

Baby Love?

Will the Boomers leave a legacy of sharing affluence with those in need? p. 2

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VOL. 14, NO. 29
JULY 11 - 17, 2007

REAL CHANGE

When 4 Wheels Replace 4 Walls



Photo by Rosette Royale

Throughout Seattle, people are living out of their vehicles, like this '57 GMC pickup. But no one seems to now just how prevalent the practice is. ...see page 5

Medicare privatizing on elders' backs

Recipients such as Will Parry say the feds have turned Medicare over to private insurers and bilked taxpayers in the process. ...see page 5.

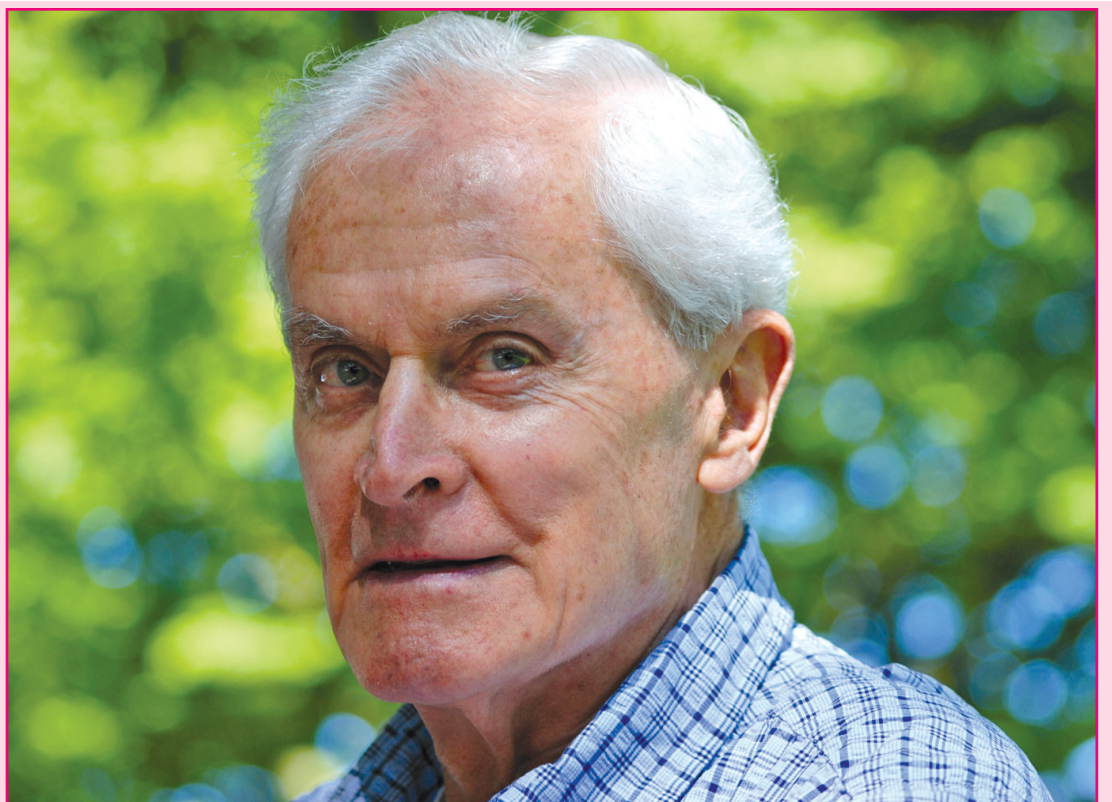


Photo by Katia Roberts



Photo courtesy agriwww.it

Saving the Sound

p. 7

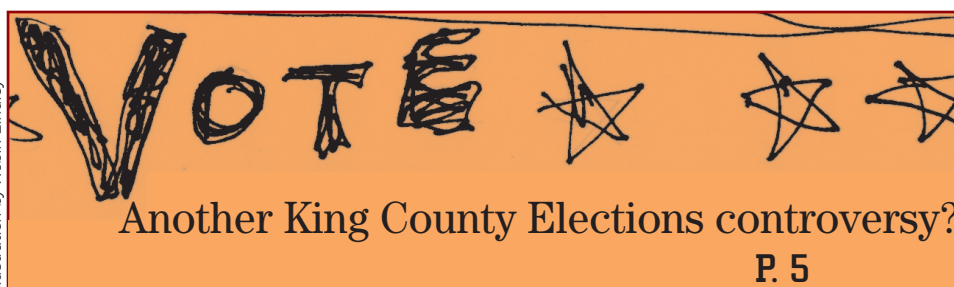


Illustration by Robin Lindley

NIMBY protest at City Hall

p. 12

NO DAYLABOR

Photo by Patrick Reis

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.

Real Change

2129 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA, 98121
(206) 441-3247

www.realchangenews.org

Email: rchange@speakeasy.org

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



What legacy will Baby Boomers leave behind? Maybe one that reveals a passion for sharing their wealth

Baby Boomers becoming bolder givers

By Anne and Christopher Ellinger, Contributing Writers

Why don't affluent Baby Boomers give away more money?

We ask this question not to guilt-trip, as Boomer slang would put it, but because solving some urgent social problems hangs on the answer.

People between the ages of 51 and 64 donate less than 1 percent of their investment assets, on average. That's significantly less than those either younger or older than them, according to New Tithing's analysis of 2003 IRS data.

These numbers gall us because we're Baby Boomers ourselves. We'd like to believe that, as a generation, we are living up to our 1960s ideals. How could we lag behind both the Gen Xs and WWII's "Greatest Generation"?

But there's another reason to care besides petty generational rivalries. The popular perception of Baby Boomers as more socially active than other Americans is rooted in fact. According to the Pew Research Center, we volunteer more, join community groups more, and vote Democratic far more often than other age

According to the United Nations, it would take \$50 billion more a year to provide everyone on Earth with health care, nutrition, clean water, education, and a clean environment. Baby Boomers with incomes between \$200,000 and \$1 million a year could donate that amount by giving just 2 percent more of their investment assets.

groups. So if we donate less money, it's mostly our own liberal and progressive causes that experience the shortfall.



This month marks the 20th anniversary of the McKinney-Vento Act, the landmark 1987 legislation that set the template for the federal response to homelessness.

Twenty years ago this legislation was the movement against homelessness' biggest-ever victory, but what should have been a beginning became an end in itself. McKinney-

According to the United Nations, it would take \$50 billion more a year to provide everyone on Earth with health care, nutrition, clean water, education, and a clean environment. Baby Boomers with incomes between \$200,000 and \$1 million a year could donate that amount by giving just 2 percent more of their investment assets. Just 2 percent: we're not talking about simple living here!

When the Baby Boomer generation passes from this earth, what will our legacy be? Will we leave a world poisoned, hungry and war-torn? Or will we put the unprecedented wealth of our generation toward solving those crises before we die?

We know which answer we want. That's why we launched the Bolder Giving Initiative. It starts with two assumptions about what people need in order to give more boldly, drawn from our own experience with wealth and our 20 years of working with donors.

First, people need inspiration. We are all affected by what's perceived as normal around us, and what's normal is to give 2 percent to 3 percent of income — or at most, to "tithe" 10 percent. To inspire greater giving, we have gathered stories from more than 85 people who have busted the lid off this norm. We call them "The 50 Percent League" because they have each donated one-half or more of their income or business profits for at least three years or half of their assets.

What motivated the 50 Percent League members to give so much? Many wanted to have a greater impact on a cause they were passionate about. As Carol Newell explains, "I wanted my \$25 million inheritance to have as much impact as possible toward a more just and sustainable economy in the region I love, British Columbia."

And we found more super-generous Baby Boomers:

Marji Greenhut thought globally and acted locally: she applied the Jewish value of *tzedakah* to donations that shifted her native Maine away from a sweatshop economy and toward a local organic economy.

Lawyer Brad Seligman poured the proceeds from selling his law partnership into a nonprofit that supports class-ac-

tion lawsuits such as the historic Wal-Mart sex discrimination case.

Are you thinking, "I wish I could do what they've done, but I'm not rich"? You might be inspired, then, by Richard Semmler, a community college professor who donates over one-half of his pay to Habitat

Giving 50 percent may be way out of reach, but many of us could, without hardship, double our giving.

for Humanity and scholarships. You don't have to be rich to be a bolder giver.

Our second assumption: to give more boldly, most people need individual support. They need help to think through how much to leave their children, how much of their money is truly discretionary and what difference they want to make. The good news is that the Internet has tremendous educational resources for givers that didn't exist a generation ago.

Giving 50 percent may be way out of reach, but many of us could, without hardship, double our giving — for instance, from 5 percent to 10 percent of our income, or from 1 percent to 2 percent of our assets.

Imagine for a moment that a new wave of generosity spreads among progressive Baby Boomers and we start giving at our true potential, whether that is 5 percent or 95 percent. We could turn the future around if we applied our full resources — money, talent and love. ■

Anne and Christopher Ellinger are the founders and directors of Bolder Giving in Extraordinary Times (www.BolderGiving.org). They co-authored the award-winning book We Gave Away a Fortune, and have served as co-directors of the national peer education network More than Money for over a decade.

Director's Corner

Vento has become a deal with the devil and not a very good one at that.

The past 30 years has seen a relentless assault upon the poor. Name a program that serves low-income people — Social Security Insurance, Medicaid, Community Development Block Grants — and you'll see a history of steady attrition.

