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READER MAIL

No surprise that Russia, China spurn Kyoto

Regarding "Cashing in on Earth's Cycles, Part 2" [wafreepress.org/97/issue97.pdf] the authors find it significant that some Russian scientists disagree with the thesis that climate change is related to human activity. It's odd that they omit a likely explanation. Scientists in Russia have a long history of entanglement with the political oligarchy. They have rarely held positions independent of it. Russia sees some advantages in some aspects of climate change, and for strategic reasons would like to see those changes continue.

China of course holds the same position. China's "communist" system, thoroughly capitalist at the core, had made the Chinese economy dependent on the rapid industrialization of the unindustrialized world. Of course they now take a position against effective action that might slow down that industrialization.

So holding up Russia and China as examples of countries that dismiss the need to control global warming, as if that were a profound example of scientific disagreement, is a little silly. More likely it is an example of two countries choosing narrow self interest over policies that would benefit the environment. One might as well point out that for the last eight years, the leading economy in the world, and its top spokesperson, George Bush, debunked and denied the need for action to control climate change. (My gosh, if three countries without ulterior motives, Russia, China and the US, all deny the need for action to control climate change, they must have a point... ha ha.)

Concerning the suggestion that the current warming trend is all part of a cycle, it's true that glaciers have a pattern of advancing and receding long before human activities could have impacted the climate; the question is whether human activities are a significant new factor in the current, profoundly rapid retreat and resulting, observable rise in sea levels. (And the industrial revolution's been going strong since the 1700s, so a short showing low ice levels in the 1930s is of questionable significance).

As for Enron supporting the Kyoto protocol, it's interesting, but so what? Undoubtedly some of the energy companies that may have played a role in creating the current crisis would be happy to find ways to profit again from attempted solutions to it. That's how capitalism works. It doesn't negate the need for those solutions.

Nils Osmar

Editor's reply: I interpreted the analysis of the Chinese and Russian stances as indicating the authors' opinion of the likely futility of the Kyoto agreement, whether or not those countries' scientific claims are true. However, I can see how you interpreted it otherwise.

On the issue of the receding of glaciers, I have to agree with the authors. Although the industrial revolution may have started in the 1700s, global carbon emissions as a result of industry were miniscule up until say the 1920s, and even then were a small fraction of what they are today. However, the biggest decreases in glaciers have been in the years from about 1860 to about 1980. Since then, the rate of glacial decrease seems to have slowed, and some

glaciers actually appear to be rebounding despite the fact that carbon emissions continue to increase [see my own article on this topic at www.wafreepress.org/85/070120CLI.shtml]. Although I am concerned personally about the possibility of human-induced climate change, I have not yet found adequate explanations for the changes of glaciers in the global warming literature. This publication is certainly open to such explanations.

Medical marijuana and faked illness

Since there seems to be a growing number of states that are debating the pros and cons of legalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes [see related article Mar/Apr 2009 "How Marijuana Became Illegal," wafreepress.org/97/issue97.pdf], I thought I'd send you the latest release from A Better Tomorrow Treatment Center in Southern California, which may shed some light on some unintended consequences of this kind of legislation.

MURRIETA, Calif., March 31, 2009 – Thirteen states have legalized the medical use of marijuana with a doctor's approval, a development that has led to the rapid growth of cannabis dispensaries from coast to coast.

But one prominent drug treatment center in Southern California is finding that the recipients of medical marijuana cards are not just elderly people with terminal illnesses, but young people in their 20s who are faking back pain and other ailments in an effort to legally obtain the drug.

"Young people are finding they can easily trick doctors into giving them medical marijuana cards by claiming they are suffering from back pain and other ailments whose existence is difficult to prove," said Jerrod Menz, president of A Better Tomorrow Treatment Center Inc., a Murrieta, Calif.-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

Jeff Crider
Media Relations

A Better Tomorrow Treatment Center Inc.

Editor's reply: I must admit, the media release you excerpted made me chuckle. This scenario seems to



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suggest the benefits of full legalization rather than the detriments of medical legalization. These kids obviously will get marijuana one way or another, but they wish to do it legally.

Best kept secret about home inspections

Approximately six years ago, Washington home inspectors were being advised that there was no need to report mold as there was no structural concerns. This advice was coming from a wood scientist who had ties to the wood products industry [see related article "Is It Safe To Buy A Home In WA?" Jan/Feb 2007 www.wafreepress.org/85/070102TOP.shtml]. The result was that many new home buyers were not informed of copious amounts of often toxic mold in their attics and crawlspaces.

Now it looks like mold reporting will be allowed in preinspection agreements. This protects the consumer, who can write in that he wants visible mold assessed, and the inspector, who can then refuse to do the job if the consumer requires it.

The consumer can hire a dual mold/home inspector or just a plain old home inspector who has always felt comfortable reporting the presence of visible mold. Good news for both sides. No one will be forced to go beyond his capabilities and the consumer can hire someone who meets his needs. What a novel idea.

Teresa McCormick

UW Report: Pot Prohibition Not Effective

FROM THE ACLU OF WA

A report issued in March by two University of Washington researchers finds that laws criminalizing marijuana are not achieving their goals. The report concludes that arresting, prosecuting, incarcerating, and seizing the property of people who commit marijuana-related offenses doesn't reduce use. And lessening or removing penalties doesn't increase it.

"The report finds that the 'war on marijuana' is quite costly in both financial and human terms, and the prohibition of marijuana has not measurably reduced its use. This is a clear call for us to reconsider our laws and policies on marijuana," says Alison Holcomb, ACLU of Washington drug policy director.

The report, "The Consequences and Costs of Marijuana Prohibition," was produced by Katherine Beckett and Steve Herbert, associate professors in the University of Washington's Law, Societies, and Justice Program. Beckett and Herbert analyzed data and conducted in-depth interviews in order to compare the fiscal, public safety, and human costs of current marijuana policy against marijuana's price, potency, availability and use. The report was commissioned by the ACLU of Washington and is available online at www.aclu-wa.org.

Beckett and Herbert found that enforcing marijuana laws consumes major portions of government budgets. The domestic law enforcement component of the federal drug control budget more than doubled from 1991 to 2002, to \$9.5 billion, and marijuana arrests accounted for nearly all of the increase in drug arrests during that time.

Furthermore, 28,000 people are serving time in federal or state prison for marijuana offenses; the researchers estimate that their incarceration costs over \$600 million a year, a figure that does not include the costs of detaining marijuana offenders in county jails or supervising them after release.

The authors note that Harvard University economist Jeffrey Miron concludes that marijuana legalization would save \$7.7 billion per year in government expenditures—resources that could be redirected to more important priorities like violent crimes and property crimes.

The researchers also found that marijuana arrests in the US have increased dramatically over the past 15 years, now constituting nearly half of the almost 2 million drug arrests each year. Yet increased enforcement has not produced the government's desired results:

- the price of marijuana has dropped;
- its average potency has increased;
- it has become more readily available; and
- use rates have often increased during times of escalating

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first words
ideas we couldn't
keep to ourselves

About the Cover

Ed "Tuba Man" McMichael was a much loved street musician, for years volunteering his creativity and cheer at sports and other events in Seattle. McMichael died last November from injuries suffered during a random attack at a bus stop. (Three fifteen-year-olds have been sentenced.)

Artist/cartoonist Dan McConnell drew this as a tribute to McMichael. T-shirts with the image are available at <www.redbubble.com/people/cartoonydand>, and the proceeds will fund the Charles J. McConnell youth musical scholarship at Quincy High School in Quincy, Washington.

Love is Love



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enforcement.

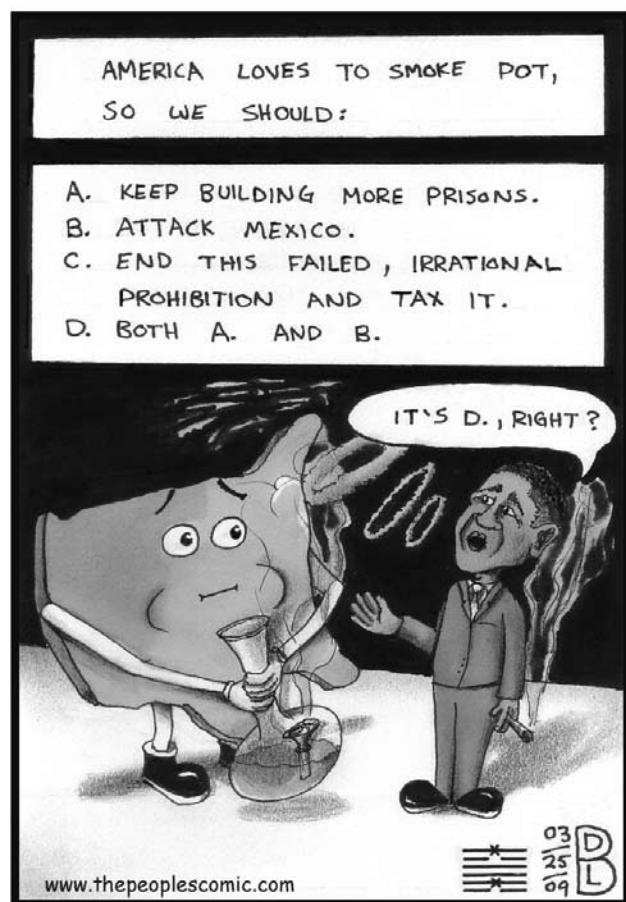
On the other hand, states and localities that have decriminalized marijuana possession, passed medical marijuana laws, or adopted measures making marijuana use the lowest law enforcement priority have been able to redirect law enforcement resources to other public safety issues without experiencing any corresponding increase in marijuana use.

Moreover, the authors found marijuana prohibition carries serious human costs, and these are disproportionately imposed on African Americans.

The researchers interviewed individuals in the Puget Sound area who were arrested for marijuana-related offenses. Besides the financial burdens of attorneys' fees, court fines, lost income, and seized assets, they also suffered emotional stress and family tensions. And they lost faith in a legal system that imposes the long-term stigma of a criminal conviction for an act engaged in by over 40% of the American population.

THE PEOPLE'S COMIC

BY DAVID LOGAN



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Getting a Death Grip on Memory

Media Beat

BY NORMAN SOLOMON

A headline in the New York Times announced a few days ago: "Brain Researchers Open Door to Editing Memory." This news ran above the fold on the front page.

"Suppose scientists could erase certain memories by tinkering with a single substance in the brain," the article began. Readers quickly learned that it's starting to happen: "Researchers in Brooklyn have recently accomplished comparable feats, with a single dose of an experimental drug delivered to areas of the brain critical for holding specific types of memory..."

Big deal.

American media outlets have been pulling off such feats for a long time.

The scientists trying to learn how to wipe out "specific types of memory" are lagging way behind.

Don't need to remember the vast quantities of napalm, Agent Orange and cluster bombs that the US military dropped on Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the 1960s and 1970s? Or the continuing realities of burn victims, dioxin poisoning and unexploded warheads?

Don't want to consider the many thousands of civilians killed by Salvadoran death squads, Guatemalan troops and Nicaraguan contra guerillas during the 1980s, courtesy of US taxpayers?

Don't care to recall the Pentagon's estimate that the Gulf War in early 1991 killed 100,000 Iraqi people during a six-week period?

Forget about it! That's what selective memory is for.

Prefer not to recollect how the US government trained and armed President Reagan's beloved "freedom fighters" in Afghanistan—including the likes of Osama bin Laden and other fundamentalist mujahedeen—for their insurgency against the Soviet occupiers in the 1980s? Rather not remember how those "freedom fighters" became "terrorists"?

Hate that particular gray? Then wash it away!

Enough bleach in the spin cycles will do the trick. There's more than one way to be "editing memory."

"So far, the research has been done only on animals," the Times reported in its April 6 story. "But scientists say this memory system is likely to work almost identically in people."

The Times account managed to balance enthusiasm for the advances of scientific research with some potential downsides: "Millions of people might be tempted to erase a severely painful memory, for instance—but what if, in the process, they lost other, personally important memories that were somehow related?"

Dominant media have blotted out countless painful memories—national or personal—if only by treating them as irrelevant or incidental to news and concerns that really count. All in a day's work: part of the mix of organized forgetting.

"The greatest triumphs of propaganda have been accomplished, not by doing something, but by refraining from doing," Aldous Huxley observed. "Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth." And, of equal relevance to the brave new world of US mass media in 2009: "The propagandist's purpose is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human."

With constant media prompts, the widely replicated screens end up screening us, from ourselves and from each other.

Now we know the names of the Pentagon's drones—Predators and Reapers—but not the names of the people they're killing.

Easy enough to approve of bombing people when they've been rendered unreal. Forgetting becomes a simple matter.

Is some memory not worth remembering? Of course, we could always let the market decide.

Norman Solomon's latest books are "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death" and "Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State." For information, go to: <www.normansolomon.com>.

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MARIA

workplace

What does a woman have to go through to get paid on the high seas?

BY JOHN MERRIAM

This is a true story. Some names have been changed to reduce legal expense.

“Why do you want to go to Alaska to take a nurse’s deposition? You could settle this case for less than you’ll probably bill the underwriter for going up there.” I was speaking on the phone to the opposing lawyer. The case involved a claim for wages from a fish processing ship in the Bering Sea.

“This case won’t settle. My client doesn’t care what it costs for me to go to the Aleutian Islands. We’ll show that the nurse told the fishing company to remove Maria from the vessel for her own good because she had a sexually transmitted disease. We’re acting on principle.”

“OK, Jill, so be it. I’m not going to Alaska for this case. I’ll participate in the deposition by telephone from my office.”

