



We need a dinner table conversation about changing the menu

Jon Epstein

"You can't be an environmentalist and consume animal products, period. Kid yourself if you want. If you want to feed your addiction, so be it, but don't call yourself an environmentalist."

I was born in 1957, and I grew up on the Standard American Diet (SAD). My diet was characterized by high consumption of animal protein and low intake of complex carbohydrates like fruits and vegetables. As a secular Jewish boy from New York, I typically ate bacon and eggs for breakfast, a roast beef sandwich or burger for lunch, and pizza or a Swanson's frozen "TV dinner" in the evening.

The fast food regimen

My parents divorced when I was ten. Mother moved away and my dad often traveled for work, so I was on my own. All I could cook were burgers and cheese omelets. Years later, as an adult my mother joked that I grew up on Pop Tarts and frozen pizza.

Despite being a hippie, attending The Evergreen State College, and volunteering at the Olympia Food Co-op when it opened in 1977, my diet changed little. That is, until 2005 when a 48-year old friend died from an aggressive cancerous brain tumor. The impact of that shocking event started me on a journey that continues to this day, having radically shifted my consumption to a whole foods plant-based diet. As a result, I lost thirty pounds, stopped having heartburn, stopped suffering from seasonal allergies, and stopped having colds and flu.

Animal, vegetable, minimal

I'm not alone. Each year approximately one million Americans choose to give up their animal-food laden diets and switch to a vegetarian or vegan diet. There are many reasons why; not everyone makes this decision for personal health. Some choose a plant-based diet through awareness of the horrible and deplorable ways factory-farm animals are mistreated and abused — they can no longer support an industry that exploits animals and workers.

For others it's awareness that about 25,000 people (one-third children) die from starvation every day worldwide, according to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and eating animals is wasteful. The food these animals consume could



be used to feed the starving masses. These are moral reasons for adopting a plant-based diet.

...our addiction to eating animals may actually be more damaging to the planet than all fossil fuel activity combined

Save yourself—save the planet

Health and morality are valid reasons for breaking our addiction to animal foods. but evidence is mounting that saving the planet may be a more im-

portant justification for diet change. The governor of the State of Washington has suggested that climate change is the most important challenge of our time. Nevertheless, Gov. Jay Inslee, environmental organizations and most environmental activists are solely focused on fossil fuels as the enemy of climate change. I am not here to argue that reducing our use and reliance on fossil fuels isn't needed but it is the exclusion of diet change in the discussion of so-

lutions that I find disturbing and regrettable.

A system hungry for land and water everywhere

The link between animal agriculture and the growing climate crisis is undeniable; the evidence grows stronger with the publication of every new research report. In 2006 an FAO report titled *Livestock's Long Shadow*, concluded that livestock farming contributed more greenhouse gas (GNG) to the atmosphere annually than all transportation emissions worldwide. In 1988 the United Nations created the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The "author team," consisting of 107 experts from 52 countries released a Special Report this August. It stated that our food system as a whole is responsible for up to 37% of total human greenhouse gas emissions.

Some critics argue the number should be much higher because both United Nations studies only considered emissions. For example, we know that 80% of rainforest removal in the Amazon is to clear land for livestock grazing or to grow crops to feed livestock. The FAO estimates that 80,000 acres of rainforest is re-

► **Conversation**, continued on page 7

Member participation vital to sustaining Food Co-op mission

Desdra Dawning

Olympia is fortunate to have long-time institutions that have for many years served the progressive needs of this community. Three of these are The Evergreen State College (TESC), Traditions Cafe and World Folk Art, and the Olympia Food Co-op (OFC).

TESC continues to give us graduates who infuse creative liveliness and social awareness into Olympia's art and commerce. Traditions Cafe has long been a gathering place where locals meet, engage in conversation about issues important to the community, hear music in an intimate setting and know that the folk art offered there comes fairly traded from cultures around the world.

The Olympia Food Co-op, around since the 1970s, brings organic, environmentally sustainable food and other products to our community, while also working to stand for so-

cial justice as an underpinning of the staff collective organization.

While these three testify to our community's healthy past, each of them continues to grow and change as they face the future. How each of these engages with their community in this process may well nurture the direction of Olympia's growth—not only as a city, but as a community.

The unique position of the Olympia Food Co-op

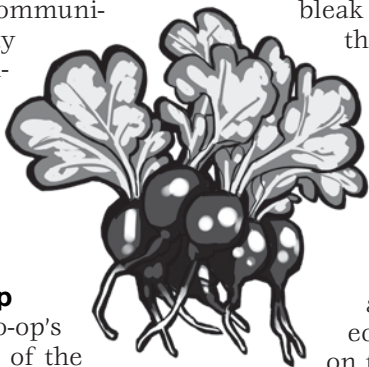
The Olympia Food Co-op's key position, as one of the primary sources of local produce and other healthy products, and with a unique commitment to social justice, has the potential to help us create and move into a future that is environmentally sustainable and so-

cially just—one that contributes to a community that is both conscious and compassionate.

We currently live in a very divisive social and political environment. The media constantly promote a bleak and frightening future that causes many citizens to live in fear. It carries a narrative which insists that we are all separate individuals competing with one another for survival. This story does little to support community, and in fact, our capitalist economic system depends on this point of view to fuel its continued spread across our planet.

There is another view, though it is often trivialized and discounted. This

► **Food co-op**, continued on page 11



Works In Progress

Editorial Policy

Works in Progress (WIP) is a community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington and published monthly since 1990.

WIP aims to publish writing and graphics that confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on justice in the economic, political, environmental and social realms and across classes, races and genders.

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. To this end, we seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and accounts of personal experiences or reflections by local writers.

Informed opinion pieces are welcome, especially when accompanied by facts, examples and sources. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people will not be accepted for publication.

We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it is unproven or in serious dispute. Articles can relate to the theme but material on other topics is important. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP typically will favor material that is consistent with our mission.

Once we receive a submission we may choose to publish it, or not. WiP reserves the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, length and clarity of expression. We will work with authors if there is a need for editing that extends beyond that.

Deadlines. Submissions must be received by the third Sunday of each month to be considered for the following month's issue. See Submission Guidelines at www.olywip.org for details.

Copyright. Unless otherwise noted, content may be copied for noncommercial use if attributed: Creative Commons BY-NV 3.0 license terms apply.

Support WIP. WIP is written, produced and distributed entirely by volunteers. For content we rely on submissions from readers and involved community members. 3000 print copies are distributed free each month to over 50 locations in Thurston and surrounding counties. Funding to cover printing and other expenses comes from donations, subscriptions and local advertising. Ad rates are approximately \$10 per column inch, with a discount for long-term ads above a minimum size. Ads run in the print issue and online at www.olywip.org. See website for details. The rate for a subscription is \$35 per year.

Workers in Progress

Publisher's Committee: Emily Lardner, Lori Lively, Kevin Pestinger, Enrique Quintero, Bethany Weidner.
Treasurer: Ann Vandeman
Managing Editor: Bethany Weidner
Assistant Editor: Lori Lively
Design & Production: Lee Miller
Art design & photography: Asa Benson-Core, Richie Ohlson, Paul Peck, Ricky Osborne, Lindset Dalthorp
Events Calendar: Janet Jordan
Proofreaders: Fred Silsby, James O'Barr, Mary Kasimor, Janet Jordan, Scott Yoos
Website: Carolyn Roos, Heather Sundean
Distribution: Kevin P, Dave Groves, Mike Pelly, Scott Yoos, Sandia Slaby, Ellen Shortt, others
Subscriptions: Vacant
Tech savior: Vacant
Contact WIP. Email us at olywip@gmail.com or via snail mail to: Works in Progress, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. We welcome comment on specific matters on our website: www.olywip.org.

Website: www.olywip.org
Submission deadline next issue
Sunday, September 15
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading Meeting:
Sunday, September 29
115 Legion Way SW, 1pm

The future we create

The future is the past in disguise, but it is also constructed from our hopes, wishes, and actions in the present. In other words, as this month's WIP theme suggests, the future is something we create. It is a form of living in the present, acknowledging the cumulative consequences of our previous actions and at the same time, holding the conviction that a better reality is not only needed but possible if we are to get beyond the current social injustices and construct a world of social redemption and reconciliation. In this sense, a way to understand the future is as a relationship between the actual and the possible.

Nothing illustrates the connection between our actions in the past, their impact on the present, and their long-lasting implications on the future better than the notorious dependency of humans on fossil fuels as the main source of energy and profit since the mid 1940s.

This process—known as The Great Acceleration—clearly shows the correlation between capitalist patterns of energy consumption and economic expansion. Their dramatic effect (in some instances irreversible) on the biological, geological, and chemical components that constitute Earth as an integrated system will persist for hundreds of years to come.

The current climate alterations including record global heatwaves, coral reef destruction, Amazon rainforest annihilation, Arctic and Antarctic ice melting, increasing frequency in the number of hurricanes and floods, etc. are the latest examples showing the results of past relations between humanity and nature threatening the current and future survival of the human and other species.

By the same token, the current expressions of re-institutionalized racism via presidential declarations, the restriction of voting rights for African-Americans and Latinx, the establishment of discriminatory practices within the judiciary system as well as police brutality and other



photo by Lindsey Dalthorp

Then this happened...

Trying for another bite of the apple. Last month, WIP reported that the lawyer for the City of Olympia was asking the Growth Management Board to “reconsider” its rejection of the new “Missing Middle” ordinance. The GMHB denied the request, chiding the lawyer for trying to get “a second bite of the apple” by relying on evidence that hadn’t been submitted in the first place—among other failures. Still, the city hopes it can reverse the Board’s decision on another basis: they paid a lobbyist to push successfully for the legislature to pass a law preventing citizens from appealing city zoning actions that increase density. If you can’t win on the merits, deny citizens the right to participate.

Good news for the Vet’s Café. We wrote about the Veteran’s Ecological Trade Collective in August. The same month, they raised \$10,000 in contributions for an all-new 120 acre farm in Rochester—to begin production in 2020.

Remember the Dakota Access Pipeline? In 2016, we covered the months of resistance against this major pipeline led by Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.against massed agents of the state. There was joy when the Corps of Engineers denied the permit for Energy Transfer to blast a route for the pipeline under the Missouri River. But Donald Trump wasted no time in putting the government’s weight behind the company—which has now asked to double the volume of oil flowing under the river and the tribe’s water supply.

So the tribe is once again forced to challenge the government—but their action does not end there. Three miles from the Dakota Access Pipeline, the tribe unveiled a solar project. The project pays tribute to those who fought against the pipeline’s placement on sacred tribal land, and also takes a meaningful step towards achieving energy independence and a clean energy future. The solar project will eventually power all 12 reservation communities in North and South Dakota.

developments are direct outgrowths of the past, in which the institution of slavery served as the cornerstone of American Capitalism. White supremacy served as the dominant cultural code of the nation. We can only understand today’s racism by understanding this past, and any possible future must contend with these specific historical actions.

The future does not rest on benevolent Gods or malicious demons, not even on the ‘mysterious hand’ of the market so dear to the esoteric dogmas of capitalism. Instead, the future can be understood as a form of human agency that lurks in the gaps of history.

