

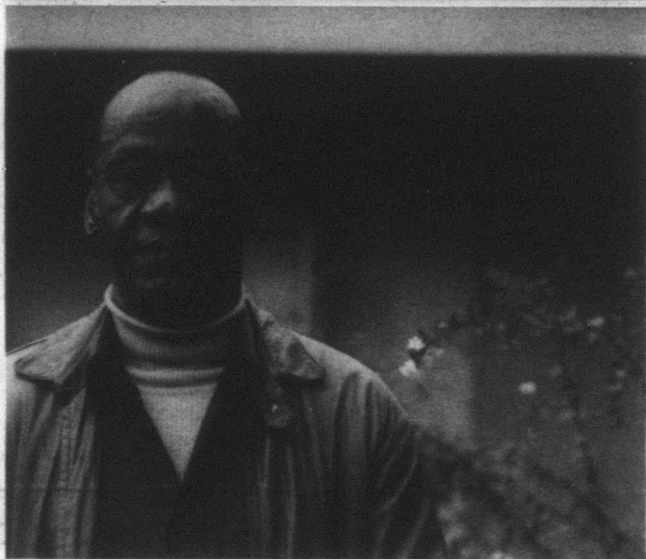
YOUR VENDOR BUYS THIS PAPER FOR 35¢ AND KEEPS ALL THE PROCEEDS.

PLEASE PURCHASE FROM BADGED VENDORS ONLY.

WWW.REALCHANGENEWS.ORG

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

OCT. 19-25, 2005



JOHN AKBAR SAYS HIS SON, HASAN, WAS GIVEN AN UNFAIR TRIAL IN A MILITARY COURT-MARTIAL. NOW THAT HIS SON HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH, AKBAR SAYS HE'S WORKING TO HAVE THE CASE RETRIED. PHOTO BY SUZANNA FINLEY.

The Father, The Son, The Holy Ghost

A father fights for a retrial for a son sitting on military death row

By **ROSETTE ROYALE**
Staff Reporter

John Akbar hadn't seen his eldest son, Hasan, in 20 years. Then, one evening, he sat down to watch television.

Displayed on the screen was the image of a soldier, encircled by a cadre of military police. A newscaster clued in viewers to the name of the man caught in the center of the human fortress, but Akbar, 63, says he didn't need to be informed of the identity of the person serving as the news item's nucleus.

"I knew my son," remembers Akbar, "I knew it was him."

Knew: the past tense. But what Akbar didn't know about his son, the night he says God moved him to watch the television, caused his heart to plummet like a runaway elevator in his chest: Hasan, then of the 101st Airborne Division, stood accused of killing an Army captain and Air Force major, along with injuring 14 other fellow soldiers, in a grenade and rifle attack in Kuwait. The attack took place on March 23, 2003, just days after the U.S. invaded

Iraq. Akbar says he caught the newscast, showing Hasan being shuttled under armed guard from a military facility in Fort Campbell, KY, to one in Fort Knox, in mid-Jan. 2004.

Akbar flew to Louisville. He made his way to Fort Knox, some 25 miles to the southwest. There, father and son reunited. "He's smiling," the senior Akbar recalls of their reunion, "I'm smiling. The bond was still there, you know. But the looming of death was there also."

Hasan was soon to be court-martialed on three counts attempted premeditated murder and two counts of premeditated murder for the attack. A guilty conviction could lead to the death penalty. Eventually, he was transferred to Fort Bragg, NC for trial. On April 21 of this year, Hasan was convicted on all counts. One week later, he was sentenced to death. Shortly thereafter, he was moved to Fort Leavenworth to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, the site of the military's death row.

See AKBAR, Continued on Page 12

Watching the Watchers, Warily

Citizen oversight of police remains hobbled by legal liability

By **ADAM HYLEA**
Editor

Three Seattle city councilmembers want to improve working conditions for the Office of Professional Accountability's civilian review board.

The all-volunteer board says changes are needed to ensure it can effectively monitor internal investigations of alleged police misconduct.

Last week, OPA Review Board member Peter Holmes asked Councilmember Nick Licata, chair of the council's Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Arts Committee, to propose "emergency" legislation to relieve the three-person review board's fears of liability for releasing personal information about officers.

Licata and fellow committee members Peter Steinbrueck and David Della co-signed an Oct. 11 letter laying out a timeline for drafting legislation.

The OPA "should not have its civilian review board operate under a cloud of potential personal liability," they stated in the letter.

Under current law, Holmes and his fellow boardmembers can be taken to court — personally — for any breach of officers' privacy, intentional or not.

There would be no problem, say members of the review board, if they had a clear definition of what kind of information would give away officers' identity. The City Attorney's office has opined that the board's reports violated officer privacy. It also refused to recommend any particular changes that would make the reports safe.

"This board is unanimous that officer privacy rights are extremely important and must be protected," says Holmes, "but it's unreasonable that we should have to report what we

See OPA, Continued on Page 1

ALL ROLLED INTO 1
Advisory Measure No. 1 asks voters to agree that health care is everyone's right. **2**

BREATH TOLL
Agencies put their heart into addressing the toll asthma takes on children. **3**

MEMORIAL WEIGH
Architectural board reviews entries submitted for homeless memorial. **4**

HOME BASE
For those just released from mental health care facilities, a place to come home to. **5**

ROE MOTION
Roe v. Wade winning attorney, Sarah Weddington, keeps her eyes on the Supreme Court. **6**

Change Agent.....	3
Just Heard.....	3
Short Takes.....	4
Poetry.....	5
Arts.....	8
Dr. Wes.....	9
Street Watch.....	9
Letters.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Director's Corner.....	11
First things First.....	11

Gotta Start Somewhere

Measure 1 adds momentum to national movement for right to health care

By BRIAN KING
Guest Writer

Imagine Seattle leading a growing parade of towns across the state and the country, all declaring that health care is a right. This would surely go a long way toward giving members of Congress, like our own Jim McDermott, the support they need to win the battle for real health-care reform in America.

On Nov. 8, Seattle voters will have the opportunity to make their city a national leader for health-care reform by voting "yes" on Advisory Measure No. 1. The advisory item asks voters to approve a statement that "Equal quality health care is the right of everyone in America." It also directs the Seattle City Council to establish a commission of experts to study the various impacts of the health insurance crisis in Seattle and recommend possible actions the city can take to improve this difficult situation.

Advisory Measure No. 1 does not require the city to solve the problem of health care by itself. It explicitly places responsibility for a solution to this crisis on the federal government and the Congress, where the resources exist to do the job. If the measure is approved, the council will be directed to communicate the opinion of Seattle's voters to appropriate state and national leaders.

For the past 18 months, Health Care for All-Washington has been working together with its sister organization, The Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans, on a campaign to build public support for a right to health care. As a group of volunteers, we passed a petition around Seattle that asked people to agree that everybody needs access to good medical care, and Congress should promptly pass the necessary legislation to make this right a reality.

More than 11,500 Seattle voters signed the petition, and we delivered the signatures to the Seattle City Council in July. The council welcomed our

effort and responded by unanimously placing our message on the Nov. 8 ballot. The cost to Seattle taxpayers to have this advisory measure on the ballot will be minimal because there will be other items on the ballot from the city. The charge to the city is the same whether we have one Seattle item or several, like this year's City Council races. Seattle's voters will have a chance on Nov. 8 to call on our Nations leaders in Congress to solve the health care crisis. We can vote "yes" on Advisory Measure No. 1!

Some, including the *Seattle Times* Editorial Board, question the wisdom of using our city's resources, however modestly, on such an effort. They say that the council acted frivolously by placing Advisory Measure No. 1 on the ballot. Yet 55,000 Seattle residents are uninsured and it is well established that not having health insurance leads to poor health. The Institute of Medicine, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences, says that 18,000 people die every year because they lack health insurance.

Last year Harborview Hospital saw its bill for uncompensated care almost double, to \$90 million. According to City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, the cost of health benefits has become the main sticking point in the city's contract negotiations with the unions representing city workers. Of course this issue is the legitimate concern of the City Council.

Some people have asked us, "Why carry out this campaign in Seattle, when it's Congress that has the resources to fix the problem?"

We realize that one city alone cannot take on the burden of assuring health coverage to all its people. It is the federal government that needs to hear our message: "Health care of equal high quality: it's everybody's right!" Congress can make this right a reality. But where do you start, if you believe that only a grassroots movement can get us past the current impasse on this issue? Our answer is that you start where you live, where the efforts of a small volunteer organization have a chance of making a big enough splash to be heard.

Keep in mind: when Seattle sounds its trumpet on this issue, other cities will follow. Imagine Seattle leading a growing parade of towns across the state and the country, all declaring that health care is a right. This would surely go a long way toward giving members of Congress, like our own Jim McDermott, the support they need to win the battle for real health-care reform in America.

