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# REAL CHANGE

## Adoptions Across the Color Line

Parents, adoptees, agencies consider the complexities of raising a child of a different race.

**Two Black families** passed up Chad Goller-Sojourner because of his skin tone before he was adopted by a Tacoma-area couple who happened to be white. Raised by white parents, "I didn't dream in Black for a long time," he says. "I dreamed in white." ... see page 4



Photo by Rosette Royale



### Cascade Dropped

Neighborhood center loses city funding ...see page 5.

Photo by JP Gritton

### Still trying to cope

Woman recounts 2005 violation by male jail staff— and the mental trauma it caused. ...see page 4.

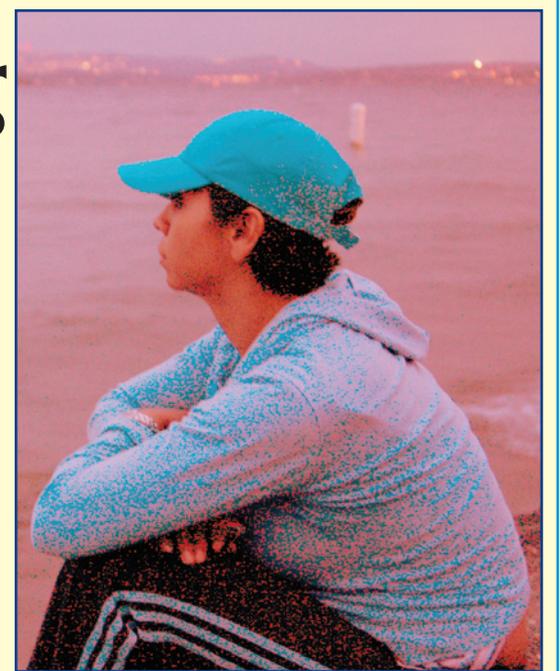
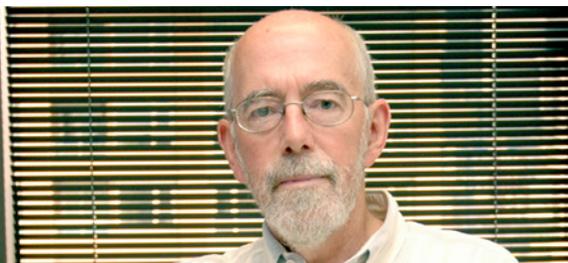


Photo by Elisa Heurta-Enochian

### Change Agent



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Vendor of the Week

**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](http://www.realchangenews.org)

Email: [rchange@speakeasy.org](mailto:rchange@speakeasy.org)

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## Workers are ill-served by the nation's unemployment insurance system

# A Safety Net in Need of Repair

By Rep. Jim McDermott,  
 Guest Writer

**A**s the Representative from the 7th Congressional District in Washington I try to live and act according to the words and wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi who said: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

In the current Congress, I am privileged to serve my constituents as Chairman of the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee. I think of it as the social safety net subcommittee because our focus is on vulnerable children and families and on the programs and policies meant to give all Americans a fair shake and a helping hand when they need one.

Recently, at my request, I asked the Government Accountability Office

**Low-wage workers are only one-third as likely to receive unemployment benefits as higher-wage workers, even though they are much more likely to be unemployed. What's more, women are especially hard hit because they make up two-thirds of the part-time work force.**

(GAO) to produce an independent report that examined the question of whether our existing unemployment insurance safety net does a good job in helping American workers who lose their jobs.

I had my suspicions beforehand, but I found the GAO report disturbing to say the least.

In a nutshell, GAO reported that a declining number of jobless Americans are helped by the unemployment insurance system as it exists today. The report shows that low-wage workers are only one-third as likely to receive unemploy-

ment benefits as higher-wage workers, even though they are much more likely to be unemployed. What's more, women are especially hard hit because they make up two-thirds of the part-time work force.

**We have a gaping hole** in our social safety net, and Americans are falling through it when they fall on economic hard times. This is wrong and we need to do something about it in Congress as quickly as possible. In many ways I believe that part of my role as subcommittee chairman is to preserve the vision and protect the legacy of one of our nation's greatest presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

FDR believed in America and the American people and his optimism never wavered. The darkest days of the Great Depression were no match for the glistening sunrise of FDR's vision of a courageous and hopeful nation. In the face of adversity, FDR planted the seeds for prosperity and he vowed that Americans would stand together in good times and bad. He worked with Congress to weave an economic social safety net that included the creation of unemployment insurance as part of his New Deal.

President Roosevelt's New Deal symbolized America at its best, one nation watching out for one another. Seventy years later, not to merely honor FDR's vision, but to act as guardians of the faith and the trust that he restored in America, I believe it is time to meet the dawn of a new century with the bright light of courage and optimism from the last century. We cannot promise that you will never feel the pain of economic hard times, but we should promise that you will not face it alone.

With this in mind I have introduced H.R. 2233 to modernize the unemployment insurance program. A companion bill (S. 1871) has been introduced in the Senate. *The New York Times* recently endorsed my legislation with a strongly worded editorial. A number of non-profit and citizen organizations across the country that represent millions of Americans have come out in support

of the legislation. It is my hope that my hometown newspapers, including *Real Change*, demand real change in the nation's unemployment insurance program, because all of the American

**We cannot promise that you will never feel the pain of economic hard times, but we should promise that you will not face it alone.**

people, especially those at the lower rungs of the economic ladder, deserve the strength of a nation ready to extend a helping hand in time of need.

**I believe that government** can be a force of good in our lives and in the world. No one proved that more dramatically than Franklin Delano Roosevelt. There are those who would like us to forget that. We must not. There are those who believe that America is a place where you are on your own. I believe that America is a nation founded on the common good to serve we the people. When hardships and suffering afflict any American, all of America suffers.

President Roosevelt said: "In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up or else all go down as one people."

The 21st century offers great promise, but we will ultimately succeed in the future by relying on the great optimism FDR established in the not-too-distant past. America weaved social safety nets because we recognized that what happened to one American mattered to all Americans. ■

**Rep. Jim McDermott** represents the Seventh District, covering Vashon Island and most of Seattle



**I can't remember a time when things have been more on fire around here.** Circulation this year is up by 17 percent and we haven't even hit our

busy season yet, and it seems like every time I talk to someone about *Real Change*, they tell me how much their vendor means to them and how looking forward to each new issue of the paper has become a part of their lives.

## Director's Corner

We recently added a new AmeriCorps volunteer to the vendor staff and a Jesuit Volunteer Corps person to the organizing staff, and brought in a new volunteer manager and office manager to boot. The front office is buzzing with new energy, and the editorial room has an electric feel to it these days as well.

Our focus has been on listening to the vendors and building a new vehicle for community activism on homelessness, poverty, and growing inequality that offers a new space for cross-class organizing. *Real Change* is building for power and creating something new and exciting. We're not quite sure where the work is going, but this we

know for sure: Something powerful is happening, and we want you to be a part of it.

We'd like you to count yourself among our 500 closest friends by attending the *Real Change* Thirteenth Anniversary Breakfast on Wed., Oct. 24, 7:30 a.m. at the Westin Hotel. Tickets are \$60. RSVP now and tell your friends. This is a great opportunity to experience the *Real Change* community in action, and hear our inspiring keynote speaker Cecile Andrews discuss how social movements are born of relationships. For more information, email [RC13@realchangenews.org](mailto:RC13@realchangenews.org), or call 441-3247 x208.

## Just Heard...

### Immigrant query

Some say it's a long shot that the Lynnwood City Council will pass a law like Seattle's prohibiting local police from asking about a person's immigration status — particularly in a city where police give desk space to agents from Immigration & Customs Enforcement ("Washington police team up with immigration officers," RC, Sept. 5-11, 2007).

But, with the support of Mayor Don Gough, members of Lynnwood's Latino community think they can do it.

On Sept. 22, the Washington Community Action Network, which has been working to increase the voice of Lynnwood's Latino residents, held a public forum to talk about recent ICE activity in Lynnwood and the prospects for changing the city's law. After a meeting with Gough, says Washington CAN organizer Maru Villalpando, the mayor agreed to forward the ordinance idea to the recently formed

Lynnwood Diversity Commission to draft a law for later presentation to the City Council.

The Diversity Commission will take up the proposal — and public testimony — at a meeting scheduled Oct. 10, 6:45 p.m., at the Lynnwood Library, 19200 44th Ave W.

