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# CHANGE

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## Facing the cold

**Snow and ice tested road crews and drivers, but those who live on Seattle's streets face the ultimate challenge: staying alive. Two Real Change photographers show how homeless people keep warm and dry. Photos begin on page 6.**



Photos by Jon Williams, Real Change

Clockwise from upper left: Mark waits on the corner of Third Avenue and Pine Street during Thursday's ice storm. "I'm just standing here waiting for spring."

Dastur Danel has been living on the street for eight years. He stays under a container on Columbia Street. "People drop by and give me food on their way to work in the morning."

Eric braves the cold while sleeping in a doorway on First Avenue in Pioneer Square. "I'm too sketchy" to stay in a shelter he said.

James Glenn, a recent transplant to Seattle from Alabama, said to get warm he's been staying at the DESC shelter on Third Avenue.



Real Change exists to provide opportunity and a voice for low-income and homeless people while taking action for economic justice.

219 1st Ave. S., #220

Seattle, WA, 98104

206.441.3247

www.realchange.org

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# Who is responsible for Washington's financial swamp? Ask the possum

by JOHN BURBANK,  
Economic Opportunity Institute

Back in the 1960's there was a comic strip named Pogo. One of the most insightful strips was a distilled discussion of human foibles, in which Pogo Possum announced, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" When it comes to the national debate over the 99 percent vs. 1 percent, we may not like the growing chasm between corporate elites and the rest of us, but we've sure made it easy for them to keep it that way.

Take our own state. Our state will become \$25 billion wealthier over the next two years. That's how much our economy will grow. And yet for some reason, we can't seem to find enough funding to keep up with public priorities. So we will likely see tuition at Everett Community College break the \$4,000 mark, and the University of Washington will probably charge over \$12,000. Class sizes in elementary schools will top 30 kids or more. More people will be kicked off of Basic Health, right at the time when even more low-wage working people need health insurance.

Because of our over-reliance on the sales tax, we are hurting the vast majority of middle class and low-income families, and we are leaving a lot of money on the already overflowing table of the wealthy.

How did we get here? In 2010, the people approved Initiative 1053, written and sponsored by Snohomish County's own Tim Eymann, and voted into place by two-thirds of Snohomish County's voters. By requiring a two-thirds vote for revenue increases, voters ended majority rule in the legislature by making it possible for a minority of legislators (17 out of 47, in fact) to block the closure of tax

**Because of our over-reliance on the sales tax, we are hurting the vast majority of middle class and low-income families, and we are leaving a lot of money on the already overflowing table of the wealthy**

loopholes or the implementation of taxes on the wealthy to fund public services.

By tying the hands of the Legislature, we prevent them from even meeting the state's paramount duty to fund basic education for all children. But it would be nice to see some leadership anyway.

Why not attempt to close corporate tax loopholes, and in so doing ensure that at least some corporate profits stay here in Washington (rather than be stashed away overseas) and be put to good use educating our kids.

The attempt to move such a bill through the House and Senate would require our elected officials to show their true stripes. Are they willing to tax out-of-state banks to fund basic health? Are they willing to close the Microsoft royalty loophole to fund higher education?

Legislators might not succeed in mustering the mandated two-thirds majority to close these loopholes. They might not even get the simple majority necessary to put this question to the people in a referendum. But they would enable the people to judge for them-

selves: Who is working for the citizens of our state and who is working for the out-of-state banks and the wealthiest corporations in the world?

There's a reason such legislative behavior would be atypical. Legislators are supposed to act in the best interests of the people. But they are faced every day with a bevy of lobbyists for these banks and corporations.

Lobbyists are friendly, sincere and determined. They have a lot of sway in Olympia, with both Republicans and Democrats. And they have a lot of sway in campaign financing. So they pack fear into legislative deliberations, fear that overcomes decision-making for the greater good.

The upshot: While we have a proliferation of wealth in our state — the Seattle metropolitan area alone has almost 1,000 individuals with at least \$35 million in wealth — we also have a proliferation of poverty and a cratering of middle class hopes and dreams.

We built a cage for our legislators that confounds our own expectations. We have met the enemy, and he is us. But unlike Pogo, we have the ability to re-think our previous decisions. Legislators may hide behind Initiative 1053, but we are hiding behind our legislators. It is time for us to come out from the shadows and rebuild our future. No one else will.

If we shirk from taxing the most privileged residents of our state — the wealthiest and most powerful corporations residing here — then we'll have to content ourselves with patching and filling our way to a low-road economy and an unpromising future for our parents, our kids and ourselves. ■

John Burbank is Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Institute, a public policy center in Seattle. He can be reached at [john@eoionline.org](mailto:john@eoionline.org).

## Director's Corner | Timothy Harris

On Martin Luther King Day, Real Change helped pull together a workshop that was the public debut of something we're calling **Unemployed Workers Action**. "We" is our friends and allies over at SHARE/WHEEL, the Defenders Association's Racial Disparity Project and a few others who believe that those of us who were screwed from the beginning will probably get jobs right about the same time the CEOs of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac go to jail for wrecking the economy — which, unless we find some way to turn up the heat, is to say, never.

The idea of our workshop was to test an idea we've been rattling around: The majority of folks who use WorkSource, we figured, have probably experienced this agency as worse than useless and would perhaps enjoy a chance to share their thoughts.

We were right.

Near the end of our workshop, the paper on the wall that listed the pros and cons of WorkSource was remarkably lopsided. The cons side was filled. The pro side was blank.

"Can't we think of any pros?" the facilitator asked.



"Well," volunteered a homeless man, "they have bathrooms we can use."

A few older attendees recalled a time when WorkSource was known as the unemployment office, and actu-

ally helped you find work. They'd assess your skills, match you with jobs, and send you out on interviews. Now, people said, they just send you over to a computer that's filled with poor-paying "opportunities" that never seem to call you back. You log your time on job search or participate in less than useful "trainings" in exchange for an unemployment check.

When that check runs out, you cease to be "unemployed."

Obviously, that is. If you're not drawing unemployment and actively searching, as logged by WorkSource, then you become "dis-

couraged," which means you have left that nine-point-something percent of folks that we bother to count. If you worked an hour or more during any given month, you weren't counted either. And you certainly weren't counted if you were in prison.

If you're a black high school drop out under the age of 35, you know you don't count, because your chances of being employed are about one in four. To put it another way, the real unemployment rate among these folks is around 75 percent. This is why drugs, which offer oblivion and work opportunity in one convenient package, would be the perfect commodity, if it weren't for the heightened risk of incarceration.

In the new global economy, what's left of our ever-shrinking social safety net is managed more or less punitively, and any attempt to sidestep the wage slavery of minimum-wage employment through illegal underground activity will probably land you behind bars. WorkSource and prisons are the left and right hands of the neoliberal state's management of the poor.

If we can ever learn to organize in a way that gets at this, we'll finally be getting somewhere. ■

# Eating her words?

Human Services Director Dannette Smith's emotional baggage almost bagged Operation: Sack Lunch

By AARON BURKHALTER  
Staff Reporter

Steam rose from the scrambled eggs and potatoes as the temperature fell below 30 degrees, and snowflakes floated to the ground. About 25 people — mostly men — lined up under Interstate 5 on Jan. 19, waiting for a free breakfast.

