

When a 13% return isn't enough

Bethany Weidner

The City Council offers exemptions from property taxes for developers who build “market rate” housing downtown. According to their Downtown Strategy (DTS), market conditions present a few years ago would produce a return of [only] 13%, while “entrepreneurial developers” wanted at least 15%. The 8-year exemption from tax on residential elements brought returns into the 18% range. The four developers whose projects are shown in the photo above were all awarded the 8-year break.

Additional incentives

However, the tax break is not the only help provided to developers who build market rate housing downtown. The City Council has approved additional expenditures to “enhance the desirability of downtown and the feasibility of development.” These include a reduced contribution to impact fees, exemption from environmental review under SEPA, street improvements customized for developers among other things.

Expand lower cost housing downtown

During development of the Downtown Strategy, some participants observed that promoting new market rate housing downtown could result in displacement of lower income residents. The City’s report acknowledged that older downtown apartments “are especially at risk of being lost as affordable units because the rents could increase as the market goes up.”

In fact, the Downtown Strategy said that “income data suggests that subsidized and lower cost housing is important and that as Downtown continues to grow, these residential options should be expanded.”

Options for low income renters diminish

That’s not what’s happening. The Council has presided over the loss of affordable units as older buildings close to be renovated for rent at market rates. Based on a 2015 inventory, about 57% of downtown residences were subsidized or low-cost units while 38% of dwelling units were “market rate, plus 5% “live aboard.” The options for lower-income renters have diminished quickly. In 2017, the figures were 43% low cost housing units vs 57% market rate units. In 2018, low cost units continued to fall—42% vs 58% market rate. The homeless population continued to rise.

► 13%, continued on page 6



The four owners of these nine high-end apartment buildings don't have to pay an estimated total of \$10,013,992 in property taxes over the next 8 years. Photos by Dan Leahy.

Activists arrested in Trident submarine blockade at Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa

On March 2, thirteen nuclear abolitionists blocked traffic leading into Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Washington as part of a public protest of Trident nuclear-missile-launching submarines based there.

The direct action came at the conclusion of the annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community, a network of spiritually motivated activists from the Pacific Coast and other western states committed to nonviolent action for a nuclear-free future.

Washington state police arrested nine people for obstructing traffic by carrying banners that stretched across the roadway just outside the

Kelly, a Jesuit priest and member of the Pacific Life Community, has been in a Georgia county jail for almost two years after his April 5, 2018 arrest with six other Catholic nuclear disarmament activists

base main gate. Their banners read “Trident Threatens All Life on Earth” and “Abolish Nuclear Weapons.” While they stood in the road, one of the blockaders read aloud from the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2017, the Treaty will enter into force when ratified by 50 nations. Thirty-five nations have ratified to date. The US is not a signer.

Shortly thereafter, four people carry-

ing signs crossed one at a time onto base property. Before stepping over a blue line painted on the pavement, each made a statement to the assembled activists, police and military personnel. Each in turn was arrested by Navy security and taken into custody. They were issued trespass citations and released shortly thereafter, pending arraignment in U.S. District Court in Tacoma. The nine arrested by state police had also been quickly cited and released.

► Arrests, continued on page 9

Works in Progress (WIP), is a community newspaper based in Olympia WA, that has been published monthly since 1990.

WIP's mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

Editorial policy

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and account of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also welcome.

Informed opinion pieces are accepted when accompanied by facts, examples, and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it's unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won't be accepted.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP aims to print material that is consistent with our mission. 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 those areas.

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Advertising Rates

\$10 per column inch
Business card \$25/30
Quarter page \$160
Discounts for 6-12 months

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Backpage infographic:
Chase Patton

Deadline for May issue
April 15

Proofreading April 26

Not the usual suspects

Hitting the pause button is giving us time to think

[Ed note: Politico Magazine went beyond the NPR and MSNBC regulars asking for thoughts on where the Coronavirus might lead us. Read all 30 responses at <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/03/19/coronavirus>]

The rules we've lived by won't all apply. Astra Taylor is a filmmaker and author of *Democracy May Not Exist, But We'll Miss It When It's Gone*.

America's response to coronavirus pandemic has revealed a simple truth: So many policies that our elected officials have long told us were impossible and impractical were eminently possible and practical all along. In 2011, when Occupy Wall Street activists demanded debt cancellation for student loans and medical debt, they were laughed at by many in the mainstream media. In the intervening years, we have continued to push the issue and have consistently been told our demands were unrealistic. Now, we know that the "rules" we have lived under were unnecessary, and simply made society more brittle and unequal.

All along, evictions were avoidable; the homeless could've been housed and sheltered in government buildings; water and electricity didn't need to be turned off for people behind on their bills; paid sick leave could've been a right for all workers; paying your mortgage late didn't need to lead to foreclosure; and debtors could've been granted relief. President Donald Trump has already put a freeze on interest for federal student loans, while New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has paused all medical and student debt owed to New York State. Democrats and Republicans are discussing suspending collection on—or outright canceling—student loans as part of a larger economic stimulus package.

It's clear that in a crisis, the rules don't apply—which makes you wonder why they are rules in the first place. This is an unprecedented opportunity to not just hit the pause button and temporarily ease the pain, but to permanently change the rules so that untold millions of people aren't so vulnerable to begin with.

A new kind of patriotism. Mark Lawrence Schrad teaches political science and is author of the forthcoming *Smashing the Liquor Machine: A Global History of Prohibition*.

America has long equated patriotism with the armed forces. But you can't shoot a virus. Those on the frontlines against coronavirus aren't conscripts, mercenaries or enlisted men; they are our doctors, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, caregivers, store clerks, utility workers, small-business owners and employees. Like Li Wenliang and the doctors of Wuhan, many are suddenly saddled with unfathomable tasks, compounded by an increased risk of contamination and death they never signed up for.

When all is said and done, perhaps we will recognize their sacrifice as true patriotism, saluting our doctors and nurses, genuflecting and saying, "Thank you for your service," as we now do for mili-

tary veterans. We will give them guaranteed health benefits and corporate discounts, and build statues and have holidays for this new class of people who sacrifice their health and their lives for ours. Perhaps, too, we will finally start to understand patriotism more as cultivating the health and life of your community, rather than blowing up someone else's community. Maybe the demilitarization of American patriotism and love of community will be one of the benefits to come out of this whole awful mess.

Less individualism. Eric Klinenberg is professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. He is the author, most recently, of *Palaces for the People*.

The coronavirus pandemic marks the end of our romance with market society and hyper-individualism. We could turn toward authoritarianism. Imagine President Donald Trump trying to suspend the November election. Consider the prospect of a military crackdown. The dystopian scenario is real. But I believe we will go in the other direction. We're now seeing the market-based models for social organization fail, catastrophically, as self-seeking behavior (from Trump down) makes this crisis so much more dangerous than it needed to be.

When this ends, we will reorient our politics and make substantial new investments in public goods—for health, especially—and public services. I don't think we will become less communal. Instead, we will be better able to see how

our fates are linked. The cheap burger I eat from a restaurant that denies paid sick leave to its cashiers and kitchen staff makes me more vulnerable to illness, as does the neighbor who refuses to stay home in a pandemic because our public school failed to teach him science or critical thinking skills. The economy—and the social order it helps support—will collapse if the government doesn't guarantee income for the millions of workers who will lose their jobs in a major recession or depression. Young adults will fail to launch if government doesn't help reduce or cancel their student debt. The coronavirus pandemic is going to cause immense pain and suffering. But it will force us to reconsider who we are and what we value, and, in the long run, it could help us rediscover the better version of ourselves.

Expect a political uprising. Cathy O'Neil is founder and CEO of the company ORCAA and author of *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*.

The aftermath of the coronavirus is likely to include a new political uprising—an Occupy Wall Street 2.0, but this time much more massive and angrier. Once the health emergency is over, we will see the extent to which rich, well-connected and well-resourced communities will have been taken care of, while contingent, poor and stigmatized communities will have been thoroughly destroyed. Moreover, we will have seen how political action is possible—multi-trillion dollar bailouts and projects can be mobilized quickly—but only if the cause is considered urgent. This mismatch of long-disregarded populations finally getting the message that their needs are not only chronically unattended, but also chronically dismissed as politically required, will likely have drastic, pitchfork consequences.

Upcoming themes

May: Linkages. What things connect us to one another: Nextdoor online or a visit to the next door neighbor? What things connect our political analyses and organizing? Send your thoughts to olywip@gmail.com by April 15.

June: Unintended consequences. There are certainly unintended consequences to actions small and large, but maybe some of those consequences are predictable. Write about your experiences and exposure to these and send the result to olywip@gmail.com by May 13.

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What about those who can't stay home?

Washington's Governor Inslee issued an order on March 23 prohibiting people from leaving home except for essential activities at least through April 6. The order exempted "individuals experiencing homelessness." So if you're homeless, you're not illegal, just on your own. The order said nothing about people locked up – either officially imprisoned or "detained," which is like prison but you're not convicted of anything and the sentence is indefinite.

Thurston County homeless
Local volunteers. This January, Thurston County volunteers counted over 1000 people living without adequate shelter. Volunteers with Just Housing Olympia (JHO) will be working with Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE) and others involved with the Greater Regional Outreach Workers League (GROWL) to support unhoused neighbors. JHO will help distribute survival supplies and food to people living outdoors. They are also coordinating with other community advocates to support low-income people and tenants, and to advocate for economic and health protections. For ways you can help, go to <https://justhousingolympia.org/>
Public institutions. The County

Board of Health received a \$1 million state grant to address the impact of COVID19 on people with no homes. According to Acting Olympia City Manager Jay Burney, as of March 25, the County began working to take the following steps:
Expand shelter capacity and existing 24-hour shelter offerings. Move beds 6 ft apart at shelters. To maintain capacity, the city has offered use of a vacant building at 2828 Martin Way. Provide meal and hygiene product delivery to encampments to allow for "shelter" in place. Provide portable toilets, hand washing stations, and garbage pick-up. Setting up quarantine and isolation spaces.

With County assistance, ten high risk individuals moved from the Downtown Mitigation site into hotel rooms. More options are being considered.
Incarcerated people
People held in the Northwest Detention Center. GEO Group continues to detain approximately 800 people in close quarters at NWDC, in violation of social distancing orders. This has created the potential for a devastating outbreak of COVID-19 at the Center. While Governor Inslee has

expressed concern about the issue no action has been taken. According to RCW 43.06.220, when a state of emergency is declared, the governor can "issue an order prohibiting such other activities as he or she reasonably believes should be prohibited to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace."
Supporters of the people held at NWDC are asking the Governor to use his emergency authority to release people from the Center and to prevent new detentions and deportations. More information and instructions to contact officials

is at <https://www.facebook.com/LaResistenciaNW>.
Department of Corrections. There is no consideration of compassionate release from prisons at this time, but the DOC in February adopted a set of measures to deter the spread of COVID19. As of March 28, there were 5 confirmed cases in the system. You can see a comprehensive and detailed day-by-day description of all actions and occurrences at prisons and work release sites by going to <https://www.doc.wa.gov/news/covid-19.htm> and clicking on the "daily situation report."

About the cover



Photo by Lori Lively

In Boston, the shelves are empty of flour. In Olympia, the co-op ran out of yeast. People are home baking bread—a pleasure that relies on time and warmth. Starbucks uses more than 8,000 paper cups a minute (4 billion a year and mountains of recyclable trash). For fun let's say other disposable beverage containers are 2-3 times that. For a month, a lot of us have been brewing coffee or tea at home. Even the word "brewing" suggests a pleasant space of time. And we have time; we share this pause with our neighbors and the rest of the country. Musing over the pages of a book savor both the tea and reminder of the pleasure of "inconvenience."



