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ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

No Brainer

Officials hope funds for pandemic preparedness protect everyone

By **ROSETTE ROYALE**
Staff Reporter

When it comes to hypothesizing about the impact a potential flu pandemic could wreak locally, it's hard not to get caught up in the numbers: in King County alone, the health department estimates 1.2 million may fall ill; 57,000 could require hospital stays; 11,500 could lose their lives.

But there's another hypothetical number that hopes to do battle with all the rest: \$5,960,000.

That's the amount King County Exec. Ron Sims believes will be needed to fund county preparations for pandemic flu. The money would provide a combination of services — among them public education, the large scale purchase of anti-virals, and emergency communication support — touted as the best way for local officials to gird up for an uncertain event that is often spoken of in superlatives.

"We have to be prepared for the worst case scenario," says Sandeep Kaushik, Deputy Communications Director for Exec. Sims.

For a contemporary worst-case scenario, Kaushik points to Katrina-hammered New Orleans, where the ineptitude of governments, both local and federal, left the disenfranchised stranded high and dry. Noting that Exec. Sims is none too hopeful that the feds would be effective in coming to the rescue of this region's poor, Sims has earmarked \$250,000 for strengthening outreach and support to "vulnerable populations."

Preparing monetarily for the situation, however, is merely part of the equation. Conversations need to occur between political officials and homeless advocates. Ironically for some, it's the issue of money that has kept these dialogues in their nascence.

Plymouth Housing Group social service director Tara Connor knows the potential pandemic must be confronted, but "trying to plan for something that's in the distance is overwhelming." Dealing with the day-to-day financial concerns



THE STATE TOOK ELEZABETH ANASTASIA FROM THE HOSPITAL DAYS AFTER SHE WAS BORN. PAUL WADE, ABOVE, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, STELLA, WHO IS MENTALLY ILL, HAVE BEEN FIGHTING TO BRING THEIR DAUGHTER HOME FOR NEARLY 18 MONTHS. (THE PHOTO HAS BEEN ALTERED TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF THE CHILD.)

No Way Home

Dad says state gets money to adopt out kids

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Reporter

Paul Wade has been trying very hard to get it together. But last week he had to make a decision that has literally killed other parents: go to trial to fight the state for custody of his daughter or give her up for adoption to a home with a Microsoft income and a Cadillac Escalade.

It's a decision no parent should have to make, least of all a happy-go-lucky, sometimes homeless 35-year-old who says the state has a financial incentive to adopt out foster children rather than return them to parents — particularly if the parents are poor and have difficult problems such as Paul and Stella Wade's.

In April of 2004, days after she was born, the state took Elezabeth Anastasia Wade directly from the University Hospital without ever releasing her to Paul and Stella — largely out of concern that Stella, 38, is a schizophrenic who refused treatment in the past. Two years ago, the refusal led the state to take away her first child, David, a son by a previous marriage, even though friends and the state say Stella never physically harmed

the boy.

"I didn't realize how arbitrary and unfair the state can be," said Leslie Blanchard, a longtime friend who volunteered with Stella at the Family-Works food bank on First Hill. "I never saw any sign of abuse or neglect."

After Elezabeth's birth, the state put her in foster care and, in April of this year, asked a court to terminate Paul and Stella's parental rights so that the couple who has been raising the girl may adopt her.

The case was one of 3,693 state "dependencies" filed in 2004, a year in which the state also petitioned for 1,472 parental terminations. Not all cases result in parents losing their children, but, once a motion is filed, a clock starts ticking, and Paul Wade has had a hard time keeping up with it.

"The system is built for taking away children," Wade says.

The clock is set by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, a

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HEARD MENTALITY

When the people speak through the ballot box, politicians have little choice but to listen.

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VIOLENT MOVIE

The story of how genocide has devastated the people of Darfur, put down on film.

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FIRST BRACE

As Gov. Gregoire considers budget cuts, WorkFirst wonders if services will be axed.

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FISH STRIFE

Filmmaker contends the Port was out to sink movie on Fisherman's Terminal.

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SOLOMON MINDS

Media critic Norman Solomon wants to turn the channel on war propaganda.

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Be Heard

If we speak up, City Council candidates can't ignore the issues of racial profiling and affordable housing

By Soya Jung Harris and Joy Shigaki
Japanese American Citizens League Seattle Chapter

Last Monday, at a standing-room-only event at Yesler Terrace, community members gathered to hear Seattle City Council candidates address racial profiling and affordable housing issues. Candidates first heard testimony from individuals who had experienced racial profiling by the Seattle Police, and from those who had been displaced from low-income housing. Incumbents and challengers alike then responded to questions on these issues before an audience of nearly 200 people, mostly from communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities.

By many accounts, this candidate's forum drew a more diverse audience than any 2005 election-season forum to date. Listeners took notes and wrote their own questions on index cards as the eight candidates addressed a new and widely criticized mediation process for civilian complaints against the police, measures to strengthen police accountability, the SPD's "buy-bust" drug enforcement tactics, a proposed pre-arrest diversion program for low-level drug offenders, gentrification, and other burning topics. Translation in languages including Amharic, Tigrinian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Oromo helped to ensure that all audience members understood the candidates' responses.

What came of it all? Combined with a written candidates survey, the forum provided information about where candidates stand on important racial and economic justice issues. Now it's time to exercise our power as voters on Election Day, and then to

hold newly elected Council members accountable for what they said once they take office. For example, all eight candidates said they supported one-to-one replacement of low-income housing units in any future development at Yesler Terrace.

In other highlights, both candidates for Position 6, Nick Licata and Paul Bascomb, said they opposed "buy-bust" drug enforcement tactics, where officers pose as drug users to identify and arrest drug sellers. Buy-busts are a leading factor behind racial disparity in drug enforcement, concentrating police resources downtown despite the fact that the West Precinct receives the smallest number of drug-related citizen complaints compared with the rest of the city. As an alternative to buy-bust operations, Licata emphasized treatment and comprehensive social services, while Bascomb stressed the importance of job skills and education.

Likewise, both candidates for Position 8, Richard McIver and Dwight Pelz, said they supported a pre-arrest diversion program that would allow low-level drug offenders to access treatment immediately instead of having to go through Drug Diversion Court, which delays treatment and comes with the costs of jail, court operation, prosecution, and defense.

On the issue of gentrification, candidates for Position 2, Richard Conlin and Paige Miller, differed in their support for an anti-gentrification task force. Miller opposed creation of the task force, saying it was the responsibility of elected officials to address issues of gentrification. In contrast, Conlin said he supported the creation of such a task force because it would help inform policy makers

with input from those people who are directly affected by gentrification. He expressed particular interest in gathering information on who was being displaced, why, and what happens to them afterward. He also said the task force could investigate whether the current system to enforce the rights of tenants was working effectively.

Both Jan Drago and Casey Corr, opponents in the race for Position 4, said they supported a housing policy of "no net loss." However, they seemed to differ in their approach to the Seattle Housing Authority. Drago emphasized in her written response to the candidate survey that SHA was independent of the city, but then seemed to contradict herself at the forum by describing some ways that the City Council had in fact influenced the agency. Corr said in his written statement that he wanted to work out the finances of a "no net loss" policy, but supported the goal as a way to "[put] our social justice values into practice." At the forum, he said he did not accept the notion that the City Council had no influence in holding SHA accountable to low-income communities.

The candidate's forum was endorsed by over 38 organizations, including the Japanese American Citizens League Seattle Chapter, NAACP Seattle Chapter, Arab American Community Coalition, Minority Executive Directors Coalition, Korean American Voters Alliance, Organization of Chinese Americans, Seattle Displacement Coalition, Somali Services Coalition, ACLU of Washington, and dozens of others.

