



# WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 23, No. 2

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.

June 2012

## NATO's Chicago summit draws protests, but what to do about police tactics?

Nigel Weiss

The North American Treaty Organization (NATO) meeting in Chicago last month went without a hitch—at least for the heads of state and their staff who were participants in the summit.

For activists with Occupy and other groups there to speak out against NATO's agenda, however, it was another story. . .

Demonstrators of all stripes and flairs made their appearance—outspoken individuals, activist groups, and rights organizations, from National Nurses United to Queers Against NATO and Code Pink. But given the way that law enforcement planned their response, working closely with the Secret Service, you would almost imagine they were preparing a military campaign. Thousands of additional cops were brought in from around the country for Chicago's 'army' of police, and the city purchased new reinforced helmets with impact-resistant visors for its officers. The protests also saw the first appearance in Chicago of the controversial Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)—also known as the 'sonic cannon,' a device which emits a directed beam of sound so painfully loud it can induce vomiting—and the Chicago police were even authorized to use drones for the surveillance of the demonstrations.

The police used some of the weapons at their disposal, though fortunately not the worst of them, but I personally saw several head injuries of people being dragged off in handcuffs. The police on multiple occasions followed and hassled independent journalists, in at least one instance destroying equipment. And a small handful of protesters were also hospitalized, although in large part, the presence of so many police was enough to convince most people to get out of the streets once the police made their show of force.

This was not all that the official response to the demonstrations consisted of, however. The police also prepared by conducting a series of pre-emptive house raids before the beginning of the summit, presumably intended to intimidate organizers or anyone else thinking about going to any marches.

According to Zoe Sigman, whose

Bridgeport apartment was targeted by one of the raids, no fewer than ten residences around the city were broken into and ransacked by police, and most of these, she said, were involved in lending housing to people coming to the protests from out of town.

I spoke with two of those who were arrested in the raid on Sigman's apartment. They said the police burst into the

**Police conducted a series of pre-emptive raids of Chicago organizers' houses *before* the beginning of the summit.**

apartment late at night without a search warrant and arrested everyone inside at gunpoint. The eleven arrested were taken into jail and held without charges for nearly a full day—some of them almost two days—before being released: all except for three, Brent Betterly, Jared Chase, and Brian Church, who now face charges of terrorism and possession of explosives.

Prosecutors are accusing the three, who are being called the NATO 3, of planning a myriad of deadly attacks on targets including police stations, Mayor Rahm Emanuel's home, and the campaign headquarters of Barack Obama. But according to the National Lawyers Guild there isn't actually evidence that these claims are true.



photo: Nigel Weiss

"This is just propaganda to create a climate of fear," NLG lawyer Michael Deutsch said. "We believe this is all a setup and entrapment to the highest degree."

Additionally, the equipment the three were using to make bombs, which the state confiscated as evidence against

them, is what appears undeniably to be a beer making kit.

Some activists have suspected that the three were charged in retaliation for an online video posted of them being threatened by police during a traffic stop in early May. The video records

► **NATO SUMMIT**, continued on page 8

## Judge Sutton denies request to reconsider decision on 7-Eleven project

Dan Leahy

On May 24th, after a three hour hearing, Judge Lisa Sutton denied Michael Jenkins (developer) and George Naroznick's (owner) request to reconsider her decision on the 7-Eleven project. Jenkins attorney, Aaron Laing from Bellevue, immediately went on what only can be described as an injudicious rant.

This hapless man, acting more like a partner in Click and Clack's firm of "Dewey, Cheatum and Howe", started ranting on how the Westside community will "wave around" Judge Sutton's decision and use it as a "sword" for other "shenanigans" and began demanding that we "solemnly swear before this court" that we will do no such thing. This was an embarrassment and Judge

Sutton quickly adjourned the proceedings.

The Westside, the Olympia Community, the City Council, the Planning Commission and the Intercity Transit Authority should "wave around" Judge Sutton's decision:

1. The City cannot change the designation of a street for the purpose of eliminating street side improvements that would otherwise be required, as they proposed to do on Division Street.

2. In an High Density Corridor (HDC) zone designed to increase density and reduce dependence on autos, the requirement for multiple-story buildings means you can't add more one-story buildings.

3. A Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) must be done for an entire project and must

address the whole impact of the project on the neighboring streets.

Here are some possible actions that could be taken as a result of Judge Sutton's decision and order:

1. The City should immediately address this dangerous intersection: buy the lot for one of the several community suggestions; or acquire part of it to reconfigure the intersection to meet the arterial standard for frontage on Division street.

2. Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the City should permit no further strip mall development in High Density Corridor (HDC) zones. The 7-Eleven project was two, single-story buildings in a HDC-3 zone that requires "multiple-story" buildings. Density is the

► **7-ELEVEN**, continued on page 5



WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper 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. Artwork 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](mailto: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.

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On the front cover –  
*Flowing toward the ocean.*

Photographer: Benji Friedman

Submission Deadline:  
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Eastside Co-op mycelial remediation

Ava Arvest

On April 21 the Olympia Mycelial Network (OMN) hosted a free workshop at the East Side Olympia Food Coop. The OMN is a new volunteer based organization that's fired up about fungi.

With the help of excited workshop attendees, Ariel and Ava facilitated a workshop where the mushrooms, known as the Pearl Oyster (*Pleurotus ostreatus* var. *columbinus*), was installed in the run-off area of the Co-op's parking lot in an attempt to collect petroleum-based pollutants running from the asphalt and toward our waterways. The Oyster mushroom strain is particularly popular for this kind of process as it is known to break down complex hydrocarbons into simpler, safer carbohydrates that it then consumes.

Starting at around one o'clock everyone gathered around to hear about the basics of mushroom health and cultivation. The OMN is very interested in educating community members about fungi and it's potential to heal not only to our waters but also our bodies, and the land.

After getting the basics down Ariel and Ava showed the group some simple methods of creating mushroom "spawn" using wet corrugated cardboard to create a tiny ecosystem inside burlap sacks full of wood, straw, and chunks of *Pleurotus ostreatus* var. *columbinus* mixed by shaking it all around on a tarp excitedly.

After much vertical and horizontal agitation, the mix was ready to be put into the burlaps carefully and layered with a few tiny protected ecosystems, or "burritos".

They sewed the bags up and carredid their lovely creations enthusiastically to the corner of the Co-Op parking lot and carved away a nice little spot for the bags where they will soon begin their work of collecting rain water run-off and filtering some petrochemicals.

There may be some fruiting bodies to be seen from the bags in the near



OMN creating Pearl Oyster "burritos to clean parking lot run-off. photo: Robert Whitlock

future, but it is advisable that they are not harvested and used for food. These mushrooms are such amazing remediat-ors that they can absorb heavy metals which do not break down into simpler compounds, but remain in the fruiting bodies and thus hurt you if you eat them.

To follow, the group did an interactive demonstration on an open air spawn transfer. They had enough that they gave spawn to participants who wanted some, and explained how to host their new mycelium, that may one day become delicious mushrooms. The Olympia Mycelial network aims to have regular, free, informative workshops for the community to attend, so if you missed this one look for the next one!

If you would like to be a part of the Olympia Mycelial Network, have any questions or just want to learn more, you can attend one of the regular meetings which occur every other saturday at 1:00 pm. The next meeting is Saturday June 9 at 1:00 pm at Media Island Inter-

national, 816 Adams St SE. You can also email [OlyMycoNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:OlyMycoNetwork@gmail.com) for more questions!

Ava Arvest is a resident of Olympia.

Current WIP position needs new person

The WIP working group needs someone to join our efforts and pick up the role of the Distribution Coordinator. The current volunteer coordinator has had that role for five years, and is ready to help a new volunteer pick up and run with this helpful, easy and important contribution to this newspaper's success and to Olympia and the surrounding South Sound communities that benefit from having this 22-year-old progressive (all volunteer) publication available to us.

The job of the WIP Distribution Coordinator is few hours of one's time, (less than two hours a month), which can include a small distribution route, or not. The time requirement primarily falls on last few days, and/or the first few days of each month, and can be done locally or remotely (from out of the area), since its consistent responsibility and tasks involve being an information hub for the layout person, the paper pick-up driver, and the distributors, etc. Expanding the breadth of the distribution of the Works In Progress papers to new locations (currently there are over 60 regionally), involving scoping possible locations, speaking to establishment owners/managers can be done as part of this role if someone is so inclined and interested in seeing this publication be available to more delighted readers. (Other WIP workers also help with the latter.) Our current coordinator intends to step down by July 6 and is willing and very interested in coaching a new volunteer through these next few months in this role; she is willing to be available, if needed, to mentor or advise the new coordinator over many months, if needed. This really is an easy, simple, and valuable role, helping this whole greater progressive community have access to the invaluable Works In Progress paper consistently each month.

So, if you are self-directed, able to make at least a one year commitment, kind and respectful in working with others and want to support this publication's continuing efforts, give us (current coordinator, Sandia) a call sooner than later! 866-4561.

— Sandia



SPRING SYMPOSIUM 2012: THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT: UPRISINGS AT HOME AND ABROAD

VISIONS OF A NEW SOCIETY

(Final event in the series)

Thursday, June 7, 6-9 pm in Lecture Hall 1

Dubbed "the year of unrest," 2011 witnessed an unprecedented groundswell of global popular movements demanding political, economic and social justice. From Tahrir Square to Zucotti Park, the desire for greater democracy has been accompanied by actions to reclaim public spaces where people can convene, learn about, and experiment with alternative forms of participatory democracy.

Re-Interpreting Liberation, Dangerous Work, Resistance & Social Change, and the Venezuela programs will host this Spring Symposium with the goal to facilitate discussion across a broad range of issues and perspectives, provoking thought, debate, and action on issues that have accelerated to global prominence in light of recent movements.

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# Women are given restricted air time in Israel

Rachel Liel

A public radio station in Israel is trying to keep women from being heard on the air. We've convened a coalition of Israeli organizations to defend women's rights and they're taking action.

The radio station—established to cater to the ultra-Orthodox public—has long violated Israeli law and refused to allow women callers to be heard on the air.

Government regulators stepped in. They insisted the station let women call in for at least six hours out of every week.

That is a bad ruling. It's not okay to say that women can only be heard for less than one hour a day.

But it gets worse. When the radio station refused to implement this decision, the regulatory board backed off. They issued a new ruling, cutting the number of hours women should be allowed to be heard.

When word about the board's decision got out, New Israel Fund (NIF) knew it was time to mobilize. We brought the issue to a meeting we convene of organizations active on this front. And the organizations took action, issuing a letter signed by 38 Israeli NGOs to the chair of the regulatory board. The groups demanded the board cancel its decision.