Nonetheless, this act of social creation varies in content and form according to the social forces, social interests, and main beneficiaries proposing a given model for society. The vision of those who want to transform social reality and believe that a better world is possible stands in radical opposition to the vision of those who want to perpetuate or make small modifications in the status quo in order to save it.

The ability to create a just and better future pre-supposes an understanding of forces, influenced by specific historical circumstances, that are acting in the present along with a way of thinking about the progressive roles and limits of those classes and groups interested in such change.

From these pages of WIP, we hope you find inspiration and hope. We are committed to propagating the ideas of those who work in the present in order to create a more just and better future.

—Enrique Quintero

Cover: Artist Mymy Nguyen dots the dragon’s eye, bringing life to a new mural at 5th & Columbia. It celebrates the tradition of Chinese immigrants who left their homes, crossed the widest ocean and settled in Olympia beginning in the 1850s.

Photo by Lindsey Dalthorp

Themes

October: The rest of the world. Deadline is September 15.

November: Winners and Losers. Deadline October 20

Works in Progress will be on hiatus in December—no December issue

This is just starting to happen... to the 5-G juggernaut we covered in our July and August issue. It turns out that the powerful radio-frequency ranges and microwave radiation necessary for the 5G roll-out are so disruptive to weather forecasting that the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) will no longer be able to predict major storm trajectories, intensity and other vital data. The Navy, NASA, the American Meteorological Society and NOAA have raised the alarm with the FCC. The FCC’s answer—echoed by telecommunications companies—is that these agencies are all somehow suffering from a form of scientific delusion. If you can’t win on the merits, call your critics crazy?

Correction: In the July issue of WIP we published an excerpt from Dave Jette’s book *A Reformulation of Dialectical Materialism* and said that it is available online. Actually, the 100-page book can be obtained from **Lulu.com** for \$5 paperback and \$19 hardcover.

The Green Cove estuary

Everything we need is right here

Paul Cereghino

Green Cove Watershed could be the most cherished stream in South Puget Sound. Olympia offers art shows to promote “the importance of salmon to our community.” The Evergreen State College cultivates “creative, critical thinkers ... for environmental work and leadership.” However, if I want to understand stewardship, I listen to the swampy stream that sits between them.

Most people I meet don't know Green Cove Creek. We don't see Mud Bay Road as an indistinct saddle marking the Southern divide. We don't notice how our road causeways have walled its headwater swamps into cells, or where our polluted discharge trickles in through glacial swales. We guess at how many different kinds of salamander have survived. They wait for warm night rains to crawl our roads.

We don't count the Green Cove chum thwarted at Country Club Road culvert from ever making their nests. We don't gather or forage. When we need water, we extract it from injected well casing. When we need food we bring it in on trucks. We don't see the land in front of us, and so how can we understand where we are going?

This discordant gap between the social narratives in our heads, and our relationship to the land in front of us may be the cornerstone of our ecological crisis. Each day we express in miniature, our relationship with the Salish Sea. The most brutal parts of our colonial project are mostly complete, and unremembered. Our new homeland has been tamed, made quiet, marked with deep wounds, drying out slowly with road ditches.

There is a quiet struggle at Green Cove Creek. Twenty years ago the City was impelled to buy the Grass Lakes, and signed the Green Cove Watershed Plan — another treaty. South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group is just starting to explore the salmon-bearing habitats, a project

recommended 20 years ago. Project managers grimace at the fish-barrier culvert buried deep under road fill (have we ever abandoned a road, for the love of a stream?). A volunteer counts salmon redds.

The Squaxin Nation struggles at more urgent sites. Between Streamteam, Stormwater and Parks, the City affords a little work here and there. A couple middle school teachers sustain a science and service program, and Native Plant Salvage Foundation lends a hand. Capitol Land Trust stopped buying land in Green Cove when Thurston County started hoarding all our Conservation Futures money to offset prairie development. Sometimes groups of college students wander by and look. Government biologists count mud minnows. Com-



Chum salmon in Green Cove Creek. Photo courtesy of Wild Fish Conservancy (J. Glasgow 2018).

We must enforce good planning at the permit counter.

munity activism ebbs and flows with each new subdivision proposal. Does this add up to stewardship?

A stig is an old English hall or home; a weard is the ward or guardian. Steward is a verb. If we don't guard the hall of Green Cove Creek, what do we expect for the Salish Sea? The number of institutions dabbling in Green Cove offers an illusion of stewardship. I propose that we fundamentally lack the social infrastructure to be stewards for our watershed. Don't take this personally; it could be said for any watershed. Anyone in the ecosystem industry can tell stories. Watershed stewardship depends

on three practical capabilities that emerge from culture.

First, we must be capable of study. I don't mean sporadic environmental education lectures, but rather that we have mechanisms by which every citizen can grow to deeply understand

their home. This means that we gather and organize evidence and knowledge, and share it with each other constantly. We remember together. We observe the land and synthesize shared knowledge of where we live. This capability cannot be found in our schools nor our governments. We must become again our own carriers of knowledge, but we lack the rituals to do the work.

Next, we must be capable of protecting. All our laws, acts, plans, and restoration projects will not defend the watershed. At this moment, a Puyallup developer wants to build a monocrop of 181 single family homes on an illegal garbage dump located a five-minute drive from 11 toxic waste sites. We struggle to push our city government to negotiate on our behalf.

This is just one of a monotonous series of development proposals grinding away at the last forests and soils of Green Cove Creek; each trying to extract the maximum, and give the least. Do we just wait for the next? Protection is more than effective resistance (and our resistance could be much more effective).

We must enforce good planning at the permit counter. We must enforce clear vision at the ballot box. We need the tools for regenerative development, so we don't depend on out-of-town profiteers to tell us how to build. Mass migration and climate change are coming. Do we understand what we need to do?

Finally, we must be capable of restoring. We can be allies to beaver clans, infiltrate water, capture carbon in forests and soils, and re-weave the web of life. We need not wait in line for

state and federal grants. Restoration can be a community celebration that only requires of us that we understand and take control of our existing shared resources. Restoration is an educational opportunity for our schools. Restoration is employment that builds knowledge, belonging, and wealth. We can restore a watershed with a graduate student, a farmer's backhoe, and a middle school nursery. What exactly are we waiting for?

In practice, our capabilities to study, protect and restore, will work in synergy. These capabilities will not be given to us. This is a do-it-yourself retrofit that we must earn. We must rebuild the “common hall.” This requires continuous practical effort.

I am doubtful that we should build new institutions. We have plenty of those. What we need is to lean in and shape the ones we have, to become part of a clearer vision and a stronger effort. This requires that we shape how we spend our lives, and nimbly gather in shared work. I hear my professional colleagues say we need more resources to be stewards. I have to laugh. We squander more resources than anywhere on earth! You don't buy a culture. Everything we need is right here.

Paul Cereghino is a federal ecologist, who spends evenings and weekends working on an Ecosystem Guild—a network of stewards. The Guild studies social systems together, and then designs and builds the capability to study, protect and restore. We are currently cultivating effort in Green Cove Watershed. www.ecosystemguild.org. See a color coded map of elements of Green Cove at www.olywip.org

End Note—Green Cove Watershed are lands of the Squaxin Indian Tribe ceded under duress, cared for by their ancestors since time before memory (probably at least 400 generations). Stewardship is described by all our relationships. We are in a relationship with the Palouse hills, the floodplains of the Mississippi, the Amazon Basin and the coastal peatlands of Borneo. The proposed Green Cove Park subdivision provides an example of poor stewardship, while students and teachers at Hansen and Marshall schools are exploring in the middle of the watershed, and want to study where they live. We give away our agency, and then our agents work in our name. There are stewards also struggling in those watersheds, and they also need our help. Find maps and documents at https://salish-searestoration.org/wiki/Green_Cove_Creek_Watershed.

healthful delectable affordable

**WESTSIDE STORE
& GARDEN CENTER**
921 Rogers St. NW
Olympia, WA 98502
360.754.7666

**EASTSIDE STORE
& DELI**
3111 Pacific Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360.956.3870



In this issue

- A new menu for the climate
- Olympia food co-op
- Reinventing recycling
- Election at the Port of Olympia
- Hope for affordable housing
- Arctic Natural Wildlife Refuge
- Waterkeeper for Twin Harbors
- Imagine trees
- Rocky Prairie logistics center
- Don't be fooled by Trump
- Climate strike!
- Ranked choice voting
- ...and more

Reinventing recycling as “a resource that we offer up”

Robin Ivey-Black

It's been 42 years since my husband and I fell in love while starting the first recycling center in the small town of Colville. People liked to do their part and brought us their stuff – from native born “rednecks” or the back to the land “hippies” who recently moved to the area. Finding and keeping markets was difficult way back then.

Jump ahead to 2019. Many more people are doing their part to recycle and many cities in our state provide door-to-door pickup. But the markets are still not stable or sustainable and this is disappointing. The US has been caught with its pants down and now cities and states are scrambling to make things right after putting all their eggs (recyclables) in one basket (empty cargo ship container). It is distressing that after all these years recycling still has not become a closed loop. There is hope, although it may take some time.

No more depending on China
Even though I started a recycling center, like many others I missed the memo that China had been taking our recyclables - huge amounts of them. For this article, I contacted Ron Jones, the Senior Planner in Public Works, Waste ReSources for the City of Olympia who shared a wealth of information with me. Ron relayed that “Before January 1, 2018, China was the world's largest consumer of recyclables, roughly half of what the world produced. The Pacific Northwest sent a large portion of its recyclables to China.”

All that changed when China decided to clean up its own mess. Decades of unregulated recycling lead to huge amounts of plastic floating from rivers to oceans. The US and other countries contributed by sending unclean and contaminated materials.

Wait, recycling is still alive
Although US recyclables are no longer sent to China, Ron says recycling is not dead. The city has been able to find purchasers for our recycling but we are getting much less money for them. Our utility bills rose by 5.5%

in 2019 partly to cover the reduction. Nothing is going to landfills. Part of the reason is because Olympia does not recycle a large number of items.

Where our recyclables end up changes depending on where the city finds the best price. “For example,” Ron

It's most important to follow your hauler's acceptable list – not one from a neighboring community or one you see on TV.

Ron also asked me to imagine the potential for rodents and unpleasant odors in a facility where large

automatically what he meant, and I know my family is guilty of it. I have put prescription bottles or tofu containers into the bin, thinking “ They must be recyclable, because... I want everything to be recyclable!” And they're plastic!

Not a job for the faint of heart
After the city's recycling trucks collect our stuff every two weeks, where does it go? It is loaded onto 55-foot trailers and driven north to Frederickson to Pioneer Recycling Services. There it's unloaded to be sorted in the huge facility that does not offer tours because there is a high safety risk (I viewed videos of the place instead). According to Ron, “The recyclables are sorted with human labor, mechanical separation, optical sorters, magnets, eddy currents and air separators, to name a few. From there the items are sent to end-users to make new products.”

The most impressive video showed how every two hours certain machines have to be stopped because their huge metal parts are totally balled up with plastic bags. Workers risk injury crawling into otherworldly large metal rollers to pull out the plastic. Think: when your vacuum rollers get something all wrapped around them.

Some positive developments
Will business and government do their part? One positive is that China still takes some of our recycled resources as processed recycled material (for example paper roll stock instead of the raw mixed material). This could encourage the building of more mills to take more recyclables. This is a new development, but it is happening.

