



WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 22, No. 9

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.

January 2012

Why public power is worth the fight

Citizens' group to begin initiative process to move electrical service to Thurston PUD

Chris Stearns

An interesting development is now underway with the formation of a citizen's group to advocate for Public Power—the distribution and generation of electricity by our county's own public utility, Thurston PUD No. 1. Currently a water utility, Thurston PUD has grown a great deal over the last seven years. We have a staff of 11 to 12 people and operate water systems in Thurston and four neighboring counties.

Going electric requires a county-wide vote in the general election. The citizen's group, Thurston Public Power Initiative, was established by Thurston County residents to accomplish this goal by petitioning our county's registered voters to place the issue on this November's ballot and to campaign for its passage. Their first task is to submit the petition language to our county auditor for approval and collect nearly 12,000 valid Thurston County signatures to place the issue on the ballot this fall. Their deadline to accomplish this is early July.

In 2008, a similar citizen's group in Jefferson County (Port Townsend area) succeeded in passing a county-wide vote and the Jefferson PUD will soon be entering a three year transition to take control of its electrical service at the end of March 2013. Similar ballot measures that same year failed in Island and Skagit Counties.

This proposal is not new to Thurston County. It first came about with the formation of our own public utility district (PUD) in 1938. The long period of court battles that ensued failed to bring the PUD into the electrical business. Several more attempts were made up to the early 1960's when one of two supportive commissioners died suddenly, leaving the other hopelessly deadlocked with the third commissioner. Future elected commissioners later overturned the entire effort.

During our PUD's first 23 years the issue went before the Federal Court and involved several other county PUDs' attempt to take over Puget Sound Energy as well as another private utility. The last eruption 50 years ago even sparked a highly polarized dramatic debate in the state

Capitol and led to the removal of the pro-public power and long time Speaker of the House, John L. O'Brien by defections from within his own Democratic Party.

Why the current interest in publicly controlled power?

Our current Investor Owned Utility

(IOU) Puget Sound Energy is no longer a publicly traded company with US shareholders. It "went private" three years ago and is now entirely foreign-owned and -operated (though nominally registered in the state of Delaware as a US company). Its new owners are an Aus-

tralian Investment Bank and Canadian Pension Funds. Their mutual interest in owning our state's largest private utility comes as no surprise, since

Puget Sound Energy is one of the largest consumers of the Canadian Natural Gas Fields located in Western Canada. The resulting match-up along with the existing pipelines could be characterized best as a vertically integrated conglomerate (single ownership of the gas fields, pipelines and the consuming utility). That is where we are today.

► **PUBLIC POWER**, continued on page 6

Public power would provide greater citizen oversight and local control of a resource so vital to the overall economic health of our community.

Scott Yoos trial date set for early January

Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund

The bogus charges against Scott Yoos, an intrepid Works in Progress member and well-loved all-around community volunteer, include felony assault in the third degree—the county claims Scott kicked an Olympia police officer. As of press date, charges have not yet been dropped. If you know Scott and his peaceful and generous spirit, you know how outrageous this charge is.

The Readiness Hearing is scheduled to begin at 9 am on Wednesday, January 4, at the Thurston County Superior Court. A stalwart group of supporters will gather outside the court complex at 8:00 am, for a fun-filled, sign-holding vigil protesting police misconduct.

If the prosecution continues to pursue charges against Scott, jury selection will begin on Monday, January 9, at 9 am. A support vigil will begin at 8:15 am outside the courthouse complex.

For updates go to Scott Yoos Legal De-



Krag Unsoeld and Scott. Wendy Tanowitz

fense Fund on Facebook.

Funds are still needed for Scott's legal defense. To make a secure online donation, visit donationpay.org/scottoyos. Checks may be made out to Scott Yoos LDF and mailed to:

Scott Yoos LDF, c/o WSECU
2302 Harrison Ave NW, Ste 201,
Olympia, WA 98502

Why evict Occupy Olympia? The reality of health concerns at the camp

Marissa Luck

When I heard the state was evicting Occupy Olympia, I was struck with a sense of deja vu: the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) was evicting occupiers based on grounds of health and safety concerns, the same reason provided by a number of cities across the country to justify evicting their local Occupations. The state was likely emboldened by recent successful evictions across the country, namely the ouster of occupiers at Seattle Central Community College just days before the Olympia eviction. But with so many cities using the reason of health and safety concerns, is it actually a valid complaint for every city and every occupation?

For Olympia, the validity of the state's health and safety concerns is not as clear-cut as they would like us to believe. One Occupy Olympia activist, who gave the alias name of Encore, is a student at The Evergreen State College and veteran who was trained as a medic in the military. We spoke as he was volunteering at the First Aid Tent. He believed the health and safety concerns were a "false pretense" for eviction. The camp had a "Peace and Safety" committee that patrolled the camp at

night for safety issues. Many activists also pointed out that they were providing free health services to the community at a time when those services are being cut. (State legislators announced just one day before the eviction notice that they are cutting an additional \$480 million dollars in the budget on top of \$10 billion in reductions made over the last three years).

"As Occupy Olympia organizers realized the magnitude of these needs, our focus shifted from simply describing these injustices to actively mitigating them," Occupiers wrote in a letter to Governor Gregoire. "For two months,

in addition to our other political actions, Occupy Olympia has run an all-inclusive, all-volunteer social services agency in the mud—offering health care, drug and alcohol counseling, conflict mediation, food, shelter, and weather-appropriate clothing to those in need."

Occupiers' efforts to assist those in need may have produced measurable outcomes. The number of emergency medical calls made to the Olympia Fire Department was slightly lower in the early months of the occupation. A representative of the fire department told me that in September through Novem-

► **OCCUPY OLYMPIA**, continued on page 5

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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

Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

Governing Tool

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Anti-Discrimination Clause

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

Back Issues

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

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
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| Teresa Jennings | Pat Tassoni |
| Amy Levinson | Tinker Belle |
| Marissa Luck | Berd Whitlock |
| Maggie Reardon | Scott Yoos |
| Creighton Rose | Zen Quest |

On the front cover —
A member of the 99% at the opening of the special session.
Photographer: Matt Sircely

Submission Deadline:
January 20
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Proofreading:
January 28
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President reverses decision, will sign National Defense Authorization Act

Human Rights Watch – US President Barack Obama’s apparent decision to not veto a defense spending bill that codifies indefinite detention without trial into US law and expands the military’s role in holding terrorism suspects does enormous damage to the rule of law both in the US and abroad, Human Rights Watch said today. The Obama

administration had threatened to veto the bill, the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), over detainee provisions, but on December 14, 2011, it issued a statement indicating the president would likely sign the legislation.

“By signing this defense spending bill, President Obama will go down in history as the president who enshrined indefinite detention without trial in US law,” said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. “In the past, Obama has lauded the importance of being on the right side of history, but today he is definitely on the wrong side.”

The far-reaching detainee provisions would codify indefinite detention without trial into US law for the first time since the McCarthy era when Congress in 1950 overrode the veto of then-President Harry Truman and passed the Internal Security Act. The bill would also bar the transfer of detainees currently held at Guantanamo into the US for any reason, including for trial. In addition, it would extend restrictions, imposed last year, on the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo to home or third countries—even those cleared for release by the administration.

There are currently 171 detainees at Guantanamo, many of whom have been

imprisoned for nearly 10 years. As one of his first acts in office, Obama signed an executive order for the closure of Guantanamo within one year. Instead of moving quickly to close the prison and end the use of the discredited military commissions, he supported modifications to the Military Commissions Act.

“It is a sad moment when a president who has prided himself on his knowledge of and belief in constitutional principles succumbs to the politics of the moment to sign a bill that poses so great a threat to basic constitutional rights,” Roth said.

The bill also requires the US military to take custody of certain terrorism suspects even inside the United States, cases that previously have been handled by federal, state and local law enforcement authorities. During debate over the bill, several senior administration officials, including the secretary of defense, attorney general, director of national intelligence, director of the FBI, and director of the CIA, all raised objections that this provision interfered with the administration’s ability to effectively fight terrorism. In the last 10 years over 400 people have been prosecuted in US federal courts for terrorism related offenses. Meanwhile during that same period, only six cases have been prosecuted in the military commissions.

“President Obama cannot even justify this serious threat to basic rights on the basis of security,” Roth said. “The law replaces an effective system of civilian-court prosecutions with a system that has generated the kind of global outrage that would delight recruiters of terrorists.”



Inside Works In Progress

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SchNEWS! Shorts

POWER TO THE PEOPLE'S CAFE

At The People’s Cafe in Edinburgh, the fight continues to liberate the collective space previously known as The Forest Cafe on Bristo Place. The Forest Cafe was a volunteer run space—but had a paid management. The new regime is a genuine collective. The occupation that began two weeks ago has successfully kept the doors open without any major complaints from surrounding businesses or passing policemen. The premises are still connected with water and electricity, having closed only three months ago. Occupiers are wasting no time in connecting shower facilities, sorting out the leccy and fitting fire alarms with the help and advice of the Fire Brigade. A free shop allows Christmas consumers to wander in and help themselves.

OFF THE SHELF

On Saturday (Dec 3) in Athens a small contingent of anarchists went into a chain supermarket store and filled trolleys with food and other essentials. They breezed past the checkout without so much as a glance and took the goods to a nearby open market in Exarcheia (Athens’s anarcho epicentre).

There they redistributed the basics to citizens, mainly pensioners. Earlier that day the group had hung banners stating “Their riches, our blood” and “Expropriation of capital everywhere”. Indymedia Athens reports that overall the response was positive apart from a few disgruntled supermarkets employees that take their job too seriously, who bemoaned, “Shame on you” as the trolleys strolled past.

ROGUE'S GALLERY

Brighton University’s Vice Chancellor must be kicking himself. The university was on lock-down yesterday (Nov30), not out of support for the strike, but to prevent a possible occupation. Unfortunately for him, the students waited ‘til the 2nd, when the uni was wide open and vulnerable again. Thirty plus occupiers are now camped out in the very public art gallery space and more are expected as the space gets established. They’re protesting in solidarity with the public sector workers, against the increase in fees and that the VC made noises in opposition to the White Paper to please students and staff - and then signed a public letter to the government in support of fee increases. The uni is also targeted for their lack of transparency regarding links to dodgy private companies.

CITY BNP RABBIT SEX SHAME

While hanging around outside schools is probably quite familiar to the rank and file of the British National Party - this time they had an excuse. Well kind of...this time it's not those bloody immigrants—it's unwashed commie teachers brainwashing kids into a precocious knowledge of the facts of life.

A delegation from the far-right party picketed Grenoside Community primary school in Sheffield last Tuesday over proposals that would see children aged between four and six being taught about reproduction in mammals.

Frothing at the mouth far-right loonies claimed the lessons (about rabbits) were ‘bordering on paedophilia’. In fact Nasty Nick Griffin weighed in via Twitter, “mental paedophiles behind sick plan must drop it or face demos at home too.”

One of the mental paedophiles behind the sick plan, Colin Fleetwood, headteacher said, “it’s about mummy rabbits and daddy rabbits”. Just when you thought the nasty party couldn’t burrow any deeper. —SchNEWS!.org.uk

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Dear Mayor Buxbaum and the new City Council

This is a Harrison and Division 7-Eleven update

Bethany Weidner

Westside residents and businesses are calling on the newly elected Mayor Stephen Buxbaum and the new City Council to stand up for the Comprehensive Plan and reject the staff-approved 7-Eleven at Harrison and Division.

How can the Mayor and City Council do this? After the City planning staff and the City's Administrative Law Judge approved the 7-Eleven over the objections of a 1000 plus citizens and the SW Neighborhood Association, Dan Leahy, a longtime resident of the Westside, sued the City of Olympia in Superior Court to stop the 7-Eleven. Leahy's suit is financed by 50 individuals and several Westside businesses. Leahy now as a principal in the lawsuit can talk with and negotiate directly with the other principals, i.e., the Mayor and City Council.

Now Leahy and 100 plus leaders of the near Westside neighborhood want the Mayor and City Council to settle the lawsuit by overturning the staff's approval of the 7-Eleven. Leahy is formally asking the Mayor and City Council to settle.

The Mayor and City Council as the legislative body of the City of Olympia is the policy making body of the City and, as such, is responsible to ensure the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. As Olympia City Attorney Tom

Morrill has written in a recent Superior Court filing dated December 20th, 2011, the City Council "is entrusted with ensuring compliance with the City Code and Comprehensive Plan."

In addition, the Mayor and Council have the statutory authority "to adopt and enforce ordinances of all kinds relating to and regulating its local or municipal affairs and appropriate to good government..." The City also "may sue and be sued in all courts and proceedings" and therefore settle suits.

Why should the Mayor and City Council settle this lawsuit by overturning the staff's approval of the 7-Eleven? The

Specifically on page three of this chapter, it talks about "The Corridors" and Harrison and Division is designated as a High Density Corridor. Here is the intention of the Plan: "Over time, the major arterial street corridors will change from areas dominated by strip commercial development and other low intensity uses into mixed use, high density areas where people enjoy walking, shopping, working and living." <http://olympiawa.gov/documents/2009CompPlan>

What did the planning staff approve? A strip commercial development with a low intensity use and the most auto-dependent use according to the City's own impact fee schedule, i.e., a one story convenience store. In other words, the staff approved a project in complete contradiction of the Mayor and City Council's stated policy.

So, why should the Mayor and City Council overturn the staff approval of the 7-Eleven? If they do not, the Comprehensive plan, the visioning process participated in by hundreds of citizens and the Council itself can only be seen as a giant farce with a legislative body refusing to carry out its statutory duty to enforce its own policies and ordinances and achieve its stated and important goals.

Please join us in asking the Mayor and City Council to settle the lawsuit and overturn the staff approved 7-Eleven. A seventh council member will be appointed soon.

Mayor

Stephen Buxbaum sbuxbaum@ci.olympia.wa.us

Council Members

Jim Cooper jcooper@ci.olympia.wa.us

Nathaniel Jones njones@ci.olympia.wa.us

Stephen Langer slanger@ci.olympia.wa.us

Jeannine Roe jroe@ci.olympia.wa.us

Karen Rogers krogers@ci.olympia.wa.us

staff's approval of an auto-dependent 7-Eleven convenience store surrounded by a sea of asphalt with access from Fourth Avenue, Harrison Avenue and Division Street and the requirement that the bus stop be moved closer to the already dangerous intersection of Harrison and Division completely contradicts all ten "Goals and Policies" of the Comprehensive Plan's Land Use and Urban Design Chapter.

