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# REAL CHANGE

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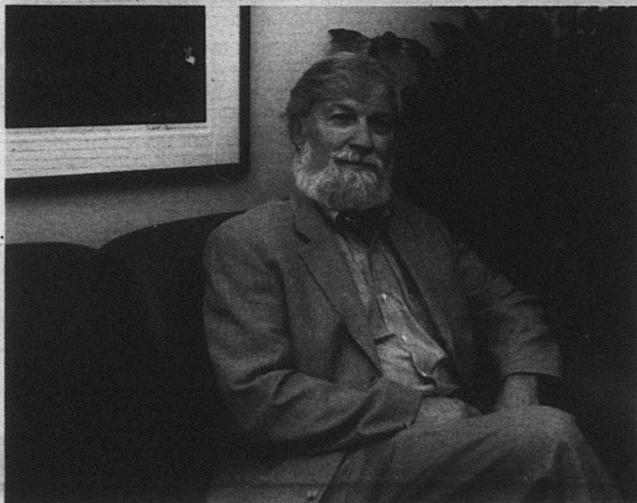
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AUGUST 16 - 22, 2006



DICK BALDWIN, WHO RECENTLY JOINED THE NO ON I-920 CAMPAIGN, SEES A REPEAL OF THE ESTATE TAX AS GOING AGAINST ONE OF THE UNITED STATES' GUIDING PRINCIPLES: DEMOCRACY. PHOTO BY ELISA HUERTA-ENOCHIAN

## Clean Bill of Wealth

Coalition works to preserve estate tax

By ROSETTE ROYALE  
Staff Reporter

state's estate tax. And while he has no current plans to place an ad in a local newspaper — at least, not yet — he feels strongly that preserving the estate tax helps to protect the essence of one of the country's founding principles. "If we want to preserve democracy," says Baldwin, "then we want to preserve the estate tax."

State voters will be looking at the very issue Baldwin feels to be integral to democracy come this Nov. 7, when they confront Initiative 920. The brain-child of former Seattle police officer Dennis Falk, I-920 will ask voters to repeal the state tax, which is imposed upon estates valued at \$2 million or more. The state Department of Revenue estimates that this



Roughly five years ago, Dick Baldwin got a little press in the *New York Times*. An organization to which he belongs, Responsible Wealth, took out an ad opposing the then-efforts to permanently repeal the federal estate tax. While it's impossible to judge the ad's impact, the ink may very well have been worth the cost: Though there was much haranguing over the issue in Congress then, as there was last month, the national estate tax never fell to permanent repeal.

Now Baldwin, the 66-year-old owner of Windermere Real Estate's Capitol Hill office, has recently become involved in a similar effort, though on a smaller scale: Through the No on I-920 campaign, he's working to fight an effort to repeal Washington

See TAX, Continued on Page 12

## A Just Desertion

Absent soldier hidden aboveground

By CYDNEY GILLIS  
Staff Reporter

Carl Webb's days of looking over his shoulder for military police have come to an end.

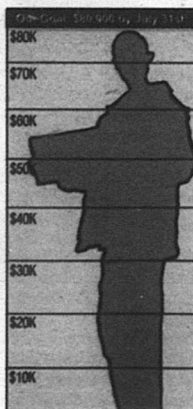
Two years ago, a unit that Webb was assigned to in the Texas Army National Guard shipped out to Iraq. But the 40-year-old nurse from Austin says the war is wrong, so he let the unit go without him, expecting a warrant to be issued for his arrest.

Instead, on July 28, the Guard sent Webb a letter telling him that he'll get a dishonorable discharge Tuesday for serious misconduct, "in particular," the letter states, for "your failure to report to active duty as required coupled with your deliberate avoidance of numerous Texas Army National Guard representatives who have made repeated attempts to contact you."

See SOLDIER, Continued on Page 12

### Thank You!!!

Real Change put out the call and you responded. Due to all of your efforts, we were able to reach our \$80,000 goal for our summer fund drive. Your generous donations show that you, the same as us, support social change. A successful fund drive allows us to stay around for a little bit longer, providing you with quality alternative journalism. It also gives our vendors more opportunities to create better lives for themselves. Thanks, again, for helping us see red.



## AFTER THE FLOOD

It's been a year since Katrina washed away illusions of race and class. Now what?

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## GENDER LEERY

Medicaid's decision to snip gender-reassignment surgery from payable procedures ruffles feathers.

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## DIRTY BOMBS

Journalist Dahr Jamal says Israel wants world to view attack on Lebanon as just "more violence."

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## SAFETY THIRST

A rash of attacks on downtown clinics has providers searching for ways to keep staff safe.

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## DARK DISCOVERY

Local journalist Jack Hamann dredges up the truth about the convictions of 28 Black soldiers during WWII.

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## One Year Later

Hurricane Katrina exposed America's race and class disparities. How are we reckoning with them?

The U.S. government, by not continuing to provide housing assistance to Katrina victims, is actually in violation of the Stafford Act, a six-year-old federal law entitling victims of any disaster in the U.S. to 18 months of housing.

By DUNG NGUY, LINDA WARREN, and DAN DILEVA

Social Change Caravan Coalition

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast. Those with the means to evacuate did so; those unnecessarily left behind who managed to survive the hurricane had to endure days of rising flood waters with no food or drink. Thousands of people died, their bloated bodies floating by survivors or found months later, if at all.

One year later, the racial and class disparities are even more glaring. The affluent, mostly white areas of New Orleans look almost untouched, while the poorer, mostly black areas look like Katrina struck yesterday.

It does not have to be that way. Cuba, thanks to its mostly planned economy, is able to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people in advance of approaching hurricanes, with minimal loss of life, and return them home quickly. And this in a country with a fraction of the monetary resources at its disposal as that of the U.S. government.

Worse than negligent, the Bush administration has made it extremely difficult for those displaced by Katrina to return to the Gulf Coast. One Seattle activist has seen this firsthand while staying at "Camp FEMA," a tent city for relief volunteers organized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Volunteers were lavished with all the food they could eat, including 16-ounce steaks. But only those with out-of-state IDs were allowed in the camp; locals were turned away, and volunteers were stopped from delivering food to New Orleansians by FEMA security.

Additionally, thousands are homeless after FEMA ended rental assistance for displaced Katrina victims. Government "reconstruction" contracts have been routed to corporations intent on profiting from new "opportunities" for tourism or evicting tenants from buildings that are restorable but ripe for redevelopment.

The U.S. government, by not continuing to provide housing assistance to Katrina victims, is actually in violation of the Stafford Act, a six-year-old federal law entitling victims of any disaster in the U.S. to 18 months of housing.

Most Katrina survivors and their supporters see all this as a giant gentrification project. Some New Orleansians believe the levees were deliberately destroyed and verify each others' testimony by saying, "I heard the explosions, too!"

But don't believe that all Gulf Coast communities are helpless. In the face of the pathetic government response, many grassroots organizations formed to provide mutual aid among Katrina survivors. One such organization is the Common Ground Collective, co-founded by New Orleans community activist and former Black Panther Malik Rahim. Every era has an event that is a catalyst for intensifying social movements founded on common ground. The '60s and '70s had the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Kent State. The government response to Hurricane Katrina that allowed many to die is the first event since then to have the potential to mobilize a new social movement and to renew the people's struggle against racism and classism.

A Seattle-based group called the Social Change Caravan is working with Common Ground to make sure

that New Orleansians who want to go home can go home. It is important for displaced survivors to reunite with their families and communities at the one-year Commemoration events in New Orleans. Some displaced survivors converging on New Orleans are hopeful that they will find missing family members whose location is still unknown after almost one year. This initial caravan will include relief volunteers and will make stops in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Houston. We hope it will be a "seed" project for future assertions of Katrina survivors' right to return. Even more, the Social Change Caravan believes that many similar actions are needed at this time to demand an end to the glaring racism and classism demonstrated in the government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Ultimately, direct action will have more positive effects than all the lobbying of politicians, voting for lesser evils, and publicly funding elections will have combined.

