

## Working people must stand together

Marianna Everson

I grew up right here in Grays Harbor County, Washington. I am a proud member of the working-class. I come from working-class timber workers. My dad was a log-truck driver and my step-dad a millwright and a saw filer. My grandfather was also a saw filer. I'm a nurse. Our legacy is one of a strong work ethic and solidarity.

Our immediate ancestors had jobs with adequate pay and benefits because they fought for it. They organized across languages and differences to win huge gains for working people. 100 years ago, thousands of working people—loggers, mill workers, waitresses, longshoremen and more—marched in unity together down the streets of Hoquiam and Aberdeen demanding better pay and better working conditions. At the time, working people were living in terrible housing and working for poverty wages. They gave speeches in different languages because they knew they would be more powerful if they came together across lines of ethnicity and language.

They knew, despite differences, that as working people, they were on the same side against the timber barons who pillaged Indigenous lands and made their profit off poor workers' backs. Together, these workers won historic labor laws that meant many families thrived for a long time here on the Harbor.

They showed us that when working people come together and defend one another, we can make a good life possible. We've done it before and I believe we must do it again. In my lifetime we have seen life in Southwest Washington crumble in many ways. Our small businesses are suffering, our housing is rotting, our worker protections and wages slide to the wayside because corporate executives and their paid politicians have done all they can to fight back the gains working people fought and died for.

Both of my father-figures died with nothing to show for a lifetime of work. For a long time, corporate tycoons and the wealthy 1% have spread lies to keep us distracted, divided and powerless. They tell us our problems are caused by black people, or immigrants, or poor people. They tell us to be scared. They disorient us so we don't know which side we're on any more. And while we're busy distrusting other working people and competing for scraps, they run off with billions. In recent weeks since the pandemic began, 40 million of us have filed for unemployment while corporate billionaires increased their wealth by over \$550 billion.

Sunday, I saw some of these lies



Armed individuals and organized militia groups have attended the otherwise peaceful gatherings in Grays Harbor County since the murder of George Floyd. Photo by Ann Valentine.

at work here on the Harbor. I was in Aberdeen on the afternoon of Sunday, June 14, 2020. Sometime in the days leading up to Sunday, a false rumor started that “antifa” was coming to Aberdeen to “riot.”

Those false rumors were spread in a coordinated campaign by national white supremacist groups—the exact

same language was sent out to small towns all over the country—and not one of them turned out to be true.

This is a classic example of a divide-and-conquer lie to keep us scared of each other, and scared of fighting for what we deserve. Still, posts on social media were full of bravado and fear. In reality, a small group of blue collar Harborites had planned a peaceful, silent walk and gathering Sunday in support of Black Lives Matter because we know racism

► **Together**, continued on page 7

## Health and safety is underfunded—except for the police

Bethany Weidner

Police department budgets in Thurston County's main cities have been increased year to year. at least for the past few years. Funding for police departments in Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater are now approaching a quarter of the general fund (see chart on page 5).

In some cases, the department received additional roles and responsibilities. Tumwater, for example, shifted recently its code compliance and enforcement to the police department. In Olympia, a 2017 increase in the property tax yields \$2.8 million in new funds annually, described as needed to pay for downtown walking patrols, neighborhood liaison, coordination with social service providers and additions to the training budget.

At the same time as policing in Thurston County jurisdictions have seen budget increases, Thurston County's Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) has suffered continual cuts. The department has responsibility to address individual conditions like mental health, homelessness and addiction with a myriad of other tasks relating to traditional dimensions of public health.

reducing our capacity to respond to demand and sustain important health programs.

Thurston County has some of the highest rates of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) in Washington state. These indicators are associated with homelessness, single parents, drug, alcohol and firearm use in the home, untreated mental

sequences of a crisis in both homelessness and opioid use in Thurston County. Homelessness increased by 43% in the past year. The number of unsheltered people nearly tripled, posing serious health risks. Lack of affordable housing and increasing poverty is impacting the well-being of the youngest and most vulnerable. A 2019 Youth Health and Equity survey found that depression among Thurston County students exceeded the level found across the state; and increased as students got older. In terms of behavioral health,

Thurston County lacks sufficient treatment beds—and a fundamental capacity to deal with complex mental health needs. There is a significant increase in the number of children with special health needs and mothers enrolled in the Nurse-Family Partnership program experiencing homelessness, domestic violence along with mental health and substance abuse.

(PSHH 20-21 Budget Request)

These conditions, showing up

► **Underfunded**, continued on page 5

...false rumors were spread in a coordinated campaign by national white supremacist groups—the exact same language was sent out to small towns all over...

The bias in favor of funding the police instead of public goods and services shows up in many places.

**As reported in the PHSS current budget analysis:**  
...over time the governmental public health system has been critically underfunded... Funding has diminished in most of our divisions,

illness, etc. In recent years, the criminal justice system has recognized a direct link between the presence of childhood adversity and adult criminality. PHSS must deal with the con-



**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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**Publishing Committee**

Emily Lardner, Lori Lively, Kevin Pestinger, Enrique Quintero, Bethany Weidner

**Treasurer** Ann Vandeman

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Bethany Weidner

**Associate Editor** Lori Lively

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**Art & Photography**

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**Website** Carolyn Roos, Heather Sundean

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Unintended consequences  
**Not all unintended consequences are alike**

It's no surprise that we live in a world of unintended consequences. Yet we rarely stop to think that our very existence as humans is nothing but the result of a long chain of events in the material world which, combined with the laws of evolution on our planet, and with no specific intention in mind, generated humanity.

This realization may cause discomfort to those who see themselves as the end result of some plan of conceived by nature, a creator, or the procreating intentionality of the human species. But nature, being nature, does not plan anything. It exists according to the laws and processes of its being, of which we humans are also part. This is the first unintended consequence we as humans must face, and it is a fortunate one, because this knowledge offers us the opportunity to be free, to determine our course of action and our future based on our convictions, without the tutelage of extraterrestrial elements or even other terrestrial ones.

**THINKING OUT LOUD**

**Not all unintended consequences are alike: The case of climate change**

Taking into consideration the current conditions of the planet (according to scientists, we have already surpassed four of the nine barriers in our biosphere necessary to ensure a safe existence for humanity), climate change constitutes the most crucial unintended consequence of our time.

However, this affirmation merits a historical clarification. In general terms it is accurate to accept climate change as an unintended outcome of the so-called "insanity of the growth society," grounded in economic expansionism, accumulation and consumerism.

Early warnings about this condition date back at least to 1972 with the Report to the Club of Rome (an international organization integrated by heads of state—former and current, UN bureaucrats, diplomats, scientists, economists and business leaders) that tried to alert the world to this issue: "Exponential growth is incompatible with a finite world and [...] our capacity for consumption must not exceed the biosphere capacity for regeneration."

**Some turn out to be inevitable**

Fifty-two years later, as we witness the systematic and deliberate neglect of the ecological consequences of capitalist development—the heavy dependence of the world economy on the use of fossil fuels. The result is dangerous concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which in turn strengthen the greenhouse effect, posing serious threats to the planet and the survival of civilization. It feels naïve to characterize these results as the unintended consequences or the "externalities" of capitalist production.

In fact, we are witnessing the inevitable consequences of an economy

oriented towards the global elite's systemic greed for profits. We have to call our current condition the expected consequences demanding our immediate action if we aspire to survive.

**A single spark can start a prairie fire: 8 minutes and 46 seconds**

The better example of truly unintended consequences is the prairie fire of outrage fueled by ongoing state sanctioned police brutality, and ignited by the murder of George Floyd. The magnitude of the response to institutionalized racism in the US has transcended the perimeters of the Black Lives Matter movement, evolving into a multi-racial, international movement of protest around the world.



**UPCOMING THEMES**

**August: When money is the measure.**

Do you spend more at Walmart because stuff is cheaper? Can we afford to measure a college education by anything other than how it will increase our job and earning prospects? Do businesses pay their workers less than a living wage because to do otherwise would make them unprofitable? How should we value old trees vs new developments? Send us your thoughts on these and any other money topics. **Deadline: July 16.**

**September: Hoping, doping, coping & shopping.** A recent book says that people are reaching for one of these strategies to survive in today's economy. That public institutions are falling apart; bosses are overwhelmed or incompetent; businesses are dysfunctional. Do you find any of this to be true? Do you need a strategy? **Deadline: August 15.**

At the time of this writing, the movement is far from over. It continues to grow both in number and in political clout, demanding specific measures aimed at redesigning police, thereby challenging one of the ominous and repressive state apparatus aimed against black people. This newspaper pays tribute to all the black lives taken by the police, and to the permanent struggle for the elimination of racism and economic exploitation against any human being.