Nearby, mounted on a freeway support, a large sign bore the City of Seattle seal and the words "Seattle cares."

Dannette Smith, embattled director of Seattle's Human Services Department, says she cares, too.

Now she's trying to prove it.

Earlier this month, the City of Seattle told Operation: Sack Lunch it could no longer serve meals under the freeway. Smith had called the outdoor feeding program, which is served in the shadow of her high-rise office building, "undignified" and "inhumane."

Similar words were soon used to describe Smith, as media commentators cast her as uncaring and insensitive.

Ken Schram, of KOMO News, issued perhaps the most striking blow, bestowing on Smith a "Schrammie," his satirical award mocking people who've messed up big time.

Baby, it's cold outside, and these days Smith is feeling the chill.

"What people don't know about me is that I'm a compassionate woman, that I believe in the work that I do, and I love the work that I do," she told Real Change in a candid Jan. 19 interview in her office on the 58th floor of the Seattle Municipal Tower.

While others struggled through inches of snow at street-level, Smith was knee-deep in damage control. She said she never meant to insult the volunteers who work every day under the freeway feeding the dozens of people who come there.

Smith already reversed her decision to end the program and pledged to work with the meal program's employees and volunteers to find a new, better location, however long it takes.

She chalked up the whole affair to a simple misunderstanding. Smith, who started her job in Seattle in June 2010, remembers receiving services when she was younger. She said those experiences account for her reaction.

"When these comments were shared, they were really coming from my own personal story," Smith said.

But when pressed by Real Change for details about her own personal story, Smith demurred.

The former head of Atlanta's Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services sounded contrite, but she stopped short of actually saying she'd made a mistake.

Such incidents, she said, simply come with the territory: "I'm not new to controversy, because of the work I do."

## Not for tourists

Operation: Sack Lunch Executive Director Beverly Graham said her program is used to getting moved around. The group has been booted from parks and even churches when neighbors complained. She's had to fight for the outdoor



Photos by Aaron Burkhalter

Operation: Sack Lunch staffer Elmer Givens serves up cups of hot apple cider Jan. 20 at the outdoor meal center underneath Interstate 5 in Seattle.

**"What people don't know about me is that I'm a compassionate woman"**

— Dannette Smith, director of Seattle's Human Services Department

meal program with every mayoral administration, she said.

"We don't do this work with rose-colored glasses," said Graham, who has been at it for two decades. "I think it's not popular to feed people who are unhoused or food insecure ... we're not tourist friendly. We get it."

The program manages \$650,000 worth of food to provide more than 150,000 meals in a year. The City of Seattle contributes \$132,000, which pays for the location, portable toilets, storage and security.

## Shouldering the load

As the white van from Operation: Sack Lunch hauled in the morning's meal, people hauled backpacks and garbage bags with their own personal belongings. Most did not appear burdened by the emotional baggage Smith seems to have shouldered since childhood.

Standing in line Brian Miller, 45, said he's not ashamed to get a free breakfast outdoors.

But he does get the feeling the city officials are trying to push homeless people out of downtown to somewhere less visible. He pointed to increased mass transit and the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct as the beginning of a new, cleaner downtown.

"And we're not part of it," he said.

A 40-year-old man waiting for his first free breakfast said despite losing his apartment recently, he's still enrolled in classes at Seattle Central Community College. He's studying social work and noted that Smith broke a cardinal rule in the world of human services — don't decide what other people want or how they feel.

"You're not supposed to go by your views, your feelings, your beliefs," he said. "Sometimes you have to put that aside." ■



Sylvester Moerdon had breakfast at Operation: Sack Lunch's outdoor meal center Jan. 20. Human Services Director Dannette Smith reversed her decision to close the meal center.



## Shoring up our Safe Harbors story

Data collection requirements for the Safe Harbors program are even more stringent than reported in Real Change's Jan. 18 issue.

To qualify for any Seattle, King County or United Way funding — federal, state or local — agencies that help the homeless must convince their clients to answer 90 percent of the biographical questions Safe Harbors collects.

If an agency had 10 questions, for example, it would have to collect an average of nine answers per client.

Safe Harbors Program Manager Sola Plumacher said every agency must record every person who receives services, even if they decline to answer the questions.

But clients are not required to provide any information. That puts agencies in a bind. They cannot force clients to give any information. But they risk losing funding if they cannot persuade clients to cooperate.

Seattle and King County have already lost out on \$1 million because their data collection was insufficient, Plumacher said.

Real Change originally reported that Washington state lost that funding. In 2009, Seattle and King County applied for bonus funding but did not receive it because of poor data collection.

—Aaron Burkhalter

## Seattle protests 10 years of Guantanamo

Activists held two Seattle demonstrations on Jan. 11 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the opening of Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba and the Bagram prison camp in Afghanistan.

The Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture, Amnesty International, Code Pink Washington and the Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation held a silent vigil at the Jackson Federal Building.

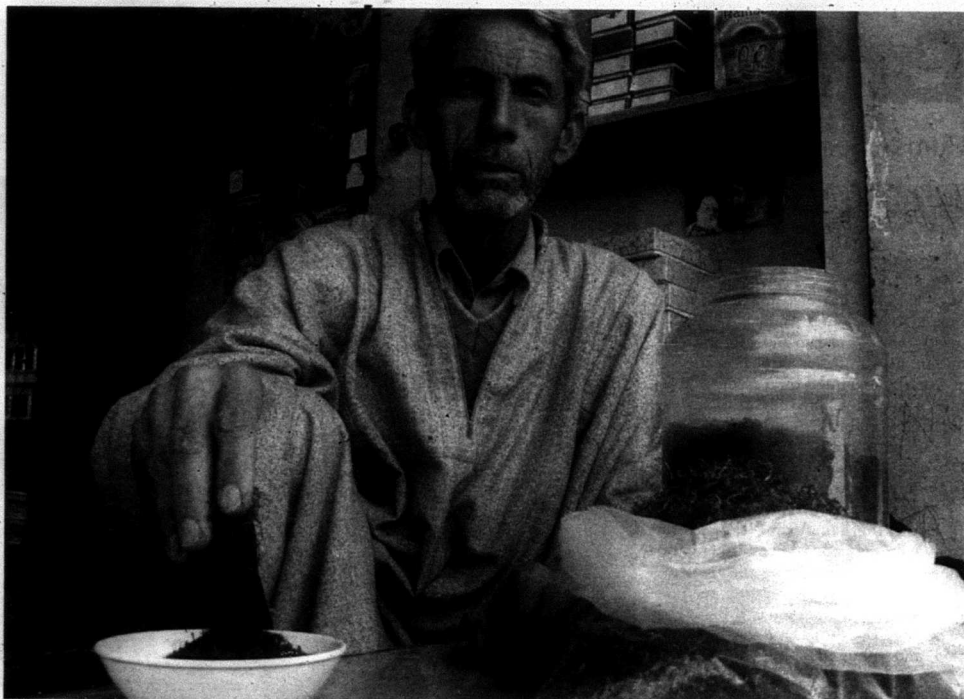
A speak-out and march organized by Occupy Seattle followed the vigil. Afterward, a group of about 15 protesters marched to the Seattle Democratic Party headquarters to protest Guantanamo Bay prison and the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which critics say contains provisions that could give the U.S. the right to detain innocent people without giving them a trial.

