

\$1 REAL CHANGE

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Minutemen to march on City

With activists protesting the proposed North American Union trade pact this weekend, Shankar Narayan says don't listen to the immigrant-bashing of the Minutemen and other citizen groups....See page 5.



Photo by Sydney Gillis

Organ Trade Takes Toll on World's Poor

Sayed Abou Dief lifts his shirt to show a scar in Cairo. Dief says he entered a hospital for a medical check and woke up to find without a kidney....See page 7

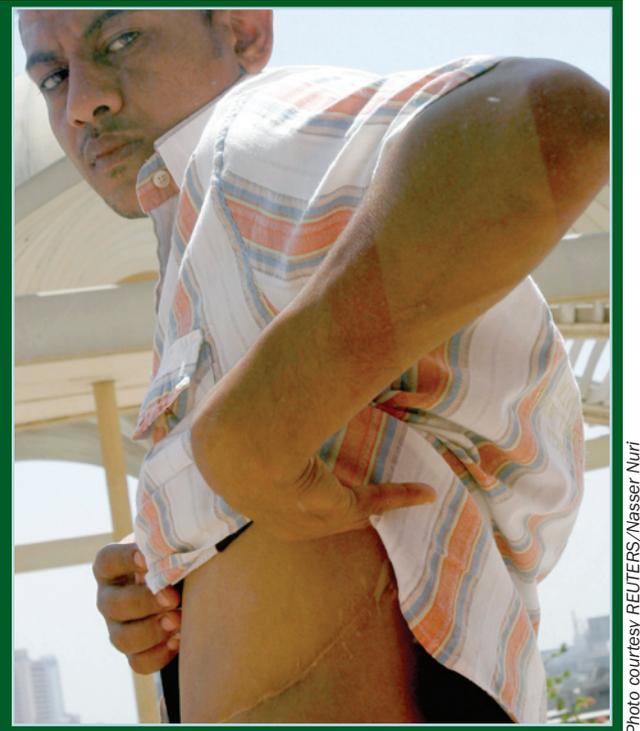


Photo courtesy REUTERS/Nasser Nuri



Change Agent

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Dan Hawkins



Vendor of the week

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

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

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

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There's a reason why hundreds of volunteers spend an evening looking for those sleeping outside without benefit of shelter

Why we count the homeless once a year

By ALISON EISINGER,
 Contributing Writer

This past January 25 was a cold night. Most people who could be indoors and under the covers were. Not everyone had the choice, however. Here is how some of our King County neighbors spent that night.

"In my car." "At my mother's apartment." "In a motel with help from people at a church." "On the streets." "At an all-night restaurant." "Camped out with the bears and coyotes."

Frank slept in the doorway of a store where he sometimes helps the staff. Mrs. T., who is in her late-60s, stayed in a van with her son, his wife, and their dogs. The Johnson family managed to pay for a motel after the friends they had been staying with got into trouble with their landlord for having too many people in the apartment.

Other neighbors spent the small hours of that night walking around Seattle, Renton, Bellevue, and Shoreline in small groups, keeping their voices and their flashlights low. They were looking for people huddled in doorways, behind dumpsters, and sleeping in their cars. About two dozen people rode late-night Metro buses quietly observing passengers who were trying to catch an hour of uninterrupted sleep before reaching the end of the line. Still others counted how many people were sheltering in parking lots and greenbelts, or under bridges in White Center, Kent, and Federal Way.

All 735 of these people were volunteers participating in the 27th annual One Night Count of people who are homeless in King County, organized by the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH). After a long night most turned in their tally sheets and went home to warm beds and showers.

We know this about Mrs. T. and her family, Frank, and the Johnson family because we interviewed them and others this past February at food banks and free community meals in south and east King County.

Starting in October the SKCCH phone starts ringing with inquiries about the One Night Count. "We need another team to help count in Bellevue," I said to one

woman. "Bellevue!" came the reply, "I didn't think there were any homeless people in Bellevue." Well, what can I say? There are. The 2007 One Night Count reported 128 people in Bellevue and parts of Redmond and Kirkland.

In all, 2,159 people were counted without shelter during the early morning hours on one January night. A survey of agencies which provide emergency housing and transitional shelter within the county took place on the same night and tallied 5,680 men, women, and children were in such programs. This information is in the new report, available on our web site.

Why do we do this every year? One

Why do we do this every year? One important reason is that this is how King County meets state and federal requirements to document homelessness, and qualifies for millions of dollars to help build housing, prevent homelessness, and help people stabilize in new housing. The other reason is what I think of as Social Change 101.

important reason is that this is how King County meets state and federal requirements to document homelessness, and qualifies for millions of dollars to help build housing, prevent homelessness, and help people stabilize in new housing. The other reason is what I think of as Social Change 101. For years, SKCCH has responded to interest from people in suburban cities, neighborhoods, and parts of unincorporated King County to expand the One Night Count. First Kent, then the Eastside, then Federal Way, and last year Renton. These communities are

acknowledging and tackling the crisis on their own doorsteps, and as they do that, they strengthen King County's call for more resources at the local, state, and federal levels. The number of volunteers who make the One Night Count happen has been rising from year to year, another sign that homelessness is a matter of increasingly widespread concern. Public awareness about this crisis is essential in order to generate heat and light so that public officials will set priorities and allocate substantial funds.

This is also sometimes called "building the political will to end homelessness." In a representative democracy, building the public will is usually necessary before the political will shifts into gear.

Will the information from the One Night Count change how we work to end homelessness? No. The Count is well-organized, solid, and reliable. It will always be incomplete. It is most appropriately used to gauge the need around us, rather than as a finely calibrated measure. No specific information we can gather will change the fundamental truths and associated challenges before us: we need thousands of units of permanently affordable housing, and appropriate and flexible services to support people in that housing.

We do not need a complete count to know that the numbers are too high. Two years into our community's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, we have nowhere near the needed money allocated to build, retain, and support housing for thousands of our neighbors. Regardless of its merits and limitations, the Ten Year Plan relies on substantial and sustained commitments of financial support from the non-profit, public, and private sectors in order to succeed. We have a task for the other 364 nights of every year ahead: work with determination to secure enough money to make real the hope of housing all our neighbors in safety and dignity. ■

Alison Eisenger is Executive Director of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH). The group's website is at www.homelessinfo.org.



Seattle, having distinguished itself for several years running as *Forbes* magazine's "Most Overpriced City in America," has now made their

top 10 "Least Affordable Real Estate Markets" list as well. This should surprise no one.

In recent months, the attention of many Seattleites has been focused on the Lora Lake drama that has unfolded in Burien. An

agreement reached several years ago with the Port of Seattle during negotiations over the SeaTac International Airport's third runway slates the 162 units of affordable family housing for demolition to make way for commercial development. To housing advocates, Lora Lake has come to symbolize the three steps back that we take for every hard won step or two forward. For the City of Burien, in which the vast majority of housing is affordable, Lora Lake is about economic development and having the autonomy to plan their own city.

We need our neighboring communities to be our allies in the fight against

homelessness. This is why, in the fight against Burien, even if we win, we lose. Our affordability problem is right here in Seattle, where those who profit excessively from the loss of affordability, for the most part, have not even been named. Have we made Burien our affordable housing whipping boy because it's easier than taking on the rich and powerful right here in Seattle? We can force our problem onto Burien, to their great resentment, or we can take a closer look at ourselves. Which will it be?

Read daily posts by Tim Harris apesmaslament.blogspot.com

Director's Corner

Just Heard...

Putting ICE on ice

At Seattle's City Hall, a coalition organizing in solidarity with Seattle's undocumented immigrants called for a national moratorium on all ICE (US Department of Immigration, Customs and Enforcement) raids on undocumented workers' homes and job sites. The coalition included groups as disparate as CASA Latina, the Tenants Union of Washington, and the NAACP.

