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AUG. 24-30, 2005



TERRY HAMLEY, ACCOMPANIED BY SISTER, JERILYN, SITS OUTSIDE OF FIRECREST, A RESIDENTIAL HABILITATION CENTER IN SHORELINE. THE CENTER'S CLOSURE, TERRY'S HOME FOR 40 YEARS, HAS BEEN STAYED, FOR THE SHORT TERM, BY GOV. GREGOIRE. BY ANDREA LEE.

Life Inside

Fircrest closure on hold, but residents' families still ask: where to?

By KIMBURLY ERVIN
Contributing Writer

Terry Hamley has never known about his abnormal life. He does not know the taste of an orange and has never felt the fizz of a soft drink run down his throat. If he ever did, it could lead to yet another battle with a common foe, pneumonia. He must be constantly monitored for behavioral violence against himself and those around him. He cannot bathe on his own or use the restroom without assistance. His seizure disorder requires treatment that led to the demineralization of his bones, giving him osteoporosis, which requires him to take even more medication.

Although Terry has faced these physical problems every day for over 45 years, he doesn't know the extent of his condition. He is unable to tell anyone how he is feeling. Terry does not know his story is unusual because his mental capacity is that of an infant.

Terry must rely on the people around him to advocate for his needs — especially at the place he has called home for over 40 years continues to be caught in the middle of a political debate.

Since 2003, Fircrest, a residential habilitation center located in Shoreline, has been faced with the threat of closure due to legislative pressure to shift public

funding from state-run institutional care to privatized community care.

The facility spans nearly 80 acres, but is currently only using around 30 acres. With a sales value of \$43 million, according to state estimates, the land is being viewed as a potential wealth of funding for the state's Division of Developmental Disabilities, but some are claiming that the costs to close the facility and the services that will be lost, it's just not worth the money.

"We've made the suggestion to offer low-income housing, even tent cities. We'd like to see the grounds at Fircrest put to use. We've got some places that are move-in ready," explains Marcy Johnson, a nurse who has been at Fircrest for 31 years and an advocate for its protection.

"Selling Fircrest to the highest bidder would make millions, but those millions are just millions. In the scale of things, the care that is being offered is priceless."

Today, around 500 staff members care for 186 patients with severe mental and physical disabilities 24-hours a day. Over the past year, the facility has moved 60 patients to private care or one of the other four state-run facilities, as the stress to consolidate mounts.

"There is constant budget pressure. We get new budget cuts every three to

Documented Difference

Congressional bills offer varying degrees of legal residency, labor protections to undocumented workers

By TOM COGBILL
Contributing Writer

There is a growing sense of urgency that national action be taken on the hot-button issue of illegal immigration. In some quarters, anti-immigrant sentiment, often thinly disguised as concern for national security (eg. the Arizona group Protect America Now that wants to bring that state's Initiative 200 nationwide, or the vigilante border-patrolling Minutemen) or electoral integrity (Washington's Initiative 343) is reaching hysterical proportions. Real Change asked several local immigrant-rights advocates to comment on various legislative proposals now pending in Congress for reforming immigration law.

In the Senate, the AgJobs bill (S 359 or HR 884) is an attempt to legalize the status of non-citizen farmworkers and to improve their working and living conditions. According to Hilary Stern, executive director of Casa Latina, the bill "has a good chance at passing." The United Farm Workers union supports it, as do employers and immigrant-rights activists.

However, Magdaleno Rose-Avila, executive director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and a former farmworker himself, says, "the McCain bill [S 1033] would come closer to protecting workers than the AgJobs. We want an overhaul of the immigration system." Senate Bill 1033, sponsored by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) but with bipartisan support, is a broader, more ambitious plan for correcting and protecting the status of undocumented workers. While he supports it, the chance of passage is "minimal," says Rose-Avila. "Reform's not going to happen in this Congress."

Among other things, McCain's legislation would allow undocumented im-

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The 43 Percent Problem

Federal government's help needed for children who are documented victims of abuse, but get nothing

By Rep. JIM MCDERMOTT
Guest Writer

There is no excuse large enough, vague enough, or partisan enough that can keep us from acknowledging the millions of American children who are abused, neglected, and forgotten.

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe environment, but all too often in America today, that promise goes unfulfilled. A patchwork of federal and state programs is employed to protect children from abuse or neglect, and to provide beaten and mistreated children with a safe haven. Unfortunately, this patchwork is a mess, denying far too many abused kids what they so desperately need and deserve: safety and stability ("Welfare Fate: \$12 million deficit, children's deaths heighten need for accountability and genuine reform in state foster care" July 27).

We can point to a steady and endless stream of statistics, reports, commissions, studies, hearings, research, and data that all say what many already know, sometimes from tragic experience. Our most vulnerable children — those abused, neglected, orphaned or separated from their parents, children who need nurturing and stability in their lives — all too often are hurt by the child welfare system just as they have been by the bad deal life dealt them.

The child welfare system is failing for three fundamental reasons.

First, there is little support provided to keep families safely together, although there is currently an unlimited federal commitment to fund services that support children removed from their home. In fact, only 57 percent of children who are substantiated victims of abuse or neglect receive follow-up services from the child welfare system. The rest receive no family counseling, their parents no parenting education or substance abuse treatment, no mental health service, no housing assistance

— nothing. Common sense tells us it is much better to have robust up-front resources to strengthen at-risk families and to prevent child abuse than wait for abuse to occur, and recur.

Second, federal eligibility rules for foster care exclude more than half of the children removed from their homes. And this number increases a little more every year because of out-of-date eligibility standards. This suggests a lack of federal commitment to a growing number of children, it robs states of necessary assistance, and it requires caseworkers to spend too much time navigating complex eligibility rules.

Third, we do not provide caseworkers the tools and resources needed to do their jobs effectively. Our child welfare system relies on caseworkers to inject themselves into difficult environments to investigate potential neglect and abuse of children. They remove children from their homes, and find them new and safe settings. They do very difficult work within a system that focuses its resources on serving abused kids already removed from their homes, rather than on preventing the abuse from occurring and keeping families together. It's a system that dampens innovation — a system more concerned with the cost than with the value of improving the well-being of children. Today's federal commitment to our child welfare system simply does not measure up to the compassion and dedication of those who seek to make the system work.

For the sake of these children and for the good of the country, we can no longer be content to heal the wounds of abused and high-needs children with band-aids. We need child welfare programs with built-in incentives to continually innovate, improve, and bet-

ter the lives of vulnerable children. We need a child welfare system concerned with every beaten and maltreated child, and committed to what we all agree they deserve: a safe environment. That's why I asked colleagues from both political parties to join me in introducing new legislation called the Leave No Abused or Neglected Child Behind Act, HR 3576.

Here's our five-point plan. First, the federal government will partner with any state that is willing to explore innovative ways to strengthen vulnerable families and protect children. We will extend the same monetary commitment to supporting families and preventing abuse that we now do to placing children in foster care. Second, we will hold states accountable for positive results by tying these new investments to improved outcomes for children. Third, we will assert a federal commitment to every child removed from his or her home because of abuse or neglect, not just to that dwindling number of children who meet outdated foster-care eligibility criteria. Fourth, we will do a better job of reaching out and helping relatives caring for vulnerable, high-needs children. And finally, we'll provide federal seed money to enable states to devise new ways to attract, retain, and support caseworkers — the critical backbone of the child welfare system.

There is no excuse large enough, vague enough, or partisan enough that can keep us from acknowledging the millions of American children who are abused, neglected, and forgotten. They look to us to help them find a home, a heart, and the hope that they too can live in a safe environment. It is time we work together to care for them.

Jim McDermott represents Washington's 7th Congressional District, which comprises Vashon Island and most of Seattle.



