

REAL CHANGE

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JULY 26 - AUG. 1, 2006

Energy to Burn?

King County Candidates Look to Seattle for Help

BY LYDIA DePILLIS
Contributing Writer

Last Tuesday, about 600 people packed into Town Hall to see six Democrats make a case for why they should receive the 43rd District Democratic nomination — and, by default, become the liberal bastion's newest state representative. But before they could start their debate, the man who currently holds that position reminded listeners of the bigger picture.



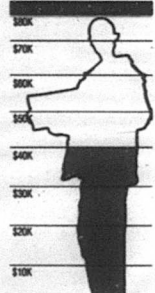
With more Democratic legislators in Olympia, "We can do in education and health care what we've done in transportation and civil rights," said Rep. Ed Murray, who will seek the 43rd's Senate seat this November. "Join me this election season — go to Bellevue and doorbell."

While primary contenders fight it out in Seattle, Democrats elsewhere in King County — on the East Side, especially — are struggling to defend their seats or make gains against well-financed Republicans. Some district Democratic organizations can't even find people willing to challenge en-

See **ENERGY**, Continued on Page 12

Double Your Donation

Last week, generous readers helped move the summer fund drive forward with another \$10,269 in donations and pledges, bringing us almost half way to meeting that critical \$80,000 summer goal. Help make our summer fund drive a success by using the coupon on page 12 to send a check today, or make a secure on-line gift at www.realchangenews.org.



KARYN QUINLAN AND JEAN DARSIE TALK OUTSIDE SEATTLE'S FEDERAL BUILDING, DIRECTING A CALL AT SENS. CANTWELL AND MURRAY TO BRING THE TROOPS HOME. PHOTO BY ELIOT STOLLER.

In the Pink

Women's effort to end Iraq war converges weekly at Cantwell's office

By SHARA CHOI
Contributing Writer

Pink — hot pink, pale pink, a pink stuffed pig, and even a pink feather boa—dominated the corner of Second Avenue and Madison Street on Tuesday, July 18, in front of the Federal Building.

"It's election season for [U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell] and I'm sure she's trying not to step on any toes, but we want to be out here every Tuesday to show her that she definitely has a very strong anti-war base, and she's our representative. She works for us, and she should hear what we have to say," said Libby Compton, director of Code Pink Seattle, a women's-initiated grassroots peace and justice effort.

The organization plans to fast every Tuesday in front of the Federal Building, which houses Cantwell's and senior Sen. Patty Murray's offices, until the end of the war. Nationally, this past Tuesday was the 15th day of fasting for Code Pink in Washington, D.C., where they are fasting in front of the White House.

Approximately 40 people partici-

pated in the peace rally on Tuesday. Code Pink's goal was to gather 48 participants to represent the 48 lives from Washington lost in Iraq since the beginning of the war. Felix and Roland, ages 1.5 and 9 months, participated in the peace rally by wearing pink "Babies for Peace" signs.

Code Pink members stood outside the building with postcards, asking pedestrians walking by to express their sentiments about the war and the troops. On one side of the card, it said, "Dear Senators and Members of Congress: Every day that you fail to take action to end the war in Iraq, an average of two more U.S. troops and countless Iraqis die. Whose names are you willing to add to the growing list of casualties?" On the other side, Code Pink gave citizens the opportunity to ask them to bring the troops home as soon as possible. In three and a half hours, volunteers were able to collect about 150 postcards filled out by pedestrians passing Code Pink's peace rally.

"I read a statistic that 59 percent of Washington residents support bringing

See **PINK**, Continued on Page 12

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

If our ideas are so great why does the right keep winning? **2**
PAGE

THE GOOD TENANT

Mayor's choice for SHA Board raises hackles of Resident Action Council. **3**
PAGE

BAD HIRE

What's it take to get fired from SHA anyway? Inquiring minds want to know. **4**
PAGE

THIS AMERICAN LIFE

Philipino-Indian novelist Peter Bacho talks art and life in the heart of the empire **5**
PAGE

THE COME BACK

Dumpster-diving peeping Tom acts out but doesn't break parole, or something. **10**
PAGE

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

Safe, For Now

Initiative 946 fails to seal off basic services to immigrants — but what next?

By **GEORGE CHEUNG**
Lopez & Cheung, Inc.

On July 7, Bob Baker and Protect Washington Now failed to submit a single signature for Initiative 946, a punitive measure that would have deputized doctors and nurses as federal immigration officials.

The event marked an end to an aggressive campaign by a coalition of immigrant and civil rights organizations, labor unions, health care professionals, and elected officials to prevent the initiative from qualifying. This is a clear victory for social justice advocates. However, we all need to understand this initiative's historical context to fully appreciate the longer-term threat and continue organizing.

Anti-immigrant ballot measures have been used as a wedge tactic by right-wing conservatives since the mid-1990s. At that time, California voted on and approved Proposition 187, which sought to deny access to education and health care to undocumented immigrants. Though much of the legislation was eventually ruled unconstitutional, the campaign was divisive and costly. In 2004, Arizona voters approved Initiative 200, spearheaded by Protect Arizona Now, which attacked voting rights and access to health and human services for immigrants. This legislation, according to government officials, led to the disenfranchisement of thousands of eligible voters in the 2005 elections. Finally, that same year, a local conservative activist filed Initiative 343, a carbon copy of Arizona's initiative.

In response, From Hate to Hope formed as a coalition to counter anti-immigrant legislation in the summer of 2005. This coalition, which included

the ACLU, the Children's Alliance, the *Comité Pro-Amnestia General y Justicia Social*, Hate Free Zone Washington, SEIU Local 775, Social Justice Fund Northwest and the Church Council of Greater Seattle, organized numerous trainings and community briefings across the state, commissioned a public opinion poll, and mounted a legal challenge to I-946. This last effort was critical in delaying the signature gathering process by almost a month. Subsequently, the coalition established an official campaign committee, United for a Healthy Washington (UHW), which was successful in garnering endorsements from groups like the Washington State Nurses Association, the League of Women Voters, and the Greater Seattle Business Association. Further, UHW launched a "Think Before You Sign" campaign at numerous community festivals and sporting events where signatures were being gathered.

Though immigrant advocates have been successful in preventing a punitive measure from qualifying for the fall ballot, it is only a matter of time before a similar proposal is filed. We have every indication that Bob Baker and his allies will continue to organize, both around ballot initiatives and at the State Legislature. Progressives need to take this opportunity to form stronger coalitions, prevent wedge issues from dividing us, and formulate a proactive strategy. The following are three key components to this effort:

1. Establish a permanent infrastructure to engage in ballot initiative races. Progressives need to reach beyond their issue silos and collaborate on building a shared infrastructure. This includes annual polling of hot-button political issues, monitoring of initiative

filings, researching political contributions through the Public Disclosure Commission, and establishing the capacity to file legal challenges.

2. Use ballot initiatives as pro-active organizing opportunities. From a review of statewide initiatives filed over the past decade, conservatives have dominated the ballot initiative process. To counter this stranglehold, progressives need to unify and establish a long-term strategy on ballot initiatives. By going on the offensive, we can reframe debates around initiatives and score major legislative victories. This initial plan needs to extend through 2012 to include advocacy around redistricting, a crucial yet mostly overlooked opportunity for social change.

3. Increase civic engagement in immigrant and refugee communities. One of the most important ways to change the debate on immigration is to get more immigrants involved in the political process. In 2006, the lobby day at the state capitol organized by the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition became the second largest of its kind, with more than 3,000 participants. This positive trend needs to continue through massive naturalization, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote drives. Non-profit charitable organizations can and should be at the forefront of this effort, as many of these groups have the best ties with immigrant communities.

As progressives, sometimes we need to learn from our adversaries. With regards to ballot initiatives, conservatives have been coordinated, strategic, and successful. By creating a permanent infrastructure and strong coalitions to support it, we can stem the tide and use initiatives for positive social change. ■

George Cheung is CEO of Lopez & Cheung, Inc a public affairs consulting firm based in Seattle, WA. He served as the coordinator for From Hate to Hope and United for a Healthy Washington.

