Microforms-Newspaper
Univ. of Washington

REAL CHANGE

VOL. 13 NO. 22

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

MAY 24 - 30, 2006

UNSCHOOLED
Bush says we're in Iraq 'til 2009. What did the Vietnam War teach us, again?
PAGE 2

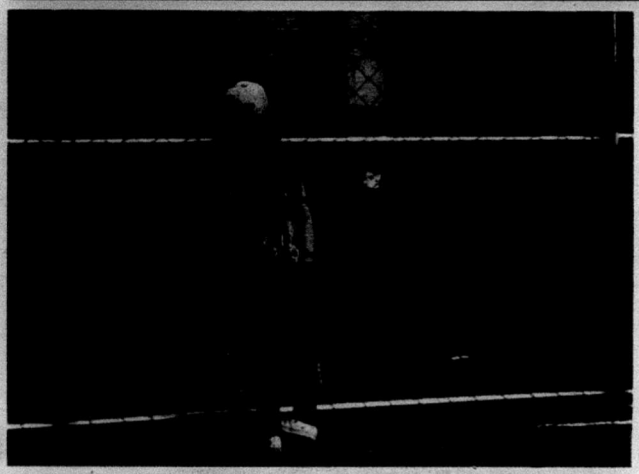
RICE JOB
Spaghetti, not ramen: Hungry Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have to sort through food banks exotic freebies.
PAGE 3

RETRAINING CALL
A judge rules an Iraq War vet who fought re-enlistment can get job training he seeks.
PAGE 4

RUNNING IN PACKS
Pounding the pavement, Doug Sturm stays sane, along with making friends.
PAGE 5

WORTH THE FIGHT
Activist-historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz on the revolutionary promise of Latin America.
PAGE 6

Change Agent 3
Just Heard 3
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 FUTURE SITE OF THE U-DISTRICT'S LOTHLORIEN APARTMENTS, WHOSE DEVELOPERS WANT A $1.5 MILLION TAX BREAK FOR BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING — HOUSING WHICH WILL ACTUALLY OUTPACE THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S AVERAGE RENTS. PHOTO BY JUDE O'REILLEY.

There Goes the Neighborhood

Council ponders tax break for new building that would raise average rents

By **MARIA ANTONOVA**
Contributing Writer

Is $1.5 million in tax cuts a fair deal for providing "affordable" housing that is more expensive than the rest of the neighborhood?

That's the question members of the Seattle City Council mulled over last week as they reviewed a proposed deal that would grant a University District developer more than $1.5 million in tax cuts in the next 10 years.

The developer, Ferguson Properties, is building the 125-unit Lothlorien Apartments on the 4700 block of University Way and is applying for the tax break through the Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption Program (MFTE), which offers the deal in exchange for a number of units to be kept affordable to renters making $38,000 a year, which is 70 percent of King County's median income of $54,500 per person.

In case of the Lothlorien, these set-asides would cost $914 a month for studios and $954 a month for one-bedrooms. In a neighborhood where an average studio goes for $567 and a one-bedroom for $845 a month according to the online rental data resource rentslicer.com, the conditions of the contract raised concerns for some councilmembers as well as for members of the community.

Public policy advocates like John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition call the current tax exemption stipulations a giveaway to developers. "The current MFTE program essentially shifts the tax burden onto property owners of lower-income housing and eventually contributes to driving the prices up in the neighborhood," Fox says, calling this arrangement "ludicrous."

The tax exemption program has been around since 1998 and was intended to encourage new developments in areas that lack housing and experience little growth. In 2004, an amendment to the MFTE was recommended by Seattle mayor Greg Nickels' and approved by the City Council. Among other changes, the MFTE now applies to more neighborhoods, including high-growth areas of Seattle, like Capitol Hill and the University District.

In exchange for the tax break, the program requires the developer to choose one of three options: rent a third of the available units at 70 percent of the neighborhood median, rent a

See RENT, Continued on Page 12

Toxic Avengers

Duwamish watchdogs want Port to be diligent in clean up of PCBs

By **ROSETTE ROYALE**
Staff Reporter

First, start with the Earth.

There, within the soil of a plot of land in Seattle called Terminal 117, reside some of the highest levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) ever recorded in Puget Sound.

Second, move to the water: set next to Terminal 117, cradling its toxic-laden soil with an aqueous arm, the Duwamish Waterway flows.

Third, gaze at the fauna where land and river meet: Chinook and coho salmon, great blue herons, crayfish, shrimp, crabs, frogs, salamanders, microscopic invertebrates, all of them and more, walk, wade, and swim in a polluted riparian food web.

Lastly, listen to the people, as they speak of a proposed plan for an interim cleanup of Terminal 117:

"They would be burying enough toxic material on site," says BJ Cummings, coordinator for the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, "that it would become a de facto industrial wasteland."

The "they" Cummings speaks of is the Port of Seattle, which is administering the plan — called a Time Critical Removal Action — that will attempt to diminish the amount of PCBs that plague the area.

Wayne Grotheer, director of Seaport Finance and Asset Management for the port, says, "We don't believe [the PCBs] pose any immediate threat" to the public, says Grotheer, "but we think it needs to get out of there."

The former home of the Malarkey Asphalt Co., which ceased operations in 1993, the upland of Terminal 117 is covered with asphalt. The Port will attempt to excavate, dispose the soil from, backfill, and cover — with, ironically, asphalt — roughly 11,000 cubic yards of upland soil. (To offer a sense of the volume, consider that one long dump truck holds 10 cubic yards.) The spoils will be trucked to an approved facility in Eastern Washington.

Soil samplings conducted by the Port in January 2006 revealed a PCB concentration of 4,500 parts per million

See PCB, Continued on Page 10

Folly Marches On

From dying for Nixon to dying for Bush

With the administration promising no immediate end in sight, Bush now tells us it will be up to "future presidents" even to consider withdrawing our troops. Who wants to be the last man or woman to die for George Bush?

By PAUL ROGAT LOEB
Advisory Board

"I didn't want to die for Nixon," said a man I met recently in a Seattle park. He'd served on military bases in a half dozen states, then had a car accident just before being shipped to Vietnam. "The accident was lucky," he said. "It was a worthless war and I didn't want to go."

I agreed. I admired those who fought in World War II, I said. We owe them the debt of our freedom. But to die for Nixon's love of power, fear of losing face, deception, and vindictiveness — to die for him was obscene. Nixon's war, the man said, had nothing noble about it. And neither did Iraq.

What does it mean to die in a war so founded on lies? Bush may lack Nixon's scowl, but he's equally insulated from the consequences of profoundly destructive actions. He came to power riding on the success of Nixon's racially divisive "Southern Strategy," which enshrined the Republicans as the party of backlash. He won reelection by similarly manipulating polarization and fear. Like Nixon, he's flouted America's laws while demonizing political opponents. His insistence that withdrawing from Iraq would create a world where terrorists reign echoes Nixon's claim that defeat in Vietnam would leave the U.S. "a pitiful, helpless giant."

While Bush assures our soldiers they fight for Iraqi freedom and to "make America safer for generations to come," 82 percent of Iraqis, according to a British Ministry of Defense poll, say they're "strongly opposed" to the presence of American and British troops, and 45 percent justify attacks against them. This creates what psychologist Robert Jay Lifton calls "an atrocity-creating situation." Lifton first used the phrase during Vietnam. He now uses it to describe a "counterinsurgency war in which U.S. soldiers, despite their extraordinary firepower, feel extremely vulnerable in a hostile environment," amplified by "the great difficulty of tracking down or even recognizing the enemy." This sense of an environment out of control has seeded the ground for Abu Ghraib and for massacres at the villages of Haditha and Mukaradeeb already being compared to My Lai. Former Army sniper Jody Blake recently described his unit keeping extra spades on their vehicles so that if they killed innocent Iraqis in response to an attack with an Improvised Explosive Device, they could throw one next to the corpses to make it appear those killed were preparing a roadside bomb.

Last December Bush called the Iraqi election "a watershed moment in the story of freedom." But if our invasion and occupation has created a watershed moment, it's one whose rivers of resentment and bitterness may poison the global landscape for decades to come. And when Bush talks of promoting freedom, the world sees the freedom of America to do whatever we please, no matter how many nations oppose us. America's Vietnam-era leaders made much of their embrace of freedom as well, while overthrowing elected governments from Brazil to Chile to Greece. The war they waged in Southeast Asia killed two to five million Vietnamese, plus more deaths in Laos and Cambodia. And as with Iraq, those making the key decisions were profoundly insulated: Out of 234 eligible sons of Senators and Congressmen, only 28 served in Vietnam, only 19 saw combat, only one was wounded, and none were killed. In Iraq, as we know, the chickenhawks led the march to war, and the sole Congressman or Senator with a son who initially served was Democrat Tim Johnson, who the Republicans still attacked as insufficiently patriotic. While the sons of Republican Senator Kit Bond and three Republican congressmen have since also volunteered and been deployed, most who initiated this war have never been intimately touched by it.