On Nov. 8, be among those who say "yes" to Advisory Measure No. 1 and be part of a swelling national chorus that will one day make sure that in America, we have Health Care for All! ■

Brian King is a board member of Health Care for All-Washington and petition campaign leader.

ELECTION



2005

See First Things First on page 11 for Real Change's voting guide.

REAL CHANGE

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

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

Mission Statement:

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

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

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

On the Web at
<http://www.realchangenews.org>
Email rchange@speakeasy.org
ISSN 1085-729X

Who Is Real Change?

Board of Directors

Don Brown (President), Faith Wilder (VP), Mandy Levenberg (VP), Anne Bailey (Treasurer), Maria Sanders (Secretary), Wes Browning, Stephan Fjelstad, Margaret Koe, Rebecca Kavoussi, Gabriela Quintana, Jolo Tran, Erica Wiley

Advisory Board

Affiliations listed for identification purposes only: Sherman Alexie, Poet, Writer, Filmmaker, Nancy Arndie, UW School of Social Work; Kenan Block, Media Consultant; David Bloom, Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Actor; Kari Connor, Wongdoody; Walt Crowley, HistoryLink; Darrell Dent, Community Health Plan of Washington; Lynne Dodson, Jobs with Justice; John Fox, Seattle Displacement Coalition; Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember, Dist. 10; Jon Gould, Children's Alliance; Andy Himes, Poetry in Wartime; Bill Hobson, Downtown Emergency Service Center; Naomi Ishisaka, Colors NW; Sally Kinney, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness; Paul Loeb, Writer, Meizhu Lui, United for a Fair Economy; Sarah Luthers, SEAMEC, Allyship.org; Roberto Maestas, El Centro de la Raza; Paola Maranan, Children's Alliance; Joe Martin, Pike Market Medical Clinic; Vince Mathlouis, United Way of King County; Al Poole, City of Seattle Survival Services; Trisha Reedy, Richard Hugo House; Aiko Schaefer, Statewide Poverty Action Network; K.L. Shannon, Racial Disparity Project; Bob Siegal, National Lawyers Guild/Center for Social Justice; Rick Simonson, Elliott Bay Book Co.; Pat Simpson, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness; Hilary Stern, CASA Latina; Robby Stern, WA State Labor Council;

Peter Steinbrueck, Seattle City Council; Silja Talvi, journalist/essayist; Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society; Marilyn Watkins, Economic Opportunity Institute; Bruce Worth, KBCS; Alice Woldt, WA Association of Churches

Staff

Executive Director
Timothy Harris
Associate Director
Rachael Myers
Editor
Adam Hyla
Staff Reporters
Cydney Gillis, Rosette Royale
Production Manager
Rosette Royale
Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager
Brooke Kempner
Outreach Director
Israel Bayler
Vendor Services
Robert Hansen, Margaret Koe
Advertising Sales Representative
Candi Wilvang
Interns
Kwami Nyamitie, Desiree Stark

Editorial Committee

Arts, Mary Andrews, Wes Browning, Stan Burris, Morrie Condit, Anitra Freeman, José Ornelas

Contributing Writers

Rex Browning, Dena Burke, Harry Cheadle, Tom Cogbill, Jess Grant, Lester Gray, Patricia Gray, Jade Ingmire, Jessica Knapp, Megan Lee, Robin Lindley, Emma Quinn, Amy Roe, Jason Siegel, Kyle Serikawa

Photographers, Graphic Artists

Rob Casey, Tom Cogbill, Ken Dean, Terry Divyak, Tom Douglass, Sean Ellingson, Lance Hammond, George Hickey, Andrea Lee, Luke McGuff, Justin Mills, Meagan O'Shea, Dean Ritz, Elliot Stoller, Mark Sullo, Matthew Sumi, Craig Updegrave

Volunteers This Issue

Arts, Douglas Blair, Tige DeCoster, Sandra Enger, Suzanna Finley, Susanne Farham, Casey Fortenberry, Nadine Gioia, Sally Kinney, Brianna Morgan, Loretta Pirozzi, Dean Ritz

Change Agent



ELOUISE COBELL, standing for justice. Photo courtesy of KAREN KUEHN.

Elouise Cobell is fighting for a complete reckoning, a just compensation, and for the equality of Native Americans before the law.

With the stated goal of encouraging farming, Congress deeded reservation lands to individual Indians in 1887. Nominally private, the properties were controlled by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which leased to timber, mining, and oil companies. "The government came in and said 'You're stupid, you can't manage the land, we'll manage it for you,'" says Cobell, "and this happened for 100-plus years because people were too poor to fight back."

These companies never disclosed how much money was made. Cobell estimates it to be \$187 billion — money she's sued the BIA over. She's also working to wrest trusteeship from the government, so that Indians control the fate of their own properties.

Cobell will visit Seattle Oct. 28 to speak before the annual fundraiser of Social Justice Fund Northwest (www.socialjusticefund.org), a foundation that awards grants to grassroots organizations working for change.

—Adam Hyla

Dirty Driving

Three agencies work to counter asthma's impact on children

[Resource] CCEJ, ALAW and PSCAA offer tips for individual contributions to clean air. There's a list of diesel retrofit technologies at www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/retroverifiedlist.htm.

By EMILY PAGE
UW News Lab

Next year, highway diesel fuel in the United States will contain 97 percent less sulfur than its current formula. This will prevent further health impacts linked to diesel exhaust particles that especially harm the lungs. But it will not reverse some of the damage already done.

In 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule that all highway diesel fuel must be replaced with ultra-low sulfur fuel by 2006. This will prepare the bus and heavy-duty truck industry for the emergence of new, cleaner vehicle models in 2007. The EPA estimates that these new vehicles will emit 95 percent less pollution.

According to the EPA, exposure to diesel exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems, worsen asthma and existing allergies, and may contribute to lung cancer.

Asthma afflicts roughly 600,000 people in Washington state, according to the American Lung Association of Washington (ALAW). "You can't breathe. It's really hard and I have trouble sleeping at night," says Franklin High School student Reshonna of her asthma.

Reshonna is a member of Environmental Justice Youth (EJY), a branch of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ), which held a meeting last Wednesday to discuss the correlation between

asthma and diesel exhaust and raise awareness about ways to curb it. CCEJ is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing environmental, social and economic impacts on low-income people and communities of color. CCEJ, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), and ALAW are three of many organizations committed to curbs on diesel emissions.

A major concern addressed by these organizations is the high rate of children with asthma.

According to the EPA, children have a great risk of contracting asthma from exposure to diesel exhaust particles because they breathe in 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults. ALAW reports that children in central and southeast Seattle have the highest incidence of asthma in King County.

School buses are notorious for exposing children to diesel exhaust. A 2003 study by the Universities of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles concluded that riding in a diesel-fueled bus with the window rolled up puts the rider at the greatest risk. Air circulation from an open window also exposes the rider to diesel particles. And buses idling in front of schools generate significant amounts of exhaust.

Already, CCEJ, ALAW, PSCAA and many other nonprofit groups have seen legislative action based on their advocacy. Between 2003 and 2008, Washington state will fund the retrofitting of 7,500 diesel school buses. This program was signed into law in 2003 by former Gov. Gary Locke.

There is no cure for asthma, only measures to reduce or eliminate the triggers.

"If we can eliminate some of the triggers for asthma, then we can reduce the suffering," says CCEJ executive director Yalonda Sindé.

The EPA rule extends further than curbing DEP emissions from highway engines. Lower-sulfur fuel is required for all non-road engines in the U.S., used in industries such as construction, agriculture, and mining, by 2007. Ultra-low sulfur fuel is required for the same engines by 2010. ■

Exhaust from diesel-powered vehicles exacerbate allergies and may cause cancer — and are commonplace in central and southeast Seattle. Photo by Ken Dean.



Just Heard...

Exceptional shelter

Seattle's most cost-effective emergency shelter provider is getting some help in its staredown with the city's Human Services Department.

City Councilmember Nick Licata is lobbying his fellow councilmembers for a budget proviso to protect funding for 300 beds operated by the Seattle Housing and Resource Effort (SHARE). SHARE refuses to collect clients' personal information for the Safe Harbors Homeless Management Information System, the outcome-tracking (and, SHARE says, potentially privacy-jeopardizing) computer system that the federal government is pushing each municipality to implement.

Since SHARE isn't willing to go along with Safe Harbors, the Human Services Department is searching for a shelter provider who will. When they do, the city's money will buy fewer beds for adults in need ["Homeless to Housing," Oct. 12] — cutting off options just as the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness makes its debut.

