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Fund opportunity and organizing in Seattle.
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Where the buffalo roamed...

p. 8

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\$1 REAL CHANGE

VOL. 14, NO. 48
NOV. 21 - 27, 2007

Olympia: A Mini WTO

As 10-day Olympia protest winds down with charges of police misconduct, a student walk out energizes Seattle's young people to decry Iraq War as "nonsense."

"People who had complied with police instructions ... were pepper-sprayed, including myself," says Olympia City Councilmember T.J. Johnson...see page 5.



Photo by Elliot Stoller

Homeless Women, Up from the streets

p. 4

Photo by Revel Nt

"Begging" for food stipend

Resident tussles
with SHA over meals
allowance due to
relocation...see page 4

Photo by Revel Nt

Just do it: In an open letter to Mayor Nickels, Rev. Rich Lang advises him how to end homelessness. For good...p.9

Your vendor buys this paper for 35¢ and keeps all the proceeds. Please purchase from badged vendors only.

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.

Real Change is a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association, the International Network of Street Papers, and the Greater Seattle Business Association.



Sometimes, Institution Building Is A Good Thing

Help this story continue. Please support the Summer Fund Drive. See the movie at realchangenews.org



1994
10,000 copies of the first issue of Real Change is published on August 20. Wes Browning's painting of the Hawaiian deity Pele graces the cover. **\$3,200 in start-up funding** is raised through endorsement ad sales from community organizations and individuals. Monthly publication begins with the October issue, and we have 50 regular vendors by year-end.

1995

We buy a used Mac SE for \$600 to use as the vendor database to supplement the LCII we're using for production. A new column is launched.



Adventures in Poetry drives circulation to a new high of **15,000 copies per month**.

1996

A second staff is hired. A volunteer builds us a desk to share. Sid Vicious, the office cat, arrives. We host the organizing conference of the **North American Street Newspaper Association**.



1997

We become a 501(c)3 non-profit of our own. **Our budget exceeds \$100,000.**



1998
We run a picket on Nordstroms over the holidays for using HUD dollars to build their parking garage. Monthly circulation reaches 20K.



Last week I was privileged to return to my roots as a homeless organizer in Boston, Massachusetts to deliver what has become the

annual Mitch Snyder Lecture at First Church Cambridge, a small shelter run by an activist named Jim Stewart. Jim was once a northeast area lieutenant for Snyder's Community for Creative Nonviolence (CCNV), and their direct action-based grassroots organizing set a tone for homeless organizing across the nation.

1999

Real Change photog George Hickey gets tear gassed at WTO, sues, and wins. We launch the **First things First** advocacy arm of Real Change to put a "roof over every bed." **Twice-monthly publication** begins, and we serve 125 vendors a month. Budget hits \$200K.



2000

Real Change hires David Bloom as Faith Community Organizer and he founds what will become the **Interfaith Task-force on Homelessness**. We publish our 100th Issue. Judy Nicastro describes our organizing as "relentless."



2001

The **Initiative 71** campaign qualifies for the ballot and a settlement is reached with the city that increases homeless shelter and services. **150 vendors a month are selling about 30,000 copies.** We begin carrying *Mockingbird Times*.

2002

Real Change guts the 2129 office space and **rebuilt from floor to ceiling** to accommodate our growing staff. The design and most of the construction is donated. Circulation reaches 35,000 a month. Our budget exceeds \$400K. **We help pass a housing levy that is focused on the most needy.**



2003

We survey our community partners to see what they value most about our work and write a **strategic plan that sets a goal of weekly publication.** A partnership begins with Wongdoody to help market the paper. We narrow our focus to the newspaper and the activism.

2004



ISSUES • INSIGHT • IMPACT

We prepare for weekly publication by holding focus groups and reinvent ourselves as an **activist newspaper that supports the progressive community.** The newspaper is redesigned. More than 300 attend our 10th anniversary breakfast. ED Tim Harris wins the **Society of Professional Journalists Susan Hutchinson Bosch award for special achievement.**

2005

Real Change hires two part-time journalists and goes weekly. **Circulation climbs to 10,000 per week.** We win the Municipal League's organization of the year award and are named Best Grassroots Media Outlet by the *Seattle Weekly*. Our budget exceeds \$500K.

2006

Real Change's **Downtown for All** campaign nearly doubles the affordable housing surcharge for condo developers. We receive two Society of Professional Journalists awards and an award from the State Housing Finance Commission for effective activism. A new strategic plan commits to **regional distribution, a neighborhood organizing strategy** to build political will to end homelessness, and **work placement assistance.**



2007

We redesign the paper to better attract readers with our award winning content. Circulation increases by 16% over 2006. **We launch the Real Change Organizing Project to build for power on issues of housing affordability, growing inequality, and civil rights.** Our first campaign centers on exposing and ending the Mayor's secret policy of "reducing homelessness" by systematically attacking homeless encampments.

Director's Corner

Coordinated actions like the 1988 "Take off the Boards" abandoned housing takeovers, and the 300,000 strong Housing Now! March of 1989 set a militant tone for activism that was about targeting the federal government for its abandonment of the poor and their full-scale retreat from the housing arena. Snyder linked homelessness to broad issues of inequality, poverty, and military spending, and understood that homelessness was the visible tip of a much larger set of issues that affect us all.

My speech, which you can read at my personal blog, at www.apesmaslamment.blogspot.com, draws those connections, and calls for a return to cross-class activism that links

the self-interest of the increasingly squeezed middle class with those who are the most vulnerable to homelessness and worse.

The cherished illusion that somehow homelessness can be ended without addressing the growing poverty and inequality that places us all at risk needs to be confronted and abandoned. The new Real Change Organizing Project is working to create a new, more authentic approach to homelessness and poverty that builds leadership and activism for the long haul. For information about how to get involved, please contact Rachael Myers at (206) 441-3247, x201, or email organizer@realchangenews.org.

Just Heard...

Deaf on taxes

Saying it's the will of the people, the legislature and Gov. Chris Gregoire have called a special session next week to reinstate the 1 percent limit on general property tax levies that the state Supreme Court struck down Nov. 8.

Don't rush, says the Washington State Tax Fairness Coalition, the state-wide group educating the public about our state's most-unfair-in-the-nation taxation system. No income tax, high sales taxes, and the regressive property tax means that the wealthy pay 3 percent, the middle class 11 percent, and the poor 17 percent of their annual incomes to the state.

But I-747 did not help matters. Pegging the property tax below the rate of inflation hobnailed local governments' attempt to deliver core public services, like police, fire, and EMS. Keeping it — and adding on the consequences of the newly approved Initiative 960 — undercuts Democrats' ability to deliver on their core values of health care, jobs, and education. It means poor counties get no relief and voters in wealthy, liberal counties complain of "compassion fatigue" from the many requests for special levies for specific needs.

That's the kind of reasoning to which the Democratic leadership seems deaf. County Executive Ron Sims, who as gubernatorial candidate in 2004 had a plan for a more equitable tax system, on Monday applauded the King County Council for approving a budget that hews to the spirit of I-747.

—Adam Hyla

Deaths of homeless up

The One Night County of homeless people in King County might have gone down, but not the number of deaths: Last week, Public Health - Seattle & King County reported that 110 homeless people died last year, up from 94 deaths in 2005 and 82 deaths in 2004.

Forty-five percent of the deaths were due to accidents, an increase from previous years, with more homeless people being hit by cars, drowning, or falling. The number of homeless people murdered last year also climbed to 11, up from eight in 2005 and four in 2004.

ICE strikes again

One day you're working a landscaping job in Dupont. The next day you're sitting in the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. That's what happened to 11 people Nov. 15 in another raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ICE confirms that it arrested the 11 — 10 Mexicans and one Honduran — after investigating TruGreen Land Care of Dupont, south of Tacoma. One worker is out on bond, says ICE spokesperson Lorie Dankers; the others are awaiting deportation proceedings.

—Cydney Gillis

Nickels and camping

They've been in the works since this summer, but new rules of conduct for removing homeless people's possessions from urban campsites are still on the drawing board. And until they're finished, City Council president Nick Licata wants Mayor Greg Nickels to halt the police-led sweeps.

The city stepped up the operations earlier this year, taking what one staffer called a "proactive" approach to 10 camps considered by Seattle police to be highly visible ("Swept but still dirty," Oct. 31). They gained the attention of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness this summer when one man was reportedly threatened with arrest if he tried to retrieve his belongings from a city-owned greenbelt during a clearance. Another man camping in Queen Anne's Kinnear Park told advocates that a uniformed Seattle police officer slashed his tent to pieces with a machete and dragged his sleeping bag into the rain.

