

# REAL

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NOV. 30 - DEC. 6, 2005

## Say "Cheese"

More cop cars fit with cameras

By DIANA WURN  
Contributing Writer

It is rare when police officers, citizens, and community advocates agree on changes that need to be made to the police department.

But this may be the case as the City of Seattle installs 65 more patrol cars with cameras for the Seattle Police Department as part of Mayor Greg Nickels' 2006 budget. Currently, 94 Seattle police cars are outfitted with digital

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SEATTLE RESIDENT DOKUBO GOODHEAD DOESN'T AGREE WITH HIS BROTHER'S ARMED RESISTANCE TO THE OIL-BACKED NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVES INVESTMENT WOULD SOLVE MUCH OF THE NIGER DELTA'S PROBLEMS. PHOTO BY KATIA ROBERTS.

## Lucky Escape

Local Nigerian reflects on treason and resistance

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Reporter

Thanks to his education, Dokubo Goodhead has been able to lead a middle-class life. He cannot say the same for others who grew up in the Niger River Delta — least of all his older brother, who sits in a Nigerian jail on charges of treason.

Goodhead's brother has been fighting to give the people of the oil-rich Niger Delta — a coastal area of West Africa that is now America's No. 5 supplier of oil — more control over oil revenues to counter the environmental destruction and loss of fishing and farming, caused by Chevron and Shell since the late '50s.

It's a mission shared by Global Citizen Journey, a Seattle group that is currently in Nigeria on a "citizen diplomat" visit. Their goal is to call the extreme poverty of the Niger Delta tribes to the attention of government officials.

In 2004, after years of making political demands, Goodhead's brother formed a militia called the Niger Delta's People Volunteer Force. Though the group agreed to disarm last fall, Mujahid Dokubo-Asari,

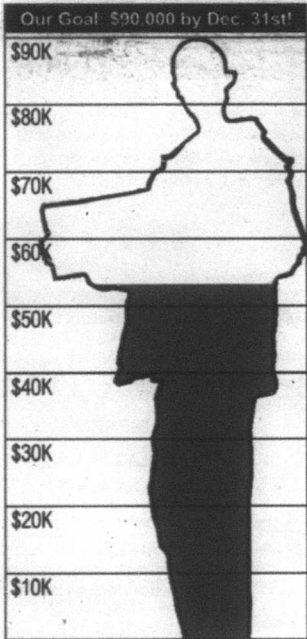
Goodhead's brother, was arrested after calling for the dissolution of the Nigeria government in the press.

Goodhead, a 39-year-old graduate student at the University of Washington, does not condone his brother's tactics. But he says he understands why his brother took up arms — to fight the oil companies and a government that has refused to use its oil revenue to clean up the area or build schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure desperately needed in the Niger Delta states.

Goodhead comes from a River state island called Buguma, which he left to go to school. He earned a bachelor's degree in English in Nigeria, then, in 1997, came to the UW to get a master's in creative writing. He is currently working on a Ph.D. in critical theory.

He says he didn't know how bad it was for those who stayed behind until he visited a shantytown of workers who had come from the delta area to look for work. Because of pollution,

See GOODHEAD, Continued on Page 12



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Place Judge Alito on the Supreme Court and women will be robbed of their rights.

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FEMA gives Katrina victims placed in local hotels an early holiday gift: a Dec. 15 cutoff for housing assistance.

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## Are You Listening, Judge Alito?

Nominee's opinion harms the freedoms of women married to abusive partners

By MARCY BLOOM and GRACE HUANG  
Guest Writers

Is the threat of assault and death, Judge Alito, enough to cause an "undue burden" upon a woman seeking an abortion? You have spoken and apparently your answer is "no."

We are two women who work in two different yet related professions that help women have better and safer lives. One of us has worked in women's reproductive health services for 30 years and the other has worked with domestic violence survivors for 12 years.

We are both gravely concerned about the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court.

There are many issues to be concerned about as we question whether his views truly reflect those of the American public. Our focus is Judge Alito's 1991 opinion, in response to the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* case, supporting the state of Pennsylvania's requirement that a married woman must notify her husband before obtaining an abortion upon risk of criminal prosecution. Although eventually this was ruled unconstitutional, it still raises serious questions about the judge's perspectives on women's lives, autonomy, and the concept of marriage.

Our experience working with women tell us that most who seek abortions are not married, and many women who are married do choose to involve their husbands in the abortion decision. In healthy, supportive relationships, both spouses communicate about reproductive decisions.

For those married women who do fear the consequences of telling their husband, we ask: Judge, what were you thinking?

If we could sit down with the judge, here is what we would want him to know, as he may soon be ruling on issues

that will affect the lives and freedoms of Americans for decades to come.

In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, Judge Alito, you argued to uphold a law that required women to notify their husbands before having an abortion. You wrote that husband notification does not place an "undue burden" upon a woman seeking an abortion. However, your opinion seems to ignore the stark reality that each year, almost 324,000 pregnant women in this country are battered by their intimate partners, including husbands. Women with unplanned pregnancies have two to four times the risk of experiencing physical violence as do women whose pregnancies are planned. Homicide is a leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant women in the U.S.

Is the threat of assault and death, Judge Alito, enough to cause an "undue burden" upon a woman seeking an abortion? You have spoken and apparently your answer is "no."

Domestic violence involves a pattern of coercive, controlling behaviors, including physical and sexual assaults, as well as emotional abuse of an intimate partner. Women in domestic violence shelters (including married women) describe abusive relationships where their partners control their bodies by hiding, discarding, or withholding their birth control, often resulting in unintended pregnancy and ultimately being coerced to have a child. If a woman who is physically abused is able to seek out an abortion, she may be doing so for reasons directly related to the violence perpetrated by her abuser. One study suggests that a woman who is the victim of domestic violence may choose to have an abortion for different reasons

than a woman without that history — she is trying to flee her abuser, and the choice to not have his baby is a key part of her survival plan.

A 2001 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggests that "a pregnant or recently pregnant woman is more likely to be a victim of homicide than to die of any other cause." For one recent year, 2002, the Washington Post examined 72 killings of women in 24 states. The analysis showed that in nearly two-thirds of the cases, the murdered woman had been pregnant or had recently given birth.

We are deeply troubled that you may not understand that a pregnancy — regardless of the outcome — can put a woman's life in great jeopardy. Clearly, a parting of ways between a woman and her intimate partner about such a fundamental issue as pregnancy would indicate something deeply troubling about the nature of that relationship. The answer, however, is not found in a state legislature or a Supreme Court opinion.

Do you understand that a husband notification requirement for abortion deprives a woman of her bodily integrity, her freedom, her choices, and her life?

Should a woman be forced by her partner to have an abortion if she wants to have a baby? Conversely, should a woman be forced to have a baby if she desires an abortion?

It is our belief that it is ultimately the woman, not the state, who makes these profound decisions and life-altering choices. No other individual or government entity should have the power to do so.

That includes you, Judge Alito. ■

Marcy Bloom is the executive director of Aradia Women's Health Center in Seattle. Grace Huang is the public policy coordinator of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



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#### 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

**K**aryn Schwartz believes in the power of community medicine.

An herbalist at Rainbow Natural Remedies in Capitol Hill, Schwartz says she feels mainstream media uses the threat of illness to generate fear, while providing little information the public can use to maintain health. She points to avian influenza. She recalls the 2003 SARS outbreak. Aware that people are looking for answers today, Schwartz turned to history: 1918's flu pandemic.

Through research, she says she discovered that communities found great success against the pandemic via homeopathy: a system of alternative medicine that treats illnesses based on a belief that "like cures like." A homeopathic practitioner who believes charging high fees to patients isn't "true health care," Schwartz thinks past community-centered practices can benefit everyone, regardless of finances, in contemporary times. Now she's sharing what she knows.

