

# REAL CHANGE

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\$1

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JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2006



KEN SCHAUER, 25, PARTAKES OF A SPAGHETTI LUNCH PROVIDED BY OPERATION SACK LUNCH, WHICH SERVES WEEKDAY MEALS AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. COME JANUARY OF NEXT YEAR, THE PROGRAM, ALONG WITH OTHER OUTDOOR MEALS PROVIDERS THAT ARE SANCTIONED BY THE CITY, WILL HAVE TO MOVE. PHOTO BY ROSETTE ROYALE.

## Food for Thought

*Sanctioned outdoor meals providers may have to find new digs*

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**  
Staff Reporter

Most of the city's workers were already home for the night and had eaten dinner by the time 36-year-old Ty got in line for his at the walled-off plaza of Seattle's First Presbyterian Church.

Ty is a tall slip of a man who has a place to stay but very little money. He had arrived early and was lying on his back reading a book as others entered the narrow plaza from a gate at the corner of Seventh Avenue and Madison St.

Each in turn sat down to wait. Four nights a week, a group called the Lord's Table serves dinner at 8:30. On weekdays at 1 p.m., another group, Operation Sack Lunch, provides a midday meal at the plaza, which the city of Seattle leased one year ago to give the meal providers a city-designated place to serve — behind new partitions that the city paid for to hide the plaza from sidewalk view.

Even hidden, the free meals are too much for the First Hill neighborhood. Bowing to community pressure, Pastors Jeff and Ellen Schulz told the city in April that the church will not renew

the \$75,000 lease at year's end. If a new spot isn't found by Dec. 31, the last three city-approved outdoor meal providers — of the nine that once served at the city's Public Safety Building — will be on the street and out of luck, just like the people they serve.

"I think it's unfortunate they have to acquiesce to everyone," says Ty. The people who come to First Presbyterian "like the anonymity of lining up and not giving away any personal information whatsoever" to get a meal.

The providers are likely to go right on serving outdoors, says Beverly Graham, a 17-year provider with Operation Sack Lunch, for just that reason: Many homeless and poor people won't go indoors for a meal. But without a city-approved site — the element that separates sanctioned providers from "renegades" such as Food Not Bombs or church groups — the servers would have to operate illegally or not at all.

"The Seattle police are not going to go out and arrest [providers] for feeding people," says Al Poole, director of the city's homeless intervention

## Help Us See Red

*Real Change needs your help this summer.*

First the good news. *Real Change* is having our best summer yet. Every week this month, we've sold out of press runs of 12,000 copies. More vendors are involved than ever, with correspondingly high levels of success. Our readers tell us that *Real Change* is the paper they've come to count on as their source for local progressive news.

Our summer fund drive, however, isn't doing so well. Maybe it's the heat, but nearly a month into our June/July drive we've yet to hit the first \$10K of our \$80,000 goal.

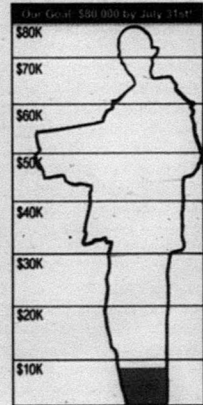
To those of you who have responded, nearly 100 people with checks and pledges ranging from \$10 to \$1,500, we are deeply grateful. You make it possible for us to continue our work.

Private donations make up more than forty percent of our overall support. Your donations keep our small news department fed, subsidize the staff who support our more than 250 vendors a month, and allow us to have a paid organizer to mobilize support for the issues we care about most.

Last year, more than half of our work hours were logged by volunteers.

We know that *Real Change* enjoys deep community support. Twice a year, we ask our readers to demonstrate that support with a donation of whatever you can afford. Your support is essential to our growth and survival.

Please don't take our success for granted. We're working hard to provide opportunity and success for our vendors and to publish a newspaper that makes them proud. We can't do it without you.



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# Here's the Church, Here's the Steeple ...

*Downtown church says it's the people who matter most*

By MICKI KENT  
Contributing Writer

"What brings character and what makes history are people who act as neighbors... (The congregation) are being good neighbors to Seattle's downtown core and displaying the kind of courage, albeit sadly lacking, that sees people as more important than buildings."

— Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett, director, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness

Seattle First United Methodist Church has recently been featured in news headlines as far away as the *Los Angeles Times*, as the congregation nears completion of plans for a new church they have envisioned for the past 20 years. The only feasible plan at present involves demolishing the nearly 100-year-old building and exchanging the site for another downtown location where the congregation can continue its spiritual ministry in the heart of the city and its mission to serve the city's underprivileged.

The church has faced numerous costly legal battles, instigated mainly by preservationist groups, ever since 1986, when the church was nominated for landmark status by the City of Seattle. The church won a Washington State Supreme Court case in 1996, which nullified the landmark designation. The Court applied Washington's constitutional respect for religious freedom to exempt church property from historic preservation regulations.

Of critical importance in finding a new church site is to keep our congregation downtown (within the Ride Free zone) so that those in need would have access to church facilities and programs. At a time when the city's budget for human services is being drastically cut, Seattle FUMC plays an ever-increasing role in this regard.

- We serve more than 60,000 meals annually to the hungry in our community.
- We provide shelter for 40 homeless men each night, in partnership with the Lutheran Compass Center, which serves them breakfast and dinner seven days a week.

- The Church of Mary Magdalene and Mary's Place, located on site, serve more

than 80 breakfasts and lunches to homeless women and children every day.

- In just the past year, attendance at our Shared Breakfast program has increased from an average of 250 to more than 380 individuals twice each month.

Our current building is poorly equipped to handle this volume, yet we are providing a crucial community service every day of the week. The proposed new building on Third Avenue between Battery and Wall streets is expected to have new hygiene facilities, a kitchen, and other amenities needed to house the Church of Mary Magdalene and Mary's Place, and to provide safe shelter for the men at night. Seattle FUMC plans to continue to serve breakfast twice monthly to the downtown homeless population.

While understanding the preservationists' desire to save the old building, church members, who on June 4 voted overwhelmingly to approve plans for the new structure, will make every effort to incorporate historic art and sacred objects from the old building into the design and furnishings of the new one.

Support for the embattled congregation has come from several community leaders. The Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett, director of the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness, responded thus to a recent editorial by King County Councilman Dow Constantine:

"Were he paying better attention, the Councilman would know what a struggle it is to locate even a feeding program downtown for the homeless, much less services for the homeless like those this congregation provides. What brings character and what makes history are people who act as neighbors... (The congregation) are being good neighbors to Seattle's downtown core and displaying the

kind of courage, albeit sadly lacking, that sees people as more important than buildings."

Knute Berger, *Seattle Weekly* editor, commented in an April column that by tearing down the old church and swapping for property in Belltown "... (Seattle FUMC) congregants can continue to minister to the poor and homeless while being freed from feeding a money-sucking white elephant.... It may be less picturesque for the rest of us, but the fact is that we now rely on these faith-based services to plug holes in the safety net.... Perhaps if we fully funded social services, these churches could devote time to other worthy projects, like historic preservation."

And the Rev. Anthony B. Robinson, in a recent *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* editorial, while expressing sympathy with preservationists' desire to preserve the building, advised them to "... get real. It takes... significant money to maintain a church building... as large and old as First Methodist. If people want to see the building preserved and maintained, great — just don't lay the bill and blame on the valiant little congregation that is trying to do something to serve Jesus and the needy people of Seattle."

Speaking for her church's members, Rev. Dr. Kathryn James, senior pastor, has said, "Our core mission isn't the preservation of old buildings. I am proud to serve a congregation that has made the commitment to stay in mission downtown, in spite of the immense challenges involved."

Emphasizing that the church is not a building, Rev. Dr. James has invited the community to come to services and see what is going on inside, where a living, breathing, and remarkably diverse congregation is worshipping God, creating community, advocating for justice, and ministering to our neighbors in need. ■

Micki Kent is  
Communications  
Director of Seattle  
First United Methodist  
Church.

