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REAL CHANGE

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ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

Blight Flight

Rainier Valley agency idea
draws heat

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

First came the gasps over the city's definition of affordable housing. Then came the jeers about how the city wants to keep the poor from being displaced as the wealthy move into Rainier Valley.

After that, last Thursday's public meeting on a city proposal to use eminent domain in southeast Seattle turned into an outpouring of emotion from those opposed to the plan.

"I have three properties in this area, and I've worked damn hard to get what I have," Rainier Beach resident Fai Mathews told city officials. "Nobody is going to walk in and take nothing from me because that's my whole life."

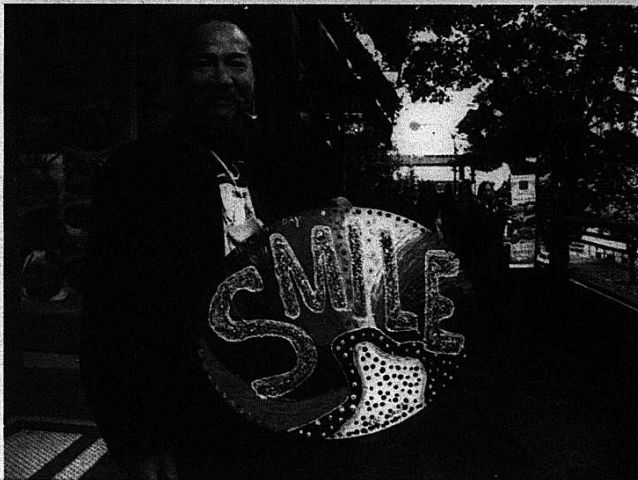
The majority of the 175 people who attended the forum at the Rainier Valley Cultural Center shared Mathews' sentiment, with one calling the city's idea to create a "community renewal agency" — one with the power to condemn property — a boondoggle.

The proposed agency, explained Steve Johnson, interim director of the city's Office of Economic Development, would help facilitate investment and strengthen commercial nodes, particularly around the light rail stations coming soon on Martin Luther King Way South and Rainier Avenue South.

Johnson showed a rendering of a five-story "town center" of offices, housing and retail in place of the Firestone and Schuck's currently at Rainier Avenue and South McClellan Street. In another rendering, a Safeway sign adorned a commercial development on Martin Luther King Way near Othello Station.

Such developments, Johnson said, will require larger parcels of land that a community renewal agency could assemble by buying or condemning smaller parcels. The plan includes giving the Seattle Housing Authority the right to do strictly commercial development and, among the negatives, requires declaring Rainier Valley a "blighted" area, Johnson said.

See RAINIER, Continued on Page 12



JONAS HAS A STAND-UP ROUTINE AT FIRST AND MARION STREET THAT CAN CRACK OPEN STONEY-FACED DEAMEANORS. PHOTO BY KATIA ROBERTS

On the Sunny Side of the Street

"Smile Man"'s shtick infectious

By CHRIS MILLER
Contributing Writer

"Go ahead, I won't tell anybody," Jonas says to the young man with a low baseball brim walking by onto the pedestrian walkway to the ferry terminal. The man pulls his hat lower but can't suppress a smile with the half-shake of his head.

"For some people, maybe they just can't smile, maybe they've got loved ones in harm's way, some it takes four years to notice, recognize what it is that I'm doing out here," Jonas says.

Most downtowners, though, are expecting to trade jokes, jibes, and smiles as they pass Jonas standing at the southwest corner of First Avenue and Marion Street. Some hurriedly head onward to the ferries. "Hope you win the race!" he bellows to the ferry-catching runners.

"Injected humor," he dubs it, and calls out to one woman passing by, "When will you marry me?" She pauses, turns, and smiles. While greeting pedestrians on the streetcorner, his "smile" sign is a painted, gold-lettered rainbow proffered as equal parts subtitle, stage prop, and street-level PowerPoint visual aid.

"I like your skirt! How 'bout a trade?" he asks, modeling his blue cargo pants and the sign.

"Won't you take me home with you?" he implores another smiler, rocking the sign in his arms, the grin up to his eyes.

For five years now, the staunch Chippewa from "the Great Lakes states," who declines to give his last name, has been a sight more regular than rain — totalling a personal smile-streak of 43 bright days to the city's mere 33 drizzle-dim days of 1953. He most recently completed a 20-day stretch this summer.

The smiles actually brighten the brain chemistry of gray Seattle, as long as they are genuine, or so-called "Duchenne smiles" — named after researcher Guillaume Duchenne — which crinkle the skin around the eyes. Anything less than an eye-crinkler is a polite counterfeit. "There are so many people walking around downtown like they're the last person on earth!" Jonas decries. "People in Seattle just need to put that smile on and wear it around."

The smiling is infectious, and in recognition of his impact, Seattle Duck

See SMILE, Continued on Page 12

TEST RACE

Here's something scary: low-income students and those of color are suffering in school due to the WASL.

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\$52K STICK-UP

The mayor wants to take a little out of the coffers of the Meals Partnership Coalition — namely, their entire budget.

PAGE 3

SUPER DUPER

A decision from the Nat'l Labor Relations Board means a line can be drawn between nurses and their unionized coworkers.

PAGE 4

PICTURE ALBUM

Singer/songwriter Jim Page blends politics with art to come up with a new CD that puts a message in the music.

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Testing and Terror

The high-stakes testing of the WASL further marginalizes disadvantaged students

By DINORAH FLORES
Guest Writer

Let's be clear: one way the WASL is unfair is that private school students, who are predominantly white, don't have to take it, whereas public school students, who are more often low-income and of color, do.

This Friday, the Seattle Young People's Project will stage a haunted house showing the frightening implications of the Washington state Assessment of Student Learning, which will be a high school graduation requirement starting with the class of 2008. The "WASL Haunted High" will use gory drama to explain how the exam puts low-income students and students of color in a line of failure that will have a huge negative effect on the rest of their lives — and on society as a whole.

The event is a kick-off for our Education Justice Campaign. To prevent the education system from punishing low-income students and students of color for its own failings, our campaign seeks to decouple the WASL from graduation requirements.

Let's be clear: one way the WASL is unfair is that private school students, who are predominantly white, don't have to take it, whereas public school students, who are more often low-income and of color, do. The WASL is incredibly difficult for all those required to take it. Last year, only 42 percent of all 10th-graders across the state passed all three sections of the test. That indicates that 58 percent of the class of 2008 won't graduate. Yet wealthy students and white students can avoid the obstacle, whereas low-income students and students of color can't.

The way the WASL is administered is also unfair. The

2004-2005 passing percentages prove as much. In the Math portion of the test, 59 percent of Asian students and 56 percent of white students passed, respectively. By contrast, only 31 percent of American Indian students passed, 26 percent of Hispanic/Latino students passed, and 23 percent of the Black community passed. The scores keep decreasing: 30 percent of low-income youth passed, 13 percent of English Language Learners passed, and 7 percent of special-education students passed the WASL.

