

# REAL CHANGE

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JUNE 29-JULY 5, 2005

## BIG BROTHER

Technological advances set the stage for Orwellian future.

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## BORDER PATROL

Immigrants face deportation, thanks to War on Terror.

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## CLAP TRAP

Rising syphilis rates mean it's time to wear your hoodie.

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Advocates search for ways to prevent education cuts.

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## JEAN THERAPY

Levi's rep Amaranta Wright finds brand names alter the truths of South America.

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JOSEF GRIMSUD AND JILL HUMPHRIE PAID \$175,000 FOR A NEW HOME IN SEATTLE'S CENTRAL DISTRICT, WHERE HOMES NEXT DOOR WERE SOLD FOR ALMOST TWICE THAT PRICE.

PHOTO BY LUKE MCGUFF.

## A Piece of the Pie

Land trust helps couple attain homeownership in the city's center

By JADE INGMIRE  
Contributing Writer

Innovation without insensitivity. Development without displacement. Urban density versus suburban sprawl. And a house that sells for a cool \$175,000, instead of its original 325K.

These are the ideas behind a less known but rapidly developing concept called a community land trust, most re-

cently epitomized in a local demonstration project called Jefferson Cottages.

Land trusts have been around since the Civil War era, when sharecroppers were able to collectively buy houses that were too expensive for individuals. Today, land trusts are a little more complicated, though they stay true to their collective roots. Someone, usually an

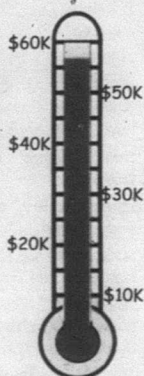
See HOMEOWNERS, Page 12

## Summer Fund Drive Nears End \$3,472 Short

For those of you have been waiting to see how our Fund Drive goes, this is the time to help.

This May, we launched our summer drive with the goal of raising \$60,000 in two months. Readers have generously responded. As of June 28, we are at \$56,528 in donations and pledges. Many new supporters have stepped up to do their part, and many others have increased their giving in this critical year for *Real Change*. We still need to raise that last, significant piece of support to keep this newspaper thriving as a weekly. What does \$3,472 mean for us? It's the print cost for two and a half issues of the paper. It's payroll for two part-time vendor peer support staff for more than two months. It's our part-time reporter for the rest of the summer.

With your support, *Real Change* will thrive and grow as an independent media source that offers hope and dignity to the poor and homeless. Please use our secure on-line donations page at [realchangenews.org](http://realchangenews.org), or the coupon on Page 12 to support our work today.



See FUNDRAISING, Page 9

# Observation Deck

Are we using technology to outlaw homelessness?

By JOE MARTIN  
Advisory Board

Science fiction author Bruce Sterling once reflected on the homeless people he encountered in Phoenix. He saw them as a product of the economic shifts generated by the cyber-revolution. "How will those currently enjoying America's digital bounty regard, and treat, all this teaming refuse yearning to breathe free? Will the electronic frontier be another Land of Opportunity — or an armed and monitored enclave, where the disenfranchised struggle on their cardboard at the locked doors of our houses of justice?"

Widespread penury is one direct result of our money-driven economics and militarism, though some powerful individuals are blasé about this consequence. In *The Twilight of Sovereignty, How the Information Revolution Is Transforming Our World*, banker Walter B. Wriston writes: "All technological progress has created social problems, and the information revolution moving over the global network is no exception. New skills and new insights will be required to survive and prosper, and those who do not or cannot adapt will be left behind with all the social trauma that entails."

Barring full-scale extermination or mass incarceration, a modern society that refuses to humanely resolve poverty might instead efficiently "manage" it. Electronic innovations that comprise the basis of so much vertiginous change can be deployed to control social problems.

Seattle officials have introduced "Safe Harbors." An Orwellian phrase. Many homeless will not get a home,

but they will be tagged and surveilled as they slog through the labyrinth of services and shelters. Safe Harbors will be a component in the federal Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Participation is not mandatory. But programs that choose not to participate in the monitoring of misery will lose funding. Abuses are certain to arise.

Another electronic net will soon be imposed on citizens, whether housed or homeless. The Real ID Act signed by President Bush will result, by 2008, in a machine-readable driver's license. The American Immigration Lawyers Association lists 628 organizations that oppose it.

While citizens will be inconvenienced by the new regulations, it may be disastrous for immigrant workers. Without this card, individuals will not be allowed to travel on Amtrak, open a bank account, enter federal buildings, or collect Social Security. Security expert Bruce Schneier states that Real ID is a huge federal power grab.

Something more sinister: in October of 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration okayed the "VeriChip," a glass capsule the size of a grain of rice that can be injected into a human body and, when hit with radio waves, reveals an ID number. Recently, the Mexican attorney general and other officials were injected to enhance security clearance. Latin America's elite families are having their children implanted due to kidnapping threats. Anyone so chipped can be located quickly.

The chip can be scanned surreptitiously. Mike Langberg of the *San Jose Mercury News* writes: "I'm willing to get a VeriChip, if the product adds to

my personal safety and convenience. But I also want to know up front that implanted ID chips won't send us down the slippery slope to a Big Brother society where our every move is monitored."

That is exactly the problem with these sophisticated systems and devices. We are already awash in data systems that tabulate our personal information and consumer habits. Refined electronic tracking can make such material available to anyone with the technology to retrieve it. Given the facile manner in which people tolerate all sorts of invasive technologies, electronic snooping could become ubiquitous.

Lee Tien of the Electronic Frontier Foundation states: "The problem is that you always have to think about what the device will be used for tomorrow. It's what we call 'function creep.'" At first a device is used for applications we all agree are good but then it slowly is used for more than it was intended."

Surely a time will come when it will be suggested that homeless people and others at the economic margins could benefit from the Verichip. It will facilitate one's passage through bureaucracies. There will never be the threat of lost papers and related forms of precious information. Perhaps those who refuse to be chipped will be denied benefits.

This Orwellian scenario is not preposterous. The dark side of Safe Harbors and Real ID must be given a thorough, honest, and very public assessment. In the meantime, elected officials who support civil liberties and the right of even poor citizens to privacy should block their implementation. ■

Joe Martin is a veteran Seattle social worker and a co-founder of the Seattle Displacement Coalition

Barring full-scale extermination or mass incarceration, a modern society that refuses to humanely resolve poverty might instead efficiently "manage" it. Electronic innovations that comprise the basis of so much vertiginous change can be deployed to control social problems.



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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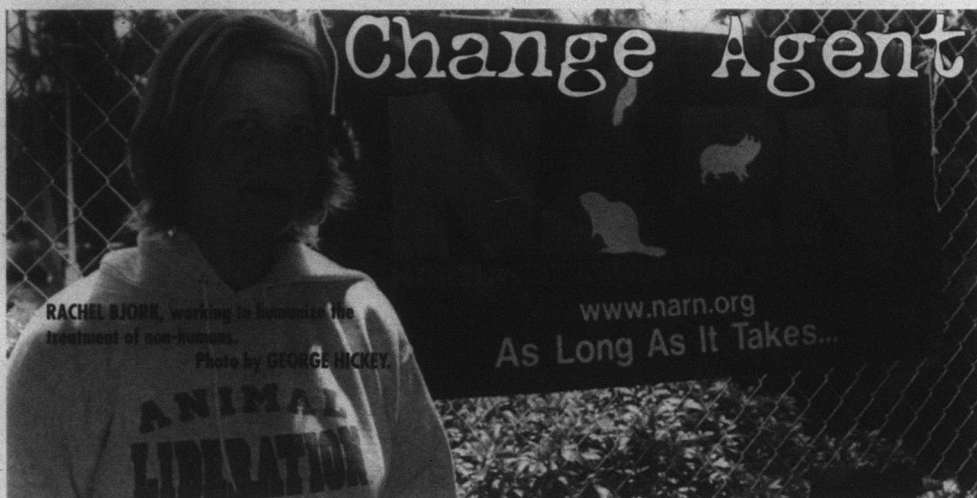
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**R**achel Bjork went on a 70-day odyssey to confront one of the nation's largest fast food chains.