## 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 Street Writers peer support group for homeless writers, the Homeless Speakers Bureau, and the First Things First organizing project. All donations support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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# Change ment

Three years ago, Edgar Masmela began working with Friends of the Children, a one-on-one mentoring program for vulnerable youth. Now he's the director of the Seattle chapter, located in the Central District. "My job is to provide quality mentors," says Masmela. Friends of the Children selects kids to be mentored in kindergarten and stays with them through high school. Many of the kids who are selected to be mentored are vulnerable because of the challenges they face, from poverty to families with histories of domestic violence, homelessness, and poverty. "We're trying to break that cycle," says Masmela.

Mentors for Friends of the Children spend four hours a week with the kids doing everything from taking them to the park to simply being there for them. Masmela admits that the five- to seven-year commitment that is asked of the mentors can be a lot, but ultimately rewarding. "All of us as mentors know that we're going to make a difference," says Masmela. "Not only are we helping the kids set goals, but we're standing with them to help them accomplish those goals."

— Justin Ellis



EDGAR MASMELA, connecting children in vulnerable populations with mentors, for the long haul. Photo by JUDE O'REILLEY.

## Just Heard...

### Awards season

Two *Real Changers* walked away with awards at the 11th Annual International Network of Street Newspapers in Montreal, Quebec, earlier this month. Lester Gray, arts editor for *Real Change*, received an award for his contributions to the Street News Service ([www.streetnewsservice.org](http://www.streetnewsservice.org)), and Director of Operations and North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA) board member Israel Bayer was given honors for his work with the organization.

NASNA, a North American regional network of 26 newspapers, of which *Real Change* is a member, officially joined the International Network of Street Papers in Montreal. The organization now has more than 70 newspapers worldwide.

— Israel Bayer

### SHA's contempt

The Seattle Housing Authority is having a little trouble understanding the court order on Rule 42.

SHA wrote Rule 42 to stop tenants of its highrise apartments from putting signs, posters, or even notes to the mail carrier on the front of apartment doors. When the agency tried instituting the rule last fall, some tenants sued, claiming the rule limits free speech.

In April, a Superior Court judge agreed and ordered SHA to stop distributing or enforcing the rule. But SHA, which is appealing the case, hasn't complied. It's been giving new tenants copies of its House Rules that include Rule 42. The rule also remains on the agency's website.

On May 26, Eric Dunn, the tenants' attorney at the Northwest Justice Project, wrote SHA to request action. He says SHA responded that it would take the rule off its website, but that it has thousands of House Rules copies it doesn't want to chuck. So Dunn wrote another letter Tuesday providing SHA with suggestions. One of them, in so many words, is to use a black marker.

If SHA doesn't take action by the end of the week, Dunn says he's going to file a motion to request a contempt of court hearing.

### Trees to go

They lamented the loss. All the same, Seattle's Board of Park Commissioners voted last Thursday to cut down a total of 11 trees in City Hall Park, a tiny area of tree and lawn used by the homeless and poor just south of the King County Courthouse.

That's up from 10 trees, the count that Parks Department staff gave the King County Council in a June 5 report on the park's renovation plan. Oddly, the number of trees standing in today's park is also up: Though a total of 15 giant oaks stand inside City Hall Park today, parks staff now count younger sidewalk plantings along Third, Fourth, and Yesler for a total of 24 trees.

The \$3.5 million to \$4 million plan, which still requires City Council approval, also calls for putting in a plaza where lawn is now, closing Dilling Way (a short drive that connects Third and Fourth at Yesler), and fencing the park's original perimeter along the curved drive. Design sketches show a two- to three-foot fence with openings at walkways.

"Homeless people have some kind of ownership of this park," Ramels said. "I urge the commission to pay careful attention to the consequences of fences."

— Cydney Gillis

## Dangerous Samaritans

Humanitarians face felony charges for border assistance

By TIMOTHY HARRIS  
Staff Writer

When Shanti Sellz and Daniel Strauss, both 23, pulled off Highway 19 into the Arizona desert on July 9 last year, it was as good Samaritans. The two had been working for more than a year with No More Deaths, a faith-based coalition in Tucson that rescues stranded immigrants along the 200-mile Arizona-Mexico border.

By the end of the day, the volunteers faced felony charges that could land them in federal prison for up to 15 years. Sellz and Strauss are touring the country to draw attention to the conditions migrants face. An estimated 400,000 workers successfully cross the southern border every year. Last year alone, there were nearly 300 documented deaths in the Arizona desert. The actual count is estimated to be much higher. Many bodies are never found.

Beginning in 1994 with Operation Gatekeeper, U.S. border policy has focused on the closure of high-density migration corridors, forcing workers into a harrowing journey across unforgiving territory. The theory is that migrants will make a cost-benefit analysis and forgo the risky trek.

Conditions in Mexico, where low-wage workers receive the equivalent of about \$4 for a 10- to 12-hour workday, have led many migrants to a different conclusion. Neo-liberal economic policies that benefit first-world nations have destroyed Mexican agriculture and industry, leaving widespread unemployment and little to no safety net.

Often misinformed regarding the conditions of the journey, workers pay "coyotes," or guides, up to \$2,000 to lead them across the border. With stakes this high, those who become sick or injured are often left behind.

No More Deaths formed four years ago to offer basic assistance to stranded migrants who might otherwise die. "There's a range of opinion," says Strauss, "but it's hard to find people who think migrants should die for trying to support their families."

Through agreed upon protocols, Border Patrol allows the group to offer water, food, basic first aid, and directions. In the event of extreme medical emergency, with authorization from a nurse or doctor, the group may perform medical evacuations to the nearest hospital.

This was the case last July, when Sellz and Strauss came upon a group that had been lost for days. Three of their members drank water from a cattle trough and were severely ill and dehydrated. The pair had received medical clearance for evacuation when they were arrested by Border Patrol on charges of aiding and abetting and conspiracy. They were held in prison for two days and released pending trial.

Prof. Gemma Lopez Limon, who is traveling with representatives from No More Deaths, speaks at a June 26 rally at the Mexican Consulate. The masked woman was not identified. Photo by Cydney Gillis.



See BORDER, Continued on Page 10

# Pregnant Pause

Kimya Dawson of *Moldy Peaches* launches solo career and family in Seattle

By GHITA LOEBENSTEIN  
Contributing Writer

Kimya Dawson has only a month of hardcore naval-gazing left to do. As the one-time member of cult anti-folk band *The Moldy Peaches*, and now flying solo as the queen of quirk, Dawson has a compulsion to share her most intimate self. As her pregnant belly swells, she's taken to penning a warts-and-all account of her pregnancy in an online journal, relishing the fact that her friends and fans are along for the ride.

In the pop-fueled memoirs of her fifth album, *Remember That I Love You*, she lends her rhyming couplets to everything from pounding headaches and lost spectacles, to the wonder of realizing we're all "...just a speck of dust inside a giant's eye."

An out-of-tune violin or a boisterous choir consisting of friends are commonplace on a Kimya Dawson record. Described as "living-room productions," they create a sense of intimacy — a kind of confiding whisper that has

allowed her to rid the monsters that have haunted her past.

"I spent a lot of my life not being happy and then kind of realized that it came from being lonely or ashamed or a little unsatisfied with the way I was," Dawson explains. She recalls a miserable slide into depression, drinking and pill-popping that eventually landed her in a coma. When she emerged, a friend handed her a guitar. The following weekend she played her first show, with then band-mate Adam Green, as *The Moldy Peaches*.

"I started writing songs on my own so I wouldn't have to rely on Adam," Dawson says. There was also the issue of a nine-year age gap between Dawson and Green. "I needed to get out the things that I couldn't necessarily say in a room with, like, a 17-year-old-boy," she says, referring to Green.

Playing solo, she discovered that she could expose her mottle of bruises in spare but affectionately constructed songs — and by doing so, discovered a keen fan-base.

"I started singing about my insecurities, and the more I talked about that kind of stuff the more people would say they felt the same way. That made it a lot harder for me to wallow inside of myself all the time. It is almost compulsive, I guess, knowing that I'll feel better if I just talk about things."