Iceland recognizes Palestine

Iceland Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Össur Skarphéðinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, and Dr. Riad Malki, the Foreign Minister of Palestine, today (Dec 15) formally confirmed the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Iceland and Palestine. The Icelandic Foreign Minister presented to Dr. Malki a diplomatic note stating that as resolved with the Parliamentary Resolution of 29 November 2011 the Government of Iceland has, as of 15 December 2011, recognized Palestine as an independent and sovereign state within the pre-1967 Six Day War borders.

At the press conference the Icelandic Foreign Minister said that with this recognition the Government of Iceland follows through on its previous pledges of support for the Palestinian struggle for independence. The minister thanked Althingi, the Icelandic Parliament, for the broad support it showed the Palestinian cause and said it was important that the Parliamentary Resolution was passed unopposed. He said the recognition of Palestine was a matter of justice and reiterated Icelandic support for Palestinian membership of the United Nations.

Dr. Malki said the relationship between Iceland and Palestine is unique and conveyed to the Government of Iceland, Parliament and the Icelandic people the deep appreciation of his president and of the Palestinian people. He said Iceland's decision was important as Palestine is now recognized for the first time by a Western and Northern European country. Dr. Malki said he expects this to have an influence on other states to follow in Iceland's footsteps, which in turn would have positive implications on the peace and security of the region as a whole. He added that 130 states now recognize Palestine which encourages them to move forward in building an independent and democratic state. Dr. Malki said the timing of the Parliamentary decision on November 29, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, was a meaningful gesture that would remain firmly in the memory of his people.

You should write for WIP.



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One day, one person, in the Occupy Movement

Valerie Krull

Coming from the day of protest on November 28 at the Capitol in Olympia I find myself swimming in a sea of emotions and thoughts. I had been asked by members of Occupy Olympia to be a police liaison. I accepted this role with some trepidation, though I also anticipated that it would not be a very active role, insofar as dealing with the police.

I spent the day keeping my awareness on the State Patrol, and trying to make respectful and human connection with them when possible. I had several interactions with them, as well as with employees of Department of Enterprise Services (DES is responsible for the entire Capitol Campus, including all buildings).

I was not present for the arrests at the end of the day, though I did see video of the arrests and the protests at the bus. I also witnessed the interaction at the doors to the rotunda when the State Patrol, under the orders of DES, refused to allow entry to protesters.

One Occupy participant expressed his objection to my role as a police liaison, and the very idea of having a police liaison at all. This conversation followed my liaison activity between a DES person (Tony, to many who know him) and a group of people sitting atop one of the cliff-like edges in the center of the rotunda. My role, as I understood it, was to be a person the police and DES could talk to, and that I would report the substance of my exchanges with them to members of the Occupy group. I did not assume that in my role I was giving up my own perspective or my own voice (it was suggested by the person questioning my role that I should keep an unbiased stance.)

In my role I listened to Tony's concerns which were twofold. One was his concern about the safety of the people atop the "cliff." He expressed concern (and the State's liability) for the protesters' risk of falling and his concern that some of them might be drunk as he had smelled alcohol on some people in the rotunda. He also expressed an objection to their plugging into the power source that was available where they were. He told me he planned to turn the power off to dissuade them from sitting there and also because they were in effect stealing power which he said they could have arranged for had they gone through the proper procedures.

I spoke to the protesters to tell them what Tony had said, and I also communicated my personal perspective on this situation. The protesters offered the possibility of getting down if they were offered another power source for their speakers. It was this offer which Tony reacted to with the stance about refusing them power on the grounds of improper procedural process.

In all of these interactions I did my best to clearly communicate the information coming to me. I also shared my own perspective which is as follows (and is the entry point for the larger issue which I will address further along in this writing): I thought that Tony, as a person and a State employee, whose role is to oversee the rotunda, had a valid concern about people falling from this place. I also thought that responding to this concern would be a valid acknowledgement by the protesters of the role of DES, without seriously compromising what I believed and hoped would be a successful occupation of the Capitol. (Whether the protesters believed they were in danger is irrelevant to my point.)

I also thought the protesters' desire for a power source was valid, and that their offer to get down from the "cliff", in exchange for the use of power, was a collaborative offer. Unfortunately, Tony did not see it this way, and while I empathized with his feeling of being held "hostage" by the protesters, for asking him to exchange a power source for their removing themselves from this space, I

told him clearly that I felt he was missing an opportunity for positive negotiation and was taking an unproductive stance.

In contrast to this was my interaction with a State Patrol officer over the presence of a dog in the rotunda (an infraction of the rotunda rules, except when a

front of the doors and refused entry to protesters outside despite the fact that there were hundreds of people already in the rotunda. A crowd of people approached the officers demanding that the protesters be let in. For a short while a large number of people in the rotunda



Marissa Luck

service dog). This was a very tense moment including multiple officers, a crying and very loudly expressive (because she was afraid) person, and a large crowd of people gathered around. In this instance I listened to the person, understood her fear, and I advocated for her right to have her service dog because it was apparent to me that it was a service dog, regardless of her lack of paperwork. The officer in question asked me to help him work out a compromise which would de-escalate the situation, and I think, save face for the officers there. He gave the person as-

chanted "Let them in." The crowd in front of the State Patrol grew and a mild pushing match became escalated until Tasers were used.

During this time the members of the crowd facing off with the State Patrol were impassionately asking for support from the rest of the people in the rotunda, who mostly declined. I sat on the steps and witnessed, feeling unsure about what I thought was happening, and frustrated that the majority of people were seemingly unsupportive of the crowd of people demanding the right of entrance

Because of the widespread anger and the resonance this movement has with growing numbers of people, police brutality, instead of scaring people, has increased participation. Bold and creative actions need to continue.

for those protesters outside. I thought that with enough support, their right to entrance would be defended successfully. On the other hand the thought went

through my mind that this stance could be merely an example of mob rule, and that perhaps this was also going through the minds of those who were not showing support. I also observed the distance between officers and the protesters, which was negligible.

While I was sitting there Joyce Turner, Director of DES came and sat next to me. She asked me if I was planning to stay (which at that point would have been an act of Civil Disobedience).

I said no, and that the whole scenario greatly disturbed me. She asked me what I thought should happen. I said I thought the State Patrol should allow the protesters inside. She then went on to tell me what happened last year when she (in her capacity as director of DES) allowed the Capitol to be occupied for four days. According to her there was significant damage done by individuals, such as marring the building by graffiti and other physical destruction. Because I have had a

relationship with Joyce since our move to Heritage Park (when she chose to negotiate with Occupy Olympia persons instead of requiring the immediate removal of our tents, which she had been poised to do), I had reason to believe that she was speaking to me in good faith when she told me she was basing her decisions on her concerns for the Capitol Campus, for which she is responsible. (I do not agree with her handling of this, nor have I agreed with her perspective on certain conditions she has placed on our Occupation of Heritage Park, but I understand her sense of responsibility to her job.)

I brought up the issue of First Amendment rights with her, and she reiterated that we were free to assemble while the building was open for normal hours. We spoke again later about the allegations of Tasing, and she told me the State Patrol had not used the Tasers to their full extent, and that they used them when they began to be pushed by protesters. (According to Joyce, Tasers have probes, which were not used, only the "buzz" feature which delivers a "minor" shock.)

Sometime after this another DES employee approached me and spoke to me about her concern for the Occupiers in general. I asked her if they intended to disperse our camp without notice, and she gave me a very vague reply. I told her that given the vulnerable and challenged condition of many of the campers that a surprise action by DES would only make matters for them worse.

I left at about 7:00. I had agreed to be police liaison until 4:00, when someone else took over, but I had stayed longer than I had intended to support the people who were staying. However, I had decided that getting arrested did not make sense for me in that instance, and I was exhausted. Before I left I thanked Joyce for taking time to talk to me, and I also stopped to thank the officer who had collaborated about the dog. He actually thanked me before I had a chance to say what I had planned.

I woke up this morning and watched the footage of the protesters attempting to stop the bus, and the State Patrol pushing people behind the white line. I heard the chants of "This is what a police state looks like" and thought of my conversation with Joyce in which I tried to articulate my belief that we do live in a police state (however less severe that may be than some other places) and my belief that our potential as humans is far from being met by our current police and military institutions. I also thought about the lack of unity I experienced inside the rotunda and had a general feeling of disappointment and futility.

Now that I have had some time to think about things, several issues have emerged. I will try to break it down as clearly as I can.

Since I joined the Occupy Movement, which was the day we assembled in Sylvester Park, I have been a firm supporter of the General Assembly and the principles that guide it, which I understand to be: inclusivity, horizontal direct democracy, social and economic justice, and local and global direct action. Each one of these principles is a challenge by itself, and a movement which attempts to take them all on and work to enact all of them is courageous to say the least. I also think it's the least we can do. Not one of those principles is dispensable. Yet each of these principles is subject to interpretation, and as a consensus-based movement, we are still defining these principles.

I want to use my experience of this particular moment in our movement to offer some points to consider in the definition of these principles.

Inclusivity: To me this means that our movement is open to all people—regardless of the issues they have, or their roles, or their relative social or economic privilege or lack thereof. It means that we

► **One day**, cont. from page 4
do our best to support everyone to participate to the best of their ability. It also means we create some means of balancing space and time, so that people with differing needs and abilities have equal access to express themselves and to hear others. This is what I believe the General Assembly (GA) restructuring was trying to improve. I think the restructuring has improved the GA, although I still think we have a lot to work on in improving the culture of our GA, which is a mirror of the culture we are addressing in the Occupy Movement as a whole.

The person I spoke with at the protest didn't believe I should have been having any sort of conversation with the State Patrol or DES. I believe that in the spirit of inclusivity we need to see these people, despite their roles, as people like us who are part of a broken system. I do not believe that refusing to deal with them because of the obvious power imbalance and their cooperation with an oppressive system (which we all cooperate with to some degree because that is what we live in!) will help us to create the society we envision. We cannot pretend that this system does not exist, nor can we operate completely outside of it. To acknowledge its existence and to work respectfully with the Tonys and Joyces of our community who have made efforts within their roles to acknowledge our goals is not to betray our Movement. It is simply to work with what is, right now.

Horizontal direct democracy: Yes. This is the best part. It means we really are all equal, no one above, and no one below. This does not mean all behaviors are created equal. Using our GA as an example: I have witnessed some individuals claiming to have been treated unequally when they are asked to follow our consented-upon structure for communication, or when they are not supported by the group to interrupt—either just not waiting for their turn or shouting profanities and throwing temper tantrums in the middle of the GA circle.

The principle of horizontal direct democracy is truly radical. For over 10,000 years of patriarchy (and even considering the relatively modern invention of democracy), we have all been schooled in the realm of hierarchy, from the cradle to our places of employment. This principle is difficult to learn no matter how much we want it, and so we cannot expect people who are not even trying to learn it to be very good at it. And yet, we need to interact with these very same people if we want a truly inclusive society. Just as we do not throw people away because they are addicts, or have mental health issues, or have any other aspect that makes them challenging to work with, we need to work by example with those who suppose they are above or below us.

Yes, the institution of the State Patrol, (all police or military groups by their very nature) is a dominance-based entity which helps maintain unequal social and economic systems. We are not going to change that by refusing to engage with the humans who inhabit those roles. I believe we need to engage, just very differently than most of us have experienced. In retrospect I regret not noticing and acting on this during the protester/State Patrol standoff at the rotunda doors.

Social and economic justice: This day of protest raised many issues that connect social and economic justice. We know that it is unjust to have such huge income disparities. We know that it is unjust that our police and military protect the wealthy and those who are aligned with them. We know that poor people and so-called "minority groups" suffer in direct proportion to their minority status and their poverty and that the dominant cultural norms still uphold the privilege and protection of those among us with the most social and economic privilege.

We are caught in the soup of this stuff. It is all around us and in us. We have to acknowledge first to ourselves where we experience oppression, and when we are in a privileged class that is free from cer-

► **ONE DAY**, continued on page 13



Courtesy of The 99% Report

► **Occupy Olympia**, cont. from page 1
ber 2011, 1,716 medical emergency calls were made to their department compared to 1,755 at the same time in 2010. This is not a significant reduction by any means, but it is still a slight decrease. A representative of the local American Medical Response, a private company that operates ambulances for local governments across the state, said he felt the past few months had been "slower". "A representative of the local American Medical Response, a private company that operates ambulances for local governments across the country, said he felt the past few months had been "slower" although he was unable to produce numbers by our deadline. "Medic One, the organization that handles emergency calls in Thurston County, did not respond to repeated requests for statistics on emergency medical calls." One activist wondered if this had anything to do with the free medical services Occupy was providing. It is difficult though to attribute a single cause for the slight decrease in calls but OO may have played a contributing role.

Gregoire defended the eviction as a move to protect occupiers health. "I can't sit where I live and look out and worry about whether those people [at Heritage Park] are going to freeze to death down there, to be perfectly blunt with you..." Activists pointed out though that the state had made it more difficult for them to stay warm when DES turned off the electricity in the park's bathroom that had previously been used to heat food and coffee. Without electricity, one Occupy activist Tammy Yuth noted that walking through camp, you could hear a number of people coughing in their tents, sick from the cold. Occupiers were actively battling the cold by constructing a military-style tent with a wood floor to provide a dry space at the camp. The first aid tent also supplied dry socks, blankets, and hand warmers. Still, it's difficult to say how long occupiers would have been able to last in freezing temperatures. At the same time, it's hard to know whether occupiers without homes would fare better in the cold without the supportive network of the camp.

On drugs and sanitation

In addition to citing health concerns, the DES claimed that occupiers were defecating in Heritage Park and that the conditions were unsanitary. Encore told me there was one occupier who had a health condition that made it difficult for him to control his bowel movements. There was at least two incidents when the person defecated outside the restroom area but made sure to clean up after himself. Another activist,

Jimmy B., said that the nature of camping outside meant the camp wasn't "spick and span" but that it was still kept fairly clean. Groups of volunteers also cleaned the bathrooms daily.

The DES also pointed to concerns of drug use within the camp. While state troopers cleared out Heritage Park, Washington State Patrol said that they had found "obvious biohazards" in the camp and tweeted a picture of needles on Twitter. Additionally, three people were arrested in the camp in early November for having drug paraphernalia. Drug use may have been an issue for some individual campers although it did not seem to be prevalent the times I visited the camp. The real issue though is not just who was doing drugs, but why. "Occupy Olympia didn't create homelessness, or drug addic-

It's time for us to say that we cannot have homeless at Heritage Park. It is not the purpose of that park and therefore they must leave. --Christine Gregoire

tion, or poverty, or illness," wrote campers in a letter to Gregoire. "We have simply exposed these social problems by drawing them out and laying them on the doorstep of our Capitol."

Will social services suffice to meet the needs of occupiers?