Though representing a variety of social interests, each organization's core message was the same. As a city, Seattle can not tolerate raids on the homes of illegal immigrants without comprehensive and workable immigration legislation on a federal level.

Were a national moratorium on raids to prove impossible, the coalition called on Gov. Christine Gregoire and the state's Congressional delegation to make Washington a place of sanctuary for immigrants.

The Church Council of Greater Seattle's the Rev. Sanford Brown pointed to the nation's 3.1 million children with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent. "[These children] are part of us," he said. "And they are guaranteed a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

—JP Gritton

Nightlife rules get life

A year after Mayor Greg Nickels proposed draconian new regulations for nightclubs and bars in the city, City Council passed a final version of the new rules on Aug. 13. Nickels had originally wanted any venue serving alcohol with live music—from mom and pop taverns to large clubs—to be forced to obtain a new license from the city and to police areas away from the venue for noisy patrons and litter. Club owners protested, public hearings were held and City Council finally agreed to watered-down set of ordinances that would include a newly-created position of nightlife regulator. Council has yet to pass Nickels' licensing provision and has tabled the matter for later this week.

Time to vote

Next Tuesday Aug. 21 is primary election day in Seattle and King County. There are active, competitive races for Seattle City Council, King County Prosecuting Attorney and the Port of Seattle. Remember to vote.

—Philip Dawdy

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Dr. Lester Pittle, right, discusses treatment options with patient Freddy G. Robinson. Photo by Dan Hawkins

Many who know him would describe Dr. Lester Pittle as a saint. As a doctor of internal medicine at Pike Market Medical Clinic, a community health clinic, Pittle has been an advocate for universal healthcare for over 30 years. He has treated low-income and homeless patients for conditions such as AIDS, mental illness, and substance abuse, as well as many low-income elderly. Pittle has been an active member of the Community Health Council, teaming up with other doctors to work for achievements like \$250,000 grants towards better treatment for low-income diabetics.

Pittle believes that community health clinics are "band-aids for a broken system," and that a person's income should not define where they receive health care. "Thirty percent of

healthcare costs go to the administrative costs of insurance companies," Pittle says. "If we could get rid of that 30 percent, we could insure everyone."

Pittle has done a lot to campaign for a bill that would create a tax-based trust fund which would act as universal health insurance. The system would eliminate the administrative costs of private insurance companies and was deemed effective by a University of Washington analyst.

The bill has not had the political backing to be passed, but Pittle is convinced that this is simply due to lack of awareness and hopes that people will become educated and vote toward an improved healthcare system.

—Hilary Preston

Smoking out the poor

Washington State smoking rates have hit a new low, but you wouldn't know it by looking at the state's low-income population. Seventeen percent of Washington State's general population regularly smoke tobacco products, but 31 percent of those with annual incomes below \$25,000 and 29 percent of those with a high school diploma or less light up regularly, according to a study released earlier this month by the Washington State Department of Health. And the gap is growing. Since 2000, smoking rates among all Washington residents have dropped over 5 percent, smoking rates among less-educated and lower-income Washington residents remain unchanged.

"Low-income smokers try to quit as frequently as others, but have a lower rate of success," says

Mary Selecky, Washington State Secretary of Health. "Perhaps it is because they're under more pressure, including economic pressure, or have less access to cessation support systems."

Smoking rates also differ along lines of ethnicity and sexuality. African-American and American-Indian/Alaskan

Since 2000, smoking rates among all Washington residents have dropped over 5 percent, smoking rates among less-educated and lower-income Washington residents remain unchanged.

Native individuals, as well as lesbians, gays and bisexuals, all smoke at significantly higher rates than ethnic whites.

According to Selecky, advertising by tobacco companies contributes

to the dynamic. "Tobacco companies have been busy marketing to minority and LGBT communities, as well as to the low-income population. They go places where they can get in through a crack in the door. They market to those who have vulnerability."

Selecky notes that the state plans to target low-income communities in cessation efforts through several mediums, including a partnership with the Head Start program to include tobacco education programs in parent education programs, funding cessation services for low-income women who are pregnant, and expanding free access to nicotine replacement drugs.

Locally, Public Health Seattle-King County has plans to help low-income smokers who are trying to quit, by contracting with non-profits who operate inside high-risk tobacco communities, according to Scott Neal, Interim Tobacco Prevention Manager. "The socioeconomic gap in smoking rates is something we're working hard to remedy," Neal says. "We take studies like these as indicators of where to move next."

—Patrick Reis

Several candidates criticize Port commissioners for doing too little, too late

Port candidates speak out on Lora Lake

By *CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter*

The pleas to save the Lora Lake Apartments were impassioned. So were the demands to tear down the affordable housing complex to make way for an air cargo warehouse and SeaTac International Airport's third runway.

But, for both sides, last week's hearing at the Port of Seattle was all for show: After hours of testimony on Aug. 9, the Port's board voted as expected, 3-2, to reject a proposal put forward by Commissioner Bob Edwards to leave 162 of the 234 Burien apartments standing for at least 10 days. The Port, which owns the property, must raze the rest to create a buffer zone for its new runway.

The next day, a Superior Court judge granted an injunction that stops the demolition until at least March, when a trial is set to determine whether the King County Housing Authority – which had operated the units as moderate- and low-income housing for the Port for seven years – can take the property under eminent domain.

While that's good news for affordable housing, the emotion and legal drama could have been avoided, say two of Edwards' opponents in the upcoming Aug. 21 primary, if Edwards and the Port Commission had simply thought ahead.

"I would have voted in 2004 to show the leadership that the Port should have shown, then recognized that it was not enough to demolish the units, they should have started a plan for replacing them," says Gael Tarleton, a fund-raiser for the University of Washington's Office of Global Affairs and former defense industry executive who is running for Edwards' Position 2 seat.

Working toward that goal today, she says, could include the Port providing some funding, assistance or even real estate to replace the 162 units – an idea that challenger Tom McCann, a former restaurant owner who was once a tenant of the Port's, endorses if the current apartments cannot be saved.

"The King County Housing Authority and the Port should have identified a

Last week's hearing at the Port of Seattle was all for show: After hours of testimony on Aug. 9, the Port's board voted as expected, 3-2, to reject a proposal put forward by Commissioner Bob Edwards to leave 162 of the 234 Burien apartments standing for at least 10 days. The Port, which owns the property, must raze the rest to create a buffer zone for its new runway.

place to build more inventory if they're going to be taking inventory off the market," McCann says. "I think that was the real problem."

Position 2 candidate The-Anh Nguyen, a Seattle Parks Department attendant who also runs a computer repair business, agrees, but says it would be

better and cheaper if the existing units remained in use.

The Port bought Lora Lake's 21 buildings from a private owner in 1998, paying to relocate tenants from what originally was a high-end apartment complex with a big gym, two pools, and a playground. But, in the wake of delays with the third runway, the Port agreed in 2000 to let the housing authority lease and operate the complex for five years.

In 2004, the lease was extended to June 30, when the last of Lora Lake's latest tenants were forced to move out. In July, the housing authority and King County Executive Ron Sims offered to buy the 162 units for \$18 million. When the Port refused, the housing authority sued.

In the vote taken on Aug. 9, Commissioners John Creighton, Pat Davis and Lloyd Hara voted down Edwards and Alec Fiskens, saying it was more important for the Port to keep its commitment to the City of Burien, which plans commercial redevelopment in the area where Lora Lake stands.

Edwards, who wants to see the Port sell the 162 units to the housing authority, says it didn't occur to him to advocate for replacement housing in 2004 because the City of Burien was still in the midst of revising its comprehensive plan two years ago.