Meanwhile, Olympia remains active in the Washington State Recycling Association and engaged with their recycling processor and industry trends.

Another positive development is passage of HB 1543, the Sustainable Recycling bill, earlier this year. This new law directs the Department of Ecology to create a recycling development center. Its duty is to incentivize and assist in increasing recycling, domestic processing and markets through research, grants, and other means.

The other piece of helpful legislation passed by the legislators was SB 5397 Plastic Packaging. The bill provided for producers of plastic packaging to work on responsible management of their products from design through the end of life. Although British Columbia and Europe have similar laws, our state is the first to press the plastics packaging industry in this way. The law calls for 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging in all goods by 2025. Plastic packaging must contain at least 20% post-consumer recycled content, as well. The bill should increase recycling of plastics.

There could be more rate increases
I encourage readers to follow recycling issues in Olympia. Because the markets are weak, there will be a tendency for jurisdictions to drop items from the list of accepted recyclables. Get involved—attend the Olympia city council study meeting on recycling in mid-September. On Sept 2 there is a Utility Advisory Committee meeting that may discuss future price increases. Go to olympiawa.gov/city-utilities/garbage-and-recycling for the latest updates.

Robin Ivey-Black is an Olympia writer, artist and community builder.

Accepted Materials list with lots of visual support are available at olympiawa.gov/wastewise.

ORGANICS Accepted	RECYCLING Accepted	GARBAGE Accepted
Plant Waste Plants and Flowers	NO LIDS! Milk, try, etc.) Tubs (Dairy/Coffee; no clear tubs) Buc.	anything that cannot be re
Food Scrapings Food, Pasta, and Rice Dairy and Eggs	Back Books gated board Office Paper (not shredded) Egg Cartons Car (cer Fro.	
Shredded Paper Ice Grounds, Filters, and Tea Bags Pizza Boxes	oup Cans e Cans ches, coffee, etc.) out all food or liquid from containers.	Glass - NC er Packs ackaged l Bowls tic Clamshells ndry Baskets Metal Juice Bags Bottle Caps & Lids Plastic Trays VHS & Cassette Tapes

ore purchasing compostable bags and products. Not:
olympiawa.gov/waste olympiawa.gov/wastew olympiawa.gov/wastew

said, “mixed paper might be sent to a local Pacific Northwest mill, to the Midwest, or overseas to Indonesia or another country.”

amounts of recyclables are handled, bundled, or live even for a short time. As a result I am now gingerly cleaning my recyclables and letting them air dry. I am reframing them as a resource that we ‘offer up’. The cleaner and less contaminated they are, the better we do our part in closing the loop so they can be made into something else.

...every two hours certain machines have to be stopped because their huge metal parts are balled up with plastic bags.

The gospel of “empty, clean and dry”
Ron emphasized a number of times that the community should keep recycling. We should recycle what is on the “acceptable items” list and make sure everything is empty, clean, and dry. This goes for each community.

The secret is in the shape
For plastics, Ron says to focus on container shape and not the number printed on the bottom. Olympia accepts bottles and jugs with a neck smaller than the base, as well as non-clear dairy tubs, buckets without their handles, and rigid black flower pots. Olympia also accepts glass, mixed clean paper (not shredded), aluminum cans, milk cartons, and aseptic (broth, almond milk) containers. No plastic bags—not even to wrap up the actual recyclable items.

I had to laugh when Ron encouraged people not to ‘Wishcycle’. I knew

Celebrating 40 Years Serving Our Community



RADIANCE
Herbs & Massage
OLYMPIA • WASHINGTON

www.radianceherbs.com

113 5th Ave SE, Olympia • (360) 357-5250
Hours: M-F: 10am–7pm, Sat & Sun: 10am–6pm

Give the gift of

Radiance

massage
jewelry ♦ books
natural body care
candles ♦ bulk herbs
essential oils



VICS PIZZERIA

233 Division St NW
(360) 943-8044

Wildwood
(360) 688-1234

This election matters: Reclaiming primacy for the public interest at the Port of Olympia

Denis Langhans

The political reality in which we reside is government of, for and by special interests. Today, the essence of government is that of a support system for a corporate welfare capitalism. At the federal level in Washington DC, we see that corporate lobbyists have become the regulators of their client industries. Below, at the Port of Olympia, the majority of port commissioners serve as handmaidens to special interests such as log exporters and boaters.

In the scheme of things, the Port of Olympia is but a drop in the bucket. Yet, it presents a microcosm of the larger political reality, and therefore has a value in being examined under a microscope.

A port in Washington is an intersection of commercial and governmental functions, a hybrid of commercial venture and public agency. But first and foremost, it is a public agency which carries a fiduciary duty beyond its commercial role.

The people are sovereign

In our state the conduct of public officials and agencies is governed in large part by Title 42 of the Revised Code of Washington. Public officials such as port commissioners have a primary fiduciary duty to the public interest. In this regard, RCW 42.56.030 asserts the following:

- The people retain sovereignty over the agencies that serve them.
- The people do not cede the right to know what is good for them and must maintain control over the agencies that serve them.
- This provision shall be liberally construed to promote the public policy and to ensure that *the public interest is fully protected* [Emphasis added].

The theory of governance under state law is that the people are the sovereign interest. However, institutional interests within port agencies as well as their trade association have

tween child abuse in the church and port financial actions.) Nevertheless, governmental abuse can come in the form of excessive tax levies that siphon public dollars from the tax base,



Photo credit Lori Lively

attempted to warp this clear duty. In its place, these port interests have insidiously striven to put the institutional entity in a place of primacy over the public interest.

Replacing the sovereignty of the people with supremacy of the port

Over the past decade, Thomas H. Tanaka, an attorney with the port of Seattle, has traveled far and wide to preach a doctrine that asserts the supremacy of the port entity.

In 2015 Tanaka made his presentation in Olympia at a Port Commission Work Session. Until recently, the port carried his presentation on its website. I attended his presentation to the commission and was appalled by his attempt to undermine the sovereignty of the people.

Much of Tanaka's presentation made common sense, e.g. the commission should govern and not try to manage operational details. However, when it came to a commissioner's duty of loyalty, he asserted: "Your paramount duty is *to serve the entity—the port—on which you serve.*" [Emphasis added] Effectively, he threw out the sovereignty of the people and replaced it with the sovereignty of the institution.

Bad things can happen when the public interest is abandoned

When the institution's interest becomes paramount, bad things can, and will happen. One need only look at the governance of the Catholic Church to see the horrors that can flow from this. The governing body of bishops decided that their paramount duty was to protect the institution by covering up the widespread sexual abuse of children. Here, the interest of the institutional entity trumped its moral code, with the young victims being cast off as acceptable collateral damage.

When a port commission holds the port entity above the public interest, it opens itself up for abusive practices. (I want to be clear that I am not drawing a moral equivalency be-

taking them away from legitimate social needs and redirecting them to the benefit of commercial interests.

Affirming loyalty to the special interest

The majority on our port commission has taken a step even beyond institutional primacy by conflating narrow special interests with the public interest. This conflation was evident at a commission meeting earlier this year. During the public comment period, an advocate for log exports addressed the commission and asserted that their oaths of public office made them duty bound to swear unquestioned loyalty to the marine terminal. In essence, he demanded a loyalty oath from the commissioners to his special interest and the main business of the terminal (i.e. log exports). In response, Commissioners Downing and McGregor kowtowed and slavishly swore obeisance. Only Commissioner E.J. Zita stood up for the public interest by declaring that a commissioner had a primary fiduciary duty to the public interest and not a special interest. Given the composition of the commission, she is a voice crying in the wilderness of indifference to the common good.

So, if the port commission has a distorted view of proper governance, how does it manifest it in commission actions?

Warped governance produces bad investment decisions

Voltaire posited that when the absurd is accepted, the atrocious will follow. In this regard, just think of the absurd election of Trump and the atrocious governance that has ensued. So too, when our port commission majority absurdly bows to special interests, it becomes likely that atrocious practices will follow.

One of the key functions of the port commission is the approval of capital investments. There are some types of capital investments primarily aimed for public use and benefit. For this type of investment, there should be no expectation for a financial return.

However, in its hybrid role when the port invests in commercial projects, there must be an expectation that the nature of the investment should be symbiotic (mutually beneficial) and not parasitic (private benefit at public expense).

With a distorted theory of governance, critical thought and analysis give way to a fundamentalist and uncritical mindset making possible port investments ranging from the bad (e.g.log loaders) to the absurdly bad (e.g. mobile crane).

Ever-increasing taxes to pay for parasitic commercial investments

A biblical passage holds that by their fruits shall you know them. In this regard, it is insightful to examine the port's last five major capital investments which totaled over \$27 million in public funds. These investments are: the mobile harbor crane; the marine terminal stormwater system; the marina fuel dock; the Lacey commercial building; and the new log loaders. Every one of these commercial investments has failed to support itself and requires a significant subsidy from the ever-increasing tax levy. I contend that these investments are parasitic in nature rather than symbiotic.

A free hand to levy additional taxes

So the question arises: What is the effect of these boondoggles on our county's tax base? According to the Thurston County tax assessor, the tax levy for the port district has increased by 27% since 2016, compared to less than 13% for other districts. The current tax levy is \$6.5 million and the port commission has the power to double it without a vote of the people.

In its public relations campaign of Vision 2050, the port put out a very misleading propaganda piece entitled "Returning Your Investment." If one only read that piece, you would think that the port is producing outstanding results for tax payers.

Dressing up a poor performance

However, this document presents a grossly false narrative. It brags that the Port of Olympia is one of the leading ports in operational results. In actuality, of the 15 largest Washington ports, Olympia is the worst in operational results. Moreover, it requires a tax subsidy of \$.55 for every dollar of operational revenue. "This subsidy is three times the average for the other ports." I do not think that these results warrant bragging.

Reclaim sovereignty in November's port election

As the 2016 presidential election showed, elections do have consequences. Good governance requires dealing with empirical realities, and not by engaging in magical thinking. Just as Trump's "Make America Great Again" is a mindless notion, so too is the port's often touted claim of being the "Economic Engine of Thurston County." So long as the commission majority of Downing and McGregor continues, the reign of magical thinking will remain and taxes will be wasted. Commissioner Zita has brought a critically analytic mindset to port deliberations. But she is powerless in the face of the fundamentalist majority. If she is joined on the commission by Helen Wheatley, there will be a swing to governance by critical reason.

The problems at the port are deep and cannot be suddenly changed in the short run. But a change in direction is sorely needed.

Denis Langhans is a retired corporate executive who holds a PhD in the humanities. He has been observing governance patterns at the port for several years.

STYLING · CUTS · COLOR · PERMS

DEEP CONDITIONING · MANICURES · PEDICURES · MASSAGE · ASTROLOGY · TAROT

FREE CONSULTATIONS · FREE BANG TRIMS

"We'll trim it, rub it, or read it"

JAMIE LEE & COMPANY

309 E. 4TH AVE.
OLYMPIA, WA 98501

360-786-6027
JAMIELEEANDCOMPANY.COM

KAOS patron business.

BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS

Centralia Square Antique Mall

Antiques • Restaurant • Hotel

Directions from Olympia
South on Interstate 5
Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)
East on Harrison
Right on Pearl
201 S Pearl & Locust

Open 7 days
10am-5pm

THE

brotherhood

LOUNGE

daily happy hour 3-7

119 CAPITOL WAY

WWW.THEBROTHERHOODLOUNGE.COM

Hope for a future of permanently affordable housing

Dan Rubin and
Susan Davenport

In Thurston County we are experiencing what happens when market forces drive up the price of housing, leaving most people of ordinary means, as well as those one might think impoverished in the dust. We see people living on the street. We see grown-up children who can't afford to buy homes at the ages their grandparents could. We see people losing apartments they once were able to afford.

We award developers property tax exemptions to build market-rate housing. And even when the exemption is tied to inclusion of a nominal percentage of affordable units, the requirement that they remain affordable is limited to a few years.

These “market forces” include speculative greed, but also the process by which we have conflated several distinct ideas of the function of a house: having a place to live, owning a home, building a nest egg, investing for stable comfort—and cashing in on regional growth as a personal bonanza.

There is a model that avoids the dilemma fostered by these contradictory ideas. A Community Land Trust (CLT) removes housing from the play of market forces to achieve its most crucial function: providing for stable home ownership within the reach of even those with modest incomes. A CLT is a community housing entity, not a dressed-up private investment group.

A stake in the ground

People in Thurston County have created just such a Community Land Trust. Thurston Housing Land Trust was incorporated in May 2018. Our mission is creating, developing and preserving affordable housing for low to moderate income people. We are governed by a Board made of equal numbers of trustees in three categories, all elected by members: lower income people who are current or potential owners of THLT homes and other members and public representatives reflecting community needs, perspectives and expertise.

With THLT we put a stake in the ground that allows us to start doggedly walking toward a model of home ownership that builds future affordability into its structure. “Future affordability” here means in perpetuity: as long as a building stands and (through land ownership) beyond. Such fundamental change in how housing works is a challenging goal, but change must start somewhere real. Changes can accelerate remark-

ably when the structure exists and the times are right.

Our vision is to get started now, not in the indefinite future. This means acquiring some homes and assisting cost-challenged families to live

We are building a model for families that are excluded from or burdened by the commercial real estate market and its ruinous consequences.

in and buy those homes. We have put considerable thought into how to move forward in a way that can expand with success, visibility and credibility. To understand this pathway requires a little elaboration.

The multiple benefits of home ownership

Owning a home rather than perpetually renting continues to have huge benefits. Families build equity (which is a form of saving), stability, security and much else. Community land trusts separate owning a home from owning land. The house conveys through a 99-year or longer ground lease, while the land remains

The significantly lower foreclosure rate for land trust homes during the Great Recession demonstrates the value of the trust structure, with this “back-stopping,” compared with otherwise disastrous standard mortgages. CLTs also have enforceable principles in place to prevent speculation. THLT will use a ground lease that locks in residential use, prohibits rentals (including AirBnB) without special approval, limits how much can be charged when the home is sold (see more below) and requires sale only to income-qualified buyers.

Maintaining affordability and rolling subsidies forward

CLTs safeguard affordable housing with a shared equity arrangement. The trust owns the land under the home, while homeowners acquire an enforceable ownership interest under provisions for a ground lease. Ground leases are not a new or untested legal device; they are extensively used in commercial properties. They have survived legal challenge for decades in CLTs in the US, including several in the northwest.



Art by Richie Ohlson

Affordability is achieved and preserved in three ways.

- ▶ First, homeowners do not pay for or own the land itself, which is a sizeable chunk of usual costs.
- ▶ Second, owners can only sell to another low-to-moderate income family, with exact limits for specific homes reflecting restrictions tied to some subsidy funding.
- ▶ Third, the ground lease also restricts price on resale. THLT is headed toward a limit that allows the owner to capture no more than 25% of market appreciation in the value of their stake.
- ▶ Fourth, like all affordable housing organizations, we will seek subsidies (in the form of government funds and property donations) to allow low-income families to get in.

We are building a model for families that are excluded from or burdened by the commercial real estate market and its ruinous consequences. We believe these restrictions are fair to homeowners, and necessary to prevent the loss of affordability. People who desire to profit greatly from a rising market continue to have that option elsewhere.

Serving moderate income and low-income households

Many non-profit and government programs cut off eligibility for affordable housing at the level of low income. Existing subsidies for affordable home ownership often set limits so low (say, 50% of AMI) that those with slightly higher incomes become the subject of heartbreaking stories. In addition low-income subsidies are so scarce that we should not build a new model in this straitjacket.

The lack of affordable housing also extends far into what used to be the middle class. THLT's structural approach thus includes moderate income households. We set our sights on the income range of 30% to 120% of Thurston County's “Area Median Income”, a structural solution to address this reality.

Starting with existing affordable properties

THLT is starting primarily with preserving and increasing existing affordable housing. We hear from other CLTs that building new housing at today's cost of construction requires economic balance, with deeper subsidies for some new homeowners than can be afforded for all.

In order to get started now, instead of waiting for a share of scarce government funding, we want the flexibility to attract property donations and partnerships. This can include existing homeowners of moderate income who are interested in aging in place, or providing for disabled adult family members, or otherwise negotiating a transition from their current needs to a donation or bequest benefiting people who can't afford homes otherwise. It includes households that might want to convert to legal cooperative status. THLT is a Washington State not-for-profit corporation with IRS tax-exempt status (501c3).

An invitation to the community

With the aging of baby boomers in the US, who often gained wealth without even thinking about it, we are probably seeing the greatest generational wealth transfer in history. We want to invite some of this transfer to perpetually benefit affordable ownership of modest homes.

We invite community involvement with the Thurston Housing Land Trust as we move from organized start-up status to active stewards of housing. We are relying on a resource and mechanism used broadly in many partnerships that share a desire for perpetually affordable homes insulated from speculation; homes that can guarantee today's one-time subsidies will actual contribute to deep affordability decades from now. How many approaches can truly offer this?

Dan Rubin is President of the Thurston Housing Land Trust and a long-time resident of Olympia. Susan Davenport is Vice President and has been trying to establish a CLT in our area for over 30 years

Cartridge Care Inc.

THE PRINTER EXPERTS since 1990

TONER - FILM - INK JETS

Remanufactured and new - Hundreds in stock

REPAIR - SERVICE - SALES for

Printers - Fax - Copiers - Plotters

Free Pick Up & Delivery

<https://www.cartcareinc.com/>

1314 Lebanon St. SE - Lacey

360-459-8845

Eastside Smoke Company

Affordable local glass and much more.

Open daily 11 am - 8 pm • eastsidesmokecompany.com

2008 State Avenue NE in Olympia • 360-350-0385



Reflections

The sweeping consequences of today’s housing market

Andrea Bauer

The Seattle area is home to the world’s two richest people, Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates. And, as noted by a real estate pro, Seattle has a track record of being one of the best long term real estate investments in the nation. Under the influence of a tech boom led by Amazon, yearly rent increases until very recently have been among the highest in the country.

Evicted from a home, then from a tent

The latest homeless count for Seattle’s King County reported 11,199 people without a residence, far more than the number of shelter beds available. 2,451 of the 11,000-plus were people in families with children and 1,089 were young people on their own. Twenty-seven percent were African-American, who make up only 6 percent of the county’s population.

It’s no coincidence that Seattle is also a place where those who have

Wielding the broom aggressively
Without any policy announcements, 93 raids took place in Seattle during the first four months of 2019, compared to 11 in the same period in 2018.
One such raid took place on August

It was a military-style operation that included a large, ominous detachment of police cars, bulldozers and garbage trucks



Photo by Andrea Bauer

no homes are treated with profound callousness. The city regularly evicts people from their tent encampments with “sweeps” that force them to scramble for other shelter and often destroy their few possessions in the process.

7 in Seattle’s University District. It was a military-style operation that included a large, ominous detachment of police cars, bulldozers and garbage trucks spread out for 11 blocks along I-5 freeway ramps.

Community outrage and concern over sanitation and safety are often cited as the reason for the sweeps. But James, known as “Little Man,” who was one of the people roused, was not buying this excuse.
He told reporters for the *Freedom Socialist* who stopped to talk, “It’s not the community that wants us to move. It’s the state and the Seattle Police Department.” The SPD, of course, takes its orders from Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and the rest of the city establishment.

Just making matters worse
The August 7 sweep displaced 50 people, who showed amazing resiliency in the face of this disruption. A man with a full-time job was trying to figure out if he could get his belongings settled somewhere in time to report for work for a half-day. A social worker was organizing to get her homeless client squared away and to a court hearing on time.

Speaking of where the victims of the raid were supposed to go next, James said, “The social workers are excellent people, but there is nothing they can do for us in the moment. Where’s the housing?”

Another world is possible
Seattle has spent \$638 million on new infrastructure specifically to accommodate Amazon’s needs. (See “How Amazon and Boeing Ate Seattle” in the June issue of *Works in Progress*, reprinted from *Freedom Socialist*)

Surely the city can spend the amount of money needed to service encampments and provide sanitation, instead of destroying them, as they work to find housing for people in those situations. Seattle should also officially sanction more tent encampments and set aside spaces for people living in their vehicles.

Long-term solutions aren’t rocket science. Rent control; quality public housing; an end to Washington’s regressive tax system. In the absence of such positive measures homeowners and renters alike may be forced out of Seattle or into homelessness.

It’s a matter of priorities. The future stability and liveability of our community depends on the city doing right by workers and the poor instead of catering to corporations and the rich.

Andrea Bauer organizes with the national Freedom Socialist Party. She was arrested defending the original Nickelsville camp in 2008. Contact her at abauer@socialism.com.

Conversation

From page 1

moved everyday worldwide having nothing to do with fossil fuel production. The Amazon rainforest is one of the greatest carbon sinks on the planet, and cutting it down accelerates global warming.

Some studies have concluded that our addiction to eating animals may actually be more damaging to the planet than all fossil fuel activity combined. It’s not hard to leap to this conclusion when you consider all the factors involved. It’s not just about GHG emissions. We also need to factor in rainforest destruction, the pollution of our land and water, and the waste of limited freshwater used in the growth and slaughter of billions of animals raised for food. It takes 660 gallons of freshwater to create one hamburger. That’s enough water for a full month of showers for most people.

“Climate change” vs Demoburgers

I attended a reception at the governor’s mansion in the winter of 2018 where they were serving smoked salmon and bite size sirloin burgers for guests to nosh. The Thurston County Democrats continue their long-standing tradition of selling burgers to raise money. I’ve attended several Democratic campaign events this summer with burgers on the menu, including Karen Fraser’s 29th annual picnic, featuring burgers, hot dogs, and pulled pork. I don’t mean to pick on Demo-

crats, but many of these Democrats complain that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is not hosting a climate change debate for Presidential candidates.

This seems like an example of willful ignorance and self-delusion that is common in our species. Since we know we will die someday we have to put this thought out of our minds. Constantly thinking about our inevitable demise makes it hard to function and live our lives. Unfortunately, this mechanism that allows us to cope with existence also has the downside

just announced they are removing all beef products from their cafeteria menu in response to the climate crisis. Beginning this fall, students and staff will no longer be able to purchase burgers or beef burritos on campus. This seems like a reasonable response to the mounting evidence linking animal foods and the livestock industry to the worsening climate crisis.