Licata's proviso could authorize the department to hand out next spring's shelter money only after the City Council knows how many beds it stands to lose — and weighs that loss against the estimated number of people needing a place to stay at night.

Generous King

Unlike at the city, where local officials are invoking the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness to justify less shelter, over in the King County Courthouse the streams of money are at flood stage.

County Executive Ron Sims is taking the occasion of a lower-than-usual rise in health care prices to add to the pot of homeless services that make the plan work.

Among Sims' proposals are a \$4 million remodel and reopening of the Cedar Hills Addiction Treatment Center, where single women who suffer from drug addiction and were recently involved in the justice system could live, with their children, for up to two years. Residentially based drug treatment, counseling, and day care would reduce return trips to jail, says Sims.

Other additions to the county's services include culturally appropriate drug and alcohol treatment for Native Americans and Alaska natives, and \$3.5 million to convert rundown motels into low-income housing.

—Adam Hyla

Looting Bill gets Boot

King County Councilmember Steve Hammond's bill to make looting the first priority of local law enforcement never got past the discussion stage.

According to Cliff Curry, Hammond's legislative aide, council members from the Law Justice and Human Services committee talked over the proposal. But, upon hearing a sheriff's office rep say federal and state measures already mandated first priority for law enforcement, Curry says there was no need for a council vote.

—Rosette Royale

The Weight of Footprints

Entries received for proposed memorial to victims of homelessness

By BRIAN KERIN
UW News Lab

"So many people have stood vigil for these individuals, yet there was no place to go to mourn for them."

— Carol Cameron, member of Women in Black and WHEEL.

Every year the Washington Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) hosts a competition and awards event showcasing excellence in architecture. This year's competition features a special category, "Design Challenge: A Place of Remembrance," in commemoration of those who have died homeless in our community. Last year alone, more than 130 homeless individuals died in the streets of Seattle and its surrounding areas.

"So many people have stood vigil for these individuals, yet there was no place to go to mourn for them," says Carol Cameron, a member of Women in Black and WHEEL, a women's-only homeless advocacy group. These groups have been working to promote awareness of the project and get the entries on display at City Hall after the competition is over.

AIA executive vice president Marga Rose Hancock says her group hoped the design challenge would "stimulate

thought and conversation, ultimately resulting in action."

This year's competition for the special category was not only open to architecture professionals but also to students, advocates and members of the homeless community. Serving as jury for the entries will be Steve Badanes, a professor of architecture at the University of Washington, and Shannon Nichol, a local landscape architect.

On Monday the entries were unveiled for the first time at the AIA offices downtown. Contained in 12 separate "banker's boxes," the exhibits showed signs of recent construction as the smell of glue arose when the boxes were opened.

One entry was entitled "Footprints all over Seattle." The idea would be to place a series of footprints in several locations around the city. Each set of footprints would feature the name of an individual who died while homeless and be grouped in a pattern with other footprints. Each year new footprints would be added to reflect the notion that this problem isn't going away.

Another entry was designed to be constructed in what is now Occidental Park. The design was reminiscent of the memorials in Olympia and Washington, D.C., for victims of war. On the walled, sunken structure were mounted individual boxes, each bearing the name of a deceased homeless person.

One of the more striking entries was designed to be built in a waterfront park. Engraved upon a long sheet of metal lining the shore wall would be a quote from William Wordsworth's poem "Guilt and Sorrow":

And homeless near a thousand homes I stood

And near a thousand tables pined and wanted food.

The two judges announce the winner of the design challenge at a ceremony Monday, Nov. 7. ■

[Event]

The American Institute of Architects' awards event will be held at Benaroya Hall on Nov. 7 beginning at 6 p.m. Admission is \$20 for the public and \$5 for students with ID.

Short Takes

Crackdown corrected

The City of St. Louis has agreed to pay 25 people experiencing homelessness \$80,000 to settle a lawsuit accusing the city's police of harassing and unjustly jailing people before a festival over the Fourth of July weekend.

Six of the individuals awarded \$1,200 a piece are vendors for *What's Up Magazine*, *Real Change's* sister paper in the Gateway city. The remainder of the money will go for attorneys' fees, and to local homeless providers agreed upon by the group.

The settlement includes an agreement making the police read at roll call a statement saying officers must treat all people equally. The agreement also says officers have to summons people for public drinking, public urination, and aggressive panhandling rather than arrest them.

"The police have said they weren't sweeping anyone to begin with," says Jay Swooba, managing editor of *What's Up*. "But since the agreement, we've seen an increased visibility of people on the streets — which says to me they were sweeping people prior to the settlement."

The settlement comes a year after homeless advocates scored another victory when a District Court ruled the city's nuisance court unconstitutional. The court dealt with civility tickets handed out to mostly homeless people.

In a 48-page ruling handed down by Judge David L. Dowd, the judge wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." The contrast of life as perceived by people in different stations of society are as vivid today as when Charles Dickens [wrote] them 150 years ago.

"In making their American Dream, they participate in publicly sponsored celebrations from

distant bridges, rather than penthouses, knowing that their rights that Thomas Jefferson proclaimed — being life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, are no less guaranteed to them than to those not so vulnerable because they carry evidence of their station in life in their wallets rather than in a bag or a worn blanket."

According to advocates, tickets targeting the homeless have dropped dramatically in St. Louis.

— Israel Boyer

Let's check the regs

Tenants aren't the only ones confused about tax credits and how they affect public housing. The Seattle Housing Authority may be, too.

In a recent meeting with SHA, John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition says the agency acknowledged that IRS regulations for tax-credit housing are different than HUD rules for public housing. For instance, where public-housing tenants get rent deductions for medical and other expenses, IRS rules don't allow deductions for units built with tax credits.

SHA used tax credits to rebuild Rainier Vista and two other housing developments in Rainier Valley. The agency also plans to use tax credits to remodel 21 of its 28 low-income high-rises — a concern to tenants who don't want to see their rents go up ("Future Imperfect," *Real Change*, Sept. 21).

Tax credits involve selling the property to private investors. To build Phase 1 of the new Rainier Vista, SHA sold the property for \$12 million. In return, the investors will get to take more than \$12 million off their taxes over the next 10 years — a deal regulated by the

IRS under the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.

Without expense allowances, Fox says, some of the poorest tenants of the old Rainier Vista were priced out of the 125 public-housing units built in Phase 1. "Because deductions were no longer used, those people at 25 to 30 percent of the median income were pushed into a higher income category, effectively making them ineligible for the tax-credit [units]," Fox says.

For Phase 2 of the project, Fox says, SHA told the coalition it cannot afford to build the remaining 185 low-income units it owes at the site and may be looking to build them on adjacent property the agency is trying to buy — something SHA acknowledges is a possibility, but, "We're still working on the plan," says spokeswoman Virginia Felton.

— Cydney Gillis



Sing it!

KELSEY SCHERGEN, 12, PERFORMS WITH THE TOTAL EXPERIENCE GOSPEL CHOIR AT AN OCT. 8 FUNDRAISER FOR THE FREEDOM PROJECT, WHICH PROVIDES A CARING COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE RECENTLY RELEASED FROM WASHINGTON PRISONS. PHOTO BY LUKE MCGUFF.

Life After Lockup

New townhouses offer independence for mentally ill people

[Event] By LAURA CRUIKSHANK
UW News Lab

The new townhomes will be dedicated Nov. 15 at noon at Highline Mental Health, 2600 SW Holden St. in Seattle.

Two years ago, Wei Li, a 52-year-old resident of Western State Hospital, had little freedom or responsibility. He says his life offered no hope.

Li suffers from schizophrenia, a condition he developed in adolescence. Today, through a new program at Highline Mental Health Center, Li shares a home with two other program participants, attends church on Sundays, and works in a café.

Highline Mental Health Center offers people with severe, persistent mental illness a life beyond homelessness or institutions.

On Oct. 17, the program expanded to provide more housing for clients like Li. New townhouses on the grounds of Highline Mental Health Center in West Seattle will house as many as 24 residents.

The new townhouses are building off the success of Highline's pilot project at the Burien center where 22 of 23 clients have successfully remained in their new residences.

Li, who has made great strides towards independence while in the Expanding Community Service program, was one of the first clients. His progress reflects the success of the program. "I live in a beautiful home now, and my roommate likes to help me cook," says Li.

Though mental illness still carries a stigma, one in three U.S. families is afflicted with it, says David Johnson, CEO and president of Highline Mental Health Center and Hospital. "Mental illness is a disability that can be treated, and the victims can live productive lives," he says.

The mission of Highline is to help people who a generation ago might have been locked up in an institution empower themselves through work, creativity, exercise, and community, says Ravenna Candy, supervisor for the Expanding Community Service program at Highline Mental Health Center in Burien.

