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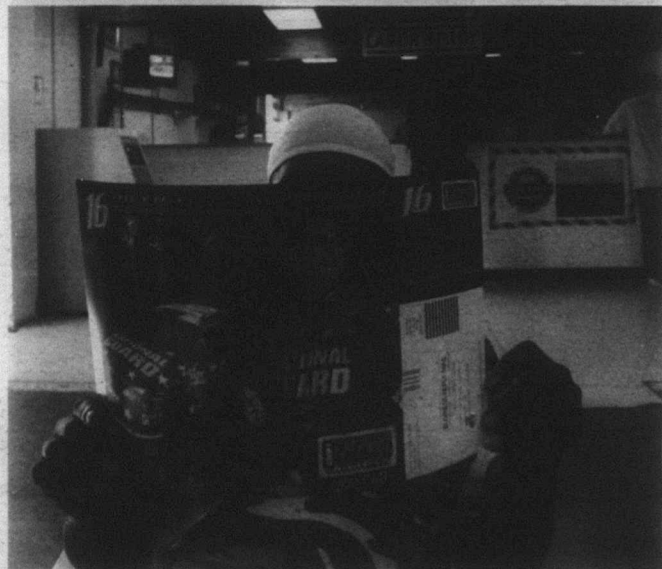
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JULY 27 - AUG 2, 2005

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT



THE INTERIOR OF LABOR READY'S DISPATCH CENTER IS RECRUITING GROUND FOR TOMORROW'S NATIONAL GUARD. PHOTO BY SHERRY LOESER.

A Match Made in Wartime

Day-labor agency, recruit-hungry National Guard team up

By ADAM HYLIA
Editor

Labor Ready needs temporary workers who can serve food, load trucks, pick up litter, fold papers, and dependably perform other tasks for their customers. Members of the military have to leave their regular jobs when they're deployed. Waiting to be shipped out to Iraq or Afghanistan, or coming home to unemployment, they might need to pick up some work quickly.

And the Guard, trying to buck up a flagging flow of recruits, is looking for people who want to "become an officer and a leader," or "earn money for college or vocational training," and are willing to head out to Iraq, Afghanistan, or anywhere the Global War on Terror (GWOT) requires.

It's a match made in wartime: Labor Ready and the National Guard are promoting each other.

The Labor Ready office located in the South Lake Union area is festooned with a larger banner advertising the Guard, featuring NASCAR driver Greg

Biffle in sleek sunglasses and jumpsuit. Inside, on a long, high countertop that separates the Seattle office's dispatchers from the workforce, is a pile of pamphlets emblazoned with Biffle's racecar and an Abrams tank. Next to it sit the business cards of a Guard recruiter, who is invited to come back regularly and build a relationship with the office manager.

Labor Ready spokesperson Stacy Burke says the Guard is doing something very similar for its idle personnel and their families: posting the nearby addresses of Labor Ready offices publicly and telling potential recruits about the national network of temp-labor outlets as one more source for light-duty work when a military call-up means they can't continue with their regular jobs.

When the cross-advertising partnership was announced in June before a group of Guard recruiters in Florida last month, "the response was overwhelmingly positive," says Burke. "They were eager to go back to the recruitment halls and let recruits know of this opportunity."

On the Waterfront

AUG 04 2005

Microfilm & microfiche
Univ. of Washington

Port contracts shut out
independent taxi businesses

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

It's a clear Saturday on the Seattle waterfront. On the west side of Alaskan Way, standing in metered parking spots meant for private vehicles, a river of cabs stretches all the way from Myrtle Edwards Park to Pier 66.

The cabbies — from Northwest, Orange, Red Top, Yellow and others — are waiting for a turn to scoop up people coming off the Norwegian Spirit, a cruise ship that has arrived at Pier 66, one of two cruise terminals owned by the Port of Seattle.

In a blur of travelers and luggage, two cab company attendants show people to a taxi, it loads up, and a Seattle policeman directs it into traffic. Down the street, a huddled group of independent towncar and van drivers — owners of single cars or small fleets — say they wish it was that easy for them.

Instead, the drivers — immigrants from Armenia, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Russia — say the Port is harassing them out of business. Unlike the Gray Line buses or Shuttle Express vans, which can advertise and make pickups on Port property, they have to pay for parking blocks away.

Just south of Pier 66, there's a three-minute white loading zone where the towncars can wait in front of the Bell Street Diner. But, if they leave their vehicles to get passengers, it's an instant \$35 parking ticket from a city meter maid.

The towncar drivers say it's not the same for the taxis or Shuttle Express, which got an exclusive contract this year at Pier 66. At the Port's other cruise terminal, Pier 30, Tukwila-based Bayview Limousine also got a first-ever contract this year to provide the pier's only limo and towncar service, complete with a kiosk where people can order a car.

FOSTER DARE

Repair state foster care system now, or more children will perish.

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SOJOURNER YOUTH

Students raise funds to talk of peace at World Fest in Venezuela.

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NEIGHBOR GOOD

Subsidized rental units build community starting from the ground up.

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COMIC HOOK

Ward Sutton's cartoons draw on truth while putting Bush and his cronies on the ropes.

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COMMUNITY

Welfare Fate

Real Change
July 27 - Aug 2, 2005

\$12M deficit, children's deaths heighten need for accountability and genuine reform in state foster care

Any viable system reform plan needs to be based in more than personalities — no matter how competent or committed

By JIM THEOFELIS
Advisory Board

The Chinese symbol for crisis translates to "danger" and "opportunity," and anyone who has experienced a personal crisis instinctively knows the wisdom contained in this pictogram.

While many would argue that crisis is an ongoing state of affairs for the Washington state child welfare system, the past several months have been particularly crisis-oriented, with service providers, foster parents, state personnel, and most importantly, children and families feeling the impact head on. Here are the key issues driving this new level of "system crisis":

Recently the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services embarked on a federal review of the national child welfare system. After completion of the initial review, all 50 states failed, with Washington ranked in the bottom third. Washington child welfare administrators then submitted a comprehensive corrective action plan (the Program Improvement Plan, part of the larger Kids Come First II reform plan), which identified specific system improvements.

The inexcusable deaths of Rafael Gomez, 2, and Sirita Sotelo, 4, reignited the concern that foster parents are frequently ignored during the complex process of reunifying children with their biological families. Far too often, we expect foster mothers and fathers to answer the phone at any hour, provide emergency and long-term care, monitor their own sense of attachment toward the child, and give a hearty good-bye party when the

child returns home. It is critical that those foster parents who have proven their commitment to children have meaningful input during the family reunification process.

The shocking and well publicized deaths of brothers Justice (age 16 months) and Raiden Robinson (6 weeks) served as a horrific reminder of the true cost of a failing child welfare system. These babies starved to death reportedly surrounded by more than 300 empty beer cans and baby formula, and served as undeniable examples of the need for stronger policy regarding chronic child neglect.

Additionally, until recently, Washington State was fighting the Braam lawsuit, brought by children and adolescents who had lived in three or more foster homes. In July 2004, the state settled the case and agreed to additional reforms.

Recently it was announced that the Children's Administration had a \$12 million deficit, resulting in the abrupt resignation of its assistant secretary and an avalanche of confusion, reduced services, and significant changes in state personnel. Many report this as being one of the most difficult and stressful times in memory.

There is, however, some tangible opportunity.