Buttons by Emily Fenton, Photo by JD Ross Leahy

Strengthen and build immunity to give your body a fighting chance

Lori Lively
Sheltering in place, washing hands often, not touching the face and using a mask when encountering outsiders are all good ways to "flatten the curve" and stop the spread of N-Covid-19. But don't stop there—consider the advice of nutritionists, naturopaths and medical doctors who recommend additional ways to boost your immunity. Your local natural health store can help you find products.
Vitamin C. Small amounts (roughly a teaspoon) of liposomal vitamin C, taken orally every few hours to bowel tolerance, is one of the most effective ways to treat viral infection, short of intravenous application. If bowels become loose, lessen the dosage.
Mushrooms. Medicinal mushrooms in supplement form, from turkey tail to chaga, reishi cordyceps and lion's mane, have been found variously to support immune health by reducing stress, lessening inflammation, and even enhancing natural killer (NK) microphages in white blood cells that fight tumor production.
Iodine. Atomic, or nascent, iodine is being rediscovered not just for thyroid disorders but for protecting the body, to some degree,

from the immune-suppressing effects of radiation. If that seems unrelated to the current pandemic, think again: everything that weakens immunity should be avoided, including alcohol, sugar, marijuana, tobacco, stress, caffeine and over-exposure to electromagnetic frequencies.
Externals. Silver in its hydrosol form (suspended in water) has also been shown to fight viral infections, as does oil of oregano when mixed with a carrier oil and applied nightly to the tops and soles of the feet. Wear thick wool or cotton socks after applying the oil until it has been absorbed.
Stay calm. Deep breathing, sound sleep, rhythmic movement, eating fresh, organically grown food, and regularly practicing meditation and prayer are also outstanding ways to reduce stress and give our bodies a chance to heal. Above all, avoid panic and fear, which also compromise immunity.
Lori Lively is former Education Director at Marlene's Natural Food stores in Tacoma and Federal Way. For more information about non-pharmaceutical methods to boost immunity and fight viral infections, go to Joseph Mercola, MD (www.mercola.com) and Thomas Cowan, MD (fourfoldhealing.com).

Then this happened...

WIP covered freight derailments in February, and this month, Washington legislators sent Governor Inslee a bill that requires freight and passenger trains to run with a minimum of two crew members.
—climate activists were acquitted of criminal trespass by a Portland jury based on a defense that it is sometimes necessary to break the law to combat planetary catastrophe. WIP's May 2019 issue covered the action by Rebellion Extinction along with Ken Ward, who presented the "climate necessity" defense in Washington as well.
—an oil pipeline on tribal lands has to comply with the law. Standing Rock Sioux won its challenge of the Dakota Access Pipeline when a judge ordered a new environmental review by the Corps of Engineers. It turns out that Donald Trump had expedited the permit for Sunoco Co. in violation of federal law. WIP reported on Standing Rock Water Protectors throughout 2017.

—Socialist Ivo Morales actually won Bolivia's 2019 election. Remember how US papers and our government endorsed the claim by the OAS that the election was fraudulent? And denounced Morales as corrupt? And how the Trump Administration quickly welcomed a Conservative woman who declared herself President in place of Morales? Too quickly, it turns out. MIT researchers analyzed the actual vote and determined that Morales was the legitimate victor—there was no evidence of fraud. Washington Post specialists in election integrity came to the same conclusion.
In the meantime, Morales was removed from power. A new military-installed government has tried to disqualify voters in the Movement for Socialism Party, ahead of new elections. But the damage is done - a country on the way to democracy was destabilized and handed over to conservatives and the military. Stay tuned for Venezuela. (See WIP's report on Bolivia's election in March 2020 issue.)

Taking action to turn things around in the 2020 election:

Olympia Indivisible talks to Arizona voters

Robin Ivey-Black

It all started on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with over 170 people attending a meeting of Olympia Indivisible (OI). I entered the basement of St. John's Episcopal Church inspired by posters on the wall with quotes by King such as "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Olympia Indivisible was born shortly after the 2016 Presidential election, with an outpouring of incredible work and dedication by Lisa Ornstein and Carla Wulfsberg. As part of the National Indivisible movement, it advocates at state level for progressive Democratic legislation. Nationally we work to oust Trump, take back the US Senate and increase Democratic seats in the House of Representatives.

Many were stirred to gather after the impeachment circus brazenly displayed that our very democracy was at risk. People gathered to make a difference because the idea of four more years of Trump was abhorrent. Could human decency, care of others and the planet survive?

At the meeting, I joined the Home Team, which would write letters to Arizona Democrats less likely to vote. It has been proven that handwritten encouragement can increase voter turnout by 3-4%. Arizona was the focus because Trump won the state by a small margin in 2016 - 4.1%. This time around, a Democrat has a good chance of winning a Senate seat.

Part of the effort included travel to Arizona. Initially I thought that was too much for me, but then I realized we have less than a year to turn things around. I came to believe, as I heard someone say at the meeting, that *action is hope*.

Here is the day-to-day report of my trip.

2/28/2020 Five of our group of 12 arrived in Phoenix. Others are already here or arriving tomorrow.

The locals say many new residents are registering as Democrats. There are 135,000 more Republicans than Democrats registered in Arizona. We will focus on registering college students and encouraging them to vote. We will also canvass for state candidates. It's a numbers and encouragement game.

The state legislature is important because although for years the Republicans have controlled both houses, they now have slim control in the House (31-29) and a 17 to 13 lead in the Senate. If the state legislature turned Democratic it would have the authority to create fair 2021 redistricting after the census, thereby remedying terrible cases of Republican gerrymandering.

2/29/2020 Our first day we met with folks at the newly opened headquarters of Legislative District 28, which covers a lot of Phoenix. They are supporting three candidates, all running to improve education. As a result of Republican control over the last 12 years, education became so underfunded that Arizona schools are rated close to the bottom of all states. There are also problems with unregulated charter schools.



Oly Indivisible visitors join volunteers from Arizona's District 28 to canvas for Democratic candidates. Photo by Robin Ivey-Black

After our training we each partnered with a local volunteer. I had Mary, a hardworking, longterm, senior canvasser. We drove 15 minutes north to a neighborhood, carrying our phones with the "Mini-van" app. This has downloadable addresses of Democrats in the area. We used the app to enter updated info about voters. Most people were receptive; some work in the education field. Their concerns included low teachers' salaries and health care.

The morning was cool but by 11 am I was heating up. One of our main duties was to gather 1,000 signatures for each candidate so that their names can appear on the ballot. We met a young Republican who told us he is voting Democratic because he was discouraged over the education issues.

We also gave out flyers about a house party where neighbors could meet the candidates. Mary encouraged people to go—they would meet each other and see which of their neighbors are 'Dems' so they could vent or cheer together. This was telling—people here keep their politics close to the vest.

3/1/20 On our second day, a Sunday, many people didn't answer the door. We left literature on locking metal screen doors of stucco homes with pebbly landscaping and large cacti.

I hooked up a young man with volunteer opportunities at the District 28 headquarters. That gave me a lift after conversing with an older woman who was a Democrat but now believes they are no good. I couldn't convince her that we need to remove Trump. My hunch was confirmed after asking about her news source: Fox. My parting words were for her to try public television news.

We returned to party headquarters for their official grand opening. Tons of people were there, along with state candidates Aaron Lieberman, Christine Marsh and Kelly Butler. Our group from Washington was recognized and given hats, tee shirts and applause.

I was tired at the end of the day but we met with Richard Gooding of Field Team 6 at the hotel. Richard focuses on registration on college campuses in Phoenix. There are 140,000 students here. Richard trained us in registering and the nuances of the Arizona

voting system.

3/2/20—3/5/20 We broke into groups of three to four and drove rental cars to various universities and community colleges. There was a lot of driving because Phoenix is large and very spread out.

We found that many students are already registered and that local groups and groups from California have been helping with registration here, too. But we do register some students, providing education and encouragement, as well.

We reminded students to get their Democratic primary ballots in the mail by a certain date. Some had not received a ballot. They had to check their mail at their parents' house. We can re-register them if they have moved or don't want a ballot sent to their parents. If they have registered as independent, which some have, they will not receive a primary ballot. We can re-register them as Democrats so they receive a ballot to vote in August's primary election.

Our team came with anti-Trump stickers and "Voting is Your Super Power" stickers. Many students love them. It is an opportunity to talk more. Many told me they are overwhelmed with college work and say they can't deal with, or know enough about political stuff to make a good decision. They expressed confusion about who was the best Democrat candidate or what was true anymore. Politicians not working together bothered one.

Many had difficulty coming up with answers when asked what they thought were the important issues. Some listed student debt and climate change. Other team members said they heard foreign

policy, women's rights and health care. Many liked Bernie Sanders but said if Biden got the nomination they would vote for him.

Take-aways. My most memorable moment came in talking with a Christian student from Montana who thought he would vote for Trump. I tried to infuse some complexity into his most important issue, abortion. I communicated that even though Trump says he is against abortion there are many other ways he is hurting people and the environment. I suggested he work on his issue by supporting health care, housing and adequate nutrition for all people as a way to prevent pregnancy and abortion.

Another team member found hope in learning from a student that she and her mother will both be voting for President for the first time together. Her mother is a naturalized citizen from Bosnia. Some team members encountered a teacher who was offended by our anti-Trump stickers, but found common ground discussing environmental issues. Afterwards the teacher said he had always been a 'McCain' Republican and would not vote for Trump.

We all tried to express to students the importance of their vote, especially in November. I told them I was concerned that folks their age have not seen what the world was like before climate change, how normal seasons flowed predictably from one to another and that natural disasters were few and far between. I said I was older and would not live to experience the worsening effects that they would. The fast action we need to lessen the impacts of climate change would not happen under Trump. I told them that their age group doesn't have the best voting record. I beseeched them to vote and to make sure all their friends do. They said they would.

Did we make a difference? There is no way to quantify how much or in what way. How much is one heart-to-heart conversation worth? How far does it echo?

I hope our efforts are the beginning of conversations and other small efforts by many to alter our national landscape this fall.

Robin Ivey-Black is a local writer, artist and community builder. People concerned about 2020 elections should check out Olympia Indivisible at www.olympiaindivisible.org or visit www.vote4wd.org to send handwritten notes to Democrats.

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Stay ambitious, be progressive, fight for justice:

Goals of a young climate change organizer

[Note: Elyanna Calle is a senior at Timberline HS and is a member of the organizing team for the Olympia sub-chapter of Washington Youth Climate Strike. Matt Crichton interviewed Elyanna by phone in late February.]

WIP: Elyanna, what got you started doing climate activism?

EC: I was 13 when I decided to go vegan. I care for animals, care about my health, and saw the truth of what was happening in our culture. I can't unsee that. I made the decision to not contribute to that.

With this new awareness, I started my journey into social justice and doing something about the world and not staying complacent. Once I made that choice, I got involved with animal rights activism. I moved to Olympia last January and saw an opportunity to start organizing for Washington Youth Climate Strike.

WIP: When did climate strikes start and who participates in them?

EC: The first US Climate Strike was in March 2019 and the first in Olympia on September 20, 2019. Students from area high schools rallied for the climate and demanded action.

WIP: What is your strategy?

EC: To keep our efforts youth-led and youth-focused and do our best to mobilize youth in the area. We also want adult allies, but we keep the focus on youth because we are the future. We will target people – politicians – who have the power to make big changes. We want to stay ambitious, be progressive, and fight for intersectional climate justice.

WIP: Are Climate Strike rallies linked and building toward something?

EC: The strategy of Washington Youth Climate Strike is to take escalated action. Right now, we are in the phase of striking, and then it will move toward direct action, civil disobedience. For now, we are in the mobilizing and firing-people-up mode. I can't say very much about events in the future.

These strikes are leading towards something. The scheduled event for Earth Day (April 22) has been cancelled because of the health emergency, but people should fol-

low @climatestrikewa on Instagram to see e-vents online and stay updated.

WIP: Describe a recent organizing success.

EC: The September 20 Climate Strike rally was a big learning curve for me. I was running around and super stressed out, trying to get everything done. At one point during the day, I stopped dead in my tracks and saw about 200 students from Nova Middle School marching into the Capital, chanting with signs.

