

REAL CHANGE

VOL. 13 NO. 29

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

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JULY 12 - 18, 2006

Close Quarters

*Tense co-existence for meals,
arts in Pioneer Square*

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

Pioneer Square's First Thursday Art Walk isn't what it used to be, either for the struggling artists of Seattle or for a group of young activists who feed the homeless in Occidental Park.

The issue for both is how pretty, clean, and official the monthly event needs to be. Making artists pay a fee to show their work in the park on the same night as the gallery openings has gotten rid of the poor, dreadlocked painters who used to come down.

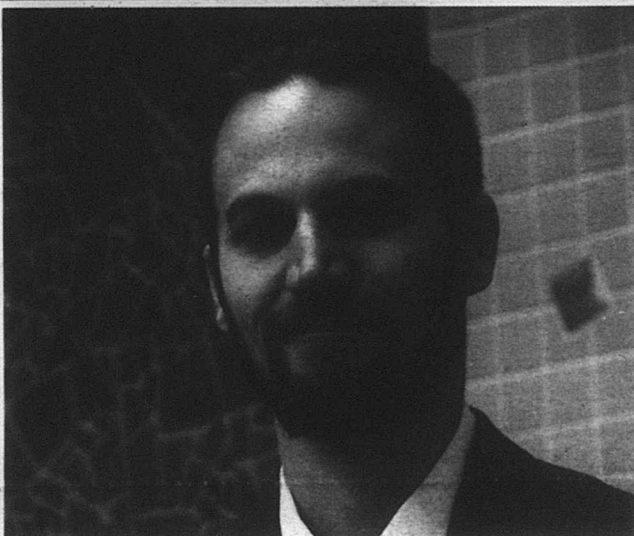
But the meal providers of Food Not Bombs, which have been told they're not allowed in the park during the event, say they're not moving on so easily.

Food Not Bombs is a long-running but loose-knit group of social activists who've been bringing a hot meal to Occidental Park for nearly 10 years — for the past year on Thursday evenings, the same night as the First Thursday art bazaar managed by the Pioneer Square Community Association.

Until two years ago, when the art bazaar started, artists used to show their paintings or perform for free on the cobblestones along Occidental Mall, where a group of gallery owners started First Thursday in the 1970s.

In 2004, after the art dealers complained, the artists were moved one block north to the park. They are now required to have a \$65 city business license, pay the Pioneer Square Community Association \$10 to \$20 for a space, and give the PSCA a 10 percent cut of their sales.

The Parks Department provides PSCA a permit for the event, which currently takes place on Occidental's pedestrian mall while the park is fenced off for remodeling. That's not only made things crowded, but members of Food Not Bombs say that Nick Wells, marketing and events manager for the PSCA, has asked them to move from their spot near a memorial statue for Seattle's fallen firefighters.



A LAWYER FOR ZACHARY TREISMAN, ABOVE, WANTS THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO LOOK AT ALL THE EVIDENCE HE'S COMPILED AS THE RESULT OF A SCUFFLE THAT OCCURRED DURING LAST JUNE'S CRITICAL MASS BIKE EVENT. DUE TO THE SCUFFLE, TREISMAN, 30, IS CURRENTLY BEING INVESTIGATED FOR THIRD DEGREE FELONY ASSAULT AGAINST A KING COUNTY DEPUTY. PHOTO BY ROSETTE ROYALE.

Turning Over the Evidence

Attorney claims cops won't examine photos, statements from bike scuffle

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Writer

Carte blanche: that's what attorney David Speikers says he offered an investigating officer from the King County Sheriff's department recently. But the officer, he says, turned him down.

The free and open access Speikers says he was willing to provide the sheriff's office pertained to evidence he had gathered on behalf of his client, Zachary Treisman, who was arrested during a Critical Mass bike event on June 30. Speikers says he expected his invitation to be taken up by the officer, but was surprised when he wasn't.

"It's their job to gather evidence," says Speikers says of the sheriff's office. "They're supposed to talk to all witness who could have an impact on charges that could be filed."

Deputy Rodney Chinnick of the King County Sheriff's Office says since he doesn't know if Speikers did indeed contact the investigator officer, "I can't speak to that."

The evidence Speikers says he has in hand — photos and, at last count, 18

statements — refers back to an altercation that occurred during last month's Critical Mass event as it swept through Belltown. There, at the intersection of Western and Vine, an unmarked van tried to progress on to Western. As a number of cyclists, including 18-year old Jason Brien, sought to block the van's forward movement, a man jumped out of the vehicle to chase Brien. When the man, whom one witness described

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(see page 2)**

DOUBLE TALK

Pledge now, and a donor will match your donation. Pledge now, and a donor will match your donation.

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DIPLOMATIC ROAR

Police response to an assault outside of the Mexican Consulate doesn't sit right with witnesses.

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NURSES, UNIFORM

Local nurses, in solidarity, tell Virginia Mason they want to keep their ability to unionize.

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OVER STOCK

An activist takes account of all the ways in which Iraq War justifications are pure piffle.

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Author Adam Hochschild recounts how a social justice movement quashed British trafficking of slaves.

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Double Your Donation

Contribute now and get your summer fund drive donation matched!

By TIMOTHY HARRIS
Executive Director

By informing and involving a community in action, *Real Change* helps make a strong and inclusive social justice movement possible. Every time we grow our capacity to act, we build for a more just tomorrow.

Twice a year we ask our readers to take a moment to consider what *Real Change* means to them. We need to raise \$80,000 in donor support this summer to keep *Real Change* thriving for the future. The summer is a tough time for us, and your support now makes a huge difference.

Over the last month, 183 people have shown their support with \$19,556 in donations and pledges. This is a great start, but we are still less than a quarter of the way toward our goal. One of our strongest supporters has offered to match donations this month up to a total of \$15,000. If you haven't yet contributed to the summer fund drive, this is when we need your support most.

Real Change offers a vision and the tools for social change while creating immediate opportunity to those whose need is often desperate. Each month, more than 250 homeless and very low-income vendors earn an income by selling our weekly newspaper in Greater Seattle and the eastside.

We believe that the long, slow work of movement building goes hand in hand with the more urgent task of helping those who are in need today. Our vision of a just society is meaningless unless we can make a real difference to real people, right now.

Our vendors often tell me what *Real Change* means to them. Sometimes it's about getting off the street and into a room. Sometimes, it's simply the opportunity to work and be valued. *Real Change* brings hope and stability to people's lives by offering a bridge to something better. Our vendors are part of a community in action that unites the poor and the affluent in building a better future.

Help comes in many forms. Time and again, vendors tell me that selling *Real Change* isn't really about the money. It's about the people. Selling *Real Change* is a hedge against the isolation, negativity, and despair that homelessness and poverty often bring.

Over the past five years, our circulation has steadily grown to its present high of 10,000-12,000 papers a week. Every year, we grow to reach more people. We do this by focusing on building vendor success and on publishing the best paper we know how.

Seattle Weekly has named *Real Change* "best grassroots media outlet" in Seattle. This was just reinforced this May with two awards for excellence from the Society of Professional Journalists. The Municipal League of King County recently named *Real Change* "Organization of the Year" for our outstanding efforts in civic engagement.

Real Change takes up issues that matter and gets action. While 2006 is still young, we have already chalked up an impressive win. *Real Change* partnered with the faith and labor community to strengthen a downtown rezoning package and nearly double the bonus that developers must pay to the city's affordable housing fund. *Real Change* generated nearly 500 emails and more than 200 postcards to City Council to build a groundswell of support for a downtown for everyone.

We believe that social change happens over time, in a long series of events that most of us don't see. By informing and involving a community in action, *Real Change* helps make a strong and inclusive social justice movement possible. Every time we grow our capacity to act, we build for a more just tomorrow.

Last year we successfully moved to weekly publication, added a dedicated organizing staff, and hired a fundraiser to help us grow for the long haul. This year we have added two national service interns to strengthen our vendor support team and build our organizing capacity. Over 2006, *Real Change* will build a plan for action to take us into the next decade. Our base of community allies will help us understand how we can be most effective in building for justice, offering opportunity for our vendors, and bringing people into action.

