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AGENT**

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call for Gang
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\$1 REAL CHANGE

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Seattle's Newest Salmon

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Photo by Joel Turner

Making Music

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Photo by Patrick Reis

Anarchist Cookbook

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Photo by Tabitha Brown

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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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At a fundraising breakfast, the rich plan how to change the rules to their ever-greater benefit

A Tale of Two Conferences

By **TIM HARRIS**, Staff Writer

John Fox of the Seattle Displacement Coalition is losing it these days. When he gets to talking about condo conversions and housing demolition in Seattle, his face darkens by several shades, the veins in his forehead and throat stick out, and his voice jumps a full octave. Seattle is losing low-income housing about twice as fast as it's being built, and it really pisses him off. In the 30 years he's been fighting for housing, things have never been worse.

Meanwhile, we're supposed to be "ending homelessness." It's a bitter irony.

We're losing, and it's all about political will.

Today, I attended the Seventh Annual Interfaith Task Force conference on Building the Political Will to End Homelessness. I've been to several of these things, and while I want to be supportive of my allies, it looked like the smallest one yet.

On the way there, I stopped for breakfast at the Westin Hotel. There, roughly

We're losing, and it's all about political will.

three times as many developers, bankers, non-profit housing providers, city official and others paid \$65 each to hear J. Ronald Terwilliger — the CEO of Trammell Crow Residential and the chairperson-elect of Habitat for Humanity — make the business case for providing workforce housing in Seattle.

There were dozens of corporate sponsors. It's amazing how the rich will line up to fork over money to the rich when it's in their interest to do so. I showed up dressed as I always do. My long-sleeved green thermal T-shirt stood out in the room of about 250 suits.

Terwilliger is a man who, a few years ago, was tragically edged out by Time Warner in his bid to buy the Atlanta Braves. Terwilliger is Donald Trump lite, but with better hair, and has what,

in his circles, passes for a full-blown social conscience.

An affluent society such as ours, he said, needs to provide housing for those who attend to our needs. Otherwise, various problems such as traffic congestion and pollution, low workforce morale, and a tougher hiring environment for corporations undermine the region's ability to compete.

While Trammell Crow is very active in Seattle, and Terwilliger's heart is with affordable housing, his pocketbook has other opinions. All of their projects involve luxury condos and apartments. There is no market incentive, he said, for them to build workforce housing in this city. In Seattle, Terwilliger would define that as housing for those who make up to 150 percent of median income. That's somewhere above \$90,000 annually.

Let me repeat that. There's no incentive in Seattle, he said, for developers to build housing for people who make less than \$90,000 annually.

To do that, Terwilliger would need code relaxations, tax breaks, and zoning incentives. Do this, he said, and people like him will be able to make the sort of profit they expect building the sort of housing we need. The economy will then hum like a new Lexus.

This morning's gathering at the Westin might well have been called, "Building the political will to help developers make maximum or near-maximum profit while servicing a corporate-friendly market niche."

Maybe someone else can come up with more elegant title.

Making as much money as you possibly can isn't just a job. It's a way of life. And, make no mistake, the wealthy in this country have successfully pursued "structural change." They can never get enough of it.

Down I-5 a ways, at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines, today's other gathering to build political will was a much more relaxed affair. They had no

corporate sponsorship. They were, however, much more comfortably dressed.

The activists and church members gathered in Des Moines do what they do with minimal resources. They're good people who are working to make a difference. But most of their efforts are directed toward charity and good works.

This morning's gathering at the Westin might well have been called, "Building the political will to help developers make maximum or near-maximum profit while servicing a corporate-friendly market niche."

That whole structural change thing is a bit of an afterthought, and there's no real funding for it anyway.

This, in a nutshell, is the problem. It's why John Fox looks like he's about to have an aneurysm, and it's why we're losing.

Downtown social worker Joe Martin challenged the attendees to "inconvenience themselves in the cause of justice." He called us to embrace a sense of the sacred that rejects an increasingly dehumanized future and engages in a fight for justice as though something real were at stake. It was an amazing, moving, radical speech, and I hope we get to reprint it sometime.

The audience clapped politely, and then ran toward the barricades. No, they didn't. They ate lunch. And life went on as before. ■

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Director's Corner



This week, there are two opportunities to preserve a housing resource in a city where such things are becoming more scarce with each

passing day. On Wed., Sept. 19, at 2 p.m., the Parks Committee of the City Council will hear testimony on Discovery Park's Capehart housing. Seattle is pur-

chasing 66 units of family housing from the military in order to convert the 24 acres on which it sits to green space.

While we agree that this land should become part of the park, we believe that the decision to tear this housing down is premature, and that the City Council should explore options for extending the useful life of these buildings as affordable housing. If there's another five or 10 years in them, then that's 66 more families that can afford to live in the city. And in the end, nature wins.

We need to send a strong message to the Council that no further loss of afford-

able housing is acceptable in our community. Not in Magnolia. Not at the Lock Vista development in Ballard. Not anywhere.

The Capehart housing issue will then go to the full council for approval on Mon., Sept. 24. This is another opportunity to raise the issue of declining affordability in our city.

We join the Editorial Board of the *Seattle P-I* in calling upon the Seattle City Council to slow down, reconsider, and make the most of our housing resources. We hope to see you at City Hall.

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

Change Agent

Monte Twin knows what it's like to try and remain clean while homeless. "The shelters aren't a good option because many of the other clients are in the throes of addiction... too much temptation," he explains.

Twin spent his first 90 days of sobriety sleeping on the streets. Since then, Twin has dedicated his life to helping other Native people who are in recovery stabilize their lives.

Twin operates several support groups for Native Americans struggling with addiction. "Cultural sensitivity is a significant aspect of our meetings," he says. "The peer-to-peer structure creates a bond which results in greater success for our people."

Next month, Twin, with support from Catholic Community Services, will launch First Nations Housing and Recovery Project, a transitional housing program for homeless Native men. The program will offer 12 to 24 months of housing, coupled with case management, recovery meetings, and job training opportunities.

"We hope to provide a cocoon of emotional and mental security," he says, "so that clients can achieve the life skills and independence they need to seek out their own housing."

—Amy Besunder



Photo by Elliot Stoller

There's help for homeless Native Americans; Monte Twin is making sure of it.

PCBs and the Port

Under pressure from area environmentalists, the Port of Seattle is reconsidering its plan to dump silt laced with toxic PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) into Elliott Bay.

PCBs, which are carcinogenic and build up in marine ecosystems, have been linked to reproductive and immune system deficiencies in humans.

The Port had initially planned to move around 60,000 cubic yards of sediment from near the Port's Terminal 30 — roughly a third of which was tainted with PCBs — into a designated dumping area in Elliott Bay. The dumping had passed muster with all federal and state environmental standards, but local environmentalists argued the standards were out of date.

The dredge-dumping site in Elliott Bay is one of eight in Puget Sound, but, said People For Puget Sound's Heather Trim, these sites were designated under the assumption that only "clean dredge" (non-polluted river runoff) would be dumped.

"We understand the Port needs to clear the dredge, but [the site in Elliott Bay] was not intended for PCBs," says Trim.

Under the new plan, the dredge polluted with PCB would be shipped by rail to a site in Eastern Washington or, if research determines extreme levels of toxicity, to Utah.

A county taskforce has been given 90 days to make a recommendation to the port commissioner's office.

—JP Gritton

A public safety budget

Mayor Nickels made big promises of behalf of the city government while proposing his 2008 budget to Seattle City

Council on Monday, saying that it would "create a more open and responsive government and... leave Seattle and our planet a better place to live for our children." The public, however, will have to wait and see if the numbers match the rhetoric; the complete budget isn't released until sometime next week.

Seattle has a biennial budgeting process, and 2008 is an off year. This means that the mayor is not presenting an entirely new budget, but rather amending the one that City Council endorsed when it formally adopted the 2007 budget. These amendments are based on issues that arose in the past year, as well as on discrepancies between the projected and actual 2007 governmental revenue.

It appears that the biggest winner in the mayor's proposal is public safety. Nickels announced an increase of over \$15 million in funding, outlining plans to place 20 more patrol offices on the streets, spend an additional \$600,000 for downtown enforcement, and continue the "Emphasis Patrol Program," which deploys officers on short notice to clean up crime "hot spots," such as the one identified at the intersection of Third Ave. and Pine St. this August.

Now that the budget has been presented, the council will begin its review process that includes presentations from departments in defense of their allocated funding, public hearings on Oct. 10 and 30, and a final adoption of the budget scheduled for Nov. 19 and 26.

—Patrick Reis

Tell us why, chief

It's not exactly the overhaul that the NAACP has been calling for in the city's

police oversight system, but City Council President Nick Licata says legislation he introduced Sept. 18 is at least a start.

The bill, which Licata announced at a press conference last week with Councilmember David Della, would require the chief of police to file a written report with the council any time he lets an officer slide on the punishment recommended by the director of the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA), the police unit that takes complaints of misconduct.

The legislation, which is also backed by Councilmember Richard McIver, would also create a separate OPA line item in the city budget to ensure that all funds allocated for the OPA are spent — a measure to keep the chief from dawdling. After authorizing funds for an additional complaint investigator last year, Licata said, the council had to intervene to get the chief to make the hire.

