



WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 24, No. 6

SERVING THE OLYMPIA COMMUNITY AND THE CAUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SINCE 1990.

OCTOBER 2013

Olympia loses an icon... R.I.P. "Dudeman"

Derrick McDougal, a valued and loved member of the community, will be missed

Erin Palmer

The tragic death of a much-loved local homeless man has caused a surge of endearment from the public and (hopefully) drawn attention to the struggles of all the homeless.

Between Friday, August 30 and Saturday, August 31, twenty-eight-year-old Derrick "Dudeman" McDougal took his own life. His famous bicycle tarp-trailer rig, with its three friendly dogs, was taken to friends of his. Though the coroner couldn't initially identify the body without having knowledge of his next-of-kin, the news flew through the community.

The Facebook page, Olympia Memes, started an online public funeral fund on Sunday, and exceeded its initial goal within the first twenty-four hours. To date \$3,810.00 has been collected for the fund, more than enough for his cremation and a memorial plaque with the remainder going to local charities.

Candlelight vigils were held on different nights at both the Artesian Well and at Capitol Lake in Olympia. Dudeman's dogs came to the Capitol Lake vigil, tails wagging as usual, and one even wore angel wings (Girly-Girl). The woman who had brought his dogs (who will remain unidentified for her privacy), promised that they would be well cared-for. She claimed to have received Dudeman's suicide note, and that in it he wrote that he hoped his bike trailer set-up would one day be manufactured to temporarily house the homeless. She also wanted people to know that every homeless person is important to someone, regardless of their circumstances.

At that time, members of Dudeman's family had not been located, but his friends and community took it upon themselves to honor him. There was an outpouring of love and mourning for him in the form of donations for his funeral fund as well as local non-profit groups, social media posts, fund site comments, at both vigils, and at his memorial service. Dudeman's estranged family was finally located by the county coroner more than a week after his death and, despite their grief, they were touched to learn he had created a family of his own here in Olympia.

All around town, he was known simply as Dudeman. He was a loving dog owner, and despite widespread prejudice against pitbull-types and rottweilers, he chose to

keep Bear, D.O.G. and Girly-Girl, when it may have been easier to give them up. He called them his kids. He kept them well-fed and built them the best transportable home he could. He was constantly rebuilding and improving his bike-trailer with the help of others, making it stronger yet lighter and even adding lights. Dudeman was frequently seen pedaling his rig uphill from downtown

I'm really tired of being kicked by cops, being threatened, being arrested, and I'm tired of being harassed...

while the dogs lazily rode along in the cart behind him.

Since pets are not allowed at shelters, many homeless choose to remain unsheltered to stay with them. He loved animals and helped other homeless pet owners by sharing what he could. Even parents with small children trusted and loved his dogs. I asked to take a picture of them this spring and he had them all pose nicely for the camera for

me. Though they were well-behaved and friendly, his dogs were in danger of ending up at Animal Services any time he left them unattended or they got loose (and with a fee to retrieve them) so he was constantly concerned about them.

Unfortunately, his beloved dogs sometimes became an excuse for harassment by the police. I think Dudeman and his dogs helped to change a lot of people's minds about breed prejudice and his obvious love for them was infectious and endearing. At Dudeman's memorial service, Pastor Phil Prietto said that his love for his dogs reflected God's love for us and that drew people to him and was his own sort of ministry.

There are many circumstances that lead to someone being homeless, and certainly many more complex motivations of suicide that we can only attempt to understand. According to Dudeman's family, his misfortunes



began in childhood when both parents and a brother died. His second cousin, Tonette Lazanis, posted on his Facebook vigil event page that the family hadn't known where he was for years but he was always loved. She stated that, "He

► **DUDEMAN**, continued on page 10

The peculiar candidacy of Nancy Koppelman Participant in Olympia Food Co-op lawsuit runs for Co-op board of directors

Phan Nguyen

Just when you thought the ongoing lawsuit against the Olympia Food Co-op couldn't get any stranger, one of the participants in the lawsuit on behalf of the plaintiffs is now running for the Co-op board of directors.

Nancy Koppelman recently declared her candidacy to the board, stating her interest "in helping the co-op continue to serve the greater Olympia community." Yet on November 30, 2011, Koppelman signed and submitted a legal declaration in support of the lawsuit to the Thurston County Superior Court. In the declaration, she stated that the lawsuit filed against sixteen former and current Co-op board members and staff "fairly and adequately

represent ... Co-op members" such as herself, who "support the Plaintiffs in their lawsuit against the Defendants."

If Koppelman is elected, she will be leading an organization she is involved in suing, and will be working with board members and staff who are defendants in the case. Ironically, three of the five

If Koppelman is elected, she will be leading an organization that she is involved in suing, and will be working with board members and staff who are defendants in the case.

plaintiffs in the suit ran for the board of directors in 2010 and filed their lawsuit after losing the member-wide vote.

Koppelman also stated in her 2011 declaration that she "no longer shop[ped] at the Co-op."

The significance of the Koppelman declaration

Far from being a simple letter of support, Nancy Koppelman's legal declaration was part of the plaintiffs' strategy. The plaintiffs had claimed they were filing the suit "derivatively"—on behalf of the entire Co-op membership.

Koppelman's declaration was filed to support the claim that the lawsuit "fairly and adequately represent the interests" of the Co-op members.

Thus when the five plaintiffs lost the case and were faced with a \$160,000 penalty, they used the supposed derivative nature of the lawsuit as a defense. They suggested that since they had filed their lawsuit on behalf of the Co-op (as affirmed by Koppelman), the

► **KOPPELMAN**, continued on page 8

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. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Editing: Scott Yoos and Sylvia Smith
Layout: Sylvia Smith
Proofreading: Desdra Dawning, Russell Frizzell, Scott Yoos, Stephanie Frizzell, Sylvia Smith, and T. Magster,
Writers' Group: Desdra Dawning, Enrique Quintero, Jordan Beaudry, Sylvia Smith, and Vince Ryland
Graphics: Vince Ryland
Mailings: Jeff Sowers
Finances: Pat Tassoni
Website: Robert Whitlock
Distribution: Creighton Rose, T. Magster, Marylea Coday, Robert Whitlock, Sandia Slaby, Scott Yoos, and Teresa Jennings with room for more.

Submission Deadline:

Friday, October 18
olywip@gmail.com

Proofreading Meeting

Saturday ♦ October 26 ♦ 1 pm
Lacey Timberland Library in
the Group Study Area
(Be there for the first read!)

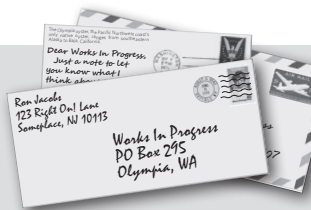
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On the front cover —
Dudeman remembered
Graphic Artist: Vince Ryland

LETTER TO
WORKS IN PROGRESS



Kyle Taylor Lucas endorsement

In the town of Tumwater, voters have the opportunity to vote for a truly progressive candidate in the general election: Kyle Taylor Lucas, running to retain her seat on the Tumwater City Council Position # 6. It's essential that First Peoples are included in governing bodies of the communities where they live. Lucas is the only Native American or woman of color serving on any governing body in Thurston County. Lucas is a member of the Tulalip Tribe and her mother's people are of the Nlaka'Pamux Nation of British Columbia.

Inclusion is key to a healthy council. Lucas brings a needed voice and perspective, advocating to ensure everyone—including those on the margins—is included in decisions affecting them.

We in the activist community have seen Lucas work tirelessly tying needs of the environment and those disenfranchised to policy and development. We remember when she worked for days without sleep to ensure we were cared for physically and emotionally while doing legal support in the trenches of local war resistance. Then, during the Chehalis River Flood

of 2007, she immediately offered help and became the hub of volunteers and donations for Thurston County United Way.

After graduating from Evergreen, Lucas served as the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, under Locke. Take a look at retainkyletaylorlucas.com to see the many boards and commissions Lucas has worked on towards greater human rights, justice and a healthy environment. Lucas was a volunteer firefighter and EMT before women did that in Mason County. We feel Lucas has worked harder than most people we've met in life, while sadly fighting severe examples of society's racism, sexism and classism along the way. Kyle Taylor Lucas thrives in presenting her visions for a healthy and just community. Lucas is a friend of the activist community, and endorsed by strong progressives and democrats including Karen Fraser and county commissioners Karen Valenzuela and Sandra Romero. For a complete list of endorsements, including individual, union and environmental groups take a look at retainkyletaylorlucas.com/endorsements.

—Patty Imani and Kim Chaplin

In loving memory of Derrick “Dudeman” McDougal

Most people can relate to the fact that life can be challenging. Although for some of us, life can bring far greater challenges. After losing both of his parents at a young age, Derrick was determined to pave his own way through life. He was the guy known by many as “Dudeman.” Described by many as a free spirit and self-proclaimed advocate for his homeless brothers and sisters, he was the homeless guy on the corner with the self-designed mobile bike shelter that he hoped someday could be mass produced so that no one would be without a dry place to sleep. He lived life on his own terms, and touched the hearts of many people along the way. Though he didn't have a life filled with material wealth, he seemed pleased to focus his life on sharing his abundant love and compassion for others. The community got to know this young man as he pedaled his mobile shelter around town along with his four-legged companions. He was a homeless guy doing the best he could with what little he had. As so many of you have mentioned, despite his personal hardships, he always greeted you with his caring eyes, engaging smile, and compassionate nature.

Although society might consider his life circumstances as unusually difficult, the homeless are often looked upon as an unproductive nuisance to society. Knowing the story of how Derrick “Dudeman” McDougal lived and the impact he had within the community of Lacey and broader Olympia, this stigma of the homeless couldn't be further from the truth. Derrick touched the lives of many simply by being a cre-

ative homeless guy with a desire to help others. It is the impact the “Dudeman” had on the community that spurred an outpouring of desire to help locate his family, establish a donation website to assist with funeral expenses, and care for his four-legged companions. It was a special group of people led by Olympia Memes, who organized a candlelight vigil so the community could celebrate Derrick's life and provide donations to the Concern for Animals organization.