At the new West Seattle site, each unit has four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen with two refrigerators, a computer room, and an enclosed living room. Residents do their own housekeeping; they have internet access and each room has its own television and DVD player.

For some residents, these are the nicest conditions they have ever lived in. "They are ending up with lives they really enjoy," says Johnson.

Expanding Community Services program is also cost-effective, says Johnson, simply because residents live fairly independently, share housing, do their own shopping, and cook their own food. At the same time, residents can call on a 24-hour support staff that provides group and individual therapy and companionship for field trips and outings.

In addition to supplying the housing facilities, the staff with Expanding Community Services helps clients re-learn sociability and good hygiene.

See INDEPENDENCE, Continued on Page 10

Wei Li, center, outside his new home with counselor Milton Vickers and Expanding Community Services supervisor Kim Brown. The Expanding Community Services program provides residential support for people with severe, persistent mental illness who have been released from Western State Hospital. Photo by Suzanna Finley.



Let Real Change be part of your success
Reach 40,000 socially concerned readers while giving back to the community.
Real Change ad rates are competitive and affordable.
Check us out at www.realchangenews.org,
or call 441-3247 x202




Community services of the Seattle Housing Authority
907 N.W. Ballard Way, Suite 200
Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
206-239-1500
www.seattlehousing.org

Visit us to learn about and apply for:

- Low Income Public Housing
- Seattle Senior Housing Program
- Other affordable housing

TAKE METRO BUS #13 OR #28 FROM DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

Applications for housing assistance are available at the PorchLight Housing Center, and can also be downloaded from www.seattlehousing.org. To have an application mailed to you, call PorchLight at 206-239-1500.



Democracy Now!
Airing twice a day at 6:00 a.m and 5:00 p.m.
Hosted by the dynamic Amy Goodman, this award-winning national news program is committed to bringing the voices of the marginalized to the airwaves on issues ranging from the global to the local.
Free Speech Radio News 6 p.m. Weekdays
Public Affairs NOW! 5 - 7 a.m., 5 - 7 p.m. Weekdays

alternative news

Studio (425) 564-2424
Office (425) 564-2427
email: kbcs@ctc.edu
www.kbcs.fm

Choose Good

Lawyer who won Roe says the Supreme Court is closer to undoing it than you think

"If they had said to me when I won the case in 1973, you will still be talking about this in 2005, I would never have believed it. And yet here we are, at a very critical period."

Interview by **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Reporter

In her book *A Question of Choice*, Sarah Weddington says she was lucky. When she was in law school in the mid-1960s and got pregnant, her husband-to-be stayed by her side before, during, and after the illegal abortion she had in Mexico.

Weddington says many women don't have that kind of support. But it was almost by accident that her fellow graduate students in Austin, Texas, came to her later with a legal question that would shape the course of her life: Could they, as an informal group that had been making referrals for abortions, which were then illegal in Texas, be subject to prosecution?

The question led Weddington to file and win *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in 1973. "Jane Roe" was a pregnant woman — Norma McGorvey — who now opposes abortion. Weddington's group recruited her for a lawsuit against Henry Wade, the Dallas County district attorney in charge of prosecuting abortions.

The Methodist minister's daughter had already been elected to the Texas state legislature in early 1973 when she got a telegram from the Supreme Court — collect! — telling her she'd won the case. She was 27.

Today, Weddington teaches at the University of Texas and travels the country giving lectures. She will be in Seattle Friday to talk about what leadership means for women — a critical topic, given that we are already in grave danger of losing many forms of legal abortion in the very first term of Chief Justice Roberts' Supreme Court.

Real Change: Are there cases on the horizon that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*? What arguments could be used?

Sarah Weddington: Well, first, if you look at just the cases that involve *Roe v. Wade*, there is a case out of New Hampshire. New Hampshire passed a law that said no minor may have access to abortion without involving the parent. But it had no provision at all that you did not have to involve the parent if the minor's health or life was at stake.

The U.S. Supreme Court in the past had said you always have to have an exception if [the woman's] health or life is in danger. New Hampshire just sort of thumbed its nose at what the Supreme Court has said: "We're going to go ahead and pass this, and by the time it gets to the Supreme Court, maybe there will be some new judges, and we'll see what they say." There are some procedural parts to it, but that's the main substance. That is probably going to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in late November, so it raises issues about will this Supreme Court allow states to regulate [abortion] even more broadly than they have in the past?

The second case, which is really three cases, all involve a law that Congress passed that I call a "Partial



Abortion Ban Bill." Those who passed it call it the Partial Birth Abortion Bill. But clearly, the people who passed it would like to outlaw all abortion. Under the Supreme Court, at least until this term started, they couldn't do that. So they passed a bill that outlaws most forms of abortion in the second and third trimester. It's a much broader bill than the shorthand phrase they've used, and I think a lot of people are misled about what it really would do if it went into effect.

So there are three different places challenges to that statute were filed, and all of those are on the way to the Supreme Court. We believe that the Supreme Court will probably hear at least one, or maybe combine all of them, sometime during this term — which of course lasts until June or so.

RC: What is your reading of John Roberts and where he might take the court?

Weddington: John Roberts is somebody that I think most of us believe is opposed to abortion. I believe that in part because of his religion. He's Catholic. Not all Catholics are against abortion, but he seems to come from a fairly conservative Catholic tradition. Scalia is Catholic. Thomas is Catholic. Kennedy is Catholic. [Roberts] had, at times, written about the so-called "right of privacy" and in some other little asides seemed to indicate he was against *Roe v. Wade*. But to my

Winning smile: On the day Sarah Weddington, second from left, won *Roe v. Wade*, she was photographed with husband, Ron, left, Tex. congressman George Mahon, and her mother.

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

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Ask for our Making A Difference brochure today, and find out more about our mutual funds.

Call 1-800-530-5321
or visit www.domini.com

Domini 
SOCIAL INVESTMENTS
Investing For Good™

You should consider the Domini Funds' investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. Obtain a copy of the Funds' current prospectus for complete information on these and other topics, by calling 1-800-530-5321 or online at www.domini.com. Please read it carefully before investing or sending money. DSIL Investments Services LLC, Distributor. 10/04



Continued from Previous Page

knowledge, he has never said "overturn *Roe v. Wade*." So whether he ends up being more like a Rehnquist, wanting to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, or whether he's someone that says, "You know, I'm personally opposed to abortion, but I do not think after 32 years of having *Roe v. Wade* as the law of the land we should overturn it," nobody knows. We are all guessing.

In the past, you had three judges — Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas — who were saying get rid of *Roe v. Wade*. You had three judges saying leave it alone. That was Stevens — the oldest of the Supreme Court judges currently — Ginsburg, and Breyer. And then you had three in the middle who were basically saying don't get rid of *Roe v. Wade*, but allow more restrictions than has been allowed in the past — O'Connor, Souter, and Kennedy. You did have some cases [regarding abortion] that were 5-4. The four who were saying allow regulation much more broadly than in the past were Kennedy, Souter, Thomas, and Rehnquist. So let's say Roberts is in that group: now you've got four. When [Sandra Day] O'Connor leaves, if you get one more, then you have a majority of the court to say, "Well, the states ought to be allowed to do pretty much whatever they want to."

Harriet Miers is I think a mystery for pretty much everybody. An initial [reaction] is that typically you're pleased to

have another woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but for me it's not enough to say, "Well, here's a woman!" I want a woman who really has the credentials to be respected as a member of the Supreme Court, and I would prefer, certainly, that she'd be somebody who would respect the right of privacy.

I voted for her when she ran for the Texas Bar Association. She was a good, basic business lawyer in Dallas. And it was wonderful to have the first woman head of the state bar association. But I think the credentials to be head of the state bar association are very different than to be on the U.S. Supreme Court with a lifetime appointment that will affect all of us in many, many ways. And when that person has absolutely no background on constitutional issues, who's never done any serious writing on any issues, and where there is really no way for us to know who this person is or what she's advised the president or whether the advice she's given the president will come up before the court.

"[Supreme Court nominee] Harriet Miers is I think a mystery for pretty much everybody. An initial [reaction] is that typically you're pleased to have another woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but for me it's not enough to say, "Well, here's a woman!" I want a woman who really has the credentials to be respected as a member of the Supreme Court, and I would prefer, certainly, that she'd be somebody who would respect the right of privacy."

Bush had evidently told the press that he'd never talked to her about abortion. Well, how can that be, when she's been his counsel and very close personal friend for 10 years or more? A year ago you had the Million Person March on Washington for pro-choice — you mean they didn't even mention that to each other? There've been a number of very important Supreme Court cases on the issue of abortion — you mean they never mentioned that to each other? You had Justice Roberts, where one of the main questions was on the issue of abortion, and Harriet Miers was the one shepherding him through that process — you mean they never talked about abortion? You know, it just doesn't make sense to me. I just have a hard time believing that that's the way it really is.

