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JULY 13-19, 2005



NAVY VETERAN KIMBERLY LANE FOUND A PLACE TO LIVE WITH THE HELP OF A VA PROGRAM FOR WOMEN VETERANS — A PROGRAM THAT, LIKE THE VA AS A WHOLE, IS FALLING SHORT OF FUNDING. PHOTO BY ELLIOT STOLLER.

Military Transfers

VA finds women vets coming off the streets need case management, affordable housing

By BREEANA LAUGHLIN
Contributing Writer

After a life of imposed discipline, veterans coming home from war have a tough time making a smooth transition. Take Kimberly Lane, for example, who was in the Navy from 1990 to '95.

"I had a good five years in the military. Even to this day, I still talk about it," she says. "I don't think I'm 100 percent out of it. Once you're in the military, you're always in the military."

Lane had trouble finding housing after leaving the service. She moved often and faced the same obstacle each time. Even with money for rent, landlords would refuse to let her move in unless she already had a job. It was hard to find a job without a permanent address.

"It's a Catch-22," she says.

Brooke Telin was in the military for three years. After leaving, she found

it difficult to switch back into the daily way of life.

"Being in it was structured," she says, "When you leave, you don't have anybody telling you what to do."

Some women are more at risk for homelessness as a result of their experiences in the military. While some report that the military was one of the best times of their lives, others have dealt with sexual assaults and unfair treatment from their male counterparts.

Women veterans who have a painful and shocking experience are vulnerable to post-traumatic stress disorder. The risks of developing PTSD from sexual trauma in the military seem to be decreasing, but more women are involved in combat and may be more likely to develop the disorder from war zone stress.

Even though many women veterans experience problems after leaving the military, most do not seek help from the

Comcast Bombast

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

Don't get distracted by the sex show: If it weren't for SCAN-TV, Seattle's community TV channel, Comcast Cable wouldn't show local programs made by Ethiopians, Hawaiians, Filipinos or Somalis — in their native tongues, for their own communities.

That's not counting all the art, music, poetry, public affairs and church programming put on by SCAN, the Seattle Community Access Network. Each week, SCAN — a nonprofit carried on Comcast's channel 77 — broadcasts 150 series, 24 live programs, 10 hours of community event listings and, yes, shows on porn and pot smoking that have been denied.

All of it is made locally by more than 600 volunteer producers at two studios at 98th and Aurora in Seattle. It's public programming, media activists say, that's vital to each population served and to our democracy as a whole.

If the City of Seattle doesn't work hard over the next few months, they say, all of it could be lost come January, when Comcast's cable TV franchise expires with the city.

"Mass media is almost totally controlled by corporate interests," says Ann Suter, executive director of SCAN. "Do you want all the decisions about your media made by corporate interests somewhere else?"

SCAN runs on \$660,000 a year originally provided by Comcast, which isn't obligated to provide more funding after January. This spring, the city's Office of Cable Communications started negotiating a new 10-year franchise contract with Comcast, which, under current federal law, must pay the city a portion of its cable revenues (currently 3.5 percent) for use of its right-of-ways.

The city can negotiate for more — up to 5 percent — as well as a myriad of other public benefits. Under the current contract and side agreements, for instance, Comcast provides a 30

SEA SICK

What's wrong with SeaFair? Well, for starters, there's...

PAGE 2

STORY TELLING

Who's got the facts straight: the cop or the assailant?

PAGE 3

MINOR DEFENSE

What resources can young sex workers find in the city? None.

PAGE 4

DIY OR DIE

When you can make it all yourself, who needs The Man?

PAGE 5

ROAD KILL

Urban planning duo wonder: Why not dump Alaskan Way Tunnel plan altogether?

PAGE 6

Change Agent.....	3
Just Heard.....	3
Short Takes.....	4
Ats.....	8
Dr. Wes.....	9
Poetry.....	9
StreetWatch.....	9
Letters.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Director's Corner.....	11
First things First.....	11

See VETERANS, Page 12

See COMCAST, Page 12

Empire on Parade

Seafair's martial display costs us civil liberties, community services

By **GLEN MILNER**
Guest Writer

The 2005 Seafair website lists the festival as our "hometown jewel." The latest 990 IRS financial statement for Seafair, for 2003, stated the organization took in \$1,912,280 in revenue and spent a total of \$2,741,156. While creating an \$828,000 deficit for the year, the Seafair president was paid \$157,441 in salary with an additional \$14,000 in employee expenses and contributions.

Each July and August, Seattle becomes home to the largest military recruitment and military public affairs event in the Northwest. Fighter planes buzz the skyline, U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels commandeer Elliott Bay, and military commanders are given VIP treatment in our city. Supposedly a mix of maritime entertainment and cultural values, Seafair has taken on a life of its own.

At the heart of the matter are annual agreements between Seafair and Navy Region Northwest — agreements typified by the contents of a letter dated April 7, 2004, to Rear Admiral Len Hering. In it, Seafair President Beth Wojick wrote, "Throughout our history, Seafair has continued to serve as an important catalyst for public outreach and community involvement for our military neighbors." Seafair specifically requested of Navy Region Northwest: the U.S. Navy Band at the Torchlight Parade; opportunities to host VIPs on visiting ships and other Navy cruises; and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, including staging platforms and a Navy tug to deliver Navy barges for the hydroplane races in Lake Washington.

The April 7 letter continued, "In exchange for the above, Seafair will provide the following opportunities [for the Navy]: U.S. Navy aircraft flying shows; U.S. Navy helicopter demonstration; the opportunity for the Commanding Officer to participate as VIP in the Torchlight Parade, and recruiting display space at Genesee Park.

The letter to the Navy also stated, "As you know, Seafair is a non-profit organization and we could not afford to pay for the in-kind services that you and your team provide."

In 1998 and 2000, Seafair gave us the horror of a Trident submarine, complete with up to 192 nuclear warheads, docked aside downtown Seattle. In the past, the Navy's recruitment operation has been the prime sponsor of the Milk Carton Derby at Green Lake.

The 2005 Seafair website lists the festival as our "hometown jewel." The latest 990 IRS financial statement for Seafair, for 2003, stated the organization took in \$1,912,280 in revenue and spent a total of \$2,741,156. While creating an \$828,000 deficit for the year, the Seafair president was paid \$157,441 in salary with an additional \$14,000 in employee expenses and contributions. According to the 990 IRS statement, the non-profit organization paid 9 percent of all income for the year to one employee.

We all pay for Seafair in many ways. We pay our Seattle police for traffic and crowd control. As Seattle Public Schools proposes the closure of 10 community schools, we pay for the Blue Angels fighter jets and the billions of dollars of military hardware that come into our city. And in recent years we have paid for Seafair with our civil liberties.

For three years, a group of peace activists have formed a waterborne protest to meet the U.S. Navy fleet arrival in Elliott Bay in August. Each year, members have informed the Navy of their intention to protest the fleet

arrival and their intention to follow applicable maritime laws.

In 2004, demonstrators tried to publicize that all five Navy warships at Seafair had the type of gun systems used routinely to fire radioactive or depleted uranium munitions during calibration off the Washington Coast.

That August, peace activists were called twice by a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Field Intelligence Support Team, an intelligence unit of the Department of Homeland Security, and advised not to meet the Navy fleet in Elliott Bay. On August 5, the vessel owned and operated by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was stopped and its two crewmembers — I was one of them — were held at armed guard in Bell Harbor Marina by the Coast Guard. As skipper of the vessel, I received a \$10,000 fine nine months later for allegedly being too close to Navy vessels. A single Coast Guard Hearing Officer in Arlington, VA will decide innocence or guilt in the case.