First, throughout her career Governor Gregoire has demonstrated a keen interest and solid expertise in the area of children and child welfare. She hired Robin Arnold-Williams to head the Department of Social and Health Services. Arnold-Williams in turn recruited Cheryl Stephani, head of Washington's juvenile justice system to take the helm of the Children's Admin-

istration. Both Arnold-Williams and Stephani are smart, dedicated professionals with the experience necessary to improve the foster care system.

However, without question the real opportunity for children and adolescents in our community lies in the work of the Braam Oversight Panel. Through the Braam Settlement, the state and the attorneys for the plaintiffs agreed to have an oversight panel of national experts establish a plan and monitor the progress of that plan as it relates to improving services to children and adolescents within Washington's foster care system.

I do have hope and confidence in the vision of Governor Gregoire and her new DSHS staff. However, after nearly 30 years of working with and advocating for children and adolescents, I also understand the political and fiscal factors to which high-level decision-makers must respond to. Any viable system reform plan needs to be based on more than personalities — no matter how competent or committed. The Braam Oversight Panel is the best opportunity to ensure that there is accountability and commitment to genuine system reform. This is indeed a very pivotal time for the children, adolescents, and families who must rely on the public foster care system for their safety, well-being, and development. Washington's child welfare system is in crisis and the "danger" from this crisis, includes lost lives and lost hope. These kids understand all too well that the "opportunity" in this crisis is once again dependent upon the values, decisions, and priorities of the adults. ■

Jim Theofelis has served children, youth, and families in the Seattle area since 1979. He is the founder and executive director of the Mockingbird Society and can be reached at 206-323-5437 or jim@mockingbird.society.org.



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Mission Statement:

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

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

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Change Agent



TREVOR ZIMMER and SAM KELLER, looking to make a change in Sudan. Photo by ADAM HYLIA.

Trevor Zimmer says six months ago, he would have thought he'd have spent more time this spring drinking beer.

Instead, inertia gave way to social movement, transforming Zimmer and his friend Sam Keller into leaders against the University of Washington's \$12.5-million investment in five corporations doing business with the Sudanese government.

It was in the spring that Keller began making and distributing flyers about Sudan's Darfur province, where government-backed militias have been savaging the ethnic Black populace. He gave out 300 to 400 flyers each day — and he

met five fellow students who would join the two 20-year-old friends in a tight-knit campaign.

In five short weeks, they gained support from student groups, got the Student Senate to unanimously pass a resolution in favor of divestment, and prodded the UW Board of Regents into action. The regents are drafting a letter to the companies warning them of their concerns.

The lesson? "If you work with people and you follow the money, you can change things," says Keller. Adds Zimmer: "If you have a good group of people and you trust one another."

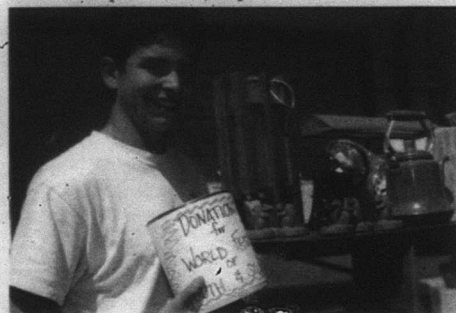
— Adam Hyla

Children's Crusade

Socially concerned youth getting to Venezuela on a shoestring

By KIMBURLY ERVIN
News Intern

Bucket brigade: Izzi Valle-Olguin, 16, mans a yard sale supporting the travel expenses of 15 young people from Seattle mixing with fellow radicals at the World Festival for Youth and Students. Photo by Brooke Kempner.



Seatteletes eager for the opportunity to be face to face with progressive peers from around the globe will be representatives of the over 10,000 delegates set to attend the 16th World Festival for Youth and Students in Caracas, Venezuela next month.

The goal of the festival, which started in 1947 with a meeting in Prague, is to bring together the youth of the world to talk about the current policies, economic struggles, and oppression facing the world today. The sub-theme "For Peace and Solidarity, We Struggle Against War and Imperialism" showcases the more radical approach to attracting a more progressive youth.

"I'm 27, on the edge of not being that young anymore, so I wanted to do it now before it was too late," explains Autumn Knowlton of her decision to

attend the conference of nations. "I want to know what the young people around the world are thinking about the war in Iraq and the peoples' stance

on American policies, because we probably don't get a clear look at what everyone's real thoughts and opinions are here [in the U.S.]."

Starting August 7 and lasting through August 15, the festival will offer activities spanning from art exhibitions and concerts to discussion groups suggesting possible solutions to the world's problems.

But for these Seatteletes, this mission almost didn't happen.

"Autumn had tried to get people together and get them excited about going, but she wasn't really finding a whole lot of support," says Eric Kocaja, 26, who will also be attending the festival. "It wasn't until the end of May that things started happening. It came together pretty quickly after that."

Quick fundraisers ranging from a concert held at the University of Washington to spaghetti bakes and yard sales were thrown together to cover airfare and the \$325 dollar expense for housing and food.

"About 15 of us are officially going, but there are a lot of people involved who aren't going," adds Kocaja. "There were parents who supported [us] and other people who have lent solidarity. All in all, there are about 30 people who have been lending a helping hand."

One problem they have been facing is the struggle to find a focus for their trip. This loose group of strangers has been working to unite their respective backgrounds and expertise from scratch, according to Kristen Kosidowski, 25.

Just Heard ...

Fixing the investigation

Nearly two years after Seattle police nearly beat to death Raymond Nix, a 66-year-old Native American man, after a drug bust downtown, Nix's lawyer says the department is dragging its feet on a second investigation of officers involved.

In a written response to a request for medical records from the Office of Professional Accountability, attorney Paul Richmond notes that the OPA was given those records over a year ago. Since investigators had already cleared the officers of wrongdoing without interviewing the complainant and despite "devastating photos of what Mr. Nix looked like" after the beating, such oversights "don't give us much faith in this investigative process as more than a whitewash."

Nix spent several days after his arrest at Harborview, where medical records show that his injuries were life-threatening.

The police's Internal Investigations Office told *Real Change* they do not comment on ongoing investigations.

— Israel Bayer

To the Great Beyond

A chapter in Seattle's history books will come to a close this Thursday, when the city's only gay and lesbian bookstore, *Beyond the Closet*, shuts its door for good.

Owner Ron Whiteaker says that when the store opened on Capitol Hill 17 and a half years ago, people were excited. Author appearances and community outreach were vital to its success. The community, in turn, supported *Beyond the Closet*, creating a circle of reciprocity. "But when the circle became broken," laments Whiteaker, "we lost all our support."

Whiteaker says the Internet is largely to blame. When people can buy whatever they want online, niche stores like his suffer. He sees the closure as an enormous loss.

"Gay bookstores are a great resource of information for the community," opines Whiteaker. "Unfortunately, that will disappear."

— Rosette Royale

Let them eat limestone

Along with its facelift, the future dog park at the western edge of Capitol Hill is getting a name change.

Passing over suggestions like Best Friends Park and Bark Park, superintendent Ken Bounds selected Plymouth Pillars to replace the rather prosaic Boren-Pike-Pine Park.

The choice gives a nod to the four limestone columns standing at its the west end, which were salvaged from the demolition of Plymouth Congregational's historic downtown church in 1966.

There's another side to the name, says Paula Hoff, Bounds' senior executive assistant: it honors the work of the church, which birthed an independent non-profit housing development agency, in caring for the city's homeless.

Next up: Occidental will be renamed Union Gospel Park — and its public benches will be torn out, too.

