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ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

AUG. 10-16, 2005



BENCH PRESS: FOUR YEARS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING TO PROTECT OCCIDENTAL PARK'S INTEGRITY WERE SUPPLANTED BY A MAYORAL CONSULTING TEAM. PHOTO BY TERRY DIVYAK.

Hijacked

Neighbors' plan for Occidental Park toppled by Mayor Nickels

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Reporter

The fight is on to save the trees, benches, and pergola in Pioneer Square's Occidental Park. But round one has gone largely to the city — in a battle, community activists say, where the mayor isn't playing fair.

In May, the Pioneer Square Preservation Board approved a certificate of approval allowing the Parks Department to cut down 17 of the park's 60 trees, take out most of its benches, remove a glass-roofed pergola, and replace the cobblestones with what one community activist calls "suburban pavers."

It's all part of a \$1.8 million plan to "activate" a park used largely by the homeless and poor who live in the nearby Frye and Morrison hotels. In addition to the bocce ball court already in place, the plan includes adding chess tables, lighting, a raised platform for performances, and electrical outlets for street vendors to use along the park's east edge.

Parks officials and city councilmembers say it's a plan the community arrived at after years of meetings. In a legal appeal filed in June with the city Hearing Examiner's office, longtime Pioneer Square activists say that's bunk.

The mayor, they say, hijacked the process. After four years of community work, which grew out of the city neigh-

borhood planning process completed in 1998, activists say the mayor simply dumped their plan and replaced it with one created by a New York consulting team.

That's one reason Pioneer Square business owners Bif Brigman and Elle Tracy filed the appeal in June. On July 25, Brigman and 40 other activists calling themselves People of Pioneer Square or POPS also presented the City Council with a petition signed by nearly 1,400 Pioneer Square business owners and residents who are opposed to cutting down the trees.

The mayor's new plan for Occidental Park, Brigman and other say, favors real estate developer Greg Smith and his plan to turn a parking lot he owns just east of the park into a mixed-used development that will house a new service shop for King County's waterfront streetcar.

After completing the \$9 million project, Smith — a contributor to Mayor Greg Nickels' 2005 re-election campaign — intends to sell the building to the county and city, according to an announcement made in June by the county executive and mayor.

"We believe the mayor's office has been working with the development community much more actively than the larger community," Bigman says.

In a declaration filed Aug. 4 in support of the appeal, urban designer Kevin Carl was more blunt.

Environmental Studies

Audubon Society wants Seward Park learning center accessible to South Seattle students

By **AMY ROE**
Contributing Writer

Today 75 percent of the U.S. population lives in metropolitan areas, and the figure will be 85 percent by 2030. Wildlife has been supplanted by contained "ecosystems." Condo developers surround wetlands with chain link fences and call it habitat preservation. Planted parking strips and medians are the closest many come to wilderness. Generations are growing up with little or no experience in the natural world.

Even in the so-called Emerald City, environmentalists haven't done much to counter this. If you're drawing a "green learning" map of the Seattle, the southern half of the city is a no-man's land — and no children, either. More than a third of the city's population lives in the area, and nearly half of all the children. Yet there's not a single environmental education center in all of it.

"If you look at a map of the Puget Sound region and put a marker for every environmental learning center, you'll see that south of the Ship Canal Bridge, there's really nothing," says Candy Castellanos of the Washington Chapter of The National Audubon Society.

South Seattle is home to the largest population of K-12 children in the city, and some of the city's poorest schools. While the area boasts Seward Park's stunning Bailey Peninsula, which contains 120 acres of old-growth trees, schools closest to the park are often too short on supplemental funding to take field trips there.

That's why the Audubon Society has launched a \$5 million capital campaign to fund the Seward Park Audubon Center, a state-of-the-art environmental learning center housed in the park's 1927 annex building. It will be completed in 2007.

It's a symbiotic relationship. South Seattle could use Audubon's help, but Audubon needs South Seattle, too.

CIVIL PLIGHTS

Communities of color must band together to demand more police accountability.

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COMMUNITY

Living in Fear

Real Change
Aug. 10-16, 2005

Police accountability isn't getting better. Communities of color need to take action

By K.L. SHANNON
Advisory Board

The Seattle Police Department really showed how much it cares about communities of color when officers beat Maikoioy Alley-Barnes with fists and nightsticks along the knees, torso, and face, bashed his head repeatedly into the asphalt, and then pepper-sprayed him on April 12, 2005.

The City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Department continue to fail to deal with the crisis of police accountability, including racial profiling and police brutality, as they relate to communities of color in Seattle.

The Office of Professional Accountability was created to investigate complaints of misconduct and raise professional standards within the Seattle Police Department. Flipping through the pages of the OPA's pamphlet, it is obvious that they really believe that they're making strides to make changes in the SPD. For example, they claim to be safeguarding important civil rights and enhancing training on stops and seizures. The OPA's claim that stands out the most, however, is that their bias database helps the Department understand the factors that contribute to racial tension, and that it shows communities of color that they care.

Perhaps the two officers who tazed the eight-month pregnant woman Malaika Brooks, in November 2004, for refusing to sign a ticket, missed the enhanced training on stops and seizures.

The Seattle Police Department really showed how much it cares about communities of color when officers beat Maikoioy Alley-Barnes with fists and nightsticks along the knees, torso, and face, bashed his head repeatedly into the asphalt, and then pepper-sprayed him on April 12, 2005.

Malaika's tazing and Maikoioy's beating are not isolated incidents. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported recently how the number of com-

plaints filed with the SPD about police misconduct has risen dramatically in the last few years. Most of those complaints came from the city's South End. The number of claims relating to unnecessary use of force rose from 80 in 2002 to 167 the following year.

We should all be particularly concerned about unnecessary use of force, as more and more officers come home from fighting in the Iraq War. The racial tensions will only escalate, as the police officers returning from the war will be patrolling in communities of color.

The OPA has failed in its mission to hold the police department accountable. How can it be a true civilian review board when Sam Pailca, the executive director, immediately dismisses eyewitness accounts of police misconduct? In one incident, 25 children witnessed three bike cops roughing up a homeless man outside the Seattle Art Museum. The adult chaperones with the group filed a complaint with the OPA. In a public meeting, Ms. Pailca responded to a question regarding the status of that complaint, stating that the 25 children did not actually see what they claimed to have seen happen that day. Sound familiar? That's what the authorities told the world when four LAPD cops were captured on camera beating the crap out of Rodney King.

The City Council needs to stop wavering and support true police accountability. We need to recognize and support police officers who truly understand what it means to protect and serve, but they cannot do what they need to do without changes in the institution's policies. If the City wants to show it really cares about

communities of color, it should create a true civilian review board that will hold Seattle police accountable. The OPA cannot be a true civilian review board as long as the Chief of Police has the final say in whether complaints are investigated or officers are disciplined.

The Department of Homeland Security advertises all the time that we must stand united against terrorism, encouraging people to report any suspicious-looking people. Communities of color need to unite against police brutality, demanding to know who are the police officers patrolling our communities. We need to arm ourselves with cameras so that community members can document police misconduct. Public notices are sent out to the community when any sex offenders are released into our neighborhoods, because we are concerned about the safety of our children. We should have the same public notice about rogue cops, Starsky and Hutchies, who are patrolling our communities.

It's time to put the OPA, Seattle Police Department, and City Council on notice that enough is enough. Communities of color want real police accountability. This means that the SPD's liaisons to communities of color need to stop being gatekeepers and do their jobs to make sure that our communities are being served, not threatened, by the police. If they are not willing to do their jobs, we, as communities of color, need to start making them accountable. ■

K.L. Shannon is a community organizer who works for the Racial Disparity Project at the Defender Association (www.defender.org), providing public defense and advocacy in King County since 1969.



