

REAL CHANGE

VOL. 14 NO. 03

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JANUARY 10 - 16, 2007

Sound Thinking

Local groups push legislators for a clean Puget Sound

By ROSETTE ROYALE
Staff Reporter

Every morning, LeeAnne Beres performs the same ritual: She walks along the shores of Alki Beach. Occasionally, she'll be gazing out to the water when the head of a sea otter breaks the waves. Or perhaps it will be a sea lion, or the dorsal fin of a dolphin. "It renews my soul," says Beres, executive director of Earth Ministry, an organization that mobilizes the Christian community to play an important role in creating a just, sustainable future.

But the renewal comes from what is visible to her, on the surface. Below the waves, she's aware, is a body of water in trouble, with sea life — orcas, octopi, eel grass, eels, and more — succumbing to pollutants and toxins.

It's this dual vision of the Puget Sound — of rejuvenating fount, of poisoned well — that's leading Beres and her Earth Ministry, composed of 150 congregations statewide, to commit resources to help protect the Sound. Says Beres, "Many people of faith want to do the right thing."

When it comes to caring for the Sound, they are not alone. Earth Ministry is one of 21 organizations that make up the Washington Environmental Council, a coalition of groups intent on assessing and improving the state's physical fitness. Together, the council has crafted what it calls Priorities for a Healthy Washington 2007, a list of four commonly agreed upon legislative proposals focusing on environmental protections: saving the Sound; eliminating toxic flame retardants; pursuing energy independence through the creation of new biofuel feedstocks and reduction of fuel consumption and costs for state fleets; and a \$100 million, two-year investment for the preservation of 133 places for parks and wildlife. With this legislative session still in its infancy, the priorities will be presented to a legislature that's being viewed as

See SOUND, Continued on Page 12



LYLE RUDENSEY SITS ATOP THE ROOF OF HIS SOUTH SEATTLE HOME, WHERE SOLAR PANELS ARE GENERATING ENERGY AND EARNING HIM AND HIS PARTNER, BOB ALLEN, A REBATE FROM CITY LIGHT. PHOTO BY ADAM HYLIA.

Sun Block

Solar panels bring power, rebates to Seattle homeowners

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

The rebate check that Bob Allen and Lyle Rudensey got from Seattle City Light in October wasn't a princely sum — just \$350. But, to them, it marks the start of something big: More people making solar power.

Allen, Rudensey, and the roof of their house near Seattle's Columbia City district are participants in a one-year-old state incentive program that's paying them to generate solar energy.

The Legislature created the program in 2005 to encourage people to buy and install complete solar systems, including photovoltaic panels, an inverter, and a meter. The 2.1-kilowatt system atop Allen and Rudensey's three-bedroom home includes 12 panels and cost about \$15,000.

In return, City Light pays the domestic partners 15 cents for each kilowatt hour they produce, with the state reimbursing the utility. The \$350 check that the two received in October was the rebate for the program's first year, which ended June 30. It was part of more than \$6,000 that Pamela Burton of Puget Sound Solar, a Seattle-based design and installation company that

tracks the program, says the utility paid to 34 solar households.

At that rate, the nine-year rebate program won't make up for the initial cost of purchase and installation, but Allen says it doesn't matter. He and Rudensey bought the system in January 2005 before the rebate program started.

"It's exciting to feel proactive," Allen says of the environment and global warming. "In the absence of government action, it changes your whole attitude about what's going on" in terms of what individuals can achieve.

"We've probably cut our electric use from the city about 50 percent," Allen says. "Last summer, for July and August, we had a utility bill of \$12." That covered heat, appliances, and lights in an all-electric house of 1,700 square feet.

"I love it," West Seattle resident Stephanie Brown says of her 18-panel system, which cost \$16,500. "Number one, it makes me feel like I'm doing something," she says. "Number two, it gives me a feeling of self-sufficiency."

In the rebate program's first year, Brown's system generated 3,061 kilo-

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DIVIDE? CONQUER

There's a wide chasm separating racial wealth. It's time for Congress to bridge the gap.

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HOUSE CALLS

There's a new legislative session underway in D.C., and reps want to have their priorities heard.

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CORRECTIONS FLUID

Pressure is mounting to wipe clean Washington laws barring ex-cons from regaining voting rights.

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Anti-nuke activist Jim Douglass uses a peaceful countenance to dismantle WMDs.

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What to Do with Hour 101

True-blue voters should look to Congress to help them get out of the red

By **MEIZHU LUI**
Guest Writer

It is a good thing to lift up low- and middle-income people of all races and to take on the drug and oil industries. So hooray for the 100 Hour Agenda! But because we do not yet have racial equality, "colorblind" policies will not close the race gap.

African Americans are the Democratic Party's best friends. Between 1968, the year of Martin Luther King Jr's death, and 2006, they have been voting "blue" at rates mostly over 90 percent. Democratic leaders earned their trust during the Civil Rights Movement, demonstrating that they were willing to use the powers of their offices to change the laws to narrow the gap between whites and non-whites. In 2006, 71 percent of Latinos also went "blue."

So you would think that the Democrats, now back in the majority in Congress, would be doing all they can to pay back African Americans for their loyalty, to shore up their base among Latinos, and most of all, to return to the unfinished business of making King's dream of a colorblind society become a reality.

Their "First 100 Hours Agenda" aims to lift up those on the bottom rungs of America's economic ladder. But does it address the racial divide? That's the topic of the fourth annual "State of the Dream" report just released by United for a Fair Economy.

The Democrats' agenda includes four economic proposals: increasing the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour by 2009; cutting the interest rate on college loans in half, allowing the government to negotiate lower drug prices and pass along savings to seniors on Medicare; and investing in renewable energy industries that will create new jobs.

The proposed minimum wage raise is not enough to bring anyone out of poverty. Even \$7.25 an hour would

mean a yearly income of less than \$15,000, \$5,000 less than the poverty rate of \$20,000 for a family of four! Even if the minimum wage were raised every year after 2009 by 70 cents, a family wouldn't hit the poverty level until 2013. And if you don't have a job, a raise won't help you: African Americans are twice as likely to be unemployed as whites.

A majority of college students now carry heavy debt loads; as a graduation present, they receive an average of \$17,500 in loan bills. While cutting interest rates would save \$5,600 over the life of the loan, that savings is not worth as much to a student of color. The average African American family has only 15 cents of assets compared to the average white family's dollar, so their children need to borrow \$2,000 more than the offspring of their white counterparts. And during their lifetime of employment, they will earn \$500,000 less than a white with the same degree. Their investment does not pay the same return.

Very low-income seniors already had drug coverage; the new proposal helps mostly middle-income seniors, who are disproportionately white. The energy proposal will support the ethanol industry in the Midwest, where there are relatively few people of color; and the new jobs will be for people with advanced degrees in science and engineering. Only 2.2 percent of those with the needed doctoral degrees are Black, and only 2.3 percent are Latino. This proposal also helps whites more than people of color.

It is a good thing to lift up low- and middle-income people of all races and to take on the drug and oil industries. So hooray for the 100

Hour Agenda! But because we do not yet have racial equality, "colorblind" policies will not close the race gap. A race lens is still required.

A commitment to full employment would be a great start — for example, a federal jobs program channeling tax dollars not to the Halliburtons but to the unemployed, to rebuild New Orleans and other inner-city neighborhoods. Congress can pass the Employee Free Choice Act, allowing the 57 million non-union workers who say they want to join a union to do so. Latinos should have the same rights at work as citizens, taking away the temptation for employers to ignore labor laws. In terms of college education, back in the '40s, the GI Bill enabled a whole generation of white men — five million of them — to go to college for free! Let's extend free education two more years past high school, and strengthen Affirmative Action to address the falling enrollment and graduation rates of students of color. Providing universal health insurance so that non-whites have better health throughout their lifetimes would save money and lives. And investing in public transportation would address the racial disparities in car ownership, as well as help the environment.