RC: Given that Bush now is about to have two appointees on the court, there is a greater likelihood that *Roe* could be

overturned. Would we then see cases work their way back to the court, or would that be the end of it?

Weddington: No, that certainly wouldn't be the end of it. Again, I don't think women — I think what would happen if *Roe* was overturned is either you would have the Congress, [which is] now controlled by those people who oppose *Roe* and oppose abortion, passing federal laws to make abortion illegal, in which event you would have a tremendous outpouring and pressure on senators not to do that. And, simultaneously, you would have state legislatures looking at various bills like Utah passed a couple years ago that said if *Roe* is ever overturned, immediately in Utah abortion will be illegal.

So I think you would have action both directed at the national level and directed at the state level, but I think the strength of the force of people saying it is not the government's business to make these personal decisions for me — I do think that would be overwhelming. ■

[Event]

Sarah Weddington, the lawyer who won abortion rights in the landmark 1973 case *Roe v. Wade*, will give a talk in Seattle Friday, Oct. 21, 12 p.m., at Seattle Central Community College's Broadway Performance Hall, Broadway and Pine. For information, call 206-650-2599 or e-mail empowrnow@gmail.com.

EVERY VOICE COUNTS!

Mammogram Screenings: We Need to Take Care of Ourselves and Each Other.



IT'S A "HUSH-HUSH" THING IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY! WE FEAR GETTING A MAMMOGRAM.

Over the years, we have listened to so many reasons women give for not getting a mammogram ... and not one of them is good. Ignorance is not bliss. Not knowing is a dangerous thing. Go and find out if you have any problems. Know one way or another, then you're in control of the situation.

**For more information call
1-800-756-5437**



Over the years, LIHI has provided affordable housing and self sufficiency programs, and has advocated for low income families, individuals, seniors, the disabled and others at risk.

1100 Broadway, Suite 1100
Seattle, WA 98104
206.463.9935
www.lihi.org

LOW INCOME HOUSING INSTITUTE

eyes ON F/EMONT

UNIQUE AFFORDABLE EYEWEAR

Friendly, Skilled Staff
On Site Lab
Eye Exams
Student Discounts

**4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-3375**

Answered Prayers

The task of Philip Seymour Hoffman in *Capote* is peculiar to the biopics of our era. The actor is charged with creating verisimilitude in a character whose distinct mannerism and countenance has been engraved in the minds of a media-saturated public.

Capote
Directed by Bennett Miller
Opens Fri., October 21 at the Egyptian
Theater

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

Capote is one of the most insightful and lucid commentaries on contemporary culture to come along in some time. It anticipates the propensity of today's media to package human tragedy into vehicles of entertainment: grief, anger, and guilt, once held precious and private, now commodified.

Truman Capote (Philip Seymour Hoffman) the author, to whom we are introduced, is a squat, bespectacled man distinguished by a high-pitched voice, an effeminate way, and a boyfriend — an anomaly in 1959. He is brilliant and imaginative, a raconteur given to holding court, cocktail in hand, with New York cosmopolitans. He is popular but nonetheless estranged.

The film traces Capote's creation of his modern masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*. Fresh from the success of his novel *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Truman takes note of an incident in Kansas. A

family of four has been brutally slain, shot at close range with a shotgun. Capote, perspicacious and instinctive, senses an opportunity.

Convincing editors at the *New Yorker* of the story's inherent worth, the urbanite heads west by train. Arriving at the heart of America, he finds the juxtaposition of violence and innocence profound. He recognizes even Kansas is not in Kansas anymore.

So rich does the author find the material, he opts for a book rather than an article. His invention — the non-fiction novel, a hybrid — will prove momentous; impacting for the author, the literary world, and many of those in the book.

As Capote surveys the ready-made cache of characters and plot, pathos and disillusion, the possibilities leave him "breathless." But to capture the true essence of the murderers, victims, and traumatized members of the community, he must first get to know them. He solicits their trust and accesses their souls.

The task of Hoffman in *Capote*, like that of Jamie Foxx in *Ray* and David Strathairn in *Good Night and Good Luck*, is peculiar to the biopics of our era. The actor is charged with creating verisimilitude in a character whose

distinct mannerism and countenance has been engraved in the minds of a media-saturated public.

Hoffman handles this with the apparent ease of another day at the office. He delivers an exciting Capote, brilliant and fey, alternately confident and insecure; a celebrity who, even in the company of the few he considered close, never suspends his theater of self-promotion. We get it because Mr. Hoffman gets it.

Truman Capote's book *In Cold Blood*, although a major success, was missing a critical element. The author, a major player in the drama, wasn't in it. *Capote*, based on Gerald Clarke's book of the same name, makes for a more complete and arguably more compelling story. ■

Music for a Chameleon: Capote (Philip Seymour Hoffman) holds court in Capote. Photo by Attila Dory.



Paradise Islands

Islands In Captivity: The International Tribunal On The Rights Of Indigenous Hawaiians

Edited by Ward Churchill and Sharon Venne
South End Press, 2005
Hardcover, 800 pages, \$40

By WES BROWNING
Contributing Writer

During most of its history, the Kingdom of Hawaii was a constitutional monarchy and a lawful member of the international community. By its several treaties with the Kingdom, the United States explicitly acknowledged that Hawaii was a sovereign nation.

The Kingdom of Hawaii actually welcomed American nationals freely into the government, asking oaths of loyalty to the monarchy in addition to literacy and property requirements similar to those that prevailed in the U.S. at the time. There were no racial qualifications. By the 1850s already, the majority of the Hawaiian Cabinet was non-native, mostly American-born.

Given that, it may be hard to understand why the American settlers would overthrow the Hawaiian government in 1893. Why rebel when you have it so good? Was it racism, or were the settlers colluding with the U.S. government? In any case, the subsequent annexation was unjustified.

Don't take my word for it. One of the essays reproduced in *Islands In Captivity* is by then-President Grover Cleveland, who condemns the rebellion as "a substantial wrong... which a due regard for our national character as well as the rights of the injured people requires we should endeavor to repair."

Unfortunately the wrong wasn't repaired. Cleveland's successor McKinley worked for annexation right after taking office.

Islands in Captivity sets forth a selection of materials gathered in the course of the International Tribunal on the Rights of Kanaka Maoli, the Indigenous Peoples of the Hawaiian Islands.

The tribunal was held in 1993 to address charges that those people have been oppressed,

subjected to genocide, and robbed of their sovereignty. It set out to find the facts and consider remedies.

The book is two volumes in one. The first volume consists of an introduction by the editors, followed by 21 essays by as many contributors.

One essay lays out the arguments that the pre-contact Hawaiian population was much larger than formerly believed. One is less an academic essay than a diatribe against the subjugation and distortion of Hawaiian culture to corporations and the tourist industry, the "prostitution of Hawaiian culture."

Volume II consists of testimonies by witnesses, most by Kanaka Maoli themselves, obtained at hearings held on four islands.

The 1993 Tribunal coincided with the 100th anniversary of the 1893 overthrow, an event that led to the annexation of the islands as a U.S. territory. Representatives from the U.S. and the State of Hawaii were invited, but never showed up. So the Tribunal was necessarily rather one-sided. Nevertheless, I think most of the testimonies are fair.

The testimonies don't relate only to political policies but also to social attitudes. There's this quote from Jonathan Osorio, a native of Hilo: "The Hawaiian electorate... was viewed by the *haole* [foreigners] as ignorant if they spoke Hawaiian, foolish if they learned English, savage when they cleaved to the remnants of their cultural heritage, and childish when converted to Christianity."

Later, under questioning, he was asked whether he was satisfied with Christian apologists' statements recognizing missionaries' wrongs. Tongue in cheek, he said, "They have not yet offered to go to war with us."

Then there is Billy Kalipi on Molokai summing up the Hawaiian way of life: "We malama the Aina, the Aina malama us. [We take care of our land, the land takes care of us]." Then he says, "I don't pay my taxes, and I wish all Hawaiians come together, no pay taxes. Zoning, that's a new modern technology. They zone us urban." Oh, yes — he's been imprisoned for not paying his taxes.

The book presents many more crimes — denying the natives the right to sue over their land's theft, genocide by the deliberate transmission of smallpox — that justify Cleveland's pronouncement when the annexation was done: "I am ashamed of the whole affair." ■

There's this quote from Jonathan Osorio, a native of Hilo: "The Hawaiian electorate... was viewed by the *haole* [foreigners] as ignorant if they spoke Hawaiian, foolish if they learned English, savage when they cleaved to the remnants of their cultural heritage, and childish when converted to Christianity."



Well Ex-cuuuuse You!