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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

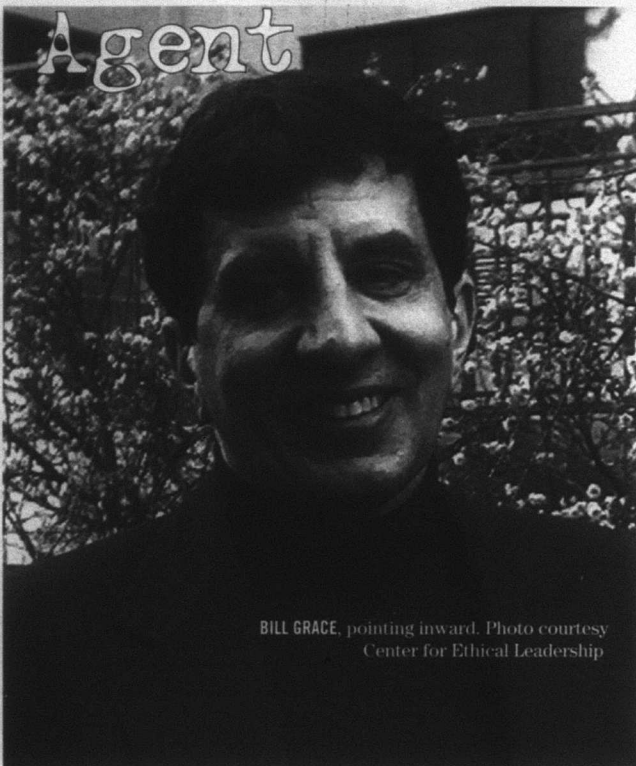
After 14 years of helping people, institutions, and whole communities find and act on their values, Bill Grace, the 54-year-old founder of the Center for Ethical Leadership just left the organization to look at the inward springs of moral action.

If three-fifths of the world go to bed hungry, and preventable, waterborne diseases kill thousands of children each year — “if we know it’s not right, and leaders know it’s not right, why does it persist?” asks Grace. It may be a question of courage — “to stand up for some is political suicide” — but courage may be more a product than a prime mover.

Grace’s heroes — Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Sojourner Truth — “I don’t think they would say they were leaders merely acting on their convictions, but in a deeper way — followers living out their faith.”

As Grace plans a book and thinks “prayerfully” about what he’s doing next, “spiritual territory is... where I want to go personally and find a way for others to plumb the depths of their leadership... out of a sense of followership.”

—Adam Hyla



BILL GRACE, pointing inward. Photo courtesy Center for Ethical Leadership

Out and About

Federal security force takes on new role: clearing government buildings, surroundings, of homeless

By ISRAEL BAYER
Contributing Writer

The Federal Protective Services has more than 10,000 uniformed officers nationwide who are responsible for policing, securing, and ensuring a safe environment where federal agencies conduct business.

Which, according to Patrick Zitny, commander of the regional Federal Protective Services, is “much of downtown Seattle.”

It was reported to *Real Change* by people living on the streets that federal law enforcement officers have been conducting routine sweeps on and around federally owned property.

When asked what jurisdiction FPS officers had in the field, Zitny says, “Our jurisdiction is on and off of federal property. Our officers are out on patrol on a daily basis, and we do run into numerous homeless people near, or on federal properties that our officers try to help out.”

Zitny went on to say that FPS officers refer people to local shelters all of the time. He also said officers run into a lot of veterans who are experiencing homelessness. “We try to let them know what services are available for veterans.”

“Unfortunately, if there’s people in an area they shouldn’t be, yes, we do relocate them,” Zitny says. “We just had a homeless man we found dead under the bushes at the old INS building,” referring to 46-year old Thomas Fribley, who died July 19.

Due to security reasons Zitny could not tell *Real Change* how many uniformed officers are working in the Seattle Metro-

politan region. But not only do they patrol government-owned buildings, but any building where the feds rent offices.

“Homeland Security does have enough [officers] to cover all of downtown Seattle,” Zitny says. “Almost every building in downtown has a government employee of one kind or another in it. We are out and about.”

When asked if he thought terrorist cells could be hiding among the home-

The Federal Protective Services has more than 10,000 uniformed officers nationwide who are responsible for policing, securing, and ensuring a safe environment where federal agencies conduct business — which, according to Patrick Zitny, commander of the regional Federal Protective Services, is “much of downtown Seattle.”

less population, Zitny says, “There has been some information that has been put out before about the possibilities.”

FPS is a division of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which recently went through an overhaul bringing several border and security agencies together under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security. In its first year as a component of ICE, the FPS made over 3,000 arrests nationwide. It’s unclear how many of those arrests led to convictions.

The FPS has also provided law enforcement support for more than 2,200 public demonstrations across the country since March of 2003, including at the Democratic and Republican Conventions and the G8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia.

According to Sean Whitcomb, a spokesperson for the Seattle Police Department, the FPS and the police work in collaboration, keeping open lines of communication, “but, for example, you won’t find their uniformed officers responding to a 911 call, and you won’t find our officers responding to a call on federal property.”

Whitcomb says he doesn’t know the extent of FPS involvement with local police to monitor public demonstrations on or near federal property.

FPS is also a part of the controversial Federal Anti-Terrorism Task Force, otherwise known as the JTTF, which has come under scrutiny by the ACLU in several cities. In Portland, the mayor pulled police officers off of the joint team of local, state, and federal agencies working on the task force after the ACLU provided the city with overwhelming evidence that the group had been spying on local activist groups (“Portland Showing Snoops the Boot,” April 6).

The agency also has specialized response teams, including canine, hazardous materials, and weapons of mass destruction, and runs a “MegaCenter” that monitors facility alarms and emergency calls that take place on federal property throughout the U.S. The FPS has detected more than 3,200 weapons violations on federal properties. ■

Just Heard ...

Share and the Sheraton

The Seattle City Council is considering selling more than three-quarters of a million dollars in development rights to a company that’s the subject of a national boycott.

The Sheraton, which wants to build a second tower on Sixth Avenue and Pike downtown, is seeking to pay the city \$20 per square foot for soaring above the standard height and density limits. It’s a process that helps maintain the local stock of low-income housing, and both residential and commercial high-rise developers do it. But in this case, the Sheraton is the focus of a national boycott by the UNITE HERE hotel and restaurant union, which seeks concessions when workers’ contracts expire next year at Sheraton hotels across North America. The Seattle Sheraton is non-union, says Ben Mantle of UNITE HERE Local 8.

The local isn’t taking action on the sale, which must come as a relief to councilmembers who recall labor’s wrath when they allowed hotel developer Richard Hedreen to use development credits that had already expired (RC June 27, 2002). Councilmember Peter Steinbreuck, chair of the committee considering the Sheraton’s plans, says labor concessions were a bad idea then, and they’d be a bad idea now: “It’s highly ill-advised for the city to even entertain labor issues in concert with land-use regulations. We should not use our regulatory process in any way that would cross the boundary.”

Oops!

The Washington Secretary of State is trying to improve elections rules. But they’re only human.

Draft rules issued July 6 would have prohibited, among other things, “get-out-the-vote campaigns based on information in the poll books regarding which voters have or have not voted” — standard election-day work for parties and interest groups trying to mobilize their base.

Secretary of State staffer Katie Blinn says the overly broad language was a mistake — one that “would not have held up in court,” says Dems chairman Paul Berendt. It’s been re-drafted — to prohibit campaigners using cell phones while they’re checking those rolls. Says Berendt, “We don’t have a problem with that.”

Downtown dreaming

Mayor Greg Nickels sees downtown Seattle’s future in Vancouver, B.C., with its tall residential towers. Urban planners Larry Beasley and Ray Spaxman, who are largely responsible for authoring Vancouver’s tall-and-sleander approach, say we need to think twice. While developers would be encouraged to provide urban amenities like open space in return for taller buildings, under Nickels’ plan “there are no incentives or guidelines that promote what we believe are essential design features and neighborhood-generating amenities” like community centers, libraries, schools, parks, or grocery stores.

What do you need in the downtown of the future? Beasley and Spaxman will present their findings and hear from Seattleites — that means you — about the future of downtown at a public forum this Monday, Aug. 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

—Adam Hyla

Sanctioned

State considers saving money by pushing families off welfare

By ADAM HYLIA
Editor

"This is what is known as pay for participation. All the onus is on you to prove that you're participating. What's the department's responsibility?"

— Tony Lee,
Statewide Poverty Action Network

The state Department of Social and Health Services is considering new measures that would profoundly impact 5,400 families who aren't following its welfare-to-work guidelines. It would cut off financial aid until households proved they were looking for work.

