

REAL

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ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

MARCH 29 - APRIL 4, 2006



Remembering

AN IMPROMPTU MEMORIAL OF FLOWERS, CANDLES, AND CANDY ADORN THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL HILL HOUSE WHERE SIX PEOPLE — RANGING IN AGE FROM 14 TO 32 — WERE SLAIN IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MARCH 25. THE GUNMAN HAD ATTENDED AN AFTER-HOURS PARTY WITH THE VICTIMS, THEN LEFT, ONLY TO RETURN MINUTES LATER WITH A SHOTGUN AND HANDGUN. WHEN CONFRONTED BY POLICE AT THE SCENE, THE GUNMAN KILLED HIMSELF. THE KILLINGS, WHILE MAKING NATIONAL NEWS, HAVE MANY SEATTLE RESIDENTS ASKING THE SAME QUESTION THAT THOSE IN OTHER CITIES HAVE ASKED WHEN RANDOM VIOLENCE HAS STRUCK CLOSE TO HOME: WHY? PHOTO BY KATIA ROBERTS.

Unsafe and Sound

Stormwater carries threats for human health, economy

By J. JACOB EDEL
Contributing Writer

From the decks of a boat, everything appears to be good. Bald eagles perched on top of derelict pilings in the Duwamish River scout for food, orcas occasionally show their white bellies while breaching off West Point, and the racy smell of salt water still permeates the shoreline.

But numerous scientific tests and studies have recently shown that under the water's surface there is a multitude of problems pouring into the Puget Sound.

Harmful oil spills, toxic metals, household chemicals, pharmaceutical drugs, and inorganic fertilizers enter local waterways and flow into the Sound everyday, leaving residents concerned for the ecosystem's health.

In addition, these same toxic pollutants are making their way into the food chain, harming fish and marine mammal populations and ending up in humans. These contaminants are also

known to cause various human health problems, including cancer, birth defects, and neurobehavioral disorders.

In a holistic effort, several activists from numerous environmental agencies are working to prevent unnecessary harmful discharges into the Puget Sound.

In Seattle, the Puget Soundkeeper's Alliance (PSKA) — a nonprofit organization that helps clean the local waters through monitoring potential pollution outlets, pursuing legal litigation, promoting educational outreach, and hosting shoreline cleanups — takes weekly cruises up the five-mile industrial span of the Duwamish River.

The region is flooded with economic and environmental stresses caused by toxic contaminants entering the Sound from storm water run-off. According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, one third of the state's water pollution is caused by storm water.

Flex Line

Cross-nomination could put labor issues on the ballot

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

Attention, dissatisfied Democrats: a new political party that backs living wages, health care, and education is coming.

It's called Working Families and, in Washington, it's backed by a coalition of more than 20 labor and community organizations that will decide this week whether to move forward this year with an initiative that would make the party's model legal.

Unlike other third parties, which many people steer clear of to avoid "wasting" a vote on a Green or Libertarian candidate who's unlikely to win, Working Families relies on cross-nomination or fusion voting, which is currently banned in Washington and Oregon, where party activists are already collecting signatures to form a WF party this year.

Once prevalent in the United States, fusion voting allows a minor party to nominate a mainstream Democrat or Republican as their candidate, putting candidate John Doe's name on two ballot lines, one for each party.

By voting on the Working Families line, as voters have done in New York state since the WF first formed in 1998, says Steve Williamson, who worked for the party's organizing coalition in March after stepping down as head of the King County Labor Council, working-class people send the mainstream candidate a message about their issues.

"It's really about how do we move our issues rather than how do we move Joe or Jane [candidate]," says Williamson, who has spent the past month explaining the model to labor and community groups. "People cock their heads when they first hear about it," he says, "and then they start nodding."

In Oregon, where activists are working to collect the 19,000 signatures they need to form a WF party, organizer Barbara Dudley says working-class voters love the idea.

THREE'S A CHARM

Instead of making a choice between the Viaduct and a tunnel perhaps it's time to start thinking about a third option

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SAY, AHHHH

Thanks to the group Neighborhood Connections the homeless of Yakima County are granted free health and dental care

PAGE 3

APRIL RULES

In a surprise decision the Supreme Court makes a unanimous decision to strip humans of their rights

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GENERATION DEBT

Author Tamara Draut details how those in their 20's and 30's aren't slacking they're trying to live from paycheck to paycheck

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Demand a Third Option

Waterfront tunnel would only bury traffic problems, not fix them

By KEVIN FULLERTON
Contributing Writer

Seattle deserves a chance to select a solution that would spend our money building transit and street capacity first.

Once, many of us in the Sierra Club were ready to declare the waterfront tunnel proposal a winner and take the mayor's Christmas goose home.

It's not as though the Club typically likes highway proposals, underground or otherwise. But what a cathartic break from the past to bury that Alaskan Way eyesore. What an apt repudiation of wrong-headed 1950s transportation design — so brazenly worshipful of the car and psychotically insensitive to our waterfront.

The alternative, rebuilding the structure, seemed as abhorrent as re-introducing polyester slacks. Given these choices, it was no contest: The tunnel was the way forward.

Still, as advocates for transit and other things that reduce car use, we were enraged that city leaders could rally support for a \$4 billion highway when just adding a bike lane to the rebuilt Westlake Ave. was too much trouble. Let alone building sidewalks on N. Aurora. Voters said a \$5 billion monorail was too expensive, and the city can't seem to get to that half a billion dollars' worth of street and bridge repair neighborhoods have been waiting for.

What if we, the Sierra Club, had \$4 billion to spend? How great if we could improve bus service and try again for a desperately needed rail project.

Well, maybe someday. Right now, drivers are at risk of being delayed several minutes getting past downtown if we don't build a replacement highway for the teetering viaduct. The state Department of Transportation says we have no choice but to accommodate

those drivers on the waterfront, even if it is city property. What to do but scurry dutifully to the rescue — take up a collection — sacrifice for the greater good? It's the Seattle way.

The state says it's willing to put up the bulk of the money for a solution, but who's really covering that tab? Puget Sound residents pay most of the gas and sales taxes that support transportation funding. Most of that \$4 billion is ours. And if you polled Seattle-area taxpayers and asked what transportation solutions they'd ideally invest that kind of money in, the majority would likely say — as they did three years ago by rejecting the regional road package called Referendum 51 — that transit is the top priority.

The leading lights on Mayor Nickels' Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection would be equally happy to spend \$4 billion on alternative transportation. In fact, the excellent report the commission just released says that the most direct way to curb the carbon-dioxide emissions causing global warming is to reduce vehicle trips. The report recommends infrastructure improvements such as bike paths and sidewalks but also changes in personal habits — i.e., all of us driving less.

These are great suggestions, but what greenhouse gas reductions could we get by not building a new highway downtown? What if we could make roughly 25 percent of the vehicle trips the viaduct now carries disappear? Research shows that when other cities have removed urban highways, that's the percentage that go away.

Then, what if we used the money saved by avoiding construction and built those new bike and pedestrian amenities anyway? And even funded commute trip reduction programs and

provided incentives to use biofuels? Our air quality might rapidly shoot past the Kyoto standards, sending a signal to other cities that healthy air is just not that difficult.

But getting back to the traffic problem everyone fears if we don't preserve a waterfront highway. Here's the reality: We can't avoid it. We'll have to do without that road for years while a viaduct replacement is built. Anticipating this, the city has already invested in a plan to make the downtown street grid work more efficiently by diverting traffic onto a series of underutilized routes. A second part of the strategy is to open new bus lanes that will improve north-south transit service.

It begins to seem odd that 50 years after the viaduct was put up, in a city that now purports to hold more enlightened planning and environmental values, we find ourselves faced with the decision to tunnel or rebuild. Two designs representing the same antiquated idea. Where's the option to prioritize transit, or sidewalks, or a rail system? Why does it suddenly seem like 1953 all over again?

The Seattle City Council has been given authority by the state legislature to put viaduct replacement options on the November ballot so we can choose our preference. Seattle deserves a chance to select a solution that would spend our money building transit and street capacity first.