— Adam Hyla

See YOUTH, Continued on Page 10

WATERFRONT, Continued from Page 1

The contracts are with Cruise Terminals of America, a private company the Port employs to run Piers 30 and 66. This year, for the first time, CTA has denied independent drivers any access to Pier 30 for anything other than picking up pre-arranged fares. At Pier 66, where parking is extremely limited, drivers have to stand in a small area where passengers can't see them. Gray Line buses are in the way.

For their three biggest months of the year, the towncar drivers are left scrambling for business from the one boat a day that arrives Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Pier 66 — something the drivers say is costing them dearly.

During the cruise-ship season, says Steve Terry, who operates a towncar and two vans, 65 percent of his business comes from the cruise ships. He estimates that not being able to solicit fares on site is costing him about \$750 for every day the boats are in.

"I'm sure everyone [doing business] at the Port is paying fees to Cruise Terminals of America," Terry says. But "we have have no idea what's going on."

Other drivers say it's no coincidence they're immigrants. Some claim the off-duty Seattle policeman who the Port pays to direct traffic yells at them. Others say that a CTA staff member told him, "Shut up. You don't speak English," while he was trying to solicit business.

"They're monopolizing everything," says driver Vladimir "Michael" Kasabyan of the companies that have the contracts at Piers 30 and 66. But "they have no legal rights to make us go."

The Port and CTA say the issue is not race or nationality but obeying the law — if only the Port and its cruise terminal operator could figure out which law it is.

At Pier 66, Cruise Terminals staff recently posted and then removed signs citing a city taxi cab law — SMC 6.310.470 — with the warning "Soliciting for Towncar Passengers is Prohibited."

Though towncar drivers are allowed to pick up prearranged fares, soliciting is illegal. But it's the state, not the city, that regulates towncars. Under the state's so-called Limo Law (RCW 46.72A.020), drivers cannot ask people for business on a sidewalk, hold up signs as they do at Pier 66, or try to grab people's bags

— something that's been a problem in the past.

"There have been problems with [drivers] soliciting when people are walking toward a taxi and taking their bags," says Terry, who outlined his loss of business to port commissioners in a meeting attended by 14 towncar drivers on June 28.

Port spokesman Mick Shultz says some towncar drivers have behaved even worse — getting into fights for fares.

That, says Rob Hansen, owner of Bayview Limousine, is one reason Cruise Terminals of America sought out a dependable limousine and towncar service to contract with at Pier 30.

At Pier 66, there's simply no room.

"There were a lot of gypsy companies in there, fighting over clients and physically getting into altercations," Hansen says. The Port "wanted one vendor they knew was insured that could handle the work."



INDEPENDENT CABDRIVERS, LIKE THIS ARMENIAN FATHER-AND-SON TEAM, ANGLE FOR FARES IN A ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE ENVIRONMENT ON THE SIDEWALK OF PIER 66.

PHOTO BY LUKE MCGUFF.

Bayview has a booth at Pier 30 where people can order a car, which is similar to hiring a driver off the street. But the state Limo Law provides a specific exemption for the Port of Seattle to offer such services.

Hansen says Cruise Terminals of America had originally asked Bayview to consider providing permits for other towncar drivers to do business at Pier 30. But he says that would have required monitoring the insurance of other drivers — something that wasn't worth it for Bayview.

"A certain percentage are gypsies running illegal," Hansen says. "It's a huge liability for the Port to have guys uninsured."

The drivers — about 100 of whom are affected — say they are properly licensed and insured. They insist such claims are just part of the smear campaign against them.

"We're independent owner-operators paying the same as the other companies," Kasabyan says, "and those big guys took all the business."

At the very least, Terry says, the Port and its cruise terminal operator should open transportation contracts to bidding. No one had any notice that Pier 30 would be closed to independent drivers until it happened in May.

"The big guys get the breaks and get this revenue and the small operators are shut out," Terry says. "It's really frustrating." ■

Short Takes

Ire against I-343

Civil rights and other advocacy groups took the first step last Thursday to keep a proposed voting-reform initiative off next year's ballot.

Eric Ward of the Chicago-based Center for New Community spoke before an audience of about 85 at the New Holly Gathering Hall in Rainier Valley, appealing to them to unite against Initiative 343. After the presentation, representatives from various organizations gathered and agreed to meet in August to start a movement against the initiative.

If I-343 passes, everyone in Washington would have to re-register to vote and provide proof of U.S. citizenship. It would also require ID at the polls.

Currently, driver's licenses can be used as ID when registering, but you don't have to be a U.S. citizen to get a license.

The initiative also carries a provision that state and local social-service providers would have to verify immigration status of applicants and report violations to federal immigration authorities. Failure to do so could result in misdemeanor charges.

Ward and other opponents of the measure say that the ID requirements would be burdensome for minority groups and the poor, even those who are citizens. King County Councilman Larry Gossett said that the cost and effort of obtaining birth certificates and passports would be obstacles to registering.

"We're trying to make the democratic process in King County as inclusive as possible," said Gossett in an interview after the meeting. "I don't think the problem is so bad that we need to set up a whole bureaucracy to see if all residents of King County are all citizens."

Ward cited Proposition 200, a similar initiative passed in Arizona last November, as an example of what could happen in Washington if I-343 becomes law. In Maricopa County, he said, 80 percent of new voter registrations have been rejected since the passage of Proposition 200.

"But there's not one documented case of a non-citizen voting in Arizona," said Ward.

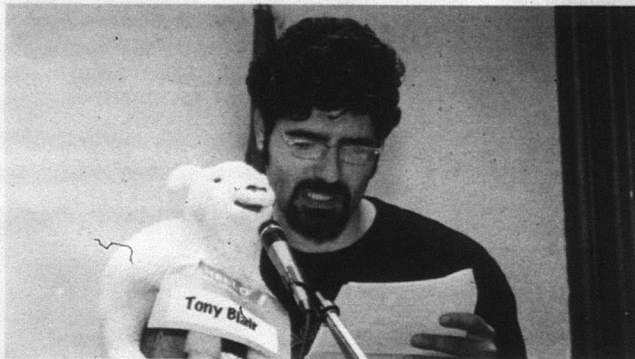
Ward warned attendees to start their efforts right away.

"By the time people started to take it seriously, they were three months away from election day," he said. "Support for the initiative was something like 72 percent in Arizona."

Tony Lee of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, one of about 40 groups that attended the presentation, said that a movement against the initiative would have to involve people statewide and in various sectors, including labor, health, education, and business.

"You just go out there and talk to them and hopefully recruit," he said in a phone interview.

— Jason McBride



Like a Lamb to the Slaughter

A PARTICIPANT IN A "DRAMATIC READING" OF THE DOWNING STREET MINUTES READS AT THE SEATTLE LABOR TEMPLE ON SATURDAY. THE MINUTES OUT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S PREPARATION FOR INVADING IRAQ AS IT PUBLICLY APPEARED TO BACK UN INSPECTIONS. JULY 23 WAS THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST DOWNING STREET MEMO. MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT AFTERDOWNINGSTREET.ORG. PHOTO BY MARK SULLO.



Candles for cleaners

UNION JANITORS RUNG FENG LI, RIGHT, AND MA GUI HUA, SECOND FROM RIGHT, HELD A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL JULY 20 FOR FELLOW CUSTODIANS ON STRIKE IN HOUSTON AND INDIANAPOLIS. ORGANIZED BY THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, THE VIGIL WAS PART OF A NATIONWIDE DISPLAY OF SUPPORT FOR ABM JANITORS SEEKING UNION PROTECTION. PHOTO BY LUKE MCGUFF.

