4,000 show support for Uganda

Thousands gathered at Magnuson Park on April 28 to draw attention to Ugandans displaced in two-decades-long war. Young people wear shirts painted with the letter “X” to signify refugee status. Later, they camped overnight...see page 5.

Where’s the money to end homelessness?

“We can sit here for the next 10 years and excuse ourselves because Uncle Sugar didn’t come to the table,” says DESC’s Bill Hobson...see page 5.

Apartheid in America: Researcher uncovers how medicine has mistreated the Black community

In-depth interview with Harriet Washington...p.6.
REAL CHANGE, Seattle's activist community newspaper, is asking you and 20 friends to donate $20 or more each to help us strengthen our voice. Visit www.realchangenews.org.
There, have a broad progressive movement — is issues you care about, as an organized, dedicated news staff. We need to do this. And with your help, we will succeed. In more than a dozen years of leading this newspaper, I can’t remember a time when our work has been more exciting or necessary, or when our vendors have been more engaged and proud to sell Real Change.

• Circulation and vendors served is at an all-time high, with the number of papers sold this year up 17 percent over that of last year.

• There is considerable momentum locally toward the goal of ending homelessness by 2015, and Real Change is playing a role in building and sustaining the political will to make that possible.

• We have redesigned the paper to attract new readers with our award-winning content. This will create new levels of success for our vendors and enhance our capacity to mobilize for social change.

• Recent advocacy successes have helped us understand that our vendors are often our most effective messengers.

As an organization that is focused on building vendor leadership to move an anti-poverty advocacy agenda.

• Beginning this year, Real Change will regionalize our readership and advocacy by building a network of satellite distribution locations.

Our broad base of community support makes all of this work possible. Last year, reader donations from more than 1,000 contributors made up 45 percent of our funding.

While 2007 offers many exciting opportunities for our work, there are challenges as well. We remain a relatively small organization that struggles to push forward a very big agenda on limited resources.

This year, we set a very big goal for our summer fund drive: $140,000. This money will strengthen our organizing resources, fund critical infrastructure to create long-term stability, and firm up our capacity to publish a quality weekly paper with just 2.5 dedicated news staff.

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I want to hear from you. If you have any questions or concerns about Real Change, or would just like to connect, call me at 441-3247, ext. 202.

Finally, as a part of our organization, we think you should have the opportunity to have the same information we do. Toward that end, we invite you to go behind the scenes at Real Change at realchange.wikispaces.com. There, you’ll find our strategic plan, a detailed history, and deep information about our important work.

You can donate using our simple and secure on-line service located at www.realchangefunds.org, or make a check out to Real Change and mail it to 2129 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Thank you for your support.

This summer, we invite you to help support our work by telling 20 of your friends why you support our work, and asking them to make a $20 donation to Real Change. By helping to spread the word and broaden our base of community support, you help to ensure that Real Change will continue to support opportunity for the very poor, publish quality progressive journalism each week on the issues you care about, and build for power through effective organizing and advocacy.

The Real Change Summer Fund Drive will create the capacity we need to seriously organize against poverty and homelessness. The time to act is now. Help Real Change meet the challenge.

By TIMOTHY HARRIS, Real Change Executive Director

L ike it or not, Seattle is changing, and not necessarily for the better. A series of news articles over March confirm what many of us already know. Our city has become more unaffordable to nearly everyone. Rents are at their highest levels proportional to incomes in 20 years. In-city home prices have risen out of reach. Inequality is growing.

According to new census figures, incomes for the richest tenth rose by 9 percent in 2005 while average incomes for the bottom 90 percent fell. More and more of us are feeling the economic vulnerability that increased inequality creates.

The role of Real Change in our community — as a bridge between the haves and the have-nots, as an independent media source that watchdogs the issues you care about, as an organization that builds for power and supports a broad progressive movement — is more critical than ever.

This year we set a very big goal for our summer fund drive: $140,000. This money will strengthen our organizing resources, fund critical infrastructure to create long-term stability, and firm up our capacity to publish a quality weekly paper with just 2.5 dedicated news staff.
**Just Heard...**

**Starbucks charged**

The Wobblies may never succeed in unionizing the world’s largest chain of coffee shops, but they are putting a serious dent in Starbucks’ shiny corporate image.

On March 30, the National Labor Relations Board brought new charges against the Seattle-based company, citing 30 separate counts of Starbucks firing or harassing union-affiliated workers at four Manhattan stores where the Industrial Workers of the World first launched its organizing drive in 2003.

The charges follow a settlement that Starbucks signed one year ago to reinstate two union activists who had been fired. The NLRB then filed a new complaint on behalf of six others who were fired, leading to the current charges, which Starbucks will have a chance to rebut before an administrative law judge.

In 2005, the company paid a total of $165,000 for similar charges of union-busting activities at the company’s roasting plant in Kent.

“This company is a serial violator of workers’ rights,” says IWW Starbucks organizer Daniel Gross, who says the tide is turning against the company. “We expect that this will likely lead to a court challenge to his petitions from the company.”