My client, Maria, was claiming \$4,000 in net wages and maybe \$1,000 in medical expenses from a Seattle fishing company that hired her to work aboard the motor vessel Iceberg. The Iceberg was a 190-foot diesel-powered factory ship of 1400 tons that carried 250 fish processors, mostly Latinos, who worked 12 hours per day, seven days per week for \$5.65 per hour plus overtime. A “contract completion bonus” of 85 cents per hour, plus reimbursement of transportation expense, was to be paid to those processors who made it to the end of the fishing season—which that year lasted until the end of March.

An 18-year-old from Eastern Washington who didn’t speak or read English, Maria worked for the fishing company from January 16th to March 11, 1999. I claimed that she had been wrongfully discharged from her job before the end of the season. The insurance company lawyer claimed Maria quit the ship to get treatment for Chlamydia.

My involvement in the case started with a phone call from a bilingual lawyer in Wenatchee on February 2, 2000. “My name is Patrick. I need some help with a maritime case. A lawyer I know over here suggested I call you. I’m with the Northwest Justice Project, a legal services agency for low income clients. One of my clients is a young woman named Maria who worked on a fish factory ship in the Bering Sea a year ago and was sent home with no pay.”

Patrick described Maria’s problem: she started having pain and leakage near her bellybutton from umbilical hernia surgery a year before. In early March 1999 she was flown from St. George Island to a medical clinic on Volcano Island. The clinic took a urine sample. Maria was examined and released to go back to work. On March 8th, after she was again aboard the processing ship, a lab report came back positive for Chlamydia, a sexually transmitted disease.

According to the medical records, the nurse at Volcano Island Clinic prescribed Doxycycline, which was available on the on the ship, but didn’t tell the fishing company what Maria’s diagnosis was. “I called the nurse last summer and got the definite impression that he did tell the fishing company Maria’s diagnosis, even though he claimed it wasn’t his idea to send Maria home. Don’t nurses have the same confidentiality requirements as doctors?” asked Patrick.

“I think so. The Hippocratic Oath applies to all in the medical profession. It gets strange when a nurse or doctor is on the witness stand. Under the state law of Washington, there is a ‘physician-patient privilege’ to protect patients from testimony against them by their doctors. R.C.W. 5.60.060 also applies to the ‘agents’ of the physician, like nurses, who are called to testify. Under federal common law there is no physician-patient privilege, but Federal Rule of Evidence 501 says that state law determines witness privileges. Go figure. No matter which court this case ends up in, however, the nurse had a duty of confidentiality to Maria.”

“This is where the dispute starts. Maria says the fishing company told her she had to get off the ship to get medical treatment. The fishing company says it was Maria’s idea to get off the ship, to get treatment for Chlamydia. Maria told me that she didn’t even know she had Chlamydia until she came to see me and I requested her medical records from the clinic on Volcano Island.”

“Didn’t she get the Chlamydia treated?”

“Not after she left Alaska. She was given some pills by the ship’s medic but wasn’t told what for. The antibiotics must have knocked it out.”

“So she never saw a doctor down here?”

“Yes, she did—for complications from the 1998 hernia surgery—not for an STD. That’s why I’m calling you. Let me finish the story. On March 11th the captain of the Iceberg told Maria through an interpreter that she had to go home to get treated for some serious medical problem he didn’t explain. The captain told her that the company would pay her way back to Washington and give her wages to the end of the contract. He handed her some papers written in English and told her to sign. After she signed, the co-worker who was interpreting told Maria that the papers said she was not entitled to transportation or future wages due to the nature of her medical condition. Maria tried to talk to the captain but he wouldn’t have anything to do with her after that.

“The company bought Maria a ticket to Seattle,” Patrick continued, “deducting the airfare from her earnings. There was some kind of mix-up in Anchorage, where she changed planes, and Maria was stuck there for 36 hours with no money. She finally got to Seattle and somehow made it home to Brewster. When the settlement for her pay was mailed to her house at the end of the season, she didn’t get a check. The deductions—mostly transportation—ate up all her wages, including overtime. The settlement stated her net wages as a negative figure—she owed the company money! Other than advances of a few hundred dollars, Maria was paid nothing for working a month-and-a-half, twelve hours a day, seven days a week. That’s why she came to see me. I’ve been dealing with an insurance adjuster for months. Today she refused to pay Maria anything, saying Maria had an STD and chose to leave the ship voluntarily.”

“Who’s the insurance adjuster?”

“A woman named Laura. She works for an outfit called Club Pole.”

“I know who she is. How did Laura know about Chlamydia? I thought the fishing company claims the nurse didn’t reveal Maria’s diagnosis?”

“She said she found out from a bill sent the fishing company by the clinic on Volcano Island. She also wrote me that, before the fishing company knew about Chlamydia, the nurse said to curtail Maria’s contact with other people, quote, ‘out of concern for spread of this unnamed condition’, unquote. I think the fishing company knew about Chlamydia and is trying to protect its source—the nurse.”

“Was Maria ever declared not-fit-for-duty for her hernia problem?”

“No. A doctor in Omak treated the hernia repair site with xylocaine during a brief visit last April. Other than some follow-up visits with a second doctor, that was it. Maria is fine.”

I paused to think. “You’ve got a tough one here, Patrick. I don’t think there’s anything I can do. In the eyes of the law Maria is a ‘seaman’ because she was working on a vessel in navigable waters. An STD is the kiss of death to a claim for wages, maintenance and cure under the maritime law—no matter how a seaman gets the STD in the first place. Although Maria had complications from a hernia repair, that’s not why she got off the ship—and the hernia problem never disabled her from work. Even though the fishing company is feigning ignorance about Chlamydia, and even though the captain acted badly when he told Maria to leave, getting off a ship to get treatment for a venereal disease means no unearned wages. And if we prove the fishing company knew about Chlamydia, it will try to prove it acted reasonably under the circumstances. That means showing it had reason to believe that Maria was sleeping around. That involves, in turn, delving into her sexual behavior. I don’t relish the thought of a 19 year-old Latina being grilled on her sexual history and habits by some drooling, middle-aged male insurance defense lawyer.”

“You mean that the maritime law punishes Maria simply because she’s got an STD? That’s absurd! That approach will lead to the spread of STDs, not their prevention. Public health policy now is to prevent the spread of disease, not to penalize those who have it.”

“I agree with you, but the maritime law goes back a millennium. Until very recently crews were all male. Contracting an STD meant a seaman was misbehaving ashore, just like getting drunk, and is considered misconduct.”

“But this ship had a co-ed crew living in confined quarters for a long period of time in the Bering Sea. Of course there will be sexual relations. How about the guy who gave Maria Chlamydia? Blaming it just on her is sexist.”

“You raise an interesting question. The fishing company owes its employees a safe place to work. Does that include a workplace that is free from sexually transmit-

ted disease?”

Patrick was causing me to question some long-held assumptions. May it be legally assumed that employees in confined workspaces will engage in sexual relations? Unprotected sexual relations? If the fishing company found out that Maria had Chlamydia, did it have reasonable grounds to believe that she was sexually active with other employees? Even if it did, is such a presumption legally permissible?

“You’re opening Pandora’s Box, Patrick. I agree the maritime law is out of step with the times, but this is not the case to change it. Once the fishing company found out about Chlamydia, no matter how it found out, that arguably triggers a duty to keep other employees safe. And, talking about public health policy, what was the nurse’s duty when he found out that Chlamydia is aboard a factory ship?”

“But who’s to say Maria was sleeping around? What if she only had one sexual partner?”

“Then the question would be: ‘Where did her partner get Chlamydia?’ I’m sorry, Patrick, but I think if we pursue this case we’ll flat-out lose.”

The conversation ended.

I got another call from Patrick a month later: “I just got a copy of a letter from Dr. Kildare to the insurance adjuster about Maria and wondered if it might change your decision on taking this case.”

“Who is Dr. Kildare? And why is he writing a letter to Laura—were you involved in this?”

“Dr. Kildare is one of the Omak doctors who saw Maria for her hernia problem after she got back from Alaska. I guess the insurance adjuster wrote him a letter. The doctor sent me a copy of his response. Let me read it to you.”

“Wait a minute. Laura didn’t send you a copy of the letter she sent Dr. Kildare? Did you give her permission to correspond with your client’s doctor directly? Did she send you a copy of his response?”

“No. No. And no.”

“This stinks. It’s improper for insurance adjusters—and lawyers—to have private contact with any doctor treating someone who’s got a claim against them, the more so when that person has a lawyer to protect his or her interests. And Laura knew you represented Maria. What did Dr. Kildare tell Laura?”

“He gave an answer she didn’t want to hear. The adjuster sent Dr. Kildare chart notes from the nurse in Alaska and asked him to confirm that Maria got off the ship because of an STD, not because of her umbilical hernia problem. I’ll quote the doctor’s letter: ‘Based on the information you have provided, yes I do believe her medical complaint was related to her umbilicus and not a reproductive problem.’ John, I’ll send you a copy of this letter.”

“Wow! That does change things. Because Maria’s departure from the vessel was not because of an STD, she is entitled to maintenance, wages and cure under the general maritime law. Now I can help you. Send me her file.”

After reviewing Patrick’s file on Maria I drafted a Complaint and filed suit against the fishing company in federal court in Seattle. The Complaint alleged that Maria was entitled to have her medical bills paid and to be paid wages to the end of the fishing season, either as compensation for wrongful discharge, or as unearned wages. Unearned wages are part of a seaman’s entitlement to maintenance and cure, a no-fault remedy following illness or injury manifesting while in the service of the ship. I asked Patrick to get admitted to practice in federal court so we could be co-counsel. I expected that the insurance company lawyers would note a lot of depositions east of the mountains—they get paid by the hour—and wanted him to stand in if I couldn’t get over there. The next month I drafted a motion for partial summary judgment under court rule 56. I asked the federal judge assigned to Maria’s case to declare that she was entitled to some amount of maintenance-wages-cure based on Dr. Kildare’s letter to the insurance adjuster, the exact amount to be determined at trial.

A partial summary judgment motion is used to request that part of a case get decided “summarily”, without waiting for trial. I wanted to flush out the fishing company’s “misconduct” defense early on. In my motion I argued that Maria was fired for having an STD, based

see next page

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was no reason for Maria to stop working. Even in the advanced stages of Chlamydia, risk of sterility is no greater at sea than on land.

The court reporter at the Volcano Island clinic had the nurse raise his right hand and swear to tell the truth. The deposition started.

After background questions about the nurse's training and experience, Jill got to the point. "Do you know how Maria got Chlamydia?"

"No," the nurse responded.

"Okay, do you know whether or not she had a history of Chlamydia?"

"No, I don't."

"Okay. Now, did you tell (the fishing company) that Maria had Chlamydia?"

"No, I did not."

"And why, why not?"

"Because of the confidentiality issue, I didn't have her consent to release this information."

"Okay. Did you ask (the fishing company) to restrict Maria's contact with other people?"

"I don't recall telling her that, no."

"Did you tell (the fishing company) that if Maria's condition was not treated, she could have permanent irreversible damage?"

"I don't think I discussed really any of that with (the fishing company)."

"Okay, is it possible that you did and you don't recall it, or do you believe that you did not discuss it?"

"I don't believe I discussed that."

"Okay. Did you recommend that the fishing company tell Maria to return home for treatment?"

"No, I did not."

"Did you tell (the fishing company) that Maria's condition was not related to her work on the boat?"

"No, no, I didn't."

"Do you have an opinion as to whether or not her condition would pose a danger to the fish product on board the vessel?" Jill was starting to sound a little desperate.

"No, I don't think it would."

"Do you recall having a telephone conference with (the insurance adjuster)?"

"It may have happened. I don't recall it."

"Did you tell (the insurance adjuster) that Maria had a history of venereal disease?"

"I don't recall the conversation, but I doubt I told her that."

"Okay. Do you recall telling (the insurance adjuster) that as long as Maria kept her clothes on, she wasn't a medical threat to the fish product...?"

"That—that seems a little far-fetched, but no, I didn't say that."

Jill finished. It was my turn to ask questions.

"If Doxycycline was aboard the vessel, could Maria have safely kept working?"

"It would have been appropriate for her to continue working, yes."

"Do you have any idea how long it normally takes mail to get from Volcano Island to Seattle?"

"It depends on the time of year. It could be from two days to two weeks, to maybe never."

"Did you ever tell Maria she had Chlamydia?"

"No, I didn't."

"Do you know if anybody else ever did?"

"No, I don't know if they did."

"If someone had Chlamydia and they were taking Doxycycline, would their risk of infertility be any greater on land than at sea?"

"I don't think that makes a difference, where you're at."

"That's all the questions I have."

The deposition ended.

"The nurse didn't say what Jill wanted him to!" I called Patrick after the deposition. "He wouldn't say that Maria was pulled off the ship for her own good, like I feared he would. He said he'd told no one about Chlamydia. I was loaded for bear, but didn't have to fire a shot. Jill's trip to Alaska was for naught."

"That's his third version of events."

"What do you mean?"

"The first time, on the telephone—to me and probably the fishing company as well—the nurse talked about Chlamydia. The second version is what he wrote in the medical records. You just heard the latest version."

"That might have been influenced by the claims manager from Anchorage. She probably told the nurse: 'Listen boy, if you want malpractice insurance renewed at this clinic, you'd better shut your mouth!' To achieve a just result one sometimes must travel a circuitous path. Maybe we have an insurance-type to thank for saving Maria from a different insurance company...? I don't know what happened. All I know is that the fishing company was bound and determined to get Maria off that ship. I also learned the insurance adjuster went behind your back again. She called the nurse to request an opinion last January, in private, when she knew you represented Maria."

"Maybe the fishing company put two-and-two

WHAT JAPANESE SCHOOLS ARE DOING RIGHT

BY BILL COSTELLO

In March, I had the opportunity to visit a Japanese school. Kadena Elementary School is located on Okinawa Island in the town of Kadena, and is not to be confused with the school of the same name operated by the US Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS).