Can’t we start the talk about the [steer] in the room?

I don’t expect climate change deniers to stop eating burgers. But when our governor (the self-proclaimed climate change presidential candidate), as well as international environmental organizations like the Sierra Club and Greenpeace, avoid discussing diet change to help curb the climate crisis, I think: what chance do we have to avert this catastrophe? If climate change activists are unwilling to discuss diet change in the light of day is there any hope of saving planet Earth?

When are local progressives, Democrats, and environmental activists going to change their eating habits? If activists aren’t willing to change their diets can we at least begin having conversations on this subject?

Originally from New York City, Jon Epstein has lived in the Olympia area since 1975 when he moved here to attend The Evergreen State College. He has been employed by the Legislature, Lacey Chamber of Commerce, Washington Center for the Performing Arts and the State of Washington. His volunteer work includes the Thurston County Fair, Sustaining Fund, and Mount Rainier National Park Ski Patrol.

The opening quote is from Mad Cowboy, by Howard Lyman, a former livestock farmer.

of making us blind to important realities staring us in the face.
Other menu options are possible
Goldsmiths University in London



KGHI & KGHE

Classical music, Pacific Radio Network, and local programs produced by your neighbors.

KGHI 91.1 FM
WESTPORT

KGHE 89.1 FM
ELMA

A public service of the Grays Harbor Institute.



STREAMING AT
KGHIFM.ORG

Perspectives

Breaking the urban growth boundary The plan to implant a logistics center in Rocky Prairie

Debra Jaqua

South Thurston County is in danger of being transformed into a slightly smaller version of the Port of Tacoma (POT, Port). The Port is proposing to sell 745 acres of prairie habitat it owns near Maytown to an industrial developer. The developer's plan is to construct an enormous logistics center (with as much as 6 million square feet of warehousing) where trucks and trains will swap cargo. Continuous operation will mean traffic, noise and light for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The POT, which owns the so-called "Maytown Property," is in the process of selling it to NorthPoint, a private company which builds huge inland ports and intermodal (trains and trucks) facilities. An article in the January *New Republic* describes the disastrous results that ensued when similar facilities came to the rural community of Elwood, Illinois.

Who decides

Should the Port of Tacoma be able to decide what kind of industries will be built in Thurston County and where they will be located? Thurston County residents have no say over the actions of the Tacoma Port, but we do vote for Thurston County Commissioners. The POT and NorthPoint need to obtain a change in the zoning of the Maytown site to industrial in order to allow the logistics center to be built. The Thurston County Commission does have the ability to prevent industrial development where it doesn't belong by keeping the current zoning unchanged.

Why care about Rocky Prairie?

Rocky Prairie is located 13 miles south of Olympia in Thurston County, near Millersylvania State Park, and right next to West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area, owned by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The state park and other nearby natural areas are part of a large, undeveloped wildlife corridor that would disappear with the development proposed for the POT property.

That property and the WDFW preserve form a fragile and unique habitat matrix which includes some of the state's last native outwash prairie, rare oaks stands, riparian and wetland areas. It supports numerous state and federal threatened and endangered species, including prairie-dependent butterfly species like the Taylor's checkerspot. Rocky Prairie also forms the headwaters for two salmon-bearing streams running through it, and its hydrology is important to hundreds of residents who live nearby.

This prairie lies within the Black River watershed where governmental agency and organizational partners have long been working to protect sensitive watershed areas. WDFW has been trying to purchase this property for more than two decades.

Incompatible uses

The property is less than one half-mile from historic and popular Millersylvania State Park. A family hoping to camp at Millersylvania would have to endure the sounds of trains rumbling through, coupling and uncoupling all night long. Showing kids the night sky would be impossible if this facility were built with the lights of a city interfering.

Many residents moved to the area as their permanent home because of the predominantly rural residential zoning of one house per five acres, with plenty of fresh air, little or no light pollution, and quiet nights. Others chose to purchase homes in the area only after having performed diligent research about the zoning of nearby properties and finding the property owned by POT was zoned one house per 20 acres. These residents who trusted the assurance of the zoning regulations are now confronted with a neighbor that wants to sell its property for a continuously operating industrial facility.

What good is zoning?

While there are legitimate criticisms of the Growth Management Act (GMA), the state law that guides decisions about what can be built and where, at least it provides a framework for making decisions about which human activities should go where. In general, its aim is to keep city and industrial sprawl from spreading out into rural and agricultural areas. Zoning is one tool used to accomplish that goal.

Zoning designations should not change as dramatically as this change requested by the POT. Residents and farmers should be able to rely on zoning in order to make long term plans about how they use their own property.

What can we do?

The first step in developing a logistics facility in this location would be to obtain a change in the zoning from the current Rural Residential, one home per twenty acres, to Rural Resource Industrial. The Port of Tacoma and NorthPoint are asking our Thurston County Commissioners to

make that zoning change. Their application will be considered beginning in January 2020.

If you agree that our Commissioners have a responsibility to protect county residents, not a port district from outside Thurston County or an out-of-state developer, please let all three Commissioners know that you do not approve of changing the zoning for Rocky Prairie, a.k.a. the "Maytown Property." Make sure they know that we want to keep rural Thurston County rural, as the Growth Management Act intended. Having a massive rail/truck/cargo transfer center and giant warehouses such as NorthPoint is proposing is not consistent with the GMA or the conforming use of the area.

Please consider signing the petition offered by Friends of Rocky Prairie on their website (<https://www.friendsofrockyprairie.org/petition>) that reads: "We, the undersigned Thur-

ston County residents and visitors, support the current zoning designation for the property located at 13120 Tilley Road SW, Olympia, WA. We request Thurston County Commissioners uphold the one-house-per-20-acres designation that was initiated in 2010 by more than 2,000 citizens to protect this sensitive area from inappropriate development."

Friends of Rocky Prairie is an all-volunteer group of Thurston County citizens dedicated to protecting Rocky Prairie and preserving the treasure that is rural Thurston County.

Deb Jaqua and her family have lived in Olympia since 1995. She helped save LBA Woods and thwart the first attempt to put a logistics center in south Thurston County. Past lives included working as a Medical Technologist and recently as a Web Designer.

Website: <https://www.FriendsOfRockyPrairie.org/>

Lesson #4: Rethinking everything

Listen to Supreme Court Justice William O Douglas:

"The corporation—a creature of ecclesiastical law — is an acceptable adversary, and large fortunes ride on its cases. The ordinary corporation is a "person" for purposes of the adjudicatory processes,

So it should be as respects valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches, ridges, groves of trees, swampland, or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology and modern life. The river, for example, is the living symbol of all the life it sustains or nourishes — fish, aquatic insects, water ouzels, otter, fisher, deer, elk, bear, and all other animals, including man, who are dependent on it or who enjoy it for its sight, its sound, or its life. The river as plaintiff speaks for the ecological unit of life that is part of it. Those people who have a meaningful relation to that body of water must be able to speak for the values which the river represents, and which are threatened with destruction."

An extraordinary legal revolution that would put in practice Justice Douglas's words is unfolding around the world This summer, Colombia's Supreme Court declared that the Amazon is a legal person with rights—to be protected, conserved and restored.

Today, the Amazon River is in flames. It was not able to protect itself from the depredations of development, Yet there are those leaders who do speak on behalf of the Amazon, who are stewards of the forest. They need our help in this emergency. If you are rethinking everything, then go to amazonwatch.org and find out what you can do while we're waiting to recognize that the River has a voice that must be heard in justice..

...

A Playback Theatre performance

Places far away

Friday, September 20 • 7:30 p.m.

New Traditions Café

300 5th Ave. SW
downtown Olympia

Cost: Suggested Donation \$10–\$20
(fundraising price)



Join us for a special fundraising performance/ event to send some members to the International Playback Theater Conference in India. We will have wonderful local items for purchase!

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.

115
LEGION

community
event space,
media lab,
print shop



@115.legion
www.115legion.org
eventspace.115@gmail.com

Get Involved!

Food co-op

From page 1

world view insists that we actually are all made from the same star stuff, with very little real difference between us in our essential humanity. That if we realize how truly connected we are, we might just treat each other—animals and plants and our planet itself—with more respect and even reverence. The cooperative movement, finding a foothold in our culture during the 1970s, recognized cooperation as an answer to that capitalist competitive business model, and even more now, depends on and attempts to reflect this point of view.

The Co-op reflects the people who participate in it

From the very start, those who founded the Co-op had a vision of how we as a species could move gracefully into the future. Food being a primary source of our wellbeing, the Co-op has long held a key position of leadership in this community—one that can help usher in a kinder, more conscious and more “socially and economically egalitarian society.”

Part of establishing this sort of leadership is determined by the world view held by those at the Co-op who are guiding its direction. The Staff Collective and the Board of Directors of the Co-op are the more visible members currently doing this work. They are the primary ones responsible for how the Co-op’s mission is reflected in policies and carried out in practice. Co-op members are also responsible for ensuring that the Co-op lives up to its mission, through informed participation and voting. These roles determine how the co-op will continue to grow and change even in these divisive times.

The Staff and Board endeavor to live by the Co-op Mission Statement. In fact, it is read before every Board meeting and often at Staff Collective meetings to remind us that:

The purpose of the cooperative is to contribute to the health and well being of people by providing wholesome foods and other goods and services, accessible to all,



through a locally oriented, collectively managed, not-for-profit cooperative organization that relies on consensus decision-making. We strive to make human effects on the earth and its inhabitants positive and renewing, and to encourage economic and social justice.

The Staff Collective

The Staff Collective is doing serious work in the study of Anti-Oppression, Racism, and White Supremacy in order to uphold the tenet of the Mission Statement that declares the “encouragement of economic and social justice.” Just watch the media in all of its forms, including the internet, and you may be successfully convinced that this is a huge battle we all must wage. Some on the Staff Collective have taken on this task with serious determination. Much of their budget revolves around this work, including their policies regarding members and

working members, and their efforts to ensure the wellbeing of all Collective members. At the same time, some are working often long hours to “make good food accessible to more people,” while struggling under the need to enlighten the membership on the evils of our currently oppressive society.

We depend on their efforts to make available to us the amazing array of environmentally and socially sound products now being offered at the Co-op. It is through their work that small local businesses can get established and thrive. It is up to us—all of us as members— to insure that their work environment also reflects the cooperative model that honors and cares for each of us, both individually and collectively.

The Board of Directors

The OFC Board of Directors stands in a different and unique position. They are asked to represent all Co-op members: Board, Staff Collective, Working Members and General Membership, as they create and regulate policy. All members. In order to do this, it has become increasingly clear that for any of us to follow a world view that isolates us from each other—that causes us to judge and view some as friends and others as enemies in need of punitive response, even within our own membership—can no longer serve us if the Co-op is to not only survive these difficult times but to offer thriving leadership into the future. It is the job of the Board to nurture and encourage a more positive world view, and to take it into account in policy creation.

Creating policies and practices that reflect these values can become difficult in an environment as individualistic and divisive as our society has become. The temptation to take an approach that isolates us from each other, that causes us to judge one another—to view some as friends and others as enemies—is real. We rely on these elected leaders to find ways to take the Co-op in a direction that does not give in to pressures for self-interest through ego-driven identities that separate, but rather one that unites us in building toward a kind and durable community.