REAL CHANGE

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

Mission Statement:

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

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

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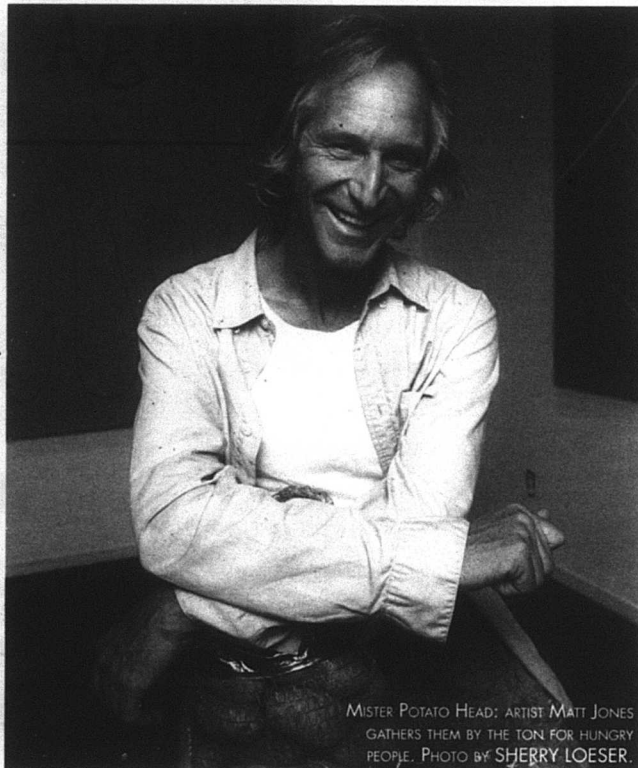
Change

About 10 years ago Matt Jones purchased a 50-pound sack of potatoes and brought it to a local homeless shelter. He was surprised at the overwhelming thanks he received for his small gesture. "It was incredibly gratifying to see the immediate impact of providing food to hungry people," says Jones.

This experience inspired Jones to start MashedPotatoes.org, a grassroots organization whose goal is to deliver large quantities of potatoes and other easy-to-store food items to local food banks. As part of the effort, Jones opens up his Lake Union studio to the public the first Friday of each month and supplies art, wine, and music. In return, he asks his guests to bring bags of spuds. This event, known as the "Passion for Mashin'," has supplied local food banks with more than 400,000 pounds of potatoes.

When asked why he focuses on potatoes and not some other staple, Jones explains, "Mashed potatoes are the king of comfort food, and they are the top of the food chain of cool. Why look any further?"

—Amy Besunder



MISTER POTATO HEAD: ARTIST MATT JONES
GATHERS THEM BY THE TON FOR HUNGRY
PEOPLE. PHOTO BY SHERRY LOESER.

Strong Voice or Rubber Stamp?

Some tenants oppose mayor's nominee to SHA board

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Reporter

Oh, no, not again. That's how some public housing tenants feel about the prospect of Sybil Bailey representing them on the governing board of the Seattle Housing Authority.

On July 12, Mayor Greg Nickels nominated Bailey to one of two positions held by tenants on SHA's seven-member Board of Commissioners, which oversees the housing authority, from its low-income apartment buildings to its new, mixed-income developments.

Bailey is a longtime resident of SHA's Denny Terrace apartments on Capitol Hill. She has served on its resident council and been president of the larger Resident Action Council for all SHA tenants. A Nickels staff member says Bailey's background makes her a great candidate for the board position, which tenant representative Judith Fay retired from in May.

Bailey's critics disagree, saying she has thwarted tenant interests, rubber-stamped SHA decisions, and even helped to rewrite the resident council's bylaws to stop it from representing Yesler Terrace, the final "garden community" that SHA is looking to redevelop.

Back in 1998, when Bailey was first nominated to the board by Mayor Paul Schell, similar complaints led City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck,

then chair of the council's Housing Committee, to scuttle the nomination by refusing to give Bailey a committee hearing.

The Housing Committee is now scheduled to take up her nomination on Aug. 1. Richard McIver, a committee member who endorses Bailey, says Steinbrueck's move in 1998 doesn't concern him.

"She's extremely well qualified," McIver says. "I can't imagine her just rubber-stamping anything, frankly."

Rick Harrison, a member of the Resident Action Council, says McIver is mistaken. "If anything," he says, "there are even more reasons to turn her down now."

Among them, Harrison says, Bailey helped write a new SHA rule last year to forbid tenants from putting posters or decorations on the outside of their front doors. Last October, after councilmembers balked at the rule (later suing SHA on free-speech grounds), Bailey resigned from the council on short notice.

Between 2000 and 2003, he and others say, Bailey put RAC on hiatus by refusing to call meetings. When meetings did start again, the resident council — a body mandated by Housing and Urban Development — had a new set of bylaws that no one had ever voted on.

RAC Secretary Jim Bush agrees the news bylaws were never ratified. He says he, Bailey, and SHA staff member Marsha Johnson rewrote them in order

to get funding and get the council going again, though he's not clear how the new bylaws were to supposed to bring in money.

In the rewrite, the Resident Action Council lost its right to represent Yesler Terrace and any of the senior housing, scattered sites, or new developments that RAC once spoke for at Rainier Vista, NewHolly, or High Point — most of which have their own community-based councils. The new bylaws limit the council's domain to the 5,300 tenants of SHA's 28 low-income apartment buildings.

Bailey did not return emails seeking comment. But McIver says he's confident she's the best choice of the 16 people who applied for the job. "Through an open process of tenants, Sybil came out as the person the tenants selected," he says.

In fact, Bailey was chosen by a panel appointed by the mayor's office, with only one of its five members — retiring board member Judith Fay — being an SHA tenant. Three others worked for the mayor, with Sue Taoka, director of the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority, serving as the group's lone outside panelist.

The process "has raised a few hackles," says Bush, who does not endorse Bailey. "Who actually chooses who gets those seats? It's not the residents, and it should be." ■

Just Heard...

Hope for meals

Al Poole removed all confusion this week over how seriously he was searching for a site to replace the one it's losing for the Outdoor Meals Program.

The city's director of homelessness intervention says a team within Seattle's Human Services Department is currently negotiating for a specific property somewhere in the city.

"We're working on a site," Poole says. But "I don't have anything to announce at this time."

The site would replace First Presbyterian Church, which the city leased in 2005 after a five-year search. After the church said it would end the lease Dec. 31 ("Food for Thought," June 30), Poole said the meal providers would have to come up with a new spot, but he would look — a statement some greeted with skepticism.

Within the week, Poole says he expects to see a lease proposal, which he will submit to HSD Director Patricia McInturff for approval. "As soon as I get the word from the director that we can do it," he says, "we'll meet with the providers."

Money for vets

The King County Council voted Monday to allocate an initial \$1.7 million for the Veterans and Human Services Levy that voters approved last fall.

The funding includes \$1.3 million for veterans services and \$412,000 for new staff to help the county identify where the human services portion of the levy money should go.

Six new staff members will be hired specifically to work with veterans at the WorkSource unemployment office in Renton. The staff will include four employment specialists and two financial counselors.

The money will also go to hire two new counselors and one social worker for programs run by the state Department of Veterans Affairs. The counselors will assist veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The social worker will help incarcerated veterans transition out of jail.

Heroes for housing

There are people in high places who work hard for low-income housing, and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance took the opportunity to thank them last week.

At its annual "Housing Heroes" banquet, the alliance honored seven state lawmakers for wins they made this year in the Legislature, including passing the Affordable Housing Incentive Program bill and increasing funding for the Housing Trust Fund and the Energy Match Makers program.

The honored legislators are Sen. Darlene Fairley and Reps. Frank Chopp, Hans Dunshee, Fred Jarrett, Mark Miloscia, Dawn Morrell and Larry Springer.

—Cydney Gillis

The Burglar had a Key

Tenant sues landlord over building manager's assault

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**
Staff Reporter

Getting beaten up and robbed was bad enough. But the man who assaulted Ahmed Ibrahim and took \$5,400 from his apartment at a Seattle Housing Authority building two years ago was the building's night manager.

The question now is whether SHA bears any responsibility for what happened at Barton Place, a 90-unit building in Rainier Valley. Ibrahim plans to find out.

The Somali immigrant is suing SHA for monetary damages to cover his medical bills, lost wages, and emotional distress. The lawsuit, filed in March in King County Superior Court, argues that SHA was negligent: Months before the burglary, the agency had good reason to fire night manager Mursal Omar, but failed to do so.

The claim is based on another lawsuit filed before the burglary. In that suit, a female resident of Barton Place said Omar had forced her to have sex with him under threat of eviction.

According to Ibrahim's lawsuit and a police declaration, Ibrahim cashed a large disability settlement check in April 2004 and, believing that he should

inform the housing authority of his finances, made the mistake of telling Mursal Omar.

Before dawn the next morning, Omar used his master key to enter Ibrahim's unit and was rustling around in the bedroom closet when Ibrahim woke up:

When Ibrahim demanded to know what was going on, Omar punched him, then shoved him so hard onto the bed that the headboard broke, injuring Ibrahim.

