



# WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 23, No. 10      SERVING THE OLYMPIA COMMUNITY AND THE CAUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SINCE 1990.      FEBRUARY 2013

## Garfield teachers boycott standardized test

### A corruption scandal and validity at heart of refusal to administer MAP

Marco Rosarie Rossi

The news was every kid’s dreams. In a unanimous decision the teachers at Garfield elementary in Seattle—whose alumni include Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Lee, and Debbi Armstrong—voted to boycott the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test. The decision was historic. Test boycotts have been organized by students, and in some cases test companies have even been sued by disgruntle parents for test malpractice, but the action by the Garfield teachers is a first. Parents can be ignored, individual students can be suspended, an entire class can be failed, but a school district cannot fire their teachers *en masse* without shutting down the whole school.

While the teachers’ actions may seem extreme, the grounds that they give for refusing to administer the test are fairly narrow. The MAP test was brought to the Seattle School District by former Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson as part of \$4 million contract with Northwest Evaluation Association. At the same time that this deal was being negotiated Goodloe-Johnson was sitting on the board of Northwest Evaluation Association. Essentially, Goodloe-Johnson was covertly sitting on both ends of the negotiation table while hammering out the details of a multimillion dollar contract that would benefit her personally. An investigation by the state auditor found Goodloe-Johnson guilty of ethics violations for not disclosing her conflict of interests, and she was fired from her job as superintendent soon after. Miraculously enough the contract with Northwest Evaluation Association managed to survive. When the teachers at Garfield refused to administer the test they did so on the grounds that the School District has failed to do its job by voiding the contract with Northwest Evaluation Association; they cannot—and should not—be expected to carry through with a test whose entire existence is the result of a known scandal.

The issue of corruption is the main leg that the teachers at Garfield can stand on, but the broader issues of workers’ rights and the need for educational reform have also come to light. Despite the fact that Northwest Evaluation Association explicitly advises extreme caution when using students’ test results as a tool for evaluating teachers, the Seattle School District has

done so anyway. In addition, not only are there are many intrinsic barriers to taking the test for students—including language, the fact that the test is five hours long, and concerns that the test is directed at the appropriate grade level—but the entire MAP process is riddled with hurdles that negatively affect both students and teachers. Teachers are not allowed to see the content of the test, meaning that they are largely left in the dark of how to prepare their students for it. The test also has no direct impact on a student’s grade or graduation status, and because of this many students do not take the test seriously. Even the Seattle Public School staff has admitted that the test is not valid at the high school level because the margin of error within the test is greater than the expected gains. Naturally, the teachers at Garfield see this as unfair and their union—the Seattle Education Association—has come out in support of them.

Perhaps the biggest complaint about the MAP test though, is that it takes valuable time away from important



Photo courtesy of MAP Boycott Solidarity

school activities and by doing so it hurts kids who are already at a disadvantage. The MAP—which is done in front of a computer screen—monopolizes the school’s computer lab. This prevents students, especially those too poor to have access to a computer at home, from being able to do research and work on writing. Also, students who receive extra help are often targets for the MAP test. Spending time on the

test means less time for instructions and tutoring. According to a statement released by the teachers at Garfield, if they were to participate in the MAP test this year, they would be forced to take 805 students out of class during 112 class periods. This would amount to a loss of 320 minutes of instructional time over 5 hours of class time per student. The irony could not be thicker. A

► **BOYCOTT**, continued on page 7

## Olympia trio in solitary confinement, Portland anarchist could be next

Marissa Luck

**Grand Jury Update:** Three Olympia activists are being held in solitary confinement at the SeaTac Federal Detention Center despite that they have not actually been charged for a crime. Kteeo Olejinik, Matt Duran, and Maddy Pfeiffer are in prison for civil contempt of court after refusing to testify before a grand jury they argue is targeting them for their political associations. At the time of print, none of their attorneys have been told why their clients are in solitary or when they can be expected to be removed.

Matt and Kteeo were held in the solidarity housing unit (SHU) when they were initially imprisoned in September but were later removed for several weeks to join the general prison population. When Maddy was taken into custody on December 26, the FDC moved Matt and Kteeo back to

solidarity for unclear reasons.

For his first two weeks in prison in the SHU, Matt was held in single-cell room for 23 hours day and had no real human interactions outside of receiving meals, according to his attorney, Kim Gordon. His brief time out of the cell came when he was allowed to be in a slightly bigger room to exercise alone.

When I asked whether the use of soli-

**“I have had many clients who have been arrested and charged with federal crimes for the first time in their lives and they’re not in put solitary confinement. Based on my experience, I find it to be unique.”**

tary confinement was normal in cases of grand jury resisters, Matt’s attorney Kim Gordon explained that it was difficult to know what is “normal” given the secrecy of grand jury cases.

Although this time around, Gordon

has not been granted an explanation for Matt’s solitary confinement. The first time Matt was in solitary, the FDC told him it was supposed to help him transition into prison, since he had no prior experience being in custody.

“I have had many clients who have been arrested and charged with federal crimes for the first time in their lives and they’re not in put solitary confinement,” Gordon remarked, “based on my experience, I find it to be unique.”

Kteeo says she has little fresh air and space in solitary confinement and is only permitted one phone call a month, according to her letter published on the website of the support group, the Committee Against Political Repression (CAPR).

“Prison is incredibly f\*\*\*ed up even at the best of times, but that doesn’t mean people can’t create community within these circumstances,” she wrote. “When

► **SOLITARY**, continued on page 10



## WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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

### Submissions

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

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

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

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

Send submissions to [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com) or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

### Governing Tool

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

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

### Mission Statement

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

### Anti-Discrimination Clause

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

### Back Issues

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

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## Submission Deadline:

**Friday, February 15**  
**[olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com)**

### Proofreading Meeting

Saturday, February 23 ♦ Noon  
**Olympia Timberland Library**  
**next to the biographies**  
(Be there for the first read!)

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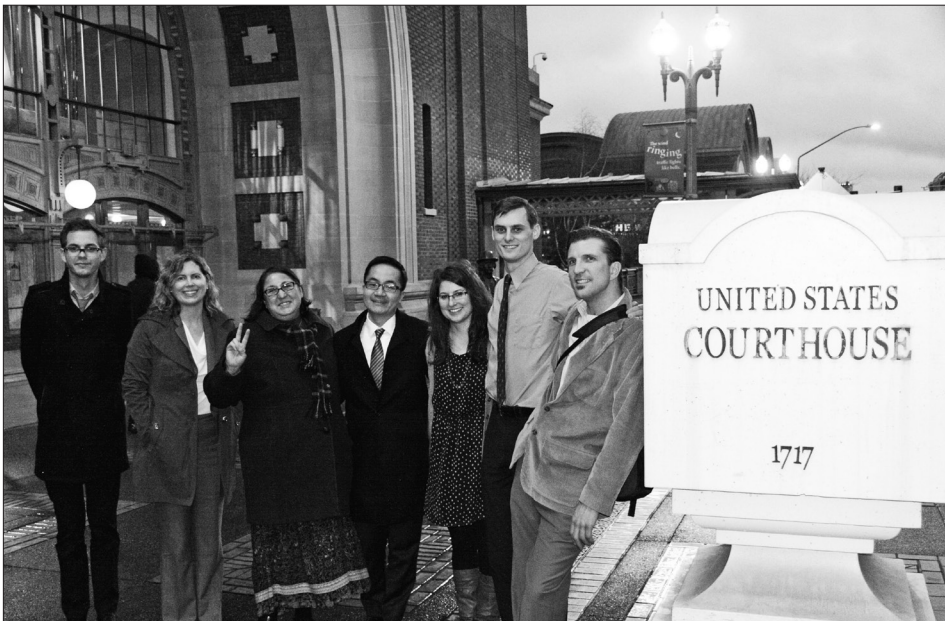
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### On the front cover —

Collage of local activists

Photographer: WIP News Service

## WORKS IN PROGRESS



Left to right, Patrick Edelbacher, ACLU of Washington Legal Director Sarah Dunne, Liz Rivera Goldstein, Phan Nguyen, Leah Coakley, Charles Bevis, and Thomas McCarthy. Photo: R Whitlock

Wed., January 23, 2013, Tacoma—Jurors in the Backpack Six trial returned verdicts siding with the City of Tacoma. The jury was composed of 8 people (all of whom were white). Out of the original jury pool of 33 people, only one person was identifiable as a person of color, and that person was passed over because he was gung-ho pro-military.

The City Defense Attorney, Jean Holman, used argument to personally attack the character and motivations of the protesters. The City's defense basically rested upon the assertion that the police were fulfilling a legitimate public safety

function when they instituted a policy prohibiting back-packs at random periods during the March 2007 protests.

Plaintiffs argued that the backpack rule did nothing to actually protect people, but instead served to discourage protests, by increasing the difficulty with which protesters could bring food and water and other peaceable supplies to their assembly. They were gathered in opposition to what they understood to be an unlawful military operation.

—WIP News Service

*Ed. note: For coverage of the trial's first day, go to [olywip.org](http://olywip.org).*

## The 'Idle No More' movement

Greetings, my Relatives and Friends!

It has come to my attention in the last week or so that a lot of our young people and women especially are standing up in support of our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters in Canada. It really does my heart good to see the activism and concern of the different generations of People coming together. There is great potential for educating those who don't know about the perils that face our environment.

With personal knowledge I totally understand the difficulties of getting people to take action to bring about change. The direction that the world corporations have taken historically and today have largely been at the expense of the Indigenous People around the world. I encourage anyone who reads these words to become involved as much as possible to stem this tide of environmental destruction taking place.

The health of our environment transcends across all walks of life. If we don't have healthy water, healthy air, healthy food, and healthy children we will not have a healthy future. That is the law. I can't say enough how important it is that we communicate and join hands with our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters all over the world. We need to join together to bring about the change of these corporations who trample on our environmental rights.

I encourage you again to seek out the organizations that are already involved in this endeavor, and remain united with one another. I will encourage all the People that I work with and have worked with to do their part in this struggle. I'll close for now, but in the Spirit of Chief Teresa Spence keep on keeping on, and idle no more!

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse

—Leonard Peltier

(Reprinted from *Censored News*.)



Follow Eric J Garcia at [@garclaink](https://twitter.com/garclaink) or friend Eric J Garcia on Facebook.