I started to tear up, and it hit me that all the work I have been doing had made an impact. If nothing else happened, those students are taking action and being inspired. That was a big success to me personally, seeing young people getting involved. Once you start with activism, you can't stop because that becomes your mindset.

WIP: In your view, how are adults doing in protecting our planet?

EC: A lot of times youth encounter adults who want to, consciously or unconsciously, take over the work we are trying to do. More often though, I've encountered adults who are supportive allies, know-

ing their generation continued the problem. Now they are willing to support the generation that is fixing the problem. I've encountered many adults who underestimate the ability of youth. It's our time now to organize and to take action. It's up to us, so we're going to make those decisions.

WIP: What effective ways have you found to engage the younger generation -- for example those who play video games and ignore what's happening to their world?

EC: I'm still figuring that out. Even though our generation is supposed to be pumped up and ready to take action, a majority want to play video games rather than changing the world. Oftentimes I shoot for the low hanging fruit - people who care and are just waiting for an opportunity to show it. You can't force someone to care. I'd rather spend my time helping those who already care. In time there will be more of the low hanging fruit that ripens.

WIP: What advice would you give young climate activists who might feel overwhelmed?

EC: Find one organization or event

that you can be involved in and grow yourself into so that you can localize the change you're trying to make. Find that one place or action you can take and once you accomplish that, all the fear and anxiety melts away because you realize your power to make change. Take action! Assess your priorities, and don't say yes to everything.

WIP: What sustains you as you struggle against forces that don't want to listen or cooperate?

EC: In terms of sustainable activism, I was completely burned out between the Sept 20 and Dec 6 strike. I wanted to stop and not do another one. I thought back to what initially motivated me. I have two little brothers who are three and four. When I want to stop, I think about how they are who I'm fighting for. They need to have the same opportunities in ten years as I do. They can't fight for that right now. Once I have that in my mind, I honestly could not care less what uncooperative people say.

WIP: Where do you hope to take your experience in the future?

EC: I've learned so many invaluable lessons from organizing these events and so many leadership skills which will help me be successful in whatever I choose to do. I hope to go into journalism, and that aligns with what I'm doing now. Once I get to Texas (for college), I'm sure I will find opportunities to use and progress my skills, specifically regarding the upcoming presidential election.

WIP: What is the best way adults can support Youth Climate Strike?

EC: Adults can show up at events and bring everyone they know. Also, if adults have money they would like to donate: linktr.ee/climatestrikewa.

WIP: How is your organization structured?

EC: I'm on the organizing team with a lot of autonomy to structure the effort. Right now, I'm the city lead, and we have a core organizing team of three to four people. We also have school-based ambassadors who advertise and mobilize students at their school. The number of school ambassadors varies depending on who is reliable and who has the time to commit. Right now, there are ambassadors at five different schools--the major high schools in the Olympia area.

WIP: What gives you hope for the future?

EC: Seeing all the work that has been done gives me hope. When I think that nobody cares, I have to remind myself of all the amazing activists I have met and the ones I see on social media that will be fighting for this planet for many years to come. We are in good hands because there are always going to be big groups of people fighting for what's right, and that gives me hope.

For more information: www.facebook.com/ClimateStrikeWa and www.waycs.or or on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/climatestrikewa/>

Matt Crichton is a contributing writer for Works in Progress.



Climate Strike organizer Elyanna Calle with colleagues Madison Hall, Riona Kennan DeVargas



Renters' Forum

When one person's home is another person's investment property

WIP correspondents

Imagine getting a notice to vacate your home -- in a short 20 days. You must pack up, look for new lodgings whose rent you can manage. Then meet the financial demands of a new landlord if you do find a place: first and last month's rent; security deposit, possibly other fees. And if you can't find a new place, move in with a relative or friend. Or join the ranks of the homeless.

Such short-notice evictions were the experience of many people who spoke at a recent forum on "renter protections and the future of renting in Olympia." The forum was organized by members of the City's Land Use and Environment committee to discuss the crisis faced by renters in Olympia as landlords raise rents while employers pay the same wages year after year.

About 100 people were in attendance at Washington Middle School, half tenants and half landlords with a few Council members and individuals from Washington Community Action Network (WACAN).

Xochitl Maykovich of WACAN opened the forum with a plea for greater protections for renters

from short-term evictions. In addition, she said, renters need protection from rapidly rising rents. The majority of households in Olympia are renters, and of those, half pay more than 50% of their income in rent. At the same time, there are fewer listings for rental units.

WACAN previously supported renters when they asked Olympia City Council members last November to address affordability by adopting an ordinance that would allow move-in fees to be paid in installments. Similar ordinances are in effect in other Washington cities. The Council has not yet determined what it will do in response to this request.

Landlords at the forum, for their part, described the lengths they go to to seek out and maintain good tenants -- and avoid evictions that can involve long processes or turn into extended vacancies.

As for rising rents, one explanation was that at times they were forced to increase rents or consider selling their properties. They named taxes and fees, regulatory requirements to upgrade, and market dynamics as among the things driving them to increase rents.

Both tenants and landlords agreed that the city needs more rental units available at affordable rates. One suggestion was that new homes and duplexes could help mitigate rent levels. In discussing where such units could come from, landlords pointed to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) but said building them is not attractive because city fees range from \$30-\$40,000 for these units while less could be charged for rent because of their small size. The county's Section 8 housing voucher program has not succeeded in changing the picture for low-income individuals or families.

In the end, landlords acknowledged that a shortage of rental housing creates an incentive to charge rents that match the market. Even with the addition of several new apartment buildings in downtown Olympia, however, rents have gone up and formerly affordable apartments have been renovated for higher rents. Erin Fenner of WACAN suggested that, in light of this, what's needed is public funding for new rental infrastructure. And soon.

Reporting for this article was provided by Baxter Lee, who covered the event.

Fact vs. myth about the "Missing Middle"

In April Parallax Perspectives on TCTV, Glen Anderson helps the public understand the serious shortage of housing that is truly affordable for people who are not rich. Local governments in Olympia and elsewhere want to solve the problem, but they have misdiagnosed it, so they have proposed the wrong solutions, such as the so-called "Missing Middle." This interview with guests Jay Elder and Larry Dzieza, who know the issues and explain them clearly, will help you understand the real reasons for the problem--and why the "Missing Middle" would not solve it. Visit Glen's blog online at parallaxperspectives.org or watch TCTV on cable Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, Thursdays at 9:00 pm. **For more information, contact Glen at 360.491.9093 or glenanderson@integra.net.**

Renters' Forum

Register Olympia's rentals; create a path to resolve conflict

Clark Gilman

The March 5th forum on rental regulation was a spirited evening. Four members of City Council and Olympia's senior staff people listened to community advice and concerns about rental housing. Two organizations worked to turn out members.

The Washington Community Action Network mobilized low-income and formerly homeless renters, while a landlord association recruited small landlords who own rental houses. Though the two groups don't intersect in landlord and tenant relations, they share fears and concerns related to uncertainty and instability in our economy.

The power imbalance between renters and landlords was palpable. Before the meeting began landlords found seats at the table and visited with city staff. Renters huddled in the school hallway until the meeting began, then demanded an opportunity to share statements of grievances that they had prepared. Landlords responded in kind with their fears of regulation and increased costs.

The tension in the room underscored the serious challenges we face as a community. Rents are increasing much faster than wages are increasing. Our population has grown more quickly than new housing has been built, leading to competition for available rental units. The hot West Coast real estate market has brought investors

from outside of our community bidding up the price and buying houses and apartments.

So where do we start? Here are my takeaways from my listening. I believe we start with rental registration. Today, neither the City or the County knows which houses in Olympia are rentals and which are owner occupied. We need fire-safety inspections on rental housing.

We also need to create a clear and simple path for renters and landlords to address conflicts. Perhaps this is publicizing the work of the Dispute Resolution Center. Maybe it's a public ombudsperson. People need to know where they can turn

when there is conflict and housing is at risk.

Clark Gilman is a long-time resident of the Westside and an Olympia City Councilperson.

13%

From page 1

Possible unintended consequences

Maybe City Council members should challenge their staff's seemingly intractable allegiance to publicly subsidized private investment. Spending tax money and municipal budgets to enhance profitability contradicts official market ideology. Still, they choose to ignore "market forces" when it's convenient--usually on behalf of the powerful and wealthy.


Yet filling the downtown with seven-story, mixed-use apartment buildings by filling the pockets of developers might turn out to have been a very bad idea in the era of cascading crises, entrenched inequality and climate disruption.

Bethany Weidner has been a renter, mortgagee and landlord.

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Check out this book:
Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State,
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Black women in the fight for women’s suffrage

Carolyn Woodling

The first US gathering for women's rights was convened in Seneca Falls, NY, by leaders of the anti-slavery movement. The “Declaration of Rights and Sentiments” signed by participants benefited from the gathering's exposure to the Iroquois nation, where women enjoyed social equality and independent authority within their community. Frederick Douglass, a black activist leader attended the convention and leant his powerful voice in support of the Declaration. Protest parades in front of the White House were led by, among others, a Native American girl and a Chinese Immigrant.

The movement for women's rights, including the right to vote, thus owes its accomplishments to more than the white women leaders we are familiar with from the history books.

In the late 1800s, black women formed clubs and organizations where they could focus on a particular set of objectives. As daughters of slaves, they saw enfranchisement as a way to be recognized as citizens and as a means to elevate their communities. Because of their unique position, Black women tended to focus on human rights and universal suffrage, rather than suffrage only for African Americans or for women.

Some of the women of color who made a difference include:

Mary Shadd Cary (1823 – 1893) was a journalist, teacher, lawyer, politician and the first African American to form an association – Colored Women's Progressive Franchise Association. Its purpose was



Five women officers of the Women’s League in Newport, R.I., 1899 (Photo credit: National Endowment for the Humanities)

both political and economic. She was the first woman to attend Howard University Law School in 1880 but did not graduate because DC code wouldn't admit women to the Bar. A decade later, she received a degree. She proposed an amendment to strike the word “male” from the Constitution.

Hallie Quinn Brown (1849 – 1949) was an activist, delivering the suffrage message to black churches, anti-slavery societies, and women's groups. She toured with antislavery lecturers, including Lucretia Mott and Lucy Stone. She continued to fight for the right to vote even after passage of the 19th Amendment as Jim Crow laws disenfranchised black men and women through-

out the South.

Ida B. Wells Barnett (1862 – 1931) was a teacher, journalist, and activist who refused to give up a purchased seat and sued the railroad. Articles on anti-lynching exposed injustices of the Jim Crow law in the South, including disenfranchisement, segregation, lack of education and economic opportunities. Barnett refused to move to the back of the 1913 suffrage parade, marching along with 5000 other women up Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mary Church Terrell (1863 – 1954) was an educator, author, lecturer, and activist who learned about women's rights and Susan B. Anthony's suffrage campaign while attending Oberlin College. She established the National Association of Colored

Women, acting as its first President, and later became a member of the NAACP. She spoke of the double burden of blackness and womanhood.

Zitkala-Sa (Red Bird) (1876 – 1938) was a writer, teacher, and political activist. She wrote about Native American life, culture, and loss of identity, fought racial stereotypes, and led the Council of American Indians to unite tribes and gain suffrage for all.

Adelina Otero-Warren (1881 – 1965) was an educator and politician in New Mexico. Otero-Warren helped Alice Paul organize the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, and after the 19th Amendment allowed women to vote, she ran for congress as a Republican.

She belonged to the Votes for Women's Club in the city of Los Angeles which was active in 1910 and in 1911. She served as the president of the College Equal Suffrage League and was a respected orator who worked as a translator to help the California suffrage campaign.

Maria Guadalupe Evangelina Lopez (1881 – 1977) Lopez was active in the Votes for Women club In Los Angeles and served as president of the College Equal Suffrage League. She worked as a translator for the California suffrage campaign and was responsible for 100,000 dual language voter pamphlets. She was one of the first women to give a speech in Spanish in support of women.