Omar was later arrested and got six months in jail after pleading guilty to first-degree burglary. His sentence included paying \$200 a month in restitution to Ibrahim. But Omar has since skipped town.

In court papers, Ibrahim's lawyer, Mark Lee, contends the burglary and assault wouldn't have happened if SHA had acted quickly and removed the manager after Barton Place resident Jacqueline Potts complained months earlier that Omar had been sexually harassing her.

"In spite of having notice of Mr. Omar's conduct towards Ms. Potts,"

Lee argues in court papers, the "Seattle Housing Authority continued to employ Mr. Omar as a manager, which provided him with the opportunity to attack, intimidate, and burglarize another vulnerable tenant."

Court filings in Potts' case state that Omar started demanding sex from her shortly after he became night manager in 2003. Because she feared losing her housing, the filings say, Potts acquiesced to oral sex and intercourse on several occasions. Then, in November 2003, Potts reported Omar to the day manager of Barton Place.

After she complained, Omar's demands stopped. But SHA took no action against the night manager, so, in February 2004, Potts sued the agency in federal court, claiming her civil rights had been violated and seeking Omar's removal.

In its reply to the lawsuit, SHA argued that Potts had no case specifically because the problem was solved — Omar's demands had stopped. But the housing authority's general coun-

sel, James Fearn, says the agency later settled with Potts out of court for an undisclosed sum.

That doesn't mean Omar was guilty of the harassment, Fearn says. In fact, SHA had considered him a model employee. "But it was essentially a he-said, she-said incident," says Fearn. "There were no witnesses."

More importantly, by the time Potts' lawsuit was headed to court in late 2004, Mursal Omar was in jail for robbing Ahmed Ibrahim, leaving him with "a lack of credibility," he says.

SHA couldn't have removed the manager sooner, Fearn says, because Omar had rights as an employee. Until he walked into Ibrahim's apartment, he says, "It wasn't demonstrated in any way that he was a danger to other people."

"I can't say the case is without merit," Fearn adds of Ibrahim's lawsuit against SHA. "There is evidence that Mursal Omar entered the unit unlawfully, and that is a cause for which the housing authority could have some liability."

It's too early to tell, he says, whether SHA will defend itself in court or settle. ■

Short Takes

Taking it to the people

One part per million. That's the level of PCBs the Port of Seattle is shooting for in its reworking of a remedial cleanup plan for the toxic-laden Terminal 117. On July 25, the port presented plans it thought might achieve such a goal to South Park residents.

One of the plans would make the site's shoreline hospitable to juvenile salmon, with a muddy bottom and new plants, says port spokesperson Mick Schultz. The port could also leave the shore bare. Either way, the rest of the lot would be resurfaced with gravel.

Environmental activist B.J. Cummings of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition says a parking lot is not on locals' agenda. Instead, they "want the waterfront open to the public, something park-like. Something that is good for the fish and good for the people, that will poke a hole in the industrial barrier between residents and the river."

High levels of PCBs trouble the site, with concentrations of the carcinogen having been recorded at 9,200 parts per million (ppm) in some locations. The EPA had suggested that the port do a remedial

cleanup that would have lowered that level to 10 ppm in the upper two feet of soil, with depths greater than that seeing 25 ppm, at a cost to the port of \$6 million.

But during a late June public meeting, South Park residents called on port officials to have the site cleaned to 1 ppm, a level in line with the state's recommendations for PCBs in a residential area and commensurate with talk that the site may, at some point in the future, see use as a residential or recreational area. Port commissioners sided with residents and began a month-long process of reworking the EPA's initial proposal; the EPA, for its part, has said it will work with the port to attain the lower levels.

—Rosette Royale

Vulcan's money

While the city works on encouraging high-rise condos in Seattle's South Lake Union area, Sharon Lee wants to know what's happened to a certain \$2.4 million that the city had earmarked for low-income housing in the burgeoning biotech hub.

Lee is the director of the Low-Income Housing Institute. In a written response she sent the city on a condo-friendly draft of the new South Lake Union Neighborhood Plan, she demanded the city release the \$2.4 million. The sum is the remainder of \$20.8 million that the city got

in 2001 for selling eight properties to Vulcan, the company developing much of South Lake Union for billionaire Paul Allen.

"We originally understood the funds were expected to be released in [a request for proposals] in 2006," Lee wrote July 10 to the Planning Department and mayor. "These [funds] should be released now and not held up any longer."

All in good time, says Michael Mann, deputy director of the Office of Policy and Management. The city plans to release the funds some time next year, he says, after the new South Lake Union plan is finalized and adopted by the City Council, which is expected to vote on it this fall during its annual review of the city's overall Comprehensive Plan.

"The city wants to make sure that we are following the will of the neighborhood in how we offer these affordable housing funds," Mann says. "We think it's appropriate to wait until they've updated their neighborhood plan to do that."

—Cydney Gillis

No rest at the Westin

Contract negotiations at the Westin, the premiere downtown hotel, are entering their fourth week, and the hotel workers' chief negotiator says there's precious little headway so far.

At issue, says Eric Van Rossum of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Local 8, are a host of workplace safety issues, including ergonomic safeguards for housekeepers who must lift heavy beds, protections from snooping by the Department of Homeland Security, reversing the decline in the employment of African American hotel workers, and protection for transgendered employees.

Management "haven't been interested in [bar-gaining on] nearly anything," says Van Rossum.

Among Local 8's demands:

- Hotel management should alert shop stewards whenever the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency comes calling. ICE, a branch of Homeland Security, inspects workers' documents and raids the jobsites of employers suspected of employing workers without proper proof of citizenship or legal residency. If immigrations officials want to come in and inspect workers' documents, the hotel should demand a warrant, says Van Rossum.

- Workers who aren't well-versed in English need an interpreter at any disciplinary hearing. Van Rossum says one worker who primarily spoke Spanish was dismissed after a hearing; her English-speaking supervisor said she had resigned, though she avows that she did not.

Local 8 represents 600 Westin employees. Fifty-six percent of them were born outside the U.S.; 63 percent are women.

Supporters of the workers gathered Tuesday July 25 in the hotel's lobby with shirts and buttons declaring their support for the negotiation process. The Seattle Alliance for Good Jobs and Housing, which held the "drink-in," want to show the hotel that a broad community supports the workers' demands.

—Adam Hyla



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Open Season

Machinists fight back at Cummins NW

By LEE CAMPBELL
Contributing Writer

Lee Campbell is a member of Seattle Solidarity Network (seattlesolidarity@gmail.com), a newly formed support organization for rank-and-file workers.

An earlier version of this story was published at seattle.indymedia.org.

The new owner at Cummins Northwest has told his workers there's going to be a few changes: no more union pension plan, no more union medical insurance, and no more union shop. In reply, from Seattle to Spokane to Portland to Pendleton, they've walked off the job and onto the picket line.

These are the workers who service and repair the big Cummins diesel engines that power truck lines and school buses, as well as the Cummins generators that give backup electricity to many area hospitals and to companies such as Microsoft. Most have never been on strike before.

The new owner, Rod Stohler, is the son of Dick Stohler, ex-owner of Florida-based Cummins Power Southeast. "Basically what happened was, daddy gave him some money to go to the other side of the country and buy [Cummins Northwest]," generator shop foreman Paul McGinnis says. "In Florida they're a right-to-work state, so I think when he comes up here, that's what he thinks he can do."

"We had two years left on our contract when this guy bought the place, and he told the previous owner that he would honor it," McGinnis says, "then the first thing he did was to come in and nullify the contract."

The strikers, who have been out since July 7, are not demanding more money. Instead, they're on strike against company actions that they and their two unions — the Machinists and the Teamsters — believe are unfair labor practices, violations of their rights as workers, and attempts to break the unions.

"They were 'direct bargaining' with us: trying to force people to go around our union" and agree individually to major contract changes, engine technician Casey Nelson says.

Cummins Northwest Human Resources VP Kim Bell defended the new owner's position. "The contract was between the union and the previous owner," Bell says. "As of April 1, we became a new company."

Both sides agree that the biggest issue involves retirement. "They want to take away our union pension," McGinnis says. "They keep coming back and saying that it's 'A liability for the company.' They won't give us any reason other than that."

Parts department steward Dan Dewaele says some of his co-workers were three-fifths of the way towards earning the pensions they'd been promised.

