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REAL CHANGE

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How to love the suburbs

Beaverton writer **Matthew Stadler** suggests visiting Bellevue's Crossroads Mall to enjoy the density and diversity of a thriving community....see page 7.

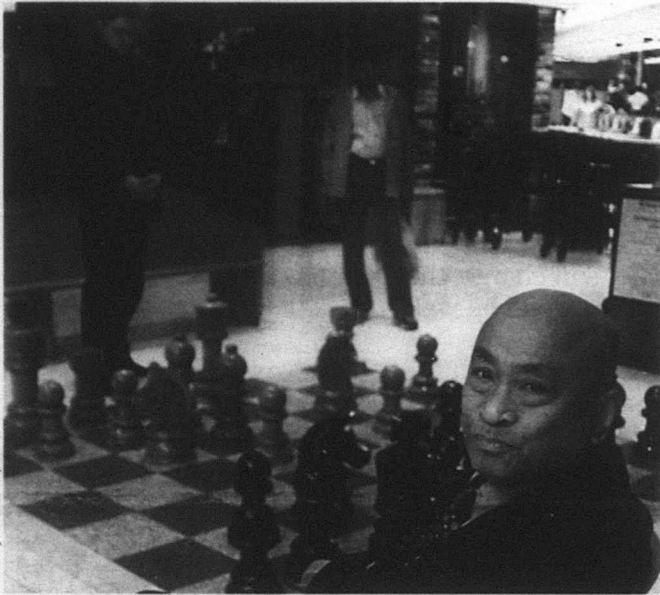


Photo by Brooke Kempner

Big Box Stores Move in on Little Saigon

Local businesses concerned over impact of Target and Lowes moving into the Goodwill site east of the International District....see page 5.



Photo by Elliot Stoller



Photo by Julia Roberts

Big Development on Pine

Neighborhood groups are petitioning the City's Design Review Board on the future of new condos and retailsee page 3.

Democrats' missed opportunities...p 2

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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.

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Democrats were stronger than they'd been in years. They had a supermajority in each chamber, a fellow Dem in the governor's mansion, a budget surplus, and at least a year before facing re-election. If vital bills can't be passed under such conditions, when can they?

Disappointments

By **RACHAEL MYERS** and **ADAM HYL**, *Real Change* staff

The numbers looked good. 62-36 in the House; 32-17 in the Senate. If ever the Democrats had a chance to put their values into law, the legislative session that ended Sunday was the time.

While important gains were made in health care for children, public education, the environment, and rights for same-sex couples, legislation that ran more afoul of powerful business constituencies fared less well.

A much-needed curb on payday lenders stalled in the House of Representatives. Legislators failed to remove restrictions on how local government can control runaway condo conversions. Or ban discrimination against federal housing voucher recipients. Or tally up, for public view, the half a billion dollars that business-friendly tax breaks will cost us in the next two years. Or make paid family leave a possibility for every worker suffering a crisis at home.

The difficulties passing what for Democrats ought to be no-brainer bills points up how it's everyone's responsibility to hold our elected officials accountable all year round, not just on Election Day. Getting good people into office takes work. Getting them to do good things once they're there is even harder.

Sen. Margarita Prentice (D - Renton) stood in the way of a bill that would have saved countless borrowers from the vicious usury of payday lenders. And she championed the development of a new arena in her district for the owners of Seattle's basketball franchise. In this she was joined by Seattle Democratic Reps. Erik Poulsen and Eric Pettigrew, whose own constituents had registered their lack of support for the Sonics' arena in the last election.

Other low points came from Seattle Democrats Sharon Tomiko Santos and Ken Jacobsen. Rep. Santos, who usually

stands up for working class folks in her diverse district, not only opposed the payday lending legislation but suggested that lenders themselves be part of an advisory board drawing up a "financial literacy" curriculum for borrowers. Sen. Jacobsen, representing an economi-

...the business, real estate, and landlord lobbies aren't going away. No matter which party's in charge, these interests will be well represented.

cally diverse district from Lake City to Laurelhurst, let his personal bias as a landlord occlude the interests of renters in his district in letting lapse the Section 8 anti-discrimination bill. At one public hearing, he publicly commiserated with a landlord about a bad experience he once had with a Section 8 tenant.

Finally, Gov. Chris Gregoire disappointed by threatening not to sign comprehensive family leave legislation. Her refusal to support the original, more robust version of the bill, which provided leave for workers caring for a newborn or newly adopted child, a seriously ill family member, or because of their own health problems, led to the bill being significantly scaled back. What they passed will provide paid leave for a worker caring for a newborn or newly adopted child — a good step, but also a missed opportunity to help families dealing with emergencies.

Much to their credit, Democrats guar-

anteed health care for low-income kids, enacted domestic partner legislation, and started the process of a ban on toxic flame retardants. Quality public education is the most prominent means of redressing class inequality in this country, and in that area Democrats ponied up an extra \$1.8 billion. Other highlights: Rep. Mark Miloscia (D - Federal Way) led the way in creating an extra \$12.5 million in annual homelessness funding available to the counties. Rep. Mary Helen Roberts (D - Lynnwood) championed a bill providing health coverage up to age 21 for youth aging out of foster care. Sen. Adam Kline (D - Seattle) gets credit for killing a bill that would have let landlords throw out or sell the personal belongings of renters they evict, instead of requiring them to store them for 45 days as current law requires.

Speaker of the House Frank Chopp (D-Seattle) stood up to Mayor Nickels about building a tunnel we can't afford. He was also key in this year's groundbreaking legislation to provide health care for every child. As Speaker, Chopp gets both credit and blame for what his party does or doesn't accomplish. His caution isn't surprising given that Chopp cut his teeth as a freshman in 1994 — when Republicans swept into power in the state House and around the country. It was a hard time to be a Democrat, and he doesn't want to go back to that. Neither do we.

The signal truth about this and every legislative session is that the business, real estate, and landlord lobbies aren't going away. No matter which party's in charge, these interests will be well represented. Against such pressure only a steady grassroots counterweight can be effective. It's the responsibility of everyone who returned the Democrats so dramatically to power to make them use it fully. ■

Director's Corner



Homelessness has, I think, been framed as an issue in a way that deliberately excludes potential allies. This is a bigger

problem than most of us realize.

It's Organizing 101. In the absence of a mobilized constituency, only the change that is acceptable to those in power gets made.

In the past several decades, homeless

advocates have made many mistakes. We traded away federal funding for housing for the McKinney Act. As a result, a serious grassroots demand for housing hasn't been raised since the late-80s. McKinney turned homeless advocacy into an insider's game, and steered our activism into more non-threatening avenues.

As such, taking action to "end homelessness" is of interest mainly to human service advocates, government functionaries, and a handful of church folk who want to do something good. This needs to change.

The idea that homeless people them-

selves should be involved in the struggle against poverty is mostly a matter of lip service. No one, really, has helped them to organize for power. The very idea sends chills down the average service provider's spine.

Somewhere along the line, idea of aligning with other constituencies to build a powerful movement for economic justice that addresses the self-interest of the least-wealthy 60-80 percent of us has gotten away from us.

Let's get real. "Ending Homelessness" means challenging inequality. Anything less is really about something else.

Just Heard...

Real Change on voting rights

Attorney Randy Gordon suffered a major setback last week in his fight against electronic voting: On April 18, three judges of the Washington State Appeals Court wasted no time telling Gordon there was no reason to order Snohomish County to reveal the software code of touch-screen machines made by Sequoia Voting Systems.

In 2005, Gordon and his client, voting-rights activist Paul Lehto, sued the county to force the release of the code, arguing that a trade-secret clause in the county's contract with Sequoia is illegal because it puts the constitutional right to verifiable elections in a "black box."

One judge told the county's lawyer, however, that if Gordon had brought the case under public disclosure law, the county and Sequoia would have been "in a world of hurt." Gordon is now working with *Real Change* on a public disclosure request that will likely lead to a new lawsuit.

CDF director out

Here's what happens to people who do a good job in Seattle: They get fired.