She's been contacting shelters to offer homeopathic advice on how to prepare for flu outbreaks. And she's taken to teaching people, in their homes, how homeopathy can protect their communities from the flu. In-home sessions cost \$5 a person. All these actions fit into a truth Schwartz holds to be self-evident:

"Well-being is for everyone."

— Rosette Royale



KARYN SCHWARTZ, helping communities stay healthy.  
Photo by LUKE MCGUFF.

## Just Heard...

### Ricochet

The King County Republican Party's massive but mistargeted election-eve challenge of voter registrations is getting some heat from County Executive Ron Sims.

Referencing the election Convassing Board's "overwhelming" rejection of 141 of the Republicans' 199 challenges, Sims on Tuesday requested that Prosecutor Norm Maleng formally investigate county Republican Party vice-chair Lori Sotelo for perjury.

Sotelo signed her name to most of the challenges, swearing that she had personal knowledge that the voter registrations were frauds. In a press release, Sims called the challenges a "partisan stunt" which "unnecessarily upset and angered many voters" and cost the county thousands of unbudgeted dollars.

In a statement, Maleng refused Sims' request and called for a review of elections law to clarify how challenges are processed.

### Bowled over

The closure next spring of North Seattle's Leilani Lanes bowling alley means the loss of a half-dozen union jobs. Meanwhile, at Leilani's owners' sister alley, the Sunset Bowl, workers' health benefits are already on the chopping block.

Leilani will be torn down and replaced with condos next spring, according to employee Jeanne Milliren. Full-time food and beverage workers at both sites are in labor negotiations with management. At stake is their family medical insurance: full health, dental, and short-term disability coverage for \$50 a month.

"We have all forgone pay raises, pension increases, additional vacation or sick leave, and numerous other issues in order to focus our efforts on the most important thing: health insurance," wrote Milliren in a Nov. 15 letter to union allies. "The only thing that's made long-term employment possible and bearable with this company is the fact that we were union."

Cindy Richardson, lead organizer for Unite Here Local 8, says some of the servers have been there more than a decade and have family members' medical bills to think of. The alley's owners "are going to make millions off the sale of Leilani; they have never said they can't afford" to keep the health plan.

### Breathe easy

The number of adults and children hospitalized because of asthma attacks is going down. That's the finding of a November report by Public Health - Seattle/King County, which highlights efforts by the government agency to police indoor-air conditions that lead to the lung condition.

In 2001, Public Health personnel and volunteers began house calls to the families of asthma-stricken children to spread the word about dust, mold, smoke, and air pollution. Nine percent of local adults and 5.5 percent of children have asthma. The report also says the working poor are 1.5 times more likely to suffer from the disease.

— Adam Hyla

## Katrina Cut-Off

170 local families to lose hotel rooms Dec. 15

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Reporter

"We're not happy about the deadlines."

— Rob Harper, state's Emergency Management Division.

**T**hey fled Hurricane Katrina with the clothes on their backs. Now the federal government plans to put nearly 4,000 of them out on the street — just in time for the holidays.

Dec. 15 is now the last day the Federal Emergency Management Agency says it will pick up the tab at hotels and motels around the country where it currently houses nearly 50,000 evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

With the vast majority of them in 10 states across the southern United States, FEMA has given those states up to Jan. 7 to find permanent housing for Katrina families.

Both are extensions from the original Dec. 1 deadline that FEMA announced Nov. 15. The agency relented after officials in states and cities where evacuees have ended up — including 5,000 to 6,000 people in Washington — howled that there was no way they could place so many people in apartments on such short notice, especially given FEMA's lack of support with relocation and long-term housing.

Mike Howard, with FEMA's regional headquarters in Bothell, says the agency currently pays hotel bills for about 170 households in Washington, most in greater the Puget Sound area. With each household estimated to include two to three people, up to 600 people are facing eviction Dec. 15.

Virginia Felton of the Seattle Housing Authority, which took part in a special housing workshop the state held for Katrina victims Nov. 22 at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, says the 170 figure doesn't account for people staying outside or with friends or relatives.

As of Nov. 28, FEMA's official count of Katrina households registered in Washington was 1,878, which could represent more than 5,600 individuals. Of the 60 units the Seattle Housing Authority said it could make available to them, Katrina families have leased 47, Felton says. Another 12 families have offers in or were referred to private landlords.

The King County Housing Authority says it has found housing for about 16 families — putting half of them in White Center's old Park Lake Homes, vacant public housing that will be torn down in nine months.

Despite the progress, "We're not happy about the deadlines," says Rob Harper of the state's Emergency Management Division. "People are transitioning, but there's a lot of issues and challenges."

One of them, Harper and other officials say, is the final March 1 cutoff that FEMA set Nov. 15. Officials say FEMA originally promised to pay for apartment leases of six months to one year, but has now given evacuees until March 1 to come up with a three-month lease that the agency will pay for in a lump sum.

After that, Harper says, Katrina families who qualify for individual FEMA assistance can pay rent out of that. But, with a cap of \$26,300, that money will go quickly, he says.

"In 2003, when we had floods in Skagit and Snohomish counties," Harper says, "we had 18 months to use our disaster money to work with victims and get better housing and get them on the road to recovery."

"Two months after [Katrina]," he says, "we're shutting down housing assistance."

At FEMA, Howard responds that direct payment to motels (made through a contractor called Corporate Lodging Consultants) is a new program set up specifically for Katrina families.

"It was never designed for the long term," Howard says. "No one would argue a hotel is the best solution for evacuees to get their lives back in order." ■

[Resource]  
The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle offers a toll-free number — 800-368-1455 — that Katrina evacuees can call to get connected with housing, services, clothing, and furniture.

# Breaking Rank

Judge awards retraining benefits to vet who declined to re-enlist

By J. JACOB EDEL  
Contributing Writer

"It's wrong to say, 'Stay another year or it's quitting.' And I don't think it's right for anyone to say you must stay and perform a hazardous duty."

—Anthony Bailey, Iraq War veteran

Presuming an Iraq War veteran who provided security along the Kuwait border would have a difficult time finding similar work in Kitsap County, a judge granted a former soldier an extension of his unemployment benefits.

On Nov. 15, Administrative Law Judge Michelle Mentzer ruled Anthony W. Bailey, of Bremerton, became a dislocated worker the day the Army honorably discharged him — and therefore was entitled to receive worker retraining assistance.

Last March, Bailey, 33, decided to end a 13-year military career that included service with the Navy, Army, and National Guard. Instead of re-enlisting and perhaps returning to the Middle East, Bailey enrolled in a safer option: college.

Bailey, a father of two, didn't think he had time to work and attend school, so he applied for unemployment. He also began studying technical design at Olympic College. He says he relies on unemployment to pay his bills and help support his children. Since March he has received basic unemployment benefits along with Commissioner-Approved Training, which allows him to receive the government support without looking for work because he attends a job-training program.

However, Bailey realized his studies would not be completed prior to the depletion of his unemployment benefits, so he applied for more. Receiving the state's Training Benefits would allow Bailey to continue receive

unemployment until he finished learning his new trade.

But according to court documents provided by the Unemployment Law Project, the state Employment Security Department (ESD) declined Bailey's request for Training Benefits because he failed to submit his application on time and was not a dislocated worker. Essentially, the ESD equated Bailey's refusal to re-enlist with quitting the Army.

Unhappy with the decision, Bailey contacted the Unemployment Law Project (ULP), hoping they could help him.

"It's wrong to say, 'Stay another year or it's quitting,'" Bailey says. "And I don't think it's right for anyone to say you must stay and perform a hazardous duty."

The ULP responded immediately to Bailey's plight. Meghann McCann, a lawyer with the ULP, countered the ESD's argument with her own interpretation of the law.