Let's get something worthy out of this city's lofty environmental and civic goals, not another highway our children will regret. Demand a third option. ■

Kevin Fullerton
chairs the Seattle
Sierra Club Political
Committee.



Real Change is published weekly and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Vendors receive 65¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

Mission Statement:

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

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

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Change Agent

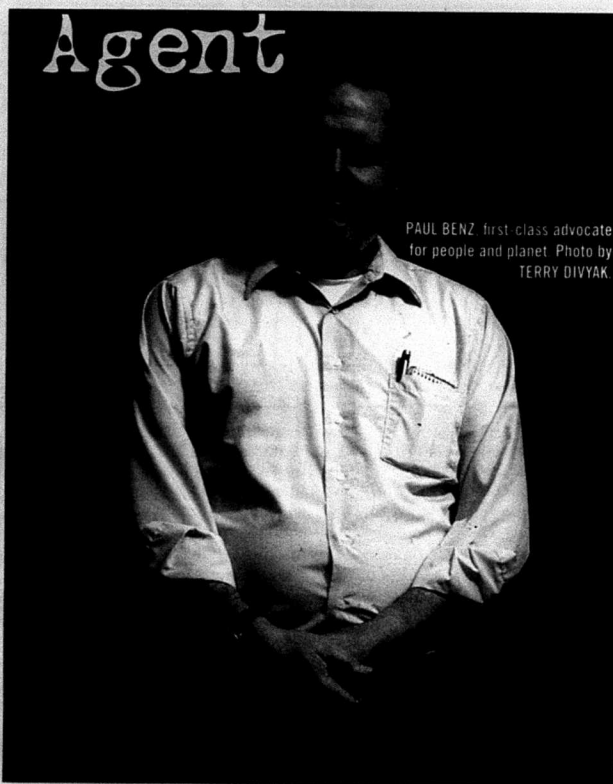
"God does not believe in any second-class citizens," says Reverend Paul Benz, director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State (LPPO), an advocacy group that lobbies in support of issues ranging from homelessness to the environment.

"Our mission is to advocate for justice for all of God's people," says Benz. It is through Benz's faith that he gets his drive to work for social justice.

Benz's lobbying efforts helped get \$21 million for the state Housing Trust Fund. Together with the Children's Alliance and the Washington Association of Churches, the LPPO secured another \$2 million of the state budget for the school breakfast program. They were also among the groups in favor of the law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Benz frequently puts in 10- or 12-hour days filled with meeting politicians, fundraising, staying in touch with the community, and working with a diverse list of community organizations. The Lutheran Church, he says, encourages people to think with regard for others. "My faith says that I don't just live in a vacuum."

—Justin Ellis



PAUL BENZ, first-class advocate for people and planet. Photo by TERRY DIVYAK.

Making Good

Promises of health care fulfilled for Yakima area homeless

By JULIE CHINITZ
Contributing Writer

In Yakima, there have been reports of groups of thugs targeting homeless people, beating them with rocks and boards.

Health care is often a do-it-yourself enterprise for people living on the streets of Yakima, just over the Cascade Mountains from Seattle. Steve Gaulke, homeless outreach case manager with Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health, sees evidence of that enterprise every day.

"They'll do stitching of their own stitches," he says. "They'll live with broken ribs without going to the doctor." To handle the pain of an inflamed tooth, he explains, "You either just take a lot of aspirin you burn from somebody, or street stuff to kill the pain, and if it gets so bad you ask somebody to knock it out of your mouth or take a pair of pliers and get it out."

Going without adequate housing takes a heavy toll on the body, whether in the form of stress, increased exposure to the elements and infection, inadequate diet, or lack of a place to rest, recover, or properly store medications. Homelessness also leaves people vulnerable to assault. In Yakima, there have been reports of groups of thugs targeting homeless people, beating them with rocks and boards.

"Homelessness is a direct cause of many diseases and health problems," says Anita Monoian, CEO of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (YNHS).

On March 1, Monoian's organization celebrated the opening of Neighborhood Connections, a clinic dedicated to Yakima County's homeless community. There, people living on Yakima's streets can receive medical and dental care at no cost, and the dentist's chair has been occupied since the clinic opened its doors.

With seven to 10 patients a day, Family Nurse Practitioner David Hibbs takes anywhere from a half an hour to an hour with each patient — time needed to help address immediate housing, mental health, and other needs that affect a patient's ability to heal and recover.

Currently, Hibbs explains, "The biggest issues are urgent care, because they feel them. They're painful." But he hopes to develop continuing relationships with his patients so he can provide preventive care. YNHS is also working to establish a network of specialty care providers.

In addition to medical and dental care, Neighborhood Connections helps patients obtain health coverage and income support, such as food stamps and disability benefits, and connects patients to chemical dependency and mental health services. To cover the cost of premiums for Basic Health, the state's sliding-scale health coverage program, the clinic is providing sponsorship for numerous patients who otherwise could not afford to enroll.

Meanwhile, outreach workers Dianne Trevino and Annette Rodriguez visit shelters, encampments, and social service agencies to spread the word and develop the trust needed to bring health care to people who have gone without. As Steve Gaulke explains, after years of being shut out of the health care system, people living on the streets need to believe that the offer represents more than an empty promise. "That's been one failure we've had in the system: lack of follow-through," he says.

One patient, Mark Shotgunn, was thrilled when he heard about the clinic, commenting, "It's not often you get help like that." He points out that being able to drop in at any time for medical care rather than having to schedule an appointment in advance is a big advantage.

Just Heard...

Park this irony

Al Gore's visit to City Hall last Friday marked the release of recommendations from Mayor Nickels' commission on how Seattle can honor the Kyoto Protocols by reducing greenhouse emissions, most of which come from cars.

Diane Duthweiler has an idea: save \$31 million and a lot of trees at Woodland Park Zoo by not building a parking garage that neighbors oppose because it, uh, encourages driving.

Duthweiler and three other zoo neighbors called attention to this at City Hall with signs that read, "What's green about zoo parking garage?" and "Pave paradise?"

"It's so hypocritical of the mayor to pat himself on the back for making Seattle greener when he's supporting an unneeded, 700-stall parking garage," Duthweiler said.

Scenic affront

The mayor's Downtown Parks Task Force says it's not attacking the homeless in its "Downtown Renaissance" report, which calls for hiring park rangers and extending the panhandling ordinance in 24 downtown parks. In a public hearing last week before the Park Board, however, two task force members did attack homeless advocates who have objected to the measures.

"Some people call themselves experts on homelessness even though they've never been homeless," said Bruce Bentley. Tina Bueche agreed: "You can listen to people who aren't homeless talk, or you can go down and talk to the homeless."

Task force members said their call for ornamental fencing around some parks have been misunderstood. Park Commissioner Terry Holme pointed out, however, that Colonnade Park on the west slope of Capitol Hill was supposed to get ornamental fencing but, due to cost, ended up with chainlink.

The Park Board votes on the recommendations April 27. Until then, comments can be made at (206)684-6066 or sandy.brooks@seattle.gov.

—Cydney Gillis

Third party no fun

Bellevue Republican Richard Pope raked through the personal history of Aaron Dixon — Seattle community activist, former Black Panther, and newly minted Green Party candidate for Senate — and found a few mucky details: unpaid fines for driving without insurance, a lien for child support owed, and living with a woman he calls his wife while still undergoing a drawn-out divorce proceeding.

Dixon says that like a lot of working people, penury only made his fines worse. "I accumulated those tickets during a time in my life being a single parent, and I was forced to choose between paying a fine or putting food on the table." He's in the process of settling the child-support debt and now has car insurance. Hold his record against Cantwell's on Iraq, he says, in which "billions are being spent to kill thousands of innocent people."

—Adam Hyla

BALLOT, Continued from Page 1

"They don't flinch," Dudley says. "They say, 'This is for me' because they are so painfully aware of how inadequate the Democratic Party has been to their economic needs."

The Washington and Oregon efforts are different, Dudley says, in that Oregon activists are forming the party first and plan to ask Oregon's legislature to legalize fusion voting next year.

