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Serving the Olympia community and the cause of social justice since 1990.

April 2017

The 1992 plan to protect the Nisqually River Valley is at risk

Sub-Area Plan rules do not allow reprocessed Recycled Asphalt Pavement in valley

The 2017 Thurston County Commissioners are at it again. They want to change the Thurston County 1992 Nisqually Sub-Area Plan. These new Tea Party Commissioners want whatever economic development they can get, even if it pollutes our county. The latest attempt is aimed at trying to remove Goal E Policy 5 from the 1992 Nisqually Sub-Area plan. The County Commissioners want to allow reprocessed Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) at the Holroyd's Gravel Pit site in lower Nisqually Valley. This should not be allowed.

The overall goal of the original 1992 Nisqually Sub-Area Plan was to “maintain the existing rural environment of the Nisqually planning area with the primary emphasis on preserving... its rural, aesthetic character for future generations.” This overall goal has been in the forefront of the 1992 Plan—as well as ongoing public and private effort—to restore and maintain the Nisqually River Valley. The no-RAP provision (not allowing reprocessed recycled asphalt because of its toxic pollution potential) of Goal E Policy 5, was designed to protect the rural character from industrial dominance. The County Commissioners need to make sure that the Nisqually River Valley remains free of this pollution and not allow this change in the 1992 plan.

Thurston County has an obligation to defend the original 1992 plan. It is a good plan. However, rather than being phased out as the plan has required, business impacts in the Nisqually area have increased. Some examples are:

A mined-out pit at Yelm Highway and Reservation Road—which is in the Nisqually Sub-Area—has been converted to a construction waste site. The Sub-Area Plan (Goal E.1.) and DNR require mined-out pits to be reclaimed. Stumps and construction material, including RAP, are hauled in from as far as Mason County. This operation is contiguous with the McAllister Springs Sensitive Area and above Lacey and Olympia municipal wells. People in county government are aware of this violation, but as yet, nothing has been done to stop it.

After the flood of 1996, Nisqually neighbors could only replace lost homes by putting them on high foundations. No lot filling was allowed. However, one facility there, in the middle of the neighborhood, was given permission to put twenty thousand cubic yards of fill on their property. They have yet to use this filled area

and that part of the property is now for sale.

Lakeside Industries, the asphalt plant, got into the Nisqually Valley on a technicality and now wants to add the RAP storage and recycling to their asphalt process. This would increase truck traffic in the valley and open the door to more water and air pollution.

Also, flooding is an ongoing concern. In 1996, much of the lower Nisqually Valley was under floodwaters, including portions of the Holroyd gravel mine. Due to past rail, bridge, and highway construction, the Nisqually River has been artificially forced to the higher east side of the valley. When the river has major floods, it naturally flows to the west above the rail line through the Durgin Road Tunnel, which is upstream from the Holroyd Gravel Mine.

If RAP storage is allowed in the pit, aquifer groundwater could be contaminated by pollutants from the RAP when floodwaters enter the pit. The aquifer below the pit is the source of drinking water for some as well as farm/garden irrigation for many in the valley. The original goal states, “... the reprocessing of asphalt shall not be allowed due to water quality concerns.” Note: RAP is recycled pavement. When it is ground up, the sur-

face area of the aggregate dramatically increases, and allows greater leaching of chemicals. Using RAP as one would use raw gravel for a road or driveway would cause more leaching into the soil than a solid road made of bound asphalt. The same leachability would be a concern if RAP was stockpiled or

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stored and exposed to precipitation. Therefore, it should be obvious that RAP not be allowed at the Lakeside Industries site.

Lakeside Industries knew RAP was not allowed before they built their new plant at Holroyd's pit. In 1992, the Thurston County Commissioners and two court decisions ruled they could not use RAP in Nisqually Valley. The Olympia Regional Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) reaffirmed that they could not due to Sub-Area Plan rules. But Lakeside Industries chose to push their way into this rural/residential

area. Since then, they've been posturing that they have been treated unfairly.

Holroyd's pit is close to being mined-out, that is, empty of gravel. The Washington State DNR and the Sub-Area Plan say they have to move out when that happens. Will they? Will they fight for RAP storage? Or, will they want to increase truck traffic and change infrastructure to haul in gravel from another pit? This would also be in violation of the Sub-Area Plan. Goal E Policy 5 says, “The reprocessing of imported mineral resources shall not be the primary accessory use.” Gravel is a mineral and is supposed to come from inside the pit.

We urge people to contact the Thurston County Commissioners, or send a comment to Allison Osterberg, senior planner for Thurston County (osterba@co.thurston.wa.us). Let them know that you do not support the change in the Thurston County Nisqually Sub-area plan that would allow Lakeside Industries to remove Goal E Policy 5 from the 1992 Nisqually Sub-Area plan. The Thurston County Commissioners have their meetings at the Thurston County Courthouse on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. Please attend or send them an email. Go to the Thurston County website for meeting times.

The author is a long-time Olympia resident, and loves WIP!

The thousands who marched need to stand up for Trans* People

Kit Gertje

On January 21, 2017, thousands marched in the Women's March. It was a massive demonstration against misogyny in American culture and politics that displayed the will for national change. Now is the time to use that power to support the trans* community.

Recently, the republican administration rolled back President Obama's 2016 directive for schools to allow trans* students to use the public bathrooms that aligns with their gender identities on school campuses, at the risk of losing federal funding. The ruling was a huge boon to the trans* community, symbolizing a national push for much-needed acceptance and safety. The republican administration claimed that further analysis was needed on the issue.

“Further analysis” is a smoke screen

to disguise attempts to push trans* people out of society by demonizing them as predators and perverts. The reality is, trans* people are far more likely to be harassed or assaulted in the bathroom than cis (non-trans) people. While there have been no reported incidents of trans* people harassing cis people in bathrooms, in 2015 the National Center for Transgender Equality found that 12% of trans* people had been verbally harassed in public restrooms, and 59% of trans* people had avoided using public restrooms.

Trans* people want to use the bathroom for the same reason as everybody else: to relieve bodily functions. While doing nothing to protect people from predators, laws that require trans* people to use the bathroom that “aligns” with the sex listed on their birth certificate endanger trans* people who will often avoid using the bathroom rather than face harassment.

These restrictions effectively ban trans* people from public spaces. You can't hold it in all day, and trans* students can't excel under these conditions.

The bottom line is that trans* people are not a public menace, but rather are in need of protection. However, it's unlikely that the republican administration is going to see things this way which is why we need you. Please advocate for the rights of trans* students to use the bathroom that they feel comfortable using. You can do this by writing to school administrators, superintendents, and lawmakers who have the power to create policies and laws to protect people.

As a gender nonbinary person who is usually perceived as a cis woman, I understand the power cis women have on this issue. Cis women are

Works In Progress

established in 1990 by the
Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community publication based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of Works In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Art-work and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to olywip@gmail.com or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

Mission Statement

Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed.

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org



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Submission Deadline

Monday, April 17
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday, April 22, 1 pm
Lacey Timberland Library
(Group study area)

Advertising Rates

quarter page.....\$135
2 column square.....\$89
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CII calls for an independent investigation and April 15 Tax Day March

Olympia, WA – March 15, 2017 – An independent investigation into the Trump administration's possible connections with Russia including Donald Trump's tax returns is needed immediately in order to reassure Americans that the White House is not being unduly influenced and/or controlled by the Kremlin, according to a recently formed group of concerned citizens called Citizens for an Independent Investigation (CII).

“An independent and free democracy is too valuable to us all to let this issue remain cloaked. The Kremlin has infiltrated and disrupted other free democracies around the world. If the Trump administration has nothing to hide let there be an independent investigation so that they can clear any cloud of impropriety that may be hanging over them and get on with important business of governing,” said CII co-founder Joe Sandson.

This group of homemakers, retirees, and families of veterans is calling for Congress to immediately create an independent investigation to get to the bottom of any and all possible Russian connections.

CII co-founder Jayne Partridge, the wife of a Navy veteran who has never been involved in this kind of politics before, said, “I didn’t sacrifice my husband risking his life flying jets in a foreign war to have the White House appear to play ‘footsie’ with the Kremlin.”

CII is reaching out to senators and members of Congress to ask for their support and help them understand the momentous responsibility they have in clearing the reputation of this administration and ensuring that the White House and its staff are not unwittingly or by design being influenced or controlled by Putin or any Russian operatives.

“I am 64-years-old and I feel a patriotic responsibility to my country and to democracy to ensure that my children and grandchildren have a safe

Tax Day March
Saturday, April 15
10 AM - 3 PM
Washington State Capitol
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW,
Olympia, Washington

country run by Americans and not by any foreign government,” said CII co-founder Jacquelyn Jacobs. “It really is an issue of standing up for democracy and I am ashamed that any Republican

would thwart this effort. I’ve never felt the need to be politically active other than exercising my right to vote. Now I daily do all I can to insure this investigation doesn't get buried by the Republicans.”

CII is calling for all citizens to join the April 15th Tax March asking for Donald Trump to release his tax returns. CII is also asking folks at the march to carry signs calling for independent investigation.

For more information on the April 15th Tax March in D.C. and cities around the country go to taxmarch.org.

—Citizens for an independent Investigation

Direct action:
You don’t have to be arrested
Tuesday April 4, 2017

7-9pm
Obsidian back room
414 4th Ave E, Olympia, WA



Too many direct actions result in large number of arrests. In the era of Trump, allowing ourselves to be captured is not an effective strategy. This event will cover:

- The value of direct action
- Preparing for Protest 101: what to wear, what to bring, what to expect.
- Tips from a Street Medic: how to deal with chemical agents, how to recognize medics and how to take care of yourself.
- How to read police behavior: Do they look like they’re about to attack and mass arrest? Are they about to fire tear gas, and what are some other weapons and agents of control that have been used against protestors?
- Know your legal rights: what to do if arrested.

Presented by Economics for Everyone

Special events

“Fire the Fool” Rally at the Capitol
Saturday, April 1 at 11 AM–1 PM
Washington State Capitol, Olympia
The rally is organized to impart a satirical, symbolic, and powerful message of firing (impeaching) President Donald J Trump and to empower citizens all around our state to be empowered in their activism and to become personally involved in their own political grassroots actions!

Here in Olympia we are part of the Women's March movement. We are planning a family-friendly event with jesters, face painters, jugglers, and inspiring speakers and satirical mockers. We will be doing voter registration and tables for activist groups and community organizations with volunteer options! There will also be a documentary crew! The rally will be followed immediately by the Earth- Month Flag Raising event.

Theater Artists Olympia presents George Orwell’s 1984

Now running until April 8–The Midnight Sun Performance Space
Cast: Mark Alford, Maggie Ferguson-Wagstaffe, Xander Layden, Gabriel McClelland, Morgan Picton, and John Serembe.
Directed by pug Bujeaud.

Show times:

Saturday April 1 at 8:00 PM
Sunday April 2 matinee at 2:30 PM
Thursday April 6 at 8:00 PM
Friday April 7 at 8:00 PM
Saturday April 8 at 8:00 PM
Tickets: \$15/general, \$12/senior-student-military

The New Jim Crow Book Discussion
Sunday, April 2 at 2 PM - 4 PM
Orca Books, 509 4th Ave E,

We will be discussing Michelle Alexander's *New York Times* bestseller, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Mark your calendars now: April 2 (Chapter 1& 2), May 7 (Chapter 3& 4) & June 4 (Chapter 5 & 6), 2-4 p.m., Orca Books
Receive a 10% discount when you purchase your copy of this book from Orca Books located at 509 4th Avenue E in Olympia, WA 98501 (360.352.0123).

Hosted by Black Alliance of Thurston County

Tax Day March

Saturday, April 15 at 10 AM - 3 PM
Washington State Capitol, Olympia
President Trump still hasn't released his tax returns. That is unacceptable — and 74% of Americans agree. His administration's excuse for this unprecedented secrecy? “People don’t care.” On Saturday, April 15, 2017 we’re marching to show him: **yes we care**. Say you’ll be there!

Green accountant visor...

The Women's March had their (now) iconic pink pussy hats to visibly show their unity for their movement. The Tax March movement would like for you to show your unity by sporting a green accountant visor!

March for Science - Olympia
Saturday, April 22 at 11 AM - 2 PM
Washington State Capitol, Olympia
Science, not silence

The March for Science is a celebration of our passion for science and a call to support and safeguard the scientific community. Recent policy changes have caused heightened worry among scientists, and the incredible and immediate outpouring of support has made clear that these concerns are also shared by hundreds of thousands of people around the world. The politicization of science, which has given policymakers permission to reject overwhelming evidence, is a critical and urgent matter. It is time for people who support scientific research and evidence-based policies to take a public stand and be counted.

