joined up because they were dirt poor, with nothing but more of the same on the horizon. The Fabulous Mullah, one of wrestling's central figures, recalls working in the fields from sunup to sundown, picking 100 pounds of cotton in a day. "A penny a pound — one dollar," she recalls, with a you-do-the-math expression.

The Fabulous Mullah, one of wrestling's central figures, recalls working in the fields from sunup to sundown, picking 100 pounds of cotton in a day. "A penny a pound — one dollar," she recalls, with a you-do-the-math expression.

At $50 a match, it didn't take a whole lot of arithmetic to seal the deal.

But the bottom line, while providing an elevated standard of living, left something to be desired. The life of a grappler was a life on the road, traveling from arena to arena like a minor league baseball team. The wrestlers' attire was prescribed in and out of the ring, and to a certain degree, so too were their dating habits. The promoters took up to 50 percent of their earnings, and according to the women, enjoyed a few "in-kind" benefits as well.

Ruth Leitman, the film's director, through her interviews and editing, touches upon the angst inherent in the socially ambiguous position of these women. They thought of themselves as ladies. Their publicity pictures portray them as pin-ups. For the public they were curiosities. But in the final evaluation, they were and always will be entertainers. Almost 60 years after some of them first entered the ring, they're still talking trash and spotlighting ass-kickings long gone by.

The film captures all of this and a lot more if you care to look. Behind these "ring characters" are mothers, wives, and people simply trying to carve out a living and a life — looking for sameness, while making a living out of being different.

Lipstick and Dynamite is a spirited work that moves right along, riding on some darn fine country music. It's a just-in-time rescue of a legitimate piece of Americana, in a way that only film can. ■

Lipstick and Dynamite plays June 17-29 at the NW Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave. Running time: 75 minutes. Information: *www.nwfilmforum.org.*

Clean, Clear, Corporate-Owned

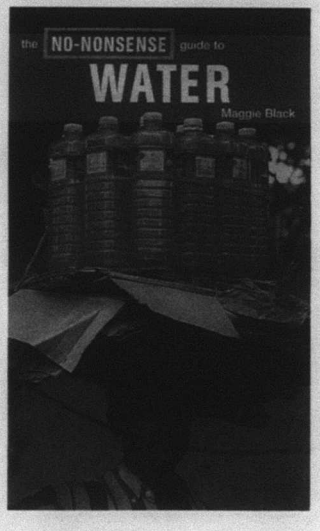
The No-Nonsense Guide to Water
By Maggie Black
New Internationalist Publications/Verso Books, 2004
Paperback, 144 pages, $10

Reviewed by TOM COGBILL
Contributing Writer

In Maggie Black's *No-Nonsense Guide to Water*, the reader learns that, according to World Health Organization estimates, 1.1 billion people in the world do not have ready access to uncontaminated water for drinking, and 2.4 billion lack decent sanitation facilities.

These disconcerting figures underscore the story of mismanagement of global freshwater resources, which comprises the core of this slender volume. Black draws on recognized statistics to illustrate regional disparities in water policies as well as the socio-economic consequences of human interference in the hydrological cycle. Based on a range of scholarship, she advocates rethinking conventional approaches to resolving the water crisis.

She provides historical context by briefly considering how earlier civilizations managed potable water supply and sewage disposal, and how they regarded waterway rights as a means of livelihood. Water has always been recognized as essential to all life and therefore not subject to laws governing other commodities. Interestingly, it has rarely been used as a weapon of war (through poisoning or deprivation). However, for various reasons, modern societies are on the brink of destroying the very freshwater ecosystems upon which human survival depends. Media attention tends to focus on industrial effluents and raw sewage while under-reporting the disastrous — and ironic — consequences of land reclamation, flood-control, and hydro-electrical projects. Industrialized and developing countries alike have squandered colossal sums on ill-conceived "amelioration" plans that have eliminated livelihoods, displaced populations, and despoiled resources for generations.



