



WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 23, No. 1

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.

May 2012

Reclaiming our economy and livelihoods through the creation of cooperatives

Co-op education and workshop sessions to be held in Downtown Olympia

John Baldridge

In the context of recurring economic crises at home and around the world, an increasing number of people seek an alternative to the unstable, uncertain and, ultimately, amoral system that many call “late-stage capitalism.” What economic alternatives could provide for community needs in a more stable, just, and equitable manner? Are there any *practical* alternatives in the “here and now” that we could embrace locally, which would genuinely help move our society toward greater economic justice and sustainability for the many, rather than the increasingly few? The search for answers, in recent years, has led to a new resurgence of interest in democratic economic models, including cooperatives.

Most people in Olympia know that cooperative businesses are part of our community. The venerable Oly Food Co-op has, perhaps, the highest profile, along with Group Health Cooperative, which provides healthcare services to thousands. But fewer people know about the numerous other cooperatives in our region, and even those few might be hard pressed to explain exactly what cooperatives are and how they function, much less how and why people start one. The organizers of the June 1-2, 2012 conference, *Creating Cooperatives: Reclaiming Our Economy & Livelihood*, hope to change that through a series of workshops, seminars, and presentations, aimed at raising public awareness of the multiple ways cooperatives can serve community needs and simultaneously promote a socially just economy. The conference will also help galvanize support for the development of new cooperatives locally.

This year’s conference on cooperatives in Olympia reflects the growing importance of cooperative businesses and organizations worldwide, a phenomenon which has prompted the United Nations to declare 2012 the “International Year of Cooperatives.” Not only do cooperatives tend to weather economic crises more successfully than traditional businesses, co-ops also help to ensure that the economic

benefits of business circulate in the local communities they serve because they are owned and operated by the people who work for them. And unlike traditional local businesses, where a private owner can hire or fire people at will, cooperatives bring democracy

Cooperatives help ensure the economic benefits of business circulate in the local communities because they are owned and operated by the people who work for them.

into the workplace, allowing for innovative democratic solutions to economic challenges, which go beyond “downsizing” or “selling out.” The June 1-2 conference will be a

public forum, open to all, for learning how cooperatives already serve our communities and how the cooperative model can be supported and expanded in our region and beyond.

In keeping with the spirit of the “International Year of Cooperatives,” the 2012 conference in Olympia will be hosting guests from the Venezuelan cooperative, CECOSOLA, which provides social services the people in

its region. Over the past decade, the Venezuelan cooperative sector has grown enormously, bringing goods, services, and jobs to hundreds of thousands, in areas from agriculture to medicine, from grocery stores to public schools and print shops. The CECOSOLA members will

be offering workshops and seminars around the cooperative experience in Venezuela, the challenges they have faced, and the solutions they have discovered. Bi-lingual interpreters will

translate during these sessions, so that all may be included. The conference organizers see this as an additional opportunity to build solidarity between Spanish and English speaking people in our local communities.

Creating Cooperatives: Reclaiming Our Economy & Livelihood will take place on June 1-2, 2012 in Olympia and will include multiple opportunities to learn about and participate in local cooperative development. Co-op education and workshop sessions will be held at multiple locations in Downtown Olympia and nearby locations. These sessions will include: “Co-ops 101” (an introduction to cooperatives), “Creating a Culture of Consensus,” “Cooperative Movement in Venezuela,” and “Conflict in a Democratic Workplace,” just to name a few. Look for fliers and posters in Downtown Olympia in the next month for further information, and visit <http://www.one-world.org/olycoop2012>

► **COOPERATIVES**, continued on page 8

Superior Court Judge Lisa Sutton reverses city’s 7-Eleven project

Dan Leahy

Over the last year, more than two hundred Westside neighbors actively organized to defeat a 7-Eleven at Harrison and Division and they won.

Neighbors sent in comments to the City, letters to the editor and raised \$8,000 to cover expenses. They attended two community meetings, two hearing examiner sessions, three superior court hearings and three strategy sessions at Vic’s. They passed resolutions at neighborhood associations, signed advertisements for newspapers and signed letters to land owner Narozonick, “developer” Michael Jenkins and the Board of South Sound Bank. Thirteen locally owned Westside businesses gave the City Council notice that they opposed this 7-Eleven.

Neighbors researched the City’s municipal code and engineering standards, designed flyers, made protest signs, corrected and edited

testimony, held “Danger” signs at Harrison and Division, took pictures, created new words, made music, suffered through too many emails, ate pizza and drank coffee at Vic’s, signed petitions (1200), went to the Intercity Transit Board, testified before the City Council and stood up in solidarity

Hopefully, the City Council will begin to work toward a mutually beneficial use of the vacant lot at Harrison and Division instead of spending money on legal actions against the Westside neighborhood and local businesses.

for those who spoke. They wrote to the Liquor Control Board, created a 711 website, wrote poetry translated letters into Japanese, called and wrote the Mayor and City Council members, wrote, re-wrote, and submitted legal brief after legal brief, and never quit. After a two hour hearing on Thursday morning, April 26, Superior Court Judge Lisa Sutton signed the order. The last

paragraph of the order says:

“Therefore, being fully apprised, in response to the Land Use Petition of Daniel B. Leahy the Court hereby ORDERS that the Land Use Decisions of the City of Olympia approving the 7-Eleven project proposed by MAJ Development Corporation for 1919 Harrison Avenue are hereby REVERSED based on the record and for the reasons set forth in the Court’s April 12, 2012 Corrected Letter Opinion.”

Over a year ago (April 8, 2011), neighbors asked their neighbor, landowner Narozonick, to meet with them to discuss a project that would be mutually beneficial to him and to the Westside neighborhood. He didn’t answer their letter, but their offer still stands. Talking to his own neighbors will be a lot cheaper for Mr. Narozonick than his law firm besides being more effective.

Over a year ago (April 8, 2011), one hundred and six neighbors asked Michael A. Jenkins (MAJ) to withdraw

► **REVERSAL**, continued on page 4

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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

Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Governing Tool

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Anti-Discrimination Clause

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

Back Issues

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

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Ferdinand Bridges	Sandia Slaby
Stan Butler	Sylvia Smith
Marylea Coday	Jeff Sowers
Izzy Ceccanti	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Tinker Belle
Marissa Luck	Berd Whitlock
Maggie Reardon	Scott Yoos
Creighton Rose	and room for more
Fred Schug	

On the front cover —
Star Courier
Photographer: Robert Whitlock

Submission Deadline:
May 18
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
May 26
(Be there for the first read!)

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Skills to save lives of women in rural Nicaragua

Dorothy Granada

The true heroes of the health care system in Nicaragua are the traditional midwives, health brigadistas, curanderos, raiceros, and other health workers in communities who respond to the pain, fevers, diarrheas, and accidents of their neighbors. These health workers live far from health facilities in remote areas with poor roads and often impassable rivers. Some are women and men who learned skills from mothers, grandmothers, and other elders. Others were youth who learned to read and write in the Literacy Campaign of the just-birthered revolution in 1979 and 1980 and emerged as leaders of their communities.

These healers are peasants who, along with their neighbors, struggle to have a piece of land to grow beans and corn for their families. They are very skilled in the art of living; with a machete as their only tool, they build homes of a packed-earth floor, bamboo or rough-wood walls water-proofed with mud and stones and a roof of leaf. Elders teach them the use of plants, clay and water that relieve pain, bleeding, swelling, fever and cure snake-bite as well as relieve anxiety, insomnia and sadness.

Since the Sandinista Government was re-elected in 2007, the Ministry of Health has recognized and validated the traditional healers, providing occasional trainings to midwives and other rural healers across the country. While these are important steps in the right direction, my own experiences from 20 years of working with traditional midwives and other rural health workers, confirm the classroom is far different from the reality in rural communities. If new information and skills in prevention of illness and deaths are to be incorporated in the daily work of rural midwives/healers, a way of being closer to the traditional healers must be found.

The Pilot Project Skills to Save Lives attempts to reduce death and illness of women and girls in rural Nicaragua

by introducing the role of the Mentor. The mentors are nurses working out of health centers corresponding to the distant communities of the midwives/health care workers in the Pilot Project area of Matagalpa. They will work very closely and respectfully with 100 traditional midwife healers to offer more skill-sets to save lives, focusing on the reproductive life of women and girls. These trainings will happen in both urban and rural settings. This work will broaden the understanding of women's health beyond the reproductive processes to include but not be limited to: women's and children's rights, violence in the family; nonviolent conflict resolution; prevention of illness including healthy environment and adequate diet; understanding gender roles and sexuality; prevention of unwanted pregnancy.

I am back in the US to share my excitement and raise funds for this life-saving project. We need to purchase supplies



and basic medical equipment, educational materials, pay for transportation to and from trainings as well as food for week-long intensive sessions, and individual accompaniment in the rural communities.

I am optimistic this is the critical health care model to be replicated across the country. Traditional healers everywhere must be honored for their wisdom and commitment to their communities. They also deserve to have access to additional life-saving skillsets and information, as well as broader medical support networks. Please join me on May 15 for an update on changing Nicaragua and this project.

Dorothy Granada, longtime peace activist and solidarity worker in Nicaragua.

My journey to peace work

Dorothy Granada

In 1978 I came to a realization of nonviolence. I was directed to the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Portland, Oregon and there my journey began in earnest. We tried to remove the death penalty in Oregon, close the Trojan Nuclear Plant, and, no less, stop the nuclear arms race. In 1997 F.O.R. awarded me the International Pfeffer Peace Prize

During the Fast for Life in 1983 we mobilized with others over the world to bring about a nuclear weapons freeze. Before the 40-day fast ended, we fasters were visited by a small group of folks, the newly born Witness for Peace, who were preparing to place themselves, unarmed, between the Nicaraguan people and the Contra, the surrogate army of the United States. This audacious idea appealed to Charles Gray, my partner, and me.

Early in 1985, while traveling to Nicaragua to join other volunteers in Witness

for Peace, our Quaker friend, David Hart-sough, asked us to stop in Guatemala City, to lend a hand to another friend, Fr. Alain Richard, with Peace Brigades International (PBI), who was providing support to the Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (Families of the Disappeared). Thus, began the accompaniment program of PBI with the Families of the Disappeared who were themselves being threatened, kidnapped, tortured, and killed by paramilitary death squads.

A valuable lesson I learned in Guatemala was that one could be absolutely terrified and still carry on with the task at hand. The lesson served me well as we lived and worked in the war zones of Nicaragua.

Following Witness for Peace and creating and traveling with the beautiful photo – poetry exhibit Que Sos Nicaragua? (What are You, Nicaragua?), I turned my attention to the health needs of Nicaraguan campesinas.