—Cydney Gillis

### Solids and the Sound

The hulking cruise ships that berth in Seattle can't dump sewage into Puget Sound. But as soon as they get 12 nautical miles from Washington's shoreline, they can relieve themselves of some of the 35 tons of waste they accrue each day. When they do, environmental watchdogs say, some of the nasty, partially treated solid waste can flow back into the region's inland waters.

But King County councilmembers on Monday promoted a way to keep the waters cleaner — if they can channel all that biomass into a wastewater treatment plant.

At the council's behest, the county's Wastewater Treatment Division will explore offering cruise ship companies a carrot: a way to dump their waste into pipes running to Renton's South Treatment Plant. The county is working with the state Department of Ecology and a cruise ship trade association on the effort.

—Adam Hyla

### Lights out on nightclub bill

Mayor Nickels wants licensing for Seattle nightclubs, and he wants it now. That's why last week he vetoed a City Council bill that would have set up another commission to study the licensing idea for another year. In a letter to the City Council, Nickels noted that the current commission has been investigating licensing since March 2006. "It is time for us to put an end to this debate, move beyond process, and focus our work on ensuring a vibrant and safe nightlife industry," Nickels stated in a press release.

The veto, the second of Nickels' administration, likely dealt a death blow to the council's legislation; Sally Clark, a proponent of the legislation, says the council is unlikely to muster the votes for an override. Though the licensing program remains in limbo, the Council has already passed legislation that establishes a Nightlife Enforcement Team, and has plans in December to revamp the city's Noise Ordinance.

—Patrick Reis

# Change Agent



Jim Doherty: speaking up for the emerging anti-Drug War majority.

Photo by Elisa Huerta-Enochian

Presidential contestant Ron Paul got thunderous applause at a Republican presidential candidate's forum last week with the following statement: "We don't have to have more courts and more prisons, we need to repeal the whole War on Drugs."

The warm reaction, wouldn't have surprised legal consultant Jim Doherty, a former prosecutor and member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.

Doherty speaks several times a year before community groups: Rotary, Kiwanis, chambers of commerce. Those who don't agree with his message — that the War on Drugs has been a 30-year, \$69 billion failure — are generally receptive by the end.

LEAP is a nationwide association of people who have worked to catch, try, and put away participants in the drug trade, and who now want to put the whole system in recovery. Provide treatment, not prison. License the production, distribution, and ingestion of drugs. Watch the black market, which makes pot more available to kids than beer, lose its cachet.

"More and more people of all types are receptive to this idea," he says. "They know drugs are bad, but they also know the criminal justice system isn't helping."

—Adam Hyla

## Get Change from Plastic

This month a local organization called the Interra Project unveils the Puget Sound Community Card, a consumers' card designed to empower consumers to put their money where their deepest values are.

The card will be used by local shoppers like a membership card, swiping it during purchases at participating local businesses. After a minimum purchase, merchants give a portion to a school or nonprofit of the cardholder's choosing and rebate an equal amount as a cash reward to the cardholder. One does not need a bank account to use the card; any form of payment — cash, check, or credit — is acceptable.

Developed to increase the circulation of dollars locally, the card encourages consumers to support the cultural, economic, and environmental health of the community. It's the basis for a program that its creators hope will generate over \$8 million in funds to local nonprofits and more than 200 new area jobs in the next five years.

It's part of the Interra Project's objective to create a values-based economy with an incentive for consumers to shift their purchasing habits, say project spokespeople. Interra's founders include Dee Hock, founder of Visa International, and Greg Steltenpohl, who founded Odwalla Juices.

All local schools are participating as potential beneficiaries. Other participating organizations include human rights and social justice groups such as the

Seattle Human Services Coalition and the YWCA, conservation groups like the Alliance for Puget Sound Shorelines and the Cascade Land Conservancy, and religious groups focused on public issues such as the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness and Earth Ministry.

Though based in Seattle, Interra launched its first card in Boston, where it set up the Boston Community Change Card in 2006. Interra executive director Jon Ramer says results in Seattle are expected to be much greater than the Boston "pilot project," with a much wider alliance of beneficiaries and businesses.

"What we want to do is create a network of regional programs that are organized at the neighborhood level," Ramer says.

Interra has identified over 100 cities as probable markets for the cards.

To learn more about the Interra Project and the Community Card, go to [www.interraproject.org](http://www.interraproject.org).

—Tabitha Brown

## Hearing the case

For people who rely on federal Section 8 housing vouchers to pay their rent, there was good news and bad news last week from U.S. District Court Judge Marsha Pechman.

On Sept. 25, the judge ordered the Seattle Housing Authority to refrain from conducting an informal hearing to terminate the Section 8 voucher of Tina Hendrix until her lawsuit is resolved. The

lawsuit charges that, in such hearings, SHA's hearing examiner doesn't take tenant testimony or evidence into account before simply rubber-stamping SHA's decision — a move that has led to many unwarranted terminations, according to the Tenants Union and Hendrix, the niece of guitar legend Jimi Hendrix.

In the order stopping the hearing, Pechman agreed with Hendrix and her lawyer, Eric Dunn of the Northwest Justice Project, that there are "serious questions" about the way SHA conducts its informal hearings.

The bad news is that, because Hendrix is only one plaintiff (the Northwest Justice Project is prohibited under its federal funding grant from filing class-action lawsuits), the judge rejected Dunn's request to stop all SHA termination hearings for the time being. In her order, she also noted that she thinks Hendrix has little chance of ultimately winning the case.

Dunn says although he's disappointed there was no full moratorium, "We are pleased that Judge Pechman has recognized this case as one concerning issues of 'broad and overriding public import' and will be allowing us an opportunity to present our case."

The housing authority is happy with the order as well. "It's encouraging that the judge seems to agree we're in compliance with HUD regulations," says SHA deputy director Andrew Lofton. "That seems to be a validation by the court."

—Cydney Gillis

## Parents, adoptees, agencies to discuss the plusses and minuses of transracial adoption

# Parents, Kids Across the Color Line

By ROSETTE ROYALE,  
Staff Reporter

Back in the early '70s, when Chad Goller-Sojourner was an infant in an over-crowded foster home in Ohio, the first couple that considered adopting him passed him up. The second couple that came to meet him opted not to give him a home either. Their reasons? The couples, both of whom were Black, thought that, well, he was just a little too dark skinned.

The third couple that looked into adopting him, Goller-Sojourner says,

had no problem with his skin tone. They had already adopted a Samoan girl and a bi-racial boy, so this 13-month-old dark-skinned boy? Not a problem. But, from the viewpoint of a Black social worker working on the adoption, there was one tiny issue: Couple Number Three was white. "And," Goller-Sojourner says, "they told her, 'Well, thank you for your opinion.'"

Then the white couple, who were living near Tacoma, did what the two other Black couples wouldn't: they adopted him, releasing him from the foster care system and ushering him into a life of multiple identities.

Shortly after the adoption, Goller-Sojourner's parents moved to Nigeria, where they lived until he was almost five. Surrounded by so many other dark-skinned people, he says it wasn't until his return to a predominantly white area of Tacoma that he began to understand that he was different. "I didn't dream in Black for a long time," he says. "I dreamed in white."

And while he says he knew he had nappy hair and that he had to put on more lotion than white kids, he understands now that he was socialized as a white child. "I had to learn to be Black," says Goller-Sojourner.

Such stories, of Black children being chosen by

white parents, will be the focus of the Oct. 11 panel, "Transracial Adoption of Black Children." Co-sponsored by the Central District Forum on Arts and Ideas and the Ethnic Cultural Center/Theater, the forum will bring together Black adults adopted by white parents and white parents who crossed color lines to choose children, along with those working in the field of adoption. Together, they plan to discuss the complexities – cultural, moral, logistical – inherent in cross-racial adoption.

For Penny Nelson, the issue of skin

**When Penny Nelson was preparing to adopt a child in 1968, the caseworker posed this question: "What color are you comfortable with?"**

color came into play when she and her husband sought out their second child. Having already adopted a Korean girl in 1965, Nelson says that they were drawn to billboards placed around Seattle by an agency called Medina Baby Home, prompting would-be parents to consider minority adoption. When they met the Medina caseworker in 1968, Nelson says she posed a question to them: "What color are you comfortable with?"

Nelson says that was an issue they had never considered. "We just sat there

looking at her dumfounded," remembers Nelson, "and she said, 'I want to know how dark you're comfortable with.'" The caseworker, herself Black, extended an arm, to use a color guide. "So she said, 'Well, I'm sort of medium,' and we said, 'Oh, that sounds fine,' remembers Nelson. "I mean, talk about naïve. We were just thrown by the question."

In the end, the Nelsons chose a child based not on skin tone, but simply on the desire to adopt. They soon found themselves with a new daughter, two months old, whose birth parents were Black and Native American.

