

# REAL CHANGE

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FEBRUARY 1 - 7, 2006



MAJID AL-MASSARI, WHO HAS BEEN HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN SEA-TAC, MAY BE DEPORTED TO SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE THE POSSIBILITY OF TORTURE OR DEATH LOOM LARGE. PHOTO CREDIT UNKNOWN.

## Under Lock and Sea-Tac

*In solitary confinement, Saudi immigrant fights deportation*

By R.V. MURPHY  
Contributing Writer

**M**elinda McRae laughs and calls her former co-worker Majid al-Massari "kind of a computer nerd." Therefore, McRae and her colleagues at the University of Washington School of Nursing were surprised when the UW computer security expert didn't show up for work for a couple of days and were even more surprised when FBI agents showed up to seize computers in his office.

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested al-Massari on July 22, 2004. Since then, he's been held in solitary confinement at the federal detention center in Sea-Tac. Only his lawyers are allowed to visit, and al-Massari's limited to one telephone call a week. Hanging over al-Massari's head: deportation to his home country of Saudi Arabia, where he could be tortured and killed.

After his arrest, an immigration court found al-Massari deportable because of an "aggravated felony," an attempted drug purchase of cocaine in 2003. The court ruled that al-Massari's not eligible for political asylum even though his father, brother,

uncle, and cousin have been tortured by the Saudi government.

His attorneys are appealing that ruling, explains Ibrahim Al-Husseini, a board member of the Arab-American Community Coalition, an organization trying to raise money for al-Massari's defense. "We want to go before an immigration board," he says. "Not just one judge, a panel."

Those close to the case say that al-Massari will probably lose that appeal, but then his lawyers will appeal to the Ninth District Circuit Court.

Deportation proceedings never would have begun against al-Massari if immigration officials had processed his 1997 application for asylum in the 180 days allowed by law. Instead, it took six and a half years for officials to get to al-Massari's petition and then deny it because time had elapsed. Al-Massari was then picked up a little over a month later.

"Majid is a political case," says his lawyer, Paul Soreff. "And a lot of it goes back to his father."

Dr. Mohammed al-Massari started the first public human rights organization in

## Prescription Conscription

*Prescription co-pays cause chaos among state's poor*

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Reporter

**S**ome retirees might be saving money under the private insurance plans that Medicare rolled out Jan. 1 to pay for drugs. But Darline Hoggatt and Regina Owens aren't among them.

The two women, who are disabled and live on Social Security, have been hit with new co-pays for prescriptions they used to get for free. That's because the two are on both Medicare and Medicaid, the program that covers individuals living at or below the federal poverty line of \$9,570 a year.

Hoggatt, 61, lives on about \$600 a month and \$100 in food stamps. Owens, 48, gets slightly more. Each takes more than eight prescriptions and says she has no extra money for co-pays, which total \$21 a month for Hoggatt and more than \$40 for Owens.

"Sometimes it's going to be 'Do I want to live or do I want to eat?'" Hoggatt says of the drugs she takes for high blood pressure, leg cramps, and pain. "When you take even \$20 away from our budget, it's very hard."

Charging the poor is an odd twist of the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act. In Washington, the change affects 96,000 people who, like Hoggatt and Owens, receive Medicare and Medicaid and must now come up with co-pays — if they've been able to get their drugs at all.

On Jan. 1, the federal government switched the "dual eligibles," as they're called, to one of the private drug plans that now contract with Medicare. Some, such as Hoggatt and Owens, studied up last year and chose a plan. Those who didn't were randomly switched to one.

Either way, says Will Parry, president of the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans, computer snafus

## SAFE AND SOUND?

Despite its glistening surfaces, Puget Sound is ailing and it's up to us to make it healthy again.

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## TWO STEPS BACK

A pair stands trial today for the murder of a Maple valley homeless man that took place in 2004.

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## TOUGH LOVE

The governor's plan to axe some welfare benefits has legislators looking for another remedy.

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## 1946 IN 2006

Extending into Federal Way, this year's One Night Count seeks out King County's homeless.

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## FAREWELL PARTY

With his tenure at an end, 11-year state Democratic Party chair Paul Berendt remembers.

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# Listening to the Sound

*Saving Puget Sound requires political will and financial commitment*

By KATHY FLETCHER  
People for Puget Sound

It's not rocket science to save the Sound. Cleaning up our toxic sites, keeping pollution out of the Sound, preventing oil spills, and protecting and restoring the Sound's shorelines are all within our technical know-how.

On Dec. 19, Governor Gregoire announced her initiative to save Puget Sound. She called for an aggressive effort to restore the Sound to health over the next 15 years, and appointed a blue-ribbon "partnership" to help her.

What's wrong with the Sound, and what needs to be done?

Despite its shimmering surface and scenic shorelines, Puget Sound is sick. The orca whales that call the Sound home have become so depleted in numbers that they have been officially declared endangered. Hood Canal, a jewel-like inlet on the west side of the Sound, has "dead zones" during certain parts of the year, due to pollution from septic systems. Toxic chemicals contaminate the sand and mud at the bottom of Elliott Bay in Seattle and other urban bays around the Sound.

So many of the Sound's original salt marshes and natural beaches have been obliterated by development that fish, birds and other wild creatures can't find enough of the places they need to eat, rest, hide or breed. Massive urbanization and suburban sprawl have paved over the landscape, preventing water from seeping into the soil and causing pollution to flow into the Sound and its tributary streams and rivers. Seabird populations are plummeting, and nearly every species of fish is now scarce.

Oil spills foul the Sound all too often, and the risk of a catastrophic spill looms large every day, as oil tankers and other large ships ply the Sound's waters.

Puget Sound is dying a death of a thousand cuts.

None of these problems is new. In the 1980s, a previous governor launched a major effort to save the Sound. But there was little political stomach for the actions that would have prevented the dramatic decline we then witnessed in the 1990s. Now, with more than a million additional people living around the Sound, serious problems have become urgent, and warning signs have become a crisis.

It's not rocket science to save the Sound. Cleaning up our toxic sites, keeping pollution out of the Sound, preventing oil spills, and protecting and restoring the Sound's shorelines are all within our technical know-how. We can bring back the salmon and the whales. We can make sure the Sound's clams and oysters are safe to eat, and we can make it possible for our grandchildren and theirs to enjoy the Sound decades from now.

What do we need?

Political courage. Governor Gregoire has stuck her neck out on this. Congressmembers Norm Dicks and Jay Inslee and King County Executive Ron Sims have already signed on to her Puget Sound Partnership. Many additional legislators, mayors, county elected officials and other leaders are showing — through their actions as well as their words — that they are willing to do what it takes to save the Sound. But they will all need lots of reinforcement from the public for the long-term effort that's required.

Serious money. Puget Sound provides millions of dollars of value to our economy every year. Just the shellfish harvest accounts for about \$100 million. Add to that the value of having whales to watch, fish to catch and clean water to paddle and swim

in, and the true value may well be in the billions. But unless we invest in the Sound, it can't continue to invest in us. Developers, the oil industry and others need to pay more to protect the Sound. But all of us need to help. In Maryland, every family is paying just a little bit extra on their sewage bill or septic systems to create a significant pot of money to save Chesapeake Bay. We could do something like that here.

Nobody's against saving the Sound, or at least nobody would ever say that. But if we look the other way, by our inaction we could see it die.

There are ways for everyone to help:

- Get active. Join People For Puget Sound. Let your elected officials know that protecting the Sound is important to you.
- Learn more about the Sound. Take your kids or grandkids out on a beach at low tide and appreciate the amazing creatures that still call Puget Sound home, in spite of it all.
- Be Sound-friendly in the products you buy.
- Drive less, leave or plant native vegetation in your yard.
- Get your hands dirty. Devote a few hours or a few days to volunteering for the Sound by restoring some habitat or cleaning up a beach.

Puget Sound is a treasure that will provide a multitude of benefits for centuries to come if we give it half a chance. Let's be the folks that save it. ■

Kathy Fletcher is founder and executive director of People For Puget Sound, a citizens' organization working to protect and restore the Sound's health. She is a member of the governor's Puget Sound Partnership. Find out more or join People For Puget Sound at [www.pugetsound.org](http://www.pugetsound.org).



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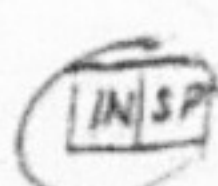
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# Change

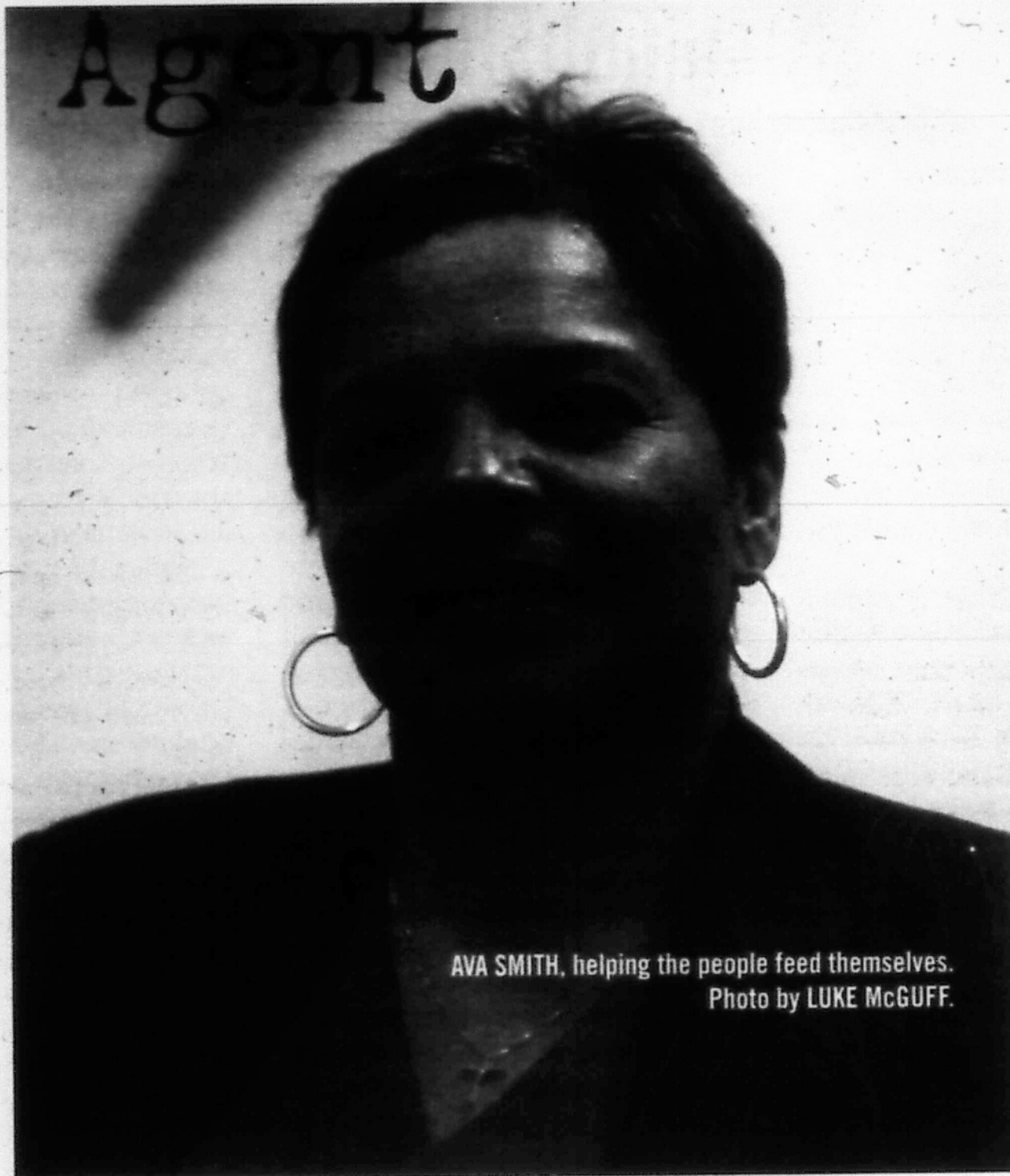
The streets of Seattle to some are a tourist mecca or a night-time carnival. To the many low-income and homeless, however, the street is a war zone with battles for the bare necessities of life. That's where Family Works' food banks manager Ava Smith comes in.

