

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

## Stood Up

**State fouls foster child visits**By **CYDNEY GILLIS**  
Staff Reporter

**R**eunification. It's a big word to a little kid that means going back to live with mommy or daddy after a parent has cleaned up a drug or abuse problem to the state's satisfaction.

Reunification relies on the parent visiting the child regularly and often — something state officials repeat over and over while they try to explain a rash of missed visitations and contempt of court filings that children's advocates are calling a crisis at the Department of Children and Family Services.

See **STOOD UP**, Continued on Page 12

A YOUTH IN LAGOS, NIGERIA, STANDS BEFORE A TRASH HEAP FILLED WITH ELECTRONIC WASTE. THE WASTE, SHIPPED TO NIGERIA FROM DEVELOPED NATIONS, CONTAINS A BEVY OF TOXINS. PHOTO COURTESY BASEL ACTION NETWORK.

## The Digital Dump

**Poor nations fast becoming U.S. trash heap for toxic electronic waste**By **ROSETTE ROYALE**  
Staff Reporter

**O**ne man's junk, the old saying goes, is another man's treasure. But when that one man is the developed world, and another man is Nigeria, the junk — a seemingly never-ending flow of largely inoperable computer parts — becomes nothing more than toxic waste.

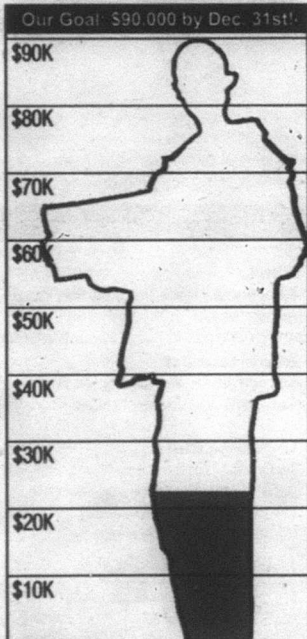
How much junk are we talking? Every month, it's estimated that 400,000 computers or monitors arrive in Nigeria, with upwards of 75 percent of these electronic émigrés far beyond the point of repair. Combine all this electronic waste — or e-waste, for short — and you currently have a one-square-acre mass of toxic trash that towers 300 feet, rivaling the height of the Statue of Liberty. And yet, except for the Nigerians who glance at it every day, most of the world may not even know such e-waste exists.

That unknowing has come to a definitive end, however, thanks to a recent report entitled "The Digital Dump: Exporting Re-use and Abuse to Africa." Released late last month by the Basel Action Network (BAN), the 43-page report is unflinching in its assertion that the developed world's desire to get rid of

e-waste at low cost is amounting to the highest of costs for the people of Nigeria, especially for citizens in its largest city, Lagos.

"E-waste is toxic waste," says Richard Gutierrez, toxics policy analyst for the Seattle-based BAN. "We're talking about carcinogens. We're talking about birth defects. We're talking about issues that are long-term, that will persist and affect the people on the ground for a long time."

And that's the place where the majority of e-waste resides: on the ground. The report details piles of computer monitors, hard drives, and keyboards piled in unlined and unmonitored dumpsites in Lagos, oftentimes situated near groundwater. Leaching from this digital detritus is barium, beryllium, cadmium, lead, and mercury, all of which are well documented in their toxicity to humans. Most Lagotians, unaware of the toxic chemicals' presence, attempt to eradicate this electronic eyesore by periodically burning the e-waste. That action, the BAN report

See **E-WASTE**, Continued on Page 12

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NOV. 9-15, 2005

## UNION BLUES

A state ruling to saddle gays and lesbians with civil unions would only breed intolerance.

PAGE 2

## CAL: AHHH

Capitol Hill residents breathe in the beauty of newly remodeled Cal Anderson Park.

PAGE 3

## TRADE SCOFF

Forum sheds light on how U.S. policies draw immigrants to work here, only to punish them.

PAGE 4

## DOUBLE GLEAM

Married couple Sharon and Tony Lee, working to end poverty, are named "Hero for the Homeless."

PAGE 5

## PICTURE HOOK

A collection of war photos by Catherine Leroy dares you to look away.

PAGE 6

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

# No Sidestepping

Nothing but legal marriage for same-sex couples will do

Some in Olympia might be tempted to sidestep into civil unions. That's the wrong move. It feeds the fanatics and shortchanges the open-minded. It breeds confusion and chooses discrimination over justice.

by JANICE VAN CLEVE  
Guest Writer

By the time you read this, the Washington State Supreme Court may have already decided a case that challenges this state's so-called Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA) passed in 1998.

The justices could do the right thing. They could throw out DOMA and order the state to make same-sex marriage legal immediately. They could do the wrong thing and uphold DOMA.

But they could also make a lame decision by tossing the issue back into the state legislature.

The courts did that in Vermont and came up with something called civil unions. Civil unions are a brand new invention that nobody ever heard of. They are supposed to provide all the benefits of full legal marriage but not the name. They are based on the erroneous theory that gay and lesbian families are simply grasping after some financial benefits.

But there are things more sinister lurking in civil unions. Keep the following in mind:

- Separate is never equal. If the benefits and responsibilities of civil unions are indeed exactly the same as marriage, what is the sense of inventing a new name for it? What are they hiding? Rosa Parks knew the difference between a front seat and a back seat and so do we.

- Words have power. Naming a thing gives it an identity, a meaning, and a place. The word "marriage" has instant identity, meaning, and place throughout the world. While it may possess different aspects from one jurisdiction or culture to another,

the love and commitment behind it is universally understood. What does a "civil union" mean? It means only one thing: discrimination.

- Civil unions choke open-minded people. It takes as much time and energy to embrace same-sex civil unions as it takes to embrace same-sex marriage. Why? Because marriage is universally understood and civil unions are not.

In fact, same-sex marriage is easier to get across to open-minded people because it is 99 percent the same as what they already know. The one difference is that the couple share the same gender. However, if the progress of fairness and justice is choked off at civil unions and not permitted to advance to understanding and acceptance of full legal marriage, we are cheating open-minded folks. It's censorship. It's preventing an idea from getting across by setting up an artificial barrier.

- Civil unions feed hate-minded people. The religious fanatics did not stop their gay-bashing when Vermont passed its civil unions law. They started going after domestic partner benefits, adoptions by gay parents, hate crimes, and all the rest. The religious fanatics do not compromise. So why bother trying to appease them?

- Massachusetts made the right decision. There, the state passed full legal marriage — not civil unions. Of course the religious fanatics attacked. They tried to amend the state constitution. The first vote passed narrowly but by law in that state, a second vote had to be taken a year later.

You know what happened in that year? Nothing! The sky did not fall. The county clerks did not run out of mar-

riage licenses. Heterosexual families did not come unglued. The second vote overwhelmingly decided to leave the constitution just as it was. Moreover, not one of the legislators who took that brave stand lost their seats — while some of the fanatic legislators were thrown out of office.

This is a lesson for the legislature in our state. Some in Olympia might be tempted to sidestep into civil unions. That's the wrong move. It feeds the fanatics and shortchanges the open-minded. It breeds confusion and chooses discrimination over justice.

Don't let them do that. Write or call your legislator now. Tell them that full legal marriage for our families is just a tiny step. Marriage stays the same: intact, healthy, and good for kids. All they have to do is make it available to all citizens equally and not just one set of citizens. Civil unions, on the other hand, create a huge can of worms that they will have to eat again, sooner rather than later. Civil unions are simply not an option. ■

#### [Event]

Don't Amend and a host of other organizations are sponsoring a protest/celebration at First Baptist Church (on Harvard at Union on Capitol Hill) at 5 p.m. the day the decision comes down. See [www.dontamend.com](http://www.dontamend.com).

Janice Van Cleve is a founder and past president of Legal Marriage Alliance.