Having caught wind of the city's efforts to create a new encampments

The last rules on the clearance of urban campsites were written up in 1996; they state that private property will be stored for retrieval later on. Currently, city employees and offenders supervised by the Department of Corrections cart people's possessions off to the dump, sometimes with no notice.

policy, the Coalition on Homelessness sent a letter to the mayor Sept. 13 asking to participate; SKCCH got no reply for more than a month, says coalition director Alison Eisinger. Now, homeless advocates may be part of a committee charged with giving a seal of approval to the newly written rules. Human Services Department staffer Al Poole says that group may hold its first meeting in December.

City officials said the rules were nearly done in late October. Why the hold-up? The Law Department weighed in, saying earlier precedents need to be considered, says Poole: "We are going back and going to look at all the ordinances that are on the books."

The last rules on the clearance of urban campsites were written up in 1996; they state that private property will be stored for retrieval later on. Currently, city employees and offenders supervised by the Department of Corrections cart people's possessions off to the dump, sometimes with no notice.

Licata is asking his peers to sign onto a letter calling for a moratorium on the camp clearances. You can do the same:



Help Us Change Lives. Support the Holiday Drive.

Real Change is much more than a newspaper. We're a caring community of people reaching out to make a difference. We're a valued progressive resource that covers the news and events that other media too often ignore. We're a source of hope and inspiration for a better society. We are organizing so that everyone can have decent housing, a fair wage, and basic human dignity.

You make it all happen. Ending homelessness means organizing for justice. There are no shortcuts. We need your support. Watch the video at realchangenews.org. Thank you.

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 Other _____

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Make checks to **Real Change** and mail to 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121, or use our secure online giving option at realchangenews.org. Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

I can help, here's what I can do.

go to www.realchangenews.org and click on "Take Action."

—Adam Hyla

Budget: mixed bag

On Mon., Nov. 19, the Seattle City Council approved 2008's \$926 million city budget — if that sounds like a lot, that's probably because it is.

"We're in pretty good shape financially," says Paul Elliott, chief of staff to Councilman Richard McIver, who chairs the budget committee. "We were able to put a lot into a lot of things."

The council's revision to Mayor Nickels' budget proposal includes an additional \$3 million for a pedestrian safety program and an additional \$2 million for library materials. The Cascade People's Center, which did not receive money under the mayor's budget, received \$100,000 under the council's revision. And though the council rejected the mayor's request for a \$9 million city phone line, 311, it gave him half a million dollars to flesh out the idea and bring it back next year.

Will Seattle's homeless get a piece of the pie?

The council's budget devotes another \$4.2 million for human services, most of which will go toward the city's gang prevention program, food delivery to local food banks, and rental assistance for those facing eviction.

Mark Okazaki, chair of Seattle Human Services Coalition's (SHSC) budget task force, is encouraged: "We want to commend the city.... The council gave our recommendations real, serious consideration."

Still, low-income housing received a paltry \$1.5 million, well short of the \$12.5 million recommended by the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness. Also absent from the new budget was the \$975,000 SKCCH had requested for area shelters, day and hygiene services, and outreach workers for those living on the streets.

"There just wasn't enough money," says city councilmember Richard McIver. The mayor's original budget, says McIver, had not included money for low-income dental care; in the council's revisions to the budget, dental care received "higher priority" over SKCCH's recommendations.

For those hoping for substantive progress toward the city's ten-year goal of ending homelessness, the council's new budget is a mixed bag.

SKCCH director Alison Eisinger said she was "pleased to see the City Council put money into low-income social services" but called it "gravely disappointing that the council didn't have the vision to invest our good fortune in needed emergency services, nor make [the recommended] \$12.5 million investment in needed, permanent, low-income housing."

—JP Gritton

Poets with nothing else “have created a self on paper”

Homeless Women's Forum Celebrates Poems, Hope

By JULIA L. RICE, UW News Lab

Jessie Pedro believes it is essential to have programs for the homeless to “help them advocate for themselves.”

Pedro was the keynote speaker at the 13th annual Homeless Women's Forum held last week. This year's theme, “Hand in Hand,” sought to rally citizens together in efforts to diminish homelessness.

The luncheon was held at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Seattle and among the attendees were homeless and formerly homeless women.

The program showcased Pedro and other women who helped write the new poetry anthology called *Beloved Community: The Sisterhood of Homeless Women in Poetry*.

“This is some of the best poetry that I have ever read,” said Claudio Mauro of Whit Press, explaining why she helped publish what is now a nationally distributed book.

Pedro, who is featured in the book, said she can never forget her first night being homeless, staying at a bar until

closing time, then riding the bus up and down until morning. “Being homeless is a job, using my survivor skills,” she wrote in her poem “End Homelessness.”

During her two years on the streets, Pedro turned in 25 applications for subsidized housing before finally getting ap-

All proceeds from *Beloved Community: The Sisterhood of Homeless Women in Poetry*, published by Whit Press, go directly to the Women's Housing, Equity and Enhancement League. Whit Press plans to distribute copies to every elected official in Washington state as well as the entire U.S. Congress.

proved. She doesn't regret the experience, she says, because it taught her how to be more compassionate. Today she plans to leave her job at Mary's Place, a day shelter for women, to become a motivational speaker to help homeless women.

Volunteers from the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness estimate that there are more than 7,839 people without homes in King County. The count was taken on the night of Jan. 25, during the coalition's annual One Night Count program. At least 2,159 of these people had no shelter.

Pedro believes that the new condos being built downtown add to the home-

less problem. The high-end condos are replacing low-income housing, and families are getting evicted. She believes that the entire community should come together to find solutions, adding that the “homeless and formerly homeless people are the experts in this area.”

Janice Connelly, who has been homeless, also believes Seattle's homeless problem is due to a lack of affordable housing. She believes there is “not enough dialogue with the homeless.”

Ann Sakaguchi from Operation Nightwatch helps find shelter for women on a nightly basis. She said that before April 2006 there was an average of five women every night who came for help. Ever since then, the shelters have not been able to meet the capacity and the number has grown to an average of 60 women per night, said Sakaguchi.

Kimberly Harris became homeless after she was released from jail. She lost her car and apartment and had no place to go except for a halfway house. Even then, two days out of the week, she would have to sleep out on the streets. She says she didn't go to her family because of pride, but admits, “If it wasn't for Mary's Place... man, I'd be in a pretty bad situation.”

Some homeless women write poetry because it's a way to cope, a way to feel real. “Without a home, which is a symbol of self, these women have created a self on paper,” writes renowned feminist author Gloria Steinem of the book *Beloved Community*. Her comments are printed on the WHEEL Platform, copies of which were distributed at the luncheon.

All proceeds from the book go directly to the Women's Housing, Equity and Enhancement League. “You buy a book and you give women a home,” said Mauro. She also plans to make sure copies are given to every elected official in Washington state as well as the entire U.S. Congress.

Other topics during the forum included the possible displacement of social-service programs in the near future. Programs like the Church of Mary Magdalene, or Mary's Place, the Compass Center, First Church Men's Shelter, SHARE's Safe Haven Shelter, Hammond House, The Recovery Café, Noel House and Rose of Lima House may be temporarily or permanently relocated.

Another issue was the planned Homeless Place of Remembrance, a public space for remembering homeless people who have died. According to WHEEL, in the past seven years, more than 240 homeless people have died outside or by violence in King County. Last year 59 homeless people died and this year 35 have died so far.

Ruanda Morrison, another poet and formerly homeless woman, believes “this problem didn't happen overnight (and) it's not going to disappear overnight.” ■

JULIA L. RICE is a student in the University of Washington Department of Communication News Laboratory.



Jessie Pedro spent two years on the streets; she's leaving her job at Mary's Place, where the Methodist minister Pat Simpson, right, used to work, to be a motivational speaker for homeless women. Photo by Revel Nt

Highrise renovation causes hassle

Tenant battles housing authority for meal money

By CYDNEY GILLIS,
Staff Reporter

Jo Ellis is happy a lawyer helped her straighten out a problem with the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA). Otherwise, she says, she wouldn't have gotten the money she was owed for being put out of her apartment.

Ellis, 53, is a housecleaner who lives at Olympic West, a 75-unit high-rise that the housing authority operates for low-income residents on Queen Anne Hill. The building is one of 14 high-rises that SHA is renovating and, off and on, the agency has put Ellis in a hotel for a couple of nights at a time to keep her, and her emphysema, away from paint fumes.

Since July, when the work started, that's totaled 12 overnights away from

home. Each time, Ellis says, she has had to borrow money to eat out and sometimes could only afford one meal a day.

Then another tenant told her that every time she loses the use of her apartment, the housing authority is supposed to give her \$9 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch, and \$20 for dinner.

It's part of a construction agreement, she learned, that the housing authority signed with residents last November before SHA started HomeWorks, a \$39 million program that will rehabilitate a total of 22 buildings. But Ellis says that asking SHA to reimburse her for the days she had to be out of her unit didn't do any good, so she contacted the

volunteer lawyer who helped the housing authority's Resident Action Council negotiate the agreement.