The newly blue Congress needs to think intentionally about how to close the racial economic gap and to make a commitment to their loyal Black constituency in hour 101 and beyond.

Being Black or brown should not mean that you are more likely to be living in the red. ■

[Resource]

The Racial Wealth Divide project of United for a Fair Economy is online: www.racialwealthdivide.org.

Meizhu Lui is director of United for a Fair Economy, the national, independent, nonpartisan organization that raises awareness about the dangers of concentrated wealth and power, and co-author of The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the Racial Wealth Divide (New Press, 2006).



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

Mission Statement:

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

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Programs include the Real Change newspaper, the StreetWrites peer support group for homeless writers, the Homeless Speakers Bureau, and the First things First organizing project. All donations support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

On the Web at

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ISSN 1085-729X

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



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Change Agent

Leafleting for rallies against racism and apartheid and defending students in university trials for civil disobedience, Lisa Daugaard fell in love with the thrill of legal proceedings. Now an attorney for the Defender Association, an organization that aggressively defends poor and low-income people, she has turned her passion into a career. She works tirelessly, and with 350 cases a year, she closes two cases every work day. She fought against the moving of pre-trial defendants to an unsafe and inadequate Yakima County Jail, and raised important questions about the Seattle Police Departments' narcotics arrests that disproportionately net African Americans. "If we aren't willing to do it to everyone, it's not a good policy," explains Daugaard. She is especially proud of helping change the predicament of drivers whose licenses were suspended because they couldn't pay traffic tickets; many workers need a license to get or keep a job. Cooperating with the city, she helped establish a timed payment plan that allows the license to remain valid while payments are being made. "The city gets more money," she says, "and it ends the cycle of poverty."

—Dena Burke



Just: LISA DAUGAARD makes a difference for poor people through the legal system. Photo by SHERRY LOESER

In D.C. and in Control

Washington's reps prep for 2008

By CYDNEY GILLIS
Staff Reporter

"The first thing we have to do is make our minds up to think about how we get out of Iraq."

—Rep. Jim McDermott

A new Congress. A new, and long, list of priorities.

With the Democrats back in power, the House of Representatives started plowing through a calendar of bills this week that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi aims to pass in the session's first 100 hours.

But Seattle Rep. Jim McDermott says the push — to cut deficit spending, enact 9/11 recommendations, raise the minimum wage, and more — isn't so much about the first 100 hours as the 2008 election and forcing the president's hand on the Democrats' agenda.

"You have to look at the next two years as a setup for the 2008 presidential election," McDermott says. "We are going to put forward proposals and let the American people see what the Democrats are thinking."

If President Bush uses his veto power, he says, the Republicans will "have to answer for that in the next election," he says.

Last year, McDermott, who is in line to chair the Human Resources subcommittee of Ways and Means, introduced a universal healthcare bill called the American Health Security Act. It would eliminate Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs in favor of an all-in-one, single-payer system run by the states.

While his bill may not come up in the short term, the congressman says the debate on universal health care will start immediately — minus the resistance that then-First Lady Hillary Clinton faced in 1993.

Since then, "Things have changed," McDermott says. "Now business is talking to us about [lifting] the responsibility to provide health care."

A "First 100 Hours" bill that will be introduced Jan. 12 aims to fix the Medicare Part D drug plan for the elderly, in part, by allowing the government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for the lowest drug prices — something the Republicans prohibited in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003.

"That bill was an absolute giveaway to pharmaceutical and insurance companies," McDermott says. "That is not in the interest of the American people."

Nor, the Democrats say, is relying on foreign oil, something the party plans to address Jan. 18 in a bill that would cut royalties for oil companies and use the money to fund renewable energy projects — legislation that Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Bainbridge Island, helped draft.

Last year, Inslee introduced a much broader bill, the New Apollo Energy Act, that would provide \$10.5 billion for research and \$49 billion for loans to build wind, solar, and other types of clean power plants. It would also provide tax credits for buying cars that use alternative fuels.

With Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Bremerton, set to take over the Interior and Environmental Subcommittee of House Appropriations, his spokesperson, George Behan, says the congressman is already working to get more money to clean up Puget Sound and maintain the state's long neglected national parks.

With the president calling to send more troops to Iraq, funding these efforts may not be easy — one reason Democrats are advocating new "pay-as-you-go" spending rules that Pelosi has said could involve repealing Republican tax cuts for the very wealthy.

The war itself is a thornier issue for the party. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., is sponsoring a bill that would cut the purse strings for the troop surge. But *The New York Times* reports that many Democrats fear the measure could be seen as a negative for the troops currently on the ground.

"The first thing we have to do," McDermott says, "is make our minds up to think about how we get out of Iraq." ■

Just Heard...

New guard for the center

Robert Nellams has been Deputy Director of Seattle Center, charged with overseeing more than half its staff and 39 percent of its operating budget. So Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels has fingered him for the job of executive director of the Center, with responsibility's for the facility's \$34 million annual budget. The job carries with it a hefty \$138,000 salary and a weighty responsibility: penciling out a future for KeyArena once its principal tenants, the Sonics and Storm, depart. Last year, a city commission calculated that if they leave, the city's annual operating loss will more than double, to \$3.6 million.

The city council will consider Nellams' appointment on Wed., Jan. 17.

Iraq sanctions in court

Seattle activist Bert Sacks hasn't gotten satisfaction from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that he had no right to supply Iraqi civilians with humanitarian aid on several occasions during the 12-year, pre-invasion siege of their country.

So he's taken his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he hopes to ask this question: Is the deliberate killing of civilians legal under national and international law?

Sacks' legal counsel, from the Seattle firm Garvey Schubert Barer, filed a Jan. 8 petition to the Supreme Court, hoping to remind justices that U.S. leaders acknowledged the effect of economic sanctions on Iraqi civilians. His appeal cites Secretary of State Madeline Albright's remark, in response to reports of a half-million children dead because of malnourishment and lack of medicine, that "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price — we think the price is worth it."

Sacks, who upon returning from a 1996 mission to Iraq asked the U.S. government to prosecute him for violating the sanctions, traveled to Washington D.C. this week in hopes of getting national media attention for his appeal.

—Adam Hyla

Tick tock

Time's running out for Rep. Dave Reichert and his Congressional cohorts to support a minimum wage hike, negotiate for lower prescription drugs for seniors, and invest in alternative energy.

So says Change America Now (CAN), a national campaign of community, labor, green, and student groups. They've banded together to put pressure on Congress to pass the 100 Hour Middle-Class Agenda, the platform outlined by the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. The agenda will be voted on during the 110th Congress' first 100 legislative hours, which have already begun.

To lend symbolism to their demands, local CAN members unveiled a virtual 100-hour clock at Bellevue Community College. Set ticking at 1 p.m., Jan. 9, the timepiece, CAN members hope, will remind Reichert that time is of the essence.

—Rosette Royale

The Ballot, Not the Fine

Troubled 2004 governor's race could inspire lawmakers to free up ex-cons' voting rights

By **CHRIS LAROCHE**
Contributing Writer

An embarrassing snafu uncovered in the 2004 governor's election may soon be rectified.

Forces are mounting to overhaul the state's ex-felon voting laws, long regarded as not only one of the most unjust in the country, but the most convoluted as well.

Last spring, a Joint Legislative Task Force released a study recommending the "automatic restoration of voting rights upon discharge" for ex-felons. Anyone not in "total confinement" — complete custody of the Department of Corrections — would be allowed to vote. The same law is used in 12 other states.

In addition to the Task Force recommendation, two cases regarding ex-felon voting are being heard by the State Supreme Court; the Secretary of State also supports changing the law. With this momentum, supporters of change, including the ACLU of Washington, are hoping to pass a bill through the legislature this spring.

In challenging Gov. Christine Gregoire's 129-vote victory in the 2004 election, Republicans asked if ex-felons

could vote. The more they tried to clarify who could vote and who couldn't, the more confused they became. No one — not the courts, judges, legislatures, candidates, or even ex-felons themselves — could agree on the answer.