Nelson says she can understand how her cultural naiveté at the time might strike some as proof that transracial adoption is an unfortunate experience for the child, but sees the issue as having far too many layers to write off so quickly. "It's easy to say that [transracial adoption] shouldn't happen," she says. "But you're not out there adopting one of those kids who needs a home."

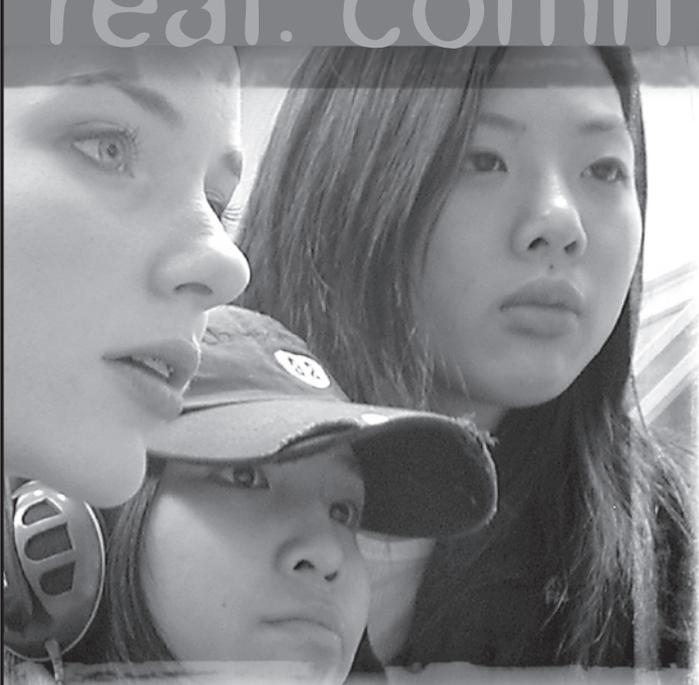
Billy Hancock, a recruitment specialist for Amara Parenting & Adoption Services, says that while every adopted child will struggle with identity, kids adopted by parents of a different race will confront more. (Four years ago, Medina Baby Home joined with another organization and changed its name to Amara.) A Caucasian family is likely to be knowledgeable about racism in general, Hancock says, but may not be aware of



As an infant, two Black families passed up Chad Goller-Sojourner because of his skin tone before he was adopted by a Tacoma-area couple who happened to be white. Raised by white parents, "I didn't dream in Black for a long time," he says. "I dreamed in white." Photo by Rosette Royale

ADOPTION, Continued on Page 10

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## No complaint filed in 2005 incident that woman says traumatized her **Woman Recounts Forcible Strip Search at King County Jail**

By CYDNEY GILLIS,  
Staff Reporter

**A**na Bautista-Najera doesn't have a clean record. But neither does the King County Jail.

On June 20, 2005, Bautista-Najera was brought into the King County Jail after being arrested for domestic violence. She had been drinking that night and, when her boyfriend tried to take away the keys of the Ford Explorer they both owned, she had punched and kicked him.

What happened next, says the tiny 32-year-old, has made the last two years of her life a living hell.

SEARCH, Continued on Page 6

## A “Loving Presence” outside Planned Parenthood

# Anti-abortion activists promise peace in nationwide vigil

By *CYDNEY GILLIS*,  
Staff Reporter

If you believe in the Bible, a lot of things can happen in 40 days. It took 40 days of rain to destroy the world, 40 days for Moses to bring home God's law, and 40 days in the desert for Jesus to start preaching.

In 40 days' time, some Christians are hoping for a similar miracle: By praying and fasting round-the-clock in front of Planned Parenthood clinics in 90 cities — including Seattle, Everett, Tacoma and Olympia — they're hoping to reduce the number of abortions performed in Washington and across the nation.

The event is called 40 Days for Life, and organizers call it the largest single anti-choice mobilization in history. In Seattle, a vigil started Sept. 26 at a Planned Parenthood clinic in the University District, one of the nonprofit's two health centers in Seattle.

Prior to the vigil, abortion opponents gathered for a kick-off event at the Catholic Newman Center across the street from the University of Washington. While about 30 pro-lifers prayed inside the center's chapel, an equal number of pro-choice activists held up signs outside and chanted, “Right to life, it's a lie.”

But Chris Haag, a co-organizer for Seattle's 40 Days, says the vigils are meant to be peaceful and non-confrontational. Participants sign a pledge form stipulating they will not block a woman's path or

**“They're trying to catch young people who are new to campus and basically make them feel embarrassed or ashamed to proactively protect their bodies, protect their health, and prevent unintended pregnancies.”**

—*Sasha Summer Cousineau*, NARAL Pro-Choice Washington

call her names. Photos of aborted fetuses are not welcome, only signs reminding women that Christ is watching.

“The desire of [the vigil] is to witness to the gospel of life, to witness to our beliefs,” Haag says, “and show that there are those of us who do have a love and desire for the babies and for the women who go out to the clinics who consider abortions.”

“It's a very nonjudgmental campaign,” he adds. “We don't think of it as a picket or a protest, but more so just as a loving presence, a prayerful presence.”

It's a presence, however, that has

deterred women: At Texas A&M University, where Haag helped organize the original 40 Days for Life vigil in 2004, he notes that the annual abortion rate dropped by a third in the surrounding city of College Station. According to 40 Days literature, a vigil held in Houston directed 120 pregnant women away from an abortion facility to nearby pregnancy care centers.

“We consider that this is basically harassment,” says Sasha Summer Cousineau, a NARAL Pro-Choice Washington staff member who organized the 40 Days counter-rally. “They're trying to catch young people who are new to [the UW] campus and basically make them feel embarrassed or ashamed to proactively protect their bodies, protect their health, and prevent unintended pregnancies.”

An accidental pregnancy is one reason that Megan, a recent UW graduate who did not give her last name as she passed last week's rally, says she supports abortion rights. “I can't imagine having a child too young,” she says. “I don't think it would be right for the child. I don't think it's right for the parents.”

But Janae, a current UW student who did not give her last name, says abortion is wrong. “I do agree for women's choice,” she says, “but what about the baby's choice?”

Cousineau and Brian Cutler, a community relations officer with Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, say if anti-choicers really wanted to stop



Pro-choice supporters lined a block near the University of Washington on Sept. 25 to protest the Seattle kick-off of 40 Days For Life, a round-the-clock prayer vigil that will last 40 days at Planned Parenthood clinics in the University District and in 90 cities cross the nation. Photo by Andrew Drawbaugh

abortions, they'd join in efforts to make contraceptives and sex education more readily available. Cutler says no one does more than Planned Parenthood to prevent unintended pregnancies and that abortions make up only 5 percent of the organization's health services and screenings.

But the vigils are no siege, he says. Since their start last week, no more protesters than usual have appeared at the organization's U District site. Those who have shown up, he says, haven't stayed long.

Last Saturday, he says, about six protesters were outside the U District clinic when it opened and they left by midday. Aaron Stockton, a 40 Days co-organizer, says the vigil has been continual from the start, at times dropping to one person from an average of four.

Cutler calls that having a war and nobody showing up. More protesters may have turned out for the campaign in other states, he says, but here in Seattle, “It's pretty wimpy.” ■

## Defenders are stepping forth to raise funds, contest decision

# Unique Community Space Loses City Funding

By *JP GRITTON*,  
Contributing Writer

A grandmother and her grandson, a few scrappy-looking kids in black, and a wiry, animated guy named Ray wait in line at the Cascade People's Center for organic produce. Conversation shifts from the weather to Ray's secondhand truck to the South Lake Union Streetcar. On this rainy Sunday afternoon, there is a sense, as indescribable as it is undeniable, of community.

And it may not be around much longer.

The City of Seattle's Human Services Department recently announced its intention not to fund the Cascade People's Center, igniting a controversy that has spread beyond the borders of Seattle's rapidly changing Cascade neighborhood.

The People's Center, located at the corner of Pontius and Thomas, relies on City funding to provide everything from self-defense to summer camp to space for community potlucks. Losing the City's

funding, said program manager Myla Becker, could mean the end for an organization that last year served nearly 4,000 people from a variety of socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

“We're a place where those who are marginalized can have a voice,” said Becker. “When you cut that funding, it sends a message.”

The center has one of the region's strongest records for community outreach, often becoming a place for community members to organize and voice concerns — as Becker put it in an email to the organization's partners, it is the neighborhood's “only free community gathering space.”

The loss of funding has raised a few eyebrows: Does the city's decision boil down to an attempt to silence the critics of the rapid development of the South Lake Union area?