“It was horrible. We were begging,” Ellis says of herself and a neighbor.

After the lawyer contacted SHA, the HomeWorks program mailed Ellis a check for \$103. Rick Harrison, a member of the Resident Action Council, which represents the tenants in SHA's high-rises, says it's not the first time the housing authority hasn't lived up to the agreement, but the incidents are typically so small — such as shutting

SHA, Continued on Page 10

“Lawsuits will be forthcoming” over police’s use of batons, pepper spray on protesters

Smoke Clearing on Anti-War Blockade

By *CYDNEY GILLIS*,
Staff Reporter

Day 11: About 400 anti-war protesters made a final march through the streets of Olympia to a waterfront plaza where they held a rally to celebrate what they had done.

From Nov. 7 to Nov. 17, they had created a series of Dumpster and human blockades, weathered police batons and gallons of pepper spray, and turned the 3rd Stryker Brigade’s two-day offload from Iraq into a weeklong ordeal that put the Port of Olympia — and local resistance to the war — on national television.

One of the marchers said her sister was pepper-sprayed in the face, then put in a van and refused medical aid for 25 minutes. Another said an officer dragged her on the ground by her hair before macing her. Others described being beaten or slammed to the ground — while doing as police asked.

Wes Hamilton, 60, a Vietnam combat veteran, was arrested while manning a defensive line for a group of 39 women who staged a sit-in at the gates to the Port of Olympia. “We had no problem with being arrested in relation to those acts. We didn’t expect to be brutalized.”

Many of the incidents were recorded and put on the Internet — video that a lawyer says is about to come back to haunt the Olympia Police Department as he prepares the first two of what could be many lawsuits.

“Lawsuits will be forthcoming,” says Legrand Jones, an attorney with the Evergreen Law Group in Olympia. “There is potential for a class-action suit, although we don’t know how firm that is.”

“The smoke is still settling,” he says, but “from what I could see [in the videos], there was no justification for that level of violence at all.”

Jones’ clients are Larry Mosqueda, an Evergreen State College professor who was doused in pepper spray while trying to help a young woman who Mosqueda says had been beaten by police. Another is Wes Hamilton, a Vietnam combat veteran and member of Veterans for Peace.

On Nov. 10, says Hamilton, 60, a group of young people was sitting down, arms linked, at a temporary fence in front of the gates to the port when he saw police officers walk back and forth, spraying layer after layer of pepper spray on the demonstrators.

“The police, as they grabbed people, would lift up their protective goggles and spray directly into their eyes with high-pressure pepper spray,” Hamilton says. “The intention was to totally disable people so they wouldn’t resist, but it was a nonviolent demonstration.”

The next day — Veterans Day — Hamilton says he was on the sidewalk in a police-designated area when two officers starting clubbing him. A third then shot him with five to six rounds of “pepper bullets” — marble-size balls of pepper spray that explode like paintballs.

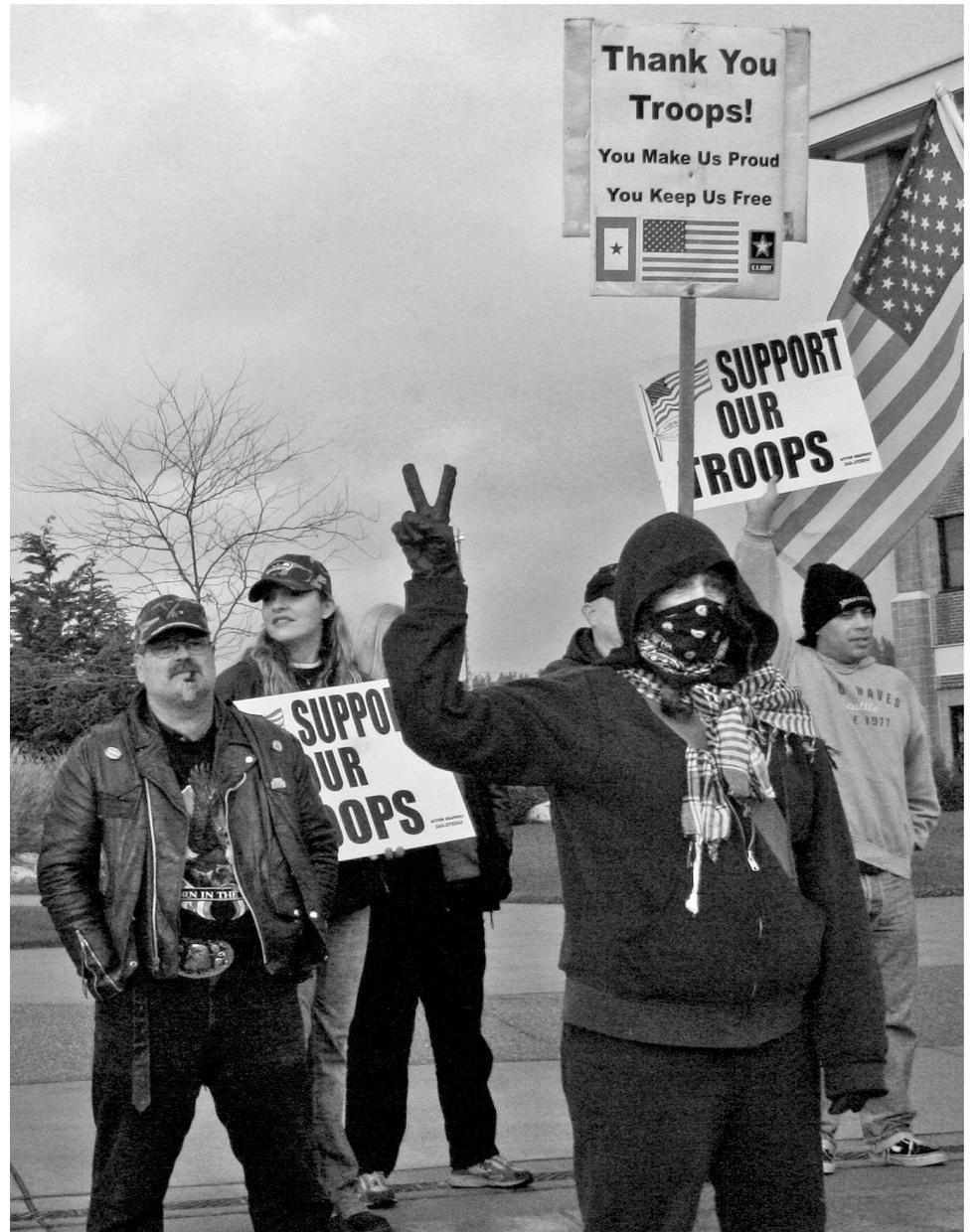
Hamilton was arrested two days later, on Nov. 13, while manning a defensive line for a group of 39 women who staged a sit-in at the port gates. “We had no problem with being arrested in relation to those acts,” he says. “That was what we expected. We didn’t expect to be brutalized.”

Another veteran, Jeff Brigham of Tumwater, calls that nonsense. Brigham was one of 15 counterprotesters who turned up for the final rally and march organized Nov. 17 by Olympia’s Port Militarization Resistance. He carried a sign that read: “Olympia Police Officers, Job Well Done, Thank You.”

“Before the use of any force at all, they would repeatedly warn people that force would be used to remove them from the road,” Brigham says. “They took a lot of crap and they had discipline and self-control and did their job well.”

Olympia City Councilmember T.J. Johnson says he’s heard similar statements supporting the police — mostly from people who weren’t there and read what he calls *The Olympian’s* “dreadfully distorted coverage.” The testimony he took from about 80 protesters and bystanders at a City Hall meeting he called Nov. 11 was quite different.

“It happened. I was there,” Johnson says. “People who had complied with police instructions, were not blocking any roadways, and were standing



Protesters and supporters of the police came out for the last day of a 10-day series of nonviolent actions that interrupted a Fort Lewis battalion’s work to move freight used in the Iraq war. Photo by Andrew Drawbaugh.

in public spaces where they were directed to stand were pepper-sprayed, including myself.”

“I want to know who’s accountable for all of this,” he says. “I’ve been asking and asking: Who gave the order? Who developed the strategy? Did the officers on the ground follow the strategy that had been developed? But I don’t have answers to any of those questions.”

Through his lawsuit, Hamilton may eventually get some answers. But, to make the point that the war in Iraq is illegal and immoral, he says he would have done it all again.

“Taking a few pepper balls in the groin and being bludgeoned are literally minor,” he says, “in comparison to what people in Iraq are suffering every single day.” ■

Young people skip school to protest a war that’s “nonsense”

Student walkout draws hundreds

By *ROSETTE ROYALE*,
Staff Reporter

Truant officers? Not a one. But students who decided a better education could be had skipping class than studying calculus? They numbered in the hundreds. And, with fists pumping the air, they followed their own lesson plan: that young people want nothing to do with the War in Iraq.