As the Blue Angels fly this year over Seattle, know that these seemingly innocent stunt planes can be combat-ready within 72 hours. Know also that Navy pilots are responsible for the bombing of Fallujah and other atrocities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Seattle could have a real maritime festival with sailboat races in Elliott Bay and perhaps featured events honoring our Native American and Northwest fishing traditions. As long as we allow Seafair and the U.S. Navy to use the event as a public relations tool for the U.S. military, we will get more of the same. ■

Glen Milner lives in Lake Forest Park. For more information on the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, go to www.gzcenter.org



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

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

Mission Statement:

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

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

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

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Change

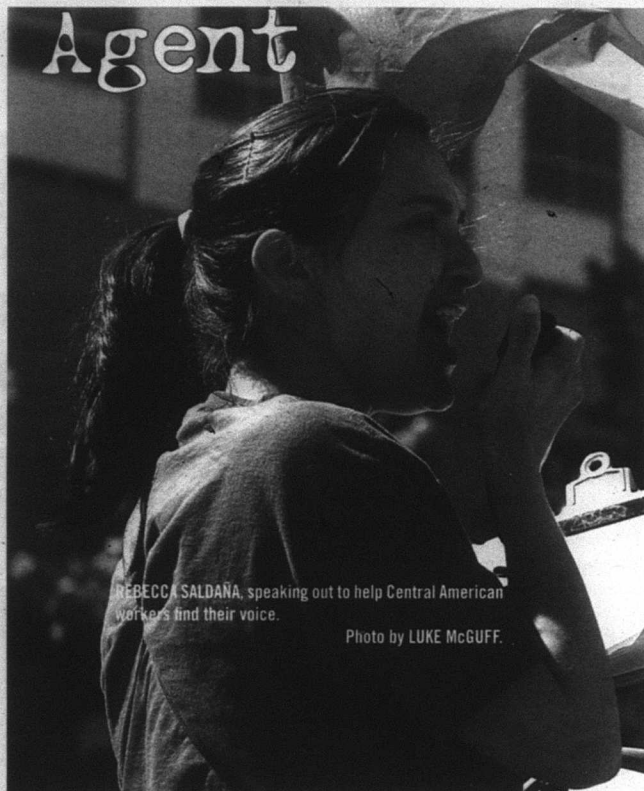
Rebecca Saldaña, whose day job is as an organizer for SEIU Local 6, sees the race to the bottom up close. She works with janitors who left land they owned in Mexico because they could no longer make a living. Then, they lost jobs in the U.S. when farm work slackened. "They're economic refugees," she says.

Saldaña is working to enhance the fighting capacity of Central America's under-equipped proles by getting women to train each other on how to combat the downward pull of corporate-led globalization. As the House of Representatives prepares to vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement, it's clear they need the help.

Union activists face bribes, abductions, and death threats when they call for minimum standards. Unable to make a living at home, their fellow citizens flee to the U.S. for poverty wages. Workers in Central America's *maquiladoras* understand that things won't get better under CAFTA, which the Senate passed in late June.

"There are three unions and one organizer" in the entire country of Guatemala, says Saldaña. "Workers are fighting for a voice. That's the climate CAFTA is being passed in."

—Adam Hyla



REBECCA SALDAÑA, speaking out to help Central American workers find their voice.

Photo by LUKE MCGUFF.

Getting the Story Straight

Police investigators may reopen 2003 investigation of officer conduct

By ADAM HYLA
Editor

When officers haven't kept their stories straight, what should the police's Internal Investigations team do? That's the question before the SPD's Office of Professional Accountability.

On Tuesday, July 12, the OPA, which serves as the administrative overseer of police investigations into allegations of officer misconduct, got a written request from the chair of its citizen review board to take a second look at two incidents involving Delridge resident Harry Gilchrest.

Gilchrest, 48, was twice arrested on February 21, 2003, following an altercation that left him and two of the three police officers involved with minor injuries. He was charged with unarmed assault, released on bail — and then, in what Superior Court judge Jeffrey Ramsdell called a mistake, arrested six days later by officers responding to a warrant that shouldn't have been issued.

The whole thing began on the morning of February 21, as Gilchrest was standing outside his house talking with a neighborhood kid who played basketball with his son. Moments after they parted ways, an officer stopped Gilchrest and asked him how he knew the boy. Suspicious of a drug transaction, the officer called for backup. Backup officer Todd Novisedlak told Gilchrest to stand next to his pickup truck; he refused.

A struggle ensued — one Gilchrest says Novisedlak initiated with a bodily shove after he'd quipped, "Is this bullies' day or what?" The officer painted a different picture: he reported that Gilchrest swore at them, saying "Don't think you're going to come in here and bully the Black man," then "lunged" forward angrily.

The incidents led to Gilchrest's felony conviction, 25 days of community service, and the surrender of his firearms permit (according to police, he was reaching for a pouch that contained a loaded gun). They were also the subject of an internal investigation in which Gilchrest, on the advice of his lawyer, refused to participate.

Now, supplied with evidence of disparities between what officers testified to at trial and what they told internal investigators, the Citizen Review Board wants a do-over — a rare re-opening of a closed case.

Court transcripts, police incident reports, and the record from Internal Investigations show that the police's self-investigation, which exonerated the officers, neglected to speak with potential witnesses.

One was Roy Osborne, the young man Gilchrest had been speaking with. Osborne was not home when investigators phoned on three different occasions. In the March 2004 trial,

Osborne testified that the fight was precipitated by the officers, who put Gilchrest in a headlock, brought him down to the ground, and proceeded to punch him in the midsection. Another was Gilchrest himself. That left just one civilian witness, a neighbor who didn't see the confrontation at all — only an officer with a bloodied nose.

The only other interviewees were the cops themselves, who said Gilchrest had taken a combative stance and "lunged" at Novisedlak.

There was just one civilian witness, a neighbor who didn't see the confrontation at all — only an officer with a bloodied nose.

Court documents also show how details in police testimony at trial also differed; Officer Novisedlak said that Gilchrest took a "fighting stance" and took a swing at his head, while he'd told investigators that Gilchrest had started the fight by grabbing the cop's shirt.

Judge Ramsdell described Novisedlak's testimony as "less reliable" than his cohorts, but excused the lapses, saying he may have been "on autopilot" and conditioned by his training to react decisively.

Gilchrest says that if the OPA complies with the review board's request, he'd cooperate with investigators.

"The only reason I didn't before is because my attorney told me not to," he says. "I didn't have any problems [with testifying], because I didn't do anything wrong." ■

Just Heard ...

Soul food for thought

McDonald's may be lovin' it, but the health of the African American community doesn't.

This may be a reality confronted by attendees at Soul Fest 2005, after observing that Mickey D's will serve as the festival's prime sponsor.

A celebration of African American heritage, this weekend's festival is being promoted by the fast-food behemoth that peddles numerous sodium-laden items. Excess dietary sodium is one cause of coronary heart disease, which kills African Americans in the state at a rate greater than all other racial/ethnic groups.

One of Soul Fest's main draws, the annual Unity Parade, is being sponsored by the state Department of Health. Linc Weaver, office director of Community Wellness and Prevention at DOH, says he was unaware of the Golden Arches' involvement. With that knowledge, he claims DOH participation allows the state an opportunity to provide accurate information on obesity, hypertension, and diabetes.

"Being there," says Weaver, "gives us a chance to provide a different perspective."

—Rosette Royale

Market seating: not at night

Managers at the Pike Place Market are looking to put a combination information and security booth at the north end of the Market under a pergola where a bench once stood. The Market's Preservation and Development Authority removed the bench last year, citing problems with drinking and drug dealing.

In June, the PDA solicited public comment on the idea at a little-publicized design meeting that drew a total of 18 people. Some advocated using the pergola and information booth to call attention to the Market's north-end entrance, in part by topping the pergola — which was originally a trolley stop — with a large Pike Place Market sign.

Most agreed seating was desired — as long as people can't use it at night. To accomplish that, it was suggested the PDA lock up the information booth with accordion-type fencing.

The PDA is accepting public comment on the pergola until July 15. Contact the PDA at 206-682-7453 or info@pikeplacemarket.org.