On April 22, 2017, we walk out of the lab and into the streets.

“Fired Up” March

Saturday, April 22 at 3 PM - 6 PM
Washington State Legislative Building, Olympia

Rally for Cannabis Policy and a March for Our Rights! Meet us on the steps of the WA State Capitol Legislative Building at 3:00 PM, after the Science/Earth Day events, as we gather to march to Sylvester Park at the strike of 4:20 pm. Our March is a demonstration to the threats that Trump and AG Sessions have towards our plant, medicine and industry. The rally has been planned to also show our support for Mad-die's Law & Ducky's Bill (HB 1060/SB 5290, More info:<http://tinyurl.com/kbboq8b>).
Speakers: WA State Rep. Brian Blake (Prime Sponsor of HB 1069); John Barclay (Ducky's Dad and MMJ Advocate) Grandma Cat Jeter (Longtime MMJ Advocate); Kirk Ludden, Viper PAC (Longtime MMJ Advocate)

The sustainable future of Thurston County

Gabrielle Korrow

It's a rainy Thursday afternoon in northeast Olympia, and local resident Tanner Milliren is bundled up in a communal woodshop where the construction of his new tiny home is well under way. Milliren had worked in construction for many years when he began to see tiny homes as a means of living a sustainable life. As an individual committed to living out his values, Milliren is finding ways to source high-quality, sustainable material to construct his home. He explained, "I want to live smaller and I want to live simpler. Progressive cities are realizing that this is a movement that isn't going away."

Thurston County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Washington and is projected to continue on this trajectory for decades to come. The Thurston Regional Planning Council projects that by 2040 there



is, how do you sustain growth and still be sustainable?" The cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater have all begun to integrate parts of Sustainable Thurston into their long-term plans. Keeping downtown and residential areas

compact so that farmland and wilderness can be preserved is one example.

Thurston Thrives is another case of how local organizations are taking bold steps to make our region more sustainable. A grassroots organization of community members, Thurston Thrives works to build collaborations within the community to create a more healthy, happy population. They have created eight ac-

tion teams that cover various aspects of health and wellness in the community. Their focuses range from Public Safety and Justice to the Environment (including Climate & Clean Energy) to Community Design. Thurston Thrives is adamant about individuals getting involved, and they emphasize the value of taking simple steps like attending school board or city council meeting. Often, the biggest impact is made when individuals take a stance on local issues.

What would our community look like in 2035 if more citizens were taking steps to embrace sustainability? In a cold woodshop, sitting next to his partially constructed tiny home, Milliren explains, "Being able to downsize enables people to direct their finances, time, and energy towards things that are more meaningful." There are many paths to and models of sustain-

How do you want your community to look, function, and feel in 2035? How can we improve our livelihoods while minimizing our footprint? These were the questions at the heart of a long-term plan crafted in 2001 called Sustainable Thurston.

plan crafted in 2001 called Sustainable Thurston. Initiated by the Thurston Regional Planning Council, the project offered a platform that allowed thousands of community members to come together to construct a regional vision of sustainable development. The Sustainable Thurston plan defines a sustainable community as a community that "...will enhance quality of life, foster economic vitality, and protect the environment while balancing our needs today with those of future residents."

Micheal Burnham, Senior Planner for the City of Olympia, played an important role in creating Sustainable Thurston. Burnham explained, "We've tried to reach that delta of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. You have to think about all of the different pieces at the same time and not in silos." He added, "The question

ability. All of them involve action, creativity, and—at times—some sort of sacrifice. The involvement of both institutions and individuals is critical. Burnham says that one should "not only look at what your city or county can do to help the region become more sustainable, but think about what actions you and your neighbors can take to become more sustainable."

Look at thurstonthrive.org, www.trpc.org, for more information and to get educated on the efforts of your community. Look for Tanner Milliren on Tiny House, Big Life, HGTV coming soon!

Gabrielle Korrow is a journalism student at Evergreen State College.

SideWalk loses an advocate Remembering Phyllis Dodds (1934-2017)

Saima Scott

I remember one day early on in my SideWalk advocacy days when Jill Esbeck, the operations manager, asked me which volunteer I would like to see honored in a newsletter that was going out. SideWalk is the point of contact for adults experiencing homelessness as well as a volunteer driven advocacy service provider. Without even having to think, I said "Phyllis!" She was my hero. She was a tiny woman, and she was rather quiet. Nevertheless, she had presence, a strong, clear presence. After her funeral Mass two people at the luncheon table both said they wouldn't generally come to a funeral for someone they had know so little, but they wouldn't have missed it. She had touched both their lives with her genuine regard and hard work.

Phyllis was a team lead at SideWalk, which meant she was the go-to person with any questions other volunteers might have regarding a wide range of services and issues. Besides fielding a barrage of questions, she also greeted people as they walked in the door, with her always-present smile and friendly concerned listening. Her long time commitment to the St. Vin-

cent de Paul Society organization at St. Michael's Church downtown was an invaluable asset. As we would send a client to look for help with anything from clothing to monetary assistance she would invariably call after them, "Tell them Phyllis sent you!"

After she had raised five children of her own, Phyllis got a Master's Degree in Special Education and was an administrator as well as a teacher. She worked with alcohol and drug dependent youth as well as with children with special needs. A few times former students would come into SideWalk for services, and she greeted them like family. She knew some would have problems in later life, and she was happy to be able to help in any way she could.

Phyllis was born of pioneer women who moved to Washington before it achieved statehood. She certainly exemplified the strong qualities—caring for the most vulnerable, generosity of spirit, humble service, love of family and welcome for all. We closed our doors at SideWalk for the day of her funeral and the next day to honor her amongst ourselves. We were all blessed to have known and worked with her.



Phyllis Dodds

I am so very sorry to share that Phyllis Dodds, a longtime SideWalk volunteer, died [February 3]. Phyllis carried the heart and soul of this organization in everything that she did and she held deep bonds with many of our volunteers and staff.

I first met Phyllis thirteen years ago when she began volunteering at the front desk at Bread & Roses. Much as she has done over the last five years at SideWalk, she became one of Bread & Roses' most dedicated and most beloved volunteers.

I was struck by Phyllis' enormous heart when once, as a client at B&R was in crisis (and threatening violence to everyone in sight), Phyllis calmly walked up to him, shined her loving smile at him, and put her hand on his shoulder. I was terrified for her; she was about half his size and he really was spiraling out of control. But he calmed down and began apologizing the instant that Phyllis gifted him her attention. She had that indescribable and incred-

ibly powerful way with people.

Phyllis never called attention to herself. She never made demands on her own behalf. But she was a ferocious advocate for our clients. During planning meetings among the staff at SideWalk, the words "Phyllis won't like that" have occasionally been the basis for setting aside an idea and going back to the drawing board. Because she has so frequently given voice to our own values and conscience as an organization.

I have looked up to Phyllis since I was a young man. It is difficult to imagine what it will look like to work in homeless services without frequently seeing her smiling presence. Phyllis was a gentle and unassuming person, but her presence—her generous love and her ferocity—has been felt at every moment at SideWalk, whether she was there or not. I think I speak on everyone's behalf when I say that she will be fiercely missed.

Phil Owen
Executive Director, SideWalk

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Ignorance, arrogance, and hypocrisy: US and Russian/Soviet Relations

David Maas

In a recent article in *Washington Monthly* magazine, James Bruno, a former diplomat, concluded that “(T)he United States has just endured a carefully planned and well-orchestrated assault against its democratic form of government in the form of a grand cyber-theft of information and targeted release of that information.” As evidence, he quotes from a report, backed by seventeen governmental intelligence agencies that, “Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the United States’ presidential election. Russia’s goals were to undermine public faith in the United States’ democratic process, to denigrate Secretary Clinton, and to harm her electability and potential presidency” (1).

Based on this information, Bill Moyers and Michael Winship have called for an immediate investigation into whether Russia “deliberately interfered with and corrupted our electoral process to favor the election of Donald Trump” (2). Before we support Moyer’s rush to judgement, we should first consider the sources of the charges against Presidents Putin and Trump. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) are almost certainly at the forefront of this issue.

Since its inception in 1947, the CIA has shifted from being a source of news and information to practicing covert action and subversion. They quickly began funding front groups while undermining democratic regimes in Chile, Guatemala, Brazil, Iran, Italy, Japan, Guyana, Ecuador, Columbia, Argentina, Greece, and others.

We live in a permanent-war society, and the scope of both real and cold wars that we have fought in remains enigmatic. United States (US) military and civilian intelligence bureaus have failed to understand the social, cultural, and political dynamics of countries like Korea, China, the Soviet Union (USSR), Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Central America, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. The consequences of our ignorance have been disastrous and have led to millions of casualties, environmental degradation, and needless expenditures. Upon leaving the presidential office, Dwight Eisenhower

passed on a report to his successor, John F. Kennedy, that called for a re-evaluation of CIA covert actions. The report concluded that, “the CIA’s concentration on political, psychological, and related covert action activities have tended to distract substantially from the execution of its primary intelligence-gathering mission” (3).

Before we support Moyer’s rush to judgement, we should first consider the sources of the charges against Presidents Putin and Trump. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) are almost certainly at the forefront of this issue.

The CIA was also involved for years in mind control experiments (Project Artichoke). It lied and gave fake intelligence. It also penetrated domestic groups, e.g., the National Student Association, Radio Free Europe, Ford and Asia Foundations, and prominent universities like Harvard and the Covert Operations Study Group there. It was also involved in assassinations, secret wars, and spying on American citizens through tapping phones and opening first-class mail from overseas (3).

Such questionable activities merge into the National Security Agency’s illegal spying on American citizens. After 9/11 President George H.W. Bush authorized the NSA to eavesdrop on Americans to look for possible terrorist threats. This eventually led to Operation Prism which followed Bush’s Terrorist Surveillance Program. Prism collects private electronic data from Google, Facebook, Yahoo, Microsoft, Apple, AT&T, Verizon, AOL, and Sprint. The Agency also uses upstream wiretaps to gather information from underwater telecommunication cables.

NSA spy programs collect meta-data and content. Metadata consists of phone records which reveal who is communicating as well as the times and the lengths of conversations. Prism reviews the contents of emails, chats, tweets, and cloud-stored files.

The companies involved in Prism, President Obama, and NSA director James Clapper all lied about the domestic and international monitoring

of electronic communication. The President told the American people that, “(T)he bottom line is that people around the world, regardless of their nationality, should know that the US is not spying on ordinary people who don’t threaten our national security, and that we take their privacy concerns into account in our policies and

procedures. This applies to foreign leaders as well” (4). When Edward Snowden released downloaded NSA files, we all learned that the agency was not only spying on Americans but also on leaders and key individuals in the Bahamas, Afghanistan, Israel, the United Kingdom, China, Brazil, and Germany. Turkey was also surveilled and Obama discovered that Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s regime had provided training, weapons, and supplies to ISIS and helped fund the CIA’s creation of the Islamic State.

In March of 2013, the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, testified before a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing that the government “was not ‘wittingly’ collecting information on millions of Americans.” A few senators on the Committee had been briefed earlier on NSA activities and knew the Director was lying.

For James Bamford, the chronicler of the NSA (5), this sweeping-up of countless bits of information prevents the spy agencies from seeing the complete picture. Thus, the NSA and other intelligence organizations have missed important developments and terrorist plans like the implosion of the Soviet Union, the attacks on the World Trade Center in 1993 and 2001, the Boston bombings, and so on.

The failings and crimes of the CIA and the NSA do not refute their charges that Vladimir Putin’s regime violated US cyberspace or, more seriously, colluded with Donald Trump to defeat

Hillary Clinton. Nevertheless, the historical record of intelligence services should give us pause when considering their charges until we see the evidence.

Another question we should be asking is why Russian-American relations have deteriorated to the point that some are talking about the return of the Cold War. It is obvious that the President, Congress, the National Security Council, and the media blame Putin, his hypothetical policy of expansionism, and the resurrection of Soviet power for damaging relations between the two countries.

It may be more accurate to blame the US and the European Union (6). The Cold War ended in 1989 when US President George H. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev declared, after meeting in Malta, that their countries were no longer adversaries.

Soon after the Malta agreement, American leaders declared we had won the Cold War and therefore did not have to change our foreign and international policies, essentially saying, “Let others change.” Gorbachev responded saying, “this point of view is mistaken, and it undermined what we had envisaged for Europe—mutual collective security for everyone and a new world order. All of that was lost because of this muddled thinking in your country, and which has now made it so difficult to work together. World leadership is now understood to mean that America gives the orders” (7).