Black points out that even in places where access to water has improved, little impact has been made in diminishing waterborne diseases because these are spread primarily through absence of proper sanitation. But improvements in hygiene depend on integrating the cultural and socio-economic values of a particular locale into the solution, not just throwing money at the problem.

She goes on to address "monetizing" water, i.e., privatizing its sources and distribution. Neoliberal theory has it that, by making water a commodity, private companies could supply it more efficiently, reducing costs and increasing availability. Supported by the IMF and World Bank, neoliberals turn the local water authority over to a large, multinational corporation, which slashes bureaucracy and invests in infrastructure. In the near term, consumers seem to benefit, but with a monopoly on the resource and a mandate to turn a profit, the company eventually raises prices. As practiced in England, this has somewhat worked (with customer grousing), but in the developing world, those unable to pay simply get cut off — evoking outrage and civil rebellion.

In the end, privatization often fails because, as one pundit puts it, "the poor are not profitable." The author's alternative is to fund initiatives locally. Keeping management of water resources within the community, despite certain drawbacks, shows greater promise in reaching underserved populations.

The soaring global sales of bottled water reveals a different facet of corporate involvement. Black notes with some bemusement that bottled water costs several thousand times what tap water does — although in some cases it is only tap water. Because it is often regulated less than tap water, numerous cases of contamination have turned up. Furthermore, where groundwater is siphoned off, locals may suffer aquifer depletion or the drying up of their ancestral lands.

To her credit, Black does not succumb to cynicism over decades of feckless policies, wrong-headed directives, and rank profiteering. She projects a cautious optimism about humanity's willingness to share and improve water resources: to create "water democracies," as Indian activist Vandana Shiva puts it. Black admonishes us that a vital natural resource like water belongs to everybody, in common ownership, and is best controlled by local democratic power, not by distant business mavens with no vital stake in people's health. ■

It's All About Me

Adventures in Irony

© Dr. Wes Browning

Lately I've been reading about the mental stress of being homeless and how it affects people in the long run. Naturally I take everything I read about that subject as I do any other — namely, deeply personally. It's the habit of a lifetime. No matter what the subject, it's really about me. I know it.

I'm not paranoid! It's just that everything is always about me, because the being-about-me-ness is an inescapable fundamental part of the nature of all things in Nature. For example, French fries are about me. They're telling me I'm fat. They scream it, actually.

Boneless buffalo wings are about me. They're telling me that the makers of boneless buffalo wings think that I, Dr. Wes Browning, am so stupid that I'm going to believe they de-boned the wing of a buffalo and fried it for me, instead of just pounding some chicken breast to a pulp, frying it, and calling it a boneless buffalo wing. Whereas, in fact I know that A) buffalos don't fly and don't have wings and B) if they did, the wings would taste like cow, not chicken.

Even when I'm specifically not being talked about, it's about me. "I'm not talking about you, Wes! I'm talking about Christian self-flagellators among the 14th Century Flemish," you'll say, and I'll say, "What are you saying, I couldn't flagellate myself? Are you saying I'm not a bit Flemish? I could too be Flemish. And don't even think of telling me I don't have any 14th Century in my blood. I'll get 14th Century on you right now and see how you like it."

Studies about the long-term mental stress of being homeless are about me. They tell me what a mistake it was for me to have been homeless all those years. They tell me I should have belonged to a different economic class. They tell me I should have lived 150 years ago, and built me a log cabin. They tell me that when insurance companies start offering insurance for mental health care, I won't be eligible to get any.

So I was reading about a study done on the mental stress of homelessness that talked about some ways long-term stresses of homelessness screw you up. That's not exactly what it said, but I'm simplifying it so that I, Dr. Wes Browning, won't have to write down a lot of technical garbage that doesn't have anything to do with the point I am planning to make.