It's part of an effort to save as much as \$90 million over the next two years, as the state depletes the savings wrung out of welfare reform and reckons with funding WorkFirst, child care, and other forms of financial assistance on a biennial basis. That entails implementing a series of cost-saving measures — many of which, like in the welfare reform of the Clinton era, will cut more poor households from the caseload.

One of the most radical considerations is the Empowerment and Responsibility Now proposal, or EARN, a "program enhancement" to WorkFirst that flips the relationship between the agency and its clients on its head.

Instead of directing people to the appropriate work, education, or job-search activities, DSHS case workers would disburse the monthly cash assistance — once households had proven they were in compliance.

Anti-poverty advocates say the proposal cloaks itself in the language of personal responsibility — saying it "empowers parents to proactively and positively impact their future" so they "can quickly begin earning their payments by participating."

Cutting benefits for people who don't participate in WorkFirst usually saves the state money because more people aren't helped. This also frees up time for caseworkers, says the proposal's text: "EARN provides staff more time to work intensely with those parents who choose to participate and move to self-sufficiency."

Tony Lee of the Statewide Poverty Action Network lambasted the proposal at an August 4 meeting of the 14-member committee charged with finding savings in the welfare program.

"Where is the mutuality of obligation we are always talking about?" he told the task force. "A department that says it cares for children should be ashamed."

Lee says the proposal is worse than slashing peoples' welfare benefits. "This is what is known as pay for participation," he says. "All the onus is on you to prove that you're participating. What's the department's responsibility? Now, at least, they're supposed to provide programs so you can participate."

Other factors come into play as well, as government officials consider harsher sanctions on welfare recipients who aren't looking for work.

Feedback to the workgroup offered by anonymous DSHS personnel demonstrates the frustration of staff with stating harsh consequences for those who don't find alternatives to welfare within five years, and then softening their stance — as happened when DSHS turned back the clock for people who'd shown progress.

"Line staff's credibility was undermined when the five year limit came and went without the prewarned repercussions. DSHS's word is paramount and when we give it, we need to honor it," wrote one Yakima worker.

While lots of DSHS caseworkers do their jobs with compassion and sensitivity, some "love to have this club to beat parents with," says Jean Colman of Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition.

"There are parents doing job searches for four or five years, and if they're doing this why aren't employers hiring them? DSHS doesn't ask — it just says 'You're not looking hard enough.'"

The panel re-examining WorkFirst has until the end of August to send proposals to Gov. Christine Gregoire. ■

Short Takes

Communication Breakdown

Union workers in the communications trade may be thinking more of picket lines than phone lines if contract negotiations with Qwest fail this Saturday.

That's when the Communications Workers of America's current contract is set to expire with the telecom giant. Even though both sides have been bargaining since June 22, the results have been less than productive, according to Brenda Roberts, president of CWA local 7800, which represents Seattle, Bellingham, Port Angeles and Fort Townsend.

"There's really been very little movement at the table," claims Roberts. A strike would affect roughly 2,500 CWA members in Washington.

At issue for CWA is a current contract request asking for a wage increase, an eight-hour cap on mandatory overtime hours, job security, stronger health care benefits, and assurance that retired employees will continue to receive health benefits.

Roberts says during CWA's last contract negotiation, back in 2003, the union forwent a wage increase and accepted higher co-pays for doctor visits and prescriptions. Those terms were accepted, says Roberts, because union members didn't want to deepen the company's financial woes. But once again, Qwest seems to be asking employees to halt its financial decline.

Qwest's net income fell \$1.78 billion last year and their sales growth was off by three percent. With 1.5 million access lines in 14 states, nearly 750,000 wireless subscribers, and a heavily advertised local promotion of offering DSL to regular subscribers at a highly reduced cost, a strike seems like the last thing the company would want. And just to be on the safe side, Bob Toews, Qwest media representative, says that as in any bargaining

process, the company has formulated contingency plans. "Our first priority is customer service," says Toews.

CWA's first priority, this go-round, is its members. With 91 percent of the union having voted to authorize a strike, Roberts still sees it as a last resort.

"A strike is a nuclear option," asserts Roberts. "We're going to try to do everything to stop it from happening."

— Rosette Royale

Next up: City Hall Park

A move to redesign City Hall Park is quickly turning into a repeat of a city plan at nearby Occidental Park — including the possibility of cutting down much older, shadier trees.

Last week, the Parks Department held the first meeting of an advisory team that it hand-picked for the project, which aims to clear out a small park used primarily by homeless and poor people just south of the King County Courthouse.

The 1916 courthouse once housed City Hall and had a main entrance on the park. Today, county and parks officials say, drugs and crime have overtaken the area — something the city plans to fix by spending \$500,000 to upgrade the park. That includes \$400,000 for the actual work to be done next year and \$100,000 to be spent this year on six to nine months of planning with the project advisory team, or PAT, and designers Jerry Ernst and Kenichi Nakano.

Counting Ernst and Nakano, the 12 PAT members who met last week include eight public officials and four citizens. The four citizens represent law firm Preston Gates & Ellis, the Metropolitan Improvement District, the Tashiro-Kaplan Artists Lofts, and the Pioneer Square Community Association — a backer of the city's plan to cut down 17 trees this summer in Occidental Park.

At the meeting, Peggy Emerson, MID's director of field operations, said she's not afraid to talk about using a chainsaw in City Hall Park. Other initial ideas included opening the courthouse's old south entrance or the old road that parallels it, creating a garden or playground, fencing or paving the park, and putting a stop to all public feeding programs.

— Cydney Gillis



EMMA AND SOPHIA PARTICIPATED IN THE TORO NAGASHI LANTERN FLOATING CEREMONY AT GREEN LAKE ON AUG. 6. THE ANNUAL EVENT COMMEMORATED THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATHS OF JAPANESE CIVILIANS DURING THE ATOMIC BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, AND ALL VICTIMS OF WAR AND VIOLENCE. THIS YEAR'S CEREMONY DREW 2,000 PARTICIPANTS. THE TWO GIRLS' LANTERNS BEAR JAPANESE WORDS FOR TRUTH AND LOVE.

PHOTO BY ELLIOT STOLLER.

Honor Society

Seattle Education Access helps poor people get back to school

Seattle Education Access currently offers services such as scholarships, tutoring, and career counseling to 25 young adults, most of whom are homeless, immigrants, refugees, single mothers, or in foster care.

By KONA SHEN
Contributing Writer

Heather Rastovic left home when she was 14 years old. Instead of finishing high school, she says, "I became accepted and integrated into street life, and that became my lifestyle for seven to eight years."

It wasn't until Heather was 24 that she decided to pursue her education once more. She entered community college and faced challenges that no one else in the classroom could relate to.

On top of maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Heather was working a full-time job and commuting for three hours a day. While she didn't find the subjects especially difficult, Heather didn't have the experience or the resources necessary to succeed.

"There's just a belief [in college] that people will have a certain background of education and support and finances," she says. "You don't have that if you're homeless."

Heather began working with Polly Trout, the founder of Seattle Education Access, just two years ago. SEA currently offers services such as scholarships, tutoring, and career counseling to 25 young adults, most of whom are homeless, immigrants, refugees, single mothers, or in foster care. To remain in the program, each student must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA, hold down a job, and do regular community service. Since the program began in 2002, SEA has been operating solely through private donations and local grants. Polly told me that SEA's goal is to "increase the number of choices available to young people."

Polly founded SEA out of frustration; no one else seemed to believe that homeless teenagers could go on to become lawyers, physicians, or psychologists. In contrast, Polly and her staff — which, besides Polly, is comprised entirely of volunteers — share a conviction that given resources and support, these young people can go on to achieve great things. As opposed to many programs' emphasis on vocational training for the poor, SEA believes that education should "embrace the whole person in his or her lifelong adventure to explore the world."

Seattle Education Access stands alone in this approach. The closest that Heather has come to finding similar services has been through her community college. Even there, it's not the same. Heather can't speak to other tutors about homelessness because of "their lack of understanding and compassion... it's really comforting that I can talk to someone about my future plans and current struggles with someone who understands my past."

When a counselor meets a student for the first time, they will review transcripts, scores, and the student's background. Once the student outlines their goals, the counselor will help them improve their grades and collect recommendations. Mary Lou Block has been a college counselor for 30 years, and has recently branched out from her private practice to work with SEA.