But 2004 "was the exact time the City of Seattle had been working with King County in looking at increasing population densities," Tarleton says. "There was a commitment made in 2004 to look at affordable housing across the Puget Sound area under the Puget Sound Regional Council, and the Port was supposedly a key player in that."

"I think everyone should remember that the Port is a major King County citizen in and of itself," she adds. But, "it did not show the kind of leadership that it should have shown, that it could have influenced a way of thinking about its responsibility to the cities of King County."

Today, Tarleton says, she would recommend all the parties, including the Port, county and mayor and city council of Burien, sit down and work out a deal – before Lora Lake is lost.

"[They can] decide 'We are going to have 162 affordable housing units when Lora Lake comes down,'" she says, "and stop talking about who should have done what when."

Other candidates for Position 2 and Commissioner Alec Fiskens' Position 5 seat did not return messages or could not be reached. ■



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Activists of every stripe are against a new economic pact, but with competing political agendas

Protest versus protest

By *CYDNEY GILLIS*,
Staff Reporter

It's not unusual for different factions of a political march to disagree on the issues, particularly in Seattle. But the participants in an anti-globalization march planned for Aug. 18 from Seattle Center to the Federal Building are so far apart that they talk like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The dividing line between them is illegal immigration and who's responsible. The "Jekels" say undocumented workers aren't the problem — border-eroding treaties such as NAFTA are. But some of the "Hydes" they'll be marching with call brown-skinned border-crossers "drug dealers, terrorists and thugs" who will "do anything they can to the point of mayhem and murder."

That's a quote from a press release issued in April by the national Minuteman Civil Defense Corps., a self-appointed, armed border patrol with an active chapter in Washington state.

Members of Washington's Minuteman chapter, the John Birch Society, Grass Roots of Yakima Valley and California's Save Our State plan to march through downtown Saturday to protest the formation of a much larger NAFTA called the North American Union, which all of the event's participants say will throw open the borders between the U.S., Canada

Members of Washington's Minuteman chapter, the John Birch Society, Grass Roots of Yakima Valley and California's Save Our State plan to march through downtown Saturday to protest the formation of a much larger NAFTA called the North American Union, which all of the event's participants say will throw open the borders between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

and Mexico and further erode wages and national sovereignty to the benefit of corporate elites.

It's there the agreement ends. Participants from the Canadian Action Party and Oregonians to Stop the North American Union even say they're dismayed to learn that some of their fellow participants tend to scapegoat Hispanics.

"I really hope some of these groups don't talk like that up there," says Todd

Wurster with Oregonians to Stop the North American Union. "It's not about Mexicans versus Americans. It's here's what's going on and let's do something about it."

What's going is the final planning for the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, or SPP, a trade and security initiative with Canada and Mexico led by the Bush Administration. The activists say the talks are laying the groundwork for an eventual North American Union that would have open borders and a single currency like the European Union's — something the U.S. Department of Commerce denies.

On Aug. 20 and Aug. 21, President Bush, Mexico's President Felipe Calderon, and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper will hold their third summit on the Security and Prosperity Partnership in Montebello, Quebec, where thousands are expected to gather in a WTO-like protest.

The partnership "is a mechanism to kill three countries," says Connie Fogal, leader of the Vancouver, B.C.-based Canadian Action Party. "It's a mechanism to remove democracy in the free countries, to remove the rule of elected, accountable people" and put power "into the hands of the corporate, military and financial elite."

But pitting people against people, she says, "is being an instrument of the new world order" — something that



Shankar Narayan, of the Hate Free Zone Washington, says that an upcoming Aug. 18 march downtown — involving the Minutemen, the John Birch Society and others — to address the "struggle against globalization" ignores the struggle of all disadvantaged workers. Here he's seen at a 24-hour vigil that occurred at the Northwest Detention Center outside of Tacoma last month. Photo by Cydney Gillis

event organizer Jonnie Crivello, a Seattle high-worker and founder of March for America, says is not the case.

"We are not pointing our fingers at immigrants," Crivello says. "They're being used as a vehicle for the goals of a deep North American integration as well as a bountiful supply of human resources who are willing to work for a lot less than Americans are."

"I don't want to be mistaken for someone who doesn't like other people who aren't like me," Crivello says. "That's just not the case. This is something completely different."

With 500,000 to 1 million illegal immigrants coming into the country each year, she says, "When we look at a figure of 20 million, the American public is being asked to absorb a population equal to that of a whole other country."

"If you're against that," she says, "you're labeled a Nazi or racist" when

the real issue is Americans losing jobs to those coming in.

Shankar Narayan of Hate Free Zone Washington calls that a myth — one of the biggest perpetuated by groups like March for America.

"They're couching the march in the language of the struggle against globalization, which is unfortunate because there are real issues in that struggle where all workers are being disadvantaged," he says. "Pitting immigrant and native workers against each other is not the way to combat that." ■

[Event]

March for America's protest against the North American Union starts Sat., Aug. 18, 1 p.m., at the Space Needle. Marchers will proceed to the Federal Building for a 2 p.m. rally and return to Seattle Center's Fisher Pavillion around 3 p.m. For more information, go to www.mfawash.org.

Scotland wins the Homeless World Cup and maybe more

We are the champions

By *LAURA KELLY and CLARE HARRIS*, *The Big Issue in Scotland*

"I'm shell-shocked..." Stuart Melvin looks up to the grey sky above Edinburgh airport and smiles. Sunburnt, knackered and elated, he speaks for every one of his seven teammates as he sets foot back home after he received

the summit that every sportsman dreams of. On Aug. 5, in Copenhagen, he won the Homeless World Cup.

"It was just amazing, life-changing. The best time ever," says teammate Alan Wilson. He's got all the reason in the world to be excited.

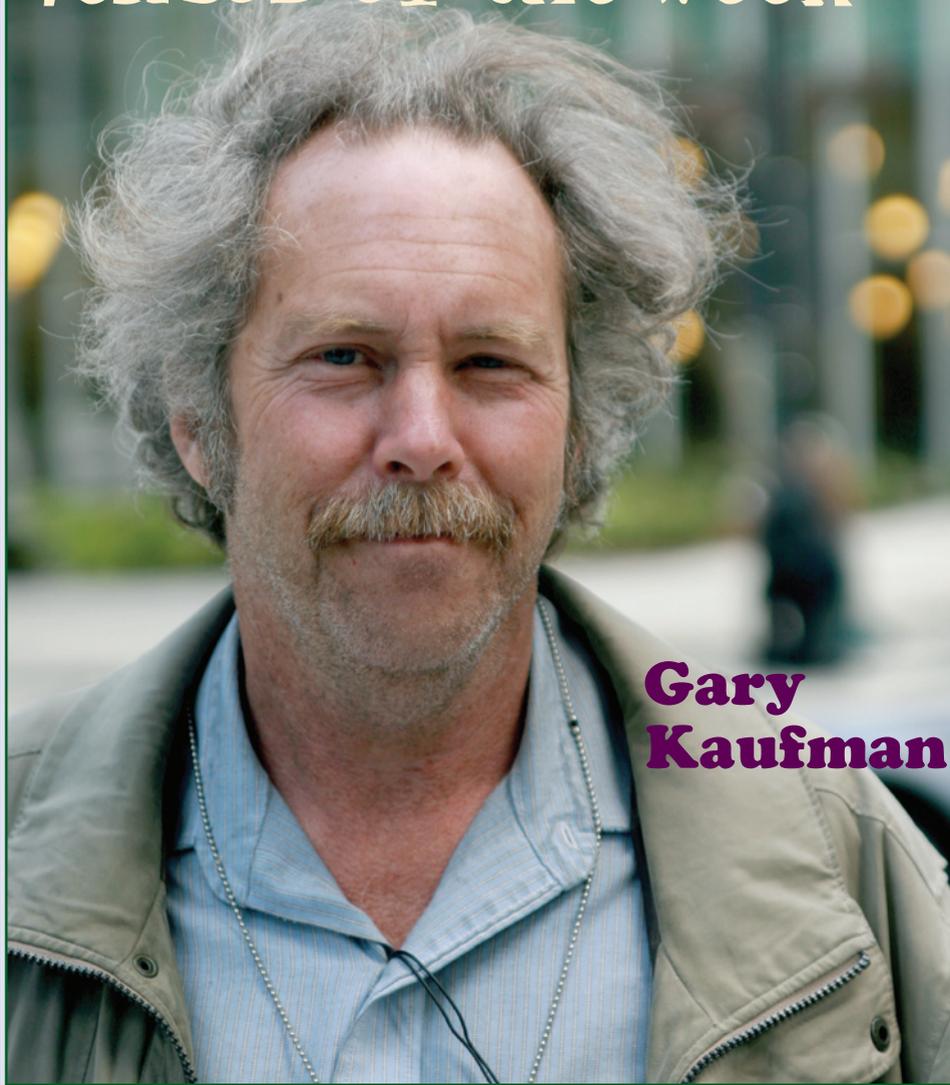
Allowing just 36 goals to more than 100 scored, Wilson was part of the team