That's because Washington's system of voter disenfranchisement is one of the most convoluted in the country. Demos, a national public policy and advocacy group, gave the state an "F" for making a "process so complicated that it effectively bars former felons from regaining their right to vote." As of 2004, there are nearly 167,000 ex-felons in Washington.

Currently, a "formerly incarcerated person" may regain their right to vote once they have completed their prison time and paid off all "legal financial obligations."

Finding out much they owe, and how to pay their debts, is another issue: There is no uniform process. Fines are assessed as a part of the sentencing and interest accrues during incarceration; the Department of Corrections dumped the task of tracking the fines onto the Clerk of Courts, with no increase in budget or staffing. And even after citizens have paid their obligations, it can still take up to nine separate steps,

involving state and county officials and several forms and petitions, to actually regain the right to vote. Furthermore, there are at least five different ways for ex-felons to regain their right to vote, depending on when and where they were sentenced.

The system is so complex that ex-offenders and the government officials who track them aren't always sure if they completed the process successfully. Horror stories abound: One man was kept from voting due to an accounting error that gave him an outstanding financial obligation of 77 cents.

Washington's felon disenfranchisement laws have been criticized for years because of their impact on minority communities. Thirteen percent of voting-age African-Americans in the state, and 25 percent of adult African-American men, are unable to vote due to the law.

The ACLU and a coalition of other organizations have sought to reform Washington's voting rights procedures in the past. For the past six years, bills to restore ex-felons' voting rights without making them pay off their fees have failed. ■

Washington's felon disenfranchisement laws have been criticized for years because of their impact on minority communities. Thirteen percent of voting-age African-Americans in the state, and 25 percent of adult African-American men, are unable to vote due to the law.

[Online]

Look up the bill at leg.wa.gov by clicking on "bill information" and then typing "automatic restoration" in the search field.

Short Takes

Trial of the heart

Don't miss your chance to weigh in on what's best for your heart in a crisis.

Later this month, researchers at the University of Washington hope to launch a public clinical trial on people receiving emergency care for cardiac arrest. Unlike today's standard treatment, in which giving a defibrillator shock is the first priority, says UW lead investigator Peter Kudenchuk, Medic One teams in King County will try out two new treatments.

Some patients will get CPR first, followed by a shock, Kudenchuk says. Some of the CPR masks will also have a fist-sized breathing regulator valve added to them to help raise a patient's circulation and blood pressure.

Before Medic One can start the trial, the researchers need to satisfy the UW's Human Subjects Review Committee that they have given the public sufficient notice of the study — a process that takes the place of individual consent in large public trials such

as this one, which is part of a national, \$50 million study on resuscitation outcomes.

Last fall, the UW and Medic One kicked off a separate study of different saline solutions that are expected to be tried on about 500 accident or trauma victims in King County. Kudenchuk plans to wrap up the public outreach on the cardiac trial next week. It could include 500 to 1,000 people countywide.

He stresses that the CPR valve has already been tested for safety; it's just a question of whether it or trying CPR first will increase survival time. "We don't know if it will save lives," Kudenchuk says. "We think it will, but we don't know."

The UW is taking comments on the trial at (206)447-5671. For more information, go to www.uwheartrac.org.

A violent toll

The numbers are down but remain grim for the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Between mid-2004 and mid-2006, a new report shows that 113 women and men lost their lives to domestic violence in Washington state, whether by direct assault, by suicide, or by police action.

That includes 48 women who were killed by a current or former boyfriend or husband, 26 men who ended their own lives in the wake of a battering or attempted murder, four men shot by police, and 10 children killed by male abusers.

The statistics, from the latest Domestic Violence Fatality Review conducted by the Washington State

Coalition Against Domestic Violence, also show how the circle of violence extends to others: Five new boyfriends, three family members or friends, one co-worker, and one police officer died at the hands of irate male abusers.

In 2005, the report notes, half the women murdered in Washington state were victims of a current or former male partner, with the report offering recommendations on how to prevent such tragedies at every level, from the legislature to police, judges and mental health professionals.

Since 1997, when the coalition began issuing its biannual review, a total of 359 people have lost their lives in domestic violence incidents, most commonly involving guns, knives, or automobiles. While domestic violence homicides dropped statewide between 2005 and 2006 — from 45 to 9 — the report shows that such murders have ranged between 30 and 48 a year for the past decade.

It's just a reminder that it's "an issue the entire community needs to respond to," the coalition's Kelly Starr says. "Each and every one of us needs to learn how to help someone experiencing domestic violence."

— *Cydney Gillis*



Tragic Milestone

PEOPLE GATHERED AT WESTLAKE PLAZA ON NEW YEAR'S EVE TO MARK THE THREE-THOUSANDTH U.S. MILITARY CASUALTY IN IRAQ WITH CANDLES AND SIGNS, MANY OF WHICH CALLED FOR BRINGING THE TROOPS HOME. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THE DEATHS OF 13 MORE U.S. PERSONNEL SINCE DEC. 31, INCLUDING STAFF SGT. CHARLES D. ALLEN, 28, WHOSE INFANTRY DIVISION WAS BASED IN FORT LEWIS. PHOTO BY ELLIOT STOLLER.

Tunnel or Rebuild? Neither

City needs to demand none of the above to replace Alaskan Way Viaduct

BY GARY MANCA AND SEAN HOWELL

Guest Writers

Focus on moving people, not just cars. Once we do, we know how transit/streets would work.

The worst thing about the governor playing hot potato with the Alaskan Way viaduct decision is that the potato she has tossed to the voters is rotten. The six-lane tunnel is unaffordable, and a new Viaduct would be a monstrosity that violates Seattle zoning codes and shoreline protection ordinances.

Our leaders should refuse to play the governor's game and demand the state to go back to the drawing board. No good options for the voters to consider, no vote. But if the City Council does force a vote, we should have a strict up-or-down ballot on a new viaduct. That way, we can reply to the state when it tries to sell us its only "feasible" option: "No, thanks. You can keep your rotten potato!"

After that, what should we ask for instead? Once we ask the tough questions about what we can afford and what our priorities should be, the answer comes easily: the transit/streets strategy of modernizing the street grid, developing freight-priority lanes, and investing in mass transit, vanpools, and carpools.

Are there alternatives to a waterfront highway?

We have no choice but to look. A gaping hole of \$30 billion sits between the region's anticipated tax revenues and its plans for transportation spending through 2030. The State faces a \$2 billion funding shortfall for the 520 bridge replacement alone. Our transportation policy is bankrupt.

We need to be smarter with our road resources. In downtown alone, 44 percent of the land is already set aside for streets and sidewalks. Citywide, it is 26 percent. Surely we can find new solutions for using all of that space to move people and freight without building new highways.

What is the most cost-effective way to transport people and freight in the SR-99 corridor through downtown?

The state has only \$2.4 billion in hand to pay for a viaduct replacement, yet it wants to burden the taxpayers with a new \$2.8 billion viaduct or a bloated six-lane tunnel that weighs in at \$4.6 billion. Transit/streets would cost \$1.6 billion at most. The state could spend the savings on 520.

How much do we care about our waterfront?

We should care a lot. The economic benefits of the tunnel were calculated as \$3 billion to \$3.6 billion. Elliott Bay is a jewel that the old viaduct has stolen from the city. Let's reclaim it. We do not need the tunnel boondoggle to reconnect the city to the waterfront; transit/streets does the same thing for less money.

Can transit/streets really work? What about all the cars on the viaduct?

Focus on moving people, not just cars. Once we do, we know how transit/streets would work. To use road capacity more efficiently during the morning and afternoon rush, the city could partner with Metro to offer more vanpool and carpool services.

Throughout the day, more Metro bus service — especially through the SR-99 corridor — could massively expand the number of people moving through Seattle's streets. Metro carries 300,000 passengers today. Let's see what the system can really do with improvements like traffic signal prioritization for buses, curbside pay stations, and more express service.