Human Services Department director Patricia McInturff says no.

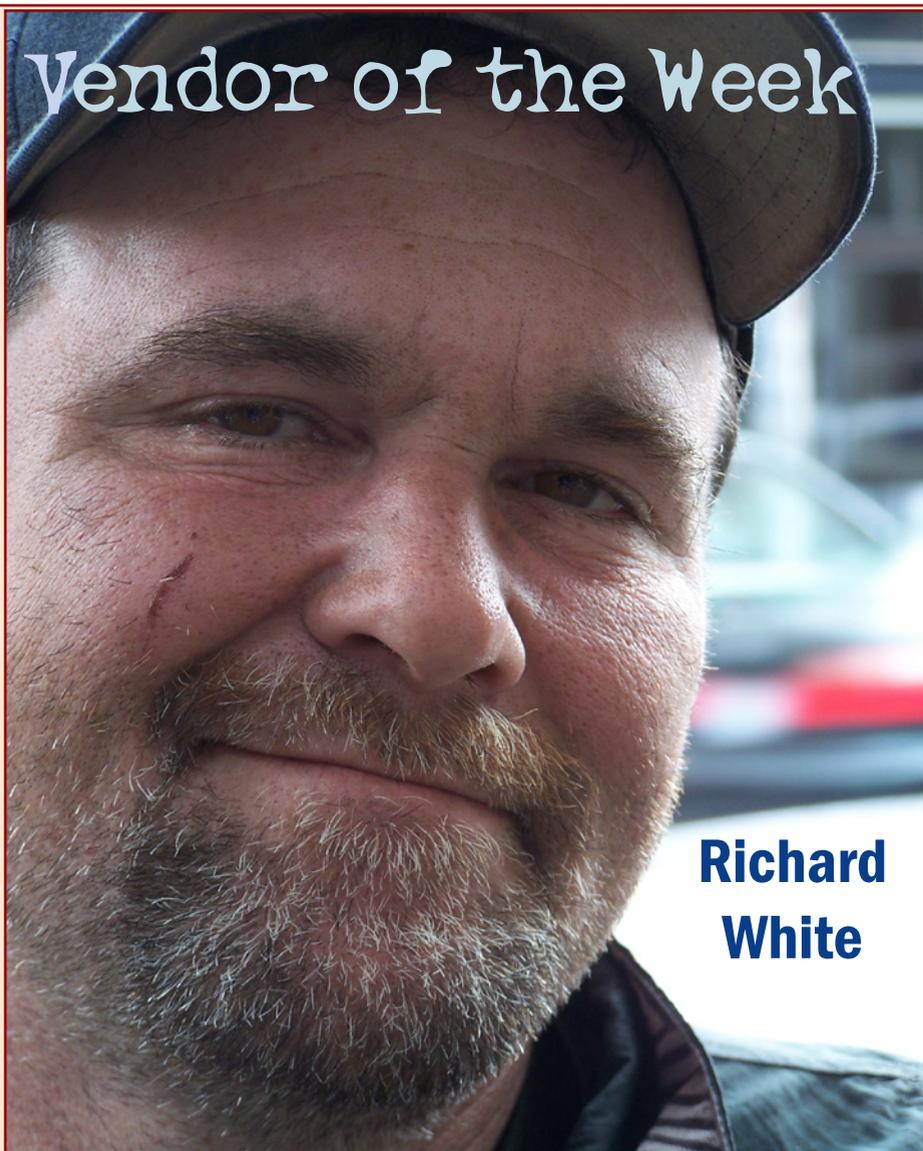
“Every four years, family service centers are asked to fill out an RFP [Request For Proposals]. It's a competitive process... [The Cascade People's Center] had a very strong application, but our panel of experts was unanimous in its decision not to recommend funding this year.”

The panel, composed of three members from within McInturff's department and another three from the nonprofit community, chose from a field of nine family centers this year; seven were awarded grants of \$250,000 based on performance in so-called “core services,” including family literacy, information, referral, education and employment.

The city “funds programs, not agencies,” says McInturff, and political advocacy and community building “were simply not in the criteria.”

CASCADE, Continued on Page 10

## Vendor of the Week

Richard  
White

Probably once a week for about a month, *Real Change's* editorial department has received an e-mail from a customer wanting to nominate Richard White for vendor of the week.

"[Richard] has to be the friendliest vendor I've ever seen. Hardworking, he is always up at dawn, ready to catch the early crowd on their way to the office, his customary smile never fading," said one.

"Richard's cheerfulness is never obsequious or self-serving but, I believe, a genuine expression of his personality and it never fails to give me a little pick-me-up in the morning," read another.

We've been trying to track White down for quite some time — but he's a busy man.

Recently, White found a job at a restaurant in Fremont. His dependability and friendliness have already made him a candidate — even though

he's only been at the restaurant for a few months — for a managerial position. With his spare time he sells *Real Change*, and quite a few, at Marketime in Fremont and outside the Red Mill and the Starbucks on Greenwood Ave.

He's been at it for quite a while, and his persistence has paid off.

"I've been selling *Real Change* so long," White said, "I can't even remember how I got started."

Though a native of Chicago, White calls Seattle home. When I asked if he liked the Cubbies or the Sox, he said, "Mariners," with a sly grin.

"I love it here.... For a major city, it's one of the cleanest and mellowest cities anywhere."

And it helps, no doubt, that White has a small fan club.

"I love selling the paper."

—Story and photo by J.P. Gritton

## SEARCH, Continued from Page 4

Bautista-Najera says she was brought into a jail intake room. It had a counter with jail personnel on one side, mostly male, and inmates on the other. While standing in front of the counter, she says, she was told to get naked, presumably to be put in a jail jumpsuit. But Bautista-Najera said no, demanding that she be given a private place to undress.

She says the jailers repeated the demand twice. But with her third refusal, Bautista-Najera made a big mistake: She says she kicked up her foot and a flip-flop sandal she was wearing flew off, striking a guard in the nose.

Eight male guards rushed her, she says, carried her into an adjacent room and, with two holding her wrists, two her waist and two her ankles, she was stripped in seconds.

"I was screaming, 'Please don't, don't, I'm sorry. I need to get naked, but I can't get naked in front of everybody,'" she says. "Whatever I was screaming, it didn't matter. They put pepper spray in my face and they pulled on my hair."

"After that," she says, "one officer put his finger in my vagina and, in that moment, I thought they were going to rape me."

She says the men put her in a jumpsuit and left the room. Sometime after that, jail staff sent her for an evaluation by a psychologist with or paid by Public Health - Seattle & King County. She says she told the psychologist the whole story, but never went back to the jail to file a formal complaint because of her terror at being raped again.

Since then, says Bautista-Najera, a self-employed housecleaner, she has experienced flashbacks of that night that have made her do odd and terrible things, like jumping out of a car one night and twice trying to kill herself by speeding so fast that she'd wreck her car.

It was during a suicidal episode last December, she says, that she ran into a man in a wheelchair near Harborview Medical Center, then sped away. She fractured two of his ribs and is now awaiting trial for felony hit-and-run. But, after what happened to her two years ago, she says, she wasn't going back to the King County Jail.

In the wake of the hit-and-run, Bautista-Najera says she had to go public. "I've just

been abused and I mean to do something about it," she says. But her story is not an aberration at the King County Jail.

Last year, four jail guards were charged with sexual misconduct with inmates — something that Theryn Kigvamasud'Vashti, co-director of Seattle's Communities Against Rape and Abuse, says is more prevalent than people realize.

"This issue of police violence against women, particularly women involved in the criminal justice system and women who are brown, is not uncommon," Kigvamasud'Vashti says. "This is not a new issue."

If the incident took place as Bautista-Najera describes it, says Maj. William Hayes, public information officer for the jail's operator, the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, it would be considered serious misconduct: Only female officers are supposed to strip-search female inmates, he says, and jail personnel never perform cavity searches, only hospital staff.

There's no record that Bautista-Najera was strip-searched, says Hayes. But there's no record she wasn't, either.

Jail booking documents obtained through public disclosure include a strip-search form, which must be completed for each inmate processed into the jail, whether or not a strip search is conducted. The form includes three boxes that can be checked: one for strip searches that were automatically permitted (in cases of murder, rape or drug possession) and another for strip searches authorized by a sergeant for "reasonable suspicion" that an inmate has concealed a weapon or evidence.

Nothing in the records indicate Bautista-Najera met the criteria for a strip search. Yet the third and only other option — a box marked "No strip search required" — is not checked on her strip-search form.