"When an employment contract expires, that is not quitting," McCann says. "And when a job is not in demand, you qualify for re-training. Even though lots of people say the military is in high demand and recruits are needed, the work Anthony did in Kuwait is not needed in Kitsap County — it's not applicable to the civilian world."

According to state law, a dislocated worker is someone who has been fired or laid off, eligible for unemployment benefits, and unlikely to get another job in the same field because of diminishing demand.

The former soldier summed up his own interpretation as well.

"Anybody can enlist and serve in the military, so everyone that is un-

employed should go and do it," Bailey says. "If that were the case, then a lot of the nation's unemployment problems would be solved. But that's not what America is about or what the military is about."

Even though the judge agreed with McCann and Bailey, the ruling doesn't become the standard. McCann says similar dilemmas will be settled on a case-by-case basis unless there is a change in the law.

"If the judge didn't agree with us, then we would have appealed until it reached Superior Court and if we won then, it would become law," she says. "That's why it's unfortunate, in a way: We didn't get the law changed. But our main goal is to get our clients their unemployment benefits. So we're very happy." ■

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## Short Takes

### Still Life

Click. The shutter opens, allowing a frame of film to be stained with the incoming light. As quick as it happened, it shuts, sealing in the light and imprinting it on the film: it's how a photographer tells a story. For photographer Inye Wokoma, this story is that of homeless people in King County.

United Way of King County, a non-profit organization working to end homelessness, is releasing its 2006 Out of the Rain calendar. In its second annual release, the 14-month calendar features pictures of the homeless, facts about the reality

of their situation, and practical ways to make a difference. "Really, the purpose of the calendar is to inform people about what's going on in our community and to provide some concrete ways they can help," says Vince Matulionis, director of the Out of the Rain project.

Each month has a different fact, or "Did you know?", and three ways to get involved, which includes volunteering options and the phone numbers of organizations such as Food Lifeline and Union Gospel Mission. Its 14 full-page pictures, however, are what really gives the calendar a powerful message. "We really want to put a face to homelessness," says Lorraine Montez, communications coordinator at United Way. "We want people to understand that these individuals are in need of help from all of us."

Last year, the Out of the Rain project sent 13 photographers out on the streets of King County to shoot for the 2005 calendar. This year, however,

was different. "We were a little more directive, so we picked four photographers that we worked with last year and said 'Here's how we want the calendar to turn out,'" Matulionis says.

Inye Wokoma was one of them.

Wokoma, who also works with the Seattle-based magazine *ColorsNW*, took the responsibility of telling the story of the homeless seriously. "I put myself in their situation and just allowed myself to be there," he says. "A lot of time I just hang out before shooting."

He explains that since not all homeless people are actually living out on the streets, but instead move from shelter to shelter, "I tried to stay away from a cliché image of homelessness, like someone living under a bridge. Not that it isn't relevant, but we're just so saturated with [that image], we may not notice other groups who are affected by it."

The calendar, which was heavily sponsored by the Safeco Corporation, will be distributed mostly throughout different workplaces in the community. Copies can be picked up at the Dec. 1 Pioneer Square Art Walk, at the offices of Cole and Weber, 308 Occidental Ave. South. The office will feature an exhibition of the photographs and light refreshments from 6-8 p.m.

— Austin Haskell

### Council to mull over booze ban

The Seattle City Council will debate a possible ban on high-octane beer and wine in a broad swath of the city — from Queen Anne to the Central Area, including the University District — at a public hearing Dec. 6.

To ban such sales, local governments must find evidence that drunkenness — most commonly by "chronic public inebriates" — has a palpable effect on health or safety in the area. Pioneer Square became the second neighborhood in Washington to get a ban on the sale of cheap, potent beer and wine in 2004.

Before it imposes a ban, the state Liquor Control Board requires a six-month period of voluntary restrictions — when community members ask grocery and convenience store owners to take such items off their shelves. If that doesn't alleviate the problem of public drunkenness in the area, the Liquor Control Board will consider imposing new limits on local merchants.

Voluntary restrictions have been tried in these areas since June.

— Adam Hyla



PUTTING A FACE ON HUNGER: A LOCA FOOD BANK FEATURED IN THE 2006 OUT OF THE RAIN CALENDAR. PHOTO COURTESY INYE WOKOMA.

# Dude, Where's my Bagel?

Celebrating the Bagel Dude and the Cult thereof

By JOHN HOFF  
Contributing Writer

Like a figure from scripture, The Bagel Dude was described as a "Good Samaritan" whose mission, certain evenings, was to walk down University Way, handing out bagels.

Half a decade ago, in the University District of Seattle, among the homeless youth sprang up a cult of sorts... The Cult Of The Bagel Dude.

He would come, you see, with gifts of free bagels, walking down the street handing out this manna. The cult was known only among the street youth until court battles against the Sidran No Sitting Ordinance accidentally revealed its existence to the outside world. Questioned at length about rational reasons for sitting on the sidewalk, a homeless youth confessed...she would wait, sometimes, looking for The Bagel Dude. Like a figure from scripture, he was described as a "Good Samaritan" whose mission, certain evenings, was to walk down University Way, handing out bagels.

Sometimes he would take a while to arrive, and then the youth would wait, congregate, peel eyes and divide up the turning of heads down various directions of the street. You see, Bagel Dude didn't want to cause a commotion and blow his corporate connection to the Big Rock Doughy Mountain of excess breadly largesse. So he would appear quietly, in different spots along University Way. And when he would be mad-deningly late in coming (like the Messiah) the youth would, only half jokingly, put all fingers of both hands together in a big thick "O" shape, making The Sign Of The Bagel Dude.

"Bagel Duuuuuuuude," they would say, making the sign above their heads and rocking, eyes closed momentarily. "Bagel Duuuuuuuude."

I had not thought about The Cult Of The Bagel Dude for many years, until one recent Sunday when I was in a bagel shop in Dinkytown, which is kind of like University Way, only it's in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where I now study Public Administration at the Humphrey Institute. Rather than paying through the nose to have somebody make me a bagel sandwich at the shop, I prefer to buy a bag of day old bagels, a tub of salmon cream cheese (private homage to Seattle, which will always be, at some level, my home) and make my own sandwiches while messing around on wireless internet. But this particular day the guy behind the counter informed me that he would give me the bagels, since the store was closing early and they would soon be thrown out. In fact, he told me, I could have all the day-old bagels.

I obtained a bag and took all the bagels, and there were still bagels left over. I rearranged the contents of my backpack, stuffing bags of bagels between manilla folders, and still there were bagels. I rearranged the contents of the bagel bag, again, and miraculously managed to rescue every last bagel. Walking down the street, I remembered the humble, saintlike example of Bagel Dude. Let me be like him--! I thought, looking for hungry people in need of bagels, but the homeless and street youth culture is not so deep in Minnesota as in Seattle...the cold winter kills social roots, yearly.

So I thought that I would give the bagels to my classmates at The Humphrey Institute, leaving them in the lounge with a note. But the Humphrey doors were locked, which drove me into an area across the street called The West Bank, where the nation's largest population of refugees from Somalia have built an amazing culture, and mingle with hip college youth, some of which took over a failing cafe and made it into a cooperative called the Hard Times. It is like nothing so much as the old Black Cat Cafe from the Seattle University District.

Illustration by Robin Lindley.



See DUDE, Continued on Page 9

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## King of Pain

Zainab Salbi on living in fear under "Uncle" Saddam

By ROBIN LINDLEY  
Contributing Writer

"War is not an intellectual discussion; it's about the human impact. It's about the sound, the smell of it. It's about the color of it: for me, war is about the blue feet I saw hanging from a coffin in a car in front of us as my mother and I were driving. War is about ugliness, about how it impacts people, impacts our spirits."