For cars, the Seattle street grid has a surprising amount of unused capacity. To the south, Airport Way, Sixth Ave. S., and Fourth Ave. S. can handle more vehicles. To the north, frequently-empty Dexter Ave. N., Sixth Ave., Seventh Ave., Ninth Ave., and Boren could tag-team with Aurora Ave. to whisk cars to and from the city center. Hundreds of additional micro-improvements, from signal timing to lane management, could boost the car-carrying efficiency of our existing streets.

When do we get serious about our pledges to invest more in transit and other transportation alternatives?

Now. Lavishing billions of dollars in taxpayer money on a highway for 140,000 cars per day would be a giant step in the wrong direction.

Critics of transit/streets say that we need a new highway because we do not have the right transit system in place yet. But if we keep waiting for better transit to magically appear one day, and only build roads in the meanwhile, our transit future will never come. ■

Gary Manca and Sean Howell are founders and boardmembers of Friends of Seattle, a membership-based advocacy group whose mission is to inspire elected officials and fellow voters to support a more urban, livable, and sustainable city. They propose policy reforms, lobby elected officials, and support political campaigns. Join or find out more at www.friendsofseattle.org.

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Resistance and Contemplation

Jim Douglass confronts the world's most lethal weapons with peace in his heart

By **JOE MARTIN**
Contributing Writer

"[My wife and I] are simply trying to live in community with those around us. Most people in the world are not white and affluent. We're not in any way unique; we are common folk. The stratification in this country is what is unique."

I first heard about Jim Douglass in the summer of 1973. I was engaged in an interesting conversation with a Trappist monk who was very impressed with Jim's work and recommended that I read his book *Resistance and Contemplation*. That book begins with a brief appreciation in which Jim thanks four people: his wife, Shelley Douglass, antiwar stalwarts Daniel and Philip Berrigan, and the great Trappist monk and writer Thomas Merton. Needless to say, I was profoundly moved by the book.

Here in the Northwest, Jim and Shelley were pivotal participants in the effort to stop the Trident submarine. They are co-founders of the Ground Zero community, which is still thriving next to the Trident base in Kitsap County. Later, Jim and Shelley decided to move to Birmingham, Alabama, at the other end of the train tracks on which nuclear weapons were transported to the Trident base. In Birmingham, they established a Catholic Worker house, where hospitality and support are provided to those in need of shelter and other necessities.

From the '60s through the '90s, Jim Douglass wrote four books, which inspired many people to resist the powers and principalities of war and exploitation. *The Nonviolent Cross* (1968), *Resistance and Contemplation* (1972), *Lightning East to West* (1986), and *The Nonviolent Coming of God* (1992) are now being republished, and the issues pondered in these works are as relevant today as they were in years past. As activist Elizabeth McAlister writes in the new forward to *Resistance and Contemplation*: "More than 30 years later, Vietnam — a war that expanded through all of Southeast Asia — seems like a practice run for a level of violence none of us could have imagined."

Jim's trenchant reflections are available again, republished by a Eugene, Oregon, small press. Another four books, on the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy,

are forthcoming. All will hopefully inspire a new generation of activists who will confront the twin beasts of militarism and racism.

Real Change: What is the connection between your antiwar efforts and your encounter with poverty?

Jim Douglass: My first experience with the question of nuclear weapons was through Dorothy Day. She encountered this question in her involvement with the poor and seeing that work through the eyes of Jesus. Dorothy and others refused to go underground in the compulsory civil defense drills during 1957 in New York City, saying it was insane to believe that you would come up from a subway after a nuclear blast. Secondly, it was immoral. That jolted me to read the *Catholic Worker* newspaper and to understand the life of Jesus, which they were living. The Trident campaign led us to follow the railroad tracks — on which nuclear weapons were transported to the Trident base — to Birmingham. That was the other side of the arms race: the way in which people of color and the poor are left without resources. We are working on the other side of war preparations. We have a house and share it with friends whose needs are greater than ours. Some people come to Birmingham to visit friends or relatives in hospitals here. Birmingham is a significant center for medical care, and some relatives and friends of impoverished sick people need shelter when they arrive. We provide shelter and community to those who can't afford anything else.

RC: What about Martin Luther King Jr. and his unrealized vision for our country and the world? In 1968 he was involved in the Poor People's Campaign and opposed to the Vietnam War.

Douglass: MLK was a practical visionary. He organized a strategy for bringing Washington D.C. to a halt in the spring of 1968 through massive civil disobedience, unless Congress and the administration took steps to abolish poverty. He wanted a living wage and a guaranteed income for everyone in the U.S. He wanted to extend this strategy to the entire world. His final book, *The Trumpet of Conscience*, addresses these issues. He saw poverty and war as two sides of the same evil. Because he was a threat to this country's power structure, I concluded that he was not killed by a lone assassin.

RC: Recently, four of your books have been republished. These works had a profound influence on many people who read them when they first came out.

JD: They were all written in response to questions that are just as alive today. *Resistance and Contemplation* was written in the heart of the Vietnam War. Many of us were getting overwhelmed in resistance to the war. There was a darkness, an accumulating evil, it was like a sledgehammer. It drove one so far into the conflict, you got very close to death if you didn't actually die. It was not simply enough to resist. You had to discover in that process a truth, a power of love, of transformation,



Standing for civil rights and economic security at home and against the Vietnam War abroad, Martin Luther King Jr. "saw how many of us cooperate with systemic evil," says anti-nuclear activist Jim Douglass. Photo by Brooke Kempner.

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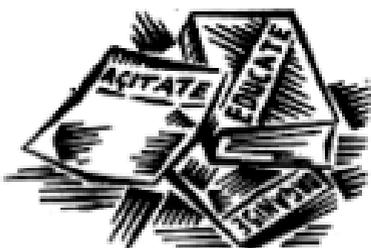
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Continued from Page 6

which was the contemplative side of nonviolence. Nonviolence is not simply noncooperation with evil. It is also the process of discovering a more profound source of the good.

I was [teaching] at the University of Hawaii, and then at Notre Dame. Some of my students went to prison or into exile. I went to jail for shorter periods. My fellow prisoners were poor. Many of these people were not criminals, but their lives had been destroyed by the conditions they had grown up in. The reality of the '60s from the Vietnam War, to the Civil Rights Movement, to the realization that our government was not entirely benevolent made me realize that I didn't know what I was doing. We needed to explore the issues that Gandhi, King, and Dorothy Day had explored so deeply. By studying their efforts we could better prepare ourselves.

RC: We are presently in a time of perpetual war, do you agree?

Douglass: The Cold War became the War on Terror. The War on Terror is necessary for the same powers that were behind the Cold War.

RC: Has our time become the nightmare MLK warned America about?

Douglass: MLK could see the goodness in human beings, including his enemies, in ways that other people could not. He could see the systemic power of destruction. He didn't identify systemic evil with individuals. He saw how many of us cooperate with systemic evil. As Dorothy Day said, our problems extend from our acceptance of this filthy rotten system. The demons are in high institutions: the powers of wealth and militarism which keep many in poverty. King, Day, and Gandhi make a distinction between people and systems.

RC: When you first arrived in Birmingham, you and Shelley were the only white folks in your neighborhood. What about the dimension of race in your work?

JD: We are simply trying to live in community with those around us. Most people in the world are not white and affluent. We're not in any way unique, we are common folk. The stratification in this country is what is unique. Birmingham has also inspired us to go to Iraq. Whether it's Birmingham or Baghdad, the realities of racism and classism are overwhelming. My last time in Baghdad was during the intense bombing of Shock and Awe, the first week of the war. That was an experience, a revelation, to be under the power of the U.S. military at its worst.

Shelley and I brought medicines to Iraqi. Over 500,000 children below the age of 5 died during the '90s. We wanted to save lives but especially wanted to end the sanctions.