Clara Elizabeth Chan Lee (1886 – 1993) After California passed Proposition 4, Lee was the First Chinese American to register to vote in the US in 1911, nine years before the passage of the 19th Amendment. As a founder of the Chinese Women's Jeleab (self reliance) Association in 1913, she promoted women's rights in both the US and China.

“Lifting as we climb”

The motto of the National Association of Women's Clubs was “Lifting as we climb.” Hallie Quinn Brown commented: “I believe there are as great possibilities for women as there are in men ... We want a grand and noble womanhood, scattered all over the land. There is a great vanguard of scholars and teachers of our sex who are at the head of institutions of learning all over the country. We need teachers, lecturers of force and character to help teach this great nation of women.”

Those words were true then and are true now. Only if we “lift others as we climb” will we help to ensure rights and respect for everyone.

Carolyn Woodling is active in the League of Women Voters, NOW and the Zonta Club of South Puget Sound.



Check out this book:

Miss Forten Of Philadelphia: Awesome Black Female Educator and *Fanny Marion Jackson Coppin: First Black Female Principal*, both by local author LaWanda Johnson.

Rethinking everything

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

from *And The People Stayed Home* by Kitty O’Meara

Thurston County COVID–19 People’s Policy Resolution

The coronavirus outbreak has now hit Thurston County. Thousands of county residents are at risk of contracting the disease and suffering the economic fallout of its rapid spread.

Many local residents do not have the option of working from home. Service, retail and restaurant employees, gig economy workers, those employed in the entertainment industry, small businesses and others stand to lose their jobs and incomes in the midst of this crisis. With job loss and work-hour cuts, we can expect significant economic instability, from evictions and foreclosures to a severe lack of childcare and affordable, healthy food for families. Moreover, as the latest Point-In-Time census indicates, many of our neighbors are

living outside without any access to bathrooms or running water to wash their hands.

We urge Thurston County, the municipal governments of Olympia, Lacey, Yelm, Tumwater, Tenino, Rainier and Bucoda, the Port of Olympia, the State of Washington and any other government agency or school district serving Thurston County to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents by meeting the following demands:

Right to Stay (Shelter in Place)

- Enact emergency moratoriums on mortgage and rental payments, foreclosures, evictions, tenancy terminations and late fees—for both residential and commercial tenants or proper-

ties. Any increases in housing instability and houselessness will greatly exacerbate the impact of COVID-19.

- Halt all utility shut-offs. Households must have running water, sewage, garbage disposal, heat, electricity and internet. A moratorium on utility shut-offs must be maintained through the duration of the crisis.
- Immediately cease all displacements of houseless peoples. Suspend any ordinances that displace and/or punish houseless people living in public spaces, including public camping bans, no sit/lie rules or parking restrictions that target RV or other vehicle dwellers.

- Ensure public sanitation for all. For every public bathroom lost due to closures of public buildings, libraries or service providers, an equivalent number of temporary bathrooms must be opened. Public bathrooms should be open on a 24/7 basis. Houseless camps must be provided bathroom and sanitation services, like hand-washing stations.

Emergency Housing & Resource Centers

- Repurpose any underutilized government buildings and schools as emergency housing, childcare centers and distribution sites. Partner with regional food banks and grocery stores to provide scatter-site food, sanitary and survival supply distribution centers at these sites, and delivery services. Access to resources should not be restricted by income, residency or citizenship status.
- Contract with motels, Airbnb hosts, and regional government partners to house houseless families, any immunocompromised houseless people, and unsheltered people needing to self-quarantine while recovering from COVID-19. If necessary, employ eminent domain powers to secure housing.

Protect Jail Inmates

- Immediately reduce county and municipal jail populations. Excepting the most serious crimes - murder, kidnapping, domestic violence and rape - people who are arrested or going in front of judges, and prisoners awaiting trial should get released on personal recognizance. Prisoners on work release or with 90 days or less remaining on their sentence should be released. Those with more than 90 days remaining should be judged on a case by case basis as to whether they should be released.
- The highest quality of health-care must be extended to all remaining inmates, including preventive care with regards to the coronavirus.

Emergency Income Support

- Provide weekly stipends to parents without childcare. Even with paid sick leave benefits, many of these parents will not have enough income to support their families.
- Provide income to any workers or business owners who have experienced lost hours or income because of COVID-19. Artists, creative workers and gig workers may have a difficult time accessing extended unemployment benefits. Moreover, county residents receiving unemployment benefits must be granted supplemental income to ensure affected workers are paid a living wage.

Health and Wellbeing

- Leverage resources to support free clinics and outreach-based medical volunteers (volunteer nurses, doctors, and first-aid/wound-care specialists). Strengthen syringe exchange and harm reduction services.
- Leverage resources to increase access to free mental health and grief support, like hotline services.

Go to www.olywip.org for a full list of signers.

por caso en cuanto a si deben ser liberados o no.

La mejor calidad de atención médica debe extenderse a todos los reclusos restantes, incluida la atención preventiva con respecto al coronavirus.

Apoyo de ingresos de emergencia

Proporcionar estipendios semanales a los padres sin cuidado infantil. Incluso aquellos con beneficios de licencia por enfermedad pagados, puesto que muchos de estos padres no tendrán suficientes ingresos para mantener a sus familias.

Proporcionar ingresos a los trabajadores o dueños de negocios que han experimentado pérdidas de horas o ingresos debido a COVID–19. Artistas, trabajadores creativos y trabajadores circunstanciales pueden tener dificultades para acceder a extensiones de beneficios de desempleo. Además, los residentes del condado que reciben beneficios de desempleo deben recibir ingresos suplementarios para garantizar que los trabajadores afectados reciban un salario digno.

Salud y bienestar

Aprovechar los recursos existentes para apoyar clínicas gratuitas y voluntarios médicos de alcance comunitario (enfermeras voluntarias, médicos y especialistas en primeros auxilios / cuidado de heridas). Fortalecer el intercambio de jeringas y los servicios de reducción de daños.

Aprovechar los recursos existentes para aumentar el acceso a servicios gratuitos de salud mental y de duelo, así como los servicios de línea directa.

Translated by Enrique Quintero

Encuentre la lista de firmantes en www.olywip.org.



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Política de Personas Con Respecto al COVID–19

El brote de coronavirus ha llegado y golpea el condado de Thurston. Miles de residentes del condado corren el riesgo de contraer la enfermedad y sufrir las consecuencias económicas de su rápida propagación.

Muchos residentes locales no tienen la opción de trabajar desde casa. Los empleados de servicios, minoristas, de restaurantes, los trabajadores circunstanciales, los empleados en la industria del entretenimiento y de las las pequeñas empresas, y muchos otros, pueden perder sus empleos e ingresos en medio de esta crisis. Con la pérdida de empleos y los recortes de horas de trabajo, podemos esperar una inestabilidad económica significativa, desde desalojos y ejecuciones hipotecarias hasta una grave falta de cuidado infantil y carestía de alimentos asequibles y saludables para las familias. Además, como lo indica el último censo de Point-In-Time, muchos de nuestros vecinos viven afuera sin acceso a baños ni agua corriente para lavarse las manos.

Instamos al Condado de Thurston, a los gobiernos municipales de Olympia, Lacey, Yelm, Tumwater, Tenino, Rainier y Bucoda, al Puerto de Olympia, al Estado de Washington y cualquier otra agencia gubernamental o distrito escolar en el Condado de Thurston a que garanticen la seguridad y el bienestar de sus residentes cumpliendo las siguientes demandas:

Derecho a quedarse (refugio en el lugar)

Activar moratorias de emergencia para pagos de hipotecas y alquileres, ejecuciones hipotecarias, desalojos, terminaciones de arrendamiento y recargos por mora, tanto para inquilinos o propiedades residenciales como comerciales. Cualquier aumento en la inestabilidad de la vivienda y la falta de vivienda exacerbará en gran medida el impacto del COVID–19.

Cancelar la suspensión de servicios públicos. Los hogares deben tener agua corriente, alcantarillado, triturador de basura, calefacción, electricidad e internet. Se debe mantener una moratoria sobre los cortes de servicios públicos durante toda la crisis.

Inmediatamente cesar todos los desplazamientos de personas sin hogar. Suspender las ordenanzas que desplacen y / o castiguen a

las personas sin hogar que viven en espacios públicos, incluidas las prohibiciones públicas de acampar, sin reglas de sentarse / acostarse o restricciones de estacionamiento dirigidas en contra de RV u otros habitantes de vehículos.

Asegurar saneamiento público para todos. Por cada baño público perdido debido al cierre de edificios públicos, bibliotecas, o proveedores de servicios, se debe abrir un número equivalente de baños temporales. Los baños públicos deben estar abiertos las 24 horas, los 7 días de la semana. Los campamentos para personas sin hogar deben contar con servicios de baño y saneamiento, como estaciones de lavado de manos.

Viviendas de emergencia y centros de recursos

Rehabilitar los edificios y escuelas gubernamentales subutilizados para utilizarlos como viviendas de emergencia, centros de cuidado infantil y sitios de distribución. Establecer asociaciones con bancos de alimentos regionales y tiendas de abarrotes para proporcionar centros de distribución de alimentos, servicios sanitarios y de suministro de supervivencia en estos sitios, y servicios de entrega. El acceso a estos recursos no debe estar restringido por nivel de ingresos, residencia o ciudadanía.

Establecer contratos con moteles, anfitriones de Airbnb, y socios del gobierno regional para alojar familias sin hogar, personas sin hogar inmunocomprometidas, y personas sin refugio que necesiten autocuarentena mientras se recuperan de COVID–19. Si es necesario, emplear poderes de dominio eminente para asegurar la vivienda.

Proteger a los reclusos de la cárcel

Reducir inmediatamente las poblaciones de cárceles municipales y del condado. A excepción de los delitos más graves (asesinato, secuestro, violencia doméstica y violación). Las personas arrestadas, o siendo juzgadas, y los prisioneros en espera de juicio deben ser puestos en libertad bajo reconocimiento personal. Los presos con libertad de trabajo o con 90 días o menos restantes en su sentencia deben ser liberados.

Aquellos con más de 90 días restantes deben ser juzgados caso

Arrests at Trident base

From page 1

Activists also held a sign that read “We love you, Fr. Steve Kelly.” Kelly, a Jesuit priest and member of the Pacific Life Community, has been in a Georgia county jail for almost two years after his April 5, 2018 arrest with six other Catholic nuclear disarmament activists at the Kings Bay Trident base in Georgia. The seven members of the Kings Bay Plowshares await a sentencing date.

The weekend gathering and protest, attended by about 50 people, were hosted by the local Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. The annual Pacific Life Community gatherings and actions are scheduled to mark the anniversary of the largest nuclear weapons test ever, Castle Bravo, that devastated Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954.

There are eight Trident submarines deployed at Bangor, which is believed to hold the nation's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons. Six Trident submarines are deployed on the East Coast at Kings Bay, Georgia.

Each Trident submarine was originally equipped for 24 Trident missiles. In 2015-2017, four missile tubes were deactivated on each submarine as a result of the New START Treaty. Currently, each Trident submarine deploys with 20 D-5 missiles and about 90 nuclear warheads (an average of 4-5 warheads per missile). The warheads are either the W76-1 100-kiloton or W88 455-kiloton warheads.

The Navy has recently deployed a smaller W76-2 “low-yield” or tactical nuclear weapon (approximately 6.5 kilotons) on Trident submarine missiles at Kings Bay, Georgia and is expected to deploy from submarines at Bangor, dangerously creating a lower threshold for the use of nuclear weapons.

One Trident submarine carries the destructive force of over 1,300 Hiroshima bombs (the Hiroshima bomb was 15 kilotons).

For more information, visit <https://pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com/> and gzcenter.org and kingsbayplowshares7.org.



“Peace officers” waiting to arrest the demonstrators as each one crosses the line into the Naval Base



Rush Rehm, MaryJane Parrine, Ed Ehmke, Elizabeth Murray, Clancy Dunigan with their signs at the March 2 action.