"After I write a song a lot of people will say that they've been through similar things," she says. And although her demons may still rear their cartoonish heads in her music, the days of Dawson waking up to voices telling her she's "fat, ugly and stupid" have passed. "As long as I write songs, I don't have time to be like that."

There's also the imminent birth of her baby to keep her preoccupied, and her desire to keep moving. On "Tire Swing," she sings: "If I stay in one place/ I lose my mind", and readily admits that having to hang around the house is one of the hardest things about being pregnant. "Seattle will be my base, but as soon as the baby's a few months old I'll be touring again." ■

Reprinted from The Big Issue Australia  
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[More]  
Click on the on-line diary at <http://www.kimyadawson.com/>

## Short Takes

### Coming in third

When it comes to the top three issues that King County faces today, homelessness ranks number three.

So say the participants of a survey, conducted by United Way, that sought to determine attitudes and perceptions of homelessness within the county. Survey respondents placed transportation/traffic in the pole position, with education/school-related concerns filling the second slot.

The survey, released in late June, revealed that 84 percent of respondents are optimistic an end to homelessness can be achieved. The specific formula for how such an historic event could happen was not highlighted, but 57 percent of the people believed that if organizations were "willing to spend whatever was necessary," then homelessness would become a thing of the past.

Who bears the responsibility for ensuring homelessness meets its demise? A slight majority of respondents — 55 percent, to be exact — laid that duty on the steps of county/city government, even though only nine percent of those questioned felt these two tiers of government was performing this task. Instead, 36 percent felt that non-profits/charities were the most committed to achieve such an end.

When quizzed about what causes people to become homeless, those surveyed cited substance abuse and mental illness — 22 and 21 percent, respectively — as the most common factors. Lack of affordable housing was viewed as being directly linked to the homelessness by 16 percent. Eleven percent thought "people lacking motivation" was the cause for their being out on the streets.

Interactions with those whom are homeless can affect attitudes, but most respondents reported a low frequency of individual action around the issue. Only 34 percent said they gave money or food to a homeless person at least once a month; 10 percent acknowledged they had volunteered their time,

whether at a food bank or shelter, during a similar window of time.

United Way of King County commissioned Lopez & Cheung Research to implement the survey. Interviewed between March 5 — 19 of this year, the 849 respondents were being asked to comment upon an issue exemplified in one sobering statistic: on any given night in King County, 8,000 people are homeless.

### Bu-shhhhhh!

If George Bush comes to Seattle again, he may want to think twice about borrowing a book from the Seattle Public Library, now that the union of library employees has called for his immediate removal or resignation from office.

AFSCME Local 2083 passed an eight-point resolution demanding the President step down — or be taken down — last April. The resolution was introduced last week at the Annual Library Association Conference.

That conference was held in New Orleans. In citing reasons for their displeasure with the president, the union named, among other concerns, his failure "to provide adequate aid for survivors of Hurricane Katrina."

But librarian finger-wagging at Bush's handling of Katrina wasn't even the half of it. They were disturbed by the "illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq, based upon fabricated and erroneous information." Then there was the crafting of policies since 9/11 that threaten fundamental rights and liberties. Or, to put it another way: the USA PATRIOT ACT. The act, which grants law enforcement broad access to medical, financial, educational, and library records, was seen as one more reason to give the Commander-in-Chief the ol' heave ho.

Local 2083 has asked that the administration immediately fund badly needed human services, including the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast.

"More people, more professions, need to stand up and tell Bush to step down," says Marty Hendley, a

librarian and union member who helped introduce the resolution.

Union officials intend to present the resolution to International AFSCME in August, during its next national convention in Chicago.

### Children left behind

Grandmothers and grandfathers know it's true. So do the friends and folks next door: when it comes to finding day care, sometimes it's easier — and cheaper — to leave the kids with family and friends, rather than find a licensed care provider.

Newly released data confirm that family, friend, and neighbor care has become an integral part of the day-care network throughout the state. Roughly 23 percent of children under age six — that's 109,000 of the state's children — regularly attend family-based care. These numbers are slightly below the national average of 27 percent of children whose parents opt for the same option, according to 2006 KIDS COUNT, an annual report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation on June 27.

Parents use the family, friend, and neighbor network — known, in child-care parlance, as FFN — for a variety of reasons, the report found. There is, of course, the cost reduction inherent in having those closest to you assist with childcare, but FFNs also offered familiarity, weekend availability, location, and low child/adult ratios.

The report views such findings as significant because child-caring FFNs often do the work without the support available to licensed providers. The majority of dollars for child-care development and quality improvement are funneled to licensed facilities. Policymakers, the report went on, rarely discuss the reality of FFN when they consider the role of early learning.

Washington may soon join such states as Minnesota and Illinois that have made funding and policy choices that seek to incorporate FFN care providers in initiatives for early learning.

"If Washington citizens are truly concerned about school readiness," says Erin Maher of the University of Washington's Human Services Policy Center, "we need to consider offering these caregivers a much higher level of support. We need to support children's development in all child care settings."

—Rosette Royale



### Out there and proud

REAL CHANGE TOOK TO THE STREETS AT THIS PAST WEEKEND'S PRIDE MARCH IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE. DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND ORGANIZING, RACHEL MYERS, HELPED HOLD OUR BANNER WHILE STAFF MEMBERS PASSED OUT 1,500 COPIES OF THE PAPER. PHOTO BY KEN DEAN.

## Earle Thompson (1950-2006)

*Sherman Alexie remembers an immortal Indian poet*

I didn't know Earle Thompson. Not really. We weren't friends. I learned about his death via email.

I was saddened, but I wasn't surprised by his early death.

The last time I saw Earle, he was drunk.

He'd attended one of my poetry readings at the since-defunct Standard Books in Seattle, and after drunkenly heckling me, had traveled with us to the nearest restaurant.

I'd purposely picked a place that I knew didn't serve alcohol.

For an hour or so, Earle sang and laughed at his own jokes and scribbled poems on napkins.

But he didn't want to completely sober up, so he left us to our herbal teas and tasteless vegan muffins.

The first time I saw Earle, he was drunk.

In 1992, at the Returning the Gift Native American Writers Conference in Norman, Oklahoma, Earle was one of hundreds of eccentric and lonely and ambitious and hilarious and serious Indian writers.

But I spotted him instantly.

He was a small man and he smelled like salmon.

I don't mean that he actually smelled like salmon.

He metaphorically smelled of salmon. I knew, with all of my senses, including those mysterious and imaginary sixth, seventh, and eighth ones, that Earle was a salmon boy, just like me.

And after meeting him and reading his poems for the first time, I thought that Earle was destined for greatness.

He really was that good.

Take a look at his poems.

He was an incredible poet.

Better than every poet who teaches at the University of Washington.

Better than every poet who will be slamming this weekend at yet another Seattle open mic night.

Last year, when my wife read Earle's *Real Change* poetry chapbook, she marveled.

"Who is that guy?" she asked.

"He's Yakama," I said.

And I told her the story about Earle and his first poetry chapbook, published by Blue Cloud Quarterly back in the early 1970s.

"I don't know if this story is true or not," I said. "But when people talk about Earle and his poetry, it's the story they tell."

After Earle received his contributor copies of his poetry chapbook, he celebrated by getting drunk at every bar on or near the Yakama Indian Reservation.

And, at every bar, he signed and gave away copies of his chapbook to friends, strangers, and any random passers-by.

He gave away all of his contributor's copies.

All of them.

When he woke the next morning, he realized what he had done. He'd given away everything.

So he went back to the bars and found copies of his chapbook stuffed into garbage cans, toilets, and dumpsters.

He found copies strewn across parking lots, dirt roads, and dance floors.

"That's so sad," my wife said. "It's so Indian."

Yes, Earle was so Indian.

He was an incredibly gifted poet who could not defeat the demons of alcoholism, racism, classism, mental illness, and colonialism.

On every reservation, in every tribe, there are dozens of Earle Thompsons, men and women of great talent, who fell apart, who disappeared, who died.

When one of them dies, all of them die. When we mourn any one of them, we mourn all of them.

We mourn the unrealized greatness.

We mourn our collective losses.

We are a defeated people. And we are always, always reminded of our failures.