In 1990, I was invited to join a cooperative of war-displaced campesinas in Mulukuku in rural Nicaragua who were working to rebuild their lives and community. With the support of friends in the States and allies in Nicaragua, we developed a health service for women and their families. Last year, after 20 years, I left the cooperative.

My present work is to contribute to reducing maternal and infant mortality in the mountains of northern Nicaragua. We are working with traditional midwives and other community health workers by providing essential supplies, training and accompaniment.

Though the health system in Nicaragua has improved greatly since 1997, women continue to die in childbirth. These women live in conditions of poverty far from health facilities; have little awareness of the importance of medical care during pregnancy and birthing. These women probably have male partners and other family members who make decisions for the women and who themselves place no importance on health care for a process that had always seemed natural and with few problems. Some of those who die are barely out of childhood. When women or girls die it is “God’s will”.

Others and I, with the support of the Women’s Empowerment Network, are assisting the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health in the Department of Matagalpa in a Pilot Project in Skills to Save Lives to train and accompany 100 traditional midwives and other community health workers who live and work in the most remote areas of the Department where women are at high risk of illness and death during pregnancy and birthing.



WOMEN’S HEALTH CARE IN RURAL NICARAGUA

Please join Dorothy Granada of

Destrezas para Salvar Vidas (Skills to Save Lives)

A program in support of poor women in Rural Nicaragua

Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 pm
Traditions—Fair Trade Cafe
5th & Water Street in Olympia

Dorothy Granada has worked for 25 years providing health care to women in rural Nicaragua. Her work has been recognized both nationally and internationally. Among the awards received:

- International Pfeffer Peace Prize of the Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Dr. Hugo Behm Award of the Central American Institute of international Health
- Best Practices in Community Health of the World Health Council
- The Order of Rubén Darío of the Government of Nicaragua

The health care system in Nicaragua has improved greatly, yet poor women continue to die as a result of preventable illness during pregnancy and giving birth. We assist those at the forefront of rural health care: Traditional Midwives and Community Health Workers. D. Granada

For more information, contact Jean Eberhardt 943-8642

Sponsored by: The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association, Olympia FOR, and the Women's Empowerment Network (www.nicahealth.)

Star Courier: the new boys in town

WIP News Service

WIP: *It's very exciting for Olympia to finally have a bicycle courier service. How did Star Courier come into existence?*

Star Courier: We all agree that having bicycle delivery services in Olympia is exciting. It's also a logical fit for a community that supports sustainability and a local economy. The idea has been percolating in [each of] our minds for years. The thing that has made it a reality is having the right team of professional riders to make it happen.

WIP: *Why a courier service? It's hard, sometimes dangerous work. You have to put up with traffic (and drivers), and the weather. According to your facebook page, hail hurts.*

Star Courier: All of us are year-round bike commuters, the challenges of riding bikes in traffic and all kinds of weather is something we're up to. Starting a business of riding bikes has been the real challenge.

WIP: *Who makes up Star Courier?*

Star Courier: The Star Courier team consists of three experienced and passionate bikers. Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Jon Kempe, a bike tour enthusiast, has lived in Olympia since 2002. He has worked in bike shops since 2006 and has been secretly plotting a courier business in Olympia for several years.

German Diaz has seven years of bicycle delivery experience in Chicago, with four of those years including food delivery. He also has the experience of running a small business for five years.

Mark Davis is Star's youngest and fastest courier, who brings loads of enthusiasm, bike handling, and wrenching experience to the table.

WIP: *How does Star Courier represent your beliefs/values regarding the environment, technology, and social justice issues?*

Star Courier: We believe bicycles are an appropriate technology for efficiently providing people with transportation needs. We feel a demand, not just from markets, to reduce our local economy's dependency on oil. Star Courier is seeking to do this in the best way possible by forming a democratic worker co-op.



Star Courier: Mark Davis, Jon Kempe, and German Diaz. Photo: Robert Whitlock

WIP: *So, in the future, you would consider including electric cars or other forms alternative technology?*

Star Courier: No. We like bikes.

WIP: *If an avid bicyclist wanted to join your "democratic worker co-op" what would she need to do?*

Star Courier: Be patient, Star Courier is a work in progress and isn't considering growth at this time. It is something we expect to do down the road, we're just not there yet. Give us a call, like us on Facebook, or shoot us an email and we'll make sure they know when the time comes.

WIP: *What niche does Star Courier fill in our community and what kind of people/groups/businesses need /use your services?*

Star Courier: Breaking ground as a courier company in a small city like Olympia is very different than operating in a major city. Our company offers a wide

range of services from distributing the WIP and putting up flyers to delivering Community Supported Agriculture shares and wholesale baked goods, Star Courier does it all. Our business is expanding rapidly and as we grow, so do the services we offer. Soon Star will be a 7 day a week operation offering lunch-time deli deliveries and same day on call deliveries for whatever our clients (you) dream up.

WIP: *How soon?*

Star Courier: Lunches will begin for Kit-zel's Krazy Delicious Delicatessen by the time this goes to print. Broader same

day deliveries don't have definite start date as of yet.

WIP: *Are your courier services very expensive?*

Star Courier: Our services range in prices based on distance, scheduling, and size/weight. Compared to other cities our prices are actually quite low and we work with our clients to find solutions that work with their budgets.

To request service, Star Courier may be contacted at olystarcourier@gmail.com or 360-556-0535.

Works In Progress needs your assistance

Works In Progress (WIP) is in need of a volunteer(s) to manage its current website. While the current website (olywip.org) is woefully outdated and difficult for visitors to utilize, it's all we have. We have been unable to place the

April issue online and now this issue, too. If anyone has the skills needed to help us out, even if it would be on a temporary basis, we would be very grateful.

Please contact WIP at olywip@gmail.com.

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NATO to meet in Chicago

European and American members to plan future strategies and objectives

Nigel Weiss

American and European leaders are gathering this month, on May 20 and 21, for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit to plan the military alliance’s strategic objectives for the next several years. The summit, to take place in Chicago, will address a number of issues, including planning its support for the Karzai government in Afghanistan after coalition forces withdraw in 2014, and further implementing its controversial anti-ballistic missile defense systems in Eastern Europe. Of course, world leaders and dignitaries will also spend a certain amount of time giving accolades to NATO’s accomplishments in promoting peace and democracy in the world, and praising the new sense of security and solidarity shared among an increasing world consensus.

NATO leaders will probably not be discussing ways in which the organization is used for global force projection, acquiring resources, or selectively utilizing human rights as a premise for enacting a US-EU political-economic agenda. They are likely to ignore the atrocities committed in Afghanistan this year which, just like the ones that were allowed to go on in occupied Iraq, underscore the dehumanization of violent occupation. They can also be expected to overlook the fact that the people of post-Gaddafi Libya are in many places subject to the same sort of arbitrary, inhumane rule as they were before NATO’s successful campaign to end Gaddafi’s 42-year rule, and that the fractured nation is instead currently under the control of hundreds of unelected and unaccountable militias. And they

are sure to downplay the provocativeness toward Russia of the anti-ballistic missile defense systems which are coming online in several former Soviet-bloc states, and which, in spite of NATO’s official position for disarmament, make the prospects of nuclear dismantlement increasingly distant.

Originally formed to allow the US and the Western European states to militarily oppose the Soviet Union, NATO recast its mission following the end of the Cold War to encompass a world military pres-

ence. Looking beyond the borders of its member states, NATO operates under a doctrine which promotes political stability and human rights globally, with a view toward pre-empting threats before they emerge. However, NATO’s purposed human rights agenda does not materialize. On the contrary, NATO’s operations

Afghanistan

NATO’s most significant challenge for the immediate future is how to create a successful strategy for Afghanistan. The NATO and NATO-allied countries, including the United States, are seeking

any way to remove their forces from the country without handing power directly back to the Taliban. As it stands, though, the situation is bleak. Most of the country outside Afghanistan’s largest cities is controlled by the Taliban or tribal militias, and Afghan security forces are woefully

under trained and under equipped for fighting back anti-government militias and maintaining political control over the country once international forces have left. The NATO drawdown agreement, set to remove alliance forces by 2014, requires a UN mediation team to help build the terms of a settlement

between the country’s most powerful political factions. Critically, this structured settlement plan will likely require the cooperation of Afghanistan’s neighbors, Iran and Pakistan, in order to be successful. NATO’s attempts at executing its exit plan could therefore reveal itself to be problematic, given the icy relations between those two countries and the US-EU bloc. Without the assistance in particular of Pakistan, whose porous border with Afghanistan is a channel for the movement of anti-government militants, any post-2014 arrangement is likely to be impotent. Pakistan cancelled its involvement in talks to plan the future of Afghan security at Bonn, Germany, after NATO planes bombed two Pakistani military border posts in November, killing 24 Pakistani soldiers.

NATO’s efforts to stabilize Afghanistan are connected to the United States’ pursuance of its New Silk Road Strategy, a plan for the establishment of interconnected markets and the development of transportation and energy infrastructure in the Central Asian states. The abundance of Central Asian natural resources -- gold, gas, oil, and uranium -- make the region increasingly valuable as the costs of extraction increase elsewhere and demand from China and India continues to rise. The Trans-Afghanistan oil and gas pipeline, originally proposed in the 90s, has failed to materialize because of Afghanistan’s historically notorious obstinacy to imperialist subjugation, but may still be in the works in the near future, provided that an agreement

▶ NATO, continued on page 5

NATO’s operations have consistently served to exacerbate human rights violations and further terrorize and displace civilian populations, while positioning the United States and Europe favorably.

ence. Looking beyond the borders of its member states, NATO operates under a doctrine which promotes political stability and human rights globally, with a view toward pre-empting threats before they emerge. However, NATO’s purposed human rights agenda does not materialize. On the contrary, NATO’s operations

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Rocky Anderson coming to Olympia

Chris Stegman

Rocky Anderson, presidential candidate and co-founder of the Justice Party USA, will be coming to Olympia May 5 with a 5 pm speech at Traditions Café. Come early at 4:30 to meet and talk to Rocky beforehand. A catered meal will follow at a separate location at 6:30 pm for those who wish to contribute to the campaign after the talk and have a more intimate conversation with Rocky about his candidacy and the Justice Party.

Rocky Anderson, two term mayor of Salt Lake City and founder of High Road to Human Rights, has been called the ‘Greenest Mayor’ of any major US city and was the only US mayor (of a major city) to call for and campaign for impeaching George W. Bush for war crimes.

