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inside

TRANSPORT 2

Gregoire considers urban-friendly Viaduct replacement

MEDIA 3

P.U.-litzer awards

SPORTS 4

Why I don't watch football anymore

EDUCATION 5

Gentrification and Seattle Public Schools

CIVIL RIGHTS 7

Art prof detained for taking photos;

The USA's human rights daze

MILITARY 8-9

War or Peace: US non-intervention

POLITICS 10

Political courage index declines

HEALTH 10

More scientists lining up against fluoridation

WORKPLACE 11

Reality Xmas tree; Security executive named Grinch of the Year

ACTIVISM 12-14

Calendar;

Evil in God's

Creation;

Impressions of

Palestine

RIGHT BRAIN 14-16

Toon-o-phobia;

Lightning poems;

Bob Markey



The Non-Idiot's Guide to Primary Elections

BY DAVID SWANSON

See you at the WA primary caucuses on February 9! You might find the following voting strategies helpful. - Ed.

1. Hardly anybody votes in primaries or caucuses compared to general elections. Therefore, each individual primary vote is worth many times what it is in the general election. And, it's more likely to be counted, since there are typically less voting fraud in primaries. So the best way to be a non-idiot is simply to take part in the primary. Bring a few friends to vote too, and you're a genius.

2. If you have to join a party that you don't support in order to vote in a primary, you can always un-join again immediately after the primary. In the meantime, maybe you'll have helped to create a party you can support. You can even vote in a primary without planning to vote in the general election. If the 50% of Americans who don't vote at all (or even a small fraction of them) voted in primaries, they would determine the candidates in the general elections. Then they might feel like voting in the general election, too.

3. If there's no candidate you like in a primary, you can write one in. A comparatively very small amount of organizing can even sometimes lead to a victory for that candidate. (Or some signature gathering could place your candidate's name on the ballot.)

4. If there is a good candidate already on the ballot, then an extremely small amount of organizing can lead to a victory for that candidate. And something short of a victory can still mean some number of delegates for your candidate going to the party's convention from your state, or momentum for your candidate in future states. Primaries, unlike general elections, are not winner-take-all. You might even become a delegate for your candidate and get a trip to a convention out of this!

5. In most presidential elections, the party's nominee is decided before many states hold their primaries. That's one reason why many people in late-primary

see Primary on page 10

COAST GUARD KANGAROO COURT

Justice capsized again in Peace Fleet appeal

BY GLEN MILNER

Since 2000, the Peace Fleet has held demonstrations during the US Navy fleet arrival at the Seafair festival in Seattle, with usually three or four boats in Elliott Bay displaying banners against the glorification of weapons of war in Seattle. As a result of the demonstration in 2004, Glen Milner was drawn into a lengthy legal process in which he was charged and tried by the US Coast Guard.

Imagine that you were charged with robbing a convenience store. However, the judge would not let you know which store it was, what time you robbed it, or how you did it. Now prove that you are innocent.

Knowledge of the specific charges against you is a cornerstone of due process in our legal tradition, but that tradition seems to have been jettisoned by the US Coast Guard's Hearing Office.

In 2006, Hearing Officer Lane McClelland, of the Coast Guard Hearing Office in Arlington, Virginia, found me guilty of navigating within 500 yards of a US Navy vessel at the Seattle Seafair festival in August 2004.(1)

The Hearing Officer said I was guilty of one offense, but she would never say which vessel I violated, where it occurred, or when it occurred. I had to defend myself against every Navy vessel and every location in Elliott Bay. Keep in mind that all the vessels were moving all the time. All original Coast Guard records of the incident had already been destroyed - as you might guess.

No fine was levied against me, although I had faced a fine of up to \$32,500. In October 2007 I received a response to my administrative appeal to the Commandant of the Coast Guard regarding the alleged naval vessel protection zone violation.

Mr. David Kantor, the Coast Guard appellate judge, released a 14-page decision on October 3, 2007 stating that the guilty verdict I had received from the Hearing Officer was "appropriate and will not be disturbed."

see Coast Guard on page 4



What Seafair should look like: "Kitsap Neighbors For Peace" joins the flotilla. This and related photos by Karol Milner.



The Peace Fleet sails for its sixth year in Elliott Bay in August 2007. The "Nuclear Free Seafair" banner denounces depleted uranium ammunition on US Navy warships. Crew are Mary Gleysteen, Ela Esterberg, Kim Esterberg and Jamie Criddle.

The Real Police

What it's REALLY like to be a street cop and why it should be done differently

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK BY DAVID ZISKIN

The following passages from the book *The Real Police* have been reprinted with permission from the Wind Gap Press. The author is a retired police officer who served on Seattle's streets from 1969 to 1988 and was one of the first responders to the Wah Mee Massacre of 1983. The book contains many fascinating accounts of the recent history of Seattle policing, as well as many unexpected observations on police work in general. Ziskin defines "real police" as "the cops who work the street - the people that are the first on the scene of trouble. They are not supervisors or administrators. They have the most important job in police work, and they make all of the important decisions. They also have the lowest status in the hierarchy." Ziskin notes, "The Chief of Police in your town won't like this book but you will." - Eds.

from chapter 1, *The Last of the Old*

In 1969, when I arrived as a new officer in Seattle... the Police Department consisted of about 1200 sworn personnel and a couple hundred civilian employees. There were old-timers on the department who had been there since the 1930's; some of them wore old-fashioned uniform items and handlebar mustaches. Several parted their hair in the middle as men had done in bygone eras. We used call boxes dating from the 1890's. There was a system of

see Real Police on page 6

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READER MAIL

Edwama no dream ticket

I must take exception to Paul Rogat Loeb's article "Edwama" in the Nov/Dec issue. He states that "Obama's years as a community organizer and experience living abroad and crossing every conceivable cultural line..."

Not so. Two of the biggest cultural lines in the United States are gender and sexual orientation. Both Obama and Edwards enjoy upper class status and both are male. Neither one can speak with authority on women's issues (note that Ms. Edwards takes a different stand on health care and gays than her husband) and neither has expressed meaningful support for Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals or Transgendered persons. Both have, in fact, taken public stands against Gay and Lesbian families. This is a huge cultural line that neither Obama nor Edwards have come close to reaching, let alone bridging.

Janice Van Cleve

OUT to stop murder

Iran hung a man on Wednesday. This makes me so sad. Please note that Makwan Moloudzadeh, 21, was accused of homosexually raping classmates when he was 13. Please note the plaintiffs dropped their accusations of rape. Please note - only homophobia, fear, and lack of compassion explain why this young man was murdered by Iran.

When I am asked why I feel the need to share my sexual orientation publicly, this murder is the reason. I don't have to do it. Despite my orientation (bisexual), I'm in a position of heterosexual privilege—I'm in a monogamous, legally recognized marriage to my wife, complete with two wonderful daughters. But why would I not speak out in a world where it was acceptable to kill a man because he sexually experimented with his peers during puberty? The more I and others like me are OUT, the less acceptable such murders will be—the less frequently such murders will occur.

The murder, injury, torture, torment, teasing, bullying, and jeering of people because of their gender identity or sexual orientation cannot be tolerated. Examine your conscience - are you any more fit than the government of Iran to judge a man?

Joe Reilly, Director
Inland Northwest LGBT Center

Stay out of Iran

To the obvious consternation of the Bushites, the U.S. Director of National Intelligence recently reported that in fall 2003 Iran "halted its nuclear weapons program". Who could blame Iran for wanting the nuclear bomb to keep bully America at bay like North Korea, China, Israel, etc? It seems the Bushites have a double standard when it comes to who should be allowed into the "nuclear club".

A military strike on Iran would have a disastrous impact on human life and health, as Physicians for Social Responsibility concluded in an April report titled War is Not the Answer: The Medical and Public Health Consequences of Attacking Iran. In November, the American Public Health Association reinforced this conclusion in a policy statement calling on the United States Government to "clearly state that it will not launch a preemptive military attack on Iranian facilities."

The National Intelligence Estimate makes clear that the neocons within the administration who are calling for invading Iran are again desperately "spinning the facts" just like those who pushed for the illegal invasion of Iraq. The Bushites had good reason to know that weapons of mass destruction did not exist and that Iraq had agreed to cooperate with weapons inspectors. Remember?

The U.S. Intelligence Community concludes that Iran has stopped pursuing nuclear weapons and the medical and public health experts conclude an attack on Iran would result in colossal human tragedy. Given these realities, we must demand immediate and direct diplomacy to prevent an unwise invasion of Iran.

Howard Pellett

GREGOIRE TO CONSIDER URBAN-FRIENDLY VIADUCT REPLACEMENT

FROM CARY MOON AND JULIE PARRETT, PEOPLE'S WATERFRONT COALITION

Regarding the future of Seattle's Highway 99 through downtown, the smarter, more credible, and more inclusive planning process we've been asking for got underway last week, hosted by the city, county and state DOT leaders. Their joint press release says it best. Note the 180-degree shift in how our elected officials describe this project:

"The agreement directs the three transportation departments - the Washington State Department of Transportation, King County and Seattle Department of Transportation - to consider the entire system of streets, transit service, and freeways from Lake Washington to Elliott Bay, and from Northeast 85th Street to South Spokane Street in evaluating solutions that keep people, goods and services moving."

And in the Governor's own words (holy cow!):

"The Alaskan Way Viaduct needs to be taken down on Seattle's central waterfront for safety's sake," Gregoire said. "The question we need to answer is how we move people and goods to keep this region thriving in the long run when we no longer have the viaduct."

An advisory committee of 30 local community and business representatives, including the People's Waterfront Coalition, has been appointed to provide input to help officials develop a final recommendation. We started last week and will meet monthly.

New goals

The prior project was focused primarily on replacing capacity for cars; now it aims for six goals that actually reflect Seattle's future vision:

- Improve public safety
- Provide efficient movement of people and goods
- Maintain or improve the economies of downtown Seattle, the port, the region, and the state
- Enhance Seattle's waterfront as a place for people
- Create solutions that are fiscally responsible
- Foster environmentally sound approaches (this one needs real teeth still).

The next steps will be to define evaluation measures that reflect these goals, and for consultants to educate the stakeholder group on all the alternative ways to provide mobility within the larger system, since the prior six-year long viaduct process was completely mute on that topic. You can see more detail on the process, goals, and stakeholder group composition at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/centralwaterfront.htm

Thanks for all you did to help turn this project around. Together we made a lot of noise and, it turns

see **Viaduct on page 9**

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P.U.-litzer Prizes, 2007

BY JEFF COHEN & NORMAN SOLOMON

Many journalists qualified for the sixteenth annual P.U.-litzer Prizes, but only a few were able to win recognition for turning in one of the truly stinkiest media performances of the year. As the judges for this un-coveted award, we have done our best to confer this honor on the most deserving.

And now, the winners of the P.U.-litzers for 2007:

SPINNING FOR ANOTHER WAR AWARD - Michael Gordon of The New York Times

Continuing where he left off before the Iraq invasion, when he used unnamed official sources to produce wildly inaccurate page-one articles on Iraq's alleged weapons threat, Gordon in February wrote a front-page story with the stunning claim that Iran's Supreme Leader had approved sending lethal explosives into Iraq to attack US soldiers. (Even President Bush soon backed away from the claim.) Readers might have had trouble assessing Gordon's charges - which were, as usual, almost entirely based on anonymous sources: "United States intelligence asserts ... Administration officials said... Some American intelligence experts believe..." After analyzing the article, blogger Jonathan Schwarz speculated that "Gordon is not an actual person, but rather a voice-activated tape recorder."

SOMETHING ABOUT A RETRO MACHO MAN AWARD - Chris Matthews, host of MSNBC's "Hardball"

With a worshipful media wind pushing actor and former senator Fred Thompson toward the presidential race in June, Matthews lauded Thompson's "sex appeal" and "star quality." The hardballer was nearly rapturous as he said: "Can you smell the English Leather on this guy, the Aqua Velva, the sort of mature man's shaving cream, or whatever, you know, after he shaved? Do you smell that sort of - a little bit of cigar smoke? You know, whatever."

Four years earlier, when George Bush flew onto an aircraft carrier to celebrate "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq, Matthews had gushed at length about the president's looks and how Americans love "a guy who has a little swagger. We like having a hero as president. We're not like the Brits."

AMERICANS DON'T WANT UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE AWARD - Jeff Greenfield of CBS, et al.

Reflecting what became mainstream media's conventional wisdom in the wake of Michael Moore's "SiCKO" documentary, CBS correspondent Greenfield explained that the US lacks a universal healthcare system not because of the powerful insurance lobby - but because "Americans are just different." He quoted an academic who said Americans, unlike Canadians and Europeans, don't want government involvement in healthcare: "It's a cultural difference."

Actually, CBS's own poll of Americans had found 64 percent supporting the view that the federal government should "guarantee health insurance for all" - with 60 percent approving of higher taxes to pay for it. A CNN poll found 64 percent American support for the idea that "government should provide a national health insurance program for all Americans, even if this would require higher taxes."

3-H CLUB PRIZE - Too Many to Name

At the same time they're imposing their own fixations on candidates, elite political reporters like to pretend that they have absolutely no idea why the candidates are struggling to overcome those fixations. A Dec. 11 Washington Post article deadpanned: "[John] Edwards has faced challenges of his own, namely 'the three H's' - his expensive haircut, his hedge fund work after the 2004 election, and his sprawling homestead."

Dozens of news reports in major outlets have deployed the "three H's" shorthand, many implying that Edwards - unlike the wealthy candidates who never mention the poor - is a hypocrite when he discusses poverty. In July, the Post's John Solomon devoted an entire investigative article to Edwards' pricey haircuts: "It is some kind of commentary on the state of American politics that as Edwards has campaigned,"

mused the reporter, "his hair seems to have attracted as much attention, as say, his position on healthcare." Gee, how did that happen?