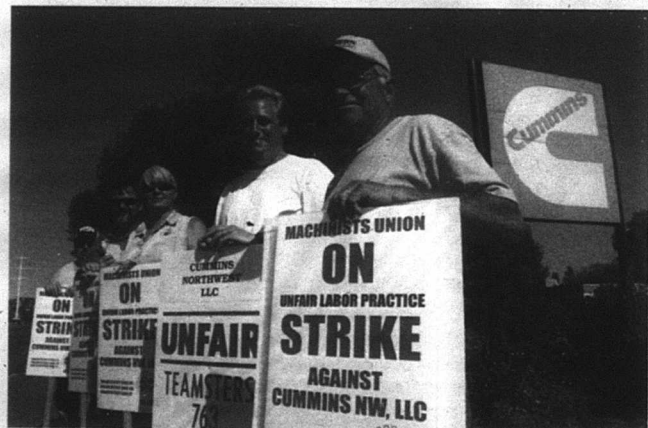
Health insurance is another major point of conflict. "They want to take us out of our union medical," McGinnis says.

On top of those issues, the new owner's demand to move from a union-shop to an open-shop contract has convinced many workers that he's out to break their unions. With an open-shop contract, management would be free to have an unlimited number of non-union employees working alongside union members.

See MACHINISTS, Continued on Page 10

Union workers at the engine company's Renton shop have been on strike since July 7.

Photo by Michael Dopps.



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Coming through Slaughter

Writer Peter Bacho on his new novel, his life as a writer, his youth in Seattle

By **ROBIN LINDLEY**
Contributing Writer

Growing up in Seattle's Filipino community in the 1960s, novelist Peter Bacho saw many friends drafted into the military and shipped to Vietnam. They returned changed men, altered by the trauma of war.

Bacho's new novel *Entrys* (purposefully misspelled) tells the haunting story of Rico Divina, a half-Filipino, half-Yakama Indian Vietnam combat veteran from Seattle, who returns home to struggle with the experience of war and alienation, with the obstacles of race and culture, as he tries to find hope in writing. *Entrys* is especially timely as another war devastates Iraq, and American men and women of all backgrounds return bearing severe physical and emotional wounds.

The novel comes out of Bacho's youth in Central Seattle. He graduated from O'Dea High School, earned a BA at Seattle University in three years, and then a JD from the University of Washington School of Law. He has worked as a lawyer, journalist and college professor, and recently ended a five-year stint as a writer for the Tacoma News Tribune. He was named Distinguished Northwest Writer in Residence at Seattle University, and now teaches writing at the Tacoma campus of Evergreen State College.

Bacho won the American Book Award for his novel *Cebu* (1992), and the Murray Morgan Prize and Washington Governor's Writers Award for his story collection *Dark Blue Suit* (1998). His other work includes the satirical novel *Nelson's Run* (2002), and a nonfiction work, *Boxing in Black and White* (1999). *Entrys* was recently nominated for the Kiriyama award for outstanding Pacific Rim literature.

Bacho has been praised as a "major voice in contemporary literature" (Tom Howard), with a "strong, steady style" (Kathleen Alcalá), and a "disarming... sense of humanity" (Thomas Keneally).

Real Change: Your new novel *Entrys* is about a Vietnam veteran dealing with the trauma of war. Did the Iraq war prompt the novel?

Peter Bacho: No. I completed it in 2001, before this mess in Iraq. But the parallels are very clear in terms of the disillusionment after Vietnam, and the disillusionment that thousands of returning Iraq War veterans face. That's going to be their burden and this nation's burden as well.

RC: The novel begins with Rico in an indifferent school system.

Bacho: In the opening scene, he's put in a remedial education class like a lot of minority kids then. The attitude of the Seattle public schools was that they were not college material. It was different only in the Catholic school system. My mom and dad scraped together the

\$110 a year so I got to O'Dea [High School]. It was a lifesaver.

The public schools did a horrible job in the '60s of educating kids from lower economic backgrounds who also happened to be members of certain minorities. I've always been pissed off at Seattle public schools since then.

RC: Rico keeps a journal, and his writing changes over the course of the book.

Bacho: He gets better at writing. He should have been college material, but he was never encouraged. He teaches himself how to write. This is the story of wasted potential... the story of a whole lot of young men of my era. Teachers didn't believe in them. College wasn't something they thought about. When you have a draft and the only out is a college deferment, that can be deadly. In the Filipino-American community in the 1960s, most of those eligible for the draft were drafted when they turned 18. About 80 percent of the guys I knew were drafted and went to Vietnam. That's a huge proportion, and it happened in the barrios, inner cities, and Indian reservations.

RC: Rico is part Filipino, part Yakama Indian.

Bacho: About a third of my peers were of mixed Filipino and Native American ancestry.... I was married to a Native American woman for about 10 years. She's a traditional Indian [who] does the ceremonies, the sun dance — all sorts of powerful healing ceremonies. [She is] Mandan, and the healing ceremony in the book is Mandan.

RC: After the war, Rico reads David Halberstam and others who questioned the Vietnam war.

Bacho: Halberstam laid it all out [in] *The Best and the Brightest*. It teaches... how foreign policy was created through the imagination of white guys from Ivy League colleges with absolutely no sense of the rest of the world. And for this caricature of the rest of the world a whole lot of people had to die. And that's truly tragic. I never thought we'd find ourselves in a situation so similar, but now in Iraq with the neocons and their wild imaginings about how the world should be, a bunch of folks have died, and the civil war goes on.

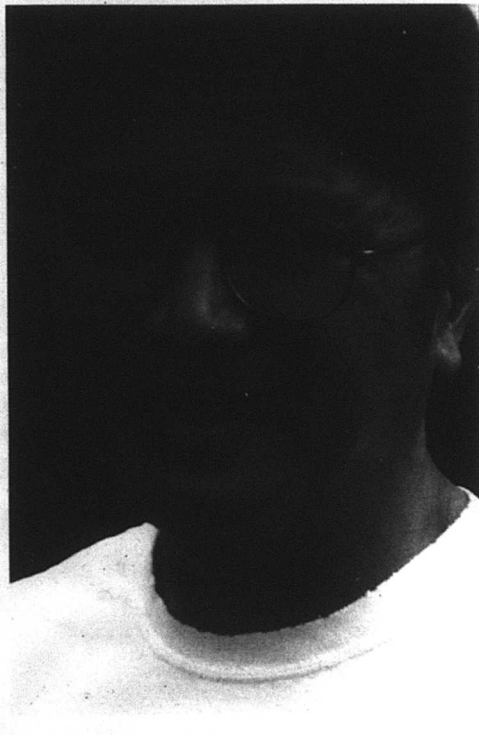
RC: Did you do much outside research for *Entrys*?

Bacho: No, because the story was every day in my community.

RC: Did you want to be a writer as a child?

Bacho: I wanted to be Arnaud de Borchgrave, a famous international correspondent.... He was always covering this little war in Africa or a development in the Middle East, and I thought it was a dramatic life. I did a little of that, and it's not all it's cut out to be.

RC: You were a war reporter in the Philippines.



Bacho: I covered a pretty nasty battle in Manila in '87. It was an amazing sight. When fighting erupted, I just happened to be in one of the pockets of battle. My main goal was to record the events and stay alive.

RC: And now you're retiring from journalism?

Bacho: Yes. Journalism was something I did as a contributor to the [Christian Science] Monitor and as a full-time editorial writer at the News Tribune in Tacoma.

RC: Did you start writing fiction with short stories?

Bacho: No, I started right off the bat by writing a novel, *Cebu*. I'd had success as a writer. I thought this couldn't be too hard [but] a novel is the hardest thing a writer will do. But God loves fools. It won an American Book Award. I think they awarded it on energy alone.

RC: How did you start writing that novel?

Bacho: I began with Ben taking his mother back to the Philippines for burial.

RC: And Ben is a modern Seattleite who learns about the Philippines?

Bacho: Yes. The Filipino authors at the time had never made the connection between the Philippines and Filipino-Americans, and I wanted *Cebu* to make that connection.

RC: Can you talk about your writing now?

Bacho: I'm completing a novel now, *Leaving Yesler*. It's set in the '60s [and] focuses on a 17-year-old who's a soft

Halberstam laid it all out in *The Best and the Brightest*. It teaches... how foreign policy was created through the imagination of white guys from Ivy League colleges with absolutely no sense of the rest of the world. And for this caricature of the rest of the world a whole lot of people had to die. And that's truly tragic. I never thought we'd find ourselves in a situation so similar ...

CONTINUED from Previous Page

kid: artistic, kind, sensitive. A number of bad things happen: mom dies of cancer; his older brother dies the last week of his tour in Vietnam; and his dad goes crazy as a result. The question is how does he make his way out of this tough situation without losing part of himself. Does he have to become a predator to survive?

RC: Do you see yourself as an Asian-American writer or Filipino writer?