Earlier this month, the board of the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund began a search to replace executive director Jaime Garcia, who will remain at CDF through the transition. The move comes as the organization, which was created to make grants and loans to businesses affected by light-rail construction, gears up for its next phase as a community investor in real estate deals.

In a statement, CDF Board President Rob Mohn credited Garcia for overcoming major challenges to start the program, which has distributed \$9.3 million in mitigation funds to 157 small businesses over the past three years. But Mohn says that a strategic plan the board adopted in February called for new leadership to handle its community development lending.

Police watch

Score one for Nick Licata: In the wake of the NAACP calling attention to racially motivated arrests, the City Council president has gotten Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske to agree add a sergeant in its Office of Professional Accountability, the SPD unit that investigates reports of police misconduct.

Last year, after the OPA's independent auditor pointed out that delays were hampering the unit's work, the council added funding for the new position. But, for some reason, SPD had failed to fill it — something Kerlikowske will now do, subject to the final approval of the OPA's new director, who is awaiting council confirmation.

For "the complainant and officer alike," Licata says, "getting the case settled as soon as possible is a very big deal."

—Cydney Gillis

Change Agent

How do people know where to turn when they are in their greatest times of need?

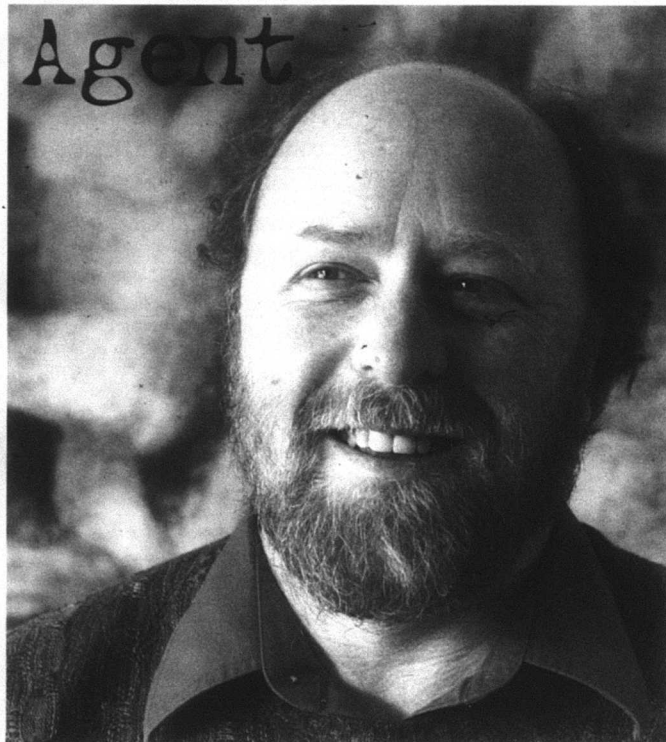
Joe Mable has spent the past 18 years trying to answer that question.

As the editor of the Crisis Resource Directory, Mable sorts through hundreds of thousands of agencies to find services that will be most helpful to people in difficult situations.

The guide is a project of the Peace Heathens, a Seattle social and political activist group. The directory grew from a small paper publication focused on University District resources to an online database (www.scn.org/civic/crisis).

Mable is dedicated to keeping the directory up and running using his computer skills and community knowledge to direct others to the resources they need. "I don't want to be in the position where all I'm doing is handing someone money," says Mable. "This is something I can do well, this is the contribution I can make."

—Laura Peach



Joe Mable and his fellow Peace Heathens take guiding others to needed services as a sacrament. Photo by Elliot Stoller.

Short Takes

More gentrification

By the time the city's current wave of development is over, every citizen in Seattle could end up a minor expert in land-use law.

The latest group to bone up is the neighborhood association that represents the lower Capitol Hill triangle bordered by Pine Street, Olive Way, and Howell Street. The group, known as POWHAT, is trying to fight, or at least mitigate, a box of a building that developer Murray Franklyn plans on Pine between Summit and Belmont avenues.

The development, which will be six stories high and include 106 condos and seven retail spaces, would replace an entire block of popular local businesses, from Bimbo's Bitchin' Burrito Kitchen to the Manray and Kincora nightclubs, with no possibility of the bars returning. After a community ruckus that Murray Franklyn had with Twist, a bar in a Belltown building it owns, the developer is forbidding drinking establishments in the project.

POWHAT's members express exactly the same concerns as a community coalition that's been fighting a big-box shopping center planned near Seattle's Little Saigon: The Pine-Belmont project, they say, will be far out of scale for the neighborhood, have no character and little open space, and be too expensive for local retailers and residents, who can't afford \$300,000 condos.

Like the Dearborn Street Coalition, POWHAT is coordinating with other groups, such as the Pike-Pine Urban Neighborhood Council, to create a unified

front. But, at a meeting April 10, POWHAT's members were divided about which issues to bring up with the Design Review Board, its current point of focus.

Among the ideas raised at the meeting were the possibility of turning a portion of Capitol Hill into a conservation district, which could put some restrictions on developers, along with sending letters to the design board and city officials, which POWHAT is currently doing.

Liz Dunn, who has developed community-friendly projects in the area, said it's unlikely, however, that Murray Franklyn will give up on the project after spending \$13 million on the land. But, "if you can keep the chains out and have interesting storefronts," Dunn said, "you do better in the long run."

—Cydney Gillis

Step It Up, says Steinbrueck

The high cost of living, the mountains of trash we generate, and our addiction to the automobile are among the issues Seattle City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck wants the city's long-term planners to address.

Steinbrueck wants to append a host of public goals to a bill amending the city's Comprehensive Plan, a state-mandated document that guides the city's growth through 2024. The priorities, which fellow councilmembers expressed their support for in an April 23 briefing, include placing fees on single-occupant drivers in certain parts of the city, moving

toward a "zero waste" policy by encouraging re-use and recycling, codifying a city goal to reduce greenhouse emissions, and more effectively gauging residents' well-being.

In presenting the ideas to fellow councilmembers at an April 23 briefing, Steinbrueck made a roundabout criticism of Mayor Greg Nickels' work against climate change. "Recognizing that while we have advocated all over the country" on that issue, "we ourselves... could go much farther in terms of aggressively establishing goals and measures toward climate protection."

Cultural heritage, too, merits greater protection. The Pike Market was preserved, Steinbrueck notes, not for the architectural significance of its structures but for the unique interactions that the marketplace's various residents and craftspeople make possible. Those sorts of relationships are found elsewhere in the city, and we ought to be more conscientious of them, he says: "heritage is valuing neighborhoods that exist, not building entirely new."

Steinbrueck expects a resolution outlining the ideas will be voted on May 9 in his committee. From there, council staff flesh out the various strategies by which these goals might be met; councilmembers vote the amendments into the Comprehensive Plan in the fall.

It's important to be precise in stating these goals, says Steinbrueck. "Our law department often suggests we leave some wiggle room," but "what's measured matters, and if you don't measure it we can't keep up with it."

—Adam Hyla

Taking Out the Styrofoam Trash

Polystyrene food containers are target of Foam-Free Seattle

By CHRIS MILLER, Contributing Writer

Polystyrene (commonly known as styrofoam) doesn't biodegrade — it turns into tiny and tinier plankton-sized particles (photodegrades) and is eaten by filter-feeding fish, accumulating its way up the food chain.

It is a known carcinogen and a suspected neurotoxin. It can

leach from styrofoam containers into food and drinks.

Recycling polystyrene containers is prohibitively expensive. Any of these reasons justifies a ban on the use of the containers, says Ellie Rose, founder of Foam-Free Seattle, a coalition of citizens pushing for a citywide ban on the polystyrene containers.

styrene containers.

"I think there's a significant educational aspect where, when the ban is instituted, it gets people thinking about plastics and our throw-away disposable society."

Americans currently generate 4.5 pounds of waste per day, the most per capita in the world, according to the EPA.

The North Central Pacific Gyre contains a mostly plastic-based trash island the size of Texas, where plastic particles outnumber plankton 6 to 1, found the Algalita Marine Research Foundation.

