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VOL. 14, NO. 28
JULY 4 - JULY 10, 2007

REAL CHANGE



Photo courtesy cryptome.org

Keeping tabs on the snoops

Famed investigative author James Bamford keeps his eyes focused on the National Security Agency, since they have their eyes focused on us...*page 7*

Honoring an accidental death

Isaac Palmer was killed on June 3 when a DOT tractor fractured his skull while he slept below an underpass. His passing didn't go unnoticed...*page 3.*

Photo by Katia Roberts



Change Agent Judy Schneider Fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy...*page 3*



Photo by Elisa Huerta-Enochian

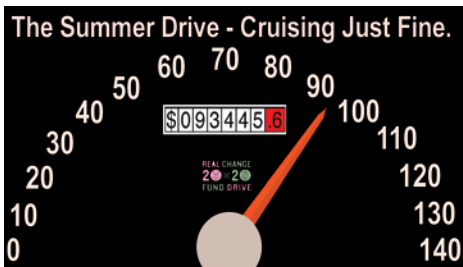


Photo courtesy capewind.org

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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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For the mentally ill, there seems to be some good news on the healthcare front

A step in the right direction

By Mike Staszak, Guest Writer

There's too much bad news these days about the failure of the mental health care system and the seeming inability of policymakers to address the problems. So, here's some good news.

In the 2007 legislative session, Washington State leaders took a significant step toward fixing what's wrong with mental health services in the state. And they did it not just in reaction to a horrific tragedy, but as a result of hard work and persistent lobbying by hundreds of people who work within the mental health care system.

For the past three years, I've worked as a therapist in community mental health care in Seattle. It's always hard work but it has big rewards when people get better. When I get to witness a person creating a life worth living and finding a sense of hope restored, it is quite rewarding.

Unfortunately, working in community mental health is very frustrating. There is never enough time for the clients, there's an excess of regulations that complicate the process and there are very long wait times for appointments and the proper treatments. Plus, there are increasing

Countless studies have shown what's obvious to me and my co-workers: In mental health treatment, the key to a client's recovery is a stable and trusting relationship with their therapist.

amounts of paperwork which result in a system where the client's needs start to look like they become the least important priority.

I get frustrated when I am not able to give a client the treatment they need because my caseload is so large or we don't have the resources to provide the type of treatment they need. It's also dis-



any fund drive thus far. We continue to be inspired by the deep support that exists in the community for our work and are com-

couraging to the clients and they are not surprised when the mental health care system breaks down again. It's no wonder so many mental health clients leave treatment and end up in our emergency rooms, state hospitals or jails.

Countless studies have shown what's obvious to me and my co-workers: In mental health treatment, the key to a client's recovery is a stable and trusting relationship with their therapist.

But our historically and chronically under-funded community mental health system does not allow for client-therapist relationships to be formed because of the constant turnover. High workloads and increasing paperwork demands make it impossible to spend enough time with our clients. This translates to frontline staff turnover averages of 33 percent a year and at some agencies it's over 50 percent. Mental health professionals with bachelor's and master's degrees make less than \$30,000 a year in community mental health, which is \$15,000 or more below what we can make in comparable jobs or in private practice.

My colleagues and I work in the community because we share a passion for serving the most vulnerable people. Unfortunately, when our passion runs into the economic realities of paying off student loans, starting a family or buying a house we end up making the difficult decision to leave community mental health.

In the past year, rather than feeling hopeless, my colleagues and I decided to do something about the situation. Along with other community mental health workers who belong to Service Employees International Union District 1199NW, we formed the Campaign for Quality Mental Health Care.

With other mental health advocates, we reached out to legislators, telling them about our heavy caseloads, low pay and benefits. Hundreds of community mental health workers wrote letters, made calls, sent emails and personally lobbied our elected officials.

We told legislators about clients who left treatment because the system broke down again and again. And we told them

our stories of success — clients who got better, found hope and began leading productive lives again in our community.

As we told our stories to legislators, Democrats and Republicans began telling us about how mental illness had touched their lives — a friend, a neighbor, a loved one, or even themselves.

We urged our legislators to fund workforce stabilization in order to improve services and build safer communities. Our employers weighed in to support increased funding.

As we told our stories to legislators, Democrats and Republicans began telling us about how mental illness had touched their lives — a friend, a neighbor, a loved one, or even themselves.

When the Legislature's final budget was unveiled, we were excited to see \$24.5 million in new funds dedicated toward stabilizing the community mental health workforce by improving wages and benefits.

I've learned two things from this experience. First, that ordinary citizens can work together and get state leaders to fix problems in our community.

Second, we got quite a bit accomplished and there is still a lot of work to be done. Working together, union members, employers, consumers and other mental health advocates can effectively push for improved funding and services, so that people like me will never have to say "No" to a client. ■

Mike Staszak is a therapist at Community Psychiatric Clinic in Seattle, as well as a member of SEIU 1199NW.

Director's Corner

mitted to keeping up our end of the deal by providing opportunity for our vendors, a quality newspaper for our readers and effective advocacy to build a more just society for all of us.

Our goal for this drive was \$140,000. We knew going into the summer that this amount — nearly twice what we raised last year — was a huge goal. *Real Change* has a longstanding practice of hoping for the moon and then adapting to life here on Earth. We know how to live within our means.

Anyone who reads our strategic plan — available at realchange.wikispaces.org — can see that our goals for this year are

huge. Two of these, the redesign of the paper and a 10 percent increase in circulation, have already succeeded fabulously. Readers and vendors love the new look, and sales are up by 17 percent.

We'll keep working on getting the resources we need to hit all of our goals. This might slow us down a little, but, thanks to you, we're in good shape and going strong.

Read daily posts by Tim Harris at apesmaslamment.blogspot.com

Just Heard...

Getting a little Cultural

On June 28, *Latino Cultural*, Washington's first Latino magazine dedicated exclusively to the arts, released its second issue. Hugo Ludeño, a Peruvian photographer, and Javier Amaya, a Colombian author, created the magazine in response to perceived "invisibility" of Latinos in the art community.

"In many major media venues, [Latinos] are invisible, and when [Latinos] are presented, it is not in a good light," Amaya said. "We decided that we needed to do something to let Latinos express themselves. Latinos have an artistic life and we try to capture it."

Presently, *Latino Cultural* is produced on a small scale. The magazine, which is personally financed by Ludeño, is not mass-produced and is not available for sale in newsstands or bookstores. Instead, it is being distributed to schools, libraries and museums in the hopes of increasing the presence and visibility of Latino contributors to the Puget Sound art community.

While the magazine currently enjoys support from a few Seattle area organizations and from a limited number of subscribers, Ludeño says he is confident that more support, as well as a wider distribution of the magazine, is on the way. "My goal is to get support from the community, recognition from the art commission, and to make this magazine available for many years," Ludeño said. "I know this is a process. Help will arrive when people see the quality and the content."