As Obama put it after his inauguration “We need to move forward, not backwards.” Thus absolving the war criminals in the Bush Administration who remain untouched for mass murder and deceptively taking us to war in both countries. Of course, Obama and (most of) the Democrats in Congress have continued funding and fighting both of Bush’s illegal and immoral wars/occupations) and, thus, are in the same league as Bush in that regards, in spite of the drawdown in Iraq and plans for drawdown in Afghanistan.

Rocky is dedicated to building a viable third party. He chose not to run as a Green Party (GP) candidate because he doesn’t consider the GPUS a viable third party. Whether the Justice Party becomes viable will depend on a number of factors, many of which the GP has had to deal with over the last 12-20 years, primarily two party domination of the political arena and efforts to block any competition from a third party, whether left or right, labeling all efforts as ‘spoilers’ as a means of playing the fear card to voters who, as planned, have nowhere else to go.

Due to complicated and restrictive ballot access laws in the US --- each

state has different laws, some easy, most hard to comply with---third parties have always had a hard time getting on the ballot in all states. Nader and the GP came closest in 2000, getting on the ballot in 43 states. He got on the ballot in fewer states in 2004 and 2008 running as an independent---a sure road to failure for the radical or progressive independent left, especially at the national level.

That’s what makes Rocky different than Nader. He’s not only running on a party ticket but he helped create the party and is dedicated to building it as the party of the progressive left in this country. Plus he was an elected public official and outspoken human rights advocate.

Will those who consider themselves progressive and independent get involved and make this their own party? Or will they sit on the sidelines and loose

another golden opportunity to forge a truly progressive national party that represents their interests and values? Time will tell.

American progressives largely remain tethered to the Democratic Party because of a lack of a viable choice which, when the opportunity presents itself, most refuse to support!

Over 30,000 people have signed on as supporters of Rocky Anderson’s campaign to date and we’re just getting organized as a party. Rocky supporters are seeking ballot access in at least 30 states, including some so-called ‘swing states’ that will be important for Obama to win the election to a second term.

Obama’s dismal record: Here’s a really good site to go to for the full picture: www.stpetesforpeace.org

I include samples from the site: Obama’s Offshore Oil Plan a disaster for wildlife. New Obama Foreclosure Plan helps banks at taxpay-



ers’ expense. In same week that \$30 billion weapons deal with Saudi Arabia is finalized, Pentagon reaches 3.5 billion weapons deal with United Arab Emirates. Palestine wins UNESCO membership. . .and Obama withdraws. As troops pull out of Iraq, Obama plans more combat forces elsewhere in the Middle East. US troop deaths in Afghan War under Obama now twice that under Bush. U.S. Obama pushes NAFTA style Trade Policy despite 2008 promise. There are 13 pages single

spaced of such policies over the last 3 years. Check them out to get the full picture. Still inclined to support Obama and the Democrats neo-liberal imperialist foreign policies?

Come hear Rocky Anderson’s scathing critique of Obama and the Democrats and explanations of why we radical independent progressives need to forge our own political party. You don’t wanna miss this!

To get involved in the ballot access signature drive May 5 and May 12 in Olympia or to reserve invitation for dinner with Rocky after the talk contact Chris Stegman at cstegman007@gmail.com

Dr. Jill Stein at the Urban Onion Friday, May 4



Dr. Jill Stein, Green Party presidential candidate, will be in Olympia on Friday, May 4, for a reception on the ground floor of the Urban Onion, 116 Legion Way in Olympia, from 3 to 6 PM.


Dr. Stein’s platform includes firm support for universal health care and a Green New Deal. Recent press releases include: Stein calls Obama “win-win” Colombia trade agreement a “lose-lose” for workers; Stein remains committed to Greens, steers clear of Americans Elect; Stein calls for elimination of racist violence. She asks us to sign a First Amendment Pledge of Non-Cooperation with Police Repression. Go to her website at <http://www.jillstein.org/> for more.

Traditions Café May 5, 4:30 pm

the Democrats neo-liberal imperialist foreign policies?

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► **NATO** cont. from page 4
with Pakistan can be forged.

And yet, none of these considerations seem to take any account the human costs of this geopolitical power jockeying. After more than ten years, the mission in Afghanistan has left the country highly unstable and decentralized, and for many civilian populations, security in the country has worsened since the occupation began. The NATO campaign actually exacerbated one of the conditions it was supposed to eliminate, namely the terrorizing of civilians and systematizing of human rights violations.

This year has revealed a fresh assortment of revolting atrocities, but these are only the most recent in a list of offenses far too long to innumerate entirely. US planes have over the years repeatedly killed young Afghan children in air strikes. NATO forces have, as Gen. Stanley McChrystal himself has described, killed an “amazing number” of people in checkpoint shootings. Meanwhile, the US State Department is still apologizing for a series of photographs released last month by the Los Angeles Times showing US soldiers posing next to the mangled bodies of dead Afghans, and the burning of copies of the Quran in February triggered outraged demonstrations around the country in which dozens were shot dead by NATO soldiers and Afghan security forces. A US sergeant based in Fort Lewis is currently on trial for a nighttime shooting rampage that left 17 Afghans dead in their homes, including 9 children. The UN reported that 2011 was the deadliest year for Afghan civilians since 2006, with casualties up 8% from 2010. And the CIA’s virtually indiscriminate drone strikes in eastern Afghanistan and Waziristan continue to kill scores of ‘suspected militants,’ working off of only the scantiest evidence to determine their targets. The brutal acts committed under the NATO occupation could be listed to fill the entirety of this newspaper issue. Unfortunately, none of this is particularly unusual for the Western powers, as evinced in the most recent adventure in Libya.

Libya

In the first weeks of NATO’s campaign in Libya, President Obama warned of the threat of “a bloodbath,” and said that “if we waited one more day, Benghazi — a city nearly the size of Charlotte (N.C.) — could suffer a massacre.” In the lead up to the NATO attack, the word genocide became common parlance to justify military involvement in Libya, and the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1973, authorizing the use of force to protect civilians by any means necessary, short of putting troops on the ground. Aside from the fact that numerous commentators have pointed out that when Gaddafi vowed to “have no mercy,” he was referring to rebel fighters, not to civilians, human rights groups also report that there is no evidence of systematic killing of civilians by pro-Gaddafi forces having taken place during the war.

Instead, as the International Criminal Court pursues Gaddafi-era leadership, Western leaders in NATO are called to account only by human rights groups, when it comes to its failure to investigate what could be hundreds of excess civilian deaths caused by the air campaign. There is also credible evidence that entire boatloads of Libyan refugees were allowed to starve in the middle of the Mediterranean when their ships ran out of fuel, even though NATO forces had the opportunity to save them. With the pretext of protecting civilians, the NATO campaign precipitated a war directed at regime change, which resulted in as many as 30,000 killed in the fighting.

There was a peace plan, in fact, created by the pan-African organization, the African Union, which would have initiated a multilateral cease fire, allowed for the entry of humanitarian aid, and initiated talks between rebel leadership and the Gaddafi government. But rebel leaders rejected it because it didn’t require Qaddafi to first step down, even though it was a settlement that Gaddafi was said to be willing to accept. Western leaders also rejected any terms of a cease fire, un-

► **NATO**, continued on page 8



Dan Leahy and his West Olympia neighbors at Vic’s celebrating their victory against the city of Olympia and 7-Eleven. Photo: Benji Friedman

► **REVERSAL**, cont. from page 1
his proposed 7-Eleven project. He could have saved a lot of money if he had heeded their advice. If he continues to mess with the Westside of Olympia, they are going to cost him a lot more money.

Over a year ago, (April 8, 2011) 13 Westside local businesses sent a letter to Mayor and City Council stating their opposition to the proposed 7-Eleven and asking the Council to “meet the desires of local businesses and the people who live in our neighborhood.” Maybe the Council will now expand their notion of where the viable “downtown” actually is.

The City Council will hopefully stop spending money on legal actions against the Westside neighborhood and local businesses and begin to work toward a mutually beneficial use of the vacant lot at Harrison and Division. This means, for starters, no Motion for Reconsideration and no appeal to the Court of Appeals. If the legal contest is over, now is time for Mayor Buxbaum to hold his promised meeting with the Westside neighborhood.

The Westside community has proven to be great community planners. They replaced a proposed Jack in the Box with a local bank, South Sound. They replaced a proposed freeway entrance at the south end of Decatur SW with a bike path and poetry post. They replaced four vacant parcels with components of a walking park. Now, with any luck, they can replace a proposed 7-Eleven with another beneficial community oriented development.

Neighbors want to thank Judge Lisa Sutton for listening to them, allowing time to make their argument and for her decision. She was literally the first person in authority who showed Westside neighbors any respect. The Mayor and Council refused to hear what they were saying, i.e., that their own staff was not enforcing the City’s own code and standards. The planning staff from Associate Planner Kroydan Chalem on down refused to hear what they were

saying and instead focused solely on the needs of the “developer.” The City’s Hearing Examiner, Thomas Bjorgen, was contemptuous, arrogant, dismissive, and, as Judge Sutton found, dead wrong on all the issues they brought to Superior Court.

With Judge Sutton’s decision, the Westside community has given Mayor Buxbaum and City Council members an incredible gift, an opportunity to tell the staff they must enforce the Code and standards, an opportunity to have the staff enforce the Comprehensive Plan.

Finally, Westside neighbors had a pro bono Attorney, Robert Shirley, who was backed up by Ms. Bethany Weidner, a former President of the Westside

Neighborhood Association. Together these two were and are a formidable force of logic, research, hard work and commitment to the viability of Olympia’s neighborhoods. MAJ’s attorney, Narozonick’s attorney and the City’s attorney didn’t know what hit them. Bob and Bethany out worked them, out thought them, out researched them and out foxed all of them.

It is possible that the City, or MAJ or Mr. Narozonick will file a Motion for Reconsideration by May 7 before Judge Sutton or file an appeal before the Court of Appeals by May 28. If this happens, the Westside will be waiting for them.

Dan Leahy is a founding member of the Decatur Raiders. 🔥



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“Film is not a crime”— five years later

A look back at the Tacoma Port protests

Wally Cuddeford

In March 2007, Port Militarization Resistance held its first protests at the Port of Tacoma against Stryker shipments headed to the war in Iraq. Attending those protests was Joseph La Sac, a videographer and student at University of Puget Sound. On the afternoon of Tuesday, March 6, Joe was approached by two police officers who told him he could not approach the protest with his camera on, and ordered him to turn it off (something police are not allowed to do). At one point, one officer threatened to break the camera if Joe did not turn it off; then he grapped the camera and tried to turn it off himself. The entire exchange was caught on videotape.