## Inside Works In Progress

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**Page 5** A warning from China on teacher trafficking

**Page 6** Cheat-Sheet on the #Idle No More movement

**Page 8** Devon Peña on opposing guestworker proposals

## FEBRUARY 2013

## Letter to the people and government of Mexico: Maize Manifesto: No to GMO maize

*Ed Note: Mexican farmers organizations began a sit-in in protest of the likely passing of a proposal to allow Monsanto and DuPont to plant six million acres of genetically-modified corn.*

This Wednesday, January 23rd, we will start a new phase in our struggle against the planting of GMO maize here in Mexico, consisting of a collective hunger strike held in front of the Angel of Independence monument in Mexico City. National peasant leaders from our organization from more than 20 states of our republic will begin a sit-in at this very symbolic location.

This act of voluntarily using our own bodies for civic protest will remind us of our almost 30 million fellow Mexicans who cannot find enough food to fill their stomachs on a daily basis. We want to reach the hearts and minds of the people of Mexico and the World to share our grave concern for the health, culture and economy of our nation, eroded by a development model that only benefits a tiny minority, a minority which includes the transnational corporations that today conspire to appropriate for themselves one of the greatest heritages of our peoples: MAIZE.

We want to express our indignation faced with the terrible blow that would come with the imminent approval of large-scale commercial planting of GMO maize in Mexico, and we demand that the Mexican government place the interests of peasants and the majority of Mexican farmers above the interests of a few transnational corporations. After his official visit to Mexico in 2011, the Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food of the United Nations, Olivier de Schutter, recommended that the government of then-president Calderon immediately suspend experimental planting of GMO maize, because of its impact on the rights of peasants, on biodiversity, and because of the importance of maize in the diet and culture of Mexicans. The government ignored that recommendation.

—Letter from the National Union of Autonomous Regional Peasant Organizations

## Working in WIP

*Works In Progress* depends on its community and its volunteer members. From articles written and advertisement bought to the final copy printed and delivered, it can't be done without you.

**WRITERS' GROUP:** WIP's new group meets monthly to collaborate and provide mutual support.

**WEBSITE MANAGER:** WIP really needs a permanent website manager. Experience is desired but not necessary. We are willing to train. Commitment of no more than 2-3 hours each month.

**LAYOUT:** Looking for computer literate individuals with basic skills in InDesign. Commitment is during the week before the last Monday of the month. Take on as little or as much as you like.

**PROOFREADING:** Relax in the Lacey Timberland Library while you read the latest issue of WIP. This is an important role that only requires a two-hour monthly commitment.

**GRAPHICS/PHOTOGRAPH:** WIP can always use one more. Please consider submitting your work.

**CARTOONIST:** WIP is looking for political cartoonists. We love Mr. Fish and Eric Garcia, but they seldomly address local issues.

**PHOTO WRANGLER:** WIP is looking for someone to collect photos and prepare them for publication.

For those interested, please contact us at [olywip@gmail.com](mailto:olywip@gmail.com).





Photo: L. Eiger, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

## Die-in at nuclear sub base honors Martin Luther King Jr.

### Ground Zero Center

Activists from a local peace group blocked the main gate and staged a die-in at the Navy’s West Coast Trident nuclear submarine base for more than a half hour in an act of civil resistance to nuclear weapons.

Nearly fifty people participated in Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action’s annual celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Saturday, January 19, 2013.

Under the theme “We Are One,” the day focused on Dr. King’s commitment to nonviolence and his opposition to war and nuclear weapons.

The day’s activities included a viewing of a video about King’s 1967 sermon in opposition to the Vietnam war. That followed with a discussion of the sermon’s relevance in the context of today’s unending wars on Iraq and Afghanistan and the effects on the poor and disenfranchised in the US, as well as the entire world. Participants also participated in nonviolence training, education about the Trident nuclear weapons system and the Bangor submarine base, and preparations for the vigil and nonviolent direct action planned for the afternoon at Bangor.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, contains the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the US arsenal (and possibly the entire world). Each of the 8 Trident submarines at Bangor carries up to 24 Trident II (D-5) missiles, each capable of being armed with as many as 8 independently targetable thermonuclear warheads. Each nuclear warhead has an explosive force of between 100 and 475 kilotons (up to 30 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb).

In the afternoon while the group maintained a peaceful vigil on the roadside outside the base entrance, eleven protesters entered the roadway directly in front of the entrance gate. They carried a banner, which they stretched across the inbound traffic lanes. It quoted from Martin Luther King Jr.: “When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.” An additional banner that was brought out a few minutes later read, “Abolish Nuclear Weapons.”

Peacekeepers from Ground Zero ensured the safety of all participants throughout the vigil and nonviolent direct action, and communicated with base security personnel as needed.

Traffic into the main gate was rerouted for approximately a half hour until a Washington State Patrol officer arrived and ordered the protesters to leave the roadway. The protesters then dropped the banners and staged a die-in on the roadway. As one participant explained, “By doing a die-in, we can illustrate the horrific result of a nuclear weapon.”

Eight of the die-in participants crossed onto the base before dropping to the ground. Naval security personnel, who had been observing during the vigil and action, immediately moved in to arrest them.

They were taken to a building on the base where they were questioned, processed, and released after being issued citations for trespassing. All will receive summons to appear in Federal court.

Those cited for trespassing were Mary Gleystein, Kingston; Lynne Greenwood, Tacoma; Rodney Herold, Seattle; Thomas Hodges, Seattle; Constance Mears of Poulsbo; Taylor Niemy, Bremerton; Michael Sipthorpe, Belfair; and Carlo Voli, Edmonds.

The other three protesters—Gabriel LaValle, Lynnwood; Tom Shea, Snoqualmie; and Alice Zillah, Olympia—remained outside of the base boundary. All three left the roadway and were not cited.

While the blockade and die-in were in progress, others vigiled along the roadside. One participant was overheard referring to one of King’s speeches where he said “Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind”

in a direct reference to the need to work together to abolish nuclear weapons from the Earth.

Ground Zero holds three scheduled vigils and actions each year in resistance to Trident and in protest of US nuclear weapons policy. The group is currently engaged in legal actions in Federal

court to halt the Navy’s construction of a Second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor. Ground Zero is also working to defund the Navy’s plans for a next generation ballistic missile submarine, estimated to cost \$99 billion to build.

For over thirty-three years Ground Zero has engaged in education, training in nonviolence, community building, resistance against Trident and action toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Ground Zero may be reached at:

- [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)
- [subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com](mailto:subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com)
- (425)445-2190

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## Special Events

**POLYRHYTHMICS w/ AKA and the Heart Hurt Goods**  
**Saturday, February 2, 9pm**  
**The Olympia Ballroom in Olympia, Washington**

Olympia’s favorite dance party returns for a special night at the Olympia Ballroom! Local favorites, AKA and the Heart Hurt Goods support. KEEP LIVE MUSIC ALIVE AND OCCUPY THE DANCEFLOOR OLY!  
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/317760>

**Garage Sale—raises funds for Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association**  
**Saturday, February 9, 9 am - 2 pm**  
**Lincoln Options**  
**213 21st Ave SE, Olympia**

Supports Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association and Escuela Ruben Dario (Lincoln’s Sister School).

**Love our Local Winter edition**  
**Saturday, February 9**  
**Olympia Ballroom**  
**116 Legion Way SE, Olympia**

In the dark of winter come brighten your heart in the light of our radiant community as we remember the fun we shared in the streets last August and start to build energy for next summer.

1 pm-6pm: Open mic stage, skill sharing, service tabling, kids activities, and talented local crafter vending. This is a great opportunity to show your love of local and find some delightful Valentine’s gifts for your sweetie.

7 pm - midnight: Evening will shift focus to local bands and a dance party. Vendors stay open as long they choose.

We need help to make this great. Please contact Marie Poland to see how you can participate, beforehand and/or day of. [buylocalss@gmail.com](mailto:buylocalss@gmail.com)

**Mardi Gras to Support Homeless & Violence Prevention services**  
**Saturday, February 9, 5-10 pm**  
**South Sound Manor Event Center in Tumwater**

Join us for a night of Blues while supporting youth empowerment, violence prevention, and crime victims services! Partners in Prevention Education is pleased to announce our 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Blues festival & fundraiser!!!! Great music by the Blues Bentley Band (formerly Blues Attitude). Food. No Host Bar. Costumes optional, but encouraged! Childcare & youth activities on site to enable families to attend!

Tickets available: 360-357-4472 or online: [www.youthchangeagents.org/Mardi\\_Gras\\_Fundraiser.html](http://www.youthchangeagents.org/Mardi_Gras_Fundraiser.html)

**Olympia Rock show!**  
**Saturday, February 9, 9:00pm**  
**McCoy’s Tavern in Olympia, Washington**

Mom’s Rocket, Hellbelly, & Novadose rock McCoy’s Tavern

\$3.00 at the door

**Addiction to Corporate Personhood: Threat to themselves and others**

**Friday, February 15, 6:30pm**  
**The Olympia Center**  
**222 Columbia St. North, Olympia**

A provocative evening discussing corporate personhood with Scott Silber, lead faculty at Johns Hopkins University Center for Constitutional Studies and democratic development Youth Organizing Institute, human rights and Environmental organizer, and former director of organizing at Colorado’s Public Workers’ Union.

Scott, the national director of National Intervention, is calling for a 28th constitutional amendment to eliminate corporate personhood and money equals speech Supreme Court created doctrines. [www.nationalintervention.org](http://www.nationalintervention.org). We will discuss addiction to power and greed, and practice applying these concepts!

Sponsored by Olympia UU Social Justice Committee and Move to Amend, Olympia.

We need to know how many are attending each session, so please register. Contact Molly at 360-412-1519, or Andrew at 360-359-8612 with any questions.

SEE SCOTT SILBER’S FULL SCHEDULE ON PG 9.



# My week of action at the Montana Coal Export protest

Janet Jordan

You already know about the plans to ship coal through your communities and on to China. The Montana coal export activists tried to stop the coal at its source—to keep it from being mined at all. The action took place during the week of August 13-20 this summer. People came from all over the United States—Washington and Oregon of course, but also California, Ohio, Illinois, Florida, and the East Coast. They think, as I do, that it is a national issue. Our country, selling the coal that would send out the CO2 to end life on Earth.

We stayed in the basement of a local church in Helena.