Bjork, 33, biked from Seattle to Arlington, VA, in 2003, stopping around lunchtime at Kentucky Frieds to hand out leaflets. Backed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, she asked diners to help persuade KFC to adopt some basic measures — "like making sure [chickens] are dead before they're skinned."

The company didn't budge, but she met some interesting people along the way: the burly veteran in biker garb who couldn't handle work at a slaughterhouse; the trucker who

pulled over and exclaimed "You think chickens are bad? Let me tell you how veal calves are raised!"

Now office manager for the non-profit Boomtown Café as well as boardmember at Northwest Animal Rights Network, Bjork says it's not true that animal rights activists "don't like people."

"This isn't just about animals. People can't drink their groundwater anymore because of the runoff from hog farms. No child says 'I want to work in a slaughterhouse when I grow up.'"

— Adam Hyla

## New Kind of Wrong

Weekend forum highlights harm done by "war on terror" against U.S. immigrants

Rules enacted in the name of national security have been used very broadly.

According to Jennifer Shaw of the American Civil Liberties Union, "forgetting to check a box on a form... failing to notify all [the right] agencies of an address change" and other "very minor immigration violations" are being used as grounds to coerce or deport people.

By TED O'CALLAHAN  
UW News Lab

**"W**e need to understand there is a face to the word immigration," U.S. Sen. Patty Murray said Saturday in an address to roughly 400 community members gathered at Seattle's Town Hall.

Murray was in town to hear testimony from recent immigrants who have encountered challenges in their quests for U.S. citizenship. More than 30 groups, including Hate Free Zone and Northwest Immigrants Rights Project, sponsored the event.

Murray spoke to an audience of immigrants and advocates but made clear she was there to "listen and learn from those with firsthand experience of immigration today."

In addition to Murray, U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott, State Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, and Councilmember Richard Conlin were also scheduled to participate in the forum.

Immigrants from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East spoke. They told stories of the danger, injustice and hardship in their home countries that compelled them to seek something different in the United States. One of the forum organizers, Pramila Jayapal of Hate Free Zone, described their stories as heartbreaking—not solely because of what brought the immigrants to this country, but also for what has happened to them here.

A presenter identified only as Daniel said, "employers know they can treat workers without papers unfairly." Examples of financial exploitation and workers being put in unsafe situations were common. Hillary Stern of CASA

Latina, an organization that works for the rights of undocumented laborers, underscored the dangerous conditions. She cited government statistics showing that while undocumented Mexican workers make up 1 in 24 workers in the U.S. labor force, they account for 1 in 14 workplace deaths.

Unscrupulous businesses are not the only problem, Jayapal said, adding that since 9/11, the term "immigrant" has been made synonymous with "terrorist."

Rules enacted in the name of national security have been used very broadly. According to Jennifer Shaw of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), "forgetting to check a box on a form... failing to notify all [the right] agencies of an address change" and other "very minor immigration violations" are being used as grounds to coerce or deport people.

Jayapal underscored that the "system is broken and needs to be fixed." The forum called for ensuring a path to citizenship, reuniting separated families, establishing labor protections that apply to all workers equally, and restoring human rights and civil liberties to non-citizens.

Gutierrez-Kenney said it is crucial to "defend and expand the rights of all immigrants." Antonio Ginatta, policy director for Gov. Gregoire, pointed out that "when undocumented community members can't report a crime because they are afraid of their [immigration] status being questioned, the whole community becomes less safe."

It was noted that in 2003, the city of Seattle made it illegal for a police officer to question a person's immigration status unless it was the reason for the conversation. Ginatta said that Gregoire hopes to introduce similar policy at the state level.

Jayapal said that in a country of immigrants, the way immigrants are treated affects others. "Once we erode the rights of one group, we erode the rights of everyone." ■

## Just Heard ...

### Doctors get drymouth

The U.S. Supreme Court decision placing federal law enforcement over states' medical marijuana laws is causing some local patients to go without.

That's the word from Seattle Green Cross, a local cooperative that distributes pot and teaches cultivation techniques to 500 patients authorized by their doctors to use and grow marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Green Cross clinic director Sue Watson says one doctor has stalled a request for authorization to receive the drug until he gets the legal thumbs-up. Watson says University of Washington Medical Center staff have also held up authorizations, deferring to their legal counsel. UW officials were unavailable for comment at press time.

Watson says federal officials see the court ruling as an opportunity to alarm medical professionals. "Nothing has changed, but they want people to think that it has, so they put on this big media scare."

### More cops

Armed with greater-than-expected revenue from the city's utility ratepayers, on Monday the Seattle City Council approved Mayor Greg Nickels' plan to add 25 more cops to the city's beats by mid-2006.

The timing for the City Council's three-fourths majority vote was rather irregular, coming as it did in the middle of the year instead of during the fall budget session, and another victory for Team Nickels as the mayor's virtually uncontested re-election campaign heats up.

— Adam Hyla

### Death by zoning

The Bellevue City Council is drafting an ordinance that would strictly regulate temporary encampments, making it difficult to host shelters like Tent City within city limits.

Such ordinances "are only raising fears of the homeless to keep [them] out of the city," says David Baum of Eastside Cares, a community organization supporting homeless encampments.

The draft demands that temporary encampments, often hosted by religious institutions, comply with regulations like placing an obscuring fence around the encampment, sending written notification to nearby neighbors, and schools prior to setting up, and making sure that no one passes through sleeping quarters to get to a restroom.

"A city cannot stop a church from hosting such encampments, but they can implement regulations to protect a governmental interest by the 'least restrictive means,'" Baum explains. The proposal "is clearly not the 'least restrictive means.'"

A public hearing on the draft will be heard on July 5, with a vote tentatively scheduled for July 18.

— Kimberly Ervin

# The Great Imitator

*Syphilis on the rise in Seattle*

By KIMBURLY ERVIN  
Contributing Writer

Commonly called the "great imitator," syphilis often goes unnoticed and untreated because the symptoms of syphilis appear like many other familiar diseases.

**"D**o you have a condom" should be a phrase on sexually active people's lips as news of a thriving syphilis epidemic, especially within the gay community, hits Seattle.

The outbreak is being coupled with increasing rates of internet rendezvous among men with syphilis, more reports of men having unprotected anal sex with other men, and rising numbers of gay men with multiple sexual partners, according to information released at a Board of Health meeting last Friday.

"The increase in syphilis is not an isolated phenomenon but reflects a wider problem of increasing rates of sexually transmitted infections in men who have sex with men," stated Matthew Golden, STD Program Director for Public Health in King County-Seattle.

Rates are also escalating in reports of gonorrhea and chlamydia, as well as the amount of people with both HIV and another STD.

Although 85 percent of syphilis cases are found in gay or bisexual men, there has also been evidence of increased cases among sex workers

and drug users, specifically crack and methamphetamine users.

"Syphilis is not passed by used needles or drug paraphernalia, though the use of drugs may affect judgment in ways that lead to higher-risk behaviors," explains James Apa of Public Health. "In the case of this syphilis outbreak among sex workers, those who had the disease said that they had sex with others who used and sold crack, and traded it for sex."