We may never know why “Dudeman” decided to take his life—maybe he was tired of the stigma that faces the homeless community, or exhausted from the extraordinary hardships he faced each day. Regardless of his reason, this tragedy has ignited a flame and inspired a community to help drive change. It is the compassion and love of these people we do not know but were touched by Derrick that has uplifted the spirit of our family. Through this tragedy great things have been born. It is our hope that we can continue Derrick's journey and help drive necessary change to improve the lives of the homeless and put an end to the desperate nature of suicide. This is a cause the “Dudeman” would have been proud of—a legacy born from people who cared about a homeless guy who lived to love and pedaled his way into their hearts.

Thank you so much Olympia Memes and people in the community who lifted our spirits in a time of pain.

With love,

The siblings and family of
Derrick “Dudeman” McDougal

State appeals
court affirms city
development policies

The Washington State Court of Appeals determined that developer DR Horton did not demonstrate compliance with the City's development standards, and affirmed the City Council rejection of the proposed Trillium development. Trillium was a proposed 500 home “Neighborhood Village” to be located in southeast Olympia near LBA Park.

The Olympia Safe Streets Campaign, an advocacy group for people who walk and bicycle, convinced the City Council that the proposed development did not show compliance with the City's requirements for short block lengths and frequent walking and bicycling connections. The Council turned the developer down in their Master Plan Application after extensive public comment and public hearings. The developer, DR Horton, appealed to Thurston County Superior Court, which affirmed the City Council, and then appealed again to the State Court of Appeals.

“We participated from the beginning for a simple reason: we wanted the new development to be one that people could walk to and through. In 2006, 2008, and again in 2010, we told the Developer and the City that this project needed to meet the City's connectivity rules. Instead, they designed it as a bit of a fortress, with some very long blocks that would be a real barrier for people wanting to walk to McKinney Elementary School and to nearby neighborhoods,” said Karen Messmer, President of Olympia Safe Streets.

The City Council originally rejected the proposed plan because of inadequate connectivity, for failure to provide for neighborhood school needs, and because it could not be served by transit. Horton appealed all three parts, and the Court rejected Horton's arguments on all counts.

“The Court was very clear in ruling that the developer had to follow the City's Comprehensive Plan, and Horton did not prove that they had complied,” said Messmer. “Having spent 11 years as a Planning Commissioner, and 4 years on the City Council, it's good to know that our adopted policies and regulations mean something” said Messmer.

Horton applied for a rezone of the property, which was approved by the City Council last December. It will be allowed to build fewer homes, but not have to provide as many features as were required for the “Neighborhood Village” proposal that was turned down.

Messmer commented: “The requirements for connectivity are exactly the same with the new zoning. We'll be there again to make sure that the new design is done right. People should be able to walk to their neighbors, walk to school, and walk to the bus.”

“Basically, the Court said that if DR Horton was not willing to follow the City's Comprehensive Plan and Development Code, then it could not build it's proposed development,” said Messmer.

—Olympia Safe Streets Campaign

WORKS IN PROGRESS

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SERVING THE CAUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.
PO Box 295, OLYMPIA WA 98507



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FIRST THURSDAY, 5:30 PM
TRADITIONS CAFE
olywip@gmail.com

Playback Theatre celebrates 15 years, 115 performances

With Uke Oyster Cult
Friday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.
Traditions (300 5th Ave SW, Oly)

We are beginning our 2013 - 2014 season by celebrating 115 performances on our 15th Anniversary performing at Traditions Café. We have collaborated with over 90 community organizations shared the stage with many guest musicians, dancers and actors.

We are also honoring our Community Partnership with The Centre for Playback Theatre. The Centre offers training courses in playback theatre and provides support to playback theatre companies all over the world.

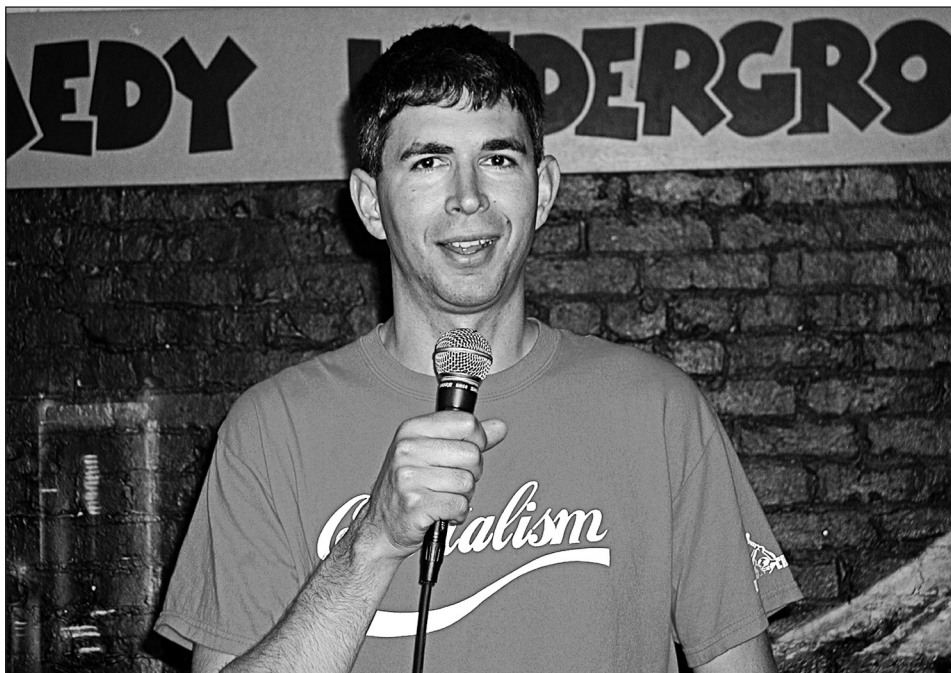
Our guest musicians this month are the Uke Oyster Cult—Olympia’s biggest ukulele band. Their eclectic repertoire includes Americana, hapa-haole, sing-a-longs, and songs that should never be played on the ukulele.

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them recreated with movement, music and dialogue.

Each month we invite a guest artist(s), community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

Cost: Suggested donation \$5-\$10. (No one is turned away.)

Yoram Bauman—the stand-up economist Solving global warming can be hilarious!



Yoram Bauman’s presentation on the role of a carbon tax in solving the climate crisis is a lively and enormously funny act dealing with a serious subject. A PhD in economics, Yoram uses humor to educate as he entertains. Anyone who watches will laugh and learn.

A short serious discussion about climate policy between Yoram and Gar W. Lipow and a question and answer session will follow.

Free and open to the public.

You can also learn about the Washington State Carbon Tax Initiative at <http://carbonwa.org/>

Yoram’s bio

Yoram Bauman, “the world’s first and only stand-up economist,” performs regularly at colleges and corporate events, sharing the stage with everyone from Robin Williams to Paul Krugman. He has appeared in *TIME Magazine* and on PBS and NPR, and is the co-author of the two-volume *Cartoon Introduction to Economics*, which is now available in Chinese, German, Italian, etc. Speaking of foreign languages, he is also the organizer of the humor session at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association.

Yoram lives in Seattle, where he founded Non-Profit Comedy, a series of benefit shows that raised almost \$100,000 for local non-profits. He has a BA in mathematics from Reed College and a PhD in economics from the University of Washington. His goals in life are to spread joy to the world through economics comedy; to

reform economics education; and to implement carbon pricing. He is a fellow at Sightline Institute in Seattle, and in 2011 he spent 5

months in Beijing as a visiting scholar at the University of International Business and Economics. His website is www.standupeconomist.com.

Gar’s bio

Gar W. Lipow is an activist and independent journalist and scholar on climate policy issues. His books *Solving the Climate Crisis through Social Change* was published by Praeger Press in 2012. He also been published by Grist, a leading on-line environmental magazine, and many other journals including *Z Magazine*, in addition to academic and peer reviewed publication.

For information contact Gar at 943-1529 or Glipow@Gmail.com

Wednesday, October 30, 7 pm
Traditions Cafe
300 5th Ave SW, Olympia

New WIPster(s) are needed to help maintain the WIP website

Will train.



olywip@gmail.com

WANTED

PART-TIME ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The part-time advertising sales representative will be responsible for building new business/organization relationships and generating revenue for *Works In Progress*, a small nonprofit community publication in Olympia, WA.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ability to be self-motivated and work independently
- Communication and people skills a must
- Unafraid of rejection
- Ethically persuasive
- Some college preferred

COMPENSATION: \$15 per hour with commission

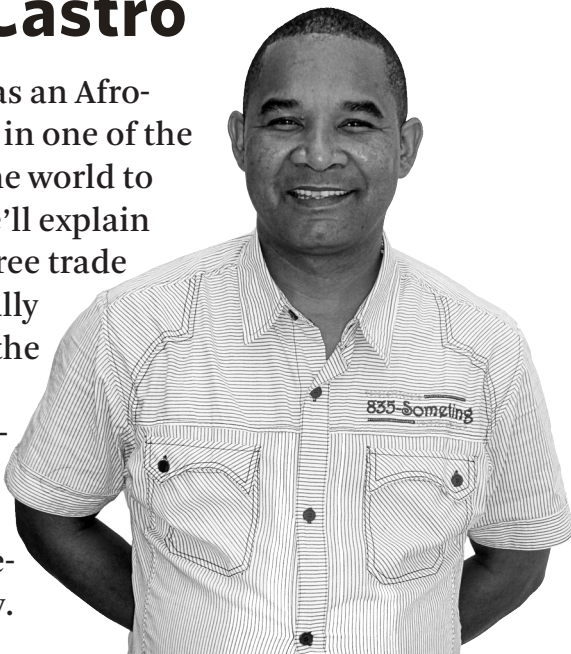
DURATION: 3 to 6 months minimum. It’s a new position and we’re seeing how it goes.

Please send letter of interest to: olywip@gmail.com.

