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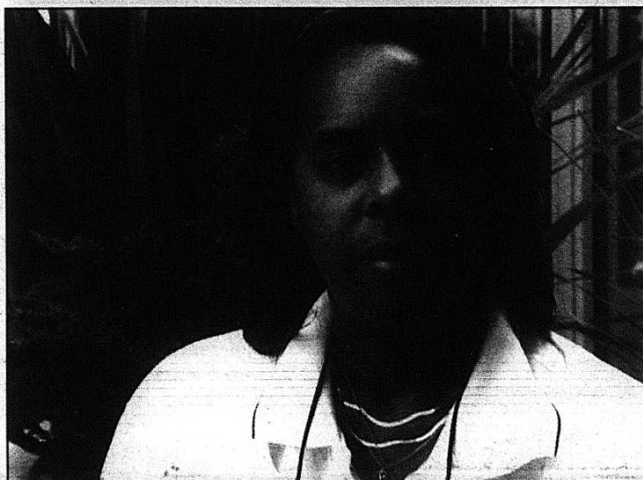
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NOV. 29 - DEC. 5, 2006

REAL CHANGE

ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT



VERLENE JONES IS HEAD OF THE UNION CITIES PROGRAM OF THE KING COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO, AND ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE OF COLOR HOLDING PROMINENT ROLES IN ORGANIZED LABOR. "RAY CHARLES COULD SEE THAT THERE'S NO DIVERSITY IN THE LEADERSHIP," SHE SAYS. PHOTO BY GINNY BANKS

White Wall

Labor's future depends on leaders of color, say organizers

By KEVIN HIMEDA
Contributing Writer

Over the past 50 years, labor unions have experienced a steady decline in membership, and the dearth of people of color in leadership positions may be an important cause, say some union organizers.

"Historically, unions were structured for white males," Sergio Salinas says, president of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 6. "However, a lot of traditionally white male jobs, such as those in manufacturing, are moving away to other countries, and our economy is changing to one of service and finance, where we have mostly minority groups."

Union membership grew rapidly after World War II, peaking in 1954 at 35 percent of the work force. Since then, however, union density has dropped. By the 1980s, unions represented only 20 percent of the workforce, and by 2005, less than 10 percent of workers were unionized.

Meanwhile, ethnic diversity has steadily increased in unions, with white membership dropping to 19 percent in 1983 and just 12.2 percent by 2005, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. With Black and Hispanic member-

ship also dropping, the reason for this seems to be the large influx of Asian and other immigrants into the workforce.

Due to union leadership being composed predominantly of white males, some believe the lack of leadership diversity is one of the root causes for the decline in unions.

See UNION, Continued on Page 12

That Sucking Sound

Big stores slurp up business of other retailers, says author

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

Author Stacy Mitchell has some advice for the Seattle City Council as it contemplates raising building heights to allow two big-box stores — a Target and a Lowe's — to go in just south of downtown: Don't do it.

Big boxes and mega-malls don't add business and jobs, Mitchell says; they merely steal from local retailers that they put out of business.

In the case of a 10-acre "lifestyle mall" planned at the site of a Goodwill on South Dearborn St., Seattle activists told the City Council this week at a public hearing that it could kill dozens of Vietnamese-owned shops and markets in nearby Little Saigon.

Mitchell is the author of *Big-Box Swindle* (Beacon Press), which she is scheduled to read from on Dec. 5 in Seattle. After researching the subject for the 32-year-old Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Mitchell details the negative economic, social and environmental impact of big boxes,

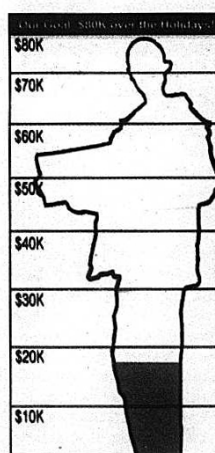
See STORES, Continued on Page 5

[It Takes a Community]

Thanks to our readers we enjoyed another solid week of responses to our fund drive, bringing us \$4,157 closer to our goal. Since November 1, supporters have come through with a total of \$17,321 toward our \$80,000 year-end goal. Thank you again to everyone who has helped so far.

We're nearly at the halfway point of our fund drive and need your help this week to stay on track. *Real Change* does a whole lot with very little. More than 250 vendors each month are able to help themselves out of homelessness by selling 11,000 or more copies of *Real Change* each week. Our award-winning journalism helps keep you informed on the issues you care about. And our effective advocacy engages people like you to take action on the issues they care about. All of this happens on a budget of a bit more than \$500,000 a year.

Please become a *Real Change* supporter today. Please visit our website at realchangenews.org or use the coupon on page 12 to make your gift now.



GREED WHACKER

What did voters do this past election? They said, 'Out with self-interested pols. Give us officials who serve the public good.'

PAGE 2

NO NEWS IS BAD NEWS

When Davina Garrison — a homeless Navajo woman — was murdered last year, police had no suspects. They still don't.

PAGE 3

CALL AND RESPONSE

The Black Leadership Council on HIV wants to start talking about AIDS in the African-American community. Now. Before things get worse.

PAGE 4

DEAR DIARIES

Three Americans went to Darfur to chronicle the stories of people caught in the midst of genocide. Here are their stories.

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Kicking out the Greedheads

Washington voters sent a clear message that the public good comes first

By JOHN BURBANK
Economic Opportunity Institute

In the halls of Olympia, you always hear Democrats worrying themselves about voting for taxes. This initiative should calm their fears. The people know that a tax on multimillion-dollar estates makes a lot more sense than a cut in education.

Was that a blue tide that came across our state in early November?

It might be interpreted as a partisan blowout, but that discounts the fact that the winners, the Democrats, could not have won without the votes of independent and Republican voters. So while the Democrats gained huge majorities in our state House and state Senate, they did so because of the votes of hundreds of thousands of Republicans and independents.

It might be more accurate to describe the last election as a watershed in which the voters rejected the politics of individual greed. They rejected the post-Iraq-invasion divisiveness fostered by Karl Rove and embraced the post-9/11 patriotism and solidarity that brought us all together after the devastation of that horrible day.

At the top of the ballot were two bellwether initiatives that provided a stark choice between individual greed and public good. Initiative 933 would have enabled a select few property owners to get paid off to abide by land-use regulations. The voters saw through that one, defeating I-933 by a decisive margin.

Then the voters considered Initiative 920. This initiative, if passed, would have defunded the education trust fund by repealing the estate tax, which is a tax on estates valued at more than \$2 million. Only about 200 estates a year are affected, out of 45,000.

The estate tax takes a small percentage of these multimillion-dollar estates and directs it into the education trust fund, which in turn funds

K-12 education, especially class-size reduction, as well as scholarships in our community colleges and state universities and colleges.

The people didn't like this initiative. It was defeated with a "no" vote exceeding 61 percent. This was not a vote dominated by King County voters. Initiative 920 lost in 36 out of 39 counties. More than two out of three voters rejected Initiative 920 in Whitman County (Pullman), Grays Harbor County and Jefferson County (Port Townsend).

This was a stunning defeat, especially after Americans have been inundated with spin about the "death" tax for 30 years. Voters in our state saw through the spin and decided to keep the estate tax. They endorsed the leadership of Speaker Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown (D-Spokane), House Appropriations Chair Helen Sommers (D-Seattle), House Finance Chair Jim McIntire (D-Seattle), Sen. Erik Paulsen (D-Seattle), and Gov. Chris Gregoire, who together designed and promoted this tax. The Legislature voted for this tax, and the people backed it up.

In fact, not one legislator who voted for this tax was defeated at the polls, while seven incumbents from all over the state who voted against this tax won't be going back to Olympia. Brad Benson, (R-Spokane), Luke Esser (R-Bellevue), Dave Schmidt (R-Mill Creek), Jim Buck (R-Joyce), Toby Nixon (R-Kirkland), John Serben (R-Spokane), and Beverly Woods (R-Kingston), all lost their constituents' vote of confidence.

So let's be clear about this: The people voted to keep a tax that the Legislature put on the books. And why?

Because this tax was a perfect example of funding the greater good through a tax on the already privileged wealthy. In a world in which the wealthy are getting more so, while middle-class families are furiously treading water just to keep even, the estate tax injects some small equity into the equation.