The purpose of my visit was to research successful aspects of the Japanese school system that could be used to improve the American school system. As an educational researcher, I believe that cultures should borrow the best practices from each other.

During my visit to Kadena Elementary, I observed several practices that worked well and could be adopted by American schools.

First, Kadena Elementary has a social curriculum in addition to an academic curriculum. For example, the students clean the school every day by themselves; there is no janitor. They sign up for chores on the blackboard. The Japanese custom of removing street shoes at the front door of the school and replacing them with shoes that are only worn indoors makes cleaning somewhat easier.

Also, the students serve the school lunch to the teachers and themselves; there are no cafeteria workers. After lunch, the students clean up after themselves.

The social curriculum helps students develop autonomy, responsibility, and a strong work ethic. It's an idea that could work well in American schools.

The second practice I observed that worked well is that the students eat a healthy diet. There are no soda vending machines at Kadena Elementary. The school lunch is planned by a dietician and prepared at a central location in the school's district. It is then delivered daily to every elementary school, middle school, and high school in the district. Japanese schools do not have cafeterias. Students eat lunch in the classroom with their homeroom teacher.

The school lunch I ate at Kadena Elementary consisted of rice, soup, broiled fish, and milk. By comparison, the American school lunch typically consists of processed foods that are higher in fat and sugar.

Third, the students stay active at Kadena Elementary. They have recess every day and participate in a rigorous physical exercise program. In contrast, American schools are cutting back or completely eliminating recess and physical education.

Besides recess and physical education, the students

together between March 8th and 11th last year, assumed Maria was a loose woman and kicked her off the ship...?" Now Patrick was guessing.

"Or maybe that March 6th lab bill for Chlamydia testing got to the fishing company and was sent to the insurance company for payment, before March 11th. Laura would have time to lean on the nurse and get more information...? How did Maria get Chlamydia, anyway?"

"She said her only sexual partner is her boyfriend. He works on the Iceberg."

"I wonder where he got Chlamydia...?"

I called Patrick two months later. "Jill has been pulled off the case."

"Why?"

"Not sure. After the nurse's deposition in Alaska she canceled the September depositions in Omak and said she wanted to settle. That's the last I heard from her. A senior associate named Carl called and said he was taking over. I asked if his client(s) wanted to continue hemorrhaging attorney fees in a losing battle. I said that if he didn't get some money to Maria pretty soon I would ask the judge to reconsider his ruling on summary judgment, based upon the nurse's deposition."

"What did he say?"

"Carl said that he was trying to walk through a 'settlement minefield', with a lot of wounded egos who felt 'threatened' by his recommendation to give Maria some money to settle the case."

Two months after that the case did settle. Maria was paid \$4000 in net wages, maybe \$1000 in medical bills, and a little bit more for attorney fees.

John Merriam is a lawyer practicing in Seattle who represents commercial fishermen and other seamen on wage and injury claims.

education



Lunchbreak at Kadena Elementary. Students serve the teachers and themselves, eat fresh food, then clean up as well.

also stay active in the classroom. I observed classrooms wherein students were not just passively sitting still listening to the teacher; they stood up and moved around while learning. They played educational games and learned by seeing, hearing, and doing.

Studies show that proper nutrition and increased physical activity lead to higher academic achievement. American schools can improve student learning by serving a healthier school lunch and giving students more opportunities to stay active during the school day.

Japan has outperformed the US in math and science on several international assessments of educational achievement. For example, the average math achievement score for 15-year-old Japanese students was 523 on the most recent Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). American students only scored 474.

In science, Japanese students outperformed American students 531 to 489.

The Japanese school system is teaching math and science to students more effectively than the American school system, and it still has enough resources left over to implement a social curriculum, offer healthy food, and allow students to stay physically active during the school day. These are all great practices that American schools should consider borrowing.

Bill Costello, training director of Making Minds Matter, teaches parents and teachers the best strategies for educating boys. He can be reached at www.makingmindsmatter.com or trainer@makingmindsmatter.com.

We Need Fishmongers

The WA Free Press is a volunteer publication. We need help from fishmongers, dogcatchers, manicurists and practical jokers to keep the paper alive and out there. Really! We ask that all volunteers also be current subscribers and help with proofreading and mailing help, if you live in the Seattle vicinity.

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Stock Slump Means Huge Tax Bailout for 'Investors'

BY GERALD E. SCORSE

You think investors had it bad last year? You may not know it, but they'll be turning to America's taxpayers (as they always do) to help bail them out.

Every spring, thanks to a generous tax code provision, the Treasury picks up part of the tab for losing bets on Wall Street. Given last year's historic plunge, these personal bailouts could rival the \$700 billion TARP bailout—and for investors, there's no dollar cap or cut-off date.

It all adds up to an extended fiscal hit on the Obama Administration. No matter how large the losses realized in 2008, no matter how long it takes to recoup, Uncle Sam will be sharing the pain. Deeply sharing: up to 35 percent depending on the loser's tax bracket, or 39.6 percent if Obama ends the Bush tax cuts for higher-income Americans.

Capital loss offsets are the tax code provision that soothes investor wounds. When the year's trades are reported on tax returns, losses offset taxable gains dollar-for-dollar. If net losses exceed gains, the loss offsets taxable income—by up to \$3,000—and provides another tax saving.

Offsets never lose their tax-reducing power. Losses greater than \$3,000 (as last year's probably were) are carried forward indefinitely until they're used up.

At 15 percent, the tax on long-term capital gains is low compared to the rate on ordinary income like wages. With capital loss offsets, the deal is even sweeter on the downside. While gains are taxed at less than half the top rate, losses are written off at 100 percent across the board. Could losing come any closer to winning?

Yes, say Senator John McCain and Michael Boskin, a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Senator McCain proposed raising the capital loss offset against ordinary income from \$3,000 to \$15,000 per year for 2008 and 2009. Boskin would up the number to \$20,000.

All of which raises some interesting questions. Who profits from these write-offs? Is there good reason for the government (read: taxpayers) to subsidize investment losses? Might the tax system be fairer, and rates perhaps lower, if these subsidies were curbed or even ended?

The first question is easy. Roughly 50 percent of Americans own no stocks, so offsets hold nothing for them. Of the half who do own stocks, most have their portfolios in tax-sheltered retirement accounts. They don't get those write-offs, either.

That leaves a fairly narrow layer, those affluent enough to have non-retirement stock portfolios. Putting it another way, the benefits of capital loss offsets flow solely to those who already have ample capital. (If this hints at class warfare, here it is served neat by Warren Buffett: "There's class warfare, all right, but it's my class, the rich class, that's making war, and we're winning.")

As to whether subsidies for investors are a sound government policy, sure they are—but it's foolish to hand out tax breaks just for playing the market. Real investors, a thimbleful of the total, put seed money into initial public offerings (IPOs) and follow-on offerings. They grow jobs and grow businesses. The rest of us play the game at the tables down on Wall Street: we grow portfolios (if we're lucky), nothing more. Real investors have a strong claim to tax breaks. "Investors" have a frail claim, and it's time that Congress caught on.

Tax fairness—as always—is in the eye of the 1040 filer. Still, facts matter. Capital loss offsets benefit the few at the expense of the many. Like all tax deductions, they're paid for by taxpayers in the aggregate—through higher rates, fewer government services, or both. Taxes would be fairer without offsets. Short of repeal, Congress could set a dollar or percentage limit (a form of which was on the books years ago). At the least, the offset against ordinary income should be stricken.

Except for real investors, who are 100 percent deserving of 100 percent offsets (and an income offset too). If they lose more than \$3,000 in a year, Michael Boskin's \$20,000 income offset is a starting point.

Now for President Obama, whose Tax Fairness Plan during the campaign opened on this note: "For decades, America has been victim to an anti-tax sentiment that has led to tax cuts



that favor wealth, not work." Two prime examples are offsets and higher taxes on wages than on capital gains. When Congress finally takes up tax reform, the president's instinct for fairness should be his one true guide.

Above article copyright 2009 Gerald E. Scorse. The author helped pass a bill that tightens the rules for reporting capital gains on tax returns. His op-eds on investment taxes have appeared in several major dailies. His efforts on reforming tax-basis laws have been noted by David Cay Johnston, former tax reporter for the New York Times.

TELL BANK OF AMERICA TO REFORM

FROM THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

The following article aims for grass-roots appeal, but I wonder why SEIU is targeting Bank of America, rather than the government. The root of the problem is the government bailout of essentially failed corporations like Bank of America and others. What good is a new CEO if the corporation is—by honest accounting methods—already dead? —Ed.

In mid-April, more than 10,000 people signed "taxpayer proxy cards" asking for CEO Ken Lewis to be fired.

Momentum is building for real reform to take place at Bank of America. Next week, Ken Lewis' time at the helm at Bank of America could come to an end. On Tuesday, April 28, thousands of taxpayers will tell Bank of America it's time for reform—and for CEO Ken Lewis to be fired. We're hoping that you'll join them.

Go here to RSVP to an event near you: <<http://action.seiu.org/economyevents>>.

We need you to go to a Bank of America location—or another bank near you—to show your support for reform. There are already dozens of events set up around the country—and you can easily create your own.

The purpose of these events is to show Bank of America it's time for reform—you can collect "taxpayer proxy cards" that we'll deliver to Bank of America's annual meeting.

Now is the time to step up the pressure on Bank of America—we have a real opportunity to make our economy work for everyone again. Just an hour of your time will go a long way to pushing for the reforms we need at Bank of America. •

McConnell



THE NEW DOG

Healthcare from back page

nor of Utah. Before he and Bush left office, he changed regulations to limit women's access to abortion, contraception and information about healthcare options and, incidentally, his fortune while he was in Bush's cabinet shot from \$7.7 million to \$34 million.

Daschle pointed out that healthcare is not a private system; the government already provides 40 percent of healthcare services. This private-public system lacks integration and the government could play an important role in integrating care to make it work better. The government needs to offer an insurance program for those who are unhappy with their insurance or whose employers drop their insurance.

"Are we looking for a new system to benefit the insurance industry or the American people?" Daschle asked. "Americans want the greatest degree of choice. What's wrong with offering a publicly funded proposal for those who can't get insurance any other way? We offer this today; it's called Medicare."

Leavitt opposes government-sponsored insurance because he says its effects will run wild as it competes with private insurance companies to push them out of the market. Employers would enroll their employees in government insurance and undermine the private system. A former trustee of the Medicare trust fund, Leavitt said reforming healthcare must begin with Medicare because its cost will bankrupt the country. In a few years, Leavitt predicts healthcare will represent 30 percent of the nation's budget.

Both Daschle and Leavitt agree on a number of problems with the current healthcare system, although neither of them suggested the problems are due to a primary focus on private profit. Americans spend \$2.5 trillion a year—\$8,000 per individual—on healthcare, an 85 percent increase since 2000. Some 47 million are uninsured, and a third of the population under 65 spends part of the year without insurance.

They also agree that more money doesn't buy better care. The World Health Organization ranks the US 37th in the world in healthcare, between Costa Rica and Slovenia. The US has the most expensive healthcare in the world, but it excludes 42 percent of the population, and yearly cost increases often hit double digits. Those without insurance use emergency rooms that are paid out of the premiums of insured families at a rate of \$1,000 per year. Incentives drive the healthcare system toward more expensive procedures rather than toward providing well-being. The system is wasteful; paperwork and administration consume 30 cents of every dollar spent; and the emphasis is on volume rather than quality.

Daschle and Leavitt agree on a "public-private framework" for reform and both want individuals to accept more responsibility for their own healthcare. Leavitt wants the government to "organize the marketplace" and subsidize those who can't afford insurance, but he doesn't want the government to "own" the system. He favors "an individual mandate" that forces an individual to buy insurance from a private provider.

According to both men, there's a small window for change; they expect Congress to find a solution by August. Leavitt sees an incremental change and Daschle estimates a 50-50 chance of substantial reform. If there was ever a time for citizens to speak out, it's now.

At the entrance to the forum, the Young Democrats of Monterey County, California handed out leaflets supporting single-payer healthcare; HR 676, now sponsored by 92 members of Congress. Single Payer is similar to Medicare and would provide affordable healthcare for everyone, eliminate overpaid CEOs, profit and paperwork, and put the patient and doctor in charge of medical decisions instead of insurance companies. A major selling point for a government-run option is the reduced cost due to less overhead and private profit because the government could negotiate lower prices.

Neither Leavitt nor Daschle are receptive to Single Payer. Leavitt said Medicare will become insolvent by 2016 and universal coverage would dramatically diminish the amount of budget available for other uses. "Can we afford to dramatically expand healthcare to include the whole population?" he asked.

"I realize a number of people believe in Single Payer," said Daschle. "But they are not the majority and most people like what they have and don't want to change."

With half the population "somewhat" or "completely" unprepared to deal with a costly medical emergency, according to the National Coalition for Health Care, this is a strange argument. Opponents cry "socialized medicine," which is no less than Medicare for everyone. Obama doesn't leave room at the table to consider Single Payer, which is promoted by many citizens' groups, but he has room for every for-profit medical provider.

As citizens, if we want to see more affordable care, an increase in quality, more transparency and better coverage, now is the time to call our representatives. Otherwise, this small window of opportunity will close. •

Cashing In On Earth's Cycles

Part 3 (conclusion)—The Future: Recurrent Cycles

BY ALAN CHEETHAM &
RICHARD KIRBY

While I don't share the authors' skepticism on the environmental movement itself, there is a strong resonance to their view that there is an authoritarian element in the climate change movement. Wars occur when there is a convergence of idealistic concern, economic interest, and a pro-war manipulation of news. A similar convergence seems to be jelling for a "war" regarding climate change. As an environmental idealist myself, I'm concerned about getting dragged into a battle that professes to be green, but turns out to be destructive hucksterism.

The below article was originally published in the newsletter of Mensa of Western Washington. The previous two parts are readable at <wafreepress.org/96/issue96.pdf> and <wafreepress.org/97/issue97.pdf>. —Ed.