RC: You have been studying the assassinations of the Kennedys, MLK, and Malcolm X. Why are you focusing on these questions?

JD: MLK was the beginning. His assassination changed my life when I was teaching at the University of Hawaii. Because of his assassination, some of my students and I went together to jail. In the '90s, I began to research his assassination more deeply. There was a trial in Memphis in 1999 in which the jury concluded that U.S. government agencies were involved in MLK's death. From there I began to inquire into the deaths of Malcolm X, JFK, and RFK.

It is the same story four times over, the story of people "turning" — turning in a Biblical sense towards a deeper vision of justice and peace. And as a direct consequence, each was assassinated. It is an old story. Unless we understand that story in our own context, we cannot be raised from the dead, as the story comes to us Biblically. If we are in total denial — as we have been for four decades concerning what really happened to those four people — we are not going to rediscover life, the kind of life they grasped in their final days. Their lives were visions of turning and transformation. I've been surprised by the two who were closer to the center of power — JFK and RFK.

RC: JFK and RFK were perceived by the principalities and powers of the time to be very threatening?

JD: If you are president or a prospective president, if you are trying to end the Cold War, or choosing to withdraw from a war in Southeast Asia, or trying to gain a rapport with Castro, some in power — at the CIA and the Pentagon — are uncomfortable with that. So their visions were unrealized, but they were turning, and this is amply confirmed by documents and witnesses.

RC: There will be some books that will result from these efforts?

JD: Yes, I have a book on JFK which will be first. That will be followed by a book on the complementary way in which Martin and Malcolm were envisioning a transformation of the U.S. and the world. The story of RFK will be a summary of their collective vision. It

is the same story four times over, and it is a story of which we all must be a part. Because if we are willing to face the hardest questions and take on the responsibilities which go with them, there is hope. There is hope, and danger. They go together.

RC: Both you and Shelley have been involved for so long in many endeavors. It is not an easy life, though it is obviously rewarding. How can others, activists, pursue such efforts and stay the course in the long run and not get discouraged?

JD: We take time to have fun. We also have a great church that we belong to, in our neighborhood, with remarkable people who share our struggles and who support us as we support them. We

are gifted by the people in the Birmingham Pax Christi group. Community is more important than ideology. The vision arises from the community. If you confine yourself only to the words and the justification for action rather than relationships, you're not going to last very long. The essence of nonviolence is relationships, whether it is with God or the circle around us, which in many ways is the same reality. We're bound up, one to another, in ways that sustain us. Those relationships are the key to the long haul. ■

[Reading]

Douglass' books have been republished by the Eugene, Oregon, small press Wipf and Stock (www.wipfandstock.com).

Under Construction

Men are putting up walls
across from my back window
nail by nail, the frame goes up
and concrete is mixed and poured
into its cell blocks.

Each day, the view I had
diminishes a little more.
Now above sidewalk level
ladders go walk about
and the scaffolding grows.

To the sound of the devil drill
and the hammering of a Flicker
studs go into place, riveting
echoes and pipes begin to knock
forming the new latticework.

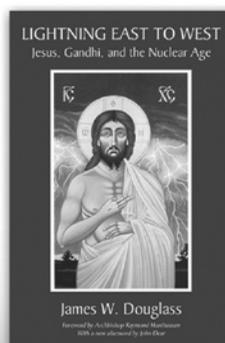
The crane with its spiders lifeline
drops from the sky with a floor
foundations settling into place.
Each story goes up, square by square
I'm looking at a blank face.

—MICHAEL MAGEE

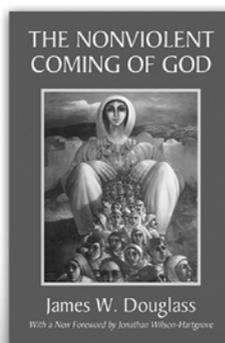
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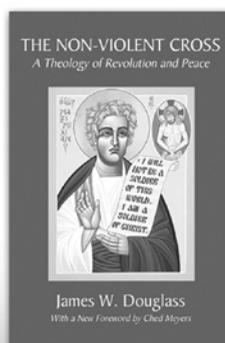
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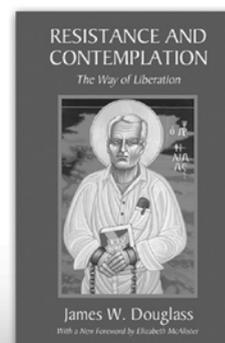
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Gulliver's Travail

Mistress Masham's Repose

By T.H. White

Illustrated by Fritz Eichenberg

The New York Review Children's Collection

Random House, 2004

Hardback, 260 pages, \$16.95

Review by JOHN SISCOE

Contributing Writer

Terrence Hanbury White (1906-64) was an English pacifist, scholar, and social critic who preferred the company of animals to that of people. He was also a gifted and prolific writer whose books reflected his wide range of interests. Today he is chiefly remembered for his spectacular retelling of the Arthurian legend in *The Once and Future King*. Good as this book is, and it is very good indeed, it is not T.H. White's masterpiece. That accolade should be reserved for his tale of adventure and fantasy, *Mistress Masham's Repose*, a book White wrote with both children and adults in mind. First published in 1946, it is now back in print, 60 years later, with its original glorious illustrations by Fritz Eichenberg.

The heroine of *Repose* is Maria, 10 years old, intrepid, and an orphan. She lives in Malplaquet, a decaying, 18th-

century palace set in a vast estate. Her governess and her guardian, the local vicar, are after Maria's inheritance. Hypocritical, censorious, and sadistic, they are in their comical way two of the most memorable villains in children's literature. As White himself remarks, "Both the vicar and the governess were so repulsive that it is difficult to write about them fairly." Maria's only friends are the cook, a kindhearted illiterate countrywoman, and the professor, who has read a thousand learned books but hasn't a penny to his name. It seems unlikely that they can protect Maria from the machinations of the governess and the vicar — but then the fantastical makes its appearance.

One afternoon, while Maria is exploring the palace grounds, she comes across a gazebo, "Mistress Masham's Repose," that dates from the time of Queen Anne. And there she encounters a colony of Lilliputians. Their forebears had been carried away from Lilliput by the notorious Captain Biddel and brought to England to be exhibited. They had escaped his clutches and wound up in Malplaquet, where they and their descendants have lived in independence and secrecy ever since.

Maria's remarkable discovery sets in motion a sequence of events that will soon involve all the characters — including the Lilliputians themselves — in a swirl of intrigue, pursuit, imprisonment, and escape. It would be cruel to reveal the twists and turns of the plot or how White ties everything together at the finish, but it is to give away nothing to note that Maria wants desperately to be loved. She is brave, she is smart, but she is also 10 years old and thinks that the Lilliputians belong to her, in the manner of toys or dolls. The professor tries to tell her otherwise. But it is the consequences of her own acts that will teach Maria what words cannot.

T.H. White was an acute observer of humanity, but he was never a solemn one. *Repose* is both a fast-paced adventure story and a charming fantasy. It is also, and on every page, a wise and funny book. The New York Review Children's Collection is a splendid project; each title is republished in its original format with its original illustrations. Twenty-four titles have appeared so far, and every one is a gem. *Mistress Masham's Repose* is a diamond. ■

Mistress Masham's Repose is both a fast-paced adventure story and a charming fantasy. It is also, and on every page, a wise and funny book.

Films Worth Seeing without Leaving the Couch

By LESTER GRAY

Arts Editor

Grey Gardens

Directed by The Mayles Brothers

The Beales of Grey Gardens

Directed by the Mayles Brothers

Somewhere between the disciplined, fly-on-the-wall genre of cinéma vérité and the current assembly-line style of verisimilitude, reality TV, falls *Grey Gardens*. Like the latter approach, a brand of poking our nose into people's misfortune and, to varying degrees, affecting the scenario, this production relies on minor celebrity and extravagant behavior to create its theater.