We have a lot more fairness, security and opportunity that needs to be promoted in our state, ranging from health coverage to pension coverage to education. That's going to take some new revenue. But in the halls of Olympia, you always hear Democrats worrying themselves about voting for taxes. This initiative should calm their fears.

The people know that you have to have taxes to fund public services, and that a tax on multimillion-dollar estates makes a lot more sense than a cut in education. It is a good model for future investments in our children. It has now been signed, sealed and delivered by the people.

So let's go down this road together for the greater good, for fairness and equity. After all is said and done, fairness and equity are at the heart of American values. That's what the voters said last week. ■

Those who may know potential informants are "concerned about how the information will be used and what impact it might have if they're... heard

John Burbank is founder and executive director of the Economic Opportunity Institute, a nonpartisan, non-profit think tank focused on the economic security of middle-class families and low-income workers. More information is available at www.eoionline.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

El Quetzal Project for Sustainable Community Development, a nonprofit organization operated entirely by volunteers, imports items such as clothing, handbags and jewelry from Guatemala. These goods are then sold at local fairs and events including Seattle's Folklife Festival, where they are a top seller. But El Quetzal's work goes beyond promotion and sales.

"It's a community to community project," explains Linda Daniels, board president. "We want to understand the needs of the people we work with and engage in real relationships."

El Quetzal partners with seven community-based craft groups to market their products to ensure a living wage. Over 400 individual artisans are engaged in this effort. They work from their homes while raising their children, sustaining traditional family life. Net profits are returned to the groups and invested in self-selected projects like adult literacy classes, vocational enhancement opportunities, and health care.

El Quetzal takes part in two Sunday holiday craft fairs: Dec. 3 at Seattle First Baptist Church from 12 to 2 p.m., and Dec. 10 at Plymouth Congregational from 9:30 to 10:50 a.m. and 12 to 1:30 p.m.

—Amy Besunder



Trade wins: LINDA DANIELS brings a worker-run co-op's crafts to Seattle. Photo by SHERRY LOESER

Cold Case

Nothing new in murder investigation of homeless woman

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

From the day Davina Garrison got off the Greyhound bus in Seattle to the day she was found dead under the viaduct in Pioneer Square, only a year passed.

In that year, Garrison, a 42-year-old Navajo woman from the mountains of New Mexico, would lose two boyfriends to the law and end up alone on the streets — a deadly combination, friends say, for a woman with a drinking problem and money in her pocket.

The day before Thanksgiving last year, Garrison went to the Chief Seattle Club to pick up \$100 she had asked staff to hold for her. The next day, firefighters found her body in the remains of what at first looked like an accidental fire at her camp along Alaskan Way near King Street. The Medical Examiner later concluded Garrison had been bludgeoned to death.

One year later, Seattle police say the case remains open, but leads — including reports that Garrison brought a Hispanic male to the Chief Seattle Club and was seen with two white males the day she died — have grown cold. Friends say it's likely that Garrison went off with a stranger or acquaintance to have a drink and that person or another killed her, ending a life that, even in destitution, brought laughter and joy to others.

"Davina was fairly quiet, as many Navajos are," Phil Falcon later told *Public Affairs in Focus*,

a public-access TV program affiliated with *Real Change*. But, "She was a bubbly girl [who would] kick in, help you any time, watch your back, hold your beer — a very good person."

Falcon knew Garrison from working the front desk at the Chief Seattle Club. So did the club's cook, Richard Watanabe, and his wife, Bonita Aguilar, a volunteer at the day center. *Public Affairs* interviewed all three about Garrison's murder.

"I believe that some person or persons, unknown decided that they needed more rock cocaine or something and smacked her in the head," Falcon said. "Then it wasn't enough and they had to dispose of the evidence and they set her on fire."

M.J. Kiser, women's shelter manager at Pioneer Square's Compass Center, says it's difficult for police to investigate violence against homeless people, particularly if the perpetrators are homeless.

Shelter or service providers who may know potential informants are "concerned about how the information will be used and what impact it might have if they're homeless [and] they're... heard to be a snitch," Kiser says.

The worry is they'll end up like Garrison. But her friends say she wouldn't have been killed if she hadn't ended up alone on the street.

Aguilar said she met Garrison the day Garrison arrived in Seattle with her boyfriend. As soon as they stepped off the bus, police arrested the boyfriend on a warrant, leaving Aguilar, who was homeless at the time, to look after Garrison.

She told her about the Chief Seattle Club and its services for Native Americans. The two volunteered at in the club's kitchen, where Garrison met Eddie Adams, another volunteer. They became inseparable, Aguilar said, but then Adams got in trouble and went to jail for 90 days, leaving Davina with no protection.

"She tried hard to be out there on the street," Aguilar said. But, "She didn't know the street life of downtown Seattle." ■

Special thanks to *SCAN-TV* for providing a copy of *Public Affairs in Focus*.

Just Heard...

AETA sics PETA

Friday the 13th may get all the bad press, but for animal rights activists, Monday, Nov. 13th proved a pretty depressing day, with the House of Representative's passage of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA).

An amendment to 1992's Animal Enterprise Protection Act, the newly passed bill ups the ante on the jail terms and fines for individuals who cause an economic disruption — meaning losses or increased costs of \$10,000 — to befall an animal enterprise. That term covers businesses that run the gamut from animal shelters to zoos, furriers to rodeos. Animal activists fear the bill will curtail their First Amendment rights.

House passage of AETA — the result of a voice vote of only six Reps, where all but one voted against — comes on the heels of the Senate's passage of a similar bill last September.

Turning both bills into law only requires one more step: the signature of Pres. Bush. ("Captive Audience," Oct. 12).

—Rosette Royale

Council manic

An investigation of allegations of racism in the city's Legislative Department is getting some follow-through. According to a workplan that Council President Nick Licata is expected to sign Nov. 30, staff managers will be required to attend communications trainings, staff will have the chance to attend career workshops, and social events will re-emphasize the 77-person department's community atmosphere.

The managers' mandatory training is borrowed chiefly from Seattle Public Utilities and the city's Department of Transportation — "departments that have already done some of this work," says legislative department administrative services director Denise Williams. "We're not necessarily trying to recreate the wheel."

—Adam Hyla

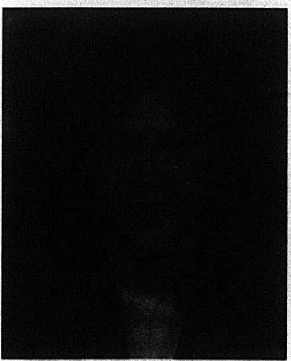
Pot and the fine print

When Washington resident Sharon Lee Tracy traveled to California, she probably didn't think twice about purchasing marijuana to treat her chronic pain after being authorized by a California-licensed doctor.

Little did she know that under Washington's Medical Marijuana Act, only Washington-licensed doctors are qualified to prescribe marijuana to patients, and her conviction by an earlier court ruling was upheld last Wednesday by the Washington State Supreme Court.

According to the Tracy's defense, the intent of the voters who passed Initiative 692 in 1998 was to protect sick people from prosecution whenever they're smoking pot for medical reasons. "What we'd like to see is if you live in California, you can move up to Washington and still take your medication even though it's been authorized by a California doctor," said the ACLU of Washington's Jennifer Shaw, who says her organization will take that objective to the state legislature.

—Kevin Himeda

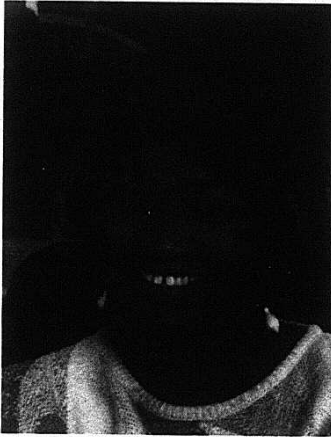


Giving Voice to a Silent Epidemic

The Black Leadership Council on HIV plans to talk about AIDS

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Reporter

Madeline Brooks, a member of the Black Leadership Council on HIV, tells her story of becoming positive to enlighten others of the need for protection. Photo by Rosette Royale



The day after Madeline Brooks tested positive for HIV, she hid a hammer and a butcher knife in the bedroom. The hammer, she says, was to hit the man she'd gotten back together with, the man who she knew had passed on HIV to her, upside his head. And the butcher knife? "I was going to cut off his penis," she recalls.