—Cydney Gillis

Bio-talk

Plans for a bioweapons research lab in the south end of the University District are moving forward, sometimes with a bit of exaggeration. A May 23 report from a faculty siting committee to UW president Mark Emmert gave a general thumbs-up to the project, saying nine such labs had been built nationwide "with apparent satisfaction of community concerns."

Community activists at a June 14 meeting chipped away at that assertion, noting that nine labs of the class UW wants have not been built, nor is there any way to substantiate the claim that the public had been mollified. UW officials pledged to retract the statement.

UW is awaiting funding for the lab from the federal government's National Institutes of Health.

—Adam Hyla

Child Protection Order

Sex Industry Snares More Minors, says City

Currently in Washington, there are no resources dedicated to helping the young female victims of the sex industry.

By JESSICA KNAPP
Contributing Writer

Sex workers in Seattle are getting younger and younger, says City Attorney Tom Carr. In response to this disturbing trend, Carr has drafted new legislation that offers plans for the care and treatment of juveniles involved in the sex industry.

On Friday, July 8, Carr and others involved with the city's management, treatment, and prosecution of sex workers testified at a meeting of the Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Arts Committee of the city council. The committee is chaired by Councilmember Nick Licata. No other councilmembers were in attendance.

Carr disputed the common understanding of prostitution as a victimless crime: "The fact is the true victims of this crime are the women involved in the sex industry," he said.

Marilyn Littlejohn with the city's Human Services Department (HSD) explained that while the city is concerned about the well-being of all sex workers, their initial efforts are fo-

cused on the youngest members of the population who have been involved in the sex industry for a short time, or those who are not yet involved but are at serious risk of becoming involved.

The legislation would offer crisis counseling and education for youth at the Crisis Intervention Center of King County and residential treatment for chemical dependency and mental illness. It would also help teens heal from the sexual trauma that is likely in their background, and it will establish support groups to help teens problem-solve and gain access to resources.

The legislation passed out of committee and was sent to review by the full council on Monday, July 11, where it also passed. It makes an appropriation to HSD in the 2005 budget from a dedicated account in the Human Services Operating Fund.

HSD ran a study with a sample population of 12- to 17-year-old men and women engaged in sex work. Of this group, the city agency found 30 percent suffered from some type of addiction — drugs, alcohol, etc. The research also showed that the girls

involved in the sex industry are getting younger and younger.

This finding troubled Littlejohn, who pointed out that the girls are at a high risk for being victimized.

Juveniles can become easy prey. Many times, they are led to believe they are in love with their predators. During testimony, a point-person from the Seattle Police Department remarked that normal 13-year-old girls don't wake up one morning and decide they want to become prostitutes. These children are victims of circumstance. Their lives have led them to a place where they feel they have no other options.

Currently in Washington, there are no resources dedicated to helping the young female victims of the sex industry. This legislation would change that by directing money towards creating services specifically for them. ■

Short Takes

One R down, two to go

Devotees of writer Dave Eggers and his literary journal *McSweeney's* will be delighted to hear that Seattle will be joining the exclusive ranks of cities in possession of their very own 826.

Part of a national network of children's writing centers founded by Eggers and company, 826 Seattle will be the first language arts center for youth in the region.

Originally started under the name Studio 26, the program has made strides to get involved with their new community in Greenwood, including reaching out to local high schools like Ingraham, Ballard, and John Marshall, as well as to kids in transitional housing.

"We will start with after-school homework help, like ESL writing, essay writing, and then have evening workshops about comic book writing, lyric writing or creative writing," says 826 Seattle director Teri Hein. The goal, she asserts, is to offer practical and creative help for students.

The product-based learning of 826 Seattle is designed to give children of all ages the opportunity to produce work they can walk away with, or perhaps even get published.

"We have already received a grant to produce our first anthology of student-based work," Hein says.

826 Seattle will also offer support services to local schools by helping teachers who request assistance with particular assignments.

With 150 volunteers already helping the organization get their footing at their new place of business, including help from architects to freelance grant writers, Hein hopes that the support will continue to grow.

Every 826 local organization, with locations in San Francisco, New York and L.A., also has a theme store attached to their tutoring sites. The Seattle store will feature a space-travel outfitter's theme, and all of the profits will go to the

organization. Filled with everything from Velcro to rehydration units (or bottles of water), the store will act as a creative gateway into the writing center, propelling every child who walks through the door into a brave new creative world.

For more information or to volunteer, check out www.826Seattle.org.

Bellevue: Tense on Tent City

Tensions continued to rise in Bellevue as public comment was heard relating to the controversial land-use ordinance that would regulate temporary encampments, specifically tent cities for the homeless.

At a July 5 City Council meeting, over 30 individuals took to the podium telling the council of their support or opposition to the ordinance.

Many of the comments concerned the proposed amendments to the draft ordinance that range from expanding the maximum number of host dates from 60 to 90 days, to more conservative amendments like requiring the host of the encampment to hold a community meeting prior to the arrival of the temporary shelter.

"As the council decides the maximum duration of stay, please keep into consideration that the longer the duration of stay the greater the risk to our community's health and safety as well as [its] financial burden," claimed Mary Wagner of Bellevue. "Reducing the number of individuals will reduce the risk factors."

Countering this view was Sue Giaimo, a Bellevue resident and parishioner of Grace Lutheran Church.

"I'm concerned about all of these regulations. As I read them, it seems like it would be impossible for a small church like Grace Lutheran Church to meet these conditions: a six-foot fence enclosing the encampment, making sure there is no reduction in parking spaces," she says. "The fact that these limits are imposed limits my spirituality."

The hours ticked on, hands were raised across the room in solidarity for a particular viewpoint, but no conclusions or decisions were made.

The next City Council meeting addressing the temporary land use ordinance will be on July 18 at 8:00 p.m. in Bellevue City Hall.

For further information on the ordinance, see the City of Bellevue website at www.cityofbellevue.org/page.asp?view=34188.

Carlos Holguin, dead at 48

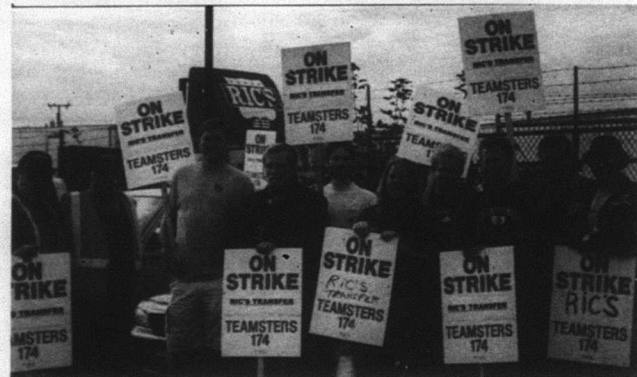
The King County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed the identity of the man found on fire under the Nickerson Street overpass near 15th Avenue West on Saturday July 2 as Carlos Holguin, 48.

Details on how the fire started are being investigated by the Homicide division of the Seattle Police Department. It may have been an accident. "There are some unanswered questions in regards to the cause and origin of the fire," says Officer Sean Whitcomb.

Holguin was found at 1:30 a.m. Saturday and was taken to Harborview after suffering from burn wounds over 90 percent of his body, where he later died.

Holguin's remains will be shipped to Michigan for a family service. In Seattle, a memorial vigil for Holguin and an estimated 21 other homeless people who have died outside this year is being held by Women in Black on Wednesday, July 13, at Westlake Center.