Each day, Smith oversees the distribution of more than one ton of groceries to at least 120 people. "What I do here is to make sure that everyone who comes through our line is treated with respect and dignity," she says, and "provided with nourishing food."

Smith left her 25-year corporate career with Pacific Northwest Bell after a friend brought the job to her attention. "I really wanted to do something more meaningful with my life," she says.

Although working outside the corporate arena was originally challenging, she now sees it not as a job, but a mission. "Now, each and every day, I know my purpose in life," she says. "To serve others."

—Austin Haskell



AVA SMITH, helping the people feed themselves.  
Photo by LUKE MCGUFF.

## Cold Reckoning

Couple on trial for murder of Maple Valley homeless man

By J. JACOB EDEL  
Contributing Writer

According to court documents, the detectives from the King County Sheriff's Office determined the defendants were in the area the night of the crime and obtained both defendants' DNA from the crime scene.

Two years after a homeless man was found dead face down near the banks of the Cedar River in Maple Valley, a couple from Tillicum is now in court, charged with second degree murder.

Shirin Navvab Lucero, 28, and David Wayne Pulcino, 46, are accused of assaulting Jeffrey Travis Thompson on Jan. 7, 2004, and leaving him to die.

According to the testimony of Dr. Richard Harruff of the King County Medical Examiner's Office, Thompson, a 57-year-old Vietnam veteran who spent his nights for the past 30 years camping in this area of Maple Valley, died from "multiple blunt force injuries" to the head. He also noted a list of other contributing causes, including hypothermia and pre-existing, natural illnesses. Thompson's autopsy revealed he had heart disease, emphysema, esophagus cancer, and cerebellum vermis atrophy, a degeneration of the brain due to chronic alcoholism.

Last week, Dayne Carley, a resident of Maple Valley, testified that he discovered Thompson's body after he tracked his way down a snow-blanketed trail with his two Labrador retrievers to the Cedar River's edge on Jan. 8, 2004. This was two days after a storm dropped around seven inches of snow in southeast King County.

Carley, who had spoken with Thompson a few times before while exercising his dogs, told the court he wasn't immediately concerned to see Thompson lying awkwardly in the snow. He said it looked like Thompson was "passed out drunk." According to Dr. Harruff, Thompson sustained a blood alcohol level of .19 at the time of the autopsy.

After several minutes of playing with his dogs, Carley said, he became concerned because

Thompson hadn't budged. He decided to approach Thompson before he departed, calling out his name. When he didn't respond, Carley called the police.

Photographs displayed to the jury showed Thompson lying in the dirt next to traces of snow, in a denim jacket and jeans. He was between a fire pit and a concrete pillar that supports an aged train trestle crossing the river.

According to court documents, the detectives from the King County Sheriff's Office determined the defendants were in the area the night of the crime and obtained both defendants' DNA from the crime scene. Detectives found a liqueur bottle, numerous empty malt liquor "twenty-twos," beer cans, and several articles of Thompson's winter clothing throughout the area. Thompson's green Army jacket — burned on the back and right elbow — and a piece of firewood containing traces of blood were found nearby as well.

At the nearby Maple Valley Market, a store clerk testified she saw the defendants in the store's parking lot the day of the crime. She also testified she saw blood on Pulcino when he approached the checkout stand that evening and asked for a lighter.

The detectives asked Qwest for the records from the store's public pay phone for Jan. 7 and 8. On the night of the seventh, they told the court, three calls were made to Lucero's sister.

The prosecution is expected to wrap up its case this week with testimony from Jennifer Gauthier, a DNA expert from the Washington State Crime Lab.

The defense counsel, so far, has questioned the clarity of some of the witnesses' memories and suggested during Dr. Harruff's cross-examination that out of all the possible causes of death, Thompson likely died from hypothermia after passing out inebriated in freezing weather. They also pointed out that Thompson may not have been assaulted at all — possibly falling into the cement buttress of the railroad trestle. A detective testified that he found no evidence suggesting that happened. ■

## Just Heard...

### Not so fast, Sonics

The City Council isn't taking the word of any stadium consultants on what to do at KeyArena.

Last week, Councilmember David Della, chair of the council's parks committee, said the committee will launch its own review of what the options are for operating KeyArena without the Seattle SuperSonics. The team wants the State Legislature to approve \$220 million for another remodel of the Seattle Center sports and concert venue.

On Dec. 19, a stadium consultant released a report showing that KeyArena's budget would tank if the Sonics leave. But the report, paid for by the team and Seattle Center, considered only sports and concert options. Della aide Tatsuo Nakata says the new review will be much broader.

It will also address what the public benefits are, if any, of doubling the size of KeyArena mainly to sell more hotdogs and T-shirts.

"It's going to be an objective review," Nakata says — one that, as it happens, probably won't be finished until after the Legislature closes on Mar. 10.

### No sweat?

One Seattle group wants to turn the adage "Think Globally, Act Locally" into a law — at least for city government.

Taking a cue from San Francisco, Seattle's Community Alliance for Global Justice plans to lobby the mayor and City Council to pass an ordinance that would stop the city from using sweatshop suppliers.

Alliance director Blaze Bonpane says the idea is based on an ordinance recently enacted in San Francisco, where the law stipulates preferences for buying organic and local goods, along with mandating decent working conditions.

"It's going to move tens of millions of [taxpayer] dollars away from sweatshop corporations," Bonpane says.

The alliance is currently working to build a coalition for the campaign, which he expects to launch in early March. Information on the San Francisco law can be found at [www.globalexchange.org/sweatshop](http://www.globalexchange.org/sweatshop).

— Cydney Gillis

### Bush Whackers

Last-minute concessions from city officials allowed anti-Bush protestors to mount a very visible counter-event Tuesday night during the State of the Union address.

The local chapter of a new group called "The World Can't Wait — Drive Out the Bush Regime" applied in January for an events permit to stage a protest outside the headquarters of ABC Affiliate KOMO 4 Television on Fourth Avenue and Denny Way near Seattle Center. Event co-organizer Maggie Lawless says the city initially denied the permit, telling them to use the much bigger space at Westlake Mall — a site which would have been "totally beside the point," says Lawless. After World Can't Wait's lawyer threatened to file an injunction, the city issued a permit — even dropping stipulations for insurance and paid security. At press time, Lawless was girding for a crowd of 2,000 to show up at the plaza.

Lawless says their effort "is not aimed at the media. We're just doing it there because that's where he's broadcasting from," she says. "Since that's where he is, that's where we are."

—Adam Hyla



## Cut Short

Legislators seek to reverse governor's welfare reduction

By EMMA DUMAIN  
Contributing Writer

"Families cannot lose entire grants," he says, above all for the sake of children.

"These kids are going to end up homeless, in the child welfare system, or in foster care."

— Tony Lee,  
Fremont Public  
Association community service  
director

Washington's welfare system claims to be committed to ensuring that out-of-work parents can still meet their children's needs. Now, legislators and advocacy groups alike are challenging the integrity of this commitment following the governor's proposal to alter one of its most significant policies.

The state's WorkFirst program, which helps low-income parents gain self-sufficiency, requires recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits to actively seek or attend work. The current penalty for individuals not fulfilling program requirements is a 40-percent reduction of TANF benefits; the remaining 60 percent is given to a "protective payee," who spends the money on rent and utilities and uses the rest to support the recipient's children. When full participation resumes, the sanction is lifted.

Governor Christine Gregoire's proposal would impose "full-family sanctions" on non-compliers. This would mean that, if an individual was still not participating after a six-month partial sanction, his or her entire TANF allowance would be removed.

"The governor says we need to get tough and cut people off totally who aren't following the rules," says State Senator Darlene Fairley, who

is sponsoring legislation to reverse Gregoire's decision. "My contention is yes, you don't want to reward bad behavior, [but] the babies don't get to choose their moms and so they shouldn't be punished."

While "bad behavior" is sometimes a factor, the findings of a November 2005 survey by the Department of Social and Health Services indicate that other forces are at work. Of the responding TANF recipients who were sanctioned, 43.1 percent said they did not have access to transportation; 22.8 percent could not leave their children unattended; 22.4 percent cited medical reasons; and 22.8 percent did not have the proper clothing.

"This survey shows that people are being sanctioned because of issues the state should be addressing," says Tony Lee, the community service director at the Fremont Public Association. "The state should help them, or they shouldn't sanction them."

This concern that blame is being placed wrongly is echoed in dozens of cases compiled by the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, a Washington-based organization that assists and advises TANF recipients.

Martha, for instance, had her child-care eliminated for not complying with WorkFirst because she did not have an ID card, but since she had not received assistance to pay for her bus fare, she could not travel to obtain it. Therefore, she remains in sanction status.

Sandra, a single mother of two children, had scheduled an official meeting to explain how post-partum depression prevented her from attending work, but missed it because of her mother's sudden death. After multiple failed attempts to reach any DSHS caseworker to reschedule, she was sanctioned. When she contacted WROC for help, she was facing eviction and her phone lines had been cut.

Crises like these show why Gregoire's proposed sanction policy will be so harmful, says Lee.

"Families cannot lose entire grants," he says, above all for the sake of children. "These kids are going to end up homeless, in the child welfare system, or in foster care." But even Gregoire's supporters say they're trying to help the children of struggling parents. Deb Marley, the assistant secretary at DSHS, explains that the purpose of such dramatic sanctions is to encourage recipients to comply with WorkFirst regulations. The six-month warning period, she hopes, will give families a taste of how challenging it will be to care for their children with no money coming in, thus inspiring them to become full participants.

"Families can currently get a grant at 60 percent indefinitely," Marley says. "It's extremely difficult for families to live on a full grant, so to live on 60 percent of that is nearly impossible. If people think the current system is good for children, I disagree." ■

## [Take action]

To raise your voice against the new policy, call your legislator at 1-800-562-6000 and tell them to support Senate Bill 6628 and House Bill 2970, which reinstate partial welfare payments for children.

## Short Takes

## Wildcat at the Port

Without union representation, about 20 truck drivers staged a strike at the Port of Seattle on Jan. 26, sparked by what they felt was the unfair termination of the contract of a fellow driver. The drivers work for the Los Angeles-based Pacer Cartage.

Technically the drivers are not considered to be employees of Pacer Cartage but independent contractors or owner/operators. And since they're not technically employees, stopping work is not striking, it's quitting, says Port of Seattle spokesman Mick Shultz.

"I don't see how they can strike," he says.

The drivers view their actions as one step toward greater respect and a more secure working environment. They say that the dispatchers at Pacer Cartage show favoritism to some contractors over others, so the work is uneven and they can't count on how many hours they will get. They don't feel that they are all getting an equal opportunity. And the recent termination of a driver's contract made them feel that none of their jobs are safe.

The official word from Pacer Cartage's public relations representative, Steve Potash, is that "a number of independent owner/operators staged a one-day protest. We called a meeting with owner/operators, and the issues have been addressed." They declined to comment further.

Though the issues have been addressed, 25 drivers gave their signatures to the Teamsters union on Thursday.

The Teamsters have been trying to organize the drivers at the Port of Seattle for a long time now,

according to Bob Blanchet, the union's port representative. Blanchet says that one of the obstacles to organizing there is the fact that many of the drivers are immigrants from a variety of different countries.

Tak Yetneberk, a driver at the Port, acknowledged that that had been a problem at times, but the events of the past week have brought them together. Yetneberk says that they have formed an owner/operator committee and selected four people to represent them to the company. He says that they are not afraid to strike again: "If we work together, if we stay strong, we can get better conditions."

— Justin Ellis

## Color Me Comfortable

The Seattle City Council's appointment of Sally Clark has drawn the ire of community leaders who had hoped to see a woman of color fill former Councilmember Jim Compton's seat.

Clark, the only white person in the group of six, was selected by a majority of 6-2 — the six whites on the Council voting for her, and David Della and Richard McIver, the sole councilmembers of color, against.

Dustin Washington of the American Friends Service Committee notes how white councilmembers said Clark was someone they would be "comfortable" with.

Community activist K.L. Shannon agrees, adding the choice shows the majority of councilmembers "don't want to be made to feel uncomfortable."

Members in favor also noted that as an aide to former councilmember Tina Podlowski, Clark was

"familiar with the process" at City Hall. Not unlike Dolores Sibonga, who had served on the council, or Ven Knox, who ran the city's Human Services Department — both semi-finalists bested by Clark. Sibonga got three votes — two from McIver and Della. Councilmembers had to nominate each finalist before voting, and none of them nominated

Knox. Fellow finalists Sharon Maeda and Stella Chao each fell one vote shy of approval.

