



Katia Roberts

# \$1 REAL CHANGE

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## Tenants Fight Housing Agency

**Tina Hendrix, niece** of rock legend, Jimi Hendrix, is taking the Seattle Housing Authority to court. Other SHA

tenants are just as fired up and are letting the authority know about it. ...see page 5.



Photo by Sherry Loeser

## Teens Spice up Debate with Hip-Hop Flava

**Who says debate** can't benefit from two turntables and a microphone? Not students, like Geneva Arunga, of the Hip Hop Debate Crew, who dropped a bevy of dope rhymes at a Hip Hop Debate Showcase. ...see page 5



Photo by Rosette Royale

**A Man's World:** Norah Vincent wanted to know how a man experiences the world. So she dressed like one. ... p.7

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

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

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## The state of Virginia apologized for participating in the Atlantic Slave Trade. What does that mean for the rest of us?

# Undoing Slavery's Shackles

By Ed Reed and Merica Whitehall,  
 Guest Writers

As the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Jamestown neared this year, another stride was made in Virginia's effort to overcome its segregationist past. For some, the resolution that was passed by the House of Delegates—acknowledging and apologizing for Virginia's role in the atrocity of the slave trade—marks a positive step for our country. For others, it is a pointless rehashing of an unpleasant history that has nothing to do with white people or Black people living today. Supporters like Virginia Delegate Donald McEachin say that Virginia's apology "is meant to be a resolution that is part of a healing process...that still needs to take place." Although the slaves and the users and abusers of slaves in Jamestown are long dead now, "Virginia is alive and well, and Virginia was built on the backs of slaves." But opponents like Delegate Frank Hargrove argue that present-day Virginia "has nothing to do with slavery."

## Though slavery has ended, the exploitation of African Americans has not.

In other words, they're saying, "Stop kicking the dog!" If it's lying there and it appears to be peaceful, why wake it up? Black people, as Hargrove said, should just "Get over it" because "By golly, we're living in 2007."

Slavery in the United States is over. So, why an apology now if slavery was abolished in 1865? Because, though slavery ended, the exploitation of African Americans did not. It continued through Reconstruction and through the Jim Crow years. It led to the Civil Rights Movement. And racism embodied in institutional policies and practices that disproportionately and negatively impact certain races while benefiting others continues today "by golly."

The reality of American society is that African American children are denied

the opportunity to excel because they are victims of prejudicial systems of resource allocation that provide less for students who need more. Fewer books and computers are provided where higher literacy and access to information and ideas are needed. Less academic and social guidance is provided where higher achievement and positive reinforcement are needed. Even teachers, willing to fight the obstacles of working for less with less, become less effective. On a visit to Seattle, education expert Jonathan Kozol realized that school assignment practices and federal court decisions make the dream associated with the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall all but attainable at the local public school named in his honor. "Inequalities of education finance remain unabated and take on new and more innovative forms," says Kozol. The children that poverty holds captive in the public schools that have less, give less, and expect less will be less than they might have been if given the same opportunity as kids in public schools that have more and expect more.

The reality is that the African-American family has been systematically dismantled since slavery. In 2007 it takes the form of racial profiling by law enforcement that leads to the imprisonment of a disproportionate number of African American men. According to The Sentencing Project, one in every three Black males born today can expect to be imprisoned at some point in his lifetime. Jerry Large of the *Seattle Times* points out that Blacks are seven times more likely than whites to be arrested and are far more likely to do serious time.

In Seattle, far more users and sellers of methamphetamines, heroin, and cocaine are white, according to a University of Washington study. Still, according to the same study, Black people are being arrested in numbers out of proportion to their participation in the drug market. *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* reported on federal statistics showing that Black and Hispanic drivers were more likely than whites to be searched by law enforce-

ment and less likely to be harboring contraband. In a highly acclaimed book, Norm Stamper, a former Seattle police chief, has called the drug war the most dysfunctional policy since slavery.

**Should we expect** Virginia's apology to impact African Americans today?

## According to The Sentencing Project, one in every three Black males born today can expect to be imprisoned at some point in his lifetime.

The reality is that slavery did not end because former slaveholders had an epiphany and a change of heart. Slavery ended, as Donald Boudreaux of George Mason University points out, because industrial capitalism was emerging as a better way to do work on a grander scale while protecting the means of production and increasing the wealth and prosperity of those that controlled the means of production. Supporters of reparations understand that economic interests drive the creation and prevention of change. The call for reparations isn't just about slaves and masters. It's about material acknowledgment of a cyclical economic system of power that has endured to oppress African Americans in this society.

An apology without acceptance that a price was paid and a debt is owed really just serves to ease a guilty conscience. Is that what we need in 2007, by golly? ■

Ed Reed, Ph.D. is a professor of Political Science. Merica Whitehall serves as the Administrative Assistant, of Professional Development at Seattle University.



When people ask how the summer fund drive is going, I usually say "great!" Not because it's especially true, but because the real answer is

more complicated than what anyone wants to hear. Since the drive began last May, our readers have responded with a whop-

ping \$54,984 in donations. This is almost \$1,000 bucks a day.

By street newspaper standards, or for any small press community newspaper for that matter, this is a wonderful show of community support. A number of you have increased your giving to support our ambitious goals, and we've heard from 132 new people.

Our circulation, which has increased by 18% this year, is at its highest ever. Last month we had 279 active vendors. Again, a new record. We're having a great year.

**But here's the thing:** Our goal is \$140,000. This is to stabilize news team

funding, accomplish our ambitious organizing goals, and fund the staffing we need to end our chronic overextension.

Lots of people think that *Real Change* will continue to produce quality journalism and effective poor people's advocacy whether they help or not.

Think again. If we miss the goal, something's going to have to give.

We have ten days left to the Summer Drive. Let's break some speed limits and see what this baby can do! Please see [realchangenews.org](http://realchangenews.org) for more information.

## Director's Corner

## Just Heard...

### Island Hopping

Tent City 4, the Eastside's roving homeless encampment, has been investigating the possibility of a move to Mercer Island. The Mercer Island Clergy Association recently announced that it would issue Tent City 4 an invitation to pitch its tents in the same city where Paul Allen and Seattle Times publisher Frank Blethen reside.

As Dale Sewall, co-senior pastor of the Mercer Island Presbyterian Church, noted, "Our goal is to make this a very positive, interfaith, all-Island experience of hosting Tent City 4."

The encampment, sponsored by the local homeless advocacy group SHARE/WHEEL, has moved around the Eastside since the spring of 2004, typically staying at each new site for 90 days. It's currently located in Bellevue, with plans to move to Issaquah in August.

According to Marilyn Jensen, missions coordinator for Mercer Island Presbyterian Church, community response has been mostly favorable. The local faith community is now beginning a process of community education about homelessness. Says Jensen, "People are going to have concerns. Real or perceived, you have to address people's concerns."

No specific site on Mercer Island has been chosen yet to host the camp. TC4's move to Mercer Island is not likely to happen before Spring 2008.

—ronni tartlet

### Three, two, one

Three people who took part in a rally on June 2 were detained by the downtown Macy's for an hour according to Rod Palmquist of SLAP (Student Labor Action Project). Palmquist and another UW student, April Nishimura, sat on the floor of the department store in support of women who've been sleeping on the floor of Cimalex, the only union shop in Guatemala, that is about to be closed. Larry Hildes, one of the legal observers at the protest, was also detained.

Palmquist said a Macy's security guard grabbed him by the collar. The three were taken on a service elevator to the basement where they were placed in three separate rooms.

