



WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 22, No. 10

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.

February 2012

Deported youth missing in Mexico

Martín Morales: young, disabled and caught in a 'broken' immigration system

Alice Nelson/Miles Nowlin

Note: Some names in this story have been changed or omitted. The names of Martín Morales, of public officials, and of anyone directly quoted are real.

These days, people of all political stripes commonly refer to "our broken immigration system," while holding drastically different views about what exactly is broken and how to fix it. As legislative and legal battles rage on, the "broken" detention system hums along, involving well-oiled collusions among local law enforcement, the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and corporations such as GEO that profit from the detention business. Rarely do upper-echelon policy debates acknowledge the pervasive negative effects of current practices that criminalize and terrorize communities of color. Even greater is the silence surrounding those with additional vulnerabilities—such as grinding poverty, violence in the home, or mental health issues—who wind up in the detention system. The story of Martín Morales, a young man from Shelton, powerfully reveals gaps in

our immigration system that disproportionately affect the young and economically disadvantaged, domestic violence survivors, and the disabled.

Martín's Story

Martín's family arrived in the US in 1999, when he was 6 or 7 years old. Martín was one of seven children born to Juan Carlos and Elena, immigrants from Mexico who, after a time in Texas, found work in Shelton's ornamental greens industry. Martín entered 4th grade at Evergreen Elementary School, where his teachers described him as well adapted and smart: he was especially skilled at math. In 8th grade, Martín's parents separated, due to ongoing domestic violence stemming from Juan Carlos's alcoholism. Despite these challenges, Arleen Sandifer, Martín's 8th grade English (ELL) teacher at Oakland Bay Junior High, recalls: "Martín was funny, animated, bright, curious and displayed the normal 'goofy' adolescent male antics at times. He was kind, gentle and expressed his desire to become a teacher."

Shortly after the marital separation and without Elena's permission, Juan

Carlos took three of the children, Martín among them, to California, where they briefly attended school before dropping out to work. The children supported the family in lieu of their fa-

ther, who remained overtly abusive and negligent. One day, Martín went out to the streets and returned home serious-

ly compromised; according to his brothers, Martín seemed "crazy," vacant and unable to focus. His brothers attribute this dramatic shift, which became permanent, to Martín's exposure that day to a powerful drug; years of malnourishment and neglect likely also contributed

to his deterioration. When his mother, fearful but desperate to retrieve her children, tracked them down in California nearly a year later, she found her ex-husband severely ill from alcoholism and

Martín's mental health was compromised but he was allowed to sign his own deportation papers and thus never had a hearing at Northwest Detention Center.

cancer, two sons kept busy working for survival wages, and Martín, emaciated, unkempt and unresponsive, intermittently

able to recognize close relatives or to track conversations. Elena brought the entire family back to Olympia, took refuge from Juan Carlos's abuse at Safe-Place domestic violence shelter, and enrolled Martín in 9th grade at River

► **MARTÍN**, continued on page 6

Initiative filed to protect cannabis patients from Initiative-502

Washington Safe Cannabis Act

In December, two Washington patients filed a proposed Initiative to the People entitled the Washington Safe Cannabis Act. The initiative will remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act, offer arrest protections for patients as well as Driving Under the Influence of Cannabis (DUIC) protections, redefine [industrial] hemp, and attempt to keep the federal government out of the state's medical cannabis patients' business.

Mimi Meiwes and Sarah Short, co-authors and both cannabis patients, say they don't feel safe with the current law. The Washington State legislature has had more than enough time to provide the protections that Meiwes and

Short wrote into their initiative. The two also point out that hemp as a controlled substance is nothing but a joke considering the THC content is negligible at best. "They can't seem to get it right, so we felt the need to try ourselves," explained

Mimi, who says they spent many hours pouring over other initiatives in order to learn how to write one themselves. "There is no how-to manual that we could find, so we just had to figure it out."

"There are so many things that need more research, so much that cannabis can help," adds Sarah, "and then you get into the hemp end of things and the uses and benefits are astonishing." The social impact of just producing and processing the raw materials in our state would provide welcome relief to our hag-

► **CANNABIS ACT**, continued on page 2



Stories reveal the need for systemic change

Emily Elena Johnson

Snow dusts the streets outside of Darby's as we sit inside completing the POWER workshop on storytelling. POWER stands for Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights. Why does this mean something to me? I was two when my father left my mother. She supported him for four years as he made his way through law school. When he'd gotten a high-paying job at a law firm, and my mother had given birth to my sister, he left her. We lived off of state support and the child support my father paid sporadically. I remember when my mother put food in front of us and then sat down at the table with nothing to eat for herself, it weighed on me to know she was hungry. My mother is the hardest working woman I know. She was our crafty budget balancer—which we have learned from recent budget cuts isn't the easiest thing to do, even for highly educated politicians.

I finish writing my story and look around to see other people finishing theirs. People begin sharing their stories. All of the different narratives familiarize me with a room full of hard-working people who have been affected by the recent budget cuts.

The day of the workshop and march is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Words from his speech, "Beyond Vietnam,"

given on April 4, 1967, played on the radio as I drove to Darby's. "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."

Monica Peabody, the executive director of POWER, added another layer to this quote. "It is true that with a small portion of what we've spent on the war, we could restore human rights and end suffering, but what shocks me even more is an article I read saying that we've spent more on bailouts to the wealthy than all of the wars of this country combined." <http://www.aim.org/on-target-blog/bailout-cost-exceeds-all-american-wars/>

Nationalpriorities.org estimates that since the Bush-Era Tax Cuts in 2001, we've spent \$1,035,202,163,345 on tax cuts for the top five percent. A couple sitting across from me in the workshop posed a question with their story that hung in my mind for the rest of the day, "How is corporate welfare somehow sacred but social services are not?"

In the workshop we talk about the importance of taking up space, looking our legislators in the eyes, and condensing our stories into sound bites. Our stories are woven in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to communicate to our legislators how the recent budget cuts have affected families.

► **STORIES**, 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.com or mail to *Works In Progress*, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Anti-Discrimination Clause

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

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Ferdinand Bridges	Creighton Rose
Stan Butler	Fred Schug
Marylea Coday	Sandia Slaby
Izzy Ceccanti	Sylvia Smith
Wally Cuddeford	Jeff Sowers
Benji Friedman	Wendy Tanowitz
N Kay Harmon	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Tinker Belle
Marissa Luck	Berd Whitlock
Maggie Reardon	Scott Yoo

On the front cover —

Winter scene on the Westside

Photographer: Benji Friedman

Submission Deadline:

February 19

PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading:

February 25

(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES

7.25" x 4.75"	\$125
4.75" x 4.75"	\$83
3.0" x 4.75"	\$52
4.0" x 2.25"	\$34
3.5" x 2.25"	\$30
2.25" x 2.25"	\$20

Special microbusiness deal!
4 months for the price of 3

olywip@gmail.com

* Ask for nonprofit rates

The Thurston Public Power Initiative Storm shows need for change

John Pearce

We at Thurston Public Power Initiative are hard at work collecting petition signatures and getting our message out—"Neighbors bringing neighbors reliable electric power at a fair rate".

Thurston County was slammed very hard by the January snow, ice, and wind storms. We are collecting our neighbors' stories and posting them on our web site. Tell your story and read others' at www.ThurstonPublicPower.org/January2012Outage.html.

We heard the other day from a lineman who was brought in from the Washington coast to work the January outages. He told us that one of the main reasons power was out for so long is that when the Macquarie Group [the largest Australian investment bank nicknamed the Millionaire Factory] purchased Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and turned it private, they got rid of all the meter readers in favor of an automated meter reading system. That move saved them a lot of money, but it cost them (and their customers) valuable resources.

The meter readers knew the streets, the poles, the wires—the infrastructure—intimately. Back before Macquarie, when the power went out, meter readers were able to direct the crews to specific locations very quickly. Now, out-of-county and out-of-state workers are left on their own to find obscure locations that only the local residents know well enough to find on the first attempt.

PSE has the great majority of their resources centralized at their Renton Call Center. There are only five one-person line trucks based in Thurston County, and each is permitted to work alone on single-phase issues under 480V. Anything beyond that—including every

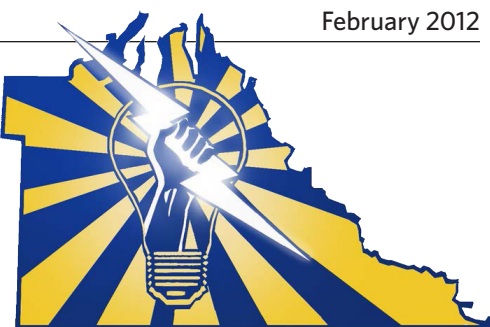
downed pole and most of the outages from the storm—requires the one-person truck to evaluate the situation before calling the Renton Call Center to request more equipment, materials, and personnel. This delays almost all Thurston County repairs by hours. To restore power to the thousands of customers in the dark just in Thurston County, PSE had to bring in crews from all over the

What makes it even worse for every one of PSE's customers is that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission guarantees Macquarie a profit of more than 10% on their investment in Puget Sound Energy.

Pacific Northwest (I personally saw a number of crews from Oregon and Idaho working on downed lines and poles).

The coastal lineman, who'd been here for over a week, said he talked to an out-of-state crew two days earlier who sat in a parking lot for over 20 consecutive hours—ready to go at any moment, just waiting for instructions or directions that had yet to come. He was very upset that this crew was sitting still when they were desperately needed in hundreds of locations. He noted that the crew will be paid for every single hour, most of that overtime, of their 20-hour sitting spell.

This alone is very bad news when hundreds are still without power after more than a week. What makes it even worse for every one of PSE's customers is that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission guarantees Macquarie a profit of more than 10% on their investment in Puget Sound Energy. That means a 10% profit even on the 60+ wasted man-hours spent by just that one crew as they sat in the parking lot waiting for the call that didn't come. One shudders to think how many times that



scene was repeated over the week-plus outage!

Puget Sound Energy's handling of the January outage only emphasizes the need for the citizens of Thurston County to take the profit motive out of our electrical service by transitioning to less expensive and more reliable Public Power without profit. The Public Utility District is responsible solely to the people of Thurston County, not the invisible shareholders of a privately-held Australian/Canadian conglomerate.

For more information or to find out where you can sign the petition to allow us to choose between private for-profit power and public non-profit power, go to www.ThurstonPublicPower.org or call (360) 259-0551.

John Pearce is the chairperson of Thurston Public Power Initiative.