While the centerpiece of the Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness is Housing First, federal funding for housing has been cut by \$52 billion since 1979. Between 1996 and 2005, 100,000 public housing units have been lost. There has been no new funding for public housing since 1996. The federal strategy of devolving responsi-

bility to the states and local governments is seldom questioned.

Instead, we have McKinney-Vento, an insider's game designed to divide and conquer that has never exceeded \$1.5 billion in annual funding. We win a battle here and there while the war on the poor rages on unchecked.

Local efforts can't make up for the federal abandonment of public housing and decades of hostility to the poor. McKinney-Vento — and those who have played this game to the exclusion of fighting the broader war — has sold out the poor and homeless.

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

Just Heard...

ACLU loses

Strike another blow for the Bush Administration. On July 6, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati dismissed the American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit against the National Security Agency. In a 2-1 decision, the court said that, because the plaintiffs – including author and NSA expert James Bamford (“Of puzzle palaces and star chambers,” *RC*, 7/4/07) – couldn’t prove that they themselves had been spied on, the case was *defunct*.

The decision “deprives Americans of any ability to challenge the illegal surveillance of their telephone calls and e-mails,” ACLU Legal Director Steven Shapiro said in statement. “It is important to emphasize that the court did not uphold the legality” of the program, Shapiro added. The ACLU is currently weighing whether it can afford to take the case to a Bush-stacked Supreme Court.

Letdown at Lora Lake

The King County Housing Authority has turned over every stone to save Burien’s low-income Lora Lake Apartments – including offering to buy the property – but the Port of Seattle prefers a vacant lot to tenants.

The housing authority operated the 234 units for the Port, which plans to tear them down to create a clearance zone for its new third runway. But only 72 units stand in the zone. In a bid to save the rest, the housing agency and county offered \$20 million to buy the property and a neighboring lot, but the Port declined.

The last tenants left in June, KCHA Director Steve Norman says, and the agency must turn over Lora Lake to the Port on July 20. “I believe it’s their intention,” he says, “to knock it down immediately.”

Revisiting Steinbrueck Park

It must be tough for condo owners at the end of the Pike Place Market. They seem to have so much trouble with walking their dogs at night with all those poor people sitting in Victor Steinbrueck Park.

The park attracts drug trafficking at night – daytime, too – and somehow the tourists manage. But recent efforts to step up police patrols and close the park early (at 10 p.m., instead of 11 p.m.) seem to have removed enough indigents to make the dogs feel safe.

According to Parks Department spokesperson Dewey Potter, the department has canceled a July 12 public hearing that it had planned on, making the early closing time permanent and now plans to let the closing time revert to 11 p.m. on Aug. 4.

—Cydney Gillis

Change Agent

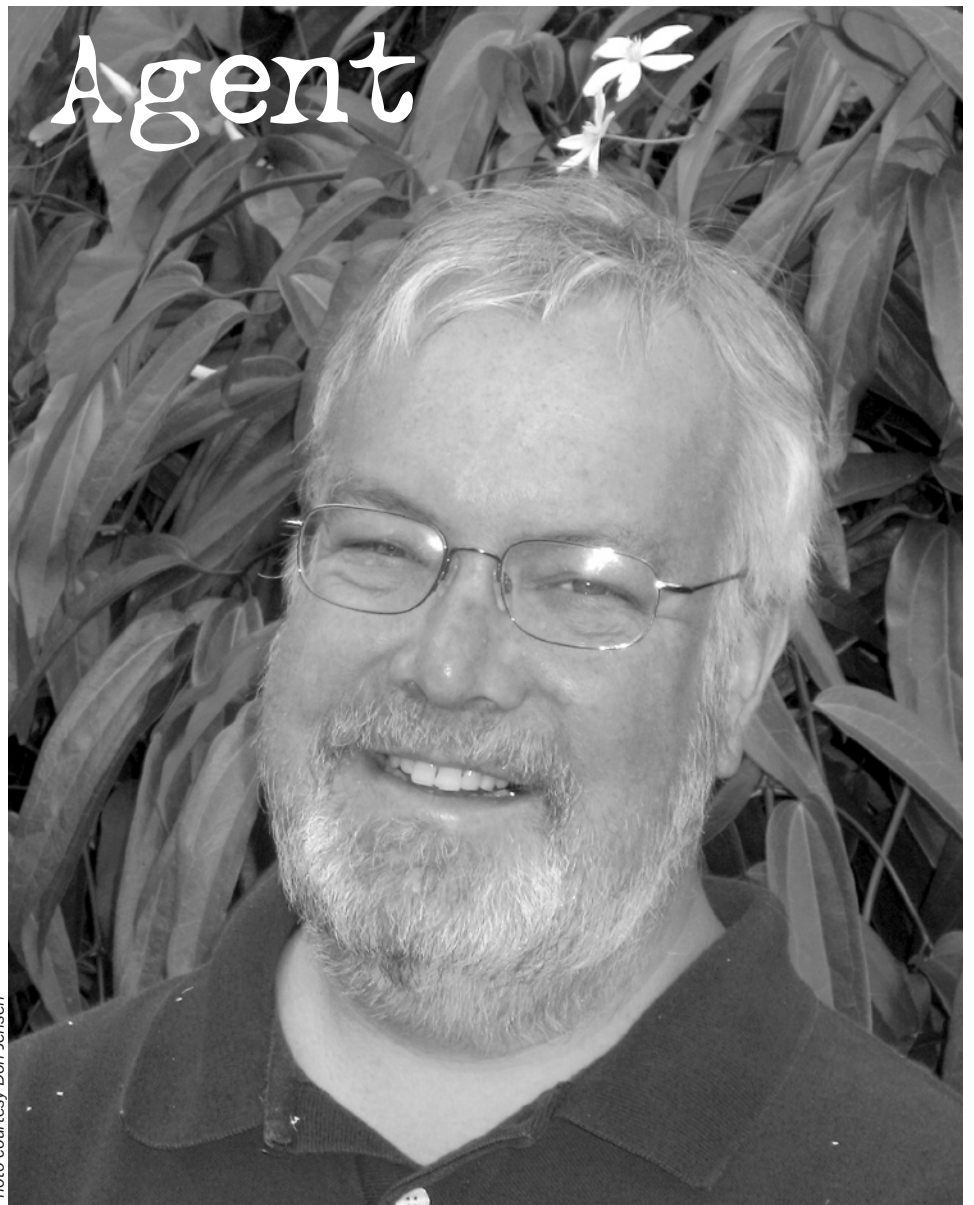
“Everyone is welcome and accepted as they are,” says Don Jensen, executive director of Community Lunch, the Capitol Hill meal program that serves low-income and homeless individuals healthy and nutritious lunches twice a week. This service began over twenty years ago, when a few members of Central Lutheran Church served a hot meal to nine individuals. Today, over 360 people partake in Community Lunch each week and more than 1,000 volunteers help prepare and serve the food every year.

Jensen ensures that guests find a hearty meal, good conversation, an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, and perhaps make a new friend or two. But this isn’t your average soup kitchen. Meals are served on porcelain plates with silverware. Diners sit at tables with tablecloths and centerpieces. “We welcome them at the door and encourage them to help themselves to seconds and thirds,” says Jensen of the organization’s philosophy. “We create an atmosphere of mutual respect and hospitality for our guests, a moment of respite in an otherwise hectic world.”

—Amy Besunder

To learn about volunteer opportunities and ways to support Community Lunch visit <http://communitylunch.org/>

Photo courtesy Don Jensen



Third parties writing new ticket

So you’ve decided your state Legislator is a bum and you’re going to do something about it by running for office, eh? If you don’t have a wad of cash lying around, good luck.

If you can’t cough up hundreds of dollars to pay a candidate-filing fee, you do have the option of trying to collect signatures, says Linde Knighton, co-chair of Washington’s Progressive Party. But the process is a labyrinth that she and a coalition of the state’s third parties – including the American Heritage Party, the Constitution Party, the Freedom Socialists, and the Libertarians – are working to change in a bill they’re writing for next year’s Legislature.

Under current election law, Knighton says, independent and third-party candidates have to place a notice in a daily newspaper advertising a specific date, time and place at which they will collect signatures. Never mind if the candidates’ own parties nominated them – the state requires a faux nominating convention at which 100 valid signatures must be collected for county and legislative seats or 1,000 for higher offices – all in one place, at one time, on the correct form, in black ink, with no hash marks or illegible names.

That means having to collect double the number needed just to pass muster, she says.

It’s a ridiculous system that Knighton says Democrats and Republicans cooked up to keep competition off the ballot. To fix that, the third parties are currently drafting legislation that they plan to float before lawmakers starting in September. The bill would allow their own nominating conventions to be recognized and allow unaffili-

ated candidates to have more time to get the signatures – two weeks for local offices and three months for statewide bids.

The coalition expects resistance from the major parties, who, Knighton says, typically argue that voting for a third-party candidate is a waste. She disagrees. “If enough of you vote for your favorite third party, then they’ll win,” Knighton says.

But, first, they have to get on the ballot – something that the state House’s Government and Tribal Affairs Committee has invited coalition members to tell them about in a hearing scheduled for July 23 in Olympia.

More voices at Yesler Terrace

A funny thing happened on the way to holding separate meetings for Yesler Terrace residents who are worried about the housing complex’s future redevelopment: They got a voice, just not their own.

