



Change Agent

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Vendor of the Week

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REAL CHANGE

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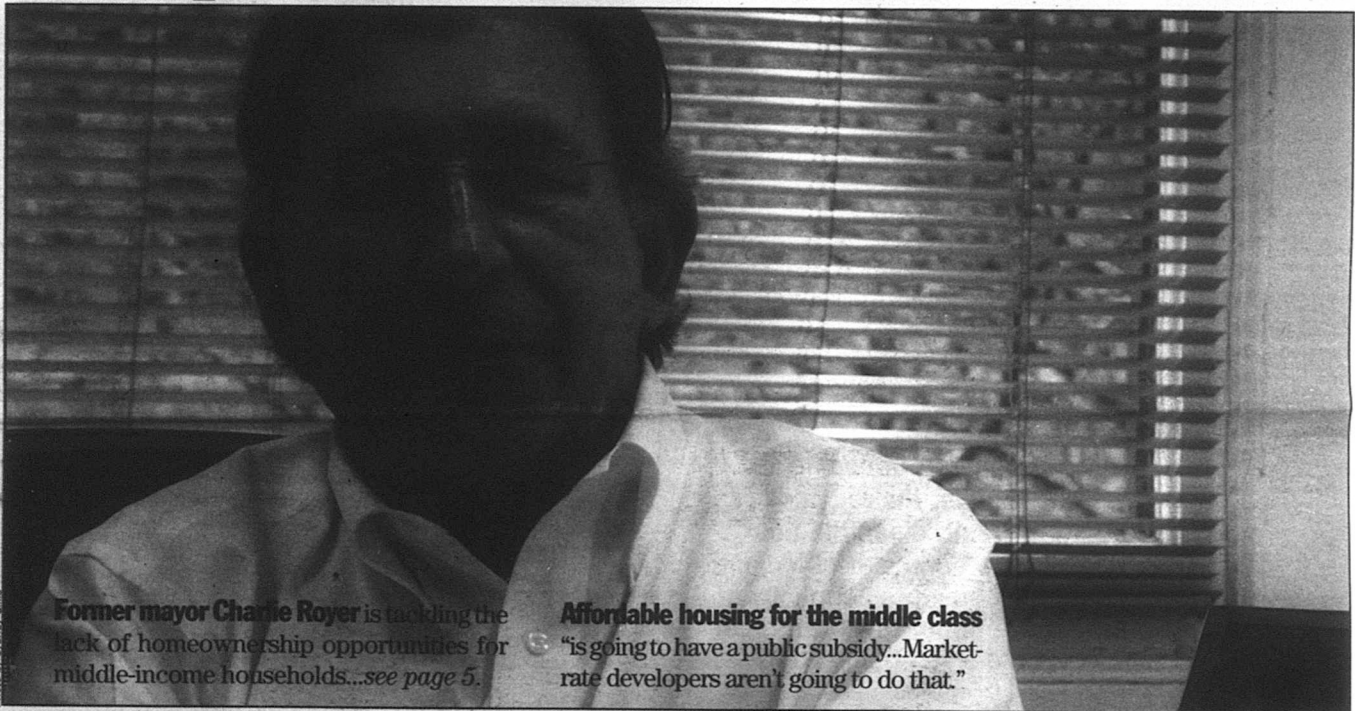


Photo by Christine Gillis

Former mayor **Charlie Royer** is tackling the lack of homeownership opportunities for middle-income households...see page 5.

Affordable housing for the middle class "is going to have a public subsidy...Market-rate developers aren't going to do that."



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Making it Pay

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Real Change is published weekly by the poor and homeless of Seattle. We receive 65¢ of the \$1.00 paid for each copy.

Mission Statement: Real Change exists to create opportunity and a voice for income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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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.

Real Change is a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association, the International Network of Street Papers, and the Greater Seattle Business Association.

Rules closing off public space are meant to shoo people without housing out of the city — or scoop them into jail

Playing peek-a-boo with people's lives

By PAUL BODEN, Guest Writer

The current insatiable appetite to see homeless people disappear from our parks, streets, business districts and tourist areas requires us all to go back to one of the very first lessons we are taught as infants.

Just because you can no longer see it, doesn't mean it no longer exists. Think of this the next time you play peek-a-boo with a toddler. Now you see the homeless. Now you don't. But either way, we're still here. Peek-a-boo!!

From Los Angeles to Seattle, the clear trend is toward growing inequality and heightened repression of people who are poor. In L.A., homeless people are routinely arrested and jailed for such poverty crimes as camping and sleeping on the sidewalk. In San Francisco, Portland, and Berkeley, sweeps of homeless encampments have become routine, where people lose their meager belongings and sometimes end up in jail. In Seattle, where low-income housing development has been trumped by runaway gentrification, city government is about to codify the confiscation and disposal of homeless people's last possessions.

When city governments do this, we often hear the phrase, "This is not about homelessness. It's about the parks."

Just as sweeping dirt under the rug doesn't really clean the floor, sweeping disabled and homeless people from public view or into jail doesn't really address homelessness.

While this phrase is a great tagline, it is also blatantly untrue. Sweeps, police outreach teams, and the busting up of encampments along I-5 from Lake Union in Seattle to China Basin in San Francisco has everything to do with homelessness!

Our parks, our freeway underpasses, and our streets have been around a hell of a lot longer than the very recent advent of closing, fencing, and privatizing them has. In fact, a direct correlation can be made between the massive increases in homelessness in the early 1980's and the park closures, police programs with both old and new vagrancy laws, and the fencing off of open space.

Prior to the federal cuts to affordable housing programs — from \$83 billion in 1978 to \$18 billion in 1983 — contemporary homelessness did not exist. Public parks were open for stargazing (and necking) and panhandling was around but not that big a deal. After the housing cuts, Disney moves into Times Square and Union Square, million-dollar lofts are built on Skid Rows, the parks are all closed at night, and practically every storefront has a "no trespassing" sign in its window. For homeless people, the end result is that most everything other than walking and breathing can get you a ticket, which then lands you in jail.

We need to rediscover what we learned when we were infants: People still exist even if we don't see them. It's called object permanence. Maybe if we remembered this lesson, we would choose to do something about the increasing number of families and individuals living without housing in the United States and begin to refund affordable housing programs. Maybe we could find a unified community voice for restoring public money for mental health care instead of constantly reading about the potential dangers those scary, crazy homeless people impose on the rest of us.

When local government is allowed to play peek-a-boo with people's lives, when it is given the authority to make people disappear, the result is inevitable. Incarceration. After all, removing people's presence from society pretty much requires that you put them somewhere.

As the federal and state governments abandoned all pretense of responsibility for the health and housing needs of people who may be poor and/or disabled,

local governments increasingly turned to laws and policing programs to mitigate the damage.

In response, jails are overflowing and Municipal Courts have established

It has been 25 years since the re-emergence of massive homelessness in America. It is time we stop trying to recreate Jim Crow and start trying to recreate the New Deal.

"special courts" along social, as opposed to criminal, lines. Drug courts, mental health courts, and homeless or community courts are all, at their core, manifestations of a criminal justice system overwhelmed by a society that attempts to rid itself of poor people rather than attempting to rid itself of poverty.