These low scores take many by surprise, but they shouldn't. To begin with, the WASL is not translated to any other language, making it difficult for ELL students to understand and be able to pass the test. Also, some of the cultural references made in the test do not take into consideration all the cultures each student represents. Also, public schools in which low-income students and students of color predominate receive less funding and resources than predominantly wealthy, white public schools.

What are some of the consequences for not passing the WASL? With so many students failing, the pressure this test builds up in students could lead to the high school dropout rate increasing, which would prevent students from pursuing their desired and needed education and, in many cases, lead them into the criminal justice system. Why? Without the proper education or job credentials, the fallback support for young people will be the streets. As a result, our communities will be denied the opportunity to better themselves and the people in them. This will only continue the ongoing experience of limitations and oppression in low-income communities and communities of color. If the WASL stays as a high school graduation requirement, it will become a terror not just for the students taking it, but for the whole future.

Something must be done. By decoupling the WASL from graduation requirements, we can expand the opportunities of all students. In particular, it would mean that low-income students and students of color are given a chance to succeed. For young people, school should be a place of growth, not a house of horrors. ■



[Scary]

WASL Haunted Highschool
Fri., Oct. 27, 7-10 p.m.
Youngstown Cultural Arts
Center, 4408 Delridge Way
SW. Free for youth under 19;
\$5 suggested donation otherwise.
Information: call (206)
860-9606 or info@syp.org

Dinorah Flores is a 12th-grader at the Center School and a volunteer with Seattle Young People's Project, a youth-led community organization. For more information, go to www.syp.org.



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

Mission Statement:

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

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Programs include the Real Change newspaper, the 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 Agent Award



This spring's massive immigrants rights marches in U.S. cities were an outstanding example of getting people into the street for a cause they care about. But some of the hardest work has been done before, and since, by the *Comité Pro-Amnistia General y Justicia Social* (Committee for General Amnesty and Social Justice), recipients of *Real Change's* Change Agent award at our "Rising Up on Common Ground" breakfast Oct. 25. Through the power of relationships, the Comité is tying a dispersed universe of single issues — immigration, education, globalization, militarism — into constellations and galaxies.

From Bellingham to the Tri-Cities, the Comité holds workshops for popular education. "How do the subsidies for tortillas affect families in Mexico? When people ask those questions, they start recognizing their own reality and making their own analyses," says Comité member Ricardo Ortega.

As a collective, the Comité makes decisions by consensus, which is "a long, drawn-out process," says Ortega. And the payoff? "You will know better what other people are talking about. At the beginning, you may be saying the same thing but using different words."

—Adam Hyla

Robbing Peter, Feeding Paul

Mayor chops Meals Partnership funds

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

The Meals Partnership Coalition, which represents free food providers downtown, is losing all of its operating funds in Mayor Greg Nickels' 2007 budget proposal. Nickels "robbed Peter to pay Paul within low-income communities," says director Joshua Heim. Photo by Joel Turner

The city of Seattle is all for ending hunger. That's why its mayors have handed out annual awards for 15 years to groups that feed the hungry.

This year, however, the mayor's End Hunger Awards luncheon came with a special twist, meal providers say: At the same time Mayor Greg Nickels was giving out honors Monday at the Palace Ballroom, his 2007 proposed city budget calls for cutting \$52,000 in funding for the event's cosponsor, Seattle's Meals Partnership Coalition.

The \$52,000 is the entire budget for the seven-year-old coalition, which acts as a resource and advocacy network for more than 30 nonprofit food servers that are members, such as Operation Sack Lunch and the Hunger Intervention Program.

Each month, the groups come together to share information about grants, food sources, dietetics, and other topics that members say they rely on to multiply their own dollars. Because of that return on the city's investment, they say, cutting the \$52,000 — which pays for the coalition's director, a small office, and fliers — is a bad idea.

"It just blows me away that this particular piece is cut from the budget," says Rhoda Morrow of the Hunger Intervention Program, which serves a downtown bag lunch three days a week. "The \$50,000 generates 10 times

that" in other funding for meal providers.

Sara Levin of the city's Human Services Department says Nickels proposed the cut because the work done by the Meals Partnership Coalition is not a direct service — something she says the mayor has prioritized.

"There's almost \$2 million in the budget for food banks, food distribution, and food programs," Levin says. That includes a new allocation of \$125,000 for the Outdoor Meals Program, which the city is moving from First Presbyterian Church to a permanent location that will be managed next year by Operation Sack Lunch at Sixth Avenue and Columbia Street.

As in the past, coalition members will provide the volunteers and meals at the site, but, with no budget, they would lose director Joshua Heim, the sole staff person who scouts for information and resources.

The \$52,000 for his salary and office expenses had come from a federal Community Development Block Grant, which will be trimmed in 2007. The city is also committed to spending \$1.5 million of the grant on the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund. The mayor plans to use city funds to "backfill" the budgets of other human services that would lose that federal funding, but not the coalition's funding.

"Basically he robbed Peter to pay Paul within low-income communities," Heim says of the mayor.

He says Councilmembers David Della, Sally Clark, and Peter Steinbrueck support restoring the coalition's funds, but three other votes will have to be found before the council finalizes the budget in late November.

"I had no idea there were private funders [for meal providers]. I would not have known that," Morrow says of things she's learned because of the coalition. "We leverage the information we get into tens of thousands of dollars." ■

[Event]

The Seattle City Council is holding a public hearing on the city budget on Mon., Oct. 30, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave., second floor.

Just Heard...

BLC tackles HIV

With Blacks being 3.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than whites in King County, the Black Leadership Council (BLC) on HIV has decided the time to act up is now.

Or the time was Oct. 22, when the BLC kicked off its campaign with an event at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. The 70 attendees were welcomed by County Councilmember Larry Gossett, heard personal stories from BLC members, and were offered free HIV testing by People of Color Against AIDS Network.

Dr. Maxine Hayes, of the state Department of Health and kickoff keynote speaker, says the event was necessary because creating dialogue around this health issue is a real challenge in the Black community: "This is life or death."

Pan out

Sometime next month, you'll start seeing them: posters doling out advice on how best to handle panhandlers.

Sponsored the Downtown Seattle Association's Metropolitan Improvement District, the public education project will ask those who encounter panhandlers to find other ways, besides handing over that dollar, to support people in need. MID director Peggy Dreisinger says \$75,000 has been set aside to pay for bus advertisements and posters, the latter of which will be handed out to real property owners within the district.

Vince Matulonis, United Way of King County's director of Homeless Programs, who says his organization has been asked for input, hopes the campaign addresses what he sees as panhandling's root cause: "People are out there because they're poor."

—Rosette Royale

Local move on I-200?

It's been tried before, but Richard McIver has a new idea for overturning Initiative 200 — at the local level.

