



WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.

March 2012

The awkward conversation on tax reform most legislators are avoiding

Marissa Luck

“One thing we could say in this state is, let’s not use the tax code as our public policy lever,” Rep. Chris Reykdal argued, his eyes widening behind wire-framed glasses. “Let’s not have half the high-paid lobbyists come to Olympia pounding on the tax code because that’s the special little place... you do that by very low, broadly-applied [taxes] so that people say, ‘Hey, I may not like it, but at least it’s fair.’” Reykdal (D-Thurston County) was sitting in a suit across from TVW’s Austin Jenkins explaining the philosophy behind legislation he and Sen. David Frockt (D-Seattle) introduced that would eliminate the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax, reduce the sales tax, and introduce a flat income tax in Washington state.

Reykdal’s rhetoric on the benefits of a low, broad-based tax structure isn’t new – it’s a narrative conservatives have used for years both within the state and nationally. One of the main reasons why

Herman Cain’s 9-9-9 plan was so popular amongst Republican voters was because it appealed to the conservative desire for flat, low tax rates. The idea is simple: taxing everyone at equally low rates could make the tax structure more fair, simple, and transparent. Proponents of tax reforms argue that the current tax structure in Washington is

Although conservatives and liberals agree that tax preferences make the B&O tax convoluted, they can’t agree on what should be done with them.

the opposite: unfair, complicated, and opaque. While Reykdal and Frockt’s measure isn’t likely to gain steam this session, efforts to reform the B&O tax by regulating tax breaks are well underway.

Why “revenue” is a controversial word in Olympia

Although conservatives and liberals alike would agree that tax preferences (aka tax breaks) make the B&O tax con-

voluted, they can’t agree on what precisely should be done with them. “Every time a tax preference is repealed or closed, the tax code gets simpler,” explained Paul Guppy of the right-leaning think tank The Washington Policy Center. While Republicans would likely support simplifying the tax structure, they see ending tax breaks as code language for raising taxes which many are politically opposed to doing. Some analysts also worry that raising B&O taxes would threaten the tentative economic recovery Washington is making. [Ed. Note: See side bars for more explanation].

So to diffuse potential controversy, legislators have at times adopted a “revenue neutral” strategy—increasing one tax while decreasing another. This practice could be broadened to all tax preference cancellations; “To keep it revenue neutral,” Paul Guppy elaborated, “you can come at a compromise where you say, ‘Well, we’re closing a bunch of tax preferences but we’re going to lower tax rates so the financial burden goes down

for *all* businesses, or *all* citizens and the government is not in the business of picking winners and losers.”

For those on the left, a “revenue neutral” cancellation of a tax preference defeats one of the primary purposes of ending tax breaks: raising revenue. Of course, that’s precisely the point for Re-

► **TAX REFORM**, continued on page 6

The flawed Business and Occupation tax in a nutshell

After the much-loathed regressive sales tax, Washington’s second largest source income derives from the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax which stands in place of a corporate tax. Under the B&O, the state government taxes companies less than 1% on their gross receipts. That means that businesses are taxed before they’ve had a chance to subtract all the costs of production, regardless of their profit margins. If your business is profitable you enjoy a low B&O tax, but if your business has had an unfortunately nonprofitable year, that tax suddenly seems a lot more burdensome.

Many of the B&O tax breaks in Washington state were introduced to ease that tension; during times of economic distress, an industry would approach the legislature asking for a tax preference to help the industry reduce its costs and avoid massive layoffs. Other B&O tax breaks are implemented theoretically to act as incentives for businesses to create or retain jobs in Washington state. Since the majority of tax preferences don’t have expiration dates though, they can continue indefinitely unless legislators take measures to end it, which has proved to be exceedingly difficult (see my accompanying article “The tricky business of closing tax loopholes”). Over the years, this process of tacking on tax preferences to the B&O has created a tangled mismatch of B&O tax deductions, breaks, and exemptions amounting to over \$2 billion, according to Department of Revenue 2008 estimates. If that number sounds familiar, it is: \$2 billion was slightly more than the budget deficit back in November. Of course, policymakers will argue that many B&O tax breaks are valuable and that you can’t eliminate them all; tax credits for small businesses and certain non-profits are examples.

Huge support for labeling GMO foods

Organic Consumers Fund

Bills to label genetically engineered (GE) foods in Washington state failed to move out of the Senate and House agriculture committees, but advocates feel the show of public support was a measurable “win” and are committed to another push next session, or an initiative if necessary.

Legislative aides in Olympia say the number of citizens who called, e-mailed, and traveled to Olympia to support labeling was second only to the number supporting same-sex marriage. There were overflow crowds at House and Senate committee hearings in late January and we heard from Democratic aides that every individual who called or e-mailed supported labeling; none were opposed.

The volume of support was even more remarkable since people had only six days after the bills were announced to plan to get to Olympia or comment. A number of Representatives and Senators said they didn’t know the bills even existed and may be sponsors next session.

The Senate and House bills (SB 6298 and HB 2637) were identical, sponsored by Sen. Maralyn Chase (D-Shoreline, 32nd Dist.) and Rep. Cary Condotta (R-Wenatchee, 12th Dist.), reflecting urban and rural, bipartisan support across the state. The wheat farmers who first approached Condotta to sponsor a labeling bill are self-proclaimed Libertarians.

The opposition

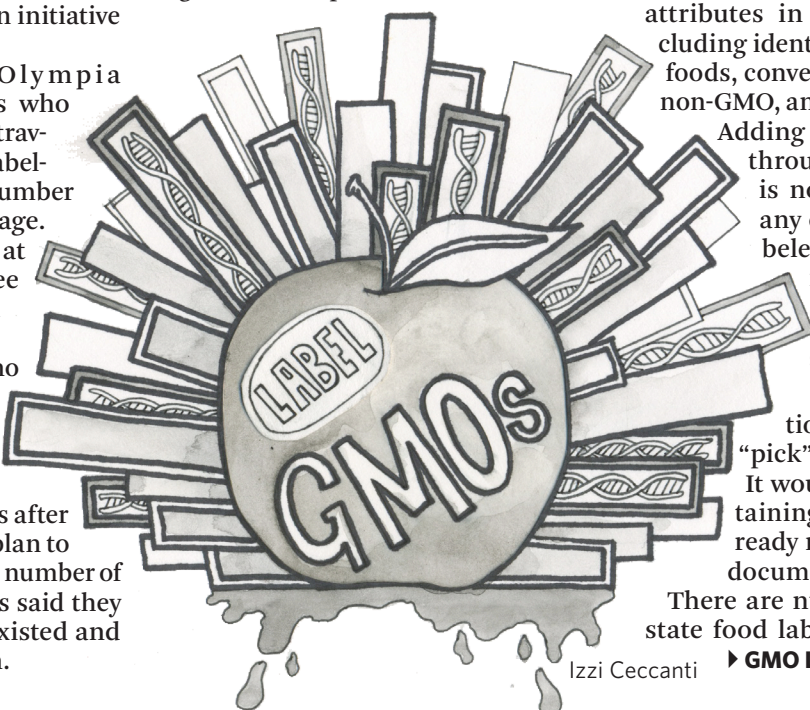
Opponents argue that labeling GE foods would cause chaos in the food industry and conflict with federal laws governing interstate commerce. They also claim the bills would cost the state millions of dollars.

Wholesale distributors, however, already identify more than 50 product attributes in database systems, including identification of conventional foods, conventionals that are verified non-GMO, and certified organic foods.

Adding an attribute, “Produced through Genetic Engineering,” is no different than adding any other attribute. Foods labeled “Produced through genetic engineering” would be just one more attribute and would go into a slot the same way organic corn and conventional corn are in different “pick” and storage slots now. It would be easier than maintaining organic status, which already requires keeping specific documents and annual audits.

There are numerous precedents for state food labeling laws, making the

► **GMO LABELS**, continued on page 5



Statement of Solidarity with the Olympia Food Co-op

We, the undersigned, stand in solidarity with the Olympia Food Co-op, and condemn the lawsuit filed against the Co-op in an attempt to undermine the Co-op’s commitment to social justice by way of legal and financial intimidation. We call on the plaintiffs to exercise the Co-op’s democratic option—bringing the boycott of Israeli goods to a member vote—instead of launching an aggressive lawsuit which seriously threatens the well-being of a cornerstone of the Olympia community. Lawsuits intended to silence and intimidate those who speak out against injustice should have no place in a democratic society.

For over three decades, the Co-op has enriched the Olympia community by striving to provide healthy, local, and sustainable food, and has rightly understood food sovereignty as one piece of the larger project of building a better world. From its emphasis on cooperative self-management, to its unswerving support for the local sustainable agriculture movement, to its persistent refusal to carry goods produced in ways that conflict with its core values, social justice has always been integral to the Co-op’s mission. The lawsuit against the Co-op is an attack on this commitment to social justice and, by extension, on all of us who raise our voices against injustice and in the hope of creating a better world. For, as the author James Baldwin once wrote to wrongfully imprisoned Angela Davis, "if they take you in the morning, they will be coming for us that night."

We therefore stand in solidarity with the Olympia Food Co-op and say to those who have brought this lawsuit, we will not be intimidated or silenced!

Confirmed organization and business support for the Olympia Food Co-op

Adam Market
BRICK (Building Revolution by Increasing Community Knowledge)-SPSCC
Bridges Not Walls
Coffee Strong
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
Don't Stop Printing
Iraq Veterans Against the War - Olympia
Lacey's Finest Tattoo
Last Word Books and Press
Latin American Solidarity Organization - TESC
Le Voyeur
Lit Fuse Tattoo
Media Island
Middle East Solidarity Project - TESC
Move to Amend - Olympia
New Moon Cafe
Oly Vegan
Olympia BDS
Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget
Olympia Jewish Voice for Peace
Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace
Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project
TESCDivest!
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
Rainy Day Records
Shangri-La Co-Housing Intentional Community
The Cornerstone
Traditions Cafe and World Folk Art
Veterans for Peace - Chapter 109
Works in Progress

* Note that Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association (TSTSCA) and the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation have each drafted and provided their own statements of support for the Olympia Food Co-op.



Scott Yoos and his new defense team: Larry Hildes and Karen Weill. Photo: Wendy Tanowitz

Update on Scott’s court case

Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund

The next pretrial for Scott Yoos, now represented by Larry Hildes of the National Lawyers Guild, is scheduled for 9 am, Wednesday, March 7, at Thurston County Superior Court.

The Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund will be raising additional funds for Scott’s new attorney. Keep your eyes open for fundraising events March through June. If you would like to donate before then, feel free to approach Scott, mail a donation endorsed to “Scott Yoos LDF” c/o WSECU, 4245 Martin Way E, #35, Olympia, WA 98516, or drop by any office of the Washington State Employees Credit Union in Olympia and they will help you make your deposit. You can also make a secure donation online at <https://www.donatonpay.com/scottoos>

Thanks for your ongoing support! We are happy to see this case get back on track, and very happy Scott has a true people’s attorney who sees the injustice of these charges and is willing to support Scott with appropriate motions and arguments. For background information, visit the Scott Yoos Support Committee and Legal Defense Fund on Facebook (click :Info” on the left side of the page). For more information, e-mail scottoos@hotmail.com or contact Scott’s defense committee via 360-250-8544.

Judge upholds Olympia’s Comprehensive Plan policies, city council can say “no”

We are pleased Judge Sutton affirmed Olympia Safe Streets position in the Trillium development application. We worked hard to uphold the Olympia Comprehensive Plan policies and City development regulations with respect to neighborhood connectivity.”

It’s unfortunate this took so long to resolve. We spent six years following this proposed development, commenting to the City staff and the developer at every step. We proposed simple changes to the development plan that would have met the City’s standards, but DR Horton refused to incorporate them.

Citizens should not need to spend hundreds of hours preparing testimony for the City Hearing Examiner and Council and then go to court to enforce these important community expecta-

tions. These regulations should have been enforced by city staff from the beginning of this application process.

On the surface, the appeal in superior court was over three issues: transit, school capacity, and street design. However, it was really a contest between citizens who believe the City’s comprehensive plan requirements must be followed, and city planning staff who supported DR Horton’s plan throughout 9 months of hearings even though citizens had pointed out many ways in which the DR Horton plan did not follow the Comprehensive Plan. The judge’s decision, in essence, is that the city council can reject a neighborhood village plan if the plan does not comply with the city’s Comprehensive Plan. —Karen Messmer, Olympia Safe Streets Campaign

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Chances good for passing GMO labeling in 2013

GMO Free Washington

At the last second we were informed that two GMO labeling bills had been introduced by liberal Democrat Marilyn Chase in the Senate and conservative Republican Gary Condatta in the House.

GMO Free Washington and many other groups from around the state went into quick action, as the bills were being heard in less than 10 days in Olympia. (Some on our team were involved with some of the top think tanks in the US, i.e. Richard Kimbrell from the Center of Food Safety.)

The bills were rewritten (many times) and the changes were approved by Sen. Chase and Rep. Condatta who resubmitted the revised bills at the last minute.

One of the states in the leadership of GMO labeling was Vermont and we even heard they may adopt our new Washington state bill, so one good thing was a lot of amazing collective leadership under pressure to create a

great GMO labeling bill.

What was accomplished

People from all over, wrote emails, letters, phoned the senators and representatives as well as the members of the agricultural committees where these bills were introduced. We heard the level of communication was overwhelming in Olympia and the volume was second only to the gay marriage

People stood up, and spoke from their hearts; some were testifying for the first time. The sheer numbers of people wanting to speak was overwhelming for these committees.

bill last week!

The Organic Consumers Association backed us on so many levels and even provided busses to head to Olympia. We loaded two busses and many came from all over the state and we packed the rooms for the hearings. People stood up, and spoke from their hearts; some were testifying for the first time. The sheer numbers of people wanting to speak was overwhelming to these committees. This was good, and bad.

In the House there were 11 pages of people wanting to testify.

Because of the large number, the committees only gave the core people one and a half minutes to present the data. It was hard to present in such a short time my medical testimony on why GMO crops are harmful.

An Associated Press story was printed in more than 150 newspapers around the world from Australia to Ireland, and even Ballard! Everyone wrote and called and did it again and again and poured their hearts out, but this time - money talked.

Both chairmen of the Agriculture and Natural Resources committees, Sen. Brian Hatfield and Rep. Brian Blake, have received contributions from Monsanto. Even with all the people testifying and the volume of calls and emails, they decided that these bills didn't even have to come up for a vote in their respective committees after the hearings!

There is good news though. We have learned much and believe we will have a GMO labeling bill passed in Washington state within a year. House speaker Frank Chopp, very much in favor of this bill as well as many others, has come forward so the next go around the bills will be in more favorable environments. (See sidebar, Who's blocking the vote

on GMO labeling in Washington state?) Here are the reasons these bills should be adopted:

- Wheat is Washington state's second largest economic sector. Overseas markets have clearly stated they will not take Washington wheat if there is any chance of GE contamination. If the legislature thinks we have a budget problem now, what will happen if Washington state loses its wheat crop?
- This bill is about labeling GMOs in our food supply to allow the people in our state to make more informed decisions about what they eat. This is no different than labeling that reveals trans fats, sugar, Kosher etc.
- There is essentially no cost to the state to implement these bills.
- There was a lot of misleading and deceptive information submitted in both the House and Senate by the opposing side. For example, the lobbyist for Wheat Growers Association told the committees of a pro GMO wheat petition signed 75% of the nation's wheat farmers. However, if you examine the one page petition, there is no reference to GE, GMO, Genetically Modified anything mentioned.

Also left unsaid, farmers with less than 1000 acres were not approached, leaving out the majority of wheat farmers.

GMO Free Washington is a Seattle-based non-GMO action group that educates and works toward a non-GMO future.

GMOs are not providing larger crop yields

The biotechnology industry claims that GM foods can feed the world through production of higher crop yields. However, a recent report by the Union of Concerned Scientists reviewed 12 academic studies and indicates otherwise: "The several thousand field trials over the last 20 years for genes aimed at increasing operational or intrinsic yield (of crops) indicate a significant undertaking. Yet none of these field trials have resulted in increased yield in commercialized major food/feed crops, with the exception of Bt corn." However, it was further stated that this increase is largely due to traditional breeding improvements. —American Academy of Environmental Medicine

Who blocked the vote on GMO labeling in Washington state?

Organic Consumers Assoc.

February 1 -- Thousands of emails, hundreds of calls, packed hearings and national news attention have proved that the bills to label GMOs in Washington State are wildly popular with voters. So what's the hold up? Who blocked the vote?

In the Senate it's the three politicians on the eight-member Senate Agriculture Committee who have taken money from Monsanto: the committee chair, Democratic, Senator Brian Hatfield, and two Republicans, Senators Jim Honeyford and Mark Schoesler.

Committee Chair Hatfield denies taking campaign cash from Monsanto, saying the Organic Consumers Fund is making "wild claims," even though anyone can see the public record of these contributions by entering "Monsanto" at <http://www.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuery-System/AdvancedSearch/Contributions> and scrolling through the list to find his name! If he's willing to lie about being sold-out to Monsanto, don't believe him when he says, "The truth is, this bill [did] not have the votes to pass out of committee." It's more likely that he's [blocked] the vote to protect Monsanto because the bill would [have passed]. Sen.

Schoesler is a wheat farmer who says he'll grow genetically engineered wheat once it gains acceptance. (He was quoted in the Capital Press article, "Many speak out on GMO food, labels.")

In the House, it's the two politicians on the thirteen-member Senate Agriculture Committee who have taken money from Monsanto: the committee chair, Democratic Rep. Brian Blake and Republican Rep. Joel Kretz.

If these sold-out politicians are bent on blocking the democratic process, they'd better do it in the light of day and have the courage to go against their voting public on the record! We can't let them kill this bill silently behind closed doors.

Momentum is on our side. The AP reported ("Some Washington wheat farmers throw support behind required labeling of genetically modified foods," published across the country in 160 different news outlets) that the hearings were "packed!"

Organic Consumers Association is a grassroots non-profit public interest organization campaigning for health, justice, and sustainability.

Ten reasons to be concerned about GMO foods

- #1 Michael Taylor, former Monsanto VP and attorney, 1994 spearheaded getting GMOs through the FDA and had legislation passed stating GMO foods were no different than regular foods and GMOs never have to be researched. Taylor is now the Obama - US Food Safety Czar. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is a former Monsanto attorney. He also acts as an adviser to CDC dealing with "Foodborne Diseases: Nice to know that the CDC is taking the lead on GMOs from a man who says "there is no difference between GMOs and real food."
- #2 GMO foods are mainly found in conventional soybeans, sugar beets, corn, canola, cottonseed and now alfalfa, and less so in Hawaiian papaya, zucchini and crook neck squash. Any non organic beef, chicken, or turkey is GMO because of the food they are fed. The FDA is trying to introduce GMO Salmon, wheat, and adding pharmaceuticals to plants. Avoid GMOs by buying Organic or displaying the non-GMO Project label.
- #3 Monsanto's Bt-toxin (Bt-producing GMO corn & cotton - cottonseed oil), was found by Canadian doctors in blood of 93% pregnant women & 80% of umbilical blood of their babies. The doctors conclude that the women and their babies were exposed to Monsanto GMO Bt-toxin through a "normal" NON-Organic Canadian diet, including NON-Organic (so-called natural and conventional) meat, egg and dairy products from animals fed Bt corn.
- #4 Monsanto's GMO "Bt" corn and cotton plants are engineered to produce an insecticide in every cell of the plant that kills insects by breaking open their stomachs. (What happens in humans?) In addition to its Genetic engineering - "Bt" crops are also engineered to produce an insecticide. Monsanto also produces GMO "RoundUp Ready" crops (that we eat), engineered with a bacteria DNA, that allows the "crops" to survive otherwise deadly doses of its herbicide RoundUp.
- #5 Mice fed Monsanto's Bt corn had elevated levels of immune system substances that are also higher in humans who suffer from rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer, osteoporosis, multiple sclerosis, allergies, Lou Gehrig's disease, autoimmune disease, and colitis.
- #6 In the only human feeding study ever published on GMOs, Monsanto's GMO "RoundUp Ready" soybeans were found to transfer Monsanto's "RoundUp Ready" DNA to the bacteria livin inside human intestines. (FYI - soy and soybean oil is in most processed foods).
- #7 According to Jeffrey Smith of the Institute for Responsible Technology, the transfer of Monsanto's GMO Bt DNA to human digestive bacteria could create a "living pesticide factory" that could be responsible for the "increase in gastrointestinal problems, autoimmune diseases, food allergies, and childhood learning disorders - since 1996 when Bt crops came on the market.
- #8 Animal studies show GMO foods cause infertility, accelerated aging, poor insulin regulation, changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system, and immune problems such as asthma allergies, and inflammation. GMO foods poses higher risks for children - Adolescent rats showed damaged immune systems and digestive function, smaller brains, livers, and testicles, atrophy the liver and pre-cancerous cell growth in the intestines after 10 days of GMO feed. Many farmers have found GMOs cause increased infertility the death of livestock.
- #9 GMOs are made mainly to make plants herbicide tolerant to force farmers to use it on their crops and increase corporate profits. GMO seeds are patented and require purchasing every Organic farmers whose fields are invaded and cross contaminated are forced to pay in court.
- #10 Could GMOs be causing the increase in Food Allergies, rise in ADHD & Autism seen in children, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome or Fibromyalgia, Cancer, or Diabetes? All of these condition have increased or didn't exist until GMOs were introduced?