There really is no excuse. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the most influential Sephardic rabbi in Israel, told the regulatory board that Jewish law does not prohibit women's voices from being aired. A public opinion poll shows that 80% of the

listeners of this very radio station would keep listening if women were allowed on the air.

So why is the radio station still refusing to allow women callers on the air? They're trying to appeal to a radical fringe, to the extremists who want to deny women the right to have any meaningful role outside of the home. That's unacceptable.

NIF fights extremism in Israel. We are a community that bands together to help Israel be a free and open society. Sometimes it is our financial resources that are needed. Other times, it is the moral strength of thousands of individuals speaking out together that makes the difference.

We are not alone in this battle. Li-mor Livnat, Israel's Minister of Culture,

penned a sharp letter to the chairman of the regulatory board. She wrote: "Your role is to guarantee the integration of women, and other minorities, in broadcasts, certainly not to approve this


disgraceful blow to the rights and the honor of women."

We've made enormous strides in recent months to ensure that women are not excluded from public life. The Israeli government has vowed to fight the gender-segregated buses, polling places, and sidewalks. Retail stores have reversed course and started putting images of women back on billboards in Jerusalem.

This is the moment to press forward.

Rachel Liel is the Executive Director of the New Israel Fund in Israel. (<http://www.nif.org>)

Government regulators issued a new ruling, cutting the number of hours women should be allowed to be heard.



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A big "thank you" to MIXX 96fm for their most generous support in providing much needed work space for Works In Progress production meetings.

Pizza Klatch is pleased to announce our upcoming **DOG SHOW** during Pride Weekend in Olympia. It will be held at 6 pm on Saturday, June 9, on the Main Stage in Sylvester Park.

## Event categories for the show include:

- Most femme

Most butch

Best dog trick

Most like owner
- Smallest dog

Biggest dog
- Best vocalizing

Cutest dog

Least like owner

Audience favorite

There will also be a **dance contest** of dog and people dance partners. (Participants can access dog show information at [www.pizzaklatch.org](http://www.pizzaklatch.org) and also find out what songs will be used for the dances.)

**Registration:** To enter a dog in the show, go online to [www.pizzaklatch.org](http://www.pizzaklatch.org), or register at the Pizza Klatch booth on Saturday, June 9, on Washington Street by Sylvester Park. Cost is a suggested donation of \$20 per dog (but pay whatever you can afford \$1-\$100) plus \$5 for each dog event you enter.

## Pizza Klatch: An important resource for LGBTQ youth in our community

Pizza Klatch provides 11 free weekly lunchtime support groups in six of our local high schools for Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer and Questioning youth (LGBTQQ) and their Straight Allies.

The groups started six years ago following a rash of gay students in our community who were committing or attempting to commit suicide. We are grateful and relieved that since our groups started, not one LGBTQQ student has committed suicide in any of the schools we are involved. Some students have felt suicidal and have spoken about it in group or to a facilitator, received support, and felt better.

We keep costs down as much as

possible and everyone involved with Pizza Klatch is a volunteer although we pay our facilitators a very small stipend. Each group costs about \$1700 a year to run. Pizza, even at a discounted price, is expensive. When we started with our first group we had three to five students attending. Now, our average attendance at each group is 12 students, with some having as many as 25 attending weekly.

We have learned from students who attend our support groups that they feel less bullied in school and feel more comfortable in standing up against homophobic remarks or actions. This has helped the LGBTQQ students to feel much less isolated and safer in their schools.

# Medical exposure to radiation now exceeds that of any other source

In a speech to the American Society for Radiation Oncology's annual meeting in 2011, Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said, "Remarkably to me, about one-third of all patients admitted to hospitals

today are diagnosed or treated using radiation or radioactive materials. Thirty years ago, these

sources accounted for approximately 15 percent of the public's total radiation exposure. Today, that figure has more than tripled, so that nearly 50 percent of the public's overall radiation exposure can be attributed to medical sources."

The UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation reported in 2008, for the first time in history, exposures from diagnostic radiology in several countries exceeded those from natural background radiation or any other source. Some healthy people are

even getting whole-body CT scans as "preventive" medicine, a practice that most doctors frown upon.

Although the estimated lifetime risk of cancer from a single scan is small, the widespread use of scans means a

significant increase in radiation exposure for the population as a whole.

Cancer therapy is

another significant source of medical radiation. Rep. Edward J. Markey, who chairs the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, has raised concerns over Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules that allow cancer patients to go home or to check into a hotel immediately after being treated with radioisotopes, even though they are dangerous to the people around them for up to a week.

—Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Nuclear Regulatory Commission allows cancer patients to go home immediately after treated with radioisotopes, even though they are dangerous to be around for up to a week.

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# Tailor-made for the 1 percent

## The politics of Ron Paul and the Libertarians

Luma Nichol

Amidst the stampede to the right by Republican presidential candidates, Ron Paul at first seems different. He opposes United States wars, the Patriot Act, and the war on drugs. But beware! Paul is no progressive. He is adamantly anti-abortion, endorses heavy border security against immigrant workers, and favors passage of the union-busting National Right to Work Act. Most significantly, he is a staunch disciple of capitalism — libertarian style. His candidacy is an opportunity to take a look at this supposedly “alternative” political tendency.

Paul's views on war and drugs have attracted youth support, especially among white men who don't want to fight wars or go to jail for smoking pot. His opinion that the federal government should

contained racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic statements. For example, “I've laid bare the coming race war in our big cities. ... The federal-homosexual cover-up on AIDS (my training as a physician helps me see through this one.) ... The Israeli Lobby, which plays Congress like a cheap harmonica ...”

Another piece says that during the Los Angeles 1992 uprising after cops were acquitted of nearly killing black motorist Rodney King, order was restored only “when it came time for blacks to pick up their welfare checks.”

So it's not surprising that Paul has met regularly with representatives from the American Third Position, a white power group, and in 2008 accepted donations from the neo-Nazi Web site Stormfront.org.

**Libertarianism.** Libertarians come in many stripes but share the core belief

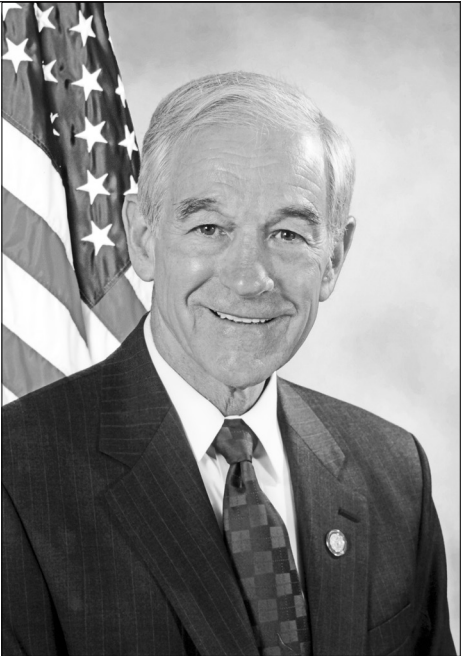
that the first step toward liberty is to reduce the authority of the state. (Anti-statism is

a belief the anarchists share and some refer to themselves as anarcho-libertarians.) Rightwing libertarians, more numerous in the United States than in Europe, believe that individual liberty *depends* on owning private property and a capitalist-based economy. They think that the primary role for a national or federal government is to defend private property from attack — their only justification for war.

The Libertarian platform promotes absolute freedom of trade, no minimum wage laws, unregulated competition among banks, and doing away with income and corporate taxes.

“intellectual godfather of the Tea Party,” has also attracted many of the multi-age, patriotic, mostly white Americans who believe that looking to the past is what will fix things.

These supporters should know that Internet detectives are uncovering sinister aspects of Paul's politics. *The Ron Paul Survival Reports*, which were published in the 1990s and raked in \$2.5 million for libertarian propaganda and campaigns,



The Libertarian Party ran Ron Paul as its presidential candidate in 1988, and its national committee invited him to try for the party's nomination again in 2008. Its platform promotes absolute freedom of trade, no minimum wage laws, unregulated competition among banks, and doing away with income and corporate taxes. The party's rallying cry is “No Big Government” and calls for the elimination of federal agencies such as Education, Commerce, Energy, and Transportation.

**The United States version.** It's easy to see why the United States, heartland of capitalism and home of the rugged individual, is where libertarianism has taken off. It is tailor-made for the one percent, unlike socialism whose priority is the 99 percent. To a degree, American libertarianism developed in reaction to communism, during the era of McCarthyism.

Its most famous proponent, author Ayn Rand, was born to a wealthy family that fled the Russian Revolution in 1917 when Rand was twelve. Her famous novels, *The Fountainhead* (1943) and *Atlas Shrugged* (1957), put forth her objectivist philosophy in which the free market and egoism, “the virtue of selfishness,” are

central. She portrayed a world divided between the creators of wealth and lazy parasites.

In real life, Rand's many anti-Communist activities included testifying before the infamous House Un-American Activities Committee. One of her closest libertarian associates was economist Milton Friedman who played a decisive role in developing the neoliberal policies that now guide the World Bank and IMF in their oppressive practices abroad. Friedman preached that capitalism provides individuals the freedom to chose — what to buy, where to live, what job to take.

Maybe if you're Bill Gates!

The Libertarian Party was founded in 1971, part of the conservative reaction to the legal and social victories of the Civil Rights struggle and other militant movements of the '60s. In 1977, one of the Libertarian Party's founders, Edward Crane, joined ultra-conservative billionaire Charles Koch, to form the powerful, right-wing think tank, the Cato Institute. Investing millions in public policy initiatives, the institute pushes a pro-privatization, anti-regulation message. The Cato Institute pioneered the call to eliminate Social Security, and to replace welfare with private charity. Anti-labor media mogul Rupert Murdoch was on the institute's Board of Directors.

**The problem.** Pure and simple, Libertarianism is the ideology of unfettered capitalism. And that means turning the clock back to 19th century life where starved workers, mangled child laborers, debtors' prisons, and mass human misery were the order of the day. The novels of Charles Dickens were a searing indictment of that age. Marxism, a counteraction to such bleak reality, analyzed the capitalist economy and fought on the side of the working class. This was the coming of imperialist degradation against undeveloped countries, and world wars.