The Powder River Basin, where the coal is extracted, straddles the Wyoming-Montana divide. It is the largest source of coal in the US, but so far, most of the coal (90%) comes from the Wyoming side. (One of the mines on the Mon-

tana side sends electricity to Olympia via long power lines.) The new mines to be opened up in the Otter Creek area would allow Montana to add 20 million tons per year to its coal production, an increase of 50%. This coal would be included in the 140 million tons of coal that producers hope to ship yearly to China and other Asian destinations.

Many Montanans have their eyes on the coal that lies buried in the Powder River Basin. Why should Wyoming reap all the benefit? Because Montana's coal is less accessible and a railroad is needed.

One is already in the works. At the same time, the environmental group that planned the action this summer is very vocal and active and they see very clearly why we should not to be built.

We were busy that week in Helena. During the day we occupied the Capitol building for teach-ins, song-writing sessions and more. (It's a beautiful site; see pictures at the website, [www.coalexportaction.org](http://www.coalexportaction.org).) Every afternoon we went marching. We would stage a die-in at the Bank of America and then take a proposal to the Environmental Quality Division: a counter to Arch Coal's proposal to leave the coal in the ground.

We visited the Coal Consortium, too. They told us very earnestly that they appreciated our right to express our opinion, but then their voices took on an edge—This is *private property* and we want you *off*! We left, and then reconsidered. We were prepared to give way to police requests, but not Coal Consortium requests. We went back. They called the police. Then we left for good.

But all that was marking time between the real purpose of the action: the arrests. Every day at 6 pm, groups of us refused to exit the capitol. Five, including myself, refused on the first day. It was easy—instead of leaving, we just stood there, and the police politely

led us away. Most of us stayed the night in jail, not wanting to pay the \$350 bail. Jail was okay too, in fact it easily beat the church basement for comfort. We had showers—lights out at 10:00, my bedtime, instead of 12:30 am—and a soft mattress. The only downside was the food, which was inedible.

Now we are moving into a more difficult phase, in which we defend our actions in court. Of the twenty-three arrested, eighteen still want to go to trial. There was an Omnibus Hearing in November, at which the judge asked each of us if we wanted a jury trial (we all said yes).

Our lawyers, Larry Hildes and Bob

Gentry, are asking for permission to use the Necessity Defense. That is when we say we had no other choice but to break the law; every other avenue was closed. That's a tough sell in most courts, because it puts the US on trial—how can there be any need so great, any human right so self-

evident, and at the same time so unadressed in normal U.S. procedures, that people have to break the law? It's almost seditious to think it. We don't know if it will be allowed, but the judge is considering it. So far so good.

Each of us has to write a statement on what impelled his-or-her disobedience—what we did, what the government did in response. My statement was a review of the many fronts in our all-out pursuit of energy: Pipeline all but approved, mountaintop removal ongoing, new drilling in the Gulf. In each case, environmental safeguards were brushed away in an expedited process that left no room for citizens to comment or protest.

Expert witnesses have said they would testify, including Daniel Ellsberg, Bill McKibben, Dr. Tom Power (on the real economics of coal), James Hansen, Eric

**Jail easily beat the church basement for comfort. We had showers—lights out at 10:00, my bedtime, instead of 12:30 am—and a soft mattress. The only downside was the food, which was inedible.**



Top: Training in the rotunda. Bottom: Three of the Coal Export Action 23 as they were arrested in August 2012. Photos: Courtesy of Coal Export Action

Grimsrud (on climate change), several local people who tried to stop Montana Land Board approval of the deal, and most recently George Lakey.

If we are successful, the courts in Montana will second our statement that coal must be left in the ground. The Obama Administration and Congress may say yes to fossil fuels at any cost, but one court at least will be on record with an opinion that the pursuit of coal is wrong, so wrong that people were justified in disobeying the law. That would be a huge step forward for coal resistance and climate activism in general. The message would apply equally well to

the XL Pipeline, tar sands development in Utah, and mountaintop blasting in the Appalachians.

We need about \$10,000 to cover attorneys and expert witnesses, plus travel expenses and bail for some of the activists. In my opinion, the lawyers are the most in need of help—we all have some sort of regular income, however small, which will recover after this expense is paid, but the lawyers' entire income depends on their being paid.

If you want to help with this effort, go to <http://www.coalexportaction.org>.

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

## Athabasca Chipewyan may block Tar Sands access

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

January 15, 2013—Fort McMurray, AB – In the wake of Idle No More and the AFN's calls for blockades, peaceful protests and a stall of the Canadian economy Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) has made waves with talk of potential long term blockades in Northern Alberta.

"At this time we have no plans to organize or facilitate the organization of a roadblock on highway 63 for January 16 or any set date. However, the people are upset with the current state of affairs in this country and things are escalating towards more direct action. As a leader I have been talking to the people, talking with governments and industry to try and diffuse the situation that is

coming to the surface. However, neither government nor industry seems willing to move on the issues and the people have said that enough is enough.

Both Federal and provincial gov-

ernments have blindsided this country with weakened environmental legislation, weakened protection of our waters, lands and animals, and a weakened public review process. These legislative changes within Bill C-45 and Bill C-38 will expedite Canada's abilities to extract billions of dollars in profits from Indigenous lands while most of our communities live in poverty and some without basic services like clean drinking water. The legacy that will be left for our people will be nothing more than polluted lands and waterways with little left for our people to survive on.

[Ed. note: Bill C-45 and Bill C-38 eliminate the National Energy Board Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Species at Risk Act, the Fisheries Act, and the Navigable Waters Protection Act. The bills also make controversial changes to the Canada's Indian Act, streamlining the federal government's ability to remove land from the First Nations.]

Our people have become the canaries in the coal mine. We are all at a precipice and at a pivotal point in history. We can either sit idly by and watch as the government sanctions the right to de-

stroy the lands and rights of the people of this country or we can stand up and protect our lands and rights.

Unless Harper, the Canadian government and industry see the necessity to repeal the bills or at the very least, remove amendments made to and renegotiate the terms of the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Fisheries Act, The Environmental Assessment Act, the National Energy Board Act, and the Indian Act, you can expect to see matters escalate not just here in Alberta, but across this country.

The blockade of Highway 63 is something that has always been a possibility even before Idle No More. For the last 50 years people in Northern Alberta have been living at ground zero in one of the world's most destructive industrial projects: the Alberta Tar Sands. The tar sands infrastructure includes pipelines to the east, west, south, and north needed to ship tar sands out and bring in solvents used in processing. It includes proposed nuclear reactors and natural gas mining to generate power needed for extraction. It involves utilizing massive amounts of fresh water to process and

► TAR SANDS, continued on page 5



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# The trafficking of foreign ESL teachers in China

## American teacher learns a lesson

K. T. Cox

It was not until Christmas that I fully realized I was one of many foreign teachers being scammed in Beijing, China. A dream of going to China with the pure intentions of teaching English while exploring another culture has turned into an expensive nightmare.

Prior to coming to China I was promised 5000RMB or US\$800 (RMB is Chinese currency) each month at an ESL school, a visa, a free apartment, and airfare to get home through an agency called ChinaESL, organized by Rebecca Tang. If you Google search her agency, you will find there is nothing negative being said about this company. She has links to Dave's ESL cafe (one of the most popular foreign teacher employment websites worldwide) and I talked to plenty of people who have done ESL teaching in China and loved it. With all the information I could find at that time, I made my decision to head to China, a desire of mine since I was young.

Upon arrival in China I was forced to sign an additional contract by Rebecca Tang, who said she needed to remove 2000RMB (US\$320) from the first three paychecks as a deposit. This left me to survive on 3000RMB (US\$480) each month, then after I would receive my promised salary of 5000RMB.

There were several other cited stipulations in the contract, such as "If Party B shows the contract to anyone, Party A has the right to cancel Party B's visa, put her on the blacklist, and charge 20,000RMB (US\$3,200)." There were many other clauses that included seemingly ridiculous fees, but she told me if I didn't sign the contract I'd have to pay 20,000RMB as a penalty. Since I didn't know anyone in China, had no place to live (as this meeting took place in Tang's home), and could barely speak the language, I felt I had no choice but to sign it—though I knew something didn't feel right.

While much of my China adventure has been a wonderful experience—learning a new language, visiting the Great Wall and ancient temples, working with brilliant students, and falling in love with a brilliant British poet from

Cardiff—I tried to hide the fact that I've been struggling financially. Every email and blog post featured only the highlights and positive aspects of my time here to comfort the worried concerns of friends and family back home in Olympia, Washington.

Of course I loved my job at Web International English (Web) and I've grown attached to the students in the four months I've been here. However, at a school Christmas party I met a nice person who also has the same agent.

She told me if I didn't sign the contract I'd have to pay a \$3,200 penalty. Since I didn't know anyone and had no place to live, I had no choice but to sign—though I knew something didn't feel right.

After sharing information regarding my financial situation and how I am struggling to live on so little pay, this person was brave enough to reveal to me that Rebecca was in fact stealing from me. She knew this because Tang has been doing the same thing to her, and charged a penalty for "giving her trouble." I also learned that Web has been paying me significantly more than I had been told and that my agent has been keeping it for herself.

I am very grateful to this person for sharing this information so I could have the chance to do something about it; I mean, after all, part of the reason why I came here was to save up money because I couldn't get a decent paying job in the education field in the United States.

After talking to the police, the Public Services bureau, the US embassy, and Web Headquarters, I found there is absolutely nothing that can be done. I sat in an interrogation room on two separate occasions—one for two hours and the other for four hours while my boss was helping me to translate what the police were saying. Basically the school is being fined and I'm being fined, even though I provided evidence that it was the agent's fault for bringing me over here illegally, insisting that I needed an

F visa. They also wrote the transcripts by hand rather than filming the conversation or voice recording it, and they forced me to sign the transcripts even though they did not accurately represent what was said in the interrogation. It turns out the agent, Rebecca Tang, has connections to the head of police and she has a close relationship with the head of the Entry/Exit department of the Public Services Bureau. The only chance I would stand at fighting her would be to take her to court, but I'd have to hire a lawyer and they know that I can't afford that. No matter what, the system is set up so foreign teachers will lose even though several China Labor Laws are being broken.

Apparently I should have known better, and so should 60% of the foreign Web staff. In fact, three out of four teachers in just our center are in the same position. It turns out ChinaESL employs 60% of the foreign teacher population among all the Web centers in Beijing. Tang also has connections to preschools, kindergartens and other schools—and the government. Even though she's breaking numerous labor laws, her ESL agency is the most well-marketed in China and nobody can hold her agency responsible. She has been doing this for 8 years and will continue to do it to unsuspecting foreigners. It is a form of trafficking, which is very, very common in China.