At the June 27 meeting of the Yesler Terrace Citizens Review Committee, which is working on broad concepts for how the Seattle Housing Authority’s 30 acres of low-income housing will be rebuilt on First Hill, a consultant who has met with tenants stepped up to tell the committee that it needs to have more residents on it – specifically people of color from each language group at Yesler Terrace.

That’s exactly what residents and housing activists were advocating last year during the formation of the committee, which includes three residents out of 20 members. The committee is currently

crafting guiding principles that will allow the housing authority to rebuild Yesler Terrace as a mixed-income community with market-rate housing – something a few residents have questioned loudly at past committee meetings.

In April, the committee’s chair, former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, decided to set up separate resident meetings, with the housing authority hiring facilitators Mayet Dalila and Marcia Tate Arunga to gather input at two meetings held in June.

As Dalila told the committee on June 27, their report includes six unsolicited recommendations aimed at reducing what they call widespread tenant mistrust of the committee and the housing authority. Among the suggestions, the housing authority needs to do a better job of distributing meeting notices and information, and take intercultural communications training to reduce conflict with African Americans, Hispanics, Somalis, Vietnamese and other groups who live at Yesler Terrace.

Dalila also said the committee itself should have representatives from each language group at the table so they can report back to their communities, rather than relying solely on interpreters at meetings, as the committee does now. “The community by and large would feel more at ease if they had more participation,” Dalila said.

After the meeting, Rice said that it wasn’t up to him – he’d have to ask the housing authority’s board of commissioners before adding any members. “We are a creature of the commission,” he said. “I don’t assume to take authority from them.”

—Cydney Gillis

Come 2008, King County voting machines will have new software. But will it work the way officials hope?

A local group criticizes county's race to '08 election

By CYDNEY GILLIS,
Staff Reporter

In 2008, King County will be the largest county in the nation to experiment with its voting systems — in the midst of a presidential election. As a result of the move, the much-criticized King County Elections Division wants to find signature-verification software that doesn't exist yet — no company makes a product good enough for an election. Then, it wants to add 18 new vote tabulators and software that aren't yet certified — from Diebold, a company synonymous in progressive political circles with accusations of election fraud.

Sound hard to swallow? Jason Osgood

“Test [the voting software and tabulators] before you buy them. Don't buy them, then test them.”

—Jason Osgood, WA
Citizens Fair Elections

says it will be come November 2008 if the King County elections division proceeds with what he calls its recipe for disaster.

Osgood is with a small, homespun group called Washington Citizens for Fair Elections, which has been critical of the elections division's plans as it moves to vote-by-mail. With more mail-in signatures to verify and its old tabulators giving out, the elections office says it needs to upgrade its software and equipment to speed the process, get returns earlier,

and avoid repeating the vote-counting debacle of 2004.

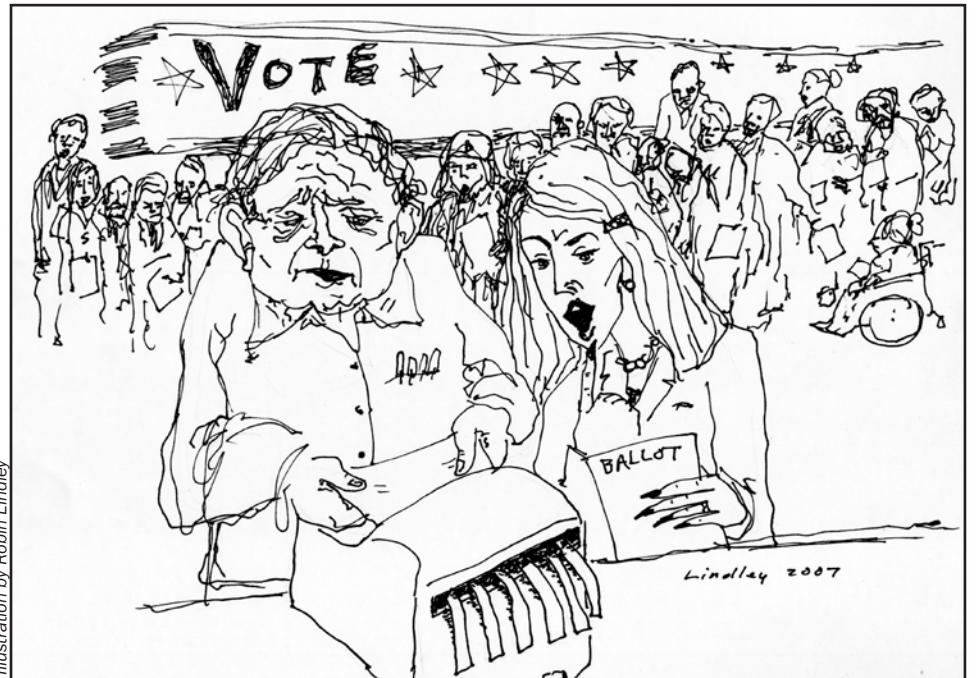
But Osgood says it's not an upgrade the elections office is after. It's a whole new system with lots of changes that he says shouldn't be tried out in a presidential year. Among them, he says the elections division will shut down precinct polls, create new regional voting centers, and do away with paper ballots at the sites in favor of touch-screen voting.

The voting centers are intended for the disabled and those who prefer to vote in person rather than mail back the ballot that all registered voters will receive. Osgood says that will leave people wandering around on election day trying to find polling centers that he expects to be jammed when voters show up.

“They're going to have 17 regional voting centers with 42,000 people coming through them and they think all of these people are going to show up over the course of the day, not at 5 p.m. on the day of the election,” he says. But that's “exactly what happens on election day.”

After reviewing equipment options from four vendors, the elections division is also asking the County Council for new Diebold software to go with 18 new tabulators, or ballot-counting machines, made by a company called DRS. But most of the \$1.7 million cost, says elections spokesperson Bobbie Egan, will be paid by a grant already obtained under the federal Help America Vote Act.

“The purpose of King County Elections recommending and needing the DRS scanners and updated Diebold software is because the tabulators right now are outdated and have reached their



“How ingenious. A voting machine and a paper shredder, all in one.”

capacity,” Egan says. “We do not think they will uphold adding 300,000 more poll voters to our tabulation load.”

Osgood disagrees, arguing that you can't count what you don't have. In most elections, only a third of the mail-in ballots cast by absentee voters are received by election day — the rest are mailed that day — making the current tabulators suitable at least through the presidential vote.

“Out of 900,000 ballots,” he says, “King County Elections is predicting they'll have 600,000 available to count on election day. But they can't. It's not possible — they [won't have] received them yet.”

Egan counters that most people don't understand the difference between ballots received and ballots ready to count,

which includes signature verification and removing the ballot from its envelopes. In 2006, she says, the elections division had 125,000 ballots that were in house and ready to count, but could only tabulate 45,521 of them because of the slowness of the old tabulators.

She also says the software and equipment Diebold is selling will be certified, or approved by the Secretary of State, in time for the presidential election, which will not be the first time all the new systems are used.

“We're not going to pull the switch and all of a sudden all the systems are running together,” Egan says. “We've proposed phasing it in” in smaller elections. But, “It's really important that we have the equipment to do it successfully, to handle adding the equivalent of Pierce County to our mail balloting.”

But Osgood says no one knows if the Diebold software and tabulators can handle the job because no one has ever used the combination in a U.S. election. King County would be the first.

“Test them before you buy them,” Osgood says. “Don't buy them, then test them. ■

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From SODO to Queen Anne, people are living in and out of their cars. The question is how many people?

When four wheels replace four walls

By ROSETTE ROYALE,
Staff Reporter

James Vlos lives out of four vehicles — a 1981 Sierra Grande, a 1989 Chevrolet Crew Cab, a 1982 Custom Deluxe van and a 1957 GMC pickup. He's scattered them throughout the city, occupying spaces up on Capitol Hill, on a busy side street in Belltown known for its fancy dog salon and on Queen Anne Hill, stationed on a quiet street lined with verdant maples.

At least, that's where they were on July 5. Chances are he's moved them since then, parked them on another road or driven them to a different neighborhood altogether. It's an automotive chess game that Vlos has to play because the city requires cars parked on the street to be moved every 72 hours. Otherwise, it means he might be facing a \$35 parking ticket slipped under the wiper. Or an abandoned vehicle citation glued to the windshield. From there, it's a tow truck. "And if you're too indigent to pay the towing charges," says Vlos, 38, "then you lose your vehicle."

The loss Vlos speaks of is rooted in experience. In the decade since he's been living out of vehicles, he estimates that he's owned a couple hundred of them. But the lion's share is gone. "Most likely turned into 'Vulcanized' metal," he says.

What's left are unpaid fines, towing and storage fees, amounting to nearly \$11,000. The debt, held by a collection agency, represents the complete anti thesis of what Vlos claims was his rationale for moving into that first vehicle — a 1971 Dodge pickup truck — ten years ago. "I thought I could save enough money to keep carrying on," says Vlos, who currently works for the Port of Seattle, "so living in my vehicle was the only way out."

He's not alone. All over the city, along

"I thought I could save enough money to keep carrying on, so living in my vehicle was the only way out."

—James Vlos

traffic-choked streets in the SODO, in quiet neighborhoods in North Seattle, and all manner of places in between, people are living in and out of their vehicles. But exactly how many people? No one really seems to know.