RISKY DEMOCRATS AWARD - LA Times, Washington Post

If you believe certain political pundits and reporters, Democrats are continuously pushing "risky" proposals that are off-putting to the American public. In November, a Los Angeles Times report - headlined "Democrats Calculate Risk on Tax Hikes" - called proposed Democratic tax hikes on wealthier Americans "a major political gamble." (Unmentioned was the fact that Bill Clinton raised taxes on the rich and was re-elected, or that a Gallup poll shows 66 percent of Americans think "upper income people" don't currently pay enough taxes.) Days later, a Washington Post report was headlined "Climate is a Risky Issue for Democrats; Candidates Back Costly Proposals." (Unmentioned was the Post's own poll showing that 70 percent of Americans think the federal government "should do more" on global warming; only 7 percent said "it should do less.") Listening to press corps cautions may heighten Democratic timidity - but it hasn't won many national elections.

SPINNING HAWKS INTO DOVES AWARD - ABC, CNN, Fox, CBS and others

There'd be little news value in Iraq war boosters returning from a brief trip to Iraq and endorsing troop escalation. But by presenting two self-acknowledged Iraq war supporters - Ken Pollack and Michael O'Hanlon - as doves, national outlets created a fictitious story line and major media push this summer in support of the war.

Few media "experts" had argued more relentlessly for war in 2002 than Pollack, author of "The Case for Invading Iraq." Yet here was ABC anchor Charles Gibson this July: "A bit of a surprise today on Iraq. Two long and persistent critics of the Bush administration's handling of the war today wrote a column in The New York Times saying that after a recent eight-day visit to Iraq, they find significant changes taking place." CNN called them "two fierce critics." A Fox reporter claimed the duo had "changed their views after seeing some of the military successes first-hand." CBS spoke of how O'Hanlon "now believes [the troop surge] should be continued" - even though he'd written a national column seven months earlier: "A Skeptic's Case for the Surge."

PUTTING CLOTHES ON THE EMPEROR PRIZE - New York Times

After numerous inside accounts of the Iraq invasion and other policies had exposed Vice President

Cheney as a true believer who often put ideology ahead of data and facts, readers may have thought The New York Times was joking when it reported in February on the impact that the perjury trial of Cheney's chief of staff would have on the vice president. According to the newspaper of record: "The trial has chipped away at the public image of Mr. Cheney as a sober-minded policy architect."

IT'S TRUE BECAUSE WE SAID IT AWARD - CNN's Lou Dobbs

To prove his claim that illegal immigrants were bringing "once eradicated diseases" into our country, Dobbs featured a CNN reporter in 2005 who claimed that the US had seen only 900 cases of leprosy for 40 years - but that "there have been 7,000 in the past three years." This year, in May, Dobbs was challenged on the shocking statistic by Lesley Stahl on "60 Minutes," who cited a federal report saying there were 7,000 leprosy cases over the last 30 years. Dobbs response: "If we reported it, it's a fact."

Stahl: "How can you guarantee that to me?"

Dobbs: "Because I'm the managing editor, and that's the way we do business. We don't make up numbers, Lesley. Do we?"

You do, Lou. The Centers for Disease Control report that new leprosy cases in the US have been on the decline for close to 20 years (with 166 cases in 2005).

THE LOU DOBBS US-vs.-THEM AWARD - Bill O'Reilly of Fox News

Talking to Sen. John McCain in May, O'Reilly said: "But do you understand what The New York Times wants, and the far-left want? They want to break down the white, Christian, male power structure, which you're a part of, and so am I. And they want to bring

see P.U.-litzers on page 10

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Coast Guard from page 1

The most notable legal ruling by Mr. Kantor stated I had been given "full and fair notice" of my alleged violations, even though, at the end of my three-year case, no one with the Coast Guard could describe the specifics of the charges against me.

Mr. Kantor, the appellate judge, ruled that I had enough information concerning the alleged violation to defend myself against these amorphous charges. And although I could have hired a lawyer to help, that would have cost probably as much as the fine I was facing. Mr. Kantor also ruled against me regarding Coast Guard administrative law, where disproving any



Glen Milner, Aaron Milner, Tom Krebsbach and Rodney Brunelle again bring their message to the Navy at 2007 Seafair.

of the charges in my case would have mandated a new trial for the entire case.

In written and verbal testimony the Coast Guard repeatedly stated I had violated the naval vessel protection zone on four occasions and had twice come within 100 yards of the 844-foot warship, the USS Bonhomme Richard. In 2006, three of the four alleged security zone violations presented by the Coast Guard had been disproved.

Mr. Kantor, however, was able to avoid sending the case back to Coast Guard District Thirteen in Seattle by revising the charge in his appellate ruling. Mr. Kantor, contrary to the claims by the Coast Guard, determined I was charged with only one security zone violation. In addition, Mr. Kantor was not willing to discuss how two Coast Guard personnel had apparently made false statements, including the lead witness in the case, the Coast Guard officer in charge of the US Navy fleet arrival in Seattle on August 5, 2004.

In three pages of written testimony and over two hours of detailed oral testimony at the Coast Guard hearing in Seattle on December 13, 2005, this witness stated that on a clear, sunny afternoon, he escorted the USS Bonhomme Richard into Elliott Bay, and that as his Coast Guard cutter, the USCGC Cuttyhunk, was 200 to 300 yards away from the warship, I passed between them on two separate occasions in an 11-foot inflatable, owned by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. He stated that I had twice come within 100 yards of the USS Bonhomme Richard and described in detail how he had carefully verified this distance with his cutter's radar systems and with his seaman's eye.

Unfortunately, the Coast Guard Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service in Seattle had erased records it had on file for August 5, 2004 for the Navy vessels. The agency is required to track the larger vessels, but destroyed the records, even after the person in charge of the records had received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for them. In fact, all available evidence, vessel voice recordings, and GPS records maintained by Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service for vessels in Elliott Bay, had been destroyed by the Coast Guard. Even the cutter navigation chart for the Cuttyhunk, listed as part of my case file, was "lost." None of this apparently mattered to the Coast Guard Hearing Officer or the appellate judge.

New evidence discovered after the December 2005 hearing radically changed the case.

In the first six months of 2006, I found 198 photos on the Internet of the US Navy fleet arrival on August 5, 2004, taken by six independent photographers. In May 2006, I received separate GPS records for the USS Bonhomme Richard from the Navy through a FOIA request. The two pieces of information proved that the USCGC Cuttyhunk had not traveled into Elliott Bay with Navy vessels and that at the time of the alleged violations, the Cuttyhunk - and the lead witness - was well over a mile away from the USS Bonhomme Richard. The witness, in my opinion, seems to have fabricated the entire incident. I submitted this information to the appellate court, but to no avail.

The entire Coast Guard case was based only on seriously questionable testimony. Even without actual evidence, the Coast Guard had earlier considered criminal charges against me with a possible sentence of six years in jail and a \$250,000 fine. Coast Guard

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WHY I DON'T WATCH FOOTBALL ANYMORE

BY TOM VINCENT

First let me say at the outset I am a sports junkie. I love watching sports - any kind of sports.

Tiddlywinks contests, bass masters, even late night reruns of racquetball tournaments: if it's on TV, I'll watch it. Put me in the stands of Fenway park with a hot dog and a cold beer and I am one happy camper. Make it the final game of a pennant race and man I've died and gone to heaven. There is something about the back and forth of a good sports contest that transcends the mere physical realm. Watching two evenly matched contestants or teams at the height of their powers pushing themselves to the limit to achieve victory is like watching the physical manifestation of poetry, music and art and drama unfold in real time.

Now, imagine you go to see Shakespeare and Romeo leaves before intermission due to a concussion suffered when a three hundred pound actor from the play across the street knocks him into next week. Imagine Carrie Underwood has to cut her concert short because the Dixie Chicks gang tackled her and bruised her vocal chords. Imagine Barishnikov limping from the stage after being blind sided by a hip hop dancer with a boom-box-sized chip on his shoulder. You see where I'm going with this?

Football has too many injuries.

I know what you're thinking. "Injuries have always been a part of the game." True. However it's undeniable the game has gotten noticeably more violent and injury ridden in recent years. It's gotten so bad that radio and TV sports programs devote whole segments to the "injury report".

I know what you're thinking. "So a few players go down each week. Football teams have forty players on their rosters." Right again. However, according to CBS's web site sportsline.com, on any given week the typical NFL team reports an average of thirteen injured players. Thirteen. That's more than a football team's worth of guys missing from the line up. If one team has eight injuries and the other has twenty four

District Thirteen instead attempted to fine me \$32,500 through the Coast Guard's own administrative law program, the Coast Guard Hearing Office.

On August 7, 2004, the Coast Guard Commandant's Operational Summary listed the handling of my 11-foot inflatable raft in Elliott Bay ahead of all other Homeland Security operations for the day.

A statement on the next page caught my eye.

A column for the Commandant's Operational Summary, On This Day in Coast Guard History, mentioned an alleged rum-runner who was apprehended on August 7, 1929. The rum-runner, Horace Alderman, had reportedly killed two Coast Guardsmen and a Secret Service agent. The Coast Guard had captured him, later charged him, tried him, and hanged Mr. Alderman at the Coast Guard station at Bahia Mar, Florida.

I could not help but wonder if the Coast Guard is longing for those days of yesteryear - an all-encompassing legal program, with law enforcement, trial and execution all conducted by the Coast Guard. I also wonder whether Horace Alderman actually committed the crimes as charged by the Coast Guard. Without a fair trial, it is hard to know.

(1) Federal naval vessel protection zone regulations are intended to keep vessels 100 yards from US Navy vessels to prevent a terrorist attack, like what happened to the USS COLE in Aden, Yemen on October 12, 2000. The Coast Guard at Seafair, however, improperly enforces the law as though it were a 500-yard exclusionary zone.

Glen Milner is a Peace Fleet skipper and a member of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action (www.gzcenter.org.) He is studying his legal options

sports

guys out, (it happens, believe me), who do you think is going to win the game? If one of those injuries is to an impact player, say a star quarterback, or a kicker, or the defensive back responsible for calling plays on the field... well, you get the picture.

"Now wait a minute," you say. "There are plenty of violent sports out there. What about boxing? Or bullfighting?" My answer is simple. Those sports are ok in my book because their whole purpose is physical injury. It ain't "dancing with the stars." You're supposed to be bludgeoning the other poor schmuck's face into bloody hamburger. You get points for every punch. Likewise when you go to a bullfight, you expect to see someone's nuts handed to them. Literally.

Football is different. The purpose of the game is to score more points than the other team, not inflict injury. In a way, I'd actually feel better about football if the purpose of the game were to injure your opponents. Imagine a football tournament where you got an extra point for every opposing player you sent off on a stretcher. Heck, you could even have a system that awarded points rated by the severity of the injury. One point for a thigh bruise, two for torn ligaments, three for a concussion. Or maybe the rating system would be based on the size of the player dropped. Kickers wouldn't count for much. They're usually little shrimpy guys. But bring down a guard or tackle, it's bonus time baby!

The point I'm trying to make here is that even though injury is an unavoidable part of any contact sport, it shouldn't be so prevalent that it takes over the game. When the injuries pile up to the point where the sidelines look like MASH units, the game looks less like sport and more like a battlefield. It's simply no fun to watch. As a fan I want to see a good game. I don't want to watch a second string quarterback pass to a third string receiver and I certainly don't want the game's outcome determined by which team receives the fewest injuries. That is why this holiday season I've switched from football. This winter I'll be watching curling. No one gets hurt in that sport. Unless you count frostbite.

in this case. Background to this case can be found in two prior WA Free Press articles, available at www.wafreepress.org/76/welcomeSeafair.shtml and www.wafreepress.org/81/spyingInSeattle.shtml.

THE PEOPLE'S COMIC

BY DAVID LOGAN



Gentrification and Seattle Public Schools

BY BARBARA E. MOREY

Public sector policies to encourage revitalization in Seattle have also produced gentrification, the displacement of low-income and working class residents. While revitalization can attract new investment, it can also change conditions in a neighborhood and create a variety of social problems, including problems in our school system.

I'd like to give a few examples of how gentrification has affected schools and education in Seattle.

The New School, for whom?

One of the first typical impacts of gentrification on education is the enrichment of existing schools in a gentrifying neighborhood.

Currently, the Seattle Public School District (SPSD) is specially investing over \$65 million dollars to build a brand new facility for the New School, a corporately sponsored - though public - K-8 school on Rainier Avenue at Columbia. The "Columbia City" area of Rainier Valley has in recent years been the focus of extensive - and very successful - revitalization, as any longtime Seattleite can notice.

The new educational facility is within a few blocks of two other public school facilities that have been closed, but could have easily housed this "public-private" contracted program. The new project was rushed to the front of the line, ahead of many schools that have been waiting for as long as ten years to get needed renovations.

Why the special privilege? A previous SPSD superintendent, Joseph Olchefske, unilaterally entered into a contract with QFC's Stuart Sloan and his foundation to establish the program using public school funding with additional corporate support. The agreement grants special status, privileges and incentives not offered to other schools in the district. The contract also more than doubles the financial resources of this project compared to other public schools.

Most of the students currently in the program are from the neighborhood, and, as a result, are largely children of color. However, the New School building, contrary to stated intentions, is increasingly attended by the children of wealthier residents who are rapidly moving into this south end neighborhood.

By the time the construction is completed and the school reaches full enrollment through 8th grade, the complexion of the Rainier Beach neighborhood is anticipated by planners and developers to be much more upper middle class and affluent.