"As a counselor," she says, "you don't tell them what to do. You listen and try to help them achieve their own goals."

Janaea, 25 (who wasn't willing to give her full name) can't remember what her goals were originally. "Every time I learn something new, my goals change," she says. Instead of studying business at the University of Washington, Janaea is now considering applying to Brown or Babson University. When Janaea contacted Polly in 2004, the two went over Janaea's bills and cost of living, finally arriving on a budget that Janaea could survive on. They calculated that if Janaea went to college — and therefore worked less — she

Heather Rastovic, below, coped with class thanks to Polly Trout and Seattle Education Access, a two-year-old tutoring, counseling, and scholarship program that helps homeless young people get back to school. Photo by Mark Sullo.



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Fear, Loathing and Dysfunction on the Campaign Trail

Alexandra Pelosi on Presidential Politics, the Press, and Voter Tune-Out

by ROBIN LINDLEY
Contributing Writer

Because so few people get exclusive access to this elite fraternity of national media covering a presidential campaign, I thought I would expose... the secret society and show people what it's like to live there, inside the bubble. I wanted to give people some context.

During presidential campaigns, "it is the media's job to stalk and scrutinize the candidates. On this trip, I'm going to watch the detectives as they do their surveillance to see how they interfere with the outcome of our elections," promises Alexandra Pelosi at the outset of her witty new book on the 2004 presidential campaign *Sneaking into the Flying Circus: How the Media Turn Our Presidential Campaigns into Freak Shows* (Free Press, May 2005).

A veteran reporter, Pelosi covered the 2000 presidential campaign of George W. Bush for NBC News. She brought a camcorder and created the Emmy-award winning film *Journeys with George*. Her second film, *Diary of A Political Tourist*, featured her travels with Democrats running for president in 2004.

The daughter of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and a lifelong Democrat, Pelosi spares neither Democrats nor Republicans in her work.

Pelosi interrupted her honeymoon in California to talk with *Real Change* about predatory reporters, scripted politicians, apathetic citizens, and more. She is currently shooting a film on religion in America with her new husband — during their honeymoon. Her website www.journeyswith-george.com features more information on her projects.

Real Change: In your book *Flying Circus*, you portray a passive press corps that parrots the candidates.

Alexandra Pelosi: Basically, I found a real problem with American journal-

ism, especially at the national political level. I had all these romantic notions about journalism. In covering my first presidential campaign [in 2000], those notions all died. I lost my virginity on that campaign.

Then in my second campaign [in 2004], I really started to see the light. Journalism has changed. Now it's just taking what's said to you, and spitting out sound bites. It's a sham. And when you're covering a presidential campaign, there's never an honest moment. You never see or feel anything real. It's all being spoon-fed to you. Then you repeat that. We joked at NBC that you could train monkeys to do our job. After doing that for a year and a half, you start to feel cheap. I fell out of love with journalism.

Because so few people get exclusive access to this elite fraternity of national media covering a presidential campaign, I thought I would expose... the secret society and show people what it's like to live there, inside the bubble. I wanted to give people some context, because when you read stories in the newspaper, you don't realize that those stories are just one person's perspective, and if you were there you'd have a different perspective.

RC: You have a very disarming reporting style. One reporter said you were the best interviewer he knew because



you come on like "wacky girl," then get people to spill their guts. How would you describe your approach?

Pelosi: The approach is simple. I just talk to people like real people. The problem with covering politics is that the reporters tend to treat the candidates like caricatures. So Bush was dumb, Kerry was aloof, and Gore was bland.

I was always amazed in 2000 — how the reporters act around the candidate and how they act when the candidate's gone. Two distinctly different personalities. And that's fascinating to me because it's not real.

And it's just like junior high, like Mean Girls. There are cliques. *The New York Times* is the coolest kid on the block, so it has the best seat on the bus. There's this hierarchy that shows where you are in the social makeup.

RC: What can improve the dysfunctional relationship of the press and the candidates?

Pelosi: Unfortunately, I think it's only going to get worse because the corporate media is in bed with these campaigns. The only way it will change is for people to get off their couches and see the candidates and experience it. In my second movie, *Diary of a Political Tourist*, people would go to an event to see a candidate, and they'd realize they were being used as props for this little show: they'd get stuck behind the cameras and all they'd see was

Camera Ready: Alexandra Pelosi, capturing the flying circus on film. Photo courtesy Alexandra Pelosi.



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Continued from Previous Page

this view of cameramen's asses for the whole speech. They'd leave feeling used, confused, and abused.

RC: You indicate too that voter apathy is, in part, a response to the media.

Pelosi: Most people think of politics as a bunch of old white men sitting on couches babbling on Sunday morning, and it's an insider's club and I'm an outsider, so that's it. And then they don't vote, they don't care, and they don't participate.

My book shows how absurd the whole process is, and what a joke it can be, and how the process we use to select presidents is very dysfunctional.

RC: How would you describe John Kerry during his campaign?

Pelosi: Talking about John Kerry is like talking about that abusive boyfriend you had. I still feel duped by him. I still feel he misled the Democrats. We all knew about the Swift Boat Vets; they were in New Hampshire in January. We knew they were coming. Everyone likes to say [the election] was close. It was not close. [Many] people who worked on [Kerry's] campaign [have] said they never thought he would win. He ran a crappy campaign, and he really let the Democrats down.

RC: Did any of the presidential candidates impress you?

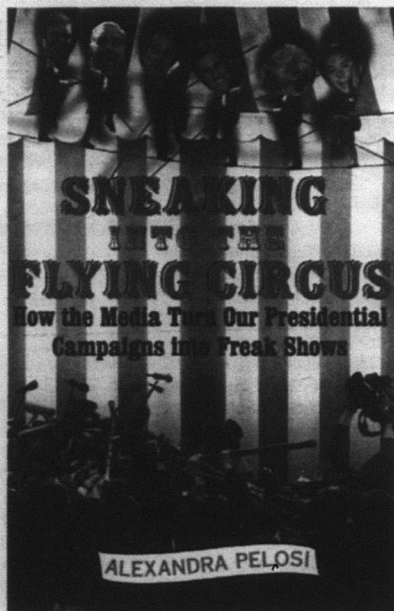
Pelosi: I didn't think Gephardt was bad. He wasn't sexy, so he wasn't a good candidate. I think that Bob Graham wasn't bad. I think Joe Lieberman wasn't bad, but he was too conservative for most people. It's hard to say now, looking back. I lived it every day for two years. It's like a failed relationship.

RC: What reporters or interviewers do you most admire?

Pelosi: Bill Moyers and the old-school guys. The one person I most admire working today [is] Jon Stewart. He's hilarious, but he's really smart. He says more in a joke than any of the newscasters can say in their programs. He says things none of the reporters have the balls to say, but it's totally true.

RC: Did you hear anything from President Bush after *Journeys with George* aired?

Pelosi: I got a few letters of congratulation from Bush. I saw him at the White House a couple of times. He said, "I want my Emmy. Where's my Emmy?"



He was always very nice about it; he said it was an underground hit at the White House.

RC: I understand the White House staff was upset with *Journeys with George* because they said you made the film only for "personal use."

Pelosi: That was the nicest thing they ever could have done for me, because by saying that they created some sort of mystique. When I was on the campaign trail, I brought my camera, and I shoved my camera in everybody's face, including George Bush's. I said every time that I'm making a movie. Bush used to say, "We're going to Sundance." I didn't shoot 100 hours of tapes for shits and giggles. I all along had intentions of making a documentary.

When the White House said that, I got so much publicity that HBO heard about it, and they came to me and asked if they could buy the movie.

Everyday, I meet someone who says they're making a documentary; the advice I give is always the same: Find a way to get media attention for your documentary. Find a fight. With Michael Moore, it's no coincidence that the most controversial movie of the year became the biggest box-office hit.

RC: Bush comes across in your film as affable but superficial.

Pelosi: It's a Rorschach test. People see who they want to see. Republicans saw [Bush] as a really charming guy. [But] he never had a moment of substance. He's running for president, and he never says one interesting word. When I asked why should I vote for him, he said, "Cause it's in your interest: your interest that I become president. You know me." That's fascinating to me, because I don't vote my own interests. I vote Democrat. I pay a lot of money in taxes. But that's the mantra of the Republican Party: vote your own self-interest.