Quickly, the Clinton Administration and Europe expanded NATO to include the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. Then in 2004, President Bush extended NATO to Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The Kremlin was not overly concerned because, except for the small Baltic states, none of these countries bordered Russia (8).

This changed in 2008 when the West turned toward Georgia and Ukraine. Soon after the breakup of the USSR, two regions in Georgia, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, declared their independence from the country. With the help of the US and others the president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, invaded South Ossetia hoping to unify Georgia before it joined NATO. This led to a Russian invasion and a warning that the Medvedev and Putin administration would not tolerate such a move (9).

President Obama was critical of the Georgia incursion but the US and Russia still managed to work together to convince Iran to limit their nuclear program. Both presidents agreed to limit their nuclear stockpiles, and Obama withdrew the Eastern European Missile Defense System (10).

Ultimately the Republican and Democratic critics of Putin and the Russian State prevailed. They launched a two-point offensive against the Kremlin. First was the continued expansion of NATO. At a NATO summit in Romania in 2009, Albania and Croatia were admitted as members and the leaders of the Ukraine and Georgia were told they could eventually join as well. In 2004, NATO’s 5,000 troops were based in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria as a warning to the Russian government and its supposed imperialist ambitions (11).

For over three decades the US has followed a second strategy of changing domestic institutions to be more receptive to our views of democracy, corporate development, and free trade. Since the fall of the USSR, the following institutions have been created or modified: the National Education for Democracy (created by Congress in 1983 with the help of William Casey, Ronald Reagan’s Director of

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US and Russian/Soviet Relations

From previous page

the CIA), the International Foundation for Election Systems (founded in 1987), the United States Agency for International Development, and private organizations like the Open Society Foundation organized by George Soros in 1993.

The activities of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) illustrate what these non-governmental organizations try to do. In a recent article, Carl Gershman, the Director of NED, outlined his plan for Ukraine as follows: “So the strategic goal for people who want to see a more peaceful and democratic world is a Russia that, like the Ukraine, wants to be democratic and a part of Europe. Right now, such a scenario seems very unlikely. But if Ukraine succeeds, there is the possibility for a better outcome. That is why Ukraine’s struggle for democracy, independence, and territorial integrity has consequences for the whole world. And it’s why the US has a profound stake in its success. By standing with Ukraine, we are not merely supporting their struggle. We are also defending our own national security and advancing the values of human freedom that America, with all its troubles, continues to represent”(12).

The National Education Foundation is backed by Victor Yanukovich who was elected President of Ukraine in 2010. His administration began to crumble after a European Union summit in November of 2013 when President Yanukovich rejected an invitation to join the Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. He preferred that Ukraine become a member of Russia’s Common Union with other Commonwealth Independent States. Almost immediately, different organizations along with the Obama Administration began planning the overthrow of Yanukovich’s regime. NED turned against Yanukovich because he was not following Carl Gerschman’s plan to politically and economically transform Ukraine and eventually Russia. NED then turned to financing Yanukovich’s opponents.

Meanwhile Secretary Victoria Nuland was meeting with right-wing leaders of the Svoboda and Fatherland political parties. When it became clear that the Ukrainian President was not going to renegotiate with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund, Nuland arranged a meeting with “government officials, opposition leaders, civil society, and business people to encourage agreement on a new government and plan of action” (13). A coup was in the making. On February 22, the Ukraine Parliament insisted that Yanukovich resign. Later the President, fearing for his life, fled to Russia.

The western media’s response to the coup was celebratory. Victor Yanukovich’s corrupt regime had finally ended and was replaced by a more democratic and western-oriented government. In truth, the new government was not the result of popular pressure but a carefully planned coup d’état. It was not democracy in action but a putsch led primarily by right-wing (some would say neo-fascist) activists.

In February President Putin sent troops to occupy Crimea, an area that is critical for the Russian Black Sea Naval Force’s access to the Mediterranean Sea. Later the people of Crimea, of which sixty percent are Russian, voted to join the mother country. Putin also increased his defensive forces along the Ukraine-Russia border.

Reactions from American leaders were vitriolic. Hillary Clinton compared Putin to Hitler. After Russian troops moved into Crimea, Secretary Kerry said, “You just don’t in the twenty-first century behave in nineteenth century fashion by invading another country on completely trumped up pretext.” Evidently Kerry forgot about why he had fought in Vietnam, and then, as a US Senator voted to invade Iraq. Then there was John McCain, arm-in-arm with the leader of the extreme right-wing Svoboda Party, swearing “America is with you.” President Obama warned Putin against Russian military activity inside Ukraine.

Only a few people in the media have bothered to understand Putin’s reasoning. Logically he was responding to the threatening actions from Europe and the US which further destabilized Ukraine, threw out an elected president, and supported a government the West was more comfortable with. Wouldn’t any sensible national leader respond to such actions particularly on the country’s border? Imagine if Russia were part of a collective alliance like the now defunct Warsaw Pact, which was formed by the Soviet Union to control military forces in Eastern and Central Europe. What would be the American response to this alliance if they covertly tried to convince Canada and Mexico to join their defensive pact?

After the Russian occupation of Crimea, the neoconservatives and liberal internationalists assume Putin was trying to resurrect the Soviet empire. Hence the stationing of NATO troops in the Baltic states and Poland. Further, if we don’t stop President Putin’s interference in Georgia and Ukraine, Russian dominance will only be strengthened.

It is doubtful that Russian leaders have imperial ambitions. One informed student of international relations explains it thus: “If Putin were committed to creating a greater Russia, signs of his intentions would almost certainly have arisen before February 22, 2014. But there is virtually no evidence that he was bent on taking Crimea, much less other territory in Ukraine, before that date. Even Western leaders who supported NATO expansion were not doing so out of fear that Russia was about to use military force. Putin’s actions in Crimea took them by complete surprise and appear to have been a spontaneous reaction to Yanukovich’s ouster. Right afterword, even Putin said he opposed Crimean succession, before quickly changing his mind” (14).

Conclusions

There is a constant and disturbing level of ignorance in carrying out American foreign and military policies. We seldom understand the internal, cultural and political dynamics of the countries we fight covertly, e.g., Ukraine, and overtly, e.g., Vietnam. Our misinformed forays invariably

lead to social instability, environmental/physical destruction, and countless fatalities. The list of examples grows every year from Afghanistan to Zaire.

In another way, the American people are victimized by the permanent war economy. We spend trillions on war and armaments while severely underfunding education, healthcare, housing, transportation, social welfare, and environmental improvements.

Furthermore, the citizenry is deprived of the intelligence it requires to make informed decisions. The “prevailing climate is shaped in an ‘inside-outside’ dynamic, whereby the narrative that defines any given crisis is set on the ‘inside,’ by administration officials and sitting ambassadors, and reinforced on the ‘outside,’ by the establishment media. What it amounts to is a process of preemptive agenda-setting. In the case of policy regarding Syria, Libya, and Russia, the inside-outside dynamic has shaped a narrative that seeks to delegitimize the regimes in question thereby obviating the need for nuance and crowding out the moral, consequential, or realist implications of any given policy decision. It is therefore exceedingly difficult, even for a chief executive with Obama’s obvious talents, to depart from this orthodoxy because of the way it narrows the spectrum of ‘acceptable’ policy options” (15).

American foreign policy is built on two ideologies: neo-conservatism and liberal interventionism. Neo-conservatives aim to maintain US dominance of the world through military power, covert interventions, and, if necessary, war. It is imperative that we control Iranian ambitions in the Middle East, the expansion of China’s influence, and a resurgent Russia.

Modern neo-conservatism’s origins derive from the free market economies supported by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s. The emphasis was on individual freedom “within an insti-

tutional framework characterized by private property rights, free markets, and free trade” (16). Conceivably individualism alone could lead to anarchy. Therefore, a free-wheeling economy requires an authoritative government. The American solution is neo-conservatism based on a strong military built on “cultural nationalism, moral righteousness, fundamentalism, and family/pro-life values” (17).

After the demise of the USSR, the US could have helped build new and perhaps realigned diplomatic relations. President George H. Bush and the NSC chose unilateralism instead. Our political and national security policies rest on five pillars: (1) guard against the re-emergence of a competing world power; (2) rely on preemptive military force which may include use of nuclear weapons; (3) preserve a strong nuclear arsenal while discouraging other countries from developing nuclear capability; (4) retain the preeminent responsibility for righting the wrongs that threaten our interests and our allies; and (5) defend “access to vital raw materials, e.g. oil in the Persian Gulf, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and terrorist threats to American citizens” (18).

Neo-conservatism converges nicely with liberal, or humanitarian, interventionism. President Obama, US Ambassador Samantha Power, Susan Rice, Hillary Clinton, and many others argue that we should be concerned not only with foreign relations but also with the internal dynamics of countries that don’t adopt the universal rights that Americans believe in. “These rights include freedom of speech, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of religion, equality for men and women under the rule of law, and the right to choose our leaders” (19).


For liberals, the justification of war or subversion is based on what Ambassador Power calls our “responsibility to protect” or “R2P.” In her view, we had to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi’s government in Libya because he intended to kill thousands of civilians, we should overthrow and punish Syria’s president, Bashar al-Assad, and we should penalize Russia for interfering

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Immigration: The failure of our sympathetic imagination

A longer view on the spaces we leave and settle

Enrique Quintero

The Empty Cinema of Fear

Those who lived in New York City during the 70's might remember the story—part somber joke and part true story—that circulated among the Hispanic community living in Queens. It was told more or less like this: “If you go to the cinema or to a theater, but you can’t find any empty seats, all you need to do is scream ‘*Immigration! Immigration!*’ and pretty soon the cinema will be half-empty since lots of the people in the seats will stam-pede toward the exits trying to avoid being detained. Then, when the coast is clear, you can calmly walk towards a now-vacant seat.” It didn’t matter to the storyteller that the person playing this trick was also likely to be undocu-mented.

In the context of this essay, what’s important about that story is the way it makes visible that the fears associated with the act of having immigrated are not bound up in the act of migration itself, which is part of an ancient hu-man practice, but in the cultural and legal repercussions put in place by the state of New York and American Fed-eral Law at the time. These included fines, jail terms, and deportation; the latter two often entailed leaving fami-lies behind. Everyone understood that these fears were palpable to the extent that they could be invoked in absentia.

A Panoptical Space

In one of his most famous stories, the Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges describes the Aleph as a spheri-cal prism-like object in which “all the places of the world, seen from every angle, coexist.” In other words, con-templating the Aleph would allow the viewer to see simultaneously, accord-ing to Borges, “without imposition and without transparency” the millions of delightful and horrible acts performed by humanity occupying one single point or space.

Very few contemporary socio-politi-cal figures represent the trajectory of human history as clearly as the figure of the migrant. Just as Borges’ Aleph encapsulates the acts of humanity in one single space, the migrant subject encapsulates the millions of episodes of the human journey in a single per-son. From the prehistoric origins of our evolutionary lineage to the es-tablishment of our current condition as humans, we have been constantly moving around the planet. Indeed, us-ing our relatively-recently acquired erect posture and bipedal locomotion, we’ve ventured from our original pri-mary grounds in Africa to populate practically every corner of the world. We have been consciously emigrating and immigrating ever since we be-came humans.

Even after becoming sedentary as

a consequence of discovering agri-culture, and leaving behind spaces previously destined for hunting and gathering, we continued moving, we continued migrating. Historically, we behave like a migratory species—al-though our cycles for returning are much longer. We abandon familiar

it seems critical to suggest—at least as an approximation—that these migra-tions have been motivated by both internally and externally created, pre-carious socio-economic conditions, by catastrophic natural circumstances, by the depletion of natural resources in particular areas, by forced mobiliza-

From the prehistoric origins of our evolutionary lineage to the establishment of our current condition as humans, we have been constantly moving around the planet. Indeed, using our relatively-recently acquired erect posture and bipedal locomotion, we’ve ventured from our original primary grounds in Africa to populate practically every corner of the world. We have been consciously emigrating and immigrating ever since we became humans.

geographies and move onto new ter-ritories. By doing so, we managed to occupy the whole planet and produce ideologies to control and legitimize the multiple configurations of our political space. We advanced from tribal arrangements to feudal forma-tions, from kingdoms to empires, from neighborhoods and municipalities to national states. Simultaneously, we erected legal and material obstacles to regulate and reinforce our ever-evolving concepts of private prop-erty, borders, and space, culminating with present day capitalism—a socio-economic system always needing to expand, migrate, and appropriate new economic and political spaces. Additionally, we perfected and mod-ified our means of transportation and sources of energy. We have not only incorporated new ways to travel on land, such as high-speed locomotive trains and cars, but we also created new strategies for traveling through water and air with ships and aircraft, to say nothing of the exploration of interplanetary space. Concurrently, we have become more dependent on fossil and carbon energy for our mi-grations, relying less and less on our bipedal locomotion, while—for what it’s worth—keeping our erect posture. We’ve constructed a Janus-faced figure of humanity, one that is at the same time emigrant and immigrant. This duality seems to persist through the rough tracks of history, closely related to the no less rugged trails of human political economy.