Ranging from middle school to

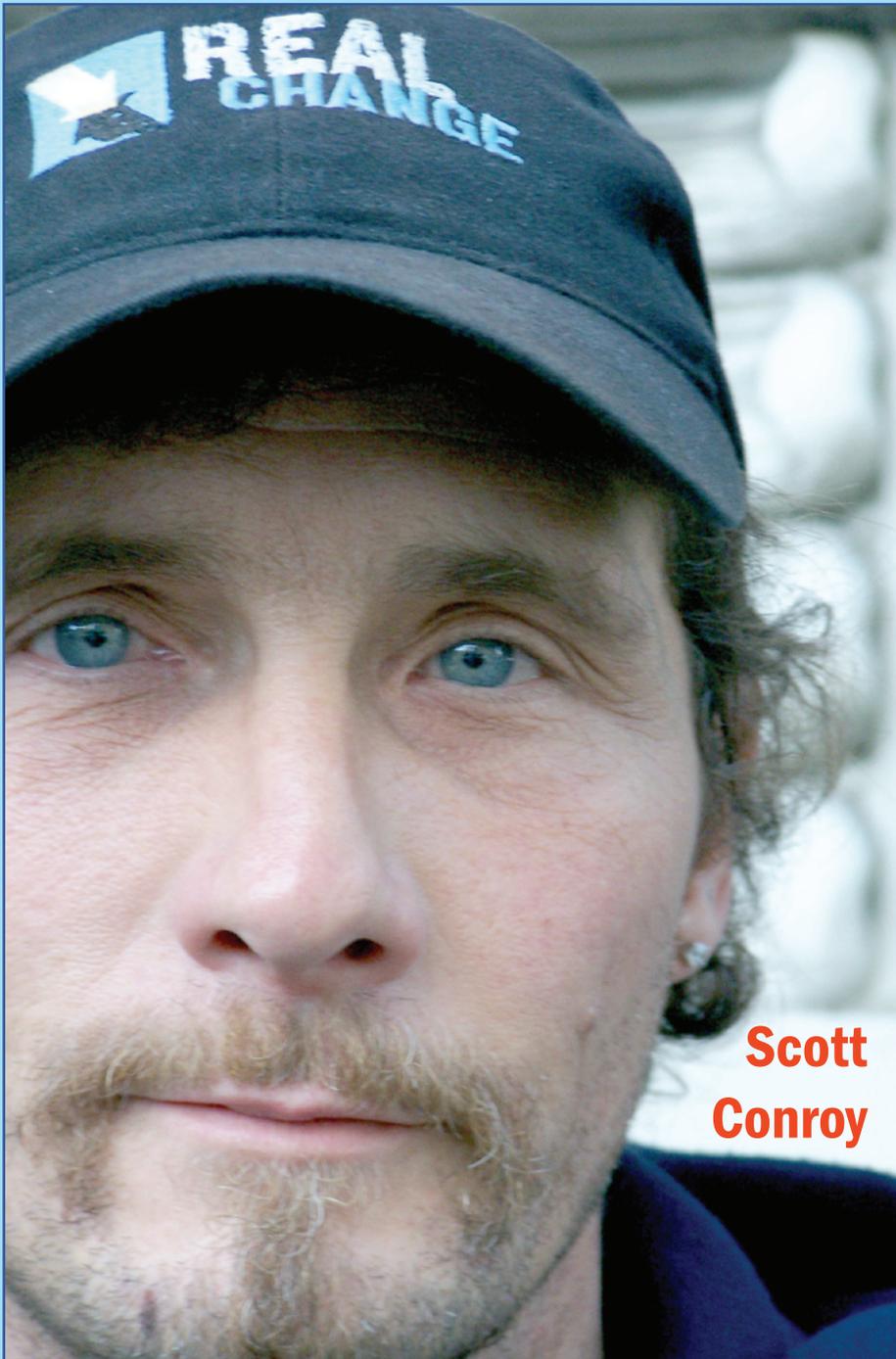
college age, more than 400 students swarmed Westlake Center on Nov. 16, as part of a massive student walkout called by Youth Against War and Racism. Some were decked out in anarchist gear — dark-hued hoodies and bandanas knotted about their throats — while others chose the hip-hugging jeans and well-coiffed hairdos favored

by pop idols. But no matter how they looked, all were intent on ensuring their voices were heard.

“Why do I march?” someone boomed into a microphone on a stage. “The question is: ‘Why don’t you

STUDENTS, Continued on Page 12

Vendor of the Week



The beaches are barren at night, the waves for the taking.

And tonight Scott Conroy and his buddies have paddled out to the big shark's fin-shaped rock at the edge of the bay — the waves' crests must be 30 feet high. The ocean is a serpentine, oily black only broken by the reflection of a full moon.

The handheld spotlight they use to check for reefs flashes for a moment at the gray sliver of beach fifty yards away, flitters along the length of sea, and then settles on the water below them. There, like silver knives in the dark water, are a 10-foot shark and three pups.

They know better than to make for shore, but Conroy can't help walking to the rock's ledge. He stares down, transfixed. It barely registers when he slips on a patch of moss and falls into the water.

The first thing he's aware of is a fluid snap; then come the jagged barbs of the shark's skin as he slips off her

back; then the wet cool. Unthinking, he claws at the rock and hoists himself out of the water as one of the pups nips at him with needle-like teeth.

Panting, Conroy grabs his leg and the blood runs through his fingers and into the water, where the mother floats belly up. Jesus, he thinks, I snapped her back.

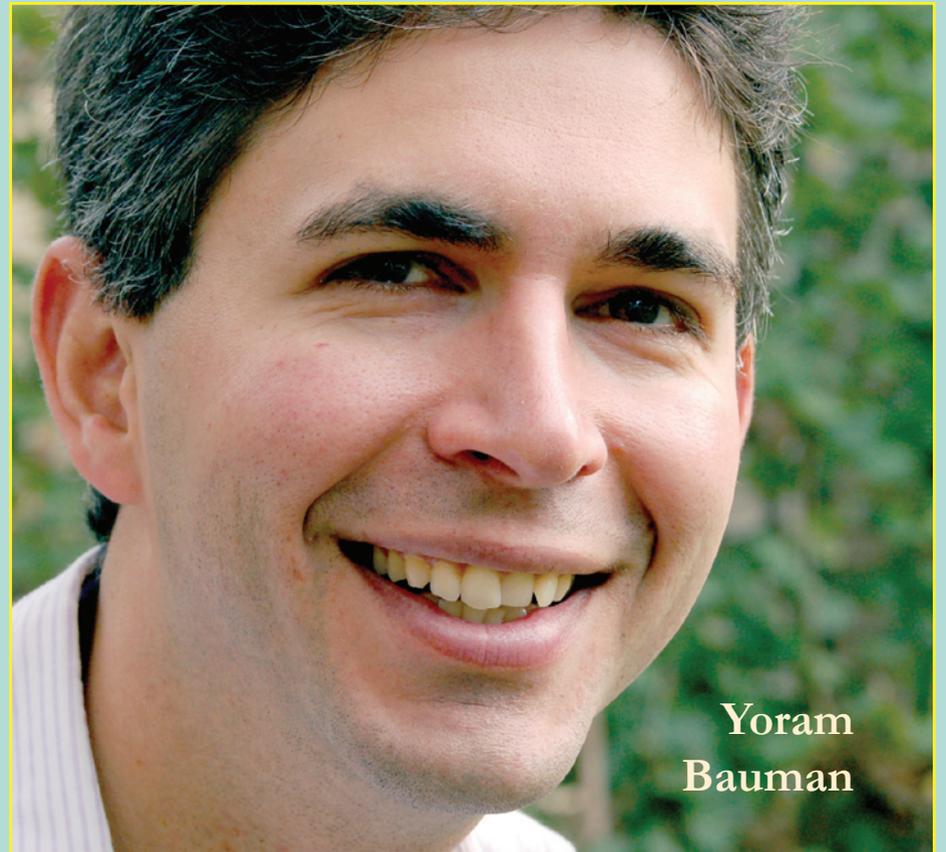
Scott Conroy has lived in Japan, France, Italy, Germany, and Australia. In Hawaii, surfing by moonlight, he inadvertently killed a shark. This week's vendor is living proof that truth is stranger than fiction.

About two years ago, Conroy was introduced to *Real Change*. Since then, he's become a solid vendor at his spot on Second and Cherry.

"I like meeting intelligent, interesting people," says Conroy of the job. "If I could tell my customers one thing, it would be that I appreciate their dedication to the paper."