On the other hand, most of the lower income families who have lived in this district for decades are being forced to migrate to White Center, Federal Way, and Kent for economic reasons. In the long run, they will not be able to benefit from the New School and all of its additional resources.

The SPSD is not concerned about this. It's concerned about funding. The flow of middle-class Seattle students to private schools has resulted in a loss of state education monies. The highly attractive addition of the New School in an area that was known for poor quality schools becomes a focal point for the new residents and their families.

An inconvenient location

The Green Lake neighborhood in NE Seattle is another hotbed of "renovation." In this neighborhood, the cost of gentrification is being paid by the elderly, low income families, and the students at John Marshall Alternative School.

Long time residents in this largely working-class community are concerned about being able to keep their homes. A typical house that was bought in the early 1980s for around seventy thousand dollars, now has an assessed value of over \$650,000. For those on a fixed income or lower family earnings, the taxes alone are becoming prohibitive.

Small single family homes are being bought and replaced with McMansions by new dotcom residents, further inflating property values. Whole blocks are being torn down and flashy new condos in muted color schemes are being constructed above boutique businesses with carefully landscaped entrances.

The public supports expenses for these new developments. Roads, sidewalks, plantings, walking paths and lighting are all added to the tax assessments on existing smaller homes, creating even more financial hardship.

Now let us turn our focus to John Marshall Alternative High School, on Ravenna Boulevard. This school facility is scheduled to be closed at the end of this school year and its programs dispersed, contracted to private agencies at taxpayer expense, or eliminated.

Marshall is an alternative school and the only school in the SPSD that provides services to seriously behaviorally-challenged and mentally ill teens. It is the school of last resort for youth who have been expelled or suspended from other schools in the district. Marshall houses an alternative school and night school that help students transition back into the mainstream.

Marshall had the only teen-parent educational program in the district. That unique and valuable program, GRADS, was arbitrarily shut down this fall. There is no other school in the district that provides academics, day-care and parenting education for these young women and their children.

The Marshall programs, which serve the most disenfranchised of our students, have been systematically undermined and impaired by the administration, the press, and a lack of academic support services.

In an effort to save their school, Marshall's staff, students, and consultants created a proposal for a world-class academy serving African American and Latino students. The administration and school board wouldn't even give them a hearing.

The school's fate appears to be set in concrete; but the public still hasn't been given a credible reason for closure, the cost/benefit analysis, or the transition plan for the students, programs, or facility.

The majority of Marshall's students are Black, Native American, or Latino. They come from all over the city, so there are few voices in the Green Lake neighborhood to cry out on their behalf. Public schools with greater influence would not be facing the same dislocation and disrespect as the Marshall community, which is light in voice and dark in complexion.

This illustrates another typical effect of gentrification: the replacing of low income and darker faces by higher income and whiter populations.

The presence of Marshall's students stands in opposition to the interests of real estate investors. Or perhaps it is simply the valuable property on which this school stands that is the real incentive for the SPSD's closing of the specialized programs housed here. This land is a treasure that could be mined to relieve some of the district's financial instability.

Remember, just a few short years ago, SPSD had over 34 million dollars missing in its accounts? They've been treading water ever since. Sale of this property could stuff that hole pretty nicely. Never mind that we are talking about an irretrievable resource of the Commonwealth.

And who can complain? Not these disenfranchised students or their families. They have no voice or power.

Either way, gentrification takes its toll and public school facilities, programs, and students are the price. Follow the money and see who really benefits.

The educational impact

Gentrification affects not just the location and dislocation of schools, but the learning environment. It creates a new form of persistently separate and unequal education within the district.

Renovated buildings, music and arts programs, sports activities, debate and forensics, honors courses and many other perks are provided for students in the more affluent areas. The schools in poorer neighborhoods languish, waiting many years for roof repairs, clean water, and building expansion to eliminate the "portables" that house their students.

Funding, facilities, extra-curricular activities and other socioeconomic differences, however, do not tell the full story. The most severe impact can be found in the very core of instruction. Gentrification magnifies the disparity in the quality of education that students may access in their neighborhood schools.

Affluent students who move into "revitalized" neighborhoods receive a well-rounded liberal arts education with all the trimmings. In the poorer and more color-filled schools, the major focus is on passing the WASL standardized state tests. Rather than being centers of education, they become test-factories.

Teachers in predominantly Black and Latino schools face daily pressure to gear instruction towards the standardized test outcomes. WASL scores determine which schools complete Adequate Yearly Progress and which are shamed as "failures" and sanctioned, often with severe budgetary consequences or even closure.

Asa Hillard III, an internationally respected professor of urban education, states that it is important to note that standardized-test-targeted instruction is "offered mainly in low-income minority cultural group schools. Affluent public or private schools rarely, if ever, use the scripted non-intellectual programs. This is the new segregation."

The "high-stakes" test-score-driven requirements that result from the No Child Left Behind legislation make classroom experience dull and unimaginative, consisting

education

primarily of rote learning and drill. This results in an authoritarian, mind-narrowing search for the "right answer" instead of the challenging, thoughtful and analytical skills that are necessary to create citizens for a thriving democracy.

In at least one local high school, it is mandatory for 11th grade students who didn't pass the WASL to take a test preparation class that meets at the same time as a required math course. These students are being deprived of essential coursework in the name of a test that is not educationally sound, reliable, or valid.

Addressing gentrification

The long range plans and public policies adopted by the state, the City of Seattle, and the SPSD must ensure that resources, housing, transportation, jobs, and high quality education in neighborhood schools are available and accessible for all residents, regardless of income or race.

This requires authentic community involvement in planning and development. The people who live in each neighborhood facing "urban renewal" are the best experts on what will make their bit of society work for them. The local neighborhood council should be the driver for neighborhood development and have both the responsibility and the authority to create development plans.

A survey of local residents indicating their needs for services and suggestions for improved cooperation in the planning effort would be an important tool for making better development plans.

Collaboration among a coalition of social service agencies and organizations, with shared resources and expertise, is essential. For example, public school facilities could house senior centers, conference rooms, DSHS offices, libraries, computer classes and access, probation and parole, day care, family clinics, and union training and technical programs, either as co-tenants when there is low enrollment, or at an affordable cost when the program addresses identified community needs and the facility is not required for educational purposes.

Perhaps most important, the role of institutionalized racism must be confronted. Even without overt discrimination, gentrified communities become segregated societies. Many clerks, waitpersons, and service providers cannot afford to live in the residences that they pass on their way to work every day. When construction projects are put out for bid, small local and/or minority contractors are overlooked in favor of larger, more influential companies.

Codes and common practices for new construction, as well as the sheer cost of real estate, limit the single family housing market to those who already are affluent. The way we rebuild our neighborhoods must change if we do not want to displace current residents, and force our neighborhood kids into other school districts.

Gentrification does not have to be a side-effect of "revitalization", especially in our public schools. But it takes a concerted effort of the whole village to provide equitable access to quality educational programs for every child in each neighborhood in Seattle.

Barbara Morey is a Seattle Public School parent of biological and foster kids, and an active member of CEASE, Citizens for the Effective Administration of Seattle Education; a real (not big-business or government supported) grassroots organization for public education activists. See <ceasecoalition.googlepages.com> for more information.

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Real Police from page 1

lights located around downtown called the “recall light system.” It was ancillary to the call boxes and was used to contact men on foot patrol, because they had no portable radios.

There were no computers, no copy machines, no fax machines, no cell phones, no 911 system, no SWAT team, no police dogs, almost no portable radios, and very little equipment of any sort....

I am constantly amazed at the magnitude of recent change in all of our lives, yet when I retired from active law enforcement in 1988, young officers were still making the same mistakes that new officers had made a hundred years earlier. That is because they failed to learn from those who came before them. Institutional memory and the teaching of the craft of policing is the responsibility of police departments, but they have mostly failed in this regard. Perhaps I can tell interested readers and new officers some of what I have learned, so that it doesn't have to be continually rediscovered the hard way at the expense of the public.

In those days, everything and anything was handled by the first couple of cops who got the call. The old-timers were tough, calm, capable men. Most of them had a dignity and a self-assurance that made a vivid impression on me. They had lived through the Depression and the war and then twenty years or more of street policing. Whatever happened, they handled it, although not always elegantly. Cops of my generation learned a lot from them. We learned to be decisive rather than hesitant, to take only purposeful action, to listen more than we talked, and to say less rather than more when we did talk....

from chapter 5, Police Radio

The radio system in Seattle during my first few years on the department was a VHF system and had only three frequencies. One was used for all of downtown, one for both the north and south ends of the city, and the third was for traffic units, detectives, administrative units, special events, and everything else. All of the radios that us grunts ever saw were old, tube-type radios which took sixty seconds to warm up once the car was started. We had no portable radios. So, in an emergency, you had to get back to the car, start the engine and count to sixty before you could radio for assistance.

One night, working with a partner downtown, we responded to a “fight/disturbance” call on the fifth floor of an old apartment house in Belltown. This was a very common type of call. We arrived shortly, walked up five flights of stairs, and found a man lying on his back in the hallway with a fire ax buried in his chest and a small riot going on in the background. It was my turn to run down five flights of stairs, unlock the car, get in, start the engine, count to sixty, wait for air time, radio for assistance, turn the engine off, lock the car, and run back up five flights of stairs to see how my partner was getting along.

from chapter 4, The Night

Night is the time for turning points and low points. Crisis comes most often at night - fires, heart attacks and strokes, deaths, violence, psychotic episodes, drug overdoses - all of it. All the worst, but some of the best, like artistic epiphanies and philosophical triumphs. Unfortunately, nobody calls the police to tell them about success. The police don't see a representative cross-section of anything. They see the extremes, mostly the worst end of the extremes. Working the street at night you see vulnerable people at their low points, when fear and depression are most profound and they contemplate death and suicide.

from chapter 8, Violence

Some violent people are purely evil in the literary sense. A partner and I once responded to a disturbance call at a public housing project in the city's south end. Approaching the apartment building we encountered a man with a gun running away. We narrowly managed to take him into custody without shooting him. We could see in his eyes that he wanted to shoot us both. I guess he sized us up as the real police and knew that we wouldn't hesitate to kill him, so he dropped the gun just barely in time to prevent his own death. Lacking a backup unit, we handcuffed him and took him with us to the apartment where we had been headed.

The apartment was occupied by our suspect's elderly parents, both of whom were frail and in declining health. Our guy had been staying with them following his recent release from prison for his latest felony. Just before three in the morning, he got hungry and woke his mother, ordering her to fix him something to eat. When she said she didn't feel well enough to get up and cook, he shot her in the face with the gun we had just taken from him outside. I could write an entire book about incidents like this, and worse. But it would only bludgeon the point, and I will let this stand alone as a mild example.

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from chapter 3, Patrolling

I have met people who think that patrolling consists of driving in circles waiting for a radio call. In fact, I am sorry to say that I have met cops who think that. There is more to it than is readily apparent, and the real professionals make it look easy. They take an intense personal interest in their district. They lever their numbers by appearing in unlikely places and by seeming to be a constant presence. They drive very slowly and look at everything. They greet citizens, stop frequently, talk to all kinds of people, and make themselves accessible and approachable. This type of activity has the serendipitous quality of seeming benign to law-abiding citizens while, at the same time, it looks like prowling and stalking to the bad guys. What most people view as a reassuring presence, the bad guys view as unrelenting pressure....

Very little of this material is addressed at the police academy. These skills are learned in the field from the real police. The officers teaching at the academy are there because they don't want to work the street... hardly the right role models for new officers, and flatly insulting to real police officers compelled to return for “refresher” courses.... The best teachers are the best cops and they are on the street....

I was once assigned to a predominantly residential district with a high burglary rate in the city's south end. Districts like this can sprawl for miles and have thousands of households; they are frequently policed by one-man cars which seldom have time to patrol. I quickly got tired of following the burglars around writing reports, and I got on top of the situation by spending almost every minute of three consecutive nights patrolling rather than answering radio call. Officers in other districts had to carry my workload of calls, but they understood what I was doing, and it was only a short-term project.

I drove very slowly up one street and down the next - in police patrol, slowly means not faster than about five miles per hour. I drove up and down each alley, often doubling back immediately. I drove behind things. I parked on dead-end streets and just sat for a while. I backed down streets, made U-turns, drove around the same block two or three times; sometimes I just sat there with the lights off. The burglaries nearly stopped altogether. Why? Because the police were demonstrating a proprietary interest in the territory rather than just driving between radio calls.

The lesson here is that purposeful, directed patrol is a vital part of police work. In most districts, almost all of the calls for service come from maybe two percent of the addresses. It is common to get calls from the same places every night for family fights, drunkenness, troubled children and so forth. While all citizens are part of the constituency of the police, the practical effect is that productive, law-abiding citizens don't get to have their neighborhoods patrolled because the police are busy sitting dysfunctional people and drunks. A balance is required.

All of the textbooks and sociological treatises I have read about police patrol are too nuanced and sophisticated. There are just three styles of patrol work.

The preferred ideal is The Village Constable, an officer who works a manageable chunk of territory and knows everything and everybody. There are few mysteries for the village constable, but he can be hard for bureaucracy to supervise because a lot of his work is not quantifiable.

Then there is the Knee-Jerk Response Team, who don't exert themselves too much except to respond to requests for service.

Finally, there is The Army of Occupation, who circle like buzzards watching for lawbreakers. They burn out quickly and don't know much about the community.

In practice, most cops split the difference between the village constable and the knee-jerk model, and this compromise could be a lot worse. During busy periods, of course, everyone just runs from call to call. It's the discretionary activity during more leisurely periods that allows style to emerge.

Beyond a certain point, the trend to specialization is corrosive to the overall effectiveness of a police department. Specialty units often reflect political agendas as well as empire building within the organization. The slightest degree of specialization provides an excuse to be administratively separated from patrol, which has low status both within the department and in the perception of the public.