The Co-op members

Critical to this more conscious movement into the future involves a third part of the Co-op community—its members. Co-op members hold a key position in any cooperative. They are the life-blood of the organization. Without the membership, there would be no Co-op. Through their patronage, they are the ones who pay all of the bills. Several hundred Working Members at OFC serve in a variety of capacities to lighten the workload of the Collective. It is the savings the Co-op receives from their contribution as stockers, cashiers and more that makes it possible to provide the Staff Collective with the good salaries and excellent health care benefits they now enjoy. Efforts are currently being made to give this part of the workforce more voice in the future of the Co-op.

When motivated, members can offer guidance and direction to both the Staff and the Board, through their in-store suggestions and during participation in the Member Comment portion of Board meetings. Further, they can bring their voices to the table by running for election to the Board of Directors, and by attending the Annual Meeting (See sidebar for more info). At the Annual Meeting those

running for election have the opportunity to speak to fellow members and share their thoughts and concerns about the future of the Co-op.

Participatory Democracy

As with our local and national legislative processes, Participatory Democracy is the key to ensuring that the Co-op can move gracefully into the future. All of us are challenged to examine our own worldview, our own stories about each other, and how we can walk in the world in a way that brings us to a sustainable and peaceful existence.

Just as our national political environment benefits greatly from citizen input, so too does this hold true for the Co-op. More member participation is called for and needed now if this cooperative community business is to flourish and “make human effects on the earth and its inhabitants positive and renewing.” A new story, a new world view, needs to emerge and it is only through us all coming together, listening to each other, overcoming any perceived differences, and working cooperatively that this can happen.

Desdra Dawning is a retired educator and writer. She has been a member of the Olympia Food Co-op since she made a home in the Pacific Northwest in 2011. She served several times on the Board. She has a passionate concern for the health and well-being both of the Co-op and the Olympia community



Participate in shaping the future of the Olympia Food Co-op

The current deadline to apply for a seat on the Co-op Board is September 15, with ballots available from October 15 to November 15. Application forms are on the Co-op website—www.Olympia-foodcoop.com. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend and comment at Board meetings, held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 at the Co-op office on Columbia Street. Member comments are the first item on the agenda. The Co-op’s Annual Meeting will be held November 2, 11Am-2Pm at the Olympia Center. Board candidates will be speaking and will be available for questions. This is a time for members to learn about Co-op operations, offer their voice, socialize and enjoy some good food.

- The co-op goals are to**
- ◆ Provide information about food
 - ◆ Make good food accessible to more people
 - ◆ Support efforts to increase democratic process
 - ◆ Support efforts to foster a socially and economically egalitarian society
 - ◆ Provide information about collective process and consensus decision making
 - ◆ Support local production
 - ◆ See to the long term health of the business
 - ◆ Assist in the development of local community resources

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

Run, walk, or stroll with us around the Capitol Lake on International Day of Peace for New Traditions Fair Trade

PEACE ON THE MOVE

Run @ 7:30am
Walk/stroll @ 8 am
kids, pets, strollers, and all abilities welcome!

Entry \$30
includes an event t-shirt!

Registration and info at
<https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Olympia/PeaceMoves>

Registration also available at New Traditions Fair Trade
300 5th Ave SW, Olympia, WA
(360) 705-2819

Don’t be fooled by Trump’s buffoonery

Emily Lardner

Racism. White supremacy. White nationalism. So many people are involved in conversations about whether or not President Trump can accurately be called a white supremacist that ABC news saw fit to publish an article providing essential definitions.

In her August 19, 2019 article entitled “White supremacy and white nationalism have re-entered our political conversation. But what do they mean?” Elizabeth Thomas aims to define racism, white supremacy, and white nationalism in order to help facilitate the national conversation. Unfortunately, Thomas omits two critical terms that are essential to understanding our current situation: institutional racism and structural racialization.

While hundreds of hours of national and regional media attention focus on whether Trump is a white supremacist, far too few hours have been spent outlining how the policies promoted and enacted by the Trump administration reinforce and aggravate structural racialization, the system of social structures that produces and reproduces cumulative, durable, race-based inequalities.

Racialized outcomes don’t require racist actors

In a workbook called “Race, Power and Policy: Dismantling Structural Racism,” Sandra Hinson, Richard Heasley and Nathaniel Wiesenberg at the Grassroots Policy Project remind us that structural racialization is built into institutions and practices. As they write, “The thing to remember about structural racialization is that racialized outcomes no longer require racist actors. It is built-into the institutions and practices. Getting rid of a racist person does not change the practices. The critical aspect of racism that we must address today is the accumulation and incorporation of long-standing racialized practices into all of our social and economic structures.”

While I believe Trump is a racist, and that his racist and vitriolic rhetoric signals official support for and incentives to racist and violent actions, I am also concerned that his larger-than-life media persona is designed to distract attention from Trump administration efforts to further embed racialized practices into our social and economic structures. The policies this administration is enacting require as much or more sustained critique as does Trump’s personal behavior. Replacing Trump is not enough.

Applying a racial justice lens to Trump administration policies

Hinson, Heasley and Wiesenberg describe characteristics of policies that exacerbate structural racism: they allow the segregation of resources and risks (like toxic dumping policies); they create/maintain inherited group disadvantage or advantage (failing to acknowledge historical injustices, facilitating the transfer of intergenerational wealth); they allow human life to be differentially valued based on race (as with our current immigration policies); and they limit self-determination of certain groups of people.

In order to bring a racial justice lens to policy analyses, Hinson, Heasley and Wiesenberg argue that we have to ask who benefits from the policy, and who is burdened by the policy? Can burdens be more equitably distribut-

ed? How are people of color included in the decision-making process, and what criteria were used to make the decision? Can equity be better addressed, and disparities closed? What does an equitable, participative, and effective public process look like?

far too few hours have been spent outlining how the policies promoted and enacted by the Trump administration reinforce and aggravate structural racialization

Immigration policies that punish immigrants

Immigration policies under this current administration are more racist, more destructive, more insidious in resurrecting white supremacy as an explicit value in the US than anything we’ve seen in recent years.

In a powerful op-ed called “Why I Resigned as an Immigration Judge,” published in the *LA Times* on August 4, 2019, Ilyce Shugall walks readers through Trump administration policies that facilitate structural racism. For example, Attorney General Jeff Sessions increased case quotas for judges. Instead of hearing two cases a day, one in each allotted time slot, judges were instructed to hear three cases beginning immediately. Two cases had to be squeezed into one time slot regardless of their complexity. In addition, judges were told they could have only one interpreter per time slot, whether or not defendants in the two cases spoke the same language or spoke English.

According to Shugall, these new administrative procedures made it much harder for judges to “uphold the constitutional protections required to properly adjudicate cases” and she ultimately quit. As she predicted, the Trump Administration has continued to work to embed structural racism more deeply into the justice system. For example, they attempted to make individuals seeking asylum ineligible if they did not present themselves at a port of entry, while at the same time preventing asylum seekers from being processed at ports of entry.

In addition, the Trump Administration has moved to replace interpreters with a video at asylum seekers’ first appointment where their rights and responsibilities are laid out. In this instance, the US government’s previous commitment to upholding due process rights for those with limited English proficiency (LEP) as outlined in Executive Order 13166 and backed by the US Department of Justice, is being set aside ostensibly in the name of cost-cutting. Clearly, this move also reinforces the differential valuing of human life based on race, ethnicity, and language.

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**

SAVE THE DATE

WOMXN OF ACHIEVEMENT

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
IJEOMA OLUO

YWCA Olympia invites you to the 2019
Womxn of Achievement Celebration. Join us
to welcome our special guest speaker Ijeoma
Oluo, author of
So You Want to Talk About Race.

YWCA OLYMPIA 2019
WOMXN OF
ACHIEVEMENT

11 / 02 / 19
SPSCC

Environmental Protection Agency rules weaken air quality protections

This summer, the EPA issued its new “Affordable Clean Energy” rule (ACE), repealing and replacing the 2015 Clean Power Plan (CPP) which aimed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. The CPP established state-specific targets for reducing emissions from their electric power sector as a whole. The ACE rule instead directs states to establish emission reduction levels for individual power plants.

Standards set under the ACE rule will be significantly less stringent than those set by the CPP. A June 20, 2019 blog post for the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, based at Columbia University, notes that according to EPA, “the ACE Rule will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by just 11 million short tons in 2030, whereas the CPP would have delivered emissions reductions of 415 million tons (both relative to a no-action baseline).”

EPA assumes CO2 emissions have only localized consequences

This intended reduction in carbon dioxide emissions shifts the burden of burning coal for power from fossil-fuel energy companies and their stockholders to people and other species. In another administrative move providing a textbook example of structural racism, the EPA report on ACE explains its decision to exclude consideration of people and places outside the US by citing to a circular:

“Circular A-4 states that analysis of economically significant proposed and final regulations ‘should focus on benefits and costs that accrue to citizens and residents of the United States.’ We follow this guidance by adopting a domestic perspective in our central analysis.”

It may be that the EPA staffers who wrote this report understood the specious reasoning behind Circular A-4—which ignores the fact that the climate crisis adheres to no nation-state boundaries, and it’s impossible for any country to extricate itself from the planet. Unlike the immigration judge who resigned, however, the

writers of the ACE report labored on.

EPA impact analysis based on faulty assumptions

In the initial regulatory impact analysis (RIA) that went along with the ACE rule proposal, EPA estimated that replacing CPP with ACE would result in an additional 470-1400 premature deaths; 48,000 cases of exacerbated asthma; 42,000 lost work days; and 21,000 missed school days.

Faced with these estimates, the EPA revised its methodology, and claimed that the ACE rule would avoid 50-122 premature deaths in 2030, as well as 14,000 asthma attacks, 4,600 lost work days, and 8,200 missed school days. These improvements in health outcomes were achieved by a rhetorical sleight of hand.

In the first scenario, the Trump administration assumed that the ACE would replace the CPP. Standards would go down, regulation would ease, and the concomitant health outcomes would go down as well. In the revised methodology, the Trump administration assumed that there were no federal standards governing CO2 emissions. Instead, they posited that the CPP was repealed, hence no standards. The ACE standards could then be compared to no standards, with the result that health outcomes “improved” under the ACE rule.

Public policies that promote racial justice

John Dewey once wrote that “the public has no hands except those of human beings.” Donald Trump and his administration is directing people in government agencies to enact policies that are separating resources and risks, maintaining inherited group advantages and disadvantages, allowing human life to be differentially valued based on race, and limiting the self-determination of certain groups of people. Far too many people are going along with these plans. We cannot create the future we need unless and until this changes.

Emily Lardner currently lives in Aberdeen, Wa.

damage

sometimes it snows in the mountains
although the valley stays dry, so you awake
and, driving wherever you have to go, see
blankets of snow in the foothills coating clearcut patches
between tall evergreens. the snow--alternating with stands
of mostly bare trees--makes a quilt that eases the eye.
i had almost the same feeling tonight
soaking up pink-orange sunset that had been enhanced,
i could see from the thick haze surrounding it,
by refinery smoke. even rain-filled tractor tracks
striping sky across green field gravitate my eyes.
i feel sorry for myself sometimes, compelled not just
to love the world but to admire the damage. once
i dreamed i saw earth from afar, and, in places where blue
ocean should've been, there was a deep earthy brown
instead. in bewilderment and panic, i could only repeat
but that's beautiful too. and it was

Ann Tweedy

Student-led strike for action on climate

September 20

Ellyana Calle

When Greta Thunberg’s UN speech first hit social media, her fiery words and powerful rhetoric gave me chills and a wave of inspiration. Afterwards, it didn’t take long for the climate justice movement to pick up speed and make its way to the US. When the Youth Climate strike took place on March 15, I saw students who were ready to fight. With this event they had been given a voice. I knew that the students of Olympia wanted that voice, so I began to organize a strike at our state capitol.