RC: In the film, Bush didn't discuss issues, books or anything of that sort.

Pelosi: No, never. There's only two subjects George Bush ever talked about: baseball and his ranch.

RC: Tell me about your new film project on religion in the U.S.

Pelosi: I'm filming a movie for HBO about the mega-churches, the rise of the religious right in America... I'm traveling the country, visiting [these] churches. There are mega-churches in 45 out of 50 states.

After the last election, they said the Republicans won because of the mega-churches and the religious right. I'm not sure how true that is, but I do know these people, and a lot of people, have a huge void in their lives, and they fill it by going to these churches, which are no substitute for a real religious experience. It's more like a U2 concert than what I remember as going to church — more entertainment than religion.

RC: Congratulations on your marriage, and thank you for interrupting your honeymoon to talk about your work.

Pelosi: I never wanted to be a news nun. Once I became one, I was fighting to get away from the caricature. I'm happy that I found my man, and I'm living happily ever after, and I didn't end up being a 60-years-old sitting on the bus like the other old news nuns saying, "Back when Bush ran in 2000..." — they never get a life. ■

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War without End

Conservatives demonize homeless people's "choices," while liberals talk about them as if they're totally helpless. In both cases, according to Feldman, homeless people are not allowed to claim rights or speak for themselves until they've been reformed — either by a police state, a welfare state, or both.

**Citizens Without Shelter:
Homelessness, Democracy, and Political
Exclusion**

By **Leonard C. Feldman**
Cornell University Press, 2004
Hardcover, 224 pages, \$35

By **TREVOR GRIFFEY**
Contributing Writer

Grand schemes for ending homelessness," Leonard Feldman argues in his book *Citizens Without Shelter*, have often been "based on the construction of nonnormative dwellings such as residential hotels and collectively organized encampments deemed 'substandard housing.'"

Liberal planners, most of them New Deal-style Democrats, did not set out to create homelessness when, from the 1950s through the 1980s, they promoted urban renewal and downtown redevelopment as solutions to the problems of urban poverty, especially in African American "ghettos" and Skid Road neighborhoods. But that is essentially what they did. Their "dream to put everyone in homes," Feldman claims, "oriented the violence of a war on poverty toward the destruction of working-class neighborhoods in the name of slum clearance." And now, similarly well-intentioned politicians and planners vaguely propose ending homelessness with underfunded plans for more housing and shelter beds at the same time that they shut down tent cities, increase punitive policing on the streets, and promote neighborhood redevelopment policies that displace more poor people than they actually house.

Why do so many charity and housing programs, with all their benevolent

rhetoric, end up being so inadequate, mean-spirited and counterproductive? This is not a new question. But Feldman's answer — in a brief academic work of political theory — is worth exploring, even if few non-academics would actually want to read his book, which, though readable, isn't particularly accessible.

"It is tempting to imagine," Feldman writes, "that our categories and concepts do not need reworking, that all we have is a failure of will, not a failure of thought." But Feldman says that this is wrong. We need more than a "political will," as some Seattle advocates have termed it, to end homelessness, because homelessness is more than a social problem with a political solution. "One must be wary of thinking of homelessness as a problem that states and citizens stumble upon," he argues. When media stereotypes overlap with the law to deny the protections of full citizenship to others based on how well they're striving toward the ideal of home ownership, homeless people invariably become treated like a "problem" by all sides.

Conservatives demonize homeless people's "choices," while liberals talk about them as if they're totally helpless. In both cases, according to Feldman, homeless people are not allowed to claim rights or speak for themselves until they've been reformed into being worthy of citizenship — either by a police state, a welfare state, or both. Which usually means never.

These shared assumptions are more than just cultural, and dominate more than just the media. They are grounded in law. Feldman points out that in Seattle and around the country, politicians have funded some homeless

services as a way of preventing courts from ruling "civility laws" unconstitutional, as if "aggressive panhandling" ordinances don't discriminate.

To overcome this vicious cycle, in which advocacy becomes complicit in reinforcing people's second-class citizenship, Feldman argues that the movement for the right to shelter has to go hand in hand with a cultural and legal movement to see homeless people as full, rights-bearing citizens. He calls for the "pluralization of the categories of home and public sphere," but in the end, this jargon simply means doing more of what's already being done: promoting tent cities, supporting street newspapers, engaging in broad political alliances, and using litigation to challenge anti-homeless laws.

A couple years ago, Tim Harris, the founder of *Real Change*, wrote in a review of a different academic book on homelessness: "Who cares what the ethnographers do? If there is a solution to homelessness, I doubt very much it will arise from the academy." Feldman, who volunteered at *Real Change* while he was a PhD student at UW and cites Harris and *Real Change* in his acknowledgments, both challenges and confirms Harris's suspicions. Feldman's specific political proposals offer nothing new. But he shows how academics who stand outside philanthropic and political networks can still be marginally useful to activists — albeit still somewhat annoying — by warning those who would call for the "end of homelessness" to be careful, as the history of charity is fraught with well-meaning attempts at uplift that end up punishing the poor instead of empowering them. ■

The Beast Within

Grizzly Man
Written and Directed by **Werner Herzog**

By **LESTER GRAY**
Arts and Events Editor

To fully appreciate Werner Herzog's engaging new documentary on the exploits of Timothy Treadwell, it helps to have a bit of background.

About 15 years ago, Mr. Treadwell, a college dropout, found himself without purpose and wrestling with a stubborn temperance. He prescribes himself a change in scene. Putting Los Angeles behind him, he heads north to Alaska, pitching a backyard tent smack-dab in the middle of a grizzly bear enclave in the Katmai National Park and Preserve.

For reasons that are less than clear, he decides that living with these notoriously violent creatures will be restorative for the mind and soul. To a large extent his intuition proves correct. Defying copious scientific findings and the experiential wisdom of bear professionals, he not only survives, but discovers a calling as a protector of the species. Over the next 12 summers he becomes a small celebrity, showing videotapes of extremely close-

up, jaw-dropping interactions with the denizens of his adopted community. He headlines such shows as David Letterman and NBC Dateline.

But Treadwell knows he is working in a dangerous situation with the smallest margin for error, which as it turns out is not enough. In his 13th summer in Alaska, he and a woman friend are mauled and devoured by a bear. Now emerges a second storyline: the debate over Treadwell's motives and wisdom.

The film interweaves interviews with adversaries, supporters, and intimates into selections from over 100 hours of video shot by Treadwell of himself and the bears. Herzog, voicing the narration in the first-person, weighs in with his take on the events leading to the tragedy, including the propriety of Treadwell's activities.

This is in keeping with the thematic approach of recently released books on Treadwell, such as Mike Lapinski's *Death in the Grizzly Maze*. *Grizzly Man* brings to the fore issues relating to the wisdom of Treadwell's intimate relationships with the bears, his sincerity as an animal rights advocate, and

even his sanity — revealing a good deal of animosity from varied quarters.

We hear perturbations voiced by local bear biologists, for whom the credibility of their findings on ursine behavior are suddenly at stake, and those who fear that Treadwell copycats could endanger both humans and bears. But one senses there is something else — a subtext in *Grizzly Man* that suggests Treadwell "crossed a line," generating a peculiar animosity. This vitriol seems to be the force behind thousands of letters, not dissimilar in tone from the response of the helicopter pilot who looks straight in the camera stating Treadwell "got what he deserved."

This "line" that Treadwell crossed seems to involve something deep-seated and threatening. As we watch him interact with his bears, giving them names and assigning anthropomorphic motivations to their behavior, he blurs the delineation between humans and animals — something that has always made people, especially conservatives, uneasy.

Putting his camera on a tripod as a witness to his activities, Treadwell's personal video, which informs much of this

documentary, yields captivatingly rich material. His purpose in these recordings appears multifold, including content couched as for a TV program. But there are segments of a more personal nature: a chronicle of a person exploring himself, not something he would necessarily present to the world. It's important to remember as we watch Treadwell in some of his more extreme moments that this is a man who spends as much as five months at a time with only bears and foxes (lady friends did visit), and his camera may have served, on occasion, as a private sounding board.