More information about *Latino Cultural*, including information about subscriptions, is available at www.latinocultural.com. Hugo Ludeño's photo exhibition, "Latinos in the Northwest", can be viewed at the M. Rosetta Hunter Gallery located at Seattle Central Community College through July 31.

—Patrick Reis

Thank you to Half Price Books for their generous in-kind donation to the first annual Real Change book sale, and to all of you who helped.



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Change Agent

Judy Schneider, raising money to help her grandson, and others, with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Judy Schneider of Wallingford had volunteered 25 years of her life in schools and elsewhere, booking venues, marshaling volunteers, tapping sponsors, being both spark and glue.

Last summer, her 3-year-old grandson — mild for his age, Lego-savvy, sandy-blond Aiden — was diagnosed with Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy. Judy found that DMD is the most common 100 percent fatal genetic disorder in the

world, affecting nearly 20,000 in the U.S. alone. She got active.

Last week she pulled off a \$153,000 fundraiser double-showing of *Darius Goes West*, a documentary of Darius Weems' road trip across the country attempting to get his wheelchair on MTV's "Pimp My Ride," all while rapping about DMD. Weems is a 15-year-old from Athens, Ga. And has DMD. The documentary, made on a shoestring budget by Logan Smalley, has won 21 film

festival awards. The money raised goes to Charley's Fund, which funds alternative DMD research such as stem cell therapy.

"We could literally see a cure in Aiden's lifetime," says Schneider, already planning the next fundraiser.

The clock is ticking. DMD diagnoses don't often live through their 20s.

—Chris Miller

More Info: www.charleysfund.com, www.dariusgoeswest.com

Bye, bye, pergola

The 20 trees that the city cut down in Occidental Park last year certainly can't be replaced, but activists in Pioneer Square were hoping the pergola could.

In a unanimous decision June 20, however, the Pioneer Square Preservation Board voted to uphold its decision and not return the glass-capped pergola to the park. It was removed last year as part of a controversial remodel in which one-third of the park's trees were cut down, most of its benches removed and the park's cobblestones replaced with plaza pavers — moves, the activists argue, that were aimed at the area's homeless and poor.

On April 16, a King County Superior Court judge ordered the preservation board to revisit the pergola issue after ruling that the city had removed it illegally. Under the city codes that govern the historic district, a structure cannot be removed without pre-approval and funding for something else to go in its place, which the city did not have at the time of the park's remodel in 2006.

After going into a 45-minute closed-door session with Judith Barbour, a land use attorney from the City Attorney's office who fought the activists in court, the preservation board got around the judge's ruling by citing a portion of Seattle Municipal Code 23.66.115, which allows the board to authorize such demolition or removal "to protect the public health, safety and welfare" even when no replacement structure is planned.

Shawn Jezerinac, a representative of the Pioneer Building who went to the meeting, says board members stated, in effect, that the judge had sent the matter back on a technicality, as if he "had just dinged them for not following protocol," Jezerinac says.

The activists' attorney, Jim Klauser disagrees and now says that, if the city won't consider reusing the pergola, it may try to get away with not conducting a study the judge ordered on the health of the remaining trees, either. So, last week,

Klauser filed a new court motion calling on the city to prove it's complying with the judge's order.

The pergola vote clears the way for the Parks Department to install what it wants in the park: a 625-square-foot retail kiosk. City staff insist the kiosk's design will be subject to public comment at future meetings. But that's not the same as returning the pergola, which residents and business owners had demanded Parks do at a workshop held in May.

—Cydney Gillis



A remembrance Women in Black held a memorial on June 21 for Isaac Palmer. Palmer, who was sleeping below the underpass at S. Massachusetts, was killed on June 2 when a Department of Transportation tractor fractured his skull and tore into his brain. DOT called the death an "accident." Photo by Katia Roberts

Some Black activists wonder why the NAACP and Urban League are at loggerheads on police accountability

Police review scandal splits rights groups

By CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter

A surveillance video contradicted the police officers who made the drug bust. The tape led prosecutors to drop the charges and alert other defense lawyers that the two Seattle officers had credibility issues. And the police department's civilian auditor says the officers lied.

On June 22, after a leaked report from the department's civilian oversight board said the police chief jumped the gun in exonerating the officers involved in the Jan. 2 arrest of Troy Patterson. Seattle NAACP chief James Bible held a press conference to repeat the civil rights organization's call for Chief Gil Kerlikowske to step down.

Hours later, the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle held a press conference of its own in which its director, James

"The bigger issue is the conduct of the chief and what he's done with these officers and how he's not listening to the OPA."

—Ed Prince, Seattle Works program director

Kelly, along with Carl Mack, Seattle's former NAACP president, defended the police chief and called the report an unsubstantiated "draft."

For African-American and other civil rights activists in Seattle, it was

a turn of events that some call odd. Others say privately that Carl Mack must have lost his political bearings. Questioning the review board, they say, turned the tables on them, creating a sense of division within a Black community that has long demanded police accountability in Seattle.

Kelly disagrees, saying it was just a difference of opinion. "The Urban League's position is not to say anything that the NAACP is doing is wrong," he says. "I think that they have brought up an important issue of which we are looking into the facts."

But with the report now official – the review board of the police department's Office of Professional Accountability presented its final report on July 2 to the Seattle City Council – many activists question the Urban League's action and whether the city funding it receives makes it beholden to Mayor Greg Nickels.

Last week, Nickels defended Chief Kerlikowske. But in the wake of City Council President Nick Licata's call for a task force and an NAACP protest rally at City Hall, the mayor announced on June 29 that he had formed a citizen's committee to examine Seattle's system of police oversight. The police review system includes the Office of Professional Accountability and its civilian director, a civilian case auditor, and an OPA Review Board of three citizens.

On July 2, review board member Peter Holmes defended the board's report, telling the City Council that Chief Kerlikowske had prematurely exonerated officers Greg Neubert and Mike

Tietjen, who Patterson claims roughed him up and planted drugs on him. Holmes said the April 9 press conference in which the chief cleared the officers came more than a month before the incoming director of the OPA signed off on the internal investigation.

The board's report – which covers a total 11 cases in which the chief overruled findings of officer misconduct

"What relationship? We've got no relationship with the police. They kill and beat at-will."

—Ronnie Payton, Plymouth Housing worker

made by previous OPA Director Sam Pailca – also asserts that Kerlikowske interceded in the investigation of Patterson's arrest by releasing a female witness from jail in exchange for a statement against Patterson.

Though her account conflicts with that of another witness at the scene, Kerlikowske cited the statement on April 9 as proof the two officers had done nothing wrong. Neubert and Tietjen have since taken off-street assignments with SPD's Harbor Patrol.