Labor and racial injustice in Colombia

Jhon Jairo Castro

...shares his experience as an Afro-Colombian labor leader in one of the deadliest countries in the world to exercise labor rights. He’ll explain what privatization and free trade have meant in a drastically unequal country where the recently-passed Colombia-US Free Trade Agreement has increased economic activity, yet 80% of the people in Buenaventura live in poverty.



Wednesday, October 23, 7 pm
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Avenue SW, Olympia
Co-sponsored by Witness for Peace Northwest, *Works in Progress*, and Media Island International

Special Events

Dandelion Seed Conference 2013 Herbal Medicine for Community and Social Healing
October 11-13

The Evergreen State College

Join us for 3 full days of classes on a variety of topics surrounding herbal medicine, and social healing.

For more information and to register, www.dandelionseedcollective.org

And contact us at dandelionseedconference@gmail.com

March For Our Food - March Against Monsanto!

Saturday, October 12, 2013

11:00am until 5:00pm

Cal Anderson Park

1635 11th Ave, Seattle,

March For Our Food is a follow-up event to March Against Monsanto held on May 25th This will be a family friendly, fun and festive event and all are welcome. We will have a variety of speakers, music, art and other special surprises!

Please join us to celebrate food and our community coming together to take a stand for food justice for all!

Sponsored by the Biosafety Alliance. Free and open to the public.

19th Annual International Indigenous Peoples Day with support for Leonard Peltier & all political prisoners.

Saturday, October 12, Noon to 5 pm

Westlake Park, 400 Pine St, Seattle,

This is a rally for native peoples rights world wide and the freedom of those locked up for fighting for those rights. Invited Speakers, Patricia Davis, Juan Jose Bocanegra-El Centro De La Raza, Michael One Road, Olivia One Feather, Sue Morales-Tacoma LPDOC, Arthur J. Miller, Tacoma LPDOC, Ramona Bennet, Chauncy Peltier (Leonard’s Son) Possible appearance by the Aztec Dancers & Turquoise Drum.

Cascadia Freedom Caravan to the Tear Down The Walls National Gathering

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

4326 Shincke Rd. NE, Olympia

We need firm commitments from folks for this 10 day trip and traveling on a bus, even a relatively comfortable and fun bus, isn’t for everyone. Saying you are going on FB is not enough. Those interested need to fill out this form and be in touch. The cost is \$99 roundtrip and if you can’t afford it, let’s talk, we want you on board.

Cascadia is the idea that revolutionaries, alive today, will tear down the false political walls of state and national borderlines and unite a bio-region under a Blue Green Union Flag. That’s one of the many reasons why we are joining the pilgrimage of change agents and converging on Tucson, AZ, for the Tear Down the Walls National Gathering.

The Tear Down the Walls National Gathering is three days of workshops and trainings that is aimed at building cross movement alliances. It’s open for anyone to propose a workshop so we’re hoping folks in Cascadia will share their stories of organizing for liberty, equality and solidarity.

MILLION MASK MARCH

Tuesday, November 5, 1 pm

Sylvester Park and march to Capitol Capitol Way & Legion, Olympia

People of Washington State, and throughout the world, here are a few of the things we are protesting...

- The White House’s continued attacks on ‘whistleblowers’.
- The NSA’s unconstitutional spying on all American citizens.
- The corrupt courts and unconstitutional rulings against us.
- The continued arrests of the people for exercising our constitutional rights.
- The detainment of political prisoners who risked everything to keep the American people informed, safe, and free.

...and many more!

We will not allow these atrocities to be committed any longer!

We are Anonymous!

We are legion!

We do not forgive!

We do not forget!

Expect us!

The new pope Fishing for souls in a limited supply marketplace

Enrique Quintero

Populist Vatican mutations

The spectre of populism is haunting the Catholic Church. Since the election of Argentinian Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the new Pope, gone are the days of unctuous pomposity and rigorously staged protocol surrounding the activities and public discourse of the Sovereign of the Vatican, Bishop of Rome, and supreme leader of 1.21 billion Catholics around the world.

The new papal style goes from evoking humility by choosing Francis as his official name to honor St Francis of Assisi, washing the feet of Muslim women prisoners, holding candid interviews with journalist about gay priests, getting out of the Pope car to talk to regular folks, telling young people to “make a mess” (calling them to proselytize as Catholics) during a prayer vigil in Brazil, to having a “selfie” (self taken photo with a smart phone) with Italian youngsters visiting St. Peters church. Last week, he also presided over a gathering of more than ten thousand people to pray for peace and against the invasion of Syria.

It would be difficult not to like a Pope like this. He’s definitely accessible, charming, and apparently willing to implement some changes in an institution suffering from advanced historical fossilization. The question is, how significant are these changes, and to what degree will they alter the internal structure of the institution? To better understand the election of the new pope we must not see it as an isolated event, but as the crystallization of social action in a specific historical time.

The pathology of finance, politics and sexual scandals

The institution that Francis inherits—and of which he also has been part for decades—is nominally a religious one, but it is also a powerful political and extremely wealthy financial institution. The Vatican is a sovereign City-state with diplomatic missions in over 150 states around the globe. It is also a capitalist institution with ultimate ownership of finance capital, real estate property, and other various forms of material wealth. As such, issues of power and economics cannot be subtracted of the “modus operandi” of the institution or its leaders.

Currently the church sails through the rough waters of multiple unsolved scandals, from the unending cases of sexual abuse of young boys at the hands of priests (most of the cases have come to light in the US, but abuses have been denounced in other countries as well suggesting an endemic situation), to the questionable financial practices of the Vatican Bank and Banco Ambrosiano. The latter—of which Vatican Bank was the main shareholder—practically had the monopoly on all financial scandals in Italy during the 70’s and 80’s, from laundering money through dubious accounts to helping finance the Contras in Nicaragua and buying weapons for the Argentinian Military dictatorship during the “Falkland/Malvinas” war. Not to be left behind is the Vatican Bank. According to well-

known Vatican journalist Marco Politi, “There was money from the Mafia that was recycled through channels of the Vatican Bank, and also bribe money to political parties in Italy went through the Vatican Bank.”

Most recently, just three months before the inauguration of Pope Francis, the ethos of scandal again showed its vitality when it was discovered that the church had accepted money handed over by Mussolini in return for recognition of his fascist regime. The money is still being used as part of a successful financial and commercial property portfolio operating in Britain. This is definitely not the same church whose founder chased the money traders out of the temple.

Equally serious is the authoritarian style and rampant inequity within the church. Democratic practices are practically unknown. The pope is elected by a conclave of cardinals who in turn have been directly chosen by the preceding pope with no participation from other members of the church. The same centralized, regimental pattern permeates all the structures of the church from the Pope down to regular priests and laity. Most of the women (roughly 50% of the membership) are actively discriminated against, nuns relegated to irrelevant positions, in many instances as simple maids of the ecclesiastic high hierarchy, and most importantly, denied the right to be ordained.

The misallocation of ethics

Facing the myriad of transgressions and structural problems afflicting the church, Pope Francis seems to have opted for a tactic that allows Catholics—himself included—to make emotional judgments regarding issues while blocking serious systemic reform within the institution itself. Ethics have been placed in the realm of discourse while the material conditions that determine the practices of the church remain unquestioned.

This duplicity was quite clear when in reference to gay priests in the church Francis indicated: “If they accept the lord and have good will, who am I to judge them? They shouldn’t be marginalized.”

This of course is an improvement, since it suggests the possibility of equal treatment within the institution. Nevertheless, this possibility was promptly decapitated when Francis, referring to women, said: “On the ordination of women, the church has spoken and said no. John Paul the second, in a definite formulation, said that door is closed.”

Ironically, these comments were preceded by the recognition that a woman’s role “does not end with being a mother and with housework.” No indication was given as to what forms the new roles of women may assume in contemporary society, except that when it comes to the church itself—in spite of the lack of theological arguments denying the ordination of women—they are to remain where they have been since the Middle Ages. Again, some right things are being said, but simultaneously, the old male

structure of power is to remain intact.

When it comes to social justice, Pope Francis has openly spoken against sociology and psychology as valid tools for understanding the functioning of the church and society. The Papal statements have not transcended the usual platonic condemnation of poverty in abstract. For him, poverty seems to exist separate from the specific forms in which the economy is organized and wealth and political power distributed. As a matter of fact, the church hasn’t made a serious anal-

Curiously enough, there is the implicit admission that something needs correction in the church. Ironically, correction is not possible by human actions within the institution itself, only through capitulation to divine intervention.

ysis of the causes of social inequality and poverty since the years of Liberation Theology. Francis’s opposition to Liberation Theology in Latin America during the 70’s and 80’s is well documented, as is his convenient public silence regarding the abuses of the military dictatorships in Argentina.

Capitulating to the divine as an act of convenience

Some Catholic scholars and evangelists like Robert Barron consider that the Pope’s actions and his popular discourse, as well as his official Encyclical Lumin Fidei (Light of Faith), can be better understood if we see Francis not like someone trying to save the church through self-correcting institutionalism, but through “a trusty surrendering to the Holy Spirit” (what that means is not clear). According to Barron, the pope believes that the church needs not to look within itself for correction but to “get out of its own walls” and “flood the world with Christ” (again, it is hard to know what that looks like) in correspondence with its missionary identity.

Curiously enough, there is the implicit admission that something needs correction in the church. Ironically, correction is not possible by human actions within the institution itself, only through capitulation to divine intervention. Given all the problems currently affecting the church, the disturbing political implications of this argument mean the perpetuation of

the “status quo” and the negation of human agency in the making of history. This argument could also indicate gross naiveté or cynicism.

With the exception of Islam, there seems to be a crisis in the marketplace of religious souls. The increasing number of atheists and agnostics is obvious in the western world. For religions of conversion, advocating emphasis on the missionary role of the church is not new. Neither is the implicit arrogance of missionaries—of any denomination—as sole possessors of the truth.