When he entered the bedroom, Brooks informed him of her status. She urged him to get tested. He replied he wouldn't. "I'm gonna die of something," she says he told her. "Why not AIDS? And I'm gonna take everyone I can with me."

One or two silent seconds passed before she asked him to repeat himself. He did. And instead of her newfound rage and confusion solidifying into violence, Brooks says his

reiterated anomie focused her on the more joyous aspects of her life: her faith in God, her children.

So, without saying another word, she removed the weapons from their hiding places, leaving the man who, at one time, had been her husband and was father to three of her children, right where he stood. She knew she didn't have the heart to do what she'd intended. She knew she had to put her heart into more affirming measures.

That was on Groundhog's Day, 1992. (Her ex-husband died of complications from AIDS in 1994.) These days, the 48-year old Brooks has made a commitment to help others learn more about HIV, so they don't find themselves surprised by news of a test result. In this crusade, Brooks finds no use for a hammer or knife. Instead, she's hit upon a more effective tool: her ability to relate her life's journey. "I feel like my story can help somebody," says Brooks.

Along with speaking at public schools throughout the region and driving an HIV-mobile testing unit for People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN), Brooks now finds herself sitting on the steering committee of the year old Black Leadership Council on HIV (BLC). She says she's a part of the 40-plus-member BLC because she thinks the organization, a community coalition supported by Public Health

for Seattle & King County, has what it takes to speak to Black people. "I want to reach the women, children, and people who don't want to know [about HIV]," Brooks says.

BLC interim director Quinten Welch says the coalition was started to confront the HIV epidemic in the local Black community. He says the BLC, through meetings and outreach, hears what people say will help to increase their communal knowledge of HIV and transforms that information into a list of priorities. Thus far, he says, the BLC has heard suggestions ranging from putting together a weekly newsletter and maintaining a listserv, to hosting town forums and creating programs for Black youth. "We want the community to tell us what they need," says Welch.

What's needed, a growing number of national Black leaders insist, is an all-out assault to address the impact of AIDS in the Black community. Their sentiments are borne out in some sobering statistics. Since 2001, Black people have constituted more than 50 percent of all newly reported national HIV infections, yet make up only 12 percent of the country's population.

Since 2001, Black people have constituted more than 50 percent of all newly reported national HIV infections, yet make up only 12 percent of the country's population.

See BLC, Continued on next page

Short Takes

Braam refusal

Getting the state to enact foster-care improvements mandated by the 2004 Braam settlement is turning into quite a challenge.

Though the Children's Administration has addressed many issues raised by the lawsuit, brought by Jessica Braam, who had been shuffled through 34 foster homes while in the state's custody, the state has just informed the Braam Oversight Panel that it cannot comply with two of the settlement's most important stipulations: reducing caseloads and making monthly visits to children.

On Nov. 6, the Braam panel, which was created to monitor implementation of the settlement, wrote a letter to Cheryl Stephani, assistant secretary of the Children's Administration, reminding her that, on Sept. 5, it had found the department out of compliance on those action steps and one other: giving foster parents time off.

"The Panel is extremely concerned about implementation of these action steps, which has already been significantly delayed," panel Chair John Lansverk wrote. "In particular, action steps related to caseload size and monthly visits represent safety issues that are at the very core of the Braam Settlement."

In its reply this week, Braam attorney Casey Trupin says, the state said it would change its parent respite policies, but could do nothing about caseloads and monthly visits. While Trupin could take the state back to court, he says he may wait to see if the 2007 Legislature, which opens in January, provides more funding to address the issues.

People's vote

Chalk one up for the Resident Action Council: At a meeting on Nov. 14, the council, which represents the interests of Seattle Housing Authority residents, voted in new bylaws that reclaim the Yesler Terrace garden community.

RAC originally represented all of SHA's tenants, including those at high-rise buildings, scattered sites, and complexes such as Yesler Terrace. But several years ago, during a hiatus of the resident council, RAC secretary Jim Bush says the council's former president, Sybil Bailey, worked with an SHA staff member to rewrite the documents. The result was a more limited role for the resident council in bylaws that Bush says no housing authority tenants ever voted on.

The bylaws passed Nov. 14 restore the council's right to represent Yesler Terrace, which the city is currently considering redeveloping as a mixed-income complex similar to Holly Park, Rainier Vista, or High Point.

Whether or not RAC will represent tenants of the redeveloped complexes remains to be seen. The next step, says Lynn Sereda, the council's vice president, is to send a formal letter to the housing authority requesting status as a jurisdictional council.

—Cydney Gillis

Hope to prevent

In a fresh campaign called HIV Outreach and Prevention Education (HOPE), a peer support program composed of HIV-positive women will seek to build awareness on the battlefields of public speaking and community forums.

Scheduled for Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, HOPE's outreach staff will speak at three area high schools

and UW's World AIDS Day Resource Fair.

HOPE is an ongoing project of BABES Network, an organization of women living with the virus that causes AIDS that gets its members talking to at-risk women about taking steps to prevent contracting the disease. Operating since 1989, BABES became part of the YWCA of Seattle - King County - Snohomish County last year. HOPE speakers will be invited to address students and faculty at local high schools.

To schedule a speaker, please contact Kelly Hill at (206) 720-5566 ext. 11. BABES is currently recruiting HIV-positive men and women of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the HOPE project.

—Kevin Himeda

Civil limits

Advocates for the disabled say Washington's civil rights law sustained significant damage this summer, when the state Supreme Court adopted a different definition of who qualifies for protection from job discrimination because of physical or mental impairment. And the effects are being felt.

A Nov. 16 town hall meeting in SeaTac was a testament to how the ruling, which removed a variety of maladies from diabetes to cancer from the list of conditions covered by state anti-discrimination law. Now, says Mark Brenman of the Washington State Human Rights Commission, which organized the hearing, the state law must be interpreted more like the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The previous definition was much broader, it included a lot of temporary disabilities, ameliorated

or mitigated disabilities," says Brenman. For example, someone with epilepsy: after the ruling, "that person is no longer disabled so long as they take their medication. Same thing as the person with a mental problem, or diabetes."

The result, he says, is that a lot of people with complaints of on-the-job mistreatment or housing discrimination won't be heard. Typically, he says, the commission investigates 1,000 cases a year. Now, "We're turning back a good third to a half of the disability allegations we're receiving, because under this new, tighter definition of disability they no longer meet the definition."

The decision, known as McClarty vs. Totem Electric, says only conditions that could not be fixed with medication or other remedies should be considered disabilities. For example, post-traumatic stress disorder, since it can be medicated, is no longer a disability; blindness, since it can't be medicated, remains so.

Disability rights groups have asked the court to rethink its decision. And Betty Schweiterman, the director of system advocacy for the Washington Protection and Advocacy System, says the Supreme Court's ruling was akin to "legislating from the bench." She says the matter will probably come up in the 2007 legislative session.

"People's livelihoods are at stake," she says. "They are one day figuring out how to work and have a disability, and the next day they're out of a job and figuring out how to make ends meet."

—Adam Hyla

BLC, Continued from previous page

Locally, the numbers are no less stark. While Black people constitute only 6 percent of King County's population, they account for 15 percent of the HIV-positive people living here. And the Black population in King County is 4.5 times more likely to become HIV-positive than its white counterpart.

Since coming out about her status, she says she's encountered stigma — friends who stopped calling, church members who would no longer look her in the eye — but she won't let that stop her from speaking out. Belonging to the BLC provides more opportunities to tell her story, to alert people that knowledge of your HIV status protects yourself and the community.

"I hope that people will wake up and realize if we don't stop the stigma and scrutiny of people who are HIV-positive," says Brooks, "then we will all die from it." ■

[Event]

World AIDS Day is Dec. 1, and People of Color Against AIDS Network is holding a memorial and reflection for those who have been affected by AIDS. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at 2200 Rainier Ave. S. RSVP required; call Autry Bell at (206)322-7061, or email autry@pocaan.org.

STORES, Continued from Page 1

along with case studies of local communities that succeeded in repelling supersize developments.

One way is to pass city ordinances capping store sizes, which Mitchell points out Port Townsend did to limit the size of a Hollywood Video on its main street. Another way is to put pressure on developers: In Portland, OR, activists succeeded in getting a Home Depot cut out of a development that was all but a done deal.