The Urban League's defense of the chief "struck me as odd," says Ed Prince, a Seattle Works program director

formerly with the Central Area Motivation Program. "Maybe legitimately they have different points of view," he says of NAACP and the Urban League, "but you would have hoped they could have handled that in-house."

"The bigger issue," Prince says, "is the conduct of the chief and what he's done with these officers and how he's not listening to the OPA. To try to offhandedly dismiss [the report] doesn't do anything but to weaken it."

"For me, as a citizen, it's kind of disconcerting," he says. "Why have something [the OPA Review Board] that's supposed to be a fresh set of eyes look at something and then not take their finding seriously?"

Civil rights activists also question the statements made on June 22 by former NAACP President Carl Mack, who was in Seattle for a conference. Citing the good relationship that he helped build with the police department, and Kerlikowske in particular, Mack called the NAACP's demand for the chief's resignation "absolutely asinine," according to the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

The comments "clearly demonstrate the need for civil rights organizations to stand at arm's length from those they are seeking to address," says current NAACP chief James Bible.

Ronnie Payton, a Plymouth Housing worker who attended the protest rally at City Hall, has harder words for Mack and Kelly.

"What relationship? We've got no relationship with the police," Payton says. "They kill and beat at-will." ■



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Real world stories from clients of a Portland non-profit

Homelessness affects mental and emotional health

By Jessica P. Morrell and Genny Nelson, Street News Service

The following is an excerpt from *Voices from the Street: Truths About Homeless from Sisters of The Road*. *Sisters of The Road* is a Portland, Ore. non-profit café that serves low cost meals and offers job training as well as support to parents and children.

Harris was an early customer. When he walked in the door without his mental health under control, he'd talk in a different voice to himself or anyone who would listen, and would do things out of the ordinary. Once Harris was sitting at the counter with another gentleman. Harris lit a match and held it to this man's coat. Immediately I said, "Harris, remember you're in Sisters Of The Road. Blow the match out! You cannot set someone's coat on fire in Sisters Of The Road." He looked at me, blew the match out, and was "back."

No matter how wounded people are, we ask them to be accountable. Elsewhere, someone's behavior would immediately send people to the phone to dial 911. We speak the truth instead: name the behavior, call on them to remember they're in Sisters, and ask them to hold themselves together and come back to a place where they won't hurt themselves or others. I'm not saying it's always successful; rarely, someone has crossed the line and become hurtful. But the constant practice of holding people accountable has created an environment where people dealing with mental health issues truly feel respected and safe.

A great number of our narrators suffered from depression, mental illness, and emotional problems. A third of them identified themselves as having a mental health issue or reported being diagnosed with one. Naturally this is a huge physical health risk, especially if they are psychotic or delusional while living on the streets. A number of narrators commented how dangerous the streets were for the mentally ill and how inadequate the services were for them.

Stan: "But the system itself, we're trying to look at rehabilitation, we're not looking at people trying to keep us down and lower our self-esteem. You walk into a food stamp office, I feel that I should be cared about. Show me concern. If you burn out from your job, move on, give it to somebody else that cares. But don't just sit there and take it out on me or what Joe Blow did before I came in there, you know. You're just being treated in society, sometimes you're already down. You don't need anybody else beating you up. You know, show me what I need to do. And if you can't, lead me in the right direction. And I'm seeing a lot of that not happening. There are a lot of times when you feel like you just want to go to a park bench somewhere and just sit, and never wake up again."

When skilled and appropriate assistance is provided, the results can be effective.

Jennifer: "[I have problems with] depression and anger management and stuff like that, and I am in groups that show you how to kind of not call it, but kind of watch what you do, and you are not as apt to have anger things flash out at people like I have... I have got an awful lot out of my therapist. She has got one-on-one with me and she also is my group leader."

The challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness make difficult or even impossible those tasks most of society sees as routine. The difficulty of escaping homelessness conflicts with the desire to escape. Anxiety, frustration, depression, and other negative emotional and mental states are formidable enemies added to existing obstacles.

Kevin: "You are already under pressure here. When you are homeless like that, and it is a day-to-day thing about how you are going to make this appointment or get your clothes washed, or just it is a constant battle to try to keep your head above water and stay clean. And then, add to that the lack of housing and the places to sleep outside all are gone, you know, all those murders and all the crack and the violence on the streets, it is just, you know, it is hard. No wonder some of those people drink and do drugs, you know? People think, 'Why don't they



Genny Nelson co-founded Sisters of the Road Café after a series of interviews revealed that homeless people were looking for affordable meals served with dignity. A second series of interviews are reproduced in *Voices from the Street: Truths about Homelessness from Sisters of the Road* (Gray Sunshine, 2007). Photo courtesy of author.

just get out of it.' Well, until you have experienced it, you cannot really judge it. It is like an evil monster.

"Somehow when you become homeless, it does something to your psyche, no matter how strong you are, it just does something to you that, the longer you are there the harder it is to get away from it. I wish

I could explain it. It is beyond words, but it is real, I know it is real." ■

Voices from the Street: Truths About Homelessness from Sisters Of The Road, by Jessica P. Morrell, can be ordered online at www.graysunshine.com.

Reprinted excerpt, © Street News Service: www.street-papers.org

Think tent cities have problems in Seattle? Try Edmonton, Alberta Canadian city boots tent city

By Linda Dumont, Edmonton Street News

Edmonton's Bissell Centre was forced to play hot potato and remove homeless people camped in the parking lot behind Bissell Centre East on June 14 in response to orders from Capital Health. For most of the campers, this is just one more move among many and, unless there is change, it will not be the last move.

Bissell's executive Director Shelley Williams said, "I've shed tears today. The situation is these people have been bumped from Mary Burlie Park to the lot behind the Bissell Centre, then to behind Bissell East. We let them stay there for the past few weeks because the city was to have an emergency response. We gave them 24-hours notice and we closed the Bissell early so staff could help them move. We're hoping this will precipitate some action. We need services right now.

"Passing campers around the city with all their belongings is simply denying their humanity," Williams said. "We have no suggestions for where they can go. This has got to stop and

an alternative must be put forth immediately for the short-term. Longer term permanent housing can be put into place within the next 4 months. We are a can-do province and a can-do city. Hopefully, something good will come of this tragedy."

On June 8, Capital Health gave notice to Bissell that unless they provided porta potties, water and waste disposal

**"I've shed tears today."
—Shelley Williams,
Bissell Center
Executive Director**

for gray water, then police would be sent in to remove the campers. Williams said providing these services is not an option since Bissell is already stretched financially. She said permanent housing is the solution, not parking lots, river valleys or shelters.

Bissell staff helped people load their possessions into shopping carts, take down tents, and then move to the lot just west of the Bissell Centre. Ken,

who has worked with the Bissell four years, said it was the worst day he's ever had at work.