50-70% of "natural" food stores and 80% of grocery stores contains GMO Knowing all of this, what do GMOs mean for our children & future generations?

Source: www.GMOFreeWashington.INFO

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► **GMO Labeling**, cont. from page 1



argument of federal pre-emption very weak. Prop 65 in California requires labeling foods with known carcinogens and hormone disruptors. Numerous other states have labeling laws for catfish, cheese, previously frozen products, honey, maple syrup, alcohol in confectionaries, even returnable bottles.

Washington state itself passed a law in 1993 requiring labels identifying the species of salmon being sold as Coho, Sockeye or King - and its origin, farmed or wild. Another Washington state law from 2010 bars planting of canola in five counties, thus prohibiting interstate commerce of canola seed, to protect the \$20 million/year Brassica seed industry (e.g., cabbage, kale, collards, broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts). That law does not specifically use the words genetic engineering but the purpose was to protect the seed industry from contamination by related GE canola as more than 90 percent of the US canola crop is estimated to be GE.

Alaska passed a law in 2005 requiring labels on GE fish and fish products. No GE fish are approved (yet) for commercial sale but the Alaska legislature passed that measure unanimously and the Governor signed it to protect the Alaskan fishing industry.

SB 6298 and HB 2637 do not require our state to test foods, conduct surveillance, or enforce compliance, contrary to opponents' testimony. If the state chooses to engage in any of these activities, that would be a policy decision but not one mandated by legislation.

Reliable cost figures for labeling were estimated by agricultural economist William Jaeger, Oregon State University Extension, in a 2002 study. (See <http://arec.oregonstate.edu/jaeger/personal/em8817.pdf>) The cost to government of the entire United Kingdom (59 million people) was only \$230,000 - 0.01 percent of each person's food expenditures.

What's next

There's not time to gather 300,000 signatures to get an initiative on the November ballot but there's talk of that if the legislature does not act. Several other states this year reportedly are considering GE labeling bills, including a California initiative.

Meanwhile, many experimental GMO

Stop oppressive budget cuts that kill communities

Toward building a legislative solidarity movement—Part IV

Carole Willey, BSW

Budget legislative advocacy

The following three Wikipedia explanations for different advocacy groups, without doubt, explain how our legislature is influenced by powerful, wealthy groups.

1. Budget Advocacy: Another aspect of advocacy that ensures proactive engagement of Civil Society Organizations with the government budget to make the government more accountable to the people and promote transparency. Budget advocacy also enables citizens and social action groups to compel the government to be more alert to the needs and aspirations of people in general and the deprived sections of the community.
2. Bureaucratic Advocacy: People considered “experts” have more opportunity to succeed at presenting their issues to decision-makers. It is used to influence the agendas, however at a slower pace.
3. Interest-Group Advocacy: Lobbying is the main tool used by interests groups doing mass advocacy. It is a form of action that does not always succeed at influencing political decision-makers as it requires resources and organization to be effective.”

My question to Thurston and surrounding counties and Olympian community leaders: Can we actively engage in Budget Advocacy as defined by the

Wikipedia definition through now to the end of 2012? More importantly, can we work together in 2013?

Some people will answer yes, some no. The people who answer yes usually have little, if any exposure to legislative work throughout the session outside of attending a few events each year. They generally do not understand the commitment it takes to having a Legislative Budget Advocacy campaign. Nor can they understand what hard work it entails especially working right through the end of the session—in all its phases. Nor do they probably understand the amount of time or money it takes. Most Legislative Advocacy Day events are planned for a year with paid staff. Months of preparation of detailed work is what is needed to have a Legislative Agenda supporting five to twenty bills as some organization do. They make strategic planning and have adequate funding. Since Contract with America, non-profits are not allowed to spend more than 15% of their annual revenues, now they cannot spend more than 20% of the expenditures. Corporate personhood has no limit and non-profits have so little to spend but it is at a fraction of what corporations can now spend.

When and how do we start? With Occupy Olympia.

Building local social action network

Community challenge for the legislative session: a countywide legislative action network needs to be created by building a coalition of organizations and activists to rally together for bill alerts and testifying at hearings—either to support progressive bills or oppose oppressive

bills. I have the knowledge base to warrant this community to take steps to organize and plan in the months ahead. The time is right.

Action Plan 1 - Senate Tax Bills

For groups and individuals - contact the Senate Ways & Means Committee by visiting their office, calling, faxing, writing letters, or emailing (if you must). For more information on the Senate Ways & Means Committee, go to: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/Pages/default.aspx>

Ask the Senate Ways & Means staff and committee members to support favored bills.

By taking the following four steps, an Olympia coalition for a fair budget can accomplish tax bill passage:

1. Requesting a public hearing until there is a hearing and request support for Senate Bills: 5944, 5945, 5946, and 5947 – Contact their offices daily and encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to make those contacts too by sharing this article.
2. Network with POWER's Legislative Committee, send out an email and an e-network Hearing Alert for people to attend and give testimony at those hearings. Possibly, the legislature will hold one hearing for at least four bills to increase state revenue with fair and moral tax bills: SB 5944, 5945, 5946, & 5947.
3. Immediately after the hearing(s) [and/or a floor vote], send a ‘thank you’ cards to all the committee members for supporting the bill(s).
4. Immediately after the hearing, ask the committee members to further support these bills by:
 - passing them out of their committee and
 - by supporting a ‘Yes-Vote for a House Floor Vote.’

Carole Willey is a local community organizer and strategist with legislative and capitol campus expertise. 🌱

FINANCIAL ADVICE FROM TULIP

“Not for profit; not for charity; but for service”

This has been the credit union industry motto for over a century and has been the defining characteristic of the credit union model. But do you know what it actually means? In light of the bank backlash and the Occupy movement, the folks at Tulip thought that now was a good time to revisit implications behind this saying.

It means:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. This isn't just our job but our mission! | 9. ...with us your money does not go to support investors and CEO bonus checks. |
| 2. We're here to help but like a charity. | 10. We're doing the best we can. |
| 3. In the tradition of self-help, we're a mutual association. | 11. ...and we want to know what you think about how we're doing. |
| 4. We're a co-op, just like Olympia Food Co-op. | 12. We participate in and cooperate with the broader credit union sector. |
| 5. All of our members are also owners. | 13. We give you a chance when nobody else will... |
| 6. All our members have an equal voice in the governance of the co-op by voting for who sits on the board and all of our members are eligible to run for the board. | 14. ...we can't give away money because our money is actually our members' money. |
| 7. All of our fees and interest goes back into the operations of credit unions business. | 15. We need you to use us, to save and borrower from us, to care about the institution, to be engaged and run for the board. |
| 8. We are fundamentally different than banks... | 16. We promote thrift over rampant consumerism. |
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Located in the Eastside Olympia Food Co-op

G.I. Voice/Coffee Strong calls for systemic changes in Madigan PTSD treatment

Coffee Strong

Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Colonel Dallas W. Homas has been administratively removed from his post as commander of the Madigan Healthcare System, amid concerns that soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are not being properly diagnosed. Fourteen soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) will soon receive the results from their PTSD re-evaluations. Officials from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center decided to take a second look at the the soldiers after concerns were raised about their initial diagnoses.

Jorge Gonzalez, Executive Director of Coffee Strong, a non-profit G.I. coffeehouse located within 300

meters of the gates of JBLM stated that “this systemic failure shows that much more needs to be done to help our veterans get the fair diagnosis and treatment that they deserve. Madigan Hospital continues to remove soldiers' previous diagnosis of PTSD, which in turn lessens the amount of compensation that soldier is entitled to through their experience in the military.”

Gonzalez added, “This tactic of overturning diagnoses is another cost cutting measure the military has set up in order to save money after 11 years of the so-called ‘global war on terror.’” Coffee Strong is operated by veterans of the nonprofit G.I. Voice, which provide services for active-duty soldiers and fellow veterans who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere since 2001.

► **Tax Reform**, cont. from page 1

publicans, who when faced with budget deficits see a problem of over-spending rather than a problem of under-collecting. This session Republicans have adopted a rhetoric of “reform before revenue” – essentially pushing for long-term, cost-saving measures like decreasing state contributions to employee pension plans. Since many of these measures are just as controversial as raising taxes, it’s unclear how many will be successful in the remaining few days of the session. Despite positive revenue projections in mid-February, legislators are still faced with a \$1.1 billion deficit. Instead of implementing reforms, the legislature will likely balance the budget with more immediate budget cuts such as suspending or eliminating the initiatives for small-class sizes and cost-of-living adjustments for teachers’ salaries.

Still, with no fundamental reforms to the tax code or government spending, legislators will likely find themselves in the same position whenever the next recession hits.

Is tax reform likely in 2012?

“In the long run, Washington has got to take a look at its imbalance between revenue and expenditure,” Jon Talton, economic columnist with *The Seattle Times* argued. “We have a too narrow tax base, we have a very affluent state that

doesn’t pay an income tax,” and because the sales tax is largely based on taxing goods instead of services “the tax code here is 50 years out of line.” He continued, “We need a serious conversation on how we get a revenue structure that is in keeping with the investment that we *have* to make and the government services that people want.”