Web was willing to keep me, but they would have to pay a fee for me as if I were a cow or a store product—about 20,000RMB (US\$3200), and I'd have to pay as well. The idea of one more cent of student money going towards that crow woman made me sick, so I kindly declined their offer and packed my bags.

### Tips for avoiding teacher trafficking

- Do research at the countries embassy about decent living wages.
- Have a lawyer review your contract to ensure it is in accordance with the country's labor laws.
- Make connections with citizens within the country before you go; ask if they've heard reviews on the business. You won't always find bad reviews on companies just by internet research.

### Signs of bad agents

- They ask for money up front.
- They use post office boxes instead of office addresses.
- They make promises of employment and guarantees of refunds.
- They charge fees for giving you a job lead.
- They pressure you and encourage you to make a decision quickly.
- They make you pay for your own visa and flight and don't compensate you; a good business will offer that because you are doing them a service.

### Helpful sites for teaching in China

- ChinaForeignTeachersUnion.org
- Beijinger.com

I've spent the past week saying goodbye to my friends, my students, my colleagues, and my boyfriend.

This has been the most emotionally draining experience I've had in my short life. And I can suspect people will say as they read this; "you should have taken more precautions," "done more research on the company," "not have signed the contract," or "there are people that are poor and have nothing, you shouldn't complain." I can name more things about the better choices I "should" have made, and maybe my problem is

► **TRAFFICKING**, continued on page 10

► **Tar Sands**, cont. from page 4

leaves incredibly large toxic waste lakes that are contaminating plants, animals, and neighboring waterways. It creates vast amounts of greenhouse gases fueling climate chaos and contributing to alarming climate change.

Our community has been challenging applications made by Shell Oil Canada, has repeatedly asked for better environmental protections, basic third party independent monitoring, and a moratorium on drilling until further studies are done to determine the cumulative impacts of the tar sands on the people and the land. To date all we have seen is nothing more than meetings and lip service.

The oil, gas and pipeline industries asked the government for legislative changes to better protect their investments and assets in the name of "economic growth" and within ten months the government made sweeping changes to legislation in their favor.

Indigenous rights and environmental protection are intrinsically tied together, our rights are contingent on thriving ecosystems and intact biodiversity. Without fresh water and

pristine lands we cannot practice our cultural and spiritual way of being. By weakening environmental protection and avenues for challenging industrial development, the government has weakened it's respect and fiduciary obligation to uphold the Canadian Constitution and our inherent treaty and aboriginal rights in Canada. It's time for Canada to negotiate the terms of adequate environmental protection in partnership with Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

If no changes are made in the coming months I guarantee we will see nationwide peaceful picket lines set up, resulting in blockades of major highways, against all resource extraction and development that is being done in violation of the Canadian Constitution, with unjust environmental standards and in contravention of our inherent rights to live, breathe, and sustain ourselves on our lands."



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# Still don't know what #IdleNoMore is about? Here's a Cheat-Sheet

Gyasi Ross

**What the heck are all these Indians acting all Indian about, eh?**

Lately, Native people have taken to the streets malls in demonstrations of Public Indian-ness (or "PI") that surpasses the sheer volume of activism of even Alcatraz and the Longest Walk. There's a heapum big amount of PI going on right now! Many people, non-Native and Native alike, are wondering what the heck is going with their local Native population and how this so-called #IdleNoMore movement managed to get the usually muffled Natives restless enough to be Indian in public. I mean, like Chris Rock said, he hasn't ever even met two Indians at the same time. He's seen "polar bears riding a tricycle" but he's "never seen an Indian family just chillin' out at Red Lobster."

Yet, now people can't seem to get away from us.

And that's cool, but isn't that what pow-wows and November is for? People (non-Native and Native alike) can only take so much PI, right? Is that what the #IdleNoMore movement is—an extended Native American Heritage Month, where non-Natives have to act like they're fascinated by Native culture?

In a word, no. It is much more. Please consider this a fairly exhaustive explanation of the #IdleNoMore movement, what it is not and what it is. If for some reason you cannot read the next 1,000 or so brilliant words, they can be summed up thusly: the #IdleNoMore Movement is not a new movement. Instead, it is the latest incar-

The primary reason #IdleNoMore is not Occupy: Native economies are *not* getting any better. In many of our communities, there is 70+ per cent unemployment—more than a simple "boom and bust" economic upturn can fix.

**#IdleNoMore Movement: What it is about**

*"The ground on which we stand is sacred ground. It is the blood of our ancestors."*

Chief Plenty Coups, Apsaalooke

*"...you have come here; you are taking my land from me; you are killing off our game, so it is hard for us to live."*

Tasunke Witko (Crazy Horse), Oglala Lakota

As the above quotes display, the Indigenous Resistance to the raping and pillaging of the Earth is not new. Likewise, Indigenous peoples' efforts to protect the mothers of our Nations—the women—are not new either. The #IdleNoMore movement is simply the latest chapter in that resistance.

**It's about: Protecting the Earth.** First and foremost, the #IdleNoMore movement is about protecting the Earth for all people from the carnivorous and capitalistic spirit that wants to exploit and

extract every last bit of resources from the land. Therefore, anybody who cares about this Earth should be interested in the #IdleNoMore movement. The engineers were Nina Wilson, Sheelah Mclean, Sylvia McAdam and Jessica Gordon. It was a response to Canada's Bill C-45, which overhauled the Navigable Waters Protection Act and removed protections for many waters that go

through First Nations. Changing the Act literally moves the emphasis of the protection—it morphs from protecting the waterways to protecting the navigation on those waterways. Now, instead of 30-some thousand lakes being protected under the old Act, only 97 lakes



IdleNoMore flash mob on Percival Landing, Olympia, Dec 29, 2012. Photo: Zoltan Grossman

not just Native children it's for all children. Lakes and rivers tend to be either clean or dirty for Native and non-Native children alike.

It's not a Native thing or a white thing, it's an Indigenous world-view thing. It's a "protect the Earth" thing. For those transfixed on race, you're missing the point. The #IdleNoMore Movement simply wants kids of all colours and ethnicities to have clean drinking water. It's also not a "Canada" or "United States" thing. Multinational corporations do not care about borders and neither should we. Despite legislation intended to prevent pollution, corporations pollute freely with almost complete impunity and our children are the ones that suffer. We likewise should not care about borders—we are mobilizing on both sides because we understand that what we do affects one another.

We will continue to aggressively organize and be #IdleNoMore about the attempts to destroy our sacred lands, whether its Keystone XL Pipeline or Tar Sands Mining in Canada. We will be #IdleNoMore on SSA Marine's attempts to create a deep-water shipping terminal for water and air poisoning dirty coal in the Lummi waters near Puget Sound, Washington or any disrespect to our lands.

We're not going anywhere, we're not going to be silent, we're #IdleNoMore!

**It's about: Protecting women.** Similar to the sustained, capitalistic effort to exploit and pillage the Earth, the carnivorous, capitalistic nature has also exploited and abused women since the founding of both America and Canada. That is something else that Indigenous people have vowed to be #IdleNoMore about. America's first marriage and property laws, or 'coverture,' stipulated that married women did not have separate legal existences from their husbands. Indeed, a married woman was a dependent and could not generally own her own property or control her own earnings. "...Once she married she became a legal nonentity. Her husband not only assumed her legal privileges and duties but certain rights to her property as well." (Women, Family, and Community in Colonial America: Two Perspectives, Linda E. Speth, Alison Duncan Hirsch, Pg. 8.)

And that was for privileged white women. Obviously Native women, black women and any women of any other colour that were unfortunate enough to live in the United States, it was much worse.

That pattern of condescension and indeed hatred for women has continued until the present. From the case Bradley v. State which affirmed a man's "right" to "moderately" beat his wife to the Indian Health Service's pattern of forced tubal ligations of Native women, the United States has shown a consistent trajectory of hatred and destruction for Native women.

Congress's recent failure to pass the Violence Against Women Act—specifically because Republicans did not want tribal law enforcement to be

It's also not a "Canada" or "United States" thing. Multinational corporations do not care about borders and neither should we—we are mobilizing on both sides because we understand that what we do affects one another.

able to prosecute non-Native sexual deviants—is a continuation of that exploitation of our women. Similar to the "clean water" discussion, above, the protections afforded by the Violence Against Women Act protected women of all colours—not just Native women. Conversely, Congress's failure to act on the Violence Against Women Act

hurts all women. Strong Native women leaders like Deborah Parker and others are advocating for safety and reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act for all women, not just a few.

It's not a Native thing.

It's a "no women, of any colour, should have to worry about getting raped" thing. It's a "no women, of any colour, should get beaten and battered" thing.

Those who are transfixed by race, again, are missing the point.

And we will continue to organize and be #IdleNoMore about this attack on the women within our communities, as well as all communities. That is not new and it's also not just about Native people.

We're not going anywhere, we're not going to be silent, we're #IdleNoMore!

**It's not an Occupy Movement.** The Occupy Movement was powerful and necessary—yet the foundation was frankly not strong enough to sustain. Occupy was about a slowed-down economy and a lot of folks that were, unfortunately, out of work from that slow down. As the economy began to improve in 2012 and also, significantly, the weather got cold-

► CHEAT-SHEET, continued on page 7



TESC Native Student Alliance drumming in solidarity, Percival Landing. Photo: Zoltan Grossman

nation of the sustained Indigenous resistance to the rape, pillage and exploitation of this continent and its women that has existed since 1492. It is not the Occupy movement, although there are some similarities. It is not only about Canada and it is not only about Native people. Finally, and probably most importantly, it (and we) are not going away any time soon. So get used to it (and us).

will be protected. As Canadian Parliament Member Kirsty Duncan eloquently states, "The days when Canadians take an endless abundance of fresh water for granted are numbered..."