Just as sweeping dirt under the rug doesn't really clean the floor, sweeping disabled and homeless people from public view or into jail doesn't really address homelessness. They are still disabled and homeless when they are released. It is ineffective as hell, but local governments keep sweeping and we keep letting them.

It has been 25 years since the re-emergence of massive homelessness in America. It is time we stop trying to recreate Jim Crow and start trying to recreate the New Deal. After all, the New Deal didn't build prisons. It created jobs building hospitals, schools, and homes. ■

Paul Boden is director of the Western Regional Advocacy Project, which exists to expose and eliminate the root causes of civil and human rights abuses of people experiencing poverty and homelessness in our communities.



Paul Boden of the Western Regional Advocacy Project (wraphome.blogspot.com) flew up from San Francisco last week to be

here for our encampment at City Hall. WRAP is a West Coast coalition of homeless activists, and between us, we've seen it all.

The day after the protest, which drew more than 150 people overnight and at least 50 others to leaflet during the day, Paul looked at me and said, "You guys are headed down the same ugly road as San Francisco and LA."

Director's Corner

Much as I'd like to think otherwise, he's right. While city spokespeople describe their new policy addresses advocates' concerns by providing 48-hours notice, storage, outreach, and shelter, not one single homeless advocate, service provider, or homeless person I've talked to believes this to be true.

This intransigence — this rock-solid commitment to a policy that is both inhumane and immoral — is a measure of what's at stake.

This isn't rocket social science. Big money is riding on downtown condos. Overbuilding and economic downturn have added to the fear. Those who buy — often several years ahead of the opening — have been sold on safety. Visible poverty makes people nervous. The City responds with

sweeps, and dresses these up in the rhetoric of compassion.

It's a well-worn script. Google "homeless sweeps" and, aside from Seattle you'll see San Francisco, Portland, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Pittsburgh, Contra Costa County, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Fresno, and even Covington, KY. That's just in the first 30 hits.

And the official line is always the same: "This is a humanitarian approach," said Cynthia Belon, director of Contra Costa County's homeless program. "It's far more effective to give someone a place in a shelter and an appointment for them to get help."

But here's the rub. The shelters are full and services are stretched to the breaking point. A long ugly road stretches before us, and it's going downhill.



Just Heard...

Lobby loophole

Chris Leman calls it "cruelly ironic" that the Seattle City Council would choose national Freedom of Information Day, a date honoring Constitution author James Madison, to pass a lobbyist registration bill that requires everyone to register their lobbying activity except city employees.

Leman is a political scientist who speaks on open-government issues for Seattle's Community Council Federation. He has criticized Councilmember Nick Licata's bill, 116154, which passed unanimously March 17, because of what he calls a loophole: It requires the registration of city and other government employees specifically hired to lobby the city, but not the employees of city departments, Metro, the Port and other agencies who he says lobby the most.

But Licata aide Newell Aldrich says what Leman is advocating isn't practical. "That would entail reporting almost every conversation [city employees] have with their colleagues, which would get pretty messy."

Drug testing dropped

Every teenager who plays high school sports in the state of Washington owes the attorneys at the American Civil Liberties Union a pat on the back. On March 13, in a case brought by the ACLU of Washington, the state Supreme Court ruled that the state's schools don't have a right to randomly test students for drugs in the absence of individual suspicion.

Even though the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld student drug testing, the state justices agreed with the parents who sued the school district in the town of Wahkiakum that it's illegal under the state constitution ("White House stumps for more student drug testing," RC, Jan. 16-22, 2008).

Parks camera watch

Mayor Greg Nickels is moving to get the City Council to release \$600,000 that it held up last fall for surveillance cameras in four city parks ("Keeping an eye on crime or citizens?," Jan. 16-22). His office has forwarded a not yet introduced bill to the council Parks Committee chair Tom Rasmussen that would lift a budget proviso requiring the mayor to provide the council with protocols for how the cameras will be used.

There are still no protocols, says Rasmussen aide Ann Corbett. And there's a twist: The city is working to install a camera at one of the parks, Cal Anderson on Capitol Hill — potentially without the required OK of the council.

—Cydney Gillis



Photo by Andrea Lee

When it finally comes around, summer in Seattle brings an explosion of ripening fruit. For participants of the Community Fruit Tree Harvest Program, this means sunny afternoons picking apples, pears, grapes, and plums and delivering them to shelters. In 2006, the group picked 3,000 pounds of fruit and in 2007, with a grant from the Department of Neighborhoods, they delivered a whopping 11,000 pounds.

The program is part of Lettuce Link, which is run by Solid Ground. Seattle residents can register their trees at any time; when their fruit is ripe, coordinator Gail Savina organizes volunteers into groups that find ladders and transportation

and then pick and deliver the fruit. Volunteers often meet for the first time under the limbs of a tree.

Gail, who calls this her "dream job," believes better access to organic food is vital. And fresh, local fruit is in high demand at the area's low-income housing programs. Savina remembers bringing boxes of plums to a women's shelter, where, she says, the women were so excited "they just surrounded me."

If you're interested in volunteering with the Community Fruit Tree Harvest Program, call (206) 694-6761. To register your fruit tree, call (206) 633-0224.

—Rachel Rubinstein

Public campaign finance considered

The City Council discussed the basic logistics of a public finance program for mayoral and council elections in Seattle last Tuesday. Governor Chris Gregoire signed a bill that afternoon that would allow cities, towns, and counties in Washington to develop such programs and, if proposals fare well in referendums, to put them in action. If such programs went into effect, candidates who proved that they had sufficient public support could choose to have their campaign funded by the city instead of through private donors. This would shift the importance in election financing away from a candidates' connections toward the size of their following.

The Council has multiple models of programs for public finance of elections from which to choose. Craig Salins, executive director of Washington Public Campaigns, urged the council to take cues from Portland's full-finance model, in which a candidate who had gathered enough supporting signatures and small monetary pledges could receive a predetermined sum of money from the city that would enable them to run a competitive campaign. For those candidates the city would, up to a certain cap, match the money raised by privately funded competitors.

Alternatively, the council discussed creating a program more like that of San Francisco, in which the city would

match any sum of money raised by a candidate at a certain rate — for every \$100 raised, for example, the city might supply \$50 more.

If the Council designs a program by July, it will appear on the ballot this November. If voters approve, public financing could be enacted in the 2009 city elections. Councilmembers expressed skepticism over whether such a timeframe is realistic, however. The council also worried about the amount of tax dollars public funding of elections might cost. Councilmember Sally Clark reported that Portland is funding seven candidates right now and predicted that this would cost Portland at least \$2 million. Fellow councilmember Jean Godden, Finance and Budget Chair of City Council, expressed optimism about the affordability of campaign financing, stating, "I think it could be crafted in such a way that it won't detract from some of the things we also want to fund, like social programs and public safety."

—Stephen Perry

County equity discussed

Just down the street from the cluster of tents abutting City Hall, King County Executive Ron Sims and dozens of local organizations hosted a town hall meeting at the Central Library Thurs., March 13 as part of King County's new Equity and

Social Justice Initiative. King County Councilmember and Board of Health Chair Julia Patterson delineated the initiative's goal: equal access for all to quality education, basic health care, livable wages, a healthy environment, and safe, affordable housing. She and Sims delivered to the audience jarring statistics that reveal growing inequalities within the county.