In Washington, the plan is to get the law changed first through an initiative, which has already been filed, and form the party later.

The decision to be made this week by Washington's WF coalition, which includes ACORN, the Service Employees International, the United Food and Commercial Workers, Washington Citizen Action, and New York's Working Families Party, is whether to start collecting signatures to proceed with the initiative this year or wait until 2007, says David Rolf, president of Seattle's SEIU Local 775, which is spearheading the effort.

David Olson, a retired political science professor from the University of Washington knowledgeable in state politics, doubts the coalition can pull it off.

"I hate to rain on anybody's parade," says Olson, "but the cross-filing is going to be very difficult to get in the state of Washington. It's a very complex measure that introduces uncertainties. And when

voters are confused or uncertain, they vote no."

State Democratic Party Chairman Dwight Pelz expresses similar doubt. He says the Working Families coalition hasn't met with him to lay out the concept and platform, which he says sounds far left of center for mainstream voters.

SEIU's Rolf counters that the New York party has been a centrist organization in focusing attention on pocket-book issues that matter to a majority of families.

Among the wins in New York, says Clare Crawford, regional director for ACORN, a nationwide community action group, support from Working Families made it possible to override a veto by Gov. George Pataki to pass an increase in the minimum wage.

"It's gotten elected officials from both parties to vote along lines of what working people need," Crawford says.

In today's elections, "People feel like they're choosing between the lesser of two evils," says David Groves of the Washington State Labor Council, which has yet to take a position on the initiative.

"It stands to reason that some idea will come along to offer creative alternatives. The question is: will it be this year?" ■

[Resources]

More information on the Working Families Party and fusion voting can be found at www.workingfamiliesparty.org or www.oregonwfp.org.

YAKIMA, Continued from Page 3

Soon he plans on coming in for a dental visit.

Neighborhood Connections' ability to continue serving patients like Shotgun depends on the state and federal governments' funding of health insurance programs and community clinics.

In its first year, sixty percent of Neighborhood Connections' funds will come from the federal government's Health Care for the Homeless program, while YNHS must bring in the rest through reimbursement from Medicaid, Basic Health, or other sources.

Despite the need for greater investment in health, the federal government is rapidly dismantling coverage for low-income people. President Bush has proposed continued — although not necessarily adequate — funding for community health centers, including Health Care for the Homeless. Yet at the same time, Congress has passed major cuts to Medicaid, which provides insurance to many low- and moderate-income people.

In addition to letting states offer less than comprehensive coverage and introduce hefty costs for Medicaid enrollees, the federal government is creating new documentation requirements. To qualify, many applicants will have to have a U.S. passport or birth certificate — a big burden on homeless people. On top of these cuts, the

Bush Administration is proposing even further defunding.

"Many, if not most, of the community health centers depend on a significant portion of their clients having insurance," says Patricia Post, policy analyst with the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. "Undermining programs like Medicaid has extremely severe implications for low-income people, including the homeless." ■

Julie Chinitz is a researcher for the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations. This is the first in an occasional piece on public health in Yakima County.

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Short Takes

With Rubber to Burn

A request for a two-year temporary permit by Lafarge Cement to burn whole tires has been given the thumbs up.

Granted by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on March 17, the permit allows Lafarge, located on W. Marginal Way, to use whole tires as part of the fuel that will keep its kiln running. Along with natural gas, coal, petroleum coke, and waste oils, the plant currently uses chipped tires — roughly equivalent to 600 to 800 tires a day — to generate the necessary heat to create cement. The changeover to whole tires could more than quadruple that amount, along with lessening the percentage of the coal-coke-waste oil mixture. The temporary permit also allows for Lafarge to burn the whole tires through a system known as "mid-kiln tire injection," requiring the plant to make changes to the kiln presently on site.

The Clean Air Agency granted the temporary permit only after the end of a public comment period that spanned from mid-December 2005 to mid-February 2006. Nineteen written comments were garnered during that time. Coming toward the latter part of the comment period, the agency also held a public hearing on Jan. 24, wherein 18 community members expressed concern over Lafarge's request. Inherent to most comments was apprehension over the new process and its potential to cook up a stew of toxic emissions — among them arsenic, nitrous oxide, lead, sulfur dioxide — that would adversely affect the health of residents in Highland Park, South Park, and White Center. In granting the permit, the agency will require Lafarge to complete a series of tests to demonstrate how the kiln's whole-tire consumption will affect emission rates.

The agency will also be conducting semi-annual community workshops to offer progress updates. Communications specialist for the agency Amy Warren says the workshops, the first of which will occur within the next six weeks, "will help to establish neighborhood dialogue."

"It will be an opportunity to meet face to face with the community, to walk them through concerns, and show why our agency feels this permit is a valid request," says Warren.

More information on the temporary permit can be found on the Web: www.pscleanair.org/news/2006/03_20_Lafarge.shtml.

— Rosette Royale

Your papers, please

While Hispanics march nationwide to stop a bill that would criminalize illegal immigration, a Mercer Island resident is taking a different track here at home.

On March 15, Bob Baker filed an initiative requiring public agencies to verify a person's legal status before providing any services or benefits, such as food stamps or welfare, that aren't federally mandated.

The Protect Washington Now initiative is modeled, in part, on Arizona's Proposition 200, an initiative passed in 2004. To get on the November ballot, Baker needs to collect the signatures of 224,880 voters by July 7 — something he says people are calling left and right to volunteer for.

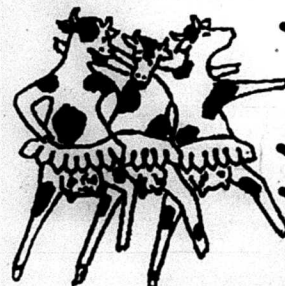
Baker says illegal immigration isn't fair to taxpaying Americans or to the people who come here. Elected officials just don't get that "the people in this country are overwhelmingly for controlling our borders," he says.

What Baker doesn't get is that, documented or not, immigrants work in service jobs that few Americans would take and pay the state sales tax like everyone else, says George Cheung of From Hate to Hope, a coalition of 60 groups that formed last year to fight a similar initiative (I-343) that failed to get enough signatures.

The new measure isn't about fairness, says Cheung, whose parents immigrated from Hong Kong in 1974. It's about limiting who is an American and who should be included in our society.

— Cyndy Gillis

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Absurd in the Supreme

Humans no longer have human rights, rules Court

By DEAN RITZ
Contributing Writer

"Non-rights have a long and contentious history in our country. African Americans, women, Native Americans, and white men without property have all suffered from inequality before the law. Now, all human persons possess equal non-rights before the law: equality achieved absolutely."

— Justice Samuel A. Alito

April 1: In a landmark 8-0 decision today, the U.S. Supreme Court revoked Constitutional rights protections for human persons. In the case, *The Largest Corporations in America v. Citizens of the United States*, lawyers for the corporate plaintiffs argued the United States government violated the corporations' Constitutional rights by extending similar rights to human persons. The court said such rights belong to corporate persons exclusively.

Critics immediately denounced the decision as undemocratic. "It means that only those persons who control corporations will have any rights at all," said Chuck Beard, executive director of Save Human Rights. He added, "It takes an undemocratic institution like the Supreme Court to make such a sweepingly undemocratic decision."

Conservative political and business organizations were quick to defend the decision. Constitutional research fellow Thomas Linseed, from Corporations for the American Way, expressed his support. "Finally, we return to our great nation's roots, where corporations have the full power of the government at their disposal," he said.

Linseed continued, "It's not solely about rights just for corporations. More importantly, it is about corporate directors being able to do what they want without interference from the government. Rights for corporations simply means that corporate directors have the Constitution on their side when people get uppity and challenge corporate decisions."

The Court also broke with tradition by deciding in favor of plaintiffs' highly unusual request for damages. The Supreme Court has never before awarded damages in the exclusively Constitutional cases before it. When asked about the unusual request for damages, plaintiffs' lead attorney, Charlotte Tun, responded, "Why do you think our founding fathers called it the 'Bill of Rights'? We just turned over that bill to the best collection agency American corporations have ever had: the Supreme Court."