These mobilized Native people wanted to ensure that children two, three and 12 generations from now would have clean water. The children that will benefit from the Native mobilization are



► **Cheat-sheet**, cont. from page 6  
er, the Occupy Movement got noticeably weaker. Now, it is a hollow shell of itself, with many of the middle-class supporters returning to middle-class jobs.  
The primary reason #IdleNoMore is not Occupy: Native economies are *not* getting any better. In many of our communities, there is 70+ per cent unemployment—more than a simple “boom and bust” economic upturn can fix. There are structural problems that will prevent a quick-fix, and therefore most Indigenous #IdleNoMore will not have an economic incentive to stop their activism.  
The second reason #IdleNoMore is not Occupy—We’re Native...hello?

events where it is freezing and brothers and sisters are outside in T-shirts.  
If we’re mobilizing 2,000, 2,500 people at an event in the freezing cold in January, just imagine how that number is going to multiply when it’s 35 degrees outside.  
The Final Reason #IdleNoMore is not Occupy—Occupy was snapshot response to a three-year economic downturn. #IdleNoMore is a continued response to more than 500 years of destroying the Earth and exploiting women. Our foundation literally has centuries on which our resistance is built.  
Finally, it’s not Occupy because we are surrounding our advocacy around

change. Indeed, the specific subjects that we choose to organize around certainly could change in the future, whatever we need to be #IdleNoMore about. Still, for now fighting against gratuitous exploitation of our lands and fighting against violence against women are areas where good organization can make a difference.  
**Conclusion**  
This has nothing to do with race or ethnicity. Native people did begin this movement—energized by Chief Spence’s sacrifice and sparked by the Four Founders’ initiative. Yet, this is anybody’s movement who wants to stand up for the Earth and women and also make a positive change in the community. That means that non-Natives are certainly welcome. We need non-Natives involved to save this Earth, to give our children and grandchildren the same quality of life that we have enjoyed. It’s about clean water. It’s about clean air. It’s about safety for all women. It’s about making a positive change in our communities. Critics seem to be so caught up on race; yet even racists want their children to have clean water just like non-racists. Right? Well, we want racists (and NON-racists, of course) to have kids with clean water too. Oh, and we don’t want them to get raped or beaten either.  
Not too unreasonable, is it?  
Here’s a little music and video to close this piece. It’s a project that we (Rock Paper Jet Productions, LLC) did with rapper and producer, Brother Ali. Coincidentally, it doesn’t mention race—it mentions wanting to make the world slightly better. And when it comes down to it, that all that the #IdleNoMore movement is about.

*“I want to pass this planet to my son  
A little better than it was when they handed it to me...”*  
*Gyasi Ross, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, is a lawyer and lecturer living in the Seattle area.*  
This article is reprinted with the author’s permission.

ter supporting the MAP boycott. More importantly, the boycott is spreading. Teachers at ORCA K-8 and Salmon Bay’s Elementary School have voted to join the boycott, while teachers at Franklin High School, Ballard High School, and West Seattle High School have expressed their support. No matter how the boycott ends, the Garfield teachers have pulled back the curtain on the culture of standardized testing that has engulfed our schools, and in doing so have shown that it deserves a “F” grade for failing our teachers, students, and communities.  
*Marco Rosaire Rossi is a graduate of the University for Peace in Costa Rica and a resident of Olympia.*

**More corn ethanol is more harm to consumers, the environment**  
WASHINGTON – The decision by a federal appeals court not to block the sale of gasoline containing 15 percent corn ethanol (E15 ) is a setback for consumers and the environment.  
The US Court of Appeals in Washington, DC on Tuesday rejected a request that it reconsider an earlier decision that allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to go forward with regulations that permit the sale of the higher corn ethanol blend. Several food, oil, livestock and engine trade groups filed suit to challenge the EPA decision.  
EWG’s Faber said in a statement:  
“The court’s decision doesn’t change the simple fact that consumers will not buy a fuel that harms their engines, voids their warranties and jeopardizes their safety. And after a drought-ridden year that saw corn prices reach record highs, diverting even more of our crop to ethanol makes no sense whatsoever.  
“Widespread use of E15 equates to higher grocery bills for struggling families, higher repair costs for motorists, higher spending for taxpayers and higher unemployment for livestock producers and farmers. That’s not the kind of energy future Americans can get behind. Instead, we need a commonsense approach to biofuels policy that loosens the corn ethanol industry’s stranglehold on the market and allows cleaner, more sustainable fuels to compete.”  
—Environmental Working Group

**States considering laws to make it an act of terrorism to report on abuses at factory farms**  
How do you keep consumers in the dark about the horrors of factory farms? Make it an “act of terrorism” to investigate animal cruelty, food safety or environmental violations on corporate-controlled farms that produce most of our meat, eggs, and dairy products.  
New Hampshire, Wyoming and Nebraska are the latest states to introduce Ag-Gag laws, penned by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), to prevent employees, journalists, or activists from exposing illegal or unethical practices on factory farms. Lawmakers in 10 other states introduced similar bills in 2011-2012. The laws passed in three of those states: Missouri, Iowa and Utah. Consumer and animal-welfare activists prevented the laws from passing in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York and Tennessee.  
In all, six states now have Ag-Gag laws, including North Dakota, Montana and Kansas, all of which passed the laws in 1990-1991.  
—Organic Consumers Association

**US health worse than nearly all other industrialized countries**  
US citizens suffer from poorer health than nearly all other industrialised countries, according to the first comprehensive government analysis.  
Of 17 high-income countries, the United States is at or near the bottom in at least nine indicators. These include infant mortality, heart and lung disease, sexually transmitted infections, and adolescent pregnancies, and more systemic issues such as injuries, homicides, and rates of disability.  
US males have the shortest life expectancy; on average, a US male lives almost four fewer years than those in the top-ranked country, Switzerland. US females fare little better, ranked next to last.  
US citizens have been for decades been dying at younger ages going back to the 1970s. Such a trend has been worsening at least since then, with women particularly affected.  
—Organic Consumers Association



LaDean Johnson and Falcon Sisson at the flash mob. Photo: Zoltan Grossman

You’re not going to scare us off with the cold weather. My friends have literally texted me pictures of sisters and brothers in Alberta and Saskatchewan standing outside with #IdleNoMore signs in -35 degree weather; I have spoken at

the specific substantive areas that were discussed earlier—protecting the environment and protecting Native women via the Violence Against Women Act. Yes, like Occupy, this is grassroots, the people are fluid and definitely can

► **Boycott**, cont. from page 1  
test titled Measures of Academic Progress has become one of the main reasons as to why some students in the Seattle School District are having so much difficulty progressing. If there is a subject that students could advance in because of the MAP test its Eastern European literature; the test process is filled with so many unnecessary barriers and illogical decisions that it becomes an excellent lesson in Kafka-like absurdity.  
Will the teachers at Garfield be successful in convincing the School District to drop the MAP test? At this point it is hard to say. For now the Seattle Schools Superintendent José Banda has responded to the teachers’ action

with hostility. Shortly after the boycott was announced Banda sent a memo to all staff defending the MAP test and reminding principals that they had to make sure that all tests were completed by February 22. Soon after, he warned that if teachers failed to administer the test they could be suspended up to ten days without pay. Banda appears resilient, but his ability to force Seattle teachers to administer MAP is clearly waning. The Garfield teachers have gained national attention for their cause. US Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch, educator and author Jonathan Kozol, and social critic and linguist Noam Chomsky have all signed onto a let-

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WORKS IN PROGRESS



# The labor politics of immigration reform

## Progressives must oppose guestworker proposals

Devon G. Peña

I have a dear friend who is the son of a Bracero. He was born in the United States in the 1960s but his father never became a citizen, even after he married into a family with deep roots north of the border—a family heritage that predates the existence of the United States by several millennia at least.

His mother, who passed away in 1987, was Navajo and Mexican. Like many people her age, she came to identify, defensively, as “Spanish American,” especially after the family moved to Pueblo, Colorado where her bracero husband got a job as a manual laborer at the steel mill. Of course, she was not Spanish, but that’s a different story for another time.

The widower is now in his 80s and retired, but not in the United States. He could not retire here even though he worked and lived in the United States starting around 1955. After his wife died, and with his three children all grown up, he decided that—since he had no social security funding—that he would return to his origin village in Michoacán to live out his remaining years with his Mexican family. This was not an easy choice but he refused to burden his working-class children with having to care for an elder with failing eyesight, an exhausted heart, and a lack of access to health care through Medicare (which he lost upon his wife’s passing).

My friend’s father was a Bracero—a guestworker imported from Mexico to be used only as temporary migrant labor in agriculture and industry. He never felt welcome by the government or his employers and he was not allowed to join labor unions, even if he considered himself a working-class radical whose family included members of the labor brigades of the 1910 Revolution.

His son once told me what I take was to become the epitaph on his father’s gravestone:

Trabajó duro. Siempre con dignidad. Nunca abajado.

[He worked hard. Always with dignity. Never downtrodden.]

I do know that the son, like his father, could have resented the exclusion of braceros from the labor unions. Instead, he thought it tragic rather than vicious because the ‘American’ [qua Anglo] workers’ movements lost the benefit of the knowledge, tenacity, and militancy that ran in that Mexican bloodline.

However, he did resent the

government for failing to extend a less formidable path to citizenship to his father, who never learned English and was not able to read very well. He was embarrassed to take citizenship classes and so was never encouraged to seek legal status. His son felt the government could have done more to extend a hand to men like his dad who gave so much in the war years and aftermath, and then went on to raise productive and healthy children with U.S. citizen women. He did everything except learn English and since he had to work from the age of ten he had never learned to read or write. How does one deny an opportunity to such a soul, clearly rooted in the new country?

Flash forward to 2012-13 and the soon to intensify debate over comprehensive immigration reform in the US Congress. As we have been reporting, many of the current proposals, including the Schumer-Graham legislation

wending its way through the halls of the Senate make a revival of bracero-styled guestworker programs a central feature of the proposals for reform. We must say no to such proposals for all the reasons that the story I just shared makes clear.

Beyond this type of anecdotal evidence, I can point to decades of critical social science research that repudiates these programs as unjust, exploitative, and against the interests of workers and their families. As early as the 1960s, the Mexican labor historian, Ernesto Galarza, warned against the paradigm of administered labor migration, which involved the recruitment and employment of Mexican manual laborers on a seasonal and temporary basis. In other words, Mexicans were welcomed as temporary exploitable labor but not as permanent residents on a path to citizenship.

In his classic books—including *Merchants of Labor*



“A bracero closes a full Toro lettuce box with a special tool in a field in the Salinas Valley, California.”  
Photo: Leonard Nadel, Bracero History Archive

(1964), *Spiders in the House and Workers in the Field*(1970), and *Farm Workers and Agribusiness in California, 1947-60* (1977)—Galarza demonstrated with hard data and oral histories a story of slave-like exploitation by growers who conspired with the government to divide and conquer farm workers at a time when labor militancy and self-organization were intensifying.