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**Legal profiling?**

Bob Baker is back, and this time he’s working with paid signature-gatherers.

Baker is the Mercer Island man who filed an initiative last year aimed at taking away state assistance from anyone who can’t prove that he or she was born or resides legally in the United States. After a court challenge to his petitions from immigrant rights activists, Baker failed to get enough signatures to get the measure on the ballot.

This year, Baker, a member of the Minuteman group that conducts armed patrols on the Canadian and Mexican borders, is trying again with Initiative 966. To get on the November ballot, he needs to gather 224,000 signatures by July 7. This time, Baker says, he has hired a team of about 80 signature-gatherers and is starting out with a bigger base in cities like Yakima, Wenatchee, and Spokane.

Baker says he’s trying to save taxpayers money by cutting off non-citizens. But, if I-966 passed, it would force every applicant for assistance or services (but not medical care) to show a certified birth certificate or passport, creating a roadblock for even legal residents.

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**Hitchhiking across the Pacific.**

By the time we’d recognized what was going on at Sund Rock, it was too late; they were all over the place,” says Janna Nichols, the acting field general for taming the tunicate infestors. Nichols has trained and certified over 175 slime-fighting divers. Last October at Sund, with divers from Portland and Olympia, they removed over 1,500 tunicates—which, once above the water, resembled a 90-pound heap of snot.

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**Chong: truth to power**

Leaving a legacy of neighborhood activism and straightforward talk, Charlie Chong died last week at age 80 after heart surgery.

Elected to an open seat on the Seattle City Council in 1996, Chong left the council a year later to run for mayor; he edged out current mayor Greg Nickels in the primary, then lost to Paul Schell. He had run unsuccessfully for the council in 1995, and lost again in 1996.

Chong’s activist experience was tempered by anti-poverty work in the Civil Rights Movement. He was a community organizer in Arkansas in the ‘60s and an early employee for the federal volunteer program VISTA.

Family friend and political ally Geof Fox remembers Chong as a strong advocate for the merchants, craftspeople and community members of Pike Place Market, where he most recently helped in an unsuccessful fight to stop the eviction of immigrant-owned Rainier Hardware, the last hardware store in downtown Seattle.

“When I think of Charlie I think of truth speaking to power,” says Logan. “He really believed that when you’re in public service you’re there to serve the public, not the other way around.”

Neighborhood activist Kent Kammerer says he shared Chong’s “common sense” approach to government. Chong knew he wasn’t elected to the City Council to be collegial; Kammerer remembers him asking “very hard questions” of city administrators.

“He knew that the buck stopped with government, and he knew they had a responsibility to act according,” says Kammerer, leader of the Seattle Neighborhood Coalition.

Former director of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Jim Diers also remembers that he and Chong didn’t agree on everything, but he appreciated his work to restore native plants in a West Seattle ravine that Chong helped save from development. “He was down there every weekend leading those work parties,” says Diers.

Those who knew him agree that no one currently in government has Chong’s “homespun, unvarnished honesty,” says his former campaign manager and legislative aide, Matt Fox, now president of the U-District Community Council.

“Charlie said what he thought. People in Seattle say they want that, but by and large they elect very risk-averse, corporate-friendly, status quo politicians,” he says. “There is still room for that kind of candor.”

Chong’s legacy, Fox says, is the new libraries and community centers spread throughout the city.

Before him, “Every bond was for gigantic ‘world-class city’ projects,” he says. “City Hall now understands that to get their big downtown projects they have to share the wealth with the neighborhoods.”

The funeral takes place Saturday, May 12, at noon at Holy Rosary Church, 4210 SW Genesee in West Seattle. A reception will follow at adjoining Langanigal Hall. The service is open to the public.

—Adam Hyla
Camped Out for Uganda

“Displace Me” is the cry from more than 4,000 Washington youth

By CHRIS MILLER, Contributing Writer

“W”e are displaced because they are,” read a spray-painted cardboard shelter at Magnuson Park in Seattle on Saturday night.

“Voice of the voiceless / I am displaced / 4,000-plus guitar-thumbing, hacky-sacking, predominantly young activists from as far as Coeur D’Alene ate next to nothing and converted Magnuson Park into a sprawling cardboard-encampment ode to Uganda’s Internally Displaced Persons’ camps.

Many wore a red X across their shirt to symbolize their solidarity with a single refugee.

“It’s almost impossible to imagine what it’s actually like to live your entire life in a displaced persons’ camp, to be born in one and your whole life live there,” said Kelsey Linderman, who drove with a friend from Vancouver, B.C., for the event.

The schoolless, scantily-fed camps have existed for the last decade of the 21-year civil war between the Ugandan Government and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), after the government forcibly evicted 1.5 million people from their homes — 80 percent of all Northern Ugandans — in an effort to shelter the population from LRA violence.