That’s the conversation Democrats hoped to spark this session as they introduced various bills that could potentially

“We have a very affluent state that doesn’t pay an income tax,” and because the sales tax is largely based on taxing goods instead of services “the tax code here is 50 years out of line.”

broaden and diversify Washington’s tax base: along with flat income tax proposals, other proposals include a 2% tax on millionaires for funding K-4 education, closing all non-constitutionally required tax breaks, and introducing a small capital gains tax.

While these bills can fuel much-needed dialogue in the capitol about Washington’s imbalanced tax structure, the likelihood that a new tax will become law anytime soon is slim. Without sufficient votes in the legislature to pass any new taxes because of the I-1053 supermajority law [which is currently facing a legal challenge], legislators have to send every new tax to voters for approval. Many policymakers are skeptical that

voters would approve of any new taxes given their resounding rejection of an income tax as well as a soda and candy tax in 2010.

Then there’s the issue of the money special-interests groups can spend to prevent any new taxes or cancellation of tax preferences—an amount which “is huge” in the words of Senator Craig Pridemore (D-Vancouver). He pointed out that the American Beverage Association poured \$17 million into defeating the soda and candy tax in 2010. With the real estate tax break for banks amounting to \$172-200 million per biennium, “If you’ve got a \$200 million impact on an industry, imagine how much money they’ll be willing to spend to kill that proposal.” Pridemore sighed, “Unfortunately, money still has a huge impact on elections.”

Even with these obstacles to raising taxes, that doesn’t stop many activists from pushing for new revenue. The challenge for opponents of budget cuts and proponents of tax reform alike is to turn tax initiatives from symbolic conversation starters into real ballot measures.

Marissa Luck is a community journalist and writer for a local web-design firm. She recently graduated from The Evergreen State College where she studied international political economy, tutored writing, and served on the editorial collectives of the Counter Point Journal and Inkwell.

The tricky business of closing tax loopholes

Marissa Luck

Washington state legislators are considering a series of bills that could aid in the process of closing tax loopholes – something that activists on the left argue could significantly soften the blow of burgeoning budget cuts. Two bills are gaining momentum in the legislature that would require that all future tax breaks automatically expire after five years, unless legislators take measures to extend them. Another bill would retroactively apply ten-year expiration dates on more than 300 of the nearly 590 tax breaks in the state. Currently, when a tax break is implemented in Washington it can continue indefinitely, unless it happens to have an expiration or sunset, or legislators specifically pass legislation to end it. That means a tax break (aka loophole) can continue even if it is no longer achieving its original purpose or never actually achieved that purpose in the first place.

As most policymakers and economists will explain, not all tax breaks are wasteful loopholes; many broadly benefit the public—like the ones that removes sale tax on food and prescription drugs. Still, several tax breaks serve more narrow interests, or because of lack of expiration dates, can continue past the point of obsolescence.

Whether or not a tax break should be canceled is obfuscated by the fact that many tax breaks do not clearly state why they were implemented in the first place, or how legislators can attempt to objectively evaluate their success. This became evident when the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) published their 2011 report reviewing 25 tax preferences. For tax break after tax break, the report concludes, “The Legislature did not specifically state the public policy objective of this preference.” This ambiguity forces JLARC to comb through old documents and records of what legislators said on the floor, conduct interviews, and even read old newspaper clippings to arrive at an educated guess on the original purpose of the tax preference. SB6088 would partially rectify that issue by requiring that tax

breaks include a statement of policy intent. Unfortunately, the bill would only apply to future tax preferences, leaving behind hundreds of past exemptions still riddled with the original problem: unclear legislative intent and an auditing committee performing detective work.

Even if policy intentions were clear, tax preferences are still challenging to evaluate objectively. JLARC is not required to include a rate of return on investment, i.e., a quantifiable measurement of success for a particular tax preference. Other legislation from Senator Craig Pridemore (D-Vancouver) would push new tax preferences to have a measurable “net benefit to the state.” Yet another bill from Rep. Reuven Carlyle (D-Seattle) would require JLARC to include a rate of return on investment for tax preferences that aim to create or retain jobs. But developing an objective rate of return on investment would be challenging.

Arriving at an accurate return on investment for tax preferences “is not a precise science,” in the words of Sen. Pridemore, sponsor of SB6088 and chair of both JLARC and the Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences. Although he thinks attempting to come up with a number for return on investment “is a worthwhile effort to pursue,” he explained how “it’s a struggle to get that, especially to have a result that everybody will agree with.” He continued, “The first thing that happens when you say, ‘This is the return on investment,’[is that] you have a whole group of other experts [saying], ‘No, in fact, the return on investment is *this*.’ The economists start debating, and it gets to be really convoluted.”

What is included in the calculation for

the rate of return on investment could greatly shape its outcome. For instance, imagine an industry that gets a tax break and decides to hire more workers. With more thickly-lined wallets, those new employees will theoretically buy more things and hence pay more sales tax. Should the calculation include that additional sales tax, and how could that

A tax break can continue even if it is no longer achieving its original purpose or never actually achieved that purpose in the first place.

be estimated?¹ Furthermore, are the new jobs a direct result of a specific tax preference or merely the natural growth of an industry?

Any rate of return on investment for a business and occupation tax preference would likely include an estimate of how many jobs were created by that tax preference, but even that is subject to debate. Paul Guppy of the Washington Policy Center and the Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences explained, “JLARC has tried to almost put a dollar figure on how many jobs are created.” And although it can look at job growth in an industry and correlate policy changes, “The reason that analysis can’t go very far is because there’s a thousand other factors going on—there are world markets, there are changes in education levels, changes in the population, changes in the workforce, changes in competition.”

Then there’s the issue of the five-year timing that both SB6088 and HB2530 call for certain tax breaks. That would leave JLARC with only three years of data to evaluate a tax preference since

Is Washington is eking out economic recovery?

In mid- February, Washington state revenue projections were \$96 million better than expected. More good news for Washington’s economy: state exports increased 21% in 2011, aerospace and software industries continue to perform well, and unemployment dropped slightly in January. Though Washington may be doing comparatively better than other states, it’s still deep in the throngs of recession which makes some analysts weary of shocking the system with any new large taxes. “It’s a delicate moment to be tinkering with any taxes or tax breaks,” Jon Talton of the *Seattle Times* cautioned. “I think any new tax breaks should get a great deal of scrutiny because we want to be good to the companies that are here now, and not put them at a disadvantage. But because of the fragility of the economy and that the Puget Sound region is especially doing better,” any new tax breaks may tug at the tenuous recovery.

“Having said that,” Talton continued, “there are two Washingtons.” While parts of the Puget Sound are competitive, affluent and attracting talent, “the other Washington is one that has very poor educational outcomes, it is one where in some localities, 30% or more of people are on food stamps, it’s a place where 300,000 people are out of work...So this is not a business cycle like we’ve seen in the post-World War II era.”

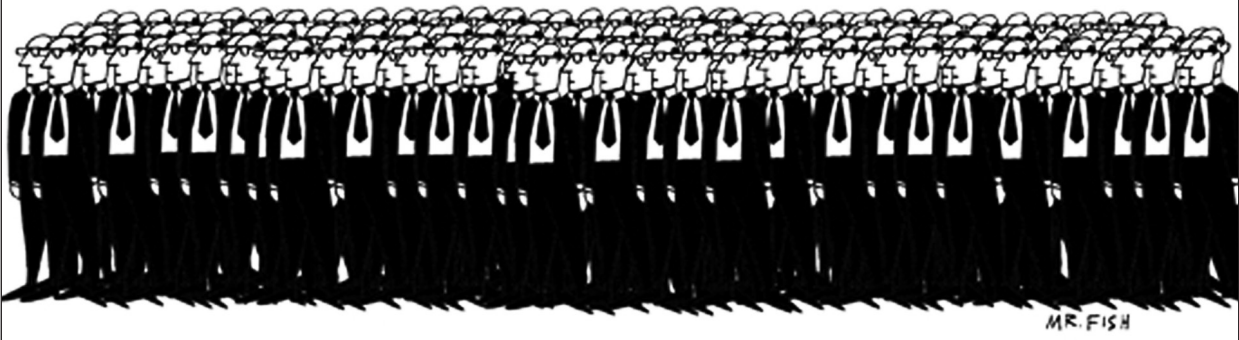
they typically start the review process two legislative cycles ahead of its expiration date. That may not be enough time to measure the long-term implications of a tax preference on macroeconomic factors like job growth. Critics also wondered whether five years provides businesses with enough stability. Representative Ed Orcutt (R-Kalama) elaborated, “If you’ve got somebody that’s looking at a tax incentive...[who is] going to come in and do a long-term investment, maybe invest \$100 million, but they’re only going to have 5 years of certainty...is it going to be even worth it for them to come?”

At the same time, HB2530 and SB6088 could allow ample room for flexibility; five years would be the default time limit but the legislature could always make exceptions and extensions for certain industries. Add to that that all previous tax breaks would not be subject to the new regulations unless additional legislation is passed. That begs the question, how effective are regulations for tax loopholes when there are potential loopholes in the very tool that is supposed to be regulating them?

Even if a tax preference is reviewed every five years, a fundamental imbalance in Washington’s budget process persists. A tax break, like spending for a particular educational program, amounts to tax expenditure because it reduces the amount of available funds. Either way, Tara Lee of the Budget and Policy Center explained, “it’s spending on both sides of the ledger.” Both are tax expenditures yet they’re treated differently. On average, spending for a social program is scrutinized annually while spending via a specific tax break is reviewed once a decade. “We’re not saying that all tax breaks should be closed or that businesses should have to pay but it doesn’t make sense if we’re doing this review of state spending on one side” but not on the other.

Though current legislation aiming to strengthen regulations for tax preferences is not without its flaws, at the very least it can begin to correct an imbalance in the state’s review of expenditures while clearing some of the fog surrounding tax-preference regulation.

writers block



Olympia’s Move to Amend Campaign

An invitation to attend

Molly Gibbs

Many of you know that the Move to Amend group meets the first Thursday of each month at MIXX 96 in the conference room. Join us at 6:30 pm. We’re pretty excited about the breadth of what is going on in our community.

Our group, along with Occupy Oly Political Action Work Group (PAWG), is about to approach our local city councils to create a resolution, which will demand our state representatives take forward a 28th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing corporate “personhood.” We will also call on state and national representatives to overturn Citizens United, making sure that every vote counts, as well as our participation, and will insist that “money does not equal speech.”