Large numbers of Catholics across the globe continue to leave the church. Africa seems to be the only region with a small increasing Catholic population. In the USA, thanks to large immigration of Catholics from Latin America,

the number of Catholics remains stable in spite of equally large numbers of faith defectors. Facing tough competition from other Christian churches particularly in the third world, it is not surprising to hear new calls to action asking others to “Make a mess,” or to get outside the walls of the institution. It would be nice for a change, to hear someone, even this pope, declare that it is time to “Clean the mess.” Such a call might generate better results.

Enrique Quintero was a political activist in Latin America during the 70’s, then taught ESL and Second Language Acquisition in the Anchorage School District, and Spanish at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He currently lives and writes in Olympia.

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Colombian union leaders in danger

Multiple death threats to labor union leaders and their families mark the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia today. John Jairo Castro of the Port Workers' Union, Wilson Ferrer, President of the CUT labor federation in Santander, Johnnson Torres Ortiz of the sugar cane cutters' union SINALCORTEROS, and Rene Morales Silva of the African palm oil workers' union SINTRAINAGRO have all received death threats.

These threats come in an upsurge of anti-union violence which is marked by the April 27 assassination of Daniel Aguirre, the Secretary General of SINALCORTEROS. Mr. Aguirre was the first union leader killed since Obama announced the implementation of the free trade agreement (FTA) at the Summit of the Americas.

The FTA is being implemented without having meaningfully complied with the Labor Action Plan, an agreement signed by Presidents Obama and Santos in 2011 that was intended to make the FTA's passage contingent on improving the grave state of labor and human rights in Colombia. The US Department of Labor has provided \$2 million to the Labor Action Plan, but labor conditions for Colombian workers remain dire.

The unionists that were threatened work in sectors prioritized by the Labor Action Plan. In fact, trade unionists have received over 500 death threats resulting in 29 assassinations (seven in this year alone) since the Labor Action Plan went into effect. This is a tragic reminder that exercising labor rights, including the right to be directly contracted, can mean risking your life in Colombia.

Currently only 4 million of Colombia's 18 million workers are estimated to have formal labor contracts, and more than half of those are temporary. Only 3.5% of the labor force is able to unionize due to violence and third party contracting which denies workers their basic rights. Colombian workers are demanding that these conditions change, and death threats and assassinations are the response that they have received for their fight to preserve their lives and their rights.

The freedom to organize without fear of reprisal is fundamental to the creation of a fair working environment, and a fair and humane trade agreement cannot exist in a climate where union leaders are under threat and extrajudicial killings are conducted with widespread impunity.

—Witness for Peace

“No longer shackled by chains but by our economic conditions”

The struggle for trade, labor, and racial justice in Colombia’s ports

Witness for Peace

Witness for Peace is excited to bring Jhon Jairo Castro, the President of the Buenaventura chapter of the Portworkers Union, to Olympia Wednesday, October 23 at Traditions to share his experience as an Afro-Colombian labor leader in one of the deadliest countries in the world for union activists. Jhon Jairo has worked as

As portworkers we don’t even make minimum wage. We earn about \$45/month working 12 to 36 hour-shifts in some cases, and how are we supposed to provide for our families on that income?

—Member of the Portworkers Union

a longshoreman and organized for labor rights for over eleven years, leading various actions for just working conditions in Colombia's principle port city of Buenaventura.

A voice from the port through which 60 percent of Colombian imports and exports pass is especially significant in the wake of the approval of the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Jhon Jairo will share what privatization and free trade have meant for Buenaventura's Afro-Colombian community, who make up nearly 90% of the city's population. While these policies serve to increase economic activity and the value of the port, they do nothing to distribute the benefits of the profitable shipping industry or the millions that flow daily through the port.

According to the Washington Office on Latin America, “[Of] the city's 375,000 residents, about one third are unemployed and 80% live in poverty. Sixty-five percent of Buenaventura's households do not have a sewage system, and 45% do not have potable water. Life expectancy in Buenaventura is 51, compared with the national average of 62.”

Those working in the ports to improve labor conditions are met with constant

threats and obstacles to organizing. Despite the Obama-Santos Labor Action Plan, a prerequisite to the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement that was meant to ensure protections for Colombian workers, in 2012 alone 20 trade unionists were murdered and 431 leaders received threats. Furthermore, there is still 90 percent impunity for cases of violence against trade unionists. Three leaders of the Portworkers Union, including Jhon Jairo, received death threats in 2012, and though there were authorized labor-rights leader protection measures by the National Protections Unit (UNP), they still have not received them and their lives remain in danger.

For over a year the Portworkers Union has intensively campaigned to formalize employment in the ports. Roughly 80 percent of the workforce in Colombia's ports is employed under flexible indirect contracts, meaning that workers are unable to legally join unions, register complaints without retribution, or receive benefits. This is a clear violation of the Labor Action Plan, which explicitly banned indirect contracting. Furthermore, anti-union propaganda, intimidation and mass dismissal of union members continue—this as portworkers face some of the most backbreaking labor conditions in the country as well as terrible paramilitary violence.

Please plan to attend Jhon Jairo Castro's talk at Traditions Cafe in Olympia on Wednesday, October 23, at 7 pm. Castro's visit is co-sponsored by Media Island, *Works In Progress*, and Witness for Peace Northwest.

Witness for Peace, founded in 1983 as the Contra War raged in Nicaragua, is a politically independent, nationwide

grassroots organization. It is committed to supporting peace, justice, and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing US policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Colombia labor facts

In the last 20 years, more union activists are killed each year in Colombia than in the rest of the world combined.

Right-wing paramilitary groups, responsible for the majority of (documented) murders, have been assisted by large landowners and drug barons, multi-nationals, and the army.

Colombian authorities are unable/unwilling to apply laws that protect basic worker rights such as the right to form/join unions. Many employers characterize labor disputes as tantamount to seditious activity.

Afro-Colombian workers are more likely than other workers to earn less than minimum wage and employed in jobs where they cannot form unions to improve working conditions. A quarter of Colombia's population is of Afro-descendant, yet Afro-Colombians comprise more than three-quarters of the country's poor.

In Colombia's coal mines, health and safety risks, combined with serious environmental and social justice issues, create conditions reminiscent of US mining in the early 20th century. The dangers mine workers—and local communities—face are real and frightening, say four mining safety and health experts from the United Mine Workers of America.

Colombia, the largest recipient of US aid outside of the Middle East and Afghanistan, has received over \$6 billion since 2000. Unfortunately, over 60% of US aid has funded the Colombian military.

—US LEAP, Witness for Peace, Truthout, and AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center

SHOWING AT THE OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY

Before You Know It October 6

Before You Know It traces the lives of several gay seniors, showing their differing personal experiences, interactions with the gay community in their areas, and how they've coped with the changing political and social landscape of America during their lifetimes.

—Emily Kausalik, *The Horn*

Everything falls together seamlessly, and the diverse locales, fascinating parade of interview subjects and ever-changing moods keep things interesting.

—Don Clinchy, *Slackerwood*

M.A.S.H. with Elliot Gould October 19

*For me, “M*A*S*H” contains as much depression as humor. I don't think I ever recovered after a soldier says about a Korean, “he's a prisoner of war.” The reply is, “So are you.”*

—Gene Siskel, *Chicago Tribune*

While this is all fun, it's also likely to be offensive to many viewers. The extreme sexism and sexualization of the female nurses, homophobic comments about a man who thinks he might be gay, and the condescending attitudes about people of color may be accurate for their time, but are likely to mar some people's enjoyment of the film.

—Heather Boerner

The Act of Killing October 11 - October 17

Director Joshua Oppenheimer pulls off the impossible: He confronts great, incomprehensible evil and puts a human face on it. The horror is that it looks like a kindly grandfather.

—Rene Rodriguez, *Miami Herald*

One of the gangsters says he decided on his preferred method of killing, strangulation by wire, from watching Hollywood films. He killed approximately 1,000 people in precisely this way.

—Mick LaSalle, *San Francisco Chronicle*

The Hunt October 25 - November 1

The residents of a Danish village believe they have found a modern evil among them in the form of Lucas, a divorced kindergarten teacher who finds himself the focus of what can only be thought of as a witch hunt.

—Anders Wright, *San Diego Union-Tribune*

Mikkelson wonderfully conveys a man who seems to become paler and smaller: shunned by his friends; banned from the grocery store; a pariah at the local church's Christmas Eve service, where others move so as not to sit in his pew.


—Moir Macdonald, *Seattle Times*

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Olympia's Westside

The community in which it sits

Dan Leahy

Westside neighbors have been fighting the city's policy of promoting more cars for its Westside "tax farm" for at least 25 years. Much, but not all, of the fight has centered on "development" around the dangerous intersection of Harrison and Division.

Now we are on the verge of another major victory with the possibility of a community-oriented park on the Southeast corner of Harrison and Division.

But this privately owned, proposed park does not come out of nowhere. It's part of a long history of Westside community organizing for a safe and resilient neighborhood.

Does anyone remember the Friends of the Westside Center in the early 90s and Ms. Diane Hogland?

By the time Diane had mobilized the Westside and made us aware of Harmen Verbrugge's plan to turn the Westside Center into a mini Westfield Maul we had already lost many locally-owned businesses to Harmen's rent increases. He drove these businesses out of our neighborhood: Olympic Drug, At Home with Books, Graphia Print shop, Dirty Dave's Pizza, Rainy Day Records and the Asterisk Coffee House.

Later we would lose Peterson's Shoprite, but we did stop Harmen from replacing it with an Albertsons.

Thanks to Diane Hogland's efforts we still have a neighborhood center with locally-owned businesses like Vic's and Apollo's that know this history and support Westside community struggles.

In that same campaign, we also stopped the City of Olympia approved and Harmen Verbrugge promoted Jack in the Box at the NW corner of Harrison and Division. Jack represented a City of Olympia wet dream, a regional car magnet doing the old in and out at Harrison and Division.

Anyone know or remember Clark Gilman, a neighbor still living on Bush Street NW?