Adventures in Irony



Dr. Wes Browning

It turns out 70 percent of us think that everybody else lacks manners. My first reaction is, this is the America that can't find Iraq on the map, and doesn't think it needs to, but considers itself competent enough to decide whether Iraq deserves to be invaded or not. We're asking this country to critique itself?

The headline in the *Seattle Times* last Saturday said, "Land of the rude: Poll finds Americans behaving badly," so I thought I was going to read about Americans telling pollsters they could take their poll and "shove it," or inquiring about the availability of the pollsters' sisters, or insinuating that the pollsters had canine ancestry.

Then, as I continued reading, I found out that America itself had been asked how rude it is in the poll and had answered "very." That is, we are supposed to take America's word for how rude it is. It turns out 70 percent of us think that everybody else lacks manners. My first reaction is, this is the America that can't find Iraq on the map, and doesn't think it needs to, but considers itself competent enough to decide whether Iraq deserves to be invaded or not. We're asking this country to critique itself?

"Now, now," I tell myself, "calm down; maybe some good will come from it. Maybe everybody will have arrived at some great new collective insight, like when we all agreed as a nation that Jar Jar Binks deserved a premature death."

But it was not to be. Reading further I discovered that the rudeness people were talking about had little to do with *Star Wars*. The big concern was men not opening doors for women, members of some women's lacrosse team wearing flip-flops in the White House, and crude behavior on TV shows. "It's not like the old show, *Father Knows Best*," says some overwrought couch potato who can't distinguish TV from reality.

And who gets the blame? Me! That's who! I'm a nasty baby boomer and it was I and my other nasty boomer co-conspirators who ruined this country. We dragged *Father Knows Best* into the dirt, exposing its cast as the alcoholics, wife-beaters, and heroin addicts they were. We raised all the rest of you to knock down little old ladies and use them as doorstops and paperweights.

We made George Lucas create Jar Jar for us, precisely to torture the rest of you. We had all the sex and smoked all the cigarettes and ate all the carbohydrates, so now they're all used up, and you. Can't. Have. Any.

That's right. We baby boomers are responsible for turning this great country into a nation of rude, disgusting flip-flop wearers. Before we boomers came of age in the late '60s all Americans were polite and well behaved.

Just how polite and well-behaved was America back then?

Americans were SO polite in those days that no conversation among white people was complete until there was at least one use of the N-word AND at least one additional gratuitous ethnic slur applied to one other minority. An entire conversation devoted solely to putting down Negroes was considered an opportunity lost. How rude!

Americans were SO polite in those days that they made sure their police had attack dogs to politely teach manners to anyone who asked for too many rights. If that didn't work, they would break out the flip-flops. Ha, ha, that was a joke. No, they would break out the ax handles.

In a polite society, minorities know their place!

Americans were SO polite that we never let women and children talk about sex. Only men could do that, in private. As a result, when American children were raped by people they trusted and the children tried to report it to other adults, they were accused of being vulgar and had their mouths washed out with soap and water. In a polite society, rape victims shut up!

In 1964 some Concerned Citizen would've stepped up to that flip-flop wearing lacrosse playing commie tomboy-if-she's-not-a-lesbian freak in the White House and given her the sucker punch in the gut she had coming to her. In a polite society, women toe the line!

That's how polite America was, before we baby boomers ruined everything. ■



Fri., Sept. 30, 10:41 p.m., Sixth Ave. S., Bank of America parking lot. Complainant, an employee of the parking lot, called 911 to report that suspect, a transient white male aged 44, was working the pay box in the Bank of America parking lot with a wire. He gave the officers a description of the man, and police stopped the suspect at Fifth and Main five to 10 minutes after the initial call. He was searched, but no tools or wires were found on his person. The report states that the suspect is a habitual offender, and that pay box owners have requested relief from this person. He has been trespassed from numerous lots in the city, and is now universally trespassed from all lots in downtown Seattle. He refused to sign the trespass card. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass and criminal attempting.

Sat., Oct. 1, 12:09 a.m., First Avenue Service Center. Officers were dispatched to investigate a robbery call. They arrived and spoke to the victim, a transient Hispanic male aged 45, and were told the following. The victim was standing outside the First Avenue Service Center when the unknown suspects came up to him, hit him in the head, and took his money and his Green Card. He said he had about \$1,500 stolen. Victim was very intoxicated and could hardly speak. There was somewhat of a language barrier, but the officer was able to understand the man - he kept repeating "It's too late to do anything now." Victim refused medical attention, but did want a report written. An area check for the suspects was unsuccessful.

Sat., Oct. 1, 2:34 p.m., S. Main St., Danny Woo Gardens. Suspect, a transient Asian male aged 29, was contacted in Danny Woo Gardens because officers recognized him from being trespassed from the gardens in September. SPD has received many complaints from neighbors about the drug activity next to the garden shed in the park. Officers transported suspect to the West Precinct, and when they removed him from the transport van they found a small Alevie bottle, containing what looked like crack cocaine. Only one of the rocks tested positive for cocaine. Suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass and possession.

Sat., Oct. 1, 1:47 p.m. Virginia St., Hing Hay Park. Officers observed the suspect, a transient Black female aged 32, in Hing Hay Park in clear violation of her one-year ban from all Zone 4 parks, which had been issued in September. They observed the suspect attempt to walk out of the park to avoid the officers, but they contacted her and placed her under arrest without incident. She was transported to the precinct, where she was issued a new one-year ban from all Zone 4 parks. She was then booked into King County Jail for trespass.

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.

You say you want to make a change for the better? *Real Change* is always looking for volunteers. Why don't you give us a call.
(206) 441-3247 x202

HOPE & INSPIRATION

A celebration of Real Change
11 years of issues, insight, impact

Thursday, Nov. 3

Breakfast, 8:30 - 9 am

Bell Harbor Int'l Conference Center

Keynote Speaker:

Paul Loeb, author of *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear, and Soul of a Citizen Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time.*

Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and our own.

-Cesar Chavez

RSVP to inspired@realchangenews.org for info call (206) 441-3247 x208

Major Sponsors

BELL HARBOR

COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN OF WASHINGTON

CONFERENCE CENTER

Committed to your health.



WASHINGTON CASH

A non-profit providing microloans and business development training for business owners with low-income.



Brenda Williams
Owner of Rainbow People Designs
Custom formal wear for alternative weddings and people with disabilities
206-335-4317
rainbowpeople97@hotmail.com

Visit

www.washingtoncash.org
for info about upcoming programs or to donate

INDEPENDENCE, Continued from Page 5

"For some of them, what they knew about taking care of themselves before their illness is gone," says Johnson.

Most of the clients have been in Western State Hospital for many years. Through the Expanding Community Services program they re-learn and apply skills they need to re-integrate into society.

Giving clients opportunities to work has also proved to be very successful.

"Third Runway Café and Catering," owned by Highline Mental Health Center in Burien, has several employees from the Expanding Community Service program. "They love what it does for them," says Candy. "It gives them a sense of importance."

Li has worked in the café for about eight months. He walks a few blocks from home to work. His duties include busing tables and cleaning off chairs.

"I try to do my best," says Li.

This year, Highline is opening a new restaurant, "A Taste of Tuscany." They will offer the same services as the restaurant in Burien and employ some of the clients living in the townhouses. A Taste of Tuscany will be on the grounds of the West Seattle facility.

Wei Li says he is thankful for his freedom and his independence today. Asked what he would like to say about the program, he replies: "I appreciate the government treating me like a man." ■

How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God! Indeed it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter Kingdom of God.

— Luke 18:24-25

SO WE HAVE TO ASK, FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR SOULS: SHOULD'N'T TAXES BE SUBSTANTIALLY RAISED FOR THOSE WHO ARE SHARING-IMPAIRED (I.E. THOSE WHO HAVE WEALTH)?



**Keystone
United Church
Of Christ**
5019 Keystone Place
Seattle WA 98103
Worship Sunday 10:30

REAL CHANGE JOB OPENING

Director of Development

Real Change offers opportunity and a voice to low-income people while taking action to end poverty and homelessness. Founded in 1994, Real Change now reaches 11,000 readers with each issue of the paper while offering an income to more than 250 homeless and low-income vendors each month. In 2005, Real Change won the Municipal League of King County's "Organization of the Year" award for effective civic engagement, and was named "Best Grassroots Media Outlet" by the Seattle Weekly.

The Director of Development will work with the Executive Director to grow Real Change's \$500,000 budget to increase our capacity as an independent media resource and create new resources for anti-poverty organizing and advocacy. The position will focus on donor development, cultivation of foundation support, and event planning.