Numbered references appear at the end of the article.

The enlightenment and scientific revolution in the 17th and 18th centuries were based on empirical and sensory verification of phenomena and resulted in a freeing of ideas from the shackles of religion. That period was also the end of the little ice age—most of the world's glaciers have been receding ever since.

Now a new religion is rising and creating a bondage of science to what is deemed the acceptable discourse. The President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus, recently said:

I know that its propagandists have been using all possible obstructions to avoid exposure to rational arguments and I know that the substance of their arguments is not science. It represents, on the contrary, an abuse of science by a non-liberal, extremely authoritarian, freedom and prosperity endangering ideology of environmentalism.... The new ambitions look more noble, more attractive and more appealing. They are also very shrewdly shifted towards the future and thus practically "immunized" from reality, from existing evidence, from available observations, and from standard testing of scientific hypotheses.... I consider environmentalism to be the most effective and, therefore, the most dangerous vehicle for advocating large scale government intervention and unprecedented suppression of human freedom at this very moment. [1]

One of the tenets of a scientific hypothesis is that it must be testable. Unfortunately, the proponents of the anthropogenic (human-induced) global warming theory (AGW) blame everything on it—even cooling. The only way of testing the hypothesis is to see what the future brings.

In 1988 NASA's James Hansen (an avid AGW doomsday promoter) published model predictions of future temperatures under three CO₂ scenarios. Comparing measured temperatures over the last 20 years to his predictions show that the warming has been less than the modeled scenario of "drastically reduced gases between 1990 and 2000" [2]

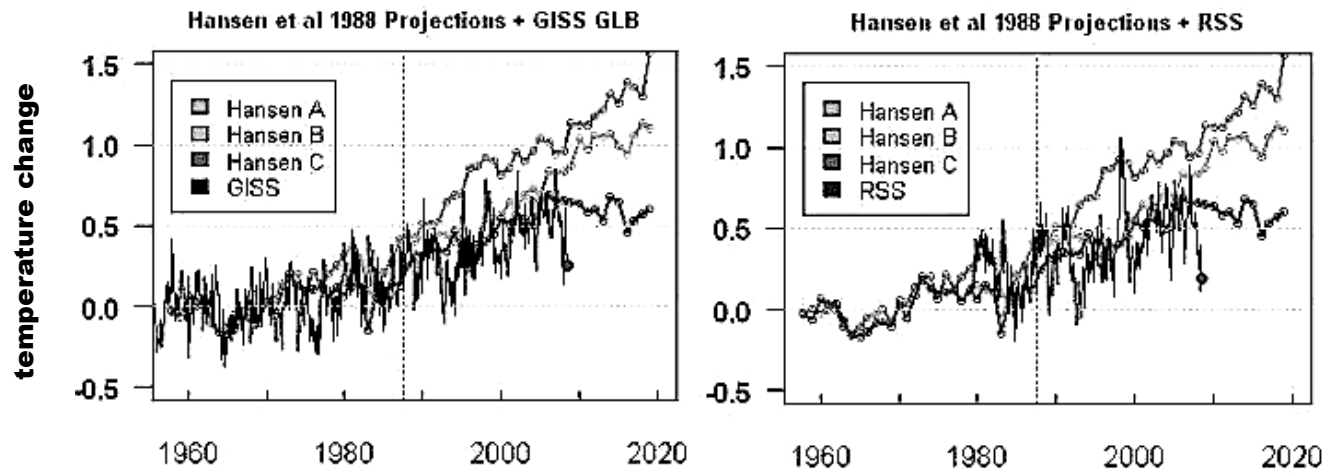
Of course models are periodically revised to reflect new knowledge, but the dire doomsday scenario is never called off—just postponed slightly. The IPCC models are misrepresented in the media—the extreme models are generally portrayed as likely. Western Washington University geologist Don Easterbrook has made a much more realistic projection of future temperatures based on oceanic cycles—but without a doomsday. Easterbrook postulates that there are alternating warming and cooling cycles that last 25 to 35 years, and that we've recently entered a cooling cycle.[3]

(Easterbrook's website contains fascinating analysis regarding the possibility that we could in fact be headed for a very cold cycle. See <www.ac.wvu.edu/~dbunny/research/global/index.htm>.)

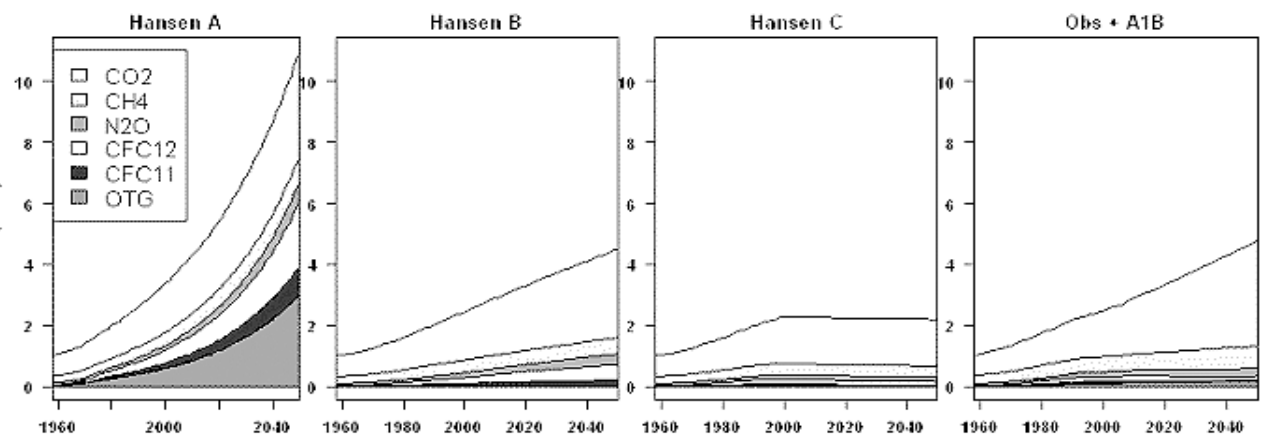
The dire consequences promoted by the media are contained in statements with the word "may". For example, although their numbers have greatly increased over the last couple of decades and their populations recently appear to be stable [4], the polar bears "may" become threatened. None of these scare stories are supported by empirical evidence.

There has been no warming now for the last decade—but it hasn't slowed the rhetoric—some AGW promoters are getting more desperate and are promoting the feeling of western guilt.

At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change event in Bali (December 2007), NGOs were open about their missions. According to the Climate Action Network web site: "A common theme was that the 'solutions' to climate change that are being posed



NASA climate scientist James Hansen in 1988 issued three well known predictions of world temperature. "Hansen A" is temperature based on unbridled increase of greenhouse emissions, whereas "Hansen C" is temperature with a drastic cutback in emissions. The following figures compare Hansen's 1988 predictions with actual temperature data since then. The left-hand figure compares the NASA GISS global data (as compiled by Hansen), while the right-hand figure compares the satellite-based temperature data as processed by RSS. While actual atmospheric CO₂ levels have increased since 1988, the fact that actual temperatures are similar to the reduced CO₂ models implies a problem with the models. Figures are from Steve McIntyre <www.climateaudit.org/?p=3354>.



These graphs shows the greenhouse gas emissions scenarios used by Hansen, as well the observed temperature (1988 – 2008 plus projection based on scenario B) on the right. The already observed CO₂ emission is closest to the scenario B input, but the observed temperature is closer to scenario C output – indicating a problem with the models. Figures are from Steve McIntyre <www.climateaudit.org/?p=3354>.

by many governments, such as nuclear power, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and biofuels are false and are not rooted in justice.... a climate change response must have at its heart a redistribution of wealth and resources" [5].

That ethos may have prompted Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, to refer to the Kyoto accord as "essentially a socialist scheme to suck money out of wealth-producing nations." [6]

Even the American Psychologists Association (APA) wants "to launch a national initiative specifically targeting behavior changes, including developing media messages that will help people reduce their carbon footprint... stepping up efforts to foster a broader sense of eco-sensitivity that the group believes will translate into more public action to protect the planet."

The 148,000-member APA will now participate in the brainwashing, trying to turn grey matter green. The article also notes: "News stories that provided a balanced view of climate change reduced people's beliefs that humans are at fault and also reduced the number of people who thought climate change would be bad" [7]

We essentially have a dichotomy in the world: the "developed" world is divided between those promoting global warming as a justification for societal change and those promoting it for money; the "developing" world is divided between those who say it is nonsense, and those who want to receive money for it. In all camps, the motivation has little or nothing to do with actually reducing CO₂.

Senator Dianne Feinstein of California introduced a measure to deal with CO₂ trading: "This landmark legislation will not only significantly reduce our nation's carbon footprint, it will also generate tremendous economic potential. In fact, new carbon markets—with annual values of approximately \$300 billion—are expected to emerge once Congress establishes a cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gas emissions." [8]

The vast sums that will be generated by transferring money from consumers to credit traders will also increase government. In the case of the (non-elected) EU government:

"The EU plans in their current shape will not lead to any more CO₂ emissions savings, as those are capped, but bring sky-high new carbon taxes.... Power prices would increase by 50 percent after 2012.... the auctions will bring the government 15 billion euros (\$21 billion) of additional annual income which would have to be borne by consumers." [9]

The October 2008 credit crisis bailout revision contained tax provisions for CO₂ sequestration which were not part of the original bill. [10]

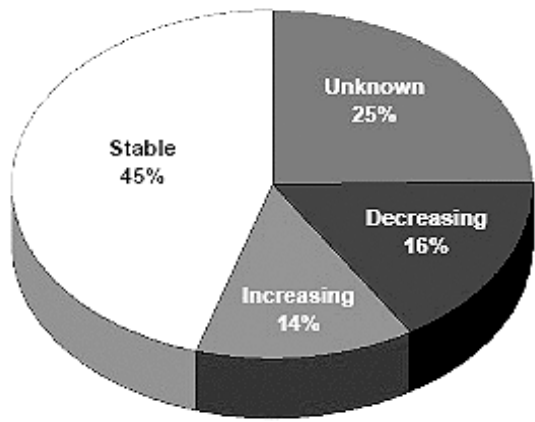
The development of alternative energy (solar and wind power, etc.) may be a desirable goal, but these should be developed for honest reasons, not as part of a false-science political scam. The future of scientific ideas and their freedom from ideological chains is dependent on learning and spreading the truth. We must not let our scientific future succumb to the autocratic trend that has taken over climate science.

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climate

Status of Polar Bear Populations



Source: Stefan Norris et al., "Polar Bears at Risk," World Wildlife Fund, May 2002.

The population of polar bears is essentially stable, according to recent data. Since the late 1960s, the population has actually increased from a low of about 12,000 to approximately 25,000 today. The bear was recently added to the Endangered Species List on the basis of climate modeling and its projected effect, not actual population declines (see <www.doi.gov/secretary/speeches/081405_speech.html>).

OBAMA: HOW SERIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

A reader sent us notice of a New York Times article from Jan. 28, 2009, which reported the following:

WASHINGTON - The capital flew into a bit of a tizzy when, on his first full day in the White House, President Obama was photographed in the Oval Office without his suit jacket. There was, however, a logical explanation: Mr. Obama, who hates the cold, had cranked up the thermostat.

"He's from Hawaii, O.K.?" said Mr. Obama's senior adviser, David Axelrod, who occupies the small but strategically located office next door to his boss. "He likes it warm. You could grow orchids in there."

However, the article did not mention that during the campaign, Obama was quoted, "We can't drive our SUVs and eat as much as we want and keep our homes on 72 degrees at all times... and then just expect that other countries are going to say OK. That's not leadership."

Well, I hope Obama turned the White House thermostat down at night. But one concept he seems to be sorely missing is that one of the best tools in lowering your carbon emissions is a sweater or indoor jacket, which can allow you to turn down the thermostat comfortably.

Doug Collins

McConnell



NEWS FROM THE E.P.A.

TRIDENT SEAFOODS PAYS \$112,000+ FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Seattle's Trident Seafoods Corporation has settled with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and agreed to pay a \$61,354 penalty for violating the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) by failing to properly report the storage of ammonia at four facilities.

Specifically, Trident failed to file Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms with local emergency response entities in Alaska and Washington.

In addition to paying the penalty, Trident agreed to perform a Supplemental Environmental Project, providing over \$23,000 in emergency response equipment to first responders in Kodiak, Alaska and over \$28,000 in response equipment to responders in Akutan, Alaska.

"People's safety and preventing chemical accidents are a top priority for EPA," said Edward Kowalski, Director of EPA's Office of Compliance & Enforcement in Seattle. "We're committed to reducing the likelihood and severity of accidental chemical releases by enforcing the law, protecting people and the environment and creating a level playing field for industry."

Today's settlement addresses violations related to Trident facilities in the Alaskan towns of Kodiak, Akutan and Petersburg, as well as a Trident facility in Seattle, Washington, all which store ammonia in amounts above the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act reportable quantities. The four Trident facilities process seafood.

To learn more about EPA's work to protect communities from toxic chemicals through the Risk Management Program go to: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/rmp>

For more about toxic effects of Anhydrous Ammonia (NIOSH GUIDE): www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npgd0028.html

MIDAS MUFFLER SHOP FINED FOR PCBs IN USED OIL

A Midas Muffler shop in Bellevue, WA, has reached a \$9,300 settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to resolve alleged federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) violations related to the mishandling of PCBs.

The PCB problems were initially discovered by a used oil recycler in Seattle, who received a shipment of 150 gallons of used oil from Midas in Oct. 2007. Midas did not inform the recycler that the used oil contained PCBs. When the recycler tested the oil and found that it was contaminated with PCBs, they notified EPA. The company was forced to dispose all of the used oil as PCB-contaminated fluid.