"There are a lot," says Sgt. Paul Gracy of the Seattle Police Department (SPD). He says he's aware of people sleeping in and living out of vehicles parked under Spokane St., but there's no clear way to determine their numbers. As long as a vehicle is moved every 72 hours, no law is broken by someone living in it,

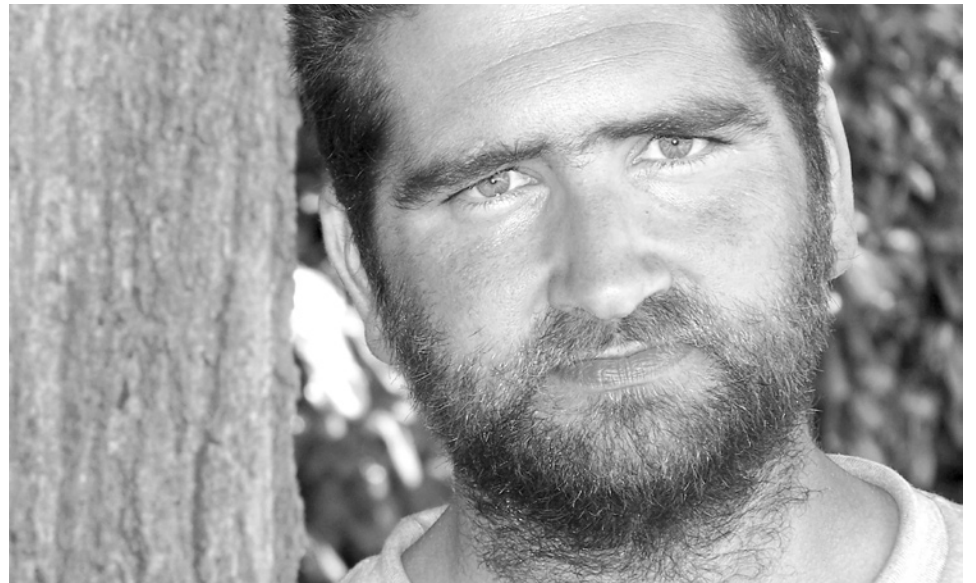
as there's no city ordinance making the act illegal. "We prefer that people would rather live in a house" if at all possible, he says. "But we don't go out seeking people in vehicles."

Cars left unmoved for more than 72 hours are considered abandoned. Citizens noting such vehicles can call the abandoned vehicle hotline, or log on to the SPD website to submit a report. From there, parking enforcement ventures out to conduct an inspection. If verified, an enforcement official will adhere an orange citation — which Vlos

During this year's One Night Count, conducted by Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless, an overnight tally of homeless people in areas of King County identified 654 people living in cars or trucks.

calls a "move-it-or-lose-it" sticker — to the front windshield, notifying the owner the vehicle will be towed if not moved in 72 hours.

Gloria Tate, parking enforcement supervisor, says that when parking officials encounter someone in an abandoned vehicle, they inform the individual that an official will return in three days to ensure the vehicle is no longer there. In her 30 years in the department, she says



James Vlos has been living in vehicles for the past 10 years, with his possessions currently split among four vehicles parked throughout the city. On a recent tour of SODO, Vlos identified vehicles — vans, campers, cars, a bus — people use as living spaces. Exact figures on the number of people taking up residence in Seattle vehicles is hard to determine. Photo by Rosette Royale

the number of people encountered by parking officials in "abandoned cars" has grown. "It's been kind of gradual," she says, "[but we] notice more that people are living in cars."

Even so, Tate can't come up with hard figures as to how many people officials have encountered living in cited vehicles. "No one's tracking how many people or inputting it into any sort of system," she says.

But some data does exist. During this year's One Night Count, conducted by Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH), an overnight tally of homeless people in areas of King County identified 654 people living in cars or trucks. SKCCH executive director Alison

Eisinger says counters were instructed, upon seeing a vehicle that looked to have been lived in, to assume two people were in the vehicle. Thus, she says, the figure obtained is a conservative estimate.

Vlos, who says he knows what to look for, proposes a quick tour of SODO to see if car campers can be found.

Down on Sixth Ave. S., Vlos eyes a camper. "Pull over right here," he says.

Vlos says he's pretty sure someone's living out of it, as he used to live out of a vehicle he'd parked close by that's since been towed. Vlos knocks. No answer. He goes around to the back. An abandoned

CARS, continued on page 10

A new Medicare plan costs taxpayers more and delivers less to seniors

Medicare Advantage called disadvantageous

By CYDNEY GILLIS,
Staff Reporter

Will Parry might get an extra service or two from the private Medicare plan that covers him at Group Health. But the fact that it's a private plan — an insurance company runs it, not the federal government — is worrying him to death.

The bigger the private plans get, Parry says, the more insurance companies will suck federal tax dollars away from traditional Medicare, until America's health-care program for retirees goes bust.

It's all part of a plan, he says, to privatize Medicare through the back door — a door that activists such as Parry, president of the Puget Sound Alliance of Retired Americans, are trying to slam shut as fast as they can in the new Democrat-controlled Congress.

On July 10, Parry and state Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler participated in a press conference held

by the Washington Citizens Action Network (WCAN), which released a report detailing how many complaints private Medicare plans are generating to state insurance authorities and how much more they cost taxpayers than the old system of the government paying doctors.

Across the nation, private Medicare plans cost an average of 12 percent more than traditional Medicare coverage. But in Washington State, according to a WCAN report, insurance companies get an average of 21.5 percent more in government-paid premiums — an extra \$1,500 a year for each user of a private Medicare Advantage plan in the state.

With about 18 percent of the state's 851,000 Medicare recipients now signed up for a private plan, WCAN estimates that the federal government will make a total of \$233 million in overpayments to private insurers this year just for residents of Washington State.

Nationwide, about one in five Medicare beneficiaries have a Medicare Advantage plan, which the report estimates will cost taxpayers an extra \$54 billion over the next five years — something U.S. Rep. Pete Stark (D-Calif.) wants to stop. Next week, Stark, who chairs the health subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, plans to introduce legislation that would shift most of the \$54 billion subsidy to children's health coverage.

The private insurance windfall started in 2003, Parry says, when the then-Republican Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act. While Congress allowed insurers to start selling their own Medicare plans in 1997, the new law let them enter the Medicare market.

The act's much-publicized Part D drug coverage plans have caused many

MEDICARE, continued on page 10



Vendor of the Week

While most of us were enjoying a day off this past January 15, Calvin Turner was marching on the State Capitol, demanding education, vocational training and low-income housing for Washington's homeless. In his nine months as a vendor, Calvin has become a leader within the *Real*

high school, Calvin was drafted into the U.S. Navy, where he fought with a ground-fire suppression unit. Following his tour-of-duty, he worked in Seattle with developmentally disabled adults as a recovery specialist. But Calvin's memories of Vietnam never left him, and, entangled by them, he fell on hard times.

As Calvin Turner's sales have grown, he's moved from the streets to a share-shelter, from a share-shelter to a studio, and now has plans to buy a home in Kent.

"I was down and out," says Calvin, "I decided to make a 'real change.'" Few vendors have so quickly come to sell papers like Calvin, a self-described "total extrovert." And as Calvin's sales have grown, he's moved from the streets to a share-shelter, from a share-shelter to a studio, and now has plans to buy a home in Kent.

"If you're willing to work," Calvin says, "*Real Change* works."

Change community, and an outspoken advocate for the homeless.

Calvin, our vendor of the week, was born in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and I noticed he still carries a subtle and maybe indelible Texas twang. Out of

If you find yourself on 15th and Thomas, where Calvin sells *Real Change*, congratulate him on a job well done.

—JP Gritton

Who's the special person who offers you Real Change?

Nominate him or her for Vendor of the Week:

editor@realchangenews.org

Photo by JP Gritton

Nextdoor

Nextdoor they had lots of kids
and no goats
Nextdoor they got channel 7 on a color TV
The Jetsons, Flintstones, Johnny Quest
everything worthwhile was on channel 7
Nextdoor Mrs. Newman made white toast with butter & cinnamon
and did not dole out sugar
like it would rot your teeth
Nextdoor was where i so often wanted to be
and was
In that gigantic sprawling house
with the _ veranda
where we played with leggos & lincoln logs
& multinational army men
with hedges and vines and a lawn
with no dandelions that Mr. Newman kept mowed
or had the boys do
for he was always away
and on the rare occasion he was not
that was when i was sent home

I return from their yard into ours
where the goats do not look up from the grass
where my father stands naked in the kitchen
opening a can of beans
spam sizzling
a copy of Nietzsche
clashed in his armpit
a three-day green glow upon his face
pushing up his hornrims
asking
you hungry?

—Larry Crist



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Author John Lombard wants to find a way to redirect the conversation on Puget Sound conservation

When the well runs dry

Interview by Chris Miller,
Contributing Writer

Puget Sound is struggling. Orcas: threatened. Steelhead: threatened. Pollution: growing and found in local breast milk samples. Dead zones of water grow each summer in Hood Canal killing innumerable fish. Salmon production: 8 percent of historic levels, buffered mainly by hatcheries. Rockfish: disappearing. Herring: nose-diving. Waterfowl: growing scarce and scant.