Counting Eisenhower's first deployment of soldiers and CIA agents to Vietnam in support of the French, Kennedy's further commitment, and Johnson's major escalation, the United States fought there for more than 20 years. We've now been in and out of Iraq for nearly 40, since the 1963 coup when the CIA first helped the Baath Party overthrow the founder of OPEC (and intervening in Iran since our 1953 overthrow of the democratically elected government of Mohammed Mossadegh, whom we replaced with the dictatorial Shah.) With the administration promising no immediate end in sight, Bush now tells us it will be up to "future presidents" even to consider withdrawing our troops. Who wants to be the last man or woman to die for George Bush? ■

Paul Rogat Loeb is the author of The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear, *named the number three political book of 2004 by the History Channel and the American Book Association, and winner of the Nautilus Award for best social change book of the year. His previous books include* Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time.

REAL CHANGE

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), Rebecca Kavoussi (Secretary), Wes Browning, Stephan Fjelstad, Margaret Kae, Mandy Levenberg, Gabriela Quintana, Maria Sanders, 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, *Wongdoody;* 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 Maranan, *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 Nyamidie, Patrick Toler, Justine Winnie

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

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'Reilley, Katia Roberts, Elliot Stoller, Mark Sullo

Volunteers This Issue
Artis, Douglas Blair, Tige DeCoster, Sandra Enger, Susanne Forham, Casey Fortenberry, Nadine Gioia, Brianna Morgan, Loretta Pirozzi, Dean Ritz

Change Agent

JEANNE HIGGINS, third from left, kepping pace with Girls on the Run in Redmond. Photo by TERRY DIVYAK.

"Our society promotes physical beauty over intellect, fast food over nutrition, and sedentary lifestyles over active ones," says Jeanne Higgins, executive director of Girls on the Run of Puget Sound. "Is it any wonder that so many young women are suffering from low self-esteem, eating disorders, and depression?"

Higgins, a former track star, was looking for a way to help girls avoid these pitfalls when she discovered Girls on the Run International, an after-school, preventative program geared toward empowering girls physically, emotionally, and socially. The curriculum, aimed at 8-11 year olds, combines confidence-enhancing life lessons, open and frank discussions about high-risk behaviors and peer pressure, and, of course, running activities. In lieu of a graduation ceremony, participants complete a 5K race.

In 2002, Higgins started up a local chapter with just nine girls. This year the program will reach more than 100. "Here it's not about competition and winning," explains Higgins. "It's about developing the whole girl. When our girls cross that finish line, they're ready to meet the challenges of adolescence head on."

—Amy Besunder

On June 1, Girls on the Run of Puget Sound will hold a silent benefit auction. To learn more, visit *www.girlsrun.org*.

Rice works, if you can get it

Walk fights hunger, honors Asian American dietary preferences

By SHARA CHOI
Contributing Writer

[Walk]
The Walk for Rice starts at 8 a.m., Sat., June 3, in Seward Park. For more information, visit *www.walkforrice.com* or call (206) 695-7551.

Many of King County's quarter-million Asian Americans are not making ends meet, and when they must visit a food bank, they have to overcome some cultural barriers: taking spaghetti when ramen isn't available, for example, or accepting packages of frozen vegetables when they're accustomed only to fresh. That's because there's not enough rice, ramen, and produce to provide aid for all the hungry Asian-American Pacific-Islander (AAPI) community members in King County, says Carina del Rosario of Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS.)

The 2004 Census estimates an Asian population of 253,253 and Pacific Islanders of 17,383 who live in King County, which is an increase of 17 percent and 11 percent, respectively, in four years. Even while holding full-time jobs, many of them can't meet the nutritional needs that their families require, according to del Rosario.

"Health care, insurance, rent, utilities: These are things that eat up paychecks," she says. "They have to make tough choices [and ultimately] cut back on foods that they provide their family."

Paradiso Lost: Asian American women peruse Paradiso brand canned tomatoes at the I.D. food bank. Photo by John Pi.

ACRS sponsors a run and walk-a-thon specifically targeted to help alleviate hunger in the Asian-American community this Saturday, June 3.

The D.C.-based Asian American Justice Center mined 2000 census data this spring and found that King County's Indonesians, Cambodians, Samoans, Koreans, and Vietnamese ethnic groups have above-average poverty rates.

Census figures also indicate that local Asian-Americans have a median per capita income of $21,000, compared to the overall median income of $30,000. Del Rosario says that there are many factors contributing to the below-average income of the Asian-American community. Many recently arrived immigrants of Asian descent obtain jobs that do not pay living-wage salaries, and there are language barriers preventing them from moving up the ladder.

ACRS' food bank serves a high number of Chinese, Vietnamese, Koreans, and Samoans, says Del Rosario. Located in Seattle's International District, it is the only food bank of its kind in King County, regularly distributing more than 126,000 pounds of Asian cultural foodstuffs to more than 6,000 families each month.

ACRS hopes to raise $105,000 this year in order to purchase and distribute 350,000 pounds of rice. A 50-pound bag costs about $26, says Del Rosario. Helping this year for the first time is the UW Alumni Association. Alumni Relations Associate Director Camille DeSantis says their support is "a natural extension of our commitment to diversity.... Many of our elders endured times of hunger; the Walk for Rice is a way for us to honor their struggles to create a better life for us."

This year's walk has a Year of the Dog theme. There will be a costume contest in which the participant who has the best dog costume wins a prize. "Anything to keep it fun," said del Rosario. "Hunger is a serious issue, and people need to know about it." The walk "is a fun way to make a contribution to the community." ■

Just Heard...

Putting DU to rest

After years of wrangling, U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Seattle) may finally get a study of depleted uranium.

On May 11, the House passed a defense authorization bill with a McDermott amendment that calls for an independent study of DU's effects on soldiers and their children.

DU is a component in armor-piercing bullets and shells that leaves a fine dust in the air and soil — a possible cause of the mysterious illness reported by more than 150,000 Gulf War veterans.

The Senate is expected to add a similar amendment when its version of the defense bill comes to the floor. McDermott spokesman Mike DeCesare says the study could ultimately pass, if enough people urge Washington's senators to support it.

The Seattle Housing Authority wants posters off tenant doors — so much so that it's decided to appeal an April 28 court ruling against it.

The case started in December, when an elected group of tenants called the Residents Action Council sued the agency over a new rule prohibiting tenants of SHA high-rises from putting messsages or notices on the front of their doors.

"The legal issue was whether a tenant has a possessory right to the outside of the door," says SHA spokeswoman Virginia Felton. "We don't feel that the judge based the decision on the law itself," she adds, but "acted on the basis of her own feelings." What's more, she says, "There are a number of residents who would like to see the outside of the door considered a common area" subject to the rule.

Rick Harrison, a resident who's been leading the battle for free speech, isn't one of them. "They still want to take away our right to put stuff on our doors," Harrison says. "Isn't that a fun use of public resources?"

—Cydney Gillis

Main chance

Seattle residents have until the end of the day Friday to apply for a Section 8 voucher that will help them make rent.

The waiting list for Section 8 — a federally funded program that makes up the difference between what landlords ask and tenants can afford — was opened May 15, and 3,000 people applied in the six business days that followed, says Seattle Housing Authority spokesperson Virginia Felton. Four thousand slots are available on SHA's waiting list. In April, SHA took 467 people on the list and asked them to apply; 127 were issued the vouchers. The application for Section 8 is online at *www.seattlehousing.org*.

—Adam Hyla

Election Out of Bounds

In Seattle, Mexican campaigners say jobs a central issue

BY CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

Since Vicente Fox became president of Mexico five and a half years ago, his critics say, immigration to the United States has shot through the roof, particularly from the nation's poorest southern states, where there are no jobs to be had.

From Oaxaca, three times as many people crossed the border in the past six years, says Talía Vázquez Alatorre. From Veracruz, it was nearly five times as many.

So when President Fox says the economy is getting better every day, "He's right," Alatorre said Monday in Seattle. "All the poverty is in the United States. It's coming here."

Alatorre works for the presidential campaign of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the liberal candidate opposing Fox's party pick, Felipe Calderon, in Mexico's July 2 election — a race that could have a major impact on illegal immigration in America.

While Mexican law prohibits out-of-country campaigning, it's no accident that Alatorre spent three days in Seattle on the eve of Fox's visit: this is the first election in which Mexican nationals can vote from the United States. And their choice of candidate, Alatorre says, is usually followed by friends and family back home.

For the past 10 months, Alatorre has been traveling the United States, from Boston to Las Vegas to Seattle, to talk with groups of Mexican nationals about why they crossed the border and how Lopez Obrador and the Democratic Revolution Party can help them.