"There's no reason for Native Americans to be six times more likely to be put in foster care than any other population," Sims told the audience. "There's no reason to see 50 percent of African Americans in 1970 own homes and today only 32 percent. We're not just standing still with the rest of the world moving — people are losing ground."

The estimated 200 town hall attendees viewed clips from "Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" a PBS series that focuses on the social determinants of poor health. Community members responded with observations of inequality in the county which could produce negative effects on health. Factors mentioned included the glut of junk food at food banks, racism in hospitals, and the dearth of crossing guards near poor public schools. Many people also expressed excitement and gratitude for the initiative.

A little something for everyone

Lawmakers step up for poor

By CYDNEY GILLIS,
Staff Reporter

With hard economic times bearing down on Americans, the Democratic-led Washington Legislature provided more money for assistance, food stamps, housing, and healthcare — even a tax rebate for low-income families — in what advocates for the poor and homeless are calling a banner year in Olympia.

In the short session that ended March 13, lawmakers added \$306 million to the state's previous \$33.4 million budget for the 2007-2008 biennium. The extra money is slated to create new programs or expand existing ones in the fiscal year starting July 1, including establishing the new, state-level Working Families Credit, championed by Sen. Craig Pridemore (D-Vancouver).

The program, which received \$1.25 million in startup funding for 2008, is

for low-income individuals or heads of households who receive a federal tax refund using the national Earned Income Tax Credit. In the 2009-10 biennium, when the state credit is slated to start, these tax filers will be eligible to get a state rebate equal to 5 percent of the federal earned-income tax refund that goes to some 350,000 state residents. In 2011 and beyond, the amount will be 10 percent of the EITC refund.

"This was the first year it was introduced and lawmakers saw the importance of it," says Maya Baxter, executive director of the Statewide Poverty Action Network, which pushed for the bill. "It gets money back in the pockets of the people who will reinvest it immediately in [a] local economy" that has slowed down.

SPAN and other groups also succeeded in expanding eligibility for food stamps and Medicaid, the low-income medical program, along with winning a rare increase of 3 percent for households who receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

The groups have tried for years to get the Legislature to boost welfare funding, which, for a family of three, provides a grant of \$546 a month. That's \$200 to \$300

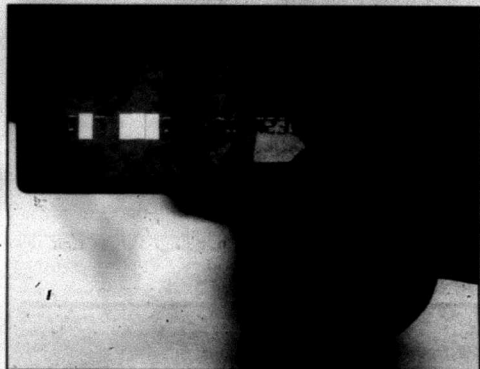
short of what a one-bedroom apartment rents for today in Seattle, which is exactly how Baxter says SPAN framed this year's request to lawmakers: as a way to cover rising housing costs.

There were much larger gains for housing itself, with the final budget approved by the House and Senate including an extra \$70 million for the Housing Trust Fund, a grant pool that has helped low-income housing developers create 34,000 rental units in the state.

The \$70 million brings the trust fund to a total of \$200 million and includes \$10 million apiece for two new programs. One is a Rapid Response Loan Program, which will make it possible for nonprofit housing operators to snap up property or buildings as they come on the market. A new Nonprofit Equity Program will also provide nonprofits the grants they need to secure much larger bonds for their building projects.

Gov. Chris Gregoire has already signed a bill providing an extra \$6 million for the Washington Families Fund, a program that helps prevent families from becoming homeless. And the House and Senate agreed to extend rental assistance to homeless individuals by adding \$2.5 million to the THOR transitional housing program, which has previously helped only families.

The final budget also included \$6.2 million to set up a paid family leave program that the Legislature passed last year. But lawmakers punted on a decision this time out as to what method they will ultimately use to fund the program, which promises to pay a parent up to \$250 a week for five weeks to care for a newborn.



The legislature raised funds this session for welfare, making food stamps and Medicaid available to more people and providing a rare 3 percent increase in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. Photo by Adam Hyla



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Our purpose is to entertain, educate, and involve. KBCS is the only station in the greater Seattle area offering ongoing training opportunities. Become the media at KBCS.

"Everybody seems to be anxious about the long-term funding," says one of the program's original sponsors, Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Kent). "I know there's no easy answer for that quite yet," but "the benefits don't start until October of 2009, so there's still time to come to a resolution."

Among other bills for the governor to sign:

■ **Condos:** Renters facing a condo conversion got more time to move (120 days, up from 90) and cities can now make developers pay more in moving money (up to three times the rent instead of \$500), but the bill lacks provisions to cap condo conversions.

■ **Domestic violence:** Substitute House Bill 2602 allows victims to take time off work without getting fired.

■ **Foster kids:** The budget tackles three of the four issues — including monthly visits by state caseworkers — that led attorneys for former foster child Jessica Braam to take the state back to court in January. But it remains to be seen, says Braam attorney Casey Trupin, how and when the state will reduce caseloads as required.

■ **Gangs:** Civil rights activists are urging the governor to veto the final version of House Bill 2712, which allows authorities to ban purported gang members from certain areas and put their names in a database for five years.

See LEGISLATURE, Continued on Page 6

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Former mayor stumps for families with \$61-\$122K annual incomes

Campaign casts Seattle's middle class as 'housing poor'

By CYDNEY GILLIS,
Staff Reporter

Charlie Royer was once a champion of subsidizing low-income housing — something he ushered in as mayor of Seattle in the 1970s. But times have changed: Today Royer is worried about the strain that the city's out-of-sight housing costs are putting on middle-class professionals and, in turn, the region's economy and environment.

A firefighter starting out in Seattle today, he says, can't afford to buy half the house he could when Royer was mayor. And major employers such as hospitals have a hard time recruiting nurses and other staff who can't afford the prices. There's also the global warming that he says the firefighters and nurses contribute to each day commuting into the city from somewhere cheaper.

So, about a year ago, Royer says, he got together with a few folks knowledgeable in development — including Lyn Tangen of billionaire Paul Allen's real estate firm, Vulcan Inc. — to kick around what to do. The result is the Middle

"Anything below 80 percent of [area median income] is going to have a public subsidy of some sort in this market," he says. And "market-rate developers aren't going to do that unless they're forced to by regulation or unless they have very heavy incentives."

The group is specifically targeting six urban centers, as opposed to single-family neighborhoods, that Royer says have failed to grow as planners intended, including the downtown area, Capitol Hill, lower Queen Anne, Northgate, the University District and South Lake Union, where Vulcan is well under way with many high-rises.

Concentrating on the urban centers "limits the number of oxen who are going to get gored somewhat, but probably not to the extent that it's going to be easy to make these changes," says Royer.