We wish to ensure our communities are protected from harm to the environment. We want small businesses to be self-sustaining, providing local jobs serving meaningful, healthy outcomes.

To be clear, what this means is that corporations do not have 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 14th Amendment “rights.” Nowhere in the Constitution do corporations have rights. They do have obligations and responsibilities to We the People. At the Olympia Solidarity Forum, we had a lively group discussion about the role of Supreme Court Justices, and pondered what institution or body might eventually replace the office of the Supreme Court. The ques-

tion debated was “What is the role of a Supreme Court justice?” (What is the difference between “interpreting” law and “legislating”?)

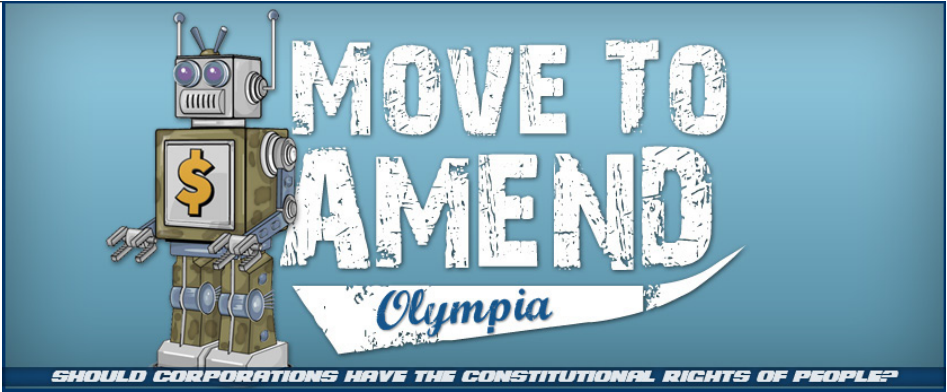
Most of us were outraged with the passage of the disastrous 2010 Citizens United ruling. We are *not* in favor of corporations buying elections, and do favor the 28th Amendment to abolish corporate “rights.” The stunning results of an ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 80 percent of Americans

In late December, the court dismissed a lawsuit brought by students at UC Berkeley who claimed that they faced anti-Semitism on campus. The court determined the plaintiffs could not provide evidence to support their allegations.

oppose the ruling, including 65 percent who “strongly” oppose it, an unusually high intensity of sentiment. “The bipartisan nature of these views is striking in these largely partisan times. The court’s ruling is opposed, respectively, by 76, 81 and 85 percent of Republicans, independents and Democrats...”

We are excited because small-business owners understand how multinational corporations keep jobs overseas, take money out of our communities, and stop credible solutions like a Washington Investment Trust from getting the green light among our legislators. Who owns our “democracy?” Not the 99 percent who work harder than ever for less or no money.

Recently Eugene, Oregon passed a resolution to amend the Constitution,



as did Portland.

Special thanks to the Occupy Wall Street movement for bringing banking and foreclosure issues, and corporate power into our lives, front and center.

As cities are passing these amendments each week, I’ve been reflecting on what I’ve seen just since going to Madison at the end of last August to attend the Democracy Conference. One thousand of us attended some great workshops, and all the Affiliate Move to Amend chapters held a day-long strategic planning session. We learned from several cities planning campaigns, many of whom have now passed their resolutions (Mary Beth Gardham led the Los Angeles County effort, with a stunning 11-0 majority Council vote). My recent count shows 77 cities, counties and organizations have passed resolutions to abolish corporate personhood. Several states have, or are in the process of completing resolutions.

Scott Silber, an organizer from Boulder CO, where a resolution to Amend the Constitution passed early last Fall, talked about how important he felt it was to get the whole city involved in understanding and supporting a resolution. We concur, it is important, presenting us with the opportunity to build on shared community values.

People do understand that corporations do not have the right to buy elections. Most understand that corporations are not living “people” with human rights. Over the past 125 years corporations have claimed many rights, to:

- Assume the word “corporation” appears in the Constitution, which it does not.
- Continue building multinational corporations’ abusive powers, just as the British did with the Hudson Bay Company, the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the East India Company. (Wasn’t our Revolution rooted in overthrowing the tea- trading corporation imposing taxes on us?)
- Turn a corporate charter from a government granted privilege into a contract that cannot be altered by government.

- Claim that the 14th Amendment applies to corporations, by forbidding a State to deny to any “person” within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws, and later guaranteed “substantive due process” protection to corporations.
- Use the Constitution to invalidate government regulation of the corporation.
- Assume “free speech rights” in 1947 under the Taft-Hartley Act. In 1936 a newspaper corporation was awarded 1st Amendment rights to freedom of speech in terms of selling advertising in newspapers without being taxed.
- Grant corporations Constitutional powers under the Contracts Clause, Interstate Commerce Clause, Property Rights and Personhood rights, which includes the 14th Amendment, Bill of Rights and Civil Rights legislation.
- Assume 4th Amendment protections to avoid random inspections, or audits, or search and seizure actions.
- Obtain 7th Amendment rights to a jury trial in a civil case. The Court implied that the corporation has this right because a shareholder in a derivative suit would have that right.
- Have the right to not speak and therefore protect the corporation’s freedom of mind (since 1986 in Pacific Gas & Electric v Public Utilities Commission).
- Overturn state restrictions on corporate spending on financial contributions to political candidates or parties, and on corporate spending on political referenda (1976, 1977).
- Use the 5th Amendment to protect itself against double jeopardy to avoid retrial in an anti-trust case.

It was an eye-opening day looking at Supreme Court decisions. So little of this is covered in our schools. Three of us discussed being the first generation of 18-year-olds to vote in a presidential election year [in 1972]. 2012 marks the tenth election I will be able to participate in, and, for the eighth time, the question is “Whom will I vote against?” The corporations! Of course...

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CHARLOTTE RENNINGER



Rudolfo Acuña on the continuing culture wars

Michelle Chen

Ethnic studies pioneer Dr. Rodolfo Acuña, author of Occupied America, talks to CultureStrike's Michelle Chen about what the ongoing debate over Tucson's Mexican-American Studies program says about deeper currents of America's history and political culture.



Rudolfo Acuña

Michelle Chen: You made public statements last year warning that the crack-down on ethnic studies in Tucson was a harbinger of things to come. Since then, we've seen the legal and political war on ethnic studies intensify, culminating in the "book ban," along with a slew of other anti-immigrant policies from the state legislature. In your view, have those earlier fears been borne out in the last few months?

Rodolfo Acuña: Yes, they unfortunately were borne out. What many don't understand is that Arizona is a much more fertile test ground from the right than places like Wisconsin or Ohio where there is a long tradition and trade union movement. The press in Arizona is much more reactionary and money via the Koch Brothers and other special interests gets much more for the buck. Consequently the American Legislative Exchange Council, the Tea Party, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, et al can control the legal system. It does not help that the White House is spineless and does not enforce the Constitution. It will get worse because there are no brakes. Mexicans don't count for much-even among the Left.

MC: You recently wrote about a political slippery slope, placing the crackdown on ethnic studies on the same continuum as, for example, the Spanish Inquisition, slavery, etc. Talk about the link between the more "obvious" forms of oppression, which many believe America has somehow overcome, and more insidious forms of abuse, censorship and disenfranchisement in the educa-

tion system today.

RA: Well, when you get a nine year-old girl by the name of Bresinia Flores shot down in her home by extremists and the press ignores it until the time of trial, I think that is pretty outrageous. You have seen my most recent article on the Inquisition; the Inquisition is always in the past - it is the Spanish Inquisition never the American Inquisition. Personally, I am pessimistic about the future. I can see the obvious links between forms of oppression but I do not believe that even the Left does. If a nine-year old of any other race had been assassinated there would have been an outcry by The Nation and the Left Press gaggle. The Left cares about Mexicans, but we are low on its priority list. There is always Wisconsin and Ohio. I don't really know if America (the United States) can be redeemed. I don't believe that the German people have been absolved for their silence during the Holocaust. I think people today who are complicit through their silence should be ashamed.

MC: Do you think public attitudes toward ethnic studies have changed since 9/11? What's the connection between increasing nationalism and militarism in the political arena and our political culture, and educational policy?

RA: No, I believe that the feelings toward Mexican American Studies (MAS) were not affected by 9/11. The assault on MAS began years before; it is an extension of the killing of bilingual education. Propositions 187, 227 and 209 occurred in the 1990s at a time when there was relatively prosperous times. You can't blame it on one incident; xenophobia is part of the American Way. Remember the Repatriations of the 1930s and the internment of the Japanese.

What I am most afraid of is Obama. He is genuinely gutless. If he would have put his foot down and enforced the law in Arizona this would be over with. The right wing there is trying to nullify the constitution but he thinks he can ride it out.

MC: When you published Occupied America [in 1972], did you face a similar political climate? In what ways was the public reaction similar, or different, back then?

RA: It was different then. The population was younger and although we had resistance, we also had a young and politicized left. The energy of the black movement offered some shield. There were also fewer Mexicans in the United States so we were less of a threat.

MC: Have you faced similar political battles in California over the teaching of your book or any other ethnic studies initiatives? Is this a matter of opportunistic politicians in Arizona exploiting the immigration issue, or does it represent broader trend?

RA: There has always been resistance to my



books. I published three children's books before Occupied America, and two were banned in Texas. Some teachers in California threw the books in the waste basket. Censorship in Tucson did not begin recently. I hark back to the banning of bilingual education. What is frightening about Arizona is that the right has singled out Mexicans because they know that there will be little push back. I think this will continue. In California the drive will be different, it will be through the initiative process. If nativists go too far, they will just not get elected to statewide office. However, listen to the Republican presidential candidate, they truly represent what Americans think.

MC: This presidential campaign will bring an onslaught of right-wing rhetoric and pandering to anti-immigrant groups. How might that escalate tensions with respect to issues of race and diversity in public education?

RA: What I am most afraid of is Obama. He is genuinely gutless. If he would have put his foot down and enforced the law in Arizona this would be over with. The right wing there is trying to nullify the constitution but he thinks he can ride it out. Tucson for the past 30 years has been under a federal court order to desegregation. [The federal government] has given hundreds of millions of dollars to it to desegregate, fifty years after Brown v. the Board of Education, Tucson is still segregated. Charter schools offer white people an escape.