Bacho: I just see myself as an old Filipino writer. I don't spend a lot of time classifying myself. I write about a community I loved, individuals that I loved and still love. The community no longer exists, so someone has to tell that story.

RC: Your books have very different voices. Dark Blue Suit was a series of rather serious, interconnected stories, while Nelson's Run was a satirical novel.

Bacho: Nelson's Run was fun. I enjoyed that. I created someone wholly unsympathetic and one-dimensional, and hoped the narrative could carry it. It's [about] a white guy who wants to repeat the colonial dream of screwing his way through a third-world country. It's a satire on that attitude, but it's also a satire on people who allow that attitude to flourish. And that's what gets me in trouble with Filipinos: "We don't allow this to flourish." Well actually yes, you do. You welcome the colonizer, and create value systems that are not indigenous.

RC: In Nelson's Run and Entrys you masterfully bring in history, particularly events we don't know much about, such as the U.S. occupation of the Philippines.

Bacho: Yes. That was basically an extermination campaign from 1899 to 1902 by an imperial country — the war against the Philippines. It was an extension of the campaign of genocide against the Indians. Samar and Leyte were brutalized, with slash-and-burn campaigns in other parts of the Philippines.

RC: What was the noble cause then for the U.S. action in the Philippines?

Bacho: To civilize the Filipinos. And to project power overseas. The Phil-

ippines was the perfect jumping-off spot [for China].... The only thing that remained was to kill enough Filipinos so they wouldn't complain about having their country taken over.

RC: How many Filipinos died in the American campaign?

Bacho: Low numbers are about 250,000, but I've read estimates, including [historian Stanley] Karnow, of a million, out of a population of seven or eight million, so there was a lot of killing. About 5,000-6,000 Americans died too. A nasty, nasty war.

RC: And most Americans don't know this story.

Bacho: Most Americans don't know there was a Vietnam War. They may have heard of it, but it might as well be the Peloponnesian War for all our ahistorical culture cares about it.

RC: Is there anything else you'd like to add about your life now?

Bacho: This is the best I've ever been. I'm content. I'm teaching good students, and I'm creative and artistic again. There were long periods when I didn't write because I wasn't moved. Now I am moved, and I'm writing every day. ■

Real Change


Real Change is in my heart.
Real change is on the corner for work.
As I feel the Independence from others.
Real change is a way
I can live through hurt
From the past jobs I have had, for my real talent on stage
Real Change is happiness for control of my work history
Real Change is the future of freedom of speech
Real Change is the way I stand out
and maybe with others I see on a corner helping
With dollars with the Real Change newspaper.
Real Change can be a ticket to a film
An independent movie
Real Change can be a documentary on my life on screen
Real Change is where I can sing and talk to myself
When no one else is listening on a street corner
Real Change is the poetry and the compassion I have in
my heart in dreams
Real Change is the events I see and hear about from work
At baseball games and football games, at basketball games
And festivals too
But an independent newspaper is always there
Real change is the passion and the energy for women...

~JESSIE WLOS

Story Problem 7

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



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Earth: Love It or Lose It

A Short History of Progress
By Ronald Wright
Avalon, 2004
Paperback, 211 pages, \$14.95

By ADAM HYLEA
Contributing Writer

We humans are a dangerously ingenious bunch. We've feasted on vast plains of now-extinct fauna, watered deserts for food and then salted them up until they're worse than deserts, ran recklessly through Peak Oil like a Pike Street pothole. Now we are looking forward to the hydrogen economy or deep-sea fish farms to support 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8 billion hungry people.

Careful what you wish for, says the British Columbian Ronald Wright in his book on our planet's biggest enemy, ourselves.

Wright's frightful, then reassuring, then frightful again thesis is that homo sapiens is facing a progress trap that threatens to end our civilization. But, that we've faced, and solved, similar problems many times before. But, in this crisis — as we forecast a worldwide loss of biodiversity, for example, in which 23 percent of all mammals are threatened — this time a community wouldn't collapse just on Easter Island or the Yucatan Peninsula; we all fall down, in one gargantuan global crash.

Despite the talk of sustainable this

and sustainable that, humans have not lit upon a way to defy the Malthusian law that says populations surge past their carrying capacity, then fall back due to disease, predation, or starvation. Homo sapiens and its forerunners and relations have been doing this for millions of years: running out of game or gathered foods, inventing agriculture, succeeding well enough to clear forest for farmland until the topsoil washes away, and either starving, resorting to cannibalism, or moving on. Now, though, the earth is our dominion; there's no next valley, to move on to.

Hope springs eternal, though, so maybe, like a sick doctor, we'll try to heal ourselves: start that Manhattan Project of alternative energy. But every new device also carries some new menace. The Maya wrote about how the tools and household implements rebel in their creation myth, *Popul Vuh*: "You... shall feel our strength. We shall grind and tear your flesh to pieces," said the grinding stones." Half the 20th century was consumed with the mutual annihilation assured by nuclear weapons, Wright notes; these were the tools we thought we controlled in full revolt.

With nuclear war and overseas imbroglions to worry about, it's tempting to unleash the Luddite and welcome the end of civilization, especially if this is really the best we can do. But delivering all of humanity back to the Stone Age

entails the deaths of five billion people. It wouldn't be pretty.

But it might be coming. From what we can tell from the potshards and the gravesites, we humans have been bad at stepping back from the brink. In the last 10,000 years of human history, since the invention of agriculture, tools ever more remotely resembled the raw materials lying about. From chipped flint to wrought iron, we've lost the craft of our ancestors. As we ascend the ladder of invention, says Wright, we kicked out the rungs below us. Perhaps this is because of our greatest and most reliable invention, culture: the laws and customs that swaddle us in custom, in language, in law. Having money to buy with, and language to speak with, and laws to live under means never having to reinvent the wheel.

When it first came out, Wright's book was a sort of sideshow to Jared Diamond's work of civilizational misfortune, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, the critically acclaimed pop prehistory that takes a comparative look at ancient societies to ponder our present-day crisis in sustainability. What Diamond presented was much more data than necessary; what you get from Wright is a great deal more fun: a witty, readable breeze with just a hint of chill. If you're going to take a book about the human race's ruin of itself and its planet to the beach this summer, take this one. ■

Despite the talk of sustainable this and sustainable that, humans have not lit upon a way to defy the Malthusian law that says populations surge past their carrying capacity, then fall back due to disease, predation, or starvation.

A Bluesy Tale of Two Cities

For years, Antone, a roly-poly white guy, hosted, supported, and most importantly befriended the finest blues players in the world. They would travel from all over the country to play at his place, and much of the best stuff didn't even go down until the wee hours.

Antone's Home of the Blues: A Legend Every Night

Directed by Dan Karlok

The Montreux Dream: The Story of the Montreux Jazz Festival

Directed by Christopher Swann

DVD reviews by LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

In towns like Chicago, New Orleans, and Nashville, facsimile clubs offer both booze and blues in measured amounts, neither sufficient for intoxication. But without exception, hidden nearby lie smoky enclaves where musicians go to hear musicians — sanctuaries where the gospel is laid down, its authors secure in the knowledge that it will be received and appreciated. For those who trouble to seek and find these venues, the rewards border on the sinful. At Antone's in Austin, it was even a bit better than that.

For years, Antone, a roly-poly white guy, hosted, supported, and most importantly befriended the finest blues players in the world. They would travel from all over the country to play at his place, and much of the best stuff didn't even go down until the wee hours. Most amazing is that they got some of these sessions on video — Buddy Guy, Albert Collins, Pinetop Perkins — all kickin'

some very serious ass.

In interviews woven between this archive footage, these legends reminisce about their lives on and off the stage — priceless gossip if you can read between the lines.

Advice: Don't rent, just buy this tape right off. Even better advice: don't lend it out.

The Montreux Dream tells a similar story, occurring half a continent away. The Swiss counterpart of Antone, Claude Nobs, who also forged a special bond with Black musicians, founded the Montreux Jazz Festival in 1967. While *Antone's* tells the story by focusing on the musicians, this chronicle focuses more on the accomplishments of the promoter, which in this case are considerable.

Through guile and gumption, Nobs convinced performers as accomplished as B.B. King, Miles Davis, and Charles Lloyd to journey to Switzerland for relatively small compensation. He sold them on his dream of an international festival where the audience would truly appreciate their talents. Their trust was rewarded. The festival quickly grew past its jazz roots, coming to host groups as varied as REM and the Dubliners, both featured on the DVD.

While *The Montreux Dream* features fewer performances than Antone's, among those included are some gems: a young Aretha Franklin, the aforementioned REM, and British

singer Beverley Knight. There's too much of Nobs discussing Nobs, and B.B. King's imprimatur for the festival gets a bit windy (he plays a similar role on Antone's). Aggrandizing aside, you get a feel for the special vision behind what is one of the most celebrated musical events in the world.