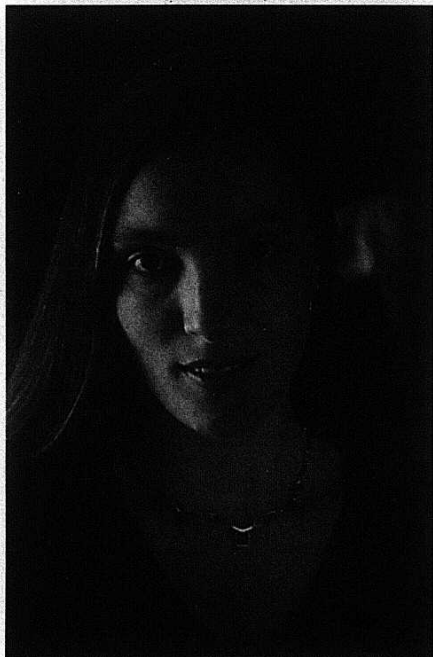
Some states are also considering outlawing the huge tax subsidies that municipalities give big boxes in the mistaken impression, Mitchell says, that the stores will boost tax revenue and jobs. Not only don't they— more local retail jobs are lost, she says — but the public pays for mall sewer lines, roads, and freeway exchanges that promote more driving and pollution.

"When you add up all the costs, you're lucky if you end up in the plus column," Mitchell said in a phone interview, "and you're "not very much in the plus column,"

In total dollars, Wal-Mart tops the list in getting hundreds of millions in tax breaks to add stores. But Wal-Mart isn't alone: Mitchell cites examples of Target, Home Depot, Lowe's, and Issaquah-based Costco reaping anywhere from \$1 million to \$10 million in public subsidies for new stores.

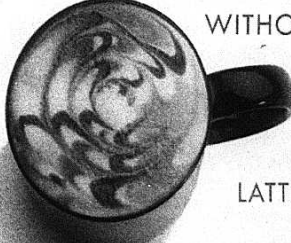
City officials often say the stores represent progress and growth, but the author counters that U.S. retail growth has far outpaced consumer spending, pushing the number of square feet of retail up from 19 feet in 1990 to 38 feet per person today.

But, "Building a Target store isn't going to get people to buy more gal-



See STORES,
Continued on Page 12


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Inside a 21st-Century Genocide

Filmmaker and author Jen Marlowe sneaked into Sudan to cover the human cost of war in Darfur

By ROBIN LINDLEY
Contributing Writer

"The situation is bleak. People are attacked and killed every day. More refugees flee to Chad, but the border area is unstable with increased fighting. I wouldn't be surprised if the [Sudanese] government is preventing refugees from fleeing because, if they're in Darfur, the government can prevent media access to them."

Injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere.
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

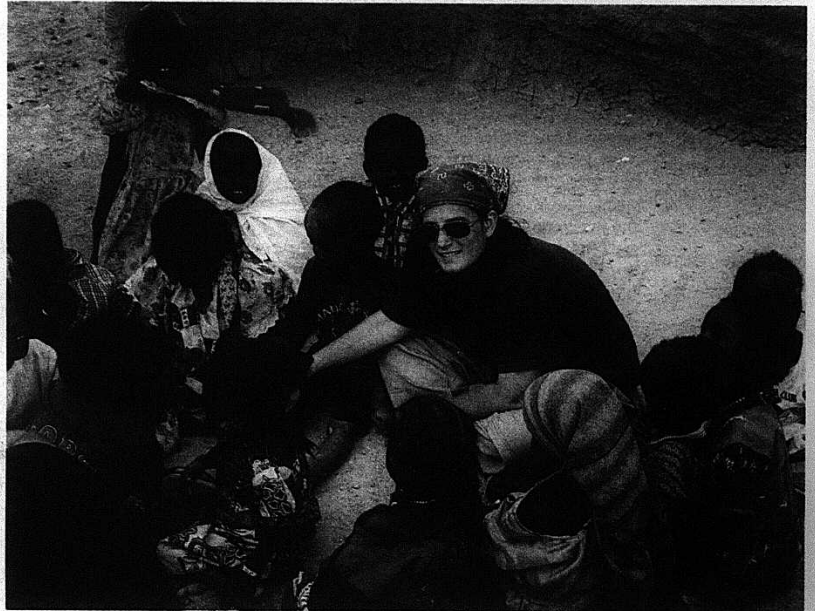
"Never again," world leaders promised after genocide left 800,000 dead in Rwanda in 1994. But the world has failed to stop genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. More than 200,000 people — and perhaps as many as 400,000 — have died, and over two million have been displaced since early 2003 when fighting began between Darfuran rebels and Sudanese-backed Arab militias — the *janjaweed*.

The U.S. Congress declared the Darfur conflict a "genocide" in 2004, but the violence has not abated. Instead, the destruction and killing escalated recently with a massive offensive by government-backed forces against civilians. And the fighting has spilled into neighboring Chad, the temporary home of thousands of Darfuran refugees. Imperiled aid workers are leaving the area, and survivors are increasingly vulnerable.

On Nov. 14, *The New York Times* reported on recent attacks in eastern Chad by the marauding *janjaweed* forces leaving hundreds dead. The fighting is marked by horrific atrocities: two women burnt alive in a hut, a young man blinded with bayonets. A few days later, the UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs told the *Times*, "The government and its militias are conducting inexplicable terror against civilians. The government is arming Arab militias more than ever before."

The UN Security Council voted in August to send 20,000 peacekeepers to replace a modest, poorly-equipped African Union force — but Sudan rejected the plan. On Nov. 10, Louise Arbour, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, urged Sudan to disarm government-backed militias.

To give voice to the civilian survi-



vors of genocide in Darfur, Jen Marlowe and two other independent American filmmakers, Aisha Bain and Adam Shapiro, traveled to eastern Chad, then surreptitiously entered Darfur and filmed behind rebel lines in October 2004. They interviewed survivors of horrible atrocities, survivors with strength and a desire to return to their homes in peace.

The result of their journey is the acclaimed documentary *Darfur Diaries: Message from Home*, and the companion book, *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival*. Marlowe recently talked about Darfur and the people she met on her 2004 journey.

Real Change: How did you get into Chad and Darfur?

Jen Marlowe: Chad wasn't difficult. The UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) was wonderful in facilitating our work. But we had to

sneak across the border [into Darfur] to rebel-held areas. We didn't have visas to be in Sudan. And we didn't want to put people at risk who spoke to us [by going] through the Sudanese government.

RC: Can you describe the huge refugee camps in Chad?

Marlowe: It was definitely overwhelming, almost surreal. Iridemi camp, outside Iriba, Chad, is [in] a desert wasteland with a constant haze of dust and sand, and we saw this stretch of tents that seemed to go on forever. This camp was huge and all-engulfing.

RC: You talked with people about the most traumatic experiences of their lives, yet they seemed very open. How did you approach the subjects of the film?

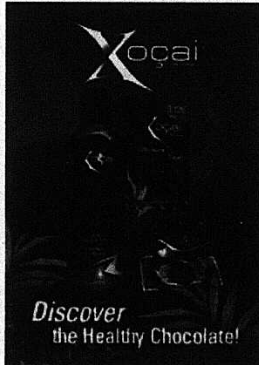
Marlowe: The people were very open, and wanted their stories to be told. We filmed when people granted us permission. Inevitably, we got the support of the community leaders, who introduced us to others in the community. In the refugee camps, we worked within schools. We'd talk to the principal, then the teachers, then some of the students, then teachers would take us home and we'd meet their families.

The refugees of Darfur started their own schools before the UN was able to establish education. It was such a priority for them; they couldn't wait for the UN.

Inside Darfur, we'd go to a village, meet with a member of the community in authority, and that person introduced us to [other] members of the community. So we'd use the network of community leadership that was still intact.

Jen Marlowe, center, traveled to the troubled Darfur region to interview survivors of the tribal violence plaguing the Darfur region of Sudan in northern Africa, where relief organizations are pulling back and rebels and government-backed militia are clashing anew.

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Continued from Previous Page

RC: What evidence of war crimes did you see in Darfur?