Protesters said prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and Bagram prisons are being denied both habeas corpus rights and the protections of the Geneva Convention Treaty.

About 40 people came to the vigil and held candles and signs. Jorge Quiroga held a sign that read, "Torture is a war crime, prosecute war crimes."

Jamie Mayerfeld, who teaches political science at the University of Washington, held a poster with a picture of Ahmed Adnan Ajam, a Syrian national who has been held in Guantanamo since 2002 without charges.

—Greg Spence Wolf,  
Contributing Writer



A saffron trader in Srinagar, India.

Photo: Athar Parvaiz/IPS

# KILLING HEROIN WITH SAFFRON

By **ATHAR PARVAIZ**  
Inter-Press Service

**W**eaning Afghanistan's poppy farmers away from growing the raw material for the bulk of the world's illicit heroin has never been easy, but Kashmir's saffron cultivators may have the answer. A high-value crop, saffron has long been seen as a counternarcotics candidate, but the idea has a chance of coming to fruition with expertise from farmers in India's Jammu and Kashmir state who produce the finest saffron anywhere.

An agreement between the agriculture ministries of the two countries paved the way for a 25-member delegation from Afghanistan to visit Jammu and Kashmir in November 2011 and see how the state's success with saffron can be emulated.

After touring Pampore, the main center for the saffron industry, located 14 km (almost 9 miles) east of Srinagar, delegation chief Naseem Atai told IPS that he was hopeful of a "change of choice" in his country.

"Once our farmers grow saffron in the manner of their Kashmiri counterparts, they will certainly find it a profitable agricultural activity and they may ultimately give up growing poppy," Atai said.

"We have seen how Kashmiri farmers are earning good dividends by growing saffron. We can do the same for Afghanistan if we adopt the same methods and techniques."

Afghan farmers, said Atai, have already been growing saffron since 2000 in Heart province near Iran's border, "but the yield and quality are not good since the farmers have no expertise or access to good technology."

Iran and Spain are the two other countries where saffron is grown, with Iran producing 85 percent of the world's

supply. But, the quality of Kashmiri saffron — essentially the dried stamen of the flower — is considered to be far superior to that grown elsewhere in the world.

Saffron is sought for the aroma, color and flavor it gives to rice and other food. It has also been used for centuries in medicines and as a natural pigment.

S.A. Nahvi, who heads the central government's saffron mission in Jammu and Kashmir, said that the state's saffron production has been improving with the introduction of superior cultivation methods and technology.

"We have already modernized 355 hectares [887 acres] out of the 4,000 hectares [10,000 acres] under saffron," Nahvi said. "Over the last few years there was a decline in production, but that has been reversed."

"We showed the Afghan delegation what we are doing to improve our own saffron production. We took them to the saffron fields and on visits to families engaged in processing saffron at home."

One reason why saffron has high value is that the production involves much labor before and after harvesting. The blossoms need to be picked in the early mornings as they open, and then transported with care to the homes or factories where the stigmas are separated from the flowers.

Depending on the variety, some 400,000 or more stigmas may go into making one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of saffron. The work must be done by hand and since it calls for nimbleness, the industry holds out employment prospects for large numbers of women.

Saffron is considered the world's costliest spice, and Kashmiri varieties currently fetch \$3,600 per kilogram (\$1,800 per pound) although prices in recent years have gone as high as \$6,000 per kilogram (\$3,000 per pound).

According to Nahvi since the soil and

climatic conditions in Afghanistan are similar to that in Kashmir, "they shouldn't have any problems growing this crop if they adopt similar methods and techniques."

Kashmir's agriculture minister Ghulam Hassan Mir said that Afghan delegations will continue to visit Kashmir to learn about saffron cultivation as well as other horticultural products.

"The Afghan government has indicated that it is keen to wipe out poppy cultivation and we are very much interested in helping them achieve their objective," he said.

Support from India to prop up various sectors of Afghanistan's economy was formalized under a "strategic partnership agreement" signed in New Delhi during a visit by Afghan President Hamid Karzai in the first week of October 2011.

That agreement came even as the United Nations Drug Control Agency released the report of a survey that showed land under poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increasing as a result of rising opium prices on the one hand and economic hardships faced by Afghans on the other.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, while Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy aims to eliminate illicit opium poppy cultivation by 2013, the U.N. survey found that poppy is now grown in 17 of the country's provinces.

Poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has defied efforts by the United States and its allies to destroy fields since opium is known to generate revenues for militant organizations such as the Taliban.

"Cultivation of poppy has devastated our agriculture and reputation. Our country is now known more for poppy and conflict than for any positive activity. We want to change that," said Asadullah Aurakzai, a member of the delegation. ■

streetnewsservice.org/IPS



**"A lot of people dismissed looking at the data because they figured drinking wouldn't change. On the contrary, we found decreases in alcohol consumption and related problems."**

— Susan Collins, a University of Washington/Harborview Medical Center assistant professor



Illustration by  
Jon Williams  
Real Change

## Study: Alcoholics drink less at 'wet' housing

A study shows alcoholics drink less when they move into housing where drinking is allowed.

Susan Collins, a University of Washington/Harborview Medical Center assistant professor, surveyed 95 residents at the 1811 Eastlake project over a two-year period.

Those surveyed decreased their consumption by an average of 8 percent every three months they stayed in housing, cutting their drinking by 35 percent over two years. They also reported more days without using alcohol and fewer symptoms of dependency. Residents stayed in housing longer, too.

The American Journal of Public Health published the findings Jan. 19.

Collins said her findings contradict the "enabling hypothesis," which maintains that so-called "wet" housing would lead to increased use of alcohol.

"A lot of people dismissed looking at the data because they figured drinking wouldn't change," Collins said. "On the contrary, we found decreases

in alcohol consumption and related problems."

Collins said the new study counters the long-held belief alcoholics cannot reliably report on their own drinking habits.

Residents of the 1811 reported their drinking habits accurately, often down to the ounce, she said. Those who had developed a physical dependency on alcohol were more likely to drink a smaller amount.

"A lot of them, their lives depend on getting that dosage right," Collins said.

The 1811 Eastlake housing project opened in 2005, and this is the second study using it to show the benefits of removing traditional barriers to housing for alcoholics who are chronically homeless.

The previous study, also performed by Collins and other University of Washington researchers, showed that residents of the project required fewer public services, saving taxpayers \$4 million in the project's first year of operation. ■

— Aaron Burkhalter

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORT

### Finding a fix for SPD could take a year — or more

A Department of Justice report showing that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) has a pattern and practice of excessive force made big headlines when it was released Dec. 16.

It could take more than a year before Seattle police and the Justice Department come to an agreement about how to resolve the problems within the force.