Gov. Christine Gregoire found these facts reason enough to push through the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), a \$250 million, 13-year effort to save Puget Sound, our natural heritage.

But will this suffice?

In a slideshow presentation for his new book, *Saving Puget Sound: A Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century*, John Lombard pointed out an appendix-buried critique from PSP scientists, saying PSP will not be given an opportunity to achieve the goals it set for itself.

Near the beginning of his book Lombard quotes a former oil executive — Oystene Dahle, Esso's Norway & North Sea VP — saying: "Socialism collapsed because it did not allow the market to tell the economic truth. Capitalism may collapse because it does not allow the market to tell the ecological truth."

Lombard hopes to refocus the conversation around conservation into one about the overarching effects our actions produce concerning our environment — something that affects our own health and brings an influx of highly trained individuals and the vast majority

sheds each year and the extinction of the Sound's steelhead? Lombard spent nearly a decade rehabilitating the Lake Washington watershed and overseeing Northgate's Thornton Creek, which flows right next to his house.

What is your preferred mode of transportation?

Really my preferred mode of transportation is walking to the kitchen and back. The fact is I do drive, but we only have one car for our family. I telecommute.

Local or organic food?

You know, why not both? But I guess I would say, you know the way the question is being posed, local includes any food no matter how irresponsibly produced, then I'd say, "Well, no." But if local kind of includes meeting maybe not every possible criteria for being labeled organic, but it's responsibly grown, well then local.

OK, enough environmentalist-style formalities. Let's jump right into the water...tax — which you propose in your book. How large a tax is this we're talking about?

I propose in the book that we have a tax or a fee that would average about a tenth of a cent per gallon. Across the entire region, that would raise something like \$200 million, \$250 million a year right there, and a typical homeowner would be paying only \$5 a month or so. So it's not really a big hit on a household budget.

So the main educational benefit would be...?

In terms of just making people think, "Oh, this is the consequence of what I am doing when I'm taking water for my bath or shower or whatever, it's that much less water left in the Cedar River for fish."

How much water do we go through, 'round these parts?

We're withdrawing upwards of 250 billion gallons a year across [Puget Sound]. You've got a lot of exempt wells — in fact, hundreds of thousands of wells that have been dug are not only exempt from a water right, but nobody actually knows how much water they're withdrawing. All of these, they're taking probably more water, cumulatively, than any city in the region other than maybe Seattle, Bellevue or Tacoma.

And rivers are going dry as a result?

The East Fork of Isaquah Creek has gone dry a few times over the past few years, for example.

But that goes to the heart of frontierism: you get your land, you



Our actions have repercussions. In *Saving Puget Sound*, author John Lombard proposes that area residents reconsider how their daily actions impact the waters upon which we depend. Photo by Sherry Loeser.

dig your well down deep, and you got all the sweet water you want, right?

Yeah, the water law directly traces back to the development of the West, and it was [with] that exact incentive you mention to develop water, which basically meant to withdraw it and put it to use. The whole vocabulary of water law presumes that it [water] is not useful if it's just sittin' there in the stream.

Has current water-rights law changed so little from frontier days?

Officially, we've kind of begun to correct all that when we say, "Oh, now we're going to establish water rights that include instream flows." The way we structured it, it's all based on seniority, and if we're only deciding what those flows ought to be now, then those flows are legally junior, a lower priority than every other right that's ever been issued going back to the 19th Century. It doesn't make any sense from a contemporary perspective [that] in general, [these claims] are all senior to the fish, until the tribal rights get decided.

To some extent those advocating seniority are kind of being hoisted on their own petard because the tribes typically have rights that are senior to everybody. The biggest legal card we know they have is on water rights and flows that relate to the production of fish that they have a right to harvest.

How does this whole cost analogy play out in terms of gasoline consumption?

For gasoline, the ecological costs are actually so huge compared to what we actually pay that any politically-viable proposal for a tax at this stage would actually be really only a small incremental step toward the real cost.

Could you state what you think the whole cost of using gasoline would be?

Well, the study that I talk about in my book, by the Minister of Resources for the Future on the gasoline tax in Great Britain and the United States, found that if it was just to cover the public cost of

We're withdrawing upwards of 250 billion gallons a year across [Puget Sound]. You've got a lot of exempt wells ... that have been dug are not only exempt from a water right, but nobody actually knows how much water they're withdrawing.

of our tourists.

Is the cost to us and to our region the withdrawal of over 250 billion gallons of water from Puget Sound's water-



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Who's a Criminal?

■ Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America

By Tiny, aka Lisa Gray-Garcia, *City Lights*, 2007, 287 pages, \$15.95

By TIMOTHY HARRIS, Staff Writer

I've wanted to meet Lisa Gray-Garcia for a long time. The San Francisco anti-poverty activist came recommended as a friend of a friend and is the founder of *Poor*, an occasional magazine produced by Bay Area "poverty scholars" that puts their experience into words.

My chance came when "Tiny" was in town last month to read from *Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America*. She was sitting alone at the Elliott Bay Café when I ar-

Her beautifully written memoir should be cut into digestible pieces and force-fed to every victim-blaming poverty bureaucrat who ever looked down when they should have been looking across.

rived and we had a chance to connect. We could be friends.

She's the real thing. Fiery and authentic. A great writer. An electrifying speaker. She is a poet and a revolutionary, a mother and a leader, an author and an activist. There's a lot to admire.

Her beautifully written memoir should be cut into digestible pieces and

force-fed to every victim-blaming poverty bureaucrat who ever looked down when they should have been looking across.

For the rest of us, a more leisurely read will do. I tore through the thing in a day, mesmerized.

She begins with her mother and her mother's mother and the abandonment, poverty and vulnerability they experienced in their own survivor's tales. Her mother, Dee, a vivacious beauty who was sometimes able to hide the pain of her origins, briefly rose into the middle-class as a doctor's wife. When the relationship soured, she was dumped back into poverty with a 4-year-old along for the ride. She and little Lisa became each other's everything.

This is where the story behind the story becomes as intriguing, at least for me, as the story itself. Lisa and her mother (Tiny was chosen as a street name to rhyme with Dee) become joined at the hip and heart as a single, survival-oriented unit. While there are good years and bad years, the bad years eventually become more of an unbroken line, and Tiny becomes her mother's confidant and caretaker.

At six years old, she is working the phones in search of resources. By 12 years old, she knows how to put on a suit and pose as a model renter who is twice her age. School was always off and on, but after the sixth grade, there was just no more time. Survival and taking care of mom trump all else. As Tiny moves into her teens, she and her mother become street artists and peddlers, staying one-half a step ahead of the landlord. They are reduced to living in their car, and eventually, Tiny is jailed as a poverty criminal.

There is a striking absence of bitterness over the missed childhood and lack of normal teen relationships. Instead, there is only fierce mother/daughter love, which survives in all of its complicated intensity all the way from Tiny's 20s to her mother's death.

What to most people would look like completely dysfunctional co-dependence is defended as placing family relationships ahead of selfish individualism. To Tiny, the equation is simple. Her mother needed her, and she was there for her. End of story.

The last several chapters describe the *Poor* magazine years, after Tiny and Dee found their voices and were able to help others articulate and publish their experiences. She describes a rollercoaster of foundation funding received and withdrawn and stability won and lost. The 12-year-old who learned how to show landlords what they wanted to see becomes the 20-something non-profit grant writer and



Photo courtesy of City Lights Publishing

poor people's leader. As a reader, one gets the sense that this part of the story is incomplete.

This is a haunting read — equal parts love story and poverty memoir — that gets at the realities of class in America. Poverty and law enforcement are the rock and the hard place, and the poor are in the middle, getting squeezed off the streets and into the jails. If you don't understand this, you understand nothing. This book will help you to understand. ■

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

Small Spaces

With a basket
she
does
rise.
Fruit—
seen on the space where my
thoughts
are,
dampness . . .
does
rise . . .
now!
and again.
In the
secret
places
made warm . . .
by apples.

—Stan Burris

WORTH SEEING

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD:

Film, DVD Reviews by LESTER GRAY, Contributing Writer

■ *Rescue Dawn*, Opens on 7/13

Filmmaker Werner Herzog specializes in cross-genre recountings of extreme people in extreme situations—either by their own design or happenstance. His last effort *Grizzly Man*, about a Californian who goes to live with giant bears in Alaska, was an unmitigated, albeit over-rated, art house success.

In *Rescue Dawn*, Herzog revisits his 1997 documentary on Dieter Dengler, *Little Dieter Needs to Fly*. This time he fictionalizes Dengler's story recounting the pilot's experience as an American held POW in Southeast Asia during the early 1960s. Typical of Herzog's characters, both real and created, Dengler possesses a singular focus, a drive that transcends obsession.

In *Rescue Dawn*, Dengler, flying a bombing mission over Laos, is shot down and captured. Placed in a makeshift prison camp, he meets other similar captives who have lost hope and much of their sanity. From the time of his arrival, he begins to plan an escape, entertaining no odds of

failure. His biggest chore becomes getting the others to join him.

Rescue Dawn is not one of Herzog's best efforts. The story, perhaps sticking too closely to the facts, fails to engage. The same undoubting, monochromatic state of mind that serves the captured pilot, also renders him mechanical and unsympathetic.

The real meat lies in the prison camp dialogue between Dieter and those who have had their minds and wills crumble. Herzog provides a window into the rationale of their marginal sanity. But this is not enough to save the rest of *Rescue Dawn*. At its heart, it is a prison escape film, a genre in which it fails to even approach the competition.