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

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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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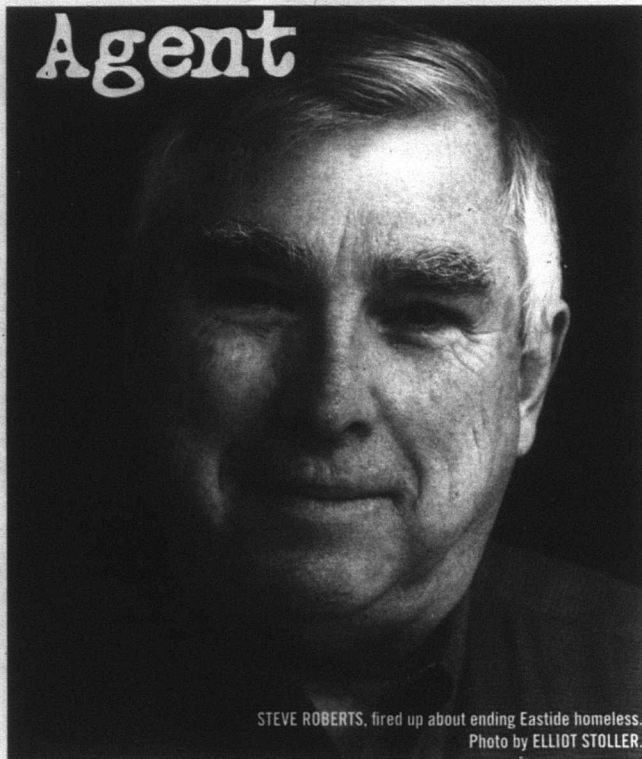
# Change Agent

Compared to Seattle, the Eastside's homelessness problem seems small, but it's no less real for the 30 men who sleep in a roving Eastside shelter — the men Steve Roberts refers to as "my guys."

For more than a decade Roberts has run Congregations for the Homeless, a "stealth" shelter that moves monthly between a dozen Eastside churches, quietly operating in neighborhoods that have opposed its higher-profile counterpart, Tent City.

Many of Roberts' "guys" have long been ready to move out on their own, if only there were a place for them to go. Only eight units of transitional housing nearby are open to single adults. Roberts, a volunteer, is vying for more local resources from the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. He's also started a life-coaching program for homeless men. The catchphrase is ripe for mockery, but Roberts explains it's merely a new word for an old challenge: getting case management to those who need it. "I've got a lot of irons in the fire," Roberts says with a grin. "I just keep turning 'em."

—Amy Roe



STEVE ROBERTS, fired up about ending Eastside homeless. Photo by ELLIOT STOLLER.

## Pretty, Busy

Foot traffic designed to keep Cal Anderson Park shiny and clean

By JESSICA KNAPP  
Contributing Writer

The \$1.1 million remodel of Cal Anderson Park, named for Washington's first openly gay state legislator, was completed this summer. Anderson died in 1995. Photo by Katia Roberts.

Even on a wet and windy Tuesday evening, people are here. They are sitting on benches, reading or writing. They ride bikes or jog along the trails. A man cuts across on the way home with a bag of groceries. A woman wearing a blank expression, half-smoked cigarette in hand, shuffles through with a pet dog on leash.

All evidence points to the conclusion that the residents of Capitol Hill have taken to their latest public space and embraced it as part of their daily lives.

On Sept. 24, a newly renovated Cal Anderson Park opened to rave reviews.

At just over seven acres, the updated environment includes enhanced playing fields, trails, and a shelter house, and is topped off by a whimsical fountain. Part of a new four-acre addition that covers the Lincoln Reservoir, the fountain resembles an asymmetrical cone — or for those with slightly less puritanical minds, it not so subtly hints at some sort of female sexual imagery.

The park, located at 1635 11th Avenue, has an artistry and grandeur that the utilitarian Lincoln Reservoir never dreamed of. The healthy green grass is a welcome

respite from the concrete of its neighborhood (even though the playing fields are lined with artificial turf), and the feminine fountain flirts with passersby on Broadway. This park entices.

"It looks so much better than what was there before. I hope residents of the Hill can keep it a clean and inviting place," says Jeff Dorion, who lives a few blocks from the park.

Indeed, the park's previous condition left something to be desired. Dorion continues, "I was never tempted to visit the reservoir."

Liza Maslow, another park neighbor, has yet to visit the site, even though she has heard good things: "That area was so lackluster for so long, I don't even think of it as a beautiful place to visit. I still go to Volunteer Park, but maybe I'll have to change that."

While not everyone has visited, some of those who work and live closest to the park are using it on a regular basis. Lyall Bush, programs and education manager for the nearby Richard Hugo House, says he frequently visits the park: "The grassy knoll area, with the reflecting pool and the Gasworks Park-like slopes and so on, is gorgeous and a big and beautiful addition to Capitol Hill. I'd prefer that the playing field adjacent to it were real grass, too, and not artificial turf, but that's relatively small potatoes. I go there often, and it always changes my mind."

Parks Department spokesperson Dewey Potter says that the city hopes to engage the community in keeping the park a safe and inviting environment. The department intends to form a steering committee, a plan which should receive internal approval by the end of the year and would then be implemented beginning in 2006.

The committee would include representatives from Capitol Hill community organizations, such as the neighborhood Chamber of Commerce, the Capitol Hill Arts Center, Hugo House, and the East Precinct police, as well as members of groups

## Just Heard...

### Nickels and Dimes

With the power of the city behind him, incumbent mayoral candidate Greg Nickels told human-services advocates at an Oct. 20 debate that no homeless shelter ought be lost as a result of next year's budget decisions.

It was a campaign promise broken early, since the mayor's Human Service Department will cut 189 shelter beds come April 1, when it de-funds the scrappy, low-cost shelter organization SHARE.

Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, chair of the council's Housing Committee, has worked with the mayor's staff to partially restore those funds — but their effort still shortchanges the city's existing shelter supply by approximately 90 beds.

Cutting shelter is justified, according to the city's projections, because new housing for the homeless is becoming available and because some beds typically go empty anyway. But it's not desirable in a county where 2,000 people are estimated to be sleeping outside and many who seek help are turned away for reasons of space.

A Nickels campaign official declined to comment on the short life of the candidate's promise. The silence extends into City Hall as well; calls to the mayor's office were returned by HSD — which is wielding the budget ax in the first place.

### Elections: imperfect

King County officials purged voter rolls of the dead and disenfranchised, paid extra judges to watch the polls, and assigned sheriff's deputies to round-the-clock detail until the election is certified Nov. 29.

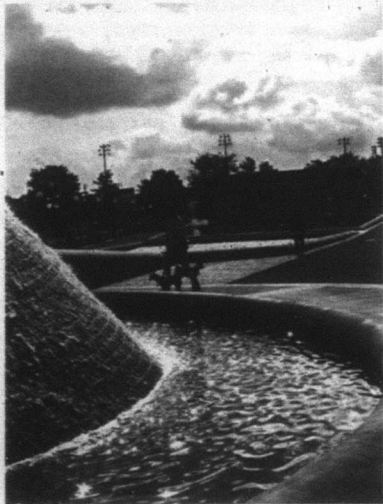
But they missed one thing, says Bev Harris of Black Box Voting, the nationally renowned elections watchdog: with the right equipment and the technical expertise of a good TV repairman, the election can be fixed by tampering with the voting machines.

In an Oct. 24 test of the machines by county workers, Black Box observers noted that spare memory cards were mislaid for the taking and that seals on the machines could be tampered with.

Harris says the likelihood of such mischief increases when the county, solving the problem of transporting machines to 500 different polling places, sends them home with each poll's judges days before the election. "That immediately expands the chain of custody to 500 people," she says.

It's a far-fetched scenario, says superintendent Dean Logan, necessitating "a corrupt poll worker who had access to the vote tabulation system and the software for that card." And he says the likelihood of catching mischief is high, since the paper ballots could always be recounted.