In her new book, *Between Two Worlds—Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam* (Gotham Books, 2005), Iraqi native Zainab Salbi describes how she lived under Saddam Hussein and emerged as an advocate for women survivors of war. When she was 11 years old, her family became part of Saddam Hussein's inner circle when her father became Saddam's personal pilot. Salbi writes of the tense years living with the mercurial Saddam, of the brutality of his regime, and of the marriage her parents arranged for her in the United States.

Salbi soon fled this abusive marriage and set a new course, founding Women for Women International in 1993. This nonprofit organization helps female war victims recover and become self-sufficient, and has aided over 33,000 women in countries devastated by war and genocide, from Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan to Rwanda, Congo, Nigeria, and Sudan. Salbi has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered*, PBS's *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, CBS *News*, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. President Clinton honored her for her humanitarian efforts. She recently spoke with *Real Change* by telephone from Los Angeles about life under Saddam, violence against women, and the trauma of war.

**Real Change:** Your father was Saddam Hussein's personal pilot, and you and your family were often with Saddam. What was your impression of Saddam?

**Zainab Salbi:** I saw him frequently as a teenager. He gave us a farmhouse in his compound and we had to go there



Zainab Salbi, left, here in Kosovo, working for the rights of women affected by war. Photo courtesy of Zainab Salbi.

all the weekends. We were all told to call Saddam "Uncle." We were told to sing for him, to dance for him, to write poetry for him, to paint for him.

At the time I met him, I knew that my best friend's father was executed by Saddam; I knew that half of my mother's family was deported to Iran [when] 200,000 Shias were deported between 1980 and 1982. I almost lost my mom in that deportation. Saddam talked about how he killed his family members and friends and colleagues and lovers, so we were constantly vulnerable and worried.

**RC:** Saddam talked openly about killing relatives and friends?

**Salbi:** Definitely. Particularly friends and lovers. It's a public issue for him. It's not a big deal. He kept my fam-

ily and everyone in Iraq captured in that fear. There were no rules, only Saddam's moods. It was suffocating.

**RC:** Was Saddam always a threatening figure for you?

**Salbi:** No. There were definitely nice moments; he's a charming person. Such dictators don't last for so many years without having their own charm.

He was really into fashion for a while; he wore cowboy hats and checkered shirts. He was in a psychiatrist phase when he wanted to analyze people and that's when he wore his doctor's jacket as he consulted and solved people's problems. People would ask him to solve problems usually related to family matters. He was into cooking, and would experiment with different food. He was definitely into cars; he gave me

and a friend a ride in his red sports car with his helmet and loud music. He likes dancing. He likes drinking. But with that came fear: you'd never know when he'd be mad. You'd never know when he'd kill you.

**RC:** Did you experience combat during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)?

**Salbi:** Yes. The Iranians did bomb Baghdad. It's so important for people here to understand what war is like. War is not an intellectual discussion; it's about the human impact. It's about the sound, the smell of it. It's about the color of it: for me, war is about the blue feet

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Continued from Previous Page

I saw hanging from a coffin in a car in front of us as my mother and I were driving. War is about ugliness, about how it impacts people, impacts our spirits.

One million people died in the Iran-Iraq war. As a survivor of war and witness to wars, the trauma of war stays with you. We've had three wars and 10 years of economic sanctions [since 1980], so in Iraq we've had a lot of post-traumatic stress. I definitely had it. Here [in the U.S.] people speak about war and forget about it, and go on to another war. With a survivor of war, war never leaves you.

**RC:** You describe a state-sponsored campaign of violence against women under Saddam.

**Salbi:** Absolutely. Between 1980 and 1982, [when] 200,000 Shia were deported, Iraqi soldiers raped thousands of [Shia] women: an organized, ordered rape. Women were kidnapped and raped by the Iraqi Secret Service. The rape was videotaped to blackmail them, and force them to join the Secret Service and spy on family members and colleagues. Rape was used as torture against the political opposition many times. Women would be raped in front of their brothers or fathers or husbands as they tortured the men in political opposition.

Definitely rape and violence against women were used by the Saddam regime, and I feel very strongly that he has to be indicted for these crimes. Violence often starts with women [and] is an indicator of what will happen to the rest of the society. Women are a bellwether for the society.

**RC:** Did you know of this orchestrated campaign against women as it happened?

**Salbi:** I heard bits and pieces. I remember my mother's friends crying when they talked about what happened to women when they asked for [Saddam's] help, and how he would rape women. If he liked a woman, he would take her to a secret room and rape her. He told my family that he had a mobile clinic and he would go to villages, separate men from women, and take one woman at a time, and if he liked her, he raped her on the pretext that he was solving her problem.

There are horror stories of how his sons committed so many crimes against women, particularly Uday. He was known as the "Rapist of Baghdad."

**RC:** To protect you from Saddam and Uday, your parents arranged a marriage for you in the U.S. and whisked you from Iraq.

**Salbi:** I was in my fourth year of college. I felt rushed out. And I was very confused by my mother, who was a very adamant that I have to be strong and independent. I said yes because I did not want my mother to cry; I wanted to be a good daughter.

The man she ended up marrying me to did all the things she told me not to tolerate.

He abused me. He raped me. He was a really bad man, but Iraq had invaded Kuwait, so the borders were closed; I couldn't go back home.

After three months, all the things my mother had ingrained in me kicked in, and I left him. I had \$400 in my pocket. That was the day I decided to create a new identity for myself and a new path. It took me 10 years to realize that my mother was trying to save me from a worse experience with Saddam.

**RC:** How did you go from this abusive marriage to founding Women for Women International?

**Salbi:** Two years after I left [that marriage], I met the love of my life and my current husband. It was the first time I heard about another war. Growing up in Iraq, we were isolated from the rest of the world in terms of news.

There was the Bosnian war, I heard about the concentration camps there and the 20,000 women who had been raped. I didn't even know where Bosnia was, but I felt obliged to do something as someone who has survived war. I started the organization to help women move from victims to survivors to active citizens.

**RC:** And you've worked in war zones?

**Salbi:** I was in Sarajevo in the middle of the siege, Kosovo in the midst of the war, and in Congo, where war is still going on.

I'm familiar with the sound of [war]. I hate it. I really hate it. I hate the sounds of the bullets. But I know how to operate in war. I feel so strongly that we need to be



A YOUNG ZAINAB SALBI, GREETED BY HER THEN-"UNCLE" SADDAM. PHOTO COURTESY OF ZAINAB SALBI.

there for the women. Ninety percent of modern war casualties are civilians, 75 percent of which are women and children.

**RC:** Have you been back to Iraq since 2003?

**Salbi:** Since the war ended, I was there every two months, but I haven't been there in the past year because so many educated women — working, outspoken

women — have been assassinated or targeted for assassination. Women's hair salons have been bombed, female college students have been targeted for rape and kidnapping, and on a daily basis we see more and more women's bodies on the shores of the Tigris and the Euphrates, just being thrown out. [This] violence against women is very political: a message that women go home, no different than what the Taliban tried to do. They started their oppression with violence against women.

**RC:** Does the new Iraqi Constitution adequately protect women's rights?

**Salbi:** No; it has pros and cons. On the one hand, it guarantees women's equal citizenship. It also guarantees women 25 percent representation in the Parliament. On the other hand, family law that protects women's access to resources and mobility as represented by marriage, divorce, custody, inheritance, is very vague and under religious codes with religious scholars interpreting it. It could take the country to a more fundamentalist stage. We are vulnerable to who interprets this law.