"Do you think Earle will ever sober up?" my wife asked.

"No," I said.

"He's an incredible poet."

"I know."

"He's better than you," she said and laughed. She wanted me to think she was half-kidding, but she wasn't. She really thinks that Earle is a better poet than me. I think so, too.

In a better world, Earle would have been a sober college professor and poet.

He would have been continually and constantly celebrated.

In this real world, Earle was mostly ignored.

But he should not be forgotten.

And I hope, through his poems, he remains immortal.

*Sherman Alexie is a Coeur d'Alene Indian poet, writer, filmmaker who grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, and a member of the Real Change Advisory Board.*



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## Bonus Track

Historian Paul Dickson tells how the Bonus Army led a movement that changed how the U.S. treats its soldiers

By ISRAEL BAYER  
Contributing Writer

**T**he Bonus Army, an American epic by Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allan, tells one of the many stories of the post-war lives of disgruntled American veterans.

During the summer of 1932, in the middle of the Great Depression, the Bonus Army was born in Portland, Ore. with 200 men. It would end with more than 45,000 World War I veterans flocking to Washington, D.C., in one of the greatest moments of nonviolent civil disobedience our country has ever known. Demanding pay promised to them eight years earlier, veterans, many with their families, squatted in 20 makeshift shantytowns and tent cities known as Hoovervilles.

Fearing the veterans were controlled by communists and would turn violent, the federal government intervened. Led by President Herbert Hoover and Generals Douglas MacArthur and George Patton, the authorities drove the veterans out of Washington with tanks, tear gas, and bayonet-tipped rifles and then burned down the camps.

The actions performed by veterans that summer had a profound effect on the practice of civil disobedience in America, even though the tale of the Bonus Army was one left out of many history books. Paul Dickson, co-author of *The Bonus Army*, talks about how this story from the past still has implications today.

**Real Change:** Can you describe what the Bonus Army was, and why it came about?

**Paul Dickson:** The Bonus Army was the biggest public event of the Depression. *The Bonus Army* is about a group of guys who had fought in World War I and had been promised a bonus, which they hadn't gotten. Each soldier received \$1 a day during the war, and a \$1.25 if you were overseas. They had to buy their uniform and war bonds with the money, and then it was promised to them immediately after the war. Most of the soldiers

were making much more than this before being drafted.

Let's say you were a shipyard worker. You would have gotten paid between \$16 and \$17 a day. After the war, Congress agreed that soldiers wouldn't get their pay until 1945, and that seemed to have settled it. But in 1932, a group of veterans headed up by Walter W. Waters organized 200 of his buddies, who decided to hop freights back to Washington, D.C., to go lobby for the bonus they were promised. They left Portland with what they had on their backs and an American flag. By the time they reached Washington they had picked up 10,000 veterans.

The men in the Bonus Army thought anyone had the right to go to Washington and lobby for their rights. To the average American, these guys deserved to get paid. The big companies had gotten paid after the war, money was going to foreign countries who had been devastated, and the Bonus Army believed the people who had fought the war deserved to be paid, too.

Here, a week after leaving Portland, the Bonus Army began to realize that people were welcoming them as warriors of the Depression, just as people in France had welcomed them as Yanks, referring to their service in the World War.

**RC:** Can you talk about some of the highs and lows the Bonus Army faced on their journey from Portland to Washington, D.C.?

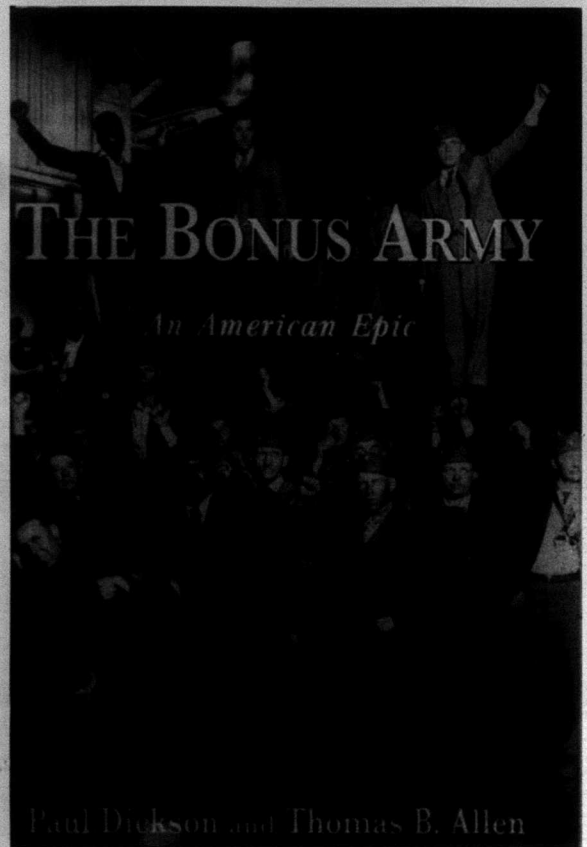
**Dickson:** At first, people were afraid of them, but they started to realize they were not a threat. They were just a group of veterans going to get paid. Part of the resistance from Americans was based on race. There were 800,000 Blacks who fought in World War I, and the Bonus Army was Black and white alike. The country had never seen anything like this before.

The message it sent to the power

structure was loud and clear. Most congressmen, especially from the South, grew up believing races would never be able to get together and organize, but the Bonus Army did. The federal government, from the time the Bonus Army was on the freight trains headed east, had infiltrated the group. Some of the intelligence reports said the Bonus Army had "Negros, people with Jewish features, and poor whites" all working together — the establishment was very nervous.

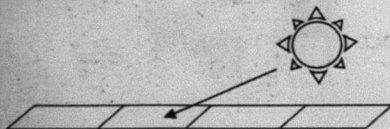
They ran into various authority figures who didn't want them, but by and large, the people loved these guys. You have to take into account the times. There were so many homeless people just wandering around the country looking for work, but there was no work. Well, the Bonus Army were wandering too, but they wandered with a purpose. Most Americans viewed these guys as heroes, not only because they fought in World War I, but because they had the courage to go get things straightened out. And they were nonviolent.

Once in D.C., the camps were pretty much self-governed. We have found evidence that 20 camps existed. Waters created a leadership group that ran them as military camps: no drinking, no guns, [so] nobody could say they were bums. In fact, records show the crime rate went down when they were in Wash-



## 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?



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Continued from Previous Page

ington. The worst you could say they were doing was panhandling.

**RC:** According to the book, most of the camps in D.C. that summer were not segregated. In fact, in a time when the Ku Klux Klan had influence in D.C., and Blacks and other minorities were being oppressed around the country, the Bonus Army was working together. What message did that send to the country?

**Dickson:** It's interesting — nobody knew about it. The Blacks were invisible to the country. During that time, period papers didn't acknowledge the Black community. For example, the Negro baseball leagues were extremely popular, but no paper in the country covered the leagues. But the African-American newspapers took notice, reporting that thousands of Black and white families were living side-by-side. There was no Jim Crow in the Bonus Army. And this was 1932.

**RC:** Can you talk about some of the different sympathizers who helped the Bonus Army?

**Dickson:** Almost all of the great journalists and writers of the time were sympathizers. In fact, you would have reporters writing news stories with pro-bonus slants, while editorial boards were coming out against the veterans.

Also, Walsh McLean, one of the richest women in the world, was fascinated by the group. One night she went into a restaurant and ordered 2,000 sandwiches, and got a thousand cartons of cigarettes and passed them out to the people. It was like a scene in a Woody Allen film.

You have to understand the place was like a huge carnival. There were musicians, jugglers, speakers — the people of Washington loved it.

They also sold their own newspaper the same way *Street Roots* is doing, and they would make up postcards and sell them.

Despite what was going on in the world, they were a hopeful group in a time when people didn't have any hope. They had no money, no jobs, nothing, and they set out to change it.

**RC:** General Douglas MacArthur, George Patton, and a young Dwight D. Eisenhower all took part in sweeping thousands of veterans out of the nation's capital. All of this before they would be thrust into history forever. MacArthur disregarded orders from the president on the conduct of the sweeps, something he would later be reprimanded for during the Korean War. Can you expand on some ironies of these circumstances?