The Perpetual Immigrant

In describing the migratory move-ments of human history in a few lines,

tion as in the case of slavery, as the consequence of acts of war, and, last but not least, just plain human curi-osity for the space unknown. While acknowledging the understandable peculiarities that apply to each indi-vidual’s story of migration, it is no ex-aggeration to state that at one moment or another, in the curve of history and time, either directly or through some of our ancestors, we all have joined the continuous, itinerant army of im-migrants around the planet. For a so-ciety obsessed with genealogy to the point of making it a growing cultural industry, this should be an easy fact to remember.

This massive migratory journey did not begin and end when some human groups migrated from Africa and in-habited—sometimes in circular move-ments—the five continents. It contin-ued through the centuries in many

forms, e.g. the ancestors of today’s Native Americans and their slow mi-gration through ancient Beringia; the exodus of the Romani people, leaving Northern India and spreading across Persia, Turkey, Greece, France, Spain, Finland, Russia, Egypt and Morocco; the Hmong people who populated the mountains of China, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand—with many of them currently living in the United States as result of the war in Vietnam and Laos; the several hundred thousand Jewish people who left Nazi Germany; and over a million and a half Palestin-ians forced out of their land by the Israeli state. Similar migratory condi-tions describe the cases of millions of southern European workers who, during the 50’s and 60’s, looked for jobs in Germany and Switzerland. The history of human migration has affected us all. To this panoramic view we could add millions of indi-vidual migratory events such as the recently known case of President Trump’s grandfather who, in 1905, begged the Prince Regent of Bavaria not deport him because “it will be very, very hard for his family,” and describing the family condition as one of “being paralyzed with fright” (*Harpers Magazine*, March 6, 2017).

Ironically, the current administra-tion, which is being presided over by that migrant’s grandson, and is similar to many past administra-tions, seems to have lost any sense of historical perspective regarding the causality of the current migra-tory movements which originated in the global south and other areas. The Trump administration is similar to the Obama administration; Obama, who was also the son of an immigrant, had his own questionable deportation re-cord. He deported over 2.4 million people, more than any other presi-dent in American history. The offi-cial migratory and travel ban regula-tions infer nefarious and ill-conceived characteristics upon immigrants from Mexico and six other countries where Muslin religious practices dominate. By promulgating these policies, the current administration flagrantly demonstrates its inability to grasp one very important trait of our identity as a species which is our condition as perpetual migrants acting upon the material and social conditions of our existence.

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Immigration

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The Compulsory Immigrants of Capital

Despite the growing regulations and sanctions as well as the punitive vindictiveness aimed at immigrants in the US and parts of Europe, migratory movements remain constant. In an article written for the World Economic Forum in January of 2016, Ian Goldin, Director of the Martin School based at Oxford University, argued that the rate of the world's migrant population has remained the same (three percent) for the last hundred years. At the same time, due to growth in the world's population in the last decades, the absolute number of migrants officially recognized as refugees world-wide has grown to a grand total of twenty million people.

On a planet where pretty much all spaces have been explored, and all territories have been mapped and

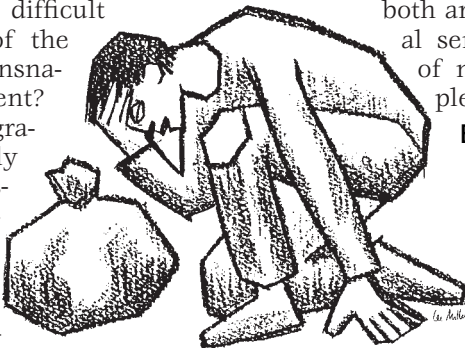
claimed as private property, how is this large number explained? How can this much movement happen on a planet where national states have been established and their borders militarily protected, and where electronic surveillance, visas, travel-bans, and other types of regulations have been placed making the current moment the most difficult

in the history of the species for transnational movement? Why does immigration, particularly to highly industrialized, capitalist societies, continue to be a constant fact? The best, short—yet accurate—answer was provided by London-based Sri Lankan novelist and political writer A. Sivanandan, who in the early 80's coined the phrase, "We are here because you were there." The phrase,

in condensed fashion, unveils the close links and consequences existing between the political and economic actions—wars and interventions included—committed by the industrialized western nations which have resulted in the current wave of refugees. No distinction need be made between economic and political refugees since both are, in a broad, structural sense, the consequence of neo-liberal politics implemented overseas.

Back to the Cinema

The current backlash against immigrants shows the failure of our sympathetic political imagination. It makes clear that we as society have lost whatever ability we had to recognize our own humanity in the adverse conditions of others. We have forgotten the ephemeral condition of our behavior



as 'owners' of a given territorial space in the planet, and have opted instead for tactics that propagate fear and insecurity among the population in the name of national security and national greatness (again). Yet, there have been some positive signs against the narrow-mindedness of racism, intolerance, and national chauvinism; these are manifested in the multiple outpourings of solidarity for immigrants throughout the nation and the growing numbers of sanctuary cities (close to four hundred at the moment of this writing). It will be this kind solidarity and not the use of fear that will get us a seat and a more positive role to play in the theatre of the human comedy.

Enrique Quintero was a political activist in Latin America during the 70's, then taught ESL and Second Language Acquisition in the Anchorage School District, and Spanish at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He currently lives and writes in Olympia.

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North Korea and Trump’s sabre rattling

The Cold War continues with threats of escalation

Sylvia Smith

Before the Vietnam War in the 1960's and 1970's, there was the Korea Police Action in the 1950's. Many similarities are shared by both, one being that they are products of the Cold War and the United States' determination to stop the "evil spread of Communism". The main difference is that for Vietnam there was a clear victory and reunification of the nation; whereas, Korea remains divided and militarized, seemingly without hope of resolution.

Korea is split

In December 1945, at the end of WW II, the Allies agreed to hold Korea under a U.S.-U.S.S.R. trusteeship to prepare Koreans for independence after 50 years of Japanese rule. Predictably, the two nations were unable to unify their joint administration and by 1946 the country was divided at the 38th parallel and travel between the two halves was restricted.

On November 14, 1947, the UN passed a resolution calling for free elections, foreign troops to be withdrawn, and a UN commission for Korea be created— United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK). In response to Soviet opposition to the resolution, UNTCOK decided to only hold elections in the south (Buzo, Adrian, The Making of Modern Korea). May 1948 the election was held in the south leading to the establishment of the Republic of Korea. A few months later "the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was declared in the north, with Kim Il-sung as prime minister. On December 12, 1948, the UN declares the Republic of Korea as the "only lawful government in Korea." (Wikipedia)

The war

For the next year and a half, bloody conflicts occurred along the border until the civil war broke out in June of 1950 with the US-led UN military intervention in support of the south. The Armistice Agreement signed in July 1953 was not a peace treaty; it was simply an agreement stop fighting or a truce. According to reports by the Chinese and U.S. governments, military deaths totaled 1,598,429 with civilians deaths in the hundreds of thousands.

Since then, there has been a military stand-off at the 38th parallel. "The Korean peninsula remains a relic of the Cold War without any clear signs of conflict termination. Suspicion and mutual distrust emanating from the protracted conflict have further accelerated fierce conventional arms races on the Korean peninsula. Taking advantage of its economic growth and industrial maturity, South Korea has been maintaining an edge over the North in this arms race [in addition to military aid from the U.S.]. Meanwhile, North Korea has responded to the widening disparity in conventional forces by venturing to play the nuclear weapons card. As a result, peace and security on the Korean peninsula have

become all the more precarious and uncertain." (Chung-in Moon and Sang-keun Lee, The Asian-Pacific Journal)

‘The threat of North Korea is imminent’ – Rex T.

Former CEO of Exxon and now the U.S. Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, has been in the news lately, ramping up the tense situation between the United States and North Korea while on his recent trip to Asia. Trump, too, has participated by Twittering "North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been 'playing' the United States

will take part in joint military drills to practice incapacitating North Korean leadership in the case of conflict."

It's no wonder Tillerson and Trump aren't the only ones a little upset. It sort of makes sense why Kim Jong-un is flexing a little muscle. But that's not the only thing going on...

A little history

In January of last year, North Korea tested a nuclear device that Kim Jon-un claimed was a hydrogen bomb. According to Reuters, the White House considers North Korea's move as mere

Perry wrote “during my discussions and negotiations with members of the North Korean government, I have found that they are not irrational, nor do they have the objective of achieving martyrdom. Their goals, in order of priority, are: preserving the Kim dynasty, gaining international respect and improving their economy.”

for years.”

All of this is in response to North Korea having fired four ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan earlier in March and testing what has been reported as a high-thrust rocket engine. North Korea's Chairman Kim Jong-un claims the test is a part of the country's space program plan to send observation and communication satellites into orbit in addition to the two it launched in 2012 and 2016. The U.S. claims the test will lead to North Korea's development of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

propaganda, "We are obviously going to continue to look at this by monitoring the situation, assessing the available data and evidence. But the initial analysis is not consistent with claims that the regime has made a successful [underground] hydrogen bomb test," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said during a press briefing.

In February 2016, Obama responded by imposing sanctions created by Congress, and in July he made the decision to provide South Korea with the THAAD system in South Korea.



Now add to this the joint South Korea-U.S. military drills that began March 1 and will not conclude until the end of April. Yonhap, a South Korean news agency, reported a military official shared, under anonymity, that "special operations forces, including the unit that killed Osama Bin Laden,

Lockheed Martin's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD) is now being deployed by the U.S. in South Korea. According to the Lockheed Martin website, THAAD is a globally-transportable, rapidly-deployable capability to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles inside or out-

side the atmosphere during their final, or terminal, phase of flight." The system intercepts missiles at high altitudes to "mitigate effects of enemy weapons of mass destruction before they reach the ground."

Not only is North Korea unhappy with THAAD, "Thousands of residents in the town of Seongju, the site for the U.S. system, rallied and demanded the government cancel its decision." Seoul and Washington officials defend the decision as needed because of the "increasing North Korean military threats." (AP)

China is also displeased and "has repeatedly voiced opposition to the THAAD radar, claiming the system could monitor military movements within Chinese borders." (UPI) And, of course, the U.S. says it would never, ever do such a thing.

North Korea responded by testing another bomb in September—still not a hydrogen bomb.

The installation of THAAD began early last month and China "has now banned many imports from South Korea and stopped Chinese tourist groups from traveling there to try to prompt Seoul to change its mind on the missile system." (Washington Post)

Alternative (but nonfiction) fact
Tillerson is calling the policies of past U.S. administrations a collective "failure." Fortunately, that isn't entirely true. The Clinton administration was able to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program for eight years, from 1994—2002. Former President Carter is primarily responsible in initiation of negotiations that lead to an agreement and it wasn't done with sanctions and it wasn't done with military threats. The end result is called the Agreed Framework, a political agreement signed by North Korea and the United States in 1994 – a good thing for which Clinton should be remembered, but few do.

In the early 1990s after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it was similar to the situation happening today. North Korea was threatening to develop nuclear weapons and it had withdrawn from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and threatened to throw out the inspectors. The United States' response was to call for sanctions and its Department of Defense was drawing up plans for an invasion. Fortunately "Clinton and his advisers suspected that the North Koreans did not want a war but could not tolerate the humiliation of capitulating to IAEA demands." This is when Carter stepped in with permission from the White House and "accepted a long-standing invitation from President Kim il-ung." (Encyclopaedia Britannica)

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter traveled to North Korea in June 1994 as representatives of The Carter Center. "Following two days of talks, President Kim agreed to freeze North Korea's nuclear program in exchange for the resumption of a dialogue with the United States—the first between the U.S. and North Korea in 40 years." (Carter Center) The U.S. and North Korea signed the agreement on October 21 of that year. In it North Korea agreed to suspend its nuclear weapons program and to allow monitoring by IAEA inspectors. The United States also agreed to build two light-water reactors—which would not produce plutonium—in North Korea by 2003 and would supply the country with fuel oil until them.