In the governor's remarks about the eviction of Occupy Olympia, Gregoire noted, that "[the] people that are out there are different than the people that first started that tent camp down there." Some occupiers did tell me that the population of the camp had changed significantly in the months since the beginning of the occupation. As the winter cold set in, most of the non-homeless activists returned to sleeping in their homes but continued their activism during the day. An OO activist named Stephanie told me that "the bulk of the people holding down [the camp at night were] of the homeless community."

In the eviction notice, DES director Joyce Turner noted that the state was working with non-profits and faith-based organizations "to identify shelter and other resources for those in need." But in the immediate aftermath of the eviction, it was unclear whether those private entities would be able to accommodate the number of people who needed those services. While there was some overflow room at the Salvation Army, Jill Severn, the chairperson of the Panza board that oversees Camp Quixote, told The Olympian that there was "a capacity problem."

Jimmy B. said he was homeless himself and had used facilities like Salvation Army and at various points in time. "If those resources worked, this wouldn't be

here," he motioned towards the camp, "so they're not effective."

I spoke with Tammy Yuth after the state issued its first letter for voluntary eviction from the camp in mid-November. Tammy did not sleep at the camp but participated in actions during the day. She noted that "the Governor said she'd have social services down there, but for how long? You're making these cuts now, where are [people without homes] going to go in a couple of weeks when services aren't there for them anymore? Now, you're taking away their life thread."

The real reason to evict now

So if the health and safety concerns are questionable, and if the Occupy Olympia camp was providing vital services to the community, then why would the state evict the occupiers? It is illegal to camp at Heritage park, yet the state had tolerated campers for two months. The state patrol had a relatively polite relationship with occupiers, and avoided any serious confrontations.

Stephanie told me this was because occupiers "have done everything the state has asked us to do in regards to our camp." For instance, occupiers moved their tents once a week in attempts to decrease damage to the grass. So why evict now?

In addition to citing health and safety issues, Gregoire continued to outline her thoughts on evicting Occupy Olympia: "It's time for us to say that we cannot have homeless at Heritage Park. It is not the purpose of that park and therefore they must leave." (Emphasis added).

"When the public sees the homeless when they drive by every day, that's hurting them in that building," Jimmy said, as he pointed to the capitol building in the distance.

"The entire Occupy movement really points a finger at what's going on in the country," Encore elaborated, "And it's getting across to a lot of people...that word is spreading that our government is not taking care of us, and that this isn't going to work for us anymore."

The tents in Heritage Park made the underlying issue of homelessness and inequality visible. While those in power might be able to handle a few protests here and there, it appears that when it comes to an ongoing, outright movement like the Occupation, the state can only take the heat for so long.

Marissa Luck is a community journalist and writer for a local web-design firm. She recently graduated from The Evergreen State College where she studied international political economy, tutored writing, and served on the editorial collectives of the Counter Point Journal and Inkwell.

► **Public power**, cont. from page 1

I ran for office over three years ago on a platform that including having our PUD commission a feasibility study on whether we should enter the electrical business and how best to pursue this option. I was elected with over 60% of the vote. It is now time to act on this issue and give our citizens a clear appraisal of its prospects.

At our January 10 meeting, I will ask our PUD to commission an independent feasibility study to determine whether we should enter into the electrical business and via what process taking into account our current economic climate. One of the subjects the study will consider is the finite resources of federally-controlled hydropower and our ability to access it before its capacity is all spoken for.

In the future, electric utilities will be more and more involved in our citizens' transportation choices. Most car manufacturers are fully aware of and working toward this. As demand and cost of generation rises, so will electric rates. Public power provides the opportunity for greater citizen oversight and local control of this resource that is so vital to the overall economic health of our community.

Future electrical rates by a publicly owned utility could be moderated by:

- 1) Direct access to Bonneville's (BPA's) cheaper Tier One federally sourced hydro-power through a hundred year-old federal policy known as "Preference"
 - 2) Lower interest rates on debt for municipal bonds which are tax-free for PUD's
 - 3) Removal of the over 10% return (profit) paid to private utility shareholders as regulated by the Utilities and Transportation Commission, the regulator of all private utilities in our state
- All users—residential, industrial,

ment could also lead to additional savings for all our citizens, helping to retain spending on government employment, which is an important sector of our local economy.

Improved system maintenance and operation of our electric utility could provide better overall service without the prolonged seven to ten day long



Improved system maintenance and operation of our electric utility could provide better overall service without the prolonged storm power outages that leave our most vulnerable citizens helpless.

commercial, and government—would benefit from the historically lower rates of publicly-supplied electricity. One of the greatest benefits of rate relief would go to the commercial and industrial business owners who provide jobs in our county. They are currently unable to take advantage of the small farm/residential exchange subsidy from BPA, so their rates will be most favorably impacted in a transition to public power. Cheaper rates to all forms of govern-

storm-related power outages that leave our most vulnerable citizens helpless—often in the coldest and wettest months of the year. Expansion of locally-based union linemen would bring jobs to our county, assure greater system reliability and shorter down time, and be better able to maintain the grid. Our insistence on using quality (instead of second-hand) components will also drastically reduce the number of currently all-too-common power outages due to equipment failure or blown transformers.

Finally, there are great changes underway as to how electrical energy will be delivered in our future. A decentralized electrical grid composed of local renewable energy generation as part of people's homes, clustered development, and community-based initiatives could lead us closer to a sustainable future. I believe strongly in a more sustainable future and I have been involved directly in our County's Sustainability Initiative as the chair of the water panel. More and more, the issues of how our energy is produced, and how far away it is produced, will determine what rates we will pay and what kind of future we will share. Isn't it time that we, citizens, as electric consumers, have a voice in those decisions being made on our behalf? The decision is in your hands.

Chris Stearns, a resident of Thurston County since 1976, is a Thurston PUD Commissioner and was elected to his first term in 2008.

Public Disclaimer: The views contained in this article reflect my own personal opinions and are not necessarily those of my fellow PUD Commissioners, nor do they reflect the official position of Thurston PUD No. 1, which is a water utility at this time.

What is public power and how important is it to our state?

There are currently four forms of consumer owned utilities in our state:

1. Municipals, such as Seattle City Light and Tacoma Public Utilities, which are administered by their own city governments.
2. Public Utility Districts (PUD's) formed by counties statewide, run by directly elected PUD Commissioners in each county. Set up since the late 30's, they generally operate in their own counties.
3. Mutuals, and (4.) Co-ops are governed by the consumers they actually serve and generally operate in rural areas or on islands where service was originally difficult to obtain.

There are 28 operating PUD's in 27 counties (Mason has two) in our state. Twenty-three now provide some form of electrical service and 18 are water utilities. Many of the PUDs now provide wholesale broad band services and a few are also sewer utilities.

Public utilities now control nearly 50% of the electrical distribution in Washington state. Only three private utilities provide the rest. This makes Washington the state with the largest customer base of consumer owned utilities in the nation. This is the primarily reason that Washington State and other parts of the northwest as a whole are perceived as being one the most populist regions in the U.S. We also have the second highest percentage of public power, exceeded only by Nebraska, which is served 100% by publicly owned utilities.

In addition to the above facts, our region is the site of 55% of our nation's federally owned hydro-power, most of which is located in the Columbia River Basin. This includes our nation's largest dam, the Grand Coulee Dam, and a combined capacity in excess of 22,500 MW (megawatts). Another 5,000 MW of hydro-power is generated by Washington's seven PUDs. Seattle and Tacoma produce another 2,500 MW together of hydro-power. We clearly have the potential!

—Chris Stearns

FINANCIAL ADVICE FROM TULIP

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Big banks on Wall Street are earning record profits on the backs of their customers, grabbing more of your hard earned money in a rough economic environment and giving nothing back to you, their customers.

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Banks make their money on your debt, not on your bank account. This means your loans and credit cards are making them huge profits. Banks use depositors' money to make loans. The amount of interest the banks collect on the loans is greater than the amount of interest they pay customers with savings accounts - and the difference is the banks' profit. If you

want to show banks that they can't keep making huge record breaking profits off the backs of their customers, move your loans to a credit union such as Tulip Cooperative Credit Union now. Move your debt to Tulip and take back control of your money from Wall Street.

Credit unions are people helping people. When a consumer joins Tulip, he or she takes the first step for themselves, and their families in moving towards financial freedom. When you put your money in Tulip, your money goes right back into the pockets of other members in your community—not into the vaults of banks, or their shareholders' wallets. Tulip is proud to give their members opportunities that banks can't because they work with every member one on one. Visit www.tulipcu.coop or stop in the branch at the Eastside Olympia Food Coop and help take control away from big banks. —Heather Morford, Tulip Director



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How you can become involved with the Thurston Public Power Initiative*

On Friday, January 6, the Thurston Public Power Initiative will begin collecting the roughly 15,000 county residents' signatures needed to get the issue on the November 6 ballot. You can:

- Sign the petition at one of many locations in Thurston County
- Volunteer to gather signatures
- Contribute your time and expertise

The following Tuesday, January 10, you can attend the 5pm Thurston PUD meeting. The commissioners will discuss going ahead with an already-budgeted feasibility study for entering the electrical business in Thurston County. The meetings are held at 921 Lakeridge Way SW, Suite 301, Olympia (off Highway 101, 3rd floor of brick offices next to the Red Lion Inn).

You can also donate money to help with the printing and other costs associated with the initiative process. Please make checks to Thurston Public Power Initiative, and mail to PO Box 7624, Olympia, WA 98507-7624.

For more information on the Initiative, locations where the petition can be found, and how to volunteer, please contact the Thurston Public Power Initiative at one of the following:

- web address thurstonpublicpower.org
- email address info@thurstonpublicpower.org
- phone number . . . 360-259-0551

* The Thurston Public Power Initiative is not, in any way, connected with Tim Eyman.

Open Letter To The New Olympia City Council

Stand Up For The Plan: Reject the 7-Eleven at Harrison and Division

January 3, 2012

*Honorable Mayor Stephen Buxbaum and Council Members Jim Cooper,
Steve Langer, Nathaniel Jones, Jeannine Roe, and Karen Rogers:*

We are among the thousand plus citizens of Olympia who oppose the City staff’s approval of an auto-dependent, 7-Eleven convenience store on the SE corner of Harrison and Division.

You, as the legislative body for the City of Olympia, have the authority to overturn the staff’s approval of this 7-Eleven.

Please stand up for the Comprehensive Plan and for the vision of Olympia that underpins the City’s commitment to a dense, pedestrian friendly and community oriented environment, one that creates “a safe, convenient, and attractive environment for pedestrians, transit riders and bicyclists, and which includes parking and access for vehicles.” (OMC 18.06.20).

On November 28, 2011, Dan Leahy, a long time resident of SW Olympia, filed a suit against the City Council in Superior Court, asking the Court to overturn the staff’s approval of this 7-Eleven.

All of us, Dan included, believe the best way to settle this issue is for the City Council to pass a resolution overturning the staff’s approval of this 7-Eleven. **We hope you will act by January 24th.**

Your direct action will send a signal to all those working for and envisioning a new Olympia that this City Council is serious in its commitment to an effective and enforceable Comprehensive Plan.

Westside neighbors and institutions have for years expressed their desire for a park, a farmers’ market, a branch public library, a gathering spot at this vacant lot.

Now, we have another public option. A combination public park and new West Olympia police substation. The current substation has only a year to year lease and it has been suggested that the Harrison/Division lot would be an ideal location. Neighbors believe this would be a real “traffic calming” device and ensure efficient Westside police response.

Please consider our request. **Overturn the staff’s approval of the 7-Eleven.** Work with us for a real, public and beneficial use for this site in the heart of the Westside that is not in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan.

Joel Greene	Ann Vandeman	Chris Jennings	Jim Ammons	Charles Swank
John Bates	Doug Fulwider	Julia Swank	Gabriel Taylor	Muriel Davis
Peter Sanderson	Angela Van Camp	George Kurzman	Kimberly Murillo	George Sullivan
Tom Foote	Vivian Folsom	Angel Przybylowicz	William Simons	Michael Olson
Joslyn Rose Trivett	Bill Leonard	Vicki Leonard	Ben Hume	Melissa Gildersleeve
Kathleen Byrd	Loraine Snell	Julia Zay	Elizabeth Williamson	Cynthia Shannon
Cynthia Sanderson	Jeanne Rynne	Robin Ewing	Michael Synodis	Nancy Sullivan
Elizabeth Baldo	Chelsea Buchanan	Keith Briscoe	Rebecca Govert	Delores Nelson
Carolyn Roos	Lori Blewett	Lucas Claussen	Jude Fritts	Robert Whitlock
Helen Lee	Ryan Warner	Peter Bohmer	Juliana Kimbrell	Jeffrey Mleczeko
Diana Renison	Paul Przybylowicz	Gen Keesecker	Levi Keesecker	Amy Thomas
Kathy Harrigan	Caleb Hollatz	Megan Jones	Kendra Sawyer	Patricia Coon
Philip Cornell	Julie Mullikin	Catherine Golding	Jeff Thomas	Jim Grant
Christine Ciacetta	Jennifer Grant	Cassandra Johnson	Rachel Lee	Kelly Crandall
Liz Dalton	Dan Leahy	Renee Crandall	Jean Eberhardt	Summer Bock
Gita Moulton	JD Ross Leahy	Anthony Zaragoza	Bethany Weidner	Chris Larsen
Caroline Lacey	Rebecca Pilcher	Brendan Kelley	Alicia Elliott	Monica Gockel
Steve Brink	Julie Karlson	Tyrel Dressler	Stan Lewis	Nancy Franco
Hank Govert	Bruce Laing	Cameron Hostettter	Dylan Sharp	Eryn Farkas
Clark Gilman	Jean Mandeborg	Cynthia Taylor	Dan Ryan	Chris Runner

Democratic deviancy defined downward

Our politicians are little more than money launderers in the trafficking of power and policy

Bill Moyers

Public Citizen celebrated 40 years of progress with a festive gala on Thursday, October 20, 2011. Nearly 600 friends and supporters shared the night as they reflected on decades of amazing accomplishments and looked to the future. Speakers included Peabody Award-winning journalist Bill Moyers and his words are recorded here.

I am very honored to share this occasion with you. No American, since Thomas Payne has invested the office of public citizen with the indispensability, the influence, the independence, and with greater moral integrity or intellectual rigor than Ralph Nader. He had the first word 40 years ago and he will have the last word tonight. And you have the anticipated joy of getting up in the morning and reading my speech online instead of hearing it tonight.