**Dickson:** I think it reflects what kind of men they would later become. The day of the sweeps, Patton was on horseback with a saber.

MacArthur was acting like it was all-out warfare. It was ridiculous. His orders from the president were to get them out of downtown, but he went in and burned many of the camps to the ground along with people's only possessions — cars, clothes, photographs — you name it.

Eisenhower, however, is documented saying that this was wrong and it was a police matter and it wasn't the job of the military to be dealing with civil affairs. Eisenhower was a thoughtful logistics man. History would later reveal all of these things.

**RC:** One of the main arguments the federal government made to sweep the encampments was of communist activity in the camps. Communists and fascists had active members in the Bonus Army, but the majority of the veterans were just average American citizens. What are your thoughts about this?

**Dickson:** You have to take into account the time period. The wheels were coming off the country, a lot of people were flirting with communism and fascism. Nobody knew how history was going to turn out — there were about 150 communist veterans in the camp. When federal agents tried to prove all the men in the Bonus Army were criminals, radicals, and communists, they pulled up people's records. The only thing many of the men were guilty of is vagrancy. Their only crime was being out work.

The men, women, and children living in the camps were not communists. They didn't want to overthrow the government, they just wanted their bonus.

**RC:** What did the Bonus Army accomplish for the longterm?

**Dickson:** I think the biggest thing they did was pave the way for the G.I. Bill after World War II. History has shown us that governments take people from the working and poor classes of society and ask them to fight great wars, and then dump them back into those societies. After World War II, veterans coming home were at least offered benefits. It helped create the middle class. If you're going to ask a person to fight, it's only right that the government should take care of them — the Bonus Army was just one example of this throughout history.

**RC:** Looking at all of the federal cuts to veterans benefits, and having more than a half a million veterans sleeping on the streets every year (according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans), do you see a correlation with the past and our current conflict?

**Dickson:** The business of war is a terrible thing. What has to happen is a new GI Bill of Rights. If they need education, medical care, and financial support, they should get it. But as I'm sure you are aware, that's not the direction we are headed.

After the Bonus Army was swept away, many newspapers and policymakers thought they should just go home, but they had no home, so they spread out in camps all over the country. And there are remnants of those camps with veterans living in them in cities all across the United States still today. ■

Originally published June 1, 2005, in *Street Roots*, Portland, Ore.

She Wakes in Morning Clover

She wakes in morning clover, I brush blades of grass off her naked shoulders. She sits, brushing chestnut hair from her face, telling me,

"Everything has a song — the earth and animals..."

Cricket becomes an angle upon a reed and madrona leaves curl into these words.

Pine etches filigree designs on her features. I kiss her closed eyelids and the curve of her smile; my lips encircle beaded aureolae, feeling the fine mist on her stomach.

Wild ducks rise from cat-tails and reeds. She curls into the green and sings;

"Strawberries, hum-mn, when I am hungry. Strawberries..."

My fingertips feel her words, vibrating.

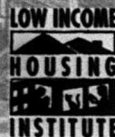
—EARLE THOMPSON

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*Secret Daughter* is neither a celebration nor a condemnation of the multiracial experience, but rather an illumination of an issue too seldom addressed.

**Secret Daughter**  
By June Cross  
Viking \$24.95  
256 pages

Review by ALFREDO PADILLO  
Contributing Writer

**S**ecret Daughter, by June Cross, focuses on the author's upbringing as a multiracial baby boomer. Ms. Cross is an award-winning journalist and producer whose life story was first told in a documentary of the same title. This autobiography takes us through six decades of her life and filters America's struggle with race through the lens of her relationship with her family, and above all her mother. In an America that is undergoing a multiracial baby boom, *Secret Daughter* is a timely look at the personal and societal struggles mixed heritage citizens continue to face.

June Cross was born to a white mother and Black father, both involved in the entertainment industry. Her mother raised her until she realized that a daughter of color was an impediment

to her goals. Raised by a Black foster couple, June nonetheless maintains a relationship with her mother. Alternatively embraced and rejected by her white parent, June was constantly asked to play different roles for different people in different situations. Despite the pain of this ordeal, June's love for her mother is clear throughout the book.

June's foster mom challenges her to achieve, strictly enforcing a narrow interpretation of success, one often at odds with the opinions of the biological counterpart. June does achieve, graduating from Harvard and fulfilling her dream of becoming a journalist. Her choice to avoid marriage and children disappoints her foster mother, severely straining that relationship. She discovers that success does not erase the specter of racism that has colored her entire life. The challenge of being a Black woman in journalism only reinforces the challenges of childhood. It also brings a unique opportunity.

Ms. Cross produces a documentary on multiracial experiences, revisiting

her upbringing. In the process she learns more about her mother's perspective. She also has the opportunity to reconnect with her father and long-lost siblings. In the process, she gains a better understanding of her life and the ways in which it is similar to that of her family.

*Secret Daughter* is not a tragedy. With a tenor of simple honesty the author intersperses her recollections of challenges with stories of love and joy. A combination of candor and complexity leaves the reader with a deeper understanding of the very personal impact that racism can have on our lives. *Secret Daughter* is neither a celebration nor a condemnation of the multiracial experience, but rather an illumination of an issue too seldom addressed.

June Cross's story is powerful and evocative. She handles the subject matter with the personal integrity it deserves, without an overt agenda. *Secret Daughter* is highly recommended for anyone who wants to learn more about the lives of multiracial people. ■

Aldredo Padilla is with the Mavin Foundation, working to celebrate and empower mixed heritage people and families. His email is [alfredo@mavinfoundation.org](mailto:alfredo@mavinfoundation.org)

## Men, Made of Steel, Made to Love

**Superman Returns**  
Directed by Bryan Singer  
Review by Lester Gray  
Arts Editor

**N**ewspaper reporter Lois Lane (Kate Bosworth) is awarded a Pulitzer, no less, for a piece entitled, "Why the World Doesn't Need Superman." This, according to Jeff Jensen's piece in *Entertainment Weekly*, is an actual acknowledgement that the man of steel could be considered by some as "irrelevant." Unfortunately, the movie does little to allay such speculation.

DC comic books introduced the Superman character in 1938. Emerging from the depression only to find Hitler looming, Americans were certainly not delusional, but they needed simplicity in their tragedies—good was good, evil was evil, and Superman was an Eagle Scout with a red cape. In 2006, we find that Superman has fathered a child out of wedlock and as of the end of his latest film, hasn't contributed a dime in child support.

In *Superman Returns*, the man-in-the-blue-tights (Brandon Routh) reappears in Metropolis as mysteriously as he vanished five years prior (it's been almost two decades since the last movie). Returning from a trip to Krypton, his alter ego, "mild-mannered" reporter Clark Kent, lands once again at the *Daily Planet*, reuniting with editor Perry White, Jimmy Olsen, and of course Lois. Awaiting him is a picture on Lois' desk, his old flame framed with a handsome new reporter, (her fiancé), and a young boy, who appears be—you guessed it—about five years old.

In Superman's absence his arch nemesis, Lex Luther (Kevin Spacey), has been released by the legal system.

Inebriated by his latest sinister scheme to control the world, the infamous sociopath emerges as the movie's most interesting character. For *Superman Returns*, Spacey's performance, licensed by the freedom accompanying an actor of his stature, is redemptive.

With a budget, estimated by IMDB, of about \$185 million (Jensen estimated much

more), we have a film that looks like it was subjected to a cruel, but unfortunately not unusual, punishment of second-guessing by the suits. Superman and Clark Kent are absent for long stretches of the two and one-half hour film. Luther's created catastrophe, wrought of convoluted science, is more confusing than threatening.

Superman, known for his incomparable strength, is incapable of carrying the baggage that comes with today's mega-budget movies. With a lighter load, this guy can still fly.

*Superman* opens in theaters on Wed., June 28.