Marlowe: The evidence we encountered in abundance was the testimony of the people. We were also in villages, including one where an Antonov [Soviet-built bomber used by Sudanese air force] flew over and did not bomb. The terror with which people responded was very strong evidence of how traumatized these people were by these planes. And then there was evidence all over of massive and systematic destruction of human life. It was completely scorched-earth wherever we were. We saw village after village destroyed, completely burned to the ground. Whatever remaining possessions in a house were completely smashed, scorched. We saw remnants of shrapnel and bomb fragments all over. We saw bomb craters. Bombing of civilians is an undeniable war crime, and there was plenty of evidence of that.

RC: You showed bombed schools, hospitals, and other civilian facilities.

Marlowe: That seems an intentional part of the policy. Schools and teachers [and] community leaders were targeted. Targeting of education seemed specific. Educated people are a threat because they know their rights. It's not new to see education under attack by a government that rules by brute force.

RC: The press describes the conflict in racial or ethnic terms, but your work suggests a struggle in Darfur for equal rights against an oppressive government.

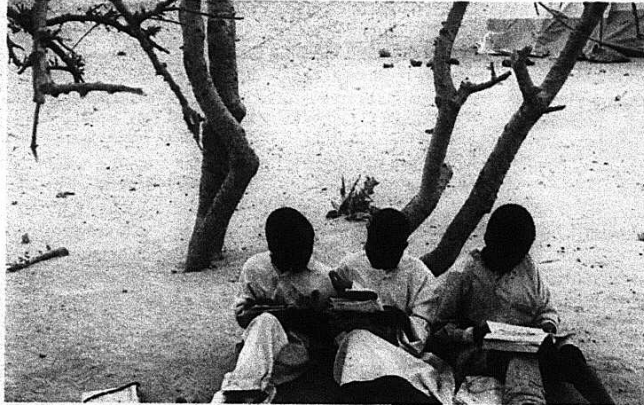
Marlowe: It's been characterized as a tribal or ethnic civil war, Arab versus African. On many levels that's not true. Ethnicity is extremely complex and fluid. Who's Arab and who's African? How do you tell? Sudan is in Africa. Darfur is all Muslim. You can't use skin color as a determinant: everyone is equally dark in Darfur, whether so-called Arabs or Africans.

If I had to boil it down, this is a government campaign against its own civilians for political reasons. There's an ethnic component and a tribal component but it's very much the government manipulating ethnic tensions,

throwing oil on the fire for its own political agenda.

The government comes from two or three elite, privileged tribes in the north, near Khartoum, and most of the rest of the country does not feel represented regardless of tribe. When the people in Darfur rebelled to gain equal rights and equal citizenship, the government responded brutally to send a message to the rest of the country.

RC: Can you talk about the 7,000 African Union troops in Darfur?



DARFURIAN BOYS DO THEIR HOMEWORK IN A CHAD CAMP. MARLOWE SAYS REFUGEES SET UP SCHOOLS SOON AFTER THEY FLED SUDAN. BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY JEN MARLOWE

Marlowe: They've not been as effective as hoped. And their mandate doesn't include protection of civilians. They only monitor ceasefire violations, and the ceasefire has been in shambles for two years. Some African Union troops have worked valiantly, and no doubt saved some lives, but overall they have not assured the protection of the people of Darfur.

RC: The U.S. has found that the Darfur conflict is genocide, yet has had little influence on the Sudanese government.

Marlowe: Any foreign policy is not dictated by altruism, but by security and economic concerns. In terms of economic concerns, the U.S. was involved in pushing the peace deal that led to the January 2005 [agreement] between the southern liberation movement and the government. The

U.S. was anxious that nothing scuttle that deal, [which permitted international] access to southern Sudan's rich oil fields. The initial analysis was that if pressure was put to Sudan about Darfur, [Sudan] might not cooperate with the peace agreement.

In terms of security, Sudan has information that U.S. intelligence wants. Sudan hosted Osama bin Laden for a long time, and the Sudan intelligence agency has been courted by the CIA. The Sudanese government cooperates

about what's going on. Even beyond Darfur, we need to be more engaged with the world as citizens on all these tough issues. Complexity doesn't excuse not protecting human life.

How to be involved is a personal choice. There's so much work to be done. There's humanitarian work — organizations that are trying to keep people alive and protected and fed and housed and educated. There's media work and political advocacy. Each individual must find what's meaningful, and get engaged in that way.

RC: What are you hearing from Darfur right now?

Marlowe: The situation is bleak. People are attacked and killed every day. More refugees flee to Chad, but the border area is unstable with increased fighting. I wouldn't be surprised if the [Sudanese] government is preventing refugees from fleeing because, if they're in Darfur, the government can prevent media access to them. And there's militias forming in Chad, and Chadian rebels basing themselves in Darfur. The whole area is very unstable now.

RC: You traveled to Darfur at great personal risk. Were you ever hesitant about going?

Marlowe: No. I'm not worried about confronting the darker sides of the world, or hesitant about difficult places. Sometimes in difficult places you find the most extraordinary examples of humanity and resilience. ■

[Listen]

Jen Marlowe reads from the companion book *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival* on Sat., Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. at Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S. Main St. in Pioneer Square.

Robin Lindley (roblindley@yahoo.com) is a Seattle attorney and writer on human rights, international affairs, law, medicine, politics, the media, and culture. He is a former chair of the World Peace through Law section of the Washington State Bar Association.

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Paradise, If You Can Keep It

Where are the stories in *Edens Lost and Found* of the innovations that tend to spring from community?

Edens Lost and Found
By Harry Willard and Dale Bell
Chelsea Green Publishing, 2006
Hardcover, 304 pages, \$32

By JIM DIERS
Contributing Writer

E*dens Lost and Found*, according to its book cover, "shows how citizens are restoring their communities by creating sustainable urban ecosystems, and how working to reshape the land also transforms their relationship to one another."

The book focuses on cities because that is where an ever-growing majority of people interact with the environment. "A city is the ultimate consumer of resources, the ultimate producer of air and water pollution," the authors write, "and the ultimate contributor to climate change."

And yet, the authors argue, density can be good for the environment; increasing numbers of ordinary people are taking extraordinary measures to make cities sustainable. They point to examples in four cities: Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Seattle. Although these cities are very different from one another, all had Eden-like environments that attracted the first European-American settlers. Those Edens were lost to greed, poorly managed growth, and ignorance about environmental consequences. Today, they are gradually being reclaimed through community action.

In Chicago, grassroots initiatives are behind the cleanup of the Chicago River and the restoration of prairies and other natural areas that now account for more than 10 percent of Cook County.

Philadelphia Green has reclaimed more than three million square feet of vacant land over the past six years, converting many of the city's 40,000 blighted lots into beautiful parks and gardens.

In Los Angeles, Tree People has involved community members in greening, cooling, and cleaning this city of concrete by planting and caring for tens of thousands of trees.

The book's chapter on Seattle is the longest, but also the most disappointing. While it highlights Seattle's leadership in constructing green buildings, utilizing biodiesel fuel, and promoting the Kyoto agreement, it falls short in recognizing community initiatives.

Where is the story of how Rainier Valley residents pushed for Seattle's model recycling program 25 years ago as an alternative to the garbage incinerators that the city planned for in that community?

Where are the stories of the innovations that tend to spring from community? In Seattle, communities initiated the first rain recycling project (in the Cascade neighborhood's P-Patch), the first conversion of an asphalt lot into a green park (Ballard's Webster School), the first wetlands restoration (Meadowbrook, in northeast

Seattle), the first reforestation with native plants (West Seattle's College Street Ravine), and the first return of salmon to our streams (Greenwood's Pipers Creek).

In addition to being a source of innovation and a force for change, communities bring valuable resources to the sustainability movement. In Ballard, volunteers planted 1,080 street trees in a single day and went on to build a dozen parks. Seattle's P-Patch Program has involved 6,000 volunteers in building 75 gardens, growing organic produce for food banks, and maintaining wonderful community gathering places.

It's unfortunate that *Edens Lost and Found* doesn't include more initiatives such as these, because community projects are the key to sustainability. When people begin to identify as members of a community, they care for one another and the place they share.

My other criticism of this otherwise excellent book is that there is too little focus on the issue of environmental justice. It sites frequent examples of how environmental projects have made distressed neighborhoods better places to live, but it doesn't address the issue of gentrification. As neighborhoods become more desirable places to live, many of the people who worked so hard to make the improvements are eventually priced out of their homes. Our new Edens must be places for all to enjoy. ■

Jim Diers is the author of *Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way* (University of Washington Press, 2004).