The Agreed Framework also called for the two nations to work toward normalizing relations, which didn't happen, and for North Korea to begin

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North Korea

(from previous page)
dialogue with South Korea, which did happen.

Then came GW

South Korean President Kim Dae Jung won the 2000 Nobel Prize for his implementation of the “Sunny Policy,” a policy meant to improve relations with North Korea by “encouraging interaction and economic assistance.” (Wikipedia) When Kim met with George W. Bush in March 2001, Bush made it plain that his administration viewed North Korea's Kim Jong-il as “untrustworthy” and the high-level negotiations, initiated by Clinton, would not continue. Kim was stunned as it would be difficult for South Korea to continue engaging the North without U.S. involvement.

“Kim felt obliged to make a public appeal for Bush to reconsider. ‘We must not lose this opportunity. Without progress between the U.S. and North Korea, advances in South-North Korean relations will be difficult to achieve,’ he warned, suggesting that Pyongyang, in the absence of further engagement by Washington, may revert to its prior pattern of angry isolation and provocation.” (Jim Lobe, Inter Press Service)

But the real slap in the face would not happen until January 2002 during G.W.'s first State of the Union Address. First he describes North Korea as “a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens.” (See sidebar.) He then goes on to describe North Korea, Iraq, and Iran (“and their terrorist allies”) as constituting “an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger. They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the United States.”

Later in mid-summer—and this is something that should seem somewhat familiar that also backs up Bush's State of the Union claim—the CIA decides North Korea had a secret uranium enrichment program. According to PBS Frontline, the CIA had been collecting evidence “since the middle of Clinton's second term. The uranium enrichment program is different from the plutonium-based program that Pyongyang agreed to freeze during negotiations for the 1994 Agreed Framework; however the U.S. will later argue that North Korea had

violated the spirit, if not the letter, of the agreement.”

In October, the Assistant Secretary of State James Kelley confronts the North Koreans about the CIA's allegations. According to U.S. officials, North Korea “admits to the program but refuses to end it.” (PBS Frontline) In November, the shipments of oil, agreed to under the Agreed Framework, are stopped and the work on the light-water reactors suspended.

“In response, North Korea expelled the IAEA inspectors in December 2002, withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and restarted the Yongbyon nuclear reactor. After reprocessing the fuel rods, North Korea tested a nuclear weapon in October 2006.” (The Carter Center)

The truth will out

Now you think that would be the end of that, but it's not. Remember the lies that the Bush Administration

Yonhap, a South Korean news agency, reported a military official shared, under anonymity, that “special operations forces, including the unit that killed Osama Bin Laden, will take part in joint military drills to practice incapacitating North Korean leadership in the case of conflict.”

made against Saddam Hussein about the same time it was making accusations against North Korea? How Saddam had weapons of mass destruction? Yeah, it's same thing here.

In March of 2007, Glenn Kessler of the Washington Post wrote an article titled, “New doubts on nuclear efforts by North Korea.” In it he writes “The Bush administration is backing away from its long-held assertions that North Korea has an active clandestine program to enrich uranium, leading some experts to believe that the original U.S. intelligence that started the crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions may have been flawed.

“The chief intelligence officer for North Korea, Joseph R. DeTrani, told Congress on Tuesday that while there is ‘high confidence’ North Korea acquired materials that could be used in a ‘production-scale’ uranium program, there is now only ‘mid-confidence’ such a program exists. Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill, the chief negotiator for disarmament talks, told a conference last week in Washington that it is unclear whether North Korea ever mastered the production techniques necessary for such a program.”

As for the October 2002 admission by a senior North Korean official that there was a uranium-enrichment program, North Korea had denied that any such admission took place. While

“U.S. participants at the meeting said in interviews there was little dispute at the time North Korea appeared to be admitting the program, one said the admission was more ‘tonal’—such as the North Korean official's belligerent attitude—than would appear in the transcript of the discussion.”

What do the North Koreans really want?

William Perry, former Secretary of Defense under Bill Clinton, was present at the negotiations that led to the Agreed Framework in 1994. In his Washington Post article (January 6), Perry wrote “during my discussions and negotiations with members of the North Korean government, I have found that they are not irrational, nor do they have the objective of achieving martyrdom. Their goals, in order of priority, are: preserving the Kim dynasty, gaining international respect and improving their economy.” So why the desire and effort by such a small and economically-depressed nation in developing nuclear weapons technology to the irritation of the world's only super power?

As Scott Snyder of the Council of Foreign Relations testified at the Senate hearings, “North Korea has decided—based on lessons from Iran, Iraq, and Libya—that its only sure means of survival is to be too nuclear to fail.”

North Koreans watched—with the rest of us—the invasion of Iraq, and the videos of Kaddafi's brutal murder and Hillary Clinton laughing; have read the news that reported the U.S. assassination of unarmed Osama bin Laden whose body was soon after dumped in the ocean; and have seen the statistics about the drone program that has killed so many innocents. The North Koreans have good reason to fear the U.S. – why should they worry if they are called paranoid?

Of Bush's axis of evil, Korea is what one might call “the last nation standing”

Last month, in his article covering the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on North Korea, Jim Lobe wrote “In general, the [Senate] hearing reflected the U.S. view that America is an innocent bystander in a peninsula it has dominated militarily for 71 years. According to this conceptual framework, held by both Democrats and Republicans, massive U.S. military exercises conducted several times a year with South Korea, the Pentagon's frequent dispatches of nuclear-armed warplanes to the peninsula, and a military alliance with a high-tech Japan have nothing to do with Pyongyang's fears.”

As CNN reported “Beijing has been irked by calls that it isn't doing enough to lessen tensions.” China's position is that this is “an issue between the United States and North Korea.” And more to the point, China's official press agency, the Xinhua News, stated “Washington needs to talk to North Korea, not terrorize it.

As proven during the Bush and Obama administrations, sanctions and military might meant to intimidate have not worked, will not work. The Global Times, the China government tabloid, commented that “the extreme isolation from the international community hasn't been able to bring Pyongyang to its knees. Even if China cuts ties with [North Korea], there won't be any difference. Washington needs to be reminded that its sanctions in history failed to topple any regime.”

North Korea knows that capitulating and meeting Washington's demands is a fool's errand and they likely would prefer to go down fighting. The only

method that has been successful in the last 25 years is negotiation.

As William Perry stated, “I believe it is time to try diplomacy... We lost the opportunity to negotiate with a non-nuclear North Korea when we cut off negotiations in 2001, before it had a nuclear arsenal. The most we can reasonably expect today is an agreement that lowers the dangers of that arsenal. The goals would be an agreement with Pyongyang to not export nuclear technology, to conduct no further nuclear testing and to conduct no further ICBM testing. These goals are worth achieving and, if we succeed, could be the basis for a later discussion of a non-nuclear Korean Peninsula.”

It is also long past time that the United States sign a peace treaty ending the Korean War. When that happens maybe we can move towards normalizing our relationship with North Korea, restore South Korea's Sunshine Policy, and tell the weapons industry to “take a hike.”

North Korea is not the crazy, rogue nation it has been made out to be—far from it.

Sylvia Smith is a graduate of Evergreen, a long-time WIPster, and a resident of Thurston County.

Famine in North Korea

(The following is a segment from the article “Intelligence Failure and Famine in North Korea” by Hazel Smith, Jane's Intelligence Review, April 2004.)

[The North Korean government] lost its capacity to feed the people as a result of a number of factors. These included economic collapse and the end of systematic foreign support from China and Russia at the end of the Cold War; natural disasters that destroyed harvests and grain reserves; an inability to respond fast enough to changed circumstances given the rigidity of the political system; and an initial unwillingness to accept that the only realistic option was to alter foreign and domestic policies and seek assistance from the West.

It is not true that the government cut off food to the northeast, or that the humanitarian organisations went along with this policy (another variant of the argument).

We do know, from interviews with country officials, hospital and clinic directors, teachers and care workers throughout the country, that during the economic meltdown of the early 1990s those counties with scarce food supplies suffered most. This applied whether these were the non-food producing mining towns just north of Pyongyang, the port areas of Nampo and Haeju in the southwest or the northeast. The old Public-Distribution system had nothing to distribute in many months of the year throughout the 1990s.

The northeastern provinces suffered the most because they had the least agricultural resources, not because of any government policy. It seems highly unlikely that Pyongyang would deliberately ignore the North Hamgyong population, which contained large numbers of militant and organised urban workers that provided the political and mythological heart of the ruling Korean Workers' Party, and where the provincial party leadership had enormous clout within the national party apparatus.

Hazel Smith is Professor of International Relations at the University of Warwick, UK

A Playback Theatre performance

Take Me Home

In collaboration with SideWalk

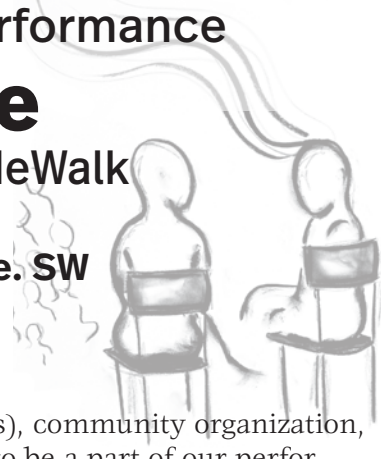
April 14, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.

Traditions Café – 300 5th Ave. SW

downtown Olympia

Cost: Suggested Donation \$7.00-\$12.00

(No one is turned away)



Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

This month we collaborate with **SideWalk**, an organization that aims to end homelessness by offering rapid access to housing.

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

US and Russian/Soviet Relations

From page 5

in its neighbor's desire to align with the West.

Predictably, the judgements of many interventionists are often based on pretense, confusion, and poor intelligence. Thus, the bombing campaign in Libya turned the country into a failed state with violent clashes with ISIS and other radical factions. The removal of Assad would probably lead to mass killings of Alawites who are the basis of his support and protection. Both Clinton and Power thought the removal of Saddam Hussein would lead to a better life for Iraqis. Now we want to threaten Russia with the inclusion of Ukraine and Georgia overlooking the danger of nuclear war.

Finally, there is the Russian hacking scandal and the supposed threat to the integrity of elections in the US. This is an example of the inside-outside dilemma confronting American citizens. The media only covers what the intelligence services say based on anonymous sources. It is reasonable to assume that, given Hillary Clinton's hawkish nature and intransigence, Putin did not want her elected.

The tone and intensity of the charges against the Russians are perplexing. After all, the information that was uncovered is true and should have been available to the American public. For example, we learn from Ms. Clinton's speeches to Wall Street executives about financial regulation that, "the people that know the industry better than anybody are the people who work in the industry." She therefore endorses self-regulation which was a major factor that led to the 2007-2008 recession.

Ms. Clinton also gives us a few hints about her foreign policy ideas. She told executives at Goldman Sachs she "would 'ring China' with missile defense unless they cooperated in reining in North Korea's missile program. We're also going to put more of the American naval fleet in the China sea area." She claimed that the US has as much right to the Pacific as China because we liberated the area in WWII.

The files from the hacking of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) confirmed that the organization was working only for the nomination of Hillary Clinton and disregarding the candidacies of Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley. The e-mails suggest the DNC was undermining the democratic process.

The passing of American political parties from representing their constituents to fundraising from organizer's voters to candidate-centered campaigns leads to a second point: our leaders, who spend most of their time passionately denouncing threats from supposed adversaries, are disinterested in the demise of American democracy?

The core meaning of democracy is that ordinary people can be politically active and influential. Unfortunately, today, Americans are voting in smaller numbers and refusing to support either the Democratic or Republican Parties. The US ranks thirty-first among developed countries in the percentages of voters (average fifty-two percent) and registered voters (fifty-one percent).

Democracy depends on the involvement of citizens in making policy and ensuring they are well represented. Today however, people are more passive. They no longer belong to active groups like parent-teacher associations, labor unions, veterans' organizations, and so on. Citizens do not have the information they need to make informed choices. Political candidates

are only interested in electoral success not in educating their supporters. The media no longer strengthens our democracy. "News programs today don't inform listeners. They make them more ignorant. News outlets today do not take the longer view, and consider what might be in the general interest of all" (20).

The result of these and other changes is that the national government is no longer responsive to the majority of people in the US. The most damaging evidence comes from the study of congressional decision-making and representation. In a large and significant study Martin Gilens reviewed survey responses to almost two thousand questions asking whether individuals support a proposed change in government policy in one of six issue areas: welfare, taxes, economic policies, foreign policy, national security, and social welfare (health, education). Gilens then compared the interviewee's answers with what the government did.