The bill is aimed at raising police accountability — something the NAACP has been demanding in the wake of controversial arrests of African-Americans who say the police roughed them up. A task force appointed by the mayor is currently looking into police oversight practices, but, until it makes recommendations later this year, Licata said, the bill is one small step.

"It's modest, it's needed, it's not controversial, and it's all about transparency," OPA Review Board member Peter Holmes said at the press conference.

Harry Gilchrest, who says the police assaulted him twice in front of his West Seattle home ["Getting the Story Straight," July 13, 2005], agrees. If the chief puts his decisions in writing, Gilchrest says, "then you have a track record, something to fol-

Just Heard...

B.J. hits the road

It appears that someone isn't happy about who the mayor chose to head the Seattle Parks Department: A press release from the mayor noted last week that Sept. 12 will be the last day for Interim Parks Superintendent B.J. Brooks, who has resigned.

Brooks was in the running for the top Parks job after serving three years as deputy director under former Superintendent Ken Bounds, who retired earlier this year in the wake of controversies about the lack of public input in Parks decisions such as tree-cuttings in Pioneer Square and putting a concert series at Gas Works Park — two issues over which citizens sued the city.

On Sept. 10, Mayor Nickels named Timothy Gallagher, a naturalist and former director of Los Angeles County's Parks and Recreation, the new superintendent, pending City Council approval, which is expected in October. In the meantime, the mayor has appointed 14-year Parks veteran Christopher Williams to run Parks in Brooks' absence.

Clean Dreams fix

For those trying to get off the streets, the city has relented: After pulling the plug on Clean Dreams, a city-funded program that helps addicts and prostitutes turn their lives around, the city has decided to continue funding critical client services using what's left of the \$140,000 that the city had budgeted for the program this year.

That's about \$50,000 that will keep 54 clients in rehab, job training, and housing until their services end, the year ends, or the money runs out, says Terri Kimball of the city's Human Services Department.

Mayor Greg Nickels has proposed another \$180,000 for recovery services in 2008, but not necessarily for Clean Dreams; instead, the money would be awarded after a competitive bidding process.

This year's funding does not pay for any staff, but a private donor has reportedly stepped forward with a pledge of \$10,000 to help pay for the two interim managers, Charles Davis and Tara Moss, who have taken over the program from former director Nature Carter-Gooding.

Carter-Gooding and another counselor had been paid by the program's parent organization, Street Outreach Services, which closed its doors in July after the Public Health Department yanked its funding for failing to complete an audit.

—Cydney Gillis

Dumping

Thanks to a new state law approved in March, junked TVs and computers are unlikely to be dumped locally. But, says Seattle-based Basel Action Network, e-waste is usually dumped in countries like China or Nigeria, where it poisons local ecosystems with deadly metals. An earlier version of the state's new recycling bill forbade export of e-waste to certain countries; that clause was later removed.

In light of Basel's findings, the state Department of Ecology is drafting regulations to be announced next month.

—JP Gritton

low what he based his decision on instead of something that was being said."

Local NAACP chief James Bible says many other problems need to be solved, however, such as improving the appeal process for complainants and punishing officers who lie. "We only think of this as a first step," Bible says. "There's so much more that needs to occur."

—Cydney Gillis

Pastors want mayor to consider street outreach by ex-members

A New Approach to Gang Violence

By *CYDNEY GILLIS*,
Staff Reporter

With each gang shooting, the pastors' voices have gotten louder: They want Seattle to work on saving its Black children, not just arresting them.

Since January, they say, they've been calling on the city and Mayor Greg Nickels to consider adopting a gang prevention program that has helped curb violence in other cities. But they say their request has fallen on deaf ears.

So, on Sept. 12, 10 Baptist ministers from Seattle's newly formed United Black Clergy Association called a press conference and demanded the city fund a local pilot of Amer-I-Can, a national program that works in the schools and on the streets to build self-esteem and help youth find another way.

United Black Clergy formed following the death of Antwan Horton, a 19-year-old killed Aug. 28 in a shooting that left two others injured at the Dakota, a high-rise building that's part of the new Rainier Court apartments on Rainier Ave. S. near MLK Way S.

"As pastors, we are the ones who have to bury these young

men and women after violent death," said Kenneth Ransfer Sr., president of United Black Clergy and pastor at Seattle's Greater Mount Baker Baptist Church. "We're the ones that have to keep peace in terms of gang retaliation."

It doesn't have to be that way, the pastors said, but incarceration alone won't solve the problem. They say it requires the type of early intervention and street outreach offered by programs such as Los Angeles-based Amer-I-Can and Clean

"It seems that the primary emphasis is on incarceration and gang prevention at the street level. [But] we believe this problem starts earlier. It starts in the high schools and junior high schools."

—Pastor Robert Jeffrey Sr. of New Hope Baptist Church

Dreams, a fledgling Seattle program that the city cut in August ["County Cuts Off Social Services Agency," Aug. 22].

"We've got serious dropout problems in this city and nothing seems to be being done about it," said Pastor Robert Jeffrey Sr. of New Hope Baptist Church. "It seems that the primary emphasis is on incarceration and gang prevention at the street level. [But] we believe this problem starts earlier. It starts in the high schools and junior high schools."

Founded in 1988 by football star Jim Brown, Amer-I-Can goes into schools with a 60- to 90-hour life-skills course that teaches kids how to manage conflict, solve problems, and set goals. At schools

in Boston and New York, the program has succeeded in raising grades and lowering absences and violent incidents.

In other cities, Amer-I-Can pays "peace squads" of former gang members to patrol gang areas and talk kids off the streets. Both are preventative approaches, the pastors say, that are far more effective than just adding police officers and making arrests.

"We need police, but we need prevention," Jeffrey said. "Political expediency has to be put aside for the sake of this community or we're going to continue to suffer the kind of violence that we're experiencing now, which I believe is intolerable."

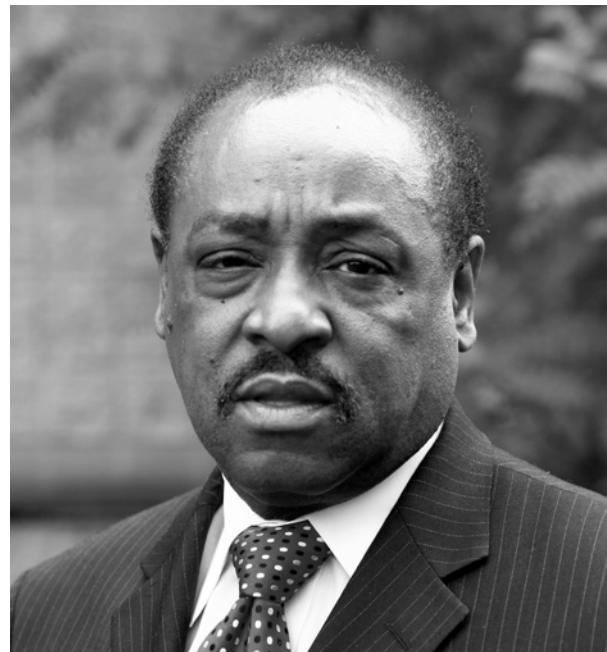
In January, Jeffrey and a task force of his church paid for two of Amer-I-Can's trained ex-gang members to visit Seattle, scope out its streets and meet with as many city, police and court officials as possible in an effort to kick off an Amer-I-Can pilot here.

As a result of the visit, Jeffrey estimates there are up to 30 gangs currently operating in the greater Seattle area, including one in Kent and Des Moines with more than 250 members. Starting in January, he says, members of the church task force met with Seattle's police chief, gang unit director, prosecutors, judges, city councilmembers and state lawmakers, including Sen. Adam Kline (D - South Seattle), who tried this year to get state funding for a pilot.

But Jeffrey and others say Mayor Nickels, who is responsible for the city's budget, never responded to a request for a meeting. Pamela Green, the mayor's community outreach director, says she has no record of the Black clergy ever requesting a meeting, though Nickels did send a representative to a Feb. 2 meeting on Amer-I-Can.

Seattle Municipal Court Judge Judith Hightower, who organized the Feb. 2 meeting, says the taint of gangs may be too much for the mayor. "If you say there's a gang problem in Seattle," she says, "people are going to get scared and not come here. That's the reason I understand why it's not going to be addressed openly."

But, "Being involved in the criminal justice system and seeing what happens to kids, particularly kids of color," Hightower says, "I don't see anything that's working now." ■



Pastor Robert Jeffrey Sr. part of a clerical effort pushing to have ex-members reach out to young people tempted by gangs. Photo by Ken Dean

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Street musicians maintain an urban tradition of informal performance

Out Loud and In Public

By *PATRICK REIS*,
Editorial Intern

When she got the call, Sunshine Hahn was sitting in the bottom floor of Pike Place Market's indoor mall, strumming her guitar and hoping for the occasional tip from passersby. Then came her break. She had a chance to perform onstage at the market's center.