Your support makes our work possible. Like most grassroots community organizations, we do a lot with very little. Last year we offered opportunity to more than 700 vendors, published a weekly community newspaper, and ran an effective organizing project on just \$511,215.

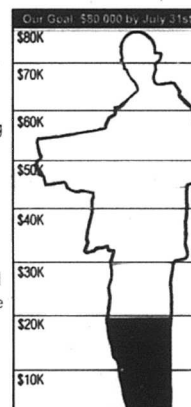
Nearly half of that came from people like you.

Please make our summer fund drive thermometer move as much as you can by making a donation to *Real Change* today. You may make a secure on-line donation at www.realchangenews.org, or use the coupon on page 12 to mail your gift today. ■

You Move Us!

If you've been waiting to contribute the

Real Change summer fund drive, now's the time. A generous supporter has agreed to match donations starting this month up to \$15,000. Help make our summer fund drive a success by using the coupon on page 12 to send a check, or make a secure on-line gift at www.realchangenews.org.



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 StreetWriters 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>

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Change Agent

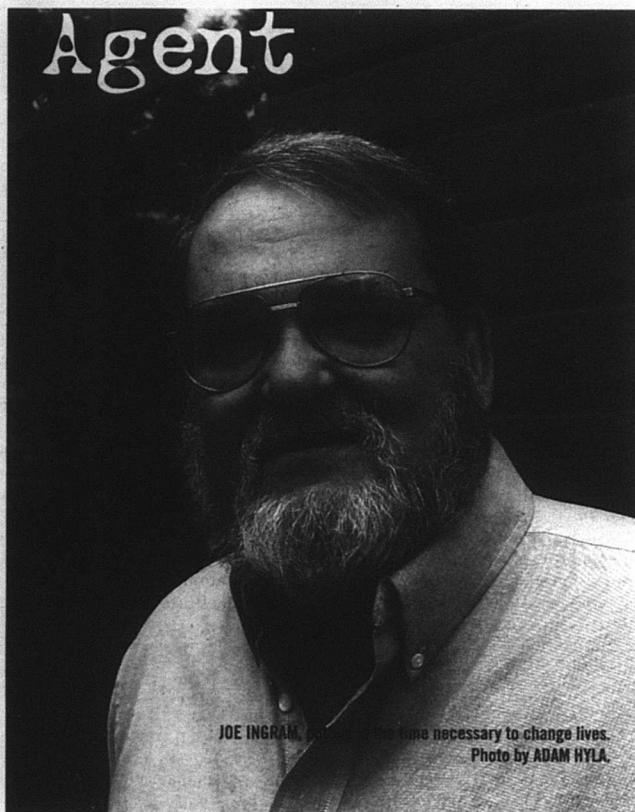
Joe Ingram is living proof that you don't need a Master's in Social Work to be effective.

Ingram gives more than 40 hours a week to advocate and do outreach work for people experiencing homelessness around the county. He logs hours in committee meetings for the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, sits on task forces with public officials and agency directors, and gives his card out to people he sees panhandling near his Eastside home, saying, "Whenever you're ready to make a change, give me a call."

Having spent years in their position puts him in good stead, he says, since "it's easier to talk to someone who's been through it than someone who hasn't."

Ingram, a veteran himself, says a persistent man from the VA pulled him out of depression and encouraged him to start a newsletter about homelessness — which eventually led to a workload that would have exhausted anyone less committed. "It's not all about me, it's about us," says Ingram. "I've seen people die in the streets because there wasn't someone involved."

—Adam Hyla



JOE INGRAM, "It takes the time necessary to change lives."
Photo by ADAM HYLA

Diplomatic Immunity

Witnesses decry police handling of Mexican Consulate assault

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

"People asked, 'Isn't an assault a reason for an arrest?' The police officer said, 'Yes, it is. But it's to our discretion.'"

—Ericka Sjogren, activist

One minute, Panfilo Gonzalez Garcia was standing near the corner of Third and Blanchard minding his own business. The next, witnesses say, he was getting the daylight beat out of him by a man who had come out of Seattle's Mexican Consulate.

When it was over, Garcia's nose appeared broken and was gushing blood. Though Seattle police were called and arrived in force — with at least six officers — the officers only took statements from English-speaking witnesses and did not arrest the suspect, who ran back into the consulate and stayed there.

The incident alarms witnesses, who were at the consulate the afternoon of July 3 to promote human rights in Mexico. As they have for several weeks, the activists were standing outside with leaflets and banners to call attention to the Mexican government's abuse of teachers in Oaxaca and farmers in the town of San Salvador Atenco, near Mexico City.

Garcia, 25, was a bystander who was waiting for the consulate to process some paperwork. While he waited, says activist Ericka Sjogren, he leaned against a silver Jaguar parked outside the consulate.

A man in a three-piece suit came out of the consulate and said something to Garcia, who Sjogren says moved away from the car.

"The guy didn't come out making a scene," she says, but "I glanced back over and saw it was getting more heated. The older guy started punching the younger guy."

Garcia defended himself, Sjogren says, at one point grabbing the older man's foot. "That's when

the older guy went at it and started punching [Garcia's] face. We were standing there stunned."

Afterward, she says, a representative from the consulate came out and tried to dissuade Garcia from calling 911. The staff member asked Garcia "to come inside the consulate and clean up and talk about it," Sjogren says.

When police did arrive, Garcia, who speaks little English, had a hard time understanding the questions that a police officer was asking him, so Sjogren says she offered to translate. The officer told her that a statement could only be taken with an official translator, which she and others pressed for but the officer refused.

"That did not sit right with me," Sjogren says. Neither did the fact that officers took the other man's statement inside the consulate without making an arrest or allowing Garcia to identify him.

"People asked, 'Isn't an assault a reason for an arrest?'" Sjogren says. "The police officer said, 'Yes, it is. But it's to our discretion.'"

Salvador Tinajero, the consulate's director of community outreach, says he's not aware that anyone from the consulate came out and asked Garcia not to call 911, as the consulate does not stand in the way of police work.

Though the consulate let the suspect stay inside, he says that's only because the man — a representative of the consulate's janitorial contractor — said he feared being beaten if he went back out.

Tinajero says the consulate has cancelled its contract with the janitorial company. Until the contract is up on July 31, he says the consulate has asked the company not to send the man back to their offices.

"We are really sorry about what happened outside here at the consulate," Tinajero says. "This person is no longer working at the consulate." ■

Just Heard...

Heil, Ft. Lewis

Recent rallies by white supremacy groups in Seattle and Olympia may have drawn a small number of adherents, but that might not have been so at Ft. Lewis. An Intelligence Report just put out by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on neo-Nazis in the military notes that 320 white supremacists used to be stationed there.

That statistic comes from Scott Barfield, a contractor for the Department of Defense who is based at Ft. Lewis. Barfield says that he identified and submitted evidence on that number of extremists there last year. "Only two have been discharged," he says in the report.

The report by the SPLC concludes that recruiters, in an effort to fill their ranks, oftentimes turn a blind eye to evidence suggesting enlistees may have neo-Nazi ties. The SPLC has asked Donald Rumsfeld to practice a "zero-tolerance" policy on racist extremist behavior in all military branches.

The report is available at www.splcenter.org.

One, two, three

Speaking of Ft. Lewis, Lt. Ehren Watada, the officer stationed there who refused to be deployed to Iraq, was charged by the U.S. Army last week for his stance.

Watada, 28, was charged with one count of failing to leave with his unit; two counts of using "contemptuous words against the President;" and three counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman. If found guilty in a court-martial, he could face more than seven years in a military prison.

David Solnit, a member of the Friends and Family of Ehren Watada, says charging Watada with contempt for speaking against the illegal Iraq War challenges his entitlement to free speech. Says Solnit: "He didn't check his rights at the door."

Watada will face the equivalent of a military pretrial hearing later this month.

Take some initiatives

While prognostication may be considered a dubious affair, it seems safe to say at least three city- and state-level initiatives will appear on the Nov. ballot.

On the city level, voters should encounter I-91, which could effectively quash the Sonics' bid for a publicly funded \$220 million remodel of KeyArena.

State initiatives likely include I-920, seeking to repeal the state estate tax, which feeds the Education Legacy Trust Fund. The tax applies only to those with estates valued at \$2 million or more.