■ *After the Wedding*, DVD available

Melodramas, even as the term is loosely applied today, are seldom trustworthy with our emotions. With American television and film productions — as well as our food, sports, and so much more

— subtlety and nuance are eschewed for redoubling crescendos, designed to excite our humors. For an audience accustomed to such, meting the stimuli at a rate consistent with discovery and savor requires a special film maker. Susanne Bier, a director from Denmark, fills the bill.

In *After the Wedding*, Jacob (Mads Mikkelsen), a Danish expatriate, lives in India. There he runs an orphanage, where food and affection are at a premium. He loves his children and they love him. The relationships, given the uncomplicated priorities of survival, are simple but deep. When Jacob is called to Denmark, after two decades abroad, to raise money for the shelter, his reluctance to go is outweighed by the needs of his wards. His hesitance foreshadows a reckoning he could not have consciously anticipated.

In Denmark, Jorgen (Rolf Lassgard), the orphanage's potential benefactor receives Jacob, asking for bit more time to consider the donation. In the interim, he suggests Jacob attend his daughter's wedding scheduled for the next day. Not wanting to insult the holder of the purse strings, he attends, setting in motion a complex and selfless offer from his host.

After the Wedding, blessed by a strong cast, received an Oscar nomination this year. At times it stretches credulity—easily forgivable for this uplifting modern fable.



Adventures in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Here's an example of how I think. I was walking down Third Avenue recently and saw a couple outside their car. They looked like they were preparing to drive off. But, first, a Boston Terrier attached by leash to the female half of the couple performed a work of nature. Then the male half said, "Good boy! Good job!" and I thought about liberal movements.

I mean, you have your liberal movements and the public either approves or it doesn't. If they approve, it's "Good boy! Good job!" But do they let you off the leash? No. Do they let you drive? Never.

That's not the example of how I think I was going to show you. I'll go on.

When I got home I learned about "Live Earth." I hadn't learned much about "Live Earth" earlier, because I knew it was a liberal movement, and, so, I was too busy looking away to get the details. I now know that it was 7,000 concerts all over the world and that it had to do with Madonna and Sting, in different places and ways, that the South African concert ended with the audience clapping out an SOS, and that you could see the famous giant statue of Christ the Redeemer from where they held the concert in Rio. I hope there were good drugs for that, that's awesome. (Giant statues of Jesus really put me in the mood.)

In Toronto, other concerts from around the world were shown on a gigantic television screen fashioned by modern

©Dr. Wes: "Good liberals!"

technology from the residue of acres of Jurassic ferns laced with rare earths that in 20 years will only be found in toxic dumps and powered by "wind and low-impact water sources." If only we could find a way to harness the unlimited power emanating from the performers' egos.

In London, critics were complaining that Springsteen hadn't been booked, and they got Spinal Tap instead. They're so stuck in the 80s in London.

So I'm thinking, if they'd got Spring-

The public likes that there was an anti-slavery movement. In my entire life, I've only met one guy who expressed regrets about the anti-slavery movement. He didn't want slaves, but wanted to be able to have one if he ever changed his mind.

steen, they'd get "Good liberals! Good job!" and maybe a check in the mail, but 10 minutes later it would be all about whether the cable was paid and the liberals would be on the floor in the back having nothing to say about it.

That's not the example of how I think I was going to show you. I'll go on.

The public often likes liberal movements. The anti-slavery movement was

a good example. The public likes that there was an anti-slavery movement. In my entire life, I've only met one guy who expressed regrets about the anti-slavery movement. He didn't want slaves, but wanted to be able to have one if he ever changed his mind. Everybody else has said "Good liberals! Good job!" on that one, but the only way it affects how things are done is that they elect Republicans. "Lincoln was a Republican, you know."

People love the GI Bill. After WW II, a liberal clause added to the GI Bill enabled millions of Americans to get college educations, many of whom were the first in their families ever to do so. The result was a booming middle class like no country had ever seen before. The public says, "Good job!" to the GI Bill, then votes in a George Bush, who gives us No Child Left Behind, the choke-collar of education.

The people who brought us "Live Earth" know all this. That's why they couldn't just ask the public for help stopping the mistakes being made that cause global warming. The people would all just look the other way down the street and wait for the liberals to finish their business. The liberals know they have to get their attention some how.

So, I get this image in my head of a Boston Terrier engaging the sidewalk while doing a cover of Bon Jovi's "You Want to Make a Memory," so he'll have your attention.

There, that's the example. That's how my mind works. ■

Sound off and read more:
drwesb.blogspot.com



Sun., June 16. 4:51 p.m., Battered Women's Shelter. Witness was inside her apartment when she heard a female screaming, crying and being dragged and thrown around. She called 911. Officers arrived at the apartment shortly thereafter. They could hear talking through the door and knocked and announced themselves for several minutes. Finally, the victim opened the door on a Black female aged 21. Officers observed she had been crying and had a cut and bleeding lower lip. They asked her if there was an adult male in the apartment. They asked her several times and she stated she was alone, but when they checked the apartment they found the suspect, a Black male aged 22 lying on the bedroom floor. Suspect verbally identified himself, but said he has no ID or Social Security number. He reported that some other guy had been over at the apartment and had pushed the victim around and left. He denied he had assaulted or threatened the victim himself. At this point he was read his Miranda rights. Victim stated that his story was correct and declined medical attention for herself. She was photographed and reiterated her story that another unknown suspect was responsible for her assault. She then informed officers that the suspect had recently violated the visiting rules of the shelter and was no longer allowed to visit. Officers asked her if she would like the suspect trespass from the shelter and she said, "Yes." Officers then determined they had probable cause to arrest the suspect and he was transported to the precinct. There, they found out his true identity and found an outstanding warrant. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail for assault, false reporting and the outstanding warrant. Suspect was trespass from the shelter.

Sun., June 16. 7:06 p.m., Second Ave., Josephenium. Complainant, a Child Protective Services (CPS) officer called police and requested they perform a welfare check on the subject, a 5-year old female at the listed building. Upon arrival officers found witness, a Black female aged 25 inside the apartment. Witness stated that the suspect - the mother of the 5-year old child - was a transient Black female aged 27 and was not in the apartment at the time. She said that the child had been dropped off at the building by her aunt and that she had not seen the child's mother for a while. She wasn't certain if the suspect was aware of the child's location. The witness said that she had come over to the apartment to bring the child some clothing items as she was in need of them.

Officers noted that the apartment was in disarray, but could see no obvious or imminent threat to the subject and the child had no visible injuries. The suspect arrived at her apartment during the investigation and became indignant and hostile when she heard the purpose of the visit. She stated that she "moves around" and "lives with friends," that she has no means of income to support her daughter, that she is waiting for her check and housing to come through and, finally, that her daughter is well fed. Officers found that the subject was not currently enrolled in school, but were unable to determine if she was supposed to be in school at this time.

Officers request that CPS follow up with this case as the child's situation deserves further scrutiny by state authorities. Officers were unable to develop the requisite probable cause for immediate removal of the subject from the home.

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.

Bus Chick, Transit Authority

Carla Saulter

The latest issue of *Carbusters* www.carbusters.org is all about car-free and jet-free travel. It encourages readers to find vacation destinations that are close to home (not a bad suggestion, considering that the average flight has the carbon impact of a year of driving) and accessible without cars.

Last month, Bus Nerd and I did just that. We took a trip to one of my favorite places on Earth — Friday Harbor, Washington. We also spent one night in Victoria, B.C., Here's how we managed it without setting foot in a car:

Friday Harbor:

1. We took a Bellair Charters shuttle (www.airporter.com) from the Convention Center to the Anacortes ferry dock. The shuttle bus was full and made several stops—a lot like a public bus, with the added advantage of an onboard restroom. (Note that we could have taken public transportation to Anacortes but decided to simplify for this trip. For those who'd like to try:

- From downtown Seattle, take Sound Transit route 510 to Everett Station.
- Transfer to Skagit Transit route 90X. Get off at Mount Vernon Station.
- At Mount Vernon Station, transfer to Skagit Transit route 513. Get off at 10th St. & Q Ave.
- At 10th St. & Q Ave., transfer to Skagit Transit route 410. Get off at the Anacortes ferry dock.

Also note: From July to September, you can take the Victoria Clipper directly from Seattle to Friday Harbor.)

2. We took a Washington State ferry from Anacortes to Friday Harbor.

3. To get around town, we walked. Friday Harbor is one square mile, and, aside from some strange crosswalk issues near the ferry dock, very walkable.

4. To get around the island, we used San Juan Transit's shuttle (www.sanjuantransit.com). The name is a bit misleading, as it's optimized (and priced) for tourists, but since we were tourists, we found it extremely useful. We took it to Lime Kiln State Park (aka Whale-Watch Park) every day we were there.

Bus Chick: Saving the Earth on vacation

Victoria:

1. We took a Washington State ferry from Friday Harbor to Sidney, BC.
2. A few blocks from the ferry dock in Sidney, we caught a (double decker!) Victoria Regional Transit (<http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic>) bus to our hotel in the Inner Harbor. We had a great view from our seats on top and even witnessed a classic display of bus (stop) luh.
3. To get around Victoria, we walked, but we could have purchased VRT day passes and ridden the bus.