"The issue is not Sally Clark; the issue is you had five very qualified people of color," says Washington. "Even in a place where the odds seem to be stacked against the white person, they get in."

— Adam Hyla



## Celebrating Equality

Lonnie Lusardo and Bill Dubay celebrate outside the Paramount Theater Friday, Jan. 27, after the state Senate's 25-23 passage of the law banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Photo by Luke McGuff.



# Zero Hour

*One Night Count takes stock of Federal Way's suburban homelessness*

By AUSTIN HASKELL  
Contributing Writer

"The need [for the count] came when we realized through the city's Consolidation Housing and Human Services Program that one of the holes we have in our information is how many homeless we have in Federal Way."

— Kelli O'Donnell, lead Count organizer

It was raining. Driving through the city, it was hard to imagine that anyone could call these streets their home. Federal Way seems to be a picturesque depiction of the suburban lifestyle: finely kempt roads, gated community developments, side-street landscaping and high-end retail stores and restaurants. The last thing one would suspect this city of harboring is homelessness. That's probably why it had never before been included in the One Night Count.

The One Night Count, which was first conducted by Reverend Rick Reynolds (Operation Night Watch) in 1996, is an attempt to provide accurate numbers of homeless by going out on the streets and literally counting them over a single night.

Now in its 10th year, the street count found 1,946 people outside in King County.

The count originated in the downtown core of Seattle, but has now grown to include areas all over King County. "It just mushroomed," explains Reynolds. "It started with 12 volunteers." This year, nearly 600 people joined in.

For Federal Way, a city of 81,000 just north of Tacoma, this was its first time. "The need [for the count] came when we realized through the city's Consolidation Housing and Human Services Program that one of the holes we have in our information is how many homeless we have in Federal Way," says Kelli O'Donnell, lead organizer for the city's count.

For the volunteers who offered to take part in the count, zero hour came in the early hours of Friday the 17th.

At 2 a.m. the bustling city hall is a surprising contrast to the rest of the otherwise quiet city. Inside, volunteers check in and meet up with their previously assigned teams. All over there is a sense of urgency.

Our team, which was composed of a total of four, is led by Logan MacGregor, a volunteer who was a veteran of some of the Seattle counts. He shows a map of Federal Way that had been sectioned off into 20 areas, each one assigned to a specific team. We were team five, and we would be covering a fairly small section which included a Park & Ride and a hospital.

"I made a couple dry runs to make sure I know the area" MacGregor says. "I think [the Park & Ride] is where we'll be finding most people."

A few minutes later we cram into his car and make our way to the zone we're assigned. "That could have been me out there," team member Clarella Threadgill says, explaining why she decided to donate her time. "You could have been counting me out there tonight."

We arrive at an almost deserted parking lot and begin to walk, closely studying the few surrounding vehicles. MacGregor shows us what to look for, such as steamed-up windows and reclined seats. Dry spots under the cars is a good indication as well. "Looks like the rain is actually going to help us a little" he says with some humor.

Under these rules, we leave the Park & Ride with our "score chart" reading four. Our next stops, to a storage garage and the parking lot behind the St. Francis hospital, bring no results.

MacGregor explains a major problem with the count is that it doesn't include the large forested areas: places where many of Federal Way's homeless are believed to sleep. "They're out on the streets during the day, but at night they just disappear."

At a commercial trucking facility we find another car camper who's reclined in a compact two-door, bringing our total up to six. "I can't even imagine having to live like that," fellow team member Chuck Hone, a retired health claims worker says.

By now, we've been out for nearly an hour, and a few minutes later we finish our section and return to City Hall.

After all reports were brought in, 12 teams made up of about 60 volunteers counted a total of 62 people in various parts of the city, though most were in vehicles. While this number is not as high as a city like Seattle's, it is relatively high for a suburban city of 81,000. And Federal Way does not have any programs or agencies geared specifically toward the homeless.

"Just in general, the concentration of services in downtown Seattle makes it easier to get some of the core services," MacGregor says. "This makes it very hard for the homeless [in Federal Way]." ■



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## On the Agenda

Newly retired state Democratic Party chair Paul Berendt on Iraq, the president, and liberals resurgent

Interview by CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Reporter

"There will be a progressive message [to the new Democratic agenda,] and it will roll out in due course, closer to the election. It shouldn't be rolled out too soon because if it were, it would be dissected by the Republican Party."

After 11 years as the state chair of the Democratic Party, Paul Berendt is having a hard time packing up the mementos that fill his office.

On the wall, Howard Dean, once the Democrat to beat for president, beams out from framed, autographed covers of *Time* and *Newsweek*. A "No Attack on Iraq" sign is strewn on the floor with other posters, and Berendt's desk is stacked with thank-you notes and photographs that nearly bury a little bobbleheaded John Kerry.

Berendt, 49, says he stepped down Jan. 27 simply because he felt it was time. The commute from Olympia was getting old, and he's had about as much fun and heartache as one man can stand. That includes breaking into tears on KIRO Radio when the party won the crucial court case that put Christine Gregoire in the governor's mansion.

KIRO's Dori Monson has replayed the moment over and over as an example of whining.

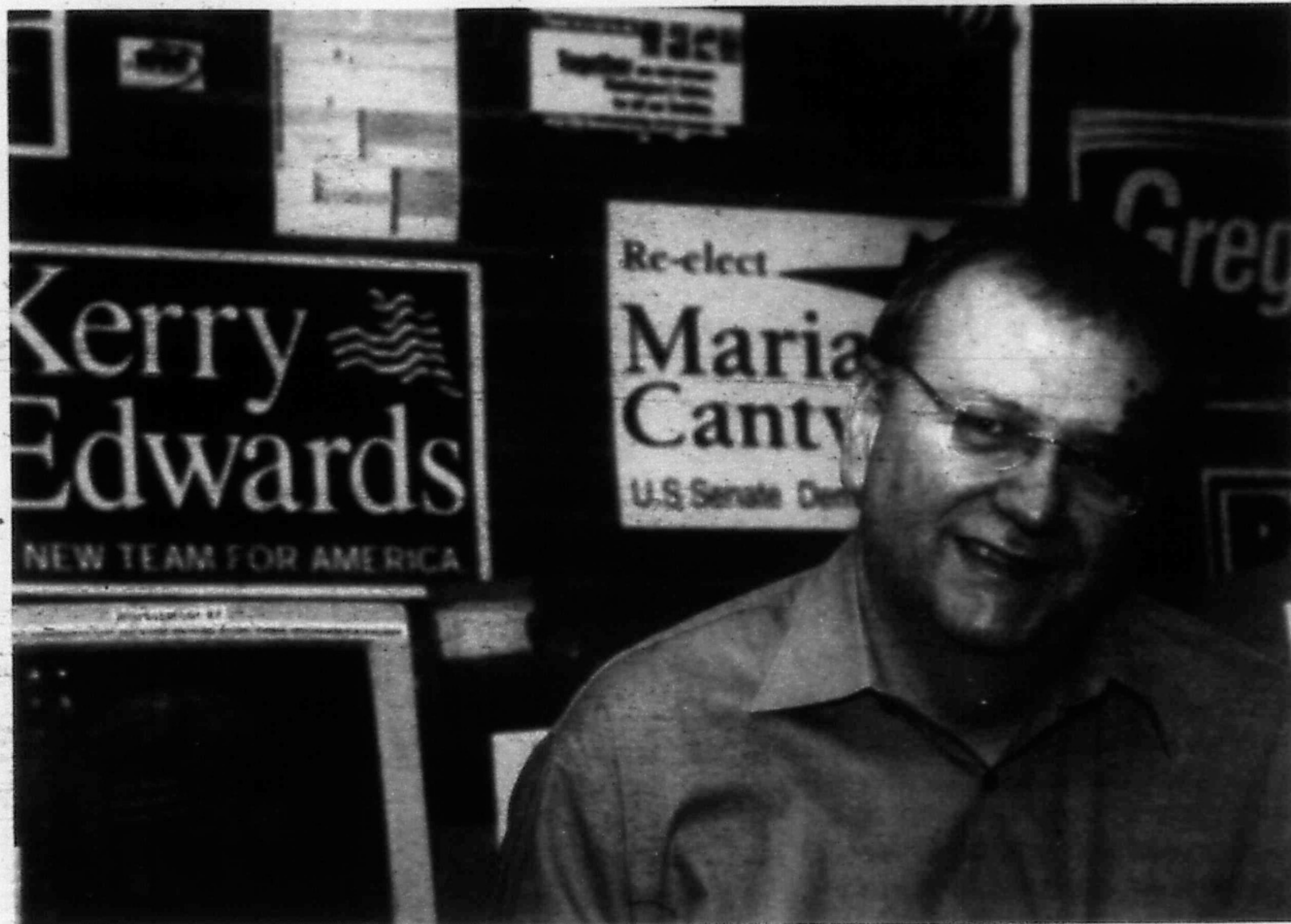
Berendt leaves a party that is much larger and stronger than when he started. Though there is still debt from the Gregoire court battle, Washington remains a Democratic stronghold that Berendt says won't be budged by changing demographics or maverick progressives—a position that, sooner or later, can only spell trouble for Berendt's chosen successor, Dwight Pelz.

**Real Change:** What were the darkest days in the past 11 years for you? What were the brightest?

**Paul Berendt:** I was elected in '95 immediately following the '94 election, which was just a horrible election. We lost six members of Congress and 35 legislators in the state alone.

**RC:** That was the Republican Revolution?

**Berendt:** Yeah, Newt Gingrich and all of that. But interestingly at that point, I saw nothing but blue skies. I thought,



"Oh, I should run for party chair, because we have nowhere to go but up." I really believed this. I thought, "We're not as conservative a state as the election we've just been through." I just knew that. I think my darkest day was when we didn't come back in '96 from that. We captured one of the six seats that we lost.

My other dark day was the bitter disappointment that we went through with the war in Iraq. It's something I feel very passionate about. We've lost [more than] 2,000 soldiers over there for no good reason.

I have to say that Dec. 21, 2004, was one of the most wonderful days, because that's the day we demanded that every vote be counted in the governor's race—Christine Gregoire winning it by 10 votes out of three million cast. We won the court case the next day that resulted in ballots that for no good reason weren't counted and were recounted, and she went up to 129. There was a real principle involved: why are we doing this if we can't count everyone's vote?

**RC:** Why is the Democratic Party so weak on Iraq when millions of people marched against the war so early and it was clear there was a huge base of anti-war sentiment?

**Berendt:** People have the right to be frustrated. We just had a meeting in December in Phoenix with the [party] chairs from all across the country, the executive committee chairs, and the war came up. It wouldn't have been pressed except I said, "We need to talk about this." This was the time Murtha had just come out—

**RC:** Calling for the immediate withdrawal.

**Berendt:** And the discussion was: Why didn't anyone back him up? Howard

Dean did, but why didn't Pelosi or Harry Reid? I said, "We [in Washington state] want to know why they didn't do it!" And there was kind of a shudder that went through the room. [There's] this unique role that we have [in a Democrat-controlled state]. We can press issues that other people won't because they're afraid they'll offend somebody and they won't get re-elected. The only way you can kind of build a movement around issues is if somebody's willing to fight and be heard. This is a frustration that I hear about.

**RC:** Everyone in the Democratic Party seems to be saying, "Once we get a positive agenda, then we'll move forward." When does that positive agenda emerge, and where does it come from? When do the Democrats get away from the negative and start saying, "Abortion protects women. Education and health care make us strong. Saving the environment and building transit is good for business"?

**Berendt:** There's just a strong feeling in our party that if we were to start talking about these things in January, by the time the election rolls around, the Republican polling machine would dissect all of these issues and say that they were a conspiracy by John Kerry and the swiftboat captains. (Laughter.) I hate to say this, but the bottom line is this: There will be a progressive message, and it will roll out in due course, closer to the election. It shouldn't be rolled out too soon because if it were, it would be dissected by the Republican Party.

**RC:** Isn't that a position of fear? Don't you have to repeat a message over and over like a Madison Avenue ad agency?

**Berendt:** Even on Madison Avenue, they market when they want to sell the cars. They don't market a year before they want to sell the cars. They market

Paul Berendt, who's packing up and saying goodbye to his 11-year post as state Democratic Party chair. Photo by Terry Divyak.