That point will emerge after I tell you that, in this study as well as in others that I've seen, a distinction is implied between the general class of the chronically homeless and the subclass of the now-housed chronically homeless. The study found that the housed chronically homeless had much better prognoses than did the other chronically homeless.

And I ask myself, who are the other chronically homeless, who are not the housed chronically homeless? They're the homeless chronically homeless, that's who! And realizing that, now I know everybody in the world wants my brain to spontaneously liquefy and pour out my nose! Is there no stupidity people won't force on my poor overtaxed neurons? Talk about your long-term mental damage!

I distinctly recall warning the world that something like this was going to happen, right after Philip F. Mangano (Bush administration hotshot on homelessness) started promoting the hell out of the concept of the chronically homeless. I said then that it was an idiotic concept that lacked any precision and fooled people into thinking they were saying something when they were saying precisely piddle.

Well, its getting piddlier. Much piddlier.

And while we're at it, sticking the word *the* in front of a nebulous concept does not make it less nebulous. Of course those who use the phrase *the chronically homeless*, in particular Philip F. Mangano himself, know that. He just does it to annoy me, © Dr. Wes Browning. ■

I'm not paranoid! It's just that everything is always about me, because the being-about-me-ness is an inescapable fundamental part of the nature of all things in Nature. For example, French fries are about me. They're telling me I'm fat. They scream it, actually.

Leave Me Alone

Loneliness, loneliness
leave me alone
I want to write
a life of my own
An original amalgam
of poetry and song
But I can't write
unless I'm alone
And I can't be alone
without loneliness
And so many people
have so much less
So who am I
to whine and to bemoan
Loneliness, loneliness
leave me alone?

—Artis

Poemetry II

Executive
Keeps a pistol
in his desk drawer for
the end of
the night.
To scratch the top
of, back of his mouth
where his tongue
can't reach.
an in-flamed spot
fighting infection.
But there are
worse things.

—Ben Ahrens

Thursday, May 26, 5:30 p.m., Elliot Ave W. / Blanchard St. The suspect, a 30-year-old white male transient, was observed on DOT property under the Alaska Way Viaduct. This area is clearly marked no trespassing. The suspect said he did not see the signs. The suspect was warned not to return to the area or face arrest. The suspect said he fully understood and promised not to return to the site. The suspect was very apologetic and gave officers no problems. The suspect also volunteered for DRE training at the West Precinct. The suspect was transported to the West Precinct and left after completing training. The officers requested that the prosecutors not file charges against the cooperative suspect.

Friday, June 3, 10:25 a.m., City Hall Park. Officers observed the suspect, a transient Black female, aged 46, enter and remain in City Hall Park. They were aware that she had previously been trespassed from all Zone Four parks, and City Hall Park is in Zone Four. She was arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass in the parks.

Friday, June 3, 5:15 p.m., Pike Place Market. Officer observed the suspect, a transient Black male, aged 37, sitting in the lower level of the Pike Place Market near the stairwell. Officer knew that the suspect had been previously trespassed from this location, and contacted the man. His previous trespass was verified, and the officer gave the suspect a new trespass admonishment card. He was identified and released.

Saturday, June 4, 2:26 p.m., Broad St./Westlake Ave. Officer responded to the above location on a report from a passerby of a man down. Upon arrival he contacted the victim, a transient Black male, aged 40, who stated that he had tried to commit suicide and had jumped from the overpass to the street below — a fall of around 20 feet. He thought he may have broken both ankles and was in a lot of pain. Victim stated that he suffered from depression and drank alcohol regularly. He has made suicide attempts in the past, and stated to the officer that he "doesn't want to live anymore." Officer completed a mental health contact report, and the victim was transported to Harborview Medical Centre for treatment of his physical injuries and a mental health evaluation. ■

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.

MANLEY, Continued from Page 1

todial parents don't recognize this symbol because this symbol doesn't represent them."

Because his ex-wife hates him, Manley told the officer, he won't get to walk his daughter down the aisle this August. The very thought choked Manley with tears.