► CANNABIS, continued from page 1

gard economy, the two insist.

They explained that they originally began writing their initiative because of concerns with the strict and unscientific DUI levels included in I-502, which recently went to the legislature and will likely be on the November ballot. When they sat down to try to come up with what would help them feel safe as patients, their list began to grow and they began to write.

Their first draft was just that; "something we wrote down as two patients who wanted to feel safer." When a leaked copy received such a positive response from others, the two knew they had hit on something. They began an earnest rewrite, pouring over countless initiatives, rewording, changing and finally coming up with something that could actually be presented to the people for petition to the ballot. Okay, so Tim Eyman does it all the time, nothing special, right?

Except that Mimi has spent most of her working career as a registered nurse, and Sarah was slated for the Olympic Swim Team, each dropping out as their disease took hold of their lives. Mimi suffers from end stage kidney disease due to an autoimmune disorder, while Sarah fights a brain tumor that is difficult to get to, much less remove. The two patients—neither owns a business or is interested in politics—wrote the Washington Safe Cannabis Act for no other reason than "it was the right thing to do."

Cannabis does not belong on the Controlled Substance list; hemp certainly has no basis for being listed. Won't you do the right thing?

Help get the Washington Safe Cannabis Act on the ballot.

You can reach Mimi and Sarah at Washington Safe Cannabis Act via email at WSA12@gmail.com. A website is currently under development and should be available soon.



Inside Works In Progress

Page 4	Ground Zero blocks Bangor entrance; Honor MLK, Jr
Page 5	Sadie's trail — poem by Craig Oare
Page 7	Recommendations to the US government on the return and repatriation of unaccompanied undocumented children
Page 8	Meeting with state legislators of the 22nd District
Page 9	CA professor under attack for opposing "study in Israel"
Page 11	Announcements



Thanks to KXXO for their generous support in providing much-needed space for our production meetings.

The sun will come out...

Saturday, February 18th
Capitol Theatre

2-5 pm

Sing-a-long!

Costume parade!

Have your picture taken
as Little Orphan Annie!



A benefit for Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights.
For more information, call 360-352-9716 or email info@mamapower.org



OCCUPY PRESIDENTS' DAY
RALLY IN SYLVESTER PARK 10 AM
MARCH TO THE CAPITOL NOON

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION/UPDATES:
FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OCCUPYSOLIDARITY
TWITTER: TWITTER.COM/OSSF2012



OLYMPIA'S COMMUNITY RADIO

Listener & volunteer-powered
since 1973, KAOS is brought
to you by YOU!!



www.kaosradio.org

Stop oppressive budget cuts that kill communities

Building a local legislative solidarity movement – part three

Carole Willey, BSW

A reputable, independent business or center for public policy research & analysis is needed to further our work to analyze these four and other tax bills. Can Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget and others step forward to take the lead to gather information for the forming of a social action network geared solely for a legislative budget advocacy fight in 2012?

During the Legislative Session

Tracking bills during the legislative session, your legislative agenda with bills of interest is the most important responsibility and task. Primary tasks will be tracking bills on your Legislative Agenda and Bills of Interest list, updating the list for your web site, sending out email alerts for people to attend hearings, and introduce your participants to Legislative Information Center's tracking bills functions/links.

Really Simple Syndication (RSS)

About three years ago an easier method came about for tracking bills or finding out late in the session when a new bill is introduced. It's a great method to find out any issue on such as elections. This means any meetings, reports, presentations, etc are available to watch. This includes being able to keep track of all state agencies policies, procedures, and practices throughout the year. This method is used for tracking bills and related announcements, including meeting cancellations. It can be very useful throughout the legislative session for the most avid activist.

Easy Access to Government Reports

A 2010 pilot program was developed and approved for the general public to have access to all Washington State presentations and reports given by state agency's staff at all Legislative hearings and meetings to be made available at www.leg.wa.gov.

I've learned how important it is for coalition members to receive online links for current up-to-date information of state presentations and reports that are essential data. For example, for state agencies' studies and reports to the Legislature, go to the above mentioned web site under Committee Agendas & Schedules to find the information you want. Industry reports are kept there, too. These reports are usually in PDF files and can be printed by you or your staff. This immediate sharing of information is accessible and available for all. These reports are available to you and your allies for review. (<http://www.leg.wa.gov/reportsto-thelegislature>)

At this point in my career, I have been encouraging as many non-profit organizations to write their own bills to create the state statutes / public policies that they want and desire as opposed to only being reactionary to say budget cuts. We can create the world we want.

The lack of tax bills to solve the problems of budgetary shortfalls for the wealth and corporations to pay their fair share, is a deep concern of mine. Disastrously bad bills that create unacceptable public policy, have to fought.

And now is the time for building a local legislative action network!

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

Fresh.
Local.
Affordable.

Olympia Food Co-op
Community owned since 1978
West: 921 N Rogers East: 3111 Pacific Ave SE
(360) 754-7666 (360) 956-3870



photo: Leonard Eiger

Blocking the gate at Bangor

Peace activists occupy nuclear sub base entrance to honor MLK

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

On January 14, 2012 activists from a local peace group blocked entry to the main gate at the Navy’s West coast Trident nuclear submarine base for nearly a half hour in an act of civil resistance to nuclear weapons.

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action held a peaceful vigil and nonviolent direct action at the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington. The group protested the US government’s continued deployment of the Trident nuclear weapons system. Its continued reliance on nuclear weapons as an instrument of foreign policy is in contravention of both US and international laws.

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

On Saturday afternoon the group maintained a peaceful vigil on the roadside outside the base entrance. Nine protesters entered the roadway carrying banners and blocked all inbound traffic lanes. One banner had a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: “When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.” One side of the second banner read “Care for Sailors & Marines: Peaceful Jobs for All.” The other side read “Enriching the Few at Everyone’s Expense: Occupy Trident.”

Trained peacekeepers from Ground Zero ensured the safety of all participants during the vigil and action and communicated with base security personnel as needed.

Traffic into the main gate was turned

away for approximately 26 minutes. Once Washington State Patrol officers arrived the protestors complied with the order to move off the state roadway. All were cited for “Pedestrian in Roadway Illegally” (a traffic offense) and released at the scene.

Those arrested were Louise Bollman, Larry Kerschner, Gabriel La Valle, Peggy Love, Jack Smith, Carlo Voli, Marion Ward, Robert Whitlock, and Alice Zillah. Arrestees’ ages range from 33 to 73 years.

The day planned in honor of Martin

Luther King, Jr. began in the morning at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action where participants learned about the effects of nuclear weapons (with an emphasis on the Trident system) and US nuclear weapons policy. They also participated in nonviolence training and discussed the implications of the Occupy movement in relation to the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

Participants in the vigil and action included activists from the Kitsap Penin-

sula, Olympia, the Greater Puget Sound area, the Interfaith Peace Walk for MLK Day, and Occupy Seattle.

Ground Zero holds three scheduled vigils and actions each year in resistance to Trident and in protest of US nuclear weapons policy. The group has been working to reverse the Navy’s plan to build a second explosives handling wharf at Bangor. Ground Zero is also working to defund the Navy’s plans for a next generation ballistic missile submarine, estimated to cost \$99 billion to build.

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

Activists have their say in court for the abolition of nuclear weapons

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

Peace activists made their case for the abolition of nuclear weapons, specifically the Trident nuclear weapons system, while on trial in a Kitsap County courtroom on January 4th and 5th for blocking the entrance to a local nuclear weapons base.

The ten defendants in two separate trials were charged with being “Pedestrians on Roadway Unlawfully,” a traffic infraction. On two different occasions, May 7, 2011 and August 8, 2011, the activists blocked the entrance to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, symbolically closing the base as a statement against the US government’s continued deployment of the Trident first strike nuclear weapons system.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, contains the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons. Each of the eight Trident submarines at Bangor carries 24 Trident II (D-5) missiles, each armed with up to eight independently targetable nuclear warheads. Each nuclear warhead has an explosive yield of between 100 and 475 kilotons (up to 30 times the yield of the Hiroshima bomb).

The defendants on trial January 4th were Anne Hall, Betsy Lamb, Brenda McMillen and Tom Rogers, who were arrested August 8, 2011. On trial on January 5th were Mary Gleysteen, Anne Hall, David Hall, Bernie Meyer, Shirley Morrison, Dorli Rainey and Alice Zillah, who were arrested on May 7, 2012.

Kitsap County District Court Judge James M. Riehl presided over the trials. All the defendants, except Bernie Meyer and Dorli Rainey who represented themselves, were represented by attorney William Joel Rutzick.

Rutzick attempted to demonstrate that

the defendants were incorrectly charged, and therefore the charges should be dismissed. State Patrol officers who had been present at both arrests testified, and photos and video were shown by the defense to make their case.

Aside from the legal issues surrounding the charging statute, the primary reason for the defendants to be in the courtroom was to make their case against the continued deployment of the Trident first strike weapons system and the government’s continued reliance on nuclear weapons while neglecting to lead

All of Bangor’s Trident submarines carry 24 Trident II missiles, each with up to eight independently targetable nuclear warheads that have explosive yields up to 30 times that of the Hiroshima bomb.

the way towards the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

Judge Riehl was attentive and conciliatory as he limited the extent of the defendants’ testimonies while allowing them to state their case, in which they spoke passionately, referring to precedents established by the Nuremberg Tribunal and humanitarian principles and law. The general question asked by defense counsel was “Why did you do what you did?”

Tom Rogers, a retired Navy officer who commanded nuclear submarines during the Cold War, testified that he had been responsible for nuclear weapons during his career, and that our country’s national security strategy based on the threat of nuclear annihilation is dangerous, militarily impractical, and unaffordable. He participated in the August action to bring public awareness and believes his actions were justified based on the Nuremberg principles.

Anne Hall, a Lutheran minister, said that she “wanted to close that base for as

long as possible...wanted to make people aware of the immorality and illegality of what was going on in that base.” When asked “What part did religion have to do with your motivation?” by Rutzick, she said “my calling is to follow Jesus... it is an anathema to God to kill children...”

Dave Hall: “My commitment is to love justice and it is an anathema to be willing to incinerate an entire city.” Bernie Meyer: “What I did was a citizen intervention.” Alice Zillah: “Trident is a cold war era machine we can no longer afford. We can’t afford them on a financial level or

a moral level.” Dorli Rainey: “[Our action at Bangor] is the only way we can get to the public to let them know the outrageous things being done in our name.” Shirley Morrison: “These weapons are immoral and illegal.” Brenda McMillan: [Nuclear] “weapons are immoral, horrific.” Betsy Lamb: “[We] follow in the steps of Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Jackie Hudson, and Jesus himself... feel called to take these drastic steps.”