I do want to say, quickly, that no one beyond your collegial inner circle appreciates more than I do what you have stood for over these 40 years, or been more aware of the battles you have fought, the victories you have won, and the passion for democracy that still courses through your veins. The great progressive of a century ago, Robert LaFollette of Wisconsin—a Republican, by the way—believed that “Democracy is a life; and involves constant struggle.” Democracy has been your life for four decades now, and would have been even more imperiled today if you had not stayed the course.

I began my public journalism the same year you began your public advocacy, in 1971. Our paths paralleled and often sometimes crossed. Over these 40 years journalism for me has been a continuing course in adult education, and I came early on to consider the work you do as part of the curriculum—an open seminar on how government works—and who it works for. Your muckraking investigations—into money and politics, corporate behavior, lobbying, regulatory oversight, public health and safety, openness in government, and consumer protection, among others—are models of accuracy and integrity, equaled only by the work of two men to whom I look up to, Morton Mense and Sy Hurst who are here tonight. Your reports drive home to journalists that while it is important to cover the news, it is more important to uncover the news. One of my mentors at the University of Texas told our class, “News is what people want to keep hidden; everything else is publicity.” And when a student asked the journalist and historian Richard Reeves for his definition of “real news”, he answered: “The news you and I need to keep our freedoms.” You have reportedly pointed us journalists to that news. And when the watchdogs of the press have fallen silent or were muzzled, your growls have told us something was up.

So I’m here as both a citizen and a journalist to thank you for all you have done, to salute you for keeping the faith, and to implore you to fight on during the crisis of hope that now grips our country. The great American experience in creating a different future together—this “voluntary union for the common good”—has been flummoxed by a growing sense of political impotence, what the historian Lawrence Goodwyn has described as a mass resignation of people who believe “the dogma of democracy” on a superficial public level but who no longer believe it privately. There has been, he writes, a decline in what people think they have a political right to aspire to—a decline of individual self-respect on the part of millions of people.

You can understand why. We hold elections, knowing they are unlikely to produce the policies favored by a majority of Americans. We speak, we write, we ad-

vocate—and those in power, Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, turn deaf ears and blind eyes to our deepest aspirations. We petition, we plead, and we even pray—yet the earth that is our commons, which should be passed on in good condition to coming generations, continues to be despoiled. We invoke the strain in our national DNA that attests to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” as the produce of political equality—yet private wealth multiplies even as public goods are beggared.

And the property qualifications for federal office that the framers of the Constitution expressly feared as an unseemly “veneration of wealth” are now openly in force; the common denominator of public office, including for our judges, is a common deference to cash.

So if belief in the “the dogma of democracy” seems only skin deep, there are reasons for it. During the great prairie revolt that swept the Plains a century after the Constitution was ratified, the populist orator Mary Elizabeth Lease exclaimed: “Wall Street owns the country...Our laws are the output of a system which clothes rascals in robes and honesty in rags. The [political] parties lie to us and the political speakers mislead us because” she said, “Money rules.”

That was 1890. And those agrarian populists boiled over with anger that corporations, banks, and government were conniving to deprive every day people of their livelihood.

They should see us now.

John Boehner calls on the bankers, holds out his cup, and offers them total obeisance from the House majority if only they will fill it.

That’s now the norm, and they get away with it.

Barack Obama criticizes bankers as “fat cats”, then invites them to dine at a

President Obama has raised more money from banks, hedge funds, and private equity managers than any Republican candidate, including Mitt Romney.

pricey New York restaurant where the tasting menu runs to \$195 a person.

That’s now the norm, and they get away with it. As we speak, the President has raised more money from banks, hedge funds, and private equity managers than any Republican candidate, including Mitt Romney.

Let’s name it for what it is: Democratic deviancy defined downward. Politics today, and there are honorable women and men in it, but politics today is little more than money laundering in the trafficking of power and policy—fewer than six degrees of separation from the spirit and tactics of Tony Soprano.

Why New York’s Zuccotti Park is occupied is no mystery. Reporters keep scratching their heads and asking: “Why are you here?” But it’s as clear as the crash of 2008, they are occupying Wall Street because Wall Street has occupied the America. I relish the sign a woman was carrying at a fraternal march in Iowa the other day, one of those occupy that have grown up around the country. It read: “I can’t afford to buy a politician so I bought this sign.”

I’m going to jump several pages to connect that to what you have worked so hard on and I’ve been trying to report on—and that is the success of the plutocrats in ratifying with the Supreme Court

their rule in its notorious Citizens United decision last year. Rarely have so few imposed such damage on so many. When five pro-corporate conservative justices gave “artificial entities” the same rights of “free speech” as living, breathing human beings, they told our corporate sov-



Public Citizen/Brendan Hoffman

ereigns “the sky’s the limit” in pouring your money into political campaigns. The Roberts Court today embodies the legacy of pro-corporate bias in justices determined to prevent democracy from acting as a brake on excessive greed and power in the private sector. Let me be clear, wealth acquired under capitalism is in and of itself no enemy of democracy, but wealth with political power—power to shake off opportunities for others to rise—is a proven danger. Thomas Jefferson had hoped that “we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our moneyed corporations which dare already to challenge the government to a trial of strength and [to] bid defiance to the laws of our country.” James Madison feared that the “spirit of speculation” would lead to “a government operating by corrupt influence, substituting the motive of private interest in place of public duty.”

Jefferson and Madison didn’t live to see reactionary justices fulfill their worst fears. In 1886 a conservative court conferred the divine gift of life on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Never mind that the Fourteenth Amendment declaring that no person should be deprived of “life, liberty or property without due process” was enacted to protect the rights of freed slaves. The Court decided to give the same rights of “personhood” to corporations that possessed neither a body to be kicked nor a soul to be damned. For over half a century the Court would act as a guardian of privilege. It gutted the Sherman Antitrust Act by finding a loophole for a sugar trust. It killed a New York state law limiting working hours. Likewise a ban against child labor. It wiped out a law that set minimum wages for women. And on and on, decision after decision aimed at laws promoting the general welfare. The Roberts Court has picked up the mantle: Money first, the public second, if at all.

The ink was hardly dry on the Citizens United decision when the US Chamber of Commerce, which occupies the very point where Daniel Webster once lived and sold diplomatic offices for cash and took bribes to cover his debts, his wine, his mistresses, and his boat is right there at home at 1516 A Street. The Chamber of Commerce organized a covertly funded front and rained drones packed with missiles of cash into the 2010 campaigns. According to the Helen Miller’s Sunlight Foundation, corporate groups spent \$126 million in the fall of 2010 while hiding the identities of the donors. Another corporate cover group—the American

Action Network—spent over \$26 million of undisclosed corporate money in just six Senate races and 28 House elections. And Karl Rove’s groups—American Crossroads/Crossroads GPS—seized on Citizens United to raise and spend at least \$27 million that NBC News said came from “a small circle of extremely wealthy Wall Street hedge fund and private equity moguls”—all determined to water down financial reforms designed to prevent another collapse of the financial system. Jim Hightower has said it well: Today’s proponents of corporate plutocracy “have simply elevated money itself above votes, establishing cold, hard cash as the real coin of political power.”

So it’s no wonder to me, as a journalist or a citizen, that so many Americans have felt that sense of political impotence that Lawrence Goodwyn described as “the mass resignation” of people who believe in the “dogma of democracy” at the superficial level but whose hearts no longer burn with the conviction that they are part of the deal. I will tell you that against such odds, discouragement comes easily.

But if the generations before us had given up, slaves would still be waiting on these tables, women would still be turned away from the voting booths on Election day, and workers would still be committing a crime if they organized.

So as Ralph [Nader] say, don’t ever count the people out. During the last quarter of the 19th century, the industrial revolution created extraordinary wealth at the top and excruciating misery at the bottom. Embattled citizens rose up. Into their hearts, wrote the progressive Kansas journalist William Allen White, “had come a sense that their civilization needed recasting, that their government had fallen into the hands of self-seekers, that a new relation should be established between the haves and the have-nots.” Not content to wring their hands and cry “Woe is us” every day citizens researched the issues, organized to educate their neighbors, held rallies, made speeches, petitioned and canvassed, marched and marched and marched again. They ploughed the fields and planted the seeds—sometimes in blood soaked soil.—that twentieth century leaders used to restore “the general welfare” as a pillar of American democracy. They laid down the markers of a civilized society: legally ordained minimum wages, child labor laws, workmen’s safety and compensation laws, pure foods and safe drugs, Social Security, Medicare, and rules that promote competitive markets over monopolies and cartels. They showed us that Democracy doesn’t begin at the top; it begins at the bottom, when flesh-and-blood human beings rekindle the patriot’s dream.

The Patriot’s Dream? Arlo Guthrie, remember? It’s the Star-spangled Banner of Zucotti Park. And in every public place I’ve seen, where Americans long for justice, it’s the anthem of Public Citizen.

Living now here but for fortune
Placed by fate’s mysterious schemes
Who’d believe that we’re the ones asked
To rekindle the patriot’s dreams

Arise sweet destiny, time runs short
All of your patience has heard their retort
Hear us now for alone we can’t seem
To rekindle the patriot’s dreams
Can you hear the words being whispered

All along the American stream
Tyrants freed the just imprisoned
Try to rekindle the patriot’s dreams

Ah but perhaps too much is being asked of
too few
You and your children with nothing to do
Hear us now for alone we can’t rekindle the
patriot’s dreams

Who, in these cynical times, when democracy is on the ropes and the great power of wealth concentration pounds and pounds and pounds again against America’s body politic—who still believes such a radical thing?

Look around. 🔥

Stop oppressive budget cuts that kill communities

Build a local legislative solidarity movement – part two

Carole Willey, BSW

Through this and future articles, I plan to teach legislative advocacy knowledge to our community to use in the coming decades.

Develop your own public policy that you want and desire for society

Well-rounded legislative education, skilled with resourceful knowledge and contacts, and access to people who can answer any question that may arise, is needed. For years, I have been encouraging different groups/coalitions to create their own innovative (public policy) by developing and drafting their own legislation to submit for legislative process. In the 2011 legislative session, I was so pleased that POWER took a leap of faith to write their own TANF bill to save money for that program thereby reducing the impact of budget cuts for families on TANF.

For passionate, enthusiastic local activists who are considering doing the same, the below items are descriptions of some social action network strategies for the Legislative Interim (from the end of one legislative session to the beginning of the next):

A. Formal lobbying network - Establish a new type of Action Network either as a Grassroots Lobbying Group (GLG) or a Political Action Committee (PAC). A PAC is used to collect funds to advance legislation. Donations for this purpose is separately from the parent organization's operating funds. File with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) for the Grassroots Lobbying Group [filing L-6 Forms for donations] to receive donations for covering the expenses for printing materials used to educate the legislators and their aides, the public, the media, and our communities.

B. Organizing Rallies Time Frame - Timetable to obtain permits for rallies during the Legislative Interim for advocacy work should start in May. A strategic interim timetable would be carried out throughout the calendar year. For example, for a day-long event in January, you would make your first request for a capitol campus permit in the previous May (late-June at the latest) for preferred dates.

C. Accessible Meeting Rooms: It is possible for a few meeting dates to be arranged for free or low cost and accessible in Cherberg Building conference rooms A, B, and/or C. Other facilities or locations in Olympia, such as library meeting rooms, are possible. For your Legislative Advocacy Day events, you must start requesting as soon as possible to secure your dates.

C.1 Alternate Plans: Consideration should be carefully weighed before making this decision; Senators have preference to their conference rooms so they can 'call a meeting' for those rooms. It is highly unlikely to be 'bumped' during the Legislative Interim, but a contingency plan should include alternate location such as a nearby restaurant.

D. Free Legislative Trainings & Accessible Hearing Rooms: While your organization plans periodic meetings in Olympia consider meeting at the capitol campus. You can make arrangements for a hour-long, free training to be added to your agenda. These free trainings are conducted by experienced legislative staff in either the O'Brien hearing rooms or Cherberg Building's conference rooms. What a cost savings it would be with budgeting cuts.

E. Create Bill Drafts: Newly created legislation requires a mandatory processing procedures. Set pattern of action as the legislation becomes a draft,

which can for some organization take months that begins in late spring or early summer, is advised to continue promoting the bill in coalitions. After a bill is in semi-final draft by creator of the draft, it is then met with a legislator's approval to be sent to the Code Reviser's Office for final draft and prepared for legislative sponsors (primary sponsor and secondary sponsors) by gathering their signatures as soon as December 1. It is vital to have all this work done before September. Once the bill has sponsors, you can drop the bill (for assigned number). Asking committees for a hearing should start in late fall for existing bills. Having a hearing is just the beginning of the legislative process.

In 2007, I wrote and introduced the below bill. In 2010, the bill on Civil Commitment proceedings, protecting rights of individuals with mental disorders was approved: SB 6807. (To see summary, go to: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2009&bill=6807>)

F. Promoting your legislative bills by 1) developing a theme, 2) working with coalitions, and 3) use data to support your arguments so the public would support your bill. To help you promote your bill, you must gather supporting information to use in preparing legislative handouts: fact sheets, position statements, and endorsement lists. By utilizing endorsement lists for promotion and coalition building, you can expand your efforts with other like-minded coalitions. Appropriate data is used to educate the public to support your bill and then later convince the legislature to vote 'yes' for in committee and 'yes' for a floor vote.

For example, it might be helpful to join together with large, statewide coalitions for various issues like the People of Puget Sound (PPS), the largest environmental coalition in Washington. In 2009 for the first time, I witnessed the healthcare and environmentalist organizations coming together and being politically focused on long-term outcomes.

If environmental healthcare is your interest, it is time to join PPS and join other environmental groups. Some disabilities could be directly caused by toxic chemicals. I am a member of PPS and could make my arguments for this suggestion.

This is the focus of my business called Holistic Health and Advocacy to provide a concept of a sustainable mental health with true recovery choices and providing information on a wellbriety type approach of embracing: body, mind, spirit, and emotions at the same time embracing the protection of our environment—our earth.

I would start by using the Toxic-Free Legacy Coalition 2006 Report entitled: Pollution in People. This report fostered my reasons to co-found the Health Freedom Washington with Ann Clifton in 2007.

Carole Willey is a local community organizer and strategist with legislative and capitol campus expertise.