**Russian Dolls**  
Directed by Cdrick Klapisch

Review by Lester Gray  
Arts Editor

**I**n another age but not so long ago, Xavier (Romain Duris) would have been viewed as the stereotypical French libertine, sporting a Gallic accent—those soft suggestive consonants beckoning like the song of a male siren. Like his predecessors, his vulnerability—a genuine perplexity in the face of everyday life—makes him attractive. As the central character in *Russian Dolls*, Duris revives his role from the popular *Laubergerie Espagnole*, both films directed by Cdrick Klapisch.

Xavier's friends, male and female, with most of whom he shared an apartment in *Laubergerie Espagnole*, from Italy, Spain, England, Germany, and eventually Russia, represent a cross section of the European Union. They comprise a challenging ménage of mother tongues, political perspectives, and gender preferences. A fecund environment for couplings, which variously fall somewhere between platonic, shamelessly carnal, and faithfully committed, it leaves something to be desired, even when satisfying.

For our Parisian protagonist, friends become lovers and lovers become friends. As he and his intimates sense the dissipation of their youth, a yearning for domesticity, like an interloper, begins to insinuate itself upon their improvisational lifestyles.

The cast is strong, the script is seductively honest, and Wendy's (Kelly Reilly) declaration of love to Xavier at the train station, a virtuoso baring of the soul, makes you yearn for a rewind button. ■

*Russian Dolls* opens on Fri., July 7, at Northwest Film Forum.

With a budget, estimated by IMDB, of about \$185 million, we have a *Superman Returns* that looks like it was subjected to a cruel, but unfortunately not unusual, punishment of second-guessing by the suits.

Clark Kent (Brandon Routh) still has a thing for Lois Lane (Kate Bosworth) in *Superman Returns*.





# Gentrification Takes Imagination



Adventures  
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Gentrification is an imaginative evil spawn of the idea of settlement houses. Once you can get rich people to come in to a neighborhood to help the poor, you can get more rich people to move in next to the first rich people, to displace the poor.

field. That attracts me. It's fun to shine light into previously unseen dark nooks of the world.

What I especially don't see in what passes for moral philosophy is the flip side of moralizing: They'll devote pages and pages telling me what I MUST or MUST NOT do, but never offer any ideas about making morality fun. What kind of philosophy is it that won't tell you how to have a good time?

An unimaginative philosophy, that's what. It's an ingredient missing in most accounts of moral philosophy: They account for human failings, but not for human potential. You'd think that imagination plays no role at all in real world moral considerations, when it's actually everything.

In fact some of the most interesting real world squabbles arise from conflicting imaginings of potential good. An interesting case has arisen in NYC's East Village. For some time a Mr. Gregg Singer, a real estate developer, has wanted to replace an old East Village public school with a 19-story college dormitory. But locals have resisted, and now P.S. 64 has been declared a historical landmark.

That made Mr. Singer mad. While he sued the city to get the ruling overturned, he announced he would meanwhile use a previously obtained permit to strip the building of its ornamentation and promised to start up a new homeless service on the premises. He created a website showcasing the homeless agency he would start, naming it the "Christodora Treatment Corporation." The name imitates the name of the Christodora Condominiums, where some of his local opponents live.

Let's talk about moral philosophy!

During my too many years of post high school education, I got to know several philosophers as well as I could bear, and in all that time never met a moral philosopher. So it strikes me as a relatively unexplored

Gregg Singer claimed to have been inspired by the knowledge that the condominiums had long ago been a settlement house, established to serve the poor, and by the fact that his own great grandfather Louis Singer had once established a shelter for the elderly. But he has made it clear that his intent is to get East Village residents to side with his original plans by exploiting their NIMBY fears of the homeless. As he says of the battered woman who graces the front page of his website, "Yeah — she's a bum."

What we have here is imagination at work in unfolding history.

Settlement houses were themselves a work of moral imagination. The idea was that people who were so rich they had nothing but free time could move into poor neighborhoods and set up services for the poor neighbors.

Gentrification is an imaginative evil spawn of the idea of settlement houses. Once you can get rich people to come in to a neighborhood to help the poor, you can get more rich people to move in next to the first rich people, to displace the poor. Pretty soon no poor, not in that neighborhood anyway. Imagine that! People do imagine it, and many go on to the idea that they're entitled to gentrification, entitled to live without any trace of poverty around them, and NIMBYism is born.

Then comes Gregg Singer imagining NIMBYism forward, turning it into a weapon. His idea for Christodora also springs from knowing one way to make morality profitable, if not fun: There's money in selling shelter spaces to large non-profit corporations. Not as much as the money you can get from selling dorm spaces to non-profit universities, but it will do as an alternative. Hey, anyway, if you get enough money you can buy the fun, right?

Only the imagining doesn't stop there. This is the East Village we're talking about, not Boring Heights. They LIKE the shelter plans; they can see a great future in it. The residents of the condo are even lining up to volunteer at the promised shelter! What book on moral philosophy could have prepared you for that outcome? ■



**Thurs., June 1, 3:52 a.m., 6th and Denny.** Suspect, a transient white male aged 59, was known to officers for being trespassed from the above location. He was seen on the property at that address, standing in the parking lot. He was arrested and booked for trespass.

**Fri., June 2, 7:30 a.m., Western Ave - Pike St Hill Climb.** The complainant, a maintenance worker, called 911 to request assistance in removing two transients he found sleeping in a doorway clearly marked "No Loitering, No Trespassing." Officers responded to the scene and found the suspects — a transient Native American male aged 41 and a transient Asian male aged 28 — wrapped in blankets, sleeping beneath one of the warning signs. The officers obtained ID from both men and ran their names via SPD radio. While they were waiting for the results, they told the men to start packing up. The first suspect got up and attempted to leave, but was told to wait for the results of the name check. The officers warned the men not to sleep in doorways marked "No Trespassing," and the first man replied that he was homeless and could sleep anywhere he wanted to, regardless of notices. He was taken into custody. Radio confirmed that the second suspect had an outstanding warrant, and he was also arrested. Both men were booked into King County Jail.

**Fri. June 2, 9:00 a.m., Pike St.** Complainant stated that he is homeless, and that on the above date he was sleeping in an alcove on 3rd and Pike. When he awoke he found that his wallet — containing his ID and Social Security cards — was missing.

**Fri. June 2, 1:55 p.m., Denny Way - Shell Station.** Officers were contacted by an employee at the Shell Station in the parking lot of the business. He stated this was regarding a disturbance involving the suspect, a transient Black male aged 38. According to the complainant — a night clerk at the store — the suspect was aggressively panhandling and had refused to leave the property. Officers contacted the suspect on the grounds of the business and ran a routine name check. Information was returned that the suspect was already trespassed from the location and had been arrested previously for criminal trespass from this address. He was taken into custody and transported to the West Precinct, where he was issued a new trespass admonishment card, interviewed, and released.

**Fri., June 2, 2:33 p.m., 2nd Ave and Elliott - Belltown P-Patch Park.** Officers on patrol observed a transient Hispanic male aged 37 in the Belltown P-Patch Park. Officers believed that suspect had been trespassed from the park on a previous occasion and contacted him to request his ID. A name check revealed that he was trespassed from this location until June 17, 2006. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass.

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.

# A Shared Ride



Bus Chick,  
Transit  
Authority

Carla Saulter

The bus is crowded already, only halfway down Third.

Saturday, 1:25 p.m., southbound #36.

The bus is crowded already, only halfway down Third. I am lucky to find a seat facing forward—one of the last. The shy six-year old riding with her

grandfather and three younger siblings is not so lucky. She stands, holding the pole nearest the front, while the rest sit in the sideways seats, speaking a language I guess to be Vietnamese. The little girl clutches the pole tighter when the bus lurches. This happens frequently, sometimes several times per block. (The driver, you see, is still working out his relationship to the trolley brakes.) I consider offering my seat, but I am far away, and they are sticking together.

A tall, thin man wearing a denim shirt and a Mariners cap gets on a few blocks after me. His body is erect and strong, but the steel gray hair and weathered skin betray his advanced age. He stands across the aisle from the little girl, holding on to the opposite pole, until two teenage boys offer their seats. Both the girl and the old man look suspicious, the old man no doubt weighing his pride against his desire to rest, the little girl perhaps remembering her lessons about strangers. After a bit of coaxing, the old man smiles and takes the seat. The little girl continues to cling to the pole.