Can we learn anything from a socialist country?

Only 90 miles away

Our internet researcher

When Bernie Sanders mentioned that Cuba’s population has a high rate of literacy, US politicians and their media echoes acted like he had endorsed the Devil Incarnate.

Maybe they were worried that if news about Cuba didn’t come wrapped in a package labeled “DYNAMITE! Do not open!” we might start wondering why capitalism can’t deliver some of the goods that socialism has.

Health care was an initial focus of Cuba’s revolutionary government. Over the decades a strong system of medical schools, research institutes and community clinics have made the promise of guaranteed health care a reality. In two measures of health status, Cuba ranks higher than the US - life expectancy at 79 years is above that of the US and infant mortality at 4.4 births per 1000, below.

Cuba is known in many parts of the world for its preparedness in cases of natural disaster, with a long history of medical diplomacy, sending thousands of doctors on missions worldwide. It is also a Caribbean island uniquely vulnerable to natural disasters like hurricanes. In 2014, the government adopted a law granting a month’s pay to anyone unable to perform their job due to natural, health or technological disasters, with 60% of their pay continuing until things returned to normal. After the devastation of Hurricane Irma, Cuba’s recovery was quick, while Puerto Rico struggled for months.

Take the country’s response to the Coronavirus. Cuba’s biomedical research had come up with

an antiviral drug -- which has become one of the medications used by the Chinese in treating coronavirus patients. In March, when overwhelmed Italian officials contacted the Cuban ambassador to Italy, and Cuba dispatched 53 doctors to Lombardy where they are serving along with doctors from China.

Cuban doctors are also en route to Brazil to help combat coronavirus. Several thousand had been practicing in rural areas of that country under the Workers’ Party government. The right-wing politician Jair Bolsonaro during his campaign attacked the Cuban doctors as “spies and terrorists,” and when he took over the government, he expelled most of them. A year later, in March, his government’s minister of health has begged the Cubans to come back. Cuban doctors have also been dispatched to Venezuela, Nicaragua, Jamaica and other countries to work during the pandemic.

Earlier, a British cruise ship with infected passengers was stuck at sea when no Caribbean port would allow it to dock. At the request of London, Cuba permitted the ship to dock and organized disembarkation with hospital care for confirmed coronavirus cases, quarantine for others, and a return home by British Airways for nearly 700 others.

As for the handling of the coronavirus at home, Cuba has hesitated like other Western Hemisphere countries. Leaders did not close its borders to tourists and others, or implement social distancing measures until some time after the first cases of coronavirus were confirmed. By the third week of March, regulations restricting movement and closing schools were put in

place, and the Ministry of Public announced that family doctors are monitoring the symptoms of 37,778 Cubans. At the same time, the government began sending doctors, nurses, and medical students door-to-door across the island, looking for people with fever, cough and shortness of breath, symptoms of COVID-19. It’s not known whether the country has testing kits.

Sources: *The Miami Herald*, *BBC*, *TeleSur* and *World Health Organization* statistics

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Understanding where the 2021 Trump Administration budget wants us to go

The 2021 budget proposed by President Trump reveals the intent of this administration to reshape America as an authoritarian country run by big business backed by a sweeping military sector. Some deep cuts proposed by the President would affect mandated programs like Social Security, Medicare, food stamps and unemployment. However, these are not subject to the horse-trading that goes on around “discretionary” parts of the budget that have to be authorized and appropriated each year. This summary focuses on the \$1,489 trillion in “discretionary” spending in Trump’s proposal. Sixty-three percent of it goes to fund military activities; only 37% is designated for all our domestic needs.

Defense spending would go up

Trump wants to spend \$934 billion on military for FY 2021. This includes the Defense Department and also other agencies that support defense: the FBI and Cybersecurity (Justice Department); the National Nuclear Security Administration (Energy Dept.), Homeland Security; the Department of Veterans Affairs and the State Department. The US military budget is greater than those of the next seven largest spenders combined. Yet Trump asks for—and Congress agrees to—continuing increases.

Domestic spending would go down

Essential domestic government functions are targeted to be funded at billions of dollars below existing levels. Some specifics: \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and Affordable

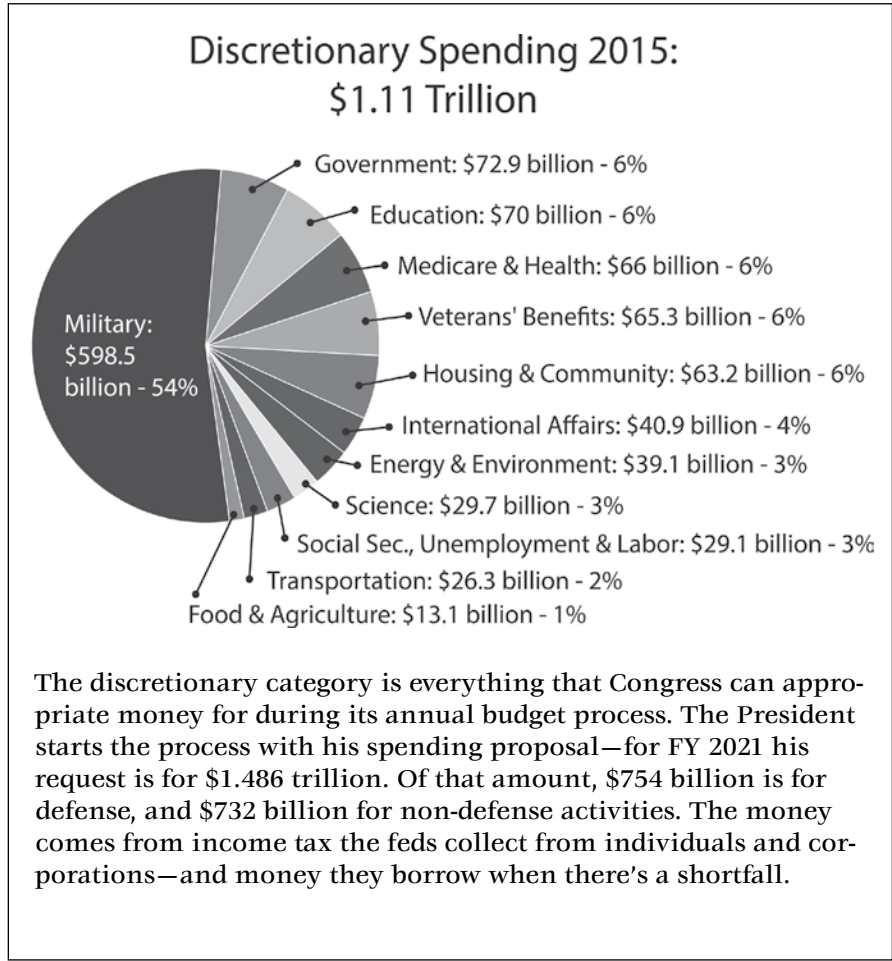
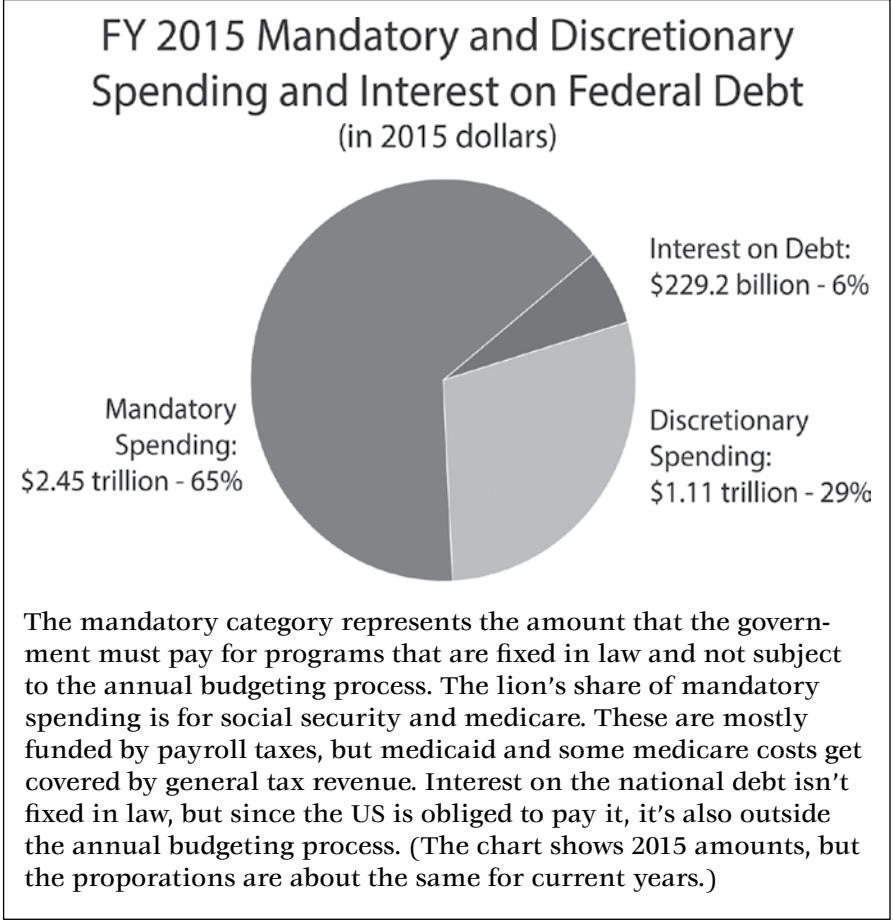
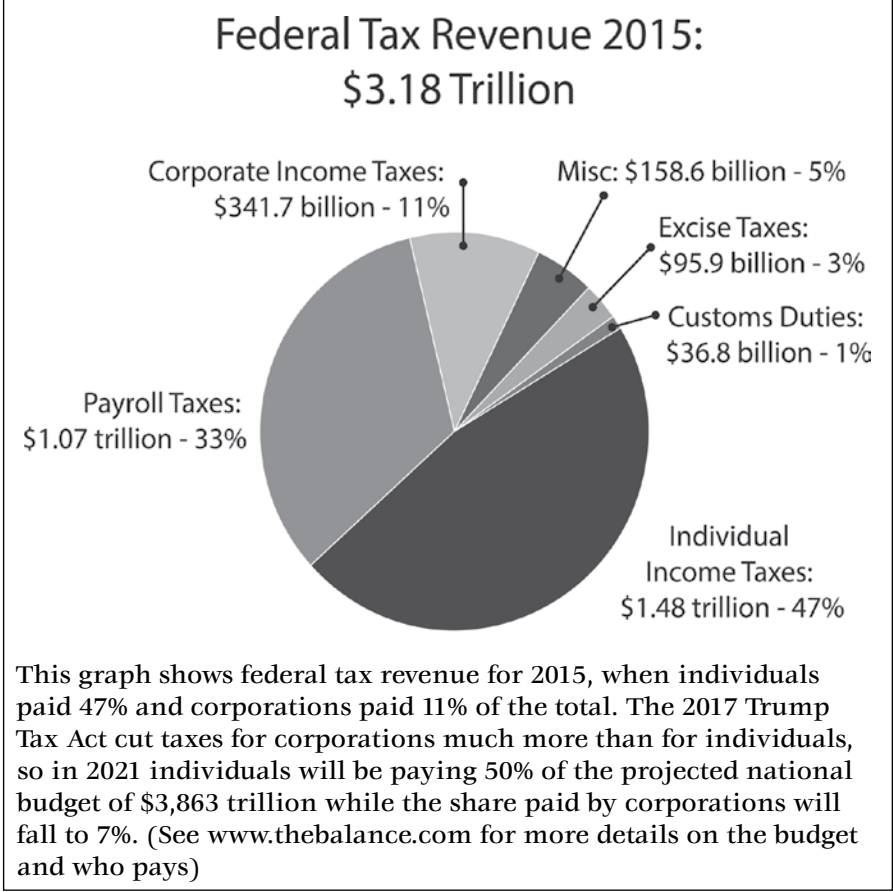
Care Act premium tax credits over ten years. Cuts of more than \$180 billion over ten years in basic food assistance. It shrinks assistance for people with disabilities; eliminates a raft of low-income housing programs and steeply cuts a range of programs that support long-term economic growth, like investments in college affordability. It even calls for large cuts in the National Institutes of Health. Education, environmental protection, housing assistance, national parks and scientific research budgets would be cut. A modest increase for infrastructure investment would be cancelled out by cuts in other programs.