The decision is sure to be controversial as it appears to completely overturn more than 200 years of legal precedent. For most of our nation's history, some human persons had the government securing and enforcing Constitutional rights. Gradually, and with great effort, rights protections were extended to other persons: women, African Americans, and corporate persons (though corporate persons received them first). However, plaintiffs successfully argued that the word "People" found in the Constitution's Preamble, "We the People," has been misinterpreted as referring to human persons rather than corporate persons.

Prosecuting attorney Charlotte Tun expanded upon her clients' claims, noting that the Constitution's primary author, Alexander Hamilton, founded the First Bank of the United States. "We argued that since this country's inception it has been run by a corporate class," she said. "The Constitution was written by members of this class."

"Normally, corporate directors can do whatever they want. Through their well-paid representatives they write and enact legislation and set regulations. They can build and dump what they want where they want and it's all perfectly legal, mostly."

But not everyone accepts corporate claims to rights. Recently, and most notably in the federal court case *Frost et al., v. St. Thomas Development, Inc.*, some human persons have asserted Constitutional rights claims against the government. *Frost* plaintiffs claim that the government's grant of constitutional rights to corporations renders citizens politically powerless against the corporate directors. According to briefs in this case, it effectively grants to the directors more rights than it grants to other persons, and that is a violation of the 14th Amendment guarantee of equal rights as well as a violation of their right to a republican form of government, as secured in Article IV Section IV of the Constitution.

Tun acknowledged that the *Frost* case had some bearing on the decision to pursue this case. "My clients have toler-

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Generation Debt

Tamara Draut on how 20- and 30-Somethings Can't Get Ahead Today

By ROBIN LINDLEY
Contributing Writer

"If you think of the path to adulthood as an obstacle course with a series of hurdles, you start weighed down by debt [for education]. Debt begets more debt, [and that's] less to put away for savings to buy the things to start a professional life like a wardrobe — and I'm talking just one suit."

The American Dream is dying. For young adults under 35, getting ahead is much harder now than a generation ago. They face crushing obligations from student loans and credit cards. Good jobs are scarcer and wages are stagnant as the costs of education, housing, childcare, and health care go up and up.

In her acclaimed book *Strapped: Why America's 20- and 30-Somethings Can't Get Ahead* (Doubleday, 2006), author Tamara Draut describes the financial ordeal of young adults and the policy and market forces arrayed against them. Draut, 34, is the director of the Economic Opportunity Program at Demos, a national public policy organization in New York. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*, and she has offered commentaries on CNN, CNBC, and Reuters Television.

Draut talked with *Real Change* recently about the fading middle class, today's Darwinian economy, and what may be done to achieve greater economic security.

Real Change: What drew you to the topic of the indebtedness of younger adults in America?

Tamara Draut: As the director of the Economic Opportunity Program at Demos, I've been looking at economic and public policy trends over the last three decades, [including] fundamental shifts making it more difficult for young people to either work or educate their way into the middle class. I decided to write the book because of misperceptions about why young people are struggling.

RC: And you're in that age group with your own history of debt?

Draut: I'm 34, and I [had] credit card debt to establish myself, and then I got my Masters and now I have student loan debt. But I'm extremely lucky because I'm part of the minority of young people [who] actually have a college degree. If I'm

having a tough time making it, how are others dealing in this economy? It turns out not too well.

RC: The media portrays of 20- and 30-year-olds as affluent and free-spending.

Draut: TV shows and commercials show young people driving expensive cars, living in expensive apartments, wearing expensive clothes, and that's not the reality of most young people's lives. They're living at home longer, driving used cars, working longer hours than the generation before them, and likely to be holding more than one job.

RC: What are the major causes of this crushing debt you describe?

Draut: It starts with the debt-for-diploma system. Three decades ago, states were investing in higher education, so we had cheap state college tuitions, [but] that's no longer the case. The cost of going to a public four-year college is now \$11,000 [per year] on average — it's more than doubled in the last two decades, even after adjusting for inflation. So young people are living with \$20,000 in student loan debt on average, or they're not getting the amount of education they want or need to compete in the economy. Only one-third of young people have bachelor's degrees. Lots of bright kids want to go to college but can't get aid to get there. States dropped the ball [by cutting] their investment in higher education.

We've switched, without any public debate, from a grant-based system to a loan-based system. In the late 1970s a person from a low-income family could get a grant that covered about three-quarters of the cost of college. Today, it covers about a third. [But] this is an investment that we should be making. It's good for everybody. It's good for our democracy, and it's good for our economy if people can get the skills and education they need.

RC: And you discuss the added burden of credit card debt.

Draut: If you think of the path to adulthood as an obstacle course with a series of hurdles, you start weighed down by debt [for education]. Debt begets more debt, [and that's] less to put away for savings to buy the things to start a professional life like a wardrobe — and I'm talking just one suit. So young people turn to credit cards. Young people are making less today than a generation ago, and the cost of housing, health care, college and child care have all grown much faster than inflation.

RC: You use the term "paycheck paralysis" to describe the stagnation of wages.

Draut: Absolutely. Compared to a generation ago, young people are earning less, and their wages are not growing as steadily. They're stuck running in place. Meanwhile they've got the student loan debt, [and the] cost of housing is much more expensive than a generation ago. Today one out of three young people spend more than one-third of their income on rent. Housing debt is 66 percent higher than it was for baby boomers at this age, so the squeeze is coming from all angles.

RC: You describe "an unforgiving Darwinian economy" as a cause of indebtedness.

Draut: Right. Our public policy has reinforced it. Today, America is more unequal than since the gilded age of the robber barons. The winners in our economy are making much more than the ordinary person. Our public policy has shifted the



Tamara Draut chronicles the erosion of the middle class in *Strapped*. Photo by Greg Ceo.

Story Problem 7

Suppose the average street puddle is comprised of 17 different hazardous materials - including 3% motor oil, 1.5% radiator fluid and seven strains of bacteria. After stepping in one, how painful is the foot infection you get when you're unable to bathe for days?



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Continued from Previous Page

burden of creating opportunity to the individual, and economic mobility is declining. [In] this hyper-capitalistic society, we're all out for ourselves and government has been taking a back seat.

RC: What can be done to reverse these trends?

Draut: The best advice I could give to young people is to get active. We've checked out of politics. We're not voting in nearly the percentages that we should be. The system [we're] trying to get ahead in is not working. We have to fight for the American dream and change things — for ourselves [and] for our kids.

RC: Are young people getting politically active, and is anyone in Congress listening?

Draut: In the last presidential election young people turned out at the highest level in years; however, so did everybody else. This generation is a lot smaller, so we need to turn out at an even higher level to make an impact on the political process. We grew up in the era of personal responsibility. We were socialized to believe that if we weren't getting ahead it was our own fault. The previous generation understood that the personal is political, that their lives were impacted by public policy. This generation doesn't have that in their DNA. It's a vicious cycle: the politicians don't pay attention to our issues because we don't vote, and we don't vote because they're not paying attention to us. Politicians aren't going to all of a sudden pay attention to us. We have to be the driving force.

RC: How can people get more involved?

Draut: On my website, www.strappedthebook.com, I have a section called "Get Involved." The great thing about the Internet generation is that it's easier to make your voice heard [and] to get information. You can find organizations that support [what] you care about, sign up for e-mail alerts, weigh in, and let elected officials know where you stand on issues.

RC: Your book does not deal with the underclass, the extremely poor.

Draut: I look at people who at least made it past high school. Three-quarters of high school grads [get some] college, whether it's a couple courses at a community college or at a four-year university. The book is about those who should be getting ahead: they're doing all the right things, they're employed, they've got some education beyond high school, and yet they are not getting ahead.

RC: As you point out, these issues are even more challenging for young African Americans and Hispanic Americans

Draut: There has been progress, but gaps in college enrollments among whites and Hispanics and whites and African Americans are growing today. The class divide in terms of who goes to college is as wide as it was 30 years ago. [We also] have a long way to go in terms of the wealth gap among the races.