The protest included about 50 students from the UW and Seattle University. The protesters feel that brands such as Liz Claiborne and Charter Club should be speaking out against the garment factory shutdown. Palmquist said the three detainees are contemplating legal action. A Macy's spokesperson didn't return Real Change's call.

—R.V. Murphy

### The price of politics

So you want to run for City Council? Everyone knows it costs a bundle—posters, flyers and yard signs aren't cheap. But it's the filing fee on the front-end that makes Christal Wood mad.

Wood is a former mayoral candidate who's planning a run this year for Sally Clark's post on the council. But before she gets there, she's trying to make a point about what she calls the illegally high cost of city's candidate filing fees. For Clark's seat, it's a whopping \$966, which Wood, a law student, says is enough to deter any low-income person from ever running for office.

She's filed an administrative appeal on the issue that King County Superior Court Judge John Erlick is scheduled to hear on June 22.

—Cydney Gillis

# Change Agent

"I believe that today, more than ever, we need to come together and create a future for all members of the human family and all those generations yet to come."



Photo by Elisa Huerta-Enochian

For over 40 years, Phil Lane, Jr. has worked with indigenous peoples throughout the world to promote sustainable, spiritually-based economic and community development. A member of the Yankton Sioux and Chickasaw tribes, Lane's goal is to empower Native communities throughout the world and to improve the quality of life within those communities.

"In all of our actions, we must seek to be living examples of the changes we

wish to see," Lane says. As co-founder of the Four Worlds Development Project ([www.4worlds.org](http://www.4worlds.org)), Lane worked to eliminate substance abuse in Native communities by utilizing an holistic curriculum. He also established Four Directions International, an organization dedicated to the creation of commerce that supports political, environmental, and spiritual development in Native communities.

As the current chief executive officer of the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Lane strives to establish unity among Native populations through social and educational programming. "I believe that today, more than ever, we need to come together and create a future for all members of the human family and all those generations yet to come," Lane says.

—Amy Besunder

## Candidates speak up

The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* recently ran a cartoon depicting President Bush whipping the reins of a horse that wasn't just dead—it was a skeleton. A caption above the horse read: "Immigration Reform Bill."

While Congress dallies on granting rights to an estimated 11 million immigrants who live in the United States without documentation, Washington state has a bigger problem. Bob Baker and Protect Washington Now, which are gathering signatures for an initiative that would deny public benefits to American citizens as well as immigrants.

If you're concerned about either of these issues, or how government and law enforcement treat immigrants in general, now's your chance. On June 21 at Town Hall, Seattle's Hate Free Zone is holding a candidates' forum devoted specifically to immigrant and refugee issues.

The forum is for both Seattle City Council and King County Prosecuting Attorney incumbents and challengers. Moderator Enrique Cerna, host of the KCTS-TV's "KCTS Connects," will ask the city candidates to state their positions on voting rights, law enforcement, and education. Prosecuting Attorney candidates will address hate-crime

policies, cultural competency among office staff, and how their other campaign issues might affect immigrant and refugee communities.

A question-and-answer period with the audience will follow, with interpretation provided in Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Amharic and Somali. At press time, confirmed candidates for Prosecuting Attorney expected to attend included Keith Scully and Bill Sherman. Candidates in the city races are slated to include Councilmembers David Della, Jean Godden and Tom Rasmussen, along with challengers Tim Burgess, Bruce Harrell, John Manning, Al Runte, Joe Szwaja, and Venus Velazquez.

City Councilmember Sally Clark and acting King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg were not expected to attend. The forum runs 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. (at Seneca St.) in Seattle. For more information or to submit questions for the candidates, call (206) 723-2203, ext. 201.

## Anti-labor win may be loss

Chalk up another one for President Bush's conservative stacking of the

U.S. Supreme Court: Last week, union teachers in Washington State lost a case over how they collect dues that are used for political lobbying.

On June 14, the high court ruled that the Washington Education Association didn't have a right to use the portion of dues that go to lobbying without first getting each teacher's or school employee's permission. The case was brought by non-union members who are nonetheless subject to union dues under a blanket contract that covers all of the state's educational employees, whether they chose to join the WEA or not.

The lobbying portion of the dues is only about \$10 or \$25 a year per person, according to the WEA, which had offered a form for people to send in and get the money back. But the court's decision won't stop the WEA. After Democrats took over the state Legislature, they changed the law that the non-union members were fighting, allowing the WEA to continue collecting the political dues up front.

—Cydney Gillis

United Way's pledge to house 1,000 homeless will be slow going—and might not work

## Plan to End Homelessness May Create More

By CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter

Last week's announcement by the United Way of King County that it would raise \$25 million over the next two years to move 1,000 of the "chronically homeless" into housing met with split reactions.

Those who have never been homeless are thrilled, saying the money will act as a catalyst for much-needed fundraising in the private sector. Those who are homeless or live just a step away in a shelter or single room roll their eyes, saying it's a nice idea that will only backfire.

Whatever the reaction, the money isn't likely to buy the bricks and mortar

**"The chronically homeless population is the most visible homeless segment in the community. By addressing that population and showing results, it can be a larger catalyst [to fund] the full 10-Year Plan."**

—Vince Matulionis, director United Way homeless initiative

of actual new housing units, as some media outlets suggested last week.

Vince Matulionis, director of United Way's homeless initiative, says the

charity doesn't envision being a major funder of new building projects. Instead, the agency is looking at how it can use the money, which it will raise over the next two years, to fill the gaps left by public agencies.

United Way can do that in two ways, Matulionis says: Beef up existing efforts at nonprofit housing developers, so they can field more projects each year, and provide scarce operating funds to pay for the type of case management services that are needed to house those who may have a disability, addiction or trouble getting decent work.

"I expect some of our money will go to services and operating costs," Matulionis says. "I expect some of our money will go into agency capacity building."

Building capacity among low-income housing developers, he says, would include giving them funds to hire more personnel, raise the salaries of existing key staff, or buy new computers or software systems to increase their efficiency.

The campaign will be led by United Way's incoming fundraising chair—former Western Wireless chief and billionaire John Stanton—as part of the agency's regular annual campaign, which is hoping to raise more than \$105 million this year alone.

The \$25 million for the chronically homeless will be over and above that, Matulionis says, with the funds going to support services at housing units that other agencies will build or convert. The goal, he says, is to support 200 units a year over five years.

United Way will make its own funding decisions, but coordinate with King County's Committee to End Homelessness, which has developed a 10-Year Plan that calls for adding roughly 900 units of

housing each year—a goal on which the CEH is already behind.

To actually build 1,000 transitional housing units, CEH coordinator Bill Block says, would cost about \$225 million. But he and Matulionis say the \$25

**To actually build 1,000 transitional housing units, Committee to End Homeless coordinator Bill Block says, would cost about \$225 million.**

million campaign is a critical first step in getting more corporations and private donors to step up for the chronically homeless—those who have lived outside for a year or more or had cycles of homelessness, sometimes involving repeat emergency room visits or jail stays.

"The chronically homeless population is the most visible homeless segment in the community," Matulionis says. "By addressing that population and showing results, it can be a larger catalyst [to fund] the full 10-Year Plan."

Wes Browning, a formerly homeless member of CEH's Single Adults Committee and columnist for *Real Change*, says that, however well intentioned, the campaign will only increase long-term homelessness, not reduce it.

The 10-Year Plan, he says, calls for cutting the 2,700 shelter beds available in King County today to 250 as more transitional housing is built or converted. But with shelters full and January's annual one-night count finding nearly 2,200 people sleeping outside, people who become homeless in

the future, he says, are largely guaranteed to end up "chronically homeless" because they'll have no place to sleep at all, much less stabilize and find new housing.