Focusing on “Big Government” allows libertarians to sidestep the issue of class. For Marxists, governments represent the interests of the class in power: pro-capitalism. **► RON PAUL,** continued on page 5

# What Iceland can teach the United States about third party politics

Janet Jordan

We all admired the actions of the Iceland Parliament when they forgave about 25% of domestic debt. This follows on the 2008 nationalization of Iceland's three large banks and its investigation of over 200 bank executives, with prosecutions planned – already a more populist agenda than anything the U.S. has managed so far. Some of us may

have wondered why America can't act as decisively on behalf of ordinary citizens. Iceland has a left-leaning coalition

government, formed from several of the winning parties in the 2009 Parliamentary election. The Social Democratic Alliance

they get elected as MP's.

In the United States, the electoral system has always crushed small parties.

I hear people crying because we don't have the good outcomes that Iceland has, but I don't hear anyone complaining about the lack of third parties.

corresponds to our Democratic Party and the Left Green Party is, of course, the Green Party. (See chart below for the proportion of votes for each.) The leader of the Left Greens, Steingrímur Sigfússon, took on the role of Finance Minister since he had been speaking out strongly about the need to rein in the banks. (As in America, Iceland's banks had grown to be a large portion of the national economy prior to the collapse.) In December 2011, in a cabinet shake-up, he became Minister of the Economy, Farms and Fisheries.

Third parties were important in getting to Iceland's outcome. Iceland encourages third parties. The parliamentary system itself is encouraging to small parties since they can become part of the “government” (cabinet + prime minister) even if they don't have a majority; and proportional representation ensures

er policies they feel like enacting, since the people have “nowhere else to go.”

When I login to my various progressive listservs, I hear people crying because we don't have the good outcomes that Iceland has, but I don't hear anyone complaining about the lack of third parties. What I hear is people congratulating themselves on being wise enough to avoid any third party or independent candidate, at the same time as they show their dismay at the poor policies chosen by the two major parties and wish there was someone else they could vote for instead.

There's another difference between the U.S. and Iceland: in Iceland, people vote. Their turnout is around 85%, versus around 48% in the U.S. Apparently, being able to vote with confidence for the candidate one prefers is something that encourages people to go to the polls.

Should we try something that encourages minor parties here in the U.S.? Because we like the good policy outcomes? Because we want everyone to vote?

Nah, we like our two-party system. Now, if we can just *take back the Democratic Party* . . .

## Parliamentary system encourages third parties

The point is often made that (ideologically based) parties are more important in parliamentary systems than in the American system. See for example *Evolution of the American Parliament*, by Connie A. Veillette and Christopher J. Deering, George Washington University, January 2003. Quote: “And, fourth, representative functions [in a Parliament] are fulfilled by political parties rather than by individual members (who owe their seats to a geographically defined constituency).” Why this might be so, is less often discussed.

I offer the following explanation: the American system forces as many groups into coalition as can be accommodated, since a winning coalition must contain over 50% of the population (this condition is imposed by plurality voting). Thus, the religious right and very rich people from the financial sector have formed a coalition in the U.S. even though they have little in common. The Parliamentary system allows the different sectors to remain distinct because they don't lose as much by doing so; they can still become part of the government by joining in a coalition after the election. In fact, there is an advantage to remaining distinct: they have more bargaining power; they can choose which other party to throw their weight behind. The Labour Party in England can join whichever one of the other parties offers the most labor-friendly policies. It is not forced into a “big-tent” Democratic Party which can ignore them for decades on end because they have no other choice. --Janet Jordan

Icelandic Althing Election Results (25 April 2009)			
Party Leader(s)	Votes	%	Seats
Social Democratic Alliance Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir	55,758	29.79	20
Independence Party Bjarni Benediktsson, Jr.	44,371	23.70	16
Left-Green Movement Steingrímur Sigfússon	40,581	21.68	14
Progressive Party Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson	27,699	14.80	9
Citizens' Movement No designated leader	13,519	7.22	4
Liberal Party Guðjón Kristjánsson	4,148	2.22	—
Democratic Movement —	1,107	0.59	—
Valid votes	187,183	96.50	
Invalid votes	566	0.29	
Blank votes	6,226	3.21	
Total	193,975	100.00	63
Voter turnout	227,896	85.12	
Source: Statistics Iceland			







# Jim Lazar responds to questions on the Thurston Public Power Initiative

WIP News Service

*Jim Lazar is an economist with more than thirty years of experience examining electric utility planning and financing, and has been a consultant to both the Office of the Attorney General and to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) in evaluating utility rate filings. He was an advisor in three previous public power activations in Oregon and Hawaii.*

**Q:** What is the process for activation and electrification of the PUD?

**Lazar:** The process is relatively straightforward. First, to sell electricity to the general public, the voters must grant the Public Utility District (PUD) authority. That's what the initiative is about. Then, if the voters grant authority, the PUD must decide whether or not to proceed. It must do that in an open public process. If it decides to go ahead, it must either acquire or build a distribution system. Concurrently, it must hire the staff to operate the electric utility, obtain a supply of electricity, and attract customers. If it acquires the PSE system (or part of it), then the customers now served by PSE would be transferred along with the sale. If it decides to build a parallel system, then customers could choose between the PUD and PSE.

**Q:** Are other communities doing this?

**Lazar:** In Washington, only Jefferson County PUD is moving ahead with electrification, but several new public power utilities have been formed in Oregon during my career, including Emerald PUD, Columbia PUD, the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, and the city of Hermiston.

**Q:** Does the PUD have to acquire PSE's system?

**Lazar:** Most public power activations occur when a public utility acquires the distribution system of a private utility, either by negotiation or by a court-supervised purchase under an exercise of eminent domain. Thurston PUD could instead decide to build its own system, connecting to the transmission system at the Bonneville Power Administration substation in Tumwater, or connecting to PSE's transmission system. Unless it would adversely affect reliability, PSE is required under federal regulations to provide wholesale transmission service to the PUD.

**Q:** How much would it have to pay if it did acquire the PSE system?

A. Washington state law requires the PUD to pay "fair market value" if it acquires the PSE facilities through an exercise of eminent domain. That fair market value would be decided by a court process or by negotiation. When cities, counties, and the state buy property this way (for parks, for highways, and for other purposes), they typically pay a premium over the assessed value on the tax rolls.

Washington law also requires the PSE's facilities be assessed, for property tax purposes, at "fair market value." PSE's facilities are currently valued at \$131 million for state property

tax assessment. In theory, this "fair market value" should be about equal to the price the PUD would have to pay (if it's really worth more than that, then PSE is paying too little in property taxes, and the rest of us are paying more than our share). Generally, courts find that the value is somewhat greater than the assessed valuation, in which case the price goes up above \$131 million. In negotiated acquisitions, public utilities typically pay 130% to 170% of the depreciated book value of the acquired assets.

Jefferson PUD has agreed to pay a higher premium, and most of us who have worked on previous transitions are shaking our heads in disbelief. Because Jefferson is a rural county, was able to get very low cost financing guaranteed by the Rural Utility Service, and because it has access to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for 100% of their power needs, they could afford to pay a high price for the poles and wires.

Assuming the typical premiums over assessed value and book value that we see in public power takeovers, then the PUD would likely pay \$170 to \$220 million for PSE's entire distribution system and other properties in the County. Talk by PSE of a \$500 million to \$1 billion price is mostly political posturing; if it cost that much, the PUD would probably not proceed with a takeover, as it would probably be cheaper to build a new system from scratch in many parts of the County.

**Q:** What would happen to the premium, if the PUD paid more than the book value to PSE?

**Lazar:** That would be a decision for the WUTC, and there's not a lot of consistency on this. In Oregon, Pacific Power was recently required to return 95% of the premium they received when the city of Hermiston formed a municipal utility. The WUTC could let PSE keep the premium, could make them return it to the remaining PSE electric consumers, or could make them return it to Thurston County consumers. My guess is that the majority of the gain would be returned to ratepayers, but whether it's 60% or 95% would be pure speculation.

**Q:** How could the PUD finance a takeover?

**Lazar:** The PUD could issue "revenue bonds" backed by its future electric revenues to acquire or build a distribution system. There is a limit set by state law that would hold the PUD to no more than about \$200 million of indebtedness. This limit would make it difficult for the Thurston PUD to acquire the entire PSE system and pay start-up expenses. It could, however, easily purchase a major portion of the PSE system and have sufficient debt capacity to pay for start-up.

**WIP:** Do public utilities have lower rates?

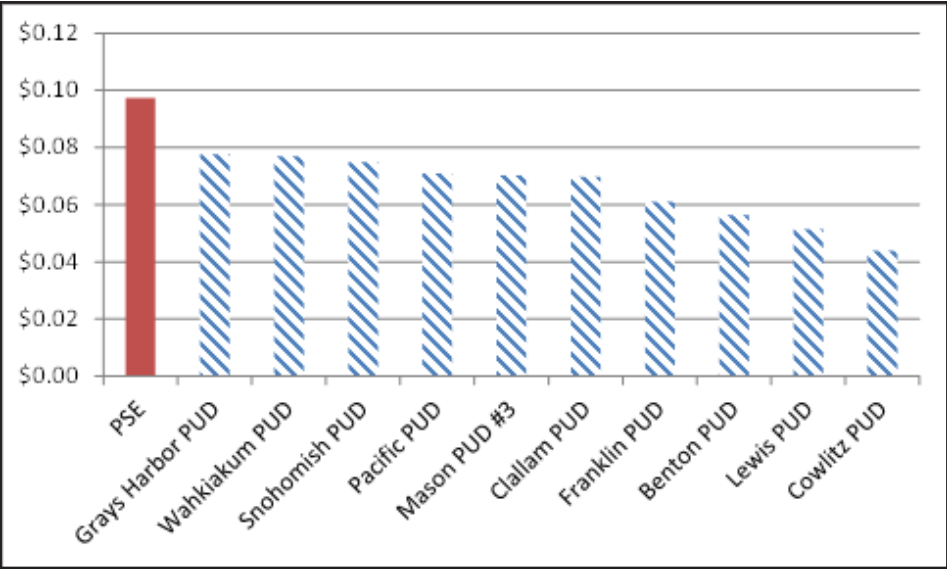
A. Yes. All of the PUDs in Washington have lower rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers than the rates charged by PSE. There are several reasons for this:

1. The PUDs have access to low-cost power from the Bonneville Power Administration, mostly from federal dams. PSE does not have access to this power on the same terms as a PUD.
2. Bond interest is a part of rates for either a PUD or for PSE. PUDs can borrow at much lower interest rates than a private utility, because bondholders are required to pay federal income tax on PSE bonds, but not on PUD (or other local government) bonds. The lower interest rate on PUD bonds translates into a cost savings for electricity consumers.
3. PUDs are non-profit, owned by the voters. They therefore pay no shareholder dividends or federal income tax. PSE incurs federal income tax and pays dividends to its single shareholder, a privately-held Australian conglomerate.