We have heard the candidates' positions on the issues. Now it's time for them to hear from us, at the polls and at City Hall. Let's end business as usual and fight for the civil rights we all deserve. ■

[Resource]
Written responses to the candidates' survey can be found online at www.jaclseattle.org.

Joy Shigaki is President of the JAACL Seattle Chapter, and Soya Jung Harris serves on the JAACL Civil Rights Committee. JAACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, and works to ensure justice, equality and fair play for all people.

It's time to exercise our power as voters on Election Day, and then to hold newly elected Council members accountable for what they said once they take office.



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.

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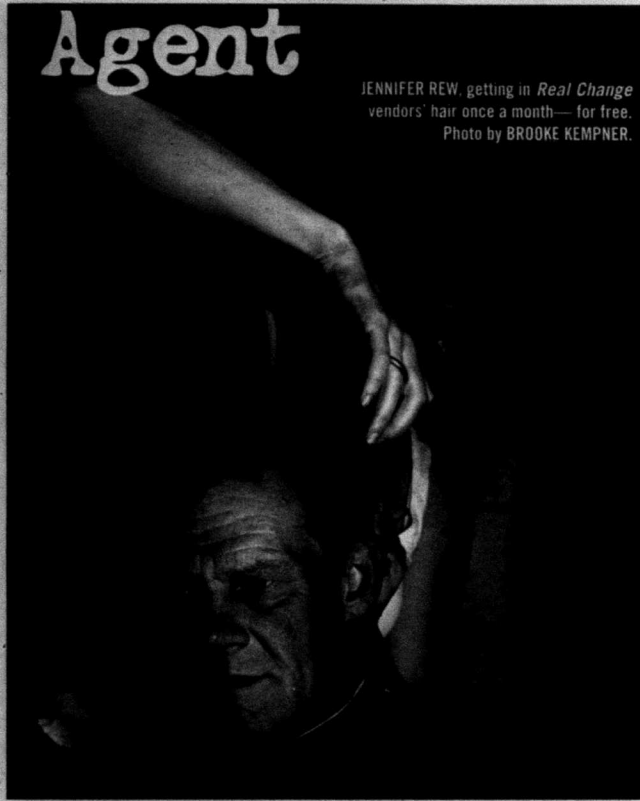
Change Agent

It's not easy to get a decent haircut when money is hard to come by, but a stylish hairdo can still be had for *Real Change* vendors, thanks to Jennifer Rew.

One Saturday a month, Rew shows up at the *Real Change* office with scissors, clippers, and a barber's chair and provides free hair cuts to any vendor who shows up. Rew didn't want to lose the hairstyling skills she learned from the Gene Juarez Academy while in school, so she approached *Real Change* in the spring, along with several other organizations, offering her services for free. Since then her visits have become eagerly awaited — because of both the free cuts and her personable manner.

"In my case, the cliché of the chatty hairdresser is completely true. I love to talk to people and to hear their stories," Rew says. "I love cutting hair and making people feel good when they get a cut they like. But the best part for me has been the people I've met and the things I've learned from them."

—Brooke Kempner



JENNIFER REW, getting in *Real Change* vendors' hair once a month — for free. Photo by BROOKE KEMPNER.

The Face of Darfur

Filmmaker displays the human cost of Sudan's genocide

"Film can be used not just for education, but as a tool of activism."
— Jen Marlowe, filmmaker

By JUSTIN ELLIS
Contributing Writer

Twenty-one years of conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan has left over two million people dead, six million displaced, thousands of women abducted or raped, and hundreds of villages destroyed, according to Amnesty International. The human rights organization reports that in the past three years an estimated 400,000 people have died due to starvation, violence, and disease, and over 2.5 million people have been displaced from their homes. Last year the Bush Administration declared the violence genocide. Yet the situation gets little attention in the media. Filmmaker Jen Marlowe wanted to tell the story that no one else was telling.

Marlowe visited Darfur and the refugee camps in neighboring Chad in the fall of last year to document some of the images, stories, and testimonies of those affected by the ongoing violence from the government-supported Janjaweed. *Darfur Diaries: Message from Home*, a film to be screened by Save Darfur Washington State in Seattle this Thursday, is the result of that trip. The film uses personal interviews to tell the stories of the Darfurians — especially the children, Marlowe says, because children are always the most vulnerable. The main goal in making the film was to raise awareness of what is going on, and to help spur action.

"Film can be used not just for education, but as a tool of activism," Marlowe says.

According to Marlowe, the media is only covering the story in terms of numbers and statistics. While those numbers tell a powerful story, Marlowe wanted to put a human face to it. It is true that because of the chaos in Darfur itself, and because the Sudanese government is

not giving visas to independent journalists, it can be difficult for television crews to have access to the story. But, according to Marlowe, that is not true of the refugee camps in Chad. Still, we have seen very little television coverage coming out of Chad too. The news media is simply not covering the story.

Much of the awareness of the situation in Darfur is the result of student activism, and by organizations like the Save Darfur Coalition, an alliance of 134 faith-based, and humanitarian organizations dedicated to raising awareness of, and stopping, the genocide.

The single most urgent need is civilian protection, says Marlowe. "People's right to exist in security and stability need to be guaranteed. But that doesn't just mean African Union troops making sure that people are no longer being attacked and killed — though of course that is an enormous priority. It also means that the underlying grievances that caused the SLA (Sudanese Liberation Army) to take up arms are addressed. The people in Darfur, as the people all over Sudan, are demanding and deserve equal access to education, political voice, health care, infrastructure, development, etc., as the citizens in Northern Sudan."

Currently there are attempts at negotiations to bring an end to the violence; these attempts have been largely ineffective. Violence has actually been on the increase recently, and Reuters News reports that many of the discussions have been centered on technical points rather than tangible issues of wealth- and power-sharing needed to end the conflict. Reuters reports that U.N. officials have said that the recent surge in conflict has hindered vital aid to hundreds of thousands of refugees. ■

[Event]

The film will be shown at 7 p.m. Thurs., Oct. 27 at Holy Names Academy: 728 - 21st Ave. E., in Seattle.

Just Heard...

Standing pat on the Port

While endorsing challenger Jack Jolley and incumbent Lawrence Molloy, environmentalist stalwarts the Sierra Club and the Washington Conservation Voters are mute about the second of the three contests for the five-member board of commissioners of the Port of Seattle.

Neither Lloyd Hara nor Richard Berkowitz have a particularly green track record. Berkowitz, a lobbyist for a coalition of U.S.-flagged vessel operators, supports drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and — calling it unnecessary — opposed putting a spill-preventing rescue tug at Neah Bay.

Berkowitz says the groups "stayed neutral" because he assured them that he would not use his office to advance his employers' interests. Not quite, says WCV spokesperson Jill Wasberg.

"We felt [making no endorsement] was the right thing to do, in that the environment really didn't have a candidate in that race." And while Hara has courted the green vote, "We haven't seen anything in his background that would make him our candidate."

Artful budget

On the campaign trail Oct. 20, Mayor/candidate Greg Nickels promised around half a million in additional funding to ensure that Seattle would lose no shelter space as the city zeroes out its cheapest bed provider, SHARE. City officials are trying to figure out how to make good on his word.

SHARE had asked for \$238,000 to continue running its 300 beds in 2006 — but refused to participate in gathering personal data about the people who slept in them ["Homeless to Housing," Oct. 12]. The city won't fund SHARE past April 1, says Alan Painter of the Human Services Department.

Contrary to Nickels' ballpark figure, HSD can't say how much extra money is needed to make up the difference. Officials say they're sizing up the amount and availability of affordable housing, plus the vacancy rates that leave some local shelters 80 percent full. "It's an art, not a science," says HSD director Patricia McInturff.

Quite apart from no net loss of beds, "the message is, no net reduction for homeless people generally," says Painter.

Inside move

Even as it loses the battle for city funding, SHARE got some good news last week: it has temporary permission to use the vacant Immigration & Naturalization Service building near Safeco Field for a 40-bed shelter that's been exiled under the I-5 all summer.