When I was a new cop on the street, the first couple of officers on the scene handled everything and anything, because there were no other resources. There were no police dogs, no SWAT team, no hostage negotiators, and not much additional equipment. Most of the men from whom I learned the job wanted to be street cops; they took a quiet pride in being able to handle anything. By the time I retired, a lot of the new officers viewed their time in patrol as an indignity to be endured before they moved on to supervisory positions or specialty units....

In police work, almost all of the important decisions are made by first-responders. The first officer to reach the scene is the one who talks to the jumpers, abused children, rape victim, and all the others who are frightened and hurt and vulnerable. With rape victims and abused children, the first words spoken by the first officer they see can have a profound effect on the rest of their lives. There are nights when the first officer at the scene literally decides who lives and who dies. The Chief of Police decides what color to paint the patrol cars. This is a critically important problem in policing. Police departments are completely upside-down with respect to their most vital work....

[One] pair of young officers worked on the Skid Road squad for a while. They were disgusted with the lax ways and tolerance of us older guys. They believed in vigorous law enforcement and they wrote many, many citations to street drunks for drinking in public. The computer interpreted this as a crime wave on Skid Road. After they transferred out, things quieted down. The lieutenant remarked to me that the monthly activity reports showed a drop in crime on Skid Road and I graciously acknowledged that our squad had regained control of the sector and restored order.

from chapter 7, The Gun

[I]t is true that police work sometimes attracts authoritarian clods that are not weeded out of the system. We used to say that such people had “a badge the size of a dinner plate,” but they usually calm down after having their faces rubbed in a little reality. No one wants to work with them and they don't get invited along on tactical problems like raids or high-risk apprehensions. Even in the worst of them I have not seen anything suggestive of an inappropriate demeanor attributable to the gun. Anyway, they desperately want to be supervisors and do not seek the association of the real police.

from chapter 10, The Wah Mee Massacre

[Ziskin was one of the four first responders to the infamous massacre in Seattle's Chinatown in 1983, the largest mass-murder in Seattle history. On the night of the crime, the Chief of Police showed up on the scene.]

The Chief of Police walked past me, looking grim. He didn't even look at me. He didn't think much of policemen. He liked supervisors and people in staff positions. I had actually been in the room once when he told a group of cops that working the street for more than three years wasn't good for your career. Guys like me were losers to him. We were lifers - career street cops, staying in entry-level, dead-end jobs, and not seeking promotion. To this day no detective has ever spoken to me about the Wah

continued next page

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from previous page

Mee and I played no part in the investigation. When I retired from the department, the Chief's secretary asked if I wanted to speak with him. "No thanks," I told her. "Funny," she said, "Nobody wants to talk to him." Of course she meant that nobody who retired from working the street wanted to talk to him.

from chapter 12, A Model for Reform

The simple fact is that almost all of the important decisions made by police are made by people at the very bottom of the bureaucratic hierarchy, and this is obvious to anyone who knows anything about policing. But police departments try to adhere to the military system of rank structure and to the relative levels of status and prestige which attend the various ranks. If an officer wants to make more money and enjoy more status, both in the department and in the community, he or she must stop doing police work and start doing more administrative work....

To be honest, there is a very basic problem in attracting and retaining the best people to police work. Although policing has inherent nobility, it is hardly at the leading edge of human endeavor. Police will not find a cure for cancer and will not explore outer space, at least not while doing police work. If the city isn't much worse off at the end of the shift than it was at the beginning, the police have done fairly well - a goal which lacks a certain idealistic appeal. I was drawn to police work when I was young because I thought it was fun. There are worse reasons for taking a job I suppose, but I hope that those who came after me had loftier goals than I did.

The most basic issues in policing are to attract people who would make good officers, to give them sufficient reason to stay, and encourage them to do police work rather than administrative work. To accomplish this, we must discard the military pattern of organization, because it is wholly unsuited to the task of policing. It is magnificently well suited to the military, but the police are not the military, at least not in free societies. There has been a traditional view of police departments as "semi-military organizations," a favorite refrain of police administrators, but they are profoundly confused....

When promotion and supervision are handled in the traditional way, it is corrosive to the integrity of the department. Officers end up working for people who cannot do what they do, or who have less experience than they do, and, sometimes, for people who don't even know what they do....

The anger and depression [that comes from police work] is partly the result of being the target of deliberate human aggression, and [my own] partly due to [my] almost twenty years of exposure to violent death and depravity. But most of it, I decided, was the result of frustration with the police department. All of the street cops with my length of service said the same thing in virtually the same words - "I love the job, but I can't stand the department."

Even within the police department, almost all of my supervisors had been fair and even-handed, generous with their time, and pleasant to work for. The problem is that the department bureaucracy, clinging mindlessly to the military pattern, is antithetical to the job of policing. Seattle is only the example here. The situation is nearly universal among police departments large enough to have an administrative establishment.

But it doesn't have to be that way. With a change of attitude, the establishment would be re-ordered in a fresh way that would encourage and sustain a striving for excellence. The street will remain dangerous, and society will still have its problems, but a new approach which builds on the best traditions and ethics of the police service would be a force-multiplier and a magnet for fresh talent.

A core value of reform should be an acknowledgment of where we came from and how we got to this point. Continuity of institutional memory might prevent new officers from making the same mistakes that were made a hundred years earlier. Maybe the real police would be able to turn policing into a profession.

David Ziskin's book *The Real Police* is available at any bookstore or the Public Library. Also check out the

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ART PROF DETAINED FOR TAKING PHOTOS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

FROM THE ACLU OF WA

A University of Washington professor who was detained by city of Snohomish police for taking photographs of power lines as part of an art project has filed a lawsuit seeking compensation for her wrongful detention.

"Taking photographs of objects or people in plain view is not a crime. Police should not presume that it is a suspicious act, and should not overreact by detaining people for taking pictures," said ACLU-WA Legal Director Sarah Dunne.

Shirley Scheier, a 54-year-old artist and Associate Professor of Fine Art at the University of Washington, often uses photos of public land and public structures in her artistic prints. Her artwork featuring Washington's landscape recently was featured in a show at the University's Jacob Lawrence Gallery.

In October 2005, Scheier drove to Snohomish and stopped to take pictures of the power towers at a substation near downtown, from outside the facility's gate. She was on public property, and there were no signs indicating that photography was not allowed.

As she drove home on State Highway 9, Snohomish police pulled her over. More officers arrived soon, began to question her about her pictures and demanded to see them. Scheier explained that she is a university faculty member interested in power lines as part of our ecosystem.

"Power lines are an integral aspect of the Pacific Northwest landscape. The actual physical structures are sculpturally quite beautiful. They have a majestic figurative stance on the landscape," she said.

Police frisked and handcuffed Scheier, and placed her in the back of a police car for almost half an hour. The incident was upsetting to Scheier, particularly because the handcuffs were painful and she suffers from a blood clotting disorder.

She was eventually released, after officers photographed maps that Scheier used to find the power station. The officers also told her she would be contacted by the FBI about the incident.

ACLU cooperating attorney Venkat Balabrasumani and ACLU staff attorney are representing Scheier.

Scheier's experience highlights a pattern of law enforcement officers harassing people engaged in taking pictures in public. The ACLU recently obtained compensation from the city of Seattle for Bogdan Mohora, who was wrongfully arrested for taking photographs of police making an arrest in downtown Seattle.

Other photographers also have complained to the ACLU about being harassed by law enforcement since 9/11, as a result of misplaced fears of terrorism. In 2004, the ACLU assisted photography student Ian Spiers, who was questioned by law enforcement for taking pictures at the Ballard Locks, a popular tourist destination. In 2005, the ACLU assisted a photographer when King County Sheriff's deputies seized the memory card in his camera for taking pictures of artwork in the Seattle bus tunnel.

The USA's Human Rights Daze

Media Beat

BY NORMAN SOLOMON

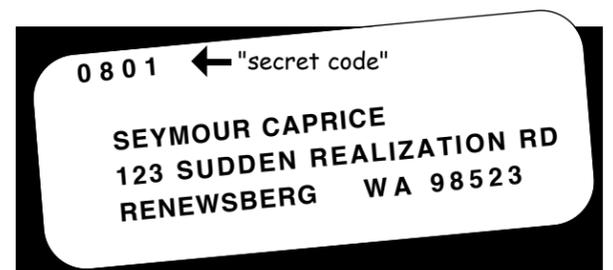
The chances are slim that you saw much news coverage of Human Rights Day when it blew past the media radar - as usual - on December 10. Human rights may be touted as a treasured principle in the United States, but the assessed value in media-land is apt to fluctuate widely on the basis of double standards and narrow definitions.

Every political system, no matter how repressive or democratic, is able to amp up public outrage over real or imagined violations of human rights. News media can easily fixate on stories of faraway injustice and cruelty. But the lofty stances end up as posturing to the extent that a single standard is not applied.

When US-allied governments torture political pris-

civil rights

Seymour, I think it's time to renew!



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oners, the likelihood of US media scrutiny is much lower than the probability of media righteousness against governments reviled by official Washington.

But what are "human rights" anyway? In the USA, we mostly think of them as freedom to speak, assemble, worship and express opinions. Of course those are crucial rights. Yet they hardly span the broad scope that's spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

That document - adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 10, 1948 - affirms "human rights" in the ways that US media outlets commonly illuminate the meaning of the term. But the Declaration of Human Rights also defines the rights of all human beings to include "freedom from fear and want" - and not only as generalities.

For instance, the first clause of Article 23 states: "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment."

And: "Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work"; the right "to form and to join trade unions"; and, overall, "an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection."

Perhaps the farthest afield from the customary US media parameters is Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which insists: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in see **Human Rights on page 13**

War or Peace

What would be the effects of US non-intervention? Hypothetical history can suggest some answers

BY DOUG COLLINS

Before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, public sentiment in the US was overwhelmingly against entering World War II. Although President Franklin Roosevelt was in favor of coming to the assistance of Britain against Germany, the anti-war movement had an extremely large following which included not only pacifists but also many socialists and conservatives intent on building up the nation defensively, not offensively.

The political tide shifted only after a bold Japanese attack on US territory. Since Japan was an ally of Germany, Roosevelt got his way, and this country entered the war. Although it is not included in typical school history textbooks, a number of historians have speculated that Roosevelt purposely goaded the Japanese into such an attack, chiefly by enforcing a crippling oil embargo against Japan prior to the attack. One notable source on the topic is Robert Stinnett's book *Day of Deceit* (see further info at <www.wafreepress.org/56/LocalVet.htm>).

Regardless of Roosevelt's inner motivations, if the US had not undertaken an embargo against Japan - if Roosevelt had not been in power or had favored a different stance - then the Pearl Harbor attack might have been avoided. After all, it's unlikely that Japanese or German leaders relished the idea of having to fight the US along with the other Allies.

What, then, would have become of the world if the US had not then gone to battle? Would the US now be better off or worse off if it had stuck to a path of non-intervention, something like Switzerland? Would the US still even exist? Would the world be a safer or more dangerous place, and for whom?

Some of these questions are both complicated and touchy to answer, and to my knowledge, not much is written about them except a few interesting but highly dramatized "speculative fiction" novels, such as *The*

was that much of what they told me was extremely surprising.

I had always assumed in the past that the US involvement in a Normandy invasion was indispensable in the Allies' victory, and that if we had failed to win the war, we would have run a serious risk of takeover by the Germans and Japanese. Apparently, these are just a couple of the popular but unlikely notions that I've been channeling from too many Ken Burns documentaries.

Here are a few historical kernels of wisdom that I've gleaned from the gamers.

1. Most of the gamers agree that even without the US, a total Axis win would have been a pretty slim possibility. Perhaps the most likely scenario would have been a stalemate and truce between the warring countries. Borders and alliances would be different from what we're accustomed to. For example, Germany would have made sure to maintain influence over France, notes Greene. The Japanese would probably have exacted British and Dutch colonies in East Asia, even perhaps India. Such a truce might have lasted years or decades, but there would be a danger of a rekindling of hostilities, because neither side would have won the conflict decisively.

2. Oleson adds that a total victory for the Soviet Union over Germany would have been likely even if the US had just stuck to helping defend Britain and pushing up through Italy. Even without the D-Day Normandy invasion, Germany would have fallen, resulting in the occupation of most of continental Europe by what gamers sometimes call "the Sovs." It's well known among war historians that Hitler underestimated Stalin's troop strength before he initiated hostilities, and that the war was mostly decided on the Eastern Front. On the other hand, once the US was involved in the war, Oleson says, "The idea that we would just wait and see would have had no takers."

3. Besinque points out that the US had 42% of the world's industrial production just prior to the war. This means that even if Germany and Japan had succeeded in gaining influence over a vastly greater area, their combined productive capacity would still only rival that of the US. Not to mention that much rebuilding would have been necessary in all of the war-damaged countries. In other words, the US would probably have been in a very strong position even if it had never joined the war. On the other hand, the best long-term access to oil would have likely shifted to the Germans, who would likely exert control over the Middle East in such a scenario.

But what about after the truce is drawn? What happens next in the alternative history, and what would today, 2008, be like? Unfortunately, war-gamers don't have many answers for long-range questions.

Peace, it seems, is much more complicated than war, and not as adaptable to gaming. Guerrilla warfare and counter-insurgency are also quite messy, hence the scarcity of Iraq or Vietnam war games.

Greene notes that the fairly popular game *Civilization*, which has both board and computer versions, includes the wise strategy of building up science during peacetime, "so if someone attacks you with bows and arrows you shoot back with missiles." But that game does not attempt to create realistic conditions for an alternative modern history.

