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NEWS

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Above: Gary Johnson, left foreground, and Kim Becklund, right, discuss One Center City. Former Seattle City Councilmember Jim Street is in the background. Right: Diane Wiatr leads the discussion.



One Center City plans transportation options

One Center City is a plan for moving through, connecting to, and experiencing the center of Seattle, Diane Wiatr told members and friends of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its February 22 meeting. The One Center City team is evaluating three options (B, C, D) for a 20-year vision of transportation and the public realm in downtown Seattle. Option A (no option) has been discarded, she said, as no option is not an option.

Each option brings potential transit restructuring challenges. The guiding principles will be to maintain flexibility, user experience, equity, safety, well-being optimization, transportation, public space, and stewardship.

The Seattle city center is comprised of 10 of the its densest and fastest growing neighborhoods, Ms Wiatr said, and boasts 70,000 residents and 250,000 jobs. Approximately 230,000 commuters travel in and out of the city center every day.

Speakers emphasized that our region is growing fast; by 2035 there will be 25,000 more households, 56,000 more jobs and 15,000 more pedestrians on the street; thus the need for im-

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Focus on state advises Health Care Task Force

Our best option for achieving health care for all is to focus on our own state, advised Charlton Price, chair of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's Health Care Task Force, at the February 8 meeting of the MDC.

The Trump administration is determined to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, he said, and the threat is that it may be repealed and not replaced. A state waiver provision in the ACA would permit Washington to create its own single payer program.

However, he added, Olympia is focused on funding education and is not thinking about applying for a state waiver.

To put pressure on state legislators, the MDC task force proposes to form working groups within the MDC membership and later within legislative districts. He stressed that the MDC needs to be part of the coalition of groups promoting health care for all, such as Health Care For All-WA and Physicians for a National Health Plan.

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Urquhart says he will not enforce federal immigration restrictions

"I won't do it," King County Sheriff John Urquhart told the members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its February 22 meeting. The sheriff had stopped by to say hello to "one of his favorite groups," and announced that he is running for reelection. He was accompanied by his Chief of Staff Chris Barringer.

What he won't do, he said, is to act on 287(g), the federal program that cross commissions local law enforcement officials to enforce federal immigration restrictions. That is why "it matters who holds the position of King County Sheriff;" if we elect someone else, we run the risk that his replacement will enforce federal immigration laws.

Mr Urquhart said he has instructed his officers to not raise issues of documentation when they come into contact with or arrest people suspected of crime. He will, however, enforce federal warrants that have been issued by a judge.

Mr Urquhart was first elected to the King County Sheriff position four years ago. His department contracts for law enforcement with 12 cities and serves about 532,000 people in King County. ♦♦♦



King County Sheriff John Urquhart, left, announces he will run for reelection. To his left is his Chief of Staff Chris Barringer and MDC Secretary Nicole Gomez

THE CASCADE CURTAIN

By Al Rasmussen

King County subsidizes the rest of Washington State, according to the state Office of Financial Management. Table GF-S of the Fiscal Year 2014 report gives county by county totals of state revenue and state expenditures. The expenditure-to-revenue ratio was 0.65 for King County and 1.26 for the rest of the state. That is, King County exports much of the tax revenue it raises to the rest of the state. For the counties in Western Washington, the ratio was 0.92; for Eastern Washington it was 1.36.

The Western Washington ratio 0.92 is elevated above King County's 0.65 by its other counties, particularly those in SW Washington: Clark, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, and Wahkiakum, all with ratios greater than 1.50. Compared with the enormous imbalance between the two sides of the state, the imbalance within Western Washington is much milder. For NW Washington (eight counties, Snohomish north through Whatcom) the ratio was 1.05. For SW Washington (ten counties, Pierce through Clark) the ratio was 1.36.

The other donor counties beside King were Columbia, Kittitas, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom. Of the 29 recipient counties, the biggest gainer was Stevens, which had a ratio of 1.94, with \$101 million in expenditures versus \$52 million in revenue. Spokane County had ratio 1.30 with \$1.234 million in expenditures and \$948 million in revenue.

Statewide, expenditures matched revenues, at \$16.4 billion for FY 2014. As a woman wrote to the PI after the 2004 Bush-Kerry election, "I would never vote for someone who thinks I am stupid." In his book that same year, "What's the Matter with Kansas?" Thomas Frank speculates that "there must be a searing pain at feeling culturally and intellectually inferior. They're tired of everything being wonderful on Wall Street and terrible on Main Street so they're voting Republican in order to get even with Wall Street." In their support of the GOP, it is as if, Frank says, "they mass menacingly at the gates of the rich, screaming 'we are here to cut your



Al Rasmussen

taxes'." The apparent irrationality of voters in Eastern Washington is possibly offset in part by the emotional satisfaction in ganging up on Seattle.