In his ruling Judge Riehl said that the defendants’ compelling testimony “rings true,” and that it has been “a long battle in this courtroom for people working on this issue,” and remarked how Anne Hall has been engaged in this struggle for 30 years. Although the judge believes “the cause is just,” he said that he must “uphold the rule of law.” Consistent with both the rule of law and the circumstances surrounding the defendants’ actions he found them guilty of the traffic infraction, fined them the full \$56, and mitigated that to \$25.

The eleven defendants are participants with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, which holds vigils and nonviolent direct actions at the Bangor base each year around Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, Mother’s Day, and the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 🔥



360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

► **Stories**, cont. from page 1

When we complete our workshop we begin the march to the Capitol. Our plan is to share our stories with our legislators. We unite in Sylvester Park with Mothers of the Movement (MOM) and the Artesian Rumble Arkestra, Olympia's own radical marching band. POWER's banner says: "Every Mother is a Working Mother."

Rebecca Jension, from Mothers of the Movement, commented on this banner.

I looked at a chart that said if they taxed 5% of people who made over \$200,000 a year it would balance the budget in nothing flat.

"There is no way that any person, particularly single women who are the heads of households, can move into their own brilliance and figure out that they're a part of the solution to solve a problem when they are in survival mode. And what the budget cuts do is move more people into survival mode and into isolation. It becomes 'how do I take care of mine,' rather than 'how is it we can extend what we already have into our community?'" If we don't value the work that is done in the home as legitimate work and cut spending on social services, many single mothers and fathers are left in survival mode.

Children march with us and their presence gives clarity and focus to our cause. I ask Jension, who is a single mother, why it is important to have her daughter here with her. "This world is not acceptable right now. It is not acceptable for me to pass on to my daughter. We honor the fact that we are raising the next leaders, and we need to treat them with kindness and respect and fairness... So it's always been important to me to make sure my daughter feels safe in this world and that she can speak her voice to make it heard."

One of MOM's banners asserts, "Budget Cuts Leave Families Dangling." Peabody spoke about needing to have a budget that doesn't hurt poor people. "The largest population living in poverty in Washington is children. Children and people with disabilities don't have an option to earn a living and are being most hurt by the budget cuts. They're not lazy, yet they're being thrown under the bus right now. Legislators need to restore human rights as a priority."

What does it look like to raise rev-

enue in a way that doesn't hurt poor people? Some think that an increase in sales tax could be the solution. It might lessen the budget cuts that are affecting so many families, though Peabody calls it a regressive tax. A single mother of three participating in the MLK Day event, Linda Sanders has an idea about what we might do instead of increasing

the sales tax. "I looked at a chart that said if they taxed 5% of people who made over \$200,000 a year it would balance the budget in nothing flat. I think that is what needs to be done. Raising the sales tax isn't fair; everybody pays the same thing. Right around 9% of income under \$10,000 a year goes towards sales tax, and when you get clear up to the \$200,000 a year mark, it's around .006% of their income. Everybody pays the same sales tax, but it affects the poor people more because it's a higher percentage of their total income."

Congressman John Fleming, a Tea Party Republican from Louisiana, was confronted by Jansing about his salary of over \$6 million in an interview on MSNBC's *Jansing & Company* broadcast September 19, 2011. His response? "Yeah, that's before you pay 500 employees, you pay rent, you pay equipment and food. Since my net income — and again, that's the individual rate that I told you about — the amount that I have to reinvest in my business and feed my family is more like \$600,000 of that \$6.3 million. And so by the time I feed my family, I have maybe \$400,000 left over to invest in new locations, upgrade my locations, buy more equipment."

In response, Jansing said, "You do understand, Congressman, the average person out there making 40, 50, \$60,000 a year, when they hear that you have \$400,000 left over, it's not exactly a sympathetic position? You understand that?" To which Fleming answered, "Again, class warfares never created a job. That's people that will not get jobs. This is all about creating jobs. It's not about attacking people who make certain incomes. You know, in this country, most people feel that being successful in their businesses is a virtue, not a vice.



Participants in P.O.W.E.R.'s MLK Day event at the Capitol. photos: Berd Whitlock

And once we begin to identify it as a vice, this country is going down."

With his corporate businesses—Subway sandwich shops and UPS stores—he plans to provide jobs to the lazy Americans who aren't ambitious enough to climb to the top of the corporate ladder. Those Americans who just couldn't catch a break to monopolize wealth in such a way that they're able to "feed" their families with \$200,000 a year. By the way, he and his wife have four grown children, but assuming the children still live with their parents, Congressman Fleming is budgeting more than 10 times the average yearly food cost for a family his size—according to an article on DailyFinance.com by Bruce Watson called "Does it really cost this Tea Party Congressman \$200,000 to feed his family?"

Amanda Lucas, also participating in the MLK day event, is a single mother struggling to support her family while trying to find time to write her thesis and earn her graduate degree in the face of recent budget cuts. She said, "We've been in this system of wealth inequality for so long. It's very easy to see how it's not even, and how it's disempowering. We need to re-structure everything. Social services aren't working. One thing that is ridiculous about Washington's WorkFirst program is that everyone is just cycling through the same jobs over and over again. You hear stories of a lady who works at McDonalds for three years— that's not a job. You're not getting paid well for three years, you're going back to WorkFirst, you're getting laid off. If you work in the service industry, you're at risk of getting laid off. And we're just cycling people with the same job skills, and blaming them for not working. We just need to restructure and really look at why people keep going through this cycle, it has nothing to do with the person, everyone wants to work hard, everyone wants to provide."

It's important to emphasize that in order to make change we must solve problems on a systemic level rather than treating symptoms. The families organiz-

ing on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day are genuinely in need of more assistance. When a parent is in survival mode, it is not easy to get an education and look for salaried jobs. Higher education is also getting cut, increasing the probability of people recycling through the same jobs. No, Congressman Fleming, it's not only about creating more jobs at Subway or UPS. A systemic problem has to do with tax cuts for the wealthy—a system set up for corporate executives to stay on top.

Most Subway employees start at minimum wage. Though Washington's hourly minimum wage is \$9.04, thanks to voters approving regular cost of living increases, federal minimum wage remains at \$7.25. Even at Washington's minimum wage, if a Subway employee works forty hours a week for a year, they will make a little over \$17,000 before taxes. For a single parent paying for forty hours of childcare a week, plus food and rent, there is not much left over.


We make changes in the system by changing the way that we relate to one another. The biggest influence we can have is to build solidarity with one another and organize. There are a lot of people who are unhappy about tax cuts for the wealthy. Talking to our legislators is important. It felt good to be in the Capitol speaking our stories to our legislators and writing letters to them. The most influential strategy, however, is to organize ourselves as "We the People."

Emily Elena Johnson is getting her degree in social justice and is exploring her role in solidarity building and advocacy. She is an intern at POWER, and is interested in understanding intersecting oppressions dealing with race, class, gender, and ability to be better able to dedicate herself to social justice. 🔥

Occupy Solidarity Social Forum

February 18th through the 20th

Olympia, Washington



The Occupy Solidarity Social Forum will be happening on the weekend of the 18th through 20th of February. It will be an opportunity for people to gather and share about their experiences relating to Occupy Wall Street. What has Occupy Wall Street meant to you? Come and meet with fellow Occupationists and other activists. Where might the movement go from here? Brainstorm, and begin to organize!

Registration is \$30. Locals are working on food and accommodations for visitors. (If you can volunteer to help with accommodations,


please call Bruce Wilkinson at (360) 742-0864.) You're encouraged to submit workshop proposals; the deadline for submitting is around the end of the first week in February. Participant registration is on the website: www.ossf2012.org or again, please call Bruce at (360)742-0864.

Check for updates on:

Facebook--www.facebook.com/OccupySolidarity

Twitter: twitter.com/ossf2012

Solidarity!



Reading Olympia Since 2002

Publishing, screenprinting, full-service printing, & more!
books-zines-t-shirts-stickers
211 4th Ave E, Olympia, WA
360-786-9673
www.lastwordbooks.org

Last Word Books

► **Martin**, cont. from page 1

Ridge High School, where, thanks to caring social service workers, he was placed in an especially supportive special education classroom. Juan Carlos died of kidney cancer in February 2009, at the age of 47.

In Olympia, Martín was evaluated by a licensed psychologist who diagnosed him with “severe schizophrenia.” According to the DSM-IV diagnostic manual, this condition is characterized by a combination of psychotic symptoms (delusions, hallucinations) with emotional dysfunction (such as apathy, poor social functioning, etc) and other serious disruptions in cognition and memory. The psychologist recommended further evaluation so that Martín could access social services and medication to help control his condition. This evaluation never took place.

In April 2010, the family returned to Shelton and Martín enrolled in Shelton High School, where he was assigned to a combination of regular classes he couldn’t understand and special education classes that required little of him. His family entered Turning Point domestic violence shelter, which accepts any family with a previous history of violence in the home. Unmedicated and confused, Martín began fighting, skipping school, and wandering around downtown Shelton. He eventually dropped out of high school in January 2011. In 2007, Martín had been arrested for stealing \$16 worth of snack food at Wal-Mart. In May 2011, he was found car prowling and was arrested and detained in Mason County Jail. According to family members, they were allowed only intermittent visits while Martín was incarcerated.

During his time in Mason County Jail, the court ordered that Martín’s mental health be evaluated at Western State Hospital so that he could stand trial. Although this evaluation never took place, Martín’s case was dismissed in July 2011 at the request of the City Prosecutor, Sharon English. According to court records, the reason for dismissal was “judiciary economy--the defendant is likely not competent to stand trial and he has served beyond the jail sanction the city would have been seeking had he been convicted; upon dismissal he will be transported in his ICE hold.” As far as the city was concerned, Martín had already served his time.

Although his criminal case was closed, ICE had placed a hold on Martín’s release; he was held for nearly another month in the Mason County Jail before being transported to the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma on August 8, 2011. Only two days later, Martín was deported. The Shelton courts had acknowledged that Martín’s mental health was compromised (he was also unable to write), but he was allowed to sign his own deportation papers and thus never had a hearing at NWDC. His family was not notified of his deportation. Martín wound up in Matamoros, Mexico, where he was last spotted at a migrant support center; he wandered away from the migrant center and has been missing ever since. Elena, who suffers from depression and diabetes, struggles to care for her other children, and currently faces new cuts in social services support that compromise her family’s ability to survive. The whole family is anguished and eager to determine Martín’s whereabouts.