Soon afterward, Joe posted a truncated edition of his recording on YouTube. “Film is Not a Crime” became one of several compelling videos from the Port of Tacoma protests to go viral, establishing PMR as one of the first anti-war protests in the U.S. to successfully use YouTube to bring its own message (and its own evidence of police misconduct) to the world.

I recently interviewed Joe about these events, and about recent developments in police brutality caught on tape.

Wally: So first, what got you involved in PMR and the Port of Tacoma protests in the first place?

Joe: I wanted to make a video showing the shipments against the backdrop of the 2007 surge operations. Before that

driving was lecturing me. He was telling me how much the law didn’t matter. He said he didn’t give a fuck about judges or the law, literally that’s what he said. His point to me was that I shouldn’t make it a legal matter, or file complaints to the ACLU or whoever, because it wouldn’t make a difference. For an argument he wasn’t convincing me at all. I sat there and listened because he was telling it like it is. I don’t care about the law either but for different reasons. The police really don’t give a fuck about the law, and the law only serves capitalist interests when they are appealing to the law. Justice is to the advantage of the stronger, is what Thrasymachus said to Socrates. I think too many people believe the myth that Socrates puts out, that in some way justice is objective, and that there’s a right and a wrong. Or somehow the pure “form” of legal justice doesn’t involve corruption or violence. That’s the myth. I don’t think you need to lie to say what you really mean to say.

Wally: How long did it take you to turn your recording into a YouTube video?

Joe: Around 6 hours after the recording. After the interaction I went to a meeting of mostly student activists about the port demos and told people what had happened.

Wally: Tell us about the response you got from your video, both from the mainstream media and from the Tacoma police.

Joe: RR

Anderson drew a comic of me as a sailorboy getting my camera kicked over by a pig. There was an interview of me on King 5 which aired on Northwest Cable News the whole weekend leading up to the bigger demonstrations at the port. Friends in Bellingham called to say they saw me on TV. After the police started shooting tear gas the atmosphere was more tense. I kept sending riot videos to news stations and websites. A media worker from King 5 watched some of the footage and said, “It looks like a war zone down there.”

Wally: If I remember correctly, Tacoma PD said they would “investigate” the incident, and perhaps punish the officer involved. Did anything at all happen?

Joe: No, nothing happened. If something happened I wasn’t notified. They PR’d the situation to make it appear they were investigating. There was no investigation. But a week after the port demonstrations a TPD public relations officer, along with two sergeants, met with mediators at the University of Puget Sound. TPD requested that students who were at the demos participate in the

meeting in order to potentially establish some trust between the police and the students.

About five or six of us showed up. It wasn’t their approach that rubbed us the wrong way though. I went to the meeting to rub their lies in their faces. I think they should feel like shit for being the police. I was making videos against them all week. But one of the reasons they gave for shooting tear gas

During a port demo in August of 2008 the police had a lot of pre-set traps everywhere. If you stumbled into one of them, you’d spend the night in jail.

was that some demonstrators identified themselves as anarchists. So “freedom of speech” is bullshit too. I remember we stopped them to explain, “So you’re saying you’re going to profile someone based on their politics...” You basically have to repeat it back to them, but even then they didn’t get it.

Wally: Was there any legal action to come from this?

Joe: I was in school and didn’t have time to take legal action. Looking back I could have. The police were communicating back and forth to Homeland Security about all sorts of people in Tacoma and Olympia, and other people have successfully sued for those things. They had cameras aimed at peoples’ houses, paid informants, and followed peoples’ cars to pull them over and search their vehicles.

Wally: Now, you went on to film events at the rest of the Port of Tacoma protests in ‘07. Tell us a bit about the things you witnessed and filmed there.

Joe: The police said they issued a trespass warrant for me, that if I came back to the port I’d be arrested, even if I was in the public right of way. But they were letting me go that time with a warning. I went back later that week and filmed the cops firing tear gas onto people who sat down in an intersection. I filmed them taking away backpacks and searching them arbitrarily. Then the police lied on the local news station, making up stories about things that didn’t happen, making it sound like they were in danger and retaliated. They said people threw pieces of road blockades at the police, which never happened. I made videos showing how that never happened, and later questioned the TPD spokesperson on camera and found out he wasn’t even there when it happened, never read any reports, and repeated that lie based on internal police rumors.

Wally: After going public with “Film is Not a Crime,” and filming other events at PMR protests, were you ever singled out by the police at any of these protests?

Joe: During a port demo in August of 2008 I was arrested for trespassing in an open, empty parking lot with no “no trespassing” signs. The police had a lot of pre-set traps everywhere that if you stumbled into them you’d get to spend the night in jail.

Wally: We’re approaching the 20th anniversary of the Rodney King riots. It’s been said that the only thing unusual about the Rodney King beating was that it was caught on tape. Indeed, it’s undeniable that there have been countless Oscar Grants, and probably a few Scott Olsens, who we may know nothing about, whose only

difference was that their attackers were never caught on video. At the same time as police brutality is becoming more and more documented, it’s becoming a bigger and bigger topic in the public sphere, as these events become harder to dismiss. What are your thoughts in this change of consciousness?

Joe: It’s misleading to think there needs to be video evidence in order to prove police did something. Police are always covering their own tracks. It’s completely corrupt. They answer to no one except for the streets, and now “these streets have eyes” (eyes and video cameras too sometimes), and the streets fight back too.

We know police serve the same function in every society. By sharing the videos and experiences in the public sphere, yes, people are not only aware of it. They also know other people have been through the same exact things and feel they are not

alone. The police who beat Rodney King were let off the hook even though it was caught on video. That was a signal. Every time people call attention to the police and the police are let off the hook, there’s a big smoke signal over that city. That’s an alarm going off. The alarm says they’ve gone too far, and now the heat turns up on them. The police are unnecessary. They make our lives worse. I can see that pretty clearly. These institutions were created to destroy us, repossess whatever we have, leave us with nothing, and put people in prisons to rot for the rest of their lives.

Wally: A year ago, there was a story out of Miami where police shot and killed someone, and then confiscated everyone’s cell phones and deleted the video. But the video got out because someone hid their memory card under their tongue. There have been other advancements in technology which make it harder for police to suppress amateur video. Have you been keeping up on these kinds of new technologies available to the amateur videographer?

Joe: That was pretty slick of them: putting their memory card under the tongue. It’s very good to have a backup I think. MP3 recorders aren’t new but they’re pretty fun and you could record the cops when they start lecturing about Plato and Socrates.

Wally: Finally, rather than address the root causes of police brutality, many politicians have sought to simply criminalize the witnesses by making it illegal to film or publish film of police brutality. What are your thoughts on this?

Joe: Police never want to be on video. The government never wants to be challenged. Illinois raised ‘filming the police’ to a felony this year. A few days ago a federal law passed making it illegal to demonstrate if the Secret Service has jurisdiction in an area, so people can’t demonstrate if a political official is near. This system always wants to control narratives and create the vantage points for you. So they want to control their own image. It shows why they exist, to control perspectives. They want your perspective of them, the perspective you have of yourself, and your perspective of the world. They show you their roles for everything in the world, from their perspective. So yeah the media repeat word-for-word what the police say. The media are the police too. It’s symbiotic between them, because they complement each other as a business relationship, in service of the same system. And of course the media and police don’t want you to show a perspective unlike their own.

Wally: Any final comments on this subject?

Joe: Destroy what destroys you, dawg.

Wally Cuddeford is a longtime resident of Olympia and member of the social justice community.



I was making videos about technology and society.

Wally: The evening those two officers harassed you, was that the first evening you brought your video camera?

Joe: I heard about the shipments first from friends. I went to the port by myself to film and yeah it was the first time I went during the shipments, and I didn’t think there would be any problem filming since the local TV news had video of it already too.

Wally: So tell us what happened, starting with the moment they approached you.

Joe: I was on foot and the police told me to get to the other side of a checkpoint barricade in the opposite direction I came from. This was an open public street—no sign that it was closed and no “no trespassing” signs. But the police wouldn’t let me go back and retrace my steps even if I was going to leave. They wanted me to walk into a trap, by having me cross the barricade. It was absurd. I kept the camera rolling and asked questions. Then I was in the back of the cop car with my hands cuffed. The video of it wasn’t shortened. That happened in about a minute or less. I could have added a video of me talking about it instead of using text but it was quicker to edit and post online with text.

Wally: Was there anything they said after the detainment...

Joe: They drove me to the 11th St. Bridge where I was supposed to go home from. The whole way there the cop



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The Scott Yoos trial is scheduled for August 13

Janine Unsoeld

The Thurston County Superior Court trial date for Scott Yoos, an Olympia citizen accused of a felony assault against a police officer, has been scheduled for August 13.

Attorney Larry Hildes represented Yoos at the hearing held on Wednesday, April 18. Hildes took the Yoos case in February, and told Judge Carol Murphy that he needed more time to review his client's information. Citing his existing workload and a recent vacation, Hildes said he had been unrealistic about the file he inherited from Yoos' previous attorney and needed more time to gather information for the case. The judge issued an order of continuance.

Hildes submitted to the court a lengthy list of discovery requests, which includes disclosure of all police reports and logs related to the arrest, a map of the patrol area for the officer initially responding to the incident, and copies of all training materials for the police department on how to deal with deaf, hearing impaired and mute individuals, and disabilities of any kind.

Yoos, who pronounces his last name like "Yose" as in "Yosemite" (National Park), is mute and typically uses a white board and marker or a pen and paper to communicate with other individuals. He can hear, and also uses sign language.

Before the hearing began, Yoos wrote a message to this reporter, saying, "...I'm hopeful and grateful that Larry and Karen (his wife) drove clear down from Bellingham." About the new trial date, Yoos wrote, "We're doing it several months in the future so that we have ample time to present motions."

During the hearing's time frame in which several other cases were heard before Yoos' case, prisoners in bright orange jumpsuits, tightly shackled with handcuffs around the hands and chains around their waists and feet, shuffled forward to the podium with their attorneys and were greeted and questioned by the judge about their cases. One prisoner wore a grey t-shirt that read, "Thurston County Sheriff's Office Work Crew Inmate."

Yoos, who is free and wore regular clothes, communicated with his attorney using a white board and blue marker and frequently used a rag stuffed in his left side pocket to erase his messages.

The case against Yoos

According to police records, Yoos was initially cited for criminal trespass and obstructing justice on June 1, 2011 at 2302 Fourth Avenue, Olympia, at 2341 hours. The property is the site of Twister Donuts.

The case originally was to be heard in the municipal court of the city of Olympia.

In his police report, Officer Randy Wilson writes that he saw Yoos enter the

parking lot and go towards the Dumpsters and a fence by Curtis lumberyard.