Galarza knew of these conflicts and struggles directly. He had helped to organize a strike in 1947 against the DiGiorgio Corporation in Arvin, California. [Ed. note: The DiGiorgio Corporation, a fruit-growing corporation, owned much of California’s central valley farm land.] The strike lasted more than 30 months and was ultimately busted through the use of thugs who beat up the workers, police harassment, deportations, and the importation of guestworkers as strikebreakers.

This pattern was repeated time and time again throughout the 1950s

and 1960s until the Bracero Program officially came to an end in 1964.

Some may claim that this was a thing of the past and that the new guestworkers will receive an honest wage for a fair days work (as if there is such a thing to begin with). That they will have housing guarantees and perhaps even health care. This is a lie. How do we expect the capitalists in this country to treat their guestworkers any better than the native-born? The state and capital have done everything in their power to break the back of working class organizations since the era of McCarthyism in the 1950s.

The most recent wave of attacks—including the imposition of Right to Work laws in traditionally unionized states like Michigan—is designed to lower wages, eliminate benefits, and cut back on workers’ ability to organize. Do you think it will be any better for guestworkers? This will more likely be another attack on the

► IMMIGRATION, continued on page 9

Though we’re in the dark days of winter, spring awaits—and with it...

## The 19th Annual Procession of the Species Celebration!

The Luminary Procession  
Friday, April 26 at 9:00 pm.

Procession of the Species  
Saturday, April 27, at 4:30 pm.

Details about art workshops and Community Art Studio hours will be in our next issue; for now, mark your calendars and begin dreaming about leopards and lilies, monarchs and mice, ferns, and fantails—and start imagining the costuming that will carry you into the Procession!



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► **Immigration**, cont. from page 8  
remnants of working-class power and militancy, which is largely in those sectors comprised of Mexican and other Latina/o workers in agriculture, general manufacturing, construction trades, and related fields.

A 2007 report from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), *Close to Slavery: Guestworker Programs in the United States*, suggests that things have not improved; they have worsened. The SPLC report summarizes the conditions faced by the new braceros. Under the current system, called the H-2 program, employers brought about 121,000 guestworkers into the United States in 2005—approximately 32,000 for agricultural work and another 89,000 for jobs in forestry, seafood processing, landscaping, construction and other non-agricultural industries:

These workers, though, are not treated like “guests.” Rather, they are systematically exploited and abused. Unlike U.S. citizens, guestworkers do not enjoy the most fundamental protection of a competitive labor market—the ability to change jobs if they are mistreated. Instead, they are

bound to the employers who “import” them. If guestworkers complain about abuses, they face deportation, blacklisting or other retaliation.

The report provides compelling evidence of systematic exploitation, abuse, and even torture, and now the Democrats want to serve their capitalist bosses by expanding this type of program? The SLPC outlines further abuses. Forced to work for one employer, no matter the abuses, and lacking access to attorneys or other legal assistance, the new braceros are:

- routinely cheated out of wages;
- forced to mortgage their futures to obtain low-wage, temporary jobs;
- held virtually captive by employers or labor brokers who seize their documents;
- forced to live in squalid conditions;
- denied medical benefits for on-the-job injuries

And now the Democrats want to make an unholy alliance, for the sake of political expediency, with Republicans to forge an immigration reform package that opens the door to a new era of slave labor bracero-style?

We must reject these proposals. If they want our labor, they must accept us as permanent residents with a clear path to citizenship. We are done with being temporary stoop labor for the greedy bosses and their politico minions.

I invite all my readers and followers to take up this cause. Read the SLPC report and the insightful, prescient investigations by Galarza. Educate yourself so you can become a rational and passionate voice for progressive immigration reform.

Educate Schumer and the other Democrats in the Senate and promise that you will work against their reelection if they conspire with worker-hating Republicans to hold our people down any longer.

Press for this honorable and fundamental demand: You want our labor? We get to live and work here as long as we want to. We will only work under full protection of expanded and

enforced workplace health and safety and hourly wage standards including the right to organize and strike. This a democracy, right? Well, from our vantage, that starts in the workplace and not the voting booth. We can choose to become citizens. None of this is negotiable. We will build a democratic future together, but only with the conditions that we exercise our full dignity and rights as co-workers, future citizens, and fellow human beings.

*Devon G. Peña, professor of American Ethnic Studies, Anthropology, and Environmental Studies at the University of Washington, is the founder and president of The Acequia Institute, the nation’s first Latina/o charitable foundation dedicated to supporting research and education for the environmental and food justice movements. This article, Dr. Peña’s December 29, 2012 blog, is reprinted with his permission.*

## Scott Silber is on a West Coast tour sponsored by Move to Amend, Olympia

Scott Silber is the former organizing director of Colorado’s public workers’ union and served as lead faculty at the Youth Organizing Institute at Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development. Since 1994 his campaigns—in three dozen states and four continents to date—continue to add to a community-based toolbox for grassroots empowerment. He works nationally today on “Intervention 2013,” a strategy for worker and student walkouts demanding a New New Deal process, beginning with an amendment abolishing corporate personhood and making all electoral campaigns publicly funded.

Scott is the Executive Director of National Intervention, which treats mon-

ey in politics as an addictive substance. Intervention calls for a national deadline for the ratification of any amendment that abolishes corporate personhood and requires publicly funded elections, viewing any such amendment proposal as an urgent “sobriety checkpoint” for any elected official.

In the event Congress fails to pass that amendment “sobriety test” in time, National Intervention organizes a block-by-block “12-Step National Recovery Platform” campaign, calling on all of us who may be enablers of the addiction system to draw strong boundaries in our relationship to the addicts in power for a new social contract (a New New Deal) while we still have time. See [www.nationalintervention.org](http://www.nationalintervention.org).

### Local Scott Silber sessions

#### Wednesday, February 13, 1:30 pm

Evergreen State College Seminar II Bldg, C 1107

#### Thursday, February 14, 12 - 2 pm

902 Columbia St. (9th and Columbia), Third floor conference room

#### Thursday, February 14

Seattle pending finalization

We need to know how many are attending each session, so please register. Contact Molly at 360-412-1519, or Andrew at 360-359-8612 with any questions. Thank you!

#### Friday, February 15th, 6:30 pm

Olympia Center  
222 Columbia St., Olympia (Tacoma friends join us)

#### Saturday, February 16, all day

SSCC Georgetown campus, Bldg C, rm 212  
Day-long training, lunch provided. \$40.

#### Sunday, February 17th, 7 pm

Portland UU Church, 7 pm -- TV session in the afternoon



Olympia F.O.R.'s “Confronting the Climate Crisis” Rally at the Legislature. Photo: Steve Wyant

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Pro-Reforma Migratoria  
y Justicia Social

## The Community of Immigrants' framework for immigration reform policy development

In recent years immigrants have faced massive deportations, incarceration, general deprivation of rights and habeas corpus and have been marginalized as workers whose only fault has been to seek a better life for themselves and their families. After a bruising and divisive election, the political forces have acknowledged the power of the minority vote and in particular the Latino vote and its impact on national elections. Immigration again is at the forefront of congressional priorities with the introduction of two prospective pieces of legislation. On Sunday, December 16 2012, El Comité Pro-Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social called a general community meeting in Seattle, to have a community dialogue about what should be included in discussions around “Immigration Reform.” As a result of the gathering, we collectively outlined the framework under which any Immigration policy should have:

1. Unconditional legalization of immigration status with a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented workers and their families based on their condition as a workers and a contributors to the common wealth of this country.
2. Unconditional legalization of immigration status for all applicants of DACA and Dreamers who through their work, studies and other social contributions, have demonstrated a desire to normalize their status as immigrants! The purpose should also be to build on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and incorporate DREAMers into life in the mainstream population of the United States through a path to citizenship.
3. A review of all immigration policies to encourage and enhance family reunification, protect the unity and sanctity of the family, including the families of bi-national same-sex couples, by reducing the family backlogs and keeping spouses, parents, and children together.
4. Reduce the backlog of immigration applicants by streamlining the paperwork and requirements, which makes it nearly impossible for people to immigrate into this country through regular means.
5. Reconfigure the current Immigration quota system to reflect our modern reality in this world and not the current exclusionary policy, which has historically only benefited emigration from Northern and Eastern Europe!

El Comité also four central policy demands:

1. Respect for our immigrant communities. Stop the repression and criminalization of undocumented workers.
2. An immediate cease to the 287 (g), E-Verify, and Secure Communities Programs;
3. An immediate cease to programs that break families apart and an end to indiscriminate detentions and deportations of immigrant workers.
4. An immediate cease to subsidies for private detention centers.

*Ed. note: The above is the text of an online petition by El Comité Pro-Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social, a social justice organization based in Seattle, Washington that focuses on civil, labor, and human rights. The petition can be found at [change.org](http://change.org).*





A sign at the solidarity noise demonstration in front of the SeaTac Federal Detention Center in November 2012. Photo: Marissa Luck

► **Solitary**, cont. from page 1

I was in my unit I was part of a community. I gave support and received support. But I am no longer in that unit, no longer in that community.”

The Olympia trio could be joined by another activist from Portland named Kerry Cunneen who announced in early January that they will also resist their subpoena to appear before the grand jury. \*

Kerry originally received the subpoena on December 14, the same day that Maddy was charged with civil contempt of court, and was told to appear just five days later to testify. Their lawyer successfully had the date moved back to January 5. When the date came, Kerry refused to even step foot in the grand jury hearing room, according to CAPR.

“I will not cooperate with this grand jury nor will I in any way aid the state in its efforts to imprison people,” Kerry wrote in a statement.

It is unclear whether Kerry will also be charged with civil contempt of court and taken into custody. Their lawyer declined to comment on the story.

Many of the attorneys involved said they expect more people to be subpoenaed in the near future. According to Maddy’s attorney, Robert Flennagh, the government is in talks with a small group of people who have not actually received subpoenas. The idea is to gain information from these people without actually bringing them before the grand jury. Flennagh also said they expect a number of indictments to emerge from the grand jury process, although it’s unclear who is being targeted or when the charges will be passed down.

At least six people received subpoenas to appear before a grand jury investigating damage inflicted on a federal courthouse by a group of black bloc protesters in Seattle last May Day. In official statements, the US attorney’s office has asserted that it does not target people for their political associations.

But at least three of the subpoenaed activists—Matt, Kteeo, and Leah-Lynn Plante—weren’t in Seattle when the crime took place. All three are outspoken anarchists how-

ever, and supporters suspect they were subpoenaed because they *might* know information about the protesters who committed the crime.