Midas' alleged violations included:

- Failure to properly mark the contaminated oil container with a PCB label;
- Failure to notify EPA in advance of the shipment of the PCB waste;
- Failure to prepare a manifest for the shipment of the PCB waste.

Companies should use either a field screening test kit or send a sample of their used oil to a laboratory for analysis to

environment

determine if it contains PCBs. It's important for companies to make this determination before sending the used oil for energy recovery/disposal. If the used oil is found to have PCBs the company must isolate the PCB containing oil from further contaminating other used oil.

Concerns about the toxicity and persistence of PCBs in the environment urged Congress in 1976 to enact prohibitions on the manufacture, processing and distribution in commerce of PCBs, including "cradle to grave" (i.e. from manufacture to disposal) management of PCBs.

Rules governing PCBs and additional information on the toxic effects of PCBs can be found at EPA's PCB homepage at: <www.epa.gov/pcb>.

Washington State Department of Ecology used oil facts, visit: <www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0204006.pdf>.

Seattle '4th Least Wasteful'

A recent poll of residents of 25 US cities, conducted by the company Nalgene, found that Seattle was "America's 4th least wasteful city." The poll measured responses on a variety of personal habits.

Seattle's high rankings

- Throwing out less than 2 bags of trash per week - 1st
- Reusing Ziploc bags and tin foil - 1st
- Limiting showers to 5 minutes or less - 1st
- Composting fruits and vegetables - 1st
- Reusing wrapping paper and ribbons - 2nd
- Avoiding buying bottled water - 2nd

Seattle's low rankings

- Avoiding using an electric or gas clothes dryer to dry clothes - 22nd
- Saving leftovers - 15th
- Avoiding driving for trips that are less than 2 miles - 14th

Overall

79% of Seattle residents consider themselves to be "eco-conscious"

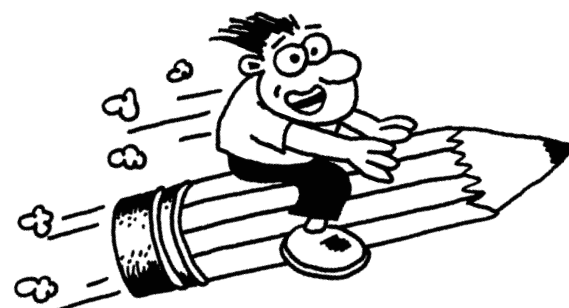
88% plan on being more environmentally conscious in the next year

46% of Seattle residents think their city is on the right track to becoming more environmentally responsible

Given the weather, I can understand that Seattle ranks low on sun-drying of laundry. The low ranking for driving on short trips likely relates to the weather, the hills, and the maddening nature of the Metro bus system. But the big surprise for me is the low rate of saving leftover food in Seattle. Perhaps it's a problem of affluence, that Seattleites eat out more often than cook? Or perhaps Seattleites are squeamish adherents of over-blown public health warnings on bacterial contamination of food left sitting unrefrigerated for a few minutes (more likely).

Predictably, the top three least wasteful cities were San Francisco, New York City, and Portland, OR. The lowest overall ranked was Atlanta.

Complete data on Seattle with links to other cities are at <www.leastwastefulcities.com/seattle.html>.



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Czar Kerlikowske

Seattle's outgoing police chief has been heavy-handed and disdainful of critics; was he really a good pick for Obama's administration?

BY PAUL RICHMOND

Numbered references appear at the end of this article.

Recently I was told the story of a Colorado man who approached then Vice President Dick Cheney and raised questions of his policies. Within minutes the man was arrested and handcuffed by a Secret Service agent for "assaulting" the vice president.[1] "Thank God that stuff's over," the person telling the story said to me.

Ironically, I've been having similar concerns over one of President Obama's recent appointments, Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske. While he's being hailed by many as an enlightened, even brilliant choice my experience may temper that unbridled optimism. As an attorney who's worked in the Seattle area, doing support for demonstrators, I have genuine concerns about his actions regarding the First Amendment, including several with parallels to the Cheney episode above. As a researcher who tracked much of the militarization of law enforcement around the drug war, I'm concerned about programs he's already implemented.

I found Kerlikowske to have a marked disdain for critics. I experienced it personally when he appeared at UW Law School where I was enrolled and finishing a law degree. Kerlikowske responded to a difficult question I asked by singling me out by name and claiming I followed him everywhere—it was in fact the second time I'm aware I'd been at the same event as him. I was a white law student, so that was as far as it went.

Others have not been as lucky. Shortly after I graduated, I came to represent Anwar Peace, a young black man who was concerned about the number of black men shot by the Seattle Police. Peace who had no criminal history, wanted to have a meeting with Chief Kerlikowske to discuss this. Peace left phone messages, would attempt to speak with Kerlikowske at public events, and ultimately set up a table on the sidewalk in front of the police department.

Kerlikowske's response was to file a Restraining Order, (which was granted as these usually are) and then pursue criminal charges the next time Peace contacted him.[2] The criminal trials dragged on and on, and the police invested an incredible amount of time and money into this. Rather astounding when you consider GWB never sought a restraining order against Cindy Sheehan.

This also seemed to follow a pattern of little tolerance for any dissent. From my experience I can say, Kerlikowske has shown a record of contempt for the rights of demonstrators and a history of responding to them with disproportionate force. This has included:

- Overseeing the mass arrests of people trying to leave the site of the first anniversary of the WTO demonstrations, on November 30, 2000. Demonstrators were promised if they left the area they would be free to go. They were directed down a street where they were surrounded by fences and riot police. Over a hundred were arrested, the first of these being the legal observers.[3] A year later, on the third anniversary, police spent over \$300,000 in overtime to march 200 demonstrators about 10 blocks down a hill, making a liberal number of arrests along the way for things like stepping off sidewalks.[4]

- When the October 22 group attempted to have their annual demonstration in 2003, police not only limited them to the sidewalk, but drove a line of vans on the lane alongside that sidewalk, hiding the march from sight. This resulted in a federal suit from the ACLU filed in federal court as Co4-860Z.

- Also in 2003 Kerlikowske spearheaded the prosecution of a few women from the Rainforest Action Network (RAN) who dropped a banner off of a construction crane under an old felony statute enacted to go after the Wobblies. Let me be clear these women were facing many years in prison for simply hanging a banner from a crane. As one of the lawyers involved in defending these women, I believe that the owners of the construction site had no interest in this prosecution, the push coming from Kerlikowske's office and the prosecutors.

- During the first days of the Iraq invasion, Kerlikowske's police not only terrorized demonstrators with a heavy show of force, again corralling demonstrators and making liberal numbers of arrests. We also began noticing a number of them carrying highly lethal rifles, many of them M-16 variants.

- In June of 2003 the Law Enforcement

Intelligence Unit (LEIU) held its annual convention in Seattle and hundreds of demonstrators came out. Kerlikowske's police responded by penning the demonstrators in a small area for twenty five minutes, firing less lethal weaponry and chemical agents at them through this time.

Kerlikowske's adherence to these military tactics against demonstrators is not surprising. His earlier role in the federal was the COPS program. This was the part of the 1995 Crime Bill designed to put 100,000 new cops on the street. Funding was short term with long term funding depending on asset forfeiture by these new cops. This corresponded neatly with the spread of paramilitary SWAT units throughout the country. Kerlikowske's love for these tactics was shown in an early editorial he did for the Seattle Times (August 30, 2000) praising the tactics of his officers who showed with two paramilitary vehicles, SWAT Teams dressed in camouflage carrying military weapons to apprehend a single unarmed suspect. [5]

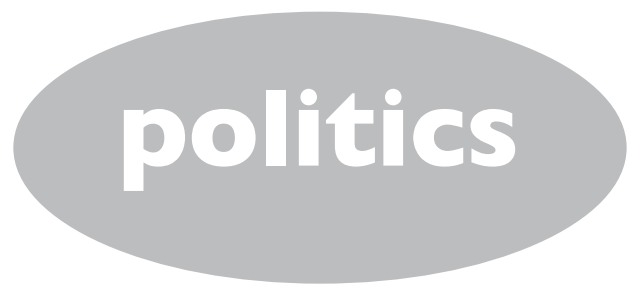
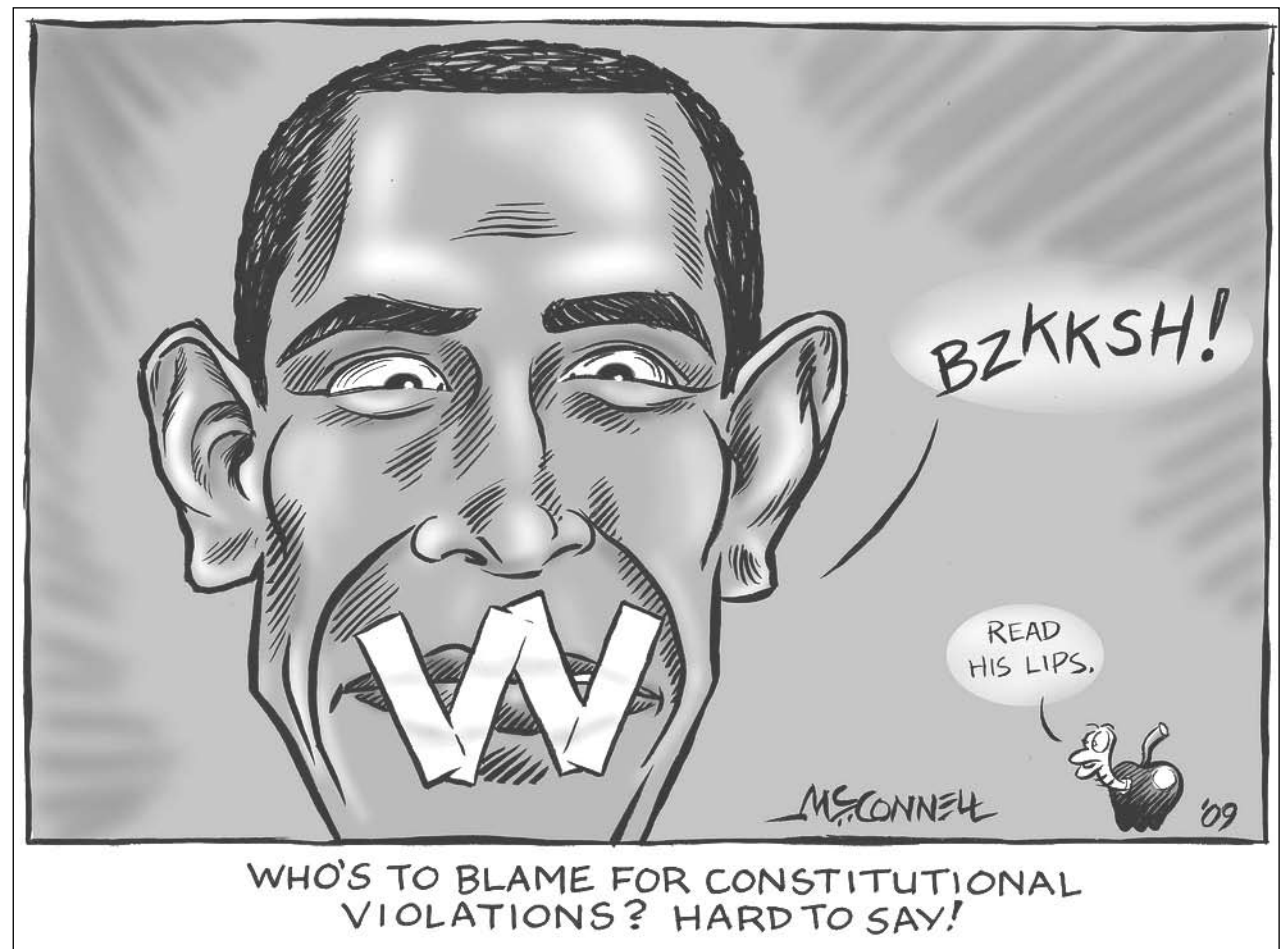
In short then, though Kerlikowske has received even some praise for not opposing policies to lower the priority of marijuana enforcement in Seattle, these policies did not come from him. His history and future actions can probably be more accurately seen by looking at the intolerance he has had for dissent including both heavy handed tactics in the street and heavy handed prosecutions as well as his earlier promotion of what are in essence programs that militarized the police and vastly expanded some of the worst aspects of the war on drugs.

The author, Paul Richmond is a long time community activist and independent media reporter. He has produced several thousand hours of local television in Portland, was one of the founders of the independent media center during the WTO, and one of the coordinators of the legal observer program. He authored the report "Waging War on Dissent," and was a consultant on the documentary Urban Warrior. As a lawyer he has represented dozens of activists and has recently gotten dismissals of criminal charges brought by the US Border Patrol at their checkpoints on the Olympic Peninsula.

References

- [1] <http://airamerica.com/node/2714/69612>
- [2] www.seattleweekly.com/2003-09-10/news/peace-be-with-him.php
- [3] My account of this appeared locally at <http://eatthestate.org/05-07/N30WhatHappened.htm> as well as the issue of Guild Notes.
- [4] These figures were supplied to me by then City Council Person Judith Nicastro.
- [5] <http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/archive/?date=20000903&slug=TTCT1FoDM> (PR Letter)

McConnell



SIMS NOMINATION RAISES STADIUM DEAL QUESTION

FROM WASHINGTON NEWS OBSERVER WITH ADDITIONS BY DOUG COLLINS

On April 23, 2009, Obama's HUD Deputy Secretary nominee, King County Executive Ron Sims, denied personal involvement in the concealment of information regarding deals to commit public funding and credit to the professional sports stadiums in Seattle.

However, according to the public record, Ron Sims' office for years refused to release stadium deal documents. The county has already been ordered to pay Armen Yousoufian, a private citizen investigating the deal, over \$120,000 for its behavior—the largest such fine in state history.