Meanwhile, I-937 would demand that by 2020, 15 percent of the electricity from the state's largest utilities comes from renewable energy.

City initiatives still have until Aug. 1 to hand in necessary signatures. The signature deadline for state initiatives passed on July 6.

—Rosette Royale

Sticking Together

Nurses don't want Virginia Mason to strip them of union representation

By J. JACOB EDEL
Contributing Writer

Participating in a nationwide protest, numerous nurses and organized laborers gathered outside Virginia Mason Hospital on Monday to demonstrate their revulsion toward the hospital's attempt to re-classify the employment status of its registered nurses.

The afternoon rally also took place to raise awareness about a decision expected to be made by the National Labor Relations Board later this summer. The NLRB, created in 1935 to ensure the right of workers to unionize, has been asked by the U.S. Supreme Court to elaborate its definitions that distinguish a supervisor from a worker, invoking widespread implications for the nation's union members.

If the five members of the NLRB approve a broad interpretation of what

comprises a supervisor, "millions of Americans will be stripped of their right to form unions," says Stewart Acuff, the national organizing director of the AFL-CIO. That is because any employee with greater knowledge and expertise that gives instruction to lesser-skilled employees may be labeled a supervisor.

This means most of the 13,000 registered nurses that belong to the Washington State Nurses Association, the state's largest nurses union, could be re-classified as supervisors by their hospital employers and lose their ability to unionize.

Virginia Mason has recently argued at a NLRB hearing that its nurses fulfill a supervisory role, demonstrating a desire to exclude its 600 registered nurses from the union.

Nurses who attended the rally, however, spoke of Virginia Mason's poor treatment of its workers.

Perry Whitner, a certified nursing assistant of 15 years who works at Swedish Medical Center, attended the rally because he opposes reclassification.

As a former employee of Virginia Mason, he said the hospital paid wages below competitive levels and staffed more mahagers than nurses.

"They don't have respect for their employees," Whitner says. "In the two years I worked there, I never received a raise because they have a wage freeze. And their staff ratio is really bad."

"Shame on Virginia Mason," Rick Bender, president of the Washington State Labor Council, said at the rally. "Their action is an attack on work-

ers, working families, and the right to unionize."

According to the National Labor Relations Act, supervisors are not allowed to form or join unions and are defined as an employee with the authority to hire, fire, discipline, or command other employees using their own independent judgment in the interest of the employer.

While past NLRB members have agreed with nurses like Carolyn McAllister, a registered nurse at Morton General Hospital in Lewis County, who adamantly stated she works in the interest of the patient, a loose interpretation by the NLRB on what constitutes "independent judgment" may warrant the re-classification.

In favor of Virginia Mason, the Sixth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that "nurses are supervisors when they direct assistants with respect to patient care, rectify staffing shortages, fill out evaluation forms, and serve as the highest-ranking employee in the building during off-peak shifts."

If the board agrees that such tasks are instances of "independent judgment," then all employees that direct lesser-skilled employees may ultimately be regrouped and lose their union benefits.

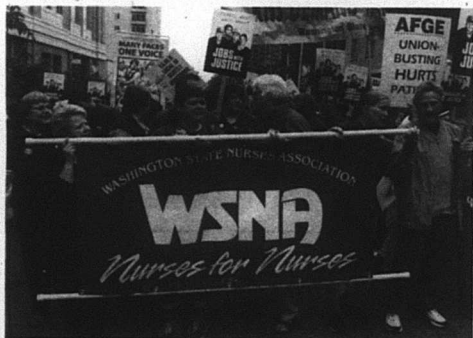
Union leaders impugn the board for denying them the right to present oral arguments. Acuff is leading a group of protesters to the NLRB's D.C. headquarters Thursday.

"Virginia Mason, if you take on these nurses, then you take on all of us," Acuff asserted at the rally. "We will defend our unions." ■

"Shame on Virginia Mason. Their action is an attack on workers, working families, and the right to unionize."

—Rick Bender,
president of the
Washington State
Labor Council

Nurses and allies rallied on July 10 to prevent Virginia Mason from re-classifying 600 employees. Photo by Elliot Stoller.



Short Takes

Coloring Freeway Park

Two points came out of last Friday's public forum on a proposed landscape renovation plan at Freeway Park.

One is that the park's original landscape designer, Angela Danadjieva, doesn't think of Seattle's urban woodland, the first of its kind built on a downtown lid over Interstate 5, as a park. She says it's a "landscaped bridge" — one that needs new crab apple in the understory because the Douglas firs she chose in the early '70s have made the park dark and uninviting.

The Parks Department has already cut down 20 large trees, with more to go. In the understory, Danadjieva would plant a "Persian carpet" of magnolias and rhododendrons in the park's plaza at Sixth Avenue and Seneca Street, dogwoods along the stairs up to First Hill, and cherry and crab apple trees along the walkway to the convention center.

One resident said the plantings would require a lot of Parks maintenance — something the city chronically underfunds. Retirees from nearby buildings said they liked the plan, but, because Danadjieva had no mic, they also kept repeating they couldn't hear her.

A final draft of the plan, which is not yet funded, is expected in the next few weeks.

Who's flawed?

It's been eight years since Jessica Broom sued the state over being placed in 34 separate foster homes. But two years after the state agreed

to a settlement stipulating actions it would take to fix foster care, the Department of Social and Health Services is still dragging its feet.

On June 22, the Broom Oversight Panel, an independent board created in 2004 to monitor the settlement, rejected a compliance plan that DSHS submitted to it. The plan was intended to address 32 milestones that the Broom panel already warned the department it had failed to meet between the settlement date in mid-July 2004 and the end of 2005.

The panel's warning came in a March monitoring report, which DSHS was obligated to respond to with the compliance plan. But, in its June 22 response to the DSHS plan, the five-member panel rebuked the department for the excuses it found in place of action:

"The Panel has particular concern about the Department deciding two years after signing the Settlement that two very significant Action Steps — creating a plan to meet the Council on Accreditation's caseload standards and providing social work visits every 30 days to children in foster care — are 'fundamentally flawed' and 'overly ambitious.' ... Any item that was 'fundamentally flawed' should have been identifiable as such when the Settlement was reached."

The state now has until July 21 to submit a revised plan to the panel, which has no regulatory

authority. If that plan is found unsatisfactory, says Broom co-counsel Casey Trupin, he would have to take DSHS back to court on contempt.

"For anyone to say that something that's recognized as good practice is overly ambitious is not helpful," Trupin says. "They're going to have to show a level of commitment that is stronger than what they've shown to date to keep it out of court."

—Cydney Gillis

Show me the money

One thing we can count on when the legislature reconvenes early next year: a long line of business lobbyists ready to plead for tax breaks for their own particular industry. It's time we started turning them down, says Marilyn Watkins.

Watkins, policy director at the Seattle-based think tank the Economic Opportunity Institute, is author of a report released last month called "Adding Up: New Tax Breaks in Washington 2004-2006." She says the most common cry of the lobbyists — that tax breaks spur economic development — doesn't ring true.

"When you look at all the studies nationally, there's no compelling case that can be made to say that more tax breaks result in more jobs," she says. "Companies are going to locate in a small range of places" with ports, highways, and a ready workforce

regardless of whether or not the local government is offering a tax giveaway.

And while the benefits so far seem dubious, there is no way for legislators to discover that — since they created no method of assessing the results of even the newest tax breaks. Sixty-one new exemptions have been passed in the last three years, says the report, at a cost in lost tax revenue to the state of \$474 million over the next two years alone.

A new law passed in 2006 to review the state's tax breaks "once every decade is 'a good step,'" says Watkins. But since tax breaks can also look like money spent on a balance sheet, the next step should come in the form of a tax expenditures report every two years, so that "the legislature has before them when they make decisions on the budget basically everywhere the government is spending its money."

Meanwhile, Watkins predicts more such requests for tax breaks next year. "People who don't have one can say hey, I feel like a chump if I don't get one this year," she says. "Every time one [industry] gets one, it gives everyone else more ammunition to call for their own."

—Adam Hyla

So Over It

We need a real debate about the costs of the Iraq War

By STACY BANNERMAN
Guest Writer

"I am 'over' the excuses, rationalizations, and justifications for trying to find a right way to do a wrong thing."