Hahn took that opportunity with a vengeance. She ran upstairs, guitar in hand, and launched into her brand of rhythm-infused folk. She drowned out the fish-tossers with her booming voice

and acoustic guitar, drawing marketplace patrons to the stage until the crowd overflowed the designated seating area. And just like that, Sunshine Hahn made the jump from the market's bottom floor to being its main attraction.

Hahn's breakthrough sounds improbable, but this is busking, the practice of performing in the street for tips that begins literally at the drop of a hat, if not the opening of a guitar case.

BUSKERS, Continued on Page 12

As pink salmon season draws to its end, the hopeful line the Spokane St. Bridge

Waiting for a Bite

By ROSETTE ROYALE,
Staff Reporter

Clouds break and the morning sun strikes the rippling surface of the lower Duwamish Waterway. Spanning a stretch of the river, at the southern tip of Harbor Island, runs the Spokane St. Fishing Bridge. And kneeling upon it, Lou Tran baits a hook with a dime-sized piece of shrimp.

He stands and, leaning back slightly, flicks rod and reel forward, the spooling out of his line accompanied by a high-pitched *phzzzz*. The hook plops into the water. Tran's gaze follows, his eyes peering into the river's flow. He leans on the railing and waits.

"I come out here for the love it," says Tran, "for the challenge."

And to try to catch a few pink salmon before his business meeting in 30 minutes.

Lured by similar motives, but perhaps under different time constraints, some 40 men, women, and children focus on the water coursing out to Elliott Bay. An ethnic mix of Southeast Asians and Latinos, descendents of Europe and Africa, and a smattering of Native Alaskans, they all keep eyes peeled, and hooks ready, for the flick of silver beneath the surface: the sign of a pink salmon heading upriver to spawn.

The gathering of fishers hoping to land pinks — the shortened name for this species of salmon — is, in a sense, a special event. For while the threatened Chinook that race to their spawning grounds up the Duwamish and into the Green River upstream of Auburn have been doing so for hundreds, if not thou-

A pink salmon hurls itself above the surface, its head bent toward tailfin. With a splash, it drops back into the water.

sands, of years, the arrival of pinks is a relatively new and, so far, mysterious occurrence. Steve Foley, fishery biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), says that pinks made their first appearance in the waterway in 1999. With an internal clock that pushes them to spawn only every other year in the Lower Duwamish, 2007 represents only the fifth time in the city's history the fish have raced past the industrial dense region and under the fishing bridge. And, says Foley, "This is a new phenomenon."

Phenomenon or no, the pinks avoid Tran's line. That is, if there are any pinks to be had. Tran says that in the 30 minutes he's been out in the morning, no one's had any luck. The fishers to his left and right repeatedly bait hooks and — *phzzzz* — cast them out. Several men smoke cigarettes with their free hands. One man nurses a beer. Two boats filled with men bob downstream, industrial

cranes hulking in the distance behind them. Limp lines hang in the water.

Minutes pass, with hardly anyone speaking. Then, in the water separating the bridge and the boaters, someone's line tightens. A pink salmon hurls itself above the surface, its head bent toward tailfin. With a splash, it drops back into the water. The men turn to see it. Their bodies stiffen. The lucky fisher grabs on to his rod and reel. But it's too late. The pink breaks free. The fisher's shoulders go as slack as his line.

Foley says that for the 2007 pink fishing season, which opened Sept. 1, the WDFW predicted over a million would be up for grabs. (By comparison, the WDFW forecast only 30,000 threatened Chinook.) But the bulk of the current run, he says, has long passed under the bridge, en route to spawning grounds above Auburn. "Silvers are starting to enter and they're starting to pick up now," Foley says, "and they're more desired than the pinks."

But Doug, who hails from Kent, wouldn't mind a pink at all. Out on the bridge for four hours, he has yet to land one. Instead, his shrimp-baited hook attracts shiner perch, a small, silver-and-orange scaled fish that Doug — who only wanted to use his first name — pulls up one after the other. He tosses them right back, saying it's a bad idea to eat the fish that live in the Lower Duwamish. "If they're a resident fish," he says with a chuckle, "it's best to let them glow in the dark."

The health of the river's fish is no laughing matter. An informational placard at the bridge's southern end informs fishers to avoid consuming crustaceans and bottom-feeders caught in the area, due to the high concentrations of chemicals and pollutants contained in their bodies. A small yellow sign placed on the railing repeats the warning in eight different languages.

Foley says that pinks, which aren't resident, are safe for human consump-



With industrial cranes hulking in the distance, fishers gather on the Spokane St. Fishing Bridge to catch pink salmon. An estimated one million pinks were expected to navigate the Lower Duwamish Waterway this season, to spawn in riverbeds upstream. Photo by Joel Turner

tion, given that the fish themselves have fattened up on algae and krill for two years in the ocean before returning to their natal riverbeds. "But they're not feeding now," says Foley. "They've got

2007 represents only the fifth time in the city's history the fish have raced past the industrial-dense region and under the fishing bridge.

other things on their minds."

This doesn't stop Doug from baiting hook after hook as soon as the shiner perch dine on the shrimp he provides. "It doesn't matter if you catch anything," he says, the fisher to his right screwing up his face in disagreement. The two stare at the water.

Out beyond their hooks, a line goes taut. It's the man two down from Doug. At the end of his line, a curl of silver jumps above the waves. He pulls on the rod and after a quick dance of give-and-take, he reels the struggling fish closer to the bridge. The man between Doug and the lucky fisher readies a net. The fish is directed inside. Up it comes. Tossed onto the butt-strewn bridge, it flops at the net-man's feet.

"It's a male," he says.

Using the sawn-off handle of a hammer, he wallops the pink once on the crown of its head. And again. The fish seizes up. Then stops moving. With the quick twist of a knife, the net-man severs the blood vessels behind the pink's gills, on one side, then the other. He draws the knife down the fish's belly, from tail to head. Entrails spill out in coils. The net-man pulls them free, dropping them in a

PINK, Continued on Page 10

Still fuming about Lock Vista, residents reject "Homes Within Reach"

Ballard questions tax break for developers

By CYDNEY GILLIS,
Staff Reporter

It isn't easy telling tenants who are losing their homes to a condo conversion that you can only help them by giving a tax break to apartment developers. But that's the situation two City Councilmembers found themselves in last week at the Ballard library.

The Sept. 12 meeting of the Ballard Community Council was advertised in flyers as a forum on affordable housing — a hot topic these days for residents of Lock Vista, a Ballard complex that is currently being sold to a developer who plans to convert its 191 units.

Residents of the complex — some

sporting "Save Lock Vista" T-shirts — packed the room to ask Tom Rasmussen and Sally Clark, chair and co-chair of the council's Housing Committee, what the city can do to help them. But Rasmussen made it clear that he and Clark were there to talk about expanding something called the Multifamily Tax Exemption, not saving Lock Vista.

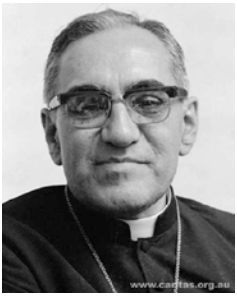
Nothing can be done about their apartments, Rasmussen said, because state law prevents the city from regulating condo conversions — something Rasmussen is working to change in the Legislature. The city considered buying it, Office of Housing Director

Adrienne Quinn said at the meeting, but brokers told her it would cost \$40 million — a figure, she said, that dwarfs the city's annual \$8 million budget for building housing.

Rasmussen and Quinn then outlined "Homes Within Reach" — the mayor's name for his proposal to increase the neighborhoods and income ranges covered by the city's existing Multifamily Tax Exemption.

Passed in 1994, the law currently allows developers in 17 neighborhoods to pay no property tax on new buildings for 10 years if they make rents or condo

DEVELOPERS, Continued on Page 10



*"When I watch Al Staggs ...
I am confronted by the deepest
moral questions of what it means
to be a witness and how I am
using my life."*

— Bill Moyers

OSCAR ROMERO
OSCAR ROMERO: A MARTYRS HOMILY
OCTOBER 6, 2007 AT 7 P.M.

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October 6 & 7, 2007

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\$10 in advance / \$15 at the door. Group rates available.