"It [polystyrene] just doesn't make any sense," says Sarah Nason, a Foam-Free member. "So many cities on the West Coast have already been able to implement bans."

Currently over 100 U.S. jurisdictions have enacted bans on polystyrene in one form or another, including Portland, San Francisco, and Berkeley. In Berkeley, the ban is further extended to grocers and other food handlers, not just takeout. Suffolk County, New York also bans plastic packaging and bags. Oakland exempts restaurants when the biodegradable alternative is not of the "same or less purchase cost."

Whereas Jamba Juice in Seattle uses all polystyrene smoothie containers, in Portland the fast-food juicer has switched to paper-based cups.

One of Foam-Free's goals is to mold a template with which cities around the world could enact their own bans of polystyrene, including affordable alternatives.

Bagasse, one example, is microwave and freezer safe, made from crop residue pulp that is typically burned; it degrades

in six to seven weeks. Consumers typically shoulder the added cost, although Marin County subsidized half the cost to one catering company making the switch.

Polystyrene makes up 1 percent of America's landfill composition by weight. Food, on the other hand, makes up 7 to 10 percent of Seattle's landfill, according to Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin.

"Waste is a resource out of place," said Conlin in a recent interview; he

Americans currently generate 4.5 pounds of waste per day, the most per capita in the world, according to the EPA.

notes that compost demand is very high. Cedar Grove, the city's composter, "could take a lot more."

Mayor Greg Nickels has proposed to raise the citywide recycling rate to 60 percent by 2010, guided by a "zero-waste" philosophy.

The background for the ban has local precedent. According to Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle banned the use of all non-recyclable food and beverage containers by city government and food vendors at city facilities in 1988. ■

Take Action:

www.foamfreeseattle.org



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COVER STORY

Little Saigon Faces a Publicly Subsidized Big-Box Development

Tax credits for retail rents face community criticism

By CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter

When developer Darrell Vange couldn't satisfy the critics of a \$300 million big-box shopping center and housing development that he's planning south of downtown, he turned to the Seattle Housing Authority for help and he got it: \$20 million in special financing.

For the \$20 million, SHA is creating — but may not manage — 200 units of below-market housing and a \$1 million subsidy to help support small local shops at the site. The complex is slated to open in 2010 at a 10-acre property on South Dearborn Street owned by Seattle Goodwill, which is giving Vange the property to get a badly needed new building and retail store.

The financing deal, announced April 11, comes in the wake of community demands that the four-block complex, which is expected to include a Target, Lowe's, and 550 units of housing, be scaled back to fit the neighborhood — and pocketbooks — of shops owners and residents who work in or live near Seattle's Little Saigon, which the project will border.

Like Goodwill, SHA calls its deal a win-win for the community and the developer. The project's opponents call it a ruse: The agency is tapping a federal low-income economic development program that could fund a lot of things, they say, besides a giant shopping center that stands to wipe out Little Saigon.

"It's like injecting yourself with ste-

roids," says Quang Nguyen, director of Seattle's Vietnamese American Economic Development Association. "You'll get really fast growth and pump up, but over time that's going to destroy the small business district."

It's a trade-off that Nguyen and other detractors at the Dearborn Street Coalition for a Livable Neighborhood call unfair. But it's not unique: As housing authorities around the nation look to support their work with fewer federal dollars, many like SHA have not only engaged private developers to help rebuild housing projects like High Point and Rainier Vista, but are now moving in a direction that the agency calls a natural evolution — economic development.

SHA has built apartments with ground-floor retail in the past, but the Dearborn Street Project is the housing authority's first commercial investment using New Market Tax Credits, a U.S. Treasury program created by Congress in 2000 to fund for-profit development in distressed areas.

In order to use the \$20 million in tax credits, which SHA originally got for a development deal at High Point that fell through, the agency has set up a nonprofit bank called Seattle Community Investments. The bank's five board members include SHA's director, housing finance manager and the chair of its board of commissioners.

Up to now, the housing authority has not publicized the bank's board meetings,

but will start to do so, says SHA Director Tom Tierney, so the public can have input before the deal is finalized. Assuming the activists don't succeed in killing the project's permits, Paul Fitzgerald, SHA's manager for the tax-credit program, says the bank would sell the tax credits to an investor or investors who would provide some cash up front in exchange for seven years of tax deductions.

Vange's Dearborn Street Developers, he says, would then get the \$20 million in a combination of cash and a market-rate loan.

Though Vange says he's not short on regular bank financing, Tierney points out that the developer could have gotten the tax credits from another bank without providing any public benefits. SHA's involvement, he says, will guarantee 100 units of low-income senior housing at the site, 50 units of workforce housing for people who make at or below 80 percent of median income, and 50 units rentable to people with incomes up to 100 percent of median income of \$54,500.

In addition, Vange has agreed to set aside \$1 million of SHA's financing to buy down the rents of five or 10 owner-operated minority businesses over 10 years. But, at the estimated \$25 per square foot they'd be charged, Nguyen says, they would still be paying a lot more than today's rate of \$15 a foot in Little Saigon.

Nguyen and others insist the tax credits don't have to finance a shopping center. In the past, for instance, other groups have used the program to help fund the renovation of Pioneer Square's Cadillac Hotel and the offices and dining room of the Compass Center shelter.

"It's bad for them to be getting together and making these plans and twisting the intent of these programs," says Bang Nguyen, a Vietnamese business owner with the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice. "They broker these deals and cheat needy neighborhoods and communities." ■

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City-backed Gun Control Bill Fails

Background checks still not required at gun shows; gun rights activist says he's open to "compromise"

By PAUL RICE, Contributing Writer

With the waves of Virginia Tech lapping against the American conscience like a red tide, you might assume that this event translates into powerful, somber political capital for gun control advocates.

But you might be wrong. If recent polls are to be trusted, gun control is officially a losing battle, and while Republican presidential candidates like Rudy Giuliani and John McCain have just reasserted their opposition to gun control, no major Democrat candidates have touched the issue.

Here in Washington State tragedies such as the recent murder of Rebecca Griego, the shooting at the Jewish Federation, and the massacre on Capitol Hill are powerful reminders of what guns can do in the wrong hands. But there is still longstanding resistance to new gun control measures in the state legislature.

The so-called "Gun Show Loophole" bill died its seventh death in the state legislature last week, a seventh victory for the state's pro-gun lobby. Originally introduced in 1999, the bill seeks to require background checks and waiting periods for buyers and sellers at state gun shows, the same basic requirements applied to gun dealers who sell out of shops. "It effectively levels the playing field," says Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, a cosponsor of the bill.

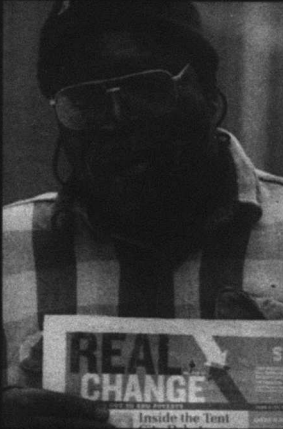
If enacted, the law would have penalized the organizer of a gun show for every illicit transaction that went on in the vicinity of the show. This third-party clause would target parking lot exchanges and if transactions were uncovered, it would mean \$5,000 or more in fines for every sale, a cost Joe Waldron says he could not bear.



Youth march against the proposed housing and retail development bordering Little Saigon on Saturday, April 21.

Gun Control, continued on p. 6

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Gun Control, continued on p. 5

Waldron is president of the Washington Arms Collectors, the premiere gun show organizer in the state, and of the Gun Owners Action League, an NRA-affiliated lobbying group. His grassroots organizing has created the state's most powerful gun lobby, and he has managed to stifle various efforts to further regulate his favorite industry.

"They should really call it the 'Gun Show Killer' bill, because that's what it would do," Waldron says.

Although Scales supports the bill, he sees better legislation out there. "Closing the gun show loophole is not going to stop all the issues," he says.