Edith Bouvier Beale, 77, and her daughter, Edie, 56, inhabit a 28-room house in the Hamptons, the storied enclave of New York gentry. Formerly a part of the moneyed locals and now impecunious through circumstances somewhat unclear, the two have seen both their home and social standing fall into disrepair. Their roommates, numerous cats and raccoons, contribute to a squalor that Suffolk County found worthy of an official inspection, a spotlighted humiliation due to the duo's relationship, as aunt and cousin, to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. What makes this chronicle compelling is the two women's charm, the incongruent remnant of an

upbringing that prepared them to put the best face on difficult situations — poverty not being one that was ever anticipated.

Over the years *Grey Gardens*, made in the '70s, has become a cult classic. Criterion Collection has just released a second film, *The Beales of Grey Gardens*, essentially the outtakes from the first film, largely redundant, that only a truly aficionado (of which

there are more than a few) of the original could love. The two offerings are packaged as a set.

The Weeping Meadow

Directed by Theo Angelopoulos

All the biblical elements — Diaspora, father against son, brother against brother, and of course a love affair in breach of tribal norms — are just the underpinnings of Theo Angelopoulos' authentic offering of grandeur.

Forced by the Russian Revolution to flee Odessa on the Black Sea, a Greek community marches back to their homeland, where they eventually find more political unrest.

In Angelopoulos' broadly brushed three-hour epic, the screen is a canvas, every shot painstakingly crafted. The colors are pallid — everywhere there are shades of what once was; the images — windswept rain, political upheaval, crumbling dwellings — speak of providential inclemency.

And yet in the muted hues of walls, characters' complexions, and the silted river, there's a fluent, lyrical, unimpeded narrative. It is a patient piece that rewards a reciprocal attitude from the viewer.

The Gridiron Gang

Directed by Phil Joanou

The *Gridiron Gang's* most significant accomplishment is the seamless integration of two prosaic, but crowd-pleasing genres, both of which the popcorn crowd just can't get enough. First is the sports team with less than prime talent that overcomes insurmountable odds. The second is the you-can-make-it-out-of-the-hood if you really try saga.

Coaching the detention center football team is Sean Porter. Played by former WWW wrestler turned actor Dwayne "The Roc" Johnson, he deserves the utmost credit for delivering each clichéd line with an aura of originality.

Throw a bit of racial conflict, gang rivalry, and filial devotion into the mix and you've got a fair to middling drama. It's the kind of movie that people tell you to "wait until it comes out on DVD," which it now has. ■

Little Edie, one of the stars of the cult hit *Grey Gardens*. Photo courtesy www.dvdbever.com





Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Dr. Wes: Unsafe at Any Speed

I like driving. I like smashing things, and driving is a fun, easy way to smash things. My favorite things to have smashed, so far, include a Plymouth sedan, a Ford station wagon, a Chevy Impala station wagon, assorted bushes, a brand spanking-new Scirocco (totaled!), and

I think a Honda, or Toyota, I'm not sure because it got away from me. The state doesn't let me drive anymore, since the Honda, or Toyota.

But I don't mean to reminisce about my fun cab-driving days. I want to talk about driving public policy.

Driving provides a great metaphor for how power is exercised. It leads you to pay attention not only to who's in the driver's seat but also how the controls are set up and how they're used. Are there airbags? Are there cup-holders? Can the driver lock the kiddies in securely with a push of a button? Or can they open their doors and hurl themselves to the pavement, risking instant death, any time they want?

I was alerted to the value of driving as a metaphor for the control of public policy by the people at the Committee to End Homelessness in King County (CEHKC). They are working out what they call their 10-Year Plan Dashboard Project. The idea of this Dashboard Project of theirs is to maintain nine or 10 measurements associated with eight desirable outcomes having to do with ending homelessness in 10 years. These measurements will be made available to the Governing Board of CEHKC and updated on a regular schedule. The Governing Board will steer policy accordingly.

Then, when the measurements go "red," or "tits up," as we professional drivers call it, the Governing Board will call in the professional mechanics, otherwise known as the CEHKC InterAgency Council (IAC).

For example, people who want to end homelessness would like there to be lots of apartments

that poor people can rent. So the Governing Board at CEHKC says increasing "access to existing units (rental) stock for people who experience homelessness in King County" is a desirable outcome. But they don't know how to measure access to rental stock. So the associated measurement is gotten by counting the number of fully subsidized rental units in the county. This they can do because they know all the folks handing out the subsidies on a first-name basis and have them all on speed-dial.

The Governing Board will eye the "fully subsidized rental units" dial along with eight or nine other dials like it, while they drive the 10-Year Plan Cadillac, making this policy decision here, that policy decision there. Then, like I said, when the dial swings way down, they'll pull over. They won't look under the hood and pretend to know what to do. Instead they'll immediately call the mechanics, the IAC, on their cell phones. These mechanics, by the way, happen to be mostly the same people who manage the subsidized properties. So they're confident they can fix anything to do with subsidies. They guarantee it!

Notice there are no nasty politics involved. The metaphor doesn't put legislators in the Cadillac. Instead it puts them on and around the road, as obstacles to avoid. Also, nobody is handing out tickets when the driver hits a lamppost.

There's another way to do this kind of driving. In 2003, Scotland passed a law granting all citizens the right to housing and created what amounts to a nine-year plan to end homelessness by making 2012 the deadline for turning the right into reality, by phasing out priority tests.

So in Scotland the legislators, or parliament, got in the car at the outset, inserted the key, and turned it. They put their First Minister in the driver's seat and told him to watch not nine or 10 dials but a few more than 5 million, one for each citizen. The courts will keep the driver from swerving off the road.

No driving on the left side of the road in America. ■

Driving provides a great metaphor for how power is exercised. It leads you to pay attention not only to who's in the driver's seat but also how the controls are set up and how they're used. Are there airbags? Are there cup-holders?

Green Card Soldier

the seasonal migrant worker
an unwed mother in Texas
her temporary work visa again expires
sending her back across the border

in order to have a better life
than his first eighteen years
she allowed her teenaged son
to stay and join the U.S. Army

fighting to become an American
by becoming an American fighting man
he died for this country
and became a U.S. citizen... posthumously.

—CARL PALMER



Thurs., Jan. 19, 4:30 a.m., 200 block Yesler Way.

According to the police report, the alleyway between Yesler and S. Washington is a chronic problem area and has been designated by Seattle Department of Transportation as closed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Many signs are posted there forbidding loitering and trespassing. Suspect, a transient white male aged 30, illegally entered the alley despite the posted notices. He was discovered by police lying on a concrete ledge with his head no less than three feet away from a sign. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for prohibited entry to a no-admission area.

Wed., May 17, 11:50 p.m., Pike St.

Seattle Fire Dept (SFD) reported a stabbing in the 100 block of the Pike Street area and requested Seattle Police assistance. When police arrived, SFD already had the victim, a transient white male aged 41, in the aid vehicle, and were about to transport him to Harborview Medical Center. A witness approached the police and stated she saw what had happened. She was coming out of the store when she noticed the victim and suspect — a Black male aged 20-26 — standing on the sidewalk arguing. They started to get into a pushing match, and all of a sudden the suspect pulled out what the witness thought was a fixed-blade knife from his pants pocket and proceeded to stab the victim in the back. He then fled eastbound on Pike St. towards Third Ave., and unknown from there. Witness stated she had seen the suspect hanging around the Pike/Pine area on a nightly basis. An area check for the suspect was negative.

Sun., July 9, 1:40 p.m., Pike St.

Suspect, a transient white male aged 47, was contacted by Seattle police for sitting on a public sidewalk. Officers ran a name check, which was returned with an outstanding warrant. This was confirmed, and suspect was arrested without incident and booked into King County Jail.

Mon., Sept. 18, 11:17 a.m., 43rd Ave. E.