Syphilis delivers such unwanted effects like sores and rashes, but also an increased threat of contracting HIV. According to the Centers for Disease Control, a person who has contracted syphilis is two to five times more likely to contract HIV during sexual intercourse.

"Our syphilis epidemic is disproportionately endemic of HIV positive men...[there is ] an approximately tenfold difference in our estimated rates of syphilis in positive men versus negative men, and this is seen throughout the United States and western Europe," Golden said.

Not only is the chance of contracting HIV greater when exposed to syphilis, but those already diagnosed with HIV are believed to be at greater

risk for suffering the neurological effects of syphilis.

Trudy Jones, a nurse practitioner at Harborview Medical Center, has been conducting a study of how weak immune systems, from HIV for example, can lead to greater risk of syphilis reaching the spine — where it can cause blindness, deafness, stroke or mental damage.

"Before HIV, syphilis took years to cause neurological damage," Jones explains. "But now we're seeing that a person who has syphilis and HIV could begin to show signs of neurological damage within three to six months."

The disease can be contracted by anal, vaginal or oral sex. Commonly called the "great imitator," the disease often goes unnoticed and untreated because the symptoms of syphilis appear like many other familiar diseases.

Syphilis is treatable through a penicillin shot or a series of antibiotics, but can be contracted again after treatment.

In order to ensure one's health, it is recommended that every sexually active individual be tested at least once a year for all STDs and always practice safe sex. ■

## [Resource]

For information on the nearest STD screening center, call (206)296-4600 or see the Public Health website at [www.metrokc.gov/health/apu/std/where-test.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/apu/std/where-test.htm).

## Short Takes

### Streetcar 1, Buses 0

Proponents of the massive redevelopment of South Lake Union tallied up a direct hit on the public purse Monday, with the Seattle City Council's 7-2 vote to fund a streetcar serving the neighborhood — at the expense of the city's bus system.

Councilmembers Nick Licata and Peter Steinbrueck dissenting, the majority voted to divert \$911,000 per year, or 9,300 hours of scheduled service, from a scheduled increase in bus service to the 1.3 mile streetcar from Westlake Center to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

The council's majority rejected an amendment by Licata to study whether adjacent property owners, who the city says will benefit from the streetcar to the tune of \$70 million, should help pay for its operations.

—Adam Hyla

### Vets: shorted by \$1B

The mom in tennis shoes is hopping mad at President Bush.

U.S. Senator Patty Murray, a Democrat, called a press conference Monday to rail against a \$1 billion shortfall in funding at the Veterans Administration and demand answers from the President.

Earlier this year, Murray tried to increase the VA's budget. But the Bush Administration and VA shot her down, claiming funding was adequate. Two weeks ago, the VA admitted it will run \$1 billion short of what it needs in fiscal 2005.

At a press event across the street from Seattle's Veterans' Hospital on Beacon Hill, Murray called the shortfall appalling, particularly at a time when more veterans are returning home from Iraq every day.

"The VA told me they had the resources," Murray said. But, as of January, the Veterans Administration in the Puget Sound region "has an \$11 million deficit, forcing hospitals to leave vacant positions open and veterans to wait for appointments" — up to five months.

"Taking care of our veterans is a fundamental cost of a war," Murray said. "It's not a Democrat issue or a Republican issue. It's an American issue."

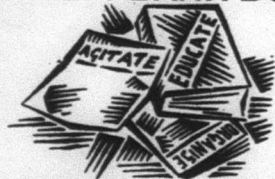
—Cydney Gillis



### Swingin' on Juneteenth

DAWN HARRIS GIVES ANGELA BLAND A TASTE OF THE SWINGSET AT THE ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION JUNE 19 IN PRATT PARK. JUNETEENTH COMMEMORATES THE 1865 ANNOUNCEMENT BY A UNION ARMY GENERAL IN GALVESTON, TEXAS, THAT LOCAL SLAVES HAD BEEN FREED BY THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION — TWO AND A HALF YEARS PREVIOUSLY. MORE THAN HALF THE STATE LEGISLATURES IN THE COUNTRY HAVE CREATED JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCES. PHOTO BY ANDREA LEE.

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## Draining the Classrooms

Community searching for public school funding fixes

"The city should err on the side of the schools. We're open to any way of funding to address these needs and avoid these painful cuts."

— Kraig Peck, associate director, Seattle Education Association

By NATE ROBINSON  
UW News Lab

The looming possibility of school closure may no longer be an immediate threat to Seattle Public Schools (SPS), but that doesn't mean area residents have forgotten the economic difficulties plaguing their community schools.

Parents, staff, and community leaders, organized by Communities for Public Education (CPE), are discussing possible alternatives to solve the district's 2006-07 budget shortfall of \$14 million and prevent school closure or other cuts to educational programs in the future.

At a meeting last Thursday evening, proposals included enacting a citywide soda-pop tax, raising the educational levy lid, and appealing for private financial support.

Announced earlier this month by a teachers union called the Seattle Education Association (SEA), a five-cent tax on bottled soda pop and water could generate as much as \$21 million annually, according to *The Seattle Times* and a Washington State Department of Revenue study.

Kraig Peck, SEA associate executive director, stressed at the meeting that while public support for such a strategy is in place, backing from the Seattle City Council is uncertain and may hinge on the tax's ambiguous legality.

"No one has said 'It's illegal,'" said Peck, "but it is gray. Anything new you try is. The city should err on the side of the schools. We're open to any way of funding to address these needs and avoid these painful cuts."

City Council support may be difficult to cement until December, when a report on the proposal is completed, but Peck mentioned that, if approved, it would require relatively no investment and could be implemented quickly.

Rep. Frank Chopp (D-43), speaker of the Washington House of Representatives, discussed raising the educational levy lid, allowing for an increase in local funding provided to school districts. According to Chopp, a number of strategies are viable, beginning with the renewal of the levy capacity bill (Senate Bill 6211) passed last year, which currently provides up to \$4 million annually and will expire in 2007.

To make up the rest of Seattle Public Schools' budget shortfall, other measures will have to be enacted, though. Chopp cites Sen. Ken Jacobsen's (D-46) idea for a statewide emergency levy-lid lift. Such a proposal could prove difficult, noted Chopp, as raising the Washington levy lid might be seen by smaller school districts as partial to Seattle and would face obstacles in the Senate.

Funding ideas from the private arena were brought forward as well. A representative from both the Alliance for Education and the Gates Foundation said that a "bailout" was possible, but that the organizations were assessing the situation, unsure as to whether "conditions for success" were present inside the district.

CPE members also emphasized the importance of uncovering the reasons and patterns for lost SPS enrollment to private schools. Since public school funding is allocated on a student population basis, increasing local attendance would lead to increased funding.

Further meetings are scheduled biweekly. The next meeting is July 7 at 7 p.m. at the John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence. For information, visit [www.cpe-seattle.org](http://www.cpe-seattle.org). ■

### An Ode to Joy

for Jo Nelson

The spring bubbles from great depths, sings out to find itself beyond the crushing confinement. This song is for light. Out of darkness, I see stars.

—LAURA SNYDER

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### [Get Involved]

Communities for Public Education is holding biweekly meetings to discuss funding possibilities for Seattle Public Schools. The next meeting is July 7 at 7 p.m. at the John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence. For information, visit [www.cpe-seattle.org](http://www.cpe-seattle.org).