**The limits of our imagination?**

Leading into this historical moment, Fredric Jameson's argument that "it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism" was hard to refute. Now, as the phrase "defund the police" gets debated and discussed, and examples like Camden NJ are cited, perhaps we will prove Jameson wrong. Perhaps an unintended consequence of the Black Lives Matter movement, turned now into an international movement, will be a shift in our collective imagination. —EQ

**October: The struggle for justice.**

WIPs mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, political and environmental realms and to the expansion of participatory democracy across classes, races and genders. October 2020 marks the 30th year that Works in Progress has been trying to live up to that mission, as a publication produced and distributed by volunteers. The paper has shaped and reshaped itself across the years, depending on who puts in the time and energy to make it happen. We invite anyone who has read, contributed to or helped produce the paper to send their memories, critiques, old copies, artifacts etc. that have been part of WIP on its journey. Be sure to save the date for an anniversary celebration Nov. 21. **Copy deadline for October issue: September 13**

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YOU WRITE TO WIP

# What is social housing?

Dear Editor,

I am a faithful reader but could not find a definition of “social housing,” which occurred in a number of articles. If you or one of your staff could offer a definition, I’d be much obliged.

As a retired fishery biologist, I write to those in power about climate change, but the current crisis has opened my eyes to the broader range of interrelated issues we must address. Thanks for any help you can offer.

Joe Hiss

Dear Joe,

Social housing is basically affordable housing. That's because it's housing protected in some way from the swings of the marketplace—and the power of investors. Often “social housing” refers to rental housing that's owned and managed by the state or non-profit organizations or a combination of the two. There is usually some kind of means test.

The Thurston Housing Authority owns housing units and makes them available to low income families. Across the state, vari-

ous nonprofit agencies manage subsidized apartment complexes. Yakima farmworkers have access to some government assisted housing, but others have to live in housing provided by farm owners.

There are also trust and co-operative arrangements for housing priced according to a standard of affordability or cost. These arrangements allow for accumulation of equity, but at the end of a tenure, the departing resident gets their equity plus accumulated interest. The dwelling doesn't go on the market, but reverts to the trust or co-op so that it remains within reach of families who rely on salaries and

wages for a living. An example of trust-structured housing is Lopez Community Land Trust.

In Olympia, a local group just started the Thurston Community Land Trust with the goal of acquiring housing to manage outside the market. Woodward Lane Co-housing in Olympia is an example of another alternative to market-driven housing. Some cities have created programs to offer qualified buyers access to dwelling units protected from market forces. Cambridge MA has such a program. We don't know of any in Washington.

*The Editors*

# Books to Prisoners awarded a Sustaining Fund spring grant

**Desdra Dawning**

In the spring and fall each year the Community Sustaining Fund (CSF) accepts applications for grants up to \$1000 for projects meeting certain criteria intended to fulfill its mission. Usually, around 6-10 individuals or groups apply for grant funding for their projects each cycle, held twice a year.

The Spring Grant Cycle this year fell in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The leadership team for CSF met and agreed by consensus that the focus for funds should be on work in our community that aimed to address this global health crisis.

Books to Prisoners (BTP), an organization that sends books to prison inmates around the country, was awarded a Spring cycle grant. Work at the Olympia chapter of BTP is handled totally by volunteers. A social change aspect of their work

centers around their efforts to give marginal communities the opportunity to ask for, and have their needs met. With the current political strife taking place not only in the US but globally, their work also addresses the systemic issues of mass incarceration in our prison system, especially the disproportionate number of black people imprisoned.

Prisoners who have access to this program can request specific books or simply receive 3-4 books selected by the organization. These often serve as a lifeline to the outer world. If a specific book is requested, volunteers do their best to find that book, or something similar, sometimes paying for a book from their own pocket. The only books they don't send are ones that promote white supremacy and racism.

Their funding comes primarily through yard sales and benefits, with some books collected at Dumpster Values in downtown

## About the cover



Deborah Sioux Cano Lee, Noel Parrish and Beverly Farris perform a Native American cleansing ceremony as part of a Juneteenth silent vigil on the Fourth Avenue Bridge in Olympia on June 19 with Sky Cosby looking on. The ceremony raises a prayer for peace and justice and land acknowledgement. The Olympia event was one of hundreds taking place around the country in recognition of a date connected to the end of slavery and the beginning of the ongoing struggle for equality. See the story on Page 9. Photo by Ricky Osborne

Olympia. Due to the pandemic, they have not been able to bring in the money needed to pay the mailing costs.

Because the work they are doing for our community was deemed very valuable, because they humbly asked for even less than the grant limit and because there were no other eligible applicants during this grant cycle, it was decided to award Books to Prisoners the full amount possible—\$1,000, with the stipulation that \$250 of the amount be set aside to purchase specific books not available from their book stockpile.

The small number of applicants for the 2020 spring grant cycle may have occurred due to a technical glitch and as a result of these dif-

ficult times. In order to maintain physical distancing, all CSF meetings have been handled through Zoom, including grant interviews. Remaining funds from this cycle will be added to whatever comes to the Sustaining Fund from the “Round Up at the Register” option at the Olympia Food Co-op. Look for an announcement of the Fall grant cycle here in Works in Progress, or on the CSF webpage.

You can find details about the Sustaining Fund and its mission, or make a donation via PayPal at [www.oly-wa.us/csf](http://www.oly-wa.us/csf). Donations can also be made by check mailed to 2103 Harrison Ave NW #2715. Olympia WA 98502.

*Desdra Dawning is an active member of the Olympia Food Co-op.*



# Then this happened...

...workers who struck for better protection in the Yakima apple sheds have died from COVID 19. The deaths came after a historic strike where the workers gained an agreement from management to improve conditions and wages... but too late for some.

...ouch! It turns out that the poorest 20% of Washingtonians pay 17.8% of their income while the richest 1% pay 3% of theirs. Since half of our state budget comes from sales tax, the shut down looks to drop revenue by \$4.5 billion this year. Maybe we should bump up the tax contribution of the 13 Washingtonians whose combined wealth is \$441 billion? A 1% tax on their stocks & bonds over \$1 billion would bring in \$4.4 billion - just about enough to wipe out the deficit.

...WIPs story about rent reform was confirmed when the Fed painted

a grim view for the economy: unemployment will remain elevated for years, undermining the health of cities and towns as people are unable to pay rent and other basic expenses.

...Thurston, we have a problem. Recent data from the WA Assn. of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs shows that our public safety officers jailed blacks at 5.9 times the rate of the white population in 2019. 13.3% of the average daily jail population consisted of black people, even though they represent only 2.7% of the population in Thurston County.

...oops—Transmountain pipeline spilled 50 gallons of oil just across the Canadian border. It's the 80th spill since the pipeline began operating in defiance of opposition by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

## More ways to get WIP

This month Works in Progress debuts new Instagram and Twitter accounts with hyper-local coverage of the vibrance and diversity of our community's nature, art, food and agriculture, volunteerism, political actions, and other important events that occur between issues of the paper.

For expanded coverage of local calendar events, see our interactive calendar page at [olywip.org/calendar](http://olywip.org/calendar), co-hosted by LocalMotive.org, a resource for South Sound citizen engagement. To add a listing, go to <https://localmotive.org/how-to-send-us-a-link-to-your-google-calendar/>.

Works in Progress Olympia's facebook page has also been updated with more links, new graphics and information on current local happenings. If you haven't already, “like” us to see our posts on your newsfeed.

Have a social media tip? Contact Heather Sundean, WIP's social media maven, at [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) and in the meantime, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @ OlyWIP!





# Olympians want their City to address police misconduct

## Hundreds of citizens

[Note: Hundreds of people contacted their mayor to demand removal of Olympia police officers who thanked a group of armed men organized to “defend” a gun store and cited state laws against allowing gun-wielding individuals to intimidate citizens. Many messages described situations where police intervention made situations worse, listed desired reforms, and called for shifting funds from police to social services.]

Dear Mayor,

In light of the recent protests across the nation in the name of George Floyd and many others who died at the hand of police, I would like to request that the City of Olympia defund the Olympia Police Department.

I am also requesting that the Mayor's office demilitarize the city's police. In addition to reducing their access to military weaponry of all kinds, I would like the Mayor to ban the use of less than lethal weapons like flash balls, rubber bullets, tear gas or choke holds of any kind by the city's police department on citizens peacefully protesting or otherwise.

We are calling for the immediate firing of Officer Tiffany Coates. This is the appropriate and fair response to her posing for a photo with a known white supremacist militia while the citizens of Olympia, whom she has sworn to protect and serve, are living under threat from these same groups. At best she displayed a lack of sound judgement and at worst, she has unabashedly shown us what she truly believes in, which puts all Black, Brown, Indigenous, and POC residents of Olympia in immediate and imminent danger.

However, we know that this is not an isolated incident. Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin and their families are still waiting for justice. The family of Yvonne McDonald is still waiting for justice. We demand Officer Ryan Donald be fired. It is unconscionable that he is still on the streets. We demand that the information requests from the family of Yvonne McDonald be honored and filled and that her death be covered up no longer. .

At 17, [my first boyfriend] broke into a nearby home for the sole purpose of stealing alcohol. The noise frightened the [homeowner] and his family, who called the police. My boyfriend was apprehended without a hair on his head harmed. It was the scandal of the summer for us nerdy teens, but he ended up only serving a few weekends in juvie and doing a fair amount of community service. No one wanted his grades or his bright future harmed, and the next year he headed off to a prestigious college, his record expunged. It was, overall, a reasonable response to a kid stealing alcohol.