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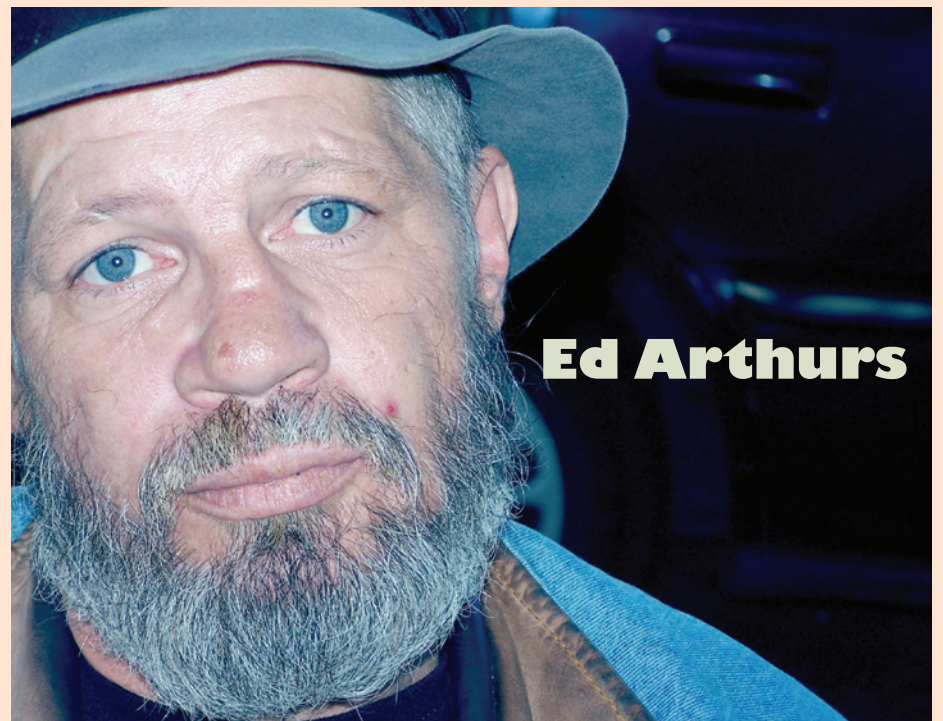
**A VIEW FROM THE UNDERSIDE,
THE LEGACY OF :
DIETRICH BONHOEFFER**
OCTOBER 7, 2007 AT 7 P.M.

*"You accomplish ...
an astonishing fullness of Dietrich,
the personality and the message."*

— Eberhard Bethge,
Bonhoeffer's biographer



Vendor of the Week



Ed Arthurs

There are people out there who waste no time mumbling, who have a way of looking you dead in the eye and saying exactly what's on their mind. The words "if," and "but" don't exist for these people. Days after talking to them, you'll find yourself remembering snatches of conversation, as though they were the words to a moving and powerful speech about nothing in particular.

Ed Arthurs is one of these people, and he's the vendor of the week.

"I've watched kids pop out of bellies, now they're yea tall," said Arthurs of some of the customers he's come to know best. Hearing that, I felt sure that if Ed Arthurs ever wrote a book, then it would win the Nobel Prize.

He has sold vacuums in Texas, Georgia, and Ohio ("That's a hard job," he said with a grim smile). His service in the army brought Arthurs to Germany and Mexico by way of Ft. Smith, Texas.

He has worked as a carpenter and a professional tree-trimmer.

It was tree-trimming, in fact, that brought Arthurs to Seattle—like too many, Ed Arthurs' path to homelessness began with an accident. While trimming a tree, Arthurs fell and broke his back. By the time he'd made his way to Washington, it was clear that Arthurs wouldn't be able to work as an arborist or carpenter, as he had before.

Luckily for *Real Change*, Arthurs as much as stumbled over the paper.

"I saw a guy selling papers, and I thought, 'I could do that from a wheelchair.'" And that's just what Arthurs does these days at 3rd and University in front of Benaroya Hall. Arthurs is one of *Real Change's* most consistent vendors, and he says Seattle "could be home."

"Keep supporting the paper," said Arthurs. Selling *Real Change* "is like going home each morning instead of going to work."

—Photo and Text by JP Gritton

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

Bioneers 2007 Seattle

The First Ever
Seattle Bioneers Conference
presented by The Northwest Environmental Education Council

Friday, October 19 - Sunday, October 21
at the Seattle Center.

Bringing together some of the world's most renowned and innovative people to discuss solutions to current environmental and social justice issues.

This conference features a live satellite downlink of the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, CA. Visit the Bioneers website at www.bioneers.org for more information about the Bioneers Conference and our partnership.

Register online at www.nweec.org/seattlebioneers
Or for more information contact Shannon Luoma at sluoma@nweec.org or 206.923.1980

BIONEERS

eyes ON FREMONT

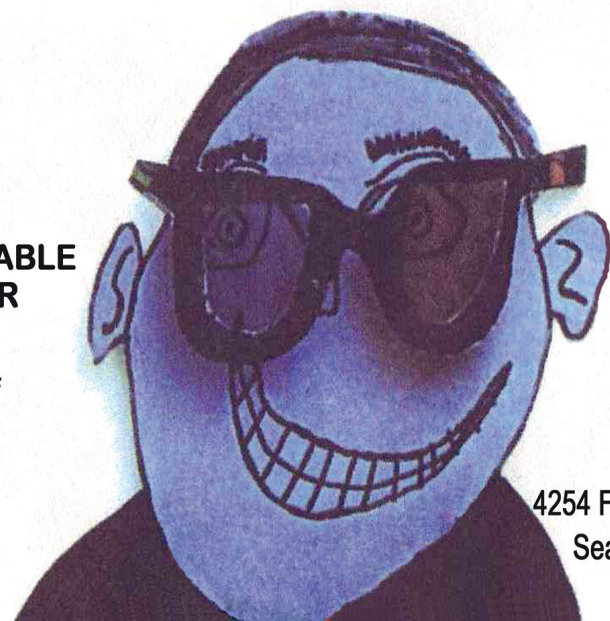
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Koa Kaelepulu on food activism, dealing with cancer, and treasuring his Pacific Island homeland

From Hawaii with Love

By **TABITHA BROWN**,
Contributing Writer

Koa Kaelepulu is a 39-year-old anarchist punk who has been a fixture of the Seattle activist community for the last decade. He was born in Kailua, Hawaii in 1967 and grew up as an only child between Hawaii and Oakland with a single mom in poverty.

Known to many as Bruce Whitmore, Koa is one-quarter Hawaiian, one-quarter Maori, and half Sicilian. With a shaved head and some pretty wicked tattoos, he may defy a lot of preconceptions about what it means to be an indigenous person, but one generality is true: he is one among a community of Native Pacific Islanders who, for one socio-economic reason or another, fled their homes to live on the mainland. He was diagnosed with cancer in 1995.

I met Koa over a year ago when I was volunteering with Seattle's chapter of the activist food project, Food Not Bombs. Food Not Bombs is a loose organization that exists independently in cities all over the world, endeavoring to rescue perishable food items from disposal and to make them available in the form of meals to the hungry; Koa had been a cook for

FNB in New Orleans and Atlanta when, in 1998, he moved to Seattle.

Koa has told me a lot about his surreal and Odyssean life as a self-educated, train-hopping punk rocker. He's told me about many of the other activists he's known: about their lives and, in some cases, their deaths. Listening to his booming and dramatic voice, I've often wished I had a tape recorder at my side. Sitting in Koa's basement-level Section 8 apartment in Belltown with a recorder (and later at a Starbucks on Mercer Island, and again over the phone), I had my chance. Here he is: a titan who leaves on all who meet him a deep and lasting impression, a father to the activist network that surrounds Food Not Bombs, and an incurably human and soft-hearted friend.

When did you first become involved in activism?

I got started in activism probably in 1985, when I was 17. I started reading the works of revolutionary thinkers like Bakunin, Malatesta and Nester Makhno. Just seeing all the poverty on the Hawaiian homestead land was what influenced me and inspired me to become an anarchist; seeing the lack of resources

on the land for the native Hawaiian people. I met Mililani K. Trask through a woman named Marimatsu Matsuoka, who was like my godmother at the time. She was a passionate communist but was involved with Hawaiian sovereignty, and believed strongly in rights for native Hawaiians. I was also influenced by my uncle, who was involved in the sovereignty movement.

How were you specifically involved in it?

At the time I was in my mid-twenties. There were some things going on in Hawaii with land use. The state of Hawaii had blocked off a lot of areas that were sacred Hawaiian land, and Native Hawaiians would go fishing on it, and they'd get arrested, and they'd go to jail. And so there became this big squatting movement in Hawaii.

I was going to meetings and participating in small Hawai-



Koa Kaelepulu says college-educated Seattle activists need to recognize they're not the only ones with brains in the city. Photo by Tabitha Brown.

ian Homestead reconciliation projects, which involved trying to take back stolen lands by squatting on them in protest. Mostly the squats weren't that successful because the police would show up and arrest everybody. I was also involved in this health care project that failed, but

In 1987, there was a 300-pound sea turtle that washed up onto the beach on Kaneohe Bay. It had track marks all across its shell from these military tanks. Seeing that was one of the defining moments for me.

it was going to be a drop-in center for native Hawaiians in Nanakuli. A lot of the work that we tried to do has failed. But I was also going back and forth a lot, hopping trains and traveling.

How did it change things for you when you began to identify yourself as a Native person?

It gave me a lot of self-respect and dignity to become aware of where I come from and where my parents come from. We all grew up in the white way. Public schools up until '93 or '94 wouldn't allow you to speak native Hawaiian.

Was there any defining moment for you in your awakening as a punk, as an activist?

Well, I've had a lot. In 1987, there was a 300-pound sea turtle that washed up onto the beach on Kaneohe Bay. It had track marks all across its shell from an amphibious assault unit — these military tanks used by the army base to move

across the reef. Seeing that was one of the defining moments for me.

Describe Food Not Bombs — what does it do, what is its agenda?

First of all, food is a right, not a privilege. What we do is we get a lot of proceeds — produce, excuse me; we don't have any proceeds — from places like Madison Market that donate their perishable goods to us. And we turn around and we cook it up and we serve it to people in Occidental Park.