POWER's TANF bill in the 2011 legislative session

SUPPORT SB 2007 - Concerning participation in the WorkFirst program

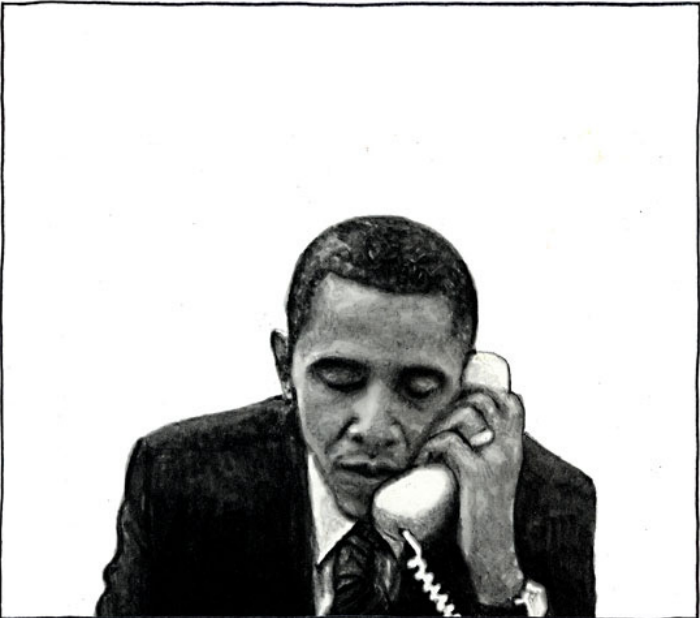
Sponsors: Representatives Pettigrew, Kagi, Ormsby

Referred to Committee: House - Early Learning and Human Services


(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2007&year=2011>)



"LISTEN, WE'RE DESPERATE FOR A RIGHT-WING CANDIDATE WHO IS THE MERCEDES-BENZ VERSION OF GEORGE W. BUSH - ALL THE SAME SHIT UNDER THE HOOD, BUT A SMOOTHER, SEXIER RIDE. KNOW WHAT I MEAN? ROMNEY CAN'T DO IT. NEWT CAN'T DO IT. IN FACT, JUST LOOKING AT YOUR TRACK RECORD, YOU SEEM LIKE YOU WON'T REST UNTIL EVERY LAST ARCHAIC VALUE OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT HAS BEEN GROUND INTO OBLIVION. SO, I ASK YOU AGAIN, WILL YOU CONSIDER RUNNING FOR OUR PARTY AND BECOMING THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?"



"OKAY, LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT. COMPARED TO THE JACKASS WHO'S BEEN IN THERE FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS I DON'T SEE HOW I CAN LOSE."



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Bill Moyers is back on PBS

I'm coming back in January with a new series— on Moyers & Company — on the public television station nearest you. . .

Journalism has long been for me a continuing course in adult education. Given what's happening in this country, it's time to sign up for more classes. The lack of civility and common sense that has paralyzed our democracy, the vast economic and social inequality that sends both left and right raging into the streets, the corrosive influence of money in politics—we're in a tailspin with little hope for a course correction from our elected leadership or corporate-dominated media. The need for voices of reason, simple and eloquent, has rarely been stronger. . .

I'll be reaching out in this new series to people engaged in the trials and errors of democracy, who have tested their ideas against experience, and who know that the health of our body politic is everybody's business. This will be a political series, but not a partisan one. In the conversation of democracy, everyone's invited. So join us in January. —Bill Moyers

Should Occupy Olympia Become a Party?

What does the Occupy Movement need to do to be heard?

Janet Jordan

Occupy Olympia, along with occupations in most other cities, is being very careful to maintain its independence from political parties.

Commentators have cheered this independence. The movement offers a cold appraisal of the two major parties, which together have brought us several unending wars and a broken economy. The movement insists on saying what it sees: both parties are complicit in the sad state of our nation.

Even if Occupiers were to give the Democratic Party a pass on its responsibility for the state of the economy, funneling their energy into the campaign to re-elect Obama would be cramming a big idea into a smaller one, something nobody wants to see (except, presumably, Obama).

Much better, people say, that Occupy remain on the outside of political parties and their activities—where they can apply pressure to elected officials and bureaucrats, and create drama that will be noticed in the media. We wouldn't want this movement with its purity and vision to be bogged down in electoral politics anyway.

That's a change for America. Strong movements, like the Progressive Movement in the 20's, have always had electoral ambitions, running candidates that put pressure on the major parties, and they often won—at least on the local level.

Sometimes they forced the major parties to adopt legislation they wouldn't have otherwise adopted. The Democrats in the 1930s adopted Social Security and other measures because LaFollette's Progressives were treading on their heels, along with the Socialist Party, Communist Party and many others.

But now we want our most important movement to stay out of politics. We say that's because we want them to stay pure.

I think there's an unspoken reason, beyond the purity of the movement, and that is, our electoral system is a mess and we all know it. Our problem is not just money in the system, although that is a factor that constantly moves politics to the right and makes it hard to see what legislators' real motives are. Our problem started long before money entered the system.

The problem is the way our elections were set up in the beginning. We were the first country to let people vote, so we went for the simplest model: plurality voting. In that system you don't have to have a majority, only more votes than the other candidate.

Plurality voting forces us into two parties, in the following manner: If the

prize goes to whoever gets the most votes, whether or not they have a majority, the only thing that matters is getting a coalition together that is as large as you can possibly make it. You can get to about 50% before you start finding uncomfortable coalition partners within the party. There is only room for two coalitions of that size.

But isn't size always what matters in an election, you ask. No. In an election with a run-off—whether virtual or real—what matters is your first choice: the candidate or party you really want. You are expected to vote for that person or party, even if you know they can't win. The strength of support for the two main competitors will be measured later, after smaller challengers have been eliminated. So you don't worry about subtracting votes from the coalition (spoiling). You can add your vote back in later. You vote for the person you want.

But our American system doesn't allow for nuances; there are many parties but only two have the possibility of winning. As anyone will tell you, it's a two-party system.

And you might ask, what's wrong with that? The two parties stand for different things, so there is a choice for voters. Voters choose a different vision every four years.

Except the two parties don't stand for different things. The party that wins will establish a policy set-point for the next four years. If the other one were to stand for something different, there would be a distance between the two parties. That space would be inhabited by people called "independent voters," people who are not committed to either party but could theoretically choose between them.

That's bad news, particularly for the party that lost, as the Democrats did in 2000. It wins votes by being different (to the right or the left of the winning party) but it doesn't want the space that allows independent voters. The last set-point was set by the Republicans in their term in office and the Democrats, while nominally standing for something different, are now in fact putting policies in place that are very close to those of Republicans.

There is plenty of complaint today about the similarity between the parties, but it has always been true. The set-point changes, but not the fact that the parties move in tandem.

So a system that forces us into two parties turns out, in reality, to force us into one party. We are a single-party system, like the old Soviet Union. And that's another reason why the Occupation might want to start its own party. Because only a "third" party will offer a second option.

But the major two parties don't want third parties cropping up.

Third parties take away votes they feel belong to them. The Occupation Party will call for Wall Street regulation and a tax on transactions, and the Democrats will be offended. *They* are the ones in charge of regulation. If they aren't doing it, that proves it can't be done, so there should be no upstart party trying to talk about it.

Reformist Democrats like Kucinich and Grayson only serve to prove this point; if even these great Democratic leaders can't manage it, why should a third party think it can? The great leaders seem to agree, because they remain Democrats, loyal to their party. They have not joined the smaller parties that have long called for reform (the Green Party comes to mind) and they will probably not join an Occu-

The real reason why we don't want to see an Occupation Party is because any third party in America today finds itself inside a meat-grinder. They fail, and that discredits their ideas.

pation Party.

With a runoff system, the third party will not affect the final outcome, but that's not the point. The major parties aren't really worried about spoiling. They just don't want the third party bringing up options that they didn't bring up. They want to be able to say, "It's not on the table," and have it not be on the table—with no smartass minor party able to put it there against their wishes.

With a runoff system, one of the major parties ends up winning, just as if the third party had never run, but the two majors will still not be happy. The third party has demonstrated that not everyone wants what the major two have to offer, and that's not OK.

And why should they put up with it, if they don't have to?

They don't have to. They can call down fear of the other major party and that can be a real fear. Even if their own position is virtually the same, still they can point to the ½ centimeter difference and remind you that you'd be getting the wrong side of that difference. A runoff system would solve the problem, but they aren't going to mention the runoff system. They don't want a solution; they can squash the third party better if there is no solution.

And so the Occupation Party would be squashed. No newspaper or newscast would ever mention that they were running a candidate, much less describe what that candidate thought. Money would not flow to the Occupation candidate. And as for allowing that candidate into a debate—don't even think about it.

The extreme fear of spoiling by third parties is a new development in the last decade.

Major parties lean on the fact that if all the minor party votes had gone

for them—well, the outcome would have been different. (All the minor party votes would not have gone for them in any case, but that's another story.) And voters have heeded the warnings against third party candidates. The largest percentage of votes to any third party candidate in 2008 was 0.4%.

I believe that's the real reason why we don't want to see an Occupation Party: because any third party in America today finds itself inside a meat-grinder. They fail, and that discredits their ideas.

There are many small parties across America, with a wide range of ideas to offer.

New parties start up constantly. Rebel voters want a party that reflects their ideas, and instead of joining an existing small party they generally start their own. Somehow the new party is going to do things better and be successful when the old one wasn't. But the new party fails too. We don't want the Occupation to follow this pattern.

If we want the Occupiers to succeed, we need to help them get their ideas into the political arena. That's where actual change takes place. But they can't do it with the electoral system we have now, because that system is designed to keep outsiders out (along with their ideas).

Many changes would help, but the one we choose would have to be something we can incorporate into our current system. A parliamentary system, for instance, would be hard to incorporate.

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) is such a system. It eliminates the spoiler effect by allowing a runoff between the biggest vote-getters. (The "instant" part is because we would do it without going back to the polls. Voters register a first and a second choice; if a voter's first choice is eliminated, their second choice vote comes into play, as if that voter had gone back to the poll to cast it.) Instant Runoff Voting allows voters to vote for their favorite candidate, even knowing they won't win. It registers the support that a candidate actually has. It keeps the ideas in play. It would allow the Occupation Party to take its rightful place in politics.

Both major parties are against IRV. IRV keeps minor parties from spoiling the major parties' chances, but unfortunately (from their point of view), still allows minor parties to make their point. It's much better to make sure no one votes for minor parties. The media are all against IRV because they are aligned with the Right and, again, they don't want minor parties to have their say. Election officials are usually political appointees—D's or R's—so they are against it also.

With every institution in the country against IRV, people of goodwill will need to be for it, seriously for it, as in, making it a priority. People of goodwill will have to actively campaign for it, and actively search for allies to work with. If, that is, we really want the Occupation's ideas to be heard.

Many of us are in favor of the things the Occupation stands for, but our electoral system will not let those things be seen in the light of day (or, in the light of the voting booth).

We could change that if we wanted.

NOTE: The "top two" system has a certain similarity to IRV; there is an election open to all comers, and a run-off. Unfortunately the election open to all comers is the primary, which does not count towards anything real or substantial. Any support registered for minor party candidates vanishes as if it never happened. The actual election features only two parties, or only one (with two candidates of the same party), making it look as if those candidates were the only ones serious people ever thought about. That's worse than the system it replaced.

Move the primary election to the date of the general election, and have that second election take place through the second-choice votes of the primary voters, and you would have a real system.

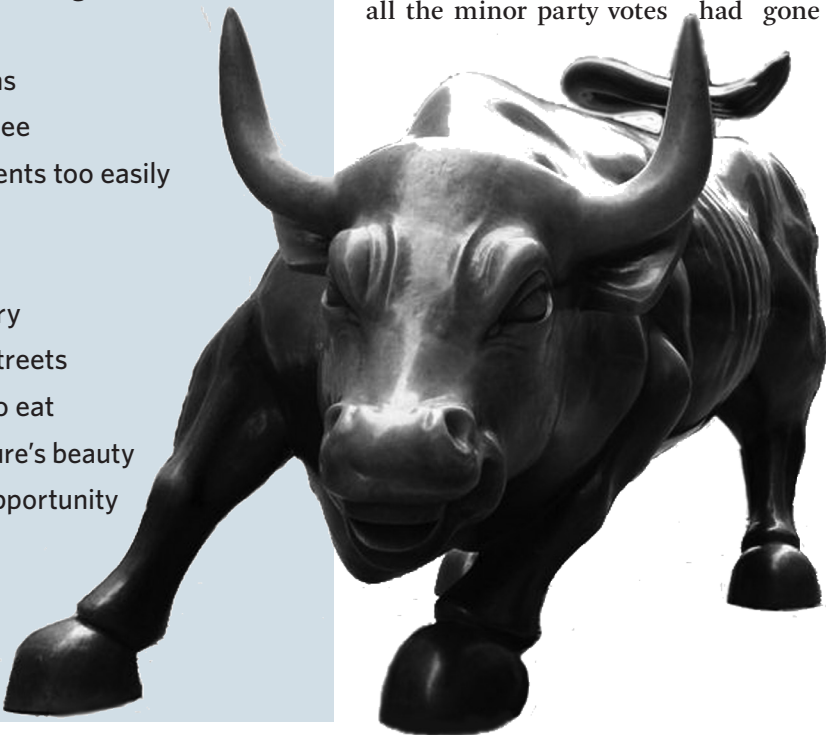
Janet Jordan is a resident of Thurston County with ties to the Green Party.



Enough of This Bull!

by Strife

- For accumulating wealth and power through your evil greed
- For callously trampling over the people's needs
- For your theft of resources at home and overseas
- For privatizing everything as far as the eye can see
- For buying off senators, representatives, presidents too easily
- For twisting and perverting our democracy
- Incentivizing bail-outs and budget cut iniquity
- For masquerading as the engine of human history
- For foreclosing homes and kicking us onto the streets
- Provoking wars while the hungry have no food to eat
- For destroying the environment and pillaging nature's beauty
- Profiting from exploitation & suffering at every opportunity
- We say enough is enough
- No More Corporate Greed
- Now We will slay this beast
- So the people can be free



Debt-free US notes were once issued under JFK and the US Government still has the power to issue debt-free money

The Economic Collapse

Most Americans have no idea that the US government once issued debt-free money directly into circulation. America once thrived under a debt-free monetary system, and we can do it again. The truth is that the United States is a sovereign nation and it does not need to borrow money from anyone. Back in the days of JFK, Federal Reserve Notes were not the only currency in circulation. Under JFK (and at various other times), a limited number of debt-free United States Notes were issued by the US Treasury and spent by the US government without any new debt being created. In fact, each bill said “United States Note” right at the top. Unfortunately, United States Notes are not being issued today. If you stop right now and pull a dollar out of your wallet, what does it say right at the top? It says “Federal Reserve Note”. Normally, the way our current system works is that whenever more Federal Reserve Notes are created more debt is also created. This debt-based monetary system is systematically destroying the wealth of this nation. But it does not have to be this way. The truth is that the US government still has the power under the US Constitution to issue debt-free money, and we need to educate the American people about this.

According to Wikipedia, United States Notes [see graphic up above] were issued directly into circulation by the US Treasury and they were first used during the Civil War.