# Traveling Saleswoman

*Gathering intelligence in the outposts of desperation*

By AMARANTA WRIGHT  
Contributing Writer

*When Levi Strauss asked Amaranta Wright to travel South America learning about their growing youth market, she jumped at the chance. But the more people she spoke to the more uneasy she became. Here, she tells her story.*

It was the perfect job for a restless 26-year-old, hungry for adventure. I was in Miami, on my way to a desk job in Scotland on Sunday, when Levi Strauss approached me. They asked me if I'd mind going back to the continent I so love (I'm from Argentina), to do a special kind of reporting. I would spend a month in each of 10 Latin American cities, investigating youth cultures. At the end of each month, in a base of my choice, I would write reports. Would I mind? I would have had to have a screw loose to refuse such an offer.

And so it was, a handshake over the sparkling rim of a Cosmopolitan and a week later, that I found myself descending over the untropical mist of Peru's granite coastline. Levi's had said they wanted the thoughts and feelings of young people to gauge the emotional and psychological state of "the market." We had agreed the answers I got would be more honest if I didn't reveal who I was working for. Even so, stripped of Miami's pink reflected warmth, I felt naked inside Lima's apocalyptic urban reality.

There was no option but to dive in. I loitered around schools, parks, and shopping malls before introducing myself, a gringo writer, to unsuspecting young folk. They stared at me, jaws hanging in disbelief. Me, interview

them? What for? I asked them who they would interview if they had the choice. They smiled and I could almost hear their imaginations begin to tick. The Argentine soccer player Maradona, Che Guevara, the Pope. I asked them what last made them angry, or happy; what they hated about their country; what they loved; what they thought about most often. It was like nobody had ever asked them anything about their lives.

Sometimes I would spot a group of boys who looked like regular teenagers from afar, but up close their faces bore the lines of men weathered by life, and their eyes were glazed, but wide open and darting around. The chemical smell of pastabase (the crude paste from which cocaine is refined) was so overpowering I had to hold my stomach tight to stop myself vomiting. I would try to ask questions, but they just stared.

In the main, though, the kids' stories and humor dispelled the depressing chaos of a third-world megatropolis. The more I interviewed (around 800, in groups, of course), the more I was fascinated by the details that made each one different. They never once questioned me or asked me to explain myself. Their trust was astonishing. I began to feel uneasy.

Back in Miami, as gold on shaved, hormone-puffed chests flashed by my hotel window on roller blades, the sullen yet generous Limeño faces floated by in my mind, with all their dreams and vulnerabilities, mouth-thing words like, "We don't want to be American, we want to be like we are, but with more money." Levi's wanted tribes, however, in the form of bullet points, and colored circles on grids. I pretended it was a game, and started sectioning them up: the



surfers who wanted to wash off reality on the waves; the cholo-bohemios who sought to explore Peru's defeat through poetic expression, while the patas found no comfort sweeter than telenovelas. I slapped their coloured balls down on the grids labelled with adjectives like "optimist / pessimist" or "consuming-participating."

It was in Panama — amid the comforting Caribbean hustle and bustle of swaggering café con leche-skinned boys — that my history lessons began.

My young interviewees told me of an

Amaranta Wright also publishes *BULB* — a global issues magazine for young people: [www.bulbmag.com](http://www.bulbmag.com). Her book *Ripped and Torn: Levi's, Latin America and the Blue Jean Dream* was released in the UK in May.

era of hope in the 1970s before every peasant community and union movement in Central America had been crushed by U.S.-backed troops, and the corrupt elites restored. Panama, having been a U.S. base and "client state" from inception, had never had the chance to rebel as much as her neighbours. Did Levi's arrival here mark a reward for that obedience? Did it somehow transform the defeat of ideals and independence into first-world status? What process was my job part of? What conditions had brought me here and what was

I was like a modern-day priest, collecting confessions for marketing strategies that converted vulnerability into desire and sold salvation through brands.



*Treat others with justice and respect. How you treat others will be how they treat you.*

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Continued from Previous Page

I contributing to? The questions began to roll.

In Caracas, reality intruded yet again. You could have mistaken this oil-rich city of motorways and skyscrapers for Miami were it not for the Ranchos: stacked shacks clinging to the surrounding hillside like humans clambering to heaven. "What we need is another mudslide to get rid of them," said one well-fed sifirino (posh person) on the lawn of a private university.

And yet, even in the Ranchos, which one heavy rainfall could easily tumble again (like it did two years ago, killing 50,000 people), mobile phones, TV, the latest brands were considered essential acquisitions — a defense against precariousness, perhaps. Never had I seen so many billboards. They tempted with pieces of a dream that had been accessible in the early '70s, when the oil boom gave Venezuelans hope for real progress. That dream ended when foreign car manufacturers (Ford and General Motors) convinced corrupt local politicians and industrialists to open the market to foreign imports rather than use the petro-dollars to build a national automobile industry. Now it seemed that the 80 per cent of the population living in poverty clung to this faded hope of first-worldness through sacraments: a pair of jeans, a hamburger, a pair of Nike trainers.

It suddenly occurred to me. I was like a modern-day priest, collecting confessions for marketing strategies, that converted vulnerability into desire and sold salvation through brands. "Just be" for young people still searching for their identity, "Just do it" for young people craving opportunity. But who was going to help them achieve the real opportunities they craved? The very neo-liberal process that opened up opportunities for multinationals (like me) had eroded theirs.

Down I kept going into the belly of this enthralling beast. You couldn't get more intense than Colombia, her astonishing beauty trapped in a 60-year civil war. On the streets of Medellin, order had been restored by the recent hardline governor Alvaro Uribe, my local Levi's boss reassured me, making it safe for investors. But, pointing to the lads loafing on the street corner, one guy, Raul, said: "Pablo Escobar was no saint, but at least he helped the poor. These thugs [the paramilitaries] that now rule just protect the rich." The joint army-paramilitary operations that Uribe ordered to root out left-wing subversives had left the "paras" in control. Official assassination numbers were down. Now, people — human rights defenders, trades unionists — just "disappeared."

At night in Templo Antonia disco, thousands of couples clung to one another, swaying to the rhythm of the vallenatos as if it were their last embrace. In the morning the vallenateros repented their sins in Church, while in downtown hideaways the metaleros flung their hair to screeching guitar sounds. "If we were taught to show our anger rather than hide our violence in

their lovey-dovey ballads, there would be less killing here," said one half-skinnhead, half-metalhead youth.

And yet, in the cracks of a place cemented by vengeance and rage lay sweet tender voices reminding you of the most mundane yet meaningful de-

greedy executives, thoughtless strategists. Now was not the time. The question was how to continue my journey.

Down again to the "dagger pointing to the Antarctic" — how Secretary of State Henry Kissinger described Chile in 1972 when it democratically elected

Latin America's first ever Socialist president. Kissinger soon helped General Pinochet topple him. I found a people whose souls had been ripped out, replaced by imitation America. The Andes' faint majesty behind Santiago's smog was a reminder of the Chile lost. It was a city divided between the "losers," whose parents and uncles had been tortured and killed for capitalism, and the "winners," Pinochet's yuppie children (my market). Strange that it was the latter who seemed

filled with hate, as if the very presence of the losers reminded them of something unpleasant.

And so back to Buenos Aires, 30 years after my birth. I had left Levi's and Levi's was leaving Argentina. The acclaimed neo-liberal plan had collapsed. As foreign investors fled and banks seized ordinary people's savings as collateral, overnight more respectable middle-class women became bag ladies, rummaging the dustbins of Plaza

San Martin. "Is this what we murdered a generation for — for this?" an old man shook his head. And yet, even while picking up the pieces from the debris, classes that previously hated each other became united and a new generation were more determined than ever to reclaim their destiny.

On my journey through Latin America I learned that brands don't reflect or serve desires, they manipulate and transform truths. Through their sheer economic power they are able to turn real meanings into images. Ideals = desire. Identity = aspiration. Principles = status. Consciousness = greed. Market forces are not natural expressions of popular desire but a political process imposed by corrupt political and business elites reinforced by military force.