June 29, on location at the Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. —

"Get over it!" bawls the blue-suited bully as he scuttles by the military family members standing next to 29 pairs of empty combat boots, the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq since Congress decided to "stay the course" on June 15.

The man didn't look any of us in the face, so it's not clear whom he was addressing. Was it Anne Roesler, whose Marine Corp son recently returned from his third tour of duty in Iraq? Was it me, whose husband spent a year at Mortarville, aka Camp Anaconda, with the Army National Guard? Was it Mona Parsons, whose boy's boots are currently on the ground, caught in the crossfire of a civil war and insurgent attacks that have reached a record-high of 600 per week, according to CBS News? Or is it Al Zappala who needs to "get over it"?

The guy didn't stick around long enough for me to ask, but if he had, I would have wanted to know exactly what we needed to "get over." I would have been interested in hearing his suggestions for how Al was supposed to "get over" the death of his son, Sherwood Baker. Sherwood was killed in April 2004 while looking for weapons of mass destruction — a heartbreakingly futile attempt to make an honest man of President Bush.

If his comment was directed towards Anne, perhaps he would have some strategies for her to "get over" living with the very real possibility of her son being redeployed a fourth time, knowing that the odds of his safe return diminish with each tour. Knowing that, at this very moment, he is caught in the grip of profound post-traumatic stress disorder. If I was the intended recipient of his remark, then I would be most curious to hear his thoughts on how to "get over" the fact that I am now married to a slightly different version of my original husband. The man who went to war is not the one who came home from combat.

There is no way to "get over" any of these things, not for any of us. But on Thursday, June 15, as I watched the House debacle (pardon me, debate) unfold, I realized what I am "over."

I am "over" a Congress that holds a mock debate, refusing to engage with the single most critical moral issue of our era. I am "over" pundits and politicians who parrot the phrase about "building democracy in Iraq" while refusing to practice it here, ignoring the majority of Americans who are opposed to the war and want a clear timeline for the troops to come home.

I am "over" acting as if the alleged incidents of rape and murder of unarmed Iraqi civilians by U.S. troops are not part and parcel of a war based on lies, facilitated and sanctioned by an administration that condones torture in both policy and practice.

I am "over" the self-serving pretense that the American public doesn't share in the culpability. President Bush continues to say that "Iraq had weapons of mass destruction" (April 24). That Bush is still spouting patently untrue statements speaks volumes about him: that he is in his sixth year of the Presidency speaks volumes about us. We have got the leaders we deserve.

I am "over" House Democrats who attempt to justify their lack of leadership by saying, "We can't do anything, we're the minority party." And I am about three stops past "over" dealing with hard-hearted, fiscally irresponsible, and morally bankrupt Republican Representatives and their sneering staffers, who snicker when we come into their offices with the empty boots representing the soldiers killed in the last 24 hours.

I am "over" the excuses, rationalizations, and justifications for trying to find a right way to do a wrong thing. The soul of America hangs in the balance, and I am "over" the political sport of pretending it does not.

On June 15, Congress decided to "stay the course" in Iraq. One week later, Military Families Speak Out launched Operation House Call. We're keeping a vigil of empty boots and civilian shoes in front of the Cannon House Building every day that Congress is in session, showing them what "staying the course" looks like. Then maybe Congress will "get over it", too. ■

Stacy Bannerman of Kent is the creator of Operation House Call, and serves on the Advisory Board of Military Families Speak Out (www.mfso.org). She is the author of *When the War Came Home: The Inside Story of Reservists and the Families They Leave Behind* (Continuum, 2006). Her husband served a year in Iraq with the Washington Army National Guard 81st Brigade. She can be contacted at her website, www.stacybannerman.com.

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Trade Secrets

Adam Hochschild on lessons learned from the granddaddy of social justice movements

By ADAM HYLIA
Editor

"They faced the problem of, 'How do we ignite the outrage that we think is there about slavery?' They used every new technique they could find: scale models of slave ships, distributing posters everywhere, one thing after another like that."

Getting poet friends to write ballads that were sold on street corners. No one ever said, "We can't do this because it's never been done before."

How does a movement succeed? By taking risks, winning the friendship of unlikely allies, and allowing people with no political power to find their voice. In England in the latter part of the 18th century, a group committed to outlawing the trade in human beings from Africa innovated such methods as it mounted the first successful mass movement in western history — against an institution that enriched some of their country's most venerable institutions, including the Anglican Church.

As they invented new symbols of protest, like the campaign button, England's abolitionists set interesting precedents for the great freedom movements of the 20th century, says Adam Hochschild, author of *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves* (Mariner Books, 2006). A founding editor of *Mother Jones*, Hochschild was in Seattle this spring to read from the paperback version of *Bury the Chains*.

Real Change: Did you have any particular movement or issues from today in mind when you began the book?

Hochschild: Not specifically, though I was involved in civil rights issues earlier in my life. I was a civil rights worker in Mississippi in 1964 and I was very much involved in the movement against the Vietnam War. I think that gave me a much greater appreciation of these folks, who did this pioneering social movement 200 years ago.

One thing that has been very moving and interesting for me to see is as I have traveled around promoting the book at libraries, college campuses, bookstores, there is always one, two, three activists in the audience. I know who they are because one of them always asks a really nuts-and-bolts question, like "Tell me about the antislavery movement's fundraising." There have been people from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, environmental

groups of various sorts, the campaign against land mines, and of course people working against the war in Iraq.

RC: And all of those have parallels to the movement you write about, in that we're talking about something happening very far away.

Hochschild: Yes. That's something that is interesting about these folks: that they drew the connection between the near and the distant, which is important for any kind of political work that needs to be done today. If you're going to talk about the war, about globalization, about anything that is so far off you have to make connections.

RC: Did you start out with any assumptions about what the antislavery movement was and what it changed to?

Hochschild: You only assume that a movement like this was incredibly noble. When you get into it you find the divisions, the fissures, the wars. Those were interesting to me: the tremendous difference in political outlook between Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce. [Clarkson was the chief spokesman for the abolitionists' cause; Wilberforce was a Minister of Parliament who sponsored antislavery legislation.]

Clarkson was a radical in the terms of the day, a lover of the French Revolution — a little naïve, since at the time they were lopping off people's heads — but in every other respect a lover of all kinds of good things: labor unions, rights for women. Wilberforce was a terrible reactionary on everything other than slavery; he felt labor unions were a terrible thing and that women should stay in their place. But the fact that these guys were able to be good friends and work together for more than half a century was to me really remarkable. I think we can take some lessons from that: you know, you have to practice coalition politics if you're going to get anywhere.

RC: Does any contemporary movement bear a resemblance to the antislavery movement?

Hochschild: Many of them are similar in that they conceive of a problem on an international scale.

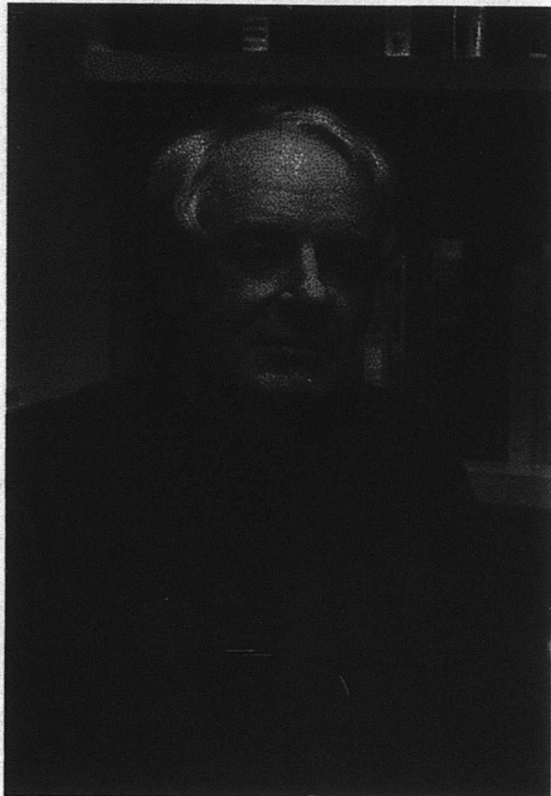
In a way it's easier when you have one institution, like slavery, that is unquestionably evil. One of the pressing problems with globalization is to make it benefit poor countries instead of being set up so they fall farther behind. But that's an enormously complicated problem about which reasonable people can disagree. It's a vastly more complex thing than slavery.