"I think that's just baloney," responds Bob Ricker, executive director of the American Hunters and Shooters Association, a D.C. lobbying group that offered testimony in favor of the bill. "It doesn't mean that he has to ensure that every sale throughout the gun show is proper. He won't be held accountable," Ricker adds.

But Bob Scales, a senior policy analyst for bill proponent Mayor Greg Nickels, disagrees with his fellow lobbyist, as does staff working for Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles. They say that, if illegitimate transactions occurred on and around the gun show venue, "[the organizers] would be guilty of a gross misdemeanor." Scales sympathizes with Waldron, saying, "I think it's a valid issue, that could be easily fixed."

Although Scales supports the bill, he sees better legislation out there.

"Closing the gun show loophole is not going to stop all the issues," he says.

"My personal preference would be, let's forget about the gun shows and go for the California legislation."

California law requires that all gun purchases, at a gun show or not, be subject to background checks and a waiting period. There is no need for closing any loopholes there, since gun shows fall under the state law. But could that pass in Washington? Why is it so difficult for gun legislation here?

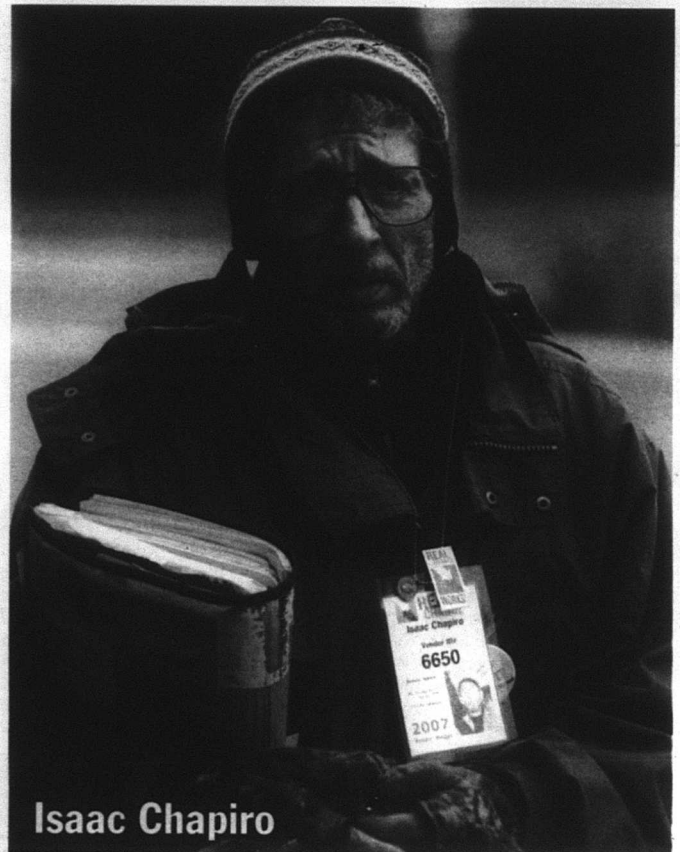
Senator Kohl-Welles points to "a real difference in culture" between urban and rural voters when it comes to guns. Some grow up with guns and gun shows, and some do not.

Joe Waldron says he offered legislators a couple alternatives to the bill that would have made it difficult for criminals to acquire guns. One included having a state police officer present, performing record checks on purchasers. His suggestions were turned down.

"Politics is the art of compromise," Waldron says. He suggests the state's gun control advocates heed that aphorism if they want to make progress.

Bill sponsors directed inquiries to CeaseFire, the state's foremost gun control organization, but there was no response to multiple requests for interviews as of press time. ■

editor@realchangenews.org



Isaac Chapiro

Vendor of the Week

Good people, willing to share their good fortune with him.

Isaac Chapiro says he has found a bunch of good people while selling *Real Change* in front of the Bartell Drugs in Ballard for the past five and a half years.

Through the folks he has met, Chapiro has acquired a small RV that he lives in, a truck that he uses to move the RV, and a bike he can ride to work.

Chapiro, 48, first came to Seattle in 1993. He was seeking a job in the fishing industry after seeing a flyer at a Salvation Army in San Francisco. By the time he arrived, the jobs were gone and all he had left in his pocket was \$35.

He sought work in other parts of the country, but was drawn back to Seattle by the social services that made an impression on him.

"I left my heart in Seattle," he says. "There was help, there was hope."

Chapiro, a recovering drug addict and alcoholic, first started selling *Real Change* to avoid manual labor, but being a vendor quickly became more than just a job.

He became involved in advocacy against poverty and homelessness, testifying numerous times at City Hall and at the State Legislature. In 2006 he

was named the Real Change Vendor of the Year.

"Real Change has given me dignity," he says.

As Chapiro sells papers on a recent rainy afternoon, he jokes with passersby in a soft-spoken, friendly manner. As a customer hands him a dollar Chapiro quickly glances at the back of the bill, then flips it over.

"I check every one dollar bill I get," he says, explaining that he reads the Latin around the pyramid before flipping the bill over to see if George Washington's eyes are clear. If the eyes aren't clear, he says it's an indication that the person who handed him the bill could be feeling under the weather.

The ritual only takes a few seconds, but Chapiro worries customers might think he's looking at the bill, thinking, "Oh, it's only a dollar."

That's not true he says.

"I'm thankful for every dollar."

— Joel Turner

Beaverton writer **Matthew Stadler** learned to stop worrying and love the suburbs

The Places In Between

By **CHRIS MILLER**,
Contributing Writer

Suburbia. Sprawl. Periphery. The old post-WWII dream of having a family safely nestled away in a quiet, residential suburb and commuting into the vigorous, urbane, cosmopolitan hub to do business has been replaced with a new reality: sprawling, white-bread, cookie-cutter-developments devoid of "culture."

Yet right now, Bellevue is more ethnically diverse than Seattle. As many city dwellers commute out to the suburbs for work as suburbanites commuting in. Des Moines, Edmonds, and Renton are all more dense than Tacoma and Everett.

Matthew Stadler was interested in the relationship between cities and their peripheries when he traveled into the Portland suburb of Beaverton. Beaverton, home of Nike, is the most densely populated city in the state. Another Portland suburb, Gresham, is second. There are more jobs in Washington County, the largest suburban county near Portland, than residents — creating a commute to the suburbs.

Stadler challenges the traditional story of the city — a story that grants it a monopoly on culture, jobs, and the mixing of peoples of different ethnicities and classes. The suburb is a fact of life. The only remaining question is this: How can we find beauty and meaning within a landscape which has so often been derided as blasé, bland, and bleak?

Mr. Stadler, you point out that cities are forming in new and different ways: sprawl is a dominant feature of landscape, businesses are turning over rapidly, developers focus on the outskirts of our urban centers. How does this challenge our idea of the city?

We have so much mobility that we lose any sense of the aura of place. We look for heritage in the built environment, we

look for older buildings that reflect the power structure or aesthetic from a past time, and heritage or the preservation of the trace of the past becomes our approach to keeping it beautiful, to making it meaningful; but there is another way to find beauty or to generate beauty, which is through reinvention and use.

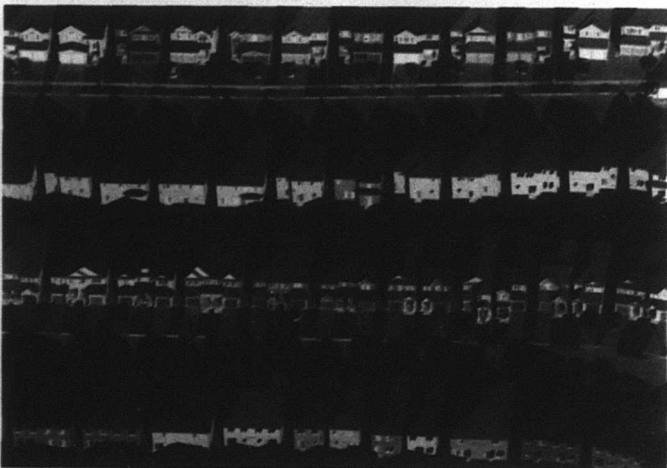
How does the German professor Thomas Sieverts' notion of the *Zwischenstadt*, or in-between city, fit into this changing idea of "city," and how does it address automobile use in the suburbs?