—Adam Hyla



# Uprooted by Design

Forum highlights link between undocumented labor and free trade policies

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**  
Staff Reporter

The Minutemen can patrol the Mexican border all they want, but it won't do any good, immigrants say. Any Mexican or Bolivian or Honduran who can't get work or make enough money isn't going to watch their kids go hungry.

Just ask Rosalinda Perez. When her friend Maria was pregnant with a second child, Maria and her husband, José, realized they were in trouble. Despite his computer-science degree, Perez says José earned only \$6 a day. Both worked extra jobs, but they still didn't have enough.

So José crossed the border into the United States, one of 500,000 Mexicans who do so each year, many on foot in the desert. Each year, the desert kills 400—cruel deaths, Argentine immigrant Jorge Quiroga says, that are caused largely by U.S. policies aimed at free trade and open markets.

Getting people to make that connection — that free trade not only ships American jobs away but sucks Hispanics here

from trade-devastated countries — is critical to Quiroga, a member of Seattle's Committee for General Amnesty and Justice.

The group advocates immigrants' rights and worked with the Community Alliance for Global Justice to hold a public forum Saturday at Seattle's Miller Community Center, where Quiroga, Perez, and others spoke on the link between globalization and immigration.

Since Congress passed the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico in 1994, said the Community Alliance's Jeremy Simer, Mexico has gone from importing just 3 percent of its staple commodity — corn — to 40 percent. Simer said that's due largely to U.S.-subsidized farm conglomerates dumping cheap corn on the Mexican market.

"Millions of Mexican farmers are no longer able to sell corn and they're losing their jobs," Simer said.

In the meantime, he said, Wal-Mart has become Mexico's biggest retailer, operating some 500 stores that have helped put 28,000 Mexican shops and services out of business.

"The reason NAFTA is such a disaster is because the freedom is for the corporations," Simer said.

Given the crushing debt that many governments owe to the International Monetary Fund, which participants said forces nations to open their markets in order to get more loans, countries such as the Philippines depend on people working abroad and sending

money home — a situation that puts immigrants in low-paying positions with no rights.

With 11 million undocumented workers now residing in the United States and more coming every day, many Americans blame immigrants for taking jobs. But activist Carlos Marentes noted that also happened with Irish, Polish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants in previous economic downturns.

"They put the burden on immigrants for taking the jobs when it's companies that are taking the jobs," Quiroga said during a group discussion.

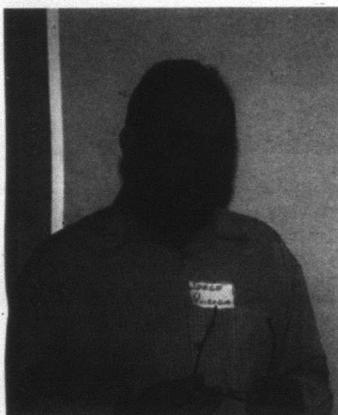
Tom Fletcher, a former airline reservation agent whose job went to India in June, agreed. It's United Airlines that took his job, he said, not an Indian worker.

"People will flow to the highest-paying jobs. You can't build a wall high enough to keep them out," student activist Rachel Taber said. "You like the free market? This is the free market." ■

## [Action]

The Committee for General Amnesty backs the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate by John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) that would offer citizenship to immigrants who work four years in the United States. The bill's sponsors in the House are Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.). For more information and to contact your representatives: [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov).

Jorge Quiroga, of the Committee for General Amnesty and Justice, says U.S. policies force Hispanics to come to the States in search of work. Photo by Tom Cogbill.



With 11 million undocumented workers now residing in the United States and more coming every day, many Americans blame immigrants for taking jobs. But activist Carlos Marentes noted that also happened with Irish, Polish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants in previous economic downturns.

## Short Takes

### SU to host national conference on hunger, homelessness

On Nov. 11, students from across the country will come to Seattle for a three-day conference on issues of hunger, poverty, and homelessness, organized through the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness (NSCAHH). About 300 students, scholars, and community activists are expected to attend and discuss the impact of current social policies and ways of advocating for long-term social and political change.

"The goal is to bring people together, raise awareness about poverty and homelessness, and create a stronger network of students to challenge the government legislatively," says Joseph Seia, Seattle University student and one of the key organizers of the conference.

Seia first became interested in the problem of homelessness when he worked downtown and started encountering homeless people on a daily basis. "I started asking myself what the government is doing to allow this to happen. Seattle's homeless population is 8,000 people, and I became concerned."

Last February, Seattle University hosted Tent City 3, a temporary encampment of 100 homeless

men and women. A group of Seattle University students who were involved with the Tent City project applied to host this year's conference in Seattle and were given the green light.

"Seattle is the first city on the West Coast to host this conference," says Seia. "[Organizers felt] it would be a good follow-up to Tent City."

Agenda highlights include panels on global and national scopes of the problem, current federal programs that focus on alleviating hunger and homelessness, and the role of student voices in the politics of poverty. The keynote speaker is Paul Loeb, a Seattle-based author of bestselling books on social activism and community involvement.

"Making students more informed gives more power to their voice, which can convey the importance of these issues to the rest of society," says Katrina Hale, another conference organizer. "We hope that students will go back to their schools inspired and become more involved with their local activist groups. It is empowering to realize that other students are working on these issues, so these conferences are very useful."

More info: [www.studentsagainsthunger.org](http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org).

—Maria Antonova

### Trees lose case

Activists in Pioneer Square like to say trees don't do crime. All the same, the city won its case last week to execute 17 grown London Planes in Occidental Park as part of a \$1.8 million renovation plan ordered by the mayor to help run off drug dealers.

On Oct. 31, city Hearing Examiner Sue Tanner issued a ruling that the activists — a group calling itself People of Pioneer Square, or POPS — describe as oddly conflicted.

On the one hand, Tanner agreed with POPS that the city "did not meet the procedural directives of SEPA" when it excused itself from conducting an environmental review on removing 17 of the park's 60 trees. Once they're gone and the park's cobblestones are replaced with non-porous pavers — another part of the renovation plan, along with removing benches and the park's glass-roofed pergola — the activists had argued that root damage and lack of water could kill the others.

But Tanner said that's unlikely to happen, so she sided with the city — something POPS' attorney Jim Klausner says is no surprise. "She works for the mayor. It's what he wants," Klausner says.

Klausner says his clients, led by Pioneer Square business owners Bif Brigman and Elle Tracy, are

currently weighing whether to carry on the legal fight to save the trees. Klausner says they could petition the hearing examiner for reconsideration or appeal the case in King County Superior Court. The deadline to appeal is Nov. 21.

If POPS doesn't appeal, the 17 trees will be axed for a plan that — like the siting of the proposed parking garage at the city zoo — Mayor Greg Nickels acknowledges he took out of the neighborhood's hands. After four years of planning, the mayor says the plan developed by Pioneer Square merchants and residents wouldn't have done much to change Occidental Park — something many community members say they're against, both to protect the park's historic design and the many homeless people who use it.

"The original plan came to me and I threw the planners out of the room. It called for doing nothing," Nickels says. "It was simply one that had tried to avoid controversy."

—Cydney Gillis

# Teamwork

Sharon and Tony Lee marry advocacy and action

"[The feds] are the only entity in this country with a sufficient revenue base to be able to fund the required amount of affordable housing to end homelessness. It would be tragic for us to allow the federal government to skirt its responsibility."

— Tony Lee, advocacy director, Fremont Public Association

By AMY E. BESUNDER  
Contributing Writer

Rev. Rick Reynolds had just begun his career in social work when he met Tony Lee.

"He spoke to a group of us about trends in Olympia," Reynolds recalls. "He had his finger on the pulse of what was going on in the state. He just blew me away with his in-depth knowledge of the issues."

A decade later, having joined Operation Nightwatch as its executive director, he encountered Sharon Lee, who became "a friend to our agency at a difficult time."

"She was a tough defender of services like ours. When the building that housed our organization was sold, she helped us find a place to go. When I found out that Tony and Sharon were a couple, I was totally amazed. Power packed!"