(In)Secure Communities

From July 2011, when his criminal case was dismissed, to August 2011, when he was transported to the Northwest Detention Center, Martín was held as a federal detainee in a county prison. That is, although federal officials questioned his immigration status, local police held him in jail, and the residents of cash-strapped Mason County paid the costs. The “hold” placed on Martín’s release underscores the ongoing collaboration of ICE and local law enforcement

known as “Secure Communities.” This program requires local law enforcement to cross-reference criminally charged individuals with the federal immigration database, and expands the eyes and ears of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. There have been lively stories in the news about states or counties that have “opted out” of this program, but the facts on the ground show that this “program” is actually a set of practices that have long been in place, whether or not communities have opted for them. Law enforcement authorities at all levels routinely share information, and in the case of immigrants, many people wind up caught in the legal crosshairs of the federal and local systems.

On its website, ICE itself acknowledges that Secure Communities simply continues longstanding “partnerships”: “Secure Communities is a simple and common sense way to carry out ICE’s priorities. It uses an already-existing federal information-sharing partnership between ICE and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that helps to identify criminal aliens without imposing new or additional requirements on state and local law enforcement. For decades, local jurisdictions have shared the fingerprints of individuals who are booked into jails with the FBI to see if they have a criminal record. Under Secure Communities, the FBI automatically sends the fingerprints to ICE to check against its immigration databases. If these checks reveal that an individual is unlawfully present in the United States or otherwise removable due to a criminal conviction, ICE takes enforcement action” (http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/). The Obama administration has implicitly acknowledged the ongoing power of this well-oiled law enforcement machine. On August 6, 2011, the Los Angeles Times reported: “In an unusual move, the Obama administration has told governors they cannot exempt their states from the controversial Secure Communities program, which uses fingerprints collected by local and state police to help immigration authorities identify and deport tens of thousands

should not have been held an entire month at Mason County Jail after his criminal case was resolved. Immigration attorney Lisa Siefert explains: “Most people do not know that an ICE hold is 72 hours, and if ICE does not come to get the detainee, and there are



Photo provided by the Morales family.

no local charges pending, the jailer is supposed to release the detainee. If that does not happen, the detainee has a right to go to the local court to demand this. Almost no one does this. If they do, ICE would likely be notified and would come to get the person. New detainer regulations give more explicit instruction to jailers that the hold is permissive, not mandatory, and that it is limited to 72 hours.” Current (mis)applications of Secure Communities by law enforcement personnel, coupled with insufficient advocacy mechanisms for immigrant detainees, have set the stage for an untold number of deportations, a minority of which involve the “dangerous criminal aliens” that the program supposedly targets.

As a result, the Secure Communities program has fostered widespread and well-founded distrust of all law enforcement authorities in immigrant communities. Though the stated purpose of this program to identify “dangerous criminal aliens,” the program has indiscriminately targeted and destroyed immigrant families and communities,” as the organization One America notes. The case of Martín Morales illustrates such indiscriminate targeting and the toll it takes on families. Shelton resident Ricardo del Bosque eloquently summarizes this program’s effects: “The Secure Communities program has led to insecure communities, lots of uncertainty and tension.” He added: “Obama has set a record: 400,000 deportations per year. The American Dream ended years ago.”

Mental Health

One of the most disturbing issues that Martín’s case reveals is a systemic blindness to mental health status affecting immigrants at all levels of their interfacing with public institutions. Although at least two calls for additional psychiatric evaluation were made—one while Martín was in school, the other from the courts—he went unmedicated and unmonitored for years, despite a credible diagnosis of severe schizophrenia. It is difficult to assess how he fell through the gaps prior to his arrest. But the Mason County Jail regularly receives evaluators from Western State Hospital (WSH) to determine competency to stand trial. A file was started at WSH for Martín after the judge requested psychiatric assessment on June 1, 2011, but the process was never completed. Nevertheless, Shelton’s city prosecutor cited Martín’s poor mental health as a reason to dismiss his case. He was held for another month without evaluation at the Mason County Jail before being transferred to Tacoma.

The Northwest Detention Center also has the responsibility to assess the mental health of detainees. The facility is privately contracted with the GEO Group, but health workers are federal employees of ICE Health Service Corps. One of the authors of this article took part in two tours of the facility, the most recent in September 2011. There, the medical professional leading the health-oriented portion of the tour claimed that “we do a super job on mental health here.” When asked about specific procedures, he said that routine initial intakes of detainees consist of 28 questions geared toward assessing urgent medical and mental health issues. When asked to quantify the amount of time spent on each detainee, he said that up to 10 intakes could be done in 30 minutes, adding that “we have to get through a lot of people here.” The GEO Detainee Handbook states: “Soon after you arrive here, we will ask you some medical questions and give you a chest X-ray or tuberculin test to see if you have been near someone who has had tuberculosis.... Within the first 14 days of your stay here, you will receive a physical exam.... Emergency care is provided 24 hours a day.” Martín was only in the facility for two days before deportation, so it is unlikely he had a full exam. In a 3- or even 30-minute intake, perhaps he appeared like many other detainees who decline to talk due to mistrust or fear. But given the court documentation accompanying his transfer there, a red flag should have been raised. And even if Martín fell through those legal cracks, there should be mechanisms in place to ensure that any detainee understands the terms of signing his/her own deportation papers before effecting the deportation. Clearly, that did not happen in Martín’s case.

And Martín’s case is not unique. The Northwest Immigrants Rights Project (NWIRP) recently filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of a severely schizophrenic Salvadoran immigrant, José Antonio Franco Gonzales, and six other plaintiffs. Franco had been detained over four years without trial in federal immigration facilities. In a rare and inspiring victory, a federal judge ruled on December 20, 2011, that NWIRP and partner organizations be assigned to represent detained immigrants with mental health issues as a class in three states: Washington, California, and Arizona. The federal government estimates that over 1000 mentally disabled immigrants are detained nationwide each day (the actual numbers are surely higher), and NWIRP has pointed out that there are no standard procedures

► **MARTÍN**, continued on page 7

Martín wound up in Matamoros, Mexico, where he was last spotted at a migrant support center; he wandered away from the migrant center and has been missing ever since.

of criminals each year.” In all practicality, communities cannot opt out of Secure Communities, even if they declare themselves against it, without a radical restructuring of longstanding law enforcement practices themselves. It may be worth noting, though, which communities have opted in, as an extra declaration of their support for anti-immigrant hawkishness. Despite the fact that Washington State refused the program in July 2011, 6 of 39 counties in our state opted overtly to support it: Yakima, Lewis, Franklin, Benton, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties (see a list at: <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/sc-activated1.pdf>).

Even in this context of close collaboration between local and federal law enforcement authorities, Martín

► **Martin**, cont. from page 6
for resolving their cases, even when the detained are unable to understand the charges against them. This ruling permits the many mentally ill detainees to have their day in court. As Matt Adams, NWIRP’s Legal Director asserts: “The most important aspect of the ruling granting class certification is that we are now in a position to address this problem on a systemic level. People with severe mental disabilities who are locked up in immigration detention are ground through this system without even understanding what is happening to them. We can now focus on fighting for the right to counsel so that they receive a fair hearing.”

Social Services

In the world of education and social services, Martín was defined as a “multi-systems child.” Because of Martín’s special needs, he had been involved in multiple federal and state support programs. After his return from California, Martín was placed on a Special Education Plan to address his learning disabilities and behavioral issues. He also got involved in the juvenile justice system when he was caught shoplifting at Wal-Mart as a teenager. His family as a whole became part of multiple systems since immigrating to the US. Elena and her children accessed services including the federal Section 8 housing program, HUD low-income apartment programs, Medicaid health care programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (welfare for families with children, TANF), and the Basic Food Program.

Washington State social services have traditionally been supportive of immigrants, understanding that immigrants contribute revenue through taxes and often work hard to fill crucial jobs, like the annual fruit harvest in Eastern Washington. Healthcare has been available for all children regardless of their immigration status. Washington has hosted a number of naturalization programs that have helped thousands of immigrants find a path to residency and citizenship.

But when Washington State faced billions of dollars in revenue shortfalls starting in 2009, its progressive history was set aside. In early 2011 the State legislature made cuts to social and health programs that disproportionately affected low-income immigrant children and children of color. Some of these programs included reductions in the Apple Health for Kids program (which provides health coverage for 27,000 immigrant children, regardless of legal status), the Basic Health Program (affordable health coverage accessed by those ineligible for DSHS services), and the State Food Assistance Program (food stamps). The legislature attempted to eliminate the basic food program for all immigrants who had not lived in the US for more than 5 years, but a federal district court judge placed a restraining order on the action.

In February 2011, the legislature adopted a 60-month lifetime limit on the TANF program, which became effective in November 2011. This program had been available to immigrant (among other low-income) families, with parents who may be undocumented but

with children born in the United States. TANF has also recently been reduced to a modest 25% of the federal poverty level, which amounts to \$385 per month for a family with one child. For Elena, as an undocumented single mother of 7 children, this system has been a lifeline. Last November, Elena lost her TANF for life at the same time that the father of her youngest child withdrew his support. Facing the prospect of homelessness once again, Elena recently found a minimum wage job on a night crew doing dock work out of Portland. She leaves Shelton at around four in the evening, and returns home each day in the dark morning hours.

Other families likely will face similar hardships. In the most recent rounds of budget cut proposals for the 2011-2013 biennium, the TANF limit is to be shortened to 36 months, and 1200 families who are not documented citizens will lose their benefits. Health care for undocumented children will be eliminated, along with the basic health program and all state naturalization programs.

Undocumented immigrants in need of systems services are often faced with the barrier of fear. Despite the fact that Elena and her children had been victims of domestic violence on multiple occasions, never once did she make a criminal report to the police. With the fear of incarceration and deportation constantly looming, the primary system of public safety was assumed inaccessible. The four oldest children may have been eligible to apply for U-visas as victims of domestic violence, if there had been some criminal paper trail. The issue of fear has unfortunately become a greater reality among undocumented families with the introduction of the Secure Communities program and strict state legislation such as Alabama’s house bill SB256, which requires children to disclose their immigration status on school registration forms.