"By the time I entered the lot, Yoos was behind the dumpster. Yoos tried to leave and I physically had to stop him. I learned he used sign language, so I assumed he was deaf. I began to communicate via notepad. I wrote down he was being investigated for criminal trespass. Yoos got agitated and refused to ID himself. While writing with him, he tried to leave on his bicycle at least 3 times. We tried to get him off his bicycle and he resisted. He was taken down to the ground and handcuffed. I later learned from Officer Watkins that on 8/10 Yoos had been trespassed from the property by Officer Hincichs. See C&I."

Copies of Officer Wilson's and Yoos' handwritten questions and answers to each other include: Wilson's - "Do you have ID?" and "Write your name and birthday down" and Yoos' - "What have I done wrong?" and "I threw away a bag, is that illegal? You'd rather I littered?"

According to the police report, Yoos is 5'9 and weighs 155 pounds. Police reports detail the incident and actions by the four Olympia police officers who re-

It's distressing that Scott was assaulted by anyone, especially those entrusted with public safety, and that his sign language was interpreted as a sign of aggression.

sponded to the scene, Officers S. Costello, Jason Watkins, and Randy Wilson and Sgt. Paul Johnson.

Officer Costello's report indicates that Yoos was "using sign language in a way that looked like he may hit one of us. He was slapping his hands and motioning wildly at us. I summoned Officer J. Watkins via police radio because I know he can communicate using American Sign Language."

Officer Costello's report goes on to explain that use of force was used to take away Yoos' bicycle and take Yoos to the ground: "I laid the bicycle down and noted that Officer Wilson was trying to take Yoos to the ground. He'd become resistive at that point. As I got clear of the bicycle Officer Wilson was trying to use an arm bar technique to get him to the ground. As he was going to the ground I grabbed his right wrist area. Officer Wilson secured his left arm and I grasped his right wrist. Yoos was rolling on the ground and was still resisting us. I used my right knee on his neck and applied pressure, keeping him on the ground. Officer Wilson was able to secure Yoos in his handcuffs."

Officer Watkins' report states that he knows American Sign Language, "...but I am only conversational and not certified as an interpreter or anything else." He describes helping Officer Costello with standing Yoos up and subduing Yoos when he continued to resist the officers.

The Watkins report reads, in part: "While Officer Costello was searching



Scott Yoos, center, stands outside the Thurston County courthouse with supporters prior to his pre-trial hearing. Photo: Janine Unsoeld

Yoos I maintained downward pressure (sic) with my right arm along the upper portion of Yoos' torso in order to keep

him in the bent position and a position of disadvantage because he had been actively resisting. Yoos tried standing straight up a couple of times but I was able to maintain control of him. Yoos was screaming but not saying anything while he was being searched...."

Watkins later writes, "Yoos was placed into a temporary cell in preparation for booking and I re-contacted him there....I asked Yoos if he could hear and using only sign language he told me he was hard of hearing and in 1984, he suffered a head injury that made it so he was mute. Yoos told me he signed using English sign language rather than American Sign Language which is what I'm familiar with but we were still able to communicate....After I had cleared the Jail I was later called back by Corrections Officer Johnson."

When I arrived Yoos had been released and was just outside of the Jail's parking lot. I was told Yoos needed clarification regarding he had to go to court services tomorrow at 0830 hours, to obtain a court date and that is what I explained to him again using both my voice and sign language."

Report by Sgt. Paul Johnson

According to a report, City of Olympia Sgt. Paul Johnson is the one who accuses Yoos of kicking him. His

report is dated June 27, 2011. The incident occurred on June 1, 2011. In part, his report reads, "Officer Costello transitioned to a gooseneck counter joint technique and applied pressure. Yoos at this point lunged toward me lifting his foot impacting my left thigh. The impact pushed me back at which point Yoos using the same foot kicked the headlight of a nearby patrol car attempting to break it. I advised the officers I was fine and suggested taking Yoos to the hood of patrol car. Yoos' upper torso was then forced down onto the hood of the vehicle and was re-secured in handcuffs." According to the report, Yoos was then transported to the Olympia police department for processing, booked, and released.

As a result of Johnson's report, Yoos' case was bumped up to the Superior Court of Washington in Thurston County. In a document dated August 8, 2011, Yoos was charged with three counts: assault in the third degree, a Class C felony; criminal trespass in the second degree, a misdemeanor; and resisting arrest, also a misdemeanor.

Yoos' supporters speak out

In Wednesday, friends and supporters of Yoos met at the courthouse prior to the hearing to express their support for Yoos. About a dozen went into the courtroom with Yoos to witness his pre-trial hearing.

Yoos supporter John Newman said, "Being charged with assault at taxpayer's

► SCOTT YOOS, continued on page 8

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► **NATO**, cont. from page 5

der the auspices of wanting “to see not words but actions” from Gaddafi’s forces, meaning that the only acceptable terms would be Gaddafi’s unilateral cease fire – tantamount to surrender. Neither the rebels, under the Transitional National Council, or NATO were really interested in ending the conflict, except through bloody victory.

Many have noted the UN Security Council’s puzzling choice of Libya, of all places for an international force to intervene. During the three days of demonstrations in Benghazi before armed groups began to form in Libya, government forces fired into crowds with live ammunition on multiple occasions, massacring nearly forty. However, nearly that many were killed in the streets and jails by Bahraini government forces during the same month that Western powers were preparing the offensive in Libya, yet little mention was made by world leaders, much less was there talk of an intervention. Bahrain, as the host of the US 5th fleet naval base, is of course an important ally to the US.

And in Syria, Assad’s forces shot and killed hundreds of people in the first month of anti-government demonstrations before the US imposed economic sanctions. While Russia has since blocked the prospect of military intervention, rhetoric toward the embattled Syrian regime in the West was for months remarkably muted. In contrast, the condemnation of Gaddafi began almost as soon as the fighting started, and the Western members of the UN Security Council pushed through approval to attack Libya by the first month of fighting.

None of this should be construed as a defense of the Gaddafi regime, whose crimes are well documented. But as Human Rights Watch and other groups have confirmed, rebel forces which control large parts of the country are implicated in the same sorts of arbitrary arrests and summary executions as Gaddafi, with little sign of being reined in. The dominant media narrative frequently obscures this reality, which bolsters the view of the NATO campaign as a humanitarian operation.

As it turns out, Gaddafi, in addition to being a dictator, was also an economic nationalist and pan-Africanist, and contributed probably more than any other African leader to the creation of an integrated African political-economic bloc. Under Gaddafi, Libya invested billions of dollars into African energy and communications infrastructure, and facilitated development in African countries through the Libya Africa Investment Portfolio, including \$375 million in Uganda alone. Gaddafi was also the driving force behind the creation and funding of the African Union, whose economic initiatives, such as the African Monetary Fund, in the next decade will rival the ability of Western trade and finance to dominate African markets.

New information exposed by WikiLeaks indicates some level of US concern toward the nationalist approach Qaddafi took to Libyan oil and gas resources. According to the leaked cable, Gaddafi said in a 2006 speech that “oil companies are controlled by foreigners who have made millions from them -- now, Libyans must take their place to profit from this money.” The cable goes on to warn of changes under Gaddafi to “Libyanize” the economy in several key sectors,” including mandating preferential hiring of Libyan workers and middle managers, and requiring “most foreign companies to form joint ventures with Libyan companies in order to operate in the country.”

Statements by Gaddafi suggest he was aware of the precariousness of his position. Days after the UN imposed economic sanctions against Libya, Gaddafi launched a tirade against Western pow-

ers and Western corporations, declaring that “we do not trust their firms – they took part in the conspiracy against us.” He continued, “We do not believe the West any longer, that is why we invite Russian, Chinese and Indian companies to invest in Libya’s oil and construction spheres.”

In September, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in an interview that it would be “fair and logical” for French companies to benefit from France’s role in Gaddafi’s outser. Key oil ports were the first to be taken by the rebel forces, rather than political capitals, and exports were resumed from rebel-controlled ports before the close of even the first month of NATO bombing.

Libya is home to the largest proven oil reserves in Africa, and according to the US Energy Information Administration, the country is still thought to be underexplored. The NATO campaign may not have quelled the violence, but it did ensure that it would be American and European companies which will benefit from Libya’s oil, not Libyan ones, and certainly not the Chinese or Russians.

In creating an African presence for themselves, the North Atlantic countries were also interested in suppressing the expansion of Chinese influence in the region. In the last decade, China has invested considerably in natural resource infrastructure in dozens of African nations, and provided favorable loans and other financial support in return for preferential resource access. Oil and gas production in Asia is not great enough to satisfy China’s increasing demand, and since Middle East oil is typically allotted to the US and Europe, China has sought to extend its influence into Africa. China’s increasing involvement in Africa is of great concern to the US, according to the right-leaning Heritage Foundation, “not only because it has facilitated Chinese energy and weapons dealings, but also because it is competing with U.S.-African trade.”

When UN Resolution 1973 was passed, over a near-consensus of the African Union to oppose it, the NATO operation quickly came to be seen as a harbinger of renewed interventionism in African affairs, and Libya is sure to become the location of the four-year-old US military branch for Africa – AFRICOM. There is no evidence I’m aware of that the establishment of AFRICOM and subsequent use of force in Libya is directly a result of Gaddafi’s increasingly uncooperative attitude toward Western business, but the immediate scramble by Western companies to snap up oil and gas deals in the aftermath of the war suggests that it was a factor. NATO’s agenda, while falling short of its purported humanitarianism, has been certainly favorable to Western business, and coincides with the expansion of Western political power.

A confrontation in Chicago

Unfortunately, as NATO leaders meet we’re likely to see a showdown in the streets between police and demonstrators. All signs are that the City of Chicago is preparing for a confrontation. For the weekend of the summit, the city is bringing in 500 police from the state patrol, in addition to 600 National Guard troops, and federal police are setting a perimeter around several blocks where Chicago’s federal offices are located. After months of delay, city officials finally issued a parade permit in early April, but at the time of writing, the Secret Service has yet to make public how far from the summit demonstrators will be required to stay. In any case, there is likely to be a large area surrounding McCormick Place, where the summit is meeting, that the city will have essentially locked down. Police will come armed with bean bags guns, tear gas, pepper spray, and sound cannons, and experience says it is almost inevitable that they will be used on unarmed demonstrators, and people will probably be hurt. None-

theless, it is incumbent on Americans of conscience to draw attention to the criminal violence NATO is responsible for. As a tool of American power, the people of the US should have the right to curb the imperialist movements of NATO, or else redirect its resources toward other goals. Instead, leaders will be whisked into Chicago for an agenda most Americans neither understand nor agree with, and the city will be responsible for the unseemly business of silencing those who come out to raise their voices in dissent.