Priceless Idea

Affordable apartments experiment with shared living

I believe everybody should be able to live in a place and have a sense of community. It's important to me personally and professionally to correct that wrong.

— Paul Fischburg, dir. Delridge Neighborhoods Development Assoc.

By TOM COGBILL
Contributing Writer

Cohousing at an affordable rent? It's a novel idea now being tested in West Seattle by the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association (DNDA). Croft Place Townhomes caters to families desiring a sense of shared community but who are unable to afford decent, market-rate housing.

The cohousing concept — generating an enhanced sense of community and shared experiences among members while retaining individual ownership and privacy — is not new, but its application to subsidized rental units is. Usually, members must pony up considerable capital since, as in a condo situation, they own their units. For various reasons, most cohousing complexes tend to be built in rural or suburban locations. However, the first to be built in an entirely urban setting opened about 10 years ago just a few blocks from the Croft Place units.

The proximity is no accident. Paul Fischburg, executive director of DNDA, was one of the driving forces behind that first urban cohousing project. An architect by training, he has since spearheaded several projects aimed at making housing more affordable, including a unique design featuring units built on top of Seattle Library's Delridge branch. Fischburg wanted to try instilling the sense of community that makes cohousing attractive into a project for families otherwise priced out of such an idea.

To qualify, families must earn less than 50 percent of the region's median income — about \$31,000 for a family of two. But Fischburg prefers not to call Croft Place low-income housing.

"We don't believe in stigmatizing the families here by labeling them 'low-income.'" DNDA exists "because of public funding programs that support housing for people whose incomes are low," he says, "but that doesn't mean we should put them in some category and attach a label to them."

Call it what you will, there are 21 units from one to four bedrooms in size — seven of which are for formerly homeless families, courtesy of a grant from the Gates Foundation. Some families can get by on the strength of their combined incomes alone, while most will have Section 8 vouchers or other assistance.

The complex has a "Community Builder" in residence, whose function is to facilitate the creation of a harmonious community atmosphere. She is Phillippia Goldsmith, a pleasant and enthusiastic former welfare mom. She shows off the Common House, the feature which most distinguishes Croft Place from other subsidized projects.

The upper floor is a large room where tenants can congregate for meetings, special events, or recreation. This common space is the hub of the cohousing concept — a place where all residents and their guests feel welcome and can get to know one another better. A walk leads from the parking lot (where each tenant has a space) past the Common House (where the mail boxes are also located) to a central walk (the "plaza") connecting all the units. This makes it very easy to socialize

With a Common House and a spoke-and-wheel layout, West Seattle's Croft Place Townhomes build communal values into its affordable apartments. Photo by Tom Cogbill.

See AFFORDABLE, Page 9.



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Poison Pen, on Point

Cartoonist Ward Sutton skewers Bush and makes you think

By LESTER GRAY
Arts and Events Editor

"I THINK THERE'S A BIG WELL OF CARTOONISTS WHO DON'T AIM TO CHALLENGE MUCH OF ANYTHING, BUT INSTEAD WANT TO TAKE SORT OF A CONVENTIONAL WISDOM OF THE DAY AND SPIN IT INTO SOME KIND OF GAG," HE SAYS. "AND TO ME, THAT'S JUST A WASTE OF TIME."

In a dimly lit nondescript room reserved for author presentations, Ward Sutton sits at a table signing his new book. He's so genuinely patient with each person in line, inquiring of their name and occupation, gifting each a personal drawing above his signature, it's painful to watch. He obviously does not get the celebrity thing.

Standing over six feet, slight (probably 175 pounds dripping wet), bearded and bespectacled, this soft-spoken cartoonist belies his image as an opinionated and confrontational spokesperson for the left.

A cartoonist for the *Village Voice* and other alternative weeklies, Sutton has just released a select collection of his strip, both entitled *Sutton Impact*. Also an illustrator of considerable note, his work has appeared in such mainstream publications as *The New York Times*, *TV Guide*, and *Time* magazine. But it is the uncensored and brutal comic theater of his current strip that scratches his chronic political itch. The salve for this allergy to conservatism, a concoction of scorn and satire, is applied not to himself, but rather to the Bush Admin-

istration — liberally, without apology or measure.

With the swearing in of the president in January 2001, both George W. Bush and Ward Sutton began a new journey. The president set his sights on Iraq and Sutton set his sights on the president. If both of these combatants were judged solely on their adherence to the Geneva Convention, Sutton would probably lose, the accusations of Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo notwithstanding, because he takes no prisoners. Steven Colbert of the *Daily Show*, describing Sutton's satire, says, "It doesn't just bite, it maims."

In the world of political cartoonists, Sutton is distinctive. He certainly does not belong among those whose work is found in the metropolitan dailies. He does not employ heady parody that leads us to sublime and respectable reflection, as might be said of Garry Trudeau or the late Walt Kelly. He describes his *fiche* more by what he isn't than by what he is.

"I think there's a big well of cartoonists who don't aim to challenge much of anything, but instead want to take sort of a conventional wisdom of the day and spin it into some kind of gag," he says. "And to me, that's just a waste of time." This resourceful at-



Ward Sutton, slayer of administrations. Photo courtesy Seven Stories Press.

titude is evident in his style. No fancy footwork. No finesse. He just comes at you like a laser.

Not that his work lacks intelligence. His attacks on the Bush Administration are not blind broadsides. Sutton's scathing exposés of what he

sees as the psychological depravity underlying the administration's policies, especially as they relate to the war in Iraq, are specific in theme. It is in service of these messages that his weapons of choice, pen and ink, go into an impassioned thrust and parry, looking to draw blood.

He reserves his most studied and rich depictions for George W., rendered as a diminutive figure, petulant and puerile; brought to power not because of his strength but rather his weakness, subject to the whims of Cheney and corporate interests. With Dumbo ears and a beak that extends and hooks down, the depiction is evocative of a subspecies given to emotional outbursts and infantile priorities. One gets the sense that



From scold to troll: Bush, as drawn by Ward Sutton four years ago (left,) and today.



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Continued from Previous Page

for Sutton, the caricature is alive — a complex adaptive organism, evolving through instinctive response to threats in the ever-changing political landscape.

"I wanted to take who he is and make it come across in the drawing. My Bush caricature has evolved over time. I think it's probably gotten nastier as time's gone on. I keep tweaking it and distorting it more and more," Sutton laughs. "People don't seem to have trouble recognizing him though."

When asked whether he thinks his depictions of Rumsfeld as a lustful warmonger are justified, he smiles. "I think the administration is grossly perverse. [It's] tragic. Part of the problem is they're perverse in ways that people don't seem to be able to see. By the time they went to war they wanted it. A lot of people who have been in war talk about the feeling of combat being equal to that of an orgasm. I think that being the guy

"THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO STRIKE AN EMOTIONAL CHORD AND I TRY TO MAKE THAT INCLUDE HUMOR. SOMETIMES IT'S A VERY DARK HUMOR. WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO OVERALL IS ARTICULATE TRUTH IN THE WORLD AND DO IT WITH FUNNY DRAWINGS — MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH WHILE THEY ARE THINKING OR GETTING DEPRESSED AT THE SAME TIME."

(Rumsfeld) who's making the call to go to war and seeing those explosions — that just has to get him off."