Local students take the initiative
I have been blown away by the kindness and support from the people of this city and its surrounding areas. Along this journey, I met Kaylee Shen and Louisa Sevier, students at Olympia High School, who make up our dedicated team. Together we are working hard to make this event successful and impactful.

On Sept. 20, students will be striking from school to demand action, and we invite people of all ages to attend in solidarity. We are demanding that our local, state, and federal governments treat climate change as a crisis, and pass meaningful and ambitious legislation to combat it.

Our youth are our future
Alongside that, one of our main goals is to give a spotlight to the powerful young people in our community. Some kids have realized their potential and are involved in various forms of social justice. We want to give them a space and opportunity to shine. However, there are countless youth who do not realize the massive impact they can make, and we hope they feel empowered.

It took me a long time to call myself

an activist, and I wasted valuable time telling myself I wasn’t strong enough to make a difference. I want every student at the strike to know that they are an activist, and they are powerful. There is no age limit to activism, and if that is not already known, it soon will be.

Climate Strike!

Sept. 20

11 am – 1 pm

Capitol steps

The fight is for every life
Information about the amazing work they are doing will be available at the

strike from Thurston Climate Action Team. Olympia Indivisible’s “Get Out the Vote” team will be registering people to vote. There will also be inspiring speeches from young climate activists, along with much more.

We are fighting for every single life on this planet, we cannot take this lightly. Strike from school, strike from work, or simply attend. We hope to see you there.

Elyanna Calle is a student at Timberline High School and the organizer for the Olympia climate strike.

See Special Events on the back page of this issue. Follow climate strike updates **@climatestrike** on twitter and Instagram or **Olympia Climate Strike on Facebook**

Don’t panic–rebel

Jenny Stamps

“Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course,” said The Union of Concerned Scientists in their Warning to Humanity issued in 1992. Last October, thousands gathered to peacefully occupy five major bridges over the Thames in London.

“We’re the ones we’ve been waiting for,” activists chanted, superglued to the gates of Buckingham Palace. A letter was read to the Queen announcing a declaration of rebellion against the UK Government. This

was the catalyst of Extinction Rebellion (XR).

XR has three demands:

- ▶ Governments must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency and working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.
- ▶ Governments must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.
- ▶ Governments must create and be led by a citizens assembly on climate and ecological justice.

Extinction Rebellion’s website states that it is an “international apolitical network using non-violent direct action to persuade the government to act on the climate and ecological emergency.”

The Warning to Humanity predicted that without drastic changes, we will experience increased global temperatures, rising sea levels, melting of the poles, air pollution, loss of the ozone, water shortages, mass extinction and loss of biodiversity. These have escalated in the years following the release of the warning, painting a frightening picture of our possible future.

The Paris Agreement, drafted in 2015, brought world leaders together to establish goals for rising to the climate challenge. However, even if the agreements were kept, they meet only the the bare minimum to avoid the worst case scenario. As the UN Secretary General pointed out “What we still lack—even after the Paris Agreement—is the leadership and ambition to do what is needed.”

We don’t have time for an administration that denies climate change. We don’t have time for governments and institutions that are passive or outright negligent regarding the climate emergency. Our systems have failed us and unless we act now, we are heading for a global catastrophe.

Despite the plethora of warnings, the climate and ecological emergency has been shuffled into a raffle of popular political topics brought up and disputed then filed away for another administration to deal with.

This is no time to assume a spectator position. This is no time to carry on with business as usual. We simply can’t afford to. “The science is clear. We are facing an unprecedented global emergency. We are in a life or death situation of our own making. We must act now”(XR).

International momentum is building. All around the world, people are mobilizing to rise up in open rebel-

lion against the systems and practices that threaten life as we know it. There have been continuous actions worldwide to draw attention to the devastation of our present course. On Oct. 7, there will be a massive occupation in the UK, where thousands are planning to peacefully disrupt until they are arrested. Activists have every intention of overwhelming the system until the three demands are met.

Anyone has the power to initiate this kind of rebellion in their local community, and to peacefully take direct action. 2020 is fast approaching. It is time to alter our course and take on the work necessary to prevent our extinction.We must act with the urgency and ambition we have yet to see in our leaders. “ We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”

Consider this the call to action. What we do now will determine whether or not we have a future at all. To learn more or get involved go to <https://rebellion.earth/>

Jenny Stamps is a self initiated activist, world traveler, and writer from Tahoe, CA. She has lived in the Olympia area for three years, working on projects inspired by her travels.

Downtown Strategy

Not from Olympia, I found a home. Full of Donna, Marcy, Mike, Teresa A home called, “Ben’s.”

Old Olympia knew this place. Savored it, met there, drank there. I joined in.

Student dinners, out of town guests rendezvous during Art Walk Bar talk with Tom the Bartender.

Now City says, It’s all Blight. Tear it down, pave it, build a parking lot.

Even the Cuisine next door after 26 years of serving food has two years left. Blight.

Wake up, Olympia. As Joni says, you don’t know what you got till it’s gone.

Dan Leahy

Impeach Trump to protect the Constitution and the Rule of Law

In 1787 Benjamin Franklin was leaving Independence Hall at the close of the Constitutional Convention when a woman asked him what kind of government they had created. Franklin replied, “A Republic, if you can keep it.”

.To protect us from tyranny, the nation’s founders created a Constitution with checks and balances across the three branches. The Constitution also includes impeachment so we can protect ourselves from a tyrant who acts like he is above the law.

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” builds a case for activating the impeachment part of the Constitution. Two guests – Bonnie Jones and Steve Rubicz -- discuss what impeachment means, how it works.and the need to impeach Trump now instead hoping he’ll lose the 2020 election. Bonnie and Steve are knowledgeable activists.with Puget Sound Communities for Impeachment.

- We discuss Trump’s impeachable offenses, including:**
- Kidnapping children and imprisoning people in concentration camps
 - Taking “emoluments” (using the presidency to enrich himself from foreign and domestic sources)
 - Obstructing justice

- Violating the Constitution’s “separation of powers” and acting like a dictator over Congress
- Violating the First Amendment in several ways, including attacking the free press
- Provoking violence in several ways, including depriving people of constitutional rights

.We compare Trump’s case and Nixon’s case, recognize the progress that has been made toward impeaching Trump, and call for a stronger grassroots movement to impeach him.

We have more information than we could squeeze into a one-hour interview, so I encourage people to visit my blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org where they can watch this video, read an article I wrote summarizing what we said during this interview and find even more information.

Watch on your computer or on TCTV
Everyone can watch this interview or see a summary of what we said (plus get a list of links for further information) through Glen’s blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. Cable TV subscribers can watch on Thurston Community Television (TCTV) Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, and Thursdays at 9:00 pm. Questions? **Contact Glen Anderson**, at (360) 491-9093 and glenanderson@integra.net

Ranked Choice Voting: easy, fair and long overdue

John Gear

This article asks you to imagine a place where elections are so different from what we experience in the US today that it's almost unthinkable. Imagine election campaigns where candidates try not just to distinguish themselves, but also go out of their way to identify areas of agreement and points of commonality with opponents, and where negative campaigning is treated like poison.

An approach that predates the discovery of electricity

Yet this isn't some imaginary paradise. This is how upgraded elections work all over the world, because most countries have long since given up on our voting method – a method invented before the steam engine, the discovery of electricity, the advent of modern medicine, and social science.

Upgraded elections empower voters by giving them a good way to discourage the kind of dirty, negative campaigning that is so damaging and that helps make governance after the election so hard.

Best of all, this upgrade is simple, time-tested, and well-proven with a long and successful history of use in the US, shown again and again to solve the negative campaigning problem.

The time has come for Ranked Choice Voting

What is it? It's simple: Instead of limiting voters to casting only a single vote for their preferred candidate, voters rank as many candidates as they choose by order of preference, 1 for the first choice, 2 for the second choice, and so on.

Hence the name, Ranked Choice Voting, or RCV for short.

With Ranked Choice Voting, you never have to think about whether your vote for your favorite candidate might wind up helping elect a candidate you believe is terrible. Now, when there are more than two candidates in a race, our vote can backfire on us by helping to elect the candidate we like the least. This happens because of the potential for vote splitting, where the majority of voters inadvertently help elect their least preferred candidate by splitting their votes over several opponents – leaving the disliked candidate with the most votes.

VOTING BALLOT

CANDIDATES	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE
Rank in order of preference			
Someone I like	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The lesser evil	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apocalypse now	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Unintended consequences of the present system

No matter where you are on the political spectrum, you've probably seen elections where a candidate won de-

choice elections works just like voting today. Whoever gets the most votes wins. If no candidate gets a majority in the first count, the candidate with the fewest votes is dropped. Those who selected the dropped candidate as a first choice then have their votes added to the totals of their next choice. This "instant run-off" process continues until one candidate has more than half of the votes.

You vote will count even if your first choice is dropped

Ranked choice voting means you can always vote the way you want to, ranking the candidates in the order you personally prefer. You don't have to worry that you might be splitting the vote to the benefit of your least favorite. If your top choice is eliminated, your vote will count in an instant runoff round for the person you listed second. If both your first and second choices are dropped, when the ballots are counted in an instant runoff round, your third choice will be added to that candidate's total. You can relax about who anyone else is voting for, and simply rank your choices according to your own opinions, free of any worry about helping cause the election of the winner you liked least because you voted for the candidate you wanted most.

Other positive benefits of RCV

In other words, goodbye to "lesser evil" arguments and all the toxins that they

goodbye to "lesser evil" arguments and all the toxins that they inject into our politics, where a divided majority can and often is defeated by a united minority.

spite being opposed by the majority of voters, because their votes were split among several other candidates.

The fact that this can and does happen regularly creates a terrible dynamic among people who are actually allies. They generally agree on most things – they just happen to differ on which candidate best reflects their position. Thus their votes are spread across different candidates and wind up helping elect the candidate with whom they disagree on nearly everything.

If, when there are more than two candidates, you were able to rank your choices, this outcome would be avoided. You would list your favorite as your first choice and rank as many of the other candidates as you like.

No more voting for the lesser of two evils

Other than that, voting in ranked

inject into our politics, where a divided majority can and often is defeated by a united minority. The end of the lesser of evils dilemma is a great reason to support Ranked Choice Voting. But the benefits go further, because RCV replaces the zero-sum nature of our current elections with a different kind of dynamic, where candidates have every reason to form candidate coalitions and slates, even though they are all running for the same seat.

Candidates form these positive, issue-oriented coalitions in ranked choice voting elections because the ranking gives voters a way to reward more than one candidate. Thus, candidates compete to be the second or third choice of voters who plan to put someone else as their first choice. Rankings have proven in real-world elections to make a huge difference in how candidates think and talk about each other. Candidates know that they can't denigrate someone's favorite candidate and then ask to be listed as the second or third choice of that voter.