When we had to go up against Harmen's lawyers in an administrative law hearing, Clark did something no City planner had bother to do. Harmen had submitted a plan showing there were plenty of parking spaces to replace those lost to the Jack in the Box. Clark took this plan and, lo and behold, found out Harmen was putting parking places on the north end of the buildings where all the delivery trucks unload!

We won that fight and now there is a South Sound Bank there, even though its President and CEO, Dan Yerrington, doesn't know why and won't even open up his front door to a community who let him build there.

Anyone remember Steve Hughes and the May Day Park of 2001?

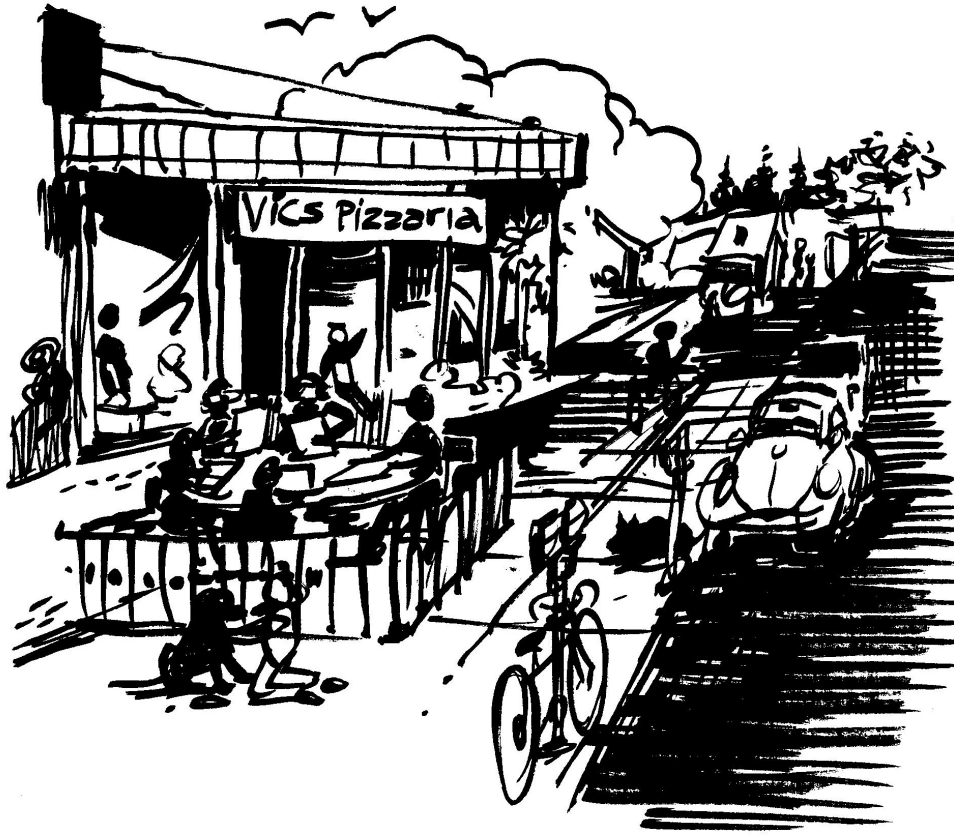
Steve was a Westside native and organizer who knew that May Day Celebrations were in honor of the American workers' fight for the eight-hour day. He organized several Olympia May Day demonstrations and in 2001 the demonstrators stopped at the long vacant lot at the SE corner of Harrison and Division. While surrounded by riot police, Westside neighbors raked the ground, created walk ways and planted trees and flowers.

The notion of a park, rather than a sales tax car magnet, was too much for the city of Olympia. After the riot police dispersed the parksters, the city came with its bulldozers and returned Mr. Narozonick's lot to its vacant self.

Did you know about the plan to replace that May Day Park with a 24 hour gas station?

LeAnne Kirkwood does. LeAnne fought that 24 hour gas station until the developer withdrew their proposal.

LeAnne lives on Cushing NW between



Do you know about Bob Shirley and the 7-Eleven campaign of 2010?

Bob is an Olympia resident and attorney who does pro bono legal work for community organizations and successfully advised the Westside's Decatur Raiders who led the fight to stop the city approved 7-Eleven scheduled to be built on Mr. Narozonick's vacant lot.

It took two years of hard, on the ground, strategic organizing and fund-raising by over 60 dedicated Westside neighbors and locally owned businesses to force the City of Olympia staff to live up to the vision of the Comprehensive Plan and to abide by the law, but the neighbors succeeded.

And, now Alicia Elliott.

Months after the Westside neighbors defeated the City of Olympia in Superior Court in April 2012, the agreement between Mr. Narozonick and the Vancouver promoter of the Seven Eleven, Michael A. Jenkins, was ending.

On that ending date, Alicia Elliott, one of the sixty people who had helped finance the campaign to stop the 7-Eleven, offered to buy the vacant lot from Mr. Narozonick and he agreed. The lot is now owned by the West Central Park Project, LLC, created in October 2012, with Alicia Elliott as Manager and Jon Cushman, a local attorney, as registered agent.

In June, 2013, Alicia created West Central Park, a non-profit corporation. Alicia along with Olympia residents Paul Ingram and Dennis Lyon are its listed Directors. Chad Law is its registered agent.

As stated in its corporate papers, "The mission of the West Central Park is to create a public, open, green space that can serve the recreational, educational, artistic and musical needs of the community in which it sits."

The "community in which it sits" has a long history of organizing to preserve the residential and small business character of the Westside. This community also knows parks, having created numerous parklets on both sides of Harrison. It has created bike trails, walking paths, and murals. It also knows the City of Olympia, its planning department and the pedestrian-oriented vision of the Comprehensive plan the city is supposed to follow.

On Tuesday evening, the 17th of September, the Park's Board of Directors sponsored a community forum at Gloria Dei so the Westside community would have an opportunity to interact directly with the Park organizers. The Decatur Raiders distributed close to 500 Park brochures to households in the SW neighborhood to let people know about this meeting.

Discussions like these around the proposed park are yet another opportunity for the Westside to keep its history alive and integrate the proposed park into the "community in which it sits."

Dan Leahy is a Westside resident and proud member of the Decatur Raiders.

Thanks to Diane Hogland's efforts we still have a neighborhood center with locally-owned businesses like Vic's and Apollo's that know this history and support Westside community struggles.

4th Avenue and Harrison in a beautiful historic home with a wonderful backyard. She and her neighbors live just across the alley from the vacant lot. They also have rights to the alley that runs between their homes and the vacant lot. Whatever happens to that vacant lot owes a great deal to LeAnne Kirkwood and her Cushing Street neighbors.

Heartsparkle Players are holding auditions for professional actors

Playback Theatre is a style of improvisation where an audience member tells a moment from their life and the actors and musician play it back. Playback Theatre can be one of the most rewarding experiences for a performer—calling on one's skills as a listener, improviser, and team member.

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- Attend monthly public performances (2nd Fridays October-May) and commissioned performances and workshops for which performers will receive a stipend.

If selected, actors will go through our apprenticeship program.

Our audition process:

1. If you have not seen a Playback Theatre performance please attend our October 11th Public Performance at 7:30 pm at Traditions Café (5th & Water in downtown Olympia).
2. Fill out an application—to receive an application email our Artistic and Managing Director Debe Edden at debek@olywa.net.
3. A decision will be made by October 28. First rehearsal for new members will be November 4.

For info, please contact Debe Edden at 360.943.6772 or debek@olywa.net.

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Most US workers likely to lose out from proposed Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement

Tiny economic gains from TPP will be dwarfed by increased inequality for most workers.

Washington, DC--A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) finds that most US workers would experience a net negative impact from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal currently under negotiation. The paper, “Gains from Trade? The Net Effect of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement on U.S. Wages,” by economist David Rosnick, uses economic modeling results that are widely-cited by proponents of the agreement. These recent estimates of the US economic gains that would result from the TPP are very small—only 0.13 percent of GDP by 2025. This paper finds that taking into account the effect of the agreement on wage inequality, the median wage earner would lose as a result of any such agreement.

“Most US workers are likely to lose out from the TPP,” CEPR Co-Director Mark Weisbrot said. “This may come as no surprise after 20 years of NAFTA and an even-longer period of trade policy designed to put lower- and middle-class workers in direct competition with low-paid workers in the developing world, but it’s still important to examine the economic projections.”

By examining economic modeling done by researchers Peter Petri, Michael Plummer, and Fan Zhai, the paper finds that “it would take only a very small contribution to inequality due to trade to wipe out all of the gains that most workers would get from this agreement.” Because of such an “un-equalizing effect of trade on wages”—and considering that the GDP gains are expected to be so small—the paper finds that the median wage earner in the US will probably experience a net loss were the TPP to be implemented.

The paper’s author arrives at this conclusion by examining different projections for the effect of trade on inequality and concludes that “despite the very modest gains in expanded economic activity, wages will generally fall as a result of future trade agreements.”

The TPP is currently being negotiated among the US, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The text of the draft agreement has largely been kept secret, including from most legislators, but those who have seen it, such as Representative Alan Grayson (D – FL), have confirmed that it is modeled on NAFTA and similar US trade agreements.

—CEPR

YWCA of Olympia announces its 2013 Women of Achievement

Women of Distinction to be honored during November gala

(OLYMPIA, Wash.) – On January 22, 1945, ten women met in Olympia to discuss the founding of a local branch of the YWCA. What had started nationally as a small prayer circle was rapidly growing to become the largest women’s organization in the world dedicated to service and social justice. By August of 1945, a strong local chapter was formed with the election of Mildred Lemon as the first Board Chair and the appointment of Francis Simas as the first Executive Director. During the next 68 years, the YWCA founded the Indo-Chinese Refugee Employment Project, the Rape Relief Center, SafePlace, Work Options for Women and Kathleen’s Closet. Talk about “Movers, Shakers, History Makers,” which happens to be the theme of this year’s Women of Achievement Gala presented by Titus-Will.