On Nov. 21, Operation Nightwatch, an interdenominational Christian ministry serving the poor and homeless, will honor the Lees as the 2005 recipients of the Hero of the Homeless award.

The award pays tribute to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to solving homelessness. Past recipients include King County Executive Ron Sims, Seattle City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck, and St. James Cathedral Deacon Joe Curtis.

Tony Lee attended law school in the '60s and was drawn to a career that reflected the fervent social activism of the era. He serves as the advocacy director for the Fremont Public Association (FPA). Tony is also the policy director for the Statewide Poverty Action Network, an FPA program aimed at creating a humane welfare system, ensuring social and economic justice. "Tony's known for the astuteness and accuracy of his political analysis," says Julia Sterkovsky, director of the Seattle Human Services Coalition. "If you can tell a policymaker that Tony supports your bill, it's good as gold."

Tony was essential in preserving General Assistance-Unemployable, a program that assists people who are disabled for more than three months, without dependent children, single, and unable to work. This year, Gov. Gregoire proposed cutting GA-U by nearly \$18 million. For many people, the program is a lifeline. It either helps them to transition out of homelessness or saves them from dying on the streets. As a result of lobbying efforts, the program was saved, affecting an average of 3,000 residents of King County who might otherwise have been homeless. "It's important to have a few victories to keep you inspired," Tony says.

Sharon Lee is executive director of the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), a private non-profit housing organization. Since 1991, LIHI has developed over 3,000 units of affordable housing in Seattle and statewide. Kim Herman, executive director of the WA State Housing Finance Commission, describes Sharon as one of the most innovative developers he's worked with. "She takes on the hardest challenges and the most difficult projects."

LIHI also runs the Urban Rest Stop, a public facility offering homeless men and women access to clean showers, toilets and laundry services. Sixty percent of Rest Stop clients are employed; access to personal hygiene services is key to maintaining jobs.

Asked whether it was possible to solve the homelessness problem in Seattle, Sharon nods. "There are lots of great examples of what works," she says. "There are plenty of properties that remain empty. Why not convert them to affordable or transitional housing and have them serve a purpose?"

Tony adds there will be no end to the housing crisis without substantially more money from the feds.

"They are the only entity in this country with a sufficient revenue base to be able to fund the required amount of affordable housing to end homelessness. It would be tragic for us to allow the federal government to skirt its responsibility." ■



Sharon and Tony Lee are getting the 2005 "Hero of the Homeless" award from the street ministry Operation Nightwatch. Sharon builds housing for the poor; her husband Tony fights for their needs in Olympia. Photo by Sherry Loeser.

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# Ubiquitous, Anonymous Horrors

Photographer Catherine Leroy captured the human face of war. We need her kind now

When I think of Vietnam, two of Catherine Leroy's haunting, bold color images leap to mind. In one disturbing close-up, a wounded American soldier drips a puddle of bright blood onto a floor as a medic tends his wounds. The second, a blurred color photograph, shows the face of an anguished Vietnamese mother as she holds her wounded child, his bleeding head crudely wrapped in a white bandage.

Under Fire: Great Photographers and Writers in Vietnam

Edited and Compiled by Catherine Leroy;  
Foreword by Sen. John McCain  
Random House, 2005. 174 pp.

By ROBIN LINDLEY  
Contributing Writer

War is too serious a matter to leave to soldiers.

—Georges Clemenceau

Legendary war photographer Robert Capa advised, "If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough." The daring French photojournalist Catherine Leroy showed the face of the Vietnam War in extreme close-up.

At age 21, the petite Leroy (five feet tall, under 100 pounds) left France for Vietnam. During her years covering the war, she jumped into a combat zone with American paratroopers, suffered shrapnel wounds while on patrol with Marines, and was briefly held captive by the North Vietnamese. After Vietnam, she photographed conflicts in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Somalia and the Horn of Africa. She was the first female recipient of the Robert Capa Award for her photojournalism.

Look magazine printed a series of Leroy's striking full-page Vietnam images in May 1968 following the Tet Offensive four months earlier. In her study of combat photography, *Shooting War*, historian Susan D. Moeller described Leroy's Look piece as "the most visually striking of all the photo-essays of all the publications for all the war." According to Moeller, Look used Leroy's work "to convince its readers to reassess American policy in Vietnam by transporting them to the war and rubbing their faces in its ubiquitous, anonymous horrors."



"I'll never forget Leroy's unsettling 1968 Look article. When I think of Vietnam, two of her haunting, bold color images leap to mind. In one disturbing close-up, a wounded American soldier drips a puddle of bright blood onto a floor as a medic tends his wounds. Leroy captioned the photo, 'I lose men,' the commander said, 'I lose so many men.'"

The second, a blurred color photograph, shows the face of an anguished Vietnamese mother as she holds her

wounded child, his bleeding head crudely wrapped in a white bandage. Leroy entitled this photograph "The Ravaged," with the caption, "The town was destroyed. I saw thousands of refugees with no food, no home, hate in their hearts."

Leroy's new book, *Under Fire: Great Photographers and Writers in Vietnam*, includes these memorable photographs and other selections of her vivid work as well as the remarkable images from celebrated colleagues like Larry Burrows, Tim Page, Don McCullin, Henri Huet, Gilles Caron, and David Burnett.

Leroy's book pairs the art of these legendary photographers with brief essays from writers known for their words on the Vietnam War, including Philip Caputo, David Halberstam, Larry Heinemann, Tim O'Brien, Neil Sheehan, and Bruce Weigl.

The writers respond to individual images. For example, reporter Jack Smith, inspired by Huet's photo of a medic aiding a

Catherine Leroy in Vietnam.  
Photo by Bob Cole.

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Continued from Previous Page

wounded soldier in the midst of battle, writes of his 1965 experience in the Ia Drang Valley, where his platoon suffered 93 percent casualties, and a North Vietnamese soldier used Smith's body as a sandbag for a machinegun.

Poet Bruce Weigl writes in reaction to Nick Ut's iconic 1972 photograph of a badly burned nine-year-old Vietnamese girl, Kim Phuc, running naked from a napalm assault by the Vietnamese Air Force. Weigl writes that Ut stopped to treat the injured girl. Weigl's comment on the painful image applies to many in the book: "To tell this story right, your have to tell a story no one wants to hear. You have to know the facts and then forget them so that the story may be allowed to tell itself. There is nothing to the time and distance now because the story keeps happening inside of us and behind our closed eyes."

In her preface, Leroy writes that a generation of photojournalists in Vietnam "made a difference, giving war a face even when it dragged on and no one seemed to pay attention anymore. Now we are left with photography even more powerful today than when it captured the fractured moments of chaos. Now it's history."

*Under Fire* offers an unflinching view of the harrowing reality of the Vietnam conflict from the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 through the fall

of Saigon in April 1975. The book was published to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the end of the war.

Leroy uses profoundly affecting images of exhausted, bloodied troops and maimed Vietnamese adults and children, all wounded physically and psychologically by the ever-escalating war. The photographs are brutal and poignant, a stunning example of photojournalism that recorded history and often achieved the level of great art.

The work of the photographers was extremely hazardous, the toll great. One hundred and thirty-five photojournalists from all sides died in the war, including several featured in *Under Fire*: Burrows, Caron, Richard Ellison, Huet, Kyoichi Sawada, and Dana Stone.

Leroy, a wounded survivor herself, spoke of the aftermath of the war in *Shooting Under Fire* by Peter Howe (2002): "When I left Vietnam I was 23, and I was extremely shell-shocked. It took years to get my head back together, because I was filled with the sound of death, and the smell of death.... I was extremely cool under fire. I didn't show anything. But when I went back

to Saigon, sometimes with human brain on my fatigues, the horror of it would hit me, and I would sleep for 20, 30 hours straight."