Raicer, however, was willing to make a couple long-term post-war speculations: "If the US stays out, we end up eventually with either a Nazi Europe or a Stalinist Europe. Either would set the groundwork for a much more dangerous Cold War, and probably a World War III (with nukes) in the 50s or 60s."

I can definitely see how a different sort of Cold War would be likely, but would an imperialist Germany be any more likely to get involved in a Hot War nuke-fest than we were? Perhaps, but that's debatable.

The real problem of "predicting" long-range alternative history is knowing what sort of political changes might occur within each nation. For example, in my humble and quite conjectural opinion, I think it's unlikely that Hitler would have maintained power for very long after a truce. I don't think he was built for peace time. Almost certainly, the Nazi regime would not have continued into the indefinite future,

and at the least would have softened, just as Stalinism gave way to the vastly more tolerant Krushchev and finally the liberalism of Yeltsin. In fact, I'd guess the Nazi regime might have yielded much more quickly, because Germans, unlike Russians, had already had a taste of modern multi-party democracy prior to Hitler's autocracy.

As for Japan's alternative history, controlling Southeast Asia, India, and China would likely have proven a logistical nightmare. Even near the end of the real World War II, Japan was already facing independence fights in both the Philippines and Indonesia, not to mention two anti-Japanese armies in China. Many former colonies were ripe for nationhood at the time, and Japan would have had a devil of a time controlling them. Remember that Britain and the Netherlands lost most of their Asian acreage soon after the war, anyway. Japan's real lesson from a victory in Asia would have been "Watch out, you might get what you asked for."

If the Soviet Union had occupied most of Europe, it would also face problems of overextension. My guess is that if Western Europe had been assumed into the Soviet Bloc, something like the Velvet Revolution would have happened there far earlier than 1989.

Now to the US, the country I'm most concerned about. If we had not taken part in the war, we would probably not fit the self-appointed role as the "world's policeman" like we have in the past few decades. Instead, I'd wager that we probably would have continued building our industry and defenses, making sure we were strong enough to defend our soil. Instead of seeking leverage in international trade via international military might, we might have sought profit in a more neighborly manner.

Although the US was an oil exporter in the 1940s, that would not have lasted long. Oil would have been more expensive here already for decades, which would have put some downward pressure on development. But look at real-world Japan and Germany. High fuel prices in both those countries have never significantly hampered their development. The benefits of an economy which is unhampered by excessive military spending can far outweighed the lack of access to cheaply sourced raw materials.

In fact, overdependence on cheap raw materials can cause a long-term disadvantage in innovation. In the real world, Japan and Germany have been the leaders in solar development. In the alternative history, the US would now be.

In terms of internal politics, perhaps the US would have been even more a liberal haven for the refugees of the war: for Asians and Europeans escaping autocratic repression, as well as for Jews, who would probably be unable to create an Israel in Palestine due to German influence there. It's possible that a larger influx of immigrants would have resulted in a temporary anti-immigrant backlash. That would be nothing new in American history, but the key word is "temporary."

In my utilitarian analysis, I would make a not-so-wild guess that the US would be a nicer place now had we not entered World War II. As for the world overall, that's less clear. Certainly many further tough years would have been experienced by Western Europeans, the Jews of Western Europe (regardless of Soviet or Nazi regime), Chinese, and others.

Putting a stop to the savagery and autocracy of the Nazis and the Japanese imperialists was and still is the major part of the popular ethos for going to war against them in the 1940s. It's an ethos that is comforting to believe in and hard to resist, but I must admit I have my doubts about its practicality.

It reminds me of the ethos for the US Civil War: to end the oppression of slavery. In fact, the use of slavery was already disappearing throughout the Americas prior to the Civil War, and especially given the imminent spread of farm machinery, it is likely that slavery would have disappeared within a couple decades in the American South, with no war at all. A great recent source on this is Thomas J. DiLorenzo's book *The Real Lincoln*, but this "unnecessary war" school of Civil War history was also prevalent among early 20th Century historians.

Was "ending slavery a bit earlier" a good reason to

continued next page



Craig Besinque (left) and Tom Oleson (right) locked in bruiseless, bloodless battle. The game is Eurofront, a World War II simulation.

Man in the High Tower, which describes an America divided between German and Japanese occupations.

But it occurred to me a couple months ago that there is, in fact, a whole set of special people who might have some realistic insight into alternative history: the war-gaming community. And World War II has long been one of their favorite games to play. Such World War II games can last for hours, days, or weeks, and all aim to imitate history, some in a very detailed manner. The outcomes of these games can vary considerably, depending on both the strategic decisions of the players as well as blind luck.

Because I'm acquainted with one such war gamer, Tom Oleson of Gig Harbor, WA - who has spent 55 years playing war games - I asked him to introduce me to some other gamers who might be interested in considering my "what if" questions. Oleson consulted a few gaming gurus, and out popped Jack Greene from the genie's lamp of email. Greene is a war historian and designer of ten war games. He's the author most notably of the book *The Midway Campaign* and co-author of *Rommel's North Africa Campaign*, and is currently working on a book on the Nazi invasion of Norway. Ted Raicer and Craig Besinque, two more avid gamers, also contributed to the discussion.

These gamers provided me with lots of fact-based fuel for speculation about a World War without the Yanks. Just what I was looking for! The added benefit

from previous page

send close to a million soldiers to violent death, spread poverty and pestilence to millions more people on both sides of the conflict, and condemn an entire country to generations of internal antagonism? Possibly not.

In fact every war-making leader creates a justifying ethos. It's required! Look no farther than the recent notion of bringing democracy to Iraq. True, Saddam was deposed and dispatched, but to claim that this war has benefited anyone - besides Halliburton and other military contractors - is beyond delusional. To make matters worse, we are no longer the defender. We are the aggressor.

Just as in Iraq, the intended ethos of any war can often backfire. In the American South, post-Civil War violence against African Americans burgeoned, and the murderous KKK was a direct outgrowth of the military defeat of the South. (An excellent short history of this, "A Hundred Years of Terror," was written by the Southern Poverty Law Center and appears at <www.iupui.edu/~aao/kkk.html>.)

In the former Yugoslavia, genocidal ethnic violence hugely increased during the intervention of President Bill Clinton and NATO forces in their civil war, not because NATO wished that, but because it is the nature of such conflicts.

The fiercer and more desperate the battlefield, the fiercer and more desperate the hysteria and repression is at home. It happens the same during every war in every warring state. We should understand that well: the internment of Japanese Americans proves that we are no angels, even though we Americans haven't behaved as repressively as some other countries.

Although genocidal actions were taken by the Nazis and collaborators along the Eastern Front prior to US entry in the war, it is perhaps no accident that Himmler's brainchild, the Final Solution, did not gain traction in Germany until the Wannsee Conference on January 20, 1942, roughly a month after US entry into the war. The first evacuations of ghetto residents to the death camps occurred about a half year later. Prior to that, industrial chief Goering and some leadership in the German army resisted genocidal efforts.

It is, of course, senseless to say that the escalation of the war was the direct cause of the escalation of the Holocaust. Certainly, the entry of the US into the war must have heightened the tension and urgency among Nazi leaders, and so it could have contributed.

One peculiar effect of war is that it makes travel difficult. When borders are sealed by conflict, seeking refuge is very difficult for all but the most wealthy. If you're a persecuted person, you're basically stuck where you'd rather not be.

This makes me wonder: if the US government was concerned about the welfare of the persecuted in Germany, then which would have been the best course of action: direct conflict with Germany on every possible front, or simply a quiet opening of our doors to all who were able to relocate?

Greene points out that an early truce would have been likely without US entry into the war. If that is the case, then I think there would have been two possible effects. On the one hand, this might have given European Jews, Roma, political dissidents, and gays a better chance at relocating and surviving. On the other hand, without the bother of war, Nazis may have focused their energy toward yet more internal persecution. By comparing with conflicts in other countries, I'd say the first possibility is more likely.

There's actually some pretty specific evidence for this. In 1940, the Nazi design for European Jews and other non-Caucasians was known as the Madagascar

Plan, and called for forced relocation to the former French island colony of Madagascar, recently acquired through Germany's control of France. At this point in the war, Hitler thought Britain would soon settle for peace, and that the British navy could be used for such a relocation. When such a truce did not materialize, this plan disintegrated. (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madagascar_Plan for a basic history of this.)

It's true that such a truce and relocation would have been temporarily humiliating for Britain, the relocated Jews, and many others. It would have probably been tragic for the native population of Madagascar. But it could have been far less destructive than what occurred in real history. The fact is, when the US helped liberate the death camps in 1945, most of the possible atrocities had already been committed. In hindsight, we might not have helped minimize the Holocaust, despite all our efforts.

Unfortunately I'm getting entangled by too many hypotheticals.

I'm simply extrapolating from books and historical sources, and I have no direct experience of World War II. That means my judgements here have been too glib, and I should acknowledge that our fellow Americans who fought in The Good War did so out of altruistic concern. But if there is one thing I've realized, it's that military intervention can be successful in a tactical sense, but can often fail to achieve the ethos behind it, even in what people consider a Good War.

In real history, when the US and allies finally and decisively beat the Germans and Japanese, the peace was obviously a great relief to the affected populations everywhere. American reconstruction efforts in both Western Europe and Asia were on the whole very admirable, much more so than those of the Soviets.

I think one result of our success in both military action and nation-rebuilding in the 1940s was that we in the US became too proud. We've repeatedly tried to re-live this euphoric history in probably every military intervention since, completely abusing the ethos of "bringing liberty" and "fighting autocracy" until it has become an international caricature. We've become chronic interventionists with illusions of moral superiority.

Our repeated dependence on worldwide military dominance has also cost us a fair amount of our civil liberties; in the process, we've lost some of the best aspects of being American.

The founders of the United States probably would be aghast at our modern international military role. In the past half-century, the likes of Washington and Jefferson would be branded pejoratively as "isolationist." The neutral and more fairly descriptive term would be "non-interventionist." After all, no one would call multicultural Switzerland isolationist.

Although the Chinese government has felt its share of xenophobia, and could fairly be called isolationist through at least the 1970s, since then it has opened up tremendously while still maintaining a non-interventionist foreign policy. The results: increasingly positive international relations and rapid material development unhampered by excessive military spending. If we were able to learn something from China, we should. The fear I have, though, is that China might also suffer a similar pride in the decades to come.

To bring a close to this tiresome tirade of mine, I'd like to look at myself a bit, and expose my personal conclusions from working on this article.

At first, I thought I might be a pacifist because in most cases, pacifism seems quite practical to me. Put simply, when countries are intent on not getting militarily involved in others' disputes, they rarely do. And behaving in this manner can probably avoid a lot of misery within and without, especially as long as the world has no international governing body that has clout enough to effectively arbitrate. On the other hand, I think a strong, careful, and smart defense is necessary to maintain such a non-interventionist stance. I suppose somewhere between strict pacifism and interventionism lies a good national strategy.

Viaduct from page 2

out, we changed the right minds in 2007! Leaders are seeing a political win through delivering a highway-free shore and more sustainable transportation infrastructure. Let's give elected leaders and DOT officials a lot of love for rethinking this opportunity, re-committing to a shared vision, and pointing the process toward a more sustainable solution. Our job in 2008 will be to keep the positive pressure on and help them figure out how, exactly, to deliver it.

Forward this news to your friends and colleagues, and, as always, anyone who would like updates can get on our occasional update list by emailing heyyou@peopleswaterfront.org.

Bob Pavlik looks at the backsides of questionable vehicles



Political Courage Index Declines

Primary from page 1

states don't participate. They misunderstand the primary, thinking that the point is to "show support and loyalty" to the nominee who has already almost certainly been decided. But non-idiots can always use the primary to their advantage: the real point of primaries is to elect as many delegates as possible for the candidate whose positions you most favor, so that those delegates can influence the party's platform and the nominee's positions at the convention, or even make your candidate the vice presidential nominee.

6. In early-primary states, surprise underdog candidates can build momentum, and voting for such a candidate does not entail spoiling the primary for a mediocre candidate who you believe has a better chance of defeating the worst candidate. This is because it takes several states over a period of days or weeks for one candidate to lock down a victory. A surprising showing for an underdog candidate with dramatically distinct positions can put that candidate into the running in the minds of future voters, and can very quickly move the mediocre candidates to become better than mediocre, and therefore better able to compete in future states.

7. Forget about swing voters. Fewer than 4% of voters in 2004 ever planned to vote for Kerry and switched to Bush or vice versa. This means that appealing to one's own base and turning those people out to vote is key to winning the general election. Democrats who want to win the general election, for example, should nominate the most Democratic, not the most Republican, candidate in the primaries. (Republicans already know this.)

8. Pre-primary corporate polls that purport to tell us who is most "viable" and "electable" are primarily a product of corporate media coverage and spin, much of which is "coverage" of the previous polls. The way to determine which candidate is most viable begins by canceling your daily newspaper subscriptions and recycling your television.

9. In a democracy, the most electable candidate is the candidate whom the most people actually like. Therefore, there should be no distinction between whom you like and whom you consider "viable." The candidate you most like, honestly, in your own considered private opinion, is the most viable candidate. And you can make that even more so if you lead by example. Don't just vote, but campaign, promote, and contribute, as much and as early as you can. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men [and women] - that is genius."

David Swanson writes for afterdowningstreet.org and favors Dennis Kucinich in the Democratic primaries.

P.U.-litzers from page 3

in millions of foreign nationals to basically break down the structure that we have. In that regard, Pat Buchanan is right."