which won 12 out of 13 games over the course of an intense seven days in Denmark. "You know, me and the boys said it must be fate," he says. The team we had was so tight."

Some naysayers have protested that in a just world such an event would

SOCCER, Continued on Page 10

Vendor of the Week



Gary Kaufman

Photo by Ken Dean

It was a sunless and sterile day in July and I was on the corner of Union and 2nd thinking about the questions I was going to ask Gary Kaufman. About 15 minutes earlier, I'd realized that this day in July in Seattle was like a day in mid-March anywhere else in the country, only it was a day that lasted for nine months of the year. For a second I believed that Seattle was Newark in late March forever.

It was a strange day and my interview questions turned out kind of stupid: 1) Is Gary Kaufman related to Andy Kaufman?; 2) What kind of name is "Kaufman?;" and, 3) What is the secret to Gary Kaufman's success?

Luckily, Kaufman is a nice guy. He handles bad interviews with patience and a half-grin.

Gary Kaufman is not related to Andy Kaufman; Kaufman is a German name; Kaufman, this week's vendor of the week, doesn't know the secret to his success.

"I pretty much just stand there, smile, and hold up the paper," he says. "I think this is pretty much just a streak of good luck."

"I pretty much just stand there, smile, and hold up the paper," he says. "I think this is pretty much just a streak of good luck."

Though a native of Bremerton, Kaufman came to Seattle via Glendale, California, where he's spent most of his life working in the restaurant industry. Kaufman returned to Seattle in order to be closer to his family, but became homeless after his arrival.

Luckily enough for him (and *Real Change*), Kaufman was introduced to the paper by a friend. Nowadays, you can find him selling papers across from the Seattle Library's Central branch.

Kaufman's earning a pretty decent

income— enough, in fact, to feed himself and his wife of four years. But Kaufman doesn't mind that he's also working toward spreading awareness of political and social issues facing Seattle's homeless:

"Spread the word!" he tells his customers.

—JP Gritton

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

Progress

On our walks around the city
this girl i used to date
would recall
what went where:

That used to be a dog kennel.
That was once a record store.
Over there used to be a Thai restaurant.

I wasn't as fascinated by the history
as with her ability to remember.
She was still in her 20s
but her recall was that
of an ancient elephant.

I thought of her just today
seeing a fresh empty lot
something just destroyed
its pieces already piled up in a green dumpster
erased from the corner and ready
for the next thing.

Last week something stood there
and i had walked by as i walked by now
what it had been was already lost to me.

Whats her face would have remembered.

—Larry Crist



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ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

There's a growing trade in human organs, and residents of the poorer nations often seek to make ends meet by becoming donors for richer western clients

The organ trade

By TAN EE LYN, Reuters

HONG KONG -

Paul Lee got his liver from an executed Chinese prisoner; Karam in Egypt bought a kidney for his sister for \$5,300; in Istanbul Hakan is holding out for \$30,700 for one of his kidneys.

They are not so unusual: a dire shortage of donated organs in rich countries is sending foreigners with end-stage illnesses to poorer places like China, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Colombia and the Philippines to buy a new lease on life.

Lee, a 53-year-old chief subway technician in Hong Kong, was diagnosed with liver cancer in January 2005 but doctors denied him a transplant because they feared the tumor would spread.

A friend told him about a transplant hospital in China's north eastern Tianjin city and he signed up for a place. That April, he paid 260,000 yuan (US\$34,380) for a transplant that saved his life.

"The hospital has connections with a lot of prisons," Lee told Reuters. "Mine came from an executed prisoner from Heilongjiang. I thank the donor deeply."

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 21,000 liver transplants are carried out annually, but medical experts put annual worldwide demand at 90,000 at least.

Demand for kidneys also exceeds supply, and that has given rise to organ trafficking and a black market for rich people

Only 20,000 transplants are carried out in China each year. Of these, 3,000 are liver transplants and 95 percent of them use livers from dead donors.

and "transplant tourists" who travel to poor countries to buy body parts from people with few other routes to a better living.

A donor in South Africa receives \$700 for a kidney while in the United States the fee - not paid to donors - is around \$30,000, according to WHO estimates. A lack of transparency and little protection for donors has spurred calls by international bodies to crack down on, or at least regulate, the trade.

But even where the trade is banned, laws are often muddled or laced with loopholes, which are sometimes defended by vested interests.

EASIER

And the unregulated route is much less complicated for the recipient. Any transplant procedure involving a living donor carries risks for the donor - especially for liver transplants which involve removing part of the donor's liver.

The complications can include bleeding, infection, even death.

In the transplant trade, the recipient need not worry about, for example, exposing a living relative to that risk.

"It is cheaper and your next of kin is not taking the risk and you don't have to care for someone you don't know. Once you pay, it is discarded in a way, it is dispensable," said Luc Noel, a Geneva-based coordinator for Clinical Procedures at the World Health Organization.

China recently banned the sale of human organs and restricted transplants for foreigners, saying it must first meet demand at home for 2 million organs a year.

Only 20,000 transplants are carried out in China each year. Of these, 3,000 are liver transplants and 95 percent of them use livers from dead donors.

China defended its use of organs from executed prisoners, saying consent was obtained from convicts or their families. A transplant operation using the liver of a dead donor costs around \$33,000 in China.

"What is important is the transparency, it has to be open to scrutiny ... if China makes its current system open to scrutiny and very transparent, that would do good," said the WHO's Noel.

"KIDNEY BAZAAR"

In Asia, a cultural obsession with keeping the body of the deceased intact has stymied public organ donation programs.

Excluding China, Asia has fewer than 200 livers donated by people ahead of their death each year, said Lo Chung-man, professor of hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery at the University of Hong Kong.

Pakistan, where trade in human organs is not illegal, is turning into a "kidney bazaar", said the chief executive of Pakistan's Kidney Foundation, Jaffar Naqvi.

There are no confirmed figures for the number of foreigners coming to the country for new kidneys but Naqvi said there were 13 centers in Lahore alone which reported more than 2,000 transplants last year from bought kidneys.

Patients, mostly



Sayed Abou Dief lifts his shirt to show a scar on his right side in Cairo. Dief says he entered a hospital for a medical check and woke up to find himself without a kidney. If he had consented, Dief may have gotten up to \$2,700 for the kidney, which is the going rate in Egypt. Photo courtesy REUTERS/Nasser Nuri

from Europe, Saudi Arabia and India, pay about 500,000 rupees (\$8,500) for a new kidney, he said. Donors are paid \$300 to \$1,000 and often get no medical care after the surgery.