*Under Fire* is a powerful introduction to the Vietnam war through art and offers a springboard to other vivid books of photography from the war (*Requiem* by Horst Faas and Tim Page; *Vietnam* by Larry Burrows; and *Another War: Pictures of the War from the Other Side* by Tim Page), as well as powerful writing (*The Making of a Quagmire* and *The Best and the Brightest* by David Halberstam; *A Rumor of War* by Philip Caputo; *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien; *A Bright and Shining Lie* by Neil Sheehan;

*Song of Napalm* by Bruce Weigl).

As Iraq smolders, Ms. Leroy's book is a timely reminder of the human cost of war to the soldiers and the civilians who suffer and bleed and die. This book has special meaning now as the United States pursues another divisive war born out of ignorance, lies, and flawed foreign policy — enriching war profiteers and leaving dead and maimed soldiers as well as civilian men, women, and children most

Americans never see. At a time when the mainstream media seem muzzled, showing little of the reality of the war in Iraq, and the Administration refuses to allow photographs of caskets of the American dead on their way home, and refuses to discuss the reasons for the war with bereaved parents, the photographs of the imperiled, the wounded, the dead, and the grieving from *Under Fire* give a sense of the savagery and monstrous carnage of battle and why many Americans eventually cried out against the Vietnam War.

Moeller, the historian, contends that the photojournalists in Vietnam "helped the country to visualize conflict better than had ever been done in the past. And with vision came emotion, and with emotion came discontent."

But the images from Iraq are not as close, not as intimate as those from Vietnam. Leroy recently commented on coverage of the present war, "We saw 24-hour-a-day Iraq wWr, but we really didn't see much of anything." In *Under Fire*, she charges, "TV networks want us to believe that war is like a giant videogame designed to entertain us.... Simulating victory in simulated wars suppresses the reality of war: the carnage of death, the organized murder. The young Americans fighting and dying in Iraq today, and those who will in the years to come, already know that the mythology is another lie." ■

The work of the photographers was extremely hazardous, the toll great. One hundred and thirty-five photojournalists from all sides died in the war, including several featured in *Under Fire*: Burrows, Caron, Richard Ellison, Huet, Kyoichi Sawada, and Dana Stone.

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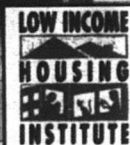
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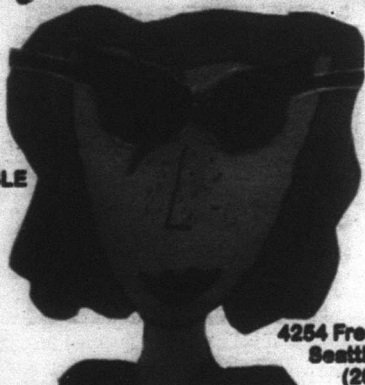
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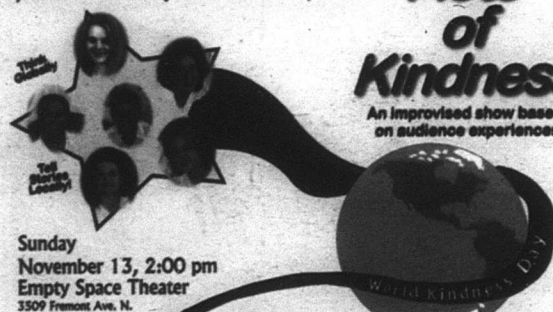


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## Hare Krishnapur

Though only 44 when he died, J.G. Farrell was considered by many to be one of the finest writers of his time. That seems like a large claim to make for an author so little known today, but the truth is that Farrell's best novels have grown in stature over the years

**The Siege of Krishnapur**  
By J. G. Farrell  
New York Review Books Classics, 2004  
Paperback, 344 pages, \$14.95

By JOHN SISCOE  
Contributing Writer

On Aug. 11, 1979, a man fishing at the edge of Bantry Bay, Ireland, was struck by a wave and swept out to sea. A family enjoying a picnic watched him go under. His body was found a month later.

The luckless fisherman was James Gordon Farrell — J.G. Farrell to his readers and Jim to his friends. Though only 44 when he died, he was considered by many to be one of the finest writers of his time. That seems like a large claim to make for an author so little known today, but the truth is that Farrell's best novels have grown in stature over the years and look likely to endure for many more to come.

Farrell's subject was Empire — specifically the British Empire, embattled and in decay. He saw the course of empire not as a noble undertaking or a

heroic tragedy, but as a comic folly. His novels are marvelous in their depiction of psychological reality and the physical world, and they are a meditation on everything that must wither and pass away, but above all they are comedies: comedies that instead of demeaning our humanity, unexpectedly restore it.

Perhaps Farrell's most complete and satisfying novel is *The Siege of Krishnapur*. The setting is India during the bloody year of 1857, when the Indian soldiers rose up against their British masters, killing as many of them as they could. Farrell's town of Krishnapur is a fictional composite, but the grisly details of the Sepoy Rebellion, or as the Indians call it, the War of Independence, are real enough.

Farrell introduces us to the British men and women who occupy their time with teas, poetry readings, dances, and flirtations. Confident of their military tradition and technological superiority, convinced of their inherent goodness and higher civilization, they are completely, almost proudly ignorant of India and its people. The niceties of Victorian manners rule the days and while away the hours until

the gathering storm breaks and the overlords become the besieged.

As the defenders play out their fates in a nightmare of hunger, disease, and combat, they begin to reconsider their most cherished ideas. Or rather, some do. Others lose all hope, or their wits, or their lives. Two doctors engage in a quarrel over cholera — with fatal results. The resident priest becomes obsessed with what we now call Intelligent Design and seeks converts on the ramparts. A would-be poet discovers that he has a talent for killing, while the heads of decorative statuary make do for cannonballs and silken hose substitutes for wadding.

In the end, the besieged, now little more than shuffling skeletons, are rescued by the British Army. But Farrell is not quite finished, and he concludes with a remarkable coda: two of the survivors meet years later, by chance, in London. One has rethought all his values, the other has learned nothing at all. Their meeting is awkward, incomplete, and unforgettable. *The Siege of Krishnapur* is a cautionary tale of imperial folly, a dark, comic, and thoughtful story, and a very wise book. ■

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

## Bizarre Love Triangle

**The Dying Gaul**  
Written and Directed by Craig Lucas  
Opens Nov. 11 at the Harvard Exit.

By LESTER GRAY  
Arts Editor

In the art and science of postmodern coupling, the lines of gender and gender preference blur faster than they can be drawn. These new normative frontiers of affection, liberations if you will, nonetheless bring the same baggage: manipulation, deceit, and infidelity. Homosexuality, especially in committed pairs, becomes a conservative sanctuary and heterosexuality, such as it is, takes a bit of a tumble.

Writer and Director Craig Lucas (*The Secret Lives of Dentists*) keeps all these balls in the air, juggling them with ease; not a one hits the floor — until he wants them to. Based on his play of the same title, *The Dying Gaul* takes place in, but is not really about Hollywood. The movie industry, for all practical purposes, is a prop.

In the story, Robert (Peter Sarsgaard), a struggling screenwriter low in spirit and money, needs a break. Jeffrey

(Campbell Scott), a studio exec, wants to give him one — a million dollars for a script Robert has written based on the death of his late male partner, who suffered from AIDS. As a condition of the sale, however, there must be a rewrite, changing the dying lover from a man to a woman. Although Robert does not want to prostitute this personal and elegiac work, he concedes.

In the process of moving Robert and the script along, Jeffrey and his wife, Elaine (Patricia Clarkson), host Robert at their house, practically on an everyday basis. The screenwriter takes meals with them and plays with the couple's two young kids — he's like a member of the family.

Jeffrey and Robert become sexually intimate. As the studio executive is coercive by profession and vengeful by nature, the purity of his affection is suspect and hard to ascertain for the writer, the audience, and even himself.

Jeffrey's wife, a handsome and intelligent woman, formally a screenwriter, is also attracted to Robert. She takes him on as a new best friend with whom she openly flirts in that carefree what-could-ever-happen way that is singular to the relationships of straight women and gay men. To her, the screenwriter is a curiosity worthy of exploration.