MC: Overall, what trends have you witnessed in public education and higher education over the past generation in terms of progressive pedagogy that examines society from a social justice standpoint? Would you say there has been progress overall, and in what areas have we stagnated or regressed?

RA: No, the runaway tuition costs has wiped everything out. Teachers have helped little. You would think that the teachers' unions would be in Tucson en masse-are they? No, instead, they are pushing for more raises parading will

inane signs that say, "We teach the 99 percent!" Why aren't they in jail?

MC: You've always seen activism and education as deeply intertwined. When you see students in Tucson mobilizing to defend ethnic studies, as well as these Occupy protests going on around the country, how do you think that might help shift the political climate? As an activist and scholar, do you have advice on how advocates for progressive education can build these movements?

RA: If they weren't Mexican, people might care. I think that they are heroic, but Arizona, as well as most states, are controlled by elderly white voters who just care about themselves. "Don't touch my social security but it is alright if you eliminate it for others." Scholars are not really activists; they may have been at one time but not today. Most resent having to teach; they want to come up with the grand theory. "Progressive scholars" don't have the foggiest as to what is happening in Tucson. Mexican-American Studies was part of the pedagogy to bring about methods built around critical thinking. But I haven't heard much from the "progressive scholars."

Michelle Chen is the Associate Editor of CultureStrike, a loose network of artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, and other cultural workers who fight anti-migrant hate by bringing out the stories of and about immigrants and migrants.

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WORKS N PROGRESS

Come on, people: Olympia gets together for the Occupy Solidarity Social Forum

A Conversation with Bruce Wilkinson, Kerri Griffis, and Lee Durfey

Mike Coday

Olympia hosted a national gathering of Occupy organizers on the weekend of February 17 - 19, and the event was a rousing success.

The Forum kicked off on Friday night at the Labor Council with dinner and social time. Saturday was devoted to workshops and included a showing of the movie *Thrive*, followed by a Q&A session with the filmmaker, Foster Gamble. Saturday ended with talks by David Korten and Dorli Rainey. David is the author of several books, including *Agenda for a New Economy*, and co-founder of *Yes! magazine*. Dorli Rainey is an 84-year-old, life-long activist from Seattle who became the face of Occupy after she was pepper-sprayed by Seattle Police Department. She has strong opinions and is an articulate speaker whose activist record tracks back to demonstrations against the Vietnam War.

The old economy of greed and dominion is dying. A new economy of life and partnership is struggling to be born. The outcome is ours to choose.—David Korten

Sunday was a day of workshops and community living that ended with a concert at the Urban Onion with David Rovics, Jim Page and Danny Kelly. The whole event was amazing, set up in a way that allowed a horizontal movement

Palestinian people; and more. We stand on the shoulders of giants when we identify ourselves as Puget Sound activists. This standing allowed Olympia to call for the first national solidarity forum for the occupy movement and to have that call answered by so many committed and thoughtful anti-authoritarians.

We were all wading through the work of putting this together and we may not be able to give a clear overview of the event immediately. It's going to take us a few weeks to shake off sleep deprivation

By focusing on the economic situation, we as a movement have the potential to truly threaten the transnational corporations and their government allies on a scale never before seen.

and gather our thoughts to present an overview of the event. For folks who want an immediate overview of the event, Mark Taylor Canfield spent the weekend with us as a participant and wrote up an excellent piece for the Huffington Post. (You can read it here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-taylorcanfield/post_3012_b_1292141.html)

It seems like the Forum was proposed just six weeks ago by Bruce Wilkinson. Many of us blinked when Bruce suggested that we could put a national conference together, get the word out, organize ourselves to host it, and pull this event off on such a short time-frame, but an estimated 500 activists, organizers and Occupiers showed up in Olympia and put on an amazing number of workshops and showed the power of the Occupy movement.

Bruce: Actually, the proposal came out around November 18, but it came out of a long planning weekend two weeks before that.

Mike: I think I may have been trying to ignore you about this plan in November and December, Bruce.

Because the event happened at deadline for *Works In Progress*, we will be spreading this conversation over two months. Here we go with the March installment. We'll be back in April with the capper.

For those of you who missed the event (sorry to hear that) or want to think more about the powerful exchange of ideas and

experience of solidarity, I asked Bruce Wilkinson, Lee Durfey and Kerri Griffis to engage in a conversation about the weekend while the event is still fresh in our minds and memories. Bruce, Lee, Kerri and Mary Spokane (who will be part of this continued conversation in next month's write-up) are just a few of the powerhouse local organizers who responded to Bruce's idea and worked to make the event come off.

First, let's just talk about the background for the Occupy Solidarity Social Forum. This forum is clearly rooted in the national Occupy movement. I think that movement first showed its power in Madison, Wisconsin, in February 2011 when Wisconsinites responded to austerity politics by turning out in the thousands to occupy the Wisconsin Capitol building.

Bruce: It may be fair to say that the movement showed its power in Madison, but many folks track the movement back to occupations in Spain.

Mike: Sit-ins, blockades, occupations — all that is certainly part of the activist tradition. It's hard to say where things start or end. I understand the Spanish term for occupiers

is *los indignados*. That has a nice ring. Activists in Washington State showed their indignation and engaged in several State Capitol occupations in Olympia during 2011. I think the movement really stepped it up a notch and showed its sophistication on September 17, 2011, when the occupation of Wall Street appeared at Zuccotti Park. The national Occupy movement appeared in communities all over the United States the following month.

I think the subtext for Occupy Wall Street was a national consensus that Wall Street caused the economic downturn and had avoided significant financial setbacks and rebounded with profits and bonus income as the rest of the country suffered through the most significant financial downturn since the Great Depression. I think the power of the Occupy movement is truly the indignation of the 99% against Wall Street and the 1% elites.

The mortgage and foreclosure crisis created a new population of internally-displaced persons in the United States fueling the Occupy movement. But there is also a global movement for economic and political justice that tracks back through Tahrir Square in Egypt to Tunisia, and I think the US occupy movement is firmly rooted in that global movement which transcends the US foreclosure and mortgage crisis. It really feels like one worldwide movement.

I came away from Occupy Solidarity Social Forum reminded about how this movement may be deeply rooted in colonial politics that go back for

centuries. Can you talk a little about your experience of the Occupy movement, its roots, and how you came to the decision that Olympia needed to host an Occupy Solidarity Social Forum?

Kerri: I had been closely following the US movement since it started in Zuccotti Park. I supported the Olympia Occupy encampment. I knew that once the police started closing down the encampments that Occupy would move into a new phase.



David Korten Photo: Occupy Olympia

When I heard that Olympia might host the OSSF 2012 I knew immediately I wanted to help out. I know that a big question facing Occupy is "What are the next steps?" I hope that by getting people together to talk they will be able to come up with good ideas.

Lee: My experience of the Occupy movement has mostly been limited to Olympia. I was part of the first planning meeting in Sylvester Park and worked with many others to put together Olympia's first General Assembly. We were all struck by the strong community turnout and the subsequent attendance—over 100 people for a good length of time. While there were difficulties, such as explaining the consensus model to folks unfamiliar with it, the overall attitude and energy were the most positive I have seen in Olympia since the Port Militarization Resistance efforts in November of 2007. When people who have never come to the various social justice meetings and events turn out in force, ready to share their skills and experiences, we are beginning to have a chance.

Our community support was essential in maintaining the camp for as long as we did and helped show us all what real community can look like. Just as important was the willingness of Occupiers to learn new skills, step up into new roles, and begin to create a new way of living. Interactions between folks of different classes and backgrounds helped strengthen our resolve to learn to work together toward a common cause. If we are able to effectively learn from this

► CONVERSATION, continued on page 10



Dorli Rainey Photo: Occupy Olympia

to exchange ideas over meals, movies, workshops and the informality of living together for a weekend.

Olympia has a hard-earned standing in the activist world that tracks back through Olympia Port Militarization Resistance; the Olympia Food Co-op board's decision to not sell products made in Israel with the exception of Peace Oil; Rachel Corrie's dedication and determination to stand up for the

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► **Conversation**, cont. from page 9

experience, our next major attempts can avoid some of stumbling blocks that were visible in camp.

In addition, the discussions and workshops which occurred this weekend have brought a wealth of new ideas and solutions to town, and it is now up to us to effectively use this gift.

Mike: I think I was at the second General Assembly of Occupy Olympia at Sylvester Park. There was a definite buzz in the air. Let's talk a little about Occupy 2.0. Occupation encampments have been established and continue to exist in many communities across the United States. Some municipalities, like Olympia, have managed to break down and disperse Occupy encampments; others like San Diego and Oakland have engaged in street warfare against citizens exercising first amendment rights, and some, like Eugene and Delaware, have installed street lights or recognized the rights of the political occupation movement.

The American Fall Occupy Uprising that followed the Arab Spring always faced a weather challenge that would make public occupations difficult to maintain as winter arrived in colder climates, and I think that the Occupy Solidarity Social Forum was both retrospective in terms of looking back at how we got here, and was intensely prospective in terms of how the Occupy Movement will move forward in 2012 and beyond.

The Arab Spring and the American Fall occupations clearly demonstrate grassroots desire for change that is not likely to be completed in a single season. I think the forum was a chance to think and talk about the next step for the Occupy movement in 2012. Can you share your thoughts about the path forward for the global and national Occupy movements leading up to and coming away from the Olympia Solidarity Social Forum?

Kerri: I am also watching to see what Occupy is going to do next. One area I am interested in helping with is networking and skill-building. I always tell people that as activists we have a "toolbox" and the more skills and experiences you can put in there, the more you can use

on your campaigns. The campaign you are working on might require strategic thinking and tactics, street corner demonstrations, press releases, hosting a forum, filming a video, lobbying your elected officials, and fundraising. Many people in our community know these skills. How do we teach and learn from each other?

Lee: I personally was struck by the unique opportunities for global solidarity and understanding which the movement provides. By focusing on the economic situation and the tremendous odds stacked against the lower classes, not only in the United States but around the world, we as a movement have the potential to truly threaten the transnational corporations and their allies in government on a scale never before seen. Overcoming traditional barriers to understanding, such as nationalism, can allow for a new sense of unity and common purpose to spread to every nation. We cannot be the 99% of Americans who want to maintain our incredibly decadent lifestyles at the expense of billions of other people. Instead, we must accompany and learn from the 99% of the world's population which has suffered for far too long under conditions which have been imposed to the West's great benefit.