Upon arrival at the northeast Seattle park, each Displace Me participant surrended their one water bottle and packet of saltine crackers to the 150-strong volunteer staff. The supplies were piled and redistributed, mimicking food and water rationing. Malnutrition and access to clean water are major problems at Ugandan refugee camps, where UN funded food aid was recently halved.

An estimated 75,000 people encamped in 15 cities across the United States Saturday night, calling on the U.S. government to observe and support peace talks between Uganda’s government and the LRA rebels.

South Sudanese-mediated peace talks resumed last week in Southern Sudan, with a UN Special Envoy shuttling between the two parties. Norbert Mao, a Ugandan Member of Parliament, is presently in Washington, D.C., also requesting U.S. observation of the talks.

The LRA has abducted more than 20,000 children aged 7 to 17, according to Invisible Children Inc., a nonprofit founded by filmers of a documentary by the same name.

Sixty percent of schools in Northern Uganda are closed, leaving 250,000 children without education, according to Invisible Children.

In 2006, Invisible Children Inc., a nonprofit founded by filmers of a documentary by the same name, sent seven roadie teams are planned for 2007.

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In 2006, Invisible Children Inc., a nonprofit founded by filmers of a documentary by the same name, sent seven roadie teams are planned for 2007.

Displace Me is the second country-wide event Invisible Children has held to highlight the plight of Uganda’s young.

Last year, 80,000 people participated in the Global Night Commute, a commemoration of the walk most North Ugandan children are forced to make every morning and night: they walk to town-centers to evade the LRA’s refugee camp-night-raids.

Two weeks after last year’s Global Night Commute, in June 2006, peace talks were initiated.

Melanie Phillips, 21, participated in the Global Night Commute, walking 10 miles from Beaveravon, OR, to Portland.

She got the feeling that the state-side walks made an impact.

“Senators, they really listen,” she said.

“They got so many letters last year they had to listen.”

A video compiled at all 15 protest sites is scheduled to be shown on the U.S. Senate floor.

editor@realechangenos.org

More information on the conflict in Uganda and what people in the U.S. can do about it: www.invisiblechildren.com/displaceMe

Ending Homelessness on a Budget

Countywide effort faces $25 million shortage in 2007 alone

By CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter

The numbers aren’t good. But at least there are now some numbers to work with on the cost of ending homelessness in King County.

That’s the upshot from homeless advocates and members of the county’s Committee to End Homelessness on a 2007 draft business plan presented April 25 to the committee’s board of governors.

Eight months in the making, the business plan is the first attempt to itemize which resources exist to meet the goals of the county’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, which started in 2005 and calls for adding 1925 units of housing each year. To do that in 2007, the business plan estimates a cost of $82 million, plus $7.5 million for essential mental health or other services to help people stayed housed.

While county staff caution that the numbers are very much in flux, the draft plan shows a 2007 funding shortage of $1 million for the services and $24 million for the housing – a number, says 10-Year Plan coordinator Bill Block, that is likely to go up after a review by the county’s Committee to End Homelessness.

The new good news, Block and others stress, is that the effort is paying off in progress and support. This year, the Legislature passed more funding to combat homelessness, including increasing a primary source of construction money, the statewide Housing Trust Fund, from $100 million to $130 million.

Lawmakers also raised document recording fees at the county level by $8, which will provide King County with an extra $3.5 million each year for homeless housing or services.

But, in 2005 and 2006, a total of only 981 units were built or leased, just half of each year’s goal, and those units were planned by various agencies before the 10-Year Plan was adopted. With the 2007 business plan showing only 646 units in the works over the next 18 months, some advocates are pointing to an elephant in the room: the resource gap, and where the political clout will come from to close it in an era when the federal government is getting out of the affordable housing business.

“The crisis ends up being a resource crisis in part,” says Bill Kirlin-Hackett with the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness. “One of the continuing issues that everyone raises when they talk about shelter or [the] Housing First [concept] is, ‘Where do you put folks?’ It’s not only a fair question, it’s almost still the question.”

The 10-Year Plan’s new business “dashboard” lists a number of possible new funding sources for the Committee to End Homelessness and its member agencies to work on. Among them, CEH could push for a countywide housing levy and encourage King County to pass a one-tenth of 1 percent local sales tax increase authorized by the Legislature to expand services for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

But the increase, which could raise $43 million in new funding, is currently mired in a political battle between mental health providers and the Service Employees International Union, which says it will withhold support for the measure if the mental health providers don’t open their doors to union organizing efforts.

Despite the wrangling, Alison Eisinger, director of the Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness, says that community support for ending homelessness is strong. It’s just a
A Travesty of Medicine

By ROBIN LINDLEY, Contributing Writer

In the African-American community, a mistrust of doctors and medical research is widespread and deeply rooted in a history of involuntary, abusive, and non-therapeutic experimentation on Blacks documented since at least the 18th century.

In her acclaimed new book, Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present (Doubleday), journalist and bioethicist Harriet Washington traces this mistrust in the first comprehensive history of the medical mistreatment of African Americans.