Seattle is one of fewer than 20 government departments to receive a pattern-and-practice finding from the Department of Justice since the process was signed into law in 1995, according to Bob Scales, director of government affairs at the city's law department.

Scales, the city council's Public Safety Committee, Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith and other city officials spoke by phone Jan. 18 to explain how past jurisdictions have handled these reports.

Scales said there are three ways the city could respond to the report:

- a memorandum of agreement between the police and the Justice Department showing the actions SPD will take
- a court-ordered consent decree out-

lining what actions the police will take. An independent monitor will report to the court on the police department's work. After five years, if the police department has not resolved the issue, the consent decree could be extended

- a informal letter of agreement without formal court action or oversight.

Scales said the timeline on the process varies, but he described Seattle as in the very early stages.

Councilman Bruce Harrell, head of the Public Safety Committee, said that the city is serious about approaching this as a department-wide issue, even though the report said a minority of officers accounted for more than half of the excessive force incidents.

Harrell said police and city official should not consider this a case of a few bad apples.

"I think that really simplifies, and I think misses the mark," Harrell said. "Part of the work is what an institution tolerates and what an institution chooses to ignore." ■

— Aaron Burkhalter

### Watchdog group seeks tighter standards for cops

Mothers for Police Accountability wants the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to revamp its community oversight board, require officers cooperate with misconduct investigations as a condition of their employment and enhance its early intervention system to pick out problem officers.

The watchdog group released the recommendations following a Dec. 16 report from the Department of Justice that showed that Seattle police have a pattern and practice of using excessive force. The report showed that 20 percent of all uses of force by Seattle Police officers violate the U.S. Constitution.

The watchdog group wants an advisory committee to replace the existing citizen review board, known as Office of Professional Accountability, or OPA.

The new group should be larger and reflect a more diverse selection of the community. Currently, four of the seven citizen

review board members are attorneys.

Police should be required to fully cooperate with misconduct investigations. They would be terminated if they fail to cooperate or if any dishonesty is uncovered during the investigation.

Some of these recommendations aren't new. The Department of Justice already recommended that the SPD lower its threshold for investigating an officer. SPD's early intervention system is triggered whenever an officer uses force seven times or receives three OPA complaints within six months.

But Mothers for Police Accountability said this allows officers to use force 12 times or receive four OPA complaints without drawing attention.

Group members want the threshold for investigation lowered, and for complaints about discrimination to automatically prompt an investigation. ■

— RC Staff

#### NOW HIRING

#### Real Change Development Director

The Development Director (DD) is a full time, exempt position at Real Change reporting to the Executive Director. The DD will work closely with staff and board leadership to develop and execute a comprehensive fundraising plan. In 2011, our revenue from donations was approximately \$550K and the DD will be expected to build on this through an explicit focus on increasing gifts from major donors and cultivating major donor prospects. In addition, the DD will oversee fundraising appeals, grant writing, and execution of our annual fundraising breakfast. For a full job description, see [realchangenews.org](http://realchangenews.org)

Real Change is an Equal Opportunity Employer. People of color and individuals with a direct experience of homelessness and/or poverty are encouraged to apply. Email your cover letter and resume to [jobs@realchangenews.org](mailto:jobs@realchangenews.org). Priority given to applications received by January 31, 2012. Anticipated salary range is \$48,000 to \$52,000 DOE. A full benefits package is available. LOCAL CANDIDATES ONLY.

# STAYING WA

## Life on the cold streets a test for S



Kathy, right, panhandles on the corner of Pike Street and Second Avenue on Jan. 18. Kathy has been on the streets for 20 years, but she has a place to stay to get out of the cold.



Dani and Jeffrey try to keep warm while selling Real Change along First Avenue. Dani stays in a shelter at night.

Left, a homeless man leaves his things outside the QFC on Broadway in Capitol Hill while he finds something to eat inside the store on Jan. 18. Right, a snowman is constructed with spare change on Fourth Avenue.

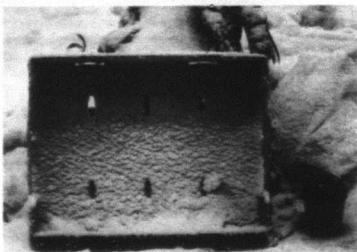


Photo by Jon Williams, Real Change

Tex stands outside a T-shirt shop on Pike Street as he tries to stay warm. The cold makes it very hard to sleep.

# ARM

## eattle's homeless



Photos by Ted Mase

Jan. 18. Tex said he would try to make his way to the shelter at City Hall. He's tried to sleep outside but said the cold

# STAYING DRY



Photo by François Miville-Deschênes

The coat-cum-poncho, from the ABRIS collection, a Janet Chan creation.

## Canadian designer makes clothes to protect homeless people

By SANDRA MATHIE, *L'itinéraire*,  
Montreal, Canada

**J**anet Chan took the following quote to heart: "When I beg, sometimes there is a dog tied up near the door; people come out of the pharmacy, ignore the beggar, the human being that I am, and pat the dog. Do you believe that? It seems hardly possible."

This quotation, from the book "Les quêteux ... portrait d'un monde" ("Beggars ... Portrait of a World") by A. S. Fortin, inspired her final degree project in school.

The 2011 graduate from Montreal fashion school, the École supérieure de mode de Montréal (ESMM), devised and created the ABRIS collection, a range of clothing and accessories to protect homeless people from the elements while providing them with a certain level of comfort. Beyond helping her get her degree, Chan saw her project as a way to help others.



Janet Chan

### Inspired in the field

Sitting in the Café L'itinéraire, a center in Montreal, Canada, for people under 30 who are experiencing social exclusion and homelessness, the recent graduate proudly shows off her sketches: a sleeping bag-cum-coat; a coat-cum-poncho; a coat with an inbuilt visor; a coat-cum-rucksack; easy-to-put-on dungarees; a practical bag; a printed cushion. She tells of having initially been inspired by fashion designer, Lida Baday, and her 15U coat. In 2008, as part of the 15 Below initiative, the Montreal agency Taxi donated 700

See COAT, Continued on Page 8



# STAYING WARM

## Life on the cold streets a test for Seattle's homeless



Kathy, right, panhandles on the corner of Pike Street and Second Avenue on Jan. 18. Kathy has been on the streets for 20 years, but she has a place to stay to get out of the cold.



while selling Real Change along First Avenue. Dani stays in a shelter at night.

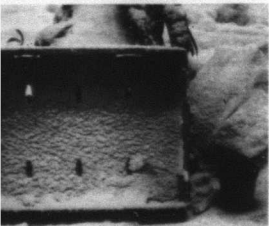


Photo by Jon Williams, Real Change



Tex stands outside a T-shirt shop on Pike Street as he tries to stay warm on Jan. 18. Tex said he would try to make his way to the shelter at City Hall. He's tried makes it very hard to sleep.

COAT, Continued from Page 7

of such coats to the Salvation Army. Each coat had many pockets, which could be stuffed with newspaper to increase insulation against the cold.