—Adam Hyla

Balancing the budget, cutting kids

Gregoire considers Workfirst changes that jeopardize family incomes, child care

By BRIDGET BORUD
UW News Lab

"These changes are going to hurt families."

— Tony Lee,
Statewide
Poverty Action
Network

Gov. Christine Gregoire will announce in the coming weeks what changes she will make to the state's WorkFirst program. Gregoire is looking for ways to reduce the budget of the state's welfare system and earlier in the year appointed a work group to make recommendations.

The Re-Examination Workgroup was charged with shaving nearly \$85 million from WorkFirst, a program that uses both federal and state dollars to help families gain assistance in order to move out of poverty ["Sanctioned," Aug. 10]. Advocates and state officials say the program's deficit is the result of the federal government's lack of increasing funds since 1997, as well as the fact that the state took money out of WorkFirst's budget and put it toward other programs. Gregoire is looking at comments made by the public, and is expected to announce the changes she wants to adopt after Oct. 28.

Many anti-poverty advocates are concerned that the recommendations for savings, if adopted by Gregoire, would have a profoundly negative effect

on Washington's poor. Among the most controversial items are imposing five-year time limits, reducing childcare eligibility, and reducing support services.

By imposing a stricter five-year time limit, the state could potentially grant less "exemptions" for families that have reached the five-year limit for cash assistance. In the past, funding was continued past the five-year limit if families were working or adhering closely to the program's rules. Currently, Washington state grants exemptions to about 8 percent of families in the program.

"These changes are going to hurt families," says Tony Lee of the Statewide Poverty Action Network. "We already have a strict policy here. Present policy says you don't hurt children. This new one does."

David Harrison, chairman of the Re-Examination Workgroup, responds that the exemptions would not be as drastic as many fear.

"There will still be a number of ways one could extend the five years," he says. "We as a task force were seeing it as a relatively small number of people who would be time-exempt. This recommendation was appropriate with a program that improves situations."

Perhaps the most upsetting to many was the recommendation that subsidized child-care eligibility be lowered from 200 percent to 175 percent of the federal poverty level.

"This is purely a cost-cutting measure," says Lee. "What are these people going to do? Quit their jobs? Or worse, leave kids with inadequate care?"

Harrison points out that this issue had minority opinions in the workgroup.

"We ourselves are hopeful that won't happen," he says. "We were responding to [Gregoire's] request on how to balance the budget. We are mindful of people that rely on this."

Another concern for those looking at WorkFirst changes is reducing the amount of aid given to families as "support services," which mainly involve transportation and clothing allowances.

Harrison and the governor's team stressed that the Re-Examination group was looking to strengthen the program with these suggestions, and that Gregoire's final decisions may not be the same as the recommendations made by the workgroup.

"These are just recommendations to her," says Carol Andrews, press secretary for the governor. ■

Short Takes

Needle and Bread

Restaurant workers at the Space Needle have signed a new contract with Space Needle management. Members of UNITE HERE! local 8 have been in negotiations with their employer since June ["Space of Conflict," July 6].

In a statement released October 21, Rick Sawyer, principal officer for UNITE HERE! Local 8 called the agreement "a great success." According to Sawyer, the workers were fighting for "a fair discipline policy, to protect their rights to freedom of speech and union activity, to protect immigrant workers' rights, to keep tip-credit out of their contract, to defeat an arbitrary drug-testing policy, and to get guarantees their jobs would not be contracted out."

As part of the new agreement, the Space Needle Corporation will pick up an extra \$180 per person, per month in health care costs over the next three years. Immigrant rights language was added to the contract, including time off for meetings with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Workers also negotiated extending mandatory gratuities to parties of six or more.

Many union members said that negotiations were intensified this year by the Space Needle's hiring of Jackson Lewis LLC, a law firm that specializes in corporate/worker negotiations and has a reputation for being hard on labor.

The previous contract expired on May 31. At first, workers were fighting to even get negotiation time with their employer: the company did not allow a single negotiation date in June. On July 1, UNITE HERE! local 8 rallied at the base of the needle demanding negotiation dates. It was not

until August that the parties sat down together to begin talks in earnest.

— Jessica Knapp

Debating density

Eight City Council candidates came together on Friday evening to discuss proposals and initiatives for the city which have the potential to change the face of living in Seattle.

The panel was brought together by an alliance of four local activist organizations: Allied Arts, SAGE, Transportation Choices Commission and Yes for Seattle.

Each candidate was allowed one minute as they answered questions about the Mayor's new density plan, low-income housing, transportation, and the preservation of the environment and open spaces.

With every candidate agreeing that a plan for downtown density is a good thing, their thoughts

on how the plan should be put into action displayed their differences.

Paul Bascomb, a first-time candidate, wants to focus and identify the problem of "where we're going to put the density."

Bascomb's opponent Nick Licata claims he doesn't have a problem with the new height proposal, but that the "devil is in the details" and is concerned about preserving affordable housing. He also says he agrees with the proposal to have developers pay into accounts to support low-income housing.

Seeing an opportunity to increase growth around future transportation hubs, Casey Corr continues to focus on "making neighborhoods livable," but says the plan should not displace low-income citizens. While incumbent Jan Drago wants to see "more green on the ground" by creating more parks and planting strips.

Richard McIver also agrees that we need developers to pay fees to provide for the low-income. While his opponent Dwight Pelz says the "ball is in the Mayor's court to put together a specific plan" for density, but worries about putting schools downtown.

Paige Miller says she would like to "see more Harbor Steps [mid-rise apartment's] downtown," but opponent Richard Conlin wants to head back to the neighborhoods for their input on the density proposal.

It was an engaging evening with little resolve as the rhetoric often outweighed direct answers, especially when pressed for plans to protect the future of affordable housing.

— Kimburly Ervin



Countering recruitment

WORKSHOP LEADER JELANI JACKSON SPEAKS ABOUT MILITARISM IN THE SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT RAINIER BEACH HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY. APPROXIMATELY 125 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE FORUM FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF MILITARY RECRUITERS IN THE SCHOOLS. PHOTO BY ELIOT STOLLER.

Bully for You

Port's smear campaign an object lesson in PR manipulation

By B. J. BULLERT, Ph.D.
Guest Writer

The Port sought to deflect attention away from the film's main thrust: the Port's priorities that favor real estate development, its lack of accountability to the public, and the length to which its current leadership will go to manipulate the political process.

The Port of Seattle is a public agency that likes to talk about "transparency," but the "transparency" my film offers proved too much for them.

This fall, the Port of Seattle lobbied hard to suppress or lessen the impact of the showing of my film, *Fisherman's Terminal*, first when it was scheduled as part of a forum at City Hall — and broadcast live on Seattle Channel — and later on KCTS. When Port staff were not able to cancel or postpone the screenings, they sought to contain the film's impact by launching a hatchet campaign against it. Through memos and emails I received through a Public Disclosure request, I found that the concerted effort began in late Aug.

The Port sought to deflect attention away from the film's main thrust: the Port's priorities that favor real estate development, its lack of accountability to the public, and the length to which its current leadership will go to manipulate the political process.

Fisherman's Terminal, the story of the small-boat fishermen, shined a spotlight on the agency that controls most of Seattle's waterfront. The film invites viewers to see this unique community which has struggled to do what fishers have done for centuries: catch and then sell their fish directly to consumers.

Although my film premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival in May, the Port didn't swing into action until late Aug., when City Councilmembers David Della and Peter Steinbrueck scheduled a lunchtime screening in Council chambers. Then, to discredit the film, the Port picked at the details, hoping to build a case proving "inaccuracy and one-sidedness."