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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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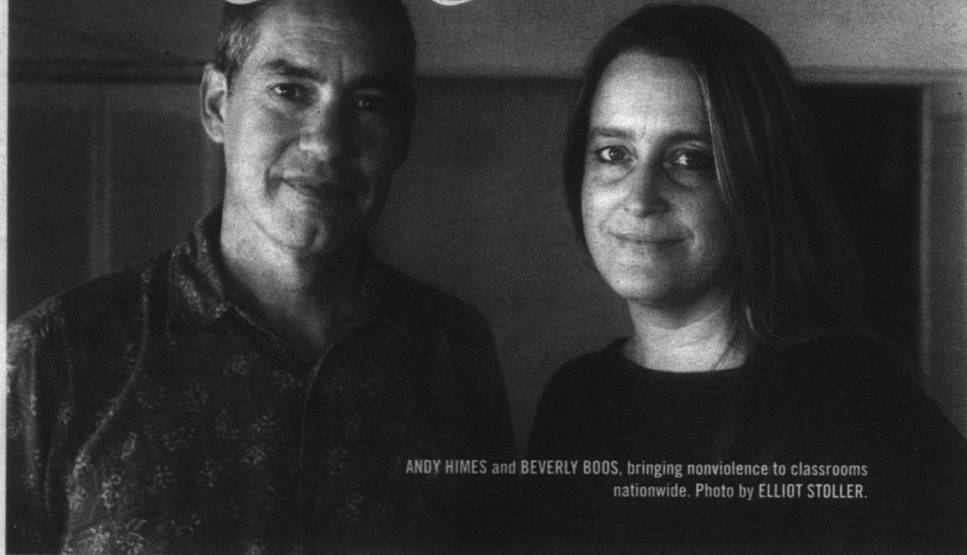
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Change Agent



ANDY HIMES and BEVERLY BOOS, bringing nonviolence to classrooms nationwide. Photo by ELLIOT STOLLER.

Last fall, when Andy Himes of *Voices in Wartime* debuted a documentary film about the human experience of conflict and its aftermath, something clicked for Beverly Boos, the director of the Bainbridge Island based organization Opening of the Heart.

"I felt like we had so much in common," says Boos. Like the educational materials her group provides to schoolteachers, the film "includes all perspectives in creating sustainable solutions to conflict."

Now, Himes' organization is merging with Opening of the Heart (which is influencing curricula in Chicago, Boston,

St. Louis, Seattle, and Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin) to bring the film — and a discussion of where war comes from — into classrooms across the nation.

These could be "potentially painful and contentious" debates, Himes acknowledges, but not necessarily — so long as students understand there's nothing to fear from talking.

Much of the time, Boos says, that means people just have to listen. "We feel safety once we've been heard. It increases our capacity to embrace difference: 'If I'm nurtured, I've got more space for you.'"

—Adam Hyla

No parking

City not accountable to citizens on Montlake remake

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Writer

A proposal to let a private Catholic high school pay up to \$2 million to refurbish the city's Montlake Playfield has raised neighbors' hackles — and revealed a fact about Seattle parks and citizen input that's notable for other park projects: In the long haul, the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department says, there's really no way citizens can hold it accountable to any agreement it makes with a neighborhood.

Montlake is a city-owned playfield that students of the Seattle Preparatory School have used since the 1960s for baseball, football and track practice. Some neighbors worry the project will cause traffic to shoot up and, in the future, lead the city to put up lights that could clip property values around the park, which borders Portage Bay just south of the University of Washington.

For other neighbors, the concern is more basic: After Seattle Prep spends \$1.5 - \$2 million of its own money to fix up the ailing, often-flooded playfield, who will really own the park and be entitled to use it?

"It is a public park. It will continue to be owned by the city of Seattle," says Bob Graby, vice president of development at Seattle Prep. "It is certainly not our intent, nor have we requested that we own the park."

The proposal, which the Board of Parks Commissioners will vote on Thursday, is part of a \$14 million capital improvement project at Seattle Prep for which the school plans to raise its own funds. Under the plan, which was first floated last fall, the school would pay for moving the park's baseball and football/track field to the west, away from their current sinkhole near the water.

Eighteen trees would be cut down to make way for the new fields, which would be artificially surfaced — or Astro-

turfed, in the case of the baseball and football fields. Graby says Seattle Parks will still be in charge of the park and its playfield time, which will be allotted according to traditional use, with priority going to the park's top two users: the Montlake Community Center and Seattle Youth Soccer.

"We are trying to put some money into a park we've used for many years for two reasons," Graby explains. "We benefit because our athletic teams practice there. We also feel we're doing something good for the community" by upgrading the fields for Little League and other groups.

"We look at it as a win-win situation," Graby adds — one in which Seattle Prep doesn't want extra traffic or lighting, either.

At a board meeting on July 28, parks commissioners discussed whether a no-lights provision could be put in writing with Seattle Prep. But Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds said such an agreement would not be binding on future parks boards or city administrations.

That, and what the city's plan is for maintaining the park and mitigating any extra traffic, still concerns some residents who spoke at the meeting.

Montlake-area resident Fred Wardenburg says most neighbors feel good about how Seattle Prep has handled the proposal, including its response to the community. After input at earlier public meetings, Seattle Prep dropped plans to build a new softball field and expand a parking lot and tennis courts at the park.

With regard to lighting, "The dilemma there is that whatever the city says now — that we will never put up lights — can be reversed in the future," Wardenburg says.

[Event]

Seattle's Board of Parks Commissioners will take public comments before voting on Seattle Prep's proposal to refurbish Montlake Playfield at a meeting Thurs., Aug. 25, 6 p.m., at the Parks Department headquarters, 100 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle. For information, call 206-684-5066. Comments can be e-mailed to the board at sandy.brooks@seattle.gov.

Just Heard ...

Qwest: contract complete

Communications Workers of America (CWA) have reached a tentative agreement with Qwest after more than two months of negotiations.

Brenda Roberts, president of Local 7800, says she's pleased with the draft of the new contract. "It actually looks pretty good," says Roberts.

Included in the draft are annual wage increases of 3, 2.5, and 2 percent over the next three years. Mandatory overtime will stay capped at eight hours, the current maximum, and retirees' health premiums will hold at their present rate.

Roberts credits negotiations moving in their favor once CWA's executive board threw their support behind a strike. "I think at that point," claims Roberts, "the company [Qwest] started to take us seriously."

The 1,900 Seattle members will be briefed on the contract on Aug. 24 at the Labor Temple at 6 p.m.

—Rosette Royale

Activists: kicked to the curb

The relationship between law enforcement officials and protesters reached new lows last fall, when the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality got a permit to close streets and march — and then were forced to the sidewalks when police escorts, noting event organizers hadn't brought out as many people as they'd promised, revoked the permit.

The problem stems from the city's Parade and Special Events ordinances. Among other things, the local laws push on-a-shoestring activist groups like October 22nd to take out exorbitant insurance policies to guard against any conceivable mishap on the streets. They also allow the police to exercise their judgment in deciding when a parade license may be summarily revoked, putting marchers' plans (and their constitutional rights) out to dry.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Washington has joined the marchers in negotiating with the city this week. If the city doesn't show signs that it's willing to change the law, says a member of October 22nd, they'll go forward with a suit next month.

From the horse's mouth

Department of blatant self-promotion: KBCS is presenting a two-night public hearing from candidates for the Seattle City Council, and deploying panelists from community publications *ColorsNW*, the *International Examiner*, *Seattle Weekly* and *Real Change* to ask the questions. The free, public forums take place next Tuesday and Wednesday, August 30 and 31, at the Museum of History and Industry in the Montlake neighborhood. The event starts at 6, but in case you can't get there hear it live on 91.3 FM or watch it later on Seattle's Community Access Network (SCAN).

—Adam Hyla

Building Power

Edwards pledges allegiance to security officers' union drive

By ADAM HYLIA
Editor

"My mother and father have health care today only because of the union. My brother and his family have health care through his union. The greatest anti-poverty program in the U.S. has been the labor movement."

— Sen. John Edwards

Senator John Edwards' visit to Seattle last week was occasion to highlight the former Democratic vice-presidential candidate's continuing work on poverty issues. Edwards spoke with housing and labor activists and was joined at a rally August 17 on behalf of the region's security officers, about 200 of whom are organized by the Service Employees International Local 6.