—Kimburly Ervin



Truckers Walk

UNION EMPLOYEES OF RIC'S TRANSFER ARE GOING ON THEIR NINTH WEEK ON THE PICKET LINES OUTSIDE THE SOUTH SEATTLE TRUCKING COMPANY'S OFFICES. THE 11 UNION MEMBERS WERE FACED WITH A CONTRACT OFFER FROM EMPLOYERS THAT WOULD PHASE OUT FAMILY HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND LOWER WAGES. WORD ABOUT THE STRIKE IS SPREADING VIA THE PICKET'S "FLYING SQUADS," WHICH FOLLOW SCAB'S TRUCKS TO GIVE RIC'S CUSTOMERS INFORMATIONAL FLYERS. PHOTO BY ANDREA LEE.

Self-Made Renegades

DIY Academy teaches you how to make it yourself

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Writer

Collin Coyne says his knowledge of chemistry is limited to what he gleaned back in community college. Michelle Stack's scientific expertise is grounded in days spent with Bunsen burners in a high school chem lab. And yet, the duo don't seem the slightest bit flummoxed in demonstrating how the process of transesterification — science jargon for a reversible reaction wherein one ester, or an organic compound formed of an acid and a base, is converted into another ester — can transform used vegetable oil into biodiesel fuel.

Both Coyne and Stack are getting the chance to upend the notion that only engineers from Exxon-Mobil can keep your car humming, due to their participation in DIY Academy, a summer school of do-it-yourself classes where anyone who knows how to do anything can teach other people how to do that anything as well. Courses run the non-traditional gamut, spanning from Intro to Fire-Spinning to Herbal First Aid, from to How to Make Beer to Take Care of Your Vag (without supporting the "man"). Classes cost \$5 a pop, or, for the student looking to soak up a wealth of DIY knowledge, \$20 will land you eight sessions. All classes, which enjoy a small student-teacher ratio, meet in the basement of Hugo House, down in the offices of the Zine Archive & Publishing Project (ZAPP).

ZAPP member Davey Oil sees DIY Academy as being instrumental in countering corporate culture, which, by its very nature, says people don't have the power to create anything.

"I think that we've lost a lot when we lose the ability to prepare our own goods, produce our own fun. DIY is about teaching people the skills we have," Oil says.

N. Adam Beadel, a ZAPP member who recently taught a stenciling class, says DIY Academy was first presented at a ZAPP general volunteer meeting last winter. Since that time, 30 different workshops have been created, with 22 different instructors. The Academy fit nicely into the mission of ZAPP, says Beadel, "Which is hands-on learning."

In the case of making biodiesel, hands-on learning also pertains to rubber gloves, as at least one of the substances involved in creating the alternative fuel, lye, led both instructors to advocate using protection. Coyne, a member of the Left-Bank Books collective, also offered more advice: "If you don't get good measurements, you get bad results," he warned, while dispensing 240 ml of methanol into various containers.

His counsel was borne out moments later. Halfway through a 20-minute agitation process — made possible by a drill fitted with a paint-mixing blade, the whole of which being housed in a drill press bolted to the top of a five-gallon plastic bucket containing a methanol-lye-water mixture — Coyne realized he had made a mistake. He had wanted 2400 ml of methanol, not 240 ml. No matter. With methanol, water, and lye all being less expensive than a barrel of crude, Coyne simply prepared to pour out the correct measurements, which, to show that there's more than one way to DIY, would instead be frapped in a blender. ("Don't forget to duct-tape the lid," Coyne added.)

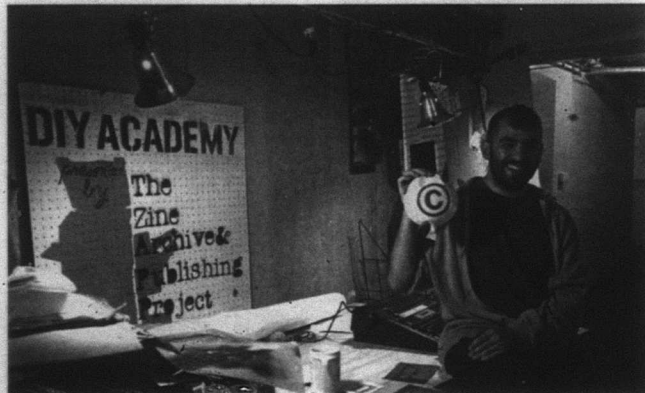
See DIY. Continued Page 9

[Resource]

For more information about DIY Academy, and to get an on-line course catalogue, log on to www.hugohouse.org/diy.

If learning to make biodiesel is your thing, check out www.journeytoforever.org, which Coyne says will give you all the information you need.

Davey Oil, making whoopee in spite of The Man and spreading the joy of DIY. Photo by Luke McGuff.



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Highway Killers

Insurgent urban planners Grant Cogswell and Cary Moon ask: Who needs the state's multibillion-dollar Alaskan Way tunnel?

Interview by **JESSICA KNAPP**
Contributing Writer

Our plan says prioritize those freight trips. We reengineered the street grids and fixed the lights. This city has a lot of excess capacity, even during rush hour, because of the way the street grid works. Everybody's funneled into a highway, everybody's funneled into Denny Street. Those things can be changed.
— Grant Cogswell

In June, the Washington State Department of Transportation released a detailed version of their plan to replace the ailing Alaskan Way Viaduct with an underground tunnel. At several community meetings, WSDOT aired a computerized video of a car driving across their future vision of the roadway. (The video can now be seen online at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct/.)

Only 12 blocks of the highway would lie underground. The rest rises up above the street in a monstrous mass of concrete — bigger than the current highway, joined with on-ramps and off-ramps that are viaducts in themselves. And it does not open up the waterfront views from the Pike Place Market.

This plan is not final, and other options do exist. One alternative — proposed by The People's Waterfront Coalition — involves tearing down the viaduct and not replacing it. In a recent interview, Cary Moon and Grant Cogswell spoke about the PWC's work. Moon spent 10 years working as an engineer before she went back to school to become a landscape architect. Cogswell is a local poet ["A Hero's Haunting," *Real Change* May 3, 2001] best known for his work on the monorail. Together with Julie Parrett, a landscape and urban designer, these activists are working to support a denser, livelier, more ecologically friendly Seattle waterfront.

Real Change: How did all of this get started?

Cary Moon: Well, a year and a half ago, Allied Arts wanted design teams to create these proposals, these great graphics for what could happen [on the waterfront]. Julie, Grant, and I were asked to lead one of those teams. I knew there were a lot of transportation planners who said that we don't need to build a new highway, that we could live without it. So we showed what we could have on the shore instead of building a new highway at all.

And when we presented it, everybody's jaw dropped: "Oh my god. That's so cool. We should do that." We presented it 20 times and kept hearing that. We started to realize: Seattleites get that if you build more highways, more people will drive. They get it that our city would be better off with civic and ecological usage. So we decided that we should go into political action on it. That's when we hooked up with Grant. I mean, Grant had been involved earlier, but that's when we really decided—

Grant Cogswell: Cary and I were on the board of Allied Arts, which was pushing for better waterfront, but never with the idea of not building a new highway. They were pushing the tunnel, and that kind of quickly became sort of the plan environmental groups, unfortunately, and the officials at the city at the state were pushing.

Moon: And one of the first things we did with our proposal—

Cogswell: —we quit Allied Arts.

Moon: Yeah, we quit Allied Arts. We tried to convince them first, but we didn't prevail, so we left. We entered a national design competition sponsored

by Metropolis Magazine about better ideas for more sustainability, and we won second prize. In a national design competition, like three months after we'd done the proposal. And we went okay, there's something in this. So that kind of motivated us to keep going.

Cogswell: WSDOT put out five proposals for a replacement highway, and they



keep claiming that they did a no-highway proposal, but all that was was a proposal that all the traffic be left on the ground, on the waterfront.

RC: So basically, a proposal to show why that idea wouldn't work?

Moon: Exactly.

Cogswell: And they had an elevated new highway, a rebuilt highway the same size, and the tunnel. I think, "If that's all that's on the menu, sure I'll take the shit sandwich. Build us the tunnel."

RC: Where does it stand now? What stage of the process is the viaduct plan at, and how difficult would it be to reverse the plan?