My Mother's Smile

Directed by Marco Bellocchio

My *Mother's Smile*, set in modern Italy, finds Ernesto (Sergio Castellitto), an atheist, locked in battle with his Catholic relatives. In pointed irony, he turns out to be the only character of principle. His kinfolk want Ernesto's testimony before the Pope to support his mother's nomination for sainthood, however unjustified. They point out the wide-ranging benefits of being related to a saint, the strongest arguments relating to such worldly rewards as wealth and privilege. Neither they nor Ernesto had anticipated the strong moral foundation of his humanism.

If you only read the script for *My Mother's Smile*, it might pass for heady satire, but its on-screen rendering feels sobering. Either way it's compelling, riding on an impeccable performance by Castellitto who brings a Kafkaesque take to this role for which he received a European Film Award for best actor. ■

Stupid. Creative! But Stupid

Adventures in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning



Jackson, Mississippi has become a liberal utopian paradise, because Mayor Frank Melton has ended homelessness there, just like Franklin Roosevelt, our greatest liberal president, ended Japanese-ness during WWII.

Today I want to honor stupid creativity in the news. I am a great fan of creativity. I especially enjoy stupid creativity. The things that the newsmakers I'm going to honor today have done are outstandingly, stupidly creative.

To start with we have the Laotian government, which has recently been under pressure from the Thai government to repatriate and create homes for thousands of Hmong refugees who have been living in Thailand since Laos fell to the communists in 1975. The Laotian government has brilliantly, creatively, responded to Thailand's demands by asserting that 6,000 or so Hmong are not, in fact, Laotian.

"Hmong? What Hmong? Oh those. Those are Hmong, sure, but they are not Hmong Hmong. They are your Hmong now. Good day." Way to go, Laos, you are awesomely creative!

Also awesomely creative is an individual, Mayor Frank Melton of Jackson, MS.

Mr. Melton was elected mayor in a campaign in which he promised to reduce violent crime in Jackson. When his assumption of office did not in itself achieve his stated goal, even after it was given plenty of time to work its magic, Melton decided to declare a state of emergency in the Mississippi capital, and under his emergency authority ordered a curfew for all minors and homeless people.

No, he didn't claim that the homeless people were responsible for Jackson's high levels of violent crime. He just tacked the curfew for the homeless people on to his order out of sheer liberal utopian idealism: he was moved by the plight of a homeless teenager to want to help. Which he did, by threatening homeless people with arrest if they didn't let themselves be packed into a school gym every night.

How stupidly creative was Frank Melton's curfew? Well, in the one month since it's been in place, Jackson's homicide rate has more than doubled!

Fantastically stupid! I guess it's easier to murder people now in Jackson than ever before, what with all the witnesses being put out of the way every night. And, better than that, Jackson has become a liberal utopian paradise, because Frank Melton has ended homelessness there, just like Franklin Roosevelt, our greatest liberal president, ended Japanese-ness during WWII.

I thought nobody could top Frank Melton for stupid creativity until I heard about the new Las Vegas ban on feeding homeless people in parks. This new ban, devised by the Las Vegas city council, is outstanding. It is breathtaking in its stupidity and depravity. Only truly creative geniuses could be so stupid.

Boring cities elsewhere are always coming up with laws that are intended to ban feeding homeless people but that actually say boring things like, "You need a permit to feed more than such-and-so many people, so apply for a permit, and we'll charge you so much for it you could have just used the money to buy dinners at fancy restaurants for everyone in the park." Unlike those boring cities, Las Vegas has written an interesting and creative law, which addresses the problem head on. Their law says you just can't feed homeless people in city parks. That's it. You can feed housed people all you want. You just can't feed homeless people.

How do you know if the person you're feeding is homeless? They've thought of that problem, and they've dealt with it in their brilliantly creative direct way. If they look homeless, that's enough. The actual law defines a homeless person as an indigent "whom a reasonable ordinary person would believe to be entitled to apply for or receive assistance." So it doesn't matter if they're really homeless, you just need an ordinary person, like a cop, to think they might be.

The beauty of the law, to me, rests with the idea that to be ineligible to be fed in a park a person has to be believed, by an ordinary person, to be eligible to be fed. Congratulations, Las Vegas! I could never have made that up! ■

Bus Fouls, Part II

Bus Chick, Transit Authority

Carla Saulter



Whether you're sitting in the reserved section or not, if you see someone who could use a seat more than you, get up.

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

It seems that the Sonics and Storm soon will be leaving us for Oklahoma City (a city that, by the way, does not offer bus service past 7:30—or at all on Sundays). Unfortunately, al-

though we bus-riding Seattleites will no longer be able to watch NBA fouls, we continue to have aisle-side seats to rampant and egregious bus fouls.

Here are some reader-submitted fouls I forgot to mention in April ("Bus Fouls," April 19):

- Dawdling when it's time to board. Remember that Spike Lee movie—you know, the one about the Million Man March? When your route comes, it's time to end the conversation (or bus mack, or argument) and get on the bus. If you decide you'd rather talk than ride, don't get mad and bang on the side when the driver closes the door in your face.

- Rushing when it's time to board. The opposite of the dawdling boarder is the overeager boarder. Wait for everyone to get off before you get on.

- Not offering your seat to an elderly or disabled passenger. Whether you're sitting in the reserved section or not, if you see someone who could use a seat more than you, get up. (A lot of readers complained about this foul, but I rarely witness it. People tend to share their seats on the routes I ride. In fact, I'm not elderly or disabled, and last week, on the 36, a young man offered me a seat...on his

lap.) And speaking of which...

- Unauthorized touching. Incidental touching (foot-stepping, arm-grazing) is an inevitable (if unpleasant) fact of riding the bus. Taking advantage of crowded conditions to cop a feel is offensive and illegal. If you do this, be prepared to be publicly shamed, or (given the recent report on the aggressiveness of transit cops) even arrested.

- Taking up more than one seat. We all know that this is sometimes unavoidable (if you have a lot of groceries or happen to be larger than the seat), but folks, don't put your belongings (or your feet) on the chair next to you when other people are standing. And don't have the nerve to roll your eyes—or worse, refuse—if someone asks you to move over.

- Cell-phone talking. A lot of riders don't like this, but I'm on the fence. If it is a quiet conversation, it's really no more bothersome than a quiet conversation between two riders. If it's loud or too personal, then it fits into the "sharing too much of your business" foul from April's column. Besides, I'd rather see people get on the bus to talk than to endanger my safety by doing so in their cars.

Who knows? Maybe if we learn to play nice on the buses, the owners of our professional sports teams will learn to play nice in the stadiums we've already built. ■



Sun., July 2, 3:50 p.m., Alaskan Way, Pier 57.

Officers were dispatched to the pier and arrived at the location to meet the complainant, a security guard for Pier 57. The complainant reported that the suspect, a transient white male aged 46, had been found trespassing on Pier 57 on numerous occasions including today, and had been previously trespassed from the pier by Seattle Police. Police ran the man's name through the police computer and found that there was a previous trespass — suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sun., July 9, 1:10 p.m., S. Main St.

Officers on patrol spotted the suspect, a transient white male aged 35, walking westbound on S. Main St. Suspect was known to the officers from prior contacts as a drug user, and they ran a radio name check, which came back with an outstanding warrant. This was verified, and suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sun., July 9, 1:40 p.m., Pike St.

Suspect, a transient white male aged 47, was contacted by Seattle police for sitting on a public sidewalk. Officers ran a name check, which was returned with an outstanding warrant. This was confirmed, and suspect was arrested without incident and booked into KJ.

Tues., July 11, 10:50 a.m., Prefontaine Park, Third Ave.

Suspect, a transient Native American female aged 51, was observed by officers standing inside Prefontaine Park. They were aware that she had been excluded from all Zone Four parks — which include Prefontaine — for one year. Officers contacted her and arrested her for criminal trespass in the park. As she was being handcuffed, she admitted to the officers that she had a crack pipe in her pants pocket. The pipe was located in her front left pocket, and suspect was handcuffed. She was transported to the precinct, where the pipe tested positive for the presence of cocaine. Suspect was booked into King County Jail.

Thurs., July 13, 10:13 p.m., under I-5 Overpass, S. Dearborn St.

An Asian male aged 26 was observed trespassing under the I-5 overpass at Dearborn. Officers found him sleeping on the ground surrounded by his belongings. Suspect was contacted, and a name check revealed he had several previous trespass admissions from the same location, and also an outstanding warrant. The warrant was verified, and suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Fri., July 14, 5:20 p.m., Alaskan Way Viaduct.