"My mother and father have health care today only because of the union," Edwards told a cheering lunchtime crowd in Westlake Center. "My brother and his family have health care through his union. The greatest anti-poverty program in the U.S. has been the labor movement."

It was also a time to highlight SEIU's organizing success at Sound Transit passenger rail depots, where the Wackenhut agency fired officer Franklin Bullock this January for anti-union activity ["Sound Transit's Hard Labor," Jan. 19].

Bullock, standing off to the side of the Westlake Center rally, listened as his wife, Maureen Parker, a fellow security officer, talked about their financial difficulties since the dismissal. A military veteran, Bullock stood with the help of crutches; the Veterans Administration is six

months behind in processing his request for disability assistance.

"Health care is a big chunk of our family budget," Parker told the crowd, but through her union activity she's seen things get better.

"When Wackenhut refused to [negotiate with the union], they lost the account. Next month, I get a new uniform and become a member of SEIU Local 6," she continued, to rising cheers. "Victory is possible, and I will continue to struggle and win."

Security officer Mike Zuver, who works in Fremont, underscored the dignity he and other co-workers apply to their jobs — a dignity that can be deceptive, he said.

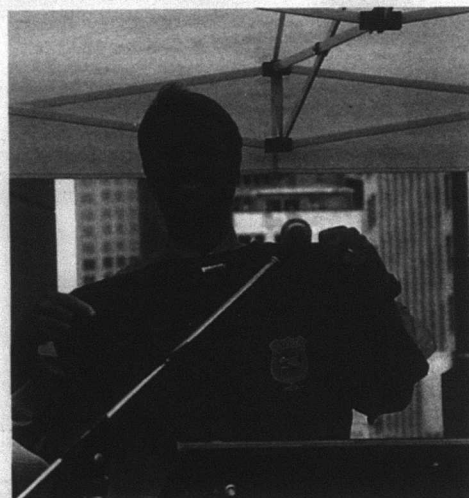
Addressing workers in the building he watches, Zuver said: "Because you see us every day in a jacket and tie and note how we take pride in our professionalism and courtesy, you might think we're doing okay. You might assume such important work wins us respect [from our employers]. That since you depend on us, we're treated as professionals. But it can be hard to admit that despite appearances, we're not making it."

According to a union estimate, there are 7,550 private security officers in King County — and their numbers may grow by as much as 22 percent over the next seven years. Meanwhile, the union states, the average starting wage is \$8.62 per hour — too little to

afford the health care co-payments most employers offer.

Having a well-trained, adequately paid and insured work force is good for public safety, said Edwards. "Can't we finally commit that no American should work full-time and still live in poverty? Part of the job of homeland security is having good security jobs filled by people who are well-trained and well-paid." He finished by promising to do "everything I can to empower you and all the great unions that are participating in this effort."

Rallying for security officers' financial security: former VP candidate John Edwards. Photo by Luke McGuff.



Short Takes

Ballot box gets higher

King County elections staff are working up a variety of reforms in time for the Sept. 20 primary: more training for poll workers, provisional ballots that can't be fed into the wrong machines. But new election guidelines handed down from the Washington Secretary of State spell more hurdles for people who might not have their ID handy. Next month, bring your driver's license to the polls — or your vote might be called into question.

Secretary of State Sam Reed last week publicly urged election administrators and voters to be keenly aware of several big changes for the September 20 primary. They're designed to "hold everyone more accountable," he says.

Public outrage over discrepancies unearthed in the course of the razor-thin Governor's race means that "the voting public sent a clear mandate for change," says Reed. "As a result, Washington's election process will undergo some of the most significant reforms in its history."

For the September 20 Primary, Reed's office, which has statewide authority to supervise the work of county elections' offices, will review local practices before, during, and after Election Day. That means bringing in a staff member to observe King County's ballot-counting process, then reviewing the work of Spokane and Yakima County.

Other changes are as follows:

- Returned ballots must be kept in secure locations until opening.

- Provisional and absentee ballots must be visually

distinguishable from one another.

- Statewide signature verification standards must be followed.

"Curing" a mismatched or missing signature during a recount is prohibited.

And for the first time, all poll site voters must present identification to elections workers before they're allowed to vote. "This extra step will protect legal voters and prevent fraud," says Reed. Voter registration forms state that registrants who knowingly provide false information are committing a class C felony. But penalties have been strengthened: double voting is now a class C felony and destroying a completed registration form or provisional ballot envelope is a gross misdemeanor.

Blaming the victim

An investigation that let students off the hook for racial and sexual harassment brought the State Human Rights Commission to Pullman, Washington, this summer to review Washington State University's rules for discipline when such charges arise. The resulting report is being called biased by advocates for the Asian Pacific American community and other local leaders.

A July 11 statement by the commission sums up the investigation by saying that WSU's "student conduct process is essentially sound and fair" but failed "because of lack of cooperation by some individuals who brought concerns to it, and because of strong rhetoric" — such as an e-mail mes-

sage calling for the expulsion of the guilty parties — "on the part of some of those individuals."

Those sorts of statements "did nothing to change our belief that Washington State University is not a very good place for Asian Pacific Islanders,"

says Doug Chin, president of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Greater Seattle Chapter. "There were serious flaws with the investigation and it did not recommend specific steps to address the issue of trust, which the task force identified as a key problem in its preliminary status report."

Diane Narasaki, chair of King County's Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, says Kim is a "woman repeatedly victimized: first by the white male students, then by WSU, and now by the Human Rights Commission."

While the commission has no direct authority over the university, activists had hoped a highly critical report would act as a lever to help force action. The group has its own recommendations instead. They include:

- Bringing in an outside agency to conduct a "fair, thorough and impartial investigation;"
- Holding campus authorities accountable when they don't take action;
- Spending money for minority student recruitment, fill the vacant Asian Pacific American and African American recruiter positions, and ensure that personnel have culturally competent anti-racism training.

- Adopting a clear anti-harassment and —discrimination statement.

- Creating meaningful and culturally sensitive support and advocacy for victims of discrimination on campus

"The Human Rights Commission Task Force did not do justice to the perspectives of the multicultural community on campus."

— Nina Kim, student, WSU

- Funding and implementing ongoing anti-racism training for administrators, regents, faculty, and staff from an outside agency; and

- Investigating and publishing findings on the retention of faculty and staff of color.

Nina Kim, victim of the harassment incident, shares her disappointment by saying the report "unfairly judged my perspective. The Human Rights Commission Task Force did not do justice to the perspectives of the multicultural community on campus."

— Adam Hylia

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Global Disgrace

Publicly unacceptable, violence against the homeless escalates in Europe

There is a unique scheme being piloted in London that gave homeless people the chance to report crimes against them at community centres, instead of having to go to the police.

By CATHRYN SCOTT
Big Issue Cymru

The attacks committed in Brazil against 16 homeless people might be brutal, horrific and above all cowardly [see First Things First, August 17], but they reflect the wider problem of hate crimes against homeless people, which occur daily across the world.

In April last year, British-based street newspaper *The Big Issue Cymru* and *The Big Issue South West* launched their Working Not Begging campaign following research from the organisations that found nine in 10 vendors were regularly verbally abused while selling the magazine and four in 10 had been physically assaulted.

In an special edition of the magazine raising awareness of such violence, Jody Clark, who works at *The Big Issue's* Bath distribution office, says that many vendors were put off reporting attacks because they felt there was a lack of support among police.

"There's a new game in Bath among the young drinkers called 'hit and run homeless'," he says. "When people are asleep in doorways, they are kicking them. The vendors say they get the blame if police are called because the other person is seen as the upstanding member of the community."

After liaising with various local councils across the country on how to protect vendors from attacks by members of the public, *The Big Issue* introduced sleeveless tunics to be worn by vendors to help make them more visible and to reiterate the message that what they are doing is working. Yet within a few weeks, another vendor was brutally attacked in St Ives. Graham Lewis, who had recently found accommodation after being homeless for 12 years, says he was left "scared and violated" by his attackers — who made it clear they were assaulting him because he was a *Big Issue* vendor.