Now and then Sutton gives the conservatives a breather and turns this wrath on his own audience of progressives, generating an enigmatic response that leaves him bemused. "It's funny because a lot of my cartoons about liberals and democrats are the most enjoyed. They enjoy beating themselves up or something. It helps me to vent my angst about the Democratic Party, to cut them

down a few notches whenever I can, because they seem like such weenies a lot of the time."

Sutton concedes his sketches are not funny as in ha-ha funny. "The important thing is to strike an emotional chord and I try to make that include

— but the feedback he received before going on his book tour was to leave it in his presentation, which is exactly what he did. "I don't do cartoons just to be shocking just for shocking's sake," he says. "There's always a reason behind using that type of imagery."



humor. Sometimes it's a very dark humor. What I'm trying to do overall is articulate truth in the world and do it with funny drawings — making people laugh while they are thinking or getting depressed at the same time."

There are moments, albeit rare, when even those who share his perspectives flinch at his depictions. When they are projected to a live audience, with characters brought to life through actors voicing the cartoon's dialog, *Sutton Impact* can have an added impact.

Sutton recounts a presentation of "Laura Bush Asks You to Please Read to a Dead Iraqi Child," a parody of the First Lady taking the Read First program to Iraq, where she tells stories to bloody corpses. Sutton was initially surprised at the audience reaction — "There was a lot of groaning or gasping and people were kind of shocked"

And why is this strip in particular, and alternative cartoons in general, able to shout what Democrats only whisper? One reason may be the ventriloquist phenomenon, in which a couple in the first-row table of a Vegas show sits helpless and mortified while being lambasted by a dummy. Although we all know where the voice really comes from, the illusion is so strong as to confer immunity on its originator. Sutton enjoys this aspect of his job not for the impunity it brings, but because he feels that it allows the message to travel unimpeded without the distraction of a personality.

"It becomes more about my work than just about me," he says. "People look at the cartoon and think about the cartoon. It becomes its own entity."

Although Sutton does not cower when invited to step out from behind the characters to whom he lends voice,


he is not given to sermonizing. In a time when so many, knowing so little, have so much to say — paid pundits rehashing threadbare theses — he does not covet these dubious podiums of pomposity. Although fans and media solicit his opinion on political matters, both banal and complex, his responses are more evocative of a dinner guest, neither truculent nor coercive, seeking to converse, not convert. He does not shy from battles, he just chooses them.

A case in point was his coverage of the Republican Convention in New York in 2004. Looking every bit the part of the liberal interloper that he is, he sashays into the security-rabid fortress of his declared enemy. There amidst the believers, who stand, applaud, and cheer on cue, he turns to look behind him, catching the eye of the elder Bush. They momentarily lock eyes, and the cartoonist communicates his contempt as few have had the opportunity or bravado to do. The next night as he enters the convention hall, he is detained by the Secret Service, subsequently released without explanation.

His fans, through reading his no-holds-barred weekly offerings, appear to somehow sense the complexity of this man behind the drawings. Those who come to hear him talk and buy his book exhibit a like demeanor: reserved and polite but committed. They bring their families, sometimes three generations deep.

Sutton appears to like it this way: folksy and unpretentious. Perhaps it's this down-to-earth idealism, a childlike but not childish sense of justice, that gives rise to his genuine outrage. And seeing as how neither the cartoonist nor the state of politics are likely to change anytime in the foreseeable future, his indignant illustrations will in all likelihood continue to mercilessly lampoon the right, the left, and the fence-straddlers in between. ■


Sutton Impact: The Political Cartoons of Ward Sutton is available at book stores.



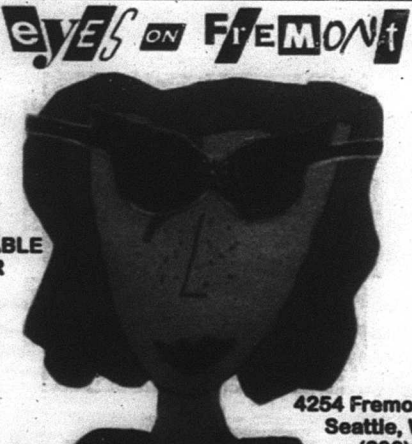
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Wolf at the Door

Howlin' Wolf put the beast in blues

Moanin' at Midnight: the Life and Times of Howlin' Wolf

By James Segrest and Mark Hoffman
Thunder's Mouth Press, 2005
Paperback, 399 pages, \$16.95

Review by JOHN SISCOE
Contributing Writer

Among the many great blues performers, there have been a few magicians who could put you under their spell in minutes and keep you there until they had left the stage. B.B. King, Etta James, and The Wolf's big rival Muddy Waters all come to mind. But there was only one Howlin' Wolf. At six foot three, weighing nearly 300 pounds, he attacked each song with a force and ferocity that would make your jaw drop. The men in the audience would stand in awe, and the women — the women just swooned. No one who saw The Wolf in his prime would ever forget him.

Behind that performer was a disciplined musician who directed and, when necessary, bullied his hand-picked group of bluesmen into becoming one of the finest bands in America. Wolf gave his best, and he demanded the best. And he didn't stand still: in the early '60s, when many blues bands were simply repeating themselves, Wolf embarked on a series of record-

ings that explored polyrhythms and dissonance while remaining true to its blues bedrock. Forty years later, this music sounds as fresh and exhilarating as the day it was made.

Last month, on what would have been The Wolf's 95th birthday, Thunder's Mouth Press issued a paperback edition of James Segrest's and Mark Hoffman's biography, *Moanin' at Midnight: the Life and Times of Howlin' Wolf*. Originally published in 2004, now revised and updated, it's a fine work, tautly and thoughtfully written, based on careful research, remarkable scholarship, and hundreds of interviews with those who knew, loved, and quarreled with The Wolf. It will remain the most complete and reliable source we'll have on this unforgettable performer and musician.

But *Moanin' at Midnight* achieves something more that's worth our attention. Segrest and Hoffman present Howlin' Wolf as a complex, thoughtful, troubled, and finally heroic human being.

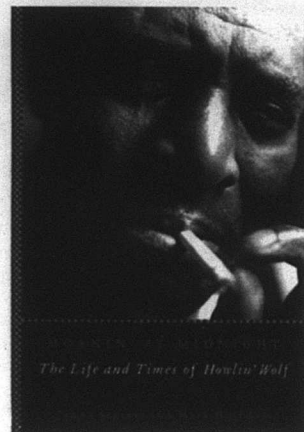
Chester Arthur Burnett was born into abject poverty, turned out by his mother and brutally treated by his uncle. Recreating himself as Howlin' Wolf, he spent the rest of his life trying to make up for lost time, going to night school as a middle-aged man in order to learn how to read and write. After

many a failed relationship he settled down with his beloved wife, Lillie. He liked the bottle, so he watched himself when he drank. He had a violent temper, so he watched that too. He couldn't silence the demons inside him, but he learned not to be their servant.

Another thing about The Wolf is that, often at great cost to himself, he stood up for his rights and he did so, moreover, in a country where Jim Crow was not just enshrined in law, but honored in the hearts of many Americans. It was a shameful time.

If you were alive then, this book will bring it back to you. And if you weren't, you're liable to learn some things that might prove useful.

Howlin' Wolf was a courageous man and a giant of American music. He deserves a first-rate biography, and now, thanks to James Segrest and Mark Hoffman, he's got one. ■



The Life and Times of Howlin' Wolf

John Siscoe is the owner of Globe Books in Seattle. He can be reached at johnsiscoe@zipcon.net.