Justice Richard Sanders, who wrote the majority opinion, said, "The unchallenged findings of fact demonstrate King County repeatedly deceived and misinformed Yousoufian for years. King County told Yousoufian it produced all the requested documents, when in fact it had not."

Justice Sanders believes that the maximum penalty should be imposed on the county: \$825,200 for the nearly four-year wait.

The situation seems similar to that of former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, who was initially tapped by President Bill Clinton for HUD Secretary in 1996, but lost the nomination, likely due to his entanglement in the Nordstrom downtown revitalization scandal of the early 1990s, which also involved use of public money to bolster private corporations. The Nordstrom deal, however, was directly related to misuse of HUD funds, whereas the stadium deals involved other public funding.

The video file of Ron Sims' denial is viewable at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtPwoVto_MY Visit washingtonnewsobserver.com for more information.

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Thanks!

WE GOT THE MEMOS; WHERE ARE THE ARRESTS?

OPINION FROM WORLD CAN'T WAIT, SEATTLE

Outrage and disgust is circulating around the release of the recent torture memos. The memos documented in detail the treatment of prisoners, from stripping them naked and beating them to drowning prisoners with waterboarding. The memos also point to the fact that these were not the actions of a couple of "bad apples" but policies that were put forward by the highest levels of government all the way up to the Bush administration.

Some are saying that Obama's move of releasing the torture to memos shows that things are changing.

But Obama himself said in April that he was forced to release the memos since a court case being waged by the ACLU was going to force the memos to come out anyway.

According to the Associated Press, "Obama has vowed not to seek prosecution of CIA agents and interrogators who took part in waterboarding and other harsh interrogation tactics. His chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, said this weekend that the Obama administration also won't seek prosecution for the Bush administration lawyers who wrote the memos approving the tactics."

Millions of people voted for Obama in hope that Bush era would be over. How can the Bush era ever be over if those engaged in criminal activities are never held accountable? It is clear that the Obama does not want what we want.

"History will judge Obama harshly" for refusing to prosecute, said Michael Ratner, of the Center for Constitutional Rights.

History will also judge us sharply. If Obama's decision to let war criminals walk free makes you sick inside, you have to give expression to that. Let us make it known here and all over the world that we will not go along with war crimes even when Obama is.

Many people who are opposed to this decision have confined themselves to petitioning and lobbying when what is really needed is mass outpouring of people in the streets refusing to leave until Bush and Cheney are dragged out in handcuffs. This anger needs to manifest into a determined movement of resistance.

Contact seattle@worldcantwait.org.

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The Information Super Buy-Way

BY EDWIN BENDER & DENISE ROTH BARBER, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MONEY IN STATE POLITICS

I took particular note of the below article after hearing that Joseph Mallahan, a vice president at T-Mobile, has joined the race for Seattle Mayor. —Ed.

As broadband internet access becomes an increasingly important part of our everyday lives, communications companies that provide this service have become increasingly involved in politics by contributing to state-level candidates and hiring thousands of state-level lobbyists. A new report from the National Institute on Money in State Politics (FollowTheMoney.org) <www.followthemoney.org/press/ReportView.phtml?r=386&em=45> takes a close look at political activities of five communications companies: AT&T, Verizon, Qwest, Embarq and US Cellular.

The report <www.followthemoney.org/press/ReportView.phtml?r=386&em=45> shows that from 2001 through 2007 the five companies contributed nearly \$28 million to state candidates, party committees and ballot measures in all 50 states. The companies also hired nearly 2,600 lobbyists in 2006 and 2007.

AT&T and Verizon contributed the most to candidates, state party committees and ballot measures, giving \$14.8 million and \$10.7 million respectively, followed by Qwest's \$1.9 million.

The majority of the money (78 percent or \$22 million) was given in 10 states: California, Florida, Texas, Illinois, South Dakota, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Missouri. California received the lions share, \$8.2 million.

Contributions to candidates accounted for \$14.5 million of the total contributions made by these companies, divided almost equally between parties. Republican candidates received \$7.6 million; Democratic candidates \$6.8 million.

Communications companies gave \$6 million to state Republican parties and \$3.5 million to state Democratic parties. The companies also contributed \$4.1 million between 2004 and 2007 in hopes of influencing the outcome of ballot measures in 14 states.

The political work didn't stop after the elections. The five communications companies hired more than 2,600 lobbyists. AT&T hired the most (1,373) and US Cellular hired the fewest (26).

The nonprofit, nonpartisan FollowTheMoney.org collects and analyzes campaign contribution information for state-level candidates, political party committees, and ballot committees. Its free, searchable database of contributions is available online at FollowTheMoney.org. <www.followthemoney.org/index.phtml?em=45> Phone 406-449-2480, web www.FollowTheMoney.org, Twitter: @MoneyInPolitics.

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Jartos



elections

Campaign Spending Up in WA, Despite Recession

- * State campaigns in Washington cost about \$80 million in 2008, up roughly \$2 million from the comparable 2004 campaigns.
- * The 2008 governor's race, however, attracted \$9.5 million more than the same race in 2004. Gov. Christine Gregoire and her Republican challenger, Rossi, together raise \$23.4 million in 2008, with each raising over \$11 million. In 2004, by comparison, Rossi and Gregoire, vying for the open seat, each raised over \$6 million.
- * Ballot measure campaigns, however, attracted significantly less money in 2008. Three measures garnered \$9.6 million in 2008, while \$17.4 million was raised around 5 measures in 2004.
- * Three Supreme Court races in 2008 cost just over \$400,000 in 2008, significantly less than the \$1.4 million raised in 2004. 14 candidates vied for three seats in 2004, raising an average of \$97,250 while in 2008, six vied for three seats in 2008, raising an average of \$69,183.
- * Senate candidates raised an average of \$117,600, just slightly higher than the \$114,500 raised on average in 2004. House races cost more, however the average House candidate raised \$70,453 in 2008, compared to \$53,680 in 2004.
- * Fundraising by party committees remained consistent. The six committees (3 Democrats and 3 Republicans) raised over \$17 million during each of the two elections, with the Democratic committees raising just over \$12 million in both 2004 and 2008, and the Republicans just over \$5 million.

State legislatures are in full swing, and the non-partisan, nonprofit FollowTheMoney.org helps you stay informed about officials who make decisions that affect your life. Our campaign finance data for the state of Washington is essentially complete. This data helps you understand which industries, companies and individuals are working to influence your lawmakers. Check out who contributed to your elected officials at FollowTheMoney.org.

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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.

WEDS MAY 13, and subsequent Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m., in front of the US Federal Courthouse, 1917 Pacific Ave., near 21st, **Tacoma**; PEACE VIGIL organized by People for Peace, Justice, and Healing, a continuous presence in Tacoma since 9/11. info www.tacomapjh.org [confirmed 10/24/08]

THURS MAY 14, 5:30 pm, at the University Branch of the Seattle Public Library, 5009 Roosevelt Way NE at NE 50th, **Seattle**; Books To Prisoners in Seattle is having an event about WOMEN IN PRISON. The number of women in prison has nearly tripled within the past 2 decades. As of December, 2007, there were over 1,500 women in Washington State prisons alone. Join investigative journalist and author of Women Behind Bars Silja Talvi and others. Info mcdonaldrachel@gmail.com or 206-442-2013 or www.bookstoprisoners.net

FRI MAY 15, and subsequent Fridays, 4 - 5 p.m., in front of the Bellingham Federal Building on Cornwall and Magnolia, **Bellingham**; PEACE VIGIL, a Bellingham tradition since 1967. Join the Peace Zone afterwards for announcements and discussion at The Mount Bakery Restaurant, 308 W. Champion Street. info 360-733-4146 [updated 10/15/08]

SAT MAY 16, 9 am, at **Sammamish** City Hall; Help Wanted Loading Containers of BIKES FOR GHANA FOR THE VILLAGE BICYCLE PROJECT. Jobs include prepping bikes, moving them from storage to the container, running the tally, etc, etc. Good wholesome hard work, and lots of fun. Packing them tight and closing the big double doors is always cause for celebration! Munchies will be provided. Bring closed toe shoes. info Meg Watson 206-853-7813, meg@villagebicycleproject.org or www.villagebicycleproject.org

SUN MAY 17, 7 p.m., at University Unitarian Church, 6556 35th Avenue NE, **Seattle**; Local Author Lesley Hazleton to Speak on the Roots of the CONFLICT BETWEEN SUNNI AND SHIA MUSLIMS. Award-winning author and veteran Middle East journalist Lesley Hazleton will read from her forthcoming book, After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-Sunni Split in Islam. Tickets \$12 and are available at the door or by calling 206-525-8400. Sponsored by University Unitarian Church. info 206-525-8400 or www.uuchurch.org

TUES MAY 19, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at EOS Alliance Offices, 650 S Orcas St., Suite 220, **Seattle**; EOS Alliance Presents NEGAWATTS: THE POWER OF NOT USING POWER. "Negawatt Power" is an energy saving technique that works by investing to reduce electricity demand rather than to increase electricity generation. In other words, it is more cost effective to save a watt than it is to create a watt. This workshop will discuss the value of lowering our total energy usage and how energy reduction can have a greater impact. \$10. RSVP and info 206-762-2553 or www.eosalliance.org

WEDS MAY 20, 5 p.m., in Hall 1 of the Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Avenue, **Seattle**; Solidarity Divided Author To Speak. author Bill Fletcher will be available to discuss working together to build change in the labor movement. 'BUILDING A LABOR MOVEMENT with Change We Can Believe In' is Fletcher's topic. Participants can purchase copies of his book and even get it signed at the meeting. Co-author of "Solidarity Divided," a critical examination of labor's current crisis and a plan for a bold new way forward into the 21st century. Sponsored by the MLK King County Labor Council, National AFGE and AFGE 3937, and the UW Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies. info 206-543-7946, pcls@u.washington.edu, or <http://depts.washington.edu/pcls>

FRI MAY 22, 12:30 - 2 p.m., at Allen Library, Petersen Room, University of Washington, **Seattle**; Near & Middle East Ph.D. Program and the Middle East Center present Before Gaza, AFTER GAZA: Key Paradigm SHIFTS IN THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT with Sara Roy, Harvard University. info jeanp@u.washington.edu

SAT MAY 23, and subsequent 4th Saturdays, 11 am - 1 pm, at Westlake Mall Plaza, 4th & Pine, downtown **Seattle**; WAR RESISTER VIGIL. Support Lt. Ehren Watada and All War Resisters - Join the monthly vigil in support of GIs who are refusing to kill people in Iraq and Afghanistan. Look for our colorful banners and signs, and bring your own. Sponsored by: Veterans For Peace, Project Safe Haven. info projectsafehaven@hotmail.com or 206-499-1220 [updated 2/9/09]

MON MAY 25, and subsequent 4th Mondays, 6:30 - 9 pm, check the website to confirm location, at the Sunset Hill Community Center, ground floor, at corner of 30th NW & NW 66th, in Ballard, **Seattle**; SUSTAINABLE BALLARD meeting and Potluck. This meeting: topic TBA. Sustainable Ballard's efforts are aimed at preparing for societal, economic, transporta-

tion and infrastructural changes that we see coming from OIL DEPLETION in the next decade or sooner. We do not have much time. We do not have the answers either. Each of us have skills we can bring to this effort. info info@sustainableballard.org or 206-789-7646 or www.sustainableballard.org [usual time confirmed 6/3/08]

TUES MAY 26, and subsequent last Tuesdays, noon - 1 pm, at Offices of Washington State Bar Association, 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600, **Seattle**; forum on a topic of LAW & PEACE. This month topic: TBA. 1 CLE credit usually available. Sponsor: Washington State Bar Association World Peace Through Law Section. Members: Free, Non-Section members: \$25, Law students: \$10. Pre-Registration required. info www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/worldpeace or WSBA 800-945-9722 [usual times confirmed 11/3/08]

THURS MAY 28, and subsequent 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Holy Family of Jesus Church, 1427 E 40th St., just off Portland Avenue, **Tacoma**; Citizens for Responsible Justice (C4RJ) - Tacoma Support Group for FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS and any interested person. Come around to the back. We meet in the basement. Sign over basement entrance reads "Indochina Cultural and Service Center."