The work started in earnest March 6 at a workshop held at the Washington Athletic Club. Royer says the event, which was paid for by Seattle and King County, drew more than 100 non- and for-profit developers, architects, and urban planners who started work on the set of recommendations that the alliance will lobby for later this year.

Participants worked in two tracks — one devoted to employer-assisted housing programs, which are used in other cities to provide new recruits with down payment assistance. Other attendees focused on regulatory and policy proposals in the areas of building codes, density, zoning, and permitting.

Royer chuckles that he ran for mayor, in part, on a platform of streamlining permitting, but says that every cost lifted from the developer is a cost lifted from



Former mayor Charlie Royer is leading the Middle Income Housing Alliance, a coalition focusing on in-city homeownership for those making 80 to 150 percent of median income. Photo by Cydney Gillis

The Middle Income Housing Alliance wants more growth in urban areas that developers say haven't met their potential. Excluding single-family neighborhoods "limits the number of oxen who are going to get gored somewhat," says Royer.

Income Housing Alliance, a lobbying group that Royer has formed to promote city regulation changes that will make it easier for developers to build more in-city housing for the middle class.

Royer, head of a nonprofit consultancy he founded called the Institute for Community Change, says there's a significant housing gap that the market alone isn't going to address for the city's firefighters and nurses — an argument that Mayor Greg Nickels has used to encourage the City Council to pass developer tax breaks and incentives this year aimed at people with incomes at 80 to 100 percent of area median income, or \$61,500 to \$81,400 for a family of four, according to HUD's latest data for 2008.

The Middle Income Housing Alliance, whose early advisors included Tangen, developer Bruce Lorig, Seattle Housing Authority director Tom Tierney and others, is focusing on a higher range of 80 to 150 percent of median income, about \$61,500 to \$122,100 a year for a family of four — a demographic Royer is calling the "housing poor."

the home buyer — changes that will benefit everyone in the housing spectrum, from low-income up.

"I don't think the market can solve [the problem] alone," says Sarah Lewontin, a workshop participant and executive director of the Housing Resources Group, a Seattle nonprofit developer. But, "If you remove as many regulatory barriers as possible, the market will produce housing and prices and rents will even out."

Architect and former City Council member Peter Steinbrueck, who spent years advocating for the homeless and

low-income housing, agrees that few developers will risk the low profits of building affordable housing without incentives. But he insists Royer's group is targeting the wrong end of the housing pyramid — with ideas that won't work.

"The public should not be subsidizing housing at that level. The needs [below 80 percent of area median] are too great," Steinbrueck says. And, "We're never really going to significantly increase supply and lower prices through deregulation. It just won't happen. Politically, it's a nonstarter." ■

Rain

falls in a language, a clattering tongue:

I fall I fall; I win I win
I am relentless, I hit
the pavement and run

people know less than turtles
about me; less than blue eggs

even the cat under the porch
understands what I say
with my thousand thousand
little tongues; she waits
out the wet night's chatter

I am more real than anything

—Elizabeth Romero

Vendor of the Week



Somewhere over the Aleutian Islands there exists a void in airspace — American F-14s and Russian MiGs need never tear across the horizon unless, that is, World War III has begun. The American government allows civilian craft to cross into this “window,” so long as they can steer well clear of military airspace, where Alaska and Siberia glower across the Bering Strait. This tiny strip of aeronautical netherworld used to be the stomping ground of vendor of the week Glynda Goodness, who had scored a job surveying the islands for infrastructural development.

Goodness' love of flight was in all likelihood there from birth. Her father's career as an Air Force mechanic brought Goodness everywhere from the Bahamas to Boston, from Florida to Panama. Goodness has been around planes — and getting around in planes — her entire life.

It probably came as no surprise to her folks when, after receiving a mas-

ter's degree in Education from Southwest Missouri State, Goodness opted out of a teaching career and moved to Alaska to fly planes. Along with earning her bachelor and master's degrees, Goodness had been accruing piloting hours in a Missouri flight school.

After a few Alaskan summers (“We’d call them winters,” she says), Goodness flew to Seattle. Then she figured she’d stay.

“I love Seattle,” she says. “It’s a great city.”

In order to supplement her income, Goodness became a *Real Change* vendor. And if you happen to have seen Goodness sell, you know that the thought of her in a Cessna — tangoing tranquilly between warplanes somewhere over the Aleutians — has a kind of metaphorical resonance.

“Thank you,” she tells her customers. “Your support means a lot.”

Let her sell you a paper at the QFC on Pike and Broadway.

—Story and photo by JP Gritton

Who's the special person who offers you Real Change?
Nominate them for Vendor of the Week.
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LEGISLATURE, Continued from Page 4

■ **Health care:** Sen. Keiser championed a number of insurance items this session, including Senate Bills 6333 and 5261. The first sets up a committee to study five different health care plans aimed at providing affordable coverage for all state residents, and the second allows the insurance commissioner to review and veto rate hikes. Second Substitute House Bill 2537, sponsored by Rep. Eileen Cody, D-Seattle, creates a Health Insurance Partnership program that lowers costs for small businesses and their employees, in

part, by providing state assistance for workers to pay their premiums.

Bills that didn't make the final cut:

■ **Income discrimination:** House Bill 1956 would have stopped landlords from discriminating against potential tenants who receive welfare or disability payments.

■ **Rx privacy:** Senate Bill 6241 would have prevented drug companies from buying patient prescription information from doctors, but got scuttled by what Joshua Welter of Washington's Community Action Network calls a small army of 25 pharmaceutical lobbyists that he says descended on Olympia. ■

EQUITY, Continued from Page 3

Neither Sims nor Patterson revealed any clear, specific plans to combat the broad social ills the initiative faces. Sims stressed that the battle for equity would take a long-term commitment from the public, but exactly what sort of resources will be required was a point of contention among members of the panel who spoke that night. Emma Medicine White Crow, vice chair to the governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, explained, “It's more than just knowing about an issue; it's having the strength to bring change. But that means opening your pocketbooks [as well as] your hearts, and your ears, and your mind.”

Fellow panelist Ben Danielson, medical director of Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, later countered, “I hear talk about how making a change requires such issues with money and time and leadership, and I agree on the last two. But I think we should avoid buying into this lie that making a change always costs more money.”

The King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative will hold another community meeting on March 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Kent Senior Activity Center. For more information, go to www.kingcounty.gov/exec/equity.

—Stephen Perry

School lunches to get healthier

Food for kids in schools just got a whole lot better with the passing of the Local Farms-Healthy Kids bill in the

state legislature. It promises to provide local produce for school children and bolster support for farmers markets. The bill also specifically assists low-income families through expanded food stamp and food bank programs.

“The bill basically survived intact,” says Mo McBroom of the Washington Environmental Council, the lobbying body behind the bill, “We received \$1.5 million in funding, which completely funds everything.”

The largest part of the funding will go toward the Washington Grown Healthy Snack Program, which provides healthy snacks for children on federal student lunch programs. The rest of the money will go to jumpstart various programs all directed toward increasing access to local food for low-income families.