Recognizing the privilege inherent in being an "American" does not mean taking on a crushing burden of guilt, but rather provides an opportunity to challenge and overcome our preconceived notions of American superiority. 99% of the global population is and must continue to be the focus of Occupy, or else we will become too focused on our own challenges at the expense of those very people who are showing us the way.

Mike: One thing that was apparent to me over the course of the weekend was the extent to which a large group of individuals and organizations made big commitments of time and energy to make this event successful. The support stretched across many organizations, including the Washington State Labor Council—AFL-CIO, and Temple Beth Hatfiloh, which provided space and

services. Local groups like the Thurston County Progressive Network (TC Pro-Net) and national organizations like the Fellowship of Reconciliation clearly decided to show their solidarity with the organizers of this event and the Occupy movement. Who am I forgetting?

Kerri: The OSSF 2012 event took a lot of organizing. Bruce knows an amazing amount of people. He invited workshop presenters and Occupy members from all over the country. Many wonderful people in this community just stepped up and helped. Tracy, Monica and all the kitchen staff fed people for two days. I can't say enough about how grateful I am that TC Pro-Net volunteered to handle registration. Other groups that I know jumped in to help were Media Island, Occupy Olympia Finance, Media and Merchandise Committees. And that's just a start.

Mike: Right, it's an impressive community. I know that Food Not Bombs was in for the whole weekend and we got great support from local businesses like Meconi's Italian Subs, The Bread Peddler and the Olympia Food Co-op.

Lee: The Occupy Solidarity Social Forum relied on many organizations, such as those listed above, to be as successful as it was. More importantly, however, was the role played by everyone who showed up. Volunteers were in abundance, as this was an Occupy Solidarity Social Forum

and we know how to get things done. The willingness of everyone to chip in and fill needed gaps reflected the nature of this movement and its "leaderless" structure. While some people, for a variety of reasons, may appear to "be in charge" or to have "made this event happen," it really was the result of the combined efforts of hundreds of people who worked together to pull off such a successful event, as well as the Occupy movement in general. This was especially visible as problems were discovered and just as quickly worked out by folks who were not involved in the actual "organizing" of this event. Almost everyone accepted such things as par for the course and, rather than pointing fingers or angrily storming out, made the best of it with a smile. My heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who participated, because it truly would not have happened without everyone's tremendous efforts. I think we all have contributed to something far bigger than we imagine and hope that the amazing energy and perseverance Occupy has tapped into will only grow.

Hey, we are out of space and time for the March issue of Works in Progress. We will be back with more thoughts about the Forum and the future of the Occupy movement in the April edition of WIP. We expect to have Mary Spokane join us in the April piece with her insights about the movement.



California Secretary of State leaves party's candidates left off June 5 primary ballot list

SACRAMENTO – February 6, the Secretary of State's (SOS) office omitted two of the four Presidential candidates on the Peace and Freedom Party's primary ballot – and the independent party is demanding to know why.

Peace and Freedom Party State Chairperson C T Weber was unable to get an explanation when he went to the Secretary of State's Sacramento office the next morning. He reported that officials in the office refused to divulge what criteria Bowen used to make her choices, who was present at the meeting, where the criteria were developed, and whether Bowen herself was present at the meeting.

California election officials on February 23 finally explain that Peta Lindsay was omitted because she is not yet 35-years-old and is therefore not eligible to run for presidential office. However, the SOS has not explained why Stephen Durham was omitted. Durham, the presidential nominee of the Freedom Socialist Party that is not ballot-qualified in California. He is seeking the presidential nomination of the Peace & Freedom Party,

which is ballot-qualified. There is no allegation that Durham doesn't meet the constitutional qualifications, yet the Secretary of State won't print his name on the PFP ballot either.

Weber cites Elections Code sections that specify how presidential primary candidates are supposed to be selected by the Secretary of State, and suggests that code sections covering other parties may have improperly been applied to the Peace and Freedom Party candidates.

"No Secretary of State has ever overruled our party's report listing our primary candidates," says Weber, "until this mistaken decision by Secretary Bowen." He also cites a failure by the Secretary of State to consult party county chairs, as specifically required in the Elections Code, and accuses Bowen of failing to consider as required by law the letter submitted to her by Weber on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party State Executive Committee that listed all four candidates for inclusion.

From the Freedom and Peace Party, and the Ballot Access News.

Stonewall Youth and Queer Rock Camp present Queer Adult Rock Camp

Queer Adult Rock Camp (QARC) is a weekend day camp that will be held in Seattle on March 23, 24, and 25 2012, serves as a fundraiser for Queer Rock Camp (QRC). This is QARC's first year! It will be a 3-day musical experience bringing queers and allies 21 and older together to build community, have fun and rock out! Through instrument instruction, songwriting, band practice, and empowering workshops, QARC aims to combat all types of oppression, promote queer visibility and provide a non-judgmental space for adults to experiment with music. Campers from all backgrounds, and age groups 21 and over are encouraged to attend and have a good time.

All proceeds from QARC will cover the costs of tuition for youth to attend Queer Rock Camp in the Summer 2012


session. If you don't already know: QRC is a music camp for LGBTQIA youth and allies in Olympia. Through instrument instruction, band practice, and workshops QRC aims to empower youth by building confidence, fostering, and strengthening peer alliances and dismantling gender binaries. QRC aspires to promote queer visibility in music through LGBTQIA and allied instructors, mentors, and visiting performers.

Please mark the dates for QARC on your calendar, March 23, 24 and 25, 2012.

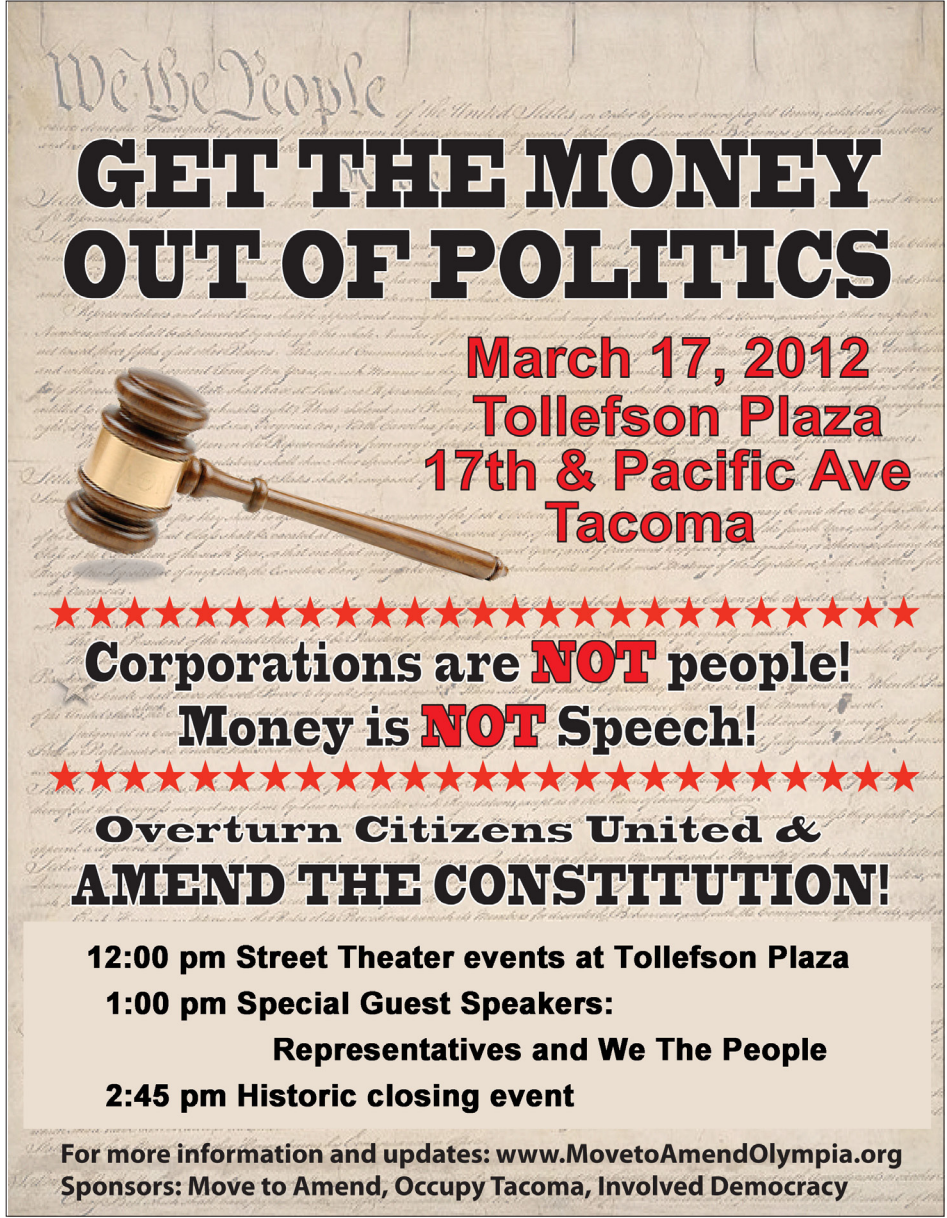
QARC will be held at Reel Grrrls- 1409 21st Avenue, Seattle WA 98122

Visit our website for more information or to fill out Camper and Volunteer applications: www.queerrockcamp.org Or get in touch via email! queerrockcamp@gmail.com





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



GET THE MONEY OUT OF POLITICS

March 17, 2012

Tollefson Plaza

17th & Pacific Ave

Tacoma

Corporations are NOT people!

Money is NOT Speech!

Overturn Citizens United & AMEND THE CONSTITUTION!

12:00 pm Street Theater events at Tollefson Plaza

1:00 pm Special Guest Speakers:

Representatives and We The People

2:45 pm Historic closing event

For more information and updates: www.MovetoAmendOlympia.org

Sponsors: Move to Amend, Occupy Tacoma, Involved Democracy

WIP Announcements

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

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 1-4 PM
First United Methodist Church
224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

There will be signs inside the main entrance directing you to the meeting place.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. <http://www.lastwordbooks.org>

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Eloquent Jazz Latin Escapes with Momenti Rubati
Live Jazz every Monday, 7 pm
The Royal Lounge
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

This special gathering of music lovers meets together to experience the magic and excitement of the Momenti Rubati. Live music unites a community together for festive enjoyment and social fun. We invite you to meet with us, make new friends and relax to the beautiful sounds of the Momenti Rubati. 705-0760 No charge.