Cogswell: They don't have the money.

Moon: They don't have the money, and everybody in the inner circle of making the decision understands that they don't have the money, and the federal legislators have basically said if you want to build a highway, you have to pay for it locally. So, they're still kind of scrambling to raise some money but losing a lot of confidence

Seattleites get that if you build more highways, more people will drive. They get it that our city would be better off with civic and ecological usage.
— Cary Moon

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Continued from Previous page

that they're going to be able to. A lot of insiders are saying o.k., we need an affordable Plan B. So they're starting to look a lot more seriously at ours.

RC: What do you see for the waterfront? What's your vision, in terms of it being a more vibrant community? One of the depressing things about Seattle is that the waterfront is just so lifeless.

Moon: Well, we think it's lifeless because of the viaduct. On the days you go there when there is no traffic, and you realize you can smell and you can taste and you can talk, it's a great place to be. So we're proposing space for civic destinations, for parks, for recreation, and if you don't build the tunnel, it opens up the opportunity to do a totally different kind of seawall than they're proposing now.

Right now, that tunnel wall is the seawall, it's vertical and hard-armored, and if you care about marine ecology, you know that that's rough on salmon and would prevent any opportunity for intertidal habitat. Without the tunnel, you can create a much softer edge with more habitat and put in a lot of things that help migrating juvenile salmon, make places for people to touch the water, have marinas, places for boats and kayaks and canoes, create a totally different kind of shore where you're integrating what's happening on the water with what's happening on land. It's a totally different kind of connection with the downtown shore.

Cogswell: They claim there's going to be a park. Well, the lid over the tunnel — you can't put anything on it.

Moon: Right, because it's got weight limits.

Cogswell: So what you get, basically, is 12 blocks of grass. And during the time it takes to do the project, the traffic

will be on the ground, and that will take at least three years. If we can get by without a viaduct for three years or more, that means we can do without it. If we can do without it, then why are we spending the money?

Moon: If Seattle wants to be a more sustainable city, if we want to reduce global warming, and car emissions, be a healthier place where people walk more, bike more, and have denser, more walkable neighborhoods, why are we investing \$4.5 billion to perpetuate car dependence and to keep enabling this drive-everywhere culture?

to go incremental. Either you build a highway, or you don't.

Cogswell: And you hear these people: "Oh, of course I agree with you, but that's not the way the world works." You get people who are on the side of sustainability basically arguing against it. There are 4,000 freight trips a day. Our plan says prioritize those freight trips. We reengineered the street grids and fixed the lights. This city has a lot of excess capacity, even during rush hour, because of the way the street grid works. Everybody's funneled into a highway, everybody's funneled

our money making our neighborhoods great so we don't have to drive everywhere but can walk and bike and take transit. You can accommodate 40,000 to 50,000 of the [viaduct's] trips onto city arterial streets, an improved I-5, and a new four-lane surface street on the waterfront. About 30,000 more go onto transit. And 20,000 to 30,000 trips just stop happening.

RC: And what do you want people to do now?

Moon: Talk to the City Council — to people on the council who have said, "We know you're right, but it's political suicide to say so." So the public has to demand it. And talk to the mayor too because the mayor, even though he claims we're going to achieve Kyoto protocol standards, I don't think he quite gets that you can't be involved in creating emissions and say you're going to reduce emissions.

Because we recognize that the state's mission is to replace the highway, period. Seattle leaders,

their mission is what's the best future for our city, and you know, we're never going to have any, the state's never going to like our plans, but the city can demand. It has to come from the city first. ■

[Resource]

The People's Waterfront Coalition's vision for the viaduct will be featured in a national PBS documentary set to air this winter. For more information on the organization, visit www.peopleswaterfront.org.



URBAN PLANNING: THE PEOPLE'S WATERFRONT COALITION SUGGESTS ANOTHER VISION OF SEATTLE'S WATERFRONT. IMAGE COURTESY OF WWW.PEOPLESWATERFRONT.ORG/VISION_RESULTS.HTML

That's sort of the epiphany people come to: A) we can't afford it; B) why would we invest in that when we say we want this, which is kind of the opposite? People like Allied Arts or Transportation Choices say, well, of course, we know you're right; we know we shouldn't be investing in highways, but this is too big of a leap. We want to do a more incremental, gradual approach, and get to a more sustainable city eventually.


RC: But we're at a prime opportunity to make a big change.

Moon: Right. We don't have the choice

into Denny Street. Those things can be changed.


Moon: There are four parts to our transportation solution. One, improve the arterials so there are a lot more choices for North/South traffic. Second is to invest in a city transit system so that you get the maximum number of people on the transit because we've already built them, let's use them. Third is the freight priority routes through the city so that freight has freight-only lanes or freight-plus-HOV lanes. Fourth is invest in denser, more walkable neighborhoods. It's sort of the more theoretical aspect: let's spend

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Don't Worry, Be Happy

Film Review
Happy Endings
Written and directed by Don Roos
Running Time: 130 minutes

By Lester Gray
Contributing Writer

In approaching this latest offering on cultural befuddlement, one might wonder if there is much more to be said about the issue, or the films that address it. You may rest assured that while the assessments of such works may grow tiresome and stale, writer/director Don Roos, in weaving three story lines into one jocular strand, demonstrates that the subject area is far from exhausted. His success in this effort is due in no small part to solid contributions from actors Tom Arnold and Lisa Kudrow.

Happy Endings is a witty, all's-well-that-ends-well triad of complementary stories that capture the awkwardness of traditional values raising their heads in non-traditional lifestyles. The film's characters, while not old, are certainly not getting any younger, and the need for

constancy and a standing in the social order sends them scrambling as in a game of musical chairs, looking to get a seat before the music stops.

This urgency is made evident in the opening scene, which reveals Lisa Kudrow's character at a full frantic gait, Kudrow plays a mother who is forced to negotiate with a blackmailer in order to see the child she gave up at birth. Accompanying this narrative is the portrayal of a father who needs to know that his gay son is straight, and a tale of two homosexual couples in a paternity battle. While there are plenty of contentious interchanges between the characters to move the story along, it is the inner conflicts that give it shape.

Also lending form to *Happy Endings* are side-by-side subplots, perhaps unintended, that could be titled, in turn, "What Happened to That Sperm You Borrowed?" "Was That Really My Sperm?" and "Guess Whose Sperm It Was?" The egg, of course, is also there, albeit in a less mysterious role. This biology, as always, leads to parenthood.

Our progeny, with whom we are entrusted naturally or by adoption, have a way of resurrecting some of the

most time-honored emotions — feelings which refuse to be superceded by ephemeral constructs or pretensions to cultural indifference. Unafraid to explore this theme in its most controversial contexts, the film looks the abortion issue right in the eye without apology.

While this work is certainly not slapstick, there are plenty of pratfalls:

With Friends Like These...: Lisa Kudrow plays a mom in Happy Endings.



people trying to maintain dignity and emotional balance in situations of unsure footing. This is both the joke and the message. The ongoing cultural revolution is about letting go, pretty scary stuff. What *Happy Endings* tells us, without getting sappy, is to hang in there and everything will be cool. ■

Happy Endings opens Friday, July 15, at several theaters.

The Missing Link

Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism
By Dawn Prince-Hughes, Ph.D.
Three Rivers Press, 2005
Paperback, 240 pages, \$12.95

Review by LESTER GRAY
Contributing Writer

The poster child of autism is the idiot savant: capable of complex mathematical computations, but otherwise unable to take care of his or her basic needs. Dawn Prince-Hughes dispels this misconception, using herself as an example, taking us on her heroic journey through homelessness, strip club gigs, and a relationship with a community of gorillas. Later to come was a doctoral degree and motherhood.

The fact of the matter is that Ms. Prince-Hughes does exhibit an unusual balance of cognitive skills due to Asperger's Syndrome, a particular form of autism just recently identified by medicine. The same neurology that cripples her also contributes to a considerable intellect and a singular perspicacity.