An officer was dispatched to a call of a suspicious person who had wandered into the residence of the complainant through an open sliding door. Complainant had discovered the subject, a homeless white male aged 30, looking into his refrigerator, and had asked the man if he was lost. Subject responded that he was "looking for his father... who was a spider." Complainant asked him if he would like to talk about it outside, and the subject agreed. Complainant stated to the police that the subject seemed disoriented, and he still appeared that way when officers arrived. Complainant had given the man an extra jacket and a cup of coffee, and stated that he did not want to pursue the matter any further — he had left the door open, and nothing was missing from his house. Officers checked the subject via radio and his name checked clear. When asked, subject agreed he would like to go to hospital and talk to someone. He was trespassed from the location, then transported by ambulance to Harborview Medical Center.

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.



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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Not well off, not bought off

Dear *Real Change*,

It was a substantial pleasure during the holidays to find that Tim Harris had come out of the four-by-five-inch corner where he usually confines his director's comments each issue to offer an extended essay, "The Panhandling Dilemma," [Dec. 27 – Jan. 2] for our consideration. I want to extend the initiative.

The problem of the unhomed, unprosperous, unable, and otherwise inconvenient is long-standing. The harrying of the homeless (and of those whose full-time panhandling jobs take them onto the streets in all weathers) extends beyond the communities of the shores of Lake Washington. Through the Middle Ages, there was the *Narrenschiff*, the "ship of fools," that barged the misfit and unwanted up and down the rivers and canals of Europe so they'd not be able to settle and accumulate in an unseemly mass in any one city. As Harris says, "They make us uncomfortable." It was a floating gulag, not unlike the pilgrim tent cities around here that are sometimes invited to sojourn at various church parking lots and then warded off from such sites by an insulated and fearful citizenry.

Rather than try to know personally anyone we worry may contaminate us or our kids, we seek first to exclude then, admit the logic, to exterminate. Or shall I put it this way: In past years, I've invited a (formerly homeless) *Real Change* vendor to speak in graduate seminars I've taught precisely because his is not the insularity of the privileged, often not even of the wage-driven. In fact, part of the discomfort the homeless and left-out cause is the sneaking sense that they are not as well bought off as the rest of us by the shining lights and well-modulated clichés of late capitalism.

I will restrain myself on this score, though not before suggesting that the un-self-critical Chamber of Commerce mentality in its various guises is as much a threat to our shared well-being as is any amount of mere panhandling. The latter is often just getting by, the former is often just pandering — and in its pandering, effectively buying off conscience and concern with the mollifications of purchase, display, and the pretenses of security that come therewith.

If, as Harris proposes, the issue ultimately is "about whether to let ourselves feel some of the world's pain," it is also, inevitably, about whether any of us adds an iota to our stature by the fetish of career advancement and the accumulation of stuff. The armor we wear against feeling one another, even in our own homes, is the stiff weight of the soul that confuses winning with mature interhuman being.

Bought and sold every day, many of us then point judgmental fingers at those below us in the hierarchy of gain who do not so faithfully worship at the altar of conventional success.

Guy Burneko
Seattle

Correction to our Jan. 3 interview with blogger David Goldstein ("Sphere of Influence: Blogger David Goldstein kickstarts the Democrats' hype at *HorsesAss.org*"): Trent Lott resigned from his position of ranking Majority Leader; he's still very much in the Senate. It was our mistake, not Goldstein's.

Real Change welcomes letters to the editor of up to 250 words in length. Please include name, address, phone number, and email for author verification. Letters should be addressed to Editor at *Real Change*, 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA, 98121, or emailed to editor@realchangenews.org.

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Opportunity

Enhancement Task Force begins a service project salvaging native plants. Sat., Jan. 13, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Edmonds Community College, 20000 68th Ave. W. Info: (425)640-1125.

Michael Honey discusses *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike*. Thurs., Jan. 18, 4 p.m., University of Washington, Smith Hall, Room 102 Info: (206)634-3400.

FREE Concerts Downtown Library — "Strange Fruit" chronicles the journey of African Americans from slavery to freedom that will move all your senses. Jazz Vocalist Mercedes Nicole and band, with featured artist Michael Powers, will perform a celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King with live music, video photography, song and dance! See Back Page, Display Ad, for dates of performances.

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

Calendar

This Week's Top Ten

Saturday 1/13

Congressman Jim McDermott traveled to Amman, Jordan, this fall, where he met with delegations from Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan. He will share reflections and a video documentary of his experiences and engage in a lively community discussion on how best to move towards peace. 2 p.m., Seattle Asian Art Museum, 1400 E Prospect St. Info: info@adcseattle.org.

Organized for and by youth, the 8th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Hip Hop Show features the theme "Fighting for Education and Following the Dream." Artists Abyssinian Creole, 2012, Audio Poets, and Scribes will each pay their tribute to the Civil Rights Movement. Tickets \$3. 7:30 p.m., Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, 4408 Delridge Way SW. Info: www.sypp.org.

Monday 1/15

Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as community members deliver his historic Nobel Prize acceptance speech. At the age of 35, King was the youngest man to have received the distinguished award, and he turned over the money to further the Civil Rights Movement. His speech highlights his commitment to nonviolence and the need to overcome oppression. 2 p.m., Seattle Center, Center House Pavilion, 305 Harrison St.

Dancing in the Streets is Barbara Ehrenreich's exploration of collective joy. From the ancient Greeks' worship of Dionysus to the medieval practice of Christianity as a danced religion, she shows the history of feasts, costuming, and dancing. Her book points to our innately social ways as a method to envision a peaceful future. Tickets \$5. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Tuesday 1/16

Writer-in-residence for Seattle Arts and Lectures and graduate from the University of Washington's MFA program Alice Marshall discusses her short story "By Any Other Name." Chosen by Sue Miller as one of the best pieces of short fiction from a new author, it will be included in *Best New American Voices 2007*. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way NE.

Marla Smith-Nilson delivers her lecture "Safe, Sustainable Water Supplies: The First Step to Ending Extreme Poverty." She has traveled to Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Bangladesh to document unsafe water and the efforts to install wells. 8:30 a.m., University of Washington, Anderson Hall, Room 223.

Thursday 1/18

Phil Lane, a member of the Yankton Dakota and Chickasaw tribes and an internationally recognized leader in human and community development, shares the wisdom of the indigenous peoples of North and South America. He will urge people to turn to peace and look beyond war. 7 p.m., Discovery Park, 3801 W. Government Way. Info: (425)672-7412.

Dr. Joy Degruy Leary leads her famous workshop on Post Traumatic Slavery Syndrome. She posits that socially learned stress-related issues were passed through generations as a result of slavery. Her presentation includes facts, statistics, and documents that illustrate the destruction of the African culture and the clinical effects of inequality, racism, and oppression. 7 p.m., The Bush School, New Community Room, 3400 E. Harrison St. Info: (206)326-7731.

"Susana Baca: Memoria Viva" shows the elegant singer Susana Baca working for the preservation of Afro-Peruvian Heritage. She and her husband, Richard Pereira, have founded Black Continuum, a spirited facility for the exploration, expression, and creation of Black Peruvian culture. The lando, a slow to mid-tempo mix of Spanish, indigenous, and African rhythms, is Baca's trademark, and it has become the sound and symbol of Black Peru. Suggested donation \$5. 7 p.m., Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 - 17th Ave. S.

Director's Corner

On the off chance that you don't get enough of me in the 230 or so words that occupy this space each week, this week Channel 21's Seattle Voices brings you the Tim Harris interview, streaming online (www.seattlechannel.org) and conveniently on cable at a variety of viewing times. Eric Liu's weekly program "engages in one-on-one conversations with some of the most interesting, provocative, and inspiring people in Seattle."

Seattle isn't a huge city. Apparently, after a hundred interviews or so, you start getting down to folks like me.

Be that as it may, we need your help to spread the word. We hope Eric's show will help people understand what *Real Change* is all about. Maybe the next time they see one of our vendors, they'll stop and make a new friend.