Publisher's Weekly praised Washington as a "great storyteller," and named Medical Apartheid one of the best books of 2006, finding it "even at its most distressing, compulsively readable." PW, Kirkus, and Booklist each honored the book with starred reviews, and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association bestowed its Honor Nonfiction Award for 2007 on Medical Apartheid.

Washington's book details horrific abuses by the guardians of health. Physicians in the antebellum South believed that Blacks were immune to pain and conducted hideous experiments on men, women, and children without anesthesia. More recent experiments include the non-consensual and disproportionate sterilization of Blacks, like the "Mississippi appendectomy" performed on civil rights legend Fannie Lou Hamer. Blacks and Black men, saw a different face. He used Black women. He performed horrific experiments on Black women and children.

One Southern physician you write about is Dr. James Marion Sims, an esteemed one-time president of the American Medical Association, who performed horrific experiments on Black women and children.

I thought he was a wonderful benefactor, the father of American gynecology — until I read his own writings. Now I know he was also an abuser of unwilling Black subjects.

There were hospitals or wings of hospitals for Blacks only where physicians would use Black bodies with impunity.

He used Black women. He performed 30 surgeries on one slave woman and, after repeatedly slicing and suturing the genitalia for four or five years, he perfected a repair for vesicovaginal fistula, a horrible complication of childbirth, and made his medical fortune.

He's usually spoken of as a wonderful hero, and that's the face he turned to white women. But Black women, and Black men, saw a different face. He forced surgery [without anesthesia] on a Black male slave named Sam. Sims blithely wrote about it in a medical journal, and the editors chimed in that he'd done a wonderful thing. He proved it was possible to operate on people whether or not they were willing.

He also operated on several Black children. He believed that a form of tetany, considered an infectious disease, could be treated in Black children by rearranging particular skull bones. He never explained how opening the skulls of infants and moving their bones around treated an infectious disease.

When slavery was abolished, you no longer could commandeer the bodies of Black people with impunity — you had to be surreptitious. There were hospitals or wings of hospitals for Blacks only where physicians would use Black bodies with impunity. While they were alive, the people were used to display procedures or disorders. When they died, the bodies were simply moved to the anatomical laboratory.

However, this didn't supply enough bodies, so physicians began taking fresh bodies from graveyards. Fortunately for me, very specific documentation was kept on the bodies. In 1989, the Medical College of Georgia renovated an old medical college, and you write that researchers saw Black bodies with impunity.

So human remains were treated in effect as medical waste? Exactly. They found these bones jumbled together with broken test tubes

When you told physicians of your plans for the book, wasn't there disbelief about the history of medical experimentation on African-Americans?

There is a resistance to acknowledging these things, but there's no question they transpired. In the book, I use as references mainstream medical articles and physicians' own writings.

Can you discuss scientific racism in the antebellum period?

We call it scientific racism now, but back then it was only science. Physicians supported the enslavement system, and it probably couldn't have persisted without the physicians who said Blacks were inferior and made by the Creator to be the workhorses of the white man.

There was conflation between medical treatment and punishment. A physician would jocularly advise a planter that a slave needed "nine drops of essence of rawhide." There were physicians who actually prescribed physical punishment as "treatment" for "Black diseases" — slaves who ran away, or didn't work, or were intractable.

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Did any of these children survive these horrific operations?

That's a chilling thing. When these subjects are referred to, we rarely find out what happened. That wasn't the point.

And you write that researchers saw Black bodies with impunity.

So human remains were treated in effect as medical waste? Exactly. They found these bones jumbled together with broken test tubes

REAL CHANGE

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So human remains were treated in effect as medical waste? Exactly. They found these bones jumbled together with broken test tubes
In 1972, the study was stopped when Peter Buxton, a young investigator for the PHS, discovered the study and told a journalist friend who wrote about it. When it hit the newspapers, people in the United States — Black and white — were horrified that the Public Health Service, the group that supposedly guards our health, would do this to a group of powerless, old Black men.

Among the most chilling experiments you describe were the brain operations Dr. Orlando Andy performed on Black children. Weren’t these fairly recent?

It was in the 1960s. Writing that part had me in tears, it was so upsetting. Dr. Orlando J. Andy of the University of Mississippi was performing lobotomies, and presented [them] as therapeutic for Black boys with “behavior problems.” He used six-, seven-, eight-, nine-year-old boys who had been institutionalized.

And, by the end, these children were barely functional.

It was horrifying, and made worse by Andy saying he didn’t want his work restricted to young Black boys. He felt that Black people should have lobotomies, as did other neurosurgeons.

In the late sixties or early seventies, several physicians got a huge grant from the government to explore doing lobotomies. These lobotomies were actually performed on Black prisoners, not white ones, in several state prisons. These doctors had a very troubling agenda of performing lobotomies on Black people whose politics they did not like, and this was done in prisons, which are civil rights deserts.