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Continued from Previous Page

at the time they want to sell the cars. When they're ready.

**RC:** Give me an idea of what you think the message is for the Democrats in 2006. If they just point to the Abramoff lobbying scandal and say "culture of corruption," that's still relying on the negative.

**Berendt:** No, no, [it's] the flip side of that. It's "together we can do better." This is how we want to frame that. Together we can do better in protecting the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge; together we can do better at fighting the death penalty; together we can pull together a greater international community, pull together a real plan for Iraq and bring the troops home.

**RC:** That's what Kerry said. But there is a lot of disaffection on the part of the labor movement and people who have been lifelong Democrats. The state labor council recently polled its members about the possibility of creating a third party in Washington state called Working Families, like New York did. What happens with that and how does the Democratic Party recapture the disaffected?

**Berendt:** My understanding is they do want a New York model, which people here don't understand. It's not really a third-party model as much as it is a fusion primary, where multiple parties can come together and agree upon a nominee. It's worked in New York, and it's been a coalition-building effort between liberals and laborers and the traditional Democratic Party, so I don't feel threatened by the fusion primary, per se.

There's tremendous frustration among progressives over the fact that Democrats have been largely powerless to affect a lot of the policies under Republican rule, particularly in Washington D.C., and there's a huge grassroots movement going on, and frankly I feel like we, the Democratic Party, have benefited a great deal.

**RC:** From groups such as MoveOn?

**Berendt:** Well, MoveOn, and just within the Democratic Party our meetings are bursting at the seams with new people coming in because they just can't stand what's going on in Washington, D.C. any longer.

**RC:** We saw that in the election.

**Berendt:** Yeah, we

did, and it has not gone away — this is still going on. There are similar characteristics with these new, energized progressives, and one of the main characteristics is that they're impatient. They want something to happen now, and until we can beat back the Republican majority in the federal government, there's going to be frustration among these people. [But] in Olympia, we were able to save health care for 40,000 kids last year. Gregoire is stepping up to the plate to fund the initiatives that were passed to back public education. We seem to have turned a corner on the anti-tax initiatives, and we actually passed a gas tax [that's] not only going to improve transportation but create a lot of jobs for a lot of people — it's going to improve the quality of life for the poor and the rich alike.

So what I say to people like this is, "I don't blame you for being unhappy. I don't blame you for being frustrated." But, here, where we've been able to elect Democratic majorities, we have been able to effect change that has really helped people. If we can continue that progress by maybe picking off Dave Reichert on the Eastside or electing more Democrats federally, that will result in a change as well.

**RC:** What about Cantwell's challenger, Mike McGavick? How big a danger is he?

**Berendt:** People in this state are not going to want to back someone who's essentially been an insurance industry lobbyist and flack. One of the things he's saying is, "Oh, we need civility in politics," and my response to that is, "Well, then why does the insurance industry put funding into third-party [527] groups that pay for these ads that have torn down civility in our politics?"

Whereas Cantwell has proven herself as someone who is effective at working even in the minority.

**RC:** Who are the stars coming up in the state party?

**Berendt:** I think Frank Chopp is just a fiery liberal, and he's somebody

who could get things done. I like Bob Ferguson on the King County Council. He bucks the status quo and puts people first. I like that. Derek Kilmer. He's a legislator from Gig Harbor who I think is a real rising star. He'll be in Congress someday. There's a young fella, Steve Stuart, down in Vancouver who I think is going places. Lisa Brown in Spokane is just bright and articulate and hard-working and cares about people. We have a strong bench coming up.

*"The biggest challenge [facing new party chair Dwight Pelz] in my view is that there's this buckin' bronco grassroots activism right now, and it's exciting and, oh, it's going to be such a challenge to keep all these people together and herded and focused and moving in the right direction."*

**RC:** What are the challenges that the new party chair, Dwight Pelz, is facing?

**Berendt:** The biggest challenge in my view is that there's this buckin' bronco grassroots activism right now, and it's exciting and, oh, it's going to be such a challenge to keep all these people together and herded and focused and moving in the right direction. That's a huge challenge. You can't ever let up. The right wing [twists and] turns all the time and you can just never let up. I think the challenge is just getting everything tight enough so we can actually pick up a couple more state Senate seats, a few more House seats, one more member of Congress. Those are going to be challenges. ■

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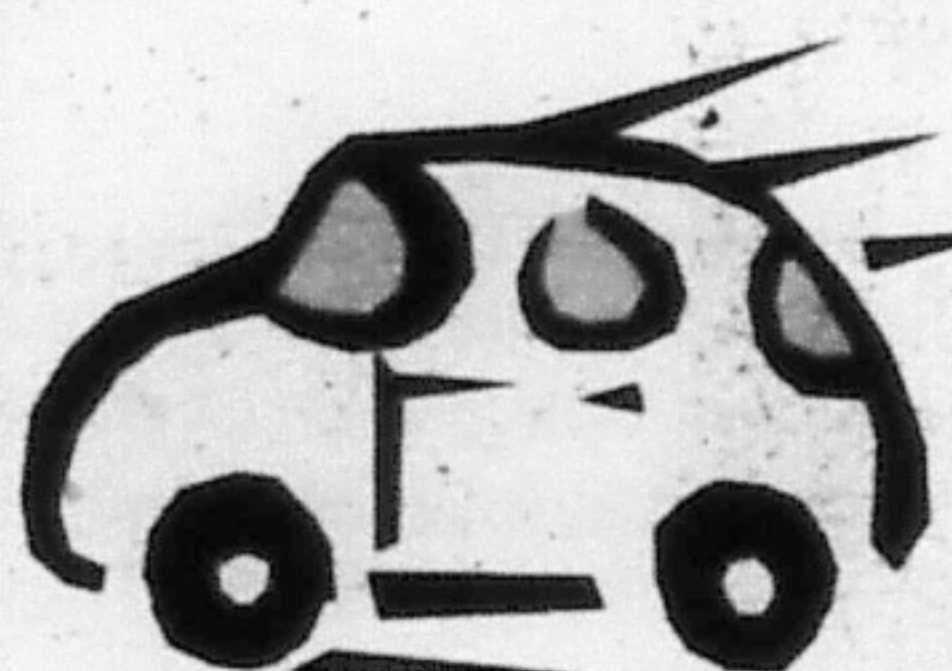
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## Ancestor Worship

Like other contemporary martial arts tales, the *Five Ancestors* series offers the lure of exciting and acrobatic hand-to-hand combat. Unlike those sagas, it continually demonstrates that violence is not a solution.

**Tiger**  
By Jeff Stone  
208 pages, March 2005  
**Monkey**  
By Jeff Stone  
189 pages, October 2005  
both published by Random House, \$15.95

By LESTER GRAY  
Arts Editor

Jeff Stone, in his *Five Ancestors* novel series for young adults, tackles a stubborn issue: how to prepare physically, emotionally, and spiritually for the inevitable violence one encounters in the world. Self-defense is an age-old problem and any kid who has consulted mom or dad on handling the school bully can testify to the ineffectiveness of such parental nostrums as "go tell the principal."

As a time-tested approach to this conundrum, proponents of Asian martial arts — lethal fisticuffs balanced by a philosophy of restraint, rectitude and reflection — offer their disciplines. But on the road to popularity, kung fu, tai chi and the rest suffered a dilution. The message of peaceful resolution, with the help of the entertainment industry, has taken a back seat to the glory of kickin' some serious ass.

Author Stone, like the classic martial artist he is, has managed to shift the weight of gratification oh so slightly — maintaining the action but taking the savor out of revenge-driven, chest-thumping retaliation. Recently releasing

the second installment of his *Five Ancestors* quintet, he allows young readers to have their cake and eat it too.

At the foundation of this unfolding epic is the well-worn legend of China's Shaolin Temple, where both Kung Fu and Zen Buddhism are said to have originated. Once the home of warrior monks, it was overrun by invaders in the 17th century.

There are countless accounts of Shaolin's fall, but most include a reference to the escape of five monks. Stone adds a twist by assigning each one a separate Kung Fu personality type based on the animal with which he or she shares similar traits: *Tiger* and *Monkey* of the first two books, joined by *Crane*, *Snake*, and *Dragon*. The five protagonists are basically teenagers — all orphans, one a girl, still learning the ways of their discipline and its applications outside the walls within which they have been confined.

The first book in the series focuses on Fu, the acolyte with a constitution and disposition of the titular cat. Impulsive and strong, much of his story involves extracting himself from dilemmas that he himself creates. As the introductory volume, it also lays the groundwork for the five-book set.

*Tiger* opens into darkness and flames with the temple under siege. The five young monks, hidden in a barrel and forbidden by their master to come out until instructed, anxiously await to join the conflict. Their grandmaster,

deep in skill and wisdom but in his elder years (think Dumbledore at Hogwarts), confronts the leader of the attackers, a formidable adversary who himself was once a member of the temple.

The young monks escape, with a cryptic message from the grandmaster to seek out their pasts. From their individual viewpoints in the surrounding forest they witness the final moments of the temple's history. Sent into the real world they wander, often singularly, left to their own devices — which, much to their chagrin, prove less empowering than anticipated.

The second book, entitled *Monkey*, focuses on the acolyte with simian tendencies. His mind is quick, but it is always in motion, as is his mouth. Meditation and stillness come with difficulty.

With the groundwork of the *Five Ancestors* series having been laid, the reader and the young monks discover that things aren't always what they appear to be. The circumstances of the orphan's birth, the grandmaster's true agenda, and good masking itself as evil all emerge as mysteries.

While Jeff Stone's adventure is unlikely to inspire a Potter-like following, it introduces young readers to another mindset, with practical applications in today's world. Like other contemporary martial arts tales, it offers the lure of exciting and acrobatic hand-to-hand combat. Unlike those sagas, it continually demonstrates that violence is not a solution. ■

## Border Crossings

**The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada**  
Directed by Tommy Lee Jones  
Opens Fri., Feb. 3

By LESTER GRAY  
Arts Editor

Just a gnat's ass north of the Rio Grande, where barren describes everything from the terrain to the lives of the local inhabitants, actor and director Tommy Lee Jones sets his story of *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*. The folks here don't entertain many illusions; least of all that the border is or has ever been sacrosanct.

The ambiguity that attends this imaginary line drawn across a parched and gritty ground underpins a perverse and dangerous irony: the same nation that beckons workers to enter employs an armed border patrol to keep them out.

Mexican vaquero Melquiades Estrada (Julio Cesar Cedillo), having traversed the infamous divide, is hired and befriended by ranch foreman Pete Perkins (Tommy Lee Jones), who introduces the younger and bashful man to the worldly pleasures of alcohol and women. There is a special camaraderie,

made even more so by the desolate surroundings. When Melquiades requests that his body be returned to his home in Mexico should he meet an untimely death, Pete accepts. Unfortunately, he soon has to make good on this promise.

Bungling Border Patrol agent Mike Norton (Barry Pepper), on watch between the cactuses

with a girlie magazine, hears shots and is literally caught with his pants down. Incorrectly imagining himself under attack, he grabs his rifle. Sighting Melquiades in the distance, who had only been shooting at a coyote, he returns fire, killing the young cowboy.

Pete, although impeded by authorities who would just as soon see the whole mess buried with the corpse, tracks down Norton, whom he forces to disinter the body. With corpse and captive agent in tow, Pete heads south. Winding through foreign terrain with the law in pursuit, it slowly dawns on the ranch foreman that he's not in Texas anymore. The arid land into which the bizarre trio treks serves as a blank piece of paper on which writer Guillermo Arriaga (*21 Grams*) skillfully dispenses allegory, metaphor, and dark humor, sagacity from a grizzled blind hermit (Levon Helm) and conversations with the decomposed corpse being just the most obvious examples.

The journey to make good on a pledge and exact penance for a killing turns into a redemptive pilgrimage for all three of the travelers, Pete most of all. As it turns out, Melquiades was granting a favor rather than asking one.

Jocularity notwithstanding, the director manages to convey a sobering, asymmetrical, and slightly incoherent perspective that brings blurry truth to subject matter that laughs in the face of definition. Unlike *Syriana* and *Munich*, two other films that deal with politics and morality, *Three Burials* tastefully suggests a bit of the mystical — this usually being more a feature of foreign offerings, in which it is applied like a seasoning.