Gilens discovered that most policy changes favored by the middle class did not become law which is not surprising given our conservative constitutional system. What is revealing though is the relation between income and congressional responsiveness. The poor, as well as Latinos and other minorities, have virtually no voice in national decision-making. This should surprise no one; what is startling is that Congress does not listen to the middle class either. Middle-class recommendations are only acted on when high-income earners have the same recommendations; thus "median-income Americans fare little better than the poor when their policy preferences diverge from those of the well-off." Most middle-income Americans think that public officials do not care much about the preferences of 'people like me.' Sadly, the results

presented above suggest they may be right" (21).

Gilens's critique of American policy-making is inescapable: "There has never been a democratic society in which citizens' influence over government policy was unrelated to their financial resources. In this sense, the difference between democracy and plutocracy is one of degree. But by this same token, a government that is democratic in form but is in practice only responsive to its most affluent citizens is a democracy in name only" (22). Where is the outrage?

Mass is a Professor Emeritus of Politics and Government who lives with his wife, a cat, and two Golden Retrievers in Bellingham, Washington.

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TR(i)UMP(h) of the Will

Prisons are gateway drugs to concentration camps

A fact? A metaphor? Fake news?

I am too distracted to decide

Four years from now I'll be behind bars

For weed, for dissent, a poet purged

Sent back to where I came from...

California? Ireland? My pieces scattered

to origins unknown; recycled, reborn, migrated,

deported, arrivals and departures, ad infinitum

Separation and division seems to be the Trump trend

His disregard for the truth will be his end

Or, an alternative:

"Remember the Civil War?"

"Which one?"

Will become part of the future lexicon

by broken

Kenneth has a new job (details confidential), which has dramatically increased his income...and stress level.

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Republicans push anti-union ‘Right-to-Work’ in both Washingtons

State, federal legislation introduced to cripple labor movement

David Groves
The Stand

(Feb. 2, 2017) — Republicans in the Washington State Legislature and Congress are introducing bills this week that would institute so-called “right-to-work” policies in Washington and nationally, an attempt to deliver a severe blow to the labor movement and weaken workers’ collective bargaining rights at the behest of U.S. corporations.

Right-to-work laws ban unions and employers from agreeing to union-security contract clauses, which allows workers to stop paying for representation while still requiring the union to represent them. It would be akin to allowing people to opt out of paying taxes, but still requiring the government to provide the same services to taxpayers and free-riders alike.

On Wednesday, state Sens. Michael Baumgartner (R-Spokane) and John Braun (R-Centralia) introduced state right-to-work legislation, SB 5692. It is scheduled for a public hearing at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8 in the Senate Commerce, Labor & Sports Committee. Historically, state right-to-work bills have been introduced by a handful of extreme right-wing Republicans, but the bills rarely get hearings and have no chance of passage. The difference this year is that Baumgartner chairs the committee that will hear the doomed bill.

There’s also nothing new about such proposals being introduced in Congress. But given Republican control of both houses of Congress and the White House, unions and their allies are more alarmed about this year’s effort. The nationwide right-to-work effort

is being sponsored by Rep. Joe “You lie!” Wilson (R-S.C.) and Steve King (R-Iowa), who last year infamously wondered aloud what non-whites had done to benefit civilization.

Right-to-work laws have roots in Southern racism and the Jim Crow-era quest for super-exploited labor. They are used to justify racial exclusion, weaken established collective bargaining agreements, and financially cripple unions so they can’t help workers organize. Once confined to states in the South, Republican-controlled states like Michigan and Wisconsin have adopted right-to-work laws in recent years with the support of conservative billionaire industri-

alists like the Koch brothers. States where the GOP just gained control following the 2016 elections, including Missouri and New Hampshire, are making right-to-work laws their first order of business in 2017.

The following statement by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka was released Wednesday regarding the national “right to work” bill:

Right to work is a lie dressed up in a feel-good slogan. It doesn’t give workers freedom — instead, it weakens our right to join together and bargain for better wages and working conditions. Its end goal is to destroy unions. Numbers don’t lie. Workers in states with right to work laws have wages that are 12% lower. That’s because unions raise wages for all workers, not just our members.

A recent Pew survey shows that 60% of Americans — an overwhelming majority — support unions. Americans clearly see the value of coming together with their co-workers to tackle inequality. Right to work isn’t the will of the people, it’s legislation pushed on working people by out-of-touch corporations that want to ship jobs overseas, cut health and safety protections, and pay lower wages. This is an attempt by corporate CEOs to further tip the scale

even more in their favor, at working people’s expense.
Working people were loud and clear in this past election. We want an economy that works for all, not just corporations. We know we need to rewrite the rules of the economy so that policies like bad trade deals and right to work aren’t the new norm. President Trump has said he supports unions and the people who are our members. He has stood up to corporate Republicans on trade. We call on him to do the same on right to work, and to stand up for every worker’s right to join a union.
David is Editor of *The Stand*, and Publications Director for the Washington State Labor Council.
This article is reprinted with permission.

Acta Non Verba

It is not merely sufficient
to claim these days

All-though we may
feign achievement

in systems of grand squalor

Magnificence is the low-
hanging

fruitless nature of the

Poor-minded and

Siphoned completeness is
the rule.

—Greg Wells
9 January 2017

TRUMP’S BUDGET BLUEPRINT BY DEPARTMENT

The core of President Trump’s America First Budget Blueprint (March 16, 2017) to “make America great again” is rebuilding “our nation’s military without adding to the federal deficit.” The \$54 billion increase in defense spending is offset by \$54 billion in proposed reductions to non-Defense programs.

The Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs all receive proposed budget increases while all the other Departments receive proposed budget decreases. In terms of percentage decreases, the greatest is the EPA (31%), followed by State (28%) and Agriculture & Labor (21%).

BUDGET INCREASES

DEPARTMENT	2018 REQUEST	AMOUNT INCREASED	% 2017 ANNUALIZED
DEFENSE	\$ 639.0 billion	\$ 52.0 billion	10.0% increase
HOMELAND	\$ 44.1 billion	\$ 2.8 billion	6.8% increase
VETERANS	\$ 78.9 billion	\$ 4.4 billion	6.0% increase

BUDGET CUTS

DEPARTMENT	2018 REQUEST	AMOUNT DECREASED	% 2017 ANNUALIZED
AGRICULTURE	\$ 17.9 billion	\$ 4.7 billion	21.0% decrease
COMMERCE	\$ 7.8 billion	\$ 1.5 billion	16.0% decrease
EDUCATION	\$ 59.0 billion	\$ 9.0 billion	13.0% decrease
ENERGY	\$ 28.0 billion	\$ 1.7 billion	5.6% decrease
HEALTH & HUMAN	\$ 69.0 billion	\$ 15.1 billion	17.9% decrease
HOUSING & URBAN	\$ 40.7 billion	\$ 6.2 billion	13.2% decrease
INTERIOR	\$ 11.6 billion	\$ 1.5 billion	12.0% decrease
JUSTICE	\$ 27.7 billion	\$ 1.1 billion	3.8% decrease
LABOR	\$ 9.6 billion	\$ 2.5 billion	21.0% decrease
STATE	\$ 25.6 billion	\$ 10.1 billion	28.0% decrease
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 16.2 billion	\$ 2.4 billion	13.0% decrease
TREASURY	\$ 21.1 billion	\$.5 billion	4.1% decrease
EPA	\$ 5.7 billion	\$ 2.6 billion	31.0% decrease
NASA	\$ 19.1 billion	\$	0.8% decrease
SMALL BUSINESS	\$ 826.5 million	\$ 43.2 million	5.0% decrease

Dan Leahy, PO Box 602, Olympia, WA 98507 danleahy43@yahoo.com March 21, 2017



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Trans

From page 1

often framed as the reason for transphobic legislation. Lawmakers claim that allowing trans* people to use the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity will allow cis men to dress in female clothes in order to assault women in public bathrooms. As demonstrated by the Women's March, sexual assault is a very real issue that deserves legislation that will actually ensure justice. But trans* people aren't the problem, and demonizing trans* people only fuels hate crimes and harassment and does nothing to prevent sexual assault.

If the federal government is not going to protect all American people, it is the responsibility of citizens to ensure that local governments are protecting their communities. Please use your power to speak up for trans* people by not just protesting legislation that perpetuates fears, but also demanding protection of trans* people's right to exist in public spaces. Make it known to schools and other public spaces that this issue is important to the community. You can write your own letter, or use the letter shown below.

Discrimination is illegal in Washington State, but there are still people who are trying push through anti-trans* legislation. Our public institutions need to know that we care about our trans* siblings. Feel free to adjust the template letter as needed and send it along with this article to friends and family, both in and out of state, so they can affect change as well!

Dear [representative, senator, dean, administrator, etc.],

My name is [] and I am a [citizen, resident, etc.] of [city, district, state, etc.]. I am writing to encourage your institution to follow the directive put forth by the Obama administration regarding trans* students using bathrooms, despite the current administration's rollback.

Legislation and policies that require trans* people to use the restroom that aligns with their birth certificate may seem to protect the privacy of women and children, but the numbers don't back this up. Trans* people are far more likely to be harassed or assaulted in bathrooms than cis (non-trans) people. The 2015 National Center for Transgender Equality found that 12% of trans* people were verbally harassed in public restrooms, and 59% of trans* people avoided using public restrooms. Additionally, these kinds of laws and rules will do nothing to prevent real predators from entering bathrooms and hurting people. Predators are not looking for legal permission to harm people!

Trans* people want private and safe access to public restrooms for the same reasons as everybody else: to relieve their natural bodily functions. Preventing trans* students from using public restrooms does nothing to protect privacy. Rather, it encourages people to question the identities of trans* people and effectively bans them from public spaces. A student who does not feel safe using the bathroom at school is not able to focus fully on their education. This is discrimination and it is unacceptable.

I strongly encourage you to support legislation and policies that protect the right of trans* students to use the public restrooms that align with their gender identities on school campuses so that all students are able to pursue education to the best of their abilities.

Sincerely,
[name]

Kit Gertje is recent graduate from the Evergreen State College and a nonbinary member of the Olympia LGBTQIA+ community. They graduated in March 2017 with a degree in Communications.

Editorial note: The sample letter above will be available on the WIP website.



Remaining trials for the Break Free PNW defendants

Here are the dates for the remaining two trials at the Skagit County Courthouse in Mt. Vernon, Washington:

April 13-14 (Thursday/Friday)

Todd Davison
Scott Yoos
Keith Ervin
Claudia Kienholz
Ben Joldersma

May 18-19 (Thursday/Friday)

Carolyn Partridge
Shirlee Evans
Elizabeth Chandler
Laurie Dougherty
Sandra Clark
Debra McGee

First day jury selection starts about 9:00 and lasts as long as it takes (ranging from one to three hours). Potential jurors take the seats, so there's limited standing room in the back.

The second day might be a continuation of testimony; or might be only jury instructions, closing arguments and deliberation.

So far the trials have lasted two days—but could in theory be from one to three days.

Defendants may receive sentences after verdict or they may have to return another day.

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Spring Fundraiser Plant Sale: Save the Date!

On **Saturday, May 6, 2017**, the **Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister Community Association** will host our 5th annual perennial plant sale from 9 to 3pm on Olympia's Westside. We'll have over 50 varieties of native and non-native flowering plants and shrubs, some edibles too (organic strawberry, tomato, basil and kale starts). **117 Thomas St NW**, between Harrison and 4th. For more information or to help with the sale (including donating plants) please email us at **tstsca@gmail.com**

Thanks for your support, and please help us spread the word for a good cause!

George, Jean and the Plant Crew

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Watch the April 2017 program:

"How to really make America great"

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's April 2017 TV program

proposes how to move from the dysfunctional status quo to a better future. Instead of simplistic political propaganda, our five guests propose meaningful solutions for our nation's problems.

Trump simplistically campaigned to "make America great," but his decisions and appointments will do the opposite. They and Congress are imposing upon us a culture of fear, racism, sexism, greed, corruption, violence, lies, economic injustice, environmental destruction, and damage to democracy.

In order to make America *really* great, we must reverse the harmful aspects of our nation's culture and organize for positive changes in public policy. Nowadays people are inundated with problems. What



people need are solutions! When people merely lament "Ain't it awful," they only disempower themselves. Our April TV guests identify problems and propose positive solutions and grassroots empowerment.