Building housing won't solve the problem, Browning says, because private developers are tearing down low-income housing faster than it's being built—something the Committee to End Homelessness doesn't count.

Matulionis insists, however, that prioritizing for those most in need is the right approach.

"I'm not particularly supportive of trying to do everything," he says. "We've tried to do that and the result at the end of the day is nothing."

"We are very cautious about not going down the wrong road and not creating a bigger problem than when we started," he says of the new campaign. In the future, if "the One-Night count shows the family count is increasing dramatically, we'd have to pay close attention to that." ■

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## Low-income tenants say Housing Authority unfairly boots them from their homes

# SHA's weird ways fuel protest

By CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter

Feyory Gbrsilassi stood before a panel of four commissioners, her belly round and high with the third child to whom she is about to give. She pleaded to keep her housing, her soft voice cracking until tears rolled down her cheeks.

"I'm going to be homeless with my two kids and I'm pregnant now," she told the governing board of the Seattle Housing Authority. "I don't know tomorrow what's going to be happening in my life."

Gbrsilassi is an East African immigrant who lives in a house paid for largely by a federal Section 8 voucher issued by SHA, which recently terminated payments to her landlord on the grounds that her underage sister is living with her.

It's an unfounded claim that's quickly heading to her eviction—one of many outrages that 25 housing activists and Section 8 tenants assailed the housing authority for on June 18.

The group, led by the Tenants Union, is demanding that the housing authority change a practice the group calls a sham: When SHA kicks a resident off Section 8, federal regulations allow the tenant to request an informal hearing to challenge the termination. But tenants say the affidavits or witnesses they present

### Tenants say hearings violate the due process guaranteed tenants under HUD-hearing regulations that govern the Seattle Housing Authority.

don't count, only SHA's do, resulting in hundreds of families being made homeless over the past five years.

The Tenants Union documented the grievances in a 20-page report given to board members. The report is based on a review of five years worth of hearing decisions made by the housing authority's sole hearing examiner, Lawrence Weldon. Tenants say he repeatedly upholds SHA's terminations based on paperwork errors, missed meetings with SHA, rumors from landlords and evidence as flimsy as an address looked up on the Internet.

Arguments that a disability, domestic violence, or language barrier was a factor in late paperwork don't wash with Weldon, the tenants say. He typically dismisses their arguments. Between January of 2006 and October of 2006, the Tenants Union cited 219 cases in which Weldon upheld terminations 94 percent of the time.

"I've never heard of a housing authority having as many hearings as they have," says Eric Dunn, a Northwest Justice Proj-

ect attorney who has sued SHA on behalf of two terminated Section 8 tenants. "I lived in Detroit for four years. If you get kicked out of Section 8 [there], you've got to kill someone or get caught dealing drugs. When I moved her and saw people getting vouchers yanked for missing meetings and not turning in paperwork on time, I still can't get over that."

Dunn and the tenants say the hearings violate the due process guaranteed tenants under HUD hearing regulations that govern SHA. In one of Dunn's cases, a King County Superior Court judge has

**"I've never heard of a housing authority having as many hearings as they have."**

**—Eric Dunn, a Northwest Justice Project attorney**

already ruled that the hearings don't meet due process requirements. To correct that, the Section 8 activists are demanding SHA use impartial hearing examiners with law degrees, similar to the system used by the King County Housing Authority.

SHA Director Tom Tierney said at the June 18 hearing that the agency has already agreed to use a rotating set of hearing examiners. Tierney later said they may not be lawyers. That doesn't go far enough for another of Dunn's clients, Tina Hendrix, who told the board that SHA had better have a good reason to terminate people.

Hendrix—niece of legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix—skipped the SHA hearing process and went straight to court after what she calls a bizarre meeting with an SHA fraud investigator who claimed she is rich. His evidence, she says, was a



Tina Hendrix, niece of Jimi Hendrix, says the Seattle Housing Authority terminated her housing because she didn't notify them of tenant changes. Hendrix claims she informed the authority and is now taking the SHA to court. Photo by Sherry Loeser

printout of a *Seattle Times* article with a photo of her in the courtroom where her father, Leon Hendrix, Jimi's brother, lost a 2004 lawsuit against his stepsister over the \$80 million Hendrix estate.

"That idiot had a picture of us losing," Hendrix says. "I told him, 'You've got the picture, but you have to read the story.' It was so ridiculous."

The reason SHA terminated Hendrix, however, wasn't over her supposed wealth, but the fact that her mentally ill 16-year-old daughter had come and gone from the home and, in the meantime, Hendrix had taken in an abandoned nephew—all of which Hendrix says was duly reported to SHA.

In front of the board, Tierney said he would fix the hearing problems—reversing an earlier statement in which he said SHA would not support trial-like hearings. In a later interview, however, he said the hearing examiner already does what the tenants are demanding, which is to judge the facts and not just go along with SHA.

"A hearing is for someone to impartially look at the facts," Tierney says. "That's what we expect from the hearing. If there's an appearance that we have one person who sides with us all the time, then we need to make sure we have a process that has not only true fairness in looking at the facts, but also is clearly fair to the outside public." ■

### Youths use rhymes to get down on alleged police crimes

## Hip-hop goes very old school

By CHRISTOPHER MILLER, Contributing Writer

Logic, on June 17, was having a long conversation with poetry and wisdom. Debate mixed with hip-hop.

Stereotypically white culture (debate) was fused with stereotypically Black culture (hip-hop)—all in the cause of arguing the merits of a long-proposed citizen review board (CRB), which would oversee investigations of complaints against the Seattle Police Department. The at-times rhyming debate took on extra significance owing to recent claims by the NAACP that SPD is engaged in racial profiling against

ethnic minorities. Why use hip-hop to debate public policy?

"Hip-hop is what the kids love, it's hip-hop that's connecting with the kids," says Jen Johnson, executive director of the Seattle Debate Foundation, host of the event at the Langston Hughes Center. But "if they're talking about social justice issues they [think they'll] come off as cheesy. Now, they can use their talent and their visions with their abilities to articulate."

The performers and debaters were teenagers, one a middle-schooler. The seemingly-disconnected forms of argumentation came together like a one-two punch.

"Racial disparities/enforced incarceration here six times higher than South Africa was casin'," came the line from "Apartheid II," a piece performed in the event, and making the pro case for a CRB.

The pro side (Joseph "J-Infinite" Marrin Thomas and Aisha Hall) put research into their rhymes: African-Americans make up 8 percent of Seattle's population, yet represent 57 percent of those incarcerated on drug charges. Black men are more likely to end up in jail than college. Without a CRB, they argued, there would be no way to hold police accountable to complainants.

HIP HOP, continued on page 10



Running through Sept. 23, **"Mouth Open, Teeth"** showcases 13 major contemporary artworks, including Doug Aitken's national premiere of *I am in you*. Titled after Zoe Leonard's eclectic found-doll installation, the exhibit features several of today's well-known artists: Maria Marshall, Stephen Dean, Gary Hill, Jim Campbell, Bjørn Melhus, Ann Hamilton, and Tracey Moffatt. Opens Sat., June 23. Stroum Gallery, Henry Art Gallery, 15th Ave. NE and NE 41st St. \$10 (\$6 Seniors). Info: 206-543-2280 or [www.henryart.org](http://www.henryart.org). Photo courtesy Doug Aitken

# Calendar

## This Week's Top Picks

### Wednesday 6/20

There is a solution to the mundane content of corporate television: **PepperSpray Productions**. Each Wednesday on Channel 77 in Seattle or 29 in King County, Indymedia airs its weekly TV program, presenting "The people's side of the story, often ignored by corporate media." 8:30 p.m. Info: <http://www.peppersprayproductions.org>.