Social Change Caravan leaves Seattle on Aug. 23 from Greater Mt. Baker Baptist Church at 10 a.m. after a prayer and healing service at 8 a.m. Two fundraisers will be held in advance of departure — a showing of the documentary *Standing on Common Ground* at the Neptune Theater on 45th St. in the U-District on Aug. 16 at 7 p.m., and a performance by the Rebirth Brass Band at the Royal Esquire Club, 5016 Rainier Ave. S., on Aug. 18 at 8 p.m. Show your support for New Orleansians' right to return and attend these events, or send checks payable to: SCC Foundation (memo line: "Katrina") to CCEJ, 1620 18th Ave., Suite #10, Seattle, WA 98122. ■

Dung Nguy, Linda Warren, and Dan Dileva are members of the Social Change Caravan Coalition. To get involved or learn more, call Crystal Jordan at 206-719-8253 or see [www.socialchange caravan.org](http://www.socialchange caravan.org).

## REAL CHANGE

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

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

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

On the Web at

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# Change

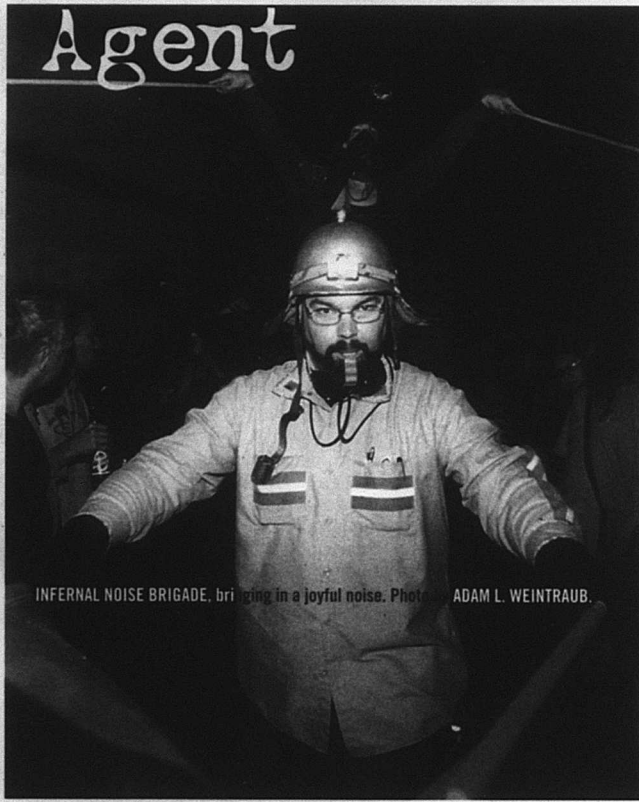
# Agent

**O**n July 30, a burning casket and New Orleans—style funeral march signaled the end of Seattle drum corps the Infernal Noise Brigade. Since 1999, the INB had taken a fiery combination of anti-capitalist politics and music around the world, performing in locales as diverse as the Republican National Convention, the Zapatista territory Oventic, and meetings of the World Trade Organization; the band itself formed in anticipation of Seattle's WTO meetings in 1999.

Their performances occurred anywhere: the street, parks, clubs, even train tunnels, and most commonly at rallies. Often dull marches suddenly brightened with the thundering sound of South American salsa beats and Eastern European brass. According to bandmember Grey Filistine, "I think it's political to remind people to be joyful even while they are angry, to disrupt the status quo with celebration."

The INB didn't play protest music by any conventional standards. Theirs was a battle cry that stormed the gates of hegemony. Ironically, their success is part of the reason for disbanding. "We're ending because the movement changes," says Filistine. "Our techniques must too."

—Erik Neumann



INFERNAL NOISE BRIGADE, bringing in a joyful noise. Photo by ADAM L. WEINTRAUB.

## Gender Bender

Medicaid plan to deny gender-reassignment surgery draws fire

By ROSETTE ROYALE  
Staff Reporter

"Well, this is typical: a bad policy to rule out surgeries that allow people to live happy, healthy lives."

—Mo Malkin,  
executive director  
of Verbena

**H**ere's what Medicaid is willing to pay for, for those confronting issues of gender identity: hormone therapy (HT) and psychotherapy, the latter of which can lead to a clinical recommendation that a patient, for overall health and well-being, should undergo gender-reassignment surgery.

Here's what Medicaid used to pay for, but doesn't want to anymore: gender-reassignment surgery.

Medicaid officials announced in early August they were planning to rework state regulations to ensure the surgeries would be removed from its list of payable services. The announcement upset many working within Seattle's transgendered community.

"Well," says Mo Malkin, executive director of Verbena, a health education/advocacy organization for lesbians, queer women and transgendered individuals, "this is typical: a bad policy to rule out surgeries that allow people to live happy, healthy lives."

The inability to surgically change one's gender — or fully transition, as it's more characteristically known — may result in suicidal feelings for the individual, says Malkin. Having the state pull back and deny payment for surgery, she suggests, will force people to go underground and seek back-alley operations. "If you don't make something legal," says Malkin, "people will find other ways to do it."

Jim Stevens, communications director for Washington state's Medicaid office, says his agency is planning to rewrite its coverage policy to exclude surgery based upon the evidence presented in a study commissioned by the state. "The conclusion was that the surgery was less effective than HT and psychotherapy," says Stevens, "and was considerably less expensive and less risky."

Stevens says surgery costs can vary, depending upon if someone undergoes a male-to-female transition or female-to-male transition, with those shifting

to female generally costing less. During the 1990s, Medicaid paid for three gender-reassignment surgeries, he says, and paid for two more in 2002. The state denied two applications in 2004, but, he continues, those denials were overturned on appeal.

Now, the state will have to pay somewhere between \$50,000 to \$60,000 each for the operations, which will take place in Colorado. A third application for surgery that was denied is being appealed. Such potential costs, he says, helps point toward HT and psychotherapy as the state's best options. "We realize that there's some disagreement," says Stevens.

Since the early '80s, the American Psychiatric Association has recognized what it calls "gender-identity disorder." According to clinical psychologist Howard Leonard, that designation, along with being value-laden, is a blanket term. Instead, he says, there is more accurate terminology: gender dysphoria. "Gender dysphoria," says Leonard, "is the correct medical term for people who are experiencing incongruity between their emotional sex and their biological sex."

Leonard, who estimates he has made referrals for at least 100 individuals to have surgery in his 25-year career, says that in order for a person to undergo surgery, that person has to meet a number of goals, among them hormone therapy and living a full year in the role of the gender that rings emotionally true. Those seeking gender reassignment also need recommendations from two separate clinicians, he says.

The state's decision to bar coverage of the surgery, he says, amounts to social prejudice. "Money should not allow one person to get a procedure that another person cannot," says Leonard.

Malkin says that if the state is really looking to cut costs, then perhaps it should reconsider its decision. Her experience, she says, has shown that many people who transition with Medicaid's assistance soon are able to get off Medicaid. By sticking with its decision, the state will have to keep paying for those individuals for a long time, she believes.

"Without the ability to transition," says Malkin, "it's actually a higher burden on the state, not a lesser burden."

## Just Heard...

### Disagreeable

What a difference two weeks makes: Despite strong objections to Sybil Bailey, her nomination to the board of the Seattle Housing Authority is now headed for a Sept. 5 vote by the full City Council.

On Tuesday, the council's Housing Committee voted 3-0 in favor of Bailey, the mayor's nominee to speak for SHA tenants on the agency's Board of Commissioners. Councilmembers had postponed the vote from a meeting two weeks ago after detractors testified that Bailey, 65, had failed them as president of SHA's Resident Action Council, in part, by rewriting bylaws that limited which SHA buildings the council represents.

After hearing from critics and supporters Tuesday, including James Kelley, director of the Urban League of Seattle, committee chair Tom Rasmussen stated that he found criticism of Bailey invalid, particularly coming from two detractors who had competed for the position and another, John Fox, who is "a constant critic of the mayor and SHA."

The message: If you always disagree with City Hall, your opinion doesn't count.

—Cydney Gillis

### Hearing them out

The Bellingham hearings last Tuesday by House Republicans about illegal immigration and domestic security are being followed with a hearing to solicit another viewpoint.

Put on by local, state, and national-level human rights groups, "Defending Democracy: Strengthening Communities for Justice" will allow community members to speak on how detentions, raids, and deportations harm border communities and democracy itself. Rev. Paul Benz of the Lutheran Public Policy Center of Washington says he and co-organizers will plan follow-up hearings around the state — including in the district of Rep. Dave Reichert (R — Bellevue), who voted for the fence-building, criminalizing immigration-reform bill, HR 4437.