This mentality has not gone away. We saw it in New York City with fenfluramine to monitor serotonin levels, to prove that these Black boys had brain changes that would show them to be potential criminals.

And you describe ongoing problems with research.

Yes. We’ve got someone at the helm of NIH [National Institutes of Health] clinical trials who has adopted, in my opinion, a very cavalier attitude toward the rights of some research populations: prisoners seem to be one, and Third-World patients another.

The first sentence of the Nuremberg Code says, “The voluntary consent of the subject is absolutely essential.” But the Nuremberg Code [has] no enforceable penalties for noncompliance. There are federal regulations that seek to legally constrain research institutions, but too often, the miscreants are never tried or punished. I’m not saying that the mass of physicians is amoral or bad; I believe the opposite is true. But I am saying they regard the Nuremberg Code as a good code for Nazi barbarians, but not anything to which they need to subscribe.

What would you like your readers to take away from the book?

Most of the change has been positive for Black people and other research subjects. Research precautions do not perfectly protect people today, but the rampant abuses of yesterday do not exist anymore.

The bad news is that our researchers use Third World and developing countries as their personal laboratory — similar to what Blacks went through in the early days of our republic. We have to demand that researchers treat people abroad the same way they treat people here.

The other thing is for Black people to understand that avoiding medical research is not something we can afford. It’s very dangerous for us, and is already harming us. For example, Black people get hepatitis C more than white people, but the only conventional medication, Interferon, doesn’t work for Black people. Part of the problem is that so few Black people participate in research initiatives that we don’t know about problems soon enough.

Having said that, because there are still inequities and research is still dangerous, we also must charge government and researchers to tighten protections. Today, medical research subjects know only what the involved researcher chooses to tell them, and that’s not good enough.
Sherman Alexie’s Time-Travelling Prose Poetry

**Flight**

**Review by TIMOTHY HARRIS, Staff Writer**

F
uck neutrality. I love everything Sherman Alexie writes. I’ve got eight and a half inches of Sherman, not including the poetry, sitting right on my top shelf. Nelson Algren lives next to him. He was a prose poet too, before his writing went all to hell in a puddle of Scotch. Algren’s career spans just seven and three-quarters inches.

But Sherman’s sober. Before he’s done, I’m hoping for a good ‘nother foot. *Flight* is Alexie’s second novel, the first in more than a decade. *Indian Killer* came out in ’96, and I loved that one, too.

Lots of people didn’t. I gave it to my mother-in-law before she’s had her coffee. She said it “barely deserves to be called a novel.”

Many of *Flight*’s reviewers sound like my mother-in-law before she’s had her coffee. *The Village Voice* calls it a simplistic teen novel. The *Seattle Times* deems it “self-important.”

**Alexie is, first and foremost, a storyteller, and the time-traveling format allows him to piece together a variety of vignettes.**

for the ear. He inhabits the lines. He’s what happens when a natural poet who possesses a deep understanding of the spoken word decides to do prose. It lands as poetry. Words remind us that life is beautiful.

Books liked it just fine. They’re smart. Let’s hear it for East Coast elitism?

Who can explain? Maybe it’s just garden-variety literary bitchiness. Or maybe they just don’t get it.

By happy accident, I’d reread Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five* just months before. *Flight* inspired me to reread *Slaughterhouse*, and then return once more to *Flight*. And then Vonnegut died. So it goes.

*Flight* pays homage to Vonnegut’s masterpiece by giving us the awkward outsider’s view of a world that is both awful and sublime. While Alexie’s touch is grounded in his trademark humor and appreciation for the absurd, the material, like Vonnegut’s treatment of the bombing of Dresden, is deadly serious and never lapses into cynical farce. Flight’s protagonist careers through time and space to participate in the various highs and lows of which humans are capable, and in the end finds a version of acceptance and peace.

Alexie is, first and foremost, a storyteller, and the time-traveling format allows him to piece together a variety of vignettes, any one of which could have developed into a short story of its own. In some ways, this novel isn’t so far off from *Ten Little Indians*, his last collection of stories. We have a range of characters who hop across class and race and, now, time itself, to offer multiple points of view on the human condition.

We are reminded that, yes, people suck, but at the same time, love transcends. There are a thousand instances of horrible cruelty in any given moment, but there are also epic acts of love and kindness between strangers. There is abandonment and heartbreak, but we also see everyday rituals of affection and the eternal possibilities of redemption.

*Flight* possesses a deep understanding of the kindliness between strangers. There is abandonment and heartbreak, but we also see everyday rituals of affection and the eternal possibilities of redemption. The climactic scene, which involves a drunken Indian, a harried professional, and a paroled parolee, is top shelf Alexie, pulling the best of which we are capable from the wreckage of everyday failure and disappointment. *Flight* may not, like *Slaughterhouse-Five*, be an enduring work of genius. But it’s a damn good book, worth reading at least twice.