Nigel Weiss is an Olympia activist, and is graduating from Evergreen this spring with a degree in Political Economy. He can be reached at jlneweiss@gmail.com.

► **SCOTT YOOS**, cont. from page 7

expense is unjust. Scott’s been a great local volunteer in the city of Olympia for several nonprofits. I think he was innocent and wanted to go home.”

Aaron Zanthé also expressed support for Yoos. “I’m definitely supporting Scott. I’m a friend and an advocate for people of neurodiversity. He came to a community event I organized. I find his story very moving. I’m well-adjusted to listening to stories of people who face abuse and aren’t capable of defending themselves, and this is reflected in my work. I find it distressing that Scott was assaulted by anyone, especially those entrusted with public safety and that his sign language was interpreted as a sign of aggression.”

After witnessing the hearing, supporter Chris Stegman said, “The whole thing reeks of an unjust system gone awry, a cover up of police misconduct and an overreach of authority and inappropriate detention, the threat of which is what led Scott to try to escape the scene in fear for his safety. How would it feel to the average person to be detained by up to four armed police officers at 11 pm in a dark alley out of public sight, all for throwing some paper napkins in a city of Olympia Dumpster? I’m ready to peacefully riot if this case goes through and he gets convicted of any felony, for resisting arrest, obstruction of officers duties, or whatever. This is a gross miscarriage of justice that it has gone this far without being dismissed.”

An interview with Scott Yoos

After arranging for an interview time and place through text messaging and email, I sat down with Yoos for an in-person, hour long interview today. I asked him about the police reports, showed him specific passages I had questions about, and asked him for his thoughts.

The process was time intensive, as I do not know sign language. I had to be patient and let Yoos write his answers to my questions, and not interrupt him if I thought I knew what he was going to write. A few times, I did interrupt. Sometimes it helped, sometimes it didn’t. Yoos often nodded and laughed if I guessed what he was going to write. When I didn’t guess correctly, Yoos seemed to hide what he was writing until he was finished, then showed me his complete thought. He used two full sized pieces of paper and covered both sides, twisting and turning the pages around, covering the white space.

This is what we were able to accomplish:

I looked at Yoos directly and asked him if he was hard of hearing. He wrote, “Never. I’ve been mute since 1984 due to a severe head injury.”

I referred to Office Watkins’ report where Watkins wrote, “I asked Yoos if he could hear and using only sign language he told me he was hard of hearing and in 1984, he suffered a head injury that made it so he was mute. Yoos told me he signed using English sign language rather than American Sign Language....”

In response, Yoos wrote, “He misinterpreted my sign - I’m most comfortable with S.E.E., not A.S.L.”

Yoos then wrote, “There is really so

► **COOPERATIVES**, cont. from page 1

for updates to the schedule, including locations and times. Please send email inquiries to olycoop2012@one-world.org. We hope that you join us for this unique opportunity to explore and learn about democratic, sustainable economic development.

This conference is a joint effort of the Olympia Food Co-op, the Northwest Cooperative Development Center, The Evergreen State College, the Flaming Eggplant Cooperative, CECOSOLA, and other cooperative partners. The author, John Baldridge, is a member of the faculty at The Evergreen State College and a member of the Olympia Food Co-op.

much to say. I’ve been stewing in this for nearly a traumatic year.”

Yoos pointed out the words Officer Costello used in his report, “He was slapping his hands and motioning wildly at us.” In response to this, Yoos wrote, “I really resent their choice of words. Anything to make me sound crazy and violent. I was merely trying to communicate via sign.”

Yoos also took issue with Officer Costello’s report and the words, “I laid the bicycle down...” In response, Yoos wrote, “He tore my bike from underneath me and threw it to the side.” When I asked Yoos why he and Officer Wilson shared the same notebook, Yoos wrote, “They took my pen.”

When I asked Yoos how long it took for Officer Watkins, who knew sign language, to arrive to the scene and if he helped, Yoos wrote, “By the time he arrived to “help” I was handcuffed.”

Yoos also wrote, “What happened to me that night was entirely undeserved, and too many half-truths and bald faced lies have been told about my behavior, to allow it to remain unchallenged. This is why we need to push for video surveillance of arrests. There needs to be something to “police” the police! It’s a matter of public safety. I believe that video coverage would have entirely vindicated me and would have gotten the O.P.D. (Olympia Police Department) in trouble.”

Yoos also wrote, “I’d like to point out/emphasize that I was merely a bicycle commuter headed home. I was wearing a reflective orange vest and had a red blinking light on the rear of my bike. If I’d been doing something criminal, I wouldn’t have been dressed to be seen!”

Finally, Yoos wrote, “I’m so grateful for your interest! There are so many people and things which I love about this town. A militarized police force and their stormtrooper mentalities is not one of them!”

Yoos also wrote that he has a support group address on Facebook (Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund) and wanted me to include that information in my article:

A legal defense fund has been set up to cover attorney’s fees for Yoos’ defense. Donations can be endorsed to “Scott Yoos - LDF” and walked in or mailed directly to: Scott Yoos – Legal Defense Fund, c/o Washington State Employees Credit Union, 2302 Harrison Ave NW, Ste 201, Olympia, Washington 98502. Donations can also be made online at www.donatepay.org/scottyooos.

Supporters say 100% of the amount donated will go to the Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund.

Supporters have also organized a fundraiser for Yoos on Sunday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Traditions Fair Trade, 300 5th Avenue, in downtown Olympia, for an event with singers, spoken word artists, and musicians. Pie and food will be provided available for donations.

Janine Unsoeld is a longtime activist in SPEECH and editor of Green Pages.

Article originally printed in Janine’s Little Hoollywood at www.janineslittlehollywood.blogspot.com



Thanks to KXXO for their generous support in providing much needed meeting space for WIP to hold its production meetings.

A review of Atlas Shrugged

The unreal world of Ayn Rand

Janet Jordan

Atlas Shrugged, by Ayn Rand, is a thousand-page economics thesis in the form of a novel. It is the book that informed the thinking of Alan Greenspan, Ron Paul (who named his son after the author), and many other free market theorists, who have tried their best to re-form their world on the lines she recommended. Since their efforts have succeeded in re-forming our economy to a remarkable extent, it seems good to understand why they wanted to follow her advice. What was the attraction? The world is not better now that it has been re-formed. Did they just not understand, or was she wrong?

My initial impression of Ayn Rand's world was that it was quite bleak. It always seems to be winter, and the heroes (we can call them the "Real People") always have to slog their way through mudflats of opposition.

It makes sense the Real People would feel outnumbered, because mostly the world is made up of the other kind of people – we can call them "You People." You People are losers. You People only ever think about how to wrinkle money away from Real People, the ones who have earned it through their rigorous and honest thinking and their hard work.

Real People, on the other hand, are amazing. They run successful companies and they are responsible for every aspect of the success: getting together the capital, figuring out the organization, securing board members, managers, and laborers, running day-to-day operations, and creating the scientific breakthroughs for new products. Just imagine Henry Reardon, toiling over his workbench for day after lonely day, inventing a new metal in moments snatched from the heavy responsibility of running a modern metalworks.

In fact, you will have to imagine him, because there's no counterpart in the real world; no one does more than one or at most two of these tasks; a corporation is successful to the extent that it can bring different specialists together. But if you can manage to imagine a person like that, you can sympathize with the deep respect that Ayn Rand (and her followers) have for Real People.

Real People are able to look the truth in the eye and say what they see, regardless of what it might mean to them personally. Thus, they look more attractive than You People, who never say anything direct but only hint at things. When someone points out the obvious implication of their hints, You People get defensive: "I never said that!"

There is a germ of a truth here: it is, I would agree, more attractive to say honestly what you see. I would look up to people who did that. Here is what I would expect such people to say today, in 2012: "If we continue to degrade the environment, pretty soon we won't have a world left to live in, let alone make a profit in. So we'd better not degrade the environment. We'll need a carbon cap, also taxes on carbon; a stronger Clean Air Act . . ." That would be an unflinching statement of the truth, regardless of what it meant to them personally.

Somehow we don't see this happen-

ing, though. Either today's titans of industry are not Real People, or honest clear speech was never a characteristic of Real People. It's hard to know.

You People, on the other hand, mostly bend your efforts towards being out of the room when decisions are made. Someone wants the train to go through the tunnel, even though it's pretty clear everyone in the train will suffocate if they try it, so You People make sure the messenger boy gets stuck with making the decision. The train starts out and stops half-way through. It doesn't matter though, because immediately afterwards, You People send in another train carrying explosives, and end up blowing up both trains and collapsing the tunnel as well; so there's no one around to be blamed after all.

So this is the business behavior of Real People. They have personal lives as well – better personal lives than You

People. As you can imagine, they don't care about the conventions You People set up; they express their love; they have a lot of sex. You can hear their thoughts as all this goes on: It's wonderful to be a Real Person – there is such a lot of Joy.

Actually, you have to take the Joy on faith, since it doesn't seem very joyful as described. There is nobody around except the two lovers – after all, there are so very few Real People – so they seem isolated and lonely, in spite of having each other. They seem to slap each other around a lot, too. But that's

OK. Dagny the Railway Executive treasures the sting on her cheek; it was put there by a Real Person. (You might not recognize this Joy as the happiness it is, but then, you're probably just one of You People, so what do you know.)

The heart of the book, the message, is expressed in a long monologue by John Galt, the mysterious person behind the gradual withdrawal of the Real People. He says that man's mind is the essential characteristic of the man, he has to use it or die, just as a fish has to swim or die. Man's mind seeks whatever causes him to thrive. If you deny that strong and sure impulse (for instance, if you agree to pay your income taxes), you are choosing death over life. Productive work is mankind's happiness.

Once again, there is a germ of truth in the thought. If everyone in a nation were productively engaged, all doing work of their choice, using their minds and being successful, that would be a pretty picture. The nation would thrive along with the people. We might not need many rules and regulations in that case, no re-distribution of income, and possibly not much government either.

Back in the real world, though, the problem is not that people don't want to work. It's that the only work that thrives nowadays is the work of running a corporation, a mature corporation, one that you inherited. That's the kind of work you have to find. Mature corporations are good at cutting back on the jobs they offer (that's "efficiency"), so you won't find a good job there unless you are the owner or the CEO.

Sometimes You People try to found new companies, and those do provide jobs for ordinary people like yourselves,

but start-ups tend not to thrive, since the new corporations are squeezed out by the big ones with the deep pockets.