It's a story I hadn't thought about in years, but it's been on my mind lately. My ex is white. His experience of breaking and entering a house to steal alcohol was wildly different from

the experiences of Chaplin and Thompson, whose crime was shoplifting alcohol. Chaplin and Thompson deserved for the justice system to treat them as gently as it did my friend. They did not deserve to be chased by police, shot (along with some nearby apartment buildings, as I understand the officer's aim was terrible), dragged through a media circus, and then imprisoned for something that a white teenager was barely punished for. How the officers handled that incident is shameful, as is the fact that the involved officers were not fired.



I don't know if [Officer Coates] and the other officer attending [the group of armed men] should be fired or not... However, it is hard for me to believe that she was that ignorant of what she was doing because that would indicate a gross level of misunderstanding of who these people are. If OPD does not know what the 3% symbolizes your office and the chief of police have more serious issues to deal with than a grossly misinformed uniform cop. If she in fact did know what these folks represent, she and her fellow officer probably do need to go.



I learned last week of an armed militia group, welcomed by our own Olympia PD, congregating in our community in order to “protect” us. The day before, my 14-year-old daughter, passionate about the Black Lives Matter movement, demonstrated peacefully with her friend for three hours on the corner of Harrison and Plymouth. I felt a huge sense of pride and also very safe knowing she was in our Southwest Olympia neighborhood, a place where her passion for equal rights would be met with mostly honks and positivity.

If my daughter had asked to demonstrate on the day this armed militia group was in our neighborhood, there is absolutely no way I would have allowed her to

go. What am I supposed to tell her? Should I tell her that her first amendment right is void and her voice should be silent if someone who disagrees with her is present with an automatic rifle or weapon?

Should I tell her that it doesn't matter if she asks the police to protect her first amendment right, because the police invited this group to come to our community and instill fear?. Unfortunately, this is how I have to explain it. Mayor Selby, this is a very difficult thing to tell someone so young and full of passion.

Every day I work with people around issues of trauma. I know that crime, addiction, domestic violence and abuse are products of generational, systematic and institutionalized violence. In order for our community to become stronger and healthier we need creative and trauma-informed responses that address some of the real problems: generational poverty, systematic racism and blatant disregard for black, brown and Indigenous lives, a broken health care system, the war on drugs and its legacy, and a lack of investment in services that support and improve community health and wellness.

This is a very important moment. You have an opportunity to make a real difference. I urge you to advocate for a budget that reflects the needs and priorities of our community. I urge you to advocate for a reallocation of funds away from policing and towards social programs and resources that support housing, jobs, education, health care, child care, mental health, and public health.

I also want [you] to address the issue of the legitimately terrifying militia of white men ..with long guns, bullet proof vests and ammo strapped to their chests who have been walking in groups through my neighborhood. I have seen them all over downtown.

## Olympians want misconduct addressed

### Policy changes advocated in messages to the city

- 1) Ban the use of knee holds, chokeholds and other lethal holds
- 2) Adopt a Use of Force Continuum with at least six levels of steps and clear rules on escalation
- 3) Provide for denial of recertification credentials when it is determined that an officer's use of force was unwarranted under federal guidelines
- 4) Make officer misconduct information and disciplinary histories available for public scrutiny
- 5) Establish a Citizen's Review Board with authority to review agreements between the police guild and sergeants and the City in order to hold the police department accountable and reestablish trust with the public.
- 6) Study and implement budget alternatives for public safety. Hire and deploy social workers, mediators, addiction specialists with salaries and working conditions appropriate to performing roles previously belonging to police

## You're under arrest! Oops, no, I mean “thank you!”

**State RCW 38.40.120** forbids unauthorized groups to “associate themselves together as a military company or organize or parade in public with firearms. Any person participating in any such unauthorized organization shall be guilty of a misdemeanor

**“RCW 9.41.270** outlaws the carrying of any weapon “apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection above shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and if convicted shall lose their license to carry a concealed weapon.

We have a problem in Olympia, and we are in serious trouble. Our police department has been hit with two scandals this week: having a smiling officer pose with an anti-government armed militia group (the 3 Percenters) that was requested by a business owner to protect them from Black Lives Matter protestors... then allegedly she and her partner thanked them for showing up to support the police.

► **Misconduct**, continued on next page



# Underfunded

From page 1

first as adverse health and safety conditions will, if not addressed, predictably lead to serious negative outcomes—including criminal behavior. Those outcomes are here now.

Elected leaders have chosen not to devote the resources needed to address these conditions directly. They refuse to acknowledge the failure of the market to provide affordable housing; the failure of the “community mental health model,” to treat mental illness; to acknowledge the way endemic poverty destroys families; to acknowledge that our young people see our priorities and question whether they even have a future.

Instead, more and more funds go to the police to deal with the consequences of these failures and their budgets swell accordingly. Armed police respond to mental health crises at home and on the street. Armed police respond to domestic disputes and arguments.

Adolescents wandering around at night are considered suspect. The halls of our school are patrolled by

An open letter to Cheryl Selby, Mayor of Olympia

# Who are the terrorists?

Timothy Murphy

Mayor Selby, your description of the incident wherein protesters spray-painted “BLM” on your house as “like domestic terrorism” is a boot in the face to actual victims of domestic terrorism. I mean really and truly, Mayor Selby? Having your house spray-painted is like the Boston Marathon bombing? Having your house spray-painted is like the Pulse Nightclub massacre? Having your house spray-painted is like a White supremacist murdering Black parishioners in Charleston? You are an elected official and it matters what words you choose to employ. And the words that you chose have the potential to incite violence.

What happens if someone decides to murder protesters because the Mayor of Olympia described those protesters as carrying out an action “like domestic terrorism”? Nothing is “like” domestic terrorism. Vandalism is not comparable to maimed and murdered bodies. Destruction of property is an inconvenience to capital, not a capitol offense. How could you dare to conflate them? But you did, Mayor Selby.

Your police force used chemical weapons on protesters: weapons that are banned from use in warfare under the Geneva Convention! So...

Who are the terrorists, Mayor Selby? Here’s a hint: they aren’t the fed-up kids spray-painting a rich person’s house.

*Timothy Murphy lives in Tumwater and is a graduate of The Evergreen State College.*

armed “school resource officers.” Businesses complain that omeless people downtown present difficulties, but arresting them cannot solve the problem, so it simply festers. The roster of jail inmates is filled with people arrested for drunkenness, shoplifting, minor theft, failure to comply, resisting arrest, and so on. The rate of violent crime has actually been diminishing.

At the same time that we have enlarged the role of armed police officers to respond to social conditions that require judgement and understanding, we give police “non-lethal” weapons that turn out to be lethal at times, along with cast-off military armaments and uniforms more suitable for an occupying arm.

Institutional failings revealed

by the pandemic shut-down and the death of George Floyd have produced a new awareness and a growing demand for a restructuring. The demand to “defund” the police is an urgent one of those. The refrain is repeated: reallocate funds away from policing to support affordable housing, family wage jobs, generous education, affordable childcare, mental health facilities, ready access to health care for everyone.

The bias in favor of funding the police instead of public goods and services shows up in many places. It is illustrated in how we rely on nonprofits, faith communities, idealistic volunteers to house the homeless, create programs for youth, intervene in crises.

The bias is illustrated by two funds

that Olympia put to voters a few months apart. The “Housing Fund” was in the form of a .1% increase in the sales tax, which brought in \$1.3 million in 2019, but will rise or fall with tax receipts fall. The “Public Safety Levy,” was an increase in property taxes that brings in \$2.8 million a year for the police department.

The bias shows up in smaller details: PHSS anticipates the retirement of some of its leaders in the next biennium but needs resources it doesn’t have for the transition and to provide for training newly hired staff. The Lacey Police Department also needs to address “succession planning” due to anticipated retirements. Its budget already provides for three new officers to back fill the retirement positions “for two or three years.”

As is shown in the accompanying graph, the story of defunding social services and overfunding police services is true across the country. The demand to “defund the police” turns out on examination to be a demand to restore public services that are the basis for reducing the need for policing.

*Bethany Weidner lives in West Olympia and is the volunteer editor of Works in Progress.*



# Police misconduct

From previous page

It would be easy to claim ignorance or a rookie mistake by the officer, except that earlier this week, a woman of color alleged that as she was trying to leave a protest, she was arrested and during processing, an officer ‘joked’ to another “I could put my knee on her...”

The Olympia Police Department is investigating these incidents, but no one should ever get to investigate themselves without adequate community oversight. Whether or not OPD eventually claims it’s just a misunderstanding, people of color do not feel safe; [they] feel like the enemy. When we take steps to make sure that people in our community are not cast as “the enemy,” everyone is safer.



Olympia likes to think of itself as “exceptional.” But it is not. The OPD is not much different than other police departments. An officer stopped my friend’s mixed-race son with her lights blazing as he was pulling into the parking lot of his apartment. She pulled a gun on him and told him to put his hands up. “What have I done wrong? I don’t want to die!” he said. “One of your headlights was out.” [The boy] never filed a complaint—he didn’t want to call attention to himself—and the incident does not appear in police records. Why would a cop do this? Was she afraid of him because he is mixed race? This kind of out-of-control behavior is common among the OPD. I could cite many, many other examples.