There is no consent in some cases. In May police arrested nine people, four of them doctors, for abducting people, drugging them and stealing their kidneys

Stories of people selling their organs, especially kidneys, are not uncommon in Egypt, where more than 30 percent of a population of more than 73 million people live below the poverty line.

for transplant operations.

In the pipeline is a draft law aimed at banning the trade, but a powerful lobby bent on preserving it is trying to ensure it allows kidney donations for a non-relative, with no payment. Such a clause allowing "altruistic" organ donations will

ensure the trade continues with secret payment to donors, Naqvi said.

15 DAYS

Stories of people selling their organs, especially kidneys, are not uncommon in Egypt, where more than 30 percent of a population of more than 73 million people live below the poverty line.

Karam, who asked to be identified only by his first name because organ trading is illegal, said it took him only 15 days to secure a kidney for his sister who was suffering from kidney failure. He said a doctor found him a man willing to sell his kidney for 30,000 Egyptian pounds (\$5,300).

"The fees of the doctor were 5,000 pounds. Both his money and the fees of the hospital were deducted from the money the 'donor' received," said Karam.

He said doctors usually help in finding people willing to sell their organs from their patients' lists.

Abdel-Kader Hegazy, head of the disciplinary committee at the Doctors' Union, said Egyptian law lacks clear

Breathe in...
Breathe out...

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Slavery, without shackles and chains

■ Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade— And How We Can Fight It

By David Batstone, HarperSanFrancisco, 2007, Softcover, 301 pages, \$14.95

By KIMBERLY C. LUNDSTROM,
Contributing Writer

Twenty-seven million slaves exist in our world today.

With this startling statistic, journalist David Batstone introduces his book *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade—And How We Can Fight It*. He goes on to outline the depth and breadth of the problem in his introduction, citing such sources as the UN, the U.S. Department of Justice and the International Labor Office. But this book is no mere litany of facts and figures, statistics concerning other people far away. Batstone quickly brings readers face to face with the human beings languishing in captivity — and the modern abolitionists working to free them — today.

Batstone offers the intensely personal stories of individual slaves — people from all over the world, including the United States — with both pathos and

dignity, providing enough detail to show the full measure of their suffering, but without sensationalism. He then deftly weaves the stories of these victims with those of people and organizations that have arisen to fight the modern slave trade. In each of his six chapters focused on a region or country, Bat-

David Batstone offers the intensely personal stories of individual slaves

— people from all over the world, including the United States — with both pathos and dignity, providing enough detail to show the full measure of their suffering, but without sensationalism.

stone introduces us to a real person (or sometimes persons) kidnapped, sold or tricked into a life of slavery. We learn of their lives before slavery, their

hopes and dreams, their struggles, and how they became slaves (sadly, often as a result of a combination of these same struggles and dreams). We meet Srey Neang, sold as a house servant at 7-years-old by her desperate, starving family in Cambodia, and eventually sold again, this time into prostitution. And Maya, whose entire family found themselves in debt bondage after trusting the word of their new employer. We meet Charles, a 10-year-old boy kidnapped on his way to school in Uganda and forced to fight in that country's brutal civil war.

Not for Sale does not give way to handwringing, however. The author offers hope in the form of anti-slavery organizations and individuals, telling their stories with no less personal engagement than that given to slavery's victims. Abhorring the exploitation of young women on the streets of Bangkok, Pierre Tami offers shelter and living wage employment to these women through his

center in Gulu, Uganda, caring for former child soldiers and assisting in their psychological recovery. With the skill of a gifted storyteller, Batstone engages readers with these stories of the personal and dramatic, then intercuts with short sections of history and background that provide a fuller understanding of the situations specific to the culture or region in question.

Not for Sale concludes with a chapter entitled "Ending the Slave Trade in Our Time," in which Batstone entreats readers to believe that they can make a difference. He cites actions, large and small, that can be taken by ordinary individuals— from pressuring one's employer to ensure its products or services are not created or carried out through any form of slavery to volunteerism and political action. This is followed by an alphabetical listing of anti-slavery organizations, each with a detailed description and web address.

Overall, *Not for Sale* is eminently readable, as well as highly informative and actionable. I would recommend it to anyone concerned with promoting social justice in our world today. ■

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

The Cat

I lay in the sun,
covering my paws,
blink at robins
stretch my tail
licking my fur.

My smile floats
in the air
and I feel
in my throat
an oncoming purr.

So dissolute,
my belly rubs itself
hoping my dear
for more
than a mouse.

—Michael Magee

WORTH SEEING

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD:

Reviews by LESTER GRAY, Contributing Writer

■ Dr. Bronner's Magic Soapbox

Directed by Sara Lamm

In measuring the viability of a political hypothesis not amenable to formulaic proof, durability, by default, serves as an alternate metric. But when one considers the myriad opposing theories that continue to flourish, the test of time proves a faulty, if not specious litmus. Hence the only arbiter becomes demonstrative success. By these criteria, the late and virtually unknown Dr. Bronner would have to rate among the most insightful thinkers of all time.

Dr. Bronner, a self-made philosopher and scientist, promoted his theories through an organic soap, that according to testimonials in this film, can be used for just about anything from bathing and brushing the teeth to an enema solution additive. This natural product, claims to be invigorating as well as cleansing, serves as a model for the Moral ABCs, a lengthy disquisition on living spelled out on every label. The Bronner Company, started in the 1940s, still walks its talk.

The documentary, *Dr. Bronner's Magic Soapbox* introduces you to the world created by a free thinker and sustained by his progeny. The essence of this creed is an ecumenical and egalitarian philosophy underpinned by his code for living and what he calls constructive capitalism.

Bronner's top executive makes no more than five times that of the lowest paid full time worker, with company wide yearly bonuses from \$10,000 to \$30,000. The company gives away 70 percent of its profits.

While the documentary is a bit long, it, nonetheless, rewards with an inspiring and curious story, set apart by the certification of its uplifting political and economic message.

Opens 8/17 at the Grand Illusion

■ King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters

Directed by Seth Gordon

Steve Wiebe, the central character in the documentary *King of Kong* epitomizes "good guy." That he would crowd in line, litter, or flip off any but the most offensive driver is inconceivable. When the powers that be put the screws to him, he responds with good old tenacity and a smile. As noble as this stance may be, at times it leaves him sucking on the hind tit.

Fired from his job at Boeing, he somehow

ends up with a full sized model of Donkey Kong. Looking online, he discovers that this arcade game has an official high score and he sets out to beat it. He succeeds, recording the event on videotape. Then as in an episode of the *Twilight Zone*, he is transported into another world, a small pond if you will, where there's one too many big fish.

Two men arrive unannounced at his house, persuading Steve's mother-in-law, at his house babysitting, to allow them to enter. They dismantle and examine the circuitry of the machine on which he registered the score and examine other materials in the garage. On the basis of this investigation, Steve's score is disallowed.

Although Steve is upset about the intrusion, he maintains his upright manner, even through additional impediments that follow. Twice traveling back east, this now science teacher sets to right the wrong and finally gain some needed closure. As *King of Kong* heads toward a climax, the story, unbound by the codes of fictive story telling, could end up just about anywhere, which makes for a suspenseful and fun offering. ■

Opens 8/17 at the Varsity



Photo courtesy www.mtvgames.typepad.com



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

Sometimes I read stories in the mainstream papers that call into question this whole enterprise. An example of that occurred this week. After the coal mine collapse in Utah we found out that the plan at that mine was to conduct an activity called "retreat mining," which involves, among other things, a practice of miners "pulling" mine pillars to deliberately collapse part of the mine. So they can get more coal from the rubble before doing it again! You can't make this stuff up!