RC: Once young people learn about past federal aid programs such as the GI Bill or student grant programs, will these models spur them to action?

Draut: I think they will. I believe knowledge is power. The middle class that America built after World War II, and continues to be the envy of the world, didn't [happen] by accident. We got there by investing in public structures that benefit the common good. We have been retreating from that ideal, and it's costing us way too much.

RC: You write of values and an agenda for change.

Draut: We've got to get back to the fundamental values of America. Education is the cornerstone of economic and social mobility. We've got to invest much more in our people, and we will recoup [that investment] over and over and over again. In an era of global competition with complex issues facing our nation, education is vital not only to our economy, but also to our democracy. Families should come first. That is a core value, but we only give it lip service. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation on the planet that doesn't offer families paid leave when they have a child or to care for an ailing relative. We also need to provide affordable, high quality child-care. And finally, work should pay. We've got to raise the minimum wage.

RC: Given the current political situation, what are your hopes?

Draut: It's not going to happen overnight, but everybody in this country has a real stake in fighting to strengthen the American dream. We need all age groups to work toward that goal, but young people in particular are so disempowered that they must start speaking up for themselves, to make an America with those core values. ■

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The Global Pillage

Vandana Shiva relates how the Bechtel Corporation claimed that all the water in the region of Cochabamba, Bolivia was its private property, thus "a rural woman using a pail to draw water from her own well was a thief."

The Bolivian people organized a democratic resistance to this swindle and got rid of Bechtel.

Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace

by Vandana Shiva
South End Press, 2005

By JOE MARTIN
Contributing Writer

Early in the novel *March To The Monteria* by the enigmatic B. Traven, an impoverished Chamula Indian, Celso Flores, is robbed of his hard-earned pesos. For two years he had slaved on a miserable coffee plantation in order to earn a marriage dowry. On the journey back to his home he is threatened by a greedy, ruthless upper-class caballero who claims that Celso's father owes him money. The hapless Celso turns over his earnings. The duplicitous caballero ends the cruel transaction by telling Celso to let his father know "that if he wants a cow or a mule or the best seed in the state, he can get it from me at the cheapest price in the whole comarca."

It is a heartbreaking and infuriating scene. As I read the new work by the indefatigable ecological activist Vandana Shiva, *Earth Democracy*, Celso's brutal humiliation came to mind: for it encapsulates the myriad and rampant forms of exploitation transpiring daily on a global scale.

Parlous economic trends of which Shiva writes are overwhelming the lives of billions of people in the Third World. Gargantuan corporations with global designs abetted by the World Trade Organization and insidious patent laws are threatening the biodiversity of the

planet, and eroding the social and cultural legacies of human beings throughout our world. Everything — land, water, resources, plants, animals, and people — is a potential commodity to be bought, sold, traded, controlled, and owned by the highest bidder.

Shiva's metaphor for this carefully planned planetary plunder is the "enclosure," a reference to the English Crown's 17th-century effort to fence off specified pasture and forest lands that had previously been freely accessible to the poor. "A head-on clash developed between the lords of the manors and the peasantry in many parts of the country over the control of the commons," Shiva writes. "Between 1628 and 1631, large crowds repeatedly attacked and broke down the enclosures. Large areas of England were in a state of rebellion." The reaction of the English peasants was understandable, for the reviled enclosures placed their very lives at stake.

So it is with the refined and technologically bolstered corporate pilfering now taking place on a massive scale: "Commons are the collective economic assets of the poor. Enclosures of the commons are thus a theft of the resources on which the poor depend for their livelihood."

Shiva relates how the Bechtel Corporation claimed that all the water in the region of Cochabamba, Bolivia was its private property, thus "a rural woman using a pail to draw water from her own well was a thief." The Bolivian people organized a democratic resistance to this swindle and got rid of Bechtel. But the arrogance, audac-

ity, and outrageous legal finagling of global corporations remain largely undeterred: "These treaties are about more than goods moving across international boundaries. They are about the commoditization of the entire planet and transformation of the very basis of life — the planet's life and human life — into corporate property."

Shiva makes cogent arguments for localization of governance, for regionally-based agriculture, for the preservation of naturally germinating seed. She submits compelling evidence for the enhanced productivity as well as the ecological benefits of family and community-based farming over the exploitative methods of agricultural conglomerates: "A shift to ecological agriculture and organic farming is an ecological, economic, and security imperative."

Shiva's book is a work of idealism and hope. But in measured prose she warns that our own species is imperiled by the gross spoilage of our beautiful planet's environment in the name of crass profiteering that enriches the few at the expense of the multitude.

"Imperialistic globalization is emerging as the worst form of genocide in our times. It is turning the vast majority of the human race into a threatened species." A tocsin call to awareness and action, *Earth Democracy* will enlighten even those who already share Shiva's convictions. More importantly, its clearly expounded rationale could convince many who are yet to be alerted to our collective peril. ■

A Rolling Stoned Gathers no Moss

Stoned
Directed by Stephen Woolley
Opens March 31

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

There is no bottom to the well from which film producers bring up drugged-out musicians: pianists on the nod, singers tripping over microphone stands, and guitar players, especially guitar players, hellbent on overdosing.

Guitarist Brian Jones (Leo Gregory) founded The Rolling Stones, which along with his flamboyance, was the alpha and omega of his contribution to rock and roll. According to the biopic *Stoned*, his disillusionment over the commercialization of the band, propensity for heavy drug use, and refusal to even show up at studio recordings soon led to his parting with Mick and the boys. He was fired.

The ensuing drawn-out separation process that informs this fictionalized account includes the events leading up to Jones' mysterious death. Musically dormant, yet still receiving checks from the Stones organization, Brian continued to partake in the perks afforded the working members of the band, including an endless supply of substances to abuse and fawning women. With the purchase of an English countryside estate once belonging to A.A. Milne of Winnie the Pooh fame, he settled into a Peter Pan lifestyle of maturity deferred.

Tom Keylock (David Morrissey), the Stones' road manager, brings in Frank

Thorogood (Paddy Considine), a contractor, ostensibly to remodel the Milne place. But what really needs maintenance is Brian, and Frank's most consuming jobs are as the rock star's babysitter and on-call sycophant.

The relationship between Frank and Brian raises *Stoned* somewhat above checkstand celebrity pulp. We have the portrayal of the guitarist battling ennui, an artistic block of sorts, a character much like any other get-high in the '60s, smoking dope, contemplating his belly button and his pecker. Jones, however, is also a prima donna in need of adulation, if not worship.

And then there's Frank, a regular bloke who lost an eye in the military. A married man, with little on the horizon besides the start of another work day, his life could have been ordered out of a Sears catalog. He's not a rock 'n' roller or counter-culture sort. But what with the feel-good drugs, the drop-dead gorgeous women, and the leisure he witnesses, it's hard not to be a bit envious — and with Brian, more than a little obsequious.

The relationship's cruel dynamics, a study of pop idolatry, make a predictable narrative less so. But this story line develops at its own leisurely pace and until it takes shape, we must satisfy ourselves with peeking into prosaic scenes of duplicitous managers and pampered rockers.

There's really not much in the way of musical performances, which is rather odd when you consider that we're talking about one of the most famous bands in history. In fact, there is no real Stones music in the film at all (curiously, what we get are bands covering the Stones' covers).

So the real mystery here is not about Brian Jones' death, but rather his extended celebrity. And why, after he squeezed so much out of so little, 40 years later, anyone would try to squeeze any more. ■

There's really not much in the way of musical performances in *Stoned*, which is rather odd when you consider that we're talking about one of the most famous bands in history.

Leo Gregory as
Brian Jones in
Stoned.



Adventures in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning



We need to prosecute more people for what they might potentially have done. I believe that is in fact the original meaning of the Latin *pro secute*: secute them before they secute you.

Recently I set forth what I thought was a leading-edge new legal theory, namely that everything which introduces discomfort, whether physical or psychological, to me, Dr. Wes Browning, should be, and in fact already is, illegal.