### Second chance for dad

Amos Ramsey missed the bus and nearly had his two children taken away permanently as a result. But he has a second chance at winning them back, thanks to an Aug. 14 ruling by the State Court of Appeals.

DSHS took custody of the children of Ramsey, who has a history of substance abuse, spotty employment, and infrequent housing, in October 2002. He missed his bus from Everett to the Skagit County courthouse for a Jan. 25, 2005 trial where — since he hadn't shown — his parental rights were terminated.

In remanding the case for a new trial, Appeal Court Judge Ann Schindler ruled that Ramsey did not forfeit his right to effective legal representation when he missed the bus; nor could his lawyer — appointed the day before — effectively represent him at the hearing.

—Adam Hyla

# Collectively Punished

Veteran Iraqi journalist sees destruction in southern Lebanon firsthand

By **CYDNEY GILLIS**  
Staff Reporter

**"We're watching the collective punishment of an entire nation. And the world is sitting by and watching."**  
— Dahr Jamal, Iraqi journalist of Lebanese descent

**M**issiles. Airstrikes. Bridges destroyed. Entire families killed. It's easy for an American to lump the daily news from Lebanon under the heading "more violence" and turn the page. That, says reporter Dahr Jamal, is what the White House and Israeli cabinet are counting on. They are counting on you not to notice that, after invading southern Lebanon in pursuit of Hezbollah, Israel has killed 10 times more people than it has lost, Jamal says: More than 1,000 Lebanese, mostly civilians, have died compared with fewer than 100 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

They're counting on you not to notice that Syria and Iran signed a mutual defense pact a few months ago and that allowing Israel to continue in Lebanon unchecked widens a conflict that is not only destabilizing the Middle East politically, but risks a third world war.

Under the UN ceasefire agreement, Israeli forces will remain in Lebanon as UN and Lebanese military officials move in. The Israelis' target, Hezbollah, also stays, according to the BBC.

Jamail is an American of Lebanese descent who has been covering the

Iraq war as a freelance reporter. He visited Lebanon at the end of July and shared what he saw during the Veterans for Peace Convention last week in Seattle.

Jamail was in the Iraqi city of Fallujah just after the U.S. military leveled it in November 2004. All of Lebanon, he says, now looks like Fallujah.

"We're watching the collective punishment of an entire nation," Jamail says. "And the world is sitting by and watching."

At least some of the world. As Israel expands its ground invasion, he says, some Arabs are turning against their U.S.-friendly governments in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Qatar for standing by and doing nothing.

In the Lebanese port city of Tyre, Jamal says he interviewed a Red Cross ambulance driver who had tried to make it to Qana the morning after the Israelis bombed a three-story building where 56 civilians were killed, 39 of them women and children from two families that had taken refuge together in the basement.

The airstrike took place about 1 a.m., but, with phone lines down, the Red Cross didn't get the first call for help until around 5 a.m., when it sent three ambulances, the driver told Jamal.

"On the way there, they were attacked by Israeli fighter jets," Jamail relates, "so they turned back. A couple of hours later, they tried again and they were bombed again."

Over and over again, Jamal says, the civilians he talked with gave consistent accounts of being trapped by the Israelis.

"All of them were saying, 'We were in our homes hiding and then we got leaflets from the Israeli military telling us to leave, so we got in the car and we put a white sheet out the window and then they bombed the car or they bombed the car in front of us.'"

"This is what they don't want you to know," Jamal says. "They assume that you're not going to hear these stories because the more people hear these stories, the more people will be against this."

"They also assume that people here buy this propaganda from the Israeli government that we will bomb Lebanon and it will turn all the people against Hezbollah," he says. "And, of course, the opposite is happening."

"A recent poll two weeks ago in Beirut found that 87 percent of Lebanese now support Hezbollah. Israel," Jamal says, "has been the greatest recruitment tool Hezbollah has ever had." ■

**[Resource]**  
Reports by Dahr Jamal can be found online at [www.dahrjamailiraq.com/weblog](http://www.dahrjamailiraq.com/weblog).

## Short Takes

### Viaduct: conventional wisdom

**A** five-month study of replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct with a surface street has resulted in something that most informed people already knew: Travel times and the length of rush hour will increase substantially without the elevated thoroughway.

A city-contracted consultant firm named DKS Associates spent four months assessing the reasonableness of the Washington State Dept. of Transportation's proposal for an at-grade replacement of the viaduct in light of values enumerated by the City Council: good urban design, environmental impact, accommodating growth, and getting people from point A to point B.

While traffic worsens, congestion could be limited — and the size of a new surface road minimized — by encouraging people to ride the bus. But when you add buses, DKS head Ransford McCourt told members of the City Council in a briefing Mon., Aug. 14, you soon run out of room for them.

"You can't get too much of a good thing without it hurting," McCourt said. "As the bus volume goes up, the bus capacity goes down."

Even with light rail and commuter rail, "buses represent the preponderance of transit options for us," he said — especially for North and West Seattle, where drivers are frequently coming from and driving to.

Point taken, say advocates with the Sierra Club and the People's Waterfront Coalition, some of the proponents of a no-build

alternative dubbed "Transit+Streets" that the consultant did not study. Buses won't get in each others' way until 2030, says the Sierra Club's Kevin Fullerton; by then, perhaps, we can think of a way to get another 20,000 cars off downtown streets.

Fullerton notes how the city's Dept. of Transportation estimates that only one of every four cars on the viaduct is traveling on business. He says that nowhere in officials' planning for a replacement is there "any consideration of what a scenario would look like if we decided to reduce those trips."

And the consultant was tasked with looking at a plan that's "already been rejected," says Cary Moon of the People's Waterfront Coalition. "No one likes it, and it's not at all what we're proposing."

Mayor Greg Nickels and the City Council have already indicated they'd prefer that a tunnel replace the elevated structure.

The consultant also overlooked some excellent ideas in the city's Construction Transportation Management Plan for what to do when the viaduct is closed during construction, says Moon, such as expanding bus-only lanes, improving signal timing, and adding a designated arterial for freight through downtown — all strategies to ease congestion that could help the city bear the loss of the downtown highway.

The consultant's report "represented a kind of conventional-wisdom view of things," says Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck — a view that plans for more cars instead of for following the Kyoto Protocol to curb emissions.

By 2012, he says, Seattle has to cut its emissions back to 1990 levels. That's the equivalent of getting 130,000 vehicles off the road — roughly the number of cars that travel the viaduct daily.

"I want people to understand how serious that is, and how big a challenge it is, and how little we're doing toward completing that goal," Steinbrueck says. If we don't make major changes in transportation planning now, "We're not going to get there by 2012."

— Adam Hyla

### Coffee boot

**A** new shoe has dropped in Starbucks' battle with its fledgling union: On Aug. 5, the company fired Daniel Gross, the original agitator behind the renegade Starbucks Workers Union that represents six Starbucks Coffee-shops in Manhattan.


The union is part of the Industrial Workers of the World, which has signed up a small number of members individually rather than seeking official recognition through a worker vote. Gross, 27, has been organizing the Starbucks workers for three years and has already filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board to get his job back.

Gross says he was fired for a comment he made to a manager during a July protest in front of a Starbucks store. Starbucks deemed the comment threatening. Gross says he merely told the manager he should not have fired a co-worker — one of four, including Gross, that the IWW says Starbucks has fired this year for union activity.

Starbucks insists that it does not engage in anti-union activity. But in March, prior to an NLRB hearing over similar complaints filed by Manhattan employees, the company settled the complaints, in part, by offering to hire back two workers and paying back wages to three others. In early 2005, the company also paid \$165,000 to a human resources staffer and eight applicants who had been questioned about previous union activity in interviews for jobs at the Starbucks roasting plant in Kent.

For more information on the IWW campaign at Starbucks, visit [www.starbucksunion.org](http://www.starbucksunion.org).

— Cydney Gillis



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**GET YOUR PICKS on (METRO) ROUTE 66**

# Gearing Up for Safety

After attacks, downtown health clinics ask: Could it happen here?

By ADAM HYLIA  
Editor

"The majority of the mentally ill do not cause violence, but they are still neglected, as are those whose problems mount and mount until they explode in violence."

— Joe Martin,  
downtown social worker

The offices of several downtown social service agencies are girding for more of the senseless violence that was visited upon the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and the offices of Public Health—Seattle/King County last month.