Back when I first moved here, Food Not Bombs was alive and thriving. There were a lot of people involved. We had a long battle with the Seattle Police Department over serving, and who had a right to have a presence in Occidental Park. SPD was being called in on us every Sunday, and there was a lot of police harassment and a lot of park exclusion tickets being issued. It got pretty hairball for a while. FNB is pretty much dead now, and it needs to be rejuvenated.

What's wrong with the activist community in Seattle?

I think it's important that white activists know that there's people of color in this city who aren't being heard, and who are getting drowned out by the white activists. I've had a lot of issues with the activist community, and with the way I was treated specifically — because I am not college educated. Because I never went to college, therefore I don't know anything. There are a lot of grassroots homegrown activists who are involved in movements all over the world who never went to college, and it doesn't make them ignorant; it doesn't make them stupid. So that's one thing that white activists in America — and in this city — need to be more conscious of.

Peace on Earth

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND'S ANNUAL DINNER

AMY GOODMAN
OF
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Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and The People Who Fight Back

Join Social Justice Fund Northwest and Amy Goodman, co-host of Democracy Now!, for an exciting evening of political analysis addressing these questions and looking ahead to what progressives need to do to get ready for the 2008 elections.

Amy Goodman is the host and executive producer of Democracy Now!, a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program airing on 500 radio and television stations in North America. Time Magazine named Democracy Now! in its "Pick of the Podcasts." She recently began a weekly syndicated column with King Features.

www.socialjusticefund.org
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social justice fund
NORTHWEST

Recalling those whom history has crossed out

■ Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place

By Coll Thrush, University of Washington Press, 2007, Hardcover, 376 pages, \$28.95

Review by Kristi Thorne,
Contributing Writer

“Stories matter.” A simple enough statement. When considering the history of a city, stories do matter. So do dates, geography, battles, taxes, laws, population, statistics, deaths, births, flora, and fauna, all of which have been carefully documented in attempts to historicizing this place we call Seattle. But stories, often the most controversial and misrepresented parts of history, are what make telling that history important — they give this place meaning.

In *Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place*, Coll Thrush retells much of Seattle’s mainstream history, from the landing of the Denny party in 1851 up through the modern environmental movement, adding in the previously overlooked Native stories. His work complicates Seattle’s history by changing the connotations of Seattle’s nickname, “the crossing-over place,” from a transitional point— a hinge between the edge of civilization and the start of the wild, where one race was removed while another was imported — to a muddled back and forth, confused migration of canoes, Bostonians, and Alaskan totem poles.

In doing this, Thrush makes an overly ambitious attempt to refute the idea “that Indians and cities are mutually exclusive,” and ends up merely proving that they’re not entirely incompatible. His provocative statements, such as “without the labor of Indians, Seattle would have been stillborn,” create a desire for substance that the book doesn’t provide.

■ Eastern Promises

Directed by David Cronenberg. Now in Theaters

David Cronenberg has become a master of the dark. He’s on a path provided by the visceral that goes beyond fashionable filmic fear into nonnegotiable dread. There we find *Eastern Promises*.

Anna Khitrova (Naomi Watts), a midwife at a London hospital, receives a patient in the late stages of labor and badly hemorrhaging. The wife dies, leaving a newborn girl and a diary written in Russian — coincidentally Anna’s heritage. Taking the chronicle home, hoping to find some clue to the woman’s identity, she asks her surly uncle to translate it. A business card buried in its pages leads Anna to a Siberian restaurant.

The surprisingly accommodating proprietor, Semyon (Armin Mueller-Stahl), denies any knowledge of the girl, but still offers to translate the diary. Exuding an unctuous paternalism, he suggests there’s no need for the midwife to bother; he will take responsibility for the matter.

This seems like decent advice, given the standard issue dark suits, black cars, and a general lack of mirth surrounding the establishment. One of the foot soldiers, Nikolai Luzhin (Viggo Mortensen),

He shows some evidence of the importance of early Natives as laborers, but not enough to be convincing. The tales Thrush recounts of Indians lingering in Seattle’s oldest neighborhoods as the rest of the Native population moves to reservations, create sympathy, but fail to transform these Natives from passive victims to active participants in that time in Seattle’s history.

He is ambitious to a fault, but what he fails to do in execution he almost makes up for in principle. By retelling Seattle’s history, Thrush works to re-open Indian history. When Frederick

The greatest achievement of *Native Seattle* is that author Coll Thrush names those history has overlooked, whose stories are not told.

Jackson Turner closed the American West in his 1893 speech at the World’s Fair, he metaphorically closed Native American history. While this assumption shouldn’t need to be refuted, the novelty of Thrush’s subject matter proves that it does.

The greatest achievement in his book is that he names those history has overlooked, whose stories are not told. He artfully, if not clearly, highlights that “Indian history can, and does, happen in urban places;” there’s no straight line from first contact to the reservation.

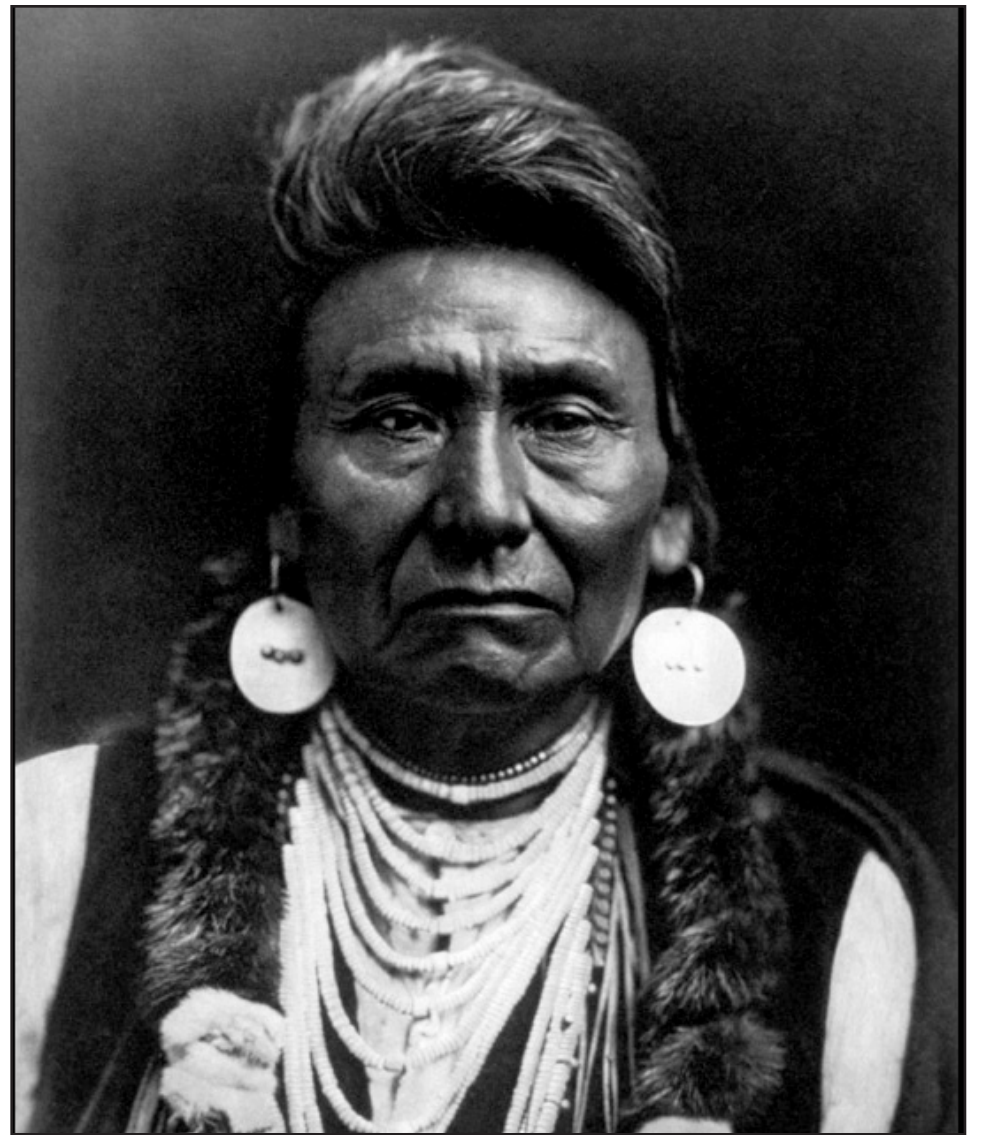
Through intensive and in-depth research he has unearthed remnants, often consisting of merely a name and a place, of native stories. By including

a “chauffer” whose stock ebony couture nonetheless sneaks a bit of accessorized style, shows a special interest in Anna. While wary of him, the danger as a whole still eludes her antennae.

As the contents of the diary emerge, revealing the deceased as a viciously abused sex slave, a prisoner of a crime syndicate, everyone’s cards hit the table. Anna wants the baby, the Russians want the diary.

The clever and suspenseful plot serves its real purpose as a canvas for the increasingly potent brush of Cronenberg, who brings by nuance and tone to the screen what Cormac McCarthy brings to literature: characters who long ago traded off their souls.