Every single country I had visited with Levi's had, 30 years ago, either governments that were trying to break U.S. hegemony or popular movements that had grown so strong their governments couldn't ignore them. Then the storm clouds of U.S.-backed dictatorships, corruption, and wars closed in to suffocate. In no country was the neo-liberal model voted for or implemented democratically.

Most of all I saw the incredible power of the human spirit, and the ability of ideals and solidarity to prevail. As Violeta, the "oser" sitting on the side of the park in Santiago, told me: "They killed our parents, but they haven't killed us. Our parents' ideals live on in us. That is our victory." ■

Reprinted from *The Big Issue* in Scotland, May 2005. ©Street News Service: [www.streetnewsservice.org](http://www.streetnewsservice.org).



tails of life — a glance, a gift, an invitation, a greeting, a goodbye — as though they were the most precious things in the world. Every second one had to choose — right from wrong, good from bad, which side to be on?

By the time I had to present "the youth tribes of Latin America" to Levi's executives back in Miami, I had chosen my side. As the executives leered at the slides, I was tempted to add other tribes to the list: racist marketing managers,

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## The Lonely Crowd

**Me and You and Everyone We Know**  
Directed By Miranda July  
90 Minutes

By LESTER GRAY  
Contributing Writer

In *Me and You and Everyone We Know*, culture itself plays a supporting role — a somewhat enigmatic figure with whom the characters must negotiate, which for the most part they do so with amazing equanimity.

Richard Sweeny (John Hawkes) and Christine Jespersion (Miranda July) are two unremarkable people in a markedly pedestrian milieu. Richard, a newly divorced shoe salesman with two sons, lives in an apartment with a decor centered on a plain table and chairs, with an accent of unopened moving boxes. His only discernable personal statement is a somewhat pitiful mustache and goatee. But he's a nice guy and that's enough to attract the equally middling Christine, an elder cab driver.

They, like the other characters in this light and tidy commentary on twentieth-century living, are searching for love in a world where the protocols of courtship have grown obsolete. Falling back on primitive instincts, the lovelorn, from 8-year-olds to octogenarians, invent their own mating rituals. Propositions and fantasies that might otherwise be seen as somewhat

perverse are mollified by virtue of their intrinsically puerile nature.

Nowhere is this innocence more in evidence than when looking through the fresh and trusting eyes of 7-year-old Robbie. Recently the victim of a broken home, Robbie is pretty much left to his own devices in figuring out how the world works. Armed with a tender heart and an insatiable curiosity, he accepts everything on face value, with results both sad and comical.

Ms. July, a performance artist who also writes and directs this award-winning film, has an impeccable sense of timing. Like a jazz musician improvising on a standard (social disconnectedness is becoming a classic in its own time), she distinguishes her rendition as much by the spaces as the notes. It's this phrasing that lends a distinct

shape and dimension to her story.

*Me and You and Everyone We Know* is about needing to connect. Ms. July makes gentle slapstick of our inability to do so and almost lets us off with a laugh. But she's too honest for that. Her first feature-length film reminds us that our society is held in trust from generation to generation. As we end with a shot of Robbie, we clearly see that we have cut him a bit short on his inheritance. ■

*Me and You and Everyone We Know* opens July 1 at the Uptown Theatre.



Falling back on primitive instincts, the lovelorn, from 8-year-olds to octogenarians, invent their own mating rituals.

## Force of Nature

**Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder**

By Richard Louv  
Algonquin Books, 2005  
Hardcover, \$24.95

By LESTER GRAY  
Contributing Writer

The back-to-nature movement started the moment we began moving out of it. This paradox, born out of people's need for predictability and commerce on one hand and the elemental and organic on the other, has and continues to be a source of a "damned if I do, damned if I don't" situation for many a family. Not the least of their apprehensions involves the character of the environment in which they bring up their children. Consequently, in the absence of any easy explanations for the inevitable aberrant behavior in their offspring, urban living becomes the scapegoat. *Last Child in the Woods* gives voice to this commonly held perspective.

Gathering a number of childhood cognitive and psychological disorders under one umbrella and mimicking the lexicon of contemporary psychopathology, author Richard Louv imposes the term NDD: Nature-Deficit Disorder.

NDD, rather than referring to an actual condition, suggests an etiology

whereby American society's growing estrangement from nature, "de-naturing," is a prime suspect in an epidemic of physical and psychological disorders increasingly diagnosed in children today. On this list are ADD, ADHD, depression, obesity, dyslexia, and others.

The foundation of Louv's 300-page

summons for a return to Walden Pond is built on plenteous reminiscences of childhood days gone by: afternoons of unstructured play in nature, climbing trees and examining bugs, interposed with periods of reflection at the old fishing hole. Enlaced with these clichéd recollections are paeans to the restorative powers of the bucolic from such notables as Theodore Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Robert F. Kennedy, D.H. Lawrence, and of course Thoreau himself.

To this the author adds a tenuous weave of dinner-party observations from a nature photographer, a naturalist, parents, students, and too few psychologists — observations that usually pull up well short of any specificity. In a section on environmentally based education, he sums up a 10-year study involving 150 schools: "The findings are stunning: en-

vironment-based education produces student gains in social studies, science, language arts... improves standardized test scores and grade point averages...." With few exceptions, such data as percentages, socio-economic status, and other variables are noticeably absent.

Gathering a number of childhood cognitive and psychological disorders under one umbrella and mimicking the lexicon of contemporary psychopathology, author Richard Louv imposes the term NDD: Nature-Deficit Disorder.

The book abandons any pretension toward academia when it paraphrases John Johns, a California businessman, unequivocally stating "that a stronger adult emerges with those who have been immersed in the challenge of nature." It is not clear what a "stronger adult" is, but one must assume that it refers to a fuller and more able character. Contemporary studies don't seem to support this; statistics on rural and urban child anxiety offer no clear advantage to either setting. In addition, there are many who

would argue that the personalities shaped in these natured communities represent more than their fair share of the narrow-minded — fearful of both people and ideas outside their immediate province.

Mr. Louv makes his most substantive observation in describing how science increasingly evaluates its subjects, from slugs to bears, without reference to where or how they live. In his "science can't see the forest for the trees" critique, he cites the current academic prejudice toward molecular biology as opposed to natural sciences. More and more students are learning about the environment through computer and textbook, rather than applying knowledge gained through a firsthand experience with nature.

It's safe to say that many support the sentiments of Mr. Louv. But to a certain extent, that's what he's offering — sentiments. Trips to the country are indeed restful, but the extent to which these environments are salubrious in the long run, especially as they apply to mental health and the development of cognitive and social skills, is still much in question. Mr. Louv's call to action for educators and parents, while deserving of more investigation, is premature and unsubstantiated. True, childhood anxiety is being diagnosed at a rate heretofore unimagined. But based on the evidence presented here, Middle America is unlikely to trade in its Prozac for a Whole Earth Catalog. ■



Adventures  
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning



If I'm going to be  
the conservative  
on this one, I'm  
at least going to  
have the fun I'm  
due for it. I'm  
going to do the  
conservative rant  
I never get to do.

a losing Supreme Court opinion as Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas. Oh yes, and Sandra Day. Oh joyous Day. I'm so consoled that Sandra agrees with us on this.

Having Sandra Day O'Connor be the most liberal Supreme Court Justice on your side is like catching yourself trying to be "hip" by knowing who Pauly Shore is. It's like being told by the prettiest girl at the party, "You're a lot like my Dad. He's old too." It's like finding yourself so drunk you're telling your buddies you've had sexual fantasies involving Annette Funicello recently.