FRI & SAT MAY 29 & 30, Friday at the Lane Community College Center for Meeting and Learning, building 19, main campus in **Eugene, OR**, 4000 E. 30th Avenue; Saturday, May 30 at Cozmic Pizza in downtown Eugene; Lane Peace Center's second annual peace conference, "PEACE & COLLECTIVE ACTION: CONNECTING HOPE TO CHANGE," with Keynote speakers David Solnit, direct action organizer and editor of Globalize Liberation; and Joel Magnuson, author of "Mindful Economics". info and registration www.lanecc.edu/peacecenter

SAT MAY 30, 10 am - 2 pm, at **Tolt River Park**; EOS Alliance Presents ETHNOBOTANY AND NATURE WALK. Native Plant Steward Karen Suyama will lead participants through identifying the edible and medicinal properties of various native plants. We will also learn the methods used by Western Washington's Native People to harvest, prepare and use these natural resources. This exploration of Tolt River Park is a family friendly activity, open to adults and kids of all ages! Free. RSVP and info 206-762-2553 or www.eosalliance.org

MON JUNE 1, and subsequent 1st Mondays, please confirm by phone, 7 pm, at Horizon House, 900 University Street across from Virginia Mason Hospital, **Seattle**; Jubilee Northwest meeting. Organization works on cancelling unconscionable DEBTS OF THE WORLD'S POOREST NATIONS. info 206-382-3785 [added 2/18/09]

WEDS JUNE 3, and subsequent 1st Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, at the KBCS studios, **Bellevue**; COMMUNITY RADIO VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. KBCS is growing a volunteer-powered and social justice-focused newsroom, where reporters and producers are community members committed to skill sharing and facilitating media making of, by, and for our communities. Directions at www.kbcs.fm, RSVP to Joaquin Uy 425-564-6195, or juy@bcc.ctc.edu

FRI JUNE 5, and subsequent 1st Fridays, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at Bellingham Dharma Hall, 1101 N. State Street, third floor, corner of Maple, **Bellingham**; MEDITATION FOR PEACE 5:30 - 6. Sponsored by the Bellingham Buddhist Peace Fellowship and Bellingham Dharma Hall. Followed by BUDDHIST PEACE FELLOWSHIP meeting, 6:15 - 7:30. All community members welcome. info 360-527-9101 [added 3/25/06]

SAT JUNE 6, 10 am - noon, at 21 Acres, 13701 NE 171st Street, near **Woodinville**; The Sustainable Saturday Series at 21 Acres presents an opportunity to the community to learn and participate in a variety of activities showcasing and demonstrating SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. Farm and garden demonstrations and volunteer work projects are planned between 10 a.m. and Noon, along with an official Farm Tour at 11 a.m. Free and open to the public. info 206-442-2061 or www.21acres.org

JUNE 8 - 9, at Edgewater Hotel, Pier 67 **Seattle** Waterfront; NANOTECHNOLOGY HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM provides that rare opportunity to grasp the current state of the science and our understanding of the risks and potential of Nanotechnology developments. Held in conjunction with the first US hosted meeting of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/ International Organization for Standardization (ISO) TC 229 committee working on international standards for nanotechnology health and

safety, this forum brings together leading authorities and experts on environmental and occupational risk management, regulation, and commercial application of nanotechnology. Co-sponsored by University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health. \$145, \$75 student. info and registration www.nhsf2009.org/index.asp

JUNE 12 & 13, at Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Avenue, **Seattle**; The PACIFIC NORTHWEST LABOR HISTORY Association's 41st annual conference, is presented in collaboration with the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington. David Kusnet, author, of Love the Work, Hate the Job - Why America's Best Workers Are More Unhappy Than Ever is the keynoter. This conference seeks to connect these histories with contemporary globalization and related social issues, such as free speech and the right to organize. Registration \$25-\$60 US. info Ross Rieder at 206-406-2604 or www.pnlha.org

SAT JUNE 13, and subsequent 2nd Saturdays, noon - 3 pm, at Northwest Detention Center, 1623 E J St, **Tacoma**; DEMAND HUMAN RIGHTS AT TACOMA IMMIGRATION PRISON! The government is using racial profiling and violating the rights of immigrant workers whose only "crime" is working. We will bring coffee and food, support and solidarity to visiting families. An injury to one is an injury to all! For carpool/ ride from Seattle call 206-218-4417 [updated 2/9/09]

WEDS JUNE 17, and subsequent 3rd Wednesdays, noon, at St Mark's Cathedral Bloedel Hall, 1245 10th Ave E, **Seattle**; The INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS (ITFH) meets. info 425-442-5418 or itfh@comcast.net or www.itfhomeless.org [added 6/9/08]

TUES JUNE 23, and subsequent 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm, at Phinney Ridge Center, Blue Bldg, Room 6, **Seattle**; NW BIODIESEL MEETING. Alternating months between special topic and Biodiesel 101, see website for details. info Aaron Kahn akahn@windermere.com or www.nwbiodiesel.org [confirmed 2/23/08]

JUNE 26 & 27, Fri evening & Sat all day, in **Seattle**; Riding the Tides of Change: building personal and community resilience, a Tools for Change workshop with Bill Aal, Margo Adair and Lupita Patterson. Working with deep reflection through Applied Meditation, dialogue through The Work that Reconnects and Theater of Liberation we will find ways to unleash our best capacities to ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF THE TIMES. Preregistration required. info 206-329-2201 or info@toolsforchange.org

JULY 2 - 5, at **Seabeck, WA**; FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION'S ANNUAL NORTHWEST CONFERENCE. "Building a Just and Sustainable World" with Keynoters: Antonia Juhasz, policy analyst, activist, author of "Tyranny of Oil" (2008) and 'The Bush Agenda' (2006); and John Lindsay-Poland, co-director of National FOR's Task Force on Latin America & the Caribbean. Workshops include: global water problems, participatory economics & the environment, brochure, and registration www.wwfor.org or wwfor@wwfor.org 206-789-5565

JULY 3 - AUG 3, in **Canada, US, Mexico and Cuba**; IFCO/ PASTORS FOR PEACE FRIENDSHIPMENT TO CUBA. Time for Real Change. Time to end the US blockade of Cuba. 20th Friendshipment Caravan to Cuba, as an act of solidarity with our Cuban brothers and sisters as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their revolution. We will take with us hundreds of tons of humanitarian aid, much of it aimed at supporting the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Cuba after the devastating impact of Hurricanes Gustav, Ike and Paloma; info and applications cucaravan@igc.org or 212-926-5757

FRI JULY 3, near holiday, please confirm, and subsequent 1st Fridays, 7:30 pm, at 911 Media Arts Center, 402 9th Ave N, South Lake Union, **Seattle**; 911 Media Arts Center and Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Network present a monthly showcase of progressive documentaries called the GREEN FILM SERIES. Admission \$5. info www.911media.org or www.hazelfilm.org

JULY 13 - 18, on **Vashon Island**; Localize This! Action Camp. Please join Backbone Campaign, Ruckus Society and the Mosquito Fleet for 5 exciting days of creative tactics trainings, group camping, and connecting with seasoned and aspiring activists from around the nation. All participants will be provided with the opportunity to experience and TRAIN IN A WIDE RANGE OF CREATIVE TACTICS. These include non-violence trainings, ages 18 and up; Pre-registration and deposit required to reserve your spot. info Backbone Campaign 206-408-8058

WA Protesters Resisting Surge in Afghanistan

Freeway protest blocks vehicles bound for the Port of Tacoma for shipment overseas

BY BECKHAM, SOCHET, AND KHANNA, PORT MILITARY RESISTANCE

Activists staged a series of successful direct actions in several locations starting on the night of May 2, blocking Stryker Brigade vehicles bound for the Port of Tacoma from Fort Lewis. Blockades halted Strykers at several points along Interstate 5, and at least 11 activists were arrested. Demonstrators have pledged to continue resisting the use of the port for war shipments.

The Stryker vehicles were heading to the Port of Tacoma for eventual shipment to Afghanistan in advance of the deployment of the 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, where soldiers' skills and lives would be exploited in the name of the "War on Terror."

At times police used excessive force against unarmed nonviolent demonstrators. One woman was choked on the strap of her messenger bag while another demonstrator was dragged across the road by his hair while he was shouting that he was nonviolent.

Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) has been actively resisting the use of the publicly owned ports in the Pacific Northwest since 2006. PMR demonstrators share a common goal to "end our community's participation in the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan by stopping the military use of our ports."

According to Chris Grande, one of those arrested May 2, "People in Iraq and Afghanistan are being massacred. We cannot trust the Obama Administration to do this work for us. It is up to people in the US to be involved in the process of military de-escalation. If we allow Strykers to enter the port we are complicit in their violence."

"The police may see our actions as criminal, but the real crime is the illegal invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and their continued occupation," adds Ellis, a demonstrator.

In a statement issued March 18th, Port Militarization Resistance noted that "as long as US military attacks continue against the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, we will continue to block military equipment from moving through our public port. Port Militarization Resistance calls for people everywhere to find the ways that their own communities participate in these wars, and join together to creatively resist that participation.

"We must respect the sovereignty of other peoples and recognize that US intervention is a primary source of ongoing human suffering in these countries. Resources currently allocated for such imperial endeavors must be redirected toward urgent domestic needs. These realities should guide our understanding as we build a just and sustainable society at home and better relationships abroad."

Resistance is ongoing. Demonstrators are available to speak with the press.

More information can be found at www.OlyPMR.org, and donations can be made to the legal defense fund by visiting that site or by check to

Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund, PO Box 295, Olympia Washington 98507-0295. IMPORTANT: Note in your donation that your funds are intended for the Port of Tacoma demonstrators.

ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS FILE SUIT OVER 2007 ARRESTS AT PORT OF TACOMA

BY PHAN NGUYEN

The author is a defendant in the lawsuit.

In March, three activists filed a lawsuit against the City of Tacoma for false arrest and other violations committed by Tacoma police during an anti-war demonstration. Elizabeth Rivera Goldstein, Thomas McCarthy, and Phan Nguyen were arrested under the pretext of wearing backpacks in a "no-backpack zone" at the Port of Tacoma in March 2007.

The activists had been demonstrating against the Iraq "troop surge" and the expedited deployment of the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division to Iraq from Ft. Lewis. For two weeks in March 2007, the Port of Tacoma was the focal point for demonstrations against the deployment, as Stryker vehicles were being shipped out through the Port of Tacoma in advance of the 4th Brigade's actual deployment.

During this time, Tacoma police established a fenced-in "free speech zone" in the Port of Tacoma where demonstrators were compelled to congregate. Police set up random checkpoints to prevent the demonstrators from entering the "free speech zone" with backpacks and purses. The checkpoints appeared arbitrarily at varying locations and at various times throughout the protests. At times, the restrictions were arbitrarily applied to backpacks, purses, bags, buckets, boxes and even plastic water bottles. All restrictions were established without probable cause.

Thomas McCarthy was arrested on the night of March 9, 2007 while attempting to carry a backpack with food and medical supplies into the "free speech zone." Elizabeth Rivera Goldstein and Phan Nguyen were arrested along with six other demonstrators on March 11, 2007 for wearing backpacks into the "free

war

speech zone." Goldstein's backpack contained a teddy bear, while Nguyen's "frontpack" contained a copy of the United States Constitution.

Because there is no law prohibiting bags at political assemblies, the city charged the activists with "Disobeying an Officer" under RCW 46.61.015—a traffic offense. However, the defendants were arrested on a public sidewalk by police who were not regulating traffic. "It's a good thing I wasn't walking down the sidewalk drunk," says Nguyen, "or they probably would have arrested me for DUI."

The cases were dismissed in Tacoma Municipal Court, and the dismissals were affirmed in Superior Court after the city appealed the decision. The criminal court process concluded in Sept. 2008. "We spent one-and-a-half years in court arguing for the most basic rights that every child learns about in grade school," says Nguyen, who represented himself during the criminal court process, while Goldstein and McCarthy were represented by Attorney Larry Hildes. Hildes is representing all three in the lawsuit and has indicated that more plaintiffs may join in.

"These arrests were part of a systematic attempt by the Tacoma Police to prevent the demonstrations from occurring and to be so repressive and brutal that the plaintiffs and others would just give up and abandon their First Amendment rights," Hildes said. "They treated peaceful demonstrators like terrorists very deliberately and systematically. That is unacceptable and illegal."

Hildes had won a similar case concerning a backpack at a demonstration in *Graves v. Coeur D'Alene* (9th Circuit Court, 2001).

The present complaint asserts that the plaintiffs were subjected to several violations by the City of Tacoma, including violations of civil rights, false arrest, false imprisonment, and malicious prosecution. They were deprived of several rights under the US Constitution, including deprivation of their 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, and 14th Amendment rights.

By filing the complaint, the activists hope to force the City of Tacoma to forgo illegal repression against constitutionally protected activity, including but not limited to the arbitrary repression of antiwar protests. "We can never allow our local governments to undermine the US Constitution and our First Amendment rights," said McCarthy.

"The Tacoma police went beyond their mandate by issuing arbitrary and unlawful orders," added Nguyen. "They sought to regulate free speech by deciding where we could exercise our rights and what we could and couldn't wear while doing so. The Tacoma police are not the fashion police."

Jonik



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sports

book review A People's History of Sports in the United States

by Doreen McGrath

This article originally appeared in the Freedom Socialist newspaper (Seattle), April-May 2009.

Dave Zirin's new book, *A People's History of Sports in the United States*, is a home run. A part of the People's History Series inspired by historian Howard Zinn, it spans quite a stretch of time and knocks out a comprehensive view of why we love and hate sports. At the same time, it blasts the adage that sports and politics don't mix.

Sweep of history

Dave Zirin's book covers US history from the time the first Anglos hit the eastern shore to the present, from the Native Americans' furious game of lacrosse, through the urban game of "rat baiting," to the founding of professional sports leagues and player associations. Through it all he views the history not from society's upper crust, but from the bottom up. Always he salutes those who stood up to abuse and discrimination, and defends the legitimacy of activist athletes.

"This volume... stands proudly with the tradition of progressive dissenters in sports, people who have attempted to use the world of sports as a platform to advance ideas of resistance. These are people who have not allowed the politics of modern sport in the United States to be the province of those who financially control it."

Zirin's love of baseball shines through, covering all aspects of the game's history and its working-class and African American roots. Early players' unions had the slogan "Fire the boss!" Yet they excluded African Americans. Segregated in the Negro Leagues, Blacks were paid far less and worked in rough conditions.

But Zirin also notes, "There is another reading of the Negro Leagues at this time: an independent locus of power and a source of pride and support, much like the historically black colleges."

Throughout the book, Zirin stays on track with both Black history and the women's movement. The Civil War, women suffragists, Great Depression, world wars, Jim Crow segregation and the rights movements of the '60s and '70s are seen through boxing, football, basketball, the Olympics, tennis, golf and more.

The explosive story of Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising their fists for Black Power at the 1968 Olympics is stirring, as is the tale of tennis great Arthur Ashe's steadfast political leadership against South African apartheid and for HIV-infected Haitian refugees.