Thomas Sieverts talks about the *zwischenstadt*, which means "in-between city." It is a terrain that does not have a clear city center, nor a clear periphery: the entire *zwischenstadt* is dispersed, multi-centered, driven by a single logic, a logic of in-betweenness.

With that in mind, we look at the problem of cars, which indeed is poten-



tially one of the most distressing and destructive problems with how we live here now. Sieverts is asking us not to say that "Cars are a suburban problem. I live in a city, I'm free from it," nor "I live in a city, I'm doing a better job of reducing car use." The problem with cars is an aspect of the whole system. To



Stadler's work seeks to find meanings in a landscape which we otherwise compare unfavorably to our dreams. Photo by Ian Duke.

How can we find beauty and meaning within a landscape which has so often been derided as blasé, bland, and bleak?

blame it on the suburbs is like saying that diabetes is a problem with my blood, and not my digestive tract.

Is car dependency so much different in the city "center" vs. the "peripheral settlements"?

Sieverts point is that any divisions between city center and what happens on the periphery are [becoming] nostalgic divisions. Job production in Washington county, which is the largest suburban county in Oregon, actually exceeds its own population. So there's a commute in [from Portland] if anything.

Sieverts takes these shifts as a starting point to look at things regionally, not as a problem of city vs. other municipalities. These are problems that require solutions that are non-concentric. For example, he is a strong advocate of light rail and bus transportation from, say, Bellevue to Mountlake Terrace, from Mountlake Terrace over to Lynnwood — rather than as it is in Seattle, transiting through the city center in order to get other places.

He also calls for a heavy investment in wireless technologies, so that the conduct of work no longer requires as much of a shuttling of people and materials across the terrain.

Is this compatible with social movements advocating for localized production, particularly food production?

We might begin to make a deeply interpenetrating environment in which the fine grain [of the landscape] includes places to grow food, live and work in high densities, as well as places for what you would call nature. One really interesting insight from Sieverts is to suggest that we are not going to succeed in creating built environments without getting used to

Stadler, continued on p. 11

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Five Doses of Practical Buddhism

■ For a Future to Be Possible: Buddhist Ethics for Everyday Life

by Thich Nhat Hanh, Parrallax Press, Feb. 2007, Paperback, 147 pages \$12.95

Review by CHRIS FAATZ, Powells.com

Thich Nhat Hanh has had a rich and productive life, and the exploration and practice of ethical responsibility has been at the core of it. Born in Vietnam, he was early ordained to the religious life, and has practiced and taught in that country and abroad for decades. During the Vietnam War, he took the controversial stand of not siding with either government, instead insisting on a path of peace and reconciliation through social service work. While in France attending peace talks, he was warned that his life was in danger should he return to his homeland. It has only been in the past few years that he has been able to return, with great fanfare, to Vietnam.

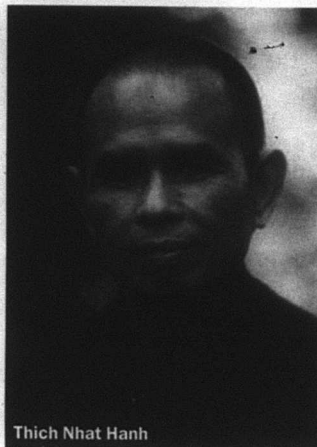
Nhat Hanh's gentle words on the path of mindfulness and compassion have had great impact on a developing Buddhism in the West. His enunciation of an engaged Buddhism has been enormously influential.

This gentle avatar of a life of mind-

fulness, or simple awareness of our surroundings and the ramifications of our every action, has written dozens of books. None are more powerful, nor more central to his teachings, than *For a Future to be Possible: Buddhist Ethics for Everyday Life*. This exquisite little book clearly explains the heart of the Buddha's teachings on engagement and responsibility for the individual, and they are as relevant today as they were in the Buddha's time — or, for that matter, as they were during the Vietnam War.

This exquisite little book clearly explains the heart of the Buddha's teachings on engagement and responsibility for the individual...

For a Future to be Possible is an exposition of the traditional five moral precepts taught by the Buddha. Nhat Hanh has rephrased them as "mindfulness trainings," aware of the negative moral connotations of the word "precept." The five mindfulness trainings, which he calls "a diet for a mindful society," are: to not



Thich Nhat Hanh

kill; to not take that which is not freely given; to avoid sexual misconduct; to refrain from false speech; and to refrain from intoxicants to the point of heedlessness. Contrary to appearance, these are not "thou shalt not's." Rather, they are guidelines for an aware and compassionate life, providing a roadmap for a journey rather than an arrival at goal.

God has no role in these pages, nor does the mantle of an inherited faith. Indeed, in Nhat Hanh's school of Zen, the many deities of Buddhism simply don't exist, or are recognized as archetypes for mental states. Furthermore, questioning is central to the Buddha's teaching.

Indeed, a whole Sutra, or scripture, is dedicated to the necessity to question and try things out for oneself rather than taking them simply on faith (the Kalama Sutra).

For a Future to be Possible is a handbook of the spirit, of the engaged life. It offers the five mindfulness trainings, and each is accompanied by a rich and absorbing commentary by Nhat Hanh. The book also includes an introduction by Joan Halifax and a stupendous afterword by Jack Kornfield. The nun Chan Khong, Nhat Hanh's closest associate, has contributed a "Frequently Asked Questions" section, and the remainder of the book consists of guidelines for ceremonies around the five mindfulness trainings. The first invites us to be aware of our lives in relationship to all other beings, animate and inanimate. It is a guideline that could be practiced equally skillfully by theist and nontheist alike, and the implications of which are revolutionary for the individual, the community, and the planet.

Each of the five trainings claim no Truth. They are rather a whisper in the wind, an open invitation to people regardless of faith tradition to live a life of kindness and gentleness in recognition of our simple and beautiful interconnectedness. They can be seamlessly woven into your spiritual life, and they can enrich it immeasurably. One by one, individual by individual, community by community, they can help us to change the world. What more could we ask? ■

April

T.S. warned us
though he probably wasn't
a baseball fan
Might Easter be at fault?
quivering with indecision—
ready to lay an egg
to shower even
We all know when Christ was
supposed to have been born
but Easter — what day?
what month?
good of him to have died
on a Friday
so we might enjoy a longer
weekend

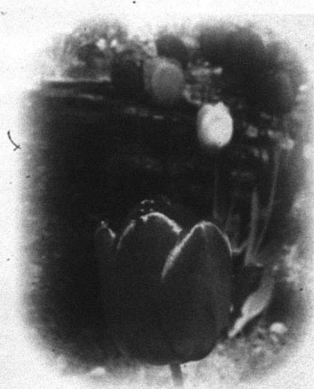
An April curse perhaps

giving way to a sundry
of heinous anniversary:
the start of the Civil War
Lincoln's & FDR's deaths
Hitler's birthday
Waco & Columbine
Oklahoma City
the SF '06 earthquake
the Titanic
Chernobyl
Taxes
ML King's assassination
the Virginia Tech massacre

Sure as tulips
with the lawn bright green
crying out for a cut
while blossoms blanket the
sidewalk
and that which is bad has
maybe
yet to happen again

The curse will find its month
whenever April
marches toward us
come what may

— Larry Crist



WORTH SEEING

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD:

Reviews by LESTER GRAY, Arts Editor

■ The Aura (2005)

Directed by Fabián Bielinsky

Each epileptic seizure experienced by the film's protagonist is preceded by an aura — a twilight zone where the sensory wires cross, making for an incoherent mix of sounds and visions. In a less dramatic sense, this is how the world appears to this unnamed central character: civilized life seems to present few attractive or sensible options. A taxidermist, he wears the unaffected countenance of a mortician reminded daily of the indifference and ruthlessness of the universe.

Arriving home to find his wife has left him, he reverses an earlier decision and accepts an invitation to go deer hunting. He finds shooting animals repulsive, but the opportunity to get away from an empty house offsets his reservations.