Jeffrey, in his back courtyard perched on the edge of an infinity swimming pool, looks out over the Pacific Ocean. Like an Ayn Rand protagonist, he wonders at his good fortune. The metaphor is plain: the possibilities are without bounds, except for those imposed by one's character.

It's a caveat worth noting, given the psychodrama into which these players are about to be immersed, where the penance for one's conceits is extracted summarily and without recourse. Discernible through the twists and turns of plot are wisps of allegory in which lifestyles — conventional and those judged otherwise — are juxtaposed for our consideration.

*The Dying Gaul* travels well from stage to screen. The limited locations are more than compensated for in the outdoor sets, which feel alive and expansive. Lucas unfolds his captivating drama in plain view, with confidence in his story and his cast. He's justified in doing so. ■

Discernible through the twists and turns of plot are wisps of allegory in which lifestyles — conventional and those judged otherwise — are juxtaposed for our consideration.

Hollywood mogul Jeffrey (Campbell Scott) and his wife, Elaine (Patricia Clarkson) befriend screenwriter Robert (Peter Sarsgaard) in *The Dying Gaul*.







Adventures  
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning

If you didn't see the similarity between Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and George Bush before, you must have seen it when Kofi Annan expressed his displeasure with Mahmoud. Annan and I are together on this: George and Mahmoud, knock it off.

to make sure all your kids get teleported into Heaven while the evolutionists and abortionists and liberals have to stay behind and eventually queue up for Hell. He also says "savvy" to remind himself to say "sabe," which is in turn to remind all of us that he speaks Spanish. That's code too. He doesn't speak in sentences, just code words and phrases. 9-11. Iraqi Freedom. Axis of Evil. "I speak your language."

Given that Bush relies so much on Millennialist support and given that so many of them are aching for an opportunity to say "we told you so" if only while looking down from on high just before passing through the Pearly Gates, when theoretically the rest of us won't be able to hear them anyway, I am creeped out by any mention of Armageddon in the news.

OK, it wasn't really Armageddon that was mentioned; it was Megiddo, which I believe is Hebrew for Geddon Flats, but it's pretty much the same place. Some archaeologists think they've found the mosaic floor of a third century Christian church there. The Israeli Tourist Bureau or Israeli Bureau of Tourism or whatever is really excited about this because it makes Israel look like a nice place for Christians to come visit, as of 18 centuries ago.

But actually what it does is pump up the Millennialists' dream of living to see the day when the unsaved among us can experience the End of Times as nukes fly from one end of the Middle East to the other and the whole of Existence unravels from there. That is, from Armageddon, 'cause the Good Book says so.

What else pumps the dream up? The new president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying that Israel should be "wiped off the map."

# Breaking the Code

So you all know why George Bush called it "No Child Left Behind," don't you? It's code. It tells those rapture-obsessed members of his constituency that he savvies their Left Behind books; it's like, we're going

Since first saying so as part of celebrating the end of Ramadan, Mahmoud has turned the volume down a little, but the damage has already been done: he's totally creeped me out. I didn't mind it so much when it was 1980 and Ayatollah Khomeini said it, because back then Iran wasn't close to putting a nuclear weapons program together. We could all laugh then, because Iran couldn't very well march its army through Iraq to attack Israel, because our valued ally Saddam Hussein would stop them for us.

Mahmoud says Israel is a "fabricated" entity. This is a lame excuse to destroy every nation on the planet. All modern nations are fabrications.

Secretly, Mahmoud idolizes George Bush. "Axis of Evil," "Must destroy the evildoers," "We cannot afford to wait until they attack us," "Then it will be too late," "Pre-emptive strike," "We know they have weapons of mass destruction": snippets of future speeches by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad about Israel. George and friends have already assembled all the code; Mahmoud just has to get it translated into Farsi.

The same day that Mahmoud said Israel should be destroyed, he also said that anybody that recognizes Israel "will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury." He got that from George, too: anybody who is not with us is against us. Good thing for the folks of little Bahrain that we're so protective of their oil and land for military bases, now that they've resumed trading with Israel.

If you didn't see the similarity between Mahmoud and George before, you must have seen it when Kofi Annan expressed his displeasure with Mahmoud. Annan and I are together on this, along with all the other sane people around who would like to see the human species continue to exist for an indefinite period of time: George and Mahmoud, knock it off. We don't want what you offer. Keep your death and destruction to yourselves and off our planet. ■



Sat., Oct. 29, 10:00 a.m., 1400 block

**Alaskan Way.** Complainants were working as Metropolitan Improvement District Safety Ambassadors, and as part of their jobs are assigned to wake up and remove the transients from the MID area. Suspect, a transient white male aged 32, had set up a small camp inside a City of Seattle planter box, under the viaduct on the south side of the Pike Place hill climb. He had damaged city property by digging out under the concrete wall and damaging plants. Complainants went to wake up the suspect and remove him from the planter. Both complainants were wearing their MID uniforms. The suspect refused to get up and move. They asked him if he needed aid, but despite their repeated requests the suspect refused to get out of the planter. The complainants then called the police. On their arrival, the suspect was still in his camp. He refused verbal requests from the officers to get up, and they moved to escort the man out of the area he had dug out. They saw that he had two open cans of Steel Reserve beer in his camp. Suspect immediately became hostile and combative, and balled his hands up into fists as if preparing to punch officers. They tried to physically remove him from the planter, and he grabbed onto a railing to try and prevent them from escorting him to their car. He remained belligerent, and refused to identify himself. He was booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass.

Sat., Oct. 29, 8:46 p.m., Occidental

**Park S., Washington St.** Suspect was contacted for trespassing in the park and setting up camp on a park bench. A name check came back with a previous Parks Exclusion Notice that expires in '06. Suspect, a transient Black male aged 33, was taken into custody. A search revealed a crack pipe which field-tested positive for cocaine. A new yearlong Parks Exclusion Notice was issued, and he was booked into King County Jail.

Sun., Oct. 30, Maynard St./King St.

Officers contacted the suspect, a transient white female aged 39, in a posted "No Trespassing" zone. It was found that she was active with the Department of Corrections. Her DOC officer was contacted, and requested that the suspect be taken into custody. She was transferred to the West Precinct, where she was interviewed and released.

Sun., Oct. 30, 1:50 p.m., 1300 block

**Post Alley.** Victim, a transient white male aged 28, was walking in the alley when he was approached by the suspects: two unknown juvenile white males. They began to call him names, and then chased him down the alley. They caught him and began hitting him around the face and head with their fists. A witness from the International Youth Hostel nearby called police, and the suspects fled. Victim suffered bumps and bruises on his head. The suspects are still at large.

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.

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## The Wages of Texas

Obviously;  
There's no such thing as global warming. Kyoto, E.P.A., and the United Nations are sadly mis-informed doomsayers. The twin Sirens, Katrina and Rita, are merely opportunities for the dis-enfranchised to better themselves. And, for a latter day Tricky, to re-build the world; state by state, country by country.

It's really just like the March of the Penguins, walking into Intelligent Design.

—KIERAN D. O'MALLEY

PARK, Continued from Page 3

from the wider community. Potter says the Parks Department is trying to reach out to non-profits, colleges, and community groups all around the area. "We want to build on the strides we made a couple of years ago in discouraging things like drug deals," she says.

To do this, the Parks Department will encourage the hosting of special events on the grounds by advertising the availability of the park's center house, which Potter characterizes as a "great meeting space for small groups."

It seems the plan is simply to keep the park full of activity and to ensure it stays a much-loved part of an active and involved community. According to Potter, this is a new model of park maintenance for the city.