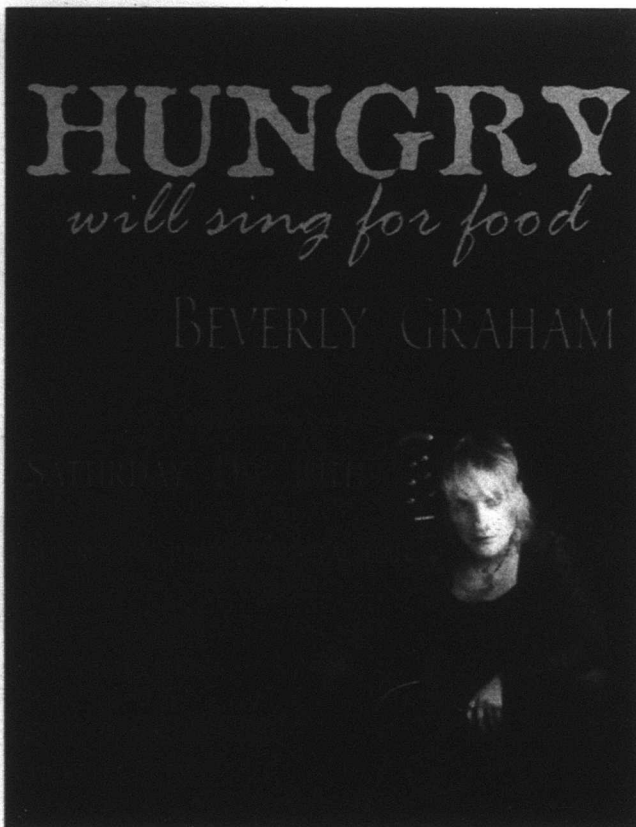
**RC:** What needs to happen now in Iraq?

**Salbi:** A few things. We need to use the Saddam trial as a historical opportunity to document our past, to thoroughly document his crimes, to get to the truth, and to seek our reconciliation.

In terms of American involvement, we have to focus on stabilizing people's daily lives. We cannot talk about Iraq unless we talk about the restoration of electricity, of water, of schools and health systems, of roads, and of jobs beyond the army and police. At the end of the day, people want stability and normalcy in their lives. That's how we can build sustainable peace in Iraq.

**RC:** I understand you that have a Seattle connection, that you visited Seattle as a child.

**Salbi:** I love Seattle. I had the privilege of coming to Seattle almost every year as I was growing up, when my father was getting training. We spent all of our summers there, and I considered it my second home. Lots of my friends are from there. Lots of good memories, beautiful memories. ■



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## Apocalypse Now...And Then

In fiction, Vietnam War horrors foreshadow Iraq War bloodshed

Entries

By Peter Bacho

University of Hawaii Press, 2005  
Paperback, 229 pages, \$18.95

Review by TIMOTHY HARRIS  
Staff Writer

With a new generation being wasted by war — this time in Iraq — the Vietnam novel takes on new relevance. The returning vet will recognize the survivor's guilt, the displacement, the alienation, and the culture of keeping our darker secrets well under wraps.

Peter Bacho's heart of darkness Vietnam novel features one of the more likable sociopaths you'll ever meet. Rico Divina is the kind of guy who can slip on personas at will but isn't comfortable in his own skin. He's an amateur poet with a hard-on for language who can beat you into a coma for no reason and not remember a thing in the morning.

Rico hates taking his meds, drinks to keep the dreams away, and can't always tell his nightmares from reality. He's a Filipino-Indian former Marine who left whatever hope he had back in Vietnam, alongside his dead Okie friend and a pile of severed limbs. War is one of the few places where a real psycho can truly shine, and for Rico, Vietnam never ends.

*Entries* works the shifting line between hope and despair and plays with themes of destiny and self-determination to build a sympathetic portrait of a truly dangerous man — a Casanova of the underclass — whose troubles have a way of including others. The more Rico tries to take control of his life, the more it slips from his grasp.

The diary format offers an unnerving immediacy, although varied perspectives

on similar events bring a Rashomon-like quality to the novel. Ultimately, one man's undistinguished and sordid life takes on universal significance.

Rico's core alienation is with his own racial identity. His Filipino father abandoned the family early on, leaving him little identification with the islands or reason for cultural pride. His Indian mother is a product of Catholic boarding school: hardworking, devout, and completely severed from her native heritage. Rico desperately tries to reconnect to his roots — and his own humanity — by way of various women. While he sometimes comes close, the distance is ultimately too great.

Themes of race combine with those of empire to create a fairly subtle political text, where history is the nightmare from which we are struggling to awake. From the subjugation of the American Indian to the U.S. intervention in the Philippines to Vietnam and the unholy present, the past is presented as an unbroken bloody trail leading straight to this moment, and how that looks depends a good deal upon where we stand.

With a new generation being wasted by war — this time in Iraq — the Vietnam novel takes on new relevance. The returning vet will recognize the survivor's guilt, the displacement, the alienation, and the culture of keeping our darker secrets well under wraps. There is also the same insistence that the war somehow measure up to more

than the sum of blood and misery shared in common.

In one passage, a San Francisco community college is the setting for a clash of leftist intellectuals and returning GI bill vets who find themselves thrown together in a course on Southeast Asia. "The believers chant about falling dominos and threats to the U.S., about the need to win hearts and minds... fruited plains, spacious skies, etc," while other vets in the room, out of solidarity, hold their peace. "We figure if that's what they need, they should have it. They've already paid a high enough price. One more lie won't hurt."

If there is a flaw here, it's that Rico's diary entries read a lot like the other perspectives with which they are interspersed. A newspaper account of a boxing match, for example, lacks credibility simply because it sounds too much like the rest of the novel. Instead, Bacho relies on alternating typefaces to help us keep track. The absence of distinctive voices disappoints, but doesn't keep the novel from working.

*Entries* comes to a gut-wrenching climax when Rico painfully sees himself for who he is and the clues that are dropped along the way snap into unbearable focus. We reap that which is sown, both by others and ourselves. This is a novel about illusions — those that we create and those created for us — and the hard realities that lie underneath. But sometimes, when we want to look away, we just can't. ■

## Blue Blazes

Forty Shades of Blue

Directed by Ira Sachs

Now playing at the Varsity in the University District

By LESTER GRAY

Arts Editor

**F**orty Shades of Blue, wispily evocative of Robert Altman's Academy Award winning *Nashville*, mines the fecund Southern society of Tennessee and its storied music community.

Laura (Dina Korzun), a young woman with a model's figure and a cosmopolitan aesthetic, is the live-in girlfriend of Alan James (Rip Torn), at least a full generation her senior, with whom she has a three-year-old son. She comes from Moscow, where the couple met while he was on a business trip. As she traded up for the land of opportunity, little did Laura anticipate the provincialism and trammel awaiting her.

Alan, a white record producer and a legend in Memphis, made his mark by bringing Black R&B artists into the American mainstream. In this venue, Alan is the man, the alpha male. It is through him the herd comes to drink at the fount. Musicians, relatives, and lovers are afforded a lifestyle, perhaps even survival, otherwise unlikely. Exceptional as a provider, he finds it incomprehensible, when he notices at all, that loved ones still require something more.

Laura most likely once felt a genuine if

utilitarian affection for Alan, hoping to build a relationship and a family. In the face of her consort's pathological lack of compassion, both hope and affinity have evaporated.

As Laura ponders the impossibility of her situation, Alan's married son Michael (Darren Burrows) arrives for a visit. With his father he shares little except contempt. The younger James is a tentative soul who in the presence of his father vacillates between timidity and anger.

Predictably, Michael and Laura find sanctuary in a brief love affair. While there may be genuine chemistry here, it is worth noting that the son has now cuckolded the man he so despises, and the girlfriend has found a possible way out of a dire situation.

It is the contrast of Laura's wardrobe, avant-garde styles and colors, against the staid and repressive décor of Alan's home, indifferent to contemporary influence, which speaks most unequivocally about the overall disharmony. Because Alan, even in his own mind, is incontestably a jerk, one is tempted to see the more amiable Laura as the victim. But another perspective suggests these are two people emotionally stranded by their own arrogance and design.