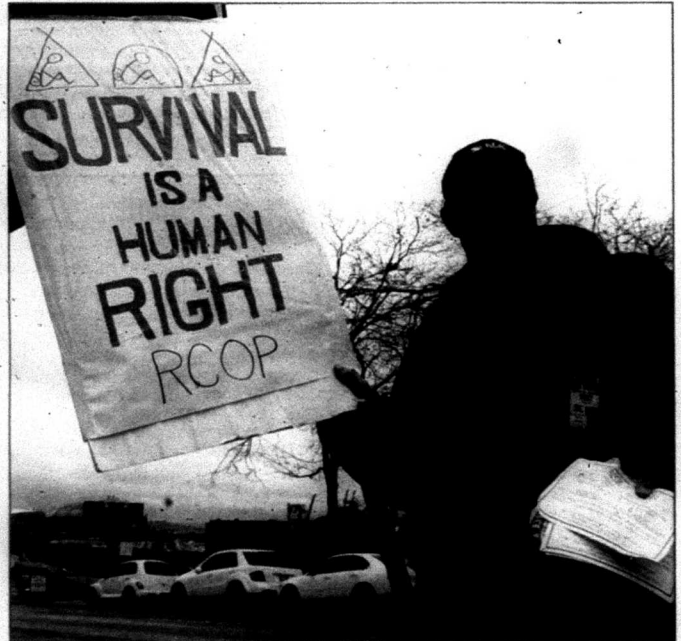
Although the bill received support from many different groups, it did have its detractors.

“The processed food industry was complaining that the emphasis on fresh and local [food] discriminates against their products,” says McBroom: threatening language, she says, coming from powerful lobbyists.

Despite their efforts, the bill passed with bipartisan support and the votes were almost unanimous in both the House and Senate. The bill becomes law after the legislative session ends and the beginnings of the various programs are planned to start in the fall.

“It's a small step, but it's a huge shift. This bill isn't about getting one specific thing accomplished. It's about ten or fifteen years from now when we turn around and see that we've completely changed things.”

—Corey Kahler



A Page from the Survival Handbook

Real Change vendor Steven Schmidt registered his opposition to the city's sweeps of homeless encampments Thurs., March 13, near the Pike Place Market. The *Real Change* Organizing Project concluded a day of downtown actions with a rainy campout outside City Hall; an estimated 154 people spent the night. Photo by Revel NT

Psychologist Heidi Squier Kraft on life lessons from combat hospital

The Rules of War

Interview by **ROBIN LINDLEY**,
Contributing Writer

It's been 25 years since the last episode of *M*A*S*H* aired in February 1983. The darkly comic CBS television series about a team of army doctors stationed at a field hospital during the Korea War still resonates as doctors treat wounded soldiers in yet another war. *M*A*S*H* is remembered for its biting humor and timeless comments on war, such as this grim observation: "There are two rules of war. Rule number one is that young men die. Rule number two is that doctors can't change rule number one."

This line struck a chord with clinical psychologist Dr. Heidi Squier Kraft and provided the title for her Iraq war memoir, *Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital* (Little, Brown & Co., \$23.99). The book recounts Dr. Kraft's deployment as a Navy psychologist when her twin son and daughter were 15 months old, her treatment of physically and mentally wounded troops at an austere field hospital in Iraq, and her return home to face her own symptoms of war trauma.

Dr. Kraft received a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. After several years as a flight psychologist with the Navy, she gave birth to twins in 2002. In 2004, she deployed to Iraq for eight months. She left active duty in March 2005, and is now deputy program coordinator of the U.S. Navy Combat Stress Control Program in San Diego. She discussed *Rule Number Two* from her home there.

What prompted your memoir on your work as a combat psychologist in Iraq?

I'm a total accidental author. I [wrote] a poem "The List" — things that were good and things that were bad there. That's how it started. By the time I got home, that poem had gone around the world. I was overwhelmed. I heard from all these people: veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, corpsmen, nurses, doctors.

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A Vietnam-era Marine officer [Otto Lehrack] who had written four books on Vietnam said that each line of the poem could be the chapter of a book. I said thank you, I'm flattered, and I went about my denial, trying to recover on my own, and it wasn't working very well. About six months [later], he wrote again. I said I'm not going to write a book; it's too private. He said fair enough, but just write it while you remember, and I'll help you. And he did.

I started with the Dunham story. It took

A Vietnam-era Marine officer who had written four books on Vietnam said that each line of the poem could be the chapter of a book. I said thank you, I'm flattered, and I went about my denial, trying to recover on my own, and it wasn't working very well.

me out at the knees, it was so traumatic.

That's the story about Corporal Jason Dunham who suffered mortal wounds when he dove on a grenade to protect his friends, and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor?

Yes. That one took a couple weeks, and then I started another. It took a little less time, and I started another. What I was doing — which I didn't realize even being a shrink — was trauma therapy. It was a slow process of about a year, and by the time the book was done, I felt like myself again. I felt solid, healed.

Even then I didn't want to publish it, but Jason Dunham's mother told me, "The mother's of America don't know that there are people like you out there to hold their children's hands if they're afraid or in pain, and they need to know."

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Clinical psychologist Heidi Squier Kraft spent eight months in Iraq in 2004 treating physically and psychically wounded troops. Photo by Karen Lovechio

And you literally held Cpl. Dunham's hand. Can you describe that incident?

About a month after I got there, he was part of a mass casualty. Fourteen Marines came in. We had to triage people. Combat medicine involves a triage category called "expectant" where, if a person has a head injury [with] no meaningful signs of brain activity, we have to use our resources on people who we can save. In the States we'd pull out all the stops, [but] we had nothing. There wasn't a front, but if there was, we were there.

So [Cpl. Dunham] was not showing any meaningful signs of brain activity, and was moved to our "expectant ward." Dentists and dental technicians manned the ward. I wandered in, and they asked me to take [Cpl. Dunham's] hand. Once I held his hand, I [was] completely unable to leave. We all talked to him, and told him that he was a hero. Of course, we had no idea of what he had done.

We expected his breathing would change and he would die. But he didn't die. He started squeezing my hand. At first I figured it was a reflex, and he did it again. He started squeezing on command. It was a miracle. His status changed.

He got home to Bethesda. His parents consider it a gift that they were with him when he died. His mother believes with all of her heart that he heard her in my voice — and that he should get home alive as he promised her.

You also describe a Marine who told jokes to raise the spirits of the medical staff right after losing an arm and both feet.

I often think about him and hope he is somewhere now [to] inspire people the way he inspired those medical people that day. I have no idea what happened to him [or] any of my patients except for Cpl. Dunham. That's very difficult — to let them all go.

And you comforted a female Marine and prevented her from killing herself with her M16.

I remember that feeling like it was yesterday. That heart in my throat, thinking, "Oh geez. I cannot be arriving on the scene of someone who has just shot herself with a rifle." I was afraid.

Our Bodies, Our Scales

■ **Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body**

By Neil Shubin, Pantheon, 2008, Hardcover, \$24

Review by SEAN HUGHES,
Contributing Writer

Your *Inner Fish* is a book about wonder.

Neil Shubin, fish paleontologist and professor of anatomy, writes with wide-eyed and often open-mouthed astonishment about the history of the human body. The book spans billions of years as he explains the emergence of the human body from other, decidedly less human, forms. Shubin weaves together two main strands of evidence — physical and genetic comparisons of humans and other modern-day organisms, and comparisons between humans and fossilized organisms — in order to tell us what we are and how we got here. In the course of doing so, he awakes in the reader a new understanding of his or her body and the links between it and the creatures around it.