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLFOWITZ AWARD - Newsweek

As he was being forced out of his job as World Bank president in May, Paul Wolfowitz was described by Newsweek as "a man whose managerial talents do not appear to rise to the level of his analytical prowess. By most accounts, Wolfowitz is a genteel, brilliant figure ..." The Newsweek piece - headlined "With the Best of Intentions" - didn't mention how the brilliant and analytical former Deputy Defense Secretary had insisted just before invading Iraq that the country had no history of ethnic strife, that the US would not need to deploy more than 100,000 troops, or that the war might cost as little as \$10 billion. (So far it has cost about \$500 billion.)

Jeff Cohen is author of "Cable News Confidential: My Misadventures in Corporate Media" and the founder of the media watch group FAIR, which provided research for this article. Norman Solomon's latest book is "Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State."

FROM PROJECT VOTE SMART

Project Vote Smart has released the results of its Presidential Political Courage Test, which showed 55% of presidential candidates were willing to expose their positions on issues of obvious concern to citizens. This represented an 8% decline in the candidates' willingness to provide such crucial information to citizens since 2004. This also demonstrated the candidates' increasing interest in controlling the public's access to information regarding their intentions on issues.

Most startling, only three candidates receiving major media attention were willing to provide specific issue information to voters:

- Chris Dodd
- John Edwards
- Mike Gravel

Each candidate was asked repeatedly by key leaders of both major parties and major media, "Are you willing to tell citizens your positions on the issues you will most likely face on their behalf?" Each candidate was then provided a series of questions known to be of concern to citizens, but also likely considered dangerous by their campaign consultants. Candidates were invited to address the issue areas in language they were comfortable using.

More than 100 political scientists, prominent political leaders and journalists created and implemented the Political Courage Test. During the six-week testing period, candidates were confronted numerous times by news organizations, party leaders and Vote Smart staff, in efforts to compel them to provide voters with this essential information.

"This Test demonstrated the obvious relationship between exploding campaign financing, candidates' ability to control their messages and the public's loss of access to informa-

tion," said Richard Kimball, Vote Smart President. "After all, this is information the nation's founders considered essential for a healthy democracy."

The results of Vote Smart's ten-year study clearly showed that as campaign consultants and both major parties have increasingly advised their candidates to dodge specifics on issue questions, and candidates are following this advice. The number of federal candidates willing to answer issue questions plummeted from 72 percent in 1996 to 48 percent in 2006.

Test procedures and results can be reviewed by anyone on Vote Smart's website www.votessmart.org or by calling the Voter's Research Hotline at (888) 868-3762.

Additional information available includes; voting records, biographical information, issue positions, special interest group ratings, campaign finances and a keyword searchable database of public statements, and contact information on 40,000 candidates and elected officials nationwide.

Complete results of the Presidential Political Courage Test are available at http://votessmart.org/election_president_search.php.



MORE SCIENTISTS LINING UP AGAINST FLUORIDATION

When will local governments follow suit?

BY PAUL BEEBER

Although there has been plenty of recent new scientific evidence showing the ill effects of public water fluoridation as well as its ineffectiveness in preventing cavities, some 57% of WA residents receive fluoridated water in their homes. The largest water system in WA, that of Seattle, is still fluoridated. Even the magazine Scientific American is now questioning the practice. I'm just amazed that I've heard hardly a peep from in-state environmental or toxics groups on this issue. When will Washingtonians start taking more action for pure tap water? Doug Collins, editor

"Some recent studies suggest that over-consumption of fluoride can raise the risks of disorders affecting teeth, bones, the brain and the thyroid gland," reports Scientific American editors (January 2008). "Scientific attitudes toward fluoridation may be starting to shift," writes author Dan Fagin.

Indeed, fluoride, the most consumed drug in the USA, is deliberately added to two thirds of public water supplies theoretically to reduce tooth decay, but with no scientifically-valid evidence proving safety or effectiveness.

Fagin, award-winning environmental reporter and Director of New York University's Science, Health and Environmental Reporting Program, writes, "There is no universally accepted optimal level for daily intake of fluoride." Some researchers even wonder whether the 1 mg/L added into drinking water is too much, reports

Fagin.

After three years of scrutinizing hundreds of studies, a National Research Council (NRC) committee "concluded that fluoride can subtly alter endocrine function, especially in the thyroid - the gland that produces hormones regulating growth and metabolism," reports Fagin.

Fagin quotes John Doull - professor emeritus of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, who chaired the NRC committee - thusly, "The thyroid changes do worry me."

Fluoride in foods, beverages, medicines and dental products can result in fluoride over-consumption, visible in young children as dental fluorosis - white spotted, yellow, brown and/or pitted teeth. We can't normally see fluoride's effects to the rest of the body.

Reports Fagin, "a series of epidemiological studies in China have associated high fluoride exposures with lower IQ." Furthermore, "(E)pidemiological studies and tests on lab animals suggest that high fluoride exposure increases the risk of bone fracture, especially in vulnerable populations such as the elderly and diabetics."

Fagin interviewed Steven Levy, director of the Iowa Fluoride Study which tracked about 700 Iowa children for sixteen years. Nine-year-old "Iowa children who lived in communities where the water was fluoridated

continued next page

SINGLE MOM PRESENTS REALITY CHRISTMAS TREE

New report reveals the startling numbers of Washington families struggling with unlivable wages - especially families of color

FROM NW FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

On December 18, amidst downtown Seattle's lavish holiday trimming, a single mom, who works hard at a full-time job, presented her family's Christmas tree true to her family budget. Her demonstration brings home the facts revealed in a new study from Northwest Federation of Community Organizations (NWFCO) called *The Race for Wages: Living Wage Jobs in the Current Economy*.

"I know what my son wants for Christmas," says Eleanor Knight, "but I'll share with you what I can afford - and it's not much. You'll see our real family tree stripped to the basics." As Eleanor cuts her budget down to reality, presents for her son are removed from beneath the tree.

Eleanor is not alone. NWFCO's new study reveals that 64% of all African American workers do not earn a wage that can support a single parent raising one child in Washington State. In fact, 77% of all jobs in Washington do not provide a living wage for a single parent raising two kids. The new numbers are startling and show that living wage jobs are in short supply for all Washingtonians, but are even scarcer for families of color.

A living wage is defined as a wage that allows a family to meet basic needs without public assistance while providing some ability to save for a rainy day. A grocery clerk, Eleanor earns about \$3 an hour less than a livable wage for a single mom in King County. With the rising costs of energy, transportation and health care, she struggles to make ends meet.

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 21 works to improve the livelihood of workers in Washington State. This sometimes means pushing back employers who don't pay livable wages or provide viable health care coverage.

"One of the biggest offenders is Wal-Mart and we've seen recent huge success in stopping that company's growth in Snohomish County," says Steve

from previous page

were 50 percent more likely to have mild fluorosis... than [nine-year-old] children living in nonfluoridated areas of the state," writes Fagin. Levy will study fluoride's effects on their bones.

"(G)enetic, environmental and even cultural factors appear to leave some people much more susceptible to the effects of fluoride," writes Fagin.

According to Professor Doull, "What the [NRC] committee found is that we've gone with the status quo regarding fluoride... for too long... and now we need to take a fresh look." He added, "In the scientific community, people tend to think that it's settled... But when we looked at the studies that have been done, we found that many of these questions are unsettled and we have much less information than we should, considering how long this [fluoridation] has been going on. I think that's why fluoridation is still being challenged so many years after it began, In the face of ignorance, controversy is rampant."

Last year over 1200 professionals urged Congress to cease water fluoridation and conduct Congressional hearings because scientific evidence indicates fluoridation is ineffective and has serious health risks. Support them; write your representative at the links provided at <www.FluorideAction.Net>.

For further info contact: Paul Beeber 516-433-8882, <nyscof@aol.com>, <www.orgsites.com/ny/nyscof>.



"O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, your gifts are dis-ap-pear-ing."

Williamson of UFCW. Studies show that when Wal-Mart moves into a community, it has a dramatic effect on local pay scales, replacing better paying jobs and driving down worker wages in competing industry sectors throughout the community.

Washington Community Action Network and UFCW Local 21 also supported this modest family tree and the study results.

This year's wage report has data for all counties in Washington State. It can be viewed at <www.nwfc.org>. For further info, contact angela@nwfc.org or 206-829-2062.

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SECURITY EXECUTIVE NAMED 'GRINCH OF THE YEAR'

FROM WA JOBS WITH JUSTICE

Paul Dockendorff, CEO of Northwest Security Services, was named "Grinch of the Year" by a local social justice coalition. Washington State Jobs with Justice (JwJ), composed of 150 labor, faith, community and student organizations, singled out the executive for doing the most "Grinch-like" harm to working families.

JwJ charged that under Dockendorff's leadership, Northwest Security workers can't afford medical care, receive minimal raises on near poverty-level wages, and are denied sick leave. Other major security firms in the area are at the bargaining table to negotiate union contracts for their employees. These include Allied/Barton, Securitas, Northwest Protective, ABM and Start Protection Agency. These five agencies provide over 70% of security services to Seattle office buildings, leaving Northwest Security as a rogue Grinch in the industry, the only major local security firm to refuse collective bargaining with their employees.

On December 19, JwJ activists attempted to deliver the "Grinch of the Year" award to Dockendorff at company office in North Seattle. In keeping with Dockendorff's Grinch-like attitudes, management called the police.

JwJ awards the "Grinch of the Year" on an annual basis. Previous winners of the award have ended up having to seek other employment, including former US Senator Slade Gorton, former Darigold CEO Josh Mueller and former University of Washington President Richard McCormick.

"By publicly awarding Dockendorff the Grinch of the Year honor, we hope that his heart will grow three times larger, as Dr. Seuss envisioned, particularly at a time when health care costs are soaring," said Bob Barnes, Co-Chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. County Organizing Committee of Washington State Jobs with Justice.

Jobs with Justice is a national coalition of independent local coalitions, with groups in over 40 cities in 26 States. Washington State Jobs with Justice was formed in 1993 to unite diverse organizations in the struggle for workers' rights and broader economic and social justice.

WA Jobs with Justice contacts: Bob Barnes (206) 841-4650, and Debbie Carlsen (206) 930-6668.



Bob Barnes (right) and unidentified Grinch prepare to festively greet Paul Dockendorff with his award.

DO SOMETHING!

Get active, not radioactive!

Use this Do Something! Directory to decide how you'd like to make the world a better place.



ACTIVIST CALENDAR

The calendar entries below have mostly been chosen from Jean Buskin's email Peace and Justice Calendar. To post activism events on her email/web version, send event notices to Jean Buskin at bb369@scn.org. To receive updates of the complete calendar, have Ms Buskin add you to her email list by contacting her at the same address, or view her full calendar anytime at www.scn.org/activism/calendar.

OTHER NW REGIONAL PROGRESSIVE WEB CALENDARS

SEATTLE www.seattleactivism.org/ and www.snowCoalition.org, **TACOMA** www.tacomapijh.org, **OLYMPIA** <http://olynetwork.com> and www.OlyFOR.org, **PUGET SOUND**, Women in Black Vigils (various cities) www.scn.org/womeninblack, **BELLINGHAM** www.bellinghampeace.org or www.revolutionz.org, **EUGENE** Oregon www.planeteugene.com/peace-events, **MONTANA** www.montanapeaceseekers.org, **TRI-CITIES** www.tcfn.org/wcp, Lots of **NEIGHBORHOOD PEACE GROUPS**, see below and www.snowCoalition.org/contact.php

THRU MARCH 13, Olympia: The 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS' offices directly, or via a toll-free hotline 1-800-562-6000, TTY 1-800-635-9993, weekdays 8 am - 8 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm. info about issues being considered <http://depts.washington.edu/sswweb/policy/>

WEDS JAN 16, Lynnwood 6:30 pm, at Lynnwood Convention Center; author Azim Khamisa, will speak on "The Journey of Forgiveness: Destination Peace." Khamisa's talk is part of the City of Lynnwood's 2008 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION, info 425-640-1538 or www.ci.lynnwood.wa.us/MLK

JAN 17 - 19, Tacoma Sheraton Hotel and in **Olympia:** Latino/a Educational Achievement Project LEAP 2008 Education Conference and Legislative Day Fri Jan 18. info www.leapwa.org/events.htm or info@leapwa.org or 206-878-3710 ext 5176

FRI JAN 18, Mt. Vernon; 7 pm, & **SAT JAN 19,** 10 am - 6 pm, at Mt. Vernon High School Cafeteria, 314 N. 9th, Mount Vernon; Skagit Martin Luther King Festival. A community celebration of the life, work, and legacy of Martin Luther King. Includes Friday evening, Living Voices presents a theatrical performance - 'The Right to Dream.' Saturday, hear music by Sharon Abreu and Michael Hurwicz; the keynote presentation by Cecily Hazelrigg-Hernandez on Power and Privilege; and attend workshops that address alternative actions in our conflict ridden world. Child care available on Saturday. Simple lunch for sale by Java Joes. \$5 per day suggested donation.

