

REAL CHANGE

VOL. 13 NO. 18

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

\$1

YOUR VENDOR BUYS THIS PAPER FOR 35¢ AND KEEPS ALL THE PROCEEDS.

PLEASE PURCHASE FROM BADGED VENDORS ONLY.

WWW.REALCHANGENEWS.ORG

APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2006



CATHERINE CONDEFF WALKS WITH CRUTCHES AND DISPLAYS CUFF MARKS FOUR DAYS AFTER BEING BEATEN BY SEATTLE POLICE. PHOTO BY TIM HARRIS.

Excessive Force

A little lip leaves two singing homeless people broken and busted

By TIMOTHY HARRIS and CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporters

Catherine Condeff awoke cold and alone in the cab of an abandoned mini-truck. The child's Winnie the Pooh sleeping bag she'd found in a free pile failed to cover her too-thin 108-pound frame. She pulled her two coats tight against the wind, slammed the unlocked door shut, and began to walk.

Condeff — "Cat" to her friends — has been homeless off and on for more than a dozen years. Alcoholism, mental illness, abusive boyfriends, high rents, and limited work prospects have left this 49-going-on-60-year-old musician worse for the wear.

Today she'd visit her rep payee, get some of her SSI money, and buy a week of single-room luxury in a fleabag flop out on North Aurora. But first, she

badly needed a beer. At 87 cents a pop, Steel Reserve 211 malt-liquor was the Mercer Mart special. She bought two, each in its own paper bag. With \$12 in her pocket Cat was feeling flush. One can for now, then coffee at Larry's, and the other for later.

A Walkman in her pocket blasted Jackson Browne. Cat says she knows him personally. When Jackson is angry, she says, his whole face goes dark, just like her boyfriend's did last time he punched half her head black and blue.

The cold beer blunted the hard edge of morning. *Sleep's Dark and Silent Gate*, from the 1976 Pretender album, wrapped Cat in a well-worn blanket of words. She and her friend Jackson sang a duet:

See FORCE, Continued on Page 12

Word Wrangling

Immigration initiative hung up by court challenge

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

Bob Baker had already delivered his petition to the printer when the Washington Association of Churches dropped a little surprise on his doorstep the evening of April 12.

It was a court petition calling for wording changes to the one-paragraph summary of the Washington Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act, an initiative Baker has filed to stop undocumented immigrants from getting food stamps, medical care, welfare, or any other city or state assistance.

In the challenge, which will be heard this Friday in Thurston County Superior Court, the WAC argues that the summary of Initiative 946 shown on the petition — and ultimately on the ballot, if Baker succeeds in getting nearly 225,000 signatures by July 5 — omits some critical facts that voters ought to see up front in big type.

That includes telling voters I-946 would make everyone who applies for assistance, born here or not, prove that he or she is a citizen. And a driver's license won't do it.

The initiative follows Arizona's Proposition 200, a 2004 measure that has given rise to a national Protect America Now movement and Baker's own fledgling group, Protect Washington Now.

Baker, an Alaska Airlines pilot who lives on Mercer Island, says he believes strongly that the 9/11 terrorist attacks changed everything in America. He didn't write the ballot summary (that's the job of the attorney general once initiatives are filed), but, until Friday's hearing, Baker and his signature-gathering are stuck.

That, say Baker and supporter Martin Ringhofer, who filed an initiative last year (I-343) that would have required proof of citizenship to vote, is the whole point. They call the WAC's challenge a maneuver to stall signature gathering.

See I-946, Continued on Page 4

ESTATE FAIR

Guess who else in favor of repealing the estate tax? A group of millionaires. Honestly. We're not lying.

PAGE 2

A KINGS' RANSOM

By hiring Three Kings to do asbestos abatement, labor advocates say the Seattle Housing Authority has made a big mistake.

PAGE 3

HOUSING FIRST

A Portland-based organization offering domestic abuse victims there homes offers pointers for similar efforts in Seattle.

PAGE 5

A 1000 WORDS

Captain Brian Steidle went to Darfur, Sudan and saw the devastation of genocide everywhere he looked. He took photos.

PAGE 6

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

The Wealth of Stations

A trillion good reasons to keep the estate tax

By **MIKE LAPHAM**
Guest Writer

With lighter and lighter taxation of wealthy asset-owners like my family each year, more tax dollars would come out of the pockets of working Americans. In this context, considering estate tax repeal is fiscally and morally irresponsible.

My grandparents and great-grandparents paid the estate tax when they passed along the family business. Some decade soon, my own parents will. With hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of dollars to gain, I should be cheering for the proposal coming before the Senate in May to do away with the estate tax, which applies only to multimillion dollar inheritances.

Instead, I'm organizing wealthy members of Responsible Wealth to oppose repeal of the estate tax. As multi-millionaires, we have benefited handsomely from all that our country provides: public education, roads, clean water, legal protection, research funding, and public safety, just for starters.

One Responsible Wealth member, Martin Rothenberg, grew up using the public library, went to school on the GI Bill, received a government fellowship, and built a \$30 million software company using publicly funded research and publicly educated employees. "I hope the taxes on my estate will help fund the kind of programs that benefited me and others from humble backgrounds," he says.

Given the choice to be taxed or not, we all tend to choose not. That's just human nature. But we have to look at the wider implications of what we ask our elected officials to do for us.

In 2001, when Congress voted to phase out and repeal the estate tax, the federal treasury was expecting a \$5 trillion surplus. Times have changed, however. Now there's over \$8 trillion in federal debt.

There are a trillion good reasons to retain the estate tax in the years to come. Permanently abolishing the estate tax would cost almost \$1 trillion in the first 10 years. I believe our country has higher priorities for \$1 trillion than giving families like mine a huge tax break. Besides our existing \$8 trillion debt, consider some of the additional expenditures coming down the pike.

The Iraq war will continue to be costly in both human lives and money. Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and his coauthor, Linda Bilmes, estimate its total budgetary cost at between \$750 billion and \$1.27 trillion. In late 2003, Congress passed an expansion of the Medicare prescription drug benefit. The Center for Medicare and Medical Services projects a 10-year cost of \$797 billion.

Congressional leaders have pledged to abolish the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for individuals, especially as an estimated 30 million taxpayers will pay the AMT by 2010. Eliminating the AMT will reduce federal revenues by \$611 to \$790 billion over 10 years. The Republican leadership in Congress would like to extend the tax cuts they passed in 2001 and 2003. The cost of this extension would be another \$1 trillion in lost revenue over 10 years.

Estate tax repeal, combined with these other expenditures, would balloon our national debt in the coming decade. With lighter and lighter taxation of wealthy asset-owners like my family each year, more tax dollars would come out of the pockets of working Americans. In this context, considering estate tax repeal is fiscally and morally irresponsible.

A new poll shows that most Americans agree. Voters chose keeping the estate tax as one of the two best ways to reduce the budget deficit. Almost three-quarters support reforming the tax or leaving it intact rather than repealing it.

In a society where the economic rules are strongly tilted in favor of the haves at the expense of the have-nots, where tax laws give generous loopholes to the wealthiest among us, the occasion of passing on wealth to the next generation is an appropriate time to tax our accumulated fortunes. Most of the appreciated value of these assets has never been taxed.

The choice is whether to remove a tax on estates of more than \$3.5 million, affecting only the 6,000 wealthiest individuals who die each year. Responsible Wealth members believe that a fair tax system, fiscal responsibility, and priorities like health care and education are better choices than lining the pockets of our progeny.

I could be sitting back hoping my parents' estate won't be subject to the estate tax. Instead, I'm hoping the majority of U.S. Senators understand what many of them don't: that we in the richest 1 percent can and should pay this very fair tax, as an appropriate way for us to give back and create opportunities for others. ■

[Take Action]

If Congress makes tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent permanent, they'll cost the nation more than \$300 million in lost revenues every day for 10 years. Join us in saying these irresponsible tax cuts don't reflect our values. Join us in saying tax cuts for the wealthy should be rolled back, not extended. Join us in taking the Responsible Tax Pledge online at www.faireconomy.org/join/RTP-Form06.html.

Mike Lapham (mlapham@responsiblewealth.org) is director of the Responsible Wealth project of United for a Fair Economy.



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.

On the Web at

<http://www.realchangenews.org>
Email rchange@speakeasy.org
ISSN 1085-729X

Real Change is a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association, the International Network of Street Papers, and the Greater Seattle Business Association.



Who Is Real Change?