These explain most of the difference in rates. The labor and other operating costs are about the same for public and private utilities; PUDs usually pay their professional and technical employees a little more than PSE, but they pay their top executives a lot less than private utilities—it works out about even.

The graphic below compares PSE's average rates to those of several nearby PUDs. Many of these PUDs have counties that are more rural than Thurston County, and therefore have higher distribution costs than would Thurston PUD.

Example Average Rates of Sample Washington Utilities, 2010  
(US Energy Information Administration Data)



**Q:** Does this mean that the Thurston PUD would have lower rates than PSE immediately?

**Lazar:** Not necessarily. First and foremost, the PUD could not take over immediately. Even if the voters approved the initiative, and the PUD went to work immediately on activation, it would probably take 5 years or more before the PUD could provide electric service.

The PUD might not be able to get all of its power at the same low power costs that other PUDs have immediately. Plus, when they first start up, PUDs have significant one-time costs to acquire offices, hire staff, acquire equipment, train their people, and set up computer and billing systems. This is expensive. Over time, it should cost no more than we

now pay PSE for these functions, though at first, it's a big set of costs to deal with all at once.

When Emerald PUD started up in the Eugene area, they were able to achieve about a 5% savings over Pacific Power rates. The same is expected for Jefferson PUD, expected to start operation in 2013 with slightly lower rates than PSE. Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative and Columbia PUD both were able to offer lower rates than the private utilities they replaced. Hermiston, Oregon took over Pacific Power's system in that city, and has been able to hold rates significantly below the level charged by Pacific. All of those utilities were able to acquire all of the power they needed from BPA, and that's uncertain for Thurston PUD, as explained below.

If the PUD built its own distribution system, it would avoid costly and time-consuming negotiations with PSE, but a new system would certainly cost more than a used one. It would be more reliable (underground, not overhead). The higher initial costs would be partly offset by lower maintenance costs for a new system.

Only a detailed analysis can answer this question. Such a study is likely to be undertaken if the voters grant electric authority to the Thurston PUD. The preliminary feasibility study being done for the PUD in 2012 will provide general guidance, not detailed results.

**Q:** Can the PUD obtain a power supply to serve Thurston County?

**Lazar:** Unquestionably, yes.

First, federal law requires BPA to sell power to any utility in the region "when-ever requested" BUT, that does not mean that BPA would sell Thurston PUD all of the power it needs at the same price that Lewis, Mason, or Grays Harbor PUD

pay. Those utilities are grandfathered into low-cost resources, and Thurston would have to gradually earn the right to the low-cost "tier 1" pool, called "priority firm" power. Initially, if the PUD served the entire county, it would take a period of years to phase into getting a majority of their power at BPA's "priority firm" rate. The balance would be at a market-based price, which might be higher or lower than the BPA rate. Because PSE is a private utility, it does not have access to priority firm power from BPA; that is set aside for utilities that are "public bodies and cooperatives."

The PUD would not be limited to buying from BPA. There is an active wholesale power market, and currently prices are very low, even lower than BPA's prices. But those prices change every year, and the PUD would have to find a seller willing to offer a multi-year price in order to offer predictable prices to Thur-

► JIM LAZAR, continued on page 7



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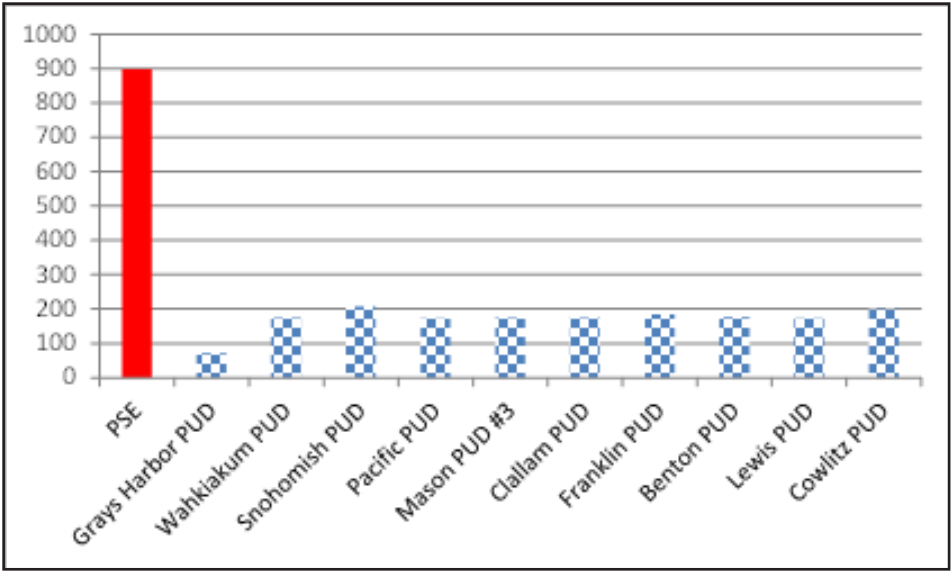
► **Jim Lazar**, cont. from page 6  
ston County consumers. So, as of today, the PUD's blended rate for wholesale power would likely be much cheaper than the average cost of power to PSE, but activation is a minimum of several years away, and the low-cost power available in the wholesale market today may not be available then.

**Q:** *Would the PUD's power supply be cleaner or dirtier than PSE's power supply?*

**Lazar:** Most likely it would be cleaner. PSE's power supply, as reported most recently to the State Department of Commerce, is 36% coal, most from a power plant complex in Montana, while the state's power supply as a whole is only about 18% coal. Most Washington PUDs get less than 10% of their power from coal. If the Thurston PUD bought only first tier power from BPA, that power is about 90% hydro, and 10% nuclear. While big dams and nuclear plants have significant environmental impacts, they do not directly emit carbon dioxide from combustion.

The graphic below compares the CO2 emissions for PSE compared with the PUDs in the state per 1,000 kilowatt-hours of power sold:

**Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Sample Washington Utilities**  
(Washington Department of Commerce Fuel Mix Data, 2010  
Calculation based on 2,000 lb/MWh for coal, 800 lb/MWh for natural gas)



PSE is currently acquiring renewable energy from wind, solar, and other sources to meet its obligations under Initiative 937, and if the Thurston PUD served over 25,000 consumers, it would also be subject to this same regulation. There are more than 100,000 homes and businesses in Thurston County.

**Q:** *Would the PUD have conservation and renewable energy programs?*

**Lazar:** All of the PUDs in Washington have conservation programs. Under Initiative 937, all utilities serving over 25,000 customers must acquire “all cost-effective conservation.” While PSE's conservation programs have been award-winning in the past, I-937 requires that all large utilities in the state have essentially equal conservation programs.

Most PUDs offer a “green power” product, roughly equivalent to PSE's offering. However, fewer customers subscribe, in part because their general power supply is so much cleaner. Most PUDs offer incentives for customers to

install solar and other renewable energy systems. Decisions on these issues would be made by the three PUD commissioners.

**Q:** *Would the PUD be as accountable as PSE?*

**Lazar:** PSE is subject to regulation by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate. The WUTC uses a very formal court-like process to evaluate rate applications and are constrained by laws that require them to allow the utility a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair rate of return, assuming prudent management. Much of the data they rely upon is marked “confidential” by PSE, and cannot be obtained by the public even under the state public records act. The PUD is self-regulated by an elected board of three Commissioners. They hold public hearings and are required to make data on the system available to anyone who requests it, allowing

### All of the PUDs in Washington have lower rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers than the rates charged by PSE.

system repair expenses disallowed by the WUTC. There's no simple answer here.

**Q:** *I also get natural gas service from PSE. Will that switch to the PUD also?*

**Lazar:** No. The PUD does not have legal authority to offer natural gas service, so that will remain with PSE. This is similar to the situation in Seattle, Tacoma, and in Snohomish County, where PSE offers gas service, but not electric service. However, it would make sense for the PUD and PSE to cooperate on meter reading and billing service, since PSE already has the computer systems in place, and can spread the costs of billing over both services, saving money for both gas and electric consumers.

**Q:** *Who would be the “winners” and “losers” if the PUD were to provide electricity service?*

**Lazar:** The biggest winners would probably be the commercial and industrial electric customers, who would get access to low-cost electricity from BPA, and would get the benefit of a non-profit utility providing the distribution service. These customers currently have no access to BPA power. This group includes the State of Washington, the cities, the LOTT sewage treatment plant, and all of the school districts. Next would be the residential customers, who currently get a small credit on their bills reflecting a benefit of BPA power, but it only makes up about one-fourth of the difference in wholesale power cost.

A surprising winner would be the remaining PSE electricity customers. Since the PUD would not take over any of PSE's power plants (none are located in the County), those facilities would be available to serve other loads, for example, in King County. PSE would not need to buy any expensive new power for several years, meaning its rates for remaining customers would go up more slowly.

The “losers” would be the customers of other PUDs around the state, and public power customers throughout the Northwest. They would have to share the limited amount of low-cost BPA power with the new PUD, but that phase in would be very gradual. The impact would be very small, since Thurston County is only a few percent of the total load already being served.

**WIP:** *What about tax revenue to the state and the cities? What would change?*

**Lazar:** Very little would change. PUDs must pay the same “public utility excise

tax” to the state tha PSE pays. PUDs must collect city utility taxes, just as PSE does. Both of these are calculated on a percentage of revenue basis, and if the PUD rates were a little lower, the tax collections would be a little lower. The PUD would pay a “privilege tax” of 2.14% of revenues, which is in lieu of property taxes. In fact, RCW 54.28.120 provides that privilege taxes paid by a PUD on acquired Investor Owned Utilities (IOU) property will not be less than was paid prior to the IOU properties acquisition.

**Q:** *If the voters gave the go-ahead, how long would it take before the PUD actually provides electric service?*

**Lazar:** The public vote is only one step of the process. The next step is a decision by the PUD Commissioners on whether or not to move ahead, and it can take several years to complete the studies needed to guide that decision. Finally, the actual process of either acquiring the PSE system or building a separate system takes several years. I'd guess it would be a minimum of five years, assuming that the initiative gets the required signatures and that the voters approve it.

**Q:** *Do you have a position on the Initiative?*

**Lazar:** No. I've had discussions with supporters and opponents, but I have not volunteered for or donated financially to either campaign.