Jones' first effort as a feature film director is as laconic and unadorned as the characters he typically portrays. While the issue of injustice in the part of the country where he makes his home remains a heartfelt issue for him, there's no preaching here; mischievous fun and entertainment are up front.

He graciously acknowledges influences from Peckinpah and Kurosawa for this work, and certainly the writings of Cormac McCarthy come to mind. Judging from the quality of this effort, others in turn will one day likewise cite Jones. ■

Tommy Lee Jones' first effort as a feature film director is as laconic and unadorned as the characters he typically portrays.

Mexican vaquero Melquiades Estrada (Julio Cesar Cedillo,) accompanied by ranch foreman Pete Perkins (Tommy Lee Jones.) Phot. courtesy Sony Pictures.





Adventures  
in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning



Until now, Hamas has been able to look all sparkly and shiny as the party out of power. When you're out of power you can promise anything. But now they have to govern. The fact is, suicide bombers are all drama queens who are too important to pick up the garbage or maintain the sewage.

## Hamas: Congratulations, suckers!

The good news of the week: Since Hamas won the Palestinian elections in a landslide, no one expects the United States to continue donating \$70 million in direct annual aid to the Palestinian

Authority. The money saved will be able to go instead to pay for much needed social projects within this country — such as our urgent national need to know which shelter bed which particular homeless person is sleeping in every night, including his or her name, Social Security number, date of birth, and the names and addresses of all of his or her relatives.

Then, with the money that's left over, we'll be able to buy two or three Tomahawk missiles to shoot at Pakistan, a lame nuclear power that would never have the nerve to shoot back, until the onset of World War III.

In fact, all the handwringing over the Hamas win has been plain silly. People just need to relax, count their silver linings, smell the roses, and drink their milk — or whatever.

OK, so they've been terrorists. So what? Well, then, this win must have come as quite a shock to them, right? It sure invalidates all their past methods, to find out that all they had to do was just persuade people to vote for them. Ha! Democracy won, terrorism lost! We showed you, Hamas! Your terrorist ways look pretty stupid now, don't they? Losers!

Secondly, until now Hamas has been able to look all sparkly and shiny as the party out of power. When you're out of power you can promise anything. But now they have to govern. The fact is, suicide bombers are all drama queens who are too important to pick up the garbage or maintain the sewage. Reality is bound to set in, and any party that could manage to do the boring, dirty work to stay in power would start to look

like your granny in her underwear. Or they won't be able to hack it, in which case they're out in the next election. It's all good, either way.

As President George Bush has noted, the election showed that the Palestinian people were dissatisfied with the status quo. Just like people everywhere, they want better educations, and no children left behind, and an expensive privatized medical system that favors the already favored. They want to land men and women on Mars, prevent women from having abortions, and have prayer in their classrooms. They want tax cuts for the rich in order to encourage economic growth and development in the private sector, so the public sector can shrivel up, die, and go to hell. But they're not Americans, so they don't get what they want.

No, just kidding. They do too get what they want, they're a democracy, and that's what democracies are for! It's just that, after that — after they get what they want — we get what we want. Because we're bigger than they are, see? So we can take what they want away from them.

Already, Hamas is getting Americans mad at them, and prone to want to get rid of them, by calling for the introduction of Sharia law among the Palestinian people. This is unacceptable to Americans because it involves a dress code. Americans will not stand for a dress code, anywhere, especially on Fridays.

Of course, the \$70 million we're saving per year by not giving the Palestinians aid is less than a 100th what it will take to invade them and make them free from themselves and their own stupidity again; but we are a resourceful people, and we know how to use credit.

Of course, the Saudis might take exception to anything we do to Hamas and call in all our debts, thus triggering the onset of World War III. But looking on the bright side, it's better to get that over with and move on, right?

So cheer up everyone: your glass is half full! ■



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I hit my head on the sidewalk. I thought I needed stitches, so I went to the ER. It wasn't quite that bad, and the doctor just put some ointment and a bandage on the cut. When I got the \$1,000 bill, I almost passed out. Is there anything I can do?

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In Washington, eligibility for charity care is based on your income and resources. For example, if your income level is at or below the Federal Poverty Level (currently \$12,830 for a family of two), all of your medical expenses will likely be covered. If your income is above the Federal Poverty Level, but no more than twice as much, the amount you owe will be discounted according to the hospital's sliding-scale fee policy.

Finally, even if your income is greater than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level but you cannot pay for your medical care, the hospital may still reduce the amount of the bill based on its own charity care policy. In all cases, the hospital will consider whether your medical care is covered by a private insurer or governmental

medical insurance (such as Medicare or Medicaid). If it is, the hospital will require that your care be paid for by your private or governmental health insurance.

When applying for charity care, it is up to you to provide proof to the hospital of your financial eligibility. You may submit any of the following documents as evidence of your eligibility for charity care: pay stubs, bank statements, loan documents, last year's income tax return, W-2 statements, unemployment compensation forms approving or denying your claim, forms approving or denying Medicaid and/or state-funded medical assistance, and written statements from employers or welfare agencies. You may submit other documents that support your eligibility as well.

If your application for charity care is denied, the hospital's notice of denial must state why. If your income level is equal to or less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, you may appeal the denial within 30 days. If you appeal within the first 14 days, the hospital cannot begin a collection action until your appeal has been heard and denied. If you appeal after 14 days but before 30 days, any collection agency's actions against you will be stopped. In the appeal, you will have the opportunity to correct any problems with the information you submitted previously regarding your income.

The Washington Department of Health will confidentially review your denied application. Call (360)236-4210. ■

Answers are intended for general information only and are not intended to replace the advice of your own attorney. Ask a Lawyer is in partnership with the Access to Justice Institute, Seattle University School of Law, and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Got a question? E-mail: atji@seattleu.edu.



**Fri., Jan. 13, 6:52 a.m., Marion St. Pedestrian Overpass.** Officers were contacted regarding a disturbance on the overpass between the suspect, a transient white male aged 40, and another man. By the time officers arrived at the scene, the second man had left. Suspect was questioned as to if he had been previously trespassing from the overpass, and he stated he had. He said he thought the trespass order was in place until the end of May 2006, and a records check showed that this was the case. He was arrested for trespass and booked into King County Jail.

**Sun., Jan. 15, 2:55 p.m., 1st Ave.** Officers responded to multiple 911 calls regarding a man — a transient Black male aged 39 — hanging out of a sixth-floor window. Police arrived and witnessed the man sitting on the window ledge and hanging from the window frame. He told officers that numerous armed men were chasing him, and that he and another man were being held hostage at gunpoint. He stated that he was going to walk around the outside of the building in order to escape. Police were unable to locate any other people or disturbances involved in this case, and the man was brought down to safety. He was transported by ambulance to Harborview Medical Center for a mental health evaluation.

**Wed., Jan. 18, 12:18 p.m., I-5 underpass, S. King St.** Suspect, a transient Black male, was observed trespassing under the overpass with several other known drug users. Suspect is known to police as a drug user and is also known to be an active supervision with the Department of Corrections (DOC). He was contacted, and a crack pipe was found underneath his backpack. He was arrested and turned over to the DOC officer.

**Wed., Jan. 12, 5:23 p.m., Occidental Park.** Officers observed the suspect seated in Occidental Park in a clear violation of the current one-year ban from all Zone 4 parks, issued 2/16/05. The officers are familiar with the suspect, a transient Black female aged 39, and were aware of her current ban. The trespass notice was verified, and she was arrested. She was issued a new one-year ban from all Zone 4 parks and was booked into King County Jail for trespass in the parks.

**Thurs., Jan. 19, 4:30 a.m., 200 block Yesler Way.** According to the police report, the alleyway between Yesler and S. Washington is a chronic problem area and has been designated by Seattle Department of Transportation as closed from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Many signs are posted there forbidding loitering and trespassing. Suspect, a transient white male aged 30, illegally entered the alley despite the posted notices. He was discovered by police lying on a concrete ledge with his head no less than three feet away from a sign. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for prohibited entry to a no-admission area.

**Same Location, 4:48 a.m.** Suspect, a transient white male aged 36, was found in the above alleyway and was contacted for sleeping under a blanket laid over cardboard. He was also arrested and booked into King County Jail.

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.



## Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

### When friends disagree

Dear Real Change,

I am writing to note some errors in your editorial ["With friends like these," Jan. 18] about the proposed housing bonus program contained in downtown zoning revisions, and also to request your support for new legislation that will encourage additional housing in downtown Seattle consistent with the downtown neighborhood plans, and most importantly, provide for the inclusion of low-income housing.

Unfortunately, under our current state law and case law, local governments must show a specific cause-

and-effect connection between what they require and the impacts of the project. HDC has consistently held that such a connection does exist. However, local governments legally cannot make requirements simply because a project makes a lot of money.

Seattle's current housing bonus program applies to office buildings and allows greater square feet and height than the underlying zoning would allow in portions of downtown. It is a program that HDC helped create and strongly supports. Office developers pay \$22 per square foot (not \$10 as you indicated in your editorial) in exchange for the additional height: \$18.75 goes to low-income housing funding and \$3.25 goes to support child care programs. This dollar amount is based on an earlier nexus study done by the City that showed that office buildings generate a lot of employees who need housing and child care.

The proposal now before the City Council is not the office building program, as your editorial indicated. It is a brand-new program for developers of residential buildings downtown. HDC members have been advocating for this new program to gain more housing in the center city, and also provide for more low-income housing. After many public meetings and a number of citizen's advisory group meetings organized by Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (your editorial referred to these as backrooms), the new program was generally agreed to, but the dollars-per-square-foot value had to await a new "nexus study" for residential buildings.

The new study, released by the City last summer, could not document the same generation of employees from residential buildings as for commercial office buildings. When floors are made up of apartments, significantly fewer people occupy the space and demand services — unlike offices, which are occupied by many people who create increased demands for services and supplies. HDC agreed that \$10 per square foot was a reasonable value to assign in exchange for additional height/density in the newly proposed program.

Councilmember Steinbrueck's recent consultant study is not a nexus study. Instead, it shows the internal economics of a hypothetical project for the purpose of comparing the possible impacts of various zoning requirements. We think the framework of the report can help inform how the zoning downtown can be revised and whether a new residential housing bonus program is feasible. However, there are a number of assumptions (land prices, interest rates, construction price factors, development time and risk) that need to be examined before accepting the study's calculations as gospel. Clearly \$20 is a nice number — but the price needs to be real, not just nice (even "Seattle nice"). If the price by itself or in combination with

other factors is too high, developers will not request the additional height. Therefore, no payment into the housing bonus program and no help for low-income housing.

Further, if these types of requirements really do prevent an owner from developing, there can be other ramifications. Private property owners have sued the city in the past — and won. For example, as a result of a suit, Seattle's demolition ordinance, which would have required developers to replace the low-income housing they demolished, was overturned and the city held liable for damages.

HDC is supporting the new housing bonus program tied to residential development because it provides an added tool for more affordable housing as the downtown builds out. Once this opportunity is gone, it is gone forever. In addition, H.B. 2984 would clarify that local governments can operate affordable housing incentive programs and, in exchange for incentives, require inclusion of low-income housing. Hopefully, if the bill passes it will free local governments from having to prove the direct nexus. We ask readers of *Real Change* to join us in support of these efforts.

**Carla Okigwe, Executive Director  
Housing Development Consortium (HDC)**

*Real Change* replies:

*H.B. 2984 cements local governments' power to ensure affordable housing, and it sounds like a good thing. Thanks to HDC for bringing it to our attention.*

*It's clear to us and to HDC that the city has to ensure that whatever fees we enact on high-rise development are proportional to the impacts of those new skyscrapers as they skew our new downtown into a community expressly for the affluent. That's not the issue.*

*HDC quite correctly points out that we got the fee that commercial developers pay wrong. But the meetings HDC considers public never drew the attention that a discussion of downtown's future merits. And while Steinbrueck's recent study wasn't a "nexus" study, last summer's, which sets the correct fee at \$22.25, was. That's obscured in HDC's point about office development causing more demand for low-income housing than new condos. But that isn't the issue either.*

*The issue is that, by siding with the for-profit developers, the Housing Development Consortium blindsided their allies who work for affordable housing and other economic rights and damaged the prospect of making tomorrow's high-rise construction boom fair for everyone.*

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

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"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit."