“They were originally issued directly into circulation by the US Treasury to pay expenses incurred by the Union during the American Civil War. Over the next century, the legislation governing these notes was modified many times and numerous versions have been issued by the Treasury.”

So why are we using debt-based Federal Reserve Notes today instead of debt-free United States Notes?

It seems rather stupid, doesn't it?

Well, that is what Thomas Edison thought too.

Thomas Edison was once quoted in the New York Times as saying the following:

That is to say, under the old way any time we wish to add to the national wealth we are compelled to add to the national debt.

Now, that is what Henry Ford wants to prevent. He thinks it is stupid, and so do I, that for the loan of \$30,000,000 of their own money the people of the United States should be compelled to pay \$66,000,000 — that is what it amounts to, with interest. People who will not turn a shovelful of dirt nor contribute a pound of material will collect more money from

the United States than will the people who supply the material and do the work. That is the terrible thing about interest. In all our great bond issues the interest is always greater than the principal. All of the great public works cost more than twice the actual cost, on that account. Under the present system of doing business we simply add 120 to 150 per cent, to the stated cost.

But here is the point: If our nation can issue a dollar bond, it can issue a dollar bill. The element that makes the bond good makes the bill good.

Our current debt-based monetary system was devised by greedy bankers that wanted to make huge profits by creating money out of thin air and lending it to the US government at interest.

Sadly, the vast majority of the American people have no idea how money is actually created in this nation.

In a previous article about money and debt, I explained how more government debt is created whenever the US government puts more money into circulation.

“When the government wants more money, the US government swaps US Treasury bonds for “Federal Reserve notes”, thus creating more government debt. Usually the money isn't even printed up - most of the time it is just electronically credited to the government. The Federal Reserve creates these “Federal Reserve notes” out of thin air.

These Federal Reserve notes are backed by nothing and have no intrinsic value of their own.”

When each new Federal Reserve Note is created, the interest owed by the federal government on that new Federal Reserve Note is not also created at the same time. The amount of government debt that is created actually exceeds the amount of money that is created.

Isn't that a stupid system?

The US Constitution says that the federal government is the one that should actually be issuing our money.

In particular, according to Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution, it is the US Congress that has been given the responsibility to “coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures.”

So why is a private central banking cartel issuing our money?

As is the case with so many other issues, we desperately need to get back to the way the US Constitution says that we should be doing things.

The debt-based Federal Reserve system is literally stealing the future from

our children and our grandchildren.

Back in 1910, a couple years prior to the passage of the Federal Reserve Act, the national debt was only about \$2.6 billion.

A little over 100 years later, our national debt is more than 5000 times larger.



So why don't we just admit that this system simply does not work?

Our current debt-based monetary system also requires very high personal income taxes to pay for it.

In fact, it is no accident that the personal income tax was introduced at about the same time that the Federal Reserve system originally came into existence.

Our children, our grandchildren and many generations after that are facing a lifetime of debt slavery because of us.

As I have written about previously, if the federal government began right at this moment to repay the US national debt at a rate of one dollar per second, it would take over 440,000 years to pay off.

Neither the Republicans or the Democrats are proposing any solutions to this problem. Rather, both parties are only trying to slow down the rate at which we are going into even more debt.

But the truth is that the federal government does not have to go into a single penny of additional debt. How could this be? It is not too complicated.

If Congress took back the power over our currency and started issuing debt-free money, a lot of our problems could be fixed.

A basic plan would look something like this.

#1) The US Congress votes to take back all of the functions that it has delegated to the Federal Reserve Bank and begins to issue debt-free United States Notes. These United States Notes would have the exact same value as existing Federal Reserve Notes, and over time all existing Federal Reserve Notes would be taken out of circulation.

#2) The US Congress nationalizes all debt held by the Federal Reserve. That would instantly reduce the national debt by \$1.6 trillion. In fact, there are a few members of Congress that have already proposed this.

#3) A Constitutional amendment is passed limiting future US government deficits to a reasonable percentage of GDP. Any future deficits would not be funded by borrowing. Rather, future deficits would be funded by newly created United States Notes. Therefore, the federal government would never again accumulate another penny of debt.

And it would be important to inject new money into the economy from time to time. When existing money is destroyed or when the population grows it is important to inject a certain amount of new money into the system in order to avoid deflation.

#4) The existing national debt would be very slowly paid off with newly created United States Notes. The US government spent over \$454 billion on interest on the national debt during fiscal year 2011, and over time this expense would go to zero.

If the national debt is paid off slowly enough, it would not create too much inflation. I believe that it could be paid off

gradually over 50 years without shocking the economy too much.

There are some that would object to any measure that would ever cause a small amount of inflation, but my contention is that we have created a \$15 trillion debt mess for future generations, and it would be absolutely criminal to pass that legacy on to them.

We created this mess, and it is our responsibility to clean it up.

While there is certainly a danger that we would have a limited amount

of inflation under a debt-free monetary system such as the one described above, the reality is that we are absolutely guaranteed inflation under the Federal Reserve system.

Most Americans believe that inflation is a fact of life, but the sad truth is that

the United States has only had a major, ongoing problem with inflation since the Federal Reserve was created back in 1913.

Sadly, the US dollar has lost well over 95 percent of its value since the Federal Reserve was created.

So, yes, there would be a need for strict monetary discipline under a debt-free monetary system, but it would be hard to do worse than the Federal Reserve has already been doing.

And Congress could always slow down inflation using other methods. For example, raising the reserve requirements for banks (which should be done anyway) would help keep inflation in check.

If the above proposals were adopted, the end result would be something that we could all live with. The Federal Reserve system would be abolished, the national debt burden on future generations would be wiped out, the economy would not have to go through a devastating economic collapse that could last a decade or longer, and we could eventually make a fairly smooth transition to “hard money” if we wanted to after the national debt is gone.

Is there any other proposal out there that does all of those things?

There are many out there that would dispute some of the points above, and debate is good. By engaging in debate, we can hopefully help educate the American people about the nature of money.

The key is to get rid of our current debt-based Federal Reserve Notes and replace them with debt-free United States Notes.

The American people need to understand that it is a lie that the US government “must” borrow money from somebody else.

When the US government borrows money, it slowly transfers wealth from the American people to those that lent it.

At this point, we have created a financial nightmare for future generations that is unlike anything the world has ever seen before. We owe it to future generations to eliminate the debt problem without destroying the United States economy. Adopting debt-free money would allow us to do that.

But sadly, neither political party is even talking about debt-free money. In fact, most of the politicians in both political parties probably do not even know what debt-free money is.

So we need to get the American people educated about these things. Because if we stay on the course that we are currently on, an economic collapse is inevitable.

TheEconomicCollapseblog.com is written by Michael, who has a law degree and an LLM from the University of Florida law school. He has worked for some of the largest law firms in Washington D.C., but now mostly focuses on trying to make a difference in the world. 🔥

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An open letter to the Occupy Movement

Leonard represents how far the government will go to suppress an activist who stands in the way of the greed

Arthur J. Miller

Greetings Sisters and Brothers, a great sucking sound can be heard throughout the land. It's the sound of the land's wealth being sucked up by the greedy parasites on top. We are now suffering because of a great power and wealth acquisition by a few at the expense of the many. A power and wealth grab of historic proportions. We are told that the federal and states budgets and the budgets of many countries must be cut because of high unemployment. Their answer to unemployment is to keep tax cuts for the rich and increase the problem by laying off more workers. We are told that all the money going to the rich will create jobs, just like we were told that the so-call free trade agreements and the WTO would increase good jobs. Where are all those jobs?

They are nowhere to be found. We are being lied to and it is as simple as this: the rich keep getting richer and the rest of us keep getting poorer.

An editorial in the local mainstream paper proclaims that "Occupy can't win with utopian impossibilities." Yes, the rich would like us to believe that it is not possible for them, the rich, to have less so that everyone else must not suffer as we are, because this is an "utopian impossibility." Another paper proclaims that to speak out against the rich is un-American. That would be true if America were only peopled by the rich and powerful. Is not a country also its people, all of its people? To cause great harm to the vast majority of Americans, should that not be viewed as un-American? It is the rich who have committed treason against America's people and not those that speak out against the crimes against humanity being committed daily by those who want it all.

Occupy! It is a great thing that we all are doing. It makes this old man glad to still be alive to see it.

No matter how hard they try to beat us, gas us, pepper spray us and even Taser us, as they did to a few in Olympia, they cannot suppress our voice and spirit. No matter how many have been arrested, all that happened was that the jails got occupied, too. And still the movement grows world-wide.

There has been some evidence that attacks upon the Occupy Movement has been coordinated and this is very possible, for those in power have done such things before. It also seems like the media are all working from the same script. First they ignore the movement and hope it will go away. Then they play it as some quaint rebellion of a few. Then they seek to discredit the movement by saying that it has no goals. They spread the justification for raiding the Occupy! camps claiming the camps are unsanitary and unsafe. If these deceivers are so concerned with living conditions why don't they report on the living conditions of millions of the poor? But that might upset the slumlords. So to insure the safe conditions of the occupiers, they beat us, gas us and arrest us for our own good.

Enduring all that the state has used so far to shut us up, the Occupy Movement has stood strong and continues to grow. As the old civil rights song once proclaimed: "Ain't going to let nobody turn us around!" In that, the Occupy Movement has shown to the world its true meaning. A loud voice of the dispossessed demanding an end to the massive accumulation of the wealth of society funneled into the possession of a few human leeches, who feed upon the host body of humanity, while we suffer and do without.

Though it has been shown that the powers of the rich can't beat, gas or arrest the Occupy Movement out of existence, the movement does face another threat. That is the sideline, holier than thou,

types that do little more than gripe about the movement because it is not correct enough for them. Often that means they are angry that they are not in command. Beware Sisters and Brothers, movements have been talked to death by such people. They create a culture of excuses why such a movement should not continue and excuses can become contagious. I saw this happen with the Anti-Vietnam War Movement where it became cool to say that marches did no good. But it is interesting to note that the government, then

No matter how hard they try to beat us, gas us, pepper spray us, and even Taser us, as they did to a few in Olympia, they cannot suppress our voice and spirit. No matter how many have been arrested, all that happened was that the jails got occupied, too.

as now, did all that they could to suppress the movement and did nothing to those that were cool and gave up.

We call this a struggle because it ain't easy. I truly wish we could achieve our goals without struggle and hardship. But as we face the clubs, gas, and jails, please remember one thing, they would not try to suppress us if they did not fear us. The greedy who take so much from us and leave us without, are like a little kid hoarding candy and saying, "you can't have any." They may kick and scream, beat us, gas us, and jail us, but this is what we must go through to reach the other side where social change is found. In other words, their temper tantrums are only showing us that we are affecting them and they don't like that one bit.

The Occupy Movement, like all grassroots movements, starts off at some point and progresses. How far the Occupy Movement can go depends upon how long it can stay strong and learn. I have been a social activist/organizer since the 1960s and I will be the first to say, I don't know everything. A Native elder once said to me that the first step to wisdom is understanding that you don't now, or ever will, know everything. Life is a learning experience that starts when you come into this world all the way to the moment you pass on from this world. If you stop learning you stop living.

I have read some writers state that the origins of the Occupy Movement comes from one place or another. While it may be true that what they point out could be an influence, it is just one of many. The culture of the rulers likes to show us history as single events, that way they can call all of our efforts failures, but the truth is that the struggle of the people against those that hoard most of the wealth has been one long journey. It shows itself in different ways, but it is all connected. And as each generation adds to that struggle, it will continue until we are able to right the great wrong in our society.

The origins can be clearly seen in the worker occupations of their workplaces. In the Wobbly Free Speech Fights, as the boat of Wobblies was coming into port at Everett, the Sheriff called out, "Who are your leaders?" The Wobblies responded, "We are all leaders." It can be seen in the Bonus Army encampment in Washington DC. It can be seen in the Hooverville camps during the depression. It can be seen in the sit-ins of the Civil Rights Movement, student occupations, environmental occupations, the Arab Spring and workers in Wisconsin and other places last spring, just to name a few. Without going into the long history of Native folks, it can be seen in their occupy movement that included occupations at Alcatraz, Fort Lawton, the BIA Office in DC, Wounded Knee, Gresham, Cascadia (here in Tacoma), and a number of other locations. There are many such movements that can be pointed to, but the true

origin of the Occupy Movement is in the long history of struggles by the people. The diversity of humans is a great thing, a thing to be respected. For how would we like a world where everyone looked the same, acted the same, and thought the same? All people are not oppressed and exploited in the same ways, but all oppression and exploitation should be resisted. When some resist and organize based upon how they are oppressed, this bothers some folks. They like to call that "identity politics," a racist term. I believe by that they mean all should follow the agenda of a few and to deal with what oppresses you directly, is in their small minds, divisive. It is also used to justify not dealing with the oppressions of others. It is telling people to get to the back of the bus and wait; maybe we will get to you at some future point. Maybe we will assign a committee to look into your problems someday. Shall we be like the rich who gain at the expense of others? No separate peace! Freedom and well-being, for all.

Humanity is like fingers on a hand. Each finger is different, but each finger is connected. We are all connected by what keeps us in want, which is the greedy accumulation of wealth by a few at the expense of the many. And as Sitting Bull once said, "As individual fingers we can easily be broken, but all together we make a mighty fist." That means we must come together, and that means we must include everyone. Let there be no one left sitting at the back of the bus. I have seen how many in the Occupy Movement have begun to do this, and that is a very good thing.

Now I wish to speak to you about Leonard Peltier. Leonard Peltier (of the Anishinabe, Dakota, and Lakota Nations), long time Native activist and member of the American Indian Movement. Leonard Peltier, an innocent man, was convicted for the 1975 firefight on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in which one AIM member and two FBI agents died. AIM had been

asked by elders for help after over 60 traditional people had been murdered. The FBI attacked that camp in order to divert attention away from the illegal signing away of Lakota land for uranium. US prosecutors have repeatedly admitted that they did not, and cannot, prove Peltier's guilt, and the appellate courts have cited numerous instances of investigative and prosecutorial misconduct in this case. As late as November 2003, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged that "much of the government's behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and its prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed." The trial of the first two AIM members in this case found them not guilty for reason of self-defense. Leonard has been in prison for over 36 years. We are asking for Clemency for Leonard Peltier.

Leonard represents how far the government will go to suppress an activist who stands in the way of the greed of a few. He has been in prison for 36 years for us and we need to act for him. We do not ask that people stop the struggles they are involved in just to work for Leonard's freedom. That cannot happen because the struggles of the people must continue or else the repressors will win. Rather what we ask is that you include Leonard in the struggles you are involved with.