In the seats closest to the driver (who is still struggling with the brakes) are two women — one in short shorts that (perhaps for the first time this year) expose her ghost-white legs, the other covered from head (a big, floppy, canvas hat) to toe (socks and laced shoes) despite the 80-degree heat.

At Yesler, a preteen boy followed by an entourage of adults carrying Gap shopping bags races down the aisle on his roller tennis shoes. He barely misses a barrel-chested man clutching two hot-pink, two-pound hand weights, which he has been curling periodically since I got on. In the International District, a withered old woman manages to climb aboard without the aid of the lift, despite the broomstick — weighted on either end with a garbage bag stuffed with empty aluminum cans — that rests on her frail shoulders.

And the shopping bags, hand weights, and aluminum cans are just the beginning. My fellow riders, who fill every seat and then some, carry languages, memories, hometowns. Loved ones. Losses. Anger. Aches, pains, and diseases. New shoes, romance novels, Bibles, gossip magazines. Prescriptions. Spare change. Telephones. Bedrolls. Clean underwear.

And many, many stories. Stories that are now connected as a result of a single, shared ride. ■

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

## BORDER, Continued from Page 3


The Sellz and Strauss case marked the first instance in four years of an arrest for performing a routine medical evacuation. While Border Patrol authorities now insist that no protocols ever existed, the group continues to operate as before. No further arrests have been made.

No More Deaths fears that a guilty verdict in Sellz and Strauss' upcoming federal trial may bring a crackdown on the group's activities. Meanwhile, publicity surrounding the arrests has tripled the coalition's volunteer base. No More Deaths runs rescue projects out of Tucson and Phoenix and has three projects in Mexico to assist recent deportees.

"We believe that many of those who die in the desert are people who have been deported in a severely compromised condition," said group spokesperson Joseph Nevins. Typically, when a migrant is deported to Nogales or Agua Prieta, they have survived a three- to four-day desert journey and several more days of harsh imprisonment. "When they get dropped off across the border with little to no resources, instead of going home, they figure their odds are better in making another try." ■

## [More Info]

No More Deaths is looking for volunteers and other support for their work. Visit [www.nomoredeaths.org](http://www.nomoredeaths.org).



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## Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

## Forms of Robbery

Dear *Real Change*,

Bob Baker (the man behind Initiative 946) opposes providing social services to illegal immigrants, EVEN THOUGH THEY PAY TAXES, because, as he sees it, their payments don't cover what they use in services. Says Baker, "They're being paid a sub-living wage, so the rest of us taxpayers are paying for the rest of their living." Baker makes no mention of us reaping the benefits of this source of cheap labor in the form of cheaper produce.

Does he not realize that this is exactly what goes on with such employers as Walmart? The taxpayers have to subsidize their employees. Baker does not appear to be going after Walmart employees.

It's interesting that the other reason Baker gives for his support of I-946 is that many of the robbers he encountered, while serving on a grand jury in Los Angeles, were Mexican nationals. Does Baker not see that requiring immigrants to pay taxes, while preventing them from accessing the services they are paying for, is just another form of robbery?

Duane Wright  
Seattle, WA

## We're Disappointing

Dear *Real Change*,

In response to the article titled "Law & Order, I-946's Champion says It's Not About Race," [RC, June 14] I was disappointed in your coverage for several reasons.

First, the article did not mention how the initiative criminalizes the care that medical professionals provide for all Washingtonians. Doctors and Nurses in our state would be forced to violate their oaths to treat the sick by denying service to any individual who could not provide multiple forms of identification. In addition, it would subject medical professionals to prosecution if they do not comply. This is why the Washington Association of Hospitals and Washington Nurses Association have endorsed the NO on 946 campaign. I-946 would also prevent children from accessing important immunizations, putting our public health at risk.

Second, the article fails to identify the sponsor's direct links with white separatist groups. Hateful groups like Protect Arizona Now, a prime supporter of I-946's efforts, have ab-

solutely no place in Washington State. We should all stand together against their divisive tactics.

We can all agree that our current immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed. Initiative 946 is simply not the solution. We need comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level. Initiative 946 had public policy and would cause many people to suffer, particularly children. It would force Washington's medical professional to act as immigration agents of the state or face criminal prosecution. As a generally forward-thinking newspaper, I am surprised by your biased coverage.

Jared M. Jonson  
Pullman, WA

**Editor Replies:** *Actually, Jared, we did directly state that Protect Washington Now is a spin-off of Protect Arizona Now. We also described I-946's sponsor Bob Baker as a semi-automatic pistol-packing Minuteman who digs pulling border watch shifts in night vision goggles. The article was an evenhanded profile of the man behind the initiative; not an op/ed on why we oppose I-946, which, of course, we do.*

## Random Acts of Kindness

Dear *Real Change*,

I'm currently on the ferry heading home to Bainbridge Island from Seattle reading the June 21-27 issue. I have started reading this paper since my work (abused deaf women's advocacy services) was in *Real Change*.

I wanted to say that this is a very good paper. I wish more people would take the time to buy it and read it as its about making a difference in other people's lives.

Occasionally on a Saturday morning in front of Blackberry Bakery on Bainbridge Island, I buy breakfast for the vendor standing outside working. He never knew who the mystery person was until yesterday morning when I introduced myself to him along with breakfast. It made me feel very good that I could make a difference in his life by offering a light meal. It may not be much but I recognize the hard work he contributes whether rain or shine. I'm very proud of this vendor! Even my kids know who he is when they ask me what the highlight of my day was.

What is interesting about this vendor is that he is very humble. He seems to be a quiet guy with a nice smile.

Keep on printing *Real Change*!

Kay Amos  
Bainbridge Island

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

## CLASSIFIED

## Information

**The Katrina Relief** Team, composed of students and supporters, invites you to a planning meeting. Sat., July 1, 10 a.m., 2820 E Cherry St.

**The LGBT Center** Peer Support Group discusses issues related to gender. All are welcome for this facilitator-guided support group. Wed., June 28, 7 p.m., Ingersoll Gender Center, 1115 E Pike St.

## Employment

**The Church Council** of Greater Seattle is immediately seeking a FT Staff Accountant. Duties include all GL maintenance and F/S prep. Job description and application available at [www.thechurchcouncil.org/subpages/employment.html](http://www.thechurchcouncil.org/subpages/employment.html). EOE Salary DOE and qualifications.

*Real Change* classifieds are a way to reach 30,000 loyal readers. Call 441-3247, or email [classified@realchangenews.org](mailto:classified@realchangenews.org).

# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

### Thursday 6/29

Outdoor summer concerts at City Hall kick off with the Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra. The group has thrilled audiences with their high-intensity jazz, tight harmonies, and lush sounds.

Noon, Seattle City Hall, Lobby, 600 Fourth Ave.

Husband and wife Winston and Jen Yeung spent a year traveling the world to experience new countries, cultures, and people. Their slide show presentation, "One Year, One World," is sponsored by the Bilingual-Bicultural Family Network, which helps parents raise children to know and appreciate different languages and cultures. 6 p.m., Green Lake Library, 7364 E Green Lake Dr. N. Info: [www.yeungstuff.com](http://www.yeungstuff.com)

Over 500,000 tons of ordnance was air-dropped on central and eastern Cambodia, and today, unexploded ordnance continues to contaminate the country's soil. Bombhunters documents the efforts of humanitarian groups and the rural villagers who hunt out the ordnance, render it safe, and sell it as scrap metal. Tickets \$12. 7 p.m., Admiral Theater, 2347 California Ave. SW Info: [www.globallyouthconnect.org](http://www.globallyouthconnect.org)

### Friday 6/30

In 1979, while protesting US policy on American Indian affairs, John Trudell burned an American flag on the steps of the FBI headquarters. Within hours, his children and pregnant wife were killed by a mysterious fire. The film *Trudell* traces the life of this extraordinary Native American poet and activist, focusing on his impoverished childhood in Omaha, his leadership in the American Indian Movement, and his reemergence as a musician and poet. A discussion of Native American consciousness and activism will follow the film. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl.