In the Express Lane

10 Items or Less
Directed by Brad Silberling
Opens Fri., Dec. 1

By LESTER GRAY
Arts Editor

In a light pas de deux, the autumn-spring pairing of Morgan Freeman (*Million Dollar Baby*) and Paz Vega (*Spanglish*) brings life and levity to a script that's really more of a sketch, in the most literal sense — a platform on which the actors are granted maximum license in return for little protection by device or diversion.

Freeman, who for the most part plays himself, is a well-known, unnamed movie star. Having turned finicky about available roles, he hasn't appeared in a film for several years. Researching the role of store manager for an under-funded independent film, he finds himself in a low-rent supermarket on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

Much of his attention falls on Scarlet (Vega), who works the 10-items-or-less register. She's a cranky sort, whose estranged husband is conducting an open affair with the floozy running the opposite check stand. Nonetheless, she finds compassion for the pampered actor, a poor-little-rich man.

The film's driver drops Freeman's character off at the location in the morn-

ing but fails to return. Sans entourage, the actor finds himself stranded without a cell phone, money, or his agent.

Feigning a bit of exasperation, Scarlet agrees to drive him back to plushy Brentwood, much farther from her life than miles could ever measure. But first, she informs him that she must stop at a previously arranged appointment: a job interview. In the way of reciprocity, he helps her to prepare with a few tips on boosting her self-esteem.

In the process, the mismatched duo — he a tall, well-heeled, self-assured, aging African American and she a small, comely but diffident and accented immigrant from Spain — deliver a contemporary, humorous Pygmalion. *10 Items or Less* is also about Freeman, a skilled thespian, continually cast in detective and buddy vehicles, taking the opportunity to stretch out a bit. The satire and romance on his palette lie dormant. Rarely do we see him mime like a Jim Carey or seduce like a George Clooney. Frequently cast as sagacious and stolid, he'll be driving Miss Daisy till he dies. Part of this is race, part of it just being a popular mainstream working artist; pigeonholing goes along with success. Actors, musicians, writers — they seldom get to show their full range.

In *10 Items or Less*, Morgan Freeman the executive producer gives Morgan Freeman the actor permission to demonstrate a few chops heretofore rarely displayed. He proves himself capable of irony, vulnerability, comedy, and romance.

It's fun and it's seasonal — if not in topic, in the suspend-your-disbelief, feel-good motif of two people, unlikely to even cross paths, who find and platonically touch each other in an increasingly atomized world. ■

In *10 Items or Less*, Morgan Freeman the executive producer gives Morgan Freeman the actor permission to demonstrate a few chops heretofore rarely displayed.



Morgan Freeman stars in *10 Items or Less*.



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

I've been noticing
a pattern in the
news lately...

OJ and Me in the Lonely Crowd

Ever try to imagine the internal conversations of people who turn up in the news?

Did Michael "Kramer" Richards think to himself, "I'm a great comedic actor, but I'm having trouble getting roles these days. Hey, why don't I try stand-up for a while? That's got to be easy."

Maybe the Pope thought, "I know what will show Muslims I'm cool. I'll go to a predominantly Muslim country and let my people drive me around in the Pope-mobile and show them all how cute and harmless I am. They'll love me for sure!"

I'm not going to try to guess exactly what OJ was thinking when he came up with that book idea of his. I'm afraid that if I ever got myself to think that way, my brain would get stuck in that state and I'd never be able to fake normal again. But I'll guess part of what he was thinking was "Mmm, money."

Let me risk seeming to change the subject entirely. I've been noticing a pattern in the news lately. A lot is coming down to conflicts, real and imagined, between individual and group rights.

Example: Why should we have hate-crime legislation? Doesn't that give rights to groups that individuals can't share in? Why should it be worse to beat up someone because you don't like the group they belong to than to beat the same person up because you just don't like their looks?

Come on, people, that one's simple. The hate-crime beating is worse to the extent that, in addition to the immediate harm done to the immediate victim, other people are also threatened with future violence. Such threats amount to terrorism.

Here's an example where the conflict appears genuine: Recently, in Montreal, the police had a brief internal discussion over whether it might not be good, when engaging with certain extremely patriarchal ethnic communities within that diverse city, to leave the police women in the back seat of the police car, so to speak. Apparently the discussion lasted just long enough for someone to write

a memo about it, and then the decision was: no way that's going to happen. I learned about this from an editorial I found that framed it as a case of women's individual rights vs. a minority group's rights. But is it?

Wasn't the decision really to go with offending the tiny minority groups rather than offending the one huge majority group of women? I'm betting the Montreal Police Department wasn't looking out for any one woman's individual rights.

If I'm wrong about that, then what do we make of the veil controversy in France? Veils are losing out there. Why? Because the majority of French women don't care if they wear veils, that's why.

Getting back to the questions that started this, the news says that the hecklers that Richards spewed racist language toward are interested in receiving monetary compensation. That puts the whole Michael Richards' career-in-flames story in a whole different light, one that swings the focus radically from group to individuals.

Suddenly it becomes an issue not of how racist Richards is, or how offended African Americans everywhere are by the man's language, but how hurt were these two guys in the audience, and how much would it take to make it better. What we have here is a triumph of the individual-right perspective over the group-right perspective. The hecklers are individualizing the common demand for reparations.

I'm warming to the idea slowly. I'm seeing possibilities, as my individual sensibilities are pummeled wherever I go.

Just the other day, a motorist gave me the finger for delaying him while I used a crosswalk. I'm thinking, that could be \$5, right there.

If Benedict XVI sets off World War III by stirring up trouble in Istanbul, I am personally holding him responsible, and I will sue him and the Vatican \$100 for each day I am made miserable by the consequent global conflagration. After all, I can't leave for another planet.

Mmm, money. ■



Sat., Nov. 11, 12:27 p.m., 100 block S. Dearborn Street, Department of Transportation property.

Officers were working on bike patrol at the above address, often referred to as "The Jungle." There is a high incidence of narcotics use, transient camps, litter, and people walking on the freeway, as well as other illicit activities. Officers saw the suspect, a transient white male aged 29, standing on the DOT property with several other individuals. When he saw the officers he began to run. Officers ran after him shouting, "Stop, Police — you're under arrest." Suspect stopped and placed his hands in the air. During a search incident to arrest, suspect informed officers that he had several pipes in his pocket, and two glass crack pipes were recovered. They field-tested positive for cocaine, and suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass.

Sat., Nov. 18, 5:14 a.m., Second Ave., Republic Parking Lot.

An officer on patrol in the area turned into the parking lot, an area known for criminal activity and posted with no-trespassing signs. The officer saw the suspect, a 30-year-old white male transient, in the northeast corner of the garage. The suspect saw the officer; he turned, and started walking back towards the exit. The officer stopped the suspect and asked what he was doing there and suspect replied that "Some Black guy" told him that there was "a bunch of stuff in there" and if he wanted anything he should go get it. The officer saw a black suitcase with stuff strewn about the place. Officer requested identification and a name check revealed a previous trespass admonishment. Suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass.

Sat., Nov. 18, 12:21 p.m., Pine Street / Westlake Park.

Officers received several complaints about a male standing in Westlake Park screaming obscenities. They were able to locate the suspect, a 53-year-old white male transient, and recognized the suspect as a man they have had contact with in the past. Suspect has a history of mental instability and is known to cause disturbances with loud and vocal behavior in public. Upon contact, suspect was yelling that somebody had ripped his jacket. Officers asked if he need police assistance and he replied, "No." As officers were talking to suspect, a man walked up and stated that he was setting up a show at Westlake earlier in the day and had his son with him. He approached the suspect and requested that he stop swearing so loudly in public and the suspect grabbed the complainant's jacket and arm and a struggle ensued. The suspect then released the complainant, who suffered a small cut on his hand. The suspect was arrested and transported to King County Jail and booked for Assault with a referral to the Mental Health Court.

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

The simplest and most effective way to avoid the hassle of shopping without a car is to stop shopping so doggone much.

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

Car-Free Shopping

Ah, the holiday season: the time of year when we gather with family, give thanks for our blessings, and spend as much money as humanly possible. What better time to review my bus-chick-tested shopping tips?