It was little more than a month later, in August 2004, that we reported on these seven homeless people in Brazil who had been murdered and the eight others who were seriously wounded.

In November, *The Big Issue Scotland* reported an increase in assaults on its vendors, including one who was subjected to a terrifying attack by a screwdriver-wielding thug. The man was threatened that he would be stabbed if he didn't hand over his cash. He said it was the fourth such attack that had been carried out on him in the past six months. On one occasion he was robbed in broad daylight, in full view of passersby — none of who stopped to help.

In January 2005 we published a report from *The Big Issue Australia* on the increase in the numbers of attacks on homeless people there. Clint Risely, who had spent more than a decade on the streets of Australia, told how he had been stabbed, shot, doused with petrol, set alight, and repeatedly beaten. Other incidents in Australia included a 66-year-old homeless man who was set on fire by three teenagers as he slept, and a man who was bludgeoned to death while sleeping in an inner-city park.

This spring, news came of another UK vendor who was set on fire as he slept and suffered horrific burns. This vendor was so scared of repeat attacks that he didn't even want the city where he lived to be named in the magazine.

Two homeless men in Prague suffered similar attacks less than one month later. The first victim had oil poured on him and was set on fire while he slept on a bench. He suffered third-degree burns on most of his body and his injuries were so severe he could not be identified. The next day, a vendor of the Czech street paper, *Nový Prostor*, was set on fire after falling asleep on a tram.

Other organisations that work with homeless people are equally concerned about such attacks and at the end of June *The Big Issue* reported on a unique scheme being piloted in London that gave homeless people the chance to report crimes against them at community centres, instead of having to go to the police.

"The experience most rough sleepers have with police is an officer coming and telling them to move on, or else they have offending backgrounds," said Chief Inspector Musker of Lambeth Police, who helped conceive the scheme. "We are trying to get people to report incidents through a medium that is non-threatening."

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Law of the Streets

Have violent confrontations with the police knocked the wind out of the peace and justice movement?

Interview by ADAM HYLIA
—Editor

Look at the origins of this country and the fact that there's always been this tension between the people on the ground and the people who are in power.

People talk about Constitutional rights, but if you read it, the Constitution is an incredibly elitist document, it's the original NAFTA, setting up a new [economic] elite. We know about the Boston Tea Party, but you don't hear a lot about Shay's Rebellion or the Whiskey Rebellion.

— Attorney Paul Richmond

It's an interesting time to go to the streets to oppose the war, the WTO, or the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit. The police have militarized their ranks like never before. The threat of mass arrests and the use of pepper spray, tasers, rubber bullets and other less-lethal weaponry on nonviolent protesters chills concerned people's willingness to get out and march. In such an environment, what is most visible form of protest — the public demonstration — good for these days? How are massive mobilizations — like the one that took place outside Republican National Convention last fall — continuing a grand tradition of resistance, and how are the police short-circuiting people's rights to free speech and free assembly?

Jess Grant is a *Real Change* contributing writer, leader of the Joan Jett tribute band Jett City, and a longtime peace and justice activist. Rachel Bade is a global justice organizer who was active with Not in Our Name in the run-up and immediate aftermath of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Attorney Paul Richmond represents citizens caught in violent confrontations with the police, in protests or out. He authored a report on the WTO called "Waging War on Dissent" and produced a documentary film entitled *Urban Warrior: the Militarizing of American Law Enforcement*. Chris DeLaurenti is the composer of the audio montage on the back of this issue, who has captured the soundscape of WTO and this time, the Republican National Convention protests that took place a year ago this week. The four activists met with Real Change over pizza to discuss the place

of street actions within the broader movement for justice and peace.

Real Change: It seems like there might never be another WTO, where protesters got so close to the conference site and were able to lock it down. Do you agree?

Paul Richmond: You can look at this in the same way some people look at Pearl Harbor: that it was allowed to happen, because it...justified what they did to us.

Jess Grant: Less lethal weaponry, that's a concern in terms of our First Amendment right to assemble — but it's nothing new. Look at what they did to unionists in the '30s, look at the dogs they sicced on civil rights workers in the '60s, look at what they did to [House Un-American Activities Committee] protesters on the steps of San Francisco City Hall in the '50s. They used fire hoses.

RC: All this less-lethal weaponry, how does it change the nature of street protests?

Rachel Bade: If people are marching and someone gets hurt the world will see it more; it makes a much stronger message about what people are willing to do.

Grant: For me this begs a bigger question, "Why do we protest? What are our goals?" There's the liberal perspective, where you're petitioning your elected representatives or you're using the media to get a message out. Which is very different from people who take to the streets to create fundamental change by shutting things down.

Richmond: Look at the origins of this country and the fact that there's always been this tension between the



people on the ground and the people who are in power. People talk about Constitutional rights, but if you read it, the Constitution is an incredibly elitist document, it's the original NAFTA, setting up a new [economic] elite. We know about the Boston Tea Party, but you don't hear a lot about Shay's Rebellion or the Whiskey Rebellion.

Grant: Taking to the streets is only one part of a broader spectrum of tactics. I'd include the general strike: labor needs to become more militant and recognize the power they have to shut the system down. There's tax striking. American taxpayers pay for the war, but anyone who wants to be consistent in their opposition to the war should stop funding it.

Taking it to the streets: Anti-war demonstration on Capitol Hill's Broadway. Photo by George Hickey.



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Bade: Those images [of Americans marching against the war] got out to every part of the globe, and I know people in the Middle East for whom that was a real eye-opener: seeing all these Americans coming out against what their government was doing.

Richmond: Most of us acknowledge that this is one of the most destructive societies in the history of the planet, and on the other hand we're all trained that we should be successful within the context of it. That's why you'll have a lot more people

Continued from Previous Page

gather for a war halfway around the world than you ever will for a shooting by police in this community.

Bade: The main part of the movement drops off when things aren't so obvious or so egregious. But one thing to keep in mind about street protests is there can be lots of public education.

Grant: Another thing about street protest and its effectiveness: let's give some credit to Cindy Sheehan, who's parked on the side of a street too.

Bade: It's that factor of dedication. The peaceful marches from Seattle Center are really popular, because all it takes is a couple hours out of your weekend and then you're done.

RC: And the more that happens, the happier and more relieved we are to see the Cindy Sheehans or the Rachel Corries of the world come along....

Richmond: I think we have to look also at the RNC and its aftermath in terms of what our own expectations did to us. There was so much energy that went into defeating Bush and then the election happened, and I think there were obviously some sorts of [electoral] oddities. We had the Democratic candidate pull out the rug from anyone who wanted to challenge [the election fraud]. And suddenly everyone who had put all their eggs into this basket — I don't know if it was a form of mass depression, but where the hell did they go?

Grant: [Or look at] the apparent apathy after the [start of the Iraq] war; millions marched but the war went on anyway. But there's an educational piece in there. [People] are disillusioned, but that might be a good thing.

RC: Why is it that there have been so few acts of resistance in relation to the Iraq war?

Chris DeLaurenti: People are so afraid of appearing that they don't "support the troops." When we all know that the troops drop bombs on kids and are responsible for killing thousands of them. But people don't want to talk about that.

Grant: Every body bag that comes home has a ripple effect. As those numbers grow, that's one thing that can tip the balance — and there will be more Cindy Sheehans.

RC: Paul, do you think that there's a certain kind of person who winds up in a confrontation with police that results in you representing them in court?

Richmond: I think they [police] pick people who have fewer resources or who will be discouraged.

DeLaurenti: [The RNC was] the first time I noticed that I'm a big person and might be kind of intimidating [to the police]. Who were they getting? Some of them looked like they might be 14-year-old girls. Why? Because they were barely five feet tall and two cops, instead of five, could take them down.