Now I feel hopelessly outclassed by Afghan clerics calling for the death penalty for Abdul Rahman, the fellow who allegedly converted to Christianity from Islam 16 years ago. The clerics' theory goes way beyond anything I had thought to propose. They don't just want to execute those who are openly apostate, people who thereby directly visit psychological discomfort upon the clerics. They also want to execute those who are "outed" as having been closet apostates, for, if I've got my English tense straight, having potentially have might have brought psychological discomfort upon them.

Let me try that again. The man had been apostate in secret for 16 years, and then was exposed by in-laws. From my silly Western point of view, I would have thought that the in-laws were the ones who would be charged with causing the discomfort, but that just goes to show how dismally non-multiculturalized I am.

No, the real affront was Abdul Rahman's hidden affront to the very fabric of space and time for secretly switching religions in mid-life and then enabling in-laws to find out about it and tell people. Why, someone could have been hurt all this time.

"Quick," they seem to be saying, "someone hang Abdul right now because at any time in the last 16 years he might have ridden into Jerusalem or Kabul or Mazare-Sharif on a donkey, started sermonizing, and forced us to have previously gotten New Testament on his wrists and ankles."

I'm sure the parallel to the Zacarias Moussaoui case has by now struck some of you. Moussaoui, of course, is being tried for the opposite: for not

having done what he might have done, namely to have admitted to not taking part in 9-11 prior to its happening, in order that it could not have happened. I mean, when he was jailed before 9-11, he was supposed to have told the FBI, before 9-11 happened, that it would happen. Not the day, the event. So that it wouldn't have happened.

It makes perfect sense to me, and I want to see these principles extended further. We need to prosecute more people for what they might potentially have done. I believe that is in fact the original meaning of the Latin *pro secute*: secute them before they secute you.

Hey, secute them even if they never secute you, but could have, if you had let them, or if they weren't too afraid of you to.

Now the prosecutor in Afghanistan is spoiling the whole thing by trying to let Abdul off for having converted while not in his right mind. I was hoping that at the very least the clerics would offer to bless Abdul's soul and commit it to Heaven just before beheading him, provided that he recanted his conversion and denounced Satan and Christianity. But I guess I can't expect the Spanish Inquisition.

Still, as of this writing, the situation is salvageable. There are reports of "hundreds" of Muslim protestors in Afghanistan protesting the possible impending release of Mr. Rahman, on the grounds that to release him would make Islam look bad. Maybe they could hang the prosecutor for having had possibly released him last week, when he didn't. In so doing they might save Islam at the last minute from the international disgrace of having shown tolerance.

Or, they could not hang the prosecutor, and say that they might have, and give themselves points for having potentially done it. Then 16 years from now, they could do it anyway, and say they'd done it all along, "in their hearts," where it counts.

Maybe the protestors are trying to do Christianity a favor. After all, there probably wouldn't be a Christianity today if Pontius Pilate had granted an insanity plea. ■

Damned If You Don't

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Back on the 8

Every time I hear Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely," I am transported to the house where I grew up and to the joy of dancing in the living room with my father on a Saturday afternoon. "The Men All Pause" by Klymaxx

reminds me of my older sister, Carey, gorgeous and powerful and singing along with the record player in our childhood bedroom. Anything by Black Sheep takes me back to my college days, when my girlfriend, Monique, and I would beg our dorm-mates for a ride to the current "it" club and dance ourselves dizzy to "This or That."

Buses, too, have associations for me. The 2 was the route I took to my elementary school. On one ride, a schoolmate got "beat up" (read: slapped and pushed a few times until the bus driver intervened) by some older girls. To this day, I cannot ride a 2 without remembering that incident. I was on the 545 the first time I saw my fiancé, and I will always associate it with the thrill of our first few months together, when the endless, inch-by-inch crawl across the lake seemed far too short. The 194, the "airport bus," reminds me of all of my best adventures, including (and especially) my trip to Paris last May.

Then there's the 8, which takes me from my house in the Central District to 15th Ave. on Capitol Hill. I love 15th — August Wilson vibes at

Victrola, Frida Kahlo coasters at Casita, scrambles and coffee cake at Coastal Kitchen — and have long associated the 8 with this marvelous street.

In January of 2004, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer for the second time in as many years, and my reasons for traveling to 15th Ave. changed. I rode the 8 to Group Health for surgeries, chemo appointments, CT scans, and emergency-room visits. My once-favored route came to symbolize sickness, sadness, and fear. After the cancer went into remission last October, I avoided that bus, along with everything else that reminded me of my mother's illness.

Last week, I received devastating news: my mother's cancer has returned. This time, it is not curable. Friday morning, I rode the 8 to meet her for the first of what will undoubtedly be many terrifying and unpleasant hospital visits. But the memories that came to me during that ride were not of toxic drugs, or blood clots, or chances of survival. They were of the *Vogue* magazines and heated blankets in the infusion center, the chalky "banana" barium shakes in radiology, and the beautiful view from the fifth floor of the main building. They were of endless waits in urgent care — one of which was rewarded by a visit from the cutest emergency-room doctor ever to walk the halls of a hospital — and of diva outfits temporarily replaced by hospital gowns.

The 8 reminds me of laughter. It reminds me of my mother. ■



Sat., March 11, 1:35 a.m. 500 Queen Anne Ave. N., Dick's Drive-In.

An officer working off-duty providing a security presence at Dick's Drive-In Restaurant observed the suspect, a transient white male aged 52, in the lobby at 1:35 a.m. The officer knew the man was trespassing from this location, and did a radio check to confirm this. He took the suspect into custody, and he was booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass.

Fri., March 17, 12:22 p.m., Second Ave. Ext. S.

Two officers working uniformed bike patrol were observing the area of Second Avenue Extension, and saw the suspect, a transient Black female aged 36, enter the area. They know the suspect from many prior warrants and arrests, and are aware that she is addicted to crack cocaine. They ran a computer check of her name and found two outstanding misdemeanor warrants. They verified these, and contacted the suspect. After arresting her they asked if she had any crack pipes on her person; she motioned towards her left jacket pocket, and officers recovered two crack pipes, one metal and one plastic. Suspect was transported to the West Precinct, where the crack pipes tested positive for cocaine residue. The suspect was transported to King County Jail.

Fri., March 17, 6:53 p.m., First Ave., McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant.

Officers responded to a call of a man with a knife at the restaurant, and upon arrival met the complainant — the restaurant manager — in front of the restaurant. With him was the person identified as the suspect: a transient white male aged 36. Officers took control of the suspect and identified him. The manager stated that the restaurant was packed, with people waiting in line and people on a waiting list. The suspect had walked past all the people in line and seated himself in a booth. When he was told he had to get up and wait in line like everybody else he became verbally abusive. Staff attempted to grab him and remove him, and suspect picked up a butter knife and hid it behind his back. Staff again attempted to remove the man from the booth and get him out the door — suspect then raised the butter knife in a threatening manner. They were able to get the knife away from him, and get him out of the restaurant. Officers took the suspect into custody and transported him to the West Precinct. He was interviewed, and stated that the employees of the restaurant had threatened him. Police released him from custody, noting that he had mental issues and was intoxicated at the time of the incident.

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.

Bus Chick, Transit Authority

Carla Saulter



The 8 reminds me of laughter. It reminds me of my mother.

Got something to say about public transportation in Seattle? E-mail Bus Chick at buschick@gmail.com or visit blog.seattlepi.nwsour.com/buschick.

fine arrival

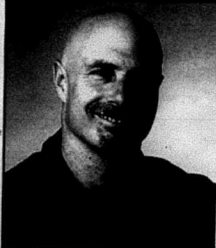
Your own are broken. It's
not
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many times...so
many
days, spent
while
traveling. While looking
backwards,
while clouds
rise...
rising
higher --

higher yet!

Where you are, now.