Eastern Promises is more refined than *A History of Violence*, which is saying something; the devices less evident, the lapses of tone almost nonexistent. In this accomplishment Cronenberg must share credit with Watts and Mortensen, both bringing fine contributions.



Chief Sealth, as the city’s namesake, has a history that’s well known. But what of the history of Natives as a whole? Image courtesy www.nationalgeographic.com

those names linked to this place he challenges the picturesque landscape of Seattle’s history by making the pictures look back. Just a name and a place, that’s how most good stories begin anyway. ■

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

WORTH SEEING

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD:

Reviews by LESTER GRAY, Contributing Writer

■ Snow Cake

Directed by Marc Evans (2006). On DVD

The economy of movie making for wide audiences requires the short-hand of stereotypes. Stepping outside of the box requires courage for the filmmaker and audience, a justified venture in the case of *Snow Cake*.

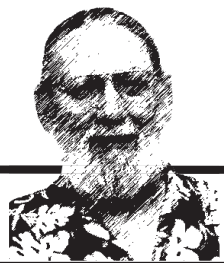
Alex (Alan Rickman), just released from prison and on his way to pick up the pieces of his life, picks up a hitchhiker instead. Headed east across Canada, the roads are snowy and slick. Stopped at an intersection, his car is hit by a truck gone out of control. The collision upends Alex’s SUV. The passenger, a young woman whom he had barely come to know, does not survive.

His lack of fault in the incident notwithstanding, he feels a responsibility. The police assure him they are notifying the family. They actually discourage him from doing so. He persists, finds the address and arrives at the door, introducing himself.

Linda (Sigourney Weaver), the mother of the deceased, shows little appreciation, somewhat bemused by his efforts.

Linda’s mental condition, at first glance, resembles a developmental delay. Her selective obsessions and quirky intellect suggest an abnormality of a different kind, which eventually reveals itself as autism. The funeral and the events leading up to it prevent the processing of grief in a way suiting her sensibilities. The necessity to accommodate the superfluous and suffocating gestures from the townspeople, which end with a gathering at her house, prove unnerving. In the days leading to the ceremony, Alex serves to assist her in the preparations.

There have been several notable films over the years — *Rain Man*, *Forrest Gump*, and *I Am Sam* come to mind — dealing with the mentally challenged and their struggle to function in society. None of those movies rise above the novelty of the issue with the sophistication of *Snow Cake*. Weaver’s Linda is a whole person, with a mind capable of preferences and the ability to articulate them. The drama transcends her peculiar cognitive process and places it in context with the struggles that confront us all, making for an entertaining and thought-provoking offering. ■



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

I haven't said much about the Iraq War lately. I hate repeating myself and you can't not when you're talking about the repetitive.

But, holy cow, look what happened this morning. First, I beat my head on this keyboard, to bang a column out. Nothing came out of my head as usual (the head-banging trick almost never works) so I did what I always do next. I checked *CNN.com*, to see if anything had happened overnight. And the top story, just 39 minutes old, was "Blackwater security firm banned from Iraq."

Just the day before, Blackwater contractors had been blamed for killing eight civilians and wounding 14 in what was seen by many Iraqis as a scattershot response to small arms fire on a State Department motorcade.

You could say, "Insurgents shot at our State Department officials, and the Blackwater people were contracted to protect them, so what's the problem? When the insurgents stop shooting at us, Blackwater can stop shooting back." You could say that if you missed the fundamental issue involved, namely that whereas American military personnel are accountable for their actions in Iraq, to the military and ultimately to the American people, individual contractors are not. All we can do is cancel an entire contract, and that won't happen because the security companies have too many friends in the Bush Adminis-

©Dr. Wes: Privateers in Iraq and Seattle

tration. Worse, our government has not permitted their puppet government in Iraq to hold military contractors to Iraqi justice. So without any investigation of the shooting having begun, everybody in Iraq had to know that the contractors involved would never pay a price, even if they had knowingly mowed down unarmed citizens in a deliberate massacre. It wouldn't matter.

Since I knew the puppet government in Iraq couldn't try these guys, it never occurred to me that they might get away with booting them out of the country altogether. It will be interesting to see if

If the Iraqis, who don't even have a real government, can tell Blackwater to shove off, anything is possible.

the order sticks.

I don't know about the rest of you, but this news gives me hope. I want to relish that hope. I want to savor every drop of it. Therefore I will indulge in fantasies, dreaming of the great news to come that may have just been heralded.

It might be that this is the first of many such bannings. Blackwater could be banned from Afghanistan. Then, countries where Blackwater isn't working now could ban Blackwater from working there in the future. Then, countries where Blackwater might never work anyway might ban Blackwater from passage through them. The result could be

that Blackwater could be stuck operating entirely in the United States.

That done, the American people might wake up and come seriously face to face with the reality that the only remaining reason for Blackwater's continued existence is to wait in the wings until the scheduled roundup of undesirable Americans and facilitate their shuttling off to the concentration camps. And having witnessed the banning of Blackwater in the entire rest of the world, they might get the cojones to do it themselves, right here in the freedom-loving U.S. of A.

What's that? It can't happen? Americans won't get their rocks until the day comes they can tell Iraq from Afghanistan on a map? Hey, don't rain on my dream.

I'm not done. If the Iraqis, who don't even have a real government, can tell Blackwater to shove off, anything is possible. Americans could see straight to try the board and management for treason. They could elect a really good president.

The emerging testes could even affect us here in Seattle. Seattleites might realize they've been irresponsible to allow the MID Yellowjackets, unaccountable hired vigilantes, to force poor people to conform to the selfish greedy whims of the megacorporations that control the Downtown Seattle Association.

One more dream: Instead of peeing themselves every time they're asked for a quarter and trying to put a stop to the practice, Seattleites could get the balls to just say no to panhandlers and keep walking. ■

Sound off and read more:
drwesb.blogspot.com



Sat., Aug. 25, 9 p.m., Broadway Ave., Seattle Central Community College. An officer contacted the suspect, a transient Black male aged 36, on Broadway Ave at the Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) bookstore on the south side of Broadway Ave. Suspect and two other men were sleeping under the stairwell. When the suspect's name was checked via radio it was found he had an outstanding warrant. The warrant was verified, and suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Sat., Aug. 25, 10 p.m. Third Ave., Marvin Gardens Apartments. Victim, a transient white male aged 38, was standing outside Marvin Gardens Apartments on Third Ave. smoking a cigarette with a friend when the suspect, a transient white female aged 43, attacked him with a chain. Victim stated she said nothing to him, and that he does not know the suspect. His friend did know the suspect. The victim held onto the suspect until police arrived. He had no visible injuries, and declined medical attention at the scene. He stated he did want to assist in prosecuting the suspect. While handling the call, an unknown witness approached the police officers and told them that he knew the suspect. He reported that the suspect was manic-depressive, and had not been taking her medications. American Ambulance responded to the scene, and informed the officers that Harborview Medical Center was temporarily not accepting psychiatric patients. The officer's only recourse was to arrest the suspect. She was booked into King County Jail for assault.

Sun., Aug. 26, 12:33 a.m., Alaskan Way, Waterfront Park. Two officers were checking Waterfront Park. This park has been a problem for narcotics use and camping after the park has closed. They stopped the suspect, a transient white male aged 35, as he was trying to leave the park when they arrived. When asked for his ID he provided a Social Security card. A name check showed the suspect was in violation of a Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA) order for Zones 1 and 2. The order was verified, and the suspect was booked into King County Jail for violation of a SODA order. He was also issued a Parks Exclusion notice for seven days.

Sun., Aug. 26, 10:05 a.m., Fourth Ave., City Hall Park. A transient Black male aged 47 was spotted by officers sitting on a bench in the northwest corner of City Hall Park. He was holding an open 16-oz. can of Icehouse beer. Officers contacted him for the violation and requested his ID. Radio reported that the man is currently banned from all Zone 4 parks. City Hall is a Zone 4 park, so the 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.

Bus Chick,
Transit
Authority



Carla Saulter

More joys of busing while pregnant
1. If you think being a bus chick requires "restroom radar" ["Where to Go When You Gotta Go," Oct. 5, 2006] try being a bus chick with a five-pound weight resting on your bladder. To ward off disaster, keep a list of available restrooms near your regular stops—along with relevant codes and key locations—in your bus chick bag. Also, don't forget to time hydration. Do not drink anything within an hour (preferably two hours) of any bus excursion.

2. After the "constantly sick and exhausted" phase of the first trimester passes, you might feel well enough to run again. When deciding whether to run for a bus, consider that, A, any jostling of the five-pound weight might adversely affect your bladder (see above); and B, even if you were a track star in high school, these days, you can barely keep pace with an 80-year-old woman pushing a walker (no disrespect to my 80-year-old bus chick sisters). Face the fact that you are unlikely to actually catch the bus you

Great Expectations, Part II

are "running" for. Finally, C: It will take you the entire ride (or the wait for the next bus) to catch your breath.

3. People will (kindly) offer you help when you don't need it. Some examples: holding your arm when you board the bus and offering to carry shopping bags that aren't heavy.

4. People will not offer you help when

Everyone on the bus really loves a pregnant woman.

you do need it. Prepare to stand on full buses and at crowded stops — no matter how badly your back hurts — regularly.