Bush echoes Potters hopes for the effectiveness of such a plan: "Ezra Pound had the idea that clean grammar produced, somehow, better ethics. He believed that people whose sentences worked in an orderly way were more honest. I think the same can be said for beauty: gorgeousness and aesthetic awe and ease beget respect." ■

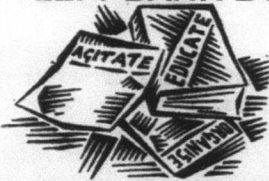
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*How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God! Indeed it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter Kingdom of God.*

— 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  
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Worship Sunday 10:30

# Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

## Listen to Plato

Dear Real Change,

There's a direct relationship between the gap between the rich and the poor and everyone's health (researchers and doctors have written books on the subject). In the 1940s, the USA was the healthiest country in the world. We had inheritance taxes, a 91 percent tax bracket for the rich, and corporations paid 40 percent of the nation's taxes.

By 1961, the bosses made 14 times as much as their companies' lowest-paid workers. Today, the bosses make 531 times as much as the lowest-paid workers. Inheritance taxes are being legislated out of existence, the top tax bracket is 35 percent, corporations pay only 7 percent of national taxes, and in terms of health, longevity, and infant mortality ratings, the USA has fallen from number one to number 29 in the world.

The healthiest nation is Japan, where the boss makes no more than 10 times as much as the lowest-paid worker; they have less stress and more security. The irony is that the wealthy people of the USA also suffer from poorer health and shorter lives than their wealthy counterparts

in countries with more equitable wealth distribution.

There is further irony, in that for over 40 years we've been trying to strangle poor Cuba to death. In Cuba they have better health and lower infant mortality than in the USA and they offer everyone a free education right through college. In Cuba, everyone is equally poor (except, now, for those relatives in the USA who send them dollars).

Franklin Roosevelt proposed a national maximum income of \$25,000; it was never passed by Congress. Richard Nixon proposed a national minimum income (for all workers supporting a family); it was never passed by Congress.

The time is long overdue to act. I propose a national maximum salary of \$375,000 per year (15 times \$25,000 to compensate for inflation). I propose a national minimum income for workers of \$37,500 per year (one-tenth of the maximum, so we're on par with Japan). Now is also the time to scrap the entire IRS code and start anew. Remember, Plato said that democracy can work only if the richest people are no more than four times as rich as the poorest in society.

**Herrman Ross**  
Seattle


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



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## CLASSIFIED

### 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 p.m. — Forum begins at 7 p.m., Wed, Nov. 16, *Is Iran Next? History, Politics, and 70 Million People in U.S. Gunshots.*

### Opportunity

**Discover a New You!** See yourself in a whole new way with a free makeover! Find a look that expresses your style, your personality, your life. Call me to create a fabulous look that's uniquely you. You'll love what you discover. **Joyce Townsend**, Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant. [www.MaryKay.com/jtownsend1976](http://www.MaryKay.com/jtownsend1976). 206-352-7472.

### Volunteer

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

*Real Change* classifieds are a way to reach 30,000 loyal readers. Call 441-3247, or email [classified@realchangenews.org](mailto:classified@realchangenews.org).

# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

### Wednesday 11/9

Half of Americans use a prescription drug daily, so what are the effects of drugs on our culture and organs? Greg Critser's *Generation Rx: How Prescription Drugs Are Altering American Lives, Minds, and Bodies* details the new pill-popping lifestyle that could have deadly consequences for unwitting patients. Tickets \$5. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

### Friday 11/11

Veteran's Day Tribute to Japanese American World War II Veterans is a multi-media program acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions of Japanese-American veterans. Daniel K. Inouye, Senator from Hawaii, and Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will speak. Tickets free upon request. 1:15 p.m., Meany Hall, 4001 - 15th Ave. NE. Info: (206)320-0095, [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org).

The "war on terror" happens where three-fourths of the world's remaining oil and natural gas is located. The *Oil Factor* uses interviews and footage shot on location in the Middle East to document the spiraling violence and who is profiting from war and oil. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Place. Info: [unfp@bridgings.org](mailto:unfp@bridgings.org)

### Friday 11/11 - Saturday 11/12

Celebrating and encouraging women's achievements in the music industry, **Rockgrl Music Conference** is two full days of music, panels, workshops, and an artist-friendly trade show. Guests of honor include Patti Smith, Johnette Napolitano, Bonnie Raitt, and Ann Wilson. Check web site for venue locations. 9 a.m. - 1 a.m., [www.rockgrl.com/conference](http://www.rockgrl.com/conference).

### Monday 11/14

**Short Stories Live!** presents an evening of Anton Chekhov read by Jean Sherrard, Frank Corrado, and Julie Briskman. Planned stories are "The Culprit," a humorous tale of a peasant

caught in the Russian judicial system, and "The Terror," a tale of forbidden attractions and yuppie pain. Sherrard is famous for his 13-part radio series adaptations of Chekhov's short stories for NPR Playhouse. Tickets \$13 and up. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

### Sunday 11/13

Blending western jazz and Indian percussion, the Global Harmony Concert benefits U.S. hurricane relief. Performers include John Wubbenhorst on flute and bansuri, T.H. Subash Chandran on ghatam and vocal percussion, Ganesh Kumar on kanjira, and Ramakrishna on violin. Tickets \$20, additional donations encouraged. 6 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall, Theodore Roethke Auditorium, Room 130.

### Tuesday 11/15

In the form of a letter to her unborn son, Dawn Prince-Hughes's *Expecting Teryk: An Exceptional Path to Parenthood* is the intimate story of motherhood told from the perspective of someone who is a lesbian and autistic. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Books, 101 S. Main Street, (206)624-6600.

### Wednesday 11/16

*Is Iran Next?*, a lecture and discussion led by Professors Mark Jensen and Esmaeel Naeemi, who have been following the Bush Administration's posturing over Iranian nuclear development and Iran's counter response. 7 p.m., Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N. 70th St.

Blending the wisdom of ancient tales and commentary on today's political and cultural dilemmas, Michael Meade's *The Tides of Chaos* is a poetic movement towards peace. Meade's insights are based on decades of experience working with at-risk youth, visiting prisons, and helping Vietnam veterans. 7 p.m., Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St. Info: [www.mosaicvoices.org](http://www.mosaicvoices.org).



The **Palestine Film Festival** presents touching films exposing the often untold struggles of Palestinians coping with the occupation, violence, oppression, and gross injustice — yet still determined to retain their humanity. Films include *Saraida: Woman of Palestine*, *The Detainee*, and *The Inner Tour*. Suggested donation \$10. Sat., Nov. 12 - Thurs., Nov. 17, 7 p.m., University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Theatre, 3940 Brooklyn Ave. NE. Info: Palestine Solidarity Committee, (206)633-1086.

Calendar compiled by Dena Burke. Have a suggestion for an event? Email it to [calendar@realchangenews.org](mailto:calendar@realchangenews.org).

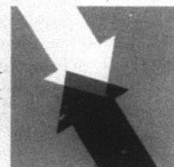
## Director's Corner



*Real Change* has turned a corner. Weekly publication and a stronger focus have allowed us to be the community newspaper that tracks the issues you care about. Readers have responded by buying the paper more often and spreading the word. Since last June, monthly circulation has risen over last year's by more than 20 percent. Our vendors, who now number more than 275 each month, are doing better than ever.

Everyone wins. You get a newspaper that covers the things you care about with passion, balance, and professionalism. Community activists get new allies to help move the work forward. And our vendors experience more success. We all support each other.

This has been a year of incredible growth and change. We have two new reporters that we're wild about. We're creating a new Director of Organizing position to help us build on our vision of a community in action. We're hiring a new Development Director to make sure we have the resources we need to stay healthy and growing. We're building a community institution that has a real impact on the world we live in. *Real Change* needs to raise \$67,765 more from our readers by Dec. 31st to be on track for 2006. We reach our goal one donation at a time. Please do what you can today.



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

### House Bill a Disaster for State and Environment

**Issue:** The U.S. Congress will soon vote on a budget bill that would increase an already existing budget cut. In total, \$50 million would be cut from basic services, including veterans' health, higher education, and Medicaid.