In the myriad of lawsuits Manley has filed against the state, however, he's argued money shouldn't have been withheld from his paychecks to support his ex-wife's choice to have children or get a divorce — which Manley objects to on religious grounds.

Despite the lone flag-burning, Perry Manley isn't alone: He's part of a growing national network of divorced and angry fathers who aren't just offering support or legal advice any more — that was the '80s. Today, disgruntled dads with groups such as Dads Now, Fathers4Justice and a host of others are arguing that the child support system doesn't treat dads equally and should be abolished.

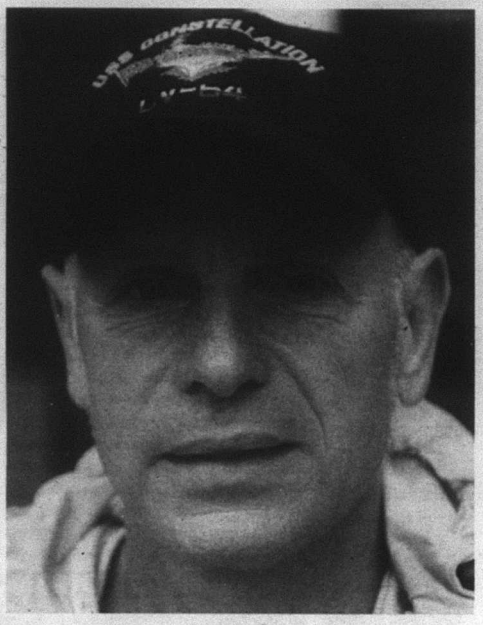
For 15 years, Manley has been arguing there's no such thing as a non-custodial parent. What he and other dads say they want is real, joint custody where no child support is paid to either parent, and each has the kids half the time.

Lawyers say shared custody is a growing phenomenon, but one that only works when the divorced mom and dad can communicate without conflict.

In the three latest lawsuits Manley has filed in U.S. District Court since 2000, however, he hasn't been arguing for joint custody — his own three children are already grown. What Manley has argued, over and over, is that child support violates the Anti-Peonage Act and represents involuntary servitude, which he says is illegal under the U.S. Constitution.

That, says Manley, who filed the lawsuits on his own, has deprived him of the fruits of his labor, including paying an average of $14,000 in child support after his kids were grown.

In his two most recent cases against the state, he also sued three of his former Seattle employers — the Women's University Club, The Salvation Army, and Aramark Sports — for complying with state orders to withhold child support from his paychecks.



Perry Manley is part of a growing movement by men to abolish child support and the sanctions against those who evade it.

Photo by Elliot Stoller.

In every case, the court, most recently under U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly, has dismissed Manley's claims — moves that led the father to file letters with the court system April 18 and May 31 accusing Zilly of treason for not enforcing the law as Manley sees it.

Over the years, Manley, who was divorced in Bremerton in 1990 and now lives in Seattle, has been evicted, jailed, and homeless in the same cycle of protest.

Tom Swanson, the dad who was with Manley at the flag-burning, says he's been living out of a storage unit for about six years — the result of a hand injury that left him unable to work for two months. As a result, he could not pay the $900 in child support he owed from his monthly paycheck of $1,800.

He currently has a payment plan to retire the $65,000 in back child support he owes. But Swanson says his ex-wife and son are long gone. Even when he knew where they lived, he says his ex-wife disobeyed the visitation rules and there wasn't much he could do about it.

"The parenting plan isn't worth the paper it's written on," says Swanson, a Gulf War veteran who came home

See MANLEY, Page 12

CLASSIFIED

Opportunity

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

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: *wwhathaway@excite.com.*

Politics

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Calendar
This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 6/15 thru 6/25

The Awakening, set in New Orleans at the turn of the century, tells the tale of a young wife who never quite settles into a life of domestication. Poorly received when it was first released, the book is considered a classic today. Book-It Repertory Theatre performs the adaptation. Seattle Rep's Leo K Theatre, 155 Mercer St. Show times and tickets at (206)216-0833.