Grant: Let me offer an exception to this. Larry Hildes was one of the people injured by less-lethal weapons at the LEIU and he's a fairly big guy with a bright green t-shirt that said "Legal Observer" on it. When they fired at him the thinking may have been different. Not "Here's a vulnerable person," but rather, "Here's one of the leaders and we're going to nail him because we don't like him."

Richmond: It's why I don't wear one of those t-shirts; it's like going to a karate convention with a "kick me" sign on your back. Police are really good arguments for reincarnation; most of them were little dogs in their past lives. If you run away or show fear they will chase you. But if you stare them down, they generally don't know what to do.

Grant: I think that's a good segue into one of your questions, Adam: Do theatrical

efforts turn people off or get them to smile? During the WTO, [there was] a very intense standoff and it looked like it was about to get violent. Then a dance troupe started ohm-ing and pretty soon the whole intersection is ohm-ing, and it totally de-escalated the situation.

Bade: That doesn't always work, though. Down in Pioneer Square during the war protests, when the protesters de-escalated, the police kept bringing in more and more troops.

Grant: I like it when Infernal Noise Brigade [the INB, an anarchist marching band] shows up, because the chants get so old.

Richmond: "A slogan exhausted ought never be repeated?"

Grant and Bade: Exactly. (laughter)

Bade: And then there's the fact that, even if you're there for a serious purpose, a drawing together of community strength of that size is worth celebrating. When you've got the INB, people's spirits seem to lift.

DeLaurenti: People forget, too, that sound can be a nonviolent weapon. The Romans used it; marching bands were not only for signaling but also for intimidation. Anyone who researches medieval combat will find [techniques] that can still stymie and baffle the police.

Grant: One of the great sources of disagreement in the streets is over [the definition of] violence. I saw this at WTO outside Niketown, where a couple of kids got up on the roof and were taking the Nike sign down letter by letter. The guy next to me is yelling up to them, "No violence, no violence!" And I took issue with his definition of violence. Violence, to me, is harm against a living thing: you hurt somebody, you kick an animal, that's violence. Destruction of property is not violence; it's only capitalism that

equates property with sentient beings. I think if you dismantle a tank that's going to kill people, you have done a very nonviolent thing by destroying that piece of property.

RC: I'd like to close with a question about Cindy Sheehan. What's the next possible good outcome of the Cindy Sheehan media blitz and of her being in Crawford TX?

Grant: I think it brings home the importance of physicality and geography. We tend to do a lot of [online activism], but there's something about the immediacy of getting in the streets and putting your body in proximity to something you oppose.

Richmond: I do wish that there were as many people in Seattle as informed about Anwar Peace's one-person demonstration about Black people killed by the Seattle police. Anwar's facing charges for doing the same thing as Sheehan, and where's the outrage?

Bade: Cindy Sheehan has re-opened the discussion. Any time one person takes a risk, it emboldens others. It allows

people to say, "I see this happening, maybe I can do it too."

DeLaurenti: Sheehan camped herself there while he was on vacation — not in front of the White House, where everybody goes.

Grant: She's the personification of the Gandhian principle of speaking truth to power. She's truth, he's power.

We tend to do a lot of [online activism], but there's something about the immediacy of getting in the streets and putting your body in proximity to something you oppose.

— Jess Grant, peace and justice activist

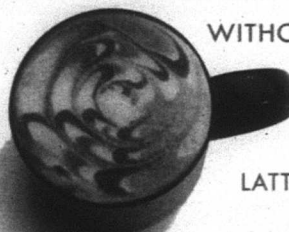


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Building Bridges

Author Evan S. Connell's pair of novels are a match made in heaven

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By Evan S. Connell
Paperback, 246 pages, \$14

Mr. Bridge
By Evan S. Connell
Paperback, 376 pages, \$14
Both released by Shoemaker & Hoard, 1990

By JOHN SISCOE
Contributing Writer

Evan S. Connell's remarkable pair of novels, *Mrs. Bridge* and *Mr. Bridge*, have recently been reissued in paperback by Shoemaker & Hoard. There is nothing quite like them in American literature.

I Love and Marriage

Her first name was India — she was never able to get used to it. It seemed to her that her parents must have been thinking of someone else when they named her. Or were they hoping for another sort of daughter?

— *Mrs. Bridge*

Set largely in Kansas City in the 1930's they depict Walker and India Bridge who live in a well-appointed house in an exclusive neighborhood. Walker is a successful lawyer who

spends long hours at the office. India is a society matron who defers to her husband on all matters. Proper manners and correct behavior, the "right" way are important to them both, and they strive, with varying degrees of success, to impart their principles to their children.

The novels are a series of short vignettes or episodes — they're too short to be called chapters — that are often only a few pages, sometimes a few paragraphs long. Connell's technique enables him to find a path to his true subject — the emotional lives of the Bridges, lives that they can neither share with each other nor fully articulate to themselves.

This stifled isolation, from which there is no escape, give these novels a tragic sense that rescues them from being merely deft social commentary. The Bridges could easily have been figures of fun, caricatures of the American dream. That they come off quite differently is a tribute to Connell's artistry and compassion.

Many people may think they know these novels because they saw the

film *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge*. But for all the abilities of Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman in the starring roles and the expert direction of James Ivory, the movie fails to deliver the unsparing power of these deceptively quiet books, in which there is not a random or wasted word, in which nothing matters, and everything matters.

Evan Connell was born in Kansas City in 1924, and the Bridges are said to be based on his mother and father, as their son Douglas is based on himself. All this must be true to some extent, but finally, it is unimportant. Transmuted by art, Walker and India Bridge now speak to us all.

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

I Love

Often he thought: My life did not begin until I knew her.

She would like to hear this, he was sure, but he did not know how to tell her.

— *Mr. Bridge*

Stringing Out Growing Up

Funny Ha Ha
Written and Directed by Andrew Bujalski
Running Time: 90 minutes

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

Those often awkward, post-college years of the twentysomethings are frequently overdramatized. For the most part, this period in which we "discover" ourselves is neither marked by the snappy patter witnessed on *Friends* nor an inextricable opium-den plunge into drugs and hardcore sex. With few exceptions it's a rather a droll existence, most frequently occasioned by embarrassment suffered in social interaction with people much like oneself.

Such is the setting out of which writer/director Andrew Bujalski draws *Funny Ha Ha*, his tale of society's excruciatingly drawn out coming-of-age process. At 26, Mr. Bujalski obviously knows of what he speaks.

Funny Business:
While trying figure out her life, Marnie (Kate Dollenmayer) meets a suitor at work in *Funny Ha Ha*.



This story of despondency and redemption rides on the shoulders of non-professional actors. While they display timidity, it plays well in characters that are perpetually unsure of themselves.

Funny Ha Ha could also be entitled *The Crucible of Marnie*. At 23, she has just lost her job, is a bit too fond of alcohol and appears to be on the ricochet rather than the rebound, her "relationships" literally measured in seconds.

The habitat in which our heroine seeks to hook up is not supportive, especially to women. The eligible are inelegant: young engineers, with personalities as bare as the dot.com décor of their start-up companies. Most are more adept at constructing strings of code than of conversation. Their get-togethers consist of canned beer and stale conversation. The alcohol, rather than serving as a social lubricant, dampens the already stuporous and unleashes the lechery of so-called friends. Marnie's (Kate Dollenmayer) future does not look promising.

But as fate would have it, at her new job, up pops a suitor. Implausibly, his social skills are even more challenged than those who preceded him. And as unattractive as he proves to her, his exaggerated deficiencies make evident the cipher to her puzzled existence.

In a manner so casual the significance is almost lost, she gives her personality a makeover. She makes a list with such items as are the stock-in-trade of \$19.95 self-help books: stop drinking for a month, exercise, learn to play chess. As a result she turns the tables on herself and everyone else.

Purposely ironic, *Funny Ha Ha* is just the opposite. It is composed of the scenes in our lives that we would rather not recollect. It's the stuff that resurfaces, at its convenience, and makes you squirm.

In his impressive directing debut, Bujalski displays an uncanny ability to capture the most personal and subtle of our interactions. His aptitude for nuance enables him to suggest humiliation and longing as lingering hues rather than events.