### Thursday 6/ 21

Northwest Film Forum presents the 40th anniversary screening of **Don't Look Back, the epic documentary of Bob Dylan's 1965 tour of England**. The film is a personal portrait of a young, rebellious Dylan who refused to be pigeonholed by society. Sponsored by Emerald City Guitars, KEXP and Easy Street Records. 7 and 9:15 p.m., NWFF, 1515 12th Ave. \$8.50. Info: 206-329-2629 or [www.nwfilmforum.org](http://www.nwfilmforum.org).

**Hate Free Zone Washington hosts a forum featuring candidates for city and county councils discussing issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities**. 6 p.m., Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Ave. Free. Info: 206-723-2203 or [www.hatefreezone.org](http://www.hatefreezone.org).

### Friday 6/ 22

Declared by Northwest Film Forum as **"one of the most important independent and African-American films of the 20th Century," Killer of Sheep** is now playing at NWFF. Killer of Sheep is a poignant film due to its stark rendering of one man's life as a working class African American in mid-1970s Los Angeles. 7 and 9:15 p.m., NWFF, 1515 12th Ave. \$8.50. Info: 206-329-2629 or [www.nwfilmforum.org](http://www.nwfilmforum.org).

### Saturday 6/23

African-American educator and storyteller Delbert Richardson narrates **"The Unspoken Truths"** via "The American History Exhibit" in honor of **"Juneteenth"** as he narrates and presents artifacts, memorabilia, relics and documents reflecting African civilization, abduction, slavery, segregation, accomplishments, and contemporary challenges. \$5 donation. 11 a.m., Calm Rain Design, 1825 S. Jackson St., #101. Info: 206-772-9409 or [www.cdforum.org](http://www.cdforum.org).

### Monday 6/25

Gay Pride posters on parade: **30 years of movement posters on display for Seattle's LGBT Pride Marches**. Included are a 1975 weathered newsprint copy, two graphic representations of competing events in 1984 and the colorful flyer for the 2007 Capitol Hill Queerfest. 10 a.m., New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S. Info: 206-722-2453 or [smithtopher@juno.com](mailto:smithtopher@juno.com).

### Tuesday 6/26

**Non-profit Comedy hosts a benefit for Safe Schools Coalition**, enabling schools to be safe havens void of prejudice toward gender identity or sexual orientation. 8:30 p.m., The Comedy Underground, 222 S. Main St. \$10 in adv; \$12 at the door. Info: 206-296-4970 or [laughOUTloud\\_benefit@safeschoolscoalition.org](mailto:laughOUTloud_benefit@safeschoolscoalition.org).

### Wednesday 6/27

**Queerly Classed: Economic Justice and Queer Liberation— Breaking the Chains of Debt!** First of a three-part discussion series for the LGBTQ community and allies will talk about common class experiences. Presented by Allyship with support from Seattle NOW, LELO, SPAN, and the Seattle LGBT Community Center. 6:30 p.m. SEIU 6, 150 Denny Way. Info: [ladyking6k@yahoo.com](mailto:ladyking6k@yahoo.com).

### Friday 6/29

**Lost in Interpretation: Healthcare in the Asian Pacific Islander American Community**. This exhibit addresses and questions the inequalities in healthcare for the APIA community. Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S. \$4. Info: 206-623-5124 or [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org).

**The KEXP 90.3 Cinema on the Lawn** event series begins tonight with **Breakfast at Tiffany's**. Located on the lawn behind the South Lake Union Discovery Center, this fun film fest features a beer garden and a family friendly atmosphere. 7 p.m. Denny Way and Westlake Ave. \$5 donation, benefiting KEXP 90.3 and Seattle International Film Festival. Info: <http://www.cinemaonthelawn.com>.

Calendar compiled by Dena Burke.  
Have a suggestion for an event?  
Email it to [calendar@realchangenews.org](mailto:calendar@realchangenews.org).

## Vendor of the Week



Yvonne E.

Photo by Ken Dean

Any regular at West Seattle's PCC knows Yvonne E.'s coy smile, knows how it has a way of pulling you toward it—Yvonne is this week's vendor of the week if for no other reason than that smile.

Yvonne came to Seattle after falling on hard times in her native Sacramento, Cal., in hopes of finding resources more

*Change's* top-sellers, covering turf from the University District to West Seattle and back.

When asked how *Real Change* has changed her life, Yvonne's answer is ready and precise. "*Real Change*," she says, "has blessed me [and] empowered me to prosper." She added with a grin that government assistance had a funny way of changing the way she thought. To Yvonne, *Real Change* hasn't just meant a paycheck, but also financial independence and self-esteem.

*Real Change* has another plus for Yvonne, though—through the paper, people are made more aware of social problems in Seattle and the nation at large. And that, said Yvonne, is the paper's greatest strength.

To her customers—her friends—Yvonne wants to say, "Thank You!"

—JP Gritton

**"Real Change has blessed me [and] empowered me to prosper."**

widely available to the homeless. Within a year, two *Real Change* vendors had approached Yvonne and suggested she sell papers. And, although initially hesitant, Yvonne has since become one of *Real*

Who's the special person who offers you Real Change?  
Nominate them for Vendor of the Week:  
[editor@realchangenews.org](mailto:editor@realchangenews.org)



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**to APPLY:**  
Attend our weekly orientation held on Tuesdays at 9:30am at FareStart (7th & Virginia)

Immersion journalist **Norah Vincent** wondered how men experience the world. For 18 months, she dressed as her male alter ego, Ned, to find out

## Who Da Man?

Interview by **ROSETTE ROYALE**,  
Staff Writer

**N**orah Vincent learned what it means to be a man because of a dare. A friend of hers, a drag king, goaded Vincent to dress up as a man. No shy soul, Vincent accepted the challenge. The evening became one of pure enlightenment. Suddenly, the subtle, yet rigidly imposed world of male-male communication — the refusal to lock eyes, to show disrespect — opened before her. That experience lay within her, a dormant seed.

Germination took place seven years later, when Vincent began to wonder how she would experience the world if she were a man: not a transsexual, as her interest was anthropological, not biological, but a person who would be perceived and treated like a male wherever he went. So Vincent, a freelance journalist and former writer for the *Village Voice* and *Salon.com*, swaddled herself in men's attire and demeanor, to get a sense of how the other half lives, thinks, and plays. Over the course of 18 months, she dressed up as her male alter ego, Ned, hundreds of times, joining an all-male bowling league, going to strip clubs, even sequestering herself in a seminary. What she saw and experienced changed the way she viewed men and women and the chasm of misunderstanding that often resides betwixt the two.

She chronicled these events in *Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey into Manhood and Back*, (Penguin, \$15), a rollicking good read that takes nearly every stereotype you can think of about gender and steamrolls it flat. On tour to promote the paperback, Vincent sat down for a little chat. Fresh from the gym, her glowing face shape-shifting between masculine and feminine beauty every few minutes, she spoke freely about raunchy strip clubs, the date that went too far, and her newfound empathy for the heterosexual male.

### What was it like to first see women dressed up as men?

Well, it's funny. I always thought they weren't very authentic looking. I always think men do it better. The drag queens, you know, they're much more authentic, especially performers. The first time I did it, I was interested in perfecting the

technique or getting it so that you could actually pass in the daylight. I didn't know that it would then blossom into this project years later.