Responsibilities:

- Work with ED and Board to create and execute fundraising plan.
- Expand our 1,000+ annual donor base through large donor development, expanded reader support, and growing our mail and on-line giving strategies.
- Grow foundation support by maintaining the proposal calendar, researching prospects, and cultivating new support.
- Manage two annual events and cultivate a base of corporate sponsorship.
- Accurately manage gift tracking and acknowledgment.

\$38,000-\$43,000 starting, depending on experience. Benefits include full health and dental, vacation, sick, and holiday pay. People of color and people who have personally experienced poverty or homelessness encouraged to apply.

Send detailed cover letter and resume to organizer@realchangenews.org, or mail to Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121, attn: Rachael Myers. Deadline: 5 pm, Oct. 21, 2005.

More information is available at www.realchangenews.org

Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Easy living

Dear *Real Change*,

I would like to enter a complaint about the constant negative political content of *Real Change News*. Granted, our political system and leaders are not perfect. Show me someone's whose is. But our country's system has kept our nation the most free and economically rich in any country in the world. Yes, we do have our competitors, and there are definitely those nations that do some things better than ours. But overall, we are spoiled rotten children in this country. Please see to it that your paper is well-balanced in its content.

Leigh Ann Merley

White and sorry

Dear *Real Change*,

I buy *Real Change* every week from my favorite vendor, Fred. Sometimes I buy more than one from a couple of different vendors. But, as a white person, I am tired of being the "bad" guy. I'm sorry I'm white. I know that some things are not right, but I can't read your paper anymore because it makes me so uncomfortable.

able and I think you only stir emotions that divide instead of helping to solve problems. I might as well buy a John Birch Society paper. The bias just goes the other way, but it's the same thing.

I will still buy the paper from my favorite vendor, but it goes directly into the trash.

Who do you think is buying the paper anyway?

Patty Johnson

Feeling used yet?

Dear *Real Change*,

The House Republican Study Committee's Operation Offset, whose goal is to pay for the Katrina relief effort by slashing federal funding, is un-American.

This radical scheme to pay for rebuilding by increasing the cost of Medicare for our elderly poor, denying Americans the opportunity to go to grad school, and ending affordable school lunches suggests our Congressional Reps on the Right consider the American People a low priority compared to corporations and the rich.

Congress must find a more creative solution that spreads the cost of rebuilding fairly among Americans of every economic class. It's senseless to pay for relief in one place by increasing suffering in many others.

Molly Moon Neitzel

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.

You're invited to celebrate TWELVE YEARS OF ACTIVISM FOR JUSTICE

Saturday Oct. 29th, from 6:30 to 10PM
DoubleTree Hotel in SeaTac

Check out the JWJ website: www.wsjwj.org
wsjwj@jgc.org or call 206-441-4969 to
Purchase your \$45.00 tickets by Oct. 22nd

2005 Honorees:

- Father Bill Bichsel
- WA State Federal Workers
- WA State Legislature's Labor Caucus

JOBS WITH JUSTICE
5th Annual
HONOREE DINNER
October 29th, 2005

CLASSIFIED

Volunteer

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

Opportunity

Personal Safety & Self-Defense Workshops. Easy-to-learn effective physical, verbal and awareness skills provide a foundation for confidence and enhance your quality of life. Visit our website (www.StrategicLiving.org) to register for a class near you, or arrange a custom presentation. Contact Joanne Factor at 206-920-8882 or classes@StrategicLiving.org.

Events

Trans Health Fair. Verbena presents its 2nd annual event Sat., Oct. 22nd, 11am-3pm. LGBT Community Center, 1115 E Pike St. For appointments: call (206) 323-6540 or toll free 1.877.323.6540. Walk-ins welcomed too!

Phinney Neighbors for Peace and Justice presents our sixth series of community forums at the Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, N 70th St. & Greenwood Ave. N, Seattle. Doors open at 6:30 pm — Forum begins at 7 pm, Wed, Oct. 26. *The Homefront: Countering Military Recruitment in the Schools.*

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

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 10/19

Becoming Citizens: Family Life and the Politics of Disability, by Susan Schwartzberg, is a collection of true accounts of Seattle families who refused to institutionalize their developmentally disabled children. The centerpiece of the book is four mothers-turned-activists who co-authored Education for All, a crucial piece of Washington State legislation that was a precursor to the national law that secured educational rights for every disabled person. 4:30 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall.

Karsten Heuer, a wildlife biologist, and his wife, Leanne Allison, a filmmaker, spent five months researching and migrating more than 1,500 miles with a herd of 120,000 Porcupine Caribou. Their multimedia presentation — *Being Caribou: An Epic Journey* — is a call for protecting the animal's threatened habitat. 7:30 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall 220.

Thursday 10/20

The best chefs have contributed their recipes to

Veg-Feasting in the Pacific Northwest: A Complete Guide for Vegetarians and the Curious. Representatives from the Vegetarians of Washington will discuss the book and help you plan healthy, tasty, and animal-free meals. University of Washington Bookstore, Bellevue Store, 990 102nd Ave North E., (425)462-4500.

Friday 10/21

The Wallingford Neighbors screen *The Empty Chair: Death Penalty Yes or No?*, a documentary that profiles four different families coping with grief and forgiveness after the murder of a loved one. Each family reaches a different conclusion on how justice should be dealt. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Place. Info: wnfp@bridgings.org.

Saturday 10/22

George Shangrow hosts *Spanish Art Song: Cantar del Alma*. Puerto Rican baritone Matthew Melendez performs songs and arias from Spain's most celebrated composers. Tickets \$25. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Saturday 10/22 & Sunday 10/23

TurkFest bridges the link between East and West, celebrating Turkey's diverse history, culture, and religions. The festival includes classical and contemporary music, folk dancing, films, fashion and carpet shows, workshops, and more. Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St. Info: www.turkfest.org.

Sunday 10/23

Short Stories Live! presents a special Halloween edition with the works of Irish poet and Nobel Prize recipient William Butler Yeats, featuring ACT Theatre's artistic director, Kurt Beattie. Tickets \$13 and up. 4 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Tuesday 10/25

Before World War II, Bellevue was a Japanese American farm town famous for its strawberries. David Neiwert's book *Strawberry Days: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community* is the true story of the racist schemes that prevented immigrants from reclaiming their land after the war.

Free, but RSVP to events@wingluke.org. 5-7 p.m., Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S.

Wednesday 10/26

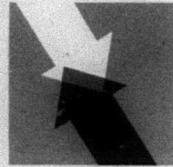
Retired U.S. Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson achieved notoriety when he revealed his role investigating weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and accused the Bush Administration of exaggerating the Iraqi threat in order to justify war. Then columnist Robert Novak fingered Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, as a CIA covert operative. The investigation is heating up, the debate has entered the White House with the questioning of Karl Rove driving a grand jury investigation, and Wilson is ready to talk. Tickets \$35 and up. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Calendar compiled by Dena Burke. Have a suggestion for an event? Email it to calendar@realchange.org.

Director's Corner



Being a non-profit organization has its ups and downs. On the plus side, you get to deduct your donations. To some people, that matters, but to most it doesn't. On the minus side, we don't get to advise you on how to vote, unless it's an initiative. Same story there. But for those of you who care, this week's Take Action box (below) offers our considered opinion on the upcoming ballot measures. We think government should promote the common good, discourage extreme greed, and otherwise leave us alone. Are you with us there?



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Voter Guide

King County, Proposition 1. This would raise the property tax by five cents per \$1,000 to fund human services. Half of the \$13.3 million raised each year would be earmarked for veterans and their families. We preferred a more comprehensive levy next year, but now that this is on the ballot, we think it's important that voters in King County show their support for taxing themselves to meet human needs. It's a good first step. **Vote Yes.**

City of Seattle, Advisory Measure No. 1. Quit laughing at us, we know the City can't convince the feds to make health care a universal right. This would be mostly symbolic, but it would also convene a panel to look at what we can do locally to improve health care access for the uninsured. The bottom line is that we can't not support an initiative calling for universal health care, and neither should you. **Vote Yes.**

Seattle Popular Monorail Authority, Proposition No. 1. We're divided on the monorail, especially the new, shorter route we'll be voting on this time. We don't know if it will do anything to reduce traffic congestion or environmental damage. At best, it's a small part of the solution, but one that voters have already said yes to multiple times. Because we like democracy, we think that if the people vote for it — repeatedly — it should happen. So some of us may be rolling our eyes, but we think you should **Vote Yes** one more time. (If it fails, we are kind of curious about whether we'll get our car tab taxes back, so we can buy a bus pass or a skateboard instead.)