5. Remember that expression, "Everyone on the bus really loves a pregnant woman." (Personally, I don't understand the fascination. I'd rather see a cute baby in the flesh than a woman with a big ol' belly any day. But I digress.) You will be asked when you are due and the gender of your child on almost every ride you take. You will be told stories of daughters, wives, and nieces who are also expecting, and, unfortunately, of horrific labor experiences. While constant baby

talk can certainly get tedious, it's best not to fight it. (Not that you could. Not even headphones, a book, and your best "don't talk to me" expression will prevent the questions.) Besides, for this bus chick, "When's your baby due?" beats, "What are you?" any day of the week ["Can I Ask You Something," Nov. 30, 2006].

6. On a related note...

If you were looking forward to several months free of *Howyoudoin?s*, *Whatsyourname?s*, and *Youmarried?s*, prepare to be disappointed. You will, in fact, continue to be propositioned — both by members of that group of discerning gentlemen who don't bother to actually look at the women they're chatting up, and by an even more disturbing group: men who are actually attracted to pregnant women.

Listen, don't say I didn't warn you.

On the plus side: You don't have to worry about fitting your enormous belly behind a steering wheel. ■

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

PINK, Continued from Page 5

bucket of standing water. He washes the pink in the same bucket before icing the salmon down in a cooler. Blood, brick red and gleaming, pools on the bridge.

In less than five minutes, the lucky fisher lands another pink. Brought up by the net-man, the salmon flails for its life.

"A female," he says, grasping the hammer handle. Thwack. Thwack. Stillness. The knife. Gills, gills, belly. Inwards. Pushing them aside, he retrieves two egg sacks, full of roe the color of pumpkin.

By the time the female is clean and on ice, the lucky fisher has landed his third pink, a male developing its characteristic dorsal hump. Neighboring fishers crowd around his piece of bridge, hoping some of what he has may rub off.

Foley says that pinks in Puget Sound have historically been a staple salmon of canneries. But their recent arrival in the Lower Duwamish, in such massive numbers, represents a great opportunity for those who don't have access to boats to head out to open water. "It's a different clientele [on the fishing bridge]," he says, "and that's great." ■

DEVELOPERS, Continued from Page 5

prices affordable in 20 to 30 percent of the building's units. (For condos, it's the initial buyers who get to take the tax break.)

Today, the top income allowed for an individual renter is \$38,150, or 70 percent of the area's median income. The mayor's plan would increase the tax break to 12 years and up the income range to 100 percent of median, covering individuals making \$42,000 to \$52,000 a year, along with expanding the program to 39 neighborhoods — including Ballard, which is already in the midst of a condo boom.

When Ballard resident Wallace Rickard asked who in the room makes \$42,000 a year, no one raised their hand. "A tax incentive for multibillion-dollar corporations, to me," he said, "sounds very Republican."

Others questioned whose taxes would pay for sidewalks and other infrastructure that new developments would require and how long before the new apartments themselves could be converted to condos.

"We need to act and stop the condo conversion because we're losing diversity in our community,"

said one man to applause. "We're losing people who grew up here."

Rasmussen and Quinn stressed, however, that other city housing funds are available for people who make less than \$42,000 a year. There's no way right now, they said, for the city to address the housing squeeze faced by moderate-income workers such as firefighters, teachers, and nurses.

"When we have an earthquake, would you prefer to have the police, the firefighters, the nurses live in the city, or do you want them to be living in Bellingham?"

Quinn asked. "It's not a question of one income group being more important than another, but what tool can work at each different income level."

Lock Vista resident Iskra Johnson wasn't impressed. "This is extremely timid," she said. "It just seems you could do a lot more." ■

"This is extremely timid," Lock Vista resident Iskra Johnson said of the city's "Homes within Reach" idea. "It just seems you could do a lot more."

[Events]

Councilmembers will attend two more meetings to take public comment on expanding the housing tax break for developers: Sept. 19, 7 p.m., at the Youngstown Cultural Center, 4408 Delridge Way S.W.; and Sept. 26, 6 p.m., at the Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th S. For information, call (206)684-8808.



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Bike Cops

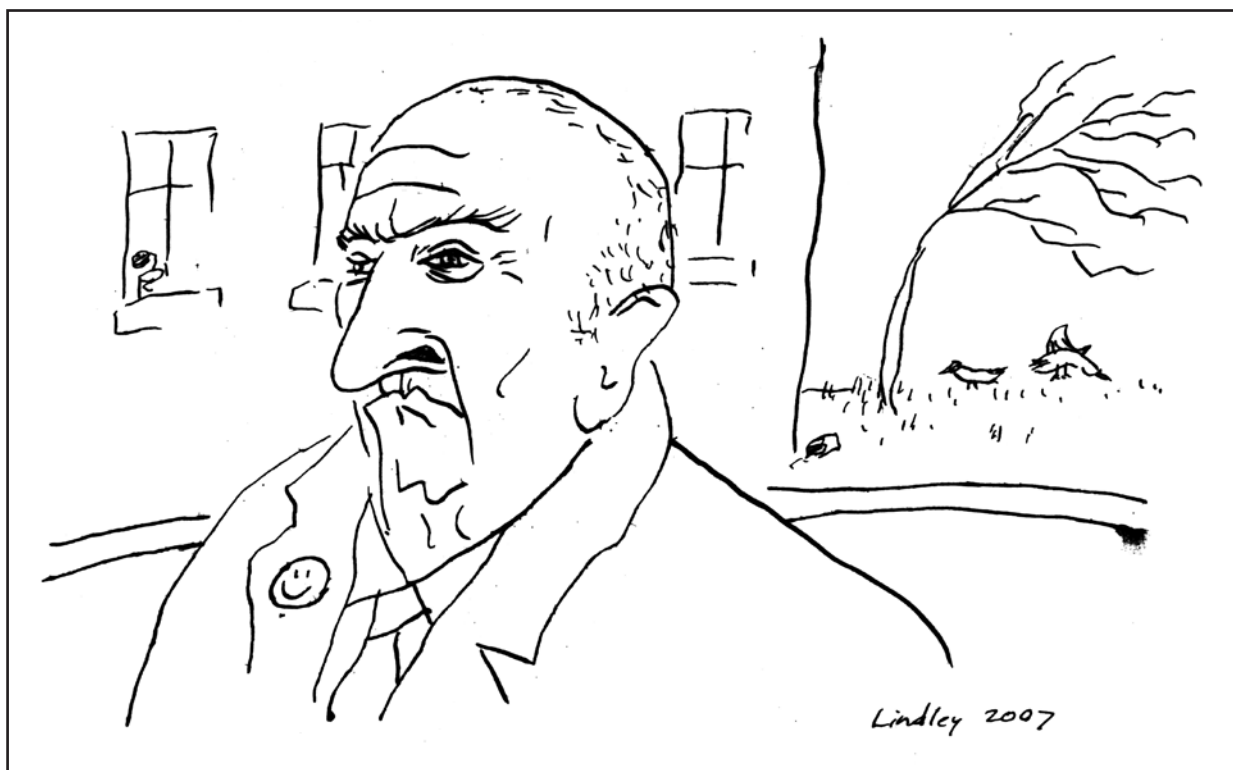
Black clad and helmeted
Agents of intimidation
Astride your city-issued bikes

I imagine you think of yourselves
As big city John Waynes
In the saddles of
Modern-day horses
Smug and snide
You ride

I dread your approach
Because I know
At least
In your views
I've committed the crime of
Homelessness
And your harassment
Is relentless

—Jay Cornelius

Patrolling the streets
Claiming to be servants of society
Yet
Acting as an occupying force



KOA, Continued from Page 7

Tell me how you feel about anarchism.

I think a lot of practical anarchism that involves mutual aid can go a long way in modern day society. I believe that industrial "anarcho-syndicalism" can work. Practical anarchism means simple forms of anarchism that are not too structured: a way of putting the principles of anarchism into practice. Anarcho-syndicalism is where the workers take control of the factories and they eliminate the middle man, which is the boss, and they make products to sell or trade their own labor.

What would you like to see change in Seattle, and what have you seen happen?

Activism has pretty much fallen by the wayside in Seattle. There's really not a whole lot that's been going on. I would

I've had a lot of issues with the activist community, because I am not college educated. Because I never went to college, therefore I don't know anything. There are a lot of grassroots homegrown activists who are involved in movements all over the world who never went to college, and it doesn't make them ignorant.

really like to see small projects start up... that would be really cool. I'd like to see someone open a drop-in center for women in downtown Seattle, so there is an option other than the Downtown Emergency Service Center. I think DESC is nothing but a warehouse for the street people and the poor. The old space that DESC used to have was deplorable. Yet, there need to be a lot more DESCs. There need to be a lot more shelters. People also need to attack the welfare system. There's this attitude that everybody on welfare is homeless and has five kids and is a single mom. That is just BS. Being on welfare is like a full-time job, and so is being on SSI [Supplemental Security Income] for that matter.

I'm on SSI now, and it's not fun. It's not fun at all. If it wasn't for that there'd be nothing. But sometimes it is nothing.

