

This holiday season, keep the turkey.
\$46,139 raised so far.

Fund opportunity and organizing in Seattle.
Support the 90K fund drive goal. Learn more on page 2.

DOUBLE OR TRIPLE YOUR DONATION!
We have a 2-1 match for certain donations through Christmas up to a total of \$15,000
NEW Donors: Gifts of \$100 and over qualify.
Previous Supporters: Gifts of \$250 and over qualify.
WE NEED JUICE! Fill the Magic Baster by 12/25.

\$1

VOL. 14, NO. 51
DEC. 12 - 18, 2007

REAL CHANGE

City Sweeps: Take Two

Instead of calling for new clearances, Seattle Police are photographing and documenting conditions in forested greenbelts where homeless people are known to camp...see page 5

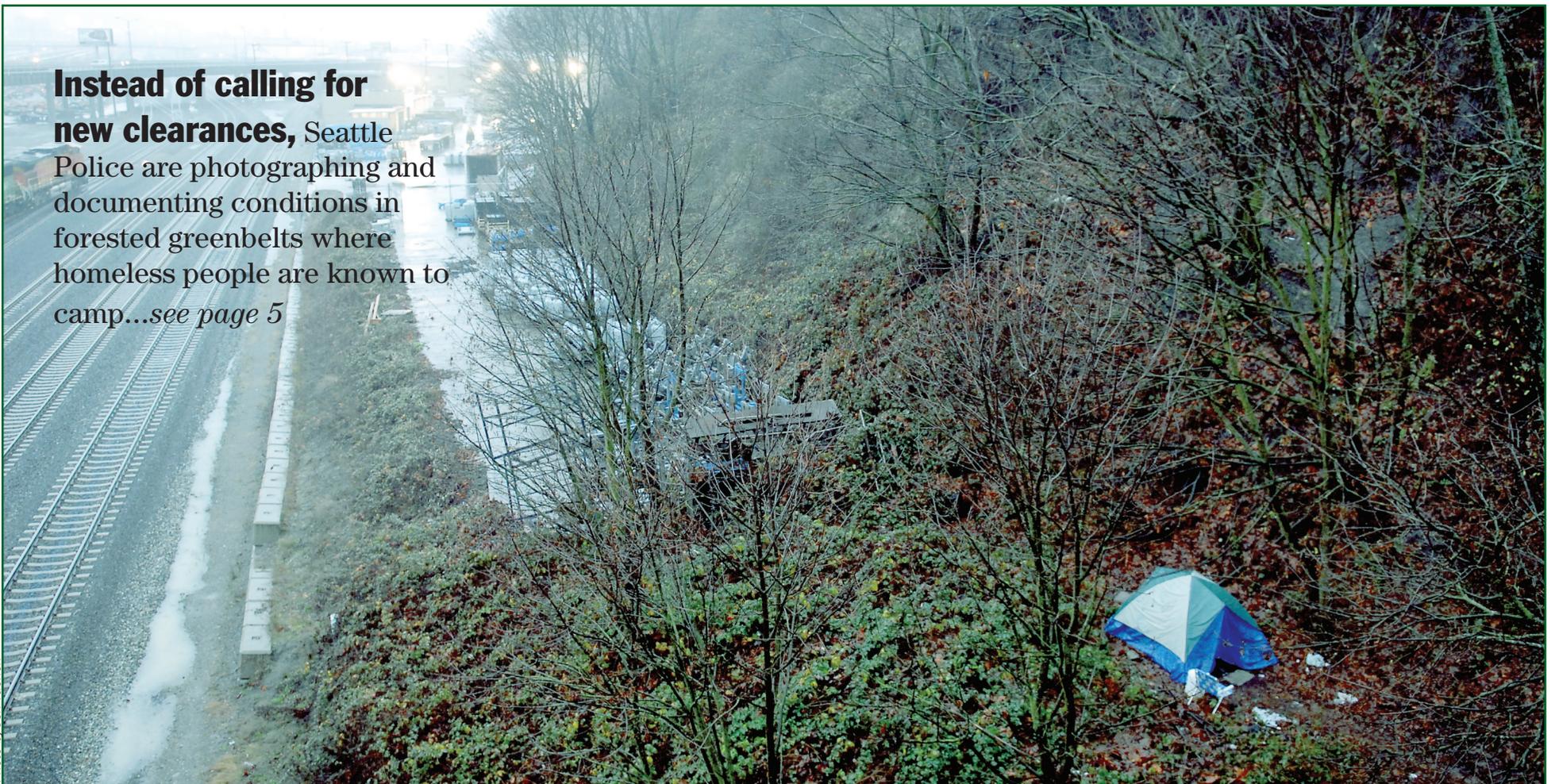


Photo by Jon Yachon



Photo courtesy navy.mil

Imperial Reckoning

Investigative reporter **Charlie Savage** on Bush, Cheney, and “a presidency above the rule of law”...see page 7

Red Lobster: Stewart O’Nan serves up a succulent tale of low-wage malaise...p.8

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.

Real Change
2129 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA, 98121
(206) 441-3247
www.realchangenews.org
Email: rchange@speakeasy.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Erica Wiley
Vice President Faith Wilder
Secretary Katherine Jakielski
Board Wes Browning, Ariana Cantu, John Denooyer, Stephan Fjelstad, Margaret Kae, JoJo Tran

ADVISORY BOARD

Affiliations listed for identification purposes only:
Sherman Alexie, Poet, Writer, Filmmaker
Nancy Amidei, UW School of Social Work
Kenan Block, Media Consultant
David Bloom, Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit & Action
Kari Connor, Wongdoody
Darnell Dent, Community Health Plan of Washington
Jim Diers, Author
Lynne Dodson, Jobs with Justice
John Fox, Seattle Displacement Coalition
Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember, Dist. 10
Jon Gould, Children's Alliance
Andy Himes, Voices in Wartime
Bill Hobson, Downtown Emergency Service Center
Naomi Ishisaka, Colors NW
Sally Kinney, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness
Sharon Lee, Low Income Housing Institute
Paul Loeb, Writer
Sarah Luthens, SEAMEC/Allyship.org
Roberto Maestas, El Centro de la Raza
Paola Maranan, Children's Alliance
Joe Martin, Pike Market Medical Clinic
Vince Matulionis, United Way of King County
Carlos Marentes, Comm. for General Amnesty & Social Justice
Al Poole, City of Seattle Survival Services
Wilson Edward Reed, PhD, Seattle University
Trisha Ready, Richard Hugo House
Aiko Schaefer, Statewide Poverty Action Network
Peter Schnurman, Retired
K.L. Shannon, Racial Disparity Project
Bob Siegal, National Lawyers Guild
Rick Simonson, Elliott Bay Book Co.
Pat Simpson, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness
Hilary Stern, CASA Latina
Robby Stern, WA State Labor Council
Peter Steinbrueck, Seattle City Council
Silja Talvi, journalist/essayist
Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society
Marilyn Watkins, Economic Opportunity Institute
Bruce Wirth, KSER, and
Alice Woldt

STAFF

Executive Director Timothy Harris
Director of Advocacy & Organizing Rachael Myers
Editor Adam Hyla
Staff Reporters Cydney Gillis, Rosette Royale
Production Manager Rosette Royale
Director of Development Joe Bushek
Field Organizer Sam Hatzenbeler
Office Manager Molly Watson
Volunteer Manager Polly Jirkovsky
Vendor Outreach Coordinator Danina Garcia
Interns Natalie Novak
AmeriCorps VISTA JP Gritton
Editorial Committee Artis, Mary Andrews, Wes Browning, Stan Burriss, Morrie Condit, Anitra Freeman, August Mallory, F. Roberts, Ruanda, Deb White
Contributing Writers Amy Besunder, Tabitha Brown, J. Jacob Edel, Julie Fortney, Jess Grant, Lester Gray, Robin Lindley, Chris Miller, Emma Quinn, Paul Rice, Rachel Rubinstein, ronni tartlet, Kristi Thorne, Austin Walters

Photographers & Graphic Artists Ginny Banks, Rob Casey, Ken Dean, Terry Divyak, Dan Hawkins, Elisa Huerta-Enochian, Brendan Lattin, Sherry Loeser, Justin Mills, Katia Roberts, Elliot Stoller, Mark Sullo, Joel Turner
Volunteers This Issue Artis, Matt Charles, Jay Clouse, Sandra Enger, Susanne Forhan, Pat Fulnecky, Daniel Grindall, Leah Heasley, Scott Krager, Armando Levia, Josh McGraw, Michael Malpass, Harriet Morton, Barbara Phalen, Loretta Pirozzi, Ariel Snyder, Carrie Wicks

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.

We are used to noticing racism and putting it into words. We're less accustomed to naming classism

Wanna Talk Values?

By *RHONDA SOTO, Guest Writer*

African Americans have broken two new barriers, according to the Pew Charitable Trust Economic Mobility Project's new report.

Almost half the children of middle-class Blacks have fallen into the lowest income bracket in the last 30 years, the first generation in a century to lose so much ground. And for the first time, a majority of African Americans polled say that Blacks are responsible for their own economic situations, and that the values of poor and middle-class Blacks have become more different over the last generation.