Take teeth, for example. Those unassuming little body parts turn out to be the foundation of many seemingly-unrelated structures: we would, as Shubin puts it, "never have scales, feathers, or breasts if we didn't have teeth in the first place." As it turns out, the tooth's pattern of embryonic development is mirrored in the development of scales,

feathers, and breasts. All four use the same pattern, but teeth arose first; indeed, teeth also predate all the other hard parts of the body.

The forerunner of teeth, known to us in fossilized form as "conodonts", show up all over the place in the early fossil record. They are often found in the absence of any other body parts, so "...scientists disagreed over whether they were animal, vegetable, or mineral...[c]onodonts were claimed to be pieces of clams, sponges, vertebrates, even worms." The confusion

Neil Shubin, fish paleontologist and professor of anatomy, writes with wide-eyed and often open-mouthed astonishment about the history of the human body.

came about because conodonts appeared in animals that didn't have any other hard



The fish called a coelacanth, a so-called living fossil, possesses teeth. People have teeth, too. Which means these fish may be our long-lost relatives. Photo courtesy www.wikimedia.org.

parts — and so no other part of them fossilized. Upon this realization and the discovery of conodonts in the mouths of animals later in the fossil record, the mystery was solved.

Shubin explains all this — and introduces the scientists who uncovered it — in order to make a larger point: that teeth were the first hard body part to arise and that some of the other hard parts are little more than repurposed teeth. Indeed, Shubin goes on to discuss some peculiar fish that "look like hamburgers with fleshy tails." The plate of armor on their heads that gives them such a beefy appearance turns out to be made of hundreds of conodonts fused together.

Shubin treats many different parts of our anatomy according to this pattern: in interlocking chapters, he explains the current form of the body part and then he explains how they got that way, considering, for their earliest origins and similarities between extant species. Indeed, the book is remarkable for the breadth of topics it covers. Shubin's ability to teach about such a wide variety of phenomena is successful largely because he has a real talent for describing complicated and often subtle science in a way that makes it effortless to understand. This is crucial in his being able to share his limitless enthusiasm for the amazing and occasionally baffling paths by which the

history of the body proceeded.

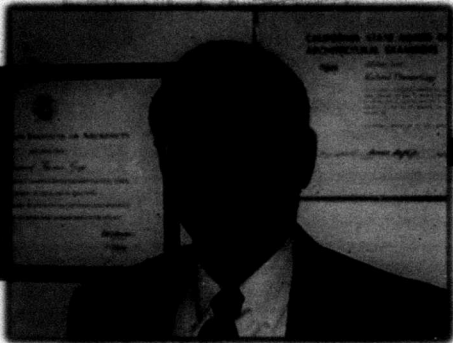
The distillation of the science does, however, occasionally go a bit too far: at times, the discussion is so simplified that it feels almost cursory. A conclusion is reached, but the reader is left wanting more details. That said, Shubin does hit precisely the right balance the majority of the time.

The astonishment and wonder with which the book brims is his finest achievement. Nowhere is this more evident than in the passages dealing with Shubin's experiences on fossil digs and his interpretation of the fossil record. The pages positively burst with excitement and suck the reader in. The excitement is for the glee of scientific discovery, of course, but more, it's an expression of wonder at the fascinating and almost unbelievable way that the history of the body has unfolded.

As Shubin puts it, "One of the joys of being a scientist is that the natural world has the power to amaze and surprise." The experience of reading *Your Inner Fish* is, indeed, one of surprise and amazement, as the reader is left looking at his or her body in a wholly new way, understanding the surprising connections between hernias and the location of the testes in sharks, between alcohol mixing with the gel in the inner ear and drunken stumbling, even between the body layouts of fruit flies and humans. ■

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Cost Benefit Analysis

I had hoped staying in my 148 sq. ft. apartment was good for the environment, but my doctor said it would be better for the environment if I moved to a bigger apartment and stopped vegetating.

I moved and started a part-time job in the building. The job pays \$335 per month. For this I lost \$10 a month in food stamps and my rent went up \$100.

Also, my deductible with Medicaid went up from \$1,500 every six months to \$2,300 every six months.

And on and on, and so on; I may not be getting ahead, but I have become a better accountant.

—Catherine Hunt



Adventures in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Last Thursday some *Real Change* people and friends camped out at the City Hall Plaza in the second such effort to draw Mayor Greg Nickels' royal attention to our call for an end to his inhumane and illegal sweeps of homeless encampments. I could go on and on about the fact that Greg Nickels gave every appearance of not giving a damn, and how that means we'll be back, and probably back again, and again, but there will be plenty of time for that later. What I want to do now is talk about cross-class sleeping.

My first experience with cross-class sleeping was the rebound whose Father owned a multi-million dollar chain of laundromats back East. Daddy gave her a red Corvette for her graduation present. She owned so many clothes she had to buy her own commercial-size clothes rack. Her clothes rack was bigger than my whole apartment. We didn't get along very well. I came to believe that cross-class sleeping would not bring classes together, politically.

I now realize how wrong I have been. There are ways to make cross-class sleeping work. Those ways involve insomnia, coffee, and wet tents.

Get people together to try to sleep in wet tents! They will not be able to sleep! They will then be forced to talk amongst themselves, causing social glues to exude from their pores, sticking them to each other! It worked last Thursday between myself and a

©Dr. Wes: Another happy camper

bunch of strangers. If I can bond to a bunch of strangers so can almost anyone.

The classes I have bonded with so far include various intern-classes and legal-aid-classes. In the future I hope to bond to other kinds of classes.

One very promising class is the class of clergy. I came literally within inches of bonding with representatives of the clerical class during the camp out. I actually felt their silky vestments! How many of

Get people together to try to sleep in wet tents! They will not be able to sleep! They will then be forced to talk amongst themselves, causing social glues to exude from their pores, sticking them to each other!

you readers have ever come so close to bonding with clergy that you felt their silky vestments? (Just a raise of hands will do. Details aren't necessary.)

It turns out these clergy were mostly morning people, so my plans to invade their tents and bond more thoroughly did not pan out. But I can plan better for the next camp out. I am looking forward to a night, three months from now, of cross-class alliance-ing with at least three ministers simultaneously. My plan makes room for a very early pillow fight. With proper timing, I should be able to

get in, bond, and get out again in time to bond with some night people elsewhere. Lawyers or bartenders, conceivably.

Even the little bit of bonding I was able to do with the clergy at last week's camp out taught me a very important lesson about them. Clergy are human, too. They have the same needs that we do. Some of them eat lasagna.

Another class I look forward to bonding to is the class of Seattle City Councilmembers. I only saw one city councilmember Thursday, new guy Tim Burgess, and he didn't join in the camp out. Next time I want to see all nine in tents of their own. I'm sure they all love camping, why else live and do politics in the Pacific Northwest? I'll bet Mr. Burgess skis, even.