But I think it was being in the everyday world and realizing that there are always signals we have about gender — how we're supposed to behave and what the rules are — that we've all internalized, that I thought, "Wow, [dressing as a man] is like changing the channel on the T.V. Suddenly, all the signals are different, all the expectations are different. It struck me if I did it for a much longer period of time, I could really pursue that, to find out more. I thought of it sort of as an anthropology project, whereas most people that do it, I think they think of it as self-expression.

**So you have a make-up artist help you create stubble. You deepen your voice. You work out. Then you put on your outfit. Now, they say clothes make the man, but there's gotta be more than clothes that do it. So what was it about yourself that allowed you to portray a man in such a way that people perceived you as a man?**

To begin with, I'm a masculine woman. I'm a dyke. I have an advantage in all those respects — being tall, big feet, low-ish voice. But the real answer is that I think so much of it is psychological. People believe what you're selling to them if you sell it convincingly enough and, certainly, I began to buy it, too, which is part of what happened over

**"I really did want to learn about male sexuality, because if you think about gender, not enough has been discussed about male sexuality."**

the course of the experiment. It invaded my psyche.

It's like I took this slice of pie out of my brain and said, "OK, this is the gender piece." And I pulled it out and put in this new one that's Ned, and then reprogrammed the whole system.

I thought I could do it with impunity, that nothing would happen. I found out that's not the case, that gender identity isn't just a question of what you wear, but what you wear as a reflection of who you are very deep inside. I really think it's so deeply embedded in who we are, that when



Photo by Ken Dean

For 18 months, journalist Norah Vincent dressed as a man, to get a taste of how men experience the world. She gives the skinny on all she — and her alter ego, Ned — learned in *Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey into Manhood and Back*.

you mess around with that, you mess around with your sense of self. That's why I had breakdowns, because I didn't realize that other parts of the mechanism really were being thrown off.

**When you were a young girl, did you ever have this idea that there was something like a gender continuum?**

Absolutely. I always felt like an alien. I knew I wasn't a boy and I didn't want to be a boy — I mean, I did in the sense that their interests were closer to mine and I felt a certain affinity in that way, but I never felt what transsexuals report feeling, that I was in the wrong body. But I was always an outsider and I think that's why gender identity became a big piece of my life. I was really fascinated by, "What does it mean to be an insider?"

**Are there benefits to being the outsider?**

Mmm-hmm. Growing up overseas, it's a very similar thing: You are never part of the in-group, but you are also never part of the place that you left. As painful as that is, it lends you a certain insight into what it means to be a part of the group because you're looking from the outside in and you see the signals. For me, on my first night out in drag, how men made eye contact or didn't was really fascinating to me. I thought, "God, this is just something I don't even think about as a woman."

**So you're Ned. You go to strip clubs. Had you ever been to a strip club before?**

I've seen a few pole dancers in lesbian bars, but nothing like this, and I went to some pretty raunchy places. But one

of the reasons I chose to go was partly because almost every guy — straight guy — they said, "Well, it's a rite of passage to go." Part of what I wanted to do was use my disguise as a way to be a fly on the wall. I really did want to learn about male sexuality, because if you think about gender, not enough has been discussed about male sexuality and the fact that women are always talking about how men don't understand female sexuality. But *women* do not fucking understand male sexuality, and they don't even think they need to. I feel like it's important to start jumpstarting that part of the conversation.

Of course, the reception I'm getting about that is a lot of women who feel, "Why should I care?" The other night at a reading, somebody said, "Well, I feel like you gave my husband a Get-out-of-Jail-Free card." But I feel like, "Why are you so invested in having your husband in jail?" It reminded me in some ways of being gay: Men are born with a biological drive that women don't have, don't understand, so we make up all kinds of jokes, but we are also sort of angry about it. It's the same sort of thing with gay people. It's, "Why can't you just change who you are?"

**Why do you think, if you're a woman, you would have disdain for male sexuality?**

Partly because we don't share the hormonal drive. Sex is fairly elective for us, so we just don't understand what it means to have that experience — especially at puberty, but then thereafter — of that very

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# Rising from the Ashes of 9/11

## ■ Falling Man

By Don DeLillo, Scribner, 2007, Hardcover, 256 pages, \$26

By ROSETTE ROYALE, Staff Reporter

The mythological Phoenix arose from the ashes of its own nest, reborn. And, evoking that myth, one of Don DeLillo's central characters in *Falling Man* emerges from a similar netherworld, searching for his own rebirth.

It takes no more than two paragraphs into this wonderfully elegiac, at times maddeningly misdirected, novel for this odyssey to begin. Here, DeLillo hands us Keith Neudecker stumbling out of a swirl of smoke and ash, one that "came

**In many ways, 9/11 is a perfect landscape for Don DeLillo, a master of the lyrical narrative.**

rolling down streets and turning corners, busting around corners, seismic tides of smoke, with office paper flashing past, standard sheets with cutting edge, skimming, whipping past, otherworldly things in the morning pall."

The morning is Sept. 11, 2001 and Keith lives in Manhattan—that island of schist, aerie of glittering skyscrapers. More than that, he works—or rather, worked—in one of the two towers of the World Trade Center, those twin obelisks of American achievement and economic

supremacy that have, unbelievably, unimaginably, been brought down, turned to rubble, to dust, to death. Keith needs redemption from the cataclysm, so he heads to the apartment of his estranged wife, Lianne. Surprised yet heartened by the arrival of the sooty figure, she takes him in. And thus begins the struggle of two very ordinary people trying to reconnect: with themselves, with each other, with that realm of otherworldly things.

In many ways, 9/11 is a perfect landscape for DeLillo. A master of the lyrical narrative, he can overlay our collective pasts and presents with his character's personal regrets and reflections with unparalleled grace. His specialty is illustrating communal occurrences—the "Airborne Toxic Event" of *White Noise*, the fantastically rendered Giants-Dodgers baseball game that begat "The Shot Heard 'Round the World" in *Underworld*. This is coupled with his virtuosic ability to render that which we've been taught to fear—terrorism—in detail so loving, it makes humans out of people too easily identified as monsters. It's as if the detonations wrought by terrorists, in some way, push us all together.

Yet, pushed together, we don't, as Keith and Lianne discover, always adhere. Sometimes, we circle around each other and these two, once caught in a solar system where love served as the central star, are now spinning in neighboring galaxies. Keith finds himself flung into the arms of another woman, beginning an interracial affair with the wife of the man whose briefcase Keith, in the shock of the cataclysm, found himself carrying

out of the towers. Lianne, in turn, establishes a life that revolves around a writing group for people with Alzheimer's. And her sightings of the Falling Man, a business-suit clad performance artist, who, taking a cue from the censored image of an unknown man plummeting from the North Tower, jumps from buildings and elevated subway tracks alike only to hang like a suspended spider from a harness, limbs frozen in downward trajectory, to the delight and horror of the crowds gathered below.