Of the 33 legislators from Eastern Washington, 30 are Republican with only three Democrats, all from LD-3 in downtown Spokane.



- One City continued from p1 -

proved mobility, dedicated public spaces, and reliable travel options.

Ms Wiatr is a principal planner with the City of Seattle Department of Transportation Policy and Planning Division. She was joined in the presentation, entitled "One Center City – Potential Near Term Strategies," by Gary Johnson, center city coordinator with the Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development, and Kim Becklund, strategic partnership advisor with King County Metro's Transit Division. All are members of the One Center City planning team.

One Center City is a public/private partnership that involves the City of Seattle, Sound Transit, the Downtown Seattle Association and King County.

To find out more about the options visit www.OneCenterCity.org. You may also give feedback about the project at www.OneCenterCity.participate.online.

Nicole Gomez contributed to this article.



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op-ed

Trump tradeoff: the future for the past

by Allan Munro

Most of the economic growth since the recovery began eight years ago has been centered in urban prosperity enclaves. Examples of these enclaves are Silicon Valley; Boston Back Bay; Austin, Texas; Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Portland, Oregon. Seattle is obviously one of these prosperity enclaves, sometimes referred to as technology hubs.

All of these enclaves are centers for information technology and biogenetics or both. All are clustered around large universities and re-



Allan Munro

search institutions. All are heavily dependent on continuing innovations for new products and services.

Research and innovation come from anywhere – immigrants, H1B workers, visiting laborers who are from places like India, China, Bangladesh, Iran and other parts of the Muslim world.

America's prosperity enclaves find themselves in competition with other enclaves in Europe, China, and India. Right now they have a clear lead. But businesses in these American enclaves are dependent upon a worldwide market for their products, the capital to finance

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From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

book review

Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right – and How We Can, Too.

By George Lakey

Melville House Publishing, Brooklyn, NY, 2016

Reviewed by Nelson Dahl

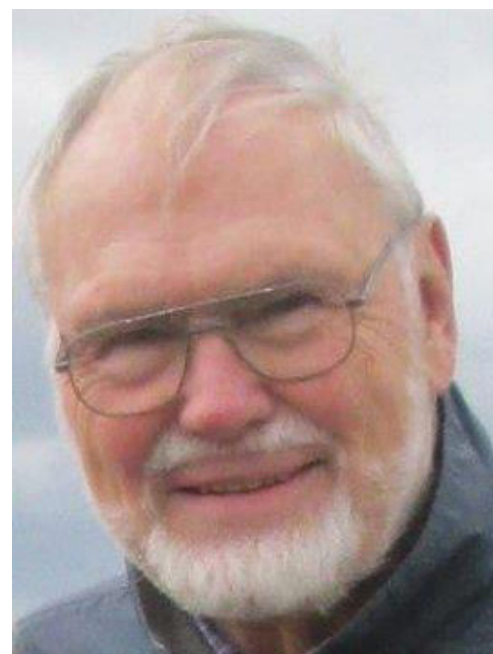
My ancestors came from Norway, so I found it especially satisfying to read how the Nordic systems have produced such a high quality of life, with greater equality, and the world's happiest, most productive workers. Many conservatives in the US consider Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland to be practicing a brand of "European Socialism" they would find unacceptable here. And there seems to be a general belief that the Nordic ways would be impossible to replicate in the US because our population is so much larger and more diverse. Lakey's book is a well-argued attempt to dispel these myths.

A hundred years ago, poverty was widespread in Scandinavia, one of the reasons so many immigrated to America. Over time, new movements led by the people through labor unions, putting an emphasis on education and equality for all, led to the social-economic systems they enjoy today.

What is the secret of their success? Most importantly, they decided that the goods and services everyone needs should be provided in the most sensible, practical ways. So health care became free for all. Paid ma-

ternity and paternity leave is available for up to a year for all. Free day care is provided for working parents, even child support for stay-at-home parents. Scandinavians are among the healthiest, longest living people in the world. Due to their greater economic equality, they experience less crime. For those who do go to prison, the focus is on rehabilitation, not punishment. People are willing to pay high taxes because the benefits are universal rather than targeted just to the needy. No one has to worry about education, retirement, and medical expenses, so people feel freer.