Thus begins a story of suspense in which the audience proceeds through its own aura, in which events are not so much surreal as unpredictable. It's a world of crime and violence, but the taxidermist himself proves more nimble than his timidity would suggest.

This, unfortunately, was Bielinsky's last movie. He died of a heart attack at the age of 47, just as his films were beginning to draw more attention. *The Aura* is gourmet nihilism — not for every day

of the week but very delectable, upon occasion.

■ Off the Black (2006)

Directed by James Ponsoldt

Nick Nolte plays Ray Cooke, a prematurely grizzled and sagacious baseball umpire who takes a young pitcher under his wings. It feels like a typecast. Ray has gained his wisdom the hard way, his stooped posture reflecting the weight of every unredeemed trial and error. His manner of sharing these hard-won insights comes through oblique laconic rifts, his gravelly voice accentuating the self-inflicted wear and tear. He has grown stoic for lack of any other option.

Dave Tibbel (Trevor Morgan) a young pitcher to whom Ray would bequeath his philosophical gems, is not so sure that he wants or needs the tutelage. But as they spend more time together through a forced proximity, Ray begins to fill a void left by the young man's father, who is consumed in grief over a wife who fled the family two years earlier.

Off the Black, a dialog-driven film, would find a better home on the boards. The title, a baseball metaphor, refers to missing the strike zone. The film is not a home run, but by avoiding sentimentality it keeps the ball in play and in the end manages to score. ■



©Dr. Wes: We have to save the weakening dollar!

Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

That's the message I got all last week when they weren't telling me about Imus or the massacre. The picture you get is the cartoon with the poor miserable American dollar reclining in a hospital bed sucking on a thermometer while worried doctors shake their heads. I've been trying to figure out what all the alarm is about. It's paper! As usual, I have a theory, which begins with a familiar example.

John used to work for American Fool & Die for \$70,000 per year. When one dollar bought 50 rupees, that company decided it was stupid to pay John so much. Pradeep could do the same job for 500K rupees = \$10,000, annually. Today, the dollar buys about 41 rupees, so Pradeep still costs only \$12,000 per year, which continues to be a great deal for American Fool and Die. So they like things the way they are. But if the dollar lost so much value that one dollar could only buy 7 rupees, then they would do well to lay Pradeep off and rehire John.

So the issue is, which horse do you want to root for? What are you after? Do you want John to get his job back or do you want a "strong dollar" so you live cheaply at your chalet on the Riviera? Do you care about the American worker, or do you want an affordable winter vacation on a Thai beach?

OK, I cheated. I skipped over some important details. Let's say you need clothes and the country you live in hasn't had a clothing industry since Eisenhower was president. If the local currency drops

in value by a factor of seven, won't that mean you'll no longer be able to afford Pakistani pants?

Gosh-areeno, it sure would, and that would put a lot of clothing retailers out of business. So someone had better see to it that the defunct domestic clothing industry gets the support it needs to get restarted, and local people get rehired as quickly as possible to make clothing.

Who might that someone be, who could bail us out, and save us from going naked? It would be the same someone who makes sure we have deodorants we

Foreign investors can just as easily write off the American middle classes. The United States has less than five percent of the world's population. So in a global economy, we're no big deal.

need, and iPods we can't live without, and Nikes and Adidas without end. It would be our friendly neighborhood capitalist.

I can see no reason why an unrestrained local market can't meet the challenge of a dollar pegged at as little as a tenth its current value if the fall was gradual enough. It could even benefit the lowest classes in America by restoring America's industry.

My theory so far hasn't explained

where all the handwringing is coming from. I'm just now getting to that.

We don't have a local market. There is no friendly neighborhood capitalist. This country is already owned by foreign investors who don't care about your stinking money.

The reason there is homelessness in this country is that years ago the government and the American investor class decided that the part of the economy represented by the poorest Americans was expendable. They didn't want the little bit of earnings the poor could bring them. They decided they weren't worth investing in.

Foreign investors can just as easily write off the American middle classes. The United States has less than five percent of the world's population. So in a global economy, we're no big deal.

The people who pushed world trade on us and who sold our assets to foreign investors are getting scared that we are about to catch on to the long-term harm they've done to us. There's where my theory says the handwringing is coming from.

Questions for further discussion.

1. Do you really need clothes? Make \$10,000 a month working in your own home, naked!

2. Foreigners are coming here soon on vacations. What languages will you be learning?

3. If capitalism is the answer, what's the question? ■

Sound off and read more:
drwesb.blogspot.com.



Sun., April 15, 2:02 p.m., Broadway Ave E, Dick's Drive-In Restaurant.

Officers had contacted suspect, transient white male aged 27, on March 4 and trespassed him from the premises of Dick's on Broadway for one year for aggressive panhandling. Suspect signed the trespass admonishment acknowledging he was not to return to the location for 1 year. On April 15 the same officers were on foot patrol along Broadway Ave, and observed the suspect walking east next to the south building wall of Dick's, heading for the Broadway Ave E sidewalk. They contacted him regarding the prior trespass admonishment — suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sun., April 15, 2:52 p.m., SW Holden

Complainant called to report that he had three intoxicated acquaintances in his apartment, and that they were refusing to leave. Officers responded, contacted the suspects and verified their IDs. One suspect, a transient Native American male aged 32, was found to have an outstanding warrant, however, he was so intoxicated that the officer thought it obvious King County Jail would not accept him in his condition. Suspect was taken to the Southwest Precinct, one block from the scene, and called an American Medical Response ambulance to take him to the county detox facility via Harborview Medical Center.

Sun., April 15, afternoon. W. Lone Pl.

Complainant, a white female aged 46, stated to reporting officer that she has been living in the Union Gospel Mission Shelter for four months due to her husband's drinking problem. She stated she had seen him at their home today, and that he had been drinking and was in an ill-tempered mood. He threatened to turn off her cell phone as it's in his name, and also to "fix" the brakes of their truck, so they wouldn't work. She reports she was concerned about the possibility of him following through with the threat about tampering with the truck brakes, which is parked at their house at Lone Place. Complainant denied any physical violence in the relationship; she was given a domestic violence pamphlet.

Mon., April 16, 12:00 p.m., Western Ave, Victor Steinbrueck Park.

Officer observed suspects, a 59-year-old Black male transient and 48-year-old Black male transient, seated inside Victor Steinbrueck Park after the hours of closure. Officer ran both suspect names for identification and it revealed both suspects were excluded from the listed park. Officer placed both suspects under arrest for trespass and transported them to precinct. At the precinct the first suspect informed the officer that his trespass admonishment had only been for seven days. Officer located the exclusion notice, verified this, and released him from the precinct with a new 90-day exclusion notice. Second suspect was found to have a one-year exclusion, and was booked into King County Jail for trespass.

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

Bus Chick,
Transit
Authority

Carla Saulter

Last Sunday, after church, I hopped on the 2 and took a free, Earth Day ride downtown to meet my friend Aileen for a girls' afternoon. Many of my fellow riders — identifiable by their Bibles, fancy outfits, and "What did you think of Pastor So-and-so's sermon?" conversations — were also coming from church.

One older gentleman sitting in the front section, who apparently wasn't finished with his worship, decided to bring church to the bus. He sang songs, lectured everyone within earshot about Jesus ("Be thankful he woke you up this mornin'!"), and occasionally demanded an "Amen" from someone nearby. Some of the churchgoers joined in; most of the passengers did their best to ignore him.

I didn't hear the bus driver ask Church Man to keep his singing and preaching to himself, but he must have, because about five minutes into the ride, Church Man started peppering his praise with, "I

just can't stop — can't stop talking about Jesus." Somewhere around Broadway, the driver stopped the bus and walked to Church Man's seat, hands on hips, brow furrowed in exasperation. Without waiting to be asked, Church Man got up to leave. "You kicking me off?" he said. "That's OK. They kicked Jesus off."

Before the doors had even closed behind the enthusiastic worshipper, the outrage from the other passengers began.