I'm talking about the decision of the court last week to allow any local government to exchange one private owner of a property with another, purely on the grounds that higher taxes may be gained, eventually. I'm talking about the fact that I am opposed to that decision the same way I am opposed to, say, a repeal of the Civil Rights Act, or eliminating Social Security, or eating babies, or bringing back death camps — but look! My side loses to the liberals! What the...?

If I'm going to be the conservative on this one, I'm at least going to have the fun I'm due for it. I'm going to do the conservative rant I never get to do.

Just what were John Paul Stevens, and his PINKO traveling companions, Anthony Kennedy, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer shooting up their veins last Thursday when they decided to turn this country over to the communists at long last? Judge Stevens said that "appreciable benefits to the community" including "increased tax revenue" as determined by a locally elected government, justify throwing private citizens of this great country

## Who You Callin' a Conservative?

Now they've done it. They've gone and made me mad.

Nothing makes me madder than waking up in the middle of the day and finding out that I'm on the same side of

off their privately owned land. Who's the Indian now, White Man?

That's right, I said it. Those Latte-drinking, Volvo-driving, Yoga-doing, Embryo-killing, Affirmative-Action-loving-as-long-as-THEIR-kids-can-still-get-into-Harvard, Vegetarian, Commie-peace-nik, long-haired, PBS-funding stinking Liberals with a Capital L have infiltrated our sacred hall of justice and made it a home for the enemies of Freedom and the Great White American Way!

When I was a White Boy growing up in the '50s, my father promised this country to me. He said, "Look around you, son. All this land used to belong to the Red Man, who held it communally for the good of wilderness itself and the good of all the people in their various tribes. But we came to America and taught the Red Man the new concept of Private Property, meaning every White Man is a Private, and every Red Man is in the wrong army, and White Men get the Property."

Now with one Supreme Court decision, all of that is gone! I can work all my life for Boeing or Microsoft or whoever, save all my money and buy prime Duwamish River valley land, land my White predecessors stole fair and square, and I can even pay the mortgage off, and always pay my taxes. But if the Commissars on the Seattle City Council just decide they want a pay raise, they can condemn my property, force me to accept a fraction of what it's worth to me in pay for it, and give it outright to anybody. The new owner doesn't even have to be richer than me; they just have to look like they may, someday, down the road, pay higher taxes than me. If I refuse the money I'm offered, the government can just throw a box of beads at my feet and move the bulldozers in.

Stevens won't see what an idiot he is until the day they tear down his own house and throw him out into the streets for the sake of some Operation Drive Out Trash. Welcome to Zimbabwe, By and By. ■



**Thursday, June 16, 11:25 a.m., Post Alley.** Officers observed the suspect, a transient Native American male age 64, in the 1900 block of Pike Street, by the market. Suspect was known to have been trespassing from the Pike Place Market several times in the last year. He was identified and released; charge of criminal trespass is requested.

**Saturday, June 18, 8:33 p.m., 6th Ave, Sheraton Hotel.** Suspect sat down to a nice meal at the Sheraton, but when the time came to pay the bill suspect, a transient white male age 66, claimed to have lost his debit card. Police arrived and spoke to the suspect, who admitted he had never had a debit card. He had intended to dine and dash, but was too old to actually dash, so he had tried to talk his way out of the incident. Sheraton security did not want to bother with a prosecution, so suspect was warned and trespassed from the hotel. His bill came to \$1.95.

**Saturday, June 18, 9:40 a.m., Pike St., Seattle's Best Coffee.** Witness called 911 after observing an unknown male in the coffee shop strike a customer on the back with his umbrella. Subject, who "appeared homeless" to another witness, left the scene before the arrival of the police. They arrived on the scene and were flagged down by a passerby who pointed out the man. Officers contacted him at Westlake Park. He was dirty and disheveled, and was throwing his wallet at passers-by, retrieving it, and throwing it again, driving people out of the park. His wallet contained \$2, but no ID or other paperwork. He identified himself to the officers and said he was homeless and lived on the street. He was also carrying a briefcase containing miscellaneous papers and a rolled-up umbrella. Suspect was felt to be risking injury to himself from someone on the street. Based on his actions he was transported to Harborview for an involuntary mental health evaluation.

**Saturday, June 18, 4:41 a.m., Cedar St. — 5 Point Cafe.** Officer conducting a premise check of the closed business observed the suspect crouching in the doorway foyer of the cafe. He approached and saw the suspect, a homeless white male age 39, holding a foil crack pipe. He detained the man and observed that the pipe held a small piece of crack. Suspect was arrested and transported to King County Jail.

**Sunday, June 19, 11:00 p.m., 400 blk 2nd Ave, Ext. S.** Victim, a transient Hispanic male age 26, called 911 to report that he had money stolen from him by an unknown woman. He had been sleeping in a doorway and was woken by a female rummaging through his pockets. She had removed \$65. He asked her to give it back, but she refused and left eastbound on Yesler. She is still at large.

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.

### FUNDRAISING, Continued from Page 1

Vulcan Northwest — including retired investment manager Bill Savoy — have donated more than \$3,200 to Nickels' campaign.

That's more than that mayoral hopeful Christal Wood has raised altogether. As of June 13, she had just \$2,300 in the bank compared to Nickels' \$437,273.

Most of the Mayor's donors are managers or employees of prominent businesses such as Holland America Cruise Lines, Puget Sound Energy, Safeco Insurance, and Washington Mutual.

Nickels' and the council incumbents' largest category of donors, by far, are property owners, developers, and builders. That includes The Blume Co., Clise Properties, Lorig Associates, Nitze-Stagen, Samis Land Co. (another Pioneer Square land owner), Sellen Construction and Wright Runstad.

Nickels isn't alone. Vulcan and some of the city's largest property developers also favor City Councilmember Jan Drago, whose opponents for Position 4 Linda Averill and Angel Bolaños have raised a combined total of \$10,123 compared to Drago's \$113,555.

Like Nickels, Drago's list of donors is a who's-who of the city's richest and

most influential people. Both have received contributions from Costco co-founder Jeff Brotman, former Microsoft executives Greg Maffei and Jon Shirley, and Seattle Art Museum Director Mimi Gardner Gates, stepmother of Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates.

Drago, however, is alone in the distinction of having gotten \$500 from Chairman Bill himself, along with \$600 from Microsoft's political public relations chief Mark Murray. Her 10 contributions from Vulcan Inc. and its employees totalled \$2,750 as of June 13.

The Position 2 race for Richard Conlin's seat is also rich-blooded, with opponent Casey Corr running ahead of Conlin in dollars raised. As of June 13, Corr — Mayor Nickels' former communications chief — had \$115,767 to Conlin's \$107,342.

Position 2 candidates Paige Miller had \$106,229 and Darlene Madenwald \$50,643. Currently a Port of Seattle commissioner, Miller — no surprise — has raised her war chest largely from real estate and maritime interests, including Clise, Holland America, Seattle Steam Co., and Todd Shipyards.

Conlin, Corr, Position 8 incumbent Richard McIver, and his opponent

Dwight Pelz have all received large contributions from real estate developers Blume, Clise, Lorig, and Frank Stagen, among many others.

Pelz, a member of the King County Council, is vying with Robert Rosenkrantz for McIver's seat. He has raised \$125,362 to McIver's \$83,912 and Rosenkrantz's \$69,316.

McIver, however, has the race's longest list of elected officials backing him. That includes fellow councilmembers Jim Compton, David Della, Jean Godden and Tom Rasmussen, as well as state legislators Eric Pettigrew, Margartia Prentice and Sharon Tomiko-Santos.