\$2,008 trillion in unbudgeted “coronavirus” stimulus would go around

We’re currently paying about \$548 billion in interest on our \$22.7 trillion in debt. Trump’s budget as proposed would bring the debt closer to \$23.7 billion—with corresponding additional interest owed.

Where will they get \$2 trillion to offset the consequences of the coronavirus crisis? Borrow it. They will issue Treasury Bonds and sell them to banks (or the Federal Reserve would lend them to the banks). The banks would sell them (at a small profit!) to investors.

This information comes from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, <https://www.cbpp.org/press/statements/> and <https://www.thebalance.com/u-s-military-budget-components>. The Balance is an expert-curated site designed to make fiscal policy understandable on a personal level.



NOTE: 2015 pie chart data shows approximately the same proportions as the 2021 budget, with the glaring exception that individual taxpayers’ expense share rises to 50% from 47%, and corporations’ drops to 7% from 11%.

Some ways to cut the military budget

End endless wars.

The endless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have claimed an unimaginable 800,000 human lives, and displaced an estimated 21 million people. These wars have failed to achieve any of their stated purposes, instead destabilizing the Middle East. Nevertheless, the US continues to spend about \$70 billion per year on these wars. A tenth of that amount would have been more than enough to fully transition the US electric grid to renewable sources.

Retire unnecessary overseas bases.

The US operates 800 military bases in 90 countries. The strategic justifications for overseas bases—that they deter adversaries, reassure allies, and enable rapid deployment operations—are no longer relevant given the contemporary security environment. Instead, they incur enormous costs and disadvantages, exposing the United States to vulnerabilities and unintended consequences.

Rein in military contractors and elaborate weapons systems.

Overpriced weapons systems ever-renewing weapons systems suck billions from taxpayers each year. Some, the military can’t even afford to operate: the \$13-billion aircraft carriers, 200 nuclear bombers at \$564 million a pop. The F-35 combat aircraft is the most expensive weapons system in history, at a price tag of at least \$1.4 trillion over its lifetime and still not fully functional. The Defense Department annually doles out about \$400 billion in defense contracts—with the CEOs of the top five DoD contractor being paid a combined \$100 million per year.

Sources: Center for National Priorities and Boondoggle, Inc by Mandy Smithberger and William Hartung.

Pathogens, patents and pandemics

Lori Lively

We are all familiar with the dominant narrative that the virulent strain of influenza known now as N-Covid-19 originated at a crowded seafood market in Wuhan China when an errant bat infected poultry, passed the virus to humans and quickly mutated into at least two deadly strains. Because the market is mere miles from Wu-

Nature article, citing research on ferrets that may have been done to disguise human intervention.*

Others, like Francis Boyle, international law professor at University of Illinois, and author of the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1990 (BWATA), also have their doubts about the natural evolution of Covid-19. As he stated in a recent interview “There have been

Life-threatening research that’s only legal when the government does it

As defined by BWATA, a biological agent is “any microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious

vid-19 could be used to implement more restrictions on our freedoms in the name of safety?

Six weeks after the World Trade Center disaster in 2001, a series of letters and packages laced with the toxin known as anthrax were sent anonymously to individuals in government and media. Five people died and 17 others were hospitalized as a result.

Ultimately, no one was prosecuted for the crime of spreading the anthrax spores and the investigation in the ensuing years appears to have been abandoned. The fear generated by the events was used, however, to compel legislators to pass the Patriot Act at breakneck speed. Congressional leaders who protested they didn’t have time to read the bill into the record, let alone debate it, were threatened by Bush administration officials with being labeled terrorists themselves if they did not immediately pass the bill.

Citing what the media relentlessly characterized as a severe ongoing threat to Americans, the Patriot Act became law, ushering in the legal surveillance of US citizens using public and private records, internet history, medical history, purchases, travel and any other means if deemed necessary by the government. The Act authorizes the CIA to conduct spying and detain indefinitely citizens accused of crimes even before due legal process.

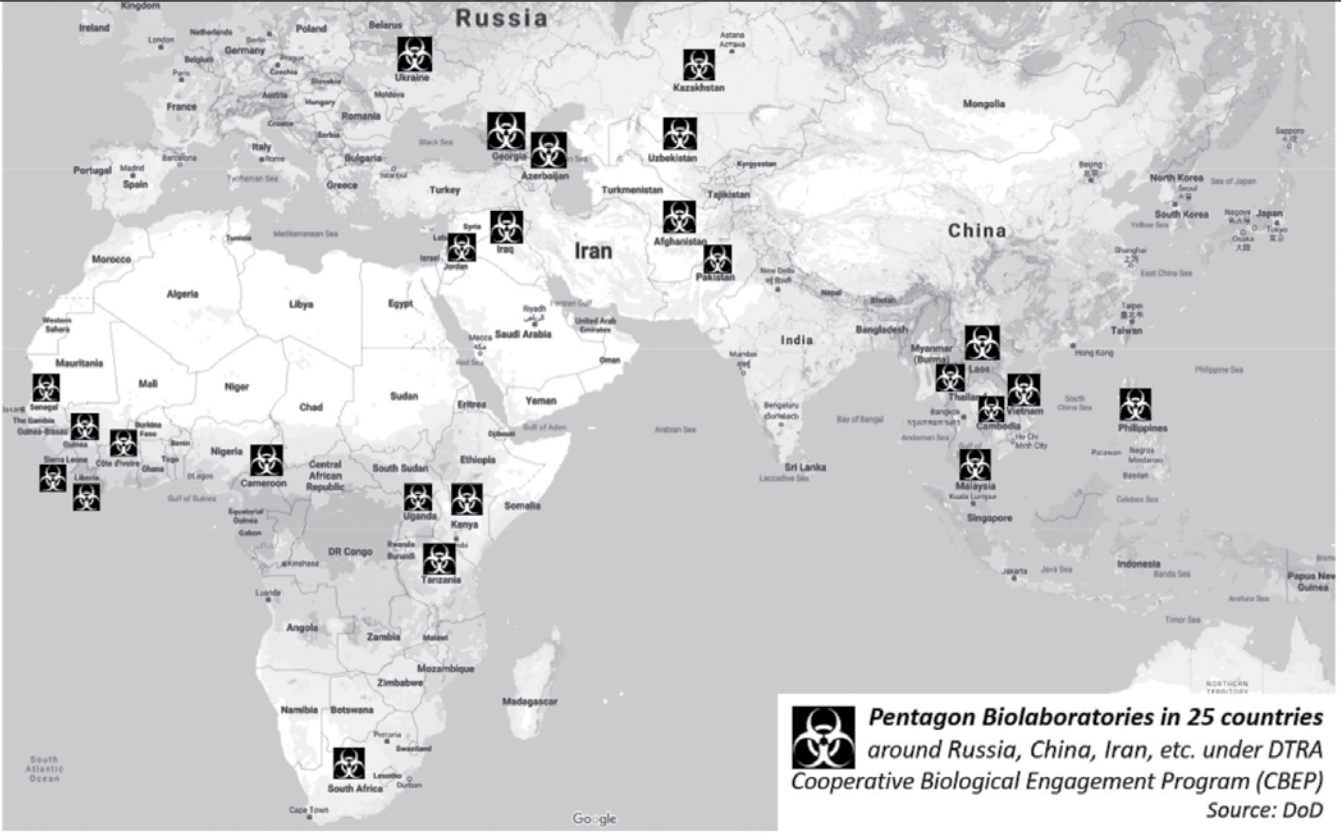
The Patriot Act also denied Americans their right to oppose the law through legal means. In other words, a citizen can be accused of a crime using his or her private data, but not only can’t defend themselves against the claim – they can be jailed for it before being proven guilty.

People worldwide have wisely and voluntarily complied with measures to control the spread of Covid-19, including public and private quarantines, work stoppage and travel bans. In mid-March, while California governor Gavin Newsome assured residents that discussions of medical martial law were premature, 22 states had already called on National Guard troops to assist with the contagion and mandatory temperature checks were being instituted at travel checkpoints and workplaces in many countries.

There is no definitive description for martial law, but The American Law Library (<https://law.jrank.org>) says under such conditions “certain civil liberties may be suspended, such as the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, freedom of association and freedom of movement. And the writ of *habeas corpus* (the right to a trial before imprisonment) may be suspended.”

Lori Lively is Associate Editor at Works in Progress. For more background on governmental bioweapons work, see *Biological Warfare and Terrorism* by Francis Boyle or go to <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-071.html>. For updates on the Patriot Act, visit <https://www.aclu.org/other/surveillance-under-usapatriot-act>.

*<https://harvardtothebighouse.com/2020/01/31/logistical-and-technical-analysis-of-the-origins-of-the-wuhan-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>



han’s first BSL-4 laboratory, with 60,000 strains of over 1,400 viruses, many have asked whether Covid-19 is a naturally occurring phenomenon or a powerful virus manipulated by humans and accidentally or purposefully released.

Posing the question

Despite the concern of numerous individuals and organizations who warned that accidents or bio-terrorism could cause widespread loss of life, the National Institutes of Health in late 2017 lifted a three-year ban on the funding for “gain of function” research - developing genetically-engineered viruses to make them stronger and more contagious by manipulating proteins.

Allegations by scientists that Covid-19 might be a weaponized version of SARS have been roundly criticized by, among others, The Federation of American Scientists. The observation that it has four protein markers from the HIV virus (which would indicate human manipulation), they say, has been proven false, pointing to research published in Nature magazine which states Covid-19 is 96% identical, genetically, to another coronavirus found in bats, disproving the human intervention theory.

Before it disappeared from the internet in March, a professor of neurobiology at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Medicine wrote an extensive rebuttal of the

leaks before of SARS out of this facility and indeed the only reason for these BSL-4 facilities, based on my experience, is the research, development, testing and stockpiling of offensive biological weapons... this is a brand-new generation of biowarfare weapons we haven’t seen before.”

The world is overflowing with bioweapons research facilities

The Pentagon, with over \$2 billion in funding, operates bioweapon research laboratories in 25 countries. The Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) maintains lab facilities in the Middle East, Africa, and SE Asia, and former Soviet nations like Georgia and Ukraine.

The actual work being done in biological weapons labs around the world is classified. But some of that highly secretive research has been revealed through leaked documents leaked to investigative journalists. One example is an application to patent a toxic mosquito aerial release system, not to counter the effects of such an organism, but to manufacture it for use.

Cargo shipments to the Tbilisi laboratory in Georgia and other Pentagon facilities enjoy diplomatic immunity in transporting pathogens, human blood, and other unidentified substances which are exempt from inspection and taxation.

substance, or biological product, capable of causing death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human, an animal, a plant, or another living organism; deterioration of food, water, equipment, supplies, or material of any kind or deleterious alteration of the environment.”

The provisions of BWATA make it illegal for individuals and “non-state” organizations to possess, manufacture, purchase or sell bioweapons but it excludes and holds harmless all such actions when used for defense purposes by official state agencies.

Boyle says the US has spent over \$100 billion on biological warfare programs, estimating that around 13,000 scientists work in the “biowarfare industry” in the US alone. As long as they are employed or contracted with the government, their work is safe from prosecution, while the same work, when performed by others, is illegal.

Never let a good crisis go to waste

Because they can occur in nature, research into infectious diseases is seen by many as necessary. Since other countries participate in biowarfare, the US may feel doubly justified in countering virulence unleashed by its enemies. But is it possible the current epidemic of fear surrounding the spread of Co-

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What is Socialism?