Yeah, right, it's the values. Those middle-class African Americans whose children are now in poverty: rotten parents, every one of them. While going out to work every day, they were obviously telling their children not to do the same. The Black unemployment rate in October was double white unemployment, 8.5 percent versus 4.2 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employers of all races, with their superior values, no doubt rejected those Black pavement-pounders because they could see the poor work ethic a mile away. The quarter-million drop in the number of U.S. jobs in October, and all the offshore outsourcing of the last decade, must be "a poor Black values thing."

It was poor Black values that led neighborhoods of color to be targeted by predatory lenders. It wasn't the secondary mortgage industry that started the current tsunami of foreclosures now evicting people, disproportionately Black and Latino people — it was the homeowners' bad values. Higher interest rates charged to borrowers of color with identical credit ratings are obviously payback for their poor behavior. And the mostly white executives who made millions off discriminatory subprime lending? They deserved that reward for their exemplary moral characters.

The drop in unionization from 20 percent to 12 percent in the last 25 years wouldn't have happened, and the American labor force would not have lost 265,000 Black union workers, if

those workers' values had been better. The professional union-busting consulting firms, who advised companies how to illegally fire pro-union workers — they're role models of the American work ethic.

Same with the mostly white Congress members who since 1990 increased their own paychecks by \$50,000 while blocking an increase in the minimum wage for a record-breaking decade. And the mostly all-white billionaires on the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans who are \$290 billion richer than last year — they must have the finest values of all.

Prison sentences are longer for Blacks and Latinos than whites con-

Poll after poll shows no difference between races in attitudes towards education, paid work, or expectations for children's advancement. Where are these famous bad values?

victed of the same crime because judges can just see the difference in moral fiber between defendants of different races. And of course employers and health insurance companies are not insuring 7.2 million Black people, nearly 20 percent, because their moral failings have made them too sickly.

The re-segregation of schools and the widening gap in class sizes and per pupil spending between mostly white and mostly Black schools? The rollback of Affirmative Action in higher education? All due to the character flaws of African American students.

Are values really the explanation for the racial income gap? Or do we too often assume that the American dream of equal opportunity is a reality? Do we overlook growing structural obstacles that block the path of some more than others?

As long as we continue to only see the individual as responsible for all her success, we will also only see the individual as responsible for all her failures. As a society we so identify with the people at the "top" that for a shot at "making it" we tolerate a ridiculous income and wealth gap. So the idea that Blacks who don't "make it" aren't making it due to some personal individual flaw has great resonance. The stereotype used to be "lazy" or "stupid," the newest version is "bad values." But, what exactly are these values that are being suggested, and whose values are they anyway? Are they the same values that are embedded in our institutions, our media, our policies, laws, and workplaces? Must be the values of divide and conquer.

Employed African Americans, on average, work more hours per week than employed white people. Blacks are slightly less likely than whites to use illegal drugs. They are more likely to be affiliated with a religious congregation. Poll after poll shows no difference between races in attitudes toward education, paid work, or expectations for children's advancement. Where are these famous bad values?

As a former teacher I know that some young people have self-destructive attitudes and behaviors—some Black and Latino youth, some white youth, and some youth of 30 years ago. Far more young people have talent, ambition and a work ethic that go underutilized, especially working-class youth of color in this "haves and have-nots" economy.

We as people of color are used to noticing racism and putting it into words. We're less accustomed to naming classism — but it's rampant among middle-class people of color. Is this what racial progress has come to: more middle-class Blacks taking up the previously white sport of blaming the victim? ■

Rhonda Soto is the Race/Class Intersections Project Coordinator at Class Action, a national non-profit based in Hadley, Massachusetts. This column was originally published at TomPaine.com.

Director's Corner



This morning I'm thinking about what would happen if *Real Change* weren't here to stir things up. The Mayor's office, to take one example, would still be

doing their homeless sweeps, throwing away people's meager possessions with a day's notice at best, and attacking the most vulnerable people in the city in the name of "ending homelessness."

And you wouldn't know a thing about it. On Wed., Dec. 19, the *Real Change* Organizing Project will hold a rally and one-night protest encampment on the steps of City Hall (see page 11). As activists have tried to hold the mayor accountable, the city response has been to deny, stonewall, and attack homeless campers through the media as drug-crazed criminals. This is as wrong as wrong can be.

Homeless encampments have been a minor annoyance to some for decades. The sudden escalation of tactics by the Mayor has less to do with the nature of homeless campers than it does the changing face of Seattle. In the four-block area near Pike

Place Market, four new towers are being built that add 505 new condos with an average value of \$2 million each. Seattle is being remade, and the visible bottom end of the growing inequality that affects us all is less and less welcome.

We need your help to keep up the fight. We're a little more than halfway to our fund drive goal of raising \$90,000 over the holidays. A generous donor has committed \$15,000 to a two-for-one match for all gifts of \$100 or more from new donors, and \$250 or more from those who are already supporters. Please use the form on the facing page or visit realchangenews.org today to support our important work.



Just Heard...

Crack down

Advocates calling for less draconian federal sentencing guidelines for crack possession were handed a bit of good news recently by, of all entities, the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Dec. 10, the land's highest court ruled that judges had the right to determine whether sentencing guidelines for crack-related offenses actually fit an individual's crime. If not, judges could hand down shorter sentences. With Justices Thomas and Alito dissenting, the 7-2 ruling means that the once "mandatory" guidelines have now become discretionary.

This is important, says public defender Tom Hillier, because it allows a judge to take into account a defendant's history, factoring in, for example, his or her mental health, military history, or employment status. It can also, he adds, upend "obviously racist" guidelines that have handed those guilty of possessing crack cocaine sentences 100 times greater than those caught with powder.

"It's a real important and positive change in federal sentencing policy," says Hillier. —Rosette Royale

Mixed news for women

The state's Supreme Court handed Washington women a mixed bag in recent weeks.

In *Hegwine v. Longview Fibre Company*, the court ruled that Longview Fiber Company had wrongfully terminated the employment of respondent Stacy Hegwine after discovering she was pregnant. Her pregnancy, the company claimed, prevented her from some of the lifting her job required.

The court upheld a ruling in the Washington Court of Appeals that had determined Hegwine's firing had been an instance of sex discrimination; the court will convene to determine damages.

The court also refused a new trial to petitioner Brenda King, who had only been able to afford legal counsel for part of her divorce proceedings. King argued that, because her divorce settlement determined custody of her children, she had a constitutional right to counsel. The court ultimately found that public funding was not constitutionally guaranteed for divorce cases.

"While I'm disappointed, I'm not entirely surprised," said Katie O'Sullivan, who represented King. "There was no prior case that clearly guaranteed representation."

—JP Gritton

Reinspection

Funding to revive a long-dead rental housing inspection program died in the course of City Council budget negotiations this fall. But outgoing councilmember Peter Streinbrueck called a hearing Wed., Dec. 12 on plan B: launching a year-long study of how the city, with the consent of area landlords, might set up and pay for routine inspections of the city's rentals.

The program died in the early '90s, when landlords argued the city's inspectors didn't have a warrant, wrote council president Nick Licata last month in his Urban Politics newsletter. This year, the state's highest court said they could resume — if a landlord-approved inspector conducted them.

The full council will hear the proposal by the end of the year.

—Adam Hyla

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.



Help Us Change Lives. Support the Holiday Drive.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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.



You've got the ballot: Guiding people through the bureaucratic maze to regain the franchise are volunteers (l-r) LeeAnn Woodrum, Bess McKinney, Mina Barahimi, María Elena Ramírez, and Marcia Skok. ACLU. . Photo courtesy ACLU

Each year, the ACLU of Washington's Civil Libertarian Award is presented to individuals who make outstanding contributions to ensuring civil rights. 2007 honorees Mina Barahimi, Bess McKinney, Julia McLean, María Elena Ramírez, Marcia Skok, Robert Wilhite and LeeAnn Woodrum have helped many people navigate the complex, often bewildering process to regain their right to vote.

State law takes away the right to vote from people who have their served time in prison, but who owe fees and penalties imposed by court as part of their sentence. As volunteers with the Voting Rights Restoration Project, the award re-

ipients have worked tirelessly on behalf of citizens who are disenfranchised due to felony convictions. They have devoted thousands of hours to researching case histories, compiling court documents, and organizing requests to prosecutors and court officials, all to ensure that an individual's ability to vote is not conditioned on their financial means.

The group just celebrated a major milestone: they won back the ballot for their 100th client.

"As painstakingly slow as the process is, the restoration of even one person's voting rights is an enormous moral victory for everyone involved," says Barahimi.

—Amy Besunder

“Little effect” forecast for anti-harassment law, says Carr

City Ups Penalty for Targeting Homeless

By **ANGIE JONES**,
Contributing Writer

Seattle's homeless are now afforded status as a protected group under the city's hate crime law.

Last week, the City Council public safety committee approved a proposal that would add homelessness to its protected classes under the existing Malicious Harassment ordinance. The amendment passed the full council unanimously Dec. 10.

This legislation is supported by Mayor Greg Nickels and was developed by the

Seattle Human Rights Commission. This group and other community stakeholders cite the rise of brutal attacks on the homeless in recent years, including recent statistics by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) that named Seattle the seventh-most dangerous city for homeless people.

“This has been a long time coming,” says Leo Rhodes of SHARE, one of several to provide personal testimony of unprovoked attacks.