Even Seattle's so-called "man of the people" — councilmember Nick Licata, who is now running unopposed — has received large contributions from Clise, Mimi Gates and Jon Shirley.

Like a \$650 donation from Krist Novoselic, a former member of the band Nirvana, the contributions reflect Licata's support for the arts. Shirley and wife Mary, for instance, are major art collectors and donors to the Seattle Art Museum.

"It's not like I don't want the big donations," says Licata, who has raised \$74,230. But "I have the most individual contributors." ■

## Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

## Breaking Rank: too little too late

Dear Real Change,

What sexy irony it is that Stamper opens his book with an open letter to David Brame ["Crossing the Thin Blue Line," June 8-14]. When in my eyes the biggest problem with police is our inability to trust them. I thought it was too bad Cydney Gillis did not address the subject of corruption within the police force in general, and even more specifically within the SPD itself (underexamined police shootings, a cop accused of offering to let women out of DWI tickets in exchange for sex, and a cop on Capitol Hill convicted of taking drugs from people and giving them away in exchange for information on other crimes).

I guess it was nice to see Stamper almost admit that he mishandled the WTO (which of course he did, BIG TIME). However, his retrospective

suggestion of moving protestors further away would never have worked. And his ideal of community policing that he instituted while Chief had no lasting effect on relations with the citizens of Seattle. His talk of it now is pure rhetoric. Political positioning, or an attempt to make a dollar?

Even his speaking up about the truth of the war on drugs is very hollow (besides fashionable) and too late to make a difference. He was in a position to do something. And now, from his retirement with his dog in his arms, he wants to speak up. How nice.

Eric Jarvis  
Seattle

## Digesting Downing

Dear Real Change,

If you really want to report news we aren't getting elsewhere, why not print THE ENTIRE TEXT of the Downing Street Memos?

Other media give us snippets and tell us what to think about them. Why not print the document in full and let America read it and THINK FOR OURSELVES how it affects us?

Isn't that what Journalism is for?

It really is more important than Michael Jackson!

If you format it nicely, it'd make

something readers can rip out of the paper and send to our congressmen... and the laggard media.

R.E. Winn  
Mercer Island

Read, print out, and share the seven Downing Street memos by going to [www.downingstreetmemo.com/memos.html](http://www.downingstreetmemo.com/memos.html). —Ed.

## Correction:

A caption on a news photo last issue misidentified the target of a union campaign. The Service Employees International Union Local 6 held a June 15 march on Eastside buildings cleaned by Cascadian Building Maintenance, not Cascade Building Maintenance. Cascade Building Maintenance is not the focus of the campaign.

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)

## Tuba man at Seattle Center

Tuba man plays night and day  
He is outside the ballet  
He rides his tuba like a jockey  
He is outside T-birds hockey  
Tuba man knows all the guests  
It's the players he likes best

—CATHERINE HUNT

## 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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## Opportunity

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## Volunteer

**Meet someone new...** Volunteer Chore Services is looking for volunteers to assist low-income elders and adults with disabilities with household chores and yard work. The program is flexible; volunteers choose the time and location. Make a new friend while helping someone remain independent. For more information call Volunteer Chore Services, a program of Catholic Community Services, at 1-888-649-6580 or email [vc@ccsww.org](mailto:vc@ccsww.org).

## 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.

## Politics

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

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# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

Thursday 6/30

**"Grand Rounds: Environmental Toxicology and the Developing Genito-Unitary System of Children"** is the topic of a presentation by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility's Dr. Richard Grady. 8-9 a.m. at Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center, Wright Auditorium. Information: [nancyd@wpsr.org](mailto:nancyd@wpsr.org).

**Candidates for the Seattle City Council** express where they stand on issues that directly impact the economic growth of small business in the Seattle area. Presented by Tabor 100. Information: [sales@platinumbusinessgroup.com](mailto:sales@platinumbusinessgroup.com) or (253)988-4615.

Friday 7/1

**Wallingford Neighbors For Peace and Justice** presents the film *Unconstitutional — The War on Our Civil Liberties*, as part of its Friday Night at The Meaningful Movies series. Discussion follows. Free admission. Donations appreciated. 7 p.m. at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. Information at [wmp@bridgings.org](mailto:wmp@bridgings.org) or <http://groups.msn.com/wallingfordneighbors>.

**The Medical/Dental Education Program Summer Lecture Series** on Traditional Healing Practices examines *Curanderismo*, the art of traditional healing in the Americas. Myths, stories, and other methods are employed for the charting of the body, the heart, the mind, and the soul, as practiced by traditional Latino healers. 1-3 p.m., Hogness Auditorium, A-420 HSC, University of Washington. Information: University of Washington School of Medicine, Felicity Abeyta, (206) 685-2489.

Monday 7/4

**The Washington Mutual Family Fourth** at Gas Works Park, 2101 N. Northlake Way. Information: [www.onereel.com](http://www.onereel.com).

**The Fourth of Jul-Ivar's Celebration** at Myrtle Edwards Park. Both events feature food, fun events, and fireworks.

Tuesday 7/5

L. Timmel DuChamp's passionate and complex stories have been nominated for several prestigious awards. Her deeply intelligent and critical essays apply perceptive feminist analysis. 7:30 p.m., Science Fiction Museum, JBL Theater. 325 Fifth Ave. N. Tickets available at the University Book Store, (206)634-3400.

Wednesday 7/6

Our world needs citizen diplomats. Have you ever wished for a deep cross-cultural experience? Wondered if you could make a difference as a peacemaker? Learn about GCJ, a unique Seattle-based nonprofit, and our plans for an exciting journey to Nigeria in November 2005. 7-8:30 p.m. at Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park. Information: Susan Partnow (206)789-8697.

Thursday 7/7

Carol Guess reads from *Femme's Dictionary*, a collection of poems focusing on the lives of women struggling to put words to the unspeakable. Carol Guess is the author of two novels and a memoir. Her poetry is published in *Poetry Northwest* and *The Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review*. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E. Information: [www.ubookstore.com](http://www.ubookstore.com)

Sunday 7/10

John Hiatt has been honing his rootsy fusion of rock and roll, country, blues, and folk since 1974, trying different styles before settling into his signature sound. He is joined by the Mississippi Hill Country with brothers Luther and Cody Dickinson, who finally got turned on to the music that had been right under their noses. 7 p.m., Sunday Nights at South Lake Union. 860 Terry Avenue N. [www.summernights.org](http://www.summernights.org) or (206)628-0888.

## Director's Corner



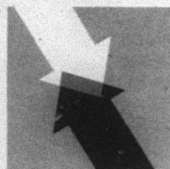
Two weeks after Perry Manley's apparent suicide-by-cop, *Real Change* is still getting letters and phone calls on what is one of the more controversial articles we've ever printed. These range from declarations of wounded male sympathy to accusations of bias because we failed to spell out the feminist counterpoint.

In all, I believe we did what a good grassroots community newspaper needs to do. We looked beyond the marginality of the messenger to the real social issue behind the complaint. Whether we agreed with the opinions expressed was really beside the point.

Susan Paynter at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote a column about getting emails from Manley for five years. Like most journalists, she dismissed Manley as a crank. With his intense anger at the system, bouts of homelessness, and absence of professional veneer, Manley was not a media-friendly source.

Not that he made it all that easy. When our own Cydney Gillis followed up on his flag-burning press release, he hung up on her. She went to his one-man march anyway. She found an angry and sad man held captive by a 15-year-old divorce. While Gillis was challenged by the point of view, she treated the issue and the man with respect.

After our story ran, Manley phoned to say thanks for being "fair and honest." To us, that was the call that mattered most.