There is still much work to be done to spread awareness about the effects of harsh policies and discriminatory tactics such as Secure Communities, as well as about recent budget cuts that disproportionately affect families such as Martín’s. Immigration attorney Lisa Siefert adds: “The immigrant community needs to keep getting the word out that once in a detention center, a person should always ask for a hearing, and should talk with an attorney before making any decision to leave voluntarily.” Such a request requires the ability to self-advocate, something Martín was ill-equipped to do. The systemic blind spots around mental health, poverty, and domestic violence that profoundly impact immigrant detainees like Martín need to be addressed. At the end of the day, we might ask some familiar questions: whose interests does this “broken” system serve? Who profits? And who pays?

Alice Nelson teaches Latin American Studies at the Evergreen State College and is a member of Bridges Not Walls, an immigrant ally group in Thurston and Mason counties.

Miles Nowlin is the Homeless Liaison for the Shelton School District and a youth and family advocate in the Shelton community.



Changes needed in the deportation of minors by federal government agencies

The following are some of the recommendations from The Center for Public Policy Priorities 2008 report, A Child Alone and Without Papers: A report on the return and repatriation of unaccompanied undocumented children by the United States.

Actions needed to be taken by United States agencies

Guaranteed Right to Counsel.

The long standing practice of denying representation to unaccompanied immigrant children held in U.S. detention should be re-examined. Criminals in custody, children in custody of child welfare systems, US citizens in civil custody facing mental health commitment proceedings, and US citizens in civil custody related to communicable disease quarantines all are held to have a right to counsel. Our failure to provide children and youth in custody of US immigration officials the same protections is inconsistent with core American values related both to the treatment of children and rights of due process in law.

Oversight by Child Welfare Experts.

All immigration court decisions to remove an unaccompanied child from the United States should be subject to review by an independent child welfare expert and eligible for appeal if a safe and sustainable placement cannot be identified.

- There is a need for comprehensive and standardized policy development and training on interviewing children, detecting child trafficking victims, and treating and transporting children in custody.
- The development of standardized protocols and trainings must be reviewed and overseen by child welfare authorities.
- Policy development should include language that acknowledges children as children and encourages agencies to adopt a culture of sensitivity to this reality both in language and actions.

Mandatory Assessment and Planning for Child’s Safe Return.

The United States must transition the return of unaccompanied children to their country of origin from the current law enforcement removal approach to a new paradigm based on the best interest of the child and safe repatriation.

- An individual pre-removal assessment of the child’s situation and needs is necessary to ensure the child’s safe return and to prevent repeat migration. A central authority must be designated as responsible and accountable for developing and executing the pre-return assessment and the plan for the child’s physical return and repatriation.
- The United States should not return any child to his country of origin without first confirming a secure and sustainable plan for their safe placement in a family environment and a mechanism for ensuring that plan’s implementation.

Transparent and Consistent Standards for Removal and Repatriation.

The United States must establish clear, transparent, and consistent standards, practices and protocols for both removal and repatriation in order to avoid undue risk to the child’s safety and well-being. Protocols should be public and identify the proper authority and chain of communication in custody, removal, and repatriation processes.

Standardized Inter-Agency Data Collection and Sharing.

The United States should begin to collect consistent statistics and documentation on all unaccompanied children. A reliable record of the circumstances (before and after repatriation) of children returned is critical for the assessment of individual cases for child protection purposes, to identify trafficking victims, and for enhanced policy analysis and development.

- Uniformity of fields and terms in agency record keeping would facilitate the availability of information to all stakeholder agencies and interagency collaboration.
- Immigration enforcement agency records on detection, detention, and removal should allow for the analysis of information specific to the class of unaccompanied children.
- Information should be available to the public and actively shared with stakeholders, including country-of-origin counterparts.

Change US practices for the protection of children

Establish Safe Child Escort Protocols.

The United States should establish limits on the number of children who can be returned during a specified period of time, in accordance with country-of-origin protocols and the capacity of country-of-origin authorities to receive the children safely. These limits must include establishing a child-to-escort ratio appropriate to the mode of transportation.

Establish and Enforce Safe Transportation Standards.

The United States must discontinue policies that place children at unnecessary risk, such as:

- The use of covered pick-up trucks for transport;
- The return of unaccompanied children on jpat [Justice Department] flights;
- The return of children to their home countries without advance notice and confirmed acknowledgement by those countries.

Return Children to Port-of-Entry Nearest to Home.

Children should be returned to the port of-entry closest to their ultimate destination to encourage family reunification and prevent returning the child to an unsafe environment.

Commit to protecting unaccompanied children through treaties and legislation.

The United States Congress should commit to the safety of all children by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children. Congress should also pass the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) policy institute committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans.

Cartridge Care Inc.

THE PRINTER EXPERTS SINCE 1990.

TONER – FILM – INK JETS

Remanufactured and new – hundreds in stock

REPAIR – SERVICE – SALES

Printers – Fax – Copiers – Plotters

Free pick up and delivery.

1314 Lebanon Street SE ★ Lacey ★ 360-459-8845

Sending cub scouts and brownies to a street fight

Reykdal's bill to generate revenue is the meeting's brightest moment

Mike Coday

Molly Gibbs, of Move To Amend Olympia, arranged a meeting on January 3, 2012, with Thurston County legislators to review the Special Session and to discuss the regular session now underway. The three legislators who represent the 22nd District are not firebrands, but as a group representing a single community, these three—Chris Reykdal, Sam Hunt and Karen Fraser—are probably about as liberal a group as any community could send to Olympia to develop Washington State public policy.

We (a bunch of leftist activists of various stripes) had met with these legislators (minus Reykdal) in November 2011 to discuss the Special Session. It was clear in the November meeting that Senator Karen Fraser and Representative Sam Hunt are really fine people with all of the right intentions but without any street-brawler tools or impulses that are required to enact public policy in Washington State today. I did what I could in the November meeting and again in the January meeting to move this group off of their “poor me, poor us” frame of reference and to motivate them to enact progressive public policy. I don’t know, it’s hard to imagine these folks taking the fight to the other side.

There is an amazing amount of assumed futility and assumed defeat in the Democratic Party in the legislature. The “road kill caucus” is one thing, pseudo-democrats who are as offensive in their true political views as road-kill is in flattened flesh. But the more progressive democrats are road-kill of a different sort. They are reasonable, law-abiding folks who represent us by continuous compromise and surrender to an ideologically-driven right-wing political machine that has few discernible principles beyond an anti-tax, free market capitalism fused with the certainty of born-again economic revelation. Jesus in the Big Top. Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Capitalists.

Rep. Sam Hunt opened with comments about how the current situation “feels like the middle of a hangover.” Sam said he came away from the Special Session with a feeling of how grim things are. He also mentioned that not one person (flesh and blood person, not the legal fiction of corporation as person) came to the Special Session and advocated for an “all-cuts” budget. All of the folks who turned out and got Sam’s ear were talking about the need to avoid an all-cuts budget. But Rep. Hunt and the Democrats are feeling completely handcuffed by I-1053, a ballot initiative passed by the voters in November 2010, which requires a 2/3 majority vote of the state legislature to raise taxes. Early rulings on I-1053, which simply focused on technical legal issues, have determined that closing loopholes is raising taxes, so even closing tax loopholes to generate revenue is believed to be off the table by the Democratic Caucus.

Rep. Hunt has not been sitting on his hands with regard to challenging I-1053. He has signed on to the legal challenge to

that initiative, which will be heard in King County Superior Court. The hope is that the Court will find that tax policy/revenue generation is the responsibility of a majority of the Washington State Legislature (as codified in Article II, Section 22, of the State Constitution, which clearly vests the powers of lawmaking in the Legislature with a simple majority) and that I-1053 is unconstitutional (if I understand the basis for the challenge adequately). That all sounds fine, but the time frame on the court decision and the eventual path to the Washington State Supreme Court suggests that this question may be not be settled by the 2013 Legislative Session. For now, the Democrats appear to be playing true to form and are declining to even attempt to govern and legislate on the basis that I-1053 is constitutionally flawed and has no effect.

You have to give these folks points for their reasonableness and their willingness to follow the rules. But keep in mind that the other side is not feeling so constrained.

Eyman and his lackeys in the legislature are brawlers focused on the long game. They are not wringing their hands when they fail on an agenda, they are back to writing initiatives and planning the next round.

It’s easiest to make the point regarding the other side in terms of national policy, so I will go there. If rules are in effect and constrain the Democrats until such time as a court strikes them down, you have to compare that with the exuberant willingness of the National Republican Party to enact legislation that allows for the indefinite detention of US citizens who are suspected of being terrorists. And let’s be clear, terrorist is poorly defined. It may include vegans and folks who demand gluten-free bread fare at a local eatery, so it’s pretty broad.

Indefinite detention seems like it might not really comply with our fundamental human rights. It seems like there are constraints on this kind of thing in the bill of rights and in common law going back to the Magna Carta that grant us the right of habeas corpus and due process, but the red-staters are feeling bullish about the Global War on Terrorism and that War is coming home. It’s a good thing to know that legislation such as the Patriot Act and the more recent National Defense Act are constitutionally invalid, but that knowledge serves us poorly as these unconstitutional policies come into effect. We may have a lively teach-in at a FEMA detention center on the constitutional flaws of indefinite detention if opportunity arises, but I have to wonder if that is the right venue for that discussion?

I came away from the meeting on January 3 thinking that we are sending cub scouts and brownies to a street fight for public policy. I don’t think our folks are as prepared as they need to be to adequately represent us against the other side. We have some work to do to get our folks whipped into shape.

Sen. Fraser and Reps. Hunt and Reykdal all spoke about the “big achievement” of the



Chris Reykdal, Sam Hunt, and Karen Fraser

photo: Wendy Tanowitz

recent Special Session that was able to cut \$480 million to reduce the budget deficit. That’s about 25% of the amount that it is assumed (accepted?) will need to be cut. There was some sense of dread from Fraser and Hunt about the next step — the process of cutting another \$1.5 billion from the State budget. It seems clear that the budget battle is going to be front and center in the Regular Session. And there should be some dread about that.

This group of legislators does seem to have gotten and absorbed the message that this next round of cuts will contribute to the death of some folks in the most needy, most disabled segments of the State population. They appeared to be rightfully horrified about moving from legislative death by a thousand cuts to an actual headcount of citizens who will need to be buried in the coming biennium as a result of legislative action and inaction.

Sen. Fraser spoke to the citizens and stated that the next session is going to be about choosing between funding education or health and welfare services. That may be true, but I would sure like to see Ms. Fraser (a wonderful person BTW) absorb George Lakoff’s *Don’t Think of an Elephant* message and focus on the battle for revenue generation or the progressive agenda that can be moved forward independent of the budget brawl. Washington Investment Trust anyone?