--Kristi Thorne

Photo by Rob Casey

**WORTH SEEING**

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD:

**The Trouble with Men and Women** *(2003)*
Directed by Tony Fisher

**Dreaming Lhasa** *(2005)*
Directed by Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam

D
reaming Lhasa is an attempt by documentarians Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam to spotlight the tragedy in Tibet, through a fictional narrative. Message movies are nothing unusual in the post-9/11 world, but even when done by the most skilled and experienced, they require a deft balancing act between social commentary and the requisites of drama.

In *Dreaming Lhasa*, an Americanized Tibetan refugee has left her husband and children back in the states to make a documentary, interviewing Tibetans who have escaped their homeland with tales of severe torture under Chinese rule. In the course of her work, she aids a refugee who has a special mission infused with a touch of mystery and danger. With a bit of sexual tension thrown in for good measure, it makes for a somewhat compelling, but nonetheless wanting narrative. But that’s beside the point, which is to find some palatable way to remind the world about an ongoing crisis.

Dreaming Lhasa also plays at the Northwest Film Forum May 4-May 10.
©Dr. Wes: Uncle Sam's Got Lots to Say on Your Family Planning

In like a little boy with a brand new red wagon and a wagonload of fat puppies! I could play forever with www.usa.gov, my new toy.

It's the U.S. Government's Official Web Portal, and all you need is that address, a connection, a clicker, and a click-displaying device (computer) and you have the entire mad, mad, world of government at the fingertips of your choice. Just now I was in the site index, and I had an urge to go to "F." From "F," I went to Family Issues. I wondered what my government knew about Family Issues.

WELL, my government knows a LOT about Family Issues! It knows how to adopt children, how bad college drinking is, and how to Be Food Safe during Easter and Passover meals. It knows about "Girlpower!" (harnessing girls 6 to 13). It knows how many mothers there are in Mississippi. If you are a female "of child-bearing age" in Mississippi, i.e., 15-44, odds are 68 to 32 you are a mother! It is so awesome!

There's the Barney Cam, which has the "Miss Beazley's Christmas" video. There's Art Zone from the National Gallery of Art, which has cool interactive art you can do online, there's a Garfield Comics Creator, there's an Our Day with the Coast Guard Coloring Book you can print out, or just read for fun...

Discipline, discipline! I must stick to the task at hand. No more babies, no more babies. I remind myself of all the emails with the baby pictures, the long emails with the baby pictures in the park, being dragged aside to see the new screen saver with kid number one, or was it number two? Do they have numbers or names? I've forgotten. Must dam off the baby flood! Even though the Coast Guard might have an exciting career waiting for each and every one of them, provided he or she has coastal water-based talents.

Finally I clicked on Family Planning and Birth Control and COOL BEANS! Pretty pictures of all different colored condoms! I clicked below the condoms on the Teen Sexual Health link because I know that if we can stop teens from having kids that'll be 10.6% percent of the way to solving the problem. From there I clicked on the START HERE link, because where else would I?

That got me what I wanted. My government is speaking roundabout through the Nemour Foundation, which was founded by a rich man, Alfred duPont, in 1936, says 15 out of 100 couples that use condoms will have a pregnancy in a year. Which is known to be true, if you use the condoms incorrectly.

Whereas, 0 out of 100 couples that use abstinence will have a pregnancy in a year. Which is also known to be true, if you use the abstinence perfectly. If you use the abstinence incorrectly, no one can say what will happen.

My problem was solved. I knew I could count on my government to tell me how to lie most effectively.

Sound off and read more: drenweb.blogspot.com

Ask a Lawyer

Signed a consent form to have my children taken into the custody of Child Protective Services. At the time, I felt I had no choice given what CPS told me about probably ending up on the streets if we stayed together. I wasn’t told about family shelters, and because of a conflict I’d had with a shelter supervisor, I’ve been branded a drug user. What can I do to regain my visitation rights and possibly my children?

According to Katie Carder at Foster Pepper, Child Protective Services (CPS) becomes involved with families when it receives reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. It is hard to address specific advice a CPS worker gives you about giving up your kids, but this article will tell you how the process usually works.

The social worker assigned to your family will ask you to sign a consent form if he or she remains involved with your family beyond 90 days. This is a voluntary agreement between CPS and you, as the parent of your children. If you do not sign this consent form, CPS may obtain a court order so that they are able to remain involved.

The voluntary agreement contains a list of requirements, with time limits, that you must fulfill in order to regain custody of your children. These requirements are designed by you and the social worker assigned to your family. If the requirements are not met within the time limit, the CPS worker will then start a dependency action to establish the children as "dependent" on the State.

Once a dependency action is filed, CPS will take away the children and, within three days, provide you with a permanency plan. This plan outlines CPS's short and long term goals for the children. The permanency plan should state where the children are being fostered, give you a visitation schedule, and tell you what you must do to retain custody. In order for the plan to take effect, a court must approve it at a hearing. You have a right to present your case at this hearing with a court-appointed attorney. If you disagree with any part of the plan, you can submit an alternative plan to your local CPS office, as long as it is at least 24 hours before the hearing.