RC: There are economic arguments that the pro-slavery forces used that we can recognize today: that ending this trade would tear at the economic vitality of the British Empire. And there's a point where things kind of flip: where someone in a debate can openly scoff at that idea.

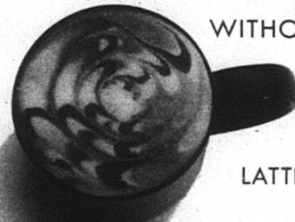
Hochschild: Yes, there was a man in Parliament that said that saying the docks of Liverpool would go to waste is like a highway robber man saying "I've got these horses that are only meant to be used to rob gentlemen and can't be used for any other purpose." He was saying to the ship owners, your ships could be used for something besides carrying human beings.

RC: What brought them to that point? Was it a change in the public will?

Hochschild: I think that was the most powerful thing. Public opinion was so totally behind this movement — not totally, since some people were making a living off this trade, in the ports of Bristol and Liverpool it was never popular — but the over-



Adam Hochschild tells of England's 50-year battle to end slavery in *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves*. Photo by Mark Sullo.



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Continued from Previous Page

whelming mass of public opinion was very much behind this movement. Less than 5 percent of the population could vote; even after the great reforms of the 1830s the voting population was still pretty small. Even in countries that aren't complete democracies, people in power don't want to do something that's clearly against the will of the majority.

I think that was a key thing that made the change, as well as the huge slave revolts in the West Indies, particularly in Jamaica in 1831-1832, the biggest one ever to take place in a British territory. More than 20,000 slaves were involved in it; more than 500 of them ended up dead. Some of the military officers who came back to London from the fighting and testified before Parliament, saying "These things are going to keep on happening and next time we might not be able to suppress it."

RC: It seems like the people's threat to destroy property also played a role in moving things forward.

Hochschild: One of the basic things about living in a democracy is you have to be able to find a variety of ways to light a fire under elected officials. If we look at some of the movements that have succeeded in history in forcing change, a lot of them have involved massive civil disobedience. I think those tools have to be there, they have to be available.

RC: Tell me what you think the effect of the "deliberate forgetting" of some of the movement's important figures was. I'm thinking of Elizabeth Heyrick, who was a strong passionate voice for immediate abolition.

Hochschild: And a wonderful pamphleteer. To read her pamphlets is to read the work of somebody who is just on fire with a burning desire for justice. We don't even have a picture of her today; we just have her pamphlets and the accounts of others who wrote about how influential they were at the time.

It's interesting to see who is remembered and who is forgotten in these movements. The one who's

endlessly remembered is Wilberforce, because he's such an attractive and unthreatening character who doesn't draw attention to anything like the slave revolts or to this large and occasionally unruly mass popular movement.

RC: You describe this meeting he has with another politician, who advises him on the subject of abolition: "You should occupy this ground before someone else takes it." How much of his long career working on this is about opportunism —

Hochschild: — And how much is conviction? Well, I hesitate to judge him too harshly on this, because we all do things for a great mixture of motives. Egotism, the desire to occupy some ground before somebody else does, often plays a role in the actions of the most noble, the most apparently self-sacrificing of people. I imagine he's not too different from most human beings in having a mixture of motives.

RC: Can you pick the one most brilliant move on the abolition movement's part?

Hochschild: Their openness to new methods of getting their message across. They faced the problem of how do we ignite the outrage that we think is there about slavery. They used every new technique they could find: scale models of slave ships, distributing posters everywhere, one thing after another like that. Getting poet friends to write ballads that were sold on street corners. No one ever said, "We can't do this because it's never been done before." The kneeling slaves in chains: that logo was the first logo specifically designed for a political organization.

RC: What do you think is different now?

Hochschild: I think that there is an increasing problem of people getting fatigued with the glut of information we have about war, poverty, injustice, whatever. So, how to operate in a world where that is the case — where you can no longer have the abolitionists' faith that if you just tell people the truth, then they'll act? That's what makes it harder. ■

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Anyone wishing to become informed of one of the most significant and complex events in western history should begin with *The Destruction of the European Jews*.

The Destruction of the European Jews
Raul Hilberg
Prices range from \$8.95 to \$155

Review by JOHN SISCOE
Contributing Writer

Since its first publication in 1961, Raul Hilberg's *The Destruction of the European Jews* has remained the most comprehensive and detailed study of the Nazi machinery of destruction. Through a scrupulous examination of the evidence left behind by the destroyers — their correspondence, memoranda, diary notes, and conference minutes — Hilberg reconstructs the workings of a bureaucracy bent, finally and irrevocably, on the annihilation of an entire people.

Massive though it is, Hilberg's study has limits to its scope. As the author makes clear in his introduction, it is not a book about the Jews or Jewish history. It is conceived as a work of Western history, and its focus is on the perpetrators, or as Hilberg puts it: "the storm that caused the wreckage." He goes on to say: "The history of the West has at times been shaped by the Jews. It has been changed no less — and perhaps more so — by those who have acted against the Jews, for when I do something to another, I also do something to myself."

The Nazis came to power legally. Once in power they used the existing bureaucracy to achieve their ends. Those laws that suited them, they kept; those that didn't they abolished, and they made new ones to justify their

crimes. They had neither scruples nor effective opponents. Within a few years, any German citizen designated as a Jew had been transformed into a pariah without civil rights who was headed for death. The audacity, cruelty, and final senselessness of this process were breathtaking.

Hilberg's meticulous and patient account is made all the more chilling by his attention to the language as well as the deeds of the perpetrators. Among their singular accomplishments was their creation of euphemisms to mask the reality of their deeds: "extraordinary installation," "special treatment," "primitive construction," and of course "final solution." Every bureaucracy indulges in such fabrication, what Hilberg terms "camouflage vocabulary." The Nazis, burdened by the enormity of their crimes, were virtuosos.

Holocaust history is a contentious and emotionally freighted topic. Hilberg's critics have faulted him in three areas: portraying the Jews as too passive and compliant, de-emphasizing Hitler's direct responsibility, and putting too low an estimate on the numbers of the dead.

Hilberg certainly contends that the Jewish leadership, drawing on the lessons of 2,000 years of persecution, deliberately followed a policy of placating their tormentors in the hopes of keeping a surviving remnant alive. If this was a deliberate policy, it failed catastrophically; the Jews misjudged the rapacity of their murderers.

Hitler's central responsibility is unquestionable, but Hilberg has reluctantly come to conclude that written evidence of his precise commands is unlikely to ever come to light. Similarly, we shall never know the exact number of the dead. Hilberg's "low" estimate of 5.1 million rankles historians who have estimates of their own. Nevertheless, one comes away from a reading of Hilberg with the sure knowledge that the Nazis tried with every means at their disposal to kill every single Jew they could find. History holds few, if any, more damning indictments than that.

Anyone wishing to become informed of one of the most significant and complex events in western history should begin with *The Destruction of the European Jews*. I recommend looking for a used copy at a bookstore or online. The Yale hardback three-volume set is just too expensive. ■

[A note on my review of recent translation of *Don Quixote*: Anne Ludlum wrote me and kindly pointed out that Real Academia Española publishes a first-rate Spanish-language edition that is readily obtainable. *Don Quixote de la Mancha* is 1,249 pages in hardback, complete with notes, critical apparatus, and even a list of archaic words; all this for only \$11.95. If you know Spanish, this is an unbeatable bargain. Anne Ludlum knows her Spanish and her Quixote; she and David Quicksall did a brilliant adaptation of *Don Quixote* for Book-It Repertory

National Event

It seems like the most
Significant event in the day
When a homeless woman walks away
From a housing interview
She can't stay
She's afraid to sign papers
Something came up
We miss her before she's even moved in

She's back to her daily grind
Walking the sidewalks
Community lunches, night shelters
How long
How much more long
How long

—ANONYMOUS

Chain Link

When the world is homeless...
others
rise.
There is no word for it.
Friends—
these
(a few of them)
form

circles by
standing.
A few of them.