Any of these characters alone could easily sustain a compelling narrative. While this story is about Laura coming to terms with the bed she has made and literally sleeps in, Alan by virtue of his overbearing character and Rip Torn's impeccable portrayal, demands and receives a great deal of spotlight. At times he nearly eclipses Laura, but director Ira Sachs admirably maintains an appropriate balance.

*Forty Shades* boasts a naturalism, a certain rawness. The style befits the subject. The performances alone make it worthwhile. Men and women, liberals and conservatives and various generations, will most likely take away different perspectives. They can all be valid. That's the beauty of the film. ■

*Forty Shades* boasts a naturalism, a certain rawness. The style befits the subject. The performances alone make it worthwhile.

Dina Korzun in  
Forty Shades of  
Blue.







Adventures  
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning

One of the things I found out was that the life expectancy of a British guy during the "Victorian era" (a British way of saying "the years 1837 to 1901") was around 50. Whereas the average age of homeless Londoners at death these days is around 42. Such factoids present interesting possibilities for political interpretation, or spin, or whatever you choose to call it.

# Ah, the Good Old Days

Have you ever wondered how often Albert Einstein thought, "Gee, who am I kidding? I'm no Einstein." Or how often any of his kids thought it? I wonder about things like

that all the time.

The other day I saw a report that said, according to a study commissioned by some charity in England, the life expectancy of homeless people in London is lower than for people in the Victorian era.

Now, Einstein was born in the Victorian era, and he truly was an Einstein, so I'll bet he would have known what all that meant right away, but I had to look it up.

One of the things I found out was that the life expectancy of a British guy during the "Victorian era" (a British way of saying "the years 1837 to 1901") was around 50. Whereas the average age of homeless Londoners at death these days is around 42.

Such factoids present interesting possibilities for political interpretation, or spin, or whatever you choose to call it. A former acquaintance once told me that she hated living in the present and wished she could travel back to simpler times, when scientists weren't screwing life up. She said she thought that the 14th century would be "idyllic." I think she picked the 14th century because the number 14 is big in the Kabala. It couldn't be because of the actual 14th century, what with the Black Death and the Hundred Years War lowering life expectancy to 25 or less (in all the countries where she could speak the language.)

Here's one way we could spin the news: Homelessness isn't so bad. No, really. It's better to be homeless than to live through the Black Death and the Hundred Years War. It's almost as good as living during such an enlightened time as had telegraphs and trains and Florence Nightingale.

Now that every community in the land has to have a Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness (Philip Mangan, Bush administration "Homelessness Czar," isn't into the Kabala, he's into the number of fingers on his hands), I look forward to the new creative ways that people will assess progress on this front when the homelessness that was supposed to have ended hasn't. "Being homeless was always better than living in the 14th century, but worse than living during the Victorian era. But it's now as good as life under Edward VII. Give us another 10 years and being homeless could get as good as living through the Great Depression."

Unfortunately, it turns out that being homeless is a lot worse than that British news report would indicate. There's a problem with the conclusion of the study it mentions, having to do with averages.

Recently I said I love averages. This is one of those times when the appearance of averages makes me all tingly and excited.

It turns out that when folks work out the life expectancy of people in the Victorian era, or the 14th century, or any other period in history, the number they crank out refers to the life expectancy of anyone born. That means high rates of childhood deaths drive the average life expectancy way down.

It turns out that if you survived childhood during the Victorian era you could actually expect to live well past 60. In fact, even during the dreaded 14th century, if you were a member of the British aristocracy and you made it to 21 by around 1340 you could expect to live an additional 24 years to age 45, beating out our present-day London homeless by three years, in spite of the Black Death!

"So what are you trying to say, Wes?" What I'm trying to say is, looking at things on the bright side gets harder every day. What I'm trying to say is, maybe the Black Death wasn't so bad.

What I'm trying to say is, when you see everything in perspective, you really begin to appreciate modern anesthetics. ■

## DUDE, Continued from Page 5

Sigh. The Black Cat.

Back in the old days, when there were more street youth in the Seattle University District, and you could buy plenty of vegan food at The Black Cat, there was a kind of schism among the adherents of The Bagel Dude Cult. There was, you see, another Bagel Dude...some called him Old Bagel Dude. He was known to trash dive his bagels, not liberate them fresh from the source. Some were grateful for the lower quality bagels, but others swore they would have faith in none but The One True Dude.

Now, outside the Hard Times Cafe, I noticed where the hip and earthy had congregated and, trying to walk in the footsteps of The One True Dude, I offered bagels. One guy quickly accepted my offer, wondering aloud if there were onion bagels. There were, as a deep sniff right through the plastic confirmed. A young woman with skin art all about the face looked through all the bags...she asked about pumpernickel, what on earth was THAT?

"Kind of like rye," I explained.

And what about the poppy seed bagels, she wondered, what were they like? I explained that the poppy seeds had no flavor, really, but just imparted a kind of pleasant crunch. How about some onion, maybe? I asked, but she would have

nothing to do with onion, and hoped that nothing had TOUCHED the onion, and finally settled upon a bag of...plain bagels.

I went inside the Hard Times Cafe and explained the deal about the bagels to the girl behind the counter. Everybody who works there is an owner, and 10 people work there.

"You're not selling them?" she asked. "You're giving them away?" I confirmed that was the deal. She grasped the bag and pulled it behind the counter, saying only, "People will eat them." What more needed to be said?

Walking back to where my bike must still be chained near the bagel place, a mile or two away, I thought how I would go back to the shop and discreetly tell the young man behind the counter how happy I would be to take more bagels off his hands...in fact, he could even call me on my cell phone. I thought how I would take the bagels to the Hard Times Cafe, stopping first on the exterior where people congregated and I would give away a few bags, also offering bags to anybody I might see on the way, who might look in need of free bagels. I would, I thought, try in my unworthy way to follow the example of The One True Bagel Dude.

And then it hit me, and I realized...

I had become The Bagel Dude. ■



## Sun., Nov. 11, 1:40 p.m., Pike Place Market.

Officers were dispatched to a report of an assault at Second and Pike. Upon arrival they contacted the complainant, who stated he was walking in the 80 block of Pike when he was panned by the suspect, a transient Native American male aged 62. Complainant stated he told the suspect "No," and the suspect then allegedly spit in the face of the complainant. He physically pointed out the suspect to officers, who questioned the man. Suspect did admit to getting into an altercation with the complainant, but stated he did not spit in his face. He said he asked the complainant for money, and the complainant got angry and "got in his face." They exchanged words and that was it. The officer observed that when the suspect talks, he spits — whether this was due to a medical condition is unknown. Complainant was promised that the incident would be documented, and the suspect was ID'd and released.

## Tues., Nov. 15, 11:37 p.m., King County Sobering Center, Boren Ave.

Subject, a transient white male aged 38, had entered the sobering center for the evening. He was found to have a 0.32 alcohol level, and was placed in the seclusion room. Subject was then observed by staff starting a small fire on the concrete floor. The fire was put out, and the police were called. Officers arrived and spoke to the subject, who told officers he was suicidal. He was highly intoxicated, unable to take care of himself, and could be a danger to others. Due to these facts, the man was involuntarily committed to Harborview Medical Center for a mental health evaluation.

## Wed., Nov. 16, 12:44 p.m., Hing Hay Park, Maynard St.

Officers observed the suspect, a transient Black male aged 30, seated on the east side of the park drinking from a 24-oz. can of Olde English beer. Officer was aware that suspect is currently trespassed from all Zone 5 and city parks for one year. As the officer approached the man, he stood up and began to walk away on Maynard St. He was contacted and placed into custody without incident. Suspect stated to the officer "The judge gave me seven days the last time — he's gonna give me 90 days this time. Why do you hate me?" Another Parks Exclusion Notice was filled out for the suspect, and he was booked into King County Jail for Trespass in the Parks.