Throughout her own project, Chan has gone far beyond carrying out research on the Internet. The last thing she wants to do is to rely on and accentuate existing stereotypes surrounding homelessness. Nor was it enough for Chan simply to imagine what homeless people experience from day to day. She opted instead for a direct approach; moving among them to evaluate, understand and adapt her clothing to their needs. Both directly in the street and in homeless centers, she observed them; talked to them and organized fittings to gather their views and draw on their insight. She even left the clothing in the centers for a number of days to put it to the test over a longer period of time.

"I have done a lot of volunteering with local charities: L'itinéraire,

**"I went out into the street with my clothes and I asked my target users to give me ideas and comments. This man was really taken by the idea and gave me lots of suggestions"**

— Janet Chan, designer of clothes and accessories for the homeless

la Maison Benoît Labre and the Old Brewery Mission. Meeting the homeless people and volunteers has made me more aware of the real needs of my target users and the way they live," Chan said.

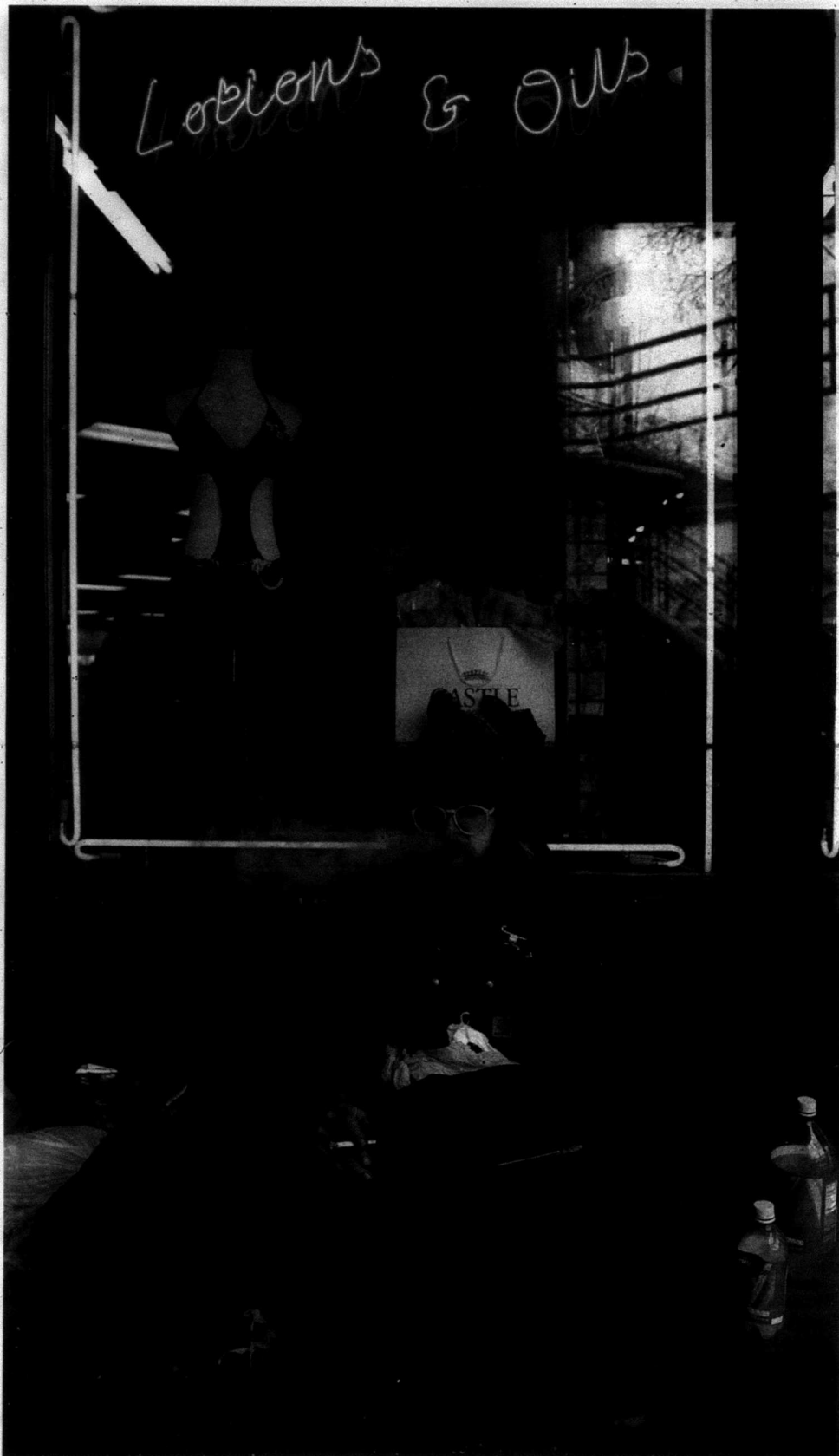
She modifies her designs based on their comments. "Throughout my research in the field, the feedback I received from the homeless people has been very positive. I viewed their comments as constructive and these help me to improve the clothing and accessories which I design for them," the designer said, her eyes bright with enthusiasm. Accompanied by a professional photographer, Chan documents her visits to ensure the project's success.

She produces her designs based on a few vital criteria: neutral colors, durability, resistance, usability, comfort, water resistance, protection and low production costs. She draws inspiration from clothing sold in outdoor shops when adapting her designs to the varying and often harsh climate of Quebec. Her favorite materials are nylon, polyester and codelle, an insulating material. She also insists on testing her clothing out personally in different situations.

#### Beyond triviality

"The project has transformed me,"

See COAT, Continued on Page 9



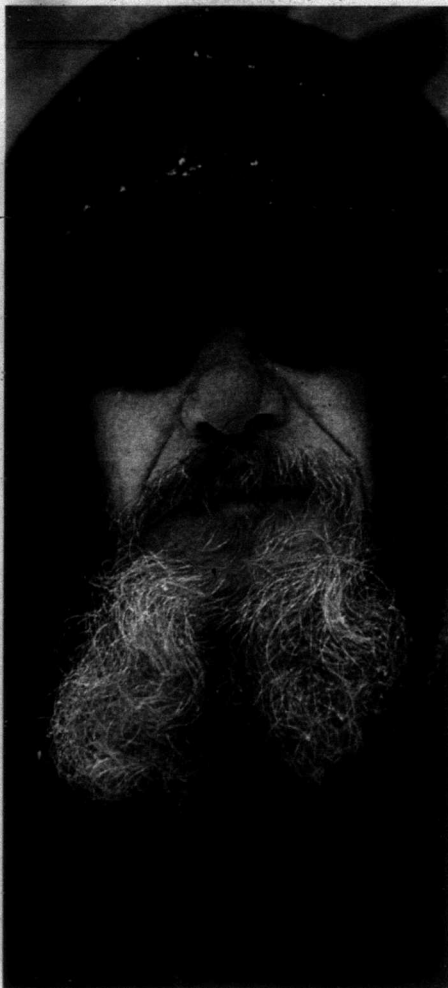
Mufasa enjoys a cigarette outside a sex toy shop on Broadway in Capitol Hill. He has no place to go, but says as long as he's dry, warm and has a book to read, he's happy.

Photo by Ted Mase



A homeless man sleeps under a blanket on Pine Street in front of Macy's on Jan. 18. His motorized wheel chair is parked next to him.