FRI JAN 18, Seattle; 7 p.m., in the Community Room, Bush School, 3400 E. Harrison St., The Bush School Diversity Speaker Series 2007-2008 presents Dr. Shakti Butler on MIRRORS OF PRIVILEGE: MAKING WHITENESS VISIBLE. Free and open to the public. RSVP and info Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., Director of Diversity, 206-326-7731, eddie.moorejr@bush.edu

FRI JAN 18, Tacoma; 7 p.m., at King's Books, 218 St. Helens, United for Peace of Pierce County speaker series presents Joe LaSac will speak on "Port Militarization" info Steve Nebel stephennebel@msn.com and Mark Jensen jensenmk82@gmail.com

SAT JAN 19, Bremerton; 8:30 a.m., at the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4418 Perry Rd., SHARE THE DREAM OF A WORLD WITHOUT WAR. Join the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action for a traditional vigil and direct action at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor. Honor the memory of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. as together we resist nuclear weapons, the occupation of Iraq, and the bombing of Iran. Gather for nonviolence training and action planning. At 1:30 p.m., come to Ground Zero, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, to walk or ride to the Bangor gate. Bring sack lunch, water, umbrella, warm clothes, money to donate, a peaceful spirit. A Carpool Caravan will be leaving for Ground Zero at Bangor from Keystone Church (5019 Keystone Place N, Wallingford, Seattle) at 8 am sharp to catch the 8:45 am Seattle-Bremerton Ferry. Please come a little early. Driving directions and info www.gzcenter.org, or 360-377-2586 or 206-545-35

SAT JAN 19, Tenalquot Prairie, Thurston County; 10 am - 3 pm, Tenalquot Prairie Restoration Party. Join the amiable volunteers who help the Nature Conservancy RESTORE REMNANTS OF OUR RARE AND BEAUTIFUL PRAIRIE landscape and learn about our natural heritage in the process Dress for the weather, bring a lunch & water and they'll provide the rest. info Colleen O'Shea, co'shea@tnc.org

SAT JAN 19, Portland, OR; Clinton Community

Garden, SE 18th and Clinton, Fruit Tree Pruning Class and Work Party, Join Portland Community Gardens for a fruit tree pruning class and work party at the Clinton Community Garden. Learn hands-on how to properly prune common fruit trees. All events are free and open to everyone. Please dress for the weather and bring work gloves. Call or email for more information and to register. 503.823.1612 or comgardens@ci.portland.or.us

MON JAN 21, Seattle; 9:30 am workshops, 11 am rally, noon march, starts and ends at Franklin High School, 3013 Mt. Baker Blvd, MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION with Workshops, Rally and March, 2008 theme "Let Freedom Ring: End Racism, Poverty and War". info 206-296-0321 or www.MLKseattle.org

MON JAN 21, Seattle; 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, in Cheasty Green Space near Beacon Hill, Earth Ministry and EarthCorps are partnering for a day of service to honor the legacy of REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. We will do RESTORATION AND FOREST MAINTENANCE WORK, and there will be a commemoration of Dr. King's life and justice work following the service project. Suggested donation \$10. Sign up with Earth Ministry office 206-632-2426 or emoffice@earthministry.org,

MON JAN 21, Olympia; 10 am - 4 pm in the Legislative Building - Columbia room, ACLU LOBBY DAY. info aguilar@aclu-wa.org

MON JAN 21, Olympia; Annual MLK Day POVERTY ACTION SUMMIT AND MARCH on the Capitol. info and RSVP Marcy Bowers 206-694-6794 or marcy@povertyaction.org

TUES JAN 22, Olympia; 10 am-3 pm, at the Capitol, Legislative Building - Columbia Room, SENIOR CITIZENS' LOBBY DAY. info seniorlobby@uswest.net
WEDS JAN 23, Olympia; Northwest WOMEN'S LAW CENTER LEGISLATIVE DAY. info Nancy Sapiro nsapiro@nwwlc.org or pjcrone@comcast.net

WEDS JAN 23, Seattle; at Garfield Community Center, 2323 East Cherry St, LISTENING AS A TOOL IN ENDING RACISM - an interactive presentation of tools for challenging and undoing racism's effects on our lives, families, and communities. Learn how to tackle the self-put-downs, confusions, anger, grief, and other emotional harm done by racism. Learn a simple yet powerful process of supportive listening to one another through Re-evaluation Counseling (RC) by members of United to End Racism. info www.rc.org/uer, or dvoraslavin@gmail.com

WEDS JAN 23, Olympia; 9 am, at United Churches, 110-11th Ave E, ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY DAY. Join the state's leading environmental groups and hundreds of citizen lobbyists to push for the passage of the Priorities for a Healthy Washington legislative package: Washington Climate Action, Local Solutions to Global Warming, Evergreen Cities, and Local Farms/Healthy Kids. Cost is \$15. To register, contact rattemann@pugetsound.org or 206-382-7007 or www.pugetsound.org/index/lobbyday, info jessie@earthministry.org

WEDS JAN 23, Seattle; 7 pm, at Town Hall Seattle, 8th & Seneca, Lecture: Principles of ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS. The Institute for Children's Environmental Health presents its fifth annual lecture series examining the relationship between the natural world, human society, and our economic system. The series begins with a lecture on the principles of ecological economics by Robert Constanza, an internationally renowned ecological economist at the Gund Institute at the University of Vermont. Reception following. Sponsored by the Seattle Biotech Legacy Foundation. Suggested \$5 donation at the door. info www.iceh.org or 360-331-7904

JAN 25 - 26, U.S.-Canada Days of Action. The WAR RESISTERS SUPPORT Campaign (Canada) has called for a **Canada-wide mobilization** on Jan 26 to ensure that deportation proceedings against U.S. war resisters cease immediately, and that a provision be enacted by Parliament in order to allow resisters to stay. In the United States, supporters are encouraged to organize delegations of concerned community members to visit local Canadian Consulates across the country on January 25. info www.couragetoresist.org

FRI JAN 25, King County; (after midnight on Thursday) 2:30 a.m., One Night COUNT OF HOMELESS PEOPLE WITHOUT SHELTER. The

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) and Operation Nightwatch, a homeless service provider, coordinate this annual event documenting homelessness in King County. The Count will begin from several locations throughout King County including **Seattle, Kent, Bellevue, White Center, Federal Way, Renton, and Shoreline**. The count ends at about 5:45 a.m. Join the hundreds of volunteers who take part in the One Night Count. info Church Council 206-525-1213

FRI JAN 25, Tacoma; 7 p.m., at King's Books, 218 St. Helens, United for Peace of Pierce County speaker series presents Geri Haynes of Physicians for Social Responsibility on, among other things, IRAQI REFUGEES. info Steve Nebel stephennebel@msn.com and Mark Jensen jensenmk82@gmail.com

SAT JAN 26, Lynnwood; 1 - 4 pm, at Ahmadiyya Muslim Center, 19212 Highway 99, The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center presents a WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM ON MONEY with speakers, discussion, dinner. Dr. Theresa McCormick Plans to discuss the book *The Real Wealth of Nations: CREATING A CARING ECONOMICS* by Dr. Riane Eisler. It presents ideas about how to transform our economy from one that is all about profit at any cost to people and mother nature, to one that takes care of human beings and the environment. info Sumrin Mir 206-617-5173 sumrinmir@yahoo.com or Aisha Sial 425-868-6273 sialaisha@hotmail.com

SAT JAN 26, Eugene OR; 10:00am to 5:00pm University of Oregon, Lawrence 177 (School of Architecture) Uniting the Climate & Forest Protection Movements, a conference of science & action. Burning fossil fuels - petroleum, coal & natural gas - is not the only cause of global warming. Clearcutting forests also disrupts the climate. Join expert scientists & environmental leaders for a groundbreaking one-day conference to bring together citizens concerned about climate change & forest protection. Organized by Cascadia Ecosystem Advocates, Cascadia Ecosystem Advocates, Native Forest Council, GreenwashEugene info www.forestclimate.org

SAT JAN 26, Seattle; 7 pm, at University Friends Center, 4001 9th Ave NE, 8th SEATTLE PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL "Dispossession, Occupation, Apartheid: 60 Years of Resistance". This film: the award-winning documentary Occupation 101. Suggested donation \$5-10, NTA. Doors open at 6:30. Sponsored by Palestine Solidarity Committee. Generously co-sponsored by AFSC. info www.palestineinformation.org or www.occupation101.com

MON JAN 28, Olympia; NURSING HOME WORKER LOBBY DAY; info marci.jaye@seiu775.org

MON JAN 28, Olympia; American Association of UNIVERSITY WOMEN-WA. LOBBY DAY; info Dixie@swensonassociatesinc.com

WEDS JAN 30, Olympia; 9 am, at General Administration Building, Room G-3, CHILDRENS' HOME SOCIETY DAY. info Norma Wainright normaw@chs-wa.org

THURS JAN 31, Olympia; LOBBY DAY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK OF WASHINGTON, and the Washington Assn of Community & Migrant Health Centers; info mbebozer@wacmh.org, and Rebecca.Kavoussi@chnwa.org.

THURS JAN 31, Olympia; 8 am, Phoenix Inn, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS LOBBY DAY; info debra.maas@nmsswas.org

THURS JAN 31, Olympia; 9 am, at United Churches of Olympia, 11th & Capitol Way, HAVE A HEART FOR CHILDREN DAY, info gabriella@childrensalliance.org

THURS JAN 31, 10 am - 5 pm, Seattle; University of Washington, University of Washington Focus the Nation Event. Focus the Nation is a major educational initiative that is coordinating teams of faculty, students and staff at over a thousand colleges, universities and high schools in the United States, to collaboratively engage in a nationwide, interdisciplinary discussion centered around the theme of "GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS for America". info LuAnne Thompson, Associate Professor, School of Oceanography. info <http://depts.washington.edu/uwfocus/> or uwfocus@u.washington.edu

continued next page

from previous page

THURS JAN 31, **Olympia**; 10 am, at General Administration Building, COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LOBBY DAY. info action@wscadv.org

FRI FEB 1, **Olympia**; 8:30 am - 3 pm, at Columbia Room, Capitol Building, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOBBY DAY. info Karen Verril gokar1@comcast.net

MON FEB 4, **Seattle**; 7:30 pm, at Town Hall Seattle, downstairs, 1119 8th Avenue at Seneca, Lawrence Mitchell: 'The Speculation Economy'. Traces the rise of what he calls 'American corporate capitalism' in The Speculation Economy. He considers how the current American financial model REWARDS SHORT-TERM GAIN in stock prices OVER THE LONG-TERM HEALTH OF BUSINESS and traces the identifiable political and economic forces that have shaped the economic model of our time. Tickets are \$5 at the door only. info www.townhallseattle.org

TUES FEB 5, **Olympia**; LOBBY DAY OF ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION of Western and Central Washington; info Margaux.Gillespie@alz.org

TUES FEB 5, **Olympia**; 10 am - 4 pm, at Legislative Building Room 112, WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS Lobby Day. info policy@wscsap.org

WEDS FEB 6, **Olympia**; DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY. info Christie Perkins, edadvocate@mac.com

THURS FEB 7, **Olympia**; HUNGER ACTION DAY. info kelseyb@fl.org, or tracy@wafoodcoalition.org

THURS FEB 7, **Olympia**; 9:30 am, United Churches of Olympia, WA State COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LOBBY DAY info action@wscadv.org

THURS FEB 7, **Seattle**; 6:30 - 8 pm, at Center Park Residence Council, 2121 26th Ave S, Meeting of the Michael Randall Ealy Social Justice Foundation, a non-profit organization for the purpose of bringing justice for the death of Michael Randall Ealy, KILLED WHILE IN CUSTODY of the Seattle Police Department, as well as all others who have died while being detained or in police custody; info mresjf@yahoo.com, www.seattlejustice.org

SAT FEB 9, in **Washington State**; PRECINCT CAUCUSES FOR REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. An early stage of choosing delegates to the National conventions, and an opportunity to pass resolutions

MON FEB 11, **Olympia**; 10 am, REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT LEGISLATIVE DAY, info Paul@rewa.org

WEDS FEB 13, **Olympia**; Washington State PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION FOCUS DAY; info bcshutz@comcast.net

THURS FEB 14, **Olympia**; HOUSING ADVOCACY DAY. info Ben Gitenstein ben@wliha.org

FEB 15 - 18, **Seattle Center**; FESTIVAL SUNDIATA 2008 Celebrating Art, Entertainment and Education of PEOPLE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN DESCENT. info www.festivalsundiata.org

MON FEB 18, **Olympia**; at United Churches of Olympia; National Association of SOCIAL WORKERS DAY. info Lynn Carrigan ltc@u.washington.edu

MON FEB 18, **Olympia**; 10 am, at First Christian Church, 701 Franklin Street SE, POWER PARENTS ORGANIZING FOR WELFARE & ECONOMIC RIGHTS. info welfarerights@riseup.net

TUES FEB 26, **Olympia**; 9 am, EQUALITY DAY. info www.religiouscoalition-wa.org/

TUES FEB 26, **Olympia**; noon - 1:30 pm, at State Capitol Building, Rotunda, NATIVE AMERICAN LOBBY DAY. info icwourstories@yahoo.com

FEB 28 - MARCH 3, **Seattle**; The Northwest Network announces its 6th annual Q&A (Queers & Allies/ Questions & Answers) for Advocates National Institute. Q&A for Advocates hosts anti-violence workers from across Washington State, the region and the U.S. in this 2 1/2 day training institute on addressing INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN LESBIAN, BISEXUAL TRANS AND GAY COMMUNITIES. info and registration www.nwnetwork.org/qna.php

FEB 29 - MARCH 1, **Eugene, OR**; at Lane Community College, FIRST ANNUAL PEACE CONFERENCE. info Lane Community College Peace Center, c/o Stan Taylor, Social Science Department, 4000 East 30th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97405 or 541-463-5820 or PeaceCenter@lanec.edu or www.lanec.edu/peacecenter

FRI MARCH 7, **Portland OR**; Oregon Convention Center, the 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF

THE LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER/UO. Tickets and info LERC 541-346-5054

MARCH 13 - 15, in **Washington DC**; IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR will hold Winter Soldier 2008. info www.couragetoresist.org MARCH 14, Wenatchee; TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST: A SEMINAR FOR EDUCATORS. Seminar will include "Guidelines for teaching the Holocaust," "Rescue and Resistance," "An Overview of the Holocaust" and a special presentation from a Holocaust survivor. Clock hours available. Registration fee \$20. info or registration ikennedy@wsherc.org