There's a reverence in the way DeLillo lays it all out on the page. You can't help but be in awe of him. Until, that is, Keith gives up his legal practice to join the professional poker circuit. While presented as a metaphor for the community of loners 9/11 spawned, these renderings of five-card-stud addicts move at a slug's pace. Compared with Lianne, and her frustrations raising their son, Justin—who searches the skies with binoculars for a "Bill Lawton"—Keith's stakes seem minor. These gambling digressions almost threaten to dismantle the book until, in the last few pages, DeLillo—who has been delving into the minds of the terrorists at each chapter's end—places you right into the

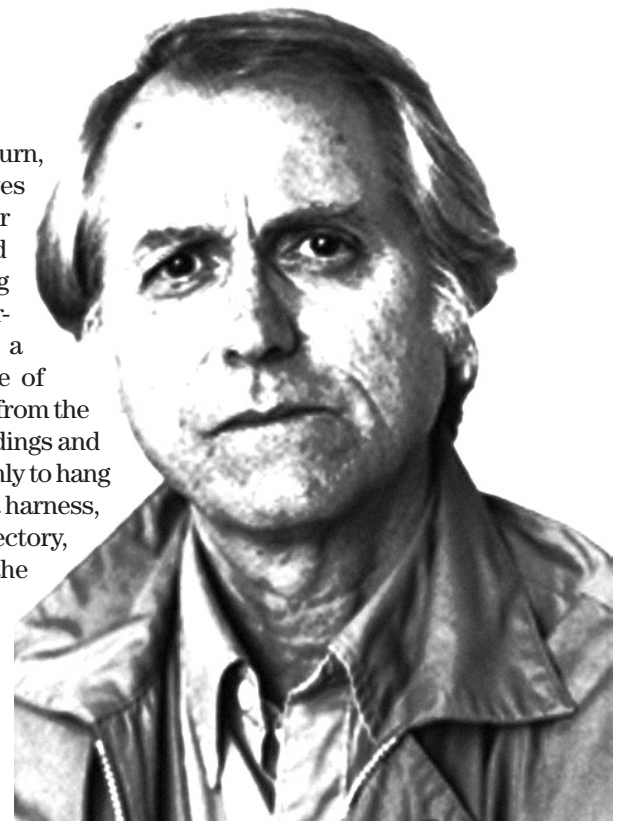


Photo by Joyce Ravid

second plane as it strikes the tower. Then a "blast wave passed through the structure that sent Keith Neudecker out of his chair and into a wall." Eventually regaining his feet, he stumbles, with hundreds of others, down the smoky stairwell to a sort of freedom. That wonderfully-realized collision and its immediate aftermath brings the book full circle into an ash-encrusted world, and sends DeLillo, once again, blazing into fictional glory. ■

Your book purchases can benefit *Real Change*. For more information, go to [www.realchangenews.org](http://www.realchangenews.org), click on the Powell's button, and browse a list of books recently featured in our pages.

## ■ Suite Française

By Irène Némirovsky; translated by Sandra Smith Knopf, 2007, Paperback, 395 pages, \$14.95

When it's not maiming and killing, warfare takes people's ordinary anxieties to extraordinary heights. The Russian-born Jewish novelist Irène Némirovsky focused on the egotism and social bigotry inflamed by a national crisis in the unfinished five-part series *Suite Française*. Written in the midst of the German invasion and occupation of her adopted country from the summer of 1940 until her abduction in 1942, it's a grand example of artistic accomplishment in the midst of a personal nightmare. The first in this two-novella book is a comedy of manners about civilians' flight from Paris; the second relates the consequences of billeting a German regiment in a village that has lost its young men to the war. Though sexual frustration, selfishness, and class-based loathing reign, love and ordinary hospitality salvage humanity's chapped soul. Némirovsky died at Auschwitz; her children have brought this book to publication. Their mother sensed France would cooperate with the Nazis in what became known as the Holocaust. Instead of giving up, she sharpened her outrage against the stone of her talent and carved out a satire of lasting literary and historic value. —Adam Hyla

## WORTH SEEING

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD:

Reviews by LESTER GRAY, Contributing Writer

### ■ My Father, The Genius, Directed by Lucia Small

Visiting neighborhoods of all castes, we inevitably encounter architectural orphans—both opulent and frugal—anomalous statements of style, practicality, and narcissism. Whether surrounded by mansions or hovels they share two characteristics: a lack of esthetic harmony with the surroundings and camouflaged entrances (an obvious door is a blemish). *My Father, The Genius* is a first person account—a documentary by Lucia Small about her father, Glen Howard Small, an architect dedicated to such edifices.

Small's early efforts, back in the 1960s, were focused on building communities in harmony with the environment, designed for energy efficiency and eco-friendly disposal of waste. Outside of the architectural community, his ideas received little attention. Among his colleagues, he fared somewhat better, becoming a founder of the acclaimed Southern California Institute of Architecture.

But, eventually, his acerbic assessments of famous architects of the day—he found their work compromised—led to his undoing.

Feeling that his genius might go unrecognized, lost to history forever, he requested that his daughter compose his written biography. What he got was a very revealing documentary.

Lucia recounts her dad's life from a point of view he hadn't anticipated. The film yields a portrait of an inattentive, egotistical father and husband, who underappreciated his several wives and to this day fails to truly comprehend his interpersonal shortcomings.

*My Father, The Genius* is part of the growing genre of very personal offerings made possible by the increased accessibility of production equipment. The intimate interaction between the subject and producer, often provokes a candor that heretofore was missing in their life—a narrative in itself. Sometimes, it reveals nothing but a contentious revisiting of old conflicts. In *My Father* it brings out something new—things gone

unsaid, that feel refreshingly honest and well worth witnessing.

### ■ Candy, Directed by Neil Armfield

There is little that's compelling about junkies. Their needs abrogate any social contract, explicit or implied. This complicates things for relatives who love them. All of this becomes doubly perverse in *Candy*, where two addicts fall deeply in love with each other.

When we meet Dan (Heath Ledger) and his eponymous girlfriend (Abbie Cornish), he has already developed an intravenous relationship with heroin, a method much more addictive than snorting. Candy still ingests through her nostrils, but senses she is missing out and wants to try the needle. Dan discourages her, but relents. In a very short amount of time their priorities turn inside out. Among all the accounts, fictive and true-life, from addicts to those who witnessed them, *Candy* stands out. It is a love story, where infidelity arrives in small packets of white powder.

The story is not complicated but complex, a witness to the loss of dignity, and the elusive path to finding it again, even when you've forgotten what it's worth. *Candy* is neither maudlin nor overwrought. A straight telling with strong performances from Heath Ledger and Abbie Cornish is more than enough to get the point across.





## Adventures in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Last week, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* ran a story titled "Solutions sought at crime-plagued Steinbrueck Park". The story had a picture of a shirtless man bending forward talking to a woman holding a map. It looks like he's giving her directions, but the caption says he was a homeless man and was persistently yelling at the woman, who was a German tourist. It said he was demanding that she sing a song for him on his guitar.

The article also had a nice chart, which showed how the number of park notices handed out in the park have increased 1997. It said that according to the police there has been an increase in the total amount of crime, which has been mostly non-violent and similar to that of other cities!

The title says solutions are sought. Let's solve these problems in this column!

The problems: The yelling man. An increase in park notices, and in arrests for mostly nonviolent crime, similar to that of other cities! (Aren't Sodom and Gomorrah other cities?) Plus, homeless people coming back to the park, even after they've been told to leave and not come back! Plus, how does a homeless man get a guitar, when he should be saving every dime to move into a room? I'd like to be able to lie around all day shirtless, making Germans sing for me. Wouldn't we all?

## ©Dr. Wes: Bench Marks

We need to know a cause, and one look at the chart and I knew what the cause was. Me!

That's right. I stopped being homeless at the end of 1997, and thereby deprived the streets of my good example! None of this trouble ever happened when I was on the streets. People even wrote it on their backpacks. WWWD: What Would Wes Do? "Would Wes take his shirt off and tell a lost German to sing for him on his guitar?" "Duhhh... No! No, he would not! So we won't either!"

OK, that was today's irony quota. Ha,

**Throughout the 1990s, we took almost away all the public benches downtown, and made it so he couldn't lie on the ones that were left.**

ha, no, that was just stupid.