Swallows' Tale

Cowed by the Communists, a Foot in each Genre

Film Review

And Give My Love to the Swallows
Written and directed by Jaromil Jires (1972)
Running Time: 87 minutes.

By LESTER GRAY
Arts & Events Editor

And Give My Love to the Swallows is a somewhat curious and uneven offering. Released to theater audiences in 1972, it was written and directed by the late Czechoslovakian Jaromil Jires, who was forced under communist rule to compromise a new-wave style that had produced some of his more acclaimed and accomplished works.

That might explain why this fictionalized account of a Moravian (Czechoslovakian) freedom fighter, based on her diary, sometimes feels like a work by someone with his right foot in one genre and his left in the other — much as his protagonist, passing from one world into the next.

From the time Maruska Kuderikova, our heroine, witnesses the German troops disembarking from the train to take up residence in her community, her only thought is to drive them out. She takes to her task with an uncommon zeal, as though she had received a sign for which she hadn't even realized she was waiting.

This sudden shapeshifting catches her loved ones unaware. Her mother and father, devoted Christians, show little to no understanding of her fervent patriotism. They and their parishioners march to church, cowering before the now ubiquitous Nazis. Her boyfriend, himself a member of the resistance, realizes that her heart is now elsewhere — she is spoken for.

In the face of her imminent capture, Maruska refuses to suspend her activity or even become less conspicuous in her efforts. Offered the opportunity to go underground, she demurs. Without even a gesture toward evasive action, she allows herself to be arrested by the German police.

As she enters prison, what at first seemed to be a story of uncommon heroism becomes curious and bogged down, emerging to reveal an allegory in which she discovers she has been betrayed by her compatriots. Although occasionally despairing and fearful, our heroine rediscovers her path, and prior to her beheading forgives all of her trespassers, even kissing her Judases as she walks to her death.

The source of her faith, a worship of nature, is reflected in the film's title. The source of her fervent resistance to the Germans is a bit more confusing. Her Pantheism, as it is, is held up by director Jaromil Jires to the Christianity of Czechoslovakia, which he obviously condemns as cowardly in the face of the Nazis. Since he wasn't allowed to criticize communism, it was the only significant institution with which he could take issue.

If you think the story of Jesus' path is somewhat unclear, this one is even more so. Given what Mel Gibson has done to enhance the better-known story of Calvary, perhaps he could help this one out. ■

And Give My Love to the Swallows is available for rental at Scarecrow Video in Seattle and online through facetsvideo.org.

From the time Maruska Kuderikova, our heroine, witnesses the German troops disembarking from the train to take up residence in her community, her only thought is to drive them out.



Adventures
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning



What the heck
is news we can
use, anyway? Is it
news that makes
our community
feel good, like the
Lance Armstrong
thing? Or is it
news that tells us
something that we
can really use?

Heads up! Incoming!

As an American, I can't help but be thrilled, as I am sure you are, by Lance Armstrong's incredible win, for the seventh straight time, of some French contest or game or something, in their Frenchy country. But, I wonder, is that news I can use? Or not?

What the heck is news we can use, anyway? This is supposed to be a community newspaper. But what is community news, anyway? Is it just news that happens around here, in the local community? Is it news that makes our community feel good, like the Lance thing? Or is it news that tells us something that we can really use, such as an announcement of "Heads up, incoming"?

I say it's the "Heads up, incoming" thing. Let's take an example. About two weeks ago some terrorists set off three bombs in London, a city in another one of those unpatriotic countries where they don't recite our Pledge of Allegiance. In fact it's just above France on the map. Anyway, a week later, on account of those bombings, you had New York police randomly searching the bags of subway users.

Now, I don't know much about geography. I don't know the price of tea in China, now that their currency is no longer pegged to the dollar. I don't know how much wool they mine in Australia, or whether or not they use modern synthetics instead. I'm a good American, so I prefer to mind my own business. But I can look at page 5 of my *Funk & Wagnall's Hammond World Atlas*, as I'm doing right now, and I can tell you that Seattle is only an inch from New York, while New York is a whole inch and a half, about, from London!

What that tells us is this: the effects of three London bombings were able to travel, uh, three-fifths of the way here in just one week. So: Heads

up! Incoming! You're only two London bombs away from random searches of your own! Run and hide!

Let's take a related example. Since the bombings, the London police have taken to wearing all black, going around like ninjas, carrying guns, and shooting foreign-looking guys who run away from guys that look like ninjas with guns. I would like to say it can't happen here, but, HOLY-MOLY, our cops ALREADY carry guns, so ANYTHING could push them over the edge! Heads up! Incoming!

If you don't believe me you should watch your local TV news, like Channel Nine and a Half News at Nine and a Half or whatever. Some guy named Greg or Steve will be talking to some woman named Nancy, say, and he'll say, "So, Nancy, say, is there something the viewers here in Seattle can do to avoid being shot by men who look like ninjas with guns?" And Nancy, who plays the smart one, will say, "Yes there is, Greg or Steve. Experts around the world all agree that if you are confronted by men who look like ninjas and if they appear to have guns, you should NOT look foreign to them, and whatever you do, do NOT run away." "That's good to know, Nancy!" "It sure is, Greg or Steve!"

In fact the House of Representatives, a legislative body that often meets 3,000 or so miles from here, has just decided it wants to renew the PATRIOT Act for another 10 years. That could help pay for those cool all-black ensembles for our local police, not to mention more guns. I'm betting this is important to my homeless or formerly homeless, mostly foreign-looking, poor to middling-poor, already kicked-down-and-beaten-around community.

And for those of you who don't look foreign, I want you to look around you at the foreign-looking people and say — out loud, so loud they can hear you — "There but for the Grace of God go I," because I'm an incorrigible trouble maker. ■



Friday, July 8, 3:00 p.m., Second Ave. Ext. S - Union Gospel Mission.

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance at the Union Gospel Mission. Upon arrival, officers met with the complainant, who stated that the suspect, a transient white male aged 39, had been lying in the doorway of the Mission and refusing to leave. The suspect was gone by the time officers arrived, but they did an area check and located him at Fourth and Main. They contacted him and found he had been trespassing from the Mission previously, and they asked him if he had been there today. He said yes and stated that he was angry as he wanted to get something to eat and they wouldn't let him in. He was placed under arrest for trespassing. Union Gospel Mission staff confirmed his identity, and he was then booked into King County Jail.

Friday, July 8, 8:37 p.m., King St.

Suspect was stopped for a pedestrian violation, jaywalking eastbound across the 400 block of Sixth Ave S., causing traffic to stop. A name check on the suspect, a transient Black male aged 36, returned with the information that he was active with the DOC. He was arrested, and stated that he had a knife in one pocket and a crack pipe in the other. Both were recovered, and the suspect asked if they could save his pipe for him so he wouldn't have to make a new one. The pipe was placed into evidence, and he was booked into King County Jail.

Saturday, July 9, 2:08 a.m., S. Main St., Alley.

Suspect was contacted at the above address for being in the alley after hours. A name check returned with a warrant, but suspect, a transient Black male aged 25, stated that he had been in prison for the last two years, and had just been released last week. The warrant had been issued while he was in prison, and he had no knowledge of it. Officers contacted his DOC officer, who confirmed that the suspect had been in prison at that time, and he was released from the precinct.

Saturday, July 9, 1:40 p.m., Pike St.