In four words: create jobs in Mexico. It's a central issue in a race that's gotten ugly as the polls have gotten close, with Calderon, who supports expanding free trade to create jobs, running commercials implying that Lopez Obrador is a socialist.

Lopez Obrador advocates public works projects as a way to create jobs. He also wants to repeal a portion of the North American Free Trade Agreement that has devastated Mexican farming and collect millions in unpaid taxes owed by Mexico's rich in order to fund education, health care, and pensions.

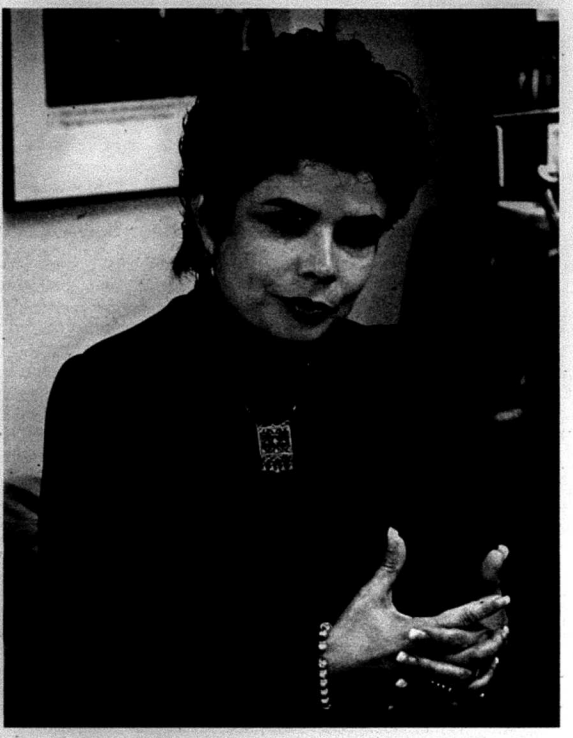
"We have 60 percent of our population in poverty and more than 25 million in extreme poverty," Alattore told reporters at El Centro de la Raza through interpreter Roberto Maestas, the center's director. "It's absurd that they [Fox's National Action Party] insist on the current economic model."

"We're no longer dealing with left or right," Alatorre said. "There is no economic growth in Mexico, and we must do something for the poor."

But, when her party calls for pensions or education, Alattore said, "The right wing jumps on us and says, 'Communists! Populists!'

"I don't know that it's any more communistic than the United States," she said. "When people here don't have a job, they get unemployment. [And] the system of public education is very strong," along with other social programs.

"Here you call it capitalism. Over there it's called communism," Alattore said. "It doesn't make any sense." ■



On the eve of president Vicente Fox's visit to Seattle, Talía Vázquez Alatorre came to Seattle to represent Mexico's opposition Democratic Revolution Party. Photo by Mark Sullo.

Short Takes

Support gels for Rainier mental health facility

After coming under fire in community meetings and in the press, the Downtown Emergency Service Center's proposed Rainier facility for the homeless and mentally ill seems to be getting a break. Last Sunday, when the organizers of a neighborhood meeting regarding the project failed to show, 10 members of the newly formed group Rainier Housing Opportunities Made Equal met outside the Columbia Branch Library to strategize their support for DESC's effort.

"Very clearly, we are in the majority, which I hadn't realized," said Rainier Valley resident Carolyn McConnell, who said she has had success gathering signatures for a petition in favor of the facility. "It's important that people know that there's a group in the community who are actively supporting it and want to work to make it a better project."

That effort will require diffusing opposition that has arisen in recent weeks, mostly around the size of the development — currently slated for 80 beds — and a sense that DESC has failed to communicate adequately with the community, having notified neighborhood residents of its intentions after securing the 20,370-square-foot property on the corner of 42nd and Rainier Ave. S.

Members of Rainier HOME defended DESC's conduct, citing the six community meetings that the affordable housing provider has sent representatives to in the last two months. Scott Ringgold, a Seattle city planner who lives a few blocks away from the site, noted that several other developers, such as the Seattle Archdiocese with its Katherine's Place, had also purchased land before requesting input.

"I think they've been very open and engaged with the community," said Ringgold. "It feels like we're at the beginning, and the beginning has been fraught with a lot of tension."

The organizers were planning for DESC's design review meeting this Tuesday (too late for *Real Change*'s print deadline), where they sought to maintain the size of the facility, which Sen. Adam Kline expressed a willingness to reduce in a contentious May 4 meeting. The Rainier building would not be DESC's biggest project: the Morrison Hotel, located near Pioneer Square, houses 190 homeless and disabled men and women.

Up with the Garden

After two and a half years of work, backers of a homeless memorial garden have chosen a location: Victor Steinbrueck Park, just north of Pike Place Market. Now, they must convince politicians to approve the choice, reversing a city code that prohibits city parks from being used as memorials.

About 15 people gathered Sunday at the Church of Mary Magdalene downtown to select the site, choosing among 11 locations that fit the criteria of falling within the downtown Seattle Ride Free Zone and being large enough to comfortably hold 50 people. Steinbrueck Park was chosen overwhelmingly over Freeway Park, the previous frontrunner, for its accessibility.

Those in attendance also brainstormed design characteristics, seeking to balance peace and dignity with visibility and foot traffic. Few precedents exist: in a search for similar memorials, organizers said they found only a temporary wall erected annually in San Francisco.

"We don't want it to be a 9/11. We don't want it to be a great disaster. It was one by one, as great as if it was 3,000 or 5,000," said Mona Joyner, describing her vision. Joyner's fiancée, Jose Marcos Lucio, died homeless in 1999 and was buried in a mass grave years later. "It's a ray of hope, that you are claimed," she said, "and we claim them."

The effort, initiated in fall 2003 by WHEEL and Women in Black, gathered steam a year later when the City Council unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the project. Since then, organizers have gathered 800 signatures and 10 letters of support from individuals and religious institutions. This Thursday, they will meet with Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds, who could overrule the ban on memorials.

In recent weeks, the project has taken on a greater sense of urgency: UW Architecture professor and Fremont Troll designer Steven Badanes agreed to construct the memorial with his design/build class next spring free of charge, provided that a location has been secured by the fall. Organizers would then have to pay only for materials.

Behind all of the discussions lay the ultimate goal of permanently ending homelessness in the Seattle area. "We don't want to have to use that whole wall," said one woman. Ten people have died homeless in 2006 to date.

—Lydia DePillis

Running on Empty

Kicked out of fitness club, homeless man keeps running

By SOYON IM
Contributing Writer

"My mom tells me I was running way before I learned to walk."
—Doug Sturm

Doug Sturm ran strong toward the finish line. His time for the 3.5-mile Henry Weinhard St. Patrick's Day Dash was 25 minutes and three seconds, which is remarkable, given that he's 57 years old, homeless, and didn't sleep a wink the night before the race.

Since August, when he was evicted from his White Center apartment, Sturm had been spending entire nights at the 24-Hour Fitness in downtown Seattle. He would check in at around 11 p.m. and leave by 5 a.m. His presence rankled some other gym-goers and staff. Not many people wanted a homeless guy hanging around their gym, even if he was a paying member.

On March 30, the gym revoked his membership. The operations manager at the downtown gym refused to comment, but another employee said he tried to stick up for Sturm, encouraging others to be lenient — which got him into trouble with the management. "I didn't realize that this was an issue that went above me," he said.

The gym has no rules about the length of time someone can stay; however, it was finally able to nail Sturm for dozing off. "If you're using the facility for being active, you can stay here for eight hours, we don't care. But if you fall asleep here, that freaks other people out," the staff member said.

This is not the first time that 24 Hour Fitness has penalized a member for using their gym as living space. "It doesn't happen a lot, but it happens occasionally," said Mary Seltzer, who handles media relations for the California-based corporation. She said that some gyms in San Francisco have had to turn away homeless members. Like any private business, gyms have the right to refuse someone entrance or membership.

Since his expulsion from the gym, Sturm has been spending his evenings riding the buses across town. When the buses stop operating at 2 a.m., he rides his bicycle to keep warm. He may rest on a park bench, but not for long. During the day, Sturm rests in a storage unit that he's been renting for $130 per month to house his belongings. The unit is infested with mice, but he manages to catch a few hours of sleep there. He also spends a lot of time at the downtown library, where he does his email.

A few weeks ago, he applied for a bed at the Aloha Inn, a transitional housing facility on Aurora Avenue where people can stay up to nine months. It's difficult to get into the Inn, however; about 20 to 30 applications are received each week for the few beds that open up at the 66-capacity facility. The application process involves an interview with a committee of seven current residents, who ask prospective entrants about their background and goals. Sturm was rejected. He can re-apply in the future.

Understandably for a man in his situation, Sturm often feels like the world is against him. But one thing that gives him joy is running. "My mom tells me I was running way before I learned to walk," he says. He manages to participate in various runs throughout the city and volunteers at UW track meets. He talks fondly of his college days, when he ran with Kenyan students.