Board of Directors

Don Brown (President), Faith Wilder (VP), Erica Wiley (VP), Anne Bailey (Treasurer), Maria Sanders (Secretary), Wes Browning, Stephan Fjelstad, Margaret Kae, Rebecca Kavoussi, Mandy Levenberg, Gabriela Quintana, JoJo Tran

Advisory Board

Affiliations listed for identification purposes only: Sherman Alexie, Poet, Writer, Filmmaker; Nancy Amidei, UW School of Social Work; Kenan Block, Media Consultant; David Bloom, Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action; Kari Connor, Wangdoody; Walt Crowley, HistoryLink; Darnell Dent, Community Health Plan of Washington; Lynne Dodson, Jobs with Justice; John Fox, Seattle Displacement Coalition; Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember, Dist. 10; Jon Gould, Children's Alliance; Andy Himes, Poetry in Wartime; Bill Hobson, Downtown Emergency Service Center; Naomi Ishisaka, Colors NW; Sally Kinney, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness; Paul Loeb, Writer; Meizhu Lui, United for a Fair Economy; Sarah Luthens, SEAMEC/Allyship.org; Roberto Maestas, El Centro de la Raza; Paola Maranon, Children's Alliance; Joe Martin, Pike Market Medical Clinic; Vince Matulionis, United Way of King County; Al Poole, City of Seattle Survival Services; Trisha Ready, Richard Hugo House; Aiko Schaefer, Statewide Poverty Action Network; K.L. Shannon, Racial Disparity Project; Bob Siegal, National Lawyers Guild/Center for Social Justice; Rick Simonson, Elliott Bay Book Co.; Pat Simpson, Interfaith Task Force

on Homelessness; Hilary Stern, CASA Latina; Robby Stern, WA State Labor Council; Peter Steinbrueck, Seattle City Council; Silja Talvi, journalist/essayist; Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society; Marilyn Watkins, Economic Opportunity Institute; Bruce Wirth, KBCS; Alice Woldt, WA Association of Churches

Staff

Executive Director
Timothy Harris

Director of Advocacy and Organizing
Rachael Myers

Editor
Adam Hyla

Staff Reporters
Cydney Gillis, Rosette Royale

Production Manager
Rosette Royale

Director of Operations
Israel Bayer

Development Associate
Peter Jabin

Outreach Coordinator
Craig Kirkpatrick

Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager
Brooke Kempner

Vendor Services

Robert Hansen, Margaret Kae

Advertising Sales Representative

Candi Wilvang

Interns

Patrick Barredo, Kwami Nyamitie, Aleah Tiam, Patrick Toler

Editorial Committee

Artis, Mary Andrews, Wes Browning, Stan Burriss, Morrie Condit, Anitra Freeman, José Ornelas, F. Roberts

Contributing Writers

Maria Antonova, Amy Besunder, Dena Burke, Tom Cogbill, J. Jacob Edel, Justin Ellis, Kimburly Ervin, Jess Grant, Lester Gray, Austin Haskell, Jessica Knapp, Megan Lee, Robin Lindley, Emma Quinn, Amy Roe, Donna Stefanik, Diana Wurn

Photographers, Graphic Artists

Ginny Banks, Rob Casey, Terry Divyak, Tom Douglass, Sean Ellingson, Suzanna Finley, George Hickey, Sherry Loeser, Luke McGuff, Justin Mills, Jude O'Reilly, Katia Roberts, Elliot Stoller, Mark Sullo

Volunteers This Issue

Artis, Douglas Blair, Tige DeCoster, Sandra Enger, Susanne Farham, Casey Fortenberry, Nadine Gioia, Sally Kinney, Brianna Morgan, Loretta Pirozzi, Dean Ritz

Change

Restoring a friend's cabin began Jo Scherer's love for carpentry. The thrill of working with her hands, tackling complex tasks, and admiring completed projects still sends shivers up her spine. Working a craft is a "fulfilling job," explains Scherer. "It has good benefits, high pay, and is an excellent way for a woman to provide for her family."

Despite this, women comprise a mere 2.3 percent of all trades workers nationally. As co-chair of Washington Women In Trades, Scherer hopes to change that statistic. The organization forms a community for women to share resources, provides links to schools and apprenticeships, and gives them a voice for their needs and concerns. It also sponsors an annual trades fair, which is attended by companies actively seeking tradeswomen.

By uniting and helping each other, the group is creating change. Contractors are now seeking women because they have proven to be quick learners. As the Baby Boomers start to retire, Scherer expects to see "more women entering the trades and climbing the ropes to supervisory positions."

—Dena Burke



JO SCHERER, hammering through the glass ceiling. Photo by DENA BURKE.

Just Heard...

Can't Wait for Cantwell

Joseph Colgan said he was tired of waiting for Sen. Maria Cantwell to take a position on the Iraq War. So, he and small cadre of anti-war activists staged an April 25th sit-in at her office in the Federal Building to demonstrate their frustration.

Speaking by cell phone from Sen. Cantwell's office, Colgan said he and others gathered with him have been asking for the senator's position for six months, but to no avail — a notion he said the group found "unacceptable."

Colgan said his actions are being driven by the death of his son, Benjamin, who was killed in Baghdad by a roadside bomb in Nov. 2003.

While staging the sit-in, Colgan said Cantwell's aides told him that if the group was still there when the building closed, they would all be arrested. He said he and the group weren't going anywhere until Cantwell replied.

Said Colgan, "We're just kicking it up a notch."

—Rosette Royale

KeyArena: Let's Talk Turkey

The team's owners are offering an 8 percent contribution toward expanding KeyArena. In return, they want even less future responsibility for the building's debt. The mayor wants state legislators to get behind the new deal. State reps want the city to get off the dime. Now, David Della is trying to get fellow members of the Seattle City Council to draw a bright line around the debate about the future of KeyArena.

Della introduced a resolution April 17 spelling out what the city would look for in a new lease agreement with the Sonics' owners, who say they want a \$220 million remodel of the stadium or they'll leave town.

Della's stipulations: the county's voters decide on any public financing; that money comes from "users" or "visitors" (read: it's not a property or sales tax); and the owners must pay a "significant amount" of the construction costs (surely more than 8 percent).

What's in it for us? The tax must also support local arts, culture, and historic preservation, says Della; the team's owners must provide "tangible benefits to the public" that can't be counted as outright contributions to settle the arena's debt; and finally, the city has to earn at least the same amount of revenue from the Arena as it would have if the Sonics had made good on their threat and left.

So what say you, Howard Schultz?

—Adam Hyla

By the Book

Laborers out for asbestos contractor with enviro violations

By J. JACOB EDEL
Contributing Writer

Standing inches away from a busy roadway and surrounded by multiple construction projects, numerous members of seven different unions and two members of the state legislature briefly protested a recent decision by the Seattle Housing Authority.

On Monday, April 24, 60 to 75 people showed their distaste for SHA picking Three Kings Environmental Inc. for asbestos removal and the demolition of the Rainier Vista housing complex in the Rainier Valley.

Steve Marquardt, a researcher for the Laborers' International Union of North America, says that SHA contracted with Three Kings despite knowledge of numerous environmental and workplace safety violations.

"Three Kings' home county [Clark County] concluded that the contractor should be denied work there because their mismanagement and insufficient training resulted in project delays, cost overruns, and employee health and safety risks," Marquardt says.

According to organizers of the event, its purpose was to inform local residents that the company contracted to remove asbestos near their homes focused more on the bottom line than safety.

Doug Strand, Vice President of the Local 242, is angry SHA chose Three Kings because he thinks government agencies should hire safety-minded companies.

"We're not letting SHA off the hook. They knew 3 Kings' history and selected them anyway," Strand says. "For just \$1,000 more, SHA could have picked a contractor who cares about worker safety."

State Senator Brian Weinstein (D- 41st District), also

spoke at the rally. He stressed the importance of asbestos safety.

"I've seen the horrible things asbestos will do to people," Weinstein said. "It's very deceptive. It's a white dust that you think is harmless but after 20-30 years of exposure for just a short period of time, it can lead to the most harmful and deadly forms of cancers out there."

"I'm here because I'm on your side. Three Kings should not be doing any work in this area."

Three Kings has been cited by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the state's Department of Labor and Industries so often, say the Laborers, that they should be considered the worst asbestos abatement contractor in the state. Marquardt collected the paper trail of violations and gave it to SHA as the agency considered bids for the demolition of Rainier Vista. Three Kings was hired anyway. "We did not feel we had heard sufficient concerns not to take the lowest bidder," as federal rules mandate, says spokesperson Virginia Felton.

Ron King, CEO of Three Kings, calls the union's charges bogus and most violations come as a result of the union calling in the regulators at random.

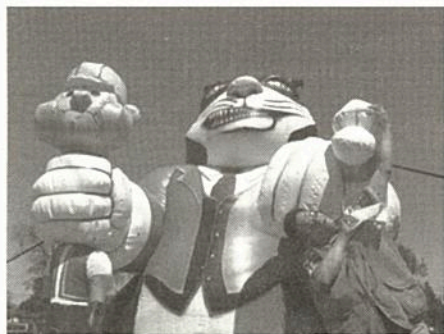
"Our record's no different than any company the same size. We had a perfect record until the [Laborers] decided they wanted us to go union," he says. Why them? King says his company is the largest non-union abatement contractor in the state; therefore, it's a nice target. "This is not about our guys, not about our safety, not about our record; this is about money."

Two residents that live near the construction say they monitor Three Kings' work but haven't seen much to be concerned about yet.

"It can be a full time job watching these guys. They are supposed to remove all the pipes on the roof but I haven't seen it," says Margaret Lawrence. "If we see bulldozers without seeing them on the roofs first, then we'll be calling it in."

Monday's event was part of a week of action, which included rallies at the Port of Seattle, the Renton Wal-Mart, and the Eastside's largest non-union janitorial company. ■

Catty: union member helps dramatize the Laborers' case against Three Kings Environmental, Inc. Photo by Katia Roberts.



I-946, Continued from Page 1

Baker won't be able to go back to the printer (who hadn't started on his petitions) until after the ruling that's expected in Friday's hearing.

"This tactic has proven successful for opponents of what the people want by making it increasingly difficult to get the signatures to get to a public vote," Ringhofer writes in an email.

Paul Lawrence, the attorney who filed the challenge for the WAC, which is part of a pro-immigrant coalition called From Hate to Hope that formed last year to fight I-343, says the issue is fairness and disclosure.