Leonard Swayne, a homeless camper, sat in an armchair, his crutches beside him waiting for help with the move. He said, "They just came here this morning and said, 'You have to leave.' We're moving over west of the Bissell Centre and we'll be able to stay there for a few days. A lot of us are alcoholics and drug addicts so we can't work. I used to have a \$12,000 a month job and now I can't even buy a room at the Salvation Army."

Swayne estimated that with the people sleeping in about 15 tents, and others who came in at night with their blankets, about 170 people were sleeping in the parking lot.

Some of them moved to a lot a block north, but were removed by police later the same day. As of June 23, there were 33 tents along the fence lines of the lot west of the Bissell Centre. Bissell is distributing donations from a food bank

HEALTH, continued on page 11

Vendor of the Week

When I first called Michael Garcia, he wasn't feeling too well— in fact, he was as sick as a dog. When I begged him, told him my deadline was the next day, he was nice enough to take the time to answer questions and provide thoughtful answers. His easy-going, accommodating attitude no doubt has

“By buying and reading [Real Change], you're making a difference to the homeless in general, but specifically in my life. So, thanks.”

something to do with being this week's vendor of the week.

Says Michael, “I'm not a great salesman, but I'm consistent.”

Michael was born and partly raised in Seattle, also spending some of his youth in Eastern Washington and the Olympic Peninsula. During his adult life, he's also spent time in New York, Oregon, and the South.

A few years ago, Michael spent a short time in prison for a petty narcotics charge. When he got out, he found that his record — non-violent though it was — was an obstacle in the way of long-term employment. A friend and former *Real Change* vendor introduced him to the paper in 2000. Nowadays, you can find him selling papers at the corner of Marion St. and First Ave.

With *Real Change*, Michael found acceptance and stability in his life. Perhaps, most importantly, says Michael, is that *Real Change* gave him a purpose.

“By buying and reading [*Real Change*],” says Michael, “you're making a difference to the homeless in general, but specifically in my life. So, thanks.”

—JP Gritton



Michael Garcia

Photo by Joel Turner

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—Stan Burriess



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Author James Bamford contends that spying by the National Security Agency should concern everyone

Of puzzle palaces and star chambers

By *CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter*

It hasn't taken America very long to forget Watergate and what it was all about: the abuse of presidential power.

President Richard M. Nixon not only ordered a burglary at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in 1972, but had been using the National Security Agency to spy on Americans, particularly anti-war protesters. But there's a small historical irony here that author James Bamford never misses a chance to point out.

On the day in 1970 that Nixon called the chief of the NSA into the Oval Office and ordered him to start eavesdropping on Americans, even Nixon didn't know that he was merely authorizing something the agency and its predecessors had been doing illegally since World War I.

Bamford knows because he's spent most of his career researching the super-snooper agency, writing the first book ever published on the NSA — 1979's *The Puzzle Palace* — which he followed in 2001 with *Body of Secrets*. In between, the hard-nosed Bamford became a gumshoe on national security issues as a producer for ABC's "World News Tonight."

When *The New York Times* revealed in late 2005 that President Bush had authorized the NSA to spy on Americans after the Sept. 11 attacks, it didn't take Bamford long to join a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, which is trying to stop the warrantless surveillance.

The ACLU won a round for the Fourth Amendment in Detroit last August, when a federal judge rejected White House arguments that rested, in part, on "inherent" presidential powers to search and seize in time of war. On Jan. 31, the ACLU and Bush Administration argued the case in Cincinnati before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, which has yet to rule.

The same day, *The New York Times* printed an editorial by Bamford outlining a little-known law passed in the wake of Watergate. It specifically prohibits warrantless surveillance of Americans, even by the president — something the writer pointed to as solid grounds for impeachment.

"If you look at the past cases," Bamford says, "Richard Nixon was impeached for something much more minor."

I was surprised to learn that there is a long history of telecom companies cooperating with the NSA. Talk about that.

It's not really common knowledge, but . . . this has been going on for almost a hundred years. After World War I, after censorship was lifted, the predecessor to the NSA, which at the time was called the Black Chamber — that was a civilian organization charged with code breaking and interception of communications — faced a similar problem. They needed access to all the telecommunications in order to sift through it to find out information they wanted. The head of the Black Chamber, Herbert O. Yardley, personally went to the heads of the various telecom companies. At the time, they were mostly interested in telegrams, so they went to Western Union and a number of the other telegraph companies, and they got the secret cooperation for those companies to turn over, both secretly and illegally . . . whatever telecommunications the Black Chamber wanted. That only ended when a newly incoming Secretary of State, Henry Stimson, closed down the Black Chamber. But then it started up again after World War II [when] the head of the successor of the Black

Getting a [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] court warrant was probably the easiest thing in the world. Out of nearly 20,000 applications for warrants, the government has only been turned down less than five times. That's a pretty good ratio.

Chamber — at the time it was called the Signal Security Agency — did exactly the same thing. Gen. [William Preston] Corderman went to the heads of the individual telecom companies, Western Union and so forth, and worked out very secret, very illegal agreements whereby they would turn over to this government agency — without any warrants, without notice to anybody — all the telecommunications going in and out of the company, which is millions of communications to and from Americans in the U.S. That lasted 30 years . . . Eventually when things became com-



Photo courtesy of cryptome.org

In books such as *The Puzzle Palace*, author James Bamford laid bare the actions of the National Security Agency, who keep watch on ordinary citizens, nearly three decades ago. He says things have only gotten worse.

puterized, it involved turning over computer tapes of every telegram entering and leaving or going through the United States, all without a single warrant. [So] NSA for decades had been eavesdropping on communications illegally, spying on people, reading their telegrams, [and] listening to phone calls without going for a warrant.

And that ended when? After the investigations by [the late] Sen. Frank Church?

The Church Committees were mostly in the 1975 time period when the anger and discovery of all this took place and, then, it took three years of hearings before they finally worked out a mechanism whereby both the Republicans and the Democrats — liberals and conservatives — agreed on a method to prevent this from happening again. And the way they did it was by creating this act, called the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act [or FISA], and that act did two key things. One of them was to create a very secret federal court system, known as the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Court, as a mechanism for which the agencies would have to get warrants and, number two, to put teeth in it, it created a penalty for presidents or heads of NSA or people who are in a capacity to violate it. The criminal sanction was five years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine for every violation. So it did that in 1978, for the specific purpose of preventing what happened . . . after 9/11 simply because the president came out and said I think we should bypass the FISA act and begin domestic surveillance.

What's the secret FISA court supposed to do?

The FISA court was created to force the NSA to begin complying with the law, to go before a judge and have a judge — an impartial judge — decide whether a person is eligible to be eavesdropped on by NSA. The way it was before the court [existed], NSA made the decision.