CPS is not allowed to limit visitation solely because a family is homeless or in threat of becoming homeless. Your visitation rights may be limited only when CPS has a reason to believe your child’s health, safety, or welfare is in danger.

This can include neglect, abuse, or drug use. To resolve the social worker's accusation that you have used drugs, the court may order you to take "substance abuse diagnostic investigation and evaluation" to determine any drug abuse or use.

If the court orders such an evaluation, the agency administering the evaluation will make a written report to the court stating its findings. You will receive a copy of this report and provide input into any treatment plans they recommend. If you have any additional questions, call CPS at 1-800-END-HARM, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Answers are intended for general information only and are not intended to take the place of the advice of your own attorney. Ask a Lawyer is in partnership with the Access to Justice Institute at Seattle University and Foster Pepper. Got questions? E-mail atji@seattleu.edu

Real Change
May 2 - 8, 2007

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Adventures in Irony

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Street Watch

Sat., April 14, 10:51 p.m., 1500 block Second Ave. An officer observed suspect, a Black female transient, standing in the 1500 block of Second Ave. consuming alcohol from a 32-oz. can of Ice Beer. Officer immediately stopped her after a previous arrest a week ago and knew that she had escaped from custody and had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. He contacted her and she threw the can of beer on the ground. Officer ran her name on the computer and it revealed the warrant, which was verified via MDC. During the search, officer recovered a crack pipe and cigarette lighter in her front left jacket pocket. Officer advised her of her Miranda Warnings and she replied, "I have the right to remain silent." Officer conducted a field test on the pipe and it tested positive for cocaine. At the precinct, suspect alleged that she was raped, as she had done on a previous arrest last week to avoid being booked into King County Jail. MRT transported her to HMC for further medical attention.

Sun., April 15, 5:14 p.m., 1700 - 18th Ave. S. Officer was working patrol at the above location when he observed a suspect, a 45-year-old white male transient, sitting in the front passenger seat of a brown Chevrolet Van. As the officer drove past, he noticed that the suspect was watching him with a concerned look. Officer turned around to prose the suspect, exited his vehicle and walked towards him. Officer asked what he was doing in this area and the suspect stated that he was watching over his brother-in-law's van, stating that his brother-in-law had picked him up yesterday and that the van had broken down. His brother-in-law was unable to fix it, so he left it while the suspect slept in the vehicle overnight. Officer then advised the suspect that he was in a high narcotics and prostitution area and asked for permission to search the van, which the suspect could deny. The suspect agreed to the search and remained within sight and verbal reach of the officer. In the front passenger side door, Officer observed a syringe with a brownish black substance in it, which he recognized as heroin, and additional syringes within the immediate reach and control of the front passenger side seat where the suspect was sitting and a spoon with burn marks and heroin residue in it. Officer advised that the suspect was under arrest. As the officer searched the suspect, he found a brownish black blob stuck to his front, which he also recognized as heroin. The officer's partner performed a field test on the suspect heroin with positive results. The officer performed a complete search of the van, observing syringes with heroin residue throughout the van, burnt spoons, and a crack pipe. There was also bedding, clothing, and baggage in the rear of the van. Suspect was booked into King County Jail.

Compiled from incident reports of the Seattle Police Department by Emma Quinn. Got your own experience to relate? Call us at (206)441-3247 ext. 207 and we'll get the scoop.
question, she says, of turning that support into sustained funding at the local, state, and federal level. “We need to harness that public will,” Eisinger says, “by basically turning out voters and reminding elected officials that this has to be a budget priority in order for our plan to succeed.”

Staff at the regional office of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the federal umbrella for the nation’s 10-Year Plans, say it’s not just a matter of putting more money into the plan, but targeting existing funds to show results. That, in turn, will bring gifts from corporations and large philanthropies such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

But Bill Hobson, director of the Downtown Emergency Service Center, says charity alone can’t build the housing that’s needed. “I’m happy to approach the philanthropic community, the business community, the religious community,” Hobson says. But, “compared to the government, their resources are very small and they have other targets.”

“Could a Bill Gates Foundation wave a magic wand and come up with the money?” he asks. “Of course, but I don’t think it’s going to happen.”

Hobson thinks it’s the same with the federal government — that no one should expect more money, even if Hillary Clinton is elected president. “Though the city, county, and state are all looking for the federal government to step up, he says, “We can sit here for the next 10 years and excuse ourselves because Uncle Sugar didn’t come to the table and, in 10 years, we’ll still be talking about a homeless problem.”

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A Writer’s Routine Physical

I am being examined—
questions remain about my sinus drainage and plumbing post-partum blues or my knee-jerk liberalism.

A scar travels along my leg like Hadrian’s Wall which I tried to jump over and failed.
Routine sleep disorder dogs me.
I need a wet nurse.

My cataracts are scraped clean where lenses now float like lily pads and my monitis leaves my ears ringing like a paranormal cell phone.