I've been reading background stories about this, trying to wrap my head around this. Maybe I have it wrong, I thought. Surely, that's it, I have it wrong! Nobody would do anything this crazy, just to make money! Ha, that's it, I'm not a good reader, I read it wrong. So when the *Salt Lake Tribune* story referred to the retreating and the mining of rubble as "cut-and-gut," I failed to notice that the subject had changed from coal mining to off-shore fish processing. When I thought they said that the shaking of the earth that accompanies the collapses is routinely called the "bounce," I neglected to notice they were now talking about good and bad mattresses.

But no, I appear to have read correctly. When the operator of the Utah mine protested as news media suggested that retreat mining caused the miners to be buried or trapped, he didn't

©Dr. Wes: Canary in a coal mine

say they weren't retreat mining at the time. He said, indeed they were, but it wasn't the retreat mining's fault. It was an earthquake's fault. Like, "Yes, I was punching Jimmy repeatedly in the jaw, but that wasn't what broke his tooth. Another tooth maliciously hit it. I am not culpable."

I could point out that in the United States roughly 50 coal miners die each year in mining accidents out of a total of about 80,000 coal miners. Meanwhile, out of any 80,000 homeless people in the country roughly 400 to 500 die on the streets each year.

Besides, it's not fair to blame retreat mining for coal mining deaths because it's been used successfully for over 70 years and statistics show it only causes three times the rate of fatalities per work hour as any other method used. "Yes, I was punching Jimmy repeatedly in the jaw, but that was only three times more likely to cause a tooth to break as giving him a noogy, so I am not culpable."

Besides, retreat mining is only used to obtain 10 percent of all the coal mined so it's not like it's done all the time. "Yes, I was punching Jimmy

repeatedly in the jaw, at that time, but you never talk about the 90 per cent of the time I trip him and give him wedgies. That could break a tooth, too, you know. I am not culpable."

You know I have to relate this all back to homelessness, don't you? I could point out that in the United States roughly 50 coal miners die each year in mining accidents out of a total of about 80,000 coal miners. Meanwhile, out of any 80,000 homeless people in the country roughly 400 to 500 die on the streets each year.

But homeless people don't get the respect that coal miners do, because people say homelessness is due to bad life choices.

Now I'm told coal miners stick with a job that entails retreat mining, and nobody but me is going to be the jackass who says "bad life choice?"

I was discussing the public response to coal miners who die versus the mostly non-response to the 10 times as many deaths among homeless people with activist Brigid "Just Because It Rhymes Doesn't Mean I Am" Hagan, and I suggested it's because coal miners get paid. People respect that as a clear indicator of good intention. I said prostitutes who get \$3 a blow job get more respect when they die on the street than homeless people do, because they're clearly putting effort into getting on their feet.

It was Brigid, not I, who then said, "Well, on their knees, anyway." I am not culpable. ■

Sound off and read more:
drwesb.blogspot.com



Thurs., July 31. 1 p.m., Fourth Ave. and Pike St. Officers stopped suspect, a transient white male aged 39, on a stop/lie violation. During a routine name check officers discovered an outstanding warrant. This was verified via radio, and the suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Thurs., Aug. 2. 11:46 a.m., Boren St. and Pine St. The Seattle Police Department and the Department of Corrections (DOC) were working together in a joint operation to clean out the transient camps on the eastside of I-5 at Boren St. and Pine St. Suspect, a transient white male aged 37, was contacted sleeping under a tree. Suspect was removed from the camp along with his backpack. He was checked and found to be on active DOC supervision, and it was discovered he had failed to report to his DOC officer when he was released from jail in July 2007. Officers placed suspect under arrest per DOC, and searched his backpack. They found several syringes, one of which tested positive for heroin. Subject was transported to the precinct and asked for a urine sample. He declined, saying he had just urinated. He was given a bottle of water so he could produce a sample, and booked into King County Jail.

Fri., Aug. 3. 11:41 p.m., 125th St. and Aurora Ave. Officers were working the Greenwood/Aurora emphasis patrol in full uniform, and were in the area of 125th St. and Aurora Ave. when they observed the suspect, a transient white female aged 20, walking northbound on Aurora Ave. They observed two separate vehicles following her, and saw them pull into a parking lot near her. Once the vehicles observed the police officers they exited the area. Officers recognized the suspect as a prostitute they had contacted before, and they believed she was on a Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP) order. She was stopped, and she immediately stated she was on a SOAP order from Shoreline. Officers verified the order, which expires in April 2009. She was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Fri., August 3. 3:15 p.m., S. Main St. Police responded to a report of trespassers inside a fenced area behind the Diamond Parking Lot off the alley on S. Main St. They located three subjects sleeping behind some plywood in a storage area of an unoccupied building off the alley and parking lot. The building has "No Trespassing" signs posted across the top. Two of the subjects checked clear and were given warnings at the scene and moved along. The third suspect was detained for trespass, and for possession of an access device not belonging to him. When asked, he stated he found it at the scene. He was also found to be under DOC supervision. Suspect was placed under arrest for trespass, and transported to the precinct. He was then interviewed and released.

Sun., Aug. 5. 1:35 p.m., 100 Yesler Way, Pioneer Square Park. Suspect, a transient white female aged 49, was spotted by officers sitting on a bench in Pioneer Square Park, a Zone 4 park. She was known to officers as a chronic trespasser that was currently banned from all city parks and all Zone 4 parks. She was arrested for trespass in the parks 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

On my way home the other day, a woman who apparently needed to get off at 23rd Ave. and Union St. waited until all the other passengers getting off at that stop had disembarked before moseying toward the back door and mumbling something inaudible in the general direction of the driver. The oblivious driver proceeded to pull away from the stop. "I want to get off," she called out, louder this time. The bus kept moving. Before the driver had made it halfway down the block, she was screaming, "I want off! I want to get off!" at the top of her lungs. Thankfully, the driver pulled over and let her off. My ears wouldn't have survived the ride to Marion St.

Then, recently, on my way to work, a man who got off at my stop asked for the back door so quietly (and for some reason, listlessly—it wasn't that early), I'm surprised he heard himself. Like I said to Bus Nerd, who witnessed it with me, it was the weakest "back door" I have ever heard.

There's something thrilling (and, for us shy types, at least, a little bit terrify-

ing) about getting off at the back door. Will the driver notice you and open it automatically, or will you have to —gasp! — draw attention to yourself and your need to disembark? If you do speak up, will you be able to get the driver's attention (along with everyone else's), or will you find yourself stuck on board, embar-

There is the red-faced, whispered entreaty — "Back door?" — the one that begs, "Please don't look at me!" and apologizes for the inconvenience.

assed and forced to hoof it back to your original destination? Or, will you make a mistake and make the request on a "pay as you leave" route, and then have to hustle to the front and pay while the rest of the passengers wait impatiently?

I've made something of a hobby of observing and categorizing back door requests.

There is the casual, confident, open-sesame-style command of the experienced

rider—"Back door!"—who never questions whether the request will be granted. There is the red-faced, whispered entreaty—"Back door?"—the one that begs, "Please don't look at me!" and apologizes for the inconvenience. Sometimes, this is a silent entreaty. Instead of speaking up, the rider just stands there and hopes to be seen by the driver.

There is the polite request. "Back door, please."

There is the shouted, indignant demand of the entitled. "Back door!" (Subtext: "Do as I say, public servant!")

There is the shouted, indignant, demand of the panicked. "Back door!" (Subtext: "Didn't you hear me? Please don't drive away yet!")

My favorite "back door" of all time, though, was by a young man who was actually trying to get on the bus at Montlake several months ago. He stood in front of the closed doors, resigned, and muttered (more to those of us lined up behind him than to the driver), "Back door, dude." ■

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

Bus Chick: Back door!