*[These are excerpts from some of the many messages sent to the City. Read the full texts at [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org) ]*

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# Olympia bans use of tear gas—for a while

Mindy Chambers

[Ed note: The police union and city attorney in Seattle said new laws banning chokeholds and crowd-control weapons like tear gas are “safety issues” that must be bargained.]

The use of chemical weapons for crowd control no longer will be an option, at least for now, for the Olympia Police Department and for the Washington State Patrol officers who work in the state Capitol.

Olympia police used chemical devices to scatter protestors during recent demonstrations in downtown Olympia in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The policies and protocols for their use, the number of devices used and the cost to city taxpayers were requested from the city, but were not immediately available.

The Olympia City Council voted unanimously to ban the use of pepper spray, pepper bombs and tear gas at its June 9 meeting, voting on a proposal brought forward by first-year Council member Dani Madrone.

Such weapons cause people to cough and sneeze, and public health officials around the country have raised concerns regarding the likelihood that use of these devices increases the chances of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

The ban took effect immediately and will be in place until the end of the pandemic – broadly defined in Washington state as a time when a vaccine or other treatment for the novel coronavirus is widely available.

“While this move for immediate action does not reflect the full concerns or the need for accountability, this is a concrete step that I can attempt this evening,” Madrone said. “We (also) need to assess the tactics of crowd control and determine if we are protecting the safety of those who are exercising their First Amendment rights.” Madrone has requested details on how Olympia police manage protests when what she termed “heavily armed vigilante groups” are present

She and other Council members have requested extensive information on police policies regarding

crowd control, use of force and other practices not readily available to the public. They also raised numerous questions about what they called a lack of Police Department accountability and transparency. Council member Clark Gilman cited the upcoming hiring of a new police chief as an opportunity to thoroughly review department operations and examine its budget, which is over \$20 million in 2020.

“Trust ... we don’t have a lot. We have to regain it or gain it for the first time,” said Council member Lisa Parshley.

“Reliance on the old ways and tools [for the Police Department] stymies innovation and change and evolution. Can we do this better? Yeah, we can, if it takes elected bodies of government to take away some of those tools so that we have innovation, we have change and evolution, it will happen,” Parshley said.

Similar bans on the use of chemicals for crowd disbursement are in place in Seattle and Portland. On June 12, the Chief of the Washington State Patrol announced its officers also will not be using tear gas on demonstrators during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mindy Chambers is a 30-year Olympia resident with many years of experience in newspaper and magazine reporting and editing.

## Banned for use abroad but not at home

The key ingredient of tear gas is actually a solid powder. To use the gas, you need a dispersal agent, such as the solvent methylene chloride, to carry the particles through the air. A typical tear gas grenade contains a variety of additional chemicals for heat dispersal of the irritant. The grenade can be shot or thrown. The gas recently used against protesters is banned in warfare by the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The US signed the ban with the reservation that they could continue to use the gas against their own civilians.

Beyond causing pain in people’s eyes tear gas can do other significant harm to a person’s body: “Tear gas is most often associated with making people’s eyes stream with tears. But tear gas actually affects many parts of the body, and can cause vomiting, digestive problems, respiratory problems, skin irritation and burns. In severe cases, it can contribute to asphyxiation and heart attacks. It has also been linked to miscarriages and higher rates of cancer.” Anna Feigenbaum, author of *Tear Gas: From the Battlefields of WWI to the Streets of Today*

# A question about cops and steroid use

A reader reports

Anabolic steroid use by law enforcement officers has been identified by numerous organizations and researchers as a factor in the increasing aggression and violence of police. Derived from the hormone testosterone, steroids have been a controlled substance since 1990, ostensibly available only by prescription.

Sought for their ability to increase muscle mass and enhance physique, hundreds of brand name steroids are available to those who know how to find them. Injected directly into the muscles, chronic misuse of steroids is associated with increased mood swings, depression, impaired judgement, nervousness, extreme irritability, delusions, hostility, and aggression. Steroid abuse among police officers creates what the Drug Enforcement Agency calls an “invincible mentality” when performing law enforcement duties.

In the last decade officers from Indiana, Connecticut, Oregon, Georgia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Florida have been indicted and/or convicted on steroid possession.

Prompted by the public revelation of illicit steroid use by members of the police and fire departments in 2007, the Phoenix Police Department commenced random steroid testing of their department. The officer in charge of testing, Kim Humphrey, noted in *Police Chief* magazine that officers with rage or depression should not be carrying firearms.

As evidence mounted that steroid use was, in fact, a serious problem, the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 2008 issued a recommendation calling on local

and state law enforcement agencies to create a policy prohibiting steroid use by the LEO community. The resolution was never passed and by 2014, the Phoenix Police Department had ceased steroid testing altogether.

Rigorous steroid testing has largely been abandoned for three reasons: cost, inability to determine use with testing, and organized resistance. The most common steroid testing method costs at least \$200 to administer and involves expensive chemicals and equipment (as compared to urinalysis for narcotic use at roughly \$20 per test). Most police department simply do not have the budgets for more than occasional, random tests.

The second factor is the growing ability of users to mask their steroid use with other substances, which can result in negative or inconclusive tests.

Other sources suggest that power-

ful police unions may protect officers from testing. And though the Fraternal Order of Police insists they do not sanction steroid use among police, they also support limiting the use of testing. Even when they are performed and the officer found to be “juicing,” there are no guarantees that convictions will not be overturned, fired officers reinstated, or legal consequences otherwise nullified.

Because there is no national standard for testing and no repository for the collection of data, no one knows for sure how many

law enforcement officers may use steroids, but in his book *Dopers in Uniform*, John Hoberman, professor at The University of Texas-Austin, estimates that the number runs into the “tens of thousands.”

For more information, see *Dopers in Uniform: The Hidden World of Police on Steroids* by John Hoberman, University of Texas Press.

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# Together

From page 1

keeps working people powerless, we know police violence happens on the Harbor, and we know that our working class black brothers and sisters stand up for us, so we should stand up with them.

What we were met with was a large number of people with guns. It is legal to open-carry in Washington, that was not the problem. The problem was that these people have left the side of working people. These people, mostly men, considered us, a group of blue collar people, mostly women, exercising our constitutional rights to speak up for the dignity of all of us, to be so terrifying that they responded with spitting and yelling in our faces, threatening us with violence while cradling their weapons, and using racial and gender slurs meant to demean and provoke us.

This is exactly what the rich and powerful want. They want you and me to be more enraged at other working people demanding basic dignity than we are at them for stealing our dignity in the first place. I'm heartbroken that some of my brothers and sisters have bought the lie.

As we moved about the town we were followed. We saw the lie rear its head again. I was told that the four men initially following us were coming to confront "antifa." Two of the four verbally confronted my friend and me insisting, "You have no right to be here." They seemed genuinely surprised to hear that we are lifelong residents of Grays Harbor County. This is the real foundational issue for me.

Far too often, we've allowed people at the top to exploit any perceived divisions—race, religion, geography, sex, national origin, and sexual orientation—and where has it gotten us? People are still dying and going bankrupt due to lack of healthcare coverage. There are still not enough affordable homes. Wages haven't risen in 40 years while the cost of living keeps going up. Black people, Indigenous people, and poor people are still being killed by police. Workers and poor people still pay a huge percentage of our income to taxes while the wealthy get tax breaks. Our schools still struggle for adequate funding.

Perhaps it was so hard for these men to believe that we're from the Harbor because we have forgotten our history. We've forgotten that we are a people who fight for each other.

Let's remember our proud history as working people, of standing on the same side, defending one another. It's time we stopped taking the bait. It's time we saw their lies for what they are—games they play to keep us distracted and divided.

We come from ancestors who stood up for one another and demanded a dignified life for everyone. Now it's our turn. It's time we choose to come together on the side of working people and Black working people instead of fighting each other. The struggle of working class black people is my struggle. I know which side I'm on. Do you?

*Marianna Everson, RN, MHP, is a candidate running to represent LD 19, from Aberdeen to the Columbia River. Reach her at mariannaforthepeople.com.*

## REFLECTION

# “Law and order” and the role of the police

Dana Walker

While corporate criminals destroy lives...

It is estimated by the US Bureau of National Affairs that "...the dollar cost of corporate crime is over twenty times greater than the combined larcenies, thefts, robberies, and burglaries committed by individuals." These corporate thefts and embezzlements ruin millions of lives, and they wreak untold havoc upon stockholders, employees, retirees, and the overall economy. These crimes often wipe out the life savings of countless numbers of people, yet they go largely unpunished.

Large corporations also constantly get caught engaging in conspiracies to commit mass murder for profit—the GM ignition switch scandal, the thalidomide scandal, the Ford Pinto explod-

ing gas tank scandal, on and on—yet the perpetrators of these conspiracies not only suffer no consequences for their horrific crimes but they often get a large bonus.