We will never really know what was going on in Timothy Treadwell's life, but Herzog provides a captivating overview, countering the assertion that this bear lover recklessly put his life at risk. He survived for a long time in an environment where no one else dared to live. The astounding length of his tenure was due to something other than luck. There are plenty of places among humans where he would not have fared so well. ■

Grizzly Man opens Fri., Aug. 12 at the Harvard Exit.

Adventures
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning

I've personally never needed parks, per se. I've always felt a need for catacombs, which I regard as park-equivalents.



benches and say why homeless people need parks. So this led to some six minutes of me expressing the concept "duh" different ways. However, I also mentioned that I've personally never needed parks, per se. I've always felt a need for catacombs, which I regard as park-equivalents. I couldn't elaborate on that at the event, so I thought why not squander 550 words doing so now?

I guess the first time I felt I needed catacombs was at age 9, on the Day the Music Died, Feb. 3, 1959, when Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper died in a plane crash together. I began to believe I needed to live below ground. I don't know if there's a connection, but I know people don't fall up.

Two years later I got my first pimple. Again, I don't know if there was a connection, but I began to have compulsive fantasies about digging a cave out of the side of a hill, and installing a camouflage door. I could figure out how to have camouflage skylights, a garden, fountains, and a working oven. I could eat roots, blanched grubs, and ant-paste. But how to get TV? I could tap into power lines, but that would be illegal, and, sadly, I was addicted to the law.

Then in high school I answered the call of Bill Speidel, who wanted to excavate the Seattle Underground, make it a tourist attraction, and promote the cleanup of Pioneer Square. Between hours spent underground shoveling dust without a helmet or mask for my new slave master Mr. Bill, he entertained us high schoolers with stories about how the Underground came into being, and how after it was closed up bums lived there!

Notes from the Underground

Occasionally, yours truly speaks at people about having been homeless. (I usually wait to be invited.) Last Sunday, I was asked to participate in a panel discussion about parks and park

Since Bill wrote non-fiction, and it was around 1965, I believed him.

There was hope. Perhaps there were outlets down there and I could estimate the bills and send checks. But on closer inspection, there were no outlets. Besides, having an address Underground, I would not be able to maintain checking.

Years later I realized, only just in time to get married and live in a house with a Seattle City Light connection, that I would not solve the TV problem until the Future arrived and with it, the invention of low-power sets that would make the pedal-driven generator a practical power source. But I still felt the Call of the Catacombs in my heart and soul.

Perhaps I could have gotten help with my TV addiction, or my law addiction. There should be a patch for the first and a Twelve Step Program for the second. But no matter how hard I try to remember that the power company just stole the power from the river and the fish or made it by burning coal from out of the Earth that no one rightfully owns, still, it's "theirs," somehow. They bought that Earth from someone, who bought it from someone, who... stole it. It's all stolen property, ultimately.

Not everyone is so conflicted. James David Hodge, who lived 12 years beneath the UW Music Department, didn't care if he paid for his electricity. An unknown number of residents of the New York City subway tunnels in the nineties had TVs with VCRs, washing machines, and dryers, using so much power it must have slowed the trains each day by a second or two. I just couldn't let myself be the cause of so much tragedy.

So I'll have to wait until I'm dead to live down there. Then, in a million or so years, mutated descendants of the rats or the squirrels or the cockroaches who survive us will fight over the power released from burning me, in order to get high and laugh at Twilight Zone tapes. ■



Saturday, July 23, 7:07 p.m., 3rd & Bell.

Officers met with the victim, a transient white female aged 39, at the ER of the UW Medical Center, where she was being treated for injuries that were the result of an assault. She stated that the assault took place in the 300 block of Bell Street, and that officers had responded to the scene, but she had told them she had fallen. She was afraid of retaliation from her assailant, and so had not told them the truth. She said the suspect, an unknown Black male, had assaulted her because she had been careless with his crack pipe — she couldn't name the man, or give a good description. She stated the suspect had struck her many times and had knocked her to the ground. Sometime after this occurred, her legs began to feel weak and painful. She had previously broken her back, and was afraid that her symptoms may be a new spinal injury, and had sought medical help. The suspect is still at large.

Sunday, July 24, 5:05 p.m., Third Ave.

— **Angeline's Women's Shelter.** Victim, a transient white female aged 48, stated that after exiting the shelter she was approached by the suspect — a middle-aged Hispanic male — who solicited her for sex. She refused, and he followed her, showing her the money. He grabbed her arm and attempted to pull her into an alleyway. She managed to pull away and run to safety. An area check was unsuccessful.

Wednesday, July 27, 2:04 a.m., Pier on 1500 block of Alaskan Way.

Suspect, a transient Black male aged 49, was contacted while sitting on the north side of the pier. The pier is a city park, and is posted with a notice of the rules of conduct to observe while in a city park. Suspect had in his possession a 16 oz. unopened can of beer. He was identified at the scene and was written an infraction for having alcohol in the park. He was also trespassed from the park for seven days and then released. At the precinct, a search turned up a prior Parks Exclusion ban from all city parks for a year. His new Exclusion Ban was corrected to a year, and officers requested charges of criminal trespass be brought.

Friday, July 29, 12:26 p.m., Second & Pike.

Officers on bike patrol noticed the suspect, a transient Black male aged 56, sleeping in the open bed of a pickup truck. Lying next to the man were brand new packaged electronics. Officers awoke the suspect and asked if it was his pickup truck. Suspect became argumentative, and it was determined that it was not his truck, and he did not have permission to be in it. He was arrested for criminal trespass and taken to the West Precinct, where it was determined he was on active supervision with the Department of Corrections. A report was forwarded to his DOC officer, and he was released.

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.

In Memoriam Cynthia Ozimek, 48

Cynthia had just gotten housing. She was found dead of undetermined causes, in her apartment, on the first day of moving into it, Tuesday, Aug. 2. The first thing heard after each friend got the news was often, "No, it can't be; I was just talking with her." "No; I just saw her yesterday." "No; we were up talking half the night, just two nights ago." The most poignant was, "No, it can't be; I just hugged her last week."

The most poignant cry of all was, "What's happening to my sisters?" We have had more deaths this year in our homeless community in Seattle than ever before. Sally Ann Howard — "Miss Ann" to many of her friends — was also found dead last week, on Second Avenue, between Washington and Yesler. For a few days last week, there was an improvised memorial at the spot, with a paper note, flowers, a teddy bear, and a red and white jacket.

Cynthia had to fight to stay alive as long as she did. She was born with bipolar disorder and a family history of addiction. Orphaned at 12, she spent the next six years in a series of foster homes, boarding schools, and juvenile courts, experiencing physical and sexual abuse. In adulthood, she struggled with depression, addiction, homelessness,

and the illnesses that often follow in the wake of those afflictions. Whatever official cause the medical examiner ultimately assigns to her death, those were the things that shortened her life.

In all her struggles, Cynthia never lost sight of what those around her



were going through. She wrote poetry and essays of powerful insight and compassion. "Angeline's: Home of the Brave" was awarded "Best Essay of 2002" in our own "Real Change Awards." Her essay on the King County Jail, "The Women of Cell Block B," was

reprinted, and quoted, as far as New York's Indymedia site. Her poems were a regular feature here and in the WHEEL annual poetry book.

Nor did she ever lose a wry sense of humor. She had hundreds of people laughing at one Homeless Women's Forum over "Things That Make You Go Hmmm" — including credit checks for homeless people applying for services and the bushels of romance novels donated to homeless women's shelters.

Whatever her own pain, whatever injustice she experienced, Cynthia never reacted with cruelty or meanness. Her thoughts were always, "How can we turn this around? How can we make it better?"

When WHEEL's Women in Black stand vigil for Cynthia and Miss Ann on Wednesday, Aug. 10, they bring our list of the dead to 27 this year — the highest by this time of year since we started standing in 2000. "What is happening to my sisters?" And how can we turn this around? ■

—Anitra Freeman

Anitra Freeman is a member of WHEEL — Women's Housing, Equality, and Enhancement League — and Women in Black.

SEA, Continued from Page 5

would lose about 500 dollars a month. So that's the amount of scholarship money that Polly gave her.

"No one had ever encouraged me to go to college, or showed me how I could do it," Janaea says. "Without SEA, I wouldn't still be in school."