His method, while initially seeming quite rough and amateurish, turns out to be not only appropriate but essential to the character of the film. The result is a statement of rare and compelling lucidity.

Funny Ha Ha plays at the Northwest Film Forum Aug. 26 to Sept. 1.

Adventures
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning



I am not going to attack the Bellevue City Council or their feeble, unconstitutional attempt at law-making. Instead I am going to embrace their puny law, and, out of my joy from the sands of the Bora Bora of my head, I am even going to celebrate this piece of putrid rotting legislative roadkill.

Two months since Bellevue approved its new regulations regarding organized homeless people's encampments, my regular readers might wonder why I have taken so long to bring it up. The answer is, I don't really like to write in a rage. I like to have been in a rage, and then have calmed down enough so I can pretend I'm writing in a rage, but actually in my mind be on a tropical beach at Bora Bora contemplating sunbathers, and what is a Bora Bora, anyway?

Where was I? Oh yes, back in Puget Sound, Bellevue has passed an asinine new law. Either the whole law, or substantial parts of it should be struck down by the courts, and the ruling judge or judges should tell the majority of the Bellevue City Council that voted for this travesty the whole truth about their mamas.

But I am not going to attack the Bellevue City Council or their feeble, unconstitutional attempt at lawmaking. Instead I am going to embrace their puny law, and, out of my joy from the sands of the Bora Bora of my head, I am even going to celebrate this piece of putrid rotting legislative roadkill.

I'm going to offer some suggestions as to how Bellevue can beat the courts and not have their pathetic law struck down, by making it even more stringent and draconian than it is.

For example, there is a provision in the law that was passed that said that only "entities with a religious purpose" may host a tent city encampment. What a wonderful idea. Let's strengthen this provision by making sure the underlying principle is applied to everyone in Bellevue, not just homeless people.

To get away in the courts with requiring that homeless people can only live in groups on established church lands, Bellevue needs to

carry that to the people as a whole. All high-rise apartment buildings should be turned over to established churches, or they should be vacated and demolished. Any building or property where two or more unrelated people live must be under the control of a government-recognized church. It won't hurt anyone (aside from stepping on the rights of secular landowners, but screw them, this is government), it will just make all our lives safer, because only churches have what it takes to keep our cities safe from... people.

Speaking of being safe from people, another provision of the law says that either the managers or the host of any tent city in Bellevue is required to report to officials with Public Health - Seattle & King County any resident who has a communicable disease. Now, I like this provision of the law, but in the interest of Equal Protection and Due Process and Constitutional Crank Term This and Constitutional Crank Term That, I think it doesn't go far enough.

The fear is that all those people being so close together in those separate tents will pass diseases one to another and trigger the next Black Plague. I totally have this fear. I get it from looking in the window at the SAFECO building and seeing acres of insurance slaves working in tiny cubicles. I get it from seeing hundreds of people shoulder-to-shoulder for hours at a time in the stands at Little League games. I get it from seeing Bellevue City Council members sitting next to each other at hearings. Those people could have germs too! We must be vigilant! Do you want to die from "the B'vue City Council Plague of '07"? The time to prevent it is now!

So let's just expand the law like this: if you see people closer than six feet to one another (the typical distance between unrelated tent city dwellers) and you think one of them has a cold, you have to report them, or you go to jail.

By the way, all but one of the Bellevue City Council members' mamas got cooties.

Rage Against the Machine

In Memory: Sean Reid

Sean Michael Joseph Jack Reid died at the age of 23 on August 7 due to complications caused by cancer. He was raised in Renton, Washington and attended Kenneydale Elementary, McKnight Middle School, and Hazen High School. Discovering his love for journalism and writing in his junior year of high school, he pursued a life of reporting and poetry. He graduated from Seattle University with a degree in Creative Writing and a minor in Journalism.

While there, he became actively interested in political issues like local government, the pro-life movement, gay rights, elections, and current affairs both national and abroad. He was privileged to write and edit for the campus newspaper, *The Spector*, for three years, and then head the News Department at the campus radio station, KSUB, in his senior year. He was a guest columnist

for *The Seattle Times* and cherished the time he worked for *The Stranger* weekly newspaper. He wrote numerous stories for Seattle University's alumni magazine and participated in internships at *Seattle Magazine* and *Real Change*. As a journalist, he felt privileged to interview multiple artists in literature, music, and film on their work, including director Kevin Smith, John Flansburgh of They Might Be Giants, Tim Blake Nelson, Joseph Gordon Levitt, John Waters, and Don Mullan. His celebrity devotion reached its climax in October 2003 when, on a trip to New York City, he



was pulled out of the audience during a taping of *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and asked to introduce the guest list by its host.

In 2003, he put his love of film at work, editing a documentary on the psychiatric effect of internet sex work-

ers and a sports homage for Seattle University's basketball team alums. In 2005, he was honored to win *The Stranger's* 28th second film contest, where his short film, *Astronaut vs. Caveman*, was screened at the Seattle International Film Festival. When he wasn't writing or schmoozing with celebrities, Sean was feeding his desire for movies and television. His favorite shows included *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel*, *24*, *Farscape*, *The Sopranos*, *Six Feet Under*, *Dead Like Me*, *Family Guy* and *The Simpsons*. He also spent much of his time with his friends in Renton and Seattle, who helped him in everything from homework to stumbling home on his 21-run. He spent his final days with his girlfriend Jana, playing video games, seeing movies, and having fun with loved ones. He is survived by his mother, father, brother, grandfather, grandmother, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Sean contributed his considerable writing skills and bountiful enthusiasm to *Real Change* during the early months of our weekly publication schedule this spring. We miss his sense of humor, his no-nonsense work ethic, and his friendship.



Wednesday, Aug. 10, 12:24 p.m.,

Third Avenue and Bell Street. Victim, a transient white female aged 28, stated that the suspect, an unknown Black female, came up to her and shoved her for no reason. Victim fell to the ground and was punched repeatedly. Suspect then fled — an area search for her was unsuccessful. Victim was transported to Harborview Medical Center for treatment.

Friday, Aug. 12, 5:55 a.m., Eighth

Ave. N. / Harrison St. Officers contacted the suspect, a transient white female aged 34, at 8th and Harrison, a known high prostitution area. She was standing with another prostitute, and officers approached her and told her to leave the area. She agreed. About an hour later they drove by again and found the suspect waving at passing cars. She noticed the officer approaching and started to walk away. She was stopped and arrested for Prostitution Loitering, and booked into King County Jail.

Friday, Aug. 12, 10:40 a.m., S.

Washington St. Officers observed the suspect, a transient Native American male aged 58, and the victim, a transient native Mexican female aged 57, seated on a flower bed on S. Washington St. He and the woman were talking, and he was holding an open can of Steel Reserve beer. Officers ran both their names via police computer, and found that the female was a protected person in an Anti-Harassment order issued in May 2005, expiring in May '07. The suspect was named on the order, and restricted from making any communication with the victim, including personal, written or phone contact. The order was verified and the suspect was placed into custody and booked into King County Jail for violation. Victim stated they had been friends for 10 years, and that there was history of violence between them.

Friday, Aug. 12, 8:30 p.m., Wheeler St.

Officers were called to the 1500 block of Wheeler Street, an area inhabited by several transients who reside in homemade living arrangements next to the Burlington Northern Railway. Victim, a transient white female aged 42, stated that she and her ex-boyfriend, a transient white male aged 43, had begun arguing about her talking to other men. He had been drinking and was angry with her as he thought she was cheating on him. She explained that as they are not dating anymore, it was no concern of his. He got up and struck her in the face with the base of his palm. She fell off her chair to the ground and he continued to attack her, scratching her face and chest. She told suspect she would call the police. He fled the encampment, but is known to hang out in the lower Ballard area. Victim stated she did not need medical attention, and was given a case number and a brochure on domestic violence. An area check for the suspect was negative.

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.