Initiative 330. This would limit patients' rights in medical malpractice lawsuits. It's backed by the insurance industry and drug companies and meant to protect their profits, not your health. It's opposed by the Washington State Labor Council, the Washington Senior Lobby, the NAACP of Washington State, and a long list of other groups who do care about consumers' rights in healthcare. We believe them, not the insurance industry. **Vote No.**

Initiative 336. This counter measure offers a better way to address rising malpractice insurance rates. It requires insurance companies to justify rate hikes and makes it harder for bad doctors to fly under the radar. The I-336 endorsement list looks a lot like the list of opponents to I-330. Again, we trust them, to look after our interests more than the insurance companies. **Vote Yes.**

Initiative 900. We're going to say vote no, but not because it's Tim Eyman's latest. Sometimes bad people have good ideas. This attempt to strengthen government accountability through performance audits isn't a bad idea, just unnecessary since the legislature passed a bill with sharp enough teeth earlier this year. It's also too expensive for something we don't really need. **Vote No.**

Initiative 901. We don't dislike the idea of banning smoking to protect the health of mostly low-wage workers in bars, restaurants, bowling alleys, and the like. But this initiative goes too far by also banning smoking within 25 feet of doorways and windows, making it hard to enforce and a little too much like punishment for smokers. We'd rather punish big tobacco companies than the people who are probably desperate to kick a nasty habit that's likely to kill them. **Vote No.**

Initiative 912. This would roll back the gas tax passed by the Legislature earlier this year. We know the gas tax hits low-income people hardest, since they don't tend to drive newer, fuel-efficient cars, and often have to commute from places like Kent and Lynnwood. But our dependence on cars is destroying the environment, causing wars, and making us fat and lazy. Plus, we really need the money. Even though it will only fund roadbuilding (not mass transit), without it state budget writers will be forced to dip in to other pots to fix dangerous roads and bridges. We want more state money freed up for things like affordable housing, health care, and alternatives to oil dependence. Get out of your car already and quit honking at us when we're walking or biking down the street. **Vote No.**

AKBAR, Continued from Page 1

At the crux of Sgt. Akbar's defense was the issue of whether or not he was mentally competent at the time of the attack. His legal defense team tried to argue that the junior Akbar was not stable enough to have planned, then carried out, the events that occurred in the Kuwaiti desert. They claimed that Akbar, a Muslim, acted out of desperation, responding to his fellow soldiers' "jokes" about raping Iraqi women.

But prosecutors had in their possession Akbar's diary. Penning his thoughts on how utterances of raping fellow Muslims humiliated him, he wrote of his fellow soldiers, in an entry dated a month before the attack: "I am going to try to kill as many of them as possible." Entries such as these, along with testimonies from some of the injured, led the 15-member jury to choose death for Akbar.

Knowing all this, as a father, has been difficult for the elder Akbar to bear. The situation becomes more difficult still given his ruminations about whether religion, which has been a pillar of strength throughout much of his life, may have laid the foundation for his son to commit murder.

John Akbar grew up in South Carolina in the '40s, where he was known by the name of John Kools. In the South, the young Kools experienced the horrors of Jim Crow firsthand. At the age of seven, he saw a Black man lynched from a tree. "I had to go past that tree every morning to go to school," he shudders to remember. The image lodged in his consciousness. "I couldn't get it out of my focus."

When he was 12, he moved to Detroit. From there, he continued hopscotching the country — to Miami to be with his mother, then to southern California in the late '60s — all the while, the weight of racism weighing heavy on his bones. He met a woman. They married. They had a child, born Mark Fidel Kools. Through it all, Akbar says he was struggling to find his identity. He found it, surprisingly, in jail.

While imprisoned on a minor charge in Las Vegas, a fellow prisoner

befriended him. "You're a Black man," he recalls being told, "You're the God of the Universe. Don't let the white man tell you you ain't nothin'. He's a liar, he's a diabolical devil." Drawn in by the message that Black men deserved dignity and respect, Kools says he continued listening to his jail-mate, who himself was a member of the Nation of Islam. Galvanized by the rhetoric, Kools says he had little choice, in middle age, but to change his last name, to break free from what he was told was an undeniable shackle to slavery. John Kools became John X.

Released from jail, he went back to his family. He and his wife changed their surnames to Akbar. His son, Mark Fidel Kools, was renamed Hasan Karim Akbar. His name carried meaning: The Great Beautiful Law Keeper.

More children were born, two sons and a daughter. John Akbar was experiencing what it meant to love, he says, for the first time. But clouding this new life and identity was Akbar's dawning realization that the Nation of Islam's teachings, professing a godly Black man and a devilish white man, were infused with racism and hatred. "I just couldn't believe that God made two separate types of people," he says.

Then came an image whose ability to reawaken the past propelled him to an uncertain future: on a blackboard in a temple, someone had drawn a white man with a rope around his neck. Akbar's memory of the lynched Black man he'd witnessed as a youth floated up in his mind. Akbar knew what he had to do.

He says he told his wife they had to forgo the teachings of the Nation of Islam's leader, the Honorable Elijah Muhamed, as he was preaching hatred. "That blew her mind," he says of his wife. He says she told him she wouldn't leave the Nation of Islam. Akbar told her he wouldn't stay. "So she left and took my kids."

Cut off from his family, Akbar's life spiraled into an abyss. He went back to Las Vegas, finding desolation. He ventured to Houston, finding crack cocaine. Seven and half years were spent there, locked in addiction. With

the need to find recovery, he says he looked to God. "Spirit told me: Go somewhere that you've never been before." Akbar had a map of the U.S. He threw it at dart at the country. The dart landed in Seattle. He moved here three years ago, to find himself. And, unbeknownst to him, his son.

Now, Akbar worries if the hate-filled teachings instilled in his son may have been the tiny seed that led to the attack. These latent teachings, he believes, were more than likely nurtured by the military itself. "He was no killer before he went into the army," he proclaims.

The senior Akbar believes that if his son would have been placed in a different regiment in Iraq — one with Islamic or even Black soldiers — he wouldn't be where he is today. Now, at the Disciplinary Barracks, Hasan is part of another group: those on the military's death row. Of those inmates, five, including Hasan, are Black, one is of Asian descent, with the seventh being white.

As for the trial, Akbar says the defense team was ineffective, not calling on witnesses to speak on his son's behalf, not having a Muslim serve as a jury member, and ignoring parts of Hasan's diary that spoke to his struggles of faith at fighting fellow Muslims.

The elder Akbar hopes a new, more balanced trial may lead to Hasan's release. He admits it's only a hope. He knows his son committed murder, and his heart, he says, goes out to the families of Capt. John Seifert and Maj. Gregory Stone, who were killed. But still, he says he can't give up trying to raise money to save his son.

The two have been writing letters, says Akbar, rebuilding their relationship. And he plans to visit Hasan at Fort Leavenworth on Oct. 25. He looks to the visit with equal parts joy and heartache. Knowing Hasan is slated to die at some unknown date by lethal injection, the senior Akbar can only put his faith in a higher power that his son will be retried and released. "If I could just see him on the streets one more time," claims Akbar, "that would be my wish of Almighty God." ■

OPA, Continued from Page 1

see and then be held liable for crossing a line that not even the City Attorney can define."

That's why the civilian review board has not released their twice-annual reports since the spring of 2004. Doing so is "a shot in the dark," says Sheley Secrest, review board member and vice-president of the Seattle-King County NAACP. "We have to guess when we cross that line. We can't lose the shirts off of our backs just to do this volunteer job."

City Attorney Tom Carr says that in addition to specifics (like name or badge number), board reports shouldn't contain references to situational details like "When a report says '911 said to pull over a red car, but the officer pulled over a blue car,'" he says, because they may alert accused officers as to who filed the complaint.

Nickels spokesperson Marianne Bichsel says any council legislation is premature.

"The mayor believes civilian oversight could be strengthened, but you need the police to be involved in those negotiations" — when contract talks with the police guild begin in the spring. Until then, the City Council can't enact legislation without violating the existing contract. Carr agrees: "You can't alter a collective bargaining agreement unilaterally," he says.

Holmes says no new reports from the civilian board will be released until they're reassured of their legal standing. That leaves the OPA's three-legged civilian monitoring structure standing on two legs.

"If you didn't care about civilian oversight, the status quo would be perfectly acceptable to you," says Holmes. ■

The vendor sold you this paper works. So does Real Change.

Real Change is an organization that is making a difference here and now. Every month, more than 25,000 homeless people are housed because of the money they need while they look for a place to live. People aren't homeless anymore.

Our weekly urban news magazine gives you the voices you don't hear elsewhere and quality reporting on the issues that affect you. We offer you information you need to know and make a difference.

Real Change is reader supported. Last year, more than 800 people read more Real Change magazines by supporting the work they believe in.

Wanted: **Readers like You!** Inside the First City District

I Support Real Change. Here's what I can do.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 Other _____

Make checks to Real Change and mail to 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121, or use our secure online giving option at realchange.org. Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.