The 1998 measure ended Affirmative Action programs aimed at hiring women and minorities in Washington state. But at a recent Seattle City Council briefing on state legislation, the city plans to pursue next year, Councilmember McIver suggested that Seattle lobbyists work on passing a law that would allow local municipalities to vote on opting out of I-200.

That way, McIver says, "if Seattle doesn't want to adhere to it, it doesn't have to."

So far, it's just an idea. But McIver says he has draft language of a potential bill that he's shopping around to get response from political leaders. In recent years, however, similar bills introduced by Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Walles (D-Seattle) have failed.

Still, "We ought to look at changing it," McIver says, "because there's no such thing as an even playing field."

—Cydney Gillis



Busted

NLRB decision makes nurses face switch to "supervisory" non-union role

By J. JACOB EDEL
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 3, in what could possibly be the most influential decision in labor relations for nearly a century, the National Labor Relations Board rendered a new interpretation of what constitutes a supervisor.

The federal government has decided that bosses can now legally separate some nurses and skilled laborers from their unionized coworkers.

On Oct. 3, in what could possibly be the most influential decision in labor relations for nearly a century, the National Labor Relations Board rendered a new interpretation of what constitutes a supervisor.

The NLRB ruled 3-2 that employees responsible for using their own judgment to direct tasks toward lesser-skilled employees may be reclassified as managers.

Overall, the ruling means lead nurses and other stewards or lead-men in any trade may eventually be stripped of their right to unionize if employers wish to challenge a union member's supervisory status, according to a press release issued by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

Anne Piazza of the Washington State Nurses Association, the state's largest nurses union, says the ruling has not affected local nurses because the decision leaves it up to individual hospital employers to decide if they want to reclassify their staff.

"We certainly are very disappointed and outraged that union rights will be removed," Piazza says. "We solely disagree with the decision. The core part of nursing is overseeing and interpreting patient care."

Kim Davis, a spokesperson for Virginia Mason Hospital, says there won't be any immediate impact on the hospital's operations and it will honor the current contract with its union nurses.

In July, a group of nurses and labor unions gathered outside Virginia Mason as part of a nationwide protest demonstrating support of nurses and unions. They chose Virginia Mason for the protest because chief nursing officer Charlene Tachivana had previously said at an NLRB hearing that Virginia Mason's nurses were supervisors and not eligible to be in the union at all.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, supervisors or managers are not allowed to unionize like their subordinate employees.

The case, initiated by Oakwood Healthcare, Inc., a large network of hospitals and healthcare enterprises in Michigan, primarily focused on the healthcare industry, but the ruling applies to all employers and unions.

The question before the NLRB was whether or not some senior nurses perform supervisory duties and reserve the right to belong to the union.

According to the three board members supporting the judgment, they refused to narrow the scope of supervisory status by focusing on real-world implications and concentrated on providing "meaningful" and "predictable" standards as precedent for future cases.

"In sum, to 'assign' refers to the charge nurse's designation of signifi-

cant overall duties to an employee, not to the charge nurse's ad hoc instruction that the employee perform a discrete task," the ruling says.

"If a person on the shop floor has 'men under him,' and if that person decides 'what job shall be undertaken next or who shall do it,' that person is a supervisor," the ruling says.

While those in favor were reluctant to focus on specific implications, the dissent argued "the reasonableness of the majority's interpretation can be tested by its real-world consequences."

"In short, it must be the employees who are being assigned, not the tasks. In the healthcare sector, for example, nursing tasks are commonly distributed by assigning patients to individual nurses and other direct care staff," the dissent wrote.

"Assigning tasks to an employee is essentially the same thing as directing the employee to do them. But the majority's decision makes clear that even a single assignment of daily duties — in contrast, for example, to designating the employee's job classification, which entails the expected performance of certain tasks during the employee's tenure — would satisfy its test," the dissent wrote.

The board members supporting the ruling were all appointed under current President George W. Bush, while the dissenting board members were both appointed by President Clinton and later reappointed by Bush. ■

Short Takes

Friends like these

Steven Schmidt could tell his time there was limited. So when members of the University Friends meeting told him and a dozen other campers to leave the premises Fri., Oct. 13, he was angry but unsurprised. "I had a feeling it was coming," he says, "but I wasn't prepared for it."

The Friends, otherwise known as Quakers, had tolerated informal campsites on their grounds near the north end of the University Bridge for years. Schmidt himself, who sells *Real Change* outside the Bartells in Wallingford, had a claim. For the past six years, he says, "This was my home," pointing to a spot under the building's eave in the background of a *Seattle Times* story on the eviction.

But disorderly behavior had gone up; the Friends' two rules (no drugs or alcohol, everyone off the premises by 8 a.m.) were being routinely violated. Intravenous drug use was commonplace; so were the needles, says Schmidt, discarded in nearby overgrowth. And while a man wielding a stiletto threatened him the night before he got the boot, Schmidt says, "Four out of five nights in the last two years there was an incident like that."

Whose responsibility was it to maintain order? "It probably should have been all of ours," says Schmidt of the homeless campers and the Friends, his hosts. He says he can't blame them. "What if some kid falls on a needle? What if someone gets stabbed?"

Warren Ostrom, a lay member of the Friends assembly, says the group will review its decision at a Nov. 12 meeting. "We want to find some way of continuing to be involved with Seattle's homeless community," he says. While a nearby portable toilet the campers used has been taken away, Ostrom says a Saturday laundry machine and shower is still being provided free of charge.

Schmidt, according to a Quaker acquaintance quoted in the *Times* article, found "a job and a place to stay" only minutes after the forced eviction. Only the job doesn't start for three weeks, says Schmidt, and the abandoned house that he got permission to squat in was locked up a day later, with most of his belongings inside.

—Adam Hyla

Flowers in Remembrance

NIA GOSSETT, 6, LEFT, AND AIMEE KHUU, THE EVENT COORDINATOR FOR EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA'S CELEBRATION OF EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS, A TRADITIONAL LATIN AMERICAN FESTIVE HOLIDAY HONORING THE DEATH OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, MAKE PAPER FLOWERS THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE EXHIBITION, WHICH RUNS NOV. 1-21. FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE WWW.ELCENTRODELARAZA.COM/DIADELOSMUERTOS.HTM. PHOTO BY JOEL TURNER



PEACE(?): to Robin

MAYBE

my Life-of-Desperation

is OVER

MAYBE

I don't have to GO anywhere
-FLEE anything

...any-more...

MAYBE

I just put up
with the trade-offs

...work with them...
here, in this asphalt trailer park
(today it seems like a pretty good deal...!)

Cry sometimes
Laugh sometimes
DO WHAT I CAN

...AND

RELAX
...take/my/time...

AND

Pray

ONLY for Guidance

and

"THY WILL BE DONE!"

Is this Peace AT LAST
Letting GO?

HAPPINESS?