Matthew 7:15-19



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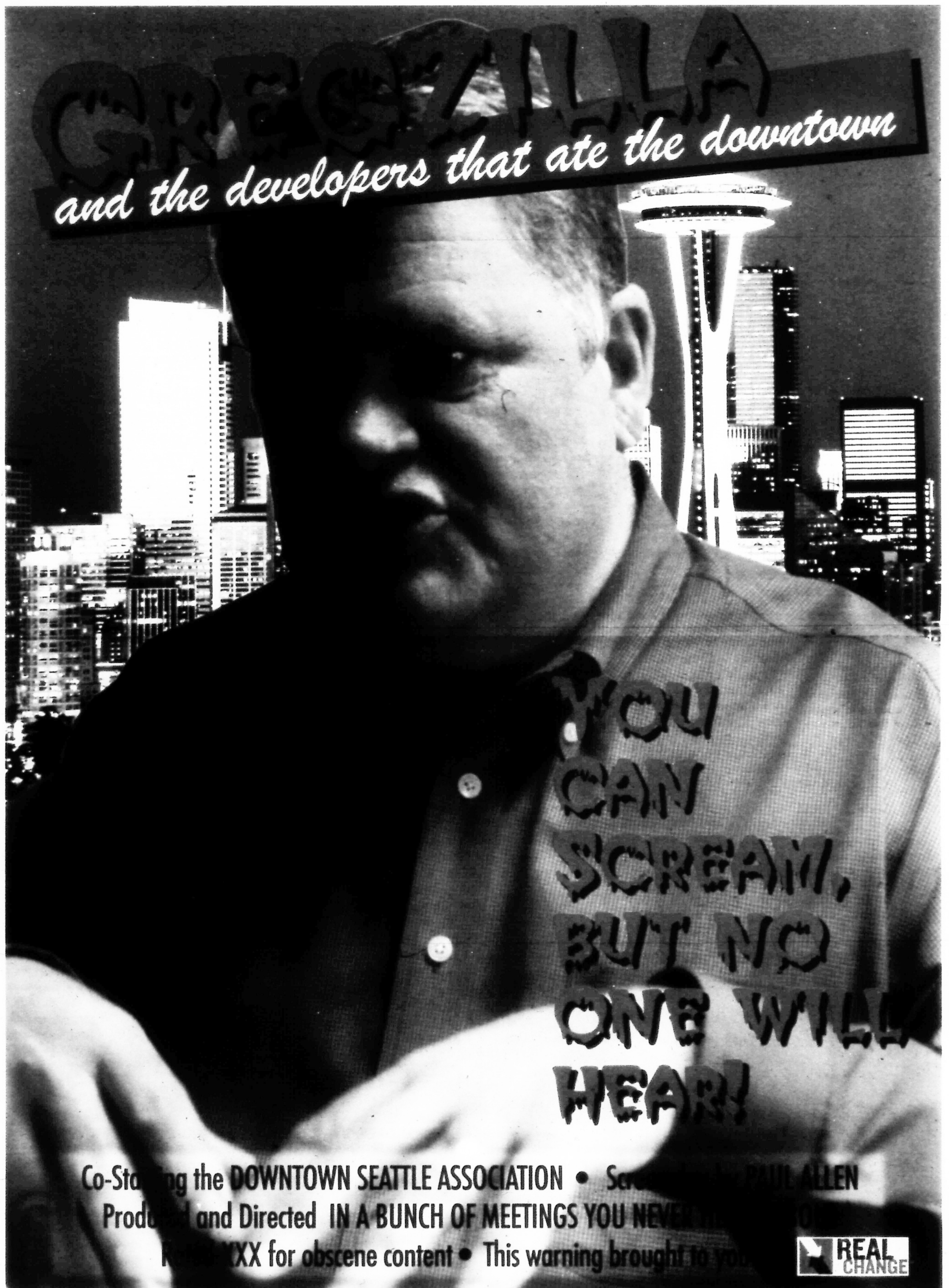
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## CO-PAY, Continued from Page 1

and insurance company backlogs have created chaos since Jan. 1. Many people have never heard from any insurance company, received a plan that doesn't cover their particular drugs, or weren't added to the database that pharmacists check to verify benefits.

The problems have left Hoggatt and Owens in the lurch. Hoggatt's pharmacy decided not to take her plan (AARP), so it sold her only a two-week supply of her prescriptions. Owens takes medication for arthritis, pain, and incontinence. She signed up for Advantage Freedom, but says she hasn't gotten an insurance card yet.

During the transition, the law stipulates the insurance plans were to provide dual eligibles with a 30-day supply of their drugs. For those who had no plan, Medicare created a fallback called Wellpoint — a catch-all drug plan the pharmacist could use to sign up a person at the counter.

But, according to a Jan. 17 memo from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), many drug plans have refused to authorize the 30-day supply. And most pharmacists have no idea what WellPoint is or how to use it.

Between the two problems, Michael Marchand, a spokesman for the Seattle office of CMS, acknowledges that some Medicaid recipients have been turned away at pharmacies or told, in error, that they had to pay Medicare's \$250 deductible.

In the meantime, phone lines run by Medicare and other senior services have been jammed, topping out Jan.

9 with 285 phone calls to Medicare. Though Marchand says service times have improved, the Seattle CMS office answers with a message that its priority is emergency calls. And: "By emergency, we mean that you or the person you are assisting is without drugs or has less than a five-day supply," the message states.

"It's been kind of a nightmare," says Mary Lou Percival, financial program manager for the state's Aging and Disability Services Administration. "It doesn't make sense — we're dealing with the poorest of the poor."

On Jan. 13, Gov. Christine Gregoire wrote a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt demanding action on the problems. So far, neither she nor any legislators have proposed state funding to cover the co-pays. Twenty-six other states are already filling the gap — something the Fremont Public Association, Washington Citizen Action, and other groups are lobbying for in Washington.

"There's so many states that have stepped forward and taken care of the situation. I don't understand why Washington hasn't," Hoggatt says. "It's a shame." ■

## [Resources]

Can't get your prescriptions under Medicare or Medicaid? Try Senior Information and Assistance at 206-448-3110, Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors at 800-562-6900, or Medicare at 800-633-4227 or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).



REGINA OWENS LIVES ON \$600 IN SOCIAL SECURITY, IS FACING \$40-A-MONTH CO-PAYS ON THE EIGHT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SHE TAKES. "SOMETIMES IT'S GOING TO BE 'DO I WANT TO LIVE OR DO I WANT TO EAT?'" SAYS DARLENE HOGGATT, WHO'S IN THE SAME BOAT. PHOTO BY LUKE MCGUFF.

## SEA-TAC, Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia in the early '90s. He was among a group of professors who wrote a letter to the royal family (friends of the Bush family) that was critical of the Saudi government. The government's response was to imprison and torture the professors. Dr. al-Massari currently lives in London and remains an outspoken critic of the government.

Majid al-Massari left Saudi Arabia in 1994 to come to the United States. He was more fortunate than his brother, who was badly beaten while in custody. Nevertheless, an immigration judge ruled that Majid (who has appeared on his father's London radio show speaking out against the Saudi government) would not be endangered if he were deported to Saudi Arabia.

Critics of Dr. al-Massari have tried to link him to Al Qaida and Osama bin Laden, but Soreff notes, "even if your father was a terrorist that doesn't make you a terrorist. Majid's always preached non-violence. He has Al Qaida information on his computer because he wanted to know what the other side was doing."

Al-Massari's case provides a textbook example of how the government can paint someone as a "national security threat." In his court case, the government noted that al-Massari was attending school in New Mexico but then "suddenly" moved to Whidbey Island, where there are naval bases. In fact, al-Massari made the move because his stepmother lived on Whidbey Island.

The government also made an issue of al-Massari having computer hacking books when the FBI and ICE searched his apartment. When UW hired him as a computer security expert in 2000, they sent him to take courses on computer hacking.

Even if al-Massari wins his case, his co-attorney, Damon Shadid, says

that by the time he gets out, he will have spent as much as three years in solitary confinement.

"He's an ordinary guy," says McRae, who has written updates on a web site to keep al-Massari's co-workers informed. "A lot of this is about harassment." ■

## [To help]

The AARC estimates it will cost more than \$100,000 in legal fees in Majid's defense. Contributions can be made to The Arab-American Community Coalition, PO Box 31642, Seattle, Wa., 98103.

Majid enjoys letters of support. Send them to the Federal Detention Center, addressed as follows:

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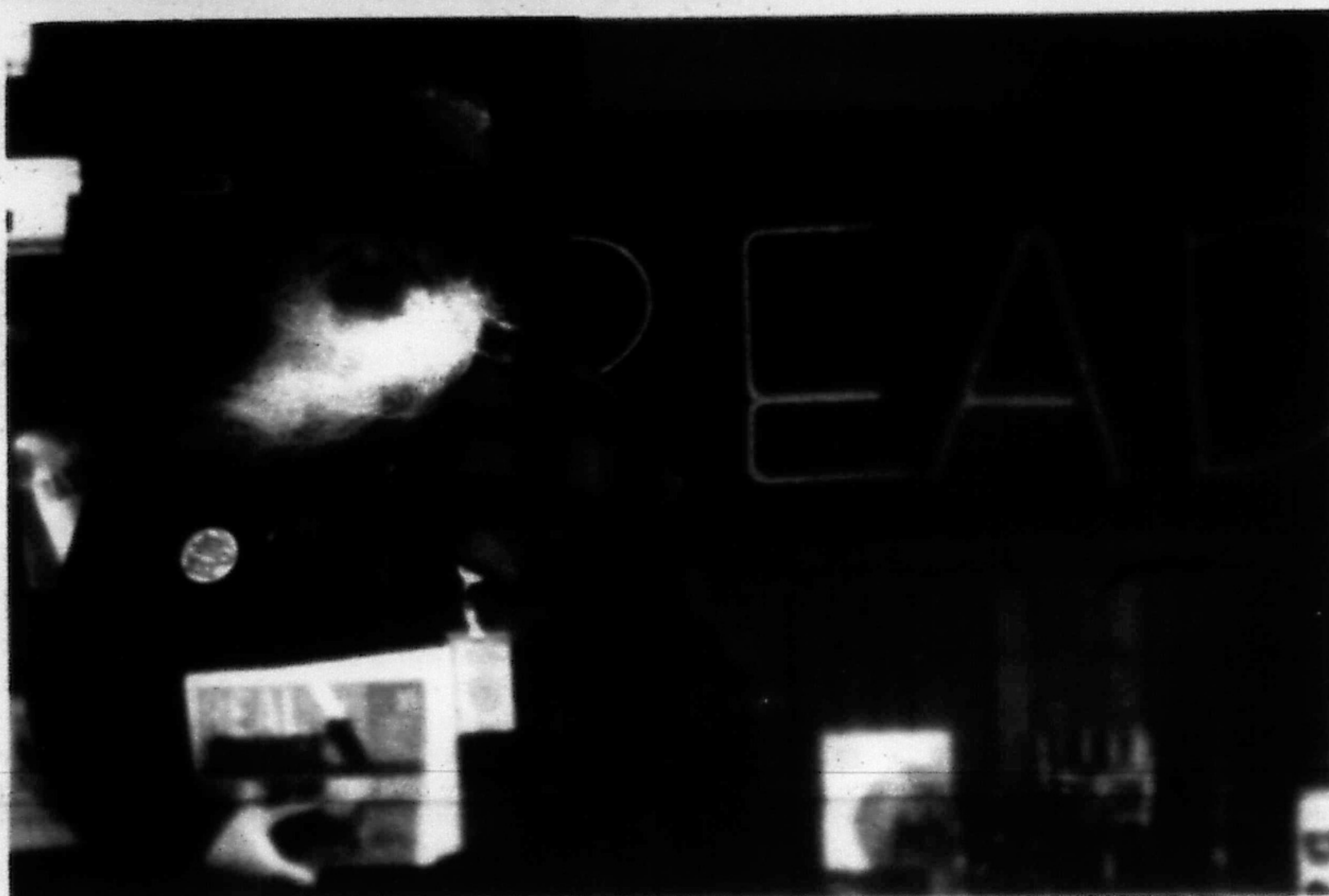
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## Meeting the Challenge

Social change happens when people find their power in community. When enough people believe they can make a difference and have the tools to act, anything is possible.

We have seen the changes a little hope can make. We have felt the transformative power of relationships to change lives. We have witnessed the impact that a little bit of opportunity can have.

The core of our work has always been to build for a more just society while making an immediate difference in the lives of the poor right here and now. In 2003, we built a 3-year strategic plan to make us more effective. 2005 was a key year for meeting our goals.