—Story and photo by JP Gritton

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



Standup economist Yoram Bauman stares the most dreaded pie charts in the face and dares to laugh. Photo by Andrea Lee.

Change Agent

If you've ever fallen asleep listening to Allen Greenspan, then you know that the field of economics is missing something. More than line graphs and pie charts, more than another cost-benefit analysis, economics needs a comedian.

At the juncture of Marxes Karl and Groucho is the world's first and only standup economist, Yoram Bauman.

While studying at the University of Washington's economics department, Bauman wrote a parody of an economics textbook "to blow off steam." Unexpectedly, Bauman found himself an overnight standup comedian after presenting his "research" to rave reviews at a Science Convention in Seattle. These days Bauman hosts and coordinates a non-profit comedy night every Tuesdays at Comedy Underground.

If there's anyone who's earned the right to poke fun at the field, it's Bauman, who holds a doctorate in economics and is, by day, a professor of Environmental Economics at the University of Washington.

"You know you're an economist," he says, "when you adamantly refuse to sell your children because you think they'll be worth more later."

—JP Gritton

Check Bauman out online at www.standupeconomist.com. For a schedule of upcoming benefit shows, visit www.nonprofitcomedy.com.

eyes ON FREMONT

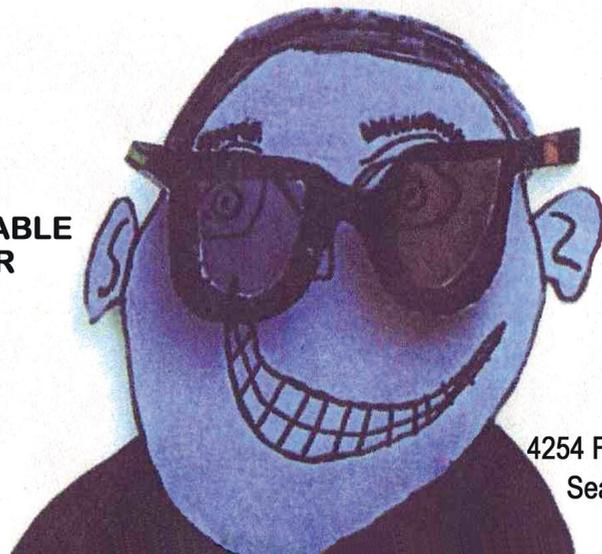
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John Kelin has dug into the private letters of the Warren Commission's earliest skeptics to tell how they refused to stop inquiring into the murder of John F. Kennedy

Questioning the Official Line

By JOE MARTIN,
Contributing Writer

John Kelin says that he is not very political, that he is first and foremost a writer. It is in that capacity that he tells the extraordinary story of a small, determined group of private citizens who independently investigated the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and demonstrated the flaws in the official verdict.

The title of his book is *Praise from a Future Generation* (Wings Press, 2007), but Kelin says the book is not really a tribute but an untold story from recent American history. The book's subjects have had an enormous impact on public opinion over the years, but they are largely unknown today. With the 44th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination upon us, Kelin hopes to change that.

The book's title was adapted from a laudatory editorial about these earliest skeptics that appeared in 1966 in the journal "The Minority of One":

"To them belongs the praise of future generations. One day there may even prevail an appreciation that, had the nation shared the moral fiber of these few individuals, catastrophic developments to ourselves and other nations would have been averted."

John Kelin was seven years old on the day of John F. Kennedy's death. He resides in Colorado with his wife and two children.

How did you become interested in the Kennedy assassination case?

My interest goes back to about 1976, when I attended a lecture by Mark Lane. Before that I hadn't given the assassination that much thought. Lane was a criminal defense attorney who had been asked by Lee Harvey Oswald's mother to represent her deceased son before the Warren Commission. Lane eventually authored *Rush To Judgment*, published in 1966. He turned me around completely. He showed the Zapruder film that night. It was so obvious that the president was hit from the right front. The Warren Report, of course, says that Oswald was firing from behind.

By the mid-1990s I was going to some of the conferences that are held in Dallas each year. There were then, and are now, two conferences held in Dallas every fall

concerning the assassination. In 1998 I met Vincent Salandria at one of them. Vince is an attorney from Philadelphia and one of the earliest critics of the Warren Report. A year or so later he asked me if I would be interested in having all of his correspondence related to the assassination. He said his wife would just burn it all after he was dead, and he was only half joking. Of course, I said yes. This raw material got me interested in researching these early critics; I could

It was fascinating to see the evolution of their thinking, their initial suspicions, and their growing certainties about what had happened in Dallas.

see the broad outlines of a story that needed telling.

Salandria's voluminous correspondence provides a foundation for your book. What was it like to look through all of that material?

Salandria had been in touch with just about all of the early critics. In reading their correspondence, these individuals, who before that had only been names to me, became real people. It was fascinating to see the evolution of their thinking, their initial suspicions, and their growing certainties about what had happened in Dallas. I should perhaps add that the book is not just a collection of letters.

Salandria looms large in this group. Surely Sylvia Meagher is another outstanding individual. On her own, she put together the index for the Warren Report's 26 volumes of evidence.

Meagher does stand out as a person of remarkable intelligence and integrity.

The Warren Commission's official published evidence was very poorly organized. The Commission published a single volume report in September 1964, and two months later a

twenty-six-volume set of Hearings and Exhibits. Meagher said that without a subject index, searching through this material was a classic needle-in-a-haystack situation. She wrote, "It would be tantamount to a search for information in the Encyclopedia Britannica if



Author John Kelin outside the Texas Book Depository building, Dallas, Texas.

Photo courtesy John Kelin

the contents were untitled, unalphabetized, and in random sequence."

So Meagher created a subject index for the entire set of books. She did it on her own, in her spare time — she was then working full time at the World Health Organization. This, of course, was an era before the personal computer, and it took her about a year. She did it without a publishing contract or any certainty it would be used by anyone other than herself.

Meagher's subject index is literally just that: an index, with no real commentary. For anyone researching this data, which at this late date would be mostly historians, it's indispensable.

Meagher's other great work is a book called *Accessories After the Fact*. For the purpose of demonstrating the Warren Report's errors, it is the best book on the case. I use the word "errors" advisedly, since we can only speculate on the motives of the Warren Commission and the staff members who wrote the report. I hope people who read my book get curious about the work of the early critics and track down copies of books like *Accessories*.

Are these individuals heroic, or simply citizens who took their citizenship seriously?

I think most of them would cringe at the suggestion that they were heroes. I think they were doing what they felt they had to do. They took their citizenship seriously.

Ray Marcus, another early critic mentioned in the book, has said it was simply common sense that led him to understand that something was wrong with the lone-nut story. On the very day of the assassination, authorities were already saying that they had the assassin, and that he had acted alone. Ray said that at that early juncture, they couldn't possibly know they had their man. What homicide investigator would say that a homicide case was closed in less than 24 hours? Common sense told Marcus something was wrong, that something monstrous and evil was happening. He couldn't sit on the sidelines and watch for answers that might not come.

The Goal of Life
is to be Happy

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Buffalo Soldier

■ Last Stand: George Bird Grinnell, the Battle to Save the buffalo, and the Birth of the New West

By Michael Punke, Smithsonian Books, Hardcover, 286 pages, \$25.95

Last Stand by Michael Punke may easily be dismissed as another account of the American West—covered wagons and railroads, cowboys and Indians, adventure and lawlessness. But Punke does more than string together events like an old western TV series: he tethers it all together by providing the story of one little known man. This history—another exploration of an over-explored subject—manages to uniquely braid the formative years of what we affectionately call “The West,” with the life of George Bird Grinnell, an unexpected son of America’s gilded age where wealth and wastefulness ran rampant, and his quest to postpone the final hours of freedom for all things wild and native—in particular the buffalo.

In brief, Punke highlights the efforts of Grinnell — a young student of Lucy Audubon, a paleontologist, sportsman, and eventual editor of *Forest & Stream* — to prevent the buffalo’s extinction. Most impressive about Punke’s telling is his ability to connect the dots. Rather than merely present snapshots of events in Grinnell’s life, he shows how each thing affects the next. He weaves everything into a comprehensive moving picture. While ultimately following one storyline, Punke’s narrative seamlessly flows, backtracks, and draws connections, instead of seeing them as the segregated events in a history book’s timeline.

In the first half of the book, Punke gently sets the scene. He carries the reader to the turning point in Grinnell’s life, when he “would commit himself to reversing the grim prophecy that he him-

self had projected for the American West” when, through his new position as editor, “*Forest & Stream* gave him a megaphone on a national stage”. The build-up is so well crafted that the change in direction from Grinnell’s development as a child of the Gilded Age to his matured decision to fight for environmental sustainability is almost palpable. Punke demonstrates the power that exists behind widely read and well-written prose as he follows Grinnell’s work through the magazine to turn the tide of public opinion and influence policymakers to stand up for the survival of the American bison.