This comprehensive approach claims a high success rate. Ninety percent of SEA's students leave the program feeling visibly closer to their long-term goals. Heather is now 27 and looking forward to starting at the UW in the fall. She will be working towards a double major — cultural anthropology and near Eastern languages — and a minor in dance. In fact, the students of SEA have experienced multiple successes: many are in their school's honor society; others are planning their respective PhDs, law careers, and teaching diplomas.

According to Polly, SEA is exploring different options for the future. Because students are often wary of adult counselors, SEA is asking former students to become peer mentors.

Polly is also hoping to put together curriculum packages to help other community groups build these services. Specifically, she says, "I'd like to open an office in Yakima, for the kids of migrant farm workers. A lot more people could benefit from these services."

If SEA does choose to branch out, nothing will alter its positive message. "Above all, we encourage them to aim high," Polly says, "and to develop their full potential." ■

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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Elections 2005: Won't be
fooled againDear *Real Change*,

There is not a week when I don't buy and read *Real Change* from cover to cover. It is always interesting, socially relevant, well written and researched. It was therefore very disappointing to see that your paper sank to the level of the commercial press in your pre-election coverage ("Elections Snoozer," August 3). Your reporter, as all others, dwells on the money each candidate has collected — just as if the number of dollars in the campaign chest guarantees a good, compassionate, hardworking and socially conscious office holder.

We have seen again and again candidates promising to help the underprivileged, only to sell out to the large commercial interests. Sooner or later the large campaign donors will call in their markers, whether it is a trolley for Paul Allen, a stadium for the Mariners, expansion of the Key Arena, or the give-away of the parking lot at the Seattle Center to the Microsoft Foundation at a fraction of its real worth.

There is hardly any funding for housing, childcare, homeless shelters and medical attention for street people. There is not enough to go around to keep libraries open. And nobody on the Council cares about the infrastructure which is decaying. Just as long as the voters keep voting for the promises, all is well in Disneyland-Seattle. Your paper is now helping to perpetuate this notion that the wealthy might some day be compelled to share. Keep on dreaming.

There are only two candidates on the ballot for Seattle City Council:

Nick Licata and Angel Bolaños. With a little help from other more progressive Council members, we could see a change in the approach to how the tax receipts are allocated. I hope that you will consider another article on the upcoming primary September 20, and rectify the omission of the current piece.

I will work on Angel's campaign if I have to do it all by myself, even without your help.

Dorli T. Rainey
Seattle

Tenants turn to TU

Dear *Real Change*,

I was really shocked that you didn't refer folks to the Tenants Union for help with tenants' rights issues in your legal column about rental deposits ("Ask a Lawyer," August 3). Was it just an oversight?

Despite the City of Seattle's elimination of funding, the TU continues to provide comprehensive, respectful, accessible information to tenants through the TU Education Program. Walk-in hours are Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and Thursday 12 to 4. Phone hours are Wednesday 12 to 3 and Thursday 12 to 4 — call (206) 723-0500. TU tenant counselors aren't lawyers, we're trained in landlord-tenant law and can provide information about the law and help tenants make a plan to solve housing problems. I hope you'll let your readers know about the TU's services.

Siobhan Ring
Executive Director
Tenants Union

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@ccsw.org.

Recreation

Emerald Spokes LLC, "powered by the people." Fun for all ages! Seattle's first and only 4-wheel pedi-cab. Events-Parties-Tours-Exercise. For reservations or advertising contact Cand: (206) FUEL-H2O, that's 383-5426. www.emeraldspokes.com.

Politics

Liberal Opinion Week: Your source of outstanding national editorial cartoons and commentary, all in one weekly issue. For a free issue, call 1-800-338-9335 or visit www.liberalopinion.com.

Community

Community Sale: Sunday, Aug. 14, 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: Cinema Noir in the Park. Cinema Diaspora is dedicated to using cinema to educate and build community. Join us in a cinematic celebration of culture and 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 23rd & Madison). At dusk. For info on this week's film, call 206.860.7764.

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

No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

**Keystone
United Church
Of Christ**

5019 Keystone Place
Seattle WA 98103
Worship Sunday 10:30

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 8/10

Since *Celtic Woman* appeared on PBS earlier this year, this five-member vocal group from Ireland has built an American fan base in an astonishingly short amount of time. Is it the natural appeal of Celtic music? Is it their exceptional talent? Probably both. 8 p.m., Benaroya Hall, 200 University St. (206)215-4800. www.seattlesymphony.org.

Thursday 8/11

Baltimore Rabbi Alexander Seinfeld speaks this evening about his practical guide to discovering the untapped wisdom of Judaism and ancient Jewish spiritual arts. His book, *The Art of Amazement*, links the spiritual to the everyday world. 7:30 p.m., The Elliott Bay Book Co, 101 S. Main Street. www.elliottbaybook.com.

Saturday 8/13

Actor Ed Begley Jr. and Greg LeRoy, author of *The Great Job Scam: Corporate Tax Dodging and the Myth of Job Creation*, head the Rolling Thunder Democracy Tour which includes speakers, workshops, and music. Originally organized by activist/author Jim Hightower. Admission: \$10, noon - 8 p.m., Magnuson Park. www.seattlethunder.net.

Saturday 8/13

The *Rosebud Literary Journal*, three times a year publishing a combination of prose, poetry, and visual art, is described by the *Milwaukee Journal* as "somewhere between the old *Collier's* and *The New Yorker*." It's described by itself as "the magazine for people who enjoy good writing." Both editors and contributors come to Seattle for a reading. 8 p.m., The Elliott Bay Book Co, 101 S. Main St. www.elliottbaybook.com.

Friday and Saturday 8/12, 8/13

Free outdoor movies under the stars. Watch *Spiderman* (Friday) and *Spiderman 2* (Saturday), and you don't even have to smuggle your goodies in the door. Picnic on the gently sloping Mural Amphitheatre lawn with the whole family. Enjoy the 45-foot screen

and bring your blanky!! Starts at dusk. Seattle Center, (206)684-7200. www.seattlecenter.com.

At 80 years old, B.B. King and Lucille (a bit younger) are still trucking along and their itinerary includes Seattle. The superb Mr. King and an accompanying group of superb musicians appear at South Lake Union Park. Two nights. 7 p.m. www.ticketmaster.com, (206)628-0888.

Tuesday 8/16

The Only Bush I Trust Is My Own is authored by Perial Aschenbrand, the founder of Body as Billboard, a politically oriented T-shirt company. The book is described as a "raucous, never shy manifesto [that] bars no holds in its wrestling match with the establishment." 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E. www.bookstore.washington.edu.

Wednesday 8/17

PepperSpray productions, an all-volunteer activist video collective based in Seattle, presents two independent films from Iraq, *Eyewitness in Iraq: Dahr Jama'il, an Unembedded Report* and *Testimonies from Fallujah*. Both these films present a side of the war in Iraq that you won't see on television. Showings at 6:30, 8:00, and 9:30 p.m. Central Cinema, 1411 21st Ave. <http://peppersp.server312.com/>.

Friday 8/19

Community Alliance for Global Justice presents Movies in the Park. A new documentary, *Granito de Arena* (Grain of Sand), by Jill Friedberg, focuses on the struggle by Mexican teachers to defend public education. There is also a discussion about our local schools and the threats of privatization they face. \$10 requested donation; no one turned away for lack of funds. 7:30 p.m. for dessert and discussion. 8:30 p.m. (or dusk) for the screening. Judkins Park, 2150 S. Norman St., south end of park. Info cagj@seattleglobaljustice.org or call (206)405-4600.

Director's Corner

This past Sunday, *Real Change* hosted its first-ever community action brunch: *Life, Liberty, and the Public Park Bench*.

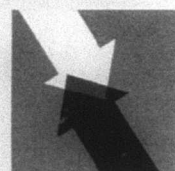
In a crowded city, parks become community centers, hygiene centers, backyards, and porches. They meet these needs for many of us—homeless or not—but for people who don't have space of their own, public places become even more important. A local architect who attended the forum pointed out that the same things that make parks pleasant for homeless people make them pleasant for all of us: places to sit, trees for shade, safety from crime, a respite from the pressure of urban life.