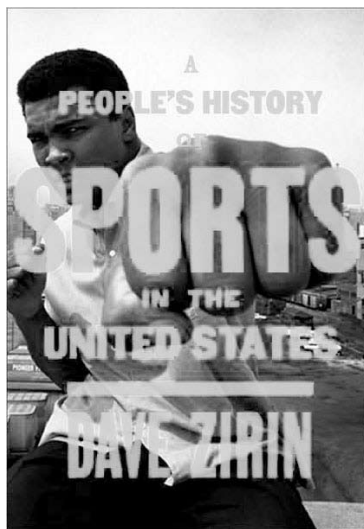
Women's early basketball "was a very rough-and-tumble operation. Freed from their corsets, they let their elbows fly freely as well." Babe Didrikson won three gold medals at the 1932 Olympics on the track but also played golf and football. Asked by a reporter, "Is there anything you don't play?" she responded with, "Yeah, dolls." Of all Zirin's books, this one does the best job of integrating women's issues into the stories he tells.

Too few pages

In less than 300 pages, Zirin relates vignettes, short stories, and snippets covering everything from the Communist Party's sports writer Red Rodney, to the entry of Latino players into major league baseball, to the exploding popularity of the Gay Games. He conveys not just his passion for sports but for building a better world in which we can play and watch them. The book is a treat to read.

What's missing is more—about Native American, Asian American and Latino athletes in US history. Missing too is more about sportswomen of color (where did Black women play baseball during World War II?) I'd like to see an exposé of the impact on sports from devastating funding cuts at urban public schools.

I found it frustrating that Zirin tiptoes around the issue of class. He is dead right in saying that sports and politics are inseparable. But the biggest reason why is



that we are living in a capitalist world where profit defines all. Zirin shows this repeatedly, but doesn't explicitly express the logical conclusion—capitalism sucks for poor and working athletes, and the public that pays for those stadiums!

Lefties of the political sort will enjoy this book whether or not they are sports fans. As anyone trying to

change the world knows, you can't leave out any sector of rebels. That surely includes the wide world of sports.

Zirin makes a point of inviting us to jump in. "If we challenge sports to be as good as they can be," he finishes, "they can propel us toward a better world, a world worth playing in—and worth fighting for."

Doreen McGrath is a computer programmer, political radical, and staunch fan of the Storm, Seattle's women's basketball team.

law

Homeland Security Makes Huge Shift on Workplace Enforcement

Following ICE raid in Bellingham, new rules are part of commitment to immigration reform

BY NAOMI ISHISAKA,
ONEAMERICA

After months of activism and advocacy by OneAmerica and other immigrant right groups nationwide, the Department of Homeland Security released sweeping new guidelines on April 30 to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on workplace enforcement of immigration law. The new rules came the day after President Obama renewed his commitment to moving comprehensive immigration reform in his first year in office during a prime-time news conference.

The new guidelines come as a direct result of the Feb. 24 ICE raid in Bellingham, Wash., where 28 women and men were arrested and detained at the Yamato Engine Specialists. Following aggressive and immediate organizing from immigrant rights organizations, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano pledged an investigation into the raids.

"The new guidelines are an important step in the right direction," said Pramila Jayapal, Executive Director of OneAmerica. "They raise the standards of evidence needed to conduct raids and focus on unscrupulous employers rather than on vulnerable workers."

At a news conference on Wednesday night, President Obama said the broken immigration system is "not good for anybody."

The new guidelines include:

- Instead of blanket raids targeting workers, ICE will target employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers. The guidelines say, "ICE must prioritize the criminal prosecution of actual employers who knowingly hire illegal workers because such employers are not sufficiently punished or deterred by the arrest of their illegal work force."

- Cases against employers will be built through carefully built criminal investigations. Agents are instructed to "obtain indictments, criminal arrest or search warrants,

or a commitment from a US attorney's office to prosecute the targeted employer, before arresting employees for civil immigration violations at a work site."

- Humanitarian concerns—such as a sickness or being the primary caregiver for a child—must be considered in raids of companies with 25 employees or more, in contrast to previous rules requiring it with 150 employees or more.

VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED FOR EX-FELONS IN WA

FROM ACLU OF WA

Governor Gregoire on May 4 signed a bill that reforms Washington's convoluted system for restoring voting rights. The measure (HB 1517) will automatically restore the right to vote to citizens who have come out of the criminal justice system.

"This is a much-needed reform of an unfair and confusing system for restoring voting rights," said ACLU-WA Legislative Director Shankar Narayan. "Automatic restoration will help people who have served their time to reconnect with their communities. People who vote are at less risk of reoffending, and that leads to safer communities for us all."

Under the reform measure, individuals can register to vote once they're no longer under state-supervised parole or probation. Individuals will still have to repay their debts, but—like anyone else who owes money—they will not be denied the right and duty to vote.

The prime sponsor of HB 1517 was Rep. Jeannie Darnelle. A companion bill in the Senate was sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles.

Under current state law, more than 167,000 Washington citizens who have prior convictions are prohibited from voting. Many of them have completed their prison time and community custody time, yet cannot vote solely because they haven't completely paid off all the fees and other costs associated with their sentence; interest on these legal system debts accrues at 12% percent a year. An overwhelming majority of felony defendants are indigent at the time of sentencing, and many can never fully pay off their legal system debts—and as a result cannot vote.

This system is a modern version of the poll tax. It unfairly ties the right to vote—an essential right in a democratic society—to one's financial means.

Jonik



DEATH PENALTY ON HOLD

BY MARK TAYLOR-CANFIELD

Death row cases are now on hold in Washington State. A pending court case is challenging the constitutionality of the state's use of lethal injection.

The execution of convicted murderer Cal Brown, which was scheduled for midnight Friday March 13th, was stayed by the Washington State Supreme Court. The justices have ruled that a lower court challenge to the state's method of execution should hold precedent.

A lawsuit has been filed in Thurston County Superior Court on behalf of all death row inmates in the state. The suit claims that the state's use of lethal injection is unconstitutional on the grounds that it causes pain and suffering and therefore violates the ban on "cruel and unusual punishment."

Capitol punishment was abolished in Washington state in 1972 when the US Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional. It was re-instated in 1977 after the Supreme Court reversed their earlier decision. Currently there are ten inmates awaiting execution in Washington.

One death row inmate, Benjamin Harris, had his con-

see next page

two poems by Gerald McBreen

EIGHT FORTY-FIVE A.M.

Mr. Tanimoto loved the first light of day. Everything unfolded new. He savored the smells of the market: spices mixed with salt water fish, fruits and vegetables. The aroma was enough to make his mouth water. He turned fifty nine years old on this bright clear sky morning and his family planned an early evening festival.

It was during his morning walk he met a soldier on churches recovering from war wounds. One of the signs, along with battle ships in the harbor and persistent rumors the military was planning on moving its strategy headquarters from Tokyo to the island, that the country was at war.

Although their conversation was brief it was evident the young soldier was proud to be in the service of the Emperor. Tanimoto would liked to have heard more from the boy but an army transport rattled to a stop before them. The boy threw his crutches into the back seat and ducked to enter. Tanimoto raised his hand in farewell, "Good lu..."

Mr. Tanimoto, his family and friends, in a blink of lightning were incinerated. Even their ashes ignited leaving no trace. Mr. Tanimoto was no longer even a memory.

Tons of confetti rained from skyscrapers and tall buildings. There was dancing, jumping, shouting, singing, and loving... and loving... and loving... Churches all across the country filled praising God in every denomination. Pictures flashed around the world; a sailor kissing a nurse symbolizing the jubilation of a thankful nation.

Couples making babies
Instant cremation

The victor
The vanquished



Hmm...
what
should
I get
them?

Thoughtful Gift Idea

for people who like to think

FROM MARTHA SKEWART

DAD'S LOVE

He prized his books
Wall to wall shelves
children's stories freckled
among his favorites
He always found time
to read fables mythology
fiction etc., etc.
Reading became a ritual
even gave us a say
in the next
When he thought
we were asleep
He'd lean over whisper
we could be whatever
we could dream

poem by Ronald Jones

THE TAO OF SEPTEMBER 11

Cave to Cathode Great Walls to
repulse barbarian hordes —
"What's new under the sun?" sings a
bird's yawning song in smoldering ruins

Deaf ears of rulers to Trumpets of Civilizations' Seers.
The roar of the lion,
the wail fo the sea,
not one ant aghast at an old, old story

Bright blankets of Symbolic Hieroglyphics to
ease Unknown Guilt — as if mere cloth could staunch
Reality's Flood

Grown Minds' Delusions
team up like Suicide Bombers,
become planes of thought crashing the pilots
—while—
even a 6-year-old in Roy Rogers' regalia, separating
gun from holster to fire at an enemy racing across his brain
will afterwards look up at the moon —
and know its Fathomless Smile...

from previous page

viction for murder overturned in 1997 and was released after serving twelve years on death row. Four prisoners have been put to death in Washington State since 1976.

In December 2008 the top medical officer for the Washington State Department of Corrections resigned because he said it was unethical for a physician to participate in executions.

Dr. Marc Stern stated that the American Medical Association and the Society of Correctional Physicians oppose any involvement by doctors in preparations for or supervision of executions.

The Washington Coalition To Abolish The Death Penalty has been a major opponent of capitol punishment in the state. See <abolishdeathpenalty.org>.

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right
brain

two poems by Bob Markey

THE HEALTHCARE HUSTLE

Just
in case you didn't know:
he who leads the campaign
to profit from your pain,
(Conservatives For Patients'
Rights) is spending 20 mil
to keep our government
out of the healthcare biz.

Please note who this guy is:
He was forced to resign
when Feds rightly opined
the Company founded
by him had defrauded
us taxpayers out of
1.7 billion.

Million, bilion, tril, ga-
zillion... one can't pretend
to fully comprehend
the enormity of
the wily Scott's fraud which
was the largest ever
in US history.

And he's still pitching the
healthcare hustle from back
when he was the Madoff
of 2000!

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Our erudite priest's
petitions at Mass
are often lofty.

Like:
"Dear God, guide Congress
to properly act
in passing the Bill
on-----"
(You fill in the blanks).

Success might increase
tenfold if he would
ask The People to
raise
up their **own** inter-
cession to the Lord.
Mrs. Callahan
say,
most surely would pray:

"Dear God, please have me
nephew back-off from
the booze, find hisself
work...
become a decent
man registered in
the vote so's we c'n
toss
them rat -bastards out!"

Petition Launched to Halt Universal Wireless Broadband

BY DIANE SHOW & CATHERINE KLEIBER

Numbered references and further reference information appear at the end of this article.

In response to President Obama's Broadband Initiative, public health advocates across the nation have launched a petition to limit the Initiative's scope to fiber optics and communication cables. There is already evidence, they say, that wireless communications are damaging the health of children and other vulnerable populations, and its use should be limited and not expanded.

The Department of Commerce took public comments regarding the proposed use of funds being made available by the NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, whose purpose is to bring high-speed Internet to presently unserved rural areas.[1]

The group sponsoring the petition urges that the funds be used only for dedicated hardwired systems, and not for Broadband over Power Lines or wireless networks.

The group is a loose association of scientists, health professionals and citizens who have been monitoring the public health aspects of wireless broadcasts since the introduction of digital cell phones in most of the United States in late 1996.

Radio frequency radiation (RFR) originates from all wireless communication antennas and devices. And when broadband signals are sent over power lines, the entire power grid then becomes a radiating antenna, interfering with ham radio operations and exposing whole populations to radiation. Although RFR exposure levels are regulated by the FCC, there is no scientific consensus as to what is a safe level, and different countries have set widely differing standards. A number of countries have also taken steps to limit the use of cell phones and wireless computers by children.

On April 2, 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution warning of dangers to children and urging the adoption of stricter exposure standards throughout Europe.[2]

Among scientists who have warned of the urgency of the present situation are Robert O. Becker, the late orthopedic surgeon and bioelectromagnetics researcher, who said that "the greatest polluting element in the earth's environment is the proliferation of electromagnetic fields."

More recently, Leif Salford, Chief of Neurosurgery at Lund University Hospital in Sweden, who has found evidence of brain damage from even brief exposure to cell phones, has called wireless technology "the largest biological experiment ever."

The petition to Obama is available for signing online at <wavr.org/petition/ToObama.php>.

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health

IS HOPE FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM REALISTIC?

Political heavyweights are already weighing in against a single-payer system; major reform depends on a grass-roots effort

BY DON MONKERUD

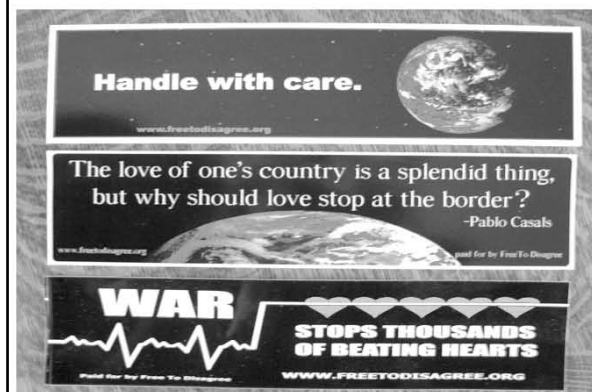
A Medicare-like optional insurance plan for everyone, regardless of age and past medical history, is shaping up to be the most contentious battle in the coming healthcare debate in Congress.

"What role should the government play?" asked Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services under Bush. "Should healthcare be more like food, where the government sets the rules, organizes the system and subsidizes those who need assistance? Or should it be more like national defense, where government pays for it with taxes?"

Leavitt repeatedly clashed with Tom Daschle, former US Senate Majority leader, when they met March 30 at The Panetta Institute for Public Policy in California to discuss the issue, "Can Healthcare Reform Finally Happen?"

While highly respected politicians, both men have ghosts in their closets. Daschle received over \$220,000 from the healthcare industry and over \$5 million as an advisor to corporations in the past two years. He withdrew as Obama's Secretary of HHS nominee after failing to pay \$128,000 in taxes. Questions plague Leavitt about backroom deals to open up millions of acres of wilderness to private exploitation while he was governor. See *Healthcare* on page 7

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