"We think [the summary] should be rewritten to make it clear the initiative applies to everyone who seeks benefits, not just illegal immigrants," says Lawrence, and that "it's a much broader initiative than described in the [current] ballot summary."

Among other programs, Lawrence says anyone applying for child care, prenatal assistance, or certain kinds of help for the elderly or disabled would have to prove citizenship. And that could only be done with a passport or certified birth certificate.

I-946 is written that way because, in Washington, "illegals can get driver's licenses," Baker says.

Because such documents cost money, Lawrence says I-946 would put a huge burden on poor people.

"This is just a punitive effort to go after a segment of the population that needs our support," he says of immigrants, "and it's doing it in a way that's going to hurt a broader population of Washington citizens who are currently receiving needed benefits."

Baker disagrees. "I think everyone who is capable of filing for benefits is also capable of getting a certified birth certificate," he says. "In these times of terrorism, a positive ID is a very important thing."

"We have to close the borders and determine who is in our country," Baker says. "We're not talking about people coming here from Mexico, but places like Iraq and Iran that really wish us harm as Americans."

"I've read the Qu'ran," Baker says. "I recommend every American read it and see what we're up against." ■

Short Takes

Don't Rain on Their Parade

When a group of protesters marching against police brutality was told by police its small size warranted a move from the streets to the sidewalk, the group sued. Now the city has agreed to pay out of court.

Seattle has to shell out \$47,500 to the October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation, as part of a settlement agreement reached by both parties. The initiatory lawsuit, filed by the ACLU, took the City to task for the actions of officers who rescinded the group's parade permit right before the march was to have taken place.

The event went down, not surprisingly, on Oct. 22, in 2003, when approximately 80-100 people met at Seattle Central Community College. With its legally obtained parade permit, the group was to make use of city streets on its way to Hing Hay Park, where a rally was scheduled to occur. But just as marchers were set to push off, a Seattle police officer informed the group that, because there weren't enough people, the permit had been rescinded. As a result, the officer continued, city streets couldn't be used: only sidewalks. With marchers relegated to the sidewalk, the police followed, occupying a lane of traffic the group was banned from using. The October 22 Coalition decided to sue on grounds that the city's parade ordinance is unconstitutionally vague.

When the case reached U.S. District Court last month, Judge Robert Lasnik disagreed, ruling the city's ordinance was constitutional and provided adequate guidance to the police chief in deciding on the issuance of permits. Judge Lasnik, however, also ruled that the ACLU had raised sufficient questions to warrant a trial about whether October 22 Coalition's parade was forced off the streets because police didn't like the group's message. The group plans to appeal the judge's first ruling regarding the constitutionality of city parade permits.

"Currently, there is nothing to compel police in Seattle to obey their own laws," says October 22 Coalition member Dan DiLeva. "To the extent a lawsuit can help change that, we'll continue with it."

—Rosette Royale

Justice: Don't Bargain it Away

The city's union contract with the Seattle Police Officers Guild expires at the end of the year, and the two sides will sit down for labor negotiations as early as May. A public hearing last week by councilmember Nick Licata provided a historic chance for citizens to help set the agenda for the talks, which are closed to the public.

The guild's contract sets forth how allegations of misconduct are handled. In practice, it's hobbled citizen oversight of the already-biased internal investigations, say police watchdogs.

Attorney Lisa Daugaard told councilmembers that the city needs a better process for reviewing misconduct — but not as a product of the guild negotiations, in which police representatives will fend off any proposal that could sacrifice officers' welfare for the civilians' right to know.

One councilmember "said that the question is 'What must be bargained,'" Daugaard told the assembled crowd; in fact, she said, "the question is, what must not be bargained. The city must not put any accountability measures on the table that do not bear on discipline or working conditions."

Specifically, an independent commission with the power to investigate police actions and verify the truth of a complainant's testimony would be a powerful vindication of a civilian's experience. It wouldn't have to result in an officer being disciplined in any way.

—Adam Hyla

Answering Despair

Yes of course,
I deplore all the carnage

True,
the war is an invasion
(and illegal)

Of course,
they lied to us

Yes there should be,
Congressional Hearings
(on the entire Bush Doctrine)

Definitely,
we do have the good strengths
(our actions here, can make a difference)

I realize,
the police do harass us
(this is not all in the news)

Fortunately,
there is an abundance
of courage
and the sea
(the sea)
struggles
to be free
(to be)
the sea

I think its terrible,
there are unnecessary
torture deaths
(again today)

—LARRY EBERSOLE

EMPOWR-MENT

WITH SIGNS PROCLAIMING SOLIDARITY WITH RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS EVERYWHERE, SEATTLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPOWR NOW STAGED A DAY OF ACTION ON APRIL 21. THE GROUP CAME TOGETHER TO REMEMBER THE RAPE SURVIVOR AT DUKE UNIVERSITY, A YOUNG WOMAN WHOSE CHARGES AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S LACROSSE TEAM HAVE GARNERED NATIONAL HEADLINES.

PHOTO BY BY ELLIOT STOLLER.



SNOW Coalition:
Sound Nonviolent
Opponents of War

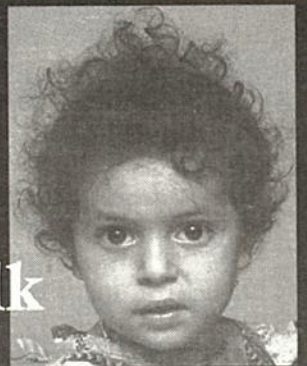
presents

A Walk for Peace and Healing

Saturday, May 20, 1-4 p.m. at Green Lake

SNOW, in coordination with No More Victims, is hosting a Walk for Peace and Healing around Green Lake in Seattle. Our goal is to raise funds to bring an Iraqi war-injured child to the Northwest for treatment.

Details at: www.walkforpeaceandhealing.com



Home Free

Portland non-profit seeks housing first for domestic violence victims

By JASON SIEGEL
Contributing Writer

Because this housing is permanent, unlike shelters or transitional housing, domestic violence survivors are able to spend time seeking out services and employment ...

Volunteers of America Oregon closed its Portland shelter in October 2003 and started a new program focused on providing affordable permanent housing first, then serving clients.

It was a gamble that they believed would provide more bed space and better support for those fleeing domestic abuse.

Since then their program, Home Free, has doubled the number of clients it serves. It is being seen as a new approach for service providers.

Kris Billardt, the architect of Home Free, explained the program in a public forum attended mostly by social service professionals in Seattle on April 19.

Home Free's advocates help clients find housing and often pay the application fees and rent for three to six months, decreasing support as the survivor becomes more self-sufficient. "We don't lease apartments," said Billardt. Instead, "advocates form relationships with landlords and apartment managers" so that they "will recognize us when we refer somebody."

"Because landlords know we're going to be helping with the rent, they're willing to take a gamble if [a client] doesn't have much of an income," he said.

Home Free provides housing and support to people often turned down by shelters, like mothers with teen children or families, when shelters are without the bed space to accept every family member.

Because this housing is permanent, unlike shelters or transitional housing, domestic violence survivors are able to spend time seeking out services and employment, rather than planning for when they'll move into a different shelter.

Also, the housing provided is single-family. This eliminates the difficulties that can arise in group shelters and lead a family toward moving back in with an abuser.

Secure housing reduces the chance of revictimization. Women linked with advocates in a post-crisis period feel they're better able to obtain resources and get social support, said Billardt, citing a 2002 study led by Michigan State University Professor Cris Sullivan.

"In our community, we have a lot of repeat customers to emergency services. If we can get them out and into housing using non-emergency services, that will allow for more space," said Billardt.

One out of every 15 people seeking shelter are currently turned down in King County, according to Linda Olsen of the City of Seattle's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Division. This amounts to more than 35,000 unmet requests in 2005.

Although some people are requesting services more than once, this only shows how desperate they are to get housing, she says. "I think King County has one of the best domestic-violence programs in the country, but it's seeing how we can expand that capacity. What we need are the additional housing dollars," says Olsen.

Olsen says Home Free's ability to set funds aside to aid clients on an as-needed basis is key to preventing domestic violence victims from becoming homeless. She sees these funds similarly being used to help make rent payments, change a lock, or — if a survivor can't stay at home because of the abuse — help her through the process of finding and obtaining housing.

"It's an exciting model," says Merrill Cousin of the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

"Rather than staying at a facility, someone can stay in their community where they want to live. My thought is we'd need some form of additional funding to getting that type of option. But this would be to increase our capacity," says Cousin.

The forum stressed the value of shelters for the homeless being aware of services available through domestic-violence providers.

"We need a variety of options. This is one idea," emphasized Billardt at the forum. "This works for some people; other people need a more structured setting. We're always going to need shelters, but I think they have become more than they were intended to be and we need to look at what role we'd like them to play." ■

Let Real Change be part of your success
Reach 40,000 socially concerned readers while giving back to the community.

Real Change ad rates are competitive and affordable.
Check us out at www.realchangenews.org,
or call 441-3247 x202



PorchLight

Community services of
the Seattle Housing Authority

907 N.W. Ballard Way, Suite 200
Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
206-239-1500
www.seattlehousing.org

Visit us to learn about and apply for:

- Low Income Public Housing
- Seattle Senior Housing Program
- Other affordable housing

TAKE METRO BUS #15 OR #28 FROM DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

Applications for housing assistance are available at the PorchLight Housing Center, and can also be downloaded from www.seattlehousing.org.
To have an application mailed to you, call PorchLight at 206-239-1500.