Port p.r. hatchet man and former *Seattle Times* reporter David Schaefer led the charge in a coordinated effort involving high-ranking Port officials, the talents of its 20-person public affairs department, and its hand-picked citizens' auxiliary. These players lobbied Della's office with phone calls, memos, and one reportedly made a veiled threat: "Don't go down that path; you don't know what you're getting into."

Their paper trail reveals how the Port operates when it perceives a threat. On Aug. 26, Port staffer Mike Merritt had spoken with Port Commissioner and City Council candidate Paige Miller, who in turn had talked to Jan Drago. Miller recommended "no Port contact with Della until [City Council President] Drago has a chance to deal with the issue." Drago proved unsuccessful, so Port Commissioner Bob Edwards and a handful of staffers, including Kenny Lyles, the Manager of Fishermen's Terminal, lobbied Della's office. Della stood firm.

Schaefer, a pro, pursued a predictable pattern: "Soften 'em up," then extract concessions so that the film is shown in a format where the Port has ample time to have its say.

For the Seattle Channel screening, Schaefer prepared "Talking Points" for the Port's Mark Knudsen, who during the lunchtime event stressed how "the Port does everything it can to support the small-boat fishermen." The day after the lunch, Mike Merritt reassured commissioner Bob Edwards, "It's on the city cable channel, but neither paper saw it as news."

The Port pursued a predictable strategy: first, make groundless allegations, and then repeat them until those unfamiliar with the Port's patterns of deception treat them as fact.

It succeeded in getting the City Council and KCTS to have wrap-around discussions to "balance" the film with the Port's interpretation. On Oct. 6, my four-year labor of love aired on KCTS. I nearly fell out of my chair when I saw two lines of text snake across the bottom of the screen, urging viewers to stay tuned for a panel discussion about "what's happening at Fishermen's Terminal today."

In the post-panel discussion, KCTS' Enrique Cerna acknowledged that the program was in part a response to the concerns raised by the Port. Commissioner Bob Edwards and Mark Knudsen criticized the film with the usual vitriol. Fisher Pete Knutson, also a guest panelist, pointed out how a termite-infested piling was pulled from the dock the day before. "This is Fishermen's Terminal today," he told the camera.

I asked Edwards and Port head Mic Dinsmore about their trying to counter my film at a public hearing Oct. 11. So far, the audio of that meeting had not appeared on their website (www.portseattle.org). Check back, maybe someday it will be. ■

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[More]

The Director's Cut of *Fisherman's Terminal* will be shown at the Olympia Film Festival Saturday, Nov. 5, 4 pm at the Capitol Theater. This has new material not in the KCTS or SIFF versions. Stay tuned for a showing in Seattle. To find out more, go to www.fishermensterminal.net and www.kcts.org/aboutus/fishermen.

War Made Easy

Media critic Norman Solomon on the selling of war and how we can stop

"I think that as human beings we tend to respond to what's in the atmosphere. It's a sort of a constant ambient noise that makes war drums sound normal as time goes on."

Interview by TIMOTHY HARRIS
Staff Writer

Propaganda. The word brings to mind Soviet-era *apparatchiks*, deep in the bowels of the Kremlin, writing the "news" for *Pravda*. Things are different here. If jubilant Iraqis tear down a statue of Saddam Hussein in the aftermath of "liberation," every broadcast outlet in the country can be counted on to air those moving images again and again, completely of their own volition.

And when that image is staged by U.S. Psy-Ops (psychological operations) personnel, that story will break as well, but with a much smaller megaphone. If you really want to know what's happening, the information is mostly available. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the major media are willing collaborators when it comes to the selling of war. Norman Solomon's *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning us to Death* (Wiley, 2005) is a sobering analysis of how we are moved to war. In 17 chapters with headings like "America is a Fair and Noble Superpower," "This Is About Human Rights," and "They Are the Aggressors, Not Us," Solomon explores our recent history from Vietnam forward to reveal how media and government work the myth-making machinery to simultaneously appeal to our best and worst instincts.

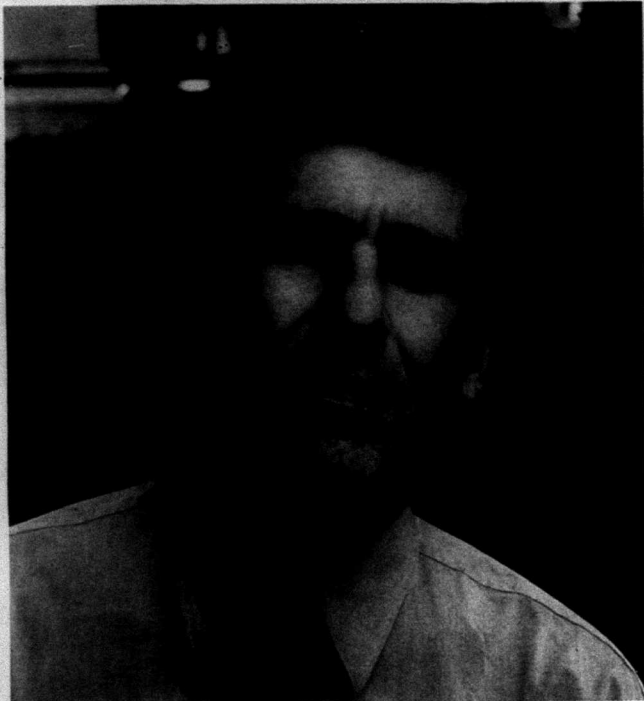
Real Change caught up to Solomon when he was in Seattle this month speaking at the Elliott Bay Book Company.

Real Change: I think a lot of Americans would be surprised to hear that they live within a propaganda system since, as you say, the very

thing that makes it so effective is its invisibility. What are some of the red flags that people should look for?

Norman Solomon: Well, the terrain is filled with red flags, but we take them for granted. That's part of the challenge. War propaganda is indistinguishable from routine news coverage. The essence of propaganda is repetition, and we live in a state of media siege. I think that as human beings we tend to respond to what's in the atmosphere. It's a sort of a constant ambient noise that makes war drums sound normal as time goes on. And I think part of what's important in response is to see how manufactured these messages are, that they're not simply the result of people looking out for our best interests.

The way in which certain things are hammered on: that's a tipoff. We're in the agenda-building period with Iran, not intensively, but it's there. We need to look at the tone and the frequency of references to "how there's a bad country out there, doing bad things," how intolerable it is.



RC: I think it was Jacques Ellul who said that the voice of propaganda is indignation.

Solomon: Yeah. There is this kind of moral high ground that is postured upon by the mainstream pundits quite often. Certainly by the President and Vice President. It's a holier-than-thou, kind of "we're good, they're bad, and because they're so evil we need to take action."

RC: One reading of your book might be that the people are simply easy to manipulate — that a handful of tried and true techniques have worked very well for a long time and probably always will. But you seem a little more hopeful than that. Why?

Solomon: Well, if we can analyze the scam, we can take away some of the power, and that was really, in many ways, the basic reason I wrote the book. I think mystification perpetuates deception. It does. It's not like these people are geniuses. They just have some basic techniques down in terms of messages that are put out. In many respects, the messages can't

Media critic Norman Solomon hopes to make the selling of war a lot harder.

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Continued from Previous Page

stand the light of day if there's a critical vantage point that can be brought to bear. So I think that as powerful as the war propagandists are, they're also vulnerable to being debunked if we can directly challenge their techniques.

RC: Part of the problem is that powerful media interests often have the same perspectives and interests as powerful corporate interests. Is media reform here really possible, or do we simply need to build other alternatives?

Solomon: Well, I think we need to build alternatives and directly challenge mainstream media. We need to raise the question, "Why the hell isn't this information in the mass media?" I don't think we know the limits of creating a more democratic media. We need to find out what's possible, but there are pretty severe institutional constraints at a daily newspaper or a large network.

RC: Some people argue that the Internet has the potential to rival television's power to shape public debate. Do you agree?