The sense of camaraderie is effusive at running events. After the St. Patrick's Day Dash, the 12,000-plus crowd of runners and supporters gathered near Qwest Field, drinking yogurt shakes and congratulating each other on their times. Sturm's track gear was scruffier than most, and it gave off a slightly musty odor, but few people would have guessed that he was homeless. His face glowing with heat, he went up to Uli Steidl, a local running star who placed second in the race. The two chatted briefly about the run they had just completed and about other events to come.

Pack animals: Doug Sturm finds togetherness in running community. Photo by Soyon Im.

As the humorist Dave Barry says, "There's a very fine line between hobby and mental illness," and perhaps Sturm's dedication crosses that line. But perhaps it's his saving grace. Running gives him goals, structure, something to look forward to. Earlier this month, he headed to Spokane to compete in Bloomsday, a 12-kilometer race that attracted 45,000 runners. One imagines that during the brief moment when he was racing, Sturm felt nothing but speed, his heart, and the rare sense of being part of something big. ■

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
Seattle Housing Authority

907 NW Ballard Way, Suite 200, Seattle
Open 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.,
Tuesday through Friday
206 239-1507
www.seattlehousing.org

Waiting list to open

From **May 15 through May 26** you can enter SHA's lottery to try for a spot on the new waiting list we are creating for Section 8 housing

To learn more, call **206 239-1674** or visit our Web site, **www.seattlehousing.org**

kbcs 91.3fm
a world of music & ideas

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

Studio (425) 564-2424
Office (425) 564-2427
email: kbcs@ctc.edu
www.kbcs.fm

American Revolutionary

Activist-historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz uncovers the beating heart of America

"Because we're in the heart of the empire, the Indian movement here is important beyond numbers ideologically, to really analyze what the United States is. It's only if you look at it from the Indian point of view that the truth is revealed, under all that propaganda about the founding fathers and democracy and all that."

Interview by TIMOTHY HARRIS
Staff Writer

Historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz has been around. In the mid-sixties, she was in South Africa, working with the underground African National Congress. Upon her return to the United States, she challenged New Left sexism to become a leader in the newly formed radical women's movement. From there, she took a brief detour though a Weather Underground–like revolutionary cell before turning up, in 1973, in South Dakota at Wounded Knee. Her work in indigenous movement-building led her to human rights work at the United Nations, where she became involved in mediating the conflict between the Miskitu Indians and the Sandinistas in the early '80s.

Her latest book, *Blood on the Border: a Memoir of the Contra War* (South End Press, 2005), completes a trilogy of historical memoirs that seamlessly blend the personal with the political and explore the world stage through the viewpoint of one of its more politically engaged actors. *Blood on the Border* offers a harrowingly personal view of the tragedy of the U.S. war on Nicaragua and its divisive role in the American Indian movement. Previous memoirs include *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie* (Verso, 1997), an examination of the suppressed radical history of the Midwest and being raised poor in rural Oklahoma, and *Outlaw Woman: A Memoir of the War Years, 1960-1975* (City Lights, 2002). Dr. Ortiz is a professor of ethnic studies at California State University East Bay.

Real Change: Much of your activism has been through the United Nations and the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. How do you view the prospects of the U.N. now as a force for international justice?

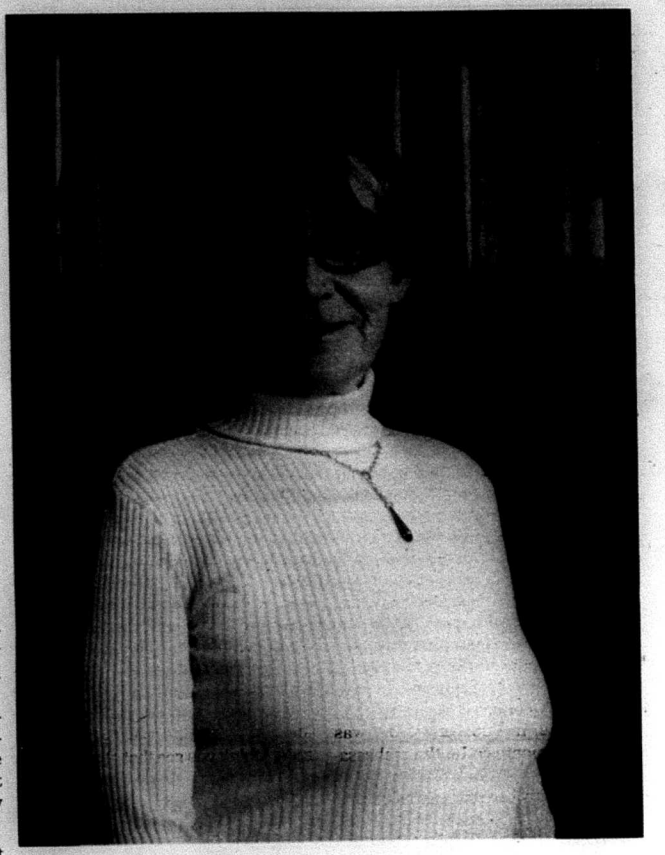
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz: I think the indigenous movement has been extremely important in refocusing things, and in challenging the United States and the European powers. There has also been the Women's Decade [the '70s], and South Africa leading the non-aligned nations.

Most people think that the U.N. not passing the go-ahead for the Iraq war was all about France. That wasn't it. A hundred and thirty countries didn't support it, led by South Africa and the non-aligned movement. South Africa has been really important in kind of reviving the non-aligned bloc. That was always the majority of the U.N. And that's what the U.S. was really fighting — not communism, not the Soviet Union, but the whole formerly colonized world.

RC: You say that indigenous movements may be our best hope for avoiding nuclear and ecological catastrophe. Why is that?

Dunbar-Ortiz: Because we're in the heart of the empire, the Indian movement here is important beyond numbers ideologically, to really analyze what the United States is. It's only if you look at it from the Indian point of view that the truth is revealed, under all that propaganda about the founding fathers and democracy and all that. It just becomes a naked empire when you look at it from the beginning.

There's a lot of work on the part of indigenous people, who are fighting for life or death as peoples. I've always felt it will come down to the Andes and Central America. It's in the subconscious of U.S. imperialism, and that is the heart of ev-



Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Photo courtesy South End Press.

orks. So does *Real Change.*

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

❑ $500 ❑ $250 ❑ $100 ❑ $50 ❑ $35 ❑ Other _____

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

Continued from Previous Page

erything. Their influence spread up to the Great Lakes and into Canada and to this area. This was a huge civilization. And the beating heart of it is Mesoamerica. And the same for South America, and the Andes, and the great civilizations there.

So it's like, you know, just "kiiiillllll that thing," and keep it killed. I would not have predicted, myself, 10 years ago, that there would be a militant, socialist, native person president of Bolivia. I could not have imagined that. I would have said someday, maybe, but this is remarkable. And in Ecuador, and Peru is moving toward that too.

RC: You've drawn this line that extends from the colonialist Indian wars to the policy in Central America and to what we're involved in now. What is the common denominator there?

Dunbar-Ortiz: I know it doesn't come down to just John Negroponte, but that sort of symbolizes or reflects the whole pattern. From Vietnam to the present, you can follow John Negroponte's career. He was a political officer in Saigon in the '60s, as was Colin Powell. We had Rumsfeld and Cheney in the Ford administration. There are 18 people, right now, engaged in the Bush administration, who were involved in the Contra war. Negroponte was the U.S. ambassador to Honduras, and he micromanaged the Contra war.

One of George W. Bush's first appointments, in February 2001, was John Negroponte to be the ambassador to the United Nations. I tell you, it just took my breath away, because I thought, "This means something." I just knew that it was going to be something terrible. This is what this man is for. Then he was made the first ambassador to Iraq, after the invasion, and now he's the National Intelligence Chief, over the CIA, the FBI, the NSA.

I've come to see that it's partly the fragility and weakness and poverty of Central America that makes it necessary for the United States to keep hold of it. Because how would it look to the rest of the world if the empire's weakest link were to break out? All hell breaks loose!

RC: You talk about some parallels with Vietnam, where the CIA exploited some of the indigenous people: arming the Montagnards, for example, and how they exploited that rift in Nicaragua as well.

Dunbar-Ortiz: Yeah. And of course, in Iraq. The divide and rule. It's an old colonial method of control, and throughout Africa there are civil wars going on now that are still remnants of British, French, and Belgian colonialism and U.S. neocolonialism. And then, the secret war in Laos, organizing the Hmong.

This is really what frightened me. Because I cared about the Miskitu Indians. If they did get involved with the CIA program, it could decimate them. Before the big Indian Movement, although it was just beginning, the Sandinistas would have just slaughtered those people. That's basically what the Pathet Lao did and that is what the Vietcong in Vietnam did, because they were working with the enemy.