The author was born to a family of modest means in which the benchmarks of psychological normalcy were already skewed. Neither her mother nor father was fond of social interaction; her grandmother was agoraphobic; her brothers and cousins were given to similar struggles. As such, Ms. Hughes' aberrant behavior enjoyed somewhat of a camouflage, at least at home, where her blue-collar parents were unlikely to consult a doctor about a problem that they may not have even considered a problem. It's probably just as well. In those days, the chance of a correct diagnosis was practically nil.

In fact, it is only recently that the symptoms — difficulties in processing information, a low threshold for sensory stimulation, and problems in social interaction — are interpreted as something other than "a slow child with a bad attitude." Everyday life is usually somewhat of a challenge, even with diagnosis and treatment. Through her childhood and pre-pubesence Prince-Hughes struggles without either.

By the time she reaches high school, the ostracism and humiliation generated by students and teachers alike have morphed into plain meanness: "People would corner me in the bathroom and force my head into the toilet, slam me into my locker... hit me on the head with books and spit on me." But there is a light at the end of this horrific gauntlet, which also includes being raped, eating out of trash cans in Seattle, and flirting with alcoholism — a gift that begins to unfold with her first steady job as a nude dancer.

On her day off from being ogled through a glass wall, Dawn stumbles upon a group with a similar occupation: underappreciated entertainers moving behind thick double panes. These gorillas at the city zoo are absolutely captivating, especially in how they relate to the world and each other. Prince-Hughes lands a job caring for them. As this future Ph.D. becomes more familiar with this community, she discerns an advanced social structure with patterns of reciprocity, compassion, and other complex interactions — behaviors she had never been able to recognize among her peers. As she comes to love these humanoids and they her, a rare intimacy develops — one of their group even becoming somewhat of a mentor.

All of this informs the most moving part of *Songs of the Gorilla Nation*. The heart of the story begins to beat and there is an awakening. What was heretofore an interesting but detached recounting becomes passionate. For the woman who has struggled with autism for more than two decades redemption arrives. Through this experience, Prince-Hughes finds the keys that begin to unlock the doors to living successfully among humans.

Songs of the Gorilla Nation is the story of triumph against impossible odds. But it is not a Horatio Alger cliché. Quite the opposite. This is about an unlikely confluence of circumstances that saves the life of a kind and caring woman, who in spite of her experiences refuses to hold humankind in contempt. It is about us — how we travel from the inside of atoms out to the far reaches of the solar system, searching for whatever we are searching for and yet still fail to value the treasures of a species vanishing right in front of us, because of us. We don't know how lucky we are to have both Dawn Prince-Hughes and the gorillas in our lives. Literally. ■

As Dawn Prince-Hughes becomes more familiar with this community, she discerns an advanced social structure with patterns of reciprocity, compassion, and other complex interactions — behaviors she had never been able to recognize among her peers. As she comes to love these humanoids and they her, a rare intimacy develops — one of their group



FOOD FIGHT!!!!



Adventures
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning

Disclaimer: no actual apples were thrown during the writing of this column.

This week's column is dedicated to the cliché "low-hanging fruit" on account of my having heard it used in sentences no less than five times last week and, since I can't chew out my own ear drums, I have been driven mad. When I think of low-hanging fruit I don't think of easy things I can do to save money for a corporation. We had apple trees in the back yard when I was eight years old, and stupid kids next door, and so when I think of "low-hanging fruit," I think of stupidity and flinging apples at people's heads. Not that I would do such a thing, but it feels good to think about it.

The biggest stupidity of today, one that can't go unmentioned, is the stupidity of Al Qaeda in Britain. Let's reflect on this a minute. These guys have attacked Britain by bombing London. They bombed London! Gee, let me think, now, hasn't someone tried that before? I'm sure I've heard of it, maybe I can find it in, I don't know, a BOOK somewhere. Oh, yes, here's this book that says if you bomb London, the first time they say, "Pardon?" It says the second time you bomb them they tell a cutting joke about you that you can't get because you're not smart enough. Then the third time you bomb them it makes them angry. So my first apple is for the Al Qaeda cells in Britain who claimed responsibility for last Thursday's bombings. Stupids!

My second apple is for the members of the city council of Atlanta, Georgia, who are giving serious consideration to a plan to rid downtown Atlanta of panhandlers with a law that states that their presence "contributes to negative perceptions" of Atlanta. That's right, I'm supposed to think badly of Atlanta if they have panhandlers, like every other city in America or the world, but if they chase their panhandlers down, lock them up, beat them, or send them to someone else's city, I'm supposed to think Atlanta is heaven on earth.

I can hear the tourists now. "Why look, Martha, this city's got no poor people! I wonder how they do that?" "Probably it's because everybody who lives here gets a big cash Christmas present from Ted Turner himself, every year! I'll bet it's as much as a thousand dollars!" "You're probably right, Martha! Hey, let's sell the farm and move here so we can enjoy the fabulous wealth that oozes up out of the streets in Atlanta!" "Let's!"

The rest of my apples, for this week, are mushy rotten apples up-side the head for every single local government out there that has instituted or is planning to institute a massive plan to house homeless people without taking the shortage of housing that causes homelessness into account as part of the plan.

It always happens like this: a city official says "Our city can solve homelessness. We will first put the homeless into housing, paying their rent for them to start with. Then we will treat any addictions they have, give them needed training, and they will get jobs, and they will be able to start paying their own way."

And every time it goes wrong exactly the same way: the affordable housing (what the government is able to bear the cost of) doesn't exist. One stupid government after another installs these liberal-sounding compassionate programs, and one stupid government after another finds out that even a city government can't find the cheap housing that the homeless people couldn't find. Because it isn't there to be found! That's why so many were homeless; stupids! Have an apple!

Disclaimer: no actual apples were thrown during the writing of this column. The author has in fact never smacked anyone at all with a rotten apple, even including Johnny No Brain and his sister, What'shername No Brain, and his half-brother Big Lips Little Brain, 48 years ago, no matter what they say. Besides, they started it. ■

Mama

I miss you
at the strangest times
downtown Tucson Saturday night
rain and rhythm play and suddenly I am five,
listening to you sing...

"Edel weiss, edel weiss
Bless this homeland forever..."

I
was seven
before I discovered
that the soft yellow blossoms
that bloomed in our yard were called, "forsythias,"
and not, "for Cynthia's."
This is the magic that a mother creates.
These are the scenes, the scent I never cease to
stumble upon
in the middle of the night, in winter's frozen marrow.

Mama
there is a place
where the music plays
a thousand days beyond the stillness of your hands.

Who
can explain
the beating of two hearts
in ethereal syncope? Who can tell the night the
music's gone?
Who can tell the music not to play?

Where
midnight mixes starlight
and falling rain like ghosts in the shadow of moon-lit
streets,
Where ivory drifts through alleyways
so does the memory of childhood remain.

—CYNTHIA OZIMEK



Friday, June 24, 6:15 a.m., 2000 Block 15th Ave. W.

Victim stated he was asleep in his tent in the wooded area off 15th Ave. West when he awoke to see the suspect, a transient white male aged 48, standing in his tent holding a knife in each hand. He was yelling that the victim, a transient white male aged 35, had been talking about him, waking up the neighbors, and causing problems in the camp area. Victim stated he had never seen the suspect before, and had no idea what he was talking about. Suspect continued to yell, and began to advance upon him. Victim grabbed suspect by both wrists in an attempt to prevent himself from getting cut or stabbed, and to get the suspect out of his tent. Suspect then began to fight, and victim was cut, suffering cuts to right hand and wrist, and a puncture wound to his right thigh. Victim continued to fight back, hitting the suspect until he was able to leave the tent and seek help. He was taken to Ballard Swedish Hospital for treatment. Victim stated that he hoped to travel to Alaska next week for a fishing job. A hold was put on the suspect, and he was taken to Harborview Medical Center for treatment for an injured jaw and a black eye.