Five guests—Karen Fraser, Paul Pickett, Tamborine Borrelli, Kim Dobson and Cindy Corrie—share their values, visions and proposals for how to REALLY make America great. To address all of the problems and solutions, we'd need fifty guests instead of five. But this is a good start.

You can watch our March TV program through Olympia FOR's website, **www.olympiafor.org** or through TCTV cable channel 22. See information at the top of this article.

Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, the Olympia FOR TV series' producer/host at (360) 491-9093 **glen@olympiafor.org**

News briefs

In unprecedented move, U.S. fails to show up for Human Rights hearing

Human rights body was to question U.S. on Muslim Ban, Immigration Enforcement, and Dakota Access Pipeline

WASHINGTON - In a surprise move, the U.S. government refused to attend a March 21 hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The human rights body, which is part of the Organization of American States, was scheduled this morning to question U.S. officials on the effects of several of President Trump's executive orders, including orders on the Muslim ban, immigration enforcement and detention, and the approval of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Jamil Dakwar, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Human Rights Program, who appeared before the commission that morning made the following statement: "Today's no-show is a new low. The Trump administration's decision is an unprecedented show of disrespect to the international community that will alienate democratic allies. Refusing to engage with the commission is an isolationist policy that mirrors the behavior of authoritarian regimes and will only serve to embolden them. This is another worrying sign that the Trump administration is not only launching an assault on human rights at home but is also trying to undermine international bodies charged with holding abusive governments accountable." The commission, which was created in 1959, has played a historic role in fighting barbaric military dictatorships in the Americas and countering other human rights abuses.

—ACLU

Scientific panel criticizes EPA assessment of glyphosate

Criticism of pesticide program comes on heels of breaking scandal over its cozy relationship with Monsanto

PORTLAND, ORE. - In a sharp rebuke, a new report by a key scientific advisory panel [concluded](#) that the pesticides office at the Environmental Protection Agency failed to follow its own guidelines when it found last year that glyphosate — the active ingredient in Monsanto's flagship pesticide Roundup — is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans. The panel — an independent group of scientists commissioned by the EPA to review the agency's work — remained split on whether the pesticide program's non-carcinogenic conclusion was justified, with some panel members believing there was "suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential." Glyphosate is the most heavily used herbicide in the United States, with about 220 million pounds used in 2015 alone. Last year, in a widely criticized [move](#), the pesticides program at the EPA postponed the advisory panel meeting because CropLife America — an industry trade group representing Monsanto and other pesticide companies — objected to one of the members on the panel. Dr. Peter Infante, a respected researcher with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, was subsequently removed from the panel after CropLife accused the highly credentialed scientist of bias.

"Even with Monsanto's undue influence on the makeup of this panel, there was still considerable concern about the safety of this pesticide," said Nathan Donley, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity. "When the pesticide office doesn't even follow its own guidelines in determining the safety of glyphosate, how can we trust its conclusions?" Documents released by court order earlier this week revealed that: The chair of the EPA's Cancer Assessment Review Committee on glyphosate was in regular contact with Monsanto, providing insider information that guided Monsanto's messaging; The chair warned Monsanto that the World Health Organization's cancer research arm had found glyphosate to be a probable carcinogen months before the 2015 determination became public, allowing the pesticide-maker to mount a public relations attack on the finding; The chair promised to thwart the Department of Health and Human Services' review of glyphosate's safety, saying that if he was successful he deserved a

medal. The Department never did review glyphosate's safety; A Monsanto executive emailed other company officials that they could hire academics to put their names on glyphosate research papers written by Monsanto, citing a previous instance where this was actually done. The referenced paper was in fact used in the pesticide program's own cancer analysis. The Center's scientists and attorneys are closely reviewing the new documents as they are released. "Monsanto's troubling influence and coordination with the pesticide office, combined with its utter disregard for established guidelines, completely discredited the pesticide office's conclusion that glyphosate does not cause cancer," said Donley. "The 2015 finding of the World Health Organization's cancer arm that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen remains the most credible and scientifically supported finding on the carcinogenicity of glyphosate. This latest science panel report really just confirms that the pesticide approval process in this country needs to be fundamentally changed to protect public health." —Center for Biological Diversity

One month after South Sudan famine announced, it's a race against the rains to save lives

SOUTH SUDAN - One month since famine was declared in two areas of South Sudan, it is a race against the forthcoming rains to save lives Oxfam warns. The annual rainy season, which starts in April or May, will make conditions even more difficult for the people in need of help and the aid agencies trying to reach them. Flooding makes roads and airstrips impassable, communities sheltering from the conflict on islands even more isolated, and causes a rise in cholera and other water-borne diseases. Oxfam is calling for more funding to help reach those in need before to is too late.

Sara Almer, Country Director for Oxfam in South Sudan said, "The people of South Sudan are doing all they can to support their families and their neighbors, but it's a daily struggle for survival. Fighting has forced millions of people to leave their homes, livestock, and belongings behind. Other communities have generously welcomed them, sharing what little they have. But they need more support now as the window to save lives is closing. "Once the rains begin, it is even more difficult to reach isolated communities. It's hard to keep water sources clean and cases of cholera and diarrhea will needlessly take even more lives. The rainy season is difficult under any circumstances, but this year will likely be worse, as so many people are already malnourished, away from their homes and have fewer resources to withstand this demanding time." Ongoing conflict has left 7.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and half the country's population are expected to be affected by extreme hunger by July, if they don't receive help now. Almer said, "Ultimately what the people of South Sudan need is an end to the conflict. Until then, humanitarian organizations need support and safe access to communities in order to continue providing life-saving aid and longer-term assistance. The response from the public has been extremely generous and is saving lives every day, but hunger and the impending rains present a deadly combination and aid agencies needs those funds right now. Lives depend on it". Oxfam is distributing food to over 415,000 people as well as providing over 140,000 people with clean water and sanitation which are equally important to keep people healthy and famine at bay.

—Oxfam International
Continued on next page

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George Lakey to speak in Olympia

Wednesday April 26:

Internationally respected peace/non-violence organizer/trainer/writer George Lakey speaks in Olympia about his new book Viking Economics, which explains how Scandinavian nations created progressive economic systems several decades ago: See www.mhpbooks.com/books/viking-economics for info about the book. Hear the author, George Lakey, summarize his main points from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at a locally owned bookstore, Orca Books, 509 4th Ave E, Olympia, where you can also buy the book.

VIKING ECONOMICS

How the Scandinavians Got it Right — and How We Can, Too

GEORGE LAKEY

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— Bill McKibben

YWCA Olympia's 1st Annual Racial Justice Summit

Saturday, May 6 • 9:00 am–6:00 pm

South Puget Sound Community College

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Please join us for a powerful day of dialogue, spoken word, learning, and digging deeper in this complex and important community conversation. We will have a dynamic keynote speaker and several workshop options designed to meet you where you are. More details to come. Event Contact: YWCA Olympia Racial Justice Director Lanessa Inman: Linman@ywcaofolympia.org / 360.352.0593

News briefs (from page 13)

Is federal crop insurance policy leading to a new dust bowl?

AMES, Iowa – Federal crop insurance policy is rewarding Southern Great Plains farmers’ failure to adapt to drought and hotter weather, and encouraging practices that could lead to another Dust Bowl, according to a new report by the Environmental Working Group.

The Dust Bowl that devastated the region in the 1930s was one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history. Searing heat and drought, the conversion of more than five million acres of grassland into cropland, and farmers’ failure to adapt to the dry climate inflicted disease, hunger and poverty on the region’s people.

Today drought is once again parching the Southern Plains. Scientists say hot and dry conditions could become the region’s new normal, making it urgent that farmers adapt to the changing climate. Instead, a provision of the federal crop insurance program – snuck into the 2014 Farm Bill with little notice – encourages farmers to plant the same crops in the same way, year after year.

The crop insurance program guarantees that farmers’ earnings from their crops won’t fall below a guaranteed percentage of their usual income. The guarantee is set based on a multi-year average of a farmer’s actual crop yields. Averaging the bad years with the good years grounds the program in reality.

But the new provision, called Actual Production History Yield Exclusion, lets farmers pretend bad years didn’t happen. As many as 15 bad years can be thrown out when calculating the farmer’s average yield, resulting in artificially inflated insurance payouts, year after year. What’s more, the distortion is worst in the very same Southern Plains counties that were hardest hit by the Dust Bowl and are now suffering from severe drought.

“Giving growers a break makes sense if they’re occasionally hit by one or two bad years. But keeping growers on a treadmill of failed crops and insurance payouts is foolish,” said Anne Weir Schechinger, senior analyst at EWG and co-author of the report. “Much better would be helping farmers adapt to the new climate conditions, which was exactly what helped them survive the Dust Bowl and return to productivity.”

Some, but not enough, farmers are already making changes to adapt, such



International Union Women Workers event at Traditions Fair Trade

On Wednesday, April 5th at 7PM at Traditions we will present Sophorn Yang, the president of the only union federation in Cambodia run by women. She is joined on the this West Coast tour by Angeles Solis (USAS national organizer) and Sarah Newell (International Labor Rights Forum campaigner).

Among the six major union federations in Cambodia, there is just one entirely run by women at the top level: the Cambodian Alliance of Trade Unions (CATU). Sophorn Yang, the President of CATU, represents around 10,000 members in 21 factories—and counting.

Sophorn started working in garment factories at a young age and rose to become President of CATU at the age of thirty. As union president, Sophorn plays a leading role in national campaigns to win a fair wage and to protect workers’ fundamental rights in the face of restrictive Cambodian trade union laws.

As Cambodia’s most prominent woman trade unionist, Sophorn has faced threats, intimidation and violence in retaliation for her activism. Despite all of this, she remains committed to her mission of bringing more women workers into union leadership, and to the leading the Cambodian worker movement to achieve a nationwide living wage.

Sophorn has spoken in Asia, Europe, and the United States regarding the struggle of women workers in Cambodia. This spring, she will be touring the United States speaking to various audiences of union leadership, workers and students of the importance and urgency of organizing in this critical moment in history.

as implementing conservation practices like cover crops and no-tillage. Money saved by ending the bad-year exclusion policy could help more growers put vital conservation measures and new cropping systems in place to help stave off the potential catastrophe.

“The bad-year exclusion policy is not sustainable in the long run,” said Weir Schechinger. “A major federal, state and local conservation initiative in the Southern Great Plains would do far more to keep family farmers on the land and protect the environment.”

—Environmental Working Group

Republican climate resolution shows climate change is a bipartisan issue

Statement by Ken Kimmell, President, Union of Concerned Scientists

Washington (March 15, 2017)—Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) and 16 other Republican House members introduced a resolution today that recognizes the impacts of a changing climate and calls for action to address its causes and effects.

Below is a statement by Ken Kimmell, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

“I’m heartened to see Republican House members introduce a resolution committing Congress to address climate change and base its policy decisions on science and quantifiable facts.

“If Congress followed the science it would, of course, see that fossil fuel emissions are driving climate change. While the resolution doesn’t explicitly make that link, it shows that these Republican lawmakers are not in a state of denial about this key issue. There is strength in numbers, and I hope that this sizable group of responsible leaders will have an impact on votes in Congress.

“The U.S. is seeing more extreme weather, including flooding, droughts and wildfires, which cost taxpayers billions of dollars in damages. The best way to minimize the risks and costs of these types of events is to prepare ahead of time and rebuild stronger afterwards using the best available science.”

In 2016, there were fifteen extreme weather and climate events in the U.S. that caused \$1 billion or more in damages. The annual average number of such events has risen in the last five years compared with the previous 35 years. Many recent disasters—including flooding caused by extreme storms and heavy downpours, droughts and wildfires—were exacerbated by climate change.

—Union of Concerned Scientists



Agenda Now

- Awaken Muslim Christian Jew
- Agnostics Atheists Palestinians Israelis
- All of you brothers sisters family
- Subtract division multiply peace
- Become one house rising
- Healing understanding
mending atrocities
- Stop contributing to death pain hate
- Plant gardens of seeds of love conversation illuminates
- The darkness of war Halt sexism racism
- One breed together stronger equally humanity
- Learning to eliminate abuse cuddle more
- Warm hugs desist apathy and sleeping blindness
- Embrace happiness
- Laziness is ignoring oppression give compassion
- Cooperation is group ascension
- Set intentions to be helpful
- End ignorance anger
- Start unity friendships community
- Deliver understanding educating one another
- Lend a hand up serve each other
- Mend the broken cup share there is enough
- Compete for the greatest trophies
- Inner peace first world peace second
- Only then can we achieve the goal
- One temple Earth lovely home
- This agenda now we must
produce on our own

— Lennée Reid

@lenneereid is a witchy poet activist you can find online

Independent agencies proposed for elimination

Are you feeling safe?