Democracy Now!

Airing twice a day at 6:00 a.m and 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by the dynamic Amy Goodman, this award-winning national news program is committed to bringing the voices of the marginalized to the airwaves on issues ranging from the global to the local.

Free Speech Radio News 6 p.m. Weekdays

Public Affairs NOW! 5 – 7 a.m., 5 – 7 p.m. Weekdays

alternative
news

Listener-Supported

Non-commercial Radio from Bellevue Community College

Studio (425) 564-2424

Office (425) 564-2427

email: kbcs@ctc.edu

www.kbcs.fm

Eyewitness to Genocide

Capt. Brian Steidle on Crimes of War in Darfur, Sudan

By ROBIN LINDLEY
Contributing Writer

Sixty years ago, the United States joined others in saying, "Never again." Is it not time to give meaning to that pledge? Do we not owe that to the innocent, defenseless people of Darfur? Do we not owe that to ourselves?

—Richard S. Williamson,
Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs

The photographs sear the mind, haunt the spirit. A village aflame, oily black clouds rising. A helicopter gunship strafing civilians. Soldiers looting, burning food stores. A man burnt alive in his locked hut. Blood seeping from wounds that perforate the bodies of men, women, children. An infant girl with punctured lungs from a high-powered rifle round that passed through her. Dead men in puddles of blood after rape and castration. Empty sockets in the faces of the dead where their eyes were gouged out. The scorched and pocked plain smoldering.

The photographs show the crimes against humanity committed by the Arab Janjaweed militia with the Sudanese military who have been killing, mutilating, raping, and displacing African civilians in a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing in Darfur, a remote region of western Sudan. Since 2003, as many as 400,000 Darfuri civilians have been killed, and more than two million have been displaced from their homes in a horrific conflict that the U.S. Administration has labeled "genocide."

Brian Steidle, 29, shared the haunting photographs he took in Darfur at the March 28 meeting of the World Peace through Law section of the Washington State Bar Association, as part of a national speaking tour to raise awareness of the savage violence that continues there.

Steidle, a former Marine captain, served as U.S. representative to the African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur from September 2004 until February 2005. He is one of the few Westerners to witness and investigate crimes of war in Darfur over a prolonged period.

Growing weary of the merciless slaughter of civilians in Darfur, Steidle returned to the U.S. to launch his own offensive to stop the violence. He met with members of the Administration and Congress as well as the media.

To end the genocide, Steidle urges the deployment of an international force in Darfur with an explicit mandate to



protect civilians and secure routes for humanitarian aid, as well as a no-fly zone to stop the Sudanese government from bombing and strafing civilians.

Steidle recently discussed his experience in Darfur, the continuing violence, and what can be done to stop the genocide.

Real Change: Could you tell me about your work now, and what you witnessed in Darfur?

Brian Steidle: I came back in February last year, and I've been traveling and telling others about what I've seen. I've seen villages of 20,000 burnt down in front of me. I've seen helicopter gunships attacking villages, and the after-effects of these attacks. I've seen civilians who were killed, tortured before being killed, mutilated, burned alive in their huts. I've seen looting and burning.

RC: Your photographs are stark evidence of crimes against civilians, such as the photo of the wounded infant girl and the mutilated bodies of dead civilians.

Steidle: I saw all different kinds of pain. This one-year-old girl, Mihad Hamid, was shot in the back, her lungs punctured. These things happen every day in Darfur. They toss babies in the air and catch them on bayonets. They do the most horrific things. I've documented [this] with photography, and there's no disputing the evidence. It's there, before your eyes.

RC: What's the nature of the conflict: religious or racial or ethnic?

Steidle: It's a racial conflict. There's no religious issue. The populations in Darfur are 99 percent Muslim. Arab tribes [which are hungry for land] are attacking and oppressing African tribes.

RC: What are the casualties to date?

Steidle: It's estimated that 300,000 to 400,000 people have been killed, two and a half million displaced from their homes, 250,000 of which are across in Chad. And three and a half million rely on food aid, because it's not secure enough for those not pushed from their homes to farm.

RC: How is the Sudanese government supporting the Janjaweed militia?

Steidle: The government is of the same tribe as the Janjaweed. The government supports them with helicopter gunships, training, and ammunition, and they fight side by side. The government and militias attack in concert.

RC: The Sudanese government argues that they have legitimate reasons to fight the rebels in Darfur. What's your impression?

Steidle: I don't understand that. They are killing civilians and forcing them from their homes, burning their villages. I don't see how that plays into a war scenario whatsoever.

RC: You have photographs of a town that was destroyed in a joint mission of the Janjaweed militia and the Sudanese Army.

Steidle: The Sudanese government attacked Labado, a village of 20,000. About 3,000 government troops and 600 Janjaweed fought side by side. They used helicopter gunships to strafe civilians. I documented with photography their looting and burning of the village. It was done in front of us.

RC: You've said that the violence in Darfur could be stopped with a relatively small number of troops. Didn't 35 African Union troops stop the razing of another village?

[Take Action]

Students from area schools join the Million Voices for Darfur Campaign and Save Darfur Washington State at 2 p.m. Sun., April 30, in Westlake Park, Fourth and Pine St., to call for an end to genocide in Sudan. Info: www.savedarfurwa.org. Community activists and UW students will put on Darfest on April 27, an evening of art and education on the conflict. Turn to the calendar on page 11 for more information.

See DARFUR, Continued next page

From adoption to geriatrics, court rooms to corporations, Social Workers help.



Sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers Washington State Chapter and the University of Washington School of Social Work
www.nasw-wa.org • www.ssw.washington.edu

Social Workers Help starts here.
www.HelpStartsHere.org

DARFUR, Continued from Previous Page

Steidle: The government planned to attack the village of Muhajeryia after Labado, and a small number of African Union troops there convinced the government to halt their attack and actually withdraw. [But] we need another, larger force with the mandate and capability to protect people.

RC: What can AU troops do now if they see civilians being attacked?

Steidle: Nothing. All they can do is watch. They don't have the mandate nor the capability to protect people.

RC: You were an unarmed civilian observer in Darfur. Were you attacked?

Steidle: Sure. We were fired at on occasion. We were held hostage by a civilian defense force that was frustrated with the African Union mission. We were restricted in movement by the Suda-

nese government. We couldn't enter villages, or we couldn't get fuel for our helicopters. Most definitely we were restricted in doing our jobs.

RC: You described crimes of sexual violence against men, women, and children.

Steidle: The Sudanese government and the Janjaweed do not distinguish between men, women, and children. To them they're all the same, and they kill them indiscriminately. They rape the women, they gang rape [to impregnate] women. And there were cases of men who were sexually assaulted, castrated, and then executed. It's awful.

RC: Your photographs showed mutilation and other atrocities, including bodies with the eyes gouged out. Is there something cultural or ritualistic about the killings?

Steidle: I don't know why anyone would do this to anyone else. There's no

religion on the face of the earth that doesn't condemn this, so I don't know why it's done.

RC: Has there been any improvement in Darfur since you were there?

Steidle: No, there hasn't been any improvement. There's been a shift from large-scale military attacks on large villages because most of the villages have been burned, so there's a shift in the violence to IDP [internally displaced persons'] camps in Darfur and crossover attacks on refugee camps in Chad.

RC: What can the government of Chad do to protect civilian refugees there?

Steidle: Absolutely nothing. The civilians in the camps in Chad and Darfur are very vulnerable.

RC: What is the condition of civilians in these camps?

Steidle: They live in tents and rely on aid organizations for survival; for food, water, shelter. They are completely reliant on aid groups and the international community.

RC: What can be done immediately to stop the violence and aid the victims in Darfur?

Steidle: There's a three-part solution. We need security on the ground, and initially that would come from NATO because they can move quickly, and in

the longer term it comes from the UN because that's their job. Then we need accountability for those who committed these crimes. They need to be tried, and the guilty put behind bars for the rest of their lives. And then we need to begin to rebuild the nation, to develop it economically and politically.

RC: What can the U.S. do specifically?

Steidle: We need to take a leadership role in NATO and the UN to put troops in Darfur to protect civilians.

RC: What can individual citizens do to stop the genocide?

Steidle: Write personal letters to the President and members of Congress and ask [that the U.S.] take a leadership role in ending this crisis.

RC: Could you talk about the plans of the Save Darfur Coalition for April 30?

Steidle: On April 30, a big event will take place in Washington, D.C. to deliver post-cards to the President about Darfur and show that people in this country really do care about what's happening. There will be a rally and march. Our message [to the President] is that we appreciated what's been done in calling this a genocide and calling for international support and supporting the African Union and aid organizations, but we need to turn words into action and take the next step and protect these people. ■



WITHOUT DOUBT, THE MOST SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LATTÉ YOU'LL EVER DRINK.

When can a delicious latté help Seattle youth get off the streets and begin to lead healthy, productive lives? When you order it from a FareStart Café providing on-the-job experience for our Barista Training and Education Program. If one latté does all that, imagine the power of a sandwich and pastry.

www.farestart.org
 FareStart Library Café, Seattle Central Library, 1000 4th Ave.
 FareStart Café at 2100, 2100 24th Ave. S., Rainier Valley.

FARESTART
Great Coffee. Better Lives.

Buy a pastry or sandwich, get a free coffee (expires 4/30/06)

Washington Women in Trades Presents:

27th Annual Women In Trades Fair

Celebrating What Makes Us Strong!