...or merely a (temporary)

Break

in

my

Clouds?

—MARION SUE FISCHER

**New Research Studies May Improve
Outcomes after Cardiac Arrest**

If you have a cardiac arrest in Seattle or King County you can be enrolled in this research study without your prior consent. Researchers in Seattle-King County and 10 other communities across North America are investigating methods to improve survival after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Getting consent for these treatments is not possible when you are unconscious from cardiac arrest, because life-saving therapies must be given immediately. In this study, you could be treated with either a short (30 seconds) or longer (3 minute) period of CPR before your heart rhythm is evaluated and shocked. In addition, you may be treated with a fist-sized device (called an ITD), which is attached to the face mask or breathing tube used to provide breaths during CPR, and acts to increase blood flow. The University of Washington welcomes your feedback on this study. For more information, please visit our website at www.UWheartroc.org, e-mail kcroc@u.washington.edu, or call our cardiac arrest hotline at 206-447-5671, or 1-800-607-2926.

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Head Full of Pictures

On Jim Page's new CD, art and politics meet to make beautiful music

By TIMOTHY HARRIS
Staff Writer

Jim Page's latest CD, *Head Full of Pictures*, released this year on the Whid-Isle label, is not to be missed.

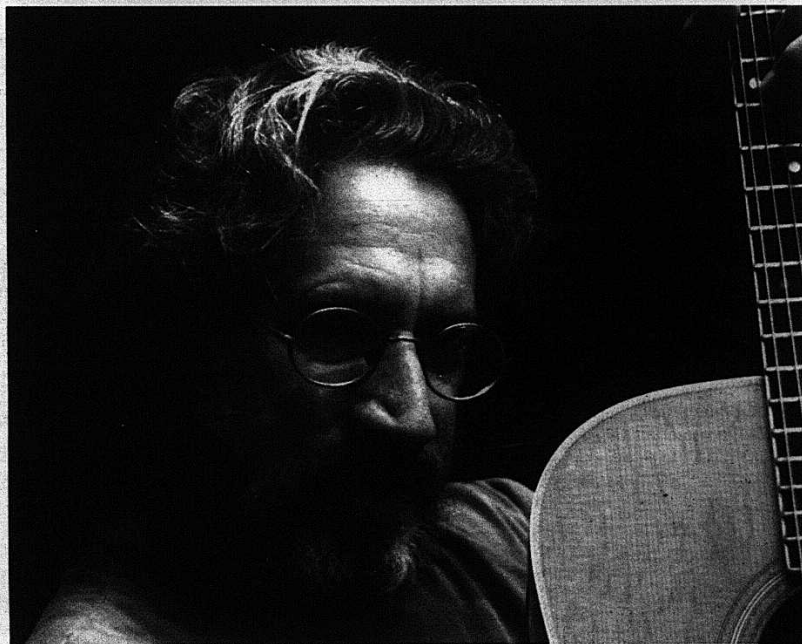
Lots of Seattleites think they know what Jim Page sounds like. Fast, leftist lyrics delivered in a nasally sneering style that moves most people down the sidewalk after just a song or two. Along with his frequent partner Artis the Spoonman, Jim Page has been this town's musical equivalent of an IWW soapboxer for more than 25 years.

Here's what many people don't know: Somewhere along the line, Jim's music became more appealing. His vocal style mellowed, his songwriting broadened, the guitar work became tighter, but the hard political edge stayed sharp, slashing away at the denial and cant and outright horror that is American life in 2006.

Jim's latest CD, *Head Full of Pictures*, released this year on the Whid-Isle label, is not to be missed. Backed by Hanuman's Scott Law on mandolin and guitar, long-time session violinist and producer Billy Oskay, and Mark Ettinger on bass, Page has found a deeply layered folk sound to complement his politics. The music gives the words a universality that, hopefully, will lift Page's extraordinary songwriting to a new audience.

While there's a bit here for everyone — a few love songs, a clever ditty about meeting one's own clone, and a ribald conversation between Jesus and Buddha — this is fundamentally a war CD.

The opening trilogy of songs sets the tone, beginning with Petroleum Bonaparte's loping bass line and spooky violin. "Hey George, what's the body count? Does anybody know? When they're brown and foreign do you bother or do you just let them go?" This moves into the title track, a song about PTSD ("I just wanna get numb and stay that way all the time") that features first-rate mandolin and violin work from Law and Oskay over Jim's driving guitar. Then comes "Andres



Raya," a jaw-droppingly perfect piece of songwriting that, if you're anything like me, you'll play about 10 times straight before moving on to the rest of the CD.

Andres Raya was a Marine who, home on leave after a tour in Iraq, lured police into a tragic suicide-by-cop scenario that left himself and one cop dead, with another seriously wounded. Grainy video footage of the incident can be found online. Raya is seen, in a rain poncho, with an assault rifle, moving "like a marionette on a slippery wire" across a parking lot, as if he's caught up in a firefight in a war zone 7,500 miles away.

In Page's deft hands, this becomes a story about a local boy from a dead-end town who couldn't live with what he'd become. "Some people have all the chances and some people have none / you lay down your burden where the river runs / reason and morality you can put them both aside / there's flowers for Andres Raya in the alley where he died."

There is also a Rachel Corrie tribute, about the 23-year-old peace activist who was crushed by a bulldozer in the Gaza Strip. Page captures the

innocence, outrage, hope, and sense of personal responsibility that make the Corrie story iconic. "And I'd rather be dancing, dancing to Pat Benatar, but someone has to do something about it and here we are."

The other standout is "Something About Us," a Bruce Cockburn-ish meditation about the "blood all over Uncle Sam's brand new shoes." Page sings the long, dark history that stretches from the Indian Wars to Abu Ghraib. "There's something about us / that we don't want to have to face / there's a killer instinct deep in this American race / just ask anyone who's been on the other end of that leash / and they'll tell you." An African mbira and a simple guitar line played over Page's percussive rhythm offer an appropriately haunted feel to the song's unspeakable theme.

Head Full of Pictures is a brilliantly rendered political folk album that stands up well to repeated listenings and speaks passionately to the present. If you're a fan of Jim Page, this is as good as he gets. If you're not, forget whatever you think you know and get this one anyway. You won't be sorry. ■

[Music]

You can hear some of the songs on this CD at cdbaby.com/cd/jimpage7.

Jim Page's new CD, *Head Full of Pictures*, sets the war to music.
Photo by Sue Misao

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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 trembling 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't forget them?

—DAVID THORNBRUGH

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 A Literary Arts Workshop for the
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1pm—3pm Saturdays
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 Writing Life as a Fairy Tale
 Facilitated by Rebecca Loudon
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 Level 5 Mixing Chamber Conference Room
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VOTE NOVEMBER 7

VOTERS GUIDE 2006

Under the Concrete, the River

River of Memory: The Everlasting Columbia
University of Washington Press, 2006
Softcover, 150 pages, \$24.95

By ADAM HYLIA
Editor

Water, being water, flows downhill. Except when it can't anymore. And then rivers stay rivers in all but name.