Solomon: Like any medium, the Internet has its limitations. When you look at examples of Internet activism, like MoveOn, or even the Dean campaign, the Internet can be sort of a big cul-de-sac. The capacity to reach beyond that circle, even if it's a big circle, is limited. There can be a very delusional quality to the Internet. When it comes up against the broader society, it doesn't compete. MoveOn has three million members, and that's the good news. But it's also the bad news, because three million isn't that many. It makes people feel good to see stuff they agree with in their inbox, but that's not enough.

RC: It seems that there's this comfortable narrative that you can choose to believe and be part of the mainstream. It's very seductive, I think.

Solomon: It's a numbing process, and the anesthetic has a lot of political utility. It's been said that those who believe absurdities make injustice possible. So that there's the layer of illogic that, you know, "there are weapons of mass destruction — oh, there aren't, but it doesn't matter." Or, "Oh, well there wasn't a connection to 9-11,

but just for good measure, we may as well go to war so that we don't have another 9-11."

And then there are the emotional walls that are refurbished constantly by the news media. You know: here's a war, cut to a commercial. Here's a war, we're telling you what a war is, when actually we're just giving you video images that convey almost nothing about a war compared to what it is. There are layers of information blockage, fear, paralysis, and psychological numbing that add up to a fantasy version of war. We don't know shit about war, even though ever since 9-11 there's been a constant flow of war coverage.

RC: One theme of your book is that a common thread in American warmaking has been an expansion of empire. I'm reminded of Thucydides, where Pericles talks about how the demands of empire are difficult, but once held, dangerous to let go. Athens thought of itself as a benevolent empire as well. What would letting go of that mythology, and that claim to empire, really mean for America? What would that look like?

Solomon: It would be a redefinition of who we are, in terms of self-concept and certainly behavior. If you have your boot on somebody's neck, over time there is — consciously or not — a real disincentive to taking your boot off. They might be in a position to lash back. You know, what's implicit in so much media coverage is that might makes right. And when you're in a country that has the Pentagon behind the policy, that's a pretty comfortable position to take. Empires don't have limits, even the U.S. empire in 2005. And frankly, I don't think it's a moral constraint that is keeping the U.S. out of even greater horrific military action. There are the realities of finite numbers of troops and capacity to wage war.

RC: My sense is that, despite everything, the war in Iraq has become very unpopular. You hear talk now of having reached a "tipping point." What do you see?

Solomon: Well, the war is simultaneously unpopular and quite viable politically. The Vietnam War went on for years and years after it had become quite unpopu-

lar. There were more people saying they were against it — even saying they thought it was immoral, according to some polls. And yet the momentum is very difficult to stop.

And that's where the cowardice of members of the Senate, for instance, comes into view. I mean, I live in California, and people who live in Washington, as well — we have senators who are appalling in their refusal to deal with this war. Feinstein and Cantwell and Murray are all making a lot of humanistic noises, having a kind of a liberal constituency to some significant degree. And yet, it's perceived as easier to not push the envelope.

And so there's a lot of huffing and puffing about tactical issues on the war. Meanwhile, we have a military budget of, ballpark, half a trillion dollars a year now. We have a country being bled, literally and figuratively, and there's very little leadership coming from people in public office.

I think that progressives are too nice. Why are we letting these senators off the hook? It's almost like we're not existing in our own historical period and taking responsibility. We're in Groundhog Day in many respects. I do a lot of talk shows and occasionally some people say, as though it's a profound comment, "Well, you know, Iraq is not Vietnam." And I say, "Okay, Iraq is not Vietnam, but the United States is the United States." ■

[Resource]

Norman Solomon is executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy, which "makes frequent communication possible between independent policy analysts and working journalists. IPA promotes the inclusion of perspectives that widen the bounds of media discussion and enhance democratic debate." www.accuracy.org.


Untitled

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—CATHERINE HUNT



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For the class of people who have chosen to control their own labor by not working at all, it's a hard-knock life with a sense of freedom in a land that has always looked to imprison free-thinkers.

Citizen Hobo
By Todd Depastino
University of Chicago Press, 2003
Hardback, 266 pages, \$32.50

By ISRAEL BAYER
Staff Writer

In a time when the federal government is making cities come up with plans to end homelessness while starving Section 8 housing and other parts of our social system, *Citizen Hobo* reminds us we've had similar problems since at least the 1820s.

From reform, to crackdowns, to more shelters, to "housing first": it has all been tried before. More than anything, *Citizen Hobo* brings out how NIMBYism has been used by newspaper editorial boards, scared neighborhood groups, and business alliances to steer the public will.

Depastino captures a time when millions of Civil War veterans who had learned how to hitch trains became the first Hobo Army. He continues by documenting the passing of the hobo culture from one generation to the next in a time when socialism held real political power in America — especially

among the working poor moving from one town to the next. The book brings you through the years of the Great Depression, when Woody Guthrie and Ernest Hemingway would capture and empower the lives of poor people forever, and leaves you with a brief insight to the post-World War II era.

For the most part, though, *Citizen Hobo* is a book written by an intellectual for the intellectual class about how the other half has been looked upon. Depastino also offers us insight into how pop culture viewed the hobo: why, for example, in Charlie Chaplin's prime, a more sympathetic public view of poor people graced the big screen. He also gives a short glimpse into one of the country's first street newspapers, the *Hobo News*, and other social products created by people living in poverty.

But for housing and homelessness activists fighting the good fight, the book provides a crucial lesson in how the political, faith-based, and wealthier classes have strategically blundered one opportunity after the next.

Utah Phillips, long-time tramp, organizer, and folk singer, once told me in an interview, "Those people who die on the streets die at the altar of human

greed." And by writing such a well-researched book, Depastino brings us an insight of how that greed plays out through an overburdened and misled political system hell-bent on reforming or criminalizing the poor instead of meeting people where they are at.

For the class of people who have chosen to control their own labor by not working at all, it's a hard-knock life with a sense of freedom in a land that has always looked to imprison freethinkers like them.

And for other earthly challenged human beings that fall between the cracks in the land of opportunity: we will continue to fear, dismiss, cast aside, and brand them like all empires have done.

At the end of the day, Depastino brings us through many different social settings, all of which were under the umbrella of free-market capitalism — which will continue to breed generation after generation of Hobo Armies.

Communities have been responding with "Not in my Back Yard" movements, while social service and government agencies respond with ad-hoc solutions — and poor people continue to be poor. It's up to us to organize and fight back, or to just take it lying down. ■

Israel Bayer is the former director of street roots (street-roots.org) in Portland, Oregon, and is currently the Outreach Director with Real Change, and board member with the North American Street Newspaper Association. He is also a self-educated poet, journalist, and organizer from the industrial Midwest.

Counter Fit Life

Shoppirl
Written by Steve Martin
Directed by Anand Tucker
Opens Oct. 28 at several theatres

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

Steve Martin, like all good comics, knows life. He understands the funny because he understands the not-so-funny. As a fully credentialed observer of and participant in the misadventures of love, he offers us a tale of vulnerability, hope, and large but empty gestures of affection.

Shoppirl, based on Mr. Martin's novel of the same title, employs a tried and true theme: a young woman from the country comes to the big city to find her dream. What exactly Mirabelle (Claire Danes) hopes to realize is not officially specified but there are hints. An overhead camera shows her lying face up, under the covers, perfectly positioned to one side of an otherwise neatly made bed

for two. Even an optimist would see my lady's boudoir as half-empty.

Mirabelle, pleasant but unspectacular, works at the glove counter at Sak's Fifth Avenue. She is located in a low-traffic area of the store, with few distractions. The product is elegant and expensive. Customers and sales are infrequent. Arguably, staying awake is the chief requisite for the job.