As panelist Peter Steinbrueck noted, we've created much of the pressure on our parks by pricing people out of housing and onto the streets. As Seattle continues to debate and decide its future, from open space to building heights to preservation of affordable housing, we'll work to ensure poor and homeless people aren't pushed out in an effort to sanitize the city, and to guarantee we all gain from the changes.

Real Change extends a big thank you to our brunch panelists: Wes Browning, Kate Mortenson, Joyce Moty, Peter Steinbrueck, and moderator Joe Martin.

If you missed the event, you can view the presentation at www.seattlechannel.org. Click "watch videos," then "special features," then "Seattle Parks and Recreation." Or see it broadcast at various times through Aug. 20; check the website for a schedule.

(Director Timothy Harris will return to this space next week.)



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Tell Congress: Pass Violence Against Women Act

Issue: Each year, approximately 2 million women are physically or sexually assaulted or stalked in the U.S. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) expires September 30th, yet the Senate Judiciary Committee failed to bring the act for a vote before the August recess. When they return in September, they will be busy working on the Supreme Court nomination so they'll need reminders to ensure they pass VAWA.

Background: More than a third of families living in shelters or transitional housing cite domestic violence as the reason for their homelessness. In King County in 2003, 13 out of 14 women who requested shelter for domestic violence were turned away. Close to three-quarters of homeless youth and young adults have been physically or sexually abused and many have witnessed other family violence. Because of VAWA, a broad range of services now exist to provide aid to victims coping with the aftermath of violence but much still remains to be done. Congress has a unique opportunity not only to continue successful and vital programs, but also to expand them.

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (S. 1197, HR 2876) will provide almost one billion dollars of federal funding per year for the next five years for programs to help end violence against women. It includes provisions to train police, prosecutors, and judges to better serve victims and hold offenders accountable, and will teach medical professionals how to recognize and respond to abuse. It contains provisions to ensure that rural communities, elderly, disabled, immigrant, communities of color and tribal nations—all of which experience violence at higher rates—get the funding they need to operate lifesaving programs. It will provide housing solutions so that when victims leave shelters, they have someplace to go other than the streets or back to their abusers. And for the first time, VAWA will provide services for children who witness domestic violence, for teens and young adults who are at the highest risk of violence, and for programs aimed at prevention.

VAWA also addresses the economic insecurity of survivors. Up to half of the women who are physically or sexually assaulted or stalked by an intimate partner in the United States each year will lose their jobs as a result of the violence, sometimes due to ongoing abuse, sometimes as a result of employment discrimination. The Act would require large employers to give victims 10 days of emergency unpaid leave per year to obtain orders of protection, deal with court matters, seek medical or legal assistance, or find safe housing.

Action: Contact members of Congress and ask them to make sure the Violence Against Women Act passes in its entirety before it expires September 30.

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

To find other members of congress, visit www.house.gov. For more information or to take action online, visit <http://www.stopfamilyviolence.org>.

AUDUBON, Continued from Page 1

Founded in 1896 for the protection of birds, Audubon has earned renown for successful conservation campaigns, from the elimination of DDT to the fight to save the California condor.

But over time Audubon's image fell out of step with the complex and increasingly polarized realm of environmental politics. Whipsawed by an array of disparate goals and hamstrung by diminished financial resources, in 1995 the environmental old guard put out a strategic plan to get back on track. Education had always been Audubon's touchstone, so the nonprofit launched an ambitious campaign to scatter 1,000 similar environmental education centers across the land, like a modern-day Johnny Appleseed.

National Audubon Society President John Flicker compares the task to the work of another germinator of learning, Andrew Carnegie, whose ardent support of literacy compelled

nearly ideal demographics: a diverse group of people with no local access to environmental education.

In order for the centers to take root in the community, they had to begin organically, in partnership with those who would use them, Castellanos says. Through focus groups with teachers, Audubon learned that transportation provides the biggest barrier between students and local environmental resources. So Audubon will help fund bus service to and from the center.

Castellanos said Audubon is planning the project with an eye toward how it can adapt to the community 20 years out. By touting research that links environmental education and improved WASL scores, Audubon has tapped into public education's nerve center.

"It's very important for us to be a true resource for teachers," Castellanos says. The WASL "is something they're being required to do, and we think it's the least we can do is make sure our programs help them."



NATURAL RECOURSE: CANDY CASTELLANOS, OF THE LOCAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, HOPES A SEWARD PARK LEARNING CENTER WILL ALLOW STUDENTS FROM FINANCIALLY STRAPPED SCHOOLS TO ENGAGE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD. PHOTO BY BROOKE KEMPNER.

him to fund public libraries across the nation, forming the basis for America's present-day library systems.

But unlike Carnegie's turn-of-the-last-century philanthropy, Audubon's plan is intensely local. In Washington, Audubon hired Deloitte and Touche to survey the state for the best candidates for the center. Seward Park topped the list because it combined eye-popping natural beauty with

Finally, students will find that environmental education is on the final exam. "They get a hands-on opportunity to take learning into the field and apply that to something they'll be tested on later," Castellanos says.

And if Audubon can insinuate its brand of conservation-minded learning into preparation for WA's standardized test, it could be the 109-year-old organization's most far-reaching coup yet. ■

HIJACKED, Continued from Page 1

"The mayor's plan amounts to little more than the expression of city backroom deal-making with developers, and the apparent ignoring of the community planning process," Carl wrote.

Among the arguments in the appeal, People of Pioneer Square say that it's illegal for the preservation board to allow the pergola to be removed from the historic district without an approved structure to replace it (a café or kiosk is planned in the future), that the Parks Department had no right to excuse itself from conducting an environmental review, and that pulling out 17 trees and putting in solid pavers in place of the disjointed cobblestones could starve the remaining 43 trees of water.

"If you take away 17 trees and leave 40 in an environment that's threatening to them, you may end up losing another 20 trees when the park's complete," Carl says.

On Monday, city Hearing Examiner Sue Tanner dismissed most of the group's arguments — but not the issue of trees.

Jim Klausner, the attorney hired by POPs to argue the case, says Tanner has scheduled a hearing Wednesday to determine what happens next. But he says it's unclear whether the Parks Department will be forced to conduct an environmental impact review.

David Goldberg, the Parks Department project planner in charge of Occidental, acknowledges that, in early 2004, the mayor called for a new design, for which the Parks Department hired New York consulting firm Projects for Public Spaces. But Goldberg says the move was based on resources: after seeing the community plan, the mayor decided the project needed more funding.

Except for the pergola's removal, Goldberg and Craig Montgomery of the Pioneer Square Community Association, insist that the elements in today's plan — including cutting down seven trees in Occidental Park and the nearby Pioneer Square Park — came out of the previous community planning process.

"The community decided there were reasons for trees to be taken

out," Montgomery says of the previous neighborhood planning. "In my opinion, the spirit [of the plan] stayed the same."

Renee Tanner, who served as the planning coordinator during the previous four-year process, disagrees.

After winning an \$890,000 allocation from the 2000 Pro-Parks Levy and getting a commitment of \$500,000 in football stadium mitigation funds from the South Downtown Foundation, Tanner and Kevin Carl say the community did develop a list of priorities that included cutting down trees — but just a few.

They say removing the pergola and benches were never in the plan. Jim Diers, executive director of the South Downtown Foundation and former head of the city's Department of Neighborhoods, agrees — one reason the foundation is only providing about half of the funding it originally promised.

"Four neighborhood groups and 2,000 people were involved in the planning," Tanner says. "It was a thoughtful and smart plan. We were going back and paying for the maintenance that Parks has failed to do for the last 30 years."

"It wasn't sexy," she adds. But, "There was a lot of sensitivity about what would stay, what would go, and who the park is for."

"And then everything came to a screeching halt and the mayor and [Parks Superintendent] Ken Bounds hired their people and started the process all over again" — a process, Tanner adds, that the mayor and City Council now claim the community developed and vetted.

Bigman and Tanner both say the city is focusing on capital improvements at the expense of the park's real issue.

"This is a poverty issue," Tanner says. By removing places for people to sit and lie down, "they're trying to wipe out poverty." ■

[Resources]

People of Pioneer Square, the group fighting the city's plan to cut down one third of the 60 trees in Occidental Park, has a website at www.ohnoyoudont.net. To see the design, go to www.seattle.gov/proparks/projects/pioneer_square.html.



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