According to Women of Achievement Gala Chair Sandi Roberts, “This year’s theme is a perfect way to celebrate our past, or present, and our future. It is clear that this year’s Women of Achievement are Movers, Shakers, and History Makers!” The YWCA of Olympia is pleased to announce their 2013 Women of Achievement:

- Leatta Dahlhoff
- Carolyn Folden
- Kim Gaffi
- Tanya Murray
- Joyce Turner
- Theresa Van Camp, Legacy Award Recipient

Women were selected based on their 1) professional achievements, 2) peer recognition, 3) personal growth, 4)

demonstration and inspirational involvement in the community, and 5) how she models her life in line with the YWCA of Olympia mission: *The YWCA of Olympia strives to empower women and eliminate racism through education, advocacy, service and leadership opportunities.*

Presented by Titus-Will, the celebration gala, “Women Of Achievement: Movers, Shakers, History Makers”, will take place on *Thursday, November 7 at 5:30p.m.* at the Red Lion Hotel Forest Ballroom. The event is open to the public and tickets are available by contacting the YWCA of Olympia at (360) 352-0593 or online at www.ywcaofolympia.org/events. Tickets are \$80 and tables of 8 are available for \$640. For more information about the Women of Achievement Gala, contact Cherie Reeves Sperr at (360) 352-0593 or crsperr@ywcaofolympia.org.

About the YWCA of Olympia

Established in 1945, the YWCA of Olympia offers responsive programs and services to meet the needs of women, girls and families. We are inspiring a new generation to become strong leaders and advocates for opportunity and equity for all women. The YWCA of Olympia strives to empower women and eliminate racism through education, advocacy, service and leadership opportunities. The YWCA has worked to change history—from civil rights to women’s rights, from advocacy for women’s health care to an end to violence against women and girls. The YWCA is the voice for every woman. We speak out and take action on behalf of women and girls. The YWCA and our members and volunteers contribute time, talent, tenacity and financial support for the betterment of all women in our community.

—Olympia YWCA

YWCA of Olympia 2013 Women of Achievement

Leatta Dahlhoff
Scientist and giver

Leatta is an award winning scientist who has a passion for empowering women and children in our community and around the world. She holds leadership positions in service clubs and volunteers at numerous organizations. She believes no matter your limited resources, time, or money, if you have passion and commitment, you can effect positive change for others.

Carolyn Folden
Businesswoman and civil rights advocate

Carolyn was a well-respected banker and a strong advocate for equality going back to the 1960’s. She has worked hard to promote the dignity of each and every person. She has selflessly worked to help ensure better lives for those overcome by the challenges of aging. She has served as a leader at several organizations and in 2011 was honored as a Thurston County Living Legend.

Kim Gaffi
Grower and justice seeker

Kim has dedicated her life to growing food, people and communities. As the co-founder, former co-director/executive director and incoming director of programs of GRuB, she demonstrates tremendous energy for social justice, youth empowerment, anti-hunger, and community building. Among her many accomplishments, she has guided a project which has built 2,500 free gardens for low-income people and empowered 500 youth with employment and service opportunities.

Tanya Murray
Teacher and force for good

Tanya contributes to our community by sharing her knowledge, talents, time, money and resources. Besides her work as an Adjunct Professor in Early Childhood Education, she serves in leadership positions with several organizations including Child Care Action Council. She has helped bring services to some of our most vulnerable people to enable them to make life changing differences.

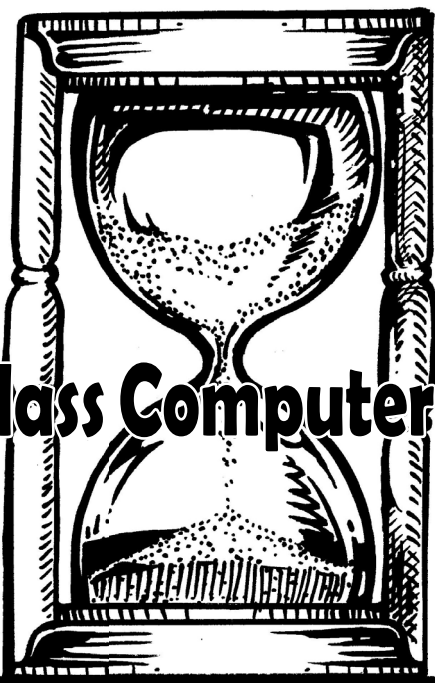
Joyce Turner
Public servant and pioneer

Joyce has always lived up to the highest standards of public service, and has contributed immeasurably to the quality of state government service and to the quality of life in our community. She has served many Governors and taken on tremendous challenges with dedication and integrity.

Theresa Van Camp
Legacy award advocate and artist

Theresa used her life to make the world better for the children in our community. She dedicated years to the important work of the Olympia School District in many different capacities and excelled in bringing people together. She also shared her many artistic talents and inspired young women with skills of self-reliance and independence. After her death in 2010, her spirit continues to inspire others.

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The Port of Olympia has continued to be involved in the hydraulic fracturing (aka “hydro-fracking” or fracking) industry, seen here handling an incoming shipment of ceramic “proppants”. The proppants are used in very deep wells in the Bakken Oil Shale formation of North Dakota. Because of the extreme pressures in the wells—some are greater than 8,000 feet deep—the proppants are used to prop open fissures that have been blasted open by the hydraulic fracturing process. The practice of hydro-fracking has come under fire from social and environmental activists, based on known harmful aspects of the industry, including local to global environmental impacts, harm to Native American communities, and agricultural developments. Photo: Robert Whitlock

Here we go again—California group attacks California professor for pro-BDS website

Alex Kane

The AMCHA Initiative, a California-based Israel advocacy group, is at it again. The group dedicated to monitoring Palestine solidarity groups on campus and filing legal complaints to halt activism is continuing to target Professor David Klein, who teaches math at California State University Northridge (CSUN).

The Israel advocacy group sent a letter last week to the California State University Board of Trustees alleging that Klein broke the law by promoting the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement on a website hosted by the university. The letter also blasts Klein for using his university e-mail to promote a Green Party Congressional candidate who supports the BDS movement.

The attempt to use the law to target Klein is part of the AMCHA Initiative’s larger campaign of policing BDS activity on campus, which they label as anti-Semitic.

The complaint is largely a reprise of past attempts to use legal measures to bar Klein from hosting the BDS web-

site. But the university has rejected the claims lodged by Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, a University of California lecturer and the head of the AMCHA Initiative, that Klein violated the law with his web page.

When Rossman-Benjamin has brought up similar complaints in the past, the university’s president, while saying he was personally uncomfortable with some of the web material, affirmed that “the University does uphold and preserve the principles of academic freedom—and Professor Klein’s right to express his views. Our review affirmed that this right extends to the use of an individual’s web pages, as part of the University website, as a vehicle for expression.” The CSU president also said Klein’s web page does not mean that the university endorses his views. The California Attorney General likewise rejected Benjamin’s request to prosecute Klein over alleged “misuse of state resources” last June.

Now, Benjamin is pointing to a part of the California Education Code that bars the use of CSU’s name to promote political initiatives like a boycott. The letter Benjamin sent alleges that, if the university did not grant permission for

the web page, Klein is violating the statute by using a CSU website to promote the BDS movement. The AMCHA Initiative letter also warns CSU that if they don’t agree with her, “we will inform the alumni, donors, Jewish supporters and members of the Jewish community throughout the state and across the country that the CSU Board of Trustees not only condones anti-Semitic behavior at California State University, but is directly responsible for its spread.”

Benjamin testified on the matter at a CSU Board of Trustees meeting yesterday. Her testimony was followed by statements made by two members of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP): Estee Chandler and Carol Smith. Chandler, a chapter organizer with JVP, told the Board of Trustees “that she rejects attempts to limit free expression and robust debate on campuses by attacking groups and individuals in order to limit criticism of the policies of the State of Israel.”

JVP’s efforts bolstered moves by the

Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild to push back against Benjamin’s claims.

In a September 22 letter sent to CSU’s trustees, attorneys Liz Jackson and Jim Lafferty said that Benjamin was distorting the spirit of the law she cited. “It is clear from the context that the purpose of the statute is to deter people from attempting to misattribute their own expressed beliefs as having official university endorsement. There is no evidence that Prof. Klein implied university endorsement of his views,” they wrote.

The lawyers added that Benjamin’s attacks on Klein were aimed at silencing “discourse by students, faculty and others who speak out in criticism of Israeli government policies.”

Alex Kane is an assistant editor for *Mondoweiss* and *World editor for AlterNet*. Follow him on Twitter @alexbkane.

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The university has rejected the claim that Klein violated the law with his web page.

The Supreme Court to hear *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* in October

Public Citizen

McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission (FEC), a case whose impact on our political system could be as damaging as *Citizens United*, is headed for the US Supreme Court October 8, and it could dramatically boost the corrupting influence of the wealthy over candidates in federal elections.

The court will consider whether to eliminate the limit on the total sum that people can give directly to candidates and political parties in a single election. The current overall limit for an individual making direct contributions to parties, political action committees (PACs) and federal candidates is \$123,200 per two-year election cycle, but a win for the challengers in *McCutcheon* could allow total contributions above \$7 million.

The *McCutcheon* suit was brought by Alabama businessman Shaun McCutcheon and the Republican National Committee (RNC). In challenging the current law, McCutcheon says he made direct contributions to 16 federal candidates in recent elections and wanted to give the same amounts to 12 more. Those additional contributions would have put him over the aggregate limit for candidate contributions in an election cycle, which in 2012 was \$46,200 to federal candidates, made up of individual contributions of no more than \$2,600 (or \$5,200 in a two-year election cycle comprising a primary and general election). He also says he wanted to give \$25,000 to each of the three Republican national political committees, which would have put him over the \$70,800 limit then in effect for party committees.

McCutcheon, together with the RNC, is claiming that these aggregate limitations violate the First Amendment and that if contributions at the current base

limits of \$2,600 per election for individual candidates and \$32,400 a year per party committee are not enough to corrupt politicians (a standard by which the Supreme Court has judged such cases), then a larger number of contributions in those amounts also would not lead to corruption. The RNC says it would receive additional contributions from people like McCutcheon if it were not for the aggregate limits.