"It's none of my business driver, but why did you just kick that man off the bus?"

"Ooh! Did he just kick that man off the bus for singing about the Lord?"

"The devil's on this bus."

"That's the devil. I don't give a sh*t what anybody says. That's the devil."

It was a ganging-up I haven't seen the likes of since about a year ago, when (also on the 2), the entire front section shamed a woman for talking on her cell phone. Many people (*Real Change* readers included) find the habit annoying, and for some reason, these particular riders felt emboldened to take out their frustra-

tion on this woman, who happened to be blind and scheduling an appointment for surgery.

But I digress.

The driver, feeling attacked (and possibly a little ashamed of his less-than-diplomatic handling of Church Man's behavior) didn't take the criticism well. He yelled back at the angry passengers, threatening to kick them off, too, and suggesting they refrain from critiquing his job performance. Their anger escalated.

"Just drive the bus, man," they said. "Mind your business and drive the bus."

A sarcastic "God bless you, driver!" occasionally erupted from the crowd, often followed by a "He'd better hope he doesn't meet Jesus."

Thankfully, I got off before they started pummeling him with their Bibles. ■

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

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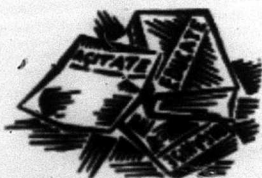
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Letters

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**What Dr. Wes
doesn't know**

Dear Editor,

This week's *Real Change* was the first one I've seen in a very long time. The issue has its bright spots. But the middle seven paragraphs of Dr. Wes's column ["What I don't know could fill a book," April 18] was a low point. It called a power analysis of racism "meaningless, vacuous, rotting from the head down and out its ass bullshit."

This flippant and insulting description is beneath this columnist and *Real Change*. It doesn't add to a meaningful dialog about race, class, and power but only obscures the issue and demeans fellow community members.

Prejudice and bigotry have been part of human interactions and civilizations in many ways for millennia. Racism is a specific form of systemic prejudice that's developed in the last 500 years or so. Racism as a political, social and economic system relies on the construction and perpetuation of the concept of (supposedly) biologically-based races, with white folk sitting on top of the pile. From what you wrote ("with all that humongous power White Americans have..."), I think we're in agreement to this point.

Where you and I diverge is in the assessment of to what extent and with what "power" people of color (not just "Black" people as you wrote) enforce their race-based prejudices. White people bring 500 centuries of dominance to bear. Whatever incidents of prejudice you're thinking of that justify calling people of color (again, you identify only "Black Americans") racist surely pale in comparison to the sheer volume, longevity, severity and raw effect of racism as practiced by white folk.

Is it worth writing seven superficial paragraphs about a pet peeve in a way that reinforces the idea that anyone can be racist, therefore implying that people of color can be equally culpable for rac-

companion
Cream, andsugar!
it's the half
given.Inside!
Made

for your

own,

friends!

given so
carefully...

yours

do

gather.

At the bottom,

too.

—Stan Burriss

ism? That's one of the unintended results of your column.

We don't have to agree, but we need to be in respectful dialog as a community about racism, class and power. Please be mindful of the impact of your words.

Sincerely, Gillian Burlingham, 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 at Real Change, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA, 98121, or emailed to editor@realchangenews.org

I thought
you were
dead.

BLAT 07

Stadler, continued from p. 7

nature as part of the built environment. We actually have to rethink how we live so animals can live with us.

To foster all this intergrowth, this non-centered pattern of production and population concentration, and the creation of vibrant cultural

Mall. Sher is an example of the option you said of someone privately opening our minds.

The second is something that Sieverts suggests, which is called internal tourism. When you think about vacation, why always think about what great city you'll visit, or what beautiful nature to go see?

Thus regaining a deeper understanding of our own surroundings?

And, if we make a commitment to using that way to get around, we support a greater network of non-car transport.

There's one other thing Sieverts' calls for: re-use. One of the points that Sieverts makes that is so compelling is that the zwischenstadt has more than enough of everything. We're not facing any sort of

You've said this will be possible also through re-imaginative culture workers; could you explain that?

Artists and writers have a huge role to play, but it's not by going and making a neighborhood look more bohemian. What we need to do is imagine things that we don't imagine now. A great piece of writing can make us start to see things that are different from our presumptions.

You are saying that when city-dwellers venture out to rediscover the landscape, they'll be surprised?

They'll be very surprised because when they're traveling out of their neighborhood, they're really traveling into the world. It's happening on 99 in Lynnwood, I see it when I travel to Seattle to visit my family, and it's vibrant and full of life in many languages and as many cultural frames that we don't even scan.

This all starts with no more badmouthing the suburbs, no more badmouthing the city, no more glib denigrations of fat people who drive their SUVs, no more glib dismissals of homosexual culture, all those bigotries on both sides need to disappear.

You're not going to go out and find the cute little London squares built out into the suburbs; you're going to find people's lives that are not like yours, and that's what city living is all about. ■

editor@realchangenews.org

I can see three very positive things. One is happening up in Seattle with Ron Sher, a private developer taking obsolete or disused malls – Crossroads Mall was first, and then Lake Forest Park Towne Centre as they call it – and simply trying to inhabit them with a rich mix of small businesses...

spaces within, who's going to take the helm? Should we look to regional authorities, or individual involvement, or private marshalling from developer tycoons?

Well, I can see three very positive things. One is happening up in Seattle with Ron Sher, a private developer taking obsolete or disused malls – Crossroads Mall was first, and then Lake Forest Park Towne Centre as they call it – and simply trying to inhabit them with a rich mix of small businesses, restaurants, services, and cultural gathering space that reflects the ethnic richness of the community they're serving. Crossroads Mall is very different from Northgate

Which comes straight out of a romanticized ideal of capital N nature, and the European model of city divided from the natural.

Yeah, the images that we go in search of when we travel come out of that nostalgia for the bucolic, and Sieverts asks, why don't you take a vacation in the zwischenstadt – get on the Amtrak train and get off in Tukwila? There's that Rocky and Bullwinkle family fun center. Or head to Bellevue: Crossroads Mall has its own Bollywood Cinema. Down here [in Portland] there's the MAX Train which you can take for vacations in Beaverton, nature parks, Orenco Station, you name it.

shortage of built environment; what we're facing is a crisis of imagination, where people don't know how to look at a building and imagine its use, so then they tear it down. Sieverts suggests that we ask what else we could be doing with buildings [and spaces] that now lie empty or get demolished.

That is not only a sound politics of sustainability, it's also a path forward into finding beauty and finding meaning in a landscape which we otherwise compare unfavorably to our dreams.

You see kids and other people who lack resources doing this all the time because they have to – making a skate park out of a disused parking area till you get kicked out by the police, etc.

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CALL TO ACTION

We Need a National Housing Trust Fund

Issue: The federal government had a big role to play in creating the housing crisis that has created homelessness as we know it today. It also has a big role to play in solving homelessness. Trying to solve what is a problem of poverty coupled with a severe shortage of affordable housing primarily through funding to provide social services to people who are homeless doesn't address the structural problem. A number of groups are offering more comprehensive solutions and organizing a grassroots base to pressure the federal government to address the problem more broadly. One solution being proposed is the creation of a national Housing Trust Fund.

Background: 5,600 groups across the country (including Real Change) have endorsed the effort to establish a National Housing Trust Fund, which would be a dedicated source of funds for low-income housing production and would provide the resources to build and preserve 1.5 million units of housing over the next decade.

In Washington, the state Housing Trust Fund was increased to \$130 million in the budget that the legislature just passed. While the increase was less than advocates had hoped, that it was increased at all is a testament to its effectiveness given the limitations on the capital budget this biennium. The state Housing Trust Fund is part of the funding package for the large majority of affordable housing units created in Washington.

Housing trust funds provide a steady stream of reliable revenue to support the complexities of the housing industry. Because the funds are dedicated, they are usually the most flexible money available for affordable housing. That allows for maximum efficiency in the use of these funds while it encourages leveraging of other public and private dollars. The state's trust fund leverages additional dollars at a rate of four to one.