At the downtown Public Health Center July 17, a woman slashed a front-desk worker repeatedly with a knife, blinding her. On July 28 at the Jewish Federation, a lone gunman forced his way in, then killed one and injured seven workers in an act he declared was spurred by hatred of Israel.

Both assailants are in custody. And both attacks had one more thing in common: The perpetrator had a history of mental illness.

Because of that common factor, Pike Market Medical Clinic now prohibits patients from walking unescorted to a worker's office for an appointment. Medical personnel wear personal alarm buttons that can signal front desk workers when there's an emergency, though in their first year, the alarm has not been sounded once.

Such measures are both because of the Public Health attack and "in response to what seems to be an increasing number of angry patients," says clinic manager Debra Morrison.

Staff at the market-area clinic are being offered de-escalation training to mollify people who show signs of lashing out. Another tactic is just saying, "Sorry, try somewhere else."

"We have a lot of pretty rough characters coming to the clinic; sometimes, when we find someone has a really long history of violence, we decline to serve them," says Morrison. "We try to do it in a respectful way and refer them to Harborview, which is much better set up for them."

Harborview Medical Center posts an off-duty state trooper in the waiting room of the ER and uses a private security force to patrol the rest of the First Hill hospital, which spent \$3.3 million on security in 2005, according to spokesperson Susan Gregg-Hanson. Its Pioneer Square Clinic, serving low-income downtown residents who often suffer from mental illness, posts a security guard in the waiting room. At either the clinic or the main hospital, staff can avail themselves of the guards if they feel unsafe leaving the building after work, says Gregg-Hanson.

Security was on the minds of both the downtown Public Health office and the Jewish Federation before these attacks. Public Health had installed panic buttons near workers' chairs and conducted de-escalation training. Since the attack, they've posted an off-duty police officer near the door. And administrators are reassessing safety at the clinic building, which was originally designed to allow patients to enter and take the elevator directly up to three floors. That's something Public Health spokesperson Matias Valenzuela said might be a problem.

Health department staff are doing "an in-depth comprehensive assessment, wall to wall and all floors," Valenzuela said. They will have recommendations for changing the building layout to County Executive Ron Sims this fall.

Since the shooting, the Jewish Federation's offices have relocated temporarily, according to Zach Carstensen, director of government affairs. But "with everything going on in the media, everything that's happened in the last couple weeks, and for our host to feel comfortable," he says the location of the temporary office isn't being revealed. Nor can Carstensen comment on how the Federation will change its security protocol when it moves back to its Belltown office: "What we're going to do to secure it is going to be an ongoing conversation," he says.

The discussion at Pike Market Clinic will be similar, says Morrison, as it prepares to move into a larger space upstairs from its current digs: "We're going to be designing things with an eye toward security."

While mental illness was a factor in both incidents, not everyone with mental health problems are dangerous. But nearly all have been cast aside, says Joe Martin, a downtown social worker.

"The majority of the mentally ill do not cause violence, but they are still neglected, as are those whose problems mount and mount until they explode in violence," he says.

The recent attacks are "a commentary on the state of the mental health system." ■

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## Not Guilty

Seattle writer's investigation has cleared the names of 28 Black soldiers in a WWII-era crime at present-day Discovery Park

Interview by LYDIA DePILLIS  
Contributing Writer

"It's been said to me by people who know the Army that the Army is very good about correcting past wrongs as long as they're far enough in the past, and not so good at correcting current or more recent wrongs."

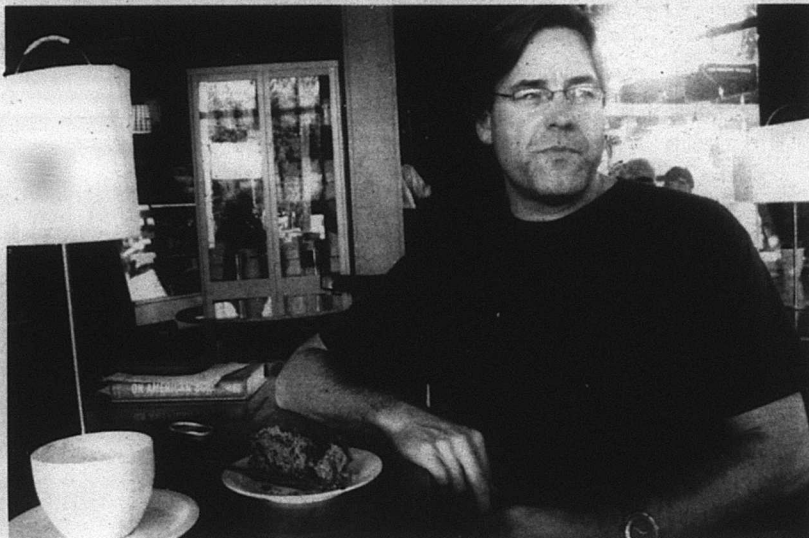
Seattle journalist Jack Hamann isn't put off by a stale story. After learning of a riot and the lynching of an Italian prisoner of war that had occurred at Fort Lawton in Discovery Park during World War II, he looked beyond previous press coverage to unearth a botched trial that wrongly convicted 28 African American soldiers. Along with his wife, Leslie (and while the duo coached the Garfield High School girls volleyball team), Hamann spent nearly three years researching and telling a story that covers geopolitics, racism, massive military incompetence, and the failure of both media and government to see the truth through their prejudice in *On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II* (Algonquin Books, 2005).

Now, Hamann's work may help correct that injustice. In January, Rep. Jim McDermott took it upon himself to introduce a bill in Congress that would reopen the trial. The proposal then languished in the Republican-chaired House Armed Services Committee, until Hamann's mother wrote a letter to her congressman in California — who happens to be the chair of that same committee. The Pentagon fact-checked Hamann's findings and found them to be accurate. Next month, the Army is expected to issue an announcement clearing the names of those convicted, bringing to a close 60 years of quiet suffering for survivors and their families.

Hamann joined *Real Change* to chat about the impact of his award-winning book, to be released in paperback next spring.

**Real Change:** Do you think the willingness to show some contrition on this was influenced by some of the other prisoner of war incidents — Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib — that have arisen since its publication?

**Jack Hamann:** It's been said to me by people who know the Army that the



Jack Hamann, whose work has erased the indignacies heaped upon 28 Black soldiers in WWII. Photo by Lydia DePillis.

Army is very good about correcting past wrongs as long as they're far enough in the past, and not so good at correcting current or more recent wrongs. I wish people would be more vocal about making that connection, because I think it's in the back of everyone's mind, but people are treading around it too lightly. Back in World War II, people were appalled by the idea that Americans might mistreat prisoners. It was just so against what we stood for, and it seems as if especially in the last four or five years, that lack of disgust for proven cases of abuse is a pretty disturbing change in the way Americans view themselves. And this case is a pretty clear example of why it's better to be the way we were before. And so I think there must be, but that hasn't been a stated reason, and I'd like to see someone publicly come out and make that connection.

**RC:** We often think about World War II as one of the only wars really fought for a just cause, by "the greatest generation" and so on. Do your findings cast doubt on that perception?

**Hamann:** At the end of the book, we refrained intentionally from saying this is who did it, because what we did is laid out all the evidence and hoped that people would come to the same conclusion we did. As it turns out, every single person who's responded to us about it, which is now a couple thousand, have all come to the same conclusion. What we really wanted to do is show that there are some amazing shades of gray in there. And within the subgroups of this book — Black soldiers, Italian soldiers, white soldiers, officers, enlisted men — there are people who did good and were heroic and brave and noble, and there were people who were cowardly and did poorly.

When people use terms like the Greatest Generation and try to categorize entire groups of people like that, it ends a lot of critical thinking. Yeah,

World War II was a very complicated war, and there was a lot of nobility, but at the same time there was a lot of really bad stuff that happened, and bad stuff in particular to African American soldiers. It doesn't take away from the fact that people had a heroic fight, but it was very much a product of its time... and the whole story of World War II has to include that.

**RC:** How were you able to figure all of this out when previous investigations had failed?

**Hamann:** We found documents that people didn't know existed. The National Archives is a spectacular place. But what's unknown to us and to most people is that it's almost utterly unorganized because of the amount of the material that we throw in there. Millions and millions of documents, letters, photographs, everything you could imagine that we store for our democracy. They're pretty much overwhelmed, so what they have to rely on are individuals, whether they're journalists, or researchers, or academics, who have a specific interest in something. It took us months and months and months. We didn't know if it existed or not. My wife persisted and kept saying, it's got to be here, it's got to be here, and trying all these wild ideas. Every door was shut, shut, shut, and finally she found it in the most unlikely area. The government itself, way back in 1944, had been very suspicious about this prosecution, prepared this gigantic report, interviewed like 160 people, and had transcripts of all these interviews, and that became the source of our book.