"We don't know if there was a strip search performed," Hayes says. But, "I'm still going to push this forward" by requesting an internal investigation. "I want to know myself," he says, "if this occurred." ■

## [Resource]

If you have been groped, raped or otherwise sexually violated by police officers or staff members at the King County Jail, please call K.L. Shannon of the NAACP at (206)250-5412.

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206-684-4500 TTY 206-684-4503 [www.seattle.gov/civilrights](http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights)

 City of Seattle Greg Nickels, Mayor



Muslim college and high school students spent Sat., Sept. 29 at the Millionair Club charity distributing fresh clothing, food and toiletries to Seattle's poor and homeless. The students, most of whom are second-generation immigrants, volunteered in the midst of Ramadan, their holy month of fasting. Photo by Revel Nt.

## Imagining a winter escape, St. Petersburg style

# Flying South

By MIKCHAIL SIDOROV, Journey Home, *Russia*

He is lying there, as white and cold as Kay from *The Snow Queen*. His clothes are frozen to the ground, and there is no response when he is prodded. But there's life in the old dog yet! Lay him on the stretcher, into the van and be quick — if he has drunk before he froze, then he is sure to start an argument as soon as he warms up.

So there we are, sitting, driving. The heater is on maximum, enough for us to be bathed in sweat. The warmer the guy becomes, the more the smell spreads out. We have opened the window — it's damned impossible! — and still that smell. The frost is steaming everything outside, the shop windows and expensive cars are shining. The windshield is twinkling. It's December and it's minus 24 degrees Celsius out there.

Our bodies are toasting like bagels, the ambrosia is wafting through the car, and we feel like smoking — the window is open anyway...

**"D**amn, I still can't understand them."

"Who?"

"Homeless people. Why the hell do they stay here in winter — on the same latitude as Greenland and Magadan?"

"And what else can they do? What would you do if you were in their shoes?"

"Me? I would travel to the south, to the sea."

"Yes, to Sochi..."

"Exactly. Better even further to the south, to Abkhazia: I don't even need a passport. It's nice down there: subtropical, and tangerines are cheaper than mud..."

"Easy to say, but he has to get there, doesn't he?"

"Three days of thumbing a lift. Four at the most."

"Yes, but who will take such a smelly fellow traveler?"

"Why not get a refund on some glass bottles, and then go to the public baths and wash yourself? Collect more bottles and get a haircut at the cheap barber's. Get rid of the lice at the sanitary dispensary on Professor Ivashentsev street, and pick up some suitable clothes at the night shelter. Beg, borrow or steal a rucksack—"

"How would you beg for something like that?"

"By asking. There is an old rucksack on the shelf or in the larder in every, or nearly every, flat. Make up a sob story, and stand near the entrance to a building and ask everyone who goes in, 'Have you an old extra rucksack that you don't need, by any chance?' Only you must look presentable and not smell too bad.

"Some will curse you to hell, threaten you with the police, and promise to beat you up, but the great majority will just pass you by. You may not be lucky on the first day. You may not be lucky the next day either. But finally you will be lucky, for sure."

"Ha!"

"I tell you. People are kind, although many are ashamed of this, for some reason. They will give you a rucksack and maybe a lot of other stuff as well."

"And why exactly a rucksack?"

"First of all, it's convenient: There's a big difference between five kilos in your hands and five kilos on your back."

"Secondly, a rucksack is associated with traveling, it is therefore immediately obvious that you are either coming from far away or returning there. It's also good to show some visible signs that will arouse peoples' sympathy: a long scarf or a headband, for example. Cheap glasses also make a good impression on people. Thirdly, you will need a blanket and that is too heavy to carry in a bag."

"A blanket?"

**"In the autumn, there's the harvest of tea, grapes, mandarins: Loads of people live like that in the United States. They move around following the harvest. Have you seen the film *Midnight Cowboy*?"**

"Yes, a blanket. In the most difficult times, wherever you happen to be, comfort must be the first thing to think about. Once night has fallen, move away from the road, cook something on a fire — hot food at least once a day is a must! — cover yourself with the blanket, cover your feet with a coat, and put the rucksack under your head."

"And what if it starts raining?"

"Buy two meters of polythene plastic, cut it lengthways, and there you are: a two-by-three tent. And besides, it warms you up. You will wake up

warm, make tea, drink it with bread, and off you go."

"That's quite a lot of stuff already."

"That's what you need the rucksack for. A blanket, the polythene, a mug, a spoon, a bowl, some sugar and salt, some matches, some soap, a razor, and a toothbrush."

"But you need money for all that."

"Not so much money. You need to understand that the main thing is to look presentable and neat. It arouses more sympathy and respect: This fellow has had some bad luck, but he still holds himself upright and doesn't smell, so he is worth helping."

"And will they help? Who will give him a lift on the road?"

"Unusual, non-standard and communicative people, in general. Narrow-minded people will not give you a lift, but kind people will. And the further you go to the south the more often you will get help, because the people have a different mentality there."

"Isn't it a lot easier just to use the local trains?"

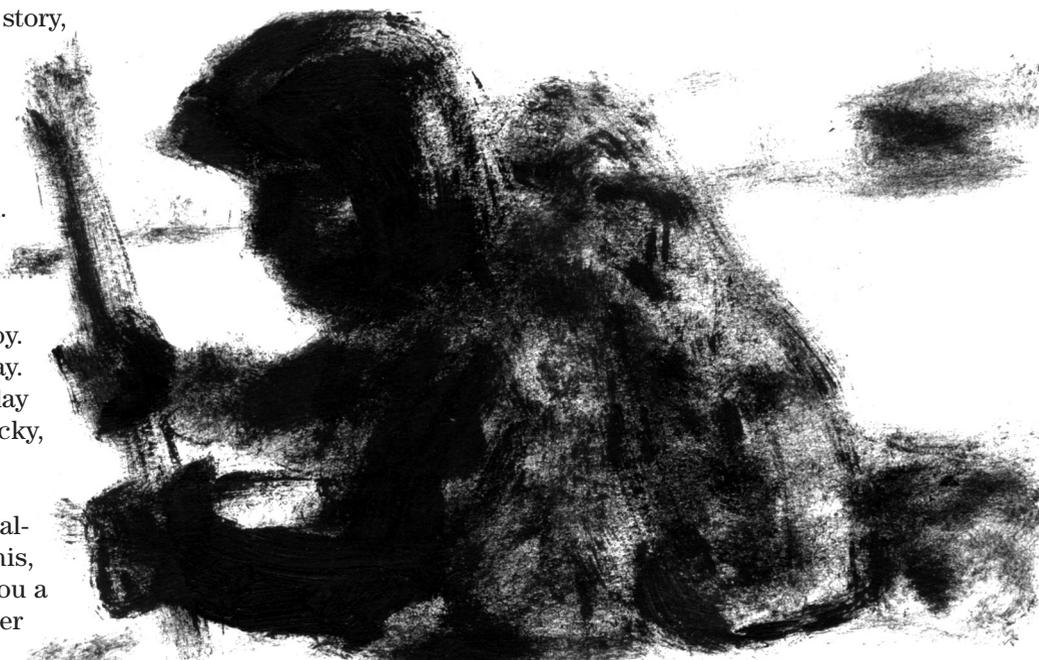
"My God, no! The trains mean A, control, B, the police, and C, criminals. And railway stations have the same problems: the police, militia control points, holding cells. Why bother with all that? Go to the road, put out your thumb, and off you go."

"You tell all this with such confidence... Have you yourself had to rough it?"

"You could say that. What was I talking about?"

"Mentality."

"Ah, yes. People in the south are not as indifferent when they get to know you. Once they begin to help, they will go to the end. And besides, they all know each other there: they are either relatives or



Rucksack

Lindley 2007

Illustration: Rucksack, by Robin Lindley

neighbors. 'Registration? What do you mean? My son-in-law is the head of the department...'

"Okay then, so where to live? Attics and basements?"

"Don't even go near to the towns. They have the same problems there: hostility, alienation, the police, and criminals. You need the small villages, preferably 10 to 15 kilometers from the seacoast, where everybody is related to each other, levels of bureaucracy are at a minimum, and there are all different kinds of job there: a watchman, an ancillary worker, a tea collection worker, even a hunter. Put up a straw cabin in the forest, like Lenin did in Razliv, and work with a conscience. Without hiding your past, and without making people pity you, be cheerful and open: this is what happened to me, I decided to start from scratch. Why particularly there? Well, it is warmer, for a start."

"A lot warmer?"

"A lot. And if you are not in the mountains, then the nights are warm in November too — you will not damage your kidneys or catch pneumonia. Rivers flow down the mountains, so you can wash your clothes every day and let them dry in the sun. There are many sunny days and absolutely no chance of vitamin deficiency."