- Real Change achieved weekly publication. With 517,978 copies sold over 2005, circulation increased by 11 percent. Over the last three years, the number of papers sold grew by nearly 23%. We are more committed than ever to being your activist community newspaper.
- Last year, we grew the average number of vendors served each month from 230 to more than 250. Over 2005, nearly 800 people earned income by selling Real Change.
- Our Women of Real Change (WORC) project presented new opportunities for community and support to our growing group of women vendors. Community drives for winter clothing, boots, and cold kits offered new ways for us to care for each other. Increased vendor training and life-skills workshops offered vendors new tools for success.
- We have continued to build a voice of the poor by supporting the self-managed StreetWrites homeless writers group and sponsoring the successful Out of the Margins writers' workshop series in collaboration with the Seattle Public Library.
- Real Change integrated our newspaper advocacy and our organizing to help win numerous legislative successes (details on page 4).
- We have increased our own sustainability by increasing both earned income and individual donations. Real Change is an organization that will be here for the long-haul.

Over 2006, the Real Change community will build a new strategic plan to take us into the next decade of work for social change. We are committed to increasing our news capacity, playing a greater role in progressive movement building, and offering our vendors more tools to succeed.

Last year, 976 people said they believe in what we do by giving us their financial support. Nearly half of our support comes directly from readers like you. Please join us in 2006 for another year of opportunity and activism.

Timothy Harris,  
Executive Director

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Janice Hogen  
Janis Augustin & Carl Menconi  
Jarlath Hume  
Janna Wilson  
& Annette Joyce  
Jay Stansell & Dori Cahn  
Jean Burch Falls  
Jean Edelhertz  
Jean Lawler  
Jeana Kimball & John Weeks  
Jeanne Donovan  
& Jeffrey Philpott  
Jeannie Gorman  
Jennifer Hodgdon  
Jennifer Kauffmann  
Jennifer Yogi  
Jill Simmons & Eric Deplace  
Jo Pfender  
Joan Thomas  
Joan Vermeulen  
Joe Diederichs  
Joel & Kathryn Matulys  
Joel & Michelle Frauenheim  
Joel Schneider  
John Lombard  
John O'Reilly  
John R. Crane  
John R. Gilbert  
John Reinke  
John Rothschild, JD  
& Laura Vernum  
Joseph Crump  
Judith E. Clegg  
& Lynn Davison  
Judith Gregory  
Julia Welch  
Juliana R. Thompson  
Julie Miller  
K.L. Shannon  
Karen Sue Haynes  
Karen Zytniak  
Kari Connor  
Kathleen M. Pierce  
Kathleen Ruth  
Kathy Dugaw  
Kathy E. Kirby  
KBOS  
Keith Ward  
Kenan Block  
Kerry & Chris Smith  
Kerry Sturgill  
Kevin Jones  
Knut Berger  
Kyra Freestar  
Larry Bornstein  
& Phyllis Levine  
League of Women

Voters of Seattle  
Leslie Blanchard  
Liahann Bannerman  
Linda Child  
Linda M. Landman  
Linda Weedman  
Lindsay Funk  
Lisa Gustavson  
Lisa Miner  
Lisa Samuelson  
Lois Beck  
Lois R. Conkle  
Low Income  
Housing Institute  
Lynne D. Harrison  
Maggie Walker  
Marcia & Bob Almquist  
Margaret M. Curtin  
& James Wilder  
Margaret Sorrel  
Margo Reich  
Maria Ordenez  
Marianne Meisel  
Marilynn Moch  
Marjorie Kittle  
Mark & Katha Dalton  
Mami Levy & John Hughes  
Marshall Hatch  
Mary Ann Tollefson  
Mary Keils  
Matthew Kenney  
Maureen Bo  
Maureen Kostyack  
& Jonathan Olver  
Michael A. Caringella  
Michael & Marilyn Guzman  
Michael Lindekugel  
Michael Phipps  
Mike & Ali Frimpter  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Eells  
Nancy & Joseph Pearl  
Nancy Helm  
Neil & Leona Elgee  
New Leaf  
Nicole Macri  
Nova Fisheries, Inc.  
Pamela Heath  
& David Jensen  
Pat Whitney  
Patricia McInturff  
Patrick Niemeyer  
Paul & Philomena Kohl  
Paul Peterson  
Payton & Patsy Smith  
Peter & Hinda Schnurman  
Peter Lundborg  
& Nancy Plunkett  
Peter O. Ways  
& Gretchen Gundrum  
Phil Shallat  
& Nancy Mattheiss  
Philip Irwin  
Rachel Brem  
Rachel Price  
Retired Public  
Employees Council 3  
Rhonda Ivie  
Richard & Peggy Hudson  
Richard Osborn  
Rick Reynolds  
Rick Simonson  
Robert Adelman  
Roberta Weeks  
Robin Kessler  
Rolande Chesebro  
Ron & Roseellen Albers  
Ronald & Maureen Digiocomo  
Ruth Le Sourd  
Ruth Little  
Sandra Enger  
Sandra Nell Kazanjian  
Sara Yamasaki  
Scott Dutton  
Shann Thomas  
Sharon Cumberland  
Sharon Swift  
Shawn Hurley  
Sheila & John Morris  
Sheila Hoffman  
& Spencer Beard

Shelby & Brock Mooney  
Sigrid Salo  
Sr. Dorothy Klingele  
Stephanie Kellner  
& Wade Donaldson  
Stephen & Christine Rhodes  
Stephen Sehlun  
Steve Schrock  
Steven Stolder  
Stewart Ross  
Stuart Mark  
Sue & Neal Jensen  
Sung-Eun Choi  
Susan Gould Wolff  
Susan Gulick  
& Rod Margason  
Susan Pound  
Suzanne Klinger & Beth Kraig  
Tara Connor  
Terry Campbell  
Thomas Bayley  
Thomas Logan  
Thomas R. Hundley  
Timothy & Kimberlee Brewer  
Tina Shamseldin  
Tom & Laura Barrett  
Tony Raugust & Joe Curiel  
Tyler Weaver  
Univ. Friends Meeting  
Valerie Anderson  
Victoria Withrow  
Vince Healy  
Vincent Houmes  
Virginia Felton  
Virginia Rankin  
Yancy Seamans  
Yvette Soler  
Zoltan B. Szuts

### \$50-\$99

Abbie Johnson  
Abie Castillo  
Aiko Schaefer & Tom Geiger  
Alan Rabinowitz  
Alexander Bard  
Alexandra Pye  
Alice Woldt  
Alison Innes  
Anne Focke  
Anne Johnston  
Anne Leder  
Annette Bringham  
Annette Way  
Anthony Draye  
Aon Foundation  
Audrey C. Hansen  
Barbara Phinney  
Beth Meshka  
Betsy & John Darrah  
Bill Kirin-Hackett  
Bill Thorness  
Bob Pearson  
Bonnie G. Olson  
Brian Bannon  
Bridgette Buyea  
Bruce & Joan Amundson  
Carol & Larry Maurer  
Carol Lissance  
Carolyn A. Rasch  
Catherine Clemens  
& John Speth  
Celso Tolman  
Charles & Or Johari Voss  
Chris Baird & Heather Hart  
Christine Hollinger  
Christine Stephenson  
Craig Lorch  
Craig Walker  
Cynthia Marquette  
D. Amanda Stacey  
Dave Merz  
David & Lynne Chelimer  
David Bird  
David Bloom  
David Groves  
David Messerschmidt  
David Salesin  
& Andrea Lingenfelter  
Debbie Thiele  
Deborah Capwell

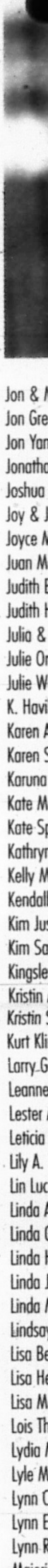
Denise Metz  
Dennis Dacey  
& Kathleen Mulligan  
Diana Crane  
Diane & Michael Slota  
Dorothy Bullitt  
Dr. Clare Bright  
Edward & Susan Ross  
Edward Ferguson  
eFunds  
Eileen Nicol  
Elizabeth deNorma  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Elizabeth Bamber  
Elizabeth M. Reed  
Ellen Cooper  
Eric & Carrie Wiley  
Eric L. Chang  
Evelyn Peaslee  
Everett E. Reagan  
Evelyn Martinez  
F. John Jeannot  
Faith Fogarty  
Freddie Yudin  
Freedom Project  
Frieda Takamura  
Gail Savage  
Gail Scott  
Genevieve Barney  
Gina Jonas  
Gloria Borello  
Goldie Coughlan  
Greg and Connie Korn  
Gregory Katz  
Gretchen Bruce  
Gretchen Bussman  
Haruko Mukasa  
Helen Baker St. John  
Henry & Janet Perry  
Hilary Stern  
Howard A. Pellett  
Hugh Ewart  
Ilana Guttman  
Irvin Brandon  
Jack Kuester  
Jack Smith  
Jan Mulder & Greg Bedinger  
Jane Meyerding  
Jane Reich  
Jane Ryan  
Janet L. Rice  
Janice & Allen Jaworski  
Jean Godden  
Jean Pasche  
Jean-Loup & Diane Baer  
Jeff Keenan  
Jeff Richards  
Jennifer Bachhuber  
Jennifer Barna  
Jerry Sommereth  
Jessie Kwak  
Jill Cadwell  
Joan & Lou Truskoff  
John & Anne Baisch  
John Mason  
John P. Funk  
John Perkins  
John Shaw  
Jon Gould  
Jonathan & Beth Singer  
Jones & Jones  
Architects and Landscape  
Joyce Cadwell  
Julia & Michael Crouch  
Julia Knott  
Julie Garbutt  
Julleen Snyder  
Justin Friberg  
Karen DeLucas  
Katherine Diamond  
Katherine Taylor-Hurley  
Katherine Weybright  
Kathleen & George Petrich  
Kathleen S. Toguchi  
Kathryn Huson  
Kathryn Hamilton Wang  
Kathy Copeland  
Katrina Pflaumer  
Kay Sanderson  
Keri Haught



Peter & Constance Wheeler  
Peter Costantini  
Puget Sound Alliance  
for Retired Americans  
Raman Chandrasekar  
Rebecca Baylor  
Richard Burton  
Richard Gold  
Robby Stern  
Robert Lavitt  
Robert Munoz  
Roberto Leibovitz  
Robin Ozerkis  
Robin Reid  
Robin Wyss  
Rosemary E. Brodie  
Ruth Sinton  
Sally Ketcham  
Sally M. Kinney  
Samuel Schaff  
Sandeep Kaushik  
Sandra Brown  
Sandra Heinke  
Sara Crumb  
Sarah Cherin  
Sarah Hufbauer  
Scott Sagar  
Seattle Academy  
of Arts and Sciences  
Seth Paul  
Sharon Giampietro  
Sherry Smith  
Sheryl Rogel  
Sibyl V. James  
Simon Read  
Siobhan Stiglitz  
Stacey Dahman  
Stella Chao & Michael Smyse  
Stephanie & Jeff Yurcisin  
Sterling Smith  
Steve Fredrickson  
Steve Resnick  
Steven Greimann  
Sue & Peter Covey  
Sue Davidson  
Susan Platt  
Susanne Tsoming  
Tammarian Rogers  
Ted Hunter  
Teresa & Travis Sherwood  
Teresa Donovan  
Theodore & Patricia Collins  
Thomas Coonen  
Thomas Lee  
Thomas Lewandowski  
Thomas Page  
Tim Weber  
Timothy Tajchman  
Verizon Foundation  
Vicki Kremers  
Victoria Castle  
Victoria Kaplan  
WA State Coalition  
for the Homeless  
Wes Browning  
William Wiginton  
Winifred Hushev