Officers observed two suspects walking into an area clearly marked "No Trespassing" in both English and Spanish. The officers shouted for suspects to stop, but they continued walking northbound under the viaduct. Officers contacted the suspects, a transient white male aged 29 and a transient Black female aged 26. Name checks revealed that both suspects had recently been arrested for trespassing in the same location. The male was also found to have an outstanding warrant. Both were 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.

The Come Back

My probation officer told me if I do not take my medicine, I will break my parole. But how can I take it if I cannot afford it, I ponder, eating my last bite of apple fritter someone keeps leaving behind a garbage can.

I depend on them for breakfast, along with half a latte from another can on Neely Street. So far my stomach likes it. Whoever's leftovers they are, must be healthy. Still, I have to be careful of what I eat, otherwise I could end up in the hospital with a humongous bill to pay.

"Isn't there a debtor's prison?" I ask out loud, walking aimlessly through Renwick Park.

That is where all my friends sit waiting for something to happen. I am not supposed to spend time there, except my apartment building overlooks it. Fortunately, my studio is on the inside with a view of the tar roof. When I told my probation officer, she smiled and said I would have to move if it was outwardly facing the park.

Under the door is a note from Reggie, my counselor. He is the one who started the mess with the police. In my book there is nothing wrong with looking through bedroom windows at attractive women. For this reason I am on probation and must continue seeing him for one year.

The note says my appointment has been changed to Wednesday at four o'clock. I do not have a phone, so I am glad someone took the time to contact me via pencil and paper. As soon as I slip off my shoes, there is a rap on my door.

Bam, bam, bam.

"Wait a minute," I yell from my cot.

Checking out the peephole, I mutter, "Tinkerbell, go away!"

He knows we are not supposed to see each other.

"Man, I have somethin' fur ya," he laughs, holding up a paper that looks like a diploma.

"You finally got your GED," I grin, talking through the door.

Then I tell him to scram before someone sees us. We remain friends, though he is the one who drove me to Westridge Heights to eye the ladies. It was fun until a policewoman spotted me behind a hedge. She knew what I was doing before I blabbered on myself. Next, I was carted off to jail. When they asked me who I wanted to telephone, I told them Reggie.

Winding up reading the want ads, I find something I think I can do. Join our recycling team, an advertisement says. There is a twenty-one age requirement. With the newspaper tucked under my arm, I hop on a bus to New Hope Recycling Works. Minutes later I am standing in a healthy line of 30 people. Many have worked there before and are returning.

Hours later I am told I would be hired as a standby. Outraged and incensed, I dash a recycling can. At the same time I scream profanities at passersby. Finally after being asked never to return, I hang out with Rupert, the only brother not on my parole officer's 'hit list.'

"Well, look who's here!" he shouts, opening his door as if he knew I was coming.

There is garbage everywhere.

"Grab an empty can," he laughs, before tossing a chili-coated one my way.

Licking the inside of the can, I snicker, "I gotta stop this."

-Margaret Dingus

Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Learning to be visible

Dear *Real Change*,

Thank you for the recent articles written by Cydney Gillis ["Close Quarters: tense co-existence for meals, arts in Pioneer Square," July 12, and "Food for Thought: Sanctioned outdoor meal providers may have to find new digs," June 28, and "Courthouse Lawn: park plan revealed," June 19].

I am part of an outdoor meal provider group, The Friends of Francois. We provide free holiday dinners. I have also had the honor of serving with other organizations that provide outdoor meals much more frequently.

In 2005, the Friends of Francois served free holiday meals at City Hall Park by obtaining a permit to use the park. Though this was an expensive site decision for a tiny organization,

we chose to work in partnership with the city. For many years we were able to use the Plaza site until it was demolished. Locating and sharing space to serve these holiday dinners in a manner providing a safe site for our guests is becoming a difficult task, as discussed in the "Close Quarters" article.

Providing a free meal outdoors is an unconditional connection with someone who is hungry. There are no questions asked, no house rules, and no confined space. Even gratitude is not a requirement. At a point of my growing up while taking part in social services, I found that the personal price of meeting the conditions of that connection was quite high. By 14 I had learned how to become invisible and how to avoid confined areas and confining people. At 57, I am now unlearning how to stay invisible; confined spaces will take a while.

Again, thank you for the articles which I found to be quite accurate and balanced in view.

Linda Julien

MACHINISTS, Continued from Page 5

"Over time, the union would be overturned and we'd become a non-union shop," Dewaele says. "If that happens, then of course you can kiss your pension goodbye."

Workers say the strike is having a major impact.

"They've been attempting to operate, but it's mostly just management in there working," Nelson says. "There's no way they're making any money right now."

According to Nelson, as of last week no Machinists have crossed their picket line, and no new vehicles have come in for service. Local Teamsters and Boeing workers have been stopping by to visit the picketers, hold strike signs, and deliver donuts. The most obvious sign of support has been the almost constant honking of cars, and especially trucks, passing by on S.W. Grady Way.

If Cummins Northwest is unable to fulfil its service contracts with its customers, they

may choose to take their engines and generators elsewhere. Union members hope that some of Cummins' biggest customers — including unionized trucking companies, public school districts, the state of Washington, Sound Transit, and the city of Seattle — will begin using their leverage to push management into settling the dispute at the bargaining table. ■



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Opportunity

United Way Ending Homelessness Calendar: We are looking for individuals to be photographed for our annual ending homelessness calendar "Out of the Rain." Our theme this year is "what is most important to you." We would like to photograph homeless individuals with their most cherished belonging. The idea is to capture some essence of what is most important to you in your life. If you are interested in being photographed for the calendar please contact Inye Wokoma (photographer) at 206-325-1159 or 206-391-8082 cell.

Information

EarthCorps World Night is a fun introduction to the global community. Thursday, July 27, 6 p.m., 6344 NE 74th St. Building 406.

NARAL Pro-Choice Breakfast and panel on the Washington State Board of Pharmacy: Attack on Patients' Rights. Tickets \$75. Wednesday, August 2, 7:30 a.m., Seattle Hilton, 1301 Sixth Ave. RSVP: (206)624-1990.

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FareStart Café at 2100, 2100 24th Ave. S., Rainier Valley.

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Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Wednesday 7/26

Israel is using weapons supplied by the United States to target Palestinian civilians and non-military infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, which is in violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act and the Geneva Convention. Share your thoughts at the public forum *New War in the Middle East: Stop U.S. Support to Israel*. 7 p.m., 1701 Broadway, Seattle Central Community College, Room 3202 Info: (206)931-2922.

Thursday 7/27

Homebrewer and environmental health educator Lyle Rudensky, aka "BioLyle," teaches *The Basics of Biodiesel*. Learn about the clean-burning fuel made from plant oils that works in any diesel engine or home furnace. The lecture covers the variety of uses, health and environmental benefits, vehicle compatibility, fuel availability, and how to make your own fuel for 70 cents a gallon. 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Community College, 16101 Greenwood Ave. N.

Concerned citizens and activists meet to put aside differences and develop a common strategy to stop the Mayor's Viaduct tunnel plan. 7 p.m., University Baptist Church, 4554 12th Ave. NE. Info: (206)378-0722.

The documentary *Chief Seattle* separates fact from myth about the Puget Sound's greatest leader. Casting fresh light onto his famous speech, the film reveals the injustices the Native Americans have suffered, including the displacement of the Duwamish people and the epidemics of the 1700s that decimated their population. 7 p.m., Camp Long, 5200 35th Ave. SW. Info: (206)762-1976.

Friday 7/28

A soft and powerful statement on diversity versus conformity, the classic children's musical *The Point* follows young, round-headed Oblio, who is shunned by his fellow villagers because he has no point. All families are welcome to this animated feature and post-film discussion. 7 p.m., Keystone

Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. Info: www.meaningfulmovies.org.

Philip Garrison spent a decade running a food bank in Washington's central valleys to help immigrants. His book, *Because I Don't Have Wings*, is a collection of stories he heard about the hardships of Mexican farm workers, the struggle to keep traditions alive, and the hidden feelings of living away from home. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Saturday 7/29

Adulterated by hydraulic dams, the Columbia River bears little resemblance to the mighty, flowing force once celebrated by the Native Americans. William Layman's *River of Memory: The Everlasting Columbia* uses historical photographs and maps complemented by the descriptions of early explorers, surveyors, and naturalists to recall a time and place that has vanished from contemporary view. 4:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Sunday 7/30

The Arab American Community Coalition invites everyone to a picnic to foster building bridges between communities, and the fun includes a delicious lunch menu, games, and lively conversation. Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 children under 12. Noon, Lower Woodland Park, Shelter I, 1000 N 50th St. and Woodland Ave. N. RSVP: (206)634-9001.