—STAN BURRIS, DECEMBER 30, 2003

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LEFT BANK BOOKS

Letters

Editor Bruce Lerner, Real Change

Good showing

Dear Real Change,

A couple months ago I read of Dobuko Goodhead, a UW Ph.D. student from Nigeria ("Lucky Escape: Local Nigerian reflects on treason and resistance," Nov. 30). Because I was teaching a large International Relations course this quarter in which our focus was oil politics, and because I always try to bring my courses home to the personal level for the students, I invited Dobuko to share his story with my class. Happily, he accepted. His presence today was an

extraordinarily powerful experience, both for the students and for myself.

Perhaps most poignant was when he spoke of how deeply moved he and his Nigerian classmates were when they first encountered the words of our own Declaration of Independence. How ironic that as the world's largest consumer of petroleum, our own founding document would so inspire a people halfway around the world who have suffered unspeakable devastation as a consequence of oil production! So thank you for that small story, the consequences of which are now echoing in the minds of 250 students today.

Karen Litfin
Assoc. Prof., Political Science
University of Washington

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.

DECISION, Continued from Page 5

ated these claims by human persons for over two centuries, but now it's necessary to put them to rest."

The request for damages was based on Section 1983 of the Civil Rights Code, which permits financial compensation from the persons who violate the rights of a member of a protected "class." Prior to 1996, human persons of African American descent were the sole members of this protected class. With the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, corporations received civil rights protections. Now, following this decision, these protections will no longer apply to any human persons. Instead, they will apply exclusively to corporations. This part of the Civil Rights Code originally was passed following the Civil War to protect the Constitutional rights of newly freed slaves.

In some sense, this case re-establishes and expands upon the Dred Scott decision of 1857, one of the most famous Supreme Court cases in U.S. history. Dred Scott, an African American

slave, had brought suit seeking freedom for him and his wife, then also a slave. In that case, the Court decided that because slaves are property not people, he had no standing for the protection of law. In other words, slaves were invisible to the law, and the Court had been mistaken to have heard Scott's claim at all. Now, with the decision in *The Largest Corporations of America*, all human persons are left without Constitutional protections — something the Court calls "equal non-rights."

Writing for the majority, Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. notes this history. "Non-rights have a long and contentious history in our country. African Americans, women, Native Americans, and white men without property have all suffered from inequality before the law. Now, all human persons possess equal non-rights before the law: equality achieved absolutely."

Justice Souter did not vote on this case, recusing himself due to a potential conflict of interest as he is a corporation, not a human person. ■

CLASSIFIED

Employment

Peer Counselor - BABES Network-YWCA, a sisterhood of women facing HIV together, seeks to support other HIV positive women. Some eve/weekend hrs, High school diploma or equiv. See details www.ywcaworks.org. PT (10-15 hrs/wk) \$13.65/hr. Resp to #6-0315 at hr@ywcaworks.org or 1120 East Terrace, Suite 100, Seattle WA 98122. EOE 4/1

Community Resources Coordinator - BABES Network-YWCA, a sisterhood of women facing HIV together, seeks to manage fund-dev & volunteer recruitment. 2yrs exp, BA or equiv, knowledge of HIV. See details www.ywcaworks.org. PT 20-30 hrs/wk \$15/hr. Resp to #6-0314 at hr@ywcaworks.org or 1120 East Terrace, Suite 100, Seattle WA 98122. EOE 4/1

Information

Toxics and the Mammals of Puget Sound, a one-day lecture and forum. Wed. April 5th, \$60/\$45, 9 a.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Ballard Foodfest, artful cuisine made from local farm produce. Thurs. March 30th, \$20, 6 p.m., Oddfellows Hall, 1706 NW Market St.

Opportunity

Want to become more involved? Volunteer with Real Change! We have opportunities helping with outreach, the vendor program, in the office and with the paper. For more information please contact Brooke at 441-3247 x203 or volunteer@realchangenews.org

Facing the Truth about 9/11. UW Hub Auditorium, Sat. April 1, 2006, 6-10 p.m. **SPEAKERS:** Webster Tarpley, terrorism expert & author of *9/11 Synthetic Terror*; Barrie Zwicker, journalist, *Towers of Deception*; 9/11 & the Media Cover-up. General admission-\$15, students/seniors-\$10. Tickets: brownpapertickets.com, 1-(800) 838-3006, or purchase at the door. **FREE PARKING ON CAMPUS.** Sponsored by: Seattle 9-11 Visibility Project. www.911visibilityproject.org.

FROZEN IRS REFUND? Did you take an earned income tax credit? Did the IRS "freeze" or keep your refund? If you answered "yes" to both, call Real Change reporter Cydney Gillis, 206-441-3247 ext. 209.

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

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Friday 3/31 - Sunday 4/2

The Northwest Indigenous Film Festival features an art show, storytelling, music, and films inspired and produced by local Native Americans. Films include *Homeland*, with a guest appearance by Evon Peter, *Gwich'in Chief* from Alaska, and *Tattoo On My Heart*, with a panel discussion on the struggle for Native rights. Tickets \$5. Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S. Info: 206-686-6684

Friday 3/31

Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar is a musical celebration with aloha spirit with George Kahumoku Jr., Cyril Pahinui, and Dennis Kamakahi. Tickets \$18 and up. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Until Friday 3/31

The Brazilian art form of Capoeira combines elements of dance, fight, game, and music. Originating among African slaves, historians believe it evolved as a means to escape slavery. Rites of Change is a silent auction and cultural project benefiting girls from impoverished families in Salvador, Brazil with performances by Seattle Capoeira. Tickets \$10. 7 p.m., Velocity Dance Center, 915 E Pine St.

Saturday 4/1

Barrie Zwicker, Canadian alternative media journalist and producer of two 9/11 documentaries, delivers a talk on the cover-ups and fear used to control Americans and the media. Tickets \$15 general, \$10 students. 6 p.m., University of Washington HUB. Info: www.911visibilityproject.org

Saturday 4/1 & Sunday 4/2

Join in the Fairview Work Party to replace invasives with wildlife-friendly native plants, remove a century of trash, and celebrate nature. 10 a.m., 1500 and 1600 blocks of Fairview Ave. E. Info: (206)322-5463, deman@oo.net.

Sunday 4/2

Death and Survival in the Lodz Ghetto is a collection of brilliant and powerful photographs taken by Henryk Ross during the Nazi occupation of Poland. Employed by the Department of Statistics, Ross kept a clandestine diary of ghetto life, documenting the Nazi policies for creating Jewish ghettos. Historian Dr. Thomas Weber

presents a talk on the photographer and his own work on the *Lodz Ghetto Album*. 1 p.m., Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Ave.

Until Sunday 4/2

Created as a tribute to women who have rocked the world, *Notorious Women: The Lady Hero Project* uses interviews, speeches, and original writings to inspire and educate. Women portrayed in the play include Hawaiian senator Patsy Mink, Burmese freedom fighter Aung San Suu Kyi, and Cuban ballerina Alicia Alonso. Tickets \$5. Saturday 4 and 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m., Live Girls! Theater, 2220 NW Market, Lower Level.

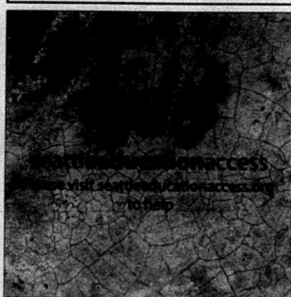
Monday 4/3

Debating the Ban: The Call to Duty Tour uncovers the effects of the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy on today's soldiers. DADT policy hinders and needlessly denies talent to our nation's military. The tour presents the unheard stories of soldiers, both gay and straight. 6:30 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall, room 120. Info: www.calltodutytour.org

The recent election results in Palestine

and Israel have raised questions about the next steps of the peace process and U.S. involvement. Ed Abington of Bannerman & Associates, a lobbying firm which has represented the Palestinian Authority, and Jonathan Jacoby, executive director of the Israel Policy Forum, engage in a conversation about these important questions and consider what to watch for in the coming year. Tickets \$15. 7 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. Info: www.world-affairs.org.