“There are countless stories people haven't heard, but when a homeless person speaks, no one listens,” he says. “People out on the streets right now don't feel like human beings.”

“We need to listen to the stories of homeless people,” says Julie Nelson of the Seattle Office of Civil Rights. “When I think about the fact that this is tolerated, it's horrible, anything I

“Seattle's existing harassment conviction is a gross misdemeanor, with a maximum prison sentence of one year. A malicious harassment charge carries no greater sentence.”

—Tom Carr, City Attorney

have to say on the matter is secondary,” she says.

Seattle's malicious harassment law expands on the state law by adding gender identity, marital status, political ideology, age, and parental status to its protected classes, and is meant to offer protection from bodily injury, physical confinement, property damage, and fear of harm.

Amending the ordinance allows prosecutors to charge defendants with

an additional crime if the victim is homeless.

“What will help make this truly significant is if, when crimes are committed, the city attorney uses the law to its full extent,” says Alison Eisinger of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness.

But according to City Attorney Thomas Carr, the ordinance change will have little effect in court.

Carr supports the proposal. “It's a good change. It highlights things that are happening to homeless people,” he says. But he is quick to point out that the city already takes the law as far as it can constitutionally.

“Seattle's existing harassment conviction is a gross misdemeanor, with a maximum prison sentence of one year,” he says. “A malicious harassment charge carries no greater sentence.”

Furthermore, a malicious harassment conviction requires proof that the perpetrator targeted the victim *because* of his or her class. “It generally won't be charged because a lesser crime with the same sentence will be easier to prove,” Carr says.

The city charged just one person with malicious harassment this year, whereas 451 ordinary harassment charges were filed, according to court record.

But from the human rights perspective, the move to include homelessness means everything.

In a statement released following last week's hearing, council president Nick Licata stated, “These changes will provide tough measures that demonstrate that the city will not tolerate this kind of behavior.”

If the ordinance is passed, city officials and local stakeholders in the homeless advocacy community plan to couple it with a citywide educational campaign in schools (NCH statistics show that the majority of attacks are perpetrated by youth ages 16-19), for service providers, and for the Seattle Police Department.

They also share the goal of launching a campaign to include homelessness under the state's hate crime law. At the state level, malicious harassment is a felony and can be punished with multiple years in jail, says Carr. ■



Targeted: Steve, panhandling in downtown Seattle, is vulnerable to the kind of thrill crimes mostly committed by young men ages 16-19. Photo by Katia Roberts

real. community. radio.



real.

On KBCS hear the 'B' sides and genres found nowhere else on the dial, programmed by volunteers driven by their passion for the music. From jazz to reggae, folk to modern global, hip-hop to blues to electronica, you'll hear it on KBCS.

community.

We air social justice-focused programs like *Democracy Now!*, along with locally produced public affairs shows *Voices of Diversity* and *One World Report*. KBCS covers issues, places, and people who don't always make it to the front page of the mainstream media. It's radio that's handcrafted here at home, by hundreds of volunteers tuned into what's local and what's relevant.

radio.

Our purpose is to entertain, educate, and involve. KBCS is the only station in the greater Seattle area offering ongoing training opportunities. Become the media at KBCS.

kbc
91.3 fm

a world of music & ideas

Listener-supported,
Non-commercial
Community Radio

www.kbc.fm

HOME ALIVE

- BASIC SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP
- BOUNDARY SETTING WORKSHOP
- SELF-DEFENSE SERIES:
 - 2-Day • 4-Week • 6-Week
- SELF-DEFENSE FOR YOUTH:
 - Toddlers • Elementary • Middle School • High School
- Host a...SELF-DEFENSE PARTY!
- BRING A CLASS TO YOUR ORGANIZATION OR TAILOR A CLASS FOR YOUR GROUP

\$0-75/session, Sliding Scale
1415 10th Avenue, 2nd floor, Studio 3
(between Pike & Union on Capitol Hill)

To register for classes, accessibility questions or more info:
outreach@homealive.org
(206) 323-HOME
www.homealive.org

Home Alive is a non-profit, community-based anti-violence organization that provides affordable self-defense classes, workshops, and educational events for all people within a social change framework. Whether you've been putting off taking a class or you need a refresher course, we've got options for you.

City reportedly slows requests for sweeps

New Tack in Campsite Clearances

By ADAM HYLEA, Editor

He's no longer ordering the clearances of people and their possessions from urban campsites. So Sgt. Paul Gracy of the Seattle Police Department has been traveling to roadsides, underpasses, forests, and thickets with a different aim: camera in hand, he collects evidence of mounting litter and debris in the places where homeless people are making their beds.

Up to a few weeks ago Gracy, as head of the West Precinct's Community Policing Team, fielded complaints from city officials and citizens alike alerting him to incidents of people sleeping in public places — mostly, along the highways and byways of Seattle. Cell phones and emails have helped those complaints proliferate.

"There are so many different mechanisms in place to let the public report issues, and it just takes a microsecond: you just pull out your phone and say 'I'm driving along 99 on the south end of the Aurora bridge, there are four or five tents there; why don't you do something about it?'"

These days, Gracy says, what he does is pass the complaint up to the mayor's office, which has begun what city officials call a case-by-case surmusal of the need for clearing out a campsite on public land.

Gracy's change of tack comes after public discussion over the city's stepping up its sweeps of homeless people's camps, even as outreach and viable alternatives are scarce to nonexistent ("Swept but still Dirty," Oct. 31).

Still, it's unclear whether or not the number of city-ordered sweeps is going down. Department of Corrections work-crew manager Jim Thorburn says he's getting fewer requests from city officials to clear out specific areas. The DOC's

community service workers are continuing encampment clearances in 10 areas they identified as "hot spots" — highly visible camping areas that are the subject of frequent complaints by passersby.

Gracy says those complaints have gone up and that incidents of camping, too, are increasing. Near Kinnear Park, on the southwest end of Queen Anne, he counts three new camps since last week.

Trekking through the greenbelt "is part of my function," says the SPD's Sgt. Gracy; "I have to manage my resources, manage what's going on in my precinct so we can respond accordingly."

Trekking through the greenbelt "is part of my function," says Gracy; "I have to manage my resources, manage what's going on in my precinct so we can respond accordingly."

Gracy says he often asks people without shelter downtown how he can help.

"We don't want to move these people on, we don't like to arrest them," he says, but "we get complaints from businesses... and we have to do something."

In this he's had guidance: he and two other officers, one from the mental-health specialist Crisis Intervention Team, traveled to Los Angeles last January to watch how police interacted with people on that city's Skid Row. At Chief Gil Kerlikowske's request, he met with members of the city's force who take a regular census of the 50-square block area.

While the LAPD has increased its staffing for this effort, Gracy says police resources are better used in crimefighting pursuits. With no one else to help, he's made an effort to get information about area social services.

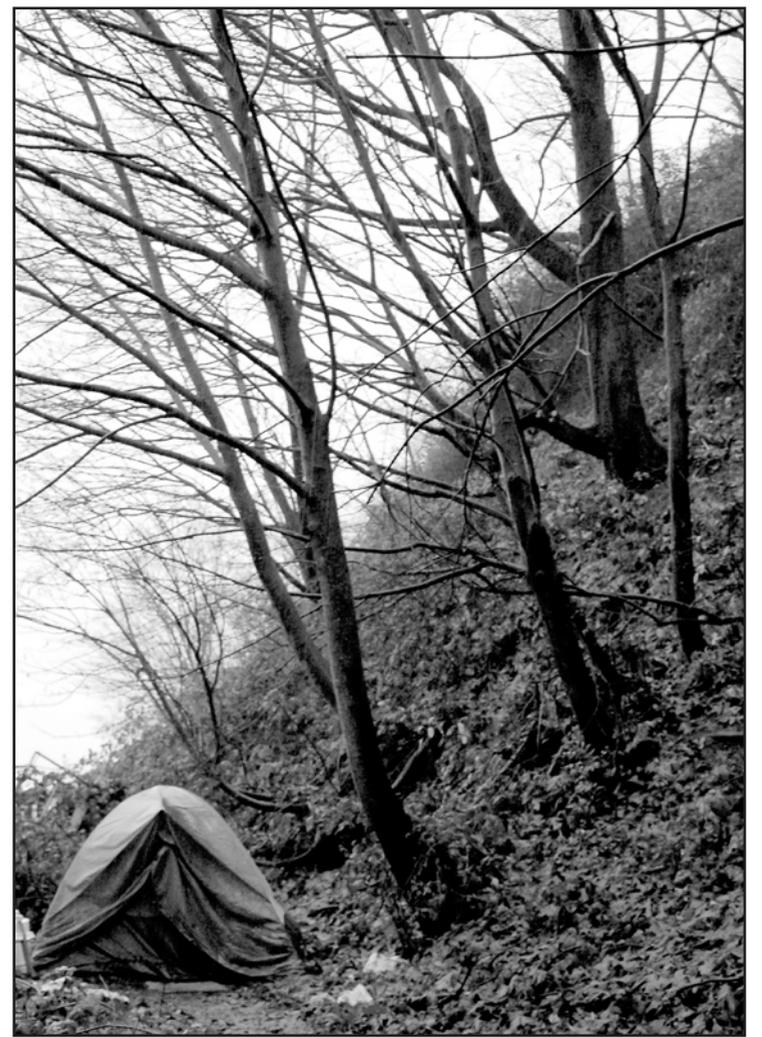
"By default, we run into these people a lot, so it's nice to have that knowledge. I would think this should be more of a human service provider function, to truly do the outreach."