I was able to get a lot of insight from Ralph McGehee, who had just retired from the CIA and wrote a book called *Deadly Deceits*. I got to meet him in New York and described to him what was going on, and he said, "I wrote that plan. I worked with organizing the Hmong. It's going to be a terrible tragedy if it doesn't get stopped." So he also talked to the Sandinistas.

And it was hard. I mean, the Sandinistas, they were nationalists, and it's been the Achilles' heel of revolutions in Latin America, especially in the Andes and Guatemala, where the majority of the people are indigenous, that they haven't been able to break through this nationalism, which assumes a unitary idea of the state. In the Mexican Revolution, they could idolize the Mestizo and Raza Unida and the great fusing of the indigenous and the European into a new race. But there were still Indians there. And many thought it would be better if they just disappeared and joined the Mexican state. And that's been the attitude. I think you see that changing now with Evo Morales' election.

RC: Given the U.S. government's past intolerance of liberation movements, it's hard not to be fearful for the progressive governments that are emerging now in Latin America.

Dunbar-Ortiz: Well, you know, what really surprised me is that it would ever be possible again, after Chile, for revolutions to come to power through election. And I think that's remarkable work that's been going on there. And it just slams the United States in the face. They're the ones who say you have to have these democratic elections. Well, here it is. And then they say, "Well, the people can't be trusted" (laughs). Or, "Chavez is a dictator." Just repeat that enough and people will believe it.

But no matter what the opinion is here, to invade all those countries is not like invading Central America. They're afraid to invade Cuba because of the resistance. I mean, they could, of course, destroy Cuba. But they would take a lot of U.S. lives. They would fight until every person with a gun — and everyone has a gun — was dead. And they know that. That's why the U.S. hasn't invaded Cuba. It seems like it would be so easy. Not so easy, and then you think of these massively populated places....

So, there's not a lot they can really do, except they can try to assassinate Chavez, and I'm sure they are. And maybe they will succeed, and maybe it will even set back that movement, but it's in so many places, now. There's a momentum.

So... I think they're kind of up against the wall. And it's sort of scary, in terms of this talk of using nuclear weapons and all, but they're getting desperate. And so I think it's a pretty dangerous time for the whole world. We've got to get a sense of the urgency here.

RC: When most people think about revolutionaries in America, I think they visualize something like the Weathermen and decide pretty quickly that that's not really for them. So what does a more sustainable revolutionary politics look like?

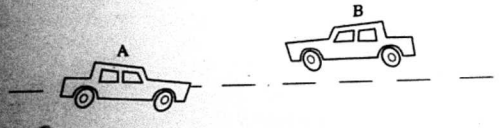
Dunbar-Ortiz: It has to be like we saw on May Day. That's a revolutionary spirit being revealed. And it has to be positive, in the sense that there is life ahead — these are young people. There is life worth fighting for. Every human life is precious, and not this dreary, "We just gotta get rid of this thing because it's a monster." We have to believe in ourselves as human beings. I think there's a widespread depression in our movement these days, and even in the Black movement. And in the Native movement in the United States there has been so much questioning.

Young native people—it's amazing, when I meet them. And a lot of young white people, too. But not masses like we saw on the streets—I mean, that was a representation of practically every Latino young person in this country, and many of the older people. And they're fighting for us, too, but we have to get involved in it to make it bigger. Join it, instead of thinking we have to lead it. Join in this revolution! It's happening, get involved, you know? ■

[More]
The full interview is available at *realchangenews.org*.

Story Problem 13

Car A leaves work traveling eastbound on the freeway at 60 mph. Car B leaves work traveling westbound on the freeway at 58 mph. If both cars travel at constant speeds, how hopeless do you have to feel to sleep under that freeway?



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.

seattleeducationaccess

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.sw.washington.edu

Social Workers Help starts here.
www.HelpStartsHere.org

eyes on Fremont

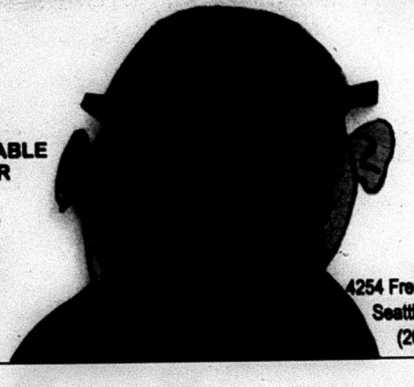
UNIQUE AFFORDABLE EYEWEAR

Friendly, Skilled Staff

On Site Lab

Eye Exams

Student Discounts



4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-3375

Sea Ice: an Inconvenient Truth

This summer a cruise ship will retrace Amundsen's route. But this will be no hardship journey. What took Amundsen's ketch four years to accomplish is scheduled to be completed in under six weeks.

Voyages of Delusion: The Quest for the Northwest Passage
Glyn Williams
Yale University Press, 2003
Hardcover, 496 pages, $40

By JOHN SISCOE
Contributing Writer

One hundred years ago this summer, Roald Amundsen and six crewmen became the first European explorers to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage. Their 72-foot ketch had taken four years to make the journey from Greenland to Alaska, surviving many perils and three brutal Arctic winters. Amundsen's voyage was a great feat of seamanship and a landmark of Arctic exploration. It also demonstrated that the much-hoped-for existence of a temperate, all-season route to Asia was nothing more than a dream.

Focusing on the British explorations of the 18th century, Glyn Williams' *Voyages of Delusion* tells the story of the pursuit of that dream. It is a story of high hopes and great expectations, as one expedition after another is launched into the frozen North. The fortunate ones will survive storms, hunger, and bitter cold, only to return home empty-handed. The unfortunate ones will never return. This is the stuff of high and grim adventure, and Williams makes the most of it. His writing is taut and vivid, and yet he never stoops to melodrama. Williams, who is an emeritus professor of history at the University of London, has been writing about Arctic exploration for 40 years, and he is a master of his material.

While the story of the voyages is gripping, there is another story Williams tells that is equally fascinating. It is the tale of the true believers, the cheerleaders, and the propagandists who kept the dream alive in the face of repeated failures. Foremost of the believers was Arthur Dobbs, an influential Member of Parliament who tirelessly promoted the vision of the Northwest Passage as the gateway not only to China and the Indies, but also to lands that existed only in the imagination, such as the island of Jedso, where the humblest citizens dined off plates of silver and gold.

Dobbs even commissioned maps that showed the location of Jedso and other lands that never were, teeming with riches ripe for the plucking. And so, lured by a glittering vision of endless wealth just over the horizon, ships kept sailing into ice and darkness. The true believers stayed at home, impervious to every setback, dreaming their dream.

It was not until the voyages of James Cook and George Vancouver, late in the 18th century, that the dream began to fade. The meticulous records kept by both captains showed that there was no sea passage along the Pacific Coast south of the Bering Strait. Despite all the evidence, Sir John Franklin tried again with famously disastrous results. Explorers searching for the lost Franklin expedition found the icy passage that Amundsen would at last navigate 50 years later.

This summer a cruise ship will retrace Amundsen's route. But this will be no hardship journey. What took Amundsen's ketch four years to accomplish is scheduled to be completed in under six weeks. The retreat of the polar ice cap has transformed a dangerous voyage into a summer cruise. The Arctic is changing in ways that Arthur Dobbs, in his most fervid dreams, could never have imagined. Glyn Williams has written a moving and convincing account of human endurance and a cautionary tale of human folly. ■

Less Star Glitz, More Film Thrust

The Seattle International Film Festival
May 25 - June 18

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

In the Pacific Northwest, where Pendletons still outnumber Armanis and pretense occasionally has boundaries, the Seattle International Film Festival stays true to the community from which it's spawned. The local audiences, who make up the bulk of those attending the largest film festival in North America, are more interested in what's on the screen than who's on the red carpet.

SIFF officially opens on May 25 with the screening of *The Illusionist*, starring Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, and Jessica Biel; winding up on June 18 with *The Science of Sleep*. The three intervening weeks include a spotlight on Danish films, the "Spawned in Seattle" showcase, archival screenings such as *The Gold Rush* with Charlie Chaplin, and "The Emerging Masters" series.

The Danish film presentations represent a special opportunity to witness a selection of works from a resurgent and talented film community most notable for storylines that cut to the quick. Hailing from the same culture as director Lars von Trier (*Dogville*), a director who increasingly, and often unfairly, draws bile from U.S. critics, these filmmakers, like their derided countryman, subject their characters and society to a ruthless evaluation.

Garrison Keillor, Meryl Streep, and Lindsay Lohan in A Prairie Home Companion.

Other offerings well worth examining are the latest film from Robert Altman, *A Prairie Home Companion*, with Garrison Keillor, Meryl Streep, and Woody Harrelson; *The Heart of the Game*, an exciting documentary that follows the Roosevelt High School girl's basketball team; *Distant Journey*, released in 1949, one of the first films to deal with the Holocaust; and *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, an examination of why an innovatively powered automobile somehow disappeared before entering production.