We need your help! Leonard will only be freed if the people demand it. On February 4, 2012 will be the International Day in Solidarity with Leonard Peltier. Marches and rallies will be held at the Federal Courthouse or Federal Building in the US and at US embassies and consulates worldwide, wherever Leonard Peltier supporters may live. We, with the greatest of respect, request the Occupy Movement to join us on that day. Please help us organize a powerful message upon that day. If you can help or organize, please contact: Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, PO Box 7488, Fargo, ND 58106. Phone: 701/235-2206. E-mail: contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info.

Car pool from Olympia: There will be a carpool leaving from the parking lot at Harrison and Division at 10:15 am.

Arthur J. Miller is the NW Regional Organizer for Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee.

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SOLIDARITY

CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER

NW REGIONAL MARCH AND RALLY

NOON

MARCH FOR JUSTICE

Portland Avenue Park
(on Portland Ave between
E. 35th and E. Fairbanks)
Take Portland Ave exit off
I-5 and head east.

1 PM

RALLY FOR JUSTICE

U.S. Federal Court House
1717 Pacific Avenue

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Leonard Peltier of the Anishinaba, Dakota, and Lakota Nations, long time Native activist, and member of the American Indian Movement, is an innocent man. Though convicted in 1975 for the deaths of two FBI agents, US prosecutors have repeatedly admitted they did not and cannot prove Peltier's guilt. Appellate courts have cited numerous instances of investigative and prosecutorial misconduct in this case. As late as November 2003, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged that "much of the government's behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and its prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The government withheld evidence. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed."

As individual fingers, we can easily be broken,
but all together we make a mighty fist. --Sitting Bull



► **One day**, cont. from page 5

tain oppressions. We also would be wise to attempt to open up dialogue wherever we feel we can to raise awareness of the oppressions and the privileges we have. I suggest we work with Leticia Nieto [anti-oppression trainer], or someone trained by her, to increase our community’s skills around this issue. We are trying to raise awareness of the cultural values that have allowed the 1% to have the power and freedom it has, and to be successful in doing this we have to work on the conditions in our own backyards.

Local and global direct action: Our direct action is imperative. Our visible physical presence and our constructive activism on planet earth, which is our common responsibility to care for and respect, are imperative. Ever since the Commons was stolen, ever since the invention of nation-states which carved up the planet in culturally and environmentally destructive ways, we have had a distorted idea of where we the people are “allowed”. This does not mean I am advocating a boundariless society. In fact, what we are calling the 1% to account for is their lack of boundaries and the violence that comes with it. Because of this I feel we must work to be as impeccable as we are able to have boundaries, to acknowledge what respect looks like, for everyone. There are ways to demonstrate that are powerful and respectful. There are ways to defend ourselves from violence that are not violent. We need to learn them.

If I had it to do over again, I would have walked into the crowd, called “mic check,” and pointed out the lack of boundaries between the protesters and the State Patrol. I would have pointed out that yelling in someone’s face is a boundary violation. I would have suggested that we back up to give a reasonable amount of space, and that we lower our voices to a moderate level. I would have suggested we chant in a consistent but far less provocative tone, and I think it would have been interesting to see what might have happened. For one thing, I think we might have gotten the

support of more of the people in the rotunda. I think that our message would have been heard more clearly and the whole night’s events may have moved in another direction.

This is not to put the responsibility for State Patrol violence on us (the responsibility for violence is always on the perpetrator). It is simply to point out that we have avenues of power that are not based in anger. True non-violence does not yell at or crowd anyone, not even a cop. We need to learn how to be empowered in multiple stances, whether passive, assertive, or aggressive. None of these need be violent, which I define as intending to inflict harm or anger on another. This does not mean our anger shouldn’t be expressed, but that it needs to be expressed with respect for basic human dignity—even when the people around us do not know what this means. It is my profound belief that any gains we achieve by violence or hatred, we will need to gain again and again until we learn how to achieve them with dignity and respect.

As I write this I am listening to the Occupy London live stream. I think we need to keep reminding ourselves, and whoever we talk to, that this is a global movement and that it is happening all around the world, all around the clock. When the mainstream media fails us, and wrongly reports that the Occupy Movement is losing support, or that we are a Movement of violent agitators who don’t know what we’re here for, we need to look to the global media which shows us in real time what is happening. We need to tell our local governments to hold our police and State Patrol accountable for their failure to protect citizens and our First Amendment Rights to Public Assembly and Free Speech.

We need to be the principles we are advocating, to the very best of our abilities. We are growing stronger and more effective every day and we have great reason for optimism and hope.

Valerie Krull, a thirty-year resident of Olympia, works for peace and justice, changing the “way it is” from the inside out.

Occupy Olympia accepts Human Rights Award from the Thurston Diversity Council



Thursday, Dec. 19, Olympia—The Thurston Diversity Council presented Occupy Olympia with an award for Unique Achievement in the Area of Human Rights. Occupy Olympia (OO) accepted the award with dignity and grace, and gratitude for being recognized for the important work that has been done, and accomplishments that have been

achieved. This may be just the beginning, and it is good for OO stalwarts to feel recognized for their hard-work and contribution to the field of human rights. Thank you, Diversity Council!

Prior to the OO Human Rights Award, the Council presented Community Youth Services with a Lifetime Achievement Award. -- *Berd Whitlock*

Watch the video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3UU8SQ2BNI and here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpOQzvFdLtY

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- Occupy Olympia**
- is ongoing
 - is on Facebook
 - has working groups
 - has general assemblies

You can’t evict an idea.

The Rachel Corrie Community Center Amid eviction, Occupy Olympia activists spark an idea



Occupiers outside of the Rachel Corrie Community Center. *Riley Shiery*

Marissa Luck

At approximately 12:30 am on December 16, protesters from Occupy Olympia moved into a vacant building across the street from their camp—just 29 minutes after their eviction deadline had passed. The state issued an eviction notice the previous morning, just a day after the end of the Special Legislative Session, telling activists to leave by 12:01 am Friday. Although around 60 tents were voluntarily removed throughout the day on December 15, around 60 tents remained after the deadline, and more than 300 supporters gathered at midnight in expectation of a police confrontation. When police or state troopers did not come, saying they would arrive at 6 am instead, occupiers quietly marched to a building across the street from their camp. The protesters discovered an unlocked door to the building and let themselves in to find working lights and electricity.

When police or state troopers did not come occupiers quietly marched to a building across the street from their camp. The protesters discovered an unlocked door to the building and let themselves in to find working lights and electricity.

Protesters immediately began moving food, water, and chairs into the building, hanging signs, and constructing a barricade of wood pallets and dumpsters in anticipation of a confrontation with police, similar to crackdowns on local Occupy Seattle and Portland camps. Occupiers said they were moving to the vacant building because of the cold winter temperatures and the eviction notice. They said they wanted to turn the building into a democratically-run community center named the “Rachel Corrie Community Center,” after the Olympia activist killed by the Israeli military in 2003.

Craig Corrie, Rachel Corrie’s father said he was “surprised but honored” that Occupy Olympia activists had thought of naming the building after his daughter. “She died trying to protect someone’s home,” Craig reminded me. He pointed out the issue of homelessness is connected to the Palestinian struggle to return home and protect their current homes. Although he said he couldn’t claim to speak for his daughter, he believed Rachel would have “certainly been focused on

having the community have a space for the homeless.” He continued, “When you talk about human rights, you’re talking about universal rights, and those need to be protected everywhere.”

The vacant building had previously been a Thurston County Department of Health building. The property was owned by Capital Shores Investments, a local firm connected to Triway Enterprises (TriVo) that was involved in attempting to build the controversial condominiums along the city’s isthmus. In March 2011 though, Capital Shores Investments filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and the property was later foreclosed by First Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

Around 20-30 people remained in the building while a small crowd of supporters gathered outside until the wee hours of the morning. Later in the day though, protesters had voluntarily cleared out the building

because they were told by authorities they would be issued felonies if they did not leave. One protester was arrested for trespassing but was later released from custody,

according to *The Olympian*. The protesters peacefully left the building just hours after the State Patrol began clearing out the remaining occupiers at Heritage Park (no arrests were made). By mid-day, the Department of Enterprise Services had fenced off the park, stacked wood palettes previously used for tent structures, and removed occupiers’ belongings. They said that people have until January 9 to claim their possessions.

Despite being cleared out from the building just hours after they had claimed it, occupiers seemed hopeful. “Occupy Olympia had to strategically retreat, for now, from the isthmus building and the creation of the Rachel Corrie Community Center,” a blogger wrote on the Occupy Olympia website, “but the idea has been sparked.”

Marissa Luck is a community journalist and writer for a local web-design firm. She recently graduated from The Evergreen State College where she studied international political economy, tutored writing, and served on the editorial collectives of the Counter Point Journal and Inkwell. 🔥

Nicole Foss to speak at Green Party event

Janet Jordan

The Green Party of Washington State has invited Nicole Foss to speak on “A Roadmap For the Coming Years of Crisis” on the evening of Saturday, January 28. In preparation, I watched several videos of her speeches. She is a kind of Paul Revere, moving from city to city, warning us of the need to act before the catastrophe is upon us.

The coming collapse seems to be a popular topic these days, but none of the other prophets are quite like Nicole. There are essays about the end of oil; predictions about what will happen to the dollar; lots of talk about the end of (the American) empire. Bill McKibben and many others write about the catastrophic possibilities of climate change. But Nicole Foss speaks from all of these perspectives at once, and explains their interactions.

Nicole agrees climate change is coming, also declining oil production, and knows those things are not negotiable – “Nature doesn’t negotiate.” Ultimately, those things will drive the way our civilization unfolds in the future. But, she says, we will see the financial crunch before we see the effects of peak oil or climate change — as soon as the next few years. A credit crunch is setting in; many companies will go out of business due to the drying up of credit, and the income they generated will stop. This is the collapse people will notice first. Technically it would be called deflation; the common term would be a depression.

Nicole describes the effects of deflation on the global, national and personal levels. Nationally, less income will be collected and eventually services will be impacted. For a while deflation will have good effects on our climate, because less industrial activity will translate into fewer greenhouse gas emissions; but this will not be much noticed under crisis conditions.

As the supply of oil dwindles, we will notice its lack, and the high cost of what supplies do exist, but before this happens Nicole predicts a glut. If this surprises you, think of what happens when cattle can’t be maintained during a drought: many are killed prematurely and this produces a glut of beef, followed by low production levels. Similarly, when the money supply contracts and people can’t pay for oil, the oil companies won’t be able to develop new sources or even maintain their existing ones; they can only sell what they have available – cheap, since demand is so low. After the glut passes, supplies will be meager.

Nicole agrees with many other observers that you will be in better shape in a city or a self-sufficient farm than you are in suburbs, especially new suburbs. Cities will still have their services after service to rural areas dries up; and a farm can provide much of what it needs itself. In cities and older suburbs, it’s possible to establish a community whose mem-

bers trust each other and find ways to provide each other with what they need. Newer suburbs may have to be abandoned.

On the personal level, Nicole warns that debt will be hard to service after income sources dry up. She recommends that people divest themselves of whatever goods they are paying off month by month, and translate them into cash, which will rise in value as money deflates. Cash will be needed for adjusting to the new situation.

In communities, people can prepare for the loss of central service by establishing parallel ones on a community level – water, garbage removal, gas and oil, electricity, schools, and many others. Relationships of trust should be established now while it is still possible.

Nicole’s overall predictions are somewhat gloomy, as she feels that the level



Nicole Foss
“A roadmap for the coming years of crisis”
Saturday, January 28, 7 - 9 pm
Friends Meeting House on Boston Harbor Road

of sophistication we now enjoy will not be seen again. We won’t have the energy resources our current level requires. While half the world’s oil is still in the earth, it will be harder to get out, and its removal will use up more of the energy we do have. (Return on energy investment needs to be about 10:1 to sustain our lifestyle. She estimates the ratio to be about that now, but due to be less in the future.) The curve of energy use is much steeper on the way down than on the way up.

She feels a lot of people may become angry as they see the extent of their losses, and she recommends that we let our own anger go. Just start with the situation we have, she says, make realistic plans to deal with it, and don’t dwell on the past.

I found Nicole’s videos quite fascinating. It’s end-of-the-world stuff, but with a lot of realistic detail. She can explain exactly how and why the financial crunch will take place, for example, and she references past crises, explains how they worked, and how this one is different. It’s all delivered with perfect aplomb and verbal certainty – she never has to think about what word to use next. One of the most interesting of the videos told the story of how the Fosses themselves prepared for the future. They moved out of England altogether; the only pursuit in England these days, she said, was pushing mounds of money around as if someone thought they were creating something. In Canada, they made sure they had multiple, redundant layers of energy for all their needs. There’s the kitchen woodstove, which warms the

house all day on a stick of wood because the farmhouse is so tight. There’s an outside wood-fueled furnace for winters (for both space and water heating). She says if everyone used wood, it would only last about 3 years, but on the farm they have the wood and can use it sustainably. In summer, solar panels heat the water. As a backup, they are on the community electric grid, and for emergencies there are generators. Nicole counted eight different ways she could cook a meal. There are vegetables growing, and some livestock. Nicole’s family eats meat; she feels it is a luxury to live vegetarian, and in fact it gets harder and harder as one moves north.

Growing up, the Foss children were taught they needed to choose a practical profession, one that they could use even if sophisticated city systems broke down. For her daughter, this meant learning massage rather than getting a nursing degree (although you’ll be glad to know she got the degree later). The son had the misfortune of not having clever hands, so the poor boy had to take up opera singing. Nicole explains that even this can be useful, even after opera stages are a thing of the past. Everyone needs song.

As with all her videos, Nicole finished this one with a smile of surpassing sweetness. She’s told us of crisis and emergency, but the smile contains only peace. It seems to say, That was my gift to you. Perhaps her real gift is to see through circumstances, however dire, to simple human connections.

I think Nicole’s words will prove to be valuable for all of us as time goes on, not only for the practical advice, but for the human perspective.

Nicole will be speaking at the Friends Meeting House on Boston Harbor Road, Saturday, January 28, from 7 to 9 PM, with a question and answer period afterwards.

Nicole is an international energy and finance expert, and co-editor of www.theautomaticearth.blogspot.com blog. Formerly, she was a Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies where she specialized in nuclear safety in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, she conducted research into electricity policy at the EU level, and is former editor of *The Oil Drum* - Canada. Ms Foss is an internationally known speaker on the subject of Peak Oil and the collapse of the global financial system.