Wednesday 6/15

If you are a lover of books and bookstores, especially the way they used to be, *The King's English: Adventures of an Independent Bookseller* should interest you. **Betsy Burton**, with a considerable reputation preceding her, comes to tell tales of her store, which she started in 1977. 7:30 p.m., Elliot Bay Books, 101 S. Main, (206) 624-6600.

Thursday 6/16

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, speaks on *"Ethics, Human Rights, and Globalization: Implementing a Common Agenda"*. Ms. Robinson stresses the role of an empowered civil society. Pre-payment and pre-registration required. $25 Members & Students, $35 non-Members. Info:(206)441-5910.

Friday 6/17

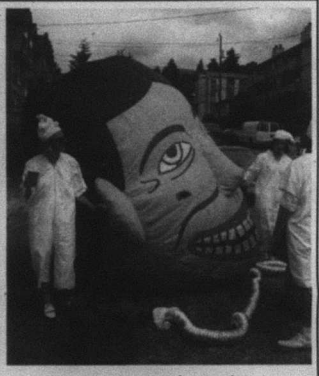
Labor organizing in the sex industry is the subject of the film *Live Nude Girls* (sorry, no sex or nudity), presented by Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice as part of their **Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies** series. Discussion follows. Admission is free. 7 p.m., at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. Information: *wnfp@bridgings.org*.

Saturday 6/18

Ronne Hartfield's family story tells of generations of mixed race people in open miscegenation, but not living out tragic Mulatto stereotypes. Ms. Hartfield, a senior research fellow at Harvard discusses her moving book, *Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family*. Info: Elliot Bay Books, 1st Ave. S. at S. Main, (206) 624-6600.

Sunday 6/19

On March 16, 2003, Rachel Corrie was killed while trying to halt the demolition of a home in the Gaza Strip. Her parents, Cindy and Craig Corrie, along with Khaled and Samah Nasrallah, who lived in the demolished home, speak at the University Friends Meeting Hall, 4001 9th N.E.



It's time once again for the fabulous **Fremont Fair,** featuring food, crafts, and lots more. The fair supports the excellent work of the Fremont Public Association, which provides a variety of services to low-income people. Just north and west of the Fremont Bridge. June 18 and 19: Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday 6/21

"The Education of Shelby Knox" profiles a high school student in Lubbock, Texas. A Christian, Shelby pledges celibacy until marriage, but also spearheads a campaign for sex education opposing the abstinence-only curriculum because Lubbock has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the state. This broadens to include a Gay/Straight alliance. Personal faith, politics, and parenting come center stage in this PBS presentation. 10 p.m. Check local listings *www.pbs.org/pov/shelbyknox*.

Wednesday 6/22

Bruce and Ju-Chan Fulton read from their new translation, *Tree on a Slope*, one of the few Korean novels to describe the physical and psychological horrors of the Korean War, *follows the misfortunes of three young soldiers in the South Korean army*. 7 p.m., Seattle Public Central Library, 1000 4th Ave. Information: (206) 386-4650.

Thursday 6/23

The Flight of the Goose takes place in a remote Inupiat Eskimo village in 1971, where the friendship and love between a young female shaman, a traditional hunter, and a draft-dodging ecologist leads to tragedy. Seattle Author **Lesley Tomas,** who grew up in an Inupiat Eskimo village and still returns to study traditional ways, discusses her new novel at 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., (206)634-0810.

Photo courtesy of www.kevincosley.com

Director's Corner

Branding. It's not just for cows anymore. Over the least few years, we at Real Change have been trying on and tossing off new identities like an insecure teen-ager. It's not so much that we don't know who we are. It's more that we've been looking for the words.