"Citrus fruits are important; you can press them, they cost very little, and if you walk along to the market at the end of the day, you can easily cadge a basinful of herbs. The main thing is to look adequately dressed. They despise scruffs there in the south. And no alcohol. None at all. That is the most important thing, vitally important, as Lenin used to say..."

Peace  
on Earth

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## Never Again

■ **Not on Our Watch:** The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond

By Don Cheadle and John Prendergast, Hyperion, 2007, Softcover, 252 pages, \$14.95

Review by Kimberly C. Lundstrom, Contributing Writer

During the first year of his presidency, George W. Bush reportedly penned the words, "Not on my watch," in the margin of a report on the Rwandan genocide. Yet seven years later, some 400,000 men, women and children have been killed, and millions have been displaced by brutal, government-

**The authors begin from the almost flip notion of "send a letter, stop a genocide," but by the time they've laid their foundation and outlined their plan, anything, even ending unspeakable mass atrocities half a world away, seems possible.**

sponsored militias in the Darfur region of Sudan. The President himself has termed this genocide.

Actor Don Cheadle (*Hotel Rwanda*) and International Crisis Group advisor John Prendergast believe that the "Rwanda in slow motion" that's unfolding in Darfur can be stopped, and that ultimately all that's needed is the political will to act. The authors begin from the almost flip notion of "send a letter, stop a genocide," but by the time they've

laid their foundation and outlined their plan, anything, even ending unspeakable mass atrocities half a world away, seems possible.

The tone of the book is surprisingly positive, considering its dark subject. In fact, the authors contend that a major cause of apathy and lack of action in the international community, particularly the United States, is a sense of hopelessness. They note that the focus of news stories on Africa is nearly always negative, giving a distorted picture of the continent and encouraging the attitude that nothing can be done to help. Conversely, they offer several examples of positive change enabled by grass-roots efforts in developed countries, including the end of Apartheid in South Africa, crackdowns on sweatshops in the U.S. and abroad, and even an end to resurging slavery in southern Sudan itself.

But the authors are not Pollyannas. Cheadle shares his personal doubts and frustrations in recounting setbacks, and Prendergast exhibits the depth of knowledge of complex political situations that can only come from years working to preserve human rights in the worst of situations. Together, they offer an understanding of the situation as it exists and a pragmatic, if optimistic, plan for change. They present a concise and comprehensible history of Sudan from the country's independence in the 1950s to today's events, as well as placing Darfur in the context of other



Photo courtesy America Abroad Radio

conflicts that continue to rage throughout the "horn" of Africa. On this foundation they build their Six Strategies for Change, a blueprint for influencing political will, and devote much of the book to explaining how to implement these strategies. Through activist success stories and sidebars with bulleted lists of practical advice, the authors offer inspiration and suggest specific tactics individuals can employ within each of the six strategies.

Cheadle and Prendergast conclude that the U.S., as the world's current superpower, is in a unique position to

take the lead in stopping and preventing genocide and other mass atrocities, through strong leadership in peacekeeping efforts, by providing intelligence in support of the International Criminal Court's efforts to bring perpetrators to justice, and through our considerable influence within the U.N. Security Council. They argue that when "We the People" stand up, our government will hear us, and when the U.S. government stands up, the world will hear and act. In short, the book is a call to action, so we may say with conviction, "Not on our watch." ■

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

■ **Sheriff**, DVD (2007)

Directed by Daniel Kraus

At first glance, *Sheriff* brings *Cops* to a mind. The only real similarity is that a camera tracks an officer of the law.

There are no chases through backyards and over fences, no flushing of dime bags from low hung pants, no spotlights on poor people's domestic disturbances.

This documentary, part of producer Daniel Kraus' work series, takes place in rural North Carolina. There we follow Sheriff Ronald E. Hewitt through the routines of his job.

Hewitt comes across as the model of Southern propriety. He's also a politician. He seems to enjoy meting out justice in a way that's civil. When confronting a crime, he administers his responsibilities without being a proselyte or braggart.

Hewitt breaks up an illegal video poker establishment with a politeness and courtesy more commonly associated with a four-star restaurant.

At first these affectations seem suspect, highly polished for the camera. But the viewer comes to suspect that what you see constitutes the real deal. He is a man who envisions and expects the

best from everyone—from himself, his children, the officers that serve under him, and the members of the community who he knows by name.

His code of uprightness and concepts like honor, trust, and responsibility do not ring hollow here. This is Bible country and, despite some lingering issues of what might euphemistically be labeled as "lagging diversity," it has an appeal. Believe it or not, there are African Americans who would never trade in what appears to be a remnant Jim Crow South for the urban terror of the North.

In the end, the documentary is not about the sheriff, but the ability to document the working lives of Americans — to tell but not to judge. The straightforwardness of this, Kraus' first of a series, is effective, economic, and worthy of anticipation for his next piece — on a jazz musician.

## WORTH SEEING

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD:

Reviews by LESTER GRAY, Contributing Writer

■ **Day Night Day Night**, DVD (2006)

Directed by Julia Loktev

At the end of this story we know little more about the protagonist than at the beginning. She's 19 and of indeterminate race. We come to learn that the ideal she holds, which includes the means of furthering it, exceeds the value of her life. The process by which she came to this point we are destined to remain ignorant.

With a skeleton of information, as symbolically basic as international symbols on public restrooms, we come with amazing ease to understand how she intends to go forward.

She possesses an unfailing politeness, which also could be interpreted as pathological diffidence, subjugating herself to handlers preparing her for the mission.

She awaits instructions inside a low-rent, nondescript motel room. At

one point to relieve the tedium, she pulls back a ceiling-to-floor drape, exposing a sliding glass door. She opens it to look outside. Her phone rings and she does not respond; it rings again and she answers it. This reveals itself through several incidents to be a code.

A voice, absent of accent and emotion, instructs her not to reveal herself at the window again. She pacifically agrees and waits for further instructions.

Her handlers show up at her room wearing black ski masks. She's outfitted in clothes least likely to attract attention; as an accessory she gets a backpack, in which an explosive device is placed.

She's drilled on contingencies and given instructions on how to activate her package. She poses in front of a revolutionary type poster, with bandoleer and a automatic weapon in preparation to record some type of propaganda tape. Absent this, there is no rhetoric.

Her destination is Times Square.

The unsettling part of this minimalist telling is how quickly what wouldn't have held comprehension a decade ago could be interpreted in any part of the world.

It is a powerful statement. ■



Adventures  
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

I've avoided talking about the flap over Capehart. I thought I had nothing new to add to the topic.

I was thinking this week I would instead talk about brain-eating amoeba. There are few concerns I have that are more pressing to me than my concern that brain-eating amoeba not invade my nostrils and eat my brain, starting with my olfactory nerve.

Ordinarily what I write here at most mildly amuses a few people for four or five minutes and then gets forgotten and ignored. For example, if I say the Iraq War is illegal, unjust, and immoral, no one notices. I could get more action out of people if I reproduced a page from Silas Marner than if I told you all what causes homelessness and the simple steps that would end it. But I am sure if I told you how to avoid having your brains eaten by mutant brain-eating amoeba from Australia, you would listen up.

But evidently I was wrong to think that I had nothing new to say about Capehart. Last week the *P-I* ran an editorial in which they wrote, "We did have some concerns, however, about access to shops and transportation. For example, the nearest bus stop we could find was close to a mile away and basic drugstore supplies required a trip of more than two miles." Members of the City Council said basically the same thing: The housing was inappropriate for housing the home-

## ©Dr. Wes: Hungry for Brains

less, so the plan to demolish it should therefore go forward.

I have two things to say about the inappropriateness of that "therefore."

First of all, homeless activists were never saying that the Capehart housing should be used for housing people who are currently homeless or at immediate risk of it. What we were saying was that the loss of middle-class housing, in the current market, would force people who could have afforded it and who had their own transportation to compete for less expensive housing that could have gone to people with lower incomes, and that

**If you really think that demolishing middle-class housing doesn't hurt the homeless, try this thought experiment: Get rid of all of it.**

ultimately a loss of 66 units of housing at the lower-middle-class range, such as at Capehart, would either subtract 66 units from very low income housing, or those with cars would move away from Seattle altogether, and you could kiss their tax dollars goodbye.

If you really think that demolishing middle-class housing doesn't hurt the homeless, try this thought experiment: Get rid of all of it. Bulldoze all of the single family dwellings in all the nearly 100 neighborhoods of Seattle. Now picture where those people are all going to live if they are to stay in Seattle. When

you finally see how that would put a few hundred thousand more people on the street who weren't there before, next visualize what would happen if, instead of sticking around, all the middle-class people whose homes were bulldozed moved to Phoenix. Answer: Phoenix is the new Seattle, and Seattle is the new New Orleans.