THURS MARCH 20, **Seattle**; 7 p.m., in the Community Room, Bush School, 3400 E. Harrison St., The Bush School Diversity Speaker Series 2007-2008 presents Jean Kilbourne on The Naked Truth: ADVERTISING'S IMAGE OF WOMEN. RSVP and info Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., Director of Diversity, 206-326-7731, eddie.moorejr@bush.edu

THURS APRIL 10, **Seattle**; 7 pm, at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S Near Yesler, Central District Forum on Arts & Ideas, CD Forum & Seattle Black Pride present American Heritage Series: GENDER IDENTITY IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. This second installment continues to explore the history of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Queer (LGBTQ) African-Americans but specifically focusing on transgender history. Tickets: \$7/ \$5 for CD Forum members/ students/ seniors Order online at www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/16718 or call 1-800-838-3006

SAT APRIL 12, **Seattle**; 11 am - 7 pm, at Washington State Convention and Trade Center, 7th and Pike, GREEN FESTIVAL 08. info jennyATgreenfestivals.org

APRIL 12 - 13, **New Haven, Connecticut**; at Yale University, Unite For Sight's Fifth Annual INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE "Building Global Health For Today and Tomorrow". More Than 130 Featured Speakers. info www.uniteforsight.org/conference/2008, Register For Conference early bird rates \$35 Students, \$60 All Others, http://uniteforsight.org/conference/2008/register

APRIL 25 - 27, **Portland, OR**; at Embassy Suites, The Oregon School Boards Association is joined by the school board associations of Idaho, Nevada and Washington in presenting the 2008 Northwest Conference on Strategies for Success: CELEBRATING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSE STUDENTS Northwest Conference. This conference, in its fifth year, will present innovative programs and strategies that have proven successful in strengthening academic achievement across a variety of diverse student groups. info Greg McKenzie gmckenzie@osba.org or www.osba.org/leadshp/ceo/

THURS - SUN MAY 1 - 4, **Seattle**; at University of Washington, Johnson Hall, 2008 Hazel Wolf ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL, in partnership with UW Earth Initiative and Community and Environmental Planning Program. info www.911media.org or www.hazelfilm.org or info@hazelfilm.org

MAY 1 - 2, **Birmingham, AL**; Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, A Single Struggle: The GLOBAL CONVERGENCE OF CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS. info Dr. Horace Huntley hhuntley@bcri.org

MAY 2 - 3, **Flagstaff, AZ**; High Country Conference Center, Northern Arizona University, 15th Annual STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES Symposium "Language is Life: Strategies for Language Revitalization." For the past fifteen years, the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposiums have been disseminating information about effective practices to teach and learn Indigenous languages. Held across the United States and Canada, these symposiums have brought together community language activists, language teachers and linguists to share and disseminate ways to revitalize our precious Indigenous linguistic heritage so that it will not be lost to our children. info http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/SIL9brochure.html

JUNE 6 - 8, **Vancouver, British Columbia**; at Simon Fraser University Harbour Center in downtown The 40th Annual Pacific NORTHWEST LABOUR HISTORY Conference with theme "INDIGENOUS, IMMIGRANT, MIGRANT LABOUR & GLOBALIZATION." Co-sponsoring organization, Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA). info Pacific Northwest Labor History Association www.pnlha.org

EVIL IN GOD'S CREATION

Songs of praise will not stop the world's problems

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

If God is so all-powerful and good, like it is said God is, then how can evil be allowed to flourish in God's creation?

Maybe to be fair to God we should ask ourselves why we put up with evil when God made us perfectly capable of stopping it without God doing it for us. And perhaps God cannot do it for us for the very same reasons God cannot interfere with our free will by forcing us to love God: it would be just as dishonest to force us to do something to stop evil. God has to allow us to manifest who we all really are through our choices.

Personally, I have to wonder how humans who call themselves Christians in the lineage of St Augustine, particularly Catholics, can allow evil to occur and do nothing to stop it. I felt this particularly strongly when I recently saw the 2006 film Deliver Us From Evil, which documented the full extent of the pedophile problem in the hierarchies of the Catholic church. I could very well resort to asking God how this evil could be allowed for all these centuries. But I anticipate God's response, in the Christian sense, would be "I have very few real followers. Nobody is doing what I

tell them (through the words of Jesus). They seem to think that singing songs of praise in church every Sunday (something which Jesus never tells anyone to do) is all I want them to do. But I created you, so perhaps you, and more people like you, will actually do what Jesus says and put a stop to all this evil in the world?"

When I ask myself honestly what am I prepared to do about things like this, I come to the horrible realization that I'm afraid. That love of fitting in and being accepted, and the polite conversation that goes along with that, conflicts

with my honest rage and disgust about it all. Then it becomes a relief to remember free will and all the positive transitions that are possible because of it.

Coming to terms with evil being "allowed" in the Creation process, which I believe is still a process and not a completion, I consider that phrase from the Bible "On the seventh day God rested." Aside from the fact that "days" couldn't exist before being created and therefore, also, a day to God is probably not the same things as a day is to humans, how could God "rest" with all this evil about? Perhaps that "seventh day" hasn't happened yet but will happen after God's Creation is complete and all of us who bravely (without any supernatural help from God) chose to stop evil will be resting with God when it does.

Human Rights from page 7

the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

Measured with such yardsticks for human rights, the United States falls far short of many countries. If American news media did a better job of reporting on human rights in all their dimensions, we'd be less self-satisfied as a nation — and more outraged about the widespread violations of human rights that persist in our midst every day.

The human consequences of those violations are incalculable, but they're largely removed from the center stage of dramas that fill news pages and newscasts. This downplaying of economic human rights is not mere happenstance. The violations are systemic — within a system that thrives on extreme inequities, creating enormous profits for corporations and enriching some individuals along the way.

Within the boundaries of dominant news media and mainline political discourse, the "issue" of human rights is in a narrow box. It severely limits the humanity of our social order.



Impressions of Palestine

BY PHIL HEFT

My wife and I recently returned from a trip to Israel and the West Bank of the Palestinian territories. We wanted to get a feeling for what is going on in the continuing conflict. Three things stood out for us: the separation barrier, the checkpoints on West Bank roads, and the Israeli settlements.

We were surprised to find the extent of the separation barrier. We saw a concrete wall as high as eight meters in urban areas and a 50-meter-wide strip containing a military road and bounded by barbed wire in rural areas. It is supposed to make the Israeli people safe from Palestinian terrorist attacks. The barriers are often built in a manner that occupies Palestinian land. We found a wall built around a Palestinian town with a single entrance controlled by an Israeli checkpoint. The aim obviously is to contain a population that might be restive. I saw one wall on the Southeast side of Jerusalem which was built in the middle of a Palestinian neighborhood. A Palestinian who might want to attend the university on the other side of the wall would now have to travel eight miles to make a trip that had previously been a two-block walk. It's easy for me to understand that the local Palestinians view this wall as a form of harassment.

We were told some barriers are built to protect Israeli settlements which are built illegally on Palestinian land. A young Jewish man, who was showing us the separation barrier and a demolished Palestinian home in East Jerusalem, was completely outraged by the actions of the Israeli government. He refused to serve in the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) and was denied entrance to medical school because of it.

We found IDF checkpoints on all roads in and out of the West Bank and many entirely inside the West Bank. All movement inside the West Bank is controlled by these checkpoints. Vehicles with Israeli license plates do not have to stop. We became acquainted with a nun in East Jerusalem whose home was formerly ten minutes away in the West Bank. Today it takes her four hours to get home. She is never sure that she won't be turned back by an Israeli soldier for no apparent reason even though she has all the right papers.

The Israeli settlements really stand out and are a major part of what is going on. We saw nicely constructed multiple-family dwellings all built on Palestinian land. Some of them seemed to be five or six storey apartment buildings. Palestinians feel that most settlers are not respectful of the local Arab population and are constantly trying to obtain more Arab land.

In Hebron we saw Israeli soldiers manning positions designed to keep Arabs and Jews separated.

I think that the Israeli government's severe and continued 60-year military occupation of the Palestinian territories is designed to encourage the Palestinian population to leave its country. Presently the Palestinian population is nearly as large as the Israeli population and if negotiations don't lead to a two-state solution, a one state solution will be inevitable. Then the Israelis would soon find themselves in the minority. They will either lose their democracy or their ability to maintain a Jewish state. I feel the one state solution doesn't offer many advantages to the Palestinians either. In the short term they would be under Jewish control.

The Bush administration is sponsoring peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The issues that will be discussed are final borders, what should happen to the settlements, the right of return of Palestinians to Palestine and Israel, distribution of water, security, and other topics. I read a recent article in the Jerusalem Post which stated the people of both Israel and Palestine expect their respective governments to make some solid accomplishments at the negotiating table and that mere talk is not enough.

Hmm...
what
should
I get
him?



Thoughtful Gift Idea



for people who like to think

FROM MARTHA SKEWART

1. Cut out the subscription form on page 3 and fill out the gift section for your friend or family member (this costs only \$10 if you also subscribe).
2. Take this paper and roll it up into a neat cylinder.
3. Put a decorative ribbon around it.
4. Tell the recipient "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Holidays," etc.
5. We'll send the lucky person a card telling them when their first mailed issue will arrive.
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WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BOOK? WRITE ABOUT IT!

Is there a book that has just *grabbed* you for years? Do you find yourself frequently talking about a certain book to friends and people you meet? What book do you wish many other people would read?

Please submit a review including (1) a description of such a book, and (2) an explanation of why you like it so much. Some ground rules: please no personal or commercial connection to the publisher or writer of the book, and please make your article not more than about 800 words long.

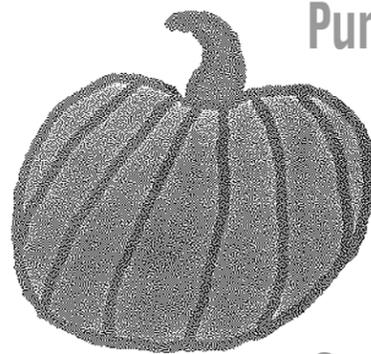
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Pumpkin
Eddie's
Lightning
Poems

BY VINCENT

SPADA

Pumpkin

If only

the whole world

could fit inside of a pumpkin

55 known ways

There are 55 known ways

to screw something up

No, wait

56

Between the sheets

So there she was

between the sheets

and on the other side

an empty spot

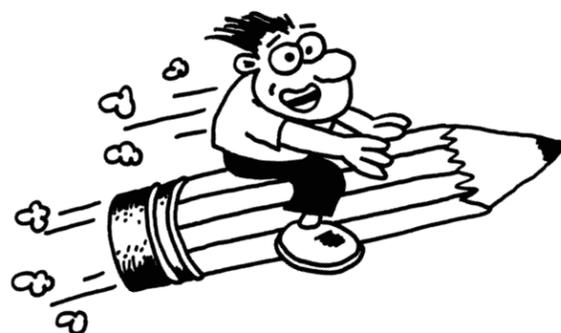
just waiting

Destroyed

It was there once

That whole life thing

But then, it got destroyed



right
brain

TOON-O-PHOBIA

CARTOONS AND ART

TO HELP READERS OVERCOME FEAR OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS

this issue featuring John Jonik, George Jartos, Dick Lande, and David Dees



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What is the Washington Free Press?

This paper is an effort—by many individual writers, artists, and editors—to bring to you information that often goes unreported in the corporate media (to see examples, just read this issue!). In a sense, this paper is a sort of childhood dream-come-true of what journalism *should* be: news in the public interest and opinion from the heart. This paper is a volunteer operation in which no one is making a profit or bowing to commercial pressures. It is not distributed in newsstands, but is instead distributed by volunteers who want to get underreported news out to their neighborhoods. This paper is not aligned with any political party or other specific interest, and you'll probably find articles written by middle-of-the-road muckrakers, by Chomskyites, by traditionalists, and by generally unclassifiable individuals, as long as they write accessibly and with a spirit of public and planetary betterment. This paper is almost entirely dependent on *you*—the appreciative reader—for its existence, as there are always bills to pay for printing, mailing, and supplies. We thank those who continue to help over the years, and we ask that others please also help us get the news out by subscribing and donating to the paper, in order to help spread commitment to and best wishes for a better world.

Doug Collins, coordinating editor

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ROOMIES

BY BOB MARKEY

Two old guys had blocked
the cereal aisle
in Fred Meyer

with the clutter of
their people-powered
conveyances.

The rider's wheelchair
brakes locked up and his
pusher tried to

fix the goddam thing.
The grocery cart was
just in the way.

At eighty something,
they shared a mobile
across the street.

Later, I saw them
in canned goods. Rider
was squinting at

coupons (an inch from
his nose), directing
pusher toward

meats, waving his arms
and snarling as old
pusher giggled

and saluted with
hand to brow saying,
"Aye, aye, Captain!"

Then, re-saluting
in single fingered
vertical style,

he cut loose the cart
and "wheelied" his pal
past produce, through

checkstands and outside...
wheezing gasped laughter
in drenching rain.

NON-COM PATRIOT WAVERS, REMAINS A PATRIOT

BY BOB MARKEY

Now
listen up
you rag-headed pig!

Love
freedom and
liberty or die!

The
choice is yours,
you know what I mean?

Choice.
What freedom's
all about, oh yeah,

and
liberty...
Big Macs... Oreos...

and
not stepping
on other folks toes!

You
hear what I
said rageddy head?

You

love it

...or ...or ...uh,
let me rephrase...

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This paper is more for people who, though they might enjoy entertainment as much as anybody, are also interested in ideas, insights, and finding a way to a better world. Not to say we can't enjoy ourselves, too!

You can think of the WA Free Press as a thinking person's six-times-a-year news supplement, which adds an ingredient quite lacking in typical commercial journalism: perspective.

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