Taglines aren't the first thing most people notice, so maybe you haven't seen that ours changes every three months or so. Once, we were "Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless." While this had a certain grassroots ring to it, to most people it meant "written for someone else and not interesting to me."

Once we woke up to this sad but true fact, we began "reaching out to end poverty." This was a step in the right direction, but still kind of narrow. To many people this says, "anti-poverty newsletter." We are and have always been much more than that.

Then we got all conceptual on you. Taking a page from the Book of Lakoff, the author of the influential "Don't Think of An Elephant," we decided to associate ourselves with broad concepts that are core to our values, like, oh, say "fairness, opportunity, and community. This was better still, but a bit abstract.

What is it that we really do? We explore issues that matter. We offer insights you won't find anywhere else. We have a huge impact on our community. Issues, Insight, Impact. We think we'll keep it.

First things First
Get Involved • Take Action

Global Debt: Make a Good Start Better

Issue: Next month's meeting of the world's largest industrialized nations, known as the G-8, provides a rare opportunity to address the debt crisis that is hurting the world's poorest people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Under pressure from Jubilee campaigns across the globe, the G-8 has acknowledged that measures must be taken to alleviate poor nations' debt. They've put it on the agenda for this summer's meeting, and the emerging proposal by the US and UK to relieve some debt will help move the debate, but it doesn't go far enough.

Background: Global debt guarantees that many people in the world's poorest countries remain in poverty because their governments don't have the resources to repay the debt and provide for their needs. The poorest African countries, for example, spend an average of $14 per person on debt repayment, and only $5 per person on health care. While more than 6,000 Africans die daily from HIV/AIDS, African nations send $13 billion in debt service payments each year to wealthy creditors. UNAIDS estimates that $10 billion a year would stem the tide of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The Jubilee USA Network called the emerging proposal by President Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair a sign of progress in the debate over debt cancellation. Reports indicate that it includes a deal for 100 percent cancellation of debt to the World Bank and African Development Fund for around 18 poor nations. It's a good start, but any deal should include all impoverished nations and relief of debt owed to the International Monetary Fund, which represents 30 percent of the debt service payments the poorest nations will pay over the next five years.

Debt relief is a tested and effective tool for fighting global poverty. Already, countries like Uganda have doubled their school enrollment by using debt relief to ensure that all children complete primary school. Other nations, like Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, and Cameroon, have used their debt relief to fund AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

Instead of investing in their futures, countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America continue to pay international creditors hundreds of millions of dollars in debt repayments. If the debts were cancelled, poor countries could send their children to school, ensure access to clean water, and provide basic health care services like immunizations.

Now is the time to call on the G-8 to make a plan for full debt cancellation. The people affected by a crushing debt burden cannot afford for the G-8 to put off a solution any longer.

Action: Contact the President and Treasury Secretary John Snow and tell them that any debt cancellation deal made must include 100 percent cancellation of IMF, World Bank, and regional development bank debt for all impoverished countries without harmful economic conditions.

President Bush: *president@whitehouse.gov*,
202-456-1111
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

John Snow: *secretary@do.treas.gov*,
202-622-2000
Secretary of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Or, visit *www.jubileeusa.org* to send an online postcard.

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to find his wife in bed with the gardener.

While fathers can appeal to the court to have child support payments reduced or deferred, many divorced dads say the courts and lawyers are a big part of the problem. They say attorneys represent men terribly in family court, which nearly always gives custody to the mother.

"I paid a lawyer $5,000 to be a dummy and be silent while I got less than 30 percent non-custodial" visitation, says Steve Polson. "By giving me less than 30 percent, that lets them charge maximum child support and funds the system."

Polson is a fisherman who came down from Alaska last year to be near his daughter and ex-girlfriend, who moved to Washington in 2003. Since then, he says, his ex-girlfriend has moved again. More than an hour's drive now separates his house in Rochester from hers in Kalama.