FIRECREST, Continued from Page 1

six months. It's constant," says Bill Riddle, director of quality control at Fircrest. "I wouldn't say we're being picked on. Social services in general — shelters, mental health, dental health, and medical care — are always under pressure. Really, we're 100 percent over budget."

This June, Governor Christine Gregoire froze legislative plans, enacted during Governor Locke's administration, which would have closed Fircrest. Her staff are studying the benefits and drawbacks of state-run institutional care at Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs) like Fircrest versus community care. The study will cost tax payers \$182,000, with results due in January 2006.

But even with this halt in closure, DSHS has continued to tighten the budget waistline. On July 19, fresh budget cuts were issued to the RHCs around the state.

In a statement released by DSHS, deputy director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Don Clintman says, "Staff costs represent from 80 to 90 percent of the budgets of the RHCs, which means we will have to distribute the residents more efficiently at two of the institutions — Rainier and Fircrest."

With Fircrest receiving the brunt of the staff cuts, 28 out of the proposed 55, there seems to be continued pressure on Fircrest to downsize.

"It's not a DSHS decision, but a legislative or the governor's decision," explains Clintman about the transition from RHCs to community care. "The discussion is around efficiency, not the service."

See FIRECREST, Continued on Page 12

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And it needs a vision big enough for the long haul.



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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Go, Cindy!

Dear

I would like to add my voice of support for Cindy Sheehan, who is demanding that President Bush explain his reasons for sending our troops to war with Iraq. One by one the reasons for rushing to war have been debunked, refuted, or proven to be false. Yet, each day more and more people are dying in Iraq. When young men and women join the armed forces, they promise to put their lives on the line to defend our country. We, in turn, have an obligation to be sure that when we put our troops in harm's way, the threat is real. No more lives should be given to the Iraq war.

Steven
Seattle

Deft move for a draft

Dear

Parents and students need to know that there are options to being on government recruitment lists — that they need to fill out opt-out forms and send them to their students high schools, and also to the Pentagon's private company that is compiling lists of college students' private information records.

The Privacy Act does not allow parents of students access to their own child's college grades and

transcripts, but allows the military recruiters access to students private school records under the No Child Left Behind Act. Does this make any sense to you? It doesn't make sense to me, and the American public needs to be aware of what is going on under their noses.

Joyce O'Malley
Lake Forest Park

Chainsaws don't end homelessness

Dear

I am grateful for your August 10 article "Hijacked" by Cydney Gillis regarding Seattle's Occidental Park. I also very strongly object to the city's plan to destroy 17 mature trees and make other so-called "improvements." With the current, justified concern about the air quality in the Seattle area, it makes no sense at all to destroy mature trees at Occidental or other parks, thus lessening the air quality even more. Replacing 17 big trees with small ones would restore less than one-quarter of the loss in terms of air quality improvement, plus be an unnecessary expense for a city already facing budget problems in some areas.

There is a better solution: one which would preserve the park's assets and greatly reduce the problem of inappropriate behavior (drug dealing, boozing, violence, etc.) — and which would be cheaper as well. A couple of blocks from Occidental Park and not far from the fire station is a beautiful park, used by the public, which is surrounded by iron fencing, with two gates and a small niche for a security

guard. I have never seen that park abused. I urge the city to do the same thing with Occidental Park.

Another nearby park, City Hall, is having problems also. I am also aware of the controversy surrounding Steinbrueck Park where I have spent many happy hours over the years watching seagulls and the water. Question: if tourists and people, with homes are allowed to stretch out on the grass, why can't the homeless so long as they're not causing problems by their behavior? Tearing down affordable housing (like current efforts, and like demolishing single-occupancy rooming houses downtown years ago) creates more homelessness and social-service needs — benefiting only the already-wealthy developers. So, if the homeless are a problem, let's get them off the streets into affordable housing and appropriate social program (like drug treatment, where needed). This would reduce law enforcement and jail/prison costs considerably, in effect paying for itself.

Maria Abidin
Seattle

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

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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#20, that's 383-5426. www.emeraldspokes.com.

Community

Community Sale: Sunday, 10 a.m. - 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 @ Horner Harris Park, 2401 E. Howell (behind the YMCA at 23rd & Madison). At dusk. For info on this week's film, call 206.860.7764.

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Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 8/24

The New Heroes, a PBS series hosted by Robert Redford, profiles social entrepreneurs, the brave men and women who work for social change, economic development, and hope. The Social Enterprise Group presents a party and screening of the series. Tickets: \$15. 5-10 p.m., The Big Picture Cinema, 2505 First Avenue. Info: Anna Hurwitz, (206)903-8578.

Wednesday 8/24 - Saturday 8/27

"Chapter 8: Male Homosexuality" from the bestseller *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex*But Were Afraid to Ask* paints a dismal portrait of the lives of gay men. The play, *Sex*But*, transforms the chapter into a positive and hilarious theatre experience, including 1970s-style dance and an underwear fashion show. Show ends soon. Tickets: \$12. 8 p.m., Theatre Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. South, (206)972-9727.

Wednesday 8/24 - Wednesday 8/31

The art exhibit *Girl's Growing* is not just about blossoming, training bras, or menopause. Artists crack the glass ceiling of clichés about girls growing up and women growing old. Exhibit ends soon. Thursday-Sunday 12-5 p.m., SOIL Art Gallery, 112 3rd Ave South, www.soilart.org.

Thursday 8/25

The Northwest Environmental Education Council presents a screening of *The Next Industrial Revolution*. Architect William McDonough and chemist Dr. Michael Braungart collaborate with companies to develop environmentally friendly processes, products, and buildings. Instead of criticizing economic growth, the film shows how to create growth that works in harmony with nature's rules. 7 p.m., Camp Long Environmental Learning Center, 5200 35th Ave. SW. Information: www.nweec.org.

Friday 8/26

Seattle writer Randy Michael Signor returns from a sojourn in Chicago to read from his recent writings, including *"Crossing Over,"* which is featured in the new anthology *Meeting Across the River: Stories Inspired by the Haunt-*

ing Bruce Springsteen Song. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 South Main, (206) 624-6600.

Saturday 8/27 & Sunday 8/28

Tibet Fest celebrates Tibet's culture with a presentation of ancient stories told through music, movement, symbolic masks, and authentic costumes. A Tibetan style bazaar features handmade crafts, prayer flags, and more. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Seattle Center. Info: www.washingtontibet.org.



The launch party for the **South Asian Film Festival** features cultural performances, a dance party, comedienne Vijai Nathan, and screenings of experimental short films, including Oscar nominee *The Little Terrorist*. Tickets: \$18 advanced, \$22 door. Saturday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m., Seattle Art Museum, Pleschke Auditorium, 100 University Street, (206) 654-3100, www.seattleartmuseum.org. Info: www.tasveer.org.

Sunday 8/28

Seattle Peace Concerts presents R&B and Reggae group Septum's, Emmy Award winner Jimmy Hinde, electric blues guitarist Mark Whitman, eclectic rock and funk musician Melissa Reaves, and more. Free, but non-perishable food donation for Northwest Harvest requested. Noon - 6 p.m., Volunteer Park, 1247 15th Ave E. Info: www.seapeace.org.

Monday 8/29

A collection of over 40 stories, *Renewing the Countryside: Washington* by Ingrid Dankmeyer, profiles people working to sustain and revitalize rural Washington. Topics include conservation, community, farming, ranching, and restoration. A book that speaks on a local and national level, it shows environmentally compatible economic development. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 South Main, (206)624-6600.

Tuesday 8/30

An ongoing forum on law and peace, this month's discussion topic, **"Iraq's New Constitution and Democratization in the Middle East"** is led by Professor Kristen Stilt from the University of Washington School of Law. Stilt draws from her research and Islamic texts to examine the legal and political changes occurring in the Middle East. RSVP requested, but not required: rewinn2003@yahoo.com. Noon - 1 p.m., Offices of the Washington State Bar Association, 2101 Fourth Ave. Suite 400. Info: (206)727-8200.