That’s what we should be talking about: the budget brawl. Make no mistake, Eyman and his lackeys in the legislature are brawlers who are focused on the long game. They are not wringing their hands when they fail on an agenda, they are back to writing initiatives and planning the next round of their fight to *drown state government like a baby in the bathtub*.

Read the Norquist quotes if you want to understand the sensitivity of the Norquist/Eyman troops that we face:

“Our goal is to inflict pain. It is not good enough to win; it has to be a painful and devastating defeat. We’re sending a message here. It is like when the king would take his opponent’s head and spike it on a pole for everyone to see.”

“Bipartisanship is another name for date rape.”

“Don Sherwood’s seat would have been overwhelmingly ours, if his mistress hadn’t whined about being throttled.”

“We are trying to change the tones in the state capitals -- and turn them toward bitter nastiness and partisanship.”

“I don’t want to abolish government. I simply want to reduce it to the size where I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub.”

Senator Fraser, keep your eye on the prize. Focus on the goals, values, and the

► **CUB SCOUTS**, continued on page 10

P.O.W.E.R. Potlucks

This Month

Monday, February 6th

Potluck 5:30-6:00pm, Presentation 6:00-8:00pm

Darby’s Café * 211 5th Ave. SE, Downtown Olympia

Childcare provided by the Olympia Childcare Collective

Child Protective Services was created to protect children from abuse, but nearly 90% of dependency cases these days are established due to “neglect,” which is vaguely defined. These policies allow for children to often be placed in foster care because their parents are poor or because a report is made by someone who does not understand the family’s culture.

Sharonda Amamilo, an attorney who works with parents who are involved in CPS dependency cases will present information for parents who want to know what their rights are, what to do if CPS comes to your door or your child’s school, and what resources are available for parents and children to prevent a dependency case from being opened in the first place.

Next Month

Monday, March 5th

Potluck 5:30-6:00pm, Presentation 6-8 pm

Darby’s Café * 211 5th Ave. SE, Olympia

Childcare: Olympia Childcare Collective

From the moment you find out you are pregnant and throughout your pregnancy and birth, you have choices and you have the right to give birth the way you want to, no matter who you are. Come and share what you know and learn more about the resources that are available in this community so that everyone can welcome their children to the world in the way that they want to.

For more information, contact Sfirah at POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) at (360) 352-9716 or at power-outletplugin@gmail.com

TRADITIONS

CAFÉ & WORLD FOLK ART

WWW.TRADITIONSFAIRTRADE.COM



300 5th Avenue SW
Olympia 98501
360-705-2819

Store Hours
M-F: 9-6 Sat: 10-6 Sun: 12-5



STYLING · CUTS · COLOR · PERMS

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



JAMIE LEE & COMPANY

309 E. 4TH AVE.
OLYMPIA, WA 98501

360-786-6027
JAMIELEEANDCOMPANY.COM

KAOS patron business.

FREE CONSULTATIONS · FREE BANG TRIMS

“We’ll trim it, rub it, or read it”

BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS

California professor under attack for opposing “study in Israel” scheme

Nora Barrows-Friedman

A mathematics professor at the California State University at Northridge is the target of an attack campaign by various pro-Israel lobby groups and individuals because he maintains a website that supports the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, and for his outspoken criticism of Israeli policies. Recently, Dr. David Klein has come under fire for organizing in opposition to the 23-campus-wide California State University (CSU) system’s resumption of a study abroad program in Israel discontinued in 2002 because of a US State Department warning on travel to the region during the second Palestinian intifada.

In an open letter delivered to CSU Chancellor Charles Reed last month, Klein — along with more than 80 CSU faculty and staff members, and dozens of students statewide — urged the CSU administration to not reinstate the Study Abroad program. In addition to an explanation of the historic injuring and killing of US citizens — including university students — by Israeli soldiers during unarmed protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the letter states that CSU students interested in this Study Abroad program “could face discriminatory treatment, based on race and ethnicity”.

It is well-known that at border crossings and the airport, Israel discriminates against — as well as regularly detains and deportes — US citizens with Middle Eastern ancestry, or Arabic/Muslim names. However, despite the open letter, the inherent discrimination within the Israeli Study Abroad program itself, and enormous statewide budget cuts that have eviscerated educational resources, the CSU administration announced in mid-December that it was “pleased to announce the re-opening of its program in Israel starting Fall 2012”

Disturbing trend on US campuses

Klein, a longtime human rights activist, told The Electronic Intifada that he worked with popular solidarity committees in El Salvador and Nicaragua in the 1980s, and also confronted Ku Klux Klansmen in rural Louisiana. But it was Israel’s attacks on the Gaza Strip in the winter of 2008-09 that spiked his interest in Palestinian rights. He began a website on his own CSU-Northridge faculty page

to bring attention to what was happening in Palestine, and it has since become an in-depth resource for the growing, international Palestinian-led BDS movement. In addition to hosting the website, Klein also joined the organizing committee of the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel and is a faculty advisor for the local Students for Justice in Palestine chapter at CSU-Northridge. Since beginning his Palestine solidarity and BDS activism work, Klein has

In late December, the court dismissed a lawsuit brought by students at UC Berkeley who claimed that they faced anti-Semitism on campus. The court determined the plaintiffs could not provide evidence to support their allegations.

faced aggressive slander and threats by anti-Palestinian individuals and Israeli lobby groups who have called him and his website “anti-Semitic”. Some of the most vicious attacks leveled against him personally, he said, include those by two faculty members at the University of California (UC) Santa Cruz and UC Los Angeles who founded the Amcha Initiative, a project “to inform the Jewish community about efforts made by Jewish students and faculty to combat anti-Jewish bigotry on California campuses.”

The two professors boast on their Amcha website that they have launched the “Investigative Taskforce on Campus Anti-Semitism” and filed complaints with the UC system claiming “anti-Israel” and “anti-Jewish discourse in classrooms, [and] university-sponsored events.” However, recently, a California court and a University of California official disagreed with these types of claims. In late December, the court dismissed a lawsuit brought by students at UC Berkeley who claimed that they faced anti-Semitism on campus. The court determined the plaintiffs could not provide evidence to support their allegations.

Following on the heels of the lawsuit dismissal, a major announcement was made last week by University of California President Mark Yudof — an ardent supporter of Israeli policy — who denied claims that Jewish students on UC campuses “face a climate of hostility that amounts to a violation of their civil rights, due to Palestine solidarity activism.”

Despite their inability to prove that a frightening culture of anti-Semitism exists on UC and CSU campuses, members of anti-Palestinian groups such as Campus Watch, Amcha and the nationwide academic watchdog group euphemistically called Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME) have not relented in their mission to conflate anti-Semitism with Palestine solidarity activism or academic discussions on Israel’s policies.

“The larger issue for the pro-Israel groups is that they don’t want to allow the criticism of Israel to be public,” Klein explained. “On a level playing field, in a debate or in a situation where all facts can be aired, they would lose. So the only way to win is to

silence debate.” “Breaking rules” of academic freedom? The Israel lobby’s threats and intimidation tactics against other US professors have worked — and some academics have been punished for holding open discussions on Israeli policies. Dr. Terri Ginsberg, who was denied tenure at North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 2008, has been subjected to academic censorship efforts by Israeli lobby groups and has been subsequently blacklisted for other faculty positions. She is now embroiled in legal proceedings in her ongoing fight against censorship and intimidation.

In an interview, Ginsberg said that NCSU admitted that it openly suppressed a speech of hers which was “critical of Zionism and supportive of the Palestine liberation struggle” and that the university “chose not to interview or hire” her for a tenure-track position because of her scholarship on Palestine and the Middle East. An imperative time for universities to support faculty, students Back at CSU-Northridge, Klein said his university’s administration has been protective of him and has supported his activism under the banner of academic freedom. He added that there has not yet been any indication that his website nor tenured position are in jeopardy.

However, even after the CSU system reinstated the Israel study abroad program last month, Klein said the attacks on him by outside lobby groups and individuals have not quelled, and demands to take down his website are still unrelenting. Klein believes there is “a great deal of coordination” among various Zionist and Israeli lobby groups, but it is Amcha’s targeted attacks in particular that have been most troublesome.

Since the university has supported my website as an expression of academic freedom, they’re attacking the university administration,” he added. “The acting president, Harry Hellenbrand, is a signer of the open letter [against the reinstatement of the Israel study abroad program], and they’re attacking him for that, and they’re going to the chancellor.” As of press time, more than 860 persons have signed a public petition (penned by his colleagues at USACBI) demanding that the California State University system — and, specifically, CSU Chancellor Reed — defend David Klein and not capitulate to the lobby’s demands that his website be taken down, nor should he be subjected to academic punishment. Along with public support, Klein said he’s optimistic about the support from within the university itself. “So far, the administration is standing with me,” he explained. “Hopefully it’ll be representative of a paradigm shift.”

Klein said that now, more than ever, is an imperative time for universities to stand by their faculty and students. In addition to the attacks on academics, ten Muslim students at UC Irvine last fall were charged and convicted by the Orange County District Attorney’s office with disrupting a public meeting for their protest of the Israeli ambassador’s speech on campus. “[It sets] an important precedent,” Klein said, referring to his case. “It’s a precedent for a faculty member to be able to post criticisms of Israel and Israeli policy on a website. So if the current situation stands and I’m allowed to continue to do that, it immediately opens doors for other faculty in the 23 other state university systems. While well-funded Israel lobby groups attempt — and fail — to prove that a pandemic of anti-Semitism exists on college campuses, student activism in support of Palestinian rights continues to grow. Groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine — with chapters across California and the rest of the US — are more determined than ever to press forward with divestment initiatives and creative protests against Israeli apartheid policies. “I can’t put my finger on it but I feel that worldwide, there’s a shift in the last couple of years where there’s a greater opening to criticize Israel and the policies that Israel imposes on the Palestinian people,” Klein said. Nora Barrows-Friedman is an award-winning independent journalist, and a staff writer and editor for The Electronic Intifada. She also writes for Inter Press Service, Al Jazeera, Truthout and other outlets, and regularly reports from Palestine. This article was originally printed in The Electronic Intifada.



CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Prepared and willing to represent Occupy participants, community activists, and victims of police misconduct.