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Beer making kit claimed by authorities to be bomb making equipment. photo: Nigel Weiss

► **NATO Summit**, cont. from page 1  
officers taunting the three, including making comments about the notorious Chicago police beat down of protestors against the Vietnam War, saying “What did they say back in ‘68? Billy club to the fucking skull!”

Though there is more to the story of the NATO 3, including the possible involvement of police infiltrators, what is especially interesting about the police actions in Chicago is not whether or not they were particularly extreme or repressive, but how much they are already familiar to us. Actually, the sophisticated planning by law enforcement in Chicago was essentially textbook material -- just the latest refinement of anti-protest tactics that the state has honed since the 1999 successful shut down of the WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle. Trevor Griffey, professor of history at Evergreen, described this progression in a recent lecture on campus:

“What we see ... in response to the WTO is what I call a hyper-militarization of public space, in the sense of ‘you will never do this again.’ ... And you start seeing it develop as early as 2000, which is to say, [firstly], preemptive arrests.

“David Solenet, an organizer with the Direct Action Network, is arrested in Philadelphia before the Republican National Convention [in 2000], put on a million dollar bail. He can’t afford the bail, he’s held in jail, they hold him all the way until the Democratic National Convention is over the next week in Los Angeles, then they let him out. They’re not planning to prosecute him, but

they’ve now pre-emptively arrested him. They’ll do that to any number of other ringleaders to disrupt their network.”

The broader strategy for policing demonstrations – what has been called ‘the Miami model’ – has seen repeated use by law enforcement agencies trying to neutralize large protests in the last decade. Indeed, the NATO 3 prosecution bears a certain resemblance to the RNC 8, a group of Minneapolis activists who were organizing housing for the RNC Welcoming Committee in 2008 when they were arrested and given terrorism charges. According to Griffey, the model that we have been seeing has these elements:

“They’ll create no-protest zones and say ‘by the way, you won’t be marching in this place.’ They also create a new permitting process, whereby in order to exercise your free speech – it’s not like you have free speech – you have to apply to get it ... And they say, ‘Well tell us who your leaders are, their contact information, we’ll give you a route, but you have

to pay for your own security, and if anything is damaged you’ll be criminally liable.’ And if you say, ‘That’s not

free speech, I want my First Amendment, I’ll march without a permit,’ then they have carte blanche to go after you. And then the final thing is the deployment of non-lethal weapons, and we say them before but they’ve turned to just arming themselves in response to fear of [another] WTO.”

You’d be out of your mind to think these tactics aren’t intended to cool dissent and punish organizers who plan demonstrations. What we are seeing seems to be a broad strategy around limiting American’s freedom of public expression and our ability to challenge the agendas of political and economic leaders. As Trevor Griffey points out, radical organizations have always been compelled to fight for freedom of speech in addition to the other issues they are addressing. With this in mind, activists should ask themselves what should be done to move forward. Our ability to actually make the case for the multitude of other things we are advocating for is undermined unless state repression can be addressed. New tactics and strategies should be broached and vigorously discussed in order to keep ahead of the state’s evolving ability to suppress left movements. The left should continually explore the ways we can magnify our strengths -- our creativity, our youth, our ability to adapt – and diminish our weakness – the biggest probably being our ability to be divided. This is amateur that applies across the progressive political spectrum. We can’t afford to ignore it, and we can’t afford to address it separately.

*Nigel Weiss is an Olympia activist, and is graduating from Evergreen this spring with a degree in Political Economy. He can be reached at [jlnewiss@gmail.com](mailto:jlnewiss@gmail.com).*

# FSP candidate Stephen Durham denounces police-state tactics at the NATO Summit

Stephen Durham

A massive concentration of police forces in Chicago culminated yesterday in a brutal attack on non-violent anti-NATO protesters. It was nationally coordinated, orchestrated by Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel, and designed to manufacture a climate of fear and intimidation. But it failed to suppress political dissent.

I arrived in Chicago last Thursday, May 17th with a team of supporters to get the word out about the Freedom Socialist Party presidential campaign. My running mate, Christina López and I were certain that demonstrators in Chicago would be highly interested in our un-million dollar campaign to get out the vote for the greater good, not the lesser evil.

In all my years of activism, I’ve never seen so many cops. They were everywhere downtown - surrounding public buildings, on every street corner, in subways stations and on platforms. Even our hotel housed a multi-state conglomeration of police and K-9 units.

It amounted to a police-occupied Chicago. In a preemptive police raid Wednesday evening authorities arrested three activists on charges of terrorism. It was quickly learned that they had been set up by police infiltrators. Unlawful and random questioning, searching and detaining NATO protesters before activities began also took place. As the National Lawyers Guild and the People’s Law Office declared, “Preemptive raids like this are a hallmark of National Special Security Events. Clearly the hand of the Obama administration and Homeland Security was present in Chicago.”

This entire police operation was designed to stop free speech before it started. First, the mayor refused to issue permits for the demonstrations. The NATO/G8 protest coalition then took the city to court - and won. At that point President Obama decided to move the G8 summit to Camp David.

I consider the brutish, bully clubs used by the police yesterday a direct response to this earlier court victory by protest organizers.

None of these tactics prevented thousands of people from showing up for three days of spirited demonstrations. I was inspired by the message of the May 18th National Nurses United rally and its call for taxing the rich and diverting military spending to pay for healthcare.

Another march on Saturday, May 19th had a similar message as they denounced the closure of mental health clinics in Chicago by marching to the mayor’s residence.

The week’s anti-NATO activities

peaked on Sunday, May 20th with a massive rally and march against NATO. Peaceful protesters steadfastly marched past phalanxes of city, state and federal police.

During this closing rally, at the corner of Michigan and 22nd, veterans who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan gave heart-felt statements about the crimes that they had witnessed by U.S. and NATO forces. They then hurled their military medals towards the site of the NATO Summit.

While the vets were still speaking, I witnessed riot police move in formation to block

**In all my years of activism, I’ve never seen so many cops. They were everywhere downtown - on every street corner, in subways stations, and on platforms.**

tion to block the main exit route from the demonstration. This military maneuver created dangerous conditions, cor-

ralling a crowd of thousands who had marched for over two hours in 90 degree heat into an area with no clear exit.

My campaign team and I managed to scramble over a raised traffic island just as the police encircled the crowd. Those not able to make it out were shoved and beaten by row upon row of police in riot gear. I was appalled to see later on the news that the police brass justified their brutality by claiming protesters refused orders to disperse. I heard no such orders as police moved towards us in formation to block the main exit route.

The Durham-Lopez campaign denounces this effort to smother free speech and criminalize legal protest. It amounted to a military training exercise for police forces. And, as a Chicago bystander told me, it was an attempt to “train” the public into silence.

Clearly, it was a failed attempt. Despite Chicago and federal agencies police actions yesterday, public protest gained new ground in Chicago. As yesterday shows, thousands were ready to come out against the policies of war and poverty despite stepped-up efforts to harass, intimidate and chill political dissent.

The Durham-López presidential campaign stands committed to free speech and the right of assembly along with every other right embodied in the Bill of Rights. We condemn the attack on demonstrators in Chicago and oppose encroaching police-state actions of state, local and federal governments, the FBI and Homeland Security. Their goal is to undermine the power of the public to organize and mobilize for change in every aspect of our lives.

Chicago, during the NATO Summit, shows how important it is for us all to organize, protest and vote against every elected official - from the president on down - who fails to condemn the suppression that took place in Chicago over the past several days.

*Stephen Durham is the Freedom Socialist Party’s presidential candidate.*

## Leon Harris, former Darby’s cook, dies

The beloved cook for Darby’s from the early 2000’s, Leon Harris, died mid-April from liver cancer.

Leon cooked breakfasts for Olympians at many’s favorite—Darby’s Restaurant—in Olympia for years. He left that job due to a back injury in 2003 and returned to his home town, Elma, WA, where he lived with his mom waiting for and then recovering from a related surgery.

In 2009 he was in college in Aberdeen, WA where he was studying to be a medical receptionist. It is unknown at this time whether he achieved that goal. Leon had also, earlier on, been a massage therapist.

Leon passed away at Roo Lan nursing home in Olympia the week of April 14. There will be a joint service on June 9 for Leon and his mother, who died the week before he did, at the Elma Church of God, 2 pm.

Submitted by a former Olympia housemate of Leon’s, Sandia (360-866-4561).

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photo: Leonard Eiger

Leonard Eiger

On May 12, 2012, activists blocked entry to the main gate at the Navy’s West coast Trident nuclear submarine base in an act of civil resistance to nuclear weapons.

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action (Ground Zero) held a peaceful vigil and nonviolent direct action at the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington. They protested the United State government’s continued deployment and upgrading of the Trident nuclear weapons system.

On Saturday afternoon the group maintained a peaceful vigil on the roadside outside the base entrance. Fourprotestors walked onto the roadway and unfurled a banner stretching

across all entrance lanes. The banner read, “Give PEACE a chance. No, seriously.”

All four protestors complied with Washington State Patrol officers when ordered to leave the roadway. Elaine Hickman, Seattle; Tom Rogers, Poulsbo; Bert Sacks, Seattle; and Carlo Voli; Edmonds, were cited for “Pedestrian in Roadway Illegally” (a traffic offense) and released at the scene.

Earlier in the day participants learned about nuclear weapons effects (with an emphasis on the Trident system) and United States nuclear weapons policy. They also participated in nonviolence training as is customary before every Ground Zero vigil and action.

Throughout the Saturday protest trained peacekeepers from Ground Zero ensured the safety of all participants, communicating with State Patrol and base security personnel as needed.

### During the roadside vigil, in honor of the original intention of Mother’s Day for Peace, women took turns reading Julia Ward Howe’s Mother’s Day Proclamation of 1870.

“Moms Against Bombs” was the theme of the day planned to honor the original intention of Mother’s Day for Peace. During the roadside vigil women took turns reading Julia Ward Howe’s Mother’s Day Proclamation of 1870.

Ground Zero holds three scheduled vigils and actions each year in resistance to Trident and in protest of United States nuclear weapons policy. The group has been working to stop the Navy’s plan to build a \$715 million Second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor. Ground Zero is also working to de-fund the Navy’s plans for a next generation ballistic missile submarine, estimated to cost \$99 billion to build.

For nearly thirty-five years Ground Zero has engaged in education, training in nonviolence, community building, resistance against Trident and action toward a world without nuclear weapons.

*Leonard Eiger is a member of Ground Zero. (www.gzcenter.org)*

# Silence is not a political strategy

Diane Grace

“Day one: Open FCC airwaves”, states Jill Stein at a cozy gathering of two dozen Olympia locals, at a May 4 afternoon event at the Urban Onion. Who? Dr. Jill Stein, former MD turned Green Party presidential candidate. Jill blended right in, as a passerby asked her for “the bathroom combination”.