Further into the future I foresee opportunities to ally cross-class-ly to all sorts of classes I now rarely have occasion to think about. The class consisting mainly of retired television repairmen. Whatever class acupuncturists belong to. The class of jewelers who are also former tugboat workers. The class of *Times* and/or *P-I* reporters.

Who knew that *Times* and/or *P-I* reporters valued their evenings so much that none of them could swing by after rush hour to see it? The lesson: If there isn't a riot or a conflagration going on, Seattle's mainstream reporters are going to stay home to watch *Lost*.

After socially allying with mainstream reporters, I may be ready for mayors. ■

Sound off and read more:
drivesb.blogspot.com



Tues., March 11, 8:06 p.m., 2300 blk Second Ave. Suspect, a transient Black male aged 43, was observed sitting behind a car in a pay lot on Second Ave. He was drinking alcohol with his buddy, and when he saw the officer approaching he walked off westbound through the lot. Officers contacted him and identified him, and suspect came back as active with the Department of Corrections (DOC) so they contacted his DOC officer. She advised them to place suspect under arrest for not reporting. A warrant for his arrest had been issued, but had not made it into the system yet. Upon a search incident to arrest a very small piece of crack cocaine fell from suspect's jacket and was turned over to the DOC for disposal. Suspect was booked into King County Jail.

Wed., March 12, 9:15 a.m., Bell St. Officers observed the suspect, a transient Black male aged 36, seen in the 100 block of Bell St. Officers believed he was involved in drug-related activities, and contacted him. He was found to have an outstanding warrant, which was verified by radio. Suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Wed., March 12, 6:40 p.m., Fourth Ave. S. Officer observed a transient female aged 41 on the property of AC Automotive on Fourth Ave. S. He recognized her from a few days before, when he had found her on the same property, and had issued her a trespass admonishment and warned her not to return. He ran her name via the car computer and verified the warrant. Suspect was arrested for trespass and booked into King County Jail.

Wed., March 12, 7:32 p.m., Eighth Ave. NE. On March 10 officer met with the owner of the property at the above address. The property is a vacant residential home awaiting demolition. The owner was concerned that transients had gained access to the house, and requested police assistance. The owner has boarded up all access points to the house and secured them with plywood screwed into the exterior. He also posted "No Trespassing" signs, and secured the front of the property with a locked fence. On the date of this report officer discovered that the south side of the fence had been damaged to create access to the property. Further checking revealed that a plywood board on the north side of the building had been removed, and a window broken. The suspect, a Black male aged 47, [was located], and a records check revealed he had an outstanding warrant. This was verified, and he was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Wed., March 12, 7:40 p.m., Freeway Park, Seneca St. Officer on patrol in Freeway Park noticed suspect, a transient white male aged 33, sitting with two others on one of the park benches. When he saw the officer he attempted to conceal a can of beer by hiding it in the bushes. The beer was recovered, and suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

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

Faith, Culture, Politics

Rev. Rich Lang

I recently attended a community-church meeting in the View Ridge neighborhood. The gathering was for the purpose of discerning whether or not the church would host Tent City for a summer stay. The meeting itself was composed, civil, and orderly. The result was the rejection of a Tent City encampment.

The neighbors were, of course, deeply caring for the homeless. They cared so much for them that speaker after speaker made passionate appeals for the city to do something about it. They cared so profoundly for the homeless that they insisted that better solutions be proposed that would offer the homeless the care and resources they needed. They expressed great anguish for the homeless, whom they so very much wanted to help, but simply felt convinced that living in tents, especially tents that a few neighbors would actually have to look at, was not the composed, civil, and orderly way to demonstrate their care.

The church, old and gray and kind like good grandparents are suppose to be, lis-

Rev. Lang: Wealth but no heart

tened to the objections of their neighbors. They were pained and sorrowed and most certainly didn't want to cause division, bad feelings, and conflict in their nicely composed, civil, and ordered community. The church, in all of its utterly irrelevant

Personally, I'd be afraid to raise my children around such deviants.

mediocrity, could offer no compelling, passionate, intelligently articulate rationale for why the neighborhood should willingly invest itself in the sacrifice of its comfort and privilege. And so, Tent City was sent off to be someone else's problem.

However, the deeply concerned neighborhood was invited by the kindly church grandparents to join them in a task force to do something about homelessness. So although Tent City was not welcome in the neighborhood, the meeting ended on the important feel-good that something, by someone, would most certainly be done sometime, somewhere, some place.

It was at that point that I thought that a proper response would have been for

me to go up into the balcony and proceed to projectile vomit over the entire gathering. Surely these good, decent, neighborly Americans were not as evidently stupid as their statements made them out to be? Surely, these gung-ho patriotic Americans weren't as spineless, morally gutless, and cruel as their actions indicate?

But evidently they are. The View Ridge community has wealth but no heart, they have homes but no hospitality, they have proclamations but meaningless application. The View Ridge community embodies the utter moral depravity and logical consequence of the American Dream that pretends to build a perfect life. Personally, I'd be afraid to raise my children around such deviants.

As for the Church, kindly grandparents that they are, I found myself wondering how the congregation will be able to read the scriptures this Sunday without breaking down and weeping. But then, hopefully, that will be exactly what they do. ■

Rev. Rich Lang is pastor of Trinity United Methodist in Ballard and a member of the Real Change Organizing Project. He can be contacted through www.tumseattle.org.



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Letters

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Camping is fun

Dear Real Change,

Hats off to Real Change and the people who organized the overnight camp out to protest the illegal actions of the city sweeps. Despite the rainy weather and dampened sleeping bag, the camaraderie was strong, the spirits were high, and deeper connections to combine our efforts to face the adversities of homelessness had a home for an evening. Ironically, we all camped out right in front of a multi-million-dollar city hall complex. I traveled by bus with my overnight backpack to city hall where about 40 tents, cardboard boxes draped with plastic, and rolled out

tents intermingled in the shadowy street lamps and city clamor.

My personal removal from the daily routine inspired a moment to reconnect to the harshness of realities our homeless population, as my interactions further reassured that homelessness is a result of the U.S.'s neoliberal capitalistic agenda bent on marginalizing people for further profitable gains. The evening furthermore reminded me of the long road we must travel ahead to stop the social injustices that are cracking and eroding away at the foundation of what it means to be a democratic society. And we should not rest until everyone at least has the human right to healthy meals, basic health care, and a roof over their heads. Thanks again to Real Change and those present the evening of the camp out for taking the time out to celebrate community, while reminding us of the work ahead that still needs to get done.

Paul Rather
Seattle

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COMBAT, Continued from Page 7

Does special training help you deal with dangerous patients?

Yes, but the vast majority of psych patients don't have loaded weapons. Part of our job was to assure the safety of everybody by making sure if someone was not safe, they went home. I talk about two specific instances: my guy who [aimed] a weapon at me during a psychotic break, and my girl who was suicidal.

Before leaving for Iraq in 2004, did you have training for combat?

We did eight days: familiarization with getting in and out of a vehicle in a convoy, shooting a weapon, using a gas mask. Nothing could have prepared us. We were medical people and not combat-trained, but they tried. We were the first wave of the counterinsurgency — what's going on now. We were making it up.

What were your duties as a military psychologist in a war zone?