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



Director's Corner



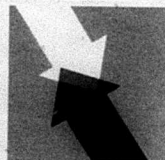
Last week the City announced they will continue funding for another month all the survival service programs they'd previously opted to cut. If you haven't been following this, the city transferred \$325,000 from baseline emergency services — mats on floors, if you will — to transitional housing, under the premise that there is a new paradigm in town and shelter without services is no longer enough.

Oh, and they're also on the verge of defunding about 300 of the least-expensive beds in a spot over how data is recorded.

Apparently, they've now realized that this "new paradigm" means you either identify new funding or leave more vulnerable people without the benefit of the most basic shelter. When the goal is to "end homelessness," this seems counter-intuitive at best.

While the City and advocates haggle over just how the Mayor's promise of no net loss of shelter beds will be fulfilled, here's a reality check for all concerned: Seattle has never managed to meet demand more than half-way. There are twice as many homeless people as there are available beds. When demand is this high, to even consider reducing emergency shelter in the name of solving homelessness is a logical absurdity and an ethical catastrophe.

It's awfully easy to say that a mat on the floor without services isn't enough. But unless you're truly prepared to do better, it'll have to do.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Immigration: Bite Back Against the Backlash

Issue: According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the U.S. Senate is preparing to consider immigration legislation that would increase racial profiling and lay the groundwork for a new national ID database. Anti-immigrant forces are mounting a fierce battle in Congress to push through these and other heavy-handed "reform" measures. Anti-immigrant sentiment is no excuse for creating laws that are completely inconsistent with American values and that would violate civil rights and civil liberties.

Background: Immigrants are the lifeblood of this country, providing much-needed labor and keeping our economy afloat. Yet many people have declared there to be an immigration "crisis," citing the need to preserve our "culture" while at the same time ignoring the countless contributions immigrants continue to make to society.

The immigration debate reached an all-time high after 9/11, with anti-immigrant forces using the tragedy as an excuse to promote anti-immigrant sentiment and call for increased enforcement (including placing military troops) along the U.S.-Mexico border. But the fact is that since 1996 the government has consistently taken an enforcement-only approach to immigration.

Anti-immigrant politicians and their allies are pushing measures in immigration "reform" bills now before Congress that infringe on civil liberties. They must not pass a bill that contains the following provisions:

- Allowing low-level immigration officers to mandatorily detain and deport anyone — without a hearing or review by an immigration judge — found within 100 miles of the border if the immigration officer thinks he or she is an undocumented migrant. This violates the fundamental right of due process and will undoubtedly result in the illegal deportation of U.S. citizens and legal residents who appear or sound foreign.
- Allowing indefinite detention of undocumented migrants who cannot be returned to their countries of origin, such as Iran and Cuba, because the United States has no diplomatic relations with these countries or because they refuse to accept the return of their nationals from the U.S.
- Stripping the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal of their jurisdiction to hear immigration appeals and requiring that all appeals be sent to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington D.C., which would limit immigrants' access to federal courts.
- Requiring employers to verify the work-eligibility of all foreign nationals using the "Basic Pilot Project," which matches a person's personal information against federal databases. This legislation would expand the Basic Pilot Project, building the groundwork for a national ID card and interlinked database system.

Last December, the House of Representatives passed a ridiculously expensive and completely unrealistic "enforcement only" immigration bill. As history has shown us time and again, "enforcement-only" tactics don't work. Serious immigration reform legislation must address the reasons why people come to the U.S. illegally.

Action: Contact your Senators today and tell them to pass an immigration bill that addresses the reasons people come to the U.S. illegally and doesn't undermine civil liberties. Ask them NOT to combine the House bill with their own legislation.

Senator Patty Murray (202) 224-2621 or senator_murray@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell (202) 224-3441 or maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

For more information visit: www.action.aclu.org.

SOUND, Continued from Page 1

pollution that adversely affects marine populations, maritime industries and human health.

As storm water runoff passes over impervious surfaces, it collects pollutants and transports them from the nearest storm drain to local streams and waterways that eventually meet the Puget Sound.

The Department of Ecology states that storm water pollutants include oil, grease and heavy metals from cars, fertilizers and pesticides from gardens, household chemicals, bacteria from pet wastes or septic systems and sediments released by poor construction practices.

"Storm water is not getting treated well and there's definitely evidence of it harming stream life, like salmon," says Scott Redman, the Program Manager of Toxic Reduction with the Puget Sound Action Team. "That's the reason why we're seeing more urban bays contaminated."

The Puget Sound Action Team was created by the state legislature in 1996 to administer Washington's environmental agenda. Their primary focus is to find and prevent pollution in the Sound.

"Storm water is what we consider the last big thing that needs to be addressed," Heather Trim, the Urban Bays Coordinator for People for Puget Sound. People for Puget Sound is a citizens' group whose goal is to protect and restore the health of the Puget Sound through education and action.

Trim says that the goal of the educational outreach is to teach people how to enjoy their lives with the smallest impact on the environment. For instance, she says home gardeners don't know how harmful pesticides and fertilizers can be and generally misapply them by using them too often or over a large area.

"There are a lot of home gardeners in Seattle that buy and use pesticides at a heavy rate and that leads to a large amount of run-off with pesticides entering the Sound," Trim says. "Also people dump the little bit of kitchen and bath

chemicals left in the bottle down the drain or flush them down the toilet, thinking that it will be treated at the sewage treatment plant. But most of those chemicals aren't treated and end up in the Sound."

On March 17, four hours before Paul Fredrickson, a program assistant with the PSKA, left Elliot Bay Marina to the Duwamish River to scout for pollutants entering the Sound, an estimated 15 gal-

On March 17, an estimated 15 gallons of an oily substance flowed out of a storm drain culvert on the northwest side of Harbor Island. The spill disappeared with the outgoing tide.

lons of an oily substance flowed out of a storm drain culvert on the northwest side of Harbor Island. The spill had disappeared with the outgoing tide, but the Coast Guard's presence around the culvert served as a reminder for need of the PSKA.

"We're making a presence and they know we are," Fredrickson says of the industries along the river.

As for the origin of the spill, Joerger doesn't think they'll ever locate it. It could have come from anywhere along the way that the water flows, leaving a plethora of possible sources and a shortage of resources to investigate.

"The problem is, unless you see it coming out there's nothing you can do about it. It's really elusive. I'll bet they never find out who did it," Joerger says.

In addition to harmful chemicals, scientists have recently documented the environmental impacts of pharmaceutical drugs. The tests show traces of pharmaceutical drugs in fish around the country. Notably, smallmouth bass males in the Potomac River have been found to produce eggs and sperm. Scientists think this may be caused from hormonal drugs like birth control.

According to Trim, the drugs are showing up because the body doesn't absorb 100 percent of the chemicals in pharmaceuticals so there is a trace in the human waste of those taking them. Plus, there are regulations that require facilities to flush pharmaceutical drugs down the toilet when a patient no lon-

ger needs them.

Toxic pollutants and drugs, however, aren't the only thing being dumped into the Sound. Large quantities of money and economic resources are also diverted to repairing and sustaining the health of the Sound and its human inhabitants.

In addition to the direct costs of preserving the Sound, health care costs and lost productivity caused by pollut-

ants drain the region's economy. He will mainly focus on the latest types of toxics showing up in humans and how the government should regulate such technologies to avoid new health hazards in the future.

"I will be answering the question, 'How and why did we get here?'" Duff says, "because we need to become smarter in how we regulate and produce chemicals."

To reduce negative impacts on the environment, Duff says we all need to be smarter about the choices we make. Regarding storm water runoff, Joerger suggests washing the car at an environment-friendly car wash, like Brown Bear in Seattle, or on a lawn or gravel area so the water is absorbed into the ground. Of course, she says fewer car trips help, and so does reducing or eliminating the use of lawn or garden fertilizers and pesticides. ■

[Resource]

To find out how to reduce stormwater pollution, view the PSKA website at www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/get_involved/pledge.html

[Event]

To register for the Town Hall forum on April 5, call (206) 382-7007 or do it online at pugetsound.org/toxics-evening.html.

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