Case in point is our region's Euphrates, the Columbia: this country's "most elaborately engineered electric-irrigation-transportation machine," in the words of *New York Times* journalist Blaine Harden. The placid blue strand above the Grand Coulee Dam was named Lake Roosevelt, after FDR, but perhaps would be just as fitting for clever cousin Teddy, who, while on the campaign trail, told a Portland crowd that upon seeing the river from his train window, "I could not help thinking of all that water running unchecked down to the sea." The Army Corps of Engineers was sent after said water, and now the fourth-largest river in North America is 15 big pools hemmed at their heads by concrete. A friend visiting from the Southwest remarked to her family back home that "what we call lakes, they call rivers here."

We really have been in denial, the first stage of grief, running tanker trucks full of fish from the Dalles to Astoria to achieve a kind of habitatless salmon habitat. *River of Memory: the*

Everlasting Columbia is a sign that Northwesterners are ready to move past anger, bargaining, and depression into the final stage, acceptance.

In essay, poems, and photographs, the book celebrates the life-giving, death-dealing force that fed three Indian nations, supported millions of spawning fish, and terrified Lewis and Clark. Page by page, the photos move upstream "in homage" to the upriver journey of spawning salmon, according to the introduction. It's an honor of which they unfortunately have not heard, but then, they've got bigger problems to cope with.

While the book has plenty of heraldry for our mostly-departed Northwest totem, besides anatomically minute paintings of Chinook, sockeye, and coho — along with the more prosaic pike, flounder, trout, sturgeon, shiners, sculpins, and suckers — we see few of them in pictures. In the epigrammatic plate on page 150, there are two four-foot chinook "hogs" draped across the back of a weary-looking man headed for a wagon; the picture's placed as if we're bidding a fond goodbye. Most other plates depict water surging, splashing, rushing, crashing — doing everything it can't do when stacked up behind a concrete rampart.

There are no pictures of those fortifications, though, where side-by-side photos a la historian and photographer Paul Dorpat's Seattle Now & Then columns in

the *Times* could have been an unsubtle, but honest, approach. Maybe that'd be an uncomfortable stray into environmentalist preachiness. If so, that's not a restraint felt by some of the poet contributors, whose most effective offerings meditate on origins and endings — or in riverine terms, springs and mouths. Others yearn for a time — though they're sure they won't see it — when the dams are gone and the fish return in force.

Not that every reader would want to see the dams breached, since, as Harden, raised in son of a Moses Lake farmer and author of the 1996 book *A River Lost* pointed out, the dams mean a living to blue-collar people from Hood River to Lewiston. Boatswains and ranchers want to trade their livelihoods for fish as much as loggers wanted to trade theirs for owls. When Northwesterners summit this peak along the Cascade divide — when they bring a totem back from the brink and sustain the lifestyles made possible by a hydro-industrial economy — well, that'll be a real piece of news.

With photos put together by Wenatchee Valley Museum guest curator William D. Layman, who cultivated relationships with people along the Columbia's middle section for his 2002 book of folklore and photographs *Native River, River of Memory* may come alive in the exhibit hall. It shows at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma from Jan. 15 to April 15. ■

In essay, poems, and photographs, *River of Memory* celebrates the life-giving, death-dealing force that fed three Indian nations, supported millions of spawning fish, and terrified Lewis and Clark.

[Resource]

For more information about the photographic exhibit *River of Memory*, see www.wenatcheevalley-museum.com/rom/index.html

It's Saturday

The catch and release method works:
I let go extra sections
car ads, shoes, unaffordable homes,
wireless technology and bedrooms.

I gut the food section first,
pick through the editorial bones
avoiding the op-ed pieces,
news wonks, tax-relief purveyors
(looking for muscle).

Save the crossword puzzle
dodge smoke from the barbecue
of American life who's skewing whom.
Review the tasty bits get rid
of scales, jettison the cartoons.

Left only with the filet in thin
sections of arts & sports
that I hold dear, carve up
the front section too, look

For photos, but avoid the blood
washing my hands of the paper,
left only with the smell of newsprint
on my fingers,
like love.

—MICHAEL MAGEE



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

We Americans are
by and large ego-
crazed, spoiled
crybabies, and I,
for one, have just
about had it.

drowning his voice out with my screams. Later I spoke to Timothy "Perfess'r" Harris, our director, and asked him to shoot me if I ever wrote like that, and he indicated that in that case I'd be shot about once every four weeks.

This may be one of those times. I'm high on NyQuil, and I feel an irresistible urge to lead you all on a tour of my mind.

Speaking of tours, I was watching *Rick Steves' Europe* the other day, and he was touring Turkey. While my eyes were watching, my mind was spinning with thoughts of cattle swimming the Bosphorus, the cow jumping over the moon, and questions like, "If Turkey can be part of Europe, then why do we have wars, and why can't we all have vacation property on Bora Bora?"

As my questions went unanswered, I noticed that Rick Steves was playing backgammon with some Turkish people on the screen, and I listened long enough to hear him say that you can't make a bad move in backgammon when playing the Turks: they won't let you.

I immediately thought of Sudoku, to which I have lately become addicted. Sudoku isn't remotely like backgammon, except that it's a game. For the purposes of my immediate thought, the only significant feature of Sudoku is that you do it by yourself. Therefore the great thing about doing Sudoku, the thing that makes it so appealing to me, is I don't have to play it with some ego-crazed, spoiled crybaby sitting across from me.

You see, I used to think that I might like to play chess. But I discovered that everyone within a radius of 3,000 miles of me who was willing to join me at it was an ego-crazed, spoiled crybaby.

Horsemeat and Other Indelicacies

Recently Andy Rooney started one of his *60 Minutes* essays talking about spinach making people sick and ended with some observations having to do with the eating of horsemeat. I'm not actually sure what he was saying in-between because I was

Thanks to Rick Steves, I now know that I only had to move to Turkey to find people who could enjoy a friendly chess game like human beings. Provided I first hid their dice from them.

You may be wondering what any of this has to do with eating horsemeat. Well, one of Andy Rooney's points, or pointlets, was that he was an American and Americans don't eat horsemeat, and he, for one, wasn't about to start.

Likewise, I would like to make a point, or pointlet, that I am an American, and that we Americans are by and large ego-crazed, spoiled crybabies, and I, for one, have just about had it.

I'm not talking just about the lack of civil discourse evident during the current political campaigns, although that's part of it. I'm talking about all the mean-spirited and uncivil and unsportsmanlike conduct that is revealing itself throughout our society at all levels, especially the highest, where it does the most monumental harm.

How can it be that I now have to write columns arguing against pre-emptive warfare and torture?