Corporate criminals are rarely caught, and when they are caught, they rarely go to prison, and when they go to prison, it is usually for one or two years at a minimum-security 'country-club' that does not even have any walls or fences surrounding it.

### Police are tasked to deal with the side effects

In this hierarchy, the street cop is the equivalent of the garbage man in that they are sent to take care of all the problems that no one else wants to deal with. Cops are constantly confronting the very worst that humanity has to offer and they deal with it day in and day out. Even when they are dealing with otherwise good people, they are often dealing with them at a very bad time.

I suspect that there are very few

people who can do that whilst yet maintaining anything close to a healthy mental state. I suspect that most cops must grow a thick shell in order to protect their mental health, in fact. They need to dehumanize people because they deal with so much human misery and suffering on such a regular basis that they can't allow themselves to see these wretches as 'people' lest their hearts totally break.

Thus they begin to fear and mistrust the people that they police. They see too much of what goes on behind their closed doors. They find themselves uncomfortable socializing with normal people during their off times because they themselves have become so abnormal—and so they begin socializing exclusively with other cops, thus further reinforcing their community neurosis.

As their shell thickens, they become ever more out of touch with the world of light and beauty. They exist within a highly insulated bubble world that is cynical, cruel, and debased. Since cops must constantly stifle many of their most basic human qualities, only other cops can understand. They hang out exclusively with

► **Law & order**, continued on page 9

## RETHINKING EVERYTHING: Defunding the police?

It turns out that reform hasn't worked: more training; lethal holds; new guidelines for use-of-force, new leadership; more training. These reforms assume that the police are neutrally enforcing a set of laws that are beneficial to everyone. Instead of questioning the validity of using police to wage an inherently racist war on drugs, advocates of procedural reforms politely suggest that police get anti-bias training, which they will happily deliver for no small fee.

### Have the police do it

What "procedural justice" leaves out are questions of substantive justice. Over the last 40 years we have seen a massive expansion of the scope and intensity of policing. Every social problem in poor and non-white communities has been turned over to the police to manage. The schools don't work; let's create school policing. Mental health services are decimated; let's send police. Overdoses are epidemic; let's criminalize people who share drugs. Young people are caught in a cycle of violence and despair; let's call them superpredators and put them in prison for life.

### Why a "war" on crime?

Police have also become more militarized. The Federal 1033 program, the Department of Justice's "Cops Office," and homeland security grants have channeled billions of dollars in military hardware into American police departments to advance their "war on crime" mentality. A whole generation of police officers have been given "warrior" training that teaches them to see every encounter with the public as potentially their last, leading to a hostile attitude towards those policed and the unnecessary killing of people falsely considered a threat, such as the 12-year-old Tamir Rice, killed for holding a toy gun in an Ohio park.

### What's the alternative?

The alternative is not more money for police training programs, hardware or oversight. It is to dramatically shrink their function. We must demand that local politicians develop non-police solutions to the problems poor people face. We must invest in housing, employment and healthcare in ways that directly target the problems of public safety. Instead of criminalizing homelessness, we need publicly financed supportive housing; instead of gang units, we need community-based anti-violence programs, trauma services and jobs for young people; instead of school police we need more counselors, after-school programs, and restorative justice programs.

### Let's build up individuals and the community instead

A growing number of local activists in Minneapolis like Reclaim the Block, Black Visions Collective and MPD 150 are demanding just that. They are calling on Mayor Jacob Frey to defund the police by \$45m and shift those resources into "community-led health and safety strategies." The Minneapolis police department currently uses up to 30% of the entire city budget. Instead of giving them more money for pointless training programs, let's divert that money into building up communities and individuals so we don't "need" violent and abusive policing.

*Alex S Vitale is professor of sociology and coordinator of the Policing and Social Justice Project at Brooklyn College. This is an excerpt from his article in The Guardian, May 31, 2020: "The answer to police violence is not 'reform.' It's defunding."*



# A timber industry strike that echoes today

## Return of the “outside agitator”

Aaron Goings

As millions of people take to the streets to protest racism and police violence, voices of the Right—both its fascist and corporate incarnations—cry out to blame a favorite bogeyman, the “outside agitator.”

### Blame it on “outside agitators”

No one should be surprised. At nearly every point in American history, racists, bosses, politicians and media personalities have tried to label social justice rebellions as the work of a handful of “outside agitators”— troublemakers looking to import chaos to otherwise serene places.

A list those labeled “outside agitators” in the twentieth century reads like a “who’s who” of social movements: much of the Civil Rights Movement (including MLK), the Wobblies, and the 1999 Seattle WTO protestors. “Outside agitators” this spring are in good company.

### Depression in the Pacific NW lumber industry

The Evergreen State has its own history of using this label to suppress social movements. Readers might hear echoes of a powerful 1935 lumber strike in the media response to today’s uprisings.

Lumber was the largest and one of the most dangerous industries in the Pacific Northwest. Each day, loggers and mill laborers risked that a falling log, flying cable, or spinning saw might take their life. In his wonderful new book, *Radical Seattle: The General Strike of 1919*, historian Cal Winslow writes: “Conditions were dangerous in the hills and equally brutal in the mills. There, men and boys worked on and among giant saws, with their deafening noise in air that seemed more sawdust than nitrogen and oxygen.”

The Depression cut deep into the lumber industry, tossing thousands of people out of their jobs. In desperate times, workers had few institutional resources. Cities and charities failed to provide adequate relief. Most lumber workers’ unions had been squashed by a combination of state repression, vigilantism, and internal union dissension.

### A new movement leads a fight for better conditions

In the early 1930s, a new movement arose, sparked by the grassroots activism of Communists, Wobblies, and other labor militants. In many Northwest cities, unions allied with community organizations to press politicians for relief, free milk for schoolchildren and pro-labor legislation

In the thick of the Great Depression, between 30,000 and 40,000 Pacific Northwest lumber workers struck. They demanded recognition of their industrial union, a 30-hour workweek and increased wages. In May 1935, unionists and their allies in Grays Harbor and across the Northwest took to the streets, parading and setting up picket lines no one was allowed to cross.

### Blame “outside agitators” and invite repression

A violent response by the anti-unionist bosses, politicians, cops, and journalists portrayed rank-and-

file strike activists as Communists and outside agitators. “Red Baiting was raised here in 1935 to such an extent that headlines appeared in London papers branding our Parades as Red Marches,” noted one union publication. A front-page article in the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* wrote that Washington Governor Clarence D. Martin, a conservative



Democrat, “served notice today on Communists and agitators that he will not tolerate coercion and intimidation.”

As we’ve seen in the recent uprisings, as soon as elites blame protests on “outside agitators,” armed agents of the state join vigilantes to brutalize, jail, even kill those working for change. In a statement that could have come from the twenty-first century, one conservative union leader blamed the spreading strike on a “flying squadron of Red” coming from Portland.

In 1935, lumber bosses had allies in city halls and the state capitals. To protect property, police rounded up picketers. Bosses recruited strikebreakers, both on the Harbor and in the wider Pacific Northwest. On May 14, a car driven by scabs ran through a picket line at the Aberdeen Plywood factory, seriously injuring one picketer. In July, a Hoquiam scab fired a shotgun into a picket line, wounding four men and a boy.

### The state and National Guard move against the strikers

Governor Martin took an active role in breaking the strike. Using “right to work” rhetoric, he ordered the state patrol to “protect workers” in eastern Grays Harbor, where employers complained that “outsiders” were picketing and threatening scabs. On June 8, the state patrol went to Longview to break a blockade that prevented traffic from entering the Long-Bell and Weyerhaeuser mills. To justify his use of state forces, Martin red-baited the strikers:

Investigation has revealed such interference and threats come primarily from agitators, including some professional communists who are taking advantage of the situation to foment discontent and violence. These forces are determined to promote industrial trouble even to the extent of undermining our institutions and government. Now, as governor, I serve notice such communistic activities, professional agitation, coercion and intimidation must not be tolerated in Washington.

In late June, Martin sent the National Guard to Tacoma to forcibly reopen the mills. They set up a

machine gun and attacked picketing workers with tear gas. Brigadier General Carlos A. Pennington of the Guard banned picketing in Tacoma. The troops made a spate of arrests, interning strikers at the local Armory.

A couple of weeks later, the National Guard teargassed 400 picketers

at the Bay City Lumber Company in Aberdeen, the same mill where, 12 years earlier, a company gunman murdered a Wobbly striker.

The violence made a lasting imprint on local workers. Aberdeen unionist Mickey Orton’s description of the 1935 attacks could have been written this spring:

State Highway Patrol and the State Militia were placed at the disposal of the operators and local law enforcement agencies... by the definitely hostile anti-labor state administration of Washington and Oregon. Practically in every instance where the State Highway Patrol and the National Guard were brought into the picture, violence became rampant. Peaceful, striking workers were gassed, beaten, maimed, and injured.

### Vigilantes join in the violence

Vigilantes joined police to crush the strike. On July 1, they dynamited the home of Frank L. Morgan, president of the Grays Harbor Bar Association who was due in court the next day to defend a striker. The blast tore through the first floor but did not harm Morgan or his two daughters who slept inside. Earlier, in Eureka, California, gunmen had shot and killed two striking lumber unionists, as well as a third man unlucky enough to be in the way of an anti-unionist bullet.