## Fri., Nov. 18, 2:45 p.m., Pike Place Market.

A security officer at the market noticed the suspect, a transient white male aged 36, walking near the City Fish stand. He knew that the man had been previously trespassed from the market for a year on Nov. 11. He stopped and detained the suspect, and kept him in the security office until police arrived. A new trespass card was completed, and the suspect was interviewed and released. Police request trespass charges are pressed.

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.

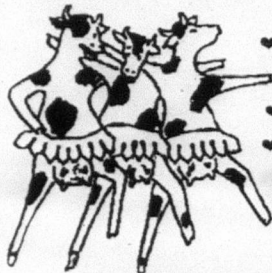
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*How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God! Indeed it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter Kingdom of God.*

— 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)?



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**Letters**  
editor@realchangenews.org

**Fear of a Janet Planet**

Dear *Real Change*,

What does Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, and at least 30 other countries have in common? Women Prime Ministers, Presidents, or Queens.

After reading online at [www.womenhistory.about.com](http://www.womenhistory.about.com), I was shocked to learn how backwards our American political system is regarding the appointment of a woman president. Why is it that all these other countries have/had women serve as leaders? Why has the USA, the world's greatest proponent of democracy and human rights, never had a female president? What does this say about women's role and political status in America? Are women only good enough to vote for a male president, yet incapable of occupying presidential office themselves?

We have not elected a woman because the political powers actually in charge have no intention of offering one, until such time as it serves their purpose. Ever since women won the right to vote, we have become complacent with our rights in the political arena. To change this, it would take the exact same work it took for the Women's Suffragette Movement. Women need to band together to

support each other. Then, gain the attention/respect of the male political system that dominates this country. Women need to continually focus on the goal of holding this nation's highest office.

Iceland's past female president of 16 years states: "If men and women could run the world together, things would be very different." And that is for the betterment of every child, woman, and man.

**Sheri A. Hilton  
Everett**

**Who came before**

Dear *Real Change*,

There is something that has always bothered me. I don't suppose it should, in a way, but it does. You probably already know this but most people don't realize that Rosa Parks ["The Real Rosa Parks," Nov. 23] was not the first woman to refuse to give up a seat to a white person in Alabama. There were two others; Claudette Colvin and Mary Louise Smith.

That is not to say that Rosa Parks should not receive all the credit for her work in the Civil Rights movement. I just wish the media would state that she was the "first woman to make a difference in the bus boycott" rather than the first woman to refuse to give up her seat.

**J.R. Rodgers**

*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)

**CHEESE, Continued from Page 1**

cameras that fit under the rearview mirror, capturing the actions of both the officers as well as members of the community as they interact.

"Anything that increases transparency is good," says Mike Quinn, strategic advisor with the Seattle Police Department. "It puts the officer and citizen on their best behavior." The \$1,055,000 allotted by the Seattle City Council on Monday for the equipment will mean that about 75 percent of the fleet will carry cameras.

Quinn says that both officers and the public are in favor of the idea. "A community survey was just completed on racial profiling, and 80 to 85 percent of citizens thought it would be helpful to have cameras in the cars," says Quinn.

"We've found it helps with public perception and DUI cases especially," says police spokeswoman Debra Brown. Sometimes, when an accused person sees their behavior on film, they decide not to take the case to court.

At this time, no data is being collected to monitor the success or failure of the cameras and nobody is going through the tapes to look for incidents of racial profiling, according to Brown. "I don't believe anybody is going through the tapes routinely. They are reviewed on a case-by-case basis so we can confirm or deny that something happened."

**See CHEESE, Continued on Page 12**

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# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

### Thursday 12/1

In honor of **World AIDS Day**, Dan Savage, editor of *The Stranger*, and Tina Podlodowski, executive director of Lifelong AIDS Alliance, meet head-to-head for a discussion on the disease. Candlelight vigil will follow. 6 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, Community Room, 1701 11th Ave. E.

Many young Jews are seeking to reinvent their identity as hip and sexy. They emblazon their tops and bottoms with "Jewcy" and read Jewish magazines that resemble *Vibe*. Is this trend a confident embracement of their religion or the result of deep anxiety? Daphne Merkin, author of *Dreaming of Hitler*, takes on this new culture in her talk *Brand New Jews*. Tickets \$8, \$6 students and under. 7 p.m., Henry Art Gallery, 15th Ave. NE and NE 41st St.

### Friday 12/2

The genocide campaign in Darfur has claimed more than 400,000 lives. Ruth Messinger, president and executive director of American Jewish World Service, has returned from her trip to the ravaged region. Her presentation, *Bear Witness*:

*Crisis in Darfur*, emphasizes what must be done to stop the continuing atrocities. 7:30-9 a.m., 2600 Century Square, 1501 4th Ave., 26th Floor. Info: Cecily, (206)525-0915, [cecily@templebetham.org](mailto:cecily@templebetham.org).

What is a macho man? *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity* is the first educational video to systemically analyze the relationship between pop-culture imagery and the social construction of masculine identities. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Place. Info: [wfnf@bridgings.org](mailto:wfnf@bridgings.org)

### Saturday 12/3

A regular on *The Jon Stewart Show*, Lewis Black embodies subversive wit, intellectual honesty, and pure hilarity. Greed and stupidity make him angry. Tickets \$45 and up. 8 p.m., The Paramount Theatre, 911 Pine St.

Through Saturday 12/3

Based on a series of interviews with people who were children in Hawaii during World War II, the play *Nothing Is the Same* portrays how the war affected the lives of children living in Oahu. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, friendships are tested, fear runs rampant, and children struggle to understand the changing world. Tickets, \$19 and up. 2, 5:30, and 7 p.m., Seattle Children's Theater, 201 Thomas St.

### Monday 12/5

Former soldiers from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam have joined in the national tour, Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility. To this date, the U.S. has made no payments or reparations for the health effects of Agent Orange on the people of Vietnam. 7 p.m., American Friends Service Committee, 812 40th NE. Info: [www.vn-agentorange.org](http://www.vn-agentorange.org), (206)283-6676.

*The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, CodeBlueNow, and Foolproof hold a town hall meeting on changing our nation's health care, featuring panelists Arne Carlson, former Governor of Minnesota, and Paul

Rogers, former U.S. Congressman from Florida. Tickets, \$5. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

### Wednesday 12/7

Michael McClosky spent decades working for the Sierra Club, forwarding the establishment of the North Cascades National Park and lobbying for the enactment of environmental laws. In *The Thick of It: My Life in the Sierra Club* reveals the inner workings of the environmental group, including the ousting of McClosky's mentor. 7 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S. Main St.

## Director's Corner

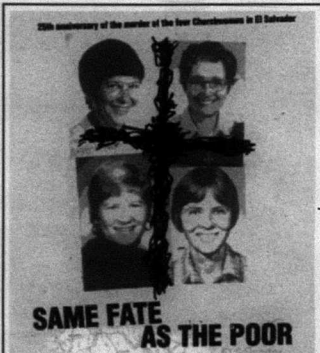


Last week I wrote of Cornel West's call for us to respond to the challenge of our times with Socratic questioning, prophetic witness, and tragicomic hope. This week, we'll dwell for a moment on the notion of prophetic witness. This is how people who have attended divinity school describe what happens when we are drawn to be our better selves.

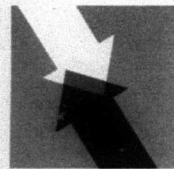
The Old Testament, when it's not focused on smiting or being smitten, is an excellent source of this sort of inspiration. For everyday applicability, one simply can't beat Micah's call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with god." We non-deists just drop the god part and focus on being humble. It works pretty much the same.