—STAN BURRIS

Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning



Ben Franklin is believed to have thought searchers dressed in clown or chicken costumes were unreasonable. Tom Paine more than likely thought it was unreasonable to search for intangibles, like the color purple.

a general trend I see establishing itself here.

I think what epitomizes the trend is the Supreme Court decision last month that excluded the exclusionary rule from the ways civil libertarians could hope to enforce the knock-and-announce rule.

Just a little more than a decade earlier a differently constituted Supreme Court told us that our Founding Fathers, writing the Fourth Amendment, considered the common law principle that the police knock and announce themselves before breaking into your home a key ingredient of a reasonable search.

Not that they didn't have other ways in mind that searches should be reasonable. Madison may have been the anonymous author of a tract railing against searches that required house owners to say Please and Thank You. Ben Franklin is believed to have thought searchers dressed in clown or chicken costumes were unreasonable. Tom Paine more than likely thought it was unreasonable to search for intangibles, like the color purple, shrugs and sighs, affection, etc.

But not knocking and letting the people inside know you were the police was considered by our Founding Fathers the height of unreasonable. Why do I know that? Because it IS the height of unreasonable! It was unreasonable in the Middle Ages, it was unreasonable in 1776, it's unreasonable now!

If they don't let me know that they are the police, how do I know criminals aren't invading my house? How do I know the people breaking in aren't going to rape my kids and then kill them and kill me for being a witness? I'll tell you how I know that. I know that 'cause I'm going to use my Second Amendment guaranteed arms to shoot them all when they come in. Hey, even if they say they're police, if they don't show me badges and

When Chickens Come Knocking

It's been a slow week in the Emerald City. No off-duty police officers have shot anyone. No plain-clothes County Cops have beat up bicyclists. Our Seattle Police had dibs on. So I'd like to take this time to breathe deeply and to reflect on

a warrant, maybe I should shoot them anyway. How do I know they aren't lying?

The point is, knock-and-announce, and warrants, and badges, and uniforms, are all reasonable because without them the police are indistinguishable from a criminal mob, AND PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

I really think the average American, and I'm including Supreme Court justices in the average for the purposes of this sentence, don't understand these principles because they've all been too privileged and too empowered and too ensconced in a majority of their own mental making to even imagine what it's like to have total strangers, dressed in chicken suits, breaking into your home without warning, pointing guns at you, and screaming in your and your family's faces. Hint: it looks just like terrorism, when it happens to you without cause. And it does happen without cause often enough to be safeguarded against. The Founding Fathers safeguarded against it with a mass insurrection.

We could safeguard against it by applying the exclusionary rule against evidence procured by unreasonable means, but the Supreme Court just complicated all our lives by preventing that. Thank you Supreme Court! We are now all officially living in interesting times!

Anyway, the trend is: you never know who's going to beat you up under the color of authority next. They don't have to tell you they're coming in. They don't have to be wearing uniforms to demand that you bend your knees to them. They only have to say, "You're under arrest," and that is supposed to justify any force they use, and constitute proof that they are entitled to use it.

And, who needs a secret police when you've got an army of off-duty cops to do the work of one?

And, what good is a democratic society if any clown in a chicken suit, or whatever, riding a motorcycle, or not, can shoot a bystander at 2 a.m. and get away with it because they happen to be cops 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.? ■

Bus Chick,
Transit
Authority

Carla Saulter



So, dear reader,
roam the streets
of our fair city
without fear.

bladder, bus-dependent Seattleite, and you will get a description that is infinitely more horrifying: feeling the call of nature in the middle of a ride.

Downtown is the "middle" of the ride for many bus chicks who transfer. Here are some downtown options for those who might find themselves in need en route.

The Market: If your emergency strikes before 6 p.m., there's a public bathroom down the stairs to the left of the Pike Place Bakery. After 6, there's a free, self-cleaning public toilet in Victor Steinbrueck Park. (Thanks, City Council! I still have nightmares about the Honey Bucket that used to be there.)

Shopping district: Anyone who was ever dragged on a shopping excursion in childhood knows that department stores always have restrooms (even if they do require an escalator ride and a trip through ladies' lingerie). Nordstrom's flagship store on Fifth and Pine has several. While there is no restroom on the first floor (preventing easy, off-the-street access), there is one for each gender on every other. Across the street at Pacific Place, there are bathrooms on the bottom floor (where folks who don't know any better pay for parking) and on the top, near the theater. Closer

to major bus stops are Westlake Mall (third level) and Macy's (second floor). Both require an escalator ride (and there is something really creepy about the fluorescent hugeness of Macy's women's "lounge") but the good news is, they are otherwise easy to access and relatively well maintained.

Pioneer Square: Pioneer Square is also a good place to find relief. If for some reason you miss the fancy, self-cleaning toilets in Occidental Park (thanks again, City Council!), there's always Elliott Bay (also known as the world's greatest bookstore). The basement café requires neither key nor purchase — only minimal baggage (tiny stalls) and a high tolerance for silly graffiti.

Other options: You are in luck if you happen to be near a hotel when your emergency strikes. Almost all major hotels have restrooms in their lobbies for the convenience of their guests. In my experience, the restrooms are not locked and are easy to find without assistance. Sit-down restaurants are also a good option. Coffee and sandwich shops usually have small restrooms that require a key or a code, but large restaurants have large, clean bathrooms and busy employees who don't monitor every person who visits them.

And so, dear reader, roam the streets of our fair city without fear. Order the grande instead of the tall, have that second beer at lunch — secure in the notion that, should an emergency arise relief is (literally) just around the corner. ■



Sun., July 2, 12:30 p.m., Third Ave., City Hall Park. Officers observed suspect, a transient Native American female aged 32, sitting down on the ground in City Hall Park. Suspect was drinking from a 16 oz. can of Steel Reserve Beer. Officers contacted her and excluded her from the park for seven days. Suspect indicated that she understood the exclusion but stated that she did not want to leave. She was informed that if she did not leave the park that she would be arrested. She refused to sign the exclusion notice saying that she did not know where to sign even after being shown several times. Suspect walked out of the park and officers made contact with other people in the park. At approximately 12:30, 25 minutes after the initial contact, officer saw the suspect sitting in the park on the West Side, talking to two males. The officer contacted her again and said, "I told you that you could not be in the park," and placed suspect under arrest for trespassing. She was booked into King County Jail.

Sun., July 2, 12:33 p.m., Alaskan Way & S. Jackson. Officers contacted the suspect, a transient white male aged 32, regarding a pay parking scam. They ran suspect's name via the computer and found two outstanding warrants. These were verified and he was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sun., July 2, 2 p.m., Western & Blanchard. A transient Black male, aged 51, was contacted under the Alaskan Way Viaduct. This is Seattle Department of Transportation property and is clearly marked, "No Trespassing." Officers ran suspect's name and found an outstanding warrant. This was verified and suspect was booked into King County Jail.

Sun., July 2, 3:05 p.m., Third Ave., City Hall Park. Officers observed suspect, a transient Black female aged 23, in City Hall Park and were aware that she is currently under a one-year ban from all Zone 4 Parks. They contacted the suspect as she was speaking to a group of males and verified the parks exclusion. As suspect was placed under arrest, she stated she did not realize that City Hall Park was on her Exclusion Notice. She was booked into King County Jail.

Sun., July 2, 3:18 p.m., Third Ave., City Hall Park. At 3 p.m., suspect, a transient white male aged 51, was contacted at City Hall Park for possessing an open can of Hurricane Beer, which was half full of an alcoholic beverage. The suspect was issued a Parks Exclusion Notice for seven days from all Zone 4 parks. He was warned not to return for seven days or he would be arrested for criminal trespass. Suspect then exited the park. At 3:18 p.m. on the same day, the suspect returned to City Hall Park and began talking to another individual who was lying on the grass. He was contacted and placed under arrest for criminal trespass in the park and booked into King County Jail.

Compiled from incident reports of the Seattle Police Department by Emma Quinn. Got your own experience to relate? Call us at (206)441-3247 ext. 207 and we'll get the scoop.