Public Television's *In the Life* broke ground as the first-ever lesbian-and-gay themed program when it hit the airwaves 14 years ago. The episode *Every Picture Tells a Story* features real coming-out stories and a nun who defied a Vatican order by speaking out against the Church's teachings on homosexuality. 11 p.m., KCTS, check local listings.

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

Director's Corner



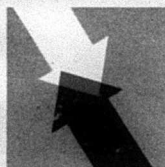
Over three weeks this summer, selected vendors distributed reader surveys to those who purchased papers. Thirteen hundred postcards were returned, offering a picture of a loyal, appreciative readership that deeply values the connection they have with their vendors.

While 79 percent of the surveys were distributed from downtown or North Seattle locations, the survey shows a geographically far-flung commuting readership from places ranging from Everett, Tacoma, and Whidbey Island. The greatest concentration of readers, at 47 percent, is in North Seattle, with 16 percent in West Seattle, and nearly 15 percent in Southeast Seattle. Six percent of readers commute from various points across the Sound.

Readership tends toward women (66 percent), 45 years old or more (64.5 percent), and educated (81 percent have a B.A. or higher, as opposed to the Seattle average of 47 percent). Nearly 47 percent of those surveyed hold post-graduate degrees. Of those surveyed, 89 percent are white, with Asians, African-Americans, and Latinos being the next largest racial groups.

Two-thirds of respondents say the paper has improved over the last two years, with 37 percent describing the improvement as "significant." Fifty-nine percent read half or more of the paper, up from 42 percent in 2003. The main reason they buy *Real Change* is to "support the vendor." The leading description of our paper was "quality advocacy journalism."

This information will be very useful as we work to diversify our readership, focus on quality, and find new ways to support our vendors. Thanks for reading.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Put Housing on the Governor's Agenda

Issue: Governor Gregoire recently laid out her top three legislative priorities: early learning, health care, and jobs. All are important, but as housing in Washington State becomes more and more unaffordable, it's disappointing that creating affordable housing didn't make the cut. Without an increased investment in housing, kids won't learn, our state's residents won't become healthier, and jobs won't stay in Washington.

Background: It's clear that the coming legislative session represents a unique opportunity to realize a quantum leap in funding for affordable housing. And while there are champions for this issue in both the state House and state Senate, only limited progress can be made without the support of the governor.

In the coming month, the governor will make important decisions about her budget. In particular, she will decide what shape she would like to see the capital budget take. The capital budget includes the Housing Trust Fund, one of the most important mechanisms our state has for creating affordable housing. If enough people articulate the importance of housing to her agenda now, we may see real progress when she lays out her proposed budget in the fall.

Since she didn't include housing as one of her priorities, the most effective way for us to get our message across is to connect housing to her priorities. For example:

Early Learning: Homeless kids will never be ready to learn. They are forced to move from school to school as their parents struggle to find shelter and navigate the maze of social services. It doesn't take an expert in education policy to know that kids who sleep in a car or a homeless shelter don't get the most out of their school day.

Health Care: Families without affordable housing don't have the resources to make sure their kids have medicine, regular checkups, and a healthy diet. At the same time, seniors and people with special needs are much better served when they live in housing units that are built with them in mind, with the services that they need right at hand. It's common sense that a long-term health care strategy needs to make sure that people have a stable, decent, and affordable place to live.

Jobs: Affordable housing is critical to job creation. As property values go through the roof, workers have fewer and fewer housing choices, and they have to live farther and farther from their jobs. At the same time, when the state invests in housing, it creates jobs.

Action: contact the governor and let her know that creating affordable housing is critical to achieving success in her priority areas.

Governor Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor, PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002
360-902-4111
www.governor.wa.gov

Better yet, visit www.capwiz.com/nlh and choose "Let the Governor know that Housing is key to her agenda..." Content for this alert was adapted from information from the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. For more information contact the Alliance at www.wliha.org.

ENERGY, Continued from Page 1

trenched legislators. And a few, like the 45th District right across Lake Washington, hope to tap into Seattle's resources when the primary finishes up in September.

"We'll see who wins, and we'll see who can successfully make the appeal to the organization of the 43rd," said 45th District Democrats Chair Ralph Gorin. "We will expect help, and we expect we will get it in all the competitive races."

It does seem like progressive Seattleites might have energy to burn. Candidates in the 43rd, which covers the University District, Wallingford, Capitol Hill, Madison Park, and part of downtown, have raised more than \$380,000 collectively for their primary campaigns, which will end on Sept. 19. But according to chair Lisa Steubing, the district organization at least has no plans for an organized campaign outside North Seattle, as most regular volunteers are focused on helping their favorite primary candidate in a race that has created divisions between friends and neighbors.

"My job this session is to hold together our own district as we decide who we like best," Steubing says.

At the same time, their efforts could tip the balance in swing districts like Gorin's. There, attorney Roger Goodman has mounted a strong campaign to pick up another house seat for the Democrats in an area — covering Kirkland, Woodinville, Redmond, and Carnation — that went for John Kerry by a substantial margin in the 2004 presidential election. But he's already facing a funding deficit against Republican candidate Jeffrey Possinger, having raised only a fraction of the \$200,000 that Democratic party officials have said the race will cost to win.

Just to the south, in the 48th, former Kirkland Mayor Deb Eddy is racing against Republican Bret Olson for a House seat left open by Rodney Tom, who is challenging Republican incumbent Luke Esser for the Senate. With so many Democratic activists

already engaged in Microsoft manager Darcy Burner's high-profile campaign to unseat U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert, volunteers for state house races can be hard to find, says Eddy's campaign manager, Brett Horvath.

Horvath, who said he plans to recruit University of Washington students and other Seattleites for Eddy's campaign this fall, says that his candidate's campaign is particularly important for the party to focus on.

"How the Democrats perform in suburban districts is going to be a bellwether of how Democrats can perform across the country," he says, noting that Bellevue's fiscally conservative and socially liberal tendencies reflect a national trend. "We need to be able to make gains in areas like this."

In the further reaches of King County, progressives face a different set of challenges: big, rural districts. Where — according to 39th district House candidate Scott Olson — Republicans have convinced voters that Democrats are "screaming liberals." Although Bush won there by only two points in 2004, the area has been represented in the state Legislature entirely by Republicans since it was redistricted in 2000. Olson is taking on incumbent Dan Kristiansen (to whom, in their annual ratings of legislators, the Sierra Club awarded an F and the National Rifle Association awarded an A), operating on a shoestring from a small Monroe storefront.

"Any help that we can get out here, we'd love it," said 39th District Democratic chair Steve Galea.

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And then there are places like the 5th District in Snoqualmie and North Bend, solidly Republican for 14 years, where Democrats have been unable to find anyone to challenge three Republican legislators, even though the district went for Kerry two years ago.

Some local party organizations are using their excess energies to help out in competitive races. The Democrats of northwest Seattle's 36th have partnered with those of the 47th, south of Renton, doorbelling and recruiting volunteers where a victor in the primary could pick up an open Senate seat that's been held by a Republican for 12 years.

The Burner/Reichert contest has also drawn the Democrats of northeast Seattle's 46th, who voted to prioritize Burner's campaign over state legislative races. District Chair Scott White describes a balancing act: If solidly Democratic districts divert time and money into tight races elsewhere, they run the risk of neglecting their own, where high turnout is essential for federal elections — such as the one between Sen. Maria Cantwell and Republican challenger Mike McGavick. ■

PINK, Continued from Page 1

the troops home immediately," Compton explained.

Joe Colgan lost his son, Lt. Benjamin Colgan in Iraq on November 1, 2003. Lt. Colgan started out in the medical field when he first joined the military, but ultimately worked in Special Forces and then Delta Force. When Lt. Colgan graduated college, he became an officer and went to Iraq, before losing his life in 2003. His father has been active in peace movements before, and after, he lost his son.

"My wife and I have been peace activists for a long time," Colgan explained. "I waited a year [from protesting against the war] because my daughter-in-law, Ben's wife, thought that I was being disrespectful to Ben. I didn't say anything for a year, but now, I'm pretty much involved supporting anybody who has the courage to stand up against the war. It's too bad there isn't more outrage."

"I've committed to fasting one day a week until the end of the war," he said. "That's the least I think we could do."

Next week, the organization plans to have a pink telephone booth on the corner of Second and Madison to draw more attention to the cause. The phone booth will be used to call Washington senators asking them to help bring the troops home as soon as possible. ■

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