Bouts of old age mix with tonsilitis, juvenile anger plagues me—
still my blood pressure averages highs and lows in Phoenix 130/85, my temperature stuck at 97.6 FM.

In my temples I feel global warming coming on, as glaciers recede along my abdomen, my nails grow into half-moons like Tiki torches.

Finally my fossil fuel is running out, the dipstick shows me quarts low.
I am ready to have my odometer turned over, or trade myself in for the latest model.

For the foreseeable future I will be taking Metamucil and hoping for jean therapy so that I will fit into my future plans, getting exercise by walking with my hands.

—Michael Magee
Debra White draws on her experience in the business world to build relationships with her downtown customers.

White has enjoyed selling papers at the corner of 2nd and Jackson for the past year. She says being personable and relating to the people that she sells to has helped her become a top vendor. “I was in corporate America a long time,” she says. “I worked nine to five a long time. I know a lot of the struggles and I’m used to the kind of people I sell to; they’re people I’m used to being around.”

White, a Texas native, stays in homeless shelters, but harbors a dream to live on a boat. She says she is currently looking at plans to build a small craft and saves $30 each week if she has it. “That would give me some stability and a chance to get away.”

Selling Real Change isn’t all about money for White; it’s about spreading a message. “When I’m out there selling I’m not there for the money and I’m not there for people to pity me,” she says. “I care about what Real Change is doing, I will give the paper away if it helps people understand the things that are going on.”

—Joel Turner

CALL TO ACTION

Raise a Call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Issue: Events across the country and here in Seattle — including both high profile immigration raids and thousands taking to the streets marching for immigrant rights — are making the need for comprehensive immigration reform more visible every day. Some groups working on this issue are reporting that members of Congress are hearing 100 to 1 against comprehensive reform. Members of Congress need to hear from constituents who support fair, just, comprehensive reform that values rather than breaks apart families, provides a legal path to citizenship, and addresses the underlying causes of migration.

Background: The Coalition for Comprehensive Reform has outlined the following principles that should be part of any legislation:

Reform Must Be Comprehensive and deal with undocumented immigrants working and living in the United States; the future flow of workers and close family members; the need for tailored, targeted, effective enforcement of more realistic policies; support for the successful integration of newcomers in the communities where they settle; and protection of fundamental civil and human rights in the immigration process.

Provide a Path to Citizenship: Opportunities should be provided for undocumented immigrants to receive work permits and travel permission and access educational opportunities once they undergo background and security checks.

Protect Workers: To avoid the exploitation and abuses of guest worker programs, the nation needs a “break-the-mold” worker visa program that adequately protects the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers.

Reunite Families: Immigration reform will not succeed if public policy does not recognize one of the main factors driving migration as well as one of America’s most cherished values: family unity. Those waiting in line should have their admission expedited, and those admitted on work visas should be able to keep their families intact.

Protect and advance civil and human rights: We need immigration reform that restores basic civil liberties and human rights, protects our core American values of fairness and justice, and defends the due process rights of everyone.

Action: Contact your U.S. Senators and tell them that comprehensive immigration reform is the solution to fixing our broken immigration system, and now is the time to act. Families, workers, and communities across the country are counting on Congress to get it done, get it right, and do it now. Call toll free 1-800-417-7666 and follow the instructions to connect with your Senators’ offices.

Who’s the special person who offers you Real Change? Nominate them for Vendor of the Week:
editor@realchangenews.org

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Photo by Craig Fitzpatrick
Acclaimed writer and Iraq War veteran Brian Turner headlines an evening of storytelling by those who have been part of the nightmare of combat. Turner is the author of Here, Bullet, a harrowing first-person account of his one-year tour of duty. Turner will be joined by Andrew Himes, director of the Voices in Wartime Education Project. Tickets $15. Sat., May 5, 7 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Monday 5/7
Yale University Professor Ian Shapiro takes on the Bush Doctrine of preemptive war and unilateral action in his book, Containment. He argues that the War on Terror is a misguided adulation of American values, and unfolds a bold vision for our nation’s security by drawing upon George Kennan’s 1946 “Long Telegram,” which helped the U.S. win the Cold War. Tickets $5. 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave.

Wednesday 5/9
The International Socialist Organization hosts an evening of lively discussion and debate on the revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx. 7 p.m., Seattle Central Community College, Room 202, 1701 Broadway.

Significantly darker than her white-skinned parents, nine-year-old Sandra Laing was reclassified as Coloured and expelled from her white school. She made international news and soon became the poster child for the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. Judith Himes, director of the Voices in Wartime Education Project. Tickets $15. Sat., May 5, 7 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St.

Friday 5/11
When Canadian couple Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon learned that the average ingredient in a North American meal travels 1,500 miles to land on their plate, they set out to eat only food produced within a 100-mile radius of their home. Their book, Plenty, details their year of foraging forgotten fruit orchards, relying on World War II era cookbooks, and buying from maverick farmers. 7 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S Main St.