**RC:** But all the same stuff was available to government investigators, and they still blamed the wrong guys.

**Hamann:** The progress of this case was a huge political firecracker in Europe. Because the fear was that the emerging Italian government would look over here and say, "What? We surren-

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Continued from Previous Page

dered to you and you're killing our prisoners? Maybe we should become partners with the Soviet Union." So in some ways it was well founded back then, this worry that they wouldn't stay stable and that the communists would come in and take over Italy. Even though people in one part of the Pentagon had every reason to believe that this prosecution was a sham, there are other, bigger parts of the Pentagon who conveniently overlooked the details and said, "Yeah, we've got to get a big headline out." There were these angry cables and letters coming back from various embassies of the USA saying, "What in the hell is going on in Seattle? You guys get control of this now; it looks so bad, do something, do anything."

**RC:** Was this incident a result of universal human failings that perhaps could have happened anywhere, or was it unique to the culture at Fort Lawton?

**Hamann:** The groundwork was laid by a larger cultural setting that manifested itself in different ways in different parts of the country during the war. During World War II, it was institutionalized that races be segregated. And by doing that, it created all sorts of stereotypes, misunderstandings, biases that even well-meaning people might have fallen into. And at Fort Lawton, it was multiplied greatly: Even though we think of ourselves as this cosmopolitan city, Seattle was considered then and by some people even today as somewhat of a backwater stuck on the corner there. And so a lot of the people who were military commanders at the fort were, it seems, not the top officers. Clearly, the command at Fort Lawton was incompetent.

If you take that incompetence, and this utter misunderstanding of African Americans, and to a large extent the Italian prisoners, they just made a lot of really stupid, ill-informed decisions that always were to the detriment of the Black soldiers and the Italians that just made it all but impossible for real justice to come out.

**RC:** Did you ever doubt that you'd be able to piece together the picture in a compelling enough way?

**JH:** Yes. Until we found that report. I knew that it was a great story, but would have had way too many loose ends. We sort of brazenly assured [the publisher] that we wouldn't quit until we had a compelling story.

**RC:** More of a writing question: a lot of the book reads very much like historical fiction, even

though it's all true. Did you enjoy the chance to play with narrative more than you might have been able to in your previous work?

**JH:** Anything that appears to be someone talking or explaining were things that we extracted from sworn testimony and transposed to be part of the story. So we didn't make up anything; we didn't want to assume that somebody was saying something when they didn't. I had to read a lot of books in preparation for this one. And a lot of books having to do with the military are this kind of clubby thing, that people who've been in the military are talking to each other in code, so they use all of these military terminologies. After a while, it's like, "Can I come to your party here? Because I have no idea what you guys are talking about." I was determined to write this for an audience that cared very much about these people but didn't necessarily have all this [terminology].

**RC:** Many of those opening scenes, I could have seen in video form. I'm sure it will be picked up for a screenplay one of these days.

**JH:** I wish, I wish, it'd be nice. It's hard because moviemaking has become so corporate. Even the independent scene, big studios are buying up the independents, now. And it really really has every element one could imagine for a knockout screenplay, because it's got race and murder and mystery and famous people like [Nixon prosecutor] Leon Jaworski. All these wonderful [elements], both human heroism and failings — that's what great films are. ■

## Pink Morning

Go back to sleep  
Mother and child

Two buses have passed by the low rent refuge

Your faces speak a pacified security  
Knowing I'm going  
out to make more mornings come quietly and warm

I feast on the good-bye kiss  
until I see you again

The third bus is coming

No sound of rain

Labor of Love

—PORTAL

### 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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## Destined for Greatness

Those desiring affordable housing for all, strong communities, and a walkable urban landscape will welcome the practical theories and solutions presented in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

**The Death and Life of Great American Cities**

By Jane Jacobs  
Vintage, 1970

Paperback, 458 pages, \$15.95

Review by DENA BURKE  
Contributing Writer

Community activist, writer, and iconoclast Jane Jacobs started a revolution in urban planning with *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, a scathing critique of planning theories of the 1950s in the United States. She argued that urban planners were destroying communities, creating dead and isolated areas, and favoring cars over pedestrians.

First published in 1961, *Death and Life* has gone from fringe reading to a textbook in urban planning classrooms. New York's Greenwich Village, a quintessential example of a vibrant, urban community, has been preserved because of Jacobs' ideas, writing, and activism. She died in April of this year, but her theories are still relevant, especially amidst Seattle's urban renewal and varied waterfront proposals.

Jacobs prioritized diversity of people and buildings, transportation, overlapping neighborhoods, strong communities, and short, walkable blocks. Her ideas came from eclectic readings, personal observations, and anecdotal evidence. During the Depression, she would take the subway and explore a new neighborhood, observing what worked and what didn't for building charm, vigor, and life

in an area. She used examples from her exploration of East Coast cities.

Jacobs observed that low-income residents have difficulty developing a sense of community: Urban planners often relocate low-income housing, and once residents' salaries rise, they flee. The constant turnover in residents leaves the community "in a perpetual embryonic state." To create healthier and brighter neighborhoods, to "unslum" the slums, residents should desire to stay even when they can economically afford to live elsewhere. She believed this would happen if people felt safe and connected to their neighbors.

To help those who are unable to afford adequate shelter, Jacobs proposed that a government agency be created called the Office of Dwelling Subsidies. The agency would work with private owners in erecting low-income buildings. These buildings should be of varied sizes and types and not focused in one area, so as to avoid creating a ghetto. She supported the constant search for new and better methods of subsidizing, hoping to meet new needs and stave off stultification.

She stressed the importance of linking low-income housing into the fabric of a city by creating areas of mixed-use, high density buildings, shorter blocks that make walking easier, and a mixture of buildings in type, size, and age. She denounced areas of homogeneous people, income, and use as creating dead areas lacking all the spice of life.

Cities by nature are full of strangers, and a successful neighborhood is one where people feel safe among strangers. Jacobs championed the pedestrian as key to public safety by revealing that an empty sidewalk is less safe than one with constant foot traffic. Pedestrians act as "eyes on the street," keeping the peace by being a presence and thwarting would-be attackers. She denounced cars as a detriment to communities and safety. When people drive, they are in the safety of a large box, not interacting with the neighborhood.

She was suspicious of neighborhoods that flourish suddenly, which should remind the reader of the current South Lake Union development. If a specific area becomes popular, magnetically drawing new residents attracted to the growth and vigor, the area becomes a self-sorted haven for the rich, risking becoming a fad that will lose popularity and die as the residents flock to the next new fad.

In a city with fervid urban renewal, the need is urgent for understanding the makings of a healthy, vibrant community. Those desiring affordable housing for all, strong communities, and a walkable urban landscape will welcome the practical theories and solutions presented in *Death and Life*. While readers can agree and disagree with her ideas, they will walk away with a new lens for both analyzing and appreciating their streets, neighborhoods, and city. ■

Dena Burke is editor of the This Week's Top 10 calendar on pg. 11.

## Three's a Crowd

**Lower City**

Directed by Sérgio Machado

Opens Friday, Aug. 18; released on DVD Sept. 12

Film review by LESTER GRAY  
Arts Editor

**L**ower City, from writer/director Sérgio Machado, presents a torrid three-way love affair — not your typical (if there is such a thing) ménage trois. If this were a French offering, it could be a comedy with people wrapped in bedsheets hiding in closets or slipping down from those undersized Paris balconies with the wrought-iron railings. But alas, Gérard Depardieu is nowhere to be found.

Deco (Lazaro Ramos) and Naldinho (Lazaro Ramos) enjoy a friendship dating back to childhood. Forged in the tough urban environs of northeast Brazil, this easygoing, jovial relationship belies the street survival camaraderie that informs it. Deco's more restrained disposition performs a necessary counterbalance to Naldinho's shoot-from-the-hip impulsiveness. A limp-along maritime gig, moving cargo on their jointly owned tug-sized boat, complements a few street-hustling opportunities. They scrape out a living and, being young, have a good time in the process. The surroundings are dangerous, and as Machado makes sure we know, they do not hesitate to put their lives on the line for each other.