Can you talk about what it's like to be on SSI and have cancer?

Being on SSI is like floating on a bunch of thin cotton balls. It's also demoralizing and humiliating. People patronize you. They don't listen to you. They treat you like you're nothing. I get so disrespected, so dismissed. When I walk in [to the welfare office] I feel like I'm subhuman. There is no sympathy, no understanding.

How long have you been on it?

I've been on SSI for 13 months. It took me four years while I was on welfare to get on it. I had to get a lawyer and I had to sue. They deny everybody coverage two or three times before they finally grant it to you. Everybody has to sue for coverage two or three times, unless you're blind or missing a limb. When I was waiting to get into court, I met a guy who had full-blown AIDS and he had been denied SSI two or three times.

Now that you have it, how much money do you get?

On ordinary welfare I got \$339 a month. That was for my rent, food, everything. Now that I'm on SSI I get \$623 a month. I'm working part time and I'm worried that when I report my income it's going to affect the money that I get. If I don't report my income, I won't get other medical benefits.

Hillary Clinton wants to create free health care for everybody. That's never going to happen because the insurance companies are never going to give in. There would need to be a complete overhaul of the system for something like that to happen. It's just not part of the agenda.

Do you think your illness has anything to do with the environmental factors of where you were growing up, with being Hawaiian?

You know, I've thought about that and I really don't know. Cancer is high among Native Hawaiians. My uncle worked on an Air Force base in Hawaii and he got cancer as well. But I think one reason that Native people have higher rates of cancer and other illnesses is that they don't have as much access to preventative health care.

What could the state of Hawaii do to help more of the Natives?

They could start by packing up and getting off our land.

Yeah, but assuming they're not going anywhere, what else could they do?

They could allocate more funds to health care and housing. We don't have a lot of the same appropriated funds that other Native Americans on the mainland are getting, we don't have the same programs, and that's one of the reasons it's so difficult for Native Hawaiians to stay on the islands. ■

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Oktoberfest is this week's calendar highlight because it celebrates culture, music, philanthropy... but, really, it's due to the alluring abundance of tasty beer. Whichever reason motivates people to attend this year, Oktoberfest has much to offer: over 35 breweries; a great musical lineup including The Saturday Knights, Thee Emergency, Speaker Speaker, Ships and more; plus, Oktoberfest proceeds benefit the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, which funds important programs like the Fremont Library, History House and Boys and Girls Club in Wallingford, and B.F. Day School. So drink up. Tickets: \$15-20. Friday through Sunday, Sept. 21-23. Info: www.fremontoktoberfest.com. Photo courtesy www.rustyvalentine.com

Calendar

This Week's Top Picks

Wednesday 9/19

The last day to see *Strange Culture*, Steve Kurtz's bizarre nightmare involving bogus bio-terrorism and the paranoia-driven American justice system. Reported to the FBI as a suspected bioterrorist for possessing Petri dishes he and his wife were using for an art installation, Kurtz found himself arrested for terrorism. Fast forward three years and Kurtz still faces federal prosecution and a potentially long prison term. *Strange Culture* exposes an ignorant American government that, fueled by suspicion, terrorizes its own citizens. 7 and 9:15 p.m., Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave. Info: www.nwfilmforum.org.

Thursday 9/20

Slideluck Potshow: a tantalizing combination of a slideshow and a family-style potluck, featuring the visual art, photography, and media of local artists in a two-act multimedia slideshow projected on both Northwest Film Forum screens. 7 p.m., Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave. Info: www.nwfilmforum.org.

Friday 9/21

V-Day: Until the Violence Stops is a documentary about the movement to end violence against women. Originating from Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, the show evolved into the internationally celebrated V-Day. Co-sponsored by Wallingford Meaningful Movies and Seattle NOW Chapter in conjunction with Take Back the Night organizing. Facilitated discussion to follow. 7 p.m., Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Place N. Info: www.meaningfulmovies.org or www.nowseattle.org.

Saturday 9/22

This show is sure to be sold out by the end of the week, so act fast and buy a ticket: KEXP's John in the Morning at Night presenting **Maps, Vampire Weekend, Jamie T, Das Llamas, and Joy Wants Eternity.** Tickets: \$20-\$25 (21+). 5p.m., Crocodile Café, 2200 Second Ave. Info: www.kexp.org.

Thursday 9/27

Historian and activist Christopher Finan discusses **From the Palmer Raids to the**

PATRIOT Act: A History of the Fight for Free Speech in America. Finan's latest book creates a timeline for the American citizen's most jeopardized civil liberty. Presented by ACLU of Washington and The Elliott Bay Book Co. 7 p.m., Microsoft Auditorium, Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave. Info: 206-386-4636 or www.spl.org.

Friday 9/28

Come Together with Harrell Fletcher: **Portland artist Harrell Fletcher unites 10 local individuals to share their experiences with the Vietnam and Iraq wars.** Open discussion will follow the presentation. 6:30 p.m., Henry Art Gallery, 4100 15th Ave NE. Info: www.henryart.org.

Saturday 9/29

Peace Without Borders: Building the Movement. **A family-oriented, historic gathering at Peace Arch State Park, on the Canada-US border,** will bring together Canadian and American peace activists to build a more effective international peace movement and a peaceful, just and sustainable world. 10 a.m., Peace Arch State Park. Info: www.worldpeaceforum.ca or www.whatcompjc.org.

Sunday 9/30

Stopping by at Vérité Coffee is the world tour of the **Seattle-Havana Poster show** that debuted at Bumbershoot. The show exhibits over 40 posters made by Seattle and Havana's best silk-screen artists. Unbeknownst to most in the U.S. due to the embargo restricting communication with Cuba, Havana is a burgeoning hot spot for innovative poster art. Once the show leaves in November, it will travel to Havana and remain there at El Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales as a gift from Seattle artists. Info: www.seattlehavana.com or www.veritecoffee.com/events.html.

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

BUSKERS, Continued from Page 4

And, Sun., Sept. 16 at Pike Place Market was Buskers' Festival. Steel guitars and didgeridoos lined the sidewalks, backed by musicians of all ages and styles. The event showcased street performance talent while punctuating the end of Seattle's official Buskers Week, as well as providing the perfect venue for someone like Hahn to get her start.

"The organizers heard me playing on the street, so they told me to give them my number, and said they would call me if there was a no-show, and that's pretty much what happened," Hahn says. "It was one of the best days of my life."

And if Hahn ever becomes famous, her story will be added to the long history of busking in Seattle.

Seattle Buskers' Week, the only such official week dedicated to street musicians in the country, began in 2004, when founding members of the Pike Place Market Performers Guild Jim Page and Artis the Spoonman were having lunch

"There are no agents, no publicity managers, no censors. The only people you answer to are yourself and your audience."

—Jim Page

with community activist Nick Licata, who's now president of the Seattle City Council. "We were talking, and I slipped in that there ought to be a Buskers' Month," Page says. "Without missing a beat, Licata looked at me and said 'Jim, a month might be a little much, but we could do a week.'"

This wasn't Page's first trip to City Hall on busking's behalf. Thirty years earlier, he was performing on a sidewalk when a motorcycle cop threatened him with arrest for playing without a permit. But there was a catch: permits were only granted to the blind and otherwise disabled.

Page, however, was determined to change the law. "I went down to Mayor's Office and got the ball rolling, everybody got on board, and before you knew it, street performing was legal in any public place, whether you had a permit or not."

Busking in public space has been legal ever since, and Page is passionate about it. For Page, busking isn't just a way to make a buck; it has an important social function.

"If we are going to have an authentic culture, we need to have art in the streets and parks," he says. "There are no agents, no publicity managers, no censors. The only people you answer to are yourself and your audience."

That connection between individuals is what draws Mark Mukunda and his eight-foot didgeridoo down to Pike Place Market every day in the summer. "I like it when the audience gets into it, when kids come up in front of you and dance." Makunda fell in love with the didgeridoo 10 years ago at a festival in Joshua Tree, California, where he saw some of the best Australian Aboriginal players in the world. He picked up a used didgeridoo from a friend who was getting rid of it, and he's been playing ever since.

At Sunday's Festival, Mukunda sat cross-legged on the corner adjacent to a pastry shop, staring placidly into space as low, quivering sounds came from the bell of his instrument. As pedestrians ambled past, most paused to watch and listen. A few dropped coins in Makunda's hat, but most just smiled appreciatively and went on their way.

But while this may have seemed mundane to some people, Mukunda was thrilled. "I made some money today, and I got to do some playing," he says. "Busking is about showing the world that it is possible to follow your dreams. I do what I love and make a living out of it."

Page has made his living out of street performing since 1971, but he has no plans to retire. "I'll be playing until I physically can't," he says.

And when that day comes, Sunshine Hahn, Mark Mukunda and a host of other up-and-coming musicians will be there, hats on the sidewalk and instruments in hand, to take up the mantle. ■



Jim Hinde, a veteran street performer, performs "Chops Down the Wind," a song of political commentary. He and dozens of others filled the streets of Pike Place Market with music, magic, and dancing Sun., Sept. 16, during Buskers' Festival, which celebrated Seattle's tradition of street performing. Photo by Patrick Reis