Inside the corporation, the owner has feudal powers over the employees; that's how capitalism works. Traditionally, the owner takes 50% of the value provided by the worker, before any of it is passed on to him in the form of wages. (Incidentally, Barbara Ehrenreich spent a couple of months working low-wage jobs and discovered there were no jobs

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.

for brainless people; all required, and got, a full measure of mental activity from their occupants.) As big corporations get bigger, and new opportunities fewer, the worker has less and less to say about what his-or-her pay will be, and the check gets smaller, no matter how much diligence and talent the worker brings to the job. That's just capitalism.

Re-distributive taxes, such as they are (they are not a big part of our budget), try to compensate for this dynamic. They do not represent the mooching of the brainless loser off the successful producer. They are an effort to bring some measure of fairness into a system rigged against the worker.

The idea of the tax-free society has come back full force today. It is featured in *Thrive* and other new-age films. It's attractive: if the economy is set up right, it shouldn't be such a big deal to keep it going; it shouldn't take an army of regulators and police. But the lesson of the 1930's and now again in the early 21st century is that the system is not set up right. Fixing it will be hard; capitalism is a system where the winners have not only most of the money, but most of the political power as well. Until we do get it right, we will need something, like re-distributive taxes, to correct for the harmful effects of capitalism.

So John Galt explains to You People why the Real People are gradually withdrawing (he doesn't say where they are going, but it's to Galt's Gulch), and that's the last anyone sees of him or the rest of the Real People. You People try to compensate for a bad system by creating a police state (there's a grain of truth in that one too), but due to general incompetence, you end up blowing up your own cities and all other built environment as well. It's back to horse-drawn carriages for You People.

For the Real People, though, there's a Real Solution: socialism. Ms Rand doesn't call it by that name but consider:

- In Galt's Gulch, there is a local currency in effect. Money from the outside world is not accepted.
- Everyone provides a service; no one asks for more than token payments. The economy insists on those tokens (because gifts are frowned upon), but anyone can afford them. So everyone does what they love best, and everyone receives freely what they need. In other words – "From each according to ability; to each according to need." The Communist slogan.
- In Galt's Gulch, people do not have a job, but rather a packet of jobs. A person might be a tobacco farmer and, on the side,

an inventor, or a philosopher or an entrepreneur. This is the combination recommended by Parecon (participatory economics), a socialist alternative theory.

- In this economy of plenty, nobody has to work more than four hours a day. This is because: a) the work is productive and well planned (no waste); and b) people are paid fairly, even those whose work is the of mothering a family. Again, just like Parecon.

No taxes, of course.

It's funny how similar people's ideas of utopia turn out to be, whether they come from the right or the left. Galt's Gulch is like the socialist utopia in *Looking Backward* (Edward Bellamy), and like the Communist ideal. The primary difference seems to be how utopia is created. In Rand's novel, the best people, the aristocracy, simply leave and create their own place. In other

theories, the utopia evolves out of our current population of You People, stubborn and misguided as they can be. For instance, Communism requires a period of dictatorship – "Dictatorship of the Proletariat." The US apparently requires a prolonged period of battle with tactics like baiting and badmouthing the other side, and beggaring whole sections of the economy if possible. So there's no argument about what the ideal society will look like; the whole problem lies in how to get there.

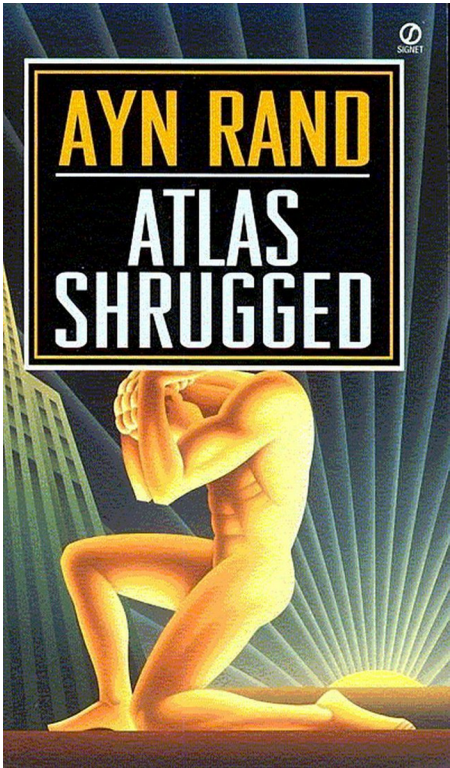
It's a lot easier in Rand's proposal; the capitalism that allowed the inequality to take place is simply left behind. No Taxes works fine in that case. Back in the real world, we have a ways to go before we create utopia, and we can't begin with No Taxes.

Someone should send Alan Greenspan a critique of this book, either from the literary standpoint (how did he mistake the characters in *Atlas Shrugged* for actual real people?) or from an economic standpoint (how did Rand miss the vacuuming up of resources away from real people, delivering them up to the rich?). Maybe the final lesson of the book is the need for more required English courses.

Little steps, but necessary.

And we can't go back to TV after utopia arrives.

Janet Jordan is a resident of Thurston County with ties to the Green Party.



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The Orca Books cat, Henry the Heroic, meets untimely passing

Carol Sipes

I got a call this morning from one of the staff at Orca Books, our local independent bookstore. It was confusing to me when she introduced herself because I couldn't imagine why she was calling. Then she told me the horrible news no cat lover ever wants to hear. Their beloved store cat, Henry, had been killed. Somehow he slipped out the night before, and was probably hit by a passing car. A neighbor found him that morning before the store opened for the day. I could hear the sadness in her voice, but she was able to tell me the news in a way that was both sad and comforting for me.

I was deeply touched that they even thought to call me. It was a comfort even though the news was so hard to hear. I've come to expect kindness

from them. It occurs in every interaction I have in that store, and I stop in frequently. They always seem to have the books I am looking for, or will find them if I'm willing to wait a few days. One

night, when I was at work, one of the Orca staff flagged me down to tell me a book I had been looking for the previous week had come in as a return. That was so thoughtful. It impressed me that he remembered, let alone took the time to tell me while he was shopping for himself. They are all like that, so it hadn't surprised me when they took in a cat who really needed a home.

People know that I love cats. It's more accurate to say that I love some cats. Since I stopped doing cat rescue, I try to ignore every cat I see who might need some loving. But there are cats that, no matter how hard I try to pass them by, get into my heart somehow. Henry was one of those cats for me. I thought he was the cutest little guy.

I loved his story, at least the one I remember. It differs slightly from what Orca Books has posted on their Facebook page. I'm not really sure which one is true or if they are parts of a bigger story, but I love what I remember hearing about him when I volunteered for Feline Friends.

Henry used to live on a farm. I don't know if he was a stray, or a barn cat that

belonged there. One day the barn caught fire. It appears that Henry knew about, or had been caring for, a litter of kittens. They were in the barn when it caught fire. People said he was frantic to get to those kittens, and he ran repeatedly into that burning structure until he had rescued them all. Every one of them survived, thanks to Henry. I don't know who took him to Feline Friends after that, but he came in with fur and whiskers singed from the fire. They nursed him back to health and, when he was ready, put him up for adoption. He was a hero even before he became a public figure.

I didn't know him well, since I only saw him occasionally. It was fun to go into Orca and visit with him before I went on my book search. Part of the fun was just finding him. He could be anywhere in the store. Sometimes, he was right up front, assisting at the desk, or

When the barn caught fire, people said he was frantic to get to those kittens and he ran repeatedly into that burning structure until he had rescued them all.

helping one of his staff buddies check in books. Often he would curl up on a stack of books and take a nap. I often wondered how he kept his balance as he dozed off on that pile of books, or even on top of a display rack. I never saw him fall off. He might be snoozing on one of the many chairs scattered throughout the store, or just walking around checking things out. When it was time for dinner, he would take off toward the back office, his little tummy swinging from side to side as he ran. He was humorous and funny, sweet and teasing, adorable and cute. I'm sure he had a testy side. I just never got to see it.

I never thought he liked me very much because, when he saw me looking for him, he'd take off in the opposite direction. Even when he ran away from me, there was mischief in his eyes, not fear. Over time, he began to tolerate my affection as long as I didn't carry on too long. Lately, he even allowed me to give him a kiss on his head, or scratch his chin. I often saw him lavish much more affection on other shoppers, and it puzzled me as to why I caused him distress. I've often wondered if he remembered me

from Feline Friends, and associated me with the time he spent there. Maybe he thought I would take him back and that bothered him. But I'll never know for sure, and it doesn't really matter. I'm just puzzling over why that cat didn't fall in love with me immediately, as most of them do. I sure did love him.

Most of my life, I have lived with cats. After I fell in love with my first cat, I was hooked for life. They are amazing beings who can give you as much love as you can stand. They also have their own lives to live, but they don't mind entwining theirs with yours. Years ago, a feral cat named Caesar,

decided she wanted to live with me. She made her wishes well known, and I reluctantly took her in, and proceeded to fall in love with her. But my other cats did not like her, and they made her life miserable. She started to have asthma attacks. The attacks were so severe that they became life threatening, and if I hadn't been there to help her, she could have died. Since my vet couldn't find a medical reason for her attacks, I had to look elsewhere for an answer. One day, one of my friends asked, "why don't you ask her what's going on? Get Lisa to come over and talk to her."

I had heard about animal communication from many friends of mine. I knew there was a woman in Olympia (Lisa Holm) who could talk with them, so I called and asked her to do a session with Caesar. What I learned from Caesar saved her life, and opened up my mind to the world of animal communication. I read every book I could find (usually found at Orca Books) about communicating with animals. I invited Lisa over often to have sessions with my cats, and I even took her Animal Communication class to learn how to talk with them directly. I still haven't mastered that skill, but I understand it's harder to talk with your own cats than ones you aren't emotionally tied to. And, if you're wondering, no, Henry would never talk to me. He'd just turn his head away from me and be



silent. That's his right. We have to have permission from them, to talk with a cat.

I've learned some amazing things about cats since I started talking with them. They are sentient beings who are here with life purposes which are similar to our own. Their "limitation" lies in the fact that they are cats and are only able to do cat things. But it's their approach to life and death that has made a difference to me. They live life in the moment, and when they die, they are joyful about the whole trip. After a friend's cat was killed by a speeding car, we asked him what happened. His response was: "oops. I didn't hear it coming." Another one said: "I thought I could outrun the car, but my timing was off." In both of these answers, there was neither sadness nor regret. Usually there's a lot of good humor and fun in the responses. It seems as if they live in the moment in spirit, as well as in life, and there is joy in everything they do.

Another thing I learned from reading about cat beings is that they, as a group, have taken on the task of opening up the hearts of human beings. That's a commitment they've made to help save the planet for everyone. Humans need to develop a more loving connection to the animals, and the environment we all share. Cats do this by being themselves and needling into our hearts so we can't help but love them. That love spreads as we share it with others. I think Henry was a master at this. He was well positioned at Orca Books to touch the lives and hearts of many people, and he did. We know he did his job because our hearts are breaking now. He did it by just being himself. It's that cat thing that is really no limitation at all.