Let's try to find some other real or intelligent explanations. I mean, this is serious business. "I want to hear 99 Luftballons! Now!"

My first clue as to what has been going on was to look back at when the parks exclusion law was passed. Hmm. It was passed in 1997. Aha! So the number of park notices has dramatically increased ever since there was a law to give them out! Damn those homeless people, getting laws written against them!

Then I remembered that *Real Change*, the people who print my crap, are putting on a book sale and that hundreds of books will be sold at Trinity United Methodist Church in Ballard at the end of the month. As a result the office is packed with donated books. I cracked one open. It was a psych book by some Dr. Phil or Dr. Jesus. I opened it to a random page and it said if something someone does annoys you, you might think how their actions mirror yours.

So the idea is, we look at the yelling shirtless man, and ask if we ever did anything to him or people like him that was similar. That might be the key to his behavior.

And I had it! Throughout the 1990s, we took almost away all the public benches downtown, and made it so he couldn't lie on the ones that were left. In 1994, we passed a law that prohibited people from sitting or lying on downtown sidewalks, and by 1997 that law was out of litigation and began to be enforced by armed men.

So we want to create laws that use the police to yell at the homeless for us and drive them from "our" sidewalks and benches into parks. Then we want to moan that there's a homeless man at Steinbrueck Park who drives tourists from "his" end of the park to the other.

The solution: Arrest the mirror? ■

Sound off and read more:  
[drwesb.blogspot.com](http://drwesb.blogspot.com)



Tues., May 29. 1:45 p.m.

**Alaskan Way S. and S. Washington St.** Suspect, a transient male aged 40 was contacted at the S. Washington Street boat landing. He was lying on his back holding a covered beer underneath a Department of Transportation "No Camping" sign. A name check revealed a Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) Zone 2 order. Suspect did not have his SODA order on his person, and was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Tues., May 29. 4:26 p.m.

**First Ave., 5 Star Parking Garage.** Officers responded to the parking garage in response to citizen complaints of criminal activity in the area. A routine check of the 5 Star Parking Garage revealed around 20 people trespassing. Some were sleeping, and some were socializing. Upon the arrival of police, the majority of people ran away, but an officer managed to detain several people. The other officer continued his patrol and found another suspect, a transient male aged 38, hiding behind some wooden or cardboard panels in the corner of the garage. As the officer drove up the suspect ducked behind the panels. The officer called to the suspect from the car's PA, and after two requests the suspect walked out. He identified himself verbally and with a Union Gospel Mission ID card, and stated he works for the garage. A routine name check revealed two outstanding trespass warrants for this location. Suspect was taken into custody. He stated that the manager of the garage had given him permission to be there—he said he was not an "official" employee, but had an arrangement where he cleaned up and monitored the transients that were trespassing in exchange for them allowing him to stay in the garage. Suspect requested that the officer call the manager of the garage, which the officer did. There was no reply. The officers put the suspect into their patrol car and were just about to take him to the precinct when the suspect saw an employee arrive in a gray SUV, and said that he could vouch for him. Officers approached the SUV and talked to the driver, who stated he was just a customer and did not know the suspect. At the precinct, the two previous trespass admonishments were located, and the suspect was transported to King County Jail for criminal trespass.

Tues., May 29. 11:25 p.m.

**1999 Western Ave., Victor Steinbrueck Park.** Officers observed the suspect, a transient male aged 41 seated inside Victor Steinbrueck Park after business hours. The hours of the park are clearly listed and marked indicating hours of operation. An identification check was conducted, and it revealed a possible warrant hit on the suspect. As he did not have a valid ID on his person, he was placed under arrest and transported to the West Precinct. Further investigation revealed that the suspect did not have an outstanding warrant. He was charged with criminal trespass and released from the precinct.

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.

## The \$400,000 Toilet

There's this 3 to 4 hundred thousand dollar toilet on Occidental square the only thing occidental in this particular square could be the toilet paper when in stock

I watch from a distance closer than any cop dares as several "sorts" go in for various periods at a time I can imagine numerous activities none which involve those intended functions this money sponge boondoggle was built for

Traffic moves haltingly along 15 to 20 bodies collect like bird droppings on benches and spill upon the uneven concrete A man to the left of me is passed out and has a gigantic hard-on poking up or else his crack pipe is trapped at a provocative angle An argument ensues from the high-tech outhouse as the door slides open

5 dollar, 5 dollar . . . give me my money!  
Fuck you, man, give me back my pipe.

Dim sum wafts over the square camps with the stale essence of Ole English 800 This 3 to 4 hundred thousand dollar toilet anchors the rest as does the red pagoda thirsty for a fresh coat of paint

My tax dollars at work I walk home (one mile or one hundred, it wouldn't make any difference) to take a big crap

—Larry Crist

## HIP HOP, Continued from Page 5

Seattle currently has a three-member civilian review board, which reviews 10 percent of all complaints filed against SPD personnel.

The reply from the con side (Geneva Arunga and Edward Richard) expanded from a spoken-word performance by Angel Mitchell:

"You're treatin' the symptoms/and not the disease/eradicate the roots/and not just the leaves."

"We can't send a barber to do brain surgery, but if the brain ain't intact, can the barber cut the hair?" Arunga asked the pro side in a cross examination. During the con side's "constructive" period, Arunga posed that a civilian review board would only address the symptoms of a more deeply-rooted problem that exists between the Black community and law enforcement.

"If you cut the leaves, the roots only grow stronger," said Mitchell, a member of the con team.

A solution the con side offered was to support the

**"The people running this country—Congress, think tanks—all have backgrounds in debate. And the kids drop off because it doesn't reflect them in the mirror."**

—Jen Johnson, Seattle Debate Foundation

Northwest African-American Museum (located in the former Coleman School), which could provide a place for artistic activities.

"Loitering, graffiti, vandalism, fighting, assaults—those are all antisocial behaviors," Arunga said. "We want to implement behavior programs that change lives with the art that they do."

The con side of the debate riffed off Angel's lines and argued that public policy is reinforcing stereotypes already present in media portrayals of minorities. They cited the Patriot Act's extensive profiling powers, and the disparity between drug-sentencing law for predominantly white-used powder cocaine and predominantly Black-used crack cocaine as the larger causes to address.



Photo by Rosette Royale

At a Hip Hop Debate Showcase, teens debated whether a citizen's review board was needed to investigate police activities. J-Infinite, left, helped to argue the affirmative side, while M-Famous laid down some rhymes.

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"The police are a product of what we are the product of," Arunga said. "The police are victims themselves, for they know not what they do before they have been reeducated [about stereotypes]."

The event also highlighted minority urban artists and their efforts to overcome what they see as a cultural and ethnic boundary between themselves and higher education.

J-Infinite noted divergent forces in traditionally African American popular music.

There are a lot of rappers who "want you to be dumb to be cool, that's the rap side, the gangster talk and the drug talk," he said. J-Infinite said "conscious rappers" who stress peace in the African American community.

All in all, the event was designed to give youngsters something to which they could relate.

"The people running this country—Congress, think tanks—all have backgrounds in debate," said Johnson of the Seattle Debate Foundation. "And

the kids drop off because it doesn't reflect them in the mirror."

When the group added hip-hop to its debate programs, attendance swelled, and the kids enrolled became increasingly likely to be on the honor roll at school, said Johnson.