Of making contact with homeless campers, he says, "I could dedicate resources to this on a daily basis. This is all you do: we're going to go hit camps. There is definitely a need for it."

Alison Eisinger of the Seattle/King

County Coalition on Homelessness says it's good news that requests for sweeps have gone down.

"For many, many people there simply aren't alternatives," she says. "Without sufficient housing, shelter, and emergency services, people will continue to live outside. Making their lives more difficult and more dangerous only makes it more difficult for our community to seriously address the crisis in front of us." ■



Sleeping out: a South Seattle campsite. Photo by Jon Vachon.

Hate group's cards found at School of Social Work

Swastikas in UW Restroom

By CYDNEY GILLIS, Staff Reporter

Another hate message has turned up in a restroom at the University of Washington.

Just a week after an Oct. 30 incident in which someone left a graffiti threat in a restroom at the UW Law School, nine business-size cards bearing a swastika and the words "Black Crimes, White Victims" were found in a restroom at the UW School of Social Work.

The printed cards, which a university employee found Nov. 7 and reported to university police Nov. 13, bear the address of a white supremacist website run by Gary Lauck and his U.S. unit of the National Socialist Democratic Workers Party based in Lincoln, Neb.

Margaret Spearmon, the school's associate dean, describes the cards as recruitment pieces that can be purchased online. University police are investigating, but have few leads to work with, she says — but they don't believe the incident is related to the one at the Law School, where administrators restricted access to the building but did not disclose the exact wording of the threat.

"It's a public building and people come in and out," Spearmon says of the School of Social Work, which is located in a hall on 15th Avenue Northeast not

far from the Law School. The incident, she adds, "was very unfortunate... we are taking it very seriously."

According to the website, the NSDAP/AO was founded in 1972 by Lauck, who uses the name "Gerhard" and is pictured on the site in a Nazi uniform. The group advocates legalizing the Nazi Party in Europe, where it has been banned since World War II, in order to create "a future for Whites only," in Lauck's words.

It's unlikely, however, that it was an actual follower of Lauck's who put the cards in the restroom, says Devin Burghart of the Center for New Community, a Chicago civil rights organization that tracks hate groups. While there are a handful

white nationalist groups operating in the Puget Sound area, Burghart says, Lauck has few adherents in Seattle. The organization is small, he says, and primarily prints a newsletter, stickers and other propaganda materials that are often used by other neo-Nazi groups.

Such materials, Burghart says, are "used to try to intimidate folks and scare them about the presence of white supremacists in the area."

University Police Assistant Chief Ray Wittmier says swastikas or other hate messages are reported three or four times a year on campus — a frequency

RESTROOM, continued on page 10

The CoHo Team
of Windermere Agents

3 Socially Responsible Realtors
Over \$330,000 Donated
Now, Carbon Neutral

<http://www.cohorealty.com>

Windermere Real Estate/Wall Street, Inc.
Windermere Real Estate/Northwest Inc.

the BELLTOWN BARBER

DAVE MARKOVICH
OWNER

2219 2nd Downtown Seattle • 441-4738

Vendor of the Week



This is a story about Willie Jones and cars.

When Jones gets his license, he buys a '68 GTO, a metallic-orange, growling monster of a car. It does the quarter-mile stretch at Golden Gardens quicker than most cars he races. Jones' GTO is a pretty sure bet, especially if he's driving.

For a guy who knows cars, driving taxi kind of makes sense. In '83 he starts working for Yellow Cab, and it's only a year before Willie owns his own cab. Less than a year more and Willie owns a taxi company.

It's almost the end of Jones' shift when they come. There are 10 of them; they jerk open the doors; they grab the women Willie's driving home; somebody screams, somebody yells; Willie steps out with the baseball bat in his hands, tells them they might as well kill him because there's no way they're getting away with this; he swings like crazy, connecting a couple times; but there are too many of them; they grab the bat from him; the streetlight's glow flashes on gun metal; someone points and the hammer clicks and then all Willie can hear is sirens.

When the cops ask him, Willie says he's all right.

The *P-I* runs a story about Willie, how he emerged unscathed from a fight with 10 men. In the picture, a photocopy of which is pinned to the walls of the *Real Change* office, he's hanging out of his cab, his hands crossed. Less than a year later, those same hands grip the

wheel when the man reaches over the seat, puts a knife in his ribs, and takes the money in his till.

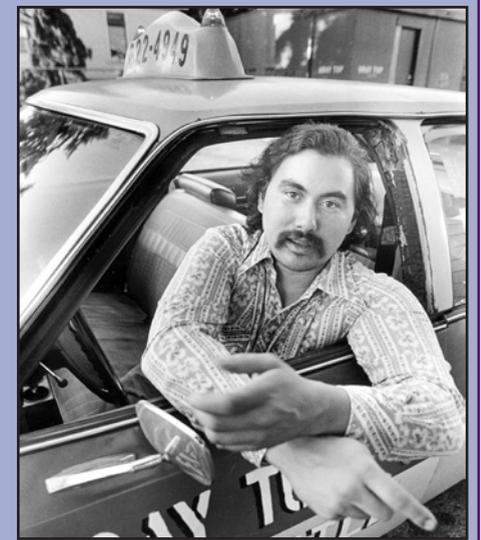
The government covers Jones' hospital bills, but not the three months' business he loses getting better. He will never drive another cab.

Years pass. He gets healthier, stronger. Soon he's lifting 100-pound bags over his head, driving forklifts. He does hard, grueling work ("the jobs nobody else would do") for years, until a friend tells Willie about *Real Change*.

"Do I like it? I love it," Jones says. That figures: It took him less than a year to become one of the paper's top vendors.

Now he's saving up to buy — you guessed it — a '68 GTO.

—Story and photo by JP Gritton



Willie Jones' confrontation with a gang downtown made the news in July, 1985.

Photo by Grant M. Haller / courtesy Seattle P-I.

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

Irides

Contemplating Hiroshige's woodblock of irises
in my room
as the Chinatown cherry blossoms begin blooming.
I picture the century of men before me
pleasantly inspired
for whom the blue tints of time
in Hiroshige's print
awoke the heart's hummingbird dance
for the laborious turning of the ground.
It is as if

by engraving them as painters
the human-ness of a flower
becomes real.
Through the woodblock
the little garden blossoms become wise men
much as the Buddha smiles from a living lilac.

—Mac Crary



Funeral for the Philippines

Marchers wore black on Sun., Dec. 9 for an International Human Rights Day procession highlighting the Philippine army's killing of 900 church leaders, lawyers, activists, journalists, and politicians since 2001. Sponsors included the Philippine-U.S. Solidarity Organization and Pinay sa Seattle,

a group of local Filipinas supporting democratic reform in their country of ancestry. Congress is set to allocate up to \$30 million in military aid to the Philippines; last month, the Senate asked the Bush Administration to hold onto the funds until military killers are brought to justice. Photo by Katia Roberts.

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Charlie Savage on the Bush-Cheney Administration's power grabs, overt and covert

Authority Unchecked

By ROBIN LINDLEY,
Contributing Writer

In May 1977, Former President Richard M. Nixon told interviewer David Frost, "When the President does it, that means that it is not illegal."

Vice President Dick Cheney apparently has embraced this staggering view of unlimited presidential power since Nixon's assertion of imperial prerogatives. In the current administration, Cheney and his aide David Addington have schemed to push the limits of executive power since before the 9/11 attacks, according to reporter Charlie Savage's sweeping new book, *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of Democracy* (Little, Brown).

Savage describes the tactics — from extreme secrecy, to packing the courts, to issuing so-called signing statements that alter a bill's meaning as it's signed into law — that the Bush-Cheney administration uses to dismantle constitutional checks and balances and to circumvent laws and treaties.

Takeover has been praised by observers from both sides of the political aisle, including conservative columnist George F. Will, Nixon White House Counsel John Dean, and progressive law professor Laurence Tribe. Norman J. Ornstein of the conservative American Enterprise Institute wrote: "Every American concerned about the erosion of checks and balances in our constitutional system should read this book — and weep."

Savage covers legal affairs for the *Boston Globe*. He was awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting on abuse of signing statements by President Bush.

What inspired you to cover Bush's signing statements, and then assess presidential power more broadly in *Takeover*?

My regular beat is legal affairs. In 2005, I was following closely the fight in Congress over the McCain torture ban. That fight ended with Bush signing the ban into law on Dec. 30, then issuing a late-night signing statement instructing CIA and military interrogators that the new ban was an unconstitutional encroachment on his powers as commander-in-chief and so it did not need to be obeyed if he told them not to obey it.

Two months later, I was covering the fight in Congress over whether to re-authorize and make permanent the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act. That fight, too, ended with a provocative signing statement by Bush, in which he instructed the Justice Department that he had the constitutional power to authorize officials to disobey the new oversight.

After those two articles, it made sense to find and decipher all of Bush's signing statements, including those that had nothing to do with national security, to see

what else Bush had signed but claimed a right to defy. It turned out that he had challenged more laws in his first five years as president than all previous presidents in American history combined. I learned that [the signing statements] were primarily coming out of Vice President Cheney's office, the handiwork of his longtime top aide, David Addington.