Frankenfish could trigger aquacalypse

Organic Bytes — The Canadian non-profit Living Oceans has learned that AquaBounty’s genetically-engineered salmon, the first genetically engineered fish under review by the US Food and Drug Administration for potential sale to US consumers, tested positive for a new strain of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in Nov.2009. ISA is a virus that has triggered devastating disease outbreaks (90% death rate) in stocks of farmed Atlantic salmon around the world.

The news that Frankenfish could spread a new salmon disease broke just after the US Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard held a hearing to weigh the risks and benefits of introducing the product into the US marketplace.

Alaska Democratic Senator Mark Begich called for the hearing. In October, Begich introduced legislation to ban GE fish from interstate commerce. The act was entitled “Prevention of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States” (PEGASUS).

Israel combines special forces

Israel announced it will place its special forces under one command. This will allow them to “operate ‘far from Israel’s borders’ in the ‘third circle’—a term that generally applies to the Gulf and the Horn of Africa.” This circle would include Iran.

According to the Guardian, “Iran, which denies seeking the bomb, has lost several nuclear scientists and military brass to assassinations, suspected defections and explosions, feeding speculation that Israel and Western allies are already waging sabotage campaigns.”

Source: The Guardian

Court demands Health Canada re-examine toxicity of Monsanto’s Roundup herbicide

Organic Bytes—A court has ordered Health Canada to reconsider its decision not to review the effects of a popular herbicide, a ruling that some say will strengthen the public’s hand in forcing the government to answer environmental concerns.

“We put a crack in the door,” said Josette Wier, who took the government to court after a forestry company began spraying Roundup from airplanes near her Smithers, BC, home. “That door was locked - it was impossible.”

Wier asked for a special review on the use of Roundup, especially when it is combined with another chemical called POEA that allows it to spread more evenly.

Wier provided 15 viewed studies that raised questions about the Roundup-POEA combination’s effect on pregnant women, men, animal fetuses and frogs. Health Canada refused to investigate.

Tar Sand Pipeline approval delayed

SchNEWS!—Tar sands activists in Canada have delayed the controversial Northern Gateway Tar Sands Pipeline Approval Process until at least the end of 2013.

The pipeline plans would transport 525,000 barrels of crude oil a day—from Alberta’s tar sands oil fields, through waterways that host a threatened salmon population, temperate rainforests and coastal ecosystem—to a port ready for waiting tankers to cross the Pacific ocean to Asia. First Nation activist groups have pledged to stop any pipeline construction on their land through mass civil disobedience.



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PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 1-4 PM
First United Methodist Church
224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

How to socially connect with the South Sound GLBT community.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. <http://www.lastwordbooks.org>

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Eloquent Jazz Latin Escapes with Momenti Rubati
Live Jazz every Monday, 7 pm
The Royal Lounge
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

This special gathering of music lovers meets together to experience the magic and excitement of the Momenti Rubati. Live music unites a community together for festive enjoyment and social fun. We invite you to meet with us, make new friends and relax to the beautiful sounds of the Momenti Rubati. 705-0760 No charge.

“Around Thurston County”
Thurston County Television (TCTV) Channel 22
Mondays, 6:30PM, Fridays, 5:00PM
Locally produced civil affairs show with a progressive perspective.
Info: Patrickbabineau@comcast.net

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int’l / CHUMA, 2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey
No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int’l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.
Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/ other countries. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22 - TCTV
If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don’t have cable TV, you can watch over 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation’s recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Volunteer at Books to Prisoners
Sundays: 2-5 pm (woman or trans only)
Mondays: 5-8 pm (everyone welcome).
Sixth and Thomas in Southwest Olympia (look for sign)
Books to Prisoners is a 100% volunteer-run, nonprofit organization. We couldn’t provide any of the services we do without the generous support from our wonderful team of volunteers! As an organization, we *always* welcome new volunteers. As a volunteer with Books to Prisoners, you can become as much or as little involved as you would like. Also, you can begin volunteering immediately. There are no training sessions required. Simply show up to volunteer during our regularly-scheduled hours of operation, and we’ll happily train you as we go.

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays, 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that can not be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

An organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 or Imosqueda@comcast.net

“The Veterans Hour,” locally produced by Veterans for Peace
Thurston County TV (TCTV) - Ch. 22
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9-10 pm

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

“Parallel University”
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a network of women committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We have a food garden! If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved. Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses’ volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. <http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org> 754-4085

Community Special Events

January’s POWER Outage: Alternatives for living in a new economy
Monday, January 2, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Darby’s Cafe -- 2115th Ave SE, Olympia

This POWER Outage will focus on how to think outside of the single-family dwelling unit and create ways for us to live together in order to survive. Members of La Casa de Hueso, Olympia’s Family Collective, will bring information on diverse collaborative households from across the world. House members have direct experience in collaborative living, travel and touring experience, and advanced research in the field of collaborative living. The event will be in a world café setting, meaning active participation from guests to realize their dream of life in a new economy with steps to make it happen.

Potluck from 5:30- 6, discussion from 6 - 8pm
Childcare provided by TheOlympia Childcare Collective. Wheelchair accessible

Appetite For Awesome 4
Saturday, January 7, 9 pm - 2 am
El Corazon
109 Eastlake Avenue East, Seattle

Come see full cover sets of Jawbreaker, 90’s punk super mix, Cocksparrer, Black Flag, Hatebreed, Minor Threat & Andrew WK performed by members of The Hollow Points, The Loss, Heiress, Oblivion, People Eating People, Curse Of The North, Breag Naofa,Cascabel + many more! The show is FREE and cheap PBR for you drinker types. We will also be raising money for Coffee Strong, a Coffee house for veterans by veterans. Doors open at 9 and show starts at 10.

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, January 8, 4 pm
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls addresses issues of immigration in our community. Immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people.
Call 943-8642 for more information.

FRO benefit - underground hip hop, dubstep, and dnb dance party
Thursday, January 12, 10 pm -1 am
Le Voyeur, Olympia

Come support freeeee radio olympia! \$3 or more donations all go to help fro stay on the air. The first half of the night will be local underground hip hop.

Xero Hours	Purgatory	Smear
Beats Me	Vizual Noize	12:12

And drey payton followed by some fresh filth DUB-STEP and DNB !

Stories of Captivity and Restoration
Playback Theatre Performance
Friday, January 13, 7:30 p.m.
Traditions Cafe, Olympia

Sustainable Prisons Projects, which brings science to prisons, conducts ecological research and conserve biodiversity by forging collaborations with scientists, inmates, prison staff, students, and community partners. They also help reduce the environmental, economic, and human costs of prisons by inspiring and informing sustainable practices. This program not only saves tax dollars and natural resources, it also helps offenders rebuild their lives.
We will also have guest artists from RADco (Random Acts of Dance Collective), Olympia’s own dance collective.

Honor Dr. King--Occupy Trident
Saturday, January 14
Bangor, Washington

“The billions spent on nuclear weapons are needed to house, feed and care for each other-not threaten the world with annihilation” is the theme as Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action honors Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy. The day begins at 9:00 am with a discussion on the connection between the struggle against Trident and the Occupy Movement,

nonviolence training and action planning.
At 2 pm a vigil and nonviolent direct action will begin at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, home of the U.S. Navy’s West Coast Tridentnuclear submarine fleet and its nuclear weapons storage depot, theStrategic Weapons Facility, Pacific (SWFPAC).
Have warm, waterproof clothing, sack lunch or food to share, and strong, nonviolent spirit.
For information on Jan. 14: www.gzcenter.org or contact Alice Zillah at (360) 357-7705.

Occupy MLK, Jr Day March
Monday, January 16
Seattle, Washington

People are welcome to join members of Ground Zero Center to occupy the streets with an inflatable, full scale Trident D-5 missile in Seattle’s Martin Luther King Day March.
If you will attend and can help carry the missile, please send an email to Rodney.brunelle@gmail.comor call 425-485-7830.

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
Saturday, January 21, 11 am

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, Bridges Not Walls holds a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center. Carpool to leave Olympia at 11 am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and returns about 5pm.
The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes \$150,000 of taxpayers’ taxes each night that it’s full.
Bring coffee and food to support families visiting their locked-up loved ones; come and also protest a failed immigration policy.
Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

Thurston County Democratic Party Executive Committee meeting
Monday, January 23, 7 pm - 10 pm
Thurston County Court House

There will be a motion to endorse New Approach Washington’s marijuana “decriminalization” bill. Other Democrat business will be going on. This crowd is friendly to marijuana legalization but has difficulty in standing up for their opinions on this issue as individuals. If the marijuana activist community begins participating in these sorts of meetings, we will take a big step to affecting the marijuana prohibition laws at all levels.

PFLAG Olympia benefit
Friday-Saturday, January 27-28, 8 pm
Traditions Cafe, Olympia

Steve Schalchlin is coming back for another great PFLAG benefit performance, this time with The Righteous Mothers.
Tickets are by donation. Suggested donation \$25, but please pay what you can. All proceeds go to support PFLAG-Olympia. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see these marvelous performers play together.

The Green Party of Washington
State Winter Gathering
January 28, 2012, 9am to 5pm
Tumwater Friends Meeting House

The theme is sustainability, with a panel of speakers on the coming crisis and how to create a self-reliant community.
The evening features Nicole Foss, internationally recognized speaker on energy and finance, at the Boston Harbor Friends Meeting House, from 7 to 9 PM. Please join us.

Communicating with Plants: Learning the Medicine of Plants
Saturday, January 28
SPSCC, Olympia

Three-hour class for gardeners, herbalists, homeopaths and nature lovers. Will explore ancient skills necessary to open the door for communication through working with one plant. Instructor Peter Brown is a certified Plant Spirit Medicine and Flower Essence Practitioner.
To Register go to: www.hawksprairie.org
Under the Health & Wellness section
Class ID# F432 or call 360-596-5753

The REINS Act passes through the House

OMB Watch — On December 7, the US House representatives passed the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY), represents an extreme attack on safeguards that protect our environment, food, children's toys, workplaces, health, civil rights, and economy.

"If the REINS Act were enacted, it would undermine the ability of federal agencies to enforce existing laws and prevent the executive branch from carrying out its mission to protect the health and welfare of the American people," said OMB Watch President Katherine McFate.

The REINS Act would require congressional approval of all new, major health, safety, and environmental rules. Under the bill, if rules are not approved by both houses of Congress within 70 legislative days, those rules would be "tabled" – in other words, they would die.

"Pushed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and anti-government ideologues, the REINS Act is a backdoor way for irresponsible corporations to circumvent the system of consumer protections that has grown up over the past 40 years," McFate continued. "Conservative politicians know Americans would not stand for the repeal of these critical safeguards for American families, so instead of taking direct action on protective legislation, they keep trying to make enforcement impossible."

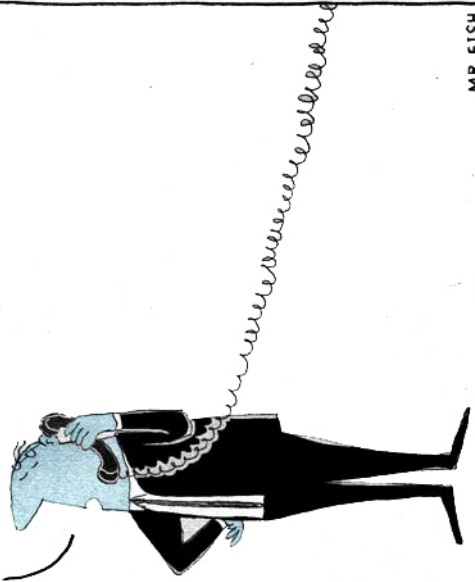
The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and other protective statutes are very popular with the American people and are the envy of other countries.

The REINS Act now moves to the Senate, where it is sponsored by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

After the BP oil spill disaster, the Massey mine explosion and the 2008 crash of Wall Street, the last thing we need is to hamstring federal agencies that are working to protect people from the effects of corporate greed. said. The REINS Act would undermine the ability of agencies to keep our air and water clean, our workplaces safe and our financial system sound. When it comes to protection, the public deserves better."

— Lisa Gilbert, Public Citizen

Yes, Mr. President, Blatherington here . . . yes, from accounting . . . I'm fine. Listen, it seems we've been advising you inappropriately for the last 4 years. I know . . . I know . . . sir . . . I know there's an election coming up soon and that your approval rating is in the toilet. We might be able to fix this and . . . The screw up? Well, it's more of a typo than a full-blown screw up, I think. What . . . ? Well, let me explain it this way. You know how you've been digging the country deeper and deeper into financial and environmental and moral ruin and always with terrific resolve and a shitload of confidence? Well, you should probably stop digging immediately and start listening to the Occupy Wall Street faction shouting outside your window. It seems, according to one of the unpaid interns, that your mission as President is to make decisions that are good for the country as 'a whole' – with a 'W' – not as 'a hole' – with an 'H.'

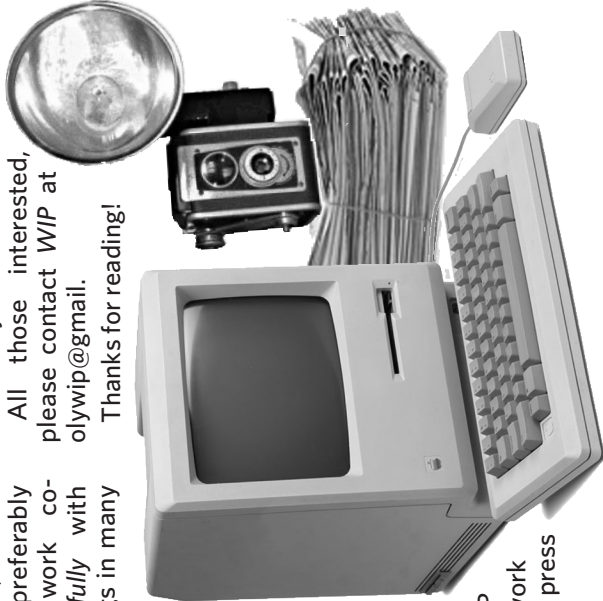


MR. FISH

We're looking for a few good WIPsters

Works In Progress is looking for a few positive, mature (not necessarily referring to age), responsible, and self-motivated progressives—preferably WIPreaders—who can work cooperatively and respectfully with others. We have openings in many areas, including layout, editing, proofreading, distribution, and more.

Established in 1990 as a free and independent grassroots alternative to the dominant media, *Works In Progress* is a collaboration between its readership and the all-volunteer staff. The community provides content and the WIP collective does the footwork involved in taking it to press



each month. Participating in WIP helps to continue this service to the community!

All those interested, please contact WIP at olywip@gmail.com.

Thanks for reading!

January 2012

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.



Public power
is worth
the fight

Why evict
Occupy
Olympia?

Update on
Westside
7-Eleven