This year, we're very focused on reaching new readers, expanding our activist base, and becoming even more effective. This means broadening distribution to the Eastside, working harder to help our vendors succeed, and using any means we can to help people understand what we do. Shockingly, after more than 12 years, there are still plenty of people in Seattle who don't get *Real Change*.

You can help us to change that. If you like what you see when you watch the show, you can ask your friends to take a look as well. *Real Change* is making a difference. Spread the word.



The exquisitely photographed documentary *Buyer Be Fair* explores how conscious consumers and businesses can use the market to promote social justice and environmental sustainability through product labeling. Sat., Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Queen Anne Manor, 100 Crocket St.



First things First

Get Involved • Take Action

Tell State Officials: Time for Health Care for All

Issue: The state legislative session started this week, and one of the things on legislators' minds is health care. It's one of those "kitchen table" issues that the majority Democrats keep saying will be their focus. Add your voice to those telling Olympia that health care is a basic need that everyone should be able to meet.

Background: Over half a million people in Washington don't have health insurance, and the ranks of the uninsured are rising, particularly among children. Many working adults cannot afford to pay the rising cost of insuring themselves, much less their kids. According to a recent Kaiser survey, between 2002 and 2003 the cost of private health premiums rose 13.9 percent and the cost that individual employees kicked into their own insurance went up by 53 percent.

Children without health coverage are less healthy than insured kids because their parents are more likely to postpone needed health care and allow prescriptions to go unfilled because they cannot afford the cost. In Washington, the legislature and governor have taken significant steps over the past two years to help families get the health coverage they need, including setting the admirable goal of ensuring coverage for every child in Washington by 2010. The investments we've made are paying off: Over the past two years, the number of uninsured children in our state dropped 23 percent. This year, it's time to finish the job by passing comprehensive legislation that creates accessible coverage options for all children, so that they can get the health care they need to grow and thrive.

As a result of a lack of coverage, by the end of 2004 the Washington health care system paid \$400 million to health care providers for people who don't have health insurance. The costs of uncompensated care are eventually passed on to everyone else through higher health care costs and taxes. Yet over 80 percent of those who don't have health care are working. While their employers are often making big profits in Washington, employers often don't provide health insurance for their workers. Instead they rely on state programs like Medicaid and the Basic Health Plan to cover their workers.

It is time for Washington's big employers to pay their fair share of health care for their employees. The Health Care Responsibility Act would require large employers to provide health care for their employees or pay a fee to the state. If collected, the fees would go toward paying for health care for those employees on the state's Basic Health Plan (BHP).

Action: Contact your legislators and the governor and tell them that everyone in Washington should have access to quality, affordable health coverage. Specifically, ask them to ensure that every child is covered by 2010 and to require that large employers contribute their fair share to the costs of health care for their workforce. You can call the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

For regular updates on health care policy and alerts about when you can make your voice heard, sign up for action alerts at www.savehealthcareinwa.org.

Information for this column provided by Statewide Poverty Action Network (www.povertyaction.org) and the Children's Alliance (www.childrensalliance.org).

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

SOUND, Continued from Page 1

more favorable to environmental issues than in the past.

For the Sound, the group wants the state to create an effective overseer and regulator that will hold culprits responsible for damaging the habitat's health. Speaking of the council's efforts to press for Sound-friendly legislation, Naki Stevens, director of programs for People for Puget Sound, says, "What we need is an agency with some teeth."

Stevens says that there are already a good number of state laws, for example, that control stormwater runoff. Even so, she says, the state has yet to gain any true handle on runoff and, as a result, the populations of some fish species are declining and precious habitat is being destroyed. No agency, she laments, really takes it upon itself to enforce laws already on the books. "No wonder the Sound is going down the tubes," says Stevens.

Cleaning up the Sound has been on the Washington Environmental Council's radar for some time. Last year, the council jump-started an effort to bring greater overall health to the Northwest estuary, an area stretching from the waters off Whidbey Island down to Olympia, where sea- and freshwater intermingle in a tidal dance.

The council's legislative mettle was proven last November, with their work in helping to defeat I-933 — a proposal that would have rolled back a decade's worth of environmental protections — and the passage of I-937, a clean-energy initiative.

The Sound's health has also been on Gov. Christine Gregoire's mind, too. As part of her current budget proposal, the governor wants to earmark \$220 million over the next two years for eradicating toxins, restoring damaged shorelines, upgrading septic systems, and, yes, reducing stormwater runoff. The funds, which will also go toward creating a new governance system to ensure greater accountability, are being seen as an investment in revitalizing the Sound by 2020.

Looking at and determining the viability of the Sound in 2007 means

viewing the entire area as an ecosystem, says Jan Newton, principal oceanographer of the Applied Physics Lab at the University of Washington. In any ecosystem, she notes, you can't merely identify one of its interlocking parts. When considering the Sound's fitness, she says it's worth taking into account species habitat loss, lingering toxins from past industrial build-up, and deforestation, not to mention the exploitation of species' stocks, which snips away at the entire food web, from orcas on down. Newton says the vigor of the Sound is akin to human health, with both indicating, in their own respects, the vitality of a certain body. "It's not just one thing that makes you healthy," she says. "It's many things."

And it's the pairing of the ethical and moral, says Beres, that's led Earth Ministry to support environmental priorities for Sound protection. Caring for all of Creation is an attitude she says any person can get behind.

"If you can see [the Sound] as something sacred," says Beres, "you're much more likely to take care of it." ■

[Learn More]

To find out more about the Washington Environmental Council, check out their website: www.wecprotects.org

[Get Involved]

There will be a Healthy Washington Lobby Day coming up on Feb. 14, all day, in Olympia. To find out how to participate, visit www.pugetsound.org/lobbyday or contact Rein Attemann at (206)382-7007.

SOLAR, Continued from Page 1

watt hours. That's an average of nine kilowatt hours a day, with the average home requiring about 25, according to Mike Nelson, manager of the Northwest Solar Energy Center in Seattle. The power also earned Brown a check for about \$460.

Allen and Brown both took out home equity loans to pay for their solar systems and, at the same time, installed a solar hot water preheating tank, which also saves money.

Any unused electricity their systems generate goes into the grid. A companion bill passed by the Legislature in 2005 is also about to generate jobs: Thanks to reduced business and occupation taxes, Nelson says, two solar manufacturers plan to open plants in Washington state.

One, REC Silicon, plans to build a silicon purification factory in Moses Lake that will open in about two and a half years and employ 100 people, Nelson says. The other is an unnamed panel manufacturer that he says

will employ 20 to 25 people in either Wenatchee or Everett.

Once solar manufacturers move in, the rebate for household power producers can go up. The rebate on a full system purchased from Washington manufacturers is 54 cents per kilowatt hour, but no one in the state makes the panels or inverters now — something the incentives are meant to change.

"I feel like it's a really positive thing to be part of the solution," Allen says. "It's hard to quantify what that's worth," he adds, "but it makes taking out an equity loan a lot more palatable." ■



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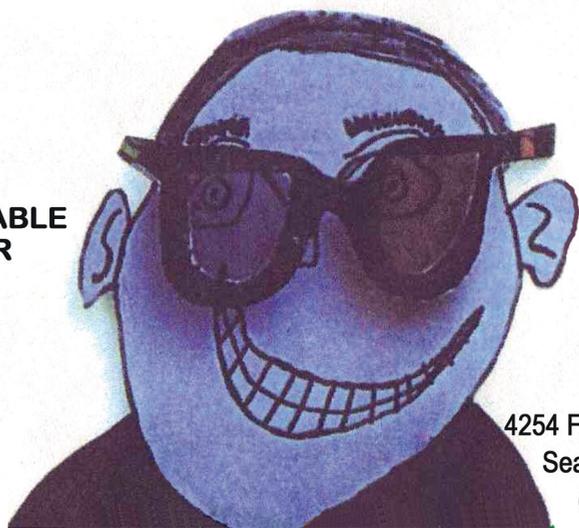
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