Friday April 28 2006
10am - 4pm
Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion

Need a Job?
Find a Job.

Even Better:
GET A CAREER!

www.wawomenintrades.com
206.903.9508

Useless = Good

The Theory of the Leisure Class
by Thorstein Veblen
Dover Thrift Editions, 1994
Paperback, 256 pages, \$3.00

By JOHN SISCOE
Contributing Writer

Thorstein Veblen, the American economist and social critic, was born to Norwegian immigrant parents in 1857. He taught for most of his academic career at the University of Chicago. Veblen was a gruff man who did not brook contradiction. He was also a bit of an oddball; his house was a perpetual mess and he had a fondness for clothes made out of paper. He also had a fondness for the faculty wives, and his reputed inability to keep his hands to himself led to his dismissal from Chicago in 1906. He continued to teach and to publish but ultimately died in obscurity in 1929.

Veblen is remembered today for his first and most successful book, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, which is both a scathing indictment of materialist consumerism and a very funny satire

on human folly. When it was published in 1899, it ignited a furious controversy, for it amounted to a direct attack on the established values of what Mark Twain termed the Gilded Age — a time, not so unlike the present, when a small number of Americans became enormously rich and lived lives of remarkable ostentation. These fortunate few, and those who strove to emulate them, are the slowly moving targets of Veblen's ridicule.

Veblen analyzed American society as essentially consumerist, obsessed with wealth, material possessions, and the desire for leisure. In such a society, the more expensive and useless an object or activity is, the greater its cultural value and the more mesmerizing its hold over the imagination. Veblen is especially perceptive of how flaunting wealth is a demonstration of power, and how economic decisions are often irrational: driven by fear, envy, and blind hope. *The Theory of the Leisure Class* made a profound impact on the study of economics, for after Veblen, few would be so brave (or so foolish) as to study economics in isolation from social or cultural factors.

But while Veblen deserves a lasting, if modest place in the history of economics, his real accomplishment lies in satire. *The Theory of the Leisure Class* is a send-up of human vanity and pretensions, and there's scarcely a page in the book where one of Veblen's shafts doesn't strike home. Veblen's diction and the shape of his sentences are late Victorian academic, but his observant eye is timeless, and this makes his book as lively and as pertinent today as when it was first published.

Veblen loved the useful and the inexpensive and he would have been delighted to learn that *The Theory of the Leisure Class* has now been republished by Dover in their Thrift Classics Series, making the entire book available for the price of a ritzy cup of coffee. Dover has published nearly 500 titles in this format, and they represent some of the best bargains in publishing. Thorstein Veblen, paper clothes and love affairs aside, deserves to be among them. ■

The Theory of the Leisure Class is a send-up of human vanity and pretensions, and there's scarcely a page in the book where one of Author Thorstein Veblen's shafts doesn't strike home.

John Siscoe is the proprietor of Globe Books in Seattle. He can be reached at johnsiscoe@zipcon.net.

Orthographic Hoop Dreams

Akeelah and the Bee
Directed by Doug Atchison
Opens April 28

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

This is a story designed for rooting, cheering, and the shedding of tears. It succeeds wonderfully in spite of its prosaic triumph-against-adversity platform.

Spelling bees, while occasionally covered on ESPN, hardly threaten the NBA as a spectator sport. But it may surprise some that long before Michael Jordan even had a sneaker to lace up, education far surpassed athletics as the race leveler of choice among Blacks. Words — writing and spelling — were for the most part accessible. Nobody could Jim Crow you out of a book, dictionary, or piece of paper.

Whether writer/director Doug Atchison's script for *Akeelah and the Bee*, which won the Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting competition, consciously draws upon this history is not clear, but the retro theme is right on time. Refreshingly absent are game-saving three-pointers, tired locker room disquisitions about "how far we've come," and athletes taking SAT muligans. Atchison allows his characters imagination and pliability, and we all get rewarded in the process.

The eponymous Akeelah (Keke Palmer) is an 11-year-old girl with a love of vocabulary. Living in South Central Los Angeles' infamous Crenshaw neighborhood (the reining synonym for the impoverished and violent Black ghetto), the pretty preteen's facility for spelling and definitions generates as much enmity as admiration among her peers. That she comes to apply her skill competitively is due solely to the

coaxing of a public relations-minded principal, who badly needs funding for his school.

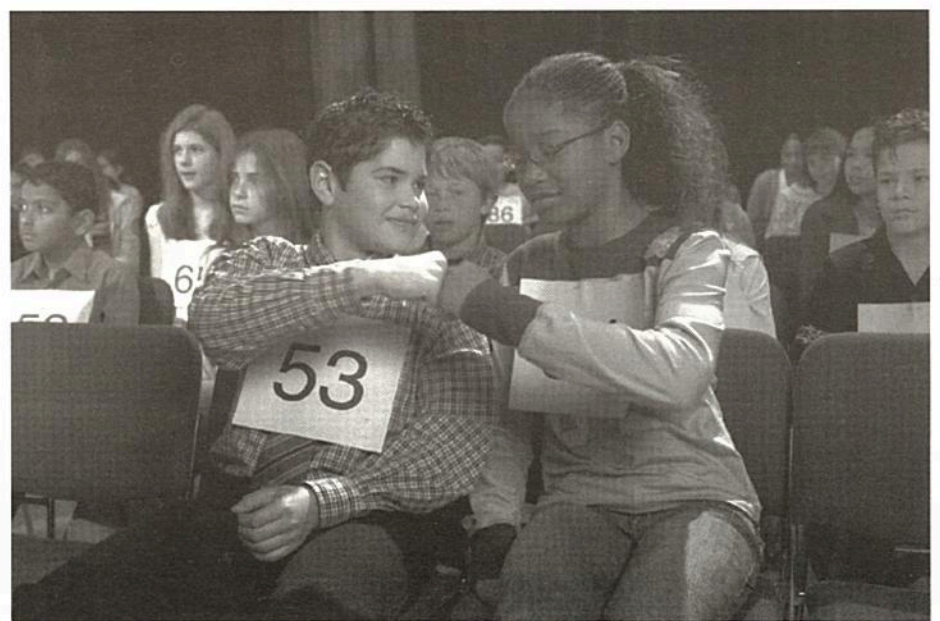
Serving as a curious impediment to Akeelah's progression toward the national spelling bee is her mother, Tanya (Angela Bassett). She admonishes her daughter to put aside word studies and concentrate on homework, a sentiment more appropriate to an athletics-versus-academics debate. The passion of Tanya's objections, which grows with her daughter's victories, appears to be spawned from a fear of losing her daughter to success — not uncommon in impoverished families. While central to the narrative, this conflict is nonetheless clumsily explained away at the end of the film.

Akeelah's only champion, albeit a reluctant one, emerges in the sullen Dr. Larabee (Laurence Fishburne), an African-American professor on sabbatical from UCLA. A former spell-down finalist himself, he appreciates the difficulties faced by someone of Akeelah's background in competing against beneficiaries of sophisticated coaching and greater resources. Unfortunately, his ability to bequeath his insight and wisdom is hindered by his own personal struggles.

In need of a support team, the precocious orthographer bravely ventures outside her racially exclusive enclave to study with other spellers, to one of whom she has endeared herself even while competing against him. While these forays into upscale neighborhoods intimidate her friends and family, Akeelah handles them with the ease of thumbing through a pocket edition of Webster's.

This is a story designed for rooting, cheering, and the shedding of tears. It succeeds wonderfully in spite of its prosaic triumph-against-adversity platform. Akeelah's values are what save the day. She never loses sight of what really matters, and that quality, unlike special athletic and academic gifts, is something to which everyone can aspire. ■

J.R. Villarreal and Keke Palmer in *Akeelah and the Bee*.





Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

King W and his advisors want to know whether to nuke Iran or simply carpet-bomb parts of it for possibly having a nuclear weapons program. To hurl, or not to hurl, and how much, is the question.

Goin' Bleary over Just War Theory

Loving theories, whether they are true or not, broadly characterizes mathematicians like myself. That's the theory, anyway. I don't know; I just know I like theories and theoretical talk and theory-related stuff.

Take ethical and moral theorizing. What glorious fun it is to sit around all day out of the sun, in Seattle or in the shade, reading about "the aretaic turn." It's a wonderful thing. It's not a theory but a whole turn of theories, like a flock of geese wheeling about in the sky preparing to migrate.

Any recent (last half century or so) theory to the effect that a moral philosophy should be based on seeking individual Virtue may be said to be part of "the aretaic turn." There's no end to the theories that'll get you, and they're all a hoot to a guy like me, even if all their proponents are deliberately full of themselves!

Another passel of theories I like (I wanted to say "passel") is just war theories. In case you missed the Middle Ages, a just war theory is a theory used by theologians to fudge the Thou Shalt Not Murder commandment when advising kings on how to conduct wars and the odd pogrom. Some famous theologians came up with a particular ("the") Just War Theory, and it's still all the rage in theocircles. So much so that there are now multiple versions of it, all called Just War Theory. All as much fun as tort law. (Really: tort law is endlessly amusing.)

Let's say you're a Medieval King, "post-Fall of Rome," and say you're laying siege upon an enemy King's city for Good Cause. Maybe he blasphemed the Holy Ghost or something. When is it OK to hurl rocks the size of outhouses OVER the walls, not into them, thus risking the lives and well-being of innocent women and children as well as killing defenders who deserve to die and burn in eternal hellfire, anyway?