Back in December 2005, when *The New York Times* had revealed the warrantless wiretapping program, Cheney had told reporters that if they wanted to understand why he thought it was legal for Bush to bypass the warrant law, they should go read a report that he and Addington had worked on back in 1987 during the Iran-Contra scandal.

By contrast to the 1,000-plus laws Bush has challenged, all previous presidents in American history combined challenged about 600 such laws.

The report laid out a sweeping view of presidential power to bypass laws that limited his options in foreign affairs and national security matters — a vision for a presidency above the rule of law.

At that point, it became clear to me that the signing statements story, as amazing as it was, was really just the tip of the iceberg — just one tactic among many for increasing presidential power that the White House, pushed by Cheney, had been systematically advancing in fulfillment of an agenda he had been fostering for decades.

What other tactics have been used to expand executive authority?

The Bush-Cheney administration [also] has sought to expand presidential power by systematically selecting executive branch lawyers who had adopted an extreme view of presidential power to be Supreme Court justices, centralizing control over the federal bureaucracy, frequently issuing signing statement challenges to new laws, embracing the Unitary Executive Theory (which didn't exist before the mid-'80s), etc.

What is the that theory? Doesn't it run afoul of the separation of powers doctrine set out in the Constitution?

The Unitary Executive Theory is a revisionist interpretation of the Constitution that gives much greater power to the president. The theory holds that it is unconstitutional for Congress to enact laws that in any way fracture the president's



Boston Globe reporter Charlie Savage traces the roots of the Bush-Cheney arrogation of executive power to the Reagan administration's Iran-Contra scandal. Photo courtesy Little, Brown.

control of the executive branch or anything deemed an "executive" power.

The theory was first invented by the Meese Justice Department during the Reagan years [for] comparatively tame domestic issues, like the independent regulatory agencies. For example, they mused, perhaps the Federal Reserve was unconstitutional and the president ought to be able to raise and lower interest rates at his own discretion.

The Bush-Cheney legal team has significantly expanded the sweep of the theory to encompass matters of national security. They hold that defending the nation is an executive power committed exclusively to the Commander in Chief, and essentially have used the theory as putative legal justification for holding that a whole range of laws that establish rules, regulations, and controls on military and intelligence matters are unconstitutional and do not need to be obeyed because such decisions — such as how to interrogate detainees or go about wiretapping — are for the president alone to decide.

Mainstream legal scholars across the political spectrum reject this interpreta-

tion of the Constitution, which on its face overlooks the plain text of the founding document, and the Supreme Court has consistently rejected its principles across generations. One of the most important legal thinkers from the Reagan years, Stephen Calabresi, developed the Unitary Executive Theory, [and] has said that he disagrees with how the Bush-Cheney administration has been using the theory.

What precisely is a signing statement?

A signing statement is an official legal document issued by the President on the day he or she signs a bill. Filed in the Federal Register, signing statements lay out the president's interpretation of new laws and instruct the executive branch to interpret the laws in the same fashion.

The device becomes controversial when presidents use it to declare that various sections of the bills that they have just signed are unconstitutional and so do not need to be enforced as

On Those who Dis Dissent

■ Beyond Bullets: The Suppression of Dissent in the United States

By Jules Boykoff, AK Press, 2007, 460 pages, Paperback, \$21.95

Review by Martha Gies,
Guest Writer

Recent photos speak eloquently to the cost of dissent: in Yangon, police raid Buddhist monasteries, arresting monks who defied a ban on assembly; in Islamabad, police lob smoke canisters into crowds of lawyers protesting the suspension of the constitution.

In Portland, Jules Boykoff launches a timely new book on the suppression of dissent. But Boykoff, who teaches political science at Pacific University, is

In *Beyond Bullets*, Jules Boykoff has undertaken an ambitious project: to catalog the various tactics government uses to suppress dissent, and to demonstrate the relationship between dissent, government, and mass media.

not writing about Myanmar or Pakistan. *Beyond Bullets: The Suppression of Dissent in the United States* — the subtitle gives it away — is about the suppression of dissent here at home, about a special police unit machine-gunning a Chicago apartment in December 1969 where Black Panther leaders, at 4:45 a.m., were sound asleep; or, less than six months later, the Ohio National Guard opening fire on Kent State students protesting the U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

Boykoff has undertaken an ambitious project: to catalog the various tactics government uses to suppress dissent,

and to demonstrate the relationship between dissent, government, and mass media. He manages all this admirably while creating a readable and fascinating book that assumes dissent to be a good thing, a safeguard both necessary and precious to a democracy.

In addition to discussing the direct use of force, Boykoff goes “beyond bullets” to the subtler modes of silencing minority voices: public prosecution, with examples from the House Committee on Un-American Activities trials of the 1950s; employment deprivation and President Truman’s loyalty oath; surveillance, a tactic widely used by the FBI between 1956 and 1971 in their Counter Intelligence Program; the use of agent provocateurs who urge others to illegal activity in order to lay the groundwork for arrest and prosecution; schisms created through the use of “brownmail,” such as the FBI’s inflammatory letter-writing campaign that created distrust and paranoia within Black Panther leadership; and harassment, used, for instance, to intimidate the editors of underground papers who print investigative accounts of governmental malfeasance.

The final chapter on governmental suppression examines a sampling of extraordinary laws, which, taken together, account for some of the most flagrant violations of civil rights in this century: the Palmer Raids (the only example that predates World War II), the internment of Japanese citizens, and the post-9/11 persecution of American Muslims.

The plot thickens when Boykoff turns his attention to the role of media in the suppression of dissent and examines the effects of corporate ownership, one-source stories, and the misuse of the sacred journalism precept called “balance.”

His discussion of “bi-level demonization” — where the state and mass media



In *Beyond Bullets*, author Jules Boykoff shows that long before 9/11, the U.S. government has been working overtime to violate the rights of citizens. Photo by Kristina Wright

link dissidents to a demonized group even if the activists are not working directly with or supporting the demonized external foe — is particularly chilling.

After some back story about the anti-German campaign designed to build enthusiasm for World War I, and the witch hunts for Wobblies and then Communists, Boykoff points out that today’s convenient all-purpose foes are the “terrorists.” He quotes Mike Van Winkle, a spokesperson for the California Anti-Terrorism Information Center, who apparently is speaking in earnest when he says: “I’ve heard terrorism described as *anything that is violent or has an economic impact...*” In other words, if picketing a department store has an economic impact, it must be terrorism.

“Once an individual or group has been demonized through linkage to an external enemy,” Boykoff notes, “further suppression can occur with fewer objections from the general population.”

Beyond Bullets is worth its price if only for its final chapter on what happened after 9/11, when government readily trampled on First, Fourth and

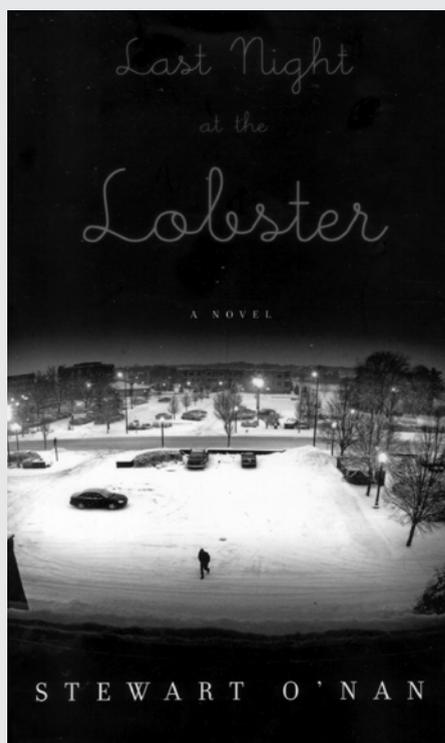
Fifth Amendment rights, and the press circulated its version of everything from “evidence” of weapons of mass destruction to Justice Department press releases about the “terrorism” intended by people with long-established Islamic charities.

This is a complex and important book, written by an author who believes, as did the framers of the U.S. Constitution, that dissent is essential to a just society. It is an admirable book in that its author, even in the face of recent threats to that society, is able to summon the calm and dispassionate social scientist’s voice. ■

Jules Boykoff will read from *Beyond Bullets*, along with Kristian Williams, author of *Our Enemies in Blue*, at Elliott Bay Book Co., Fri., Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Martha Gies is the author of *Up All Night*, a documentary portrait of 23 people who work the graveyard shift in Portland, Oregon, and of many stories, essays and articles published over the last 30 years. This review originally appeared in *The Oregonian*.

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.



■ Last Night at the Lobster

By Stewart O’Nan, Viking, 2007, Hardcover, \$19.95

This is a perfect little book. It is five days before Christmas, and the last day of operations at the Red Lobster in New Britain, Connecticut, shut down in a cost-cutting measure by Darden Restaurants, Inc. Thirty-nine of the branch’s 44 employees will be laid off, and many have already jumped ship, but not manager Manny DeLeon, a stand-up guy intent on making this last day as good as any other. Nature has other plans, and as a blizzard closes in on the area, no amount of ice-melter sprinkled on the walks or all-you-can-eat shrimp will draw in diners, and Manny’s skeleton crew hangs on to serve a dwindling crowd and collect their checks.