Just as Grinnell used the magazine

Ultimately, this telling of the United States’ tragic romance with the modern buffalo and one man’s quest to save them does not, as might be expected, tarnish the image of the buffalo as a source of national pride, but merely fills it out—puts the meat back on its bones.

for his mouthpiece while staying behind its cover, Punke uses Grinnell’s life as a backdrop for the events of the era. His decision to not focus on Grinnell on every page, or even each chapter, accentuates the most critical events of the time,



At one time, American buffalo constituted the largest herd of mammals in the world, at two million strong. And then came European settlers. Photo courtesy www.firstpeople.us

but always with Grinnell as the first of two major unifying factors. The second is a character just as omnipresent: the buffalo that stretched from Canada to Mexico City. Describing “the modern buffalo” as “winner of a brutal contest that wiped out hundreds of other species” and “a survivor of stunning physical attributes,” Punke croons a sweet love song to this great animal, making its demise all the more melancholy. When Punke first visited the plains in his young adulthood, millions of these majestic creatures still roamed free; by the time he became an outspoken advocate for their survival, only thousands remained.

Against these backdrops Punke strengthens his argument that Grinnell was really an integral player in the battle to save the buffalo as well as the fate of the American West, by referencing

one after another historical giant with whom he interacted. From the civil war hero, General Sherman, to Buffalo Bill Cody, the infamous General Custer, and a young Theodore Roosevelt, Grinnell was rubbing elbows with the who’s who of the era. Punke’s choices in how he presents each character accentuates how Grinnell was influenced by and affected them all.

Ultimately, this telling of the United States’ tragic romance with the modern buffalo and one man’s quest to save them does not, tarnish the image of the buffalo as a source of national pride, but merely fills it out—puts the meat back on its bones so its no longer merely the flat image on the side of a nickel, but a living testament — beautiful, tortured, and defiant — to a sometimes harsh reality. ■

■ The Quiet Girl

By Peter Høeg, translated by Nadia Christensen, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Hardcover, 424 pages, \$26

All the world loves a clown. At least, they’re supposed to. And, back in the day, everyone loved Kaspar Krone. But then something happened: namely, gambling debts. And with them, Krone’s four-star life of three-ring fame went straight to hell.

Broke and despondent, he’s got one gift they can’t take away from him: he possesses an auditory capability that outguns the Bionic Woman. It’s a good thing, too, since, along with allowing him to grant everyone he comes across a musical chord — he’s B-flat, she’s A-sharp — it also keeps him one clown step ahead of the Danish tax authorities. Who might be behind a secret plot. Unfortunately, Krone’s super-hearing fails him when it comes to KlaraMaria, a spooky little girl who shows up, then disappears, leaving ol’ Red Nose to sniff out her silent whereabouts. Which leads him down

practically every alley and roadway of Copenhagen — including my favorite street name of all time, Middelfart St. — searching for the quiet girl. But where can she be? Why, with a secret order of nuns, of course, who offer protection to Ronald McDonald — I mean Krone — if he agrees to watch over a group of ethereal little waifs who also have special powers of their own. But can he trust these mysterious sisters? Or the girl who confounds his cochlea? What’s a white-faced loser to do?

Who cares. If you manage to get even halfway through this mind-numb of a book, you’ve probably got a thing for washed up Bozos. And I ain’t knocking anyone’s kinks. But you shouldn’t have to slog through such high-brow malarkey just to get off. Instead, catch a few *Simpsons* episodes, laugh your ass off at Krusty, and remind yourself that a clown’s misery can be pure comedy. As opposed to just plain miserable. Like this book.

—Rosette Royale

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

Alone

Sitting alone in a vacant patio
Of someone’s defunct store
Listening with a strange
Satisfaction
To musical presentations
Meant to satisfy the world
Wondering how I can conclude
Regardless of evidence to the contrary
That i am absolutely alone

—Jay Cornelius



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

I've always been a Thanksgiving Grinch. I hate Thanksgiving. I especially hate the bit where we're all supposed to sit around an obscenely overlaid table of food and thank God for feeding us so well while starving children in Third World countries everywhere likewise thank God for feeding the fat Americans so well.

Then, there's the bit where, for one day a year, White People admit that the Native Americans weren't bloodthirsty savages — that is, not all the time — because, as I've been told so often, God so loved the Puritans that He used his Godly magic to make the Indians act as if they were Christians in the Puritans time of need.

Then, there's the tradition of Day After Thanksgiving Day, when White People buy stuff. I believe it began as Buy Your Local Natives a Pendleton Blanket Day, and evolved into Buy Yourself And Friends And Relatives Whatever Day as there were fewer and fewer local Natives to give blankets to.

Lately that tradition has been replaced by Buy Nothing Day, which, I am not making this up, is seriously intended as a worthwhile protest against consumerism. So poor people, who look forward to the sales on the day after Thanksgiving to get some relief from being gouged into poverty the rest of the year, are told by middle-class activists to feel guilty for it. Then, when that day is

©Dr. Wes: Thanks and No Thanks

over, the middle-class activists buy all the stuff on Saturday they were going to buy on Friday, proud to have set a good Christian example before the unwashed heathen masses.

This year, though, I want to turn over a new leaf. Rather than continue on as a Grinch, I want to do something positive to correct the hateful holiday and make it better. Something in line with how Frank Costanza improved Christmas by creating Festivus (for the rest of us!), so no

I recommend that the Saturday after each year's Thanksgiving be given over to celebrate our good sense not to be thankful for everything in the world. A Nothanksgiving Day.

one, since that episode of *Seinfeld* first aired on December 18, 1997, has ever again had to be distracted by tinsel.

Since I know how attached you all are to your vile Thanksgiving and your vile annual turkey and gravy wallow, I won't suggest an alternative to Thanksgiving on the day of it, but recommend that the Saturday after each year's Thanksgiving be given over to celebrate our good sense not to be thankful for everything in the world. A Nothanksgiving Day.

Let's be Not Thankful this year for the fact that the only way the Senate

Democrats can exercise their power to reject Bush nominees is to keep the Senate open pro forma over the holiday, because Bush would install already rejected nominees as soon as the Senate shut down. No Thanks goes to Bush for doing the BS that makes this BS necessary. One more nail in the coffin of the Republic.

Let's be Not Thankful this year for OJ's trials and tribulations. Talk about your distractions. I'd take the tinsel.

There's so much not to be thankful for! I could go on for pages!

Let's be Not Thankful for HUD's pernicious abuse of statistics earlier this month to cover up their failure to reduce the impact of homelessness. In a report issued earlier this year, HUD announced that from 1996 to 2005 permanent housing beds for the homeless have increased a whopping 83 percent to 208,700, in contrast to only a 35 percent drop in shelter beds, to 217,900. Looks like justification to keep on keepin' on, doesn't it?

But hold up. If you believe their numbers and do the math, that would mean there were 335,230 shelter beds to begin with, back in '96, while there were at that time 114,043 permanent beds. Add those '96 numbers up and you get 449,273. Add the 2005 numbers up, you get 425,600.

The impressive percentages are tinsel, hiding a net loss in those categories of 23,673 beds.

We are not thankful for the way HUD tries to mislead us. ■

Sound off and read more:
drwesb.blogspot.com



Mon., Nov. 12, 10:15 a.m., 2300 block Western Ave. Officers contacted the suspect, a transient white female aged 21 for suspected narcotics activity. A computer check of her name revealed an outstanding warrant from the Department of Corrections. The warrant was verified, and the suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Mon., Nov. 12, 11:20 a.m., Alaskan Way S., St. Martin de Porres Shelter. Victim, a transient Black male aged 50, stated he was sleeping on a mat on the floor of the St. Martin de Porres Shelter at around 2:15 a.m. today. He was awoken suddenly when a cup of coffee was thrown in his face. He stated he only saw the silhouette of his attacker walking away. The attacker was wearing black clothing and had a black backpack slung over his shoulder. Victim complained to the shift supervisor of the shelter, and was given dry clothes. He complained of a burning pain on his face at the time of the incident, but at the time of the report he showed no sign of visible injury, and declined medical attention.

Tues., Nov. 13, 3:55 p.m., Fourth Ave. S. Officers were dispatched to a call of a mentally disturbed female at or around the Fire Station on Fourth Ave. Officers arrived on the scene to find a fireman waiting outside for them. He stated that the suspect, a transient white female aged 44, had been walking around the area screaming obscenities. A fireman had opened the door and told her to leave the area, and she screamed some more then walked around the firehouse to the parking lot in the back. There she continued screaming and causing a disturbance. Officers proceeded around the back of the firehouse and found the suspect asleep on the ground listening to a tape player by a parked trailer. Upon contact she was slow to respond to questions and instructions. Officer placed her in handcuffs and frisked her after she continued to move around and put her hands in her jacket. The firefighters contacted an ambulance in order to transport the suspect to Harborview for a mental health evaluation. While waiting for the ambulance the suspect stated that she was one of the seven dwarves, and that her name was Dennis the Menace. An ambulance arrived, and suspect was transported to Harborview.