I understand it wasn't difficult to get a FISA warrant, so what was the White House's rationale for going around it?

No, getting a FISA court warrant was probably the easiest thing in the world. Out of nearly 20,000 applications for warrants, the government has only been turned down less than five times. That's a pretty good ratio. . . . The government has two real reasons — or two excuses — for going around the FISA court. One is the Congressional authorization to use force. That was the legislation passed after 9/11 authorizing the president to basically go after al-Qaida, go after the people who committed 9/11. But you talk to Republicans in Congress and even they say that we never contemplated that NSA was going to be a part of this. I mean, [they say] using NSA domestically has nothing to do with what our original authorization was. . . . The second argument was that it is within the President's inherent powers to be able to do this. There are certain things that are within a President's inherent powers. They are very few and far between. But one of the things that cuts out a President's inherent authority is when Congress creates a law overriding any inherent authority, and that's exactly

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Something's Blowin'

■ Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Class, Politics, and the Battle for Our Energy Future on Nantucket Sound

By Wendy Williams and Robert Whitcomb. *PublicAffairs*, 2007, Hardcover, 326 pages, \$26.95

By KATHY GEORGE,
Contributing Writer

When the Big Horn wind farm opened six weeks ago in the pastoral fields of the Columbia River Gorge, Washington politicians exulted about the 133 wind turbines that will generate clean, renewable power for 60,000 homes. Gov. Chris Gregoire even declared "Wind Energy Week" in honor of Big Horn's dedication.

But if you put the same towering turbines near one of the nation's most

Cape Wind is an entertaining window into a world of power and influence that is normally, like most of the Cape Cod shoreline, inaccessible to us common folk.

privileged communities, off the shore of Cape Cod, the political winds will blow a different way.

Cape Wind is an offshore energy project caught in a hurricane of controversy. Wealthy islanders around Cape Cod's Nantucket Sound want nothing

piercing the blue ocean horizon except their own sailboat masts. And they will enlist as many lobbyists, public relations strategists, and lawyers as it takes to get what they want, even if it means that poorer New England communities will continue to suffer from oil spills and air pollution caused by the region's fossil-fuel dependence.

Wendy Williams and Robert Whitcomb, authors of the book chronicling Cape Wind's long (and continuing) struggle for approval, are unabashed supporters of the project. They are offended that ultra-rich Cape Cod, unlike job-hungry rural Washington, did not welcome windmills for the sake of economic development, a cleaner environment, and a more reliable energy supply.

For the most part, they are persuasive, especially when skewering the wealthy excess and hypocrisy of project opponents. Chapter Five mocks the yachtsmen who gather at their clubhouse for an "emergency meeting" about Cape Wind. They are "men with cocktail-cherry-red complexions and little yellow whales on their green trousers." And they are so fired up that they immediately donate \$4 million to the fight.

In another telling moment, Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, long backed by the island's moneyed interests, declares that wind farms "are not pretty" and therefore should be located in some other coastal area besides Nantucket Sound. The speech led to this *Boston Globe* headline: "Cape Wind: Too Ugly for the Rich?"

Also pilloried is U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, who is portrayed as selfishly



Photo courtesy of www.capewind.org

opposing Cape Wind because it might interfere with his sailing hobby. Readers are reminded more than once that Ted opposed oil drilling in the Arctic refuge, making it "awkward" for him to attack a wind energy project on his own turf.

It's an entertaining window into a world of power and influence that is normally, like most of the Cape Cod shoreline, inaccessible to us common folk.

On the other hand, the book would benefit from a bit of balance. The authors give little or no credence to fears that 130 turbines rising 440 feet above the water might threaten birds, whales, fish, public recreation, aesthetic values, and tourism. In dismissing all concerns as if they are rooted in selfishness or ignorance, the authors draw a moral line too starkly.

Yes, wind turbines are great for reducing global warming and dependence on

fossil fuels. Yes, they can help economically distressed places like Bickleton, Wash., where Big Horn recently opened. But they also kill birds. They have flashing lights. They are as tall as 30-story buildings. These are legitimate cons, even if outweighed by pros.

If you want an objective look at Cape Wind, you could read the environmental impact statement, available at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/ccwf/deis.htm>. Its 3,000 pages are mostly reassuring.

But that won't tell you about the cherry-faced men with little yellow whales on their green pants, sailboat-loving senators, and other Cape Cod barons who have wielded their wealth and power to stall a worthy project. For entertainment value, it's a story worth reading. ■

Your book purchases can benefit *Real Change*. For more information, go to www.realchange.org, click on the Powell's button, and browse the books recently featured in our pages.

■ The Storm Gourmet: A Guide to Creating Extraordinary Meals without Electricity

By Daphne Nikolopoulos, *Pineapple Press*, 127 pages, 2005, \$9.95

Last winter when the power went out, did you get by on peanut butter and canned beans? Pretty boring, huh? Here's a book that offers much more appetizing fare. You can serve up gourmet meals without using power, microwave, barbeque, or any heat — nor any refrigeration, not even any ice. Daphne Nikolopoulos offers a 5-day plan and a 14-day plan of nutritious and interesting gourmet fare. Vichyssoise, Chicken Curry and Salmon Tabouli are a few of the offerings and you can adapt many recipes to your own liking. All you do is store the items on a shelf, and when the power goes out, just take what you need off the shelf, then mix and serve. Not only is this good for storms, it can also be handy aboard a boat. She also includes many tips about how to survive severe storms such as how much water is needed and what should be avoided or discarded. Did you know that if canned food comes in contact with floodwater it should not be eaten? You will enjoy this book and feel more comfortable when the next freeze comes. That's a good step toward survival right there.

—Deb White

WORTH SEEING

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Reviews by LESTER GRAY, Contributing Writer

■ You Kill Me

Directed by John Dahl

Organized crime in Buffalo, N.Y. has seen better days. The Polish mob owns the only "tiny piece of this city that the Blacks don't already have" and the Irish (bankrolled by the Chinese) want it. The confrontation comes at an inconvenient time for the Poles, as recruitments are low and their only muscle is Frank Falencyk (Ben Kingsley), a middle-aged hit man who is going on sick leave.

We first meet Frank shoveling snow in front of his house. His carrot on a stick for this exercise is a bottle of vodka that he tosses a few feet in front of him only to rediscover and sample it a few shovelfuls later — another sip, another toss. In somewhat sophisticated parlance for a mobster, his associate notes that Frank has a "substance abuse problem." So with an offer he can't refuse, Frank heads for the West Coast to dry out.

He arrives in San Francisco and is greeted by Dave (Bill Pullman) who has a job and apartment waiting to keep the chronic imbiber sheltered and busy while attending AA meetings. His employment at a mortuary involves giving makeovers to the deceased in preparation for viewing.