**Background:** This new bill would raise the budget cut from \$35 million to \$50 million. It would harm vulnerable children, American veterans, families on welfare, and the elderly and disabled while maintaining tax cuts for the rich. The budget also opens the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for drilling, while doing nothing to bring down gas prices for working families.

The reconciliation proposal would increase work requirements for families and require states to move more families into work activities. As a result of this budget:

- Low-income working families stand to lose \$500 million in childcare
- The elderly and disabled lose \$732 million from Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Low-income children and families face a \$10-billion cut to Medicaid and states could be free to charge children living below the poverty line for medical visits or prescriptions
- Nearly 500,000 Washington residents who rely on food stamps would be affected by a \$1 billion cut to the federal Food Stamp program
- Washington state stands to lose \$106 million in federal funds for child support enforcement
- The state would be forced to reduce services for abused and neglected children or replace the lost funds
- Potentially, 1,933 veterans in the state stand to lose health care in a \$12.5 million cut in veterans' benefits.

This new budget offers high times for the wealthy! Long before the hurricanes caused devastation to poor communities, House Republicans were calling for \$106 billion in tax cuts, with \$70 billion in fast-track reconciliation. While they are calling for spending cuts, they have made no proposal to roll back these cuts.

Approval of this budget would ensure that tax cuts for the rich are getting even better. Tax cuts for millionaires will increase an additional \$19,000 a year. People with annual incomes of more than \$1 million are already paying \$100,000 less in taxes a year than they were before the tax cuts.

**Action:** Rep. Dave Reichert of the 8th Congressional District (Bellevue to the Cascades' crest) is a Republican who has not made a firm decision on how he will vote. He has publicly stated that he is uncomfortable with the possibility of drilling in the Arctic. Let him know that approving this bill would be disastrous for the environment and for the people of Washington State.

If you live in the 8th Congressional District, call Rep. Reichert now and urge him to vote no on budget reconciliation! Call his Mercer Island office at (206)275-3438 or his D.C. office at (202)225-7761.

If you live in another district, contact your Representative AND pass this alert along to anyone you know who lives in the 8th District!

Get the budget basics by going to [www.chn.org/issues/opportunityforall/index.html](http://www.chn.org/issues/opportunityforall/index.html). To take action online, go to [www.povertyaction.org](http://www.povertyaction.org) and click Take Action.

STOOD UP, Continued from Page 1

Parents who miss visits can lose their children permanently — a fate that got harder to fight Sept. 29 when the department's regional administrator in Seattle cut services for visits that involve paying a service provider to transport a foster child or watch a parent during a visit. Paying professionals was the primary way supervised visits were conducted before May, when the department discovered an \$18 million shortfall that led to the firing of its director.

While family members or clergy can be used — something the department is now encouraging — the upshot, says Sharon Green, owner of Seattle's A-1 Visitation Services, is that a lot of poor parents are finding they can't make their visits.

"It's a real good way to unite people," Green says acidly. "I'm very angry about this situation."

In a Sept. 29 memo, Jacquelyn Buchanan, the Seattle-area administrator for Children and Family Services, issued new rules that shift the burden of supervised visits back to overloaded case workers. The rules restrict their use of paid visit supervisors to two hours a week and require parents to come to children — during the day, regardless of whether they have to work.

The memo stipulates that parents who miss or cancel three visits in six months will be cut off from seeing their children entirely until a judge reviews the matter — a rule that public defenders who handle children's dependency cases say isn't legal.

Buchanan says the changes don't mean visits aren't happening. But, in its previous two-year budget, she says, the department spent \$1.2 million more than the \$800,000 it had budgeted for paid visitation contractors. As of July 1, the start of the state's fiscal year, the department's new budget is \$1.9 million for such contractors.

But "the money [for paid supervision] was not to take the place of visits by case workers, volunteers, family members or foster parents — it was just to help in doing more visits," Buchanan says.

In an effort to get a handle on spending, Buchanan appointed Jana Wu the region's new visitation program manager and, since July 1, has renewed visitation service providers with short contracts of three months.

But, before the first one expired Oct. 1, "most of our providers were out of money in mid-September," Wu says. "There was a period of several weeks where there were no paid [visitation supervisors]."

That's led to missed visits and "motions for contempt all over the place," says Rob Wyman, head of the dependency unit that represents parents at The Defenders Association in Seattle.

On Oct. 31, Jana Heyd, supervisor of dependency cases at Seattle's Society of Council Representing Accused Persons, won a contempt motion against the Department of Children and Family Services for three visits her client didn't get in September.

Not only are many visits not happening, Wyman says, but "the department is making recommendations for visitation to the court based on their budget, rather than the best interest of the child" — something Heyd says all dependency attorneys are watching very closely.

To make visits happen, case workers are "just going to have to be more creative," Buchanan says. "It's not that they have to provide all the visits — they have to find other resources to do that," such as family and volunteers.

It's an idea Deborah Riehl scoffs at. In June, Riehl turned down the three-month contract the department offered her because she said it was so low it didn't cover her expenses.

She says an aunt or pastor might provide services for a while, but it never lasts because people have lives and can't volunteer to supervise two or three visits a week for months on end — which is tragic, Riehl says, because missed visits traumatize children, who Riehl says start to internalize the belief their parents don't love them.

"As far as social workers getting creative [with volunteers]," she adds, "they'll have to go back to hiring an agency to do it. They've cut the wrong budget." ■

E-WASTE, Continued from Page 1

notes, makes a number of the chemicals even more hazardous.

While "The Digital Dump" may be news, the issue of toxic trade and BAN's opposition to the practice are not. BAN is the primary watchdog group for an international treaty called the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Since its ratification in 1992, Gutierrez says 166 countries have agreed to Basel Convention tenets. "Surprisingly, the United States is the only developed nation that has not ratified it," says Gutierrez.

Agreeing to the convention means agreeing to an amendment that stipulates, in effect, that a developed nation shall not send its hazardous waste to a developing nation. Since the U.S. hasn't ratified the convention, it is free to send hazardous waste to any poor country it chooses without legal ramifications, a practice borne out in the fact that 45 percent of Nigeria's e-waste comes directly from the United States. (Europe accounts for another 45 percent; the remaining 10 percent hails from countries such as Israel and Japan.)

For the United States, ratification equals responsibility, says Gutierrez, "and right now, they don't see that it's profitable to be responsible."

Instead, the United States and others in the developed world tend to cloak their irresponsibility with claims of altruism. "A lot of e-waste is entering Africa under the guise of reuse and

bridging the digital divide," he says. With responsibility lacking on the federal level, Gutierrez says that it's up to the states to take charge. Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation program director Suellen Mele says the process has already begun.

Mele says that her organization has been working with the Department of Ecology, local green groups, and even companies such as Hewlett-Packard to craft a bill that centers on a concept called product stewardship. The concept binds manufacturers of products

to accept financial responsibility for the recycling of televisions, desktop computers, and laptops at end-of-use, when consumers bid outdated electronic goods adios. "There's just a much better way of dealing with an old computer or t.v. than shipping it to a developing country," says Mele. The proposed bill, she says, will be presented during the state's 2006 session, which begins in January.

In Gutierrez's eyes, such state initiatives place power firmly in the hands of U.S. consumers, while protecting citizens of foreign lands. "We shouldn't disproportionately burden anyone because of their race or ethnicity or status in life with toxic pollutants. If waste happens here, if we enjoy the product here, and it becomes waste here, let's deal with it at home." ■

[Resource]

To find a list of local recyclers who follow environmentally and socially sound e-waste recycling practices, visit: [www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html](http://www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html)



A MAN IN LAGOS, NIGERIA, TRIES TO FIX A COMPUTER MONITOR. UP TO 75 PERCENT OF SUCH FOREIGN-DELIVERED GOODS, SENT TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, CAN'T BE REPAIRED. PHOTO COURTESY OF BASEL ACTION NETWORK.

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