Tues., Nov. 13, 6 p.m., Sixth St., Kobe Terrace Park. Officers were working an emphasis patrol, contacting people trespassing in parks, doorways, etc. Officers found the suspect, a transient Black male aged 15, sleeping on a bench in the south end of Kobe Terrace Park. They determined that he was a juvenile, and contacted the Youth Services Center (YSC) by phone to check his name. YSC verified the youth's identity and informed the officers of an outstanding warrant. Suspect was taken into custody, transported to the YSC and booked.

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

Dear Greg,
Forget about your secret Gestapo tactics of invading homeless campgrounds, machete in hand, ripping to shreds the shelters of the least among us, disposing of their property as if it were of no value, and callously posting notices with phone numbers that were disconnected over a year ago. Forget about hiring poor people to attack other poor people's property. Forget about doing those dirty deeds underneath the radar so that one isn't held to account by the public. Indeed, forget about half-assed tactics that are the logical consequence of bedding down with developers in your dream of making Seattle the Disneyland of the rich and uncaring: stratospheric living for those too important to offer others the gift of human kindness.

Greg, be bold. Gird up your loins, and attack the problem at the source. We all know the game is rigged. The homeless, they will be with us always. No matter

An Open Letter to the Mayor: Be Bold!

how hard we try to eradicate them from our city streets, and push them into neighborhoods, then outward into the suburbs, no matter how hard we try to cleanse the Emerald City of those we'd rather not acknowledge, in the end, they will always come back, pop up, grow in

Greg, be bold. Just go ahead and do it. Be the first to implement the inevitable strategy that cures the problem of homelessness.

size and number.

Greg, be bold. It is your destiny to be the bold leader, the man whose steely eyes envision a future of splendor and glory. The man whom others admire, whose ideals create the city on the hill, a shining light welcoming all to the Green City, for those with green to spare.

Greg, be bold. Just go ahead and do it. Be the first to implement the

inevitable strategy that cures the problem of homelessness. Sure, those with weak stomachs, wimpy knees, and manly girlishness will squirm. But, in the end, after the first one or two examples, the rabble will fall in line. After the first one or two examples a precedent will be set, a new tradition, a bold new future will be brought into being. Sooner than you think we'll all get used to it. Your boldness might even propel you to greater glory, like the Governor's seat, like the Senate maybe, and who knows, maybe even the Presidency.

Greg, be bold. It's your destiny. Be the first mayor to be bluntly honest, and plainly practical in ending the problem of homelessness.

Forget about these half measured machete attacks. Stand up to the problem, and implement the final solution.

Be bold Greg. Just kill the poor. ■

Rev. Rich Lang is pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Ballard and can be contacted through www.tumseattle.org

SHA, Continued from Page 4

off water or electricity at a different time than shown on a notice — that SHA knows it can get away with it.

“They’re not sticking to the things they agreed to,” Harrison says.

SHA communications chief Virginia Felton and Sven Koehler, the agency’s resident liaison for HomeWorks, disagree, saying that Ellis, her neighbor, and a tenant in another building where a construction worker cut through the kitchen counter earlier this year are the only complaints that have been remotely contentious.

“We’ve dealt with about 1,500 tenants in this situation,” Felton says, and “there have been almost no issues with it.”

Any problems have been addressed by Koehler or through the HomeWorks Resident Advisory Committee, a group created by the agreement, which also stipulated that tenants would have a construction hotline to call and a set of protocols that SHA would follow, such as providing adequate notice and meal money — usually in the form of grocery-store gift cards that could be used at a deli.

Harrison and others pushed for the agreement to curb the annoyances that tenants had experienced in other SHA rehabs. But Felton says the agreement dictates nothing — any tenant accommodations are up to the housing authority, which meets with every tenant prior

to the start of construction to find out what their needs are.

“Basically, [it] isn’t, ‘If you’re in the HomeWorks project, you’re entitled to X,’” Felton says. “It depends on the work going on in the building and the degree to which that work is inconvenient or dangerous for people to be there.”

Between the reimbursement check and gifts cards, she says, Ellis has received a total of \$321 in meal money. But she wasn’t given meal cards early on, Koehler says, because she chose to stay in a downtown hotel with no cooking facilities. Her other choice was an extended-stay hotel that had a kitchenette.

“My feeling is that we offered the equivalent of

Compensation “depends on the work going on in the building and the degree to which that work is inconvenient or dangerous for people to be there,” says SHA’s Virginia Felton.

what she had [at her apartment] and she declined that, so we didn’t offer her the additional funds,” Koehler says. “Frankly, I’m trying to make sure we have enough money to go around for everyone and treat everyone equitably.”

Harrison says SHA should provide the meal cards regardless. “The excuse is that you’re being moved to a hotel with a kitchenette,” he says. “But are you going to move all your pots and pans and ingredients, too? That just isn’t practical.”

Eric Dunn, an attorney who represents SHA residents on other issues, says he has heard from tenants whose water or electricity is shut off prior to the time stated on a notice — something the HomeWorks agreement sought to avoid.

Koehler says he believes that SHA’s contractors have stuck to their notice times, but Dunn says tenants sometimes have to forgo a taking a shower or cooking a meal, which is costly for a low-income tenant to have to buy.

“It’s a disparate collection of minor indignities that adds up over time,” Dunn says, but little can be done about it.

“Picture yourself going into a courtroom and saying the court needs to act because SHA turned off the water 45 minutes before they said they would,” he says. “That doesn’t sound like a big deal. But it is.” ■

Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

Real

Dear *Real Change*,

I appreciate your newspaper, but I REALLY appreciated the article “Chill Out,” featuring Mr. Bjorn Lomborg, interviewed by Staff Reporter Rosette Royale [RC, Oct. 31 - Nov. 6]. I would expect nice articles about homeless issues and interesting stories and poetry written by the homeless themselves, etc., but this one article about global warming was excellent.

Why? Because I thought it gave a thoughtful “alternative” for us to think about our ways of helping or dealing with the current politically correct buzz words: living carbon-free. Mr. Lomborg gave a very good argument about how one can truly make a difference in this world — and it has to do with putting people first, and how we can realistically meet their current needs through ways we already have and/or are capable of and can do something about. In other words, we can’t just be fixated on huge global warming issues; we’ve got to also think practically about what to do with what we got to help others now. And perhaps once we do that and get better at it, the other big issues will not appear too tough for us to tackle.

Is Lomborg’s way of thinking absent in the media, or is it just me? This was the first time I heard about his perspective. Makes me wonder if the larger newspapers or media have caught on to his ideas and rationale yet? Anyway, I appreciate the article, and how it makes me think in a more balanced fashion about these issues in this climate of political correctness. Where else did I get this great knowledge or point of view? Nowhere other than *Real Change*! I applaud you for writing about something once more that will help me push for “real change” — in more ways than one.

Debbie Chan
Seattle

Debbie: You’ll like us even more when you understand that interviews like the one with The Skeptical Environmentalist are standard fare. We’re not out to do nice articles about homeless issues, but quality journalism that everyone needs to read. Thanks for the appreciative letter. —ed.

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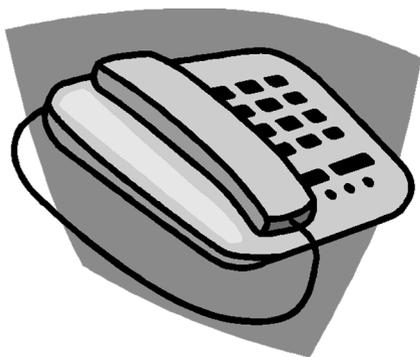
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JFK, Continued from Page 7

Harold Weisberg, who is also a first-generation critic, often said that JFK's death was never given a proper murder investigation.

Yes, Weisberg pointed to a document written by Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach two days after the assassination. This document, which was a memo to LBJ aide Bill Moyers, says something like, "The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin." Not "We have to find out every detail of what happened," but that they have to convince the public that Oswald was the guy. Weisberg said that's evidence that the government never really intended to honestly investigate the crime.

Some of these folks were subjected to public ridicule and humiliation. How

Ray Marcus, another early critic, has said it was simply common sense that led him to understand that something was wrong with the lone-nut story.

did they handle that?

Of course there was some anger and resentment. In 1966 there were these two writers who said they were doing an objective study of the critics versus the official story. Instead, they produced a mean-spirited hatchet job. Most of the critics felt they had been duped. Some chose to ignore it, some talked about suing, some wrote angry letters.