Photo by Ted Mase



Photos by Jon Williams, Real Change

## Warm generosity

Mike Reed, 54, lives in a tent along the Duwamish Waterway. During the Jan. 19 ice storm, Reed was sitting along Alaskan Way near the Seattle Ferry Terminal with a sign that read: "Spare Change Please, Thank You." A patron of the nearby McDonald's restaurant came out into the storm to give Reed two hamburgers, then disappeared into the ferry terminal. "This is how I stay warm," said Reed, who immediately ate the burgers.

COAT, Continued from Page 8

Chan said, the strength of her emotion clear in her voice. "Working directly with homeless people has allowed me to become much more mature and tolerant. The naive and conformist little princess I was before has been transformed into a proactive and determined woman."

The ABRIS project was a huge success at the ESMM graduates' end-of-degree fashion show last spring. Janet's fashion design teacher, Maryla Sobek, recalls how "when her concept and clothing were presented, a great silence fell over the hall. This magic, she created it." According to Sobek, the ABRIS project was the most resounding success within Chan's class. She hopes that other students will follow in Chan's footsteps by going beyond triviality and choosing intelligent and worthwhile subjects for their projects.

Sobek said she was touched by the perseverance and remarkable sensitivity shown by her student: "Despite all the constraints put on her by the need to maintain consistency, not once did she give up. Janet stayed open to suggestions throughout. This allowed her to truly understand the cause."

### Looking toward the future

She may well have devised the ABRIS project herself, but Chan has remained modest and is quick to acknowledge the commitment and constant help provided by her teachers. She is looking to do more than simply achieve a good grade for her project; in fact, she has the firm intention of tweaking her prototypes further to adapt them as much as possible to the current reality of homelessness in a city environment. The designer is currently working on a request for government funding, which would allow her to produce her designs and distribute them among customers in Montreal and perhaps even in other Canadian towns.

"I have believed in this project since the very beginning, and I hope that Janet will be able to make it a reality," says Jean-Claude La Bonté, one of Chan's lecturers. "Janet understands the way of life of her target users, and I believe that she has responded to the specific needs of all types of homeless people."

Chan is also seeking sponsorship to raise funds to manufacture her clothing and accessories. She feels that it is important for the manufacturing process to encourage social reintegration.

"The system of distribution is still under consideration. I would like to find a lending system which can be adapted to the way homeless centers work," she said. ■

Translated from French into English by Emanuela Campbell

streetnewsservice.org /  
L'itinéraire—Canada



# 5th ANNUAL URBAN POVERTY FORUM

The Urban Poverty Forum speaks to the issues surrounding urban poverty, and unites a diverse community of care — including faith-based organizations, nonprofits and concerned citizens — in addressing problems faced by the poor.

## This year's event features

- Opening poem
- **Kristine Cunningham**  
Executive Director of ROOTS
- **Lori Pfingst**  
Washington State Budget & Policy Center
- 2012 Challenge
- Presentation by **Sharon Williams**  
of The Mahogany Project
- **The Rev. Linda Smith**  
Associate Minister at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Church and pastor at Mary's Place.
- Q&A moderated by **Marty Hartman**,  
Executive Director of Mary's Place

**When:** Sunday, Feb. 5, 1 p.m.

**Where:** Downstairs at Town Hall,  
enter on Seneca Street.

**Presented by:** Seattle First  
Presbyterian Church, The Seattle Presbytery,  
Seattle University, Real Change News, with  
Town Hall Seattle.

Suggested donation \$5;  
no one will be turned away for lack  
of funds. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

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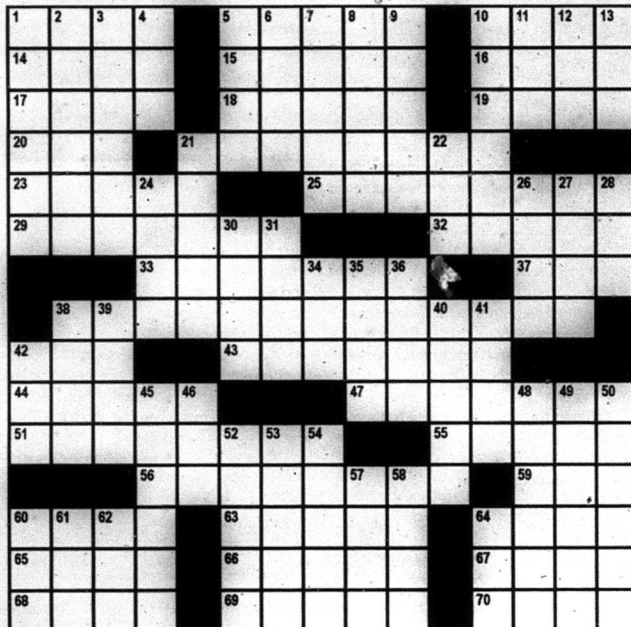
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## CROSSWORD

### Dry Eyes Only

Puzzle by Patrick "Mac" McIntyre



#### Across

- 1 Shopper's aid
- 5 "...came on the \_\_\_\_ John B., my..."
- 10 Leno's love
- 14 Bruins' sch.
- 15 Missing labor leader Jimmy
- 16 Sheltered, nautically
- 17 Grandpa Walton portrayed
- 18 To the rear
- 19 Noodge
- 20 Columbus sch.
- 21 Start of celebrated line from "A League of Their Own"
- 23 Alaska's first capital
- 25 Continuation of celebrated line (see 21-A)
- 29 Breathing aid
- 32 Sweat units
- 33 Center of a roast
- 37 Hawaii's Mauna \_\_\_\_
- 38 Director of movie associated with this puzzle's theme
- 42 In the style of
- 43 Clap for
- 44 Fowl pole?
- 47 Musical genre of Abba and the Spice Girls
- 51 Conclusion of celebrated line (see 21- and 25-A)
- 55 Some Romanovs
- 56 Actor whose character delivered celebrated line found in 21-, 25- and 51-Across
- 59 \_\_\_\_ Maria
- 60 Wile E. Coyote's go-to company
- 63 Italian city where "The Taming of the Shrew" is set
- 64 L.L. \_\_\_\_ J.
- 65 Go parasailing
- 66 "\_\_\_\_ or lose..." (2 wds.)
- 67 Shoot
- 68 Fizzy drink
- 69 Kindergarten adhesive
- 70 Sugar suffixes

#### Down

- 1 Dracula portrayed
- 2 Strands, as by a winter storm (2 wds.)
- 3 Jane Marple or Philip Marlowe
- 4 La Brea goo
- 5 Former Iranian ruler
- 6 Brain area
- 7 France's Joan \_\_\_\_
- 8 It would be unwise to refuse one made by Don Vito Corleone
- 9 Country music legend Cline
- 10 Big Al of Gangsterdom
- 11 Ginger
- 12 Abbr. next to a telephone number
- 13 Harden
- 21 Eagle's claw
- 22 Pen point
- 24 Actress Madeline