Tip 1: Buy less. The simplest and most effective way to avoid the hassle of shopping without a car is to stop shopping so doggone much. Your decision to try life as a bus chick means you're probably interested in conserving — your money, the world's resources, or both — and spending less time at the mall will surely help you accomplish this.

Tip 2: Use a different kind of highway. If you don't need a particular item immediately, consider ordering it online. If it's a gift that has to be shipped, you save two trips: the first, to the store to buy the gift, and the second to the post office to mail it. In cases where you want to see an item before you buy it (or you don't want to pay shipping costs), you can still use the Internet to research products and prices. That way, when you're ready to buy, you'll only have to make one stop.

Tip 3: Concentrate! The bus-based life is not well-suited to the "running around" that has become the norm in our consumer-oriented, car-centric culture. (And who says that's a bad thing?)

Shop in places that have a wide variety of stores concentrated in a small area, so you can take care of several purchases each time you make a trip. I tend to shop downtown, mostly because it's the concentrated shopping area that is most easily accessible to me. And speaking of downtown...

Tip 4: Shop on your way. The next time you're in the center of our fair city waiting for a transfer, try using that time to take care of business. When I'm downtown and in need of a particular item, I decide how much time I'll need, check the schedule of the bus I'm waiting to catch, and then head to the nearest store that has what I need. If I'm not in the market for anything in particular but the wait between buses is especially long, I'll use the down time "pre-shop" for stuff (greeting cards, vacuum-cleaner bags, printer cartridges — whatever I'm closest to) that I know I'll need in the future.

Tip 5: Be Flexible. Most of the items people regularly shop for can be easily reached and carried home on the bus. (Note: If it's big enough to take up a seat of its own, consider traveling during off-peak times.) For those times when you want to purchase an item that is outside the bus's coverage area or that exceeds your carrying capacity (and the limits of your fellow riders' patience), rent a Flexcar. For all you Craig's Listers and garage salers: They even have pickups. ■

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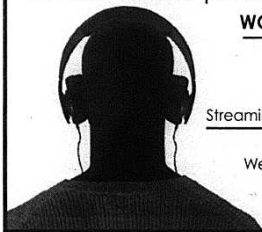


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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Term Limits

Dear *Real Change*,

I hope that you will be able to find time and space for an article on people trying to help women carry their pregnancy to term ("Devotion: Marcy Bloom is on a lifetime quest to destigmatize abortion and give women power over their reproductive health," Nov. 15). Some women find themselves pregnant and think that abortion is the only solution. There are groups out there that help women explore options with information, medical assistance, clothes, and a helping hand.

I would like people to read up on "partial-birth abortion" and decide for themselves: Is it a matter of "smoke and mirrors," or is it an inhuman procedure that literally sucks the brains out of a half-born child so the head can be crushed so that it can be removed from the woman's body? Should this procedure be banned from our country because it goes against our collective consciousness? It goes against a principle that our country stands on, that the right to life is an inalienable right.

Instead of trying to control one's reproductive cycle, embrace it, defend it, protect it. We have the power to help create new human lives. It is an awesome responsibility. Stand up for the rights and duties that we have as women and men in this world. We can start with abstinence, marriage, "natural family planning," and a love for life.

Tim Carney
Seattle

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, *Real Change*, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA, 98121, or emailed to editor@realchangenews.org.

Stealing Blankets

Someone is stealing blankets
From the shoulders
Of the homeless,
Stealing them in the night,
Piling them up in warehouses
For a rainy day.

Someone is stealing blankets
To keep the homeless
On their feet in winter,
And moving on,
Preferably
Somewhere else.

Someone is stealing blankets
From some of the homeless
To sell to the homeless
For a small profit
And smiles
Of gratitude.

Someone is stealing blankets
To cover things up.

-JIM LUTZ



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Project Manager to monitor the YWCA Children Youth & Family services programs contracts and grants and coordinate high-level admin. projects. See www.ywcaworks.org for details and req. exp. Apply hr@ywcaworks.org or P. Hayden, 2820 E. Cherry, Seattle, WA, 98122. EOE.

Resident Manager to ensure that quality, safe housing & services are provided to homeless/low-income residents for permanent housing at YWCA Opportunity Place. 12 hr/week & free rent, 1-bed apt. Details: www.ywcaworks.org. Respond to hr@ywcaworks.org or J. Bachhuber, YWCA OP, 2024 Third Ave. Seattle, WA, 98121. EOE 12/5.

Information

New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert discusses global warming. Tickets \$10 and up. Tuesday, December 5th, 7:30 p.m. Benaroya Hall, 200 University St. Info: www.lectures.org

Building Bridges Prejudice Reduction Workshop. Tickets sliding scale \$30-100. Saturday, December 2nd, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fremont Public Association, 464 12th Ave. Info: www.ncbiseattle.org.

My Fat Cat Designs — Native American-Bead Designs. Hand Crafted Bracelets and Earrings. By artist Faith Ann Trust (vendor #3231). Call (206)322-7438 to view jewelry, place an order, or for general information.

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

Saturday 12/2

Seattle's First Asian American Playwright's Festival is a day-long celebration of with six plays, including *Peace & Truth*, which explores the approaching death of an elderly Chinese woman, and *Third Generations Nikkei*, which examines the lives of three Japanese

American women from World War II, through the turbulent '60s, and into the uncertain present. Tickets \$5 per reading or \$9 for a three-reading pass, \$12 for an all-day pass. Noon - 11 p.m., Northwest Actors Studio, 1100 E. Pike St. Info: (206)323-9443.

Three filmmakers, dismayed with negligent media coverage of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, trekked to the ravaged area and documented the refugee camps. Jen Marlowe, co-author of the book *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival*, shares the testimonies of survivors, her own reactions, and how to reaffirm hope. 4 p.m., Elliott Bay Bookstore, 101 S. Main St. Info: www.darfurdiaries.org.

Robert Bilheimer's film *A Closer Walk* explores the relationship between health, dignity, and human rights in the context of the harsh realities of AIDS. The film features stories, portraits, and vignettes from people around the globe who are living with the disease. A post-screening discussion features guests from the Lifelong AIDS Alliance. 7 p.m., Queen Anne United Methodist Church, 1606 Fifth Ave. W.

Sunday 12/3

The day after the NAFTA agreement went into effect the Zapatistas took over San Cristobal, the capitol of Chiapas, Mexico, in a movement against globalization. John Ross followed the group from the beginning, and his new book, *Zapatistas: Making Another World Possible*, chronicles the past six years of the group's work. 2 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Wednesday 12/6

"Climate Change in the North Cascades" features Jon Riedel and Erin Pettit, two local scientists, showing images and discussing the effects of global warming on our local mountains and watersheds. 7 p.m., REI Meeting Room, 222 Yale Ave. N.

Thursday 12/7

"Patriot or Terrorist? Exploring the Legacy of Nat Turner and John Brown" is a panel discussion on the changing perspectives of armed resistance in a post-9/11 world. In 1831 Nat Turner mounted a slave rebellion, and in 1859 white abolitionist

John Brown led a raid. The varied interpretations of these events and the men's motives have left us with an historical quandary: were they terrorists or patriots? Tickets \$7 general, \$5 Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas members, students, and seniors. Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S Info: (206)323-4032.



The 11th annual Seattle Human Rights Day features speaker Mario Hinojosa, author of *Immigrant Nation: Divided Country*, who will discuss this year's theme, "Crossing All Borders." The festivities also include an award presented to the Transgender Jail Policy Group. Thursday, Dec. 7, 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 811 Fifth Ave, and Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. Info: www.seattle.gov/civilrights.

What is it like being a reporter in the Green Zone? Robert H. Reid, a journalist who has covered the Middle East and Iraq intermittently since the 1980s and who is currently stationed in Jordan, shares his experiences with the Iraqi people, and the changes he witnessed in Baghdad. Tickets \$10 World Affairs Council members and students, \$15 general. 7 p.m., Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway.

Friday 12/8

"Racial and Ethnic Differences in Cardiac Care" is an informative dialogue among healthcare providers and patient advocates on the disparities in diagnosis and treatment of members from different ethnic communities. 1:30 p.m., American Heart Association Offices, 710 Second Ave., Suite 900. Pre-registration required; (206)219-3781.