Of course our population is much larger, but is it really more diverse? Fourteen percent of Norwegians are foreign born. Over 100,000 guest workers were employed there in 2010. They actually had more entrepreneurs per capita than the US. According to Lakey, multiple sources have shown that a majority of Americans do want the greater equality and freedom from worry the Nordics enjoy. It is widely believed that our government prioritizes the interests of the elite rather than those of the majority of the people. Why? The primary opposition comes from special interests, big money



Nelson Dahl

and corporations. So instead of having a single payer health plan for all, our system benefits the insurance industry and the pharmaceutical corporations at the expense of the people.

What would it take to change this? The strong following of Bernie Sanders in the recent presidential primaries is encouraging. It indicates a change in thinking among younger Americans. Our history shows that some of our most progressive changes came from movements by the people, especially in the 1930s and the 1960s. It really comes down to insisting on the interests of people first and choosing the most sensible and efficient ways to provide the benefits we all need.



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- Task Force continued from p1 -

Other members of MDC's Health Care Task Force are Lem Howell, Bert Wyman, Vinod Goswami, and former state representative Seth Armstrong, who has prepared a position paper on affordable care that he will share with the membership soon. Mr Price said the task force needs at least one more member. To volunteer contact him at charltonrp@gmail.com.

"There are a lot of moving parts," Mr Price said of the effort to provide high quality health care for all. He indicated that he and the task force would keep the membership informed.



The MDC Health Care Task Force offers updates on its work. From left, Lem Howell, Bert Wyman, Vinod Goswami and Charlton Price. Not shown, Seth Armstrong

Former candidate describes campaign

Dan Shih, a member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle and former candidate for representative in the 43rd legislative district, spoke briefly about his campaign at the organization's February 8 meeting.

He ran on a slate of eight primary candidates, he explained, and although there was great diversity among the candidates, only one was a woman. She was elected; Mr Shih came in second.

The 43rd is a progressive district that fits his

— Tradeoff continued from p4 —

their startups, and access to first-class minds.

President Trump's trade and immigration policies will slow or stop the further transitions of the US economy. The opportunity for these new, growing enclaves to include a much larger portion of US work force will be lost.

Trump's tariff and immigration walls will exchange growth in the new information-based sectors for growth in the low-skilled rust belt and mining/extraction sectors. Growth in rust belt manufacturing will probably not be large because other nations will counter with protective tariffs, causing our exports of manufactured goods to fall (think Boeing, Caterpillar, Deere, GE).

Thus, we sacrifice our advantage in information technology and biogenetics for a limited gain in rust-belt enterprises.



policy preferences, he continued, but he struggled to get visibility. He said that although he had a good field operation, there was a lack of media interest and he had difficulty creating momentum. That changed when he received several high-level endorsements, including Governor Gary Locke, which led to a fundraiser that was attended by 400 and brought in \$5000.

What he enjoyed most about campaigning was "door-knocking," and "meeting with power brokers."

Mr Shih noted that the MDC's annual Chautauqua Afternoon was a "gem of an event." He recommended the event be videotaped for use by candidates and that a sample ballot would be useful as well.

The MDC endorsement process was "deliberative and run in an organized fashion," he concluded.



Buy your buttons, raffle tickets today

She persisted buttons are \$5 each. Raffle tickets are sold in books of 10 for \$50. Get some from Nicole Gomez at any MDC meeting or online at www.metrodems.org. Button proceeds are specifically earmarked for fundraisers to support progressive candidates and campaigns in 2017. Raffle drawing takes place December 10 at the Metropolitan Democratic Club



mark your MDC calendar

March - April

MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30 pm, the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (unless otherwise noted) at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St.

Wednesday, March 8

Seattle City Councilmember Rob Johnson speaks on "The Future of Affordability in Seattle."

Tuesday, March 21 (not Wednesday, March 22)

Chairs of legislative districts will discuss how their organizations are responding to the current administration's threats to civil rights and to the very structure of democracy itself. Confirmed as we go to press are: Carin Chase of the 32nd, David Ginsberg of the 34th, and Akilah Stewart of the 37th. Ken Albinger of the 45th will send a representative.

Wednesday, April 12

"Fighting for our health care rights" featuring Teresa Mosqueda, political and strategic campaign director, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.



of Seattle's annual Winter Holiday Party. For more information, contact MDC Secretary Nicole Gomez at nicole.gomez@gmail.com or 206.310.7672.

1st prize, \$500
2nd prize, \$300
3rd prize, \$200



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