Director's Corner



It's the dog days of summer. Congress is on recess, the city council is on vacation, the phones and email are quiet, and I did 70-plus down 1-5 this morning during rush hour. With many of our regular readers out of town, we're down from our usual 11-12,000 papers a week to about 10,000.

But this morning, about 8,000 homeless people in Seattle didn't take a vacation. Only about half of these woke up in some form of shelter. While Seattle does better than most cities in offering services to poor and homeless people, we've never met more than half the need. For many, the price of housing is simply out of reach.

Last year, the homeless one-night count found 2,216 people sleeping outside in cars, parks, alleys, greenbelts, and anywhere else they could go to avoid being conspicuous. The ones who really didn't want to be found weren't.

Some people ride the buses at night and sleep during the day. This gets tougher when the temperatures reach up into the 80s. Others just walk around until morning. If you get out at 3 am you'll see them, burdened and alone, moving through the night.

Wherever you find affluence, you can bet that somewhere, someone has paid the price in ways that aren't obvious. It's easy to not see poverty. It's hard to remember that we're all responsible.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Social Security: Hands off

Issue: A plan proposed recently by Senator Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) and a similar plan presented by Rep. Jim McCrery (R-LA) would create private accounts funded by the surplus taxes that will be paid into the Social Security system for the next 11 years. This might sound like a new type of plan for Social Security — but it's still privatization.

Background: Social Security is too important for everyone's future to risk privatization. Consider these facts from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities:

About half of the elderly have incomes that, without Social Security, leave them below the poverty line; Social Security lifts 13 million elderly Americans above the poverty line; Social Security does more to reduce poverty among children than any other government program; one-third of beneficiaries receive survivors' benefits or disability insurance benefits; 10 million beneficiaries are adults below the age of 65, and 4 million are children.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in August 1935, which established a basic compact between generations: younger workers would contribute payroll taxes, and retired workers would have a more secure retirement. Presidents from Eisenhower to Reagan have signed landmark Social Security reforms to also provide disability insurance, index benefits so people would not become poorer as they grew older, and reform Social Security to add decades to its life.

Social Security remains one of the most successful and effective government programs. It provides a universal benefit that is progressive and lifts millions of people out of poverty.

A balanced set of reforms may be needed to protect Social Security, but the DeMint-McCrery plans take us in the wrong direction. They don't improve solvency but actually siphon \$1.1 trillion out of the Social Security trust funds over the first 10 years. Social Security trust funds would not be adequately compensated for the money taken out and the difference would have to be made up with general revenues, federal budget deficits would increase drastically. The DeMint-McCrery plans would increase the budget deficit by \$89 billion in 2006 alone.

Action: Contact your members of Congress and urge them to oppose the DeMint-McCrery privatization plans.

Senator Maria Cantwell
(202) 224-3441 maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

Senator Patty Murray
(202) 224-2621 murray.senate.gov/email

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

To find other members of congress, visit www.house.gov. For more information or to take action online, visit www.chn.org and click Take Action.

FIRECREST, Continued from Page 10

But the families of residents who are unable to speak up for themselves, like Terry, are rallying together, supporting Fircrest and are being heard.

"My brother, how can he be integrated into the community? He's profoundly mentally retarded and most people don't see profoundly mentally retarded people," says Jerilyn Hamley, Terry's sister and member of Friend of Fircrest, a non-profit organization for friends and family members of the center's residents. "They might see moderately retarded, but they don't see profoundly mentally retarded. You're not going to see him in the public school system."

Friends of Fircrest has been a major advocate for keeping the doors of Fircrest open and keeping the people affected by the pressures, the residents, at the forefront of the debate.

"With the time, money, expenses it would take [for care in the community], if you have it here it just makes sense, it's cost-efficient," says Hamley. "You don't need the numbers if you stop and think about it. Its cost-efficient to use the facilities they have available here."

Fircrest offers a variety of services to its residents including 24-hour nurse care, an on-call doctor at all times, a dentist, infirmary, a clinic with psychiatrists and behavioral counselors, a kitchen preparing over 500 meals a day, a pharmacy, and an

activities workshop giving residents a chance to work and get compensation for simple tasks.

The funds allotted to an individual for care would remain the same whether that care is being administered in an RHC or in the community, according to Riddle.

"Here it is over \$400 per day, if you include the staff salaries, medication, pharmacy costs, food, transport and supplies," says Riddle. "With our budget, if someone moves out, then our money available for care moves up."

According to the DSHS, last year, \$319 million — about 33 percent — of the DDD budget was spent on the 1,000 residents who reside in the RHCs. Forty-three percent, or \$399 million, went to community-based services serving 19,285 people and 24 percent, or \$234 million, went to people receiving services in their homes.

"Of course, there are people who have moved into the community who have done very well," Johnson explains. "But if there were enough group homes where all the residents could live in the community and get their needs met, then that would be great, but that's just not happening."

"These are the most fragile people in the population and we feel they need to have a safe, protected place where their needs are met," asserts Hamley. "We see Fircrest as that place."

WORKERS, Continued from Page 1

migrants with an employer-verified work history to legalize their status by paying a \$1,000 fine, a hefty application fee, and all their back taxes. They would then be granted a three-year temporary residency, with the option to extend another three years and then acquire permanent status. The bill would fund English and civics classes for workers and reimburse hospitals for emergency health care. It directs the Labor Department to monitor employers for labor abuses.

Unlike Rose-Avila, "I'm hopeful the McCain bill will pass this year," says Rebecca Smith of the National Employment Law Project. She points out that the provision granting eventual permanent status is an important safeguard of workers' rights, since in the event of labor disputes they can't just be fired and deported, whereas "the Cornyn-Kyl bill [S 348, sponsored by Sens. John Cornyn (R-Tx.) and Jon Kyl (R-Az.)] does little to protect labor."

This competing bill also proposes creating a verifiable, temporary non-citizen workforce, but would require illegal workers to first leave the country, then re-apply for work from abroad. A worker would be granted status for a two-year period, have to leave the country again for one year, then could come back for another two-year stint. Unlike AgJobs or the McCain bill, a path to permanent residency is non-existent.

"The McCain bill, yes, addresses the issue of undocumentedation and

gives some benefits to a small number of individuals — but it's very much linked to border security," says Carlos Marentes of the community group Comité Pro-Amnestía. "It addresses the security wants of conservative Republicans. They will do the minimum [to help these workers] — whatever costs them the least politically."

Roberto Maestas, executive director of El Centro de la Raza, concurs. "Politicians are on some other planet. People are here, seeking survival, due to economic policies they had nothing to do with."

He, Marentes, and CASA Latina's Stern all favor a general amnesty for all undocumented workers.

"Economic and political policies are causing the problems, not immigration law," says Marentes. "Basic human rights is the real issue."

[Immigrant reform in Congress]

AgJobs (S 359 or HR 884) offers legal status to undocumented workers who have been working continually in agriculture.

The Cornyn-Kyl bill (S 348) sets up a guest worker program, requiring workers to leave after five years of working in the U.S., and offers no path to permanent residency.

Sen. John McCain's bill (S 1033), the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, allows for residency after undocumented workers pay a \$1,000 fine and undergo a criminal background check, then get a six-year visa, moving them to permanent residency.

BONUS AUDIO CD

Live in New York at the Republican National Convention Protest September 2 - August 28, 2004 welds combative field recordings of the various protests and art actions to police transmissions, NOAA weather alerts, radio broadcast anomalies (splashes and sprays of tape hiss, enigmatic numbers glossolalia, crude phase encoding), and wild card audio snatched from the airwaves into a vivid soundscape of dissent.

Recorded, mixed, composed, and mastered by Christopher DeLaurenti, a Seattle-based composer, improviser, and music writer. He composes solo, chamber, and orchestral music for electronic as well as acoustic instruments. Much of his work uses the pertinent sonic materials of social change: topical field recordings, battlefield audio, eyewitness testimony, and other relevant sonic documents. Christopher's music resides at delaurenti.net along with many music-related essays, scores, and articles.

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