Officers contacted the suspect, a homeless white male aged 45, in the 300 block of Pine St. for sitting/lying on a public sidewalk. A criminal check revealed a warrant for his arrest, which was confirmed, and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. His duffle bag was taken into safekeeping, and he was booked into King County Jail.

AFFORDABLE, Continued from Page 5

— and conversely, not so easy to isolate oneself from one's neighbors.

"We tell applicants the idea up front," Phillippia says. "We know it won't be for everybody." You'd better like kids, too. "We're going to have 60," she said, walking through the Common House, "about 15 teenagers, and the rest, younger."

Downstairs is the Technology Lab, which will house three computers with free high-speed internet access. Volunteers will tutor residents on computer skills.

Unlike typical cohousing schemes, Croft Place tenants will have no equity invested. Nevertheless, they must sign an agreement to commit at least eight hours a month to communal activities. Goldsworth is optimistic residents will learn to adapt. With rents ranging from \$625 to a maximum of under \$900, every apartment has been fill experienced and there is a waiting list for openings. There is no time limit on occupancy.

The overall cost of the \$5.8 million project was split between various housing authorities, a bank loan, and private tax-credit investors.

"I believe everybody should be able to live in a place and have a sense of community," Fischburg says. "It's important to me personally and professionally to correct that wrong." ■

Treehouse

If you were a tree
I would want to be the house
held in your arms, and,
as lovers
climbed your body
to sit inside me,

they'd hear the birds
sing in your hair,

then kiss
as their legs dangled
from my scrap-wood mouth.

—DAN TOMPSETT

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.

YOUTH, Continued from Page 3

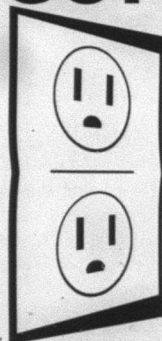
But with all the local support, the group has made a commitment to come back with information and opinions to share from around the world, although no definitive plans have been made. Ideas have included slideshows of the conference to presentations at organizations like CASA Latina, the day labor and immigrant worker education program.

Not noted in the mainstream media, the world festival has flown below most locals' radar screens. "The Pacific Northwest is really energized [to action] and the fact that this is not on the docket is really frustrating for me," explains Kosidowski. "Personally, there are particular areas I'm interested in learning about like the Cuban Five [five people accused of spying against the U.S.], free trade issues, fair trade issues. I will be coming back prepared to take this information to my Congressmen. I want to be a resource myself." ■

[Resource]

For more information on the World Festival for Youth and Students, check out: <http://www.usnpc.net/index>.

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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.

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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Fair hearing

Dear Real Change,

In the interest of fairness, I must gripe a little about "For the least, the least" (Just Heard, July 6) on the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition's annual DSHS report card.

Your report seems to ascribe more universality to WROC's complaints about DSHS than was actually intended. It was not stated or implied in the report that all caseworkers failed to offer good information or opportunities to participate, only that some caseworkers were lax in these areas on occasion. Your brief mention seems to imply that in King County, DSHS abuses our clients as a matter of course, and I respectfully disagree.

WROC and other client advocates in King County are a valuable resource to us in assisting people to negotiate the system. They also find instances of exceptional service among our staff.

There are plenty of issues with the complex structure and often inadequate funding of services to the poor in this country without unduly picking on local direct service staff who mostly do the best they can, every day, out there on the front lines, to assist people in need within the limits and intent of the law.

Mark Dalton

Admin., DSHS Belltown Office

Pushed to the park

Dear Real Change,

I read the story about Daniel McCarthy ["Street Dads: Transitional housing

and shelters leave men with kids outside," June 10 2004, in our online archives —ed.] and I just wanted to say thank you for writing that.

My daughter goes to school with a little girl who has been living in the park with her father. Right here in the town of Bremerton. I felt so bad for them because there are so many empty houses and apartments here I just could not believe that this was happening. We don't have much, but we are trying to help the little girl and her dad. She is staying here in the house with us while her dad is in the garage. He is trying to get help from Section 8 and other places and he is not having any luck. He found a job at a small burger stand and he will go to Labor Ready starting Monday morning.

It is so sad to see a person struggle this way. He really needs some help — more than what we can give him and his little girl. I just wonder sometimes: In a country where there is plenty, why do so many have none?

Minnie Davis
Bremerton

Corrections:

Betsy Leondar-Wright ("Class Matters: How social change movements can build power by recognizing what keeps us apart," June 15) is the communications director, not the executive director, of United for a Fair Economy.

Contributing photographer Mark Sullo took the portrait of Viaduct alterna-planners Cary Moon and Grant Cogswell ["Highway Killers: Who needs the Alaskan Way Viaduct?"] on page 6 of the July 13 issue.

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

CLASSIFIED

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.

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Politics

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Community

Cascade Block Party: Tues, Aug 2, 4-9 pm, in partnership with the Seattle Police Department in honor of National Night Out Against Crime. FREE event bringing communities together and promoting non-violence. BBQ, dance, play, meet new friends. Live entertainment: dunk tank, cotton candy, children's moon-bounce, and Carriage Rides. Info: Claudette @ 587-0330.

Community Sale: Sunday, July 31, 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.

Cinema Diaspora Presents Cinema Noir in the Park, Sat., July 30: Down in the Delta. Cinema Diaspora is dedicated to using cinema to educate and build community. Join us in a cinematic celebration of culture, connection, bringing families, neighbors and community together. In collaboration with Central Area Cultural Arts Commission and City of Seattle Parks & Recreation @ Homer Harris Park 2401 E. Howell (behind the YMCA at 23 & Madison) At Dusk Info 206.860.7764.

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Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 7/27

The U.S. Space Command, headquartered in Colorado, has publicly stated that it intends "to control space in order to protect U.S. interests and investments." It is crucial to build resistance to this new round in the arms race as quickly as possible. Join us for a viewing of the film *Arsenal of Hypocrisy: The Space Program and the Military Industrial Complex*. 7-9 p.m., St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Mother Teresa Room, 732 18th Ave. E. For information on the full evening's program, call Marcia Mullins, (206)322-8846.

Celebrate, honor, and remember labor's long and lively history with activist, organizer, songwriter, folk-singer, trouble-maker, and hell-raiser Anne Feeney. Anne's been on the frontlines for 35 years and knows how to tell the stories of what she has seen and learned. No reservations required, sliding scale \$10-\$20. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl., (206)524-7753.

Wed.-Fri. 7/27-7/29

Best known for making major technical and musical contributions with his instrument, Stanley Jordan stands as one of the most significant guitarists of the latter 20th century. Admission \$20.50-\$22.50, Jazz Alley, 2033 6th Ave. Call for show times: (206)441-9729.

Thursday 7/28

The Soul Cinema Cafe strives to showcase films that offer fresh, creative perspectives that go beyond stereotypical portrayals of African Americans. It serves up cocktails, conversation, live music, and the latest features and shorts by independent filmmakers. This and subsequent Thursdays. Information: Real Soul Cinemas, (206)633-4500.

Sat.-Sun. 7/30-7/31

Have you ever participated in a lute-fisk eating contest? Your opportunity comes on this weekend at the **Ballard SeafoodFest**. Although there will be a variety of delicious seafood (succulent salmon for one), among other delectable dishes and beverages, you might want to try something new. In any case,

there is much fun to be had. Saturday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday 11 to 7. www.ballardchamber.com.