Adding to their argument of the political nature of the grand jury, supporters point to temporarily unsealed documents which revealed that the FBI monitored a group of activists before the May Day rally, followed their car to the protest, and intercepted text messages.

“The US government has drones and jets, but they don’t have time machines,” joked defense attorney Robert Flennagh at Maddy’s contempt hearing. He paused, “So how come the investigation

Many of the attorneys involved said they expect more people to be subpoenaed in the near future. According to Maddy’s attorney, Robert Flennagh, the government is in talks with a small group of people who have not actually received subpoenas.

started before May Day?”

“The FBI has the authority to conduct an investigation when it has reasonable grounds to believe that an individual has engaged in criminal activity or is planning to do so,” Ayn Dietrich, a spokesperson for the FBI said in an official statement. Dietrich didn’t respond to questions about what led the agency to believe that these activists would commit a crime however.

Out of the more than fifty questions the US attorney asked Kteeo during her grand jury hearing, only four were related to May Day, according to an interview in *The Stranger*.

Larry Hildes, member of the National Lawyers Guild and attorney for another subpoenaed activist from Portland, said he didn’t think it was a coincidence that

Kteeo was asked about her activities in a local anti-war group, Port Militarization Resistance (PMR). Hildes is also representing activists involved in a lawsuit against a military informant from Ft. Lewis, John Towery. In 2009, public records requests revealed Towery was spying on members of the Olympia PMR, something that Hildes argues is illegal since military personnel aren’t supposed to engage in law enforcement. For Hildes, the PMR case, along with the current Pacific Northwest grand jury, is just “another facet in this relentless, and inappropriate and unconstitutional attack and spying on the left.”

Lauren Regan, attorney of the Civil Liberties Defense Center in Eugene, Oregon who has been closely following the case, argued that the Pacific Northwest grand jury was part of pattern of criminalizing activists. She cited recent examples of the government targeting environmental activists as “terrorists” under the purview of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, which criminalizes conduct that interferes with or damages animal enterprises.

“Up until that point there had never been a governmental attempt to use that type of [terrorist] enhancement against anyone who did not cause the death of a human being or weren’t going after massive infrastructure like the Oklahoma City bombing,” she pointed out. “The government is trying to create a mountain out of a mole hill; it’s trying to create terrorists out of activists,” she argued.

Hildes elaborated, “When you’re looking at millions of activists as potential terrorists, you are gravely missing the actual violent terrorists under your nose.”

*Marissa Luck is a freelance journalist and regular contributor to Works in Progress. When not reporting on local issues, she works as a content director at a web-design firm. Marissa graduated from Evergreen with an emphasis in political economy and international studies. Contact her via Twitter@marissaluck7 or email marissaluck7@gmail.com.*

\* Kerry Cunneen prefers to use the gender-neutral pronoun “they/their.”

You can find more background information on the grand jury cases online at [www.olywip.org](http://www.olywip.org).

► **Trafficking**, cont. from page 5

relatively small to what others have suffered, but that does not justify the fact that this agent conned me and countless others into signing a contract that resulted in her stealing thousands while breaking Chinese labor laws. We were brought here to work illegally and we are traded like cattle. Many teachers, who could not find decent paying jobs elsewhere, came here for a chance to teach and offer a service to people who want to improve their English. If you are a newly graduated young female in her early twenties traveling alone and trying to pay off debts from student loans and assorted bills, maybe you’d understand the full effect of this. And hopefully learn from it. See: tips on agent scams.

Nobody deserves to be victimized or mistreated or taken advantage of. Period.

Now I won’t deny that the American justice system is far from perfect, and this story does not glorify any “fair” decisions the United States has made—as murderers and child molesters can get off on technicalities, and big corporate powers will pay fees that amount to a light slap on the wrist in the big scheme of their evil doings—but rather how easy it is for a foreigner to be victimized abroad.

Additionally this story does not presume to characterize the general population of Chinese people. In fact, I received overwhelming support from my students, my friends, my boss, and even had officials from three different schools offer to help me get the proper visa to be employed legally and offer a better wage. If I weren’t under the thumb of this wicked agent—who was controlling my bank account, my apartment, and had connections to powerful people who could potentially give me even more trouble—I would have been happy to accept. The fact is, I needed to be home with my friends and family to recover from what happened. I will return to China someday, but on my own terms and with much more awareness.

So, I approached my final days in Beijing simply knowing in my heart that I was right and that nothing could break my spirit...and then the impossible happened: I was invited to come to the police station once more to assess the fines for my offense of working here illegally under Tang’s supervision. The police apparently felt sorry for me and think this situation is unfair. They disapprove of Tang’s relationship with their boss, so they have devised a plan for me to escape: they submitted a request to reduce my fine in order to delay my paperwork process so I could leave the country without paying, as I’ve provided sufficient evidence that this offense was not my fault and due to Tang’s manipulation. They also said they would ensure my safety at the airport and their boss would have to let my case go.

I was in complete shock. Apparently this sort of thing never happens; to foreigners, to Chinese citizens, to people that are poor and powerless, to people that fought the system without proper legal defense. I have no idea why I was lucky, or why this ending turned out the way it did. It was a small victory compared to the grand scheme of ChinaESL’s evil doings, but any victory is worth celebrating.

Now, this is a rare victory. The truth is no matter where you go in the world, a stupid piece of paper can rip apart people that love each other, can disenchant your dream of making the world a better place, and (in cases far worse than mine) consume everything you have—everything but one—to quote my beloved: “If you know in your heart that you are right, nothing can touch you.”

Best wishes to anyone who aspires the same dream. May this story be helpful and eye-opening.

*K.T. Cox, an ESL teacher working abroad, is an Olympia native, an Evergreen graduate (2011), and an occasional contributor to Works in Progress and other progressive papers and zines.*

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Criminal Division Chief of the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's office, J. Andrew Toynbee, grilling Scott Yoos, on the stand.

# Scott Yoos' trial "nupdate"

## Scott Yoos Support Committee

-MOST REGRETTABLY, as this issue goes to Press, there is (again) NO new noteworthy (nor very sexy) 'NEWS' to report, regarding the spellbinding case of "the State of Washington vs. Scott Andrew Yoos"! Scott remains a harmless WIP-worker, who assists in the editing and distribution of this most noteworthy newspaper.

Tragically, he is STILL currently facing several (bogus) criminal charges: "Criminal Trespass", "Obstructing Justice" (which was later changed to "Resisting Arrest"), and (some 26-days later), the Oly. P.D. upped-their-ante by adding a "Felony"-assault charge.

Yoos stubbornly clings to his claims of innocence, insisting: "IF I can be jumped, brutally-arrested, & detained by 4 over-zealous policemen, for my horrendous "crime" of throwing some damp napkins into an open Dumpster at night, and

then attempting to communicate with the cops via Sign Language... then, we're (clearly) no longer living in a 'Free' state!"

His latest Hearing was held on December 19, at the Thurston County Courthouse. That afternoon, Judge Christine Pomeroy (retired, pro tem), heard the introductory arguments in Attorney Larry Hildes' very solid "Motion to Dismiss"proposal. This Motion Hearing ran all afternoon, and has been continued thru till the NEXT Hearing, which is allegedly scheduled to occur "sometime in February", (presumably 2013?!?)

On-line, Scott's friends & supporters are heartily encouraged to doggedly follow the exciting blog site, <http://www.scottsupport.blogspot.com> (and/or "Scott Yoos Ldf" on Facebook), for all the latest news & updates in this excruciatingly long struggle to recognize Civil/Disability RIGHTS!

...The scheduled date(s) of the NEXT Court Hearing(s) will be promptly posted here, (-once the State decides it!)



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## Aaron Swartz

### 1986 – 2013

*Swartz's supporters say he had a simple motive: He wanted information to be free —not to make money or commit fraud.*

—Carrie Johnson, *NPR*

*Aaron's commitment to social justice was profound, and defined his life. He was instrumental to the defeat of an Internet censorship bill; he fought for a more democratic, open, and accountable political system; and he helped to create, build, and preserve a dizzying range of scholarly projects that extended the scope and accessibility of human knowledge. He used his prodigious skills as a programmer and technologist not to enrich himself but to make the Internet and the world a fairer, better place.*

—Swartz Family

# Mexico's new victims' law needs to be implemented to be effective

(Washington, DC) -- Concrete measures are needed to back up a new law aimed at guaranteeing the rights of victims of crime and human rights abuses in the ongoing violence resulting from the struggle against organized crime in Mexico, Amnesty International said.

Mexico's new President Enrique Peña Nieto signed the General Victims' Law (Ley General de Víctimas) into effect on Wednesday.

Since 2006, more than 60,000 people have been killed and thousands have disappeared in the violence by organized crime and as a result of security force operations. The victims and their relatives have frequently been ignored and are routinely denied access to justice.

The efforts of Mexican NGOs—including victims of the violence themselves—have been crucial to the measure's passage, and they are hopeful it will ensure victims are treated with respect, crimes are investigated and compensation is paid to help stop similar abuses from being repeated in the future.

"This law came about as a result of sustained pressure from civil society, and is an important advance for the victims of human rights violations and crime in Mexico," said Javier Zúñiga, Special Adviser to Amnesty International. "The decision by the new president to remove the veto on the bill applied by former President Calderón is a positive sign that this government will begin to take seriously the rights of the victims of the violence."

"But for it to make a real difference," Zúñiga continued. "The Mexican authorities at all levels must ensure the law is complied with effectively. When abuses happen, victims and their family members have a right to know the truth, for a full and effective investigation to take place, receive protection and support and have access to reparations - we'll be keeping pressure on the authorities to ensure this happens."

The new law puts in place a number of judicial, administrative, social and economic measures to safeguard the human rights of victims of crime and human rights violations, but it is now up to the new administration and legislators to ensure sufficient resources and implementing legislation to make the safeguards effective.

Drug cartels and other organized crime groups are responsible for the majority of the violence, but security and police forces are frequently implicated in collusion with these groups. Human rights violations by security forces in policing operations were routine under Calderón's administration – including enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary detentions. The failure to investigate most crimes and human rights violations created a culture of impunity and lack of access to justice for victims.

Last October, Amnesty International released a report documenting a torture epidemic in the country.

When Peña Nieto took office in December 2012, Amnesty International called on him to break with this legacy of human rights abuse and implement concrete measures to combat impunity, including those covered in the General Victims' Law.