Toward a mass movement

In this month's column, you will be able to explore with me some aspects of "socialism," often in the news because of Bernie Sanders—but rarely given an accurate explanation.

As capitalism developed, ethically outraged people proposed various alternatives to its depravities, typically terming their ideas "socialism." These models, dismissed as being "petit-bourgeois socialism" by Marxists, were quickly superseded by the "scientific socialism" of Marx and Engels based on Marx's rigorous analysis of capitalism and the theory of dialectical materialism.

Then "scientific socialism" itself became subject to interpretation by three main camps: 1) Social democracy; 2) Stalinism, based on the experience of the Soviet Union and adhering to "Marxism-Leninism" and 3) Trotskyism, adhering to "Marxism-Leninism" as interpreted by Trotsky.

Here I will explain how I see the differences among these three camps, with their associated problems, and then offer I what consider to be a "socialism" we should strive for.

Looking Forward

Dave Jette

Problems with the Marxist-Leninist approach

First, a one-party state is inimical to democracy. It must be possible to vote the "socialist government" out of office—people must be able to organize opposition. Cuba, for example, does very well for its people, and it is far more committed to responding to the desires of its populace compared to the US, but it is nonetheless top-down politically – not socialist.

The role of the state can be highly positive, in facilitating – not dominating!—construction of a just, liberated society. Thus, the Marxist concept of the "withering away of the state" in an eventual "communist" society is in my view simply wrong.

In my view, traditional Marxism overemphasizes the role of the economic struggle between the capitalists and the working class in transforming society. Left out (until recently) are non-economic struggles for a decent life. The concept of the "dictatorship of the proletariat" is wrong in negating the role of the middle class in building a socialist society. Society is a lot more complex than it was in Marx's day, when it was clearly dominated by the struggle between the capitalists and the working class. This would lead straight to the rule of society by the politically

advanced "party of the working class" on behalf of the workers themselves.

Overall, Marxism-Leninism has provided serious revolutionaries with ready-made formulas for political work. Unfortunately, it is not sufficient to follow what is presented as "scientific socialism" and to avoid asking the questions that are essential to overcoming the weaknesses of Marxism-Leninism..

Problems with social democracy

Social democracy has a Marxist orientation, but it leaves capitalism in place while trying to control it. In particular, it leaves the "commanding heights of the economy" (big banks, huge corporations) in the hands of the capitalists who remain, in effect, the (political) ruling class. While living conditions may be improved for the masses, fundamental social change is impossible under social democracy.

The primary allegiance of social democrats is to capitalism, rather than to humankind. Their priority is to make sure that the economy functions properly. Accordingly, when push comes to shove, they will side with their country (i.e., with "their" capitalists) to build and maintain the Empire. This is what happened in World War I.

Bernie Sanders is a social democrat, not a socialist. Still, what he advocates constitutes a major progressive change in American politics. While not tempering their own politics, socialists should support Sanders' presidential campaign as a step forward in a highly reactionary situation.

Defining characteristics of socialism and a socialist program

Socialism means complete democracy—not "top-down" government. There is no such thing as "undemocratic socialism." People must take into their own hands the building of a multi-faceted democratic mass movement to transform society into a socialist one, rather than waiting for a transformation by government or by "advanced" political parties.

An essential role in the creation of the new society must be played by the middle classes. Control by society of the big financial institutions and corporations must be eliminated by nationalizing them (with financial compensation given to their owners).

Full play must be given to all struggles for human rights, ranging from the struggles against racism, the oppression of women, homophobia and more.

Socialists must vociferously oppose imperialist wars to build and maintain the American Empire, and give support to peoples subject to American economic and military domination.

Finally, as a highest priority, socialists must work to combat climate change, which is on the verge of destroying our ecosystem.



Read WIP online at www.olywip.org

Reflection

Considering Trumpism as a social disease

Denis Langhans

Over the past several weeks, I have witnessed the death of an idea – the United States as a democratic republic. With the craven abdication of the Senate to Trump in the Impeachment trial, our Rubicon has been crossed. As Caesar noted: "The die is cast."

The death of our democratic republic is not due to a sudden malfunction of the body politic. Rather, it seems to me more of a congenital weakness that allowed a social disease to ravage our body politic. Trumpism is the latest, and likely fatal, iteration of our particular social disease.

Slavery as our congenital social flaw

There is a split in the collective American psyche, a cleavage emanating in large part from the original sin of slavery. Our self-proclaimed better angels of egalitarianism more often than not fall prey to our foundational racism. The primary fault line in our collective psyche, our civic San Andreas fault, lies in a dichotomy embedded in a proclamation of the equality of all men made by our slave-owning founders. A dichotomy is a division into two contradictory parts. Our tragic flaw seems to be that this twain has never healed, notwithstanding the bloody Civil War.

Governance as the spawn of slavery

This psychic dichotomy runs throughout our constitution and its governmental principles and practices. A quick scan reveals anti-democratic elements arising mainly from political compromises over slavery. The Three-Fifths Compromise in the original con-

stitution (i.e. a slave counted as three-fifths of a white man) is a pillar of our anti-democratic foundational myth. This essential inequality spawned other anti-democratic institutions such as the US Senate (a state with 40 million has the same voice as a state with less than 1 million) and the Electoral College (the avenue for Trump's undemocratic election).

Moreover, the slave compromises gave rise to other delusions such as the Second Amendment right to bear arms. Contrary to the notion that it protects an individual right to bear arms, this amendment was born as a concession to slave-owners to ensure that the federal government could not impinge upon their slave-capturing militias.

Finally, there is the naked fact that the majority of our citizens, i.e. women, are not constitutionally guaranteed equal rights. Such are these dark clouds hanging over our Reaganesque "shining city on a hill."

A pox on the body politic

Our foundational racism made us susceptible to outbreaks of nativism and anti-rationalism. This racism is akin to a chicken pox virus lying dormant on our social nerve endings. In periods of homeostasis, the virus remains present in a benign and latent state. However, when a stressor arises in our society, the virus breaks out as a painful attack of shingles. In the 19th century, this outbreak could be seen in the nativist Know-Nothing movement against new immigrants. More recently, the virus appeared as the Tea Party, where the social stressor was the election of a black man as President.

Continued on page 13



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Helen Wheatley

And the answer

A legacy from Cold War days

Plutonium-laden waste remains

Danger at every turn

On-going accidents

posed the risks posed by failing old infrastructure at Hanford. If the collapse had occurred in a slightly different place, the falling dirt could have hit some of that equipment and surrounding dirt, causing a release into the atmosphere. It is possible that there was some unrecorded contamination. The collapse was discovered well after it had occurred.

Reasons to stay awake

These incidents point to the great danger posed by the Z-Cribs and Trench. If a major earthquake causes a roof collapse, a truly catastrophic cloud of plutonium could be released into the atmosphere. That should keep everybody in Washington up at night. Plutonium is especially mobile, and contaminated soil released to the air could carry it far and wide.

With continued deterioration, there are other contamination dangers as well, from wildfires to the inadvertent spread of contaminants by animals, or by humans long after the existence of the United States Department of En-

ergy has become a distant memory.

Just cover it up and forget it?

Considering the high risks, costs, and difficulties of cleanup, it is not surprising that the immediate response of the US Department of Energy to this threat of failing "Z" structures at the PFP, now that it has awakened to the immediacy of the problem, is to want to cover the contaminated soil in cement-like grout. With the blessing of the State of Washington, it grouted the PUREX tunnels when it became clear that the second, larger tunnel could fail completely.

Temporary grouting is a logical plan, but Hanford Cleanup watchers understand very well that the greatest risk to our region is allowing the Department of Energy to entomb the waste and eventually forget about it, turning Hanford into a de facto permanent shallow disposal site. From the beginning of Hanford Cleanup in the 1980s, the demand has been to remove, treat, and dispose of Transuranic waste in a way that protects future generations.

Participate in a call to clean up not cover up

From now through May 22, the US Department of Energy is taking public comment on its proposal to immediately grout the Z-Cribs and an associated settling tank after removing radioactive sludge from it. They need to hear that grouting is not enough.

On April 9, Heart of America Northwest is sponsoring an Olympia-area webinar to discuss this and other Hanford Cleanup issues, and we'd love to have WIP readers join the conversation. To learn more, go to www.hanfordcleanup.org.

From previous page

Trump as symptom, syphilis as metaphor

I find a metaphorical analogy to the social and political phenomenon of Trumpism in the disease of syphilis—which in the past was referred to as a social disease.

Syphilis manifests in three stages. The first stage is the initial infection, appearing as a chancre, a lesion that is the entry point of the disease. In the second stage, often manifested as a rash, the disease spreads throughout the body. The third, or tertiary stage, brings the destruction of major organs, especially the brain.

Trumpism Stage 1: reality TV as chancre

The first stage of the social disease that is Trumpism can be located in his reality TV program of the early 2000s. Here the huckster, a demonstrably bad businessman, was given a huge venue to sell his snake oil to an uncritical American public. This played to an element in the American psyche that resonates with the saying “There are simple answers to complex questions ...and they are always wrong.” Unfortunately, a large segment of the American public bought Trump's simple snake oil solutions.

Trumpism Stage 2: the rash of racism

Following his exposure on reality TV, Trump rode the coattails of the Tea Party movement into the political arena. Here he embraced the underlying racism of this movement, and made it manifest in the rash of birtherism. He played on the bias that Obama, a black man, was “other,” and therefore could not qualify to be president. A large, gullible sector of the population bought into Trump’s racist absurdity. This set the stage for Trump to enter the 2016 election via an escalator in his glitzy Trump Tower—a gaudy descent into the abyss, where he and his cohort would go to work destroying our democratic republic.

Trumpism Stage 3: the terminal collapse of democratic governance

In tertiary syphilis, the major organs of the body are compromised and destroyed. So too the destruction of the organs of our body politic began immediately with Trump's undemocratic election, and has continued with the complete corruption of all norms and standard of good governance. To enumerate a complete list of Trump's destructive impacts would require a large tome. I will mention two areas of corruption emblematic of the rest.

In the farce of the Impeachment trial, we witnessed the collapse of

the constitutional system of checks and balances. Clearly, the legislative branch no longer exercises effective oversight of the executive branch. Trump has asserted autocratic executive powers and the craven Republicans in the Senate have given him their stamp of approval.

The latest, and perhaps most sinister development, can be seen in the corruption of the Department of Justice in the Roger Stone case (which is still unfolding as I write). In effect, Trump has turned the DOJ into his personal political weapon. In my opinion, the crossing of this Rubicon, the transformation of Barr's Justice Department into Trump's political police force, is the death knell of our democracy.

One remaining critical question

For some time, the comedian, Bill Maher, has been posing the question that most politicians want to avoid answering. That question is: What if Trump loses the election and refuses to leave office? I end this reflection with this disturbing question hanging in the balance.

Denis Langhans is a retired corporate executive who holds a PhD in the humanities.

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Maintaining our downtowns during lockdown

These suggestions relate to Olympia, but they work for other towns as well. Many businesses offer takeout. That's a great option for support. Many are online, so check their websites to see if there is a way to buy a gift card or shop. This includes theaters. A win-win option is to sign up for a meal delivered to a camp or

the Interfaith Shelter by ordering a takeout meal from a local place. In Olympia, Interfaith Works has a meal sign up online. If your favorite business is on Facebook, Instagram, email lists or has a website, now would be the time to join for updates and or to send messages of support. Some places immediately set up GoFundMe accounts, creat-

ing an opportunity to make a donation to hold businesses over until the critical period is over. There are landlords downtown and elsewhere who are saying "business as usual" and expecting the full rent on the first of the month. Some downtown businesses that set up GoFundMe accounts in Olympia are: Rainy Day Records, Cryptatropa, The

Reef, Traditions, Rhythm & Rye, Ginger Street, Le Voyeur, Orca Books....there are likely more. Those of us who continue to receive monthly checks as retirees or because we're able to work from home are in a good position to help.