O’Nan portrays the staff with deft strokes: a jaded aside from brassy

career waitress Roz; the inscrutable Leron’s freshly blackened eye; a wild vindictive gesture by the perpetual screw-up Fredo; the lottery ticket hopes of disabled dishwasher Eddie. Manny’s first mate is the rock-solid chef Ty, a Navy and Red Lobster vet, but his thoughts today center more on waitress Jacquie, with whom he recently ended a romance. They’ve both moved on, (Manny uses his lunch half-hour for a desperate pilgrimage to the deserted mall next door in search of a gift for his pregnant girlfriend, Deena), but something transcendent has been lost.

O’Nan is a gifted writer, and not the least of these gifts is restraint. He depicts the struggles and tradeoffs of these people without moralizing or simplifying, but with respect, compassion, and clear-eyed admiration for their tireless capacity to concoct

meaningful lives out of such paltry ingredients as employee handbooks and strings of tinsel. That same restraint applies to O’Nan’s vivid descriptive power as he steals bits of poetry from the relentlessly prosaic. “Walking along the line, (Manny) passes his hand like a magician over the Frialators and grills to make sure that they’re off. ...and from the front of the house comes the filter’s hum and water-torture dribble of the live tank. If he never opens, he thinks, they can never close.” O’Nan rivals Carver and Chekhov in his ability to set a deeply affecting mood without ever seeming moody. That mood is a little down, a little lost, just like Christmas. Still, tomorrow’s going to be another working day. On Monday, Manny starts over at the Olive Garden.

—David Wright



Adventures
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

I never get to write about what I want. This week is no exception. I had planned a happy, cheerful, good news piece about how we're finally winning WWII, fascism is on the run, bunnies are cute, and we have iPods, too! But then Craig Thompson, All-American fearmonger, went and wrote a little opinion piece for the Sunday *P-I*, and I have no choice but to deal with his vicious crap point by sickening point.

The piece, called "Homeless camp sweeps needed" is one of the most outstanding examples of hate writing I have ever seen, and should go down as a classic of the genre. It starts with "Before me is a view of Elliott Bay lost for a decade." Today, homeless people have taken away one of our precious views of Elliott Bay — tomorrow, they will take away our daughters!

"Above Interstate 90, it was taken over by drug addicts, dealers, prostitutes, pimps and a homeless encampment." In the past, it's been drug addicts, prostitutes, pimps, and welfare queens. Or drug addicts, prostitutes, pimps, and Negroes. Or Drug addicts, prostitutes, pimps, and Jews.

Craig Thompson reports he's taking apart a camp there; he says it smells of "of rotten food, mud, worms and human debris," and that a World War I trench would smell the same. He could have said, a Third World slum smells the same. Or that it smelled like the crotch of his own jockey shorts. Or Blethen's armpits.

©Dr. Wes: Good News Spoiled

But it's in the fourth paragraph that Thompson's genius for twisted hate speech really drives forward. He acknowledges that at a Queen Anne site, "Camp residents weren't notified before a cleanup and lost personal items," and says "people should know [sweepers] are coming — unless they're criminals." And then, with just that justification and no more, he adds, "The sweeps should go on."

I find it hard to believe that Craig Thompson is regularly visited by agents of the government and forced to stand by while all his belongings and all his ID and means of survival are confiscated and destroyed.

Let's see how that works in other contexts. How about: "People shouldn't be sent to concentration camps — unless they're criminals. The roundups should go on." How about: "People shouldn't be lynched — unless they're criminals. The hangings should go on." Oh yeah, works great.

He says, "I'm not a cruel man, persecuting poor people. I support SHARE/WHEEL's roving Tent Cities." I'll bet he owns a puppy, too, and even feeds it. To show us how good he is, he tells us how he's in favor of various projects to house homeless people that have come under fire. He proves his compassion-credentials by criticizing the city government's failure to create affordable housing.

That's followed by accounts of criminal activities in and around the greenbelts that he, Craig Thompson, has helped clean up, leading to the arrests of "dozens of criminals" — out of thousands of homeless campers. He tells us how good this is for the homeless people themselves. He, Craig Thompson, has done them a favor. "Thuggery made life hell for homeless people who just wanted a place to sleep."

He says that homeless people living in camps are no more victimized by the government than are the rest of us. I find it hard to believe that Craig Thompson is regularly visited by agents of the government like himself and forced to stand by while all his belongings and all his ID and means of survival, including his home, are confiscated and destroyed. But if he says so, it must be so. Maybe he should complain about it.

There are several paragraphs of calculated irrelevance to the effect that heroin imports into Seattle are up. News flash, Craig: You have housed neighbors on Beacon Hill who are using and dealing heroin. There has never been found a single major dealer of drugs who was permanently homeless. Dealers make enough money for rent. They can afford \$500/day hotel rooms.

The final insult in Thompson's piece follows his own rhetorical question, "Where will residents go when camps are busted?" He just says, "that's another question," and drops it.

Answer the damn question, Craig Thompson. ■

Sound off and read more:
drwesb.blogspot.com



Wed., Nov. 28, 6 p.m., 1900 Block of Alaskan Way. On the listed date and time officers were on a Department of Corrections (DOC) emphasis patrol when they contacted a group of transients that was camping under the Alaskan Way Viaduct. They contacted the suspect, a transient white male aged 49, and requested his ID. A name check revealed an outstanding warrant out of the Seattle Police Department (SPD). The warrant was verified via radio, and the suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Wed., Nov. 28, 10:23 p.m., Third Ave. Suspect, a transient white male aged 43, was observed by officers loitering on the corner of Fourth Ave. and Pike St. Officers knew him from prior contacts, and were aware that he was active with the DOC. They rode up to the suspect and made contact with him. He told them that he just got out of jail. Officers contacted the DOC, and they requested that suspect be arrested and transported to the DOC office on Ninth and Virginia. Officers arrested the man and transported him to the office; he was then issued a written stipulated agreement and transported to his full-time DOC officer.

Fri., Nov. 30, 6:07 p.m., 300 block of Yesler Way. Officers contacted the suspect, a transient Black male aged 55, for drug loitering in the 300 block of Yesler Way. A records check of his name showed him to have an outstanding warrant. Warrant was verified, and suspect was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

Fri., Nov. 30, 6:25 p.m., Third Ave. and Yesler St. Officers were on a Department of Corrections emphasis patrol when they contacted a group of people at Third and Yesler. These people were known to officers as drug users and DOC-active individuals. They contacted the suspect, a transient Black male aged 42, and ran his name via radio. Records showed that his DOC officer had requested a warrant for his arrest for failing to report. Police contacted the DOC officer, who instructed them to place the suspect under arrest. A search incident to arrest found the suspect to be in possession of a crack pipe, which field-tested positive for cocaine. Suspect was taken into custody and transported to 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.

Faith,
Culture,
Politics



Rev. Rich Lang

Ideas have consequences. When the Church, for example, teaches that God is in control of all events, what then are we supposed to think when the rain turns to floods that turn into the unleashing of enormous suffering and anguish? What kind of God unleashes floods upon us?

When the Church teaches that God is love and love forgives the sinner, what then happens when a woman shows up at a pastor's office with bruises on her face because her husband beat her up again? Should the pastor tell her about the forgiving love of God, and therefore she ought also to go home and simply forgive?

When the Church teaches that God favors and blesses those who follow God's will and way, what are we to think of those who stumble out of life's mainstream? What then are we to think of the homeless and the poor, the economic refugees of global capitalism? Do they deserve their plight?

Ideas have consequences. These consequences are both personal and po-

Christmas Has Consequence

litical. The ideas taught by our spiritual faith communities shape our thoughts, attitudes and behaviors. Our spiritual ideas shape our personal character. They also shape our political practice. Who we vote for, what we are willing to fund, how we relate to our neighbors in need are all influenced through the filter of our spiritual ideas.

Our spiritual ideas shape our personal character. They also shape our political practice.

Christmas is a great time for Christians to re-think their ideas and assumptions about life. At the center of the Christian story is a family with no roof over its heads, few assets to its name, oppressed by an occupying imperial army, and beholden to the mercies of others. For Christians, this is how God enters the world.

What then are the characteristics and politics of a people who are shaped by such a story? One would assume that

they would go out of their way to provide a roof over every head, health care for every family, resistance to the ways of empire, and a freely given generosity to those who are in need. One would think that such a people would build sanctuaries that not only provided worship space but also living space, shelter from the floods of life, help in time of need.

Thankfully, many Christian churches do this very thing. Inside of hundreds of church buildings there are shelters for the homeless, soup kitchens for the hungry, counseling for those in anguish, community support that welcomes the isolated and lonely, and public advocacy that relieves the burden of economic refugees. Inside of many church buildings one can catch a glimpse of the world as it should be: a world of neighbor helping neighbor, a world where God is felt through human touch, the consequence of the Christmas idea of incarnation, and the true meaning of worship. ■

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



Acoustic Fretted Instruments
Bought and Sold
Martin Guitar Dealer
Books, Strings, Repairs
5210-A Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98105
(206) 524-1110

Free parking up to a half-hour
in the loading zone out front.

www.folkstoreseattle.com

GET YOUR PICKS on (METRO) ROUTE 66

ahac

AHAC (Alternative Healthcare Access Campaign) is looking for energetic, motivated, organized individuals to work on our Steering Committee.