The answer, say some proponents of certain Just War Theory, is it's OK, PROVIDED that it induces the defenders to surrender, AND leads to only so much harm to innocents as might be expected to be commensurate with the wrong done by the enemy King.

If, on the other hand, hurling the rocks toward innocents makes the defenders defend all the more furiously, so that your siege either fails altogether or the amount of death or agony you visit upon innocents outweighs the wrong done by your enemy, then you SHOULDNT hurl the rocks. OR, if you calculate that the outcome would be acceptable in the sense just described, you SHOULD hurl more, or fewer, or bigger, or smaller rocks — as your calculation may determine.

So applications of the Just War Theory require real-world calculations of effects of real-world actions. You have to anticipate consequences, and you are only as moral as you are accurate. The theory depends on knowing stuff that's beyond the theory to know! It makes me feel so axiomatically unencumbered!

Example 1. How many Branch Davidians do you have to shoot or burn to get David Koresh to give up his weapons stash? If you don't know, what do you do? In that case the theory (as applied here to pogroms) would say, figure out what number of dead and wounded Davidians would amount to a wrong still less than the wrong of hoarding illegal weapons to that degree. Then kill and wound that many, AND NO MORE.

Example 2. King W and his advisors want to know whether to nuke Iran or simply carpet-bomb parts of it for possibly having a nuclear weapons program. To hurl, or not to hurl, and how much, is the question.

How wrong can it be for Iran to possibly have nuclear weapons, later, if you would use your own now to deprive her of them? However wrong that is, that's how much wrongful killing of Iranians you're allowed, goes the theory. Adjust your bombing accordingly. ■



Wed., March 29, 2:30 p.m., Fifth Ave., King's Inn Hotel.

The manager of the hotel called 911 to report an individual who was sleeping in one of the rooms. According to the complainant, he was not a paying customer and should not have been there. On arrival the officer noticed no sign of a break-in; the subject insisted he had a key to the room, but none was ever located. When the subject was first contacted the door to the room was open and the subject was found to be on the toilet. He appeared to be under the influence of intoxicants, being extremely slow to follow instructions — he also did not know the whereabouts of his pants. He slowly made his way to a chair outside the bathroom. Subject tried to explain that he had paid for the room, had a key, and had been there for three days. Complainant/Manager stated that the man had been at the hotel approximately one and one-half weeks ago and had stayed for three days then. Subject was incoherent, jumping from one subject to another without making sense. Officers located several unfilled prescriptions, many written six days ago. They asked the subject if he had been off his medication — he denied this, saying he just hadn't had them filled. No medications were located in the room. An ambulance was called, and a mental health contact report written. Subject was then transported to Harborview Medical Center.

Wed., April 12, 4 p.m., Occidental Park.

Officers investigating narcotics activity in the park were approached by the victim, a transient white male aged 60, who reported that he had been robbed about 15 minutes ago. He said he was walking through the park when the suspect, an unidentified Black male in his 20s, approached him and stood directly in front of him, blocking his progress. The suspect began threatening him, and when the victim told him to leave him alone, suspect began throwing punches. Victim dodged the punches and walked around the suspect and attempted to leave the scene. The suspect then grabbed the victim by his backpack and threw him to the ground; when he hit the ground his wallet was ejected from his pants pocket. Suspect grabbed the wallet and ran about 15 feet away, and began emptying the cash from the wallet. When the victim went towards the suspect to retrieve his wallet the suspect dropped it and walked away. Another man was with the suspect during this time, but the victim did not think that he had participated in the assault. The victim walked around looking for the suspect, but he could not locate him. Officers were unable to locate the suspect(s) either. Victim reported loss of his one-year Metro bus pass and \$580 in cash from a just-cashed Social Security check.

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

Because so few people know that riding the bus is sexier than driving, I've decided to embark on a campaign to change Metro's image.

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

Too Sexy for My Car

Let's face it, folks: The bus has a reputation as a less-than-sexy form of transportation. There are many reasons for this, but one of the biggest is our culture's longstanding tradition of associating cars with sex.

We are constantly bombarded with images of partially clothed women spread-eagled on hoods. People (especially men) buy nice cars to get dates. Teenagers drive to view points and "park."

While I will admit to a definite weakness for candy paint and big wheels (blame it on my years in Houston and my fondness for its car-obsessed rappers), I don't see anything sexy about accidents (close to 40,000 fatalities in the U.S. last year), traffic (been near 520 lately?), pollution (cars and trucks are the biggest cause of air pollution in Washington), overconsumption (Americans are 5 percent of the world's population but use 26 percent of its petroleum), or sprawl (we're paving over forests and farmland at an alarming rate).

The bus, on the other hand, has plenty to recommend it. Frequent riders tend to have firm glutes from all the extra walking (don't sleep on those downtown hills). College students ride buses (try the 48, 13, or 3) and so do many of those big, strong fish-throwers at the Market. And while some women go for fancy sports cars, bus

chicks dig men who try to minimize their impact on the earth.

Buses are great places to meet people. I should know; I met my fiancé on the 545. Back in the day, lucky bus riders in the Bronx rubbed elbows with Jennifer Lopez (her first album was even named for her days as a bus chick). As evidenced by the overwhelming number of incidents of bus luh, buses are also good places to steal a romantic moment. And really, what's sexier than having a driver? For that matter, what's sexier than a driver? Not everyone can operate such a big vehicle.

Because so few people know that riding the bus is sexier than driving, I've decided to embark on a campaign to change Metro's image. Sexy bus chicks and bus boys in Seattle, I'm going to need your help. This summer, let's follow in the footsteps of our feminist sisters and get some baby-doll/muscle T-shirts with slogans like, "This Is What a Bus Rider Looks Like." Let's require people to ride the bus to all of the fabulous parties we throw. Let's get the 194 on Pimp My Ride and hook up a party bus to the airport. Let's convince *The Stranger* to add "sexiest Metro driver" to its annual "Seattle's Sexiest" issue.

Who's with me?

I'm confident that my campaign will increase ridership, but I'm worried that it might become too successful. I don't want to start seeing "Bikini Babes on Buses" at my local newsstand. ■

Discrimination?

CALL US!

**Seattle Office
for Civil Rights**

(206) 684-4500
(TTY) (206) 684-4503

www.seattle.gov/civilrights

Free, fair, and impartial services

City of Seattle

Greg Nickels, Mayor



Housing
Contracting
Employment
Public
Accommodations

STUFF WANTED

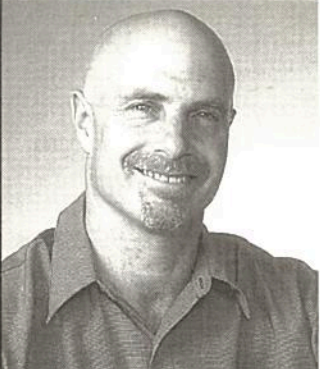
Real Change needs donations
for our online auction.

antiques • crystal • collectibles • clocks •
watches • sports cards • fine furniture •
cameras • computers • electronics •
business equipment • bikes • fishing gear •
golf clubs • skis • boards • vacations •
automotive parts and gear • services •
gift certificates • celebrity dates

If it sells on EBay, we want it.

Pick-up service available.
Contact Peter Jabin, (206) 441-3247 x 208
development@realchangenews.org

Realtor "Walks His Talk"



**Craig Brooke-Weiss
My Realtor...**

"Went above and beyond."

"Listened to me."

*"Places the needs of
clients first."*

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate / Wall Street, Inc.

*Real Estate for
Real People!*

Will donate 5% of commission upon closing to Real Change! Call for details.

craig@windermere.com • seattle-downtown-realestate.com

Call Craig! • 206-920-7251

Support Collective Businesses

Worker Owned and Operated

LEFT BANK BOOKS



92 Pike Street
In the Pike Place Market
206.622.0195
Mon-Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6
New & Used Books



901 NE 55th Street
206.524.0204
Tues-Sun 9-9
All Vegan
Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

High Standards

Dear *Real Change*,

Last month a man collapsed in a violent seizure on a busy downtown Seattle sidewalk. He lay on the ground, bleeding and shaking. With surprising unanimity, onlookers walked by without stopping. The man on the ground was homeless.

In the nearly five years that I have lived in Seattle my understanding of this place has changed often. I arrived feeling overwhelmed by the hikers, the rock-climbers, and the lattes. In time I came to see that Seattle, above all else, is a "nice" place. Seattleites are polite, non-confrontational, thoughtful, and by and large liberal.

But this event forced me to reevaluate the city I live in. Why is it that, as I knelt on the ground next to this man, only a scant few passersby took it upon themselves to stop? What can explain the stark difference between the public attitudes of our community (liberal politics and an eco-friendly outlook) and the resistance to helping a stranger just because he's homeless?

I should confess, I didn't run to this guy's aid immediately and without hesitation. Some deeply buried attitude forced me to pause for a moment and struggle with what to do. When I look back on the incident, it's difficult to pinpoint the factor that enabled me to overcome that initial resistance. Was it guilt? Was it something nobler? Did I need to see someone else helping first, to make it normal or OK?

And it's not as though no one stopped. After an agonizing two minutes, someone agreed to talk to 911 from their cell phone. Someone else helped me turn the seizing man over, check his pulse, and elevate his head. But I saw a constant stream of well-clad office workers walk by who chose not to notice, or worse, not to care.