Last week George Bush signed the Military Commissions Act, which deprives almost all human rights to all non-Americans. It doesn't prevent them from being tortured; it only requires torturers to avoid doing anything that might feel like organ failure or is life threatening. So genital-electro-shock is out, thumbscrews are in.

The Act not only allows torture, it also lets the military tribunals use the evidence so obtained against the unlucky suspect. So if you are suspected of being a terrorist and they beat you or someone else into saying that you are a terrorist, then by the new rules, you're a terrorist.

One of my former chess acquaintances made up the rule that he would always be White, because Black loses too much. I quit playing right about then. How soon before the rest of the world quits playing with America?

How long before the rest of the world catches on that our law treats them like dogs? ■



Fri., Sept. 13, 10:10 a.m., Sixth and Pine St.

Officers received a call regarding a male wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, backpack, and cap on the street making threats to people. Officers were nearby and responded to the call. The reporting officer was also in the vicinity of Pine St. when a transient Black male aged 35 was seen. He fitted the description of the suspect and was known to the officers as a drug user. He was on the corner of Sixth and Pine and was walking rapidly towards the officers and gesturing wildly. Suspect approached the reporting officer and yelled at him several times to shoot him. The man was carrying no weapons in his hands and appeared to be sweating profusely. He was placed into custody for his own safety and that of the officers. When asked what was going on, he replied incoherently and mumbled something about wanting to go to jail and getting away from drugs. He stated he is supposed to be taking medications for psychiatric reasons, but has not been taking them. He admitted to taking some kind of drug this morning, but did not know what it was. He said he wanted to die. Officers called an AMR ambulance to transport the suspect to Harborview Medical Center for an involuntary mental commitment. Upon arrival the suspect had calmed down quite a bit, but was still not acting coherently. A medical card from a psychiatric clinic was found on his person, and the doctor named on the card was called. She stated she would contact Harborview at once.

Fri., Sept. 13, 11:44 a.m., Occidental Park.

A transient white female aged 44 was contacted in Occidental Park. She was holding an open 16-ounce can of Steel Reserve 211 beer. When she saw the officer approaching, she handed the beer to a man seated next to her on the bench. The officer recognized the woman as having been trespassed from the area on Oct. 9, and she was contacted and transported to the West Precinct. The Trespass Admonishment was verified, and she was arrested and booked into King County Jail for Trespass in the Parks.

Sat., Sept. 14, 3:43 p.m., Sixth Ave. S., Kobe Park.

Two suspects, a transient white female, aged 20, and an unnamed second suspect, were seen in the far northwest section of Kobe Park. Both persons had their pants down and appeared to be engaging in a sexual act. Both were detained, and during a routine identification verification officers discovered that suspect one was on a S.O.D.A. (Stay Out of Drug Areas) zone two exclusion. She was placed under arrest for this violation, and a search incident to arrest found a glass crack pipe located in her front right pants pocket. This field-tested positive for the presence of cocaine, and she was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

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



Bus Chick,
Transit
Authority

Carla Saulter

Say What?

Northbound #48 stop, 23rd & Union, 8:30 a.m. A lovestruck couple is hugged up on the bench in the shelter.

Girl, to her boyfriend: "My sister told my mom that we live together, so I've decided

not to say anything about it until she gets here."

Westbound #27 stop, Yesler & 3rd, 10 a.m.

A man getting off the #27 calls to an acquaintance on the opposite side of the street.

#27 rider: "Hey, man."

The acquaintance continues down the street without responding.

#27 rider: "Hey man, you don't know me now?"

Acquaintance: "I'm headed to the [Union Gospel] Mission."

#27 rider: "You're headed to the Mission? You owe me money!"

Southbound #4 (et al) stop, 3rd & James, 3-ish Random dude, to me: "Ouuuuuuuuch! Girl, you're so pretty, it hurts." [pause] "Why don't you come over here and make it better?"

Eastbound #4, 4 p.m.

A cell phone conversation:

"So by this time, I'm cussing the woman out, and she says, 'Ma'am, I'd prefer you didn't use that

kind of language. Can we try to keep it professional?' So I said, 'Y'all are the ones who f-ed up my account. How professional is that?'"

Westbound #55, 5:30 p.m.

A man is sitting in front, talking to the bus driver.

Man: "I'm so glad to be on this bus. I got stranded out in Briar this morning."

Driver: "Where's that?"

Man: "Near Lynnwood. My old lady picked me up and brought me back to civilization."

Westbound #545, 6 p.m.

A man and two women are making small talk on their commute home from work.

Man, to both women: "I need to make a TV show about the bus...I'll call it WBUS or something and do live interviews. You know that guy, the one who gets on a crowded bus and starts walking toward the back and then just stops in the middle, with 8,000 people behind him [trying to get past]? And he's just fine with that? I want to interview that guy."

Southbound #48, 8:40 p.m.

It is a few hours after the Washington loss to OSU, and the bus is full of disappointed Husky fans.

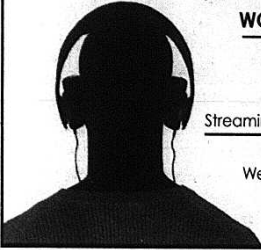
One of the fans, to everyone on the bus: "The first half was awesome. The second half was... Husky football!" ■

Westbound #55,
5:30 p.m.

A man is sitting in
front, talking to
the bus driver.

Got something
to say about
public transportation in Seattle?
E-mail Bus Chick
at buschick@
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What does peace feel like?



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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Sticking up for animals

Dear Real Change,

Thank you for your excellent article about the protest for National Primate Liberation Week and its ramification ("Captive Audience," Oct. 11-17).

You are sounding the alarm on a topic close to my heart for two reasons. I believe that Primates do not belong in captivity for experimentation and I refuse to be called a terrorist because I happen to be an animal rights activist.

The quote by Anderson, director of the research center, that "biomedical research is of value to both human and animal population," is misleading and untrue. If the public really knew about the atrocities which go on behind these closed doors in Belltown and in all animal laboratories, they'd be appalled. The value for the human population he mentions is really monetary value for themselves. Animal research is very lucrative for the researchers, their schools, etc. — it's a business.

I like to say that I was born not only a feminist but also an animal rights activist! Interestingly, on June 10, 1990, the very first March for the Animals took place in Washington, D.C., around the White House and the Capitol; then, the Secretary of Health called the marchers "terrorists." *Plus ça change plus c'est la meme chose*, except that today I might face arrest and jail for

just speaking out? But this is the winter of my life and if I don't speak my truth now, I never will.

Thank you again for your article. We need "Real Change" indeed to open our eyes to what is going on in Belltown and at the UW and to fight the good fight.