SIFF touts itself as a festival designed for the audience, as opposed to a brokering event crawling with dealmakers. It's the type of event that one whines about their city not having, but our city does. It's top drawer.

And remember: no recording devices, turn off your cell phone, and Birkenstocks are welcome.

For more information go to *www.seattlefilm.com*. ■

SIFF is the type of event that one whines about their city not having, but our city does. It's top drawer.

Scoping the Monkey Trials

Adventures in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Why do we need myths at all?

My first position on the creation of life, the universe, and everything, is that demanding that God tell you the answer is sheer blasphemy. You don't ask your parents to tell you how your conception went. "Was there a condom and did it break?" "Was a threesome involved?" "Was it good for everyone?" "Was it videotaped?" "Can I watch it?" These are questions you do NOT ask.

Lo, verily they did have offspring such as chimans, chullimpas, chichichumans, and chuchums.

My second position on creation, etc., is that, if any crimes were actually committed by any of the principals involved, surely the statutes of limitations have all expired by now. So there can hardly be grounds for prosecution. Although, look up the "Problem of Evil" for a view that indicates civil action, perhaps including class reparations, might still be appropriate.

So why are so many making so much noise about all these ideas, when they have nothing to do with things that matter in our everyday lives, like the price of gasoline, the rising costs of housing, government invasions of privacy, racism, the dismantling of the biosphere, or will Katie Couric dominate prime time broadcast news?

I think the answer to my question is that I was full of it when I asked it. I think that creation myths have everything to do with homelessness, invasions by Alberto Gonzalez, Katie Couric, etc. For example:

Scientists studying mass quantities of human and chimp cheek swabs have set forth a rich new theory, namely, that ages ago common ancestors of chimps and humans (I'll call them chumpans) split into isolated populations that evolved separately into distinct varieties, I'll call them chimpans and chumans. BUT, these then came back together and got the hots for each other, and they went for it, and lo, verily, they did have offspring such as chimans, chullimpas, chichichumans, and chuchums.

And then, THOSE did also come to know one another, and bunches of offsprings maybe beat each other, and other bunches wasted their lives getting high on fermented berries, and others simply sucked at termite hunting and starved to death, and finally, only "chimps" and "humans" were left, and those no longer had sex together, right? Because it had no procreative purpose now, wink, wink, as they were by then different species. Praise Darwin.

This is a fine subcreation theory every bit as fun as that Garden, Serpent, and "Apple" business is when you figure out what the snake is really doing there. You can tell your kids, "Yes, children, scientists have determined that the entire species of Homo Sapiens has original sin. In fact we once were ALL trailer trash. Our ancestors didn't just mess around one Sunday afternoon in a public park. They were messing around for millions of years with ALL the apes in the neighborhood of a continent, in every park, street, and alley, whether the apes bathed, or not, or shaved their foreheads."

In fact you could say this theory suggests that we humans owe our evolution of big brains and our domination of the planet to our long prehistory of sleeping with relatives. We evolved BECAUSE we were all Jerry Springer fodder for eons.

But I digress. I was going to say that these ideas are NOT irrelevant to important questions of public policy, like starvation, Darfur, immigration, the exploration of space, KeyArena, what part of the horse Tim Eyman is, gay marriage, homelessness, WASL, Putin's opinion of Cheney, or Katie Couric.

It's true. When we all can agree on where we all came from, it will be like the good old days when everyone always watched the Ed Sullivan Show and could answer questions about it the next day. Or like that time a couple years ago when we all saw the Paris Hilton clip.

When that day comes we will cease to be homeless people and non-homeless people. We will all be hairless apes whose ancestors once had sex with hairy apes, and the world will be as one. ■❑❄

Going About Without

Bus Chick, Transit Authority

Carla Saulter

When I was a child, my parents served in the Peace Corps in Morocco. As a lefty living in a culture that considers the left hand unclean, I was often forced to sit on my favored hand while I ate, colored, or played with blocks. Back in the States, no one prevented me from using my left hand—at least not directly. Instead, I was faced with a world built for righties. School desks, spiral notebooks, scissors, can openers, musical instruments — even expressions — seemed to presume that right was, well…right.

Similarly, in my years as a bus chick, I have become keenly aware that Seattle is, for lack of a better word, "carist." Freeways, shopping malls, and parking lots far outnumber walkable open spaces. Restaurants and department stores validate parking, but they don't give away bus tickets or day passes. Web sites for businesses and other organizations offer driving directions but don't mention which bus routes service their offices. And if I had a nickel for every time a receptionist has asked to register my car, I could single-handedly fund that monorail project we scrapped.

Many neighborhoods do not even have sidewalks, so those of us who must walk to and from bus stops or choose to walk on errands are forced to the ditches at the side of the road. And forget about the suburbs. Last weekend, I went to Bainbridge Island for a baby shower. Buses are scarce on Bainbridge, so I decided to walk the three miles from the ferry dock to the party. After the first mile, the sidewalks ran out. I walked another mile in the bike lane — praying that everyone who passed was both sober and competent — until the father-to-be happened by and offered me a ride — thankfully, just before the bike lane ended.

And speaking of bike lanes…. Although I love the idea of combining my workout with my commute, the only time I ride my bike in the city is on Bike to Work Day. There are simply not enough bike-only lanes, and I am terrified to ride in the street — apparently with good reason. According to *The Seattle Times*, in 2004, there were 258 bicycle/car collisions in Seattle.

If this carism continues, it won't be long until we find ourselves — like our brothers and sisters in Los Angeles — permanently stuck on freeways and choking on our own exhaust. I know that this is not what my fellow Seattleites want, because, despite the fact that we continue to build freeway exits and three-car garages, I have yet to meet a person who prefers strip malls to pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods or drive-through windows to neighborhood cafes. It's time to shift our focus from making the city accessible to cars to making it accessible to people.

While we're at it: Can we put those anchored pens in stores on both sides of the counter? ■

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

Sat., April 29, 12:25 a.m., S. Weller St. Complainant, a Lincoln tow truck driver, was hooking up a vehicle impounded by Seattle Police during a previous incident involving arrest. The suspect, a transient white female aged 22, ran up to the driver, telling him she lived in the van, and he couldn't tow it away. He advised her that he had the paperwork, and that the van was impounded by order of Seattle Police. She began cursing at the driver and demanded entry to the van to get her property. He tried to lock the doors and roll up the windows, but she kept pushing him to the side stating she only wanted to get her coat. The driver began to call 911, and suspect slapped him hard on the right side of his face. In defense he slapped her back across the face. When officers responded to the scene they saw the driver had a red mark on his face from the slap. The suspect did not appear to have marks. She was arrested and booked into King County Jail for assault.

Wed., May 10, 3 p.m., Third Ave. and James St. Officers responded to University of Washington Hospital in regards to a stabbing. Upon arrival, officer contacted victim, a 20-year-old Black male transient, who was being treated for a stab wound in the thigh. Victim was not forthcoming with any information and did not want police involvement in the matter. Victim stated that he was walking by himself on Third and James when three to five Black males jumped him and that one of them stabbed him. He refused to elaborate further on the incident.

Thurs., May 11, 2:30 p.m., 500 Fifth Ave. Victim, a 24-year-old white female transient, called police from King County Jail and reported that on May 10 at approximately 2:30 p.m., she was approached by a white female who told her that a rape suspect said that he was going to kill her after she gets released from jail. Victim is in jail on a material witness warrant. The victim said that the other female said that "the crew was going to get her and that the ante has been raised."

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.

The Heron Study (UW Research Study)

Were you in a research study at Detox (RCKC Kent or Seattle)? Were you in a study for HIV and Hep C risk reduction? We want to see you for follow-up visits! You will be compensated in cash for your time.

Please call (206) 568-8227 or (206) 568-8217

PCB, Continued from Page 1

(ppm) at a point adjacent to Dallas Ave. S.; a second locale, near the northern gate, uncovered a PCB level of 9,200 ppm. Safe PCB levels for an industrial area, such as Terminal 117, top out at 25 ppm. The two upland locations, close to the minority-rich, economically depressed South Park neighborhood, are presently covered with asphalt.

In humans, PCB exposure has been linked to skin and liver ailments. Some studies indicate PCBs are carcinogenic.

Housed beneath the uncovered shoreline of the Duwamish, to depths of no more than two feet, are 10 locations where PCB levels range from 70-530 ppm. Concentrations of diesel, motor oil, and heavy fuel oil vary throughout the site, both in covered and uncovered locations. (The state Department of Ecology estimates that during the 1970s, Malarkey Asphalt Co. used close to 1,000 gallons of waste oil per month for fuel, supplied by Seattle City Light.) Being highly "attracted" to oils, PCBs are carried wherever oils travel, such as into sources of nearby water.

Scheduled to take place in September and October, the removal action has an estimated cost of almost $6 million.