Over the past 25 years, we've seen a decline in housing production funding at the federal level for very low-income people. While government spending on housing overall seems to have grown, tax expenditures — such as the mortgage interest deduction — account for more and more of that growth and spending on housing overall. In other words, the federal government

hasn't stopped funding housing — it's just shifted from producing housing for poor people to providing housing subsidies for the middle class. Creating a Housing Trust Fund would be a step toward finding a better balance.

Action: While there is no specific legislation yet, at the end of March, Rep. Barney Frank (D - MA) was successful in adding an amendment to a regulatory reform bill that would pave the way for a National Housing Trust Fund, and advocates expect a bill creating a fund to be introduced in May.

Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative and ask them to support the creation of a National Housing Trust Fund.

For more information visit www.nlihc.org.

Rep. Jay Inslee (D - 1st Dist.), 1-800-422-5521
jay.inslee@mail.house.gov

Rep. Rick Larsen (D - 2nd), 1-800-562-1385
rick.larsen@mail.house.gov

Rep. Jim McDermott (D - 7th), 206-553-7170
www.house.gov/mcdermott

Rep. Dave Reichert (R - 8th), 206-275-3438
www.house.gov/reichert

Rep. Adam Smith (D - 9th), 1-800-764-8409
www.house.gov/adamsmith

Senator Patty Murray (D), 206-553-5545
www.murray.senate.gov/email

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D), 206-220-6400
maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

GET INVOLVED, TAKE ACTION FOR REAL CHANGE

Calendar

This Week's Top Picks



Lolita: Slave to Entertainment documents the life story of Miami's biggest dolphin performer and the people striving for her humane release. The film crew traveled to the orca's place of capture in Penn Cove, Whidbey Island, visited her family in the wild, and unearthed the multi-billion dollar marine park industry's secrets. Thursday May 3, 7 p.m., Camp Long Environmental Learning Center, 5200 35th Ave. SW.

Friday 4/27

In celebration of professor Raymond Jonas' appointment as the inaugural Giovanni and Anne Costigan Endowed Professor in History, Jonas will deliver his lecture **"Ethiopia in the American Imagination."** When Emperor Menelik's army overwhelmed the Italians in Adwa, Ethiopia became the only African country to successfully defend its independence from colonization prior to 1914. The Battle of Adwa derailed prevailing 19th-century notions of race and nation, and reactions in the U.S. ranged from earnest to comical. 7 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall, Room 220.

Saturday 4/28

Rainbow Bookfest unites 20 authors to share and interact with each other, entertain readers, and explore their diverse perspectives and rich culture. The festivities include panels on revolutionary women, the immigration experience, and creating identity. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Asian Resource Center, 1025 S King St. Info: www.rainbowbookfest.com.

Monday 4/30

In town from the land down under, novelist Richard Flanagan reads from his novel **The Unknown Terrorist**. In it, a provincial pole dancer awakens from a one-night stand to learn she has been pegged as her lover's accomplice. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Professor Emeritus of Botany and author, Art Kruckeberg delivers the lecture **"Gardeners, Go Native"** — because it's easier, more sustainable, and often cheaper. 7:30 p.m., University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture.

Thursday 5/3

Urvashi Vaid leads the discussion **"The Enemies of Love and the Future of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Politics."** As the GLBT community grows in size and visibility, so does the backlash. Vaid will address the issues, the adversaries, and the next steps

for the movement. 6:30 p.m., University of Washington, Kane Hall, Room 130.

Instead of delivering a didactic account against globalization, Daniel Altman wrote **Connected: 24 Hours in the Global Economy**. His book follows the money as it moves through a dozen different cities, giving him ample time to teach the reader about international deals, currency markets, corruption, technological innovation, and the importance of oil. Altman will discuss the how and why behind decisions made in the world market. Tickets \$10, free for World Affairs Council members. 7 p.m., Henry Art Gallery, 4100 15th Ave. NE.

Friday 5/4

The Wallingford Meaningful Movies screens **Class Dismissed**, which navigates the media's steady stream of one-dimensional representations of working-class Americans. The film breaks ground by linking TV's portrayals with public policies that harm working families. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Place N.

Saturday 5/5

"In Our Hands Is Placed the Power" celebrates the history of working-class heroes with readings and song: the 1886 fight for the 8-hour day, the 1919 Seattle General Strike, the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers' strike, and the 1974 City Light walkout. Door donation \$10 with buffet, \$2 without. 6:00 p.m., New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainer Ave. S. Info: (206) 722-2453.

Through Sunday 5/6

Regarded as one of the most important living artists, Bruce Nauman loves language and word play. His innovative shows have used projections, wrenching figural castings, architectural constructions, and more. The exhibition **Elusive Signs** reveals Nauman's extensive career with some of his most powerful creations using neon and light. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Thursday, Henry Art Gallery, 4100 15th Ave. NE.

Voices from the Frontlines

Healing the Wounds of War

Poetry reading and story telling by veterans and civilians

Brian Turner

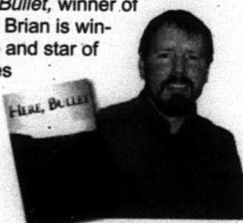
Poet-soldier from the Iraq War reads from *Here Bullet*, winner of 2007 Poets' Prize for year's best poetry volume. Brian is winner of the Lannan Foundation Poetry Fellowship and star of *Operation Homecoming*. Also: veterans, refugees and witnesses from Iraq and other wars.

Saturday, May 5th at 7PM

Town Hall, Seattle - 1119 Eighth Ave.

Tickets: \$15 - BrownPaperTickets.com

Info: voicesinwartime.org/events.htm



Washington Women in Trades
Celebrate What Makes Us Strong
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Women in Trades Job Fair



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at Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion

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CLASSIFIEDS

EVENTS

Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* is a brilliant comedy, mystery, and romance set both in 1809 and present day. Through Tuesday, May 8. University of Washington, Meany Hall. Info: www.meany.org.

Radical Women organizing meeting to learn about current activities and campaigns. Thursday, May 3, 7 p.m., New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S. Info: (206) 722-6057.

OPPORTUNITIES

Nonprofit Project Manager: Lead collaborative planning to end childhood hunger in WA. Nutrition/food policy experience preferred. 2 yr grant, Seattle-based, travel required. FTE, bens. www.childrensalliance.org.

Community Outreach Specialist to assist women w/preventive health care needs; incl. infant mortality. See details & exp. rec: www.ywcaworks.org Apply: hr@ywcaworks.org or to: YWCA Health Access, 2024 Third Ave., Seattle, WA 98121.

Facilities Technician needed for YWCA housing in Lynnwood. Resp. for facilities maintenance. \$14.40/hr flex. FT schedule+benefits. Details: www.ywcaworks.org. Apply hr@ywcaworks.org or to: PFW YWCA/Nicole Mims, 6027 208th St. SW. Lynnwood, WA 98036.

Real Change Readers Get \$35 in Free Flexcar Credit! (\$35 annual membership fee still applies.) And Real Change receives \$20 in usage credit on our organizational membership for each new member. Join Flexcar online at www.flexcar.com, enter "v35Friend" in the promo code field, and enter "Real Change" in the referring organization field. Offer valid only when you drive Flexcar once in your first 60 days of membership.

Dances of Universal Peace Celebrate humanity's spiritual traditions. Sing and dance to the sacred. Easy to learn — all welcome! Wed, 7:30 p.m. 5019 Keystone Pl. N. Seattle. (206) 781-1225. www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org.

BicycleDoctor.com Mobile repair service since 1990. On-site repairs at your home or office. Full service tune-ups/overhauls/parts and accessories. Group discounts available, satisfaction guaranteed! Owner/Mechanic Kenny (206) 789-7336.

Roll up your sleeves to clean up the Duwamish River. Sat., April 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Check website for locations: www.pugetsound.org.

Stop your oil addiction at the Northwest Biodiesel Meeting. Tues., April 24, 7 p.m., Phinney Ridge Center, Blue Building, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave. N.

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