"Passing laws alone is not sufficient to safeguard the human rights of victims," said Zúñiga. "President Peña Nieto now needs to commit to following up this new law by ensuring that the Mexican authorities put in place—as soon as possible—effective measures to help victims of crime and human rights violations and to ensure that the same abuses are not repeated in the future."

Amnesty International is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning grassroots activist organization with more than 3 million supporters, activists and volunteers in more than 150 countries campaigning for human rights worldwide. The organization investigates and exposes abuses, educates and mobilizes the public, and works to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

—Amnesty International

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# Simple cure for Social Security!

On January 1, the Social Security payroll tax cap rose from \$110,100 in 2012 to \$113,700. This means that annual income up to \$113,700 per year became subject to the 6.2 % payroll tax, but not applicable to anything above that. If just the wealthiest 1 in 20 workers (top 5.2 %) would pay the Social Security tax on their annual income above \$113,700, only 1 in 75 (top 1.3 %) workers would be affected. Currently, someone making twice the cap, or \$227,400 per year, pays the Social Security tax on only half of their income and someone making \$1.1 million per year only pays the tax on about a tenth of their income.

If enacted, proposals like these could almost entirely close Social Security's projected long-term funding gap without reducing benefits or increasing taxes on the vast majority of American workers. —The Center for Economic and Policy Research

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# Fowl play at Kentucky-Fried Chicken

SchNEWS!

Our Pluckiest Protester Award was snatched late in the year by a teenage animal rights campaigner—attacked by KFC eaters whilst dressed as a giant chicken.

Wanting to raise awareness about poultry welfare, Olly Tyler—a 16-year-old from Westwood, Wiltshire—arrived outside his local KFC branch on December 22, bearing a placard and dressed in a seven foot tall chicken suit. The #600 handmade chicken suit of Parisian origin (Paris obviously being renowned for the quality and style of its poulet culture) was so striking that some diners, when confronted with finding a chicken lovable and funny-looking whilst chowing down on a two-piece and chips, responded in the only way their fast-food crazed minds could think of—violence. The solo-flying young campaigner was punched, knocked over and hit

by projectile poultry. One slobbering KFC patron ran up to the 16 year old and punched him on the face. “It didn’t hurt but I was really shocked”, said Olly. Twenty minutes later two guys jumped out of a car and rugby tackled him to the floor. A mob of customers had first thrown chicken nuggets (unsold ones do actually get sold by KFC as rubber bullets...allegedly), chicken wings and sauce. “I have no idea why they did it. I think they just got caught up in the hype.”

“I’ve protested outside this KFC before and I was pelted with three chicken wings, but this time it was much worse.”

“I’ve protested outside this KFC before and I was pelted with three chicken wings but this time it was much worse.”

Feathers understandably ruffled, Olly cut short the protest fearing for his safety, having planned to spend seven hours outside the world’s largest fried chicken chain.

The inspiration for the action had come from reading an article that described the abominable conditions in which the factory hens are kept; as well as, we imagine, watching reruns of Dom Jolly’s Trigger Happy TV. KFC are responsible for over 1 billion chickens killed each year. KFC’s bird suppliers

stuff the birds into large factories that are filled with excrement and other waste, and within these walls they breed and feed them to grow so large the chickens cannot walk or move. Their legs often break from their sheer body weight, while their wings get broken from rough handling.

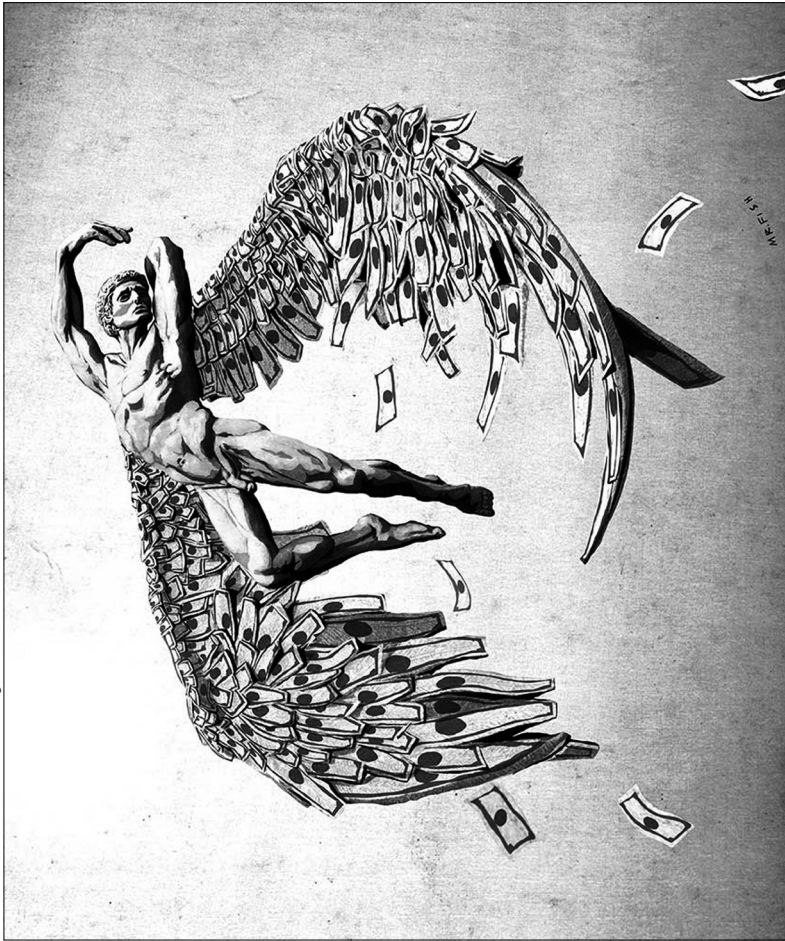
Slaughter house workers have been recorded tearing the heads off live birds, spitting tobacco into their eyes, spray-painting their faces, and violently stomping on them. During the slaughter sessions they slit the birds’ throats and drop them into boiling water whilst they are still conscious. There are online videos documenting sadistic torture scenes in factories. KFC have refused to alter these conditions even after been urged to do so by their very own animal welfare advisors.

PETA runs a campaign “kentuckyfried-cruelty” against KFC. Luckily Olly fared better than a real KFC bird and didn’t sustain any injuries or lasting damage to his suit. *SchNEWS! is a plucky little British broadsheet read around the world.*

Luckily Olly fared better than a real KFC bird and didn’t sustain any injuries or lasting damage to his suit.

*SchNEWS! is a plucky little British broadsheet read around the world.*

Mr. Fish’s modern-day Icarus



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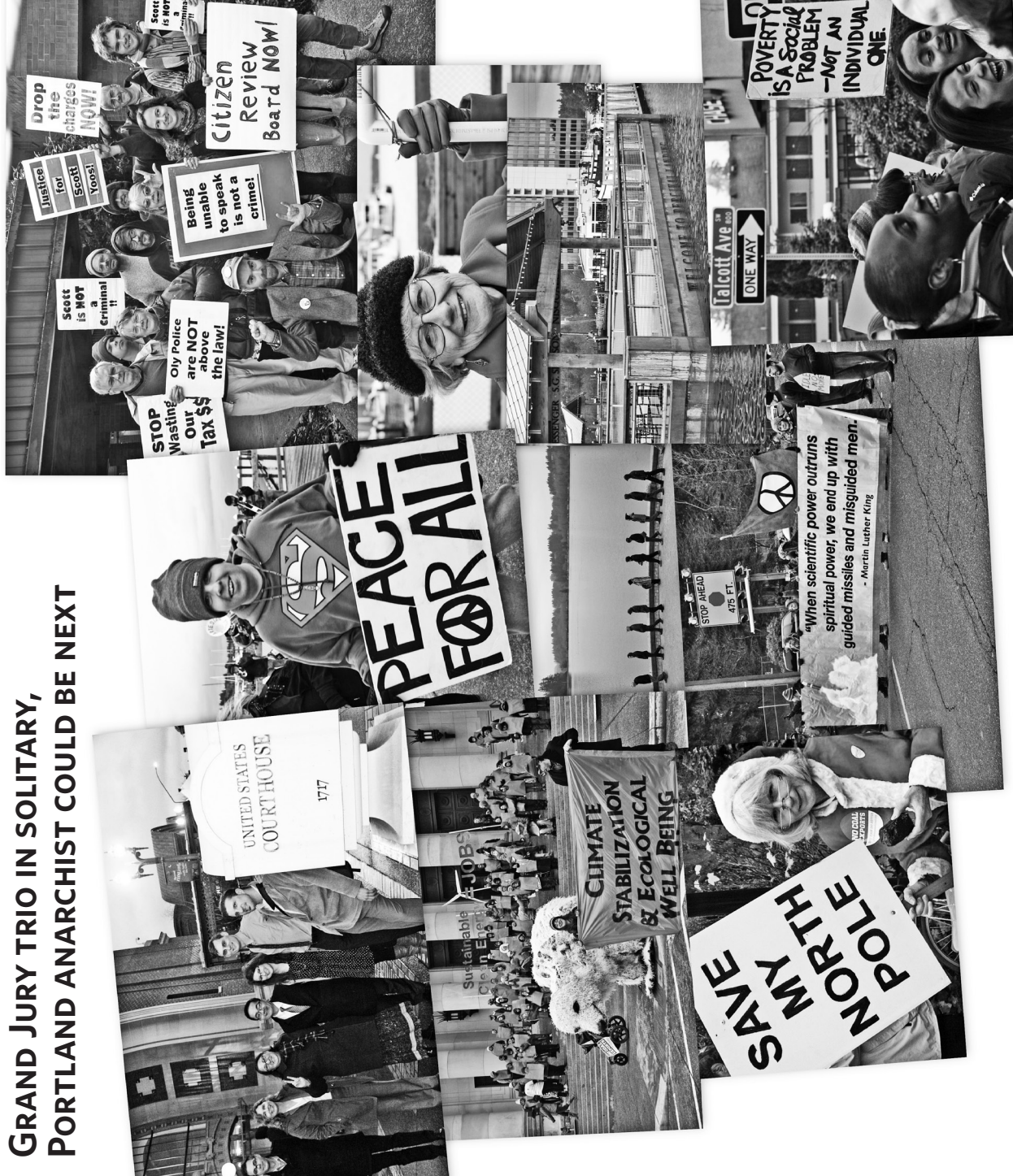
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