Kingsley, a fine actor, has a very thin line to walk in this dark comedy. Portraying a behavioral, if not moral, makeover — a whimsical storyline — is deceptively demanding. Kingsley shows his knighthood was well deserved, making an incredible character credible and keeping a farce from becoming farcical.

Frank's transition from a cold-blooded assassin to a touchy-feely executioner is facilitated by his growing candor at AA meetings and a love interest — both extremely foreign territory for a man who admits he has never had a sober date. Finding a partner brings redemption for his character and for the movie. It's difficult to say which one needed

it most. On the whole, the movie is more novel, than accomplished but is certainly passable.

■ The History Detectives

KCTS (PBS), Mondays at 9 p.m.

The *History Detectives*, a PBS show in its fifth season, is a type of Antiques Roadshow that explores the history of arcane objects from the past. Visiting various experts across the country, the show's hosts unwind the puzzle of identifying the use and significance of various finds.

The value of the show lies in the facts not in the drama. Although the topics are well-chosen, the analysis, even of the more interesting topics, has more of an academic than an entertainment flavor. However, in the upcoming episode, a segment on Amos and Andy, the data, even in its raw form, is intriguing. (At the time it aired, the show was the most popular radio program ever, with one-third of the nation tuning in.) ■



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

©Dr. Wes: Just following standard procedure

Last week, I followed the story of the guy put off an Amtrak train in The Middle Of Nowhere Arizona with great interest.

The story was a man appeared drunk to train conductors. So they put him off the train at a unmanned stop without running water five miles from the nearest town in the middle of a forest, without his luggage, and therefore without his medication, which he was going to need as he wandered aimlessly in his drunken state toward civilization, because it so happens he was not drunk, he was in diabetic shock.

Since the story first appeared, the man has been found. His name is Roosevelt Sims, 65, of St. Louis, Mo. In four days, he'd gone two miles and was down to his underwear. As the story has been retold, it's got muddier. His doctor had not prescribed medication, so there was no medication in that luggage left behind on the train. We don't really know he was in diabetic shock—that's what the family believes, and they weren't there.

The conductors have been reported saying that they and the train waited for the police to arrive and that the man slipped away into the forest just when the police got there. So it's not like they just abandoned him, exactly.

But never mind that. Here's what makes the story interesting. The train officials accept no blame for the fact that a dazed man ended up lost without food

or water in a Northern Arizona forest for four days on the grounds that "standard procedures were followed." I mean, what can you do? You follow standard procedures and the drunk — or diabetic, or whatever he says he is — isn't cooperative, or the sun gets in your eye, or you slip on something a wild dingo left, and the drunk — or diabetic, or whatever he says he is — wriggles away. Well, it's his own fault, isn't it? Standard procedures were followed.

Then, there's this bit. As I said, the

If you are ever drunk and disorderly on an Amtrak train, or just appear so, standard procedure is to put you off into the hands of local police as far from civilization as possible.

story now is that the local police arrived at the train stop to pick up our man. They were going to take him into custody, but he slipped away, we're told. We're told they then looked for him but couldn't find him. So they stopped looking. And continued to not bother looking for our man until relatives in St. Louis inquired as to his whereabouts. That was, again, OK, because standard procedures had been followed.

So let's summarize. If you are ever drunk and disorderly on an Amtrak train, or just appear so, standard procedure

is to put you off into the hands of local police as far from civilization as possible, preferably at a train stop a hundred miles north of the Sea of Tranquility, without food, water, air, Cheetos, or love. If you then leap away in a cloud of dust as the men in the space suits with the billy clubs show up, it is standard procedure for them to look for you for a minute and then when they don't find you shrug and say, "Lets wait and see if he has relatives, and if not he can just die in this wasteland—that'll teach him."

Meanwhile *Real Change* vendors regularly tell me of campsites raided and all belongings trashed, often including medicine. So, yes, it's standard procedure all right.

Speaking of standard procedure. If a review board arrives at an unfavorable conclusion regarding our beloved police chief, it is of course standard procedure here in Seattle for an entirely new review board to be appointed so that better results might be obtained. And naturally, standard procedure calls for the new board to, if possible, include big names like former Gov. Gary Locke and King County Exec. Ron Sims on it to give it legitimacy.

Now, let's see if Mayor Greg Nickels follows standard procedure all the way and farms this new board's review work out as a project for Leadership Tomorrow.

Standard procedure is that standard procedures stay in place, no matter how many people get hurt or how badly. ■

Sound off and read more:
drwesb.blogspot.com



Sat., June 16, 11:56 a.m., S. Washington St., Occidental Park. Officers recognized suspect, a transient Black male aged 45 from previous contacts in Victor Steinbrueck Park and Third Ave. He has been previously contacted regarding narcotics activities. On this date suspect was observed in Occidental Park and officers were aware of an outstanding warrant. Suspect was stopped and placed under arrest for the warrant. A search revealed a glass crack pipe located in the suspect's right shoe. The pipe field-tested positive for cocaine and, suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sat., June 16. 4:23 p.m., Seventh Ave & Seneca St. An officer on patrol observed two suspects, transient white males aged 52 and 51, jump an approximately 4-foot high concrete wall and enter Seattle Parks and Recreation property. The property was clearly marked "No Admittance/No Trespassing" as well as being surrounded by a 4-foot high wall. The area the suspects entered is little more than a shelf over the northbound lanes of I-5. This shelf is extremely hazardous because there is no barrier between the shelf and I-5, approximately 60 to 80 feet below. Once the wall is crossed there is nothing to prevent a person falling or being pushed onto I-5. Because of the seclusion this area affords, it is often used for narcotics activity. The officer could see the two suspects sitting on the edge of the shelf — they did not see him approach as they were concentrating on a small item that Suspect 1 was holding. When the officer was around 15 feet away he announced himself, and saw Suspect 1 was holding a syringe. The second suspect put his hands up, but Suspect 1 turned his back. He was arrested and taken into custody for trespass in the parks. Both men were escorted from the hazardous shelf, and told officers they had been cleaning the syringe, and panicked when they saw the officer. Both suspects were arrested and booked into King County Jail for trespass.

Sun., June 17, 1:00 p.m., Maynard Ave S. A transient Black male, aged 42, was observed by officers and was known to them from previous contacts. He was found to have an outstanding warrant for his arrest and the man was arrested and booked into king County Jail.