404 LEGION WAY SE, SUITE, 100

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98501

360-352-8004 (VOICE)

360-570-1006 (FAX)

Centralia Square Antique Mall

3 floors to explore ▪ Restaurant ▪ Bookstore

Directions from Olympia

South on Interstate 5

Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)

East on Harrison

Right on Pearl

2015 Pearl & Locust

Open 7 days

10 to 5





Discover the PUD Alternative

Cheaper Electric Rates -- 10% to 58% cheaper throughout Washington

Democracy -- Get your electricity from a public utility instead of a corporate monopoly

Local Control -- Power from your neighbors, not a foreign-owned corporation

Responsiveness -- Small, local government who listens to you, the voter

Economic Stimulus -- Local installation and maintenance with opportunities for local electrical generation and conservation investments

Improved Service -- Maintenance and repair are a public service, not just a drain on short-term profits

Green Energy -- A public agency, the PUD is committed to meeting the public’s desire for environmentally responsible energy options, and has access to lower-cost funding resources to implement them

<http://ThurstonPublicPower.org>

► **Cub scouts**, cont. from page 8

opportunities that exist each and every moment. You will feel better and you will govern better if you stop thinking about the other side’s agenda and start thinking and talking our progressive agenda. Everything develops from that. Don’t think of elephants. Stop talking about cuts and start talking a fair tax system. Talk about the Washington Investment Trust. Let’s talk about the constitutional requirement to adequately fund education, let’s talk about the personal, moral commitment to create a society where a poor, disabled person can rely on the community and on state government to provide subsistence levels of support.

We are sending up a team of folks who are thinking “don’t strike out.” We have to do better than that. We understand that the struggle is difficult, but the folks who represent progressive public policy have to show up and arrive with a little grit and with a commitment to talk about a progressive agenda.

Rep. Hunt took a couple of minutes to describe the three budgets that actually exist in State government. There is an operational budget — the budget for services, salaries for State employees, etc. There is a capital budget — the budget for buildings, schools, etc. — that can raise revenue from bonds. And there is the transportation budget that is funded from gas taxes primarily. The struggle is over the operational budget. This may be self-evident to state policy wonks, legislators and citizen activists, but is less well-understood by the citizenry, so I guess it makes sense for Mr. Hunt to go over that and to have it repeated.

Sam Hunt also reminded us that Washington State has been given a tenth federal legislative district because of population growth. *Our state government budget has been shrinking as our population has been rising.* These two trends are out of synch. Population equals demand for state services and the budget is inexorably linked to the demand for state services. It doesn’t matter if you are thinking about public education, Department of Revenue, or folks behind the counter when you need a driver’s license — population equals demand for state services and that requires money. Instead we are looking at state government receiving a 40-year low in tax revenue as a percentage of GDP.

The brightest moment in the Jan 3 meeting with Sen. Fraser, and Reps. Hunt and Reykdal came when Chris Reykdal took the opportunity to talk about breaking the impasse that exists with generating revenue for the state in the Regular Session.

Reykdal campaigned for election to the legislature on tax fairness and he appears to be willing to make efforts on that project. Chris described the revenue proposal that he and freshman Senator David Frockt will be putting on the table.

Details of Reykdal and Frockt’s proposal — the HOPE Act (the Higher Opportunity Promise for Education Act) — can be found at movetoamendolympia.org. Among other things, it would eliminate the State Business and Occupation tax (B&O tax). This element of the proposal is expected to be attractive to the Republicans. According to Reykdal, Republicans really hate the B&O tax. I will take him at his word on that, but I haven’t been able to identify any tax that our current generation of Republicans don’t hate. I guess there is some reason to believe that Republicans prefer regressive taxes like sales tax that are paid disproportionately by middle- and low-income citizens.

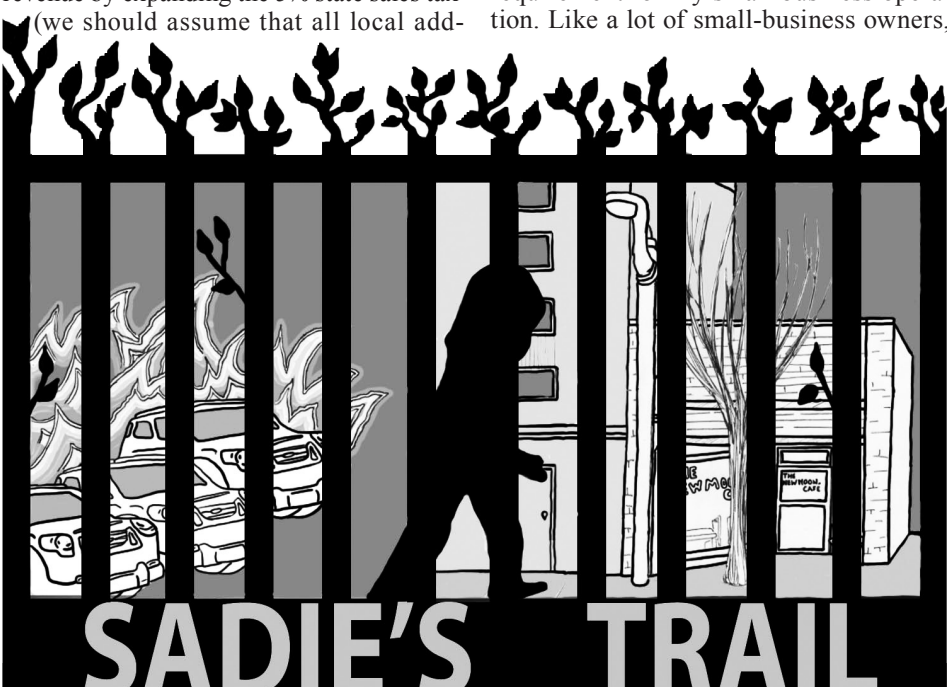
Elimination of the B&O tax may or may not be regressive. I am a low-income small-business owner who pays the B&O tax each year. Last year I was pleasantly surprised to find that a tax credit for small-business owners was in effect that reduced my annual payment by a significant amount. I have checked with other business owners whose scale of business is much larger than mine and have been told that they did not notice any significant reduction in the 2010 B&O tax. So, the elimination of the B&O tax may be fairly regressive if that tax has been made somewhat progressive by an enduring tax credit scheme for low-income small businesses, but I think the jury is out on that one. I think there is no question that the B&O tax raises a lot of revenue for the State, so elimination of that tax structure raises the question about how that lost revenue will be replaced.

The second part of the HOPE Act would reduce State sales tax from 6.5% to a flat 5%. Sales tax revenue is clearly regressive, so a reduction of the sale tax rate (State part only, local add-ons assumed to be left fully in effect) is clearly progressive. But like the elimination of B&O taxes, the sales tax reduction is a loss of revenue for the state and that translates into cuts in services. Reykdal and Frockt could probably pass these tax cut elements with 100% support from the Norquist Tax Patriots, but we would probably have to reduce education funding in the State from K-12 to K-4. Most folks who get through the fourth grade with the standard set of skills should be able to operate a deep-fryer or a touch screen cash register, or figure out how to stock shelves at a big box store, so this model works for a state economy based on 32 flavors of fast food and lowest prices, guaranteed, but there are many of us who think that there is a problem with the consumer utopian society, so maybe we have to replace lost revenue and then some.

So, revenue generation: this is where Reykdal/Frockt’s proposal gets interesting. This proposal seeks to increase state revenue by expanding the 5% state sales tax (we should assume that all local add-ons will follow suit) to include all services. So, the bill from your attorney, doctor, tax preparer, and more would start arriving with a sales tax bite. There are a large number of small-business owners (I look in the mirror and see one) who will now need to start collecting and turning over sales tax if the Reykdal/Frockt proposal becomes law. Reykdal stated that the expansion of sales to everything, would not include sales tax on food. OK. It’s a good thing to keep the sales tax off foodstuffs. That’s progressive.

A small, but relevant detail about the sales tax on “everything.” It’s not quite everything — airplane sales are exempt and would continue to be exempt. Planes are a movable feast and buyers might insist on taking delivery of their planes in flight over the Cayman Islands to avoid paying a sales tax, so Reykdal says the only way to generate state tax revenue if you have a company that builds and sells airplanes in your state is through a state income tax. Hmm... There will continue to be some tax loopholes so large you can fly an airplane through them.

I am not sure how progressive the expansion of sales tax to services is because I am experiencing a bit of resistance to a new tax requirement for my small business operation. Like a lot of small-business owners,



SADIE’S TRAIL

Sadie is down to her short count now, a hundred days from King Day to May Day. Soon she’ll be biking to the New Moon Cafe and hiking back into the woods at last, after many years in the federal pen for the crime of killing some SUVs. Shouldn’t there be a medal for that, or are medals just for killing people?

She’s read every word of Dickens and Doyle and all her long list of Victorian classics, but she’ll find the world has grown weirder with the mechanical hive mind of netheads, where more and more former bookworms can no longer concentrate on a book. There are so many symptoms of decline, but after all that she has handled, she can handle whatever there is.

Today, Sadie, you’ll tune your radio to Prairie Home Companion. (I do know your routine by now.) Back when we started writing these letters, you were still in the county jail and they were branding you a terrorist, when all you wanted was a liberated Earth more like your beloved salmon forest. Not really so unreasonable a vision, with room for old bookstores and NPR, but much too radical for a time when the only issue is money. As I once heard Patti Smith howl with what seemed like the call of all the wild: “Fuck the economy, what about our hearts!”

Craig Oare

(PS - I neglected to mention that she has to do six months at a halfway house in Tacoma before coming home to Oly next fall.)

Graphic: Izzy Ceccanti

I am wondering if I am really going to be able to add this tax without losing some business or if I am going to need to absorb some portion of the sales tax as a business cost that would not be that different from the B&O tax. My initial calculation on the sales tax v. B&O tax suggests that my small business will be collecting and paying about three times as much money for the Dept. of Revenue with sales tax than I currently pay with the B&O tax (and that’s before I factor in the surprise small-business tax credit that unexpectedly left a few dollars in the till last year). I think it’s fair to say that businesses and business owners who have not been collecting sales tax are going to be lukewarm at best about the expansion of sales tax to services. The historical analysis of expansion of sales tax to services suggests that this tax is regressive, but less so than a simple tax rate jump (Gregoire and others are ready to go that way to raise revenue).

The capper on the Reykdal/Frockt tax fairness proposal is implementation of a 1% state income tax. The Washington State Constitution limits state income tax to 1%. That’s a pretty small state income tax, but Washington voters have repeatedly rejected a state income tax. And the representatives and senators in Olympia who represent the 1% are going to have a predictable response to a state income tax. But this tax levels the playing field. It instantly increases state tax fairness and we are the most regressive state in the nation! We are number 1! Well, maybe we are number 50...