See PCB, Continued on Page 12

Folklore

Acoustic Fretted Instruments
Bought and Sold
Martin Guitar Dealer
Books, Strings, Repairs

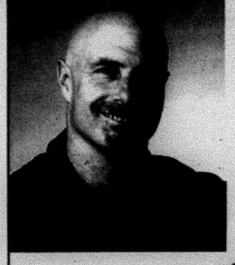
5210-A Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98105
(206) 524-1110

Free parking up to a half-hour in the loading zone out front.

www.folkstoreseattle.com

"Self-guided Tours Daily"

Realtor "Walks His Talk"



Craig Brooke-Weiss
My Realtor...

"Went above and beyond."

"Listened to me."

"Places the needs of clients first."

Real Estate for Real People!

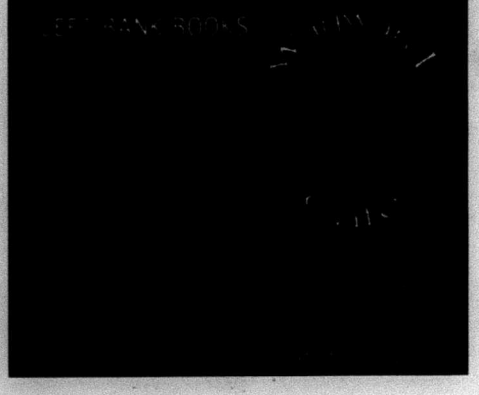
Windermere
Windermere Real Estate / Wall Street, Inc.

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



Letters

From borderline to center stage

Dear *Real Change*,

President Bush plans to spend billions of our dollars to turn the Mexican border into a war zone, using paramilitary troops and high-tech equipment. It's a horrible idea that Congress should quash immediately.

Immigration is a result of social and economic forces that the U.S. has a major part in creating, such as poverty and joblessness in South America. The great wealth that undocumented workers create in the U.S. is unacknowledged, while the government illegally declares war on border communities in the U.S. and Mexico. Who can doubt that Chicanos and Mexicans, and other brown-skinned people, will be abused and killed by trigger-happy, privatized soldiers whose bosses care only for the money they make? The dismal record of privatized prisons shows what poor and working-class people of color can expect.

Millions of immigrants and their supporters in the streets on May Day displayed a powerful force for change that can also help U.S. citizens who are feeling the contempt of our government for their jobs, wages, pensions, and freedom of speech. It's time that unions, women, the elderly, and all people of color join undocumented workers and stop the destruction of their rights and ours.

Adrienne Weller
Seattle

Flags of disposition

Dear *Real Change*,

I fully realize the hopes and aspirations of those who have left Mexico in order to come to the U.S. to work and achieve citizenship. However, it sends the wrong message to demonstrate holding not a very large U.S. flag but a very large flag of Mexico, the country they fled! That was amply illustrated by the photo on your May 3 front page.

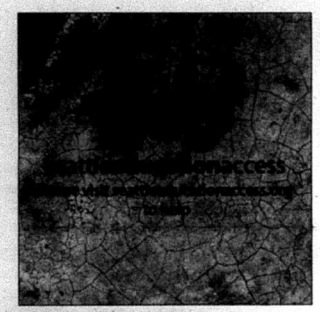
Martin Paup
Seattle

Feel the love

Dear *Real Change*,

As I sit here, reading *Real Change*, it occurred to me that *Real Change* is basically the only newspaper I read. I stopped looking at mainstream news, both print and TV, several years ago due to the sensational approach with no substance. I find *Real Change* reports real news and offers those of us starving for perspective and substance a nice alternative (along with a few radio programs/free papers). The vendors brighten the day, you provide informative articles, interviews, poetry... shall I say more? Thank you for being here.

Gwendalyn Thompson
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*.

REAL CHANGE JOB OPENING

Director of Development

Real Change offers opportunity and a voice to low-income people while taking action to end poverty and homelessness. Founded in 1994, Real Change now reaches 11,000 readers with each issue of the paper while offering an income to more than 250 homeless and low-income vendors each month. In 2005,Real Change won the Municipal League of King County's "Organization of the Year" award for effective civic engagement, and was named "Best Grassroots Media Outlet" by the Seattle Weekly.

The Director of Development will work with the Executive Director to grow Real Change's $500,000 budget to increase our capacity as an independent media resource and create new resources for anti-poverty organizing and advocacy. The position will focus on donor development, cultivation of foundation support, and event planning.

$38,000-$43,000 starting, depending on experience. Benefits include full health and dental, vacation, sick, and holiday pay. People of color and people who have personally experienced poverty or homelessness encouraged to apply. Send detailed cover letter and resume to HR@realchangenews.org, or mail to Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121, attn Tim Harris.
Deadline: 5 pm, June 9, 2006.

CLASSIFIED

Opportunity

Celebrate the 10th Annual Igbo Day with Igbo and Nigerian cuisines, music, and dances. Tickets $20. Saturday, May 27th, 6 p.m., Jefferson Community Center, 3801 Beacon Ave. S, Info: (206)313-3756.

"Hearing Human Voices in Conflict" documentary film series. Wed., May 24 and 31st, 7 to 9 p.m., Bitter Lake Community Center, 13035 Linden Ave. N.

Information

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

Wednesday 5/24

Recently returned from 15 months of field research in the growing multi-ethnic resettlement community of Eritrea, Amanda Poole shares her insights into the social identities, displacement, and meaning of "home" in her talk *The Power of Place: An Ethnography of Refugee Resettlement in the Eritrean Lowlands*. 2 p.m., University of Washington, Communications 202/204.

U.S. Women and Cuba present a screening of *The Motorcycle Diaries*, which depicts Ernesto "Che" Guevara and Alberto Granado on a road trip through the heart of South America. As he is exposed to a world of deep poverty, Che Guevara goes through a spiritual transformation and begins to recognize the need for justice. Tickets $5. 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Central Cinema, 1411 21st Ave. Info: *www.womenandcuba.org*.

Are human rights being protected or ignored in the war on terror? Deputy Director of Plans and Policy for U.S. Central Command Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt talks and answers questions on the long-term plans and implications of the global war on terror. Tickets $15. 7 p.m., Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S Info: *www.worldaffairs.org*.

Featuring 19 stages and more than 1,000 performances, the Northwest Folklife Festival is an opportunity to celebrate, share, and sustain the vitality of folk, ethnic, and traditional arts. The festivities include music, dance, crafts, food, workshops, and an array of participatory events. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Friday, May 26 - Sunday, May 29. Seattle Center, 302 Harrison St. Info: www.nwfolklife.org.

Thursday 5/25

Dan Tsahor and Stephen Funk teach about the growing resistance against the occupations of Palestine and Iraq. Tsahor, a former soldier in the Israeli army, was imprisoned for refusing to serve in the occupied Palestinian territories. He is a founding member of Combatants for Peace, a new organization made up of Israelis and Palestinians who struggle together to nonviolently end the occupation. Stephen Funk, the first conscientious objector to the Iraq War, served nine months in military prison and is a member of Iraq Vets Against the War. 6:30 p.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Bloedell Hall, 1245 - 10th Ave. E.

Bo Lozoff is the founder of Human Kindness Foundation and author of *We're All Doing Time*, which is often called "the Convicts' Bible." He works with prisoners, encouraging them to recognize themselves as human beings who must take responsibility for their lives. He discusses his life work and the need for love and respect. 7 p.m., University Friends Center, 4001 Ninth Ave. NE. Info: *www.humankindness.org*, (206)920-7251.

Through Saturday 5/27

The provocative new play *What Is Sexy?* penetrates fantasy and reality, attempting to discover what actually is sexy. Tickets $10 and up. Thursday – Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 7 p.m. Capitol Hill Arts Center, 1621 12th Ave.

Saturday 5/27

The Scarlet F is a fun and in-your-face celebration of queer femininity and femme identity. Through burlesque, spoken word, and music, the show breaks barriers, challenges assumptions, and promotes diversity and dialogue. Featuring performances by Queen Bees, Tara Hardy, and Katinka Kraft. Tickets $12. 7 p.m., Re-bar, 1114 Howell St. Info: *www.ladyking.org*.

Sunday 5/28

The son of immigrant parents, Magdaleno Rose-Avila began his working life in the onion fields of southeast Colorado. Today, he is executive director of Northwest Immigrants Rights Project. He will discuss proposed legislation that will impact low-income immigrants and refugees, including the facts you don't hear on the news. 9:30 a.m., University Unitarian Church 6556 - 35th Ave. NE. Info: (206)522-9384.

Wednesday 5/31

The accomplished author Eva Hoffman delivers her talk Between Words, Between Worlds: Some Thoughts On Exile In which she addresses life before and after the Holocaust and the emotional complexities of remembrance. Tickets $6 and up. 7:30 p.m., Benaroya Hall, Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, 200 University St. Info: *www.nextbook.org*.