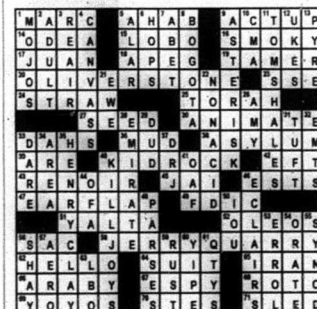
#### 26 Chutzpah

- 27 False god
- 28 Code-cracking org.
- 30 New Age superstar
- 31 Frolic
- 34 Grammy award category
- 35 Creator of Perry and Della
- 36 Genesis twin
- 38 One might be copped
- 39 Rabbit \_\_\_\_
- 40 Smarts
- 41 Hubbubs
- 42 Police alert, for short
- 45 Et follower
- 46 Cable channel
- 48 Regional dialect
- 49 Yankee rival
- 50 The King James Bible contains 150 of them
- 52 Increase, as sound or excitement level (2 wds.)
- 53 \_\_\_\_ apso (dog)
- 54 Puts on cargo
- 57 Evening in Paris
- 58 Actress Winslet
- 60 Dolt
- 61 Bill's partner in love?
- 62 Certif
- 64 Budgetary bigwig in the boardroom: Abbr.

## SOLUTION

### Down to Earth Guys

Jan. 18 - 24 Issue



Solutions to this week's puzzle will appear in next issue.

# In the Year of the Dragon, we must come together or we'll fall apart

By the time you read this, the New Year will be under way. Meaning the Chinese New Year. This is a year of the dragon, which reminds me of dragons, which are my favorite metaphors.

I saw my first dragon in 1958. I was eight years old going on nine, with my parents in Taipei, Taiwan. We had come to be there on account of Dad being assigned to run an army installation that spied on the Communist Chinese. On April 19, at, I think I remember, 11:30 a.m. Taipei time, the maximum totality of a near-total annular eclipse occurred almost precisely at Taipei, at my neighborhood. Just as the "dragon" was starting to "eat the sun" our neighbors tossed strings of lit firecrackers onto walls and came running out into the streets beating pots and pans to chase the dragon off.

I'd been told that was going to happen and fully intended to ignore it. As a good junior scientist entering the Sputnik era I was determined to concentrate on observing the eclipse scientifically through some exposed photographic film that I had made for myself using science.

Already, I was getting annoyed by other distractions. You wouldn't believe how weird birds get when an eclipse gets under way, for example. It was very hard to concentrate on science having to listen to a thousand birds squawk like it was nightfall. There was also that distracting breeze that came up at 11:29ish.

But I was totally unprepared for the

## Adventures in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning

amount of sheer heavenly, gorgeous, noise that so many firecrackers and so many pots and pans could make. It caused me to turn away from the eclipse for a second and look around. I saw how crowded the street was with noisemakers. Then a Chinese neighbor adding to the noise caught my glance and winked at me, and I got it.

I looked back at the sky and saw the dragon. It was like a giant, happy scaled puppy, who'd mistaken the sun for a chew toy.

Then there are street dragons. I'm sure you've all seen street dragons. There's one every Seafair Torchlight parade. You're standing at the curb minding your business enjoying baton twirlers. I love a good baton twirler. And then as the street clears of the current band or float or whatnot, you hear drums pounding in the distance. Next thing you know the drums are on top of you, and a crazy dragon is racing up and down the street, looking like your year-old Irish Red Setter set loose in his first-ever dog park.

At this point you might notice that the

dragon is really powered by 50 energetic guys in gym outfits, carrying him aloft with poles. You might also notice another 50 guys like them hanging by for a minute or so. Then the guys hanging by rush in and there's a big switch off. And therein lies an excellent metaphor.

Street dragons never, ever, get tired. They have boundless energy. They are super puppies. Where do they get all that energy? Is there an Energizer battery inside? No. There are 100 guys in gym outfits trading off.

Dragons are metaphors for power. Everyone knows that. But whose power do you think dragons stand for? The next time you see one you'll see what I'm talking about. There's no real effort to hide the poles. The guys don't wear camouflage.

Dragons happen when power comes together. River dragons happen where dozens of tiny streams join each other. Earth dragons happen powered by millions and millions of tons of slow moving rocks.

Corporations are like little stockholder-powered dragons who have found your slippers and won't let go of them until they've chewed them to shreds. So what would it take to chase a corporation dragon away from your slippers?

We have to make a bigger, noisier and crazier dragon out of ourselves, that's all. ■

Sound off and read more:  
drwesb.blogspot.com

# Never mind the shenanigans of Republicans; Just keep calm and carry on to the elections

During the run-up to the 2008 election, I couldn't write enough about the candidates, the politics, the "race matters in the race" aspect of, um, the race. I felt strongly we all needed to take care with our votes, to understand the political landscape of this country and most of all, to not let the mainstream media lead voters around on a leash.

Four years later, I still believe our duty as voters is paramount, but I have written hardly a word about the election. Specifically, I haven't written about the Republican candidates.

I refuse to participate in their shenanigans. Republican candidates for president are running because they're bored, they're ruled by ego, and they love the attention of the mainstream media. They aren't running to win. Some even seem hellbent on mocking the entire political process.

Like Herman Cain. Many pundits (and nitwits) pegged Cain as a "viable" black, Republican candidate. He was never even close to that, even though the media swore he could totally be the first black, Republican president, which he totally could not.

Cain never held anything close to elected office. He used to be the CEO of Godfather's Pizza and has written at least one book. Nevertheless, the media loved covering Herman Cain, even though he had little substance, even though he wasn't prepared to talk about the issues, even though he made policy suggestions solely based on a children's cartoon and admitted it.

## Lest We Forget

Sable Verity

It wasn't until women started popping up with sexual harassment allegations against him that Cain seemed to realize this whole running-for-president-thing wasn't fun anymore. Thus, at a new campaign headquarters, where volunteers had worked tirelessly throughout the night to get things just perfect for its grand opening, Cain dropped out of the race.

Only months earlier he'd overtaken Donald Trump as the Republican darling. Now, none other than Newt Gingrich has replaced Cain.

Gingrich is well versed in politics, because, despite his insistence to the contrary, he was a politician. In fact, Gingrich's claim to fame is being the first and only Speaker of the House disciplined for ethics violations that, by the way, cost him his position and forced him out of Washington in disgrace.

Newt Gingrich will never be president. Like, never, ever, ever, never, no. Add to the list of "not-a-single-chance-in-hell-of-ever-being-POTUS," Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, Rick Perry and anyone else the media has even a mild interest in.

Next time you hear one of these men say

something outrageous that stops your heart and makes you fear the direction the country would head under their leadership (like scrapping the Department of Education, or urging starving children to Dumpster dive for food), remind yourselves to keep calm and carry on.

Sitting presidents win re-election in the United States more than 70 percent of the time. Because of this, any of the serious Republican candidates have made it clear they aren't touching 2012: Jeb Bush, Mitch Daniels and Chris Christie to name a few. These guys could be viable candidates, but they aren't going to risk their one shot at being president on an election cycle they have little more than a 25 percent chance of winning. Thus, they sit quietly on the sidelines, while their fellow party members make a fool of themselves and insult the intelligence of everyone in this country.