The dynamics of this bond begins to change, at first imperceptively, when Karina (Alice Braga) arrives on the scene. In her late

teens, she has opted or been forced out of domesticity. Attractive and upbeat, she earns her living as a whore. She is an old soul in a young body. Resigned to her occupational fate, she displays little of the balefulness and cynicism we associate with ladies of the night. Off the clock, she is compassionate, nurturing, and emotionally available, making for confusion. She makes love in much the same way she makes money, the lack of distinction between the two informing the core of *Lower City*.

In her first encounter with the boys, she offers them cash plus an in-kind contribution in exchange for transportation to Salvador, where she hopes to find work. They settle the debt on the way down the river, afterwards enjoying a bit of a chat and discovering that there is more than carnal pleasure to be shared.

Karina finds work dancing and soliciting in a Salvador nightclub. By coincidence and design, the three continue to "bump" into each other. To the boys, speaking between themselves, Karina is nothing more than a "puta," that all-purpose Latin pejorative translated here as "whore." But for both of them she has come to mean something much more.

Like two young bucks awakening from prepubescence, the former inseparable compatriots begin to rut — competing for a mate as though their lives depended on it, which, given the squalid conditions in which they live, is understandable.

But as much as this story is peculiar to its locale, it's universal. Karina's character is not so different from the one played by Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*, or Shirley MacLaine in *Irma la Douce*. It's exciting to imagine the dialogue that Shakespeare could have lent this story of forsaken friendship and jealous love. But Machado has done it a fine justice as well, and we're spared one of the bard's in-the-throes-of-death soliloquies at the end. ■

As much as *Lower City* is peculiar to its locale, it's universal.

Karina (Alice Braga) in *Lower City*.







Adventures  
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

One of my fondest memories as an adult, while dressed, was witnessing a Swiss Armed Forces Day event in 1979 in Zürich that included a mock tank and aerial assault on the café and surroundings in which Thomas Mann and James Joyce used to hang together. Take that one for Tonio Kröger, this one for Ulysses! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Bam! Whiz! Wow!

Let's engage in some *Vergangenheitsbewältigung!*

I'm not sure what that means, but I think it describes what Danzig/Gdan'sk-born Nobel Prize-winning German writer and artist Günter Grass, best known for novels evoking Germany's Nazi

years, was about when he announced to the world that he'd been in the military branch of the SS during late WWII.

I too know what it means to overcome the past. I grew up in a military state within the United States: I was an Army brat. As a child in the Fabulous '50s, I regularly lived on army bases, surrounded by machines of war, and talk of war, and by soldiers, and I loved it.

That's right! I admit it! I loved it! I loved waking up before dawn to the sound of machine gun fire from a practice range. I loved watching troops forcibly marched past me singing their songs of loose women, Lieutenants' tails, and birdies in the sky doing that in their eye. I loved having real Army junk to help play war, like real helmets, and mess kits, and ammunition belts. The roads were paved with spent shells.

My favorite thing was when, each May, on a Saturday, the army would roll everything out of storage and put on a kick-ass Armed Forces Day show, with mock helicopter and tank assaults, mock bombing runs, and mock commando attacks on mock enemies, mock enemy cities, and mock commando attack recipients, respectively. There were tanks, cannon, and aircraft to play in. We kids got to use real radar and practice aiming real anti-aircraft guns.

There were also army tent after army tent of exhibitions of cool army paraphernalia, like small arms and mortars and bazookas, cool gross stuff like surgical equipment for fixing soldiers up and sending them back to get shot again, and even information on how to survive a nearby tactical

nuclear attack. 9Step 1: When you see a massive fireball, you will know that the tactical nuclear weapon did not kill you instantly. Congratulations! You have completed Step 1!

Needless to say, I avoided the Army later in life. It's one thing to play soldier and pretend-die in your backyard. It's another, I thought, to die submerged face-down in a rice paddy. Have you ever smelled a rice paddy, while face-down in one? OK, try this: Have you ever smelled a water buffalo? Now, have you ever smelled what comes out of a water buffalo? That's what a rice paddy smells like from a distance.

Still, even as an adult, I confess loving war shows. One of my fondest memories as an adult, while dressed, was witnessing a Swiss Armed Forces Day event in 1979 in Zürich that included a mock tank and aerial assault on the café and surroundings in which Thomas Mann and James Joyce used to hang together. Take that one for Tonio Kröger, this one for Ulysses! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

And how I also have loved to see how the Sea-fair Torchlight Parade has been almost half taken over by military troops. What a thrill.

But, seriously, I'm not only overreacting to Günter Grass' belated revelation. I'm also overreacting to the news, last week, that a theme park company that used to try to compete with Disney World in Orlando, Fla., now wants to build an "Army World" near Fort Belvoir, Va. The proposal talks about how visitors would be able to "command the latest M-1 tank, feel the rush of a paratrooper freefall, fly a Cobra Gunship, or defend your B-17 as a waist gunner." In other words, Armed Forces Day, every day of the year, for the price of admission.

I don't know how America can do better than that! It combines everything that is great about our military/industrial empire. We should have military theme parks in every state to celebrate our superior military might, which the whole world must tremble before.

If only Disney itself could do them! Imagine being able to throw Mickey out of a plane! ■



Thurs., July 26, 11:35 p.m., Western Ave, Victor Steinbrueck Park.

A transient white male aged 38 called for medical assistance for a stab wound he had received in Victor Steinbrueck Park. He had waited an hour before calling for assistance, as he did not want the police involved. He stated he did not know why he had been stabbed, or who had stabbed him, and refused to answer further questions. Seattle Fire Dept. arrived and treated the victim for a laceration to the left forearm caused by an unknown object. He was then transported by ambulance to Swedish for further treatment.

Fri., July 28, 6:53 a.m., Main St.

Officers received a call about a man in a fenced park area who was throwing paving stones up against a wall. The officer contacted the subject, a transient white male aged 62. The man stated he had been in Seattle for five days and liked gardening — he was planning to use the bricks for gardening purposes. Subject gave his name, and the officer found outstanding missing persons hit from Spokane police from 6/22/1995. The hit was verified, but Spokane police declined to have subject returned to Spokane. Subject was very dirty and unkempt and appeared to the officer to be very frail and undernourished. His thought process appeared to be confused, and he could not stay on top of the conversation; he also would spell out the last word of his sentences. He did not seem to be able to care for himself, and the officer called an AMR ambulance to transport subject to Harborview Medical Center for a mental evaluation.

Thurs., Aug. 3, 9 p.m., Second Ave. Ext. 5., Union Gospel Mission Shelter.

Victim, a transient male of unknown age, reported that an unknown suspect had stolen belongings that were left unattended under victim's pillow. Items stolen included victim's wallet containing cash, bus pass, ID, medical and bank cards. No suspect information available.

Thurs., Aug. 3, 10:41 p.m., Third Ave., Downtown Emergency Services Center Shelter.

Seattle Police and Seattle Fire responded to a suicide call at the listed premises. Subject, a Black female aged 28, was bleeding from both of her forearms and wrists: vertical cuts up and down her arms starting at the wrist. She stated she was trying to kill herself with a razor, but refused to say why. A witness, a staff member at the shelter, stated she had found subject in the bathroom cutting up her wrists with a razor. A second staff member confirmed this, saying that subject had been in the shower since around 7:30, and that she had been the one to call Seattle Fire when she found subject bleeding in the shower at 10:33. Subject was transported by ambulance to Harborview Medical Center for treatment and evaluation.

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



Bus Chick,  
Transit  
Authority

Carla Saulter

At First Sight

The first time I saw my fiancé, Adam, to whom I will be married in a matter of days, I was on the bus, on my way to work. He got on a few stops after me, engrossed in something he was reading on a handheld

electronic device. Right away, I wanted to know him, and not just because he was one of the few other brown people I had seen on the route. Forgive me if this sounds New Age, but the man had good energy.

After the initial sighting, I saw him on the same bus from time to time, but — despite the fact that we got off at the same stop and even worked at the same company — he never saw me. He was always either playing with that device or talking to people he already knew (fortunate, fortunate people).

It was more than a year before I finally met him. Both of us volunteered to participate in a community-service event sponsored by our company. When he introduced himself at the first planning meeting, I told him I'd seen him on my bus many times. One of his friends, who had also volunteered for the event, chuckled.