Back to Seattle: We took the Victoria Clipper (www.clippervacations.com) from the Inner Harbor directly to Pier 69.

We Pacific Northwest types are fortunate to live in a region with an endless supply of scenic destinations a short train, bus, ferry, or bike ride away. I'm willing to bet they're at least as good as that resort in Hawaii you've been saving up to visit. ■

Got something to say about public transportation in Seattle? Email Bus Chick at: buschick@gmail.com or blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/buschick

CARS, Continued from Page 5

vehicle citation, apparently scraped off the windshield and tossed near a rear tire, says the vehicle should have been moved the week before.

Through the rear door, unmade beds are visible. He points to the license plate: expired tags. Next to the door is a message, scrawled in pencil: "To contact owner..." with a local phone number. A call produces a woman's voice who says, promptly, "I'm not interested."

Vlos suggests traveling down to Spokane St. There, under the overpass, is a line of close to thirty vehicles, including vans, cars, trucks, Winnebagos, even a school bus. Walking from one to the next, Vlos indicates clothes strewn inside, mattresses crowded on van floors, and more dead tags. "If we came back at night, we'd find some people," he says.

In a nearby van, a man stands hunched over, putting on a shirt. Vlos knocks, saying, "I'm not the cops." The side door opens.

Out steps Robert, maneuvering past a two-burner hot plate inside. He says parking officials, who had just come to check on the vehicle, had awoken him. For three years, he's been living out of vehicles, he says, moving the van and a blue four-door parked next of it every three or four days. It's a lifestyle he says he enjoys.

"I don't like the idea of paying rent," he says, as he hurries off to get lunch.

While Vlos agrees that "nobody wants to pay rent," he confesses that if he could afford it, he'd rather not live in one of his four vehicles.

"I don't live out of vehicles because I enjoy it," he says. "I mean, I'd prefer to have property, land, a place to stay. I live out of vehicles hoping I [can] somehow work my way out of

MEDICARE, Continued from Page 5

seniors headaches, Parry says. But few people know Part C of the act allows private companies to collect government money for their full-coverage Medicare plans — which Parry insists aren't offered to everyone. The insurance companies, he says, are cherry-picking only the youngest, healthiest senior citizens.

Over time, he says, that will leave only the oldest, sickest and highest-cost retirees on the regular Medicare rolls. With the Bush Administration continually pressing for more operating cuts to the program, costs are eventually going to hit a point, Parry says, at which insurance lobbyists will push Congress for full privatization.

"We're convinced it's a deliberate scheme on the part of the insurance industry to destroy Medicare," he says.

"If there is a need for additional benefits, our organization would be the first to advocate it," says Joshua Welter of WCAN. "But that should be done through traditional Medicare, through a program that works, and not through a huge giveaway to private insurers."

Some of the Medicare Advantage plans offer a few more bells and whistles, Welter says, but that doesn't mean the medical coverage is any better. The report also notes that salespeople often strong-arm or trick seniors into switching from traditional Medicare,

only to discover later that their particular doctor or needed medications aren't covered.

The report cites a survey of 41 state insurance commissioners in which 39 of them said they had received complaints about abusive Medicare Advantage sales practices. Washington state's insurance commissioner is one of them. Since 2003, Kreidler says, he's received more than 300 consumer complaints about private drug and full-coverage plans.

Among the complaints, Kreidler's office says agents have pressured seniors with the line that Medicare won't be around or even presented themselves as government officials — none of which a state insurance commissioner can do anything about today. In 1997, Congress stripped state insurance commissioners of the right to regulate the plans — something Kreidler is calling on Congress to reverse.

In the meantime, Medicare Advantage is helping drive up the cost of all retirees' monthly premiums, according to Steve Kofahl, a Social Security Administration worker and president of Local 3937 of the American Federation of Government Employees. Last year, Kofahl says, the monthly premium for traditional Medicare was \$88.50. Now it's \$93.50.

"Eventually we believe it will reach a tipping point where traditional Medicare is no longer a viable option," Kofahl says. "Ultimately, everyone will have no choice but to move into Medicare Advantage." ■



Will Parry criticizes the feds' Medicare plan for privatizing retiree health care. Photo by Katia Roberts



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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Misstated?

Dear *Real Change*:

Reporter Cydney Gillis provided an update to the status of the vacant INS Building in the June 27 edition of *Real Change*. She described the two redevelopment proposals submitted recently to the City. The City is helping to facilitate transfer of ownership of the INS Building from the Federal Government to a private or nonprofit entity. We would like to correct misstatements made by *Real Change*'s reporter on key issues as follows:

1. Federal Government responsibilities under the federal McKinney Homeless Act were met. Availability of the building for homeless related uses was advertised and ultimately there were no takers. As a result the Federal Government turned to the City—the City was interested in facilitating community based ownership and has proceeded with a process to identify a new owner.

2. Both proposals submitted in response to the City's Request for Proposals (RFP) continue under review. The Mayor's Office is continuing to

evaluate and have conversations with SCIDpda, the applicant for workforce housing and an interpretive center and Urban Visions, the proponent of a sustainability center and interpretive center. Contrary to assertions in *Real Change*'s article, the Mayor sees great strengths in both proposals and is looking for ways to have the process result in a positive outcome for the Community, the City, and the Federal Government.

Rick Hooper
City of Seattle, Office of Housing

Real Change responds:

There's nothing to "correct" in the June 27 article as corrections only apply to misstatements of fact. Cydney Gillis' article does not state that the City failed to meet McKinney Homeless Act requirements nor does it state that the City isn't reviewing further proposals for the INS Building. We appreciate your letter, however.

LOMBARD, Continued from Page 7

air pollution alone in terms of asthma, a variety of other lung diseases and infrastructure costs for air pollution, it ought to be just 40 cents a gallon.

Then you throw in greenhouse gases, and a whole set of environmental costs that this study wasn't thinking about that are central for us — the way that roads change the hydrology of streams and wetlands with impervious surface, the way most of our storm water pollutants are coming off the roads, the way roads fragment habitat across the landscape...

Closer to the entire impact of being part of a gasoline-burning transportation system...

All I'm suggesting is removing the exemption from the sales tax of gasoline, and put it in that larger context of — this is really only getting you a small way there to the whole cost of your action.

What are major ways that city dwellers

We are always going to be saving Puget Sound, we are never going to save Puget Sound as long as millions of people live here.

could contribute to the health of Puget Sound? You spent so much time restoring Thornton and Victory Creeks only to write that you have to write off places like this despite their natural beauty, in the larger conservation picture.

It's one of the fundamental mischaracterizations of my argument in saying that I would advocate writing off places like these. I put it in the book, that I do advocate writing them off for some, not all, purposes. But I think that the thing that the urban people have to come to accept, if we're going to succeed with this regionally, is that our natural heritage is really going to be decided in the rural areas. And, if we really care about what happens out there, we need to reorganize the way we approach these things as a society in a way that does send a substantial amount of money — I'm talking hundreds of millions of dollars a year — from urban areas.

For example?

You do a \$10 million project in the south lot of Northgate for Thornton Creek and you're going to be benefiting a few fish every year. You put \$10 million dollars into

the lower Skagit River, and you're going to be benefiting millions of fish, every year.

How much money is currently being projected at Puget Sound right now? I'm thinking of the Governor's Puget Sound Partnership, in particular. To what extent do we need to convince people that more governmental programs are really necessary?

It all depends on how you define it. The way the Governor's process was defining it, every dollar spent on sewage treatment is spent on Puget Sound. Meanwhile, we've seen the habitat, the overall water quality declining.

Stepping back to the question of how you persuade people that this is what we need, I would say a couple of things. I actually really don't think that the Governor has framed the question appropriately — the traditional governmental crisis terms of "This is a huge problem, we need to fix it up, and we'll pass this massive legislation and then that'll take care of it." And that's bullshit.

What we're facing here is something that, yeah, it may have problems now, but the real concern is how much worse those things are going to get with millions more people out here as well as climate change.

So what in the most concise terms, what've we got to lose? Why even mention saving Puget Sound?

I would say, first of all, the whole rhetoric of saving, we're going to save Puget Sound, is wrong — we are always going to be saving Puget Sound, we are never going to save Puget Sound as long as millions of people live here. It's going to require vigilance and real thoughtful choices from the people who live here forever.

And what we've got to lose is what makes this place special. That's kind of I think in many ways the coolest thing about eco-regional conservation is that [we] really are becoming more and more aware and attuned to the natural world that evolved specifically here and no other place. And I think one of the things about American life really throughout our history, but certainly today, is the sense of dislocation that so many people have. Even if they grew up in the place that they're still living [in], they don't really have a strong understanding of what does make that place unique, you know, just what it really means to call this place home. People in this country, by and large, are not very well rooted to their homes. But the natural world is by definition rooted to this place, through eons, and I think the more that we can preserve that and connect with it, the richer our lives are. ■

Passing Bell

how will you lift the wicked curse
plaguing a fair damsel in distress?
not by wishing away the blitzkrieg
or melting the icicles fringing her dress
her mount is a steed so devilish
in love with his reflection in the ripple
grazing in green pasture at the cliff's edge
eager to gallop into nihilistic nothingness

her evening is a blood-thirsty vampire
with morning holding a rusty pitchfork
her magic wand is dripping its glitter
she's presented with empty gift boxes
filled with judgment, ridicule and nonsense
decorated with glitz and a metallic taste
her famished kin root-bound and flowerless
forbidding any sort of gallant rescue

—Carol Kosche

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Envision plants and trees consuming cities as well as dams and bridges disintegrating. What you are visualizing is a world that is void of human life. Originating from a *Discover* magazine piece chosen for *The Best American Science Writing 2006*, **Alan Weisman pursues the premise of a seemingly post-apocalyptic planet in his book *The World Without Us***. Weisman queries how the Earth would react if it were no longer burdened by the devastating impact of human existence, and his findings are fascinating. Presented by the Town Hall Center for Civic Life with University Book Store. July 18, 7:30 p.m., 1119 Eighth Ave. Tickets: \$5. Info: www.townhallseattle.org. Photo courtesy of Thomas Dunne Books.