Correction: Last week's article, "Preparing for Gridlock," incorrectly attributed a statement to King County Transit spokesperson Linda Thielke regarding the implementation of translation software by King County Metro Transit. The statement came from Cathy Blumenthal, King County Rideshare Coordinator who was referring to Rideshare's plans for new software, and not to transit as a whole. Metro Transit has no plans to implement translation software, although translation services are available for those who call customer service. *Real Change* regrets the error.

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Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Here's the answer

Dear *Real Change*,

The answer to homelessness is housing. Until there is enough housing, there will be shelter. Living in shelters is getting worse, more dangerous. The stabbing of a staff member at Angeline's should not have happened ["Violence..." RC, Aug. 1 - 7]. The staff at Angeline's are a caring group to the clients needs. There are a lot of clients in Angeline's that are working and some others are looking for work every day.

The problem is the clients that are on drugs or have mental issues. Over the years, I have seen guns, knives and even a chain saw come into the shelter. Human services have cut health programs for the mentally ill, among other programs. Although the clients do have problems, they are human beings and should be treated as such and not as a disposable commodity that can be thrown away. The bottom line is, where is the service for the poor!

Estella Wallace
Seattle

SOCCER, Continued from Page 7

not exist. However, homelessness is a fact, and the sheer size and success of the Homeless World Cup -- in which players are no longer statistics on a government check sheet but talented men and women with a challenging but exciting future ahead of them -- speaks for itself.

Amid the high-octane excitement of the Homeless World Cup, so big now it is supported by giants Nike and draws stars such as Eric Cantona, it is sometimes easy to forget the gravity of what these hundreds of players from nearly 50 nations have lived through. For the players, Scots included, coming to the cup and playing represents the culmination of an effort to stabilize their own lives.

In Denmark, just outside the pitches where all the excitement, heartbreak and jubilation of the Homeless World Cup is taking place, there are groups of rough sleepers who are still battling to get together enough food to keep going. The Danish team, brought together by the Ombold street soccer league, recognize their problems all too well. Most of them were sleeping rough not too long ago. "For me it was when I wasn't taking responsibility for my life," says goalie René Bo Nielsen. "I had a drug problem, so all the bills weren't paid. It started small, and then it got bigger, bigger, bigger and I was on the street."

Frank Clifforth, the player who designed the logo for the Nike-produced T-shirts for this year's tournament, had a similar experience. "It started with alcohol," he says, "and ended with heroin." Clifforth, explains Tina Juul Rasmussen who is Ombold's press officer, actually "died," so doped up

he didn't realize his house was on fire. He was revived in hospital but it wasn't until several weeks later that he realized what he was doing to himself.

All of the players say they felt Danish society looked down on them, but have turned their lives around through playing football. "We were nothing," says Clifforth, "but now with the Homeless World Cup we are local heroes."

The problem remains for the people outside the pitches whether it's behind Copenhagen's town square, in the favelas of Brazil or in the hostels of Scotland. While vast percentages of former Homeless World Cup players attest to the experience changing their lives -- nearly 80 percent of players surveyed after the 2005 event said they had found jobs, homes or entered training -- the challenge now must be for the event to spark a change for homeless people everywhere, with or without a ball.

After shaking hands with Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik, the real event gets going. Scotland is immediately on the attack in a match against Poland, and the Scots score early goals. Refusing to back down in the face of the much larger team, one player took a fall and looked in real pain, but the crowd's applause pulled him up and soon Scotland was back in control. Thanks to their greater skill, the Scottish dominated throughout.

"It was in the bag," says Paul Smith, who was named best player of the tournament.

Top scorer Frank Brodie gives a massive grin as he leaves. "Words can't describe how good I feel," he says. ■

Reprinted from *The Big Issue in Scotland*

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Adrift This Concrete Land

a cupped smoke, can or bottle
just out of sight
wearing that mask of loss, need, ill health . . .
a blunt sharpie carved into creased cardboard
something about god, service, kids, hunger . . .
mercy
or the lack thereof
an excuse, a line, variations bordering cliché
everything but the truth, or real story
that would demand too large a sign

Cars back up at the light
as this corner person
with apparently no home to go to
plays the current
like a violin
loud enough
for the fat car in back
and the one running up behind it
to hear its cash-strapped refrain

Change, dollars, apathy, contempt, disgust
trash, cigarettes, stale sandwiches, advice
shrugs, excuses, old peanuts . . .
pass through these idling windows

They continue on
as this denizen finishes their shift
ambles on toward the 7-11 with
their acquired booty

The light changes
as a new itinerant closes in
Traffic flows by like a river

You can't step in the same road twice

—Larry Crist

ORGANS, Continued from Page 7

punishment for those involved in illegal transplants, making it easy for doctors to repeat the offense.

"The law says it is illegal to trade in organs but does not specify the punishment. We at the union suspended many doctors and closed their practices, but they have appealed before courts and won their licenses back," he told *Reuters*.

"It is an annoying and a regrettable situation. Well-known doctors and professors are doing this. They are rich people but they do it because they have no moral values."

The union has been pushing for legislation to regulate organ transplants, with a draft bill including heavy fines and a prison sentence for those involved and a ban on transplants between people of different nationalities.

But the draft law has been languishing in parliament for several years because of differences between doctors and senior Muslim religious leaders on whether Islam allows organ transplants in the case of clinical deaths.

INTERNET POSTINGS

In Turkey, students, unemployed young men and struggling fathers post advertisements on the Internet selling their kidneys, listing their drinking and smoking habits and blood type.

These would-be donors say they have had inquiries from Germany, Israel and Turkey with asking prices going up to 50,000 lira (\$38,760).

Hakan, a 27-year-old security guard in Istanbul with two young children who also requested only his first name be published, told *Reuters* he received five or six offers from Turkey and Germany, offering 10,000-15,000 lira (\$11,600), but he's holding out for 40,000 lira.

"Of course it's frightening but there's nothing else to be done," he said, adding he hadn't told his wife as he knew she would object.

"I'm doing it because of my family, if I was alone it wouldn't matter. I've got two children ... there's nothing else I can do for them."

"They stole my kidney."

An Egyptian man tells his story: this case study is part of a report on the transplant trade.

AN ACCOUNT

CAIRO -

Sayed Mahmoud Abou Dief is a 26-year-old unemployed Egyptian man, who says three years ago a man posing as a businessman promised to secure a job for him in Libya after a medical check-up at a Cairo hospital.

He says he was sedated and woke up hours later feeling acute pain on his right side. He then found out he had lost a kidney. A shy, thin dark man, Abou Dief talked to *Reuters* in Cairo about his case. He removed his shirt to reveal a long deep scar on his right side.

This is his story:

"This man overheard me asking about a vacancy as a waiter at a coffee shop. He told me 'I will help you get a job in Libya but you have to do some X-rays

and tests for me.' I went with a friend of mine called Alaa to the office of the man and his associate ... They said we would not have to pay anything."

"I did some tests ... then he said I had to stay at an apartment downtown and wait for the final heart check ... he summoned me to a hospital where I met a doctor who placed me under a 'heart-testing machine'. I was given a sedative."

"I woke up later feeling an acute pain. I was throwing up and crying. The nurse beside me said 'Thank God, the surgery went fine.' I asked her 'what surgery?' and she said that I had just had my kidney removed."

"I woke up later feeling an acute pain. I was throwing up and crying. The nurse beside me said 'Thank God, the surgery went fine.' I asked her 'what surgery?' and she said that I had just had my kidney removed."

"The chair was next to me. I picked it up and hit the nurse with it on her head. Then - I don't know how - I stood up and smashed the window that was also close to me. I don't know how I stood up. The nurse passed out and I passed out right away too."

"I called the man and told him that I will never let him alone. He told me to meet him ... He told me 'you had a problem with your kidney and I had it removed for you. You should thank me.' He then gave me 4,000 Egyptian pounds (\$706) and said 'you have no proof that I have done this to you.'"