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to say about
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Burial at Sea

My grandfather sat for two years on my mother's dresser
in a square white box
the kind he had tried to fit us in
She was using him as a paper weight
which seemed appropriate
Perhaps we should do something else with this
thing, I suggested.

He had been a navy man
an Annapolis graduate
Pearl Harbor survivor
who had retired to the desert
another kind of ocean
without introspection
It seemed fitting
he should return to the sea


We rented a boat
rowed out onto the choppy waters
my mother, my daughter, the box of ashes
We sprinkled him on the water
large flakes like salt and pepper
My mother read something he would not have
understood
nor I

I cracked a beer and poured a little over the side
To a right fucking bastard, I said.
loud enough for my daughter to hear
who had not known him
quietly enough so as not to jar my mother
who prayed solemnly to the sky
as seagulls shrieked irreverent
over head

—LARRY CRIST



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Moderated by KCTS host **Enrique Cerna.**
Co-presented by Real Change.

Letters

Why Bless U.S.?

Dear *Real Change*,

An Open Letter to Congress:

Leaning over the Independence Day holiday, this election-year flag talk seems an insulting effort to detract. Why is it symbolic flag burnings threaten us, enough to be a felony, yet Congress allows desecrations of the country daily, redefining the Bill of Rights and Constitution in ways to please the Executive Branch or some special group of voters, bending interpretations of our rights as it pleases them?

Why do we allow Guantánamo (and other prisons of torture) to exist? Why call ongoing dangers "war," allowing the President to claim wartime powers? Why is there no serious legislation or debate on issues to create a healthy environment and prevent desecrations of our National Forests and Parks, or on the national budget and arts, civil rights, Gulf Coast destruction and reclamation? Why do we allow gerrymandering for political advantage, or moving from government to a job as lobbyist of the government — jobs that should have the highest requirements? At the UN we block funds for health care projects that include population practices as well as women's choice issues where poverty and individual freedom should be issues for debate? We vote there with some of the most intransigent and unenlightened nations, sometimes standing with a handful against the world.

I am ashamed of our national debt, with war masked as "keeping us safe." Sad debates in almost empty chambers

of the Congress on vital matters shame me. Does the President of the United States need to wear a flag on his lapel and stand before five or six American flags to speak? Why does he end his speeches with the tired perfidy "and God bless America"? Why should God bless only us? If we believed that we must love our neighbors as ourselves, the we would make any sacrifice and pay any amount to provide good health worldwide with good education and wages as well — like the Carter Foundation, Doctors Without Borders or Heifer International. Then our war budgets will be obsolete. If we really care for the world as we care for ourselves, we'd vote down border walls, arrests, fines and punishments; we would use our funds to make the world better and safer! I believe a symbolic desecration of the flag to be a wordless way to show our despair and dismay over the place we find ourselves among the nations of the world where once we stood as a beacon. I write this letter in the hope that it will be read.

Marion M. Kimes

Big Thanks

Dear *Real Change*,

Thank you for your excellent work. I greatly enjoy the coverage in RC and appreciate your investigative journalism. I also greatly enjoy your features (still miss Classics Corner, though — any chance of it or something similar coming back?).

Keep up the good work, and thanks as well to your vendors who are always courteous, smiling, and willing to chat. RC vendors have the best customer service in Seattle even though they are frequently standing in the rain and cold.

Daniel Herb

Easy Problem 7

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



Only when young adults who survived life on the street and now want to attend college degree. Once accepted, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. For more information, visit seattleeducationaccess.org to support our scholarship program.

580

CLASSIFIED

Opportunity

Become a peacemaker in the upcoming Global Citizen trips to Nigeria, Ghana, and Burundi. Tuesday July 18, 7 p.m., Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N. Info: www.globalcitizenjourney.org.

YWCA Health Outreach will be conducting breast cancer screenings for low-income women. Saturday July 15, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., New Covenant Christian Center, 7930 Rainier Ave. S. Info: (206) 436-8671.

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 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 7/12

In Bremerton and Tacoma, park and public development authorities are working with a unified vision to create people-friendly waterfronts. Bremerton Mayor Cary Bozeman and Tacoma's Public Development

Authority Su Dowie deliver a presentation on their communities' achievements. Following, Councilmember Richard Conlin, planning director John Rahaim, and more join a panel discussion on the different plans and ideas for Seattle. Tickets \$5. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Thursday 7/13

The Refugee All Stars is a band of six Sierra Leone men who were forced from their homes during their country's decade-long civil war. Despite the loss of loved ones and the physical and emotional scars, war could not destroy their music. The group brought hope and happiness to fellow refugees, and they come to Seattle to perform from their recorded album. Tickets \$15 and up. 8 p.m., Neumos, 925 East Pike St.

Friday 7/14

Rachel Corrie: An American Conscience documents the courageous 23-year-old Washingtonian who was murdered by an Israeli soldier while she defended human rights and freedom for Palestinians. A cinematic collage of activist voices, the film weaves together Corrie's involvement in the International Solidarity Movement with others who have traveled to the Occupied Territories to stand united in non-violent resistance. Corrie's parents will lead a discussion following the screening. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. N. Info: www.rachelcorrie.org.

Saturday 7/15

Celebrate the talented poets of our state by listening to them read from *Pontoon 8: An Anthology of Washington State Poets*. Artists include Jeannette Allée, Glenda Cassutt, Tim Kelly, and more. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Saturday 7/15 and Sunday 7/16

Filled with non-stop belly dancing, the 18th Mediterranean Fantasy Festival also has Middle Eastern food, vendors selling crafts and dance related items, and an

outdoor stage. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hiawatha Community Center, 2700 California Ave. SW. Info: www.babylonianensemble.com.

The Bon Odori Festival recognizes the ancestors' contributions to Buddhist life.

Festivities include traditional Japanese dance, flower arrangements, Taiko drums, food, crafts, and more. 4-10 p.m., Seattle Buddhist Temple, 1472 S Main St. Info: www.seattlebetsuin.com.

Sunday 7/16

The 26th annual Seattle Peace Concert features the music of singer and songwriter Amber North, the percussion of guitarist Michael Garfield, a mix of swing and gospel by the band Blue Healers, and the inspiring R&B and New Orleans energy of Jeff and the Jet City Fliers. Noon - 6 p.m., Gas Works Park, 2101 N. Northlake Way. Info: www.seapeace.org.

Tuesday 7/18

St. Mark welcomes everyone to an interfaith vigil for peace in the Middle East, a program of prayer, readings, and reflection. 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., McCaw Chapel, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 - 10th Ave. E.

Thursday 7/20

Former U.S. diplomat Peter Galbraith describes the strategic miscalculations of the Bush administration in *The End of Iraq: How American Incompetence Created a War Without End*. Based on his many visits to the country over the past 20 years, he proposes the U.S. withdraw and negotiate an amicable divorce between the fractious sections. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way NE.

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

Director's Corner

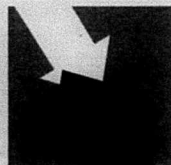


Initiative 920, the campaign to repeal Washington State's estate tax, will go to ballot this year, thanks to \$632,500 from developer Martin Selig. The tax directly provides badly needed dollars to support public schools and make higher education available to low-income students. The estate tax, championed by Governor Gregoire, replaces a century-old estate tax that was struck down earlier this year by the state Supreme Court.

This promises to be a dirty campaign. There were widespread reports of misinformation by signature gatherers, and the GOP has already targeted swing districts in Washington with automated calls to voters saying Democrats who oppose the initiative don't support small business.

The tax is only levied on about 250 estates a year, owned by Washington's wealthiest families. Washington, which has no income or capital gains tax, offers the most regressive tax structure in the nation. Initiative 920 has guilt by association written all over it. John Falk, the Initiative's organizer, was once a regional organizer for the racist John Birch Society and is still a member. Sadly, the Association of Washington Business just endorsed the initiative.