### Significant gains won by timber workers

At the end of four months, lumber workers returned to work, having carried out one of the Pacific Northwest’s largest strikes, a massive, industry-wide conflict that crippled the largest industry in the region—and brought significant gains for timber workers and their families. Among other gains were higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions.

The strike also led to a ballooning of the region’s timber unions, which by the end of 1935 counted 35,000 thousand members with thousands more joining each month.

A greater sense of hope and solidarity likewise came with

the strike. Lumber workers had a better idea of what they could accomplish when joined in common cause. A year after the strike ended, the region’s lumber workers formed the Federation of Woodworkers (FOW), with an estimated 100,000 members, making it the largest labor union on the Pacific Coast.

### Those in power will fight movements by inciting violence against “others”

Northwest employers never stopped blaming outsiders in their efforts to divide and conquer the labor movement. A few years after the strike, the Business Builders, a far-right organization, claimed outsiders were responsible for labor troubles: “That the loyal citizens of Grays Harbor settle their own problems, rather than permit outsiders to come in whose only desire is to establish conditions which can be used as examples for other districts.”

### Call out the “outside agitator” narrative

Today’s global demonstrations against police violence and a lumber strike 85 years ago aren’t the same. But in both cases, those in power fought movements demanding humane treatment for the oppressed by “othering” the protestors and inciting police violence and vigilantism against them. Bosses, politicians, and militarized police forces will always wage class war from above. Elites know what they’re doing when they employ dishonest “outside agitator” rhetoric.

The 1935 Pacific Northwest Lumber Strike, like practically any grassroots uprising for social justice, is proof that when people take to the streets, those in power will rush to their podiums to announce and denounce the arrival of “outside agitators.”

I’ve seen folks on social media mocking politicians and bosses for rolling out this ol’ standby—the outside agitator— to sow dissent among protestors. Keep it up! Rejecting and calling out the dishonest “outside agitator” narrative is a step toward countering the power and propaganda of those seeking to quash dissent.

Aaron Goings is a historian based in Tacoma. His book, *The Port of Missing Men: Billy Gohl, Labor, and Brutal Times in the Pacific Northwest will be published by the UW Press this summer.*

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PERSPECTIVE

Sophisticated and seductive

# How the old face of fascism hides in the new rhetoric

The image of far-right groups as just hooded Klansmen or goose stepping Nazis is seriously outdated, and dangerously minimizes the real threat of fascism. Banning the KKK to get rid of far-right terrorism is like banning Xerox machines to get rid of copiers. Fascist groups these days don't just spout racist slurs. They are more sophisticated, starting with issues you might agree with: anti-corporate free trade, anti-elite corruption, anti-pollution, anti-war, even anti-police! But they use a fake-populist, conspiratorial analysis of how the world works, rather than a real critique of economic hierarchies. Only when they hook in new recruits is their true fascist agenda revealed.

**Fascism and white supremacy are not always the same thing**

White supremacy is an ideology that centers people of European descent of all classes at the top of social hierarchies. Fascism is a far-right revolutionary movement that wants to replace capitalist democracies with extreme authoritarian states centered on ultranationalism (of a core racial, ethnic, religious, or state group).

**Not all white supremacists are fascists**

White supremacy is common in business, government, police, political parties, and unions, whether conservative, liberal, or even progressive. White supremacy is pervasive and institutional, and has been around since colonialism and slavery began. While it's important that run-of-the-mill racists stand up to fascist/far-right groups, they're only scratching the surface of the underlying institutional racist systems that give birth to fascism.

**Not all fascists are white supremacists**

Fascism is a specific movement that started

in the 20th century—it isn't just shorthand for any repressive meanie. Fascists can be white American racist militias, but they can also be the Japanese Imperial Army, Latin American or Philippine death squads, Hindutva paramilitaries, Saudi-backed jihadists, or Israeli settler militias. They can even be People of Color in the US who join far-right groups because they're anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, anti-Native, or anti-leftist. Far-right groups love having token members of color to confuse the public about their true ideology.

**Trump is a racist who's enabling facism to grow**

Fascism today takes different forms, and it goes far deeper than Trump. The fascists might not be the obvious gun-toting "rednecks," but portray themselves as "patriots" or "peacekeepers" who express anger at big government, unemployment and repression, and praise "peaceful protesters" while demonizing leftists or black "separatists." Dig a little deeper, in their facebook pages, perhaps, and you'll uncover their racist connections, Christian supremacist beliefs, or violent threats against "un-American" dissenters or noncitizens.

**Don't be fooled or silenced**

Educate yourself and friends about the growing threat of fascist militants on our streets. See the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights (IREHR.org), Southern Poverty Law Center (splcenter.org), Political Research Associates (politicalresearch.org), Western States Center (westernstatescenter.org), and Research for Progress (researchforprogress.us).

*This editorial analysis was submitted by an astute observer of history and current realities.*

The Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, which tracks white supremacist and far-right groups, has counted nearly 200 appearances by vigilantes and far-right extremists at protests in the United States over the past few weeks. Alexander Reid Ross, a researcher at the Center for Analysis of the Radical Right and author of *Against the Fascist Creep*, separately counted scores of such appearances, 12 of which involved police collaboration or support.

Many officials, including President Donald Trump, have repeatedly blamed protest violence on the anti-fascist movement known as antifa and the "radical left." But the violence in Albuquerque isn't the first instance of right-wing vigilantes being criminally charged for actions during recent protests. On June 2, federal prosecutors in Nevada charged three members of the Boogaloo movement, which seeks to accelerate the collapse of the political system via civil unrest, with conspiracy to damage and destroy by fire and explosives. An Army Reserve member and two military veterans were allegedly headed to downtown Las Vegas with gas canisters and Molotov cocktails. On Tuesday, federal prosecutors in California charged a U.S. Air Force sergeant linked to the Boogaloo with murder for killing a federal security officer near a courthouse in Oakland. He was also charged separately for killing a sheriff's deputy in Santa Cruz County.

*Excerpted from "Armed vigilantes antagonizing protesters have received a warm reception from police" by Mara Hvistendahl and Alleen Brown. It originally appeared on The Intercept (theintercept.com).*

*[Note: Watch this video for a straightforward account of the people who came to intimidate Olympia residents, including their links to other far right organizations and even a politician <https://youtu.be/qaJv8k65QCE>]*

An exchange between Angela Davis and Amy Goodman

# Defunding the police—it's about revisioning and building anew

*Amy Goodman:* You write in *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle*, "Neoliberal ideology drives us to focus on individuals, ourselves, individual victims, individual perpetrators. But how is it possible to solve the massive problem of racist state violence by calling upon individual police officers to bear the burden of that history and to assume that by prosecuting them, by exacting our revenge on them, we would have somehow made progress in eradicating racism?" Explain what exactly you're demanding.

*Angela Davis:* Neoliberal logic assumes that the fundamental unit of society is the individual, and I would say the abstract individual. According to that logic, Black people can combat racism by pulling themselves up by their own individual bootstraps. That logic recognizes—or fails, rather, to recognize that there are institutional barriers that cannot be brought down by individual determination. If a Black person is materially unable to attend the university, the solution is not affirmative action, they argue, but rather the person simply needs to work harder, get good grades and do what is necessary in order to acquire the funds to pay for tuition. Neoliberal logic deters us from thinking about the simpler solution, which is free education.

*Angela Davis:* The call to defund the police reflects only one aspect of the process represented by the demand. Defunding the police is not simply about withdrawing funding for law enforcement and doing nothing else.

It's about shifting public funds to new services and new institutions—mental health counselors, who can respond to people who are in crisis without arms. It's about shifting funding to education, to housing, to recreation. All of these things help to create security and safety.

It's about learning that safety, safeguarded by violence, is not really safety.

I would say that abolition is not primarily a negative strategy. It's not primarily about dismantling, getting rid of, but it's about reenvisioning. It's about building anew. I would argue that abolition is a feminist strategy. And one sees in these abolitionist demands that are emerging the pivotal influence of feminist theories and practices.

What we're calling for is a process of decriminalization, recognizing that threats to safety, threats to security, come not primarily from what is defined as crime, but rather from the failure of institutions in our country to address issues of health, issues of violence, education, etc. So, abolition is really about rethinking the kind of future we want, the social future, the economic future, the political future. It's about revolution, I would argue.

*Amy Goodman is the host of Democracy Now, which you can hear locally on KAOS (89.9), KOWA (106.5) or KBCS (91.3) or streaming. The full interview with Angela Davis ran on June 12, 2020.*





# The lessons of the Wynoochee River Dam

Lee First

The era of dam building is over for a reason. Take the Wynoochee River, a tributary of the Chehalis River. The US Army Corps of Engineers dammed it in 1970. The government promised that the dam would “improve river conditions” for salmon during hot summers. Instead, runs of wild salmon have been decimated and the character of the river has been drastically altered.