Tuesday, June 28, 12:40 a.m., E. Pine St./Minor Ave.

Officer was westbound on E. Pine approaching Minor when he observed the suspect, a Native American male aged 27, and the victim, a Native American female aged 37, both transient, climbing over the rail from under the Pine St. overpass. Officer was aware that this is a high narcotics area, and contacted the couple. He then checked their names and dates of birth via police computer. The check revealed a no-contact order, listing the female as the petitioner, and the male as the respondent. He verified that the order had been served, and he placed the suspect under arrest. He was transported to the East precinct, and was then booked into King County Jail for violating the no-contact order.

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.

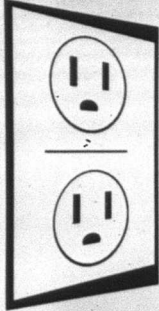
DIY, Continued from Page 5

Beadel says that nearly all the supplies for DIY classes have been donated and that because of the Academy, ZAPP office space had to be expanded. But more than ZAPP's spatial benefit is the personal benefit afforded to participants. "We wanted to create a community down here," says Beadel, which is a fundamental goal. "We wanted to make DIY Academy open to anybody who was interested, since it's about self-improvement and empowerment."

He nods toward a stencil of the Academy's Latin motto: *Non Scholae sed Vitae Discimus*. Translation: Learning is not for school, but for Life.

Oil says the motto is another key aspect of DIY Academy. "The people who teach these classes aren't experts," claims Oil. "They're comrades that have skills, and they're offering them." ■

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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Homestead Fact

Dear *Real Change*,

Thank you for your coverage of how Jill Hymphrey and Johan Grimsrud came to own one of the Jefferson Cottages ["A Piece of the Pie," June 29]. The article captured how private developers can partner with local Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to deliver permanently affordable homeownership opportunities that benefit individuals and the community at large.

However, some facts around the resale of Community Land Trust homes and the equity due to the CLT homeowner at resale were misrepresented. Contrary to Jade Ingmire's description, there actually is equity due to the CLT homeowner when a home on CLT-held land is sold. Homestead Community Land Trust's resale formula guarantees that the homeowner gets back what they paid for when they purchased the home, plus a share of appreciation that is calculated based on the proportion of the homeowner's initial investment, and the amount of time that the homeowner lives in that home.

Admittedly, the equity earned in a Community Land Trust home is limited when compared to homes that are sold on the speculative market. Yet, limited equity does not equal no

equity. In fact, it is the retention of land value in Community Land Trust homes — thus not requiring any more public investment to guarantee the home's affordability into the future — that makes Community Land Trusts a wise and sustainable investment for public dollars, and a good tool for communities to fight displacement of long-time residents that occurs because of gentrification.

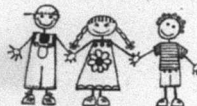
As Community Land Trusts are local, democratically controlled, membership-based non-profits, each CLT will have different ways of determining a fair resale formula that balances an individual's and a community's interests. For more information about and links to Community Land Trusts around Washington state and the nation, visit Homestead CLT's website: www.homesteadclt.org.

Quinnie Tan
Outreach and Homebuyer
Coordinator
Homestead Community Land Trust
Seattle

Correction:

Jeff Natter, the departing head of the Committee to End Homelessness, currently works for King County's Department of Community and Human Services. He will leave July 22 to go back to work for Public Health of Seattle-King County as the new director of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program. His current employer was stated incorrectly in the July 6 issue ("Ending homelessness: headless").

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



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Politics

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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@ccsw.org.

Opportunity

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

Community Sale: Sunday, July 17, noon - 4 p.m. Outdoors @ Cascade Peoples Center, 309 Pontius & Thomas. Music-Movies-Clothing-Arts&Crafts, and more. Info: 206-383-5426. Got an idea? A few spaces left.

Real Change classifieds are an inexpensive way to reach 30,000 loyal readers. Call 441-3247 today, or email classified@realchangenews.org

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 7/13

Lend your voice to phase out toxic chemicals at the **Washington State's Department of Ecology public hearing**. The department is accepting public comments through July 22 on its draft rule to phase out persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals. Ensure the department develops strong rules with comprehensive and precautionary approaches for phasing out toxic chemicals. 7 p.m., Seattle Best Western, 200 Taylor Ave N. www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/pbl/rule/

Thursday 7/14

Mozart in the Jungle: Sex, Drugs, and Classical Music is an account of the lives of journeyman musicians surviving on the edges of a lucrative, increasingly fragile business. Bringing an insider's perspective is author Blair Tindall, a professional oboist. She comes to Seattle to discuss the topic and her book. 7:30 p.m. Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St., (206) 624-6600. www.elliottbaybook.com/



Saturday 7/16

Jim Motavalli, editor of *E: The Environmental Magazine*, returns to Seattle with a new E tome, *Green Living: The E Magazine Handbook for Living Lightly on the Earth*. This book offers a comprehensive perspective on an environmentally smart and sustainable approach to everyday living. 2 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St., (206) 624-6600. www.elliottbaybook.com/

Saturday 7/16

Bon Odori, with dance, food, crafts, and flower arrangements is a festival that celebrates ancestors who have contributed to Buddhist life. This is one of Seattle's oldest celebrations. Through 7/17 at Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S. Main St. (206) 329-0800. www.seattlebetsuin.com.

Monday 7/18

When Timothy Treadwell and his girlfriend died in a grizzly bear attack, it ended a saga of a man who had spent his final years as an advocate for the very same animals that killed him. Author Mike Lapinski discusses *Death in the Grizzly Maze: The Timothy Treadwell Story*. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., (206) 634-3400. www.bookstore.washington.edu.

Tuesday 7/19

Why White Kids Love Hip Hop: Wangstas, Wiggers, Wannabes, and the New Reality of Race in America is the topic and title of Bakari Kitwana's new book. Is Hip Hop bridging the racial gap? Mr. Kitwana answers this and other questions. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., (206) 634-3400. www.bookstore.washington.edu.

Should students be afraid to go to school? The **Safe Schools Coalition** says no. This public-private partnership of 91 organizations is working to help Washington State schools become safe places, where every family can belong,

where every educator can teach, and where every child can learn regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. 2-4 p.m. Information: (425)456-6310 or www.safeschoolscoalition.org.

Cape Verdean chanteuse Maria de Barros, influenced by French culture, a West African childhood and Portuguese and Spanish influences, invites us into a hybrid world by way of her very vocal talent. July 19 - 20, 7:30 p.m. Jazz Alley, 2033 Sixth Ave., (206)441-9729. www.jazzalley.com

Wednesday 7/20

Beyond Tent City, a forum explaining the causes and solutions to homelessness, will feature speakers including TC residents and *Real Change* associate director Rachel Myers. 7 p.m., Temple Beth Am, NE 80th St. Information: (206) 364-4866.

Thursday 7/21

Chronic headaches — pain that goes on for years, seemingly immune to treatment — are not that rare. Paula Kamen's book, *All in My Head: An Epic Quest to Cure an Unrelenting, Totally Unreasonable, and Only Slightly Enlightening Headache*, is the author's humorous account of her ongoing battle with this malady. 7-9:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St., (206) 624-6600. www.elliottbaybook.com/

Friday 7/22

There are times for moderation and times to indulge. **The Bite of Seattle**, is certainly a leading contender for the latter. In addition to the many culinary offerings are 150 acts, featuring all genres of music, some rumored to assist in digestion. Admission free (the food is not). Through July 24 at the Seattle Center. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. (206)232-2982. www.biteofseattle.com.

Director's Corner



The Republican rollback of the 20th Century continues this week as the House considers four bills (H.R. 739, H.R. 740, H.R. 743, and H.R. 742) to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act. These, taken together, would strip workers of even the mostly-unenforced protections to safety and health that current regulation now lamely offers.