The challengers’ argument ignores the close relationship among the political parties and their candidates, and the way they work hand-in-hand to ask for and receive donations from large contributors. Already, candidates and parties routinely form joint fundraising committees to solicit the largest contributions permitted by the aggregate limits, which are then divided up among the candidates and party committees making the ask. Without the aggregate limits, officeholders, candidates and party officials could solicit multimillion-dollar donations, to be divided up among the parties’ various national and state committees and candidates, and used for their common benefit.

“*Citizens United* is bad enough in allowing big-money interests to spend large sums in support of candidates,” said Public Citizen attorney Scott Nelson. “But at least those spenders must maintain an arm’s length distance from the candidates and parties. If McCutcheon and the RNC prevail, political parties and their candidates would be able to ask for, and receive, huge donations directly from contributors, maximizing the opportunities for corrupt bargains to be struck.”

For four decades, Public Citizen has championed citizen interests before Congress, the executive branch agencies, and the courts. To learn more, visit its website at www.citizen.org.

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► **Dudeman**, cont. from page 1.
had a very tragic life... which I believe led him to become such a lost soul [that] he couldn't overcome his heartache inside." Another family member wrote, "After losing both of his parents at a young age, Derrick was determined to pave his own way through life."

Dudeman was foremost an advocate for the homeless. He rarely asked for help for himself, yet often tried to help others. He spoke out against the daily struggles that he and his street family faced. As of the 2012 Thurston County Homeless Census, at least 724 adults and 188 children are homeless or live in substandard housing, and those are conservative numbers. The public school census reports an exponentially higher number of homeless youth using a different methodology.

The most common reasons for homelessness in this area are a family crisis and economic hardship. Over one-third of the homeless in Thurston County report having a mental illness or permanent physical disability, and Dudeman included himself in this statistic. Perhaps the tipping point for him and many other homeless has been the increasing criminalization of homelessness.

The Olympia City Council has enacted municipal ordinances such as a sidewalk ban (sit/lie law) and a camping ban on all city property. Since the homeless, by definition, don't have land of their own on which to sit, lie, or sleep, this pretty much makes lack of shelter a crime. Police are arresting and bullying those who search for food in dumpsters—or even throwing trash in them—because the dumpsters are considered city property.

Arrests for violating municipal ordinances create more obstacles to escaping homelessness with criminal records and fines that they can't afford to pay. Criminal activity and incarceration puts those who depend on Social Security disability income at risk for denial or loss of benefits. In addition, when a homeless person is arrested they often lose their few precious belongings and those with jobs lose vital income and may be terminated.

When the city of Olympia banned

Dudeman with an exclusion order, he was cut-off from vital services and his street family. Ben Charles, founder of Crazy Faith Ministries, sadly recalled how often Dudeman was frustrated by the cops pestering him or tearing down his rig and he would then tell him to just rebuild it better. Soon after his death, local activist Gary Jones posted a video on YouTube of Dudeman passionately pleading with the Olympia City Council to stop harassing the homeless. His desperation was obvious, as he stated the following:

"I'm really tired of being kicked by cops,

Police are arresting and bullying those who search for food in dumpsters—or even throwing trash in them—because the dumpsters are considered city property.

being threatened, being arrested, and I'm tired of being harassed, and my dogs, my service animals, as I am a disabled individual. I am speaking of everybody I know on the street and I'm really upset. I'm so upset; I can't even use the words I'd like to say... So I'm just gonna let you guys know, it must stop. It must stop. It has to stop."

"Quit pushing us around, because like a rubber band, [if] you pull us too far, we're gonna snap."

"All of you that are against homelessness; it's not our fault, so stop."

"We breathe, we bleed, we sleep; we go through all that, and we have problems of our own, so quit adding to them. Quit, I say quit."

"God bless."

While the Olympia City Council has promised support for a new shelter downtown, residents have resisted each step to progress. Despite Thurston County's 10-year plan to cut homelessness in half, according to the 2012 county homeless census, there has been a 64% increase since 2006.

Imagine not knowing how to get your next meal, constantly moving to find a spot where you can rest without being harassed, always guarding your small collection of belongings, rarely getting a restful night's sleep, or being woken up by police tearing down your camp. Homeless people face the daily

psychological distress of their difficult circumstances, therefore suicidal ideations and attempts are much more common among them. A 2002 study showed that a startling 61% of participants had experienced suicidal ideations and 34% had attempted suicide. There is a notorious lack of mental healthcare available for the homeless despite their higher occurrence of mental health issues.

Dudeman's remains have been cremated and family members scattered his ashes in Eastern Washington in a lake where his mother's ashes were also spread. His family kindly permitted some of his ashes to remain in Olympia, which were scattered at Woodlawn Funeral Home's memorial garden during a service provided by Pastor Phil Prietto of City Gates Ministries on September 20. A plaque memorializing Dudeman will also be added at Woodlawn so that all who cared for him may pay their respects.

His family has relocated the dogs to an animal rescue group which is screening applicants to find them great homes, or preferably, a home together. The owner of the Olympia Memes Facebook page (who prefers to remain anonymous) has created an outreach group called "I Remember Derrick" (also a FB page) and plans to distribute kits of basic essentials and suicide prevention information to the homeless.

Many who knew Dudeman wonder how a man who was so resilient could commit suicide. His family stated in a letter to the public, "We may never know why 'Dudeman' decided to take his life—maybe he was tired of the stigma that faces the homeless community, or exhausted from the extraordinary hardships he faced each day. Regardless of his reason, this tragedy has ignited a flame and inspired a community to help drive change." Those who cared for him will remember his compassion and positive influence.

Each homeless person is or was loved by someone, somewhere. They

are someone's child, sibling, parent, grandparent, spouse, or friend—a member of a family—even if it's estranged blood relations or their street family. We must respond as equals who can empathize with their struggles rather than jump to judging their circumstances. Dudeman was special in that so many people in the community cared about him, even those who barely knew him, and hopefully that has caused many to realize that each homeless person is special in their own right. I just wish that he could know how many people he touched and how much he was loved. Rest peacefully, Derrick "Dudeman" McDougal.

So...what can you do to help our county's homeless? Attend City Council meetings involving plans to address homelessness. Express support for a new shelter, The People's House, which plans to fulfill currently unmet needs of the homeless community in downtown Olympia. Volunteer with local homelessness outreach programs such as City Gates Street Reach, I Remember Derrick, Crazy Faith Ministries Street Feeds, EGYHOP (Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project), Dave's P.B.J. Project, Community Youth Services, Bread & Roses or other groups; donate funds or supplies; or just put together a care package yourself and give it to someone who needs it and have a chat or just share a smile. Show that you care.

Local organizations that offer free mental health & suicide prevention resources:

- **The Crisis Clinic:** Crisis Line is 360-586-2888.
- **Capital Recovery Center:** 522 Franklin Ave. SE Olympia, WA 98501, (360) 357-2582.
- **Choice Regional Health Network's Mental Health Access Program:** <http://crhn.org/MHAP/>, (360) 539-7576
- **The People's House:** Not yet open but plans to provide peer counseling and an advocacy center, amongst other services. <http://thepeopleshouseolympia.blogspot.com/>.

Erin Palmer is an Olympia resident and occasional writer.

Capping tax dollars spent on contractor executive pay could raise worker wages

NEW YORK, NY – Following the Census Bureau's release of poverty numbers verifying the country's growing income gap, national public policy center Demos has published a new report illustrating how the federal government promotes inequality through its contracting policies. The report, Underwriting Executive Excess: Inside a \$7 Billion Taxpayer Subsidy of Inequality, highlights how lowering the executive compensation ceiling from the current \$763,039 per year to \$230,700—the salary of the Vice President – could free up more than enough money to increase the pay of hundreds of thousands of federal contract workers making less than \$12 an hour.

Using data from a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) study, this report estimates the savings from capping executive pay at \$230,700 would save \$6.97 to \$7.65 billion that could be used to raise the pay of those earning poverty wages by as much as \$6.69 an hour, or \$13,902 per year.

"We estimate the federal government spends \$20.8 to \$23.9 billion paying private contractors for the compensation of top executives," said Amy Traub, Demos Senior Policy Analyst and co-author of the report. "It's the taxpayers who are footing the bill for these excessive salaries. Limiting their compensation to that of the second-highest office in the country is simply common sense. And it shows that there is more than enough money already in the federal contracting system to provide fair wages to everyone working on behalf of our country." — Demos

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A new bracero program will hurt farmworkers

David Bacon

Ed. note: A bracero is a manual laborer admitted legally into the United States for a short period to perform seasonal labor—usually agricultural.

Most media coverage of immigration today accepts as fact claims by growers that they can't get enough workers to harvest crops. Agribusiness wants a new guest worker program, and complaints of a labor shortage are their justification for it. But a little investigation of the actual unemployment rate in farmworker communities leads to a different picture.

There are always local variations in crops, and the number of workers needed to pick them. But the labor shortage picture is largely a fiction. I've spent over a decade traveling through California valleys and I have yet to see fruit rotting because of a lack of labor to pick it. I have seen some pretty miserable conditions for workers, though.

As the nation debates changes in our immigration laws, we need a reality check. There is no question that the demographics of farm labor are changing. Today, many more workers migrate from small towns in southern Mexico and even Central America than ever before. In the grape rows and citrus trees, you're as likely to hear Mixtec or Purepecha or Triqui—indigenous languages that predate Columbus—as you are to hear Spanish.

These families are making our country a richer place, in wealth and culture. For those who love spicy mole sauce, or the beautiful costumes and dance festivals like the guelaguetza, that's reason to celebrate. In the off-season winter months, when there's not much work in the fields, indigenous womenweavers

create brilliant rebozos, or shawls, in the styles of their hometowns in Oaxaca.

But the wages these families earn are barely enough to survive. As Abe Lincoln said, "labor creates all wealth," but farmworkers get precious little of it. Farmworkers are worse off today than they've been for over two decades.