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

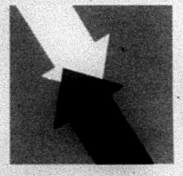
Director's Corner

Real Change made a respectable showing this year in the Western Washington Society of Professional Journalists' 2006 Excellence in Journalism competition. In the Non-Daily Newspaper category (our circulation would have to be about seven times bigger to reach the 80,000 threshold to compete as an alternative weekly), we took awards in the Personalities and Humorous Writing categories.

First Place in Personalities went to Rosette Royale for his thought-provoking profile of John Akbar, father of Hasan Akbar, an African-American soldier sentenced to death in a military court for a grenade and rifle attack on U.S. soldiers in Kuwait. The attack killed two officers and wounded 14 other soldiers. Rosette's article took an unflinching look at racial and religious hatred and, in looking at the incident through the eyes of a father, understood that love resists easy judgment and that there is always a story behind the story.

The Humorous Writing award went to yours truly for my epic first-person account of an encounter with Amma, the hugging saint of India. When I won the SPJ's Bosch Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2004, I mentioned that at one time in my life I had journalistic ambitions but settled instead for the role of nonprofit administrator. I'll accept my second place showing as evidence that all, perhaps, is not lost.

Both stories can be found in our website's vast archives (*www.realchangenews.org*) by clicking on search and entering "Akbar" or "Amma."



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Slow the R-65 Signature Drive

Issue: After 30 years of struggle, anti-discrimination activists and forward-thinking legislators finally passed House Bill 2661, adding sexual orientation to the state law banning discrimination in housing, employment, and finance. Now, before the law has even taken effect, Tim Eyman and others are collecting signatures for Referendum 65, requiring a public vote on the legislation.

Background: House bill 2661 is limited in scope. It has nothing to do with marriage. It doesn't establish hiring quotas. It doesn't provide preferential treatment to anyone. It simply prevents people from being fired, evicted, denied a loan, etc., because they are gay or lesbian.

For people living in Seattle or King County, it might be hard to understand the need for a state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Protection from discrimination seems like a fundamental right, and both Seattle and King County have non-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation. The City of Burien also has such a law, but outside of King County, only the cities of Olympia, Spokane, and Tacoma specifically prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Throughout the rest of Washington state, it is completely legal to fire or evict someone based solely on her or his sexual orientation. If the legislation isn't enacted, such discrimination will remain legal.

Supporters of repealing the law expect to collect the necessary 112,440 signatures by June 6. If they do, the public will vote in November and decide whether to retain the law against discrimination or repeal it. A vote to APPROVE is a vote to keep our state's anti-discrimination law and to protect our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers from discrimination. A vote to reject the law means it will be perfectly legal to discriminate against Washingtonians on the basis of sexual orientation.

Referendum supporters are distorting the facts to gather signatures. They are incorrectly implying that the law the legislature passed will lead to gay marriage, establish hiring quotas, and establish preferential treatment for gays and lesbians. They also argue that the final decision on this issue should lie with the voters. The repeal effort is using misinformation, couched in terms that sound like democracy. But something as fundamental as protection from discrimination should not be subject to a vote and decided based on who can raise the most money, send out the most mailings, or create the most fear and confusion. We should all be able to expect protection from discrimination. Elected officials should defend all of us, and that's what they did when they passed House Bill 2661. That's more democratic than asking voters to decide who can be discriminated against and who can't.

Action: First — don't sign the petition, and let your friends and family members know that you're not signing because you believe in fairness and equality.

Second, visit *www.washingtonwontdiscriminate.org* and use their online form to endorse the Washington Won't Discriminate campaign. You can also sign up to receive campaign updates, make a donation, or volunteer your time for this important effort.

For more information, visit the website listed above or call (206)728-4444.

RENT, Continued from Page 1

fourth at 65 percent of the median, or a fifth at 60 percent. The Lothlorien's developer took the first option, promising to start a third of the studios at $953 a month for studios and $1,020 a month for one-bedrooms. The landlord could adjust those units' rent as the county's median income changes.

The City Council, although recommending to the Office of Housing that the contract be renegotiated, considers the MFTE a useful program. "It's a balancing act between incentive for developers and public benefit," says Mike Fong, legislative aide to Rasmussen. "If we cap the 'affordable' rent as too low, the developers will not use the program, since it will no longer be worth it."

The city's main justification for the tax exemption comes from its assumption that rent increases in the next decade would shove even moderate-income renters — like those making $38,000 a year — out of the market. In that case, the tax exemption acts to preserve affordability, says Fong.

Fox, on the other hand, considers the whole approach flawed, since market rates already dictate the rent to hover around 70 percent of the median, or, in the case of the University District, lower. And using the median income, which includes homeowners from Medina to Everett, in calculating rental rates in the University District is completely misguided, he says: "These standards are not specific and should be finely tuned for particular neighborhoods."

The current difference between Lothlorien set-asides and the regularly priced units is slight or nonexistent: All the studios, whether they're subject to the exemption or not, will be rented at $914. The program would make more sense if the cutoff were 50 percent of median, says Fox, which would be noticeably less than the market rate and therefore more affordable.

The tax exemption has been applied to 17 new projects throughout Seattle, but this is the first time that the City Council has not automatically approved the contract. According to Fong, the contract with Lothlorien apartments will be put forth again at a June 6 meeting. ■

CHUCK RINEHART
Journeyman Carpenter/ Contractor
Remodels • Repairs • Updating
Disability Alterations
Ph (206) 719-8450
Lic. # RINEHC1066MR

PCB, Continued from Page 10

But Cummings says she's seen estimates stating that for more money — essentially, $12 million —PCB concentrations on site could be lowered to levels that align with safe residential use, which stands at one ppm. "We're asking them to take out more [PCBs,]" says Cummings, "so that it becomes safe for people."

Grotheer says that yes, if more money were spent, more soil could be removed. But with other issues to be addressed within and along the Duwamish, Grotheer says, "Money could be spent elsewhere."

Back in 2001, the entire lower Duwamish Waterway was designated a Superfund site, a term the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses to identify hazardous sites throughout the country that pose risks to human health and the environment. Along the Duwamish, there were sites — "The hot spots, if you will," says Grotheer — which were determined to be so hazardous, their clean up was fast tracked. Terminal 117 is one such hot spot.

The proposed removal action will be overseen by the EPA. Ravi Sanga, EPA project manager for the cleanup, says that once the work on the site is completed, remaining PCB levels will amount to 10 ppm within the top two feet of soil, with areas farther down closer to 25 ppm. Those levels are in alignment with the port's projected use for the site, which they envision will remain industrial, not residential. "So with two feet of clean material, and with a layer of asphalt," he says, "the EPA feels that is protective."

But Sanga stresses the current Time Critical Removal Action is a proposal of an interim plan. (Another, potentially final, cleanup being considered for the summer of 2007 will address the shoreline.) The particulars of the interim proposal could change, Sanga says, as they did for another proposal, one that pertained specifically to dredging the areas where the Duwamish abuts Terminal 117. Public concerns at the time, he says, changed that earlier proposal, ultimately causing the Port to undertake the testing that provided currently identified PCB levels. "If [public] input warrants changes," claims Sanga, "we would consider the input and act accordingly."

Cummings is hoping such input is voiced, to protect not only people, but also the animals that call the land and waters near Terminal 117 home.

"When we say we're doing a cleanup," says Cummings, "we want it to be left clean." ■

[Public Meeting]

The meeting, co-sponsored by the EPA and state Dept. of Ecology, will allow the public to voice concerns about the interim cleanup of Terminal 117. Citizens are called to meet on Thurs., May 25, at Concord Elementary, 723 S. Concord St. Open house starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by a. 7 p.m. meeting. Free food and childcare offered. Spanish interpretation provided.

REAL CHANGE
ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT
The On-Line Auction is Coming!
June 1-14, 2006
Watch this space for details
• Private cruise of The Seven Bells, fully restored 1929 wooden motor yacht
• San Diego weekend - three nights at Kimpton's Hotel Solarmar
• Whistler (B.C.) weekend – three nights at Glacier Lodge condo
• Waterford crystal – 24 piece service
• Professional Home Improvement: full day's work from two quality contractors (16 man hours – and we mean man hours!)
• "Yes Virginia, There is Nightlife in Ballard" package: $150 gift certificate for the Bal-Mar and event tickets at The Tractor Tavern
• "Seattle Cul-cha" package: a day at the races (Emerald Downs), overnight at Renaissance Madison (incl. breakfast) and tix to Seattle Asian Art Museum
• vintage 1970's AAL and ARx acoustic speakers (solid walnut casings)
• Seattle Jazz: tix for the Earshot Jazz Fest (Oct- Nov), plus Bill Frisell CD and signed poster
For More info, call Peter Japin 206 441-3247 x208 development@realchangenews.org