"Adam," he said, "maybe you should look up from that pocket PC once in awhile."

The next time we rode the same bus (perhaps acting on the advice of his friend), Adam sat next

to me. And so began my association with the most brilliant, humble, hilarious, generous, active, kind, aware, thoughtful person I have ever known.

During one of our initial conversations, I learned that Adam didn't own a car. I had been considering giving up my own for several years, and it was his example that gave me the courage to take the plunge. Now, of course, we are partners in car-free living. Together, we have ridden the bus to black-tie benefits, and bars, and basketball games. We have ridden to almost every neighborhood in the city, as well as to distant and inconvenient suburbs. We have ridden to work and to play. We have ridden in cities around the country and the world. We have eavesdropped on innumerable conversations. We have made new friends. We have run to catch buses and walked when we missed them. We have felt the sun on our faces. We have felt many less pleasant sensations on our faces. We have told each other funny stories about our bus adventures. We have told each other funny stories during our bus adventures.

Adam is the only person who knows what I mean when I say, "I got the mean lady on the 27 today," and the only person who truly "gets" why I ride. Yes, it's about reducing one's impact on the earth and advocating for change in the way we build cities and transport people.

But you know what? It's also a heck of a lot of fun. ■

Together, we have ridden the bus to black-tie benefits, and bars, and basketball games.

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

## What Do the Dead Want?

Do the dead want flowers?

Do candle flames flickering over graves  
light their darkness any?

Can the dead decipher a single word  
scrawled on fluttering notes, satin ribbons?

Do the dead prefer solemn hymns sung through trem-  
bling lips  
or buoyant jazz rhythms blasted from brass?

Do the dead linger long over their vacant bodies  
where we huddle like pigeons for warmth,  
do they see our arms stretched out to hold them back,  
do they hear our voices calling their names,  
do they taste our tears falling on pale lips?

Do the dead know how cold they have become,  
do they marvel at their radiating silence?

Are the dead offended by drunken grief  
or do they scorn sobriety?

Are the dead aware of the line they have crossed,  
are they tired from having traveled so far so fast?

Do the dead want flowers,  
do they need rose petal blankets to keep warm?

Do the dead want what we want,  
do the dead need us to remember them  
as much as we can, forget them?

—DAVID THORNBRUGH

## Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

### The Life of Brian

Dear *Real Change*,

A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to meet Brian, a *Real Change* vendor at the Central Market on Westminster Way in Shoreline. He was there selling *Real Change* newspapers and we were there conducting a Humane Society pet food drive.

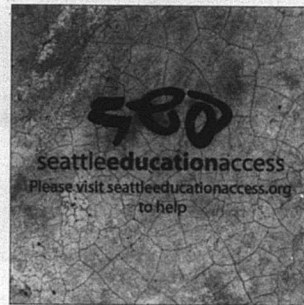
During our four-hour pet food drive, Brian was so helpful to us and supportive of our cause to others. We noticed how professional he is with the Central Market patrons. Brian is a wonderful spokesperson for your organization.


It should also be noted that Brian so generously gave 10 percent of his proceeds for that four hours. We tried to refuse his offer because we know how critical money is for him and your other vendors, but he insisted. We hope you and your or-

ganization realize what an excellent *Real Change* representative he is.

Randy and Leslie Hughes  
Shoreline

*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.





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## CLASSIFIED

### Opportunity

**Bainbridge Island Solar** Outreach Forum. Saturday, August 19th, 9 a.m., City of Bainbridge Island City Hall, 280 Madison Ave. Info: (206)855-4893.

**Chefs and farmers** team up to create delicious meals at the site of the future Phinney Farmers Market. Tickets \$50. Sunday, August 20th, 5 p.m., Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N Info: [www.seattlefarmersmarkets.org](http://www.seattlefarmersmarkets.org)

**Award-winning investigative journalist** and senior editor for *In These Times* magazine seeks an intern for book and article-related research and organization. I am working on a book regarding female incarceration, and need a quick-learning intern to help maintain my files and correspondence with prisoners. Research and organization skills essential, as well as an interest in women's and criminal justice issues. I'm only looking for someone to come into the office (currently Pioneer Square in Seattle) one to two times a week, for a few hours ea. time. Please email Ms. Silja Talvi at [sisu@well.com](mailto:sisu@well.com). This is an unpaid position, but I am happy to serve as a professional reference.

### Employment

**Case Manager, Family Self-Sufficiency** — reduce dependency of low-income families on home ownership subsidies. 3 years direct social services req. FT, \$14/hr. See [www.ywcaworks.org](http://www.ywcaworks.org). Res: L. Law, 1010 S. 2nd St. Renton, WA 98055. EOE.

**Vote For A Change.** Help increase voting rates in lower-income communities with door-to-door voter registration and mobilization. Sun. Aug. 19, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meet at Messiah Lutheran Church, 805 4th St NE, Auburn. Carpools available from Seattle. Contact Marcy at 206-694-6794 or [marcy@povertyaction.org](mailto:marcy@povertyaction.org).

**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.

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

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# Calendar

## This Week's Top Ten

### Sunday 8/20

Celebrate art and culture at Brasil-Fest with a day-long extravaganza of continuous music, dance, workshops, and children's activities. Noon - 8 p.m. Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St.

Soldiers Heart is a network of community members facilitating the safe homecoming of veterans suffering from

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The group presents an interactive day of dialogue on the spiritual and social dimensions of the trauma, featuring therapists, community leaders, and veterans. Dr. Ed Tick will present his talk "War and the Soul." Noon, Interfaith Community Church, 1763 NW 62nd St. Info: (206)354-6180.

Neil LaBute's profane and unpredictable play, *This Is How It Goes*, is staged on a continually shifting moral ground and challenges the audience's notions of gender, ethnicity, and love. Suggested donation \$5. 2 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co. 101 S. Main St. Info: [www.reacttheatre.org](http://www.reacttheatre.org).

### Until Sunday 8/20

Loosely based on a true story, *Mitzi's Abortion* follows a young Washingtonian military wife who copes with a deeply personal choice in a system that makes it a political one. Her decision is complicated by pressures from family and friends and visits from St. Thomas Aquinas and a Scottish midwife. Compassionate and confronting, playwright Elizabeth Herron examines the incendiary issue from psychological, medical, financial, and historical perspectives. Tickets \$10 and up. Friday and Saturday 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. ACT Theatre, 700 Union St. Info: [www.acttheatre.org](http://www.acttheatre.org).

### Monday 8/21

ASWAT, which means voices in Arabic, is a safe support group for any female Palestinian who identifies as lesbian, bisexual, or transsexual. The meeting is an opportunity to hear the founding members speak, break the silence surrounding Palestinian homosexuality, and work to end the Israeli occupation.

Local Native American lesbian poet Chrystos will read from her writings. 7 p.m., University Friends Center, 4001 Ninth Ave NE.

### Tuesday 8/22

The Drama Book Group meets to discuss the play *My Name is Rachel Corrie*. In March 2003, Corrie went to the Middle East to aid Palestinians whose homes were being bulldozed, and she was killed by an Israeli bulldozer. The compelling new work is told through Corrie's journal entries and combines an activist's passion with an artist's sensibilities. 6:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co. 101 S. Main St.

Peter Jamero's memoir, *Growing Up Brown*, recalls his childhood in a farm-labor camp in California where he saw Filipinos both welcomed and discriminated against. He discusses the liberalization of immigration laws in the 1960s that allowed him to gain citizenship along with his triumph against racism and poverty. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way NE.

### Wednesday 8/23

The film *A Life Among Whales* traces four decades of biologist Dr. Roger Payne's work, from his pioneering discoveries of whale song and cross-ocean communication to his current research into the effects of pollution. The use of stunning images shows the relationship between whales and humans and leaves audiences contemplating our stewardship of the earth. 7 p.m., RE-Store, 1440 NW 52nd St.

Eli Hasting's collection of narrative essays in *Falling Room* follows his growth and loss of naiveté. He discusses the origin of protest and his jail time for an intentional act of civil disobedience during Seattle's World Trade Center protests. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co. 101 S. Main St.

## Director's Corner

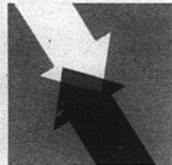


The number of immigrants living in American households has increased by 16 percent since 2000, according to a new report put out by the Census Bureau. One of the most significant shifts is the growing number of immigrants in places like South Dakota, Delaware, and Missouri.