Calendar

This Week's Top Picks

Wednesday 7/11

The Port of Seattle has been riddled with scandal this past year under the oversight of Seattle Port Commissioner Bob Edwards. In response, Ballard local **Gael Edwards** is challenging his office. Edwards **is holding a reception where voters can learn about her campaign for the Port of Seattle and why she is recommended by the Alki Foundation, Sierra Club and the National Women's Political Caucus of Washington**. 5:30 p.m., Rainier Club, 820 Fourth Ave. Info: linda@lindamitchell.org or 206/720-9922.

Friday 7/13

Running through July 19 is the acclaimed French comedy ***L'iceberg***, which Northwest Film Forum describes as "a poetic, melancholy and also optimistic comedy in the style of Buster Keaton." Substituting engaging slapstick and pantomime for dialogue, ***L'iceberg* creatively portrays the frozen fancies and hallucinations of a fast-food restaurant manager who traps herself in a walk-in freezer**. 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. 1515 12th Ave. Tickets: \$8.50. Info: 206-267-5380 or www.nwfilmforum.org.

Saturday 7/14

The Good/Bad Archive Project and 90.3 KEXP presents Rock Lottery 3. A very exciting event for music lovers that challenges a talented group of artists (among them: members of Tall Birds, Aqueduct, Raz Rez,) to be randomly divided by a lottery into five bands, create a band name, write and practice at least three songs in 12 hours and, then, return to Neumos for a live performance. Benefiting the Vera Project, this unique forum enables varying musical styles to coalesce and produce dynamic, innovative sounds. 10 p.m., Neumos, 925 E. Pike St. Info: www.kexp.org.

Chinatown-International District Summer Festival: the largest Pan-Asian street fair in the Pacific Northwest filled with cultural music, dance and entertainment on the Dragon Main Stage, children's activities, unique arts and crafts and authentic Pan-Asian cuisine provided by local merchants. Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Hing Hay Park, 423 Maynard Ave S. Info: www.seattlechinatown.org or (206) 684-4075.

Monday 7/16

In today's America, the intensity of authoritarian control over the average citizen has increased. Editor and journalist for *The Pro-*

gressive, **Matthew Rothschild visits Seattle** to expound on this subject **with his book *You Have No Rights: Stories of America in an Age of Repression***. Rothschild will discuss stories, which eerily echo the days of McCarthyism. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S. Main Street. Info: www.elliottbaybook.com.

Tuesday 7/17

Seattle Police Department and LGBTQ Advisory Council Meeting: established by SPD to increase relationships and communications between the sexual minority community and the department. Meetings recur subsequent third Tuesdays. 6 p.m., Seattle LGBT Community Center, 1115 E. Pike St. Info: julia.porras@seattle.gov or 206-684-8760.

Thursday 7/19

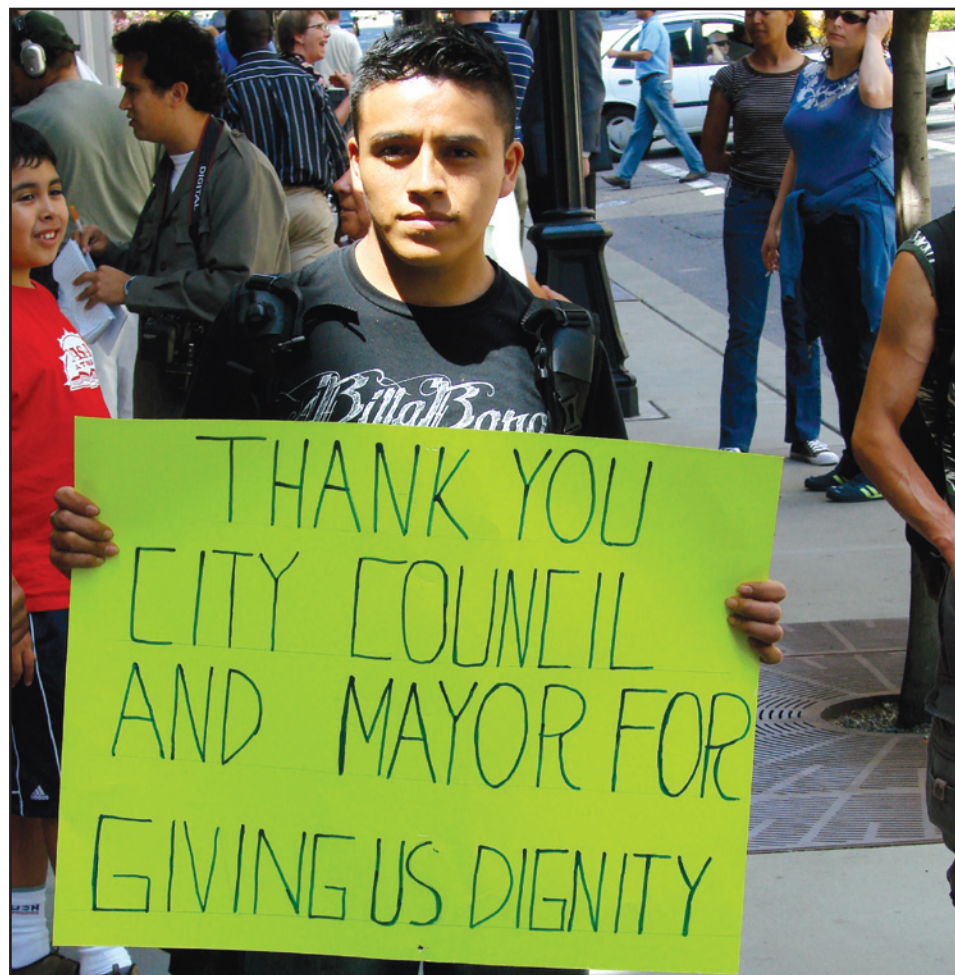
The Goliath Expedition: the aptly dubbed Herculean effort to make the world's first continuous journey of unbroken footsteps from the southernmost tip of South America to England. The lone man undertaking this adventure is Karl Bushby, a 37-year old ex-paratrooper with the British Army. Bushby will be stopping by the Seattle REI to tell listeners of his exploits that began in 1998 (he has trekked over 17,000 miles) and will continue until 2012. 7 p.m., REI Seattle, 222 Yale Ave N. Info: goliath.mail2web.com or 206-223-1944.

Friday 7/20

Roger Shimomura is a highly regarded contemporary artist whose work incorporates elements of American pop art and traditional Japanese iconography. Shimomura and art historian Emily Stamey will discuss his artwork with the duo's recently published ***The Prints of Roger Shimomura***. 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S. Main Street. Info: www.elliottbaybook.com.

4th Annual Renewable Living and Sustainable Living Fair: supporting the Shoreline Solar Project and presenting opening keynote speaker Alan Durning from the Sightline Institute. Featuring a silent auction, the Haute Trash Fashion Show, Hors d'œuvres and a no-host bar. 7 p.m., Shoreline Conference Center, Shoreline Room, 18560 First Ave. N. Info: www.shorelinesolar.org or 206-306-9233.

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



On July 9, over 100 supporters and about 50 opponents of Casa Latina's proposal to relocate to the Central District picketed and marched at City Hall. Supporters say the new site will help workers to find jobs and support families, while detractors claim that the day laborers with whom the organization works will increase crime in the neighborhood. Seattle City Council has already approved the new site, which is to be located at 17th Ave. and S. Jackson St. Photos by Patrick Reis



eyes ON FREMONT

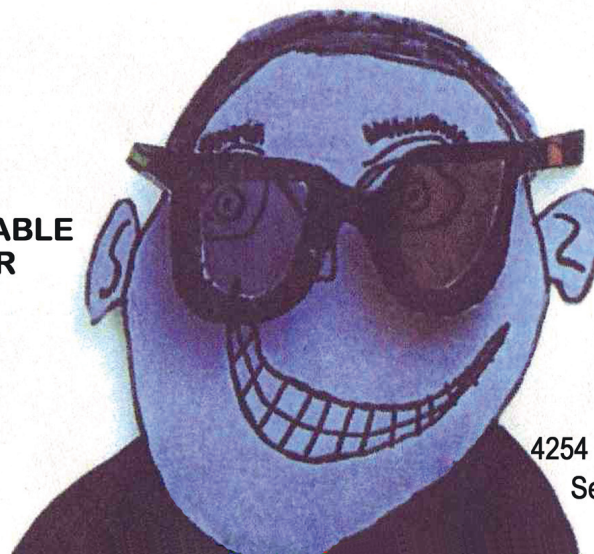
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