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

### Housing Reform Act Rebuilds Lives

**Issue:** The Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2005, H.R. 1461, establishes new Affordable Housing funds to increase low-income homeownership and boost the supply of housing for low-income people. It's under attack by conservatives but stands a good chance of passing if people like you act now.

**Background:** The House Financial Services Committee approved H.R. 1461 to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It includes a fund that would dedicate 5% of their after-tax profits to creating housing that's affordable to people with incomes at or below 30% of area median income (\$24,350 for a family of four in Seattle.) The fund could provide up to \$1 billion per year to create affordable housing across the country.

The Wall Street Journal, called this a slush fund that democrats want to use to siphon off to liberal interest groups. In fact, allowable uses of these funds are very specific. The funds would only support:

Production, preservation, and rehabilitation of rental housing for people earning less than 30% of the area median income; assistance for down payments, closing costs, and interest rate buy-downs to help very low-income people buy a first home; and leveraged grants to develop or preserve affordable housing in economically underserved areas.

The same editorial calls the bill's author, a "crafty liberal (who) would love to set a precedent that 5% of corporate profits can be confiscated for his favorite social causes." We don't think that's Rep. Barney Frank's goal, but would that really be such a bad precedent to set? Corporate profits exist at least partly because laws and policies are structured to help businesses succeed, often at the expense of individuals. Expecting them to give something back isn't unreasonable.

This legislation is one way the federal government can support local communities, like ours, that are working hard to end homelessness. In Seattle/King County, we have an ambitious plan that calls for producing and preserving 9,500 units of affordable housing over the next 10 years. Local governments and funders can't do that alone. In Seattle we're losing an average of 1,500-2,000 units of affordable housing each year. At the same time, the federal government uses the bulk of its housing funds for the mortgage interest deduction that benefits mostly middle-class homeowners. For every dollar spent on low-income housing, the federal government also spends four dollars on tax related expenditures — 75% of which benefits the top fifth of income-earning households.

The Wall Street Journal editorial claims we don't need this fund since we're in the middle of a "great housing boom." It's a boom that might be benefiting developers, but certainly not the 8,300 homeless people who sleep on the streets and in shelters in King County every night. We don't want to wait for the boom to trickle down to the rest of us.

**Action:** Contact your Representative and Senators at 1-866-864-NHTF and tell them that you support an affordable housing fund dedicated to Extremely Low Income people to be included in the GSE Reform Legislation.

To find out who represents you and their contact info, contact [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). For more information about this issue, visit [www.nhtf.org](http://www.nhtf.org).



The illustrations and political cartoons of **Ward Sutton** are ubiquitous. *Rolling Stone*, *TV Guide*, and *The New York Times Magazine* are just a few of the publications that have published his work. The former Seattleite, whose alternative cartoon strip is seen in weeklies across the nation, comes to Elliott Bay Books on July 5 to sign his new book, *Sutton Impact: The Political Cartoons of Ward Sutton*. 101 S. Main Street. (206)624-6600.

## HOMEOWNERS, Continued from Page 1

organization eligible for public funds, buys a piece of property. Then, they sell the house on the land at a subsidized price, putting up some of their own funding to make the house more affordable to the buyer.

The catch is the land. The buyer purchases and owns the home but not the land underneath. Rather, the nonprofit continues to own the land and leases it back to the homeowner on a long-term (essentially lifelong) lease. In this way, the house stays affordable virtually forever.

But what about the equity? There isn't any. The flipside of land trusts is that in making them affordable to the buyer, they are less profitable to the seller. The seller gets back 100 percent of their investment plus a small percent of home improvements made, but otherwise walks away with only about 25 percent to 35 percent of market increase, based on how long they've lived there.

Instead, land trusts attempt to preserve pieces of the city, building lasting neighborhoods and instilling roots that transcend the general anonymity of urban living. And time is of the essence.

According to Homestead Community Land Trust director Sheldon Cooper, the promise of the Monorail and the renovation of areas such as the Rainier Valley threaten to displace traditional citizens. He calls land trusts "an effective way to facilitate investment in the city without displacing its lower-income residents."

Sound far fetched? That's what 23-year-old land trust beneficiaries Josef Grimsrud and Jill Humphrie said. But that was before they signed the papers on one of the Jefferson Cottages in May, paying only a \$4,000 downpayment (2 percent of the cost required of the land trust agreement).

Humphrie is a registered nurse for Rainier Beach Medical Center, and Grimsrud is a youth counselor and musician. In light of their occupations, neither of them saw any way out of paying \$890 for their 500-square-foot apartment.

"I went to nursing school so I could

serve an underserved population," Humphrie says. "And by making that choice and choosing to live in Seattle, we thought we would never buy a house. At the same time, we were frustrated throwing money away each month to some random company."

What made it even more surreal was that it happened in about five months. Upon a suggestion from a colleague, who overheard Humphrie griping about the real estate market, Humphrie says "We just called up on a whim. We weren't at all in the house buying mindset, and it was so easy how it happened."

To buy the home, the couple had to meet Homestead's three-pronged criteria: the applicant had to make below 80 percent of median income, they had to be a first-time homebuyer, and they had to be eligible for a bank loan. After the application pool was narrowed down, applicants were scored on conditions such as community involvement and public service, and Humphrie and Grimsrud were selected.

How did the Cottages come about in the first place? The answer: Providence. That is, Sisters of Providence, the charity that formerly owned the land and wanted to keep one of the four houses built there affordable for residents of the city. Developer Bill Fennimore agreed to keep one home affordable. He just had to figure out how.

The solution came to him at an open house Fennimore held to preview the idea. Someone suggested a land trust. Fennimore called Homestead, and a partnership was born.

"It was a perfect match," Fennimore says. "Homestead was so practical, so willing to do everything that needed to be done to get this project off the ground."

But the affordability factor wasn't the only issue at hand. At first neighbors voiced opposition to the develop-

ment, Fennimore says.

"People's perception was that we would create property that would decline in value, that people aren't going to take care of it and it's never going to fit into the neighborhood. But with the land trusts, people are going to take care of the land; it's their house. It always stays affordable and it always stays something people love and want to keep up. It makes an incredible amount of sense."

The final hurdle in the production was the fact that the cottages, a quaint quartet of dark green and blue homes, were built on zoned for a single-family home. Fennimore overcame this glitch by billing the construction as a demonstration project for innovative housing. He thus adhered to the land trust's ideology of urban density.

And dense they are. According to Fennimore, homes are technically supposed to be about 10 feet apart on all sides. These cottages are more like six, bordering a communal yard and parking area.

Fennimore points out that distance regulations are often flouted, especially in some of Seattle's best-loved neighborhoods, like Wallingford. Also, Fennimore said, strategic window placement ensured "you won't be staring all day at your neighbor in their bathrobe."

Lack of privacy is one issue surrounding a land trust; another is the social dynamics associated with introducing mixed-income neighborhoods. Humphrie admits this was something that initially concerned her.

"We were kind of worried about it first, being the poor house on the block," she says. "But the thing is, these are 1,000 square foot homes, green (environmentally friendly) designed, and the people attracted to that are really cool."

The developers upheld the land trust's sustainability model, fashioning the cottages with environmentally friendly materials such as bamboo floors, wool carpets, and low-fume paints.

And as for the equity? This wasn't a concern for Grimsrud and Humphrie.

"Sometimes people get turned off by the fact that when you sell you can't make any money," says Humphrie. "But for us it was a really exciting opportunity to participate in a project that will serve others and preserve land for future generations." ■

**The buyer purchases and owns the home but not the land underneath. Rather, the nonprofit continues to own the land and leases it back to the homeowner on a long-term (essentially lifelong) lease. In this way, the house stays affordable virtually forever.**

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