The state income tax is going to be a battle even though (or perhaps because) it is a crucial part of the Reykdal/Frockt proposal. This is revenue generated on an even-handed basis. Can we stand that? Time will tell.

Reykdal projects that this tax package will raise revenue and have instant tax fairness. I think he is correct. I am ready to get behind this bill. Bring the fight. Eyman has been wagging the State’s dog for long enough. It’s time for the legislature to take back responsibility for the budget and revenue generation.

Well done, Chris. 🔥

New Progressive Party on the rise

On December 12, 2011 the newly formed Justice Party USA unfurled its banner. It is the party of progressives, the party of Occupy Wall Street, the party of the 99%. It stands squarely for social, economic and environmental justice for all.

It’s candidate for President is Rocky Anderson, the former mayor of Salt Lake City, and a progressive through and through. He was one of a handful of US mayors who called for the impeachment of George W. Bush and spoke at a rally held right here in Olympia back in 2006. He has long been a proponent of a global green energy conversion, full LGBT rights, and environmental and economic justice. For a full bio, go to www.JusticePartyUSA.org.

The Justice Party of Washington has been established at www.justicepartywa.org and local working groups are forming in preparation to help get the Justice Party candidates on the ballot in all 50 states. Membership is established when you subscribe to the party listserve. Groups are forming in Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, Olympia and many other locations throughout the state.

If you are interested in helping to organize locally please contact Chris Stegman at cstegman007@gmail.com

The founding convention will be held on the weekend of February 17-19 in Salt Lake City. At least 1500 members and delegates are expected to attend. Carpools are being organized, including one from Olympia.

Join the Justice Party and be a part of history in the making.—Chris Stegman

Chris Stegman is the ballot access coordinator for the Justice Party in Washington and a member of the Justice Party state working group.

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
olywip@gmail.com or
Works In Progress
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

There will be signs inside the main entrance directing you to the meeting place.

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.
Contact: 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

The Irvine 11, Islamophobia & Palestine Solidarity Activism in the US
Wednesday, February 1, Noon - 1:30pm
TESC Library Lobby, Olympia

Please join us for this event examining Islamophobia, silencing of dissent and the use of legal methods to discourage dissent, and to chill Palestine Solidarity activism in the U.S.

Student and member of the “Irvine 11” Osama Shabaik will be discussing his recent conviction for his part in a protest during a speech by the Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren, and the events that led up to it. This encompasses his trip to the Gaza strip in the summer of 2009 and the announcement months later that the Israeli Ambassador would be visiting his college, UC Irvine.

Sponsored by The Mideast Solidarity Project, The President’s Diversity Fund and Evergreen programs “Re-interpreting Liberation” and “Zinn & the Art of Protest”.

Nationwide NDAA 2012
Congressional Protest
Friday, February 3, 2012, Noon - 7 pm
Congressional offices across the country

Americans across the country will gather outside congressional offices Feb. 3rd from noon to 7 p.m. to protest NDAA 2012 (H.R. 1540). All Washington US representatives and senators (except for Rep. McDermott of Seattle) voted for the bill.

Rip-Roaring Square Dance - Oly Old Time Benefit
Friday, February 3, 7 pm - 11:30 pm
Olympia Ballroom

Come out and dance to rip-roarin’ old time tunes from Seattle’s Nettle Honey, and Oly’s Grizzle Grizzle Tune Snugglers. Dances will be taught and called by skilled and lively callers, Anne Marie Schaefer and Carol Piening, and a durned good time will be had by all. Proceeds benefit the upcoming Olympia Old Time Music Festival (www.olyoldtime.org)

International Day in Solidarity—
NW Regional March and Rally for Clemency for Leonard Peltier
Saturday, February 4
Tacoma, Washington

Noon: March for Justice
Portland Ave. Park (on Portland Ave. between E. 35th & E. Fairbanks. Take Portland Ave. exit off I-5 and head east)

1pm: Rally for Justice
US Federal Court House, 1717-Pacific Ave

Sponsored by the Tacoma Chapter LPDOC
For more info: www.whoisleonardpeltier.info

Paul Cienfuegos Workshop
Saturday, February 11, 1 pm - 5 pm
PUD 3 Main Office, community space
307 W. Cota Street, Shelton

The Occupy Movement has generated amazing energy, yet the history of popular uprisings has shown us that we have to do something completely new. Learn how 130+ communities in six states are building the Community Rights Movement. They have passed local, legally binding laws that end corporate “rights” and enshrine community rights!

Two Sessions and Potluck

Part One (1:00 - 3:00)
Nearly 200 year history of the development of corporate constitutional “rights” and why we fail to successfully challenge them. (Same as Olympia workshop presented in November.)
(Potluck and live music in-between sessions)

Part Two (4:00-6:00)
Community Rights Movement

- review of the actual language of community rights-based ordinances;
- a practice session to start talking about paradigm-shifting strategy to others;
- longer Q & A re: this growing movement;
- time to think together: best next steps, and initial ideas for first local ordinances.

For more information, contact Miles Nowlin at Jkmbn@yahoo.com or www.PaulCienfuegos.com. Carpooling: sandia@fertileground.org. Sponsored by Occupy Shelton.

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, February 12, 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.

Murder Your Gods @ McCoys Tavern/Weird Beast & Awesomecam
Saturday, February 18, 10 pm until 1 am
418 4th Avenue East, Olympia

Northwest METAL!!!

Ocho Pies Carnival
Saturday, February 18, 9:30 pm - 12 am
Waterstreet Cafe, 610 Water St SW, Oly

It’s Carnival weekend and The Waterstreet Cafe’s Late Night invites you to join Pony Boy recording artist Ocho Pies in a special celebration. Enjoy the music of the Caribbean and Brazil with Connie Bunyer vocals, Steve Luyceno bass, Paul Hjelm guitar and Michael Olson percussion, while you dine on Waterstreets Late Night/happy hour menu. There will be special prizes for best carnival masks so get your creative selves in motion. For reservations or information call 709-9090.

Occupy President’s Day: Stop Cuts, Make the 1% Pay!
Monday, February 20, 10 am - 5 pm
Rally in Sylvester Park at 10 am
March on the Capitol at 11 am

No more cutting the social safety net for millions of people while there are still 10 billionaires in Washington state with over \$100 billion in combined wealth.

Shut Down the Corporations
Wednesday, February 29, 11 am - 5 pm
Cities across the USA

Occupy Portland calls for a national day of non-violent civil disobedience targeting corporations who are members of ALEC, one of the most successful mechanisms that the 1% uses to control legislation. We are asking people around the country to choose members of ALEC in their home towns and SHUT DOWN BUSINESS AS USUAL.

Reclaim our voices and challenge our society’s obsession with profit and greed by shutting down the corporations. We are rejecting a society that does not allow us control of our future. We will reclaim our ability to shape our world in a democratic, cooperative, just and sustainable direction.

We call on the Occupy Movement and everyone seeking freedom and justice to leap into action! Reclaim our future!

Everybody Goes to Jail Day!!!
Wednesday, February 29, Noon - 3 pm
Every Wall Street Bank in the US

Everyone who can be arrested should be arrested. All of us. At the same time. Everywhere. Barricades. Chaining hands inside 55-gallon drums full of cement. Black boxes that lock many people’s arms together. Covering yourself with grease so you slip out of their hands. Suspending yourself from windows or roofs. There are all kinds of innovative things you can do to shut down a bank.

There are also *a lot* of jobs for those who can’t be arrested for any of several reasons. We need jail support, media teams, websites and networking, lawyers, and phone bankers.

Maybe we can manifest our vision after we hammer into their pointy little heads the fact that if they make any further attempts at business-as-usual then they might suddenly find themselves surrounded by peasants with torches and pitchforks... —Dana Walker

Beware of Agent Orange burgers

Dioxin, a chemical component of the herbicide Agent Orange, is perhaps the most toxic compound synthesized by man. Yet it is still being produced by chemical companies and pesticide manufacturers such as Monsanto, AND dioxin pollution increased 10% in 2010.

Now, as the Environmental Protection Agency is set to release the first part of the dioxin risk assessment it's been working on since 1985, food industry lobbyists are attempting to block EPA action yet again. Why? The EPA is likely to confirm what the FDA has reported:

“Although dioxins are environmental contaminants, most dioxin exposure occurs through the diet, with over 95% coming through dietary intake of animal fats.”

The food industry doesn't want you to know that you can easily exceed the daily dioxin limit proposed by the EPA by consuming a single large meal of non-organic animal products. Most of all, the food industry doesn't want to have to take responsibility for the dioxin contamination. If they did, they would have to submit to common-sense food safety measures, like those embraced by the organic industry, that ban toxic pesticides and slaughter-house waste from animal feed.

Gene-Altered Crops Grow Wild

Throughout North Dakota, little yellow flowers dot thousands of miles of roadsides. These canola plants, found along most major trucking routes, look harmless. But they are fueling a controversy: They prove that large numbers of genetically modified plants have escaped from farm fields and are now growing wild.

About 80 percent of canola growing along roadsides in North Dakota contains genes that have been modified to make the plants resistant to common weed-killers, according to a team of University of Arkansas researchers.

The discovery of escaped gene-altered canola has some experts concerned that it could lead to herbicide-resistant “super weeds” that farmers would have difficulty controlling. Also, the plants could be moving onto the fields of organic farmers.

“Canola is really the poster child of transgene escape at the moment,” says Norman Ellstrand, a plant geneticist at the University of California, Riverside.

In the United States, nearly all canola, which is used to make animal feed and canola oil, an ingredient in many foods, has genes inserted in it.

Source: Organic Bytes

The cartoonist trying to figure out what's so funny about a bunch of white millionaires who hope to demonstrate their electability to the Office of President of the United States by being publicly contemptuous of Darwinism, gay marriage, a living wage, workers' rights, nonviolent protest, premarital sex, reproductive rights, public assistance, basic environmental science, atheism, marijuana, due process, literacy, counter-culturalism, political dissent, and pacifism.



We're still looking for a few good WIPsters

Works In Progress is always looking for a few *positive*, mature (not necessarily referring to age), responsible, and self-motivated progressives—preferably WIPreaders—who can work co-operatively and respectfully with others. We currently have an opening for an advertising representative.

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

Thanks for reading!



February 2012

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Serving the social justice community of Olympia since 1990.



FEB

WORKS IN PROGRESS

FREE