Sun., June 17, 3:40 p.m., 2300 block Western Ave. Officer on uniformed patrol observed suspect, a transient Black male aged 26, circling the 2300 block of Western Ave. Suspect circled the block for around an hour. The area is known for high narcotics activity and, as suspect kept circling the block, officers decided to make contact. They stopped the suspect and explained why they had contacted him and he stated he understood. He provided verbal ID, and officers ran his name through the police computer. His information came back showing an outstanding warrant. This was verified and suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

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



Faith,
Culture,
Politics

Rev. Rich Lang

Rev. Rich Lang: The political revolution of Jesus

A couple of weeks ago, my oldest son graduated from high school. Perhaps I've seen one too many Michael Moore movies or read one too many Chalmers Johnson books or heard one too many teachings from David Korten, but I couldn't help but tremble with concern for his and his fellow graduates' futures. They come of age in a time of great transition. The institutions, values and mythologies underlying the foundations of the American way of life have atrophied. What has been is passing away, what will be has yet to be given birth. What that will be, good or evil, is not yet determined.

Within the life of the institutional church I find some fragments of hope. True, the Church has much of the stench of corruption about it, but it also continues to carry within it the subversive memory of Jesus the revolutionary. The message of Jesus consisted of redistributing the wealth

of the nation, of resistance to global empire and of communal identification with the lowest, least and lost of society. This message, and his organizing of the people to implement the message, threatened the interests of the financial elite and of Rome. He was put to death not because he was a troubadour of love, but because he was a fiery prophet offering a way of life that challenged the way of empire.

This subversive memory is still alive even within the compromised shell of the institutional church. We can see the revolution of Jesus in action every time a congregation opens its doors to the homeless. We see it in the New Sanctuary Movement as congregations open their wallets, buildings and resources to immigrants. We see it every time another house is built by Habitat for Humanity. We see it in the lives of the Amish who not only forgave the man who killed their school children in 2006, but who counseled their neighbors to spare oppressing the man's family and who themselves have offered friendship and financial resources to the man's family. We see the powerful non-violent

revolutionary movement of Jesus every time a local congregation mobilizes against war, practices civil disobedience for justice and works for reconciliation between enemies.

The revolution of Jesus lives within history as a seed sprouting, slowly, step-by-step evolving and opening history itself to a change in consciousness and in societal structures. I hope that my son's graduating class will look beyond personal profit and towards a social prophetic possibility that can build a bridge between what was and what will be: a bridge for all the people and not just for the benefit of a few. I hope that they will not settle for the mediocrity of what is, but will soar with new wings into the possibilities of what could be and I hope that they will embody the revolution of radical change in the American way of life. ■

Rich Lang is Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Ballard and the host of Living Faith Now, a progressive Christian radio show at www.livingfaithnow.org. He can be contacted at oddrev@yahoo.com.

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legal hassles****W**hat is small claims court for? Do I need a
lawyer to go to small claims court?

According to Derek de Bakker, an attorney at Foster Pepper PLLC, a person can sue another person in small claims court provided the amount being sought does not exceed \$4,000. Lawyers are generally excluded from participating in small claims action unless granted permission by a judge. Examples of cases that may be brought in small claims court include loaning someone money and never being repaid, not being paid for your services and someone wrongfully damaging your property.

To begin a suit in small claims court, go to the county courthouse in which the person whom you are suing (the defendant) lives. For example, if you and the defendant live in Seattle, file your claim at the King County Courthouse. However, if you live in Seattle and the defendant lives in Everett, file your claim in the Snohomish County Courthouse. At the courthouse, you must file a claim with the clerk, who will provide you with a "Notice of Small Claim Form" that you must complete and sign. The clerk will then provide you with a hearing date, trial date or response date. You must provide the court with the defendant's accurate address. The clerk cannot give you legal advice.

Next, the form needs to be served (or given) to the defendant at least 10 days before the first hearing. You can not personally serve the defendant, but the sheriff, a professional service person or someone over the age of 18 not connected with the case can serve the defendant. Alternatively, you can mail the form, but it must be sent by certi-

fied or registered mail. You are required to supply proof of service to the court. If you mailed the form, you must have a return receipt that shows that the defendant received the mail. To prepare for your case, collect all relevant documents such as checks, bank statements, photographs, receipts, estimates and any other documents or proof. If you have witnesses, ask them to testify on your behalf. Write down the facts of the case in the order they occurred, so that you are prepared to appear in front of the judge.

On the day of the hearing, you may be asked if you would like to have your dispute mediated. Mediation will take the place of a hearing and is less formal than having your dispute heard by a judge. If you choose mediation, you will sit down with the other party and a mediator (usually a volunteer attorney) and present your evidence. The mediator will attempt to have the parties come to an agreement or settlement. If that does not work, the mediator issues a decision based on the parties' presentation. That judgment will be final and enforceable.

More information about small claims court can be found in a small claims pamphlet provided at any county courthouse and online at <http://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/> under "Informational Brochures."

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 PLLC. Got questions? E-mail atji@seattleu.edu.

Zappy-----

Night & Day 24/7 for Everyone (Me & Dophie-Doggie)

Nothing has changed in all the years of my life, except the arrangement.

I was promised reconciliation with my missing son (gone for twenty-nine years):

I do hear from him—he screams his guts out every day in one way or another.

And the dog meant better days—I daily experience her being zapped thru and shot and tortured causing her & me to be miserable.

Torture—bleeding (me) out of both ends all of the time.

Dog can hardly go to the bathroom due to pain. Her vet sold me some spray for "an infection." She just gets more pain. Piped in swearing, threats night & day. Sleep deprivation.

Loud noises from "guests" in adjacent apartments (unoccupied). Zapped (do you remember how many times Dr. Spock on "Star Trek" transported?)

All over to be relieved of money: not wanting any because the great zapper threatens life, etc.

Probes (electronic devices) planted in me & dog to help us pass out or convulse for zapper entertainment.

Zapper to open empty spaces without dog—not a future life I want.

A pawn in a freak show with everything that has meaning for me.

Jesus suffered more. He gave his life when everyone including his Father denied him. We all need to take up the cross.

—Carol Leno

BAMFORD, Continued from Page 7

what they did by creating the FISA. [The federal judge in Detroit said] if you want to eavesdrop on persons in the United States, there is only one way you can do it, and that's by getting a warrant from the FISA court. There is no inherent power. There is no creation of these artificial laws like the authorization to use force.

In the computer age, we're no longer talking about listening to individual phone calls. What is data mining and how extensive is it?

Data mining is one of the most serious issues facing the country right now in terms of privacy and in terms of people just living normal lives because the technology has so outpaced the law. Nobody right now

The government can have a record anytime it wants of literally every movement that you've made, which largely would be recorded these days in one way or another.

has even a clue of the extent to which the government can do data mining. What makes it very dangerous is that it goes well beyond what George Orwell wrote about in 1984, [in which] they had a big screen and they could watch people. What you can do with data mining is [use computer and bank records to] see what people are doing right now by seeing what restaurants they are going to, what hotels they are staying at.... They could see five years ago which websites I was visiting, what emails did I send, and what emails did I get. The government can have a record anytime it wants of literally every movement that you've made, which largely would be recorded these days in one way or another. That's a very scary thought.