There are a couple of seemingly legitimate reasons not to stop in a situation like this. If it seems like it's under control, maybe your help isn't needed. If the situation seems threatening or violent, you are under no obligation to risk your safety. But I don't believe either of those assessments can be applied to what happened on that side-

walk two weeks ago. The small group of us helping was clearly in need, and there was no danger present.

Those who stopped to help made a choice to do so. Those who didn't stop to help made their own choice. Maybe they were afraid to be near blood, or maybe they didn't feel they had anything to offer. I have struggled to find an explanation for these choices in the days since the incident, and I haven't found any that settles the matter.

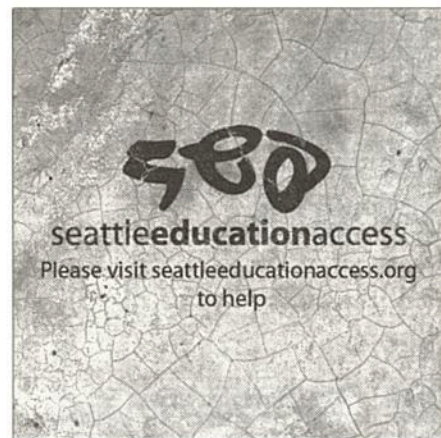
For some reason, Seattle seems afraid to embrace the fullest sense of its potential. It is at the same time living up to the most stringent environmental requirements and addicted to the automobile. Seattle voters routinely approve taxes and levies that benefit the needy, and yet the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness faces a constant uphill battle. In a city that is so progressive, it is disheartening to see so much left undone.

It may be that I'm being unfair. It could be unreasonable to indict an entire city by the actions of a small group. Maybe this event could have unfolded in the same way in any city. Maybe homelessness is an endemic byproduct of the systems that propel this country. It could be that there is no city that is as fully realized as I wish Seattle could be.

I think that what bothers me the most about what happened is that Seattle should know better. Maybe we let ourselves off the hook too often, and we don't hold ourselves accountable for the choices we make. Maybe the blessing of enlightenment comes with the responsibility of action. Either way, I expect more from this city than I do other places. Unfair or not, I want Seattle to be a place where everyone stops, and everyone cares.

**Ben Gitenstein
Seattle**

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



CLASSIFIED

Employment

Join a dynamic team at Seattle's YWCA Opportunity Place as the Housing Manager supporting women, children & men. Knowledge of low-income housing tax credits, section 8, landlord/tenant law. FT+Bens. See www.ywcaworks.org for details. Resp: L. Leber, YWCA, 1118 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101 or to hr@ywcaworks.org. EOE

Opportunity

Abdullah Chhadeh and his ensemble Nara play the qanun and music from Turkey and Syria. Tickets \$29. 8 p.m., Meany Theater, University of Washington, 4001 University Way N.E. Info: (206)543-4880.

The Bosnian Movie Marathon promotes the richness of Eastern European culture and multicultural awareness. Tickets \$7. 6 p.m., Foster High School Performing Arts Center, Tukwilla, 4242 S. 144th St. Info: (206)778-4019.

No Pretzel Positions! Free Yoga Classes. On-Going Mondays 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. - noon @ The Recovery Café, Second and Bell. All ages and abilities.

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

Thursday 4/27

Every mode of transportation has an organized lobby group except pedestrians. Anne Vernez Moudon, director of the Urban Form Lab at the University of Washington and an international leader in pedestrian planning and design, discusses recent research in land monitoring, neighborhood and street design, non-motorized transportation, and access to healthy food in her lecture "The Urban Form, Walking and Eating. 5 p.m.," Vance Building, Sixth Floor Conference Room, 1402 Third Ave. Info: (206)652-2310

How should New Orleans recover? Barbara Major, co-chair of Bring New Orleans Back, gives her talk "After Hurricane Katrina: Re-construction or New-construction for Health and Human Services?" 5:30 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall, Room 120.

Darfest: Because Genocide is Everyone's Concern raises awareness and funds for the ravaged region. Music, dance, visual art, educational

displays, and spoken word show the impacts and multiple dimensions of the conflict. Tickets \$5 children, \$7 adults. 6 p.m., University of Washington, HUB East Ballroom. Info: kmetz@seattleu.edu

Friday 4/28

From California's Pelican Bay prison to the annihilation of dolphins by tuna harvesters, Judge Thelton Henderson has heard countless abuses of power and consistently ruled on the side of justice. Recruited from Boalt Law School in 1962, Henderson often found himself to be the first or only African American in his field. The documentary *Soul of Justice* juxtaposes Henderson's career with footage of the Civil Rights Movement in the Jim Crow South, showing how his struggle for justice mirrors America's own struggle. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 2019 Keystone Pl. Info: wfnfp@bridgings.org

Through Saturday 4/29

Adriano Shaplin's play *Wreck the Airline Barrier* is an exploration of religion and race. Aboard a plane, staff and passengers lives' collide, and they become desperately lost in a world of slogans, grasping for comfort in racism,

homophobia, and self-help manuals. Tickets \$15 general, \$12 students and seniors. 9 p.m., Brownbox Theater, 3515 S. Alaska St. Info: (206)264-1131

Saturday 4/29

Celebrating the rich and varied voices of African American, Latino American, Native American, Anglo American, and Asian American writers who represent our country's history and diversity, The Rainbow Bookfest brings authors together to share, interact, and entertain. Participants include David Yamaguchi, Nisi Shawl, Joshua Ortega, Clyde Ford, and more. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Asian Resource Center, 1025 S. King St. Info: www.rainbowbookfest.com.

Known as America's "hardest working folksinger," John McCutcheon has spent the past several years touring Nicaragua on behalf of a children's literacy program. The multi-instrumentalist, singer, and storyteller presents a concert of his politically and socially conscious music. Tickets \$15.

7:30 p.m. Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Through Sunday 4/30

The Langston Hughes African American Film Festival provides provocative films from independent Black filmmakers about the African American experience, panel discussions, screenplay readings, and chats with industry and local professionals. Films include *The Cleansing*, *Seoul to Soul*, *Outside Looking In: Transracial Adoption in America*, and more. Daily screenings \$7. Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S. Info: www.langstonblackfilmfest.org.

Sunday 4/30

Czech composer Hans Krása's opera *Brundibár* was performed 55 times by child inmates at the Nazi concentration camp Terezín. Artistic director of Music of Remembrance Mina Miller discusses the tragedy and message of enduring hope that this musical work represents. 2 p.m., Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Ave.

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

Director's Corner



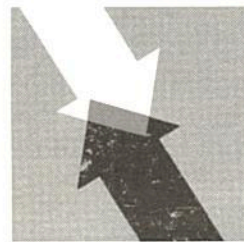
This morning I realized that more than a quarter of my life has been spent here, in Seattle, doing *Real Change*. It was one of those early morning subconscious-gone-out-for-a-walk kind of things, which is entirely appropriate. *Real Change* began as a dream, and twelve years later, is a bit of a dream come true.

One of our vendors, Fred, stopped into my storage room cum office last week to say that after more than two years on the street he'd gotten into low-income housing and was no longer homeless. He described the sheer joy of a room where the toilet is only three doors down the hall. Fred was a little choked up as he told me that *Real Change* had made it possible in more ways than one. "It kept me out of trouble," he said. "Without *Real Change* I really don't know where I'd be now."

We're still making an immediate difference in hundreds of lives while building a more just future for all of us.

During the 80s, when I first started working with homeless people, homelessness in America tripled and quadrupled over a single decade. The task then was to mitigate the suffering while building a movement for justice. Mitigation, it turns out, was the easy part. The task of movement-building has eluded us all.

Everyone now, it seems, is talking about "ending homelessness." Our job, now more than ever, is to help make the talk real.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Help Schools Expel Junk Food

Issue: Rising childhood obesity rates continue to threaten the health of our children — and contribute to higher health care costs. Improving the nutritional quality of foods and beverages sold in schools is one way to promote and support healthy eating.

Background: Schools that sell junk food, soda, and other sweetened beverages contribute to the over-consumption of fat, sugar, sodium, and calories among our youth, which leads to obesity. They also undermine parents' efforts to instill healthy eating behaviors in their children. While many schools in Washington have made significant efforts to improve school nutrition, many more are providing their students with limitless supplies of unhealthy food and beverages.

This month, bipartisan legislation (S. 2592 and H.R. 5167) was introduced in both houses of Congress that would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to update the nutrition standards (developed in the 1970s) for foods and beverages sold outside the federally funded school meal programs. These new standards would need to be consistent with current dietary recommendations for children and youth. If passed, this legislation would essentially rid school hallways of junk food, soda, and other sugar-sweetened beverages.

Action: As of mid-April, no Washington congressional members have signed on to the bill as co-sponsors. Please join us in urging our U.S. Senators and Representatives to support this critical legislation.

Sample letter:

"I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor the Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation (S. 2592 and H.R. 5167) requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture to update its decades-old nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold outside of the federally funded school meal programs. The standards would apply to all foods and beverages sold anywhere on school grounds.

As childhood obesity rates continue to rise, it is imperative that we do what we can to protect our youth from environments that encourage the consumption of unhealthy food and beverages. Schools present a unique opportunity to model and promote healthy eating. The standards that exist for food and beverages sold outside the school meal programs are outdated and weak. They allow for junk food and sweetened beverages to be sold not only in the school hallways but also in the school cafeterias.