Banned in Iran, *The Circle* follows the intersecting stories of different women who, burdened by unjust laws, bureaucracy, and constant surveillance, attempt to manage the streets of Tehran. Filmmakers Whitney and Jerry Neufeld-Kaiser and Abdi Sami discuss their work after the screening. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl.

Director's Corner



Last week, I had the opportunity to speak to a group of faith activists about homelessness, and someone asked about the source of my passion for this work. I talked about human dignity, I talked about dehumanization, and how *Real Change* helps us to see each other for who we are. I should have talked about Paul von Kempf, Jr.

Paul was a *Real Change* vendor for seven or eight years, until he died last summer of complications arising from pneumonia. When I attended his funeral service, there was a handful of family members who had traveled to be there. But also in attendance was a much larger, looser kind of family who mostly knew Paul through the paper. There were *Real Change* vendors, staff, and volunteers there. There were regular customers who knew Paul as a fixture in their neighborhood. Several read from Paul's self-published chapbooks that he sold along with his papers. Sixty or 70 people packed into a small room at Paul's Overlake Christian Church to offer testimony to a significant life.

Paul was the sort of person who holds strong opinions and is easily offended, and wasn't always easy to get along with. But his natural warmth and enthusiasm for life made him an easy person to like. *Real Change* offered Paul a wide circle of friends and a creative outlet for the writing that meant so much to him. Paul wasn't just some homeless guy. Paul was Paul, and he was well loved.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Say Yes to Responsible Development

Issue: The site of the Goodwill at Dearborn Street and Rainier Avenue is in the early stages of redevelopment that will create the largest retail center between Southcenter and Northgate. Surrounding neighborhood groups, local small businesses, labor organizations, faith groups, and others have joined together as the Dearborn St. Coalition for a Livable Neighborhood (DSCLN) to have a say in how that development takes place.

Background: The DSCLN is not opposed to the site being redeveloped. Their goal is to make sure that the development benefits the community immediately surrounding the project, and the region as a whole. With the pace and nature of development occurring all over the city, it is vital to set precedent in how development occurs, with the voice and needs of the community in mind.

A project this big will greatly impact not only the neighborhoods and small businesses immediately next to the site, but also the region in general. Without careful planning, there could be detrimental impacts to surrounding small businesses, traffic problems, and damage to the cultural vitality of the Little Saigon neighborhood. And we could lose an opportunity to ensure that good jobs that pay a living wage are created and that some of the housing that's built on the site is affordable to lower-income people.

Local groups are organizing to pressure the developer, TRF Pacific in partnership with Ravenhurst Development, to negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). A CBA is a legally binding agreement between the Coalition and the developer that covers a wide range of community benefits that the developer agrees to provide as part of a project. CBAs have been used successfully in other cities to ensure that growth benefits everyone, not just developers. Establishing a CBA for this project would set an important precedent for how we manage growth in Seattle.

In order for the development to move forward, the City of Seattle must make key land use changes, including an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan (a 20-year document planning for the city's growth.) The DSCLN supports the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, only if it is the sole land use change the City considers prior to the negotiation of a Community Benefits Agreement.

The City Council held a public hearing on the amendment on Nov. 28. This was just the first public step in the process, and you can still help by telling the City Council that you want the community to have a seat at the table for this project. During the downtown zoning debate earlier this year, the City Council asserted that development should benefit us all. They should do that again with this project.

Action: Contact the Seattle City Council and tell them that you support the Dearborn St. Coalition for a Livable Neighborhood's effort to negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement. Urge them to amend the Comprehensive Plan only as a step toward a CBA.

- nick.licato@seattle.gov
- richard.conlin@seattle.gov
- sally.clark@seattle.gov
- peter.steinbrueck@seattle.gov
- david.della@seattle.gov
- jan.drago@seattle.gov
- jean.godden@seattle.gov
- richard.mciver@seattle.gov
- tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov

For more information, contact: Elana Dix at SAGE - Seattle Alliance for Good Jobs and Housing for Everyone: (206)441-0499 x23; edix@seattlegoodjobs.org.

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

UNION, Continued from Page 1

"Ray Charles could see that there's no diversity in the leadership," says Verlene Jones says, Union Cities organizer for the AFL-CIO. "There are only one or two unions in Washington that have Latinos as presidents."

The job of unions, according to Jones, is to reflect the experiences of its members, and ethnicity is connected to the experiences they have. A non-diverse leadership is thus at a disadvantage in organizing workers and attracting new members.

"It's more than making sure workers have good wages and benefits," Salinas adds. "We have to be actively engaged with their community, know what their members are going through, and talk with them."

For Salinas and Jones, until union leadership becomes more diverse, unions will continue their decline into irrelevance.

Union leaders, however, are elected to their positions, which begs the question: Why are white males consistently winning elections?

Jones holds that union election results have been controlled by the leaders running for reelection, but Salinas disagrees.

He allows that, "Historically, union leadership has been set." But the process is open.

The voting is every three years, and an independent commission of members will supervise the election with all members being able to come and vote.

Salinas points out that union leaders cannot take advantage of any resources available to their positions. Even as president, he cannot use "one penny" to help him in his campaign, but must

spend his own personal time and money to win.

The reason white males are elected, says Salinas, is due to low turnout and a general disincentive to elect new leaders.

"If you have to replace a leader every election, you won't be able to get anything done. Also for SEIU [Local 6], out of 2,400 members, only 550 came to vote."

Salinas says that in the past, turnout dropped as low as 3 percent, allowing white males to win elections. That's one of the biggest problems in building a representative union, says Jones.

"Just because you're told to join a union and you do so, with a reduction in your paycheck, you're not a member," she says. "You have to participate."

Jones described the need for unions to be more transparent, educate workers on their rights and union processes, and provide leadership training to help minorities make the transition successfully.

"Of the 1.8 million workers we represent," Salinas says of SEIU, "800,000 are new members."

Salinas stressed the importance of educational access for entry-level workers to move up the ladder, linguists to help communicate with newly arrived immigrants, and methods to appeal to workers. "It's definitely a process we have to go through," Salinas finished. "But I'm hopeful for the future." ■

STORES, Continued from Page 5

lons of milk," Mitchell said. "All you do is redivide the existing pie" — with 85 cents of every dollar spent at a big box leaving the local economy.

Mitchell calls this a new colonialism that sucks money and jobs out of a community, and not just in retail. Local retailers use local accountants, lawyers, and suppliers who lose business. With big boxes now manufacturing their own store brands in Asia, they also have the power to force U.S. manufacturers to do the same. Otherwise, they risk losing shelf space in America's largest chains.

Mitchell says this threat caused 25,000 jobs to be lost at Levi Strauss, 4,000 jobs at Black & Decker, and 650 jobs at a Huffy bicycle plant. Such clout, she argues, has contributed to

the decline of America's wages and middle class, in turn forcing people to shop for bargains at the big boxes.

"We're really on this terrible cycle," Mitchell says. "The more they grow, the more they undermine the economy and the more desperate and impoverished we become." ■

[Event]

Author Stacy Mitchell will read from *Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Business* on Tues., Dec. 5, at the Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S. Main St., Seattle, (206)624-6600.

[Resources]

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance offers strategies for beating big-box development at www.bigboxtoolkit.com.

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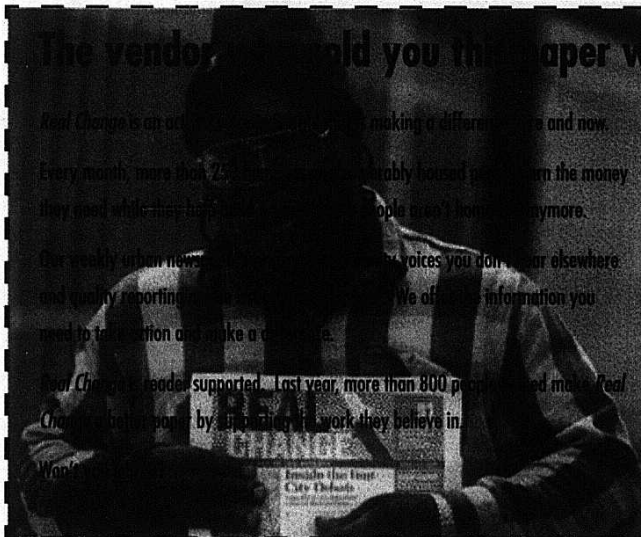
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