For more of a thundering, get-you-out-of-bed-in-the-morning sort of vision, Amos, with his "Let justice flow on like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream," is my all-time favorite. Martin Luther King Jr. cribbed this line to great effect for his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Being a prophet has its costs. There's usually an uncomfortable period of transformation involved. Think Jonah and the whale. That had to suck. Then, once you start walking around telling folks what they don't want to hear, there's the inevitable impairment of social status. Prophetic witness is the opposite of contented complacency. Not for wimps, but anyone can do it.



The play *Same Fate as the Poor* commemorates the lives of four women who lived and worked in El Salvador, responding to the needs of a population terrified by civil war. In 1980, these women were brutally murdered by the Salvadoran military. Suggested donation, \$15. Fri., Dec. 2 and Sat., Dec. 3rd, 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4, 2 p.m., Seattle University, Fine Arts Building, Vachon Room, 11th Avenue and Madison. Info: [www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org), (206)329-5981.



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

### City Council adds \$2 Million to Human Services

**Issue:** This week the Seattle City Council unanimously passed the 2006 budget. Due in large part to the pressure generated by the public, they added more than \$2,040,000 to the Mayor's original budget proposal for human services.

**Background:** The following are some highlights of the final budget passed by the Council.

- \$350,000 was set aside for shelter and transitional housing, with a proviso that there be no net loss in shelter beds;
- \$1 million was included to operate a new homeless service center in Pioneer Square that will include showers, restrooms, drop-in services, referrals, and more;
- \$50,000 was included to conduct a study on how ongoing development will affect affordable housing downtown, and \$200,000 was included for an historic building survey that could protect some existing low-income housing from being demolished or developed;
- \$400,000 was included for a pilot program to connect people who commit street crimes with services like drug and alcohol treatment, mental health counseling, and employment;
- City human service providers will get a 2 percent inflation adjustment instead of the less than 1 percent proposed by the Mayor. For many programs, this means they'll be less likely to have to reduce services as the cost of doing business goes up;
- An additional \$270,035 was added to restore policy advocacy and systems support. This funding leverages for more than it costs by supporting advocacy at the state and federal level that supplements local funding;
- Community health clinics will receive an additional \$275,000 to address the rising number of uninsured people;
- \$25,000 was added for food transportation to ensure that people confined to their homes continue to receive warm meals, and \$200,000 was added to increase food security for seniors and the elderly;
- \$40,000 was set aside for the new 2-1-1 resource and referral telephone service.

**Action:** While we still have concerns about the amount added for shelter — and will be watching to ensure that the city doesn't reduce the number of beds it funds — overall, the budget demonstrated the priorities that we want government to demonstrate. City Councilmembers all deserve a word of thanks for their part in the budget.

Tom Rasmussen, [Tom.Rasmussen@seattle.gov](mailto:Tom.Rasmussen@seattle.gov), 684-8808 (Human Services Committee chair, who worked hard on shelter/transitional bed funding)

Peter Steinbrueck, [Peter.Steinbrueck@seattle.gov](mailto:Peter.Steinbrueck@seattle.gov), 684-8804 (took lead on advocating for funding for the housing and historic building studies)

Nick Licata, [Nick.Licata@seattle.gov](mailto:Nick.Licata@seattle.gov), 684-8803 (took lead to set aside \$400,000 for human services/street crime pilot program)

Jan Drago, [Jan.Drago@seattle.gov](mailto:Jan.Drago@seattle.gov), 684-8801

Richard McIver, [Richard.McIver@seattle.gov](mailto:Richard.McIver@seattle.gov), 684-8800

Richard Conlin, [Richard.Conlin@seattle.gov](mailto:Richard.Conlin@seattle.gov), 684-8805

Jean Godden, [Jean.Godden@seattle.gov](mailto:Jean.Godden@seattle.gov), 684-8807

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Jim Compton, [Jim.Compton@seattle.gov](mailto:Jim.Compton@seattle.gov), 684-8802

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

**CHEESE, Continued from Page 10**

The footage is kept for a minimum of 90 days and then deleted, unless a civil or criminal complaint occurs, and then it is saved. After legal action is resolved, a request could be made by a citizen to see the tape.

The cameras were originally part of a pilot project started in 2001 to address concerns of racial profiling in Seattle. In 2002, Mayor Nickels proclaimed that all patrol cars would carry the cameras to "improve public confidence and trust in our police."

Results of the 2004 Vera Institute of Justice's report on Seattle Police Department's contact with the public revealed that even though a majority of citizens surveyed about their contact with Seattle police officers feel it was positive, many still feel that racial profiling is a problem and that people are often stopped by police for no good reason.

The study found that African American respondents felt that they were stopped more often than others and that they were more likely to be questioned about why they were in a certain neighborhood, as well as searched and arrested.

The most recent data from the Office of Professional Accountability, a police organization that investigates

complaints against officers, had only one complaint during the month of October about a traffic stop that was "motivated by race." The officers countered that the stop was made due to a taillight out and the complaint was considered "unfounded."

The OPA was created in 1999 to help resolve complaints, but community activists have long called for an independent civilian review board, not a police accountability organization run by the police department itself.

But one source that has the potential to exist as a fair and objective account of events is the camera, as long as there is a way to retrieve the information, says Joy Shigaki of the Japanese American Citizens League.

"Access is a very important question," says Shigaki. "I would hope that the OPA and independent members of that organization would have access to that information and a way to collect the data."

"A second important aspect is how you are going to provide for an ongoing assessment and dialogue with the community about whether or not this is working," says Shigaki. "It is necessary to have ongoing evaluations about this and other systems that have been put in place to prevent racial profiling. There is no one panacea." ■

**GOODHEAD, Continued from Page 1**

they could no longer fish — a traditional profession for delta families — but Goodhead says they had no employable skills.

"Seeing people living seven or eight in a tiny space, a very tiny space, in a deplorable situation was really mind-boggling," Goodhead says.

"For my brother," Goodhead says, "desperate situations need desperate solutions, and that meant taking up arms." He does not believe, however, that his brother's statements in the press are the sole reason for his arrest.

In the article, Asari called on the United Nations to let the minorities of the Niger Delta vote on whether or not to remain part of Nigeria, which Asari argues was arbitrarily created by the British in 1914. But he believes it's more likely that his brother — like other opposition leaders currently charged with treason — was jailed to get him out of the way before the 2007 election.

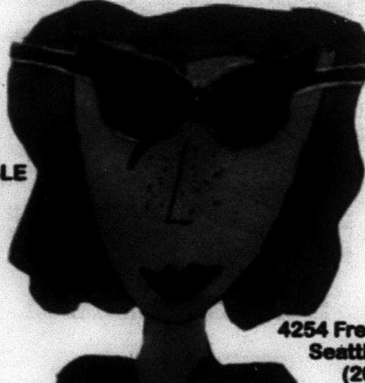
Goodhead says that may be a good thing. But until the oil companies decide to clean up the pollution and government officials stop making their fortunes from skimmed oil revenues, the resistance — armed or nonviolent — will continue.

"Even if the oil companies say we are ready to clean up this place and invest a little more money in the area, if that money is going into the hands of corrupt politicians," Goodhead says, "the poor man there will continue to suffer." ■

**[Nigeria on KBCS]**

Real Change is working with KBCS 91.3 FM Community Radio to cover the issues that Global Citizen Journey and its video team are encountering in the Niger River Delta. The station continues its series "Voices from the Niger Delta," on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 as part of its Thursday evening news show *One World Report*, a half-hour news magazine on social justice issues. (News at 6 p.m.; extended coverage at 6:30 p.m.)

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