I've always felt that Henry loved the people who cared for him, and loved being in the bookstore. Sometimes lately, when I would sit next to him, as he looked out the big window near the food books, I thought I could see a faraway look in his eyes. Maybe he was thinking about the fields around the barn where he grew up and used to hunt and play. Or maybe he was planning his next escape from the bookstore that was his home now. Maybe he just had wanderlust or he was thinking about his next mouse or people conquest. Maybe he knew it was time to move on. It's hard to know what a cat is thinking unless you ask them. What I do think, and feel, is that when a cat touches so many lives and then moves on to other realms, the best way for us to celebrate his life is to say: "Well done Henry. Well done and thank you."

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Article submitted by Orca Books.



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WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
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Community Special Events

Waziyatawin speaks!
Thursday, May 3, 6:00pm
TESC Lecture Hall 1

Waziyatawin is a Dakota writer, teacher, and activist committed to the development of liberation strategies that will support the recovery of Indigenous ways of being, the reclamation of Indigenous homelands, and the eradication of colonial institutions. Waziyatawin comes from the Pezihutazizi Otunwe (Yellow Medicine Village) in southwestern Minnesota. Waziyatawin currently holds the Indigenous Peoples Research Chair in the Indigenous Governance Program at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

The event will be hosted by The Evergreen State College Native Student Alliance in collaboration with Spring Symposium: "The Occupy Movement: Uprisings at Home and Abroad."

The event will be followed by a panel discussion with "Hip Hop Occupies to Decolonize" @ 730

Spring 2012 grant cycle
Community Sustaining Fund
Friday, May 4 Deadline

Grant criteria and application forms are available at <http://www.oly-wa.us/csf/Resources.php> or by request to <mailto:thurstoncsf@comcast.net>>
thurstoncsf@comcast.net.

Venezuela: Myths and Realities
Friday, May 4th
12pm-2pm
The Evergreen State College
SEM II A1107

Wednesday, May 23rd
7pm-9pm
Traditions Cafe
300 5th Ave SW, Olympia

Evergreen students and faculty who went to Venezuela this winter, will be presenting their experience and learnings. In contrast to the information of the US media, they will explore the shifts taking place in Venezuela towards what Chavez is calling, "Socialism for a 21st Century" and exciting new opportunities for justice and equality in the areas of economics, politics, food sovereignty, media and education. One hour presentation with a Q&A to follow.

Old Growth Poetry Slam
featuring Amy Everhart
Friday, May 4
Lecture Hall 1, Evergreen State College

3:00-4:00 - Performance Poetry Workshop with Amy Everhart

7:00 - Sign-up for open mic and slam

7:30 - Poetry Open Mic

8:30 - Featured Poet Amy Everhart

9:00 - OLD GROWTH POETRY SLAM!!!!

Join the O.G. Poetry Collective and Hip-Hop Congress for a night of explicitly bold, blatant, vulnerable and inspiring poetry with a fantastic poetry open mic, featured performance poet, Amy Everhart, and Evergreen's first ever, or at least first in a really-really-long time POETRY SLAM!!!

Oly Music Awards Solo Performer Showcase
Friday, May 4, 8 pm - midnight

The gig will be at the newly reopened North-ern! Also, we're lucky to have a couple of really great hosts, including: Hannah Boone, and Brittish Nick!

Performers:
AKA
Justin Stang
Kendl Winter
Mothrider
Andras Jones

It's an all-ages show. Cover is \$5.

BRICK's May Day Hoedown!
Saturday, May 5
SPSCC Gym

6 pm -- Grizzle Grizzle Tune Snugglers w/ Paul Silveria, Square Dance Caller

8 pm -- Blackberry Bushes

9 pm -- RVIVR

10 pm -- Titanium Spokestra,

FREE Vic's Pizza and Bearded Lady Cupcakes!

Dr. Jill Stein
Green Party Spring Gathering
Friday, May 5
Labor Temple, Seattle
(2800 1st Ave, between Clay St & Broad St)

Dr. Jill Stein, seeking the Green Party's nomination as presidential candidate, will be present all day at the Spring Gathering of the Green Party of Washington State. There is also a reception and fund raiser in the evening, 7-9 PM, also at the Labor Temple. Go to gp-wa.us for more information.

There is free parking across the street from the Temple.

SoundCareKids
Playback Theatre Performance
Friday, May 11, 7:30 pm
Traditions Cafe, Olympia

This month we will be collaborating with SoundCareKids a support program for families with children who have experienced the death of a significant person in their lives. SoundCare Kids is a program of Providence SoundHome Care and Hospice.

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

Cost: Suggested donation \$5.00-\$10.00 (No one is turned away)

In Solidarity with the Leonard Peltier Walk for Human Rights Northwest Regional March
Saturday, May 19, Olympia

MARCH: 12 NOON; Heritage Park across from Traditions Fair Trade.

RALLY: Washington State Capitol: 1:00 pm

The Leonard Peltier Walk for Human Rights started at Alcatraz Island on Dec. 18 and has been making its way across the land to Washington, DC. There will also be solidarity events across the land to draw attention to the Walk, human rights for all, and clemency for Leonard Peltier.

We in the northwest, like supporters everywhere, have been asked to have our regional marches in solidarity with the Leonard Peltier Human Rights Walk on the weekend it reaches Washington, D.C. Here in the Northwest this regional march will be in Olympia.

The Joe Baque Trio with Lizzy Boyer
Saturday, May 26, 9:30pm - midnight
The Waterstreet Cafe in Olympia

Join master pianist Joe Baque and his trio Cary Black bass, and Michael Olson percussion with singing sensation Lizzy Boyer as they mix your favorite Jazz, Latin and popular tunes with The Waterstreet Cafe's award winning menu.

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

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

Friendly Water For The World First Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction

Sunday, May 20, 4:30 PM
New Bridge Community Church
(812 Central St. SE • Olympia, WA)



Keynote Speaker: Adrien Niyongabo "Clean Water and Reconciliation"

Adrien was born into a world of war and trauma. Neighbors killing neighbors. Homes, schools and businesses destroyed. Children witnessed their parents being killed and parents witnessed the horror of children being killed. Young boys were being kidnapped and forced to torture and kill. Adrien was witness to all of this.

When the genocide in Burundi finally ended trauma had reduced most survivors to a state of shock, fear, mistrust and hate. Seeking a solution in one of the world's poorest nations, in 2003 Adrien co-founded 'Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities' (HROC), now a successful intervention that is transforming and rebuilding entire communities.

HROC has teamed up with 'Friendly Water for the World' to ensure safe and clean water that helps heal families and communities physically while they are also healing mentally and spiritually. Widows and former combatants are being trained in community sanitation and how to build BioSand Water Filters; thus reducing one of the world's highest rates of child mortality, 80% from waterborne diseases. Use of BioSand Filters is improving school attendance and productivity, making it possible for families and communities to work together for the good of all. Clean water has become a redemptive symbol of HROC's larger healing work.

Adrien is a passionate and eloquent speaker about the work he is doing in Burundi.

You don't want to miss his presentation and the exceptional Ethiopian Dinner!

For more information: 360-352-0506 - www.friendlywaterfortheworld.com

TICKETS: \$20

Eat More Veggies This Year!

Like most of us, you probably love your veggies and have good intentions when it comes to eating more. Luckily, if you live in Thurston County, GRuB, an Olympia, WA non-profit, is here to help fill your belly with delicious goodness while supporting a good cause! Here's how:

GRuB Cultivator CSA Share

For 16 weeks from late June to early October, you'll pick up your weekly share (a box of fresh seasonal vegetables, fruit, and herbs as well as a bouquet of seasonal flowers) at the GRuB Farm. The cost is \$550, of which \$250 is a tax-deductible Youth Food Share sponsorship, which enables low-income and struggling youth in GRuB's alternative High School program to bring the fruits of their labor home. These youth tend the farm, harvest for the CSA and are responsible for the high quality of your boxes. To sign up stop by GRuB or download and return our registration from today! For more information, contact GRuB's Farm Manager, Wade Arnold at farm@goodgrub.org or 360-753-5522.

Get or Give a GRuB Garden

When you get a garden from GRuB's Kitchen Garden Project, we also build a matching garden for a local family in need, providing you both with seeds, starts and cover crops, and access to the KGP's gardening workshop series. If you don't need a garden of your own, you can also sponsor one for a low-income family to help GRuB get as many folks as possible growing their own veggies.

GIVE A GARDEN.....\$500

Sponsoring a garden not only puts food on the table, it connects a family in need to workshops and mentoring that help new gardeners succeed.

GIVING GARDEN.....\$1,000

GRuB will come to your home and help you build three raised garden beds and will build a matching garden for a family in need.

GARDEN RAFFLE

The Kitchen Garden Project is raffling a raised bed garden with all the trimmings this Spring! The grand prize includes three raised beds, seeds, starts, and winter cover crops. Tickets are available at the GRuB Farmhouse or contact Kevin at 360-753-5522 or kgp@goodgrub.org to get your tickets today. The drawing will be held on 05/19/2012 at the GRuB Farmhouse. You won't have to be present to win.

The GRuB Neighborhood Market Stand

From June 20 - October 3, GRuB will be selling seasonal veggies, fruits, herbs and flowers each Wednesday at our on-site farm stand at 2016 Elliott Ave NW, Olympia, WA 98502 - EBT/SNAP payments accepted.

"I love the fact that I can take part in helping my community by sending food to our local food bank and educating people in many ways like world hunger. I'm really excited to make raised garden beds for low-income families because I love to help my community as much as possible. I can't say enough to how much I love being here!" - Auto, GRuB School Student

Anna Robinson • Grants & Marketing Coordinator
GRuB • 360-753-5522 • www.goodgrub.org
2016 Elliott Ave NW • Olympia, WA 98502

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.



DOG SHOW!
click!

Pizza Klatch

Support for LGBTQ Youth

HAWAII RAFFLE!
click!
http://www.pizzaklatch.org/

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

Event categories for the show include:

Most femme	Best dog trick	Best vocalizing
Most butch	Most colorful	Biggest
Smallest	Cutest	Most homely
Most like owner	Least like owner	Audience favorite

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

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

and \$400 towards airfare. Can be used anytime between June 16, 2012 and June 15, 2013 excluding holidays. A \$200 refundable damage deposit is also required.

Second Place: A wonderful spa basket filled with relaxation items and includes a certificate for a massage.

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

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