**\$1-\$49**  
Abe Osheroff  
Adam Levine  
Adrienne Quinn  
Aimee Sixel  
Al Poole  
Alex Hooper  
Alexander Bacon  
Alexandra West  
Allen Cohn  
Allen Rickert  
Allison Gegan  
Amber L. Moser  
Andrea Gomes  
Andrew Anschell  
Andrew C. Demos  
Andrew Ditzler  
Andrew Keller  
Andrew Kelly  
Anitra Freeman  
Ann S. Fox  
Ann Gilbert  
Anna Markee  
Anne Schwendiman  
B.S. Wells  
Barb Brattie  
Barbara B. Dick  
Barbara L. Stark  
Barker Martin,  
P.S./Attorneys at Law  
Barry Mitzman  
Battaglia Family  
Bernita Johnson  
Betty J. Esveldt  
Beverly Sims  
Bill Dubay  
Bill Pope  
Brandi Hair  
Brenda Ray  
Bridget Darces  
Brigid Hagan  
Brooke Thompson  
C. Richard Schuller  
Carole Antoncich  
Carolyn MN Thompson  
Cathleen Taylor  
Cecilia E. Walsh  
Charlie Putman  
Cheryl Trivison  
Christina Nicolaus  
Christine & Oscar Vilches  
Christine Connolly  
Christine Margelli  
Christine Miller  
Cindy Lin  
Colette Ogle  
Connie Burrows  
Corinne Odegard  
Craig Salins  
Cynthia Bell  
Daniel Ford  
Dave Perkins  
David & Patricia Rodgers  
David Burgess  
David Cahn  
David Griffith Jones  
Deanna Daniels  
Deborah Juntunen  
Deborah Perluss  
Debra Willendorf  
Denise Pardi

Dennis McAfee  
Diane Arnold  
Dina Lauman  
Don Peery  
Donald P. Chamberlain  
Donald Roos  
Dorli Rainey  
Dr. Margaret Garbe  
Dr. Michael Furst  
Ed Esbeck  
Edsonya Charles  
Elinor Adman  
Edward Mikel  
    & Gail DiBernardo  
Elizabeth Alexander  
Elizabeth Slakey  
Elizabeth Vivian  
Ellen Bezona  
Emily Weinstein  
Eric Harmon  
Erna Lund  
Ernie Martin  
Fai Coffin  
Finn Livingston & Neva Barry  
Gary Marjorie Prince  
Geri Armbruster  
Gifford & Mary Jones  
Gloria Derbowka  
Greg Barnes  
Gretchen Brookes  
Gwynne Brown  
Hazel Hardiman  
Heather Trim  
Heidi H. Neff  
Henry Drew  
Henry Learning  
Hong Tran  
Irene Hull  
Isaac Stephens  
Jaci Oseguera  
James Austin  
    & L'Nayim Shuman-Austin  
James Harper  
James Tusler  
Jamie Straley  
Jane E. Engerman Muirhead  
Jane Strehecker  
Janice Potter  
Jean Mohr  
Jeannie Johnson  
Jeff Koertzen  
Jennifer Worick  
Jesse Green  
Jill Haven  
Jim Melton  
Jo & Terry Sullivan  
Joan Reed  
Joan Schrammeck  
    & Tim Brewer  
Joan Weisenbloom  
Joan Weiss  
Joanna Blackford  
Jody Nelson-Dundas  
Joe Martin  
Joel Grow  
John & Margaret Hughes  
John & Paula Shifley  
John Baker  
John Boonstra  
John Gorski  
John Hartl



Jon & Martha Bayley  
Jon Greenberg  
Jon Yamato & Mary Kuhner  
Jonathan Kuring  
Joshua Okrent  
Joy & John Ewers  
Joyce Moty  
Juan Martinez  
Judith Bumgarner  
Judith Hennes  
Julia & Michael Herschensohn  
Julie Orr  
Julie Watts  
K. Haviland  
Karen Alexander  
Karen Shiveley  
Karuna Poole  
Kate Martenson  
Kate Speltz  
Kathryn Kelsey  
Kelly Martineau  
Kendall Davis  
Kim Justice  
Kim Sather  
Kingsley R. Woodhead  
Kristin A. Moore  
Kristin Shotwell  
Kurt Klingman  
Larry Gossett  
Leanne Nelson  
Lester Allen Poole  
Leticia Camacho  
Lily A. North  
Lin Lucas  
Linda Averill  
Linda Gwilym  
Linda Hollett  
Linda J. Clifton  
Linda Moss  
Lindsay Andersen  
Lisa Beaulaurier  
Lisa Herbold  
Lisa McIvor  
Lois Theftord, PA-C  
Lydia Marshall  
Lyle Mercer  
Lynn Cobb  
Lynn Edwards  
Lynn Ridenour  
Majorie Kempner  
Mamie Rockafellar  
Marcia C. McLaughlin

Marga Rose  
& John Hancock  
Margaret Gaines  
Margaret Masar  
& Geoffrey Nichols  
Maria Batayola  
Maria B. Monroe-Devita  
Marie Gatti  
Marilyn Orozco  
Marion Kee  
Mark Graf  
Mark Minder  
Mark Murphy  
Mark Muzi & Laurie Boehme  
Marnie Keegan  
Martha & Samuel Jacobs  
Martha Brice  
Martin Garinkel  
Mary Burki  
Mary Jane Wallon  
Matt King  
Matthew Lechner  
Mattie Shaw  
Maureen Pomietto  
& Scott Pinegar  
Meghann McGinn-Janorsky  
Merck Partnership for Giving  
Michael Herb  
Michelle Muri  
Midge Levy  
Mireille Raby & John D. Lee  
Miriam Moses  
Monica Zucker  
Monty Berke  
Mrs. E.A. Manganoang  
Nancy Bardeen  
Nancy Garrett  
Nancy Keucher  
& Margaret Van Reuth  
Neil Powers  
Nicholas Halmi  
Nick Straley & Julia Kellison  
Northwest Immigrant  
Rights Project  
Olivia & Ben Skwiercz  
Pamela Thompson  
Pat Cleary  
Pat Lewis  
Patricia J. Rowan  
Patricia Melgard  
Patrick M. Schultz  
Patrick McIntyre

Paul & Mary Pruitt  
Paul Dunn  
Paul Lambros  
Pauline Morrison  
Peter Blunk  
Peter Lavelle  
Peter Strimer  
Philippa Nye  
Rabbi David Fine  
Rachael Black  
Rebecca Agiewich  
Rebecca Saldana  
Renea Saade  
Rick Bender  
Rita Weinstein  
Rob Brill  
Robert L. Schlosser  
Robert Carlson  
Robin Lindley  
Robin Stern  
Rosemary Baines  
Ruth Dillon  
Safeco Matching Gift Center  
Sam Pozner  
Sarah Luthens  
Scott Hoogerwerf  
Scott Wonder  
Shelley A Curtis  
Shirle Ribauda  
Shirley Morrison  
Silja J. A. Talvi  
Soapbox Communications, Inc.  
Sonia Wellington  
Stephanie Mano  
Stephanie Shandera  
Stephen Morris  
Steven Donovan  
Steven Quehl  
Susan Dwyer-Shick  
Susan Koppelman  
Sylvia & Zach Odom  
Tara Smith  
Teresita Heiser  
Thalia Syracopoulos  
The Jundt-Stoll Family  
Theresa Turner  
Thomas Lucas  
Timothy Godfrey  
Tina Shamseldin  
Tom Buchanan  
Tom Donlea  
Valerie McGraw  
Valerie Wonder  
Vashon Friends Worship Group  
Victoria Trimble-Lowe  
Walter Schacht  
& Gima Malek-Aslani  
Will & Louise Parry  
Will Middlebrooks  
William Corr  
William J. Rathbun  
William Pokorny

"It's nice to have good friends, especially when you're outside, you need good friends to watch over and care for you."  
—Margaret Shaw

## 2005 Real Change Profit and Loss

Income		Expenses	FtF	Newspaper	Out of the Margins	Program Expenses	Admin.	Fundraising	Total Expenses
Donations	\$216,941	Payroll related expenses	\$2,100	\$292,184		\$294,284	\$24,175	\$11,170	\$329,629
Circulation	\$153,001	Printing and Copying	\$204	\$75,442	\$54	\$75,700	\$1,333	\$540	\$77,573
Grants	\$98,750	Rent/Utilities	\$5,573	\$14,182	\$3,084	\$22,819	\$5,926		\$28,745
Advertising	\$24,833	Office Supplies	\$801	\$5,191	\$43	\$5,835	\$4,049	\$47	\$9,931
Events, gross	\$38,000	Professional Fees/Contract Labor	\$762	\$11,097	\$334	\$12,193	\$4,166	\$2,074	\$18,433
Subscriptions	\$3,843	Events and Promotions		\$2,507		\$2,507	\$250	\$10,880	\$13,637
Investment Gains/losses	-\$220	Phone and Internet	\$1,533	\$3,808	\$738	\$6,079	\$1,179		\$7,258
Interest and other income	\$179	Business Taxes				\$0	\$2,275		\$2,275
		Postage and Delivery		\$4,273		\$4,273	\$1,926	\$607	\$6,806
		Insurance				\$0	\$3,148		\$3,148
Total Income	\$535,327	Repairs and Maintenance		\$57		\$57	\$4,600		\$4,657
		Training	\$487	\$331		\$818	\$105		\$923
		Travel	\$382	\$3,138		\$3,520	\$126		\$3,646
		Bank Fees				\$0	\$948		\$948
		Miscellaneous	\$987	\$7	\$150	\$1,144			\$1,144
		Depreciation		\$542		\$542	\$167		\$709
		Dues and Subscriptions	\$412	\$729	\$105	\$1,246	\$507		\$1,753
		Total Expenses	\$13,041	\$413,488	\$4,488	\$431,017	\$54,880	\$25,318	\$511,215



# Building for Change

Over 2005, Real Change increased our capacity to organize and engage readers and vendors in the issues that matter. This year Real Change:

- Prevented anyone from losing access to shelter by successfully pushing the Seattle City Council and Mayor to add \$350,000 for shelter and transitional housing and committing to maintaining the current number of shelter beds paid for by the City.
- Organized weekly rallies at the state legislature in Olympia to protest any reduction in funding for ending poverty.
- Organized vendors and readers to help pass a Seattle budget that increased human services funding by more than \$3 million, including \$1 million to operate a new downtown day shelter.
- Engaged more than 20 vendors at an election day party and advocacy training conducted by City Council staff. Besides voting, many of those vendors have made a difference by testifying at public hearings, participating on the Consumer Advisory Council for the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and marching on the capitol in Olympia to call on the state legislature to end poverty now.
- Mobilized more than 300 activists to make their voices heard by emailing elected leaders to support Tent City 4, increase the state Housing Trust Fund, approve a homeless memorial garden in a downtown park,

and increase homelessness funding in the City of Seattle and King County budgets.

In 2006, the organizing and advocacy side of Real Change will continue to grow. We now have a dedicated staff person working to end poverty and homelessness.

In addition to regularly advocating for responsible and open government—one that puts human needs first—this year we're focusing our organizing on three issues where we think we can make a difference:

- Organizing for responsible downtown growth that makes the city a place where all are welcome and where low-income people can find affordable housing, living wage jobs, and services to meet their needs.
- Ensuring that our parks remain public spaces and don't become just the backyards of the rich.
- Working for tax justice to ensure that our state has the resources to improve the lives of all its residents.

In coming months, we will upgrade our action alert tools to add more voices to the struggle for social justice. If you're not receiving our timely alerts letting you know when your voice can make a difference, visit [www.realchangenews.org](http://www.realchangenews.org) to sign up.

## Vendor Profile

### Gender

Male: 77%  
Female: 23%

### Race/Ethnicity

Caucasian: 54%  
African American: 20%  
Native American: 7%  
Latino: 2%  
Asian: 1%  
Pacific Islander: 1%  
Other: 15%

### Age

20-30: 3%  
30-40: 14%  
40-50: 45%  
50-60: 31%  
60 and over: 7%

### Housing Status

Currently homeless: 50%  
Formerly homeless: 39%  
Never homeless: 11%

### Current Living Situation

Sleeping outside: 28%  
Sleeping in a shelter: 26%  
Subsidized housing: 18%  
Staying with friends or family: 11%  
Sleeping in a car: 5%  
Sleeping in transitional housing: 3%  
Other: 9%

### Physical or mental disability?

Yes: 46%



Photo by Christopher L. Williams

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

Real Change is an activist voice in Seattle that is making a difference here and now.

Every month, more than 250 homeless and vulnerably housed people earn the money they need while they help build a world where people aren't homeless anymore.

Our weekly urban newspaper brings you community voices you don't hear elsewhere and quality reporting on the issues you care about. We offer the information you need to take action and make a difference.

Real Change is reader supported. Last year, more than 800 people helped make Real Change a better paper by supporting the work they believe in.

Won't you help?

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

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

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

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