The program also put out a five-track compact disc. In "I Wanna Change," Katsini Simani, a performer at the event, lays down her even-keeled anthem. "Education is a place/where I can be free/a place of self expression for me to be me/without the TV and a corrupted society/surrounding me/I can be all I want to be/I wanna change." ■

**Hip Hop Debate** will be featured at the Georgetown Arts Festival on June 23 at 7 p.m. in the Dope Emporium. See [www.seattledebate.org](http://www.seattledebate.org) for more info.

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SELF-MADE MAN, Continued from Page 7

strong drive. We tend to think that we're just sort of evolutionarily superior. I also think the feminist movement is deeply fed the idea that we're the ones who have the complaint. That was something I went into in some ways thinking, too. But this book definitely disabuses the notion that guys have it better in every way.

How do you think men perceive women?

With an incredible reverence that I don't think women quite understand. For a lot of heterosexual men, being desired by women is a rite of passage: It's part of what makes you a man. There's a lot of rejection that goes into the whole system of [the man being] the person who has to go up and importune the woman: You're the brightly colored bird doing the dance, and they kind of decide are you good enough. There's a lot of anger that goes into that. So you put that sort of anger together with sort of a deep, intense sex drive, and a sense of really wanting women's approval, and you get kind of a combustible mix.

Often, when I was in private with men, there would be what you would

expect: that certain misogynistic locker-room talk. But what I interpreted was that they're not allowed to express weakness, especially around male buddies, [even though] rejection is part and parcel of your life with women. You put those things together, and the only thing you're allowed to do is say, "Oh, she was worth a blowjob," because you can't say, "Gee, that rejection really hurt."

How was it to be so close to female strippers who were revealing the most intimate, physical parts of themselves to you?

I'm attracted to women, so, theoretically, I should have enjoyed it as much as men. But what you see in those kinds of places is that they are custom designed for male sexuality. For me, it was a deeply alienating experience to have even a woman I might have found physically attractive in other circumstances gyrating on me in this very depersonalized kind of way. The women really do treat you as though

you're less than human: You really are just a wallet and a barbarian in their eyes, and they're just going to get you off as fast as possible.

You also dated women as Ned. How was that for your partner, to have you go out as this man, with one date resulting in a sexual act with another woman?

That was something that neither of us had expected going in. We knew I'd be going on dates, but they weren't going to be serious dates. And I had a three-date limit. But, yeah, there's one particular case that went past the bounds of what [both my partner and I] had been expecting. It's difficult, there's no question about it, but we got through it. What can I say? *Mea culpa*. I kind of overstepped the journalistic bounds, so . . .

But in that moment, the other woman had the perception that you were a man, and then you admitted you were a female, and yet she still went through with it. Was that surprising?

Now it wouldn't be. I didn't put it in

the book, but I did go on three dates with a gay man as a gay man. When I told him at the end of the time [I was a woman], he wasn't angry, but he said, right away, "Well, I don't have any interest because you just don't have the equipment." I do think that male sexuality is much more categorical in that way, but I think that female sexuality is much more fluid, and I do think it is much less about the plumbing than it is about the spiritual, emotional, intellectual surroundings of the act itself. Maybe I'm wrong about that, but I don't know very many gay men who have gone to bed with straight men. Part of that is because homophobia is so much stronger among men than among women. I was just astounded by how much homophobia there was against me as an effeminate male.

In the book, you have so much empathy for the males you meet. Were you surprised by that?

Yeah. When I was just out of college, sort of cementing my lesbian personality, I had a lot of anger towards men. And I had all sorts of feminist ideas in my mind, that there are reasons to dislike men. Part of what this book, for me, was a way of saying, "Okay, we've had that conversation. Can we get to another place now where we admit that we can't just go on saying that men are to blame for everything?" We have to admit that in this so-called patriarchy, there were two roles: male and female. And the male role is really as much a straightjacket as the female. ■

**"Gender identity isn't just a question of what you wear, but what you wear as a reflection of who you are very deep inside."**

# CALL TO ACTION

## Put Guantanamo out of Commission

**Issue:** Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) has introduced a bill to close the Guantanamo Bay prison within 120 days of enactment and to end the practice of indefinite detention without charge for hundreds of detainees.

**Background:** Harkin's bill (the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility Closure Act—S. 1469), is an excellent, comprehensive solution to close the Guantanamo prison and end indefinite detention by requiring the government to get its act together and finally charge anyone alleged to have committed a crime. Those detainees not charged with a crime will be sent back to their home countries or other countries, provided they will not be tortured, abused, or persecuted. Anyone charged will be sent to Ft. Leavenworth in Kansas.

What the Act would do:

- It requires the President to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility within 120 days of enactment.
- Within 120 days of enactment, the detainees will be either sent to the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks at Ft. Leavenworth to await trial or serve their sentences or transferred to another country that will not torture, abuse, or otherwise persecute the detainee.
- For each detainee being held at Guantanamo Bay, the government will have 120 days to either charge the detainee with a federal crime or transfer him to his home country or another country, provided they will not engage in torture, abuse, or persecution. The government may have an additional renewal period of 120 days to hold the detainee if

it is preparing charges and has a logistical need for additional time.

- The bill ends the practice of indefinite detention without charge of hundreds of detainees—most who have been held more than four years, and many who have been held more than five years without charge and without even knowing the reasons for which they are being held.
- Detainees who are charged will be detained in the military prison at Fort Leavenworth while awaiting trial, during trial, and during their sentences. This is the military's prison specifically designated, designed, and built by the Department of Defense to hold national security prisoners.
- The bill will provide additional funds to prosecute and defend cases brought against the detainees, and for costs incurred by the government or the region in transferring or detaining prisoners.

The decision to use the prison at Fort Leavenworth closely tracks the recent statement by Presidential candidate Sen. John McCain (R—Ariz.), who said, if elected, "I would immediately close Guantanamo Bay, move all the prisoners to Fort Leavenworth and truly expedite the judicial proceedings in their cases."

**Action:** The prison at Guantanamo is damaging American values and our reputation in the eyes of our enemies and allies alike. It's time to end indefinite detention without charges and shut down Guantanamo. Contact your Senators and ask them to Support Sen. Harkin's bill to close Guantanamo Prison.


Sen. Patty Murray  
(206) 553-5545  
[www.murray.senate.gov](http://www.murray.senate.gov)

Sen. Maria Cantwell  
(206) 220-6400  
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**Parade Route**

While the weather can be iffy, one sure bet at the Solstice Parade is that there will be some costumes and face paint. On Sat., June 16, the weather held out and that brought out the skin and brought on the smiles. Here, two members of Pure Cirkus — Julianna, right, and Jen, below — delight the crowd.

Photos by Katia Roberts



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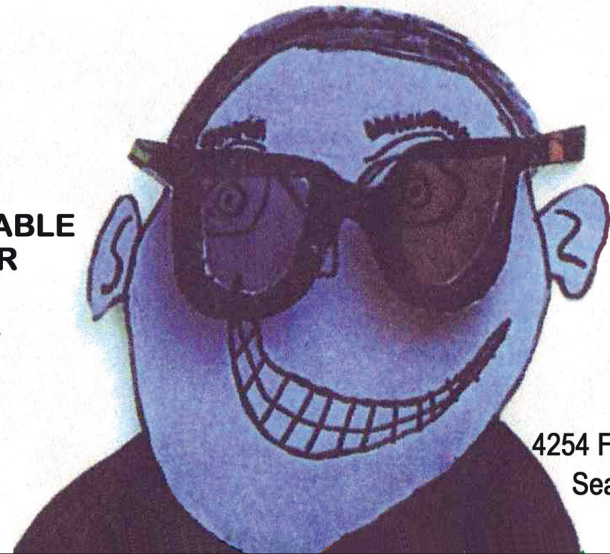
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