Announced as the winner of a 2002 debate with Mitt Romney in Massachusetts, this well-informed candidate for President of the United States summarized the Green Party’s Green New Deal with joyful calm and warm eyes. She also attentively listened to questions from citizens for over two hours.

“We are at a tipping point, the breaking point”.

Reviewing a bit of Obama’s presidential track record as a starting point, Jill summarized some specifics: \$16 trillion bank bailout and Free Trade; six-million home foreclosures; 16% to 30% (and higher) underemployment rates (depending upon the group); increased oil drilling and nuclear energy proliferation; privatizing education; threats on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security; attacks on civil liberties including felony arrests for civil disobedience; spying and “bugging” the free speech of American citizens, including the Occupy Movement (and possibly this speech), and so on. When considering our constitutional rights and other areas, Dr. Stein shared that the presidency of Barack Obama measures “worse” than that of George W. Bush, noting “Corporate rule”.



Referring to President Roosevelt’s Economic Bill of Rights, and Cuba’s Free Health Insurance for All, Dr. Jill brightened our mood with the Green Party’s platform, and how to “fix the whole system”, with savings, and for less money than the stimulus package:

**The Green New Deal:**

- (1) **25-million jobs now:** fix the climate issue with clean energy; worker co-ops, public transportation; teachers (300 thousand laid-off); public & social services including nurses, veterans, senior care and childcare. Local control of jobs and ecology, decided by each community, with living wages. Re-localize!
- (2) **Finance reform:** State banks; tax the 1%, and have capital gains tax.

- (3) **Election and voter reform:** Instant run-off voting, ranked choices, “Percentage of legislators” to reflect actual votes; public financing of elections.
- (4) **“Medicare for All” single-payer healthcare:** Trillions will be saved by omitting the 30% of paper bureaucracy.
- (5) **Eliminate student debt:** Free college tuition – Yes, Jill has a plan to finance this!
- (6) **50% cut in military:** Reduce, return home at last! Close foreign bases in Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, 140 bases in all.
- (7) **Immigration reform:** Cancel NAF-TA. Use the savings for “needs”.
- (8) **Nationalize the Federal Reserve** (currently private).
- (9) **Bank reform: “Renegotiate foreclosures as bank losses”.** Re-evaluate at current market value.
- (10) **Localize food: Reprioritize.** “Monocrop corporations are a disaster for the planet”. No more subsidies. Support small local farms and CSAs.
- (11) **Inform and empower.** Call your elected officials with your voice, “per the President’s Citizen Alert”. For example, see “moveon.org”. GRIST (April 2012) found that 95% of citizens want a third party. Noam Chomsky endorses Jill Stein.

With a 20-plus-year history, 22 states now have the Green Party on their ballot, with 48 states intended for the 2012 election. “The old system is broken. Throw ‘em out!”

*The text for this editorial was taken from personal notes of an attendee. Please seek out authorized information from websites noted above.*

IMPORTANT: 100 Olympia signatures need to be “gathered in one day” on Saturday, July 28 at the Urban Onion (and outside sidewalk), to qualify for the ballot, plus \$5,000 in donations.

Would you like to see a third party and a woman on the presidential ballot? Read what Dr. Jill Stein of the Green Party stands for at [www.jillstein.org](http://www.jillstein.org). Also check out [www.gp-wa.us](http://www.gp-wa.us) for Olympia Greens’ monthly meeting on the third Saturday, 6:00 pm potluck and 7:00 pm meeting, at 510 – 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, second floor--across from the Capitol Theater--above Buck’s Spices.

We have the candidate! Now the Green Party invites you to *train* with them as party workers in the specific interests areas and skill sets that you wish to offer.

*Diane Grace is involved in the local Food Sovereignty movement.*

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# Amerika the Beautiful - 2012

Karin Kraft

O beautiful for flagrant lies  
For gene amended grain  
Exploded mountains, travesty  
Above eroded plain!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with neighborhood  
Honor community!

O beautiful for pilgrim pride  
Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare of genocide  
Across the wilderness!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
God shed his grace on thee  
Must humanize, not demonize  
Guard our diversity!

O beautiful for heroes spent  
While liberating wealth  
For psychopathic one percent  
Who kill nations by stealth!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
May God thy goals refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
Divestment is divine!

O beautiful false patriot scheme  
With greed beyond the years  
Fake levees break and cities scream  
All drowned in human tears!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
God wasted grace on thee  
Where is thy good ye brotherhood?  
Find your humanity!

O beautiful for carbon skies  
For oil spills not explained  
Exploded mountains, travesty  
Above polluted plain!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
God shed his grace on thee  
In consumption dwells dysfunction  
Right livelihood is key!

O beautiful for pilgrim time  
Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare of empire crime  
Across the jailed US!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
God mend thine every flaw  
Of verity, integrity  
Keep liberty in law!

O beautiful for glory tale  
Of equal rights for all  
Women beaten, children assailed  
Wrongs for self-gain appall!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
God mend thine every flaw  
Till each dear face is held with grace  
Treat gently and with awe!

O beautiful true patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Care for others locked in esteem  
Release yourself of fears!  
Amerika! Amerika!  
May God thy grace extol  
Till peace and justice frame success  
Stand up to save your soul!

# Olympia Comics Festival 2012 will take place on Saturday, June 2nd

The twelfth annual Olympia Comics Festival will take place on Saturday, June 2nd in Olympia, Washington. Attendance cost for the stage-show is \$6 at the door. There is no attendance cost for the expo, the panels, or the signings at Danger Room Comics. Please check our website at [www.olympiacomicsfestival.org](http://www.olympiacomicsfestival.org) or send an email to [olympiacomicsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:olympiacomicsfestival@gmail.com) for more information.

Olympia has proven to be a great place to host a comics festival. Last year's festival was more than twice as large as that of the previous year and we expect to expand again this year. Comics have slowly been growing up and taking their rightful place next to all the other art forms and a town like Olympia provides a receptive and open-minded audience. It figures the kind of town that created the Procession of the Species would also throw a heck of a comics festival.

The Olympia Comics Festival is one of the earliest events in the United States to promote alternative and art comics – to promote comics based on quality and innovation rather than on who published them. The festival serves as a fun event for those new to comics, those curious about the new comics, and for long time readers.

Headlining the event are three very different Guests of Honor. Perhaps best known is Mike Allred, creator of *Madman*, *Red Rocket 7*, and co-creator of *iZombie*. Allred has primarily worked in the superhero genre, but with a quirkiness and creativity that makes his work very different from the norm in that genre. Allred is famous for a crisp, clear line style which reads both cleanly and beautifully. Notably, Allred is a Mormon and has published several chapters of The Book of Mormon as a graphic novel. Allred's wife Laura colors nearly all his work and will be joining him at the festival. Mike Allred has won an AML award for lifetime achievement. Shannon Wheeler, creator of *Too Much Coffee Man* is returning for a second time as a Guest of Honor. Wheeler has gone from self publisher to being published by the prestigious *New Yorker* but he's always involved in a variety of creative projects. This past year has seen a number of Wheeler books appear including both a new *Too Much Coffee Man* book and a retrospective omnibus. Wheeler is known as a humor cartoonist but recently illustrated the non-fiction *Oil & Water*, an investigation into the politics and economics of an ecological disaster. Shannon Wheeler is an Eisner award winning cartoonist.

Our final third of the Guest of Honor triumvirate is Oakland-based Jason Shiga. Shiga's work tends to be playful and experimental. His best known book is the "choose-your-own-adventure" style *Meanwhile* which must have driven his printer insane. Shiga's work often includes puzzles, mysteries, and even some math. The children's librarian at the Olympia branch of the Timberland Library has said that *Meanwhile* is one of their most popular books, so he's doing something right. Shiga's other books



of note include *Bookhunter* and *Empire State*. Jason Shiga has been a recipient of both the Ignatz and the Eisner awards.

Wheeler, Shiga and Allred will be participating at panels during the expo as well as signings at Danger Room Comics. Danger Room Comics is at 201 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Columbia.

The Olympia Comics Festival takes place at two separate locations for its two primary activities: the stage-show at the Capital Theater and the Cartooning Expo at The Olympia Center.

### The Stage-show

The festival will begin with a stage presentation at the Capital Theater downtown (206 E. 5th Ave.). This event will include short interviews with the Guests of Honor, slideshows, and skits. The stage-show tends to be very goofy and entertaining for all comics fans. Attendance cost for the stage-show is \$6 at the door. Tickets are available in advance at Danger Room Comics. This event will take place from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

### The Cartoonists Expo

Following the stage presentation will be a Cartooning Expo. This will take place at The Olympia Center (222 Columbia N) just a few blocks from the theater. The Expo will last from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The expo is an informal event where cartoonists from near and far will display their work and chat with members of the public. This portion of the festival is free to the public and is perfect for anyone the least bit curious about comics to come on down and check it out.

Various panels and other events will run concurrently with the Expo and will also take place at The Olympia Center.

For more information go to the official website of the festival: [www.olympiacomicsfestival.org](http://www.olympiacomicsfestival.org)

## Mexican farmers block attempt to privatize plants and seeds

Progressive small farmer organizations in Mexico scored a victory over transnational corporations that seek to monopolize seed and food patents. When the corporations pushed their bill to modify the Federal Law on Plant Varieties through the Committee on Agriculture and Livestock of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies on March 14, organizations of farmers from across the country sounded the alarm. By organizing quickly, they joined together to pressure legislators and achieved an agreement with the legislative committee to remove the bill from the floor. The proposed modifications promote a privatizing model that uses patents and "Plant Breeders's Rights" (PBR) to deprive farmers of the labor of centuries in developing seed. The small farmers who worked to create this foundation of modern agriculture

never charged royalties for its use. Although the current law, in effect since 1996, pays little heed to the rights of small farmers, the new law would be far worse. Present law tends to benefit private-sector plant breeders, allowing monopolies to obtain exclusive profits from the sale of seeds and other plant material for up to 15 years, or 18 in the case of perennial ornamental, forest, or orchard plants-even when the plants they used to develop the new varieties are in the public domain. The legislative reform would extend exclusive rights from the sale of reproductive material to 25 years. Further, it seeks to restrict the rights of farmers to store or use for their own consumption any part of the harvest obtained from seeds or breeding material purchased from holders of PBRs.