“Around Thurston County”
Thurston County Television (TCTV) Channel 22
Mondays, 6:30PM, Fridays, 5:00PM
Locally produced civil affairs show with a progressive perspective.
Info: Patrickbabbineau@comcast.net

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int’l / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int’l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/ other countries. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22 - TCTV

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don’t have cable TV, you can watch over 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation’s recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Volunteer at Books to Prisoners
Sundays: 2-5 pm (woman or trans only)
Mondays: 5-8 pm (everyone welcome).
Sixth and Thomas in Southwest Olympia (look for sign)

Books to Prisoners is a 100% volunteer-run, nonprofit organization. We couldn’t provide any of the services we do without the generous support from our wonderful team of volunteers! As an organization, we *always* welcome new volunteers. As a volunteer with Books to Prisoners, you can become as much or as little involved as you would like. Also, you can begin volunteering immediately. There are no training sessions required. Simply show up to volunteer during our regularly-scheduled hours of operation, and we’ll happily train you as we go.

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays, 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that can not be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

An organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 or Imosqueda@comcast.net

“The Veterans Hour,” locally produced by Veterans for Peace
Thurston County TV (TCTV) - Ch. 22
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9-10 pm

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

“Parallel University”
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints.
Contact: parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a network of women committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We have a food garden! If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved. Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses’ volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. <http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org> 754-4085

Community Special Events

Sacred Economics - The Short Film
Thursday, March 1, 3:00 - 3:30pm
On the Internet

You’ve read the book - now see the upcoming short film! The short will be published on the website <http://sacred-economics.com/film/> and simultaneously on more sites.

Followed by a LIVE Q&A with Charles Eisenstein and director Ian MacKenzie.

Directed by Ian MacKenzie (The Revolution Is Love), and co-produced by Velcrow Ripper (Occupy Love) and Gregg Hill, this brand new short film shares Charles’ most important ideas from his book Sacred Economics.

With stunning animation from Brian Duffy and Adam Giangregorio, and the evocative music of Chris Zabriskie, this short film will inspire, catalyze, and accelerate the shift of money in the age of transition.

P.O.W.E.R. Potluck
Monday, March 5th
Potluck 5:30-6 pm, Presentation 6-8 pm
Darby’s Café, 211 5th Ave. SE, Olympia

From the moment you find out you are pregnant and throughout your pregnancy and birth, you have choices and you have the right to give birth the way you want, no matter who you are. Come and share what you know and learn more about the resources that are available in this community so that everyone can welcome their children to the world in the way that they want.

For more information, contact Sfirah at POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) at (360) 352-9716 or at poweroutletplugin@gmail.com

Childcare provided by the Olympia Childcare Collective · wheelchair accessible

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, March 11, 4 pm
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls addresses issues of immigration in our community. Immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people.
Call 943-8642 for more information.

Don’t Fight Israel’s War
Anti-War Demonstation
Friday, March 16, Noon until midnight
Outside the gates of Lewis-McChord

Demonstration against the next war in the Middle East on the ninth anniversary of death of Rachel Corrie.

Rachel Corrie was a peace activist from Olympia, Washington run over by an Israeli army bulldozer on March 16, 2003 as she stood in front of a Palestinian home Israel intended to demolish.
For more info: pnyxpericles@gmail.com

Joe Baque Trio with Dennis Hastings
Saturday, March 17, 9:30 pm-midnight
Waterstreet Cafe, Olympia

For reservations or information call 709-9090.

Olympia Food Co-op Conversation
Open Space Community Meeting, Stage 3
Saturday, March 24, 9 am - 4pm
The Olympia Center

This is the large scale Co-op community Open Space Meeting, entire Co-op membership is welcome with pre-registration.

The Olympia Food Co-op has grown and evolved to meet the needs of our membership, yet it’s been many years since our organization came together to decide upon our collective future.

As the Co-op expands to better serve our community, it is time to check in with the membership, staff, and the board to under-

stand where best to put our energy and focus, and to build mechanisms for increased communication organization-wide, in order to foster unity and strength as a food co-op.

You must register to participate. You can do it by coming into either the East or Westside store to fill out a handbill, or take the survey here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YPNRWFX>

For questions and special accommodations for the events, or to volunteer, please email the Member Relations Committee: coopconversation@olympiafood.coop
Childcare and food provided!

Nat’l Occupation of Washington, DC
Friday, March 30, 2012
9:00am until 12:00pm
National Mall
15th St and Constitution Ave, NW

Join us for a national occupation of Washington, DC as the occupations unite for an American Spring.

Begin setting up the encampment on March 30th. The first General Assembly will be held on Sunday, April 1 at 6 pm. Direct actions will begin on Monday, April 2. We will demonstrate the failure of the Democrats and Republicans in Congress to represent the views of the majority of people, the Supreme Court for allowing the Constitution to be perverted and for ignoring the rule of law, and the Chamber of Commerce and lobbyists on K St for dominating the political process in favor of the 1% at the expense of the 99%.

We seek to end corporate rule and place human needs before corporate greed.
OccupyWashingtonDC.org

HANFORD:
North America’s Fukushima
Sunday, April 15, Noon until 3 pm
John Dam Plaza
Richland, Washington



OCCUPY MAY DAY - GENERAL STRIKE
Tuesday, May 1, Midnight until 11:30 pm
Global, 99 Occupy the World

GENERAL STRIKE CALLED
NO WORK - NO SCHOOL - NO SHOPPING
NO BANKING - NO TRADING

Start planning *now* for a Global Strike. The goal is to shut down commerce worldwide and show the 1% we will not be taken for granted, we will not be silenced, and *we will not move* until our grievances are redressed:

Migrant/immigrant rights
Economic, social, and environmental justice
Labor rights
Peace with justice
Civil liberties: end to police state
Housing, education, and health care as human rights
Women’s rights and gender equity
TAKE TO THE STREETS

Public Power— At the crossroads

At some point in our lives, we’ve each procrastinated. Maybe it was in junior high school as you worked up the courage to ask that special girl or boy to dance... and then watched as someone else stepped up, spoke the question that was still turning repeatedly in your mind, and danced off into the night. Or perhaps it was ten years later when, after years of renting, you and your new spouse searched far and wide for just the right first home—only to find it and lose it again because you hesitated before submitting your offer (“Something must be wrong with it; it’s just too good to be true.”)

It may be something entirely different from either of these—what could have been and never... the road not taken... still bugs you. Today we must avoid that same procrastination.

Years from now, as we look back to 2012, we will see that we were at a major crossroad in Thurston County history. It was the year we were able to decide whether we stayed on the path of getting our electricity from a for-profit electric monopoly or we began the change to publicly supplied, citizen-owned non-profit electricity.

There are actually two crossroads in front of us, the second only reachable if we take the first: collecting the signatures of 10,733 registered voters living in Thurston County. Crossing that threshold (or, to continue the analogy, taking that road) gives all voters in the county the choice this November: “Shall Public Utility District No 1 of Thurston County construct or acquire electric facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric power?” The question you may have is, “Why would we want to do that?”

The answer: it would allow us to gradually transition from renters to owners. In Thurston we rent the electrical system from Puget Sound Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, part of a privately-held Aus-

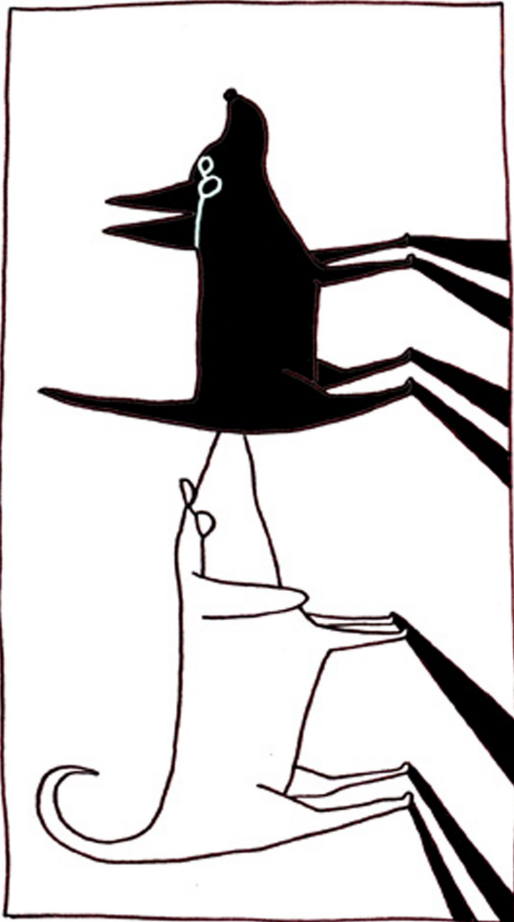
We’re still waiting for a few good WIPsters

Works In Progress is always looking for a few *positive*, mature (not necessarily referring to age), responsible, and self-motivated progressives—preferably *WIPreaders*—who can work co-operatively and *respectfully* with others. We currently are in need of an advertising representative.

All those interested, please contact WIP at oly-wip@gmail.com.



MITCH AND STIFFY DISCUSSING THE
UPCOMING ELECTION.



MR. FISH

tralian mega-corporation. Most of the counties around us—Grays Harbor, Mason, Lewis, Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific, Clallum, and parts of Pierce—have Public Power. They own their electrical system and have for many years. Jefferson County will soon own theirs. This means that instead of paying PSE what we pay, these counties put the money back into maintaining and upgrading their system to make it more reliable, more efficient, and responsible to its citizens.

Over the decades, we in Thurston have paid PSE and its predecessors a *huge guaranteed profit* (currently over 10%) that they use to pay off their debt on the electrical system and reward their shareholders. The counties with Public Power charge their customers between 10% and 58% less than PSE charges us *and* pay for the system—now owned by the citizens, each of whom is a shareholder. It’s time to stop paying high profits to the absentee landlord and start paying ourselves. Sign the petition to put the choice on November’s ballot and then take our power back by voting YES for Public Power.

Go to www.ThurstonPublicPower.org for more information and to contact us.

—John Pearce

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.