We must remember the lesson of the Wynoochee as the Washington State Department of Ecology compiles and responds to the 5,000 comments it received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project, or dam. The Chehalis Basin Board will review Ecology’s comprehensive analysis of the comments at its upcoming July meeting. Within the next year, a final EIS will be issued. This fall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will release a National Environmental Policy Act draft (NEPA). As the debate rages over constructing a dam on the Chehalis, there is much to learn from mistakes of the past.

**Exploiting a dynamic river**

The headwaters of the Wynoochee River are in the Olympic mountains. One of the larger tributaries of the Chehalis River, the Wynoochee is about 60 miles long and joins the Chehalis River between Montesano and Aberdeen. Wynoochee means /x nú / or “shifting” in the Lower Chehalis language.”

The Wynoochee Dam sits on the upper Wynoochee River about 52 miles upstream of the Chehalis confluence. Engineers designed the dam to control flooding and to increase the reliable supply of water for current and planned industrial uses. In addition to supplying water for two large pulp and paper mills in Aberdeen and Hoquiam, stored water would replace the Chehalis River water

withdrawn from the now defunct Satsop nuclear plant.

One of the paper mills, ITT Rayonier/International Paper Company,

**Impact on Salmon**

The Wynoochee offers a lesson. The industrial projects it was built for are gone, it generates little



closed all operations in 1992 and never reopened. The other—Weyerhaeuser Company, shut down in 2005. Six years later, a private equity firm, purchased the former Weyerhaeuser Mill and opened Cosmo Specialty Fibers. Citing a

electricity. It did not improve the environment for salmon during water releases. in times of low flow. Wild salmon populations in this river have significantly declined since the dam’s completion. The area that is now Lake Wynoochee was an important spawning

While it may not be apparent, flooding is essential to a healthy river, especially here in the Pacific Northwest.

decline in product demand brought about by COVID-19 and other reasons, Cosmo temporarily shut down all operations in April 2020.

In 1994, Tacoma Power built a powerhouse immediately downstream from the dam. The powerhouse generates enough energy to serve a mere 2,100 homes. The Wynoochee Dam has not been a financial win for its owner, the City of Aberdeen. “Aberdeen requested government assistance to prevent bankruptcy from losses due to the dam.

area for Chinook salmon. They are gone. Instead of improving conditions, the dam blocked 12 miles of excellent mainstem habitat and even more high-quality habitat in the tributaries above the dam. Before the dam, the tributaries and upper 12 miles of river were refugia of cold water—water that could be vital in the face of climate change. Now this water is way too warm, affecting water quality above and below the dam.

The dam contains no fish passage facilities. Adult wild Coho and

Steelhead going upstream pass the Wynoochee Dam through a trap and haul operation. The few adult wild Chinook salmon are not transported. Downstream juvenile fish passage is allowed during a 45-day run-of-the-river operation each spring when no turbines operate. Juveniles must survive a 175-foot plunge from the reservoir surface into the river below. Mortality rates from this plunge vary from 14% to 60%.

**Benefits of natural flow and flooding**

All dams alter the hydrograph (flow regime) of rivers, which impacts the habitats and character of the river for miles downstream. Wild fish populations that were locally adapted to conditions in the Wynoochee have had to adapt to the new conditions, or perish. Wood, essential for habitat and structure, cannot pass over the dam. Furthermore, a section of the river downstream of the dam is starved of gravel, which is necessary for spawning grounds. While it may not be apparent, flooding is essential to a healthy river, especially here in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to delivering wood, the high water moves, sorts, and distributes the gravel required for spawning. High water creates and maintains deep pools and healthy side channels that are juvenile fish nurseries. High water sustains wetlands, recharges groundwater, maintains riparian stream-side forests, and so much more.

**Have we learned the lesson?**

Above the dam and lake, the upper Wynoochee River is still a river. Here is our lesson: there are deep pools and gravel distributed by high flows, and there are giant logs delivered by storms and floods. This is what a river should look like. Rivers teach us, again and again. Dams kill rivers. The good news is it’s not too late for the Chehalis.

*Lee First is a Twin Harbors Waterkeeper.*

## A comparison of the Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater Police Departments

Category (1)	Olympia Police Department	Lacey Police Department	Tumwater Police Department
Governing laws	OMC Chapter 2.36 & RCWs	LMC Chapter 2.48 & RCWs cited	TMC Chapter 2.10.040, 9.00 & RCWs
Authority to hire/fire	City Manager Jay Burney	City Manager Scott Spence	Mayor Pete Kmet
Population	52.700	44.000	24.040
2019-20 Dept. budget (2)	\$20,961.296	\$12,737,107	\$15,720,608
As a percent of general fund	21 % (increased from prior year)	24% (increased from prior year)	24% (increased from prior year)
Bargained contracts (3)	Police Sergeants Association	Police Management Association	One agreement covers both levels
	Police Officers' Guild	Police Officers' Guild	See above
Total employees	110.5	Unable to discover	42
Officers	70	53	33
Salary & Compensation			
Range of pay 2018	\$71,210—\$188,530 (actual amounts paid 2018)	Missing	\$56,460—164,218 (actual annual amt paid 2018)
First yr vacation accrual	21 days	12 days	12 days
Open positions 2020	6 entry level officers	5 officers, 2 admin	3 officers
Minimum qualifications	Age 21, HS grad/GED, WDL, qualify for firearm.		Age 21, WDL, no felony convictions
Minimum starting salary	\$6,592/month	\$5,832/month	\$5,420/month
Initial training	19.5 wks Police Academy Burien	Not separately indicated	18 wks Police Academy + 3 mos field

(1) Information in this chart comes from city web pages (finance, police department, municipal code) using the most current postings, usually 2018-19 so figures may vary slightly from those in other sources. (2) Different jurisdictions have given police departments a variety of roles not typically understood as “policing” and budgets may reflect such differences. (3) Police working conditions and salaries are governed by contracts that are posted on line. The contracts establish base pay for all officers and provide for percentage increases to the base for “premium” and “special” assignment,” incentive bumps for education and fitness, for longevity among other opportunities to exceed base salaries. In addition to other benefits, each contract contains grievance procedures, a “bill of rights” and many, many other stipulations useful for understanding the status of our police. (4) Annually, the Olympi-an posts a “Searchable Salaries” database for cities in Thurston County. The figures here are for maximum and minimum gross actual pay for 2018 for Olympia and Tumwater officers. The data for Lacey 2018 was missing. You can find the agreements with the three cities posted at www.olywip.org.



# More than marching: creative support for Black Lives Matter

In addition to the vigils, marches and protests taking place daily in the streets and parks of Olympia after the death of George Floyd, groups and organizations throughout our area found ways to make clear that they want the Black Lives Matter movement to continue; to grow and succeed. Here are a few examples of what else happened:

### Grays Harbor Strong

In the days immediately following the murder of George Floyd, sole individuals and small groups showed up at Zelasco Park in Aberdeen to protest his death. Since then there have been more protest rallies, vigils and marches in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in Hoquiam, Ocean Shores and Aberdeen. As few as 20 and more than 100 people gathered to make their views known first by showing up and then on dozens of signs they carried. These ranged from “All lives can’t matter until black lives matter,” to “Rednecks against police brutality,” and the reminder: “White privilege doesn’t mean your life hasn’t been hard. It means the color of your skin isn’t one of the things that makes it harder.” -- Reported by Dana Stumpf Bear Dietz

### North Thurston making black lives matter

On June 19, students from all over North Thurston were on Martin Way from 10:30 - 5pm, waving signs promoting actions to support black lives: hire more black teachers, mandate black history and ethnic studies, end zero-tolerance discipline and fund counselors not cops, among other goals. Dozens of students signed up for 2-hour shifts, wore masks and observed social distance and made their points as drivers passed, honking and waving in response. Organizers from the River Ridge Black Students Union reported an overwhelming positive

response from active participants, local businesses and community supporters.

### United Churches of Olympia

On Juneteenth, members and others from United Churches of Olympia met in the parking lot at 11th and Capitol Blvd. to kneel for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to express their grief for lives lost due to racism and to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter. About 50 people gathered, wept and prayed for peace and healing. Numerous similar actions are still occurring across the state.

### Downtown Olympia murals

When Olympia Mayor Cheryl Selby and City staff suggested that businesses board up their storefronts because “outsiders” were coming to Olympia to “wreak havoc,” an unintended consequence was the appearance of protest art throughout the downtown. Overnight, people created a dozen or more murals, ranging from elegant backgrounds for listing the names of those killed by police, to classic “graffiti-style” messages. A stand-out was a mural featuring George Floyd painted by Robert Upham. Go to [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org) to see more of the murals.

### Yvonne McDonald’s birthday party

Music, candlelight and a joyous vigil celebrating

the “heavenly” birthday of deceased Olympian Yvonne McDonald took place in front of City Hall on June 23. The event served as a reminder that McDonald’s death was minimized and mishandled by the Olympia Police Department. Yvonne’s friends and relatives continue to demand a full investigation.