That makes his Thursday though Saturday visitation with his 4-year-old daughter a constant rush, Polson says — with no end in sight. Polson says he and the mother are currently in jurisdictional limbo between Alaska and Washington.

"I'm asking for equal custody," Polson says. "It's statistically proven that children do better with both parents in their life. This is so one-sided."

All three men say their custody fight isn't a gender fight — three million of the nation's non-custodial parents are women who suffer the same travesties, Manley says. But the writings at Hate Male Post, a web log where Manley and Swanson post notes and articles, say otherwise.

"The 'woman' has waged WAR against Patriarchy, defined as control by men," Manley wrote in a recent entry at the site. "The movement seeks to destroy: The Constitution, The Family, Established Religion."

The website of the "Indiana Civil Rights Council" — a fathers' rights group through which Manley and Swanson met — is far more detailed. It claims more mothers abuse children than fathers and lays the blame for youth suicide, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and other social ills squarely on the shoulders of single mothers.

"The court gave the child to a high school dropout who was unemployed and had no skills," Swanson says of his ex-wife. "She's never had a job."

> "The 'woman' has waged WAR against Patriarchy, defined as control by men. The movement seeks to destroy: The Constitution, The Family, Established Religion."

Three attorneys with experience in family law say Manley's legal arguments don't excuse a man from supporting his children. They agree, however, that representation of fathers has been atrocious over the years — something that's slowly changing.

In the meantime, Nancy Sapiro, an attorney with the Northwest Women's Law Center, says mothers still tend to get custody because they are usually a child's main care-giver — the number-one factor that a judge is supposed to consider under the state Parentage Act.

If a husband shared care-giving during the marriage (for instance, feeding, diapering, and bathing the children half the time), Sapiro says he's entitled to half custody — something Manley had but calls a joke because he had to pay someone to raise his children.

Sapiro and Renton attorney Ruth Moen insist, however, that when men chose to litigate, they prevail — particularly men with money. "They used that power viciously," Moen says.

"As in any situation, you can drum up examples on either side to boost your point of view," Moen says. "As many stories as there are of women manipulating the system, there are an equal number or more stories of men manipulating the system." ■

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that it was ultimately their description that led to Barker's identification and arrest.

Barker's first jury was hung. The clerk's eyewitness testimony just couldn't overcome the fact that the robber's face had been covered.

It was in Barker's second trial, McMurtrie says, that the prosecutor introduced a "star witness" named Raul Abundiz. Abundiz claimed Barker had confessed to him twice — once in early April and again on the morning of June 14, 1999, when the two were in jail together.

At the second trial, a court clerk testified that on June 14 Barker had been in court all day, not in jail. But the jury never knew that Abundiz himself had been in jail in early April, before Barker was ever arrested. Abundiz was awaiting a burglary charge that was mysteriously dropped by the prosecutor's office, which did not disclose Abundiz's four separate convictions in the prior year.

Each month, the Innocence Project receives 50 to 60 from inmates appealing for help on their cases, McMurtrie says. Out of that, the program is currently working on five cases and five post-conviction DNA requests.

Despite Barker's criminal history — which includes burglary, forgery, and two robbery convictions — the team took on the case, she says, because it was particularly egregious.

"The legal issue we're arguing is prosecutorial misconduct for failing to turn over this information," McMurtrie says.

For its part, the state is arguing that the information wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome of the case — a linchpin on which Barker's case and fate rest.

During oral arguments, however, the judges made it clear to Assistant Attorney General Gregory Rosen that the federal courts have not yet ruled on the precedent — a so-called *Brady* claim — that the Innocence Project has raised over the suppressed evidence.

After the hearing, the team's hugs and tears spoke of success — and hope for justice. But it could be a month or a year, Wood says, before the court rules.

"Lindsay and Lesli did a great job of showing why the withheld evidence was so important and why it would have made a difference," McMurtrie says. "We all feel very strongly that Mr. Barker deserves a new trial where he can prove his innocence." ■