AHAC has been providing free acupuncture, massage and naturopathic care to homeless and low-income folks in Seattle for more than 7 years. We currently operate 5 sites in the King County area. You can learn more about our organization by visiting our website:

www.ahacseattle.org

As a member of the Steering Committee, you would serve as an officer (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President or President) and/or as a member or head of one of our committees (Fundraising, Publicity, Site Coordinating and Supply, to name a few). You would be required to attend regular meetings and to work to raise awareness and funding for the organization, as well as playing an active role in creating an efficient and effective infrastructure.

AHAC needs you!! Please contact us today for more information and/or attend our next Steering Committee meeting (Dec. 4, 7-9 p.m.) at the Frye.



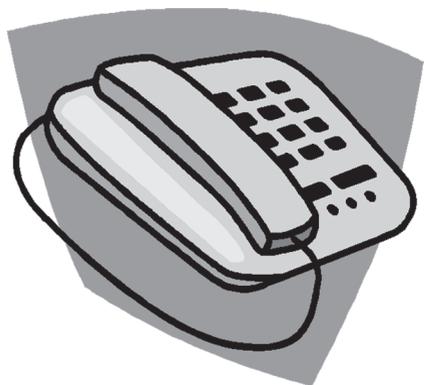
“We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

—Martin Luther King

WE TEACH THIS WAY OF LIFE

Trinity United Methodist
6512 23rd Ave. NW
Seattle, 98117
www.tumseattle.org

GOOD ON A PHONE?



Then do
good as
an ad
rep for
REAL
CHANGE.

(base + commission, success rewarded)
call 441-3247 x208 for more info

RESTROOM, continued from page 5

he has not increased over the years, he says. Even if a suspect were identified in this case, however, it would be difficult to prosecute the matter as a hate crime, he says, because there was no threat or intimidation directed at a specific person in a protected class such as race, gender, or sexual orientation.

The best way to prevent further incidents, Burghart says, is for the community — including the university — to mount a visual response that such activity is unwelcome. Shortly after the cards were found, Spearmon says, school administrators sent out an email to faculty, staff, students and community groups decrying the incident. The entire school was also invited to a meeting with university police.

Spearmon says students are now working to develop an anti-hate poster for distribution on campus. But, given it's a public building, she says there's little else the school can do. “It's been turned over to the police. We'll probably leave it at that,” she says.

Burghart says the school ought to do more. “What folks who distribute this material are hoping for is silence. Silence is seen as the green light to continue their activity and their campaign of intimidation,” he says.

“Over and over, administrators will tell you the way to deal with it is to get it out in the open,” Burghart says. Otherwise, “it leads to escalation, the problems get worse, and it has more of an impact on the communities being targeted by that kind of bigotry.” ■

Fragments

The sweetly tilting mother face of the
moon
Framed by ghostly arms of clouds

Poetry
Words afloat
On the silent sea

And I will stand clean
And naked in the wind
And all my sins
Will fall away
Like bandages

—Elizabeth Romero



CALL TO ACTION

Come Rally for the Right to Survive

Issue: Homeless encampments are being razed and the belongings of homeless people — tents, clothing, personal ID — is being thrown away like garbage. Join the Real Change Organizing Project (RCOP) next Wed., Dec. 19, for an overnight tent city and rally at City Hall to demand an end to campsite clearances and development of more long-term shelter.

Background: As the year dwindles to a close, the homeless encampment issue has become a flashpoint within the city. Articles on the subject in *Real Change* have led to not-so-nice opinion pieces in the *Seattle Times* and *P-I*. Although the City Council has begun to voice its anxiety concerning the City's clearing policy, a halt has not been established. The RCOP has been working to ensure that survival is a right for everybody, that people without anywhere else to sleep and their belongings are not thrown out of our greenbelts like trash.

The RCOP has been working on the encampment issue for the past eight weeks. Our petition circulated through vendors and volunteers, activists and donors, with over 1,300 signatures to date. We presented these signatures to City Councilmembers at a Dec. 3 briefing, but an end to these clearances has yet to occur. All the while, homeless people feel even more disenfranchised from a society that seems to be targeting them. As they are pushed further into the woods, we will not be ending homelessness — but hiding it.

During the 2007 One Night Count, 7,839 people in King County were found to be sleeping on the

street, in parks, greenbelts, their cars, shelters, or transitional housing. Of these, 2,159 went without any form of shelter at all. Many of the people sleeping outside chose to set up a tent or tarp under a roadway or in a park-owned open space.

Since May of 2007 city officials have been coming into these camps (oftentimes without advance notice), clearing people out, and confiscating their survival gear. Sometimes claims are made that these “sweeps” are prompted by “concerned” neighbors. But during the clearance of one Queen Anne greenbelt, the personal belongings of the campers were targeted, while trash and refuse remained untouched.

Many commentators have argued that these campers should seek refuge in one of our city shelters. Unfortunately, the shelters are full. The U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that over half of all shelter requests by homeless families went unmet last year. People are turned away from emergency shelters and shelter placement services every night. The city cannot force people out of their camps unless we can provide an alternative for them.

Action: We will be gathering at City Hall (corner of Fourth Ave. and James St.) on Wed., Dec. 19, to remind the city that they are still accountable to every resident of the city, whether that person is homeless or not. We cannot tolerate these encampment clearances any longer.

The rally runs from 5-6 p.m. The overnight campers will set up during this time and get warm for an overnight stay at City Hall. Willing overnight campers contact Natalie at natalien@realchangenews.org or (206)441-3247 for more information. Everyone has the right to survive.

Call to Action courtesy of the Real Change Organizing Project

SAVAGE, Continued from Page 7

Congress wrote them. Moreover, the laws targeted in this fashion have most often been constraints on the President's own power as head of the executive branch or Commander in Chief, so this claimed power to sign-but-not-enforce boils down to a claimed power to-sign-but-disobey.

In his first six years of office, Bush attached signing statements to about 150 bills, challenging well over 1,000 distinct sections of those bills, while at the same time virtually abandoning his veto pen. By contrast to the 1,000-plus laws Bush has challenged, all previous presidents in American history combined challenged about 600 such laws from the 19th century to the end of the Clinton administration. The laws Bush has challenged run the gamut from military rules and regulations, whistleblower protections for executive branch employees, requirements to give information to Congress, safeguards against political interference in federally funded research, and affirmative action provisions.

How have Bush's signing statements and executive orders affected the government departments?

One of the things that people are still trying to figure out is how often the signing statements get carried out, and how often they are simply bluster or reserving a right to do something. A big problem is that most of the most interesting ones, like the P.A.T.R.I.O.T Act oversight provisions and the McCain Torture Ban, involve classified national security issues where what the government is doing is a secret.

The GAO recently completed a study of 19 provisions that Bush had challenged using a signing statement — none of them the more interesting ones. It found that the government enforced or obeyed 10 provisions as written, three were not triggered by events and so did not have to be obeyed, and six were disobeyed. The GAO did not determine whether the signing statement was the cause of the disobedience, but when it asked one agency — Immigration and Customs Enforcement — why it had not obeyed the law, it was told that the law was merely "advisory" rather than mandatory, just as Bush's signing statement had instructed ICE to view it.

You write that the Bush-Cheney administration has defied treaties without consulting Congress.

In December 2001, the administration pulled the United States out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty without consulting the Senate, which had ratified it, to see whether it wanted to de-ratify it. This locked down a precedent that presidents could abrogate treaties on their own say-so, contrary to historical practice. The ABM treaty pullout established that it was now a general rule that presidents need not consult Congress when disposing of even major ratified treaties.

The Bush administration also reinterpreted into meaningless restrictions on presidential power found in the Geneva Conventions and the UN Convention Against Torture. It did not consult Congress in either case.

How has the administration used secrecy to limit public awareness of issues such as energy policy, climate change, and the Iraq war?

The Bush administration has expanded the fortress of executive secrecy that prevents Congress and the public from knowing information about the executive branch's actions or intelligence matters across a range of matters. Even before 9/11, in the fight over Cheney's energy task force papers, it fought to the Supreme Court to win precedents gutting open-government laws that had previously required the White House, such as with Hillary Clinton's health care task force, to perform such work in the public view. It has also used political appointees to edit and censor government science reports that did not support the administration's policy preferences on global warming.

During the run-up to the vote on authorizing the Iraq War, some lawmakers chose not to receive briefings about American intelligence about alleged WMD or Al Qaeda connections in Iraq under rules that would prevent them from publicly debating the war if they did receive such information from the executive branch.

What can average citizens do about the alarming unilateral actions of the executive branch under Bush-Cheney?