By Dan Leahy

AMERICA FIRST, Trump’s Budget Blueprint released March 16, 2017, states that “A budget that puts America first must make the safety of our people its number one priority – because without safety, there is no prosperity.”

AGENCY	PURPOSE	ACTIVITIES
US Interagency Council on Homelessness (1987)	Established in 1987 to coordinate 19 federal agencies’ response and create national partnership to end homelessness.	With a \$3.5 million budget and 20 staff (2016), implement 2010 strategic plan, “Opening Doors,” to provide affordable housing and sustainable employment for 550,000 without shelter each night in the US.
US Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board. (CSB) (1998)	CSB purpose was to be a completely independent investigator of chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities.	Functioning independent of EPA or OSHA and modeled after the NTSB, its most recent investigations were: Deepwater Horizon (2010), Chevron Refinery Fire (2012) and the West, Texas Fertilizer Fire (2013).
Corporation for National and Community Service (1993)	Formed in a merger with ACTION to encourage volunteering in communities to address poverty, environment, education and unmet human needs.	With a budget of \$1b (2013) and 485 staff (2006) engages five million Americans through AmeriCorp, Senior Corps, VISTA, US Freedom Corps. In 2011, the Learn and Serve America, which engaged one million students annually was eliminated.
Legal Services Corporation. (LSC) (1974)	LSC is a publicly funded, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation to ensure equal justice by providing civil legal assistance to those who can’t afford it.	With a budget of \$375 million (2015), LSC is the largest single funder of civil legal aid in the country, distributing more than 90 percent of its total funding to 134 independent non-profit legal aid programs with at least one program in every state, plus Puerto Rico, DC, Guam, Micronesia and the Virgin Islands.
Institute of Museum and Library Services (1996)	It is the main source of federal support for libraries and museums within the US.	With a \$227 million budget (2015) and staff of 65, its vision is a “democratic society where communities and individuals thrive with broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage and lifelong learning.”
Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (1978)	Working as NeighborWorks America, it provides grants to more than 240 community development organizations.	In last five years, it generated more than \$19.5 billion in reinvestment in these communities and assisted more than 1.7 million homeowners with Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling.
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) (1965)	The NEA offers support and funding for projects exhibiting artistic excellence. It is the largest grant maker to arts organizations in the nation.	Operating with a budget of \$146 million (2015), the NEA has, between 1965 and 2008, made in access of 128,000 grants, totally more than \$5 billion dollars.
Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) (1967)	CPB is a federally funded non-profit corporation to promote public broadcasting. More than 70% of its funding goes to 1,400 locally owned radio & TV stations.	In 2014, its \$445 million was distributed to local public TV stations (\$222m), TV programming (\$74m), local public radio stations (\$69m), Public Broadcasting Service (\$26m), radio programming grants (\$22m), CPB administrative costs (\$22m) and the Radio Program Fund (\$7m).
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) (1965)	ARC is a federal-state partnership for self-sustaining economic development for West Virginia and portions of 12 states serving 420 counties with population of 25 million.	ARC operates through 73 local development districts. Since its creation, ARC has helped cut the number of high poverty counties in Appalachia from 295 in 1960 to 91 today. Over the past five years, ARC helped retain or create 101,000 jobs and grants have leveraged almost \$2.7 billion in private investments.
Denali Commission (1998)	Delivers federal infrastructure services in rural areas of Alaska, including health care facilities & surface & water transportation.	“The President’s newly released FY2018 budget outline does not include funding for the four operating regional commissions.”
Delta Regional Authority (DRA) (2000)	DRA is a federal-state partnership to improve the quality of life in the 252 counties and portion of eight states in the Mississippi River Delta Region.	At least 75% of DRA funds must be invested in economically distressed counties and parishes with half for transportation and basic infrastructure. DRA has leveraged investment of \$2.9 billion in the area, including government and private funds and helped fund directly 934 projects in its eight state region.
Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) (2008)	The NBRC is a federal-state partnership for economic development in northern Maine, NH, Vt &NY. www.nbrc.gov	In 2016, NBRC approved \$7.4 million in grants for development projects, approved a new Five Year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) for its region of 1,100 towns and 36 counties with over 2 million people.
US Institute of Peace (USIP) (1984)	USIP provides analyzes of conflicts to promote int’l peace and resolution of conflicts without recourse to violence.	With a \$39m budget & 275 staff it is a national peace academy akin to the national military academies. USIP had operations in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq, housed numerous blue-ribbon commissions, authors reports and is active in 20 countries.
Woodrow Wilson Int’l Center for Scholars (1968)	The Wilson Center is a private-public think tank with 1/3 funding from the federal government.	There are approximately 30 areas of study such as Programs for Africa, Asia, Brazil, Canada, Cold War History, Kennan (Russia), Kissinger (China), Mexico, North Korea and publication of the Wilson Quarterly
Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) (1971)	OPIC is the federal government’s development finance arm providing loans and political risk insurance to help businesses gain footholds in emerging markets.	Besides financing and risk insurance, OPIC also invests in projects such as a 70 megawatt photovoltaic power plant in Chile or a \$1.5 billion investment for energy projects in Africa.
African Development Fund (USADF) (1980)	Formed in, USADF provides grants of up to \$250,000 to benefit marginalized groups in Sub-Saharan Africa.	Since its formation, it has provided financing to more than 1,500 small enterprises and community organizations. It has provided \$17 million to 200 projects in 20 countries.
Inter-American Fund (IAF) (1972)	IAF funds development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.	Since 1972, IAF has awarded 4,920 grants worth \$665 million. Its Fellowship program has 1,047 alumni who work in 35 countries and represent 117 US universities in 36 states.

Divest from War

Invest in PEOPLE

Redirect your taxes from war to peace!

If you invest money in something, you want it to bring you future benefits and security.

- What do we get when our tax dollars are invested in war?
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- Lack of funds to solve hunger, homelessness, crumbling infrastructure, and environmental destruction.
- Death, destruction, enemies, and an endless cycle of violence.

Thousands are involved in powerful divestment campaigns calling on corporations, colleges, churches, and towns to withdraw funds from fossil fuels, guns, or military contractors.

Divest from War means considering war as an investment – a bad investment, which can be fixed by withdrawing your consent. Refusing to pay some of all of federal taxes that help fund war is a powerful act of civil disobedience.

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U.S. defense budget facts

The United States has the **largest military in the world**. U.S. military budget outspends the next nine countries in the greatest military spending.

China
Saudi Arabia
Russia
U.K.
India
France
Japan
Germany
South Korea

The U.S. military budget is more than twice that of China's—the nation with second greatest military spending.

The U.S. military budget has four components:

DoD's Base Budget: \$574 billion
DoD's Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) to fight ISIS: \$64.6 billion
The agencies involved in protecting the U.S.: **\$173.5 billion**

Veterans Affairs
State Department
Homeland Security
FBI and Cybersecurity
National Nuclear Security Administration

OCO funds for the State Department and Homeland Security to fight ISIS

10 percent of the U.S. defense budget goes to developing and testing weapons.

The new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which can sneak undetected behind enemy radar, costs \$100 million each. Loren Thompson, a defense analyst at the Lexington Institute, stated "The F-35 could fly all the way from South Korea to the North Korean capital without anyone from North Korea knowing it was on its way."

Sources: U.S. News & World Report; ABC News

April 2017
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Stand up for Trans* People

CII calls for an independent investigation and

April 15 Tax Day March

The sustainable future of Thurston County

SideWalk loses an advocate

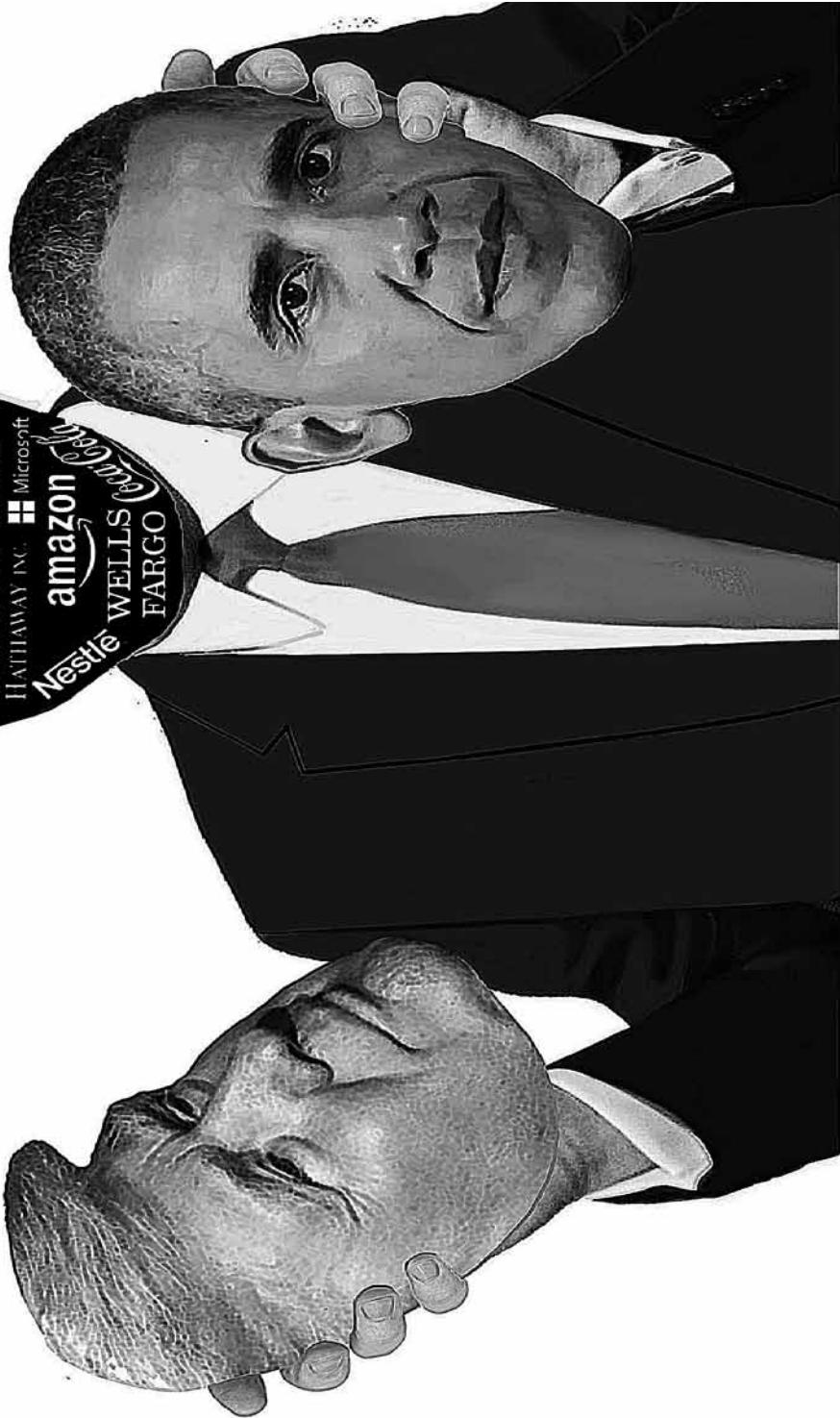
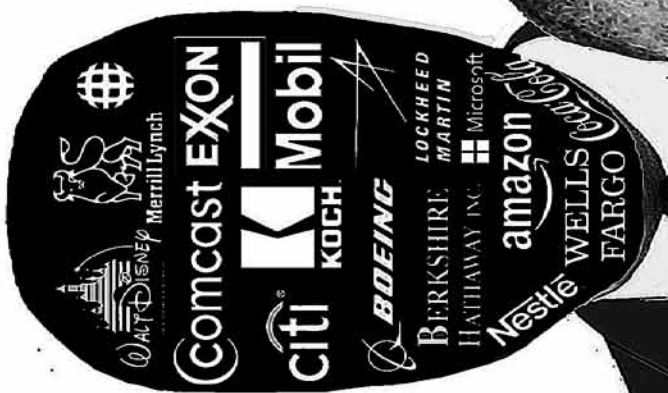
Ignorance, arrogance, and hypocrisy: US and Russian/Soviet Relations

Immigration: The failure of our sympathetic imagination

North Korea and Trump's sabre rattling

Remaining trials for Break Free PNW defendants

U.S. defense budget facts



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