Over the weekend, after yet another state reported its primary results, someone asked this question: "Newt wins South Carolina; Romney wins New Hampshire; Santorum wins Iowa; what does this mean?"

It means four more years of Barack Obama as our president. ■

Sable Verity is a reporter and commentator covering social and political issues every week for KBCS Radio. For more information, visit [kbcbs.fm](http://kbcbs.fm) and [sableverity.com](http://sableverity.com).

## Letters

### Revolutionary legacy of nonviolence

I laud you for devoting an issue to the important topic of nonviolence in movements for social change, and for your focus on the debate within Occupy Seattle ("Debate for the Ages," RC, Jan. 11-17, 2012).

I write, however, out of concern that readers could mistakenly come to believe that nonviolence has no revolutionary potential, and that those advocating for nonviolent approaches are not seeking fundamental change.

For millennia, violence — or threats of violence — have been used to terrorize peoples into submission. It is the favored tool of tyrants and oppressors, imperialists and enslavers. Without always recognizing it, we too have incorporated the logic of violence into our psyches, believing somehow that violence and injustice will end if we meet fire with fire. Yet what the use of violence does — whether in the service of good or ill — is to perpetuate the cycle, ensuring that we are forever ensnared in its horrible grip. For some, the desire to break this seemingly endless cycle is a moral imperative. Others recognize that nonviolence is a proven successful tactic, and one that doesn't taint the victors with blood on their hands.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Gene Sharp has identified 198 nonviolent tactics that are creative and powerful, and which represent a genuine diversity of tactics. The Arab Spring protesters in Tahrir Square, the legions of brave South Africans and worldwide allies who brought down apartheid, citizens of India who conducted mass civil disobedience inspired by Mohandas Gandhi, Polish and Czech resistors who toppled Communist rule in their countries, and civil rights activists in the United States among others have used many of them. Like these courageous exemplars from around the globe, we can choose to withhold our consent to violence. In doing so, we will follow in the footsteps of giants.

Susan Segall

Regional Director, American Friends Service Committee Pacific Northwest  
Seattle

### Revolution has another definition

As a loyal fan of RC, I write with a corrective to "Debate for the Ages" (RC, Jan. 11-17, 2012). The article sets up a false dichotomy between violence and revolution on the one hand and nonviolence and reform on the other. The article might even lead you to think that in the Occupy Seattle movement, white people are for nonviolence and people of color are for a diversity of tactics, which include violence.

In fact, there are white people in Occupy Seattle who are committed to a diversity of tactics that include violence, and there are people of color who are committed to what could be called a diversity of tactics that exclude violence. Most importantly, the word "revolution" does not necessarily mean "violent revolution." Martin Luther King's movement was for "nonviolent revolution" — he wasn't afraid to use the words together. There was nothing soft or merely reformist about his philosophy of the power of love. As late as August 1967, MLK was saying that he was going to talk about love wherever he went, even though it wasn't popular to do so. And he was stating in no uncertain terms his commitment to nonviolent revolution (see "Where Do We Go From Here," 1967).

I urge liberals, radicals and journalists alike: Tinkering around the edges is not going to make it, but don't perpetuate the thinking that "revolution" is scary and violent. That's what the 1 percent would like you to think. If we want to create the Promised Land MLK saw from his lonely mountaintop, radical reform/nonviolent revolution is the way.

Mary Paterson  
Seattle



**Garbage patch, kids**

Town Hall, downstairs, 1119 Eighth Ave., 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m., \$5/door, [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

**WED 25**  
**PICK OF THE WEEK**  
Charles Moore, author of "Plastic Oceans," will speak about the massive garbage patch that lies in the Pacific between Hawaii's Big Island and the California coast. Moore discovered this huge patch in 1997 when he competed in the Transpacific Yacht Race. Since that time, he has been investigating it and creating awareness about its significance. Currents in the Pacific create a circular effect, trapping garbage and debris — bottles, plastic bags, clothing and other trash — forming what Moore calls "Plastic Soup." This bowl of soup is 1.5 times larger than the United States as a whole and deeper than 100 feet. Since the plastic contains and absorbs chemicals such as DDT and PCBs from the seawater, these pollutants are in the tissues of fish and birds who think the plastic is food. They eat it and we eat them. Remember the whale that washed up on shore whose stomach contents included many plastic bags, among other things? Ready to ban plastic bags yet? They don't degrade; they are not going to wither away.

**New words**

Auntmama's Storycorner, Madison Park Starbucks, 4000 E. Madison Ave., 206.329.3736, 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., free

**THURS 26**  
Want to hear some good yarn spinning? Here's your chance. Presented by Auntmama and The Seattle Storyteller's Guild, this month's presenters include Judith Alexander, Kathya Alexander, Aunt Maima and Olubayo. The theme is "grandmothers." Expect humor and poignancy from this group of experienced tale-tellers. The small, intimate setting is just right, and the music, from "Goodnight, Mrs. Calabash," is the old-time foot-stompin' kind. (Full disclosure: The calendar girl is part of it.) Grab your coffee; try the wine, get a snack and settle back.

**THIS WEEK**

Divers explore the massive garbage patch floating in the Pacific Ocean.

**South end jazz**

The Royal Room, 5000 Rainier Ave. S., 8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m., free, 206.906.9920, [theroyalroomseattle.com](http://theroyalroomseattle.com)

**FRI 27**  
The Royal Room presents "Painting the Town Red: the Music of Billie Holiday" featuring Johnaye Kendrick, Assistant Professor of Jazz Voice at Cornish College of the Arts. Trumpeter Nicholas Payton, who hired Kendrick after she graduated from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, said of her, "Johnaye has the potential to be a vocalist of the highest order, the likes of which we have seldom seen since the grande dames of the golden era of jazz roamed the earth." The Royal Room has been designed with artists and musicians in mind. Patrons will appreciate the comfortable neighborhood feel of the bar

and restaurant, which welcomes people of all ages. It opens at 4 p.m. for happy hour. Dinner is served from 5:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., with a late menu after that. And there's a weekend brunch from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Women's studies**

Seattle Asian Art Museum, Stimson Auditorium, 1400 E. Prospect (Volunteer Park), 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., free, but register in advance at [seattleartmuseum.org/calendar](http://seattleartmuseum.org/calendar)

**SAT 28**  
"Mountains That Take Wing" is a filmed conversation between Angela Davis and Yuri Kochiyama, two women with a passion for justice who have endured suffering and survived. Spanning more than a decade, the conversations between Davis, an internationally known scholar and feminist, and Kochiyama, an 88-year-old community activist and 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, cover subjects ranging from the vital, but largely erased, role of women in social movements of the 20th century to the prison-industrial complex, war and the cultural arts. Archival footage, posters and other art complement their conversations. A live conversation with the filmmakers will follow the screening. There are critical lessons here for understanding our nation's social movements, and there's tremendous hope for youth and the future. What makes a heroine of an activist? Humility? Humor? Both? Go and find out.

Calendar compiled by Margie Joy.  
Got something we should know about?  
Email it to [calendar@realchangenews.org](mailto:calendar@realchangenews.org)



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