As a journalist, my role is to describe what is happening, what has happened, and how things have changed. Thus, answering this question is largely for others. I do feel comfortable, however, saying that I think that executive power should be one of the issues on the table in the upcoming election. Aspiring presidential

candidates from both parties should be asked detailed questions about their views on presidential power and what limits, if any, they think they would have to respect on their own authority — before Election Day, not after one of them has already moved into the White House. ■

Robin Lindley is a Seattle attorney and writer. He has worked as a law teacher, government attorney, and staff attorney for a congressional investigating committee. He was the 2006 chair of the World Peace through Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association.

join the Real Change Organizing Project for an

& overnight Tent City Rally AT CITY HALL

December 19th

Rally 5:00 - 6:00 pm @ City Hall
(600 4th Ave @ James St)

Over night Tent City 6:00 pm - noon

Overnight campers meet at
Real Change @ 3:30 for preparation
(2129 2nd Ave, between Blanchard & Lenora)

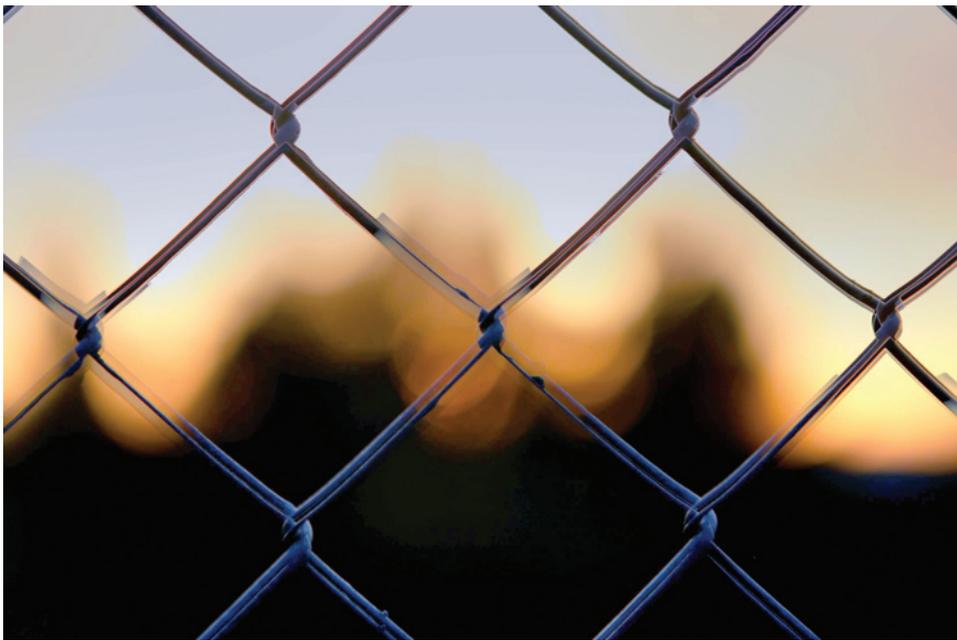
Between 1600 and 2000 people in
Seattle have nowhere to sleep tonight.

Those who seek shelter through tents in
parks and greenbelts have been system-
atically and brutally removed from those
campsites, their personal belongings
and survival gear confiscated or
destroyed.

For all people
survival is a right

join us and call upon the city to
cease campsite clearances
and provide long-term shelter

willing overnight campers contact Natalie for more info - natalien@realchangenews.org - 206-441-3247



Don't spend your evening at home on lockdown. **Set Up to Fail** is a play presented by the grassroots criminal justice reform organization **Justice Works!** that combines factual information about the criminal justice system with powerful emotional expressions of incarceration and release from prison. The play also highlights how the criminal justice system disproportionately sets up people of African descent for failure; breeding hopelessness, which is a key attribute to crime. Also showing is *Corporate Lockdown*, a film by Sarah Adele. This straightforward documentary on the corporatization of prisons reveals how corporate moguls and cost-efficiency prison models have turned prisoners into products. So come out and treat yourself to two for the price of none, but donations are kindly accepted! Evening presented by Meaningful Movies and Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice. **Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.**, Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl., Wallingford. Photo by Shayana Sanyal

Calendar

This Week's Top Picks

Wednesday 12/12

Feeling underrepresented by the two-party political system? Come and sit in on the Green Party of Seattle's "Year in Review" meeting. 7 p.m., University Heights Center, NE 50th and University Way NE, Room 110. Info: www.seattlegreens.org, info@seattlegreens.org or call (206)524-3377.

Thursday 12/13

Check out talented local writers reading their works at the "It's About Time Writers Reading Series." The reading series is dedicated to an end of racism, homelessness, homophobia and war. Scheduled readers this month are John W. Marshall, Emily Warn, Mike Hickey and Christine Deavel on the Writer's Craft. Pen your own work and shed your stage fright as there will be an open mic before and between scheduled readers. 6 - 7:45 p.m., 5614 22nd Ave. NW, at the Ballard Branch of the Seattle Public Library.

Come and experience the latest installment of the Underground Railroad Film Series, presented by the Langston Hughes African American Film Festival. The series provides an environment to promote dialogue and self-reflection, using the Underground Railroad as a metaphor to help interpret films. This session features **Islam Behind Bars** a film that provides insight to the fastest-growing religion in western prisons. More than 200,000 Muslim inmates fill western prisons. The film looks at the 200,000 Black inmates who have converted to Islam and the social and religious reasons for their choice. Also the film **Covered Girls** by Janet McIntyre and Amy Wendel provides an accurate depiction of Muslim-American girls enjoying life in New York City. The film challenges stereotypes of the traditional western views of Islam through these dynamic young women. 7 pm, Central Cinema 1411 21st Ave. Seattle. Suggested donation \$5 at the door. Info (206) 326-1088, or www.langstonblackfilmfest.org.

Saturday 12/15

Get the holiday spirit kick started with some help from the Seattle Girls' Choir

Holiday Concert. Don't miss the opening "Let There Be Joy," performed by Primi Voci, the most accomplished choir level, followed by classical and sacred music and holiday carols from around the world performed by all levels of the choir. The choir will perform Leonard Bernstein's "Canon In Five Parts" from the Kaddish Symphony No. 3, sung in Hebrew. 1:30 p.m., Town Hall, Eighth and Seneca. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Info: www.townhallseattle.org.

With global warming sending species the way of the dodo, get out and enjoy the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest while you still can. **Experience the migration of bald eagles to the Skagit Valley with the North Cascades Institute.** Hundreds of bald eagles migrate from Canada and Alaska to the Skagit River to feast on the Puget Sound's teaming chum salmon run. The event will be led by Libby Mills, a renowned naturalist who has studied this event for over 20 years. The trip will focus on the Sauk and Upper Skagit rivers, exploring the biological and ecological relationship between chum salmon and bald eagle migration patterns. Conservation strategies will also be discussed. To register, visit www.ncascades.org and click on the "stewards" link, or call (360)856-5700 ext. 209. Trips continue through January.

Monday 12/17

The King County Juvenile detention center is having their annual gift giving event for youth in detention. Bring a gift and a smile to Seattle-area youth in need. You can also donate sweatshirts, hoodies, warm up's and fleeces. 1211 E Alder St., Seattle. Call Unna Kim before you arrive, or call for gift ideas. (206)205-9501 or (206)205-9634.

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

CLASSIFIED

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the supporters of the *Real Change* paper. I'm wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and am looking forward to seeing you this next year.
—Jim O'Donnell, University District Trader Joe's, noon-6 p.m.

REACH 30,000 LOYAL READERS

Call (206) 441-3247, or email classified@realchangenews.org



to APPLY:

Attend our weekly orientation held on Tuesdays at 9:30am at FareStart (7th & Virginia)

LEARN a SKILL
START a CAREER
BETTER your LIFE

WHAT is FARESTART?

- A 16-week **HANDS-ON TRAINING PROGRAM** in the Culinary Arts (cooking, knife skills, food preparation, and food safety)
- Services to help you **FIND HOUSING**
- Services to help you **FIND A JOB**
- Other **SUPPORT SERVICES**, including transportation, meals, clothing, health & hygiene, and others.
- A **SAVINGS PROGRAM**, after employment, that is matched 2 to 1 for use in obtaining permanent housing.

eyes ON FREMONT

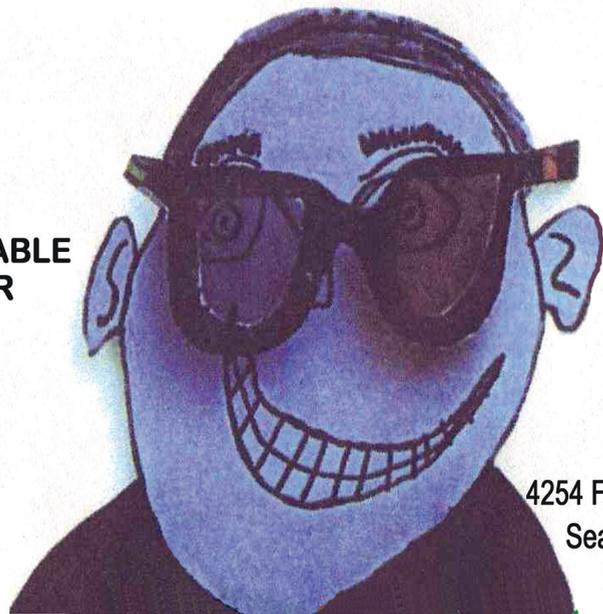
UNIQUE AFFORDABLE EYEWEAR

Friendly, Skilled Staff

On Site Lab

Eye Exams

Student Discounts



4254 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-3375

We are your community.



We're proud to have founded the **PCC Farmland Trust**, a nonprofit land trust that secures Washington farmland for organic production and preserves the livelihood of local farmers.



Eight neighborhood locations in the greater Seattle area

SUPPORTING REAL CHANGE SINCE 2004