Claudine Erlandson
Shoreline

Green eyes are smiling

Dear Real Change,

KUDOS to Sustainable Ballard's Vic Opperman, Erica Jones, and David Wright and Bridget Smith ("Barnraising, the Green Way," Oct. 11-17)! In my opinion, this exemplifies "For the Common Good" — a phenomenal grassroots movement with a goal of returning to a healthy environment. It's great that there was such a huge turnout [5,000 people at the Sustainable Ballard festival] on Oct. 1. That speaks volumes about a passionate and caring community.

To be praised by Al Gore during his speech in New York is a truly amazing and much deserved honor.

And since everyone is so keen on green, please be sure to vote Yes! on Initiative 937. Let's move Washington forward!

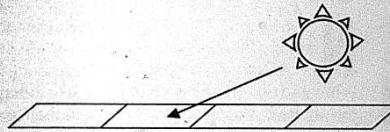
Congratulations to all you Ballardites for an outstanding grassroots accomplishment!

Kim Loftness
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.

Story Problem 8

Assume sunlight travels to Earth at a rate of 186,000 miles per second and concrete possesses a thermal mass of .15 degrees Fahrenheit per hour (in direct sunlight). If the temperature drops to 27 degrees Fahrenheit, how much perseverance do you need to fend off hypothermia?



SEA helps young adults who survived life on the street and now want to earn a college degree. Once accepted, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. Please visit seattleeducationaccess.org to support our scholarship program.



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Opportunity

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"Immigration: Simulations as a Strategy for Teaching Controversial Topics" is an experience of different points of view on immigration. Sliding Scale: \$5 and up. Sat., Oct. 28, 9 a.m. — 4 p.m., Lincoln Elementary School, 213 21st Ave. SE, Olympia. Info: marilyn@ilman@hotmail.com.

Solar Home Design Class. Tickets \$53 general, \$41 UW students. Sat., Oct. 28, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m., University of Washington. Info: www.solarwashington.org.

Real Change classifieds are a way to reach 30,000 loyal readers. Call 441-3247, or email classified@realchangenews.org.

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Friday 10/27

Wife of former vice-presidential candidate John Edwards, lawyer, and mother, Elizabeth Edwards has battled cancer, family tragedy, and electioneering. She discusses her memoir, *Saving Graces: Finding Solace and Strength from Friends and Strangers*, which is not about juicy behind-the-scenes gossip but focuses on the beauty of family and friends coming together to love and support each other. 7 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall 120.

Saturday 10/28

Talking Vegetables, a family concert, features wonderful folk tales from the Dan People of Northeastern Liberia told by Etienne Cakpo and Won-Ldy Payne. The award-winning authors of *Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile and Head, Body, Legs* will be joined by African drumming and dance. Tickets \$5. 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Seattle futurist and community instigator Alex Steffen and acclaimed visionary and novelist Bruce Sterling engage in an interactive community-based conversation on their book and campaign *Worldchanging*. They believe the tools needed to make a better world lie around us waiting to be utilized. Their book and talks deliver a dazzling array of resources for innovations in sustainability, human rights, and democracy. Tickets \$5. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. Info: www.worldchanging.com.

Enjoy scenic views, food, and beverages while running or walking on the 11th Annual Pumpkin Push 5K and Family Walk. Proceeds benefit the 45th St. Clinic, whose programs assist homeless families transition into housing and provide healthcare and counseling to homeless teens. 8 a.m., Seward Park, 5902 Lake Washington Blvd. S

Through Sunday 10/29

In *Black Snow*, Keith Reddin's dramatization of the novel by Mikhail Bulgakov, the young writer Sergi has his dream turn into a comic nightmare when the illustrious Moscow Art Theatre decides to make a play out of his failed novel. At the mercy of an absurdly autocratic director, Sergi is propelled on a hilarious rollercoaster ride through the chaotic world of Stalinist Russia. Tickets \$10 students, \$12 seniors,

\$15 general. Wed.-Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m., Penthouse Theatre, 1701 NE 45th St. Info: www.depts.washington.edu/wvdrama.

Sunday 10/29

Cecile Andrews, founder of the Phinney EcoVillage, discusses how to make modern, speed-driven people see how to live more slowly, simply, and in smaller portions. Her newest book, *Slow is Beautiful: New Visions of Community, Leisure and Joie de Vivre*, challenges our consumer-driven society by encouraging reflection, laughter, and vibrancy in local communities. 4 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S Main St.

Monday 10/30

The Religious Coalition for Equality invites the community to its colloquy series *Scripture and Marriage Equality*, an in-depth exploration of interpreting Jewish and Christian Scripture in the context of same-sex marriage. Biblical scholars will discuss various passages, interpretations, and how to engage in a conversation with the wider community. Same-sex couples will share personal stories and resources. 8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., Everett Temple Beth Or, 3215 Lombard Ave. Info and registration: (206) 930-6253, www.religiouscoalition-wa.org

Tuesday 10/31

Cadaver Candle Vigil recognizes and remembers the lives of 21 unconsenting Chinese human beings whose bodies are on display in *Bodies: The Exhibition*. 11 p.m.-midnight, 800 Pike. Info: (206) 328-6499.

Wednesday 11/1

In 1987 President Mikhail Gorbachev expelled Yeltsin from his team of politicians, but Yeltsin returned to become the leader of Russia's democratic movement. Herbert J. Ellison, University of Washington professor of History and International Studies, discusses his new book *Boris Yeltsin and Russia's Democratic Transformation*, in which he establishes Yeltsin as the embodiment of Russia's fragile new liberties of freedom of speech, religion, press, and political affiliations. 7 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall, Walker-Ames Room

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

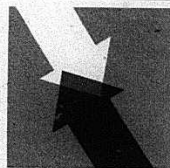
Director's Corner



This year, our 2006 Vendor of the Year award goes to Isaac Chapiro, a longtime Ballard vendor who has testified numerous times at City Hall and the State House on legislation that affects poor and homeless people. Each year, *Real Change* offers a cash award to a vendor who we feel most personifies the best of what we have to offer.

"I don't give up," said Isaac. "I really don't. The name *Real Change* became real to me because that's what it gave me. The ability to become a better person, to become who I am." Isaac says he enjoys advocacy work because he gets to "understand how legislation works. It's like a school for me. There's so much work to do it's unbelievable. I've gone to trainings and testified in Olympia. It gets easier the longer I do this and the more I learn."

Isaac's connections as a vendor paid off three years ago when one of his Ballard customers let him live in his RV for \$10 a day. After nearly a year of collecting rent, the RV owner moved out of state and gifted the vehicle to Isaac. He has made Ballard his home ever since. This is *Real Change* magic at it's best. People connecting as people, reaching beyond themselves, creating random acts of kindness. Help us celebrate Isaac Chapiro at our Annual Event on Oct. 25th. Details on page 7.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Budget Shouldn't Nudge Aside Human Needs

Issue: The process to develop the City of Seattle budget for 2007-08 is underway. In September, the Mayor proposed his budget to the City Council. Now the Council is in the process of listening to public input, and by Thanksgiving, they will pass a final budget. Unlike in previous years, there is enough revenue available that the city can make progress on moving forward the effort to end homelessness and meet human needs. There are other pressures on councilmembers, though. At the first public hearing, many people turned out to request that the Council prioritize funding more police officers and revitalizing our city parks. Those are important priorities, but certainly no more important than making sure everyone has a safe place to sleep at night. The Council needs to hear from you today, that human needs are an important priority.