Enter customer Ray Porter (Steve Martin), who upon soliciting her input makes a purchase. He is handsome and tastefully attired. There's an economy to his manner that speaks of class and self-assurance. Middle-aged with impeccably coiffed gray hair, he is three decades her senior.

When the sales clerk arrives at her small drab apartment that night, retiring from the overly opulent environs of the department store, the gift-wrapped gloves, Ray's purchase, are waiting for her. This romantic overture challenges the somewhat tenuous standing of Mirabelle's current suitor, Jeremy (Jason Schwartzman).

Jeremy and Ray are a study in opposites. Everything about Ray says, "I can (but won't necessarily) take care of you." Everything about Jeremy says, "I can't even take care of myself."

Like the gifted gloves, Ray's personality is but an attractive and beguiling accessory, in want of a core to complement; without the substance she seeks and he does not seem to know is missing. For the woman from Vermont, this irreconcilability only seems to make the situation more seductive.

Jeremy, the rival suitor, is a character of curious invention. That he is even able to vie for the affections of Mirabelle bespeaks a world with a serious shortage of available men.

Shoppirl is moving but uneven: alternately insightful and blind. Martin, drawing characters two generations his junior, occasionally resorts to caricatures.

This movie, which will no doubt be seen as a chick-flick, should really be a guy-flick: a clue for the clueless man. ■

Shoppirl, based on Mr. Martin's novel of the same title, employs a tried and true theme: a young woman from the country comes to the big city to find her dream.

Steve Martin and Claire Danes in *Shoppirl*



Mmm, methylmercury!

Adventures in Irony



Dr. Wes Browning

I first became aware of the canned albacore conspiracy a year ago, when I noticed that a store I shop at was stocking more canned albacore than chunk light.

I'm talking about here is something that requires genuine genius, like what Luis Buñuel had in mind when he said, "A paranoiac, like a poet, is born, not made." When you really have the gift of paranoia, you can see clearly how everybody is out to get everybody. I want to say I embody that gift. (I really wanted to say "embody.")

What brought this on was reading that at least 10 major brands of color laserjet copiers now automatically embed barely visible coded messages on copies, enabling the government to figure out when and on what machine a copy is made. The companies are sharing their codes only with the government, and hadn't planned to tell the rest of us about this. A privacy watchdog group caught them. Am I paranoid enough to believe it? Absolutely!

Remember how heroic we all thought Soviet dissidents were when they published anti-Soviet missives on their mimeograph machines? Those old mimeograph machines may come back in fashion!

Now that's good pedestrian paranoia, I thought, but I can do better. I can talk about the vast canned albacore conspiracy.

I first became aware of the canned albacore conspiracy a year ago, when I noticed that a store I shop at was stocking more canned albacore than chunk light. My immediate suspicion was that the store owner figured he could get a higher profit margin from selling the more expensive variety of tuna. Nothing really sinister, just the usual "capitalism screws the poor" scenario: "We don't sell poor-people feed; you're mistaking us for a grocery store. Our motto: Soak the rich; leave the poor out in the rain!"

But then I developed a taste for raw fish so I had to look up health information on that prac-

tice, and one thing led to another, and I found out that CANNED ALBACORE HAS AS MUCH AS THREE TIMES THE METHYLMERCURY AS CANNED CHUNK LIGHT. The Washington State Department of Health says so!

OK, maybe the storeowner didn't know that, I thought. So I told him. Last year. So now he stocks almost nothing but albacore! He's fine with the methylmercury. Bring it on!

I'd tell you which store it is I'm talking about, and out the storeowner, but it doesn't matter. Unbelievably, the market share of albacore is rising everywhere, in spite of the fact that everyone agrees it's bland compared to chunk light and costs too much. The only thing it has going for it is it's whiter. Could racism be behind this?

No! It's worse than that!

Consider the following quote from Dr. Clark Carrington of the Food and Drug Administration: "In order to keep the market share at a reasonable level, we felt like we had to keep light tuna in the low-mercury group" — said at a 2003 FDA Food Advisory Committee meeting.

First of all, that alone tells you that our government bases its food warnings on market shares. Be afraid right there. But more than that, it tells you they (the FDA, the government, EVERYBODY) want EVERYBODY to consume methylmercury. Why?

My answer is my contribution to the art of paranoia: they're afraid of smart people. If people were ever smart they'd figure out that George Bush's scrapping of clean-air goals designed to benefit industry would also ruin their health.

George Bush and everybody could just wait for the 34 tons of annual mercury emissions that they think are acceptable to take their toll, but unless they accelerate our consumption of methylmercury in fish at the same time, we might not get stupid fast enough to keep the Republicans in power through 2012.

So eat lots of pretty lily-white albacore, everybody: it's time for you all to hurry up and get brain damaged. ■



Thurs., Oct. 13, 10:30 a.m., Alaskan & Atlantic St., under Viaduct. Officers observed a transient camp made from cardboard boxes. There were three males and one female occupying the camp. Suspect, a transient white male aged 37, was interviewed and found to be on active supervision with the Department of Corrections. A DOC specialist interviewed the man, and found him to be in violation of his parole for not contacting his mental health provider. He was placed under arrest and transported to the West Precinct. Once in the holding cell he damaged his right wrist, causing it to bleed. Medics responded and found a large cut along his right forearm. He stated it was from a previous injury that he had opened with a rusty nail. At this point suspect was transported to Harborview Medical Center for treatment and a mental health evaluation. Another of the campers, a transient white female aged 28 was also contacted for trespass. A name check showed an outstanding warrant for her arrest. This was verified, and she was booked into King County Jail.

Thurs., Oct. 13, 11:01 p.m., S. Washington St., Occidental Park. Suspect, a transient Black male aged 42, was contacted in the park during a narcotics stop. A name check showed the man had two previous Parks Exclusion notices that were still in effect. Prior to arrest he was searched, and officers found two new, unused crack pipes in a pocket. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

Fri., Oct. 14, 2:26 p.m., Eighth Ave. N., Unity Church. Unity Church is a member of the SPD trespassing program, and as such the church is posted with "No Trespassing/Laitering" signs. The suspect, a transient Black male aged 37, was found sitting on a flowerpot inside a church doorway. When officers initially contacted the suspect he had what appeared to be a crack pipe in his hand, and officers retrieved a crack pipe and what appeared to be two small pieces of crack cocaine from the area the man was sitting in. A routine name check showed he was on active supervision with the DOC. His DOC officer was contacted, and they placed a detainer on the suspect. He was then arrested and transported to King County Jail, charged with criminal trespass.

Fri., Oct. 14, 3:50 p.m., Seventh Ave. S. & S. Lane St., International District, Children's Park. Suspect, an Asian male aged 37, was observed standing inside the park with an unknown female. Officers were aware that he is currently trespassed from all Zone 5 parks for one year, and he was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

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ADOPTION, Continued from Page 1

federal law that gives parents 18 months to get their act together or face permanent termination. Dan Schneider, supervisor of the Seattle office of Child Welfare Services, points out the law keeps kids from languishing in foster care for years on end, the way they once did.

At the same time, the law drops people such as Paul Wade, a "valley boy" from California with a quirky sense of humor and a learning disability, into a labyrinth of lawyers, counselors, children's advocates and parenting specialists.

The system exists, under law, to help parents correct problems so they can get their kids back, which Schneider says about one third of the parents who come through his office do.

But, for the children who are adopted out, Wade is correct — there is a financial incentive. Each year, the feds set an adoption quota for the state. Pam Kramer, adoption program manager for the state Children's Administration, says the quota is based in part on how many kids are in foster care.

Under the federal Adoption Incentive Program, Kramer says, the state gets up to \$4,000 for every adoption made above the goal and up to \$2,000 more if the adopted child is older than age 9. In 2003, she says, the state surpassed its adoption goal of 1,273 and got \$1.6 million in federal incentive funding.