While many schools in Washington have taken significant steps to improve the school nutrition environment, many more undermine the efforts of parents to instill healthy eating behaviors in their children by selling junk food and soda throughout the school day.

This legislation would ensure that students have access to foods and beverages that provide the needed energy and nutrients for optimal learning. I hope you will consider being a co-sponsor."

Representative Jay Inslee (D - 1st Dist.), 1-800-422-5521. jay.inslee@mail.house.gov

Rep. Rick Larsen (D - 2nd Dist.), 1-800-562-1385. rick.larsen@mail.house.gov

Rep. Jim McDermott (D - 7th Dist.), 206-553-7170 www.house.gov/mcdermott

Rep. Dave Reichert (R - 8th Dist.), 206-275-3438. www.house.gov/reichert

Rep. Adam Smith (D - 9th Dist.), 1-800-764-8409. www.house.gov/adamsmith

Senator Patty Murray (D), 206-553-5545. www.murray.senate.gov/email

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D), 206-220-6400. maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

For more information or to take action online, visit www.childrensalliance.org and click on the link for the action center.

FORCE, Continued from Page 1

Sitting down by the highway
Looking down the road
Waiting for a ride
I don't know where I've been
Wishing I could fly away
Don't know where I'm going
Wishing I could hide
Oh God this is some shape I'm in
When the only thing that makes me cry
Is the kindness in my baby's eye

"It's a mellow song," she said later. "All of the houses were back away from the street. It's not like I was disturbing anyone."

But that's not how everyone saw it. "At 0834 hours of 03/31/06, I saw the suspect standing inside the Metro bus shelter, located at S.W. corner of 3 W and W Mercer. The suspect wore a headset, drinking from a 16 oz can of 'Steel Reserve Beer' and screaming very loudly. I parked my patrol car, walked up to the suspect, and asked if she was OK. The suspect said, 'Don't bother me' and continued shouting. I tried a couple of more times to get her attention but it did not work."

Cat says she'd barely noticed a cruiser by the curb when Officer Choi grabbed the back of her jacket and threw her to the ground "like a bag of potatoes" without saying a word. It's hard to know what happened, really. But it's clear that Cat's shitty life was about to get worse for no good reason.

"I took the suspect's beer and poured it out. The suspect removed her headset and said, 'You owe me 75 cents.' I advised her that drinking alcoholic beverage, in public was unlawful and asked for her identification. The suspect said, 'It's none of your fucking business' and placed her right hand inside of her coat pocket, which appeared to be bulky. The suspect took a fighting stance and was aggressive. I believe that she may have a weapon in her pocket."

Or a Walkman. This is where, by both accounts, things got unnecessarily ugly.

"He threw me on the ground a couple of times, and I'm crying and screaming, saying 'Why? Why are you doing this? Why?'" Then, Condeff says, she was thrown on the hood of the car, cuffed hard enough to leave her wrists bruised, cut, and swollen, and pushed into the car.

"Due to the suspect's non-compliance to my verbal commands and resistance to restraint and her aggressive behavior, I applied a hair hold as I was

trained and escorted her to the ground then finished handcuffing her."

"All I remember him saying was 'Where's your ID?'" she recalls. "He just kept saying it, over and over."

Both Condeff and Choi agree on what happened next. She was taken to jail, where she was held briefly without charge until EMTs arrived to transport Condeff to Harborview Medical Center. There, she was treated for a fractured hip and released to the street on crutches.

While the charge on the police incident report was listed as "obstructing," Condeff was never formally cited or booked. No rights were read. No charges were filed. She just got beat up.

"I'll never forget his face," says Condeff. "His smirky little face. He was getting a big kick out of it. Enjoying himself."

Attorney Paul Richmond, who is active on police accountability issues and is working on several similar cases, says the prospects for recourse for people like Condeff are dismal. "She could file a complaint with the Office of Police Accountability, but they're really about gathering information and avoiding lawsuits."

Richmond says that one issue victims face, should they file a civil suit, is the prospect of being legally outspent and outgunned. Litigation against the police, he says, has a way of dragging on and on.

Meanwhile, pro bono lawyers are in short supply. "There are about a dozen of us who do this kind of work regularly," says Richmond. "And all of us get more calls than we can handle."

Cases such as this occur with dismaying frequency.

Like Condeff, Dana Hamlett had already been warmed by a beer or three the morning of March 2 when he walked into the Ballard Skate Park and sat down on a bench. Shortly before, two different people had called police to report that a man was drinking in public and had yelled at a woman on the street.

In a white jersey marked "24," there was no mistaking Hamlett. The homeless 34-year-old often has run-ins with the police and has a long record, mostly for trespass and theft. But a witness who was in the park that morning says Hamlett was minding his own business when an officer approached him.

"He was sitting on the bench singing to himself, not bothering anybody," says Bill Bagosy, who sells papers for

Real Change. "He was drunk, but he wasn't obnoxious."

Officer Aaron Kamalu offers a different perspective.

"I walked into the park and saw a suspect sitting on a park bench drinking a beer. He looked up at me and stood up. I told him to sit back down. He muttered something and sat down."

Bagosy says Hamlett stayed on the bench and the cop asked him something. The reply must not have been good: Kamalu briefly turned away from the man on the bench. When he turned to again face Hamlett, it was to mace him in the face.

Blinded, Hamlett got up and tried to walk away, Bagosy says, but the officer was shouting to get on the ground. When Hamlett didn't, the officer maced him at least twice more before taking him down, putting a knee to his back and cuffing him.

By then, another officer had arrived, Bagosy says. The two put Hamlett face down in a shallow puddle. Bagosy says Hamlett remained that way 45 minutes to an hour before a fire truck arrived to wash him off.

"These cops," Bagosy says indignantly. "It was like they were having a blast."

"As I waited for a response from my dispatcher, S/Hamlett got up [from the bench] and attempted to leave. I told him he was not free to leave. S/Hamlett balled up his fists, glared at me and

growled, 'I am bigger than you, stronger than you, and I will kick your ass!' I believed that S/Hamlett was capable of carrying out this threat since he appeared to be several inches taller than me and about 50 pounds heavier."

Bagosy saw no resistance. Kamalu's report makes no mention of the macing. That may show up on a separate "use of force" form that was filed for the incident, but police say it can't be released until charges are filed.

But, nearly two months later, there are no charges for what Hamlett was picked up for: harassment of a police officer.

Richmond says that an increase in police misconduct came with the expansion of community policing that began with the Clinton administration. "When you put 100,000 new cops on the street, there's a drop in the quality of training and the quality of the recruit."

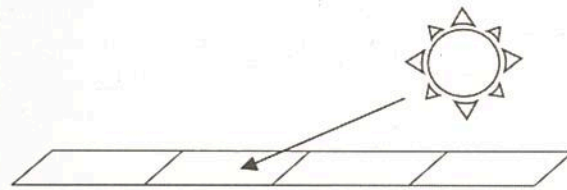
"There is a much more militarized model for policing now. Police aren't the problem-solvers they once were. Now they are troops, and they are trained to have a more adversarial view. Everything is viewed as a potential attack." ■

[Contact]

If you are homeless and have recently been the victim of police violence, Real Change wants to hear from you. Call 441-3247.

Story Problem 8

Assume sunlight travels to Earth at a rate of 186,000 miles per second and concrete possesses a thermal mass of .15 degrees Fahrenheit per hour (in direct sunlight). If the temperature drops to 27 degrees Fahrenheit, how much perseverance do you need to fend off hypothermia?

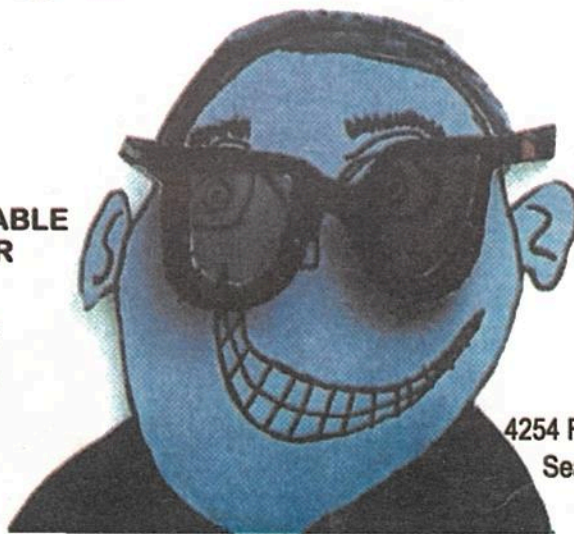


SEA helps young adults who survived life on the street and now want to earn a college degree. Once accepted, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. Please visit seattleeducationaccess.org to support our scholarship program.

SEA

seattleeducationaccess

EYES ON FREMONT

UNIQUE
AFFORDABLE
EYEWEARFriendly,
Skilled Staff
On Site Lab
Eye Exams
Student
Discounts4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-3375COMEDY BENEFIT SHOW FOR
POVERTY ACTION NETWORK!JOIN BOARD, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS FOR AN EVENING OF POLITICAL-ISH COMEDY.
HALF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO POVERTY ACTION NETWORK!
WWW.POVERTYACTION.ORG

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 8:30-10 PM

COMEDY UNDERGROUND

222 S. MAIN ST. IN PIONEER SQUARE

\$10 (\$5 w/STUDENT ID). TICKETS AT THE DOOR

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30, RECOMMENDED ARRIVAL TIME 8

SHOW DETAILS AT WWW.NONPROFITCOMEDY.COM/NP