### Saturday 7/1

The Bosnian Muslim Community presents a memorial on the anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. On July 11, 1995, Serb Nationalist forces sieged the enclave of Srebrenica in Eastern Bosnia. Over 8,000 Muslim men and boys were separated from their families, executed, and buried in mass graves. The commemorative event includes a film about the region, a talk by members of the Bosnian

community, and a call for justice and the arrest of those guilty of war crimes. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

### Sunday 7/2

The Queer People of Color Liberation Project performs *Beneath*, an exploration of personal experiences and multiple identities. It reworks politics, art, and education, creating a show that inspires, entertains, challenges, and transforms. Tickets \$8. University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Theater, 3940 Brooklyn Ave. NE Info: [www.qpo-liberation.org](http://www.qpo-liberation.org)

The Amnesty International vigil against the death penalty bears witness to the irreversible punishment that has been shown to have no effect on crime deterrence. It can and has been inflicted on the innocent. 3 p.m., Green Lake, N 63rd St. & E Green Lake Way N.

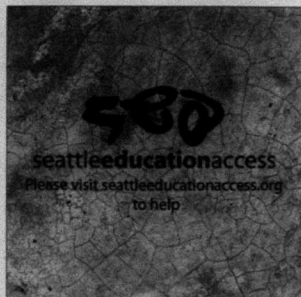
### Monday 7/3

German-language novelist and short story writer, Frank Kafka is iconic in Western literature for his unique and incomplete writings that were posthumously published. Read your favorite Kafka passage, and share his influence at Happy 123rd Birthday, Frank Kafka. 6:30 p.m., Richard Hugo House, 1234 11th Ave.

### Tuesday 7/4

Celebrate our nation's independence at the Freedom Festival. Food, puppet shows, music, and inspiring speeches will inspire the continued fight for democracy. 4 p.m., Blue Heron Art Center, 19704 Vashon Highway SW Info: [www.backbonecampaign.org](http://www.backbonecampaign.org)

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



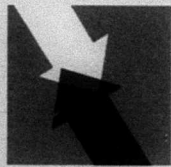
## Director's Corner



The North American Street Newspaper Association ([www.nasna.org](http://www.nasna.org)), was formerly accepted into the International Network of Street Papers (INSP) this month during the 11th annual international conference in Montreal, Quebec. The INSP now stands at more than 70 papers in 27 different countries with a combined annual circulation of 35 million. Over the years, *Real Change* has strongly supported the work of NASNA, and we are very excited to see this important organization grow.

A powerful tool developed by NASNA and the INSP is the Street News Service ([www.streetnewsservice.org](http://www.streetnewsservice.org)). The Street News Service is a news wire for street papers around the world to share content. *Real Change* has been a solid contributor to the wire, and our content has been published in many other publications around the globe.

The conference brought a renewed energy for all the papers involved. Newspapers were able to share ideas, resources and stories about the successes and hardships of running a street paper. From Journey Home in St. Petersburg who has made the freezing to death of hundreds of people on the streets of Russia an international issue, to a new paper starting up in Liberia, to *Real Change* winning a battle against greedy developers, we are making the term "Think Globally, Act Locally," a reality — one vendor, and one paper at a time.



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

### Help Reduce Errors in Deficit Reduction Act

**Issue:** Back in early February, President Bush signed into law the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). This law contains provisions that will cause millions of Americans to lose access to critical health care services they now receive through Medicaid. Some of the harm is due to mistakes committed during drafting of the legislation. Congress now has an opportunity to pass a "technical corrections" bill that would fix some of those mistakes and clarify important points in the law.

**Background:** One of the most harmful provisions they have an opportunity to amend requires that anyone applying for Medicaid provide documentation to prove their citizenship status — an issue that has not been shown to be a problem with the Medicaid program. It is expected that new provision will most impact children, seniors, people with disabilities, African Americans, and those living in rural communities. Washington has already developed a plan that fulfills the documentation requirement, yet minimizes the burden on applicants and enrollees, and lowers the administrative costs for implementation. But the new guidelines prevent the state from carrying out that plan and instead create added barriers to those applying for and enrolled in Medicaid. They also do nothing to increase the chances of detecting fraud.

Thousands of Washington children are at risk of losing access to the health care services they receive through the Medicaid program because of the new citizenship documentation requirements included in the Deficit Reduction Act. This provision is simply another administrative hurdle to people getting the health care they need and will result in thousands more children losing Medicaid.

**Action:** Please contact your congressional delegation today. Below is a sample letter to use with your legislators:

Dear Representative/Senator,

Thousands of Washington children are at risk of losing access to the health care services they receive through the Medicaid program because of the new citizenship documentation requirements included in the Deficit Reduction Act.

Washington has already developed a plan that not only fulfills the documentation requirement; it minimizes the burden on applicants and enrollees, and lowers the administrative costs for implementation.

Please:

- 1) Support the DRA technical corrections bill; and
- 2) Tell the leadership it's important to pass it quickly.

Thank You.

You can also visit [www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org), and click Visit our Action Center to send an email to your U.S. Representative and Senators.

Sen. Maria Cantwell (202) 224-344 <a href="http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.html">cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.html</a>	Sen. Patty Murray (202) 224-2621 <a href="http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm">murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm</a>	Rep. Jim McDermott — 7th Dist. (202) 225-3106 <a href="http://www.house.gov/mcdermott/contact.shtml">www.house.gov/mcdermott/contact.shtml</a>
717 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC, 20510	173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510	1035 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

To find other members of congress, visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

**MEALS, Continued from Page 1**

program. But demand on indoor meals and food banks would likely increase, Graham says.

Because First Presbyterian wanted to host fewer providers, Joshua Heim, director of Seattle's Meals Partnership Coalition, says the number of meals served was cut in half, from the 220,000 that had been served at the Public Safety Building to today's 110,000 at the church.

To find the First Presbyterian site, the city conducted a search that took five years. Because of that, the city says it's leaving the new search to the meal providers. Poole says he is looking, too, but not at the site that Operation Sack Lunch and the Meals Partnership Coalition are now advocating: They want the Fourth Avenue plaza of the new City Hall — a site Graham says the city had originally planned to let the servers use.

"Of course, we'd love it if the city and City Council would support it," Graham says. "We figure it's an uphill battle," but "the people we serve are more important than politics."

For 10 years, Operation Sack Lunch and other groups served food at the veterans memorial wall at the Public Safety Building, which was torn down in 2004.

During the search that led to First Presbyterian, says Pastor Schulz, the city asked the church to host the outdoor meals on a temporary basis.

At the time, Poole explains, the request was temporary: Mayor Nickels had proposed \$3 million to build a homeless day center next door to the Fire Department's new emergency operations center be-

tween the International District and Pioneer Square.

Discussions for the day center had included a window for serving outdoor meals. But, after residents of the International District objected to the day center, the City Council put the money on a different day-center idea that emerged from the Downtown Emergency Services Center, which runs a shelter at the Morrison Hotel.

The program, called Connections, opened at the Morrison in May. Unlike most drop-in day centers, says DESC's Nicole Macri, Connections provides those who enroll with a case manager to help them get a home or job.

Somewhere between Fire Station 10 and Connections, the outdoor

meals disappeared. Many city officials and shelter operators, including Bill Hobson, DESC's director, question the rationale of outdoor meals, saying it's important that meals be connected to services.

"Generally, I've felt sort of pained that outdoor meal providers could not partner with existing housing providers," Hobson says. "Just walking out on the street and serving sandwiches has never made a lot of sense to me."

Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, chair of the council's Housing, Human Services and Health Committee, says indoor meals should be the goal.

"I'm concerned about the dignity of folks who depend on those meals,"

Rasmussen says. Inside "it's safer, it's more sanitary and far less problematic than serving people in a park or a plaza in the rain or severe weather."

It might be problematic for the servers, but Ty and others at the Lord's Table pointed out no single shelter or meal provider could possibly feed an extra 100 people — the number cued up at First Presbyterian on Monday night.

"I prefer it outside," Ty says. "Even if it's raining, people will still stand out here to eat." ■

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