OK, so that wasn't anything that hasn't already been said. Other homeless activists have said the same thing, essentially, minus the thought experiment.

I am now going to astonish you by saying something utterly original about the Capehart housing. Something that no one else has said and that even the brilliant editors of the intelligent *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* were incapable of thinking.

Yes. The nearest bus stop to Capehart is almost a mile away. But: Metro has bus stop signs to spare!

You have to be utterly brain dead already not to be able to think that if people lacking cars and legs were living in Capehart that Metro could not be induced to extend Route 33 that far.

Have all of you forgotten that bus companies are run by human beings and do the bidding of human beings?

This country has lost its imagination and its humanity with it.

We can save ourselves from the brain-eating amoebas. Feed them *P-I* editorialists, and they'll all die of starvation. ■

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



**Sat., Sept. 20, 12:36 a.m., Eighth Ave., Jensonia Apts.** Officers on patrol were checking an alleyway to the north of the intersection of Eighth and Seneca when they found the subject, a transient white female aged 14, along with a transient white male aged 32 sitting on the front porch of the condemned Jensonia Apartment building. As the two were trespassing on the property the officers contacted them and requested ID. As they were running the names the female admitted she had lied about her name — prior to this admission both subjects had checked clear. The male was released from the scene. When the female gave her true name it was discovered that she was 14 years of age, and had previously been reported as missing. Due to her age and the area she was in she was taken into custody. She could not provide an address or phone number of any guardian, and stated she had been disowned by her family for substance abuse and had lived on the streets for nine years. She stated she had been in a substance abuse program in Bellingham, and has been in and out of New Horizons — a crisis resource center — in Seattle. She agreed to go to Spruce Street Juvenile Crisis Resource Center in Seattle, and officers transported her there and released her to a staff member.

**Mon., Sept. 23, 5:30 a.m., Fifth Ave. and Lenora St.** Victim, a Black female aged 30, and a male friend/witness were asleep in a doorway on the southwest corner of Fifth and Lenora. Victim woke up to find a white or Hispanic male lying next to her. The suspect had his hand down the front of her pants and was penetrating her with his fingers. When the victim realized what was going on she screamed out, and the suspect jumped up and stated that he was not doing anything wrong. He then left the area heading southbound. The friend/witness woke, and followed the man to a parking lot, just south of where they had been sleeping. When he asked the suspect why he had been lying next to the victim, the suspect said he had not done that, and that it must have been someone else. Witness last saw the suspect walking through the parking lot. Officers arrived and made an area check for the suspect with negative results. The victim was not injured, and said she did not want medical assistance.

**Mon., Sept. 23, 11:16 p.m., Pine St.** Officers contacted the suspect, a transient Black male aged 20, in a doorway on Pine St. He was drinking from a can of Budweiser and was showing signs of intoxication. As he was only 20 years old he was placed under arrest for consuming alcohol. A search was made, and rock cocaine was located in his front pants pocket. A field test was made and the substance tested positive for cocaine. Suspect was booked into King County Jail for underage drinking and drug violations.

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

Faith,  
Culture,  
Politics



Rev. Rich Lang

Far too often the Church allows itself to participate in the agenda of Empire. We certainly see this when it comes to issues of economic justice. The Church preaches and practices charity, opening itself up to serving food for the hungry, offering shelter beds for the homeless, and providing much-needed funding for the concrete material needs of the poor. Charity is a wonderful thing, but without justice, all it does is enable the Empire to further maintain unjust economic systems that lavishly benefit a few while enslaving and humbling the majority. Charity helps the Empire keep control.

We also see this dynamic, of the Church participating in the Empire's agenda, when it comes to the current policy of permanent war. The Empire does not want the people to see evidence of the consequences of this war. No photos are allowed of caskets coming home, of funerals, of weeping, distraught parents, siblings,

## Clarity, not Charity, is What's Needed from the Church

lovers, and friends. Indeed, very little analysis of dissent is ever featured in media. The Church participates in this silence through its feeble and irrelevant prayers for peace. Prayer helps the Empire impose control.

Instead of praying for peace, I call upon all congregations to begin reading the names of those who have died in this war. Week after week, as part of our liturgies, the Church should honor and remember the dead, lifting them before the people as present in memory, eternally present before God. I call upon the Church to name those slaughtered, remembering that for every American name, we could add at least 200 Iraqi names. I call upon the Church to keep present before the congregation the cost of war, and keep present before God our collective guilt and shame.

Further, I call upon the Church to move prayers into action. Our preaching should be clear that this war is unjust and immoral, hideous and corrupt. As part of that clarity I call upon Pastors to counsel youth

against joining the military services, even as we publicly promote civil disobedience against this war. The disobedience of which I speak ranges from public assemblies of dissent, to promotion of tax resistance, to public encouragement of soldiers willing to stand down their orders. The latter, of course, implies a community of financial and spiritual support of those who would dare stand up against the Empire's agenda.

The Church is a moral check and balance on the power of the State. Just as the prophets of old confronted the King, so too must the Church have the courage to say "no more." Without this role model of clarity and courage, our society withers into tyranny, and our people descend into the sorrows of slavery. Without this role model of clarity and courage, the Church has lost its faith. ■

Rev. Rich Lang is Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Ballard, where they make present the names of the dead. He can be contacted at [oddrev@yahoo.com](mailto:oddrev@yahoo.com).

# Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

## The Drug War: overkill

Dear *Real Change*,

I am writing this letter to you about an issue that needs to be brought to the attention of the American public.

There is currently no parole in the federal justice system. This means that federal prisoners must serve over 85 percent of their sentence before being released for a three- to five-year term of supervised release.

Most of these prisoners are first time, non-violent, victimless drug offenders that are serving extremely long sentences. By extremely long I mean in excess of 20 years. Many are even serving life sentences for these crimes.

I am a 54-year-old federal prisoner convicted of conspiring to, attempting to, and maintaining a place to manufacture methamphetamine. Which are essentially the same crime. I was originally sentenced to two life sentences and 20 years for my first felony convictions. I have since been resentenced to 360 months (30 years).

I will freely admit that having been convicted, it is necessary that I be punished. But 30 years is really an overkill.

If I were to serve my entire sentence I would be 70 years old when I am released and would become an unnecessary burden on society and the American taxpayer. There are thousands of inmates in the same situation as me. If these inmates were released in a reasonable amount of time, they could become a benefit rather than a burden to the community (by paying taxes and such).

Congressman Danny Davis (D. Ill.) has authored and will reintroduce "A Bill to Reinstate Parole to the Federal System." In short, this bill will allow an inmate, after serving one third of their sentence, to go before the board and plead their case for release under the supervision of a parole officer.

I have read that federal parole would save the taxpayers \$1.7 billion in the first year alone. Surely this money could be better used for education, and the subsequent prevention of crime through that education. Or, for that matter, almost anything other than the warehousing of first time, nonviolent, victimless drug offenders.

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Federal parole would allow federal prisoners the chance to get out of prison and become functioning, productive members of society. It would also save the taxpayer billions of dollars in unnecessary taxes and lessen the overcrowded conditions in federal prison, making a safer environment for both staff and inmate. This bill is supported by the American Correctional Association.

For the reasons I have mentioned above and the many more I haven't mentioned, I ask that all that read this letter research this bill, look at the harsh sentences given to federal prisoners, and consider: Is it worth the billions of dollars that it takes to keep people in prison that are first-time, nonviolent, victimless offenders? When one looks at the whole picture, I think one will say that it is not worth it.

Allen Jordan

Federal Corrections Institution

Oakdale, Louisiana

**Corrections:** A subhead on the cover of the Oct. 3 issue incorrectly stated that police had corroborated several bystanders' accounts of the police stopping CPR on a shooting victim. Police never, in fact, confirmed this.

**Also on that cover:** the headline "Dirty Work at Northend Mall" implied that Alderwood Mall is in Seattle's North End. In fact it's in Lynnwood, located a good seven miles north of the city limits, in Snohomish County.

## RUSSIA, Continued from Page 7

"Why?"

"Well, just imagine: you are living in a small, relatively remote place in the South, where traditions are quite strong. You are a stranger. You have nothing to wear, nowhere to live, you have been sleeping under plastic, and looking for things to eat in the rubbish bins. But you are tidy, clean shaven, open-minded, polite, and are capable of and want to work, and you don't drink alcohol. None at all. So, how would you perceive that?"