We need to hand those who think the wealthy deserve a free ride at the expense of kids a resounding defeat this year. For information on the No on Initiative 920 campaign, see www.washingtondefense.org. This is one we can win.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Payday Lenders Are Not Your Pals

The purpose of this column is to remind you that there's always a simple action you can take to make a difference on an issue you care about. On occasion, however, we step back a little bit and use this space to help you understand an important issue that is likely to need your voice in the future. Predatory payday lending

Contrary to the jingles and friendly caterpillars, money doesn't grow on trees and payday lending companies aren't neighborhood businesses that exist just to help people out when they run short between paychecks. Instead of offering a way out, these companies provide short-term loans with enormous interest that puts financial stability even further out of reach for many. Payday lenders are part of a growing poverty industry that exploits people's desperation in order to make money.

Payday loans are small cash advances, usually of \$500 or less. To get a loan, a borrower gives a payday lender a postdated personal check or an authorization for automatic withdrawal from the borrower's bank account. In return, the borrower receives cash, minus the lender's fees. For example, with a \$300 payday loan, a consumer might pay \$45 in fees and get \$255 in cash.

Payday lenders target African Americans and U.S. military personnel for loans that carry over 390 percent annual percentage rates of interest. A recent analysis by the University of Washington and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer found that twice as many payday lenders are located in African American communities in Washington, regardless of the income levels of people in those neighborhoods. Numerous government reports have also found a high concentration of payday lending stores close to military bases.

Many borrowers can't repay the loan when it comes due, so instead they get another loan to pay off the first. For borrowers with multiple loans, payday lending functions as chronic debt instead of helpful credit. The Center for Responsible Lending estimates that payday lending costs five million Americans \$3.4 billion annually. And while consumers struggle with ongoing debt, the payday industry makes big money. In 2004, payday lenders made over \$164 million from fees charged to consumers in Washington.

According to a May 2005 article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, payday lenders are increasing their influence in Olympia, making attempts to enact consumer protections difficult. The industry gave close to \$200,000 to state PACs and candidates in 2004, and two former state regulators are now lobbyists on behalf of the industry.

Consumer advocacy groups, including the Statewide Poverty Action Network, will be working to counter that influence in the 2007 legislative session. They'll be working to pass protections that include minimum repayment periods, a cap on APR, requiring lenders to fully consider borrowers' ability to repay prior to making a loan, and prohibiting mandatory arbitration to allow consumers recourse in a dispute.

Keep an eye on *Real Change* — we'll let you know when and how you can help pass meaningful consumer protections. Or join Statewide Poverty Action Network's campaign by visiting www.povertyaction.org or calling (206) 694-6794. For more information about this issue nationally, visit www.responsiblelending.org.

SQUARE, Continued from Page 1

In May, a Food Not Bombs member says, Wells even offered to sell them a spot in the art bazaar. The rules for the event state that only those selling goods are charged a fee, and Food Not Bombs serves its meals — typically to about 30 to 50 people — for free.

But it's not art, says Wells. While he says he completely supports the group's efforts, the permit covers the whole park and stipulates the firefighters memorial be kept clear of people, food, trash, and napkins. At no time did he tell the group to leave, though he says he did offer them a space at half price.

"As it was explained to me, we were within our rights to ask them to leave," Wells says. But, "I guess they felt marginalized."

More like entitled: According to the Parks Department, a permit still allows members of the public to walk right through a wedding ceremony if they wanted. But Parks spokeswoman Dewey Potter says this doesn't address the city's issue with meal programs, which it discourages in parks.

Another member of Food Not Bombs says, in the wake of a PSCA media campaign that involved videotaping crack dealers, police have stepped up their presence at Occidental, including moving the homeless along before the art bazaar.

"We believe food is a right, not a privilege," says activist "J," who, like other members of Food Not Bombs, asked her name be withheld out of fear of police retaliation.

While no trash was evident during the July 6 meal, Pioneer Square artist and activist Su Job, a former member of PSCA's advisory board, says trash has been a problem with some meal providers.

Job and other artists, however, say the bazaar has turned upscale at everyone's expense. One example: the event's rules state that art sold at the bazaar must be made by its creators, but a set of Mylar "pet balloons" shaped like dogs on display last Thursday were clearly marked "Made in China."

Wells says that vendors and others were invited as part of the last weekend's Fire Festival in Pioneer Square and won't return until next year.

Still, "I feel it's excluding the starving artists," says Brett Dedman, a painter who paid for a booth last Thursday.

"If Nick [Wells] has a problem with Food Not Bombs," says Susan Champion, who's been attending First Thursday for years, "he should work with the organization to set up a situation that will provide space."

After all, says "D," a Food Not Bombs member, "We're not riding skateboards through their bar mitzvah. We're not keeping First Thursday from happening." ■



JAMIE SANDERS AND ELIZABETH STELTER CHAT WHILE SERVING FOOD. THEIR GROUP HAS BEEN ASKED TO PAY DUES TO THE FIRST THURSDAY BAZAAR. PHOTO BY SUZANNA FINLEY.

CYCLIST, Continued from Page 1

as being "enraged," caught Brien, he dragged him to the ground.

Treisman, along with other cyclists, went to Brien's aid, with Treisman pulling the man off Brien. But a second man leapt from the van and latched onto Treisman, allegedly throwing him, face first, into the ground. A scuffle ensued. One witness says that as a third man exited the van, he identified himself as an officer. At that point, more witnesses claim, the other two men revealed badges on chains hidden under their street clothes, identifying themselves as officers as well. Witnesses assert it was only during the altercation, not preceding it, that the men voiced their identities as plainclothes officers.

The sheriff's office maintains that plainclothes officers identified themselves by sounding a siren in the unmarked van, prior to the melee.

Both Brien and Treisman were arrested, with Brien still being investigated for disturbing the peace and possession of a beer. Treisman, a 30-year-old doctoral candidate in mathematics at the University of Washington, is currently free on bail, though he is under investigation for third-degree felony assault. The charge, which is specific to assault on an officer, carries a potential sentence of up to five years and a potential \$10,000 fine.

One of the officers who arrested Treisman, says Speikers, also happens to be the investigating officer on the case, a fact he finds troubling: "That's a conflict of interest." He says he may speak to the

King County Prosecutor's Office — which is responsible for looking at all the evidence to see if Treisman will ultimately be charged — about his concerns.

A spokesman for the Prosecutor's Office, Dan Donohoe, says he doesn't know if having an arresting officer double as an investigating officer on a case represents a conflict. "Check with the Sheriff's office about that," says Donohoe.

"No," answers Chinnick, "it's not a conflict of interest."

Chinnick says the sheriff's office is in the process of collecting reports on the incident, which it will then present as a referral to prosecutors about whether or not to charge Treisman. Asked how long the process might take, Chinnick replies, "We will send the referral in when it's complete."

At a press conference given outside of the King County Jail last week, Speikers said that the prosecutor's office indicated it would probably make a charging decision on July 17.

"That's an estimate," refutes Donohoe. "We're reviewing the case and it's going to be a couple of weeks before we make a decision."

But if charges are handed down, Speikers says that the prosecutor's office will have to prove, "beyond a reasonable doubt," that Treisman was aware at the time that the man he pulled from the other cyclist was a plainclothes officer.

"That's the key issue: that he knew, or should have reasonably known," says Speikers of Treisman. "He didn't. He was acting in defense of another." ■

CHUCK RINEHART

Journeyman Carpenter
Contractor

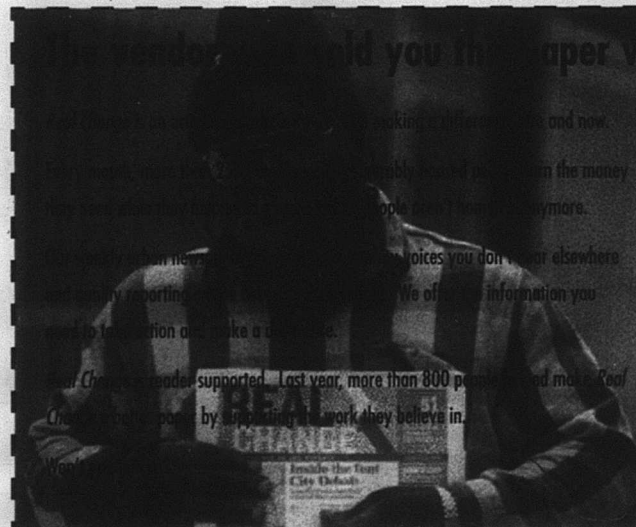
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