No voting system is perfect but Ranked Choice Voting is far superior to our current system. Growing numbers of people from Maine to California are learning from the example of Australia, where RCV has been used for over 100 years.

Note: FairVote Washington is a non-partisan 501(c)(4) social welfare non-profit dedicated to promoting awareness of and interest in ranked choice voting here in Washington. To find out more or get involved, go to www.FairVoteWA.org, or find us on your favorite social media channels.

John Gear in 1999 organized and led a campaign in which voters in Vancouver, Washington passed a revision to the city charter to give themselves the option of using ranked choice voting to elect of city officials. He recently moved from Oregon to Olympia.

l w b &
a o o p
s r o r
t d k e
s s s

111 cherry st NE
(360) 786-9673
lastwordbooks.org

COMMUNITY POWERED RADIO

KOWA

OLYMPIA, WA 106.5 FM

HARD KNOCK RADIO

Black Agenda Radio

RALPH NADER RADIO HOUR

THE TARFU REPORT

INTERCEPTED

106.5 FM Olympia

24/7 Public Affairs

REALITY RADIO FOR OLYMPIA

Also LiveStream us at:
www.kowalp.org

CounterPunch RADIO

RISING UP WITH SONALI

theREALnews.com

DEMOCRACY NOW!

LETTERS & POLITICS

PROJECT CENSORED

KAOS

DEMOCRACY NOW!
Mon-Fri @ 9am

national NATIVE NEWS
Mon-Fri @ 2:55 pm

THIS WAY OUT
The International Lesbian & Gay Radio Magazine
Tuesdays @ 3:00pm

Capitol City Live
Mon-Fri @ 4pm
Thom Hartman

89.3FM

KAOSRADIO.ORG

Hero, author and educator Toni Morrison gave complexity to the American experience

CHICAGO, August 6, 2019—The Chicago Teachers Union issued the following statement regarding the passing of legendary Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author and educator Toni Morrison:

“There is no public education without a treasure and an educator like Toni Morrison, who gave life to Black consciousness through her words and her influence on generations of writers.

“As she ascended to professional heights most of us can only dream of, she remained, simply, ‘Toni,’ with

her work rooted in the struggle of her people. She was a Nobel Laureate, and a Pulitzer and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, but also a matriarch of countless Black families—real and adopted—uplifting a culture that spanned spirituals in the fields of the Deep South to beauty shops at 87th and Stony. Her mere existence was the embodiment of the soul of Black folk as she gave complexity to the American experience in all of its splendor and suffering.

“Toni Morrison did not live to write.

She wrote as she lived, from her early works as a single mother to recognition as one of the greatest artists in American history. Our union sends

condolences to her friends, family and colleagues. We are blessed to have been among the many lives she so greatly touched.”

Bail reform We choose our priorities

Our roving correspondent

There are more jails and prisons—over 5,000—in the United States than degree-granting colleges and universities. State and local spending on prisons and jails has increased at triple the rate of funding for public education for preschool through grade 12 education in the last three decades, according to a report by the US Department of Education.

It's rarely noted that one out of every three incarcerated people is held in a local jail, not a state or federal prison. That 5000-plus number includes 3,283 jails—like the ones in Thurston County and surrounding jurisdictions. Yet our local jails receive scant attention.

Sitting in jail but convicted of nothing

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, at any given moment there are more than 700,000 people held in local jails. More than half of these individuals have not been convicted of anything. They are in jail because they are either too poor to make bail and are being held before trial, or because they've just been arrested and

will make bail in the next few hours or days.

These people are legally considered innocent until proven otherwise in court. But if they don't have the money to post bail, the principle that they are legally innocent is not enough to keep them from being locked up until trial.

Our priorities transform our future

It seems our jails function as modern-day debtor's prisons, with the consequences that family life is disrupted, jobs and housing can be lost even when the person in jail is found not guilty. Pre-trial detention also coerces people to plead guilty to some offenses, including people who are factually innocent.

In addition to those jailed awaiting trial, the remainder are serving time for minor offenses, generally misdemeanors with sentences under a year.

There is a movement today to reform the bail system. But meaningful bail reform is not enough. We need to be asking why we arrest so many people on low-level offenses in the first place and why so many of them come from poor black and brown communities.

you write to WiP

Dear WiP,

Did the mountain bikers build trails in Kaiser Woods illegally? They certainly do everywhere else in the world that has been infected by that extreme sport. Will the park remain attractive to people and wildlife after being turned into a race track? I doubt it! Will hikers and runners enjoy sharing narrow trails with mountain bikes? It's hard to believe. How will the wetlands and neighboring homes survive the inevitable runoff from soil-shredding knobby tires? Why wasn't the question even raised? Is promoting an extreme sport like mountain biking really worth destroying more wildlife habitat? Haven't we

destroyed far too much already? One look at Capital Mall would suggest “yes!”

Don't mountain bikers already have plenty of places to wreck? Why should we promote a sport that continually results in horrific injuries and even deaths? What do kids learn about nature by racing through it at high speed? That it is acceptable to trash it, as long as you are having fun? Are mountain bikers incapable of WALKING? These are the questions you SHOULD be asking. I can't think of a single good reason to allow bicycles on any unpaved trail.

Mike Vandeman, Ph.D.
Formerly of Olympia

Capital HS grad Teresa Mosqueda wins national recognition

Olympia native Teresa Mosqueda was elected to the Seattle City Council in 2017 with a background as a labor advocate and all-around Pacific Northwesterner. This July Teresa was awarded the Progressive Champion of the Year honor by Local Progress, a national network of elected officials across the country. The award recognized

Teresa's leadership on Seattle's Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, as well as her work pushing for progressive housing policies, corporate accountability and progressive issues across the country. We look forward to more young Olympians following Teresa's lead, getting into politics and pushing for a more worker-friendly future! .

New Traditions Fair Trade Café & World Folk Arts

Folk art brought here through equitable trade relationships with artisans and farmers from more than fifty countries.

Every sale supports the work of the people.

Café hours: Mon–Sat 9–6 • Sun 11–5
real good food always

Check the website for music and other events
www.traditionsfairtrade.com

300 5th Avenue SW, Olympia • 360.705.2819

No one gets away until they WIP it.

read

WIP is distributed via indoor and outdoor boxes in Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Shelton, Centralia, Lacey, Tumwater and Olympia. Find us online at olywip.org.

write

Writing for WIP gives you the chance to express your ideas in print to thousands of local people. Check our submissions guidelines on page 2 and let's talk.

advertise

When you advertise in WIP you join other community leaders who support independent journalism. Check out our rates and specs at olywip.org.

volunteer

Contact us at olywip@gmail.com to set up a time to talk.

subscribe

Works in Progress has been Thurston County's trusted independent voice for social justice since 1990. Delivered to your mailbox each month for \$35/year.

Name _____
Street _____
City/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Make check out to
Works in Progress
and mail to
PO Box 295,
Olympia,
WA 98507.



Works In Progress



This issue: the future we create

Special events

Climate Strike!

September 20-27, everywhere in Olympia
Events everywhere will emphasize the importance of actions taken right now to stabilize our climate. It's an emergency! Local events include:

Two electric vehicle events planned for that

general period:

September 14 at Capital Mall, sponsored by PSE; and
September 22 at the OUUC, sponsored by OUUC

Plant a Tree for the Climate,

Thursday, September 26 at 12 Noon, venue TBA.
The Green Party sponsors a day of tree-planting as part of the Climate Strike, to emphasize how important trees are and how easy it is to plant more of them. More details at 360-232-6165

Statewide, you can also join these activities:

Walk to Protect & Restore the Salish Sea

Sept. 20-24: (Tacoma):

Sept. 24: Climate Emergency Gathering at State Capital:

Start your own event!

Go to <https://strikewithus.org/> to get started organizing.

Native Plant Nursery Learning and Work Party

September 5, 5 to 7 PM, at 2214 RW Johnson Bvd SW

Potting, division and organizational projects, led by the WSU Extension Service.

Get to know others with an interest in native plants. Visit <https://streamteam.info/events> to register.

Harvest Party

September 7, 12 noon – 4 PM at West Central Park at Division & Harrison, West Oly
Enjoy food, music games and prizes as we celebrate the bounty of the harvest season.

Grant Writing 101 with Alison Pride

September 7, 1 – 4:30 PM at Olympia Timberland Library
Grant resources; strategies for good grantwriting. To register, go to Friends of the Olympia Timberland Library on Facebook.

GRuB's 2019 Harvest Soiree

September 7, 4 to 8 PM, at Albee's, 4127 20th Lane NW.
Annual farm-to-table feast. Local produce, beverages and craft foods. Tickets \$100,

The Detention Lottery—a live drama

September 9, 7 – 9 PM at Temple Beth-Hatfloh, 201 8th Street Olympia.

A performance of a play based on a Seattle immigration lawyer's experiences; set in a detention center. Promotes understanding of how our nation's immigration laws are enforced. Free.

Lighting the Way with Community Solar

September 10, 5:30 to 8 PM, at the

Olympia Center Banquet Room

Learn how to join the community solar movement. Work with others to bring solar energy to a local public area.

Zine-making and Tabling Training

September 10, 6:30 to 8 at Planned Parenthood,

402 Legion Way SE in Oly

Training in creating zines and tabling. Get creative! Free.

Jacobin Reading Group

Wednesday, September 11, 6 to 7:30 PM at Orca Books, 509 E. 4th Ave.

We generally discuss three or four short articles of interest to socialists published primarily, though not exclusively, in Jacobin [magazine]. Contact us at jacobin@olydsa.com

Heroes for Housing VI

September 11, 7:45 to 9, at South Puget Sound Community College

Fundraiser for low-income housing in Thurston and Mason Counties. Inspirational stories from tenants. Free, donations encouraged.

Speak Up, Speak Out – fundraiser for SafePlace

September 15, 2 to 5 PM at Albee's, 4127 20th Lane NW
Lawn games, best-dressed contest, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, cocktails, silent auction and raffle. Tickets \$75;

Meaningful Movies: Transfigurations – Transgressing Gender in the Bible

Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 PM at the OUU

Congregation, 2215 Division St. in West Olympia

A one-person play featuring trans-gender Biblical characters from the most widely-read Bible stories. Free. Discussion follows.

Democratic Socialists of America Monthly Meeting

Saturday, September 21, 4 to 6 pm

at MIXX 96 Meeting Room, 119 Washington St NE

The largest socialist organization in the U.S. holds meetings to promote socialist policies and empower citizens. Info: dsaolympia@gmail.com.

Thurston County Democratic

Women Monthly Meeting

September 25, 6 to 8:30 at the Oly Center, 222

Columbia St

Supporting Democratic women in politics.

Northwest Permaculture Convergence

September 27-29 at the Lost Valley Education Center, Dexter, OR

Learn how to apply permaculture principles in your backyard or your community. Many presentations to choose from (in regenerative agriculture, social permaculture, or any sustainable system). Keynote Friday night. Tickets \$175 for camping and food; special prices available.

For a fuller listing of events of September

events, go to LocalMotive.org. For some

events posted to WIP after the deadline,

check out the WIP Facebook page.