"Well, it wouldn't be annoying, at least."

"They think 'Just what we need!' So you earn a bit, rent a bed — and obtain a different status. You don't have the right to vote, but you're a member of the community nevertheless. You live through the winter, wait until summer and go back north, or to the coast

**"The trains mean A, control, B, the police, and C, criminals. And railway stations have the same problems: the police, militia control points, holding cells. Why bother with all that? Go to the road, put out your thumb, and off you go."**

— the holiday season, the tourists are coming, and it's quite possible you might get a job. In the autumn, there's the harvest of tea, grapes, mandarins: Loads of people live like that in the United States. They move around following the harvest. Have you seen the film *Midnight Cowboy*?"

"The one in which they hang around in New York during the winter?"

## ADOPTION, Continued from Page 4

its subtleties. "It's going to be a real eye opener," he says for some entering into such adoptions.

At Amara, a nonprofit organization, Hancock says he helps to connect children in foster homes with potential parents. Over 12,000 children are in the state's foster-care system, he estimates. In King County, where Black children account for eight percent of the population, they represent nearly 50 percent of children still in the system after four years without placement.

While he says that his organization does what it can to foster adoptions within races, he admits it's not always possible. To help parents who might reach across racial lines for children, his organization sponsors discussions examining potential hurdles. "Because we do live in a society where race does matter," Hancock says.

But even while race matters, he says that race should not be a barrier to adoption. More important, he suggests, is to assess would-be parents' cultural awareness and sensitivity. "To only look at the skin color," he says, "I don't think it would be fair."

And even while Goller-Sojourner doesn't deny transracial adoption's difficulties — "The person who called me a nigger looked like my mother," he recalls — he says that he has no beef with his white parents, because he never wanted for love, which he doesn't think would have happened in the foster-care system. "It could have happened in a Chinese family," he says, "but I was in a white family." ■

### [Civic Dialogue]

**To hear more** on the issue, check out "Transracial Adoption of Black Children," on Thurs., Oct. 11 at the Ethnic Cultural Theatre, 3940 Brooklyn Ave. NE. Tickets \$7 (\$5 for Forum members, students and seniors.) For tickets, call 1 (800) 828-3006, or [www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/16878](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/16878).

"Yes, in the slums. Then they buy a ticket with the rest of their money, 24 hours in a bus and — there you are — Florida. The New York clothes go into rubbish bins and —"

"—Dustin Hoffman hangs around successfully in Florida."

"That's not the point."

"What is then?"

"It's the contrast. In the North it's all snow, criminals, and rats. Just 24 hours' journey and there you are: sun, warmth and palm trees on the sand. If you remember, Hoffman was quite talkative while he is dying and he develops the theme about why they hung around in New York for so long. You should live in the South. Especially if you want to survive."

**14** Vavilovkch, the shrine of the Martyr St. Elizabeth. They drag the poor vagrant by his legs into the cage while he's clinging to the bars. No sleep for anybody, and so on 'til morning. If he is lucky, they will put him near to the radiator, or they might just leave him as he fell. In the morning, if he is still alive, they will kick him out on his backside: "Go away, dear, and may the Lord be with you!"

It's over. Made a phone report. Back at the station.

Warmth, tea, frost patterns on the glass window.

Armchair, sleeping bag, and the heater at their feet.

The window twinkles — it's December and 24 below zero. ■

**Mikchail Sidorov** is a St. Petersburg street musician. Translated and excerpted from *The Book of Life*, a project of *The Journey Home* street newspaper in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Journey Home is a co-member with Real Change of the International Network of Streetpapers. ©Street News Service.

CASCADE, Continued from Page 5

The center, which received nearly two-thirds of its cash donations from the city last year, needs to raise at least \$100,000 to operate at minimal capacity.

"We've been looking for other funding," says Janet St. Clair-Lazar, regional director of Lutheran Community Services, the Center's parent organization. "Measuring community is difficult at a time when funders want measurable outcomes... Some stakeholders have moved in other directions."

The People's Center has until Oct. 11 to file an appeal. On receipt of the appeal, the Department of Human Services has 10 days to make a final decision. Center members and volunteers met Monday night to determine a course of action.

"It's hard to explain how and why [the Cascade People's Center] is working," says Becker. "How could you measure people knowing one another?" ■

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In 2006, the people of Oaxaca, dissatisfied with their corrupt and oppressive government and frustrated at their lack of a voice, staged an uprising, taking over 15 radio and TV stations and demanding change. Jill Friedman has chronicled their experiences into the film documentary *Un Poquito de Tanta Verdad* ("A Little Bit of So Much Truth"), which will be premiering this week at the Central Cinema. Friedman, who made the 1999 WTO documentary, "This is What Democracy Looks Like," will also be hosting a question and answer session after the film. Central Cinema, 1411 21st Ave. Wed. and Thurs. Oct. 3 and 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. (9:30 is a 21 and over show), \$5, [www.corrugate.org](http://www.corrugate.org).

# Calendar

## This Week's Top Picks

### Thursday 10/4

From Oct. 4 to 11, **the Northwest Film Forum will host Local Sightings, a celebration of filmmakers from Portland to Vancouver and all points in between.** The best of contemporary Northwest filmmaking will be on display, including shorts, features, and documentaries. The Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave between Pike and Pine. For a complete schedule and ticket prices, go to [www.localsightings.org](http://www.localsightings.org).

### Friday 10/5

The **upcoming Roads and Transit Vote has divided the environmentalist community.** The Sierra Club's Tim Gould and the Transportation Choices Coalition's Rob Johnson will debate the issue. Ranier Unitarian Universalist Center, 835 Yesler Way. 6:30-8:30, optional donation. [www.rvuuc.org](http://www.rvuuc.org).

Contemporary politics is full of intersections between government and science. **Chris Mooney, author of *The Republican War on Science* and Matthew Nisbet, creator of the popular blog *Framing Science*, will speak about science's emerging role in shaping policy,** as well as offer suggestions for successfully introducing scientific evidence and methods into the political dialog. Imax Theatre, Pacific Science Center, 7 p.m. Free.

### Saturday 10/6

**Jonathon Kozol, author of *Savage Inequalities*, has written a new book, and this time it's personal. *Letters to a Young Teacher* is a collection of his letters to an inexperienced first-grade instructor at an inner-city Boston public school.** Kozol will speak on the fourth floor of the downtown branch of the Seattle Public Library at 2 p.m. The event is free, and a limited number of \$5 parking coupons are available. Microsoft

Auditorium, Seattle Public Library, 2 p.m. [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org).

### Sunday 10/7

***A View From the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* is a play that details an individual's reflections and struggles with evil, injustice, and God** as he awaits execution. Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23rd Ave NW, 7 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For reservations call 206-784-2227.

### Monday 10/8

The Elliott Bay Book Co. presents **Garrison Keillor, author, humorist, and host of *A Prairie Home Companion*, reading from and talking about his new book *Pontoon: A Lake Wobegon Novel*,** which focuses on the lives of the strong women of his fictional Minnesota town. Seattle Public Library, Microsoft Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Elliott Bay Books or at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) for \$5.

### Tuesday 10/9

**Imagine a wild corridor in which bears and wolves could follow their natural migratory patterns from the Yukon all the way to Yellowstone.** This is the vision of the UW Program on the Environment, which is hosting a lecture series to detail the possibilities and challenges. As part of this series photographer Florian Schulz displays photographs from the Rocky Mountain West. 8:30 p.m., the Burke Museum, 4500 15th Ave NE. Free.

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

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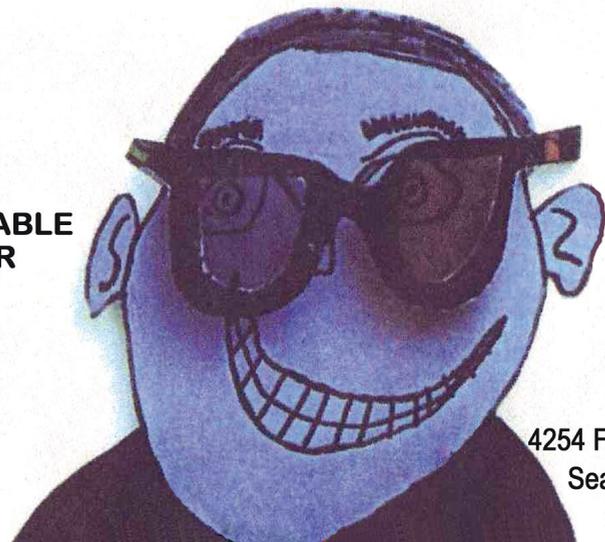
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