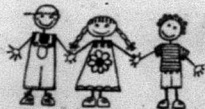
Schneider says the incentive means nothing to social workers in the field — they get nothing. But the incentive and how the system has treated him leads Paul Wade to call Child Welfare Services a sham. No one, he says, ever advocated for him.

See ADOPTION, Continued on Page 12

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Can-Do attitude

Dear Real Change,

I am responding to Patty Johnson's "White and Sorry" letter, as well as Leigh Ann Merley's "Easy Living" letter [Oct. 19]. I'm a young white person of privilege. It is plain to me that neither reader has ever been to an anti-racist training, of which there are many in Seattle.

First, let me indicate that I am only beginning to recognize my own white privilege. Let me tell you what I've got so far: 1) I can drive my nice Mitsubishi Eclipse down the road without being a suspect, 2) I can sit quietly by in a conference room while people of color are interrupted or ignored in my place of business, 3) I can buy clothes at the GAP, which exploits people of color around the world for sweatshop labor that makes the Western white-dominated world comfortable and timely.

But I can also do a power analysis as an ethical human being, and use these unjust privileges granted to me at birth by dumb luck to speak up. I can ask loud voices to take a step back while quiet voices take a step forward. I can recognize that as a person born with white, or even just Western, privilege comes responsibility, and with that there is true power to make change. And I can recognize that power granted to one person, one nation, one culture, is power denied to another. *Real Change* exposes injustices for those who do something about them. Don't knock it.

Andrea Cuccaro
Seattle

Should vs. Must

Dear Real Change,

Thanks for covering how Safe Harbors — Seattle's proposed computer tracking of homeless people — puts "at stake 300 of the most cost-effective shelter beds in town" [Oct. 12]. We have a correction and an observation:

It is NOT true that "Seattle is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to collect the data." What the Federal Register says, in Vol 68, No 140, Part II, Page 43438, 2, is "HUD has determined that some data elements should be collected by all agencies serving homeless people." There's a big difference between should and must!

Computer tracking of homeless people isn't required by the Federal Government. City of Seattle community Services Division Head Alan Painter and his co-workers grossly exaggerate how important tracking homeless people is to winning future federal dollars. *Real Change* should investigate further the many misrepresentations of "Safe Harbors" and the county Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness that Painter perpetuates.

Your readers should also know why many homeless people fiercely protect their privacy. Privacy is out best protection against the unfair and ignorant prejudices that we face every day. We are already on the bottom rung, working to get up, and Safe Harbors is a Scarlet Letter that we do not deserve. Once in place, Safe Harbors will be used to find out past histories.

Whose freedom and liberty should be protected — homeless peoples' freedom from government snooping, or governments freedom to snoop on us?

15 members of SHARE

Whether or not it's required by HUD, Safe Harbors is required by the city, which implemented the plan in 1999. —Ed.

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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October 29th, 2005

CLASSIFIED

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

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 a way to reach 30,000 loyal readers. Call 441-3247, or email classified@realchangenews.org.

Calendar

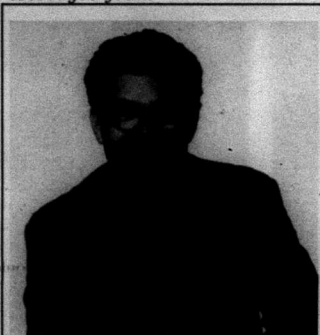
This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 10/26

Jazz Poetry on Jackson celebrates the music's rich history in Seattle since 1918. Poetry will be accompanied with jazz to emulate the rhythms and freedom of the music. Bebop-flavored poet Kamau Da'ood, a young member of the Watts Writers Workshop and co-founder of World Stage, will read from his collections. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 students, seniors, and members. 8 p.m., Theatre Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. S, www.theatreoffjackson.org.

Thursday 10/27

Shot on location in the Fall of 2004, the powerful documentary *Darfur Diaries: Messages from Home* humanizes the country's victims of genocide and rape through a series of moving personal interviews. Free, but donations to *Doctors without Borders* will be collected. 7 p.m., Holy Names Academy, 728 21st Ave. East. Info: www.darfurfilm.org.



With comedic flair, **Al Franken** takes on the Bush administration and their right-wing cronies. The best selling author of *Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot* and *Other Observations and Lies* and the lying liars who tell them comes to Seattle armed with facts, research, humor, and his new book *The Truth*. Tickets free with purchase of *The Truth*. Monday, October 31, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Skewering the public and political life of Seattle, Dan Savage, sex educator and editor of *The Stranger*, hosts the pre-election installment of *Seattle Follies: Cabaret with a Political Twist*. Guaranteed to be funnier than SNL, the evening features Dave Ross, Reggie Watts, satirical sketches, and music. Tickets \$13 and up. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Friday 10/28

Americans are only five percent of the world's population, but we create 30 percent of its trash. Going beyond the overused mantra "reduce, reuse, recycle," Heather Rodgers's film *Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden Life of Garbage* documents the history of waste management and our current disposable lifestyle. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl.

Saturday 10/29

The Radical Women group hosts a masquerade party, featuring tarot readings, dancing, costumes, a no-host bar, Beelzebub's Bodacious Buffet, and the political satire show *The Greedy Ghoul Who Privatized*

Halloween. Donations \$5-10. 7:30 p.m., New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S. Info: (206)722-6057.

El Día De Muertos: A Celebration of Latino Culture honors Mexican tradition with altars, sugar skulls, candles, music, dance, and art. All activities strive to embrace the culture's unique heritage and respect the dearly departed. Noon - 6 p.m., Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St., www.seattlecenter.com.

Through Monday 10/31

Homa Dema: Here and There is the first international exhibition of Burmese and Karen refugee artists. Using acrylics, watercolors, and charcoal, they explore the nature of their transient life on the border between Thailand and Burma. Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Vidya Gallery, 619 Western, (206)697-4439, www.vidyagallery.com.

Tuesday 11/1

Correspondent for Britain's *Independent*, Andrew Gumbel, pays Seattle a visit with his new book *Steal This Vote: Dirty Elections and the Rotten History of Democracy in America*, which traces the history of election fraud: the Hayes-Tide election of 1876, the disenfranchisement of African Americans in post-Reconstruction South, and the 2000 and 2004 debacle. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Seattle, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Through Sunday 11/13

Highlighting the interdependence of war and economy, Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*, is the striking play about a woman who depends on war for her survival as she safeguards her merchandise from enemy fire. This adaptation includes an original score and University of Washington Distinguished Professor Robyn Hunt as Mother Courage. \$13 regular, \$10 seniors, \$8 students. Sun. 2 p.m., Tues. - Sat. 7:30 p.m. University of Washington, Meany Hall. Info: www.meany.org.

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

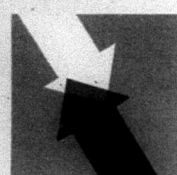
Director's Corner



Somewhere along the line, most people came to believe that government is bad, taxes are extortion, and we're all pretty much on our own. We like the idea of decent roads and schools and such, but not enough to actually pay for them. Tax cutting initiatives, therefore, have perennial appeal and this November's gas tax repeal will likely pass. Bridges and viaducts be damned; we want cheap gas. Last weekend, I filled up at \$2.56 a gallon. With gas in Europe at between \$4 and \$6 a gallon, I'm thinking it's already pretty cheap, but apparently I'm in the minority there.

Meanwhile, Congress blithely passes huge war budgets and disaster packages as if no one will ever pay. It's sort of like buying a million-dollar house with a sixty-year mortgage and a huge forty-year balloon payment. I'll never see the house, and neither will my kids, but they'll make the payments every year, even as the world collapses around their ears.