Twenty-five years ago, at the height of the influence of the United Farm Work-

If there were a labor shortage so acute that growers were having a hard time finding workers, they would be raising wages to make jobs more attractive. But they aren't.

ers, union contracts guaranteed twice the minimum wage of the time. Today, the hourly wage in almost every farm job is the minimum wage—\$8.00 an hour in California, \$7.25 elsewhere under the Federal law. If wages had kept up with that UFW base rate, farmworkers today would be making \$16.00 an hour. But they're not.

If there were a labor shortage so acute that growers were having a hard time finding workers, they would be raising wages to make jobs more attractive. But they aren't.

And despite claims of no workers, rural unemployment is high. Today's unemployment rate in Delano, birthplace of the United Farm Workers, is 30 percent. Last year in the Salinas Valley, the nation's salad bowl, it swung between 12% and 22%.

Yet growers want to be able to bring workers into the country on visas that say they have to work at minimum wage in order to stay, and must be deported if they are out of work longer than a brief time. The industry often claims that, if

it doesn't have a new contract labor program to supply workers at today's low wages, consumers will have to pay a lot more for fruit and vegetables. But low wages haven't kept prices low. The supermarket price of fruit has more than doubled in the last two decades.

Low wages have a human cost, however. In housing, it means that families live in cramped trailers, or packed like sardines in apartments and garages, with many people sleeping in a single room.

Indigenous workers have worse conditions than most, along with workers who travel with the crops. Migrants often live in cars, sometimes even sleeping in the fields or under the trees.

Housing is in crisis in rural California. Over the last half-century, growers demolished

most of the old labor camps for migrant workers. They were never great places to live, but having no place is worse.

In past years I've seen children working in fields in northern Mexico, but this year I saw them working here too. When families bring their kids to work, it's not because they don't value their education or future. It's because they can't make ends meet with the labor of adults alone.

What would make a difference? Unions would. The UFW pushed wages up decades ago, getting the best standard of living California farmworkers ever received. But growers have been implacably hostile to union organizing. For guest workers and undocumented workers alike, joining a union or demanding rights can mean risking not just firing, but deportation.

Enforcing the law would better workers' lives. California Rural Legal Assistance does a heroic job inspecting field conditions, and helping workers understand their rights. But that's an uphill struggle too. According to the Indigenous Farm Worker Survey, a third of the workers surveyed still get paid less than the minimum. Many are poisoned with pesticides, suffer from heat exhaustion, and work in illegal conditions.

Give workers real legal status. Farmworkers need a permanent residence visa, not a guest worker visa conditioned on their work status. This would ensure their right to organize without risking deportation. Organization in turn would bring greater equality, stability and recognition of their important contribution. It would also bring higher earnings.

But growers don't want to raise wages to attract labor. Instead, they want workers on temporary visas, not permanent ones—a steady supply of people who can work, but can't stay, or who get deported if they become unemployed. This is a repeat of the old, failed bracero program of the 1940s and 50s, or the current failures of today's H2A visa program that succeeded it.

With a temporary labor program, farm wages will not rise. Instead, farmworkers will subsidize agribusiness with low wages, in the name of keeping agriculture "competitive." Strikes and unions that raise family income will be regarded as a threat.

We've seen this before. During the bracero program, when resident workers struck, growers brought in braceros. And if braceros struck, they were deported. That's why Cesar Chavez, Ernesto Galarza, and Bert Corona finally convinced Congress to end the program in 1964. The UFW's first grape strike began the year after the bracero law was repealed.

Today, immigrant work-

ers who already live in the US, like those who recently went on strike at Washington State's Sakuma Berry Farms, are being pitted against modern-day braceros brought in under the H2A program. The H2A wage sets the limit on what growers will pay.

Workers fear that if they protest, they won't get hired for next year's picking season, and others will take their places.

Farmworkers perform valuable work and need better conditions and security, not an immigration reform that will keep them in poverty. Giving employers another bracero program is a failed idea, one we shouldn't repeat. Farm labor that can support families is a better one.

David Bacon is a California writer and photographer. His new book, The Right to Stay Home—How U.S. Policy Drives Mexican Migration, was just published by Beacon Press.

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Court rules in favor of farmworkers

Sakuma must remove security from the workers' housing area

Bellingham -- On September 25, Familias Unidas por la Justicia and individual plaintiff Felimon Pineda won a significant court victory when Skagit County Superior court by Judge John M. Meyer ordered Sakuma Brothers Berry Farms to remove security guards from their housing.

After an emergency hearing yesterday, Judge Meyer issued a restraining order prohibiting Sakuma Brothers from engaging in further violations of Washington's primary labor law, the Little Norris LaGuardia Act. RCW 49.32.020. The Act prohibits employers from interfering with workers who are organizing themselves in order to improve their wages and working conditions. The judge ordered Sakuma to immediately remove security personnel from areas where they could observe or eavesdrop on the workers. They may not follow workers or community supporters of the workers on public roads and highways. Familias Unidas and Pineda asserted in court that the Sakuma Brothers hired security personnel to surveil workers and their supporters not only inside the residential labor camps, but also on public highways.

"Security does not belong in a camp with families; our struggle is peaceful and for the future of our children," said Felimon Pineda vice-president of Familias Unidas. The order issued today shows that employers who use scare tactics and intimidation are violating the law.

Furthermore, the Judge found that the workers have a right to choose their representatives for negotiations. He also stated that Familias Unidas has a legal right to give publicity to their labor dispute, such as the ongoing boycott and community outreach by Familias Unidas as their strike continues. However, he declined grant injunctive relief on those two issues at this time.

Another hearing on this matter is set for October 8.

Familias Unidas believe that the court's order has served the cause of justice and they are still committed to meeting with the Sakuma ownership to reach an agreement on fair wages and working conditions.

For more information contact Rosalinda Guillen 360-381-0293.

—Community to Community

Masterworks invites you to escape with music

Masterworks Choral Ensemble kicks off its 33rd season with the theme, "Escape with Music: See and Hear Something New!" MCE has an exciting line-up of performances with an abundant mix of guest artists and concert variety.

The season opens with "Sing, Fiddle, and Strum: Celtic Celebration" on October 12th at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Olympia. Choir and audience will take a musical journey through Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany. MCE will be joined on stage by guest artists Margaret Shelton, harpist; The Burren Boys, local folk musicians; Scoil Rince Slieveloughane, Irish dancers; and Fay Lee, pianist/youth artist.

"Celtic music is very evocative," says artistic director and conductor Gary Witley. "In the lyrics you hear these wonderful stories of place, combined with energetic rhythms." Masterworks and guest artists delve into several forms of Celtic music in this concert. Ballads, which are the most familiar, can take on big topics like love and war. While gentler motifs come through in lullabies and hymns.

Masterworks chose to return to Celtic music for this concert because it was

such an audience favorite five years ago. "We've had such a great response to this style," says Cathy Duffy, MCE's Board President, "because it's fun and upbeat. It just makes you feel good when you're listening."

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In addition to more guest artists, MCE plans to incorporate more visual delights, including projected images and choir members singing among the audience for some songs. "We want to live up to our theme all season long," declares Witley, "by offering something new to see and hear in each concert."

For information visit Masterworks' website, www.MCE.org. Tickets are on sale now at the Washington Center box office, 360-753-8585 or www.olytix.org.

—Masterworks

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Postmodernistic Loss is Cryptic Cost In Word Economy.

Pete Litster

No one seems to know our dreams are so much like the Other others'

as we're escaping that smothering grip of our big brothers, see...

We gotta trust each other first.

If not expect the worst
But respect the burst.

Either way,
inspect the Hearst/Pulitzer wars
to see just how, still now
we're being lemming-led.
Like condemning dead
of Cromwell/Putney days
a soldier lays beneath republic thumb
dumb
and transient.

He gets no voice
Or choice.

These things reserve for interests,
permanent and fixed,
who condescend
betwixt the appetitive casualties of
what they call
"Just War."

Anyway, so says my alma mater.
But it's no more than fucking slaughter.

It's unfortunate
how postmodernistic loss
is cryptic cost in word economy-.
Deconstruction function,
Hypercomplication,
All to make things simple:
pop the pimple of the West.

In seeming jest

we do our best
to free the

Tao

of meaning.

While always fighting leaning too. Far.
Right.

Acuz the Atlantic's in the center of our
school book maps.

But we'll get it soon enough. Perhaps.
So, if West is Right,
Then East is Left?

I'd like to think the globe bereft of
spectrum points
But still the Sun anoints our lives with
light

like Microsystems
Macromanifesting

Testing...
testing...

Penetration. By GE and Disney
in TV and nuclear phallus invested.
Penetration. Currencies infested.
Which brings us to our smart cards

Moral blowhards

Leaving bureaucrats a'drooling
for pooling our secrets all enlisted.
It's fucking twisted.

We have a public-pitting-private civil
war,

a war like none before,
a war for list control.

We have legions marching cyberspace
to clinch a base of names-

Sick games-

from what's written were developed on
the Thames.

It's all about imperialism, baby.

"'Twas always thus, and always thus will
be."

We have moral tweaking,

noble leaking,
freaking girls and boys with army toys.

Off duty, then,
the army men

harass the chicks on Main
with crotchrocket games of billiards
in their pockets.

But they oughta know better than to
ban the symphonies,
or to cut down freedom's trees with
their saws of false Hope.

They don't know what they're doing,
those men of single Man.

They shoot their guns up in the air for-
getting bullets land.

They say "we're the better ones
who take our guns

with skill and meet our healthy mark!"
But they're really dumb,
they take their guns and shoot them in
the dark,

not caring who they kill-or-fire-lock-
up-abandon-tread-below-their-penny-
loafer-souls.

Well, I'm a man.

I don't need a gun.

I'll aim my rhyme at them
for fun.

*Pete Litster, father and long-time peace-
justice activist, moved to Olympia from
Salt Lake City in Oct 2012. He's grateful
for the air, water, beautiful land and the
passionate living community of Cascadia.*

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