But I often hear people say, "If I'm not breaking the law, it doesn't matter if the government knows what I'm doing."

I know. I hear that all the time. It's just the ultimate falsity in logic, but look at the

way the system works. How many people are there now on the "do not fly list?" There are 40,000 people. One of those people was Ted Kennedy. It took him eight months to get off and he was only able to get off because he was a U.S. senator. The really insidious aspect of this is that you don't know if you are on there. Suppose you just moved into 12 Maple Avenue. You've never done anything wrong. You're a perfect, upstanding U.S. citizen. You're a Boy Scout. You go to church every Sunday. There is nothing in your life that you think would be suspicious to the NSA. The problem is that the person who just moved out of 12 Maple Ave. had a subscription to [the Arab news magazine] *AlJazeera*, communicated with Afghanistan three times a week, and had visitors at 3 o'clock in the morning. That person was suspicious to the intelligence community. Now, all of a sudden in the data mining, *your* name gets associated with 12 Maple Ave. and 12 Maple Ave. is associated with somebody suspected of possible terrorism. You don't know it, but now you're on some black list in the bowels of the NSA. Now suppose your son wants to go to the Naval Academy. Well, they're going to do a background search and — lo and behold — they're going to find out that your name is on a black list. Your son isn't going to get into Annapolis and you're not going to know why. Or you apply for a Small Business Administration loan and you don't get it. Or they turn you back at the airport. You're not going to be told why.... Those are real things. Those actually happen to people. The people that allow this to happen, the people that create the atmosphere for this to take place, are precisely the people that feel that "I am an upstanding, law-abiding person, so I don't care what the government does to anybody else because I am a good guy and nobody is going to come after me." ■

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 City of Seattle Greg Nickels, Mayor



HEALTH, Continued from Page 5

to help meet the needs of the campers — women's care packages, water and sports drinks. The campers have been policing themselves and keeping the site clean.

The mayor's chief of staff, Patricia Misutka, said the city has been in contact with social service agencies and is putting together a report to the province and will be meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"The province did give some money for transitional housing like shelters, but only to build structures," Misutka said. "In the short term, we've convinced them to pay for opening the 200 beds in the shelters for the next couple of months. They are open all winter anyway, but obviously we need a lot more. We are still working on an emergency response, but putting up porta potties just attracts a tent city, which is not an option."

"We are still working on an emergency response, but putting up porta potties just attracts a tent city, which is not an option."

—Patricia Misutka,
mayoral chief of staff

Misutka also added that the shelters are not always filled to capacity, because some people prefer to sleep outside. That is because people want to have homes, not shelter beds. *Edmonton Street News* spoke with people camping in tents and sleeping outside and was told by couples and families

that they want to be able to stay together, which is not possible within the existing shelter system. One family with two children has been camping by the river for more than one month and getting up early in the morning to make sure the children are in school. If they were to go into shelters, the parents would be separated and the children would be placed in foster care.

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Perhaps one of the more alarming exploitations of power wielded by mass media was witnessed during the 2002 U.S.-backed coup to overthrow Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The ANSWER Film Series presents **The Revolution Will Not be Televised**, which documents the corporate media in Venezuela blatantly issuing propaganda to overthrow the Chavez government. July 7, 7 p.m., ANSWER office, 1423 10th Ave, near East Pike. Info: 206-568-1661 or answer@answerseattle.org.

Calendar

This Week's Top Picks

Wednesday 7/4

Celebrate the Fourth of July holiday with Willie Nelson this year at the Gorge Amphitheater. Breaking tradition, Nelson is moving his patriotic music party out of Texas for the first time in 33 years. Included in the lineup are Son Volt, Drive-By Truckers and Amos Lee. 4:30 p.m., Gorge Amphitheatre, George, WA. \$35 to \$79. Info: www.ticketmaster.com.

Friday 7/6

The latest showing from Meaningful Movies and Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice is **The Farm: Angola, USA.** Written by a prisoner serving a life sentence for murder at this Louisiana penitentiary, the documentary captures the lives of six other inmates. Angola is unique as America's largest and oldest maximum security prison and where 85 percent of the prison population is incarcerated for life sentences. The film poses the possibility of forgiveness as part of the criminal justice system, which will be discussed following the showing. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. Info: www.meaningfulmovies.org.

Saturday 7/7

Al Gore sounds off on climate change with a global concert. Featuring artists playing in a handful of locations around the world, the concert will bring attention to global climate change. Check television listings. Info: saveourselves.com.

A public forum featuring Thomas Hubbard on **"The Other Side of the Fourth of July: Activists for a Better World"** and Newberry Books co-host this monthly speaker meeting followed by a public discussion. 4 p.m., Newberry Books, 561 NE Ravenna Blvd. (206) 524-4260.

90.3 KEXP and New Belgium Brewing Company present the **Audioasis benefit show featuring Das Llamas, North Twin, Joy Wants Eternity, Transfer & Say Hi To Your Mom at High Dive.** Proceeds support the Shoreline Solar Project (www.shorelinesolar.org). 6 p.m. High Dive, 513 N 36th St. Tickets: \$7 at www.brownpapertickets.com. Info: (206) 632-0212 or www.kexp.org.

Monday 7/9

The North Cascade Conservation Council discusses Wilderness Alps: Conservation and Conflict in Washington's North Cascades by Harvey Manning. NCCC members will talk about Manning's books and legacy as a Northwest inspiration for local conservation. 7 p.m., University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E. Free. Info: 206-634-3400

Wednesday 7/11

Queerly Classed: Renters Unite! The second segment of a three-part discussion series for the LGBTQ community and allies, this forum addresses common class experiences. Sponsored 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 or Persis_Yu@hotmail.com.

Community Women's Voices: a monthly public affairs program that highlights diverse women working with local and global issues. Produced by SCAN TV, basic cable channel 77/29 or streamed live online. Co-produced by Seattle NOW (www.NOWSeattle.org) and NARAL Pro-Choice WA (www.prochoicewashington.org). Airs subsequent second Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Info: www.scantv.org.

Support the **NW Immigrant Rights Project Seattle** and attend their **second annual benefit concert** with musical guests Los Amigos Invisibles and DJ Darek Mazzone. 8 p.m., Neumos, 925 E. Pike. Tickets: \$15 advance / \$17 day of show. Info: www.ticketwest.com.

Thursday 7/12

Moving a Nation to Care: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and America's Returning Troops: a book reading by author Ilona Meagher at the University Book Store. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder has famously plagued soldiers returning from the Vietnam and Gulf wars, and as soldiers return from the Iraq war this psychological disorder has become increasingly prevalent once more. 7 p.m., University Bookstore, 4326 University Way N.E. Free. Info: 206-634-3400

Calendar compiled by Ariel Snyder. Have a suggestion for an event? Email it to calendar@realchangenews.com.

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