I'm reminded of the Seinfeld episode where George yells at some rude yuppie, "Hey! We're living in a society you know!" Somehow, we need to get back to the idea of the common good that gave us the New Deal and the Great Society. So long as we think we're in this for ourselves, the poor will get poorer, the rich will get richer, and things will fall apart.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Where's the Beef? Not in the Budget

Issue: The Seattle City Council is reviewing the Mayor's proposed budget, including funding for homeless shelters and transitional housing. His proposal doesn't significantly increase funding to end homelessness, even though the City has a budget surplus — \$17 million that could be used to help people leave the streets.

Background: Every four years, City funded shelter and housing providers have to reapply to keep their funding. This allows the City to make sure our dollars are used in the most effective way possible. That process happened this year, and the results will be announced in mid-November, well into the City Council's budget process (the budget is usually final just before Thanksgiving.)

The 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, which the City is using as a guide in funding decisions, rightly contends that to end homelessness, we have to invest in permanent housing along with the services people need to get and keep that housing. At the same time, it clearly states that we must address the immediate safety needs of those who are currently homeless, including providing emergency services like shelter, until permanent housing is available for everyone.

As part of the current shelter funding process, City officials have stated a priority for shelters that include services to help move people out of homelessness. On top of that, the lowest cost shelters in the city — SHARE/WHEEL's self-managed programs — are unlikely to be considered eligible for further funding because they won't implement Safe Harbors, the required homelessness management information system. These two factors mean that if the City does not add money to the system, the total number of shelter beds available to meet people's emergency needs will drop.

Last week, the Mayor made a surprise announcement that he was developing a budget proposal to maintain or increase the total number of beds available. He hasn't announced details yet, but this was welcome news. Achieving real progress toward ending homelessness will require an infusion of new money into the system — an investment that will pay for itself in the long run. Homelessness, and all the required emergency services that come with it, is expensive. When fewer people need shelter, the City can shift shelter money into permanent housing and other long-term solutions. That's what the 10 Year Plan authors had in mind. They didn't intend to move money out of shelter before increasing other options.

Action: You can help make sure the Mayor makes good on the promise he made last week to prevent any reduction in beds. Contact the Mayor and the City Council with the following message: Shelter and transitional housing keeps people alive and allows them to put energy into doing what they need to do to leave the streets like finding a job and looking for permanent housing. The City should use some of its budget surplus to make progress on the 10 Year Plan, including adding funds to ensure that we don't lose a single shelter bed.

We've made it easy for you by setting up an online advocacy campaign. Just visit www.realchangenews.org to send your message now. You can also help by attending the next city budget hearing on Nov. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Come and testify or just come show your support.

ADOPTION, Continued from Page 10

Even though he has done everything the state told him to do — get a job, get housing, take parenting classes and more — Wade says his court-appointed lawyer put it to him this way: If you want to ever see Elezabeth again, you'll sign the adoption papers voluntarily so you can get a once-a-year visit. Otherwise, you'll lose her forever in a parental termination hearing.

"They had already made up their minds about giving my daughter to these [foster] parents," Wade says. "They tell me, 'You have a chance, you have a chance,' and they knew from the get-go I've never had a chance" — something Wade believes has a lot to do with his circumstances.

"They take poverty parents' kids away and give to the upper middle-class or rich," he says.

Schneider and Leah Rose, Wade's caseworker in Seattle's "King West" office, say that's not true, that Wade simply didn't make enough progress in his services. Over the past 18 months, they say, he missed or was late to supervised visits with Elezabeth, gave her food she choked on and didn't take instructions well, including getting angry at social workers who directed him.

A psychologist who evaluated Wade noted the father's learning disability and predicted his anger in a report in Wade's case file. The psychologist also stated Wade is fit to be a parent — if only, the state has always insisted, he leaves Stella.

Stella is a Russian-speaking Armenian whose family came to America in 1993 from her home country of Azerbaijan. After getting here, Stella married a Russian man who she says abused her. So she left him to raise their child, David, alone.

For three years, she made money as an artist, painting folk art on broaches for a company. Sometime after she lost that job, Stella began hearing voices — usually her ex-husband's. Her delusions grew to the point of thinking neighbors were spying on her and the

walls had listening devices. That led her to make trouble with neighbors and cut holes in the walls of her apartment, for which she was evicted.

Last fall, after Elezabeth's birth, Stella went to the University Hospital insisting the doctors had taken out some of her organs. She was arrested and spent five months in Western State Hospital.

Today, case reports show Stella is on anti-psychotic medication and functions normally, though friends say she is not the bubbly person they once knew. Despite this, Stella's caseworkers have repeatedly stated that they believe she will stop taking her medications — the prime factor in the state's refusal to ever let Stella or Paul have Elezabeth Anastasia.

Linda Lillevik, a family law attorney and former dependency supervisor for the Defenders Association, says the law doesn't stipulate there has to be harm, just a risk of harm. In cases such as Stella's, where a child ends up taking on the parent's delusions, that's a problem.

That doesn't diminish the tension Lillevik sees between a state law that encourages reunifying families and a federal incentive program that encourages adoption.

"The really telling point is that there's no financial incentive from the feds for the number of reunifications," Lillevik says. "So even though Washington has a fairly good statute for saying the goal is reunification, the financial incentives the state gets aren't geared toward keeping kids out of the system or out of foster care."

Last week, in a state of anguish over the idea of never being allowed to see Elezabeth again, Paul and Stella Wade signed the adoption papers. Given how hard the couple tried, Schneider says it was a very tough case — but a call that had to be made.

"I love my child. I've never loved anyone as much as this," Wade says. "I feel frustrated like I've been raped of my rights as a parent." ■

PANDEMIC, Continued from Page 1

for an organization that provides transitional housing for close to 750 people, leaves little time to plan for flu pandemic, especially when baseline funding is far from assured. Pandemic preparedness, she notes, has been brought up briefly in conversation with Health Care for the Homeless Network (HCHN) representatives.

HCHN program director Janna Wilson concedes these dialogues have only just begun, in part, because most people may not be aware about the proposal to fund preparedness. "I think it's fairly new information," says Wilson. She says in-house discussions have just gotten underway, with brainstorming focused on the best way to disseminate information. "We really have started to move in a higher gear around that issue."

Higher gear, in one sense, means an additional step for a previous program. When the HCHN public nurse administers free flu vaccines at shelters — last year, 1000 vaccinations were provided — she will now field questions about flu pandemic.

YWCA director Linda Weedman has nothing but praise for last year's flu vaccination program, which benefited close to 500. The proposed expansion of the HCHN, says Weedman, moves the dia-

logue in the right direction. "I am excited about there being funding to help vulnerable populations," says Weedman.

Kaushik says the county council will be looking at the funding over the coming weeks, with a decision hopefully to come by Thanksgiving. The nearly \$6 million, which would also allow for money to buy anti-viral supplies for first line responders — health care providers, police, sewage treatment and water providers — also designates \$2.28 million to allow for medical treatment of the elderly, young, immuno-suppressed or other high-risk individuals. While it's not known if Tamiflu, the medication being sought to pad vaccine stocks, will be effective during a pandemic, Kaushik thinks it's better to have medicine than not.

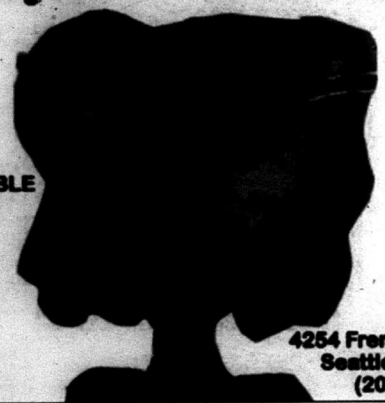
"In the worst-case scenario, we may save thousands of lives, says Kaushik. "It seems like a no-brainer." ■

[Resource]

To get the complete breakdown of Exec. Ron Sims' pandemic preparedness proposal, visit: www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2005/1012/hufunds.htm

To find out more about what the public health department is doing to address pandemic flu, visit this website: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pandemic-flu/index.htm>

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