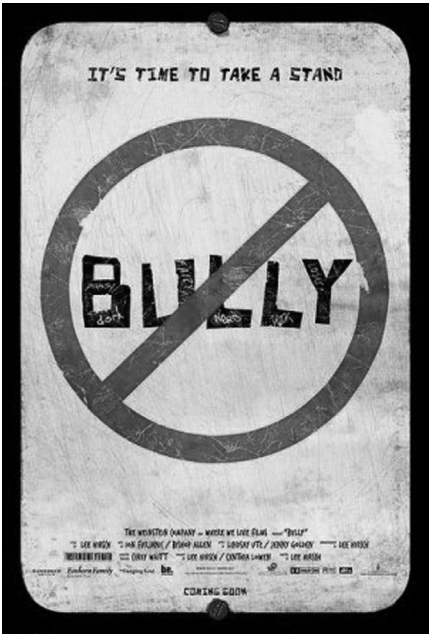
—Organic Consumers Association

## PLAYING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

### Bully

Friday 6/1 9:00; Sat. 6/2 6:30; Sunday 6/3 5:00; Monday 6/4 6:30;  
Tuesday 6/5 9:00; Wednesday 6/6 6:30; Thursday 6/7 4:00 & 9:00  
Dir: Lee Hirsch / 2012 / US / 98 min / 35mm film

Anyone who doubts bullying is an epidemic in schools needs to watch *Bully*, an eye-opening documentary that explores this alarming trend through those who know it firsthand—the victims themselves. This important film examines the lives of several kids who endure persistent taunting from their peers on a daily basis. Through thoughtful profiles and revealing footage, *Bully* paints an intimate portrait of the experience of being targeted and punished by clueless classmates for the crime of being vulnerable or different. Meanwhile, distraught parents cope with the trauma their children are facing, as lackluster school authorities are shown writing off the brutal treatment as a childhood "rite of passage." Shining a glaring spotlight on an incessant problem, *Bully* is an illuminating document that puts power into the hands of powerless. Owen Gleiberman of *Entertainment*



*Weekly* calls *Bully* "[s]ensitive and compassionate."

## Protests by beekeepers keeps Monsanto corn out of Poland

Monsanto's Mon810 corn, genetically engineered to produce a mutant version of the insecticide Bt, has been banned in Poland following protests by beekeepers who showed the corn was killing honeybees. Poland is the first country to formally acknowledge the link between Monsanto's genetically engineered corn and the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

that's been devastating bees around the world. Monsanto, the biotech giant, recently purchased a CCD research firm, Beelogsics, that government agencies, including the US Department of Agriculture, have been relying on for help unraveling the mystery behind the disappearance of the bees.

—Organic Consumers Association

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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# WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to  
olywip@gmail.com or  
Works In Progress  
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

## Community Special Events

**Creating Cooperatives: Reclaiming Our Economy & Livelihood**  
**Friday, June 1, 6 pm**  
**Saturday, June 2, 6 pm**  
**The Evergreen State College**  
**Governor Hotel**

The conference is free and open to all. Child care available on Saturday, June 2. We hope you can join us for this conference, devoted to exploring the continuing potential and prospects of co-ops in our own communities. All will be welcome. We hope you will join us.  
For more information, email us at: [olycoop2012@one-world.org](mailto:olycoop2012@one-world.org)  
Northwest Cooperative Development Center

**POP CO-OP**  
**Sunday, June 3, 10:30 am until 6:00 pm**  
**The Evergreen State College**

Economic and Social Justice. This fair is dedicated to reorganizing our needs and establishing a cohesive community consciousness in solidarity with multi-cultural and generational movements.  
If you will be participating, think about attending our party on Saturday June 2nd at Last Word Books in downtown Olympia to meet and mingle with the other groups. Ask us for more details if you are interested!  
If you or your group would like to present, lead a workshop, perform, display art, provide materials or help with set-up/take-down, contact: Claire Brown, [clairebrown05@gmail.com](mailto:clairebrown05@gmail.com), 802.522.9750.

**Stories in the Park**  
**CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS**  
**submission deadline: June 15**

Art Kitchen is looking for you and your original stories for Stories in the Park, a fun family event August 5th at the Gazebo in Sylvester Park in downtown Olympia. Author, Editor Terri Cohlene will adjudicate.  
Please submit up to 1500 words (doublespaced, 12pt font or larger). Title page should include your name, e-mail address, title, word count, and age of intended audience only. Each subsequent page of manuscript should include the title and page #. Your name should not appear on the manuscript except for the title page. Submission is free. Readers will be announced June 25, 2012.  
Submit on-line to: [grace@akolympia.com](mailto:grace@akolympia.com) in Word RTF or PDF format or in hard copy to: Art Kitchen, c/o Grace Duda, 2009 Water Street, Olympia WA 98501  
Questions? E-mail [terri@akolympia.com](mailto:terri@akolympia.com)

**Cruz for the Cure**  
**Cancer benefit and CAR SHOW**  
**Saturday, June 16**  
**South Bay BBQ**  
**619 Legion Way SE, Olympia**

Cruz for the cure is an annual event that aims to collect funds to help todays cancer research. This show hosted by South Bay BBQ (The Pink Pig), will be closing its neighboring streets to fill with classic/show cars and bikes. The Brown Edition, a *wonderful* jazz/funk band, has accepted our invitation and will be performing throughout the event just inside with the overhead doors open to the outdoors. Help us support our the cancer research and come down for a wonderful dining experience. Browse the beautiful craftsmanship of amazing show cars, bring your dancing shoes for The Brown Edition has a way of making you move and be apart of this year’s, “Cruz For The Cure”

**Save the Bookstores 2012**  
**Saturday, June 16**  
**Your local bookstore**

We had a great response with the Save the Bookstore event last year, so let’s do it again! Bookstores still need our help, so let’s show them our love by heading to our nearest brick and mortar and buying a book (or 2 or 5).  
Check out [www.indiebound.org](http://www.indiebound.org) for an independent store near you!  
Sponsored by Last Word Books.

**Soulstice Celebration!**  
**The Brown Edition, Sour Owl and The Tilted Stilts!**  
**Wednesday, June 20, 8 pm**  
**The Royal Lounge (311 Capital Way, Oly)**

2nd Annual SOULstice Celebration! Starting out the night are the fabulous Sour Owl and The Tilted Stilts. Then The Brown Edition will get you on your feet with high-octane funk!  
Tell your friends to come on out and join this wonderful celebration of the new Summer! FREE Show! 21+

**Anarchism Today with Randall Amster**  
**Saturday, June 23, 7 - 9 pm**  
**Last Word Books (211 4th Avenue E, Oly)**

The author of a new volume on anarchism -- which the Daily Kos called “a thoroughly thought-provoking overview” -- explores its vivid history and resurgent relevance for addressing today’s most pressing social and environmental challenges. Presenting a constructive vision of this widely misunderstood set of theories and practices, the work concludes with a reflection on anarchism’s future and the meaningful role it can play in building a more just and sustainable world.  
Randall Amster, J.D., Ph.D., chairs the Master’s Program in Humanities at Prescott College in Arizona, and serves as Executive Director of the Peace & Justice Studies Association. Among his recent books are Anarchism Today and Lost in Space: The Criminalization, Globalization, and Urban Ecology of Homelessness. He is a regular contributor to media outlets including the Huffington Post, Common Dreams, and Truthout, and is the editor and publisher of the news and commentary website, New Clear Vision.

**The Brown Edition**  
**Saturday, June 23, 8 pm**  
**Sea Monster Lounge, Seattle**

The Brown Edition’s gonna headline a groovaliscious show at one of the hottest spots in Seattle! We are spreadin’ the Funk to new places!  
Kickin’ off the night at 8, enjoy the groovy Funk/Soul/Reggae of The Mark Sexton Band, comin’ out on tour from Reno!  
Come on out and feel our energy  
FREE show! 21+

**Theatre of the Oppressed Facilitator’s Training 2012**  
**June 25 through June 30**  
**Port Townsend, Washington**

This intensive workshop is designed to train participants to use these tools with both adults and youth. Focus will be on community building games, Image Theatre, Forum Theatre, some Rainbow of Desire techniques and it will culminate in an interactive public Forum Theatre performance / community dialogue on Friday night. To best understand the real life power of the work, subject matter will come directly from participants’ personal and collective life experiences. Each day will include time to discuss the previous day’s work and the art of facilitation, as well as applications in the field  
Last year’s participants came from across the US, Canada, and from as far away as Egypt, Ecuador, and the Republic of Georgia.  
For more details, contact:  
360-344-3435 [info@mandalaforchange.com](mailto:info@mandalaforchange.com)  
<http://www.mandalaforchange.com/>

**Natural Resources Youth Camp**  
**July 22st - 28th**  
**UW Center for Sustainability at Pack Forest, Eatonville, WA**

Campers, ages 12 - 17, spend your summer with Natural Resources Youth Camp! NRYC offers a up close look at our natural resources through hands-on activities, led by professional instructors! Enjoy a fun-filled week of field trips, hiking, campfires and ropes course! Backcountry Adventure program includes a 4 day backpacking trip!  
Registration deadline is July 10, but spaces are limited - register now! For more information and to register, visit[www.nryc.org](http://www.nryc.org)!

## WEST OLYMPIA FARMERS’ MARKET NOW OPEN

**Neighborhood-based market to highlight West Olympia producers**

The West Olympia Farmers’ Market is returning for another round with the West Olympia community. It will now be an weekday evening market, open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Tuesday from now through October 16th. Highlighting producers of Olympia’s vibrant west side, the neighborhood-based market provides a space for the many smaller-scale producers to sell directly to the eager public. Along with fresh vegetables and fruit, products will include eggs, baked goods, flowers, plant starts, native plants, crafts, and more.  
The market has a new location! It is now located at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Harrison Avenue and Thomas Street. Come check out the new place! The market organizers are very excited to be partnering with Pastor Doug and the entire Gloria Dei team and thanks them for their support.  
The market began as a vision of four West Olympia growers in the summer of 2010. After receiving overwhelmingly positive encouragement from friends, neighbors, and farmers, the group grew in number and quickly began taking steps to form a market.  
The purpose of the market is to promote west Olympia producers by creating a neighborhood-scale market where small farmers and producers can sell directly to their community and increase the social and economic vitality of the community.  
The market also provides a space for community groups to do outreach on topics of public interest, with a preference on horticultural and agricultural topics.  
Based on the amount of support they’ve received so far, organizers expect the market to thrive. They’d like it to develop into a focal point for the growing movement in support of local agriculture and the economic and social vitality of the neighborhood. “This market is one part of the larger movement towards a more stable food-security future for Olympia,” says Sarah Rocker, one of the market’s co-founders.  
For more information, contact the West Olympia Farmers’ Market at 360.358.2264. [wolyfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:wolyfarmersmarket@gmail.com), or <http://wolyfarmersmarket.org>

## TESTIFY ON PROPOSED NEW HOMELESS SHELTER

Downtown may have a new homeless shelter. The city of Olympia is considering proposals on use of the vacant Smith Building along with a federal grant of \$551,000. The City Council has already voted in favor of giving the grant and use of the building to the Family Support Center to provide transitional housing and an emergency shelter. Since the grant uses federal money through, there's still a few more steps in the process before it's official. You can weigh-in on the process by providing public comment June 1-July 2 or by testifying at a public hearing at the City Council meeting, on Thursday, June 12, at 3 pm at City Hall.