Perspective

An argument against exporting live animals

Maria Protis

The Port of Olympia has participated in live animal transportation since 2015. Thanks to Clayton Agri-Marketing, cows have become the Port's second most common export, behind timber, according to a Port spokesperson. The agri-business company's February 2020 shipment, the sixth, moved more than 1,400 pregnant dairy cows from California and Idaho on their way to Vietnam.

The milk business in Vietnam is booming

The US Department of Agriculture inspects all of the cows and the conditions on the ship before they leave Port. According to Tony Clayton, his company takes good care of the animals: "They've got fresh water, they've got good bedding, they're going to be comfortable." Clayton said that while the American dairy market is struggling, thanks to milk alternatives, business is booming in Vietnam.

This rosy description is at odds with the reality of shipping live animals. There are several reasons to prohibit live export:

The majority of developing-world countries lack control posts to rest animals for 24 hours.

It is impossible to trace the animals' journey, especially by sea.

There is no information available to assess whether the importing countries' infrastructure and handling practices comply with our legislation.

Enforcement of animal welfare regulations is difficult even within our country, but once the animals enter developing-world countries, it is virtually impossible to monitor compliance or guarantee the

animals' welfare. For over 20 years, journalists and official sources have been reporting on systematic violations and inhumane slaughter practices in developing-world countries.



Live export constitutes a crime against animals

Hundreds of thousands of animals die en route during live export journeys. Many animals do not eat because of stress, and many suffer from seasickness, just like humans. Animals who survive arrive at their destination encrusted with urine and feces. Those who die during the journey die from extreme temperatures, septicemia, acute pneumonia and other horrible conditions. A significant number arrive blinded by sea salt and the filthy conditions they are kept in. Many former on-board veterinarians now condemn animal welfare conditions on live export ships.

Animal investigators have collected footage that shows cattle being slaughtered around the world with practices that violate standard animal welfare laws. Videos show absolute chaos, with animals being dragged, beaten, having their throats cut with blunt knives and being thrown into mass graves. Some of them are still alive hours later and die in agony. Australian Livestock Exporters Council Chief Executive Alison Penfold said she was "distracted and disgusted" by the footage. Australian Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig described it as "sickening." Live exports from some countries have been suspended indefinitely.

Live export ships can break down before arriving at their destination. Often, these ships are towed back to their original port, where they can sit in dock for weeks before the decision is made to unload the animals. In the meantime, the ani-

mals aboard are dying because of extreme temperatures or diseases caused by viruses and stress.

An environmental hazard

If the suffering of millions of animals on live export ships every year isn't a good enough reason to support a ban, a new case study by PETA Australia should be. Focusing on the environmental impact of the live export industry, this detailed report reveals that the live export trade is among the top 40 CO₂ emitters in Australia. It is calculated that bringing this industry

to an end would be the equivalent of removing 320,000 cars from Australia's roads. That's approximately 2 % of all the vehicles in Australia.

From the moment animals leave the farm, a path of environmental destruction is carved. Cattle and sheep may be transported thousands of kilometers by truck as the empty ships journey back to their home countries to collect their next cargo. The entire process racks up a high level of CO₂ emissions.

Assuming one million head of cattle a year, 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of excrement per head per day, an average voyage time

of 10 days, and vessel loading and unloading times of five days, something on the order of 300,000 tons of excrement is pumped into the sea during these voyages each year. A similar calculation for sheep, voyaging more typically for 20 days, would add a further 85,000 tons.

A human hazard

Based on death rates for 2015, Australian live export voyages would have resulted in approximately 12,500 sheep and 1,300 cattle carcasses being disposed of at sea (The Maritime Executive, 11/5/2016). Rules regarding how and where carcasses can be disposed state that no carcass is to be disposed of within 100 nautical miles of the nearest land unless it has been passed through a grinder or has been slit to open the thoracic and abdominal cavities. According to journalists and witnesses, ship's officers are not aware of when crew members are throwing carcasses overboard.

In addition to environmental costs and the hazards to humans, when we talk about live export, we are talking about living beings who are being terrorized, treated like garbage and eventually brutally killed. Would you allow this to happen to your dogs or cats, or any pets you have at home? If not, why would you allow it to happen to other innocent animals?

When you support live export, you support terror and suffering. There is no amount of money that can justify this horrific treatment of our fellow sentient beings. Federal law prohibits cruelty to domestic animals. They should be extended to prohibit extreme cruelty in the treatment of farm animals. Please support a ban on live export. It's not necessary, and it is animal cruelty.

Maria Protis is a former Civil Engineering Assistant at Seattle City Light.

Olympia Farmer's Market

On Saturday, April 4 the Farmer's Market plans to start the 2020 season. The market will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 3 pm with farm produce, plant starts, prepared foods and more. For more information about shopping during the Corona virus and social distancing, go to www.olympiafarmersmarket.com.



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The Rachel Corrie Foundation

has in other years held a community observance on March 16, the anniversary of Rachel Corrie's stand in Gaza. This year, the Foundation quickly canceled the event and adjusted its activities to respond to growing concerns triggered by the spread of the coronavirus in Washington and beyond. Recently COVID-19 has appeared in Gaza, despite strong precautions put in place to avoid what could be a devastating outbreak. Gaza's healthcare system and its war-battered residents are especially vulnerable, as they have lived under an Israeli-Egyptian siege for nearly 13 years. Historically, this has been a critical time financially for RFC when the community has chosen to donate generously. Now, when businesses, nonprofits, RFC partner organizations and many vulnerable families and individuals in the community face financial uncertainty, it is still important to remember the work of RFC in Gaza and at home, and to do what you can to help it continue.

The Olympia Mutual Aid Collective

is one of many such groups set up by people who decided to organize during this period to connect neighbors to neighbors, to offer up a platform for news and the sharing of resources, and provide a place to discuss individual needs and resources. Their goal is to keep in mind the needs of the most vulnerable during this time—a time defined not only by the pandemic but also by local and global solidarity. You can find them and ask to join their public Facebook Page which allows you to participate—at Olympia Mutual Aid Collective.

OlyAssembly: Are we in this together or not?

78% of Americans live paycheck-to-paycheck. 20% (about 31 million workers) have had their hours reduced or their jobs eliminated based on the need to stem the spread of Covid-19. Most of these jobs offer few, if any, benefits. Unemployment does not cover everyone. The moratorium on evictions for May fails to recognize that, come May (or whenever) all the rent and mortgage bills will still be owed—by people whose income has stopped. Many who work for wages have lost or will lose months of pay for the good of society. Isn't it right that those whose money comes not from work, but from owning things, share the burden for the good of society. This should have been evident to our leaders, but since it isn't, OlyAssembly is leading a movement to demand the suspension of rent and mortgage payments for everyone. For more information go to <https://olyassembly.org/rentstrike/>

Community spotlight

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours
in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Fr. Richard Hendrick,, March 13, 2020

Brother Richard is a priest-friar of the Irish branch of the Capuchin Franciscan Order. He lives in Dublin.

Encierro

Hay miedo.
Hay aislamiento.
Hay compras de pánico.
Hay enfermedad.
También hay muerte.
Pero,
Dicen que en Wuhan después de años de ruido
Puedes escuchar el canto de los pájaros.
Dicen que después de algunas semanas de sosiego
El cielo está despejado
Azul y claro.
Dicen que en las calles de Asís
La gente canta
A través de plazas desiertas,
Con las ventanas de par en par
Para que los que están solos
Puedan escuchar el trasiego familiar alrededor.
Dicen que un hotel en el oeste de Irlanda
Ofrece alimento a los confinados.
Hoy una joven que conozco
está ocupada en repartir volantes con su número telefónico
En el barrio
Para que los mayores tengan con quién hablar.
Hoy iglesias, sinagogas, mezquitas y templos
Se preparan para recibir
Y abrigar a los vagabundos, a los enfermos, a los fatigados.
Alrededor del mundo la gente reduce la marcha y reflexiona
Alrededor del mundo la gente mira a sus vecinos con ojos prístinos
Alrededor del mundo la gente despierta a una nueva realidad
A lo grande que somos.
A lo poco que controlamos.
A lo esencial.
Al Amor.
Así rezamos y recordamos que
Hay miedo.
Pero no debe ser odio.
Hay aislamiento.
Pero no debe ser soledad.
Hay compras de pánico.
Pero no debe ser mezquindad.
Hay enfermedad.
Pero no debe ser depresión.
También hay muerte.
Pero siempre puede renacer el Amor.
Despierta a tus decisiones sobre cómo vivir ahora.
Hoy, respira.
Escucha, atrás del ruido fabricado de tu pánico
Los pájaros cantan de nuevo
El cielo esclarece,
La primavera se anuncia,
Y siempre estamos rodeados de Amor.
Abre las ventanas de tu alma
Aunque no puedas
Tocar a través de la plaza desierta,
Canta.

Translated by Julio Alejandro Rodriguez Manzo

Itemizing the average Washingtonian's income tax bill for 2018

Free, take one!

¡Gratis, toma uno!

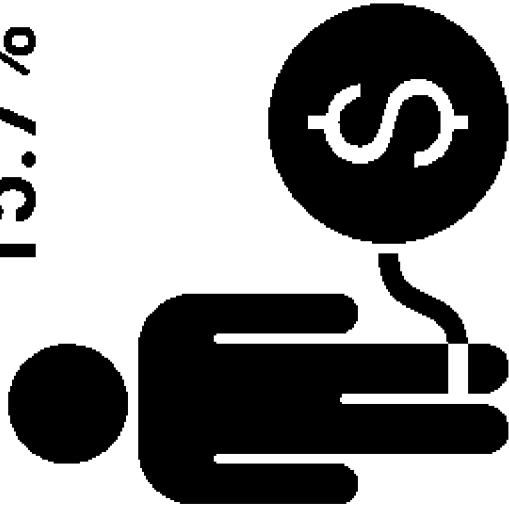
Works in Progress

Advocating for social justice since 1990

24%

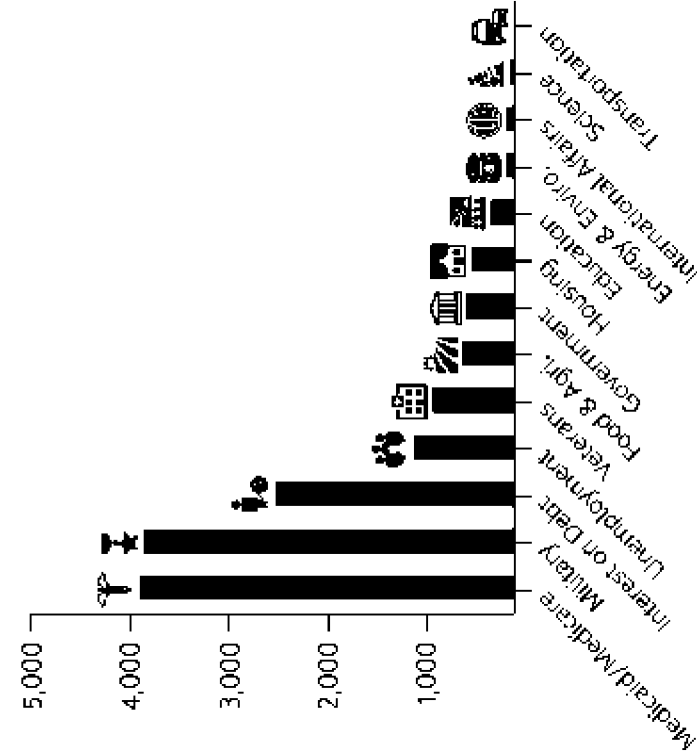


15.7%



Pentagon & Military

Interest on Debt



This graph shows Federal government spending of the \$16,187 that an average Washingtonian paid in income tax in 2018. Of this, 40% went to the military and the interest on \$22.7 trillion in borrowed money. Find more details plus a calculator to break down your specific tax payments at www.nationalpriorities.org

Source: www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/taxday/average/2018/wa/receipt/