### Orca Books sheltered protesters

Orca Books Co-op along with other downtown businesses decorated their storefront with signs and banners promoting the Black Lives Matter movement with posters in remembrance of those slain by the police. They opened their doors to protestors, offering water, a bathroom, a safe place to rest. Early in June, Orca Books Co-op had a rock through a window during a protest and in response they simply replaced the window. Orca Books Co-op engages first hand with its belief that people matter more than property: maybe it’s not the most fun to cover up graffiti or fix a broken window, but it’s better to deal with that than to see civilians harmed or killed at the hands of armed militia or the police.



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# COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY, NOT VIGILANTES

At a Friday morning June 5th press conference, Mayor Selby stated that people from “outside Olympia” were coming to our city for one purpose: “to incite Violence, destruction and wreak as much havoc on our community as they can.” She and City staff were suggesting that businesses should board up their storefronts.

We want to thank all the local downtown businesses for NOT boarding up and for refusing the offer by the armed vigilantes to “defend them” from this non-existent threat.

Community defense happens when people see, know and support each other and that’s true for locally owned businesses as well.

We don’t know why men with the Three Percenters dress in army fatigues and pose with weapons of war in Olympia. We also don’t know why armed vigilantes are welcomed by Olympia police officers.

Nevertheless, we neither need nor want armed vigilantes in our neighborhoods or downtown. Our community is safer without them.

**Signed by**  
A. Lee Miller  
Melissa Roberts  
Beverly Farris  
Rod Tharp  
Susan McRae  
Peter Bohmer  
Kathleen Byrd  
Nancy Koppelman  
Corey Thompson  
George Sullivan  
Edie Harding  
Dave Smith  
Jennifer B  
Robert Shirley  
Becky Liebman  
Dan Leahy  
Nicholas Hefling  
Jane Morgan  
Paul B  
Chris Hempleman  
Stefanie Randolph  
Steven Kant  
Kate Fehsenfeld  
Gerald Apple  
Helen Johnston  
Kate Tossey  
Jeannine Godfrey  
Nancy Sullivan  
Valerie Anderson  
Brenda Warner  
Phil Cornell  
Darcy Thaden  
Anthony Zaragoza  
Economics for Everyone  
Angela Rush

Susan Tuzzolino  
Olivia Archibald  
Michael Vavrus  
Bill Fishburn  
Tamara Fischer-Bird  
Allegra Hinkle  
E.J. Zita  
Joanne McCaughan  
Emily Calhoun Petrie  
Ann Heitkemper  
Bob Zeigler  
Rowan Green  
Peter Sanderson  
Black Leaders in Action and  
Solidarity Thurston  
Nadine Tussey  
Larry Mosqueda  
Patty Mosqueda  
Ann Vandeman  
Esther Grace Kronenberg  
Ellen Shortt Sanchez  
Brooke Beecher  
Hal Beecher  
Dick Stamey  
Janine Lindsey  
Jake Lind  
Joanna Briese  
Dave Harris  
Cynthia Salazar  
Yanah G. Cook  
Susan Davenport Moore  
Rachid Benkhalti  
Delores Nelson  
Sandra Ware  
Beverly Bassett  
Sky Myers

Shawn Munger  
Helen Lee  
Doug McCaughan  
Michael McDonald  
Kathleen Bellefeuille-Rice  
Anne Fischel  
Melissa Davis  
Adam Pearson  
Terra Sullivan  
Jean Eberhardt  
Therese Sprunger  
Kathy Baros Friedt  
John Hardy  
Debbi Hardy  
Bob Delastrada  
Sherri Goulet  
Eirik Steinhoff  
Stan Lewis  
Kathy Harrigan  
Aristides Pappidas  
Jane Pappidas  
Sarah Stockholm  
Kevin Hansen  
Keoki Kauanoe  
Rosalinda Noriega  
Steve Brink  
Liz Dalton  
Caroline Lacey  
Shaw Osha  
Hugo Flores  
Reuben Yancey  
Sandy Mayes  
Dan Ryan  
Mary Kasimor  
Fred Silsby



# Community Spotlight



## Orca Books Solidarity Co-op

Orca Books has converted from a commercial bookseller to a solidarity co-operative, in which different membership categories—worker, low-income consumer, and organizational member—have voting power. Solidarity indicates that members have the shared values of cooperation. The cooperative is in the process of finalizing its bylaws and looks forward to holding its first Membership Meeting and board election this fall. Currently, seven board members oversee the coop and eight staff members manage the coop operations, including online sales and organizing the move.

Orca Books plans to open **Soon!** (stay tuned). Previous owner, Linda Berensten, remains at Orca as a worker member and treasurer of the co-op. For more information, contact Clare Follman, Coop President, at [clare@orcabooks.com](mailto:clare@orcabooks.com).



## #BlackoutDay 2020

This movement is an awakening of the national consciousness of black people in America and abroad and it requires economic solidarity in America amongst all black people unequivocally. In order to break free from the chains of financial servility, we will organize days, weeks, months, and years if necessary when not one black person in America will spend a dollar outside of our community. Blackout Day's mission is to create an international community of economic solidarity and national consciousness unified around our common experience and ancestry as Emancipated Peoples of America. If you must spend a dollar on the first blackout day, **Wednesday July 7**, spend it with a black business. [Blackoutday.org](http://Blackoutday.org)



## The Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

The Coalition meets via online video during the Coronavirus pandemic, the third Thursday of each month. The **July 16 meeting will be at 5:00 pm** through a Zoom video conference.

To participate, contact Glen Anderson at 360.491.9093 or email [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net) in advance to receive the meeting link.

## Students Stay Woke

The River Ridge High School Black Student Union along with other local student-led organizations is planning demonstrations at schools throughout the summer. Tentative dates and locations are: **Saturday, July 11** at North Thurston High School, in preparation for the Tuesday, July 14, North Thurston School Board meeting. Please read the Black Student Union *Black Lives Matter in Schools 4-Point Program* (download at [studentsstaywoke.weebly.com](http://studentsstaywoke.weebly.com)) and email [superintendent@nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:superintendent@nthurston.k12.wa.us) and ask for the students to be on the agenda of the board meeting. Follow up event tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, July 25** at Timberline High School. Check their website for continuing work.

## Economics For Everyone, Rally and March to Defund the Police

Speakers will address the long history of police racism; movements to defund the police locally and nationally; and building a movement against racial capitalism. Everyone who supports Black Lives Matter is welcome. Join Us! For more info check out Economics For Everyone website: <https://economicsforeveryoneolympia.weebly.com/upcoming-events.html>

**Wednesday, July 15, 5:30 pm**, *Sylvester Park, downtown Olympia*



## July on Parallax Perspectives: Jesus Taught and Practiced Nonviolence

Most people—including most Christians—do not adequately understand that Jesus taught and practiced profound nonviolence. Glen Anderson interviews Dave Bellefeuille-Rice and discusses the radical, practical message that Jesus taught and practiced.

Viewers everywhere can watch the interview or read a summary online at [parallaxperspectives.org](http://parallaxperspectives.org) under “religions” and “nonviolence,” or on cable via TCTV **Mondays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm** and **Thursdays at 9:00 pm**.

Questions? Contact Glen Anderson, the TV series' producer/host at (360) 491-9093 [glenanderson@integra.net](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

## Rachel Corrie Foundation—Beyond Connecting the Dots

Co-sponsored by Eyewitness Palestine, this virtual summit will offer powerful analysis and an exploration of justice-based frameworks in the effort to build a united racial justice movement from the US to Palestine. Participants will have the opportunity to make connections with movement leaders and will also leave with a toolkit of actions that they can immediately use in their communities to work toward collective liberation. **July 18, 2020, 12 pm—7:30 pm (EST)** Information on goals, speakers, registration costs and more at [summit.eyewitnesspalestine.org](http://summit.eyewitnesspalestine.org)



## Primary voting for seats in Congress, the state legislature and more

In Washington state, register to vote or update your existing registration online, by mail, in a voter registration drive—it has to get to the Auditor by **July 27**. If you forget, you can register or update in person by going to the Auditor's office or other designated location **up to 8 pm on Election Day Aug. 4**. If you've had a felony conviction your right to vote is automatically restored once you're out of the criminal justice system (even if you still owe court ordered fines). Excellent! But you still have to register before you can vote. Go to [www.thurstonvotes.org/votingrights](http://www.thurstonvotes.org/votingrights) for specifics. Voter's Pamphlets with info on all the candidates will be mailed **July 8**. Ballots will go out **July 15. July 15-July 27** mark your ballot and send it in!!! No postage needed.

## Primary candidate forums on TCTV

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County, in association with Mason and Pierce County Leagues and Thurston Community Media have moderated virtual Zoom candidate forums with candidates of all political affiliations for the following primary races: WA State Legislative Districts 22, 2 and 35; Thurston County Board of County Commissioners; Thurston County Superior Court Judge. Links to all forums can be found at [lvwthurston.org/forums](http://lvwthurston.org/forums). The airtime schedule for TCTV Channel 77 can be found at TCM.com and videos are also available at TCMedia Video on Demand.

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To a point of gagging  
And without the virus,  
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The street seems to be  
The obvious place to congregate.  
To declare once and for all  
No Justice, No Peace.

~ Toni Lawrence