### OLYMPIA FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION’S JUNE PROGRAM

## “INTERFAITH VOICES FOR PEACE”

This month’s program explores humane truths in four different faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. We explore how the scriptures and other writings - and the actual lived traditions - within these faiths have moved their members to work for peace.  
We also examine some common threads such as the oneness of the human family, compassion, and the Golden Rule.  
Near the end of the program we affirm the value of interfaith respect and co-operation. We also express support for Interfaith Works of Thurston County, (360) 357-7224 [www.interfaith-works.org](http://www.interfaith-works.org), which has been doing excellent work for decades, including bringing together people from different faiths to work on hunger, homelessness, and other issues as well as interfaith understanding.  
Our four guests speak from their own respective backgrounds:

- Danny Kadden shares extensive knowledge of the Jewish tradition and also works as Executive Director of Interfaith Works.
- Don Foran comes from the Catholic part of the Christian tradition and also connects literature, and poetry with profound issues of the real world, including peace and social justice.
- Sheikh Yosof Wanly is the new Imaam of the Islamic Center of Olympia and shares some of Islam’s core beliefs that most Americans don’t know about, as well as a warm, inclusive approach to interacting with other faiths.
- Dan Ryan practices the Zen form of Buddhism and participates actively in the South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Veterans for Peace, and Olympia FOR.

The national level of the Fellowship of Reconciliation includes twelve affiliated Religious Peace Fellowships (RPFs) (Lutheran, Episcopal, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, etc.). See this list: [www.forusa.org/groups/religious-peace-fellowships](http://www.forusa.org/groups/religious-peace-fellowships)  
This list on the national FOR’s website also includes many additional faith-based groups that carry on important work for peace. These include the Shalom Center, Pax Christi, Pace e Bene, Sojourners, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the Mennonite Central Committee, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture ([www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org)), and many others.  
Religion deals with our deepest beliefs and insights about what it means to be human and to live here on this planet. Billions of people refer to God by various names in various languages, and they practice various ways of understanding reality and finding their place in the world. Indeed, one of the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation’s peace vigil signs says, “All people are one human family,” and another of our vigil signs says, “We’re all in this together.”  
On this small planet, we need to understand and respect each other’s religious faith. That’s one step toward peace. And we need to appreciate how various religions really do support peace.



# Lockheed Martin: proud to kill Palestinians?

David Cronin

It's not every day you get the chance to grill a high-ranking representative of Lockheed Martin over its role in arming Israel. So I jumped at the opportunity to confront Chad Fulgham, a vice president of the corporation, with some unpalatable truths during his visit to Brussels in May.

After Fulgham had addressed a conference dealing with the future of NATO, I responded to an invitation for questions from the floor.

"Mr Fulgham, in an advertisement published in the program of this event, Lockheed Martin says it is 'proud to have contributed to smart defense with products such as the F-35' fighter jets," I said, looking directly at him. "Are you proud that in 2010, your company signed a contract to supply 20 of these fighter jets to the State of Israel?"

"Are you proud that other weapons manufactured by your company have been used by Israel to butcher Palestinian civilians? Are you proud that your pay slip is stained with the blood of Palestinian children? And if you are not proud, can you give me one good reason why your company should not be prosecuted for crimes against humanity?"

No reply

"Thank you," said Javier Solana, a former NATO top dog who was chairing the conference. "Next question, please."

"Excuse me, Sir," I interjected. "I would like an answer to my question. You are not secretary-general of NATO any more. You are a mere European citizen. I have exactly the same rights as you."

(I regret my inference that senior NATO officials are more important than anyone else who has to use a bathroom every few hours; in mitigation, I plead nervousness and the fact I was ad-libbing).

Solana tried to proceed with the meeting. As there was no indication that Fulgham was willing to reply, I stood up and fetched my bag. "I am leaving in protest at the participation of Lockheed Martin," I said, loudly.

"If you are leaving, you will not get a reply to your question," Solana said.

"Well, is he going to answer it?" I said, turning again to Fulgham, who betrayed no emotion.

"I very much doubt it," said Giles Merritt, a corporate lobbyist who organized the conference. "It has little to do with

the topic we are discussing."

"It has everything to do with it," I said. "You people have been talking about complexity. The issues are actually very simple: a large proportion of the people in this room are warmongers. You profit from war and human rights abuses. You should be ashamed of yourselves."

With that parting remark, I headed towards the exit, ready to enjoy some rare Belgian sunshine.

## "Battle-tested"

Lockheed Martin, it should be emphasized, is probably the single biggest beneficiary of US military aid to Israel.

The F-35s it is delivering to Israel are intended to replace F-16 jets as Israel's principal attack weapon.

Israel has the largest fleet of F-16s, many of them made by Lockheed, outside the US. These weapons of mass murder were used widely during Operation Cast Lead, Israel's three-week assault on Gaza in late 2008 and early 2009.

Lockheed and Raytheon—another sponsor of today's conference—are also joint developers of the aptly-named Hellfire missiles that Israel has "battle-tested" on innocent Palestinians.

*David Cronin, author of Europe's Alliance With Israel: Aiding the Occupation, has written for a variety of publications. As a political activist, he has also attempted to place both Tony Blair and Avigdor Lieberman under citizen's arrest for crimes against humanity.*

I believe in targeted assassination, secret rendition, the abduction and illegal imprisonment of anybody living or traveling anywhere around the world by the U.S. government, the exemption of Americans from the jurisdiction of the World Court, offshore drilling, fracking, the selective application of habeas corpus, the Bush Tax Cuts, persecution of whistle-blowers, the construction of nuclear power plants, the mining of clean coal, the rights of corporations over the rights of individuals, the Patriot Act, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and Pakistan, the warrantless surveillance of private citizens, the brutal occupation by the Israelis of the Palestinians, the cutting of social, environmental and scientific research programs, plus the eradication of funds for education and art, for the purpose of inflating our already gargantuan military budget, NAFTA, gay marriage, cheap foreign labor, the deliberate trivialization of the OWS Movement

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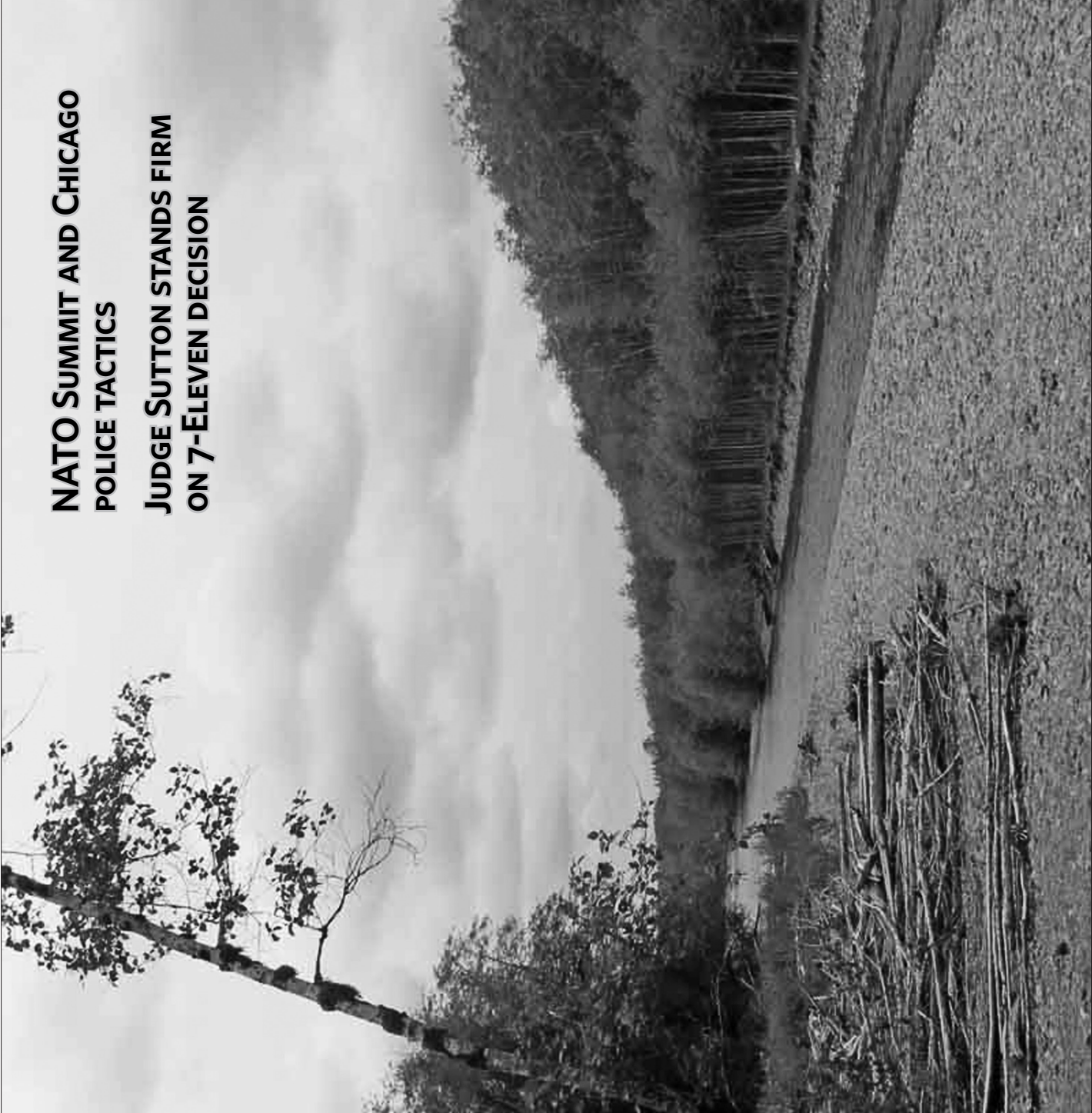
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