Half was very-intensive, acute almost medical intervention with people who had physical injuries, or were pre- or post-surgery, or were dealing with very acute loss of friends, along with very classic "shell shock." We call it combat stress injury now. We intervened by giving them support, pulling them back for a couple of days, letting them rest. And most people recover from that and go back to their units.

The other 50 percent, we ran an outpatient client. We saw people all day, every day. Most of them had something else going on — a predisposing depression or anxiety or other problems, then the war exacerbated whatever they had. The sleep deprivation, the combat, the heat, the lack of good food — all those things lower your tolerance. We helped keep people functional who needed to stay out there.

Who's the shrink for the shrink, right? I was lucky. I had a great partner who was a friend and a shrink. It is hard, though. You're talking about a triple whammy with mental health. You have the same stuff [as] everyone else with fear for your life. And then you have medical trauma — the same things the surgical team is dealing with and taking care of the surgical team. Then you have "vicarious traumatization" or "compassion fatigue" — listening to patients talk about trauma. I worry about our mental health people. It's overwhelming.

I got numb to my emotions [in Iraq]. That was adaptive at the time, but unfortunately, this is part of PTSD, and I definitely continued to experience that when I got home. I was numb and emotionally raw. Things that shouldn't have been sad were very sad. It made for a long road as far as re-connecting with people, trusting myself and others.

Someone asked if mothers and fathers cope with this differently. I don't know. A lot of my colleagues were dads, and they certainly missed their kids. As a woman in a society surrounded by men it was very challenging. I didn't feel there were many people out there who understood my role as a mother.

Are you still treating combat veterans?

In my clinical practice I see exclusively combat trauma in Marines at an active-duty hospital.

Do you share your Iraq experience with your patients?

I do, immediately, because I'm wearing civilian clothes now. I tell them it was only three years ago that I was wearing the same [uniform] they are. I was there. That's all I have to say, and I get to skip multiple steps of gaining their trust, which is nice.

In the midst of this trauma, who's there to treat you?

Your separation from your toddler twins overshadows your memoir.

What do you hope readers will gain from your memoir?

One of my hopes is to open a window into a different way of looking at the war. It's something we all deal with — the people we come home to just can't understand. That's what I tell patients when they are dealing with family issues. Was your wife there? No. Then how can she possibly know?

And I want people to know that Marines and sailors take care of each other at this amazing level. I hope the average American will realize that these are 18-year-olds with incredible character and loyalty to each other, and they care about the things that are important. I hope my experience will shed some light on that. ■

Robin Lindley is a Seattle writer and attorney. He is a past chair of the World Peace through Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association.

RULE NUMBER TWO

Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital

DR. HEIDI SQUIER KRAFT

Chorus

On the first day of winter, the mayor took from me:
a tarp tied underneath a tree

two ID cards
three cans of soup
four warm boots
five warm blankets
six pairs of socks
seven fuzzy sweaters
eight pairs of undies
nine pictures of my children
ten pots and pans
eleven *Real Change* papers
twelve important messages!
and a tarp tied underneath a tree!

—anonymous

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Punk Rock Flea Market


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The illegal, heinous, and ongoing war in Iraq began five years ago today, March 19. The **Fifth Anniversary Coalition** is sponsoring the **Iraq War Fifth Anniversary Protest with a candlelight vigil**. In 2003, millions marched in protest as the war began. For those who are unable to make the vigil, the Coalition encourages diverse autonomous actions throughout the day such as freeway banners, vigils, teach-ins, walk-outs and civil disobedience. The protest is nonviolent and will convey the anger and grief of the loss of life from this unjust war. The goal is to also promote hope for the future through peace justice and human rights. Wed., March, 19, 6 p.m., Westlake Park, Fourth and Pine. Info: (206)568-1661 or Seattle5thAnniversaryCoalition@gmail.com or www.answerseattle.org.

Calendar

This Week's Top Picks

Wednesday 3/19

Industry and growth usually emote ideas of harsh pollution. Longtime **president of the Environmental Defense Fund Fred Krupp** contends that this is no longer the case. **Krupp believes that through the solving of global warming, new industries, jobs, and fortunes will be produced, leading the way for prosperity in the 21st Century.** Krupp investigates innovators and investors who are reinventing energy and how it's used. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Seattle, Eight Ave. and Seneca St., enter on Seneca. Info: www.townhallseattle.org.

Thursday 3/20

How does advertising portray women? Air-brushed stick-people come to mind. **What are the effects of advertising's image of women? These questions and much more will be discussed by Joan Kilbourne in a serious and, at times, funny presentation entitled "The Naked Truth."** Kilbourne's work in the field has helped to advance the study of gender representations in advertising. Presented by the Bush School Diversity Speaker Series 2007-2008. 7 p.m., Community Room, Bush School, 3400 E. Harrison St., Seattle. Event is free and open to the public. RSVP and info: (206)326-7731. Info on the presentation: www.joankilbourne.com/lectures.html.

Friday 3/21

Tonight the Intiman Theatre is performing the opening day of **The Diary of Anne Frank**. Come check out the timeless story of a Jewish girl hiding from Nazis in occupied Amsterdam brought to life with theatre. The play will run through May 17 with a special Sun., April 6 benefit performance for the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center. 8 p.m., Intiman Theatre, 201 Mercer St., Seattle. Tickets call (206) 269-1900 or www.intiman.org.

Saturday 3/22

Trying to install eco-friendly updates in your abode? **Kathleen O'Brien and Kath-**

leen Smith can help. They will both be on hand to discuss **The Northwest Green Home Primer, a resource book to help with green home design, building, buying, and remodeling.** Smith, of EcoSmith Design and Consulting, and O'Brien of O'Brien and Company will not only discuss experiences as experts in the field, but share some "green home challenges" they have faced. 2 p.m., Elliot Bay Book Company, First Ave. and S. Main St. in Seattle. Event is free. Info: (206) 624-6600 or www.elliottbaybook.com.

Monday 3/24

Climate change is real and green is in. **Wanna be greener than Gumby? Check out the Sierra Club's Cool State Forum and learn about the changes needed to transportation in the Puget Sound.** The forum will look at solutions that reduce global warming pollution. Event is green, thankfully for you the price isn't (as in: it's free). 7-8:30 p.m., REI Flagship Store, 222 Yale Ave. N.

Tuesday 3/25

Come out and relieve mid-week stress with some laughter and good karma. **Non-Profit Comedy will be presenting a benefit show for the Ingersoll Gender Center.** Check out some underground comedy; literally it's underground. Note that the event is located under Swannie's Sports Bar in Pioneer Square, 12 steps down without an elevator. Food and beverages are available and there's no drink minimum. **The Comedy Underground welcomes all ages, but is, as always, a free speech zone.** 8:30-10 p.m., Comedy Underground, 222 S. Main Street, under Swannie's Sports Bar. Admission is \$12, \$6 with student ID. Info: www.nonprofitcomedy.com.

Calendar compiled by Paul Uhl.
Got something we should know about?
Email it to calendar@realchangenews.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

Is there a war on poverty? Yes! Join ACORN on the front lines. F/P time organizers needed. Seattle, Tacoma, Everett. Pay DOE. Call (206) 723-5845 or email wadmin@acorn.org for appt.

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