"I went with my father and filed a police report. Forensic examiners proved that I had lost a kidney ... but I do not have any proof on paper that these people have done this to me ... the hospital denied that I had an operation there."

"The case has been with the office of the public prosecutor since then. The men I have accused have denied any wrongdoing."

"I have been unemployed since then because I cannot work long hours. My father pays me money but he cannot afford my medication as well. My only kidney is functioning at 85 percent."

"I still have hope. But I want to say that the government is unjust because it has not helped me. How come the government cannot do me justice? Am I supposed to claim my rights with my hand? I am willing to do so if the government won't help me."

"I went to the Presidential Palace three months ago and told them I want to meet the president ... I took my shirt off and showed them my scar. They said 'go away or we will detain you.'"

FACTBOX

Here are some facts about organ trafficking and transplantation.

WHY?

- Human-to-human transplantation of cell tissue and organs is recognized as the best and often only treatment for end-state organ failure, such as liver and heart failure.

WHO?

- The general flow of organs from live donors is from poor, undeveloped countries to rich, developed ones.

- The majority of transplanted organs come from live, often unrelated donors, rather than using cadaveric organs. In the United States, the number of renal or kidney transplants from live donors exceeded those from deceased donors for the first time in 2001.

WHAT?

- Kidney transplants are by far the most frequently carried out, the WHO says. It estimates there about 65,700 kidney transplants, 21,000 liver transplants and 6,000 heart transplants carried out annually.

- To date, the kidneys, heart, liver, lungs, pancreas and the small bowel can all be transplanted. The first successful kidney transplant was in 1954 and the

first heart transplant in 1967.

HOW MUCH?

- Commercial living donors, mainly poor and vulnerable individuals in need of money, are thought to supply 10 percent of the world's transplanted kidneys. Here are the WHO's most recent (2003) estimates for the price of one kidney:

- South Africa: \$700
- India: \$1,000-\$1,200
- Manila: \$1,200-\$2,000
- Moldova: \$2,700
- Egypt: \$1,700-\$2,700
- Turkey: \$5,000-\$10,000
- Peru: \$8,000
- United States: \$30,000 and up

WHERE?

- Some countries that are well known sources of donors - such as Brazil, India and Moldova - have banned buying and selling of organs. Iran is the only country in the world where it is lawful for one citizen to sell an organ to another for transplantation.

Courtesy of Reuters

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Calendar

This Week's Top Picks

Wednesday 8/15

Abderrahmane Sissako's film **Bamako** tells the story of an ad hoc trial in which African Civil Society sues the IMF and the World Bank. The trial is seen through the eyes of Mel and Chaka, a couple whose marriage is rapidly falling apart, in part due to Chaka's growing despair at his inability to find work. The film can be seen through Aug. 16, with 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. screenings. There will be a panel composed of academics and activists after the Aug. 16 6:30 p.m. screening. Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave. \$8.50. Info: www.nwfilmforum.org or 206-329-2629.

Thursday 8/16

Two cyclists, **Bill Bradlee and David Kroodsma** from **Ride for Climate, rode cross-country talking with Americans about global warming.** Riding since April 21, the pair has just arrived in Seattle, and will be presenting their findings at a brownbag lunch at the Triad Urban Center. Come hear what Americans of all walks of life have to say about global warming, as well as see a slideshow and participate in a discussion. Noon. Dexter Horton Building, Third Ave. at Cherry St. Info: 206-443-9570 x23 or www.rideforclimate.com.

If you're one of the three people in Seattle who hasn't heard that this is the 100th Anniversary of Pike Place Market, well, you have now. Central Library is showing the **Pike Place Market: The First Hundred Years, a documentary with rare and never before seen footage and photos.** Catch up on your local history. 6:30 p.m. Microsoft Auditorium, Seattle Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave. Info: 206-386-4636.

Saturday 8/18

Join the celebration with the **Central Area Community Parade and Festival.** Featuring art and cultural exhibits, games, crafts, food and entertainment, the festival goes down Saturday and Sunday, noon to 10 p.m., with the parade beginning Saturday at 10 a.m. The festival has free admission and will take place at the Garfield Community Center and Playfield, 2323 E. Cherry St.

The **United Africa Day Festival**, complete with a cultural fashion show and African food from noon to 1 p.m. There will also be music, dance, and art. Translation will be provided in Amharic, Oromiffa, Somali and Tigrinya, noon to 5 p.m. Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th Ave. S. Free.

Tuesday 8/21

Don't forget to vote!!! King County Primary Elections. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Vote on candidates for Seattle City Council, King County Council, King County ballot measures, and more. www.metrokc.gov/elections/ or call 206-296-VOTE (8683) for more information.

Thursday 8/23

Celebrating **EarthCorps World Night.** Enjoy free music, performances and plenty of delicious foods from the countries and cultures of EarthCorps' international participants. Countries represented include Bolivia, Brazil, Ghana, Panama, and the Philippines, from 6 - 6:45 p.m., with a presentation detailing the experience of immigrants journeys to Seattle from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Community Activity Center, Magnuson Park, 6344 NE 74th St., Building 406. Free. Info: 206-322-9296 x 224.

Saturday 8/25

Ever wondered what America looks like from the top, what the men and women who inhabit the spires of our society see when they look down? How would it feel to rub elbows with the likes of Howard Schultz or Warren Buffet? **Randy Cepuch** has done it, traveling to major corporate shareholder meetings and watching corporate heads humble themselves in the presence of anyone with enough cash to buy a couple shares of stock. He will be at Elliott Bay Book Co., discussing his new work, **A Weekend with Warren Buffet and Other Shareholder Meeting Adventures.** 2 p.m. 101 S. Main St. Info: 206-624-6600.

Calendar compiled by Patrick Reis.
Have a suggestion for an event?
Email it to calendar@realchangenews.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

Rain Barrels - Fully assembled, well-designed, black 60 gallon rain barrels for only \$65 plus tax. Contact Dan Borba at (253) 272-8173 or email at naturalrainwater@yahoo.com or visit www.naturalrainwater.com. Harvesting the rain locally since 1999. Mention *Real Change* and receive free delivery.

Seattle Hempfest's All-Volunteer Staff is looking for YOU! We need volunteers 24 hrs/ 6 days during Set-up, Hempfest and breakdown, Aug. 16 - 21. Sign up online at www.hempfest.org/staff.

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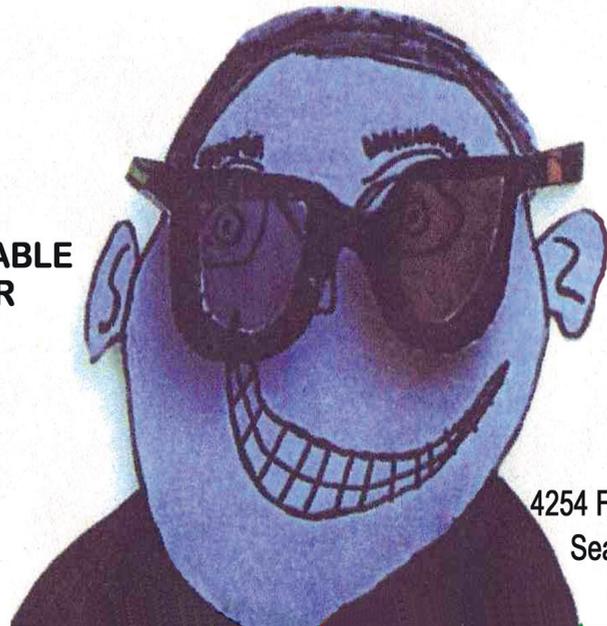
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Or for more information contact Shannon Luoma at sluoma@nweec.org or 206.923.1980

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