Background: A large coalition of human services providers and other advocates spent much of the last spring and summer assessing the human service needs of Seattle residents, including demands for food, shelter, domestic violence prevention, health care, and more. They also reviewed the city's budget projections and found that for 2007, the city has \$73 million more to spend than it did for 2006. The coalition created a set of recommendations for how the city can best use that surplus to help people meet their basic needs.

The group's recommendations include ensuring that there are no cuts to human services, that the city is prepared to deal with likely federal cuts, and that we make the best use of a growing economy to make smart investments in ending homelessness and meeting the needs of low- and moderate-income people in the city.

City Councilmembers are listening to the community. They are tallying up the number of messages they receive asking for more police, better parks, human services, and more. Over the next few weeks, they'll negotiate with each other, and with the mayor, and they are much more likely to prioritize ending homelessness if they hear from their constituents that it should be their priority.

Action: Contact Seattle City Councilmembers today and tell them that human needs should be their top priority for the 2007-08 budget, and that funding the Seattle Human Services Coalition's recommendations is the best way to demonstrate that. You can contact each city councilmember individually using the information below, or you can visit www.socialjusticenow.org and use the online form to personalize and send a letter to each councilmember.

- Sally Clark: sally.clark@seattle.gov 684-8802
- Jan Drago: jan.drago@seattle.gov 684-8801
- Nick Licata: nick.licata@seattle.gov 684-8803
- Peter Steinbrueck: peter.steinbrueck@seattle.gov 684-8804
- Richard McIver: richard.mciver@seattle.gov 684-8800
- David Della: david.della@seattle.gov 684-8806
- Jean Godden: jean.godden@seattle.gov 684-8807
- Richard Conlin: richard.conlin@seattle.gov 684-8805
- Tom Rasmussen: tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov 684-8808

You can also attend the second of two public hearings on Mon., Oct. 30, and make your voice heard in person. The hearing begins at 5:30 at Seattle City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave. between James and Cherry. You can sign up beginning at 5 p.m.

RAINIER, Continued from Page 1

But Rick Hooper of the Office of Housing said the city will work to ensure that some condos are affordable and provide funding to nonprofits to build reasonable rentals. The gasps and jeers began when Hooper defined "affordable": rentals aimed at people making \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year, and first-time homebuyers making \$40,000 to \$70,000.

At the end of the presentation, when a city-paid facilitator called for breaking into small discussion groups, the audience refused, then took a vote, with a third opting to join a small group downstairs and two-thirds staying in the center's theater.

One of them was Kwan Fong, a laundromat and property owner whose daughter interpreted Chinese for him. He questioned why more actual property owners weren't represented at the meeting. Others claimed that the 9,000 meeting notices the city sent out looked like junk mail.

"As soon as our investments are worth something," business owner Rod Tim said, "we're going to be thrown out

for some gigantic developer who never lived down here."

That, said Michael Bindas, an attorney with the Institute for Justice, is what's wrong with the city's plan: It can't preserve diversity and affordable housing by taking away the homes and businesses of Rainier Valley's diverse, working-class community for private development.

"I know about your promises — they're empty, and I'm tired of empty promises."

— Fai Mathews, Rainier Beach resident

"You guys are so busy concerned [being] about these damn Safeways and these other businesses, what about children in this area?" Mathews asked. "What about the jobs you guys promised from Sound Transit?"

"I know about your promises — they're empty, and I'm tired of empty promises." ■

[Event]

A new group called MCOM (Many Cultures, One Message) has formed to oppose the use of eminent domain in Rainier Valley. It plans to urge that the city cut funding for exploring the idea at a City Council budget hearing set for Mon., Oct. 30, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave., Seattle.

SMILE, Continued from Page 1

Tour drivers gave Jonas a duckbeak-caller, and they drive by to shout "Hi" and point out "the Seattle Smile Guy."

A spate of copycat smile-signers have spread the request around downtown in homage to the success of his idea.

"He works eight-hour days just like all of us, and he doesn't have a [cardboard] cutpiece, he's out there entertaining people," says a young woman who works nearby. Her coworker estimates his smile success rate at 90 percent — he puts it at 99.5 percent.

How? An improvisation of compliments and jokes makes up his "tireless, never-ending" patter, and operations are donations only. "It's the toughest, most rewarding job I've ever had. It's not about me, it's a way to do something for everyone else out there."

Jonas calls his work his "anti-depressant." An epileptic with Parkinson's, he moved to Seattle in 1991 with a wife and kids for a job, then became addicted to heroin; now he's hooked on smiling. "I've lost it all: kids in foster care, wife remarried. I got no means, nothing, but I got tired of flying a sign saying I'm broke, I'm hungry." No chin-dragging on the ground for me.

This attitude helps Jonas let his message of peace — what he calls

the "most natural thing in the world" — reach thousands of passersby daily. "There's so much negativity in the world already right now — I pray every day. I don't go to church, I pray all day long, and Creator is with me always."

A last word from the Sultan of Smile: "Go on, take a smile home with you, maybe you'll find it when you wake up, or pass it on, but somebody's going to need that smile later." ■

Send a smile back to the SW corner of 1st and Marion in downtown Seattle—Jonas' birthday is Nov. 22.

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721 Pine Street
Seattle, Washington



All proceeds from this event go to support LIHI's Resident Services programs and the Urban Rest Stop visit www.lihi.org for more information

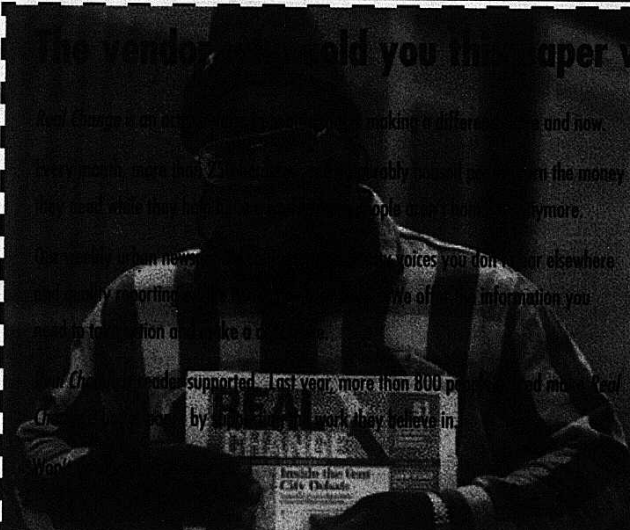
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