Anti-immigrant forces will no doubt use these figures to call for walls at our borders. But busted union workers in Missouri and Native Americans in South Dakota have more in common with immigrants from the south than businesses that profit from exploitative conditions.

Saying most of us are immigrants is a cliché that's worth repeating anyway. A *Real Change* supporter shared a story last week of a Native homeless woman who was told she had five minutes to leave the property of a local church or get cited for loitering. Her response to the Caucasian security staff was, "You have five minutes to leave America." She gets it.

Last spring, when hundreds of thousands of people around the country took to the streets, it was a rallying cry for better living and working conditions. Local leaders are organizing a solidarity march for human rights and economic justice to take place this Labor Day. The goal will be to create real power for people of color and those living in poverty. *Real Change* will be there. Will you join us?



## First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

# Viaduct: Let the People Decide

**Issue:** The Seattle City Council has until Sept. 22 to decide whether to support the Mayor's proposal to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct with a tunnel or put it up for a public vote in November. With a \$5 billion price tag for the tunnel — and that amount of funding not yet lined up — we think the public should have the chance to vote on whether or not to take on such a large amount of debt.

**Background:** A coalition of city and county residents has formed to oppose the Mayor's viaduct tunnel plan. The effort includes small businesses and pier owners along the waterfront, community and housing activists, freight haulers, and those supporting other non-tunnel options now on the table.

Last spring, the state legislature gave the City Council the right to either bring the matter to the voters or act themselves without a vote. Initially, it looked like the Mayor and most councilmembers supported a vote. However, recent polling has shown overwhelming opposition to the tunnel so it's looking more like they may try to pass the tunnel option without giving us the chance to vote.

There are other, less expensive, options for the viaduct. Another elevated structure could be built in its place, the existing structure could be retrofitted, or, as the People's Waterfront Coalition suggests, the viaduct could be torn down, and surface streets could be improved to handle the traffic ("Culture Shift: Seattle can kill the waterfront highway and get a new lease on life," opinion, June 7).

Those options can be more fully considered if the public has the opportunity to vote, and rejects a tunnel. If the Council hears enough people saying they want the opportunity to vote, they can be turned around.

**Action:** Call, write or e-mail the City Council and urge them to let the public decide on one of the biggest public funding packages in Seattle's history.

[Richard.Conlin@seattle.gov](mailto:Richard.Conlin@seattle.gov) / 684-8805

[Jan.Drago@seattle.gov](mailto:Jan.Drago@seattle.gov) / 684-8801

[Tom.Rasmussen@seattle.gov](mailto:Tom.Rasmussen@seattle.gov) / 684-8808

[Richard.McIver@seattle.gov](mailto:Richard.McIver@seattle.gov) / 684-8800

[Jean.Godden@seattle.gov](mailto:Jean.Godden@seattle.gov) / 684-8807

[Sally.Clark@seattle.gov](mailto:Sally.Clark@seattle.gov) / 684-8802

[Peter.Steinbrueck@seattle.gov](mailto:Peter.Steinbrueck@seattle.gov) / 684-8804

[Nick.Licata@seattle.gov](mailto:Nick.Licata@seattle.gov) / 684-8803

[David.Della@seattle.gov](mailto:David.Della@seattle.gov) / 684-8806

You can also sign the petition calling for a public vote online at [www.notunnelalliance.com](http://www.notunnelalliance.com).

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

## TAX, Continued from Page 1

year, 210 Washington families could be burdened by such a fee. Family farms where at least 50 percent of their value stems from farming would be exempt.

In Washington, estate tax dollars are funneled into the Education Legacy Trust Fund, which aids in funding higher education, along with working to control class size. This year alone, the estate tax could generate close to \$40 million.

Sandeep Kaushik, communications director for the No on I-920 campaign (also known as the Committee to Protect our Children's Legacy), says the campaign is gearing up for the election. From its Pioneer Square office, Kaushik says the campaign is working with a broad-based coalition of those who want to ensure the estate tax remains intact, including tax fairness organizations, education advocates, and people, like Baldwin, involved in Responsible Wealth. Kaushik predicts the tide will run in his campaign's favor. "There's really no indication," says Kaushik, "that there's any kind of groundswell of opposition to the estate tax."

But what there does seem to be is a groundswell of one person's money

flowing into the coffers of the I-920 campaign. That person would be Seattle real estate mogul Martin Selig. As of Aug. 8, Selig had donated \$807,500 to ax the estate tax.

Kaushik admits those donations are a concern. "We have no illusions about the fact that with that kind of money," he says, "we will have a fight on our hands." To date, the No on 920 campaign has garnered just shy of \$106,000.

To Kaushik, the whole campaign to repeal the estate tax has, at its core, the drive to create a special tax bracket for multimillionaires. Cries that the estate tax is an immoral "death tax" for the wealthy are unfounded, he says. There's nothing unethical, says Kaushik, about expecting people to pay taxes on their estates. Suggesting otherwise, he claims, boils down to nothing more than sensationalism. "Voters," Kaushik feels confident, "are too smart to fall for that."

But that which has fallen upon voters — namely, a reality where the top 1 percent of the country's wealthiest people own 33 percent of U.S. wealth, while the bottom 50 percent of people own barely 3 percent — upsets Baldwin. Such economic inequality, he believes, creates barriers to the ballot box for those on the lower end of the scale. Keeping the state's estate tax as is, he says, would help to stem the

tide of wealth flowing in one direction. "There must be some limit on inequality," says Baldwin, "in order for democracy to function." ■

## SOLDIER, Continued from Page 1

If the Army National Guard was looking for him, Webb says with a giggle, they weren't looking too hard: After months of lying low in Tennessee in 2004 and 2005, Webb went public with his desertion, talking to newspapers, giving speeches, and being interviewed on "Democracy Now!" and National Public Radio.

Webb, who came to Seattle last week for the national Veterans for Peace Convention, doesn't think he's alone. The Army has already acknowledged it has more than 6,000 deserters. Webb believes it could be as many as 15,000 — something he says the Army would like to keep a lid on. So, except for a few high-profile cases, Webb says most deserters aren't reported, much less prosecuted.

Whether by oversight or design, that's what happened in Webb's case. Just weeks before his discharge date in 2004, he was "stop-lossed," or extended, and ordered to ship out to Iraq with a different unit.

After failing to deploy, Webb says he called the National Lawyers Guild about his options. He says he was advised to wait a month or so until his name had dropped off the active-duty roll. At that point, he was told, he could



CARL WEBB SKIPPED OUT ON HIS GUARD UNIT BUT WAS NEVER REPORTED MISSING. PHOTO BY CYDNEY GILLIS

turn himself in as a deserter and ask for a dishonorable discharge in lieu of a court-martial — a strategy that could be available to Sgt. Ricky Clousing, the 24-year-old Army interrogator from Sumner who left his Fort Bragg, N.C., base a year ago rather than be re-

deployed to Iraq. Clousing surrendered himself at Fort Lewis on Aug. 12.

One hitch in Webb's case: The unit never reported Webb missing. After waiting two months, he says he called the unit's administrative offices in Texas to ask why.

"The sergeant on the phone said, 'Look, you're not the only soldier that didn't show up,'" Webb recalls.

"When people are being called up with the stop-loss program," he says, "they are being assigned to other units

that are missing personnel" — such as a medic he was ordered to replace in the other unit. But, "they don't report all those soldiers," he says.

Webb says it's ironic how much easier this makes life for deserters. Though he hid for a few months in Tennessee and later embarked on a speaking tour at churches and schools across the

Northeast, Webb has led a fairly normal life in the past two years.

While he was in Tennessee, he says he lived off the rest of his \$3,000 enlistment bonus and the final checks the Guard sent to his Austin address. For the past three months, the federal government has actually employed him as a census worker in Austin.

Though he signed a contract with the Guard, Webb says he feels no obligation to fight in Iraq — a message he wants to share with other soldiers.

"I will fight in a war and have nothing against violence if it's for a good cause," Webb says.

"In this case, it is not a good cause," he says. "This is a war of imperialism. It's about oil and money."

"That's exactly what I'm saying to other soldiers: You as an individual, you have an obligation to decide whether your government is wrong or right and whether or not you're going to back it." ■

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