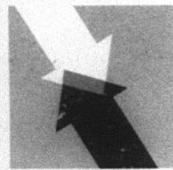
The mean season is getting meaner.

Meanwhile, Congressman Jim McDermott has released the results of a non-partisan study that shows the minimum wage to be at a 47-year low. In an era of tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy, full-time workers with two dependents now live at 68.9% of the poverty line. The decline since 1997, when the last wage hike to \$5.15 per hour was approved, has been especially precipitous. An hourly increase of \$2.32 would merely bring working families up to poverty.

News flash: people are homeless because work often doesn't pay.

There was a time when America was serious about ending poverty. From 1963 to 1981 regular increases to the minimum wage largely kept pace with what a family needed to rise above poverty. A grassroots anti-poverty movement that kept Congress' feet to the fire spurred these increases on.

The politics of anger and indignation have changed all of that, and more and more of us are left out in the cold. It's time for a change in the weather.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Let's Remember the Forgotten

Issue: Help create a garden of remembrance as a public memorial for homeless people who have died.

Background: In the year 2003, homeless people died outside in record numbers — 38 in King County. In 2004, at least 35 people died outside. Each year, more than 200 people die without family to claim their bodies or means for their own burial. There is no place to remember them with dignity, in the attendance of their friends, and in observance of their own ethnic and religious traditions. Human beings by their very nature need to give space to their grief and mourning. This fundamental need is no different for homeless people than it is for people of means.

Although WHEEL (a grassroots organizing effort of homeless and formerly homeless women) and the Church of Mary Magdalene (an ecumenical day ministry to women) hold Women in Black silent witnessing vigils whenever a homeless person dies outside in King County, the wider Seattle/King County community is largely unaware of the serious dangers homeless people face on the streets. On the day this newspaper was published, Women in Black held a memorial for five more homeless deaths, including a homeless man who was burned to death — possibly deliberately set on fire — under the Ballard Bridge on July 2. This brings the year's total to 25 so far, the highest ever witnessed.

Women in Black and several community, design, and church-affiliated supporters — spurred by their experience standing vigils — propose to create a public memorial for homeless people in the form of a garden of remembrance in a downtown public park.

Action: Contact the City Council and urge them to support the creation of a garden of remembrance on public land. You can trim and send the card below to: Seattle City Council, PO Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025; add your personal message in the card's blank space. Or visit www.realchangenews.org to take action online.

Dear Councilmember,

Please support Women in Black in creating a garden of remembrance in a downtown public park. Everyone needs space for their grief and mourning — homeless people are no exception.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

COMCAST, Continued from Page 1

percent discount to seniors and the disabled on two of its cable packages (including a bare-bones service anyone can get for \$13), free cable TV for schools, and free high-speed Internet access for community technology centers such as 911 Media Arts.

Jill Novik, a strategic advisor in the cable office, says it's a good deal that the city would like to keep. Though SCAN and media activists at Seattle's Reclaim the Media are pushing the city for more funding and at least one more channel for SCAN, the city has to be careful what it asks for, Novik says, because Comcast can pass along any new costs on customer cable bills.

"We currently have one of the best franchises in the country," Novik says. "Our position is that's where we want to stay."

The city supports public access and "we are pushing," Novik says. But, because the Comcast bill is high now, she says, "at some point you have to ask who are you helping and who are your hurting?"

It's an attitude that worries media activists at SCAN and Reclaim the Media, a three-year-old Seattle nonprofit that advocates more public access.

"Some people perceive the Office

of Cable Communications to be timid about sticking its neck out," says Jonathan Lawson, executive director for Reclaim the Media.

Despite online and phone surveys the city has taken showing mass support for public access - that is, citizens getting use of cameras to make programs that actually air - a draft Needs Assessment Report issued by the cable office favors expanding the Seattle Channel, a city-run government station that carries City Council and other public meetings.

Not that City Council members like to see themselves on TV, but, between Comcast revenue and other city funding, the Seattle Channel already gets an estimated \$1.8 million a year compared with \$660,000 a year for SCAN.

Since 2001, SCAN, whose 11 staffers manage the studios and teach courses on how to use video equipment, has produced more than 20,000 hours of programming - a record-breaker for public-access channels in Washington's nearest seven states, says Alan Bushong, a former SCAN consultant and executive director of Capital Community Television, a public-access production house in Salem, Ore.

SCAN is one of 7 public, educational and government channels (PEGs) that Comcast provides under its current

contract, including channels for the county, the city school district, the University of Washington (two), and Seattle's community colleges - each of which produce their own programming.

SCAN, however, is the only channel in Seattle for public use. And, when Comcast's franchise expires in January, so does SCAN's \$660,000 in annual operating funds. Novik explains that Com-

cast provided the funding to the city as a one-time lump sum in 2000, when the company stopped operating the public-access studios itself and signed them over to the newly created SCAN.

Novik says Comcast is not required to provide any more funding for SCAN - an idea that makes Lawson wince.

"If you don't have a law that says you can't," Lawson says, "you don't need a law that says you can, especially when it comes to things like operating funding for public access."

With 21.5 million cable subscribers across the U.S. and 170,000 in Seattle, Philadelphia-based Comcast is the nation's largest cable and high-speed Internet provider. Last year, the

company had sales of more than \$20 billion and made a profit of \$970 million - figures, Suter says, that means Comcast isn't hurting.

SCAN "inherited a woefully inadequate franchise" in which Seattle "didn't get the job done," Bushong says.

The focus on expanding the Seattle Channel, he says, "is another recipe toward the community having a hard time getting enough resources."

The Office of Cable Communications expects to wrap up its negotiations with Comcast in September. After that, the proposed terms will go to the City Council's Utilities and Technologies Committee, which will schedule public hearings. ■

VETERANS, Continued from Page 1

Department of Veterans Affairs. Some, like Telin, were never told they could come to the VA for services. She didn't find out about VA programs until years after her experience in the military.

A woman told Lane about VA services during her last stint with homelessness. They helped her find housing and have provided assistance. She recently gave birth to her first child.

"I'm going to do my best not to travel anymore," Lane says. "I've always moved every year or so. I plan on staying and making a life for my child in one home."

These women were helped by the VA's Homeless Women Veterans Program in Seattle/Tacoma. It was one of 11 nationally selected programs chosen to provide services for homeless female veterans. It began with a three-year research study with 230 women. Over half of those who participated in the study are now in permanent housing. The study is over, but the program continues to serve women on a case-by-case basis. Unfortunately, a cut in funding for Veterans Affairs services and Seattle's housing shortage have affected case workers' ability to provide support ["Cold Homecoming," July 6].

"It wasn't originally designed to be a long-term case management program, but there have been women who

need a lot of support and services," says Kathy Gerard, who works with homeless women at the VA.

"A lot of my time is spent consulting with other housing programs," she says. "The Section 8 housing has dried up."

Another program geared toward homeless women veterans has also struggled with a lack of funding. The state Department of Veterans Affairs' Homeless Women Veterans Reintegration Program offered services for two years, helping provide employment to hundreds of women veterans, before losing funding in 2004.

"When they lost their funding, it was a blow to our program," says Gerard, who worked closely with them. Gerard reports that the program received renewed funding on July 1, and will reinstate their services.

Veronica Reilly, retired USMC, says women are encouraged to seek treatment at the VA, but not many do.

"Various facilities throughout the country are not woman-friendly. I don't know how many times I've been called Mr. Reilly," she says.

The military's face is changing. Women currently make up 15 percent of the active-duty force and approximately 23 percent of the reserve force. By the year 2010, the VA projects that women veterans will comprise well over 10 percent of the total veteran population. ■

LIHI would like to commemorate our residents who have passed away this year. We are honored to have helped provide housing for all of our residents, and we hope that we were able to make their lives more comfortable.



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