This sort of ridicule continues even now. Recently a book reviewer in *The New York Times* stated Warren Commission critics should be marginalized.

That was in a review of Vincent Bugliosi's new book, essentially a defense of the Warren Report. This begs the question: Why does the Warren Report still need backup? Bugliosi, in his introduction, says that most books about JFK's

death focus on the conspiracy, so he says that books arguing against conspiracy are needed to balance the debate.

I don't think that there should be a "debate" on this question, not at this late date. It serves no constructive purpose and reduces a vital issue to a parlor game. Which is not to suggest that I think that there is any chance of solving the case in the usual sense. But I think it *is* solved, in a sense. Some of these early critics did enough work to show us what really happened.

Is there a specific element of integrity or determination that sustained the early critics?

I think integrity and determination were things they all had in common. As time went by, what held their little group together was their common objective: to get the case re-opened. My book is not hagiography. These critics weren't saints. There were plenty of disagreements and infighting.

In summation, why is this subject still important?

A lot of people today do not consider the assassination relevant. But I think it is, and for several reasons. There is the matter of historical truth, and the truth is that the Warren Report is a false document. I think that's easy to demonstrate. But that raises other questions, such as: Was the report deliberately false? And if so, why?

If it's false, then there was a conspiracy to assassinate a duly elected chief executive. So what does that mean about the state of our democracy?

Consider our history from the time of Kennedy's assassination up to today. A chief executive was publicly executed in broad daylight on the streets of a major American city. One of his successors, Richard Nixon, was removed from office in disgrace in 1974. Nixon's replacement, Gerald Ford, was our first unelected president; he happened to have been a member of the Warren Commission. More recently we've witnessed two hotly disputed presidential elections. Another election is on the horizon. Our democracy is in jeopardy. This is not a finished story. ■



A casket carrying the body of assassinated president John F. Kennedy leaves the White House on Nov. 25, 1963. Photo by Abbie Rowe



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SIFF has done it again, exhibiting Charlie Chaplin's masterpiece *City Lights* in a new 35mm print. With big-budget special effects flicks like *Beowulf* dominating modern times, this silent film epic will return you with vigor to the neglected art of physical comedy and endear you to Chaplin's original cinematic genius. The show opens Thursday, Nov. 22 and runs until Monday, Nov. 26. Showing at SIFF Cinema, 321 Mercer St., tickets are \$10. Purchase tickets online at www.seattlefilm.org. Photo courtesy of www.decatroacatro.blogspot.com

Calendar

This Week's Top Picks

Thursday 11/22

Thanksgiving. Do something someone will thank you for, and then say, "No. Thank you."

Friday 11/23

Winterfest opens today at the Seattle Center and according to some sources, it is "spectacular." This six week-long festival contains a plethora of activities open every day such as art shows, a winter-themed train diorama, and an ice rink featuring free wi-fi (as is customary). Throughout the length of the festival, there are artistic and musical performances, and the festival opens likewise with a Seattle Youth Symphony performance, a Holiday World Market, and a Worldfest Winterfest culture festival. Most events throughout the festival are free; ice rink \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. Events at multiple locations within Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St. For more info: www.seattlecenter.com/winterfest.

The gentrification of Seattle got you down? Is there perhaps a lighter side to the loss of South Lake Union? Well, in reality, no, but in cinema at least ***The Landlord*, directed by Hal Ashby, playing at the Northwest Film Forum makes you smile** as a young landlord falls in love, falls into understanding, and falls into, uh, I can't keep this up, creating social commentary. Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave, show runs Nov 23-29, tickets and times at www.nwfilmforum.org.

After a nice Thanksgiving what better way to top it off than with a film about the damaging effects of the **globalization of the world's food system**. If that sounds better than a turkey sandwich, then head to a Meaningful Movies showing of ***The Global Banquet: Politics of Food*** presented by the Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice. The show is free as always and promises to inform about the current food system and dispel rumors about alternatives. Keystone Church 5019 Keystone Place N, showing at 7 p.m., for more info: www.meaningfulmovies.org.

Sunday 11/25

Chado is the art of tea and an especially seasonal one, so as the weather turns cold,

escape to the third floor of the Seattle Art Museum where they have crafted a teahouse to demonstrate this subtle form. 2:30 p.m. at the downtown Seattle Art Museum, 1300 First Avenue, free with museum admission. Details at: www.seattleartmuseum.org.

Monday 11/26

Since the election season and the current drumbeat against Iran have provided plenty of terrifying scenarios to mull over, consider going to hear **Michael Levi discuss his new book, *On Nuclear Terrorism*, where he attempts to break down the reality of the "smoking guns" and the possible defenses against fundamentalists with atom bombs**. At Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Avenue, 7:30 p.m., tickets are \$5 at the door. Directions and other events: www.townhallseattle.org.

As an introduction to nuclear terrorism, earlier on Monday listen to **U.S. Rep. Adam Smith (D - Tacoma) deliver a public lecture on the war in Iraq**. Smith is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee. He has spoken out against President Bush's open-ended commitment in Iraq, inhumane treatment of detainees, and disgraceful mental health care for vets. It's a stretch, but there may be a few "opinions" expressed at the lecture. University of Washington, Kane Hall, Walker Ames Room. Starts at 12:30 p.m.

If the bleak outlook on the future has you down, take a look back at the roaring '80s, with **Some New Romantics: A Duran Duran Retrospective**. Part of the Durandy Collection, a display of photographic work by Paul Edmond will be featured at **Caffeine Café** starting today and will run through January. These photographs span the career of the group up to the present day. Caffeine Café, 1809 Minor Ave, opens at 6 a.m. For more info on the exhibition: www.durandy.com.

Calendar compiled by Corey Kahler. Got an event to tell people about? Email it to calendar@realchangenews.

STUDENTS, Continued from Page 5

march?" Teens screamed themselves hoarse in agreement.

Taking it all in was Hillary Olsen. Olsen, 20, said she thought U.S. propaganda had distorted people's comprehension of world events. As evidence, she pointed to a four-question quiz from the peace organization, The World Can't Wait, reprinted in *Revolution* newspaper, which she held in her hands. When asked, for example, which Middle East country will neither confirm nor deny it has a nuclear weapons program, she said hardly anyone knew it was Israel.

"Most people answer Iran," she said, deflated.

Even while discouraged by the dominance of misinformation, Olsen, who'll be attending Seattle Central Community College next year, said she was heartened to see so many of her peers. "It's important, because in this country," she said, "people feel there's not much we can do."

"Let's show President Bush who really runs the country!!!" someone yelled from the podium. Hoots and hollers greeted his call. A 10-foot tall skeleton puppet shook its bloody arms.

Taking the mic, a young woman entreated the crowd: "Come on, let's march!"

Rejecting the single-file mindset that sustains schoolyard fire drills, the young people thronged at the corner of Fourth Ave. and Pine St. A young man led a chant of "This is what democracy looks like!" into a megaphone. Photographers darted before the crowd, snapping pictures. "OK, let's go!" The crowd spilled onto the street.

Just to the left of a trio of teens carrying tiny stuffed animals, Nathaniel Cushman strolled calmly as the crowd headed south on Second Ave. The 18-year old Arlington student said he would do anything to get the message to Bush that the war was wrong, including walking out of class. Last year, his whole school — 160 students — walked out to protest the war. He felt the Westlake Center rally was a continuation of young people's commitment to activism." It shows how it's changing."

The crowd stopped at an intersection. The marchers screamed. Cars honked horns.

Of the people gathered, he said, "They're learning what fuels the economy."

According to 16-year-old Jesse Koda, that fuel would be oil. "I don't believe troops should be in Iraq for a greedy reason," Koda asserted. The war is nonsense, she went on, and, while she supported the troops, she believed it was important for students to come out against the Iraqi occupation. "The more people that show up, no matter their age," said Koda, "it makes a difference."

"One, two, three, four, we don't want your fucking war!" another megaphone-

When Manny McIvor's mother, an Army nurse, returned after 18 months in Iraq, she was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. "She was a mess," McIvor recalled.

enhanced voice behind her screamed. Koda blushed.

Manny McIvor, her face blanched with the cool winds whipping down the avenue, had come up from Portland to protest a war that had touched her own life. With a mother in the Army since her birth, McIvor said they were living in Hawaii when her mother got called up to go to Iraq. It was Valentine's Day, 2005. She left the next month, missing McIvor's 18th birthday and her graduation. When her mother, a nurse, returned 18 months later, she said she was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. "She was a mess," McIvor recalled, the memory bringing on a faraway look.

The crowd, led by a phalanx of officers on motorcycles, viewed by groups of adults peering out of office windows, surged forward.

"This illegal war causes so much pain," she said. McIvor sped up to join her companions. Together, they chanted their way into the heart of the city. ■

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