Wednesday 8/3

Openly gay U.S. Congressman **Barney Frank** from Massachusetts



The Ghanaian group Alabaster Box is an exciting, internationally acclaimed a cappella gospel quartet. Alabaster Box has coined the name Afro-pella for their unique sound, which combines purely mouth-made sounds of African indigenous instruments with African harmonies, rhythms, and melodies. Sunday, July 31, 7:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23rd Ave. N.W. For information contact Ahmed Imran, (206) 439-1482 or www.alabasterbox.com.

shares his famously outspoken views on the state of the union and challenges we face — on everything from Social Security to the battle over the judiciary. Frank is known for his witty candor and his dedication to liberal causes. Prices range from \$75 (real close) to \$15 (third tier). 7:30 p.m., Benaroya Hall. www.foolproof.org/2005/season/barney-frank.html

Set in 19th-century China, Lisa See's novel tells the story of two lifelong friends, *Lily and Snow Flower*. Imprisoned by cultural mores, they observe and recount the trials of village life in China: the traditions, the rituals, and the superstitions. Ms. See comes to Seattle to discuss her book. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E. www.bookstore.washington.edu.

Thursday 8/4

Does our flora provide a protective covering for the Earth? Ethnobotanist Nancy Turner reads from her book *The Earth's Blanket*, in which she explores the ecological knowledge and spiritual connection to the natural world that is fundamental to indigenous cultures. 6:30 p.m., Burke Museum, 17th N.E. and N.E. 45th, on the UW campus. www.burkemuseum.org.

Dean Latourette's *Time Off: The Upside to Leisure* is filled with suggestions for downtime — be that with (sabbaticals and long vacations) or without (unemployment) your consent. It's your guide to being OK with not being at work. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E. www.bookstore.washington.edu.

Director's Corner



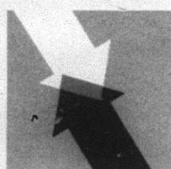
One of the things we often get asked is, "How much money does the typical vendor earn?" It's a complicated question.

In June, our top 10 vendors ranged from 916 to 1,930 papers sold. Vendors pay 35 cents each for their papers up front. There are tips. For a few, it's a living. For most, it's a step toward something better.

When a *Real Change* vendor sells more than 300 papers a month, they become eligible for what we call the 300 Club. That means the vendor can choose a spot to sell that is shared with someone else. At 600 papers, vendors get a priority spot of their own. Last June, 44 vendors earned 300 Club status, and there were 27 more in the 600 Club. We had 251 vendors in all.

Reserved turf rewards consistency by promoting relationships. This is why you often know where your favorite vendor will be. Some vendors treat this like a job and save towards a goal. Our system gives these priority. Others have more modest ambitions: money for laundry, bus fare, a meal at McDonalds and not a food line. That's OK too.

Real Change meets people where they are and offers opportunity for success, however the vendor defines it. I think that most of our vendors would say it's about more than money. It's about pride: getting a hand up and not a handout. Knowing that people care. You can't put a price on that.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Save Food Stamp Program from Budget Cuts!

Issue: Federally assisted nutrition assistance programs, including the Food Stamp Program, risk losing out in the U.S. Congress' budget reconciliation process. This could potentially add to the already millions of needy people who are hungry.

Background: Under the Fiscal Year 2006 Congressional Budget Resolution, the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture face the challenge of designing policies to cut \$3 billion in five-year spending from programs under their jurisdiction by mid-September. In addition, House Resolution 240, to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (welfare), would allow five state food-stamp block grants and give the executive branch extraordinary authority to change Food Stamp Program rules.

Difficult choices must be made. Nevertheless, according to the most recent federal government measurement of food insecurity and hunger, 36.3 million people in our nation, including 13.3 million children, live in households that experience food insecurity. That represents 11.2 percent of all U.S. households. These numbers have been increasing nationwide, and attempts to cut back the nutrition safety net for these families will make the situation worse. Food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens cannot replace lost food stamp benefits.

The Food Stamp Program is our nation's best defense against the hunger that can make it so difficult for children to thrive and learn and for families to achieve self-sufficiency. While more than 36 million people are hungry or at risk of hunger, fewer than 26 million participate in the Food Stamp Program. Further, more than 95 percent of food stamp benefits go to households with incomes below the poverty line; many of the remaining beneficiaries are near-poor elderly or disabled persons.

The Food Stamp Program has already been subject to major cuts in recent years. As estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, almost \$28 billion was cut from the Food Stamp Program over six years — more than any other program — and whole categories of persons were denied eligibility or had access to the program reduced. Most of these billions of dollars in cuts continue to affect needy people, those who can least afford to bear this additional burden.

Action: The Food Stamp Program is vital to millions of vulnerable people in communities across the country. Help us to protect this important safety net by urging Congress to keep any cuts to the Food Stamp Program as close to zero as possible.

Senator Maria Cantwell
(202) 224-3441

cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.html

Senator Patty Murray
(202) 224-2621

murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm

Representative Jim McDermott — 7th Dist.
(202) 225-3106
www.house.gov/mcdermott/contact.shtml

For other members of congress, visit www.house.gov. For updates on developments, check out the Food Research and Action Center (www.frac.org) or America's Second Harvest (www.secondharvest.org).

WARTIME, Continued from Page 1

"It's probably an additional selling opportunity for recruiters: If you or your families need temporary employment, there's Labor Ready."

For its part, the temporary labor company gets its own new pool of recruiters: Guard personnel and perhaps their relatives.

"It's an opportunity to build awareness of Labor Ready among a different demographic," says Burke. "We get skilled and dedicated Guard personnel with a work ethic. That's certainly something I want to offer my customers."

Finding safe, dependable, eager, appropriately skilled workers to please its customers is something of a science at the temporary labor company. In California, Texas, Florida and Washington, would-be day laborers fill out a written survey about "at-risk behaviors" before their first dispatch to a job site. They're the sort of questions that might be asked during an in-person interview, says Burke ("Questions like, 'Have you ever used drugs while on a job site? Have you ever stolen from an employer?'"), but aren't, because the company's "on-demand operations" don't allow enough time, she says.

The 6,400 members of Washington's National Guard may be looking for work either because they're waiting to be dispatched, or because they've just come home and can't return to previous employment. Some downtime is normal at the end of active duty, says Master Sergeant Mike Clayton of the Washington Army National state's Guard. He says the military's base pay and benefits might continue for a few weeks after coming home, helping prop up household finances for awhile.

What happens next has caught the attention of Rep. Dave Reichert, who cheered Labor Ready's partnership in a press release as "a wonderful partnership that will help Guardsmen in the state of Washington and across the country." Reichert noted his own sponsorship of a recent bill mandating a federal study of employment hassles afflicting reservists.

Labor Ready's track record with temp workers and government agencies has not always been sterling.

Misreporting the kinds of tasks its laborers were performing, the Tacoma-based company shorted the state Workers' Compensation program by nearly half a million dollars in 1998. Penalties upped that number to \$734,000. Regulators at the Department of Labor and Industries forgave nearly \$600,000 of that sum. The Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO undertook a multi-pronged effort to organize Labor Ready workers in 2001, calling for a higher hourly wage for the workers, who typically get \$7 of the \$13 in hourly payments from business contractors. Union activists also successfully sued to prevent the company from using cash machines to dispense end-of-day pay — machines that rounded down the payments by as much as \$1.99. ■

for promise

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finds

nothing!
to be
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and,

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not

easily.
But, it's

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always.

—STAN BURRIS

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Real Change is an activist voice in Seattle that is making a difference here and now.

Every month, more than 250 homeless and vulnerably housed people earn the money they need while they help build a world where people aren't homeless anymore.

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